

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**  
**Outcome/Program: 1.1 – Prime Minister and Cabinet**  
**Topic: Flights – Departmental employees**

**Senator: Fifield**

**Question reference number: 47**

**Type of question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011**

**Number of pages: 2**

**Question:**

**Please provide the monthly breakdown, from March 2010 to April 2011, for:**

- 1. The total number of flight segments flown by employees in the Department, broken down by fare type (flexible, best available fare), airline (Qantas or QantasLink, Jetstar, Virgin, Tiger Airways, other) and city pair route (Melbourne to Sydney, Brisbane to Sydney, Brisbane to Melbourne, Adelaide to Melbourne, Adelaide to Sydney, Melbourne to Perth, Perth to Sydney, Hobart to Melbourne, Canberra to Melbourne, and Canberra to Sydney).**
- 2. The total value of the flights flown by employees in the Department, broken down by fare type (flexible, best available fare), airline (Qantas or QantasLink, Jetstar, Virgin, Tiger Airways, other) and city pair route (Melbourne to Sydney, Brisbane to Sydney, Brisbane to Melbourne, Adelaide to Melbourne, Adelaide to Sydney, Melbourne to Perth, Perth to Sydney, Hobart to Melbourne, Canberra to Melbourne, and Canberra to Sydney).**
- 3. The total number of flight segments flown by employees in the Department who have the entitlement to travel on business class, broken down by fare type (flexible, best available fare) and airline (Qantas or QantasLink, Jetstar, Virgin, Tiger Airways, other).**
- 4. The total value of the flights flown by employees in the Department who have the entitlement to travel on business class, broken down by fare type (flexible, best available fare) and airline (Qantas or QantasLink, Jetstar, Virgin, Tiger Airways, other).**

**Answer:**

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

The Department's travel policy aligns with the Commonwealth policy as articulated in Finance Circular 2009/10 – *Use of the Lowest Practical Fare for Official Domestic Air Travel*. Travel is approved conditional upon travel arrangements being within policy, that is that travel be booked at an appropriate time and class to meet the business needs and individual entitlements of the traveller.

Departmental policy also allows domestic travel at business class for those staff who would otherwise not be entitled where the travel is a domestic leg of an international trip. Staff entitlement to business class travel is otherwise available only when specified in the employment conditions of staff, and is restricted to SES officers as agreed by the Secretary.