

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0300) Program 3:1: Visa compliance and status resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 40) asked:

- a) Have any visas been cancelled or refused because of suspected fraud from our post in Islamabad and more generally across the network in the last five years?
- b) What are the predominate subclasses that have the highest incidence of suspected fraud both in Islamabad and more generally?
- c) How many instances of fraud have occurred for family reunion visas and can this be broken down by visa subclass and post by year?

Answer:

The subcontinent caseload is processed across several offices including Islamabad, Dubai and Bangkok. In particular, the Afghan Refugee and Humanitarian caseload and Family migration caseloads are processed in Dubai. The Islamabad office processes temporary entry visas for Pakistani and Afghan clients and family migration applications for non-Afghan applicants resident in Pakistan.

Since July 2008 the Islamabad post has cancelled 100 visas at post for fraud related breaches. A further 23 Pakistan nationals were cancelled for fraud across the departmental network. More broadly, departmental officers have cancelled 3100 visas for fraud related issues.

The most prominent visa subclass cancelled by the Islamabad post was the Short Stay Business visa with 36 visas cancelled between 2008-2012. A further 25 visitor visas (subclass 676) were cancelled and 27 student visa (subclass 572) for suspected fraud. Across the departmental network the Working Holiday Maker visa subclass 417 has the highest cancellation rate for fraud with 1087 visas cancelled since 2008. Other visa subclasses that featured highly in the fraud cancellation statistics were the visitor visa subclasses 676 (Tourist Short Stay) and 651 (eVisitor Visa) with 411 and 335 visas cancellations respectively.

Since July 2008 there have been 19 instances of visa cancellation as a result of fraud in the Family Reunion and Protection Visa subclasses.

In the 2009-10 program year, there were 995 refusals (232 cases).

Table 1 – Cancellation statistics for Protection and Family Reunion visas

Cancellation Office	Subclass Cancelled	2008/09	2009/10	2011/12	Total
Amman	200	2		1	3
Bangkok	200	4	1		5
Dubai	202		4		4
Dubai	204		1		1
Nairobi	200			3	3
Pretoria	202	2			2
Tehran	200			1	1
Grand Total		8	6	5	19