

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 164(a)

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Taxi Costs

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis during the specified period?
2. Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
3. What are the reasons for taxi costs?
4. How much did the department spend on taxis during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

Answer:

1. For the period 14 September 2015 to 31 January 2016, total departmental expense on taxis was \$56,666 (GST excl).

The Department does not record taxi expense data in a way that would readily allow for individual business groups to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of details would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

2. The use of taxis is assessed on a needs basis and is subject to the same value for money considerations as all other travel undertaken by departmental staff.
3. N/A