

11 February 2021

Peter IVANOFF



NSW Police Force
www.police.nsw.gov.au

To Mr Ivanoff,

I acknowledge you are a retired NSW Police Force Member and finished employment as the Academic Director of Policing Studies with Charles Sturt University, NSWPF Academy in 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service with the New South Wales Police Force. Thank you also for your letter dated the 20 September 2020, inquiring if sound and professional investigation into routine vehicle crashes attended by NSW Police is occurring or being avoided; and if the causation to why crashes occurred is being investigated and recorded correctly.

Motor vehicle crashes are classified as either minor or major crashes, they are not defined any further to include different categories of vehicles. New reporting guidelines were implemented from 15 October 2014 to manage crashes more efficiently. The revision of attendance criteria for police at motor vehicle collisions arose from a NSW Government initiative as part of its red tape reduction program.

The NSW Police Force Handbook contains directions and instructions for all police. The purpose of the handbook is for consistent applications of policies and procedures across the NSW Police Force. The Handbook clearly articulates that police, are not required to investigate crashes meeting the 'Minor Traffic Crash' criteria and attendance is not required merely for the purpose of taking a report. The NSW Police Force Handbook is available on-line for the public to view, specifically under Chapter M titled: 'Motor Vehicle Crashes'.

METROPOLITAN CRASH INVESTIGATION UNIT

11 LIBERTY ROAD

HUNTINGWOOD NSW 2148

Telephone 02 8882 1458 Facsimile 02 8882 1485 ENet 64458 EFax 64485 TTY 9211 3776 (Hearing/Speech Impaired)

ABN 43 408 813 130

Since the changes, Police will promptly attend any traffic crash, irrespective of it being a major or minor, where;

1. A person is trapped, killed or injured
2. A driver appears affected by alcohol or drugs
3. A driver/owner has failed to stop or exchange particulars
4. There are hazards present
5. There is or is likely to be obstruction to the free flow of traffic
6. A heavy vehicle requires towing
7. Anyone involved in the crash is significantly distressed needing police assistance
8. A participant in the on reasonable grounds has requested police attend
9. Any other issue exists requiring police attendance (e.g. Aggressive driver, criminal behaviour, media interest, etc).

There is nothing that prohibits police from taking enforcement action in relation to offences committed in a Minor Traffic Crash where an offence is disclosed or detected. The changes do not take away Police discretion to investigate any motor vehicle collision irrespective of its classification. It must be emphasised that the discretion to commence legal proceedings remains solely with the individual police officer."

Firstly, it is acknowledged that the initiative in 2014, where Police ceased attending car crashes under certain circumstances would equate to a reduction in information, identifying causation and statistical data; due to Police now not attending those certain crashes.

Attached to your letter, *Annexure 1*, being a one-page document titled: 13 Point Plan to Investigating and Recording Major Traffic Crashes. The 13 points as outlined in the document are currently gleaned by attending Police at vehicle crashes and are entered into the NSWPF Computer System, known as the COPS under the Motor Vehicle Crash Event. This occurs for all motor vehicle crashes that NSWPF attend when the crash falls under any of the nine-point criteria as outlined above.

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The information and statistics gleaned in the COPS Events are used by the NSWPF to investigate but also used and disseminated to Transport for NSW and the Centre of Road Safety to determine the causes of crashes and to assist in road safety initiatives.

If you wish to discuss the matter any further, please call me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Acting Inspector
Crash Investigation Unit
Traffic & Highway Patrol Command

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