THEFT OF AUDIO RECORDINGS OF WITNESSES TO A DEFENCE INQUIRY

KEY ISSUES:
• The theft of a digital voice recorder from the home of a Defence Inquiry Officer was discovered on 6 Dec 11.

• The digital voice recorder contained 16 separate recordings of interviews with ADF witnesses to the Defence Inquiry.

• The Defence Inquiry was into allegations of unacceptable behaviour and unprofessional conduct by an ADFIS detachment previously deployed to the MEAO.

• Some of the interviews contain material that mentions mortuary affairs and the names of some deceased ADF members, related to the allegations of unacceptable behaviour.

• The ADF will assess if any current operational material has been compromised. The Inquiry Officer has indicated that, while some of the material may be classified up to Restricted, the majority of the information would be at the Staff-in-Confidence and Unclassified level.

• The theft is in the hands of the State Police.

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