

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2009

Question: PM97

Topic: Follow up questions to Additional Estimates 08-09 Questions PM33a-z

Senator: Bushby

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

Number of pages: 3

- a) It was stated in answer PM33a, that it was not possible to provide an amount for the total cost of the visit by the Prime Minister to Hobart on 5 and 6 November 2008, because the cost of the Special Purpose Aircraft will not be known until June 2009. Please provide the requested total cost to the taxpayer for this visit once the information referred to in that answer has been tabled. In terms of calculating this cost the following is requested to be considered:
- a. All costs associated with the Special Purpose Flight into Launceston on 5 November 2008
 - b. All costs associated with the Special Purpose Flight from Launceston to Hobart on 5 November 2008
 - c. All costs associated with the Special Purpose Flight from Hobart to the destination that the Flight arrived, after leaving Hobart on 6 November 2008
 - d. Costs should include an appropriate apportion or actual costs of lease/charter/depreciation/finance of the aircraft (as appropriate), fuel, maintenance, cleaning, catering, staffing, staffing costs and accommodation and all other costs associated with the provision of Special Purpose Aircraft for the use of the Prime Minister for the journeys set out above
- b) What was the total cost of protective services and Tasmania police for protecting and transporting the Prime Minister for the period between when he left Launceston on 5 November 2008 and when he left Hobart on 6 November 2008 and for his overall protection during the visit to open Julie Collins Hobart office? Such costs should include an appropriate apportion for staffing, staffing costs and accommodation, use of vehicle, fuel and maintenance thereof and all other costs associated with the provision of protective services and transport for the Prime Minister throughout that period

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- c) **It was stated in answer PM33v that ‘standard travel allowance was paid. What was the amount paid in dollar terms? Were there any other costs paid in relation to the advancers trip to Hobart prior to the Prime Minister’s visit on 5 and 6 November 2008? If so, please provide full details. How did the advancer get to Hobart? Where did the advancer leave from immediately prior to heading to Hobart? How did the advancer travel from the prior location to Hobart? How much did the travel from that prior location to Hobart cost? Did the advancer stay in commercial accommodation? If so, where?**
- d) **In answer PM33y, it was stated that the Prime Minister had one other official engagement whilst in Hobart on the 5th and 6th of November 2008. Please provide full details of this engagement, what it was for, where it was held, how many people attended (an estimate will suffice if exact numbers are not available), whether there was any entry fee or requested donation for any of the attendees (and if so, how much) and when it started and when it ended.**

Answer:

- a) Details regarding the costs and passenger manifests for these flights can be found in the *Schedule of Special Purpose Flights* prepared by the Department of Defence and is tabled in parliament biannually. The schedule that covers these specific flights was tabled in June 2009. The total cost of Special Purpose flights for the Prime Minister’s visit to Hobart on 5 and 6 November 2008 as outlined in the schedule tabled by Department of Finance and Deregulation 25 June 2009 was \$27, 177.
- b) The Australian Federal Police (AFP) does not provide specific detail on security arrangements or breakdown of costs associated with the protection of the Prime Minister.
- c) The Department of Finance and Deregulation advises the advancer was paid travelling allowance (TA) as a personal staffer in line with the TA guidelines as stated in the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Collective Agreement 2006-2009*. As at 29 June 2009 no other costs have been paid in relation to the advancer’s trip to Hobart prior to the Prime Minister’s visit on 5 and 6 November 2008. The advancer flew to Hobart from Canberra; the flight cost \$434.44. The advancer stayed in commercial accommodation in Hobart CBD.

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d) The Prime Minister participated in a discussion with senior Commonwealth officials.