



3 November 2023

Hon. Dr Robert Abela MP
Prime Minister

Hon. Prime Minister

OECD report on asset and interest declarations

On 11 July and 27 September 2022, my predecessor as Commissioner for Standards in Public Life wrote to you forwarding four reports prepared by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as part of an EU-funded project entitled “Improving the Integrity and Transparency Framework in Malta”. In accordance with article 13(1) of the Standards in Public Life Act, the then-Commissioner recommended that the Government should adopt the OECD’s proposals on the regulation of lobbying and the revision of the codes of ethics for ministers and MPs. These recommendations remain outstanding.

As part of the same project, the OECD has issued a report on the system of asset and interest declarations that emerges from the codes of ethics for ministers and members of Parliament in Malta. This report aims to strengthen the declaration system by means of proposals that are addressed in part to the Government of Malta and in part to this Office. Among other things, the report proposes that declarations should include additional detail; that there should be separate declaration systems for assets and interests; and that declarations should be submitted directly to this Office through an electronic system. A copy of the report is enclosed.

By means of this letter I am formally recommending, in terms of article 13(1)(g) of the Standards in Public Life Act, that the asset and interest declaration system should be strengthened in accordance with the proposals to this end that are set out in the enclosed OECD report and addressed to the Government of Malta. Needless to say, the implementation of the OECD proposals will have the full support of this Office.



Commissioner for Standards in Public Life

All reports issued by the OECD under this project have been combined as a single omnibus report setting out all the OECD's proposals on the integrity framework of Malta. This report was launched on Friday 27 October 2023 at a forum organised by my office. A copy is also attached.

This letter is being copied to the Hon. Dr Jonathan Attard, Minister for Justice, in his capacity as the minister responsible for the Standards in Public Life Act.

I would like to thank you and Dr Attard for your support of the project, which has now been concluded.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Justice Emeritus Joseph Azzopardi
Commissioner for Standards in Public Life

cc: Hon. Dr Jonathan Attard MP
Minister for Justice