

28-2003 10:45

FROM-IOM Canberra

+61262573743

+ 612 6257 3743

T-371 P.002/003 F-215



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

27 February 2003

Mr Bill Farmer
Secretary
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Dear Bill,

I refer to your letter of 18 December 2002 which seeks to review and update the September 2001 exchange of letters between IOM and DIMIA on the provision of services to asylum seekers in the Offshore Processing Centres (OPCs).

I would also like to recognise the positive working relationship that exists between your Department and the IOM offices in Canberra, Nauru and Manus. It is a relationship that has been forged through many difficult challenges. We have worked very hard with the Department to improve all aspects of accountability and to ensure that the processes for that accountability have been put in place. The initial agreement needs to be updated to reflect the changed level of service provision and the assurance framework.

Service Delivery

The following services as contained in the initial exchange of letters have been and continue to be provided by IOM:

- Transfer and reception of asylum seekers;
- Preparation and management of appropriate accommodation;
- Provision of food, water, power, sanitation, laundry, medical and health care;
- Provision of counselling (including options for voluntary return and facilitation of return);
- Provision of necessary personnel to coordinate the services; and
- Transport.

IOM has undertaken a number of additional services in agreement with DIMIA as the project has moved beyond its establishment phase. We have successfully provided resettlement transport to over 700 refugees to six countries and return assistance to more than 400 migrants to six countries. In Manus we have undertaken the implementation and management of the legacy infrastructure work which is vital to the operation of the centre and leaves a legacy for the PNG Government and the local community.

We can confirm that the following services have been and will continue to be provided:

- Management of the reintegration package and returns;

Regional Office for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific:
4th floor Colonial Building • 161 London Circuit • PO Box 1009 • Civic Square • Canberra • ACT 2608 • Australia
Tel: +61 (02) 62.57.11.73, 62.49.15.83 • Fax: +61 (02) 62.57.37.43 • E-mail: mail@iom.int

2B-2003 10:45 FROM-IOM Canberra

+61262573743

+ 612 6257 3743

T-371 P.003/003 F-215

2

- Management of the resettlement transfers to Australian and other countries; and
- Project management of legacy infrastructure projects on Manus.

The accountability and assurance mechanisms are provided for in the management structures including the Logistics Meetings and on-site coordination with DIMIA Liaison Officers in the centres. The Assurance Framework provides the key areas and content of service delivery to guide the management processes.

We can also confirm our agreement to provide services related to changing requirements of the centres including:

- Management of a centre's wind down including mothballing and possible re-activation;
- Resumption of service delivery in a reactivated centre; and
- Project management of legacy infrastructure projects agreed to by the Governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia that are directly linked to the Manus centre.

Financial Considerations

While IOM accepts the undertaking of the Department to reimburse IOM costs and those of our subcontractors, we would seek to devise a payment mechanism that does not expose IOM to large advances of its own funds and at the same time satisfies the Departments' financial accountability requirements. We are currently working with the appropriate officials to develop such a mechanism.

Processing Centre Property


IOM accepts control over the property acquired for Nauru and Manus processing centres during the life of the centres including during any period of mothballing. Disposition instruction for any property should be conveyed by the Department to IOM in writing. We seek confirmation that the Department will cover all costs related to property disposition.

Security

Security at the centres continues to be the responsibility of the Papua New Guinea, Nauru and Australian Governments in accordance with the MOUs between Australia and these governments. In Nauru this is supplemented by the tripartite Security Protocol between IOM, Nauru and the Australian Protective Services. In circumstances where the security situation places the safety of IOM staff at risk, IOM reserves the right to withdraw its staff from a centre until the security situation is resolved.

I confirm that this exchange of letters updates out similar exchange of letters in September 2001 and details the arrangement for the provision of services by IOM to the Department in respect of the OPCs. I also look forward to the ongoing process of refining the arrangement and I have agreed with officers of your Department to work jointly towards developing a more formal business agreement over the coming months.

Yours sincerely



Denis Nihill
Regional Representative