



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

File Number:

17 January 2023

Committee Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
PO BOX 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing to correct and clarify evidence that I and my colleague, Lynn Bell, gave on assisted departure flights from Wuhan (refer to Hansard page 11-12) during the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit's public hearing for the inquiry into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's crisis management arrangements, which was held on 16 December 2022.

In response to Senator Grogan's question, "*when did the initial facilitated flights from Wuhan land?*", Ms Bell responded that the first Wuhan flight was in January 2020. The first assisted departure flight from Wuhan departed on 3 February 2020.

In response to Senator Grogan's question on whether assisted departure flights from Wuhan landed on Christmas Island, I stated "*Initially—yes. Then I think, from memory, that they went to Darwin.*" The first assisted departure flight from Wuhan landed at RAAF Base Learmonth, Western Australia, where passengers were transferred to Christmas Island via an Australian Border Force flight. The second flight departed Wuhan on 9 February and landed in Darwin. These passengers quarantined at Howard Springs.

Yours sincerely

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Kate Logan
First Assistant Secretary
Consular and Crisis Management Division