

ACT Integrity Commission Media Policy

The Commission recognises the important role the media plays in informing the public about its work, including its corruption prevention initiatives, holding of its public examinations and publication of its investigation reports.

The *Integrity Commission Act 2018* requires the Commission to keep certain information confidential. The Commission has an overriding responsibility to act independently, impartially, fairly and to protect the public interest. The Commission also recognises the media's right to report on matters of public interest, free of unnecessary official restraint.

Subject to operational and legal constraints, the Commission provides the media with information about its work where it is practical and possible to do so.

Comments on corruption allegations received or matters under investigation

In relation to its operational work, the Commission's general policy is to neither confirm nor deny whether it has received an allegation of corrupt conduct and/or whether a matter is being investigated.

Even where a party to a matter makes it publicly known, the Commission may still not provide information to the media, including confirming the existence of the matter. The most important questions will be whether there is a risk of prejudicing operational activities or reputations. Additionally, some legal obligations require the Commission (and/or other parties) to maintain confidentiality.

When deciding whether it is appropriate to make a public comment relating to its operational work, the Commission will consider:

- Whether it is required by legislation to keep certain information confidential;
- the risk of prejudicing current or future operational activities;
- the rights of complainants, persons of interest and other persons who may be assisting the Commission with its inquiries;
- possible damage to the reputation of persons of interest, complainants, and other stakeholders;
- the risk of prejudicing potential court proceedings by releasing information; and
- whether it is appropriate, on public interest grounds, to comment on a matter.

The Commission maintains complete discretion to determine whether, having considered the grounds above, a public comment is or is not appropriate and in the public interest.

Comments on legal matters

In general, the Commission will not comment on matters before a court (whether criminal or civil) or a tribunal.

Contact

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Completed investigations

The *Integrity Commission Act 2018* contains comprehensive provisions¹ for the publication of the Commission's investigation reports, including what can and cannot be included in investigation reports and where and how those reports are published.

Generally speaking, an investigation report must be published on the Commission's website as soon as practicable after giving the report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Media Enquiries

All media enquiries should be directed to the ACT Integrity Commission media team. The team will determine whether information can be released on a case-by-case basis.

¹ See Part 3.9 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2018*.