

17 April 2020

**By email:** howard.rapke [REDACTED]  
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Solicitors Assisting the Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants  
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Dear Mr Rapke and Ms Tighe

## **RCMPI – Corrections Victoria information**

We refer to evidence from **Mr Cooper** (a pseudonym) on 31 October 2019 at T8731 and Ms Gobbo's evidence on 7 February 2020 at T13,416, regarding regular 'canteen' payments made to a prison account for **Mr Cooper**.

In response to a request from the Office of Public Prosecutions following this evidence, Victoria Police initiated inquiries to obtain an account of Imprest payments made on behalf of the Purana Taskforce or Victoria Police to **Mr Cooper**. Given this matter was raised in evidence before the Royal Commission, we are instructed to provide the following briefing to the Royal Commission about the results of these inquiries. We understand a similar response has been provided to the OPP.

The Victoria Police inquiries included searches of Crime Command Interpose system and Crime Command computer drives. Imprest payment records more than seven years old have been destroyed in line with the relevant financial records retention policy. However, three Imprest applications (unsigned) were located on the Purana Taskforce computer drive with a total value of \$734.10. Details regarding these applications are below.

1. Two Imprest applications dated 4 October 2007 and 30 October 2007 relate to Mr **Mr Cooper**
  - a) The application on 4 October 2007 is for \$245 and recorded as being for personal expenses of prisoner/witness **Mr Cooper**- Applicant Det S/Const Angela Hantsis; and
  - b) The application on 30 October 2007 is also for \$245 and recorded as being for personal expenses of prisoner/witness **Mr Cooper**- Applicant Det S/Sgt Dale Flynn
2. A third Imprest application on 22 June 2007 is considered likely to relate to **Mr Cooper**. The application is for \$244.10 with details recorded as being for Operation POSSE – Prisoner/Witness personal expenses for May 2007 - Applicant Det S/Sgt Dale Flynn.

A search of records of Purana Taskforce archive boxes stored at Laverton was also completed but no Imprest payment records for **Mr Cooper** were identified.

Further inquiries of Purana investigators have established that monthly Imprest payments were made to **Mr Cooper** by the Purana Taskforce while he was in custody. The payments were approved by Detective Inspector O'Brien. These payments are also referred to in seven Informer Contact Reports: ICR's 0038, 0039, 0043, 0044, 0045, 0046 and 0051.

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We are instructed that Purana investigators converted [REDACTED] which were then [REDACTED] to the prison where Mr Cooper was located. For safety reasons, the details of a family member of Mr Cooper were recorded on the [REDACTED] containing the [REDACTED] to prevent the source of the payments to him being identified.

Victoria Police has also asked Corrections Victoria about records of payments (private money credits) to Mr Cooper while he was in custody. These enquiries confirmed that Mr Cooper received payments while in custody from four individuals. This included payments from Ms Gobbo and, between 1 June 2006 and 3 July 2012, the family member identified on the Purana Taskforce payments (see above).

The material that is relevant to this request was provided by Corrections Victoria to Victoria Police under strict instructions that it cannot be shared with any other party, including the Royal Commission. We therefore suggest the Royal Commission request the material directly from Corrections Victoria, if it is considered relevant to the Commission's inquiry.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully

**Corrs Chambers Westgarth**



**Abigail Gill**  
Partner