



Department of Justice and Attorney-General  
Office of the Director-General

[REDACTED]  
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Taskforce Flaxton  
Crime and Corruption Commission  
GPO Box 3123  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
[TaskforceFlaxton@ccc.qld.gov.au](mailto:TaskforceFlaxton@ccc.qld.gov.au)

1 William Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 149 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone 13 74 68 (13 QGOV)  
[www.justice.qld.gov.au](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au)

ABN 13 846 673 994

Dear colleagues

Thank you for letter dated 27 March 2018 extending an invitation for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) to make a submission to Taskforce Flaxton regarding corruption risks in Queensland corrective services facilities.

Please find enclosed, DJAG's submission in response to the issues paper. The submission includes a public component and a confidential component with details of a sensitive nature not suitable for public disclosure.

[REDACTED]  
I trust this information is of assistance.

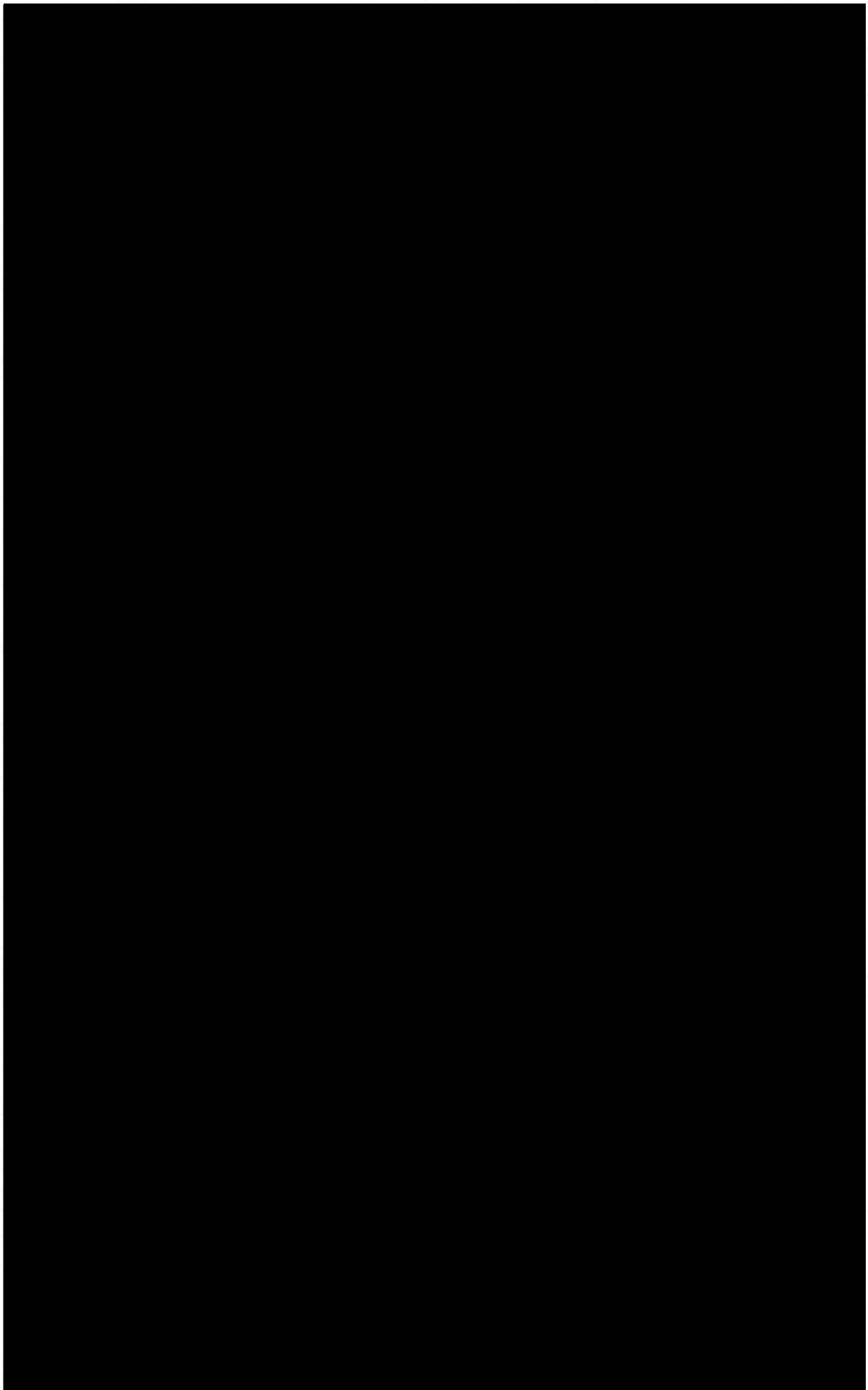
Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

David Mackie  
**Director-General**

Enc.

[Redacted]

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## **PUBLIC SUBMISSION**

From November 2013 to December 2018 Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) formed part of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG).

During that time, the DJAG Ethical Standards Unit (ESU) undertook activities relevant to Queensland correctional centres as described in the issues paper including receiving, assessing and case managing allegations of misconduct and corrupt conduct. The Executive Director (ED), ESU was the Crime and Corruption Commission liaison officer during that time for matters relating to staff of Queensland correctional centres operated by Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) and privately.

In addition to this public submission, a separate confidential submission is made which comments on some aspects of the DJAG's dealings with Queensland correctional centres which cannot be publicly published for confidentiality.

- 1. In relation to complaints made to the CCC (see page 3), what may account for the increase in the number of corrupt conduct allegations received, over the last three years, about:**
  - a. assaults/excessive use of force**
  - b. the misuse of information?**

Consideration may be given to whether the increase in allegations actually reflects an increase in detection and reporting rather than incidence.

- **Training**

During the time QCS was part of DJAG, it participated in DJAG corruption prevention strategies. The DJAG has zero tolerance for corruption and in addition to other initiatives, undertakes significant work to raise awareness amongst staff of ethical conduct and corruption prevention. Exposure to this may have impacted on the detection and reporting of corruption.

At the request of the QCS Commissioner at that time, the DJAG ESU delivered extensive training to staff of Queensland correctional centres on Workplace Ethics which includes a focus on corruption. It includes of particular relevance, education on identifying corruption, the obligation to report wrongdoing including corruption under the Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service, pathways to reporting and protections for public interest disclosers. The training was delivered by content experts.

Per calendar year, the DJAG provided Workplace Ethics training to the following numbers of QCS staff (including staff of Queensland correctional centres and elsewhere in QCS):

2015:	383
2016:	2,215
2017:	1,810
2018:	24

Comparison has not been undertaken against previous training, however the significant majority of participants provided feedback indicating an increased understanding of their obligations.

This training was delivered to Queensland correctional centre staff of all levels including those in managerial and human resources roles involved in assessing which complaints or reports required referral to the ESU as the CCC liaison officer. Additional training for managers and supervisors was delivered to 696 staff which provided education on their obligations to report and deal with wrongdoing including corruption.

- ***CCC interest***

DJAG understands that allegations involving the misuse of force and information are currently of particular interest to the CCC. Some matters that previously may have been dealt with by the department and retained on record for later audit by the CCC (pursuant to s40 *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*) are now subject of individual referrals to the CCC (pursuant to s38 *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*). Any analysis of trends in allegations reported to the CCC should consider this.

The increased interest from the CCC in particular areas may also aid in raising awareness, including through CCC publications and investigation outcomes known to the public. Such information is promoted to departmental staff to provide a general deterrence effect. This may in turn increase detection and reporting.

2. ***What are the most significant corruption risks in Queensland correctional facilities?***
  - a. ***What are the consequences of this type of corruption for prisoners and how the correctional facility operates?***
  - b. ***What are the consequences of this type of corruption for the community?***
  - c. ***How does this type of corruption undermine integrity and public confidence in QCS and engaged service providers?***

DJAG agrees that those risks identified within the issues paper are very relevant to Queensland correctional centres.

Corruption obviously may have a significant impact for the immediate victims, which in a correctional centre environment may often be prisoners or the Queensland Government itself. Other parties may be also be victims such as persons about whom confidential information is held.

In a correctional centre environment corruption may also have consequences for other staff working in the facility, particularly by posing a risk to their safety.

Corruption impedes the achievement of the purposes of correctional centres and diminishes public confidence. It may also incur a significant cost to deal with at the public expense.

Additional comment is made within the confidential submission.

- 3. What factors create a corruption risk or facilitate corruption in Queensland correctional facilities?**
- a. How do these factors create a corruption risk or facilitate corruption?**
  - b. Are these factors systemic (present across all correctional facilities) or symptomatic of local conditions (that is, factors specific to an individual prison or work camp)?**

DJAG agrees that those factors identified within the issues paper are very relevant to Queensland correctional centres.

Additional comment is made within the confidential submission.

- 4. What legislative, policy or procedural changes could be made to address corruption risks in correctional facilities?**
- a. What are the barriers to successfully implementing these reforms and how could these barriers be removed or mitigated?**

The DJAG ESU's experience in dealing with corruption allegations relating to Queensland correctional centre staff found an extensive legislative and policy framework relevant to Queensland correctional centres. The material was accessible to staff and reinforced in operational training.

Additional comment is made within the confidential submission.

- 5. Are there any other issues that are relevant to understanding corruption risks in Queensland correctional facilities or how to address these risks?**

Comment is made within the confidential submission.