



**Australian Government**

**Australian Commission for  
Law Enforcement Integrity**

## **Summary of Report 02/2016**

*Operation Hadron—A joint investigation into the conduct of an Australian Crime Commission staff member concerning information security and a conflict of interest*

Regulation 20(e) of the Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Regulations 2006 requires a summary of the outcomes of the investigations completed during the reporting period, together with any recommendations and any action taken as a result of the investigations, to be presented in the Integrity Commissioner's annual report.

Report 02/2016 was provided to the Minister on 4 May 2016 and has not been made public. A summary of the report appears in Appendix 2 of the Integrity Commissioner's 2015–16 Annual Report, available at [www.aclei.gov.au](http://www.aclei.gov.au), and is reproduced below.

Public officials have a general duty not to disclose official information without proper authority. In a law enforcement agency, the need to protect information is especially important. Any staff member of an agency with law enforcement functions may have access to information, contacts or decision-making capability which may be of use to criminals. To help protect against compromise, staff members of law enforcement agencies are expected to declare any relationships or associations that may lead to a conflict of interest with their duties or the functions of the agency.

This investigation, which was conducted jointly with the ACC and ACT Policing, concerns the conduct of an ACC staff member who had a non-operational role. In the course of normal duties, this staff member had incidental access to sensitive information.

The investigation established that the staff member—who was on temporary transfer from another Commonwealth Government agency—had an undeclared association with a suspected drug dealer. While under surveillance, the staff member copied a document relating to that person and took the copy from ACC premises.

No indication was found that the information had been communicated to the suspected drug dealer or that the staff member had sought employment with the ACC for an improper purpose.

During the investigation, the Integrity Commissioner disseminated relevant evidence to the ACC and the staff member's home agency. ACLEI has also provided a brief of evidence to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

Having regard to the prospect of court proceedings and disciplinary actions, the Integrity Commissioner decided to reserve indefinitely any findings.

The ACC has in place pre-employment screening processes that are generally effective. Despite these measures, the investigation shows the risk which arises when a staff member exposes himself or herself to the potential for compromise, and fails to disclose it.

The ACC has since strengthened the guidance it gives to new staff about their obligations to report potential conflicts of interest and has scheduled integrity refresher training for all staff. Accordingly, the Integrity Commissioner made no recommendations.