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Australian Government
 Independent Parliamentary
 Expenses Authority

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT – [2021/019]

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer: Use of work expenses to attend a Christmas Party hosted by Mr Lachlan Murdoch on 5 December 2019

Date: 31 August 2021

To: s 47F
 A/g Director, Audit & Assurance

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

- i. Note the contents of this preliminary assessment and proceed with an Assurance Review

NOTED & PROCEED WITH ASSURANCE REVIEW / PLEASE DISCUSS

s 47F

Date: 31 August 2021

s 47F

A/g Director, Audit & Assurance
 Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Prepared by:

s 47F

Date: 30 August 2021

s 47F

Assistant Director, Audit & Assurance
 Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

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PURPOSE

1. This preliminary assessment aims to assess whether the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP accessed parliamentary business resources to attend a Christmas Party hosted by Mr Lachlan Murdoch (“the Christmas party event”) in Sydney on 5 December 2019.

BACKGROUND

2. On 4 December 2020, The Guardian published an article [‘PM and treasurer bill taxpayers for private jet to Lachlan Murdoch’s Christmas party | Australian politicians’ expenses | The Guardian’ \(Attachment A\)](#).
3. The article reported that Mr Frydenberg MP used COMCAR while in Sydney on the day of the Christmas Party event.
4. In accordance with IPEA’s protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, this preliminary assessment commenced on 9 July 2021.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

5. Relevant legislation includes:
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017*

ANALYSIS

6. Upon investigation, it was found that parliamentary business resources were used (COMCAR) to travel to the location of the Christmas party event on the night of 5 December 2019.

CONCLUSION

7. On the basis of the findings of this preliminary assessment, and in accordance with IPEA’s protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, it is recommended IPEA proceeds with an assurance review in this matter.