

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Minister for Health**

**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

**Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Written question received 3 August 2020**

**PDR Number:** IQ20-000417

**Question Subject:** Special Commissioner Inquiry into the Ruby Princess - Ministers views

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

3. With regard to a summons issued by Commissioner Bret Walker to compel the attendance of a Department of Agriculture Biosecurity Officer at the Special Commissioner Inquiry into the Ruby Princess:
- When was the Minister first made aware of the summons?
  - Was the Minister asked for his view on Departmental officers attending the Inquiry?
  - Did the Minister discuss the summons with any of his Ministerial colleagues? If so, when?

**Answer:**

The Department notified the Minister for Health's Office of the summons issued to a Biosecurity Officer from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 7 July 2020. The Department did not seek the Minister's view on the attendance of a Department of Agriculture Biosecurity Officer at the Special Commission of Inquiry. The Department is not aware of what, if any, discussions the Minister may have had with any Ministerial colleagues.