



11 July 2022

Hon. Dr Robert Abela MP  
Prime Minister

Prime Minister,

### **OECD reports**

Please find attached three reports issued by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). These reports present findings and recommendations deriving respectively from:

- an organisational review of my office;
- a review of the Standards in Public Life Act; and
- a review of the lobbying framework in Malta.

The reviews have been carried out by the OECD at my request under an EU-funded project entitled “Improving the Integrity and Transparency Framework in Malta”. Additional reviews to be carried out under the project will cover the codes of ethics for ministers and members of Parliament and the mechanisms for the declaration of assets and the disclosure of conflicts of interest.

The first of the three reports attached to this letter concerns the operations of my office. It is up to me and my eventual successor to implement the recommendations in this report. It is being presented to you for information purposes in the interest of openness.

The second report constitutes a review by the OECD of the Standards in Public Life Act on the basis of the OECD’s own expertise and the lessons learned from experience in the application of the Act since it came into force in October 2018. I am forwarding this report to you in the hope that you will give careful consideration to the recommendations therein, which are intended to reinforce Malta’s efforts to raise standards in public life by strengthening the Act and making it more effective.



## Commissioner for Standards in Public Life

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The third report represents a review by the OECD of a consultation paper on the regulation of lobbying that was published by my office on 28 February 2020. The consultation paper was issued to seek feedback on a proposed new law to regulate lobbying. It was intended as a precursor to my submission of formal recommendations to the government under article 13(1)(f) of the Standards in Public Life Act, which obliges the Commissioner for Standards in Public Life “to identify those activities which are to be considered as lobbying activities, to issue guidelines for those activities and to make such recommendations as he deems appropriate in respect of the regulation of such activities.”

The OECD report on lobbying reviews the law that was proposed in my consultation paper of February 2020 and broadly endorses it, while proposing some changes in the light of the OECD’s own expertise in this area. By means of this letter I am making a formal recommendation to you under article 13(1)(f) of the Standards in Public Life Act for the adoption of the proposals in the OECD report and the enactment on this basis of an act to regulate lobbying. This letter and the attached report thus represent the fulfilment of my obligation under article 13(1)(f) of the Act.

I am copying this letter to the Hon. Dr Jonathan Attard, who as Minister for Justice is the minister responsible for the Standards in Public Life Act.

Yours sincerely,

Dr George Marius Hyzler  
Commissioner for Standards in Public Life

cc: Hon. Dr Jonathan Attard MP  
Minister for Justice