

**From:** Tom Rogers  
**Sent:** Fri, 9 Apr 2021 13:56:58 +1000  
**To:** Tim Courtney; Jeff Pope  
**Cc:** Holly Castro  
**Subject:** FW: For information: update on Andrew Laming Facebook authorisations [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

FYI - it is complex

T.J. Rogers  
 Australian Electoral Commission  
 +61262714400  
 www.aec.gov.au

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**From:** [REDACTED] s 47F  
**Date:** Friday, 09 Apr 2021, 13:55  
**To:** Holly Castro <[Holly.Castro@aec.gov.au](mailto:Holly.Castro@aec.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Tom Rogers <[Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au)>, Adam Coenraads <[Adam.Coenraads@aec.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Coenraads@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: For information: update on Andrew Laming Facebook authorisations

## UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks for updating me, Holly. [REDACTED] s 42

[REDACTED] s 42

All the best,

[REDACTED] s 47F

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**From:** Holly Castro <[Holly.Castro@aec.gov.au](mailto:Holly.Castro@aec.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 3:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] s 47F  
**Cc:** Tom Rogers <[Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au)>; Adam Coenraads <[Adam.Coenraads@aec.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Coenraads@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** For information: update on Andrew Laming Facebook authorisations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Caution: This is an external email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

H [REDACTED] s 47F

This email is for your information only, no action is required.

An update from yesterday. Our legal area have contacted Facebook this morning and they are looking into the matter.

Our media team has also phoned the original journalist who reported the story, [REDACTED] s 47F from the Guardian, to thank her for bringing this to our attention.

S 22

No action required from you at this stage, our legal area will continue to look into the matter. We will continue to keep you informed.

Kind regards,

Holly

**Holly Castro | Chief of Staff**  
National Executive | Australian Electoral Commission  
T: (02) 6271 4523 X: 21260 M: <sup>s 47F</sup>

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**From:** Holly Castro

**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 3:29 PM

**To:** § 47F

**Cc:** Tom Rogers <[tom.rogers@aec.gov.au](mailto:tom.rogers@aec.gov.au)>; Adam Coenraads <[adam.coenraads@aec.gov.au](mailto:adam.coenraads@aec.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: For information: Andrew Laming Facebook authorisations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Hi** § 47F

Yes, we will keep you posted generally on the matter. I have no further updates at this stage, but I will provide further information once I do.

Kind regards,

Holly

**Holly Castro | Chief of Staff**

National Executive | Australian Electoral Commission

**T:** (02) 6271 4523 **X:** 21260 **M:** § 47F



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**From:** § 47F

**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 3:06 PM

**To:** Holly Castro <[Holly.Castro@aec.gov.au](mailto:Holly.Castro@aec.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Tom Rogers <[Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au)>; Adam Coenraads <[Adam.Coenraads@aec.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Coenraads@aec.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: For information: Andrew Laming Facebook authorisations

## UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Holly,

Thank you for this. Please, can you keep me posted generally on the matter, including what the AEC is said to be saying or doing about its investigation?

I imagine Tom will fill me in on other aspects.

Best wishes

§ 47F

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**From:** Holly Castro <[Holly.Castro@aec.gov.au](mailto:Holly.Castro@aec.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 2:03 PM

**To:** § 47F

**Cc:** Tom Rogers <[Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au)>; Adam Coenraads <[Adam.Coenraads@aec.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Coenraads@aec.gov.au)>

**Subject:** For information: Andrew Laming Facebook authorisations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Caution: This is an external email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon s 47F

This email is for information, no action is required.

Guardian Australia have [published our response](#) to their media enquiry regarding MP Andrew Laming Facebook accounts today. Please see a screen shot of the article below.

I wouldn't usually interrupt your busy schedule to notify you about the media enquiries we receive, however, there has been a fair amount of media coverage regarding Andrew Laming recently and I thought I would alert you that the Guardian has referenced the AEC and that we will be investigating the requirement for authorisation.

This email is just for your awareness. Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Holly

11m ago

11:27



Sarah Martin

The Australian Electoral Commission has confirmed that it will investigate Liberal National MP Andrew Laming over more than 30 Facebook pages that he operates without any disclosure of his involvement.

**As reported by us on Tuesday**, Laming has set up dozens of Facebook pages under the guise of community and news groups, including one that poses as a fake education institute.

According to the Australian Electoral Commission, political authorisation is required for “information that is a matter communicated, or intended to be communicated, for the dominant purpose of influencing the way electors vote in a federal election”.

**“** *This includes, but is not limited to, a communication that expressly promotes or opposes a candidate, political party, member or senator.*

The disclosure laws, which were updated following the 2016 election, also explicitly include social media posts, requiring authorisation details either in the message or through the page’s biography details.

Laming is currently on leave for clinical and empathy counselling following revelations that he stalked two Brisbane online and took a cover photograph of a woman’s bottom with her underwear exposed.

**Holly Castro | Chief of Staff**

National Executive | Australian Electoral Commission

T: (02) 6271 4523 X: 21260 M: <sup>s 47F</sup>



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