



Media guidelines: Operation Sandon public hearings

www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Venue and timing

Court 9, Level 5/11 Exhibition St, Melbourne

Starts 9.45 am, Monday 2 March 2020

Hearings are generally held from 9.45 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Media contact

IBAC media officer

Phone: 0427 480 840

Email: media@ibac.vic.gov.au

Media attendance

Journalists are welcome to attend the hearings, and are asked to [register via the registration form](#) on the IBAC website. Registered journalists will be sent regular updates on the proceedings.

Note: there is limited space in the hearing room. Journalists are requested to use the overflow room (on the same floor) where there is a reserved section for media with desks and access to power. The proceedings will be broadcast in the overflow room via a videolink.

An IBAC media officer will be present to provide guidance on proceedings.

Mobile devices

You **must not use** your mobile devices to record or take photographs inside the hearing or overflow rooms. This includes photographing witnesses or exhibits as they appear on screen.

Mobile devices must be kept on silent.

Information updates

We suggest you follow @ibacVic or #IBACSandon for regular updates from the hearings. When new information is available, it will be posted on the [Operation Sandon page](#) on our website.

Access to exhibits and transcripts

To access exhibits and transcripts, and for permission to rebroadcast parts of the public video stream, journalists must [sign the exhibit/transcript/stream request form](#) (on the Operation Sandon page on our website). Released exhibits and transcripts will be emailed to approved media at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions via our secure document sharing service, Kiteworks.

Please note: for legal reasons, some material will not be released for publication or broadcast.

Witness lists

Witness lists will be published on our website and on Twitter at the beginning of each hearing day.

Please note: witnesses may have been issued confidentiality notices by IBAC. This means they are not able to discuss with you any evidence given to IBAC, as this may prejudice the investigation.

Media enquiries and interviews

For legal reasons, we will not comment on operational matters during an ongoing investigation. As such:

- the IBAC media officer will accept general enquiries about our procedures around public hearings and investigations
- interviews will not be granted with IBAC Commissioner The Honourable Mr Robert Redlich QC, Counsel Assisting Mr Michael A Tovey QC, Ms Amber Harris and IBAC officers.

Media conduct

IBAC reserves the right to exclude journalists and media outlets from attending future days of the public hearings if they do not comply with these media guidelines.

Questions and answers

When is a hearing public, not private?

The Commissioner can hold public hearings if he considers there are exceptional circumstances and:

- it is in the public interest
- public hearings can be held without causing unreasonable damage to a person's reputation, safety or wellbeing.

Do witnesses have to attend IBAC hearings?

Yes. IBAC can issue a person with a witness summons under the IBAC Act. A witness summons may require the witness to attend, give evidence and/or produce documents at an IBAC hearing.

A witness must attend a hearing in accordance with the summons. If they fail to do so, and do not have a reasonable excuse for not complying with the summons, they will be committing an offence.

Do witnesses have to answer all questions at hearings?

Yes, witnesses must answer all questions and produce all documents or things required by IBAC.

Witnesses are required to take an oath or affirmation at the start of their evidence. It is an offence for a witness, without reasonable excuse, to refuse or fail to answer a question or produce a document or thing and to refuse or fail take an oath or make an affirmation when required to do so.

What happens if it appears to IBAC that a witness has lied during an IBAC hearing?

If it appears to IBAC that a witness has lied during a hearing, that witness may be guilty of an offence (eg perjury). This means the witness could be charged.

What happens if a person gives evidence that incriminates themselves or others?

Any answer or information or document provided that may incriminate the witness is not admissible in evidence against them in court, except in certain proceedings such as offences against the *Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011* and the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* (and others).

Can witnesses engage legal representation?

Witnesses are entitled to seek legal advice about their involvement in the investigation or legal representation.

What are the next steps after the hearings?

Public hearings are part of the investigation process.

Once the investigation is complete, IBAC may produce a special report with findings and recommendations which will be tabled before Parliament. We may also refer relevant matters to other statutory bodies for action.

Can IBAC prosecute people/lay charges from its findings?

IBAC has the power to commence proceedings for an offence arising out of an IBAC investigation. IBAC can also refer matters to the Office of Public Prosecutions with a view to criminal prosecution.

Do agencies have to action recommendations outlined in a report following investigations?

When we make recommendations, the agency must report back to IBAC, stating:

- whether they have taken, or intend to take, the action recommended by IBAC, and
- if they haven't taken, or don't intend to take, the recommended action, their reason for not taking the recommended action.

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IBAC is Victoria's anti-corruption agency responsible for preventing and exposing public sector corruption and police misconduct. We do this by:

- investigating serious corruption and police misconduct
- informing the public sector, police and the community about the risks and impacts of corruption and police misconduct, and ways in which it can be prevented.

To report corruption and misconduct now, visit www.ibac.vic.gov.au or call **1300 735 135**.

If you need help with translation, call Translating and Interpreting Service on **13 14 50** or visit www.ibac.vic.gov.au/general/accessibility/tr