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**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

## ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM – 2022/005

Former Senator the Hon. Amanda Stoker - departing parliamentary travel & family travel to Melbourne in February 2022

Date: 5 October 2022

To: Nicole Pearson  
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

- i. Note the contents of this assurance review, and
- ii. Accept the matter as closed with no further action required.

NOTED & ACCEPTED AS CLOSED

PLEASE DISCUSS

5 October 2022  
Nicole Pearson  
Branch Manager  
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Prepared by:



Assurance Officer, Audit & Assurance  
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Reviewed by:



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

### SCOPE

1. The scope of this Assurance Review is former Senator the Hon. Amanda Stoker's (Ms Stoker's) use of parliamentary business resources during the period 11 to 13 February 2022 (the relevant period).

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## PURPOSE

2. This assurance review aims to determine whether the dominant purpose of travel, including family travel, undertaken by Ms Stoker to, from and within Melbourne during the relevant period was parliamentary business, as defined in the legislative framework.

## BACKGROUND

3. Prior to the 2022 federal election, IPEA reviewed the work expenses used by parliamentarians in marginal seats, as well as those that had not been preselected or that indicated their intention to leave parliament.
4. IPEA's travel data, media articles and social media posts were accessed in these assessments.
5. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, a Preliminary Assessment into Ms Stoker's travel commenced on 3 June 2022. The assessment found that Ms Stoker accessed parliamentary resources to travel to, within and from Melbourne during the relevant period.
6. Parliamentary resources were accessed to fly her three dependents from Melbourne to Brisbane on Sunday 13 February 2022.
7. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, an Assurance Review into this matter commenced on 8 June 2022.

## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

8. The relevant legislative framework is:
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017 (PBR Act)*
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 (Regulations)*
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017*

### Obligations

9. The principles based legislative framework imposes a number of obligations on parliamentarians in relation to their use of public resources. In summary, parliamentarians are personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources. They must be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business and must act ethically and in good faith in using, and accounting for the use of, those resources. Specifically, a parliamentarian must not claim public resources unless they are claimed for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business.

### Definitions

10. "Parliamentary business" has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the Parliamentary Business Determination as "parliamentary duties", "electorate duties", "party political duties", and "official duties".

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11. Under section 6 of the Regulations, a family member of a member travels for *family reunion purposes* if:

- (a) *the member is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting the member's parliamentary business; and*
- (b) *the family member travels to accompany or join the member; and*
- (c) *the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the family life of the member's family.*

12. Under section 98 of the Regulations:

*A member must give any claim forms or other compliance information required by the Administrator to:*

- (a) *the Administrator; or*
- (b) *a person nominated by the Administrator.*

*The Commonwealth is not liable to provide public resources prescribed by this instrument in relation to which a member has failed to provide compliance information as required by this section.*

### ANALYSIS

- 13. IPEA obtained data in relation to travel for Ms Stoker, and her family, covering the relevant period.
- 14. A letter was sent to Ms Stoker on 8 June 2022, asking what the nature of her parliamentary business was relating to the use of scheduled flights, COMCAR, taxi, travel allowance, family travel and parking expenses during the relevant period (**Attachment 1**).
- 15. A response was received from Ms Stoker on 22 June 2022 outlining details of the travel, but no supporting evidence was provided (**Attachment 2**).
- 16. A second letter was sent to Ms Stoker on 1 July 2022, requesting evidence to support her claims (**Attachment 3**).
- 17. A response was received by Ms Stoker on 22 July 2022, advising that she had previously provided a response (**Attachment 4**).
- 18. IPEA responded to Ms Stoker on 25 July 2022, advising that only one response had been received and that IPEA was still awaiting a response to our request for additional information and supporting evidence (**Attachment 5**).
- 19. As no response was received, a third letter was sent to Ms Stoker on 11 August 2022, advising her of her obligations to provide compliance information under section 98 of the Regulations (**Attachment 6**).
- 20. As no response was received to the letter of 11 August 2022, fourth letter was sent to Ms Stoker on 26 August 2022, reminding her of her obligations to provide compliance information under section 98 of the Regulations (**Attachment 7**).
- 21. A response was received from Ms Stoker on 5 September 2022 requesting an extension. An extension was granted, with a response due date of 19 September 2022 (**Attachment 8**).

22. Ms Stoker responded on 19 September 2022, outlining her activities in Melbourne. This included meeting with the [REDACTED] to discuss matters relevant to her previous role as the Assistant Minister to the Attorney General and a function for former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Theresa May, where matters such as climate change policy and economic policy were discussed. Ms Stoker also attended a series of meetings with members of the legal profession to consult on matters relevant to her role. (Attachment 9).
23. Ms Stoker also advised that her family's travel met the three-part test, and was for the purpose of facilitating family life between sitting weeks.
24. Ms Stoker sent a further response on 27 September 2022, to provide an email from the [REDACTED]. The email confirmed the details of the meeting between Ms Stoker and the [REDACTED] in Melbourne during the relevant period (Attachment 10).

## CONCLUSION

25. Based on the information available to IPEA, including Ms Stoker's responses, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of her travel to and within Melbourne during the period 11 February to 13 February 2022 was parliamentary business and was not inconsistent with the framework.
26. IPEA is also satisfied that Ms Stoker's use of the family travel expenses was not inconsistent with the framework.



Australian Government  
Independent Parliamentary  
Expenses Authority

8 June 2022

Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker



Email:



Dear Senator

**Assurance Review of travel expenses**

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to review work expenses accessed by parliamentarians.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of Commonwealth-funded travel to and within Melbourne, undertaken by you and your family, from 11 to 13 February 2022 (the relevant period).

**Attachment A** details business resources accessed by you within the relevant period. We have set out questions for your response to assist in our review. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Division 2 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) sets out the principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources.

'Parliamentary business' has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination - **Attachment B**).

Please provide a written response via email to [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au) by close of business on 22 June 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on 02 6215 3000.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Pearson  
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Attachment A

Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker  
Assurance Review of travel expenses

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
COMCAR	Capital Hill	11/02/2022	12:00 PM	Pialligo	11/02/2022	12:54 PM	\$108.54
Travel Provider – Virgin Australia Amanda Stoker	Canberra	11/02/2022	2:05 PM	Melbourne	11/02/2022	3:10 PM	\$479.92
COMCAR	Melbourne Airport	11/02/2022	3:10 PM	Melbourne	11/02/2022	4:48 PM	\$177.15
Taxi	Melbourne Airport	11/02/2022		Melbourne CCZ	11/02/2022		\$60.26
Travel Allowance – Commercial	Melbourne	11/02/2022		Melbourne	13/02/2022		\$906.00
Taxi	Melbourne CCZ	13/02/2022		Melbourne Airport	13/02/2022		\$93.84
Travel Provider – QANTAS Dependent	Melbourne	13/02/2022	3:20 PM	Brisbane	13/02/2022	4:25 PM	\$249.36
Travel Provider – QANTAS Dependent	Melbourne	13/02/2022	3:20 PM	Brisbane	13/02/2022	4:25 PM	\$249.36
Travel Provider – QANTAS Dependent	Melbourne	13/02/2022	3:20 PM	Brisbane	13/02/2022	4:25 PM	\$249.36
Travel Provider – QANTAS Amanda Stoker	Melbourne	13/02/2022	3:50 PM	Canberra	13/02/2022	4:55 PM	\$479.92
Car Costs – Parking Spouse		11/02/2022			13/02/2022		\$50.00

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**Attachment A**

Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker  
Assurance Review of travel expenses

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Melbourne from 11 to 13 February 2022?
2. With reference to the Determination (**Attachment B**), what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Melbourne from 11 to 13 February 2022?
3. Please advise whether your family's travel expenses meet the three part test in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*:
  - You were travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting your parliamentary business;
  - Your family was travelling to accompany or join you; and
  - Your family's travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

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## **Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017**

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I, Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance, make the following determination.

Dated 14 December 2017

Mathias Cormann  
Minister for Finance

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## 1 Name

This instrument is the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*.

## 2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the same time as the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

## 3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

## 4 Interpretation

(1) In this instrument:

*Act* means the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

- (a) *constituent*;
- (b) *member*;
- (c) *office holder*, and
- (d) *vice regal function*.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, an activity specified in a Schedule to this determination is specified whether it takes place within Australia or overseas.

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## 5 Parliamentary business of members

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act, the *parliamentary duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 1 for that member.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act, the *electorate duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 2 for that member.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act, the *party political duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 3 for that member.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act, the *official duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 4 for that member.

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## Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

(Act s 6(4)(a))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise;</li><li>b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose;</li><li>c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member;</li><li>d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function;</li><li>e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio;</li><li>f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates;</li><li>g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose;</li><li>h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function;</li><li>i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister.</li></ol> <p><i>Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).</i></p>

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## Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>
<b>Member (or class)</b>	<b>Electorate duties</b>
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative: a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance); b) Otherwise communicating with constituents; c) Representing the views and interests of constituents.

## Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>
<b>Member (or class)</b>	<b>Party political duties</b>
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives: a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee); b) a national, state or territory conference.

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## Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>
<b>Member (or class)</b>	<b>Official duties</b>
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so;</li><li>b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity;</li><li>c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.</li></ol>

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22 June 2022

Nicole Pearson

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603  
Email: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

Dear Nicole & Assurance,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 June 2022, advising me of the Assurance Review of travel expenses pertaining to the travel period of 11 to 13 February 2022 with my family.

Please find an appropriate response to your questions below:

1. **What was the dominant purpose of your travel from Melbourne on 11 to 13 February? Parliamentary Business.**
2. **What was the nature of your parliamentary business in Melbourne from 11 to 13 February 2022? Stakeholder meetings relevant to my role as Assistant Minister to the Attorney General and Assistant Minister for Industrial Relations.**
3. **Please advise whether your family's travel expenses from meet the three-part test in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulation 2017*. Overall, my three children – [REDACTED] – accompanied me on this work-related trip as dependents with the dominant purposes of conducting my parliamentary business whilst facilitating the family life.**

Thank you so much for the Assurance team's thoroughness in ensuring that the principles-based framework imposed by the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* continues to be met.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me on [REDACTED]

Kindest Regards,

[REDACTED]

The Hon. Amanda Stoker  
Former LNP Senator for Queensland  
Former Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General, for Industrial Relations and for Women

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**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

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30 June 2022

Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker

Email: 

Dear Senator

**Assurance Review of travel expenses**

Thank you for your response of 22 June 2022, in relation to the Assurance Review of your Commonwealth-funded travel to Melbourne from 11 to 13 February 2022 (the relevant period).

Following a review of your response, IPEA requires additional information to assist in finalising this matter.

In your response, you stated that the dominant purpose of your travel to Melbourne for the relevant period was for parliamentary business. Section 6(4) of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the Act), and the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination) (**Attachment A**) both list four streams of 'parliamentary business'. They are:

- parliamentary duties
- electorate duties
- party political duties
- official duties.

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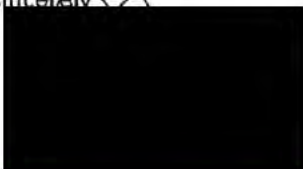
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Please provide details of your parliamentary business, having regard to the definition set out in the Determination, and evidence to support your claims, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Please provide a written response via email to [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au), by close of business on **Thursday 7 July 2022**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on 02 6215 3000.

Yours sincerely,



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**Nicole Pearson**

Branch Manager, Transparency Audit & Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603  
T: 02 6215 3000

**From:** [Amanda Stoker](#)  
**To:** [Assurance](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Date:** Friday, 22 July 2022 6:27:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)

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This was attended to by my team in the last week or two of my term. I remember settling it. Given the circumstances I may have difficulty putting my hands on a copy of that correspondence, though I will try. Perhaps you could check your records? It may have come from [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Regards  
Amanda

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**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2022 2:44:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

Dear Ms Stoker  
Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.  
Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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Nicole Pearson  
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
T: 02 6215 3000 | [REDACTED]

**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**  
**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

**Be careful with this message**

External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

**From:** Assurance  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Assurance  
**Subject:** RE: Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 25 July 2022 1:44:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [HPE CM RE Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker SECOFFICIAL Sensitive.msg](#)  
[RE HPE CM RE Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Amanda Stoker SECOFFICIAL Sensitive.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Ms Stoker,

Thank you for your reply. We received a response from your team on 22 June 2022, and sent a letter with a request for more information on 1 July 2022. I have attached both items for your reference.

Please address the request for additional information by COB on Monday 1 August 2022.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
 Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | [REDACTED]

SEC=OFFICIAL

**From:** Amanda Stoker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 July 2022 6:28 PM  
**To:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

This was attended to by my team in the last week or two of my term. I remember settling it. Given the circumstances I may have difficulty putting my hands on a copy of that correspondence, though I will try. Perhaps you could check your records? It may have come from [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Regards

Amanda

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**From:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2022 2:44:17 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Ms Stoker

Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
 Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 |



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**Australian Government**  
**Independent Parliamentary**  
**Expenses Authority**

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11 August 2022

Former Senator Amanda Stoker

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Stoker

**Outstanding Assurance Matter**

On 1 July 2022, I wrote to you with additional questions in relation to an outstanding assurance matter (**Attachment 1**). To date, IPEA is still yet to receive a response from you regarding this matter.

Under Regulation 98 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017, you are obliged to provide compliance information in relation to the use of public resources, as required by IPEA. If this information is not supplied, the Commonwealth is not liable for the business resources accessed and an invoice may be raised.

If a response is not received by **Friday 19 August 2022**, IPEA may consider other options for progressing this matter, including raising an invoice for the relevant travel. Further information about IPEA's Statutory Audit Function is available on our website and at **Attachment 2**.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on 02 6215 3000.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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Nicole Pearson  
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

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# FACT SHEET – STATUTORY AUDIT FUNCTION

October 2020

IPEA audits parliamentarians' work expenses and the travel expenses of their staff under section 12 of the [Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017](#) (IPEA Act). IPEA may make a ruling in relation to travel expenses and allowances under section 37 of the [Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017](#) (PBR Act).

Preliminary Assessment
<p>A Preliminary Assessment is generally confidential and establishes if further review is necessary.</p> <p>A Preliminary Assessment is conducted where use of work expense(s) (for example, identified through direct contact, third party reporting or media) indicates a matter requires review.</p> <p>Preliminary Assessments review information held or accessible by IPEA to determine the threshold question of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a parliamentary business resource been used?</li> </ul> <p>If the answer is YES, an Assurance Review follows.</p> <p><u>Potential pathways:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further action</li> <li>Referral to more appropriate agency</li> <li>Assurance Review</li> </ol>

Assurance Review
<p>An Assurance Review determines if there has been a misuse of a parliamentary business resource.</p> <p>IPEA assesses the use of the parliamentary business resource against the legislative framework to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was there misuse?</li> </ul> <p>If the answer is YES, IPEA considers if an Audit, referral or administrative action is appropriate.</p> <p>An Audit is considered when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is evidence for, or allegations of, systemic or substantial misuse</li> <li>IPEA's statutory information-gathering powers may be required to obtain all the required information</li> <li>There may be an educative benefit in publishing IPEA's findings.</li> </ul> <p>Referral to the AFP is considered when there is evidence of serious fraud or other criminal conduct.</p> <p><u>Potential pathways:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further action</li> <li>Administrative remedial action, including penalty</li> <li>An IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit</li> <li>Referral to the AFP</li> </ol>

Audit
<p>An Audit may commence for two main reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the outcome of an Assurance Review</li> <li>As a systematic and comprehensive examination of the use of a specific category of parliamentary business resource against the legislative framework, potentially by all parliamentarians and/or MOP(S) Act employees.</li> </ol> <p>Where an Audit results from an Assurance Review, the Macquarie Dictionary definitions of these terms are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substantial: "of ample or considerable amount, quantity, size etc."</li> <li>Systemic: "affecting an organisation, network ... etc as a whole"</li> </ul> <p>Where an educational purpose or benefit is identified, part or all of the Audit may be published. The decision to publish is made on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><u>Potential pathways:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further action</li> <li>Administrative remedial action, including penalty</li> <li>An IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit</li> <li>Referral to the AFP</li> </ol>

Post-Payment Checks
<p>Post-Payment Checks are ongoing systematic testing of expense use through regular sampling of transactions. This covers a range of expenses such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>business class travel</li> <li>short term self-drive hire cars</li> <li>accommodation receipts</li> <li>desirable destinations</li> <li>accompanying family</li> <li>travel adjacent to public/school holidays.</li> </ul>
Referring to the Australian Federal Police
<p>IPEA may refer a matter to the AFP at any point during the Assessment, Review or Audit process, where compelling prima facie evidence of fraud or other criminal conduct is identified.</p>
Making a Ruling
<p>Rulings are made and finalised by the Members, including where they are, requested by a parliamentarian, recommended by an Assurance Review or Audit.</p>

Website: [ipea.gov.au](http://ipea.gov.au)

Phone: (02) 6215 3000

Email: [enquiries@ipea.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ipea.gov.au)





Australian Government  
Independent Parliamentary  
Expenses Authority

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25 August 2022

The Hon Amanda Stoker

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Stoker

**Outstanding Assurance Matter**

I wrote to you on 8 June 2022, 30 June 2022 and 11 August 2022 in relation to an Assurance Review that the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) is conducting on Commonwealth funded travel expenses incurred by you and your family, from 11 to 13 February 2022.

In your response of 22 June 2022, you advised that the dominant purpose of your trip was to meet with the [REDACTED] which was relevant to your role as Assistant Minister to the Attorney General and Assistant Minister for Industrial Relations. You have also confirmed that your three children accompanied you as dependents, with the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business while facilitating family life. To date, we have not received from you evidence to support your claims, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Under Regulation 98 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017, you are obliged to provide compliance information in relation to the use of public resources, as required by IPEA. If this information is not supplied, the Commonwealth is not liable for the business resources accessed.

Accordingly, if you do not respond by 1 September 2022 and provide IPEA with the requested information and supporting documentation as specified above, IPEA will pursue other options for progressing this matter, including raising an invoice for the relevant travel expenses.

Yours Sincerely  
s 47F

[REDACTED]

---

**Nicole Pearson**

Branch Manager, Transparency Audit & Legal

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

**From:** [Amanda Stoker](#)  
**To:** [Assurance](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 5 September 2022 2:41:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Nicole

As I have mentioned previously, I don't have the usual access to records of verification because I am no longer in office. I can no longer access diaries and meeting papers and the like.

I have today contacted the [REDACTED] and asked if he would provide written confirmation of the fact of our meeting.

I respectfully request some additional time to allow the [REDACTED] to revert to me. Please be assured I am doing what I can to meet your request, despite what I consider to be its unreasonableness in the circumstances.

Kind regards,

Amanda

---

**The Hon. Amanda Stoker**

---

**From:** Assurance

**Sent:** Friday, 26 August 2022 11:50 AM

**To:** Amanda Stoker

**Subject:** Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**SEC=OFFICIAL**

**The Hon. Amanda Stoker**

Dear Ms Stoker

Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Sincerely

---

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

**T:** +61 2 6215 3000

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

[www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)

**SEC=OFFICIAL**

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**From:** [Amanda Stoker](#)  
**To:** [Assurance](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 19 September 2022 9:52:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[20220213\\_080430000\\_IOS.jpg](#)

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Hi Nicole

I have conducted a search of my records (limited as they are given that I no longer have access to my parliamentary diary) and can inform you of the following that I hope will finally close the matter.

I met with the [REDACTED] on 11 February 2022 to discuss matters relevant to my work as the assistant minister. While I have not had a reply from the [REDACTED] to my request for verification of our meeting to date, I am prepared to provide a statutory declaration if necessary to verify that this meeting took place.

I attended a function with the Rt Hon Theresa May, former PM of the UK, during that trip in which I heard her speak about matters including climate change policy and economic policy that were relevant to the Australian policy debates on these matters. This was also relevant to my parliamentary duties. I enclose a photograph from that event which verifies that it occurred. I also had a series of small meetings with members of the legal profession in the nature of consultation relevant to my role. It was important for me to know what was going on in the profession in Victoria, and listening to the impact of the government's recent reforms was important to that role.

As the period of travel landed between a two sitting weeks during which I was required in Canberra, the presence of my family in Melbourne that weekend was essential for the maintenance of family life, and family relationships.

This is the most evidence I am able to provide, save for the provision of a statutory declaration. While the Theresa May event was a public one, the others were private and therefore would not attract social media or traditional media coverage. That does not mean they are any less relevant to my role.

In the circumstances of the election result, my no longer holding the parliamentary position and as a consequence no longer holding the records needed to provide additional support for these events, I submit that you should consider the matter sufficiently verified and therefore closed.

Kind regards,

Amanda

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**The Hon. Amanda Stoker**

**From:** Assurance

**Sent:** Monday, 5 September 2022 4:04 PM

**To:** Amanda Stoker

**Subject:** RE: Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**SEC=OFFICIAL**

**The Hon. Amanda Stoker**

Dear Ms Stoker

Thank you for your reply.

On this occasion, I am able to grant you an extension until COB on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or at [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

[REDACTED]

**SEC=OFFICIAL**

---

**From:** Amanda Stoker [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, 5 September 2022 2:41 PM

**To:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Nicole

As I have mentioned previously, I don't have the usual access to records of verification because I am no longer in office. I can no longer access diaries and meeting papers and the like.

I have today contacted the [REDACTED] and asked if he would provide written confirmation of the fact of our meeting.

I respectfully request some additional time to allow the [REDACTED] to revert to me. Please be assured I am doing what I can to meet your request, despite what I consider to be its unreasonableness in the circumstances.

Kind regards,

Amanda

---

**The Hon. Amanda Stoker**

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 26 August 2022 11:50 AM

**To:** Amanda Stoker [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Overdue - Assurance Review Response [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**SEC=OFFICIAL**

---

**The Hon. Amanda Stoker**

Dear Ms Stoker

Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Sincerely

---

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

**T:** +61 2 6215 3000

**E:** [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

[www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au) & [www.ipea.gov.au/ed](http://www.ipea.gov.au/ed)

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**From:** [Amanda Stoker](#)  
**To:** [Assurance](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Meetings 11-13 February  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 September 2022 11:12:57 AM

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Dear Nicole

I refer to my email of Monday 19 September, in which I said I had not yet received a reply from the [REDACTED] verifying that we met during the period in which you have an interest.

I now have written confirmation from [REDACTED] in the email below.

I trust this resolves the matter finally.

Kind regards,

Amanda

---

**The Hon. Amanda Stoker**

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 September 2022 6:41 PM  
**To:** Amanda Stoker  
**Subject:** Meetings 11-13 February

Dear Amanda

I confirm that we met in Melbourne in the period between 11-13 February 2022 to discuss the business of the court and related issues related Court issues.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can assist with

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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