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Prof. Alfred J. Vella
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26 March 2026

Chief Justice Emeritus Vincent A. De Gaetano
Commissioner for Education
Office of the Ombudsman
11 St Paul Street
Valletta

Dear Commissioner

Re: Case Number: CEDUC-25-6346

We thank you for your report dated 27 February 2026 in which you included a number of recommendations.

Re Point 7

The statement “two positive independent peer reviews as received through the ACU will generally be expected...”, relating to promotion to Professor, has been part of document “Interpretation of the Assessment Criteria” since 2007. The document was prepared to help act as guide to applicants on the instigation of the Union and it was approved by Council and made available to academic staff for all these years. It is for this reason that we are of the (lay) opinion that the document is neither *praeter* nor *contra legem*.


Re Point 10

Despite the fact that PR2 is a professor of Constitutional Law, according to his CV, available online at: [https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/people/\[omissis\]](https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/people/[omissis]) PR2 indeed teaches in the area of law which is the area practiced by . This is why the Promotions Board agreed with the ACU's decision to accept him as a reviewer competent for the purpose.

Re Point 14

The Board takes note of your recommendation that when communicating negative decisions to applicants, cogent and clear reasons are given.

Yours sincerely


Prof. Alfred J. Vella
Rector