

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0460) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

Why have the Country Guidance Notes on Sri Lanka not been updated since November 2010, as confirmed in SE12/0266?

Answer:

The Sri Lankan country guidance note was established in November 2010 as a guide to assist decision makers and, as indicated within the guidance note, was not to be used as a sole basis for decisions.

Officers were directed to continue to use key documents such as refugee law guidelines and procedures manuals and to refer to the full range of country of origin information available to them in assessing claims, noting that the country guidance note provided context only and did not purport to be comprehensive.

Effort has since focused on keeping the source documents and country of origin information fully up to date, rather than the guidance note itself, to ensure that decision makers have the most current and comprehensive information available to them.