



THE SENATE  
**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMONWEALTH BILATERAL AIR  
SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

26 September 2023

**STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**  
**Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie**

The Committee has been informed, through his legal representatives, that Mr Alan Joyce, former CEO of Qantas, will be unavailable to appear before the Committee either in person or via video link due to personal obligations while overseas.

The Senate Committees have the power to summons witnesses within Australia but have no enforceable powers for witnesses who are overseas.

*Odgers' Australian Senate Practice* also notes that it would not be 'fair' for a committee to summons a witness to give evidence from overseas where they would not be protected by privilege, or to seek to take action against them in Australia for any lack of co-operation with a committee.

The Senate Select Committee's Terms of Reference are to report by October 9, 2023, and there is no indication that Mr Joyce will be available before that date.

The Committee has therefore determined today to summon Mr Joyce upon his arrival back to Australia to appear before the committee.

**Senator the Hon. McKenzie**  
**26/09/2023**