

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0010) Program: Portfolio Tribunals (MRT-RRT)

Senator Boyce (L&CA written) asked:

In regard to the Refugee Review Tribunal 23% (190) of cases were not completed in the required time nearly 83% was the fault, in part, or in whole, of the Tribunal. It would seem that the tribunal is having significant problems fulfilling its statutory duties in a timely matter. Could the Department provide an explanation for this?

Answer:

There are a range of circumstances which can give rise to cases not being decided within 90 days. Reasons for cases taking longer than 90 days to decide are included in the tabled report as set out in answer to BE11/009. These include cases in which members consider that further investigations or research is needed to meet procedural fairness requirements to ensure that the correct and preferable decision is made.