

Media protocols

1. The Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland (Commission of Inquiry) recognises the media has an important role to play in informing the community about the Inquiry.
2. These guidelines provide details of the arrangements for media access and reporting at hearings. The Commission of Inquiry may vary or depart from these guidelines.

Hearings

3. The Inquiry's hearings will generally be open to the public and live streamed via its website.
4. Representatives of media organisations attending hearings must ensure their work does not interrupt the proceedings.

Use of electronic devices

5. During hearings, representatives of news media organisations are free to use electronic devices for the purposes of reporting on proceedings, subject to the conditions below. This includes laptop computers, tablets and mobile telephones, used for notetaking, text messaging, tweeting, and filing or publishing reports from the hearing room.
6. Electronic devices used by media representatives during hearings:
 - must not interfere with the decorum of proceedings or with the recording system;
 - must not be used to make or receive audio or video calls, or to take photographs or video footage.

Live streaming

7. Hearings will be live streamed through the Inquiry's website.
8. The Commissioner has given approval for the livestream footage and audio to be recorded and used fairly for the purpose of understanding and reporting on Commission proceedings.
9. The Commissioner has power to direct that evidence not be published, if he is satisfied it is proper to make that direction. In that event, the livestream may be muted or suspended by order of the Commissioner.

Filming and photography

10. Media representatives must not film or photograph the proceedings.

For journalists covering hearings

11. If the livestream is suspended, the media must comply with any directions made by the Commissioner.

12. Contact with witnesses, legal representatives or members of the public will not be facilitated by the Commission of Inquiry.

Media relations contact

For media enquiries, please contact media@dnainquiry.qld.gov.au.

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