

Coronial inquiry outcome

Earlier today, Commissioner Severin sent out a broadcast informing staff of the outcome of the coronial inquiry into the death of inmate Dwayne Johnstone.

The Coroner has referred this matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to determine if charges should be laid.

Today, members of the POVB Executive met with Mr Severin to discuss the matter.

Mr Severin made it clear that the officer has his full support and he will be in contact with him today.

It was also made clear to us by the Commissioner that he is supportive of all staff who carry out their duties and the requirement to carry firearms.

At present, any stance from PSA has to be measured to consider the membership in its entirety and the interests of the officers involved. Therefore, the status quo will be maintained.

As the situation progresses we will keep members informed. The POVB Executive will continue to support the officers and assist in any way that we can.

I am sure that there are members who want to take some form of industrial action in support of the officer. However, that would not stop the matter going before the DPP for determination.

In our meeting with Mr Severin, we also raised that support and guidance after a serious incident need to be improved. It was acknowledged this was the case and that CSNSW will work with us to improve future processes.

The POVB Legal Fund is providing full support to the Officers involved and we wish to remind all POVB members to ensure that they are in the POVB Legal Fund which supports members for legal representation in all Coronial or Criminal matters resulting from work-related incidents.

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