

# COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO QUEENSLAND'S CHILD SAFETY SYSTEM

## FOURTH RULING ON CLAIMS OF PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY

*16 April 2026*

1. Yesterday evening I issued Notice to Produce 406 to the Director-General of the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (**the Department**) requesting:
  - a. The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women 2020-21 Budget Submission and Corrigendum; and
  - b. Any emails attaching a final or near final version of the documents in (a).
2. This Notice followed an exchange I had with Senior Counsel for the Department on 14 April 2026, in which I requested that the Department seek to locate any final copy of the budget submissions to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee (**CBRC**) for the 2020-21 financial year. At that time, it was not apparent whether or precisely when a submission to CBRC had been finalised for the 2020-21 financial year.
3. Late yesterday evening, the Department produced documents in response to the Notice with the following document identification numbers:
  - DFS.0406.0001.0001
  - DFS.0406.0001.0003
  - DFS.0406.0001.0012
  - DFS.0406.0001.0013
  - DFS.0406.0001.0319
  - DFS.0406.0001.0554
  - DFS.0406.0001.0572
  - DFS.0406.0001.0633
  - DFS.0406.0001.0634
  - DFS.0406.0001.0646
  - DFS.0406.0001.0657
  - DFS.0406.0001.0673
  - DFS.0406.0001.0698
  - DFS.0406.0001.1014
4. The Department made a claim for public interest immunity over the documents. However, as with the documents the subject of my third ruling on claims of public interest immunity, the Department indicated by email to the Commission's Secretariat that I could rule on that reasonable excuse claim on the papers. For the same reasons I have already expressed in relation to similar documents as part of my rulings on 7 April 2026 and 15 April 2026, I am satisfied that the public interest in disclosure outweighs any interest in preserving the immunity.

*Commissioner  
16 April 2026*