



Our Ref : MEYR/11/2024/10

Your Ref : CEDUC-24-4612

14 June 2024

The Hon. Dr Vincent A De Gaetano
Commissioner for Education
Office of the Ombudsman
11, St. Paul Street
Valletta

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing in response to your report on Case No CEDUC-24-4612 and appreciate the thorough investigation and insights provided. This communication aims to clarify the Ministry's position and outline our proposed actions considering the issues identified.

In December 2020, the People and Standards Division (P&SD) conducted an audit that revealed inconsistencies in the granting of MQF Level 5 qualification allowances to individuals whose appointment qualifications are at a higher MQF level. Based on these findings, the Ministry was directed to align with PSMC regulations and thus stop giving the allowance in question. Following this, in compliance with PSMC regulations, the Ministry has ceased the issuance of such allowances that do not meet the stipulated entry requirements.

The Ministry acknowledges the principle of legitimate expectation as outlined in your report. Further to this, an internal review has been completed, identifying other employees affected by this directive who were not included in the initial audit.

Given the circumstances described, the management is seeking direction to determine the most appropriate course of action.

Yours sincerely,


Matthew Vella
Permanent Secretary