

**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: 6**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 18, 28/02/2017**

**Topic: Shareholder Ministers –Info re executive pay**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** Minister, you went through a number of dates earlier, but from January 2015 onwards, has the department or have the shareholder ministers ever sought information from Australia Post about executive pay? I just want to clarify that. I think you said no, but I do not want to—

**Senator Fifield:** I will take that on notice.

**Senator URQUHART:** What do you mean you are taking it on notice?

**Senator Fifield:** There are many elements to the department, so in order to ensure we give you a comprehensive and accurate answer, I will take it on notice. I am not aware of any such request for information, but—

**Senator URQUHART:** You are not aware of any, but you will get some clarification?

**Senator Fifield:** Yes.

**Senator URQUHART:** Will you be able to do that today?

**Senator Fifield:** We will do our best.

**Senator URQUHART:** I am talking about since January 2015—a couple of years ago. I would have thought that, as a shareholder minister, you would be able to remember whether or not you had sought information from Australia Post about their executive pay.

**Senator Fifield:** We will take that on notice because I want to give you a comprehensive answer.

**Answer:**

The setting of the remuneration of Australia Post's Managing Director was managed independently by the Australia Post board of Directors in accordance with sections 86 of the *Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989* which provides that the board is responsible for setting the terms and conditions (including remuneration) of the Managing Director.

During the preparation of the Annual Report for 2014-15, the Department did raise with Australia Post their proposed approach to reporting senior executive and director remuneration. Australia Post indicated that it was in compliance with the disclosure rules under section 27 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR).

Between then and the hearings of the Committee on 18 October 2016, the Department was aware of the aggregate remuneration of the Managing Director and the senior executive team as reported by Australia Post.

After 18 October 2016, the Department sought information from Australia Post about senior executive remuneration to facilitate responses to the Committee's questions on notice.

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Australia Post released the 2016 Remuneration Report on 27 February 2017 which itemised the remuneration of the Managing Director and individual senior executives in 2015-16. It undertook to report on the remuneration packages of the Managing Director and senior executives in future annual reports and provide a Remuneration Report for 2014-15.

On 24 February 2017, the Australia Post Managing Director's remuneration was made subject to oversight by the Remuneration Tribunal, an independent statutory authority.