

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/442) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What is the reason behind the reduction in places available under the Other Family category from 1285 in 2012-13 financial year to 585 in the 2013-14 financial year?

Have the places that have been cut been reallocated to another family stream?

If not, why?

If so, where have they been reallocated and for what reasons?

How many applications are currently pending in the queue?

How many applications did the Department receive in the previous/current financial year?

How many of these applications were successful (i.e. what is the conversion rate)?

Answer:

As part of the 2013-14 Migration Programme, the previous Government reduced the Other Family category by 700 places alongside an increase in the Partner category of 1200 places, to give priority to the reunification of immediate family members.

The numbers of applications made for Other Family category visas were 2637 in 2013-14 and 292 in 2013-14 to 30 November 2014. As the overwhelming majority of these applications remain onhand and unfinalised, it is not yet possible to provide a conversion rate.