

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: Official residences – cost for The Lodge and Kirribilli House

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 42

Type of Question: FPA, Tuesday 27 May 2014, p26-27

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

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Senator WONG: ...Ms Cross, I have asked you to take on notice the breaking up of the line item "Prime Minister's official residences" into different components. Are you able to tell me how much of that relates to the Lodge and how much relates to Kirribilli?

Ms Kelly: Could you give me the table number?

Senator WONG: It is on page 31—the one we were discussing before the break.

Ms Cross: I think we will have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: It is a pretty simple question.

Ms Cross: We may be able to get that for you during the course—

Senator WONG: It is a pretty simple question. I appreciate you may need to take on notice the additional disaggregation and different components that were discussed earlier, but this is how much for the Lodge and how much for Kirribilli. Surely you can tell me that. Ms Kelly is looking. Do you want to give her a chance before you rule out answering that?

Ms Cross: No, I was just going to say that, if we cannot find it, we are happy to try to get that for you during the course of the hearing.

Senator WONG: Thank you.

Ms Kelly: I can provide the operating costs up to 30 April for the official establishments.

Senator WONG: 30 April which year?

Ms Kelly: This year, and I can provide them back to 2008-09.

Senator WONG: I am looking at the table on page 31, which we have discussed now on a number of occasions, and asking for disaggregation between the two official residences for that line item over the forward estimates. There is movement at the station.

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Ms Kelly: I can only provide you actuals year to date.

Senator WONG: In order to construct the figure, you would have to do this.

Ms Kelly: Yes.

Ms Cross: That is what I was offering to take on notice.

Senator WONG: Thank you.

Ms Kelly: I am informed that that is the total budget we allocated internally each year depending on the requirements in relation to both residences. Obviously that changes depending upon the patterns of occupation.

Senator WONG: Sure; but, to construct that, you have done that. So I am asking for that figure. There is no public interest immunity claim in relation to that. If you want to take on notice, you can—or do you have it here, Ms McIntyre?

Ms McIntyre: I do not have it here, but that figure has not changed over a number of years. It is just indexation. But we can have a look at what the original breakdown is.

Answer:

See response to PM 37 on the question of indexation.

Costs under the budget line item 'Prime Minister's Official Residences' for the period 1 October 2013 to 31 May 2014 (all GST-exclusive) are below.

- The total operating cost for Kirribilli House, Sydney, was \$397,244.
Within that total cost, \$23,847 was spent on food, \$7,925 on alcoholic beverages and \$1,445 on non-alcoholic beverages.
- The total operating cost for The Lodge (including the Prime Minister's dining room), Canberra, was \$624,919.
Within that total cost, \$28,313 was spent on food, \$9,618 on alcoholic beverages and \$753 on non-alcoholic beverages.

Please note:

- (a) there may be additional costs which were incurred during May 2014 pending the acquittal of credit card purchases; and
- (b) costs associated with food and beverages for official functions are included in the budget line item 'State Occasions and Official Visits'.