

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0058) PROGRAMME – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Rhiannon/Macdonald (L&CA 117) asked:

Ms Larkins: Yes. Based on the four complaints that we have had raised with Australian government agencies that have been investigated, we do not have any substantiated evidence of torture of anyone we have returned.

CHAIR: How do you substantiate the evidence? Do you have people on the ground in Sri Lanka?

Ms Larkins: Again, these will not be investigations that we will have undertaken. They will have been undertaken by other agencies, so I would need to take that on notice.

Senator RHIANNON: Can you take on notice who the other agencies are, in general, and, with regard to the four complaints, who supplied you with that information?

Ms Larkins: Certainly.

Answer:

The four complaints were referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the Australian High Commission in Colombo. DIBP staff assisted with enquiries. The Head of Mission in Colombo determines the nature of the enquiries to be undertaken in such circumstances.