

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0272) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian assistance

Senator Cash asked:

In how many instances has the Minister intervened to grant a protection or other kind of visa that would now meet the current Complementary Protection guidelines in the five years prior to 24 March 2012?

Answer:

In order to quantify the number of visas historically granted to clients seeking Ministerial Intervention (MI) on the basis of what would now meet the complementary protection guidelines, it would require review of every MI case file between 2007 and 2012. The level of resources to undertake the case file reviews cannot be justified.

Even if it was possible to do so, it will not necessarily be clear on what specific basis the Minister exercised his/her personal public interest power to intervene, as he/she is not required to provide reasons