

MINISTERU GHALL-ĠUSTIZZJA



MALTA

MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE

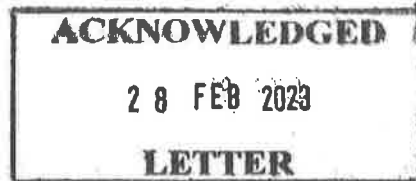
*Uffiċċju tas-Segretarju Permanenti*

*Office of the Permanent Secretary*

Cases No:- U0098  
U0123

24th February 2023

The Ombudsman  
11, St Pauls Street  
Valletta VLT 1210



### **Re Ombudsman Final Opinions on Cases No U0098 and U00123**

I am writing in my capacity and on behalf of the Commissioner for Revenue, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Finance and Employment, and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality regarding the Final Opinions issued on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 on the complaints lodged by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ respectively.

We have taken note of the Final Opinions on these two cases. I would like to inform you that that consultations are being carried out with key official stakeholders including the Office of the Notary to Government and the Office of the State Advocate with a view to possible viable options to addressing as much as possible the recommendations common in both cases.

The process would require also further consultations with external stakeholders, including the Notarial Council and the commercial banks, given the impact that any changes to the current practice and tax payment system would leave since a high percentage of property transfers are funded through bank loans.

Undoubtedly, you will appreciate that this task may also have to involve legislative amendments.

In this regard, we will continue to explore further these options with a view of establishing a viable way forward to address the recommendations put forward, while at the same time ensure that we continue to curb abuse, protect service users and safeguard Government revenue.

Johan Galea  
Permanent Secretary

cc Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Finance and Employment  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality  
Commissioner for Revenues