

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION**

*Twelfth Report — Going rogue: Serious misconduct by a commission officer: Parliamentary inspector's report — Tabling*

**HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West)** [10.05 am]: I am directed to present the twelfth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission, titled *Going rogue: serious misconduct by a commission officer—Parliamentary inspector's report*.

[See paper [3041](#).]

**Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS:** The Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Mr Matthew Zilko, Senior Counsel, has found that an officer of the Corruption and Crime Commission, its human source coordinator and manager of its human source team, engaged in serious misconduct over three years. In his report, which is attached to our report, the parliamentary inspector made five findings against the commission officer, one being that between early 2020 and early 2023, the officer corruptly used her position as human source coordinator to obtain a personal benefit—namely, an extensive and intimate relationship with one of the commission's human sources. Human sources are also sometimes known as informants.

The commission dismissed the officer. The officer's conduct was extremely serious and potentially dangerous and involved a gross breach of trust. The officer abused her position as human source coordinator and manager of the team, and the extraordinary powers given to the commission to undertake its work. From the commission's engagement of the human source in November 2018, the officer was both the human source coordinator and sole handler of the human source, which is against commission protocols. This failure was not identified or acted upon for over four years.

The officer deceived the commission and exposed others to potential harm by revealing official information obtained through her work. Her misconduct included on three occasions disclosing intelligence reports to the human source without the required authorisation; giving the human source the first names of three commission officers, including a member of the human source team with an assumed identity; giving the human source the name of a person believed to have made an anonymous report of corruption, despite the complainant having stressed that they wanted to remain anonymous and made the complaint "at great risk" to themselves; and having an extreme level of contact with the human source. For example, in 2022, she spoke to the human source for 437 hours but recorded only 28 hours, when she was required to record all contact. Some recorded messages were sexually explicit. The officer expressed love for the human source.

Although it could be said that the officer did go rogue and her line manager's supervision was inadequate, the investigation exposes serious weaknesses in how the commission managed its misconduct risks and the human source team. The commission unreservedly accepts that system failures contributed to the climate in which the officer's deception was possible and continued over a long period of time. The commission has initiated an independent review. This committee will oversight how the commission responds to this misconduct during this forty-first Parliament.

The committee makes the following four recommendations —

**Recommendation 1**

That the Western Australia Police Force consider whether to prosecute the former officer of the commission ...

**Recommendation 2**

That the Attorney General examine whether there is a need to provide the Parliamentary Inspector with more resources or legal or other options to deal with misconduct on the part of the commission or its officers, particularly sensitive and resource intensive matters ...

**Recommendation 3**

That the ... Commission considers the work of its Human Source Team, and whether this service adds value to the commission's investigative work, and whether the team should be retained or this service delivered in another way.

**Recommendation 4**

That the ... Commission provide the ... Committee ... a copy of its independent review ... and a report on the commission's plan of action and action taken to minimise misconduct risks ... by 30 September 2024.

The committee will report to the house.

As the committee said in its recent eleventh report, *What happens next? Beyond a finding of serious misconduct*, public agencies should be accountable and transparent in how they respond to misconduct events. The committee intends to apply this standard to the commission.