

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0085) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Abetz (L&CA 23) asked:

Senator ABETZ: I understand this is the area where I can ask some questions about people who are in your care. In particular I want to ask: when there are certain people in your care who you are escorting to other countries, do you advise the other countries through which you transit?

Mr Bowles: Yes.

Senator ABETZ: Did that occur in the case of Mr Kohl being repatriated to Germany?

Mr Bowles: We can take that on notice. I do not know the specifics of the case. We can make sure we give you exactly what happened.

Senator ABETZ: The circumstance to which I am referring to is that which has just broken in the Bangkok Post and also, I think, the local news here.

Mr Bowles: I can take that on notice and try to find out—

Answer:

Departmental staff in Thailand were advised of the removal as per agreed procedures, as were Thai Airways. At the time of the incident, Thai Immigration Authorities were only required to be notified of sensitive transit removals and/or where restraints were to be applied.