

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0179) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (L&CA 45) asked:

On how many occasions has the Department requested a DNA test? On how many occasions has the applicant subsequently withdrawn their application following that request, regardless of whether or not it was for that reason? Also, on how many occasions has the DNA testing been undertaken?

Answer:

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.

Because statistics are collected manually, Departmental systems do not allow for reporting on how many occasions applicant's have withdrawn their application following the request for DNA testing, or on how many occasions DNA testing has been undertaken. To provide this specific information would require individual examination of each of the 504 cases for which DNA testing was been requested.

A sample of relevant cases was examined to provide the answer to question 280. This provides an indication of cases where the application is withdrawn after DNA testing is requested.