


**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Re charter letters - reframed question, media inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 6 September 2022 5:04:05 PM

---

Thank you for responding.

Cheers  
Karen

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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**From:** Karen Middleton <s 47F >  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 September 2022 7:53 PM  
**To:** PMC Media <[Media@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Media@pmc.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Re charter letters - reframed question, media inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s 22(1) the Prime Minister's office called me on Friday afternoon to say there was a list on your website.

All I can find on your website is pen portraits of current ministers & the published ministry list - which, as you know, is already public.

I was asking for details of the ministerial authorisations under s64 and s65 of the constitution as outlined in the charter letters. This should be public information.

If those details are there somewhere on your website, please send me a link.

The published ministry list makes it clear that ministers may be authorised in portfolios not listed.

I'm asking you - as per the solicitor-general's advice - to please provide a list in full.

And it wasn't made clear that the Prime Minister's office was responding on your behalf.

The phone call I received was 'I know you're interested in this', there are details on our website - and when I looked later, I couldn't find them.

That's not the same as 'here is your response'.

And what is the answer regarding an extra instrument please?


You keep ignoring that question.

Are you declining to answer?

I was recording a podcast episode when you rang and unable to answer. Apologies.

Karen

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** Karen Middleton <s 47F >  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 September 2022 4:26 PM  
**To:** PMC Media <[Media@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Media@pmc.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Re charter letters - reframed question, media inquiry  
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Folks, I've heard nothing back on this request for almost a week & nothing back on my previous request for 2 weeks.

May I please have the requested lists of which ministers were appointed to administer which portfolios under the Morrison ministries and which ministers are currently so appointed under the Albanese ministry, ASAP?

May I also please have a response to the earlier query about whether or not Scott Morrison had the Governor-General sign another instrument of ministerial authority in March of 2020 beyond the five already revealed &, if so, the details of that?

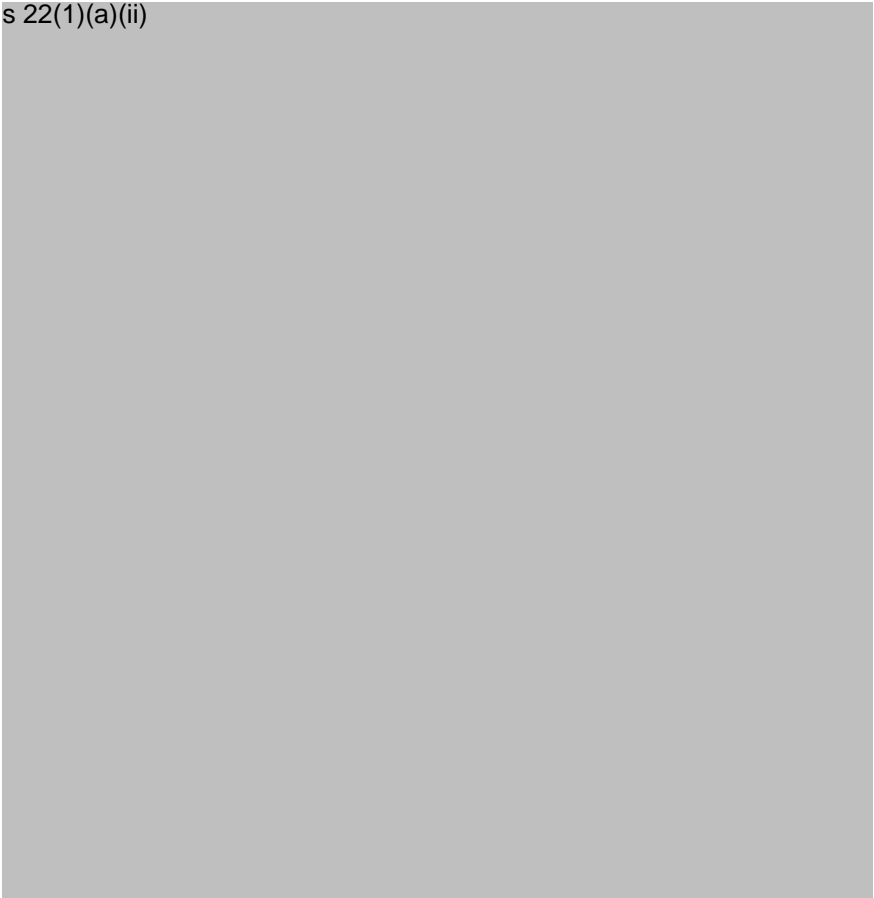
I have to say, it's pretty discourteous to get absolutely no response at all over this period of time when I've been assured previously that responses were coming.

Should I take it up with the secretary?

Or the Prime Minister's office?

Cheers,  
Karen Middleton

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**From:** Karen Middleton

<s 47F >

**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 August 2022 8:31 AM

**To:** PMC Media <[Media@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Media@pmc.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re charter letters - reframed question, media inquiry

Hello again s  
22(1)

Given that there may be material in the charter letters that you believe is not able to be made public, I've reframed my request to avoid seeking secret information.

I make this request, noting that the Solicitor-General, Stephen Donaghue QC, has stated in his advice made public last week that it is not possible to fulfil the legal obligation of responsible government as described in the Australian constitution if the public does not know who is authorised to administer, and/or hold the office of minister in, the portfolios of government.

1. Accordingly, could you please provide a list of all members of the Morrison ministry/ministries

appointed between May 18, 2019 and May 21, 2022,  
including the following:

(a) all appointments under s64 of the constitution to  
administer departments and the dates on which those  
appointments commenced and ceased

(b) all directions under s65 of the constitution to hold  
the office of minister in a portfolio and the dates on  
which those appointments commenced and ceased.

2. I seek the same for the current Albanese ministry,  
including commencement dates.

I'd be grateful to receive this **by tomorrow** if at all  
possible please. I'm assuming these lists will be  
retained in PM&C and should be able to be readily  
accessed.

Many thanks in anticipation,

Karen Middleton  
Chief Political Correspondent  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

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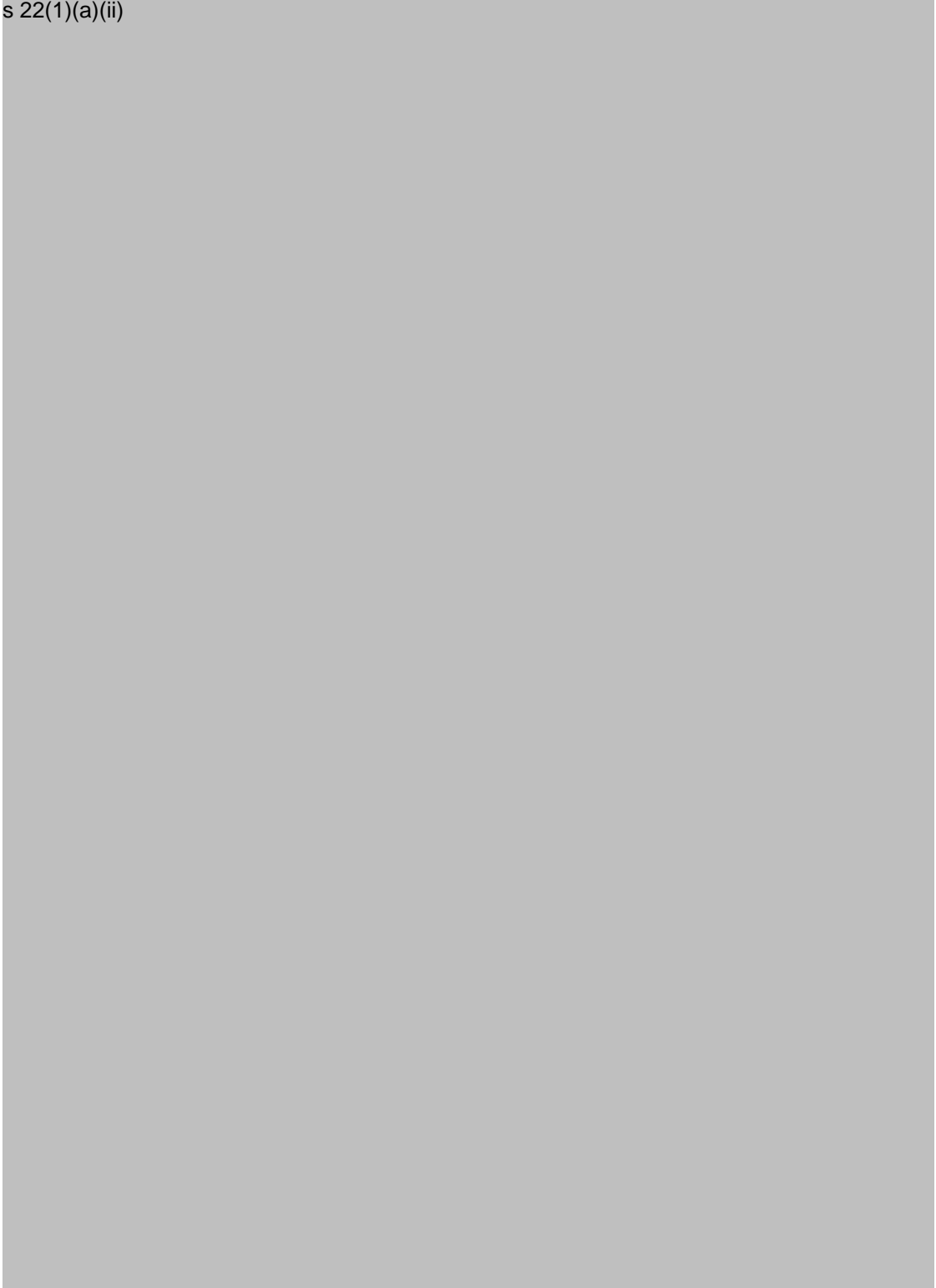
**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [Help - Accounts Receivable](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Outstanding Invoice - ARD10094- \$424.52 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 5 September 2022 3:53:57 PM

---

Apologies - I will follow this up.

Cheers  
Karen

s 22(1)(a)(ii)







**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re charter letters - reframed question, media inquiry  
**Date:** Tuesday, 30 August 2022 8:31:56 AM

---

Hello again<sup>s</sup> 22(1)

Given that there may be material in the charter letters that you believe is not able to be made public, I've reframed my request to avoid seeking secret information.

I make this request, noting that the Solicitor-General, Stephen Donaghue QC, has stated in his advice made public last week that it is not possible to fulfil the legal obligation of responsible government as described in the Australian constitution if the public does not know who is authorised to administer, and/or hold the office of minister in, the portfolios of government.

1. Accordingly, could you please provide a list of all members of the Morrison ministry/ministries appointed between May 18, 2019 and May 21, 2022, including the following:

(a) all appointments under s64 of the constitution to administer departments and the dates on which those appointments commenced and ceased

(b) all directions under s65 of the constitution to hold the office of minister in a portfolio and the dates on which those appointments commenced and ceased.

2. I seek the same for the current Albanese ministry, including commencement dates.

I'd be grateful to receive this **by tomorrow** if at all possible please. I'm assuming these lists will be retained in PM&C and should be able to be readily accessed.

Many thanks in anticipation,

Karen Middleton  
Chief Political Correspondent  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry - charter letters [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 29 August 2022 11:02:45 AM

---

Hi again **S**  
22(1)

Regarding your response of last week on the charter letters - aside from individual subsequent additional instruments of appointment (such as those relating to Scott Morrison which have been the subject of public discourse over the past fortnight), the charter letters are the only documents that outline which ministers are authorised to administer which portfolios.

How does your refusal to provide the charter letters align with the advice of the Solicitor-General, Stephen Donaghue QC, made public last week that keeping the details of appointments secret is a breach of the constitutional principle of responsible government?

Are you saying specifically that the public is not allowed to know what is in the charter letters & therefore which ministers are authorised to administer which portfolios?

I'd be grateful for your clarification as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Karen

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Karen Middleton <**s 47F**>  
> Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 5:19 PM  
> To: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>  
> Subject: Media inquiry - charter letters  
>  
> Hi folks,

>  
> May I please have copies of the charter letters for the Prime Minister, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Industry, Science & Resources (& ministers responsible for administering these portfolios when the department was differently configured), the Minister for Home Affairs & the Treasurer, under all of the Morrison ministries from 2018 to 2022?

>  
> I'd be grateful for your response tomorrow, Wednesday.

>  
> Many thanks,

>  
> Karen Middleton  
> Chief Political Correspondent  
> The Saturday Paper  
> Ph: **S 47F**

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> \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Following up  
**Date:** Monday, 29 August 2022 10:56:45 AM

---

Hello again S  
22(1

What is the response, please, to my inquiry of last week relating to whether or not Scott Morrison had the GG sing another instrument of appointment on or about March 20, 2020?

I received your statement on Friday relating to the Virginia Bell announcement but I have had no specific response to my inquiry on that earlier point & it's been almost a week.

Can you please clarify this - am I going to receive a response?

Are you still investigating or are you declining to respond?

Thanks,

Karen Middleton

**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry - charter letters [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 25 August 2022 4:57:47 PM


---

Interesting.

Thanks.


K

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Karen Middleton <s 47F >  
> Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 4:17 PM  
> To: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>  
> Subject: Re: Media inquiry - charter letters [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
>  
> Thanks s  
> 22(1  
> Where are we with an answer to the other question please?  
>  
> Karen  
>  
>  
>  
>

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



>> -----Original Message-----  
>> From: Karen Middleton <s 47F

>> Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 5:19 PM

>> To: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>

>> Subject: Media inquiry - charter letters

>>

>> Hi folks,

>>

>> May I please have copies of the charter letters for the Prime Minister, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Industry, Science & Resources (& ministers responsible for administering these portfolios when the department was differently configured), the Minister for Home Affairs & the Treasurer, under all of the Morrison ministries from 2018 to 2022?

>>

>> I'd be grateful for your response tomorrow, Wednesday.

>>

>> Many thanks,

>>

>> Karen Middleton

>> Chief Political Correspondent

>> The Saturday Paper

>> Ph: S 47F

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**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Following up - Separate media inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 25 August 2022 11:08:02 AM

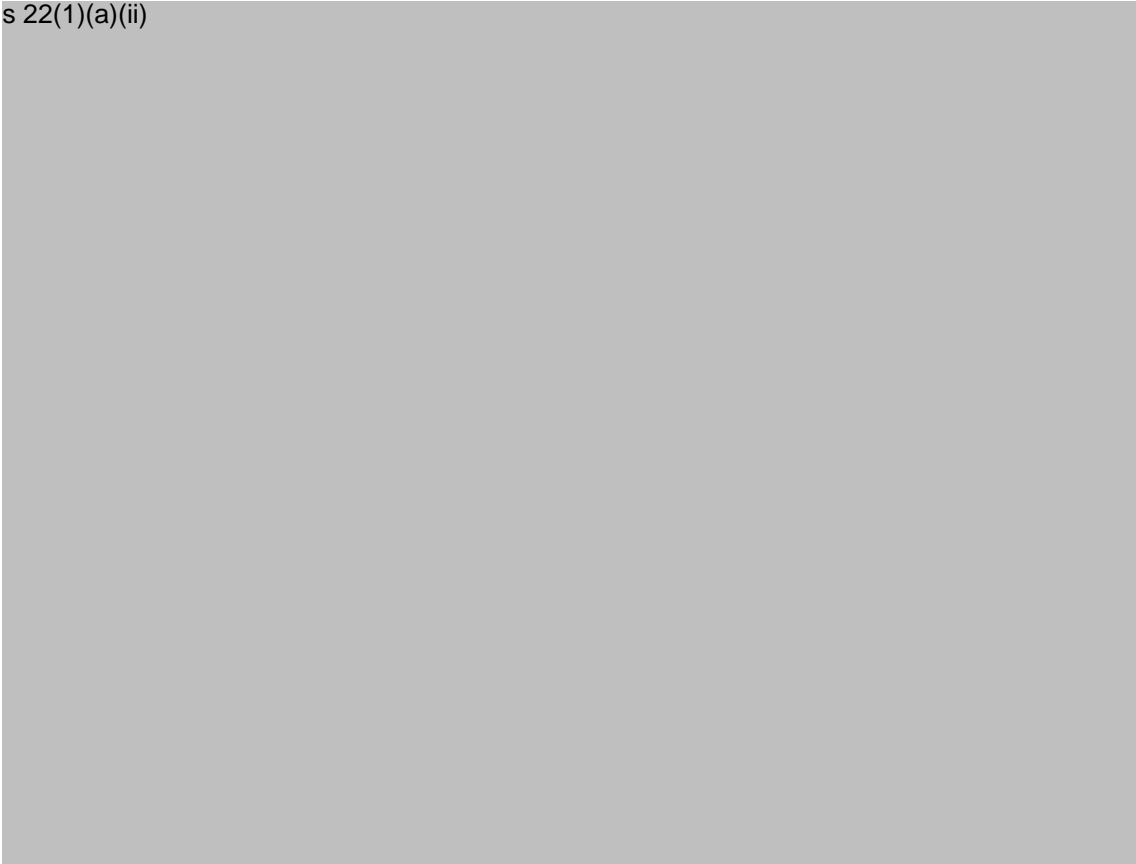
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Thanks s  
22(1)  
Just wanted to check it hadn't gone in a drawer.

KM

Sent from my iPhone

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**From:** Karen Middleton <s 47F >

**Sent:** Thursday, 25 August 2022 9:07 AM

**To:** PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>

**Subject:** Following up - Separate media inquiry

Hi folks,

Is there a response to my inquiries of yesterday please?  
The one below is the one that's the priority from my end.

Can you give me an ETA on your answer?

My copy deadline is noon today, meaning I would need the response before that.

Thanks again,

Karen Middleton



**From:** Karen Middleton <s 47F >  
**Subject:** Separate media inquiry  
**Date:** 24 August 2022 at 10:59:35 am AEST  
**To:** PMC Media <[media@pmc.gov.au](mailto:media@pmc.gov.au)>

Hi again folks,

I have a couple of extra questions.

Did Prime Minister Scott Morrison obtain any kind of signed instrument from Governor-General David Hurley on or around March 20, 2020, separate from the appointments to the Health and Finance departments on March 14 and March 30 respectively?

If so, what is this instrument and does it relate specifically to powers under the Biosecurity Act?

I have lodged the same question with the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General but they tell me it likely needs to go to you.

I would be grateful for your response today please.

Cheers & many thanks,  
Karen Middleton  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

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**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry - charter letters [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 23 August 2022 7:21:24 PM

---

Thanks very much S

KM

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Karen Middleton <S 47F>

> Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 5:19 PM

> To: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>

> Subject: Media inquiry - charter letters

>

> Hi folks,

>

> May I please have copies of the charter letters for the Prime Minister, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Industry, Science & Resources (& ministers responsible for administering these portfolios when the department was differently configured), the Minister for Home Affairs & the Treasurer, under all of the Morrison ministries from 2018 to 2022?

>

> I'd be grateful for your response tomorrow, Wednesday.

>

> Many thanks,

>

> Karen Middleton

> Chief Political Correspondent

> The Saturday Paper

> Ph: S 47F

>

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**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: PM&C Media - background information - release of instruments [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 1:55:18 PM

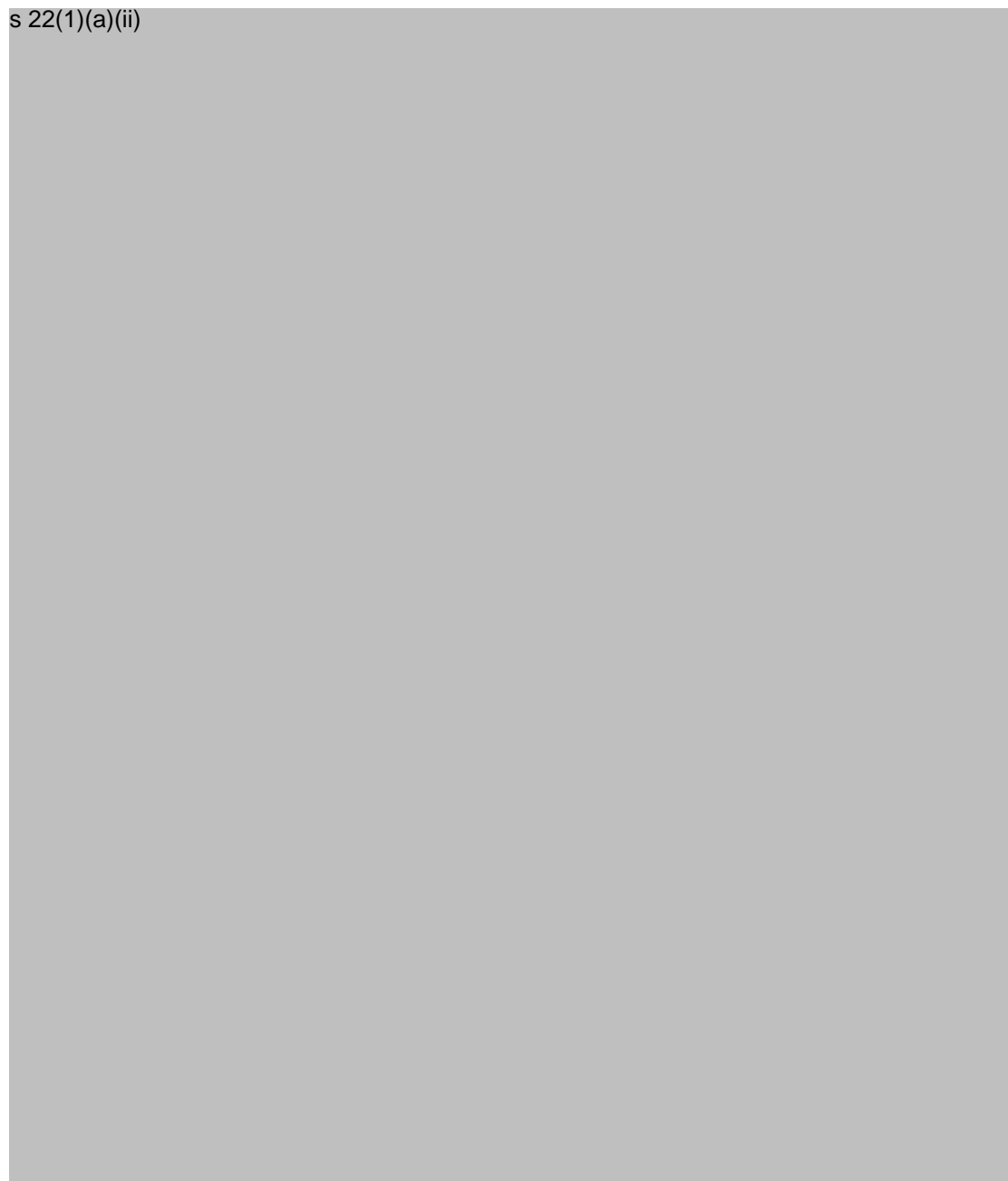
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Thanks folks. Please see below.

**Questions: Why were these instruments not published until now?  
Whose decision was it to not publish them?**

Cheers  
Karen Middleton  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Media inquiry - Ministerial changes & the Federal Register of Legislation  
**Date:** Wednesday, 17 August 2022 1:03:17 PM

---

Hi folks,

Details of ministerial changes are usually published on the Federal Register of Legislation.

The last entry for ministerial changes that I can see is dated February 2020.

There have been several changes of ministerial responsibility since then.

**Q: Why have none of them been published on the register?**

**Q: Whose decision was it not to publish them on the register?**

Could you please update the register to ensure that all changes to ministerial portfolio responsibility - including additional portfolio responsibility - that have occurred since February 2020 are published on the register as soon as possible?

Like the Administrative Arrangements Orders, they are public documents.

I'd be grateful for your response by this evening.

Many thanks,

Karen Middleton  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph s 47F

**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re the Administrative Arrangements Orders  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 August 2022 10:22:04 AM

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Hi folks,

Following on from my phone conversation with S [REDACTED] a little while ago, I thought it might be clearer if I explain what I was raising in writing.<sup>22(1)</sup>

Having tried to click through each one of those AAOs online through the Federal Register of Legislation & then the Gazettes portal, I find that the links still go through to the Parliamentary Information page (where the archive is still not current & only contains AAOs up until April 4, 2019 & none since then) - in all but one case.

The AAO listed together as 'June 10 & June 28 amendments' links directly to an individual AAO - but the wrong one.

The hyperlink for that one is different to the others. The rest go to PM&C's Parliamentary Information page, where there is a timeline & an archive, albeit not one that's up to date (& therefore not containing most of the orders I listed, though some are embedded in the timeline as I mentioned yesterday).

The link against the listing for June 10 & June 28 appears to have been changed. It goes direct to an individual order, but it's for June 23 2022 - signed by Anthony Albanese - not the ones made on June 10 & 28 the previous year, 2021.

You'll see what I mean if you start from the Federal Register of Legislation & go to Gazettes & then 'Ad' in the alphabetical list. That brings up a list of items starting with 'Ad' & the AAOs are there, though not in date order.

A few down from the top is the item described as AAO 'June 10 & June 28 amendments'. If you click through to the next page summary & then on the hyperlink provided there (which is different to the hyperlink for all the others I listed), it takes you to the AAO of June 23, 2022.

It's the same AAO as comes up under the only two items listed for 2022:

### **Administrative Arrangements Order to commence on 1 July 2022**

C2022G00460 • Published On: 02/06/2022

### **Administrative Arrangements Order to commence on 1 July 2022 (No. 2)**

C2022G00567 • Published On: 06/07/2022

I appreciate that you are seeking to provide me with access to all of the AAOs I listed yesterday & I thank you for that.

In the interim, could have that June 10 & June 28 fixed so it goes to the correct (public) documents?

Thanks,

Karen Middleton  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: And just to clarify further... [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 15 August 2022 7:58:59 PM

---

Thanks **S**

Yep, I'm aware the PM has asked for advice - he announced that at a press conference today.

I was chasing the instruments that authorised all this.

I'll await your further advice on those.

Many thanks again for the update,

Karen M

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Karen Middleton <**s 47F**>  
> Sent: Monday, 15 August 2022 4:48 PM  
> To: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>  
> Subject: And just to clarify further...  
>  
> Hello a third time,  
>  
> Just to clarify my original request of earlier today - in relation to the authorisation for PM Morrison to take on



portfolios other than his own while other ministers continued to serve in those portfolios,\ what I'm after is whatever the instruments were that bestowed that power on the prime minister (in case I am not using the correct description or title for these instruments).

>

> Can you please provide or point me to those?

>

> Thanks,

> Karen Middleton

> The Saturday Paper

> Ph: S 47F

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**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** s s 22(1)(a)  
**Cc:** s 47E(d)  
**Subject:** Re: The Saturday Paper - Media Bus Accompanying Mr Morrison During 2022 Election Campaign - Cost Recovery Arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 15 August 2022 7:24:59 PM

---

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for clarifying - the "4 seats" suggested seats for 4 people, rather than seats for one person for four days, hence my query.


I confess I still can't understand s 's email about the calculations but I'll take your word for it!

Our accounts people will be paying it this week.

Thanks again

Karen M

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Karen Middleton <s 47F

**Sent:** Friday, 1 July 2022 3:22 PM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Cc:** s 47E(d)

**Subject:** Re: The Saturday Paper - Media Bus Accompanying Mr Morrison During 2022 Election Campaign - Cost Recovery Arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Apologies - this appears to have gone to my junk mail & I didn't find it until just now.

I'm not sure where the four seats idea comes from.

I was the only one who travelled for The Saturday Paper, & I only travelled on the Morrison media bus from Sunday to Wednesday of the final week of the campaign.

Please check your records & also note that we discovered prior to the campaign that Defence had somehow conflated The Saturday Paper with The Guardian - we are completely different organisations.

Perhaps the four seats are actually Guardian seats?

We should only be paying for the one spot I occupied on the bus from May 15-

18 inclusive.

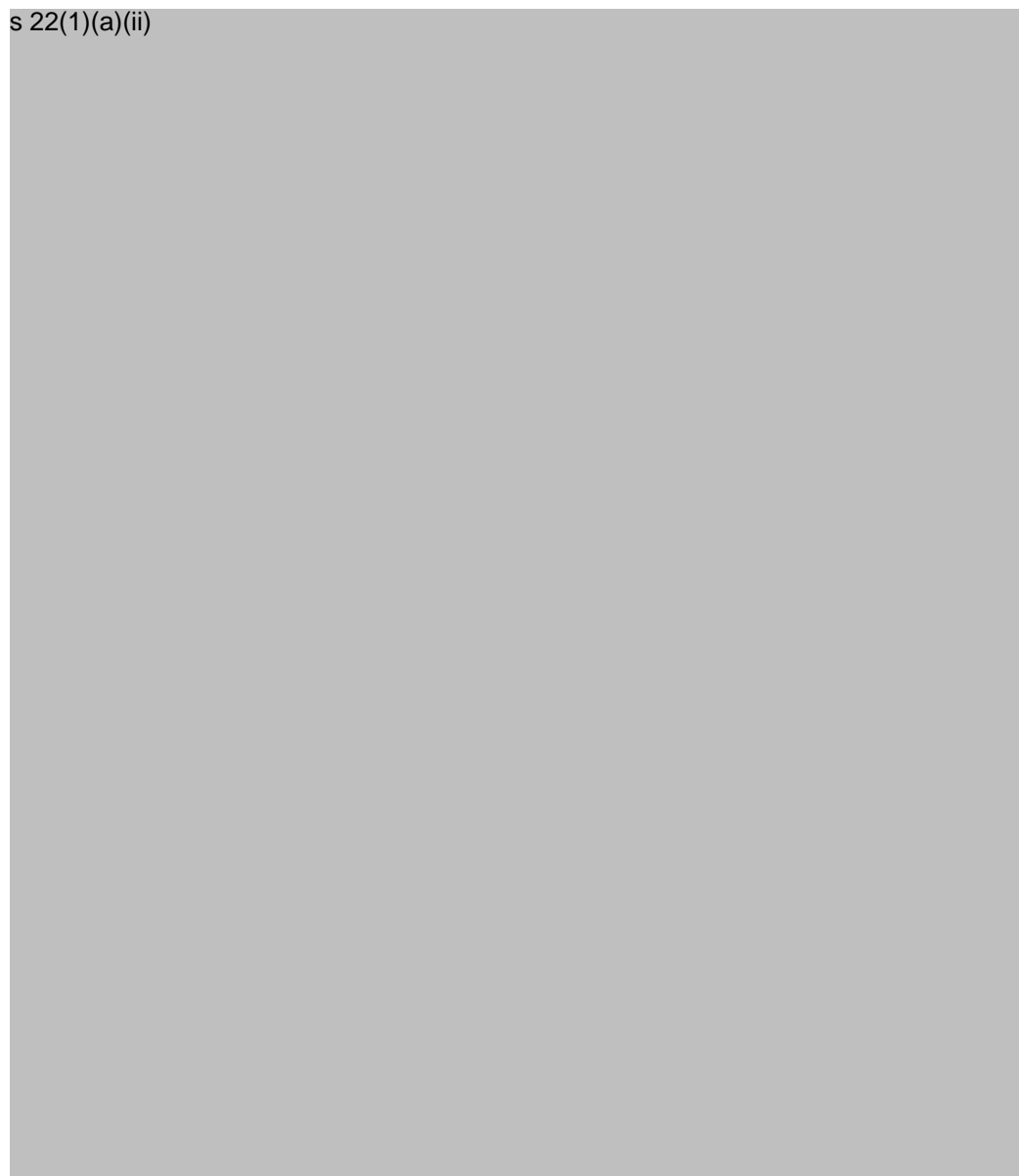
I also travelled with the then Opposition Leader's campaign Sun-Wed of the preceding week.

Could you please come back to me and let me know how you reached the number four? And could you also just check that you haven't also conflated The Saturday Paper and The Guardian? The Saturday Paper is owned by Schwartz Media. Guardian Australia is an independent and separate company that is part of the British Guardian group.

The Guardian is more likely to have had four people travelling. We only had one - me.

Cheers & thanks,  
Karen Middleton  
Chief Political Correspondent  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [media@pmc.gov.au](mailto:media@pmc.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Further to my previous email  
**Date:** Monday, 15 August 2022 4:11:59 PM

---

Hi again folks,

After the quick phone discussion just now, I'm following up on my previous email in relation to the request for copies of the Administrative Arrangements orders pertaining to delegations for Scott Morrison as prime minister to portfolios other than his own.

As I mentioned, on the Federal Register of Legislation I've found a list of Administrative Arrangements Order instruments & there seem to be 15 such instruments listed which cover the period of Mr Morrison's prime ministership.

This is the Federal Register page which lists the instruments (accessed through the Gazette portal on the register's website):

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Browse/Results/ByTitle/Gazettes/InForce/Ad/0>

The instruments all have a hyperlink, which takes you through to the PM&C website, to a page entitled Parliamentary Information.

Here is where you land when you click on any of the hyperlinks for the listed AAO instruments:

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/parliamentary-information>

This page carries a timeline of 'Key dates & progress' & at the bottom of the page under 'Programmes & Policies' there is an archive of such orders.

But the most recent order listed in that archive is from April 4, 2019.

From what I can see, six of the 15 AAOs listed since August 24, 2018, have been published throughout that timeline - in total, I can see six of them. (If you click through the links on the timeline, some have several AAOs listed within them.)

But nine others do not appear to have been published on that page at all.

The dates of the 15 instruments are as follows (with those I have found on that page marked below as 'published', & those not appearing marked with an asterisk)

April 4, 2019	published
May 29, 2019	published
Aug 8, 2019	published
<b>*Nov 4, 2019</b>	
<b>*Dec 1, 2019</b>	

**\*Dec 1, 2019 (revocation of Dec 1 instrument)**

Dec 5, 2019	published
March 5, 2020	published
April 2, 2020	published

**\*March 18, 2021**

**\*April 15, 2021**

**\*June 10, 2021**

**\*June 28, 2021**

**\*July 2, 2021**

**\*Aug 8, 2021**

To clarify my earlier emailed request, I am seeking copies of all Administrative Arrangements Orders issued under Prime Minister Scott Morrison which relate to his delegations to portfolios other than his own.

Further to that, I am now **also seeking copies** of the unpublished Administrative Arrangements Orders listed above, whether they relate to the PM's delegations or other matters.

Should there be other AAOs made during Scott Morrison's prime ministership which I have not listed above, **I seek copies of those as well please** - all of which are generally understood to be public documents.

As mentioned, I would be grateful for your help with this as soon as possible. They pertain to a story I am currently working on.

Many thanks,  
Karen Middleton  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [media@pmc.gov.au](mailto:media@pmc.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Media inquiry - administrative orders to delegate other portfolio responsibilities to PM Morrison  
**Date:** Monday, 15 August 2022 2:56:59 PM

---

Hi folks,

May I please have a copy of the administrative orders that delegated portfolio responsibilities to Prime Minister Scott Morrison for portfolios other than his own?

Many thanks,  
Karen Middleton  
The Saturday Paper



**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** s 47E(d)  
**Cc:** s 47F  
**Subject:** Re: ARD10094 Invoice [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Friday, 5 August 2022 7:23:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[Untitled attachment 00008.htm](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[Untitled attachment 00011.htm](#)  
[ARD10094.pdf](#)  
[Untitled attachment 00014.htm](#)

---

Hi folks,

We at The Saturday Paper did not book 4 seats on either media bus during the election campaign.

I was the only person who travelled.

I travelled on the Albanese media bus from Sunday night May 8 until Wednesday afternoon May 11 and on the Morrison media bus from Sunday morning May 15 until mid-morning Wednesday May 18 and that's all.

Please check you records and ensure you haven't got The Saturday Paper mixed up with The Guardian or another publication. This has happened before.

As I advised Defence when it became clear just prior to the election campaign that they had confused us, we are completely separate and unrelated publications and companies.

I'm happy to forward you the messages I sent to both the Albanese & Morrison offices in relation to securing a seat on the bus for those days.

Please adjust this invoice accordingly.

Feel free to call if you have questions.


We await your clarification.

Thanks very much,  
Karen Middleton


The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

Sent from my iPhone

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)



THE DEPARTMENT OF  
THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET



Australian Government

1 National Circuit  
BARTON, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

**TAX INVOICE**

ABN: 18 108 001 191  
Telephone: 02 6271 6000

The Saturday Paper Pty Ltd  
Attn: Karen Middleton  
22-24 Northumberland Street  
COLLINGWOOD VIC 3066

**Invoice No:** ARD10094  
**Date:** 03/08/2022  
**Debtor Id:** 05023  
**Due Date:** 02/09/2022  
**Page :** 1 of 1

<b>Description</b>	<b>Exclusive GST</b>	<b>GST</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Four seats booked on the Media Bus accompanying the Prime Minister during the 2022 Federal Election Campaign	385.93	38.59	424.52

**Total Amount Due: (AUD)** 385.93 38.59 424.52

Terms Net 30 days

Contact Officer: s 47E(d)  
Email:

**BANKING DETAILS**

s 47E(d)

**Invoice No:** ARD10094  
**Date:** 03/08/2022  
**Exclusive GST:** \$385.93  
**GST:** \$38.59  
**Amount: (AUD)** \$424.52

**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s  
**Subject:** Re: The Saturday Paper - Media Bus Accompanying Mr Morrison During 2022 Election Campaign - Cost Recovery Arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Friday, 1 July 2022 3:31:39 PM

---

Hello again,

Just further to my previous email - we should only be charged for the seat I occupied for the four days I occupied it, not for the whole six weeks.

We didn't "reserve" a seat for the whole campaign - we indicated at the outset, as requested, that we had an interest in me travelling for a few days towards the end of the campaign.

Nothing was said about having to share the costs of the whole six weeks' media travel and as far as I am aware, we did not agree to that.

Please clarify this too.

Many thanks,

Karen

On 1 Jul 2022, at 3:21 pm, Karen Middleton  
s 47F wrote:

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Apologies - this appears to have gone to my junk mail & I didn't find it until just now.

I'm not sure where the four seats idea comes from.

I was the only one who travelled for The Saturday Paper, & I only travelled on the Morrison media bus from Sunday to Wednesday of the final week of the campaign.

Please check your records & also note that we discovered prior to the campaign that Defence had somehow conflated The Saturday Paper with The Guardian - we are completely different organisations.

Perhaps the four seats are actually Guardian seats?

We should only be paying for the one spot I occupied on the bus from May 15-18 inclusive.

I also travelled with the then Opposition Leader's campaign Sun-Wed of the preceding week.

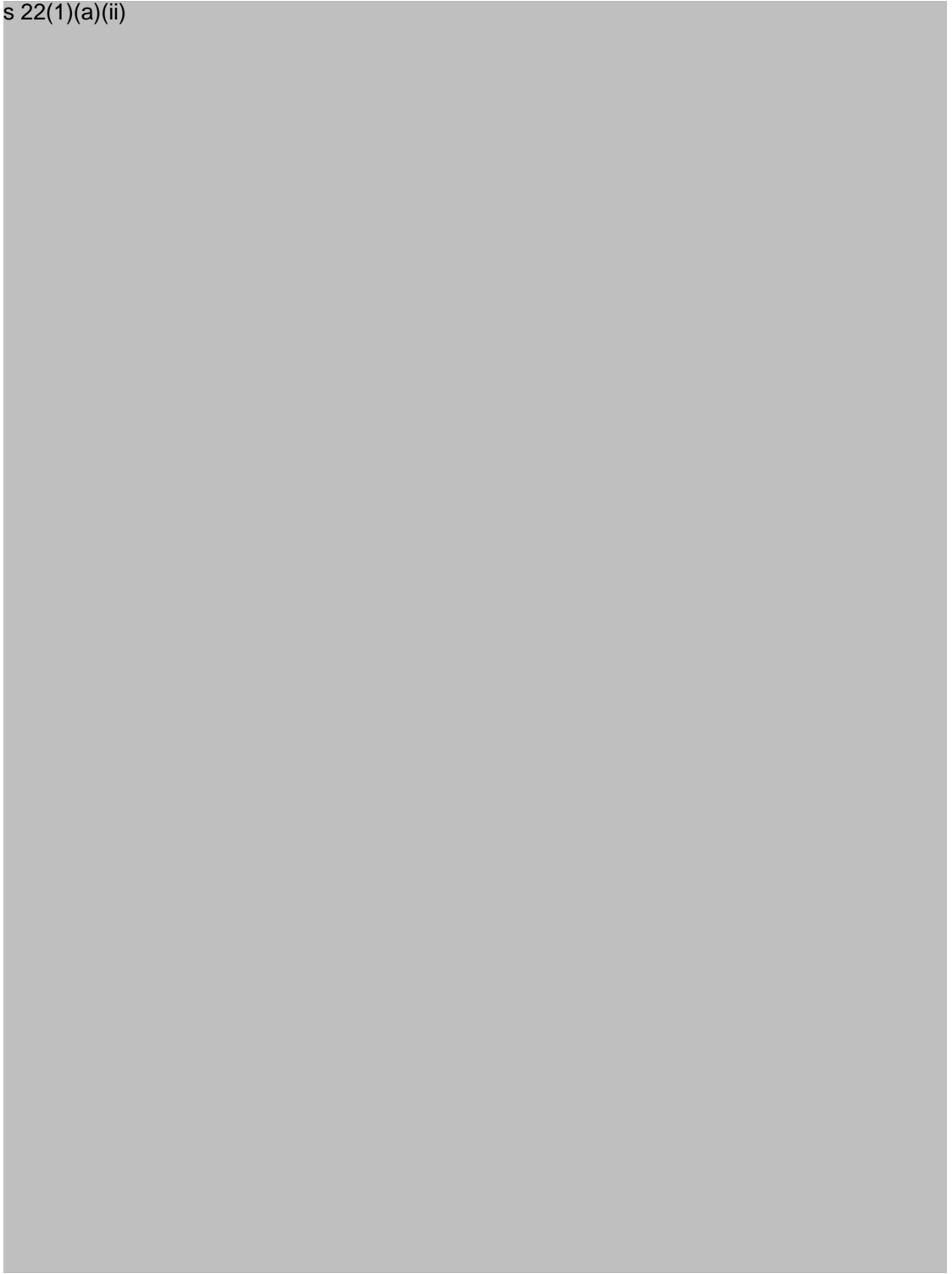
Could you please come back to me and let me know how you reached the number four? And could you also just check that you haven't also conflated The Saturday Paper and The Guardian? The Saturday Paper is owned by

Schwartz Media. Guardian Australia is an independent and separate company that is part of the British Guardian group.


The Guardian is more likely to have had four people travelling. We only had one - me.

Cheers & thanks,  
Karen Middleton  
Chief Political Correspondent  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)




**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry - Cabinet Office Policy Committee [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11 August 2021 12:15:13 PM

---

OK but how come it took nearly 24 hours to tell me that?!

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



> -----Original Message-----

> From: Karen Middleton s 47F

> Sent: Tuesday, 10 August 2021 1:20 PM

> To: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>

> Subject: Media inquiry - Cabinet Office Policy Committee

>

> Hi folks,

>

> Could you please provide me with a list of bodies which are considered to be sub-committees of, or are otherwise linked to, the Cabinet Office Policy Committee?

>

> Please include all bodies that have had that status since the Cabinet Office Policy Committee was formed in 2018.

>

> I would be grateful for your response as soon as you can manage it, ideally by tomorrow morning (WED).

>

> Cheers & thanks in anticipation,

>

> Karen Middleton

> Chief Political Correspondent

> The Saturday Paper

>

> Ph: s 47F

>

>

>

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> that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or

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> have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by  
> return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the  
> message from your computer system.  
> \_\_\_\_\_



**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry - Cabinet Office Policy Committee [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11 August 2021 12:09:12 PM

---

Hi s 22(1)  
( ) (ii)


Thanks so much, I'm grateful for both the update & the swift response.

I'd be keen for it as soon as you can manage it. I'm working on a news feature which is being written this afternoon & this evening to be filed tomorrow, but depending on its content, your response may necessitate further inquiries elsewhere so it would be helpful to have it as soon as is reasonably feasible for you guys.

Many thanks again,

Karen

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



> -----Original Message-----

> From: Karen Middleton s 47F

> Sent: Tuesday, 10 August 2021 1:20 PM

> To: PMC Media <Media@pmc.gov.au>

> Subject: Media inquiry - Cabinet Office Policy Committee

>

> Hi folks,

>

> Could you please provide me with a list of bodies which are considered to be sub-committees of, or are otherwise linked to, the Cabinet Office Policy Committee?

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>

> Karen Middleton

> Chief Political Correspondent

> The Saturday Paper

>

> Ph: S 47F

>

>

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>

**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry - NADC [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 6:55:13 PM

---


Folks, many thanks - I just realised I didn't actually respond to this.

I appreciate your quick turnaround.

Cheers & thanks again,

Karen M

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry re attending Susan Ryan's funeral [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 20 October 2020 7:56:30 PM


---

Thanks so much s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
I've been in meetings this evening but have just found your message and registered.  
I really appreciate you facilitating my attendance.

Best regards,  
Karen Middleton

Sent from my iPhone

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**From:** Karen Middleton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 October 2020 4:18 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Inquiry re attending Susan Ryan's funeral

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for the quick phone chat just now.

As I mentioned, I was inquiring about arrangements for Susan Ryan's funeral on Friday.

I'd be keen to attend if the family is OK with that but obviously don't want to cause any awkwardness.

s 47F



Equally, if the family would prefer to keep to close colleagues and friends - and I wouldn't consider myself in that category - I won't be offended if they decline.

I am contactable at this email address or on mobile s 47F

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Middleton  
(The Saturday Paper)

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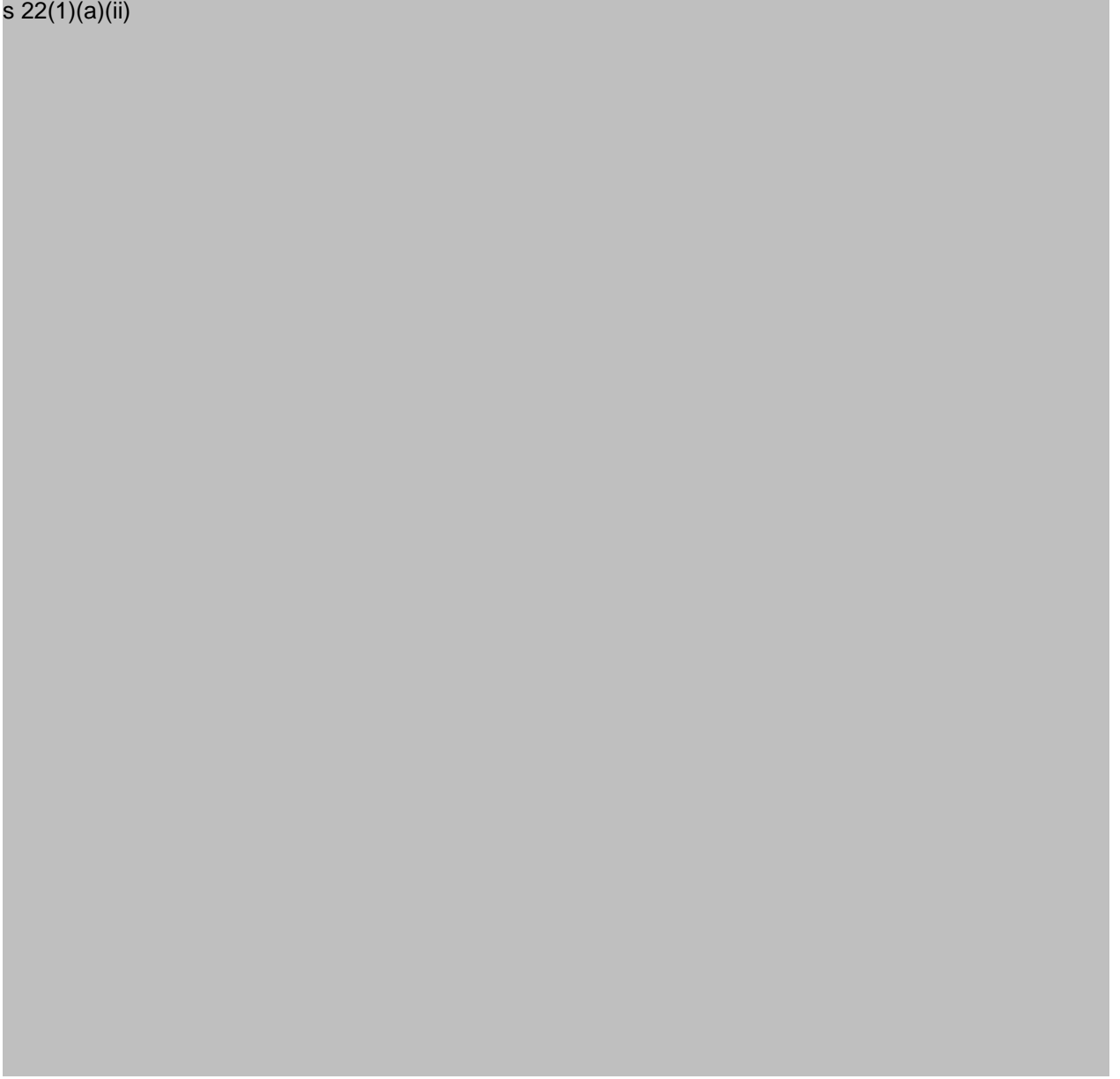
**From:** [Karen Middleton](#)  
**To:** [PMC Media](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiries - Re bushfire recovery local government grants/Stronger Communities Fund [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 22 January 2020 6:35:56 PM

---

Many thanks folks, much appreciated.

Cheers,  
Karen

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**From:** Karen Middleton s 47F

**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 January 2020 11:24 AM

**To:** Media (Infrastructure) <[media@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:media@infrastructure.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Media inquiries - Re bushfire recovery local government grants/Stronger Communities Fund

Hi folks,  
I have a couple of queries and I'm hoping you can help.

Firstly, is the Infrastructure Department responsible for managing the \$1m bushfire recovery grants to local councils that the Prime Minister announced as part of the \$2b recovery package on January 6? If so, where can I find details of the process for awarding those grants - which I understand are already being made - including the eligibility criteria and process for selection? Could you please supply a list of councils which have received the grants so far? What's the legal authority underpinning those grants? Secondly, in relation to the Stronger Communities Fund, I note that this is a closed and non-competitive grants program and that to be eligible, organisations are required to be recommended by their local federal MP. Why is this a closed, non-competitive program? Who determined that it should be a closed, non-competitive program? What legal authority governs the requirement that applicants must be recommended by their local MP? Could you please supply the written selection criteria against which MPs are assessing applications in order to recommend them for consideration? How does this process fit with the seven key principles for grants administration as outlined in Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines, particularly the principles of robust planning and design, achieving value for money, governance and accountability and probity and transparency? These queries relate to a feature piece I am preparing which is to be **filed tomorrow morning, Thursday January 23.** It must be **completed and filed before noon**, meaning I **would appreciate a response before close of business today, Wednesday January 22.** Many thanks in anticipation.  
Yours sincerely,  
Karen Middleton  
Chief Political Correspondent  
The Saturday Paper  
Ph: s 47F

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