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Senior WA Police Officer Gailene Hamilton Faces Stalking Charges

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— Categories: Human Rights



Assistant Commissioner Gailene Hamilton, a senior officer in the Western Australia Police Force, has been charged with stalking and unlawfully accessing computer systems, raising questions about leadership accountability and public trust in the force.

On 25 July 2025, Western Australia Police confirmed that Hamilton faces one count of stalking and four counts of unlawful use of a computer, following an internal investigation into her conduct. The charges relate to allegations that Hamilton sent persistent and unwanted messages to a fellow senior officer with whom she previously had a friendship

that deteriorated. Hamilton was promoted to Assistant Commissioner shortly before the complaint was lodged in June 2025 and was stood down in late June pending the investigation. The matter has been referred to the Corruption and Crime Commission. Hamilton is due to appear in a Perth court next month.

The timing of Hamilton's promotion and subsequent suspension has attracted criticism regarding the oversight of senior appointments by the Australian Labor Party government in Western Australia. Critics argue that Premier Mark McGowan's administration failed to adequately vet senior police appointments, potentially undermining public confidence. The 2023 WA Police annual report noted an increase in internal misconduct investigations; however, the government has provided limited details on how systemic issues are being addressed.

Hamilton's career includes notable achievements, such as her role in establishing the Newman Detectives office in 2024. The current allegations involving misuse of police computer systems to harass a colleague raise concerns about the abuse of authority within the police force.

Police Commissioner Col Blanch described the allegations as concerning inappropriate behaviour and reaffirmed the force's commitment to addressing misconduct. The Australian Labor Party government has emphasised adherence to procedural fairness but has not offered further commentary.

As the case progresses, it remains under close scrutiny, with implications for leadership accountability and the integrity of the Western Australia Police Force.