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CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COMMISSIONER JOHN MCKECHNIE QC

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT PERTH ON TUESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2020, AT 9.46 AM

COUNSEL ASSISTING:

MS TSE CHEE LOO

WITNESS:

SHAYNE LESTER MAINES

THE ASSOCIATE: The Commissioner is conducting a number of examinations for the purposes of an investigation under the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003. investigation has been designated Operation Canopus.

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The scope and purpose of the Commission investigation is to examine how the Department of Justice prevents, identifies and deals with serious misconduct including but not limited to implementation of the Corruption and Crime Commission's recommendations and measures to address serious misconduct in the supervision of section 95 contraband entering prisons, inappropriate associations between prison staff and prisoners and the use of force against prisoners and reporting of use of force incidents.

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Before your examination begins, it is necessary for you to take an oath. If you could please stand and take the Bible and card in your right hand and read the oath out loud.

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MAINES, SHAYNE LESTER SWORN AT 9.47 AM:

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Thank you, you may be seated. THE ASSOCIATE:

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THE WITNESS: Thank you.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Maines, I know you were yesterday so you know the drill? --- Thank you.

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And as is yesterday, I appoint Ms Tse Chee Loo as counsel assisting. She'll ask questions on my behalf? --- Thank you, Commissioner.

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Please state your full name?---My full name is LOO, MS: Shayne Lester Maines.

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Now, Mr Maines, you're currently the Executive Director of the Professional Standards Division?---Yes, that's correct.

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How long have you been Executive Director? --- Since 2 January 2019.

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46 47 And what did you do before that? --- Prior to that, from 2014, I was appointed to the role of deputy commissioner, Adult Justice Services. In 2017 I was given the added responsibility of Youth Custodial Operations. And in 2018, took over full Youth Justice Services. So I was the deputy commissioner for both adult and youth justice services.

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Can you give the brief overview of your career before you came to Corrective Services?---Yes, I spent 32 years as a

11/02/20 Epiq

MAINES, S.L. (Private Hearing)

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police officer. I spent 28 years in the West Australia Police. I left as an assistant commissioner of Police. And four years in the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, where I was a deputy commissioner of Police.

When did Professional Standards in its current form begin operating?---On 2 January 2019.

And why was it created?---It was created off the - um, in response to the Commission's reports in general. But the identification of risk and control failures within the Department, mandated changing the way we actually did business and the Director General committed to establishing Professional Standards Division, which had a direct report to him to manage those risks. I can go through how it was created if you like or - -

Certainly?---Yes. So it brought together the - the previous function of investigation services out of Corrective Services. Those services were prior to the Machinery of Government changes in 2017 responsible only for investigating matters within Corrective Services. The Performance Assurance and Risk, which is the Department's internal audit and risk program and we made a conscious decision, listening to comments from the Commission, to a corruption prevention and education directory.

It might help if we look at the corporate structure of Professional Standards Division. That's exhibit 0064. But I do have a hard-copy for - for you?---Thank you.

Mr Maines, can you give us an overview of what each business area does?---Yes. As the Executive Director, I have responsibility for the overall management and leadership of Professional Standards Division. three pillars to the Division. The Performance, Assurance and Risk is responsible for the agency's internal audit program for conducting audits and for the risk management program within the Department. Integrity and Accountability Directorate is responsible for managing misconduct investigations. There are also two police officers who have been seconded to the Department to work in the Integrity and Accountability Directorate since September 2018. They provide the ability for Professional Standards Division to refer matters which relate to criminality directly to the police. And the Corruption Prevention Directorate is a new iteration within the Department, taking account the requirement to have a - an integrity framework and sort of a- an approach to deal with matters before they manifest into misconduct. So it has an

education and a prevention role. I think probably that's the most important section that has been created within the 2 3 Professional Standards Division. And one that is most 4 likely to have a - an impact in - in changing the culture 5 of the organisation. 6 7 Have all these positions been filled?---I have 51 FTE. 8 I currently have five positions that are vacant. 9 three of those within the Corruption Prevention Education 10 as that a - a new area. I thought it important to actually 11 fill the Director's position that was filled late last I have one vacant position in the Integrity and 12 13 Accountability Directorate as a result of one of the 14 principal investigators getting a promotion in another role 15 in another organisation. I have one vacancy in the 16 Director of Performance, Assurance and Risks area. 17 18 The two police officers that are seconded, you said they 19 started in September 2018?---Yes, that's correct. 20 21 And how long is it intended for this secondment to 22 continue?---my discussions with the police will be this is 23 an ongoing arrangement. It's reviewed on an annual basis. 24 The most recent statement agreement was signed in September 25

last year, it would seem. Sorry, November I think it was.

As the Executive Director, you sit on various groups and committees in the Department, is that correct?---Yes, I do.

28 29 30 Can you outline these?---I sit on the Corporate Executive. 31 My reporting relationship is directly to the Director 32 General. So the corporate is - or the executive within the 33 Department of Justice. I'm also sitting on the 34 Department's Risk Management and Audit Committee. 35 I'll go - with - CEC members to that meeting. There is a 36 Director General governance group which was established. 37 And I just need to correct, I think, the Commissioner 38 referred to it in the wrong context yesterday, but the 39 Director General's governance group is a committee chaired 40 by the Director General to ensure a level of governance 41 over the recommendations from the Corruption and Crime 42 There's also an operations group which Commission. 43 consists of the Director General and the Commissioner for Corrective Services, the deputy commissioner for 44 45 Operational Support and the Director of Integrity and Accountability, Director of intelligence, where we actually 46 47 discuss current sort of matters of interest to Professional 48 Standards and to the Corrective Services. They're my 49 primary meetings. I do go to a lot of other meetings but 50 they're my primary ones.

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I'm done with that exhibit, Madam Associate. Thank you.

One of the initiatives of the Professional Standards Division was the creation of the Justice Integrity Framework?---Yes, that's correct.

Can you tell us about that?---Yes. I have a copy of the document here. I'm happy to provide a copy to the Commission. Duty framework was designed in relation to criticism of the Department not having a corruption prevention framework. I think I'd previously mentioned to the Commission that corruption prevention plan is probably more a tactical operational document. The Justice Integrity framework is a strategic document which sets out the Department's approach to managing misconduct.

Well, what does implementation of that framework actually involve?——So the document was released in August of last year. The Corruption Prevention and Education Directorate has been delivering prevention education sessions. The JIF, or the Justice Integrity Framework, the code of conduct, matters that are discussed — that with staff. Some 733 employees in the Department of Justice have attended some 27 sessions. It is reinforced with staff about their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the integrity of the agency. And it's not just a matter that it is the mandate of Professional Standards to manage integrity across the agency. It's everyone's responsibility. So it sets out the Department's approach.

And in - in terms of the education and training, was this delivered in regional prisons as well?---Yeah, I've probably got a list of the - where the - the 27 sessions have been conducted. Can't tell you from the of my head where each of them have. But there is an intention to roll out all of these sessions and to pretty much interact with all departments within the Department of Justice. the 733 employees, I can provide to the Commissioner as to where they were held, when they were held and who the participants - we actually do a feedback session at the end of those programs where we actually seek feedback and input from the participants. So it runs through a range of different risk elements for employees, which does include the risks of being groomed for those people who are facing offenders. It goes through how to report misconduct, what is misconduct and what isn't misconduct, what is the role of Professional Standards, what is everyone's individual roles, how to identify misconduct within the workplace. I indicated, how to report it.

Just to clarify, you're referring to the content of the

justice integrity framework there?---No, the justice 2 integrity framework is a framework which is delivered referring to corruption prevention sort of sessions, which 3 4 are currently being conducted across the agency, which 5 reinforces the justice integrity framework. What we're 6 very conscious of is that the justice integrity framework, 7 the code of conduct, they're not bits of paper that hang on 8 a wall for people to actually look at or for us to present 9 at, sort of matters or examinations when we're trying to 10 actually - this has to be a living, breathing document, 11 which people actually acknowledge is how we actually 12 approach misconduct in the Department of Justice. So it is 13 very much reinforced. It is available for people and the Director General is very conscious about constantly 14 15 reinforcing the message about the importance of reporting 16 misconduct.

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And how does the Director General do that?---The Director General does lots of broadcasts. The Director General is - does corporate inductions, he does get out and actually talk to lots of people and he would probably be the greatest champion in the agency at the moment for sort of communicating the benefits of the Integrity Framework, proper conduct and sort of the - the work that's done in Professional Standards.

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Yesterday you would have heard some discussion about the challenges of the geography of the custodial estate. how do you ensure that a prison officer at the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison is aware of the Justice Integrity Framework but also applies it in his or her everyday work?---Again, the framework is not going to necessarily prevent someone from committing misconduct so the prevention and education program which has really, as I said has delivered to 733 personnel in an agency with some 7,000. It is intended to get out and speak to more people and to constantly reinforce and educate people's personal responsibilities. The Integrity Framework is a quide to people; it's available, it's online. complexities of delivering services across an area of 2.5 million square kilometres, which I think's the largest single jurisdiction in the world, is difficult but we are committed to actually doing it. I've had a director since December that is - the director is coming up with a forward program and getting it - and it's not just to prisons. the Professional Standards Division is a Justice resource, it is for all of the Department of Justice and Corrective Services is just one customer in that - in that group. the commitment by the Department to establish a prevention and education capability within the Department, I don't think is available in any other public sector agency.

We're committed to having nine FTE in that, with a director who has a direct report to myself and to the Director General. So getting that message out is part of how we are actually going to drive cultural change.

Can you tell us - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: The - - -

LOO, MS: Sorry.

THE COMMISSIONER: I well understand the challenges of the State. Broadly speaking, what does the Department of Justice cover? We know it covers Corrective Services. What are the other sort of main areas?---The second-largest area is Court and Tribunal Services, so it covers the court and tribunal services. The Public Advocate. Births, Deaths and Marriages. State Solicitor's Office. a range of agencies that formerly sat in the former Department of the Attorney General, so it's quite wide. There's been a significant uptake by particularly Court and Tribunal Services on having the sessions delivered within their sort of area of responsibility and I probably should mention we are intending to move to a technology based system where we can actually put messages out, with perhaps videos potentially to the Director General. I haven't sort of discussed that entirely with him yet, but about reinforcing that message.

LOO, MS: So in addition to the education and training program, what else does the Corruption Prevention and Education directorate do?---It's also responsible for the agency's screening and the intention when it's fully staffed is to start looking at at-risk staff, so identifying staff that are at risk and being involved in early intervention. We actually want to prevent people from going down the path of misconduct, we don't want them to actually go down that path. Whilst we have a reactive function in integrity and accountability, we're trying to move to a more proactive approach to preventing misconduct occurring.

And tell us more about that?---The - one of the key criticisms I think of the past reports around the operations of Investigations and intelligence in Corrective Services was the lack of interface between intelligence and Investigations. I'm very pleased that within our current structure we've built an intelligence capability into the Integrity and Accountability directorate. I have three personnel who are highly experienced in intelligence functions. We have a good working relationship with

11/02/20 Epiq

MAINES, S.L. (Private Hearing)

Corrective Services intelligence and court intel, and the intel people that I have have access to all of the intel holdings anyway so we're able to get hold of that information and then identify people who are at risk, look at themes and trends, people who may be presenting or manifesting themselves in a series of complaints and then developing a program about how we engage with them. Another criticism from the Commission previously was around officers who had a long history of complaints with what seemed to be very little action so - at a point, working out where we'll actively intervene and we are in the early stages of that but certainly identifying at-risk officers is something that has been going on since the commencement of Professional Standards Division. The taking a different approach rather than a punitive approach and taking a more preventative approach is something that we will mature at over the coming year.

So how do you actually identify officers at risk?---We receive a large amount of information and intelligence about the conduct of officers. There are generally themes and trends about their behaviour and performance. We look at whether they appear in intelligence reports or security reports, which may suggest that they are involved in a relationship with a prisoner or that they are actively involved in some level of misconduct and then we determine what action we take. We have a fairly comprehensive triage system, we'll look at whether the matter is sent for further development of the particular officer or we'll actually determine whether we're going to actually intervene early and go and have a conversation with the person.

And what database is this information stored on?---We operate on a shared database across the agency so the court intelligence, the intelligence services in Corrective Services and Professional Standards all use a system called iBase.

In 2018 you carried out a review of intelligence services and prepared a report, and in that report you identified that iBase was not suitable for its purpose. Are there any plans in the Department to move to a different database?

---If I may correct, my primary role was I actually worked as the Director of both Investigations and intelligence.

My primary focus at that time was actually trying to get the investigations right, because intelligence wasn't in the same level of need. Yes, I did say that iBase was in not an adequate case management system. However, since starting my priority has not really been on the case management system. We've done some work to try and

streamline the fields required. Case management systems across all integrity agencies and law enforcement agencies in my experience have been very perplexing and confusing issues about what is the best system to go to. there's probably an opportunity for a whole of government approach in coming up with a case management system which would enable us to do reports to the various reporting agencies and oversight agencies we have. That's probably a little bit of aspirational thinking at the moment. My -the focus for Professional Standards has been to work out what are the deficiencies within iBase, how do we actually work within the existing system and prioritise actually getting the investigations, the intel, the audit functions correct. The iBase is functional, we can actually now interrogate it and pull records out of it. We've streamlined some of the reporting fields. It is not a perfect system but it's functional at the moment and at some point the Department may need to look at it but I would like to think that that's something that we don't do in isolation, it's something that all government agencies should be looking at, all government agencies have a requirement to have some form of integrity function and whether there is some utility in going forward with a joint submission for a case management system.

You referred earlier to an interface between the Professional Standards intelligence team and the Corrective Services intelligence. What did you mean by that?——There are conversations that go between intel at the fortnightly operations meeting. We report back on intel that's been provided by Corrective Services intelligence to the Commissioner, the Director and the deputy commissioner as what we've actually done with that information. We actually are able to get that information anyway, but it demonstrates that there's a sharing of information between the two respective areas. In the past there were complexities around personalities and operations and the sharing of information. I'm confident that that doesn't exist now.

What makes you confident that doesn't exist now?---Because I would be having conversations with my counterparts in Corrective Services. I'm confident we actually have access to the information anyway, that where there are issues they can be escalated. I meet fortnightly with the Director General and the Commissioner and the deputy commissioner. As I indicated, where we have issues they are raised at that particular point. I've not had to escalate matters, we're able to share intelligence and as I said we have access to that information now. Having the capability within Professional Standards makes it a lot

easier for us to actually access intelligence and so I believe that there's a fairly strong collaboration between the two now.

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And what is the difference in the kind of intelligence that's collected by the different capabilities?---Within Corrective Services it's primarily security focused. Within Professional Standards it's integrity focused.

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Do Professional Standards intelligence officers have access to external databases, such as IAPro?---IAPro's a discrete unit of WAPOL but we have very good information-sharing relationships with most law enforcement agencies. The term IAPro has been brought up in the past. Again, it's a discrete system for managing misconduct. I think it's a really good system, I've seen it operate in two agencies that I've worked in. At some point in time that may be a system to consider but currently we need to work with - within the framework that we've got, get Professional Standards fully operational then look at the sort of technology needs. There will always be a requirement to improve our technology but I'm comfortable that the utility of iBase will enable us to operate at the moment.

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Now, you've discussed sharing information between the different intelligence functions. What about sharing intelligence with the prisons?---The intelligence function sits within Corrective Services so the sharing of security-related intelligence would be the mandate of the Corrective Services intelligence area sitting in Operational Support. If there is information that would go to the security or safety of a prison, then we have a requirement to actually report that to the Commissioner and the Director General and that actually happens now. There are matters that go on within Professional Standards, sometimes which we are precluded from talking in great detail but we've made it very clear that where there is an issue around security and safety we'll bring it to the attention of the people that's required to know. will always be an issue around people receiving their right amount of information. What I think sometimes is confusing is that the information that prisons talk about not getting from intel is actually information they'd provided to intel which is then repackaged and given back to them. intel is generally known by - by a prison; it's been generated, the information comes from the prison. It's only if the information comes externally or it's not from the location. It's the complexities of understanding what the information is and what the intelligence is, what relevance it has to the particular business area and how it's used.

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2 Now, you mentioned screening. Can you tell us the process for screening new employees of the Department of 3 Justice?---Yes, we have a - we've been through a fairly 4 5 significant re-engineering of our screening process, we're 6 in the early stages of looking at going to an outside 7 service provider, consistent with the Department of 8 Education, WA Police, to provide the initial interface for 9 providing that information electronically. To get the 10 first stage checks a person's required to fill in an 11 application form, they're required to make declarations as 12 to any issues that they may have had, any criminal history, any involvement - particularly if they're applying for a 13 Corrective Services job, whether they've visited prisoners, 14 15 whether they know people within prisons. It's quite an 16 intrusive questionnaire. We have access to other 17 information sources, including WA Police, which enables us to do a fairly comprehensive check on a person's 18 19 credentials before they apply.

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And is there a requirement for the screening process to be completed before a person is appointed to a position?---There will sometimes be a request to get an exemption in certain circumstances where the appointment is required, sometimes get them from court and tribunal services where the person has previously been employed. It is open to the head of the business area to seek an exemption. Unless there is something known about the person, then an exemption can be given to that particular process. That doesn't stop the process from occurring, it still continues on. Our screening is very robust, it takes into account people's - from particular categories of people their spent convictions, takes into account what might be known by other agencies. We have to be sort of judicious in the way that that's communicated but we do ask a lot of very probing questions. We will occasionally miss some things. The system is not infallible but I can say that we've had a recent matter last year where we had information provided to us by another agency which enabled us to go back and review a selection process and the recruitment process and determine that the person hadn't been truthful and the person was subject to a summary dismissal.

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What about in the private prisons, does Professional Standards screen employees for private prisons?---All of the screening comes through the screening process, yes.

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50 51 Is there a requirement to staff to be screened again after working for a particular period?---There is a requirement. When you changed locations there's a requirement to actual

screen, keeping up with it. What I can say is our screening policy is outdated, there is some significant work going on updating the screening policy. What we didn't want to do was introduce a new screening policy before we actually look at our third-level service provider to - to enable us to actually go electronically to - so we're able to record them electronically. There's a lot -there was a lot of paper manual work involved, we actually still use fax machines to actually receive documents. We've actually streamlined a lot of that process, it's more online. We were sending people letters in the post which generally took a long time to come back, particularly if we were asking more questions and so we've moved into the electronic age a little bit better. There was a fairly significant change in business processes. I'd like to acknowledge the screening team who had probably been locked into a particular way of doing things for a long period of time. It's very challenging to actually consider their processes and unpick them and then redo them but they've done a great job and I think that we've actually seen a significant reduction in the backlog of matters that are being screening. I think for the size of the unit it does a really good job.

Who's responsible for the changes to the screening policy?---Corruption Prevention and Education directorate, he's currently got it. I think it's probably due about March, we'll actually have the screening policy to go out for discussion with the corporate executive. It is a little bit dependent on getting this electronic solution with another service provider, which really brings us just into line with other government agencies.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are obviously familiar with negative vetting?---Yes, I am, sir.

I take it that is not the standard necessary or required for Department of Justice, or is it for some officers?

---It is for some officers. So it depends on your - who you're required to interact with. Negative vetting is a fairly intrusive process, it's generally required for engagement with the Commonwealth. We don't have a information classification system within the Department of Justice. That said, I've seen people with NV1, NV2 systems go and actually commit - it's not a panacea to the issue.

No?---It's certainly a tool for senior officers or people that are required to engage with external agencies and it's something that a number of our external partners would expect that if you're coming to meetings that you would have at least an NV1 clearance.

11/02/20 Epiq MAINES, S.L.
(Private Hearing)

1 2 I was just thinking more in the intelligence area and so forth where there's close interaction with the Commission, 3 4 with police?---Yeah, I think the intel staff generally sort of go through that classification. I certainly know the 5 6 Director does, and the Assistant Director. 7 Mr Elderfield would probably be able to give you more 8 information on intel. 9 Carry on, Ms Loo. 10 11 12 Who created the training materials?---For the LOO, MS: 13 Corruption Prevention and Education? 14 15 Yes?---It's been developed in-house. It's taken into account lessons learnt, information that's provided, 16 17 previous experience in other agencies, taken into account 18 material from the CCC, the Public Sector Commission. 19 It brings together a range of information that's relevant 20 and tailored for people who work within the Department of 21 Justice. But there are - there are good guides to how you actually develop and sort of deliver that sort of training. 22 23 24 And how do you measure the effectiveness of the training 25 that's delivered?---Currently we don't have a quantitative measure, other than the fact of how many sessions we 26 27 deliver. But we do do a questionnaire at the end of it, to 28 do a satisfaction survey of any suggestions people have 29 about how we might improve the process. Early stages yet. Measuring it currently is probably - is a rudimentary 30 31

process, when we can we'd like to move that onto iBase as well so as a way of actually having a comprehensive database of where we've delivered and who we've delivered it to.

36 And how is that information currently managed or stored? 37 ---It's currently managed through Corruption Prevention and 38 Education. It's stored within their drives, so.

Have you sat through some of the training sessions? ---I've actually delivered some of the training.

43 One of the Commission's recommendations in its sixth report 44 was that the Department introduce measures to track and 45 measure the success, the effectiveness of serious misconduct strategies. What are the measures that the 46 47 Department has introduced in that regard?---Currently we're 48 in the process of developing performance indicators for 49 Professional Standards. Part of the measure will be the 50 number of matters that are reported. I did note in the 51 Commission's most recent report that the Department of

11/02/20 Epiq

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MAINES, S.L. (Private Hearing)

Justice has decreased in its proportion of public sector allegations from 7.82 per cent to 4.96 per cent, so that's 2 a - that's a measure of how we're actually going. 3 4 were 792 matters of serious - or misconduct reported to Professional Standards last year, that was up from the previous year. It's that confidence in sort of people 6 7 being prepared to come forward and actually report matters, 8 they are matters that the Corruption Prevention and 9 Education division will work on to - to develop measures. 10 I think part of it's anecdotal; I get a lot of anecdotal feedback now. I have a superintendent provide feedback, 11 12 the director of integrity and accountability, that we've 13 now put the "Professional" into Professional Standards again. We're very much engaged in ensuring that we 14 15 communicate who we are, what we do and how we do our 16 business. That's somewhere I think we're probably not 17 mature on yet.

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Can you be more specific about how you communicate who you are what you do?---Certainly. In the past, there was a when we were investigating matters we would just send an allegation letter to the various managers, and sort of say, "Here's the allegation letter, can you serve it"? I insist on personal service now. Investigators go out, they'll actually go and meet the superintendent or the manger, or the director of the particular area. They'll explain where we've got to in the process. They'll be present when the letter is served, so they'll do the service of an allegation letter on someone. We engage at meetings with senior managers, we provide them with the background of what it is that we do. We have regular interface where people have matters, or are seeking advice about how they might deal with things. I made it really clear that, if we're not the right part of the Department to deal with it, that we should be upfront and try and actually help the person, or the people, to go to the right part of the There are a range of different matters in which agency. you can make complaints, we're one element of it. One of the things that the Director General and I have been discussing is whether we have a centralised area for any complaint that comes into the agency, whether it's a grievance or it's a bullying matter, or whether it's an EOC matter, should there be a central area that records all of those matters, so we can actually determine where it's best set, but the communication as to how we do our business, what we're doing in our business, and then taking on board the feedback.

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What complaints do PSD deal with?---We deal with matters that meet the threshold of minor or serious misconduct. We then have reporting obligations to either the Commission

or the CCC. We also deal with matters that come through as 1 criminality, and refer to the WA Police. That generally 2 breaches the code of conduct, we follow the provisions of 3 4 Part 5 of the Public Sector Management Act. There was in 5 the past a propensity to over-complicate the nature of the 6 things that we do. We do primarily administrative 7 investigations. We receive complaints around people using 8 illicit drugs. We have people who commit assaults. 9 have people who are just rude to one another, and it's then 10 determining where that matter actually sits, or how it 11 might be best dealt with. We've got a fairly mature 12 assessment and investigation process. We took a fair 13 amount of time reducing what was a volume of documents into 14 something that mirrors the assessment of matters, and 15 probably it's a relatively similar model to the one used by 16 the Commission, probably indicative of the person who was 17 involved in developing it, that we have an assessment process and an investigation procedure which follows the 18 19 provisions of - of Part 5. So instead of us reinventing things, we use the provisions of the Act which we follow. 20 21 Within Professional Standards we also have the option to 22 use loss of confidence provisions for custodial officers; 23 so that's a power that's only used by the WA Police, but we 24 also have provisions which are similar to the loss of 25 confidence provisions in the WA Police.

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27 Tell us more about that assessment process. So what happens when PSD receives an allegation? --- The matter comes 28 29 into the misconduct assessment unit. The assessment unit 30 will review the matter. We'll go through our base, look at 31 who the allegations are made by, who the allegations are 32 made against, to determine whether we have any previous 33 holdings or information. Once that's done, there will be a 34 triage meeting where the assessment will be examined. 35 assistant director and the director will make a 36 determination as to whether there is further inquiry to be 37 Prior to actually assigning it to investigations, it 38 will be prioritised and then it will go to the 39 investigations area, or in fact it may go back to a local 40 area for management. In the past, there has been a criticism of us not knowing what matters have gone back. 41 42 If we send a matter back for inquiry or if it's best 43 managed as management issue, we generally allocate the 44 particular area 14 days to provide us with a response. 45 They come back with a response and we enter that into our 46 base.

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What's the threshold? How do you determine which matters are referred back for local management?---There - sometimes, there is a conflation of issues. Sometimes a matter come - will come which will have some conduct and

behaviour issues, which may be minor or serious misconduct, but then a whole range of systemic leadership and management supervision issues. It's trying now to actually dissect about the individual's behaviour, and then what are systemic issues about leadership, management and supervision. So the process is relatively robust in actually determining whether it doesn't - if it doesn't meet the threshold for minor misconduct, it can go back for

9 local management issues. There are some matters that can't 10 be dealt with at a local level and, as a result, we will

11 help in sort of bringing the matter to a resolution.

Are these factors set out in operating procedures or guidelines?---I think there's the assessment and investigations standard operating procedures that sets out how we will actually assess a matter. The Commissioner had been and actually sat through our assessment process, how we actually assess and then sort of refer matters.

How many people are responsible for assessing?---There's a principal assessment officer and three sort of assessment officers. We actually have a person on loan, so it's four.

How often do you hold a triage meeting?---Triage meeting, will be dependent on the nature of matters that come in. We could hold a triage meeting generally twice a week, but if - again, there will be a priority. If a matter becomes a priority, then it can be escalated and it can be triaged immediately.

And what matters tend to become priority matters?---Matters which require urgent attention by Professional Standards, so we're regularly requested to go and review matters that have occurred. We go to deaths in custody, where - we've had some matters in Hakea, where we were asked to go and review those matters. We had an escape from Broome, where we sent investigators to review that particular matter. So that was deemed to be a high priority. Again, it's a little - it will depend on the nature and the requirement for an immediate attendance.

 And you referred to the assessing officer looking at iBase. What other resources do they have in assessing a matter?

---We also have the resources of PSD intelligence, which can actually probe intelligence backgrounds for that information; so they'll go through and look at particularly if the person has come to our notice in the past, whether there is any other reports, security reports, intelligence reports, that sort of indicate that the person may have been involved in misconduct. And if it reaches a threshold for criminality, we have the option of referring

it directly to the police, but we use all of the information that we can actually access to make a determination. Then there's a priority sort of put on it, and it will be either assigned to an investigation, or it may in fact sit in assessments and be monitored. It may actually sit in assessments for some further work to be done.

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And is there a requirement for the assessment to be completed within a certain timeframe?——Well, I've put a bit of an ambit claim to try and complete all matters within 60 days. That's probably a stretch target at the moment, but there are some matters that will take longer. We actually have a 100-day meeting where we review matters if they've reached a hundred days. Sometimes, there's complexities if a matter is subject to an investigation, we're waiting for responses from people. I'd like to see us actually move through more quickly, but I'm mindful that - despite what should be uncomplicated matters sometimes become complicated sometimes become complicated, regardless, and waiting for responses from people mean that sometimes the timeframes blow out.

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24 Is there anything else you would like to raise before the 25 Commission in relation to improvement to the triaging process?---I think we can always continue to improve. 26 27 I've - regrettably, I think the team gave me access to the misconduct assessment inbox, so I regularly will go through 28 29 and actually review matters myself, and then I'll discuss them with the director of integrity and accountability, or 30 31 the assistant director, just as another line of assurance that we're covering off on matters. We have regular 32 33 meetings - I meet with my team every day. We go through, 34 we discuss current contemporary matters. I have confidence 35 in the people in the integrity and accountability 36 directorate and the PAR and the corruption prevention 37 education, that they are very much aware of what their 38 roles and responsibilities are. I try not to be too 39 intrusive as the executive director, but I do take a 40 genuine interest in where we're going with the work and, 41 as I said, there will be matters which I will raise, and 42 I will then seek some clarification as to where the matter 43 is going or - and I generally get the right level of 44 assurance that it's being managed.

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You refer to an inbox?---It's a - - -

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Is that the predominant way in which you receive allegations?---Yes, so you can - if you go online there's a "How to Report Misconduct". There's an online form, you report the matter through - that's one mechanism. You can

11/02/20 Epiq

actually also ring the misconduct assessment unit, so we get - we would prefer that it comes through an electronic format. I'll sometimes get direct referrals from executive members who will come to me directly. I ensure that whatever information I have is then referred to the misconduct assessment unit so they can assess it, but we're not overly selective in how we receive the information. If it comes in, we'll try and actually make it work. Telling everyone to go away and fill in a sort of an email all the time may not necessarily be the best level of customer service, so if information is provided, I generally have the misconduct assessment unit follow up, ask questions and sort of clarify what action needs to be taken.

And how do you keep track of the timeframes?---We actually have a regular meeting with the director and assistant director of integrity and accountability track and manage how long an investigation has been - how long a matter has been either in assessment or investigations. As I indicted earlier, we introduced the 100-day case file. I've gone to some of those meetings and witnessed how they go through, what are the impediments to currently progressing the investigation, where is it currently at? We look at what are the next stages, and then both the director and the assistant director will determine whether there needs to be any remedial action, or a reprioritisation of resources to actually progress the matter.

Once a matter has been assessed as appropriate for investigation, what happens then?——Well, it's assigned to an investigator. The investigator works through a plan of investigation and then conducts an investigation. Part of it is actually about engaging — the primary allegations and stuff have been made through the assessment process. The investigator then looks at the number of witnesses, who needs to be interviewed. Some people may have already been interviewed, some people may have already provided information. They conduct an investigation, and it ultimately would lead to an interview or a discussion with the person of interest.

And what powers and tools are available to investigators? ---Well, powers and tools are vested in the Public Sector Management Act for us to actually conduct an investigation in accordance with the disciplinary procedures. So that's how we operate. As I said, if the matter manifests itself into a criminal matter, we'll refer that to the WA Police. If it's a matter that requires assistance from the CCC, we've referred matters to the CCC.

 Does PSD play a role in prosecutions under the Prisons
Act?---No. It was part of the old - there was an old
disciplinary process which was superseded when employees
of - prison officers came under the Public Sector
Management Act. So there was a transitioning, I think,
about 2015, 16, where prison officers came across out of
that disciplinary process and became public sector
management employees.

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Historically, misconduct investigations involved quite long delays, sometimes in excess of 12 months. Does PSD set timeframes for actions to be taken on investigations? ---Yes. As I said, I'd like to think that we could turn most of the investigation around in 60 days. It's somewhat optimistic. 12 months is probably understating it. were matters that were outstanding for two years. was a rigorous system for checking and managing investigations. I'm satisfied that we actually have that There are still delays. They are still frustrating, but the requirement to follow a procedural fairness model of giving people an opportunity to respond, and then people asking for extensions in responses, considering responses, taking the responses to the delegated officer to consider, writing back again, it's - it's a bit of a paper war at times in exchanging letters. That's the nature of administrative investigations. That said, we do review matters that get to a hundred days, and work out whether we can actually expedite them.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Would you say overall that things have improved since the Commission looked at it a year or two ago?---I can categorically tell you, Commissioner, they have improved. In my review in 2018, we had investigation files sitting in tubs. We don't have investigation files sitting in tubs. I have two very intrusive supervisors in the director and assistant director, who are constantly reviewing and asking questions about where people are at with their investigations. I'm very comfortable that - we will still have delays, but that we're across matters that we're investigating, and we're prioritising. I think, probably in January we had something like 207 legacy files. We were down to about 61 earlier this month. Those files, where little action has actually been taken - so we do try and actually move through it. I'm very conscious of the impact that an internal investigation can have on an There is no really nice way of actually bringing employee. about an internal inquiry. We try and do it professionally, but you're challenging a person's integrity in most cases, and we try and actually keep the complainant advised, the person of interest advised, about how long it's going to take, and we have very much taken to

providing like a personal office scheme. "This is the person who's responsible for our investigation. You can ring them." We will still have matters that will see inordinate delays, there will still be matters that frustrate us, but it's the nature of administrative investigations, it doesn't move very fast.

Thank you.

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In your review in 2018 you noted that the LOO, MS: conduct of discipline investigations was not well understood or communicated through the Department, and you said that clarity, communication and demystifying the process should be a priority. So what has PSD done in relation to that?---A part of that was actually about not understanding it was in the investigations area, so without demeaning the people that were there, there was a level of complexity applied to how we conduct investigations. Internally, it's about reinforcing, and I have a role now which we intend to start reinforcing and training in administrative investigations, so reinforcement training about how to conduct them, but when the investigators go out, it's very much about communicating what is their role and function, and how they're doing it. I've been told in the past that, on a number of matters where we've deployed investigators, that no one will talk to them. It's not been our experience. Most - the people that - we've gone out - have been cooperative and actually been prepared to speak to them. I don't think we've actually had anyone turn away, say that they didn't want to actually speak to the investigators. So it's explaining what their role and their function is, how the process will work, what does it mean for them, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and, as I indicated earlier, when the matter is finalised and it moves to an allegation, that investigators will actually go and meet with the person of interest and actually explain to them what the allegations are and how they would respond, and who they can contact if they've got any queries about the process.

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 that we're committed to actually doing, and where we've been involved in an investigation, I want the investigators to maintain contact and actually be involved. We have to go to regional locations for particular reasons. We can do other work when we're there, but it is about that personal interface.

And does that personal interface extend to superintendents as well as the people involved in the investigation?---Yes.

What are the possible outcomes of an investigation?---So Part 5 sets out that we can take no action, it can lead to improvement action, a reprimand, a fine, up to dismissal.

What's improvement action?——Improvement action is where there is a requirement for the officer to undertake—training is used a lot, and I'm not sure training is necessarily the answer, because training is thrown around a fair bit, that that's the answer to everything. Generally, the officer knows what to do, it's about reinforcing their roles and responsibilities, so improvement action may be that they're required to report to the superintendent how they're performing a little bit more intensive performance management, and then a report back on how they're progressing.

Can you tell us more about the reporting process once you've decided on a disciplinary sanction?---Yes. So if there is an improvement action, the outcome will be delivered to the officer, and then there will be a requirement for the respective manager of that person to report back to Professional Standards about the actions that they've taken to give effect.

And you referred to the loss of confidence process?---Yes.

Can you tell us more about that?---The loss of confidence process is contained in the Prisons Act and the Young Offenders Act. It provides the provisions for the Director General to lose confidence in an employee, a custodial officer's ability to actually perform their role, based on performance behaviour and conduct. It is a process that mirrors in some ways the provisions within the WA Police section 8, loss of confidence process, particularly given the nature of the relationship by custodial officers. was designed to be a more expedient way of dealing with matters around the breach of trust. We exercised it five times since 1 July. We have two matters that are still in training. Three others have actually resigned. One matter we took to finalisation. So a person was dismissed. And a custodial officer was actually dismissed under provisions

of the loss of confidence. But however, during the - there is a maintenance period following the dismissal and that officer chose to resign within the maintenance period 4 within the provisions of the Young Offenders Act because it was a Youth Custodial officer, so it's as if the loss of 6 confidence process has never occurred. But that said, 7 we've exercised those provisions. They are effective. 8 They can be used. Provides Professional Standards 9 investigators with the options to conduct further inquiries 10 to use coercive questioning if required. But is does PSD a 11 few more power that are not available in the public sector 12 management.

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And what criteria do you use to determine which process is more appropriate?---It would generally depend on the - the nature of the offending. So if a custodial officer was to be charged with a criminal offence, any PS made disciplinary process would need to be stayed. That is not the same for loss of confidence. So loss of confidence can be run in tandem. There are provisions within the Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulations for both prison officers and youth custodial officers at I think Regulation 38(2) that states that if a person tests positive to a Schedule 1 or 2 drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act, Schedule 8 or 9 of the Poisons Act, a masking agent or a - there's another issue around a prescribed drug within the - the Misuse of Drugs But the person can either resigned or we can use loss of confidence. So they're the two provisions that are provided in the Regulations. So it's generally envisaged that if a person commits one of those Misuse of Drugs Act type or drug testing offences, then that's what we would actually use. We've been using loss of confidence primarily for people testing positively for drugs.

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And you said that since it was 1 July 2019 - - -? ---Correct, yes.

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- - that you've been using these provisions, they've been in place since August of 2015, why were they not used prior to that?---I can't answer the - why they weren't used prior to the time that I got there. There - there'd probably been some of reluctance. There's been some use of the provisions I think in 2016, 2017. They hadn't proved particularly successful. After discussing matters with the Director General, I directed that we used the loss of confidence process. So we've been using it. And - said it does - just gives us another tool in relation to managing a person, particularly if they're subject to criminal investigation.

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51 In relation to matters that are referred back for local

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management, does PSD exercise any oversight of that
    process?---Yes, they do come back to misconduct assessment.
    So they are required - we actually generally issue -
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    I'm pretty sure it's 14 days for them to provide a response
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    about what - what it is that they're actually doing.
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    And beyond that 14 days?---Well, they didn't provide a
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    report back. If there are any issues, then they can
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    escalate them back up to misconduct assessment.
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    The Commission understands that the Department is moving
    all staff drug and alcohol testing to Professional
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    Standards, can you tell us more about that?---I can.
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    Earlier this month, there were conversations between
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    myself, the Director General and the Commission for
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    Corrective Services around the repositioning of what is
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    essentially an integrity function. You know, a security
    environment, Professional Standards. So there is a
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    requirement for Corrective Services in the operational
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    support area to - to security function.
                                              The integrity
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    function should sit with Professional Standards.
    Director General approved transition of both the loss of
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    confidence provisions, which also still sits in Corrective
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    Services, and the staff drug and alcohol testing.
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    5 February he made approval. I think by Friday had a draft
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    transition and implementation plan and we had our first
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    meeting yesterday about transitioning the - the functions
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    to Professional Standards. And effectively, it's about -
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    this is not a security function per se, it's an integrity
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    function.
              So an integrity function should sit within
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    Professional Standards. There is broad agreement between
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    the Director General, myself and the Commissioner that
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    that's going to happen and that will happen with the target
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    date of 30 August.
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    THE COMMISSIONER: And how will it work?---30 April.
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    Sorry?---30 April.
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    April?---Yes.
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    Not August?---Not August. My - my - my apologies.
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    How will it work - work so it's in your area?---The
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    Director General is given approval for additional positions
    and we're not derogating the responsibilities or
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    diminishing the capability of the Drug Detection Unit.
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    It will sit within the prevention and education space
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    initially. It will be about identifying people who are at
    risk. There is a Level 7 principal investigator role that
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    will use the Director General's given authority to recruit
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11/02/20 Epiq MAINES, S.L. (Private Hearing)

a Level 6 and three Level 4s for the testing. functions will pretty much use the existing rules and procedures. There are some issues with the existing rules and procedures that we've picked up in the operations. Because they're integrity function not security functions which we would seek to change, there is a body of work being done around re-drafting Regulations. We will move quickly. We've already provided a response about some matters that we think probably need to be included in those. And you did make a point yesterday about rehabilitation, Commissioner. Whilst there's a provision within the existing policies and procedures around rehabilitation, it's unclear how that was ever intended to work. So that's something we're going to need to take as a policy position for the Department around what would with a person who came forward. So whilst it loosely talks about referring a person who declares they've got a drug issue to appropriate areas within the agency. It's - there's no real process around how that would follow or how we would actually exercise it. So there's some work that we will But by 30 April, which is again a - a stretch target we are - be operating. And from Professional Standards we'll still work with Corrective Services. It still applies to custodial officers. The change from the Regulations are intended to expand the people who can be tested to people working within prisons.

Who will it include? Because there were - was a lacuna - or there is at the moment as to who can actually be tested?---It is. I - I think the - the general rule will be that anyone who's currently employed and working in a prison will be subject to testing. One of the suggestions that we made, which again is only a suggestion, but it might want to be widened to people who have contact with offenders in the community. That may not be achievable within this time frame, with the Regulations. But if you're having contact with offenders in a community environment, you're probably still at risk. So that's something that I would need to - to explore further with the Director General.

 I imagine it's going to be a challenge to service the regional areas in this?---It still happen - it happens today, Commissioner. So I think the DDU has done a really good job in actually delivering a service, which for reasons which are overly clear, place this function within their mandate. I think they've done a great job in actually setting it up. I think they've done a great job in executing it. But it creates some level of angst for people in that environment to be testing staff that they may work alongside at particular periods of time. Moving

it to an integrity function within Professional Standards provides some level of independence. But I guarantee we will still service regional areas. We service regional areas now, send investigators to search operations. We have to mobile. We have to have the ability to go where matters manifest themselves.

Well, that sounds very nice, but the Commission has information that may not be as robust or as comprehensive in regional areas?---That's probably a - a fair comment, Commissioner. But I'm sure at some point in time I can be held to account for how we deliver it and how we sort of manage it. Our focus will be on staff drug testing. And that will be a - a focus and that will be wherever we have people who fall within the criteria can be tested.

And this of course will be more than just Corrective Services, across the whole of Justice?---Well, currently, the Regulations only extend to Corrective Services. So they only extend to people who work in prisons. If it was to extend to people who operate in the community, that's something I - I don't think that the Regulations or the changes of Regulations envision at the moment.

LOO, MS: Will the staff in PSD actually be the ones administering the tests?---Yes. So the - the FTE that have approved by the DG will be recruited. We will also train up some other people in the Integrity and Accountability Directorate as a short-term matter. I'm just - we've got a briefing yesterday on the extent of the training that's required, I'm comfortable that we could probably deliver it within the time frame with 30 April. We have still have a very good, close working relationship with Corrective Services. They're actively engaged in the transition phase. So I'm not sure it's one of those things that they'll just cut off and walk away from, but we will keep everyone updated as to how we're progressing.

And what kind of testing will you do?---The same drug alcohol testing regime that currently exists. There are probably a different a medium that we may consider adding in to the - the process, which is hair. We've had some matters recently where we've sought some advice from toxicologists which indicated that hair samples may be more assistance to providing a - a more definitive result. Currently, it - to test blood, urine, saliva. The process that's been set up I think is relatively robust. There are just some matters that we need to tailor the process of Professional Standards.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is it costly?---The delivery of the

program or the testing?

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Not the testing, but the analysis?---Analysis, yeah. The analysis, there's a cost obviously associated with getting it analysed. I can't tell you the - - -

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So - - -?--- - - actual cost. I can tell you that when we seek additional information that there is a significant cost to getting expert opinions. But that's required for any job that sort of requires an expert opinion on something.

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I'm just thinking that alcohol testing was relatively cheap?---It is.

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But drug testing is relatively expensive?---Yes.

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Something you have to bear?---Yes, sir.

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And what's the threshold that will be applied? LOO, MS: So what does a Superintendent need to establish for you to a targeted drug test?---The superintendent doesn't make the decisions. It requires information, intelligence or suspicion. So that's included in the current sort of drug - staff drug and alcohol testing policy. So that's the mandate. The policy and procedure itself is still written for Corrective Services so it doesn't really take into account the creation of Professional Standards. That's something that we will update as well. doesn't stop us from actually given effect because Integrity and Accountability is for all intents and purposes investigations. The Director General last year gave myself, the Director of Integrity and Accountability and Assistant Director of Accountability the delegation to approve targeted tests, given that we're more in the integrity space. But the - the current threshold is information, intelligence or suspicion. We then look at matters around the particular persons, where the information, intelligence or suspicion comes from, what weight to put in it. It's a relatively low threshold for a targeted test.

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And what happens when a person returns a positive test?
---A person turns positive for an illicit substance, they in the first instance they're generally ordered away from
the prison. We will then commence an investigation. With
the new process now around loss of confidence matters, we
issue a - a notice that - or an intention to commence a
loss of confidence process, there's provision for them to
be suspended under that process. So they are suspended
from duty. And then the investigation commences.

2 And what is the progress of those Regulations to extend the drug testing to other employees? --- My recollection is that 3 target time is probably towards the end of the year. 4 5 6 For the Regulations to - - -?---The Regulations to give 7 effect - - -8 9 - - - come into force?---Well, the Regulations are 10 currently in force. This is amendment to the Regulations. 11 Sorry, I meant the amendments?---Yeah. So the amendments, 12 13 at the end of the year. We've only really been in the 14 space actively since 5 February. So I - to be able to 15 provide a bit more information as we progress. 16 17 Will you continue to work with a Special Operations Group in doing testing?---The - the Special Operations Group 18 19 conduct search activities, primarily the drug detection 20 unit, to the testing activities sometime off the back of 21 We would like to consider the methodology that we will 22 use in relation to testing. But we will continue to enjoy 23 a very positive and productive working relationship with 24 the Special Operations Group. We regularly send 25 investigators on their search operations in case things are 26 found. So - been conducted by staff. 27 28 Yesterday in his evidence, Mr Hassall spoke about different 29 committees that review use of force incidents?---Yes. 30 31 And he referred to a local committee as well as a central 32 Department of Justice committee? --- Yes. 33 34 How long has the Department of Justice had a central 35 committee?---There's been a central committee going from 36 my - well, it's had different iterations. But there was a 37 central Use of Force Committee established, I think, in about 2016 or '17. It's been through different 38 manifestations. In 2018, there were changes to the - the 39 40 centralised committee. And people from professional - or 41 then Investigation Services would go to the - to the 42 meeting. There - there's meant to be a - a local committee 43 where the superintendent reviews all matters. There is a -44 a centralised committee which Integrity and Accountability 45 are a member of to go to. And I did follow up on - and got some figures in relation to matters around use of force, 46

11/02/20 Epiq

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MAINES, S.L. (Private Hearing)

which I can provide you if you like. So there are 18 use

matters that came - Professional Standards. Thirteen were

management or contract provides, including broad spectrum.

of matters. Thirteen were referred direct from this -

referred direct from business areas, either from prison

Five were referred to Professional Standards from the Use of Force Committee. Of the matters from an assessment perspective, eight resulted in no further action. 3 4 referred to Investigations. One was referred to WA Police. Three were referred for local management. Two were 6 referred to local investigation, these relate to private 7 prison providers. And two resulted in improvement action. 8 And I could, if required, provide the details of where 9 they - those occurred. I think the Commissioner indicated 10 yesterday that there was issue because no matters were 11 reported from Hakea or Bandyup Prison.

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What's the role of PSD on the committee?---PSD provides a conductive - a matter - they look at it from a - a - a legal misconduct perspective as to whether the conduct used in the use of force meets the threshold to be referred for investigation.

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33 34 And who's responsible for oversight of how the recommendations from that committee are being implemented? ---Well, I think it's probably important to - to note that there are a number of use of force matters that are considered at a local level and the Use of Force Committee. Very few of them meet any threshold that require some level of investigation or misconduct. So the Prisons Act is quite clear about a prison officer's authority to exercise force. And providing it's authorised, justified and excused by law, there are generally no issues in the matter. So the number of matters referred of 18 is a relatively low number I would think, given the number of incidents that occur within a prison. Professional Standards will look at whether there is misconduct involved. If it's - relates to the exercise of the force it doesn't meet that threshold, then that would sit within Corrective Services to manage.

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What about matters where a prison officer has used force and then created an inaccurate report following that incident?---If the inaccurate report - that would be referred to Professional Standards.

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Have you had any matters along those lines referred to?
---I don't think so from here. But I - I'm - I'm aware of
mattes that come through. We do - well, the Commission's
previous report that it's a - a complex issue about
matching up whether the report - it's reliant on having
CCTV generally to actually see whether the report reflects
the actions of the officer taken. But I'm still a - a
little confused as to why we don't allow the officers to
actually go through the CCTV to examine what actually
occurred before filling in their report.

11/02/20 Epiq MAINES, S.L.
(Private Hearing)

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It's like we're trying to get a bit of a "Gotcha" moment on the officers. It's generally a - a very stressful situation where an officer exercises a use of force. We're mindful of the - the recommendations that came out of the report writing. We're mindful of the fact that there was a lot of cutting and pasting going on. But there's a supervisory role in ensuring that - that people don't cut and paste.

I think Mr Elderfield will give evidence in relation to the — the changes that will go into the TOMS module which will ensure that people can't use and cut and paste. But that won't preclude people from discussing what occurred during a use of force matter. It won't necessarily preclude people from colluding. But the majority of people are just trying to do the right thing.

One of the things that I've tried to reinforce, and we're going to try and reinforce through prevention education is if you make a mistake in the use of force matter, which can occur, then own the mistake and actually put your hand up that you've made a mistake and that you actually got it wrong. And that if you reflected on your actions, you may do - do things differently.

 I also tell people that if you don't have time to give a person a warning, don't write any report that you gave them a warning when you clearly didn't have time to give them a warning. You can use force; it's really well prescribed in the Prisons Act, but everyone feels like they need to follow a policy rather than the legislation.

The legislation is really clear about what you can actually do in use of force, it's really well prescribed. But in the past, for whatever reason, whether it's a cultural reason, people have felt the need that they had to cover off on some issues in their — in a policy directive rather than what it is that — what actually occurred.

So that's again a message that we want to get out through Prevention and Education; if you make a mistake you should own the mistake, you should actually reflect on whether you could do things differently. In those circumstances you can deal with a person, because it's quite a stressful situation people will find themselves in.

We should be under no mistake that when a person is operating in a prison it's a hazardous environment. They are sort of generally at risk, generally outnumbered and sometimes they will - their decision-making will be wrong.

What we used to focus on was we should retrain the person by sending them on another use of force course. It's not about their technique because they generally get the technique right, it's the decision-making.

So it's how do we actually get people to consider their decisions and could they have done things differently. That will be - that will be the measure of change, particularly in use of force. That will be the measure where we get to where a person can actually go, "You know what, I've had the opportunity to consider what I did then and I could have done that better," and just constantly referring to putting someone on another training course about how to do use of force will not change culture, it will not improve things.

 It's getting people to consider their decision-making and that's something that I think we play a part, that also Corrective Services plays a part or in the leadership, management and supervision of people about reinforcing what a person's responsibilities and expectations are when they engage with someone.

So can you de-escalate the situation? Can you actually - could there have been something you did? And if you can't and you do go straight to force, then that's okay too. But that's something we're probably not mature enough on yet, something that we'll continue to work in and we do need to actually put the fear out there that if you get your use of force wrong that we're going to suddenly come along and want to dismiss you. We've got to - we've got to accept people will make mistakes and we've got to have a threshold for people making mistakes but that requires a level of contrition, insight and honesty that you've made a mistake.

 THE COMMISSIONER: From the Commission's point of view, one of our themes is vulnerable people. It may sound odd in relation to some of your clients but prisoners are vulnerable people in the sense that they are in a confined environment and subject to orders and discipline.

What was disturbing about our investigations last year that we reported on, to me was not so much the level of force because I accept that can be a very subjective matter, the law says it's subjective, the law says you can use force but not excessive force but how you define that can be difficult, particularly as we accept prison officers are often in a highly-stressed environment, aroused emotions, and they won't always make what in hindsight you might say is the correct decision but what seemed to be displayed, to me was a level of cover-up or failure to acknowledge that

the force may have been on this occasion excessive in retrospect and that is the disturbing thing and that led to sort of corroborating reports from other officers.

Now, the question of whether they should prepare reports without viewing the CCTV is obviously a question for you but I would, myself, not see much wrong with it; if the CCTV shows the incident, it's probably the best evidence. We also accept that there may be good reason for having a hot debrief immediately after the incident - lessons learned, what could we have done, could we have deescalated, which is not collusion but can give rise to the perception later of collusion.

So from the Commission's point of view we're mindful of all of the issues you've raised. We're not out to crucify individual officers who may in the heat of the moment make a decision which in hindsight turns out to be the wrong decision.

It is the potential misconduct of people putting their heads together to cover up a decision which was simply a wrong decision and it's the cover-up that converts it into serious misconduct and we recognise the challenge in dealing with that but the culture has to change?---I agree with you wholeheartedly, Commissioner. I don't think it starts out down the misconduct path or the cover-up path. I've had discussions previously with the Union and I've been told that this is a matter of trust, but at some point there needs to be a breach of trust.

If a person's involved in criminality and corruption, I can't offer much in the way of sort of comfort. But if a person makes a mistake, then we should be able to recognise and learn from the mistakes and it shouldn't be trying to catch people out. After a person's been involved in a fairly sort of stressful incident, there's an expectation that everyone will write a report before they go home and, you know, it puts them probably under a level of pressure to try and come together with a story and sort of get it down correctly.

I accept that that's part of their role and their responsibility. I don't think it's something that we've explored enough and it's about if - I'd much prefer people sit around and consider that - a hot debrief that could we have done that better. Could we have done it better? Should we have done it better, are there things that we should do next time and write it up in - in that particular way.

 We insist on pretty much everyone involved in an incident filling in a report, which I'm not sure is always necessary because that does lead to people cutting and pasting. You primarily want the key people that are involved in it, we could have a list of witnesses; but most matters will never manifest itself into misconduct, most matters are an error in judgment or a decision-making that should have been and could, if we become more mature and this is something that our prevention and education area is going to have to work on, if we become more mature it is be accepting that we will make mistakes.

But it can't be because the person's vulnerable, we do need to actually take extra care and we do need to consider about are we actually - are we escalating something that doesn't need to be escalated, can we take an extra 10 minutes to do it? Now, sometimes there will be an operational expediency which will preclude that from occurring but the majority of officers that are going out there and using a force they are doing it because they feel that's the right response at the time.

 It is a responsibility for all of us in Corrective Services and Professional Standards to actually reinforce that if you make a mistake, if you get it wrong you need to own it, we will try and work through it. And I have seen officers not in a use of force base but officers who've been involved in conduct which was very poor, very poor conduct, own - own their - own their mistake, put their hand up that they'd actually done it in various sort of trying and serious conditions but realised that they'd done the wrong thing. And that was quite refreshing and that was in 2019, officers putting their hand up.

Now, that was reflected in the response that the Department gave to it but it is something that I think we probably need some help to actually develop and getting it right. I think the police have the same issue about where do you actually draw a line as to what is excessive, and in a prison environment there has to be a sort of way for the people to go back and consider it and, I think you're right, to actually reflect on where - whether or how they got to the situation they find themselves.

It might be that there's been a sort of blame culture that has made it difficult in the past for someone to say, "Look, on this occasion I made a mistake," if they're going to be constantly blamed rather than, "All right. Well, what have you learned from it?" The other thing the Commission has information about is from prison officers on the ground that - and this is the cultural thing I was

11/02/20 Epiq MAINES, S.L. (Private Hearing)

referring to; that if I don't support you now in your perhaps excessive use of force when other officers are, the next time I'm in a vulnerable situation there may not be much help coming my way from other officers. Now, that's a cultural thing. Whether it's correct or not I have no way of judging, but it is some information that we have been given?---I think you're probably - it's probably correct to a degree, Commissioner, but how do we actually encourage people to do the right thing? So how do you give people confidence? You know, we refer to people who - who have exercised it as whistle-blowers, it's almost sort of demonstrating that they're dobbers.

 It's hardly sort of encouraging for someone to want to come forward and actually tell the truth if - the culture has to be that it's okay to tell it how it is. You're not dobbing, you're actually just telling it how it is. And for the other person who may have made the wrong decision to accept that you're right, actually I should have done it differently, that's a level of maturity that I don't think many organisations have reached. That's a level of maturity that will take some time to change.

I do think there is a general commitment from the Department. I know there's a significant commitment from the Department to changing culture. It will take some time and in some areas it probably won't happen, there will be some people who will always be resistant to the change. But overall, people who go to work in a Corrections environment, 99 per cent of people go to work to do a great job. They work in an environment that is not well appreciated, that people don't sort of actually understand what they do.

They work within the justice system but are not sort of seen as having a really important role, and I think that's really sad because there are people who are doing an outstanding job in sort of managing those vulnerable people every day. And that's not often recognised and it is a difficult job, but most people don't care what's actually going on within a prison. So the people that work in prisons, the people that work in Community Corrections are doing a great job but don't get the same level of recognition as perhaps other people in the justice system.

Well, I've been doing this job for five years and if we changed the culture we'd now not have much work. In fact, we're busier than ever so the cultural things extend beyond justice. But it's probably a good time for a 15-minute break.

 (Short adjournment)

SHAYNE LESTER MAINES RECALLED ON FORMER OATH AT 11.25 AM:

THE COMMISSIONER:

Please be seated.

Mr Maines, one of the Commission's LOO, MS: recommendations was that the Department review its Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest and Secondary Employment policies. What has PSD done in that regard?---So, ah, in relation to Code of Conduct, following some queries raised by the WA Prison Officers' Union in relation to lack of consultation on some elements within the Code of Conduct, we conducted a review in June 2019. Some amendments were made to the Code of Conduct around dealing with vulnerable people and the nature of the people that we actually deal with. Um, there's also an intention to review the Code in 2020, ah, to go back out for further consultation and probably clarifying some matters, particularly around drug use for - for employees of the Department of Justice, the fact that it's - it's not an acceptable sort of way of - of performing if you work in a - in the Department of Justice but we will be pursuing that issue.

What changes - sorry?---Sorry. I can't - well, the - the changes will be we'll actually go out to consultation to discuss where the range of stakeholders about what changes that they think are necessary in the code of conduct, we will take on some of learnings from Professional Standards to determine there should be some more explicit sections within the conduct of conduct around expected behaviour. Plus the code of conduct provides a - the broad guiding principles about how you act. They do need to sort of coincide with the obligations under the Public Sector Management Act. But we'll - we'll be actively open to seeking input from a range of stakeholders about whether we can actually improve our code of conduct.

And you referred to the Union being consulted, which union was that?---That was actually - it was a direct approach by the WA Prison Officers' Union in 2019 in relation to some concerns they had around the nature of people that prison officers are required to deal with. They provided some wording. We went backwards and forwards on how we might amend it. We came to an agreement which actually identified the complexities of dealing with the vulnerable people that we have across the justice spectrum was approved by the - the Director General. And we made an amendment back in June 2019. We were aware that more work

would need to be done to - to do this. But that's a - a focus in 2020 for the CPE. In relation to - I'm sorry, the public interest disclosure policies and procedures were 3 4 updated in 2019. Give some benefits, was that - give some benefits policy was completed in December 2019. We're not moving to an online sort of process for gifts and benefits. 6 7 There - there was a number of iterations that have gone 8 backwards and forwards in relation to gifts and benefits, 9 but we now have an online form that was signed off in 10 December where the process is the person who enters it online we're able to track better rather than paper-based 11 12 So that's an improvement in how we actually manage 13 gifts and benefits. Sorry, was that - did I miss another?

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No, that was - you've covered half of my question. recently developed a fraud and corruption control plan? ---We - we have developed a fraud and corruption control It has actually gone back for some re-work after the Director General requested some changes. Effectively, the fraud and corruption control plan will be the operation and tactical level document which will demonstrate how we're required to actually manage fraud and corruption control at a - sort of an organisational level. It will complement the Justice Integrity framework so it - it will just be another tool within the suite we've got around prevention.

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So will PSD be responsible for implementing that plan? ---Well, PSD will be responsible for launching it. The the actual plans, rather than a single entity within the Department of Justice being responsible for managing them, whilst we'll be the - the subject matter experts and the policy procedural owners, it's up to the whole of the Department to embrace the documents as a way of actually how we manage our business and what our expectations are. And what we will actually do to manage the potential for fraud and corruption across the agency. But ultimately, yes, Professional Standards will be responsible.

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And is there a process of review of the plan?---With all our plans, yes, there's generally a sort of a- a two-year time frame going back and reviewing the plans.

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The Commission noted in its report that information of value to investigators was not available to them unless they requested it from specific business areas. example, CCTV footage or audits of TOMS. And the Commission noted that this made conducting covert investigations almost impossible. Has that access changes?---Without going into our investigative methodologies, yes, I can sort of inform the Commission

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that our access to that type of information has improved

markedly and will only get better.

And you referred to matters that are referred back to prisons for local management and you said there was a 14-day sort of time frame when prisons would report back. Does the misconduct assessment branch undergo a critical analysis of the prison's response?---Generally, it will be to give effect to an action. If it's - if it's gone for improvement action, it will be to give effect of what that improvement action - whether it requires the person to engage in some level of training, whether they need to be counselled on their behaviour or their conduct. It doesn't require a great deal of critical analysis. If the matter was probably of a more serious nature, then it would stay with Misconduct Assessment. But we do monitor it. were to - if we get a - an officer who may test positive to alcohol, which may require some level of local improvement action and sort of ongoing testing, we maintain contact with that to ensure that the testing has actually been But this is generally much lower level matters. That may - may be given effect by providing a counselling, directing a person to undergo some level of training or reinforcement.

And does PSD provide any level of support to build up the capacity of a prison to manage matters locally?——I suppose it depends who you ask. I'd like to think that we actually have been out there a fair bit trying to actually build up capacity. There is some — sometimes there's a level of resistance about what we've reported to Professional Standards — need to fix it. Some people take their leadership and management responsibilities really seriously and sort of doing a great job at managing their employees' performance. There is still more for us to do in actually being engaged. But we want to be helpful and we want to be able to provide solutions. But not all matters need to actually be dealt with by Professional Standards. And some of it is really about the person's performance, behaviour or conduct which can be dealt with at a local level.

And what do you hope to achieve in the next five years?

---The next five years? That's a long time. I'm probably going to break it up into sort of year sort of focus. One of the things that we are rolling out through the Corruption, Prevention Education Directorate is taking learning from private prisons. So Acacia run a corruption prevention committee. And we have attended that committee on a number of occasions. And the Assistant Director for Corruption, Prevention and Education has been working to develop a - a local integrity and ethics committee at prisons. So we've rolled out a pilot program at Hakea,

where we've had an initial meeting. There's another meeting coming up within the next fortnight, where we send the CPE team to go and discuss with local management about 3 4 issues they have where they're identifying people who are 5 at risk or who may sort of be moving down a path towards 6 misconduct, providing them strategies about how to deal 7 with it and determining who's best to actually deal with 8 But it's putting the focus back on at a local level, 9 rather the Professional Standards sitting behind everyone, 10 looking at what they're doing and then sort of whacking 11 them if they're not doing something correct. So it's about 12 being engaged. There's - the next iterations are likely to 13 be at Bandyup and Bunbury and Melaleuca at a later stage. But the intent and the report I get back is generally well 14 15 received, that they add value and they provide an interface 16 for the local committee with Professional Standards and not 17 just a when something's gone bad sort of relationship.

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And when do you expect that will be rolled out to all the prisons across the custodial estate?——That will be something that Assistant Director will need to report back to me on. But at this stage, we're going to — it's a trial at the moment. So we've trialled it at Hakea. It's working well. What we'd like to see is embedding it at the other sites, at Bandyup, Bunbury, and eventually Melaleuca and how it works there. And then we'll actually work out how we expand it across the estate. But I don't think it will be entirely focused on prisons. I think it's something we will — we'll move to have across Justice where there are at—risk sort of operations.

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32 And once these local committees are established, will PSD 33 continue to be involved in them? --- Absolutely. Yep. 34 We're committed. We've committed further. So that's 35 probably part of our focus for - for the next 12 months. 36 I think constantly reviewing the way we actually do 37 business, you know, the Commission's made it clear about 38 changing culture. That's the long-term goal, to change 39 culture. But culture is a word for either good or 40 behaviour. It's encouraging, sort of, the good behaviour in people and doing the right thing. And that's something 41 42 that we'll all end up having to work on. In five years' 43 time, I'd like to think that it's a very healthy 44 organisational culture that respects it will make mistakes, 45 will get things wrong. But overall, we're comfortable reporting misconduct when we see it occur. 46 We're 47 comfortable with the processes that we have in place. 48 We're comfortable with the leadership and management and 49 not necessarily blaming leadership and management all the 50 time for things that are going wrong, accepting and owning 51 responsibility for issues that occur. And just sort of

having a - I think I indicated before, having a threshold, the fact that we'll make mistakes.

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4 Is there anything else you'd like to speak to that you 5 haven't already discussed today?---No, I - I think I've actually, there is one thing I'd like to say. I've been 6 7 involved in a number of - number of reviews. I've been 8 reviewed. I've been on reviews. I'd actually like to 9 thank the Commission. My engagement with the oversight 10 team and with my team has been extremely professional. 11 It has been one that has not been premised on running 12 around, trying to find what I term "Gotcha" moments. 13 They've been extremely professional, engaged, helpful, tolerant - although they did make me come back to work just 14 15 before my holidays finished so I could go to a meeting. 16 But they've been - it's been a - it's been a learning 17 experience. I think it's been a learning experience for 18 both the teams in actually how our Department works. 19 I personally found it very helpful in actually driving change in our organisation. I think it's been a catalyst 20 21 for us to actually do things. The mandate of the Director General to actually get on and actually change our business 22 23 and to accept that we need to move forward, it's been 24 really important. And that couldn't and wouldn't have been 25 achieved with the CCC bringing matters to our attention. But it hasn't been "Well, you've got a problem, it's all 26 27 yours". It's been a very interactive relationship and 28 I've found it extremely beneficial. So Commissioner, I 29 just wanted to thank you for the commitment of your team 30 and good professionalism that they've displayed.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you for those kind words?---Well, they're true, Commissioner. And as I said, I would tell you if I thought it was a different experience. It has been one that has been very easy to work with and again, good guiding principles and - and a good way to actually do business.

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Well, our concern is not actually finding misconduct. It's investigating whether there is. We're quite happy if we find there's none. But we also have a function of helping agencies manage or recognise their misconduct risk. And that's been the process we are now engaging in.

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LOO, MS: I have no further questions, Commissioner.

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THE COMMISSIONER: So thank you very much for your attendance, Mr Maines.

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And we will adjourn until 9.45 am tomorrow morning.

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