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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

**ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM – TRAVEL TO
DESIRABLE DESTINATIONS – AFL GRAND FINAL
24 SEPTEMBER 2022 [2022/008]**

Parliamentarian travel to, from and within Melbourne to attend the Australian Football League (AFL) Grand Final on 24 September 2022

Date: 5 January 2023

To: [REDACTED]
Director, Audit and Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal

RECOMMENDATIONS

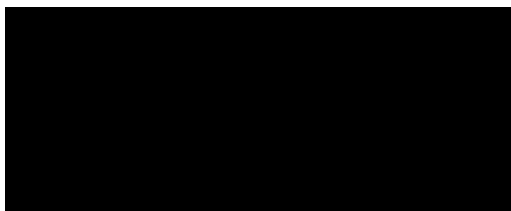
It is recommended that you:

- i. **Note** the contents of this assurance review memorandum

NOTED / ~~PLEASE DISCUSS~~

- ii. **Accept the matter as closed** with no further action required.

ACCEPTED AS CLOSED / ~~PLEASE DISCUSS~~



Director, Audit and Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

SCOPE

1. The scope of this assurance review is travel by current parliamentarians (air travel, travel allowance, Cabcharge, COMCAR and regulated ride-share) to, from and within Melbourne between 21 and 27 September 2022 (hereafter, the period in scope) to attend the AFL Grand Final on 24 September 2022.

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PURPOSE

2. This assurance review aims to assess whether the use of parliamentary business resources by parliamentarians to travel to, from and within Melbourne, including to the AFL Grand Final, during the period in scope was consistent with the relevant legislative framework.

BACKGROUND

3. This assurance review forms part of IPEA's statutory audit function, the 6-month strategic plan and priorities for IPEA's assurance function. In accordance with IPEA's protocol on dealing with misuse of parliamentary work expenses, an assurance review commenced on 1 December 2022.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

4. Legislation relevant to this assurance review:
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act)
 - Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017
 - Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 (Determination)
 - Remuneration Tribunal (Members of Parliament) Determination 2022
 - Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017

Definitions

5. 'Parliamentary business' has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act:
 - (1) The *parliamentary business* of a member means any of the following:
 - a. the *parliamentary duties* of the member, being activities of the member that:
 - i. relate directly to the member's role as a member; and
 - ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(a);
 - b. the *electorate duties* of the member, being activities of the member that:
 - i. support or serve the member's constituents; and
 - ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(b);
 - c. the *party political duties* of the member, being activities determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(c);
 - d. for a member who is an office holder or a Minister of State—the *official duties* of the member, being activities that:
 - i. related to the member's role as an office holder or Minister of State; and
 - ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(d).
6. Subsection 6(4) of the PBR Act relevantly provides that the Minister must determine activities of a member that are:
 - parliamentary duties of the member; or
 - electorate duties of the member; or
 - party political duties of the member; or
 - official duties of the member.

Details of the activities which are parliamentary business of members are set out in the Determination.

7. Subsection 6(2) of the PBR Act further provides in part:

However, an activity is not the *parliamentary business* of a member if:

- (a) The member carries it out for the dominant purpose of either or both of the following:
 - (i) providing a personal benefit to the member or another person;
 - (ii) pursuing commercial purposes of the member or another person; ...

8. In relation to the travel expenses that may be incurred in connection with travel, section 9 of the PBR Act provides:

(1) For the purposes of this Act, the following are examples of expenses incurred in connection with travel:

- (a) the cost of fares;
- (b) the cost of taxis and other local transport in connection with travel;
- (c) the cost of the provision of charter services;
- (d) the cost of accommodation;
- (e) the cost of meals;
- (f) the cost of incidentals.

9. The principles based legislative framework imposes a number of obligations on parliamentarians concerning their use of public resources. In summary, parliamentarians are personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources (sections 25 to 28 of the PBR Act refer). Parliamentarians must be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business and must act ethically and in good faith in using, and accounting for the use of, those resources. Specifically, a parliamentarian must not claim public resources unless they are claimed for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business.

ANALYSIS

10. On 14 October 2022, IPEA's Data and Reporting Section provided data on all parliamentary travel to, from and in Melbourne between 21 and 27 September 2022. The 2022 Spring Parliamentary Sitting Pattern Calendar confirmed that Parliament resumed in Canberra on 23 September 2022 for 'Condolences for Sovereign' and both houses recommenced sitting on 26 September 2022. Additional details of travel for Parliamentarians was obtained by viewing the IPEA Admin Dashboard for each parliamentarian with travel to, from or in Melbourne during the period in scope.

11. Individual analysis of the data identified travel for 60 parliamentarians who accessed parliamentary business resources during the period in scope. IPEA reviewed travel and travel-related resources used by those parliamentarians, using both IPEA-held and publicly available information. IPEA assessed 56 parliamentarians as not requiring further investigation as their travel does not fall within the scope of this review.

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12. Travel undertaken by 4 parliamentarians was assessed as requiring further investigation as they had accessed parliamentary business resources in Melbourne during the period in scope at the time of the AFL Grand Final.

Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP

13. Media reports confirm that the Prime Minister attended, as an invited guest, the North Melbourne Drink Wise Grand Final breakfast and the Grand Final lunch held in Melbourne on 24 September 2022 (**Attachment A**). Having reviewed the travel and media reports, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. The Prime Minister's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

The Hon Peter Dutton MP

14. Media reports confirm that the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Leader of the Opposition attended, as an invited guest, the North Melbourne Drink Wise Grand Final breakfast and the Grand Final lunch held in Melbourne on 24 September 2022 (**Attachment A**). Having reviewed the travel and media reports, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. Mr Dutton's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

The Hon Anika Wells MP, Minister for Aged Care, Minister for Sport

15. Minister Wells accessed parliamentary business resources in Melbourne on 24/25 September 2022, which is within the scope of the assurance review. Minister Wells flew from Sydney to Melbourne arriving at 9:35 AM on 24 September 2022 and used COMCAR from Melbourne airport to Richmond, VIC. Minister Wells stayed overnight in Melbourne on 24 September 2022, used COMCAR to Melbourne airport, and flew from Melbourne to Brisbane on 25 September 2022. A search of media reports failed to identify any information relating to Minister Wells' travel to Melbourne or attendance at the AFL Grand Final.
16. On 14 December 2022, IPEA wrote to Minister Wells detailing the Commonwealth funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment B**).
17. On 22 December 2022, Minister Wells confirmed that the dominant purpose of travel to Melbourne was for official duties. As a guest of AFL, Minister Wells attended the AFL Grand Final Commission Lunch and the AFL Grand Final in her role as Minister for Sport. Minister Wells provided copies of her diary as evidence of her attendance in an official capacity (**Attachment C**). Based on the information available, including the response provided by Minister Wells, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel to Melbourne was parliamentary business. Minister Wells' use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework (**Attachment D**).

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie

18. Senator McKenzie accessed parliamentary business resources in Melbourne on 24 September 2022. Senator McKenzie flew from Canberra to Melbourne on 23 September 2022

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and used COMCAR from Melbourne airport to Docklands. There is no evidence of Senator McKenzie being in receipt of travel allowance for accommodation in Melbourne. On 24 September 2022 Senator McKenzie used Cabcharge to travel from Docklands to Convention Centre Place. On 25 September 2022, Senator McKenzie used Cabcharge from Docklands to Brighton at 12:45 PM, then COMCAR from Brighton to Melbourne airport at 3:30 PM. There is no evidence of a flight from Melbourne. A search of media reports failed to return any information relating to Senator McKenzie's travel to Melbourne.

19. On 14 December 2022, IPEA wrote to Senator McKenzie detailing the Commonwealth funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment E**).
20. On 4 January 2023, Senator McKenzie confirmed that the dominant purpose of travel to Melbourne was for official duties. As a guest, Senator McKenzie attended the North Melbourne Drink Wise Grand Final Breakfast in her capacity as a Senator for Victoria. Senator McKenzie met with fishing industry stakeholders on 25 September 2022, before returning to Canberra for resumption of parliament sittings. Senator McKenzie provided copies of her diary as evidence of her attendance at the AFL event in an official capacity (**Attachment F**).
21. Based on the information available, including the response provided by Senator McKenzie, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel to Melbourne was parliamentary business. Senator McKenzie's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework (**Attachment G**).

Prepared by:



Assistant Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Fox Footy (24 September 2022) [‘Sorry about that’ Albo leaves GF Breakfast in stitches with hilarious Gill roast](#), *Fox Sports*, 14 December 2022.

Napier-Raman, K and Towell, N (26 September 2022) [‘Qantas, ScoMo cop grand old roasts before Swans collapse’](#), *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 December 2022.
- B. IPEA correspondence to the Hon Anika Wells of 14 December 2022 (IDOC/203720)
- C. The Hon Anika Wells' correspondence to IPEA of 15 December 2022 (IDOC/204222)
- D. IPEA correspondence to the Hon Anika Wells of 20 December 2022 (IDOC/204223)
- E. IPEA correspondence to Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie of 14 December 2022 (IDOC/203717)

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- F. Senator McKenzie correspondence to IPEA of 4 January 2023 (IDOC/205439)
- G. IPEA correspondence to Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie of 5 January 2023 (IDOC/205441).

‘Sorry about that’: Albo leaves GF Breakfast in stitches with hilarious Gill roast



Anthony Albanese and Gillon McLachlan Source: FOX SPORTS

Fox Footy from Fox Sports

September 24th, 2022 12:04 pm

Prime minister Anthony Albanese had the Grand Final Breakfast in stitches on Saturday morning with a number of snappy one-liners, and a hilarious roast of outgoing AFL chief Gillon McLachlan.

Albanese was in fine form as he spoke in Melbourne ahead of the season finale between the Geelong Cats and Sydney Swans.

He warmed up by poking fun at McLachlan for his pronunciation of names during the Brownlow Medal, when Melbourne star Christian Petracca was visibly angered by the AFL chief's failed attempts at his last name.

I am glad you didn't have to do the honours of introducing me today. I understand from Christian Petracca that you have a few problems with the Italian surnames," Albanese joked.

Next in line was Friday's Grand Final Parade, which came under fire for putting players on barges and towing them along the Yarra River, far away from fans on the banks.

"To Gill, I would say having watched the parade on the Yarra yesterday, to quote a former prime minister, 'we *do* need to stop the boats'," Albanese said.

But not all the jokes were roasting others.

Albanese didn't take himself too seriously when joking about the calibre of guests at the Grand Final Breakfast when compared to the entertainment at the MCG.

"We are lucky to have so many representatives here from federal and state politics. People at the 'G get Robbie Williams and Delta Goodrem, you get me and Peter Dutton, so, sorry about that."

That led to a shoutout for Tasmania premier Jeremy Rockliff, who is still waiting for an answer on whether the AFL will hand the state a licence for a 19th team.

“Can I give a special shoutout to the premier of Tasmania who’s with us, Jeremy Rockliff. Jeremy has been camping outside AFL House for a couple of weeks now waiting for news on the Tassie AFL team, so it’s nice he’s been let in here for a hot meal,” Albanese joked.

Lastly, he offered some praise for his Sydney Swans, saying: “Win or lose, they’ve done Australia a great favour by knocking out Collingwood last week by a point. Sorry, Eddie (McGuire).”

The Sydney Morning Herald

Zinger box

Anthony Albanese and **Peter Dutton** were forced to spend plenty of time together, with both addressing North Melbourne's traditional grand final breakfast before another encounter at the AFL luncheon.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton compared the AFL to politics and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to an umpire. *CREDIT: MARTA PASCAL JUANOLA*

Aside from Albanese's well-documented "stop the boats" gag, the PM swung a boot at his predecessor **Scott Morrison** for secretly swearing himself into several ministries.

"I'm really worried that when I was away last week in London, **Richard Marles** was the acting prime minister, so I'm worried he has sworn himself in as the minister to the Cats and approved yet another renovation of Kardinia Park," he said, in reference to his Geelong die-hard deputy.

Dutton, meanwhile, used his speech to compare the AFL to politics, and the speaker of the House of Representatives to an umpire.

"He tries to speak his decision but gives a lot of free kicks to the other mob," he told the audience.

"The teals are a bit like Greater Western Sydney, a cashed-up motley crew with a few extra draft picks but most of us are still wondering how on earth they got into the competition.

“The Coalition, on the other hand, is a bit like watching the Brisbane Lions. A merge of convenience back in the day, three consecutive premierships in recent history but couldn’t back it up with a fourth.”

Dutton also reminded attendees about a gaffe by former Liberal prime minister **Malcolm Turnbull** before the AFL grand final in 2008. When Turnbull was asked what footy team he barracked for, he responded saying the Sydney Roosters.

“So there’s hopefulness,” he said.

Ever the Sydneysider, Albanese predicted the Swans would take home the premiership by two goals.

Dutton, a Brisbane Lions supporter, sided with Marles, tipping the Cats.

“Our friendship, of course, has been tested in recent times because not only did he win the election, he took my job as defence minister. But I’m siding with Richard today,” he said.

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

14 December 2022

The Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care
PO Box 182
NUNDAH QLD 4012

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses – Travel to Melbourne

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to review work expenses accessed by parliamentarians.

IPEA is undertaking an assurance review of Commonwealth-funded travel and travel-related expenses incurred by you in relation to travel to Melbourne in September 2022. Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) sets out the principles parliamentarians are to apply when using public resources.

‘Parliamentary business’ has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act. Section 6 of the PBR Act provides that ‘parliamentary business’ means the ‘parliamentary duties, ‘electorate duties’, ‘party political duties’, or ‘official duties’ of the member. The [Parliamentary Business Resources \(Parliamentary Business\) Determination 2017](#) determines the activities which fall within the 4 duty streams. A copy of the Determination is enclosed for your reference.

Details of your Commonwealth-funded travel between 23 and 25 September 2022 are at **Attachment A**. I would be grateful if you could provide responses to the following:

- a. What was the dominant purpose of your travel from Canberra to Melbourne on 23 September 2022?
- b. If the dominant purpose was parliamentary business, what was the nature of the parliamentary business in Melbourne between 23 and 25 September 2022?

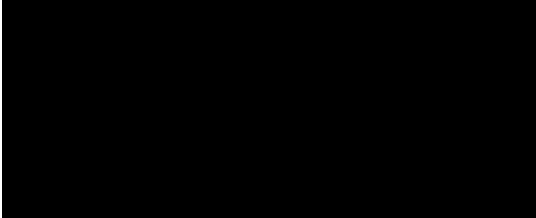
Where available, please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

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Please respond via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au by close of business on Friday, 13 January 2023. If you require additional time to provide a response or if you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6215 3000.

Yours sincerely



Director, Audit and Assurance
Transparency, Audit and Legal Branch

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Attachment A
The Hon Anika Wells MP
Assurance Review

Travel: 23 to 25 September 2022

Work expense	Departure date	Departure time	Departure location	Arrival date	Arrival time	Arrival location	Amount (GST exclusive)
Travel Services Provider – Flights	24/09/2022	8:00 AM	Sydney	24/09/2022	9:35 AM	Melbourne	
COMCAR	24/09/2022	9:35 AM	Melbourne Airport	24/09/2022	10:49 AM	Richmond	\$196.02
Accommodation – travel allowance	24/09/2022						\$464.00
COMCAR	25/09/2022	7:00 AM	Melbourne	25/09/2022	7:29 AM	Melbourne Airport	\$125.70
Travel Services Provider – Flights	25/09/2022	8:20 AM	Melbourne	25/09/2022	10:30 AM	Brisbane	\$1,602.53

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Parliamentarian travel to Melbourne [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 16 December 2022 10:49:49 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[23 - 25 September 2022.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached the further information requested to inform the review of this travel. Should further information be required, please advise.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant / Diary Manager to the Minister

Office of the Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport
Member for Lilley

[REDACTED]
Ministerial Office: [REDACTED] | PO Box 6022
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

The Department of Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 4:38 PM
To: 'Assurance@ipea.gov.au'
Subject: FW: Assurance Review - Parliamentarian travel to Melbourne [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for the query about the categorisation of the business of the Minister during her travel to Melbourne on 23 – 25 September 2022.

Having reviewed that claim, it has been determined that the allocation should have designated Official business not Parliamentary business.

Can you please advise if we need to amend this in our Office via the PEMS system or if it can be amended by IPEA.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant / Diary Manager to the Minister

Office of the Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport
Member for Lilley

[REDACTED]
Ministerial Office: [REDACTED] | PO Box 6022
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

The Department of Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 2:14 PM
To: Wells, Anika (MP) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Assurance Review - Parliamentarian travel to Melbourne [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

The Hon Anika Wells MP

Minister for Aged Care, Minister for Sport

Good afternoon Minister

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken to Melbourne in September 2022.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Director, Audit and Assurance

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

T: +61 2 6215 3000

E: assurance@ipea.gov.au

www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed

SEC=OFFICIAL

Be careful with this message

External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

23 September 2022

Friday

September 2022							October 2022							
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
				1	2	3	4						1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
							31							

	FRIDAY
	23
	← From 22 Sep ACCOMMODATION Check in: Thurs 22 Sept; check out: Sat 24 Sept) - VTo 24 Sep →
CBR/ME	
6 ^{AM}	
7	
8	
9	ATTEND & PARTICIPATE WADA Executive Committee meeting [STAFFING: ██████████] SYDNEY International Convention Centre WELLS, Anika
10	
11	
12 ^{PM}	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	5.20PM: Gather in ██████████ for short walk to Cockle Bay Marina for 5.30pm water taxi to dinner venue; **DRESS CODE: Busi
6	ATTEND WADA Executive Committee dinner w invited guests [STAFFING: ██████████] *DRESS CODE: Business casual SYDNEY Empire Lounge, Rose Bay *Travelling to and from venue via water taxi with other WADA Members and guests WELLS, Anika
7	
8	
	10:00pm - 10:30pm WATER TAXI back to Cockle Bay Marina for short walk to accommodation

24 September 2022

Saturday

September 2022

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2022

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31

SATURDAY	
24	
← From 22 Sep ACCOMMODATION ██████████ Darling Harbour (Check in: Thurs 22 Sept; check out: Sat 24 Sept) - WELLS, Anika	
6 ^{AM}	6.45AM: COMCAR ██████████ Darling Harbour to SYD Airport Reference: 158019 / if need to change - call COMCAR on 131847; WELLS, Anika
7	
8	FLIGHT QF419: Sydney to Melbourne *Min only / Finn landing at 10.40am so he will go direct to luncheon from airport Airline reference: ██████████ WELLS, Anika
9	
10	COMCAR Melb Airport to ██████████ to drop off luggage then to Melbourne Cricket Ground Reference: 157858 / If need to change, call ██████████ WELLS, Anika
11	ATTEND 2022 AFL Grand Final Commission Lunch w ██████████ *DRESS CODE: Lounge suit, ties for men, no denim MELBOURNE Olympic Room, Level 2, Olympic Stand, MCG DROP OFF: Turning circle at corner of Jolimont Terrace and Jolimont Street - NB: no underground entry or parking is available WELLS, Anika
12 ^{PM}	
1	2.30PM ATTEND 2022 AFL Grand Final w ██████████ *As guest of AFL MELBOURNE Olympic Room - Lvl 2, MCG 47F WELLS, Anika
2	
3	
4	
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7	
8	

25 September 2022

Sunday

September 2022

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2022

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31

	SUNDAY
	25
CBR/ME	
6 ^{AM}	
7	COMCAR ██████████ to Melbourne Airport; Reference: 157894/ If need to change, call ██████████; WELLS, Anika
8	FLIGHT QF608 Melbourne to Brisbane - business class WELLS, Anika
9	
10	10.30AM: COMCAR BNE Airport to home *Anika & ██████████; Reference: 158020 / if need to change - call COMCAR on ██████████; WELLS,
11	
12 ^{PM}	
1	
2	
3	
4	4.15PM COMCAR Home to Suncorp Stadium, direct Corp Suite access from carpark off Castlemaine St Reference: 158045 / if need to change urgently - call COMCAR on ██████████; WELLS, Anika
5	ATTEND Prime Minister's XIII matches at Suncorp Stadium [STAFFING: ██████████] *Min to arrive by 4.45pm, PM to arrive 5pm, PM & Min to depart 9.30pm *ETICKETS ATTACHED* BRISBANE Suncorp Stadium - Corporate box area, name will be with security *Entrance via Gate F - VIP entry WELLS, Anika
6	
7	
8	
	9:30pm - 10:00pm 9.30PM COMCAR Suncorp Stadium (where dropped off in carpark) to home(Reference: 158046 / if need to change ur

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Our ref. IDOC/204223

20 December 2022

The Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care
PO Box 182
NUNDAH QLD 4012

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses – Travel to Melbourne

Thank you for your response of 16 December 2022 relating to the Assurance Review of your travel to Melbourne in September 2022 conducted by the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

Having considered the information available, including your response, IPEA is satisfied that your use of parliamentary business resources for your travel to Melbourne to attend the AFL Grand Final is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

IPEA has now closed the Assurance Review of your travel. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6215 3000 should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Audit & Legal Branch

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

14 December 2022

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
Senator for Victoria
172 High Street
WODONGA VIC 3690

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses – Travel to Melbourne

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to review work expenses accessed by parliamentarians.

IPEA is undertaking an assurance review of Commonwealth-funded travel and travel-related expenses incurred by you in relation to travel to Melbourne in September 2022. Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) sets out the principles parliamentarians are to apply when using public resources.

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Details of your Commonwealth-funded travel between 23 and 25 September 2022 are at **Attachment A**. I would be grateful if you could provide responses to the following:

- a. What was the dominant purpose of your travel from Canberra to Melbourne on 23 September 2022?
- b. If the dominant purpose was parliamentary business, what was the nature of the parliamentary business in Melbourne between 23 and 25 September 2022?

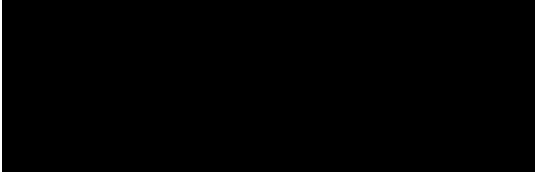
Where available, please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

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Please respond via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au by close of business on Friday, 13 January 2023. If you require additional time to provide a response or if you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6215 3000.

Yours sincerely



Director, Audit and Assurance
Transparency, Audit and Legal Branch

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Attachment A

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
Assurance Review

Travel: 23 to 25 September 2022

Work expense	Departure date	Departure time	Departure location	Arrival date	Arrival time	Arrival location	Amount (GST exclusive)
Travel Services Provider – Flights	23/09/2022	6:45 PM	Canberra	23/09/2022	7:55 PM	Melbourne	\$297.58
COMCAR	23/09/2022	7:55 PM	Melbourne Airport	23/09/2022	8:50 PM	Docklands	\$112.38
Cabcharge	24/09/2022	7:33 AM	Docklands	24/09/2022		Convention Centre Place	\$14.55
Cabcharge	25/09/2022	12:45 PM	Docklands	25/09/2022		Brighton	\$41.06
COMCAR	25/09/2022	3:30 PM	Brighton	25/09/2022	4:30 PM	Melbourne Airport	\$128.70

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From: [Redacted]
To: Assurance
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Travel verification
Date: Wednesday, 4 January 2023 6:21:10 PM
Attachments: [image004.jpg](#)
[2022_09_24 - Grand Final Breakfast - Briefing VVIP.docx](#)
[UPDATED BRIEFING North Melbourne AFL Grand Final Breakfast - 24 September 2022.msg](#)
[VIP Details 2022 DrinkWise North Melbourne Grand Final Breakfast.msg](#)

Dear [Redacted]

I write on behalf of Senator McKenzie in response to your letter of December 14, 2022.

I am Senator McKenzie’s chief of staff and have referred, as you suggested, to the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination Act 2017.

In response to your questions:

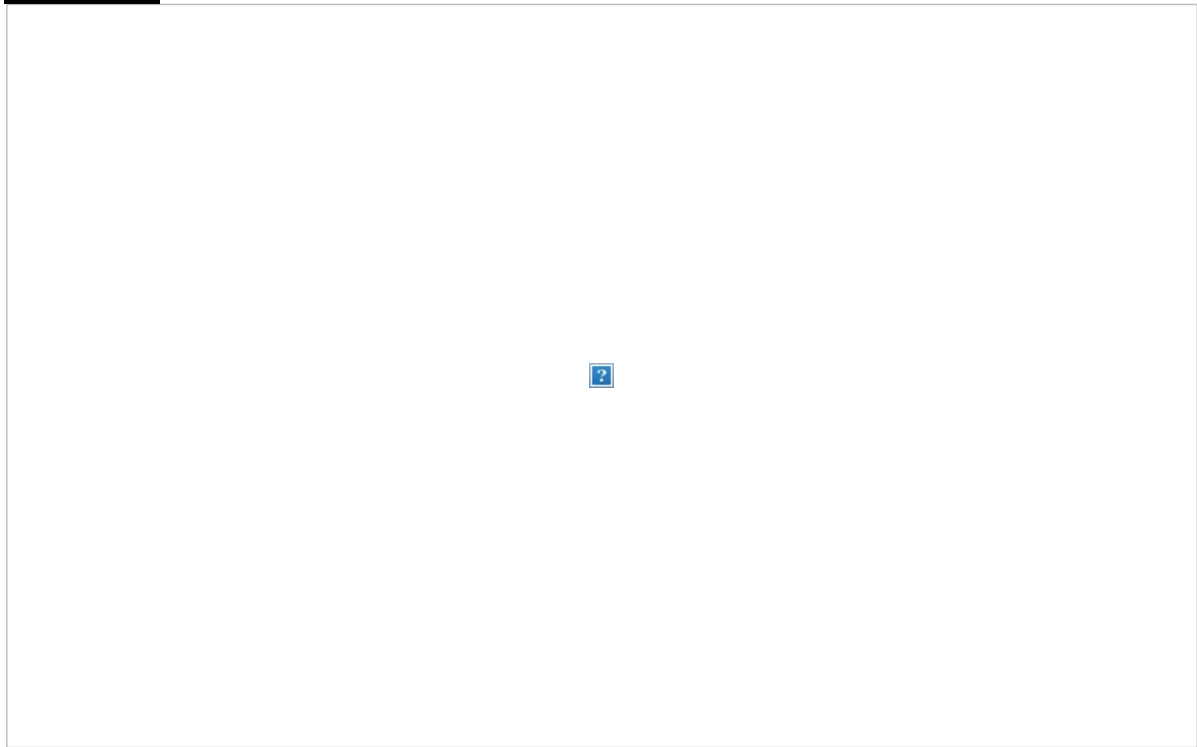
- a. The dominant purpose of travelling from Canberra to Melbourne on Friday 23 September 2022 was to return to Victoria following the Parliamentary sitting to commemorate the death of Queen Elizabeth.
- b. Senator McKenzie was invited to attend the North Melbourne Drink Wise Grand Final breakfast in her official capacity as a Senator for Victoria on Saturday September 24, which she did.
- c. The following day, September 25, 2022, Senator McKenzie had a fishing industry stakeholder meeting from 1:30—3pm.
- d. On September 25 Senator McKenzie returned to Canberra from Melbourne for the resumption of Parliamentary sittings.

I have included diary details below and attachments of invitations to breakfast above.

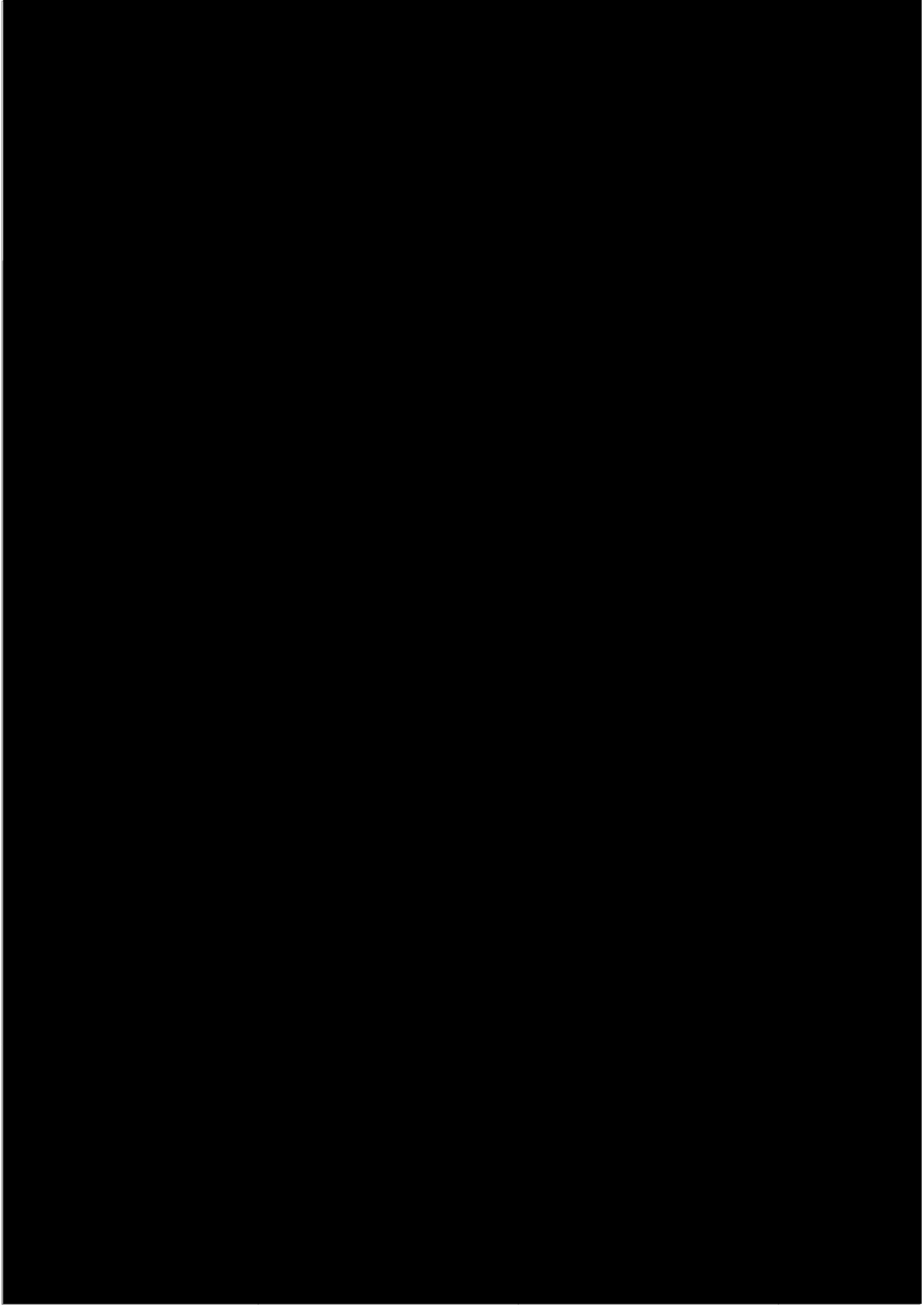
Please advise if these details are sufficient for your purposes or if other information is required.

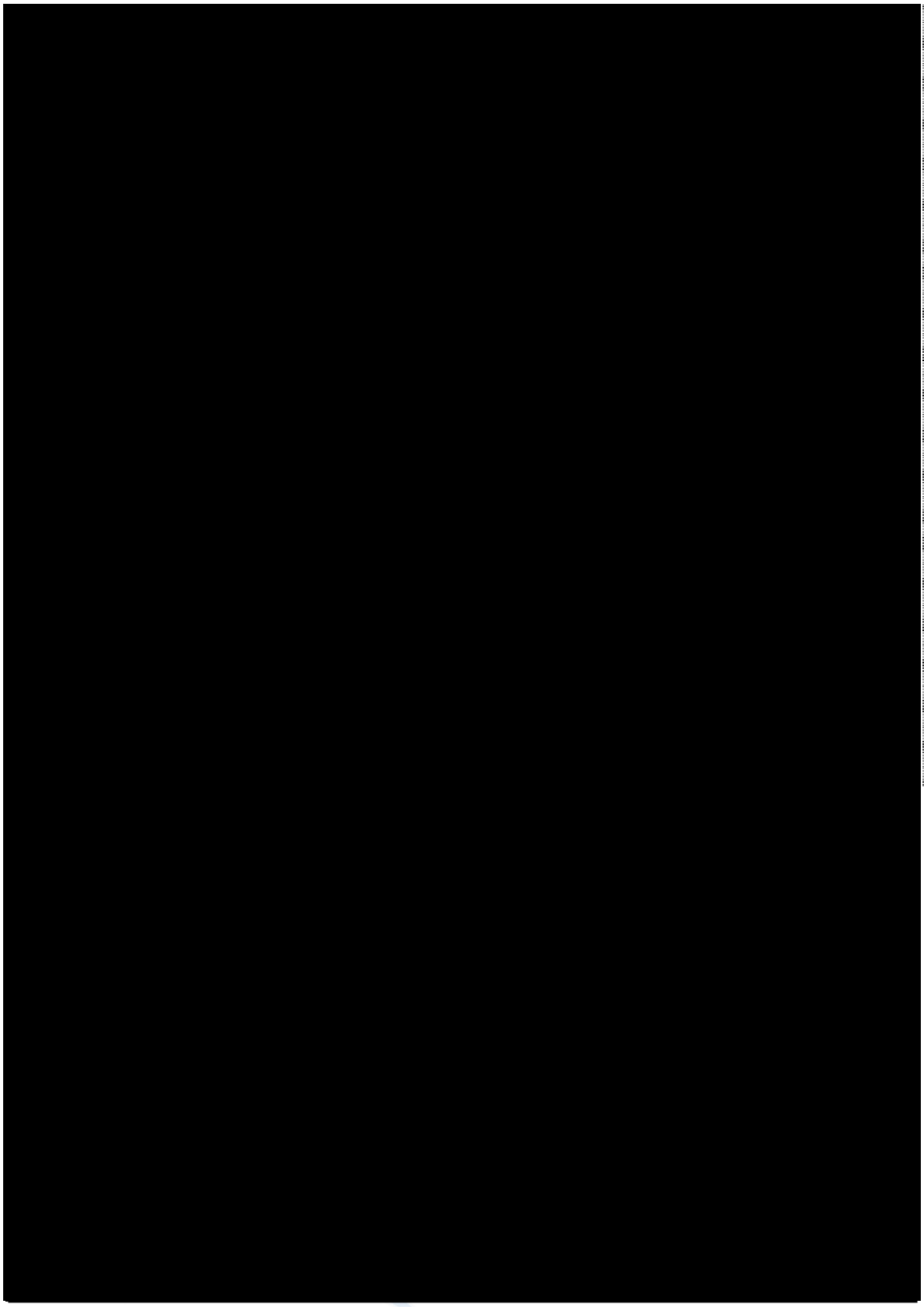
Regards,

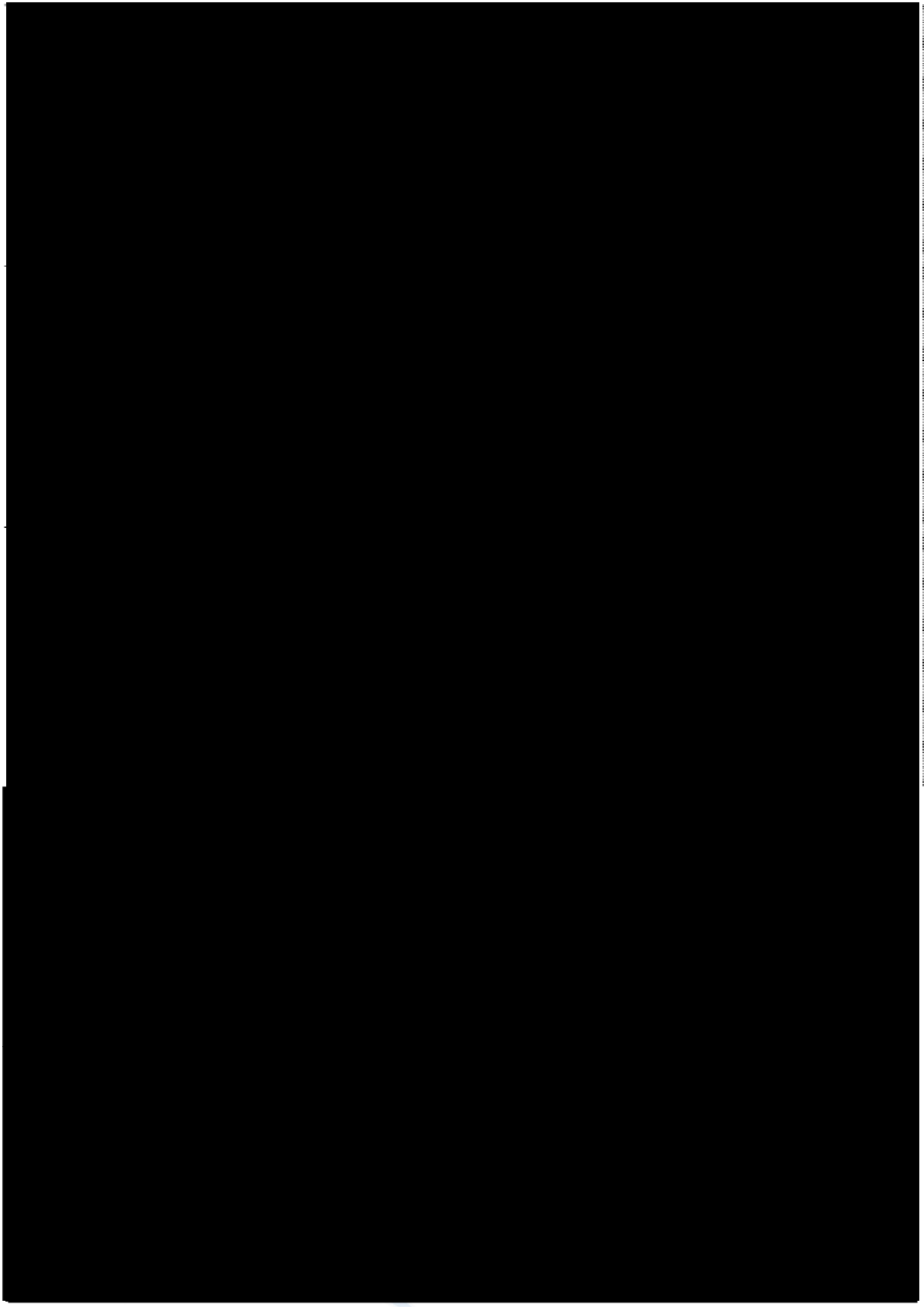
[Redacted]

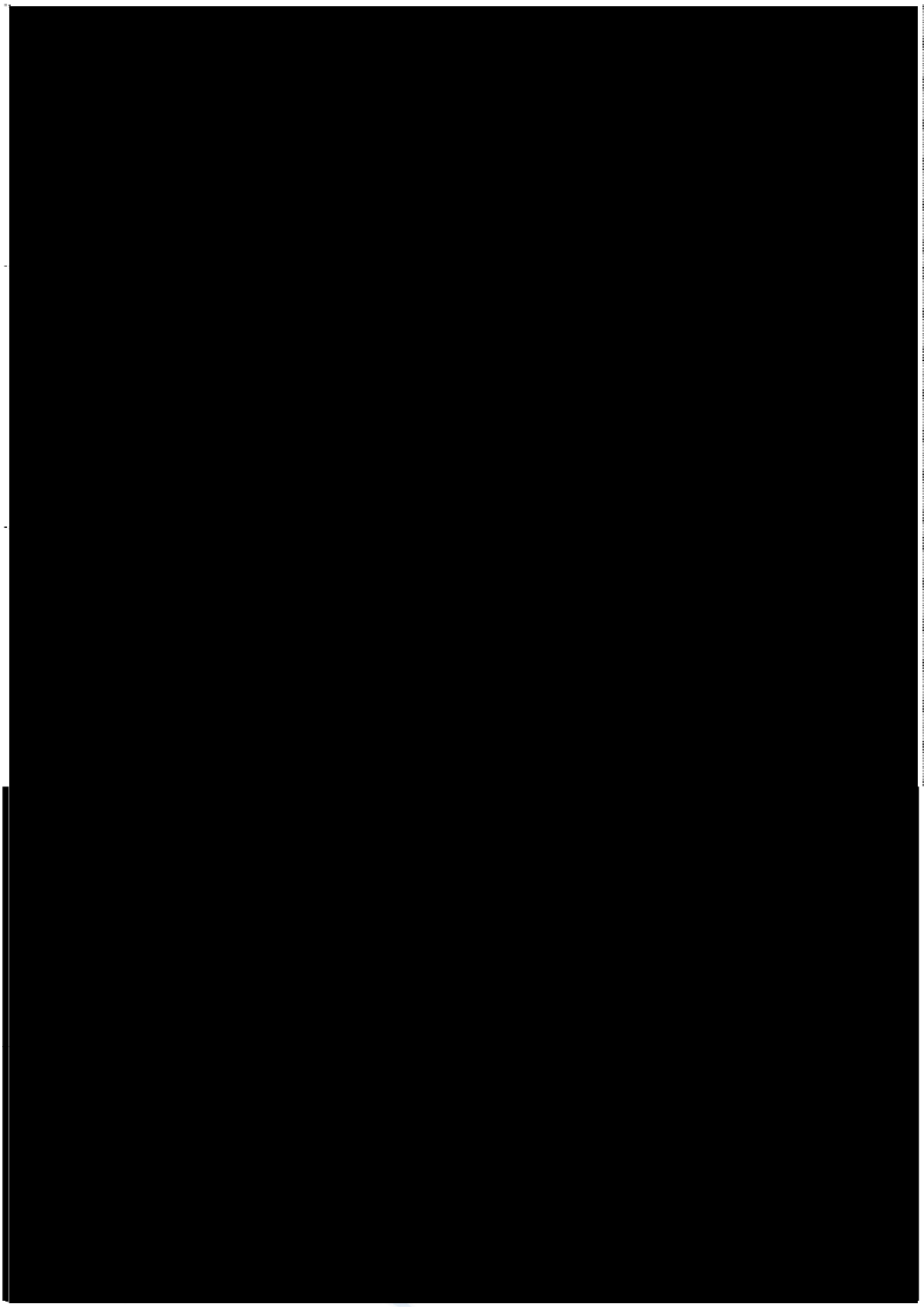


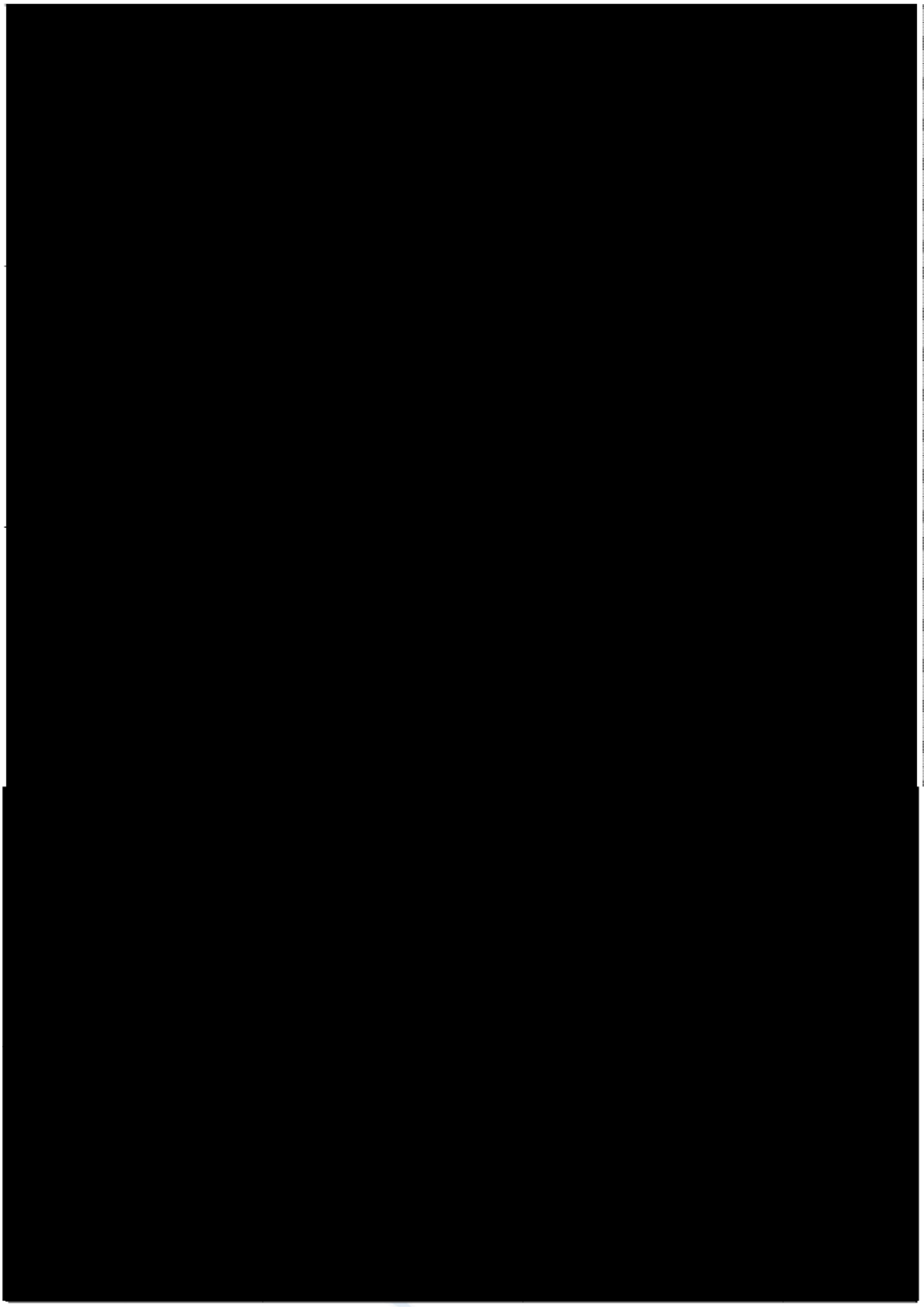
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External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

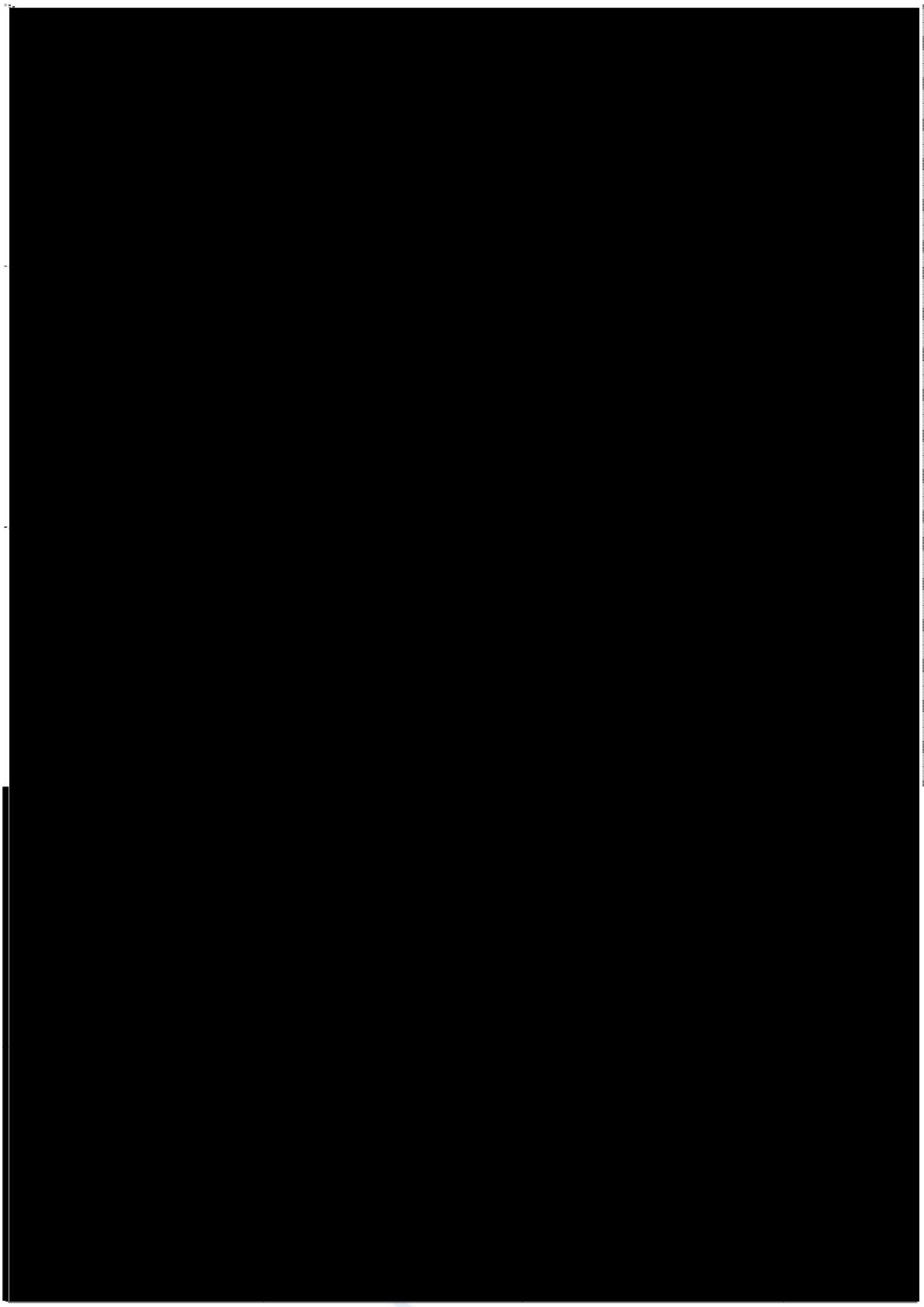


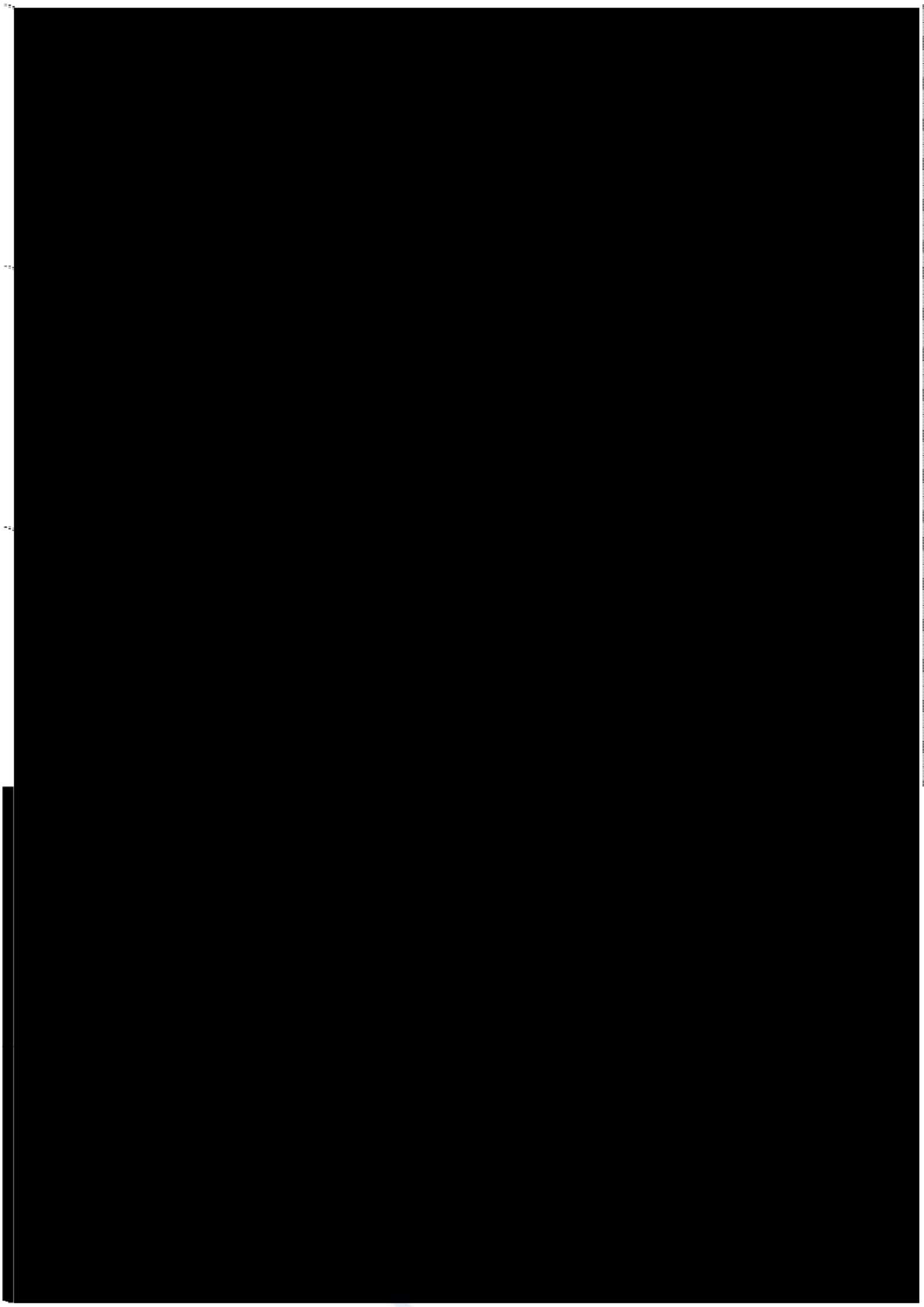


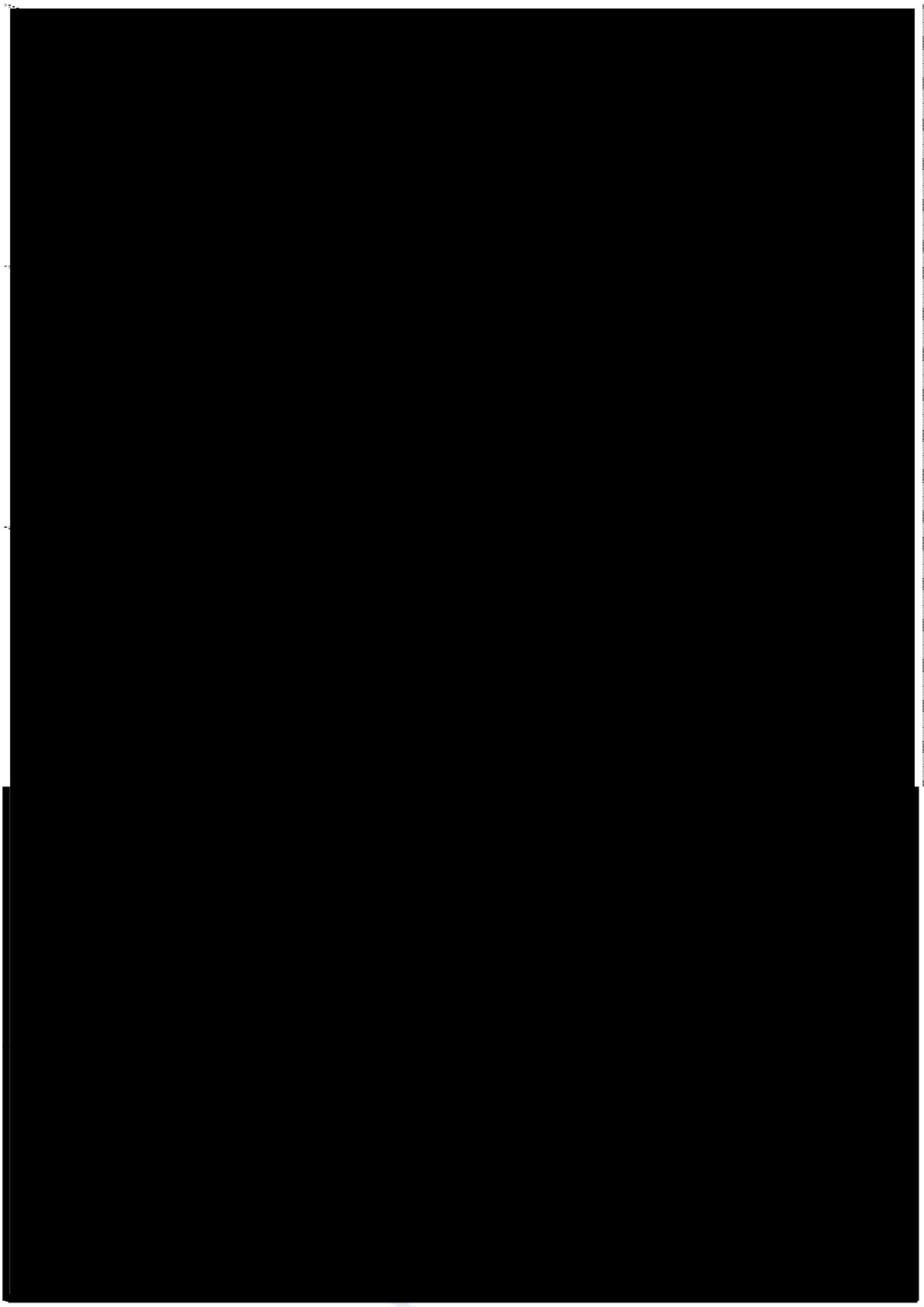


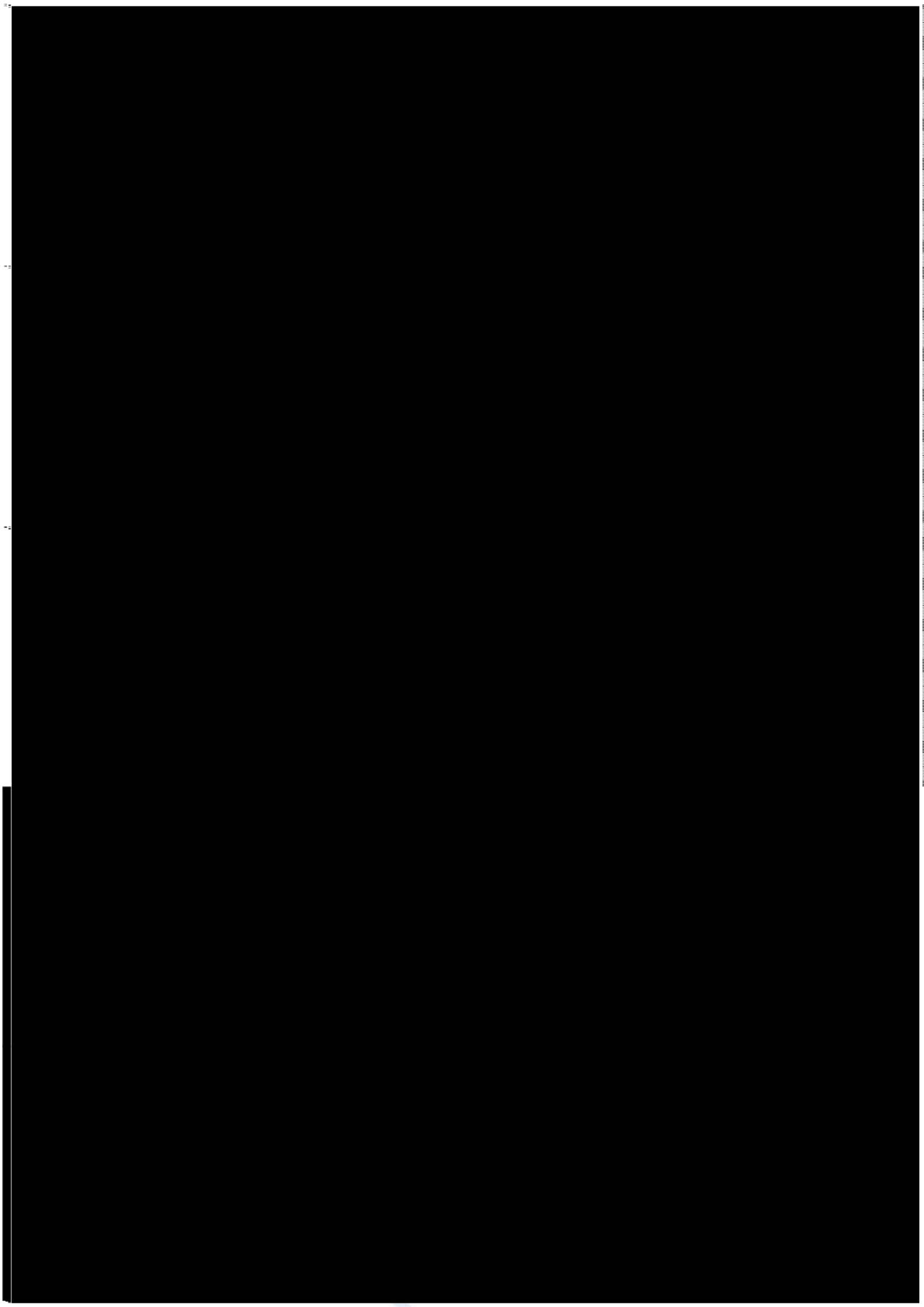


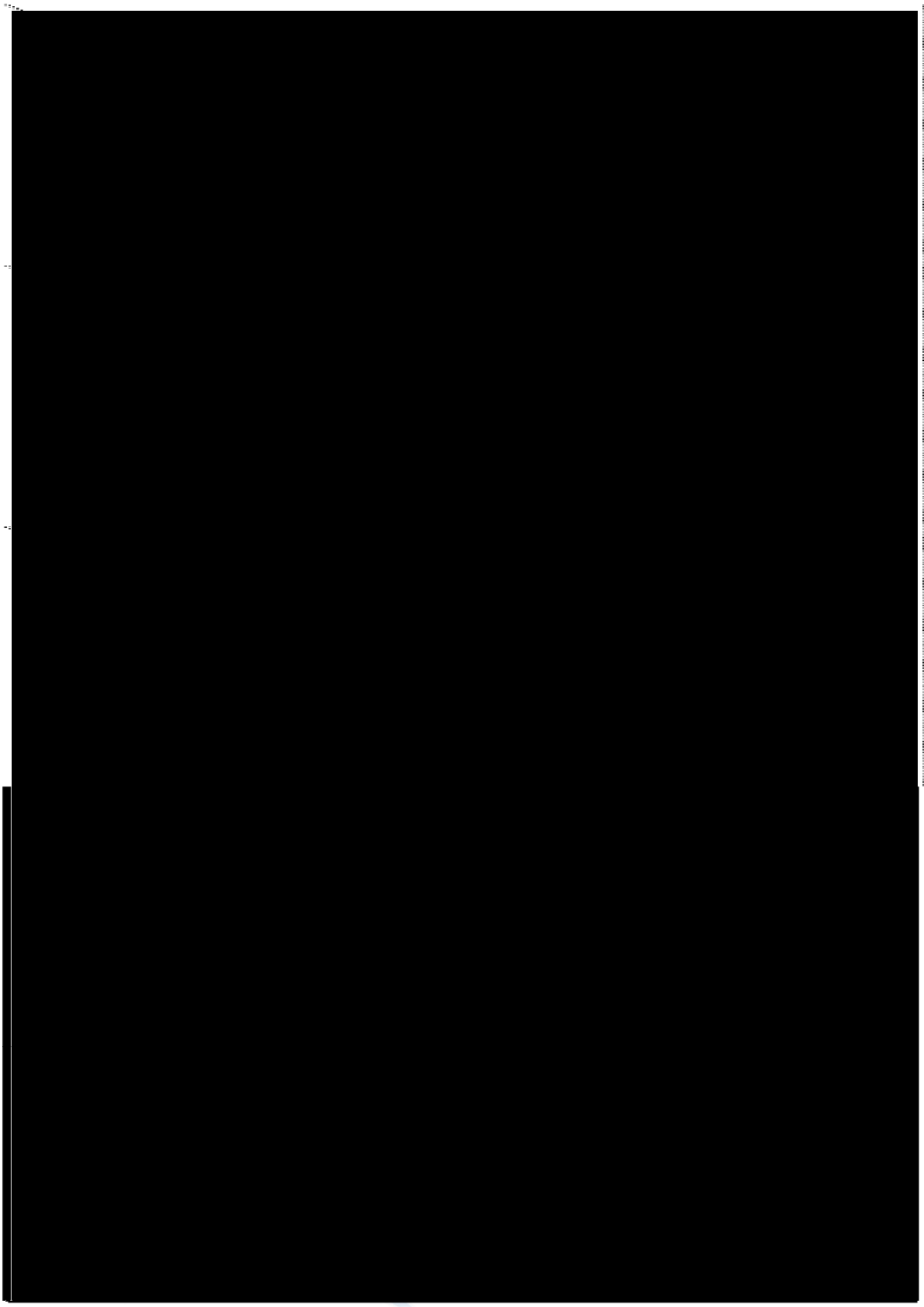


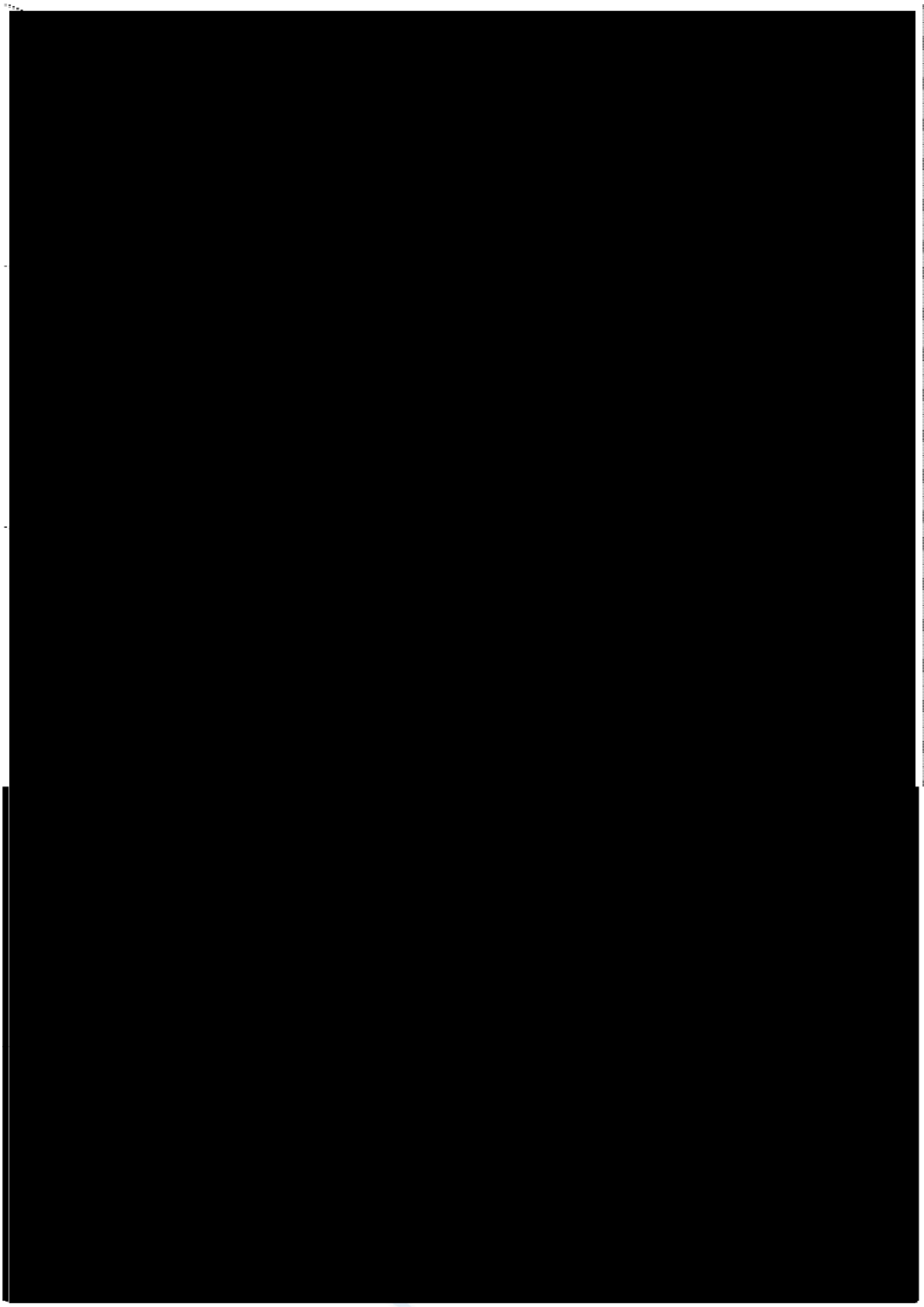












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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Our ref. IDOC/204223

5 January 2023

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
Senator for Victoria
172 High Street
WODONGA VIC 3690

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses – Travel to Melbourne

Thank you for your response of 4 January 2023 relating to the Assurance Review of your travel to Melbourne in September 2022 conducted by the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

Having considered the information available, including your response, IPEA is satisfied that your use of parliamentary business resources for your travel to Melbourne is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

IPEA has now closed the Assurance Review of your travel. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6215 3000 should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Audit & Legal Branch

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