Spokesperson for The Daily Telegraph:

The Daily Telegraph reported the fact Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor had written a letter to Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore in which he criticised her council's travel spending.

The letter on its own was newsworthy.

In the letter, Mr Taylor explicitly stated that the council's annual report showed it had spent \$15.9m on travel.

During the course of the reporting of the letter on the day before publication, the Daily Telegraph approached Ms Moore and the council for a response, during which it became apparent the figures Mr Taylor used in his letter did not accord with the council's.

Over the course of two days, Mr Taylor's office provided first a limited screenshot of the annual report he was basing his figures on and then, when pressed by the Daily Telegraph, the full three-page document.

The Daily Telegraph thoroughly interrogated Mr Taylor's office and Ms Moore's office and, as a result, the story published carried both of their claims.

On the night of publication both parties were adamant their figures were correct and that they had come from the council's annual report. The dispute was accurately reported.

The Daily Telegraph prominently ran Ms Moore's statement that Mr Taylor's numbers were made up and that the real figure was under \$300,000.

The Daily Telegraph acknowledges that our editorial used Mr Taylor's figure. However, once the council's metadata evidence was produced this week we corrected the record in our editorial.

The Daily Telegraph could not have foreseen when it was questioning both parties that a federal minister would be relying on what has this week been found by the council to be an altered document.

If the police choose to investigate this matter, the Daily Telegraph will fully co-operate.