

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**nbn**

**Question No: 171(f)**

**nbn**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016**

**Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. how often has each board met, break down by board name;
2. what travel expenses have been incurred;
3. what has been the average attendance at board meetings;
4. List each member's attendance at meetings;
5. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
6. what conflicts of interest have been registered;
7. what remuneration has been provided to board members;
8. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?
10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
11. what have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list

**Answer:**

1. The nbn Board has met five times since 14 September 2015.
2. Directors are paid a travel allowance as prescribed by the Remuneration Tribunal Determination: Official Travel by Office Holders. The amount of this allowance varies depending upon the city in which the Director is attending a Board meeting. The travel allowance is adjusted in accordance with Section 3.4 of the Determination where necessary. In addition, air travel is either booked through nbn's travel service provider or reimbursed to a Director who may book his/her own air travel. The level of air travel either booked or reimbursed by nbn is in accordance with Table 2A Tier 1 of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination: Official Travel by Office Holders and the Determination: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office.
3. Average attendance over the five meetings of the nbn Board is 6.4.

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4. Member's attendance at nbn Board meetings:

Meeting no. and date	Ziggy Switkowski (Chairman)	Patrick Flannigan	Simon Hackett	Shirley In't Veld Appointed 02 Dec 15	Alison Lansley Term expired 6 December 2015	Justin Milne	Bill Morrow	Kerry Schott
<b>2015</b>								
90	13 Oct	√	√	Apology		√	√	√
91	24 Nov	√	Apology	√		√	√	√
92	15 Dec	√	√	√	√		√	√
<b>2016</b>								
93	04 Feb	√	√	√	Apology		√	√
94	12 Feb	√	√	√	√		√	√

5. Refer to Page 57 of nbn's 2014-2105 Annual Report under 'Independence of Directors'.
6. The conflicts of interest register is a confidential document, details of which are restricted to the Company Secretary and Directors.
7. Directors of nbn are remunerated in accordance with Table A of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office. Refer also to Section 2.14 of the Commonwealth Government Business Enterprise Governance and Oversight Guidelines (August 2015) (GBE Guidelines).
8. Refer to Section 2.18 a. and 2.20 a. of the GBE Guidelines.
9. No.
10. Not applicable.
11. nbn provides catering at the majority of scheduled Board meetings and Director's travel allowances are adjusted accordingly. nbn catering costs incurred since 14 September 2015 up to the date of the most recent Board meeting on 12 February 2016 were:

13 Oct 2015	\$206.80
24 Nov 2015	\$298.65
15 Dec 2015	\$351.45
4 Feb 2016	\$0.00
12 Feb 2016	\$314.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,170.95</b>