





## From the Office of the Commissioner

Our ref:

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3 April 2014

Mr Tim Cartwright APM
Acting Chief Commissioner
Victoria Police
Victoria Police Centre
637 Flinders Street
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008

- 4 APR 2014

DIA 015163

Dear Acting Chief Commissioner

## Human source management: relationship between Victoria Police and 'Lawyer X'

I am writing further to a briefing provided to me by Assistant Commissioner Stephen Fontana, Assistant Commissioner Stephen Leane and Director Legal Services, Mr Finn McCrae on Tuesday 1 April, 2014.

The briefing related to current public and media interest in the so-called 'Lawyer X' matter, and potential issues concerning an inappropriate or mismanaged relationship between Victoria Police and the unnamed lawyer.

In the briefing, Mr McCrae stated that Victoria Police had undertaken extensive reviews of witness protection and human source management programs in recent years, leading to a number of reforms to Victoria Police policies and procedures. Nonetheless, in view of the allegations and suggestions regarding the management of 'Lawyer X', Victoria Police had undertaken a review of those criminal prosecutions in which 'Lawyer X' had acted for defendants. Mr McRae indicated that Victoria Police would soon be completing a report, as a result of its review, which would be made available to IBAC.

I seek further clarification from you on the envisaged report, including:

- The nature and circumstances in which the review was commissioned
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- The terms of reference and scope for the review, and subsequent report
- Those Victoria Police officers or others who have been tasked to undertake the review and prepare the envisaged report
- The timing of the report and expected date of delivery to IBAC.

As you will appreciate, IBAC has a direct interest in this matter, insofar as it relates to any potential police misconduct associated with management of the lawyer as a police informant, and more broadly to issues of public confidence in Victoria Police.

(Astrachment Two)

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I would like to inform you that I have also spoken to the Legal Services Commissioner, Mr Michael McGarvie, and to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr John Champion S.C., given their potential interest in the matter.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Stephen O'Bryan S.C.

Commissioner