

Ross, Christina

From: Ahearn, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 10:14 AM
To: Bodden, Osbourne
Cc: Pouchie, Nellie; Powell, Natasha (Lyn)
Subject: RE: Personal phone bills - Minister Bodden

Good morning HM

My apologies for not getting back to you on this – I have been wanting to discuss with you.

The CFO and I had to do some investigations into how we might be able to reimburse you for the bills you provided. Unfortunately it is not a straight forward situation for a few reasons. First, and perhaps most significantly, you have a CIG phone which is intended for your use for CIG business. Your CIG emails should be available on that phone, so there should be minimal / no need for your personal phone data plan to be used for your CIG email / official business. A second issue is that your personal phone bills which you have presented to us for partial reimbursement are not itemized in such a way for us / auditors to be able to easily identify and verify which calls / data usage were “official” CIG vs. personal, and an added complication is that you have indicated an estimated percentage of costs that you believe are “official” that you should be reimbursed for and we do not really have any basis for that estimation. In addition, the bills for your CIG phone bill for the periods in question also had significant data roaming charges, so there is evidence that your CIG phone was working and being used.

Given these issues, and with a view to finding a way forward, the CFO and I both undertook to liaise with our counterparts to find out whether they had dealt with a similar issue/ request, and if so, how it was handled. In all cases, the CFO was advised that the Ministry / Portfolio would only reimburse an employee’s personal phone expenses (for those employees who had CIG mobiles) if there was a time when the CIG mobile was not working / out of service that necessitated the use of the employee’s personal phone. However, the CFO’s colleagues were not aware of any situations where this was actually done. Similarly, when I spoke to some of my colleagues, none of them indicated that they had received similar requests (granted I have not done a full census of the COs), and those I spoke to confirmed that they would not expect to get such a request as a CIG phone has been provided.

I am not sure if there is some way for you to get more detailed bills from LIME that would allow for a more robust approach to identifying what portion of your personal mobile bills were for official business so that the charges are clearly verifiable from an audit perspective and in accordance with the provisions of the financial regulations. The CFO and I have discussed this issue of repayment of your personal mobile bills on a few occasions and unfortunately, given the issues and concerns I’ve outlined above, we haven’t been able to come up with a quick or easy way forward.

I am open to any suggestions / thoughts you might have as to how we might be able to resolve this. Perhaps we can meet with the CFO and have a bit of a brainstorm.

I look forward to hearing from you
Jennifer

From: Bodden, Osbourne
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 7:34 AM
To: Ahearn, Jennifer
Cc: Pouchie, Nellie; Powell, Natasha (Lyn)
Subject: Personal ph bills

CO today is 2 weeks since I sent the last email on this (without the courtesy of a reply), and today is the LAST time I will communicate on this matter. You have 2 bills from me in your possession, and I am requesting reimbursement of a Minimum of 50pc of the amount paid on each, for Gov't business expenses.

I would like this confirmed this am, and a cheque asap for this amount (pre Chmas)!!!

Ps: I think I have explained this well enough on previous occasions to not have to repeat.

Thanks!

Hon. Osbourne V. Bodden, JP
Minister for Health, Sports, Youth & Culture
Tel: 345-244-2372
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.