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AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number: CV19-382**

**Subject: Guidelines given to decision makers**

**Asked by:** Nick McKim

**Question:**

Senator McKIM: Commissioner, these are questions around the guidelines relating to the issuing of an exemption from inbound travel. Given that your guidelines were published on 17 September, is it the case that any applications prior to the issuing of those formal guidelines were being assessed without any formal guidance from you to the decision-makers?

Mr Outram: When the regime was first implemented, back in early March, you'd be aware we had no pre-existing system, process, guideline or other means by which to administer that process. So it's evolved since then. The published guidelines, made public in September, were, in fact—my guidance was given to the decision-makers back in July. I can take on notice the exact date in July when that was.

**Answer:**

- Prior to 9 July 2020, the Australian Border Force (ABF) Commissioner made all inwards travel exemption decisions personally.
- On 9 July 2020, the Commissioner authorised certain ABF and departmental officers to undertake inwards decisions, and issued the Commissioner's Inwards Decision Making document to provide appropriate guidance.
- On 17 September 2020, to increase decision making transparency, current guidance documents were published on the Department's website.