



**The Honourable David Elliott MP**

**Minister for Counter Terrorism  
Minister for Corrections  
Minister for Veterans Affairs**

Justice  
Ags TW  
Gen Sec

Mr Stewart Little  
General Secretary  
Public Service Association  
GPO Box 3365  
SYDNEY NSW 2001



CESC18/00357

Dear Mr Little

I refer to your letter dated 22 February 2018 about the terms of reference for the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No 4 – Inquiry into Parklea Correctional Centre being extended to include the benchmarking of NSW correctional centres.

The Public Service Associations' (PSA) objections to benchmarking correctional centres are acknowledged. The safety and security of Corrective Services NSW staff and the community are paramount.

I understand the PSA is integral to the benchmarking consultation process with representatives from all sub-groups participating. Consultations include safety and security issues associated with benchmarks, with detailed risk assessments prepared and where appropriate, staffing resources are changed. Risk assessments and other documents are provided to the PSA for further comment prior to benchmarks being finalised.

I do not consider it appropriate to halt the benchmarking process. Benchmarking has commenced in over 90 per cent of correctional centres. All of the Inquiry's recommendations will be considered and where appropriate, applied.

I trust the PSA will make its concerns known by making a submission to the Inquiry.

I regret that I am unable to meet with representatives of the PSA at this time.

Yours sincerely

David Elliott MP  
**MINISTER FOR COUNTER TERRORISM  
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONS  
MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS**

March 2018