

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 194(d)

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016

Topic: Travel Costs - Department

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

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

1. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
2. If so, under what policy?
3. Provide a copy of that policy.
4. When was this policy implemented?
5. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
6. Detail all travel (domestic and international) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
7. Detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
8. What date was the minister or their office notified of the travel?
9. What date did the minister or their office approve the travel?
10. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1-5. No.

6. No Australia Post officers have accompanied the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel since 14 September 2015 to 29 January 2016.

7-10. Australia Post spent a total of \$2.0million on air travel and \$1.5million on accommodation for business-related purposes from 1 October 2015 to 29 January 2016. The specific details sought about travel / future travel across the entire corporation are not captured on any central database. As such, Australia Post is not in a position to provide the information requested.