

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN — VEHICLE ALLOWANCE

1760. Dr M.D. Nahan to the Speaker:

- (1) Will the Speaker provide a list of ministers, including the Premier, who have received a car allowance in addition to having access to a ministerial car? If not, why not?
- (2) Will the Speaker provide a list of ministers, including the Premier, who have repaid the car allowance? If not, why not?
- (3) Will the Speaker provide a list of ministers, including the Premier, from part (2) who paid the allowance back before 12 May 2017? If not, why not?

Mr P.B. Watson replied:

- (1) As Speaker I can only answer the question with respect to Ministers who are members of the Legislative Assembly.

As Speaker, I am not responsible for the provision of cars to Ministers.

The Clerk of each House of Parliament is the Accountable Authority responsible for administering certain payments to Members under determination made by the Salaries and Allowance Tribunal (SAT) under the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*. This includes payments of the motor vehicle allowance under the determination made on 1 December 2016 and effective as from 12 March 2017, the day after the WA State General Election.

Certain office holders have a vehicle supplied by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in an arrangement separate to and independent of the SAT determination and administered by that department. The Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is the accountable authority in respect of the supply of those vehicles. The office holders entitled to access this arrangement are the two Presiding Officers, the 17 Ministers of the Crown and the Leader of the Official Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

On 18 May 2017 the SAT issued a variation to its determination made on 1 December 2016 in respect of the motor vehicle allowance. This variation altered the entitlement of certain office holders to the motor vehicle allowance as from that date so that a Member appointed to an office for which a Government vehicle has been supplied under arrangements separate to the determination would no longer be entitled to the motor vehicle allowance. Exceptions are provided to Regional Member office holders in the event that the tribunal approves an application from the office holder to receive the allowance so as to satisfy motor vehicle requirements in the Member's electoral region or district. It should be noted that those Members with a pre-existing privately plated leased vehicle are not entitled to the motor vehicle allowance until the expiration of the vehicle lease.

As noted above, the Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is the accountable authority in respect of the supply of those vehicles. I have therefore relied on the following information. On 27 June 2017, Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked a Question Without Notice (No. 309) to the Leader of the House representing the Premier in the following form:

“I refer to the Department of Premier and Cabinet Executive Transport Service, formerly the Government Garage.

- (1) On what date was each minister or office holder provided with a departmental vehicle?
- (2) On what date did each minister or office holder cease to have access to a departmental motor vehicle, if applicable?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

“I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet advises as follows.

- (1) On 20 March 2017, all ministers, excluding the Premier and Minister Ellery, were provided with a vehicle as a minister. Minister Ellery was provided with a vehicle on 27 March 2017. The Speaker was provided with a vehicle on 12 May 2017 – a very auspicious day.
- (2) The following ministers returned the vehicle to the department on the dates listed: Minister Logan, 25 May 2017; Attorney General, 22 May 2017; Treasurer, 29 May 2017; Minister Papalia, 22 May 2017; Minister Johnston, 25 May 2017; and Minister Saffioti, 19 May 2017.”

I requested confirmation as to whether this information is correct as of the date of answering this question. I have been advised that there has been one further development, and that is that Minister Logan, having returned his ministerial vehicle on 25 May 2017, was reissued with a ministerial vehicle on 16 July 2017.

I have relied on the above information to compile a table of those ministers, who are members of the Legislative Assembly, who were provided with a vehicle as a minister during the period of time commencing on 12 March 2017, which is the date the *Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Determination 2016 No. 2* came into effect; and ending on 18 May 2017, which is the date that the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal variation of 18 May 2017 came into effect (note that all the ministers who received a car in this period were appointed ministers on 17 March 2017). With respect to those ministers I have made enquiries as to whether those ministers received the Motor Vehicle Allowance. The results of these enquiries are included in the attached table.

[See tabled paper no 572.]

- (2) None of the Ministers listed in the table above who were paid a Motor Vehicle Allowance have repaid the monies they received. I note that no repayment has been requested or is required under the relevant SAT determination.
 - (3) Not applicable.
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