

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Comcar

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 232

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

COMCAR

1. What are the COMCAR arrangements for guest of government visits?
2. Do the arrangements differ from country to country?
3. Who determines the arrangements for each country? Are they defined anywhere or done on a visit by visit basis? If they are defined, is this information publicly available? If not, why not?
4. How do the arrangements ensure value for money?
Have the arrangements changed recently? If so, when and why, please also provide a summary of the changes?

Answer:

1. Consistent with long standing practice, the Australian Government provides up to four vehicles for a Head of State or Head of Government visit and up to two vehicles for a visit by a Minister or Crown Prince or Crown Princess.
2. No.
3. Transport entitlements are set out in the Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch Guest of Government Information Notes and specific arrangements are determined in discussions with the visiting countries mission. While the guidelines are not public documents, we provide copies of the guidelines to the visiting delegations to assist with their understanding of logistical arrangements for the visit.
4. The Commonwealth has a long standing arrangement with COMCAR for provision of transport services for Guest of Government visits, given that COMCAR is the sole provider of 'car with driver' service available to the Commonwealth with appropriately cleared and trained drivers. There has been no recent change to these arrangements.