

23 August 2017

Media Statement

Media Enquiries re events at the Youth Court on Tuesday 22 August

My Office has been contacted by a number of media outlets today with respect to what occurred at the Youth Court yesterday afternoon. Staff from my Office were not present, so I cannot comment on what took place at Court.

It might be helpful if I explain the role of this Office when a person is about to be brought to Court on a serious charge. Before a person is brought to Court, SAPol provides my Office with a written summary of the allegations. When the investigation is at an early stage, that summary is necessarily brief. This Office uses that summary in order to advise SAPol as to what charge/s should be laid in Court. This process is commonly referred to as an "adjudication".

This adjudication process was undertaken yesterday for the four youths and relevant adult defendant. The summary came to my Office early yesterday afternoon. There is nothing unusual in that timing. The summary was then considered by my Office and SAPol was given written advice.

My Office's written advice was provided to SAPol later that afternoon. Time was needed because of the number of defendants, important legal issues and the importance of speaking to SAPol before written advice was given. There is nothing unusual in the period of time taken being needed in such a matter.

The information my Office has about what might be the evidence about the alleged conduct of the defendants is very limited. This is to be expected when an investigation is at such an early stage.

Nothing that occurred yesterday prohibits the prosecution being reviewed as the investigation progresses and more is known about the available evidence. This occurs in all matters.

Consistent with its obligations and usual practice, any decision of significance made by my Office will be made after consultation with the victims and SAPol.



Adam Kimber SC

Director of Public Prosecutions