

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: TRIPS waiver

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0233

Type of question: Hansard, page 6, 9 March 2021

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 23 March 2021

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: I will come back to the taskforce, then. Has PM&C engaged at all with the issue about the TRIPS waiver and removing Australia's objection to it?

Mr Gaetjens: I'm not aware of that. Is Ms Frame aware?

Ms Frame: No; I'm not. We will find out more information for you, but I don't have any information for you on that today.

Answer:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is the lead agency on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). DFAT shared their talking points on Australia's position regarding a proposed waiver of TRIPS agreement obligations in response to COVID-19 with PM&C. Questions regarding the TRIPS waiver should be directed to DFAT.