

Chairman
Public Accounts Committee
Maltese Parliament
Ordinance Street
Valletta

9th June 2020

Dear Honourable Chairman and Honourable Dott. Chris Said,

We write on behalf of our client, Mr. Lionel Gerada, bearer of Maltese Identity card number 34387M and resident at 33A, Esiel Court, Flat 2, Triq il-Mehriez, Haz-Zabbar with reference to the hearings of the Public Accounts Committee dated the 3rd June 2020.

That it seems that during this meeting, the conduct and good reputation of our client were brought into question. It is understood that these representations took place during a sitting which Mr Gerada was not present to. It is for this reason that we find ourselves writing you this letter. Whilst we appreciate that this may have been unintentional, we believe it is important to highlight some facts in order to avoid any possible misunderstandings.

1. In the first place, it may be noted that Mr Gerada was appointed as a person of trust within the Authority in October 2017. He was assigned this position after satisfying all the requirements for the appointment into the role. These requirements included extensive due diligence checks duly carried out for appointments of similar positions of this nature. Additionally, following an external call for the application for the role of Director of Events in June 2019, our client faced further meticulous screening by both the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) as well as Jobsplus. It is noteworthy to point out that Mr Gerada holds extensive expertise and experience in the management of events, as well as a reputation for being a hard worker which was gained during his tenure as a person of trust with the Ministry of Tourism. Therefore, after satisfying the necessary requirements and due diligence checks, Mr Gerada was appointed into the position of Director of Events.
2. Since our client's involvement both as a person of trust in the Ministry of Tourism, as well as a Director of Events with the Malta Tourism Authority, Malta has seen a consistent development in the investment of global festivals and brands that were successfully hosted on our island. This in itself has contributed to an exponential growth in festival attendees notwithstanding the fact that this growth has contributed to an enhanced generation in revenue emanating from the events sector to the benefit of the Maltese economy.
3. As to address the subject of our letter, we make it amply clear that Mr. Gerada is a person of good reputation and worked selflessly and tirelessly at both his position within the Ministry and within MTA to bring to Malta the best global productions and foreign brands possible. As

can be evidenced from the conduct sheet annexed to this letter, Mr. Gerada is a person of good conduct.¹

4. This police conduct was issued in 2017 and was submitted to the relevant authorities in support of his application to be appointed both into the position of a person of trust within the Ministry and as the Director of Events with MTA.
5. Therefore, any insinuation or allegation related directly or indirectly to our client having been admitted to the above mentioned positions while having a conduct of ill repute, is unfounded both in fact and in law.
6. In the spirit of honesty and transparency - which we are sure are principles you hold dear – it is perhaps worthwhile noting that 14 years ago when he was still 18 years old, Mr Gerada had admitted to some minor criminal offences; where, after paying back what was due, he was conditionally discharged. Indeed, this teenage folly is even condoned by Chapter 77 of the Laws of Malta which in the spirit of second chances and the reformatory aspect of the Law, allows for mistakes made during teenage years to be pardoned and not to serve as a brand of shame for the rest of the individual's life.

We are certain that the above representations clarify any misunderstanding which could have led to the statements made during the sitting of the 3rd of June 2020. Despite that the statements you made could have been completely unintentional, as you might appreciate, they risk seriously affecting the reputation of Mr Gerada. For this reason and in view of the above representations, we respectfully ask you to retract the statements making direct reference to our client's reputation and conduct made before the Public Accounts Committee on the 3rd of June.

This, without prejudice to any remedy to clear his reputation which my client may have under the Laws of Malta.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Gianluca Caruana Curran



Av. Charles Mercieca

¹ Document A.