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Mr Rob Fairs MP  
By email: [Rob.Fairs@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:Rob.Fairs@dpac.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Fairs

Thank you for your question asked in the House of Assembly on 20 May 2026 regarding the recent high intensity police exercise conducted at UTAS Stadium, and the concerns raised by your constituent about both the realism of the exercise and the information available to the public.

The exercise held on 15 April 2026 at UTAS Stadium was a high-intensity but carefully controlled training activity designed to strengthen the preparedness of Tasmania Police and emergency services for incidents in crowded public environments.

These types of exercises are designed to be as realistic as possible, while maintaining strict safety controls for participants and the broader community. Scenarios are developed using nationally-aligned emergency management and counter-terrorism frameworks, ensuring consistency with best practice across Australia.

Training in real venues such as UTAS Stadium provides significant operational benefits. It allows police, emergency services and venue operators to:

- better understand physical layouts, access and egress points,
- assess crowd movement dynamics, and
- improve communication and coordination in complex environments.

Tasmania Police works closely with venue operators and event organisers to ensure appropriate notification is provided when exercises may be visible to the public, helping to minimise confusion or concern.

Public messaging focuses on clear, practical guidance that individuals can remember and apply in an emergency, rather than detailed operational information. This approach ensures that advice is accessible, actionable and effective under stress.

A key component of this messaging is the nationally recognised "Escape, Hide, Tell" guidance:

- Escape – Move away from danger if it is safe to do so
- Hide – If escape is not possible, find a safe place to conceal yourself
- Tell – Contact police when it is safe and provide as much information as possible

This advice is promoted through community engagement, public awareness campaigns and official websites. For further information on national preparedness and public guidance, the Australian Government's [national security website](#) provides trusted resources.

Exercises such as the UTAS Stadium exercise are critical to ensuring that Tasmania Police and partner agencies are well prepared to respond effectively to real-world incidents. They enhance coordination, improve response capability, and ultimately contribute to keeping the community safe.

Thank you again for your question. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours faithfully



Hon Felix Ellis MP

**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management**

Copy to Laura Ross, Clerk of the House of Assembly

16/6/2026