

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: Kirribilli House - contributions

Senator: Senator Katy Gallagher

Question reference number: 52

Type of question: FPA Tuesday 26 May 2015, page 65

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: They determined the contribution. If you could take on notice what the standard contribution is and how you got to it that would be very useful. Is that okay?

Ms Spence: Yes.

Senator GALLAGHER: Thank you.

Senator WONG: Is there a standard formula from past precedents?

Ms Spence: My understanding is that we have used the same approach previously. We have just updated whatever that approach is with inflation and cost of living.

Senator WONG: Yes. Ms Spence, if you are not able to give us any indication about the formula or the amount that Senator Gallagher was referencing—

Ms Spence: I think the weekly amount is \$190.

Senator WONG: Sorry.

Ms Spence: But I will take on notice how we actually come up with that but, as I mentioned, the approach has been consistent with what was used previously but just updated for cost of living—

Senator WONG: So \$190 a week?

Ms Spence: I will confirm, but I think it is \$190 per week.

Answer:

The contribution is \$190 per week.

Consistent with the long standing practice of successive governments dating back to at least Prime Minister Hawke's term of office, contributions are paid towards accommodation and sustenance for non-dependent children living at the Official Establishments. While the Department is unable to locate records detailing the initial calculation rate, the Department reviews and recalculates the contribution rate on a regular basis by applying appropriate cost of living increases to amounts paid by previous Prime Ministers to bring it into line with today's prices.