

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 – 17, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000092

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: Supply of Bexsero

Type of Question: Hansard Page 138, 1 March 2017

Senator: Singh, Lisa

Question:

Senator SINGH: My last question is: if GSK had advised the department in October that shortages would be ongoing until July, which you have stated, then why did the Prime Minister's letter say differently? Dr Skerritt: Why did which letter? Senator SINGH: Apparently, the Prime Minister's letter said differently. CHAIR: The witnesses are not familiar with that letter, so if there is one there to table then that may assist them. Otherwise Mr Bowles: Maybe if you table that and we take it on notice.

Answer:

The current supply shortage of Bexsero was formally notified by GSK to the TGA on 2 November 2016 with GSK expecting the shortage at that time to be from 27 October 2016 and was expected to be resolved by 31 January.

The letter signed by the Prime Minister was dated 2 December 2016 and was correct on the information available on that date.

Subsequently on 24 January 2017 GSK updated the shortage information stating that the shortage was expected to be until 31 July 2017.