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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Context of the question (from Hansard transcript) is at Attachment A.

QUESTION 4 (M16)

Mr Randall — Two similar questions, although I do not want to dominate—ministerial interventions I understand are at a similar level to those of the previous government and the minister's decisions are of a similar nature. I understand the figures are a two-thirds rejection with respect to ministerial interventions. Is that right?

Data on Ministerial intervention outcomes has not been consistently published in the past.

This year the Minister has made available quarterly figures on the exercise of his Ministerial intervention powers[#] under sections 417, 501J and 454 of the Migration Act (1958). The most recent figures available are for the April-June quarter of 2008 in which the Minister finalised 739 requests and granted 120 visas.

Description of Ministerial Intervention Powers: The powers enable the Minister to substitute a decision of a review authority with a decision more favourable to the applicant if the Minister thinks it is in the public interest to do so. s417 is invoked where the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) has made a decision; S501J is invoked where the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) has made a decision to cancel or refuse a Protection visa because of "character concerns"; and s454 is invoked where the RRT has referred a matter to the AAT.

CONTEXT OF QUESTION – FROM THE TRANSCRIPT

QUESTION 4

(Hansard page reference: M16)

Mr Randall—Two similar questions, although I do not want to dominate—ministerial interventions I understand are at a similar level to those of the previous government and the minister's decisions are of a similar nature. I understand the figures are a two-thirds rejection with respect to ministerial interventions. Is that right?

Ms Keski-Nummi—In terms of ministerial intervention I would have to come back to you with absolute correct numbers around that but broadly speaking we have not seen a great increase in minister intervention requests. In terms of the proportion the minister may have intervened on to those where he has not intervened, I would have to come back to you on that.

Mr Randall—I would be interested in those figures because they have not been published...