

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000382

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: Meningococcal B

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

- a) When was the TGA first advised there would be issues with shortages of the meningococcal B vaccine Bexsero?
- b) Is it correct that in October 2016 GlaxoSmithKline advised the TGA that there would be shortages until July 2017?
- c) When was the Minister's Office informed that the shortages of Bexsero would be ongoing until July 2017?
- d) At the start of February, did the Minister know that there would be shortages of Bexsero until July 2017?
- e) What communication has the Department undertaken with parents to communicate this shortage?

Answer:

- a) TGA was first advised by the sponsor GSK of a shortage of Bexsero on 6 April 2016 with an expected recommencement of supply on 1 May 2016.
- b) No. On 2 November 2016 GSK advised that the supply shortage would be until the end of January 2017.
- c) The TGA is not aware of when the Minister's Office was informed.
- d) Yes.
- e) All medicine shortages notified to the TGA are available on the TGA website. The current Bexsero shortage has been on the TGA website under the Medicine Shortages Information Initiative since 2 November 2016 with an update on 24 January 2017. GSK has also issued press releases about the supply issues of Bexsero.