# Annual Report 2024–25

The Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption



# Acknowledgement of Country

The Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Annual Report 2024-25

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# The Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption



Ref: AD03-2425/A8278222

30 October 2025

The Hon Ben Franklin, MLC President Legislative Council Parliament House Sydney NSW 2000 The Hon Greg Piper, MP Speaker Legislative Assembly Parliament House Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Annual Report 2024-25

Dear Mr President and Mr Speaker

In accordance with s 77B of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* (NSW) (ICAC Act), I furnish to each of you for presentation to the Parliament the Annual Report of the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Under s 78(1A) of the ICAC Act, I recommend that the report be made public forthwith.

Sincerely

Gail Furness SC

Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption

#### OFFICIAL

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# 1 Introduction and overview

I am pleased to present this Annual Report under s 77B of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* (NSW) (ICAC Act) and recommend that it be made public forthwith under s 78(1A) of the ICAC Act. This Annual Report relates to the year ended 30 June 2025 (the reporting period).

During the reporting period, as with previous years, I continued to have a cooperative and productive working relationship with the Chief Commissioner, the Commissioners, and senior staff of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (the Commission or ICAC). I have again appreciated the timely and detailed responses to all my requests for information.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) I have with the Commission, the Commission notifies me of matters which come to its attention that involve the conduct of an officer of the Commission that comes within my principal functions. The Commission generally handles such matters unless I indicate that I will deal with the matter directly. If the Commission handles it, it keeps me informed of progress. The details of each of these notifications are set out in this Annual Report. It is important to record the thoroughness with which the Commission deals with each of these matters. It is my observation that the Commission takes seriously complaints about its officers and is assiduous in advising me of matters involving staff, even if on a narrow view of my functions, some of those matters fall outside of those functions.

It is also worthy of observation that I received no anonymous complaints in the reporting period and no complaints from staff. The former may indicate a level of satisfaction by the public with how the Commission handles complaints about it and its staff.

Part 5.5 of this Annual Report provides a summary of the complaints received by me during the reporting period and an explanation as to how they were dealt with. There was a decrease in the number of complaints, with the Inspector receiving 46 complaints this reporting year.

Two complaints remained outstanding at the end of the reporting period, each having been received in June 2025.

The notable event in the reporting year was presenting to the Presiding Officers of the NSW Parliament my Audit of applications for and the execution of search warrants by the Commission from 2021-2023.

I concluded that the ICAC had complied with the relevant law and was in substantive compliance with its relevant policies in each of the 9 warrants the subject of the Audit. I identified a number of procedural anomalies, which were brought to the attention of the ICAC. I am satisfied that the steps taken or to be taken by the Commission adequately addresses those matters raised in this Audit.

I compared the findings of a 2020 Audit and this Audit, which revealed that the Commission has improved its practices.

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# 1.1 Snapshot 2024-25





28 notifications were received from the ICAC compared with 15 in the previous financial year



2 complaints were not finalised and were carried over to the next financial year



44 complaints were finalised



O PIDs were made

The median time in which a complaint was finalised was **8** days



**O** GIPA applications were made





**52%** of complaints concerned the ICAC's decision not to investigate and **20%** concerned communication with the ICAC

2 reports to the NSW
Parliament were tabled



The Inspector undertook 1 audit

The Inspector gave evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on the ICAC on 1 occasion





The Inspector met with the ICAC Chief Commissioner and Commissioners on

5 occasions

The Inspector attended 3 conferences



# 1.2 The Inspector's functions and powers

The Inspector's functions and powers are prescribed by Part 5A of the ICAC Act.

The principal functions of the Inspector are set out in s 57B(1). These are to:

- audit the operations of the Commission for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the law of the State
- deal with (by reports and recommendations) complaints of abuse of power, impropriety, and other forms of misconduct on the part of the Commission or officers of the Commission
- deal with (by reports and recommendations) conduct amounting to maladministration (including, without limitation, delay in the conduct of investigations and unreasonable invasions of privacy) by the Commission or officers of the Commission
- assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the procedures of the Commission relating to the legality or propriety of its activities.

The definition of maladministration is set out under s 57B(4) as follows:

... action or inaction of a serious nature that is -

- a. contrary to law, or
- b. unreasonable, unjust, oppressive, or improperly discriminatory, or
- c. based wholly or partly on improper motives.

Section 57B(2) enables the Inspector to exercise the functions on her own initiative, at the request of the Minister, in response to a complaint made to the Inspector, or in response to a reference by the Parliamentary Committee on the ICAC (PJC) or any public authority or public official.

Section 57B(3) provides that the Inspector is not subject to the Commission in any respect.

The Inspector may make special reports on any matters affecting the Commission, on any administrative or general policy matter relating to the functions of the Inspector, and any other matter relating to the exercise of a function to audit, deal with or assess any matter under s 57B. (s 77A)

The Inspector is required to report annually to Parliament. (s 77B)

Under ss 77A and 77B, reports are to be made to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament.

Section 57C sets out the powers of the Inspector. They include requiring officers of the Commission to produce documents or other things.

Section 57D of the ICAC Act empowers the Inspector to make or hold inquiries for the purposes of the Inspector's functions. Any inquiry made or held by the Inspector under this section provides the Inspector with the powers, authorities, protections and immunities of a Royal Commissioner, as conferred by Division 1 of Part 2 of the *Royal Commission Act 1923* (NSW), except for s 13 of that Act. The Inspector has not held any inquiries under s 57D during the reporting period.

## 1.3 Legislative reforms and other legal developments

# 1.3.1 Litigation

The Inspector was not a party to any litigation during the reporting period.

## 1.3.2 Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979 (Cth)

The Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Omnibus No 1) Bill 2024 received Royal Assent on 24 October 2024. The amendments enhanced the ability of certain agencies, including the Inspector, to

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receive interception information and interception warrant information under the *Telecommunications* (*Interception and Access*) *Act* 1979 (Cth) (TIA Act) and took effect from 25 October 2024.

The amendments expand the definition of 'permitted purpose' and/or 'prescribed investigation' under s 5(1) of the TIA Act to align with the definition in the ICAC Act to accurately encompass the Inspector's oversight functions and allow the Inspector to receive information in relation to all her functions, including the audit function.

The amendments also expand the scope of purposes for which the Inspector is able to share interception information and interception warrant information under s 68 of the TIA Act to include sharing for the purposes of the Inspector's functions.

# 2 Annual reports prepared under other legislation

# 2.1 Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA Act) provides that an agency must make government information that is open access information publicly available. However, if there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information, that requirement does not apply.

The Inspector makes her open access information available on her website at www.oiicac.nsw.gov.au.

As required by s 20 of the GIPA Act, the Inspector has an <u>Agency Information Guide</u> available on her website. It provides information about the Inspector's functions and the structure of her office.

The GIPA Act entitles members of the public to apply for access to information held by an agency. However, in respect of information held by the Inspector, it provides that a valid access application cannot be made for information relating to her operational auditing, complaint handling, and investigative and reporting functions. (sch 2 cl 2 GIPA Act) It also provides that there is a conclusive presumption that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of information held, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the ICAC Act (unless the Inspector has consented to disclosure).

Section 125 of the GIPA Act requires the Inspector to prepare an Annual Report on her obligations under that Act. The Inspector's Report is set out in Appendix A. During the reporting period, the Inspector received no applications for access to information she holds.

## 2.2 Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022 (NSW)

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022* (NSW) (PID Act) provides certain protections for public officials who report serious wrongdoing in the public sector. For example, it is a criminal offence for someone to harass, injure or discriminate against a person for making a Public Interest Disclosure (PID). Serious wrongdoing means 1 or more of the following:

- corrupt conduct
- serious maladministration
- a government information contravention
- a local government pecuniary interest contravention
- a privacy contravention
- serious and substantial waste of public money.

Under s 19(d) of the PID Act, the Inspector is an integrity agency.

The Inspector's policy and procedure to assess and manage any disclosures made under the PID Act to the Inspector can be found in her <u>Public Interest Disclosure Policy</u>.

A public official can make a PID to the Inspector or the NSW Ombudsman about the Inspector or the Inspector's staff if the person making it honestly believes, on reasonable grounds, that the information shows or tends to show serious wrongdoing.

The Inspector's report is set out in Appendix B. The Inspector received no PIDs in the reporting period.

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# 2.3 Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979 (Cth)

The Inspector is an 'eligible authority' for the purposes of the TIA Act. The Inspector's Annual Report has been provided to the Minister for Home Affairs, in accordance with reporting requirements under s 96 of the TIA Act. In short, the Annual Report indicated that the Inspector did not carry out any relevant activity and, therefore, had no information to disclose.

# 3 Office administration

## 3.1 Premises

The Inspector shares premises with the Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC)

The contact details for the Inspector are:

Postal address: GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 9228 3023

Email: oiicac\_executive@oiicac.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Premier's Department entered into a MOU on 16 October 2023 with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to enable these premises to be used by the Inspector in her role as the Inspector of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department paid \$18,252 per annum for this use to the NSW Government.

Effectively, Inspector Furness SC uses the Sydney office to carry out her role and functions as Inspector of ICAC and Inspector of the NACC. Appropriate measures remain in place to ensure the confidentiality of information.

#### 3.2 Staff

The Inspector shared 2 staff members with the Inspector of the LECC, a Principal Legal Advisor and an Administrative Support Officer.

The Principal Legal Advisor attended training on various topics offered by the Premier's Department and external providers throughout the reporting period, including:

- Sexual harassment prevention and response: A course for managers
- Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW Government Sector Employees
- Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office Code of Conduct
- Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office Fraud and Corruption
- Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office the Essentials Refresher: Cyber security awareness training
- Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office Leading with Psychological Safety
- Public Sector Seminar Introduction to the NSW Wales Legislative Assembly
- Administrative Law for the Public Sector
- Fundamentals of Complaint Handling.

## 3.3 Budget and finance

During the reporting period, the Inspector's office was a cost centre within the NSW Premier's Department.

The budgeted expenditure for the financial year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 was \$941,000.00. The Inspector's actual expenditure for that period was \$479,113.48, which compares with an actual

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expenditure of \$817,872.00 the previous financial year. The main reason for the underspend was staff vacancies.

The Inspector is paid in accordance with the Attorney-General's daily rate for senior counsel, which for the reporting period was \$5,217.74.

The Inspector's pay is subject to an annual cap of \$398,064.00.

# 3.4 The Inspector's website

The Inspector's staff managed her website with the support of the NSW Premier's Department.

It contains the Inspector's annual reports, special reports and audit reports tabled in Parliament, the Inspector's policies, as well as information for members of the public about the Inspector's functions and powers, how to make a complaint and how to contact the Inspector.

# 4 Liaison and communication

## 4.1 Liaison with the Commission

There is an MOU between the Inspector, and the Commission dated 26 September 2022. It sets out the arrangements for liaison between the Commission and the Inspector concerning the referral of matters, access to information and points of contact between both agencies. It is available on the Inspector's website.

Under the MOU, the Commission notifies the Inspector of matters that come to its attention which involve the conduct of an officer of the Commission that comes within the Inspector's principal functions. The Commission generally handles such matters unless the Inspector indicates that she will deal with the matter directly. If the Commission handles it, the Commission keeps the Inspector informed of progress. The details of each of these notifications are set out in part 5 of this Report.

It is important to record the thoroughness with which the Commission deals with each of these matters. It is the Inspector's observation that the Commission takes seriously complaints about its officers and is assiduous in advising the Inspector of matters involving staff, even if on a narrow view of my functions, some of those matters fall outside of those functions.

The Inspector met on 5 occasions with the Chief Commissioner and 1 or more of the Commissioners. The key issues raised during the reporting year with the Commission were:

- the Commission's operations and investigations
- litigation arising from the Commission's investigations
- the Commission's workload and staffing resources
- introduction of new training programs to Commission staff.

The Inspector and/or Principal Legal Advisor attended most of the quarterly meetings of the Commission's Audit and Risk Committee as observers.

In addition, the Chief Commissioner and the Inspector communicated regularly on matters relating to the operations of the Commission.

## 4.2 Parliamentary Joint Committee and conferences

On 10 February 2025, the Inspector gave evidence before the PJC about her Annual Report 2023-24. The transcript is available on the PJC website.

Between 2 and 31 July 2024, the Inspector and her Principal Legal Advisor attended the Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference (APSACC) held in Darwin. The Inspector also attended the workshops which were held earlier in the week on 28 and 29 July 2024.

The Inspector, on a panel with other Inspectors, gave a presentation at the APSACC on the topic of 'Working together in the fight against corruption: Why we need Parliamentary Inspectors.'

On 1 August 2024, the Inspector and her Principal Legal Advisor attended the meeting of National Inspectors, Parliamentary Commissioners and Reviewers in Darwin.

On 6 February 2025, the Inspector gave a presentation to Integrity Oversight Victoria on conflicts of interest.

On 28 and 29 May 2025, the Inspector and her Principal Legal Advisor attended the 14th National Investigations Symposium which was hosted by the NSW ICAC, NSW Ombudsman and the Institute of Public Administration Australia, NSW.

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# 5 Performance of the Inspector's statutory functions

# 5.1 Auditing and assessment of the Commission's operations and procedures

The Inspector primarily monitors the operations of the ICAC through audits, the regular receipt of information from the Commission as set out in the MOU, by dealing with complaints and requesting specific information from the Commission.

# 5.2 Assessment of information received from the Commission

The assessment of information received from the Commission occurred through various processes during the reporting year.

Firstly, the Commission has compulsory powers to seek and obtain information. In addition, it has the power to issue search warrants.

During the reporting period, the Inspector was regularly provided with a report in respect of the Commission's use of its statutory powers under the ICAC Act. The report includes the following information in respect to the investigation to which they relate:

- number of preliminary investigations commenced and completed under s 20A
- notices issued under ss 22 and 23
- injunctions granted by the Supreme Court under s 27
- number of compulsory examinations conducted under s 30
- number of public inquiries conducted under s 31
- number of summonses issued under s 35
- number of search warrants issued under s 40
- number of reports prepared under s 74.

Secondly, the Inspector was regularly provided with copies of the meeting papers and minutes for the Commission's monthly Investigation Management Group and quarterly Executive Management Group as well as quarterly statistics concerning its assessment of complaints and the progress of its investigations.

Thirdly, as set out in part 4 of this Annual Report, the Inspector and/or the Principal Legal Advisor attends the ICAC 's Audit and Risk Committee as an observer. Copies of the meeting papers and minutes are provided to the Inspector.

The schedule and meeting papers are useful in enabling the Inspector to discharge her principal functions, in particular of auditing and assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Commission's procedures. Further, they provide the Inspector with an overview of aspects of the Commission's activities and may assist in the assessment of complaints received.

Fourthly, during the reporting period, the Inspector continued to focus on the Commission's review of its information handling practices.

Finally, the Inspector and her Principal Legal Advisor monitored the Commission's exercise of its public investigation powers by watching segments of its live-streamed hearings in relation to Operation Landan.

## 5.3 Assessment of information obtained from other sources

The ICAC may also exercise various investigative powers under the following NSW and Commonwealth legislation:

- Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010 (NSW) (Assumed Identities Act)
- Law Enforcement (Controlled Operations) Act 1997 (NSW) (Controlled Operations Act)
- Surveillance Devices Act 2007 (NSW) (Surveillance Devices Act (NSW))
- Surveillance Devices Act 2004 (Cth) (Surveillance Devices Act (Cth))
- TIA Act.

The Commission is required to perform annual internal audits under the Assumed Identities Act.

The ICAC's compliance with and record keeping in respect of its use of powers under the Controlled Operations Act, Surveillance Devices Act (NSW) and Chapter 2 of the TIA Act is subject to regular inspection by the Inspector of the LECC.

The Commission's compliance and record keeping in respect of its use of powers under the Surveillance Devices Act (Cth) and Chapters 3 and 4 and Schedule 1 of the TIA Act is subject to regular inspection by the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Inspector of the LECC and the Commonwealth Ombudsman are required to prepare statutory reports about the results of their inspections, some of which are made available to the public.

## 5.4 Search Warrant Audit

In the 2023-24 reporting period, the Inspector completed an audit into the Commission's compliance with laws and policy in relation to search warrants. The Audit was completed in this reporting period.

The purpose of the Audit was to assess and determine whether, in applying for and executing search warrants during the period 1 July 2021 – 30 July 2023, the Commission complied with the ICAC Act, the LEPR Act and its own policies, procedures and operation manuals.

The purpose was also to determine whether the applications for, and execution of, those warrants constituted:

- an abuse of power, impropriety or other forms of misconduct (referred to as misconduct) or
- maladministration including unreasonable invasions of privacy and action or inaction of a serious nature that is contrary to law, unreasonable, unjust, oppressive or improperly discriminatory or based wholly or partly on improper motives.

The execution of a search warrant is a significant invasion of a person's privacy and liberties, while being an effective tool in conducting investigations. There is an obvious tension between the impact on an individual's right to privacy and the Commission's responsibility to fulfil its statutory mandate of investigating serious corrupt conduct. Audits are an effective way to ensure the lawfulness of the use of search warrants.

An earlier Audit was furnished to the Presiding Officers on 27 October 2020. This Audit was concerned with the period 1 July 2018 – 30 July 2019 and audited 37 search warrants. It.

The Audit which was completed in this reporting period was in relation to 9 search warrants which were executed between 1 July 2021 – 30 July 2023. This Audit compared the outcomes of the earlier Audit Report and the current Audit.

Report, the Inspector compared outcomes of each Audit.

In relation to the 9 search warrants executed in NSW, the Inspector was satisfied:

- each applicant had reasonable grounds, pursuant to s 40(4) of the ICAC Act, for believing that
  there is in or on any premises a document or other thing connected with any matter that is being
  investigated or that such a document or other thing may, within the next following 72 hours, be
  brought into or onto the premises
- the application requirements under s 62 of the LEPR Act were satisfied
- the applications were in the prescribed form and verified by oath or affirmation in accordance with ss 60, 60A and 66 of the LEPR Act
- the occupier's notices were in the prescribed form, in accordance with s 67 of the LEPR Act and served in each case on a person who appeared to be an occupier of the premises and who was of or above the age of 18 years
- the person executing the search warrant produced the warrant for inspection to an occupier of the premises when requested
- the warrants were executed within the hours of the day permitted by them (6:00am-9:00pm, under s 45 of the ICAC Act) and within the period of their validity
- no unreasonable force was used for the purpose of entering premises under the search warrant
- the items seized, the documents or other things were connected with a matter that was being investigated under s 47 of the ICAC Act
- in relation to the one application made by e-mail, the requirements under s 60A of the LEPR Act were satisfied
- there is no evidence of abuse of power, impropriety, or other forms of misconduct on the part of the Commission or officers of the Commission in the applying for and executing the search warrants
- there is also no evidence of maladministration, including unreasonable invasions of privacy, or of any action or inaction of a serious nature that was contrary to law, unreasonable, unjust, oppressive or improperly discriminatory or based wholly or partly on improper motives, in the applying for and executing the search warrants.

The Inspector concluded that, the ICAC had complied with the relevant law in each of the 9 warrants the subject of this Audit Report.

The Inspector identified a number of procedural anomalies during the Audit, which were brought to the attention of the ICAC. The Inspector was satisfied that the steps taken or to be taken by the Commission adequately addressed those matters raised in the Audit.

This Audit demonstrated the need for the Commission to regularly ensure alignment between its practices and policies in relation to the application and execution of search warrants.

It also evidenced that the Commission acted lawfully and in substantive compliance with those policy requirements which support lawful conduct.

The comparison between the 2020 Audit and this Audit, revealed that the Commission has improved its practices, albeit with far fewer search warrants being issued and executed during this Audit. It also is evidence that there is real benefit in such audits being conducted periodically to ensure ongoing alignment.

The Audit Report can be found on the Inspector's <u>website</u>.

## 5.5 Complaint handling

The Inspector can deal with complaints of abuse of power, impropriety and other forms of misconduct on the part of the Commission or officers of the Commission, (s 57B(1)(b) of the ICAC Act) and conduct amounting to maladministration of a serious nature (including, without limitation, delay in the conduct of investigations and unreasonable invasions of privacy) by the Commission or officers of the Commission. (s 57B(1)(c) of the ICAC Act)

The Inspector cannot deal with complaints against other bodies. Further, the Inspector cannot tell or compel the ICAC to investigate or not to investigate a particular complaint. Nor can the Inspector tell the Commission how an investigation should be conducted.

#### 5.5.1 Process

Each complaint received is assessed to determine if it is within jurisdiction and, if so, whether there is any substance to the complaint and, if so, whether it warrants investigation. Generally, the Inspector obtains from the complainant or the Commission a copy of the complaint and the Commission's response to it. In many cases, that is sufficient information to assess the complaint. However, on occasions during the reporting period, the Inspector engaged in much correspondence with the Commission and the complainant to complete her assessment.

In about half of the complaints received from the public, the complainant continued to correspond with the Inspector after the Inspector advised them, she would be taking no action in respect of their complaint.

All complaints made to the Inspector by a complainant or person acting on their behalf were finalised by letter or email to the complainant explaining the Inspector's decision and giving reasons for that decision.

#### 5.5.2 Number of contacts

The Inspector received **683** contacts from the public during the reporting period. Two individuals were responsible for most of those contacts.

None of these contacts were about the ICAC. Where appropriate, the Inspector referred them to the relevant agency.

#### 5.5.3 Number of complaints

In addition to the 683 contacts, the Inspector received **46** complaints and finalised **44 complaints** in this reporting year, a reduction on the **54 complaints** received in the last reporting period. As of 30 June 2025, there were 2 open complaints, each of which was received in June 2025.

Generally, complaints were made by the individuals concerned. However, a few complaints were made by third parties, and those were largely by legal advisors.

The Inspector made no findings of misconduct or maladministration by the Commission or its officers during the reporting period.

28 of those complaints were received by way of notification by the Commission under the MOU with the Inspector. This is a substantial increase on the 15 notifications received in the last reporting period. The Inspector does not consider that as an indicator of more concerning activity by staff. Rather, that the Commission is taking a broad view of the terms of the MOU and it reflects the cooperative relationship between the Commission and the Inspector.

#### Notifications from the ICAC

The Inspector received 28 notifications from the Commission under the MOU. Notifications that have been the subject of a case study in this Annual Report are marked with a hash.

#### Disclosure of information

An officer sent an email to an incorrect address. At the request of the Commission, the email was deleted by the person who received it. The Privacy Commissioner was notified and decided to take no action. The Commission counselled the officer.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Disclosure of information

An officer sent the wrong attachment to an agency. At the request of the Commission, the agency deleted it. The Privacy Commissioner was notified and decided to take no action. The Commission reminded staff of their obligations.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Disclosure of confidential information

An officer disclosed confidential information about an investigation at a social event. The officer denied the disclosure and further information was sought from but not provided by complainant.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted, however requested that she be informed if the further information was provided.

#### Information exchange

A Commission officer sent an incorrectly titled attachment in an email to a lawyer. The Commission advised the Privacy Commissioner who decided it did not constitute an eligible data breach under the Mandatory Notification Data Breach scheme.

The Privacy Commissioner recommended that the Commission further consider and evaluate its approach to information exchange with third parties and implement reasonable safeguards going forward. The Commission has since taken further action to remind staff of their obligations.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Breaches of confidentiality

An officer sent an email to a business address of a complainant (which he had provided in an earlier complaint) and called him on the phone, with the result that a record of the Commission having contacted him existed.

The Commission did not consider it had breached his confidentiality and decided not to contact him by phone or that email address in the future.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Communication by an officer

A Commission officer was abrupt, disrespectful and not empathetic.

The Commission reviewed the file note by the officer of the conversation and determined not to take any action.

The Inspector reviewed the file note and decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Exercise of coercive powers #

A summons to appear at a compulsory examination was served on the complainant in a public place.

The Inspector considered the Commission's account of its dealings with the complainant and accepted that it was reasonable to conclude that the complainant intended to avoid being interviewed or giving evidence and that service was effected in that place for a proper reason.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Exercise of coercive powers

The Commission unreasonably seized property of the complainant and harassed his family. The Inspector obtained all relevant information including a response from the Commission.

The Inspector did not consider that the Commission had harassed them by executing a search warrant, retaining the items seized, and serving a Notice to Produce and seizing 2 phones.

The Inspector concluded that the exercise of those powers in the context of an investigation which has resulted in a public inquiry, was not unreasonable.

#### Conduct of hearings

The Commission failed to provide exculpatory evidence during a public hearing in 2013. The complainant was ultimately found by the Commission to have engaged in corrupt conduct.

The Inspector noted that the complainant said he proposed to initiate legal proceedings against the finding, and the Inspector advised the Commission that that would be an appropriate forum for him to raise his concerns.

#### Communication by staff in the context of the Commission declining to investigate his complaint

The Commission officer was 'lazy', did not comprehend his complaint and did not address the issues raised.

The Commission provided a detailed letter setting out its dealings with the complainant and concluded that his matter was dealt with appropriately by the Commission.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Communication by Commission officers in context of a decision not to investigate a complaint

A Commission officer was rude when he tried to contact the Commission about the decision by the Commission to not investigate his complaint of corruption.

The Commission considered the relevant correspondence and file notes and concluded the Commission officer acted appropriately.

The Inspector reviewed the file note and having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Communication by Commission officers in context of a decision not to investigate a complaint

A Commission officer had prejudged his complaint. The Commission reviewed the relevant correspondence and concluded that the communication by the officer was reasonable and appropriate

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Communication by Commission officers in context of a decision not to investigate a complaint

A Commission officer was rude, did not use his correct titles and was corrupt. The Commission concluded that the officer used the titles used by the complainant and was not rude in correspondence and there was no evidence of corruption.

The nature of his complaint of corrupt conduct to the Commission was unclear.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Communication by Commission officers in context of a decision not to investigate a complaint

The Commission officer treated him unfairly; he was not given a chance to explain his corrupt conduct concerns and the Commission officer acted corruptly and dishonestly and breached (unidentified) legislation.

The Commission considered that the complainant had corresponded on many occasions to it about his complaint, around 40 occasions, and been given ample opportunity to express his concerns.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Communication by Commission officers in context of a decision not to investigate a complaint

A Commission officer engaged in 'wrongdoing' in telling the complainant in a telephone call that the ICAC did not have jurisdiction over the police.

Having reviewed the file note of the conversation, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission turned a blind eye to the complaint.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission was corrupt for not investigating his complaint about a local council.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission acted corruptly and incompetently with the intention of depriving him and his partner of workers compensation.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission was an accomplice to institutional corruption, knowingly retained corrupt officers and refused to comply with 'lawful transparency obligation' in deciding not to investigate his complaint against the police. His complaint was not within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission failed to act in accordance with its fiduciary duties by not investigating his complaint. His complaint was not within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Having regard to the circumstances, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission was protecting a senior public servant by not investigating a complaint against that senior public servant.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission was wilfully blind and incompetent in not investigating his complaint about his GIPA and FOI applications.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission was protecting the person complained about, has lied, been lazy and lacked care in deciding not to investigate his complaint.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission's decision demonstrates systemic corruption, failure by the Commission to uphold its mandate, an attempt to shield misconduct by a local health district and an abuse of process. His complaint was about the health care he received.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating it, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

#### Restrictions on communication

The Commission did not investigate his complaint in relation to his workers' compensation claim and the Commission's decision to limit further communication with him was an attempt to intimidate him.

The Inspector was satisfied that the Commission's decision not to investigate his complaint and to limit further communication with him were appropriate having regard to the nature of his complaint and the number of occasions he contacted the Commission.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Other

A Commission officer was charged with offences, and he had been stood down with full pay until the proceedings were completed. The offences were not related to his employment.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Other

The Commission failed to accommodate his need for reasonable adjustments by not accepting that he submits his information in multiple emails and by not identifying his complaint as a PID. The Commission advised he had sent 72 separate emails and had reviewed his complaint and confirmed that it was not a PID.

Having reviewed the correspondence, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Other

At a Commission public forum event, a person claimed that a Commissioner did not engage with him and pre-judged him. The person had not made any complaint about corrupt conduct to the Commission. The Commission advised the person that he was welcome to make a complaint of corrupt conduct which would be assessed in the usual way.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### **Complaints**

The Inspector received 18 complaints, those with an asterix were also notified to the Inspector by the Commission under the MOU. Complaints which have been the subject of a case study are marked with a hash.

#### Conduct at a public hearing #

The Commission published a graphic containing information which was inconsistent with the complainant's evidence.

The Inspector corresponded with the Commission and the Commission agreed to remove the graphic from its website and consider the matter further when the hearings were complete.

#### Exercise of coercive powers #

The use of the power to arrest his client was excessive, oppressive and abuse of power and not justified on the material provided to the Commission. The Inspector sought the Commission's response to the complaint and was satisfied that the Commission had sufficient evidence on affirmation to be satisfied that it was probable that his client, whose evidence was necessary and relevant to an Operation, would not attend before the Commission without being compelled to do so.

Having regard to these matters, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### Exercise of coercive powers \*

The Commission unreasonably seized property of the complainant and harassed his family. The Inspector sought the Commission's response to the complaint.

The Inspector did not consider that the Commission had harassed them by executing a search warrant, retaining the items seized, and recently serving a Notice to Produce and seizing two phones. The exercise of those powers in the context of an investigation which has resulted in a public inquiry, was not unreasonable.

Having regard to these matters, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

# Communication by Commission officers in context of a decision not to investigate a complaint

A Commission officer engaged in conduct that lacked procedural fairness, was biased and discriminatory when the Commission officer asked him to provide information in one email rather than various emails in 'dribs and drabs'.

The Inspector reviewed the correspondence between the Commission and the complainant from which it was clear that the complainant had provided a large volume of material to the Commission in various emails

Having regard to these matters, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

# Communication by Commission officers in context of a decision not to investigate a complaint

The Commission did not return his calls, and a Commission officer was rude to him. On 25 June 2024, the Inspector asked him to provide correspondence with the Commission. The complainant did not provide any further information.

# The Commission did not investigate a complaint in the context of a conflict of interest and inadequate reasons

The Inspector sought the Commission's response to the complaint and decided there was no conflict of interest. The Inspector found that the complaint was appropriately managed, and the reasons given were consistent with the requirements under the Act.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

# The Commission did not investigate a complaint and imposed restrictions on communication with the Commission \*

The Inspector considered the reasons for deciding not to investigate his complaint about police and the Magistrate or Judge and restricting his communications and decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission did not inform him of the reasons for not investigating his complaint about his NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal proceedings and has now restricted his communications with the Commission.

The Inspector sought the Commission's response to the complaint. The complaint to the Commission was made in 2020 and the complainant continued to email the Commission after being given reasons for not investigating the complaint.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint, the continued correspondence and the reasons for not investigating it were given, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission did not provide an explanation for its decision not to investigate his complaint. This complaint to the Inspector was the same as a complaint made to the Inspector in December 2023 and April 2024.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and that reasons for not investigating it were given, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The complainant wanted the Inspector to intervene and command the Commission to investigate his complaint. His complaint apparently concerned NSW Parliament blocking his emails.

The Inspector explained her powers and functions to the complainant and took no action.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission did not investigate a complaint about many transport related matters since 2008, most recently, the decisions about the integrated CBD and Inner West solution in 2023, and the Commission did not respond to his emails.

The Inspector was satisfied that the Commission had appropriately informed the complainant that further information not raising new issues may not be responded to.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission did not investigate a complaint about a compulsory acquisition of property because they were influenced by government to avoid incurring 'the wrath of the NSW Executive'.

The Inspector sought the Commission's response to the complaint and concluded that no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The complaint to the Commission concerned proceedings in the Local Court and included an allegation that the Magistrate had a conflict of interest and various allegations about other agencies. The Commission advised that that it was not its role to intervene in the conduct of proceedings or review the evidence presented, where corrupt conduct was not otherwise evident.

Having regard to the nature of the complaint and the reasons for not investigating, the Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The complaint to the Commission sought a merits review of another agency's decision.

The Inspector obtained relevant information and concluded that in making the decision to not investigate the Commission did not engage in misconduct or maladministration.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The Commission made a legal error in misinterpreting a Land and Environment Court decision made in 2009 which affected its decision not to investigate his proceedings in that Court in 2011-1012.

The Inspector was satisfied no legal error was made and decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint \*

The Commission was complicit in the 'systemic corruption of law and due process' committed by an agency. The complaint to the Commission concerned the conduct and outcome of legal proceedings.

The Inspector considered the correspondence between the complainant and the Commission. The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint \*

The Inspector considered the reasons for the Commission deciding not to investigate his complaint about various state agencies.

The Inspector decided no action by her was warranted.

#### The Commission did not investigate a complaint

The complaint to the Commission concerned the health care received by the complainant.

The Inspector obtained all relevant information from the Commission and decided no action by her was warranted.

#### 5.5.4 Case studies

#### Case Study 1

A solicitor acting on behalf of a client, complained to the Inspector by email dated 3 December 2024, about the 'excessive use of powers' in the arrest by the ICAC and the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) of his client about 18 months ago.

The account of the events leading to the arrest of his client, as evidenced by the various emails and other documents, appeared not to be in dispute. They are as follows.

His client attended a compulsory examination at the Commission on 25 October 2022.

On 1 March 2023, his client was served with a summons, dated 28 February 2023, to attend and give evidence at the Commission's Operation Hector public inquiry on Monday 20 March 2023 at 10am. He was informed that the Inquiry was scheduled for six weeks until 28 April 2023. He was further informed that he would not be required to give evidence on 20 March 2023 but at a later date.

His client's then lawyer emailed the Commission on 13 March 2023 advising that his client had booked airline tickets overseas to attend to his father's health, departing on 17 March 2023 and returning on 20 April 2023 and provided a copy of those tickets.

His client's flights were booked 2 days after he was served with the summons, being 3 March 2023. On Monday 13 March 2023, the Commission requested that his client produce his father's hospital records. His client did not produce any hospital records.

On 16 March 2023, his client was arrested by the ICAC and the NSWPF.

The lawyer was notified within a very short period of time of his client's arrest, and his client was released later that day.

The Commission has provided the information it relied on in issuing the search warrant. It included the following:

- His client was a central witness to the Operation Hector public inquiry.
- It was apparent his client intended to depart Australia for the majority of the duration of the public inquiry.

The Inspector was satisfied that the Commission had sufficient evidence on affirmation to be satisfied that it was probable that his client, whose evidence was desired and necessary and relevant to Operation Hector, would not attend before the Commission to give evidence without being compelled to do so.

In all the circumstances, the Inspector was not satisfied that the manner in which the Commission carried out the arrest indicates that it engaged in maladministration or misconduct.

#### Case Study 2

The Inspector received 3 complaints in the last reporting period about the same events, namely the conduct of ICAC officers during the execution of a search warrant and the timeliness of the return of seized property. Those matters are reported in the 2023-2024 Annual Report.

In March 2025, the same complainant complained that, in the further exercise of its coercive powers, the Commission seized 2 of his mobile phones, 1 of which was a business mobile phone, and that:

by taking both handsets, unreasonably in my opinion, you have left me without a handset with which to conduct my business and other matters.

The temporary mobile phone provided by the ICAC was apparently incompatible with his SIM card and led him to purchase another handset for \$1000.00.

He also complained that 'it begs the question what could you not do between December 2023 and January 2025 that you need to do now', which was a reference to the phones which had been seized in December 2023 and returned in January 2025.

"It is my strong expectation that ICAC NSW cease harassing me and my family, cease turning up at my home unannounced, return my mobile phone handsets to me and reimburse me for the cost of the replacement phone and for my time in purchasing that phone.

It should be noted that I have not been accused of any offence, that I have attended ICAC NSW offices and given evidence and been excused from giving further evidence.

Shortly after that complaint to the Inspector, the ICAC published its scope of the public inquiry into allegations concerning School Infrastructure NSW and the Commission summoned the complainant to give evidence in that inquiry.

The Inspector assessed the complaint in light of the proposed public inquiry and advised the complainant of the following:

- section 47(2) of the ICAC Act permits the Commission to retain their mobile phone 'for so long as, its retention by the Commission is reasonably necessary for the purposes of an investigation to which it is relevant'
- it is evident from the scope of the public inquiry and that he had been summoned to give evidence, that the phones were reasonably necessary for the purposes of that investigation
- there were likely to be operational reasons for the Commission wanting to access phone records for the period January 2025 to the date of seizure
- the Commission has no obligation to provide a replacement handset or reimburse him for the purchase of a replacement handset.

The Inspector concluded that, in all these circumstances, she did not consider that the Commission had harassed him by executing a search warrant in December 2023, by retaining the items seized, and recently serving a Notice to Produce and seizing 2 phones. The exercise of those powers in the context of an investigation which has resulted in a public inquiry, was not unreasonable.

The Inspector was satisfied that the Commission, and its officers, had not engaged in conduct amounting to abuse of power, impropriety and other forms of misconduct or maladministration in the Commission's dealings with him.

#### Case Study 3

The Inspector received a complaint from a witness in a public hearing of the Commission. The complaint was that the Commission published a graphic containing information which was inconsistent with the complainant's evidence. The graphic was published in the media and available online. The Inspector reviewed the evidence and the graphic, which was an exhibit, and formed the view the graphic suggested that the complainant had received a benefit from a particular contract, when the complainant had given sworn, unchallenged evidence that he had not received the benefit.

The Inspector sought the Commission's views on the complaint and provided her observations.

Following a preliminary assessment, the Commission agreed with the Inspector's observations. The Commission 'unpublished' the exhibit from the website, pending considering of the position at the conclusion of the evidence.

#### 5.5.5 Public interest disclosures

The Inspector received no PIDs.

A PID received and reported in the last Annual Report concerned misuse of staff entitlements. The Inspector referred the PID to the Commission for it to investigate on the basis that there was a low risk of detrimental action being taken against the maker of the PID. The Inspector recommended that the Commission appoint an external investigator, which it did. That external investigator had not yet completed its investigation by the end of the previous reporting period.

That investigation was finalised in this reporting period, and the Inspector was satisfied that no issue of misconduct or maladministration arose.

#### 5.5.6 Reviews

The Inspector is not obliged to review decisions she has made. However, the Inspector has taken the view that if a person is dissatisfied with her decision and provides reasons and additional information, she will review her decision.

The Inspector reviewed her decision in 3 matters at the request of the complainant.

In each case, the Inspector determined that her decision remained the same; in two of the matters, after receiving and reviewing further information.

#### 5.5.7 Timeframes

The average time to finalise a complaint (including requests for a review of the Inspector's decision) was **10.98 days**. The median time was **8 days**. This period was less than half of the time taken in the previous reporting period: average: **25.23 days**; median **16 days**.

The reduction in time is likely because there were fewer direct complaints to the Inspector during the reporting period, and more MOU notified complaints.

# 5.6 Reports made to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament

On 31 October 2024, the Inspector presented to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the President of the Legislative Council:

- an Audit of applications for and the execution of search warrants by the Independent Commission Against Corruption from 2021-2023
- the Annual Report 2023-24.

# 6 Conclusion

## 6.1 Conclusion

During the reporting period, I have continued to have a co-operative and effective working relationship with the Chief Commissioner, Commissioners and senior staff.

From my observations, the Commission does promote the integrity and accountability of public administration in NSW, consistent with the objects of the ICAC Act. Its public hearings attract widespread interest, in particular among public servants, and from my interactions with the public service, significantly influences their work. The Commission has also carried out extensive corruption prevention and education work, which complements the public hearings.

In oversighting the Commission, I have had many opportunities during the reporting period to review its exercise of coercive powers and the conduct of the Commission and its staff during hearings. I am satisfied that the Commission regards the protection of the public interest and the prevention of breaches of public trust as its paramount concerns, consistent with the ICAC Act.

Gail Furness SC Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption 30 October 2025

Annual Report 2024–25

# Appendix A: Annual report on the Inspector's obligations under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Section 125 of the GIPA Act requires an agency to prepare an annual report on its functions under the Act. Clause 8 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018* (NSW) (the GIPA Regulation) outlines what must be included in the report. The Inspector's report is set out in this appendix.

Section 7(3) of the GIPA Act provides that 'an agency must, at intervals of not more than 12 months, review its program for the release of government information under this section to identify the kinds of government information held by the agency that should in the public interest be made publicly available and that can be made publicly available without imposing unreasonable additional costs on the agency'.

The Inspector ensures that her reports that are tabled in the NSW Parliament are made available on its website. Other than those reports, annual reports and policies, there is limited information held by the Inspector that can be proactively released as most of the information held is excluded under sch 2 cl 2 or is subject of secrecy provisions under sch 1 cl 1(1) of the GIPA Act.

The Inspector did not receive any access applications during the reporting period (including withdrawn applications and invalid applications).

The Inspector did not receive any applications during the reporting year that it refused, either wholly or partly, because the application was for the disclosure of information referred to in sch 1 to the GIPA Act (information for which there is a conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure).

Tables A to I provide statistical information about access applications as required by clause 8(d) and Schedule 2 of the GIPA Regulation.

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome\*

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not-for-profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representatives)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>\*</sup> More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with information	Refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>\*</sup> A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

#### Table C: Invalid applications

Reason for invalidity	Number of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (s 41 of the Act)	0
Application is for excluded information of the agency (s 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (s 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	0
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure – matters listed in Schedule 1 to Act

	Number of times consideration used*
Overriding secrecy laws	0
Cabinet information	0
Executive Council information	0
Contempt	0
Legal professional privilege	0
Excluded information	0
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0
Transport safety	0
Adoption	0
Care and protection of children	0
Ministerial code of conduct	0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0
Information about complaints to Judicial Commission	0
Information about authorised transactions under <i>Electricity Network Assets</i> (Authorised Transactions) Act 2015	0
Information about authorised transaction under Land and Property Information NSW (Authorised Transaction) Act 2016	0

<sup>\*</sup> More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure – matters listed in table to s 14 of Act

	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	0
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0

#### Table F: Timeliness

	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	0
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	0
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
Total	0

#### Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)

	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	0	0	0
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under s 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by NCAT	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

<sup>\*</sup> The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.

#### Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)

	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see s 54 of the Act)	0

#### Table I: Applications transferred to other agencies under Division 2 of Part 4 of the Act (by type of transfer)

	Number of applications transferred
Agency-initiated transfers	0
Applicant-initiated transfers	0

# Appendix B: Annual report on the Inspector's obligations under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022 (NSW)

#### Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022 (NSW) (the PID Act)

Section 78 of the PID Act requires each agency to provide an annual return to the NSW Ombudsman in relation to each period of 12 months ending on 30 June. Clause 5 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2022* (NSW) (PID Regulation) outlines the information that must be included in relation to each voluntary PID received or dealt with by the agency during the return period. The Inspector's return under this Act is also set out in this appendix.

**Table L and M** provides statistical information as required by the PID Regulation.

#### PID policy and staff training

During the reporting period, the Inspector's Principal Legal Advisor who assists with the handling of PIDs provided to the Administrative Support Officer:

- a copy of the legislation
- a copy of the PID policy and drew their attention to its application and

That staff member also attended PID training provided by the NSW Ombudsman.

#### Annual return -PID Act

Table L: Category 1 – voluntary public interest disclosures relating to the agency

Disclosures received by the agency during the return period	0
Disclosures that were made by public officials	0
Reasons the agency did not deal with, or ceased dealing with, each of the disclosures as a PID	Not applicable

#### Table M: Category 2 – other voluntary public interest disclosures

Disclosures received by the agency during the return period	0
Disclosures that were made by public officials	0
Reasons the agency did not deal with, or ceased dealing with, each of the disclosures as a PID	Not applicable

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