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Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants

STATEMENT OF **Officer Magenta**

1. My full name is **Officer Magenta**
2. Until **2016**, I was a **2016** attached to the Undercover Unit at Victoria Police. I am now retired.
3. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

**Educational background and employment history (Q1)**

4. I completed **2016**
5. I joined Victoria Police in **2016**. A summary of my progression through the ranks is set out below:
  - a) From **2016** Russell Street, Melbourne;
  - b) from **2016** Flemington;
  - c) from **2016** Preston;
  - d) from **2016** Broadmeadows Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB),
  - e) **2016** at Homicide Squad
  - f) From **2016** at Broadmeadows;
  - g) For 6 months in **2016** at Russell Street CIB;
  - h) From **2016** at the Drug Squad;
  - i) from **2016** at the National Crime Authority; and
  - j) from **2016** at the Drug Squad again; and
  - k) from **2016**, **2016** at the CIU.
6. In **2016**, I retired from Victoria Police.
7. While at Victoria Police, I completed four years of part-time study towards of an Arts degree at **2016**

**Involvement or association with any investigations that had dealings with Ms Gobbo (Q2)**

8. To my knowledge, I have not had any involvement or association with an investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo. I am not aware of receiving, and having worked on any investigation which received, any information sourced from Ms Gobbo.
9. There is a single operation in which I was involved, in approximately 1999, which may - at least potentially - have benefited from information received from Ms Gobbo. I say this only because, as best as I can recall, the operation was lead by Detective Senior Sergeant Wayne Stawhorn, who I now understand may have been involved in recruiting Ms Gobbo, and involved investigation into the activities of Jason Moran, the Mokbels and also the Hodsons. It is equally as possible however that the operation had no connection to Ms Gobbo whatsoever.
10. In approximately 1999, I assisted in an operation know as Operation Kayak. As best as I can recall, that operation was led by Detective Senior Sergeant Stawhorn and had a number of offshoots, investigating activities of Jason Moran and the Mokbels. It may also have involved



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investigations into the activities of the Hodsons, although I cannot recall with precision whether such investigations fell under the banner of Operation Kayak or some other operation.

11. The operation ran for a number of months and, at least insofar as it concerned Jason Moran, was informed by information [REDACTED] in connection with the operation. Most, but not all, undercover work involves [REDACTED]
12. My role in the operation was largely to liaise with the investigators working on the operation, to plan the deployment of undercover operatives and to brief those operatives in relation to their objectives and safety concerns. I recall that Operation Kayak involved the use of [REDACTED]
13. There is nothing in particular about the operation which now, on reflection, suggests to me that it may have been informed by information or assistance provided by Ms Gobbo. It may be possible simply because of the persons involved, and I raise it for completeness. I was unaware that Ms Gobbo was a source at that time.
14. For the purpose of preparing this statement, Task Force Landow have reviewed my emails and determined that there are no relevant emails.
15. For the purpose of preparing this statement, I have not reviewed my police diaries. This is because I do not believe those diaries would contain any entries related to Ms Gobbo or otherwise relevant to the Commission's terms of reference.

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

16. I cannot recall exactly when I learnt that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police. I believe it was roughly around the time the media starting reporting on 'Lawyer X'. That reporting prompted discussions within the Undercover Unit as to whom Lawyer X might be and it was in the context of those discussions that I was told or otherwise heard that Ms Gobbo was Lawyer X. I cannot now recall who told me, or indeed, any specific conversation about Ms Gobbo, only that there was talk around the office surrounding the identity of Lawyer X.
17. I understood from that talk that Ms Gobbo had assisted police in some way, but I did not know what form that assistance had taken. The talk suggested it might have been in relation to the spate of gangland shootings on which the Purana taskforce worked.
18. As best as I can recall, I was aware of Ms Gobbo's identity roughly 6 to 12 months before it was revealed in the media.

**Awareness of others (Q4)**

19. I cannot now recall who told me, or precisely how or when I heard that Ms Gobbo was Lawyer X and had provided some assistance to police.
20. I am not aware of members of Victoria Police or other organisations who were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police prior to the end of 2012.

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

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

**Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q6)**

22. I do not believe I have ever met or had any other personal contact with Ms Gobbo.

**Information & assistance received (Q7 & Q8)**



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23. With the possible exception of Operation Kayak, I have no knowledge of information or assistance provided by Ms Gobbo to Victoria Police. I had no reason to suspect any particular piece of information or form of assistance provided to Victoria Police came from Ms Gobbo.

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

24. I have no knowledge of these matters.

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

25. I have no knowledge of these matters.

**Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (Q11)**

26. I have no knowledge of these matters.

**Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q12)**

27. I am not aware of any such human sources used by Victoria Police.

**Training (Q13)**

28. My recollection of the relevant training or retraining I have received is as follows:

- a) Obligations of disclosure – I cannot recall specific training on this topic;  
Right to silence – this would have been covered in basic police training;
- b) Right of an accused person to legal practitioner – as above;
- c) Legal professional privilege – as above;
- d) Public interest immunity – this was covered in the Undercover Training Course;
- e) Professional and ethical decision-making – I cannot recall specific training on this topic.

**Other information (Q14)**

29. I have nothing further to add in response to question 14.

Dated: 10/23/2019

Officer Magenta