



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

Ref: EC20-000344

Dr Jane Thomson
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Thomson

I would like to provide clarification of evidence given at the hearing of the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 yesterday, Wednesday 13 May 2020, regarding the contract relating to the Chairman of the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission, Mr Neville Power.

As I stated yesterday, Mr Power is not receiving a salary. Payments under Mr Power's contract are to cover costs relating to Mr Power's travel, accommodation, incidental and related expenses.

In developing and executing Mr Power's contract, PM&C estimated travel to and from Canberra valued at approximately \$6,000 per return trip each week, \$350 per night for accommodation and incidentals such as food and taxis, and additional extra expenses set to be incurred from other travel once internal border restrictions ease.

The figure of approximately \$500,000 I gave in yesterday's hearing referred to the annualised amount of costs being covered. Mr Power's contract, however, is for a period of six months. The figure I should have provided the Committee, therefore, is \$267,345 (plus GST). I apologise for the confusion caused by this.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Foster

14 May 2020