

From: Section 47f
To: Section 47f
Cc: Section 47f Social Media; EIAT Section 47f
Subject: AEC engagement with referrals portal [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 15 May 2023 7:36:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[image002.gif](#)

Afternoon Section 47f

Hope you are going along well! Winter has well and truly hit here in Canberra, so I'm about ready to move to warmer locations already!

By way of quick update, Mr Rogers and Mr Haigh appeared before a Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee hearing on 4 May down in Melbourne, where they were asked about the engagement with online platforms including yourselves. I understand the response referenced that we had met, that had been provided with additional escalation points for Twitter referrals and that he was broadly comfortable with cooperation across platforms at this time. We are currently in preparations to support Mr Rogers in his appearance at Senate Estimates in the week commencing Mon 22 May.

Looking to also follow up on our use of the new referrals process via the legal portal provided. Please see below for a list of the posts referred to Twitter, as of middle of the day today, 15 May. We have removed previously reviewed/escalated/resolved items outlined in our past correspondence for brevity. Disappointingly, according to our records, nil actions have been taken against any of the below after significant time processing. As you would appreciate, the content of these referrals is of significant concern to us, particularly with regards to threats towards AEC staff, and mis/disinformation regarding electoral processes.

For your background, the three highlighted referrals were originally made via the platform public channels (previous process), then referred again via the legal portal when we switched over, as per your instructions. The other referrals were all made directly via the legal portal. I am seeking to escalate the review of these referrals and re-open discussion more broadly on expectations when using this channel. Please also let me know if there is different information we should be including or highlighting, or if there are other ways that we can improve our requests.

I understand that you also received my email that provided a letter from our Regulatory Law team, and some additional information that we hope will be of assistance to you in the lead up to the proposed referendum. If there are any questions coming out of this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,

Section 47f

| Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch
 Australian Electoral Commission

Section 47f

PENDING REFERRALS

Case number	Issue referred	Specific topic	Date referred - platform	Date referred – legal portal	Total time pending
Section 47f	Misinformation	That the referendum is rigged and the votes have already been cast	N/A	27/04/2023 15:25	15 days

APPEALED REFERRALS (AWAITING DECISION)

Case number	Issue referred	Specific topic	Date referred - platform	Date referred – legal portal	Platform decision date	Appealed by AEC	Total time pending	Original Outcome
Section 47f	Misinformation	A post spreading disinformation about dominion voting machines	17/04/2023 10:00	02/05/2023 11:38	09/05/2023 18:21	10/05/2023 14:38	27 days	Reviewed but no action taken
Section 47f	Misinformation	Multiple voting	18/04/2023 14:18	02/05/2023 11:50	09/05/2023 18:24	10/05/2023 14:40	26 days	Reviewed but no action taken
Section 47f	Misinformation	Multiple voting	19/04/2023 09:27	02/05/2023 11:54	09/05/2023 18:26	10/05/2023 14:42	25 days	Reviewed but no action taken
Section 47f	Misinformation	Encouraging enrolment fraud	N/A	02/05/2023 08:33	09/05/2023 18:08	10/05/2023 14:35	12 days	Reviewed but no action

								taken
Section 47f	Abuse	Inciting violence against AEC staff	N/A	05/05/2023 14:58	09/05/2023 18:28	10/05/2023 14:47	9 days	Reviewed but no action taken

APPEALED DECISIONS (DECISION RECEIVED)

Case number	Issue referred	Specific topic	Date referred - platform	Date referred – legal portal	Platform decision date	Appeal decision date	Total time pending	Outcome
Section 47f	Abuse	Inciting violence against AEC staff	N/A	28/04/2023 09:04	01/05/2023 19:13	05/05/2023 18:47	7 days	Reviewed but no action taken