

## Questions to New South Wales Police Minister:

ABC Media Watch has been looking at documents recently released to the NSW Legislative Council relating to the case of Don Harwin.

On April 9<sup>th</sup> 2020, Harwin was fined \$1000 for breaching a COVID order by travelling to and from his holiday home at Pearl Beach. As you know, the fine was challenged in court by Harwin, and then cancelled when the DPP dropped the charge.

Some of what is revealed by the documents, which include police emails, text messages, and entries from the police charging system, has been covered by the Sydney Morning Herald, and commented on by barrister Steve Boland.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/police-chiefs-insisted-don-harwin-be-fined-despite-doubts-20200820-p55noj.html>

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/nsw-police-have-questions-to-answer-about-the-sad-and-sorry-tale-of-don-harwin-20200824-p55olb.html>

We are focusing in addition on information supplied to 2GB and The Telegraph during this process. And in connection with that, we want to put the following questions to the NSW Police Minister:

1. How did 2GB and Anna Caldwell get a tip that Harwin had been fined \$1000 at around 8.20pm on 9<sup>th</sup> April, around 20 minutes BEFORE the fine was even issued by police?
2. Was that information from the minister or his office?
3. Is it appropriate this was reported before the fine was processed, before Don Harwin was informed and before a press release was issued by police media?
4. What inquiries have you made to discover the source?
5. Was media pressure, from 2GB and the Telegraph, a factor in that decision?
6. How did Ray Hadley get the 'Exclusive' information at 9am on 9<sup>th</sup> April—before any police investigation had even been ordered—that Harwin WOULD be fined \$1000?