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Now I am not going to tell you what

to make of the evidence of the politically powerful people who dealt with this matter from when it happened until the complainant finally resigned to move forward with the complaint.

5 Suffice to say that there were clearly strong political forces at play in the period immediately after the events through the election and beyond. These forces, I submit to you, were at play through the almost two years that she worked with Senator Cash and it is abundantly clear from the evidence and actions of Senator Reynolds during this trial that those political forces were
10 still a factor. Now on that point, I just want to pull out something that you heard in the exchange with Senator Reynolds. I put two texts to Senator Reynolds. The first one was sent at 4.27 pm on Thursday, 6 October and you will recall that was at the end of the day when Brittany Higgins' cross-examination had just started, saying:

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Hi, do you have the daily transcripts and if so are you able to provide my lawyer?

20 The second text was at 4.28:

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Also, if you have text messages between Brittany and Nicky they may be revealing.

25 I just need to be clear that there is no suggestion in this case that defence acted on that coaching and there is no suggestion in this case that those transcripts were provided by defence to Senator Reynolds. Those propositions were put purely as an issue of credit to Senator Reynolds and you should infer nothing from those with regards to decisions made by defence. There is simply no property in a witness, there is no problem with
30 counsel talking to a witness but these things were put as an issue of credit to Senator Reynolds' evidence and particularly propositions of what she knew and did not know.

35 These very clearly strong political forces will also help you assess the fears the complainant held in firstly making her complaint in 2019 then again moving forward with her complaint in 2021. Now you will recall the evidence of Senior Constable Frizzell who said of her phone meeting with Brittany Higgins on 25 February 2021 that she was upset about media articles in which Minister Dutton was making comments suggestive of an
40 information flow beyond the investigation, and that is at page 382 of the transcript.

45 It is clear, I say, or we submit, members of the jury, that this is a young lady in the middle of strong political forces and we say she was right to be scared. We say she was right to be cautious and we say she was right to move forward slowly and carefully in handing her life over to police.

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MR DRUMGOLD: Members of the jury, just before I go on, I just want to clarify one thing. I said that it's clear that there are strong political forces at

play here, particularly with a number of the witnesses, particularly the senators and their chiefs of staff. I just want to be abundantly clear that I am not suggesting for a moment that defence counsel are part of those political forces. It's relevant to the credibility of the witnesses, not to the way in which defence case was conducted. So I think that is clear but I just want to express it.

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[Redacted text block]

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