

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency: Australian Taxation Office**

**Question: AET 263-265**

**Topic: Taxi Costs**

**Reference: written - 19 February 2016**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

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

263. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis during the specified period? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.

264. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

265. How much did the department spend on taxis during the specified period for their minister or minister's office?

**Answer:**

263. From 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 the ATO (including the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, Australian Business Register and Tax Practitioners Board) spent \$1,908,768 (GST exclusive) on taxis.

The details of expenditure by business area is provided below:

<b>ATO Business Groups</b>	<b>1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 (\$ GST exclusive)</b>
Client Engagement	828,306
People, Systems and Services	857,126
Law Design and Practice	163,855
Tax Practitioners Board	32,300
Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission	27,181
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,908,768</b>

264. The ATO is a large national organisation that is located around Australia with over 80 per cent of staff located outside of Canberra. There is a need for the ATO to connect with the community, businesses, tax professionals and staff, requiring travel for a number of employees in the course of their ordinary duties. Taxi costs are incurred in the process of undertaking this official travel.

265. The ATO does not pay for taxis for the minister or the minister's office.