

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 – Support services for government operations
Topic: Flights – the Prime Minister’s partner

Senator: Fifield

Question reference number: 48

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Please provide:

1.

- a) **The number of commercial domestic flights taken by the Prime Minister's partner for the current financial year;**
- b) **The aggregate cost of all commercial domestic flights taken by the Prime Minister's partner for the current financial year;**
- c) **The aggregate cost of all the Prime Minister's partner's commercial domestic accommodation for the current financial year;**
- d) **The number of staff travelling with the Prime Minister's partner each commercial domestic journey.**

2.

- a) **The number of commercial international flights taken by the Prime Minister's partner for the current financial year;**
- b) **The aggregate cost of all commercial international flights taken by the Prime Minister's partner for the current financial year;**
- c) **The aggregate cost of all the Prime Minister's partner's commercial international accommodation for the current financial year;**
- d) **The number of staff travelling with the Prime Minister's partner each commercial international journey.**

3.

- a) **The number of chartered domestic flights taken by the Prime Minister's partner for the current financial year;**
- b) **The aggregate cost of all chartered domestic flights taken by the Prime Minister's partner for the current financial year;**
- c) **The number of staff travelling with the Prime Minister's partner each chartered domestic journey.**

4.

- a) **The number of chartered international flights taken by the Prime Minister's partner for the current financial year;**

- b) **The aggregate cost of all chartered international flights taken by the Prime Minister's partner for the current financial year;**
- c) **The number of staff travelling with the Prime Minister's partner each chartered international journey.**

Answer:

The department does not administer travel arrangements for the Prime Minister's partner or staff engaged in the Prime Minister's office under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* and is accordingly unable to provide answers to these questions.

Official travel by the Prime Minister's partner and staff of the Prime Minister's office is arranged and funded by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance), with the exception of Special Purpose Aircraft flights, which are arranged by the Department of Defence (Defence).

Information about destinations and the cost of travel undertaken is tabled by the Special Minister of State in the Parliament every six months in a report titled *Parliamentarians' Expenditure on Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation*. The reports and supporting information are also published on the Finance website.

Special Purpose Aircraft flight details are tabled in the Parliament by the Minister for Defence twice a year in a report titled *Schedule of Special Purpose Flights*.