

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE 5 – JUSTICE AND
COMMUNITIES**

ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Inquiry Hearing: Friday, 4 July 2025

RESPONSES TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Answers due by:

6 August 2025

PortfolioCommittee5@parliament.nsw.gov.au

NSW POLICE FORCE

- (1) In the hearing you helpfully provided us with figures for hate crimes and hate incidences for the years 2019 to 2024 drawn from a database that was brought to the hearing.

In the hearing you were asked by Dr Amanda Cohn about statements made by the Minister for Police in Estimates in March about “700 antisemitic attacks over summer” and replied, *“I think there was data captured under Operation Shelter, which was commenced on 11 October 2023, as I indicated, following the Hamas terrorist attack. A lot of those incidents—I think they captured protests. I think it captured incidents that were reported to Shelter. We had some indication of escalations post that event. I think there was a rough number of around 700 on that spreadsheet, but I think it captured a lot more than just antisemitism. I think there were Islamophobia incidents as well on that. ...”*.

The Premier in June told Parliament there had been, “367 antisemitic attacks” in a previous two-year period.

The Premier’s Chief of Staff told the Dural Caravan inquiry on 27 June 2025 that, *“...the 12 or 18 months worth of life in Sydney, which included a rise in antisemitism. And, again, the evidence before you—Operation Shelter investigated at least 367 incidents of antisemitism, and I’m sure there’s been many more unreported instances of antisemitism, as well”*.

I am accordingly concerned the database we were provided information from at the hearing is not complete and do not understand how many complainants of antisemitic hate crimes and hate incidences the NSW Police have fielded in these years (which is the information the committee was, at least in part, seeking when it was requested that the database be brought to the last hearing day).

I say that because for example it is difficult to see how the database could contain evidence of “367 antisemitic attacks in the last two years” because the number of alleged antisemitic hate crimes in the last two years according to the database is less than that and the number combined of both antisemitic crimes and incidences is more than that (assuming the last two years is a reference to 2023 and 2024).

I regard this information as important in properly fulfilling the terms of reference.

ANSWER

The NSW Police Force has previously advised the NSW Parliament the following information:

- that Operation Shelter began on 11 October 2023.
- From 11 October 2023 to 26 March 2025, there were 815 incidents in the Operation Shelter spreadsheet that were Antisemitic or Islamophobic in nature as well as other incidents that fall into neither category.
- Operation Shelter considered 367 of these incidents as Antisemitic
- The term ‘incidents’ encompasses Events, Intelligence Reports and Charges as recorded in COPS (the Computerised Operational Policing System).

The database accessed by NSW Police at the Inquiry on 4 July 2025 capture 941 instances in the same period, whereby the Jewish Community are the identified victim group. (That is for Quarter 4 2023, all of 2024 and Quarter 1 of 2025). This database is maintained by the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit (EHCUC).

The Operation Shelter database was specific to activities undertaken under Operation Shelter, which was established on 11 October 2023 to respond to public safety in relation to the conflict in the Middle East.

The EHCUC Database records incidents reported into the COPS database from across New South Wales, including those submitted to Police Area Commands and Police Districts. It also consolidates reports received via the Crime Stoppers hotline and website, the NSW Police online portal, the Police Assistance Line and any other sources of police reporting.

NSW Police can not confirm that all data captured in the Operation Shelter information is also captured in the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit Database, but would consider that there is a degree of overlap in the two databases, with both sourcing their data from COPS.

(2) Can you accordingly please advise:

- a) Is the data related to Operation Shelter referred to above also contained within the database brought to the hearing? Or is it entirely separate data?

The data captured by Operation Shelter and the information in the database used at the Hearing both draw their information from the Computerised Operational Policing System.

There would be a degree of overlap, with information in the Shelter database also likely to appear in the database used at the Hearing.

- b) Is data related to matters investigated by Operation Pearl contained within the database brought to the hearing? Or is it entirely separate data?

Strike Force Pearl investigated criminal activity that occurred on fourteen (14) dates from October 2024 to February 2025.

Eleven of those events were captured in the database brought to the hearing. The three that were not in the database occurred in October 2024.

- c) Are there any other databases containing data on antisemitic 'attacks', crimes, incidences etc?

The Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS) holds Police data. References to other databases is a reference to different areas of the NSW Police Force extracting information from COPS for any given purpose.

The database brought to the Hearing on 4 July 2025 would be the most comprehensive data source on matters of hate reported to the NSW Police Force.

I would like to understand precisely and from all available police databases (including but not limited to the one brought to the hearing and ones that might relate to Operation Pearl and Operation Shelter):

- d) how many alleged antisemitic hate crimes have been reported to NSW Police in each of the years since 2019, including the part year of 2025?

The Engagement and Hate Crime Unit review all entries in the Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS) that have an associated factor of *Hate Crime Related*.

Entries in COPS that were part of Operation Shelter that have the associated factor of *Hate Crime Related* will be incorporated into the data maintained by the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit.

NSW Police expect there would be a degree of overlap between information maintained under Operation Shelter, and the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit data, but has not deconflicted all information. Entries in COPS with the Operation name 'SHELTER' that do not also have the associated factor of *Hate Crime Related* will not appear in the database used by Police at the Hearing. The figures below are taken from the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit database.

Strike Force Pearl investigated criminal activity that occurred on 14 dates from October 2024 to February 2025. Eleven of those events were recorded in the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit data.

Information for 2019 was maintained as Bias Crimes, and has not been included.

Information for 2025 is to 30 June 2025.

Jewish Community Reports	
Year	Hate Crime
2025	183
2024	253
2023	149
2022	88
2021	54
2020	40

- e) how many alleged antisemitic 'hate incidences' have been reported to NSW Police in those same years?

The number of hate incidents where the Jewish community is the identified victim group:

Jewish Community Reports	
Year	Hate Incident
2025	222
2024	192
2023	144
2022	29
2021	10
2020	13

- f) how many of these reported hate crimes led to charges for the crime and what offences were charged? Of those matters can the answer please indicate which of the matters were part of Operation Shelter or Pearl?

The advice below provides the number of charges and the total number of offences. Some people have had charges laid on more than one occasion.

Charges arising – ‘Jewish’ Victim Category:

- In 2022 charges were laid on 3 occasions for 3 offences
- In 2023 charges were laid on 31 occasions for 57 offences
- In 2024 charges were laid on 43 occasions for 167 offences
- In 2025 charges were laid on 27 occasions for 78 offences

At the time of collecting this information, it was not identified whether they arose out of Operation Shelter or Pearl (Response J provides detail of Operation Shelter charges). To determine this would require extensive manual review of data and records which is not feasible within the timeframe required to respond to the supplementary questions.

Types of offences charged between 2023 and 2025 included but are not limited to:

- affray
- assault/common assault
- behave in an offensive manner near a school/public place
- destroy/damage property
- enter enclosed land
- intentionally mark premises without consent
- participate in a criminal group
- knowingly display a Nazi Symbol
- send document threatening death or grievous bodily harm
- use carriage service (Commonwealth)

NSW Police is able to advise that as of 25 July 2025, there have been 207 charges against 31 persons arising from Strike Force Pearl investigations.

- g) How many did not lead to charges?

NSW Police is unable to provide a response to that question.

Information captured in the Engagement and Hate Crime database is an assessment of information reported to NSW Police. It looks at whether the threshold of a criminal act has been reached. However, it should not be interpreted as confirmation that a criminal act has occurred.

- h) how many of those charges were proved and how many dismissed?

The Engagement and Hate Crime Unit monitor court activity at a high level, but do not keep details of outcomes for each charge.

Below is an overview of Court Outcomes for persons charged.

Year	Charges Laid	Pending	Bail Refused	C'viction Proved	Non C'viction Not Proved	Non C'viction Proved	No Further Procdings	W'drawn	CIN Issued
2022	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
2023	31	2	0	11	4	13	0	0	1
2024	43	8	3	19	7	5	0	1	0
2025	27	11	9	3	4	0	0	0	0

- i) What does the figure of 367 matters apparently related to Operation Shelter refer to? I.e., does it refer to complaints of crimes seemingly motivated by antisemitism investigated under Operation Shelter? Or something else? Or some combination of things?

The 367 refers to matters reported to NSW Police and entered into the Computerised Operational Policing System under Operation 'SHELTER'. It includes Events, Intelligence Reports and Charges.

It includes, but is not limited to reports of:

- Online harassment via social media, emailed and telephone threats
- Antisocial behaviour targeting Jewish persons in the form of gestures and comments
- Graffiti
- Jewish locations (schools, businesses etc) receiving offensive messages including threats of explosives
- Members of Parliament reporting incidents including graffiti, telephone calls, emails etc.

- j) What happened with each of those 367 matters?

To answer this would require extensive manual review and records retrieval, so NSW Police will not provide specific detail.

However, as at 28 July 2025, a download of events and charges captured under the NSW COPS system registered Operation name 'SHELTER', shows 231 individuals have been charged since commencement (of Operation Shelter) on 11 October 2023.

This includes 249 charges laid, for 651 separate offences. 43 of these charges remain before the court for further hearings or mention.

As noted previously, there would be overlap between data held in the Operation Shelter database and the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit data.

- k) How many were substantiated as complaints of possible crimes motivated by antisemitism?

See response to Question (Q) for further information.

- l) To the extent these 367 matters are contained within the database brought to the hearing, how many of the 367 are classified as hate incidences and how many are classified as hate crimes?

NSW Police believes that there is a degree of duplication of records between the database used on 4 July 2025 at the Hearing, and in the Operation Shelter Database. However, it is not possible to determine how many of the 367 are classified as hate incidents and how many are classified as hate crimes in the timeframe available.

m) How many led to charges?

As of 28 July 2025, 249 charges have been laid relating to 231 individuals under Operation Shelter.

n) How many were proved?

122 of the 249 charges resulted in "Non-Conviction Not Proved" and 88 record "Non-Conviction Proved" in the courts.

o) How many involved physical violence or a threat of physical violence?

44 of the 249 charges related to offences of a physical nature, including but not limited to Common Assault (23), Assault Police Officer (18), Riot or Affray (18) and other serious assault (6).

p) Can the committee be provided with a brief summary of the facts of each of the 367 matters? E.g., "person complained of being physically assaulted outside Synagogue" would be sufficient detail and an indication next to the summary of what charge were laid in relation to the incident if a charge/s was.

No. Retrieving that information for each matter would require manual review of entries that is not feasible within the timeframe required to respond to the supplementary questions.

q) What percentage of the charges laid under Operation Shelter related to crimes with an alleged antisemitic motive?

23 of the 249 charges laid were for the offence of '*Knowingly display by public act Nazi Symbol without excuse*' and '*Publicly threaten etc violence on grounds of religion*'.

These included 29 individuals, 28 offences of Display Nazi Symbol and two (2) offences of Publicly threaten on religious grounds. Six of which remain before the courts.

Without further extensive manual review, the total number of antisemitic motivated charges cannot be confirmed.

r) In relation to the database that was examined at the last hearing, what use has this data been put to? Have the raw figures been used in any way within government? Have they been forwarded to other agencies? Have they previously been made public in any way or to any degree?

Information contained in the database used at the Hearing on 4 July 2025 is primarily collected and used for internal purposes.

Emerging trends or other information is reported internally, and may be shared in multi-agency environments, within Police or with other stakeholders. The Engagement and Hate Crime Unit is not aware of any requests for the raw data to be shared or used with government.