

Senate Select Committee on Commonwealth Bilateral Air Service Agreements

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program Group: Industry Infrastructure & Environment Division

Topic: Engagements - Prime Minister and the Qatari government or representatives of the Qatar government

Senator: the Hon Simon Birmingham

Type of question: Hansard page 50, 28 September 2023

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 October 2023

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: ...Very quickly, has the Prime Minister had any engagement with the Qatari government or representatives of the Qatari government since he has been Prime Minister?

Ms Luchetti: Not to my knowledge, but I will take that on notice.

Answer:

No.

Senate Select Committee on Commonwealth Bilateral Air Service Agreements

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program Group: Industry Infrastructure & Environment Division

Topic: Discussions between ministers

Senator: the Hon Simon Birmingham

Type of question: Hansard page 44, 28 September 2023

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 October 2023

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Can we take on notice across both departments, please, what discussions occurred between ministers with any Treasury ministers or with the Prime Minister from Minister King or what discussions occurred with any Treasury ministers' officers or the Prime Minister's office in particular with Minister King or her office?

Ms Zaheed: Can I clarify that that is prior to the decision being made?

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Yes, please—during the period—

CHAIR: The long period.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: the 11-month period from August last year to July this year during which the request from Qatar sat from six of those 11 months in Minister King's office with seemingly no departmental engagement whatsoever.

Answer:

Over successive governments, it has not been the practice of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to be aware of the details of all conversations between ministers. However, the Department is aware the Prime Minister regularly engages with his Ministers.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program Group: Industry Infrastructure & Environment Division

Topic: Discussions between the Prime Minister and Qantas

Senator: the Hon Simon Birmingham

Type of question: Hansard pages 46-47, 28 September 2023

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 October 2023

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Did PM&C have any knowledge of any other discussions or engagements between the Prime Minister and Qantas in the 11-month period from August last year to July this year?

Ms Luchetti: No. We have no knowledge.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Could you take it on notice and provide the committee with details of any engagements or discussions the Prime Minister had with any representatives of Qantas during that 11-month period and of whether any of those discussions or engagements had any element of discussion that related to the Qatar request? What knowledge does PM&C have of any engagement between the Prime Minister's office and Qantas during that 11-month period between July last year and August this year?

Ms Luchetti: We have no knowledge of that engagement.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: The same questions are to be taken on notice again, please. Could you ascertain from the Prime Minister's office what discussions and engagements any member of the Prime Minister's office had with Qantas during that 11-month period and whether any of those discussions related in any way to the Qatar request?

Answer:

Over successive governments, it has not been the practice of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to be aware of all the meetings of the Prime Minister. However, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is aware the Prime Minister regularly meets with a large range of stakeholders as he works to deliver his Government's agenda to build a better future.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program Group: Industry Infrastructure & Environment Division

Topic: Briefings or engagements - Prime Minister and Qatar Airways or Qatari government representatives

Senator: the Hon Simon Birmingham

Type of question: Hansard page 47, 28 September 2023

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 October 2023

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Have there been any briefings provided or any engagement to your knowledge between the Prime Minister and Qatar Airways or Qatari government representatives?

Ms Luchetti: To my knowledge, no.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: None at all.

Ms Zaheed: We're not aware of any.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Has there been anything between the Prime Minister's office and Qatar Airways or Qatari authorities?

Ms Luchetti: To my knowledge, no, I'm not aware.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Let's take both of those on notice, please, and double check.

Answer:

No.

**Senate Select Committee on Commonwealth Bilateral Air Service
Agreements**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program Group: Industry Infrastructure & Environment Division

Topic: PM meeting with Virgin CEO

Senator: the Hon Simon Birmingham

Type of question: Hansard page 48, 28 September 2023

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 October 2023

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Again, could we ask the PMO, please, as to what briefing or information they prepared for the Prime Minister for that meeting and who they consulted in doing so?

Answer:

Over successive governments, it has not been the practice of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to be aware of the details of all briefings provided to the Prime Minister by the Prime Minister's staff.