

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2014**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Billing process for catering**

Question: **188**

Hansard Reference **p 38-39, 26 May 2014**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Senator WONG: Can you tell me, given that you have been on notice about this issue, how the billing for food and alcohol works when the Speaker chooses to use her suite for private fundraisers?

...

Ms Mills: What I am saying is that we do not have a report from IHG on every individual event or the cost of every individual event that they provide. We have a policy—

Senator WONG: Then I suggest we work out a way of getting IHG to provide that information, because it is perfectly legitimate for this committee to be asking you about costs that are levied pursuant to a contract that you have. It is not a contract with the Department of the House of Representatives.

Ms Mills: I am very happy to look into it, but I cannot give you a definitive answer at the moment because I do not know how that particular event—I assume we are all referencing the one that was covered in the newspaper article—

Senator WONG: Well, not only. I think it is not unreasonable for us to be able to understand how a contract that you are part of—how billing arrangements for private fundraising events—work under that contract. That is a pretty reasonable proposition, isn't it?

Answer

When catering is provided by IHG for private functions in a Member or Senator's suite, arrangements are made between that Member of Parliament and IHG. DPS is not involved in the billing for catering services, the bill is sent from IHG direct to the Member of Parliament.