

Response to the recommendations made to the Victorian Government by the Integrity and Oversight Committee in its *Inquiry into the performance of the Victorian integrity agencies 2022/23*

Background

The Victorian Government thanks the Integrity and Oversight Committee for its report and acknowledges the valuable work of the Committee in monitoring and reviewing the performance and functions of Integrity Oversight Victoria (formerly the Victorian Inspectorate), the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, and the Victorian Ombudsman, and since its establishment in 2024, the Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Commission.

Response

Nine of the Committee’s 14 recommendations were directed to government. Government’s response to those recommendations is set out in the table below. The Committee also directed recommendations to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission and Integrity Oversight Victoria.

Committee recommendation	Government response
Recommendation 1 That the Victorian Government, in consultation with the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC), review and, if necessary, revise the Budget Paper Number 3 quantitative and qualitative assessment targets to ensure their adequacy and fitness for purpose, taking into account the volume and complexity of complaints and notifications handled by IBAC.	Support in principle The government supports the intent of this recommendation, noting that each year all agencies have the opportunity to review and revise their objective indicators, outputs and performance measures for the upcoming financial year to ensure they remain fit for purpose and comply with the Department of Treasury and Finance’s Resource Management Framework. The government will continue to work with the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) to ensure that its performance measures and targets provide an appropriate benchmark for its operations.
Recommendation 5 That the Victorian Government, after consulting with relevant stakeholders, consider seeking amendment of the underpinning legislation to make the Information Security Incident Notification Scheme mandatory.	Under review The government will further consider this recommendation, in consultation with the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) and other impacted stakeholders. The government notes that this recommendation overlaps with recommendations of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee’s ‘Inquiry into workplace surveillance’ report, tabled in Parliament on 13 May 2025. As noted in the government response to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee’s report, tabled on 18 November 2025, the government will consider legislative options to implement modern and effective technology-neutral laws to regulate the use of workplace surveillance in Victoria. Given the potentially wide-ranging implications of new workplace surveillance laws for Victoria’s privacy and data protection framework, it is appropriate that any response to this recommendation also be informed by this work.
Recommendation 6 That the Victorian Government, after consulting with relevant stakeholders, consider amending the legislation underpinning the Information Security Incident Notification Scheme so that it extends to public health service providers, local councils, courts, tribunals and universities.	Under review The government will further consider this recommendation, in consultation with the OVIC and other impacted stakeholders. As with recommendation 5, this recommendation overlaps with recommendations of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee’s ‘Inquiry into workplace surveillance’ report and it is appropriate that any response to this recommendation be informed by work to implement recommendations of that report.
Recommendation 7 That the Victorian Government, after consulting with relevant stakeholders, consider seeking amendment of the <i>Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014</i> (Vic) for the obligations within ss 88(2), 89(2) and 89(3) to apply to instances where contracted service providers have access to, or use of, ‘public sector data systems’.	Support in principle The government supports the appropriate regulation of information and data held by contracted service providers. The government will further consider this recommendation and in doing so, will consult with OVIC and public sector agencies.



Committee recommendation	Government response
Recommendation 8 That the Victorian Government review the desirability and feasibility of directly funding the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner through Parliament's appropriation, similar to the funding arrangements for the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, Integrity Oversight Victoria and the Victorian Ombudsman.	Do not support While the government supports the important work conducted by the OVIC and is committed to continuing to work with OVIC to ensure it is appropriately resourced to perform its functions, it does not consider that changes are required to OVIC's funding model at this time.
Recommendation 9 That the Victorian Government provide additional funding to the Victorian Ombudsman for the purpose of (1) developing a data-led and risk-based program of reviews of public sector bodies' complaint handling and (2) assisting public bodies to more effectively and independently utilise complaints data in proactively addressing issues of community concern.	Under review The government will consider this recommendation further as part of the annual State budget process to consider funding priorities across government.
Recommendation 10 That the Victorian Government seek amendment of the <i>Ombudsman Act 1973</i> (Vic) to grant the Victorian Ombudsman greater powers and flexibility to decide how it handles public interest complaints.	Support in principle The government supports the intent of this recommendation, that is, to empower the Victorian Ombudsman to handle public interest complaints in a timely and resource efficient way. The government will further consider this recommendation, in consultation with the Victorian Ombudsman and other relevant agencies, to identify any possible amendments to promote efficiencies to the Victorian Ombudsman's public interest disclosure functions.
Recommendation 11 That the Victorian Government consider whether any improvements are needed to the way in which Victorian integrity agencies, including the Victorian Ombudsman, are funded, including any associated budgetary processes, bearing in mind recommendations in the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, VO and Victorian Auditor-General's Office's 2022 joint paper, Budget independence for Victoria's Independent Officers of Parliament.	Do not support While the government supports the important work of the Victorian integrity agencies, it does not consider that changes to funding arrangements are required at this time.
Recommendation 14 That the Victorian Government seek amendment of the <i>Parliamentary Committees Act 2003</i> (Vic) section 7, to require that the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, Integrity Oversight Victoria, the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, the Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Commission and the Victorian Ombudsman, provide the Parliament of Victoria with their responses to Integrity and Oversight Committee (IOC) and independent performance auditor recommendations directed to them, within 6 months of the tabling of the IOC report within which they are contained.	Do not support Integrity agencies have important responsibilities preventing and investigating corruption or misconduct, overseeing public administration, and promoting ethical practices in Victoria. Compelling these agencies to respond to reports within a fixed time frame can divert resources from performing important core integrity operations and functions. The government notes that the integrity agencies are subject to several oversight mechanisms to monitor their performance.