

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0019) Program: Office of the MARA

Senator Cash L&CA 34. asked:

Since your office has been in operation, on how many occasions has the deliberate use of money – we will term it fraud – been alleged? On how many occasions has it been proven?

Answer:

In the period from 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2012 ten agents were sanctioned by the Office of the Migration Agent Registration Authority (the Authority) as a result of mishandling client monies. These are:

- Mohd Jamaludin – barred
- Hendrik Van Der Mer – barred
- Svetlana Dzelebdzic – barred
- Maria Leyes – cancellation
- Ronald Wright – cancellation
- Betty Babamovski – barred
- Mark Mercurius – barred
- Raymond Solaiman – cancellation
- Vladimir Bashkirtsev – cancellation
- Vu Nguyen – cancellation

In one case (Dzelebdzic) the agent was later convicted by the Court for offences relating to misappropriating client funds. The victims, the subject of the court decision, were the complainants in the Authority's barring decision. Three of the Authority's decisions are currently subject to an appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) (Mercurius, Solaiman, Nguyen).