

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 80**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Travel costs - ministerial**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. Please detail all travel conducted by the Minister/parliamentary secretary
2. List each location, method of travel, itinerary and purpose of trip;
3. List the total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals), and;
4. List the number of staff that accompanied the Minister/parliamentary secretary, listing the total costs per staff member, the class of airplane travelled, the classification of staff accompanying the Minister/parliamentary secretary.
5. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

- 1-3. These questions should be directed to the Department of Finance.
4. The Minister for Communications was accompanied by his Chief of Staff during his visit to Europe in April/May 2014 and was also accompanied by an Adviser during his visit to New Zealand in July 2014. Costs for officers employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are the responsibility of the Department of Finance.
5. The Minister for Communications has in-principle approval from the Prime Minister for the following international travel:
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Telecommunications and Information Ministerial Meeting (TELMIN 10) – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – 29-31 March 2015; and
  - The 11th Ministerial Forum on ICT, Singapore, 2-3 June 2015.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications has in-principle approval from the Prime Minister for the following international travel:

- GSMA - Mobile World Congress - Shanghai, China, 15-17 July 2015.

In-principle approval has also been granted for either the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary to attend the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) – in Auckland, New Zealand on 27 February 2015.