

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/026) - Nauruan government denying visas to Danish MPs - Approached by representatives - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 81) asked:

Senator McKIM: It is a bit like that it in here from time to time. Was the department approached by representatives of the Danish government or the Danish parliament in order to assist in convincing the Nauruan government to issue visas to all members of that delegation?

Ms Noble: I will need to take the detail of that question on notice, but, as I said, we were in talks with the Danish delegation as they seemed to become aware of the government of Nauru's decision not to provide them with visas. So I will need to get a refresher on the details to answer your precise questions.

Senator McKIM: Thank you. I appreciate that. Just to be clear, the question that I think you have agreed to take on notice is twofold. Firstly, was the department approached by Danish officials and, if so, when? You have agreed, I think, to take that on notice. I will put a supplementary to you and ask you, if you cannot answer this today, to also take it on notice: did the department take any action in this regard and what was any action taken?

Ms Noble: I can take that on notice as well.

Answer:

- On 29 August the Danish Ambassador advised the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) of the decision to not issue visas to the three MPs.
- DIBP advised the Danish Ambassador that decisions on Nauruan visas and visit programmes are a matter for the Government of Nauru.
- DIBP provided the Danish Ambassador with contact details for representatives in the Government of Nauru.