



THE HON ALEX HAWKE MP
Special Minister of State

REF: SQ19-000045

Senator James Paterson
Chair
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Chair

I refer to questions on notice F046 and F087 from 19 February 2019 requesting a copy of an investigation report and information in relation to that report and the content and outcomes from the investigation. The Government is claiming public interest immunity in respect of this document and the content and outcomes from the investigation.

The disclosure of the report, in whole or in part, and information about the investigation would unreasonably infringe the privacy of individuals who were involved in the investigation. It is in the public interest that private information about individuals not be unreasonably disclosed.

Further, disclosure of the report or information about the investigation could unreasonably prejudice the impartial adjudication of a possible breach or enforcement of the law. These are grounds that the Committee has previously accepted as information that would be contrary to the public interest to disclose.

Release of the report or information about the investigation could also deter individuals from raising issues or seeking advice and assistance in relation to possible bullying and harassment matters. This outcome would materially impact the Commonwealth's ability to provide support and assistance in relation to such matters.

Kind regards

Alex Hawke
Special Minister of State

27 / 3 /2019