

Question on Notice

No. 1781

Asked on 12 October 2016

MR WATTS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS (HON L ENOCH) —

With reference to staff employed by departments or agencies under the Minister's administration—

Will the Minister detail the total amount spent since 14 February 2015 on staff attending events at which either the Minister or Premier was a speaker, providing a breakdown inclusive of the (a) name of the event, (b) date of the event, (c) number of government staff attending at the government's cost and (d) amount expended?

ANSWER:

From time to time public servants attend functions or conferences run by the private sector or non-government organisations at which the Premier of Queensland or a Minister may have been invited to make a keynote address. Indeed, the Premier or a Minister may be one of many speakers at the event.

There is nothing unusual with public servants attending such events, as they provide opportunities for public servants to engage with the private sector and other interest groups to meet and discuss policy and other ideas. Such activity ensures the public sector remains engaged with current issues and practices, and I would have thought is something that all members of Parliament would support.

The attendance of public servants at functions or conferences at public expense would only occur in accordance with departmental approval processes, and the *Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service* would apply to their attendance. Furthermore, the Honourable Member should note that financial transactions involving departments are annually and independently audited by the Queensland Audit Office.

I am advised that it would be neither practical nor reasonable to divert the resources of the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation or the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games to identify and list all of the information requested in the Member's question.

However, if the Member has a specific concern about the attendance of a public servant at an event and wants to raise the matter with me, then I would be more than happy to seek information for the Member about it.