

Case No U 0227

3 November 2025

Hon. Dr Anglu Farrugia
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament of Malta
Freedom Square
Valletta

Dear Hon. Speaker

This Office investigated a complaint lodged against the Ministry responsible for Lands and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme as well as the CEO of the Lands Authority in connection with the shipyard concessions granted over land abutting over the Grand Harbour.

Your attention is drawn to the Final Opinion dated 17 September 2024 (copy attached). This was preceded by an Interim Report issued on 23 May 2024 dealing with the same subject matter addressed to the same parties as well as the Environment and Resources Authority and the Principal Permanent Secretary. This Office identified a number of issues regarding the management of said concessions by the public administration including the lack of a proper delegation by Government to an entity or department to carry out the requisite compliance checks and thus take 'ownership' of the concessions. A number of recommendations were, therefore, made by this Office to address these concerns.

Following the issue of the interim report this Office was informed that the Lands Authority would take overall responsibility for the concessions on behalf of Government. Moreover, by means of an email dated 4 February 2025 (which followed the issue of the Final Opinion), this Office was further informed that the Environment Resource Authority, Transport Malta and the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations were formally delegated by Government to assist the Lands Authority with the carrying out of the necessary compliance arising out of the concession agreements.

Whilst this Office acknowledges that inroads have been made to ensure that the concessions are properly managed by the public administration, the action taken falls short of the recommendations made by this Office to

ensure both transparency and accountability in the management of said concessions. In particular, no commitment has been made to implement the recommendations made in the Final Opinion.

As the recommendations made were not implemented, the matter was subsequently brought to the attention of the Prime Minister on 2 October 2025. This notwithstanding, the recommendations remained unimplemented and to date no feedback was received.

In view of the above, in terms of Section 22(4) of the Ombudsman Act (Chapter 385, Laws of Malta), I am enclosing a copy of the documentation exchanged for the attention of the House of Representatives.

Yours sincerely

Judge Joseph Zammit McKeon
Ombudsman

Encl: Reply to Interim Report from Permanent Secretary MLI – 9 August 2024

Final Opinion – 17 September 2024

Final Opinion letter – 17 September 2024

Reply from Permanent Secretary MLI – 17 October 2024

Reply from Permanent Secretary MLI – 4 February 2025

Letter to Permanent Secretary MLI – 18 February 2025

Reply from Permanent Secretary MLI – 11 March 2025

Letter to Permanent Secretary MLI – 22 April 2025

Reply from Permanent Secretary MLI – 14 May 2025

Email to Permanent Secretary MCLG – 16 June 2025

Reply from Permanent Secretary MCLG – 10 July 2025

Letter to Permanent Secretary MCLG – 2 September 2025

Letter to Prime Minister – 2 October 2025