

**Royal Commission****into the Management of Police Informants****STATEMENT OF JAMES GERARD COGHLAN**

1. My full name is James Gerard Coghlan. I am a Detective Sergeant of Victoria Police.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 23 May 2019. This statement will be produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

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

3. I commenced employment with Victoria Police in 1972 as an unsworn employee. From 1972 to 1980, I was the Officer in Charge, Accounts Payable, in the Account Branch of Victoria Police. In 1980, I joined Victoria Police as a sworn member and I graduated from the Police Academy in February 1981.
4. Since graduating from the Police Academy in 1981, I have worked in the following areas:
  - a. Between 1981–1983, I was a Constable stationed at police stations in Thomastown and Epping.
  - b. In 1984, I was promoted to Senior Constable and transferred to the Greensborough Police Station.
  - c. Between 1985 and 1988, I was seconded to the Heidelberg Crime Cars and Greensborough District Support Group.
  - d. Between 1988 and 1989, I was seconded to the TyEyre Taskforce (Walsh Street police murders).
  - e. In 1990, I resigned from Victoria Police and worked in private enterprise.
  - f. 1992, I re-joined Victoria Police and graduated from the Academy in March 1992.
  - g. Between 1992 and 1993, I was stationed at police stations in Whittlesea and Greensborough.



- h. In 1994, I attended Detective Training School and was on temporary duty at the Greensborough Criminal Investigations Unit.
  - i. Between 1994–1997, I worked at the Fitzroy Criminal Investigations Unit as Detective Senior Constable.
  - j. In 1996, I was the Victoria Police liaison officer for Port Arthur massacre.
  - k. In 1997, I transferred to the Asset Recovery Squad and was stationed there between 1997 and 2003.
  - l. Between 2000 and 2002, I was seconded to the Kayak Taskforce (Major Drug Investigation).
  - m. In 2003, I was promoted to Sergeant and was stationed at the Fraud Squad (Manager of Intelligence Analysts).
  - n. In 2004, I transferred to the Criminal Proceeds Squad (Detective Sergeant).
  - o. Between 2005 and 2012, I was seconded to the Purana Taskforce (Major Drug Investigation/Organised Crime).
  - p. Between 2012 and 2017, I worked at the Security and Organised Crime Intelligence Unit.
  - q. Between 2015 and 2016, I was seconded to the Pax Taskforce (Counter Terrorism).
  - r. In 2017, I was transferred to the Crime Stoppers Unit, which I where I am presently stationed.
5. I have received the following awards and citations:
- a. District Commendation for displaying perseverance, resilience and excellent communication skills whilst attending an isolated farm property in Diamond Creek and disarming a distressed male who was threatening police members with a loaded shotgun.
  - b. Departmental Citation for leadership, outstanding commitment to duty, investigative skills, commitment, dedication, patience and professionalism as a member of the Purana Taskforce between 2005 and 2012.

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

6. I have been involved in two investigations which had dealings with Ms Gobbo, as I set out below.



*Taskforce Kayak*

7. The first investigation I was involved in which had dealings with Ms Gobbo was Taskforce Kayak. Taskforce Kayak was an investigation conducted by the MDID into Tony Mokbel's drug enterprise. The investigation was already well underway in 2000, when I was seconded from the Asset Recovery Squad to the MDID to work on the Taskforce.
8. My role on the Taskforce was to identify Mokbel's tainted assets so that they could be restrained and ultimately confiscated. I was assisted by Detective Senior Constable Pope. Together, we identified Mokbel's assets, including cash, real property, business interests and motor vehicles and those of his associates. By mid-2001, the intelligence that I had gathered suggested that Mokbel's assets were worth approximately \$20 million.
9. On 24 August 2001, Tony Mokbel was arrested for drug offences at his home in Port Melbourne. After his arrest, I made an application for a global restraining order over all of Tony Mokbel's property under the Confiscation Act 1997.
10. The restraining order was made on the same day and I personally served the order on Tony Mokbel that afternoon.
11. The order specifically referred to certain real property that we had already identified that Mokbel had an interest in, motor vehicles, including a Ferrari and Mercedes Benz and bank accounts. As a global restraining order, it also extended to all other property of Mokbel, including property acquired after the making of the order.
12. Ms Gobbo acted for Tony Mokbel in relation to these drug charges and my first interaction with her was at Court at a hearing in relation to these charges.
13. I attended Court on a number of occasions in this period. Shortly after his arrest, Tony Mokbel applied for bail. I attended Court to observe the bail application because Tony's accountant Michael Hymer of the BABO Group was going to give evidence. I was interested to hear what Mokbel's accountant was going to say.
14. Tony Mokbel was refused bail on this occasion. However, he made a further application for bail, which was successful because of the corruption issues within the drug squad. Mokbel and his associates used the corruption issues to their advantage and as a means of delaying their trials.
15. The global restraint on Mokbel's property remained in force while the corruption issues were investigated. As Mokbel's trial had been delayed, he made a number of applications



to exclude property from the restraining order, which Victoria Police opposed. Ms Gobbo represented Tony Mokbel as junior counsel in relation to these matters.

16. In the period from 2001–2005, I attended Court on several occasions in relation to applications in connection with the global restraining order. Tony Mokbel was represented by Ms Gobbo and others.
17. I observed Mokbel's interactions with Ms Gobbo in Court. My impression is that their relationship was closer than the normal relationship between a lawyer and client. They appeared very friendly. The way in which they interacted in Court and outside the courtroom made me suspicious of their relationship.
18. Later – in 2011 – I received a copy of a letter that Ms Gobbo sent to Tony Mokbel in prison.<sup>1</sup> In her letter Ms Gobbo thanked Mokbel for a message about Ms Gobbo's mother, who by that time had died. Ms Gobbo said, "*Yes she always asked after you Tony and she knew how close we were.*" To me, this confirmed the suspicions that I had about the relationship between Tony Mokbel and Nicola Gobbo as I could not think of a reason why Tony Mokbel would have met Nicola Gobbo's mother if the relationship between Nicola and Tony was just lawyer and client.
19. In spite of my best efforts, I was not satisfied at this time that we had identified and adequately restrained all of Mokbel's property interests, as we were entitled to do under the existing order. I continued to investigate and identify further property that he may have had an interest in. In light of the corruption issues and the fact that Mokbel was not likely to face trial in the short term, I was discouraged from pursuing these lines of inquiry. There was a fear that if we applied to extend the restraint, Mokbel might use this as evidence of Victoria Police being vindictive or might otherwise use it as a means of further delaying his trial.
20. In spite of this, I continued to build up a financial profile of Tony Mokbel and his associates. My team conducted surveillance of Tony Mokbel at various locations including suburban and country race tracks and The Grove Cafe on Sydney Road.

*Karl Khoder*

21. In early 2005 I received a query from Preston CI that led me to Karl Khoder, who was a mortgage broker. I was contacted by investigators at Preston CI in relation to a safe that they had seized from Taleb Motors, which was a mechanic business in Preston. The

---

<sup>1</sup> VPL.6111.0018.2480.



proprietor, Joe Taleb had refused to open a safe on the premises and so the investigators had seized it and taken it back to the station. The safe was subsequently opened and a large amount of cash was contained inside. When asked about the cash, Joe Taleb said that it was money that had been loaned to him by Mr Khoder.

22. Preston CI contacted me because I was a Sergeant at the Criminal Proceeds squad and they did not know what to do with the money. I told them to contact the ATO and to the best of my recollection, the ATO issued a garnishee notice.
23. After this, I made my own enquiries in relation to Mr Khoder. I ran some searches and worked out that Mr Khoder was a mortgage broker involved in a business called Equitycorp, which owned the property at [REDACTED] Road, Brunswick. This happened to be around [REDACTED] down from The Grove Cafe. This was of great interest to me.
24. In this period, Mokbel was at his most prolific. He was gambling out of control and was buying property and other assets in the names of his associates.
25. For example, in May 2005, Tony Mokbel had his bail conditions varied to allow him to travel to Queensland. Between 16 May 2005 and 23 May 2005, I received AUSTRAC Suspect Transaction Reports, which revealed that Tony Mokbel was gaming at Conrad Jupiters casino in Queensland. Danielle Maguire, Zarah Garde-Wilson and a Queensland associate of Tony Mokbel were cashing chips on his behalf. Intelligence I received suggested that Maguire, Garde-Wilson and the Queensland associate had cashed out \$100,000 on Mokbel's behalf over the course of a few days.
26. It took me a number of months, but eventually I received intelligence that connected Mr Khoder to the Mokbel criminal enterprise. An intelligence report prepared by the Australian Customs Service in relation to suspicious activity at a property in Nicholson Street, Coburg East connected Mr Khoder and Equitycorp to the Tony Mokbel criminal enterprise stated that Mr Khoder was the owner of Mercedes Benz that was being driven by Horty and Milad Mokbel and that Equitycorp was the registered office of Gannrf Pty Ltd, which was a company of which Renate Mokbel was a co-director and shareholder.
27. I subsequently conducted searches and identified that Gannrf Pty Ltd was the registered proprietor of [REDACTED] Street, Brunswick.

*Emilio Navaroli*

28. Tracking Mokbel's assets was made more difficult because he hid assets in the names of his associates.



29. On 18 August 2005, I spoke to Phil Raimondo at the OPP about the Mokbel restraint. He told me that he had received information from another law enforcement agency that Emilio Navarroli had been interviewed in relation to gangland murders and that during the interview, had claimed that Mokbel was using his ANZ account.
30. The ANZ account had been identified and it had a balance of \$200,000. Representatives of the OPP and I made enquiries of ANZ in relation to restraining that account on the basis that the funds in the account belonged to Tony Mokbel. However, the ANZ refused to restrain the account on the basis of the existing order because according to their systems, the account was in the name of Emilio Navarroli, not Tony Mokbel.
31. On 19 August 2005, I spoke to an ANZ representative who told me that at 3.45 pm on 18 August 2005, a bank cheque for \$200,000 was withdrawn from the account. I placed a stop on the bank cheque to prevent it from being cashed and a few days later, the OPP applied for and obtained a restraint on the ANZ Bank Account. This was the first new application for a restraint in relation to Tony Mokbel's assets in around four years.

*Discussions with Ms Gobbo in relation to Taskforce Kayak*

32. On 23 August 2005, I served the restraint on Navarroli at Navarroli Fashions in South Yarra. I also served it on Tony Mokbel at his home. When I served Mokbel, he said to me that he had a verbal agreement with the OPP that they would allow him to conduct business separate to the properties specifically listed in the global restraining order. What he meant by that was that he understood that he had an agreement with the OPP that would effectively limit the global restraining order to the property listed in it. I said to Mokbel that I knew nothing of this agreement but would make some enquiries.
33. On 24 August 2005, I received a call from Ms Gobbo, in relation to the "agreement" that Mokbel had told me about the day before. She said that around 2 years ago, she had a conversation with Raimondo in the presence of Con Heliotis and Jim Valos during which Raimondo made a verbal agreement that Mokbel was allowed to "conduct his business" as long as it did not affect any of the properties listed on the restraining order. This agreement included permission to gamble. I did not believe what Ms Gobbo said to me, but I would have said to her that I would speak to Raimondo about this matter.
34. Save for some small talk at Court, this was the first significant conversation that I had with Ms Gobbo. This conversation was concerning to me because I was worried that Mokbel thought he had someone within the OPP that he could manipulate.

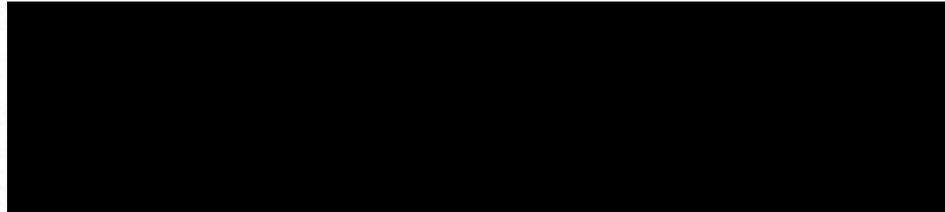


35. After this call, I spoke to Raimondo who said that he had many conversations with Mokbel's legal team but that he couldn't recall a discussion to the effect that Gobbo had alleged.
36. On 6 September 2005, I had a further conversation with Ms Gobbo. My diary records that she called to "reconfirm" that the original Mokbel restraining order was a global one. I confirmed that it was.

37.



38.



*Purana Taskforce*

39. In around November 2005, Detective Senior Sergeant O'Brien approached me about joining the Purana Taskforce. This was the second investigation I was involved in which had dealings with Ms Gobbo.
40. The Purana Taskforce was initially set up to investigate the gangland murders, however, by this time the focus had shifted to dismantling the Mokbel criminal enterprise. DSS O'Brien asked me to join the taskforce because of my knowledge of the assets of the Mokbel cartel. I agreed to join the taskforce and started there in around January 2006.
41. At the time DSS O'Brien approached me to join Purana, I had five years of intelligence on the Mokbel cartel that I had been gathering but had no vehicle in which to use it. My analyst at the time, Brian O'Sullivan (dec) and I spent the few months leading to my transfer to Purana updating charts that I had been working on since 2001 that set out all the intelligence I had in relation to Mokbel family, their associates, associated companies and assets including real property and bank accounts.
42. DSS O'Brien asked me for my opinion on who should be targeted. I said all members of the Mokbel family, wives, girlfriends and associates. I said to him that I was interested in

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gogola".

targeting money launderers like Mr Khoder and Zlate Cvetanovski, and lawyers such as Zarah Garde-Wilson, Con Heliotis and Nicola Gobbo.

43. On my first day at Purana, I found a blank wall and put up all the charts that we had prepared. At the beginning, our charts took up around five metres of wall space in the Purana office and included all the known assets of targets, including Tony Mokbel, Milad Mokbel, Horty Mokbel, Renate Mokbel, Zlate Cvetanovski, Mr Khoder and others. By the time I finished at Purana, the charts had more than doubled in size.
44. After joining Purana, I continued to attempt to identify the assets of the Mokbels. From time to time, DSS O'Brien would call me into his office and would say to me words to the effect that he had received information from a source about matters I was investigating. The information was rarely useful and was almost always information that I already knew. I distinctly recall telling DSS O'Brien on multiple occasions words to the effect that, *"I don't know where you are getting this information from, but it is useless to me."*
45. On 17 March 2006, I was at the County Court for the sentencing of Roberta Williams on deception charges. By chance, as I left Court I saw Tony Mokbel, who was in Court for his own trial. I told him that I had further court orders to serve on him. He was jovial. He gave me his mobile number and told me to call him on Monday to arrange a meeting with Mr Heliotis and Ms Gobbo to arrange service.
46. On 20 March 2006, DSS O'Brien told me that Mokbel had failed to appear at Court that morning. I tried to call his mobile number but it rang out. We initially thought that Mokbel had been killed but as no body was found, we began to think that he had fled.
47. At around the same time, Preston CI had Mr Khoder under investigation in relation to the money in the safe that had been discovered in 2005. Given the connection between Mr Khoder and Mokbel, I decided to assist Preston CI with their investigation.
48. On 6 and 13 April 2006, Detective Sergeant Goddard (of Preston CI) and I attended the Equitycorp business address at 161 Sydney Road in Coburg to speak with Mr Khoder. On both occasions, Mr Khoder was unavailable to speak to us.
49. At around this time, the Purana Taskforce was targeting [REDACTED] because it had information that he was about [REDACTED] at a [REDACTED]. I made a number of asset related enquiries in relation to [REDACTED] and his associates and also performed duties, other than my usual financial-related duties in the lead up to the arrests because it was a significant operation that required all available resources. On [REDACTED] 2006, the day that [REDACTED] was arrested, I was on a rest day.



50. On [REDACTED] 2006 at 3.30 pm, I had a discussion with [REDACTED] in the interview room. We discussed the Mokbel family and in particular, their financial position and assets. [REDACTED] told me about [REDACTED] including [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] that the Mokbels were involved in out of [REDACTED]. We had a general conversation about the techniques used by the Mokbels to hide their assets. In passing, [REDACTED] told me to go and have a look at [REDACTED].
51. At this time, I had identified two associates of Tony Mokbel that could [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Renate Mokbel had an [REDACTED] and Milad Mokbel had an [REDACTED]. Both [REDACTED] were identified on my charts and their relationship to Mokbels traced. I knew of [REDACTED] because I had worked with [REDACTED] PII at a construction site in 1989.
52. On [REDACTED] 2006, Milad Mokbel was arrested. Immediately after his arrest, I attended his home address and seized assets including cash. A black Mercedes Benz, which was registered in Renate's name, was not at the address. I asked Milad Mokbel where it was and he told me that it was at Renate's auntie's house.
53. Milad Mokbel had valuations for wristwatches totalling \$43,000, but the wristwatches were not at his home. I asked him where they were but he was unwilling to tell me. He said to me that, "*you'll never find them in a million years.*"
54. On 1 May 2006, the Supreme Court of Victoria made an interim restraining order over the known assets of Milad Mokbel.
55. On 8 May 2006, the Supreme Court of Victoria made a restraining order over the assets of Gannrf Pty Ltd, including the property at [REDACTED] Street, Brunswick.
56. After the order was obtained, I took steps to serve a copy of the restraining order on the directors of Gannrf — Renate Mokbel and Mr Khoder. I served Renate Mokbel at her home. She also told me that she could not remember how or when the property was purchased but that she was going to develop the property with Mr Khoder. After I served Renate Mokbel, I went to the Equitycorp offices to attempt to serve Mr Khoder, however, he was not there. I left a card. I then went to his home address. No one was home.
57. At 4.35 pm on 8 May 2006, Ms Gobbo called me and told me that she was representing Mr Khoder. I told her that we had a restraining order and that I needed to serve it on him. She said that she would accept service and so I arranged to meet with her in her office. This was my first dealing with Ms Gobbo since I started at the Purana Taskforce.



58. At 11 am on 9 May 2006, I attended Ms Gobbo's chambers to serve a copy of the Khoder restraining order. Ms Gobbo accepted service on Mr Khoder's behalf.
59. By this point, Tony Mokbel had been missing for over two months. I recall saying to Ms Gobbo – as I did with all of his associates that I met — “Where's Tony?” I distinctly recall Ms Gobbo saying to me that, “You will never find him in a million years”. This stuck in my mind, because it was phrase that the Mokbels regularly used when boasting to me that I had no chance of finding their assets.

- ██████████
60. On ██████████ 2006, I met with ██████████ at ██████████ location and on ██████████ 2006, I met with ██████████ at prison. The purpose of these meetings was to gather information about the assets of the Mokbels. Both ██████████ and ██████████ confirmed that ██████████ was holding significant assets of Milad Mokbel.
61. On ██████████ 2006, I went back to Prison to meet with ██████████ I took a photo of ██████████ ██████████ to confirm that it was ██████████ who was holding the assets. ██████████ identified her as the correct person.
62. On ██████████ 2006, we put ██████████ and ██████████ under surveillance.
63. On ██████████ September 2006, I attended ██████████ property to conduct a search. Cash totalling \$336,600 plus a significant amount jewellery was seized, including the two Pierre Cardin watches in a piece of PVC pipe that Milad Mokbel said I would never find in a million years. We also located the black Mercedes Benz registered ██████████, which was towed away.
64. I am aware that Ms Gobbo says that information that she provided was relied on by Victoria Police to locate the assets seized from ██████████ house. This is not true. ██████████ ██████████ is someone I identified during my investigations for Taskforce Kayak and I was aware that she may have been holding assets for Milad Mokbel since ██████████ 2006, when I discussed this with ██████████

*Arrest of Mr Khoder and Zaharoula Mokbel*

65. On 4 October 2006, Mr Khoder was arrested at his home address. He was charged with numerous offences relating to obtaining financial advantage by deception and making a false document. As he was arrested, I cautioned him and he told me that he wanted to speak with his solicitor, Nicola Gobbo. I called Ms Gobbo on my mobile, identified myself and



explained why I was calling and then handed the phone to Mr Khoder. I walked away so that they could speak in private.

66. After his arrest, I attended the Equitycorp business address at 161 Sydney Road to execute a further warrant and to seize his financial and mortgage files. Mr Khoder accompanied us to the property.
67. On 19 October 2006 at 4.30 pm, Ms Gobbo called me to say that she had been meeting with Mr Khoder all day and that he was going to go and see Tony Hargreaves about the loan files.
68. On 9 November 2006, Zaharoula Mokbel was arrested and charged on mortgage fraud charges. The charges against Zaharoula Mokbel related to loan applications that had been signed by her and had been located in the records seized from Equitycorp. Each of the loan applications contained false information about Zaharoula Mokbel's income and employment history.
69. On 4 December 2006, I spoke with Kaye Raudla (a Victoria Police solicitor) about executing a warrant on Nicola Gobbo's chambers and on Tony Hargreaves. To my knowledge, no warrant was executed and I do not recall why we considered doing so.

#### *Operation Magnum*

70. On 25 May 2007, I travelled to Greece as part of Operation Magnum, which was an operation to locate and arrest Tony Mokbel, and to dismantle his drug syndicate. He was arrested on 5 June 2007 in Glyfada, Athens, Greece. I was in Athens at the time to assist the local law enforcement agencies, and remained there for a couple of weeks for follow up enquiries. Simultaneously, Victoria Police executed around 50 warrants in Victoria.
71. I am aware that Ms Gobbo has claimed that information that she provided led to the arrest of Tony Mokbel. This is not true.
72. In the day or two after Mokbel was arrested, I called Ms Gobbo to tell her that I was in Greece. I said to her, "*Remember that you told me that I would never find him in a million years. Well it only took me two weeks.*" I called her because I wanted the Mokbel crew to know that it was Purana Taskforce that found Mokbel, not the AFP. In my view, it was Ms Gobbo who was best placed to relay that information.
73. I remained in Greece for a further three weeks to work with the local law enforcement agencies on issues such as Mokbel's Greek assets and other follow up enquiries.



*Zaharoula Mokbel and Mr Khoder committals*

74. The committal hearings for Mr Khoder and Zaharoula Mokbel were listed for around 3 September 2007 and 17 September 2007 respectively. The informant in relation to the charges against Mr Khoder was Detective Senior Constable Gerard Walsh and the informant in relation to the charges against Zaharoula Mokbel was Detective Senior Constable Tamara Chippindall. However, I was involved in both investigations and as the supervisor of both DSC Walsh and DSC Chippindall, I had a degree of involvement and oversight in relation to both investigations.
75. Ms Gobbo continued to act for Mr Khoder and attempted to negotiate a plea deal on his behalf. To the best of my recollection, the OPP was considering withdrawing some charges against Khoder on the basis that he would [REDACTED]. Ms Gobbo's role in acting for Mr Khoder was complicated by the fact that the Mokbels — Horthy Mokbel in particular — were putting pressure on her. I do not know the specifics of this, however, it is my recollection that Zaharoula Mokbel's defence was to blame Mr Khoder and it was also apparent to me that Horthy Mokbel was applying significant pressure to both Mr Khoder and to Ms Gobbo, in order to get Mr Khoder to take the fall for the deception matters.
76. On 16 August 2007, my diary records that I attended Ms Gobbo's chambers to meet with Ms Gobbo in relation to Mr Khoder. I made a note to the effect that the charges against Mr Khoder were to be reduced from 33 to approximately 20 but that the OPP had advised that a custodial sentence would be applied for the remaining charges. While I can recall discussing Mr Khoder's case with Ms Gobbo, I have no specific recollection of this discussion.
77. I spoke with Ms Gobbo on a number of other occasions throughout August. For example, my diary records that I spoke with Ms Gobbo on 17 August 2007 in relation to an abusive telephone call that I had received from Tim Freeman, a solicitor employed by Tony Hargreaves and Associates who was instructing Ms Gobbo in relation to the Mr Khoder matter. I also spoke with Ms Gobbo on 21 August 2007. Save than for what is recorded in my diary, I have no recollection of these discussions.
78. In the course of preparing this statement, I have been told that in around February 2007, Ms Gobbo's handlers provided her with a copy of the brief of evidence against Zaharoula Mokbel and asked for her opinion on it. I was not aware that this had occurred until I prepared this statement.



79. My diary records that on 12 September 2007, I spoke to Detective Inspector Ryan in relation to Ms Gobbo and the case against Zaharoula Mokbel. My diary note states as follows:
- S/T D/I RYAN re 3838 – Roula MOKBEL brief – no statement introducing Khoder record of interview. Why is interview on the brief. [Officer Fox] advised him the LEWINBERG had requested r/interview at bail application. Magistrate had consented to his request. It was given to GRIGOR lawyers as LEWINBERG doesn't act for her anymore. Enqs pending.
80. On 13 September 2007, I received a call from Mr Khoder. My diary records the following exchange:
- He said to me, *"do you want me to tell Nicola not to represent Zaharoula next Monday?"*
- I said, *"What are you talking about? Why are you asking me this? Why doesn't Nicola ring me?"*
- He said, *"They're going to try and blame me for all loans but Nicola's representing me. There's a conflict?"*
- I said, *"I don't know Karl. I'll make some enquiries but really it's got to be a decision for Nicola to make not me or you."*
81. I do not know what prompted Mr Khoder to call me in relation to this. However, after the call I spoke to Officer Fox to update him. He said he would ring Ms Gobbo to find out what was going on.
82. At 1.30 pm, Ms Gobbo called me. She told me that Horthy had been calling her and was abusing her from prison and that Steven Sheriffs had been briefed but was unavailable for Zaharoula Mokbel's committal on Monday because he was in Perth. I told Ms Gobbo to ring Vicky Prapas of the OPP if she was seeking an adjournment. I do not know whether she did so.
83. I am aware that documents contained on the Loricated database suggest that Officer Fox "verbally disseminated" information to me in relation to his discussions with Ms Gobbo around the time of this conversation. I have no recollection of having received information from the SDU at this time and have no record in my diary of having received information. To the best of my recollection, my diary records what I discussed with Officer Fox and on



this occasion, it was me providing information to him, as opposed to him providing information to me.

84. On 17 September 2007, Zaharoula Mokbel was committed to stand trial on deception charges. Ms Gobbo did not appear on her behalf.

Karl Khoder plea and Zaharoula Mokbel trial

85. On 8 November 2007, Mr Khoder [REDACTED] I was not involved in the preparation [REDACTED] To the best of my knowledge, it was [REDACTED] DSC Chippindall.
86. On 16 July 2008, Mr Khoder pleaded guilty to four charges of obtaining a financial advantage by deception and making a false document. A number of charges were withdrawn. Mr Khoder was represented by Tony Hargraves and Associates. Ms Gobbo did not appear. He received a suspended sentence.
87. Zaharoula Mokbel's trial took place in November 2009.
88. On 9 November 2009, my diary records that Detective Inspector Smith told me that Gobbo had been subpoenaed in relation to Zaharoula Mokbel's deception trial. I have no recollection of this discussion, however, in the course of preparing this statement I have been shown an email that I sent to DI Smith on the same day in which I state that there had been no mention of the name 3838.<sup>2</sup>
89. On 26 November 2009, I sent a follow up email to DI Smith in which I told him that the trial had finished and that there was never any indication that the defence intended to call Ms Gobbo. I made reference in the email to a "storm in a teacup". While I do not recall, I assume that this is a reference to DI Smith's reaction to the prospect of Ms Gobbo being called as a witness in this matter.<sup>3</sup>

**Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (questions 3-8)**

Question 3

90. I cannot recall when I learned that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police, or the circumstances in which I learned that Ms Gobbo was a registered human source. To the best of my recollection, I was told that Ms Gobbo was a registered human source in mid-2006 by members of the SDU.

<sup>2</sup> VPL.6111.0021.4881.

<sup>3</sup> VPL.6111.0024.1185.

91. By mid-2006, I had known Ms Gobbo for around five years. I was suspicious about her relationship with Tony Mokbel and had reason to think that she may have been laundering money on his behalf. I did not think of her as an ordinary barrister and in that context, I was not surprised to learn that she was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.
92. From time to time, I received human source information from DSS O'Brien about financial matters. While he would not use her name, I now know that the source of much of that information was Ms Gobbo. As time passed, I would have known that she was the source of this information, even though her name was not mentioned. As I say in my answer to question 2, above, this information was invariably of little value to me.
93. The first diary entry that I have located that refers to "3838" is on 9 June 2006. I do not know whether I knew that Ms Gobbo was registered human source 3838 at this point, or whether the entry is simply referring to information that had been disseminated to me via the sterile corridor.
94. Most of my interactions with Ms Gobbo that I describe in my answer to question 2 relate to dealings between me and her about Mr Khoder. In all of those interactions, she was acting as his barrister, not as a human source.

#### Question 4

95. Save than the people that I have referred to in my answer to question 2, above, I do not know who was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police. The identity of human sources was not openly discussed.

#### Question 5

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

#### Question 6

97. I have set out most of the personal contact that I had with Ms Gobbo in my answer to question 2, above. In addition, from time to time I would attend Ms Gobbo's chambers to serve documents. For example, my diary records that on ■ June 2006, I attended Ms Gobbo's chambers to serve on her a copy of ■ I have no recollection of this meeting.



98. On 9 February 2007, Ms Gobbo called me and asked that I meet her at Clarendon Street, South Melbourne, which I did at 8.05 am. My diary does not record why Ms Gobbo wanted to meet with me or what we discussed. I have no recollection of this meeting.

Questions 7 and 8

99. I refer to my answer to question 2, above.

**Concerns in relation to Ms Gobbo (questions 9-11)**

Question 9

100. I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source.

Question 10

101. I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 11

102. I am not aware of any discussions within Victoria Police about the obligation of disclosure in relation to material concerning the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

**Other relevant matters**

Question 12

103. I am aware that members of Victoria Police were speaking with MacCallum. I do not know whether this person provided information or assistance to Victoria Police and if so, what the nature of the information or assistance was.

Question 13

104. I have attended a variety of training courses in the time that I have been employed by Victoria Police. All of the topics listed in question 13 have been covered to varying degrees. The most significant and detailed training that I recall was the Academy, which I attended in 1980 and Detective Training School, which I attended in 1993.

Question 14

105. In around 1999, I worked with Detective Senior Constable Jeff Pope on the Asset Recovery Squad. Through this Royal Commission, I have learned that DSC Pope registered Ms Gobbo as a human source in May 1999. I was not aware that Ms Gobbo had been registered as a human source at the time. To the best of my recollection, I had no dealings with her until 2001, as set out in my answer to question 2, above.



Dated: 12 November 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Coghlan', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

James Gerard Coghlan