

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0650) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

What level of security is currently in place and what is planned? Has that been done in consultation with the government of PNG? What access will asylum seekers have to the rest of the Island? What is their status on the Island at the moment? Do they have visas, for example? If so, what kind?

Answer:

Security services at the Manus Regional Processing Centre (RPC) are provided by G4S Pty Ltd. G4S is considering sub-contracting some services to local Papua New Guinea (PNG) security companies.

The physical security currently in place at the temporary centre on Manus Island is a 2.4m height chain mesh perimeter fence and gates. The PNG government has been consulted regarding the level of physical security to the temporary centre. Access to the rest of the island is yet to be determined.

The Australian Government has consulted with the National Government of PNG on all aspects of the establishment and operations of the RPC on Manus.

As at 15 October 2012, the PNG Government requires all transferees to remain within the boundary of the RPC.

The PNG Government has exempted all persons transferred to the Manus RPC from the requirement that they hold a valid 'entry permit' for PNG and from being deemed to have unlawful status under the *Papua New Guinea Migration Act 1978*.