

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Cabinet~~




OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CHIEF OF STAFF

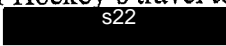
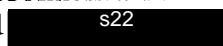
Reference: B15/632

01 APR 2015

Mr Grant Lovett
Chief of Staff
Office of the Treasurer
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Lovett


I refer to your correspondence dated 18 March 2015 seeking approval for the Treasurer, the Hon Joe Hockey MP, to travel to the United States to attend the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting and the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Spring meetings, and to conduct a bilateral meeting.

Approval has been given for Mr Hockey's travel to the United States of America from 11 to 20 April 2015, accompanied by  s22 Senior Adviser and  s22 Senior Media Adviser. It is noted that the estimated cost of the visit is \$57,231.

I note Mr Hockey's intention that his spouse, Ms Melissa Babbage, will accompany him on the visit and that he and Ms Babbage will meet the costs of Ms Babbage's travel personally, with no additional cost to the Commonwealth.

s34(3)

In the event that the nominated staff members are unable to accompany the Treasurer, your office is responsible for giving the Department of Finance the details of the staff members who will accompany the Treasurer. Email advice should be sent to emb@finance.gov.au. You should also keep this office informed in the event of any change.

It is the Prime Minister's expectation that the number of accompanying government officials will be kept to an efficient minimum and all international travel will be at business class or below.

Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600
Telephone (02) 6277 7700
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It has been agreed that the Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann, will act as Treasurer during Mr Hockey's absence overseas.

As Senator Cormann has not been sworn to administer the Department of the Treasury, it will be necessary to ensure that he is properly authorised under section 34AAB of the *Acts Interpretations Act 1901* to exercise Mr Hockey's statutory powers and functions while he is absent.

A checklist is provided at Attachment A to assist you with finalising the travel arrangements.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to Senator Cormann's office for information.

Yours sincerely

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Ministerial Overseas Travel Checklist

	Requirement	Done/ Not applicable
Absent from Parliament	Leave should be sought from Chief Government Whip in the House of Representatives or the Government Whip in the Senate.	
s34(3)		
Acting arrangements	The minister to act must be properly authorised under section 34AAB of the <i>Acts Interpretations Act 1901</i> in order to exercise statutory powers of absent minister. Ministerial offices or the portfolio department should prepare the documentation.	
Hospitality	Acceptance should be subject to normal declaration of interests procedures. For further information contact the appropriate House of Representatives or Senate Registrar.	
Change of staff member/s travelling	Details of staff member/s to accompany the Minister should be emailed to emb@finance.gov.au and copies to the Prime Minister's Office.	