



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am writing in relation to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, Inquiry into probity and ethics in the Australian Public Sector hearing on Friday 8 September 2023.

I wish to correct evidence provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Health and Aged Care (page 27 of the Proof Hansard refers).

It has been brought to my attention that my evidence as set out below may have been unclear.

Senator Hill: Let's tidy up a few bits and pieces. Were any code of conduct actions undertaken in response to the breaches of finance law identified by the Audit Office?

Mr Wann: Those matters are under active consideration, but we don't have a finalised position as yet.

Senator Hill: They're under active consideration?

Mr Wann: That's right.

Senator Hill: Do you mean there's investigations or you haven't decided whether you're going to investigate someone?

Mr Wann: A process has—

Senator Hill: No, you need to answer. Sorry. I'm not asking for the details. Are there current investigations that have been commenced or are you still thinking about it?

Mr Wann: Code processes broadly. We do adhere to code processes, and those are underway, broadly speaking.

Senator Hill: So, there are current processes underway now for specific individual investigations?

Mr Wann: We have well established processes, and we're following those.

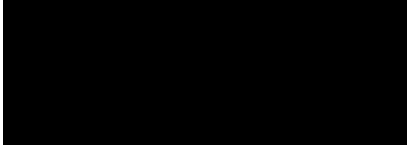
Senator Hill: We've been through this before and it's just not an acceptable answer to use weasel words. It's an entirely reasonable question from a parliamentary committee, and I want a clear answer, not processes and 'we're following things'. Are code of conduct investigations under way, yes or no?

Mr Wann: I think that's what I said but, yes.

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At the time of the hearing a code of conduct investigation had not commenced. An external reviewer had been engaged to consider what action may be appropriate in the circumstances, including the instigation of a Code of Conduct investigation against one or more individuals. As at 10 October 2023 the external review process remains ongoing.

Yours sincerely



Charles Wann
Chief Operating Officer
Corporate Operations Group

10 October 2023