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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT – [2021/022]

The office of the Hon Christian Porter MP, travel to and from Sydney during the period 18 to 25 April 2021

Date: 28 September 2021

To: s 47F
Director, Audit & Assurance

RECOMMENDATION

- i. Note the contents of this preliminary assessment and proceed with an Assurance Review.

PROCEED TO AN ASSURANCE REVIEW

s 47F

Date: 28 September 2021

s 47F

Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Prepared by:

Date: 27 September 2021

s 47F

Assistant Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

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PURPOSE

This preliminary assessment aims to:

1. Assess whether the Hon Christian Porter MP accessed parliamentary business resources in Sydney, NSW during the period 18 to 25 April 2021 (the relevant period).

BACKGROUND

2. A number of Social Media posts (Twitter) were posted in relation to the relevant period of travel, referencing the April to June 2021 IPEA Expenditure Report (**Attachment A**).
3. There have since been subsequent social media posts, from other authors, on this subject.
4. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, a Preliminary Assessment into Mr Porter MP was commenced on 22 September 2021.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

5. Relevant legislation includes:
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017*

ANALYSIS

6. Upon investigation, it was found that parliamentary business resources were used to travel to Sydney during the relevant period.

CONCLUSION

7. On the basis of the findings of this preliminary assessment, and in accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, it is recommended IPEA proceeds with an assurance review into this matter.