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1 December 2023

Mr Jon Krause MP  
Chair  
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: [pccc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:pccc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Krause,

**RE: Response to question taken on notice at the public meeting with the  
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on 24 November 2023**

During the public meeting between the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee (the Committee) on 24 November 2023, the CCC undertook to provide further information on the following matter.

**Request** – Details regarding the proportion of local government sector complaints received by the CCC concerning Chief Executive Officers (CEO) and other executives compared to elected officials, and the categorisation of those complaints.

### **Response**

The CCC receives complaints about corrupt conduct from members of the public and notifications from public sector agencies. Each complaint or notification may contain one or multiple allegations and may relate to one or more subject officers in one or more local governments. It should be noted that the CCC may not receive all complaints which are made about local governments. For example, the Office of the Independent Assessor receives and assesses complaints about the behaviour of Councillors.

### ***Proportion of complaints and allegations by local government position***

The CCC's complaints management system records if a matter received about a local government relates to a Council Employee, a Councillor (i.e. an elected official), or more generally about the Council. A complaint can contain allegations relating to a Councillor, a Council Employee, the Council more generally, or any combination of these positions.

Of the 640 complaints (containing 1425 allegations) received about local government between 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2023:

- 523 involved an allegation against a Council Employee (81.7%), 58 of which related to a Chief Executive Officer,
- 124 involved an allegation against a Councillor (including mayors; 19.4%), and
- 10 involved an allegation against a Council in general (1.6%).<sup>1</sup>

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of complaints received by the CCC for each category of local government position.<sup>2</sup> As shown in the table, most complaints received by the CCC relate to a Council Employee (74.2%) followed by a Councillor (15.6%).

**Table 1. Complaints received by the CCC by local government position for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2023**

Local government position	Number of complaints	% of total complaints (N = 640)
CEO	58	9.1%
Executive	24	3.8%
Council Employee	475	74.2%
Mayor	30	4.7%
Councillor	100	15.6%
The Council	10	1.6%
Unknown	40	6.3%

Note. The above figures exceed 640 (number of complaints) and 100% (% of total complaints) as one complaint can contain multiple allegations against multiple subject officers.

As mentioned above, a complaint can contain multiple allegations relating to one or more subject officers. For this reason, examining allegations data can provide a more detailed understanding of local government complaints.

Table 2 shows the number and proportion of allegations received by the CCC for each category of local government position. Similar to the trends observed for complaints, most allegations received by the CCC related to a Council Employee (68.1%) followed by a Councillor (13.5%).

**Table 2. Allegations received by the CCC by local government position for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2023**

Local government position	Number of allegations	% of total allegations (N = 1425)
CEO	113	7.9%
Executive	38	2.7%
Council Employee	971	68.1%
Mayor	44	3.1%
Councillor	192	13.5%
The Council	16	1.1%
Unknown	51	3.6%

### ***Types of allegations by local government position***

As shown in Table 3, the most common type of allegation received by the CCC relating to local governments involved the misuse of authority (43.8%).

<sup>1</sup> Data about the subject officer/s was missing for 40 complaints (6.3%). Note that these figures do not sum to 640 (or 100%), as complaints can contain multiple allegations against multiple subject officers.

<sup>2</sup> The CCC's complaints management system does not consistently record local government role type. This information has been coded based on the free text occupation field.

**Table 3. Most common types of allegations received by the CCC for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2023**

Allegation type	Number of allegations	% of total allegations
Misuse of authority	624	43.8%
Misappropriation or unauthorised use of resources	276	19.4%
Failure of duty	178	12.5%

As shown in Table 4, the types of allegations received by the CCC about local governments differs somewhat depending on local government position. During the period 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2023, misuse of authority was the most common allegation type across all local government positions. However, the proportion varied considerably depending on the position. Misuse of authority allegations made up 77.9% of all allegations received about CEOs, whereas for Council Employees, misuse of authority allegations comprised 36.6% of all allegations received about this position. This may be due to the greater authority and decision-making responsibility inherent to a CEO compared to other Council Employees.

**Table 4. Most common types of allegations received by the CCC by local government position for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2023**

CEO	Executive	Council employee	Mayor	Councillor	The Council
Misuse of authority 77.9%	Misuse of authority 47.4%	Misuse of authority 36.6%	Misuse of authority 68.2%	Misuse of authority 50.5%	Misuse of authority 50.0%
Failure of duty 9.7%	Failure of duty 18.4%	Misappropriation or unauthorised use of resources 26.7%	Failure of duty 9.1%	Failure of duty 24.0%	Misappropriation or unauthorised use of resources 25.0%
Interfere with or undermine an investigation, legal process or conduct matter 5.3%	Misuse of information 13.2%	Failure of duty 10.7%	Misuse of information 6.8%	Misuse of information 7.3%	Misuse of information 12.5%

Note: Percentages (%) shown are of total number of allegations received for that subject officer role type.

### ***Categorisation of complaints by local government position***

In February this year, the CCC introduced a new intake and assessment model. Prior to February, matters received by the CCC were categorised as being either High, Medium or Low. As part of our new model, matters are triaged as serious, systemic and/or strategic (SSS), not meeting the criteria for serious, systemic and/or strategic (non-SSS), or out of jurisdiction.<sup>3</sup>

As shown in Table 5, more matters relating to Council Employees and Executives were triaged as non-SSS than SSS. For other known local government positions, more matters were triaged as SSS (than non-SSS) which reflects the priority given by the CCC to complaints involving persons in positions of power or with the ability to influence or make decisions.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this analysis, High matters were combined with SSS matters, and Low and Medium matters were combined with non-SSS matters to provide a comparable indication of the category of matter overtime.

Table 5. Categorisation by local government position for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2023<sup>4</sup>

	Number of SSS	% of allegations (by position)	Number of Non-SSS	% of allegations (by position)
CEO	101	89.4%	12	10.6%
Executive	14	36.8%	24	63.2%
Employee	208	21.4%	763	78.6%
Mayor	39	88.6%	5	11.4%
Councillor	167	87.0%	25	13.0%
The Council	9	56.3%	7	43.8%
Unknown	23	45.1%	28	54.9%

### ***Corruption Allegations Data Dashboard***

The CCC publishes information about corruption allegations on its website through the [Corruption Allegations Data Dashboard \(CADD\)](#). The CADD is a data visualisation tool that enables public sector agencies and members of the community to view CCC corruption allegations data. The CCC is currently in the process of refreshing the CADD and will soon publish updated data for the period up until 30 June 2023.<sup>5</sup>

Additionally, as part of delivering our [Corruption Strategy 2023-2027](#) we will be undertaking a project to improve stakeholder awareness and use of our CADD to help inform the public sector about corruption risk.

Yours sincerely,



**Bruce Barbour**  
Chairperson

<sup>4</sup> The figures and percentages detailed in Table 5 are based on allegation-level data to provide a breakdown by local government position. It is important to note that the same triage category is applied to all allegations within a complaint regardless of the individual allegations or subject officers involved.

<sup>5</sup> The CCC's complaint management system is a live database. As such, the figures contained in this letter may vary from other publicly available information about CCC complaints and allegations, including the CADD.