

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Minister for Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Written question received 3 August 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000417

Question Subject: Special Commissioner Inquiry into the Ruby Princess - Ministers views

Question Type: Written

Senator: Kristina Keneally

Question:

3. With regard to a summons issued by Commissioner Bret Walker to compel the attendance of a Department of Agriculture Biosecurity Officer at the Special Commissioner Inquiry into the Ruby Princess:
- When was the Minister first made aware of the summons?
 - Was the Minister asked for his view on Departmental officers attending the Inquiry?
 - Did the Minister discuss the summons with any of his Ministerial colleagues? If so, when?

Answer:

The Department notified the Minister for Health's Office of the summons issued to a Biosecurity Officer from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 7 July 2020. The Department did not seek the Minister's view on the attendance of a Department of Agriculture Biosecurity Officer at the Special Commission of Inquiry. The Department is not aware of what, if any, discussions the Minister may have had with any Ministerial colleagues.