

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(17) Program : Internal Product**

Senator Cash (L&CA 27) asked:

- (1) Is it standard practice to ask contractors to sign confidentiality agreements or other kinds of agreements that they not divulge the nature of the work that they are engaged in on behalf of the department?
- (2) Are you aware of any circumstances in which this has been done?
- (3) Is this standard practice for all contracts or just for certain types of contracts?
- (4) If this is the standard practice, for how long has this been the practice?

*Answer:*

- (1) Departmental contracts contain standard confidentiality provisions. The confidentiality provisions state that each party to the contract must not disclose the other party's confidential information, except in specifically defined circumstances.
- (2) We are not aware of any circumstances in which contractors have been asked to sign specific agreements, in addition to the standard confidentiality provisions, that they not divulge the nature of the work that they are engaged in on behalf of the department.
- (3) Yes
- (4) The department implemented this practice in line with the implementation of the Commonwealth's whole-of-government confidentiality policy which was introduced in July 2007.