

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Qatar [SEC=OFFICIAL] [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Friday, 25 August 2023 3:23:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)

Thanks for your call earlier. Point on Qatar below.

I hope this assists with your briefing.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Qatar Airways' request for additional services

- Australia has air services agreements with more than 100 countries facilitating international travel to and from Australia.
- Under current arrangements, Qatar Airways is operating 42 services a week to Australia and can also operate unlimited direct passenger flights to many of Australia's international airports including Adelaide, Canberra, Cairns, Darwin and the Gold Coast along with unlimited dedicated freight services.
- The Australian Government at this time has decided not to approve the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority request for additional services taking into account all national interest considerations.
- In determining the national interest, the Government considered a broad range of factors – not any single issue led to the decision.
- The Government remains committed to supporting Australia's post COVID-19 economic recovery by encouraging the return of international tourism, business and trade and providing greater connectivity for Australian's travelling internationally and will continue to monitor market developments and explore opportunities to build bilateral trade and investment.
- The Government agreed to a doubling of capacity available under our bilateral air services arrangements with our Pacific Island neighbours Samoa and Tonga, and will be seeking bilateral negotiations with other key international priority markets over the next year.

BACKGROUND

- On 16 August 2022, the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority wrote to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts seeking increased capacity entitlements under the Australia- Qatar air services arrangements.
- Qatar was seeking an additional 28 services a week into Australia (seven each into the four major markets – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth).
- The Department sought input from a broad range of aviation stakeholders, including Qantas, Virgin Australia, international airports, DFAT, Austrade and state and territory governments.
- On 14 July 2023 the Department sent advice to the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority that at this time the Australian Government is not able to agree to their request for an

increase of capacity entitlements under our bilateral air services arrangements.

- This followed confirmation from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP to the Department that entering into air services negotiations with Qatar was not supported.
- On 17 July 2023 Minister King sent a response to a letter from lawyers representing five Australian women currently taking legal action in the Federal Court against several Qatar entities over an incident at Doha Airport in October 2020. In the letter the Minister noted that the Australian Government is not considering additional bilateral air rights with Qatar.
- On 14 August 2023 the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority requested consultations either in Doha or Canberra, within 60 days, as per Article 16 of the Qatar – Australia air services agreement. Article 16 allow either Party to request consultations with the other Party on a number of issues. The Department is still considering its response to this request.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Assistant Secretary • International Aviation
International Aviation, Technology and Services

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

P s 22(1)(a)(ii) M + s 22(1)(a)(ii)

GPO Box 594 Canberra, ACT 2601

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
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From: Wolfe, Jim <Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 20 July 2023 11:31 AM

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

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: Qatar [SEC=OFFICIAL] [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As requested some briefing points below.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards

Jim

TALKING POINT

[If asked] Why has Qatar Airways' request for additional services not been approved?

The Australian Government at this time has decided not to approve the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority request for additional services taking into account all national interest considerations.

BACKGROUND

- On 14 July 2023 the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts sent advice to the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority that at this time the Australian Government is not able to agree to their request for an increase of capacity entitlements under our bilateral air services arrangements.
- This followed confirmation from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP to the Department that entering into air services negotiations with Qatar was not supported.
- On 17 July 2023 Minister King sent a response to a letter from lawyers representing five Australian women currently taking legal action in the Federal Court against several Qatar entities over an incident at Doha Airport in October 2020. In the letter the Minister noted that the Australian Government is not considering additional bilateral air rights with Qatar.
- Qatar is seeking an additional 28 services a week into Australia (seven each into the four major markets – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth).

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 20 July 2023 10:39 AM
To: Wolfe, Jim <Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Qatar [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Jim,

Thanks for taking my call. As flagged, grateful for any briefing points you may be able to provide on the latest with Qatar (i.e. recent engagement and the Minister's recent decision) to provide on to PMO.

My apologies for the turnaround but very grateful if you could provide today.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Adviser

Infrastructure and Transport | Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

P: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ngunnawal Country, One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600



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