
NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE FORCE
NEWCASTLE CITY LAC



Newcastle City Local Area Command
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19 April, 2011

Reference:

HIGHLY PROTECTED

Assistant Commissioner YORK APM
Northern Region commander

Current status - Strike Force Lantle - Investigation into activities of members of the Catholic Church.

* * *

Strike Force Lantle was promulgated to investigate an allegation the senior members of the Catholic Church concealed serious offences by members of the Catholic clergy in New South Wales during the period 1985 - 1999.

Strike Force Lantle commenced as per e@gle.i holdings on the 12 October, 2010. At that stage it was apparent that inquiries were to take the form of review, assessment of current holdings and initial inquiries to determine whether or not the matter should proceed. ¹ There had clearly been a period prior to the commencement of this Strike Force where numerous commands had knowledge of the allegation and had seen fit for reasons unknown to me at this time not to commence an investigation. It appears that Lake Macquarie LAC were aware.

I am also aware that Central Hunter LAC was at time in receipt of some form of correspondence which was forwarded to Detective Chief Inspector FOX at Port Stephens Local Area Command. Ultimately the decision was made for Newcastle City LAC to have carriage of the investigation.

¹ Report of Inspector Townsend dated 12 July, 2010 with subsequent written direction of Assistant Commissioner York 1/9/10.

The matter was assigned in the first instance to Detective Sergeant STEELE as officer in charge, with Detective Chief Inspector TAYLER as investigative supervisor. Detective Senior Constable FREENY was assigned to assist Detective Sergeant STEELE.

Sergeant STEELE commenced inquiries including meetings with one of the victims, State Crime Command staff, and M/s McCarthy from the Newcastle Herald. Sergeant STEELE then reported off sick and is not expected to return to duty. Similarly, Detective Chief Inspector TAYLER reported off sick in late 2010 and is in the midst of medical discharge.

Upon me taking the position of Crime Manager the matter was reassigned to Detective Sergeant LITTLE as officer in charge. He still maintains carriage of the investigation to this date. Detective Sergeant LITTLE's mandate was to review the current holdings (which frankly were abysmally managed up until that point), determine and prepare an investigation plan and submit that plan for approval, and initiate contact with the victim. AL

The contact with the victim was problematic as she had written to DCI TAYLER on the 15 December 2010 dictating she did not want to be spoken to until the new year, and then she would only give her statement to 'Peter Fox' who she had 'met once' and felt very comfortable with.

By this time DCI TAYLER was on sick report and I initiated telephone contact with AL resulting in a meeting with Detective Sergeant LITTLE occurring. This meeting by all accounts was positive with a view to further formal interviews occurring.

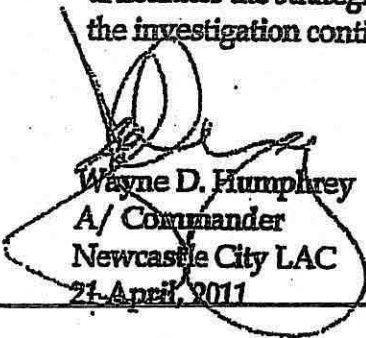
In March 2010 (upon return from deployment to Christchurch NZ for the Operation Monro deployment), Detective Inspector PARKER commenced duty in the Newcastle City LAC as Crime Manager (Investigations). With that position came the assumed role of supervisor for Strike Force Lantle.

The continuing conduct of Strike Force Lantle remains, until directed otherwise, the responsibility of this Command. As such the attached investigation plan (HIGHLY PROTECTED) articulates a professional and analytical approach to this matter, including robust parameters on media management.

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Detective Sergeant LITTLE will be taken off line from general CI inquiries upon his imminent return from annual leave with a mandate to complete this investigation to the point where legal advising can be sought.

There are impacting factors on the conduct of this investigation that are dealt with under separate papers. Those aside, the attached investigation plan articulates the strategic considerations that need to be taken into account whilst the investigation continues.



Wayne D. Humphrey
A/ Commander
Newcastle City LAC
21 April 2011
