

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(205) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law**

Senator Kirk asked:

Why were the documents from Jaghouri collected by Mr Mazhar Ali passed straight from the Minister to Jim Williams for investigation and what did Mr Williams do with the documents that were then found to be truthful by the IDCU?

*Answer:*

The Minister did not hand the documents to Mr Williams directly. The documents were forwarded to Removals Policy and Operations Section as it was the unit arranging the removal.

The Department then submitted the documents to the Embassy of Afghanistan for consideration.

Neither the Afghan Government nor its IDCU have communicated any conclusive findings about these documents.

On 22 December 2004 the Embassy of Afghanistan released a press release stating that the findings of Mrs Bakhtiari's identity were inconclusive and required further investigation. This was reiterated in a letter from the Afghan Ambassador to the Minister on 27 December 2004.

Even if the Afghan Government were to advise that members of the family are Afghan, it would not change the fact that they have been found by the Government of Pakistan to be nationals of Pakistan.