

MINISTERIAL FAMILY ACCOMMODATION COSTS — GUIDELINES

168. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's answer to question without notice 146, asked on Wednesday, 13 March 2019, and the Premier's refusal to table the guidelines referred to in his brief ministerial statement made to the Legislative Assembly on 12 March.

- (1) Will the Premier table the guidelines he referred to in his ministerial statement and to which he says he had regard; and, if not, why not?
- (2) What is the title of those guidelines?
- (3) Are those guidelines publicly available?
- (4) When were the guidelines last updated and who approved the last update?
- (5) To the extent that the guidelines were unclear to him, did he seek advice regarding them, and when and from whom; and, if he did not, why not?
- (6) If the Premier refuses to table the guidelines, will he provide some written notice of the decision to both houses of Parliament and the Auditor General in accordance with section 82 of the Financial Management Act 2006; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(6) The guidelines for travel—travel provisions for ministers—are unchanged since the time of the previous government, of which the member was a senior cabinet member. He would be well aware that the guidelines for the use of government aircraft by family members are —

Travel by Family Members

If a Minister is satisfied that travel by the Minister's family members is warranted and that the charter does not involve any additional cost to government, then family members may travel on chartered aircraft free of cost.

Where a Member of Parliament accompanies a Minister on a government charter as part of an official party, the Member's spouse and/or dependant children may travel on the aircraft on the same cost basis as any other non-government passenger, provided vacant seats are available and such travel does not increase charter costs.

In such circumstances where the spouse and/or dependants have an Electorate Air Travel entitlement, the Member can elect for the spouse and/or dependants to forfeit an entitlement in lieu of paying their proportion of the charter costs. This would be on the basis that the spouse and/or dependants are travelling within the Member's electorate or between the electorate and Perth.