Statement

The Hon Danny Pearson MPMinister for Government Services
Assistant Treasurer
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



Tuesday, 21 February 2023

Minister for Consumer Affairs

STATEMENT FROM DANNY PEARSON

Yesterday, it was brought to my attention that a long standing shareholding - that I have declared to the Parliament at every reporting period since becoming an MP - may have given rise to questions about a potential for a perceived conflict of interest with my ministerial duties.

For completeness, I confirm that I was not a decision maker in the awarding of the banking and financial services contract in 2021.

The process was run by senior independent public servants and there was a probity auditor engaged throughout who signed off on the process. I noted the outcome of the tender once it had been determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Despite this, I accept that it was an error of judgement to not recognise and manage the potential for a perception of conflict of interest and I unreservedly apologise for this oversight.

For avoidance of doubt, I have spoken to the Premier and advised him that I will place all of my shareholdings in a blind trust.

Media contact: Shaun Phillips 0407 553 763 | shaun.phillips@minstaff.vic.gov.au