

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0015) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 36) asked:

Dr Southern: The new home affairs minister is Dr Zahid.

Senator CASH: Was that in Malaysia itself?

Dr Southern: It was a telephone conversation.

Senator CASH: Oh, a telephone conversation, sorry. So there has been no face-to-face contact?

Dr Southern: No. The new minister has only just been appointed.

Senator CASH: Do you know when that call took place?

Dr Southern: On 23 May.

Senator CASH: Were there any calls made by our new minister prior to that time?

Dr Southern: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Y.B. Dato' Ato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Bin Hamadi was appointed Malaysian Minister for Home Affairs on 15 May 2013. On 23 May 2013, Minister O'Connor made a telephone call to Dr Zahid.

Minister O'Connor made no calls prior to that time.