

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. AE16/026

Senator McKim asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

Senator McKIM: I appreciate that. I am happy for you to take this on notice: I am interested in how many, if any, there are of the 12,000 of the Syrian cohort that you have advised do present a risk to national security, as of today, for example?

Mr Lewis: I understand the question. We will see what we can provide.

Senator McKIM: I asked about the average time to complete an assessment. You have responded in broad terms around that. Thank you for your response to those questions. I want to turn to another topic now. The Attorney is not there.

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

1. As a matter of course, all visa applicants are checked against national security holdings in Australia's Central Movement Alert List. As of 29 February 2016, approximately 766 applicants from this cohort have been referred to ASIO by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.
2. As of 29 February 2016, approximately 644 of those cases have been assessed by ASIO.
3. Consistent with other cohorts, I am unable to provide a breakdown of how many non-prejudicial, adverse or qualified visa security assessments have been furnished by ASIO in relation to this cohort.