

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Taxi costs**  
Question: **185**  
Written: **Senator Ludwig**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis during the specified period? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?
3. How much did the department spend on taxis during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

**Answer**

1. The Department spent \$29,820.41 (excluding GST) on taxis from 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016. The breakdown per Division is:

<b>Division</b>	<b>\$ ex GST</b>
Secretary	632.09
Parliamentary Library	5,292.55
ICT Division	4,345.88
Building and Asset Management Division	3,623.85
Chief Operating Officer	1,554.36
Parliamentary Recording and Reporting	14,371.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,820.41</b>

2. Taxi costs are incurred for travel:
  - to and from Canberra Airport when travelling on official business;
  - to and from a destination airport to an official business venue or official business accommodation;
  - to and from official accommodation to a venue (if accommodation is not reasonably close to the venue);
  - to official activities (local and interstate) when transporting support equipment (e.g. broadcasting recording equipment, projectors, personal computers, etc.) where taxi travel is the most cost-effective method; or
  - between Parliament House and a local venue where the employee is required to attend DPS official business.
3. Not applicable.