

**Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Building & Construction
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Racing**

Level 10 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: +61 3 6165 7739
Email Minister.Archer@dpac.tas.gov.au



8 JUL 2019

Hon Ivan Dean MLC
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mr Dean

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry into the Office of the Ombudsman. As the Attorney-General, noting that the Ombudsman is an independent statutory officer whose office carries out its functions independently of Government, I do not intend to appear at the inquiry.

It would not be appropriate for me to provide any commentary on the operations of the Ombudsman or his Office. Nor do I have any detailed knowledge of the matters that have come before the Ombudsman.

As described in my formal submission to the inquiry, the Government has confidence in the Ombudsman's office ability to manage its workload in the most effective and efficient way possible.

The Government's oversight of the Ombudsman's Office reaches only as far as the funding allocation provided in the Budget, and it would not be appropriate for me to reflect on how the Ombudsman allocates those resources. However, as I have said previously, I and the Government have confidence in the Ombudsman's ability in this regard.

I understand the Ombudsman is appearing before the inquiry and he is best placed to provide this information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Elise Archer", written over a blue ink checkmark.

Hon Elise Archer MP
Attorney-General