

# Department of Finance

## Response to Question on Notice

### SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

#### Inquiry into Australia Post

Hearing of 27 April 2021

#### Written Question on Notice 6 (Senator Hanson)

Further to the question on notice asked of Shareholder departments at the hearing of 27 April 2021 (Proof Hansard page 73):

**Senator HANSON:** There was a media release by the shareholder ministers with regard to the statement of Ms Holgate standing down. That was put out at 5.25 pm on 22 October. The board didn't finish the meeting in which they were discussing Christine Holgate standing down until 6.20. How could the shareholder ministers possibly put out a media statement at 5.25, when the board hadn't finished their deliberations?

#### Response

The joint media release by Shareholder Ministers set out the Government's expectations in relation to the conduct of a formal, independent, investigation that would report back to Cabinet and stated that, "The Chief Executive of Australia Post will be standing aside from her position for the duration of the investigation.". This is consistent with statements made in Question Time on 22 October 2020.

