# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 961**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16)**

**Dr A Lotriet (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

Whether his department chartered any flights (a) in the (i) 2016-17, (ii) 2017-18 and (iii) 2018-19 financial years and (b) since 1 April 2019; if so, (aa) what was the (aaa) cost, (bbb) purpose and (ccc) final destination of each flight chartered in each specified time period and (bb) what number of passengers was aboard each flight chartered?

**NW2115E**

###### REPLY:

1. (i) No;

(ii) No;

(iii) Yes.

1. Yes.

(aa) The cost implication are as follows:

(aaa) For 2018/19 amounted to R 47 million and since 1 April 2019 to date R 24 million.

(bbb) For both financial years mentioned which are 2018/19 and since 1 April 2019 to date, the purpose was to transport South African students studying medicine in Cuba to South Africa. Because of the big numbers and the logistics involved in transporting them all at once a charter option was deemed most effective.

These are students in different categories as follows:

1. those who have completed their 5th year in Cuba and would be commencing their 6th year in the South African Medical in Schools;
2. those that are on vacation;
3. those that come to do Electives in our health facilities in their Provinces to gain clinical experience;
4. Sometimes those who have medical problems during the time the charter is available and need to be brought to South Africa for further medical treatment and intervention. In particular, when the Medical Schools Cuba have made a determination that they may not be able to cope with their Academic activities during the period of illness. The opportunity to bring them on a Charter is also used.

(ccc) For 2018/19 the following flights:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **From** | **To** |
| 03 July 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba |
| 06 July 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA |
| 08 July 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba |
| 11 July 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA |
| 15 July 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba |
| 18 July 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA |
| 31 July 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba |
| 03 August 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA |
| 26 August 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba |
| 30 August 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA |

Since 1 April 2019 to date the following flights:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | From | Destination |
| 03 July 2019 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba |
| 05 July 2019 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA |
| 08 July 2019 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba |
| 10 July 2019 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA |
| 12 July 2019 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba |
| 14 July 2019 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA |

(bb) The number of passengers aboard each flight were as follows:

For 2018/19 the passenger numbers:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | From | To | Passenger Number |
| 03 July 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba | 01 |
| 06 July 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA | 281 |
| 08 July 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba | 95 |
| 11 July 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA | 244 |
| 15 July 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba | 04 |
| 18 July 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA | 217 |
| 31 July 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba | 0 |
| 03 August 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA | 281 |
| 26 August 2018 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba | 300 |
| 30 August 2018 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA | 75 |

During 2018/19 financial year, the department chartered 282 (1 + 281) passengers on 3 to 6 July 2018; 339 (95 + 244 passengers from 8 to 11 July 2018; 221 (4 + 217) passengers from 15 to 18 July 2018; 281 (0 +281) passengers from 31 July 2018 to 03 August 2018; and 375 (300 + 75) passengers from 26 to 30 August 2018.

Since 1 April 2019 to date the passenger number:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | From | Destination | Passenger Number |
| 03 July 2019 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba | 7 |
| 05 July 2019 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA | 214 |
| 08 July 2019 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba | 5 |
| 10 July 2019 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA | 214 |
| 12 July 2019 | OR Tambo, SA | Havana, Cuba | 193 |
| 14 July 2019 | Havana, Cuba | OR Tambo, SA | 222 |

In 2019 the department chartered 221(7+214) passengers on 3 to 5 July, on the 08 to 10 July chartered 219 (5+214) passengers and on the 12 to 14 July chartered 415 (193+222) passengers.

END.