

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing
26 February 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Ministerial Travel

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: AI-24

Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates?

If so, where was the travel and what was the duration?

What was the total cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses?

How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?

For these staff/family what was the cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses?

How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?

In relation to these Departmental officers, what was the total cost of:

- a) travel
- b) accommodation, and
- c) any other expenses?

ANSWER

Minister Carr has travelled overseas on official business twice since Budget Estimates. The first visit was to Japan and the United States from 9 to 18 June 2008. The second was to Japan from 17 to 19 November 2008.

- a), b), c) In relation to the total cost of travel, accommodation and any other expenses for the Minister for both visits, the report *Parliamentarians' travel costs paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation* is tabled biannually and gives details of the dates and purposes of the travel, the countries of destination and the costs of the visits.

The bulk of transactions for the visit to Japan and the United States in June 2008 were reported in the December 2008 tabling report with the balance likely to be reported in the June 2009 tabling report.

The visit to Japan in November 2008 is still to be reconciled with transactions likely to be reported in both the June 2009 and December 2009 tabling reports.

Two ministerial staff and one family member accompanied Minister Carr to Japan and the United States in June 2008. The two ministerial staff did not travel at the same time but accompanied the Minister on different legs of the visit.

One ministerial staff member accompanied Minister Carr to Japan in November 2008.

a), b), c) In relation to the cost of travel, accommodation and any other expenses for staff and family for both visits, these details are included in the report *Parliamentarians' travel costs paid for by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*.

One Departmental officer accompanied the Minister on both visits.

a), b), c) In relation to the total cost of travel, accommodation and other expenses for the Departmental officer, Senator, are referred to in the responses provided for Question on Notice SI-16 for the Japan/United States visit (asked at the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09 on 22-23 October 2008) and Question on Notice 967 for the Japan visit (asked on 25 November 2008).

Note that some of the costs have now been revised for travel and other expenses. Previous costs were based on airfare quotes and Travel Allowance advances. These have since been reconciled and the new information is based on actual costs incurred.

For the Japan/United States visit the revised costs are:

a) travel (includes air travel and ground transport)	\$27,600.23
b) accommodation	\$3,657.24
c) other expenses	\$1,660.00

For the Japan visit the revised costs are:

a) travel (includes air travel and ground transport)	\$14,488.61
b) accommodation	\$1,291.96
c) other expenses	\$119.76