

Question on notice no. 4291

Senator Rex Patrick: asked the Minister representing the Prime Minister on 11 October 2021—

1. On what date did the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia reach an agreement on issuing a joint statement to announce the creation of the trilateral security partnership called AUKUS.
2. On what date did the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom confirm to the Australian Government that the United States President and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom would participate personally via video link in the joint AUKUS announcement on 16 September 2021.
3. With regard to the Government's decision to cancel the Attack class submarine project, was the news website *Axios* correct when they reported on 6 October 2021 that "The Australians told the Americans in June [2021] that they had all but told France that they were pulling the plug, both in writing and in direct conversations between [French President] Macron and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison".
4. Since 1 January 2021:
 - a. on what dates has the Prime Minister written to or held direct conversations with the French President;
 - b. on what dates did the Prime Minister discuss or otherwise communicate about the Attack class submarine project with the French President; and
 - c. on what date did the Prime Minister tell the French President that Australia was "pulling the plug".