

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Australian Public Service Commission

**Outcome/Program:** Cross Portfolio

**Topic:** Taxi costs

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 185

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 17 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

- a) How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from 7 September 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
- b) What are the reasons for taxi costs?

**Answer:**

- a) The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)'s financial management information system cannot accurately report costs for a partial month. The APSC's spend on taxis for the period from 7 September 2013 to 30 November 2013 is estimated to be \$44,741 (exclusive of GST). The table below provides a breakdown of taxi spend by business groups in the APSC:

Strategic Centre for Leadership, Learning and Development	\$9,757
Workplace Relations	\$1,292
Client Engagement	\$4,372
Remuneration Tribunal	\$4,234
Employment Policy and Participation	\$6,824
Ethics	\$482
Human Capital Research & Evaluation	\$13,918
Corporate and Executive	\$3,864

- b) Taxis are used as ground transport on a best value for money basis i.e. alternative to public transport, to enable officials to visit clients, attend meetings and other business activities away from their principal office. Taxis are also used for transportation to and from airports associated with official travel.