



The Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: +61 3 9096 8561
www.health.vic.gov.au

BAC-CO-26630

Mr Brett Adie
AEAV Secretary
United Workers Union

via email: Brett.Adie@unitedworkers.org.au

Dear Mr Adie

Thank you for your letter addressed to the former Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Martin Foley MP, regarding alleged underpayments of seconded staff, occurring at Ambulance Victoria (AV), in alleged breach of the *Ambulance Victoria Enterprise Agreement 2020 (AVEA 2020)* (the Agreement).

I am concerned by these claims and thank you for bringing this issue to my attention.

As you are no doubt aware these matters can be complicated, requiring skilled advice in the interpretation and application of Agreement terms. On receipt of your letter the matter was referred to the Department of Health for its advice on the issues contained in your letter. I thank you for your patience while the Department has investigated the matter and liaised with relevant stakeholders.

The department recently advised that the practice you have described does not appear to contravene the terms of the Enterprise Agreement or the terms of the secondment policy under which the employees have been seconded.

Nevertheless, I have requested that Ambulance Victoria commence immediate discussions with the relevant organisations to develop a new policy position and model that addresses potential for disadvantage.

I understand that an initial meeting has been held between Ambulance Victoria and yourself for this purpose and that further meetings are being scheduled. I am glad to hear this work is being undertaken and I look forward to hearing that there is an outcome.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Allison Sidebotham, Director Health Industrial Relations, at the Department of Health on 0400043719 or Allison.Sidebotham@health.vic.gov.au.

I trust this information has been of assistance to you and your members and thank you again for taking the time to write to the former Minister about this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.A. Thomas', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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31/08/2022