

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Officials travel

Senator: Senator Dean Smith

Question reference number: 7

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 56

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator SMITH: How many officials have travelled first class this year?

Ms Kelly: I do not have that to hand, but I can take it on notice to provide that for you.

Senator SMITH: Yes, and perhaps you could also let me know how that compares with previous years.

Ms Kelly: Yes, I can do that.

Answer:

In relation to information about the number of officials travelling first class in 2014, the Department has information for the periods 5 February to 30 June 2014 and 1 July to 30 October 2014.

For the period 5 February to 30 June 2014:

Within the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, 10 first class fares were booked due to the carriers only offering economy and first class cabins where first class is the equivalent of business class. In addition, one official was upgraded to first class during boarding of the aircraft.

For other departments and agencies, the Department was advised that 26 first class fares were booked. Of that number, 16 were booked due to the carriers only offering economy and first class cabins where first class is the equivalent of business class and one was booked due to medical reasons. In addition, 16 officials were upgraded to first class.

For the period 1 July to 30 October 2014:

Within the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, no first class travel was undertaken.

For other departments and agencies, the Department was advised that 2 first class fares were booked. In addition, 15 officials were upgraded to first class during boarding of the aircraft.

The Department does not have information about the number of officials traveling first class in previous years.

According to data provided by the Department of Finance:

In 2013, 8.29% of expenditure on official international travel was for first class travel. In 2014, 2.19% of expenditure on official international travel was for first class travel.

This data includes actual first class travel booked and paid for. First class travel in the US and Asia, where that travel is the equivalent of business class, is not included. Complementary upgrades to first class are not included.