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: Prime Minister's visit to New York – September 2014 – accommodation

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Question reference number: 51
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Question:

Senator WONG: Check if there are any other costs. I think you answered this, but was it your evidence that the Prime Minister and his travelling party stayed at the Waldorf Astoria during the New York visit?
Ms Kelly: Yes.
Senator WONG: Do you have information as to how big the travelling party was?
Ms Kelly: No, we do not.
Senator WONG: How come?
Ms Kelly: We provide the staff that the department provides to support the Prime Minister, and we set up that support for him in the hotel, but—
Senator WONG: Ms Kelly, knowing how well organised to within an inch this is—every detail is covered on a prime ministerial visit—I find it extraordinary that none of the department can tell me how big the Prime Minister's travelling party was.
Ms Kelly: I cannot tell you. It is possible that someone in the department can tell you, so I can take that on notice and make that inquiry.

Answer:

Excluding the former Prime Minister, the travelling party comprised of:
- the former Prime Minister's Office (10),
- the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (5),
- the Australian Federal Police (4),
- the Royal Australian Air Force (1), and,
- a medical officer (1).

Five of the party (included in the numbers above) travelled in advance of the former Prime Minister.

The size of the travelling party is comparable with the size of the travelling party accompanying previous Prime Ministers for similar visits.