

CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF INVESTIGATIVE HEARING

10 CONDUCTED AT LEVEL 2, NORTH TOWER, 515 ST PAULS TERRACE, FORTITUDE VALLEY WITH RESPECT TO

File No: CO-16-1664

HEARING NO: 17/0001

DAY 3 – FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2017 (DURATION: 38MINS)

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LEGEND

- PO Presiding Officer ALAN MACSPORRAN QC
- CA Counsel Assisting GLEN RICE QC
- 30 HRO Hearing Room Orderly ISABELLA PATTON
 - W Witness PETER JOHN FLANNERY
 - LR Legal Representative MR G BEACHAM QC with MR M LONG instructed by Gadens

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY PETER FLANNERY

Transcriber: KR/TH (DTI)

Page 1 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

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	CA	I call Councillor Peter FLANNERY.
	PO	Mr FLANNERY, do you have any objection to taking the oath?
	W	No, sir.
	PO	Thank you. I'll have you sworn in in just a moment.
10	LR	Apologies for the delay, Commissioner.
10	PO	That's all right.
	LR	My name is BEACHAM - B-E-A-C-H-A-M. I appear with Mr LONG, instructed by Gadens, for Councillor FLANNERY.
	PO	Thank you, Mr BEACHAM. I'll just have you sworn in when the attendant returns. Would you swear the witness in, thank you.
20	HRO	Would you please stand, take the Bible in your right hand, and repeat after me. The evidence.
	W	The evidence.
	HRO	Which I shall give.
	W	Which I shall give.
	HRO	In these proceedings.
30	W	In these proceedings.
	HRO	Shall be the truth.
	W	Shall be the truth.
	HRO	The whole truth.
	W	The whole truth.
40	HRO	And nothing but the truth.
	W	And nothing but the truth.
	HRO	So help me God.
	W	So help me God.
	HRO	Thank you. Please be seated.
50	CA	Is your name Peter John FLANNERY?
	W	Yes, it is.
	CA	Mr FLANNERY, you're the current Councillor for Division 2 of Moreton Regional Council; am I right?

Page 2 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	***	Sory 2 of 2
	W	Yes, that's correct.
	CA	You are appearing today in response to an attendance notice?
	W	Yes.
	CA	Can I show you this, firstly?
10	W	Yes.
10	CA	Is that a copy of the notice that you received to appear today?
	W	Yes, it is, yes.
	CA	I tender that.
	PO	Thank you. Exhibit 63.
20	CA	You first became a councillor, didn't you, in 2004 with the Caboolture Council?
	W	That's correct.
	CA	You served four years on that council?
	W	Yes.
	CA	Then took a break from elected office?
30	W	Yes.
	CA	And were elected after the amalgamation to the Moreton Council in 2012?
	W	Yes.
	CA	And again in 2016?
	W	Yes, that's correct.
40	CA	For the purpose of the 2016 campaign, you shared some election material with the Mayor, Allan SUTHERLAND; is that right?
	W	That's correct, yes.
	CA	Firstly, you shared with him a How to Vote Card; is that right?
	W	Yes, a joint How to Vote Card, yes.
50	CA	Can I show you this. It appears as two pages, but I'll ask you about it. In your case, the How to Vote Card depicted those images on two sides; am I right?
	W	That's correct, yes.
	CA	That appears as two sheets, but in fact the card was Mr SUTHERLAND on one side and you on the other; correct?

	W	That's correct, yes.
	CA	Otherwise that's a representation of that How to Vote Card?
	W	No, it's not, no.
	CA	It's not?
10	W	This part of Allan SUTHERLAND's How to Vote Card is not the card that was used.
	CA	Okay.
	W	I believe this might have been an earlier 2012 election.
	CA	Well, perhaps I'd better take that back from you, then.
20	W	Mmm-hmm.
20	CA	In what respect does that differ from the How to Vote Card that you used for 2016?
	W	His colours are different. The candidates' names on his ballot-paper are different and the wording down the bottom is different.
	CA	In terms of the content of it, your How to Vote Card invited voters to "Vote 1" for you; correct?
30	W	Correct, yes.
	CA	And in terms of Mr SUTHERLAND's How to Vote Card, on the reverse side, it invited voters to "Vote 1" for him; correct?
	W	That's correct, yes.
	CA	You're saying, in some respects, the layout differed from what I showed you?
40	W	Yes, correct.
	CA	Was that joint How to Vote Card for distribution at all booths in your division?
	W	Yes, it was. Yes.
	CA	How did it come about that your How to Vote Card was shared in that way with the Mayor?
50	W	The Mayor approached me sometime in February and asked me if we'd like to do a joint How to Vote Card, as he was getting them done, anyway. He was - we'd share - would pay for the cost of those How to Vote Cards, so I was happy to go along with that because it saved me expenses.
	CA	Did you share the cost of it?

Page 4 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	W	No, I didn't. No.
	CA	Could you explain what funding arrangement for it that you made with the Mayor?
	W	At the time the phone call from the Mayor asked if I wanted to do the How to Vote Card, share a How to Vote Card, a joint How to Vote Card, that he was doing it with a few other councillors and that the expenses would be covered by his campaign.
10	CA	Did that have an implication for you in terms of disclosure of a proportion at least of the cost of that?
20	W	I knew later that I would have to - I was happy to pay half the expenses because I'd had that money set aside before the phone call from Councillor SUTHERLAND, I was going to do my own How to Vote Cards. So I thought, well, if he sends me a bill for half of it, I'm happy to pay half of it, but it ended out that I didn't have to contribute to that How to Vote Card.
20	CA	Did you suggest or did you have a discussion about cost sharing?
	W	No, he just said, "It wouldn't cost you anything" during that telephone conversation.
	CA	So, in effect, he paid for your How to Vote Cards?
	W	Yes, that's correct.
30	CA	All of them?
	W	Yes, that's correct. Yes.
	CA	You made a declaration later in the piece, I think, of having received a certain amount from a trust?
	W	Yes, yes.
40	CA	We might come to that a bit later. Did you campaign on the basis of being an independent candidate?
	W	Yes, I did.
	CA	Is that something you promoted?
	W	Yes, I did.
	CA	On election material?
50	W	Yes, from - since 2012, I've promoted myself as an independent candidate.
	CA	Do you promote yourself on election material, such as your How to Vote Card?
	W	Yes, I do.

Page 5 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	CA	And when interfacing with electors, you do likewise?
	W	Yes, I do.
	CA	Tell me, what's the content of independence in your case?
10	W	That I don't belong to a group. I don't belong to a political party. I don't align with any other councillors in council. I vote how I see fit. And I don't contribute to any funding campaigns or any fundraisers or anything else with councillors.
	CA	Are you a member of any party?
	W	No, I'm not, no.
	CA	One of the other things that you shared with the Mayor was a billboard?
20	W	That's correct.
20	CA	That was positioned, was it not, on the Bruce Highway out at Burpengary?
	W	Yes, it was.
	CA	How did you come to share a - first of all, how many images were on that billboard, just you and him or more?
	W	Just me and the Mayor, yes.
30	CA	How did it come about that you shared his image on that billboard?
	W	The Mayor approached me again with a phone call and said he was doing a billboard on the Bruce Highway in Burpengary and would I be interested in having my face up there with him. Being a big highway sign, it was a very wide sign, he said it would look a bit silly with just his head up on there, so he asked me if I would mind putting my image up there with him. Once again, the costs - it wouldn't cost me anything, so I said, "Yes, I'm happy to do that."
40	CA	Was that a different discussion from the one you had with him about the joint How to Vote Cards and the costing of that?
	w	Yes, it was. Yes, it was.
	CA	The other assistance I think you may have got was to do with a mail-out of a particular letter?
	W	That's correct.
50	CA	The Mayor wrote you, in effect, a letter of endorsement?
	W	Yes, that's correct.
	CA	Would that be a fair description of it?
	W	Yes. Yes, sir.

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY PETER FLANNERY

Page 6 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	CA	How did that letter come about? Did you ask for it or did he propose it or what?
	W	No, it was another phone call from the Mayor. He said he was doing a couple of letters of support for a couple of other councillors and felt that he would like to let the residents know in my division that he supported me as a councillor, and I said, "Yes, I'm happy to do that." Once again, it was going to be at no cost to me, so I said, "That's fine."
10	CA	Presumably both of those things were attractive - first of all, the letter itself, and the fact that it wouldn't cost you anything to mail it out?
20	W	Yes and no. The cost - yes, it wouldn't cost me anything, so I didn't see it was going to hinder me. And it was showing people the Mayor supported me and it highlighted through that letter, which I got to see a draft of and correct before it went out - it highlighted some of the major infrastructure projects that I'd delivered in the division as well, so it put that information in front of the residents again as well.
20	CA	Looking back on it and taking those various things together, letter mail-out of endorsement, joint How to Vote Card, joint billboard, do those things, do you think, create an impression that you and he were a group of candidates cross-promoting each other's election?
	W	No, I don't, no.
30	CA	It didn't cross your mind at any stage that you were at any risk of being regarded as a group for the purpose of the <i>Local Government Electoral Act</i> ?
	W	No, it didn't. The only risk I saw was being attached to the Mayor.
	CA	I beg your pardon?
	W	The only risk I saw was being attached to the Mayor, as he's supporting me.
40	CA	I beg your pardon?
40	W	As of him supporting me.
	CA	He's not quite as popular as, say, Mr PISASALE?
	W	No, no.
	CA	The benefit was not quite so great in being associated with his image as perhaps in that case?
50	W	Yes, that's correct.
	CA	Is that what you mean to say?
	W	Yes, yes, that's correct.
	CA	Just getting back to the actual How to Vote Card, we may have the right

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY PETER FLANNERY

Page 7 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

one. I'll show it to you, and you can tell us.

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	W	Yes, that's the correct one.
	CA	Okay. So I've shown you, again, two sheets. They represent each side of your How to Vote Card?
	W	Yes, that's correct, yes.
10	CA	I tender those two sheets as one exhibit.
	PO	Exhibit 64.
	CA	There is a slogan at the bottom of each of those. I think it reads - I don't have it in front of me. It's "For a bright future"?
	W	Yes, that's correct, yes.
20	CA	Who devised that slogan?
20	W	It was a slogan that was used by council in the launch of the Petrie Mill university proposal that council did in the lead-up to 2016. Part of our marketing campaign at the time, "For a bright future", was the marketing of that university site.
	CA	Do you know whose idea it was to adopt that for the purpose of both of your How to Vote Cards?
30	W	No, I gather it was the Mayor's, because I never mentioned it, but - I saw it on his How to Vote Card cards and I surmised that it came from the campaign of the university site, which most - I think all councillors supported that-
	CA	So what you're saying is that it was a council slogan?
	W	It was a slogan that was used for council purposes in the highlighting of the Petrie Mill site, yes.
40	CA	Both of those cards not only adopt that slogan, but in other respects the layout and artwork is quite similar, would you accept?
	W	Yes and no. I had my - the Mayor was using the blue and yellow in his colours, and I used blue and orange. Different layout of the colouring. Different fonts on the word. And I suppose many How to Vote Cards, you could always say they're very similar in that way.
	CA	Did you arrive at the layout of artwork for yours independently of his?
50	W	I had my previous 2012 How to Vote Cards, which I was going to base my 2016 How to Vote Card on. Once the Mayor made the approach, I sent my 2012 How to Vote Card to his - to him, to his campaign team, and they came up with a joint How to Vote Card, side by side, which I wasn't happy with because it was exactly the same colours, the same layout and everything. That's why I went back and said, no, my colours are blue and orange; I want it as a landscape layout, not a portrait layout; I don't want it on the same face as the Mayor's one; we want it on back to

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Copy 1 of 1

		back, so it did show some independence, I suppose, of the two How to Vote Cards, although being together.
	CA	I tender those How to Vote Cards.
	PO	All right, that's Exhibit 65 - 64, sorry. Okay.
10	CA	After the election, you completed and submitted a candidate's disclosure return?
10	W	That's correct.
	CA	Could I show you this, Mr FLANNERY.
	W	Yes.
	CA	That's your return, is it, dated 1st of June 2016?
20	W	Yes, it is, sir.
20	CA	I tender that disclosure return.
	PO	Exhibit 65.
	CA	There's only one entry on it-
	W	That's correct.
30	CA	-being an amount shown as having been received from Moreton Futures Trust?
	W	Mmm-hmm, that's correct.
	CA	First of all, had you filled out a form such as this before, in the 2012 election?
	W	Yes. In 2012 I filled out exactly the same form, and my return was nil because I hadn't received any donations.
40	CA	Was this the first occasion on which you had received money or the equivalent from a trust?
	W	Yes, it is, yes.
	CA	Did you receive information from the Electoral Commission, including a guide on making of disclosure?
50	W	Yes, we did.
	CA	Did you have a look at it?
	W	Yes, I did.
	CA	Did you have regard to it when completing this form?
	W	Yes, I did, yes.

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY PETER FLANNERY

Page 9 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	CA	Okay. You've disclosed the name of the trust but not the names of any trustee, haven't you?
	W	No, that's correct.
10	CA	Does the guide not make plain that that's what you ought to have done?
	W	From recollection, I don't believe it did. I'd looked at the 2012 returns that the Mayor had put in with "Moreton Futures Trust" written down as well, and that seemed to have been accepted and hadn't been rejected at the time, so-
	CA	It hadn't been challenged?
	W	That's right, so I followed it.
	CA	So is that how you came to put that on your return?
20	W	Yes, yes.
	CA	Because you had seen it on his return and there hadn't been a problem with it?
	W	Yes, yes.
	CA	As far as you knew?
30	W	Correct.
50	CA	What did you know of Moreton Futures Trust at the time of the 2016 elections?
	W	I know that it had donated to the 2012 election of the Mayor, and that's about it. They were a trust. At the time, I only knew of one person involved with the trust, and that was Kirby LEEKE, because he had put the return in for 2012.
40	CA	Did you know what the object of Moreton Futures Trust was?
40	W	I knew one of their objects was to, I suppose, give out campaign donations or campaign - assist campaigns with local government election.
	CA	How did you learn of the existence of Moreton Futures Trust and that it was for the purpose of assisting with campaign donations?
	W	Probably through the 2012 election, seeing that they donated to the Mayor's campaign.
50	CA	Did you become aware of that during or after the 2012 campaign?
	W	After. After, yes, when the return was put in.
	CA	You said before that you had regard to the Mayor's return-
	W	Mmm-hmm.

Page 10 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	CA	-to use the same form of disclosure for your return?
	W	Yes.
	CA	Were you looking at the return for the 2012 election or the 2016 election?
	W	The 2012 election.
10	CA	So you not only learned from that how to put the information down but also that there was such a trust?
	W	Yes, that's correct.
	CA	And that the Mayor had benefited from it in the previous election?
	W	Yes, that's correct, yes.
20	CA	You mentioned one person who you know to have been associated with it, a man called Kirby?
	W	That's correct, yes.
	CA	How did you know that?
	W	His name appeared on the 2012 return of Moreton Futures.
	CA	Did you know of any other trustee-
30	W	No.
	CA	-or person associated with the trust?
	W	At that time, no.
	CA	Did you ever have any personal contact with Kirby?
	W	No, never met him.
40	CA	Or anyone you thought to have been associated with the trust?
	W	No, I didn't.
	CA	The Mayor excluded, perhaps?
	W	Yes, yes.
50	CA	You said that you knew at least this much about it, if I recall your evidence correctly, that you knew that it was for a purpose associated with giving donations to candidates?
	W	Mmm-hmm.
	CA	You wouldn't have gleaned that, would you, from the disclosure return? How did you get that information?

Page 11 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	W	Through the 2012 return and the talk and the media reports, I suppose, around the time, that this trust had donated to the Mayor's 2012 campaign and that there was some public interest in that.
	CA	In the press?
	W	Yes, that's correct, yes.
10	CA	Now, just in terms of your return, you've disclosed that donation. What's the composition of that amount that you've disclosed?
	W	It was made up of the three, I suppose, marketing or advertising components that I benefited from. It was the How to Vote Cards, the billboard and the letter of support.
	CA	How did you get that figure to be able to put it on the return?
20	W	A month or two before the returns were due, the Mayor passed me a handwritten note with the costings of the billboard, the How to Vote Card and the letter of support.
	CA	You accepted that at face value, I take it?
	W	Yes, I did, yes.
	CA	You didn't bother going to check invoices, and so forth, for accuracy?
	W	No, I didn't. No, I didn't.
30	CA	At the time you completed your return, did you know anything of the donors to Moreton Futures Trust?
	W	No, I didn't.
	CA	At the time you received the gift in kind, as it was, from the Mayor, did you know anything of the donors to the trust?
	W	No, I didn't.
40	CA	Some time after the election, did you go to the Electoral Commission website and have a look at the Moreton Futures Trust disclosure return?
	W	Yes, I did.
	CA	And did it list donors to the trust?
50	W	Yes, it did, yes.
	CA	Did you recognise names from that list?
	W	I think there was about six or eight names there. I may have recognised one or two that had been previous developers.
	CA	The third party disclosure return, would you confirm, is accessible from the Electoral Commission website?

Page 12 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	W	Yes.
	CA	That's how you got it?
	W	It's publicly accessible, yes.
	CA	So anyone can go to it and see it; you don't need to be a councillor?
10	W	No. Anyone can.
10	CA	Once you could recognise, as you did, that there were at least a couple of names that you knew as being associated with - or being developers-
	W	Mmm-hmm.
	CA	-and the public could see that also, does that raise any concern for you in terms of appearance of your having received money from sources of that kind?
20	W	No, it didn't, because the example, I suppose, was given to all councillors at the 2015 local government conference, where the ethics adviser, Joan SHELDON, got up and said to councillors, a roomful of councillors there, that if you were to receive donations from developers or businesses or whoever, a third party, then it's best to set up a trust, an independent trust, and have them access the donations through - from the different parties, and then that trust can then decide on who it donates the funds to.
	CA	You accepted that advice?
30	W	Yes, I did, yes.
	CA	But what benefit is there in doing that? I'm speaking in terms of transparency.
	W	Mmm-hmm.
40	CA	Once the trust return is disclosed to the public, everyone can see who the names are and can deduce, if they know, what kind of business the donors are in?
40	W	Yes.
	CA	And then the money is then channelled from the trust through to candidates, such as yourself. It's apparent, through that chain of money, what the source is; correct?
	W	Yes. The same as political parties. Businesses, developers, make donations.
50	CA	So what's the advantage in using a trust?
	W	It puts it at arm's reach from the councillor, the candidate. I'm out - the candidate is not out there touting for funds and the candidate [sic] is not deciding which candidates get what funding. It's controlled by the trust. So it's a donation from that trust to the candidate rather than a developer.

Page 13 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	CA	Knowing, as you did, when you looked at the return, who at least some of the donors were, did that cause you to be mindful of that in terms of voting on, for example, development applications?
	W	I'm aware that there's a public perception that there could be a conflict of interest.
	CA	It's very important to manage that, isn't it?
10	W	Yes, it is, yes, yes. But, once again, the advice we've been given is that it's set up as a third party at arm's distance from the councillor. So the Moreton Futures Trust are not making an application, so there is no need to declare an interest if you feel that way.
20	CA	But if you know that a donor, as you did, know that at least one donor was a property developer, had given money to the trust for the purpose of being distributed to candidates such as yourself, does that not give you cause for pause in dealing with a development application, say, from that developer?
	W	Yes, you probably would consider it and then you make your own independent decision on whether you declare that interest and leave the room or declare the interest and stay in the room.
	CA	Can I suggest to you that the intervention of a trust in that circumstance is really neither here nor there, because the chain of money is still obviously flowing back to you and other candidates who benefit from the trust?
30	W	Well, I didn't receive cash from the trust. I didn't receive bills paid that I'd sent to them from the trust.
	CA	Would it have made a difference if you had?
40	W	No, I think still to go back to the advice given to us from the LGAQ that that was the way to set it up and it was completely legal and put us in perspective, I suppose, local government to the other levels of government, state and federal levels, that operate the same way and do not declare an interest when they receive those applications through their areas as well.
	CA	Do you see that, then, as a means of relieving any potential conflict of interest?
50	W	I see it does, yes, because it actually allows the councillor to ignore who gave funding to the trust, because they didn't give the money directly to me. If it was given directly to me, then, yes, it was a direct conflict of interest. It's been given to a trust where who knows what's been given until after return, but who knows what portions of that particular business funding has gone to that candidate?
	CA	Well, from the point of view of an elector, can you see that an elector who identifies that the donors to Moreton Futures Trust include developers and that you and the Mayor received money from the trust-
	W	I didn't receive-

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY PETER FLANNERY

Page 14 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

	CA	Can you understand that an elector might perceive, arising from that, that there's a conflict of interest notwithstanding the advice that you've said you got?
10	W	That perception may be there, yes, yes, and that's - I didn't receive funding from the trust. I just want to correct you on that. But that perception may be there, and that's something that hopefully this inquiry can sort out and make a level playing field, so councillors know - candidates know where they stand and the public will know where they stand as well. At the current time, that's the process that's in place and it's been used legally.
	CA	Did you just accept the advice that you were given about the intervention of this trust or did you sort of think through the correctness of it as it applied to your circumstances with Moreton Futures Trust?
	W	The intervention, meaning the-
20	CA	Well, the use of a trust as an intermediary between direct receipt of money by you as opposed to the trust being the vehicle through which the money is distributed?
	W	Yes, no, I accepted that advice from the LGAQ.
	CA	I'll just suggest this to you. One of the donors to Moreton Futures Trust for the purpose of the 2016 campaign was Impact Homes?
	W	Mmm.
30	CA	Do you know of that organisation?
	W	No, I don't, no.
	CA	You don't know of that as a developer?
	W	No.
40	CA	Do you know of Impact Developments?
	W	No.
	CA	You don't have a recollection of a development application by Impact Developments in August of 2016?
	W	No, I don't.
	CA	Can I show you this.
50	W	Yes.
	CA	Perhaps you can assist us with an explanation as to what the council's coordination committee is?
	W	It's the committee that council breaks from their general meeting that goes into the coordination committee that deals with development applications, tender processes and various other components of council that we deal

Page 15 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

		with. It's, I suppose, more like the operational side of council that's dealt with in that coordination meeting.
	CA	Do you recognise this as a committee report for the 9th of August 2016? Take your time, have a look at it.
10	W	Yes. Yes, it's part of the report of the - 1,630 pages.
	CA	I'll tender that coordination committee meeting report for 9 August 2016.
	PO	Exhibit 66.
	CA	Do you see on the page that's numbered 16, there's a list of attendees? I think it's actually the third sheet, Mr FLANNERY.
	W	Yes.
	CA	Do you see a list of attendees? Chaired by the Mayor?
20	W	Sorry - yes.
	CA	And you and quite a number of others were in attendance, as it's recorded?
	W	Yes, all councillors were in attendance, yes.
	CA	Do you see over the page there are details of the application that was being considered, in this case by Impact Developments?
20	W	Yes.
30	CA	The proposal was for a material change of use to subdivide a block from one lot into 49 lots?
	W	Mmm-hmm. Yes, it is.
	CA	The recommendation of the committee is noted on the next page?
40	W	Yes, it is, yes.
	CA	You may have answered when I asked before, but Impact Homes, I suggest, was one of the donors to the Moreton Futures Trust?
	W	Mmm-hmm, yes.
50	CA	And you had looked up the Moreton Futures Trust third party return, hadn't you?
	W	Yes, I have, yes.
	CA	Would it be fair to say that this application was supported by council officers?
	W	Yes, it was.
	CA	And perhaps not of a contentious kind; would that be right or not?

	W	No, that's correct, yes, yes.
	CA	You were one who voted in favour of it?
10	W	Yes, I was.
	CA	Did doing so give rise to any concern about any conflict of interest on your part?
	W	No, not at all.
	CA	Do you recall turning your mind at all, when this matter was raised, as to whether you ought make a declaration of any conflict of interest?
	W	No, I didn't.
	CA	Looking back on it, do you do so now?
	W	No, I still stand by the advice that was given to us that it's not-
20	CA	And this would be an example of its application?
	W	Yes, exactly, yes.
	CA	But if you had received a donation directly, say, from Impact Homes, being aware that they were a property developer-
	W	Mmm-hmm, yes.
30	CA	-would that cause you to act differently in terms of making-
	W	Regardless of who they are, if they've put an application in and they've given me a direct financial donation, then, yes, I'd declare an interest.
	CA	So the distinction in your mind is between direct and indirect donations?
	W	Yes, that's correct.
40	CA	Correct?
	W	Yes, correct.
	CA	That's the evidence, Commissioner.
	PO	Thank you.
50	LR	I have no questions, thank you, Commissioner.
	PO	Thank you.
		Thank you, Mr FLANNERY. Thanks for coming. You're excused.
	W	Thank you very much.
	LR	Commissioner, before you adjourn, if I can just read my name into the record, it's LONGBOTTOM, initials E J, of counsel. I appear on behalf

Page 17 of 18 **File No. CO-16-1664**

of Mayor SUTHERLAND, instructed by Gilshenan & Luton.

We just wish to raise a housekeeping matter concerning the email address that Mayor SUTHERLAND shares with his wife. That email address was redacted in an exhibit that was tendered during the course of the evidence given yesterday by Mr Kirby LEEKE. It's Exhibit 55.

The email address was also read into the record in the course of Mr LEEKE being asked a question about the email address for Mrs SUTHERLAND. Consistent with the approach that was taken to the exhibit, we seek a direction that the email address in the transcript also be redacted.

PO Thank you.

Mr RICE, do you have any submissions?

Only to note, Commissioner, that the email address is included in documents that are publicly available, including the Mayor's disclosure returns. As against that, this form of publication is additional to that. But it's true to say that the email address is already on public record.

PO Thank you.

Ms LONGBOTTOM, I'm disinclined to make any further redactions of that email address, for a couple of reasons. One is, as Mr RICE says, the email address is already publicly known and available on the website and has been for some considerable time since the elections - or since the disclosure return was lodged last year.

And, secondly, as you would appreciate from the questioning of Mr LEEKE in particular yesterday, that email address and its connection to the Mayor is a relevant topic for questioning and will be this afternoon when he appears.

So I think I don't see the utility in making any further redactions of the exhibit details, so I'm disinclined to.

LR Thank you, Commissioner.

PO Thank you.

Mr RICE, they're the only witnesses we have until Mr SUTHERLAND?

Yes, that's all that is available for the time being, so I ask to adjourn until 2pm.

PO Thank you. All right, we'll adjourn now until 2pm.

50 HRO This hearing is adjourned.

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CA

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY PETER FLANNERY