



PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Members present:

Mr SW Davies MP (Chair)
Mrs JR Miller MP (Deputy Chair)
Miss VM Barton MP
Mr MJ Pucci MP
Mr IP Rickuss MP
Ms J Trad MP
Mr PW Wellington MP

Staff present:

Ms A Honeyman (Research Director)
Ms K Christensen (Principal Research Officer)

PUBLIC HEARING—MEETING WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMISSIONER

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 25 AUGUST 2014

Brisbane

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Committee met at 10.46 am

FAVELL, Mr Paul, Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner

KUNDE, Mr Mitchell, Principal Legal Officer, Office of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commission

CHAIR: Mr Favell, I would like to give you the opportunity to make an opening statement if you wish.

Mr Favell: We have prepared two different operational reports for the purposes of the public meeting and the private meeting. The only comments that I wanted to highlight in the report for the public meeting were that since 19 June 2014 the remaining amendments to the CCC Act have come into place, and that meant that the additional powers and obligations under section 314 came into play. There have been some matters which have arisen which I will not speak about at this meeting, but I can report on that later. I have been in discussions with staff at the CCC since that time to settle some protocols, that is, the notifications under 329, and I know the committee has as well. I will comment about some aspects of the protocols that have been proposed in the next meeting.

You will see that I report on the inspection of the CMC's telecommunication interception records from 1 July 2014, and I have provided a schedule to the CCC essentially outlining what I consider the result to be; that is, that the CCC has complied with its obligations pursuant to sections 14 to 16 and 18 of that Act. On 8 August 2014 I provided a report to the Attorney-General, the parliamentary committee and the acting CCC chairman about those interceptions, as I have in respect of the controlled operations records on 23 July 2014. In that sense I advised the acting chairman of the CCC that the results of that inspection were satisfactory in all respects. Similarly, the report on the controlled operations activity was provided on 12 August 2014. I understand that you may have tabled that in the Legislative Assembly.

As I said, I have been making some investigations about the protocols which I will speak to later on. The only other thing that I wanted to mention was the meeting that Mr Kunde and I had with the IBACC earlier this year. I understand that you have been advised of that and the outcome. I have nothing further to add really.

CHAIR: Are there any questions from the committee?

Mr RICKUSS: Yes, if you do not mind, Mr Chair, through you. I noticed on page 3 of my report at 2.1 it says 'key outputs achieved during 15 May to 15 August 2014', and you have gone on to list a number of outputs there. The cumulative average time taken to finalise other functions is about six weeks, and the cumulative average time to finalise complaints against the CMC is 18.8 weeks. I am struggling to know whether that is a reasonable time or not.

Mr Favell: We think it is, and can I say why. We react almost instantaneously to any complaint that is sent to us. Often the reason for the extended time is waiting for responses to our inquiries; for example, there are some matters that you are aware of at the moment where we received the complaint on Thursday, we put matters into action on Friday and now we are waiting for reports back on what we have asked for. So it is the time—

Mr RICKUSS: It is the process—

Mr Favell: It is the process.

Mr RICKUSS: That is fair enough.

CHAIR: I have been a little bit remiss too, Mr Favell, to congratulate you, on behalf of the committee here, for your reappointment for the next two years.

Mr Favell: Thank you, members of the committee.

CHAIR: With your new role with the CCC you are getting your feet under the desk a little bit more.

Mr Favell: Yes.

CHAIR: There was some question regarding times and the fact that you are a part-time commissioner now. With the new responsibilities that have been foisted upon you, will that work out and—

Mr Favell: We are still making our way, so to speak. There has been an increase in the last month, obviously.

CHAIR: Of the workload?

Mr Favell: Yes. I can speak more to that perhaps in the private meeting if you wish.

CHAIR: We will leave it until then. If there are no further questions in this public meeting, we may shut it down and go into the private meeting.

Committee adjourned at 10.53 am