

Rural And Regional Affairs And Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 2021 - 2022

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Committee Question Number: 16

Departmental Question Number: SQ22-000019

Division/Agency Name: Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No.96 (14 February 2022)

Topic: CASA - Ongoing investigation of pilot

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy asked:

CHAIR: That's what's missing for these pilots and businesses who have just been destroyed. This pilot has admitted that he didn't get his medical done in time, and that started an avalanche.

Ms Spence: Obviously, as you said, I think I know the individual is. I don't have the details in front of me, but I would emphasise that, notwithstanding what Senator Patrick just said, there are two sides to this and there are some issues around the way the person—if I'm thinking of the right person—was operating. It's an issue that we've seen in the US; the FAA have been very concerned about the grey lines between commercial and private operations when you're paying for services. I won't pretend to know the detail, because I'm concerned I might have the wrong person, but we will look into it if you feel comfortable providing the detail to me, and we'll make sure that we give you a more fulsome response around the issues involved.

CHAIR: Just remember that this bloke was hiring out planes during COVID when there were no flights.

Ms Spence: I understand what you're saying, Senator, but we are also—

CHAIR: It was a fully maintained plane with a commercial pilot who couldn't get any other work.

Ms Spence: As I said, I think it's better I take the detail on notice and get back to you with a more fulsome response.

Answer:

In order to ensure an impartial investigation in relation to the individual who had raised concerns with the Chair, the Industry Complaints Commissioner will investigate the issues raised and report to the CEO and Board. The Committee will also be briefed once this investigation has been finalised.