

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Question No: 192(c)**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Hansard Ref: Written 19/2/2016**

**Topic: Provision of equipment - departmental**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

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

1. Has electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive, video cameras) been provided by the department/agency to departmental staff? If yes provide a list of:
2. What has been provided?
3. The purchase cost.
4. The ongoing cost.
5. A list of any accessories provided for the equipment and the cost of those accessories. (e.g. iPad keyboards, laptop carry bags, additional chargers etc).
6. A breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item.

**Answer:**

1. Yes.

2-4. SBS provides the following equipment to staff.

- All staff have a PC (or laptop where applicable) at an average lease cost of \$600 per annum.
- Some staff also have a smartphone (either a Nokia Windows, Samsung or an iPhone) at an average purchase cost of \$900 issued in accordance with operational requirements. The ongoing cost is approximately \$70 per month for line rental and data charges, plus call costs dependent on usage. In the period under question SBS has purchased 38 mobile phones.
- Some staff are issued with standard Nokia mobile phones with a purchase cost of \$200 and with an ongoing cost of \$10 for the SIM plan plus call costs dependent on usage.
- A few management and content staff have been issued with iPads at an average purchase cost of \$800-900. The ongoing cost averages \$49 per month.
- There are 50 internet dongles used by staff. These cost approximately \$200 and the average ongoing cost is a data plan of \$49 per month.

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5. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
  
6. Mobile data devices (smartphones and tablets) are issued to employees to gain mobile access to the company email system, the internet and general IT resources. In providing staff with equipment to fulfil their duties away from SBS offices, the nature and needs of individual roles are taken into account and approved by senior management. SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and does not use the Australian Public Service employment classification, nor collect information of this type against salary classifications. To conduct an audit against salary classifications would involve an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.