

6 October 2023

**Statement from Joey Catanzaro, Director Media and Corporate Communications,  
The Western Australian Police Force:**

Orders to produce are reviewed and approved by an independent judicial officer of the courts who must be satisfied under the Criminal Investigations Act that the material sought may reasonably be relevant to an alleged crime. Police routinely use orders to produce to gather materials for investigations, particularly where a business such as a news organisation requires a formal, legal document to process the request.

Where an alleged crime has been committed, Police are duty bound to investigate and present all the evidence to the courts.

In this instance, police have requested the ABC's footage for the consideration of the court, so it may examine all the evidence and determine an outcome. This footage may provide primary evidence of the conduct of the accused persons, which may also benefit their defence.

As this is a court order, the penalty for non-compliance is determined by the courts. The maximum penalty is 12 months prison and a \$12,000 fine.

The Western Australian Police Force respects and supports press freedom and always endeavours to be transparent and accountable to the WA public we serve. We in good faith offered the Four Corners team a sit down interview and invested time and resources ensuring their follow up questions were answered. Our agency works agnostically to facilitate hundreds of lawful protests every year.

Community safety is the number one priority of the Western Australian Police Force. We do not choose when to enforce the law. We are duty bound to uphold it. When the law is broken, regardless of the circumstances, we must respond appropriately.