

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0203) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Boyce asked:

On the 22nd of March 2011 a document was tabled entitled, "Protection Visa Processing taking more than 90 days for the reporting period 1/7/10 to 31/10/10".

The tabled report, in trying to answer the question of why processing these matters in a timely manner and within their statutory obligations has more than doubled, simply cites, and I quote, "reasons beyond their control". What were those reasons?

Answer:

The full list of reasons is provided in the glossary of terms included in the report. Factors beyond the control of the Department, which result in a decision not being able to be made within 90 days, include reasons related to the visa applicant, a need to await health, security and character checks or the provision of information by a third party, or those arising from the complexity of a case requiring legal or other advice.