

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0178) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (L&CA 45) asked:

In how many cases since August 2008 in relation to the migration of children and proving a family relationship the department has undertaken or required a DNA test?

Answer:

The Department offers DNA testing as a last resort to confirm a familial relationship where the decision-maker is not satisfied of the relationship on the basis of other evidence provided. It is not a legislative requirement, and there is no legal power to compel an applicant to undergo DNA testing.

The Department has collected statistics in relation to DNA testing since 1 July 2011 only. Statistics are collected manually, and to date, have only been collected in relation to cases involving offshore clients.

From 1 July 2011 to 30 March 2012 the department requested DNA testing in support of 504 cases. These include applications for visas and for citizenship by descent. The Department is unable to report on how many tests were conducted specifically with children.