

<b>Branch and Approval:</b>
<p><b>QUESTION (Page Number): 2</b></p> <p><b>The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:</b> Good morning, welcome and thank you all for being here. Mr Draper, were you present at the telephone briefing on 20 January at 9.37 a.m.?</p> <p><b>SIMON DRAPER:</b> No, I wasn't, and maybe this will help you: Just to let you know, I was on leave.</p> <p>I didn't return from leave until 29 January.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:</b> When it says "staff from the Premier's office", who from the Premier's office was present at that meeting?</p> <p><b>SIMON DRAPER:</b> I can't—I'm not sure.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:</b> Are there any records that you can provide us on notice about who was at that meeting?</p> <p><b>SIMON DRAPER:</b> I can, although Ms Meagher might know.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:</b> Could provide us with details on notice?</p> <p><b>SIMON DRAPER:</b> Yes, sure.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:</b> In fact, on notice can you provide us with details of any staff from the Premier's Department who were attending any of the briefings in relation to this matter?</p> <p><b>SIMON DRAPER:</b> Yes, that's fine.</p>
<p><b>ANSWER:</b></p> <p>Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary Delivery and Engagement Group, attended this meeting as Acting Secretary of the Premier's Department on 23 January 2025.</p> <p>Mr Simon, Draper, Secretary, Premier's Department was on leave in January 2025 and attended a meeting on the 5 February and 7 February 2025.</p>

<b>Branch and Approval:</b>
<b>QUESTION (Page Number): 4</b>

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Were you present at the teams briefing on 31 January?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I don't believe—31 January?

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Yes. After you returned from leave.

**The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** He returned on the twenty-ninth.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Yes, so the thirty-first is after the twenty-ninth.

**SIMON DRAPER:** I'm going to have to check that one. I don't believe I was. That was the Friday I think.

**ANSWER:**

As advised later in the hearing, the Secretary of the Premier's Department has no record in his diary of attending this meeting on 31 January 2025.

**Branch and Approval:**

**QUESTION (Page Number): 5**

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** Ms Meagher, could I ask you please to go back to the briefing on the afternoon

of 23 January? Do you recall hearing Deputy Commissioner David Hudson referring to the incident in terms such

as this looking to him that it could be a criminal opportunity type of event, relating to the caravan and the evidence

that he had been examining by that time?

**KATE MEAGHER:** Ms Higginson, I don't recall that language. This was the first time I had heard about

this and, to be honest, I was absorbing what was being described around explosives with a potential 40-metre

radius of damage and the language around mass casualty events. Contextually, what we were doing at the time in

the Premier's Department was trying to work with police and community across government to develop responses

to a number of incidents that had been occurring over the summer. I definitely don't recall, but I'm happy to take

it on notice and check with Mr Hudson if he did use that language. I do recall that it was definitely presented in

that meeting as something that could have had the potential to cause a mass casualty event. Where we were sitting,

looking at the number of incidents that had been escalating, that was definitely my takeout, if I can put it like that.

I don't recall the other language that you've referred to, but I'm more than happy to check in case I missed that context.

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the evidence provided by Deputy Commissioner David Hudson APM in the Committee's hearing on 7 April 2025.

**Branch and Approval:**

**QUESTION (Page Number): 7**

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** Did the Premier's chief of staff ask any questions in the briefing session?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I really don't remember.

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** Ms Meagher, do you recall in the initial one whether the Premier's chief of staff asked questions?

**KATE MEAGHER:** I don't recall either, I'm sorry. Happy to take it on notice, but I can't recall.

**ANSWER:**

Having considered the question further, the Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement has nothing to add to her response.

**Branch and Approval:**

**QUESTION (Page Number): 9**

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** There was a briefing on 4 February, 5 February and 7 February. In all of those

briefings, you were present. What we understand is that other staff from the Premier's office were present. Was it

the same staff member in each of those briefings, the chief of staff?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I don't really remember exactly who was there for each of those briefings, other than

the people who were doing the briefings themselves. The chief of staff was certainly there for some of them.

I don't know if he was there for all of them. There were a number of briefings set up in the diary. I'm not sure that

all of them actually happened, depending on whether there was something to report and other things that were

happening at that time. That's probably the best I can tell you.

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** Would you be able to take on notice and provide the Committee, for those

briefing dates, who from the Premier's office was present?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I am not reluctant to take things on notice, but I don't know that there's anything

I could go to to tell me who was present.

**ANSWER:**

The Premier's Department understands staff from the Office of the Premier were invited however the Department holds no records of who attended.

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**Branch and Approval:**

**QUESTION (Page Number): 9**

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** There is no Teams meeting record? Could you ask the Premier to provide that

information?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I don't know that the Premier would have a record of that either.

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** Perhaps he could just try and ask his staff who might have been there and see if

that could be provided. Is that something that you might be able to do for this inquiry?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I'm happy to take it on notice.

**Ms SUE HIGGINSON:** It is the meetings of 7 February, 5 February, 4 February and 3 February.

**ANSWER:**

See the answer to the question above.

**Branch and Approval:**

**QUESTION (Page Number): 9**

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** Ms Meagher, in an answer to my colleague Ms Higginson, when you were

talking about the advice given by Deputy Commissioner Hudson in relation to the likelihood of what the caravan

incident was, you indicated that you would check, in case you had missed the context. If no notes have been kept

of the meeting, what are you proposing to check?

**KATE MEAGHER:** I think what I meant by that was that I could talk to Mr Hudson. That's all.

**The Hon. SUSAN CARTER:** When you offered to take something on notice—

**KATE MEAGHER:** I don't know whether that's procedurally a thing I can do, but happy to take that on

notice. I'm trying to assist, is what I'm getting at.

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the evidence provided by Deputy Commissioner David Hudson APM in the Committee's hearing on 7 April 2025.

**Mr Simon Draper, Secretary, Premier's Department**

**Branch and Approval: Delivery and Engagement**

**QUESTION 1:**

(1) In your evidence to the Committee, given on Thursday 22 May 2025, you stated, "It's not necessarily the case there would be minutes kept of those briefings, particularly where sensitive matters are being discussed." (Page 3 of the uncorrected transcript.) Were the briefings with the NSW Police Force recorded electronically or by any other means?

(a) After the conclusion of the briefings were contemporaneous notes of any form generated?

**ANSWER:**

The Premier's Department did not generate minutes of briefings by the NSW Police Force.

The briefings contained sensitive law enforcement information arising from an ongoing Joint Counter Terrorism Team investigation, and did not involve decisions being made, or actions authorised, by the Premier's Department. In these circumstances, the NSW Police Force (as the briefing agency) was best placed to control information and keep appropriate records of the briefings.

Certain information provided by the NSW Police Force was included in 'Situation Reports' provided by the Premier's Department to the Premier and other Ministers, collating cross-agency information on the Government's response to antisemitism and antisemitic violence.

The Legislative Council received a return in response to the 19 March 2025 'Briefings on antisemitic or hate crimes' order for papers, which included documents held by the Premier's Department relevant to these briefings.

**Mr Simon Draper, Secretary, Premier's Department and Ms Kate Meagher, Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department**

**Branch and Approval: Delivery and Engagement**

**QUESTION 1:**

(1) Who determined that no notes would be taken during the briefings given by the NSW Police Force?

(a) Was it your idea?

(b) Were you under instructions from any other person to not take notes?

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**ANSWER:**

Please see the answer to question 1.

**Branch and Approval: Delivery and Engagement**

**QUESTION 2:**

(2) What are the criteria that determines a 'pens down' meeting?

(a) Are these criteria applied in an ad hoc manner, or are they a widely understood protocol or standard procedure within the Premier's Department and Premier's Office?

(b) At whose initiative or direction can a 'pen's down' meeting be authorised or declared?

**ANSWER:**

Please see the answer to question 1.