

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 - JUSTICE AND
COMMUNITIES

Supplementary Questions

(1) At the time of the discussion of the proactive release of a story to 2GB you gave evidence that there was a high volume of work due to ‘a lot of media inquiries’.

(a) What was the nature of the media inquiries being received by the ODPP?

Media enquiries to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) are received by the media team by email and telephone. These enquiries may relate to any criminal proceedings in New South Wales, the operations of the ODPP, or the criminal justice system more broadly.

Requests commonly include procedural questions about the status of matters before the courts, questions around appeals, identification of the Crown Prosecutor appearing in a particular matter, requests for access to exhibits or court documents, and general questions concerning the role and functioning of the ODPP or the justice system.

(b) From which media outlets were these inquiries being received?

In the lead-up to the media meeting held on 24 October 2024, the ODPP media team received written media enquiries by email from the following publications.

	Publication	Enquiry
1	ABC	Four Corners enquiry relating to an ongoing prosecution
2	Daily Mail	Media enquiry relating to a prosecution
3	Daily Mail	Media enquiry around why a manslaughter charge was withdrawn in an ongoing prosecution
4	ABC	Media enquiry relating to a Crown Prosecutor
5	The Australian	Media enquiry relating to a complaint from a NSW District Court judge
6	The Border Mail	Query around a non-publication order surrounding an accused's full name
7	The Daily Telegraph	Media enquiry regarding the grounds of an appeal in a high-profile prosecution
8	The Daily Telegraph	Media enquiry seeking clarification over non-publication orders in an organised crime matter
9	Australian Financial Review	Media information request by journalist
10	ABC	Media enquiry investigating a complaint made by a victim of sexual assault
11	Outgoing media actions	In addition to many incoming media enquiries, the media team also contacted the following organisations about a range of matters which may have been discussed in the media meeting: • News.com.au – A journalist was proactively contacted about a victim who was experiencing anxiety and traumatised around potential reporting, and to request that consideration be given to the fact that the offence occurred in a small community. • Supreme Court media team – finalised media exhibits for journalists

		• Response to a victim who has asked whether it would be appropriate for them to talk about the criminal matter relating to them to the media • Call to a journalist to ask them to remove a Crown Prosecutor's name from their article for safety reasons. • Follow-up discussions with journalists who couldn't attend the ODPP panel discussion about the Myall Creek Massacre Trials, and their impact on modern legal practices. • LinkedIn content around the ODPP First Nations staff presenting at the UNSW First Nations Employment Symposium • District Court request for redactions into media access to the Agreed Facts and Indictment of a criminal matter
12	General discussion	Holding statement preparation for high profile prosecution

(c) What were the qualifications of the external media adviser who was attending weekly meetings?

The external media adviser has more than 25 years professional experience in media and communications in the public and private sectors. The external media adviser holds a Bachelor of Arts (Communications) degree.

How were their qualifications relevant to support the additional workload?

Additional senior support was required to assist with the communications workload while new staff were being recruited and onboarded. The external media advisor possessed the necessary skills and experience to provide this support.

(2) You gave evidence that you meet weekly with a deputy director and a PLA to discuss the media inquiries of the week.

(a) On how many occasions since September 2024 has the Director also attended these, or other similar, meetings to discuss media inquiries or media strategy?

A Deputy Director responsible for the media team attends a weekly media meeting. The Director occasionally attends these meetings when a media enquiry relates specifically to the Director or to the broader culture and operations of the ODPP.

Between September 2024 and January 2026 the Director attended seven meetings with the media team.

(b) On how many occasions since September 2024 did the external media adviser also attend these, or other similar, meetings to discuss media inquiries or media strategy?

The external media advisor attended these meetings on an ad hoc nature, when assistance was required. Between September 2024 and January 2026 the external media advisor attended five meetings together with the Director and the media team.

Sally Killoran
ODPP Media Manager

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(c) Following the October meeting at which the proactive release of information was discussed, what was the date of the next meeting, who was in attendance and what matters were discussed?

Following the media meeting held on Thursday 24 October 2024, the next meeting was held on Monday 28 October 2024. This was an irregular meeting, as it included members of the ODPP who do not normally attend media meetings.

Those in attendance included the Director, Deputy Director, Solicitor for Public Prosecutions, Principal Legal Advisors, HR Director, Chief Financial Officer, a representative from GRACosway, and members of the media team.

This meeting was convened in response to a complex and highly sensitive media enquiry concerning the culture of the ODPP. To facilitate an appropriate response, information was required from a range of senior stakeholders across the organisation.

The next regular weekly media meeting was held on Tuesday 29 October 2024. Those in attendance were a Deputy Director, a Principal Legal Advisor, and members of the media team.

Matters discussed at that meeting included the latest PMES results, a media enquiry from the ABC relating to NSW Police and an article published in the Australian Financial Review concerning the Electrical Trades Union disconnecting power and the potential impact on the ODPP's proposed move to a new building.