



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Secretary

EC23-003092

30 October 2023

Senator Nita Green
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs – Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Green

I am writing to provide information requested at the recent Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee on 24 October 2023.

Senator Scarr asked the following question:

Senator SCARR: I would like to ask her what her recollection was of the actual meeting, given that I've asked all the members of the senior leadership group what their recollection was in relation to the timing and whether or not the term 'our approach' included issues with respect to the timing of the response. No-one has been able to provide me with an answer. I do not particularly want to call a junior officer, but in that context I'm afraid, Secretary, I'm obliged to ask whether or not the junior officer could attend at the desk and provide her recollection of what was actually discussed and what her note means.

...

Senator SCARR: We're happy for the officer to respond in writing with respect to what their recollection was regarding that phrase, 'Respond later in the week,' in terms of that meeting. We would like that response as quickly as possible, Ms Jones, if it is possible to get that written response during the course of the day so that we can consider any further questions we might like to put to you during this estimates.

The response to the senator's question is as follows:

The officer's recollection of using the phrase 'respond later in the week' is that it reflected the deadline for responding to the letter was Friday 19 May 2023.

The officer does not recall any other specific discussions on the timing for responding to the letter.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Jones PSM