

30 April 2021

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Secretary
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Australia Post Inquiry hearing 13 April 2021 – Clarifications

On 13 April 2021, in my capacity as General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, I appeared with other Australia Post representatives as witnesses before the Environment and Communications References Committee (Committee) in connection with the Australia Post inquiry. During the hearing my colleagues and I answered questions about various matters. The purpose of this letter is to clarify for the Committee a small number of answers provided to the Committee at the hearing.

In responding to questions from Senator Kitching relating to telephone calls made on 22 October 2020 I stated that Australia Post was the account holder for Ms Holgate's phone. To clarify, Australia Post was the account holder for that phone number at the time of those calls but is no longer the account holder.

In responding to questions from the Chair relating to when the Minister's office had been informed about Ms Holgate's resignation on 2 November 2020, I said "Yes" immediately after Mr Di Bartolomeo said "... before our board meeting – at 1 o'clock?" To clarify, my statement was to affirm that 1 o'clock was the commencement time of the board meeting on 2 November 2020.

In responding to questions from Senator Hanson relating to the BCG Review, Mr Di Bartolomeo stated "No instruction has come to us about any of those actions." To clarify, while no instruction has been received, Shareholder Ministers in March 2020 encouraged further cost savings consistent with the findings of the BCG Review – as was noted by Senator McKenzie earlier in the hearing.

In responding to questions from Senator Henderson relating to tender processes for newly established licensed post offices, Mr Rodney Boys stated that he had stepped into the role of acting CEO on 2 November. To clarify, as has been well documented before the hearing, Mr Boys began acting in the role of Group Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director on 23 October 2020 and continued to act in the role after 2 November 2020.

In responding to questions from Senator McKenzie relating to an internal review undertaken by Australia Post, Mr Lucio Di Bartolomeo stated that best practice was that the Chair should approve the CEO's report. To clarify, this was a reference to a report of the CEO's expenses.

In responding to questions from Senator Carr relating to union consultation, Ms Sue Davies stated that a full day's consultation with the unions had occurred. To clarify, that consultation was with one union, the CEPU.

Sincerely

Nick Macdonald
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary