

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0033) Program : Internal Product**

Senator Cash (L&CA 22-23) asked:

1. Was it the standard confidentiality provision? If not, why not?
2. What were the reasons behind going outside the department's standard confidentiality provisions?
3. What is the public policy underpinning the decision to include confidentiality provisions in these contracts?
4. Are staff of the department or any of its agencies or contractors required to sign confidentiality agreements? Is it standard practice that those particular people have to sign those? If so, why is it standard practice?"

*Answer:*

- (1) Yes. The standard confidentiality clauses were used.
- (2) The department did not go outside its standard confidentiality provisions.
- (3) The Department of Finance and Deregulation Financial Management Guidance No.3 – Guidance on Confidentiality in Procurement.
- (4) It is not standard practice to require staff of the department or any of its agencies or contractors to sign separate confidentiality agreements.