

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: ACTU delegation to G20 Conference in Moscow

Senator: Senator Cory Bernardi

Question reference number: 39

Type of Question: FPA, Tuesday 27 May 2014, page 22

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

CHAIR: Who from the Prime Minister's office made the request and who in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet received the initial request.

Mr Langman: I am afraid I do not have that information.

CHAIR: You will take that on notice?

Ms Cross: Yes.

CHAIR: Was the request from the Prime Minister's office initially declined by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet?

Ms Cross: We would have to take that on notice.

CHAIR: Also, if it was declined I would like to know if a subsequent request was made?

Ms Cross: We will take that on notice, but as I mentioned earlier we do not normally reveal the nature of advice we give but we will take the question on notice.

CHAIR: This is about whether you declined the request—not advice.

Ms Cross: That would go to the nature of the advice.

CHAIR: On what class of travel did the individuals who were funded on this fly on this trip and what hotel did they stay in?

Ms Cross: I am not sure that we have that information, but we will take it on notice and see if we do hold that information. I am not sure that we do.

Answer:

The original request from the ACTU for financial assistance to send delegates to Russian G20 meetings was made in a letter from ACTU President, Ms Gerardine Kearney, to the former Treasurer the Hon Wayne Swan MP, copied to former Prime Minister the Hon Julia Gillard.

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Former Prime Minister Gillard wrote to Ms Kearney indicating that the Government would assist ACTU representatives to travel to two Russian G20 meetings. The Department put the Prime Minister's decision into effect.

One ACTU delegate, who attended the G20 labour and employment ministers meeting and the associated joint finance and labour ministers meeting, flew premium economy class and stayed in the Swissotel Krasnye Holmy, Moscow. The second delegate, who travelled to Russia for an engagement event at the G20 leaders summit, flew business class and stayed in the Baltic Club Hotel, St Petersburg.