

Fw: Case 5: Legionella – Concerns and Clarifications

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CASE 5 LEGIONELLA

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Lil: Rhoda Garland; info; Feedback at SCSA; info.scsa@gov.mt; support@gov.mt; Farrugia Julia at MIV

Suġġett: Case 5: Legionella – Concerns and Clarifications

Subject: Case 5: Legionella – Concerns and Clarifications

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention another case of serious concern. During a meeting held in December 2024, the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector informed Mr. Ronald Galea, former CEO of WENS Foundation, that Legionella bacteria had been found in the Foundation's homes. The Commissioner insisted he had the results in hand and stated that the case had been referred to him by the Social Care Standards Authority (SCSA).

However, during a recent meeting with the SCSA, in the presence of Ms. Ruth Sciberras, when this issue was raised, Dr. Noel Cutajar stated that the discussion must be stopped due to an ongoing court case involving the company in question.

It is important to highlight that the legal case is against a company and *not* against the WENS Foundation itself. This raises several questions:

- Why is the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector making such claims publicly if the matter is still under investigation?
- Why is the former management not being given the opportunity to defend themselves?

As I have said many times, anyone who harms disabled persons must be held accountable—and I believe we all agree on this point.

To clarify the facts, we are attaching all the test results that were obtained. These include results from an independent company, and a second set of results from a different independent source, both of which confirm the same findings. (Please see attached documents and emails.)

We ask:

- Are these findings being used against the WENS Foundation for reasons unrelated to the wellbeing of the residents?
- Is it true that the Commissioner has these results in his possession?
- Is it also true that the SCSA holds different results from those of the two independent laboratories?

We would like to close by saying this:

If anything we have said is incorrect or untrue, all we ask is that you show us your side—with proof. If we are wrong, we will say sorry.

But if you are only talking and accusing people without any evidence, then we're sorry—we cannot accept that as the truth.

We urge all parties not to use disability as a shield or excuse. Let us keep vulnerable persons at the center of our concerns and treat them with the dignity and care they deserve.

Sincerely,



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