



House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

18 August 2026

Mr Luke Gaetani

Via email only: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Gaetani,

Request for written response

I refer to previous correspondence to you dated 9 April 2026, 16 June 2026 and 9 July 2026 in relation to the House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions (the Committee). As you are aware, the first item of correspondence invited you to provide a submission to the Committee, while the latter two provided acknowledgement of your right of reply under Standing Order 357A (13).

To date, the Committee has not received any reply correspondence from you, including receipt of any of its communications.

Throughout its period of Inquiry, the Committee has received evidence in regard to a Tasracing communication to industry participants endorsing TasInsure, which was sent during the 2025 Caretaker Period. This evidence refers to the context of the communications, including actions undertaken by different individuals. In this context your role as then-Senior Adviser to the former-Minister for Racing, Ms Jane Howlett MP, was raised.

Accordingly, and noting that no previous requests for your participation have been successful, the Committee respectfully requests your consideration of, and response to, the following questions:

1. Did you, of your own accord, propose to sign and Table in the House of Assembly your statutory declarations, dated 2 March 2026 and 5 March 2026?

If no, what process lead to the tabling of these statutory declarations?

2. Do you maintain as true and accurate the statements made in your statutory declarations, dated 2 March 2026 and 5 March 2026?
3. In regard to Tasracing's promotion of TasInsure on 2 July 2025 during the 2025 Caretaker Period, what was the nature of your correspondence with Mr Andrew Jenkins, CEO of Tasracing, and Mr Nick Turner, of CorComms on this date?

After the [email](#) from Mr Turner to yourself, timestamped 4:52 p.m., 2 July 2025, what other correspondence, if any, did you have with Mr Turner? Please provide if available.

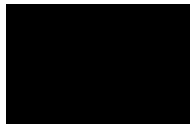
4. Would you like to provide the Committee with any further response regarding the Tasracing TasInsure communication of 2 July 2025?

As you may be aware, section 1 of the *Parliamentary Privilege Act 1858* (the Act) provides that the Houses of the Parliament of Tasmania, including their committees, are 'empowered to order any person to attend before the House or before such committee.' Section 2 (1) of the Act provides that the Houses and their committees may issue, by summons, the attendance of a person, or the provision of requested papers. This compellable power is applicable to ministerial staff.

Noting the Committee is in its final stages of reporting and the importance that the aforementioned questions hold, a response by way of reply correspondence to the Committee Secretary, **by 12.00 pm Thursday, 27 August 2026, is requested.**

If you have any questions about this letter, or wish to request an alternate means of engagement with the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or the Committee Secretary at caretaker@parliament.tas.gov.au or on 6212 2139.

Yours sincerely,



Tabatha Badger MP
Chair

Tabatha Badger MP
Chair
Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions
Email via: caretaker@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Badger

Request for written response

I refer to your email of 18 August 2026 in relation to the House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions (the Committee) and request that my correspondence be treated as confidential (in camera) consistent with the provisions for Witnesses to the Committee.

I can assure the Committee of my cooperation with its work and am pleased to provide answers to the questions in regard to a Tasracing communication to industry participants relating to TasInsure.

1. I can confirm that of my own accord, I proposed, signed and provided personally to be tabled in the House of Assembly statutory declarations, dated 2 March 2026 and 5 March 2026.
2. Yes.
3. I do not recall any communication with Mr Jenkins on 2 July 2025. This is consistent with his evidence to the Committee on 3 July 2026.

Mr WINTER - There was no communication or encouragement from anyone in the Liberal Party or [former] Minister's office or Premier's office? None at all?

Mr JENKINS - Not at all.

In relation to the nature of communication with Mr Turner on 2 July 2025, my recollection is consistent with my Statutory Declaration and the evidence provided by Mr Turner to the Committee on 15 June 2026. Namely a phone call where details about the TasInsure policy was provided to the best of my then knowledge. Consistent with the advice provided by Mr Turner to the Committee, I

was not made aware, to my knowledge, in that phone call or informed of any external communications that were being planned.

Mr TURNER "what wasn't communicated to the Minister's office was how we were going to communicate - whether it was a text, email, online, media release."

In relation to the email from Mr Turner to myself, timestamped 4:52 p.m., 2 July 2025, no other correspondence or a response from me to that email was provided. For the awareness of the Committee, I do not recall receipt of that email.

4. To clarify, at no time did I seek to try and make Tasracing provide any information externally to its wider stakeholders. I understand this was a decision solely by Tasracing. This is consistent with the information provided to the Committee by both Mr Jenkins and Mr Turner.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide answers in relation to the work of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



22/08/26

Luke Gaetani



House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

1 September 2026

Mr Luke Gaetani

Via email only: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Gaetani,

Follow up on written responses to questions

I thank you for your response to the House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions (the Committee), dated 27 August 2026, in which you responded to the questions put to you by the Committee. The Committee appreciates your response and notes your assurance of cooperation.

Having formally received and considered your response at a meeting on 27 August 2026, the Committee has resolved to seek further clarification on a number of matters.

Confidentiality request

First, the Committee notes your request for your correspondence to be treated as confidential. As you have noted, participants in, or witnesses to, committees may make publication requests regarding their evidence. As per clause 7 of [Standing Order 357A](#), any such requests are to be made alongside 'reasons for any such application,' to assist the Committee in its determinations. **Accordingly, the Committee requests you provide detail as to the reason for your confidentiality request.**

Furthermore, I note that, while the Committee will take any such reasons into account when considering potential publication, it ultimately remains its decision whether or not to publish your correspondence. As per clause 8 of the aforementioned Standing Order, any such publication would be done in consultation with yourself.

Response to Question 2

Second, the Committee requests further response to Question 2. By way of reminder, the Committee asked:

Do you maintain as true and accurate the statements made in your statutory declarations, dated 2 March 2026 and 5 March 2026?

In your response dated 27 August 2026, you replied:

Yes.

The Committee notes in your statutory declaration dated 5 March 2026 you stated:

I can confirm that at no time was I aware of Tasracing's intended plan to issue any public communication about the TasInsure policy on any platform.

In evidence received from Mr Nick Turner of CorComms, the Committee notes the subject of the email between yourself and Mr Turner reads as follows:

FW: Message to Industry¹

In evidence before the Committee, Mr Turner also stated the following in regard to his perspective on the information provided in his communications with you:

Mr WINTER - Is it fair to say that Mr Gaetani was aware of Tasracing's intended plan to issue public communication about TasInsure?

Mr TURNER - You'd probably need to ask him, but - Mr WINTER - From your perspective?

Mr TURNER - Well, I sent him the message. The message was clear about what we wanted to say but, again, we didn't talk about timing nor did we talk about the method of delivery.

Mr WINTER - But just to be clear, he was aware that Tasracing intended to issue public communication about Tasracing's policy?

Mr TURNER - Well, yes. We sent that to him in that context. As I mentioned, across all ministerial offices, we do send, as a courtesy, what we're going to say.²

How does the statement in your statutory declaration that you were 'at no time' aware of the pending public communication from Tasracing regarding TasInsure not conflict with the evidence provided by Mr Turner?

Response to Question 3

Third, the Committee requests further response to Question 3. By way of reminder, the Committee asked:

In regard to Tasracing's promotion of TasInsure on 2 July 2025 during the 2025 Caretaker Period, what was the nature of your correspondence with Mr Andrew Jenkins, CEO of Tasracing, and Mr Nick Turner, of CorComms on this date?

After the [email](#) from Mr Turner to yourself, timestamped 4:52 p.m., 2 July 2025, what other correspondence, if any, did you have with Mr Turner? Please provide if available.

In your response dated 27 August 2026, you replied:

I do not recall any communication with Mr Jenkins on 2 July 2025. This is consistent with his evidence to the Committee on 3 July 2026.

Mr WINTER - There was no communication or encouragement from anyone in the Liberal Party or [former] Minister's office or Premier's office? None at all?

Mr JENKINS - Not at all.

¹ Additional information from Mr Nick Turner, dated 18 June 2026, https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/107360/18062026_Turner_Nick_Response-to-Additional-Information-request_Redacted.pdf

² Transcript of Evidence, 15 June 2026, Mr Nick Turner, pp. 40-41, https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/107439/Transcript-of-Evidence-HA-SC-on-Caretaker-Conventions-Mon-15-June-2026.pdf

In relation to the nature of communication with Mr Turner on 2 July 2025, my recollection is consistent with my Statutory Declaration and the evidence provided by Mr Turner to the Committee on 15 June 2026. Namely a phone call where details about the TasInsure policy were provided to the best of my knowledge. Consistent with the advice provided by Mr Turner to the Committee, I was not made aware, to my knowledge, in that phone call or informed of any external communications that were being planned.

Mr TURNER “what wasn't communicated to the Minister's office was how we were going to communicate - whether it was a text, email, online, media release - that wasn't communicated, but the content was.”

In relation to the email from Mr Turner to myself, timestamped 4:52 p.m., 2 July 2025, no other correspondence or a response from me to that email was provided. For the awareness of the Committee, I do not recall receipt of that email.

As you have raised, the Committee heard evidence from Mr Turner as regards to the communication which occurred between you both on 2 July 2025. This shows an email was sent from Mr Turner at 4:52 p.m., which included the full draft text of the communication to be sent to industry. A phone call then occurred between yourself and Mr Turner, in which this matter was also discussed. Mr Turner describes such contact as a ‘line of sight,’ for the Government to be aware of communications to be released on behalf of Tasracing. He suggests this is a standard, courteous procedure followed by CorComms,³ and that the draft communication to industry was sent to you in the ‘context’ of being a pending public communication from Tasracing.⁴

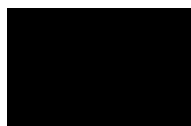
Please explain to the Committee the basis for your continued contention that the email subject line and content, as well as the phone call from Mr Turner, did not make clear the intention for public communication from Tasracing?

To continue to assist the Committee in its work, a response by way of reply correspondence to the Committee Secretary, **by 4.00 pm Monday, 14 September 2026, is requested.**

While the Committee appreciates your willing participation, it reminds you of its powers under section 1 of the *Parliamentary Privilege Act 1858*.

If you have any questions about this letter, or wish to request an alternate means of engagement with the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or the Committee Secretary at caretaker@parliament.tas.gov.au or on 6212 2139.

Yours sincerely,



Tabatha Badger MP
Chair

³ Transcript of Evidence, 15 June 2026, Mr Nick Turner, pp. 38-39,
https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/107439/Transcript-of-Evidence-HA-SC-on-Caretaker-Conventions-Mon-15-June-2026.pdf

⁴ Transcript of Evidence, 15 June 2026, Mr Nick Turner, pp. 40-41,
https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/107439/Transcript-of-Evidence-HA-SC-on-Caretaker-Conventions-Mon-15-June-2026.pdf

Tabatha Badger MP
Chair
Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions
Email via: caretaker@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Badger,

Follow up on written responses to quest

Thank you for your email of 1 September 2026 in relation to the House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions (the Committee) and the Committee's resolution seeking further clarification on several matters.

The Committee will be aware that these matters have been the subject of extensive and significant media coverage, during which I have been personally named. I am not a Member of Parliament or a public figure, and I believe I am within my rights to request confidentially. My request is reasonable in the circumstances and consistent with the Parliament of Tasmania's Information for Witnesses, which states that information should be kept confidential where "it is of such a nature that the committee ought reasonably to form the view that it should be kept confidential."

In response to Committees further questions, I reiterate that I stated truthfully that I do not recall seeing the email that I understand is being referred to, namely the email timestamped 4:52 pm on 2 July 2025.

As I noted previously, the email did not seek my approval of any proposed public communication. And consistent with my statutory declaration and my response of 27 August 2026, I have no recollection of reading the email at the time and was not aware of the pending public communication from Tasracing regarding TasInsure.

I am unable to provide any further information beyond my previous written response, and my evidence remains that I do not recall reading the email and have nothing further to add.

In relation to the phone call with Mr Turner, my role at the time involved regularly liaising with stakeholders on policy matters across a range of portfolios. It was common for stakeholders to contact ministerial advisers seeking information, clarification or discussion about policy issues.

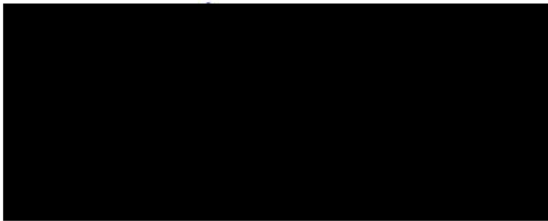
I understand that others may have formed a different view of the purpose of the communication. However, based on my recollection of the call and the information conveyed to me at the time, I did not understand that a public communication was being planned or imminent.

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My recollection, which I understand is consistent with other evidence before the Committee, is that no proposed external communication, media strategy or public announcement by Tasracing was discussed with me during that call.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide further clarification in relation to the work of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Luke Gaetani.

Luke Gaetani

OFFICIAL



House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

21 September 2026

Mr Luke Gaetani

Via email only: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Gaetani,

Decision of the House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

On behalf of the House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions (the Committee), I thank you for your correspondence dated 14 September 2026.

As you are aware, in its letter dated 1 September 2026, the Committee asked as to your reasons for requesting confidentiality over your letter dated 27 August 2026. You addressed this in your most recent letter.

Having considered the nature of your request at a meeting on 15 September 2026, the Committee has resolved that your items of correspondence are not of such a nature that the Committee ought reasonably to form the view that they should be kept confidential. Accordingly, the following items of correspondence will be published:

- Letter from the Committee to yourself, dated 18 August 2026;
- Letter from yourself to the Committee, dated 27 August 2026; and
- Letter from the Committee to yourself, dated 1 September 2026; and
- Letter from yourself to the Committee, dated 14 September 2026; and
- This letter from the Committee to yourself, dated 21 September 2026.

In making this resolution, the Committee also resolved to inform you of this matter and the pending publication of the aforementioned correspondence. Accordingly, these items will be published in a combined file on the Committee webpage at **4 p.m., Tuesday 22 September 2026.**

I thank you for your time and assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box representing a redacted signature.

Tabatha Badger MP
Chair