

Statement from an ABC spokesperson:

Claims are being made about this matter which are false and which wrongly accuse our journalists of breaking promises. Any suggestion that the ABC has disclosed or will disclose material in breach of any undertaking to a confidential source is incorrect.

Any commitments to not reveal sources have been kept. All material was otherwise filmed in the clear expectation that it could be made public by the ABC, including by national broadcast.

Like other media organisations, the ABC from time to time receives compulsory legal processes seeking access to material. The ABC must comply with legal orders of this nature. The ABC Editorial Guidance is clear on the ABC's requirements in regards to [Handling External Requests for Access to Contentious Program Material](#).

However, the ABC does not reveal confidential sources.

Questions:

1. Does the ABC regret handing over the footage to WA Police, given that David Anderson promised that the ABC would protect its sources, telling [Media Watch on 6 October](#): *"We would never produce something where protection of sources is involved. We don't reveal our sources. We've never done that."*

Response: Any suggestion that the ABC has disclosed or will disclose material in breach of any undertaking to a confidential source is incorrect. Any commitments to not reveal sources have been kept. All material was otherwise filmed in the clear expectation that it could be made public by the ABC, including by national broadcast.

The ABC must comply with legal orders of this nature. The ABC Editorial Guidance is clear on the ABC's requirements in regards to [Handling External Requests for Access to Contentious Program Material](#). However, it does not reveal confidential sources.

2. Do you consider the three activists charged this week were sources for the 4 Corners report? If not, why not?

Response: They were not confidential sources, they were participants who agreed to be filmed for the story and willingly took part. Each is featured in the program as broadcast.

3. Do you consider that the ABC honoured its commitment to protect them?

Response: No confidential source commitments were given to those individuals.

- 4. Given that the ABC 'never' reveals its sources and 'would never produce something where protection of sources is involved', why did it hand over this footage, when the ABC was warned it could lead to further charges being brought?**

Response: Any suggestion that the ABC has disclosed or will disclose material in breach of any undertaking to a confidential source is incorrect. Any commitments to not reveal sources have been kept. All material was otherwise filmed in the clear expectation that it could be made public by the ABC, including by national broadcast.

Like other media organisations, the ABC from time to time receives compulsory legal processes seeking access to material. The ABC must comply with legal orders of this nature. The ABC Editorial Guidance is clear on the ABC's requirements on [Handling External Requests for Access to Contentious Program Material](#). However, it does not reveal confidential sources.

- 5. Did you give these three activists any undertakings not to identify or portray them in criminal acts ?**

Response: No. They were participants who agreed to be filmed for the story and willingly took part. They appear in the program as broadcast. The ABC does not, as a matter of practice, give participants editorial control or veto over material captured in course of its journalistic activities.

- 6. Why did the ABC not argue that it had a reasonable excuse not to comply OR accept a penalty for failing to comply, which would have incurred a maximum fine of \$50,000?**

Response: The ABC must comply with legal orders of this nature. The ABC Editorial Guidance is clear on the ABC's requirements in regards to [Handling External Requests for Access to Contentious Program Material](#). However, it does not reveal confidential sources. Any commitments to not reveal sources have been kept.

- 7. Do you consider that the ABC's reputation has been damaged by handing over this footage, which the MEAA, among others, urged the ABC not to hand over?**

Response: Claims are being made about this matter which are false and which wrongly accuse our journalists of breaking promises.