

08 Sep 2021

Statement on Operation Dreadnought: ACLEI Investigation Report Released

On 8 September 2021, the Integrity Commissioner and head of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI), Ms Jaala Hinchcliffe, published her investigation [report](#) on Operation Dreadnought. Operation Dreadnought was a joint investigation between ACLEI, the Department of Home Affairs, and the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

The investigation stemmed from an AFP investigation called Operation Alate, focused on investigating a transnational crime syndicate involved in the importation of commercial quantities of Phenyl-2-Propanone (P2P), a methyl-amphetamine precursor into Australia.

Operation Dreadnought uncovered evidence that a former Australian Border Force (ABF) officer engaged in corrupt conduct by providing sensitive operational information to an associate which assisted a drug importation syndicate.

In her report, the Integrity Commissioner makes a number of corruption prevention considerations including the role of social capital, which needs to be assessed in terms of internal and external relationships, and information security and controls.

On 18 August 2020, the former ABF officer plead guilty to one charge of abuse of public office under section 142.2 of the *Criminal Code 1995* (Cth). The following day he was sentenced to six months imprisonment which was suspended upon entering into a good behaviour order for nine months.

The Department acknowledges the Integrity Commissioner's findings in relation to Operation Dreadnought.

The Department conducted a Code of Conduct investigation into the conduct in 2014, however the former ABF officer resigned in 2015, prior to the conclusion of the investigation.

Since 2015, the Department has undertaken significant work to set the framework for providing a safe and secure environment for its people, information and assets. This includes the development of the Protective Security Strategy 2025, Integrity Strategy 2025, and Cyber Resilience Strategy 2025—complemented by preventative, detective and responsive controls in relation to integrity and corruption risks.

The Department has zero tolerance for staff engaging in serious misconduct, corrupt conduct or criminal conduct and has a strong integrity framework in place to detect, deter and disrupt this behaviour. The overwhelming majority of staff uphold the highest standards of integrity—both on and off duty. Where inappropriate conduct occurs, the Department takes action, in close cooperation with partner agencies including ACLEI.

The Department and ABF occupy a position of trust, and our service to the Australian community is guided by the values of integrity, professionalism, respect and accountability.

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