Our reference: CIT2022–006

By email:

The Commission noted that the investigation will "ensure the integrity of [the] process". On 24 August 2022, the Commission informed the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23 that the

enforcement duties, impacting on its ability to investigate the circumstances relating to the awarding of the contracts. In coming to this conclusion, I note that while an investigation is ongoing, especially in the early parts of the investigation, the scope may evolve and information that may seem innocuous has the potential to become critical later. Accordingly, I give this factor very high weighting.

In addition to prejudicing law enforcement activities, I also consider that the release of the information within the scope of your request would prejudice the investigation processes and considerations of the Commission. As outlined in my consideration of the prejudice of law enforcement activities factor, a key enabler for the Integrity Commission to investigate matters thoroughly is the ability to obtain documents, maintain a high degree of secrecy and undertake investigations covertly. In considering this factor, I note in the public announcement of 23 June 2022, the Commissioner expressly stated that:

"Commission investigations are almost always conducted covertly, particularly in their early stages. This minimises the risk of the investigation, or indeed the safety and reputation of witnesses and other persons of interest, being compromised"

The Commission further stated:

"I want to make it very clear to any persons who have received, or do receive, a summons to appear before the Commission and/or provide information as part of this investigation, that they must at all times adhere to the conditions of their summons, including any confidentiality requirements.

Failure to act in accordance with the conditions of a summons is a criminal offence and may result in a period of imprisonment."

These statements made by the Commission as part of their media release on 23 June 2022 reiterate the importance of maintaining secrecy and confidentiality in relation to the ongoing investigation. The strict confidentiality regime adopted by the Commission is importancessoeiren6.y6by.6 (m)-.n

Disclosure log

Please note that section 28 of the FOI Act requires publication of access applications and any information subsequently released on CIT's disclosure log at:

https://cit.edu.au/about/freedom of information/disclosure log.

This means that if access to the information is granted, it will also be made publicly available on our website, unless the access application is an application for your personal, business, commercial, financial or professional information.

Review rights

You may apply to the ACT Ombudsman to review my decision under section 73 of the FOI Act.

eview must be made in writing within 20 days of my decision being published in the disclosure log on 14 September 2022.

You may submit a request for review of my decision to the ACT Ombudsman by writing in one of the following ways:

Email (preferred): actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

Post: The ACT Ombudsman

GPO Box 442

CANBERRA ACT 2601

More information about ACT Ombudsman review is available on the ACT Ombudsman website at: http://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/improving-the-act/freedom-of-information.

Yours sincerely

Steven Wright
A/g Executive Director, Corporate Services &
Information Officer

25 August 2022