

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 818**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 14)**

**818. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:**

- (1) (a) What was the total rand value of (i) hotel accommodation procured for her departmental officials and (ii) conferencing facilities hired by her department during the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008 and (b) in each case, what percentage was spent at establishments graded by the Tourism Grading Council;
- (2) whether there are any barriers to making use of graded establishments; if not, why is the use of graded facilities not higher; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) (a)(i)

<b>Description</b>	<b>1 October 2007 – 31 March 2008 Total Rand Value R</b>
Accommodation:	
Domestic	27 413 670.81
Foreign	851 839.87

- (1) (a)(ii)

<b>Description</b>	<b>1 October 2007 – 31 March 2008 Total Rand Value R</b>
Conferencing facilities	2 086 442.84

(b) Difficult to determine as this information was not captured in a system.

- (2) No. The bulk of the accommodation requirements of the officials that are travelling away from home on official business are done by the departmentally approved service providers and the reservations are predominately made at graded destinations. Officials however, can arrange for their own accommodation within the predetermined limits and are not obliged to stay at graded establishments. In some remote areas, graded accommodation is not necessarily easily available. The department supports the use of graded establishments as a first option of accommodation, where such accommodation is available. The department will in future develop a system to monitor the use of graded establishment