



**MINISTER FOR POLICE; CORRECTIVE SERVICES; RACING AND GAMING;
DEFENCE INDUSTRY; VETERANS ISSUES**

Your Ref: PER/CORC/1488/2022
Our Ref: 70-44266

Ms Dawn Wright
coroner@justice.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Wright

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 June 2024 regarding the inquest into the death of Ms Petra Marquis on 9 June 2022, outside the front of Rockingham Police Station.

I note State Coroner Urquhart's findings and the recommendation for the Western Australia Police Force to introduce a policy to the effect that, whenever possible, probationary constables performing operational duties should be partnered with a police officer with a post probationary operational experience of at least nine months.

I am advised the WA Police Force acknowledges probationary constables are still developing and require ongoing support throughout their probationary period and should be afforded adequate supervision. I am further advised the WA Police Force have a number of enhanced supervision avenues available to them including;

- The appointment of sergeants 24 hours a day as District Operations Supervisors to provide real time monitoring of policing activities and support for officers in their respective districts;
- The State Operations Command Centre (SOCC) operating 24 hours a day, which provides real time advice and monitoring capability to the entire State of Western Australia;
- On-call Command Cadre, which ensures a continuous on-call capability consisting of an Assistant Commissioner, and at least one Commander; and technological enhancements including, but not limited to numerous mobile phone applications, Body Worn Cameras and enhanced drone video capability.

I am informed the WA Police Force's current version of a probationary HR policy, which was amended in August 2022, contains the further proviso "Unless specific operational requirements exist, probationary constables should not be deployed to work together without adequate supervision being made available to them by a permanently appointed police officer".

The WA Police Force advise that the current policy regarding the rostering and supervision of probationary constables is appropriate and therefore does not support the proposed Recommendation being made.

I trust this clarifies the position of the WA Police Force.

Yours sincerely

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HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE

13 AUG 2024