

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Chief Minister:

Travel by Hon Willem Westra van Holthe to Vietnam, 8-13 July 2015

1. When you approved the then Minister's overseas travel to Vietnam on 1 July 2015, were you aware that the Minister intended to travel to Vietnam in a private capacity commencing 5 July 2015?
2. If not, when did you first become aware that the then Minister intended to travel to Vietnam in a private capacity.
3. When did the then Minister's official duties commence during this trip?
4. Did the then Minister apply to take personal leave during the trip to Vietnam?
5. If so, when did the Minister apply and how many days were taken?
6. Who approved the then Minister's personal leave?
7. Did you ask the then Minister what private activities he intended to undertake before his official duties commenced?
8. If so, what was the answer?
9. When did you first become aware that the Minister held private business discussions with the CT Group during the unofficial leg of the trip to Vietnam?
10. Who accompanied the then Minister on this trip to Vietnam in an official capacity?
11. Did anyone accompany the then Minister in a private capacity?
12. If the answer to (11) above is "yes", who accompanied the Minister in a private capacity?
13. Who accompanied the then Minister on internal travel in Vietnam on this trip in an official capacity?
14. Did anyone accompany the then Minister on internal travel in Vietnam on this trip in a private capacity?

15. If the answer to (14) above is “yes”, who accompanied the Minister in a private capacity?

ANSWER

I approved Minister Westra van Holthe's travel to Vietnam on 1 July 2015 and previously, on 23 June I approved the Minister's request to take time off from his Ministerial duties from 5 to 9 July.

I was not aware that the Minister intended to travel to Vietnam in a private capacity.

During his official business in Vietnam, the Minister was accompanied by Mr Alastair Trier, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries; Ms Suzanne Hollingsworth, Ministerial Adviser; and Mr Thai Tung, Public Servant, Department of Business.

I had no knowledge of any private business matters being discussed with the CT Group at that time.