

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Travel costs (department)

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 174

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

**Answer:**

1. Staff from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) undertake travel in advance of, and accompany, the Prime Minister to coordinate arrangements for the Prime Minister's overseas visits. PM&C staff rarely accompany the Prime Minister or portfolio ministers on their travel for domestic events. PM&C does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow the requested information to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
2. PM&C does not centrally record travel by departmental officers. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
3. PM&C does not have a list of planned staff travel for the calendar year. Staff travel is undertaken as required and is approved by the appropriate delegate prior to staff travelling.