



**MINISTER FOR POLICE; CORRECTIVE SERVICES; RACING AND GAMING;
DEFENCE INDUSTRY; VETERANS ISSUES**

Mr Matthew Hughes MLA
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on the
Corruption and Crime Commission
matthew.hughes@mp.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Hughes

Thank you for your contribution as the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. I recently received the associated 2022-23 Annual Report, and I was asked to provide comment on the below recommendation relevant to the WA Police Force:

"...the Western Australia Police Force investigate ways to manage information in circumstances where the conduct of a police officer is likely to result in an allegation of police misconduct..."

This recommendation emanated from a dangerous driving incident resulting in the police driver being convicted, when he used the vehicle to hit a person he was arresting. This officer became aware of information about the dangerous driving from his passenger, via another uninvolved police officer, when situational awareness was provided to the Executive and other members.

I sought clarification on this recommendation from Commissioner Col Blanch APM and he has advised that the WA Police Force has procedures in place to attend, manage and ensure appropriate criminal and managerial investigation for a Critical Incident Involving Police (CIIP).

A serious injury resulting from police driving is a CIIP and requires Detectives from the Major Crash Investigation Section to attend and appoint a Commissioned Officer as the incident controller, a defined Senior Investigating Officer, with liaison and oversight by the Internal Affairs Unit.

The procedures state that the involved officers should be separated and asked not to discuss the incident with other witnesses involved prior to any interview connected to the critical incident.

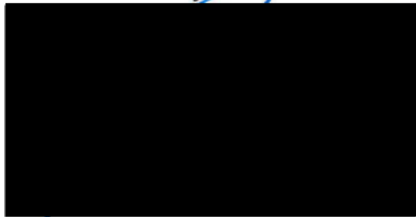
These detailed procedures cover deaths in police custody or presence, use of force or police driving that causes death or serious injury.

It is assumed these procedures were not applied to the deidentified incident subject of the recommendation in the report.

The Commissioner of Police has provided an assurance that the WA Police Force has appropriate procedures in place to ensure police officers involved in a critical incident are treated fairly and are supported and are aware that as part of the process they will be interviewed criminally or managerially.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE**

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