

25 March 2026

Ms Kristy Bourne
Secretary
Department of Justice
By email: haveyoursay@justice.tas.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Re: *Integrity Commission Amendment Bill 2026*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Integrity Commission Amendment Bill 2026 (the Bill). I also wish to thank your Department for meeting with me on 3 February 2026, to discuss various questions I had in relation to the Bill, and for subsequently engaging at officer level to provide further information to help inform my position.

As a consequence, it is my understanding that several matters raised by this Office will either be considered and reviewed further before tabling the Bill in Parliament, or will be addressed at a later stage through subsequent amendments.

For the record, I am advised that the Department will:

- consider whether amendments are required to s.35(6) of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* (the Act), to allow the Chief Executive Officer of the Integrity Commission to monitor, audit or require a report in relation to a complaint referred to the Commissioner of Police under the proposed s.35(1A) in clause 15 of the Bill;
- consider any potential impacts of the proposed s.35(1A) in clause 15 of the Bill on the reporting of alleged misconduct to the Integrity Commission, given potential complainants, including children and young people with youth justice involvement, may not wish to engage directly with police (and bearing in mind the Integrity Commission's capacity to receive anonymous complaints);
- review clause 35 of the Bill which would, pursuant to the proposed subsection 66(4)(b), allow the Integrity Commission to refuse legal representation by a particular legal practitioner or agent if, in the opinion of the Integrity Tribunal, it would cause an 'unreasonable delay' to an inquiry, noting the potential for a young person to be a witness in an Integrity Tribunal hearing and bearing in mind the proposed abrogation of the privilege against self-incrimination in clause 45 of the Bill;



- consider whether the Act would benefit from a provision like s.23B(c) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995*, which allows a Commission of Inquiry to identify a person (e.g. a child) giving evidence as potentially vulnerable and apply special measures under the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001*; and
- in the next phase of amendments to the Act, consider whether current legislative provisions address concerns raised in the *Weiss Independent Review into Paul Reynolds*, and progress appropriate amendments where required.

Thank you again for the constructive and collaborative approach to consultation on this Bill.

I look forward to further legislative reforms to strengthen the Integrity Commission's capacity to prevent, identify and respond to misconduct affecting the rights, safety and wellbeing of children in Tasmania.

Yours sincerely,

Isabelle Crompton

Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People

cc: *The Hon Jo Palmer MLC, Minister for Children and Youth*

cc: *The Hon Guy Barnett MP, Attorney-General*

cc: *Ellen McKenzie, Chief Executive Officer, Integrity Commission Tasmania*