



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms Lyn Beverley
Committee Secretary
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

I am writing in relation to evidence that I provided to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee on Wednesday 16 February 2022.

When asked by Senator Ayres on what date the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade submitted the work order to formally engage Ashurst to undertake an independent investigation on behalf of the department, I advised that this occurred on 11 January 2022.

In following up a related question that I took on notice in relation to the cost of this work order, I discovered that there had been a break down in our internal processes and the work order had not been submitted by the department. To rectify this matter I signed and submitted the work order on 17 February 2022. The estimated value of the work order is \$70,000.

I would appreciate you bringing this clarification to the attention of Senator Ayres.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Hudson
Chief Operating Officer

17 February 2022