

MINISTERU GHALL-ĠUSTIZZJA U R-
RIFORMA TAS-SETTUR TAL-
KOSTRUZZJONI



MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE AND
REFORM OF THE CONSTRUCTION
SECTOR

Uffiċċju tas-Segretarju Permanenti

Office of the Permanent Secretary

CEP-25-5884

13th August 2025

Perit Alan Saliba
Commissioner for the Environment and Planning
Office of the Ombudsman

Re: Final Opinion Case No CEP-25-5884

I refer to the Final Opinion issued on 14 July 2025 concerning the matter at hand.

The Ministry has given thorough consideration to the Ombudsman's opinion and the accompanying recommendation to include the Chamber of Geologists as a full member of the Building Construction Consultative Council (BCCC).

We fully acknowledge and appreciate the reasoning behind this recommendation. The Ministry remains firmly committed to fostering a broad-based and inclusive consultative process that reflects the evolving nature of the sector.

As demonstrated throughout the course of this case, the Chamber's request was duly referred by the Ministry to the BCCC for consideration. However, the feedback received from stakeholder members did not indicate support for the proposed inclusion.

In light of this scenario, and taking into account the way in which the sector is developing, the Ministry, through the newly established Construction and Occupational Health & Safety Affairs Department, is actively exploring avenues for reform. These efforts aim to ensure a more inclusive, balanced, and representative framework. As previously communicated in our correspondence dated 2 July 2025, this review is expected to result in substantive changes to the BCCC's operational structure.

The BCCC serves as a platform for consultation and dialogue among representatives of various sectors within the building and construction industry, alongside the Government and the Authority. In this regard, while the Ministry holds the Ombudsman's recommendation in high esteem, it must also respect the outcome of the consultative process undertaken within the

BCCC. Constructive dialogue, by its very nature, should be guided by engagement and mutual respect, rather than unilateral decisions.

Accordingly, it would be premature at this stage to implement any recommendations or initiate legislative amendments prior to the conclusion of the ongoing review. That said, the Ombudsman's recommendation will be duly taken into account as part of the comprehensive evaluation currently being undertaken by the Ministry.

Regards



Johan Galea
Permanent Secretary