

SENSITIVE: NSW Government

D/2020/542372

Issue:

Response from Homicide Squad in relation to a request from Alex Greenwich MP for updated information relating to the investigation of historic unsolved gay hate crimes

Background:

In May 2020, a Parliamentary Question was raised by Alex Greenwich MP requesting an update on status of unsolved gay hate crimes as a result of the recent arrest of the alleged killer of Scott Johnson in 1988.

Current Position:

In relation to question 1 (a)- the total number of identified unsolved gay hate crimes for that period in the late 1980's, I am unable to assist with that inquiry and those statistics may be provided by State Intelligence. On 18 May 2017, Assistant Commissioner Crandell provided a briefing note with regards to the outcomes of Operation Parrabell which focussed on a review of bias related crimes (gay hate crimes).

In relation to question 1 (b)- the NSWPF continuing to investigate unsolved deaths (gay hate related), I understand that as a result of Operation Parrabell, 23 unsolved cases were reviewed to determine if there was any evidence of suspected bias crime in relation to the death/suspected death of the victims. These matters were not "referred" to the Unsolved Homicide Unit by Operation Parrabell, however the Homicide Squad assisted Operation Parrabell locate relevant material in relation to unsolved matters.

Out of the 23 deaths, Operation Parrabell concluded that five cases had sufficient evidence to suspect a bias crime, one of those cases being the matter of Scott Johnson.

The Homicide Squad also included one additional case which was not previously considered a bias crime for further review as a result of Operation Taradale. The five unsolved cases have previously been investigated and/or subject to the Unsolved Homicide Review Process as outlined below:

Deaths of: -**[1] Giles MATTAINI – SF NEIWAND [Unsolved Homicide Unit investigation]
[previously under Operation Taradale]**

Op Parrabell concluded there was insufficient information to establish a bias crime as did the Academic review. The matter was re-investigated in 2018 and to date insufficient information /evidence is available to progress the matter. The matter will now go into the unsolved homicide review process.

[2] Ross WARREN– SF NEIWAND (Unsolved Homicide Team investigation)

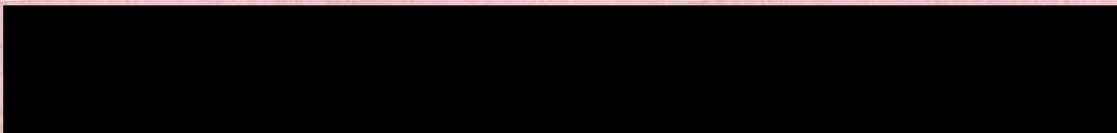
Op Parrabell concluded there was evidence to suspect a bias crime whilst the Academic Review concluded there was Insufficient Evidence. The matter was re-investigated in 2018 and to date insufficient information /evidence is available to progress the matter. The matter will now go into the unsolved homicide review process.

SENSITIVE: NSW Government

D/2020/542372

[3] John RUSSELL – SF NEIWAND (Unsolved Homicide Team Investigation)

Op Parrabell concluded there was evidence to suspect a bias crime whilst the Academic Review concluded there was Insufficient Evidence. The matter was re-investigated in 2018 and to date insufficient information /evidence is available to progress the matter. The matter will now go into the unsolved homicide review process.

**[5] William Emanuel ALLEN – MATTER TO BE REVIEWED UNDER UNSOLVED HOMICIDE REVIEW PROCESS**

Op Parrabell concluded there was evidence to suspect a bias crime whilst the Academic Review concluded that this was a Gay Bias related crime. The investigation is to be reviewed as part of the unsolved homicide review process.

In relation to question 1 (c) - what further action Police can take to encourage information from the community to solve these cases, I can confirm that Crime Stoppers regularly make appeals to the public in relation to unsolved cases. Additionally, case reviews continue to be conducted to identify any further lines of inquiry under the current cold case review process and these reviews are ongoing.

As part of the review process, any recommendation that is made or any request for consideration of an increase to the reward on offer are considered in conjunction with the Senior next of kin of the victims and any possible future investigative strategies to maximise the investigative benefits in progressing this case.

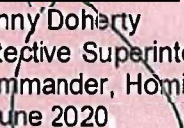
In relation to question 2 – I can assure that the NSWPF have a high situational awareness in relation to bias related crime as a result of changes to culture, education and training over the last few years. The NSWPF will continue to properly investigate every homicide investigation on a case by case basis, trying to determine motives and causal links to progress investigations either for the criminal or coronial judicial process, including any bias crime related deaths.

Recommendation:

Forwarded for information.



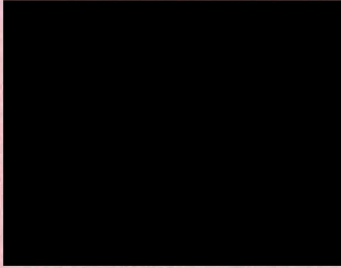
Danny Doherty
Detective Superintendent
Commander, Homicide Squad
4 June 2020



SENSITIVE: NSW Government

D/2020/542372

Director, Crime Operations

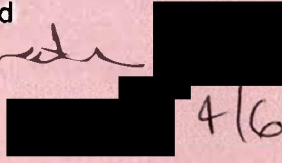


Darren Bennett
Detective Chief Superintendent
Director Crime Operations
State Crime Command

4-6-20

Assistant Commissioner, State Crime Command

Forwarded to [redacted]



4/6.

Deputy Commissioner, Investigations & Counter Terrorism

Commissioner of Police

Office for Police



Communities
& Justice

MEMORANDUM

ROUTINE MATTER – PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

TO: Manager
NSW Police Force Secretariat

FROM: Brad Stait
Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
Department of Communities and Justice

DATE: 29 May 2020

SUBJECT: LA QON 3194 – Historic Gay Hate Crimes

Dear Secretariat,

Please obtain advice from the relevant area and provide advice on this issue. It is imperative that an answer be supplied by the required date. Any additional information that may be of assistance in responding to this matter would also be appreciated.

SUBJECT: LA QON 3194 – Historic Gay Hate Crimes

MEMBER: Alex Greenwich MP

DATE ISSUE RAISED: 28 May 2020

ADVICE REQUIRED BY: cob Friday 12 June 2020

Any inquiries concerning this request may be directed to me on 8061 9236. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Brad Stait
Parliamentary Liaison Officer
Department of Communities and Justice

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
28 MAY 2020
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

3194 – Historic Gay Hate Crimes

Greenwich, Alex to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

1. Considering that the NSW Police Force have arrested the alleged killer of Scott Johnson in 1988 after extraordinary investigations:
 - a. How many other cases have the NSW Police Force identified as unsolved gay hate crimes from that period?
 - b. Will the NSW Police Force continue investigating these unsolved deaths?
 - c. What further action will police take to encourage information from the community to solve these cases?
2. How will the Government ensure that proper investigation occurs for hate crimes in the future?

Tamara Howarth

From: Lisa O'Brien [REDACTED] on behalf of #SECRETARIAT
[REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 14:41

To: #SCCCOMMAND/Staff/NSWPolice; Nuwar Kordy; David Firth

Cc: Tracey Gordon; Violeta Najdova; #DCOPCORPORATE; Damian Spruce

Subject: D/2020/538698 Initial Request - MaPS - QON 3194 - LA - Alex Greenwich MP -
Historic Gay Hate Crimes - 28 May 2020 - In container 'F/2020/58410
[DLM=Sensitive:NSW Government]

Attachments: QON Advice Request - LA QON 3194 - Police.pdf

To:
State Crime Command
Corporate Sponsor, Sexuality and Gender Diversity

cc:
Deputy Commissioner, Investigations and Counter Terrorism Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services
Director, Ministerial and Executive Services

Good Afternoon,

The request below is forwarded for review and advice 9 June 2020.

Please use container F/2020/58410 for command response.
All responses must be titled as: [Command] response - Subject Title and related as 'a reply' to the original request.

Regards

Secretariat

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Stait <Brad.Stait@justice.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 1:51 PM
To: #SECRETARIAT [REDACTED]
Cc: Nicole Miller <[REDACTED]>; Lyvia Devine <[REDACTED]> Damian Spruce
<[REDACTED]>; Paula DUTTON <Paula.Dutton@justice.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: LA QON 3194 - For Advice - due 12 Jun

Hi Secretariat

Please see attached one new QON received by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services in the Legislative Assembly today relating to historic gay hate crimes.

If MaPS can please have advice and a suggested response by cob Friday 12 June, that would be much appreciated.

Thanks
Brad

Brad Stait

A/Parliamentary Liaison Officer
Ministerial and Parliamentary Services
Department of Communities and Justice
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