

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0190) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 109) asked:

Senator CASH: How many were in relation to protest activity and how many in relation to money owed to people smugglers? How many asylum seekers on Manus Island are suspected agents of people smugglers, and how many asylum seekers in the detention network itself are suspected agents of people smugglers?

Mr Bowles: We will take that on notice.

Mr Cahill: I might take the opportunity to clarify that it is the Queensland police who are leading the investigation into the escapes at Scherger, not AFP.

*Answer:*

Service providers at the Manus Island Regional Processing Centre have advised that, as at 28 May 2013, there have been two complaints of bullying and intimidation regarding protest activity and no complaints regarding transferees who allegedly owe money to people smugglers.

The Department has received no intelligence or other reporting in relation to suspected people smuggling agents on Manus Island.

The question concerning the number of suspected people smuggling agents in the onshore detention network should be referred to the Australian Federal Police for response.