

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0368) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (L&CA 76) asked:

What are the delegations of responsibility where a decision is made to turn on or turn off security and surveillance cameras at detention centres? In terms of those delegations, how were these arrangements catered for in contracts with suppliers of detention facility services? What was the chain of events in relation to the turning off of cameras at Villawood prior to the ensuing riot as reported in the media on 2 April 2012?

Answer:

Under the Detention Services Contract, Serco is required to ensure that surveillance cameras in immigration detention facilities are operational at all times.

Additionally, all detention services staff engaged to operate surveillance systems are required to complete an accredited training course which covers the proper exercise of those duties prior to commencing employment in an immigration detention facility.

The 2011 riots in the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre took place in the Fowler and Hughes compounds. There were no cameras in these compounds at the time of the riots.