

5 August 2015

Our ref Criminal Law Committee – 104

Your ref 565751/10, 2916622 - Ms Sarah Kay

The Honourable Alan M Wilson
Chairperson
Taskforce on organised crime legislation
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Dear Chairperson

Inquiry Area Three (Terms of Reference 1, 3, 4, 5) - Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation

We write in relation to Inquiry area three and paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5 of the Terms of Reference. Inquiry area three contains a request for information on the 2013 legislation that relates to occupational and industry licensing.

We understand that the policy rationale for the occupational and industry licensing framework was to prevent and eliminate criminal infiltration of certain industries. However, it is the strong view of the Society that once a person has left a criminal organisation then they should be free to pursue any lawful vocation without being subject to any further scrutiny than any other member of the public might expect. In our view, it is inappropriate and discriminatory for former members to continue to be targeted based on former associations. Such limitations could ironically be counter-productive to the intent of the legislation by limiting the employment options of persons who might otherwise be unskilled or be within a societal category which find employment difficult to obtain.

We consider that it is important that the occupational and industry licensing framework is fair, equitable and reviewable and does not prohibit former criminal organisation members to pursue lawful vocations.

Thank you again for consulting with us on these matters. We look forward to continuing to be involved in the important work of the Taskforce.

Yours faithfully



Michael Fitzgerald
President