

Budget Estimates Question on Notice — May 2017

139 **Senator Jenny McAllister:** asked the President of the Senate—

Senator McALLISTER: I wonder if you could provide us with the communication requesting your presence in Belgium? I assume that came from the Prime Minister or from the Minister for Foreign Affairs?

The President: I think it came through the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Tehan. I will just clarify: the request for me to attend Belgium came when I was in London on the first trip.

Senator McALLISTER: It was a request from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, and it came in the form of a letter?

The President: There would have been email communication. I can remember seeing emails about that. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs coordinates all the arrangements for who attends which Anzac Day services.

Senator McALLISTER: Would it be possible for those communications to be provided to the committee?

The President: I will have a look and I will get back to you if we can do so.

Answer

The request for the President to represent the Commonwealth at ANZAC Day services in Belgium was made by the Minister for Veteran Affairs, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, in a telephone conversation on 4 April 2017. This was followed up by an email exchange between the President's Office and the Minister's Office on 4 April 2017 regarding the potential arrangements. As the email exchange between staff concerns possible logistical arrangements, and does not outline the request, the President does not intend to provide a copy to the Committee.