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MORRISON MUST RESPOND TO CUSTOMS CLAIMS

Reports today detailing allegations of corruption within Australian Border Force are incredibly serious and throw into question the integrity of our border security and customs operations.

There are serious questions that demand a comprehensive response from both Scott Morrison, as the Minister who created Australian Border Force and Peter Dutton, the Minister now responsible for its operation.

Mr Morrison needs to account for why he failed to properly fund the agency charged with law enforcement oversight - the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI).

Today's reports make it clear this Government's resourcing neglect have allowed illegal activity to fester within the ranks of customs.

It is critical that Australians have confidence in the integrity of our customs and border protection operations.

That is why the former Labor Government established the Customs Reform Board to advise on the major structural and cultural reform needed in Australia's border agencies.

This panel of eminent Australians was to advise on strategies to improve law enforcement capability, integrity culture and business systems inside our border agencies.

One of the first acts of the Abbott Government was to abandon this approach.

Now we are faced with widespread illegal activity, the alleged involvement of criminal gangs rorting our visa system, and corruption inside our customs agencies.

The Government must today detail what steps it will immediately take to clean up this mess.

And Scott Morrison must provide a full explanation – what did he know, and why didn't he do anything.

All of this happened under Scott Morrison's nose. This goes to his competence and his integrity.