



## ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM – [2022/009]

Senator Pauline Hanson: Travel to Sydney in June 2022

Date: 14 December 2022

To: [REDACTED]  
Director, Audit and Assurance

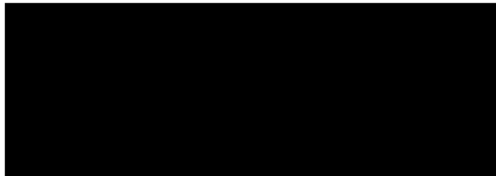
### RECOMMENDATION

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.

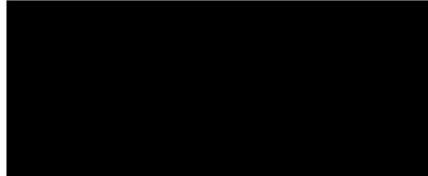
NOTED AND ACCEPTED AS CLOSED / ~~PLEASE DISCUSS~~

Prepared by:



Assurance Officer  
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch

Cleared by:



Director, Audit and Assurance  
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch

### SCOPE

1. This Assurance Review aims to assess Senator Hanson's use of parliamentary business resources to undertake travel to and within Sydney in June 2022 (the relevant period).

### PURPOSE

2. This assurance review aims to determine the dominant purpose of the travel that was undertaken by Senator Hanson for the relevant period.

### BACKGROUND

3. On 14 October 2022, the Sydney Morning Herald published an article titled, 'Pauline Hanson bills taxpayers for defamation case trip' (**Attachment 1**).

4. The article claimed that Senator Hanson was in Sydney to attend the Federal Court in relation to a defamation case brought against her by a former One Nation colleague, and that she had used taxpayer funds for flights and COMCAR.
5. A review of Senator Hanson's travel data for June 2022 indicated she accessed parliamentary business resources to fly from Brisbane to Sydney on 9 June 2022, and took 2 COMCAR trips within Sydney on 9 and 10 June 2022.

## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

6. The relevant legislative framework (Framework) comprises the following:
  - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act)
  - Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017 (Regulations)
  - Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 (Determination)

### Obligations

7. 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

8. "Parliamentary business" has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act. Activities that fall within the 4 duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the Determination as "parliamentary duties", "electorate duties", "party political duties", and "official duties".
9. Subsection 6(2) of the PBR Act further provides that an activity is not the parliamentary business of the member if it is carried out for the dominant purpose of providing a personal benefit to the member or another person or pursuing commercial purposes of the member or another person (or both).

## ANALYSIS

10. IPEA obtained data in relation to travel for Senator Hanson, covering the relevant period.
11. Based on available information, Senator Hanson used parliamentary business resources to travel to and within Sydney for the relevant period. IPEA notes she did not claim travel allowance during these periods.
12. On 28 October 2022, IPEA wrote to Senator Hanson to ask about her parliamentary business in Sydney for the relevant period (**Attachment 2**).

13. As no response was received, a second letter was sent on 18 November 2022 (**Attachment 3**).
14. As no response was received, a third letter was sent on 1 December 2022 (**Attachment 4**).
15. On 5 December 2022, a staff member from Senator Hanson's office called to discuss the recent letter and advise that a response would be provided by Senator Hanson.
16. On 8 December 2022, Senator Hanson sent a response to IPEA's letters (**Attachment 5**).  
The Senator's response stated the dominant purpose of her travel to Sydney for the relevant period was parliamentary business, as she was required to attend court for a matter related to comments she had made on the floor of the Senate in her capacity as Senator for Queensland and incidents that had occurred in Parliament House involving her staff.

## **CONCLUSION**

17. On the basis of Senator Hanson's response, in relation to her travel to Sydney in June 2022, IPEA is satisfied the dominant purpose was parliamentary business and was not inconsistent with the Framework.
18. IPEA notes that under the Framework, parliamentarians "must be prepared to justify publicly their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business" (subsection 25(3), PBR Act).



# The Sydney Morning Herald

CBD National City life

## Pauline Hanson bills taxpayers for defamation case trip

Kishor Napier-Raman and Noel Towell

October 14, 2022 – 5.00am

Every three months, we get a reminder that politicians have the privilege of being able to put all manner of perks, from travel to accommodation, on the taxpayer dime, thanks to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority. And the latest data has a few juicy tidbits.

First, an honourable mention to One Nation leader **Pauline Hanson**. After nearly being weeded out of the Senate by the Legalise Cannabis Party, and disappearing after a bout of COVID, she returned to the public eye at the Federal Court in Sydney for a defamation case brought against her by ex-One Nation colleague **Brian Burston**. Flights and Comcar travel from Brisbane were all paid for by the taxpayer.

Despite quitting parliament ahead of the election, former Northern Territory Senator **Sam McMahon**, whose home is in Katherine, was the biggest spender on travel allowance, charging \$38,621 for 96 nights away from home between January and May. We get the NT is big, but those frequent \$457-a-night stays in Darwin really do add up.

**George Christensen** used his final months as an MP to get a bit of help setting up his wannabe media empire, spending nearly \$20,000 worth of your money on high-quality video streaming software. We bet he made some cool stuff with that!

Former finance minister **Simon Birmingham** topped the domestic frequent flyer list, charging \$32,000 in air travel, much of that coming during the election campaign.



Illustration JOHN SHAKESPEARE

Little surprise that the biggest spenders on overseas travel were ministers from the current and former governments. And Greens Senator **Sarah Hanson-Young**, who charged \$7710 to attend the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow last year.

## Cultural Exchange

We were intrigued by news on Thursday that Australia's very own National Stock Exchange (NSX) had signed a joint venture agreement with Saudi Arabian corporate giant Ajlan & Bros to establish a second securities and commodities market in the kingdom.

Intrigued because NSX (not to be confused with the ASX, which is Australia's proper stock exchange) has had as long association with **John Karantzis**, the Aussie-Cypriot businessman whose brushes with authorities – the Tax Office, the Australian Securities and Investment Commission and the ASX itself – have made him a staple of the nation's business pages.

We know the Saudis have had their PR problems of late but we can't help wondering if they know what they're getting into.



Victor Dominello speaks at the Government Services Summit earlier this year. OLIVE + MAEVE

## Minister for Geeks

The soon-to-be retired NSW Customer Service Minister **Victor Dominello** has been described in another publication as the nation's geekiest politician, a characterisation the member for Ryde is proud of.

Which may help explain some of Dominello's recent investments – he has bought shares in **Elon Musk's** SpaceX. Given the multibillionaire's rocket ship company isn't publicly listed,

Dominello would have had to go through the process of buying off a private shareholder.

He also recently bought cryptocurrency – Bitcoin and Cardano to be precise. It hasn't been a great year for either, with Cardano hitting a 21-month low. Not the most lucrative investment for a post-parliamentary career.

## Climbing Everest

Nature Strip is odds-on to defend his crown at the \$15 million Everest Race in Sydney this Saturday. But among the upstarts hoping to pip the champion is three-year-old Jacquinot.

Once upon a time, Jacquinot was the horse no one wanted, but has turned things around, going undefeated in his third year, taking home more than \$1 million in prize money, and storming to victory at the recent Golden Rose.

That's all rather good news for some of his well-connected owners, which include former Westpac chair and BHP board member **Lindsay Maxsted**, former Westfield general counsel and current Racing NSW board member **Simon Tuxen** and Scentre Group's recently departed chief executive **Peter Allen**.

## DJs Play On

Speculation is mounting that Australian department store David Jones is soon to be offloaded by its South African parent company, and the punters at a soiree to re-launch the chain's Melbourne flagship shop on Wednesday evening were certainly left with that impression.



David Jones department store at Bourke Street Mall. EAMON GALLAGHER

Attendees were promised a “night like no other” as chief executive **Scott Fyfe** unveiled the \$50-million do-up and CBD’s informants on Bourke Street Mall agreed it was certainly unusual, likening the experience to a real estate open inspection, with guests barely being given time for a gulp of Veuve – or Tempus Two prosecco – before being marched to the next level.

Notables included former foreign minister **Julie Bishop**, still living her best life in the wake of her break-up with **David Panton** and who said she was “here for the fashion”, Melbourne Lord Mayor **Sally Capp**, **Lucy Feagins** from the Design Files, and **Joost Bakker** who did the flower display, which included fish, crickets and – true story – meal worms.

Fyfe raised eyebrows in his speech when he mentioned that DJs was the “oldest department store in the world still trading under its original name”, which we thought was worth a fact check, and his story checks out.

David Jones – established 1838 – is indeed older than places such as Harrods (1849), Liberty (1875) and even New York’s Macy’s (1858).

As for Selfridges, it’s a relative newcomer to the trade, founded in 1908.

***The Morning Edition newsletter is our guide to the day’s most important and interesting stories, analysis and insights. [Sign up here.](#)***



**Kishor Napier-Raman** is a CBD columnist for The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. Previously he worked as a reporter for Crikey, covering federal politics from the Canberra Press Gallery. Connect via [Twitter](#) or [email](#).



**Noel Towell** is Economics Editor for The Age. Connect via [Twitter](#).

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[Redacted]

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**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 11:14 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** Assurance  
**Subject:** Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** Letter 1 - IPEA to Senator Pauline Hanson - 28 October 2022.pdf; Attachment A - Summary of Travel - Senator Pauline Hanson - 28 October 2022.pdf

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Senator Pauline Hanson  
Senator for Queensland

Dear Senator

Please find **attached** 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 [Redacted] 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  
[Redacted]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive





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

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28 October 2022

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

Email: 

Dear Senator Hanson

**Assurance Review of travel expenses**

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has a 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 expenses incurred by you in relation to travel between Brisbane and Sydney on 9 June 2022, and COMCAR use within Sydney on 9 and 10 June 2022 (the relevant period).

**Attachment A** details your Commonwealth-funded travel 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*.

Please provide a written response via email to [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au), by close of business on 11 November 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, Assurance & Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

**Attachment A**  
Senator Pauline Hanson  
Assurance Review of travel expenses

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Brisbane	09/06/2022	10:05 AM	Sydney	09/06/2022	11:40 AM	\$331.63
COMCAR	Mascot	09/06/2022	11:40 AM	Sydney	09/06/2022	12:48 PM	\$77.73
COMCAR	Sydney	10/06/2022	3:18 PM	Mascot	10/06/2022	3:42 PM	\$60.30

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 9 to 10 June 2022?
2. With reference to the definition given by section 6 of the PBR Act, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 9 to 10 June 2022?  
Please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

[Redacted]

**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 November 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** Assurance  
**Subject:** Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** Second Letter - IPEA to Senator Hanson - 18 November 2022.PDF

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Senator

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 [Redacted] or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]  
Director, Audit & Assurance  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
[Redacted] | E: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

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**Cc:** Assurance  
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Senator Pauline Hanson  
Senator for Queensland

Dear Senator

Please find **attached** 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 [Redacted] or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]  
**Nicole Pearson**  
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
[Redacted]

**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**





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**Expenses Authority**

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18 November 2022

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

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator Hanson

**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.

Your response to IPEA's Assurance Review of Commonwealth-funded travel expenses, which you incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney from 2 to 5 October 2022, is now overdue.

In our original letter of 28 October 2022, we requested your response by 11 November 2022. There was a provision in our letter for you to request an extension if you required more time to prepare a written response. An extension was not requested.

Please provide a written response via email to [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au) by close of business on **25 November 2022**.

If a response is not received, IPEA may consider other options for progressing this matter. Further information about IPEA's statutory audit function is available on our website and at **Attachment A**.

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Director, Audit & Assurance  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

# 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	Assurance Review	Audit	Post-Payment Checks
<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>1. No further action</li> <li>2. Referral to more appropriate agency</li> <li>3. Assurance Review</li> </ol>	<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>1. No further action</li> <li>2. Administrative remedial action, including penalty</li> <li>3. An IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit</li> <li>4. Referral to the AFP</li> </ol>	<p>An Audit may commence for two main reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As the outcome of an Assurance Review</li> <li>2. 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>1. No further action</li> <li>2. Administrative remedial action, including penalty</li> <li>3. An IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit</li> <li>4. Referral to the AFP</li> </ol>	<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> <p><b>Referring to the Australian Federal Police</b></p> <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> <p><b>Making a Ruling</b></p> <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)



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 December 2022 1:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Assurance  
**Subject:** RE: Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** Third Letter - IPEA to Senator Pauline Hanson - 1 December 2022.pdf

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Senator

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 [REDACTED] or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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[REDACTED]  
Director, Audit & Assurance  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
[REDACTED] | E: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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**To:** [REDACTED]  
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**Subject:** Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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Yours sincerely

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[REDACTED]  
Director, Audit & Assurance  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
[REDACTED] | E: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

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

**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 11:14 AM

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

**Subject:** Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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Senator Pauline Hanson  
Senator for Queensland

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Yours sincerely

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**Nicole Pearson**

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
[REDACTED]

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**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**



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

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1 December 2022

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

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

**Outstanding Assurance Matter**

On 28 October 2022, IPEA wrote to you in relation to an assurance matter concerning travel expenses incurred by you for travel to and within Sydney in June 2022 (**Attachment A**). On 18 November 2022, I sent you a reminder letter. To date, IPEA is 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 **Thursday, 8 December 2022**, IPEA will raise an invoice for the relevant travel. Further information about IPEA's Statutory Audit Function is available on our website and at **Attachment B**.

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]  
Director, Audit & Assurance  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603 • Telephone 02 6215 3000  
[www.ipea.gov.au](http://www.ipea.gov.au)

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**



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**Expenses Authority**

---

28 October 2022

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

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator Hanson

**Assurance Review of travel expenses**

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has a 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 expenses incurred by you in relation to travel between Brisbane and Sydney on 9 June 2022, and COMCAR use within Sydney on 9 and 10 June 2022 (the relevant period).

**Attachment A** details your Commonwealth-funded travel 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*.

Please provide a written response via email to [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au), by close of business on 11 November 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

[REDACTED]

---

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

**Attachment A**  
Senator Pauline Hanson  
Assurance Review of travel expenses

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Brisbane	09/06/2022	10:05 AM	Sydney	09/06/2022	11:40 AM	\$331.63
COMCAR	Mascot	09/06/2022	11:40 AM	Sydney	09/06/2022	12:48 PM	\$77.73
COMCAR	Sydney	10/06/2022	3:18 PM	Mascot	10/06/2022	3:42 PM	\$60.30

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney from 9 to 10 June 2022?
2. With reference to the definition given by section 6 of the PBR Act, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 9 to 10 June 2022?  
Please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

# FACT SHEET – STATUTORY AUDIT FUNCTION

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	Assurance Review
<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>1. No further action</li> <li>2. Referral to more appropriate agency</li> <li>3. Assurance Review</li> </ol>	<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>1. No further action</li> <li>2. Administrative remedial action, including penalty</li> <li>3. An IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit</li> <li>4. Referral to the AFP</li> </ol>

Audit
<p>An Audit may commence for two main reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As the outcome of an Assurance Review</li> <li>2. As a systematic and comprehensive examination of the use of a specific category of a 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>1. No further action</li> <li>2. Administrative remedial action, including penalty</li> <li>3. An IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit</li> <li>4. Referral to the AFP</li> </ol>

Post-Payment Checks	Referring to the Australian Federal Police	Making a Ruling
<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>	<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>	<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>





[REDACTED]

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**From:** Hanson, Pauline (Senator) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 December 2022 3:07 PM  
**To:** Assurance  
**Subject:** RE: Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**Categories:** [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Regarding the assurance review of my travel to and within Sydney between the 9 - 10 June 2022, the dominant purpose of my travel was parliamentary duties that were related directly to my role as a member of parliament as described in section 6 (a)(i) of the Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017.

I was required to attend court for a matter related to comments I had made on the floor of the Senate in my capacity as a Senator for Queensland and incidents that had occurred in Parliament House involving my Senate office staff.

[Media reports](#) confirming my attendance in court in Sydney on this day are publicly available.

Kind regards

**Senator Pauline Hanson**

**One Nation Senator for Queensland**

Brisbane Electoral Office: 07 3221 7644

Canberra Office: 02 6277 3184 (sitting weeks only)

E: [REDACTED]



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**From:** Assurance  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 December 2022 12:13 PM  
**To:** Hanson, Pauline (Senator)  
**Cc:** Assurance  
**Subject:** RE: Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

Dear Senator

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 [REDACTED] or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Director, Audit & Assurance  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
[REDACTED] | E: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

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**From:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 November 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

Dear Senator

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 [REDACTED] or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

---

[REDACTED]  
Director, Audit & Assurance  
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority  
[REDACTED] | E: [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

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**From:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2022 11:14 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Assurance <[Assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:Assurance@ipea.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Assurance Review - Senator Pauline Hanson [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

Senator Pauline Hanson  
Senator for Queensland

Dear Senator

Please find **attached** 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 [REDACTED] or [assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

---

Nicole Pearson

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



**SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

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