

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 2

Program: 2.1

Question No. AE15/135

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:

1. Why was a Discussion Paper on the Entertainment Visa Review placed on the Ministry website in January with no public announcement or media release?
2. What representations were received by the Minister or the Ministry about the need for such an entertainment visa review, prior to publication of the discussion paper?
3. What bodies or persons did the Minister or Ministry consult about the entertainment visa review before publication of the discussion paper?
4. What resources have been allocated within the ministry for the conduct of the entertainment visa review? Who is actually conducting the review? What is their expertise in the media and entertainment industries?
5. What public consultation for the entertainment visa review will take place, and will a draft report be published?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. The Discussion Paper was released concurrently on the Ministry for the Arts and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website on 12 January 2015. The Ministry for the Arts advised key industry stakeholders at the same time.
2. The Ministry for the Arts and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection are undertaking the review as part of the Government's deregulation agenda.
3. Feedback from applicants of the subclass 420 visa program over time informed the discussion paper.
4. The review is being conducted within current resources by the Ministry for the Arts which administer the Foreign Actors Certification Scheme, and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection which is responsible for the subclass 420 visa programme
5. A public consultation process was undertaken by seeking submissions on the Discussion Paper for the Review of the Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa (Subclass 420). Government is considering submissions and further steps will be identified through this process.