



Australian  
**BORDER FORCE**

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Senator Alex Gallacher  
Chair  
Select Committee on the recent allegations relating to conditions  
and circumstances at the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Gallacher,

**Allegations of torture and waterboarding at the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru**

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) has not received any information which supports allegations reported by several media outlets on the 13 and 14 August 2015, and as detailed in submission 95 to the Committee, claiming that transferees are being tortured and "waterboarded" at the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru.

Following the reporting of these allegations on 13 August 2015, the Department sought advice from Wilson Security and Transfield Services Ltd. The Department notes the public statements released by both, rejecting the claims made, are consistent with advice provided to DIBP.

The safety and security of all individuals within the Regional Processing Centre is a priority for the Department and a number of mechanisms, including an active complaints system where complaints can be lodged confidentially and if desired, anonymously, are in place.

Moreover, the operations of the centre are scrutinised regularly by external third party bodies such as the Commonwealth Ombudsman, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee for the Red Cross, which actively engage with transferees without Departmental or service provider staff being present to discuss the treatment they receive in the centre. The centre has also been the subject of a number of reviews, most recently the Moss Review. Throughout these oversight mechanisms and review processes, no incidents of the nature characterised in the recent allegations were identified or could be even remotely construed as falling within this description.

Should specific allegations be known to the Committee they should be forwarded to the Nauru Police Force without delay and the Department can assist with facilitating this.

Given the extensive media coverage afforded to these allegations, the Department proposes to publish this response on its website as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Briscoe".

**Cindy Briscoe**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Support Group  
20 August 2015