

**Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants**

**STATEMENT OF STUART DAVID BATESON**

1. My full name is Stuart David Bateson. I hold the rank of Commander at Victoria Police. I work in the Priority Communities Division.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 12 March 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

**Educational background and employment history (q 1)**

3. I have been a member of Victoria Police since entering the academy in 1987. I set out below my progression through the ranks:
  - (a) In 1988, I graduated from the Victoria Police Academy.
  - (b) Between 1988 and 1991, I held the rank of Constable and was stationed at police stations in Kew (1988), St Kilda Road (1989) and Brunswick (1990), and at the India District Support Group in Moonee Ponds (1991).
  - (c) In 1992, I was promoted to Senior Constable, and was stationed at the Coburg police station.
  - (d) Later in 1992, following a 12-week training period, I was promoted to the rank of Detective Senior Constable. From then until 2001, I worked as a Detective Senior Constable at the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (1992), the Drug Squad (1993), the Flemington Criminal Investigations Bureau (1994) and the Homicide Squad (1996-2001).
  - (e) In 2001, I became a Sergeant.
  - (f) In 2003, I returned to the Homicide Squad as a Detective Sergeant.
  - (g) In October 2003, I moved to the '*Purana Taskforce*' and worked there until 2007.
  - (h) In 2007, I was promoted to the rank of Senior Sergeant and worked in the Crime Strategy Group.



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- (i) In 2008, I returned to the Homicide Squad as a Detective Senior Sergeant and worked there until 2010.
  - (j) From October 2010 until May 2014, I was a Detective Inspector in the Security and Organised Crime Intelligence Unit.
  - (k) In 2014, I was promoted to Superintendent and held that position within the North West Metropolitan Region.
  - (l) In 2017, I was promoted to the rank of Commander.
4. I hold the following formal qualifications:
- (a) Master of Business from the University of Newcastle in New South Wales (2011);
  - (b) Graduate Certificate in Applied Management from the Australian Institute of Police Management, New South Wales (2011);
  - (c) Graduate Certificate in Fraud Investigation from La Trobe University in Victoria (2001);
  - (d) Bachelor of Policing (Investigations) from Charles Sturt University in New South Wales (2000).
5. In 2016, I participated in an Executive Leadership Program at the Australian Institute of Police Management in New South Wales. In 2013, I participated in a Rotary Peace and Conflict Fellowship program at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.
6. The professional awards that I have received are as follows:
- (a) Commendation for outstanding leadership and dedication to duty on 20 January 2017, in responding to the incident where James Gargasoulas killed and seriously injured people with his car (2018);
  - (b) Leadership in the Public Sector award for work in relation to family violence (2017);
  - (c) Gold Medal Australian Crime and Violence Prevention award for work in relation to family violence (2017);
  - (d) Australian Police Medal (2016);



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- (e) National Police Service Medal (2014);
- (f) Chief Commissioner's certificate for leadership, outstanding commitment to duty, dedication, teamwork, patience, perseverance and investigative skills as a member of the *Purana Taskforce* (2006);
- (g) National Service Medal (2004);
- (h) Highly Commended Certificate for conspicuous service, commitment to duty, dedication, teamwork and excellent investigative skills as a member of the Lorimer Taskforce (2003);
- (i) Victoria Police Service Medal (2000);
- (j) Tynan-Eyre Scholarship to study Homicide investigation in the United States (1999); and
- (k) Victoria Police Valour Award (1992).

**Involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo (q 2)**

7. I refer to my answer to question 6 below.

**Provision of information or assistance by Ms Gobbo to Victoria Police (q 3)**

8. I believe that it was between late September and early October 2005 that I learned that Ms Gobbo had been registered as a human source. I do not recall the circumstances in which I came to learn of her registration. However, the documentation that I have reviewed in preparing this statement indicates that it was around late September or early October 2005 that I became aware of her status.
9. I also refer to the occasions on which she volunteered information to me about certain named lawyers in Melbourne, as referred to in my response to question 6 below.

**Awareness of others (q 4)**

10. My only awareness of who knew, prior to the end of 2012, that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police is as follows:
- (a) The members of the SDU who I spoke to about Ms Gobbo, as recorded in the chronology provided to the Royal Commission (**Chronology**). The Chronology was compiled, at my request, by members of my crew based on a review of police



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diaries. While I do not recall any specific discussion with members of the SDU about Ms Gobbo's status, I assume that they knew her status. See, eg, the entries on 7 July 2006 and 14 August 2006.

- (b) My former supervisors, Gavan Ryan and Jim O'Brien. I do not recall any specific discussions with them about her status but I assume from entries in the Chronology that they knew her status. See, eg, the entries on 14 September 2005, 19 April 2006 and 15 September 2006.

**Authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source (q 5)**

11. I do not know who was involved in the authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

**Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (q 6)**

8. Most of the contact that I had with Ms Gobbo was in relation to two [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as a result of *Purana Taskforce's* investigation into the gangland murders. Ms Gobbo was at times the barrister acting for those two [REDACTED]
12. 2003 is the earliest memory that I have of dealing with Ms Gobbo. I set out below my best recollection of my contact with Ms Gobbo. I have been assisted by the Chronology.

**Purana Taskforce**

13. In late 1999, Carl Williams was shot in the stomach by brothers Mark and Jason Moran. This non-fatal shooting triggered a long list of murders which became known as the 'gangland murders' and 'gangland war'.
14. In May 2000, Richard Mladenich was murdered whilst sitting in a small room at the Esquire Hotel in St Kilda. The gunman shot him in the head in front of two of his associates.
15. In June 2000, Mark Moran was murdered outside his Aberfeldie home. A gunman was lying in wait and as Mr Moran entered his vehicle he was fatally shot. His wife found him deceased not long after.

[REDACTED]



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16. Dino Dibra was the next to be murdered in October 2000. He was shot multiple times in a suburban street.
17. In October 2002, Paul Kallipolitis was murdered when he was shot in a suburban home.
18. In December 2002, Mark Smith was shot. He survived despite suffering two gunshot wounds.
19. In April 2003, Nikolai Radev was murdered. He was shot multiple times by two gunmen in a quiet suburban street.
20. The *Purana Taskforce* was then established in response to these murders. Initially the taskforce consisted of one Homicide crew and an analyst. It was initially tasked with investigating the murders of Dibra, Kallipolitis and Radev.
21. On 21 June 2003, Jason Moran and Pasquale Barbaro were shot dead while sitting in a van with ten young children. This double murder was committed at the completion of a AusKick football clinic. Many of the kids and their parents witnessed the murder. The shocking nature of this murder marked an escalation in the gangland war and as a result significant additional resources were allocated to the *Purana Taskforce*.
22. The investigation of this murder also provided a breakthrough. Our investigation quickly concentrated on the involvement of Carl Williams and [REDACTED]. We considered that Williams and [REDACTED] had concocted false alibis for each other. In the course of our investigations into these alibis, we conducted analysis of telephone calls made from [REDACTED] [PI] that was near the crime scene. Phone calls made from [REDACTED] [PI] in the days leading up to the Moran and Barbaro murders provided us with evidence of the involvement of [REDACTED]. Further investigations into the telephone calls led us to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was unknown to us at that point.
23. As a result we commenced a surveillance operation on [REDACTED]. This would later provide a significant breakthrough.
24. The next month, on 21 July 2003, Willie Thompson was executed sitting in his car in Malvern East.

[REDACTED]



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25. The next month, on 18 August 2003, Mark Mallia was murdered. His incinerated remains were found in drain in Sunshine.
26. The *Purana Taskforce* took on the investigation of those homicides. Its objective was to identify and apprehend the person(s) responsible for the murders. To be successful in this objective we needed to disrupt and dismantle the criminal enterprises involved.
27. I was in charge of a crew of detectives within the *Purana Taskforce*. We initially reported to Detective Senior Sergeant Gavan Ryan. My crew concentrated on investigating Carl Williams' criminal enterprise and the murders of Mark Moran, Jason Moran, Pasquale Barbaro, and, later, Michael Marshall.
28. The *Purana Taskforce* can be divided into two phases of time:
- (a) Phase One concentrated largely on Carl Williams' criminal enterprise and the murders that occurred after he was shot in the stomach.
  - (b) Phase Two concentrated largely on Tony Mokbel's criminal enterprise.
29. I was mostly involved in phase one.

Contact with Ms Gobbo

30. In the week leading up to 25 October 2003, we conducted a surveillance operation on [REDACTED]. Our surveillance revealed suspicious activity in the vicinity of Joy St in South Yarra. A number of significant investigative steps were taken during that week which gathered crucial evidence. Michael Marshall was then murdered. He was shot five times, outside his home, [REDACTED] [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED]
31. After their arrest [REDACTED] I attended at St Kilda Road Police Station to conduct the interview of [REDACTED] Detective Boris Buick, who was in charge of another crew within the *Purana Taskforce*, attended to interview



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- Both of the arrested men requested permission to contact solicitor [REDACTED] which was permitted. [REDACTED] did not subsequently attend the interviews and both men went on to give "no comment" interviews.
32. Whilst the interviews were conducted simultaneously, DS Buick and I did speak at times during the interview process. At one point, I became aware that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
33. On [REDACTED] 2003, the Filing Hearing took place in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court. [REDACTED] appeared for [REDACTED] appeared for [REDACTED] Both men were remanded in custody.
34. On [REDACTED] 2003, Victoria Police made an application under s 464B of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) to take [REDACTED] out of prison to interview him in relation to the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. The application was heard and granted in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court. [REDACTED] attended the hearing and instructed Ms Gobbo on behalf of [REDACTED]. This is my first memory of meeting Ms Gobbo.
35. My crew then took [REDACTED] out of prison to interview him. Ms Gobbo did not attend the interview. In my experience, it is not unusual for a legal representative to appear at a 464B application but then not attend the interview.
36. [REDACTED]
37. On 15 November 2003, Carl Williams was recorded on a listening device threatening to kill my girlfriend and I. On 17 November 2003, he was charged with making threats to kill. He was initially remanded in custody but was released on a third count of bail a few days later.
38. On [REDACTED] 2003, I attended [REDACTED] Prison to give [REDACTED] the recordings of the information that he had provided to me about [REDACTED]
39. On 13 December 2003, another gangland murder was committed. Graham Kinniburgh was shot dead outside the Kew home he shared with his wife and family.

  
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40. After giving [REDACTED] the recordings, we visited him in prison several times. It was clear he was willing to provide information, albeit in return for considerable concessions. Our aim was for him to commit to becoming a Crown witness.
41. On [REDACTED] 2004, a Mention Hearing was held in the committal proceeding of the murder charges against [REDACTED]. During the hearing, [REDACTED] me several times. [REDACTED] was represented by solicitor, [REDACTED]. Ms Gobbo was present in the court room but she did not appear for either of the accused. I understood that she was appearing in another matter.
42. Outside the court room, I spoke to Ms Gobbo. I cannot now recall how we came to speak or who raised the topic of [REDACTED] but we spoke about him co-operating with police. Even though she had not appeared for [REDACTED] I understood that she was acting for him. I told her that if her client wished to co-operate with police then the next step would be for him to compile a "can say" statement that could be provided to the Crown prosecutor for him to consider. A "can say" statement is an unsigned statement containing evidence that a witness could give in the event of a plea deal. Ms Gobbo told me that she would seek instructions from [REDACTED] and get back to me.
43. [REDACTED] on 23 March 2004, Carl Williams' friend and known hitman, Andrew Veniamin, was killed. He was shot dead by Mick Gatto in a café in Melbourne. Gatto was charged with murder but was later acquitted at trial.
44. On 25 March 2004, I attended a meeting with the Senior Crown Prosecutor Geoff Horgan and others involved in the prosecution of [REDACTED]. I told the meeting that I had informed Ms Gobbo that if [REDACTED] wished to co-operate then he should prepare a "can say" statement.
45. On 31 March 2004, Lewis Moran was murdered. He was shot dead in front of patrons at the crowded Brunswick Club.
46. On [REDACTED] 2004, DS Buick and I, once again, visited [REDACTED] in prison. He provided information about some of the murders. Later that day, Ms Gobbo called me. She said that she had been contacted by [REDACTED] and that she and her instructor intended to visit him in prison the following day. She said that she agreed that the process from here was for her client to provide a "can say" statement.



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47. On 8 May 2004, Lewis Caine was murdered. His body was dumped in the backstreets of Melbourne.
48. I am aware that on 17 May 2004, Detective Sergeant Buick attended a meeting with Geoff Horgan and others at the offices of the OPP in relation to the murder charge against Mick Gatto. During that meeting, [REDACTED] was also raised. A possible plea deal was discussed. It was agreed that if [REDACTED] pleaded guilty to the murder of [REDACTED] and gave evidence in relation to the murders of [REDACTED] then he would get an indemnity in relation to the [REDACTED] murders.
49. On 9 June 2004, Carl Williams was arrested with conspiracy to murder solicitor Mario Condello. At this time, Williams was also a suspect in several other murders. Williams' arrest was a significant factor in [REDACTED] decision to become a Crown witness.
50. On [REDACTED] 2004, [REDACTED] appeared in the [REDACTED] County Court on burglary charges. Mr Horgan was the prosecutor. Ms Gobbo appeared for [REDACTED]. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a minimum of 2 years imprisonment. Before the hearing, DS Swindells and I met with [REDACTED] in the cells. He said that he was still willing to co-operate with police by making statements. At the time of my meeting with [REDACTED] in the cells, I understood that there had already been contact between Mr Horgan and Ms Gobbo about a plea deal in relation to his murder charges. Williams' arrest on 9 June 2004 was a major factor in [REDACTED] agreeing to cooperate with police because it signalled to him that we were closing in on Williams and his criminal enterprise, and that we would prosecute with or without his assistance. [REDACTED] recognised, correctly, that his window for providing assistance to the police in exchange for a plea deal was closing.
51. After the hearing, I spoke to Ms Gobbo. I cannot now recall who started the conversation. She told me that she was concerned for her own welfare if it was to become known that she was acting for [REDACTED] and advising him in relation to his plea deal. She was fearful of retribution from Carl Williams. I told her that our door was always open if she needed assistance.
52. Between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] June 2004, I attended [REDACTED] Prison to take statements from [REDACTED]



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53. On 8 July 2004, I spoke to Mr Horgan about a plea deal. I said that [REDACTED] plea and sentence for the murder of [REDACTED] should be scheduled after he gives evidence for the Crown in the committal proceeding in the [REDACTED] murder. Mr Horgan agreed and said that he would speak to Ms Gobbo.
54. [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] July 2004, I attended [REDACTED] Prison to visit [REDACTED] I gave him drafts of his statements. He requested a minor addition and said that he wanted Ms Gobbo to review his statements prior to him signing them.
55. After the visit, I contacted Mr Horgan and gave him an update. I later spoke by telephone to Ms Gobbo who said that she intended to read the statements over the weekend.
56. On 10 July 2004, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo about me speeding up prison visitor clearance processes. She also said that she was sceptical about her client's claims [REDACTED] I recall having the impression that Ms Gobbo was fishing for information from me. I do not recall engaging with her on that topic.
57. Over the period from [REDACTED] July 2004 [REDACTED] statements were finalised. That involved me meeting with him in [REDACTED] Prison and speaking to Ms Gobbo by telephone.
58. On 14 July 2004, I gave the statements to the OPP and a meeting followed with Mr Horgan and others.
59. On 27 July 2004, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo informing me that she was in hospital after suffering a stroke. She said that she would still be acting for [REDACTED] but that he now had a new solicitor, [REDACTED]
60. Around this time, my crew started to focus attention on trying to get [REDACTED] to also cooperate with police. He was a suspect in the [REDACTED]
61. On 28 July 2004, I met with [REDACTED] at a McDonalds restaurant. During our discussion, he indicated an openness to assisting police.
62. On [REDACTED] August 2004, I had my last contact with Ms Gobbo about [REDACTED] plea. After this time, negotiations in relation to his plea deal (including the provision of a new statement



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in relation to the murder of [REDACTED] were with [REDACTED] new barrister, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Eventually, on [REDACTED] 2005, [REDACTED] did plead guilty to the murder of [REDACTED] and was sentenced to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] appeared for him.

63. [REDACTED] I met with [REDACTED] at McDonalds, on [REDACTED]<sup>PII</sup> 2004, he was arrested for the murder of [REDACTED]. He asked to speak to solicitor, [REDACTED] but when he was unable to reach him, he asked to speak to Ms Gobbo. The request was facilitated. [REDACTED] was charged. [REDACTED] represented him at the filing hearing.
64. On the same day, [REDACTED] 2004, [REDACTED] were served in prison with direct presentments in relation to the murders of [REDACTED].
65. On [REDACTED] 2004, Victoria Police made an application under s 464B of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) to take [REDACTED] out of prison to interview him in relation to the murder of [REDACTED]. The application was heard and granted in the [REDACTED] Magistrates' Court. I spoke to [REDACTED] this day and he continued to indicate a potential willingness to co-operate with police. My impression was that he was motivated by self interest in that he was focussed on obtaining a lesser sentence in return for assisting police.
66. By December 2004, Ms Gobbo had returned to work and was appearing for [REDACTED].
67. On 31 January 2005, Carl Williams was charged with the murder of Mark Moran.
68. On [REDACTED] 2005, the committal proceeding [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] There was argument before the Magistrate about redactions made to police notes. This included notes that identified Ms Gobbo as having acted for [REDACTED] who was to be a witness in the committal proceeding. The redactions had been made because Ms Gobbo was concerned for her welfare if Carl Williams and others were to find out that Ms Gobbo had not stopped [REDACTED] from co-operating with police when she was acting for him.
69. On 23 March 2005, Ms Gobbo contacted me by telephone to thank me for ensuring that her name was not mentioned during the committal proceeding. It was during this telephone conversation that she first raised with me her concerns about various named lawyers in Melbourne. She repeated the same types of matters in telephone calls on 19, 20 and 22 May 2005 and at meetings on 23 May 2005, 4 and 29 June 2005, 21 July 2005 and 23 August

  
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2005. The substance of the information she provided is recorded in the chronology. I also had contact with Ms Gobbo on 14 September 2005, 3 October 2005 and 14 November 2005. The details of this contact is also outlined in the chronology. I was interested in her comments about those lawyers because they were viewed by my crew as being a part of the criminal enterprises that the *Purana Taskforce* was working to break down.

70. The next key event leading to [REDACTED] ultimately deciding to become Crown witnesses was on [REDACTED] 2005. On that date, Justice King (who was the judge in charge of many of the gangland murder trials) ruled that the DPP could run the various murder trials in any order desired. At the hearing that day, it was clear that the first trial would be the charge against Williams for the Marshall murder. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I considered that this development would put pressure on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to decide whether they would become Crown witnesses. If the jury was to convict Williams of the murder of Marshall after hearing the evidence of [REDACTED] then [REDACTED] would see the real possibility that the next jury would also consider [REDACTED] to be a credible witness in the trials against them for the murders of [REDACTED]. If [REDACTED] were to co-operate with police then time was running out for them to do so.
71. In August 2005, a dispute arose before Justice King about subpoenas for documents issued by Williams on Victoria Police. Public Interest Immunity had been claimed over parts of the documents. On 1 September 2005, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo expressing concern about Williams finding out through the subpoena process that she was acting for [REDACTED]. She was emotional about that and other things and I let her vent to me.
72. The next key event in relation to [REDACTED] was on [REDACTED] 2005. His bail application was refused. Ms Gobbo had appeared for him on that application.
73. On 26 September 2005, the trial of Williams for the murder of Marshall commenced before Justice King. [REDACTED] On 14 November 2005, Williams was convicted. I considered that this conviction would place significant pressure on [REDACTED] to co-operate with police because the jury had accepted the evidence of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



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74. In <sup>Pii</sup> [REDACTED] 2005 and <sup>Pii</sup> [REDACTED] 2006, mention hearings were held for the murder charges against <sup>Pii</sup> [REDACTED] in relation to <sup>Pii</sup> [REDACTED].
75. Around 3 February 2006, I became aware that [REDACTED] had written to Geoff Horgan indicating that he wished to co-operate with police. As far as I know, that was the first time that [REDACTED] had indicated an openness to becoming a Crown witness. I understand that a series of meetings about his approach followed with the OPP but I was not involved.
76. On 6 February 2006, solicitor Mario Condello was murdered. He was shot dead outside his Brighton home.
77. From 13 February 2006, I commenced taking statements from [REDACTED]. Other police members were also later involved in taking statements from him. At this time, [REDACTED] was represented by Ms Garde-Wilson but did not trust her and requested a new solicitor. He then retained solicitor, [REDACTED]. The information that [REDACTED] provided was in relation to a long list of murders, including [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was taken out of prison over several days for the purpose of taking his statements. Importantly, [REDACTED] was in the same prison at the time and I expected that he would become aware of [REDACTED] being taken out of the prison.
78. On 19 February 2006, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo asking that I meet with her and her instructor, Mr Valos at his office that day. I attended the meeting. Mr Valos and Ms Gobbo told me that [REDACTED] had instructed them that he now wished to co-operate by speaking to police about the murders of the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I expect that [REDACTED] suspected or knew that [REDACTED] was co-operating with police and that that prompted him to also reach out to negotiate a plea deal.
79. The following day, on 20 February 2006, I met with the DPP and others to discuss [REDACTED] [REDACTED] desire to co-operate with police.
80. On 22 February 2006, I met with [REDACTED] in prison. He told me to speak to Mr Valos about the preparation of his statement which I later did.
81. On 3 March 2006, I delivered [REDACTED] finalised statements to his solicitor, [REDACTED] and to the OPP for review. There was then a meeting with the OPP and signed statements were provided to the Court.



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82. On [REDACTED] 2006, [REDACTED] pleaded guilty to the [REDACTED]. The plea was before Justice King. I gave evidence about the level of co-operation provided by [REDACTED] and the importance of his co-operation. [REDACTED] appeared for [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED] 2006, he was sentenced to life [REDACTED].
83. The following day, on [REDACTED] 2006, I met with [REDACTED] in prison to discuss his desire to co-operate with police. Whilst at the prison I also spoke to [REDACTED] at his request. He stated that he wished to make a full and frank statement to investigators regarding the murder of [REDACTED]. At my meeting with [REDACTED] I told him that I thought he should consider engaging a barrister other than Ms Gobbo. I did that because Ms Gobbo was acting for a lot of people in or related to Williams' criminal enterprise and, by this time, I also knew that she was a registered human source. I thought it better for [REDACTED] to have a barrister who had no such involvement.
84. On 18 March 2006, I met with Ms Gobbo at her request. At the meeting, Ms Gobbo expressed concern about [REDACTED] referring to her as having acted for [REDACTED].
85. On 21 March 2006, I met with [REDACTED] who stated that [REDACTED] would maintain his innocence. A few hours later, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo. She told me that [REDACTED] had contacted her and that she would be meeting with [REDACTED] in the morning. On [REDACTED] 2006, [REDACTED] informed me by telephone that [REDACTED] wanted me to [REDACTED] and that he would tell the truth. I met [REDACTED] in prison the following day. After the visit, I spoke to [REDACTED] and told her my view that he was not being totally forthcoming.
86. On 29 March 2006, I attended a meeting with the OPP during which it was discussed that Barrister had raised the possibility of a plea deal for Carl Williams.
87. On 19 April 2006, I attended a meeting with ADDI O'Brien and DDI Ryan about [REDACTED]. We decided that we would no longer reach out to him directly and that contact would be through his barrister, Ms Gobbo. We agreed that we would provide transcript of a [REDACTED]



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recording of a conversation with [REDACTED] to Ms Gobbo for her to put to [REDACTED] for instructions.

88. On 21 April 2006, I spoke to Ms Gobbo by telephone during which she indicated that [REDACTED] may be interested in a plea deal.
89. On 15 June 2006, I was informed by DDI Ryan that [REDACTED] wished to see me to provide information. The following day, on 16 June 2006, I met with him in prison and he provided information.
90. On [REDACTED] June 2006, I was contacted by "legal counsel" for [REDACTED] who stated that [REDACTED] wished to see the police and was willing to sign statements. My diary does not identify his "legal counsel". I cannot recall if the telephone call was from [REDACTED] solicitor, Ms Gobbo or someone else. The following day, [REDACTED] June 2006, I visited [REDACTED] in prison. He confirmed that he wished to co-operate and provide witness statements. Later that day, I met with AC Overland and Superintendent Grant to discuss [REDACTED]. We agreed that the information he was providing about himself was not truthful and that he was otherwise providing information that was of little value. I later contacted Ms Gobbo and told her my view that [REDACTED] was not being honest and that I would be meeting with the OPP to discuss.
91. The following day, [REDACTED] June 2006, I met with the OPP. We agreed that there was no interest in [REDACTED] proposed evidence in relation to the murders of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] because we did not believe that his evidence would be truthful but that if he was to plead guilty and provide assistance in relation to other matters then he would be entitled to a discount. I later contacted Ms Gobbo and passed on that position and invited her to contact Mr Horgan to discuss further.
92. On [REDACTED] June 2006 [REDACTED] pleaded guilty to the murder of [REDACTED]. I visited him in the cells after the hearing, at his request. [REDACTED] Ms Gobbo were present. He said that he wished to make statements. He also said to Ms Gobbo that Carl Williams thought that she was working for the police and that she should be careful.
93. On 30 June 2006, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo informing me that she was receiving threatening calls from Carl Williams' wife, Roberta. She said she was leaving Australia that day. I passed the information onto DDI Ryan.



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94. On [REDACTED] 2006, I received an SMS from Ms Gobbo informing me that [REDACTED] was committed to co-operating with police but that he was worried about Ms Gobbo's safety. I understood that to mean that [REDACTED] was worried that if Carl Williams knew that Ms Gobbo was acting for him in circumstances where he was providing information about Williams to police then she would be at risk. Ms Gobbo had been close to Williams. She had acted for him and had spoken at his daughter's christening many years earlier.
95. Thereafter, I was involved in co-ordinating the taking of statements from [REDACTED] but I had limited involvement in actually taking the statements. From [REDACTED] 2006, [REDACTED] was taken out of prison for this purpose. [REDACTED] 2006, information was provided from within the prison that a prisoner was likely to spread information through the prison about Ms Gobbo's involvement.
96. On [REDACTED] 2006, [REDACTED] was taken to the Victoria Police Centre. Ms Gobbo was also present. Around this time, statements were continuing to be taken from him.
97. On 25 July 2006, I provided [REDACTED] statements to the OPP.
98. On 14 August 2006, I received a telephone call from the SDU informing me that Carl Williams had sent a letter in which he described Ms Gobbo as a "dog". Around this time, Williams had issued subpoenas seeking documents from Victoria Police. The argument was heard by Justice King. Also see chronology entry for 15 September 2006.
99. In August and September 2006, I visited [REDACTED] Prison to discuss [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED] 2006, [REDACTED] pleaded guilty before Justice King and evidence was given about the assistance he had provided. [REDACTED] was represented by barrister, [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED] 2006, he was sentenced to [REDACTED] imprisonment with a minimum of [REDACTED] years for the murder of [REDACTED].
100. On 9 October 2006, I received a call from Ms Gobbo about a threat by Roberta Williams and I followed it up with a witness on 12 October 2006.
101. On 9 January 2007 I received a call from a member of the SDU. My diary note reads "Q:re Chris Ofanidis. NG to act for him in a bail application". I assume this information was provided by Ms Gobbo. I cannot recall why that information was provided to me.
102. On 15 January 2007, there was a mention hearing before Justice King in relation to the murder charges against Williams. The possibility of Williams pleading guilty was raised.

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Stuart Bateson  
Commander



My diary note of this mention hearing states "Mention of Gobbo's contact and [REDACTED] waiving privilege. Judge concerned. Suggested subpoena should be issued re this. Clear court s/t Nicola Gobbo re [REDACTED] had raised concerns re her safety because of release of statements. Requested statements. Detective Sergeant Stanton informed". I cannot now recall what had arisen during the hearing about Ms Gobbo. It appears that concerns may have been raised about her safety because she was mentioned in [REDACTED] statements. I do not have the transcript of the mention hearing. It may assist to understand my diary note.

103. On 27 February 2007 I received a call from Roberta Williams who expressed concerns for her safety should Carl Williams accept a deal and plead guilty. I informed her that would be assessed in due course.
104. On 28 February 2007, Carl Williams pleaded guilty to the murders of Jason Moran, Lewis Moran and Mallia, and conspiracy to murder Condello. In exchange, the police withdrew the charges of murdering Barbaro and Mark Moran, and withdrew drug trafficking charges.
105. It was on this day that my work within the *Purana Taskforce* substantially came to an end. My crew had completed its tasking of disabling Williams' criminal enterprise and obtaining convictions in relation to many of the gangland murders.
106. On 1 March 2007, the Premier of Victoria attended the offices of the *Purana Taskforce* to congratulate and thank the taskforce. I am not aware of that ever having occurred in the past with other investigations, but the work that the taskforce had completed was complex, dangerous and significant in bringing an end to an extraordinary period of gangland crime in Victoria. The work had taken a heavy toll on many members. I know several members suffered PTSD and other mental health problems as a result of their work at the Taskforce. I also know it caused family and relationships to irreversibly break down.
107. In the months that followed, Carl Williams provided information to me about various matters, including former member Paul Dale and various murders. A statement was taken from him.
108. On 27 and 30 April 2007, Carl Williams' plea hearing took place. On 7 May 2007, he was sentenced in relation to multiple murders to life imprisonment with 35 years non parole.



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109. The following day, on 9 May 2007, I visited ██████████ in prison to inform him of Williams' sentence. He had arranged for two bottles of wine to be purchased for me as a wedding gift which I later picked up from Ms Gobbo.
110. Around this time, I finished at the *Purana Taskforce*.
111. On 9 September 2007, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo stating that she wanted to send a letter to the Chief Commissioner asking that I return to the *Purana Taskforce*. I told her that that was not necessary. I do not know what prompted her call.
112. On 13 October 2007, I received another telephone call from Ms Gobbo informing me that ██████████ wanted to be moved into an area of the prison ██████████ ██████████ I expect that she called me because I had visited ██████████ in prison over the previous months about welfare issues. ██████████
113. Around 26 November 2007, I was upgraded to DI Jim O'Brien's role in the *Purana Taskforce* while he was on leave. I was upgraded for about two weeks. During this period of upgrading I had several contacts with members of the SDU. During these contacts I was passed information. I assumed this information originated from Ms Gobbo given the nature of it. These contacts are detailed within the chronology.
114. On 23 May 2008, I received my last telephone call from Ms Gobbo. She said that she may advise ██████████ to appeal against his sentence on the grounds that he has provided further assistance to police. I felt that she was fishing for information. I do not recall engaging with her on this topic.

**Information provided by Ms Gobbo (q 7)**

115. I refer to the relevant parts of my answer to question 6 above.

**Assistance provided by Ms Gobbo (q 8)**

116. I am not aware of Ms Gobbo providing assistance (as that term is defined in the letter from the Royal Commission dated 12 March 2019) to Victoria Police.

**Concerns about use of human sources and Ms Gobbo as a human source (q 9 and 10)**

117. I was not aware of any such concerns.

**Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (q 11)**

118. I am not aware of any such discussions.

**Use of other sources with obligations (q 12)**

119. The only human sources that I am aware of who may fall within the description in question 12 are [REDACTED] See my dairy notes for [REDACTED]

120. I have a very faint memory of [REDACTED] I cannot recall any detail in relation to him.

**Training (q 13)**

121. Such training has been provided throughout my career, both in an formal sense, but equally through my experience with the criminal justice system.

**Other information (q 14)**

122. I have no further information to provide.

Dated: 7 May 2019



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Stuart David Bateson

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