

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Inquiry : 21 June 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(FOCS/032) – Inquiry into Flag of Convenience Shipping - MCVs refused at sea

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Asked:

CHAIR: Let's go back to this year and have a breakdown of how many were refused while they were at sea.

Mr Williams: I do not have that. I do not think we would be able to provide it either, because I am not sure we would collect that.

CHAIR: But it is the case that a number of these—we do not know how many—can be applied for while they are at sea, before they have departed the port on their way to Australia?

Mr Williams: It is possible, yes.

...

CHAIR: But it would be interesting to know how many have been thwarted because they have applied at sea, thinking they could just come through. You have gone: 'Stop. Okay, they're restricted to the vessel.' If there is a real threat, you will instruct the shipping agent to get them off or whatever. I understand that but, if there are some numbers around that, that would be helpful.

Answer:

MCV applications must be lodged offshore, in advance of the applicant's intended arrival date.

Should an MCV application be refused, the Department's systems check that the applicant is offshore at the time of refusal, but do not capture information on the applicant's specific location, such as if they are at sea.

Departmental records indicate that 11 individuals have been Restricted on Board on arrival in 2016-17 (to 27 June 2017).

Source: Department of Immigration and Border Protection Systems data