

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

**STATEMENT OF PETER JOHN BRIGHAM**

- 1 My full name is Peter John Brigham.
- 2 I am a Detective Superintendent at Victoria Police. I am currently the Divisional Manager of the State Anti-Gangs Division, Crime Command.
- 3 I have provided this statement to the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants regarding certain aspects of Operation Bendigo, a Victoria Police operation that followed from recommendations made in the Comrie Review of the management of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

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

- 4 I joined Victoria Police in 1981. Details of my progression through the ranks and training are contained in Annexure A to this statement.

**Operation Bendigo Analytical Group**

- 5 In September 2014, I was briefed by my manager at the time, former Assistant Commissioner Tracy Linford, and requested to manage a task arising from the Comrie Review. At the time I was the Divisional Manager of the State Intelligence Division. The task was an extension of work completed under Operation Loricated (Loricated). Loricated was the transfer of 3838 human source information to a database, and was work performed at the direction of Operation Bendigo. For the purpose of the task assigned to me, the analysts adopted the name 'Operation Bendigo Analytical Group'. The work they performed was to address Recommendations 20 (b) and (c) made in the Comrie Review:

*Recommendation 20*

*That an appropriately qualified Victoria Police analyst review the entire 3838 file to ensure that:*

- (a) All issues of significance have been identified.*
- (b) Appropriate actions/ notifications/ referrals are made concerning such issues, and*
- (c) The file reflects reasoning and approval of all recommended action/inaction.*

- 6 I was tasked with implementing those recommendations by assessing whether or not the information and intelligence supplied by Ms Gobbo would be further disseminated within Victoria Police.



- 7 The Operation Bendigo Analytical Group Final Report dated 27 May 2015<sup>1</sup> (**Final Report**) sets out in detail the background, methodology and outcome of the project.
- 8 The project was undertaken between September 2014 and May 2015 by two VPS Analysts, [REDACTED] (Senior Analyst) and [REDACTED] (Analyst), who worked under my supervision.
- 9 As a result of the project, 43 Information Reports were drafted and disseminated via the Interpose system within Victoria Police. I have described below some aspects of the project in further detail.
- 10 I believe that I was first informed that Ms Gobbo had acted as a human source in the context of being briefed for this task. Before I was briefed, I do not recall being aware of this and had never been involved in her management as a human source.
- 11 I had personally met Ms Gobbo before when I completed a Graduate Certificate in Fraud Investigation at La Trobe University in 2001. Ms Gobbo was also a student in that course. I was also generally aware before meeting her that she was a criminal defence lawyer who was involved with representing a number of high profile clients.

#### **Process and results of the Operation Bendigo project**

- 12 Between late 2013 and March 2014, Operation Loricated implemented Recommendation 20(a) by reconstructing the Source Development Unit human source file relating to Ms Gobbo. This work was managed by Inspector Damian Jackson. As part of Operation Loricated, the information that Ms Gobbo had provided to Victoria Police was categorised into 12 specific information/intelligence “themes”, namely:

Legal Conflict	Criminal Proceeds	Gaming/Racing	Outlaw Motor Cycle Gangs (OMCG)
Corruption	Customs	Homicide	Waterfront
Courts	Drugs	Legal Profession	Other

- 13 Matters relating to two of the themes were dealt with outside of my project. Matters relating to the “Corruption” theme were dealt with by Professional Standards Command. Matters relating to the “Legal Conflict” theme were separately reviewed by a team led by Inspector Monique Swain, Crime Command. The review of the Legal Conflict issues had been prioritised and began in May 2014. I was not involved in either of these reviews.

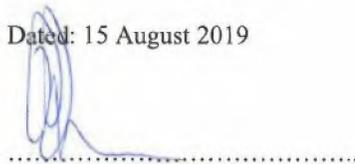
<sup>1</sup> VPL.0100.0080.0001.

- 14 The Operation Bendigo analytical project involved the analysts reviewing all the items of information categorised into the ten remaining themes and recommending to me whether each item of information should or should not be disseminated, or if further enquiries were necessary in order to reach a position. For some items, the Analysts were unable to make a recommendation because of insufficient information.
- 15 In assessing whether a given item of information required dissemination, the analysts considered:
- (a) the nature and potential value of the information. A significant amount of the information provided by Ms Gobbo was lacking in specific detail, rather than actionable information about criminal offending; and
  - (b) whether the Information was already known within Victoria Police. This involved the analysts looking on the Interpose system to assess whether the information was already known and reviewing the Loricated material to check if the material had previously been disseminated. Sometimes the Analysts made discreet enquiries with investigators about whether certain information was known. If the information was already known then there was no value in creating a further information report.
- 16 The analysts recorded a recommendation for each item of information in a series of ten spreadsheets, with one spreadsheet for each theme. The spreadsheets contained extracts of the human source management records related to Ms Gobbo, and had been collated to match the different themes.
- 17 I reviewed the spreadsheets of recommendations as they were completed, between January 2015 to May 2015. I recorded my decisions about what would be disseminated by annotating the spreadsheets by hand. A folder containing the annotated spreadsheets was ultimately an attachment to the Final Report. For some entries I asked that the analysts make some further enquiries about particular issues, including speaking to investigators. I believe that on a few occasions I looked at source documents, such as ICRs or Interpose records, to get further information to assist my decision.
- 18 In deciding whether an item of information should be disseminated further, my key considerations were:
- (a) maintaining the confidentiality of Ms Gobbo's cooperation as a human source, because if her assistance to Victoria Police was discovered by those about whom she had provided information, then she would have been at serious risk of death or harm; and



- (b) assessing the potential value of the information. The value of much of the information was limited by the passage of time, and was less valuable because it was up to ten years old. The review could be described as a desktop exercise and did not involve re-engagement with Ms Gobbo.
- 19 I did not separately consider issues raised by the fact that Ms Gobbo was a practising lawyer. I knew that the Operation Loricated process had identified certain items of information as potentially raising “Legal Conflict” issues, and I knew the Legal Conflict information was being separately assessed by Inspector Swain’s project. I observed that some of the information related to persons who may or may not have actually been clients of Ms Gobbo’s at the time she provided the information. I also observed that some of the information related to a person other than the person Ms Gobbo had obtained the information from.
- 20 After I identified the information that should be disseminated, the Analysts drafted Information Reports, which I then reviewed. The Information Reports did not identify the source of the information. I recall being shown draft Information Reports, and for some requesting changes to the proposed wording so that there would be no link to the information and the actual source of the information.
- 21 The Analysts drafted 43 Information Reports in total, which are listed in the Final Report<sup>2</sup>. Once the IRs were finalised, I authorised their dissemination via the Interpose system.
- 22 The Operation Bendigo project concluded on 27 May 2015, when the Final Report was completed and signed off.
- 23 I provided the Final Report to AC Linford, who I believe may have provided the Final Report to the Operation Bendigo Steering Committee. In 2015 I was not a part of Operation Bendigo Steering Committee and I did not attend any of its meetings to discuss the task or the Final Report.

Dated: 15 August 2019



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Peter John Brigham

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<sup>2</sup> VPL.0100.0080.0001.

**Annexure A**

1. A summary of the major roles I have undertaken and my progression through the ranks is as follows:
  - (a) 5 years- Constable, Caulfield, Russell Street, Victoria Dock, St. Kilda;
  - (b) 6 years- Detective Senior Constable, Prahran CIU, Camberwell CIU and a secondment to the Homicide Squad;
  - (c) 3 years- Sergeant, Footscray and Camberwell;
  - (d) 6 years - Detective Sergeant, Box Hill CIU;
  - (e) 1 year - Detective Senior Sergeant, Office of Chief Examiner;
  - (f) 2002 to 2006 - Detective Senior Sergeant, Ceja Taskforce;
  - (g) 2006 - Inspector, Ceja Taskforce;
  - (h) 2006 - Inspector, Ethical Standards Department;
  - (i) 2009 – Inspector, Support Services, Knox;
  - (j) 2010 - Superintendent, Media and Corporate Communications Department;
  - (k) 2014 - Superintendent, Divisional Manager, State Intelligence Division;
  - (l) 2018 - Detective Superintendent, Divisional Manager, State Anti-Gangs Division, Crime Command.
  
2. I have also undertaken further qualifications including:
  - (a) Executive Coach, Institute of Executive Coaching, 2017;
  - (b) Masters of Business Administration, La Trobe University 2006;
  - (c) Graduate Certificate in Fraud Investigation, La Trobe University (2001); and
  - (d) Graduate Certificate in Police Management, Victoria Police, 2005.
  
3. The professional awards that I have received include:
  - (a) Chief Commissioner's Commendation, 2006, for leadership and work performed at the Ceja Task Force.



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