

Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry

Media Protocol

1. Confidentiality Issues

When a request is made by a witness which could result in either an *in-camera* hearing or a ban on broadcast or publication, whenever possible, notice will be given to the media (along with other individuals attending the hearing) on the morning of the hearing in question. The notice will provide details of the request being made as well as of the procedures to be followed.

In-Camera Hearings

No person will be allowed to report or publish any information (i.e. evidence, name of witness, etc.) given *in-camera*.

There will be no photographs or sketching allowed before, during or after an *in-camera* hearing.

Because the audio and video will be turned off during *in-camera* sessions, all persons whose presence is not necessary will be excluded from the hearing room. Further, there will not be any broadcast of the session to the media room.

The transcript available to the media will be the public version, and will not include the *in-camera* portion of the hearing.

Use of Non-identifying Initials

In circumstances where a ruling has been made that the name of an individual is not to be used, but is instead to be replaced with non-identifying initials, the media must ensure that the non-identifying initials are used on all report, broadcasts and publications with respect to the witness in question.

Non-publication of a Name and/or Testimony

In circumstances where a ruling is made that the name and/or testimony of an individual is not to be published, the media is prohibited from publishing or broadcasting the name and/or testimony.

2. Accommodations for the Media

A designated room is available for the media covering the Inquiry hearings to where the hearing proceedings will be broadcast. The media room is separate from the hearing room. The media room is equipped with audio/visual support as well as internet access.

3. Media Interviews

The media is prohibited from conducting interviews or operating recording devices in the main entrance, public overflow area or main hallways at Tara Place, 31 Peet Street.

The media will be permitted to conduct interviews in the designated media interview space.

The media will be allowed to obtain visuals of the hearing room 15 minutes prior to start or following the completion of hearings each day.

The media will not be permitted to conduct interviews in the hearing room. The hearing room is not available to the media during the morning and afternoon breaks.

Interview requests for the Commissioner and/or Commission Counsel must be directed to the Inquiry's media consultant as below:

Carmel Turpin
Vice-President of Communications and Client Services
Pilot Communications
(709) 753-0794, (709) 682-2292
cturpin@pilotcom.ca