



**Australian Government**  
**Civil Aviation Safety Authority**

CASA Ref: EC24-000566

Senator Glenn Sterle  
Chair  
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

I refer to the appearance of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee at Budget Estimates 2024-25 on Wednesday 29 May 2024.

During the hearing, I responded to a question from Senator Sheldon about pilot fatigue, particularly in relation to Virgin Australia (page 94 of the Hansard refers). I mentioned that 45 Virgin Australia crew removed themselves from duty due to fatigue in the last roster period.

I have since clarified this number with Virgin Australia.

- 18 crew removed themselves from duty due to fatigue. We understand these occurrences are likely to have occurred due to network disruption rather than rostering.
- 4 crew exercised a pre-fatigue removal. This involves a crew member receiving a roster and determining that the proposed roster will result in fatigue.
- 23 crew utilised a fatigue provision associated with the use of hotels and/or taxis. We are advised this is often used by crew that have a long drive home post duty.

Each of these instances have taken place in the context of many thousands of flights that occur across the Virgin Australia network each month and roster period.

These actions are also aligned with, and expected to occur within, a mature Fatigue Risk Management System (FRMS). CASA remains satisfied that Virgin Australia is appropriately managing fatigue risk at this time.

I would appreciate it if you could please note this for the information of the committee.

Yours sincerely

Mr Matthew Bouttell

25 June 2024

Cc: Senator Sheldon