

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2024-092

Referral from Cape Breton Regional Police
regarding RCMP “H” Division

December 14, 2024

Erin E. Naus
Director
February 20, 2025

MANDATE OF THE SiRT

The Serious Incident Response Team (“SiRT”) has a mandate under the Nova Scotia *Police Act* to investigate all matters that involve death, serious injury, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence or other matters of a public interest to be investigated that may have arisen from the actions of any police officer in Nova Scotia.

At the conclusion of every investigation, the SiRT Director must determine whether criminal charges should result from the actions of the police officer. If no charges are warranted the Director will issue a public summary of the investigation which outlines the reasons for that decision.

In cases where charges are laid, and since the matter is currently before the courts and due to requirements of the Serious Incident Response Team Regulations made under the *Police Act*, this report will not discuss the facts of the matter.

SUMMARY

On December 14, 2024, SiRT received a referral from the Cape Breton Regional Police regarding an incident involving a member of the RCMP. I have determined that there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that an off-duty RCMP officer committed criminal offences relating to incidents involving the property of a male known to her.

On February 20, 2025, Constable Sara Bennett was charged with breaking and entering and committing an offence contrary to s. 348(1)(b) of the *Criminal Code* and mischief relating to property valued over five thousand dollars contrary to s. 430(3) of the *Criminal Code*.

Constable Bennett will appear before the Nova Scotia Provincial Court at 136 Charlotte Street, Sydney, NS, on February 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.