



Department of Justice and Community Safety

Commissioner, Corrections Victoria

121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Our ref. 26060412

2 June 2026

Ms Sarah Connolly MP
Chair
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

By email: PAEC@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Chair

I am writing to clarify the record of my testimony in the transcript of the 2026-27 budget estimates hearing for the Corrections portfolio, which was held on Friday 22 May 2026.

The relevant section of the transcript is on page 13. The current text reads:

Larissa STRONG: We do not use tear gas. We do use OC spray – it is a different agent – and I would have to take on notice how often it has been used.

I would like to amend it to the following (insertions in *italics*):

Larissa STRONG: ~~We do not use tear gas.~~ *CS (ortho-chlorobenzal-malononitrile) – commonly referred to as tear gas – is not used in public prisons by prison-based staff. It is used by the statewide Security and Emergency Services Group (SESG) in the form of a smoke dispersed, not a gas. It is authorised for use by SESG in certain circumstances, such as larger scale disturbances and roof clearances. CS was last used at DPFC by SESG in 2016.*

We ~~do~~ also use OC spray – it is a different agent – and I would have to take on notice how often it has been used.

If you have any further queries on this matter, please contact me at larissa.strong@justice.vic.gov.au. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the PAEC inquiry.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Larissa Strong
Commissioner, Corrections Victoria