



THE SENATE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

10 January 2022

Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck
Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services

Via

Dear Minister Colbeck

Thank you for your letter of 9 January 2022 replying to the committee's invitation to appear before a public hearing on 14 January 2022 to answer questions about the current Omicron outbreaks.

The committee understands the challenges facing the nation from the impacts of the Omicron outbreaks including the additional demands on Government and departmental officials.

We have been mindful of these obligations when scheduling hearings over the past 20 months and will continue to be so.

As Chair I do not believe that a one-hour private briefing to the committee via videoconference is a suitable alternative to a hearing which is public and where evidence can be taken.

If 14 January 2022 is not acceptable, could you and officials please nominate dates/times the following week which would be acceptable to the Government.

Yours sincerely

Senator Katy Gallagher 
Committee Chair