

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 623

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment - Ministerial

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from 19 November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from 25 February, 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

The Department's financial management system does not allow for a distinction between spending on 'hospitality' and spending on 'entertainment'.

- 1-2. Please refer to Additional Estimates Question on Notice 340, asked in February 2014, for expenses for the period 1 November to 31 January 2014. The hospitality and entertainment expenses relating to the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 are nil.
- 3-4. The Department is aware of an expense relating to hospitality for a networking function on 7 May 2014, in Bern, Switzerland. The expenses for this hospitality are expected to be less than \$800.00.

The Department is not aware of any planned expenses relating to entertainment for the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary for the remainder of the 2014-15 financial year.