

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: OTS 01

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Breaches of Regulations

Hansard Page: 75 (15/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—In respect to the Office of Transport Security under the Aviation Transport Security Act and Aviation Transport Security Regulations and subsequent amendments, how many infringement notices were served for a breach of regulation 4.67, which is security of flight crew compartment, and how many people were successfully prosecuted for a breach of that regulation?

Mr Collett—In respect of specific breaches of the regulation, the actual charging and prosecutions actions under those are managed depending on the jurisdiction which is responding. So it may be a question that the AFP might be able to assist you with, or state police forces. Alternatively, we may be able to request some information on notice for you.

Senator O'BRIEN—If you would, I would appreciate that.

Answer:

Since 2005, no infringement notices were served and no persons were prosecuted.

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Question: OTS 02

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Breaches of Regulations

Hansard Page: 75 (15/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—If you would, I would appreciate that. Do you know how many people were charged with breaching regulation 9.01, which is bomb hoaxes et cetera?

Mr Collett—Again, the numbers in relation to charges would be a matter for those jurisdictions, but we can take that on notice and provide that detail.

Answer:

2005 – 15 persons were charged and 5 of those were convicted

2006 – 11 persons were charged and 5 of those were convicted

2007 – 2 persons were charged and of those 1 was convicted (at 1 March)

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Transport and Regional Services

Question: OTS 03

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Inspections of Walk-through Metal Detectors

Hansard Page: 75 (15/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—I certainly would not be asking where you arrive but I was just wondering how many inspections you have done.

Mr Collett—I could certainly get some details for you on notice about how many were done in the past. What sort of time frame or period?

Senator O'BRIEN—In this financial year.

Mr Collett—This financial year. Certainly.

Answer:

The Department of Transport and Regional Services' records indicate that for the 2006/2007 Financial Year there have been 71 systems tests of screening points conducted at screened airports around Australia, as at 16 March 2007. All system tests involve unannounced inspections.

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Transport and Regional Services

Question: OTS 04

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Inspections of Walk-through Metal Detectors

Hansard Page: 76 (15/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—How many employees of DOTAR have ASICs?

Ms Johnson—I would have to take that one on notice.

Answer:

The number of DOTARS employees with current ASICs is in the order of 220. This includes DOTARS employees who hold ASICs for non-DOTARS purposes, for example, recreational flying.

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Question: OTS 05

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: ASIC's Lack of Security

Hansard Page: 76 (15/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—In the August 2006 edition of *Australian Aviation* there is an article 'ASICs—massive effort no security' and it quotes the vice president of AOPA as saying that despite all the emphasis on security he was told to collect his own ASIC from Qantas in Canberra. He was shown a box of red plastic cards on their lanyards and was left to sort through them unsupervised. He said, 'I could have pocketed any quantity of ASICs I wanted.' What investigations have occurred into that allegation and what action has been taken?

Ms Johnson—On the specific allegation, I cannot give the details. I do know that a conversation has been held with Qantas about what they are planning to do into the future. I would have to take any further detail on notice and come back to you.

Senator O'BRIEN—Could you tell us whether there have been any actions, fines or penalties issued in relation to that allegation. It does not sound like there was but perhaps you could let me know on notice if you do not know now.

Answer:

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) advised that it began issuing Aviation Security Identification Cards (ASICs) on 1 November 2005. Up to 31 March 2006, 13,800 applications had been received and 11,900 cards had been produced. Qantas Security Services (Qantas) was one of the organisations contracted by CASA to print and distribute ASICs.

CASA has advised that it is not aware of any ASICs being collected inappropriately in the manner described, and is also unaware of any cases where there have been any actions, fines or penalties issued in relation to the alleged improper behaviour.

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Question: OTS 06

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Details of Foreign Flagged Ships with Voyage Permits

Hansard Page: 80-81 (15/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—I want to ask for some information, and I suspect you will need to take this on notice. I am interested in the details of all foreign flagged ships that have operated on the Australian coastline under single or continuous voyage permits since 1 September 2005. I would like the names of the ships entering Australia, the dates the ships operated on the Australian coastline, the cargo carried, the country of registration, the details of the nationality of the crew and the type of permit under which the ship was operating. I would also like to know the details of ships that carried high-consequence dangerous goods and what the goods were.

Mr Tongue—We will have to take that on notice. I think we have addressed many of those for you previously.

Senator O'BRIEN—In the past, that is right.

Mr Tongue—In approving the answers coming through, I do not remember the nationality of the crew being one. That might slow us down, if I could just put that caveat in. It is the same with high-consequence dangerous goods; a high level of fidelity might challenge us but we will do our best to get you as much detail as possible.

Senator O'BRIEN—Okay. Also, where it is known that there were dangerous goods on board, I would also like to know the type of permit. If you could marry the two things, that would answer both questions, would it not?

Mr Kilner—Yes.

Answer:

The information sought by the Senator is included in the attachment to this Question on Notice.

The dates provided in the attachment are the estimated sailing dates (ESD) for single voyage permits and permit start and finish dates for continuing voyage permits. The data is single and continuous voyage permit data only which does not reflect arrival and departure dates of the vessel/s, or the dates the vessel/s operated on the Australian coastline with international cargo (ie. imports or exports). A permit may be issued provided the ship has left the Australian coast on a regular basis (at least once in any three month period). The extraction of data from multiple sources to match vessels under permit and the arrival and departure dates from Australia would require considerable resources.

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While the provision of details across the 1000 plus High Consequence Dangerous Goods would also require considerable resources, the attached spreadsheet does provide details of those cargo categories maintained in the Department's databases along with the corresponding single or continuous voyage permit details. The nationality of the crew of foreign flagged ships operating under permit is a matter for the Australian Customs Service.

[OTS 06 attachment- not included. Available from the committee secretariat on request.]