



22 October 2014

Ms Lyn Beverley  
Secretary – Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley,

I wish to correct two items of evidence that I gave at the Committee's supplementary estimates hearing held on Monday 20 October 2014.

On page 28 of the proof Hansard, Senator Faulkner asked me about payment for hospitality associated with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) delegation and my response was as follows:

*There is no hospitality paid for by the Department of the Senate in relation to IPU delegations or IPU meetings. However, for the sake of completeness, I should add that my understanding is that, if a delegation is led by a Presiding Officer, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does have an allocation for some hospitality to be provided by a Presiding Officer. For example, at the meeting we have just come back from, the ambassador did host a function for delegates and that was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and that was at the post.*

I reiterated this point (Hansard page 29) to Senator Wong that my understanding was that DFAT met the expenditure of a function hosted by the Ambassador during the recent IPU Delegation in Geneva.

I learned earlier today that while the Australian post in Geneva did meet the initial cost of the function, this amount will be recovered by DFAT from the Department of the House of Representatives in line with the usual practice of that department's support for the Speaker.

Related to this, on page 29 of the proof Hansard, I advised Senator Wong that the function hosted by the Ambassador occurred on Wednesday. A check of my records shows that the function was in fact held on Tuesday 14 October.

I would be grateful if you could draw this to the attention of the Committee.

(Brien Hallett)