



Office of the Premier of Victoria

1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia
Telephone: +613 9651 5000

The Honourable Jennifer Coate AO
Board of Inquiry into the
COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Program

By email: lawyers@quarantineinquiry.vic.gov.au

Dear Madam Chair

Notice to Produce Documents to the Board of Inquiry (NTP-153)

I refer to your letter to me of Thursday, 8 October 2020 (the **8 October letter**), which enclosed a list of questions and requests and a Notice to Produce Documents to the Board (NTP-153). I refer also to your subsequent letter to me of Saturday, 10 October 2020 (the **10 October letter**).

8 October letter — responses to questions and requests

I set out below my responses to the questions and requests listed in the 8 October letter.

1. Please provide a list of all persons working in the Premier's Private Office (PPO) in March and April 2020;

I have enclosed the Premier's Private Office (**PPO**) staff contact list dated February 2020, which was current in March and April 2020.

2. What involvement (if any) did the PPO and/or its staff have in the decision to engage private security contractors in the hotel quarantine program? Please provide details.

PPO staff had no involvement in any decision to engage private security contractors in the hotel quarantine program.

3. Having conducted all reasonable enquiries, including enquiries made of any PPO staff members likely to be in possession of such information (together, relevant PPO staff members):

a. Does any relevant PPO staff member know who made the decision to engage private security contractors in the hotel quarantine program?

No.

- b. **If so, please provide all relevant details including who holds that knowledge, how they came to be in possession of that knowledge, who made the decision to engage private security contractors and the circumstances in which that decision came to be made.**

Not applicable.

- c. **If not, please provide any information that may assist the Board in determining who made the decision to engage private security contractors in the hotel quarantine program.**

PPO staff are unaware of any information that may relevantly assist the Board beyond that which is already in the Board's possession.

- d. **Does any relevant PPO staff member know who contacted or may have contacted former Chief Commissioner of Police Graham Ashton between 1:16pm and 1:32pm on 27 March 2020?**

It is my understanding that the former Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Mr Christopher Eccles AO, contacted former Chief Commissioner of Police Graham Ashton between 1:16pm and 1:32pm on 27 March 2020. PPO staff do not otherwise know who contacted or might have contacted Mr Ashton during that period.

- e. **If so:**

- i. **who made that contact or may have made that contact; and**
- ii. **what was said or may have been said?**

I refer to my answer to question 3(d) above. I do not know what was said or what might have been said by Mr Eccles or Mr Ashton, beyond that which is the subject of Mr Eccles' Statement of 12 October 2020 and the evidence that the Board has received.

4. **If you wish to include any additional information in your letter, please set it out below.**

Not applicable.

Notice to Produce and 10 October letter

There are no other documents in the possession of PPO staff that fall within:

- (a) paragraph 2 of the Schedule to Notice to Produce NTP-153; or
- (b) the categories of documents described in your 10 October letter.

However, in light of the commitment that Premier Andrews made in statements to the media on 11 October 2020, to the effect that the Board would be provided with PPO staff phone records for 27 March 2020, I enclose those records.

Confidential and private information

As you would appreciate, both the PPO staff contact list and the PPO staff phone records enclosed with this letter contain private and confidential information. I would be grateful if they could be dealt with accordingly.

Conclusion

Thank you for writing to me in relation to this matter. I look forward to receiving the Board's final report.

Yours sincerely



Lissie Ratcliff
Chief of Staff

Chargeable Item	Charge Type	Charge Type	Start We	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	Origin (Place)	Number Dialed	Name Called	Duration (sec)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Mobile Calls	MobileNet - National Direct Dialed calls	Fri	27-Mar-20	12:38PM	27-Mar-20	Treasury PI	[REDACTED]	Minister Mikakos	354
[REDACTED]	Mobile Calls	MobileNet - National Direct Dialed calls	Fri	27-Mar-20	01:39PM	27-Mar-20	Treasury PI	[REDACTED]	Minister Neville	305
[REDACTED]	Mobile Calls	MobileNet - National Direct Dialed calls	Fri	27-Mar-20	02:36PM	27-Mar-20	Treasury PI	[REDACTED]	Minister Neville	40
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Subject to Restricted Publication Order

Call Log of Senior Advisor

Chargeable Item	Charge Type Category	Charge Type	Start WeekDay	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	Origin (Place)	Number Dialed	Name Called	Duration (sec)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Mobile Calls	MobileNet - National Direct Dialed calls	Fri	27-Mar-20	01:08PM	27-Mar-20	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tim Ada	54
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Mobile Calls	MobileNet - National Direct Dialed calls	Fri	27-Mar-20	10:07AM	27-Mar-20	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Simon Phemister	187
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Mobile Calls	MobileNet - National Direct Dialed calls	Fri	27-Mar-20	11:27AM	27-Mar-20	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Simon Phemister	122
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Mobile Calls	MobileNet - National Direct Dialed calls	Fri	27-Mar-20	12:32PM	27-Mar-20	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Simon Phemister	250
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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