

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2015 9:35 AM
To: s 22
Subject: FW: entitlements brief ~~[SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Personal]~~
Attachments: pmc1282_18-09-2015_9-13-11.pdf; B15-1983 FR 3 1419186-1.DOCX; B15-1983 AB 2 1419180-1.DOCX

Importance: High

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Personal~~

s 22 – for printing

From: Rush, Peter
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2015 9:22 AM
To: s 22
Cc: Lynch, Philippa
Subject: entitlements brief ~~[SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Personal]~~
Importance: High

~~PROTECTED Sensitive: Personal~~

s 22 attached is brief from Michael to PM re former PM entitlements, as discussed. Grateful if you could hold close and process in PMO. Note that watermarks need to be removed from final of letter and attachment. I will keep Slipstream item with me, so send signed finals etc back to me for closing. Cheers - Rush

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~Ref: B15/1983
Routine/Low Complexity**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**PM&C
Secretary
Ms Kelly
Ms Lynch
Mr Rush**To:** Prime Minister (for decision)PMO
A/g CoS**FORMER PRIME MINISTER'S ENTITLEMENTS - MR ABBOTT**

File

Recommendations - that you:

1. Agree to a package of entitlements for Mr Abbott, as a former prime minister, while he remains in the Parliament, with two more staff than normally allowed a member of Parliament, as set out in Attachment B.

Agreed / Not Agreed

2. Sign the attached letter to Mr Abbott (Attachment A) outlining his entitlements.

Signed / Not Signed

MALCOLM TURNBULL

Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

1. You have the discretion to decide on certain benefits for your predecessor.
2. A standard package of entitlements has evolved for former prime ministers who have left Parliament, subject to minor variations by the incumbent prime minister, comprising:
 - a. office accommodation, including equipment and facilities; and
 - b. three ongoing staff members (adviser, assistant adviser and driver/executive assistant) plus one additional staff member (senior adviser) for 12 months to assist with the transition.
3. There are fewer and varying precedents for former prime ministers while they remain in Parliament.
4. While Mr Abbott remains in Parliament, he continues to be entitled to an electorate office, four electorate staff and other standard entitlements of a member of Parliament.
5.

s 22

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 Before then, there was little convention because the case of a prime minister staying in Parliament has not been common.
6. A former prime minister does face additional demands and these are probably increasing over time. It would be reasonable to help Mr Abbott deal with these demands.

s 47C

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 I suggest you approve two extra staff (adviser and assistant adviser) to help

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him. Your letter to Mr Abbott (attached at A) and the package of entitlements (attached at B) are drafted accordingly and would need to be amended if you decide differently.

s 22

Michael Thawley
Secretary

Policy Officer: Peter Rush
Phone no: s 22

17 September 2015

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A DRAFT LETTER

ATTACHMENT B DRAFT PACKAGE OF ENTITLEMENTS

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Member for Warringah
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Abbott

This letter is to advise you of your additional entitlements, while you remain in Parliament.

I appreciate that, as a former prime minister, there will be demands on you over and above the usual responsibilities of a Member of Parliament.

s 47C

s 47C

Should you require any assistance with the provision of these entitlements, your staff could contact Mr Jason Ford, Assistant Secretary of the Entitlements Management Branch in the Department of Finance on s 22.

I have copied this letter to the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson.

Yours sincerely

MALCOLM TURNBULL

FORMER PRIME MINISTER THE HONOURABLE TONY ABBOTT MP

ENTITLEMENTS WHILE IN THE PARLIAMENT

For the purpose of the benefits listed below, *official business* means business undertaken in the capacity as a former Prime Minister. Benefits provided at Australian Government expense are not to be used for commercial purposes.

These entitlements are in addition to the entitlements provided to the former Prime Minister as a Member of Parliament. Upon leaving Parliament or becoming an officeholder, the entitlements of the former Prime Minister will be reviewed by the incumbent Prime Minister.

Travel

Travel—former Prime Minister

- Scheduled commercial services within Australia, excluding the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), when travelling on official business as a former Prime Minister. The cost of travel is limited to the cost of a business class airfare for the most reasonable and usual route between the departure and destination points, or the cost of an economy class airfare where no business class airfare is published (other than where a former Prime Minister cannot travel by air on medical grounds, in which case the Special Minister of State may approve payment of the full fare on an alternative mode, or modes, of transport);
- Car-with-driver transport within Australia, excluding the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), when travelling on official business as a former Prime Minister, other than within the town or city in which the former Prime Minister resides or has an electorate office or an official office; and
- Car transport for specific journeys only when travelling overseas on official business as a former Prime Minister in locations where an overseas post maintains a vehicle fleet.

Travelling Allowance—former Prime Minister

- In addition to any travelling allowance entitlement a former Prime Minister has in his or her capacity as a Member of Parliament, provided under the relevant Remuneration Tribunal determination,¹ travelling allowance at the rate set by the Remuneration Tribunal for specified office holders for each overnight stay away from his or her home base that is primarily occasioned by travel on official business as a former Prime Minister. Travelling Allowance cannot be claimed as a former Prime Minister and as a Member of Parliament for the same overnight stay.

In order for the specified office holder rate of travelling allowance to be paid, the former Prime Minister must note on the travelling allowance claim submitted to Ministerial and

¹ The current determination is *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2015/12: Members of Parliament – Travelling Allowance* and is available on the Remuneration Tribunal website at <http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/> and is outlined in the *Senators and Members' Entitlements* handbook, available on the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services website at <http://maps.finance.gov.au/>.

Parliamentary Services (M&PS) of the Department of Finance that his or her overnight stay was primarily occasioned by official business as a former Prime Minister.

Travel—spouse or de facto partner of the former Prime Minister

- Scheduled commercial services within Australia, excluding the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), to accompany or join the former Prime Minister who is travelling on official business as a former Prime Minister. The cost of travel is limited to the cost of a business class airfare for the most reasonable and usual route between the departure and destination points, or the cost of an economy class airfare where no business class airfare is published (other than where a spouse or de facto partner of a former Prime Minister cannot travel by air on medical grounds, in which case the Special Minister of State may approve payment of the full fare on an alternative mode, or modes, of transport).
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In addition to the standard entitlement to electorate officer positions as a Member of Parliament, the following personal employee positions:

s 47C

- one position not above the level of Assistant Adviser.

The salaries of these positions are set out in the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2012-2015* (Enterprise Agreement),² or successive agreements (as applicable). These positions will carry an entitlement to Parliamentary Staff Allowance for reasonable additional hours of work in accordance with the Enterprise Agreement.

Persons employed in these positions may have a work base in a different location to the former Prime Minister's office. Working from home is subject to approval under the current Enterprise Agreement and Enterprise Agreement Guidelines and requires the approval of the Special Minister of State in accordance with the Guidelines.

Where an employee is absent on approved leave for a period of 12 weeks or more, a person may be temporarily employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* to fill the vacancy.

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Other than where provided in this letter, the usual terms and conditions that apply to travel by *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* employees apply.³

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Equipment

- A mobile telephone or a smartphone, of a type approved by the Presiding Officers, or Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card for use in a personally-owned device, and a laptop computer for use by each personal employee position allocated to the former Prime Minister at a level of Assistant Adviser or above.

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- A security assessment of the former Prime Minister's principal residence and the office accommodation provided at Commonwealth expense and provision of security enhancements arising from recommendations made by the relevant area of the Attorney-General's Department.

³ Refer to MOP(S) Act Determination 2015/10 Staff Travel and Relief Staff Arrangements on the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services website.

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Importance: High

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Yours sincerely

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s 47C

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Security

- A security assessment of the former Prime Minister's principal residence and the office accommodation provided at Commonwealth expense and provision of security enhancements arising from recommendations made by the relevant area of the Attorney-General's Department.

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s 22

From: Rush, Peter
Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2015 10:17 AM
To: s 22
Subject: Brief for s 22 ~~(SEC-PROTECTED, DLM-Sensitive, Personal)~~
Attachments: B15-1983 BR 1 1418140-3.DOCX; B15-1983 AB 2 1419180-2.DOCX; B15-1983 FR 3 1419186-2.DOCX; B15-1983 BR 5 1428833-1.PDF

Importance: High

~~PROTECTED Sensitive, Personal~~

s 22 as discussed, I would be grateful if you could print out the attached brief (and letter and attachment), which has been redrafted following my conversation with s 22 this morning, and pass to s 22 for me. Also slipstreamed direct to you. Cheers - Rush

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~

Ref: B15/1983

Routine/Low Complexity

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINETPM&C
Secretary
Ms Kelly
Ms Lynch
Mr RushPMO
A/g CoS

File

To: Prime Minister (for decision)**FORMER PRIME MINISTER'S ENTITLEMENTS - MR ABBOTT****Recommendations - that you:**

1. Agree to a package of entitlements for Mr Abbott, as a former prime minister, while he remains in the Parliament, with two more staff than normally allowed a member of Parliament, as set out in Attachment B.

Agreed / Not Agreed

2. Sign the attached letter to Mr Abbott (Attachment A) outlining his entitlements.

Signed / Not Signed

MALCOLM TURNBULL

Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

1. You have the discretion to decide on certain benefits for your predecessor.
2. A standard package of entitlements has evolved for former prime ministers who have left Parliament, subject to minor variations by the incumbent prime minister, comprising:
 - a. office accommodation, including equipment and facilities; and
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7. Your letter to Mr Abbott (attached at A) and the package of entitlements (attached at B) are drafted accordingly and would need to be amended if you decide differently.

Elizabeth Kelly
Deputy Secretary, Governance

Policy Officer: Peter Rush
Phone no: [REDACTED] s 22

September 2015

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A DRAFT LETTER

ATTACHMENT B DRAFT PACKAGE OF ENTITLEMENTS

FORMER PRIME MINISTER THE HONOURABLE TONY ABBOTT MP

ENTITLEMENTS WHILE IN THE PARLIAMENT

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In addition to the standard entitlement to electorate officer positions as a Member of Parliament, the following personal employee positions:

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I appreciate that, as a former prime minister, there will be demands on you over and above the usual responsibilities of a Member of Parliament.

In addition to your standard entitlements as a Member to an electorate office and four staff, you can employ two additional staff members (senior adviser for no longer than 12 months and assistant adviser) to support you in your role as a former prime minister. Further details of the range of entitlements I have approved are attached.

If your circumstances change, I will write to you again about revised arrangements.

Should you require any assistance with the provision of these entitlements, your staff could contact Mr Jason Ford, Assistant Secretary of the Entitlements Management Branch in the Department of Finance on s 22

I have copied this letter to the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson.

Yours sincerely

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Policy Officer: Peter Rush
Phone no: s 22

29 September 2015

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Travel—former Prime Minister

- Scheduled commercial services within Australia, excluding the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), when travelling on official business as a former Prime Minister. The cost of travel is limited to the cost of a business class airfare for the most reasonable and usual route between the departure and destination points, or the cost of an economy class airfare where no business class airfare is published (other than where a former Prime Minister cannot travel by air on medical grounds, in which case the Special Minister of State may approve payment of the full fare on an alternative mode, or modes, of transport);
- Car-with-driver transport within Australia, excluding the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), when travelling on official business as a former Prime Minister, other than within the town or city in which the former Prime Minister resides or has an electorate office or an official office; and
- Car transport for specific journeys only when travelling overseas on official business as a former Prime Minister in locations where an overseas post maintains a vehicle fleet.

Travelling Allowance—former Prime Minister

- In addition to any travelling allowance entitlement a former Prime Minister has in his or her capacity as a Member of Parliament, provided under the relevant Remuneration Tribunal determination,¹ travelling allowance at the rate set by the Remuneration Tribunal for specified office holders for each overnight stay away from his or her home base that is primarily occasioned by travel on official business as a former Prime Minister. Travelling Allowance cannot be claimed as a former Prime Minister and as a Member of Parliament for the same overnight stay.

In order for the specified office holder rate of travelling allowance to be paid, the former Prime Minister must note on the travelling allowance claim submitted to Ministerial and

¹ The current determination is *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2015/12: Members of Parliament – Travelling Allowance* and is available on the Remuneration Tribunal website at <http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/> and is outlined in the *Senators and Members' Entitlements* handbook, available on the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services website at <http://maps.finance.gov.au/>.

Parliamentary Services (M&PS) of the Department of Finance that his or her overnight stay was primarily occasioned by official business as a former Prime Minister.

Travel—spouse or de facto partner of the former Prime Minister

- Scheduled commercial services within Australia, excluding the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), to accompany or join the former Prime Minister who is travelling on official business as a former Prime Minister. The cost of travel is limited to the cost of a business class airfare for the most reasonable and usual route between the departure and destination points, or the cost of an economy class airfare where no business class airfare is published (other than where a spouse or de facto partner of a former Prime Minister cannot travel by air on medical grounds, in which case the Special Minister of State may approve payment of the full fare on an alternative mode, or modes, of transport).
- Where a former Prime Minister has qualified for a Life Gold Pass, a maximum of 40 domestic return trips to Canberra per year on scheduled commercial services to accompany or join the former Prime Minister, as provided by item 2 of subsection 12(2) of the *Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Act 2002*.
- Car-with-driver transport within Australia excluding the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), when travelling to accompany or join a former Prime Minister who is travelling on official business as a former Prime Minister.

Employees

In addition to the standard entitlement to electorate officer positions as a Member of Parliament, the following personal employee positions:

- one position not above the level of Senior Adviser, non-ongoing for a period of no longer than 12 months; and
- one position not above the level of Assistant Adviser, ongoing.

The salaries of these positions are set out in the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2012-2015* (Enterprise Agreement),² or successive agreements (as applicable). These positions will carry an entitlement to Parliamentary Staff Allowance for reasonable additional hours of work in accordance with the Enterprise Agreement.

Persons employed in these positions may have a work base in a different location to the former Prime Minister's office. Working from home is subject to approval under the current Enterprise Agreement and Enterprise Agreement Guidelines and requires the approval of the Special Minister of State in accordance with the Guidelines.

Where an employee is absent on approved leave for a period of 12 weeks or more, a person may be temporarily employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* to fill the vacancy.

² The current Enterprise Agreement, the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2012-2015*, is available on the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services website at <http://maps.finance.gov.au>.

Persons employed in these positions are permitted to hold outside employment provided they have the written agreement of the former Prime Minister to do so. Reasonable steps should be taken to disclose and avoid any real or apparent conflict of interests.

Employee travel

Other than where provided in this letter, the usual terms and conditions that apply to travel by *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* employees apply.³

One nominated electorate employee may travel as directed anywhere within Australia on official business without debit from the Electorate Staff Travel Budget. The nomination of the electorate employee is subject to the same arrangements applying to the nomination of an electorate employee of a Minister under MOP(S) Act Determination 2015/10 *Staff Travel and Relief Staff Arrangements* (or its successor).

Equipment

- A mobile telephone or a smartphone, of a type approved by the Presiding Officers, or Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card for use in a personally-owned device, and a laptop computer for use by each personal employee position allocated to the former Prime Minister at a level of Assistant Adviser or above.

Security

- A security assessment of the former Prime Minister's principal residence and the office accommodation provided at Commonwealth expense and provision of security enhancements arising from recommendations made by the relevant area of the Attorney-General's Department.

³ Refer to MOP(S) Act Determination 2015/10 Staff Travel and Relief Staff Arrangements on the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services website.

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~Ref: B15/1983
Routine/Low Complexity

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C
Secretary
Ms Kelly
Ms Lynch
Mr Rush

To: Prime Minister (for decision)


PMO
A/g CoS

FORMER PRIME MINISTER'S ENTITLEMENTS - MR ABBOTT

File


Recommendations - that you:

1. Agree to a package of entitlements for Mr Abbott, as a former prime minister, while he remains in the Parliament, with two more staff than normally allowed a member of Parliament, as set out in Attachment B.

 Agreed / Not Agreed

2. Sign the attached letter to Mr Abbott (Attachment A) outlining his entitlements.

s 22

 Signed / Not Signed

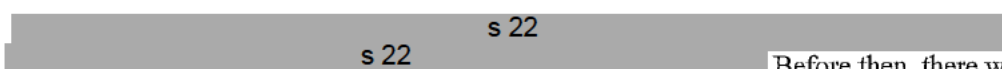
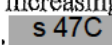

MALCOLM TURNBULL

Date:

29.9.15

Comments:

Key Points:

1. You have the discretion to decide on certain benefits for your predecessor.
2. A standard package of entitlements has evolved for former prime ministers who have left Parliament, subject to minor variations by the incumbent prime minister, comprising:
 - a. office accommodation, including equipment and facilities; and
 - b. three ongoing staff members (adviser, assistant adviser and driver/executive assistant) plus one additional staff member (senior adviser) for 12 months to assist with the transition.
3. There are fewer and varying precedents for former prime ministers while they remain in Parliament.
4. While Mr Abbott remains in Parliament, he continues to be entitled to an electorate office, four electorate staff and other standard entitlements of a member of Parliament.
5.  s 22 Before then, there was little convention because the case of a prime minister staying in Parliament has not been common.
6. A former prime minister does face additional demands and these are probably increasing over time. It would be reasonable to help Mr Abbott deal with these demands.  s 47C
 s 47C we suggest you approve two extra staff (senior adviser for no longer than 12 months and assistant adviser) to help him.

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~

7. Your letter to Mr Abbott (attached at A) and the package of entitlements (attached at B) are drafted accordingly and would need to be amended if you decide differently.

s 22

Elizabeth Kelly
Deputy Secretary, Governance

Policy Officer: Peter Rush
Phone no: s 22

29 September 2015

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A DRAFT LETTER

ATTACHMENT B DRAFT PACKAGE OF ENTITLEMENTS

~~PROTECTED Sensitive Personal~~



PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Member for Warringah
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Abbott

Tony
This letter is to advise you of your additional entitlements, while you remain in Parliament.

I appreciate that, as a former prime minister, there will be demands on you over and above the usual responsibilities of a Member of Parliament.

In addition to your standard entitlements as a Member to an electorate office and four staff, you can employ two additional staff members (senior adviser for no longer than 12 months and assistant adviser) to support you in your role as a former prime minister. Further details of the range of entitlements I have approved are attached.

If your circumstances change, I will write to you again about revised arrangements.

Should you require any assistance with the provision of these entitlements, your staff could contact Mr Jason Ford, Assistant Secretary of the Entitlements Management Branch in the Department of Finance on s 22

I have copied this letter to the Special Minister of State, the Hon Mal Brough MP.

Yours sincerely

s 22

MALCOLM TURNBULL

FORMER PRIME MINISTER THE HONOURABLE TONY ABBOTT MP

ENTITLEMENTS WHILE IN THE PARLIAMENT

For the purpose of the benefits listed below, *official business* means business undertaken in the capacity as a former Prime Minister. Benefits provided at Australian Government expense are not to be used for commercial purposes.

These entitlements are in addition to the entitlements provided to the former Prime Minister as a Member of Parliament. Upon leaving Parliament or becoming an officeholder, the entitlements of the former Prime Minister will be reviewed by the incumbent Prime Minister.

Travel

Travel—former Prime Minister

- Scheduled commercial services within Australia, excluding the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), when travelling on official business as a former Prime Minister. The cost of travel is limited to the cost of a business class airfare for the most reasonable and usual route between the departure and destination points, or the cost of an economy class airfare where no business class airfare is published (other than where a former Prime Minister cannot travel by air on medical grounds, in which case the Special Minister of State may approve payment of the full fare on an alternative mode, or modes, of transport);
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Parliamentary Services (M&PS) of the Department of Finance that his or her overnight stay was primarily occasioned by official business as a former Prime Minister.

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Equipment

- A mobile telephone or a smartphone, of a type approved by the Presiding Officers, or Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card for use in a personally-owned device, and a laptop computer for use by each personal employee position allocated to the former Prime Minister at a level of Assistant Adviser or above.

Security

- A security assessment of the former Prime Minister's principal residence and the office accommodation provided at Commonwealth expense and provision of security enhancements arising from recommendations made by the relevant area of the Attorney-General's Department.

³ Refer to MOP(S) Act Determination 2015/10 Staff Travel and Relief Staff Arrangements on the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services website.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



PRIME MINISTER

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Member for Warringah
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

15 OCT 2015

Dear Mr Abbott

Thank you for your letter of 12 October 2015 regarding staffing and logistics.

In recognition of your particular circumstances I am agreeable to providing additional access to Comcar while you remain an MP for travel to and from official events in Sydney, when you attend those events in your capacity as a former Prime Minister.

s 47F

s 47F

Yours sincerely
s 22

MALCOLM TURNBULL

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C
Secretary
Ms Kelly
Ms Lynch
Mr Rush
Ms Ganly

To: Chief of Staff (for decision)

**RESPONSE TO SENATE QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 3168 AND 3470 –
ENTITLEMENTS FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER, MR ABBOTT**

PMO
Mr Clarke
s 22

Recommendation - that you agree to the proposed response to Senate Question on Notice No. 3168 and 3470 at Attachment A being tabled.

Agreed / Not Agreed

DREW CLARKE

Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

1. Senator the Hon Penny Wong asked the Minister representing the Prime Minister in the Senate a Question on Notice on 5 April 2016 regarding the entitlements for former Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP.
2. The full text of the question and the proposed response is at Attachment A.
3. The response was due to be tabled on 5 May 2016.
 - a. The question lapsed when Parliament was prorogued and Senator Wong resubmitted the question and the due date is based on the original lodgement date.
4. The Prime Minister authorised you on 22 September 2015 to agree responses to Parliamentary Questions on Notice.

Elizabeth Kelly
Deputy Secretary
Governance Group
6 May 2016

Contact Officer: Peter Rush
Phone no: s 22

Minister representing the Prime Minister in the Senate

SENATE QUESTION

Entitlements for former Prime Minister, Mr Abbott

Question No. 3168 and 3470

Senator the Hon Penny Wong asked the Minister representing the Prime Minister in the Senate on 5 April 2016:

With reference to the answer to question no. 87 taken on notice during the Supplementary Budget estimates hearings of the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee in October 2015, what 'package of entitlements' did Mr Turnbull approve for Mr Abbott on 29 September 2015, and if the package of entitlements has been varied since approval, can details be provided including the date of variation.

Senator the Hon George Brandis QC - The Prime Minister has provided the following answer to the Honourable Senator's question:

The Prime Minister is advised by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet that:

Mr Abbott's entitlements have not been varied and remain as advised in the answer to question no. 87 taken on notice during the Supplementary Budget estimates hearings of the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee in October 2015.

Brief Number

Former Prime Minister's Entitlements (including staff)

Talking Points

- The Prime Minister has the discretion to decide on certain benefits for his or her predecessor, to help them meet the additional demands of being a former Prime Minister.
 - These are in addition to those they receive in common with other parliamentarians (while they remain in Parliament) and other statutory entitlements (including superannuation and travel entitlements upon retirement).
- A standard package of entitlements has evolved for former Prime Ministers who have left Parliament, subject to minor variations by the incumbent Prime Minister, comprising:
 - office accommodation, including equipment and facilities; and
 - three ongoing staff members (adviser, assistant adviser and driver/executive assistant) plus one additional staff member (senior adviser) for 12 months to assist with the transition.
- There are fewer and varying precedents for former Prime Ministers while they remain in Parliament.

Mr Abbott

- Prime Minister Turnbull wrote to Mr Abbott on 29 September 2015 outlining his entitlements as a former Prime Minister remaining in the Parliament.
 - In addition to the standard four electorate staff for an MP, Mr Abbott is provided with two additional staff members: one Assistant Adviser ongoing and one Senior Adviser non-ongoing for 12 months. His entitlements do not include an office in addition to his electorate and parliament offices.

s 22

s 22



Background

A comparison of the entitlements provided to former Prime Ministers
s 22 and Abbott is at Attachment A.

s 22

Elizabeth Kelly
Deputy Secretary Governance

14 October 2015

Contact Officer: Peter Rush
Consultation: Finance (MaPS)

s 22

Former Prime Ministers' Entitlements 2007-2015

Former PM	s 22	Tony Abbott <i>while in Parliament</i>
Approval		Agreed by Mr Turnbull 29 Sept 2015
Employees		In addition to entitlement to four electorate officer positions: - One Assistant Adviser - One Senior Adviser for a period of 12 months.
Office accommodation and equipment		In addition to standard entitlement to electorate office: - Mobile telephone and a laptop computer for use by

Former PM		Tony Abbott <i>while in Parliament</i>
		each personal employee position at a level of Assistant Adviser and above.
Air travel		- Business class travel on scheduled commercial services within Australia, including the external territories (Norfolk Island, Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands), when travelling on official business as a former PM.
Car transport		- Car-with-driver transport within Australia for official business as a

Former PM

Tony Abbott
while in Parliament

former PM, other than in the city in which former PM has an electorate office or an official office; and

- Car transport for specific journeys only when travelling overseas on official business as a former PM in locations where an overseas post maintains a vehicle fleet.

Former PM		Tony Abbott <i>while in Parliament</i>
Travelling allowance		Travelling allowance at the rate for specified office holders for each overnight stay away from his home base primarily occasioned by travel on official business as a former PM.
Travel – spouse or de facto partner of former PM		<p>- Business class travel on scheduled commercial services within Australia, excluding the external territories, to accompany or join the former PM who is travelling on official business as a former PM; and</p> <p>- Car-with-driver transport within Australia excluding the external territories, when travelling to accompany or join the former PM who</p>

Former PM		Tony Abbott <i>while in Parliament</i>
		is travelling on official business as a former PM.
Employee travel		- One nominated electorate employee may travel as directed anywhere within Australia on official business without debit from the Electorate Staff Travel Budget.
Security		A security assessment of the former PM's principal residence and the office accommodation provided at Commonwealth expense and provision of security enhancements arising from recommendations made by AGD.