

Question on notice no. 100

Portfolio question number: SQ24-001230

2024-25 Supplementary budget estimates

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

Senator Malcolm Roberts: asked the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on 4 November 2024—

Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. I can't imagine that answer is no, because you've already done it. Thank you for confirming it. What specifically has changed since you answered SQ23-003267 in February 2023 that means it's impossible for you to answer the same question in the same way in SQ24-001131?

Ms Spence: My recollection, Senator, was—the issue that we've got is that we could do a search and the word could come up. We've got no way, without significant resources, to actually determine how often that word is actually linked to someone who has experienced that condition. We'd have to review every time that the word came up to determine whether it's actually linked to a specific example, sorry.

Senator ROBERTS: I'm concerned. You mean that you're telling me that CASA won't get off its backside and examine something unless the answer's easy?

Ms Spence: No, Senator, that's not what I said.

Senator ROBERTS: There's a bit of work involved here. You're responsible. You're the sole person responsible for the safety of our commercial aviation system.

Ms Spence: And we put our resources where it makes the most difference.

Senator ROBERTS: I want the question answered. What specifically has changed—then we can come back to this hearing and talk about the context.

[...]

Senator ROBERTS: Can you just provide the answer to the question? The number of times—

Ms Spence: I'll take that on notice, Senator.

Answer —

Please find answer attached

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024 - 2025

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 100

Departmental Question Number: SQ24-001230

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 123 (04 November 2024)

Topic: CASA - number of staff impacted by COVID vaccinations

Senator Malcolm Roberts asked:

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Ms Spence: And we put our resources where it makes the most difference.

Senator ROBERTS: I want the question answered. What specifically has changed—then we can come back to this hearing and talk about the context.

[...]

Senator ROBERTS: Can you just provide the answer to the question? The number of times—

Ms Spence: I'll take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

A general word search of the Medical Records System between 2018 and 2023 found a total of 269 references to pericarditis and myocarditis. It is anticipated to take an hour per reference to determine any relevance or potential link to a confirmed diagnosis. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) considers this to be an unreasonable use of resources.