

21 December 2020

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair

Budget Estimates 2020-21 Clarifications

The purpose of this letter is to clarify for the Committee a small number of answers provided to the Committee at Budget Estimates hearings on 22 October and 9 November 2020. Clarifications regarding my answers are based on my own knowledge. Other clarifications are based on information provided to me.

22 October 2020 Hearing

In opening remarks made by Australia Post's then Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, it was stated that Australia Post would open 47 extra delivery sites and open up 30 more post offices (in the lead up to Christmas). To clarify, at the time Australia Post anticipated that, by Christmas, it would have opened up to 33 new or repurposed processing facilities, and up to 30 new or expanded capacity sites in our retail network (as parcel pick up locations, or as additional storage locations).

In responding to questions from Senator Kitching relating to the frequency of Board meetings, I stated that the regular schedule is February, March, May, June, August, October and December. To clarify, a Board meeting is typically also scheduled in the month of July, however this is a shorter meeting that considers matters arising from the Nomination and Remuneration Committee meeting held that month, rather than a meeting considering general matters of business more broadly (which is what occurs in the other months referred to – February, March, May, June, August, October and December).

In response to questions from Senator Kitching in relation to which executives worked on the Bank@Post deal, an Australia Post witness referred to Nicole (Sheffield) as having worked on the deal. To clarify, Nicole Sheffield did not work on the Bank@Post deal at the time.

In response to questions from Senator Kitching in relation to the location of the corporate communications function within Australia Post's organisational structure, an Australia Post witness referred to Mr John Cox as the executive director of Transformation and Enablement. To clarify, Mr John Cox is the Executive General Manager of Transformation and Enablement.

In response to questions from Senator Hanson-Young in relation to Thank-you payments made to Australia Post's workforce, an Australia Post witness identified 3,500 licensees and contractors as recipients, and that the value of the payment to licensees was \$500. To clarify, there were 3,600 licensees and contractors as recipients, and the value of the payment to licensees was \$500 (excluding GST) per electronic post-of-sale terminal operated by a licensee.

9 November 2020 Hearing


In responding to questions from Senator Green in relation to the report relating to the Government's review of Australia Post undertaken by BCG in financial year 2019-20, an Australia Post witness advised the Committee that Australia Post had not seen the report arising from that review. To clarify, Australia Post did not see a final report but was provided a draft report during the latter stages of the review.

In responding to questions from Senator Canavan in relation to Post Office licensees, an Australia Post witness referred to a Senate inquiry in 2015 into payments. To clarify, this reference was to the Senate inquiry into the *Performance, important and role of Australia Post in Australian communities and its operations in relation to licensed post offices*, completed in late 2014, which included consideration of payment arrangements with Post Office licensees.

In responding to questions from Senator Green in relation to the temporary regulatory relief, an Australia Post witness stated that our corporate plan had been tabled. To clarify, Australia Post's draft FY21 Corporate Plan had at the time been submitted to Shareholder Ministers for review and feedback but, with feedback not having been received at the time, had not yet been tabled.

In responding to questions from Senator Kitching relating to the regular schedule of Australia Post Board meetings, I stated that there is not a Board meeting in the month of July). To clarify, a Board meeting is typically scheduled in the month of July, however this is a shorter meeting that considers matters arising from the Nomination and Remuneration Committee meeting held that month, rather than a meeting considering general matters of business more broadly (which is what occurs in the other months referred to – February, March, May, June, August, October and December).

Yours sincerely



Nick Macdonald
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary