

Sensitive: Legal



NSW Police Force

3 November 2022

Mr Enzo Camporeale
Director, Legal
Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes
GPO Box 5341 SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: enzo.camporeale@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Camporeale

**Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes –
representation of Sergeant Geoffrey Steer**

1. I refer to the Inquiry's letter of 20 September 2022 in which the Inquiry requests the preparation of a number of statements, including from Sergeant Geoffrey Steer, former 'Bias Crime Co-ordinator'.
2. During the course of preparation of that statement, it has become apparent that there is a potential for a conflict between the interests of the Commissioner of Police and those of Sergeant Steer. While such a conflict has not yet crystallised, out of an abundance of caution, and being mindful of the Inquiry's Practice Guideline 1, item 15(b) (which requires provision of an assurance to the Inquiry that no conflict of interest is anticipated where legal teams represent more than one person), we have formed the view that it is not appropriate for those representing the Commissioner of Police to also represent Sergeant Steer.
3. We have written to Sergeant Steer to inform him of the Commissioner's position in this regard and advise him of his right to seek to be independently represented at the Inquiry. Information about the financial assistance available to him via NSWPF for such independent representation has also been provided.
4. Sergeant Steer can be contacted by the Inquiry directly at [REDACTED] or on [REDACTED]. We note that while his statement is well progressed, we have not received a finalised version from Sergeant Steer. In the circumstances, we have not pursued it further as we consider any independent legal representatives instructed by him should be afforded the opportunity to review it prior to finalisation.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Natalie Marsic
General Counsel
NSW Police Force

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