

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: Travel Exceptions

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

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Question:

Ms Kelly: The decision is one for the Prime Minister. When the department is aware of it, the department reports it, but I cannot guarantee that this is a comprehensive list.

Senator WONG: I would appreciate if you could provide that list. Are you able to table that, or a version thereof if it has things on it that you do not want me to see?

Senator Abetz: Aren't these things tabled in parliament on a six-monthly basis in any event?

Senator WONG: No, this is independent travel.

Ms Kelly: Can I consider the other information that is in the table?

Senator WONG: Sure

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is aware of the following instances of approval by the Prime Minister of independent overseas travel by ministerial staff, with travel between June 2014 and February 2015.

Minister	Travel	Date	Notes
Mr Hockey	China	June 2014	On outgoing leg
Ms Bishop	US	July 2014	On outgoing leg
Ms Bishop	MEAO	August 2014	On return leg (2 staff)
Ms Bishop	Burma	August 2014	On return leg
Mr Robert	Singapore	August 2014	On outgoing leg
Mr Keenan	Singapore/Indonesia	August 2014	On both outgoing and return leg
Sen Johnston	MEAO	August 2014	On both outgoing and return leg
Sen Johnston	MEAO	September 2014	On return leg
Mr Hockey	US/UK	October 2014	On return leg
Ms Bishop	Italy/MEAO	October 2014	On return leg
Sen Brandis	UK	February 2015	On return leg