

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/253) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What does “the Minister was made aware of the documents” mean –

Were they brought to his attention in a ministerial brief?

Were the actual documents attached in the brief?

Did you peruse all the documents related to the Public Interest Immunity claim prior to the claim being lodged?

Did you read all or any of the documents related to the claim prior to or after the claim being lodged?

If you did not, how then did you arrive at the decision to claim public interest immunity for the documents?

On whose advice did you act if you did not read the documents?

Answer:

The Minister was made aware of a mix of physical and electronic documents.

These were not provided in a ministerial brief.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection cannot confirm what documents the Minister has read.

The department cannot speak to the Minister’s specific action or decision-making process.