

TIMELINE OF TRAVEL TO GOLD COAST FOR OPERATION CORVINA

24 FEBRUARY 2021

10.30am – Travel to Gold Coast Airport

11.47am – Meeting with Gold Coast Airport Superintendent regarding media interest and plans to deal with ensuring the privacy of the complainant

1.11am – Meeting with the complainant (Brittany Higgins), her partner (David Sharaz), her aunty and lawyer (██████████). Ms Higgins asked about viewing Parliament House CCTV and was informed that she would not get to view the footage during criminal investigation as this would compromise the integrity of the investigation.

1.31 – EICI commenced with Ms Higgins and ██████████ was a support person as he knows her family). During the EICI she has made an allegation of one count of sexual intercourse without consent.

3.55pm – EICI concluded. Ms Higgins was requested to bring her mobile phone in the following day so it could be subjected to a Cellebrite data extraction. She stated her phone from the time of the incident was totally dead but Police could have it to pass to our DFT. She was going to supply her new phone for the extraction. She left the meeting with Police emotional but in high spirits. No media were present.

25 FEBRUARY 2021

9.00am – SC Frizzell calls Ms Higgins to ensure that she will bring her phones while her partner is participating in a ROC.

9.37am - SC Frizzell called Mr Sharaz. No answer and SC Frizzell speaks to Mr Sharaz who states that Ms Higgins is speaking to someone on the phone. He enquires about why Police need her mobile phone but is told that we will speak to Ms Higgins about that request.

9.42am - Ms Higgins contacted SC Frizzell. Arrangements were made for her and Mr Sharaz to attend the Gold Coast Airport Office. Ms Higgins became upset, and sounded as though she was crying. Ms Higgins spoke of the recent media release with Minister Peter Dutton. She advised she had raised her concerns previously (In the meet and greet), and that she was unaware that the information up to that point would be filtered across. She described being very overwhelmed, feeling alone in this process, and not confident in the process.

SC Frizzell attempted to calm Ms Higgins, sympathised with her feelings of being overwhelmed and stressed the importance of her welfare. SC Frizzell advised that further discussions would be had in person and further support considerations would be undertaken

10.50am – ██████████ contacted to call Ms Higgins later that same day.

11.05am – Ms Higgins and Mr Sharaz attend for the meeting. Ms Higgins is highly emotional/crying and states that she had seen a media interview with Minister Peter Dutton from that morning. She states she feels attacked by the Government and she will not now hand over her phone as she believes they are going to use the information against her. She is reassured by Police that the only purpose for the phone is for the criminal investigation and to ensure an objective investigation it will be required. She again states that Police cannot have her phone.

SC Frizzell talks to Ms Higgins and compiles the timeline of disclosure witnesses and contact information.

11.20am – ROC with Mr Sharaz. His disclosure may be problematic due to the contamination of witness evidence from media reports, etc.

11.39am – ROC concluded. Conversation with Ms Higgins and Mr Sharaz about the alleged misconduct concerns. She stated that she had no direct evidence and it was everything she had heard about in the media. This is in regards to the security guards checking on her after the incident, the cleaning of the room, guards changing their statements and the information has come the News.com journalist, Samantha Maiden.

Ms Higgins is not sure what she would like done about the misconduct allegation but doesn't trust Parliament to do an unbiased investigation. She was content for that if any criminal offences were identified during the SACAT investigation, in regards to the alleged misconduct, then for those offences to be investigated by the appropriate AFP area. She was very satisfied with this option and whilst still emotional was much calmer.

Ms Higgins again states she will not provide her mobile phone at this time as she doesn't trust the Government. She is again informed that it will impact on the investigation.

12.31pm – ROC with ██████████, friend of Ms Higgins. He was an intimate friend of Ms Higgins during 2019 and had received a phone call from her during the early hours of the morning of 23 March 2019. He missed the call as he had to travel early that morning but it was prior to 4.00am and he believes after midnight.

He spoke to Ms Higgins later that morning and she stated that she had gone into the minister's office after hours for a party. He thought she might have gone to the office to 'hook up' (have sex) with someone. During later text and conversations with Ms Higgins she stated that she was concerned she was going to lose her job because of the incident. She later disclosed to him that she had been sexually assaulted in the office.

He encouraged her to speak to Police and made a welfare enquiry on her behalf to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). He suggested counselling and that she be offered a job on the Gold Coast to be closer to family. He was not reporting the incident to the PMO just trying to arrange welfare.

██████████ would not provide his mobile phone for Cellebrite as he stated he had messages still from Parliament members and didn't want to have those messages downloaded. He did provide the full message thread with Ms Higgins to Police via email, and read the messages during the ROC, and stated that he consider providing the mobile if the matter progressed to Court.

3.45pm – Attend home address of Ms Higgins father, ██████████.

3.52pm – ROC commenced with father. He did not know about the incident in great detail except what he saw in the media. He didn't want to know all the details because he wants to just support Ms Higgins. Supportlink offered and accepted.

4.08pm – ROC concluded.

26 February 2021

9.13am – Attend home address of Mr Higgins. Police obtained medical consent from Ms Higgins regarding disclosures she has made to counsellors. Police again reiterate to her the need to access her mobile phone to ensure a complete, thorough investigation. Ms Higgins stated that she will be travelling to the ACT on 12/13 March 2021 to pack up her unit. She will consider the Police request for the phones. She stated that she will be looking for work in Brisbane and to live there. Police advised her that once she is more settled she may be in a better emotional state.

Ms Higgins was much more settled during this meeting and understood that a Police investigation will take some time to complete.

11.45am – Return to the ACT.