

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0595\_15**

**Senator Wright asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 7**

**Question**

**London travel - Carinthia Hotel**

Ms Paul: What I was trying to say was that, yes, an amount covered, I think, three rooms and that the reason, among other things, that the Carinthia was chosen for the delegation was that the Carinthia does not charge for early access. With most hotels, as you would know, you have to pay for an extra night to come in early. So in this instance the taxpayer was saved the money of an extra night of accommodation in London because that particular hotel does not charge. I was not being uncertain so much about the amount, and I am happy to take that on notice. I am not sure whether the department paid that or the Department of Finance paid. But I can assure you that it was for multiple rooms. It is the commission's choice. We leave it in their hands, obviously, as you do in most of these engagements. But also, I do know that this particular hotel, unlike most, does not charge. So we saved the cost of one night. Senator WRIGHT: Was there no room available at the High Commission? Ms Paul: Probably not. Having been there, it is pretty full. It is full of offices and so on. This was a day of work, when we were arriving from another country, leaving to another country and squeezing a full day of meetings with Minister Willetts and others into a full working day. So it was appropriate, and certainly the High Commission's recommendation to make the arrangements. It represented value in terms of the High Commission's perspective. Senator WRIGHT: I just have two more questions on that. Firstly, what was the name of the suite that was booked? Ms Paul: There was no name, I don't think. It was just hotel rooms. I am not sure why they call it a suite. Maybe it is just their own language. It was not anything out of the ordinary. Senator WRIGHT: You seem fairly sure about your answer, but not completely sure. Can I ask you to take that on notice and see if it was named as a certain suite. Ms Paul: Sure. It seemed like a normal hotel to me with rooms. That is what we seemed to be in. Senator WRIGHT: It may well have been. But if you could just take that on notice, thank you. Ms Paul: Yes, I am happy to.

**Answer**

£754.56 (AU \$1352.74) was paid for three day-let rooms at the Corinthia Hotel. None had a name.