

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0087) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Abetz (L&CA 23-24) asked:

Senator ABETZ: Can we confirm that Thai officials were not advised that Mr Kohl was going through the Thai jurisdiction in transit?

Mr Cahill: The group were met by Thai Airways security and escorted to the Airside Transit Hotel at Bangkok airport. So the Thai Airways officials were involved.

Senator ABETZ: But, previously, prior to their arrival, were Thai authorities advised? I withdraw that question. Were Thai authorities advised prior to Mr Kohl's departure from Australia that he would be arriving in Thailand with two escorts?

Mr Cahill: I will have to take that on notice.

Mr Bowles: It would be normal practice. We can confirm it in this specific case. It sounds as if someone must have been advised if they met the plane. But we will confirm that for you.

Senator ABETZ: But it may have occurred after the plane landed or whilst the plane was in the air, as opposed to the Thai authorities having been advised before the departure from Australia. So, in answering that question, please be very careful with the specific question being asked.

Mr Bowles: We will see what we can find out about the specifics

*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.