

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

STATEMENT OF STEVEN LANCE SCOTT SMITH

1. My full name is Steven Lance Scott Smith. I hold the rank of Detective Inspector at Victoria Police. I am currently the manager of the Crime Scene Group within the Forensic Services Department. I have held this position since July 2015.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 19 March 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (q 1)

3. I have been a member of Victoria Police since entering the academy in 1975, with the exception of a 15 month period in 2000-2001, when I resigned and was reappointed upon application. I set out below my progression through the ranks:
 - (a) In 1975, I graduated from the Victoria Police Academy. I held Constable/Senior Constable roles primarily at uniform and regional positions.
 - (b) In 1985, I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and held this rank until 1999. From 1985 until 1999, I performed roles at Oakleigh Uniform, Traffic Control Division Melbourne CBD, Gaming and Vice Squad and Crime Department and the Homicide Squad.
 - (c) In 1999, I was promoted to the rank of Senior Sergeant and performed roles at the Ethical Standards Department (**ESD**) (Corruption & Investigation Divisions) and the Crime Department (Major Dug Investigation Division). Whilst attached to ESD I was part of Operation HEMI, an investigation into systemic corruption at the Crime Department Drug Squad.
 - (d) In 2006, I obtained the rank of Inspector. From 2006 to 2010, I was manager of the Drug Taskforce within the Crime Department.
 - (e) On 1 July 2008, I moved to the Petra Taskforce, and led the investigation team there until June 2010.
 - (f) In June 2010, I moved to the Major Collision Investigation Group and worked there until 2012.

- (g) In 2012, I moved to the Forensic Services Department.
4. I hold a Graduate Diploma of Management and Leadership (Policing) obtained in 2006 from Charles Sturt University.
5. I have undertaken Victoria Police qualifications and training including the following:
- (a) Detective Training School (1993).
 - (b) Sergeant's Training Course and the Senior Sergeants Course.
 - (c) Covert Operatives Training.
 - (d) Disaster Victim Identification Commander training (2014).
 - (e) Counter Terrorism Forensic Coordinator training (2014).
 - (f) CBRN Incident Controller training (2015).
6. I have received the following internal commendations and professional awards:
- (a) Victoria Police Ethical Leadership Award (2011).
 - (b) Medal for Merit (2011).
 - (c) Chief Commissioners Commendation (2007).
 - (d) Highly Commended Certificate (2002).
 - (e) the National Medal.
 - (f) Victoria Police Service Medal.
 - (g) the National Police Service Medal.

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

7. The two investigations in which I was involved which had dealings with Ms Gobbo are Operation Inca and the Petra Taskforce.
8. I set out my best recollection of the relevant events below. My recollection of this period is limited and I have relied on my diary entries from this period and a review of relevant materials documenting my contact with Ms Gobbo.

Operation Inca

9. Operation Inca was a joint investigation involving the Drug Taskforce, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and other agencies in relation to the importation of 4.4 tonnes of ecstasy into Australia that commenced in 2007. The AFP played the lead role in the

investigation. Suspects for the importation included Rob Karam, John Higgs, Pasquale Barbaro, Carmelo Falanga and Saverio Zirilli

10. At the time Operation Inca commenced, Officer Green was seconded to the Drug Taskforce. Officer Green was acting in charge of one of the three units of the Drug Taskforce, and reported to me.
11. I recall a discussion with Officer Green in 2007 in which he told me that he had been provided with information by a human source in relation to the potential import. I do not recall the detail of what Officer Green told me, save that it related to a specific container arriving into the Port of Melbourne.
12. Around the same time, I was told that the source of the information was Ms Gobbo. It is possible that I was told that Ms Gobbo was the source of the information in the discussion with Officer Green that I refer to in paragraph 11 above but I do not specifically recall. I cannot think of who would have told me that the source of the information was Ms Gobbo other than Officer Green, although I have no recollection of him doing so.
13. I knew that Ms Gobbo was a criminal barrister at the time that I learned that she had provided this information to Victoria Police, however, I had not had any direct dealings with her.
14. At this time, I had no idea of the extent of Ms Gobbo's informing. I did not know that Ms Gobbo was a registered human source and did not know whether the information provided by Ms Gobbo in relation to Operation Inca was a one-off piece of information or whether she had an ongoing relationship with Victoria Police. I did not turn my mind to these things. It was my role to ensure that this information was passed on to the appropriate agency to investigate it.
15. While I was Inspector of the Drug Taskforce, the usual process was that Victoria Police would pass on information in relation to possible importation offences to Customs. It was the role of Customs to conduct inspections and if drugs were located, then the AFP would become involved. Depending on the nature of the investigation, Victoria Police may play no further role. Joint investigations were also common, however, it was my experience that Victoria Police and the AFP tended to operate independently and in their own "silos".
16. I do not recall receiving any other information from Officer Green during the course of Operation Inca where the source of the information was Ms Gobbo. I also have no

- recollection of receiving any information from representatives of the SDU where the source of the information was Ms Gobbo while I was the Inspector of the Drug Taskforce.
17. On 28 June 2007 at 8:30pm, I received a telephone call from Officer Green in which he informed me that 4.4 tonnes of ecstasy had been located inside a container at the Port of Melbourne.
 18. In the immediate period following the identification of the drugs, the agencies of the joint taskforce had a number of meetings in relation to the next phase of the investigation. An investigation plan was established, with the AFP continuing to take the lead role and the Drug Taskforce providing assistance where required.
 19. My diary contains references to Ms Gobbo on 4 July 2007 in the context of two meetings that I attended on that day. My diary states "*Gobbo phone reverse CCRs discussion re ID of Carmelo Falanga*" ... "*Discussion re Gobbo phone*". I infer from those notes that Ms Gobbo was a person of interest to us via or through her phone contact with Operation Inca suspects.
 20. I have no independent recollection of either meeting. However, having reviewed those entries for the purpose of this statement, it is evident to me that on 4 July 2007, the Joint Management Group of Project Inca was preparing for possible arrests in the event that the container was collected.
 21. Through recent media reports, I have become aware that Ms Gobbo was acting for Rob Karam in 2007. This is not something that I was aware of at the time.
 22. On June 2008, I left the Drug Taskforce. Arrests were made in relation to Operation Inca after I left the Drug Taskforce.

Petra Taskforce

23. On 1 July 2008, I was appointed to lead the Petra Taskforce and was responsible for the management of its day to day operations. I took over as Taskforce manager from Detective Inspector Gavan Ryan who led the investigation when Petra Taskforce was established, assisted by Detective Senior Sergeant Shane O'Connell.
24. Petra Taskforce was established on 16 April 2007. It was established as a joint agency investigation to investigate the murders of Terence and Christine Hodson which occurred on 16 May 2004. Petra Taskforce commenced operations on 23 April 2007.

25. My role involved investigative oversight, management oversight, administration and personnel management, including recruitment, resource management and performance assessments. I was assisted by DSS O'Connell in managing the investigation.
26. In the period I led the Petra Taskforce, I reported to the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee, which comprised then Deputy Commissioner Overland, Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius (ESD), then Deputy Director Graham Ashton (OPI), Assistant Commissioner of Crime Danye Maloney, Superintendent Paul Hollowood, Superintendent Crime and Inspector Peter Wilkins.
27. When I joined the Petra Taskforce, the investigation had plateaued. I familiarised myself with the investigation, including the suspects and the previous lines of inquiry. One of these lines of inquiry was Carl Williams, who had previously provided a statement to Purana investigators which indicated that Paul Dale had contacted him to assist in securing a hitman to murder Terence and Christine Hodson.
28. In the course of preparing my statement, I have been shown diary entries of Officer Sandy White and extracts from the Source Management Log dated 1 and 3 October 2008, which suggest that I had discussions with him on those dates and that I knew that Ms Gobbo was a human source at this time. Having reviewed Officer Sandy White's diary entries, I believe that I learned that Ms Gobbo was a registered human source shortly after I became the officer in charge of the Petra Taskforce, although I do not recall the circumstances in which I learned this. I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of what is recorded in Officer Sandy White's diary, save for the fact that I strongly believe that I was not told that Ms Gobbo was a human source by Deputy Commissioner Overland.
29. My diary records that I had numerous discussions with Officer Sandy White in this period. The Petra Taskforce wanted to speak with Ms Gobbo because of her relationship with Dale. Based on a review of my diary, I believe that I had some discussions with Officer Sandy White about Ms Gobbo, but that I also had discussions with him about other matters. I have no recollection of these discussions, save than what is recorded in my diary.
30. Ms Gobbo was a person of interest to the Petra Taskforce before I arrived. I do not recall whether Ms Gobbo had been approached by Petra before my arrival. However, once it became clear that Carl Williams was willing to assist, it followed that Ms Gobbo should be interviewed.

31. On 6 November 2008, DSS O'Connell and I approached Carl Williams to ask him to give a statement. To the best of my recollection, we met with Carl Williams on several occasions in November and December 2008. We also spoke with his barrister, Shane Tyrrell.
32. Ms Gobbo was interviewed by the Petra Taskforce at around the same time. To the best of my recollection, Ms Gobbo was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Sol Solomon and Detective Senior Constable Cameron Davey. It was the decision of Petra Investigators to interview Ms Gobbo. The Steering Committee was aware that the interview was to take place.
33. After the interview, the decision was made to take a statement from Ms Gobbo. At the time, I did not have any concerns about Ms Gobbo becoming a witness. Ms Gobbo's evidence corroborated the evidence of Williams and provided a major breakthrough in the investigation into the murder of the Hodsons. It was my view at the time that if Ms Gobbo signed a statement, she would need to be deregistered as a human source and appropriate arrangements would need to be made to ensure her safety and entry into the witness protection program.
34. At this time, I did not know about the breadth and extent of Ms Gobbo's past informing, or the extent to which that would impact on the Petra Taskforce's efforts to enter her into witness protection and otherwise provide for her safety.
35. On 3 December 2008, I had a discussion with DSS O'Connell in which he said to me that Ms Gobbo was meeting with Dale on Saturday and that she had offered to record the conversation. I made a note of this conversation in my diary.
36. Based on information available to the Petra Taskforce (including information provided by Ms Gobbo herself), I understood that Ms Gobbo and Dale had a personal relationship. To my knowledge, Ms Gobbo was not acting (nor had acted) as Dale's lawyer.
37. My diary records that on 5 January 2009, I had a discussion with Superintendent Biggin about "RHS". I do not recall whether this discussion related to Ms Gobbo and have no independent recollection of it.
38. On 7 January 2009, Ms Gobbo signed her statement in relation to the murder of Terence and Christine Hodson.
39. I have been shown Officer Sandy White's diary for 8 January 2009, which refers to a discussion between the two of us in which he advised me that Ms Gobbo would be deactivated as a human source now that she had signed her statement and that she would

become the responsibility of the Petra Taskforce. I have no corresponding entry in my diary but have no reason to think that this discussion did not occur or that Officer Sandy White's diary does not accurately record what was discussed. Once Ms Gobbo signed her statement and became a witness, it became the responsibility of the Petra Taskforce to ensure her safety. The Petra Taskforce prepared an application for her to enter the witness protection program.

40. My recollection is that negotiations with Ms Gobbo in relation to witness protection were difficult and that Ms Gobbo said that she was only willing to enter the program if certain terms and conditions were met. I attended a number of meetings in relation to entering Ms Gobbo into witness protection, including with the Witness Security Unit. I also had a number of discussions with representatives of the SDU about the transition of her management.
41. On 2 March 2009, I met with Superintendent Biggin, Officer Sandy White and Officer Black in relation to Ms Gobbo's management and protection. It was decided that Petra Taskforce should enlist the assistance of two individuals trained in source handling to assist in our daily dealings with Gobbo and to try and convince her to enter the witness protection program. As a result of this meeting, Officer Graham Evans and Detective Sergeant Lloyd were moved into the Petra taskforce as 'handlers', with DSS O'Connell filling a 'controller' type role. I had overall oversight of her management as a witness. During this time, Victoria Police continued to try to facilitate Ms Gobbo's entry into the witness security program.
42. In early March 2009, Ms Gobbo travelled interstate with Officer Graham Evans and DS Lloyd while negotiations continued about her entry into witness protection. In the course of those negotiations, Ms Gobbo told Officer Graham Evans or DS Lloyd that she intended to travel to Bali on holiday at the end of March 2009. Ms Gobbo's travel plans were reported to the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee who directed us to travel to Bali to provide witness support and protection.
43. This was highly unusual. I recall having discussions with members of the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee to the effect that Ms Gobbo should not go to Bali because Victoria Police was negotiating the terms on which she would enter into witness protection. However, there was no prospect of her entering witness protection prior to travel and therefore there was nothing that Victoria Police could do to stop her from travelling to Bali. I remember the Petra Steering Committee expressing serious concerns about Ms

- Gobbo travelling to Bali and her being outside of Australia, which is why we were directed to accompany her.
44. My diary from around this period records that I had a number of discussions with Inspector Waddell of the Briars Taskforce. I have no recollection of these discussions, however, I recall that Ms Gobbo had some information about the murder of Shane Chartres-Abbott, which was being investigated by Taskforce Briars.
 45. Ms Gobbo travelled to Bali on 28 March 2009, accompanied by DSS O'Connell and Officer Graham Evans. On 5 April 2009, DS Lloyd and I flew to Bali to relieve DSS O'Connell and Officer Graham Evans, where we remained until Ms Gobbo returned to Australia on 13 April 2009.
 46. While we were in Bali, we would meet with Ms Gobbo in the morning and evening of each day. As far as I recall, our discussions largely centred on her plans during her time in Bali, so that we could manage her safety.
 47. Negotiations continued for Ms Gobbo to enter witness protection on her return from Bali. My recollection is that the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee wanted to keep Ms Gobbo out of Melbourne while these negotiations took place. Based on a review of the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee meeting updates for 20 April 2009, it appears that it was intended that Ms Gobbo would return to an interstate location and remain there until she entered into witness protection, however, her choice of accommodation was not available. Instead, Ms Gobbo decided to return to Bali until her interstate accommodation of choice was available.¹
 48. On 26 April 2009, Officer Graham Evans and I travelled to Bali. My recollection is that Ms Gobbo was already in Bali and that we relieved DS Lloyd and DSS O'Connell on our arrival. We remained in Bali until 2 May 2009, when Ms Gobbo returned to Australia. Negotiations continued for Ms Gobbo to enter into witness protection.
 49. On 18 May 2009, I attended a Petra Taskforce Steering Committee meeting at AC Cornelius's office. The written update records an intention to travel to Bali on 22 May 2009 with Ms Gobbo to introduce her to Taskforce Briars investigators for the purposes of obtaining a statement from her.²

¹ VPL.0100.0046.2355.

² VPL.0100.0046.2384.

50. On 23 May 2009, I departed Tullamarine for Bali. I was accompanied by Officer Graham Evans. I recall that we met Inspector Waddell and Detective Senior Sergeant Ron Iddles from Taskforce Briars in Bali during that week and we facilitated an introduction with Ms Gobbo. Officer Graham Evans and I did not participate in the discussions between DSS Iddles, Inspector Waddell and Ms Gobbo.
51. I have some recollection of being advised by Ms Gobbo that she had received threats on her mobile while we were in Bali in May 2009. Ms Gobbo expressed serious concerns for her safety. I believe that I reported this to the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee and requested that an analyst attempt to identify the source of the threats.
52. I returned to Melbourne with Ms Gobbo and Officer Graham Evans on 31 May 2009. The threats that Ms Gobbo had reported while in Bali led to increased security for her on her return to Australia.
53. From 1 June 2009 until the end of August 2009, I was intensively involved in efforts to get Ms Gobbo to enter into witness protection. Since signing her statement, Ms Gobbo had not made any significant changes to her behaviour and her movements were creating risks that the Petra Taskforce did not have the capacity to manage. Getting Ms Gobbo to agree to enter into witness protection was a high priority because the arrangements that were in place in mid-2009 were not sustainable as they were placing too great a strain on police resources and in my view, the level of risk to Ms Gobbo was high.
54. On 3 June 2009, DS Lloyd and I met with Ms Gobbo. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the difficulties with the current arrangements for her protection. During this discussion, Ms Gobbo agreed to meet with Superintendent Rod Wilson (who was the Chief Commissioner's Chief of Staff) and Findlay McRae (Legal Services Director) to discuss future arrangements for her protection. I updated AC Cornelius on the outcome of my meeting with Ms Gobbo by email.³
55. I met with and spoke to Ms Gobbo on a number of occasions following this meeting. The purpose of these discussions was to try and reach agreement as to the terms on which she would enter into witness protection. Little progress was made.
56. On 27 August 2009, I met with Ms Gobbo and hand delivered a letter from Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe.⁴ This letter informed Ms Gobbo that the existing ad hoc

³ VPL.0013.0001.0023.

⁴ VPL.0005.0003.0851.

- security arrangements were inadequate to effectively reduce the risk of harm to her and others and represented an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of the officers protecting her.
57. In the period from around September to December 2009, Ms Gobbo's health began to deteriorate. At the same time, the Petra Taskforce continued to have interactions with her about her evidence in the forthcoming committal of Dale and Collins, and also was involved in negotiations with Ms Gobbo for an agreement in relation to her protection and compensation outside of the usual witness protection arrangements. I have many references to discussions about "Witness F" in my diary in this period and Ms Gobbo was frequently discussed at the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee meetings.
58. On 9 October 2009, Superintendent Wilson and I met with Ms Gobbo and Catherine Gobbo, who was acting for her. My recollection is that I attended the meeting to introduce Superintendent Wilson to Ms Gobbo. During the meeting, a proposal for her continuing protection was discussed.
59. While I was present at many meetings and copied into many emails in relation Ms Gobbo's deteriorating health and the negotiations between her and Victoria Police, I had no direct influence over the negotiations and did not participate in them, other than to provide information or organise meetings when asked to do so. For example, on 27 October 2009, I attended Catherine Gobbo's chambers to collect a USB drive, which I hand delivered to Superintendent Wilson at the Chief Commissioner's office about 45 minutes later. However, Ms Gobbo remained a prosecution witness and we would continue to speak with her in relation to this matter, just as we did with other witnesses, including Carl Williams.
60. Ms Gobbo's apparent poor health and the ongoing negotiations around her protection were a distraction from her role as a witness. It was my view that Ms Gobbo's health was no impediment to her giving evidence. She was an important witness and accordingly, the Petra Taskforce continued to devote significant resources to her, in spite of the other issues.
61. In December 2009, Ms Gobbo was admitted to hospital. On 7 December 2009, DSS O'Connell and I attended at the hospital at her request. My diary records that we met with her in regard to Operation Loris (i.e. the investigation into the murder of Terence and Christine Hodson) but in reality, this was a welfare visit.

62. Ms Gobbo's poor health was affecting her attitude to giving evidence. The Petra Taskforce Steering Committee Update for 27 January 2010 states that Ms Gobbo was reluctant to give evidence and that her previous commitment to give evidence was waning.⁵ It also states that Ms Gobbo had distanced herself from some of the Petra Taskforce members assigned to manage her and that she was refusing to speak with DSS O'Connell, Officer Graham Evans and me. It is my recollection that the reason why Ms Gobbo distanced herself from me and from others in the Petra Taskforce was that we remained insistent that she remain on the brief as a required witness.
63. My diary records that on 1 March 2010, I attended a meeting at the OPP with Jeremy Rapke QC (DPP), Bruce Gardner, AC Cornelius and Fin McCrae in relation to Ms Gobbo. I made a note of this meeting in my diary. During this meeting, we discussed the ongoing negotiations with Ms Gobbo and the affect that any monetary compensation payment might have on her credibility as a witness. The advice from the OPP in conference was that it would be unwise to provide monetary compensation prior to her giving evidence.
64. On 9 March 2010, the committal of Dale and Collins commenced with pre-committal legal argument about subpoenas and production of documents. To the best of my recollection, the only evidence given at the committal was given by members of the Petra Taskforce (including me) and only in relation to the document issues.
65. The documents sought under subpoena included the informer management files in relation to Ms Gobbo. Production of these documents would have revealed that Ms Gobbo had been a human source. I discussed this with Sandy White and on 11 March 2010, I sent an email to Superintendent Mark Porter to request permission to access these files.⁶
66. Counsel for Ms Gobbo also appeared at the committal to have her subpoena to give evidence set aside permanently and called medical evidence to support this application. Magistrate Reardon refused to set the subpoena aside but granted Ms Gobbo an adjournment from being called until 17 June 2010.
67. On 24 March 2010, I sent an email to the manager of the ESD surveillance unit, seeking surveillance be placed on Ms Gobbo to counter any medical evidence that Ms Gobbo was

⁵ VPL.0100.0046.2488.

⁶ VPL.6025.0003.5195.

incapable of giving evidence when she was eventually called.⁷ My recollection is that no surveillance took place.

68. In the course of preparing this statement, I have been shown a chain of email correspondence on 25 March 2010 between David Ryan of the VGSO, Fin McRae and AC Cornelius.⁸ While I have no specific recollection of this, I observe from the email chain that Ms Gobbo had directed that there be no direct contact between Ms Gobbo and any member of the Petra Taskforce. As Ms Gobbo was still a witness and there were still issues in relation to her safety and security, it was my view at the time that it was undesirable for members of the Petra Taskforce to be prevented from contacting her directly. It was the view of the Petra Taskforce that issues relating to her evidence should be dealt with separately to the ongoing issues with regard to compensation sought from Victoria Police. As at 25 March 2010, the Petra Taskforce remained of the view that the best way to provide for Ms Gobbo's security was for her to participate in the witness protection program.
69. On 12 April 2010, the committal of Dale and Collins was adjourned for 12 months so that the document issues could be resolved between the parties.
70. On 19 April 2010, Carl Williams was murdered in prison.
71. The murder of Carl Williams gave rise to significant concerns as to the safety of other witnesses in the Dale and Collins prosecution. On 22 April 2010, I spoke to Ms Gobbo's solicitor to put forward a proposal for Ms Gobbo to relocate on a temporary basis, which was accepted.
72. It was necessary for the Petra Taskforce to have some contact with Ms Gobbo in relation to these arrangements. On 27 April 2010 at 1:17pm, I sent an email to Fin McRae in relation to contact between Ms Gobbo and the Petra Taskforce.⁹ I sent this email so that Fin McRae was aware of this contact, in light of the direction from Ms Gobbo that the Petra Taskforce have no direct contact with Ms Gobbo and the ongoing legal issues between Victoria Police and Ms Gobbo.
73. On 29 April 2010, I became aware that Ms Gobbo either had commenced proceedings against Victoria Police or was about to do so. Over the course of 29 April 2010 and 30

⁷ VPL.0013.0001.0306.

⁸ VPL.0005.0003.0838.

⁹ VPL.0005.0003.0751.

April 2010, I had a number of conversations with AC Cornelius, Fin McRae and Superintendent Geoff Alway of the Witness Security Unit and David Ryan (VGSO) in relation to the public release of the statement of claim. I recorded these discussions in my diary but have no recollection of them.

74. On 5 May 2010 at 7:44am, I sent an email to AC Cornelius, Assistant Commissioner Emmet Dunne and Fin McRae in which I said that Ms Gobbo had stated that she wished to make a second statement concerning the Dale committal.¹⁰ Ms Gobbo had first agreed to make a second statement in around August 2009. However, it was not provided while negotiations around witness protection continued as Ms Gobbo was refusing to speak with Petra Taskforce members. My email stated that *'There is no doubt that the timing of this (as with most other things) is to do with the civil proceedings'*. Fin McRae responded by stating that we should not proceed until he had confirmed the position with the DPP.
75. On 6 May 2010, I received a call from DSS Stuart Bailey of the Homicide Squad. He told me that he had concerns about Ms Gobbo meeting with a person of interest to homicide. DSS Bailey told me that he had sent an SMS message to Ms Gobbo requesting that she cease her involvement with this person. DSS Bailey requested that I contact Ms Gobbo to reiterate this request. Following advice from AC Cornelius, I sent an SMS to Mark Waters passing on this request.
76. I have been shown a document dated 5 May 2010 titled *Purana Taskforce Instruction – Future Dealings with Witness F (Nicola Gobbo)*.¹¹ I do not recall seeing this document before I prepared this statement. I do not believe that the arrangements were put in place because on 12 May 2010, I received an email from AC Cornelius in which he told me that Officer Graham Evans was to be formally appointed as Ms Gobbo's handler and that I was to act as a point of liaison and contact between the Petra Taskforce, the Homicide Squad and the Driver Taskforce, which had been established following the murder of Williams.¹²

¹⁰ VPL.0005.0003.3069.

¹¹ VPL.0005.0003.3065.

¹² VPL.0013.0001.0047.

77. From May to July 2010, I continued to assist with the civil litigation, as requested. I attended a number of meetings in this period, however, my role was just to provide information about Petra Taskforce's relationship with Ms Gobbo.
78. On 28 June 2010 at 11:16am, I sent an email to David Ryan in which I transcribed a SMS message that Ms Gobbo had sent.¹³ I do not recall who sent me the SMS.
79. On 5 July 2010, I transferred to the Major Crash Investigation Group. The Petra Taskforce was dissolved shortly after I left and the Driver Taskforce assumed all active investigations. I had no further contact with Ms Gobbo or her legal representatives after that date.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 3

80. I refer to my response to question 2.
81. I first learned that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police in around June 2007 in the context of Operation Inca. At that time, I had no idea of the extent of Ms Gobbo's informing or that she was a registered informer.
82. I was not aware that Ms Gobbo was a registered informer when I took over the Petra Taskforce. I became aware that she was a registered human source in around September or October 2008, during a discussion with SDU.

Question 4

83. Based on my discussion with Officer Green in 2007 at paragraph 11 above, I believe that he was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police. Superintendent Biggin and Officers Sandy White and Black of the SDU were also aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police. I believe that other members of the SDU were also aware but I do not recall having specific discussions about Ms Gobbo with them.
84. I believe that the members of the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police, along with a number of members of Petra Taskforce, including:
- (a) DSS O'Connell

¹³ VPL.0002.0001.1075.

- (b) Officer Graham Evans, and
- (c) DS Lloyd.

Question 5

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

Question 6

86. I have set out all of the personal contact that I had with Ms Gobbo in my answer to question 2, above. I first met Ms Gobbo in Bali in May 2009. I met with her on a number of occasions between May 2009 and December 2009. My last personal contact with Ms Gobbo was when I visited her in hospital in December 2009.

Questions 7 and 8

87. I refer to the relevant parts of my answer to question 2 above.

Concerns about use of human sources and Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 9

88. I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source.

Question 10

89. I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.
90. Her status as a barrister and a human source did not cause me great concern. I was of the view that if Ms Gobbo had been registered as a human source, then experienced, capable people had made the decision that she was an appropriate person to use as a human source.

Question 11

91. I am not aware of any such discussions.

Other relevant matters

Question 12

92. I am not aware of any other human sources subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

Question 13

93. I received training on the various topics in question 13 throughout my police career. They form part of the recruit training. For my own part, the most significant training was provided at Detective Training School. I also qualified as a handler of covert operatives.
94. The topics listed in question 13 are also matters on which I learnt about on the job.

Question 14

95. I have no further information to provide.

Dated:



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Steven Smith