

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PAEC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: PAEC request
Date: Monday, 25 August 2025 11:57:51 AM
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Dear PAEC Committee,

I have been asked my Mayor Kellander from Hobsons Bay to comment on the following questions:

The Committee requests that the following two questions be reviewed and answered by all elected members of your Council:

1. *How comfortable are you with the current use of confidentiality in meetings within your Councils?*
 - I am not at all comfortable with the current use of confidentiality in meetings. Obviously if there is a contractual arrangement or something of a personal nature, it should be confidential. In the normal course of events, most of the issues that are brought up are not of a confidential nature and could easily be shared with the residents and ratepayers. This would enhance the idea of open, transparent and accountable government, instead of fostering a perception of shady dealings.
2. *How could the need for confidentiality be better balanced with the requirement for Council decisions to be reported transparently?*
 - Council officers need to understand that the public demand to know where their money is going and how it is spent, the perception from the general public is that it isn't been spent wisely. There is almost no accountability, councillors are repeatedly told, that's operation and so outside our sphere of influence. Councillors are elected by the public as sort of Directors of a company and we are hamstrung by bureaucracy who are not willing to show us what they do in case there is an adverse reaction.
 - The need for transparency is paramount if councils ever want to regain public trust, council officers need to be fully accountable to residents and ratepayers.
3. *What have been the barriers and enablers to your council having a culture that*

makes councillors and council staff feel safe to 'speak up' when they identify fraud or corruption (both internally and formally through Public Interest Disclosures)?

- *There has been bullying and intimidation at Hobsons Bay, it is being addressed, but its still there, there should be whistleblower that anyone could approach in the utmost confidentiality to address concerns*

4. *Do you feel confident that integrity agencies are willing and able to investigate suspected fraud and corruption incidents in an appropriate and timely manner?*

- *No, I don't is the short simply answer. Both the LGI and IBAC are hopelessly underfunded and staffed*

I hope that helps, I'm more than happy to discuss further if required.

Regards

Cr Michael Disbury

Councillor

Williamstown North

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NRS users phone 133 677 and quote 1300 179 944

From: Cr Daria Kellander <dkellander@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au>

Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 1:32 PM

To: Group Councillors <GroupCouncillors@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au>

Subject: PAEC request

Hi All,

The PAEC Committee has requested that all Councillors provide a response to the below questions:

The Committee requests that the following two questions be reviewed and answered by all elected members of your Council:

1. *How comfortable are you with the current use of confidentiality in meetings within your Councils?*

a. *How could the need for confidentiality be better balanced with the requirement for Council decisions to be reported transparently?*

2. *What have been the barriers and enablers to your council having a culture that makes councillors and council staff feel safe to 'speak up' when they identify fraud or corruption (both internally and formally through Public Interest Disclosures)?*

a. *Do you feel confident that integrity agencies are willing and able to investigate suspected fraud and corruption incidents in an appropriate and timely manner?*