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FOI Request FA 21/01/00063

The applicant is seeking access to:

1. *The number of cases that the Minister for Home Affairs and/or other Minister(s) have been briefed to consider to exercise his/their discretion in the last 12 months from today's date.*
2. *The number of cases that the Minister for Home Affairs and/or other Minister(s) have personally considered to exercise his/their discretion to cancel a visa in the last 12 months from today's date*
3. *The number of cancellation decisions the Minister made personally from 21 November 2020 until 14 December 2020.*

Response

1. *The number of cases that the Minister for Home Affairs and/or other Minister(s) have been briefed to consider to exercise his/their discretion in the last 12 months from today's date.*

In the calendar year 2020, the Minister for Home Affairs and/or other Minister(s) have been briefed to consider to exercise his/their discretion on 134 occasions. This includes briefings or submissions on matters relating to decisions of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, consideration of possible visa refusals or cancellations, and consideration of possible revocation of visa cancellations.

2. *The number of cases that the Minister for Home Affairs and/or other Minister(s) have personally considered to exercise his/their discretion to cancel a visa in the last 12 months from today's date.*

In the calendar year 2020, the Minister for Home Affairs personally exercised his discretion to cancel a visa on 22 occasions. Furthermore, the Assistant Minister for Home Affairs exercised his discretion to cancel a visa on less than five occasions in the same period.

3. *The number of cancellation decisions the Minister made personally from 21 November 2020 until 14 December 2020.*

During the period 21 November 2020 until 14 December 2020, the Minister for Home Affairs exercised his discretion to cancel a visa less than five times. (Departmental data masked to avoid identification of individual cases.)

Caveats:

- *Figures were extracted from Departmental systems on 5 January 2021. As data has been drawn from a live systems environment the figures provided may differ slightly in previous or future reporting.*
- *With regards to Immigration data, the Department's current policy is to mask numbers which are less than five as <5, noting we are reviewing the confidentiality method for the future*

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