

From: Angus Llewellyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 15 Feb 2021 10:48:05 +1100 (AEDT)
To: Peter Meakin [REDACTED]; Laura Binnie [REDACTED]
Myles Farley [REDACTED] "Tasha Smithies"
[REDACTED]
Cc: Chris Bendall [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: The Project, Network Ten request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Response from CASH'S OFFICE.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "CREIGHTON, Guy" [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: The Project, Network Ten request [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: 15 February 2021 at 10:43:02 am AEDT
To: Angus Llewellyn [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

Hi Angus,

Apologies for the delay. For your information, I and the Minister read about the specific details of the alleged assault for the first time today which are very distressing. I want to reiterate that we tried to support Brittany as much as possible, but were not given any details of the alleged incident. She only informed the Minister and the CoS that an alleged assault took place after she had decided to resign.

Spokesman:

Ms Higgins commenced employment in the Minister's office in June 2019.

The Minister and Chief of Staff (COS) were not aware of any alleged staff incident occurring in Ms Higgins' previous employment.

In October 2019, a journalist made a media inquiry that involved Ms Higgins and her previous employment.

When the Minister and COS raised this with Ms Higgins she informed them that she did not want to discuss the issue other than it involved her and a former staff member in Minister Reynold's office.

When asked for further details, she said the matter was dealt with at the time and she did not want the matter taken any further. She said the other staff member no longer worked in the building.

Her concern was that a journalist was making inquiries about her former employment and that upset her.

The Minister and COS said that they would respect Ms Higgins wishes for privacy but if she needed anything she should come to them. The COS and Ms Higgins discussed the Employee Assistance Program and Ms Higgins confirmed she accessed it.

At the end of January this year, Ms Higgins advised the Minister and COS that the March 2019 matter had become an issue and that she wished to resign and leave Canberra.

Both the Minister and COS advised that they wished for Ms Higgins to stay on in her role as she was good at it and they would do whatever they could to support her including relocating her job to Queensland, if she wished. Ms Higgins was grateful for the offer but declined.

Ms Higgins confirmed on 5 February 2021 that she would prefer to resign and leave Canberra.

Guy Creighton | Senior Media Adviser

OFFICE OF SENATOR THE HON MICHAELIA CASH

Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

T: [REDACTED] | M: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Suite MG.70, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

From: Angus Llewellyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2021 2:45 PM
To: APH Senator Cash [REDACTED]

Cc: TRY, Daniel [REDACTED]; CREIGHTON, Guy [REDACTED]

Subject: The Project, Network Ten request

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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Dear Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate,

I'm producing a story for Network Ten's The Project. I have some specific queries I need answered no later than 10am Monday 15th February 2021.

- When and how did you first become aware of an alleged sexual assault on the evening of 22nd March 2019 and the morning of 23rd March 2019 within the ministerial suite of Minister Linda Reynolds at APH?
- What support did your office provide to Brittany Higgins?
- What support did you personally provide to Brittany Higgins?
- Could you have done more to support Brittany Higgins?
- Were you in any way dismissive, indifferent or uncaring in your dealings with Brittany Higgins?
- Have you ever been made aware that the AFP Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team (SACAT) were not granted access to CCTV footage requested from the APH regarding the evening of 22nd March 2019 and the morning of 23rd March 2019?
- Have you seen the CCTV footage of Brittany Higgins and Bruce Lehrmann on the evening of 22nd March 2019 and the morning of 23rd March 2019 in APH?

Yours faithfully

Angus

Angus Llewellyn
Producer



7PM Company Pty Ltd
Network Ten
1 Saunders St, Pyrmont,
NSW, 2009

M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

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