

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: 186(a)

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Electronic equipment

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

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

1. Other than phones, ipads or computers – please list the electronic equipment provided to the Minister’s office.
 - (a) List the items
 - (b) List the items location or normal location
 - (c) List if the item is in the possession of the office or an individual staff member of minister, if with an individual list their employment classification level
 - (d) List the total cost of the items
 - (e) List an itemised cost breakdown of these items
 - (f) List the date they were provided to the office
 - (g) Note if the items were requested by the office or proactively provided by the department

Answer:

1.

(a) The Minister and his staff are provided with electronic equipment to assist in carrying out their duties. The suites at Parliament House and the Electorate Offices in Melbourne are set up with Wi-Fi, televisions, networked printers and videoconferencing facilities.

(b) & (c) All items are in the possession of the respective office.

(d) & (e) The Department’s financial management system does not readily allow for a distinction between spending on ‘electronic equipment’ and spending on ‘computers’. To attempt to identify this data would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

(f) These items were provided to the Offices as soon as the appropriate technical requirements were in place to support them.

(g) Most items were proactively provided by the Department.