

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 171(b)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Boards

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

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

1. How often has each board met, break down by board name;
2. What travel expenses have been incurred;
3. What has been the average attendance at board meetings;
4. List each member's attendance at meetings;
5. How does the board deal with conflict of interest;
6. What conflicts of interest have been registered;
7. What remuneration has been provided to board members;
8. How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?
10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
11. What have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.

Answer:

The following answers relate to the period from 14 September 2015 to 19 February 2016:

- 1 The ABC Board met formally on three occasions—14 October 2015, 3 December 2015 and 11 February 2016.
- 2 The ABC incurred \$26,743.14 in total travel costs associated with the Board meetings held between 14 September 2015 and 19 February 2016.
- 3 There is full attendance at the majority of Board meetings. Details of attendance at Board meetings are reported in full in the ABC Annual Report.

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4 Board meetings were attended as follows:

Member	14 Oct 2015	3 Dec 2015	11 Feb 2016
James Spigelman, Chairman	Attended	Attended	Attended
Mark Scott, Managing Director	Attended	Attended	Attended
Steven Skala (<i>term ended 24 Nov 2015</i>)	Attended	N/A	N/A
Jane Bennett	Attended	Attended	Attended
Fiona Stanley	Attended	Attended	Attended
Peter Lewis	Attended	Attended	Attended
Simon Mordant	Apology	Attended	Attended
Matt Peacock	Attended	Attended	Attended
Kirstin Ferguson (<i>Appointed 12 Nov 2015</i>)	N/A	Attended	Attended
Donny Walford (<i>Appointed 24 Nov 2015</i>)	N/A	Attended	Attended

- 5 The ABC Board has adopted a Board Protocol, which sets out Directors' rights and responsibilities including dealing with conflicts of interest. The ABC Board Protocol is publicly available on the ABC's website. Directors are expected to meet their statutory obligation to disclose any material personal interest in accordance with Section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
- 6 A register of Declarations of Interests is maintained. A number of interests were declared and registered at meetings held between 14 September 2015 and 19 February 2016. No conflicts of interest were registered.
- 7 Remuneration is set by the Remuneration Tribunal. The rate for the Chairman as at 19 February 2016 was \$167,900 per annum. The rate for a Director as at 19 February 2016 was \$55,270 per annum. Both rates were set in January 2016 (Determination 2015/ 20).
- 8 A persistent failure by a Director to attend Board meetings would be managed by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Section 18 of the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* provides for removal of a Director from office by the Governor-General if a Director is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board (without the leave of the Chairman or acting Chairman).
- 9 No.
- 10 None.

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11 Total cost of catering at Board meetings between 14 September 2015 and 19 February 2016 was \$1,906.20, broken down as follows:

14 October 2015	\$607.20
3 December 2015	\$649.00
11 February 2016	\$650.00
Total	\$1,906.20