

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0301) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 6) asked:

On what date did the Minister formally ask for a submission in relation to the three passengers on SIEV 36, who the Northern Territory Coroner found were involved in a plot to scuttle the boat.

Answer.

The Northern Territory Coroner handed down his findings regarding the explosion on SIEV 36 in February 2010. The Coroner found in respect of three named individuals that crimes may have been committed in connection with the explosion that sank the boat.

As a result of the coroner's findings, the matter was referred to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for investigation. The AFP investigation resulted in no charges being laid against the three individuals concerned in respect of the findings of the Coroner. One of the named individuals has been charged with obstructing a Commonwealth Officer in the exercise of his duties – a matter not related to the explosion on the vessel. This matter is ongoing before the courts.

This Minister has not requested a character related submission regarding the three individuals named by the Coroner from SIEV 36. They do not fail the character provisions of the *Migration Act 1958*.