

Department/ Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question: BET 2078-2080

Topic: Travel Costs - Department

Reference: Written - 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

2078. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel 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).
2079. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, 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.
2080. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

2078. From 1 March to 31 May 2014, the ATO did not incur costs on travel for ATO staff to accompany the Treasury Portfolio Ministers.
2079. From 1 March to 31 May 2014, ATO expenditure on travel related cost (including the Australian Valuation Office, Australian Business Register, Tax Practitioners Board and Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission) was \$7.86 million.

A breakdown of this expenditure is provided in Table 1 below. Table 2 provides a breakdown of airfare expenditure by class. A further breakdown of this information would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Table 1: Travel related expenditure 1 March to 31 May 2014

Travel expenditure by category	1 March to 31 May 2014 (\$m)
Air travel	2.91
Travel Allowance Payments*	2.94
Taxi Fares	1.05
Fleet Costs	0.83
Other Incidental Travel Costs	0.12
Total	7.86

*Travel allowance includes \$0.828 million for SES and EL2 accommodation.

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Table 2: Airfare expenditure 1 Mar to 31 May 2014

Airfares Expenditure by class	Economy (\$m)	Business (\$m)	First Class (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Domestic	1.68	1.07	-	2.75
International	0.02	0.14	-	0.16
Total	1.70	1.21	0.00	2.91

The ATO is a large organisation with offices around Australia and over 80 per cent of its staff located outside of Canberra. The need for the ATO to connect with staff, the community, businesses and tax professionals spread across the country necessitates official travel by employees in the course of their ordinary duties.

2080. The ATO is unable to quantify or provide itemised data specifically related to what travel is planned for the rest of this financial year.