



MEDIA RELEASE

OPERATION RUBY: ACLEI investigation report released

An investigation into corruption issues between current and former AFP members and criminal elements

Tuesday, 9 March 2021 (immediate release)

Integrity Commissioner and head of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI), Jaala Hinchcliffe, today published her report on the Operation Ruby investigation.

Operation Ruby was a joint investigation between ACLEI and the Australian Federal Police (AFP), with the assistance of the NSW Police, into whether members of the AFP were assisting criminal syndicates involved in the importation of drugs into Australia.

Ms Hinchcliffe said, “As with other investigations conducted by ACLEI into its jurisdictional agencies such as Operation Zeus, Operation Ruby found an instance where an AFP member misused their access to an official database by providing information to a criminal syndicate.”

The investigation found that former AFP officer Benjamin Hampton misused his access to an official database and was paid up to \$7,000 for providing information to a criminal syndicate. The investigation also uncovered evidence that Mr Hampton provided AFP training material to a former member of the AFP to train overseas security officers.

Ms Hinchcliffe found that Mr Hampton engaged in corrupt conduct, namely, abuse of office, when he released sensitive information to an associate and was rewarded financially.

“Staff members of law enforcement agencies should never access information for personal reasons or to assist associates,” Ms Hinchcliffe said.

Mr Hampton was convicted and incarcerated in 2017 as a result of Operation Ruby and his employment with the AFP was terminated. On 10 July 2020, the Court ordered Mr Hampton forfeit \$306,643 of his superannuation to the Commonwealth.

A criminal entity was convicted and incarcerated in 2015 for seeking information from Mr Hampton as well as charges related to his role in commercial drug supply.

The Operation Ruby report is available on the [ACLEI website](#).

About the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI)

ACLEI is committed to preventing and investigating corruption issues relating to Commonwealth law enforcement agencies. ACLEI supports the Integrity Commissioner to provide independent assurance to government about the integrity of prescribed law enforcement agencies and their staff members. The office of the [Integrity Commissioner](#) and

ACLEI are established by the [Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006](#) (the LEIC Act).
For more information, visit ACLEI's website: www.aclei.gov.au

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