

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(43) Output 1.4: Compliance

Senator Abetz asked:

How many 'sham' marriages (marriages of convenience or for the purposes of immigration alone) have been uncovered by the immigration department since 24 November, 2007?

Answer:

Departmental systems cannot provide reports on the number of sham marriages uncovered. Such information is recorded on the individual case files concerned. To report on the number of such cases would require a manual analysis of all partner applications. In view of the significant diversion of departmental resources required, it is not considered feasible to divert the resources to such a task.