

From:
To: [Animal Cruelty Laws](#)
Cc:
Subject: Inquiry into animal cruelty laws in NSW - Post hearing responses - NSWPF [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]
Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2020 1:33:59 PM

Dear Tina,

Please find below the NSWPF response to the questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Inquiry into animal cruelty laws in NSW.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Nicole.

Questions on Notice

Q1: The NSW Police Force is unable to provide data on any "... instances of either of the ACOs breaching the Act". Any charges would be against employees or directors of the ACOs rather than the ACOs themselves. The NSW Police Force Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS) fixed data fields do not provide information as to the employer of any offender. Consequently, event narratives or fact sheets would have to be individually scrutinised to determine whether any instances of this had occurred, and the number of charges in total precludes that sort of analysis.

Q2: The release of the MoUs in question is for the limited purpose of advising the Parliamentary Inquiry. The NSW Police Force request the MoU with the AWL and RSPCA be kept confidential and protected from further dissemination or public release. The release of these documents in a public forum could compromise the efficacy of police methodologies and direction.

Supplementary Questions

Q1 & 2: The NSW Police Force is unable to supply any data regarding how many animal cruelty reports were referred by NSW Police to RSPCA or AWL, for each of the past five year, as this information is not recorded in COPS.

Q3: The NSW Police Force will investigate anonymous reports of animal cruelty subject to sufficient information being provided within the report. Police require the person reporting the matter to provide adequate details to assess the allegation, conduct enquiries and/or commence an investigation.

Q4 & 5: No issues have been identified with the statute of limitations by the NSW Police Force, when investigating reports of animal cruelty. The NSW Police Force does not support amending the statute of limitations.

Q6: The NSW Police Force cannot separate data pertaining to NSW Police Force investigated cases that led to charges being levelled against an individual, that were withdrawn prior to court or at court. Five years' worth of data relating to the number of animal cruelty charges (Court Attendance Notices), encompassing withdrawn prior to court or at court, are as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	15	28	19	32	21

Q7: The NSW Police Force is unable to provide comment, supporting or otherwise additional parliamentary scrutiny of animal welfare compliance agencies.