

This document has been redacted for Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police. These claims are not yet resolved.

Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants.

STATEMENT OF RONALD WILLIAM IDDLES

1. My full name is Ronald William Iddles and I am a retired Detective Senior Sergeant of Victoria Police.
2. I am making this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 29 May 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to produce.
3. The statement is made without reference to my official Police Diary.

Educational background and employment history

4. I was educated at Echuca Technical College and obtained my Leaving Certificate. (year 11)
5. I graduated from the Police Academy in March 1974 and transferred to Russell Street Police Headquarters as a general duties Constable. My employment history is set out below:-
 - a. In June 1974 I transferred to the Collingwood Police station as a general duties Constable. In late 1979 I was promoted to the rank of Senior Constable and transferred to the Fitzroy Criminal Investigation Branch.
 - b. I remained at Fitzroy Criminal Investigation Branch until July 1980 when I transferred to the Homicide Squad.
 - c. In February 1983 I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to the St Kilda Police Station where I performed supervision duties.
 - d. In early 1985 I was seconded to the National Crime Authority and performed the role of Detective Sergeant investigating organized crime in Australia
 - e. In 1987 I transferred to the Drug Squad as a Detective Sergeant in charge of a team of Detectives
 - f. In early 1989 I was promoted to the rank of Senior Sergeant and was attached the Licensing Gaming and Vice Squad. After a four month period I was transferred to the Homicide Squad as a Detective Senior Sergeant.

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- g. In late 1989 I resigned from Victoria Police
 - h. In February 1994 I was approached to re-join Victoria Police which I did and after initial retraining I returned to the Homicide where after a short period of time I returned to my original rank of Detective Senior Sergeant. I remained there until February 2014.
 - i. During the above period at Homicide I was seconded to the Briars Taskforce from April 2007 until March 2008
 - j. In February 2014 I took up the role of Secretary of the Police Association and in February 2017 I retired.
 - k. Since that time, I have performed the role of Community Safety Trustee for the Victorian Government.
6. Professional and other awards I have received.
- National Police Service medal;
 - Victoria Police Service Medal;
 - Chief Commissioner's Ethical Leadership Award
 - Australian Police Medal (APM)
 - Order of Australia Medal (OAM)

Involvement or association with Ms Gobbo with any investigation. (Question 2)

7. During 2009 I was contacted By Detective Inspector Waddell from the Briars Taskforce and informed I would be [REDACTED] with him within a few days. The purpose was to obtain a statement from Ms Gobbo in relation to the Briars Investigation.
8. The details of travel arrangements were kept from us until the day before, when we were advised we would travel to [REDACTED] and meet other Victorian Police officers there who were looking after Ms Gobbo.
9. From memory we travelled to [REDACTED] on a Saturday or Sunday and arrived in [REDACTED] late in the evening. On the trip over Inspector Waddell showed me an envelope he had been provided with and inside the envelope where 'contact sheets.' These were information reports where Ms Gobbo had provided the Dedicated Human Source Unit information and intelligence about David Waters an ex police officer.

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10. We were provided with Hotel accommodation in [REDACTED]. The following day Inspector Waddell contacted Inspector Stephen Smith and arrangements were made for Ms Gobbo to be conveyed to our Hotel so the statement could be obtained.
11. I became aware there were at least four Victorian Police Officers in [REDACTED] assigned to look after Ms Gobbo, and they included Inspector Stephen Smith and ^{Lloyd-DS} [REDACTED]. I cannot recall the names of the other officers.
12. The morning after our arrival Ms Gobbo attended our Hotel and arrangements were made for her to be collected again late afternoon.
13. Inspector Waddell and I explained the reason we were there which was to obtain a statement from her in relation to background information about David Waters, his attendance at the Canada Hotel in Carlton and information she may have about involvement in the murder of Shane Chartres-Abbot.
14. Ms Gobbo was prepared to assist but questioned why the statement could not have been made in Melbourne.
15. Prior to the commencement of taking the statement we had some general conversation, and during that Ms Gobbo expressed some concerns about her safety and discussed options Victoria Police had given her in relation to witness protection. Ms Gobbo formed a view there did not seem any flexibility in what Victoria Police was offering her, and in her mind, she needed special consideration. This was due to the fact she was a solicitor and had already made a statement with respect to Paul Dale.
16. The process of taking the statement involved Inspector Waddell or myself asking questions and typing the details down to format a statement. The only way in which Ms Gobbo could remember dates or specific conversation was reference to the 'contact sheets' which provided the relevant information to form the basis of the statement.
17. From memory the statement was taken over two days. I do not recall whether it was day one or day two, but both Inspector Waddell and I had concerns about the statement taking process. It was clear to us if the statement was used in criminal proceedings then there was no doubt Ms Gobbo would be identified as a police informer and her life would be in extreme danger.
18. We decided to seek further advice from Superintendent Rod Wilson who was in charge of the Briars Taskforce in Melbourne. Inspector Waddell telephoned him and then we had to wait for a response. Superintendent Wilson conveyed to Inspector Waddell we were

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directed to take the statement and that direction had come from Assistant Commissioner Simon Overland.

19. Whilst Inspector Waddell made the phone call and was waiting for the call back, I was outside of the Hotel room with Ms Gobbo who was smoking by the swimming pool. We were talking in general and Ms Gobbo was speaking about information she had provided to police, the Purana Taskforce. Ms Gobbo expressed it was not Victoria Police who had solved the underworld killings, but it was the information she had provided, which included details of 63 million dollars of assets owned by Tony Mokbel and seized by police. During the conversation she said that ^{Sandy White-O} one of the human source handlers had constantly told her not to breach privilege. Ms Gobbo said to me that she said to ^{Sandy White-O} "It is a bit late I crossed that line along time ago, I act in the best interests of Victoria Police not my client."
20. After that conversation and the direction to take the statement Inspector Waddell and I had a conversation about how to proceed. Bearing in mind what Ms Gobbo had told me I mentioned it we obtained a signed statement then there was a possibility of it all blowing up and ending in a Royal Commission.
21. We decided to proceed and obtain a statement which would not be signed.
22. Ms Gobbo was conveyed to our Hotel on both mornings and collected in the later afternoon and at no time did I become aware of where she was staying.
23. Inspector Waddell and I returned to Melbourne and the day after our return we attended a meeting at St Kilda Road Police Complex. Present at the meeting was Superintendent Mark Porter from the Intelligence Unit, ^{Sandy White-O} from the Dedicated Human Source Unit, Inspector Waddell and me. It is possible there may have been one or two other members there, but I cannot recall. It was during that meeting we discussed the statement of Ms Gobbo's which had been obtained in [REDACTED] I again expressed my view that if the statement was ever to be signed it would expose Ms Gobbo as a human source but again based on what she told me, there was a probability of a Royal Commission.
24. From recollection very little was said about my concern, the meeting was adjourned. I have not seen the statement since that day or been asked about it.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source. (Question 3 -8)

25. The Office for Taskforce Briars was contained on a separate floor of the Office of Police Integrity. Whilst I was seconded to the Briars Task Force it may have been around February 2008, I had a conversation with ^{Sandy White-O} from the Dedicated Human Source Unit.
26. This conversation took place in the foyer of the Office of Police Integrity late in the afternoon. I was surprised to see ^{Sandy White-O} there and I asked him what he was doing there. Mark explained he had just come from a meeting with the steering committee for the Briars Taskforce. He went on to explain the steering committee wanted 3838 deployed and tasked to have conversations with David Waters an ex member of Victoria Police, who was on interest to the investigation.
27. I was aware the steering committee for the Briars Taskforce comprised Mr Graham Ashton the Chairman of the Office of Police Integrity, Assistant Commissioner Simon Overland and Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelious.
28. ^{Sandy White} was expressing concern and was not pleased about the instruction the steering committee had given him as he thought the use of 3838 was going to fail. ^{Sandy White} asked me about the value of such deployment, and I told him I did not understand what he was speaking about. ^{Sandy White} assumed that because I was on the Briars Taskforce I would have known in advance. For me to understand ^{Sandy White} told me 3838 was Ms Nicola Gobbo and she had been a police informant and as a result of telling me that I was about the 130th police officer to know.
29. ^{Sandy White} and I then had a further conversation about the deployment, as his instructions from the steering committee was to have Gobbo engage in conversation with David Waters about being present at the Canada Hotel with others. I did not see much value in it as I could not see it producing and direct evidence which would implicate Waters.
30. I informed the other members of the Briars Taskforce in relation to what ^{Sandy White-O} had conveyed to me. There was general conversation as to how the deployment would **work** knowing Gobbo was in fact David Waters Solicitor.
31. Sometime later we were informed there had been one meeting between Gobbo and Waters at her office, but it was not of any evidentiary value.

Question 4

32. ^{Black-O} of the Dedicated Human Source Unit as a result of the above deployment.

Question 5

33. I have no knowledge of these matters

Question 6

34. Refer to paragraphs 7 to 24.

Question 7

35. I have no knowledge of these matters

Question 8

36. I have no knowledge of these matters

Concerns in relation to use of Ms Gobbo as a human source. (9-11)

37. I have no knowledge of the matters requested in questions 9 -11.

Other relevant matters.Question 12

38. I have no knowledge of these matters.

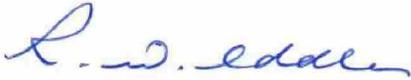
Question 13

39. I received training in relation to all matters listed in questions 13 at the Police Academy and at Detective Training Course. I was involved in over 250 trials at the Supreme Court, and worked closely with the Office of Public Prosecutions, and consider that on the job learning was an extension of the basic training we received as police officers.

Question 14

40. No additional information.

Dated - 3 June 2019

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

Ron Iddles OAM,APM