# 2022 Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes 

Before: The Commissioner, The Honourable Justice John Sackar

At Leve1 2, 121 Macquarie Street, Sydney, New South Wales

On Tuesday, 7 February 2023 at 10.00am
(Day 17)

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Mr Peter Gray SC (Senior Counse1 Assisting)
Ms Kathleen Heath (Counsel Assisting)
Mr Enzo Camporeale (Director Legal)
Ms Kate Lockery (Principal Solicitor)
Emily Burston (Senior Solicitor)
Francesca Lilly (Solicitor)
Also Present:
Mr Anders Mykkeltvedt (for NSW Police)
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THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Gray?
MR GRAY: Commissioner, this is the opening for the commencement of the third public hearing of the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes. Seven individual cases will be the subject of evidence tendered before you this week.

May I address two matters before we move to the first of those cases. First, an outline of the nature of today's proceedings, an indication of the way in which Counsel Assisting will proceed with the tender of evidence in these cases and in numerous other cases which will follow in the coming months; and, secondly, an update for you and for those who may be following the work of the Inquiry as to the public hearings held so far and as to some of the matters about which I spoke in my opening address on 2 November last year concerning the nature and extent of the work that the Special Commission has been doing, the number of cases involved, and so on.

So, first, as to this public hearing, as I outlined in my overall opening in November, the Terms of Reference direct the Special Commission to inquire into LGBTIQ hate crimes in two categories - Category A and Category B. Category $A$ is restricted to deaths which were considered by the NSW Police Force in Strike Force Parrabell in 2016/2017. That strike force reviewed the historical material available mainly from the original police and coronial files in relation to some 88 deaths in a 24 -year period from 1976 to 2000.

The task given to the Special Commission by Category A of the Terms of Reference is to inquire into those of the 88 deaths which "remain unsolved" as at the inception of the Special Commission in April last year.

Strike Force Parrabell itself regarded some 24 of those cases as unsolved. You, as Commissioner, will form your own views on that question once all relevant material has been assembled and considered.

Category B, as I explained in November, refers to a much wider range of deaths which may need to be inquired into. It directs the Special Commission to inquire into all unsolved deaths in the 40 -year period from 1970 to 2010, whether reviewed by Strike Force Parrabell or not,
which are suspected hate crime deaths where the victim was a member of the LGBTIQ community.

As I also outlined in November, dealing with the scope of the task bound up within Category $B$ has involved an enormous exercise on the part of the Special Commission staff. Among other things, it has required close examination of some 700 unsolved cases from that 40 -year period which are on a tracking file provided by the Homicide Squad's Unsolved Homicide Team, and of a further 559 missing persons cases from that period.

Voluminous records and information from a wide range of sources have been gathered, sifted and analysed, enabling views to be formed as to which cases might fall within Category B, and thereafter, the Special Commission has embarked on the necessary and appropriate inquiries in relation to those that do. I will say a little more about that work when I come to the second of the two topics that I am briefly speaking about today.

As to both categories, $A$ and $B$, consideration has to be given to the meaning of the word "unsolved". I referred to this issue also in my November opening. It is another issue on which you as Commissioner will form your own views in due course.

In some of the cases which are or might be in either Category A or Category B, the ways in which the Special Commission is carrying out its inquiries include the holding of public and/or private hearings at which witnesses have given or will give oral evidence.

In other cases, for reasons which will be outlined in submissions, hearings of that kind will not be held. Rather, a comprehensive set of the evidentiary material relevant to those cases will be assembled and tendered in public proceedings of the Inquiry such as the one on which we embark today, accompanied by written and oral submissions by Counsel Assisting. That material will include: documents relating to the circumstances of the death itself; documents relating to previous investigations of that death whether by the police or the coroner; documents relating to the nature and extent of the investigative and other steps which have been taken by this Inquiry in relation to that death; and the results and conclusions flowing from the completion of those steps; and
any statement which a family member may choose to make to the Inquiry.

The submissions of Counsel Assisting wil1 include recommendations as to the finding or findings which you as Commissioner should make as to the manner and cause of death in each case.

This week, starting today, seven cases will be the subject of the first of these public proceedings. They are the deaths of John Hughes, Graham Paynter, Russell Payne, William Dutfield, David Lloyd Williams, Andrew Currie and Brian Walker.

Each of those seven cases was the subject of consideration by Strike Force Parrabel1. Three of them were regarded as unsolved by Strike Force Parrabe11, while four of them were regarded by the strike force as solved.

These public proceedings this week will be conducted over at least two days. They are open to the public and are being live streamed via the Inquiry's website.

Secondly, I turn to the brief update that I mentioned, first of all as to public hearings.

The Inquiry has held two public hearings so far. From 21 to 25 November 2022 the Inquiry conducted a public hearing to receive evidence about the context in which LGBTIQ hate crimes occurred between 1970 and 2010. The Inquiry heard oral evidence from 10 witnesses in relation to many aspects of LGBTIQ history and experience, both during that period and in the many decades leading up to that period. Some of the evidence related to public events and developments, while the witnesses also gave deeply personal evidence about their own experiences as members of the LGBTIQ community, including their own experiences of hate and hate crime.

From 5 to 13 December 2022, the Inquiry commenced a second public hearing examining aspects of the approach of the NSW Police to hate crimes, including strike forces Parrabell, Neiwand and Macnamir and the history of the Bias Crimes Unit within the NSW Police Force.

The Inquiry heard evidence from four police personnel: Assistant Commissioner Anthony Crandell, who was the
commander of Strike Force Parrabell; Ms Shobha Sharma, who was the manager of the Policy and Programs Team; Sergeant Geoffrey Steer, the former Bias Crime Coordinator; and Sergeant Ismail Kirgiz, the current Hate Crime Coordinator.

I anticipate that the Inquiry will resume the hearing in relation to those issues on 15 February and that that hearing will run for a further two to three weeks.

Next, as to Category A cases, two of the 24 cases regarded by Strike Force Parrabell as unsolved are presently before the courts. For the reasons explained in November, the Inquiry will not be inquiring into those two cases.

In all the other Parrabell cases which were regarded by the strike force as unsolved, and also in a small number of additional cases which the Inquiry has examined as Parrabell cases which might also have been so regarded, Counsel Assisting will tender the relevant material, whether in documentary or oral form, and will make submissions. The hearing commencing today in relation to seven individual cases is an example of that approach.

Next as to Category B cases, as I outlined in November, the Inquiry has been gathering and combing through records relating to some 700 unsolved homicides and some 559 cases of missing persons in the period from 1970 to 2010, identified from documents produced by the NSW Police Unsolved Homicide Team and the Missing Persons Unit respectively.

Additional cases were also identified by seeking and obtaining information from numerous other sources to which I referred in November, including the National Coronial Information System, the Australian Institute of Criminology, historical LGBTIQ media publications, and submissions made to the parliamentary committee as well as information from community groups, from the public, and from the families and friends of people who have died.

As to the unsolved homicide cases, in November I set out the provisional classifications which the Inquiry team had made of the 700 or so cases identified from the Unsolved Homicide Team's tracking file. Further work since then has arrived at the following revised information. First, a total of 51 cases have been provisionally assessed
as possibly falling within Category B. Twenty-seven of those cases have already been identified by the Inquiry as a potential case, those mainly being cases which had been considered by Strike Force Parrabell. One of these cases is the subject of current criminal proceedings and accordingly the Special Commission will not be inquiring into that case.

633 of the 700 or so in total have now been excluded as being clearly outside the scope of the Inquiry - for example, because the victim was a young child or the death appeared to be a misadventure, such as a boat crash or a plane crash.

In 15 cases, despite the issuing of summonses and requests for information, the Inquiry has not yet received any documents in relation to the death. The Inquiry is continuing to pursue every available avenue in respect of these 15 cases.

Next as to the Missing Persons Unit. For the 40 -year period between 1970 and 2010 there are 559 cases on the Long-Term Missing Persons spreadsheet. In November I set out the provisional classifications which the Inquiry team had then made in respect of those 559 cases.

Further work since then has arrived at the following revised assessments by the Inquiry team of those 559 cases as at today. Nine cases are already under consideration by the Inquiry, whether because they were among the Parrabell cases or otherwise; 14 cases have been identified as possibly falling within Category B; 503 cases either have been excluded as being very unlikely to fall within Category B or had already been considered in the review of the unsolved homicide tracking file; and finally, in 33 cases, despite the issuing of summonses and requests for information, the Inquiry has not received any documents in relation to the death. Again, the Special Commission is continuing to pursue every available avenue in respect of these 33 cases.

Some remaining matters. In November I mentioned a number of individuals who had had close involvement with many of the issues with which the Inquiry is concerned and who had given considerable assistance to its work. In that regard, may I add the names of two others inadvertently omitted from that list of names. Professor Stephen Tomsen
of Western Sydney University, one of the world's leading researchers and authorities on gay hate crime, who has assisted the Special Commission in a number of ways; and journalist, Michael Burge, who has provided the Inquiry with investigative files of his own and has also facilitated contact by the Inquiry with relatives in a number of cases.

I turn to a topic which I did address in November, namely, information from the public and from families and friends.

The Special Commission has attempted in many different ways to contact family members, including by letters, emails and text messages, to the extent that we have current contact details. Some family members have contacted us directly. Media releases and public notices have also been utilised.

Identifying and tracing family members for many of the cases being reviewed has been no simple task, and we are well aware that we have not yet been able to reach everyone who may wish to speak about the death or disappearance of a loved one. If you are a family member or a friend of one of the people whose unsolved death or disappearance is or may be under review by the Special Commission and you have not yet been contacted but would like to speak to us, please do not hesitate to contact us. I will repeat at the end of my remarks in a couple of minutes the ways in which that may be done, as I did in November.

Next, a brief mention as to numbers of documents a brief update, I should say. I referred in November to the very large volume of documents and records of various kinds which the Inquiry had sought and/or obtained. A brief update is as follows: to date, the Inquiry has accumulated over 116,000 separate documents, many of them very lengthy, some of them running to hundreds of pages each.

The Special Commission has so far issued some 55 separate summonses to produce documents to the NSW Police and has made 21 separate requests for material to the Coroner's Court of New South Wales. The Inquiry has received over 382 boxes of hard copy records as well as a vast amount of digital material. That material includes digital police briefs, criminal histories, intelligence
material, records from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and Corrective Services records.

Lastly, I repeat another point that I made in November, namely, a call to the public for information. Investigations by the Special Commission are continuing into many of these cases. That being so, may I repeat: the Inquiry welcomes and positively requests any information which anyone might have which may assist in the task of unravelling what really happened in all these cases. That applies, of course, to family and friends of the people who have died. As I say, the Inquiry is proactively endeavouring to make contact with families of the people whose deaths the Special Commission is inquiring into, and is at present in contact with 26 families or other next of kin. However, the Inquiry welcomes contact with other families as its work continues.

The Inquiry again also calls for information from members of the public generally who might have seen or heard something in years gone by that might be relevant. Any recollections or pieces of information that you might have, however major or minor you may think that information is, could provide a vital link in understanding what happened. And this applies with particular emphasis, as I have said before, to anyone who was actually involved in or saw events that resulted in the death or suspected death of an LGBTIQ person a long time ago. If you have had something weighing on your mind for years about these things, now is your chance to do something about it. Now is the time to break your silence. We need to hear from you.

To date, 102 members of the public have come forward to provide information to the Inquiry. All such information has been and will be carefully considered by the Inquiry.

The various ways of contacting the Inquiry are those that I mentioned earlier, namely, by email, to the email address, contact@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au; by post addressed to LGBTIQ Hate Crimes Inquiry, GPO Box 5341, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000 ; or by telephone by calling (02) 92284855 and leaving a voice message. If you do contact the Inquiry by any of these means, please provide your telephone and/or email and/or other contact details to the Inquiry so that the appropriate person can respond to
you.
Commissioner, if it is the convenient course, we will now move to the evidence in the seven cases the subject of this public hearing. My colleagues, Mr de Mars, Ms Melis and Ms Heath of counsel will present that evidence to you and wil1 make submissions. Ms Heath will begin.

THE COMMISSIONER: Just before you do, Mr Mykke1tvedt, I'm so sorry, I should have noted your appearance this morning for the police. Thank you very much for being here.

MR MYKKELTVEDT: Thank you.
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Ms Heath.
MS HEATH: Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner, this is a hearing in relation to the death of Mr John Gordon Hughes. Can I start firstly by handing up three volumes of materials.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think I have them up here already, so I will assume they are on my trolley.

MS HEATH: Thank you, and they can be handed to the Commission.

THE COMMISSIONER: A11 right. Mr Mykke1tvedt, I'm going to assume, unless you tell me otherwise, that you either have the materials or you will get the materials.

MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, your Honour.
THE COMMISSIONER: Just keep me informed if there is any issue that arises from your point of view.

MS HEATH: There are three volumes of material that comprise the tender bundle relevant to the death of Mr John Gordon Hughes. I tender those documents.

THE COMMISSIONER: I have lost track of the exhibits. What exhibit number will that be?

MS HEATH: Exhibit 7.
EXHIBIT \#7 THREE-VOLUME BUNDLE IN RELATION TO THE DEATH OF MR JOHN GORDON HUGHES

MS HEATH: Commissioner, the second document to hand up is an order pursuant to section 8 of the Special Commission of Inquiry Act. This relates to the non-publication of certain material as well as pseudonym orders in respect of some of the names contained within the material.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Yes, very well. Again, Mr Mykkeltvedt, you have seen the short minutes?

MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, I have been provided those this morning.

THE COMMISSIONER: Again, if there is any issue, just please raise it.

MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, thank you.
THE COMMISSIONER: You want me to make these orders and I will do so, thank you.

MS HEATH: Yes, thank you, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: In the matter of Hughes, which is exhibit 7 before the Inquiry, there are agreed short minutes of order dealing with a number of issues including some redactions, pseudonyms and other matters. I will make those orders and date them today and they will go with the papers. Thank you.

MS HEATH: Thank you, Commissioner. Thirdly, I hand up written submissions of Counsel Assisting. These are dated 6 February 2023.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MS HEATH: I commence my submissions by saying that I adopt and rely upon those written submissions.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MS HEATH: Commissioner, I will briefly touch upon the contents and preparation of the three-volume tender bundle that is before you. In the course of inquiring into the death of Mr Hughes, the Inquiry requested or summonsed and received the investigation file from the NSW Police Force, the coronial file from the New South Wales Coroner's Court,
the court file from the New South Wales Supreme Court, and a prosecution file from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. My written submissions at paragraph 41 and following set out in more detail the steps that were taken to obtain this material.

This placed the Inquiry in a position where it had a comprehensive collection of materials relating to Mr Hughes's death, the subsequent investigation of it and a trial for a person by the name of Mr Ian Jones, who was charged with but ultimately acquitted of the murder of Mr Hughes.

Tabs 1 to 89 in the tender bundle are a selection of material taken from those summons documents relevant to the manner and cause of Mr Hughes's death.

The Inquiry also summonsed and received records from the NSW Police Force in relation to Strike Force Parrabell's consideration of Mr Hughes's death. Commissioner, you will see at tab 90 [SCOI.82199_0001] of the tender bundle the Bias Crime Indicators Review Form that was completed by officers of Strike Force Parrabell, and I will come to that form in due course.

Your Honour, at tabs 91 [SCOI.82200_0001] and 92 [SCOI.82115_0001] there is a briefing letter to and a report from forensic psychiatrist, Dr Danny Sullivan. An expert opinion was obtained from Dr Sullivan in relation to, among other things, whether there were any aspects of the death of Mr Hughes or the crime scene that could indicate that the homicide occurred in the context of LGBTIQ hate, and again I will come to that in due course.

Finally, at tab 93 [SCOI.83249_0001] of the tender bundle, you will see that the Inquiry ascertained, by way of a summons to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, that Mr Locke, who was a key Crown witness, is now deceased, and his death certificate is included in the tender bundle.

My oral submissions will set out the key matters that arise from the consideration of the totality of this evidence. I'm going to two issues, first as to the manner and cause of Mr Hughes's death; and, secondly, in relation to whether Mr Hughes's death occurred in the context of LGBTIQ bias.

Can I commence by providing some personal background in relation to the deceased, Mr John Hughes. Mr Hughes was 45 years old at the time of his death. He was affectionately known to his friends as "Skinny John", and variously described in statements in the tender bundle as quite passive, kind, soft hearted and generous to his friends.

It's also relevant to note that Mr Hughes had convictions for drug-related offences, and that it was well known among his friends and acquaintances that Mr Hughes was a low-level dealer in heroin and other drugs.

Mr Hughes was a gay man. The Inquiry will see from various statements - I won't take you to these now but they are set out in my written submissions at paragraph 5 - that Mr Hughes's sexuality was well known amongst his friends and his acquaintances.

His sexuality was also known to Mr Ian Jones. As I will come to, and much of these submissions will be dedicated to, Mr Jones is the key person of interest in relation to the death of Mr Hughes. Mr Jones was charged with the murder of Mr Hughes. There was a trial before a jury in August of 1992 but Mr Jones was acquitted at trial.

Notwithstanding that acquittal, my submission will be that Mr Jones was likely responsible for Mr Hughes's death.

Mr Jones is now deceased.
Turning then to the circumstances of Mr Hughes's death. Mr Hughes's body was found by his flatmate, Mr Aaron Hill, at about 11 am on Saturday, 6 May 1989. He was last seen alive the day before - that is, the Friday, 5 May 1989.

After Mr Hill reported the discovery of the body to police, police attended and they established a crime scene. Their observations are variously described in the statements of the attending police officer, but for convenience, I would take the Commission to tab 24 [SCOI.10081.00011_0001] of the bundle at paragraph 5. This will also be put up on the screen for the benefit of those watching. This is the statement of the officer in charge
of the investigation, Detective Constable First Class Michael Plotecki. His observations, which I will briefly summarise, were that Mr Hughes's body was laying face down across the bed, his feet were hanging over the side of the bed, his hands were bound behind his back with white electrical cord, as were his feet, bound just above the ankles. A pink pillow slip covered the head of the deceased. White electrical cord and a leather belt were wrapped around his neck. A pair of kitchen tongs were protruding from the back of the neck and appeared to have been used to tighten the bindings that were around Mr Hughes's neck. Pieces of broken pottery were scattered on the bed around the head of the deceased and a light bulb was next to his right arm. There were bloodstains on the pillow slip and the bed below his head, and next to the right side of the body there were a number of personal papers. These were scattered around on the bed.

On the top of the papers was a kitchen knife with a blade approximately 30 cm long, with what appeared to be blood on the blade, and a bloodstained T-shirt was found behind the coffee table. I pause to note in relation to those last two items - that is, the knife and the T-shirt the blood group testing, which was the testing that was done at the relevant time, established that this blood likely originated from Mr Hughes.

There were no signs of forced entry or interference with the locks in the apartment. However, Mr Hughes's wallet and credit card could not be located, nor could any money be found around the flat.

A post-mortem examination was conducted by Dr Schwartz. That is at tab 14 [SCOI.10081.0007_0001] of the tender bundle. I will ask that that also be pulled up. The conclusion is at page 3 , and what the Commissioner would observe is that the direct cause of death was asphyxia due to strangulation with a ligature. That is consistent, of course, with the observations of investigating police that a belt and electrical cord had been tightened around Mr Hughes's neck.

Blunt object injury to the head was another significant condition contributing to the death. Dr Schwartz observed bruises and deep lacerations to the back of Mr Hughes's head, and the broken pottery scattered around the head of the deceased may be capable of
explaining that blunt force injury to his head. That can be taken down, thank you.

There was a police investigation into the death of Mr Hughes. Your Honour, at tabs 1 to 12 of the tender bundle - I don't ask your Honour to turn those up now that contains the resume of inquiries summarising the actions taken by police. It ultimately resulted in Mr Ian Jones being charged with the murder of Mr Hughes on 30 Apri1 1990. As I have already stated, Mr Jones was tried before a jury, that was in 1992, and ultimately acquitted.

What I seek to do now in these submissions is turn to an examination of the evidence that was adduced by the Crown against Mr Jones, it being relevant to understanding the manner and cause of Mr Hughes's death.

I make two preliminary observations before turning to that. The first is that the evidence in the case is more fulsomely set out in written submissions. These oral submissions do not attempt to be comprehensive of all the evidence, given that it was a long and complex trial. What I hope to do in these submissions is to set out the four primary strands of the case against Mr Jones, and I indicate that I will turn to the topics of motive, opportunity, the physical evidence linking Mr Jones to the crime, and Mr Jones's admission, in that order.

The second comment I will make is that there are points in the witness statements that I will take the Commission to that there is crude and offensive language. I don't seek to repeat that unnecessarily, but at times it is essential to see and hear that language, particularly as it may go, as I will come to submit in due course, to establishing prejudice or bias on the part of Mr Jones.

So, turning then, first, to the question of motive. The evidence established that Mr Jones had been temporarily residing with Mr Hughes in his apartment, but that he had relocated to Bathurst in mid-March 1989. So that is some one to two months before Mr Hughes's murder.

After Mr Jones moved out of the apartment, there was a dispute between Mr Hughes and Mr Jones arising because Mr Hughes believed that Mr Jones had stolen some property from him.

Now, the evidence as to this dispute came in part from a man named Mr Mark Locke, in his statement to police that he gave on 13 September 1989. Now, that statement is at tab 42 [SCOI.10081.00024_0001] and I will ask that that be put up on the screen.

Mr Locke, as will become apparent, was a key prosecution witness. He was a friend of Mr Hughes and also a client of Mr Hughes, in that he purchased heroin from him.

At paragraph 16 of this statement, Mr Locke describes a conversation that he had with Mr Hughes. Now in that conversation - and it will be pulled up on the screen, but to paraphrase - Mr Hughes complained to Mr Locke about Mr Jones stealing his property and made statements first threatening to have Mr Jones bashed, but then, secondly, threatening to go to the cop shop, or the police, about the stolen property.

At paragraph 18 - and this is the more critical passage - Mr Locke describes a second conversation occurring about a month later, and this is a conversation between Mr Locke and Mr Jones, the accused. In this conversation, Mr Locke told Mr Jones that Mr Hughes had gone to the police about the stolen property. You will see on the final line of that page:

Well I'm pretty sure he went to the Police.
Scrolling down on to page 6, you will see that Mr Locke describes Mr Jones to become very mad, to the point that he was spitting his words, and on line 5, the Commission will observe the words attributed to Mr Jones:

I was going to pay John a visit anyway and give him a hiding for the things I've been hearing. I've made up my mind now, I will fix him properly.

And it goes on to say:
I'll kill the little cunt.
Mr Jones then asked Mr Locke - and this is in the same lengthy paragraph - if Mr Locke wanted to join him in, and

I quote, rorting Mr Hughes. In the context of paragraph 18, it is apparent that Mr Jones is speaking of stealing heroin from Mr Hughes, as he goes on to ask Mr Locke to find out when Mr Hughes would be in receipt of more heroin.

This concludes towards the end of paragraph 18 with Mr Jones being alleged to have said:

If anything happened to John, do you
honestly think there would be a big inquiry over another junkie dealer?

This was part of the evidence that the Crown relied upon, and which the Commission is now able to consider, that supports the proposition that Mr Jones was motivated firstly to extract some revenge on Mr Hughes in relation to the property dispute, but also to rob Mr Hughes of heroin.

Turning then to the question of opportunity - and the Commission will recall that Mr Hughes was last seen alive in the afternoon of Friday, 5 May and his body was found on the morning, at 11am, on Saturday 6 May.

Ms Stanton was at the time of Mr Hughes's murder Mr Jones's girlfriend. She was residing in Sydney, but on Wednesday, 3 May - that is, the Wednesday before the murder - she drove to Bathurst to visit Mr Jones where he was then residing. On the Friday morning of her visit, so 5 May, Mr Jones appeared to Ms Stanton to be suffering from heroin withdrawal symptoms. He called in sick to work. Ms Stanton and Mr Jones ended up having a fight, the result of which was that Mr Jones drove away in a green panel van.

The time at which he left was the subject of varying evidence. Ms Stanton said it was approximately 10.30 in the morning. Mr Jones would ultimately tell the court that it was about 2.30 in the afternoon, and a flatmate, Mr Lance Dodd, recalled the fight occurring at about midday.

Ms Stanton did not see Mr Jones again from the time that he left until the following day at about 11am on Saturday, 6 May 1989.

Now, it's necessary here to turn to some of the evidence as to the timing of Mr Hughes's death.

Ultimately, as I have submitted at paragraph 9 of my written submissions, there was somewhat unsatisfactory evidence given by the pathologist, Dr Schwartz, as to the time of death. I have set this out, but to summarise, in her evidence before the coronial inquest - and that was in 1990 - she placed time of death as occurring before 7.30 pm on 5 May. In her evidence at trial, she estimated that the death occurred within a 27 -hour period, between 11am on 5 May and 2 pm on 6 May, and all of her evidence was qualified, Commissioner, by the fact that the time of death in this case could only be a rough estimate. That was because the apartment where Mr Hughes's body was found had a heater on, and that meant that limited inference could be drawn from the body temperature that was taken as to the time of death. So ultimately there is inconsistent evidence as to the precise time of death, but in any event, the window of opportunity where Mr Jones was away from Ms Stanton and outside of Bathurst overlapped at least in part with each of the various time ranges for death given by Dr Schwartz, or estimated by Dr Schwartz.

Now, also important was that Ms Stanton gave evidence that when she next saw Mr Jones, and that was on Saturday, 6 May, he was no longer suffering from heroin withdrawal symptoms. Now, that gives rise, we submit, to the inference that he obtained heroin in the period that he was away from her, and that is consistent with the theory based on Mr Locke's evidence that Mr Jones had intended to steal heroin from Mr Hughes.

Mr Jones gave an unsworn statement at trial and in that statement he claimed that he had gone to stay with friends in Bathurst after the fight with Ms Stanton. There was also alibi evidence called from other witnesses at trial. I have summarised that in written submissions, paragraphs 90 and 91 . Relevantly, none of the alibi evidence provided could exclude the possibility that Mr Jones had travelled from Bathurst to Sydney on the particular days in question.

Turning then to the third strand of the case, and this is the physical evidence that links Mr Jones to the death of Mr Hughes. It is respectfully submitted that this is the most compelling strand of the case against Mr Jones and ultimately, as the Commissioner would have appreciated from my written submissions, what the greatest weight is put on in now assessing the evidence.

When Ms Stanton was spoken to by police, she provided them with several items of clothing that belonged to Mr Jones. One such item was a jacket. The jacket was delivered to the Physical Evidence Section of the NSW Police Force and examined. Upon examination, it was found that there was a tear to the inner lining of the jacket. Inside the lining of the jacket was a St George Building Society passbook that was in the name of Mr Hughes.

Now, there are two indications as to when that passbook must have come to be placed in the lining of the jacket. The first is that the evidence was that the last transaction in the passbook was on 21 April 1989. So that is at least a month after Mr Jones moved out of Mr Hughes's apartment. Mr Jones was interviewed twice by police in the course of their investigations and on both occasions he denied having seen Mr Hughes or having returned to Mr Hughes's apartment since leaving for Bathurst in mid-March.

Secondly, and more pertinently, Mr Gavin Scobie, who is a friend of Mr Hughes, gave evidence that Mr Hughes had shown him the passbook on the evening of 3 May 1989 at Mr Hughes's apartment. Now, Mr Scobie's statement is at tab 59 [SCOI.10081.00044_0001]. I don't need to take the Commission to it at this time, but I note that that was unchallenged evidence at trial.

Mr Scobie left Mr Hughes's apartment at about 1.15am on Thursday, 4 May, so that is between one and two days before Mr Hughes was killed. So Mr Jones must have come into the possession of the passbook at some time after that date.

Mr Jones's second interview with police was on 30 April 1990, and that was after the police had discovered the passbook in the lining of the jacket. Mr Jones initially denied ever seeing any of Mr Hughes's bankbooks. When he was shown the passbook, he denied ever having seen it before. However, importantly, he did accept that the jacket was his, and he made the comment that "I often put things in that jacket in the lining." When asked how the passbook could have come to be in the jacket, he replied "I must have picked it up at Hughes's place."

Commissioner, considering this evidence together, it is submitted that the inference to be drawn is that Mr Jones placed the passbook into the lining of his own jacket, in accordance with his practice, and that Mr Jones did so at some time after it was seen by Gavin Scobie on 3 May 1989.

Now, the Commissioner will recall that Ms Stanton's evidence puts Mr Jones in Bathurst at all times between 3 and 6 May, except for the period from between 10.30am or possibly slightly later on Friday, 5 May, until about 11am on Saturday, 6 May. So the period in which Mr Jones could have taken Mr Hughes's passbook and placed it in his jacket very much narrows to the window in which Mr Hughes was killed.

Mr Jones's evidence that he picked up, or he must have picked up, the passbook unwittingly from Mr Hughes's apartment is unconvincing and cannot sit with his own assertions that he had not returned to Mr Hughes's flat.

The defence at the trial of Mr Jones sought to deflect the impact, the considerable impact, of the evidence about the passbook by putting to Detective Constable First Class Plotecki, the officer in charge, in cross-examination that he had planted the passbook on Mr Jones, first by seizing the passbook from the crime scene initially and then, at a later time, by placing it in the lining of the jacket provided to police by Ms Stanton.

Commissioner, these were very serious allegations about police conduct, and they were put to DCI Plotecki and strenuously denied.

I have extracted the portion of the transcript in which there are denials at paragraph 93 of my written submissions, and it is submitted that his denials, as well as his explanation as to why there was an absence of any reason for him to keep the passbook himself, if it had actually been found at the crime scene, are objectively persuasive.

In addition, weight can be put on Mr Jones's own admission that he often placed items in the lining of that jacket. There is an inherent improbability that police would, by coincidence, choose to place the passbook in that rather unusual location.

In short, it is submitted to this Commission that it's highly improbable that the passbook was planted by police in Mr Jones's jacket lining.

Having said that, I will note, and this is in my written submissions at both paragraphs 20 and 94 , that there is some criticism that can be made against police in this case, in that there was an unsatisfactory management and documentation of the exhibits obtained from the crime scene. So the evidence established at trial that rather than cataloguing each and every exhibit that was seized, police planted all - placed all items into one brown paper bag, and it was that loose management and documentation of the exhibits that opened the door to the defence being able to explore the possibility that the passbook was planted, and it is understood that police practice, now certainly, is to separately itemise exhibits seized from a crime scene.

The fourth strand of the case that I now turn to is the admissions that were said to have been made by Mr Jones and heard by at least two people - that is again Mr Locke and also a woman named Ms Janice Dowsley. These admissions were said to have come on a night out at a club in Darlinghurst and then later, Kings Cross.

The statement of Mr Locke dated 28 May 1990 is at tab 58 [SCOI.10081.00025_0001]. Commissioner, I don't intend to take you to it, but I note that it is at paragraph 10 that there is the critical portion, where Mr Jones is reported to have said to Mr Locke:

You know, not too many people know I killed that [expletive].

And Mr Locke understood that in the context of their conversation to be a reference to Mr Hughes.

The second admission comes in the statement of Ms Janice Dowsley. Her statement is dated 8 Apri1 1992. It is at tab 64 [SCOI.10401.00015_0001], and I might ask that that statement be put up on the screen.

If we go to paragraph 7 of that statement, Ms Dowsley is describing a conversation that was had after leaving the Taxi Club in Darlinghurst, and effectively she describes

Mr Jones saying that "only Lockie" - that is, Mark Locke "knows about this". She then gives evidence, and this is at the end of paragraph 7, that Mr Jones said:

It's all right, don't worry about it. The guy was a fucking faggot dog. He deserved everything he got.

Continuing on to paragraph 8, Mr Jones is reported to have said:

If I could kill the dog again $I$ would, he deserved it.

And then he continued to yell out something about a "faggot".

There are two admissions, two witnesses who gave evidence of an admission by Mr Jones on that night. It must be said that the credibility and reliability of Mr Locke was the subject of significant and effective attack at trial. I have set this out in some detail in my written submissions between paragraphs 95 and 102. If I could encapsulate it briefly, the evidence established that Mr Locke had attended upon the chambers of Mr Jones's barrister, along with Mr Jones, and had attempted to retract his statement as to the oral confession made by Mr Jones. What he told the lawyers was that he had been stood over by police to implicate Mr Jones in the murder.

At trial, Mr Locke maintained that he had heard Mr Jones's confession and explained the visit to the lawyers by saying that he was fearful of Mr Jones and had been pressured by Mr Jones into retracting his statement. But certainly there were doubts raised as to the credibility and reliability of Mr Locke at trial.

As always, however, evidence cannot be considered in isolation, and what is submitted in my written submission is that when evaluated in light of the hypothesis and the submission that Mr Jones did in fact steal the passbook and hide it in his jacket lining, once that is taken as the first proposition, then the evidence of Mr Locke and Ms Dowsley as to the statements made by Mr Jones gain greater credence.

Your Honour, the ultimate submission that is made by
reference to all of the evidence, including some that I haven't detailed now in oral submissions, is that the objective evidence of the passbook that was found in Mr Jones's jacket lining is compelling. When that is considered alongside the evidence of motive, of opportunity and of Mr Jones's admissions, it is submitted that there is a strong probability that Mr Jones was responsible for the death of Mr Hughes.

If I could refer the Commission to paragraph 124 of my written submissions, therein is contained a submission that the following finding is open and should be made - that is, that on 5 or 6 May at his apartment in Potts Point, New South Wales, John Hughes died as a result of asphyxiation caused by strangulation with a ligature. While it is not possible to arrive at a definitive conclusion, and notwithstanding his acquittal at trial, the available evidence points to the strong probability that the ligature was applied by Mr Ian Jones.

Commissioner, the consequence of that finding would be that this is not an unsolved case and accordingly does not fall within Category A of the Terms of Reference.

So those are my submissions, in brief, as to the manner and cause of death.

What I now wish to turn to, Commissioner, is the question of whether Mr Hughes's death occurred in the context of LGBTIQ bias. I might start with the approach of Strike Force Parrabell officers when they considered this case. If we could turn up tab 90 [SCOI.82199_0001], which is the Bias Crimes Indicators Review Form for Mr Hughes, the contents of this form - and I will take the Commission to particular portions in just a moment - make it clear that the Strike Force Parrabell officers considered that notwithstanding Mr Jones was found not guilty, it was highly likely that Mr Jones was responsible for murdering Mr Hughes. So to this extent, the approach of Strike Force Parrabell is consistent with the submissions I made moments earlier.

The Strike Force Parrabell officers ultimately concluded that there was insufficient information to establish a bias crime. The review by the Flinders academics concurred with that conclusion.

There are three points that I wish to make about the manner in which the Bias Crime Indicators Form was used in relation to the death of Mr Hughes.

First, if I could ask that we move on this to page 5. You will see that this is, if we scroll down, indicator 2, "Comments, Written Statements, Gestures".

Next to the prompt that is now showing - the top prompt on the screen that is now showing - "Bias related comments, written statements or gestures were made by the person of interest", there is a comment that the only bias related comments detected were found in the record of interview of Mr Jones on 30 Apri1 1990, during which he cited his reason for leaving the flat of Mr Hughes as being that he was fed up with the place, it was full of drugs and poofters.

I didn't take the Commission earlier to that evidence but that appears in his record of interview.

If we now scroll down to page 6, and, sorry, scroll slightly further to the heading "General Comment" that sits under indicator 2, you will see that sentence that the "only bias related comments" and so forth is repeated under that heading.

If I scroll up slightly, you will see that the indicator has been answered "Yes" to the indicator of, "No Evidence of Bias Crime".

Commissioner, plainly, in this analysis, the Strike Force Parrabell officers overlooked the comments that were attributed to Mr Jones by Ms Dowsley and to which I took this Commission only moments ago. And to repeat, those comments were, "Don't worry, he was a fucking faggot dog, he deserved to die." And it was followed by further derogatory language used by Mr Jones in discussing what we say is the death of Mr Hughes.

That is a statement that is a far more compeling indication of anti-LGBTIQ bias on the part of Mr Jones.

The second point that I wish to make with respect to the use of the Bias Crimes Indicators Forms, starts on page 15 , if it could be scrolled down to that point. Now, this is the indicator number 9 , "Lack of Motive". There is
only one prompt that exists for this motive, and that is that "No clear economic or other motive for the incident exists".

Now, if we scroll down to page 16, again, it will be noted that the indicator is answered that there is no evidence of bias crime, and there is a long narrative in both the "Comments" sections next to the prompts, as well as the general comments that, in effect, extracts and summarises the evidence that Mr Jones may have wanted to rob Mr Hughes or extract revenge from him as a result of the property dispute.

If I then ask that page 19 is turned to, and that is the very final paragraph that $I$ would direct your attention to, so if we scroll down, this is the summary of findings. It contains the overall comments of Strike Force Parrabel1 officers. The final paragraph reads as follows:

Dealing drugs whilst generally profitable is a high risk occupation ...
and then the next sentence:

> Whilst Police at the time acknowledged that the murder of Hughes could have been bias related, it is much more likely that robbery was the clear motive for the murder.

And then the final sentence:
Although found not guilty, it is high7y likely that Jones was responsible for the murder of Hughes and was motivated by money and revenge, rather than any personal bias towards Hughes.

Implicit in these comments, and possibly also in the inclusion of indicator 9 in the Bias Crimes Indicator Forms, appears to be an assumption that the presence of a motive such a robbery or profit tells against the simultaneous existence of LGBTIQ bias.

Commissioner, it is respectfully submitted that that is an assumption that is too narrow and that discounts the experiences of victims who are targeted because of their
actual or assumed LGBTIQ identity.
Now, on the evidence of this case, Mr Jones may well have been - it is accepted that he may well have been motivated by a desire to steal cash or heroin from Mr Hughes, and that he may well have selected Mr Hughes on the basis of his knowledge that both money and heroin would be in his apartment. However, the comments that he made to Ms Dowsley, to which I have taken the Commission, also suggest that he was able to justify or excuse his selection of Mr Hughes as a victim on the basis of his belief about his sexuality and what that meant for whether he deserved to live or die.

It would also be inferred from the comments allegedly made to Mr Locke by Mr Jones to the effect that there would be "no big inquiry over another junkie dealer", that Mr Jones was to some extent strategic in picking Mr Hughes as a victim on the basis that he considered that his position in society made it easier for him to act with impunity. It can be hypothesised that Mr Hughes's status as a gay person made Mr Jones perceive him as a target that would be less protected by the police and by the courts.

That's the second point I wish to make about the Bias Crimes Indicators Form. The third point - and I will ask that it be pulled up again - is on page 17, and it relates to indicator 10, which is the "Level of Violence". If I can ask that it be scrolled down slightly, there are comments - and you will see it in response to the prompt that Mr Hughes's murder was a particularly brutal murder, and the quote at the end of the "Comments" section in relation to the first prompt, is:

Whoever went into that unit meant to kill
Hughes and inflict an incredible amount of pain in doing so.

Now, notwithstanding that recognition of the brutal and graphic manner of death in this case, the indicator that is selected, if I scroll down, selects "Insufficient Information" in relation to whether there was information that allowed determination of a bias motivation.

If I again go to page 19, which is the "Summary of Findings", this is a longer portion. What I note is an absence in this portion of any mention of the manner in
which Mr Hughes was murdered. From this, as well as from the indicator that was selected, it can only be inferred that a very limited amount of weight was placed on the manner of Mr Hughes's death in forming a view as to whether this was a bias crime. However, it is submitted, and as I will come to submit in due course, that the brutality of Mr Hughes's death and the suffering inflicted upon Mr Hughes is indicative of the fact that a robbery motivation does not provide a sufficient or complete explanation of the manner of death.

I turn then to the Inquiry's approach to assessing whether the death occurred in the context of LGBTIQ bias. As mentioned at the very beginning of my submissions, Dr Danny Sullivan, a forensic psychiatrist, has provided a report dated 24 October 2022 to the Inquiry. That's included at tab 92 [SCOI.821115_0001]. It considered possible motivations of a perpetrator, both on the assumption that Mr Jones was the perpetrator, and another unknown person was the perpetrator.

Now, in both cases, Dr Sullivan identified three possible motives that he drew from the evidence. The first being revenge - in the case of it being Mr Jones, that's particularly related to the property dispute; the second, being robbery of cash and drugs; and the third, relevantly, is hatred of Mr Hughes at least in part based on his homosexuality.

Now, regardless of whether it was Mr Jones or another person who was the perpetrator, there is evidence that selects that Mr Hughes's sexuality was a factor in the selection of Mr Hughes as a victim of the offence, and that is submitted even if robbery and/or revenge were also part of the mosaic of motives.

First, Dr Sullivan identifies sexualised elements of the crime scene. So in his report, he notes that the crime scene depicts sexualised elements, including binding, strangulation and hooding. In Dr Sullivan's opinion, the location and posing of the body on the bed may have suggested conscious or unconscious motivation of the offender to reflect Mr Hughes's sexuality as they perceived it.

Secondly, and I have already foreshadowed this point, the graphic manner in which Mr Hughes was killed is
suggestive of a desire to inflict pain and humiliation on Mr Hughes beyond what would be necessary to rob him or even to extract revenge in relation to a property dispute. Dr Sullivan has provided the opinion that the method of death may be reflective of hate.

Now, if Mr Jones was the perpetrator, as it is submitted that the Commission should find, then there is further specific evidence of LGBTIQ bias on his part, namely, first, the comments that were made that Strike Force Parrabell officers identified, that Mr Jones was fed up with Mr Hughes's apartment because it was "full of poofters" - that is indicative of a generally derogatory attitude towards gay men; and, more particularly, the comments that Mr Jones made to Ms Dowsley, which I won't repeat again, but which imply that Mr Jones excused or justified his selection of Mr Hughes on the basis of him being gay. We submit that is compelling evidence of LGBTIQ bias.

So as, Commissioner, you will see in my written submissions, having regard to all of these factors, and notwithstanding that it is accepted that robbery of cash and heroin likely motivated Mr Jones, I submit that it is more probable than not that LGBTIQ bias was a factor in the murder of Mr John Hughes.

Commissioner, in this case, there are no submissions as to recommendations. Unless I can assist further, those are my submissions in relation to the death of Mr Hughes.

THE COMMISSIONER: No, thank you.
Mr Mykkeltvedt, is there anything you wish to say at the moment?

MR MYKKELTVEDT: No, not at this stage, your Honour.
There has been an indication that we will have an opportunity to respond to the extent that it is necessary, in writing.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. You can assume that, in each and every case, reasonable opportunity will be provided. We will keep in touch with you as to time frame, but certainly that will be so.

MR MYKKELTVEDT: I'm grateful, your Honour.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much.
MS HEATH: Commissioner, I will next turn to the death of Mr Graham Paynter.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS HEATH: It may be convenient at this time to take a short break to allow some rearrangement of the Bar table.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I will, thank you.
Mr Mykkeltvedt, you are content if I take the break now?
MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes.
THE COMMISSIONER: All right. I will take the morning break now and I will resume in quarter of an hour.

## SHORT ADJOURNMENT

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS HEATH: Thank you, Commissioner. The second hearing this morning is a public hearing in relation to the death of Mr Graham Paynter. Commissioner, I start by handing up to your staff a one-volume bundle, the tender bundle in relation to the death of Mr Graham William Paynter. It contains 27 tabs.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MS HEATH: I tender that, and I understand we're up to exhibit 8.

## EXHIBIT \#8 ONE-VOLUME BUNDLE IN RELATION TO THE DEATH OF GRAHAM WILLIAM PAYNTER

MS HEATH: Separately, Commissioner, I hand up a family statement. This is prepared by Mr William Towler and his brother, Andrew Bird. It was received by the Commission on 1 February 2023. I tender that and ask that it be marked exhibit 9.

EXHIBIT \#9 STATEMENT PREPARED BY MR WILLIAM TOWLER AND MR ANDREW BIRD

MS HEATH: The third document $I$ hand up is short minutes of order in relation to an order pursuant to section 8 of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Act. This relates to various non-publication and pseudonym orders, and we seek that those orders be made.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Yes, I will make those orders, thank you.

MS HEATH: Thank you, Commissioner. Finally, I provide my written submissions. These are dated 6 February 2023.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MS HEATH: I commence my oral submissions by saying that I adopt and rely upon those written submissions.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much.
MS HEATH: Commissioner, can I commence by acknowledging that I understand that various members of Mr Paynter's family may be listening to this hearing by way of the live stream.

THE COMMISSIONER: Al1 right.
MS HEATH: I would like to acknowledge them and express the Inquiry's condolences to them.

Mr Paynter was the only son of Gladys and Stanley Paynter, who are both now deceased. He was also a brother, an uncle and a great uncle. He was affectionately known by most people by the nickname "Possum". He is remembered as a joker, as a bit of a scallywag, and as a person who always enjoyed a laugh with his friends and family.

I will briefly, Commissioner, touch upon the contents and preparation of the tender bundle that is exhibit 8.

In the course of inquiring into the death of Mr Paynter, the Inquiry requested and received the coronial file in relation to Mr Paynter's death from the Bega Local Court. Documents at tabs 2 to 21 are extracted from that material that was requested and provided.

The Inquiry also summonsed the original investigative file from the NSW Police Force. That summons was
unfortunately less fruitful. At tab 27 of the tender bundle [SCOI.82356_0001] is the statement of solicitor Francesca Lilly, paragraphs 5 to 6 , which set out our efforts to obtain the original investigative file in relation to Mr Paynter's death.

Commissioner, you will see at paragraph 6 that only a very limited selection of documents were produced, and certainly nothing that resembles the full investigative file in relation to Mr Paynter's death.

This lack of production appears consistent with comments that are contained in the Strike Force Parrabell final report that reported the original investigative file has been lost. As I have commented in my written submissions, it is troubling that a police file in relation to a death was not carefully and properly archived.

Nonetheless, the coronial file contains documents from the police that evidence the nature of the police investigations and allow submissions to be made.

Tabs 21A to 23 of the tender bundle contain material that was summonsed from the NSW Police Force and is relevant to Strike Force Parrabell's consideration of Mr Paynter's death. I will come to that material in due course.

Tabs 24 to 27 contain further material that the Inquiry has obtained in the course of investigating Mr Paynter's death. This includes at tabs 24 [SCOI.82112_0001] to 25 [SCOI.82164_0001] a report from a forensic pathologist, Dr Linda Iles, and also a statement from Mr William Towler, the nephew of Mr Paynter. That's contained at tab 26 [SCOI.82355_0001]. I express my gratitude to Mr Towler for providing that statement.

My oral submissions, as my written submissions have already done, will set out key matters arising from a consideration of this evidence.

Turning to the circumstances of Mr Paynter's death, the body of Mr Graham Paynter was found by a passerby at the bottom of a cliff in an area known as Shelley Beach in Tathra on the New South Wales south coast. His body was found as approximately 5pm on 13 October 1989. The time of death was estimated to be approximately midnight the night
before.

It's necessary to provide the Commission with some background as to the layout of the town of Tathra. There are two sections to the town of Tathra, one at the level of the beach, and the other at the top of an uphil1 drive. Mr Paynter lived in a caravan park at Andy Poole Drive in the lower, sea-level section of Tathra. Mr Paynter had last been seen alive drinking at the Tathra Hotel shortly after 11.20 pm , and the Tathra Hotel is at the top section of the town.

The evidence establishes that when the Tathra Hotel would close of a night, patrons seeking to go to the lower part of the town would frequently walk down a street called Cliff Place to a walkway that ran along the top of the cliff. From that walkway, you could access a set of stairs that led down to the beach. There was no signage or fencing near the cliff edge at the time of Mr Paynter's death. It was partially covered with vegetation, and it is from this walkway that $I$ have just described that Mr Paynter fell.

I ask that tab 16 [SCOI.92214_0001] be put up. This is page 5 of tab 16. I understand from the coronial file, the comments made in it, that this is a photograph of the cliff area above where Mr Paynter's body was located. As you will observe, the cliff edge is not well marked, and you can observe the vegetation in part obscures the edge of the cliff.

When police attended the scene, they made a number of observations of Mr Paynter's body and took a series of photographs in situ. Of particular note was the positioning of Mr Paynter's clothing. Mr Paynter's body was partially undressed. His jumper was pulled up over his head, but his arms were still in the sleeves. His jeans were pulled down around his lower legs and his underpants were pulled down and sitting around his upper thighs. The top button of his jeans was done up but his fly was down.

There was a post-mortem examination conducted by Dr Oakley. In my written submissions at paragraph 11, I have set out the injuries that were documented and observed by Dr Oakley. To summarise, there were significant head, chest and abdominal injuries, consistent with a fall from a height.

Mr Paynter's blood was also taken and sampled and his blood alcohol concentration was found to be 0.29 grams per 100 m 1 of blood.

Commissioner, I will return to this post-mortem report in due course in the context of submitting in relation to the review of this autopsy report that was conducted by Dr Iles.

Investigating police obtained statements from witnesses that revealed Mr Paynter's movements prior to his death. I have set out at paragraph 9 of the written submission what those statements contained, but I will summarise them in this way: that Mr Paynter was observed to have been drinking with a friend, Mr Russell Longmore, from at least midday on 12 October 1989. He was drinking first at the Tathra Hote1, then later at the Bega Hotel, before finally returning again to the Tathra Hotel.

While in Bega, he was arrested for stealing a bottle of rum from the Bega liquor store. He was processed, charged with larceny, but released the same night.

Mr Paynter remained drinking on his own at the Tathra Hotel until closing time, and this was after his friend, Mr Russell Longmore, had left for the evening.

Various observations were made about his level of intoxication throughout both the day and the night, but relevantly, by the time that he left the Tathra Hotel, he was observed to be loud, well intoxicated and walking unsteadily, and all of these observations are consistent with his recorded blood alcohol level of 0.29 .

The investigating officer, Constable Ian Castle, formed the opinion that Mr Paynter accidentally fell to his death from the cliff while in a very intoxicated state, perhaps after attempting to urinate over the side of the cliff. Consistent with his death being accidental, an inquest was dispensed with.

On the evidence available, noting that the original police file is not in the possession of the Inquiry, it appears that Mr Paynter's death was treated from the outset like an accidental fall, with the result being that limited investigative steps were taken by police. A thorough
police investigation, it is submitted, would have involved obtaining more details and more information as to Mr Paynter's personal circumstances, and obtaining a witness statement from Mr Russell Longmore, with whom he had been drinking on the night in question. Such steps may have opened up further lines of inquiry.

Notwithstanding the treatment of Mr Paynter's death as accidental, Inquiry staff have considered for ourselves the possibility that the death was the result of an LGBTIQ hate crime. Now, there is no material in the coronial file that bears upon Mr Paynter's sexuality or gender identity one way or the other.

The Inquiry has now spoken to and obtained evidence from Mr Paynter's family. The conclusion of our inquiries with Mr Paynter's family was that Mr Paynter was not known or considered by his family to be a member of the LGBTIQ community, although his family express that they were open to the possibility and would have been very supportive of him if that was the case.

Nonetheless, there were two factors in relation to Mr Paynter's death that have been considered to be relevant to assessing whether Mr Paynter's death was the result of an LGBTIQ bias crime.

The first is that his body was found at the base of a cliff formation. Evidence before this Inquiry indicates that some cliff locations have been used and have served as outdoor beats. Coronial findings have identified pushes from cliffs as the cause or probable cause of a number of LGBTIQ hate-related deaths near the Bondi area.

Secondly, Mr Paynter's clothing was partly displaced and his body, when discovered, was in a state of partial undress. In some circumstances, this could indicate a sexual element to a death that could be indicative of LGBTIQ bias.

I intend to come to analyse both of those circumstances in some more detail. It is first of assistance, however, to briefly canvass the approach that Strike Force Parrabell took to Mr Paynter's death.

As I noted earlier, the Strike Force Parrabell final report records that the files in Mr Paynter's case could
not be located. Footnote 23 of the report records that these files were either never returned to the archive or returned and have subsequently been lost. Regrettably, Strike Force Parrabell officers did not take the step of summonsing or obtaining the coronial file in relation to Mr Paynter's death.

If I could ask tab 21A [SCOI.82363_0001] to be put up on the screen, this is a document that was a review conducted by Detective Chief Inspector John Lehmann. Now, I understand that this document has previously been tendered before the Commission, and that is in exhibit 6, tab 47. I don't propose to touch at this point on the context of the creation of this document. However, if we scroll down on to page 3, the purpose of showing the Commission this document is to note that the paragraph summary on page 3 was the only material that Strike Force Parrabell had when they were assessing whether or not there was evidence of a gay hate crime.

If I then take the Commission to tab 22 [SCOI.74992_0001], and this is the Bias Crime Indicators Form in relation to the death of Mr Paynter, at pages 3, 4 and 9 of this document - I don't need it to be scrolled to at this time - it appears that the officers of Strike Force Parrabell copied and pasted from the form relating to another deceased person, Mr Sheil, and failed, in doing so, to amend the deceased's name.

As I have noted in my written submissions, this is concerning and perhaps indicative of a lack of care taken with respect to very important subject matter.

Throughout this form, the analysis of whether Mr Paynter's death was or could have been an LGBTIQ hate crime was, it is respectfully submitted, superficial. Even making allowance for the lack of information that was before them, there was no engagement with the possible significance of the location of the death or the state of Mr Paynter's clothing and how that may relate to what is known of other LGBTIQ hate crime deaths.

If I could have the form scrolled to page 5, and if I could have it scrolled down, we're looking for indicator 4. Indicator 4 is in relation to "Organised Hate Groups". If I could now have it scrolled down to page 6, at the top of page 6, you will see a prompt that says "MO", which we
understand to be "modus operandi", "is similar to a known MO of an OHG" - that is, an organised hate group. The comment that is there made is that no suspicious circumstances or indications of foul play are noted in respect of Mr Paynter's death and then it is commented that it would appear that he has fallen from a cliff at the southern end of Tathra Beach.

This is a prompt that may have led to some inquiry as to both the similarity of Mr Paynter's death with other deaths committed or suspected to have been committed by organised hate crime groups, and also to note the state of Mr Paynter's clothing. But ultimately, while those facts were noted throughout the forms, they were not engaged with.

Strike Force Parrabell ultimately concluded that there was insufficient information to establish a bias crime, and the academic review of Flinders University concurred in this view.

That can now be removed from the screen.
So I turn then to some of the steps that have been taken by the Inquiry to try to advance the position. As noted earlier, the Inquiry obtained from $\operatorname{Dr}$ Iles an independent review of the autopsy report prepared by Dr Oakley. Among other things, Dr Iles was asked about the cause of Mr Paynter's death and the inferences that could be drawn from the positioning of his clothing.

The expert report of Dr Iles expresses some concern with the quality of the post-mortem examination of Mr Paynter. While Dr Iles considers that the post-mortem examination was "adequate to provide a cause of death" and acknowledges that there have been changes in autopsy practice in the decades since Mr Paynter's death, she identifies a number of limitations in the autopsy report. First, Dr Iles points to the absence of any specific description of the presence or absence of anogenital injuries, even though the state of his clothing warranted such description.

Secondly, Dr Iles comments that the description of the external injuries is limited and not systematic.

Dr Iles considers that the differentiation between
injuries caused by falls from a height and blunt force trauma sustained prior to a fall is usually very difficult, and that the presence of subtle injuries in protected areas can assist in making that differentiation. However, in this case, in the opinion of $\operatorname{Dr}$ Iles, the report is silent in regard to such subtle injuries.

It is the opinion of $\operatorname{Dr}$ Iles that Mr Paynter's external injuries, the crime scene photographs and the description of the topography are all consistent with a fall from a height, with multiple secondary impact points and rolling or tumbling of the deceased's body following primary impact.

This fits with the topography of the cliff at the bottom of which Mr Paynter was found. However, particularly in light of the absence of any record as to subtle injuries, Dr Iles considers that there is nothing in the medical findings that could now differentiate between an accidental fall, suicide, or a homicidal fall in which Mr Paynter was pushed.

Regrettably, these are limitations with a post-mortem examination that there is now no ability to rectify.

Given the limitations of the medical evidence in that regard, it is necessary to turn to other features of the case that may provide some indication as to the manner of Mr Paynter's death.

First, it is reasonable to infer that after leaving the Tathra Hotel in the upper section of the town, Mr Paynter walked down along Cliff Place and the pedestrian walkway towards the stairs giving access to the beach below. This would represent the most direct route home for him from the Tathra Hotel to the caravan park where he lived on Andy Poole Drive.

Secondly, there are a number of factors that make an accidental fall plausible. These include Mr Paynter's extreme intoxication, with his blood alcohol concentration of 0.29 being almost six times the legal limit of drinking, and observations from witnesses that he was walking unsteadily; secondly, the night-time darkness, with Mr Paynter's estimated time of death being approximately midnight; and, thirdly, the lack of a fence or barrier in the area at the top of the cliff.

Next, despite the post-mortem examination being silent as to subtle injuries, there were no obvious injuries which Dr Iles considered could not be explained by a fall. This makes it less likely, although it cannot be excluded definitively, that a violent assault occurred prior to his death.

Fourthly, a canvass of witnesses by police near the site of Mr Paynter's death revealed no information that may indicate foul play. Similarly, there is nothing suspicious in his movements on the night prior to his death, nor any indication of a fight between Mr Paynter and any other person who may have wished to cause him harm.

Fifthly, there is no material that would indicate the possibility of suicide, and Mr Paynter was generally observed to be in good spirits in the lead-up to his death.

There are, of course, the two additional factors which I earlier identified that bear upon the possibility that Mr Paynter's death was the result of an LGBTIQ hate crime.

First, consideration was given to whether the cliff-side location where Mr Paynter was found could have been a beat. Inquiries were made with both Garry Wotherspoon and Mr Paynter's nephew, Mr William Towler, who was at one time a resident of Tathra, as to whether they had knowledge of a beat in Tathra. No specific evidence to that effect could be obtained.

Nonetheless, the Inquiry has received evidence in the course of public hearings of various outdoor locations, including cliff sides, functioning as beats, not only in the Sydney city but also in regional areas of New South Wales. That evidence came, Commissioner, you may recall, from witnesses including Garry Wotherspoon, Les Peterkin and Ulo Klemmer, and I have summarised in my written submissions their evidence in relation to outdoor beats generally and also specifically outdoor beats in regional and rural locations.

Part of that evidence was that public toilets in parks would often function as beats in country or regional areas, and further, that one of the criteria for an outdoor beat was a degree of seclusion so that sexual activity could take place. Although this was given careful consideration,
there are reasons to doubt that the specific cliff-side location from which Mr Paynter fell was a beat. Most significantly, it does not fit with that essential characteristic described by Mr Wotherspoon of providing a secluded place for sexual activity. To the contrary, the evidence was that it is well frequented by patrons leaving the Tathra Hotel. Quite the opposite to it being secluded, it may well be considered quite a dangerous location, given evidence from Mr Towler - and this is at tab 26 [SCOI.82355_0001] of the tender bundle - as to the general notoriety of the Tathra Hotel for violence in that era. If there was a beat in Tathra, there are other locations around Tathra, including at various public toilets, which have been identified as more likely candidates for an outdoor beat.

Secondly, in relation to the positioning of Mr Paynter's clothing, Dr Iles was asked what could be inferred from the positioning of his clothing. Dr Iles has opined that a fall followed by a tumble allows for the possibility of Mr Paynter's clothing having become disturbed from its original position, so the mechanism of the fall could provide the explanation for the positioning of his clothing.

She notes in particular that Mr Paynter had truncal obesity and narrow hips, making it possible or indeed likely that his lower garments passively ended up below their normal location in the setting of tumbling following a high-energy fall.

Having received that opinion, it is submitted that the positioning of his clothing cannot be probative of the occurrence of a bias crime, being capable of explanation simply by the mechanism of the fall.

In short, it is submitted that the likelihood is that Mr Paynter's death was the result of an accidental fall, rather than being the consequence of a homicide or the result of an LGBTIQ hate crime.

It is submitted that this Inquiry should find that Mr Paynter died on 13 October 1989 as a result of multiple injuries sustained in an accidental fall from a height in the setting of alcohol intoxication.

Commissioner, the final point to note - and this is at
paragraph 85 of my written submissions - is that there is a recommendation in this case, a submission for a recommendation in this case, and that is that a recommendation should be made to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages to bring the cause of death in line with the expression of the cause of death provided by Dr Iles.

Commissioner, those are my submissions in relation to this matter.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MR MYKKELTVEDT: Similarly, your Honour, I don't wish to be heard at this juncture.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I understand. That's perfectly fine, thank you.

MS HEATH: Commissioner, again there may need to be some rearrangement of the Bar table. Would it be convenient to take an early lunch break and return shortly after that?

THE COMMISSIONER: Does that inconvenience you?
MR MYKKELTVEDT: No, it doesn't.
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I will do that and I will return at 2 o'clock. Thank you.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT
MS HEATH: This is a public hearing into the death of Mr Russell Phillip Payne. Can I start by handing up one volume of material, being the tender bundle relevant to the death of Mr Payne. There are 17 tabs in this tender bundle. I tender it and I understand we're up to exhibit 10.

## EXHIBIT \#10 ONE-VOLUME BUNDLE IN RELATION TO THE DEATH OF RUSSELL PHILLIP PAYNE

MS HEATH: Secondly, I hand up some short minutes of order pursuant to section 8 of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Act that relate to various redactions to material. I seek that those orders be made

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you. I will make those orders, thank you.

MS HEATH: And finally, I hand up the written submissions of Counsel Assisting dated 6 February 2023, and I adopt and rely upon those written submissions.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. I will receive those as well, thank you.

MS HEATH: Thank you, Commissioner.
Commissioner, I understand that the family or some family members of Mr Payne may be listening to this hearing by way of the live stream. I would like to start by expressing my condolences to them and thanking them for the assistance that they have provided to the Inquiry.

I will touch briefly upon the contents and preparation of the tender bundle. In the course of the inquiry into the death of Mr Payne, the Inquiry received, first, the investigation file from the NSW Police Force and, secondly, the coronial file from the New South Wales Coroners Court. Together, these files provided materials to the Inquiry relevant to the manner and cause of Mr Payne's death and the investigation of it. Material that has been extracted from those summonsed documents can be found at tabs 2 to 8 of the tender bundle.

The Inquiry also summonsed and received records from the NSW Police Force in relation to Strike Force Parrabell's consideration of the death of Mr Payne. Those documents are located at tabs 9 [SCOI.74987_0001] and 10 [SCOI.82203_0002].

At tabs 15 [SCOI.82352_0001] and 17 [SCOI.82354_0001] Commissioner, you will see two statements that have been obtained by the Inquiry. The first is a statement from journalist Michael Burge, which relevantly sets out his interactions with various members of Mr Payne's family. The second is a statement from Mr Terry Forster. He is the ex-brother-in-law of Mr Payne, and his statement I will come to in due course.

I repeat the thanks given this morning by Senior Counsel to Mr Burge for his assistance to this Inquiry and also express my thanks to members of Mr Payne's family who
spoke with and assisted the Inquiry.
There are three additional steps that are reflected in the index to the tender bundle. The first is that a summons for Mr Payne's health records was issued to the Hunter New England Local Health District. Unfortunately no records could be obtained.

Secondly, Dr Iles, forensic pathologist, was briefed to prepare an independent review of the autopsy report prepared by Dr Davison. Her briefing letter and her report are at tabs 11 [SCOI.82113_0001] and 12 [SCOI.82171_0001] of the tender bundle.

Finally, on Dr Iles's suggestion, attempts were made to obtain the histology slides created during the post-mortem examination. However, again, those inquiries were not fruitful. Tab 16 [SCOI. 82353_0001] which is the statement of solicitor Francesca Lilly, records the attempts to locate those histology slides.

My oral submissions, like my written submissions, will set out key matters arising from the consideration of that evidence. I start by turning to and describing the circumstances of Mr Payne's death.

Mr Payne was a 33-year-old man who lived in a flat at a boarding house in Inverell owned by Mr John Wills. Mr Wills considered him to be a quiet and well-mannered person.

At about 6.15pm on Thursday, 2 February 1989, Mr Wills entered Mr Payne's flat. He did so because Mr Payne, uncharacteristically, had failed to pay his rent, and, further, a friend of Mr Payne's was unable to locate him. The front door was locked and so Mr Wills entered through the open bedroom window.

Mr Wills walked through the house into the kitchen and found the body of Mr Payne in the kitchen of the flat. He immediately left and rang the police. Upon leaving through the front door, he noticed that the front door was heavily locked, such that he had trouble unlocking it.

Police arrived at approximately 7.15pm. Among them was Detective Sergeant Patrick Moss, who was engaged in physical evidence duties. He observed the following in

Mr Payne's flat: the body of Mr Payne was in the kitchen. He was dressed in a blue coloured singlet and naked from the waist down. His body exhibited bruising on his right hip and his penis. There was blood smeared around the upper thighs and the legs of the deceased. There were small drops of blood on the kitchen floor near the doorway from the living room and into the bathroom. There were no signs of a struggle or the ransacking of any rooms. There were apparent bloodstains on the bedding and a towel in the bedroom. There was vomit in two containers on the floor adjacent to the bed, and on the carpet near the two containers. Beside the bed were containers which held prescription drugs for various medical conditions, and I pause to note that the police report does not identify what those drugs were, nor the medical conditions that were apparently treated by them.

On the floor of the bathroom were a number of handkerchiefs and underpants, each of which was stained with apparent blood. There was also a stained sponge on the bathroom sink and the underside of the toilet lid was also stained.

Inside the washing machine was a shirt with a small stain, apparently blood, and a stained handkerchief. In the bedroom was a sawn piece of timber, apparently a broom handle, the rounded end of which was stained with a dark-coloured stain. There were a large number of erotic photographs at the flat, and again, the police report does not describe or comment upon the content of those photographs. They do not appear to have been retained as exhibits.

Commissioner, you will see at paragraphs 25 and 51 of my written submissions that some criticism is made of this failure to seize and record those exhibits, particularly when they in part informed the opinion of the investigating officer that the injuries were self-inflicted.

A post-mortem examination was conducted of the body at 3.30 pm on 3 February 1989 by pathologist Dr Alan Davison. I have set out in my written submissions at paragraph 8 a description of his findings, and I will repeat orally on1y a summary of those findings - that is, in general terms, there was bruising to Mr Payne's hip, pelvic region and genital region; there was bruising to Mr Payne's right shoulder; there was a hairline fracture to Mr Payne's
skull, but notably there was no associated brain injury; and, finally, a metal object with a spike at its base was located in the penile urethra, 1 to 2 cm from its distal end. On later inspection by police, this was revealed to be an antenna there a television set in Mr Payne's flat. Dr Davison estimated the date of death to be three days prior to autopsy - that is, on or around 31 January.

After examining tissue samples from the deceased, Dr Davison expressed the view that Mr Payne was suffering from a severe generalised infection. He expressed the cause of death to be due to septicaemia as a result of acute urethritis, most probably caused by insertion of a foreign body into the penile urethra.

On 18 May 1989, an inquest was dispensed with and the cause of death was recorded in a manner consistent with Dr Davison's findings at autopsy.

The police file contains very little material bearing upon whether Mr Payne was or might have been a member of the LGBTIQ community. There is a comment from Mr Payne's landlord, who had known Mr Payne for approximately 18 months, who reported that Mr Payne had told him he had once been married but was now divorced and had a child in Brisbane. This would seem to indicate that, at some point in the past, Mr Payne had been in a heterosexual relationship.

The Inquiry has now found some further information relevant to Mr Payne's sexuality. The Inquiry was initially provided this information by journalist Mr Michael Burge, and it's now contained in a statement at tab 17 [SCOI.82354_0001] from Mr Terry Forster.

Mr Forster is the ex-partner of Mr Payne's sister. He describes that he used to visit Inverell every fortnight or so for a shopping trip, and that during those trips he would meet Mr Payne. On one of those trips, which is estimated to be approximately a year prior to his death, Mr Payne said to Mr Forster words to the effect of, "Did you know I was gay?" And Mr Forster said, "I didn't." Mr Forster was accepting of Mr Payne's sexuality and their friendship continued as it had before. Relevantly, Mr Payne did not discuss any of his sexual practices with Mr Forster, including any interest in, for example, sadomasochism.

At tab 15 [SCOI.82352_0001], which is a statement from Mr Burge, he recounts his conversations that he has had with Mr Payne's sister, Julie Kilgour, and her partner, Ray Kilgour, about Mr Payne. You will see at paragraph 11 of that statement that they did not know that Mr Payne was gay until their recent conversations with Mr Burge and Mr Forster. However, upon learning of his sexuality, they expressed their support and understanding of that possibility.

Mr Payne's family have expressed some concerns at the lack of communication between themselves and investigating police throughout the investigation of Mr Payne's death. They had no knowledge of the cause of Mr Payne's death until later approached by journalist Mr Burge.

Another point that has raised questions for Mr Payne's family is that they recall being sent to collect Mr Payne's belongings from an address on Warialda Road in Inverell, not the Henderson Road location where Mr Payne's body was found, and they understood him to be living at that former address.

The police file that the Inquiry is in possession of contains no indication or record of the nature or extent of interactions between police and any family of Mr Payne following his death. So the reasons for that discrepancy remain unknown on the material before the Inquiry.

I say at this point, as I have said in my written submissions, that better engagement with Mr Payne's family would have not only been courteous but may also have resulted in obtaining further relevant information as to Mr Payne's personal circumstances.

Commissioner, I will turn to consider the approach of Strike Force Parrabell to Mr Payne's death. Strike Force Parrabell did not contact Mr Payne's family and was not, therefore, aware of the information that is now in the possession of the Inquiry as to Mr Payne's sexuality. This was, of course, consistent with the general approach of the strike force, which was a paper review of the historical material only and did not involve approaching to or speaking with any witnesses.

The Bias Crime Indicators Review Form is located at
tab 9 [SCOI.74987_0001] of the tender bundle. Strike Force Parrabell concluded that there was no evidence of a bias crime. Throughout the form "General Comment" sections, which are under each indicator, consistently indicate that the authors were not of the view that Mr Payne's death ought to be considered a bias crime, and they considered that the circumstances surrounding Mr Payne's death were not suspicious, and that the evidence suggested that Mr Payne died by misadventure as a result of a self-inflicted wound. The review of Flinders University concurred in that conclusion.

Commissioner, I will turn to the results of some of the investigative steps undertaken by this Inquiry and, most notably, that is the report that has been obtained of Dr Iles. Dr Iles was asked to provide an independent review of the autopsy report of Dr Davison, and also to comment upon the manner and cause of Mr Payne's death.

In her report, Dr Iles considers that the autopsy of Dr Davison was reasonably comprehensive and conducted in a thoughtful way with a view to excluding major trauma contributing to or directly causing death. Consistent with that, she adopts a view of the cause of death that is "not significantly different" to that of Dr Davison.

The cause of death that $\operatorname{Dr}$ Iles favours is death as a consequence of septicaemia secondary to Fournier's gangrene precipitated by a urethral foreign body. The difference between the cause of death given by $\operatorname{Dr}$ Davison and given by Dr Iles is this: Fournier's gangrene is a life-threatening soft tissue infection of the perineum and surrounding tissues; urethritis, the term which was used by Dr Davison, is a bacterial or viral infection in the urethra, so the location of the source of the infection is different.

Dr Iles noted that findings at the scene indicate that Mr Payne had been unwell for a period of time prior to his death, consistent with systemic sepsis.

Commissioner, you may recall, for example, that there was vomit located around the scene, and some evidence of attempts to clean by Mr Payne.

Dr Iles was specifically asked whether Mr Payne's injuries were consistent with misadventure, suicide or foul play. Her opinion is that there are no findings in the
material that necessitate the involvement of another person in Mr Payne's death. She expresses the view that on the available material, "Mr Payne's death can be completely explained as a consequence of a natural disease process secondary to misadventure", ie, a foreign body in the urethra, and that there are no features in the material to suggest either suicide or foul play.

In support of this opinion, $\operatorname{Dr}$ Iles refers to literature to support the proposition that insertion of foreign bodies into the urethra, although uncommon, is well described in the setting of autoeroticism and masturbatory behaviour, and, further, that there are cases in the literature of Fournier's gangrene being precipitated by self-inserted urethral foreign bodies.

Dr Iles makes the following comments in relation to the bruising and other injuries that were observed on Mr Payne's body. First, in relation to the swelling and bruising to his genital region, it is highly likely that that was a manifestation of Fournier's gangrene. Secondly, the bruising described to Mr Payne 's hip and pelvic region could be the result of either direct trauma, noting that Mr Payne is likely to have bruised easily in the setting of sepsis, or, alternatively, of soft tissue infection and necrosis, that is, the death of those tissues. Thirdly, in relation to Mr Payne's skull fracture, it's noted that it's not associated with any intracranial injury. That being the case, it's consistent with a fall backwards at the time of death, rather than being the primary cause of Mr Payne's death. Finally, the bruising to Mr Payne's right shoulder would be also consistent with such a fall at time of death.

In light of Dr Iles's opinion, it is submitted that it follows that the probability is that a foreign body was self-inserted by Mr Payne, and it is submitted that this Inquiry should accept the expert opinion of Dr Iles, which is largely consistent with the original opinion of Dr Davison.

In addition to the opinion of Dr Iles, other relevant factors that support that conclusion are: first, that there were no signs of struggle or ransacking in Mr Payne's unit; secondly, the evidence that Mr Payne was unwell for some time prior to his death; and, thirdly, that Mr Payne's unit was heavily locked from the inside.

All of these factors tend against a conclusion that another person was involved in or responsible for Mr Payne's death and tend to suggest that Mr Payne self-inserted the foreign body into his urethra.

Accordingly, notwithstanding the new information that has been obtained by the Inquiry as to Mr Payne's sexuality, it is submitted that Mr Payne's death was not the result of an LGBTIQ hate crime. In view of the totality of the circumstances, it's more probable than not that the foreign body was self-inserted, likely in the setting of autoeroticism.

Commissioner, you will see at written submissions paragraph 63 the finding that it is submitted is open to and should be made by the Commission. It is consistent with the cause of death given by Dr Iles. Accordingly, upon making that finding, this case would not fall within Category A of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, it not being an unsolved case.

Finally, Commissioner, at paragraph 65 of the written submissions, there is a submission in relation to a recommendation. This is to be made to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and that is to correct the cause of death so as to bring it in line with the expert opinion of $\operatorname{Dr}$ Iles.

Commissioner, those are my submissions in relation to this matter.

THE COMMISSIONER: A11 right. Thank you. And you reserve your position?

MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, your Honour.
THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Thank you. I think that concludes the day's proceedings, doesn't it?

MS HEATH: That's correct, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: We will resume in the morning at 10 and I will adjourn until then. Thank you very much.

AT 2.21PM THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WAS ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 10AM

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