

Mr Ed Cocks MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Cocks

Inquiry into the operation of the 2024 ACT Election and *Electoral Act 1992* - Interim report

We write in relation to the Committee's *Inquiry into the operation of the 2024 ACT Election and Electoral Act 1992 – Interim report*, and specifically to respond to the two Committee recommendations directed to the Commission. The Commission remains committed to the continuous strengthening of electoral integrity and welcomes the Committee's engagement on these matters.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that Elections ACT, in consultation with political parties and electoral commissions across Australia, elaborate on the minimum standards to be used by agencies to protect the personal data of voters on the electoral roll.

The Commission supports this recommendation.

As part of the Commission's ongoing integrity and assurance program, the establishment of an internal audit into the protection of electoral roll data by prescribed authorities and the Sheriff is being considered. The proposed audit is intended to, among other things:

- seek to evaluate the reasonableness and adequacy of the security controls and data-protection practices used by each prescribed authority and the Sheriff when handling electoral roll data.
- assess the extent to which each entity has implemented proportionate, risk-based security measures aligned with the intent of recognised cyber security frameworks (such as the ACSC Essential Eight, the Information Security Manual, or equivalent controls). The assessment will focus on practical control themes including access control, secure storage and transfer, endpoint protection, patching and update processes, data retention and destruction, incident response, and breach-notification arrangements.
- identify gaps that present material risks to electoral roll data and recommend feasible, proportionate improvements tailored to the capability and risk profile of each entity.

Consistent with the Committee's recommendation, the Commission will also consult with political parties and with other electoral jurisdictions across Australia. This engagement will help inform the minimum data protection standards that could apply when electoral roll data is also provided to MLAs, registered officers of political parties, and candidates once formally nominated.

The Commission will report back to the Committee and the ACT Government following completion of this work.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Electoral Commission consult with political parties before progressing a proposal to require all registered political parties to maintain records of signed party membership forms.

The Commission also supports this recommendation.

The Commission will consult with all currently registered political parties regarding the proposal to require parties, whether seeking registration or maintaining their registration, to keep records of signed party membership forms (physical or digitally signed). Feedback from political parties will assist the Commission in assessing the operational impact, practicality, and legislative mechanisms for strengthening the integrity of party-membership verification processes.

The Commission will report back to the Committee and the ACT Government on the outcomes of the consultation in due course.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should the Committee require any further information.

Yours sincerely



David W Kalisch
Chairperson
17 March 2026



Damian Cantwell AM CSC
Electoral Commissioner
17 March 2026



Ed Killesteyn PSM
Member
17 March 2026