

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0092) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Abetz (L&CA 24) asked:

Senator ABETZ: Right, so not Thai police. But normally we would advise the Thai authorities, as opposed to the airline, that a prisoner was transiting through the particular country, in this case Thailand?

Mr Cahill: I will have to confirm that for you, Senator.

Senator ABETZ: But surely that is the protocol, is it not? You do not only advise the airline but you advise the security and police authorities, not the Thai Airline authority.

Mr Cahill: I will have to check the protocol to see how we do that, Senator.

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.