

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 23 MARCH 2021

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Department /Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Transcript Page
1	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Dept - Letter from Minister to ABC Chair	Senator GREEN: Minister, why would Minister Fletcher send a letter about the content of a specific program to the ABC chair and not the managing director, given that the managing director is responsible, as editor-in-chief, for editorial decisions at the ABC?	6
2	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - figures around cashflow	<p>Senator PRATT: There's a copy of it here. On page 48, the corporate plan forecast that NBN Co would run a \$6.1 billion cash flow loss for the financial year 2020. What cash flow loss did NBN Co run?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Isn't that the figure Ms Brown just gave for the cash flow outcome?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Brown: What year were you interested in?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The cash flow loss was 7.4—can you give me the figure again?</p> <p>Ms Brown: The cash flow statement shows net cash used in investing activities, which I don't think is the number you were looking for.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: No. It's a loss figure. The corporate plan of 2020 had a forecast of \$6.1 billion. I'm asking what the actual loss was, which is the previous figure I asked for. Page 45 of the 2019 NBN annual report—I have that here as well—says that net cash flows provided by financing activities reflect the drawdown of debt to fund capital expenditure and subscriber costs of approximately \$7½ billion, offset by interest payments on borrowings of \$352 million and payments for finance leases primarily relating to right of use arrangements over infrastructure provided by Telstra: \$385 million. That paragraph indicates that NBN Co ran a \$7.5 billion loss in final year 2019. That matches the figures on page 48 of the corporate plan that reports actual for the same period. Am I correct in saying that?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Could I clarify? You're talking about a negative cash flow outcome for the year. Senator PRATT: I beg your pardon?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: You're talking about cash flow, including cash from investing activities that creates assets; is that correct?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'm talking about how the figure is derived in NBN Co.'s corporate plan.</p>	11,12

				<p>Mr Atkinson: Yes, but you're talking about cash flow rather than operating.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, that's right; not the income. Financing activities reflect the drawdown of debt offset by interest on borrowing, finance leases, payments, et cetera.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer : I can see the numbers you're referring to and I wish to double-check. We're happy to come back later in the day and confirm that we're definitely comparing apples with apples in that instance. But, on a quick glance of the various documents, that would be correct.</p>	
3	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Regional broadcasting - consultancies	<p>Senator PRATT: What's the impact on industry of all these consultancies? Here we're looking at a sector that's stressed financially in terms of regional broadcasting. But presumably industry has got to provide that information and the data. Are not these overlapping research projects burdensome?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: I can address the first part of the question in relation to my responsibilities, which is the satellite broadcasting service. We've spoken to the regional broadcasters—all four of the commercial regional broadcasters plus the nationals—and they've actually welcomed this consultancy and have undertaken to cooperate as much as they can. They see it as an opportunity to influence the strategic thinking around the future of the industry and the options for delivery in regional Australia.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The Boston Consulting Group research, what is its purpose, when will it report to government and will the report be made public? And what will it tell the department that you don't already know from the KordaMentha research?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: It will provide insights into the future of free-to-air TV services in areas where terrestrial transmission is not available. It will look at different technology options. It will look at what consumer preferences are and how they are likely to consume their content. It's due to report by 30 June this year. The KordaMentha work is not run out of my area.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think to your point, these aren't pieces of work that have been commissioned at different points in time—and things are changing quickly in the regional media space—and also they have been looking at slightly different things. So I don't think—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you could take on notice what their—</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: there is an overlap piece. But we're happy to take that on notice, yes.</p>	18
4	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Regional broadcasting - QUT	<p>Senator PRATT: QUT's research, what is the purpose of that and when will that report to government and when will that be made public?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The question of when that becomes public will be a matter for government. It has been prepared.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The government has received it?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Certainly that piece of work has been completed and it is being considered by—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: When was it completed and given to government?</p>	19

				Mr Windeyer : I'll take that on notice. We'll be able to get you an answer to that over the course of the day.	
5	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Regional broadcasting - Delivery	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you. Did that research inform the minister's screen sector reforms? Was the report delivered to government before the announcement of those reforms?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer : Can I take that on notice? We'll just confirm when it was completed and how that fits with the screen sector reforms.</p>	19
6	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Media Reform Green Paper	<p>Senator PRATT: Mr Atkinson, the green paper—when was the media sector advised that the government intended to release such a paper?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson : I'd have to check the exact date of that.</p>	20
7	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Australia Post board appointments - Mr Bruce McIver	<p>Senator PRATT: Okay. I had some questions in relation to board appointments for Australia Post. They are technically, I think, corporate questions, so I'll ask them now. Mr Bruce McIver is a former Liberal Party director in Queensland. Did he go through a merit based selection process before being appointed to the board? Was he recommended by the department or appointed by the government?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Let me just see if I've got some detail on that here. The general point I guess I would make is that, regarding appointments to boards, the recommendation for where people come from can come from a range of sources—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, I know that. Did it come from the department in this instance?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: No, I understand. I'm just going to see whether I've got that for you here or, alternatively, it may be something we can come back to in outcome 5 when I have more officials here.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Perhaps you can chase it up while Australia Post are giving evidence...</p>	21
8	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Australia Post board appointments - Mr Tony Nutt	<p>Senator PRATT: ...On Friday 5 March the minister announced the reappointment of Tony Nutt to the board. Can you confirm this appointment was approved by the cabinet on 1 March but announced on the Friday?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer : I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can you give me the date of his reappointment and the date of the approval?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We will find out that date—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Could you take on notice the date of his reappointment and the date of</p>	21

				<p>the expiry of his term please? Mr Windeyer : Yes.</p>	
9	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kimberley Kitching	Australia Post - BCG report - Downgrade of credit rating	<p>Senator KITCHING: The BCG report was in that year, in 2019. In your opening statement you said there was a credit rating downgrade in November 2019. Was the BCG report done partly in response to that? Mr Boys: I will have to ask the Department to the minister to take that question. We have no idea why the commissioned that report. Senator Hume: I can't answer that, Senator Kitching. What I can say is that these sorts of reports are in the normal business of government. Senator KITCHING: I understand that. My question was: was the BCG report done in response to a credit rating downgrade? Senator Hume: I can't answer that. Senator KITCHING: I am happy for you to take it on notice. You'll take it on notice? Senator Hume: I can take that on notice.</p>	33, 34
10	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kimberley Kitching	Australia Post - BCG report -Public Interest Immunity Claim	<p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you, Chair. Maybe the public interest immunity claim won't extend to the cost of the report, which I understand was \$1.3 million; is that correct? Senator Hume: I can't answer that question. I can take it on notice.</p>	34
11	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kimberley Kitching	Australia Post - BCG report cost	<p>Senator KITCHING: Minister, Australia Post was asked to make a special dividend payment that matches exactly the cost of the BCG report. Is that a coincidence or was that arranged? I am happy for you to take it on notices and ask the shareholding ministers. Senator Hume: I am happy to ask the shareholding ministers, but to imply anything other than coincidence is nothing more than speculation.</p>	35
12	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Legal circumstances around providing the letter from ABC	<p>Senator GREEN: Okay. And how did we go in tabling that letter? Mr Atkinson: My apologies. I need to refer it to the minister to consider a claim for public interest immunity on notice. Senator GREEN: Isn't the letter a letter from the ABC? Have you asked them, because they are downstairs? Mr Atkinson: Yes. Senator GREEN: What did they say? Mr Atkinson: They considered that it is confidential and that it shouldn't be released. Senator KITCHING: Can I ask what the basis for that claim is? Mr Atkinson: The basis would be it would be against the public interest to release it.</p>	42

				<p>Senator PRATT: You have to specify the grounds in which the public interest is offended or compromised and how it is compromised.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes, and that's a matter for the minister to consider. I'm just asking to refer it on notice to the minister to consider public interest immunity.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: A public interest immunity claim hasn't been made.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: On the basis of confidentiality.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That's not a basis.</p> <p>CHAIR: Secretary, under the standing orders, you need to specify one of the grounds—there are a number of acceptable grounds—and the harm that would be caused in relation to that ground.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I just need further advice on the legal circumstances with respect to that letter.</p>	
13	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Applications to seek an extension of the RISE Fund	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. Have there been any applications from arts organisations to see an extension of the RISE Fund seeing as it seems so oversubscribed?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I'd have to check whether we've received any actual representations. I hope that in the arts sector more money will be provided.</p>	45
14	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Screen industry - NEDE	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Perhaps, Minister, you could clarify this: is it the government's intent to have the legislation in place prior to 1 July?</p> <p>Senator Hume: The government anticipates that it will apply from 1 July.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That's not the question I'm asking.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can't give you any more clarity than that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So you don't know when the parliament will deal with the legislation?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I imagine it will do it in the normal course of business, but it would apply from 1 July.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What about the changes to the subscription television quotas?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: That is a matter for outcome 5.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: That's the outcome—I'd just have to check.</p>	46
15	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kimberley Kitching	Remuneration	<p>Senator KITCHING: My question on notice 2422, was asked of the minister representing the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts on 10 December. I understand that departments change, but it was this:</p> <p>In relation to bonuses, short-term incentives, rewards or gifts - monetary or otherwise - awarded to any executive, employee, officer, contractor or any other person, can the quantum of expenditure be provided for each of the following periods for the portfolio (all departments, agencies, government appointed boards, boards and structures) :</p>	47-48

			<p>1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020; and 1 July 2020 to 10 December 2020.</p> <p>The response was: 'With one department, 28 entities, 115 government appointed boards and 95 other boards and structures in the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, and Communications Portfolio, the research required to provide a response to these questions would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.'</p> <p>Really? So now do you know what I've done? I've gone to all of your one department, 28 entities, 115 government appointed boards and 95 other boards and structures, and asked each of them individually. It might have been better for you to answer just one question on notice. Do you have a reason why you couldn't answer it?</p> <p>Ms Spence: Senator, it is as per the response that was provided.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Really?</p> <p>Ms Spence: That's an extraordinary amount of information that's being sought in that question.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So when I compile this, when I do get this from all of your boards and entities, what are you going to do? That's what I wanted. from this question on notice and now all of your different ones are going to have to do it individually, because I presume the department isn't going to tell the minister that it's an unreasonable diversion of resources for each one. Is that what you're going to do? You may as well tell me now, because I will break it down further. I would really like you to answer these questions on notice rather than just give me the run around, which is what this department has been doing.</p> <p>Ms Spence: Sorry, Senator, we weren't trying to give you the run around. The quantum of the information that's being sought in that question is significant.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Other departments do it. I have asked every other department and they managed to do it, but not this one.</p> <p>Ms Spence: Sorry, Senator, but we do have a large number of portfolio agencies associated with this department, far more than any others.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: That's a more reasonable answer.</p> <p>CHAIR: Order! Senator Pratt, let the witness answer the question.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: The challenge we have is with the number of agencies—with 28 agencies—is that each of them has its own accountable authority or is accountable to the parliament directly. They're not accountable to us for that, so we don't hold on hand the information that you're asking for there. We would be representing third hand what they would be representing to us. And it's quite a broad task: we had over 700 questions on notice from the last estimates on its own, which we do a huge amount of work to answer to give as much transparency as we can.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So that was a higher priority than this question on notice, was it?</p>	
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16	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	RISE fund - embargo	<p>Senator GREEN: How many arts organisations were advised under embargo? These organisations are desperate for funding, and knowing in November 2020 whether or not you are going to get funding was the difference between keeping people employed and not keeping people employed. I want to know how many weeks it took to make these announcements to let people know that they were successful. If they were waiting for the minister to fly in and do an announcement, I want to know that, because that is despicable.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Arnott : I can assure senators that applicants to the RISE Fund were advised in time to ensure their projects could proceed. Every one of those 115 projects is proceeding. People were advised and provided with funding in time to ensure that projects could go ahead.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: That's different to what I'm asking. That's a different answer to what I'm asking. You're saying, 'It was fine that they had to wait because eventually they found out,</p>	50

				<p>and they were able to have their projects.' But what I want to know is how many people found out about their projects. Even if it was embargoed, it would be good to understand that. You're saying you don't know right now?</p> <p>Ms Spence : I think we've taken it on notice—that we'll get back to you about how applicants are advised, under embargo, between decisions taken and announcements made.</p>	
17	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Eric Abetz	SBS - Shanghainese commentator	<p>Senator ABETZ: Is it true that the former president of the Australian Shanghainese Association and a member of the UNITED FRONT Shanghai Overseas Friendship Association has been a regular commentator on SBS Mandarin? Mr Taylor: I'm very happy to take that on notice.</p>	76
18	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Eric Abetz	SBS - Global Chinese-Language Media Forum	<p>Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Did the former head of group for SBS Mandarin and a former casual SBS producer attend the GCLMF multiple times? The GCLMF is the Global Chinese Language Media Forum. Mr Taylor: Again, Senator, I'm really happy to take that on notice and get back to you. Senator ABETZ: That is basically the propaganda arm for the CCP. I'm just wondering if you can let us know whether any person from SBS attended at taxpayers' expense. What on earth were we thinking to fund people to go those sort of conferences?</p>	76
19	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Rex Patrick	SBS - advertising revenue	<p>Senator PATRICK: Not much more. I am trying to reconcile this. I might go to the minister. You've heard the conversation. Does the government take a particular view on this? We know the harm that is done through gambling. You might target gambling ads at a particular time, but almost always they fall within the viewing scope of people who are addicted to gambling. We can go to Health and find out the costs. We can go to Social Security and find out the costs. Here we have a public broadcaster contributing to the problem. Do you have a view on that? Is that appropriate?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I have a personal view, but I will find a view from the minister for you. I will take that on notice.</p>	78
20	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Dept - anti-siphoning	<p>Senator PRATT: I want to ask some questions about the anti-siphoning list, which was due to sunset on 1 April. What consultation has been undertaken to inform that decision?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: That would be a matter for the department.</p> <p>[... p.93]</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Was ACMA consulted on the decision to continue the current anti-siphoning list until April 2023?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: No.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Is there a risk that waiting another two years to modernise that anti-siphoning list will undermine rather than support broadcasters and the content available</p>	87, 93, 94

			<p>to all Australians?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: That is a matter of government policy.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: However, based on the existing reporting of services, is it not the case that over-the-top services not subject to the anti-siphoning list are increasingly obtaining rights to sports on the anti-siphoning list?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Again, I think those questions might be best directed to our colleagues in the department.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Senator Hume, in the context of your representative role, the government has made a play about saying, 'We're going to look at the anti-siphoning list so that people can still get access to free-to-air sports.' However, the fact is that it's going to take another two years. How can the government maintain an argument that it will support the availability of Australian content to Australians and not undermine it given the time of going out to 2023 is going to mean that those trends will continue?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'm sure there has been consideration given to that issue.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You can assure us that there has been consideration, or you assume there has been consideration? I just worry that the consideration has been the opposite—that the Australian government doesn't have the interests of those would want to watch free sports content at heart and that it is rather more interested in the revenue or the access of their corporate friends to this content.</p> <p>Senator Hume: No. I think that is impugning character and I think it is pure speculation.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. So what assurances can you give me that over-the-top services not subject to the anti-siphoning list are not increasingly obtaining the rights to sports on the anti-siphoning list?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I will come back to you with an explanation.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: In the context of the siphoning list, it means that, for the next two years, free-to-air networks will continue to have the first opportunity to purchase rights to culturally significant events and other major sporting events. However, there are a range of things not on the list that free-to-air networks don't have access to. We're not going to get to reconsider that now until 2023. I don't understand how you can sustain the argument.</p> <p>Senator Hume: The broader issue of the operation of the scheme, on my understanding, can be looked at separately in the context of the green paper.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The issue is that if the current anti-siphoning list continues until 2023, those not on the list will go to over-the-top services rather than free-to-air services.</p> <p>Senator Hume: These questions are probably better directed to the department. The extension of the list ensures that a list remains in place. The alternative would be that you let it lapse.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Why can't you review the list as well as putting new sports on it and other</p>	
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				<p>services?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I think that is a question best directed to the department.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can't you review at the same time as adding new—</p> <p>Senator Hume: I think that is a question better directed to the department.</p>	
21	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - peak funding	<p>Senator PRATT: But it's the political figure that the government used when it tried to defend it didn't have a cost blow-out, so I want to know if there was a cost blow-out in the estimated \$51 billion. If you reckon there were additional parameters, tell me what they were and tell me, if you were to bring forward the equivalent of the peak funding in that \$51 billion, what it would have been.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'd need to take on notice that last question to work out what that might be. I can tell you—and I think the company itself will be able to give you more detail on this—that there were a number of factors that occurred that may well have meant that there was a difference between what actually happened and the forecast.</p> <p>[... p97]</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. So if the parameters haven't changed in terms of the announcements made by the government to backflip on their policy, what would the peak funding have been? Would it have been \$51 billion as previously reported?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I completely understand that question and that was the one that I said I'm happy to take on notice to see if we can give you an answer to that. That is addressing—comparing what the \$51 billion related to, what it—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you don't want to compare, you know—</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes. We're happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: In terms of references to changes in capital requirements due to upgrade announcements and references to cost increases being investments and, therefore, somehow not counting, I find the argument misleading and unrelated to the counting of cost increases for the purposes of what we are discussing if you look at what the principles of peak funding are supposed to pertain to. There were no upgrade or backflip announcements from the government in the 2020 financial year. Those announcements were made on 22 September 2020 after 1 July. So for the purposes of financial year 2020, the larger than expected cash flow loss pertaining to that year is tied to the initial rollout—correct?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I think I follow what you're saying. That is correct, I think, in terms of the timing. What I can't give you but I'm happy to take on notice—or, I suspect, the company will be able to give you a clear explanation—going to the point you talked about this morning and have talked about again this evening, is the explanation of the difference between a forecast and what was reported in the annual report. That—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Or a failure to make a forecast in the new plan at all.</p>	96, 97, 98

				<p>[... p98]</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can I just clarify. Why have we just had a big debate about peak funding relating to new parameters and that not being reported, when it is these figures that were not reported in the corporate plan? It was not new parameters and new investments. It was these figures in the \$1.3 billion cost increase that weren't reported. Is that not correct?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: That's why I've undertaken and am happy to try to ascertain the equivalent peak funding number that is, in a sense, the equivalent to the number we have been talking about and to understand, to the best we can, what drives the difference between the numbers you are drawing our attention to in the annual report and the numbers that are in the forecast in the corporate plan. We can't go through all of the lines here, but I think there will be a number of things that drive the difference. To take but one example, you need to perhaps look at what moves across that whole table on page 48 of the corporate plan, which forecasts revenue in 2020 of \$3.7billion, and I note the revenue number in the annual report, which we are then comparing it to, ended up being \$3.8 billion. So numbers have moved around between what is actually reported and what was forecast.</p>	
22	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Previous QoN (NBN Co) - costings methods	<p>Senator PRATT: I have some questions relating to the last budget estimates, in October. There is question on notice No. 73. The question sources the two claims made by Mr Fletcher through his Twitter account on 12 August, and those claims, as referenced in the question on notice, were that, had the Liberals not abandoned Labor's fibre NBN, the rollout would have taken six to eight years longer and around 4.5 million premises in the fixed line footprint would be unable to connect to the NBN. The government responded to that question and said:</p> <p>The Department provides information and fact checking in support of many of the Communications Minister's speeches. The Department does not directly provide input to tweets by the Communications Minister.</p> <p>There are two primary sources used by the Minister for statements regarding the time and cost to deploy high speed broadband via fibre to the premises vs a multi-technology mix approach, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... 2016 Corporate Plan, p. 39, published in 2015; and - Strategic Review, Final Report ... Dec 2013 <p>Minister Hume, how is it that the corporate plan is listed as a primary source for the six to eight years claim when Mr Windeyer has previously told the committee—and I can take you back through the Hansard if I need to—that the document did not contain a costing of a Labor policy or plan.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I don't know. I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Senator Urquhart asked Mr Windeyer:</p>	100-102

				<p>Can I go back to you, Mr Windeyer. The 2016 corporate plan is not the original Labor policy?</p> <p>And, Mr Windeyer, you said:</p> <p>That is what I said a second ago. No, it is a costing of reversion to a fibre to the premises. The point I was trying to make was solely that we are not sure what the source of those numbers are ...</p> <p>And the statement goes on. We had a debate about the counterfactual evidence, about what would happen if you happened to be illogical enough to deploy a multitechnology mix, absorb massive cost blowouts, and then decide to go back and overbuild that network with fibre. Does that not sound remarkably similar to the point in time that we have arrived at now?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Is that question directed to me or is that directed to—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes. Thank you.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Senator Pratt, I know that you say this with feeling and conviction, but I'm not entirely sure what you are talking about. I'm going to unpack the question and take it on notice and I'll come back to you.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What we are talking about is the fact that Minister Fletcher has previously falsely ascribed costs to Labor's plan when they didn't cost the Labor policy. In fact, the scenario the minister referenced is, frankly, more closely aligned with the current backflip being formed by the Morrison government.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Once again, there is an awful lot in that statement. I'm quite happy to take the question on notice and unpack what it is that you have asserted there.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: But, the question on notice answer says:</p> <p>there are two primary sources used by the Minister for statements regarding the time and cost to deploy high speed broadband</p> <p>and they are the corporate plan of 2016 and the strategic review of 2013. So they're the main sources used, but there is no source that backs up the claim in relation to premises that would not be able to connect to the NBN. Can you point me to any other source?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We'd have to take on notice the possibility of other sources. We can take that on notice and see if we can find anything.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: It's a question on notice, and then you gave us an answer. Is the answer wrong?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: It's not relevant?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm not saying the answer is wrong. We've pointed you to two sources of information, and we have said, 'but we cannot tell you what the actual source used by the minister for the minister's tweets were'. We did not provide any advice on that. We can't answer that question.</p>	
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				<p>Senator GREEN: Is he just making it up? [... p102]</p> <p>Senator PRATT: On 23 February in the House of Reps the minister made the following claim, 'If we'd stuck with Labor's plan, then we would in 2020 have had five million fewer Australian premises able to connect.' What is the source of this statement?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Has he misled the parliament?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't know the answer to the question as to the source, so I'd need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay, but we've just had a very long debate about peak funding, parameters et cetera, and you've gone out of your way to make sure that I understand what's in and what's out in that regard so that those predictions about cost blowouts and debt and what is delivered in those parameters are accurate. Where is the evidence that 4½ million to five million premises would have been unable to connect?</p>	
23	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	NBN Co - Corporate bonuses	<p>Senator GREEN: I might have to come back to that. I have some questions about some information that we got through a chamber question on notice, question on notice 2386. The answer to that question was overdue by about 50 days, I might add. It revealed that NBN Co had paid out \$78 million in corporate bonuses between July 2020 and December 2020. Why isn't this information published in the NBN annual report?</p> <p>Ms Brown: Remuneration paid to employees is not required to be reported. It's remuneration information on senior executives or, in the parlance of corporate law, key management personnel that's reported on in a more granular way.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: But does that matter? It's \$78 million of bonuses. It's not necessarily whether you're required to report it. Shouldn't it be reported? The ABC, Australia Post and other organisations report their bonuses. Why is this different?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Those organisations—certainly Australia Post—publish the remuneration arrangements for their key management personnel, as does NBN. NBN is publishing its annual report consistent with the requirements and expectations of it. I would have to double-check to confirm whether what it reports is substantially different to the nature of the reporting of those other organisations.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Well, \$78 million in corporate bonuses during the peak of an economic recession and in the middle of \$1.3 million of cost blowouts—is that appropriate? Are those types of bonuses appropriate?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't think I can offer an opinion on that. Obviously matters of remuneration for the senior executives and staff and employees of the NBN are matters for—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Why is it relevant for Australia Post but not NBN?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: NBN board and management. Sorry, Senator?</p>	102, 103

				<p>Senator PRATT: Why was it relevant for the government to intervene in the case of Australia Post but not NBN Co?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm sorry—I'm not sure I understand to what you're referring.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: When did the department become aware that NBN Co was paying out that amount of bonuses? Were you made aware before the Senate question on notice was lodged, or was it a process of: when the question on notice was lodged, you had to go through the process of finding that out, and that's when you became aware?</p>	
24	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Samantha McMahon	ABC fact checking	<p>CHAIR: Yes. Noting the ABC, their fact-checking unit earlier today did a fact check on Mr Fletcher's comments around the salaries. They noted that he was correct, that it was a fair call that he made. Are you aware of the analysis? Do you support the fact checking of the ABC?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The fact check was on NBN Co's ability to make them; it was not on whether they were justified or not. NBN Co said—</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Pratt, I'm asking the question of the department, on behalf of Senator McMahon</p>	105
25	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Samantha McMahon	NBN - legacy networks	<p>CHAIR: Thank you. The second question, on behalf of Senator McMahon, is: would scenario 1—which I think was the latest plan—have been rolled out in time for COVID-19, and how many Australians would have been stuck on a legacy network when COVID-19 hit?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think the number I gave, based on scenario 1 in the strategic review, was 2026, from memory. Sorry, I'll find the table.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: What year is that strategic review you're reading from?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: This is the 2013 strategic review. The question related to scenario 1, as described in this strategic review, which indicated a completion date, sorry, in 2024. I'm not sure I can tell you—I can't, from this table, work out how many premises would have been completed by this point in time.</p>	105
26	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	RISE fund	<p>Mr Atkinson: Earlier in the day there was a question about when the successful applicants for RISE were notified. They were notified, under embargo, on the day of the announcement, Friday 20 November.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: What were the restrictions on the embargo? Do you know? Were they able to tell their employees?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson : I'd have to take that on notice. I did notice that Dr Arnott was out there before. Can I take that on notice for you?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes. Can you get us the wording of the embargo?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson : I'm sure I can.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Please table that or take that on notice so we can understand what the restrictions on that were.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson : Certainly.</p>	106

27	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Perin Davey	RISE grants - funding to MPA	<p>Senator DAVEY: And I am absolutely a fan of the RISE grants, because I have spoken to recipients, and they are getting out there and making a difference. Are the RISE grants still open to the major performing arts organisations? I note that they, unlike other applicants, have a guaranteed level of funding which enables them to have a guaranteed level of resourcing, which enables them to potentially prepare, because they can afford fulltime admin staff. I talk to organisations that have a 1.2 FTE staffing equivalent, based on the sniff of an oily rag, and they're competing for the same bucket of money. Is that true for the RISE grants? If so, how do we address that in the future?</p> <p>Mr Collette: I'm going to ask Dr Arnott to respond to that.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes, the major companies are eligible for RISE, but it would only be for projects that were above and beyond what they're funded to do, so they would have to be special projects, if you like. I can't tell you off the top of my head whether more than one or two were funded through the first batch of RISE, but it would be very few. By far the majority went to small to medium organisations. I'm pleased to say that 21 per cent of the first batch of RISE funding went to organisations based in regional and remote Australia.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Could you provide on notice how much went to MPA? I will hand back to the chair. Thank you.</p>	115
28	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	eSafety Commissioner - Classification Board reviews - overdue	<p>Senator GREEN: Sorry, before you go to the next question, Minister, you said the Classification Board can overrule the decision of the commissioner?</p> <p>Senator Hume: That's right.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: How does that take place? Is that initiated by the Classification Board itself? Can someone go to the Classification Board and ask them to overrule?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'll take the process on notice. It's important to recognise that the Classification Board and the eSafety Commissioner run on very different time frames. The eSafety Commissioner has to classify online material and that very much needs to be fast moving. So they work on different time horizons, but they do work with regard to each other.</p>	120
29	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	eSafety Commissioner - AAT Review	<p>Senator PRATT: That was a very good direction to go in. The bill before the Senate, including government amendments, would give the commissioner substantial powers to request removal of content, particularly with respect to content deemed offensive under the new Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme. It's likely that the scheme and use of the commissioner's discretionary powers may cause requests for reviews of decisions through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Is the department satisfied—and I'll ask you also, Minister—that the AAT is appropriately resourced financially and in terms of the skill set required to discharge these review functions? And I note that sometimes those review decisions on content removal may need to be taken with a great deal of urgency.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Did you want to direct that to me?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes.</p>	120

				Senator Hume: I can take the details of that on notice, but I doubt that the role would be given to the AAT unless it was felt that the appropriate skill set and resources were unavailable.	
30	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	eSafety Commissioner - AAT Review	<p>Senator PRATT: What did you discuss in the context of the skills required within the AAT and their capacity to hear things with urgency, which I understand they already have to do if a decision has to be made urgently. It's harder to make urgent decisions if it's a new skill set for a decision-maker. Indeed, if there aren't adequate resources, can it be done in a timely way without displacing other cases in other fields?</p> <p>Ms Gannon: I was present in those discussions with the Attorney-General's Department. I don't recall the discussions about the AAT going to that level of detail. I would be happy to take that on notice if you would like me to follow up and confirm that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I would be grateful if you could take those on notice.</p>	121
31	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Katy Gallagher	Working from home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected. 	Written
32	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kimberley Kitching	Engagement with Services Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the department/agency engage with Services Australia in any capacity in the 2019-20 financial year? If yes, please provide full particulars. 2. Has the department/agency engaged with Services Australia in any capacity in the current financial year to 31 March 2021? If yes, please provide full particulars. 3. In the 2019-20 financial year, did the department/agency supply services or information to Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars. 4. In the current financial year to 31 March 2021, has the department/agency supplied services or information to Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars. 5. Does the department/agency employ technology or apps for users to access its services? If yes, did/does Services Australia have any involvement in the creation, development or ongoing maintenance of that technology or those apps? Please provide full particulars. 6. Does the department/agency receive data, statistics or research information from Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars. 	Written
33	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development	Anne Urquhart	OFTA - Grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your department administer any grants programs or funds? If so, what are they? 2. Do all of the grants programs have grant guidelines that are readily available to the public? 3. Who is the decision-maker for these grants or funds? How is the decision-maker assisted in making their decisions – departmental advice, an advisory group, some other 	Written

	and Communications			<p>independent body?</p> <p>4. Were there any new grants programs or funds established in the 2020-21 MYEFO that your department is responsible for? If so, what are they, and how much funding was provided?</p> <p>5. For the new grants programs, have grant guidelines been developed? Where are they up to at the moment? Will you be consulting with the Department of Finance on these guidelines?</p> <p>6. For the new grants programs, who will be the decision-maker for the grants? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body?</p> <p>7. For the new funds, how will funding be distributed?</p> <p>8. For the new funds, who will be the decision-maker for the funding? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body?</p> <p>9. How will the decision-making process ensure grants go to projects based on merit, and not whether they are in a marginal or target Liberal seat?</p> <p>10. Will the Department be having regard to the sports rorts scandal to ensure that is not repeated?</p> <p>11. What assurance can you give that this will not be another sports rorts scandal – and that projects will be funded based on their merit and not where they fall on a Prime Minister’s colour coded spreadsheet?</p> <p>12. Were there any grants programs or funds that you administer that were provided with additional funding in the 2020-21 MYEFO? If so, what were they, and how much funding was provided?</p>	
34	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Creative Economy Taskforce	<p>1. Has the Department done any modelling in terms of the impact on the arts and entertainment sector of the withdrawal of JobKeeper on March 28?</p> <p>2. How many jobs does the Department expect will be lost?</p> <p>3. How many times has the Creative Economy Taskforce met, and on what dates?</p> <p>4. What role did the taskforce have in determining the recipients of the RISE grants?</p> <p>5. Was the taskforce given a shortlist of grant recipients to choose from? Were its decisions considered final, or could they be overridden by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If decisions could be overridden by the Minister, on how many occasions did this occur?</p> <p>6. Under what parameters or conditions was the taskforce operating, in terms of making their decisions?</p> <p>7. When will the Taskforce next meet? What will their role be once the RISE grant funding is exhausted?</p>	Written

35	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nick McKim	ACCC Monitoring broadband performance	<p>1. Is the Government planning to levy additional funds from industry to give to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to expand its Monitoring Broadband Australia (MBA) program, as the ACCC has proposed in a public speech?</p> <p>a. Is the Government satisfied with the ACCC's use of funds considering the program is currently only deployed to about half the number of volunteers as originally planned?</p> <p>i. If so, why?</p> <p>ii. If not, why?</p>	Written
36	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Katy Gallagher	Staffing profile	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <p>a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and</p> <p>d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE</p> <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p>	Written
37	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Producer Offset and the Post, Digital and Visual Effects Offset	<p>The Department indicated that the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) released in September 2020 models the impact of the number of projects that are expected to access the Producer Offset and the Post, Digital and Visual Effects Offset under the changed offset arrangements.</p> <p>a. Has the Department completed modelling on the impact of the offset changes on employment numbers and expected investment within the sector?</p> <p>b. Has the Department completed modelling on whether, and to what extent, the offset changes will impact the number of participants in the sector?</p> <p>c. Has the Department completed modelling on whether the reduction in the number of projects will affect different sized projects in different ways? (For example: will smaller projects be more affected than larger projects?)</p>	Written
38	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	SVODs	<p>Questions regarding the 5% local content quota on Streaming Video on Demand Services (SVODs) proposed by Minister Fletcher:</p> <p>a. Has the Department completed modelling on the extent to which a 5% content quota on SVODs will encourage investment in Australian content within the sector?</p> <p>b. Has the Department completed modelling on how many jobs will be created as a direct result of the 5% content quota?</p> <p>c. Has the Department completed modelling on how many hours of content across the drama, documentary and children's genres are expected to be produced as a direct result of the 5% content quota?</p>	Written

39	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Grants programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your department/agency administer any grants programs or funds? If so, what are they? 2. Do all of the grants programs have grant guidelines that are readily available to the public? 3. Who is the decision-maker for these grants or funds? How is the decision-maker assisted in making their decisions – departmental advice, an advisory group, some other independent body? 4. Were there any new grants programs or funds established in the 2020-21 MYEFO that your department is responsible for? If so, what are they, and how much funding was provided? 5. For the new grants programs, have grant guidelines been developed? Where are they up to at the moment? Will you be consulting with the Department of Finance on these guidelines? 6. For the new grants programs, who will be the decision-maker for the grants? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body? 7. For the new funds, how will funding be distributed? 8. For the new funds, who will be the decision-maker for the funding? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body? 9. How will the decision-making process ensure grants go to projects based on merit, and not whether they are in a marginal or target Liberal seat? 10. Will the Department be having regard to the sports rorts scandal to ensure that is not repeated? 11. What assurance can you give that this will not be another sports rorts scandal – and that projects will be funded based on their merit and not where they fall on a Prime Minister’s colour coded spreadsheet? 12. Were there any grants programs or funds that you administer that were provided with additional funding in the 2020-21 MYEFO? If so, what were they, and how much funding was provided? 	Written
40	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Bridget McKenzie	Staff locations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many staff does the Department have working in capital cities, including Canberra? 2. Are any Department staff based in rural or regional locations? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many? b. What percentage do capital city based-staff make-up of your workforce compared to rural- and regional-based staff? 3. How many staff worked-from-home each month from the Department for the period October 2020 to March 2021? 	Written

				<p>4. In response to 2, the Department responded that no evidence suggests a shift in staff productivity, but the Department does not have productivity measures of the impact working from home. How does the Department usually measure productivity?</p> <p>a. How did productivity during the work-from home period compare to the period where staff were not working-from-home?</p> <p>b. Given productivity appears to have remained static, how will the Department work to maintain or increase productivity when staff return to their office?</p> <p>c. What opportunity exists for the Department to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during COVID?</p> <p>5. For question 3, Department data shows a 25.9 per cent decrease in the number of personal circumstances days taken between March to October 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What are the reasons for this decrease in personal circumstances leave?</p> <p>a. How will the Department work to maintain the reduction in personal/sick leave taken?</p> <p>b. If the Department has staff based in rural/regional areas, is there a comparison of sick leave taken for these staff compared to city-based staff?</p>	
41	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Question to the Minister: Online Safety Bill	<p>1. Regarding recent reports of Andrew Laming’s online behaviour:</p> <p>a. would his behaviour enliven the provisions of the Online Safety Bill;</p> <p>b. would his behaviour be something that victims could complain to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner about; and</p> <p>c. would his behaviour potentially breach provisions of the Online Safety Bill?</p> <p>2. Your opinion piece ‘Taking the necessary steps to stop online abuse’ which first appeared in The Daily Telegraph on 18 March 2021 states that: “There are some who cannot speak -- after being driven to suicide after being bullied or trolled online. Northern Territory teenager Dolly Everett. Television personality Charlotte Dawson”.</p> <p>a. What evidence does the Minister rely on to support the statement that the individuals named were “driven to suicide after being bullied or trolled online”?</p> <p>b. Does the Minister assert causality between “being bullied or trolled online” and suicide?</p> <p>c. Is the Minister aware of expert advice, for example from Mindframe, cautioning against sensationalising or simplifying the cause of a suicide death to one factor?</p> <p>d. Does the Minister acknowledge the need for careful and responsible statements by Members of Parliament on the topic of suicide due to the risk of normalising the behaviour, the risk of copycat behaviour and the risk of blaming young communities?</p> <p>e. Does the Minister acknowledge that suicide is a complex issue and is often not preceded by a single event or condition?</p>	Written

42	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Question to the Minister: Community Television	<p>1. Given that the Media Reform Green Paper, released November 2020, identifies no alternative use for the radiofrequency spectrum in the 600 MHz band until “2026 and beyond” at the earliest, will the Minister permit community television broadcasting to remain on-air until such time that auctioned spectrum is reassigned? If not, why not?</p> <p>2. Will the Minister guarantee the Australian people that he will maximise, by ensuring the efficient allocation and use of the spectrum, the overall public benefit derived from using the radiofrequency spectrum in the 600 MHz band by permitting community television broadcasting to remain on air until such time there is an alternative use for the spectrum, consistent with the object of the Radiocommunications Act?</p> <p>3. Will the Minister guarantee the Australian people that he will make adequate provision of the spectrum for use by community television broadcasters, consistent with the object of the Radiocommunications Act?</p>	Written
43	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Question to the Minister: Anti-siphoning	<p>1. On 22 March 2021 the Minister announced that the current anti-siphoning list would continue until 2023. What consultation did the Minister undertake in deciding to continue the current anti-siphoning list until 2023? Please specify (a) stakeholders consulted with, (b) consultation dates and (c) method of consultation.</p>	Written
44	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Question to the Department: Online Safety Bill	<p>1. Regarding recent reports of Andrew Laming’s online behaviour:</p> <p>a. would his behaviour enliven the provisions of the Online Safety Bill;</p> <p>b. would his behaviour be something that victims could complain to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner about; and</p> <p>c. would his behaviour breach provisions of the Online Safety Bill?</p>	Written
45	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Question to the Department: Australian content rules – 5% Foxtel NEDE	<p>1. On what basis was the level of proposed obligation for subscription television at 5% arrived at?</p> <p>2. What modelling has the Government undertaken in terms of the impact of this reduction on the amount of Australian content available to Foxtel subscribers?</p> <p>3. How soon will expenditure go down once the regulatory obligation is reduced? Within 6 months? Within 12 months? Within 24 months? Within 36 months?</p> <p>4. What is the policy intention of the proposed halving of the NEDE requirement?</p> <p>5. If the policy intention of halving the NEDE requirement is to provide regulatory relief to subscription television in the face of declining revenues, what other models were considered? Would a revenue-based spend requirement that provides an in-built responsiveness to changing market conditions also provide regulatory relief?</p> <p>6. If the policy intent is to address a regulatory imbalance with unregulated streaming</p>	Written

				<p>platforms, should not the decision on subscription television regulation be deferred until a policy decision is in place for Australian content requirements on streaming platforms?</p> <p>7. What is the total investment in production as a result of the NEDE scheme since its introduction?</p> <p>8. Please provide details of spending targets and compliance results since 2010-11.</p> <p>9. How many subscription TV channels has the scheme applied to since its introduction? How has this changed over time?</p> <p>a. What kinds of expenditure can be acquitted under the scheme?</p> <p>b. Could promotion and marketing of content count towards the requirement?</p> <p>10. Does this extend to promotion and marketing of Foxtel's associated streaming services?</p> <p>11. When was the last time that compliance reporting was independently audited? What were the results of that audit?</p>	
46	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Question to the Department: Copyright	<p>1. On 13 August 2020 the Government flagged Copyright access reforms. Can the Department please outline where it is at with considerations of possible changes to the Copyright Act or regime?</p> <p>2. Has the Department consulted with stakeholders? What sorts of concerns have been raised by stakeholders?</p> <p>3. Has the Department consulted with teachers or teachers groups? If so what concerns have they raised?</p> <p>4. What is the Department's intention here? What specific problems is the Department trying to fix?</p> <p>5. Can the Department guarantee that the changes will be technologically neutral and that acts of copyright that are remunerable in the physical world will also be remunerable in the digital world?</p> <p>6. Would the Department be concerned if, particularly with a backdrop of COVID, Australian authors, artists or musicians and businesses were to have their potential to derive an income compromised through any changes to the Copyright Act?</p> <p>7. What copyright activities are there which are captured by current licences, meaning there is some payment back to creators, which would not be captured by the licence after the changes? Why should creators not be remunerated for those?</p> <p>8. What will be the financial impact of the changes being considered, who wins and who loses?</p> <p>9. What will be the impact on the creative industries? On individual writers, artists, musicians, scriptwriters and other creative Australians?</p> <p>10. Has the government done the sums on what this means financial to all the groups affected?</p> <p>11. Have any rights holder groups provided the Department with estimates of the</p>	Written

				financial impact on creators of the proposed reforms and if so what are these? 12. How will you ensure the Department gets the balance right and does not further diminish the ability for creators to be compensated for use of their works?	
47	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Question to the Department: Anti-siphoning	1. On 22 March 2021 the Minister announced that the current anti-siphoning list would continue until 2023. What consultation did the Department undertake in deciding to continue the current anti-siphoning list until 2023? Please specify stakeholders consulted with, consultation dates and method of consultation.	Written
48	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Question to the Department: Liberal logo	1. On 27 November 2020, the Minister Paul Fletcher tweeted about the release of the Media Reform Green Paper with a graphic depicting the Liberal party logo. Is the Department comfortable having its worked branded with the Liberal party logo, or would the Department prefer this not be done? 2. How do Department staff – public servants who are obliged to be impartial – feel about having their work, the work of a Commonwealth Government Department, branded as that of the Liberal Party?	Written
49	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Executive Management	1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020: a. The total number of executive management positions b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions. c. The change in the number of executive manager positions. d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.	Written
50	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial functions	1. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, can the following be provided: a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written

51	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial meals	<p>In relation to any breakfasts, luncheons, dinners or other meals hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. List of dates and types of meals. j. List of all attendees. k. Function venue. l. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). m. Details of any food served. n. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. o. Any available photographs of the function. p. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written
52	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Departmental functions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written
53	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Executive office upgrades	<p>1. Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries been upgraded for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive).</p>	Written
54	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Facilities upgrades	<p>1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment.</p> <p>2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together</p>	Written

				with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). 3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.	
55	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Staff travel	1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	Written
56	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Legal costs	1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	Written
57	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Secretarial travel	1. Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 be provided including: a. Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided.	Written
58	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	FOI	1. Please list the number of Freedom of Information Act requests ('FOI requests') received by the Department for the following years: a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17; e. 2018-19; 2019-20, and; f. 2020-21 to date. 2. For each year above, please provide:	Written

				<p>a. The number of FOI requests the Department granted in full;</p> <p>b. The number of FOI requests the Department granted in part;</p> <p>c. The number of FOI requests the Department refused in full; and</p> <p>d. The number of FOI requests the Department refused for practical reasons under the Freedom of Information Act.</p> <p>3. For each year above, please also provide:</p> <p>a. The number of times the Department failed to make any decision on a FOI request within the 30 day statutory period; and</p> <p>b. The number of times a request to the Department resulted in a practical refusal (i.e. no decision was made on the request).</p> <p>4. For each year above, please also provide:</p> <p>a. The number of times the Department's FOI decisions have been appealed to the OAIIC; and</p> <p>b. The number of times has the OAIIC overturned – in whole or in part – the Department's decision to refuse access to material.</p> <p>5. Please provide the staffing (both ASL and headcount) of staff at the Department who work exclusively on FOI requests, broken down by APS level (e.g. three EL1s, four APS6s, one SES) for each of the following years:</p> <p>a. 2013-14;</p> <p>b. 2014-15;</p> <p>c. 2015-16;</p> <p>d. 2016-17;</p> <p>e. 2018-19;</p> <p>f. 2019-20, and;</p> <p>g. 2020-21 to date.</p> <p>6. For each of the years above, please also list the number of officers who are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Department.</p> <p>7. In the past 12 months, has the Department seconded additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests? If so, please detail those resources by APS level.</p> <p>8. Please provide the number of officers who are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office.</p> <p>9. Please provide the number of FOI requests currently under consideration by the Department. Please also provide the number of these requests that are currently overdue in response.</p> <p>10. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests? If so:</p> <p>a. How many times has this occurred in the past twelve months; and</p>	
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				<p>b. Please outline the process by which the Department consults the Minister.</p> <p>11. Has the Department consulted or informed another Department or agency about any FOI request in the past twelve months. If so, please provide the legal basis on which that consultation occurred (e.g. third party consultation, transfer of request).</p>	
59	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Briefings	<p>1. Has the Department/agency or the Minister's office provided briefings to independents/minor parties in the Senate or House of Representatives. If so, can the following be provided:</p> <p>a. The subject matter of the briefing.</p> <p>b. The location and date of the briefing.</p> <p>c. Who proposed the briefing.</p> <p>d. Attendees of the briefing by level/position</p>	Written
60	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Acting Minister arrangements	<p>1. Can the Department provide all leave periods of the portfolio Minister from 24 August 2018 to date.</p> <p>2. Can the Department further provide acting Minister arrangements for each leave period.</p>	Written
61	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Departmental staff allowances	<p>1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.</p>	Written
62	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Market research	<p>1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies.</p> <p>2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of:</p> <p>a. Subject matter</p> <p>b. Company</p> <p>c. Costs each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020</p> <p>d. Contract date period</p> <p>3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.</p>	Written
63	Department of Infrastructure, Transport,	Kristina Keneally	Advertising and information campaigns	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p>	Written

	Regional Development and Communications			<p>2. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide:</p> <p>a. When approval was first sought.</p> <p>b. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process.</p> <p>c. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline.</p> <p>3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided.</p>	
64	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Promotional merchandise	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided.</p> <p>3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided.</p>	Written
65	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Collateral materials	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on collateral materials, including banners, publications, maps, charts and high visibility or protective clothing for events, functions, conferences, meetings, press conferences and site visits, including Ministerial events, functions, conferences, meetings, press conferences and site visits for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p> <p>2. For each event or function where the Department/agency expended funds on collateral materials, provide details of the event, including the date and location of each event, and details of the types of materials.</p>	Written
66	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial overseas travel	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 please be provided including:</p> <p>a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p>	Written

				<p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided.</p>	
67	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial domestic travel	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all domestic travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 please be provided including:</p> <p>a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p> <p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided.</p>	Written
68	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Social media influencers	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p> <p>2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote.</p> <p>3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.</p>	Written
69	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Departmental equipment	<p>What was the estimated value of all Departmental equipment that was lost, damaged, stolen or written off during each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p>	Written

70	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Commissioned Reports and Reviews	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Date commissioned. Date report handed to Government. Date of public release. Terms of Reference. Committee members and/or Reviewers. <p>2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost.</p> <p>3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel.</p> <p>4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel</p> <p>5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review.</p> <p>6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level.</p> <p>7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.</p>	Written
71	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Board Appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to date. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors. 	Written
72	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Appointments – briefs prepared	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many times has the Department prepared a brief for statutory authorities, executive agencies, advisory boards, government business enterprises or any other Commonwealth body which includes a reference to a former Liberal or National member of parliament at a state, territory or federal level. For each brief prepared, can the Department advise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The former member. The board or entity. Whether the request originated from the Minister’s office. Whether the appointment was made. 	Written
73	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development	Kristina Keneally	Stationery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. 	Written

	and Communications				
74	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Media monitoring	<p>1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.</p> <p>2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.</p>	Written
75	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Communications staff	<p>1. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:</p> <p>2. By Department or agency:</p> <p>a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.</p> <p>b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.</p> <p>c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.</p> <p>d. How many are graphic designers.</p> <p>e. How many are media managers.</p> <p>f. How many organise events.</p> <p>3. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios.</p> <p>a. If yes, why.</p> <p>b. When was it established.</p> <p>c. What is the set up cost.</p> <p>d. What is the ongoing cost.</p> <p>e. How many staff work there and what are their classifications.</p>	Written
76	Department of Infrastructure,	Kristina Keneally	Departmental staff in Minister's office	<p>1. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including:</p>	Written

	Transport, Regional Development and Communications			<p>a. Duration of secondment.</p> <p>b. APS level.</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level.</p>	
77	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	CDDA Payments	<p>1. How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020?</p> <p>2. How many claims were:</p> <p>a. Accepted.</p> <p>b. Rejected.</p> <p>c. Under consideration.</p> <p>3. Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide:</p> <p>a. Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations</p> <p>b. The date payment was made</p> <p>c. The decision maker.</p>	Written
78	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Congestion busting	<p>1. Can the Department/agency advise how it is “congestion busting” in relation to bureaucratic bottlenecks and regulatory bottlenecks.</p> <p>2. Have any additional resources been allocated within the Department to achieve “congestion busting” within the department.</p>	Written
79	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Recruitment	<p>1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p> <p>2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.</p>	Written
80	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Staffing	<p>1. How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at each of 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 10 November 2020.</p> <p>2. How many of these positions are (a) on-going and (b) non-ongoing.</p> <p>3. How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. How many were:</p> <p>a. voluntary</p>	Written

				<p>b. involuntary.</p> <p>4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies.</p> <p>5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff.</p> <p>6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p> <p>7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 to date.</p>	
81	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Comcare	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status.</p> <p>2. Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the each of the periods; 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.</p>	Written
82	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Fair Work Commission	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.</p>	Written
83	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Fair Work Ombudsman	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.</p>	Written
84	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.</p>	Written

85	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Public Interest Disclosures	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many public interest disclosures have been received.	Written
86	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Travel and expense claim policy	1 Please produce a copy of all travel and expense claim policies. 2 Please produce a copy of all claim forms. If the forms are digital, please provide a screen shot of each section, including all dropdown options.	Written
87	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Declarations of interest	1 Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2 Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of interest as at 10 November 2020.	Written
88	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Declarations of gifts and hospitality	1 Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2 Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of gifts as at 10 November 2020.	Written
89	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	ABC - letter from Minister to ABC Chair - Tweet	Senator GREEN: Why did the minister tweet a copy of that letter? Senator Hume: I can't answer that. Senator GREEN: You don't know why he would have tweeted a copy? Senator Hume: No. Senator GREEN: Can you take a stab at it? Senator Hume: No. Senator GREEN: Do you want to take that on notice as well? Senator Hume: I can, but I don't know whether it was motivated by any particular emotion.	5

90	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	NBN Co - bonuses - communication with minister	<p>Senator GREEN: The article in the Financial Review went on to say: Mr Fletcher said the government wanted to see constraints on salary increases and bonuses.</p> <p>... ..</p> <p>“My office has communicated with NBN this morning just to remind them of that,” Mr Fletcher said.</p> <p>How was that informed from the office of the minister to the NBN? Was that a letter or verbal conversation over the phone?</p>	105
91	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Online safety	<p>1. In Question Time on Thursday 25 March 2021 in response to a Question Without Notice Minister Ley stated “...online safety is also an important focus of the government. The minister for communications will soon introduce a new online safety act”.</p> <p>Can the Minister clarify whether Minister Ley was referring to the Online Safety Bill 2021 that was introduced on 24 February 2021 passed the House of Representatives on 16 March 2021? Or will the Minister be introducing a further new Online Safety Bill?</p> <p>2. If referring to the existing Online Safety Bill 2021, why was Minister Ley not aware this legislation had already passed the House of Representatives?</p> <p>3. Does the Minister believe this legislation is sufficient to deal with the issue of online safety? If not, why not?</p>	Written
92	Creative Partnerships Australia	Katy Gallagher	Australia Business Arts Foundation Ltd - Work from home	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published ‘Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces’ on 29 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	Written
93	Creative Partnerships Australia	Katy Gallagher	Australia Business Arts Foundation Ltd - Staffing	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p>	Written
94	Australia Council for the Arts	Nita Green	Australia Council - Resilience fund	<p>Senator GREEN: Finally, I think we usually put some questions to you about the breakdown of your grants and the amount of money and the number of grants going to regional areas. Would you mind providing that information for the \$5 million Resilience Fund on notice, if you aren't ready? One of the things coming through now, particularly with stage productions in regional areas, is they are struggling to work with touring</p>	113

				<p>companies to get out to regional areas. I'm just wondering if there are particular grants or a particular program that you're focusing on to get touring companies back out into the regions, get the theatres built up, get the live music venues filled up? I know the people in Melbourne will say they've got issues too around live music, but I am talking about getting people back into regional Queensland to put shows on and to get people back into live venues.</p> <p>Mr Collette : The specific question about the Resilience Fund I think we will have to take on notice.</p>	
95	Australia Council for the Arts	Perin Davey	RISE fund - allocation	<p>Senator DAVEY: And I am absolutely a fan of the RISE grants, because I have spoken to recipients, and they are getting out there and making a difference. Are the RISE grants still open to the major performing arts organisations? I note that they, unlike other applicants, have a guaranteed level of funding which enables them to have a guaranteed level of resourcing, which enables them to potentially prepare, because they can afford full-time admin staff. I talk to organisations that have a 1.2 FTE staffing equivalent, based on the sniff of an oily rag, and they're competing for the same bucket of money. Is that true for the RISE grants? If so, how do we address that in the future?</p> <p>Mr Collette : I'm going to ask Dr Arnott to respond to that.</p> <p>Dr Arnott : Yes, the major companies are eligible for RISE, but it would only be for projects that were above and beyond what they're funded to do, so they would have to be special projects, if you like. I can't tell you off the top of my head whether more than one or two were funded through the first batch of RISE, but it would be very few. By far the majority went to small to medium organisations. I'm pleased to say that 21 per cent of the first batch of RISE funding went to organisations based in regional and remote Australia.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Could you provide on notice how much went to MPA? I will hand back to the chair. Thank you.</p>	115
96	Australia Council for the Arts	Katy Gallagher	Australia Council - Staffing	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	Written
97	Australia Council for the Arts	Katy Gallagher	Australia Council - Work from home	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9:</p>	Written

				Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved?	
98	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Julia Zemiro	<p>Mr Anderson: That is correct. We instituted the code of conduct late last year. It does include the use of personal social media. Senator BRAGG: I want to ask you about a few cases. There is a case with Ms Julia Zemiro, who said on Twitter on 16 March: Peter Dutton you continue to disgrace. Does that mix the professional and the personal?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Julia Zemiro works for us periodically. She comes on a contract for, say, a show like Julia Zemiro's Home Delivery. She's not an ongoing member of staff for the ABC.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: So it doesn't apply to contractors?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Well, it would apply to contractors while they are in the employ of the ABC. So when they are outside of the employ of the ABC, it would be hard to hold Julia Zemiro to account.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: Of course.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: But it's certainly something- Senator BRAGG: Is she currently an employee or a contractor? Mr Anderson: I would have to get back to you on where we are up to. I shouldn't say whether or not we're doing another series with Julia Zemiro. I'll take that on notice and get back to you.</p>	54
99	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Four Corners - legal clearance	<p>Senator BRAGG: Why don't we try. Did a barrister review the November Four Corners program and advise that the rape allegations should not be broadcast?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: What I would say is that certainly with any Four Corners program there is a process that includes prepublication, which is part of ABC Legal. Again, I can't answer specifically to that.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: Okay. So was advice sought for the 26 February article?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, if there is a requirement for any publication on our platforms particularly, there is a process that includes ABC legal and prepublication. So specifically I can't answer that particular question.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: Okay. But we have to assume from your evidence today that ABC Legal gave clearance in February but wouldn't give it in November.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, it will invariably depend what was put to the legal department. I will correct what was said earlier. The chair did not approve that program going to air. That sits with me. That responsibility is certainly mine for publishing. It would never go to the chair because it is not part of the chair's responsibilities, as set out by the act. When it comes to whether or not or what was put to the legal team, I'm afraid I can't answer that here today, but I can take it on notice.</p>	55
100	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Four Corners - ABC Legal	<p>Senator BRAGG: Thank you. One of the key questions here is: where is the line between what the ABC and ABC Legal will stand behind in terms of a program and then a journalist's social media profile? In the case of Four Corners, you've got a program approved apparently by ABC Legal. Then you've got a journalist tweeting about that</p>	55, 56

				<p>material as an ABC personality. Where is the line? What do you approve? Do you approve their tweets?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No. It is what the code of conduct is very much trying to deal with. We have a social media policy that deals with what is published on our official ABC social media accounts, much like you would put to your digital surround and what you put to air on broadcast, as you would on your own platforms. So the difference being—</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: So if—</p> <p>Mr Anderson: That journalist's use of their personal social media is not an official publication. That is why we have the code of conduct in place.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: But in this case, where you have Ms Louise Milligan tweeting about this particular Four Corners publication, is she tweeting on behalf of the ABC as an ABC personality, or is she tweeting in a personal capacity?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, that specific question relating to Louise Milligan and her tweets is at the heart of the statement of claim, so I can't respond to that.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: You can't respond to that? Mr Anderson: Not now. Not the way you've put it to me. On notice I can give you a response, but it won't be a response specific to Louise. Here is the tricky thing. As part of the journalist's job, people will contact them over social media. People will get in touch with them in that way.</p>	
101	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	ABC - Four Corners - AFP	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In relation to the Four Corners episode that aired last night in relation to Britney Higgins, has anyone from the government or the AFP sought any information from the ABC in relation to the incident as reported?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm not aware of that. I can take that on notice for you. I'm not aware of that, no. I know that we sought either response or interviews from many people. I know one of them was the AFP. I know that we've been in touch with the AFP with regard to the Britney Higgins story that aired last night, but I don't know what has ensued outside that.</p>	57
102	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Nita Green	ABC - Four Corners	<p>Senator GREEN: I have a follow-on question. Mr Anderson, with the reporting last night, there was a female security guard at the centre of the program. She says that no-one spoke to her for two years even though she was the security guard that found Ms Higgins. Ms Higgins went public with her allegations five weeks ago. Within five weeks, the ABC has managed to find her and speak to her. Did she come forward? Did she seek out your journalists, or were you able to find her? Were your journalists able to find her?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm afraid I don't know. I can answer that for you on notice. I don't know if we found her or whether she found us. I don't know.</p>	58
103	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - John Sullivan - charges and checks	<p>Senator ABETZ: Was the ABC aware that Sullivan already faced riot and criminal mischief charges for his participation in a Black Lives Matter protest the June before?</p> <p>Mr Anderson : I'll have to get back to you on notice, Senator, as to whether or not we knew.</p>	60, 61

				<p>Senator ABETZ: All right. What checks did the ABC make of Sullivan's background before engaging him?</p> <p>Mr Anderson : I'll take that on notice.</p>	
104	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Four Corners - capitol riots	<p>Senator ABETZ: Thank you. In the Four Corners report on 1 February on the riot at the Capitol, the reporter repeatedly blames the far right. Fine, but why did she not acknowledge that the rioters also included activists of the left, specifically John Sullivan, and that he had egged on the crowd? For example, he was recorded in his own video saying, 'Burn this s-h-i-t.' Why wasn't that part of the reporting by the ABC to provide some balance to the horrendous activities that occurred in the Capitol of the US on that occasion?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: While I will provide you a more comprehensive answer on notice, my first response would be that we did not use Mr Sullivan as talent in the program. He was not interviewed for the program.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: But we paid him for the footage—\$US2½ thousand of taxpayers' money for somebody who has antecedents that I hope no public funds would have been expended upon.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It is not uncommon for us to pay people for footage where they own the copyright for it for use in our programs.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: But somebody who is charged with criminal mischief charges and goes running around saying 'Burn this s-h-i-t' down?' We don't have any concern about this at all?</p> <p>Mr Anderson : I will give you a full response on notice about—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Thank you.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Abetz, please let Mr Anderson finish his answer.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Sorry. I'm just conscious of time.</p> <p>Mr Anderson : what decision we made and why.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you can let us know who authorised the payment and who made the approach to Mr Sullivan and how all that was organised in some considerable decision, I would be much obliged.</p>	61
105	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Bonuses	<p>Senator ABETZ: There are certain things in your annual report which tells us about the average bonus. As we know, an average is an average. So I'm interested in what was the highest bonus. I might even translate that into Cartier watches for you afterwards. But tell us what the highest bonus is.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will give you the highest on notice, but I will de-identify the person, of course.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I'm not asking for the person, just the amount. You don't know?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will give you the context. There are people that are covered under our employment agreement that we would suggest are red book, where there are obligations</p>	61

				in the employment agreement with regard to that, and then individual ones. Then we have executives—	
106	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - WeChat	<p>Senator ABETZ: Look, fine. You can provide all that on notice given that you're unable to provide the actual figure to us. So we'll move on, if I may. Does the ABC manage a WeChat account, ABC Australia, which is registered to a China based company—I hope I pronounce this correctly—Shanghai Ao Pa Si Cultural Development Company Ltd?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I do think that we—whether we manage it—have a WeChat account, yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Who operates that account?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll get back to you on notice. There are two areas. We have our Asia-Pacific newsroom, which is based in Melbourne. We also have what is the international services, which look after—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I understand all that. I'm sorry to interrupt, but I've only asked about the WeChat and who operates it. You've taken that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It will be in one of those two places. I will give an answer on notice.</p>	61
107	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Global Chinese Language Media	<p>Senator ABETZ: Can you confirm that the ABC's Chinese programs executive producer attended the Global Chinese Language Media Forum repeatedly—at least in 2011, 2013 and 2015? Did he do so at taxpayers' expense?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll have to get back to you, Senator.</p>	61
108	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - reporting of Armenian genocide	<p>Senator ABETZ: Take that on notice. On Friday, 18 December 2020, the ABC published an article discussing the importance of the recognition of the republic of Artsakh to prevent a second Armenian genocide. Only a few days later, that article was taken down, which led to a public outcry as to why the article had been removed, and a new version reappeared. In 2018, Mr Sullivan told us that, 'As a general rule, we certainly don't, in relation to the Armenian genocide, provide prescriptive advice to our teams on how they must refer to it.' So what influence caused the reference to the historical fact, I would assert, of the Armenian genocide to be sanitised to conflict? Who complained? Why was 'genocide' changed to 'conflict'?</p>	62
109	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Four Corners - budget allocation	<p>Senator ABETZ: On notice, if you don't have all the information there. Does Four Corners have a separate annual internal budget allocation? If so, how much is it?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will provide that on notice to you as well. It does change from year to year depending on their activities.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: This year, what is its budget? Basically, I want to know whether there is a global budget for it from which they can't get more money.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: There is.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Who decides how much is spent on each segment and program and allocating the funding—for example, spending \$2½ thousand of it for somebody like a Mr Sullivan?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We'll get you the number. The head of investigations is John Lyons. He will</p>	62

				have program budgets for Four Corners, 7.30 and Q+A. And we manage— Senator ABETZ: If you give us the one for Four Corners for this period of 12 months, that would be most helpful.	
110	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	ABC - Facebook	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How much of the ABC's content is shared on Facebook generally? How much traffic do you get through Facebook? Can you judge that specifically? Do you know how to measure that? Mr Anderson: I have a figure in my head that is around 20 per cent, but I will confirm to you on notice. But it is certainly not as high as Google.	63
111	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC websites - ABC Everyday	Senator ANTIC: So what ratings apply to it? There are clicks, I suppose. How do they compare with the market equivalents, I suppose? Mr Anderson: I will give you the audience figures that we have with regard to audience and audience increase since we did the rebrand from ABC Life and whatever other relevant information we have, such as engagement.	67
112	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC websites	Mr Anderson: We have a structured platform brand. So we've got ABC TV, ABC TV Plus, which is our secondary channel, which was a rebrand that happened at the beginning of this year. We believe the value that provides to the Australian taxpayer is that there's a range of genres that otherwise are not seen in prime time on the main channel. There are things like arts. So we'll have arts three nights a week. We'll have other factual documentaries. We'll have programs that otherwise are on the main channel that can be repeated there as well. That is ABC TV Plus. You mentioned ABC Pride. ABC Pride is a staff-led group representing our LGBTQI+ staff members that is self-organised as a group. We also have ABC Belong, which represents our CALD staff. We have the Bonner committee, which represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, and we have ABC Inclusion, which represents staff living with a disability. They are all staff-led groups. They are not brand propositions. Senator ANTIC: I will ask you to take the questions about the costs to the taxpayer of each of those and the ratings, where that's applicable, on notice, perhaps. It does appear from the outside that the ABC picks and chooses a bit when it comes to these programs and the programming. I'm interested why that is. We now know, for example, that 51 per cent of Australians identify, as at the last census, as Christians and yet there isn't an ABC Faith or an ABC Religion. What is the rationale for that? They are people we want to cater to as well, I would have thought. Mr Anderson: Certainly. The names I mentioned earlier are staff-led groups. They are not brands for content that is otherwise reaching the Australian people. When it comes to people who are Christians and having content that appeals to them, we do have Compass. We're the only organisation, I would say, that has a religion and ethics department that spans TV, radio and online. Compass is a program that will often explore Christian faith. If	67

				we ever move Songs of Praise on a Sunday, that is otherwise at 11.30 am, I hear from people about that. We do have it represented in our other content.	
113	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC article - Groom Preselection	<p>Senator RENNICK: My next question concerns an article that was reported by a Toowoomba correspondent last year about the Groom preselection. It basically implied that the Groom FDC had a woman problem because a woman wasn't selected for the position of the LNP candidate. The two women that were named as frontrunners weren't members of the LNP prior to the preselection. This wasn't reported. Section 8 of your legislation says you have to be accurate. I think that was an extremely misleading article, implying that members of Groom had a woman problem because they didn't pick a woman over the eventual winner, Garth Hamilton. This was a week before the general election. I would argue that it was tainted as well because it was trying to influence an outcome. Why wasn't more accurate reporting done on this article? Why is the ABC obsessed with trying to make out that the LNP has a woman problem?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm not aware of the article. I will take a look at it and provide you a response on notice.</p>	69, 70
114	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - reporting on assault allegations	<p>Senator RENNICK: Thank you. I have one more question. I know there is a conversation between Patricia Karvelas and Fran Kelly about the time there were rape allegations made against former opposition leader Bill Shorten. There was no discussion about it at that time by the ABC, which I think was the right thing to do. They were saying that had that come up now, there would have been discussion. I find it interesting, given that Bill Shorten is still a member of the parliament, that there was never any discussion about that, yet you were more than happy to run news stories about Christian Porter. Don't you think there is a bit of imbalance between the reporting on one allegation versus another allegation?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I would have to look into that. I haven't heard that conversation between Fran and Patricia. I did not know at the time the investigation happened into Bill Shorten about the decisions around it or what we knew at the time. I will give you a response on notice.</p>	70
115	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - Abortion Action Coalition rally	<p>Senator ANTIC: Mr Anderson, on 6 February this year, there was a pro-life rally in Adelaide called Walk for Life, which was a protest rally against the late term abortion bill coming up before state parliament. It was reported on ABC News that night that hundreds of people turned up to the event when, in fact, something in the order of 5,000 people turned up. In that same broadcast, the interviewer interviewed two people opposed to the position of the protestors. Only a week later, the ABC reported on the Abortion Action Coalition rally, which was about the flipside of the coin—those who were supportive of the legislation. It correctly reported the numbers in those cases. Once again, it put forward people in its vox pop who were supportive of the position, which was that the legislation should pass. I think we're all probably used to the editorialising.</p>	70

				<p>That sort of goes with the flow. I think there was later a correction about the numbers. Is that a deliberate editorial position? It seems to me that every time there is an error in this regard, it always falls to the left-wing side of the coin. It seems to be almost always on one side of the coin. How does that continue to happen when the reporting is so unbalanced?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No. There is no intention here. We are required to be impartial and accurate at all times. It sounds like there was a complaint or somehow we've updated whatever we did. I don't believe there is systemic bias in the way that we approach this. We can look at that on notice and get back to you as to what happened during that. I can also give you some statistics about upheld complaints that might change your view on whether it is—</p>	
116	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - foreign influence	<p>Senator ANTIC: I have one last question. There are a number of instances, I understand, in which this applies. The ABC regularly invites people such as Geoff Raby to be interviewed on TV. On regular occasions, it is my understanding, it has failed to mention that this person and others have signed and are subject to the provisions of the FIT Scheme, the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme. In this instance, this person was recorded on that scheme as a Chinese agent of influence or a person of foreign influence. Are the ABC's processes in terms of declaring those interests or those nominations on the registry form stringent enough if those matters are not being disclosed to the viewing audience?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We have people on lists, if you like, who are people that we will go to if we have them on a panel, such as The Drum or Q+A. It is a specific issue that might relate to an individual. That is how they will be selected to be interviewed. I think the disclosure of affiliations is possibly relevant to the story itself.</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: But is it not always relevant that somebody is subject to the whims of that scheme? That's what it's for. That person is being put forward as an expert. It would be material, I would have thought, to know that they are recorded in this manner.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I would need to see the circumstances by which the person is being interviewed and whether or not that would be relevant. I will provide you a response on notice.</p>	71
117	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Samantha McMahon	ABC - Kristy O'Brien - Campaigning	<p>Senator McMAHON: I would like to jump momentarily to the role of ABC reporter Kristy O'Brien in the NT election campaign. You will probably know I asked questions late last year. You stated in response to my questions on notice:</p> <p>Ms O'Brien was on maternity leave from the ABC prior to and during the election campaign. Ms O'Brien has assured her managers and the ABC that she did not campaign for Mr Gunner or the ALP at any stage during the campaign.</p> <p>However, recent media reports based on FOI have revealed that taxpayer funded campaign trips show that Ms O'Brien was on campaign in the lead-up to the NT election with her husband at taxpayer expense. Did she disclose these trips to the ABC?</p>	72

				Mr Anderson: Senator, we're going to have to take that on notice, I'm afraid. Senator McMAHON: So you're not aware of whether she disclosed her trips during campaigning, even though you stated that she did not? Mr Anderson: Well, we've provided the answer on notice. If there are subsequent reports, we will have a look at them and come back to you on notice.	
118	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Samantha McMahon	ABC - Kristy O'Brien - Hospitality	Senator McMAHON: Did she disclose to the ABC that she benefited from hospitality claims at NT taxpayer expense during these trips? Mr Anderson: Again, Senator, if we haven't provided that to you on notice before, I don't know. We will come back to you on notice.	72
119	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - letter from Minister to ABC Chair - consultation	Senator SMALL : Thanks for that. I will go back to the letter from the chair to the minister that was reviewed by the management team but not you. Would you be able to provide— Mr Anderson : It was not reviewed. The final letter was not reviewed by the management team. There was input that was provided by me and the management team. None of us saw the final letter as it was sent to the minister. Senator SMALL : What other roles aside from the managing director's role were consulted? Mr Anderson : Look, I will have to get back to you on notice.	74
120	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Katy Gallagher	ABC - Staffing	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	Written
121	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Katy Gallagher	ABC - Work from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	Written
122	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Samantha McMahon	ABC - Ms O'Brien	You stated in response to my QON Nov 2020 "Ms O'Brien was on maternity leave from the ABC prior to, and during the election campaign. Ms O'Brien has assured her managers/the ABC that she did not campaign for Mr Gunner or the ALP at any stage during the campaign." However, recent media reports that revealed taxpayer-funded campaign trips, show Ms O'Brien was on campaign trips in the lead-up to the NT Election with her husband at	Written

				<p>taxpayer expense.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did she disclose those trips to the ABC? (at least 4 trips) 2. Did she disclose to the ABC that she benefitted from hospitality claims at NT taxpayers' expense? 3. Who at the ABC authorised her to take part in these party-political campaign trips while in the employ of ABC? 4. Has she explained to you or her managers why she was on these trips? 5. Some of the trips have been called into question for having been approved while the Gunner Labor Government was in the caretaker period, in contravention of prescribed caretaker guidelines. Why was an ABC reporter involved in this? 6. Do you think it is appropriate for an ABC reporter to be flying around during an election campaign with politicians at taxpayers' expense, billing taxpayers for items such as beers, chai lattes and Italian mineral waters? 7. What is Ms O'Brien's current role at the ABC? Not what she has done in the past – her current role? 	
123	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Impartiality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just like Tim Davie and the BBC, does the ABC have a code of conduct? 2. Julia Zemiro comments on 16 March 2021 at 11.30am Peter Dutton #PeterDuttonyoucontinuetodisgrace - does this "mix the personal and professional business in ways likely to bring the ABC into disrepute" - What happens there? 3. Have any complaints been upheld on ABC news articles on government policy from journalists Dan Ziffer or Ian Verrender? 	Written
124	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Line between programmes and social media	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the line between programmes on the ABC and social media? 2. Who monitors journalists' tweets that are published on the internet as agents of the ABC? 3. Does the ABC stand behind the tweets of its journalists? 	Written
125	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Conduct of litigation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting value for taxpayers - how is ABC legal working to maximise taxpayer value? 2. How much has the failed defence of the Chau Chak Wing litigation cost the taxpayer? 3. The ABC did not make a single offer of settlement in those proceedings. On a number of occasions, the Federal Court struck out the ABC's defences because they were hopelessly unarguable and improperly pleaded. Against this backdrop, how can the ABC justify those costs? Who at the ABC made the decision to never make an offer of settlement? 4. What processes do you have in place to ensure there is no repeat? 5. How is this being funded? Do you provide approval funding of the legal cases such as the hiring of barristers? 	Written
126	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Sebastien Maury	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are you aware there is a lawyer on the ABC legal team who tweets very opinionated and subjective tweets from an account in his name? 2. Is it appropriate that such a lawyer, who presumably gives advice to ABC journalists to 	Written

				<p>protect the organisation, tweets comments disparaging to the Federal Government?</p> <p>3. Do you believe it's possible he can give you impartial advice given he's been a lawyer since 2001, and since 2013 he's been publicly critical of the PM and the Government?</p> <p>4. Would you agree that if the ABC's taxpayer funded employment allows a member of its legal team to call the government "fascist", the ABC's new Code of Conduct is a failure?</p>	
127	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council and allegations of political interference in the ABC	<p>1. Previous ABC managing directors and editorial directors have given evidence at Estimates that the ABC editorial complaints procedure is "independent" because investigations are conducted by ABC staff who are not working on the particular program facing complaints. Do you agree with your predecessors that the ABC has an "independent" complaints procedure?</p> <p>2. Regardless of how this complaints process works in practice, there is a public perception that the public broadcaster has an editorial policy that is not independently enforced. Does this public perception concern you? What can be done to provide confidence to ABC viewers/listeners that complaints are adequately considered?</p> <p>3. The current complaints procedure has been in place for a decade now, the percentage of complaints upheld is extremely low and referrals to ACMA even lower. Are there any plans to undertake a review to assess the efficacy of the current complaints?</p>	Written
128	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Recognition at the ABC of the Armenian Genocide and possible editorial interference	<p>On Friday 18th December 2020, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) published an article summarising an interview with Serj Tankian, frontman of Grammy Award-winning System Of A Down on the national broadcaster's Triple J Radio Station. Tankian had been quoted discussing the importance of the recognition of the Republic of Artsakh to prevent a second Armenian Genocide, explaining this as the motivation for the band getting back together to produce their new songs "Protect the Land" and "Genocidal Humanoidz", after a 15-year recording hiatus.</p> <p>However, only a few days later, this article was taken down by the ABC. Then, several days later after a public outcry as to why the article had been removed, a new version of the article – which was heavily edited to appease Azerbaijani and Turkish complaints – reappeared.</p> <p>1. Why was this article originally removed?</p> <p>The original article that was removed from ABC's website was titled: "Inside System Of A Down's Reunion and the Armenian Genocide That Spurred It", and the sanitised version after Tankian and many Australians took to social media to correct the apparent censorship is titled: "Inside System Of A Down's reunion and the conflict that spurred it" – the replacing of "Armenian Genocide" with "conflict" is typical of the kind of changes that were made to the body of the article.</p> <p>The republished version contains an Editor's Note, which reads: "EDITOR'S NOTE, January 14 2021: This story has been amended to include more context on the conflict in Artsakh / Nagorno-Karabakh. The headline has been changed</p>	Written

			<p>accordingly. This article has also been amended to remove some contested claims."</p> <p>2. Does the ABC allow complaints from foreign nations or their representatives to influence their editorial policy?</p> <p>In 2018, Mr. Sunderland representing the ABC told these hearings that the ABC doesn't, "as a general rule, and we certainly don't in relation to the Armenian genocide, provide prescriptive advice to our teams on how they must refer to it. Whether we're talking about the Armenian genocide or any other issue, we simply ask people to be accurate and to reflect the facts of the matter in the way they describe these events."</p> <p>3. Has this policy of allowing editorial integrity changed at the ABC regarding the Armenian Genocide?</p> <p>4. What influence caused the reference to the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide (unequivocally recognised by the International Association of Genocide Scholars and one of the seminal events which inspired the international lawyer and author of the UN Genocide Convention to coin the term "genocide") to be sanitised to "conflict"?</p> <p>5. If no, then why, after requests for clarification and correction, on the 9th February 2021, Triple J Audience responded to queries from the Armenian-Australian community, citing that they: "temporarily unpublished the article for further editing as required by the ABC's Editorial policies"?</p> <p>6. If yes, what has caused this change in editorial policy?</p> <p>7. Once again, does the ABC allow complaints from foreign nations or their representatives to influence their editorial policy?</p> <p>8. Has the ABC received any representation from foreign nations or their representatives regarding the Armenian Genocide or Nagorno Karabakh articles in question?</p>	
129	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	<p>ABC - Complaints</p> <p>1. How many complaints did the ABC receive last year?</p> <p>2. What percentage of those complaints relate to news and current affairs content?</p> <p>3. Are those complaints increasing or decreasing?</p> <p>4. How many complaints relate to impartiality?</p> <p>5. What percentage of complaints have been upheld by the ABC as a result of its own investigations?</p> <p>6. What is the average length of time taken to respond to a complaint?</p> <p>7. How often has the ABC issued a correction or apology in relation to such internal complaints handling?</p> <p>8. Has the ABC benchmarked its complaints handling processes with comparable international best practice? If not, why not?</p> <p>9. Can the ACMA require the ABC to issue a correction or apology – or to provide enforceable undertakings such as in relation to training or improved processes or oversight?</p>	Written

				10. When will the ABC set up an appropriate complaints mechanism that is completely independent of the ABC?	
130	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Social Media	<p>1. Does the ABC monitor and moderate the use of social media by journalists and other staff and contractors of the ABC?</p> <p>2. Do you deal with complaints in relation to social media content under the same process as broadcast and online content?</p> <p>3. What editorial process are in place for social media posts by staff in relation to program content to be approved by program executive producers or management – especially in circumstances where a report may involve a risk of defamation?</p> <p>4. Does the ABC’s social media policy include obligations to delete material on social media if it is found to contravene ABC policies or ABC Charter obligations?</p> <p>5. Does the ABC obtain legal advice on the content of social media posts by ABC journalists, in the same way legal advice is sought for news and reporting?</p> <p>6. How much money/resources does the ABC spend monitoring social media activity of journalists?</p>	Written
131	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Blackburn Report	<p>1. In 2019, the ABC conducted a review of the impartiality of its election coverage by Kerry Blackburn. That review made some significant negative findings in relation to The Drum and Insiders. In fact, that review found that:</p> <p>In 3 of 5 editions of The Drum there was a predominance of views which favoured Labour and/or the idea or policies most often associated with the Left of politics (p8)</p> <p>Similarly in relation to Insiders – there was a substantial shortfall in positive reflection of the Coalition’s prospects, policies or performance compared to Labor (p8);</p> <p>In fact in one case, the episode of The Drum on 6 May – the reviewer found the nature of the disparity was so great that it was “not just a positive impression for policies identified with Labour’s platform but also at times a marked enthusiasm for a Labor victory” (p30);</p> <p>Two presenters slipped and referred to Bill Shorten as the Prime Minister, and this was only corrected on one occasion. (p31)</p> <p>a. Do you think this kind of bias is acceptable and in accordance with the obligations in the ABC’s Charter?</p> <p>b. What has the ABC done, or what are you planning to do in response to the Blackburn report?</p>	Written
132	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Staff	<p>1. Of the ABC total staff:</p> <p>a. What is the total number of FTE staff engaged by the ABC in each of the last three years?</p> <p>b. What is the total staff cost in each of the last three years?</p> <p>c. How many are primarily located in each state?</p> <p>d. How many are primarily located in metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Australia?</p>	Written

				<p>e. How many are primarily located overseas?</p> <p>f. Does the ABC have any records relating to the diversity of staff?</p> <p>2. What buildings and facilities does the ABC own and what is the market value of those buildings?</p>	
133	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - Costings	<p>1. What is the annual cost of producing ABC Everyday?</p> <p>2. What is the breakdown of annual cost for each aspect of ABC Everyday as sub-headed on the ABC Everyday website as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Food b. Money c. Travel d. Family e. Work f. Wellbeing g. Sex & Relationships h. Entertainment i. Home & Garden j. Video <p>3. How are ABC Everyday ratings and viewership measured?</p> <p>4. Please provide data on ABC Everyday ratings and viewership.</p> <p>5. Does ABC benchmark ABC Everyday ratings and viewership against similar competing commercial content?</p> <p>6. If so, how do ABC Everyday ratings and viewership compare against similar competing commercial content?</p> <p>7. What is the annual cost of running ABC TV Plus?</p> <p>8. Please provide ABC TV Plus ratings and viewership data.</p> <p>9. What is the annual cost to the taxpayer for each of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ABC Pride b. ABC Belong c. ABC Bonner Committee d. ABC Inclusion 	Written
134	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme	<p>Does the ABC disclose to viewers when they interview, feature as a guest, feature as a presenter, or rely on or broadcast information produced by or provided by any person or entity which is registered or required to be registered under the Government's Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme ("FITS Matters")?</p> <p>11. Does the ABC have a policy with respect to disclosing FITS Matters to viewers?</p> <p>12. If so, what is that policy?</p> <p>13. If the ABC does not have such a policy, in what circumstances does the ABC consider it appropriate or reasonable to disclose FITS Matters to viewers?</p>	Written

				14. In what circumstances does the ABC not consider it appropriate or reasonable to disclose FITS Matters to viewers?	
135	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - Failure to broadcast speech of Nicolle Flint MP	<p>On 24 March 2021 Nicolle Flint MP gave an adjournment speech to Parliament at approximately 7.55pm concerning ABC's failure to report on the reality of physical and sexual abuse in remote communities and went on to quote Cheron Long whose cousin Layla Leering, was one of three teenage girls whose alleged suicide deaths were examined in an inquest last year.</p> <p>The ABC's national radio broadcast of the proceedings of Parliament on 24 March 2021 cut away from Ms Flint's speech as she began to quote Ms Long, and instead broadcast approximately twenty seconds of silence, omitting from the radio broadcast of Parliament the very topic and substance which Ms Flint had only moments earlier criticised the ABC for not reporting on.</p> <p>15. Why did ABC not broadcast in full Ms Flint's speech given to Parliament on 24 March 2021 at approximately 7.55pm and instead broadcast approximately twenty seconds of silence ("the Failure to Broadcast")?</p> <p>16. Was the Failure to Broadcast intentional?</p> <p>17. What steps has the ABC taken to investigate the Failure to Broadcast?</p> <p>18. What steps has the ABC taken to ensure that similar events do not occur in the future?</p> <p>19. Has the ABC re-broadcasted or taken steps to re-broadcast Ms Flint's speech in full, in order to properly broadcast the goings on of Parliament, but more so to ensure that the words and story of Ms Cheron Long are properly reported on?</p> <p>20. Why does the ABC consistently fail to report on the reality of physical and sexual abuse in remote communities?</p> <p>The Parliamentary Broadcasting Act 1946 (Cth) established the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings, which controls the broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings. Part 4 Section (1) of that Act it provides that: "The Australian Broadcasting Corporation shall broadcast the proceedings of the Senate, the House of Representatives... upon such days and during such periods as the Committee determines."</p> <p>21. Given the Failure to Broadcast on 24 March 2021, is it the ABC's view that its actions were in compliance with its obligations under the Parliamentary Broadcasting Act 1946 (Cth)?</p>	Written
136	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anne Urquhart	ABC - Recruitment	<p>1. In the last 6 months, has the ABC undertaken recruitment for any key executive management roles? If so, what roles?</p> <p>2. Have these roles been advertised?</p> <p>3. Is the ABC using a recruitment firm to assist in the recruitment of key personnel? If yes, what is the name of this firm, and is it an Australian-based firm?</p>	Written

				<p>4. Has the ABC used this firm before?</p> <p>5. Has the ABC considering using an Australian-based firm to recruit staff?</p> <p>6. What fees or contracts is the ABC paying the recruitment firm for their services?</p> <p>7. Has the ABC reported these contracts or fees in the annual report? If not, why not?</p>	
137	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anne Urquhart	ABC - Legal fees	<p>1. What budget does the ABC have set aside for litigation in general?</p> <p>2. What legal/ litigation budget does the ABC have set aside to defend the defamation action brought by Christian Porter MP?</p>	Written
138	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Rachel Siewert	Breaches Interactive Gambling Act	<p>Ms Rainsford: Thank you for the question. I think at last estimates I shared that we had identified 20 affiliates that were of interest. Since the last hearings, we've expanded that to now 21. We have now concluded seven investigations of affiliates. In each case, we have found that those providers did breach various provisions of the Interactive Gambling Act.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Did you say 'did'?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Yes. Each of those breached it. Three of them have since withdrawn from the Australian market. In the remainder, we are contemplating what sort of enforcement action we may be able to take to disrupt those services, including the possibility of website blocking. We have 14 investigations open at the moment. So that's the balance of the 21 identified.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: I want to come back to the blocking issue in a minute.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Of course.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Seven investigated at the moment and three have withdrawn?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Of the seven that we finalised, three of them have withdrawn from the Australian market.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Who are they?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I don't have those names with me.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: There may be somebody in the room who can pass that information on.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: While you're looking, I'll continue asking questions, if that's okay.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I'm sorry, I think we'll have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Are you able to expand a bit—or maybe you need to take it on notice—the nature of the rules that were broken, the illegal act, in terms of these affiliates?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: We might need to take that on notice. We can also give you a bit further explanation about the breaches we found and how we are approaching it.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So how many of the 238 would have been mirrored if it is 60 per cent?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I don't think we've got that data in front of us. We would be happy to provide that on notice to you.</p> <p>Ms Chapman: I've got 206 up until the end of last year. Fifty-six of them were original and</p>	83, 84

				150 were mirror sites. But we can get you an update on that. Ms O'Loughlin: We can give you an update on that for the 238.	
139	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Gerard Rennick	ACMA - Broadcasting codes	<p>Senator RENNICK: Are there journalistic standards in the media that ensure that once something becomes a criminal allegation, the journalists don't report on it until it is reported to the police?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: It may be dealt with in the editorial policies of the broadcasters. It's not necessarily covered by the codes of practice for which we have responsibility. I would like to see that on notice for you and carefully think about it and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: Sure. Do you think there is a need for the journalism industry to have a code of conduct around criminal allegations so that a fair and balanced trial isn't breached?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: The broadcasting industry codes are—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Only for the undercover Russian government.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Pratt, you don't have the call.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: The broadcasting industry codes are only part of the puzzle. Of course, there are journalistic standards set by the Australian Press Council. There are also, as Creina indicated, journalistic standards set by the media and entertainment alliance. Then there will be editorial policies of individual broadcasters or publishers. So it is a bit of a matrix, but I'm happy to take that offline and provide—</p> <p>Ms Chapman: And there would also be rules of the courts. In some cases, they will be abiding by whatever the court has dictated.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: We will provide some further advice on that for you.</p>	84, 85
140	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Louise Pratt	ACMA - Spectrum	<p>Senator PRATT: You are saying that that will be a decision around the efficient use of spectrum, not the return to the bottom line of the budget. Could you take on notice, please, what you mean by efficiency?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Certainly. There are various things set out in the Radiocommunications Act about what we need to take into account in our spectrum management process. Obviously, the decision to move to that new type of arrangement would be a matter for government. Our role would be around when we were auctioning off the spectrum.</p>	87
141	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Rex Patrick	ACMA - Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund	<p>Senator PATRICK: I will go back a step with the history of this. This is one of the programs negotiated by Senator Xenophon in relation to some of the media reforms. I wonder if you have done any analysis as to the benefits that have been associated with the spend of that money and whether or not that would be available for the committee to look at? You spent X amount of money. This is the value you think you got from that money. Have you done any analysis on that?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I think we could certainly take that on notice. I think we have done certainly some internal analysis. We found that there have been quite significant benefits</p>	88

				<p>through each of the rounds in terms of the sustainability of many of those publishers; their ability to move some of their services into an online space rather than containing it only to their traditional print publication; and the ability to introduce new systems and processes which would have taken them much more time if they had waited to do their own investment. So I think we can tease that out. I think my colleague next to me will have some further advice for you.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I could run through a list of, I guess, at a high level, what we consider some of the benefits have been from the 36 grants that were completed by the end of the year. I'm happy to take that on notice if—</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Yes. Could you do that by way of some sort of short report card on the program that spells out how many jobs you think it saved and what the type of cost to the program was?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford : I'm happy to take that on notice for you.</p>	
142	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Louise Pratt	ACMA - Australian content	<p>Ms Rainsford : Yes. The triennial for children's completed at the end of last year. We would expect the reporting against that to come through. I don't know the exact dates of that. But the drama triennium was partway through when the arrangements changed with the new content standard at 1 January.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: In that context, are you able to advise whether the triennial content obligations were met?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin : We will separate out the children's and the drama. In terms of the children's triennium, which went to 2020, we did indicate that we would not take enforcement actions for non-compliance with that triennium obligation as long as licensees broadcast at least 64 hours of first release Australian children's drama during that time. So there was a decision there. That would be part of the data that is before us at the moment.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I want to know what those impacts are. Does ACMA consider that, with the impact of the content quota suspension and the minister's decision to relax the quotas, there will be a reduction in Australian content overall?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: You are asking me for an opinion.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So you will be able to give us an answer to that substantively once you've assessed the data?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: We will be able to give you the data on the 2020 year and ACMA's decision to forbear in that year and whether or not we need to forbear on any non-compliance for 2020.</p>	90
143	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Katy Gallagher	ACMA - Staffing	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <p>a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p>	Written

				<p>c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and</p> <p>d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE</p> <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p>	
144	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Katy Gallagher	ACMA - Work from home	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	Written
145	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - Grants	<p>1. Does your department/agency administer any grants programs or funds? If so, what are they?</p> <p>2. Do all of the grants programs have grant guidelines that are readily available to the public?</p> <p>3. Who is the decision-maker for these grants or funds? How is the decision-maker assisted in making their decisions – departmental advice, an advisory group, some other independent body?</p> <p>4. Were there any new grants programs or funds established in the 2020-21 MYEFO that your department is responsible for? If so, what are they, and how much funding was provided?</p> <p>5. For the new grants programs, have grant guidelines been developed? Where are they up to at the moment? Will you be consulting with the Department of Finance on these guidelines?</p> <p>6. For the new grants programs, who will be the decision-maker for the grants? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body?</p> <p>7. For the new funds, how will funding be distributed?</p> <p>8. For the new funds, who will be the decision-maker for the funding? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body?</p> <p>9. How will the decision-making process ensure grants go to projects based on merit, and not whether they are in a marginal or target Liberal seat?</p> <p>10. Will the Department be having regard to the sports rorts scandal to ensure that is not repeated?</p> <p>11. What assurance can you give that this will not be another sports rorts scandal – and that projects will be funded based on their merit and not where they fall on a Prime Minister's colour coded spreadsheet?</p>	Written

				12. Were there any grants programs or funds that you administer that were provided with additional funding in the 2020-21 MYEFO? If so, what were they, and how much funding was provided?	
146	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Kristina Keneally	ACMA - Contract notice CN3757253	With reference to contract notice CN3757253 published on Austender on 26 March 2021: In relation to which matter is the Australian Government Solicitor providing legal services in the period 9 March to 30 June 2021 at a cost of \$57,755.	Written
147	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - NEDE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the ACMA does any modelling about the proposed 5% level of obligation for subscription television and/or the impact of this reduction on the amount of Australian content available to Foxtel subscribers? 2. How soon will expenditure go down once the regulatory obligation is reduced? Within 6 months? Within 12 months? Within 24 months? Within 36 months? 3. What is the policy intention of the proposed halving of the NEDE requirement? 4. If the policy intention of halving the NEDE requirement is to provide regulatory relief to subscription television in the face of declining revenues, what other models were considered? Would a revenue-based spend requirement that provides an in-built responsiveness to changing market conditions also provide regulatory relief? 5. If the policy intent is to address a regulatory imbalance with unregulated streaming platforms, should not a decision on subscription television regulation be deferred until a policy decision is in place for Australian content requirements on streaming platforms? 6. What is the total investment in production as a result of the NEDE scheme since its introduction? 7. Please provide details of spending targets and compliance results since 2010-11. 8. How many subscription TV channels has the scheme applied to since its introduction? How has this changed over time? 9. What kinds of expenditure can be acquitted under the scheme? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Could promotion and marketing of content count towards the requirement? b. Could promotion and marketing of Foxtel's associated streaming services count? 10. When was the last time that compliance reporting was independently audited? What were the results of that audit? Who undertook the audit? 	Written
148	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - Foxtel / News Corp	1. What, if any, enquiries has the ACMA made in relation to the ownership and/or restructuring of Foxtel in the past year, and for what purpose? Please specify.	Written
149	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - News Media Bargaining Code	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many media organisations have applied to the ACMA to register under the News Media Bargaining Code since it received Royal Assent this year? 2. Of these, how many media organisations has the ACMA registered and how many has the ACMA rejected? 	Written

				3. Please provide a list of media organisations who have (a) applied and (b) been registered.	
150	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Sarah Hanson-Young	ACMA - Streaming Video on Demand Services	1. In relation to voluntary reporting by Streaming Video on Demand Services (SVODs): a. Which SVODs have engaged in the process of voluntary reporting to ACMA? b. How many SVODs have voluntarily reported levels of investment in Australian content to ACMA? If SVODs have disclosed this information to ACMA, what type of data is being collected? c. Will this data be publicly available and if so, what is the expected timeframe for public release?	Written
151	Australian Film, Television and Radio School	Katy Gallagher	AFTRS - Staffing	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	Written
152	Australian Film, Television and Radio School	Katy Gallagher	AFTRS - Work from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	Written
153	Australian National Maritime Museum	Katy Gallagher	ANMM - Staffing	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	Written
154	Australian National Maritime Museum	Katy Gallagher	ANMM - Work from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020?	Written

				2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	
155	Australian Postal Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	Australia Post - Communications with Ms Holgate	<p>Senator McKENZIE: The Australian Financial Review's article on 29 October said that she had not received proper notification that she had been stood down from her role, when she had stood aside, nor informed as to why she should be stood down during the investigation. Her lawyers also said in that article that she had not had any communication regarding the investigation into Australia Post from either the board or the government. How do you respond to those claims in the Australian Financial Review article?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: Taking them one at a time, the first was that we followed up the verbal discussions I was having with Christine that afternoon with a letter; an agreement was reached that she would stand aside. I'll confirm, but I think that was sent on 25 October. That confirmed the arrangements we had struck on the 22nd.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: That was in writing or that was in a conversation?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: In writing. On the 22nd all the conversations took place during board meetings and breaks in board meetings. That was confirmed on the 25th in writing to her. We made public statements as well on the evening of the 22nd effectively announcing her standing aside at that time.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you provide the Senate committee on notice with copies of those communications?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: Yes.</p>	26, 27
156	Australian Postal Corporation	Kimberley Kitching	Australia Post - Ms Holgate departure	<p>Senator KITCHING: Could I ask some follow-up questions to Senator McKenzie's. I want to clarify some things. Did Ms Holgate receive severance pay?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: No.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Not even of entitlements?</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Not even a going-away watch?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: She received her due annual leave entitlements, yes, and nothing else.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So she doesn't have an email account anymore?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: I do not believe she has.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: And she's not on the books in any way?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: Not in any way.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What was the date on which Ms Holgate signed documents for Australia Post?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: I will take that on notice.</p>	28
157	Australian Postal Corporation	Kimberley Kitching	Australia Post - Internal Review	<p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. In response to Senator McKenzie you said you found 32 opportunities to enhance processes; what did you call the document?</p> <p>Mr Boys: It was just an internal review that we undertook.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: An investigation into the proper use—</p>	28

				<p>Mr Boys: It was a review.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Are you able to table that document? I would like it to include the 32 opportunities for enhancement.</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: We'll take that on notice.</p>	
158	Australian Postal Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	Australia Post - BCG Review	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Have you read the final report of the review?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: No, I haven't read the final report of the review.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Have you read the draft of the final report?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: We've read a draft; we've been shown a draft that was shared with us. Whether that was the final draft, whether there were changes made, I don't know because we haven't seen the final review.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Right. When did you get a copy of the final draft?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: Again, I'll take that on notice. It would have been early February or late February, about that period.</p>	31
159	Australian Postal Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	Australia Post - BCG review - Draft report	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Mr Boys, have you read a final final draft or the final report?</p> <p>Mr Boys: I'm not sure what version of the report it is that I have read, but I have read one that's labelled 'Draft' around a similar time.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Was that after February?</p> <p>Mr Boys: No.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: There's nothing later than February?</p> <p>Mr Boys: Not that I'm aware of.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: To your knowledge, has anyone in your organisation read a draft report of the review of a later iteration?</p> <p>Mr Boys: I'd have to take that on notice, but not that I'm aware of. We received a report that we understand was in the later stages of completion by BCG, and that's all we know.</p>	32
160	Australian Postal Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	Australia Post - McKinsey Engagement	<p>Senator McKENZIE: And your McKinsey work is based on that reading of that report?</p> <p>Mr Boys: No. McKinsey didn't see the BCG report.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: No, I know McKinsey didn't; you did. And then you commissioned McKinsey. When was McKinsey commissioned to do its piece of work?</p> <p>Mr Boys: I'll have to take that question on notice.</p>	32
161	Australian Postal Corporation	Kimberley Kitching	Australia Post - Board	<p>Senator KITCHING: Can I ask you to table the skills matrix of the board. Sometimes when people are doing board selections they are following categories of someone who knows something about one thing. You might have an accountant, a lawyer-that sort of thing. Do you have such a matrix-for the board, I'm talking about now?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: For the board, not the CEO search?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I'm interested in that too. But for the board, I would be interested in, because for the members on the CEO search committee obviously you would want people who can-</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: The board has just concluded an independent review of board</p>	37

				<p>performance, as we do. We haven't finalised it. There's a report going back to the shareholders but one of the things it identifies is the skill mix that the Australia Post board we believe needs.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: When you say 'shareholders', that's the two ministers?</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Even though obviously it's-</p> <p>Mr Di Bartolomeo: Acting on behalf of all shareholders, yes; the two shareholder ministers, yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That doesn't mean we necessarily see it. So what I'm really asking you is: in that review by the board-</p>	
162	Australian Postal Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	Australia Post - CEO	<p>1. Mr. Di Bartolomeo, I wrote to you on 21 January this year to ensure that the successful candidate for the Chief Executive Officer position at Australia Post will continue to improve the profitability and viability of the 2,520 Australia Post retail outlets located in regional, rural and remote Australia. I am yet to receive a response. Can you provide an update on how the recruitment process is progressing?</p> <p>a. Can you outline the current strategies that Australia Post has in place to support the profitability and viability of post outlets in regional, rural and remote Australia?</p> <p>b. What strategies are in place to maintain accessible, reliable and affordable postal services in regional, rural and remote Australia?</p> <p>c. My letter highlighted the innovative approaches implemented by Ms. Holgate to increase the profitability and sustainability of postal services and retail outlets particularly in rural and regional Australia, including Bank@Post, investment to manage growth in parcel volumes, increased safety-net minimum payment for Community Post Office partners in regional areas, and expansion of retail offerings. How will Australia Post implement key performance indicators for the new Chief Executive Officer to continue to improve the profitability and viability of retail outlets in rural Australia as outlined in my letter?</p> <p>i. Can you confirm these key performance indicators will be developed?</p> <p>d. I also wrote in my letter that a parallel objective for the incoming CEO should be to increase services delivered by Australia Post in the regions while (at a minimum) maintaining the number of retail outlets, service standards and quality of delivery in line with Australia Post's Community Service Obligations. What key performance indicators has Australia Post implemented to monitor and achieve this outcome?</p> <p>i. Can you confirm that these key performance indicators will be developed?</p> <p>2. The Australian Government supported recommendation 3 of the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee report The Future of Australia Post's Service Delivery, that should the Australian government choose to implement future strategic changes to the postal service, the consultation process should consider proposals for</p>	Written

				regulating parcel services and/or pricing, especially in rural, regional and remote areas; and proposals for guaranteeing accessible, reliable and affordable postal services in rural, regional and remote Australia. How will Australia Post achieve these outcomes in future strategies, if required, for its regional services?	
163	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - Bank@Post contracts	Have the Bank@Post contracts been renewed with the banks that originally signed for the 3-year terms? If not, will they be renewed and when? Community access to banking is now even more vital than prior to 2018. What is the expectation if the contracts are not renewed under the previous commercial terms? Will Australia Post be expecting to decrease payments made to Licensees if Australia Post fails to successfully renegotiate the banking contracts?	Written
164	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - Point of sales technology	I am informed that the POS (point of sales) technology system is being upgraded currently. Is this upgrade on track, or has the upgrade been paused pending possible changes in management? I understand that the acting CEO is not proceeding with the upgrade despite the funds for a lot of the work being allocated from the first round of bank@post money. Please explain?	Written
165	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - Review of the provision of Australia Post products	Are you, or will you, undertake a review of the provision of Australia Post products to the LPO network with a view to providing these products on consignment to Licensees?	Written
166	Australian Postal Corporation	Katy Gallagher	Australian Post - staffing	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	Written
167	Australian Postal Corporation	Katy Gallagher	Australian Post - Work from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	Written
168	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	Australia Post - Addressed mail volumes	1. What were addressed letter volumes for February 2021? 2. What were addressed letter volumes for March 2021?	Written

169	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	Australia Post - Unaddressed mail volumes	1. What were unaddressed mail volumes in April 2020 (for full month)? 2. What were unaddressed mail volumes in April 2021 (for full month)?	Written
170	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	Australia Post - Egon Zehnder executive search	1. How much has Australia Post spent, in total, on the search for a new CEO? This should include full costs associated with its Egon Zehnder contract, and any other costs. 2. What were the full costs associated with the Egon Zehnder contract?	Written
171	National Film and Sound Archive	Katy Gallagher	NFSA - staffing	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	Written
172	National Film and Sound Archive	Katy Gallagher	NFSA - Work from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	Written
173	National Gallery of Australia	Katy Gallagher	NGA - Staffing	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	Written
174	National Gallery of Australia	Anne Urquhart	NGA - Know My Name initiative	1. What portion of the budget was allocated to artists' fees in the major Know My Name initiative currently at the National Gallery of Australia?	Written
175	National Gallery of Australia	Katy Gallagher	NGA - Work from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	Written

176	National Library of Australia	Katy Gallagher	NLA - Staffing	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <p>a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and</p> <p>d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE</p> <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p>	Written
177	National Library of Australia	Katy Gallagher	NLA - Work from home	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	Written
178	National Museum of Australia	Katy Gallagher	NMA - Staffing	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <p>a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and</p> <p>d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE</p> <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p>	Written
179	National Museum of Australia	Katy Gallagher	NMA - Work from home	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	Written
180	National Portrait Gallery	Katy Gallagher	NPG - Staffing	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <p>a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and</p> <p>d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE</p> <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p>	Written

				3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	
181	National Portrait Gallery	Katy Gallagher	NPG - Work from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	Written
182	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Retail Prices	Senator URQUHART: If retail providers were to increase prices on the 50-megabit-per-second bundle, how many households could that impact? Would it be around up to 4.3 million? Mr Whitcomb: If you're asking how many retail customers are on the 50, we could provide you with that specific, but, again, we're talking about 65 retailers. As far as I know, they all operate independently. Senator URQUHART: No. I'm asking: if retail providers were to increase prices on the 50-megabit-per-second bundle, how many households could that impact? How many are on there now? Mr Whitcomb: Let me get that number for you.	10
183	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Take-up Rate	Senator URQUHART: According to the ACCC's market indicators report, NBN Co has a take-up rate of 72 per cent in the fibre-to-the-node footprint-I note that this is FTTN only. The fibre-to-the-premises take-up rate appears to be between 78 and 81 per cent in the brownfield footprint. Are these figures consistent with your understanding? Mr Whitcomb: I would have to check specifically, but they don't sound far off.	11
184	NBN Co Limited	Nita Green	NBN Co - Executive Bonuses	Senator GREEN: Per person-wow. And then there are about 200 executives in NBN who have salaries over \$300,000. They're sort of the next tier of executive. Do you know how much of the \$78 million of bonuses they received? Dr Switkowski: The number is available, but I do not know that. I'll take that on notice. Senator GREEN: We'll seek a breakdown of the rest of the bonuses on notice, as well. We'll send that through, just so we can move through these quickly.	13
185	NBN Co Limited	Nita Green	NBN Co - Communication between Minister and NBN	Senator GREEN: I have one last question. There were some media reports. It wasn't leaked information; the minister went out and told the media that his office communicated with NBN after the \$78 million number was released, suggesting that he wanted to see constraints on salary increases and bonuses and that executives had been asked to inform the government of their plans for bonuses and other at-risk remuneration of employees. How did that conversation take place between either the office or the minister himself? Who did that conversation take place with? Why, if the government had said to you that they needed to know when bonuses were being paid, didn't you tell them? ...	15

				<p>Senator GREEN: The first part of my question was: my office has communicated with NBN this morning, just to remind them of that. What was that? Was that an email, a letter, a conversation? How did you receive that reminder?</p> <p>Dr Switkowski: I think that would have been perhaps a call, perhaps an email.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Please don't speculate, sir. We really need to know.</p> <p>Dr Switkowski: Truthfully, my interest is in managing the process. I tend not to keep track of every conversation that I might be having around NBN with various important stakeholders.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Perhaps I can take that one on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes, I think we did put it to the department previously. I think you may need to take that on notice to get back to the committee, because I've put the question to you. I want to know if it was a letter, an email or a phone call and who made the contact.</p> <p>Dr Switkowski: We will take it on notice.</p>	
186	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Mapping Data	<p>Senator URQUHART: Why is there such a significant gap in the household take-up rates between fibre and copper?</p> <p>Mr Rue : I can answer that. There are a couple of things. The take-up rate depends upon when a particular area was built. A lot of the fibre-to-the-premises part of the network was constructed many years ago, so it was past the 18-month disconnection date. That's only a small part. There are three cohorts of the community which have a lower take-up rate: the people from lower socioeconomic groups, renters and older Australians. Some of that is part of our consultation paper with the retailers that you were talking about earlier.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So the gap is basically around those—</p> <p>Mr Rue : A lot of it is around—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can I just go back? Renters, older Australians and low socioeconomic groups are the three cohorts?</p> <p>Mr Rue : Correct. Basically there is a higher preponderance of that cohort of the community in the fibre-to-the-node areas. A large part of that is part of the basement part of the fibre-to-the node footprint. There tends to be more of that cohort in units. And renters—</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Rue, do you have mapping data on that from researchers' tests?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I believe we do.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Are you able to provide that to us?</p> <p>Mr Rue: We can see what we have.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So you do have it?</p>	17

				Mr Rue: I'd have to check exactly what we have, but, once I've done that, I can see what can be provided to the committee, certainly.	
187	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Incremental Revenue Assumption	<p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Knox, can you tell me what the incremental revenue assumption for each fibre user is? Give me a ballpark figure.</p> <p>Mr Knox: I'd have to come back to you on that one.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: No idea?</p> <p>Mr Knox: I don't have that detail with me at the moment.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Is there anyone out there in listening land who can provide that?</p> <p>Mr Knox: We'll try, and see if we can get you an answer.</p>	19
188	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Speed-tier mix	<p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. Mr Rue, would NBN Co be willing to table its assumptions about how the speed-tier mix is expected to evolve over the next four years?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Let me take that on notice, Senator.</p>	19
189	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Allegations of breaches of contract	<p>Senator PRATT:...Are you aware of the news around telco contractor BSA being accused of sham contracting? Have you signed an agreement with BSA?</p> <p>Ms Dyer : Yes, BSA have been for some time one of our delivery partners at various stages of the NBN, and I'm unaware of that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: They're one of your contractors, but you are unaware that they have been accused of sham contracting. Surely, if you are the ones that have contracted them then you need to be able to hold your contractors to account for these practices and, yet, despite the fact that this has been in the news, you don't know about it. Are you not being straight or do you not care about issues of sham contracting within your workforce?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Our contract governance model is very strict in terms of the way we engage with our delivery partners. There are certain provisions in our contracts—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How can you say you're being strict when you've just said you don't know about the involvement of this company in a class action, that they are subject to a class action?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Rue: I can't, and nor can Kathrine, comment on them because BSA is a listed company. I don't think you're asking us to comment on BSA itself. What we do have are very clear contractual terms around the obligations of our contractors.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are BSA in breach of their contract terms?</p> <p>Mr Rue: The various delivery partners have very clear obligations to us in terms of how they manage their individual contractors. I don't know if you want to talk to it, Kathrine?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are they in breach of their contract terms? Have you looked?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: In terms of the contract that we have with BSA, it relates to timely payments to their workforce, to their contractors. We also have modern slavery provisions in there, so we have very well defined and clear parameters in the way that we engage with BSA, in our expectation of those for all sorts of things including, obviously, very strict health and</p>	21

				<p>safety protocols. We have a good governance model in place.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay, so you have a good governance model. Mr Rue, how have you applied that good governance model to BSA, noting that they've had this allegation made against them?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Again, given that BSA is a listed company, I think we have to be careful how much we go into this. There are allegations made against BSA. We clearly will ensure that contractual arrangements between ourselves and any of our, in this case, delivery partners, are met. When Kathrine talks about 'governance', there are very clear meetings at all levels between ourselves and, in this case, delivery partners, to ensure multiple things are done, from health and safety reporting through to for them to pay their contractors on time et cetera. We manage that at a governance level. I'm not aware of any breach of contract.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You're not aware of any breach of contract? So you're not aware of an existence of sham contracting in this case?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm aware of allegations.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Have you looked, because of those allegations, specifically at these contracts? You've just said you've got robust due diligence. I would think, on the basis of an allegation like this, you would at least have a look.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Let us take on notice exactly what we've done, just so that we don't mislead the Senate. Let us take that on notice or maybe somebody on the team can actually reply.</p>	
190	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Contractors	<p>Mr Rue : We can direct the contractor to provide us with a statutory declaration that all subcontracts have been paid.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Which of your contractors have you asked for that information from in a stat dec form?</p> <p>Mr Rue: We are not aware of any breach to trigger that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: When have you ever asked any of your contractors to provide a stat dec to that effect?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I don't know. Do you know?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Rue: We can take that on notice.</p>	22
191	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Contract management	<p>Senator PRATT: What did you do in response to the allegations in the media in making inquiries to BSA about their obligations under your own contracts?</p> <p>Ms Dyer : We have strict contract management procedure through our procurement team and through our industry engagement team. I would need to check with them—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Specifically, once you became aware of these allegations in the media, did you take any extra action? Did you trigger anything that was outside your overall oversight, which is business as usual?</p>	23

				<p>Ms Dyer: I would need to check that and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I would be grateful if you're able to do that this morning.</p>	
192	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Contractor Firms	<p>Senator PRATT: Can you please take on notice-or if you've got any information now on-the number of 'Pty Ltd' contractor firms engaged at present, as at 30 June in each of the preceding years and over the life of the NBN build?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Sorry, I didn't understand the question.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You can take it on notice. We're looking for the number of contractors that you've had engaged.</p> <p>Mr Rue: That we directly engage with?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, that's right.</p> <p>Mr Rue: We can do that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I could put the wording on notice, if you like.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Certainly.</p>	26
193	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Number of Redundancies	<p>Senator PRATT: We'll see, I guess. Shine Lawyers are recruiting participants for a class action, so we'll see if the experience of workers employed by BSA matches up with your purported confidence in them. I want to ask about redundancies within the field workforce engaged directly or indirectly by NBN. There seems to be quite a substantial number.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: With the completion of the initial build, this was very well-known in relation to-we had a very large project and we were at scale for a very long time. Again, that is something we were very transparent about at 30 June last year-that our construction volumes would drop off quite rapidly. In relation to your specific question about field staff, I would say that, by and large, the majority of field staff have transferred into operations. Some of those staff didn't have all of the skill sets required to go from a construction type activity to an operations activity. We had very open and transparent conversations with our staff in relation to that. And some people had joined for a project; they joined to construct the NBN, and they wanted to move on.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What is the number of redundancies and how do you report them? You can take that on notice if you need to. I'm interested in your data around redundancies-</p> <p>Mr Rue: In the field force?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, in the field workforce engaged directly or indirectly by NBN.</p>	27
194	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Audit Procedures	<p>Senator PRATT: Can I ask for copies of your audit procedures-specifically, any processes you've got in writing that deal with alleged underpayments. Could you please take on notice whether you can provide any correspondence, file notes and communications with the company, and file notes and correspondence in relation to that.</p> <p>Mr Rue: We'll take that on notice.</p>	27
195	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Skilled migration	<p>Senator PRATT: Are you aware of the number of skilled migration visa holders engaged directly or indirectly by NBN or its field workforce?</p>	28

				<p>Mr Rue: Across the whole company or, again, in the field force?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Both-well, across the field force.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Skilled migration across the field force-we'll have to take that on notice. It wouldn't be large-if at all.</p>	
196	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Contractors' terms of employment	<p>Senator PRATT: It's my understanding that prime contracts stipulate that a worker can't switch to another prime. It seems like you'd be stuck between a rock and a hard place when it comes to this work-is that the case?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: No. I see quite commonly that subcontractors work for multiple prime contractors, so I don't see evidence of that occurring.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What about an individual worker?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Again, on individual circumstances, I couldn't comment, but-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you can take on notice that you'll have a look at your prime contracts and down that train to make sure that that's the case-</p> <p>Ms Dyer: We can certainly ask the question.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Have you audited any recent contracts and found any issues in this regard?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: In relation to-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Workers not being able to switch to another company.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Again, our audit compliance framework is ongoing. But, in relation to that issue, we would look at the broader obligation, which is that they are complying with employment law and law.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If a worker is restricted from moving to another company then there's no competitive labour there; labour has no bargaining power, because, once they're signed up with one, they can't take their labour somewhere else. So, in the context of primes, can you take on notice, please, whether there is anything in workers' contracts or within their subcontracts that prevents them from moving companies? In addition, seeing as you have taken on notice to look at the issue of unpaid work taking place, I would be grateful if you could give us a formal answer to that question on notice. In turn I will try and get you as much information as I can about that allegation. To close on this matter, have you audited any recent contracts in relation to primes and found any of these issues inside their contracts?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: The audits that we conduct with our contractors focus on many different things. They focus on the compliance of our delivery partner to the obligations to NBN-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So a contract that means someone can't switch from one prime to another wouldn't be in your contracts with that prime?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: No, it wouldn't.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are you able to look at their other contracts? Would it concern you if that</p>	30, 31

				<p>kind of behaviour was going on between primes so that it helps them to collude to fix prices and drive down their costs if they can control their own workers and prevent them from working from one company or another?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: What I see is, in fact, the opposite of that. It's just the way the contracting world works that subcontractors will work for two or three prime contractors. They often will work outside the industry as well. So it won't just-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I understand that. We're talking about individual workers and those contracts as well. You can't switch as a worker from one contractor to another. Have a look at those issues, and I'll try and get some detail on that.</p>	
197	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Number of individual residential connections to the NBN in Victoria	<p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. Can I go to your question on notice 2766. This is despite the other problems we've had with questions on notice. I asked you how many individual residential connections there are to the NBN in Victoria? I know you might think your questions are better than my questions, but you responded to your own question, and your answer was, 'For the period financial year 2020-21 to date at 25 January 2021. I would like to know the full number of individual residential connections to the NBN in Victoria. I did not mention financial the year 2020-21. I don't know where that came from. Could you please take it on notice and respond to 2766 correctly.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm trying to follow-</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: As at 25 January 2021, how many individual residential connections are there to the NBN in Victoria? You responded, 'For the period financial year 2020-21 to date (25 January 2021) NBN Co Limited connected 4,126 million premises to the network.' I didn't ask you about the financial year. I asked you for the full number. Mr Rue: I think that is the full number. Let us take that on notice and see. If we didn't respond in the way you asked, I apologise. I think we tried to.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Senator Kitching, are you asking for over the period of history, rather than connecting in that financial year-</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Senator Van, you don't need to help. I asked you for the full number.</p> <p>Mr Rue: So what you're asking is, as at 25 January 2021, how many premises in Victoria are connected to the NBN. Is that right?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes, as it states in the question.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Okay. Let us check if we've answered that properly or not.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Well, you haven't. You've given me 2020-21 financial year to date 25 January, because I put this in in January, and now we're at the end of March, but I'm happy to accept until 25 January as I don't want to complicate this anymore-</p> <p>Mr Rue: I think it's probably our language. I wish we had connected 1.4 million premises in seven months-</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: If you can confirm for me that the 1.14 million premises is the full number of residential connections in Victoria-</p>	31-32

				Mr Rue: I would have thought it was, but we'll double check that now. We'll hopefully get back to you by quarter past 12.	
198	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Number of technician attendances	<p>Senator KITCHING: You've said, in response to question on notice 2766, that some people are receiving 10 attendances. I'm going to read you a bit from a very well-known broadcaster. I won't mention that person's name. The media organisation and him were both getting two connections in and it took 16 visits. Even if I split that, because there was one from the media organisation and one from the individual, I get eight. Do you really think that's adequate?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Absolutely not.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: It was extremely frustrating, not only for them but for their neighbours, because you also interfered with the copper in the whole street.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: That, absolutely, is extremely unusual. I would be more than happy to look into that example that you've given. Where we do find a customer requiring more than one appointment, what typically happens is the technician who visits to do the connection finds something unusual. Those unusual things can range from a broken lead-in to asbestos in the home et cetera.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I don't think there is any asbestos in the-</p> <p>Ms Dyer: But I agree with you that 16 is a lot.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: They also found that down the street the copper had broken and someone had, helpfully, used sticky tape to put it back together. You can imagine the connectivity in the entire street was appalling.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Absolutely.</p>	32
199	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Multiple attendances	<p>Senator KITCHING: I've got your response to question 2766. You've still got people getting 10 attendances to get a connection at a residential premise. I don't think that's-</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I don't have the response in front of me right here-</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That's why you need Mr Singh here.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Yes. They are absolutely in the minority but, regardless, they shouldn't happen. Again, if I conduct post-incident reviews on unusual things in operations, our truck roll program is one of the areas that I focus on, because that's obviously an area of improvement, particularly for our customers and how we can do things better. Again, it's very unusual for multiple trucks to be required to activate a customer.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Is this where you're referring to the two instances out of the 1.4 million?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: The ten, but-</p> <p>Mr Rue: It's two out of 1.4 million, but it's two too many.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Ms Dyer has also said that most of your customers expect one visit. Even if I go to four attendances, you've got 1,585 people who required four attendances.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Then you've got 7,616 residential premises that required three</p>	32-33

				<p>attendances. At two attendances, double the number Ms Dyer has given us, you've got 49,831 Australian families hoping for a residential connection and having to be home. It's disruptive. You've said that your expectation is one visit, but, from this chart, that's obviously not correct. In May budget estimates, maybe you could give me more data on whether that has improved. I think this is, year to date, to 25 January, so, by the time we get to May estimates, you'll have another couple of months. I would like you to take this on notice to see if this has improved.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Sure. Could I add a couple of things to this.</p> <p>CHAIR: Please be very quick, Ms Dyer. We have 11 minutes remaining and two more questioners to go.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: And I've got one more question. I want to cover off on some staff events which cost a lot of money.</p> <p>CHAIR: Very quickly.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: What I was quickly going to say that, whilst you may think it is a simple visit to go and activate a customer, there are many things that could be required in some very complex installations. There could be additional network shortfalls or no pit and pipes et cetera. I do agree with that.</p> <p>The second part of what I was going to say is in relation to the evolution of moving into an operational world. We have implemented a program internally that is absolutely looking at what we call truck roll efficiency and how we navigate and make sure that we've got the right skilled workforce in the right place to be able to perform the job. So it is doing prescoping of some of the work. It is making sure the right tech turns up and it's making sure we can complete the work on the day. But, by and large, the majority of our customers are having a good activation and assurance experience. But, again, I would be happy to come back and present on those numbers.</p>	
200	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - All Staff Events in QoN 2386	<p>Senator KITCHING: I'm looking at question on notice 2386 in relation to all staff events. The cost of the audiovisual equipment that was hired was \$100,242.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm sorry, Senator, can you tell me-</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: It is question on notice 2386, in response, paragraph 12. You hired some audiovisual equipment for just over \$100,000. That was in June 2019. In June 2020 you hired audiovisual equipment for \$69,000. But I want the entire cost. You've given me the venue hire, which was half a million dollars. What I want to know is all of the costs. So, for 30 June 2019 to 30 June 2020, I want to know the entire, full cost of those events. You've given me bits and pieces, which isn't really what I asked for, again. If you could respond to that properly, that would be helpful. I'll pass to the chair.</p> <p>Mr Rue: We will do our best.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: No, not 'do your best', Mr Rue. I'd like you to answer it. You must have the detail.</p>	33

201	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Relief Measures for Residential Financial Hardship	<p>Senator PRATT: Yes, thank you. How many household premises were assisted under the relief measures for residential financial hardship?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Again, we'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You don't have a general awareness of it now? It would seem like, if it were a good story, you'd want to tell it now.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I think it's fair to say that we had expected more businesses looking for relief and certainly more households. I think that's probably attributable to the various arrangements that were put in place to support people through the COVID period. What I would say though is that I would have wanted to have seen more education packages sold, and it's certainly something that Brad and I have talked about at length-how does NBN and the retail industry work together around a low-income package but also around supporting families who need to educate children?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay.</p> <p>Mr Rue: This is important-it's important for me, anyway, Senator, so if you don't mind. It goes to more than the NBN broadband experience; it also goes to the particular equipment that people may have in homes, and also skill sets. And I do think it's something the industry needs to keep working on.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Do you have an officer here who has the answers to the questions I have asked?</p> <p>Mr Rue: They're so detailed we'll have to take them on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'm surprised at that. I would have thought you'd have had a story to tell in relation to that. In question on notice 330, NBN didn't answer the question about how many low-income families were connected under those measures. If I can ask you to revisit that.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes, sure.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: It does seem like you have an officer here who might have some data.</p> <p>Mr Rue: No, he's looking at the question on notice for me; that's all. What we said was as at 23 November. I think you're looking for an update-is that what you're saying?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You have the answer to the question. We weren't happy with the answer; we didn't believe it adequately responded to our question. Can you tell us why you're right and we're not, if you think you've adequately answered it?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I think what we were asking is-we were waiting for the retailers to come back with all their claims, which we said we expected to be at the end of the program. So we clearly went to the end of the program in answering the question, and we answered as of 23 November-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The program has now ended, so do you have that data now?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I would have thought we would, so let me take that on notice and we'll come back to you with the answer.</p>	34
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202	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Hardship Offer	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you; I'll be very swift. The \$50 million in relief measures—COVID relief for residential financial hardship: has that expired or is it still running?</p> <p>Mr Rue : That has expired.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The \$50 million in support for small business to stay connected: has that wrapped up?</p> <p>Mr Rue : Yes, it has.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The \$50 million for low-income families?</p> <p>Mr Rue : Yes, it has, although we are consulting with the industry regarding one of the pricing consultations around our low-income product.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: To access those relief offers, RSPs were required to provide data to NBN about the number of end users accessing the assistance packages; that's right, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes, I believe it is.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How many businesses were assisted under the hardship offer?</p> <p>Mr Rue: We'll have to come back to you with the exact number.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How many telehealth services were upgraded under their offer?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Again, can we take that on notice and respond to you.</p>	34
203	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	HFC rollout in Holland Park QLD	<p>1. When will gigabit speeds become available over HFC in Beddoes St, Holland Park QLD?</p> <p>2. When will 250/25 megabit speeds become available over HFC in Beddoes St, Holland Park QLD?</p>	Written
204	NBN Co Limited	Katy Gallagher	NBN Co - Staffing	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <p>a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and</p> <p>d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE</p> <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p>	Written
205	NBN Co Limited	Katy Gallagher	NBN Co - Work from home	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	Written

206	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your department/agency administer any grants programs or funds? If so, what are they? 2. Do all of the grants programs have grant guidelines that are readily available to the public? 3. Who is the decision-maker for these grants or funds? How is the decision-maker assisted in making their decisions – departmental advice, an advisory group, some other independent body? 4. Were there any new grants programs or funds established in the 2020-21 MYEFO that your department is responsible for? If so, what are they, and how much funding was provided? 5. For the new grants programs, have grant guidelines been developed? Where are they up to at the moment? Will you be consulting with the Department of Finance on these guidelines? 6. For the new grants programs, who will be the decision-maker for the grants? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body? 7. For the new funds, how will funding be distributed? 8. For the new funds, who will be the decision-maker for the funding? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body? 9. How will the decision-making process ensure grants go to projects based on merit, and not whether they are in a marginal or target Liberal seat? 10. Will the Department be having regard to the sports rorts scandal to ensure that is not repeated? 11. What assurance can you give that this will not be another sports rorts scandal – and that projects will be funded based on their merit and not where they fall on a Prime Minister’s colour coded spreadsheet? 12. Were there any grants programs or funds that you administer that were provided with additional funding in the 2020-21 MYEFO? If so, what were they, and how much funding was provided? 	Written
207	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - The NBN multi-technology mix – behind schedule	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) In 2013, the Coalition promised every Australian would have access to minimum speeds of 25 Mbps by the end of 2016. Can NBNCo confirm this target was missed up by up to 7 million premises? b) Will every Australian households have access to minimum layer 2 speeds of 25 megabits per second by the end of 2021? Or will some Fibre to the Node premises still be unable to achieve this speed? c) How many FTTN premises cannot currently achieve a layer 2 download speed of 25 megabits per second? 	Written

				d) How many FTTN premises cannot currently achieve a layer 2 upload speed of 5 megabits per second	
208	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to QON: Debt held in FY2023 and FY2024	<p>a) Does the 2021 Corporate Plan assume the company will be holding \$27.5 billion in debt by end of FY2023?</p> <p>b) Does the 2021 Corporate Plan assume the company will be holding \$27.5 billion in debt by end of FY2024? If no, how much debt will remain outstanding in FY2024?</p> <p>c) Does the 2021 Corporate Plan assume any principal on debt is repaid in FY2024? Please note: this does not include refinancing of the Government loan (i.e. a debt swap) but rather a payment to reduce the principal of total outstanding debt relative to FY2023.</p>	Written
209	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Cash flows in FY2024	<p>a) How much free cash flow does the Corporate Plan assume NBNCo generates in FY2024?</p> <p>b) What does the 2021 Corporate Plan assume this cash flow in the period FY2024 gets put towards?</p>	Written
210	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - OPEX to FY2024	<p>a) Can NBNCo confirm its OPEX profile to FY2024 is as below: [go to database QoN to see image]</p> <p>OPEX (incremental) FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 2021 CP 2.70 3.10 2.80 2.80 2.90</p>	Written
211	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Hyperlinks to past Corporate Plans	<p>a) Can NBN please update the following page on its website with links to past Corporate Plans for all the years listed on its webpage? https://www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/about-nbn-co/corporate-plan/corporate-plan</p> <p>b) Can NBNCo, in this QON, provide a hyperlink address to the following Corporate Plans</p> <p>2012 2014 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021</p>	Written
212	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	Non response to QON: Cumulative Capex – fixed wireless	<p>Regarding the non-response and excuses to question 3) below [go to database QoN to see image]</p> <p>a) Why would foreign lenders and foreign debt holders care if NBNCo provided a forecast about cumulative fixed-wireless CAPEX to the Senate?</p> <p>a) Why would this information be of greater sensitivity than revenue and EBIDTA forecasts to FY2024, which NBN still chooses to publish, and uses to background journalists?</p> <p>b) NBNCo has already sunk nearly \$50 billion into ageing technologies.</p>	Written

				<p>Why would the modest capital contribution to fixed-wireless have any bearing on the overall sensitivity of its business case and how lenders price risk?</p> <p>c) Why is NBNCo using a blanket statement to reject Senate requests for information about fixed wireless CAPEX, when the reasons for rejection it has provided do not even apply to the individual nature and sensitivity of the information requested?</p> <p>d) Who does NBNCo think it is kidding with these explanations?</p>	
213	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	Non response to QON: Cumulative Capex – HFC	<p>Regarding the non-response below [go to database QoN to see image]</p> <p>a) Why has NBNCo refused to provide cumulative CAPEX for the HFC network as of 1 July 2020, when in QON307 it provided cumulative CAPEX for fixed-wireless up to 1 July 2020, and in QON310 it provided cumulative CAPEX for FTTN?</p> <p>b) Why would foreign lenders and foreign debt holders care if NBNCo provided a forecast about cumulative HFC CAPEX to FY2024 to the Senate?</p> <p>b) Why would this information be of greater sensitivity than revenue and EBIDTA forecasts to FY2024, which NBN still chooses to publish, and uses to background journalists?</p> <p>c) NBNCo has already sunk nearly \$50 billion into ageing technologies. Why would the modest capital contribution to HFC have any bearing on the overall sensitivity of its business case and how lenders price risk?</p> <p>d) Why is NBNCo using a blanket statement to reject Senate requests for HFC CAPEX information, when the reasons for rejection it has provided do not even apply to the individual nature and sensitivity of the information requested?</p> <p>e) Who does NBNCo think it is kidding with these explanations?</p>	Written
214	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to QON: Cumulative Capex - FTTC	<p>Regarding the non-response to QON309 from Budget Estimates [go to database QoN to see image]</p> <p>a) Why has NBNCo refused to provide cumulative CAPEX for the FTTC network as of 1 July 2020, when in QON307 it provided cumulative CAPEX for fixed-wireless up to 1 July 2020, and when in QON310 it provided cumulative CAPEX figures for FTTN/B to 1 July 2020?</p> <p>b) Why would foreign lenders and foreign debt holders care if NBNCo provided a forecast about cumulative FTTC CAPEX to FY2024 to the Senate?</p> <p>c) Why would this information be of greater sensitivity than revenue and EBIDTA forecasts to FY2024, which NBN still chooses to publish, and uses to background journalists?</p> <p>c) NBNCo has already sunk nearly \$50 billion into ageing technologies. Why would the modest capital contribution to FTTC have any bearing on the overall sensitivity of its business case and how lenders price risk?</p> <p>d) Why is NBNCo using a blanket statement to reject Senate requests for FTTC CAPEX information, when the reasons for rejection it has provided do not even apply to the</p>	Written

				individual nature and sensitivity of the information requested? e) Who does NBNCo think it is kidding with these explanations?	
215	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to QON: HFC cost per premise	Regarding the QoN response below [go to database QoN to see image] a) Specifically, what SOE requirements is NBNCo referring to? b) What particular SOE requirements would NBNCo failed to have met had particular node splits and DOCSIS 3.1 expenditure not been incurred in the co-existence period? Give specific and concrete examples.	Written
216	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to QON: Equity and Debt as of FY2024	Regarding the non- response to QON312 below [go to database QoN to see image] Please answer each question individually 1) Why would foreign lenders care if NBNCo disclosed to the Senate its outstanding equity and debt as of FY2024? How could this disclosure possibly result in commercial harm? 2) In Senate Estimates, public officials gave evidence that the total amount of equity and debt would reach \$57 billion by FY2023. Does NBNCo dispute this? 3) The 2021 NBN Corporate Plan states the following: “In order to finance the repayment of the Commonwealth loan and to execute the additional investments outlined in this plan, NBN Co is expected to raise a total of \$27.5 billion of external debt by June 2024 plus additional working capital facilities. “ Does this mean the Corporate Plan assumes NBN will be holding \$27.5 billion in debt by June 2024? 4) Why would NBNCo require additional working capital facilities in FY2024 if it is assumed to be generating free cash flow? What would these working capital facilities be used towards? What expenses from 2025 might be brought forward?	Written
217	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to Senate QON: Cumulative common and other CAPEX	Regarding the non-response below [go to database QoN to see image] a) Why would foreign lenders and foreign debt holders care if NBNCo provided a forecast about cumulative common and other CAPEX to the Senate? d) Why would this information be of greater sensitivity than revenue and EBIDTA forecasts to FY2024, which NBN still chooses to publish, and uses to background journalists? b) NBNCo has already sunk nearly \$50 billion into ageing technologies. Why would the modest capital contribution of common capex have any bearing on the overall sensitivity of its business case and how lender price risk? c) Why is NBNCo using a blanket statement to reject Senate requests for common and other CAPEX information, when the reasons for rejection it has provided do not even apply to the individual nature and sensitivity of the information requested? d) Who does NBNCo think it is kidding with these explanations?	Written
218	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to Senate	Regarding the non-response below [go to database QoN to see image] a) Why would foreign lenders and foreign debt holders care if NBNCo provided a forecast about cumulative network CAPEX to the Senate?	Written

			QON - Cumulative network build Capex	e) Why would this information be of greater sensitivity than revenue and EBIDTA forecasts to FY2024, which NBN still chooses to publish, and uses to background journalists? b) Why would this information be of greater sensitivity than the aggregate CAPEX forecasts contained in the 2021 Corporate Plan? c) Who does NBNC Co think it is kidding with these explanations?	
219	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	Non response to Senate QON: Cumulative Capital Expenditure	With reference to the QON below: [go to database QoN to see image] Please provide an updated table, but this time based on the 2021 Corporate Plan (out to FY24) rather than the 2020 Corporate Plan.	Written
220	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to Senate Qon: Operating Expenditure	1) Based on actuals and forecasts underpinning the 2021 Corporate Plan, complete the following table: [go to database QoN to see image] \$ billions FY2019 (A) FY2020 (A) FY2021 FY2022 FY2023 FY2024 Operating expenditure 2.6 This information was provided on page 56 of the 2019 Corporate Plan, and page 48 of the 2020 Corporate Plan, but was not disclosed in the 2021 Corporate Plan. 2) Why did NBN refuse to provide this information on the basis that it might cause commercial harm with foreign lenders? 3) Why is this information more sensitive than the EBIDTA forecasts which NB Co has published to FY2024? 4) Why is NBNC Co comfortable to publish its revenue forecasts, but not its OPEX forecasts? 5) Why is NBNC Co comfortable to publish information about revenue and earnings, but not cost? What is NBNC Co trying to hide?	Written
221	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to Senate QON: EBIDTA after subscriber payments	Based on actuals and forecasts underpinning the 2021 Corporate Plan, complete the following table: [go to database QoN to see image] \$ billions FY2019 (A) FY2020 (A) FY2021 FY2022 FY2023 FY2024 EBITDA after subscriber payments -1.7 This information was provided on page 56 of the 2019 Corporate Plan, and page 48 of the 2020 Corporate Plan, but was not disclosed in the 2021 Corporate Plan.	Written
222	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non-response to Senate QON: Cash flow	Based on actuals and forecasts underpinning the 2021 Corporate Plan, complete the following table: [go to database QoN to see image] \$ billions FY2019 (A) FY2020 (A) FY2021 FY2022 FY2023 FY2024 Cash flows -7.5 -7.4 This information was provided on page 56 of the 2019 Corporate Plan, and page 48 of the 2020 Corporate Plan, but was not disclosed in the 2021 Corporate Plan.	Written
223	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to Senate QON: Debt profile	Based on actuals and forecasts underpinning the 2021 Corporate Plan, complete the following table: [go to database QoN to see image] \$ billions FY2019(A) FY2020 (A) FY2021 FY2022 FY2023 FY2024	Written

				Debt funding \$13.1 \$20.5 This information was provided on page 56 of the 2019 Corporate Plan, and page 48 of the 2020 Corporate Plan, but was not disclosed in the 2021 Corporate Plan. That is why this QoN is seeking the information.	
224	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to QON: Revenue trajectory 2021 Corporate Plan	Regarding the non-response below [go to database QoN to see image] 1. NBNCo have not answered the question that was asked. Please answer the question. Also note the question is referring to assumptions about long-term ARPU growth, assumed within the 2021 Corporate Plan, beyond 2024. 2. NBNCo have previously given evidence to the Senate that the Corporate Plan assumes ARPU grows at 2.5 per cent beyond the Corporate Plan period. Does that remain the case in the 2021 Corporate Plan?	Written
225	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Definition of "Commercial Harm"	Regarding the lengthy statement used by NBNCo to try justify its reduction of transparency [go to database QoN to see image] a) What does the alleged "commercial harm" in this statement refer to? b) Is NBNCo saying it could get sued by foreign lenders, in foreign courts, by providing information to Australia Parliament? c) Is NBNCo saying potential lenders believe there is a prospect it could default on its debt?	Written
226	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Agreement of Shareholder Ministers to reduce transparency	Regarding the lengthy statement used by NBNCo to try justify its reduction of transparency [go to database QoN to see image] a) On what date did Shareholder Ministers agree to this approach? b) In which month were Shareholder Departments first presented with the draft 2021 Corporate Plan?	Written
227	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	FTTB	a) What is the take-up rate in the FTTB post 18 months RFS?	Written
228	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - EXPENDITURE ON COPPER BACKFLIP TO FY2024	a) Can NBNCo confirm \$3.2 billion is being spent on the copper backflip, which includes 400,000 fibre lead-ins, to FY2024? b) Does this figure include any increases in OPEX, or does it just refer to CAPEX?	Written
229	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC MODEMS	With reference to the response below: [go to database QoN to see image] a) In this QON NBNCo advised that for FTTC modems "The swap-out rate is calculated monthly and refers to the number of DPU swaps as a proportion of active services" Can you kindly provide a numerical example to explain what this means. b) How many FTTC DPUs did NBN Swap in 2020? Provide the total number of units, not the rate. c) How many FTTC modems did NBN Swap in 2020? Provide the total number of units, not the rate.	Written

				<p>d) How many FTTC modems has NBN swapped in 2021? Provide the total number of units, not the rate.</p> <p>e) How many FTTC services does NBNCo have in the blue mountains region?</p> <p>f) How many FTTC modems have been swapped in the blue mountains region over 2020 and 2021?</p>	
230	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - ARPU claims in the 2021 and 2021 Corporate Plans	<p>On page 50 the 2020 Corporate Plan states “Residential ARPU is expected to grow from \$44 in FY19 to \$49 in FY23, stimulated by an expected increase in customer take-up of plans based on higher wholesale speed tiers and increased customer data consumption. And on page 54 the 2021 Corporate Plan states “Residential Average Revenue per User (ARPU) is expected to grow to \$49 during the Corporate Plan period.” [to FY2024]</p> <p>1. How is it possible, that despite the copper backflip, fibre upgrades and greater household take-up of high speed plans due to COVID-19, that NBNCo has scaled back its ARPU expectations in the 2021 Corporate Plan relative to the 2020 Corporate Plan?</p> <p>2. Why is the underlying cost of the NBN increasing by over \$7 billion if NBNCo has lower ARPU expectations in four years time?</p> <p>3. How and when will these cost increases be cost recovered? How is that cost recovery factored into the Corporate Plan if it cannot be extrapolated from the forward forecasts to FY2024?</p>	Written
231	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - ARPU and revenue extrapolation to FY2040	<p>Page 54 of the 2021 Corporate Plan states “Residential Average Revenue per User (ARPU) is expected to grow to \$49 during the Corporate Plan period.” [to FY2024]</p> <p>Answer each of the following questions individually:</p> <p>a) How does the NBN Corporate Plan then extrapolate this \$49 residential ARPU figure out to 2040?</p> <p>b) What ARPU growth assumption is used?</p> <p>c) Has NBNCo modified the assumptions that underpin its long-term forecasts which extrapolate financials out to 2040?</p> <p>d) Is the Internal Rate of Return still based on a time horizon of 2040, with a terminal value on that date?</p> <p>e) How have the long-term growth assumptions relating to FTTP been factored into the Corporate Plan beyond 2024?</p>	Written
232	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Peak debt	<p>a) In what year does NBNCo debt peak?</p> <p>b) According to assumptions in the 2021 Corporate Plan, does the principal on outstanding total debt (\$27.5 billion) change in FY24 relative to FY23?</p> <p>Please note, the refinancing of public debt with private debt — i.e. who holds the debt —</p>	Written

				is immaterial to this question, if the total amount of outstanding principal remains unchanged.	
233	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Pits	a) Will NBNCo require access to Telstra's pits for the FTTP overbuild of the FTTN network?	Written
234	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC	a) How many FTTC modems has NBNCo had to replace in areas impacted by lightning storms? b) What are those areas?	Written
235	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Service Faults - total	a) Please provide the total number of service faults lodged with NBN in FY21. b) Please provide the total number of service faults lodged with NBN in FY21, broken down by access technology.	Written
236	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Service Faults - tracking	a) When as RSP lodges a service fault, are multiple interactions are recorded within a single service fault ticket? b) Are the number of interactions within each service ticket recorded by NBNCo's systems?	Written
237	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Co-existence	a) What proportion of FTTN nodes have had co-existence switched off?	Written
238	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Rebates	Regarding the QON Response below [go to database QoN to see image] 1. Can NBNCo confirm this means that COVID-19 support rebates were booked as an offset against revenue, rather than as a cost?	Written
239	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC lead-ins	a) How many FTTC lead-ins have been replaced to date? Please provide the total number and the proportion. b) How many FTTC lead-ins have been remediated to date? Please provide the total number and the proportion. c) How many FTTC Distribution Point Units (DPUs) have been replaced to date?	Written
240	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC lead-ins	Regarding the QON Response Below [go to database QoN to see image] 1. How does the statement "from the ~4% of the deployed DPUs that have been replaced" statement square with the reference in QON313 from Budget Estimates that there is a 3 per cent monthly "swap-out rate" for FTTC Distribution Point Units (DPUs). Please explain in detail and provide numerical examples to explain the contrast if necessary.	Written
241	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Subscriber payments	a) Please provide the profile of subscriber payments to Telstra from FY2020 to FY2024. NBNCo has no grounds to allege disclosure of this information would cause "commercial harm", as claimed in 15 QONs from Budget Estimates, because if the total quantum of subscriber payments is materially unchanged, it effectively has no bearing or relevance to considerations by Lenders.	Written
242	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - New premises	a) How many new premises in the Brownfield footprint did NBNCo discover between the 2020 and 2021 Corporate Plans? b) When did NBNCo "discover" these new premises?	Written

				<p>c) Which team within NBNCo discovered the additional premises?</p> <p>d) To whom were the additional premises first reported, and on what date?</p> <p>e) When were Shareholder Departments first notified about the additional premises?</p> <p>f) When was the CFO first notified that additional provision was required to fund these “additional premises”</p> <p>g) Were these “additional premises” randomly dispersed into the existing brownfield footprint or clustered together across the footprint?</p> <p>h) How is it that these were all discovered in the final year of the rollout?</p> <p>i) When were these premises put into design?</p> <p>j) When were these premises put into construction?</p>	
243	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Staff numbers	<p>a) How many staff do NBN currently employ? Please provide a breakdown for temporary staff (contractors)</p> <p>b) How many staff work in the companies IT department? How many staff have been temporarily contracted into the IT department?</p> <p>c) What is the current head count for NBN’s corporate affairs and public relations functions? Please break down by employment band.</p>	Written
244	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - MEDIAN USAGE FTTP	<p>a) What is the median amount of monthly usage on residential FTTP?</p>	Written
245	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to Senate QON - COVID relief	<p>With reference to the non-response to question b) below: [go to database QoN to see image]</p> <p>a) How many unconnected low-income families with school children have been connected under the COVID- relief measures announced on 17 April 2020?</p> <p>b) How many residential customers received financial relief as a result of the COVID-19 relief package for financial hardship?</p>	Written
246	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Interest rate assumptions	<p>a) Does the 2021 Corporate Plan assume an interest rate of 3.96% over the forecast period, or a lower rate?</p> <p>NBNCo does not need to specify what the lower rate is, but NBNCo should specify whether it is lower than 3.96%.</p>	Written
247	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Flat access price modeling	<p>With reference to admissions by NBN Executives in Senate Estimates that the company has modeled flat access pricing schedules across various speed tiers, but has not shared this with retail providers:</p> <p>a) Who conducted the modeling?</p> <p>b) Which senior executive requested it?</p> <p>c) When was the modeling last updated?</p> <p>d) When was the modeling first commenced?</p> <p>e) Has the modeling or a summary been provided to the CEO?</p> <p>f) Has the modeling or a summary been provided to Shareholder Department’s?</p>	Written

248	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non response to Senate QON: Cumulative costs to FY2024	<p>Regarding the non-response below</p> <p>f) Why would foreign lenders and foreign debt holders care if NBNC Co provided a forecast about cumulative spending to the Senate?</p> <p>g) Why would this information be of greater sensitivity than revenue and EBIDTA forecasts to FY2024, which NBN still chooses to publish, and uses to background journalists?</p> <p>h) Why is NBN ok with publishing forecasts about revenue and earnings, but not about costs? What does NBNC Co have to hide?</p> <p>i) Why is NBNC Co using a blanket statement to reject Senate requests for information, when the reasons for rejection it has provided do not even apply to the individual nature and sensitivity of the information requested?</p> <p>j) Who does NBNC Co think it is kidding with these explanations?</p>	Written
249	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - The NBN multi-technology mix – over budget	<p>a) In 2013, the Coalition promised to deliver the NBN for peak funding of \$29.5 billion. How much peak equity and debt is the Government’s multi-technology mix now expected to require? Can you confirm it is forecast to reach \$57 billion?</p> <p>b) Why is a second-rate NBN requiring \$27.5 billion more in peak funding than originally promised? What can these cost increases be primarily attributed to?</p>	Written
250	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Nita Green	eSafety Commissioner - Classification Board reviews - process	<p>Senator GREEN: Could the eSafety Commissioner provide that immediate decision—or almost immediate; very quick—but have it as an interim notice or decision and then have the Classification Board review or make their decision on their time line? I think what we're trying to get at is that there seems to be a disconnect with the two decision-making processes. Maybe if there were an interim process from the eSafety Commissioner that would then allow the Classification Board to make their decision? The way you're describing it—and it's fine if you need to take this on notice—is that once a decision is made by the eSafety Commissioner, something has to happen for that decision to be overruled. Could we find out how that works in practice, whether it is self-initiated by the material producer or if the Classification Board is going through all your decisions and considering which ones they want to review?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: Would it be helpful if Toby ran through a couple of salient cases? Sometimes we do use the Classification Board to make sure that we've got it right, but that's only for specific types of—</p> <p>Senator GREEN: We don't have a lot of time. I'm more interested in understanding what initiates that decision-making from the Classification Board. Do you know that Mr Toby?</p> <p>No—</p> <p>Mr Dagg: Mr Toby is probably fine! I'm certainly familiar with some of the avenues for review set out in the act in relation to the operation of the AAT. Beyond that I think we'd need to take that question on notice.</p>	120

251	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Anne Urquhart	Office of the eSafety Commissioner - Administering of grants, programs or funds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your department/agency administer any grants programs or funds? If so, what are they? 2. Do all of the grants programs have grant guidelines that are readily available to the public? 3. Who is the decision-maker for these grants or funds? How is the decision-maker assisted in making their decisions – departmental advice, an advisory group, some other independent body? 4. Were there any new grants programs or funds established in the 2020-21 MYEFO that your department is responsible for? If so, what are they, and how much funding was provided? 5. For the new grants programs, have grant guidelines been developed? Where are they up to at the moment? Will you be consulting with the Department of Finance on these guidelines? 6. For the new grants programs, who will be the decision-maker for the grants? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body? 7. For the new funds, how will funding be distributed? 8. For the new funds, who will be the decision-maker for the funding? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body? 9. How will the decision-making process ensure grants go to projects based on merit, and not whether they are in a marginal or target Liberal seat? 10. Will the Department be having regard to the sports rorts scandal to ensure that is not repeated? 11. What assurance can you give that this will not be another sports rorts scandal – and that projects will be funded based on their merit and not where they fall on a Prime Minister’s colour coded spreadsheet? 12. Were there any grants programs or funds that you administer that were provided with additional funding in the 2020-21 MYEFO? If so, what were they, and how much funding was provided? 	Written
252	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Anne Urquhart	Travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide details of all travel undertaken by the Commissioner and management staff for Financial Year 2020-21 to date specifying: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Date/s and duration/s of travel; b. Destination/s; and c. Purpose/s of travel. 	Written
253	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Anne Urquhart	Cyber-abuse material targeted at an Australian Adult	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding recent reports of Andrew Laming’s online behaviour: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. would his behaviour enliven the provisions of the Online Safety Bill; b. would his behaviour be something that victims could complain to the Office of the 	Written

				eSafety Commissioner about; and c. would his behaviour breach provisions of the Online Safety Bill?	
254	Screen Australia	Katy Gallagher	Screen Australia - Staffing	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	Written
255	Screen Australia	Katy Gallagher	Screen Australia - Work from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	Written
256	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Eric Abetz	SBS - SBS Mandarin WeChat	Senator ABETZ: Is it correct that headline stories—this is on SBS Mandarin's official WeChat—in September last year about two Australian journalists fleeing China and Australian based Chinese state media journalists being questioned by ASIO were not posted on SBS Mandarin's WeChat account? Mr Taylor : I'll have to take that on notice.	75
257	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Eric Abetz	SBS Mandarin radio	Senator ABETZ: If you could, together with an explanation as to why such a newsworthy matter would not be deemed appropriate to broadcast or communicate on that platform. Is it true that the SBS Mandarin executive producer's spouse was an unpaid cultural commentator on SBS Mandarin radio while being head of the Chinese government backed Confucius Institute in the New South Wales Department of Education? ... Senator ABETZ: Can you please provide us with the full details of how this conflict was managed? Mr Taylor: I'm very happy to do so.	75, 76
258	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Eric Abetz	Attendance at the Global Chinese Language Media Forum	Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Did the former head of group for SBS Mandarin and a former casual SBS producer attend the GCLMF multiple times? The GCLMF is the Global Chinese Language Media Forum. Mr Taylor : Again, Senator, I'm really happy to take that on notice and get back to you.	76

				Senator ABETZ: That is basically the propaganda arm for the CCP. I'm just wondering if you can let us know whether any person from SBS attended at taxpayers' expense.	
259	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Eric Abetz	Commentators used by SBS Mandarin	<p>Senator ABETZ: ... Is it true that the former president of the Australian Shanghainese Association and a member of the UNITED FRONT Shanghai Overseas Friendship Association has been a regular commentator on SBS Mandarin?</p> <p>Mr Taylor : I'm very happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: At the same time, was that person's residence raided by Australian authorities in June 2020 as part of an ongoing investigation into foreign political interference?</p> <p>Mr Taylor : I'm not sure that is a matter for SBS, but I'm very happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I would have thought that the residence of a commentator commonly used by SBS being raided for foreign political interference might actually excite some interest in a publicly funded broadcaster. I would have thought it was of interest to you and a matter of extreme concern.</p> <p>Mr Taylor : I am very happy to take it on notice. If you wouldn't mind, I will provide a slightly broader answer. We take our editorial obligations very seriously. We have a series of protocols internally to manage the output of that editorial content, to declare conflicts where they exist and to ensure that all of our services in language, including English, irrespective of the community group, assiduously comply with our editorial policy. So I'm very happy to take these specific questions on notice. I want you to know that we treat these issues very seriously.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: With respect, your last answer or second last answer did not indicate that. We do have a problem in Australia with foreign interference, especially from one particular player. I'm just wondering how seriously the SBS actually takes this matter given the cases I've raised. I look forward to the answers being provided on notice. Thank you, Chair.</p>	76
260	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Rex Patrick	SBS - advertising revenue	<p>Senator PATRICK: I will go to SBS's total revenue from advertising.</p> <p>Mr Taylor: Certainly. It is an amount in the order of \$105 million in the last financial year ended June 2020.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: My understanding is that some of that advertising revenue comes from gambling related entities, such as BetEasy, Bet365, Sportsbet and so forth?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: Correct.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Can you tell me how much revenue comes from advertising associated with gambling?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I don't think we have that breakdown available to us.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Can you take that on notice? Do you have a rough percentage? Is it significant?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: No. I don't. It wouldn't be significant. We take advertising, I think in our annual</p>	76

				<p>report we disclose dozens and dozens of advertisers. Gambling advertisers are amongst that mix.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Sure.</p> <p>Mr Taylor: They are certainly not our largest advertiser. I know that off the top of my head. But I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I don't want to necessarily go to individual advertisers in the context.</p> <p>Mr Taylor: No, sure. You're interested in the portion of the total.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Yes. To try to understand a little about that.</p> <p>Mr Taylor : We'll take that on notice.</p>	
261	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Rex Patrick	SBS - advertising revenue	<p>Senator PATRICK: How long have you been permitting gambling advertising on SBS?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I think we have permitted gambling advertising for the same duration that we've permitted advertising on SBS.Senator PATRICK: So rather than saying 'permitted', how long has there been take-up for that product?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I will take that on notice. We have not had any restrictions on gambling advertising on SBS since the inception of advertising, so it's been possible to advertise on SBS as a gambling entity since the inception of advertising.</p>	76, 77
262	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Katy Gallagher	SBS - Staffing	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <p>a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL;</p> <p>c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and</p> <p>d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE</p> <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p>	Written
263	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Katy Gallagher	SBS - Work from home	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	Written
264	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Louise Pratt	SBS - gambling and alcohol advertising	<p>Senator PRATT: I want to ask in that context a supplementary question. What revenue is derived from gambling advertising? What revenue is derived from alcohol advertising?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I'm very happy to take on notice giving you a percentage breakdown against those two categories.</p>	78