MEDIA RELEASE

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Department of Transport Officer Guilty of Unlawful Use of Work Database

A joint investigation by the Corruption and Crime Commission and WA Police Force has led to the successful prosecution of a Department of Transport employee over the unlawful access and supply of confidential information from a work database.

Richelle Kaye Byrne, 27, was sentenced with a 12 month Intensive Supervision Order, with supervision and programs, for disclosing official information obtained from a secure access database. She accessed this information at the request of another person whilst employed as a public officer in the Department of Transport.

Magistrate Richard Bayly said he considered this was "a very serious matter" that "strikes at the heart of the criminal justice system".

Magistrate Bayly said that the starting point for these offences is imprisonment as it would be a strong deterrent. In this case, although this was a serious matter, imprisonment was not appropriate and the Magistrate imposed an order to ensure that Ms Byrne would not reoffend.

He reiterated the need for the public to have confidence that their information will not be disseminated to people who have associations with criminals or persons associated with outlaw motor cycle groups. He also stated it is important that other people in the public service know the consequences if they were to commit the same offence.

Today's sentencing backs Corruption and Crime Commissioner John McKechnie's recent comments that "the access and wrongful disclosure of confidential information is a growing problem for the Western Australian public sector".

A 28 year old man from Dalyellup was also charged with a number of offences in relation to this matter, which are still pending before the District Court.

ENDS

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Related resources
Case study - public officer caught providing confidential information to an alleged drug dealer.pdf

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