



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
PRIME MINISTER

Mr Saviour Balzan  
Mediatoday Co. Limited  
San Gwann

15 February 2023

Dear Mr. Balzan,

I refer to your open letter bearing today's date.

The Government of Malta is not in receipt of any such letter by Steward Healthcare. Should such correspondence eventually be received, and should it have the content you mention in your letter, as you rightly mention it is not within the powers or prerogative of the Government to investigate such allegations.

The Government's commitment is to protect journalists and efforts have been pursued to this effect in the past few months, including through concrete measures to support journalistic work and the media sector in general, from the sector's sustainability to legislative initiatives. Amongst others, the Government drafted a set of legislative amendments that include an Anti-Slapp bill, and also set up an expert group on the protection of journalists.

We intend to continue taking the necessary initiatives to create an environment where journalists can carry out their work with serenity, and receive all the protection expected from an EU member state that upholds the values mentioned in your letter.

Regards,

Robert Abela