

20 May 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 27 April 2021 – Clarifications

On 27 April 2021, Mr Lucio Di Bartolomeo, in his capacity as Chair of the Australia Post Board, 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, Mr Di Bartolomeo answered questions about various matters, including the circumstances surrounding the departure of Mr Philip Dalidakis from his role of Executive General Manager, Corporate Services with Australia Post.

The purpose of this letter is to clarify for the Committee the evidence provided by Mr Di Bartolomeo at the hearing. Further, we request that the Committee consider whether Hansard can be amended to reflect these clarifications.

Please note that this letter only seeks to clarify the evidence relating to Mr Dalidakis' employment. Australia Post will write separately regarding any further matters from the 27 April 2021 hearing that require clarification.

The following evidence was provided by Mr Di Bartolomeo at the hearing on 27 April 2020 in response to questions from Senator Henderson (refer to page 54 of the transcript):

“Senator HENDERSON: One final question. I'll direct this to the chair of Australia Post. Mr Dalidakis worked for Australia Post and he left rather suddenly. Could you just explain the circumstances of his departure and whether he may have been involved in leaking any information that he held on behalf of Australia Post?”

Mr Di Bartolomeo: Obviously as the chair and a board, we don't make decisions about who the CEO would either like to appoint or terminate. What I'm aware of is that Mr Dalidakis's contract included a six-month probationary period. In my discussions with Christine, she made it clear to me that she saw no value in maintaining and continuing on with Mr Dalidakis's contract, and therefore took the opportunity under the contract to terminate the contract before the six months were up.

Senator HENDERSON: Was there any issue in relation to any leaking of any information that he may have held?

Mr Di Bartolomeo: I have no direct information as to whether he took any documents or leaked any documents, so I'm not—

Senator HENDERSON: I didn't say 'documents'; I said 'information'. Do you have any direct or indirect information?

Mr Di Bartolomeo: In the six months he was part of the executive general management team, the senior management team, he obviously had access to and knowledge of lots of things that were occurring at Australia Post at the time.”

To clarify:

- Mr Dalidakis commenced employment with Australia Post on 1 July 2019.
- Mr Dalidakis entered into a standard form employment contract with Australia Post.
- The employment contract contained a three month probationary period that expired on 30 September 2019.
- On 24 February 2020, Mr Dalidakis wrote to Ms Holgate and advised that he would be resigning from his position with Australia Post.
- Mr Dalidakis' employment with Australia Post terminated on 8 April 2020 by virtue of this resignation. He was not dismissed from his employment.
- Mr Dalidakis was employed by Australia Post for 10 months, for the period 1 July 2019 to 8 April 2020. Mr Dalidakis was not required to attend work or to perform any functions of his role in the period from 24 February 2020 to 8 April 2020.
- Mr Dalidakis was an active member of the Executive Team of Australia Post for 8 months, prior to his resignation on 24 February 2020.
- Mr Di Bartolomeo stated during the hearing that Mr Dalidakis had access to and knowledge of a volume of information during that period, but that he had no direct information as to whether Mr Dalidakis took or leaked any documents. Mr Di Bartolomeo began to further state that he did not propose to speculate or engage further on the topic before an intervening comment and question was raised by the Senator.

Sincerely

Nick Macdonald
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary