

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Additional Estimates
2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ASIC

Question: AET 2061-2070

Topic: Travel Costs - Department

Reference: written - 19 February 2016

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

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

2061. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
2062. If so, under what policy?
2063. Provide a copy of that policy.
2064. When was this policy implemented?
2065. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
2066. Detail all travel (domestic and international) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2067. Detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
2068. What date was the minister or their office notified of the travel?
2069. What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
2070. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

2061. No, ASIC is not required to seek approval for international travel expenditure from the Minister or his delegate.
2062. Not applicable.
2063. Not applicable.

2064. Not applicable.
2065. The Minister is only notified of planned or completed travel when requested. No approval is required.
2066. ASIC officers have not accompanied the Minister and/or the Parliamentary Secretary on their travel since 14 September 2015.
2067. Travel expenses incurred by ASIC from 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016 are detailed below:

Travel Expense Type	\$ Excluding GST
Domestic Airfare	405,237.54
Domestic Accommodation	224,322.16
Domestic Rail and taxi fare	196,831.17
Domestic Allowance Commission	15,913.00
Domestic Allowance Meal	117,561.97
Overseas Airfare	165,466.92
Overseas Accommodation	54,761.92
Overseas Allowance Meal	23,893.75
Overseas Rail and taxi fares	3,410.16
Overseas Other Travel Costs	54,311.50
Domestic Travel Expense-Member	78.35
Total domestic and overseas related travel expenses	\$ 1,261,788.44

In relation to domestic travel, ASIC does not track expenditure against classes of flights; however, the travel policy outlines that all staff must travel Economy class for domestic travel with the exception of:

- Commissioners who are entitled to fly business class; and
- All Senior Executives who are entitled to fly business class on flights where the flight duration is greater than 2 hours.

For travel outside Australia, ASIC does not track expenditure against classes of flights. ASIC staff are entitled to travel business class for international travel, with the exception of Commission members who are entitled to fly first class. Note that although Commissioners are entitled to fly first class for international travel as per the Remuneration Tribunal Determinations, the practice has been for Commissioners to travel business class not first class.

ASIC employees are required to travel to undertake their business functions, domestic interagency meetings and international meetings with peer regulators.

The ASIC Domestic Travel policy states that "Staff should only travel and their delegate approve this travel where they have considered that a more cost effective alternative, such as video conferencing or teleconferencing, is not appropriate".

2068. Not applicable.

2069. Not applicable.

2070. ASIC employees' domestic travel is dictated by business requirements at any given time and therefore, it is not possible to determine with any certainty a travel calendar for the rest of the calendar year.

In terms of international travel, the Commission and some Senior Executive Leaders have international travel planned, to meet IOSCO and Task Force commitments and to provide technical assistance to build regulatory capacity in the region.