Auditor General's comments on Department response

We appreciate the Department's response including its agreement with all but 1of the findings and its plan to implement all but 1 of the recommendations. However, the Department has included certain statements in its response that necessitate the following clarifications:

Although the Department does not provide specific information, it makes a broad statement that "…some of the headings throughout the report are missing context and could be misleading" (see Department's response, page 1). Further, even though the Department agrees with Finding 1 and plans to implement our recommendations, the Department's response incorrectly states that, "Of the 14,932 registered sex offenders, the Auditor General found two instances where the Department did not publish two offenders, improperly published three offenders and did not update the photographs of two offenders" (see Department's response, page 2).

We disagree with the Department's statement that our headings are missing context and could be misleading. Further, the Department's statements appear to mischaracterize and minimize what we found. These findings are based on the results of our review and analysis of multiple random samples and populations of sex offenders as indicated in Finding 1 (see pages 8 through 14) and the Scope and methodology appendix (see page a-1). Specifically, we did not review the entire Department-reported population of 14,932 registered sex offenders as the Department suggests, but rather, we reviewed random samples from the population of registered sex offenders and found concerning deficiencies within those samples. Although the random samples we report in Finding 1 were not designed to be generalized to the population of registered sex offenders or the population of offenders published on the sex offender website, the methods we used to select these samples provide reasonable assurance that the problems we identified are not isolated to the samples we reviewed. Our report provides sufficient evidence to support our conclusions, clearly states the results of our review, and provides the necessary context to understand our findings.