

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOARD OF INQUIRY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MEDIA PROTOCOLS GUIDELINE

Published on 17 February 2023

1. This guideline should be read in conjunction with Practice Guideline 01/2023.
2. The Board of Inquiry – Criminal Justice System (**the Inquiry**) recognises the media has an important role to play in informing the community about the Inquiry.
3. These guidelines provide details of the arrangements for media access and reporting at hearings. The Inquiry may vary or depart from these guidelines.

Hearings

4. The Inquiry's hearings will generally be open to the public and live streamed via its website.
5. Representatives of media organisations attending hearings must ensure their work does not interrupt the proceedings. Seating in the hearing room/s will be limited. However, a small number of seats will be made available for media.

Use of electronic devices

6. During hearings, representatives of news media organisations are free to use electronic devices for the purposes of reporting on proceedings, subject to the conditions below. This includes laptop computers, tablets and mobile telephones, used for notetaking, text messaging, tweeting, and filing or publishing reports from the hearing room.
7. Electronic devices used by media representatives during hearings:
 - (a) must not interfere with the decorum of proceedings or with the Inquiry's recording system; and
 - (b) must not be used to make or receive audio or video calls, or to take photographs or video footage.

Live streaming

8. Hearings will be live streamed through the Inquiry's website.
9. The Chairperson has given approval for the livestream footage and audio to be recorded and used fairly for the purpose of understanding and reporting on the Inquiry's proceedings.
10. The Chairperson has power to direct that evidence not be published, if he is satisfied it is proper to make that direction. In that event, the livestream may be muted or suspended by order of the Chairperson.

Filming and photography

11. Media representatives must not film, photograph or sound record the proceedings.

For journalists covering hearings

12. If the livestream is muted or suspended, the media must comply with any directions made by the Chairperson.
13. Contact with witnesses, legal representatives or members of the public will not be facilitated by the Inquiry.

Media relations contact

14. For media enquiries, please contact BOI.Information@inquiry.gov.act.au.