

LETTER 1

From: Committee, COVID (SEN)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 December 2020 12:26 PM
To: @csl.com.au'
Cc: Committee, COVID (SEN);
Subject: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 – Invitation to a public hearing on 28 January 2021 (CSL)



THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

23 December 2020

Director of Public Policy
CSL

Via email: @csl.com.au

Dear

On 8 April 2020 the Senate established the Select Committee on COVID-19 and referred the following matters to it for inquiry and report on or before 30 June 2022:

- a) the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- b) any related matters.

I write to extend the committee's invitation for CSL to provide evidence at a public hearing, tentatively between **11:45 AM – 12:30 PM Thursday, 28 January 2021**. Please note that AstraZeneca Australia, Pfizer Australia and Johnson and Johnson will also be invited to give evidence alongside CSL.

The committee would be grateful if CSL could please indicate by close of business **Monday, 11 January 2021** whether it is available to attend the hearing. A formal invitation will be sent after witnesses have been confirmed.

The committee's practice has been to invite Canberra-based witnesses to give evidence at Parliament House, with appropriate physical distancing measures in place.

Witnesses may also give evidence via videoconference. The committee secretariat can assist you with the arrangements to appear via videoconference.

Information about the inquiry is available on the committee's website:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/COVID-19/COVID19.

Should you have any further queries regarding this correspondence please contact the committee secretariat by email at covid.sen@aph.gov.au or by phone on 02 6277 3892.

Yours sincerely

Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary

PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 Tel: (02) 6277 3892 Fax: (02) 6277 5706
Email: covid.sen@aph.gov.au Internet: www.aph.gov.au/select_covid-19

LETTER 2

From: @csl.com.au
Sent: Thursday, 24 December 2020 12:41 PM
To: Committee, COVID (SEN)
Cc:
Subject: Attachment 1 - Response from CSL to hearing invitation

Dear Janette – thank you very much for the invitation to appear before the Senate Select Committee on COVID19. Unfortunately the first quarter of 2021 is an extremely busy period for CSL in terms of COVID19 vaccine manufacture and we are unable to resource participation in this hearing at this time. Best wishes for a pleasant festive season and please feel free to contact me again later in 2021.

Many thanks,

Director, Policy & Government Relations

CSL Limited / Seqirus Limited

45 Poplar Road | Parkville VIC 3052

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LETTER 3



THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

22 January 2021

Director, Policy and Government Relations
CSL Limited / Seqirus Limited

Via email: [@csl.com.au](mailto:)

Dear

I write on behalf of the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 in relation to the committee's public hearing on Thursday, 28 January 2021.

Thank you for your email of 24 December 2020, on behalf of CSL, advising that representatives of CSL are unavailable to appear at the hearing due to being busy with manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccine. The committee recognises that this is a particularly busy time for CSL and the committee thanks CSL for its role in producing a COVID-19 vaccine for Australia.

The development and availability of COVID-19 vaccines in Australia is directly relevant to the committee's inquiry and committee members have questions for CSL at the hearing. The committee believes that CSL's attendance at the hearing would greatly assist the committee with its ongoing inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As such, the committee is formally requesting CSL reconsider its availability to appear. CSL is invited to appear from 11:45am to 12:30pm, alongside COVID-19 vaccine developers. The committee is happy to facilitate CSL's appearance if there is another time that better suits CSL, or if CSL would prefer to appear alone. Attendance via videoconference can also be arranged to assist CSL representatives to appear.

The committee would be grateful if CSL could confirm whether its representatives can attend the hearing by 12pm (AEDT) Monday, 25 January 2021.

Please feel welcome to contact the Committee Secretary, Jeanette Radcliffe, if you would like further information regarding the hearing.

Yours sincerely

Senator Katy Gallagher
Chair

LETTER 4

From: @csl.com.au
Sent: Friday, 22 January 2021 3:03 PM
To: Committee, COVID (SEN)
Cc: Radcliffe, Jeanette (SEN)
Subject: Correspondence from CSL - unavailable to appear on 28 January 2021

Dear Jeanette,

Thank you for the attached request from Senator Gallaher for CSL to reconsider our ability to appear before the Committee's public hearings on the 28th January. As previously advised, I regret that CSL is currently fully focussed on the accelerated manufacture of 50 million doses of the Astra Zeneca COVID19 vaccine for use for by the Australian people and is not available to appear at this time.

The next few weeks are a critical period in the manufacture of this vaccine and we are working very closely with the Department of Health, Astra Zeneca and the Therapeutic Goods Administration to bring forward the supply of the product as much as possible without compromising safety or quality.

We will be commencing the fill-and-finish manufacturing of the vaccine on the 15th February and are required to have the documents and data to support registration of the local product to the Therapeutic Goods Administration in mid-March. At this time, CSL and AstraZeneca are striving to deliver the first doses of vaccine - tested, approved and released by the TGA - in late March. We hope to then be supplying a million doses a week for use in the community.

This is, however, a new, technically challenging product, requiring highly complex processing. CSL employees have been working at pace since September (when the manufacturing contract with the Australian government was finalised) to prepare our facilities for the large-scale manufacture of this vaccine. CSL has needed to acquire specialised equipment and infrastructure, recruit, train and redeploy personnel, retool and reconfigure existing manufacturing facilities, and move CSL existing products offshore in order to continue manufacture of those lifesaving items.

I regret that CSL simply does not have the capacity to resource an appearance before the Committee during this critical time of vaccine manufacture however I would happy to discuss with you a possible appearance perhaps in mid to late April once (hopefully) we have achieved release of the vaccine to the community and the ongoing rollout is underway.

Please feel free to contact me per the details below to discuss further.

Many thanks,

Director, Policy & Government Relations

CSL Limited / Seqirus Limited
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LETTER 5



THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

27 January 2021

Director, Policy and Government Relations
CSL Limited / Seqirus Limited

Via email: [@csl.com.au](mailto:csl@aph.gov.au)

Dear

I write on behalf of the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 (the Committee) in relation to your response, dated 22 January 2021, on behalf of CSL, declining a request to appear before the Committee on 28 January for a brief 45 minute session.

While we understand that this is a busy time for CSL, representatives of Astrazeneca and Pfizer have been able to make themselves available to answer the Committee's questions. The Committee would like to express its disappointment in CSL's unwillingness to appear at this hearing.

The Committee was established with unanimous support from the Australian Senate to provide much-needed scrutiny and transparency in the Australian Government's health and economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a participant in a \$1.7 billion deal with the Australian Government, the Committee believes CSL has a duty to be openly accountable and transparent to the Australian community, both in relation to how taxpayer dollars are spent and what measures are required to ensure the safe and effective rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Committee would be grateful if CSL could nominate preferred dates and times for its representatives to attend for a one-hour session in February 2021 to answer Senators' questions. We are happy to be flexible with times and can accommodate options for your representatives to appear via videoconference.

Please note that in the interests of transparency the Committee intends to publish all correspondence between CSL and the Committee regarding attendance at a public hearing.

The Committee looks forward to your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Senator Katy Gallagher
Chair

