

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates February 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 20

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 14/03/2017

Topic: CEO Salary

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

1. At any point during the annual report process for years 2014-15 and 2015-16 did the Department receive information, in writing or verbally, about the salary of the Australia Post CEO?
2. Did the Department adjust any of its shareholder Governance processes for Australia Post following the Governments changes to the PGPA Act in 2015 which reduced the scope of disclosure requirements for Government GBE's?
3. Did the Department take any advice from the Department of Finance on how to approach this?
 - (a) If yes, what advice was sought?
 - (b) When was it sought?
 - (c) And what advice was provided?
4. If an individual executive had received a remuneration package of \$20 million – how would this have come to the Department or Minister's attention with the Shareholder Governance arrangements that were in place?

Answer:

1. Not that we are aware.
2. No.
3. (a). The Department sought advice from the Department of Finance in relation to the remuneration disclosure requirements under the PGPA Act and whether additional reporting requirements were needed.
(b). The Department sought the advice on 21 October 2015.
(c). The Department of Finance advised that Australia Post was compliant with the disclosure requirements under the PGPA Act.
4. If such an increase had been put in place there would have been a noticeable and significant increase in the aggregated public reporting of senior executive remuneration.