

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(BE12/0190) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

Labour agreements: What systems is the Department putting in place to reduce the processing time for Labour Agreements?

*Answer:*

The current median negotiation time for a labour agreement is six months, down from 11 months, prior to the introduction of streamlining measures in October 2010.

The length of time to negotiate an agreement depends greatly on the quality and completeness of the information provided by the company seeking an agreement.

The Department has no specific additional measures planned to further reduce the processing time for labour agreements.