



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Home Affairs

Office of the Junior Minister

May 17th 2015

Mrs. Shernette Wolffe
Clerk to the Legislature
House of Assembly
Sessions House
21 Parliament Street
Hamilton HM12

Dear Mrs. Wolffe,

Parliamentary Questions

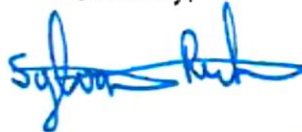
I am in receipt of questions from the MP Walton Brown dated May 13th 2015 relating to the Immigration matters. Accordingly, the responses are as follows:

- Q1. Will the Honourable Junior Minister please inform this Honourable House of the number of random checks performed by Department of Immigration compliance officers at places of employment - by job category - to ensure employers are in compliance with work permit policy and laws for the period 1 January 2015 to 15 May 2015?
- A1. Due to limited human resources, there have been no random checks by the Compliance Officers of the Department of Immigration during the period 1 January, 2015 to 15 May, 2015.
- Q2. Will the Honourable Junior Minister please inform this Honourable House of the number of work permit violations the Department of Immigration has documented for the period 1 January, 2015 to 15 May, 2015?
- A2. The Chief Immigration Officer is responsible for determining whether a work permit violation has occurred or not. During the period 1 January, 2015 to 15 May, 2015, two (2) work permit violations have been documented. However, the Department can confirm that there are presently 21 civil penalty cases active.

Q3. Will the Honourable Junior Minister please inform this Honourable House of the penalty imposed by the Department of Immigration on the company recently involved in a work permit violation and which was brought to the department's attention by the Shadow Minister for Immigration?

A3. No penalty has been imposed on the company to date. The Chief Immigration Officer has remit for imposing civil penalties. There is a clear process for all decisions to impose civil penalties; including a full investigation by the Compliance Section of the Department of Immigration (which must be formally presented to the Chief Immigration Officer) and written communication by the Chief Immigration Officer to the offending parties, comprising a Notice, a Warning Notice, and a Decision Notice (each are issued at staggered intervals in the process). The violation brought to the Department of Immigration's attention by the Shadow Minister for Immigration is still in the investigation stage; as such the processes affected by the Chief Immigration Officer have not yet started.

Sincerely,



The Hon. Sylvan D. Richards, JP, MP
Junior Minister of Home Affairs

cc. Hon. Walton Brown, JP MP

Dr. Derrick S. Binns, JP, Secretary to the Cabinet

Mr. Randolph E. Rochester, Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs