

Senate Environment and Communications References Committee
Australia Post inquiry

Responses to written questions from Committee Chair

Question	Response
<p>Regarding the Australia Post Board. Please provide the following information for any members of the board from 2018-present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - qualifications and previous work history; and - any past or current connections with any political party, including formal membership of a party, professional working relationships, and/or any potential conflicts of interest—both material or perceived. 	<p>On qualifications and previous work history – profiles of directors, including descriptions of their skills and experience, are published in Australia Post’s annual reports relating to that period, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - see Australia Post’s 2018 Annual Report (at pages 58 and 59): https://auspost.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp/media/documents/annual-report-2018.pdf; - see Australia Post’s 2019 Annual Report (at pages 58 and 59): https://auspost.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp/media/documents/publications/2019-australia-post-annual-report.pdf; and - see Australia Post’s 2020 Annual Report (at pages 58 and 59): https://auspost.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp/media/documents/2020-australia-post-annual-report.pdf. <p>On connections with political parties – as Australia Post has previously noted elsewhere, Australia Post is aware of information that is on the public record relating to the political associations of members of its Board of Directors but does not maintain a record of any membership with political parties of its personnel (ie directors, employees and contractors).</p> <p>Australia Post recognises the right of its personnel (ie directors, employees and contractors) to participate in their personal, individual capacity in political and policy processes. Australia Post has policies and practices in place to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the expectations of Government – that government business enterprises, in undertaking their business, avoid activities that could give rise to questions about their political impartiality (as stipulated in the Commonwealth Government Business Enterprise – Governance and Oversight Guidelines of January 2018 issued by the Department of Finance) – are satisfied; and - that any political involvement of its personnel is, and is presented as being, undertaken in a personal capacity that is not representative of Australia Post or its views. <p>While interests have from time to time been declared in relation to professional working engagements with political parties have been declared from time to time, no potential conflicts of interest have been observed in relation to any such engagements.</p>
<p>Regarding the McKinsey work currently being undertaken, please provide the total budget for the project, and when it is due to report to Australia Post. Is there an intention to make this work public?</p>	<p>As Australia Post has noted elsewhere in information provided to the Committee, McKinsey & Company (McKinsey) was commissioned to undertake work to assist the organisation in the initial stages of its development of forward-looking delivery network strategies and plans – in the context of increasing parcel volumes and related capacity considerations. The work has completed, and the total cost of the work was approximately \$3 million (excluding GST). There is no intention to make the work or its related report public.</p> <p>As Australia Post has noted elsewhere in information provided to the Committee, the report contains a significant amount of commercially sensitive information. Disclosure of that information could cause commercial harm or disadvantage to Australia Post by impacting on its ability</p>

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	to compete in highly competitive markets. Australia Post would prefer the report not be tabled unless the Committee considers doing so absolutely necessary for the purposes of the inquiry. In that situation, Australia Post also proposes that content that is commercially sensitive be redacted and/or any content that is tabled not be published by the Committee.