



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

9 August 2023

The Proper Officer
c/o Sharnie Ferguson
Hilton Sydney Hotel
488 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email [REDACTED]

Dear Proper Officer,

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes: Request for further information

I refer to the above Inquiry, in which I assist the Honourable Justice John Sackar.

I refer also to my letter to you of 10 October 2022, enclosing a summons to produce (summons HSH1), and to the email of Amelia Benjamin on 11 October 2022 in response to this summons (**enclosed**, for reference).

Thank you for your prompt response to summons HSH1.

The 'Chevron Hilton Hotel'

As outlined in my letter of 10 October 2022, the Inquiry is considering the death of Mark Stewart (formerly Mark Spanswick) on 10 or 11 May 1976 at Fairy Bower, Manly.

Mr Stewart was a guest at the Hilton Sydney Hotel at the time of his death. However, there is also evidence before the Inquiry which indicates that Mr Stewart may also have separately visited the Chevron Hotel, located on Macleay Street in Potts Point, prior to his death.

The Inquiry understands that the Chevron Hotel may have been known as the 'Chevron Hilton Hotel' between 1960 and 1965. This is based on:

- A journal article published in the *Australian Geographer* in 2009 titled 'Hotels as Civic Landmarks, Hotels and Assets: the case of Sydney's Hilton'. At page 7, the article refers to the "arrival of Hilton" to the "Chevron" in Potts Point in the "early 1960s" and, later, "Hilton pull[ing] out of the management deal"; and
- A newspaper clipping from 20 February 1965 which refers to the 'Chevron Hilton'. A later clipping from 11 September 1965 refers just to the 'Chevron Hotel', indicating that any management deal may have concluded in the intervening months.

A copy of these documents is **enclosed**.

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

Request for further information

The Inquiry would be assisted by clarification as to whether the Chevron Hotel was known as the 'Chevron Hilton' (or similar name) at any point in the Chevron Hotel's history. Accordingly, I am instructed to request a letter or statement from an appropriate person at the Hilton Sydney Hotel (or any related entity) addressing the following matters:

1. Whether Hilton International (or any subsidiary or parent company associated with the Hilton International) had a management deal with the Chevron Hotel, and particularly;
 - a. The dates when any such management deal commenced and was terminated;
 - b. The terms of the management deal, particularly any terms permitting the Chevron Hotel to brand itself as the 'Chevron Hilton' Hotel; and
 - c. Any other information relevant to determining this question.

Timeframe for response

I would be grateful if the response could be provided to the Inquiry by **17 August 2023**. In the event that you anticipate any difficulty with this timeframe, please forward a request for an extension of time in writing. To assist in considering the application for an extension, please provide a brief outline of the reasons an extension is sought and the date by which you anticipate being in a position to produce the material sought.

Please do not hesitate to contact Caitlin Healey-Nash on 0466 480 286 or at caitlin.healey-nash@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Caitlin Healey-Nash
A/Principal Solicitor

For Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry

Encl. (4)