

Response from Peter van Onselen, Political Editor, Ten News:

The PMO simply won't answer my questions about the backgrounding against Brittany Higgins' partner. I suspect that's because they don't want to lie and deny it. So they just plead the 5th and stay silent.

To my knowledge Linda Reynolds hasn't done any media since the allegations became public. Which is why it was so frustrating that she pulled out of the National Press Club.

The PMO being so limited in their dealings with my office and me can be a little frustrating at times, mostly when it borders on the unprofessional, for example by not passing on logistical information all media is supposed to get. When they don't like our coverage they sometimes remind us they aren't required to pass such information on. I've accepted that's all part of their strategy to arm twist compliance. I usually out it when I see it. I'd rather occasionally miss out on information than become a PR extension of their messaging just for a little bit of access to the PM and his movements. Much better to let viewers know what's really going on.