

**Royal Commission
into the Management of Police Informants**

STATEMENT OF GEOFF MARTIN MCLEAN

1. My full name is Geoff Martin McLean.
2. I was employed by Victoria Police between January 1983 and January 2013.
3. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 19 March 2019.
4. This statement has been prepared without the assistance of my police diaries which I no longer have.

Educational background and employment history (question 1)

5. I joined Victoria Police in January 1983. A summary of my employment history is as follows:
 - a. Following completion of Academy training in 1983, I was a Constable stationed at various locations including Cranbourne, Mornington, East Bentleigh, Highett and Mordialloc.
 - b. In around 1988, I was promoted to Detective Senior Constable stationed at Parkdale CIB and approximately 18 months later Frankston CIB. I remained at Frankston CIB for eight or nine years.
 - c. In around 1997, I was promoted to Sergeant stationed at Cranbourne and then the District Support Group in the Dandenong region.
 - d. In 1998, I became a Detective Sergeant in the Crime Department with the State Intelligence Division. I was then upgraded to Detective Senior Sergeant, in charge of the DNA Management Unit.
 - e. In the early 2000s, I transferred to the Informer Management Unit (IMU) within the State Intelligence Division, which later became known as the Human Source Management Unit (HSMU).
 - f. In 2006, I left the IMU and was promoted to Detective Inspector in the Crime Department at the Crime Scene Desk for four years, and then to the Strategy Unit. I later became Emergency Management Inspector.

- g. In July 2011, I commenced sick leave.
 - h. In January 2013, I retired from Victoria Police
6. While I was working in the IMU and HSMU, I obtained a Certificate 4 in Workplace Training.

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

7. To the best of my recollection, I had no involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 3

8. I have no independent recollection of when I learned that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.
9. I do recall being aware during my time with the Informer Management Unit that there was an informer 3838. However, I do not have any memory of knowing that informer 3838 was Ms Gobbo.
10. In the course of preparing this statement, I have been told that:
- a. there is a reference in the 3838 Source Management Log on 27 September 2005 which states that documents in relation to 3838 were to be delivered to me and that I would record the same in a partitioned IMU database; and
 - b. Sandy White's diary contains an entry on 7 October 2005 which refers to me being in receipt of certain Informer Contact Reports and Information Reports in relation to informer 3838.
11. While I have no recollection of these matters, I have no reason to think that I was not provided with this material on 27 September 2005 and 7 October 2005 respectively. In light of those documents, I believe it is likely that I knew 3838's name in late September 2005 or early October 2005.
12. In the course of preparing this statement, I have also been referred to evidence that Sandy White gave on 19 August 2019, in which he was asked about oversight provided by the HSMU in relation to Ms Gobbo's registration. I agree with Sandy White's evidence to the effect that the HSMU provided a degree of oversight. However, the oversight provided by the HSMU was limited to the addition of her name to the register and the management of the

databases used for human sources. The HSMU was not responsible for the registration of human sources, nor did it provide any operational oversight of her handlers or controllers.

13. Through media reports, I now know that Ms Gobbo was a barrister at the time she was registered as a human source. I have no memory of knowing who that at the time.

Question 4

14. In light of the documents that I was referred to in order to answer question 3, I believe that Sandy White was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.
15. I have no knowledge of anyone who was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.

Question 5

16. To the best of my recollection, I was not involved in Ms Gobbo's registration and I have no knowledge of who was involved in the authorisation and continued authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 6

17. To the best of my recollection, I have never met Ms Gobbo and have had no contact with her.

Questions 7 and 8

18. While I can see that I received ICRs and IRs from Sandy White that recorded information received from Ms Gobbo, I have no recollection of the content of them. It was not my usual practice to review the information in those documents. That is because, as the head of the HSMU, it was not my role to review ICRs or IRs as they were provided. Rather, it was the role of the HSMU to ensure that this information was managed securely.

Concerns in relation to Ms Gobbo (questions 9 – 11)

19. I have no awareness or knowledge of these matters.

Other relevant matters

Question 12

20. I am not aware of any other human source who has provided information or assistance to Victoria Police who were subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

Question 13

21. I completed numerous training courses whilst employed by Victoria Police. I cannot recall details of the specific topics covered. However, my recollection is that I received training which covered the topics identified in question 13 save that I do not recall receiving any specific training on public interest immunity. I learned while on the job that public interest immunity applied in the context of protecting the identity of a human source, and this formed part of the human source management training I developed and delivered.

Question 14

22. In September 2003, a new Informer Management Policy was introduced by Victoria Police. After the policy was introduced, the IMU (and subsequently the HSMU) became responsible for the administrative arrangements associated with implementing the policy. This unit was given to me, in addition to my existing responsibilities, and I became officer in charge of that unit. Doug Cowlshaw was the inspector.
23. My role in the IMU/HSMU was not operational. I had various responsibilities, including the management of databases used for human source files, implementation of human source management policies, and the development and implementation of human source training programs for Victoria Police.
24. At first, the IMU and its processes were basic. As we were allocated more resources and as time passed, our systems improved and we spent time developing training and growing the unit in terms of its size and sophistication.
25. At around this time, I started to attend conferences of the Australasian Human Source Working Group (AHSWG). The AHSWG was a body comprised of representatives from Australian law enforcement agencies, which had the aim of fostering the mutual exchange of information, development and implementation of human source management practices. I later became the chair of the AHSWG, a position that I occupied for a number of years.

Development of dedicated source handling

26. In the course of preparing this statement, I have been shown a number of documents from the period that I was in the IMU that relate to the establishment of the DSU/SDU.
 - a. On 10 November 2003, I sent a letter to the Officer in Charge of State Intelligence Operations, making a number of recommendations relevant to a Concept Proposal (VPL.0100.0056.0313). I have also been provided with a Concept Proposal, which is dated 19 March 2009 (VPL.0100.0056.0299). I think this date is incorrect and that this is the Concept Proposal referred to in the 10 November letter.

- b. In January 2004, a draft project plan was prepared for the Human Source Management Project (VPL.0100.0048.1165). I am listed as the Project Manager.
 - c. In May 2004, the Dedicated Source Handling Teams Project issued its Final Report (VPL.0005.0007.0016). I am listed as Team Leader.
 - d. On 11 June 2004, I prepared an Issue Cover Sheet that recommended that the Intelligence and Covert Support Department is allocated sufficient financial and resources for the implementation of all of the recommendations of the Dedicated Source Handling Teams Project Final Report (VPL.0100.0048.0669).
27. Having reviewed these documents, I now recall that in 2003, the IMU identified dedicated source handling as an important objective that would enhance Victoria Police's handling of human sources. I recall being heavily involved in the preparation of the Final Report, along with Detective Sergeant Glenn Owen. The two of us would frequently meet to discuss the Project.
28. At around the time that the Concept Proposal was approved, I became aware that Detective Superintendent Biggin and Sandy White were working on a similar project. Assistant Commissioner Overland was involved in both projects. I do not know why two similar projects were being conducted at the same time.
29. On around 11 June 2004, I gave a presentation to Assistant Commissioner Overland, Superintendent Purton, Acting Commander Wilson (and others who I do not presently recall) about the recommendations in the Final Report and the need to implement dedicated human source management. I verbally asked for approval for all of the recommendations, which was given. I had earlier prepared the Issue Cover Sheet dated 11 June 2004, which formally endorsed the recommendations in the Final Report, which I invited them to sign at the conclusion of the presentation, which they did.
30. I have also been shown minutes of Steering Committee for the Dedicated Source Handling Teams Project for a meeting held on 6 July 2004 (VPL.0100.0048.1277). I can see that I am listed as an attendee, but I have no recollection of this meeting.
31. I am aware that a dedicated human source management pilot was undertaken, but I did not have any role in it.

Development of training

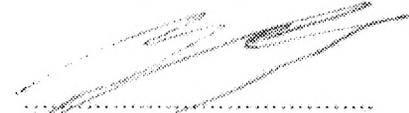
32. One of my other roles was to develop training in source management. It was envisaged that there would be [REDACTED] levels of training. [REDACTED] training was intended to be awareness training

and it was intended that all members handling sources would complete at least this level of training. I do not recall whether basic training was ever developed and implemented.

33. [REDACTED] training was intended to be rolled out to members who managed human sources and was conducted over a week period. While I cannot recall when this training was implemented, I do recall delivering the [REDACTED] training on a number of occasions. I have also been shown a number of documents that relate to the [REDACTED] human source training that I provided (VPL.0100.0064.0060; VPL.0100.0064.0662; VPL.0100.0064.0664). Course materials were developed for the [REDACTED] human source management training. I have not had access to those in the course of preparing this statement.
34. On 1 January 2005, Acting Senior Sergeant Owen prepared an Issue Cover Sheet in relation to the Development and Implementation of [REDACTED] Human Source Training. The Issue Cover Sheet recommended that approval be given for two members to travel to Canada in June 2005 to develop further human source training (VPL.0005.0051.1515). I was the Detective Acting Inspector at the time. The recommendation in the Issue Cover Sheet was approved and Acting Senior Sergeant Owen and Sandy White travelled to Canada later that year.
35. In May 2006, I travelled to Canada and completed the same training that Acting Senior Sergeant Owen and Sandy White had completed the year before. While in Canada, I obtained a copy of their source management training materials. I also travelled to Northern Ireland to meet with the equivalent source management unit and sat in on their training for a day.
36. After I returned to Australia, Sandy White and I used [REDACTED] to develop [REDACTED] human source training for Victoria Police.
37. I recall delivering this training twice. I have not had access to the course materials in the course of preparing this statement.
38. I am aware that Sandy White has given evidence that he thought that I was the person who had travelled to the United Kingdom in 2005 to research human source management practices and had returned to Australia with a UK human source policy document. I did not travel to the UK in 2005. The only overseas travel that I undertook in relation to human source management was my trip to Canada and Northern Ireland in 2006.

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

Dated: 29 August 2019



Geoff Martin McLean

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