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Briefing for the Premier

Provision of information to the ICAC

Issue: A Ministerial adviser employed in the office of the Minister for Education has advised the Department of Premier and Cabinet that he holds information that may be relevant to the investigation being conducted by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) into Canterbury City Council and other public officials (known as Operation Dasha). Ministers and heads of government agencies have a duty to report to ICAC any matter that the person suspects on reasonable grounds concerns or may concern corrupt conduct. DPC is obtaining the information from the Ministerial adviser for immediate provision to ICAC.

Purpose

- To inform the Premier that the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet is providing information to the ICAC that may be relevant to Operation Dasha.

Background

- Operation Dasha is a current investigation by ICAC into Canterbury City Council and other public officials. Mr Darryl Maguire has announced his intention to resign as a Member of Parliament as a result of this investigation.
- DPC has been contacted by a staff member currently employed in the office of the Minister for Education about information held by the staff member that may be relevant to Operation Dasha. The information relates to the staff member's former role in 2016 as an advisor to the then Minister for Planning. DPC has also been informed that there may be former staff members who may also hold relevant information.
- Under section 11(2) of the *ICAC Act 1988*, Ministers and the principal officer of a public authority have a duty to report to the ICAC any matter that the Minister or principal officer suspects on reasonable grounds concerns or may concern corrupt conduct. Ministers may comply with this obligation by reporting the matter to the ICAC or to the head of any agency responsible to the Minister.
- DPC has advised the staff member that the information should be promptly provided to ICAC.

Consultation

- Legal Branch has consulted with the Premier's Office (S. Cruikshank and M. Crocker) in preparing this brief.

Recommendations

- Note that DPC has been informed that a Ministerial advisor holds information that may be relevant to Operation Dasha and that the Secretary of DPC will provide that information to ICAC.

DPC final approver	Approved: Deputy Secretary & General Counsel (Karen Smith), 23-07-2018 Cabinet and Legal Group
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Premier's comments	Date:	Approved/Not Approved/Noted

Responsible Officer	Karen Smith Deputy Secretary, Cabinet and Legal,
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