



MEDIA STATEMENT

Reply to Criticism of CCC at Parliamentary Committee Hearing

12.9.12

A spokesman said the Commission will respond before a Parliamentary Committee Hearing to the emotive and often generalised criticisms of it at a scheduled appearance in November.

The spokesman added:

- Competency of Commission investigators: 75% of its investigators are former police officers with the other 25% from specialist law enforcement agencies. Their competency is reflected in the Commission's successful prosecution rate of more than 80%.
- Time taken to complete investigations: Unlike police investigations, under its legislation the Commission must not only focus on allegations of misconduct but also has to identify weaknesses in systems that lead to misconduct. The investigation into Mr O'Callaghan's credit card use required the acquisition and analysis of a large volume of financial records going back several years which required considerable time. In addition, the Commission has to follow stringent procedural fairness processes before tabling reports which are critical of individuals. This process is necessarily time consuming.
- Mr Davies should know Commission hearings are not like a trial where the prosecution has to disclose all its evidence before the trial starts. Rather, hearings are only one part of an investigation to uncover evidence that is often not known before the hearing starts.
- The CCC is one of the most scrutinised agencies in the State. Anyone can lodge complaints about the Commission with the Parliamentary Inspector who can investigate the allegations with the powers of a Royal Commissioner. The Commission is also overseen by its own Parliamentary Committee.

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