

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings June 2014

Communications Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 417

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Since 25 February 2014;
 - a. How often has each board met, break down by board name;
 - b. What travel expenses are provided;
 - c. What is the average attendance at board meetings;
 - d. How does the board deal with conflict of interest;
 - e. What conflicts of interest have been registered;
 - f. What remuneration is provided to board members;
 - g. How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
 - h. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since 25 February 2014?
 - i. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
 - j. What have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served;

Answer:

- a. The SBS Board met twice since 25 February 2014: On 30 April and 12 June.
- b. Travel expenses are provided as per the *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 – Official Travel by Office Holders*.
- c. 96%.
- d. SBS's corporate standards in relation to conflict of interest are set out in the SBS Code of Conduct (s.2.4) and the SBS Accounting Manual (s.25). Board members are required to declare any conflict of interest or any potential conflict of interest.
- e. Nil.
- f. Remuneration is provided as per the *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/03 – Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office*.
- g. The *Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991* (s.27) sets out the terms for removal of Board members.
- h. No.
- i. Nil.
- j. Catering costs for Board meetings held since 25 February 2014: \$1030.90. No alcohol is served.