

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/025) - Nauruan government denying visas to Danish MPs - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 80) asked:

Senator McKIM: I want to move on to the issue of the Nauruan government denying visas to some Danish MPs. Bear with me, because I understand that you may think that is not necessarily within the responsibility of the department, and obviously the denying of visas is not.

Mr Pezzullo: I know it to not be in the responsibility of the—

Senator McKIM: The denying of visas is not, but just bear with me if you would, Mr Pezzullo. I want to ask when and by whom was the department informed that the three members of the Danish parliamentary delegation, who were scheduled to visit Nauru on 31 August this year, had not been granted visas? When did you become aware, and how did you become aware?

Mr Pezzullo: So, when were we advised of the non-issuance of the visa in relation to three members of the Danish parliament, and by which means?

CHAIR: The first question is: were you advised?

Senator McKIM: I said 'became aware', actually.

Mr Pezzullo: We certainly knew it from the public record. As to whether we were advised otherwise, I might ask Ms Noble, who is the head of our policy group, which includes our international division. Ms Noble might have further and better particulars than I do.

Ms Noble: It was on the day that we met with the Danish parliamentary delegation themselves. I am not sure—it was in the period from 29 August to 2 September, but I need to get you the precise date that that meeting occurred.

Senator McKIM: Ms Noble, you said it was on the day that you met with the Danish delegation. Are you aware whether that was before or after they were visiting Australian Parliament House? I understand you cannot give me the precise date today. Can you take that on notice and provide that to the committee?

Ms Noble: Yes, I can take that on notice.

Senator McKIM: Are you aware whether the date that you met with the Danish delegation was prior to or after them having a series of meetings here at Parliament House?

Ms Noble: I am not sure. I will have to get back to you on notice.

Answer:

See response to SE16/026.