

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0077) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Rhiannon (L&CA 16-17) asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Are any officials from the department stationed in Sri Lanka in order to work with Sri Lankan authorities to gather information about people intercepted by Sri Lankan authorities whilst attempting to leave Sri Lanka?

Mr Bowles: I am not going to go into what might happen in an operational sense, because it would involve a range of agencies that reside in a post. I can tell you that I have officers in Sri Lanka who do engage with counterparts on a range of different issues. There are other agencies, and you would need to question them to find out if they have similar views or activities.

Senator RHIANNON: How many officers do you have in Sri Lanka?

Mr Bowles: I could take that on notice.

Answer:

As at 31 May 2013, the Department had four Australia-based officers working at the High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka. They were supported by 19 Locally Engaged staff.