

63232 Reports referred to during CEC Council Meeting on 5 February 2026

9 minutes 45 seconds in on the CEC Council Meeting on 5 February 2026, Councillor Jane Meagher said 'the relevant legislation has potential VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN THIS CHAMBER AND NOT ONLY FOR THE COUNCIL AS A CORPORATE BODY....THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD RISK LOSING THEIR JOBS IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE IN ANYWAY ASSOCIATED WITH ANY CONTREVENTION OF THE LAW'

Reference was made to reports, not legal advice. Please provide copies of all communications including reports in relation to this matter.

In relation to the Agenda Item 8.1 of the Committee meeting on 05/02/26, the Lord Provost notes at 08.07, that "Members have had some advice circulated and to respect the political process [...] as members know based on the advice received, discussion of such an emotive and sensitive subject is not without risk [...] there are quite significant legal implications". Councillor Whyte, in response to the Lord Provost regarding Item 8.1, outlines at 09.13: "Lord Provost, I wonder in light of the legal advice [...]". The Lord Provost further reiterates that legal advice was provided at 09.30 "[...] period of time with latest legal advice coming through". Therefore, it is clear that legal advice was provided to elected members regarding Item 8.1.

The information sought is legal advice. This advice is protected in terms of legal professional privilege, and accordingly, the Council is not required to disclose the content of the advice.

The Council appreciates the public interest in this matter. However, due to the sensitive nature of the advice and communications relating to this matter, the Council is of the view that it should be able to consider, be advised and make decisions on sensitive issues without details of these communications being made public. In maintaining confidentiality, this allows the Council to consider, more fully and without constraints, the merits and outcome of the complex legal position. Consequently, the Council is of the view that maintaining the confidentiality of the legal advice and other communications outweighs the interest in disclosure in this case.