

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: 25 September 2025 14:35
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Elisabeth Bowes; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: S23 Party Conference Season [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) noting the operational circumstances this additional expenditure is approved under PGPA s23. I note attendance at the party conferences is part of usual AHC core business on an annual basis. Many thanks if you can continue to prosecute the option of a partial refund / offset in some form for the unused ticket.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Minister Counsellor (Management)
Australian High Commission, Australia House
Strand, London, WC2B 4LA
T +s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 1:18 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Elisabeth Bowes <Elisabeth.Bowes@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: S23 Party Conference Season [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for speaking earlier. As discussed, its proven logistically/technically impossible to sub s 22(1)(a)(ii) in for DHOM, using the conference registration Elisabeth originally made. With that in mind, I'd like to request S23 approval to spend 1265 pounds for a late registration ticket for s 22(1)(a)(ii) in order to guarantee her admission into the conference venue s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Sarah Sullivan <Sarah.Sullivan@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 1:42 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: Marcus Lumb <Marcus.Lumb@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: Re: S23 Party Conference Season [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I approve the purchase of four registrations at a cost of GBP713 each under s.23 of the PGPA Act.

I note travel arrangements and associated costs will be submitted separately and will also be subject to delegate approvals outside of my financial delegation as per the DFAT travel policy.

Kind regards,

Sarah Sullivan

Minister Counsellor (Management) & Consul-General

Australian High Commission, Australia House

Strand, London, WC2B 4LA

P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au"
Date: Wednesday, 23 July 2025 at 13:03:54
To: "Sarah Sullivan" <Sarah.Sullivan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: "Marcus Lumb" <Marcus.Lumb@dfat.gov.au>, "s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au",

"s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: Re: S23 Party Conference Season [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Sarah,

Thank you again for confirming this S23 request. I'm pleased to be able to say that HOM, DHOM, Marcus and I all managed to register at the lowest price point before the cost increase took effect.

I'd like to now submit an equivalent request for the Conservative Party Conference, which runs October 5th-8th in Manchester. If we can get the registrations done this week, we can do so for £713 pounds per person, which later rises up to over £1,100 per person.

Accordingly, seeking S23 approval for HOM, Marcus, s 22(1)(a)(ii) myself to register. (Its possible that only one of Marcus s 22(1)(a)(ii) may attend, but it would be good to get approval for both in case that's not the case). DHOM's office has confirmed that she won't attend this year.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Sarah Sullivan <Sarah.Sullivan@dfat.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 10:54 AM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Marcus Lumb <Marcus.Lumb@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>

Subject: RE: S23 Party Conference Season [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I approve the purchase of four registrations at a cost of GBP630 each under s.23 of the PGPA Act.

I note travel arrangements and associated costs will be submitted separately and will also be subject to other Canberra approvals outside of my financial delegation as per the DFAT travel policy, including for concurrent absences of HOM and DHOM positions.

Kind regards,

Sarah Sullivan

Minister Counsellor (Management) & Consul-General

Australian High Commission, Australia House

Strand, London, WC2B 4LA

P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 2:02 PM
To: Sarah Sullivan <Sarah.Sullivan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Marcus Lumb <Marcus.Lumb@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: S23 Party Conference Season [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Sarah,

Good to see you yesterday, and chat informally.

You have in the past couple of years, granted a single S23 approval for Post's representation at Party Conference (see below). It had been my intention to assemble a single submission again this year.

However, there are upcoming deadlines (July 18th for Labour, July 26th for the Conservatives) where the cost of registration rises. This year those rises are particularly steep, so we can actually save money if we reserve spots earlier). So, grateful if its possible to seek S23 approval for the conference registrations separately, with a separate S23 request for travel and accommodation to follow.

> Seeking S23 approval for four attendees at the Labour conference in Liverpool (Sep 28-October1), which would be £630 per person. This would be on the basis of HOM, DHOM, Marcus Lumb (Minister Counsellor), and myself (Policy Officer) attending. (It is possible s 22(1)(a)(ii), the incoming Political Counsellor, would also attend but that will, alas, need to be discussed when s 22(1)(a)(ii)

For reference, the price per person cost of registration rises from £630 to £950 per person if completed after July 18th, and then to £1,265 per person if completed after August 31st, so its a really significant saving.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Sarah Sullivan <Sarah.Sullivan@dfat.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 3:18 PM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Cc: Christian Hirst <Christian.Hirst@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: RE: S23 Party Conference Season [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

I provide approval for the financial expenditure for this travel under s.23 of the PGPA Act up to the amount of £18,030 as outlined below. If this amount is likely to be exceeding, please seek additional approvals in advance.

Please note the additional requirements for seeking and documenting approval of the travel itself as set out in the travel policy (section 3 - [Travel policies \(satin.io\)](#)), including for the size of the travelling delegation. I hold delegation only to provide financial approval for the purposes of arranging the travel.

Kind regards,

Sarah.

Sarah Sullivan

Minister Counsellor (Management) & Consul-General

Australian High Commission, Australia House

Strand, London, WC2B 4LA

P ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)} | M ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 2:15 PM
To: Sarah Sullivan <Sarah.Sullivan@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Christian Hirst <Christian.Hirst@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: S23 Party Conference Season [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for looking over a combined S23 proposal last year for, the Party Conferences.

I have assembled an equivalent document for the forthcoming Party Conference that will take place later this month and into early October. This is below and attached, and Christian Hirst has reviewed.

This below tables set out the overarching S23 request, which is broken down by itemised expenditure projections. I would just flag up two quick things:

Firstly, for your awareness, individual S23 approval has already been sought/received for registration at the Labour Party conference in order to secure attendance, so these tickets have already been purchased.

Secondly, there remains some contingency built into the below request, as the exact number of days/nights that HOM will attend each conference is still under consideration. I have put the maximum amount of expenditure I anticipate Post occurring in the tables, but have added some notes on occasions where expenditure is likely to be less than the figure for which S23 approval is sought.

For reference, the overall S23 request for projected Party conference expenditure in 2024 is **£18,030**. This compares favourably with the S23 that was granted in 2023, which gave approval for expenditure of up to **£20,743**.

I'm happy to discuss any aspect of the S23 request in more detail should that be helpful.

With kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) Political Branch

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Projected attendance and costs**1) Labour Party Conference: Sunday October 22nd to Wednesday September 25th (Liverpool)**

Commission Member	Costs	Subtotal
Head of Mission (HOM) to attend for duration	Conference Ticket £828* Hotel £1595.70** Transportation: £342.60*** Travel Allowance: £316****	£3,082.00
Deputy Head of Mission (DHOM) to attend for Monday-Tuesday	Ticket: £828* Hotel: £250***** Transportation: £342.60 Travel Allowance: £316***	£1,736.60
Minister Counsellor (Hirst) to attend for the duration.	Ticket £828* Hotel £1,595.70** Transportation: £342.60** Travel Allowance: £316***	£3,082.00
s 22(1)(a)(ii) to attend for the duration.	Ticket: 828* Hotel £1,595.70** Transportation: £150***** Travel Allowance: £316***	£2,889.70
		<u>Total: £10,790.30</u>

* All four participants are already registered, and tickets have been purchased based upon individual S23 approvals.

** Accommodation has been reserved at the **s 47E(d)** and is based on a cost of 3 nights @ £531.90per night. Hotel costs are much higher during the dates of the conference - which last year played host to over 18,000 attendees – than they would otherwise be. **s 47E(d)**

s 47E(d)

Although S23 approval is requested for this expenditure, I anticipate that HOM will opt to travel to Liverpool on Monday September 23rd, and only stay for one night. I have been unable to secure one night's accommodation at s 47E(d) so have instead made a provisional reservation (free cancellation) at the s 47E(d), at a cost of 1 night @ £809. The benefit of this location is that it s 47E(d) on Tuesday 24th following Prime Minister Starmer's speech, in order to get back to London in time for an evening engagement. (For context, this is the hotel s 47E(d))

*** Transportation costs are based upon fully flexible, standard class return tickets (£171.30 each way). It is advised that AUS1 be made available as a contingency in case of unexpected strike action by railway staff or rail delays.

**** Travel allowance is based upon DFAT's Travelling Allowance Rate for Manchester, the nearest UK city, at a rate of 4 days @ £79 per day.

***** DHOM's office has arranged separate accommodation at s 47E(d) for the evening of 23rd September, at a cost of 1 night @ £250. This accommodation compares favourably to that secured for the other attendees, but was not available for the duration of the conference at the time that the provisional booking was made.

***** As with the Conservative conference, s 22(1)(a)(ii)) will drive to Liverpool and park there, in order to have ground transportation on hand in case of emergencies. The Policy Officer transportation projection is based upon expected fuel and car parking charges.

2) Conservative Party Conference: Saturday 30th September to Wednesday 4th October, (Manchester)

Commission Member	Costs	Subtotal
Head of Mission (Smith) to attend for duration	Ticket £900 Hotel £1,560* Transportation: £150** Travel Allowance: £332***	£2,942.00

Political Counsellor (s 22(1)(a)(ii)) attend for the duration.	Ticket £900 Hotel £1,560* Transportation: £150** Travel Allowance: £332***	£2,942.00
(s 22(1)(a)(ii)) to attend for the duration.	Ticket £900 Hotel £1,560* Transportation: £150 ** Travel Allowance: £332***	£2,942.00
		Total: £8,826

* Accommodation has been reserved (s 47E(d)) based on a cost of 3 nights @ £520 per night. Hotel costs are much higher during the dates of the conference than they would otherwise be. (s 47E(d))

Although S23 approval is requested for this expenditure, I anticipate that HOM will opt to travel to Birmingham on Tuesday October 1st, and only stay for one night. I have made a parallel provisional reservation (free cancellation) at the (s 47E(d)) at a cost of 1 night @ £494.

(s 47E(d))

** It is advised that AUS1 be made available as a contingency in case of unexpected strike action by railway staff or rail delays. As with the Labour conference, (s 22(1)(a)(ii)) will drive to Birmingham and park there, in order to have ground transportation on hand in case of emergencies. The Policy Officer transportation projection is based upon expected fuel and car parking charges.

*** This is based upon the daily travel allowance for Birmingham, at a rate of £83 per day x 4.

11:41

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Hello. Wed, 24 Sep rough Liverpool arrangements tomorrow am first thing?

21:27

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

May I call you at 8 or 9?
Or meet prior to the 12.15 with HOM?

21:34

Let's speak at 9 before you meet with PMO. Wish to ensure we have no additional people at the venue. We can talk through tomorrow. E

21:42

Agreed, and thank you talk then

21:50

Thu, 25 Sep

Good luck for the next few days s 22(1)(a)(ii)
You have done an amazing job bringing the program and all the resources together. I am sure it will go well. Please call me at anytime if you wish to discuss or sense check anything. Elisabeth

20:18



Message

