

Mr Andrew Scipione APM
Commissioner of Police
New South Wales Police Force
Level 15, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Commissioner

I am writing to confirm that I am conducting an inquiry into allegations that have been made about the conduct of officers of the NSW Police Force, the NSW Crime Commission and the Police Integrity Commission in relation to Operations Mascot, Florida and Emblems, and associated matters.

As you would be aware, the allegations concern a wide range of conduct that has occurred over a significant period of time. Many of these matters raise contemporary but related concerns about access to and release of highly confidential material relating to the 'Emblems' matter. In this light, it is clear that the investigation of such a wide range of related matters will be protracted and that matters going to the integrity of the investigation will, particularly at this early stage of my inquiry, be paramount.

In this context, I would request that all material and information in the possession of the NSW Police Force and its officers that is likely to be relevant to my inquiry be maintained in the strictest confidence. I would, in this regard, request your co-operation and the co-operation of your officers in not communicating or otherwise disclosing to any person, information or material of this nature. Any such communication or disclosure would have an adverse effect on the timeliness, efficiency and, ultimately, the integrity of my inquiry.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Barbour
Ombudsman

10/10/12