

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0348) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

Jandakot Airport: The Department advised that they did not consult the Department of Infrastructure and Transport prior to entering into this arrangement. Who DID the Department consult before making the decision to transfer asylum seekers, some of whom have not yet been security assessed by ASIO, to the busiest airport in Australia (in terms of aircraft movements)?

Answer:

The department's contract with the Airport Chalet Centre Ltd ended on 21 October 2011.

As that contract was for the provision of accommodation services using pre-existing unrestricted commercial accommodation the department did not undertake any formal consultation.