

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: Ground Transport costs for the Prime Minister of the Netherlands

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 67

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: The Prime Minister of the Netherlands visited only for one night in November. It appears, and I might have misunderstood this, that there are Comcar ground transport costs of \$21,000.

Ms Kelly: My information is \$20,834.

...

Senator WONG: I was genuinely surprised at the ground cost for such a short visit. Now there might be a reasonable explanation for it.

Ms Kelly: We will look into that and come back to you.

Answer:

Ground transport costs for the two day visit by the Prime Minister of the Netherlands totalled \$20,834.00 including COMCAR costs of \$20,714.35 (GST exclusive).

The COMCAR costs covered the vehicles, baggage and transport services for Prime Minister Rutte and his official delegation.

Prime Minister Rutte's programme required numerous transport movements in Canberra and Sydney commencing from 6.40 am until 9.00 pm on Thursday 6 November 2014 and from 8.45 am to 9.45 pm on Friday 7 November 2014.

This level of support is consistent with the long standing practices of previous governments in relation to Guest of Government visits. The Commonwealth has an arrangement with COMCAR for provision of services for Guest of Government visitors, given that COMCAR is the sole provider of 'car with driver' service available to the Commonwealth with appropriately cleared and trained drivers.