

FILE NOTE

FILE NAME: PAUL DALE
RE: Conversation with Ron Gipp
FILE NO: TH:JE:90037
DATE: 19 February 2010

Upon receipt of the letter from the VGS on 19 February 2010 (the letter was dated 8 February 2010), I rang Ron Gipp. I asked Mr Gipp whether he had liaised with the OPI. He said he spoke to Greg Carroll on 18 February 2010. He understands that there are two transcripts of interviews conducted with Nicola Gobbo. He said that the police will want to go through the transcripts and delete any items to do with police methodology or any other matters involving public interest immunity. I told Mr Gipp that I would need to speak to Mr Carroll about that, as it is the obligation of the OPI to produce the documents, not to hand pass the obligation to Vic Pol and then have them make whatever deletions they consider to be relevant.

Mr Gipp stated that he anticipated that I will receive one extra folder of documents and that is all. I expressed surprise about that. I told him that I assumed that there would be a mountain of documents relevant to Carl Williams being removed from the prison, and discussions with Nicola Gobbo. He told me that he had gone through the matter in detail with the police and that was all he understood existed.

I asked Mr Gipp whether he had viewed the redactions from the police notes that were in the 16 volumes provided to us pursuant to the Collins Subpoena. He said he had not done so. I told him that there were deletions that appeared to be relevant. As an example, there is a reference to the police meeting with Nicola Gobbo, and thereafter everything relevant to the conversation being deleted.

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Mr Gipp stated that he had given the police specific instructions in relation to any editing. He stated that they needed to be circumspect and that if it related to police methodology, it had to be genuine police methodology. He said that he had told the police that if there was a debate about it, the edited and unedited documents would be given to the Magistrate, and if the Magistrate formed the view that inappropriate deletions had been made, it would affect the validity of other claims they made about public interest immunity.

I returned to the issue of the one folder and told Mr Gipp that I was surprised there was not more to come. In particular, we were very keen to get documents regarding Gobbo and Williams. I asked him what editing they were going to do to the OPI transcript and he stated that much of the deletions, which he would personally view, related to "other disclosures" made by Ms Gobbo. I told Mr Gipp that as far as we were concerned, the credit of Ms Gobbo is a very live issue in this Committal. He said he understood that, but stated that if she had made "other disclosures" they may claim informer privilege in relation to those matter.

I told Mr Gipp that I would need to see the documents they produced and I anticipated we would have a fight at least about some of the deletions from the police notes.

TONY HARGREAVES