

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0383) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the Commonwealth Ombudsman report entitled “Detention arrangements – the transfer of 22 detainees from Villawood Immigration Detention Centre to the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre Silverwater” dated April 2012 and I ask: Of the 22 detainees transferred from Villawood to Silverwater on the night of the riots, how many received a notice of transfer to a correctional facility and when were the notices issued to the detainees and their legal representative and/or migration agents?

Answer:

At the time of their transfer to the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre Silverwater, all 22 clients were notified verbally of their transfer. Due to the operational demands at Villawood Immigration Detention Centre as a result of the ongoing disturbance, it was not possible to provide the clients with written notification of their transfer at that time.

Notification of the transfers was provided to the migration agents of 21 of the clients on 29 April 2011. Notification was provided to the remaining client’s representative on 13 May 2011.

A copy of each notice of transfer was supplied to the clients on 1 August 2011 and a copy of each notice of transfer was supplied to the clients’ migration agents the following day on 2 August 2011.