



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

23 June 2023

Patrick Hodgetts
Senior Lawyer
Office of the General Counsel, NSW Police Force
Locked Bag 5102
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Hodgetts,

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes: John Russell

I refer to the above Inquiry. I also refer to our letter of 15 December 2022 and the response from Detective Sergeant Neil Sheldon of the Unsolved Homicide Team ("UHT") on 19 December 2022.

Searches made for exhibits relating to the death of John Russell

As per your letter of 19 December 2022, searches conducted thus far have located three exhibits in relation to the death of Mr Russell, being bone coloured Levi's jeans, a red sloppy joe, and a pair of Lyrebird brand shoes.

The Inquiry understands that the following exhibits were also at the crime scene and collected by crime scene officers (**outstanding exhibits**):

- \$4.60 in coins;
- Hair on John Russell's hand;
- Cigarette packet;
- Coca cola bottle.

I would be grateful if the NSWPF could do the following in relation to the outstanding exhibits by **Monday, 26 June 2023 at 5:00pm**:

- Confirm what searches have been conducted to date to locate the outstanding exhibits;
- Confirm the status of each of the outstanding exhibits;
- Conduct enquiries with Bondi police station in relation to whether they hold any of the outstanding exhibits, noting the evidence of Carlton Cameron to Coroner Milledge on 3 April 2003 that the hair

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would have been picked up by Constable Brooks on 20 February 1990 and conveyed, presumably, to Bondi police station.

Further boxes of material

On 22 June 2023, the NSWPF produced, pursuant to summons NSWPF1, two further documents in relation to the matter of John Russell.

One of those documents (**NPL.0131.0001.2544**) contains an email from Oscar Tekeli, Parramatta Records Repository, indicating he had located a 'very original Murder File' referred to as **Publication No.1990-05**. The email also refers to a box titled **REPO/B/2004/2079**.

The Inquiry has no record of receiving either of these boxes.

Could you please provide the Inquiry with this material by **Monday, 26 June 2023 at 5:00pm**.

Timeframe for provision of material

As outlined above, I would be grateful for the above by **Monday, 26 June at 5:00pm**, noting this matter is to proceed to documentary tender on **28 June 2023**.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you anticipate any difficulties with this timeframe.

Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Blomfield on 0413 482 979 if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Enzo Camporeale
Director, Legal
Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry