

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0076) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Rhiannon (L&CA 16) asked:

Senator RHIANNON: On those three occasions were the complaints made to the high commissioner? Were they complaints to a human rights group? How do you identify the complaints?

Ms Larkins: I do not have that information.

Senator RHIANNON: Could you take that on notice?

Ms Larkins: Yes.

Answer:

None of the allegations referenced above were directly made to the High Commission in Sri Lanka.

One allegation was submitted to a United Nations Committee and also to the Department. The other two allegations referenced above were made directly to the Department.

There are a number of avenues through which the Department may receive allegations of mistreatment including (but not limited) to: the individual; the individual's legal representative; a United Nations agency; the Australian Human Rights Commission; or through human rights groups.