

Attachment B



Office of Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Minister for Employment
Minister for Women
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service

Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator *Jacqui*

This letter is in response to your request for access to the confidential volumes of the reports of the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption.

The confidential volumes contain information on threats and acts of violence against witnesses of the Royal Commission. The final report also includes details of ongoing police investigations and current and pending criminal prosecutions.

The confidential volume of the interim report is subject to a non-publication direction by the Commissioner under section 6D of the *Royal Commissions Act 1902*. A person who contravenes a direction made by the Commissioner under section 6D of the Act is guilty of an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding \$2000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months. However, the order does allow the Government to provide access to the report to appropriate individuals under certain conditions, which are outlined below.

To provide you, in your capacity as a Senator, with a greater understanding of the context in which the Government has proposed legislation to address unlawful behaviour, including the kind of conduct referred to in the confidential volumes, the Government has agreed to provide you with access to the confidential volumes.

In order to comply with the Commissioner's non-publication direction for the interim report, I ask that you agree to the following conditions in order to inspect the two volumes:

- 1) The Royal Commissioner has required that inspection of the interim volume is to be in the presence of an officer of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Government proposes to adopt the same approach with the second volume;
- 2) No other individuals will be able to view the volumes;
- 3) It will not be possible to take any notes or copy the material (including by taking photographs);
- 4) The details or nature of the material in the volumes may not be disclosed to third parties; and
- 5) None of the material is to be removed from the room or the presence of the officials of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

If you confirm in writing your agreement to these conditions, I will instruct the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to put in place the necessary arrangements for access at Parliament House.

Please contact my Chief of Staff, [REDACTED], to confirm arrangements to view the confidential volumes. I have copied this correspondence to the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General, Senator Brandis.

Yours sincerely

Michaelia Cash
Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

29/11/2016