

WITNESS STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY AUSTIN TULLY

I, Timothy Austin Tully of 637 Flinders Street, Docklands, state as follows:

Introduction**1 What is your present rank and posting within Victoria Police?**

1.1 Commander, North West Metro Region – Commander North.

2 What is your relevant professional background and work history?

2.1 I have been a member of Victoria Police (**VicPol**) for over 31 years. During this time, I have performed duties in a number of work locations, including:

- North West Metro Region – Commander North (Commander)
- North West Metro Region – Divisional Commander ND1 (Superintendent)
- North West Metro Region – Divisional Commander ND5 (Superintendent)
- Transit & Public Safety Command – Operations Response Division (Superintendent)

2.2 Otherwise, I have predominately undertaken duties within the Transit & Public Safety Command (at numerous work locations).

Your usual role**3 What is your usual role and area of responsibility within Victoria Police?**

3.1 Commander, North West Metro Region (**NWMR**).

4 To whom do you report in that role?

4.1 I report direct to the Assistant Commissioner NWMR - Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius.

5 Which work group or unit within Victoria Police reports to or is accountable to you?

5.1 In my current role, I am directly responsible for the following Divisions with NWMR:

- Division 4
- Division 5
- Operations Support Division.

Initial involvement in what became Operation Soteria

6 When did you first become aware that a hotel quarantine program was to be established in Victoria?

6.1 I first became aware of the program for the mandatory isolation in CBD hotels of passengers returning from overseas which had been announced by the Prime Minister earlier that day during the evening of 27 March 2020. I had been off duty since 1600 that day, but Superintendent [REDACTED Personal Information] telephoned me to advise me about this at, I believe, around 2100.

6.2 Later that evening, at 2219, I received an email from Supt [REDACTED Personal Information] [VPOL.0002.0005.0117] with more information regarding the involvement of VicPol in this hotel quarantine program (HQP). That email informed me of the following matters, amongst others:

Victoria Police has the responsibility to take the lead on the developing the law enforcement plan.

Victoria Police will have an enforcement role.

...

What we do know:

- *DJPR has overall responsibility to develop the end-to-end plan and contact [REDACTED Personal Information] to contact Mick Grainger as contact for further planning*
- ...
- *Security guards to be contracted to provide a level of security at the hotels.*
- *CCP recommendation that private security is to be the first line of security.*
- *... ABF role to facilitate process from aircraft to kerb where they hand to DHHS (?)*
- ...
- *Transport to Hotels - the AFP have agreed to provide a plain clothes officer/s (police/PSOs) on board each bus that depart the airport to the nominated hotel. ...*
- *DHHS to co-ordinate and plan the reception process at the hotels to ensure social distancing (this process may take some)*
- *Health needs to be identified and anticipate medical hotline to being established to triage calls for assistance (not to overload AV or local health providers)*
- *DHHS responsible for release procedures including arranging transport to final address*

...

Proposed VicPol enforcement role:

Maintain a policing presence at the transfer of passengers from arrival at the hotel through reception process

On-going tasking to support the security guards – patrolling the hotels

Providing response to calls for assistance

7 When, and by whom, were you first tasked with a role in, or otherwise made aware of, the role to be played by Victoria Police in Operation Soteria?

7.1 In Supt [REDACTED Personal Information] email, it was noted that I was to attend a meeting (by teleconference) with Emergency Management Victoria at the State Control Centre (SCC) at 0900 on 28 March 2020 (I was later notified by Supt [REDACTED Personal Information] that the time had been changed to 1000). Immediately following that meeting, Assistant Commissioner Michael Grainger, who also attended, tasked me with the preparation of VicPol's operational plan.

7.2 As the hotels to be utilised for quarantine were likely to be within the CBD, and the CBD is within NWMR, as Commander of that region, I was allocated the role of Police Commander (Strategic) for Operation Soteria.

8 At the time you were first tasked in or made aware of Operation Soteria, what was your understanding of the role Victoria Police would play in the operation or in the hotel quarantine program more generally?

8.1 My understanding of the role VicPol would play in Operation Soteria as at 28 March 2020 was based on the communications described below. Other than with respect to Operation Soteria, I am not aware of what is meant by the reference to "the hotel quarantine program more generally".

8.2 First, I refer again to the email from Supt [REDACTED Personal information] described in paragraph 6.2 above, from which I obtained my initial understanding. That email attached the following:

- (1) an email from [REDACTED Personal information] of VicPol forwarding an email sent by [REDACTED] of the AFP at 1948 on 27 March 2020 [VPOL.0002.0005.0120], to which was attached the Australian Border Force Process Summary for Mandatory Quarantine [VPOL.0002.0005.0123];
- (2) an email from AC Grainger forwarding an email from SCC Strategic Planning sent at 2115 on 27 March 2020 [VPOL.0002.0005.0125], to which was attached a document entitled 'Victoria Enforced Quarantine Planning Process' [VPOL.0002.0005.0126]; and
- (3) an agenda for a meeting on 25 March on which AC Grainger had made notes of the SCC meeting held at 1630 on 27 March 2020 [VPOL.0002.0005.0131].

8.3 The purpose of the SCC meeting I attended by teleconference at 1000 on 28 March 2020 was to coordinate planning by the various agencies for the HQP, by reference to the document referred to in paragraph 8.2(2) above. I did not receive minutes of that meeting, but I made the following notes in my diary [VPOL.0002.0005.0139] of the matters discussed:

*Meeting SCC – Forced quarantine of all persons entering Australia.
 Direction to be enforced as of 0000hrs 29/3/20.
 Need to engage with DHHS (Control Agency) & other support agencies as to the process / operation to transport people from Tullamarine Airport to quarantine locations.
 Require details re which hotels (CBD preferred), expected arrival, times of flights, passenger numbers.
 Advice pending re Direction.
 Require contact details of the support agencies.
 Will need VicPol presence at Tullamarine Airport re coordination;
 VicPol not performing security at Quarantine locations →to assist with transition to accommodation
 – Private security to take over at locations.*

8.4 At 1815 on 28 March 2020, I attended by teleconference a further SCC meeting regarding planning for Operation Soteria. I did not receive minutes of that meeting, but I made notes in my diary [VPOL.0002.0005.0139] of the matters that were discussed, including:

*SCC – Further teleconference re arrangements & planning for forced quarantine.
 ...
 Victoria Police to check manifest at hotel (DHHS) Ensure all persons who got on the bus get off.
 DHHS confirmed that security will be engaged at each hotel
 ...
 DHHS made it clear that as soon as order is given the person is in the custody of DHHS – other agencies are simply assisting*

Name of operation. Op Soteria.

- ...
- 8.5 Later on 28 March 2020, at 2026, I sent an email [VPOL.0007.0001.1118] to Inspector [REDACTED Personal information] and Acting Inspector [REDACTED Personal information] (copying, amongst others, AC Cornelius and AC Grainger) in which I set out my understanding of VicPol's intended role in Operation Soteria, on the basis of the two SCC meetings which I had attended.
- 8.6 Finally, on 28 March 2020 at 2018, [REDACTED Personal information] a strategic planning officer at the SCC, sent an email to representatives of various government departments and agencies attaching the approved operational plan for Op Soteria, 'Victoria Forced Quarantine for all Australian Arrivals from Midnight 28 March 2020, Operational Plan' [VPOL.0001.0001.4596], which had been revised from the document referred to in paragraph 8.2(2) above on the basis of the discussions at the two SCC meetings that day. That email and the operational plan were forwarded to me at 2040 [VPOL.0001.0001.4595].
- 8.7 On the basis of these communications, particularly the final EMV operational plan, it was my understanding that the role that VicPol was to play in Operation Soteria had 2 elements:
- (1) Responsibility for security (including traffic management) while passengers disembarked from buses and were escorted into their accommodation at the quarantine hotels;
 - (2) Provision of support to the 'tier 1' private security at the hotels, as required. This support was to have two components: (1) undertaking occasional vehicle patrols of the exterior of the hotels, and (2) responding to calls for assistance made via 000 calls.

Victoria Police's role in Operation Soteria and the hotel quarantine program

9 What were the operational functions and roles allocated to Victoria Police in Operation Soteria?

- 9.1 The operational functions and roles allocated to Victoria Police in Operation Soteria were established in the approved operational plan for Op Soteria, 'Victoria Forced Quarantine for all Australian Arrivals from Midnight 28 March 2020, Operational Plan' [VPOL.0001.0001.4596]. In the 'Outline of agency involvement across the stages of enforced quarantine' forming appendix 4 to that plan, VicPol's role across all phases of Operation Soteria was described as "Support containment and respond as needed", being the role described in paragraph 8.7 above.
- 9.2 On 28 March 2020, following the SCC meeting at 1000, I instructed Superintendent [REDACTED Personal information] and Insp [REDACTED Personal information] to prepare an operational plan for VicPol for Operation Soteria. I received their final version of that plan at 1742 on that day [VPOL.0007.0001.1466] and, having updated it for the change of name (from 'Operation Bandor') that had been made at the second SCC meeting in the meantime, it was uploaded to VicPol's Police Emergency Event Coordination (PEEC) database at about 2000 that evening [VPOL.0007.0001.1468] (a slightly amended version, with references to

'Operation Bandor' updated and some typos corrected, was uploaded to PEEC the following morning [VPOL.0007.0001.1503; VPOL.0007.0001.1504].

9.3 That operational plan:

- (1) Noted that Operation Soteria was to be conducted in four stages:

Stage 1 – Reception

Passengers arrive via international airport or maritime port and remain airside and separated in order to be processed for quarantine.

Stage 2 – Transport

Transportation of passengers from Melbourne Airport to place of quarantine. AFP provide vehicle escort of bus to hotel.

Stage 3 – Accommodation

This phase commences when reception party receives passengers at the place of quarantine. 14 days isolation will occur at this location.

Stage 4 – Return to the Community

This phase begins when the passenger is reviewed for exit by quarantine management and ends once the person has been briefed on their health responsibilities and exits quarantine.

- (2) Set out that VicPol's role was to provide support during stages 2 and 3 to ensure:

- Maintenance of public order
- Any attempt to breach or breaches of the direction of the Chief Health Officer to quarantine are effectively managed

- (3) Provided for a liaison officer at Melbourne Airport to:

- provide support and a point of contact for the control and supporting agencies
- provide timely situational updates to the Police Commander and Police Forward Commander to facilitate VicPol planning and response to planned activities.

- (4) Required establishment of a policing presence at the airport precinct to support AFP in the management and response to any public order issues within the Melbourne Airport precinct.

To ensure:

- that public order is maintained to ensure a safe and secure environment
- support for the tier one security personnel is provided
- management of any attempted breach or actual breach of quarantine by any arriving international passengers at the accommodation precinct prior to entering the place of quarantine

- (5) Required establishment of a policing presence at the accommodation precinct to ensure:

- that public order is maintained to ensure a safe and secure environment
- support for the tier one security personnel at each quarantine location prior to the passengers entering the place of quarantine

- management of any attempted breach or actual breach of quarantine by any arriving international passengers at the accommodation precinct prior to entering the place of quarantine
- (6) Confirmed that once all passengers were received into the hotel, VicPol members would clear, and the security role would then be the responsibility of Tier 1 contracted security, with oversight from DJPR.
- (7) Confirmed that VicPol would continue to provide a Tier 2 level response, activated via Police Communications (ie 000)
- 9.4 This operational plan was updated from time to time with the addition of new quarantine hotels and, on 28 May 2020, amendments were made to include some additional actions and tasking and to reflect that all airport activities proved to be on airside and not Stateside so, subsequent to the first day of operations, VicPol did not have a policing presence at the airport other than the liaison officer [VPOL.0002.0005.0084]. Otherwise, the role and responsibilities of VicPol under Operation Soteria did not change throughout its duration, specifically:
- (1) provision of security (including traffic management) at the quarantine hotels during ingress and egress of passengers at the hotel;
 - (2) as required for the purposes of maintaining public order and managing any reported breaches or attempted breaches of the direction of the Chief Health Officer, by responding to calls for police assistance at the hotels made via 000;
 - (3) undertaking occasional vehicle patrols in the CBD hotels precinct at times when tasking under (1) and (2) above permitted.
- 9.5 Specific information regarding this role and these responsibilities was provided to the supervisor of each shift in a briefing document [VPOL.0001.0002.0004].
- 10 What role did you yourself play in Operation Soteria and/or in any other policing activity related to the hotel quarantine program?**
- 10.1 I was the Police Commander in relation to Operation Soteria on 28-29 March 2020. Subsequently, I alternated in that role with other officers, including Acting Commander [REDACTED Personal information] and Commander Timothy Hanson.
- 11 What work groups or units within Victoria Police were tasked to functions in Operation Soteria and/or any other policing activity relating to the hotel quarantine program?**
- 11.1 No 'work groups or units' were tasked exclusively to Operation Soteria.
- 11.2 All police resources for Operation Soteria were drawn from within NWMR. These comprised:
- (1) NWMR Specialist Operations members;

- (2) NWMR Support Services members;
- (3) General duties members from various divisions, but predominantly from ND1 (NWMR Division 1).

11.3 According to their rosters, members were tasked to Operation Soteria on a given shift. As such, their responsibilities were:

- (1) Primarily, to provide security and management of passenger disembarkation from (bus) transport into their allocated accommodation and, subsequently, when the passengers were discharged from mandatory quarantine.
- (2) Respond to any 000 calls for assistance required at a quarantine hotel (any such calls were automatically directed by police communications to these members).
- (3) Undertake occasional, vehicle-based patrols of the exteriors of the quarantine hotels.
- (4) Undertake Operation Sentinel duties within the CBD..

11.4 The resources allocated to Operation Soteria were designated the call sign prefix of 'White'. Initially, on 29 March 2020, the resources allocated to Operation Soteria comprised:

- Airport Precinct: 1 Senior Sergeant, 1 Sergeant and 4 other ranks
- Accommodation Precinct: 1 Inspector, 3 Senior Sergeants, 4 Sergeants and 20 other ranks

11.5 As Operation Soteria progressed, the resourcing requirements were refined. The resources allocated on a given day were generally:

- (1) Day shift – 1 Senior Sergeant, 2 Sergeants and 10 other ranks;
- (2) Afternoon Shift – 1 Senior Sergeant, 2 Sergeants and 10 other ranks;
- (3) Night shift – 1 Senior Sergeant (partial), 1 Sergeant and 3-4 other ranks.

12 Was a specific taskforce created for the purposes of Operation Soteria? If so –

12.1 No.

13 Was Victoria Police represented in Operation Soteria meetings at the State Control Centre? If so, by whom, and what role did they play?

13.1 VicPol members attended Operation Soteria meetings at the SCC as follows:

Date	VicPol attendees	Minutes
27 March 2020	Michael Grainger REDACTED Personal information	

Date	VicPol attendees	Minutes
28 March 2020 (1)	Michael Grainger Tim Tully REDACTED Personal information	
28 March 2020 (2)	Tim Tully Michael Grainger REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information	
29 March 2020	REDACTED Personal information Tim Tully REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information	VPOL.0002.0001.0023
31 March 2020	REDACTED Personal information REDACTED	VPOL.0007.0001.0494
1 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information	VPOL.0007.0001.0502
2 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information REDACTED REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information	VPOL.0002.0010.0021
3 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information	
5 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information	VPOL.0015.0001.4143
6 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information Mick Grainger REDACTED Personal information Tim Tully	VPOL.0015.0001.4149
8 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information	VPOL.0015.0001.6404
14 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information Tim Tully REDACTED Personal information	VPOL.0002.0001.0018
15 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information Tim Tully	
16 April 2020	Timothy Tully REDACTED Personal information	

Date	VicPol attendees	Minutes
17 April 2020	Tim Tully	
18 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information	VPOL.0002.0005.0163
19 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information	
20 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information	
21 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information	
22 April 2020	Tim Hanson	
24 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information Tim Hanson REDACTED Personal information	
27 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information Tim Hanson REDACTED Personal information REDACTED	
29 April 2020	REDACTED Personal information	
4 May 2020	REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information	
6 May 2020		
8 May 2020	REDACTED Personal information	
11 May 2020	REDACTED Personal information Tim Tully	
13 May 2020	REDACTED Personal information Tim Tully	
15 May 2020	REDACTED Personal information	
18 May 2020	REDACTED Personal information Tim Tully	
22 May 2020	REDACTED Personal information	
25 May 2020	REDACTED Personal information REDACTED Personal information	
8 June 2020	Tim Tully	
15 June 2020	-	
22 June 2020	-	
29 June 2020	REDACTED Personal information	

- 13.2 The role played by VicPol members attending Operation Soteria meetings at the SCC was to liaise with the other agencies involved in the operation in order to raise any issues and provide updates on operations, as required.

Communication

14 What level of communication was there between –

(a) Victoria Police and hotels;

14.1 VicPol members had communications with the quarantine hotels as follows:

- (1) On a day to day basis, the VicPol forward commander (usually a senior sergeant) communicated with staff at the hotels in the course of ingress and egress operations, as required;
- (2) At an initial stage, as required to obtain information in order for NWMR Specialist Operations to prepare ingress/egress and traffic management plans for each hotel, in conjunction with representatives of DJPR and DHHS;
- (3) To obtain the hotels' respective evacuation plans, which were reviewed by State Emergency Command to add any overlay necessary for compliance with the CHO's directions; and
- (4) To obtain the contact details of the duty managers of each hotel in case it was necessary for VicPol to contact them.

(b) Victoria Police and DHHS;

14.2 The primary contact with representatives of DJPR and DHHS was at the SCC meetings. These were initially held daily, but became less frequent as the operation became 'business as usual'.

14.3 As from early to mid-June, when the SCC meetings had become less frequent, twice weekly calls with DJPR and DHHS representatives were instituted. These mainly concerned identification and discussion of any issues arising in the hotels, such as mental health issues.

14.4 There were specific communications with DHHS and DJPR representatives to arrange the 'security forum' discussed in paragraph 14.18 below.

(c) Victoria Police and DJPR;

14.5 I refer to paragraphs 14.2 - 14.4 above.

14.6 In addition, VicPol (and other agencies) received a daily update by email from DJPR providing information as to the hotels at which passengers arriving within the following 24 hours were to be located, and the flight arrival times, so that VicPol could be present to provide security in the transition from the buses into the hotels. An example of such an update is **VPOL.0007.0001.1373**.

14.7 VicPol liaised with DJPR in its capacity as the contract manager for the security companies. VicPol sought and obtained from DJPR the contact details for security for each hotel, which were

incorporated in a contact list which was updated regularly. The 30 April 2020 version of this document is **VPOL.0002.0002.0009**.

(d) **Victoria Police and security companies?**

- 14.8 VicPol did not generally have direct contact with the security companies.
- 14.9 At the SCC meeting on 14 April 2020, I raised that VicPol had become aware that, at one hotel at least, detainees were being permitted to leave the hotel premises to go for a walk, perhaps for mental health reasons. I indicated that VicPol would like to understand what arrangements were in place at each hotel in this regard. I further advised that AC Grainger had contacted DHHS [VPOL.0002.0007.0001] to arrange a meeting to ensure that there was consistency in the expectations of DHHS and the security companies as to the support for security that was to be provided by VicPol at Hotels if it was needed.
- 14.10 Following that SCC meeting, at 2032 on 14 April 2020, I sent an email [VPOL.0007.0001.1827] to AC Grainger and Supt [REDACTED] attaching a copy of the minutes of the meeting [VPOL.0002.0001.0018] and seeking confirmation of a proposed meeting with DHHS and also managers of the various security firms. AC Grainger replied to my email on 15 April 2020, to the effect that he and Supt [REDACTED Personal info] had raised the issue and the proposed forum as a high priority with DHHS, who were supportive.
- 14.11 On 15 April 2020 at 1258 I received an email from [REDACTED Personal information] who is a former VicPol colleague [VPOL.0002.0007.0020]. Attached to his email were photos which, he said, were of quarantined people "again out this morning" [VPOL.0002.0007.0022; VPOL.0002.0007.0023; VPOL.0002.0007.0024 and VPOL.0002.0007.0025].
- 14.12 On 15 April 2020 at 1316 I received an email from Supt [REDACTED Personal inform] in which he requested that Insp [REDACTED Personal information] and I coordinate a meeting between VicPol and the security companies to address the issues surrounding detainees exercising/fresh air breaks. Shortly after receiving that email, I sent an email to Insp [REDACTED Personal informat] and asked him to engage with Supt [REDACTED] to "organise for the proposed Security forum to be scheduled ASAP" [VPOL.0002.0007.0010].
- 14.13 At 1505 on 15 April 2020, I sent an email to Pam Williams (DHHS) and Chris Eagle (State Controller Health) advising them that I had asked Insp [REDACTED Personal information] and Supt [REDACTED Personal inform] to schedule the proposed security forum. I noted that:

Simply we are trying to get a 'line of sight' of the arrangements for each the respective locations so that there is no misunderstanding. The proposed forum will assist with this. We are very keen to engage directly with the stakeholder and provide support where possible and also clarify expectations for police involvement and also what the picture may look like if police need to attend.

[VPOL.0002.0006.0011]

- 14.14 On 16 April 2020 at 1053 I received another email from [REDACTED Personal information] [VPOL.0002.0006.0006] in which he said, "Not much change at Pan Pacific. Some now appear with take away coffee!" and attached two photos.
- 14.15 The forum was intended to be a one-off, in order to confirm the role of VicPol in relation to the HQP, namely being present during the ingress and egress stages and to support the stakeholders to ensure there were no breaches of the peace, to ensure that public order was maintained and to undertake enforceable actions when advised of any potential breaches. This included the advice to contact 000 for assistance with respect to any criminal or mental health incidents. I also wanted VicPol to be able to establish connections with the relevant people, and to get a better understanding of arrangements at each hotel (particularly around the exercise or mental health plans they had put in place). Each hotel had different facilities and different policies.
- 14.16 By "clarify expectations for police involvement", I was referring to the need to ensure that all stakeholders clearly understood the nature and extent of VicPol's assigned "tier 2" security support role and, particularly, the process to contact police to attend a hotel to provide that support, if it was required (which was via 000). I thought that clarifying these matters would enable VicPol to better support the security companies, DHHS and DJPR in the event that police assistance was required. I was concerned to correct any potential misapprehension that there would be police standing around at all times, just in case.
- 14.17 Although the forum had been prompted by issues raised in relation to exercise and mental health breaks, there was no suggestion that VicPol would have a supervisory role over the security companies carrying out the task of facilitating the exercise breaks. It was VicPol's understanding that the Authorised Officers at each hotel were responsible for administering the Chief Health Officer's detention order.
- 14.18 The forum was held on 16 April 2020. On 17 April 2020, I received an email from Snr Sgt [REDACTED Personal information] with the minutes [VPOL.0002.0006.0027]. Based on those minutes, my view was that the forum had achieved the purposes we had intended by establishing relationships between the participants and ensuring there was alignment as to expectations for VicPol support for security at the hotels. In addition, it facilitated VicPol in obtaining from DHHS and/or DJPR and then reviewing the hotels' exercise plans, particularly for those which did not have suitable spaces or facilities within their own premises.

15 Who were your points of liaison with DHHS and DJPR?

- 15.1 The key contacts for DHHS (which was the control agency) and DJPR (and other agencies) were set out in appendix 2 to the Operation Soteria operations plan referred to in paragraph 8.6 above. In practice, most liaison between VicPol and DHHS and/or DJPR took place at the SCC meetings and, later, at the meetings referred to in paragraph 14.3 above. Otherwise, separate communications

sometimes took place between the representatives of the respective agencies who were regular attendees at those meetings.

16 How did communication occur? Who within Victoria Police was responsible for initiating or responding to communications?

16.1 I refer to paragraph 14 above. Otherwise, VicPol (and all other agencies) received a daily email from Australian Border Force with details of arriving flights.

Role at hotels when passengers were arriving or departing

17 What role was played by Victoria Police when quarantined passengers were entering and leaving their period of quarantine detention at designated hotels?

17.1 I refer to paragraphs 9.3(5) and 11.3(1) above. Further details of the role played by VicPol members are set out in the Operation Soteria tasking sheet [VPOL.0007.0001.0395].

18 Who supervised and gave directions to police members who were in attendance?

18.1 The Police Forward Commander.

Role in relation to the work of private security guards at hotels

19 What role did Victoria Police play in the monitoring, supervision or support of the private security guards located at quarantine hotels?

19.1 VicPol did not play any role in monitoring or supervising the private security guards located at quarantine hotels.

19.2 VicPol provided the support to the private security companies described in paragraphs 8.7(2), 9.3(7), 11.3(2) and 11.3(4) above.

20 Did Victoria Police have records of which security companies were providing security at quarantine hotels?

20.1 Yes, I refer to paragraph 14.7 above.

20.2 For the purposes of the 'security forum' held on 16 April 2020, VicPol obtained contact details for the representatives of the security companies who were to attend on 15 April 2020 [VPOL.0002.0007.0010].

21 Did Victoria Police receive requests from security guards or security companies for police assistance? How were those requests assessed and responded to?

21.1 Requests for police assistance from security guards/companies or the quarantine hotels were made via 000. Police Communications automatically directed these requests to the 'White' units tasked to Operation Soteria, who responded. A list of the requests made, and the police response, is in VPOL.0001.0004.0001.

Role in support of authorised officers

22 Did Victoria Police, whether as part of a designated taskforce or otherwise, play a role in enforcing or monitoring compliance with directions given by authorised officers under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008? If so, what was that role?

22.1 I am not aware of any penalty notices or enforcement action being taken by VicPol against anyone breaching quarantine.

Role in monitoring quarantine hotels

23 Did Victoria Police, whether as part of a designated taskforce or otherwise, conduct patrols or visits to quarantine hotels?

23.1 Yes. I refer to paragraphs 8.7(2) and 11.3(4) above.

24 If so, what was the purpose of those patrols or visits?

24.1 Patrols were undertaken primarily to provide a level of reassurance that police were always in the vicinity and would be available to assist if required.

25 Did Victoria Police receive reports or updates regarding the environment in which persons were being detained or any issues arising about the safety of those detained in or working in those hotels? If so, how were those reports or updates dealt with?


25.1 The only such updates received by VicPol was the routine provision of information by DJPR (referred to in paragraph 14.6 above as to how many people were in quarantine at each hotel, the number of calls made by detainees to the Government Support Service, the schedule for exits from hotels, expected flight arrivals etc.

Role in responding to specific incidents

26 Did Victoria Police receive requests to attend, whether via Triple Zero or otherwise, at quarantine hotels? If so, please provide examples of such requests and how they were dealt with, including the extent to which Victoria Police members attended and had interactions with persons in detention. (please note there is no need to make reference to any attendances connected with any matter now subject to a coronial investigation).

26.1 I refer to paragraph 21.1 above. Further information regarding some of the VicPol attendances at the quarantine hotels in response to requests for assistance are set out in **annexure A**.

Dated 30 August 2020


 Timothy Austin Tully

Annexure A - Significant incidents for which Victoria Police attended quarantine hotels

No.	Date	Description
1	02/04/2020	VicPol called to reports of a 58 year old male held in isolation causing disruption at a hotel in Southbank.
2	4/04/2020	Request by DHHS to attend Crown Metropol regarding a suicidal female repeatedly breaching hotel quarantine by leaving her room and entering the corridor. Female was detained re s351.
3	11/04/2020	Two separate incidents of two people being held in hotel quarantine engaging in disruptive behaviour at Pan Pacific Hotel. Informative only – onsite police (VicPol & AFP) units and DHHS aware of the situation. No action was required.
4	11/04/2020	Op Sentinel units were tasked by Op Soteria to attend to a welfare check on POI barricaded in room at Pan Pacific Hotel
5	11/04/2020	VicPol attend Pan Pacific Hotel where a deceased male was reported. Apparent suicide.
6	11/04/2020	Police patrols requested around midnight on reports that people quarantined at Crown Promenade threatening to walk out.
7	12/04/2020	Police attended Crown Promenade at the request of DHHS to persuade male in quarantine to go back to his room.
8	22/04/2020	Assist DHHS with one disgruntled person under quarantine at Crown Metropol.
9	28/06/2020	Police assist with female who became aggressive at Metropol Hotel and transported by ambulance to Alfred hospital. Unrelated male became aggressive and was arrested for mental health assessment. VicPol called to assist in returning female to Metropol.
	29/06/2020	On 29/06/2020 VicPol called to assist with same female who was threatening staff and damaging property. Female was sedated by Ambulance Victoria Officers and escorted back to the Alfred by VicPol.