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Media Release

Commissioner's update on Police program error affecting blue cards

Queensland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, Elizabeth Fraser, is pleased to report that the recent problem with the Queensland Police Service's computer system has not resulted in any significant increased risk to children safeguarded by the blue card system.

Ms Fraser said her audit of the 58 people (whose change in criminal history had not been reported to the Commission by the Police) has established that none of these matters have required immediate suspension. Only two matters were classified as 'serious offences' under the blue card legislation, and fortunately none were child-related sexual offences.

"In one case, a blue card applicant had been charged with sexual assault and aggravated attempted robbery in relation to adult complainants," she said.

"This person has not been working in child-related employment since they were charged and they are no longer in regulated employment."

"A further 13 applications have already been finalised (either withdrawn or blue cards approved)."

Of the remaining 44 cases, Ms Fraser said 12 were already being assessed as part of normal processing requirements at the time of the QPS computer system error coming to light, and she will now take into account the new information.

"In 32 cases, I have written to each person to advise them that we are assessing the latest information," she said.

"In three of these 32 cases, I have also written to the employer to advise them to invoke their risk management strategy with respect to the employees in question while I complete my assessment."

More information: 3211 6989