



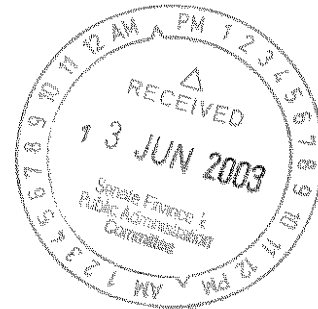
THE DEPARTMENT OF
THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

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3-5 NATIONAL CIRCUIT
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Mr Alistair Sands
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sands



Clarification of evidence given on 27 May 2003

As mentioned to you in our conversation on 29 May, in reviewing the Hansard of my evidence to the Committee on Tuesday, 27 May about costs of the Hotel St Regis in Rome I realise that I could have been clearer about the fact that the Italian government has already paid its contribution towards the costs at the St Regis Hotel in Rome. While at the time I did not have the details of what was covered by the payment, I was aware that there were no outstanding amounts. This relates to my evidence on pages 164, 167 and 173 of the electronic version of Hansard.

In addition, while the dates given for the trip to Rome were correct (Hansard page 170) I should also have mentioned that the Prime Minister's suite was also paid for a day ahead for security and communications set-up and the night after because the Prime Minister had a late departure due to commitments and the hotel's rule was that if check-out was after 3pm, an additional night had to be paid for.

I now attach the response to PM9 from 20 November 2002. I would be grateful if this information could be conveyed to the Committee with my apologies for the delay in responding to the question on notice.

Yours sincerely

Julie Yeend
Assistant Secretary
Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch

11 June 2003

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Supplementary Hearings 2002-2003, 20 November 2002

Question: PM9

Outcome 1, Output

Topic: Cost for Prime Minister's party at the St Regis Hotel, Rome

Hansard Page/ Direct on Notice: F&PA 131

Senator Ray asked: What was the breakdown of costs for the five people from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet who stayed at the St Regis Hotel, Rome for four days, that is their accommodation and total cost as picked up by the department. Then I would like the total cost for the other 19 accompanying the Prime Minister at the hotel.

Answer:

The cost of the Prime Minister and Mrs Howard's accommodation and in-hotel expenses for the nights of 5-8 July was completely met by the Italian government who paid €2,750 (\$A4,709.86) per night for four nights direct to the hotel at the time, a total of \$A18,839.44.

A part of the Royal Suite, used as a meeting and an investiture room, was paid for by the Australian government (€3,300 / \$A5,651.84 per night for four nights). The Australian government paid the cost of the Royal Suite for an additional two days, the day before the Prime Minister arrived (4 July) to allow for normal security and communications set up, and the night of 9 July because the Prime Minister had a late departure due to commitments and the need to remove secure communications. The hotel's rule was that if check-out was after 3pm, an additional night had to be paid for (€6050 / \$A10,361.70 per night). The cost of the above to the Australian government was \$A43,330.75.

Costs at the St Regis hotel for the seventeen members of the Prime Minister and Mrs Howard's party (excluding officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) were \$A122,675.49. This amount includes the cost of the meeting room and investiture room outlined above. Of this amount the Department of Finance and Administration (MAPS) component was \$A98,258.64, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's component was \$A9,768.35 and the Australian Federal Police's component was \$A14,648.50.

Four, not five, staff from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet stayed at the St Regis Hotel as members of the Prime Minister's official party. The hotel was recommended by the Australian Embassy in Rome, based on the usual requirements for visits by Australian Prime Ministers, including that the official party stays in the same hotel. The cost to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for its officials during the Prime Minister's stay at the hotel was **\$A27,605.89**. The following table provides the requested breakdown of departmental expenses. The conversion rate used was .5839, which was the rate on the date DoFA was invoiced.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Supplementary Hearings 2002-2003, 20 November 2002

Name	Length of stay	Room rate	Total Room cost	Meals Laundry	Phone/ computer connection
Officer 1	5 days	(€1,017.50) \$A1822.17	\$A9110.95	\$A452.50	\$A4,046.95 ¹
Officer 2	5 days	(€440) \$A753.58	\$A3,767.90	\$A676.17	
Officer 3	5 days	(€484) \$A829.00	\$A4,144.70	\$A579.16	\$A179.63
Officer 4	5 days	(€484) \$A829.00	\$A4,144.70	\$A503.33	
Total for PM&C			\$A21,168.15	\$A2,211.16	\$A4,226.58

¹ This amount covered computer and IT costs for most of the party.