

Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police. These claims are not yet resolved.

## BRIEFING PAPER

**To:** Task Force "Briars" Operation Management Group  
**From:** Detective Superintendent Wilson - Task Force Commander  
**Subject:** Task Force establishment (First Report)  
**Date:** 15 March 2007

---

### PURPOSE

This briefing note is provided as advice to inform you of the current situation regarding the establishment of Task Force "Briars".

### BACKGROUND

On 13.2.07, I was verbally briefed by Deputy Commissioner Overland to lead an investigation into the 2003 murder of Shane Chartres-Abbott who was shot dead in the driveway of his home during the course of his trial for rape. [REDACTED] (known to police) has [REDACTED] Chartres-Abbott and has participated in a [REDACTED] record of interview. [REDACTED] has also signed a statement that *prima facie* links one serving and one former serving member of Victoria Police to the crime. Task Force "Briars" has been established in partnership with the Office of Police Integrity to fully investigate, identify and prosecute those responsible for this murder. The Task Force will place particular emphasis on the alleged involvement of former and serving members of Victoria Police.

### CURRENT SITUATION

My initial briefing from Deputy Commissioner Overland was to establish suitable Task Force accommodation and select personnel with the appropriate investigative skills within the context of sensitivities of such an investigation. The following personnel have been identified:

Detective Superintendent Rod Wilson - ESD - Task Force Commander  
Detective Inspector Steve Waddell - ESD - Team Leader  
Detective Senior Sergeant Ron Iddles - Homicide Squad - Team Leader

The above mentioned personnel comprise the Task Force leadership Group.

Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police. These claims are not yet resolved.

Transit Issues:

- seek to put them in place ASAP.
- Annual lobby as of.
- see TI and OPI. start there.
- IT to be called upon by self into 7<sup>th</sup> floor.
- have to be advised by Heads of Finance.
- to be proposed as a matter of urgency.

IT:

- Being proposed that John Brown.
- John Brown to impt & site.
- TB & time = OPI IT.

Legals:

- SC: Terms to be engaged
- To be held through NQSO.
- Hold off on OPI. NB.
- Get advice from Finance retains.

Sandy:

- mostly advice by an Integon DB. J & Myt other.
- Integon branch into & cover over to Brian.

De Water: Ket Weller:

- will make copy of matter
- Consider advice for OPI.
- Dinner = CCP.

Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police. These claims are not yet resolved.

Acting Detective Senior Sergeant Steve Abrehart - ESD - Investigator  
 Detective Sergeant Peter Trichias - Homicide Squad - Investigator  
 Detective Senior Constable Stephen Sheahan - Homicide Squad - Investigator  
 Detective Senior Constable Stephen Cuxon - Homicide Squad - Investigator  
 OPI Investigator (To be advised) Gary Felton  
 OPI Investigator (To be advised) Guy. Lowndes

Daniel Mills - ESD - Analyst (VPS 4)  
 Scott Elliot - Crime Department - Analyst (VPS 4) - Subject to advice from HR  
 OPI Analyst (To be advised) Sam Erskine.

Administrative Support - To be advised. → Vic 1/1 → to be only JCO.

Total staff is 13. The staffing numbers can be reviewed once the Task Force is established and better positioned to provide advice.

With regard to accommodation it has been verbally agreed that the Task Force occupy the 7th Floor of the OPI at 459 Collins Street, Melbourne. The arrangements for leasing, furnishings and IT support are currently being progressed by Gary Glover from Business Management Department. His latest advice is that JLL are seeking endorsement from the Minister for Finance for the lease. John Brown (BITS) is clarifying the IT costs and timings. The overall timeframes are unclear until JLL & BITS inspect the property. This matters needs to be maintained as a priority.

I have been briefed by A/C Cornelius and provided a copy of the OPI Joint Agency Agreement, the direction from D/C Overland to establish the Task Force and a copy of A/C Cornelius' response to the direction. These documents set out the arrangements for the management of the Task Force and the oversight and reporting arrangements. These sit well with Task Force management.

#### ISSUES

- Welfare of Task Force members.
- Security of investigation.

→ - domain is Ede's liability.  
 - things for etc. take place.

#### TREATMENTS

- Welfare

I have sought advice from Organisational Wellbeing to develop strategies to counter issues around what maybe a long, protracted and stressful investigation. Particularly for non-ESD members not usually accustomed to investigating



Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police. These claims are not yet resolved.

5  
police. I have also conducted interviews with and sought counsel from Superintendent Murray Fraser (CEJA) and Superintendent Paul Sheridan (Lorimer) as to lessons learned in the establishment of previous Task Forces.

- *Security*

This investigation will be conducted on a strict need-to-know principle and managed on Interpose. I propose to initially not record this investigation on ESD's ROCSID database but at a future time will arrange for the outcomes and learnings to be shared as they relate to potential corruption issues.

#### COMMENT

The personnel have been selected and the accommodation phase is nearing completion. It is hoped to commence the operational phase as soon as possible.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That you note this briefing paper.

R.G. WILSON  
Detective Superintendent  
Task Force Briars

