



SENATOR THE HON MATHIAS CORMANN
Minister for Finance and the Public Service
Leader of the Government in the Senate

REF: MS18-001693

Senator Gavin Marshall
Chair
Senate Education and Employment Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Chair

I refer to AQON5 from 18 October 2018 seeking the tabling of the contract and tender documents regarding property services for the Commonwealth. The Government is claiming public interest immunity in respect of these documents.

The documents sought by the Committee contain detailed, commercially sensitive information relating to contracting processes including tender content and other information which would be of significant commercial value.

The release of this information would set a precedent that could result in businesses ceasing to engage in commercial arrangements with the Commonwealth on the basis that such an engagement could risk publication of valuable commercially sensitive information. This outcome would materially impact the Commonwealth's ability to negotiate and contract with commercial entities.

Kind regards

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance and the Public Service

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