

[Transparency Notification] FOI2025-008

Outcome: Structural RecordGap in WA

Animal Welfare Enforcement

Dear Ombudsman Team

I am writing to formally notify your office, and other key accountability stakeholders, of the outcome of a recent Freedom of Information (FOI) application made to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) concerning animal welfare enforcement in Western Australia.

Summary of FOI Outcome:

- The FOI (reference: FOI2025-008) sought basic regulatory records regarding Designated Inspector (DI) activities from 2022 to 2025, including inspection data, compliance outcomes, and internal audits or reviews.
- DPIRD issued a formal Section 26 notice (6 June 2025) stating that no such records exist, with the exception of a single summary spreadsheet with no inspection dates or outcomes.
- An external review application has now been submitted to the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) due to concerns regarding the absence of fundamental regulatory documentation.

Why this matters:

The formal confirmation that no inspection records, compliance summaries, or performance reviews are held for the use of Designated Inspector powers raises significant questions about transparency, lawful administration, and public accountability in a sensitive area of regulatory enforcement.

All correspondence, the Section 26 notice, and the released document are available for public reference at:

👉 <https://unseenbeings.org/>

This public archive is being maintained to document all material related to animal welfare enforcement transparency in WA. I hope this notification will support any future oversight, review, or investigation that may be undertaken by your office or partner agencies.

Should you require further information, or wish to discuss the matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

Hanyu Liu

helloluna520@gmail.com

<https://unseenbeings.org/>

E2025/05048 - Enquiry to the Ombudsman Western Australia

Mail Ombudsman <mail@ombudsman.wa.gov.au>
To: Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>

Tue, 22 Jul at 12:44 pm

Dear Hanyu Lui

Thank you for your emails regarding Structural Record Gap in WA Animal Welfare Enforcement.

The role of the Western Australian Ombudsman is to investigate complaints about certain administrative actions of State Government departments and local governments, in accordance with the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971 (the Act)*.

I have carefully considered the information you provided, and I note that you have submitted a complaint to the Office of the Information Commissioner (**OIC**). It would be appropriate to wait for the response from the OIC.

If you remain dissatisfied after the OIC complaints process has been finalised, then you can contact our office again and we will assess the scope of our involvement at that time.

Accordingly, I do not propose to take any further action on this matter at this time.

Thank you for contacting the office of the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

Tracie Lawry
ENQUIRY AND INVESTIGATING OFFICER



Phone: (08) 9220 7555
www.ombudsman.wa.gov.au

The office of the Western Australian Ombudsman acknowledges the traditional owners of the

land on which the office is located, the Wadjuk Noongar people. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present. The office of the Western Australian Ombudsman takes pride in diversity and equal opportunity. The office stands with the LGBTQIA+ community.

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