



ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM – [2021/003]

Staff member

Senator Pauline Hanson, Senator for Queensland – use of car transport at Commonwealth expense

Date: 1 August 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 August 2022

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager

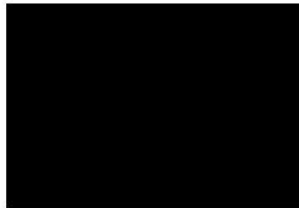
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Prepared by:



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

Reviewed by:



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

SCOPE

1. The scope of this assurance review is ^{Staff} [redacted]s use of car transport, which includes Cabcharge, regulated ridesharing and taxis, at Commonwealth expense from [redacted] commencement on 26 September 2016 to 30 June 2021 (the period).

PURPOSE

2. This assurance review aims to assess whether **staff**'s use of car transport, including Cabcharge, regulated ridesharing and taxis, at Commonwealth expense during the period, was in accordance with the relevant legislative framework.

BACKGROUND

3. IPEA identified that **staff** had used Cabcharge to travel to and from [redacted] and Brisbane, QLD. [redacted] is next to the suburb where **staff**'s home is located and Brisbane is where Senator Hanson has her primary electorate office.
4. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, on 26 May 2021 IPEA commenced a preliminary assessment into **staff**'s use of Cabcharge to and from [redacted] and Brisbane, QLD between 1 July and 17 December 2020.
5. IPEA identified that **staff** had used Cabcharge 16 times to travel to and from [redacted] and Brisbane, QLD.
6. The preliminary assessment found that **staff**'s travel to and from [redacted] and its proximity to his home in [redacted] required further review as it appears [redacted] may be travelling to and from [redacted] home and work during [redacted] normal hours of duty. Generally, it is a staff member's responsibility and cost to transport themselves to and from their work (Item 2 & 16 of the *Staff Travel and Relief Staff Arrangements, Determination 2020/15*).
7. On 26 May 2021 an Assurance Review into this matter was commenced. The scope and purpose was expanded to include **staff**'s use of car transport including Cabcharge, regulated ridesharing and taxis, at Commonwealth expense for the period.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

8. The circumstances under which car transport may be used by persons employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are set out in *Determination 2020/15 - Staff Travel and Relief Staff Arrangements* (the Determination). The determinations preceding the current determination provided the same information for the use of car transport.
9. Items 4, 2, 8 and 16 of the Determination provide:

Item 4

Subject to available funds in the Electorate Support Budget (where applicable), electorate employees may travel as directed anywhere within Australia on official business. All travel costs under this determination and associated travelling allowance and motor vehicle allowance under the Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2016-2019 or successor agreements (Enterprise Agreement) are debited against the Electorate Support Budget (where applicable).

Item 2

Subject to item 16, it is an employee's responsibility (and hence the employee's cost) to transport him or herself to and from work for his or her normal hours of duty. This responsibility includes travel between accommodation and the office when travelling on parliamentary or electorate business away from the employee's work base. This also includes travel to attend work when the employee's work base is distant from the employee's home.

Item 8

Travel may not be undertaken at Commonwealth expense for the personal benefit of an employee.

Item 16

As set out in item 2 of this Schedule, it is an employee's responsibility (and hence the employee's cost) to transport him or herself to and from work for his or her normal hours of duty.

Exceptions to this rule apply to the use of car transport in the following circumstances:

- (a) the trip is approved for personal safety reasons (for example, where the risk to personal safety is significantly increased due to the requirement to work late); or*
- (b) the employee is travelling on official business and scheduled public transport services are not readily available; or*
- (c) the employee is travelling on official business and is carrying luggage to and/or from the office for the purpose of the trip.*

ANALYSIS

10. Under the legislative framework (the framework) staff may only travel as directed by their employing parliamentarian within Australia on official business.
11. Under the framework there are three exceptions that enable employees to use car transport at Commonwealth expense to and from their accommodation and place of work, which are provided in item 16 of the Determination:
 - a) the trip is approved for personal safety reasons (for example, where the risk to personal safety is significantly increased due to the requirement to work late)
 - b) the employee is travelling on official business and scheduled public transport services are not readily available, or
 - c) the employee is travelling on official business and is carrying luggage to and/or from the office for the purpose of the trip.
12. IPEA identified 71 instances in the period where **staff** used car transport at Commonwealth expense that required information from Senator Hanson to confirm consistency with the framework.
13. IPEA wrote to Senator Hanson and requested that the Senator examine the trips and indicate, to the extent possible, how each trip complied with items 2 and 16 of the Determination (**Attachment 1**).

14. Senator Hanson provided a response on 7 October 2021 (**Attachment 2**). Further information was requested from Senator Hanson on 23 December 2021 in relation to 56 trips (**Attachment 3**). A second response was received from Senator Hanson on 28 January 2022 (**Attachment 4**).
15. In her response, Senator Hanson provided the detail of each of the relevant trips and her reasons for approving each charge. IPEA notes it is Senator Hanson's responsibility as a Parliamentarian to ensure her staff's use of car transport at Commonwealth expense is consistent with the framework.
16. On receiving Senator Hanson's response of 28 January 2022, IPEA sought advice from policy owner, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services within the Department of Finance, to determine if the trips were consistent with the framework. The policy advice can be found at **Attachment 5**.
17. The policy advice from Ministerial and Parliamentary Services specified that as Senator Hanson provided assurance of each of the relevant trips, and her reasons for approving each charge aligned with her duties as a Parliamentarian to ensure the wellbeing and safety of her staff, they appeared to be reasonable directions for Senator Hanson to make.

CONCLUSION

18. On the basis of Senator Hanson's responses, and the policy advice received from Ministerial and Parliamentary Services, there is no information available to IPEA to suggest that **staff**'s use of car transport at Commonwealth expense is not consistent with the framework.



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

9 September 2021

Senator Pauline Hanson
Senator for Queensland
Suite 3, Level 36
Waterfront Place 1 Eagle Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of car transport at Commonwealth expense

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

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of [REDACTED] staff's use of car transport, which includes Cabcharge, regulated ridesharing and taxis, at Commonwealth expense since his commencement in your office to the end of 30 June 2021 (the period). IPEA has examined [REDACTED] staff's use of car transport nationally, excluding use to and from the airport.

The circumstances under which car transport may be used by persons employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are set out in *Determination 2020/15 - Staff Travel and Relief Staff Arrangements* (the Determination).

Items 2 and 16 of the Determination provide:

Item 2

Subject to item 16, it is an employee's responsibility (and hence the employee's cost) to transport him or herself to and from work for his or her normal hours of duty. This responsibility includes travel between accommodation and the office when travelling on parliamentary or electorate business away from the employee's work base. This also includes travel to attend work when the employee's work base is distant from the employee's home.

Item 16

As set out in item 2 of this Schedule, it is an employee's responsibility (and hence the employee's cost) to transport him or herself to and from work for his or her normal hours of duty.

Exceptions to this rule apply to the use of car transport in the following circumstances:

- (a) the trip is approved for personal safety reasons (for example, where the risk to personal safety is significantly increased due to the requirement to work late); or
- (b) the employee is travelling on official business and scheduled public transport services are not readily available; or

(c) the employee is travelling on official business and is carrying luggage to and/or from the office for the purpose of the trip.

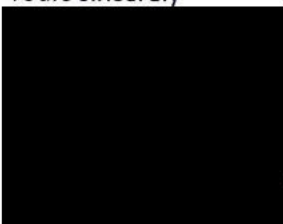
Over the period, [redacted] used car transport at Commonwealth expense on 71 occasions for trips that may not be consistent with Item 2 of the Determination. Specifically, it appears [redacted] travelled between [redacted] accommodation and Parliament House when in Canberra, and between a location on the way [redacted] from [redacted] home to your office in Brisbane.

The details of [redacted] use of car transport at Commonwealth expense are at **Attachments A, B and C**. Please examine [redacted] trips and indicate, to the extent possible, how each trip complies with Items 2 and 16 of the Determination.

Please provide a response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au by close of business on **8 October 2021**, or advise us prior to that date if you need more time to respond.

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

Yours sincerely



Director, Audit and Assurance
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603

Attachment A - Staff [REDACTED] Cabcharge usage under review between March 2017 and June 2021

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
March 2017					
20/03/2017	HOSPITAL	HOSPITAL	8:55 AM	\$31.19	
21/03/2017	CAPITAL HILL	KINGSTON	7:01 PM	\$13.97	
22/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	7:40 AM	\$14.81	
22/03/2017	BARTON	KINGSTON	7:50 PM	\$14.70	
23/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	8:01 AM	\$15.33	
27/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	7:39 AM	\$14.81	
28/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	7:51 AM	\$16.38	
29/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	7:34 AM	\$15.02	
October 2017					
16/10/2017	BARTON	WATSON	11:16 PM	\$33.18	
November 2017					
27/11/2017	BARTON	WATSON	8:19 PM	\$32.13	
28/11/2017	BRADDON	WATSON	7:18 PM	\$33.29	
December 2017					
5/12/2017	SUBURBS	SUBURBS	7:08 PM	\$11.87	
6/12/2017	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	8:00 AM	\$32.24	
August 2018					
7/08/2018	SUBURBS	CITY	11:48 AM	\$59.85	

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
February 2019					
21/02/2019	INDOOROOPILLY	BRISBANE	9:09 AM	\$24.15	
21/02/2019	HOME	BRISBANE	10:43 AM	\$13.86	
April 2019					
2/04/2019	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	7:40 AM	\$30.56	
5/04/2019		BRISBANE	8:46 AM	\$33.81	
July 2019					
1/07/2019	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	9:03 AM	\$34.97	
August 2019					
7/08/2019		BRISBANE	9:16 AM	\$27.51	
February 2020					
4/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	4:32 PM	\$18.80	
5/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:09 PM	\$18.22	
10/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:13 PM	\$33.71	
11/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:36 PM	\$32.97	
12/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:56 PM	\$31.34	
14/02/2020		BRISBANE	9:22 AM	\$29.09	
25/02/2020	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	8:24 AM	\$42.21	
25/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:44 PM	\$35.81	
26/02/2020	OFFICE	OFFICE	7:54 AM	\$15.59	

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
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May 2020

12/05/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:22 PM	\$18.48	
13/05/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:23 PM	\$17.22	
15/05/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	3:45 PM	\$35.39	

June 2020

10/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	8:26 PM	\$21.79	
11/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	7:52 PM	\$23.31	
12/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	8:14 PM	\$22.05	
16/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	7:46 PM	\$23.31	
17/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	9:18 PM	\$23.63	
18/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	6:48 PM	\$21.00	

August 2020

24/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	8:39 PM	\$27.09	
25/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	7:29 PM	\$26.25	
26/08/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	6:57 AM	\$29.51	
26/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	7:26 PM	\$28.14	
27/08/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	6:59 AM	\$26.88	
27/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	5:49 PM	\$28.35	
28/08/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	10:14 AM	\$26.25	
31/08/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	7:00 AM	\$28.14	
31/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	6:39 PM	\$27.20	

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
September 2020					
2/09/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	6:42 AM	\$27.09	
2/09/2020	OFFICE	[REDACTED]	6:08 PM	\$28.14	
3/09/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	6:42 AM	\$26.46	
3/09/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	6:04 PM	\$27.72	
November 2020					
10/11/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:23 PM	\$30.87	
11/11/2020	GRIFFITH	WATSON	11:02 PM	\$47.57	
December 2020					
1/12/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:19 PM	\$32.34	
7/12/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:28 PM	\$34.44	
June 2021					
21/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:27 PM	\$36.96	
22/06/2021	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	7:37 AM	\$30.98	
23/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:32 PM	\$33.86	

* GST Inclusive + Cabcharge Service Fee

Attachment B - Staff [REDACTED] Regulated rideshare usage under review between February 2021 and June 2021

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Pick Up Time	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
February 2021						
2/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:56 PM	9:10 PM	\$21.79	
3/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:44 PM	8:59 PM	\$19.60	
16/02/2021	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	7:42 AM	8:05 AM	\$19.91	
16/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	7:37 PM	7:55 PM	\$18.36	
17/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:18 PM	8:33 PM	\$18.81	
22/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:47 PM	9:02 PM	\$22.13	
23/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	7:56 PM	8:11 PM	\$25.80	
May 2021						
10/05/2021	[REDACTED]	OFFICE	9:33 AM	9:59 AM	\$26.03	
11/05/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:01 PM	9:24 PM	\$23.00	
June 2021						
15/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:03 PM	8:21 PM	\$23.23	
16/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:12 PM	8:31 PM	\$26.03	

* Includes GST

Attachment C - **Staff** Reimbursed taxi usage under review between February 2020 and February 2021

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
February 2020					
4/02/2020	OFFICE	OFFICE	8:58 PM	\$24.84	
February 2021					
24/02/2021	KINGSTON	WATSON	9:36 PM	\$43.89	

From: Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 October 2021 3:46 PM
To: Assurance
Cc: [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson); staff [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Staff [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: SEO19065P0421100714230.pdf

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The completed paperwork in relation to Staff [REDACTED]'s cabcharge/rideshare expenses is attached. The items have all been duly noted where they comply with Determination Item 16. The items noted with a ? indicate possible errors from cabcharge and cannot be accounted for. The items marked x are charges that cannot be accounted for due to no records being unavailable due to the length of time elapsed (4 years).

Staff [REDACTED] understands his obligations and responsibilities in regard to these charges and has asked for an invoice for the items that cannot be accounted for to be sent to him in order for him to promptly reimburse IPEA.

If further information is required please contact [REDACTED] (Office Manager) [REDACTED] or at the Electorate office 07 3221 7644.

Kind regards

Pauline Hanson
 Senator for Queensland

Electorate Office

Suite 6, Level 36, Waterfront Place
 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
 Phone (07) 3221 7644

Canberra Office (sitting weeks only)
 (02) 6277 3182



From: Assurance Assurance@ipea.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 9 September 2021 11:32 AM
To: Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]
Subject: Assurance Review - Staff [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Senator Hanson

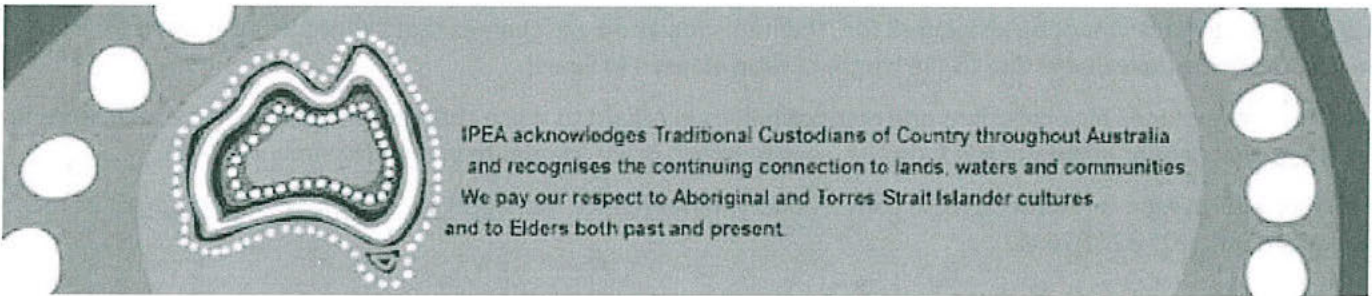
Please find **attached** correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel that

Staff [REDACTED] has undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Director, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 3000 | E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
www.ipea.gov.au



SEC=OFFICIAL

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.

Attachment A - Staff Cabcharge usage under review between March 2017 and June 2021

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
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March 2017

20/03/2017	HOSPITAL	HOSPITAL	8:55 AM	\$31.19	? This cannot be correct? No hospitals have been attended
21/03/2017	CAPITAL HILL	KINGSTON	7:01 PM	\$13.97	✓ lba
22/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	7:40 AM	\$14.81	✗ no records available
22/03/2017	BARTON	KINGSTON	7:50 PM	\$14.70	✓ lba
23/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	8:01 AM	\$15.33	✗ no records available
27/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	7:39 AM	\$14.81	✗
28/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	7:51 AM	\$16.38	✗
29/03/2017	KINGSTON	CAPITAL HILL	7:34 AM	\$15.02	✗

October 2017

16/10/2017	BARTON	WATSON	11:16 PM	\$33.18	✓ lba
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November 2017

27/11/2017	BARTON	WATSON	8:19 PM	\$32.13	✓ lba
28/11/2017	BRADDON	WATSON	7:18 PM	\$33.29	✓ lba

December 2017

5/12/2017	SUBURBS	SUBURBS	7:08 PM	\$11.87	✓ lba
6/12/2017	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	8:00 AM	\$32.24	✗ no records available

August 2018

7/08/2018	SUBURBS	CITY	11:48 AM	\$59.85	✗ no records available
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Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
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February 2019

21/02/2019	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	9:09 AM	\$24.15	✓ 1bc Travel with bag for flight later in the day
21/02/2019	HOME	BRISBANE	10:43 AM	\$13.86	? Cannot be correct

April 2019

2/04/2019	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	7:40 AM	\$30.56	x
5/04/2019	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	8:46 AM	\$33.81	?? Appears to be Travel with bag from flight that morning to CBR cable information is incorrect.

July 2019

1/07/2019	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	9:03 AM	\$34.97	✓ 1bc Travel with bag for flight later in the day
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August 2019

7/08/2019	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	9:16 AM	\$27.51	x no records
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February 2020

4/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	4:32 PM	\$18.80	✓ 1bb official business
5/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:09 PM	\$18.22	✓ 1ba
10/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:13 PM	\$33.71	✓ 1ba
11/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:36 PM	\$32.97	✓ 1ba
12/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:56 PM	\$31.34	✓ 1ba
14/02/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	9:22 AM	\$29.09	✓ 1bc travel with bag (return flight from CBR)
25/02/2020	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	8:24 AM	\$42.21	x
25/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:44 PM	\$35.81	✓ 1ba
26/02/2020	OFFICE	OFFICE	7:54 AM	\$15.59	x

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
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May 2020

12/05/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:22 PM	\$18.48	✓ 1ba
13/05/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:23 PM	\$17.22	✓ 1ba
15/05/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	3:45 PM	\$35.39	✓ 1bc travel with bag to home after flight.

June 2020

10/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	8:26 PM	\$21.79	✓ 1ba
11/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	7:52 PM	\$23.31	✓ 1ba
12/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	8:14 PM	\$22.05	✓ 1ba
16/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	7:46 PM	\$23.31	✓ 1ba
17/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	9:18 PM	\$23.63	✓ 1ba
18/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	6:48 PM	\$21.00	✓ 1ba

August 2020

24/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	8:39 PM	\$27.09	✓ 1ba
25/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	7:29 PM	\$26.25	✓ 1ba
26/08/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	6:57 AM	\$29.51	✓ 1bb remote parliament
26/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	7:26 PM	\$28.14	✓ 1ba
27/08/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	6:59 AM	\$26.88	✓ 1bb remote parliament
27/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	5:49 PM	\$28.35	✓ 1ba
28/08/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	10:14 AM	\$26.25	x
31/08/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	7:00 AM	\$28.14	✓ 1bb remote parliament
31/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	6:39 PM	\$27.20	✓ 1ba

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
September 2020					
2/09/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	6:42 AM	\$27.09	✓ 1bb remote parliament
2/09/2020	OFFICE	[REDACTED]	6:08 PM	\$28.14	✓ 1ba
3/09/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	6:42 AM	\$26.46	✓ 1bb remote parliament
3/09/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	6:04 PM	\$27.72	✓ 1ba
November 2020					
10/11/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:23 PM	\$30.87	✓ 1ba
11/11/2020	GRIFFITH	WATSON	11:02 PM	\$47.57	✓ 1ba
December 2020					
1/12/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:19 PM	\$32.34	✓ 1ba
7/12/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:28 PM	\$34.44	✓ 1ba
June 2021					
21/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:27 PM	\$36.96	✓ 1ba
22/06/2021	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	7:37 AM	\$30.98	✗
23/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:32 PM	\$33.86	✓ 1ba

* GST Inclusive + Cabcharge Service Fee

Attachment B - Staff [REDACTED] Regulated rideshare usage under review between February 2021 and June 2021

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Pick Up Time	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
February 2021						
2/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:56 PM	9:10 PM	\$21.79	✓ 16a
3/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:44 PM	8:59 PM	\$19.60	✓ 16a
16/02/2021	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	7:42 AM	8:05 AM	\$19.91	✓ 16a
16/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	7:37 PM	7:55 PM	\$18.36	✓ 16a
17/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:18 PM	8:33 PM	\$18.81	✓ 16a
22/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:47 PM	9:02 PM	\$22.13	✓ 16a
23/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	7:56 PM	8:11 PM	\$25.80	✓ 16a
May 2021						
10/05/2021	[REDACTED]	OFFICE	9:33 AM	9:59 AM	\$26.03	✓ 16c Travel with bag later in the day
11/05/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:01 PM	9:24 PM	\$23.00	✓ 16a
June 2021						
15/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:03 PM	8:21 PM	\$23.23	✓ 16a
16/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:12 PM	8:31 PM	\$26.03	✓ 16a

* Includes GST

Attachment B - Staff [REDACTED] Regulated rideshare usage under review between February 2021 and June 2021

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Pick Up Time	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
February 2021						
2/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:56 PM	9:10 PM	\$21.79	✓ 16a
3/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:44 PM	8:59 PM	\$19.60	✓ 16a
16/02/2021	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	7:42 AM	8:05 AM	\$19.91	X
16/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	7:37 PM	7:55 PM	\$18.36	✓ 16a
17/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:18 PM	8:33 PM	\$18.81	✓ 16a
22/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:47 PM	9:02 PM	\$22.13	✓ 16a
23/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	7:56 PM	8:11 PM	\$25.80	✓ 16a
May 2021						
10/05/2021	JINDALEE	OFFICE	9:33 AM	9:59 AM	\$26.03	✓ 16c - travel with bag later in the day
11/05/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:01 PM	9:24 PM	\$23.00	✓ 16a
June 2021						
15/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:03 PM	8:21 PM	\$23.23	✓ 16a
16/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:12 PM	8:31 PM	\$26.03	✓ 16a

* Includes GST

Attachment C - [REDACTED] Staff Reimbursed taxi usage under review between February 2020 and February 2021

Departure Date	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*	Your Comments
February 2020					
4/02/2020	OFFICE	OFFICE	8:58 PM	\$24.84	✓16a
February 2021					
24/02/2021	KINGSTON	WATSON	9:36 PM	\$43.89	✓16a



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

23 December 2021

Senator Pauline Hanson
Senator for Queensland
Suite 3, Level 36
Waterfront Place 1 Eagle Street
Brisbane, QLD 4000

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of car transport at Commonwealth expense

Thank you for your letter of 7 October 2021 in response to IPEA's questions in relation to the use of taxi and ridesharing services by your employee, [REDACTED]. Having considered your response, IPEA has concerns that a number of instances of [REDACTED]'s use of taxis and ridesharing services may be inconsistent with the legislation under which it is provided. Many of these concerns relate to [REDACTED]'s travel to and from [REDACTED] place of work. I am therefore asking that you provide further information to assist in our assessment.

A *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* employee's entitlement to Car Transport, including taxis and regulated ridesharing services, is set out in the *Staff Travel and Relief Staff Arrangements Determination 2020/15* (the Determination). The provision has remained unchanged since [REDACTED] commenced employment. In accordance with the Determination, [REDACTED] is able to use Car Transport only when directed to do so by you, or a person authorised by you, for official business. The Determination provides that it is an employee's responsibility to transport him or herself to and from work for his or her normal hours of duty. This responsibility includes travel between accommodation and the office when travelling on business away from the work base.

You are therefore not able to direct [REDACTED] to use Car Transport to transport [REDACTED] to and from work, other than in one of the three circumstances set out at item 16 of Schedule A to the Determination. Specifically, these circumstances are:

- (a) the trip is approved for personal safety reasons (for example, where the risk to personal safety is significantly increased due to the requirement to work late); or
- (b) the employee is travelling on official business and scheduled public transport services are not readily available; or
- (c) the employee is travelling on official business and is carrying luggage to and/or from the office for the purpose of the trip.

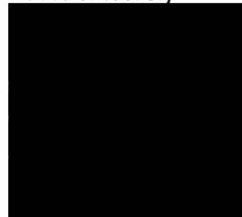
I have attached four schedules at **Attachment A** listing instances of **Staff**'s use of Car Transport that remain of concern to IPEA. At the foot of each schedule are questions to which I seek your response.

- Schedule 1 deals with travel to and from your office in Brisbane.
- Schedule 2 deals with travel to and from Parliament House.
- Schedule 3 deals with other travel within Canberra.
- Schedule 4 deals with sundry matters raised in your 7 October response.

On the basis of your response received on 7 October 2021, **Attachment B** lists trips that have been assessed, by IPEA as private travel undertaken by **Staff** and will be included in the invoice to be raised at the completion of this matter.

I appreciate your continued assistance regarding this matter. Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **21 January 2022**, or advise me prior to the date if you need more time.

Yours sincerely



Director, Audit and Assurance
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603





Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

SCHEDULE ONE – TRAVEL TO AND FROM YOUR OFFICE IN BRISBANE

August 2020	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
24/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	8:39 PM	\$27.09
25/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	7:29 PM	\$26.25
26/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	7:26 PM	\$28.14
27/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	5:49 PM	\$28.35
31/08/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	6:39 PM	\$27.20
September 2020				
2/09/2020	OFFICE	[REDACTED]	6:08 PM	\$28.14
3/09/2020	BRISBANE	[REDACTED]	6:04 PM	\$27.72

In your response you advised that the above trips were approved under Item 16(a), noting the arrival times, please explain how you believe "the risk to [REDACTED] personal safety is significantly increased" for the trips above when public transport is readily available?



SCHEDULE TWO – TRAVEL TO AND FROM PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Month	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
March 2017				
21/03/2017	CAPITAL HILL	KINGSTON	7:01 PM	\$13.97
February 2020				
5/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:09 PM	\$18.22
10/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:13 PM	\$33.71
11/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:36 PM	\$32.97
12/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:56 PM	\$31.34
25/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:44 PM	\$35.81
May 2020				
12/05/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:22 PM	\$18.48
13/05/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	8:23 PM	\$17.22
June 2020				
10/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	8:26 PM	\$21.79
11/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	7:52 PM	\$23.31
12/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	8:14 PM	\$22.05
16/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	7:46 PM	\$23.31
17/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	9:18 PM	\$23.63
18/06/2020	CAPITAL HILL	HUGHES	6:48 PM	\$21.00
November 2020				
10/11/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:23 PM	\$30.87
December 2020				
1/12/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:19 PM	\$32.34
7/12/2020	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:28 PM	\$34.44
February 2021				
2/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:10 PM	\$21.79
3/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:59 PM	\$19.60
16/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	7:55 PM	\$18.36
17/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:33 PM	\$18.81
22/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:02 PM	\$22.13
23/02/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:11 PM	\$25.80
May 2021				
11/05/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:24 PM	\$23.00
June 2021				
15/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:21 PM	\$23.23
16/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:31 PM	\$26.03
June 2021				
21/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	9:27 PM	\$36.96
23/06/2021	CAPITAL HILL	WATSON	8:32 PM	\$33.86

In your response you advised that the above trips were approved under Item 16(a), noting the arrival times and the availability of public transport departing Parliament House, please explain how you believe "the risk to [redacted] staff personal safety is significantly increased" for the trips above?



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SCHEDULE THREE – OTHER TRAVEL WITHIN CANBERRA

March 2017	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
22/03/2017	BARTON	KINGSTON	7:50 PM	\$14.70
October 2017				
16/10/2017	BARTON	WATSON	11:16 PM	\$33.18
November 2017				
27/11/2017	BARTON	WATSON	8:19 PM	\$32.13
28/11/2017	BRADDON	WATSON	7:18 PM	\$33.29
November 2020				
11/11/2020	GRIFFITH	WATSON	11:02 PM	\$47.57
February 2021				
24/02/2021	KINGSTON	WATSON	9:36 PM	\$43.89

None of the trips above involve travel to and from Parliament House and in the absence of any additional information have been assessed as private travel. Please provide any available information you have regarding these trips. If no additional information can be provided an invoice will be raised.



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SCHEDULE FOUR – SUNDRY MATTERS RAISED IN YOUR RESPONSE DATED 7 OCTOBER 2021

March 2017	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
20/03/2017	HOSPITAL	HOSPITAL	8:55 AM	\$31.19

In your response you wrote "This cannot be correct? No hospitals have been attended". The departure/arrival location is selected by the driver at the time of payment. The onus remains with the staff member to ensure the correct information is recorded at the time of payment. Had staff queried this with the cab/taxi driver at the time the correct information would have been recorded.

IPEA sought additional information from Cabcharge who are unable to provide anything further to clarify or confirm the departure and arrival locations. The time and fare amounts are consistent with others that you have nominated for repayment in your response dated 7 October 2021.

Can you provide any information as to why an invoice should not be raised? If no information is able to be provided, IPEA recommends that an invoice be raised for this trip.

December 2017	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
5/12/2017	SUBURBS	SUBURBS	7:08 PM	\$11.87

In your response you advised that the above trip was approved under Item 16(a), noting the arrival time, please explain how you believe "the risk to staff's personal safety is significantly increased" for the trip above when public transport is readily available?

February 2019	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
21/02/2019		BRISBANE	9:09 AM	\$24.15

In your response you wrote "16c Travel with bag for flight later in the day". IPEA records show staff travelled Brisbane to Canberra (day return) on 20 February 2019. IPEA records show no flight records for staff on 21 February 2019.

Please provide evidence of staff's flights for 21 February 2019. If no records are able to be provided, IPEA recommends that an invoice be raised for this trip.

February 2019	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
21/02/2019	HOME	BRISBANE	10:43 AM	\$13.86

IPEA can confirm that the journey travelling from "Home to Brisbane" arriving at 10:43am did occur and is listed against staff. It is the responsibility of the employee to retain control of their Cabcharge card.

As previously advised, the departure/arrival location is selected by the driver at the time of payment. The onus remains with the staff member to ensure the correct information is recorded at the time of payment. Had staff queried this with the cab/taxi driver at the time the correct information would have been recorded.

Please provide any additional information regarding this trip. If no information is able to be provided IPEA recommends that an invoice be raised for this trip.



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SCHEDULE FOUR – SUNDRY MATTERS RAISED IN YOUR RESPONSE DATED 7 OCTOBER 2021

April 2019	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
5/04/2019	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	8:46 AM	\$33.81

In your response you wrote “?? Appears to be travel with bag from flight that morning to EO. Cabc information is incorrect”. IPEA can confirm that [REDACTED] departed Canberra for Brisbane on 4 April 2019 at 12:15pm on-board Virgin Australia Flight VA1217.

As [REDACTED] returned to Brisbane on 4 April 2019, IPEA recommends that an invoice be raised for this trip.

July 2019	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
1/07/2019	WATSON	CAPITAL HILL	9:03 AM	\$34.97

In your response you wrote “16c Travel with bag for flight later in the day”. IPEA can confirm that [REDACTED] departed Brisbane for Canberra on 30 June 2019 at 7:20pm on-board Virgin Australia Flight VA1226. IPEA holds no flight records for [REDACTED] departing Canberra on 1 July 2019. IPEA can confirm that [REDACTED] departed Canberra for Brisbane on 5 July 2017 at 1:35pm on-board Virgin Australia Flight VA1217.

Please provide evidence of [REDACTED]’s flights for 1 July 2019. If no records are able to be provided IPEA recommends that an invoice be raised for this trip.

February 2020	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
4/02/2020	CAPITAL HILL	BRADDON	4:32 PM	\$18.80

In your response you referenced 16(b) for this particular trip. [REDACTED] travelled from Capital Hill to Braddon arriving at 4:32pm. Item 16 applies when travelling to and from work. Please advise how this trip meets the conditions set out in the Determination when scheduled public transport services are readily available in Canberra during the afternoon.

February 2020	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
4/02/2020	OFFICE	OFFICE	8:58 PM	\$24.84

In your response you advised that the above trip was approved under Item 16(a), noting the arrival time, please explain how you believe “the risk to [REDACTED]’s personal safety is significantly increased” for the trip above when public transport is readily available?

February 2020	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
14/02/2020	[REDACTED]	BRISBANE	9:22 AM	\$29.09

In your response you wrote “16c Travel with bag (return flight from CBR)”. IPEA can confirm that [REDACTED] departed Brisbane for Canberra on 13 February 2020 at 7:25pm on-board Virgin Australia Flight VA1227.

Please provide any additional information regarding [REDACTED]’s travel to the office on the morning of 14 February 2020. If no information is able to be provided IPEA recommends that an invoice be raised for this trip.



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ATTACHMENT B – MATTERS ASSESSED AS PRIVATE TRAVEL

August 2020	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
26/08/2020		BRISBANE	6:57 AM	\$29.51
27/08/2020		BRISBANE	6:59 AM	\$26.88
28/08/2020		BRISBANE	10:14 AM	\$26.25
31/08/2020		BRISBANE	7:00 AM	\$28.14
September 2020	Departure Location	Arrival Location	Arrival Time	Amount*
2/09/2020		BRISBANE	6:42 AM	\$27.09
3/09/2020		BRISBANE	6:42 AM	\$26.46

In your response, you listed the above trips as 16(b), please note that Item 16(b) schedule to the Determination does not apply in Brisbane. Item 16(b) can only be claimed when the employee is **travelling on official business** (ie. travelling away from [REDACTED] work base) and scheduled public transport services are not readily available. The Determination provides that it is an employee's responsibility to transport him or herself to and from work for his or her normal hours of duty.

These trips have been assessed as private travel and an invoice will be raised.

From: Pearson, Nicole
Sent: Friday, 28 January 2022 4:03 PM
To: Assurance
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: HPE CM: Fwd: Assurance Review - [REDACTED] Staff [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Categories: [REDACTED] Assurance Review

From: Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]
Date: 28 January 2022 at 3:40:50 pm AEDT
To: Pearson, Nicole <Nicole.Pearson@IPEA.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson), [REDACTED] staff [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - [REDACTED] Staff [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Nicole

Please find my response to the items that been queried. If I have missed any items please advise so I can appropriately address.

Schedule One

All of these trips were sitting weeks where I was participating remotely from my Brisbane Electorate Office due to Covid restrictions. [REDACTED] Staff also acts as my Whips Clerk which require [REDACTED] to start [REDACTED] duties earlier than normal and leave later than his normal hours during sitting weeks. All my staff was instructed not to use public transport in order keep them and others safe. I would consider these trips to be absolutely in line with work, health and safety concerns and personal safety reasons. In addition, I take into account the risk to his personal safety on his journey from my office to [REDACTED] home after nightfall.

Schedule Two

I state these trips are approved by me as I consider it to be unreasonable for my staff to put their personal safety at risk when leaving Parliament House after dark and not having access to their own personal vehicle. [REDACTED] Staff like most of my staff travel to their accommodation often with valuable electronic equipment and/or with sensitive documents. Therefore it is a work, health and safety concern that I must take into account when approving this travel.

It is my contention there is a risk to [REDACTED] personal safety and I am not prepared to expose my staff to danger of any kind under any circumstances. The words '*significantly increased*' is a subjective description that I believe is the case when my staff is dependent on public transport which is not collecting them at Parliament House and not delivering them directly to their accommodation after nightfall.

Schedule Three Please note the departure location described as 'Barton' is trips taken by [REDACTED] Staff from from Parliament House.

22/03/2017 – Approved by me in accordance with official business purposes (staff meetings) that took place outside of Parliament House at my request.

16/10/2017 – From Parliament House to [REDACTED] Staff's accommodation. These trips have my approval due to personal safety concerns as described above

27/11/2017 – Same as above

28/11/2017 – Approved by me in accordance with official business purposes (staff meetings) that took place outside of Parliament House at my request, which incorporates the personal safety concerns I have already described

11/11/2021 – Same as above

24/02/2021 – Same as above

Schedule Four

20/03/2017 – Given this was almost 5 years ago and it is hard to recollect exact details, I state that staff had already commenced work day in my Canberra office. If staff had to use cab charge it would have been to collect/or deliver a necessary item that was not available in Parliament House. Although there is no explanation for the trip description of hospital to hospital I am confident that this trip would have been undertaken with my knowledge and approval. I would consider this trip to be official business under the circumstances.

05/12/2017 - Approved by me in accordance with official business purposes (staff meetings) that took place outside of Parliament House at my request, which incorporates the personal safety concerns I have already described

21/02/2019 - Upon review it has been established that on 20 Feb 19 staff was instructed to attend Parliament House (flight from Brisbane and return that day) to collect necessary camera/lighting equipment that was left behind and urgently required by me for the following day. This equipment is large and bulky and would have required staff to use cab charge to safely transport this equipment from home to the electorate office.

21/02/2021 – In addition to the explanation above staff was required to transport this equipment once again from the EO to an address where it was required for use for my electorate duties.

05/04/2019 – Upon further review I have established that it was common practice for staff to bring back camera and communication equipment to the EO the next day after returning from Canberra. This equipment is not only valuable but extremely cumbersome that does not allow for a safe and practical transport on a bus or train.

01/07/2019 – Part of staff's responsibilities is to carry camera/lighting equipment that I have previously described. The trip on this date was to safely transport and the equipment to Parliament House.

04/02/2020 – staff was instructed to pick up a necessary item that was not available in Parliament House. I would consider this trip to be official business under the circumstances.

04/02/2020 – This trip was travel with my approval for personal safety reasons.

14/02/2020 – This was trip conducted on the day after staff's return from Canberra where staff was transporting camera/lighting equipment back to the EO. *Please note that staff was returning from Canberra on the 14 February not going to Canberra as suggested.

Attachment B

26/08/2020 – 03/09/2020 This was during a critical Covid-19 period in Brisbane and I was participating remotely from my EO. staff is my Whips Clerk and is vital to my Whip duties staff is needed to be physically present in the EO during sittings. All my staff was instructed not to use public transport in order keep them and others safe. I would consider these trips to be absolutely in line with work, health and safety concerns and personal safety reasons. Please see my notes addressing the trips in Schedule One.

Kind regards

Pauline Hanson
Senator for Queensland

Electorate Office

Suite 6, Level 36, Waterfront Place
1 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone (07) 3221 7644

Canberra Office (sitting weeks only)
(02) 6277 3182



From: Pearson, Nicole <Nicole.Pearson@IPEA.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 January 2022 1:09 PM
To: Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson) [REDACTED]; Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance Review - [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Senator Hanson

Thank you for your email of 11 January to [REDACTED]. I have agreed to your request for an extension of time to respond in relation to our Assurance Review and now seek your input by close of business 28 January 2022.

Please note that [REDACTED] is no longer with IPEA. [REDACTED] will commence acting as Director of the Audit and Assurance team on 24 January 2022.

Kind regards

Nicole Pearson

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

W: www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 January 2022 1:31 PM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in response. I intend to go through the attachments line by line and will correspond with you as soon as practicable. However, given the current workload that I and my staff are currently dealing with I am seeking an extension to my response to COB January 28, 2022.

In the meantime, should you have any further queries, please contact my office manager, [REDACTED]

Kind regards

Pauline Hanson
 Senator for Queensland

Electorate Office

Suite 6, Level 36, Waterfront Place
1 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone (07) 3221 7644

Canberra Office (sitting weeks only)
(02) 6277 3182



From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 December 2021 2:35 PM
To: Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson); Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Staff [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Dear Senator Hanson

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to our ongoing Assurance Review.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 2829 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Director, Audit and Assurance
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

E: [REDACTED]@ipea.gov.au

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 October 2021 3:46 PM
To: Assurance <assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson); Staff [REDACTED] (Sen P. Hanson)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Staff [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]

The completed paperwork in relation to [REDACTED]'s cabcharge/rideshare expenses is attached. The items have all been duly noted where they comply with Determination Item 16. The items noted with a ? indicate possible errors

from cabcharge and cannot be accounted for. The items marked x are charges that cannot be accounted for due to no records being unavailable due to the length of time elapsed (4 years).

Staff [REDACTED] understands [REDACTED] obligations and responsibilities in regard to these charges and has asked for an invoice for the items that cannot be accounted for to be sent to [REDACTED] in order for [REDACTED] to promptly reimburse IPEA.

If further information is required please contact [REDACTED] (Office Manager) [REDACTED] or at the Electorate office 07 3221 7644.

Kind regards

Pauline Hanson
Senator for Queensland

Electorate Office

Suite 6, Level 36, Waterfront Place
1 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone (07) 3221 7644

Canberra Office (sitting weeks only)
(02) 6277 3182



From: Assurance Assurance@ipea.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 9 September 2021 11:32 AM
To: Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]
Subject: Assurance Review - Staff [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

SEC=OFFICIAL

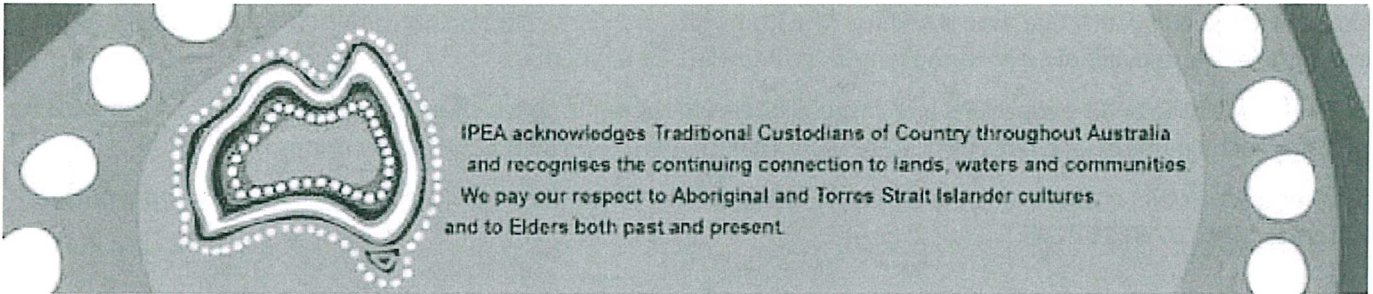
Dear Senator Hanson

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel that Staff [REDACTED] has undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Director, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 3000 | E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
www.ipea.gov.au



SEC=OFFICIAL

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: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 July 2022 1:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Pearson, Nicole; MOPSPolicy
Subject: HPE CM: RE: IPEA Assurance: Request for policy advice [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Fwd: Assurance Review - Staff [REDACTED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]; Attachment A - Senator Hanson.pdf; Attachment B.pdf; Workplace Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy.pdf

SEC=OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] forwarded your email on to me regarding IPEA's request for policy advice regarding the cab charges that Senator Hanson approved for [REDACTED] staff [REDACTED]

Senator Hanson has duties as an officer under the *Work Health Safety Act 2011* to ensure that the health and safety of her employees are not put at risk as a result of work carried out as part of their electorate duties. This information is outlined in the Workplace Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy that I have attached for your reference. The relevant information is at page 4 and 5 that outlines all of the duties of an officer.

Senator Hanson also has a duty to minimise the risk of work related violence and aggression to her employees. This reflects her concerns of the risk to [REDACTED] staff [REDACTED] whilst travelling at home late at night with valuable communication equipment.

Noting Senator Hanson's assurance of each of the relevant cab charges and her reasons for approving each charge, I consider this to align with her duties as a Parliamentarian to ensure the wellbeing and safety of her staff. The schedule 1 2 and 3 that provides details of travel both in Brisbane and in Canberra, is usually quite late at night for the whole of the period of 2017 to 2020. There is only two instances where [REDACTED] staff [REDACTED] left Parliament House before or around 7pm, both times during winter when it would have been dark.

As [REDACTED] was usually carrying bulky communications equipment at Senator Hanson's direction when there was low visibility, it appears reasonable for Senator Hanson to direct [REDACTED] to take a cab rather than public transport to ensure [REDACTED] personal safety and minimise risk of injury. This would also potentially make [REDACTED] a target for theft or other criminal activity and taking a cab minimises the likelihood of such an occurrence. Therefore, this also appears a reasonable direction to make by Senator Hanson.

Finally, I would hope that all Parliamentarians, regardless of their political party affiliation, would always take measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their MOP(S) employees.

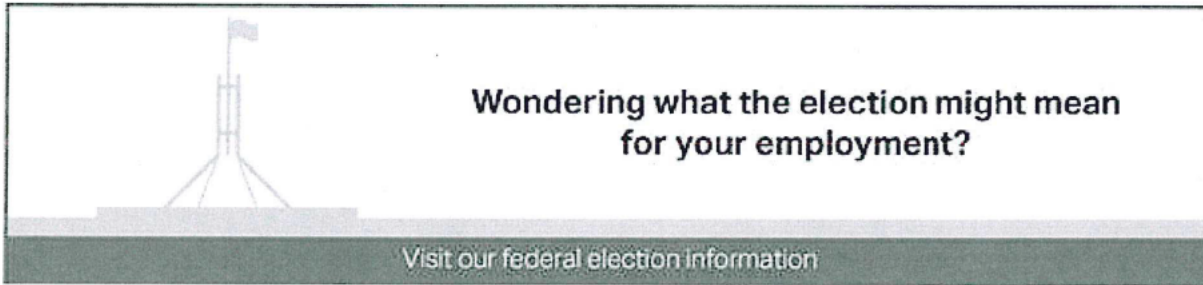
Happy to discuss this with you further if you have any other questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
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 HR Policy and Assurance
 HR Frameworks Branch
 Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
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