



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

24 April 2023

Mr 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

I refer to the above Inquiry, and to the death of Ernest Head (DOB: 27/02/1932). Mr Head died on 17 June 1976 at his apartment in Summer Hill from stab wounds of the chest and abdomen inflicted by a person or persons unknown.

The Inquiry is currently considering the death of Mr Head as a case which may fall within Category B of the Inquiry's terms of reference.

Palmprint analysis

The Inquiry seeks the assistance of the NSW Police Force ("NSWPF") Forensic Evidence and Technical Services Command to conduct palmprint examinations in relation to the death of Mr Head.

Case details

On 2 July 1976, a palmprint was obtained from the crime scene at [REDACTED] 49 Grosvenor Crescent, Summer Hill (Mr Head's home address). This palmprint is recorded as being suitable for matching and may have been left by the person responsible for the death of Mr Head.

On the information available to the Inquiry, it appears that the palmprint was submitted for review across the NAFIS database in 2005, however no matches were returned. Enquiries were also made in overseas jurisdictions, without any match identified.

Further, the Unsolved Homicide Team ("UHT") Tracking Sheet notes "new tasking 29/10/10 re examination of prints and result of DAL examination on exhibits". The results of any further examinations of the palmprint undertaken at this time do not appear in the NSWPF investigative file provided to the Inquiry.

The NSWPF case number for the palmprint analysis conducted at the time of the initial investigation is recorded as 76/4365.

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Request for examination and information

Noting the above, the Inquiry requests the assistance of the NSWPF in relation to the following:

1. Please provide the results of any review of the palmprint case conducted as referenced in the UHT Tracking Sheet. If no such review was actioned, please provide written confirmation as to same detailing the reasons for not actioning this tasking; and
2. Please conduct a comparative examination of latent palmprints obtained from the crime scene in relation to Mr Head for a current re-run across the fingerprint/palmprint database and advise whether any conclusive or inconclusive results are identified.

Timeframe for response

I would be grateful if you could please provide the requested information and results of the above examinations in writing by close of business on **16 May 2023**. The results should be provided in the form of an evidentiary certificate capable of being tendered in evidence.

Thank you for your assistance.

Please do not hesitate to contact Francesca Lilly at [REDACTED] if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Enzo Camporeale
Director, Legal
for Crown Solicitor