



## NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER

Office of the State Coroner  
Coroners Court

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Hon Adam Searle MLC  
Committee Chair  
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9 December 2021

Dear Mr Searle

I refer to your letter of 8 December 2021.

Having given the matter further consideration (including the legal and professional obligations attached to the office of judicial officer and Head of Jurisdiction), I have formed the view that it is not appropriate for me to give evidence before the Select Committee, especially noting the fundamental importance of judicial independence, and I must decline your invitation.

I thank you and members of the Select Committee for the work of the Committee and for providing the advance questions.

I have forwarded your most recent letter and the list of questions to the Department of Communities and Justice so that a response can be provided as soon as possible.

I remain committed to assisting the Select Committee with its important work relating to the NSW coronial jurisdiction, and in this regard, look forward to hosting the Select Committee members at the Forensic Medicine and Coroners Court Complex on 14 December 2021.

*Kind regards*

*Teresa O'Sullivan*  
NSW State Coroner