

Senate Select Committee on Commonwealth Bilateral Air Service Agreements

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program Group: Industry Infrastructure & Environment Division

Topic: Qantas CEO's farewell dinner

Senator: the Hon Bridget McKenzie

Type of question: Hansard page 45, 28 September 2023

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 October 2023

Number of pages: 1

Question:

CHAIR: What was the nature of the outgoing CEO's dinner? Was it just a 'Farewell, Alan' or what?

Ms Luchetti: I'll ask Ms Garbin. I don't think we're aware of what that dinner was.

Ms Garbin: We're not aware of the context.

CHAIR: Who attended that dinner?

Ms Luchetti: We're not aware of the context. We were just asked for some dot points in relation to his career.

CHAIR: I might seek that brief, on notice.

Ms Luchetti: Yes. We can do that.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) did not prepare a brief for the event. PM&C provided factual background information on Qantas to the Prime Minister's Office on 8 August 2023.

Senate Select Committee on Commonwealth Bilateral Air Service Agreements

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program Group: Industry Infrastructure & Environment Division

Topic: Briefings - Prime Minister's speech

Senator: the Hon Bridget McKenzie

Type of question: Hansard page 49, 28 September 2023

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 October 2023

Number of pages: 1

Question:

CHAIR: I am going to the speech written by PM&C where you provided some advice on 31 March 2023 to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said:

... I knew I could pick up the phone and Qantas would swing into action, getting Australians to safety.

Is that something the department wrote, or is that something the PMO wrote?

Ms Luchetti: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't have the speech here.

CHAIR: You don't have a copy of the three event briefs in your folder?

Ms Luchetti: I don't a copy of the briefs, nor do I have a copy of the speech. I'd have to go back and see what version we sent from the department up to the office.

CHAIR: I'd appreciate your tabling what you sent up to the office, and then we can understand who's got whose mobile.

Answer:

A draft speech was provided by PM&C to the Prime Minister's Office on 28 March 2023. It included the following line:

"I was the minister responsible for aviation for many years. I learned whenever there's a crisis, you pick up the phone and Qantas will be there."

Senate Select Committee on Commonwealth Bilateral Air Service Agreements

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program Group: Industry Infrastructure & Environment Division

Topic: Briefings - Dinner attended by Qatar Airways

Senator: the Hon Bridget McKenzie

Type of question: Hansard page 46, 28 September 2023

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 October 2023

Number of pages: 1

Question:

CHAIR: ... I'm now talking about a dinner where Qatar Airways was in attendance—

Ms Luchetti: I'd have to take it on notice, but I'm not aware.

CHAIR: and actually went up and spoke to the Prime Minister directly. I would assume that, if you were attending a dinner with serious and important stakeholders, ministers would usually receive from their department a little cheat sheet—usually with a photo—about information of attendees.

Ms Luchetti: I'm not aware. I can take that notice, but I don't believe we have provided a briefing

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not provide a brief for this event.