

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0301) Program 3.1: Visa compliance and status resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 43) asked:

- a) How many sponsors who have been suspected of having been involved with fraud have had their own visa status reviewed or cancelled because of their involvement?
- b) Has the minister initiated any action to review and potentially cancel visas for those sponsors believed to have been participating in fraud?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Immigration and Citizenship's reporting capability cannot be disaggregated down to this level of detail.
- b) Where fraud in an application is identified, a range of interventions are available to the department to address this issue, including refusal of relevant visa applications, visa cancellation and referral for prosecution. Where the sponsor's circumstances dictate that visa cancellation or prosecution are not an option, the matter is recorded and any future sponsorships by that sponsor are scrutinised in greater detail. As the standard operating approach is to mitigate or treat all instances of identified fraud in the manner described, a specific review of this kind is not considered necessary.