



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Deputy Secretary
Integrity and International Group

23 February 2023

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 14 February 2023

I am writing to provide a clarification to evidence I gave to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 14 February 2023.

On p 69 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator Shoebridge regarding when the department became aware that the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture would discuss the suspension of its visit to Australia, I said:

Mr Newnham: Understood, Senator, but what I would note is that we did appear before the Committee against Torture in November, and while they were imprecise with their dates, from memory they did foreshadow re-looking at this in February.

I wish to clarify that departmental records indicate that on 14 November 2022 the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture notified the department it would consider its visit to Australia at a meeting in February 2023. Australia appeared before the Committee Against Torture on 15-16 November 2022.

The action officer for this matter is _____ who can be contacted on _____

Yours sincerely

Simon Newnham