

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 26 May - 27 May 2008

Question: PM162a

Outcome 1, Output 5.5

Topic: Cost of the Prime Minister's overseas trip

Hansard Page: Written Question



Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: In relation to the Prime Minister's overseas trip from 27 March to 13 April 2008, please provide any costs of the trip incurred.

Answer: The Department of Defence has advised that the additional cost of the flights will be published and tabled in *The Schedule of Special Purpose Flights*. Defence calculates the average additional costs of operating the Defence Special Purpose Aircraft fleet in accordance with the practice established by Prime Minister Holt in 1967 and followed by successive governments. This is an average figure over 12 months covering the additional operating costs for both domestic tasks and international tasks. Defence advises that the current additional cost rate is \$3,355 per hour. (See also CDF testimony before FADT Estimates hearing 4 June 2008, proof Hansard pp 112-113).

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Question: PM162b

Outcome 1, Output 5.5

Topic: Defence staff who travelled on the Prime Minister's overseas trip

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: In relation to the Prime Minister's overseas trip from 27 March to 13 April 2008, please provide any Defence staff who travelled on the trip.

Answer: The Defence members who travelled on the trip included the normal complement of personnel involved in supporting a lengthy overseas task. For this task this included 13 pilots, 16 crew attendants, one security coordinator, six aircraft maintenance engineers, eight aircraft guards and two VIP operations liaison officers.

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Question: PM162c

Outcome 1, Output 5.5

Topic: Accommodation details Prime Minister's overseas trip

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: In relation to the Prime Minister's overseas trip from 27 March to 13 April 2008, please provide Defence personnel accommodation details, incl. location and costs.

Answer: The Department of Defence has advised that in line with normal practice for overseas tasking, Defence staff were provided with commercially-available accommodation consistent with the normal criteria used to select aircrew accommodation. Defence advises that such costs are met within the additional cost rate which is currently \$3,355 per hour. (See answer to Question PM162a).

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Question: PM162d

Outcome 1, Output 5.5

Topic: Prime Minister's overseas trip - costs associated with provision of special purpose aircraft

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: In relation to the Prime Minister's overseas trip from 27 March to 13 April 2008, please provide costs associated with provision of the special purpose aircraft/s.

Answer: Please see answer tabled for Question: PM161f.

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Question: PM162e

Outcome 1, Output 5.5

Topic: Prime Minister's overseas trip - costs incurred by press and subsequently reimbursed

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: In relation to the Prime Minister's overseas trip from 27 March to 13 April 2008, please provide costs incurred by the members of the press and subsequently reimbursed.

Answer: The Department of Defence has advised that members of the media will be charged \$12,000 per person for the transport provided. As at 8 July 2008 invoices have not been sent. Media representative met their own accommodation costs.

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Question: PM162f

Outcome 1, Output 5.5

Topic: Prime Minister's overseas trip - costs incurred and reimbursed to Defence

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: In relation to the Prime Minister's overseas trip from 27 March to 13 April 2008, please provide other costs incurred and reimbursed to Defence from other government departments/s or agencies or non-government entities.

Answer: Nil.

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Question: PM162g

Outcome 1, Output 5.5

Topic: Department of Defence special purpose aircraft

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: When was the Department of Defence first requested to provide or make available a second special purpose aircraft?

Who made the request?

Answer: The request for a second aircraft was made by the Prime Minister's Office during the course of the planning for the trip.