



MEDIA RELEASE

ACT Integrity Commission to hold inaugural public examinations

2 August 2023

The Integrity Commissioner, the Hon Michael F Adams KC, has today confirmed that the ACT Integrity Commission will hold public examinations for Operation Kingfisher on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th August 2023 with later dates under discussion with prospective witnesses and their legal advisers.

Operation Kingfisher is an investigation into whether public officials within the ACT Education Directorate failed to exercise their official functions honestly and/or impartially when making recommendations and decisions regarding the Campbell Primary School Modernisation Project between 2019 and 2020.

Speaking about the inaugural public examination, the Commissioner said:

‘The decision to hold an examination in public requires the careful consideration of several factors before I can determine it is in the public interest to do so. Following consideration of those factors, and the submissions provided by the proposed witnesses, I have determined that holding these examinations is in the public interest and that the public examination can be held without unreasonably infringing a person’s human rights. The seriousness of the allegations in Operation Kingfisher must be noted as the investigation relates to concerns that the system for dealing with procurement in the Territory has been undermined by inappropriate conduct at senior levels. It is an important part of the role of the Commission to investigate and expose these issues.’

The Commissioner also noted that being called as a witness to provide evidence to an examination is not indicative that an adverse finding will be made by the Commission against that person. Rather, it means that the person has been called as a witness as they have information relevant to the Commission’s investigation. The Commission’s findings and any recommendations arising from Operation Kingfisher will be released by the Commission in due course.

Further information about Operation Kingfisher is available on the [Commission’s website](#).

Media representatives who wish to attend the public examinations must register their interest in attending in advance. Registration requests can be sent to media@integrity.act.gov.au. Due to space limitations, the Commission asks that each outlet sends one representative only.

Members of the public are not able to attend the public examinations and may watch proceedings via a live stream that will be available on the Commission’s website - integrity.act.gov.au.

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