

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: Overseas ministerial travel

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 186

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

With reference to the unanswered question no.218 from the Budget 2014-15 round and corresponding failure to make a claim of public interest immunity consistent with the order of the Senate agreed on 13 May 2009:

Please provide details of all overseas ministerial visits approved by the Prime Minister since 28 February 2014 including, for each proposed visit: (a) the date approval was sought (b) the date travel was approved (c) the name of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary (c) the countries to be visited (d) the purpose of the visit (d) the number of accompanying staff (e) whether accompanying spouse travel was sought (f) whether accompanying spouse travel was approved and (g) the estimated cost outlined in the visit proposal.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not currently record ministerial overseas travel data in a way that would readily allow the requested information to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources in order to examine a significant number of electronic resources and paper files.

Details of overseas ministerial visits are also included in the six-monthly report of Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements Paid by the Department of Finance which is available at http://www.finance.gov.au/parliamentary-services/parliamentarians-reporting/parliamentarians_expenditure_P32.html.