



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANTS BY THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 October 2020

The Legislative Council Privileges Committee today tabled its report on the execution of search warrants by the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The inquiry was referred to the committee by the House following the execution of two search warrants by the AFP on the parliamentary office and home of the Honourable Shaoquett Moselmane, and in relation to the data and emails of Mr Moselmane.

The committee was tasked with recommending to the House which of the material seized by the AFP and subject to claims of parliamentary privilege made by Mr Moselmane fell within the scope of 'proceedings in Parliament'. Mr John Zhang, Mr Moselmane's staffer, initiated High Court action to challenge search warrants executed on him; any matters pertaining to Mr Zhang were not referred to the committee by the House.

The Hon Peter Primrose MLC, Chair of the committee, said: "The committee received submissions from Mr Moselmane, via his legal representative, the Australian Federal Police and the Clerk of the Parliaments. Through the submission process agreement was reached that 12 items seized attract parliamentary privilege. The committee has therefore recommended that the House resolve that those 12 items be returned to Mr Moselmane, and the remaining items seized during the searches be returned to the AFP."

Reflecting on the inquiry process, Mr Primrose observed: "Mr Moselmane's legal representative and the AFP investigative team have cooperated effectively with the committee throughout the inquiry. We thank both parties for their constructive approach to the process. The committee has also noted in its report that, contrary to implications in some media reports on the day the search warrants were executed, the warrants do not allege that Mr Moselmane is suspected of committing offences under Commonwealth legislation."

For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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