



# Preliminary information and directions for public examinations in Operation Ross

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## Background

IBAC has been conducting an investigation designated as Operation Ross into certain matters involving alleged serious police misconduct. The Commission is satisfied for the purpose of this investigation of the relevant prescribed matters in section 117 of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011 (the IBAC Act) which relate to it conducting public examinations.

The public examinations will be presided over by IBAC Commissioner, Mr Stephen O'Bryan QC. Counsel assisting will be Mr Jack Rush QC and Mr Gary Hevey of the Victorian Bar. They will be instructed by Mr Tobie Wicks, the designated solicitor to the Commission for this investigation.

## Dates and location

The public examinations will commence on Monday 23 May 2016 and continue until no later than Friday 27 May 2016.

The examinations will be held at the Ballarat Law Courts, 100 Grenville Street South, Ballarat from 10.00am each sitting day.

## Procedures

A brief opening address by Counsel Assisting will be made on Monday 23 May 2016, with evidence relevant to the investigation to be led immediately thereafter.

Subject to consideration of any submissions in writing from represented parties seeking any variation, the Commission's standard directions for public examinations will apply. These are available on the Commission's website at [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au).

Interested persons are directed to the standard directions, which include regulation of applications to appear at IBAC together with any supporting material directions hearings, and more generally to the IBAC Act.

It is assumed that, pursuant to previous directions, represented parties have already made such submissions as they wish to make. Any outstanding applications will be determined by the Commissioner.

The Commission reserves the right at any time to vary these directions or the standard directions in accordance with the dictates of procedural fairness and efficiency, and to issue other practice directions.

## Commission contact

All and any contact with the Commission made necessary by these directions, or other enquiries in respect of the conduct of the public examinations, should be made through Mr Wicks via 1300 735 135.

## Scope and purpose of examinations

The scope and purpose of the public examinations concern investigation into the following:

1. Allegations of serious police personnel misconduct (within the meaning of the IBAC Act) on account of alleged unnecessary and/or excessive use of force towards certain vulnerable persons at Ballarat Police Station.
2. Whether any human rights have been violated by any such alleged conduct.
3. The sufficiency and appropriateness of internal reporting by Victoria Police members involved in or associated with such alleged conduct.
4. The handling by Victoria Police of complaints made by such persons concerning such alleged conduct.