

Question on notice no. 99

Portfolio question number: SQ24-000097

2023-24 Additional estimates

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio**

Senator Malcolm Roberts: asked the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on 12 February 2024—

Senator ROBERTS: Let me continue. It's very concerning to me that you try to tell this committee that all benefits were declared on the gift register at a time they clearly were not. You made no mention of the fact that you had updated the register with these gifts-

Mr Marcelja: Senator, we-

Senator ROBERTS: Mr Marcelja, I'm trying to talk!

Ms Spence: Just-

Senator ROBERTS: You just quietly updated the webpage and tried to act like those things had been there properly for the entire time, and that's not the case, is it? The gifts weren't on the register at the time you gave evidence to this committee that they were.

Ms Spence: Senator, I'll have to take that on notice. I genuinely thought that they were always on the register. If they weren't, they're certainly on there now and it has never been a secret that I've had those lounge memberships.

Answer —

Please find answer attached

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 99

Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000097

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 138-139 (12 February 2024)

Topic: CASA – Lounge memberships reported on the gift register

Senator Malcolm Roberts asked:

Senator ROBERTS: Let me continue. It's very concerning to me that you try to tell this committee that all benefits were declared on the gift register at a time they clearly were not. You made no mention of the fact that you had updated the register with these gifts—

Mr Marcelja: Senator, we—

Senator ROBERTS: Mr Marcelja, I'm trying to talk!

Ms Spence: Just—

Senator ROBERTS: You just quietly updated the webpage and tried to act like those things had been there properly for the entire time, and that's not the case, is it? The gifts weren't on the register at the time you gave evidence to this committee that they were.

Ms Spence: Senator, I'll have to take that on notice. I genuinely thought that they were always on the register. If they weren't, they're certainly on there now and it has never been a secret that I've had those lounge memberships.

Answer:

During the 2023-24 Budget estimates in May 2023, the Civil Aviation Safety Agency took on notice the question to provide details of any gifts or benefits from any airlines.

As noted in our answer to Committee Question Number 392 (SQ23-004945) from the 2023-24 Supplementary Budget Estimates, the website was updated on 20 June 2023.