

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No. IOTS 01

Division/Agency: Office of the Inspector of Transport Security

Topic: Travel Budget Expenditure 2008-09

Hansard Page: 5 (28/05/09)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Senator HEFFERNAN—At a convenient time, and on notice, you might just give us the breakdown of the travel budget.

Mr Pearsall—This financial year, Senator?

Senator HEFFERNAN—I guess so; since July 2008.

Mr Palmer—Sure.

Senator HEFFERNAN—It has always been a bit of a mystery.

Mr Palmer—I can answer part of that right now, if you wish.

Senator HEFFERNAN—You can if you want to.

Mr Palmer—So far the expenditure has been \$850,484 for the year, which includes all domestic and international travel, all employee expenses, training and conferences, and the office operating costs, including this current inquiry.

Answer:

Refer to answer IOTS 02.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No. IOTS 02

Division/Agency: Office of the Inspector of Transport Security

Topic: The Role and Operations of the Inspector of Transport Security

Hansard Pages: Written Question

Senator Heffernan asked:

1. What is your role as the Inspector of Transport Security and what sort of work have you been engaged in?
2. How many actual days have you been engaged during the last financial year (from 1 July 2008)?
3. Are you Canberra-based or do you still reside on the north coast of NSW? (If he doesn't reside in Canberra, ask these questions).
4. Do you have to travel to Canberra often to meet with the Secretary and/or Minister?
5. How often?
6. Does your office receive a budget?
7. If so, how much?
8. If it isn't expended, do you return any of that budget to the Department?
9. What is the cost of maintaining your office?
10. What travel costs have been incurred during the period from 1 July 2008 until now?
11. How many international trips have there been since 1 July 2008?
12. What was the purpose of these trips?
13. Could we have a breakdown of all your expenses, travel, staffing, salary, office maintenance etc. since 1 July 2008 to now?

Answer:

1. The role of the Inspector of Transport Security is to:
 - undertake an inquiry, when directed by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Minister), into:
 - a major transport security matter or an offshore security matter;
 - a pattern or series of incidents that point to a systemic failure or possible weakness of aviation or maritime transport security regulatory systems; or
 - any other transport security matter.
 - undertake an inquiry, when directed by the Minister, into a major land transport security incident, subject to agreement of the relevant state or territory government; and
 - report outcomes of the inquiry to the Minister in a reasonable timeframe.

The Inspector of Transport Security has completed various Inquiries as directed by the Minister.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

2. As at 23 June 2009, in the 2008-09 financial period the Inspector of Transport Security has been engaged for 71 days and 2 hours.
3. The Inspector of Transport Security resides in New South Wales.
4. Travel to Canberra as needed to meet with a range of officials.
5. As needed.
6. Yes.
7. The basic annual budget is \$600,000 per financial year with the budget being supplemented in accordance with the needs and scope of any particular Inquiry which the Inspector is directed to conduct.
8. The annual budget of the office is ordinarily fully expended. Any unexpended money would be returned to the Department.
9. Refer to Question 7.
- 10-13 Four international trips have been taken for the purpose of the Maritime Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Inquiry. A breakdown of office operational costs for 2008-09 financial year as at 23 June 2009:

Total employee expenses:	\$620,565
Domestic travel:	\$119,444
International travel:	\$89,852
Staff training and conferences:	\$7,449
Office operating costs:	\$69,541
Total:	\$906,851

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No. IOTS 03

Division/Agency: Office of the Inspector of Transport Security

Topic: Sydney Airport Incident – 22 March 2009

Hansard Pages: Written Question

Senator Heffernan asked:

1. Will you be inquiring into the Sydney Airport incident on Sunday, 22 March 2009?
2. What is your role in the Inquiry and what will be your input?
3. Will you be producing a report for the Minister?

Answer:

- 1-3 The Secretary of the Attorney General's Department has completed an Inquiry into this matter and reported to Government.