

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0461) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 80) asked:

What is meant by the term 'run a charter network'?

Answer:

The term 'run a charter network' refers to the coordinated use of several different chartered aircraft to meet operational requirements. The department uses a number of different charter operators to transport clients and staff across the detention network. These charters are sourced via the Department of Defence panel which utilises 12 different charter companies. DIAC runs a number of charter flights from amongst these companies. The choice of aircraft company is based on cost and aircraft suitability for each transfer operation.