

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Productivity Commission

Question No: 4

Topic: Credit Cards

Reference: Written

Senator: Bilyk, Catryna

Question:

1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff in the PC? If possible, please provide a break-down of this information by APS/ SES level.
2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in calendar year 2016 and what was it for?
3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016?
4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016?
5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in calendar year 2016 and what was the card holder's APS/ SES level?
6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in calendar year 2016 and what was the cost of their replacement?
7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy in calendar year 2016? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in calendar year 2016 and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in calendar year 2016, and what was the cardholder's APS/ SES level? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?
9. Are any credit cards currently on issue in the PC connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
10. Can a copy of the PC's staff credit card policy please be provided?

Answer:

1. As at 30 June 2017, 26 cards are on issue to staff.
2. Agency credit cards are generally used for relatively low value transactions involving purchase of minor supplies, subscriptions or training/venue bookings; or to meet in country expenses associated with international travel. To provide a more detailed response to this question would cause an unreasonable diversion of the Commission's resources.
3. Nil
4. Nil
5. Please refer to part 2 above.

6. Nil
7. Nil
8. Not applicable
9. No
10. The Commission's Accountable Authority Instructions on credit cards are consistent with the model instructions published by the Department of Finance on their website at <http://www.finance.gov.au/resource-management/accountability/accountable-authority-instructions/>.