

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(131) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Trood (L&C 36) asked:

(Re: Members of Hizb ut-Tahrir) Did ASIO undertake a check of the two individuals prior to them being granted a visa?

Answer:

All persons applying for and electronic travel authority (ETA) or visas to travel to Australia are checked against DIAC's electronic alert list, the Movement Alert List (MAL), prior to a visa being granted. MAL records details of persons of possible concern to Australia including for reasons related to national security. Where a visa application triggers an alert of possible national security interest, it is referred to ASIO for advice. A visa is only issued once a non-prejudicial response is received.

Mr Hanif and Mr Atchia applied for and were granted visas to travel to Australia in June and May 2010 respectively. As neither person matched any current MAL record they were not referred to ASIO for security checking.