

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 42

Program No. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 100, 24 February 2015

Topic: Leased Properties

Senator McKenzie asked:

Senator McKENZIE: Okay. Excellent. I have asked this in the past, but I will ask again: with those properties that are leased, could you actually provide some detail around that? And I understand if you want that evidence to be in-confidence, but I would like to have that information.

Mr Pendleton: Yes.

Senator McKENZIE: You have listed in that answer three properties which are being leased in Beijing. How much do those leases cost the ABC per annum?

Mr Pendleton: We will take that on notice for you, Senator.

Senator McKENZIE: Mr Pendleton, I am pretty confident that you should have those figures at hand.

Mr Pendleton: I actually don't...

Senator McKENZIE: ... About how much the leases were for, about who the leases were actually with—that has been part of my questioning over the last two estimates.

Mr Pendleton: I can get it for you on notice. But I honestly don't have it with me.

Senator McKENZIE: You do not have it. Mr Scott, you do not have how much you pay in leases?

Mr Scott: No, I do not have it, I am afraid, Senator. It is part of the diplomatic compound.

Senator McKENZIE: Yes, that is on the answer. So, of the staff that you have overseas, do the three that are located in Beijing have one of those residences each?

Mr Scott: I would have to check on that. I do not have that detail, I am afraid.

Senator McKENZIE: We have got three residences being leased in Beijing; we have got three staff members.

Mr Scott: Yes, I expect so. I will have to check that out. There have been and there are quite significant restrictions around our ability to operate in China, and I believe that this area that we are operating in is an area where many of the international reporting bases are, and it is like a converted apartment block. I will find out. I am not quite sure where they all live.

Senator McKENZIE: Yes, some more detail on that would be great.

Mr Scott: There would be more than half a dozen staff who operate in our Beijing bureau, some locally based and some from Australia—a cameraman, a reporter and the like. We can get detail on that for you.

Senator McKENZIE: I am referring to the staffing locations in answer No. 548 to a question from Senator Canavan, which lists our overseas staff. Could you also review that, if there are six working out of Beijing?

Mr Scott: I did not have the precise number.

Senator McKENZIE: They are journalists specifically?

Mr Scott: There are journalists, but there are others who work—there might be a translator, there might be a sound engineer. These are locally based staff.

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Senator McKENZIE: So, for instance, in London three journalists and a support crew, I assume.

Mr Scott: Yes, that is right.

Senator McKENZIE: As part of their deployment, if I could get some detail around accommodation. Are they staying in residences? How does that all work? Is that supplied or is it private or funded?...

Answer:

The ABC leases 20 residential properties outside of Australia.

Location	Country	Address	Lessor	Annual Cost of Lease (AUD)	Staff Details
ABC AS LESSEE					
Beijing ¹	China	7-3-33 Qi Jia Yuan (Diplomatic compound)	Beijing Housing Service	51,111	1 staff
Beijing ¹	China	2-1-63 Qi Jia Yuan (Diplomatic compound)	Corp for Diplomatic Missions	46,667	1 staff
Beijing ¹	China	QB11-1-064 Qi Jia Yuan (Diplomatic compound)		20,667	1 staff
New Delhi ²	India	B-3/24 vasant Vihar	Hari Shankar	115,385	1 staff
Leased Properties (ABC as Lessee)				4	233,830
STAFF AS LESSEE					
Bangkok	Thailand	14 No. Soi Somkid, Ploenchitr Road	Duangyakar Co	48,000	1 staff
Jakarta	Indonesia	Jalan Lembang, No 22, Menteng, Jakarta Pusat	Renny Hidajat	34,667	1 staff
Jerusalem	Israel	19 Chovevei Tzion Street	Jonathan Kestenbaum	50,667	1 staff
Jerusalem	Israel	31 Geula St Apartment 9	Dan David	41,800	1 staff
London	England	118 Mallinson Rd, Clapham London SW11 1BJ	Sally & David Martin	122,500	1 staff
London	England	72 Leathwaite Rd, London SW11 6RT	Edmund Cude & Booth Ltd	83,865	1 staff
Nairobi	Kenya	Samar Heights Apt 843, PO Box 14488-00800	Mohammed Ayub Khalid	33,158	1 staff
Nairobi	Kenya	F2, Floor 6 Mellow Heights, Ngara Rd	Akram & Arshad Khan	7,895	1 staff
New Delhi	India	A8/5 Vasant Vihar, New Delhi	Anil Ahuja	18,462	1 staff
Tokyo	Japan	Park House Komaba 8-11 Komaba 2 Chrome (Res)	Hayashi Kyoko	87,781	1 staff
Washington	USA	3727 Albemarle St, NW Washington DC 20016	East Property Services	57,333	1 staff
Washington	USA	1425 P Street, NW, #713, Washington DC 20009	1425 P Street, LLC	56,000	1 staff
Washington	USA	4512 44 St NW Washington DC 20016	Alexandri Dias	56,000	1 staff
Washington	USA	3131 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington DC 20008	Klinge Corporation	58,000	1 staff
Washington	USA	4707 Yuma Street, NW, DC 20016	Don Clay	54,667	1 staff
Washington	USA	1461 Swann St, NW Washington DC 20009	Steven Maviglio	51,227	1 staff
Leased Properties (Staff as Lessee)				16	862,022
Total Overseas Leased Residential Properties				20	1,095,852

¹ 8 Beijing based staff in total – 3 expats (2 correspondents; 1 camera/editor) and 5 locally engaged staff (2 producers/translators, 1 camera/editor (part time), 1 office manager and a driver). The ABC provides housing for expats only.

² This is an ABC Office with a residential component.

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Current guidelines for International assignments (effective from 2011):

In the event that established accommodation is not available at an assignment location then an allowance will be provided to cover the cost of fully furnished rented accommodation. The allowance is calculated based on the host location and the family size using data provided by ECA International¹.

As part of the staff employment contract, the ABC pays the agreed rent amount directly to the landlord.

¹ ECA was established in 1971 by a number of leading international companies. Its purpose was, and still is, to provide employers with information and advice on terms and conditions for staff employed abroad, whether local national or expatriate.