

24 October 2019

Dr Chris McGowan  
Chief Executive  
Department for Health and Wellbeing  
11 Hindmarsh Square  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Dr McGowan

Thank you for your letter dated 24 October 2019.

On 16 October 2019 I held a press conference in connection with the publication of my Looking Back report.

In answer to a question asked of me during that press conference I expressed concerns that I had about maladministration within the Department of Health and Wellbeing (the Department) and the Local Health Networks in South Australia and the effect of that maladministration and other practices within the Department on the ability of my office to detect and investigate corruption.

I am, of course, also concerned about what effect those matters might be having on the efficient and proper use of public resources.

These concerns can be broadly categorised as falling under the following areas:-

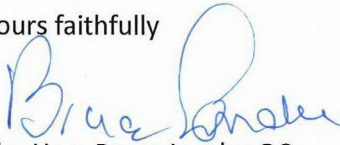
- The employment of medical officers and whether there are systems in place to ensure that such employees are properly accountable for their time (and that the Department is actually receiving the services it is paying for under contracts of employment).
- Arrangements relating to regulation and administration of Rights of Private Practice, and what costs deficiencies in those arrangements might impose on the public health system.
- Conflicts of interest held by employees of the Department and in particular those who have the ability to make decisions about allocation of public resources, including conflicts of interests in procurement and those arising in research activities.
- Whether there is sufficient record keeping in place in the Department and LHNs and whether significant decisions or instructions are appropriately documented and an accountable evidence trail created.
- The management of clinicians.
- Cultural issues

As I mentioned I have decided to make a report about these issues and the concerns I hold by December this year.

In that report I intend to set out my concerns and the risks of maladministration, misconduct and corruption in the Department and the Local Health Network I have identified in further detail.

I consider it important to place these matters on the public record. What further action if any is taken in relation to them is of course a matter for others.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

The Hon. Bruce Lander QC

**INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION**