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**From:** Nick McKenzie  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 June 2015  
**To:** GPSC4 GPSC4; Tina Higgins  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - Inquiry into the progress of the Ombudsman's investigation 'Operation Prospect'

To the Committee and Ms Tina Higgins,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

The source for the story by my colleague Richard Baker and I was not somebody inside the ombudsman's office.

While I would like to respond to the letter from the NSW Crime Commission, the fact that it relates to matters that I, as a journalist, regard as privileged and confidential means I am unable to do so.

However, I would like to state that the assumptions outlined in the letter are incorrect.

Had its author contacted me prior to writing it, I would have told him this.

It is a pity that this was not done by any party prior to the letter's public release as it has meant that incorrect assumptions and statements have subsequently been circulated.

I regret to inform the committee that I will have to decline the invitation to appear before it. Such an appearance may lead to the question of who my source is and I do not wish to have any such discussions around such an issue for obvious reasons.

I intend to send this email to Mr O'Connor as a matter of courtesy,

Nick McKenzie