

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 24

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment – Minister’s Office

Senator Ludwig asked:

- a) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

The Department’s financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department’s position and require an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources to rectify.

- a-b) The Department’s financial management system does not allow for a distinction between spending on ‘hospitality’ and spending on ‘entertainment’. There were no hospitality or entertainment expenses relating to the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary from 1 September 2013 to 31 October 2013.
- c) The Department is not aware of any expenses relating to hospitality for the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary for the remainder of the 2013-14 financial year.
- d) The Department is not aware any expenses relating to entertainment for the offices of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary for the remainder of the 2013-14 financial year.