

1 **BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE**  
2 **EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD**

3 In the Matter of:

EEB Case No. 2023-087

4 Jason English,

FINAL ORDER

5 Respondent  
6  
7

8 **I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

9 On October 19, 2023, the Executive Ethics Board (Board) received an agency referral  
10 alleging that Jason English, a former employee of the Washington State Department of  
11 Corrections (DOC), may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act. The complaint alleged  
12 that Jason English violated RCW Chapter 42.52, by using state resources for non-work related  
13 activities.

14 The Board entered an Order of Default on March 14, 2025. On March 18, 2025, Board  
15 staff provided Jason English with notice of the Board's Order of Default by regular and certified  
16 mail.

17 Pursuant to WAC 292-100-060(4) Jason English was allowed 10 days to request vacation  
18 of the Order of Default. Jason English has not moved to vacate the order entered on March 14,  
19 2025.

20 **II. FINDINGS OF FACT**

21 1. According to the referral, Jason English used their DOC email account to send  
22 out an inappropriate email to the DOC statewide Outlook email distribution list. The DOC email  
23 list included all custody staff, the DOC Executive Cabinet, and DOC Superintendents.  
24 Additionally, Jason English sent the email to EEB Board staff and other Washington State  
25 employees. In total, the email reached over 1,000 state employees.  
26

1           2.       According to DOC, Jason English was hired on December 27, 2017, as a  
2 Corrections Officer 1 (CO1). On December 27, 2018, Jason English was promoted to a  
3 Corrections Officer 2 (CO2). On October 19, 2023, Jason English was terminated from DOC  
4 employment.

5  
6           3.       As part of this investigation, DOC provided Board staff with the following email  
7 in question, sent by Jason English on October 10, 2023:

8           **Subject: Trio Of Doom**

9           *"Always remember, the state doesn't care about you. You're an easily replaceable cog*  
10 *in the machine and your wellbeing and hard work means nothing to them. Stay safe and*  
11 *watch out for one another.*

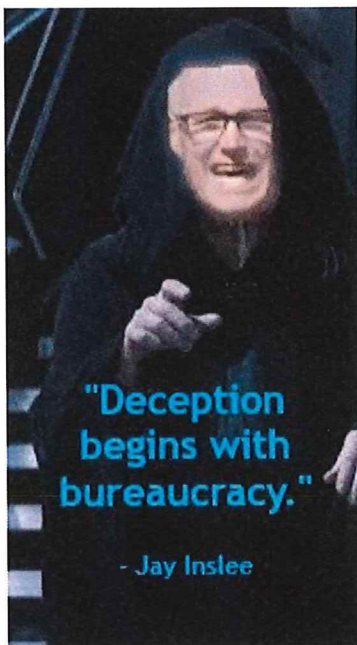
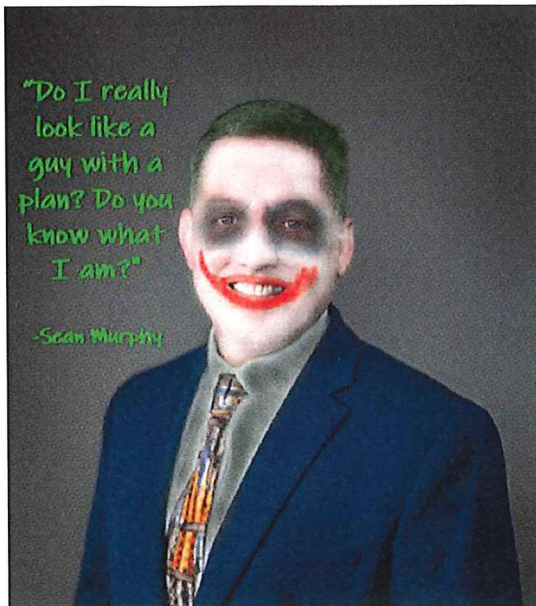
12           *Ps. Enjoy these free backgrounds attached to the email...*

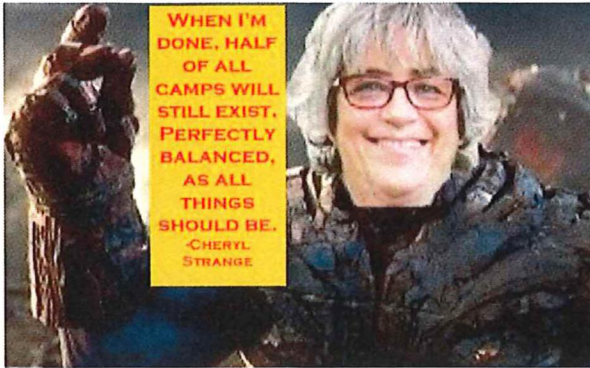


17           *I'm Sorry. I couldn't resist*  
18           *Jason English Former Larch C/O"*

19           *\*Attached to the sent email were the following three attachments:<sup>1</sup>*  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

25           <sup>1</sup> Photograph one depicts Sean Murphy (DOC Deputy Secretary) as the Batman villain "The Joker".  
26 Photograph two depicts Governor Jay Inslee as Star Wars villain "Emperor Palpatine" and photograph three depicts Cheryl Strange (DOC Secretary) as Marvel franchise villain "Thanos."





4. As part of this investigation, Board staff obtained a copy of Jason English's DOC emails. Upon review, Board staff flagged the following additional emails sent by Jason English as personal in nature:

- **Sent July 31, 2023 to a fellow DOC account:** "It could be much worse Parker, imagine DOC breaking up with you through an email:

June 26, 2023

Dear Larch Team,

By now you have likely heard the news that the department has made the difficult decision to close Larch Corrections Center in October of this year. While this was not an easy choice to make, the data is clear that decreasing incarceration trends, coupled with future forecasts, means keeping LCC open is no longer viable.

I want you to know that I have assembled a team at headquarters who is working hard to ensure that we are able to provide support during what I expect may be a difficult time. Each one of you will be offered a job within DOC. I realize that the location of LCC makes it difficult for you to commute to another prison, and as a result we will be reaching out to the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs, Oregon's Department of Corrections and other agencies to help those of you who are not interested or able to relocate.

While this may sound like bad news, this is exactly what we have all been working towards. Your dedication to positively changing lives and creating better neighbors means that fewer incarcerated individuals are reoffending and returning to our custody, and that trend is expected to accelerate over the next decade.

I will continue working closely with my team to ensure we are doing all we can to support you.

Thank you,

Cheryl

**Cheryl Strange | Secretary**

This was sent out the morning of June 26<sup>th</sup>, it is now July 31<sup>st</sup>... How much help do you think DOC has offered us? I can tell you, we were sent WorkSource links to job fairs. So if you're ever feeling down about how poorly DOC treats you, at least they didn't send you to apply to job making \$19 an hour."

- **Sent July 4, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** "They announced over the radio it was my birthday, but other than that no, nor would I want them to lol."
- **Sent July 7, 2023 to a fellow DOC account:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ2U1i5meFw2>
- **Sent July 8, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** "yea until 6."
- **Sent July 10, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** "The 14<sup>th</sup> at 1."
- **Sent July 15, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** "Well yesterday I was kind of rubbing my belly and it felt much flatter, that's why I checked today. I am in shock, I knew alcohol had lots of calories, but not to this extent. I am feeling better and a lot more healthy, I wish I would have done this sooner."
- **Sent July 15, 2023 to a fellow DOC account:**

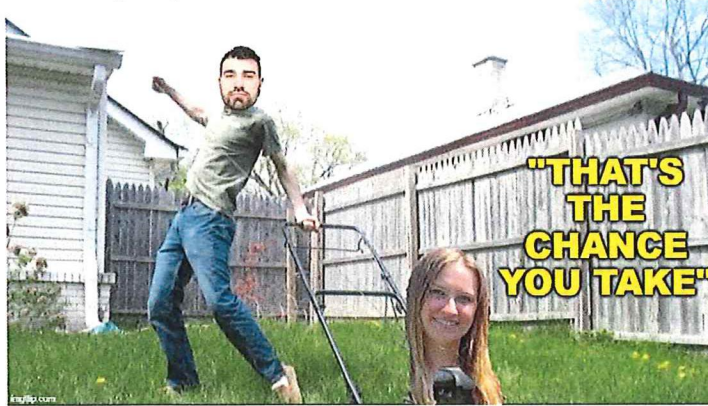


- **Sent July 21, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** "After paying off the IRS we should have around \$3,354 left. I'm preordering a game and want to do a date

<sup>2</sup> Board staff viewed the YouTube video – "Lifehouse skit – Renovatus"

night, we should still come out ahead. You should spend \$100 on yourself too babe, we should enjoy this little extra free money..”

- **Sent July 21, 2023 to a fellow DOC account:**



- **Sent July 30, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “Well at least it won’t be as painful as the last one.”
- **Sent August 5, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “Ok, I’ll go sign up for the weekend. Love you”
- **Sent August 10, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “They took it away like 3 weeks ago, can only go on the DOC page and email now.”
- **Sent August 11, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “Yea I can’t see how they couldn’t, its clearly the wrong address.”
- **Sent August 25, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “No, no it doesn’t. I’m glad I’m in the process of getting a new job”
- **Sent August 25, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “Love you too babe. If you get a chance, could you open this article and copy past the text for me? We got sent a link about news on Larch but we have no access to internet. <https://clbn.us/wa893>”<sup>3</sup>
- **Sent August 30, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “Yea but we really don’t have the money to fix it, I think id have to just buy the actual part, the jimmy rigging it hasn’t worked.”
- **Sent September 19, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “Go into urgent care.”

<sup>3</sup> Board staff reviewed the external link – it’s a news story about DOC potentially closing a facility (Yacolt) in October 2023.

- **Sent September 22, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “Babe, you can’t do that! You won’t be able to walk that far, the zoo is huge! I think you should push it back till next weekend when you are feeling better. That’s good babe, I’m glad you were able to rest.”
- **Sent October 9, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “Oh no, did you finish your medicine all the way?.”
- **Sent October 9, 2023 to 15027674377@tmomail.net:** “\$35.27 an hour”
- **Between the dates of June 26, 2023 and October 9, 2023, there were an additional 100 emails sent from Jason English’s DOC account to the above noted phone number.**

5. As part of this investigation, Board staff additionally requested a forensic copy of all computers Jason English had access to during the course of their duties. DOC was unable to provide forensic copies but provided a “webform” (Excel spreadsheet) of internet activity associated with Jason English’s DOC username. Upon review, Board staff noted ongoing personal website visits, between the dates of November 2022 and August 2023, including:

- YouTube
- Espn
- AirBnb
- United.com
- CNN
- MSN
- Amazon
- Hitc.com (Football league news)
- TMZ (celebrity news)
- Reddit.com
- Apnews.com
- Wayfair.com
- TubiTV.com (online television streaming site)
- NPR.org (news website)
- Foxnews
- Daily-choices.com (Travel/family/culture/leisure/health website)
- Cliffsnotes.com
- Mirror.co.uk.news
- Nypost.com

- Imgflip.com (Website that creates gif's, memes, etc.)
- Dailymail.co.uk
- Paramount.com (Online TV streaming service)
- Huffpost.com

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction to hear this matter pursuant to RCW 42.52.360(1), which authorizes the Board to enforce the Ethics in Public Service Act, chapter 42.52 RCW, with respect to employees in the executive branch of state government. The Board has jurisdiction over Jason English, whose actions occurred while they were a state employee. Based on the evidence reviewed, Jason English has used state resources for their private benefit or gain in violation of RCW 42.52.160. Jason English's activities do not meet the exceptions for the use of state resources as permitted in WAC 292-110-010.

2. RCW 42.52.160(1) – Use of persons, money, or property for private gain, states:

No state officer or state employee may employ or use any person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

Under WAC 292-110-010 Use of state resources states, in part:

(3) **Permitted personal use of state resources.** This subsection applies to any use of state resources not included in subsection (2) of this section.

(a) A state officer or employee's use of state resources is de minimis only if each of the following conditions are met:

- (i) There is little or no cost to the state;
- (ii) Any use is brief;
- (iii) Any use occurs infrequently;
- (iv) The use does not interfere with the performance of any state officer's or employee's official duties;
- (v) The use does not compromise the security or integrity of state property, information systems, or software;
- (vi) The use is not for the purpose of conducting an outside business, in furtherance of private employment, or to realize a private financial gain; and
- (vii) The use is not for supporting, promoting the interests of, or soliciting for an outside organization or group.

3. The Board is authorized to impose sanctions for violations to the Ethics Act pursuant to RCW 42.52.360.

4. In determining the appropriateness of the civil penalty, the criteria in WAC 292-120-030 have been reviewed.

### III. FINAL ORDER


Based on the foregoing:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED Respondent Jason English is liable for and shall pay a civil penalty of five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The payment shall be made to the Executive Ethics Board within forty-five (45) days of this Order.

DATED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

  
Kelli Hooke, Chair

  
Cam Comfort, Member

  
Megan Abel, Vice Chair

  
David Hankins, Member

  
Mark Rapozo, Member

### APPEAL RIGHTS

#### RECONSIDERATION OF FINAL ORDER – BOARD

Any party may ask the Executive Ethics Board to reconsider a Final Order. The request must be in writing and must include the specific grounds or reasons for the request. The request must be delivered to Board office within 10 days after the postmark date of this order.

The Board is deemed to have denied the request for reconsideration if, within 20 days from the date the request is filed, the Board does not either dispose of the petition or serve the

1 parties with written notice specifying the date by which it will act on the petition.  
2 RCW 34.05.470.

3 The Respondent is not required to ask the Board to reconsider the Final Order before  
4 seeking judicial review by a superior court. RCW 34.05.470.

### 5 **FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS – SUPERIOR COURT**

6 A Final Order issued by the Executive Ethics Board is subject to judicial review under  
7 the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. See RCW 42.52.440. The procedures  
8 are provided in RCW 34.05.510 - .598.

9 The petition for judicial review must be filed with the superior court and served on the  
10 Board and any other parties within 30 days of the date that the Board serves this Final Order on  
11 the parties. RCW 34.05.542(2).

12 A petition for review must set forth:

- 13 (1) The name and mailing address of the petitioner;
- 14 (2) The name and mailing address of the petitioner's attorney, if any;
- 15 (3) The name and mailing address of the agency whose action is at issue;
- 16 (4) Identification of the agency action at issue, together with a duplicate copy, summary,  
17 or brief description of the agency action;
- 18 (5) Identification of persons who were parties in any adjudicative proceedings that led to  
19 the agency action;
- 20 (6) Facts to demonstrate that the petitioner is entitled to obtain judicial review;
- 21 (7) The petitioner's reasons for believing that relief should be granted; and
- 22 (8) A request for relief, specifying the type and extent of relief requested.

23 RCW 34.05.546.

### 24 **ENFORCEMENT OF FINAL ORDERS**

25 If there is no timely request for reconsideration, this is the Final Order of the Board. The  
26 Respondent is legally obligated to pay any penalty assessed.

1       The Board will seek to enforce a Final Order in superior court and recover legal costs  
2 and attorney's fees if the penalty remains unpaid and no petition for judicial review has been  
3 timely filed under chapter 34.05 RCW. This action will be taken without further order by the  
4 Board.