



Select Committee on Ethics

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MEDIA RELEASE

Statement from the Select Committee on Ethics

The Chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics issued the following statement today.

"I am surprised to learn of media reports of the referral by Mr Byrne MP of Dr Levy's evidence to the Police Commissioner for investigation.

The material that the Leader of the Opposition referred to on 612ABC radio this morning has been in the public domain for some time now and it is very curious as to why they have chosen now to write to the Police Commissioner with their concerns.

These matters were referred to a Select Ethics Committee for investigation on the 21 November 2013 and I am concerned by the comments today of the Leader of the Opposition of the need for a thorough independent investigation.

There is a long standing principle that Members of Parliament do not comment on matters that are subject of a committee inquiry, let alone imply that the work of a committee is not thorough or independent.

These types of comments do nothing to advance the public trust in the processes and practices of Parliament and the role it performs in conducting oversight functions of the public service and independent agencies like the CMC.

Parliamentary committees play an important role in ensuring government accountability but they must be guided by the basic principles of procedural fairness or they will betray the public trust placed in them.

These comments today by the Leader of the Opposition are disappointing. The committee has been at pains to ensure it complies with natural justice and such comments may appear to prejudice the work of the committee.

The committee is mindful of the upcoming debate on the Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and wishes to ensure that all Members of Parliament can engage in full and open deliberation.

As a result of this referral to the Police Commissioner the committee has sought advice from the Clerk and may now seek independent legal advice".

David Gibson MP, Chair.

ENDS – 11 April 2014

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