

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

STATEMENT

Name: Plaza-O

Address:

637 Flinders Street, Docklands Melbourne 3008

Occupation: Inspector of Police

Ph Work:

STATES:

My name is Plaza-O and I am an Inspector of Police currently attached to the [REDACTED] located at the Victoria Police centre, 637 Flinders Street, Melbourne. I require a pseudonym so that I cannot be identified, and I produce this statement pursuant to a notice to produce served upon me by this Honourable Commission.

Educational background and employment history (Q1)

I have been a police officer for [REDACTED] years. After completing high school in [REDACTED], I travelled for a period before being accepted into the Police force and commencing with the organisation in December [REDACTED].

My initial duties were at a variety of specialist areas such as road policing and city traffic patrols before being stationed at the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Police stations. I then transferred to the [REDACTED] police station and also performed duties at the [REDACTED] District Support Group.

From there, I applied for and was accepted into the criminal investigation branch, commencing duties at [REDACTED] CIB. I worked there for a period of 4 years before undertaking a secondment to the [REDACTED] for a year and then later transferring to the [REDACTED] in about [REDACTED]. After about 5 years the [REDACTED] merged with other crime squads and became the [REDACTED]. I continued

duties with at the [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] when I transferred to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] CIU. I was then promoted to a uniform Sergeant at [REDACTED] for a short period of time before transferring to the Human Source Management Unit in [REDACTED]

I worked at the Human Source Management Unit for approximately 5 years before transferring to the Source Development Unit in [REDACTED]. I worked at the unit until it was disbanded in 2013 where I performed upgrading at the Human Source Management Unit before successfully being promoted to a [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. After approximately 6 months I transferred to [REDACTED] where I worked as a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for nearly 4 years before becoming an Inspector in [REDACTED]

I have completed a number of internal and external courses and completed Detective Training school, have a Certificate 4 in training and assessment, a Diploma of front-line management, Diploma of police supervision and am currently completing Bachelor of Arts with Professional Honours (Public Sector Leadership and Management).

Involvement or association with investigations relating to Ms Gobbo. (Q2)

I have not had any professional or personal involvement or association with Ms. Gobbo.

How I learned, or was given reason to believe, Ms Gobbo was providing information (Q3)

I became aware of Ms. Gobbo assisting police as a result of my duties at the Human Source Management Unit. I cannot recall the exact circumstances of me becoming aware of her assistance suffice to say that I worked in a highly sensitive area of the organisation and had access to all human source management files, which included identity documentation. My duties related to the administration of human source by handling teams. I keep an electronic diary of my duties and was aware that all source records were subject to an audit trail.

Awareness of others (Q4)

All persons working in this area and the Source Development Unit would or could have been aware of her assistance. I assume some investigators would have known of her

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of her assistance and this included members of the human source rewards committee and the local and central source register as well as the Chief Commissioner at the time, Simon Overland and the head of the Intelligence and Covert Command, then Assistant Commissioner Jeff POPE.

Authorisation of the use of Ms. Gobbo as a human source (Q5)

Assistant Commissioner of the Intelligence and Covert Command, Jeff Pope and the Chief Commissioner would all have authorised her use as a human source, as well as the Local Source register and the Central Source Register.

Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q6)

The only personal contact that I can recall are brief conversations at courts that we were both attending. I don't recall her ever representing any offenders that I had arrested or charged.

Information & assistance received (Q7 & Q8)

I have no knowledge of information received by Victoria Police between 1995 and 2012 where I believe that the source of the information was Ms. Gobbo.

Concerns raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source (Q9)

I am unaware if or of, any concerns being raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source.

Concerns raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q10)

I am unaware if or of, any concerns being raised as to the use of Ms. Gobbo as a human source.

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Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (Q11)

I am unaware if or 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 human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q12)

I am unaware of any other human source that was subject to legal professional privileged.

Training (Q13)

In relation to training, I have completed Detective Training school and numerous internal courses in relation to investigations, the rights of the accused, legal professional privilege and the rights of the accused to silence.

Other information (Q14)

I personally, do not see an issue with a legal practitioner being a human source as long as they do not provide information on their clients.

It was understood from a human source handling point of view that a human source should never be made into a witness as it would be a likely consequence that their status and safety would be compromised. By definition, human sources provided intelligence in a covert capacity whereas a witness provides a signed document on the understanding that they would give evidence at court and the two roles are contrasting and dynamically opposed.

Plaza-O

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