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Investigation Review - Terms of Reference

Addressee Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan

Title Terms of Reference (ToR) – Operation Covina Tactical Investigation Review

To: Neil Gaughan
Chief Police Officer, ACT Policing

On 5 February 2021, the AFP re-commenced an investigation into an alleged sexual assault incident that occurred on 22 March 2019. The report alleged a sexual assault had occurred within the precinct of the Australian Parliament House, Canberra. The investigation is named Operation Covina.

The incident is being investigated by ACT Policing Criminal Investigations - Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team (SACAT), utilising their specialist skills that are developed within this investigation type.

A brief of evidence was provided to ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ACT DPP) on 18 June 2021.

SACAT has continued with the investigation and further brief preparation.

In parallel with this, the AFP initiated a tactical investigation review. This review is to be conducted as per the AFP review standard.

The AFP review team is led by an SES officer and experienced detectives. It is further supported by the involvement of Investigation Standards and Practices (ISP) members to provide advice on review methodology and standards.

The review team have not been involved in Operation Covina and have no conflict of interest with any element of the operation.

The review will address the following:

- Further avenues of inquiry.
- Consideration of the material already obtained, focussing on the current draft Statement of Facts (SOF), Record of Interview (ROI), Evidence in Chief Interviews (EICIs), statements, Record of Conversations (ROC) and associated entries, documents and/or recordings.
- Any further considerations that may inform the investigation.

The tactical review will be conducted in two phases, which will assess and advise on the following:

Phase one: Review the information obtained throughout the investigation, with particular focus on the current draft SOF, ROI, EICIs, statements, ROCs and associated entries, documents and/or recordings.

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Phase two: Analyse the avenues of inquiry and consider any further investigative considerations that may assist in obtaining relevant information.

The review team will consider the information held in the investigation shared drive and in PROMIS case 6381473.

The review team will assess the information as it is recorded on 28 July 2021. If any new information becomes available during the review period, the team will be notified by SACAT.

The review will be delivered as a report, based on the AFP review template.

The review will be delivered to the Chief Police Officer, ACT Policing.

Forwarded for your consideration and action.

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Andrew Smith
Commander
AFP International Network

Date: 28 July 2021

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