

WitF20120710.003

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: 11.34 on Tuesday the 10th day of
July 2012. Detective Inspector O'Connor about to meet in
- Witness F in South Melbourne in Clarendon Street at a
coffee shop. I've left my phone in the car. I'll be
one - - -

WITNESS F: O.K.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I'll be one second.

WITNESS F: Do you want me to order you a coffee?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, I'll get a latte, ta,
thank you. Be a bit - it would be a bit embarrassing my
car getting broken into with the - - -

WITNESS F: Be pretty funny, actually.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, God, do you leave yours in
the - - -

WITNESS F: Nuh.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Do you carry yours in a handbag.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WitF20120710.003

WITNESS F: Always. I - I usually have it in my pocket,
actually.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, I - I used to - you know,
the old way was you used to wear 'em on your hip and
stuff.

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That was much better - these you
can't.

WITNESS F: No. But the thing is if I have it in my bag, I
don't think I'd ring, so it's easier being in a pocket
and you feel it vibrate.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, yeah. I - lately I've
been - I find myself, you know, doing exactly that,
coming back and going - go sit down and go, oh,
shit - - -

WITNESS F: Where's the phone?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: The phone's in the car. And
because it's black and the interior of the car's
black - - -

WITNESS F: At least you're only carrying one though. Imagine
if you were carrying three.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, well, that's - that's up to

you if you want to carry three.

WITNESS F: Well, now I don't any more, but in the past I used
to carry three.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Jeepers.

WITNESS F: It used to drive me mental. Well, I had two - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Three different ringtones?

WITNESS F: Yeah, but I mean two weren't in my name, and the
third one was

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But all with different
ringtones?

WITNESS F: Yep, yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Did they ever go off at the same
time?

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Yep, pretty - it was pretty hard to explain to some

people.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm. But still some people have
work phones and personal phones.

WITNESS F: Mm. That's why I had two mobiles. It started
off - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Because you with your - your
business you would get hassled by - - -

WITNESS F: Yep, years ago I had two phones and I thought,
like, one will be the - the everyone number and one will
be live number.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Gee, you'd have to be careful
who you - - -

WITNESS F: It was pointless in the end because people had the
other - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Because people go, oh, I need
Nic's number and they go - - -

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - and all the do is go, oh,
we need one, two, three, four.

WITNESS F: Yeah. The thing is - one of the best things I did
was got a new - my current number I've only had for it'd

be 18 months and to disconnecting my old number, which
I'd had for - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, so people - yeah, so - - -

WITNESS F: - - - fifteen years I'd had it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, had ya? Jeepers.

WITNESS F: So a lot of people had that number.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: And then I kept it - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But in your business you have to
keep the same number, don't you.

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: 'Cause that's what - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah, but I disconnected it and so - the thing's
that's good about my current number is not a lot of the
media have got it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: 'Cause everybody had the old number. I used to
get driven mental.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: So the good thing - I mean I'm missing out on people potentially speaking to me, but I don't care.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: Unless they've got the new number, I don't wanna speak to them.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, no, it's good.

WITNESS F: So it is a good way to clean out your contacts.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: John, what would we do - or what would I do, or what would you do, more to the point, if you knew we had warning that - that my informing status in advance was gunna be made public?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, that would be something that I'd have to back to the hierarchy. What - what - - -

WITNESS F: Well, I can't break the law by telling you but - but it's potentially gunna happen.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: In fact, there's a pretty high likelihood it will

happen.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: So what - what can I do it to stop it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But - but - I need to - I need
details of - - -

WITNESS F: But I can't break the law by telling you.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm. Is it a [REDACTED]
matter?

WITNESS F: No, that's not - I wouldn't be - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, oh, no.

WITNESS F: - - - talking to you about that.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah, all right, I'm with
you, now. So it's obviously with pepole doing something
around - - -

WITNESS F: Something I can't talk about.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Can't talk about it, yeah - - -

WITNESS F: But you can read - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah - - -

WitF20120710.003

WITNESS F: - - - between the lines.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - yeah. Well, you'll need
to - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Where - where would it come out?
In, like, in the Herald Sun or something?

WITNESS F: I've been told that it would be subject of a report
that will be tabled in parliament and available to the
media.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah.

WITNESS F: Which horrifies me.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, I can't - yeah. Well,
that - that gives me area to - - -

WITNESS F: I - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So I'll just have to speak to
the bosses about that. So when would it be tabled in
parliament?

WITNESS F: I don't know the time frame for it other than - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Is there an annual report?

WitF20120710.003

WITNESS F: No, it'll be in the next month. Put it this way,
I've got until Thursday to voice my concerns in writing.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, well, I assume you'll do
that.

WITNESS F: Oh, yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, you're obviously good at
writing letters so - - -

WITNESS F: I can't imagine what would happen to me if that was
published.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: I don't know - I'd have to go somewhere.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's all right. All right,
well, I'll - I'll pass that on to my - my bosses. Thing
I had to ask you, what's Karam's first name?

WITNESS F: Rob.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Rob, Rob Karam. You - I
contacted Detective - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah, I haven't rung him yet.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Are you gunna - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's all right, because I've
just, as a courtesy, I'll ring him to say that you are
gunna - - -

WITNESS F: Yes, I will be.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So when do you - do you know
when you'll be doing that?

WITNESS F: Probably today.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: All right.

WITNESS F: Probably today - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: S-

WITNESS F: - - - or tomorrow.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: All right. Well, I'll - I'll
ring that detective - - -

WITNESS F: Con - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Cos something, I've got it
written down, anyway.

WITNESS F: I do too.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep. Just - just from a - - -

WITNESS F: Cos Costa

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Cos Costa, O.K. Just
because - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah, I - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Because I told - I told - oh,
probably it was before you went away over - overseas.

WITNESS F: Yeah, I know, I couldn't - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, it's - that's - it's up to
you, but if - if you're not gunna ring, that's fine.

WITNESS F: No no, no, I am.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But if you are - - -

WITNESS F: I just - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So you're still gunna report
that?

WITNESS F: Yep. I wanted to tell Rob that I was gunna do it because it's gunna create more charges for him.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: And he might not be happy about it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Probably the - probably not the highest priority in his - his life at the moment.

WITNESS F: He's in la-la land, he's been told that he's gunna be out by September.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, what - what sentence do you think he's gunna get?

WITNESS F: Well, a major one. He thinks that he's going to - the cocaine importation trial, which is listed for September.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: He imagines he'll be acquitted of that. And the court of appeal - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, but he's still - he's been - - -

WITNESS F: And the court of appeal will have lifted the appeal and they'll see the egregious errors made by Justice Tim - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: - - - and they'll grant him bail.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Right, O.K.

WITNESS F: La la land.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: O.K.

WITNESS F: He did - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Is that your professional
advice, la la land, is it?

WITNESS F: He did ask me the other day what I thought he'd get
and I said, "Double figures."

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: He was horrified. He said, "You mean - you mean
on top, not to serve." I said, "No, double figures to
serve."

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: 'Cause it was a big - - -

WITNESS F: Well - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It was a big - - -

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Was - was this the - the
tablets, ecstasy, yeah? Oh, well.

WITNESS F: I - I - when I - I - I hadn't spoken to him, you
know, since he was found guilty so - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: I found it very difficult talking to him because it
made me feel guilty.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: Even though I shouldn't feel guilty.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, he must have you on your -
he's got you on his call list?

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, all right. In relation to
the - the correspondence, I - I sought advice from my -
my boss.

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And he - with your, I'll take
obviously this letter - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - that you've got for me for today.

WITNESS F: I don't think there'll be any more, John.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, no, that's - no, but if there is more from - from you, they - my boss has told me that just to let you know to post - - -

WITNESS F: Mm'hm.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - to post any registered post, whatever you choose - choose to do.

WITNESS F: O.K.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Because, you know, that's - - -

WITNESS F: I think it's silly that you became involved because if ever there comes a time when someone says, "How did these letters ever come to be received?"

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm. Well, I'm only going on instructions from my - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah, I know.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - so and if the hierarchy if - 'cause Kieran Walsh is no longer in the police force,

he's retired.

WITNESS F: I thought he wasn't retiring until next month.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I think he's - - -

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well he - well, he might - well,
I thought he was retired, like, as in he's no longer at
work, he might be cutting out - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - leave, long service - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - or not - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - not sure - he doesn't
share that information with me - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - at my level so, yeah, so
I'll take whatever you got today - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

WitF20120710.003

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - and I'll take it into -
into the - the bosses today and I'll - - -

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, that's all right. And I'll
come - I'll - - -

WITNESS F: If there is any more, they'll they'll
post it to me, wouldn't they?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, I don't know what they'll
do.

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: If they - if the commissioner
tells me to take it, I take it.

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And just - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I'm in a big organisation and
that's just part of it so - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But I - you can just put, you
know, private, confidential - - -

WITNESS F: Oh, yeah, I'll if there - if - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - and post it in or - - -

WITNESS F: - - - if there are any more.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: If there are any more so - - -

WITNESS F: I don't know that there - I don't know that there
would be because that matter doesn't - previous letters
just have asked - I've asked questions. I've got - I've
either been ignored or got idiotic responses so I decided
.....

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, I'm not privy to the
contents - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - of the letters, so I'm
just the - - -

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: As - as you said, I'm the mail
boy.

WITNESS F: Because I haven't asked anything, I don't expect a

real lot.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, yeah, all right. Well,
I'll - - -

WITNESS F: Can you believe that any - any - any person - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep.

WITNESS F: - - - with a brain operating, would be stupid
enough to consider making a speech to parliament that
included confirmation of the fact I'm an informer.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, I don't - I dunno - I - I
think - I - - -

WITNESS F: without a - without a brain operating in
their head.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: How could you possibly think that would be a good
thing to do?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm, well, I dunno.

WITNESS F: Just causing - it's causing me an immense amount of
stress worrying about - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: - - - the possibility because it's not within my
control as in, you know, how do you know when to stop it
- after it's too late?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: 'Cause you don't get warning of it. No-one's gunna
say to me, well, it's gunna be - I mean, how do you even
stop that from being tabled? I know how to stop
something being published - I'll go to court and get an
injunction.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: But once the media know about it, it's too late.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, I don't - it's definitely
not my area of expertise - - -

WITNESS F: No, not - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - here - - -


WITNESS F: either.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - and I'll - I'll speak -
it'll be people a lot higher up than - than me'll
be - - -

WITNESS F: Well, I suppose they can say - they can have the
problem of it happening and then dealing with me after it

happens.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, again, Nicola, I
can't - - -

WITNESS F: 'Cause where do I go? I'd have to go 
somewhere, John.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, well, I - I - - -

WITNESSWITNESS F:

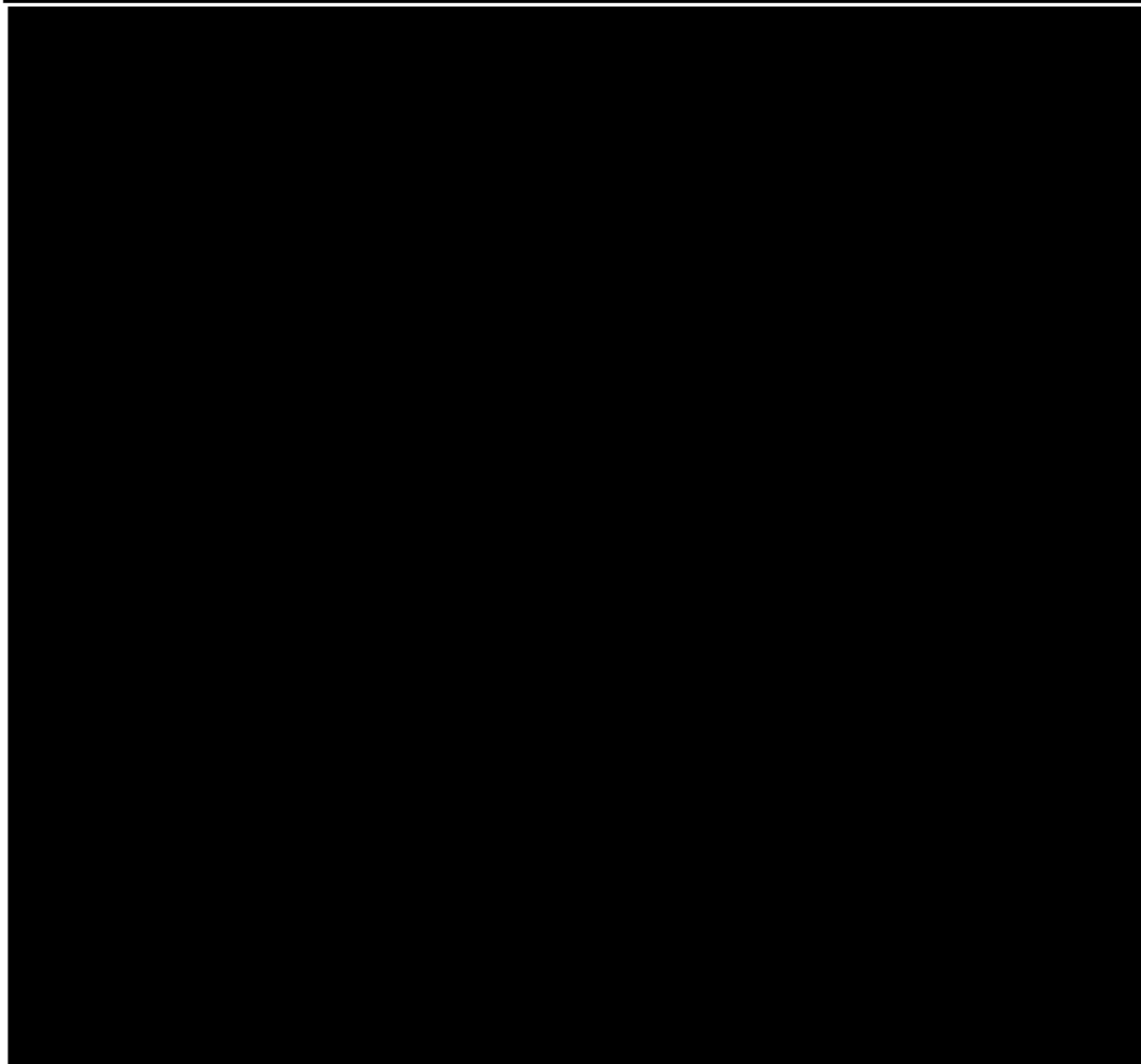
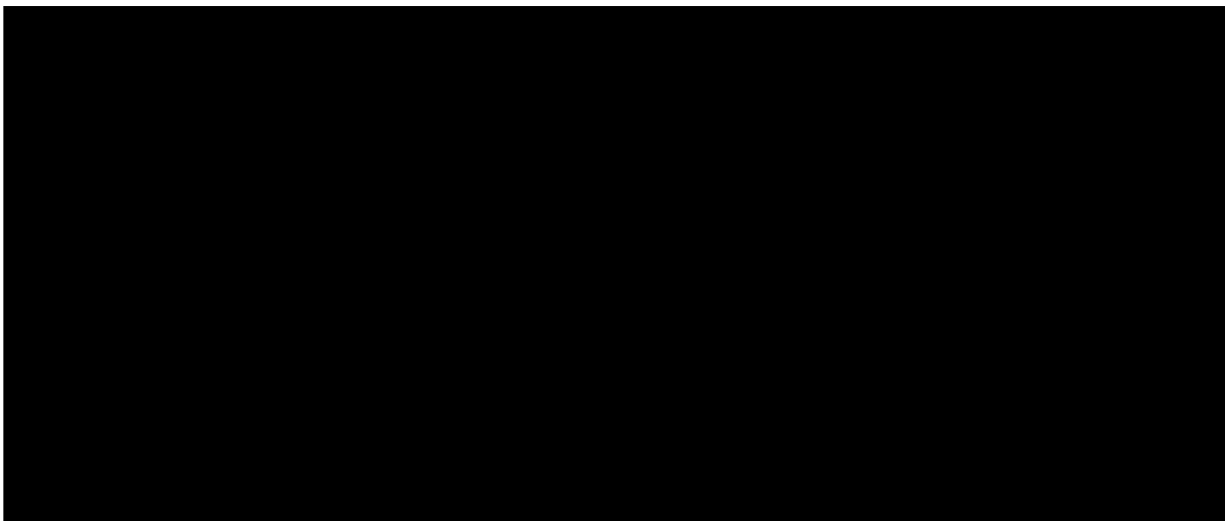
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I haven't got the answers for
you.

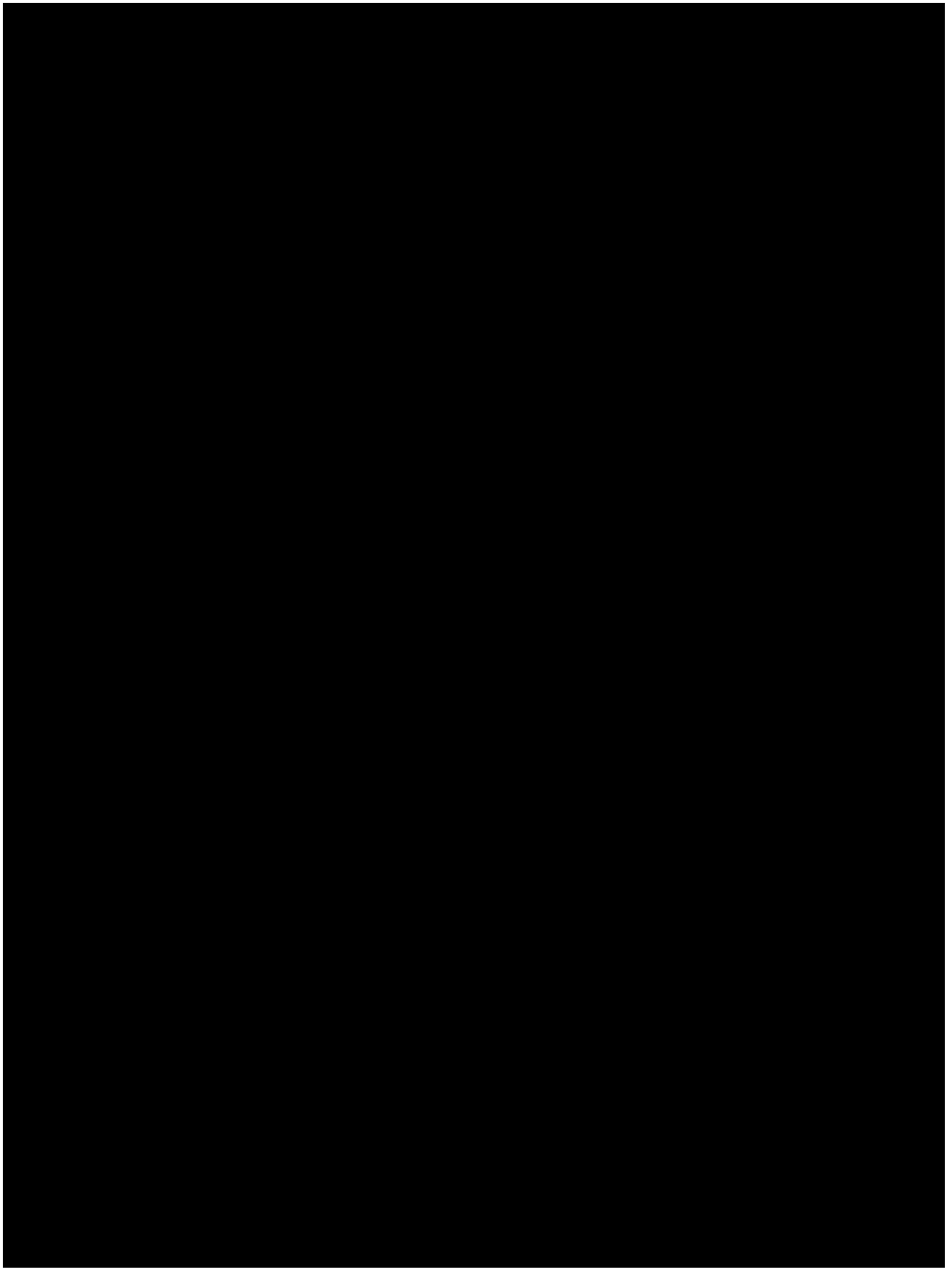
WITNESS F: I know, but I'm saying, as a practical thing, I
wouldn't wanna be here if it came out.

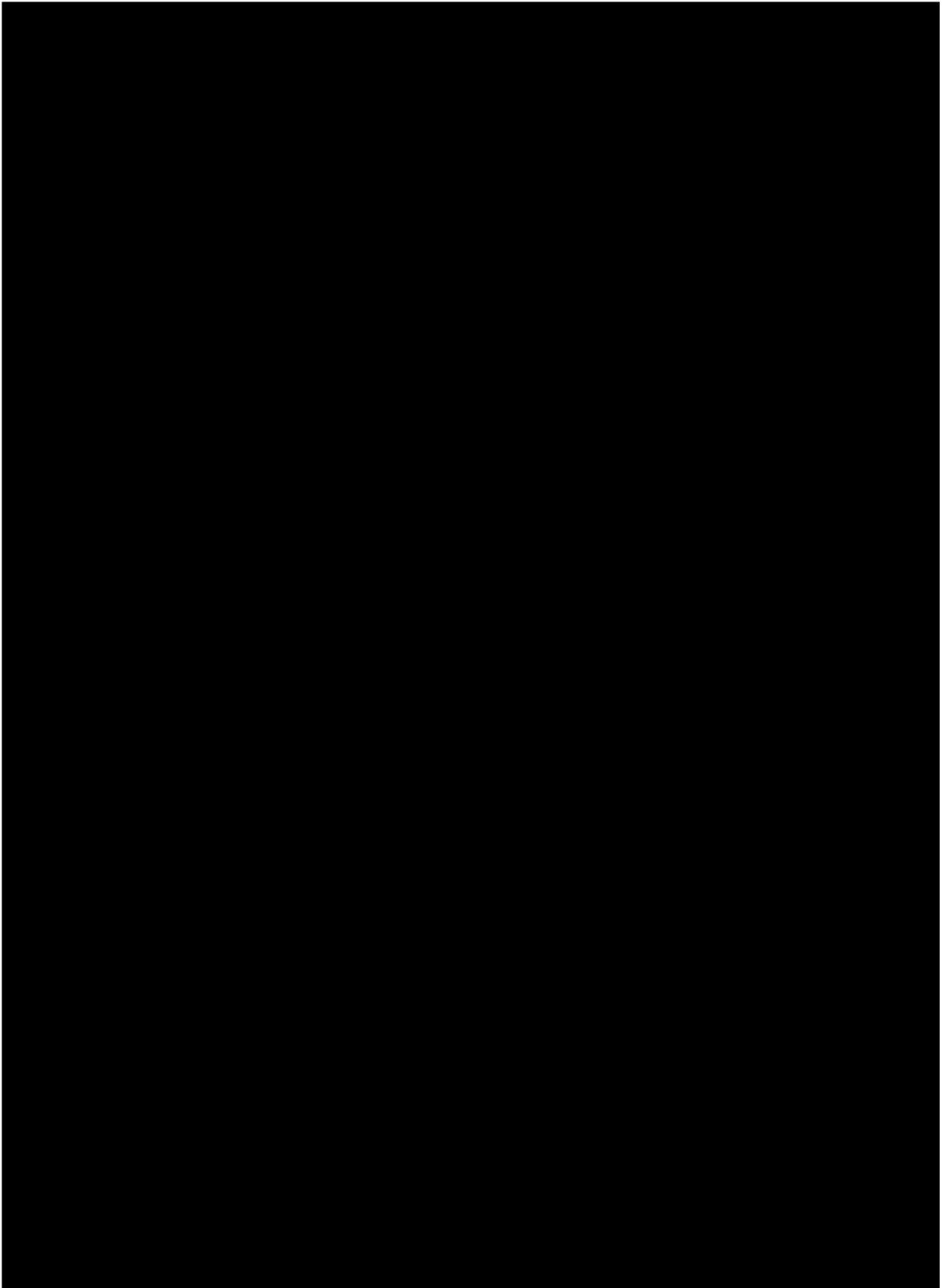
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

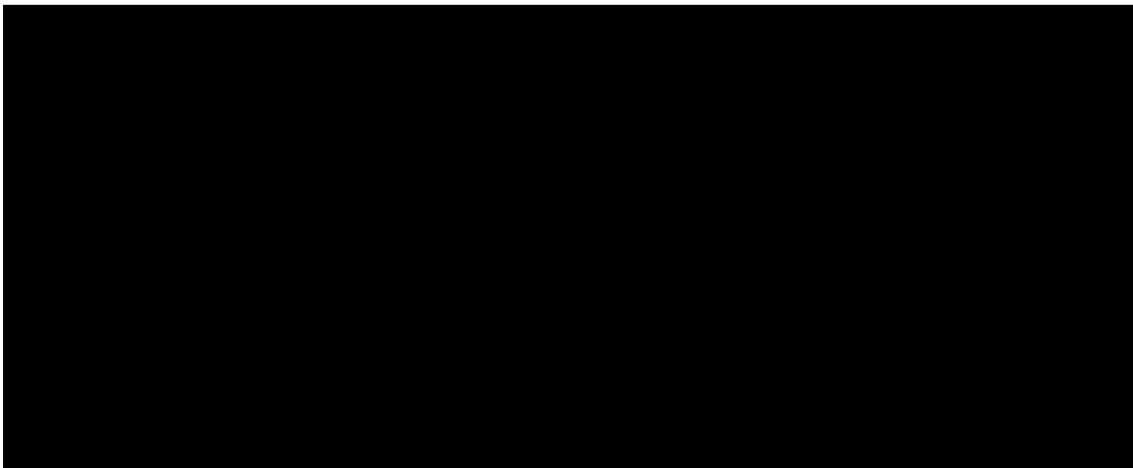
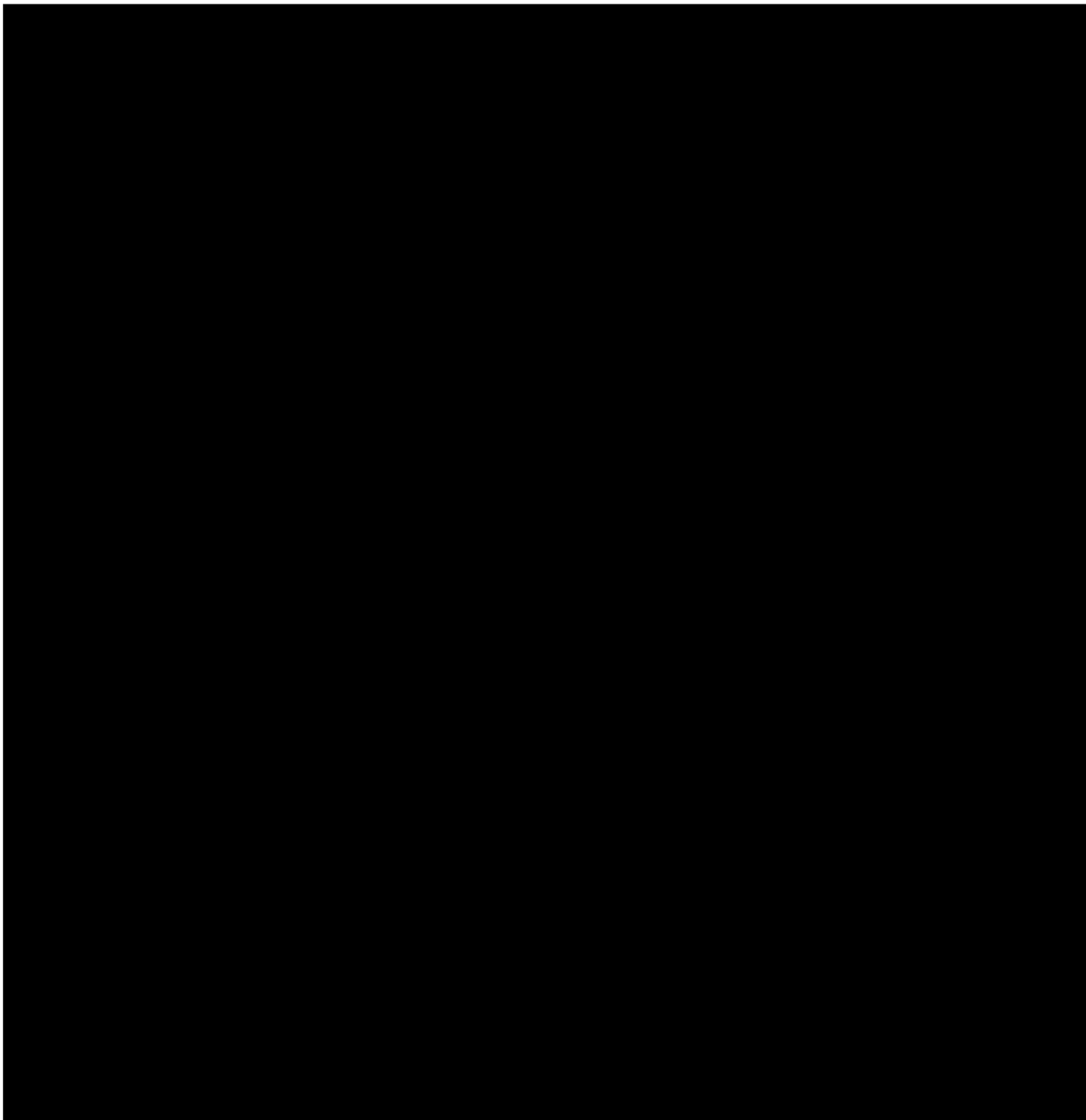
WITNESS F: Can you imagine?

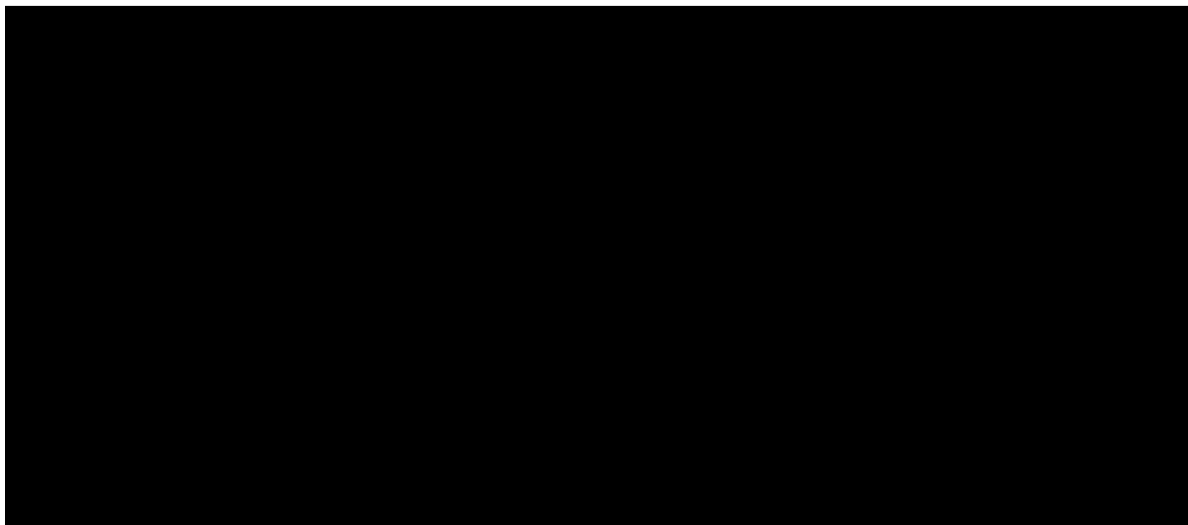
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I'll see - I'll - I'll - - -









DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm, but you're not practising
now, are ya?

WITNESS F: No, I'm not well enough to.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: I look back to how I managed my voluntary job and
my real job - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: I don't know how I did it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: I honestly don't know how I did it. I suppose you
just do - adrenaline, as well, adrenaline, keeps you
going.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: And fear.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: Fear keeps you going. Fear's a great motivator.
I don't mean it in a I mean fear in terms of
..... or letting it - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, especially in your
profession, because you've got your clients - your
clients are sitting there and they're hanging on every
word that you say. And when you're up in that - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah, but John - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - up the front and - - -

WITNESS F: - - - 80 per cent of lawyers don't give a fuck.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah.

WITNESS F: They read on the way to work, they don't really
care.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah.

WITNESS F: And they don't - they don't lose sleep over a
client.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: I had to find a barrister for [REDACTED] for a third .05 last week, it finally went to court last week.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: High reading or not?

WITNESS F: Yeah, pretty high, .1 - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, so it's over .1, so - - -

WITNESS F: - - - .17.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: But that was his third time.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So he's a chance to go in, was he?

WITNESS F: Well, arguably, yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Or a suspended sentence. But he's got
psychiatric

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah, yeah.

WITNESS F: Not that that's an excuse but the medication that he's on, actually masks the - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Effects of alcohol?

WITNESS F: Well, not just the effects of alcohol, but it gives him a self-confidence that he otherwise wouldn't have.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: And an ability to sort of deal with, socially, people and things, otherwise he stays at home so anyway he - I - I had great difficulty trusting a barrister to do the right thing.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: The - he ended up getting a good behaviour bond.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Shit, that's a good result.

WITNESS F: The magistrate who started by saying, are you any relation to me and - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, is his [REDACTED]

WITNESS F: That could have worked out badly or well, but it worked out but it worked out well.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Obviously it worked all right - and did he - did he have to give some money to the poor box or - yeah, right - and that - I thought one of the great advertising things that they've done now - it's

either TAC or some aspect of government, is where like
the blokes with beer, you know.

WITNESS F: Yeah, I saw that - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Two - - -

WITNESS F: - - - I've seen that ad.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Two stubbies, you know on the
bill - you see on the billboards.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Two stubbies is three standard
drinks. And you hear a lot of blokes now, outside the
police force I'm talking about, I've had two - I've had
two, you know, two standard drinks and yet everyone's
body composition - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - is different but at least
it gives them a rough - - -

WITNESS F: Idea.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - a rough idea and the - on
the back of beer and wine bottles and different things
now it has, you know, 1.5 standard drinks or 2, you know,
I think wine might be 7 standard drinks or, you know,

whatever - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - whatever it is. And I
think that's - gives people - 'cause people are a lot
more aware - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - or people of our age are a
lot more aware now - - -

WITNESS F: That's right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And - and also the - the
attitude now in relation to people drinking light beer or
drinking water and that.

WITNESS F: People have accepted it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Whereas years ago - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It was not acceptable to drink
light beer or, can you imagine 15 years ago, at a - at a
pub in town, you know, the Courthouse Hotel, sitting
there drinking water?

WITNESS F: no and no-one and - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Now, you go into pubs now, and people drink water.

WITNESS F: Yep, and no-one drank light beer.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, God, no.

WITNESS F: I remember 15 years ago I was at university and no-one drank anything but heavy US beer.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, that was it, wasn't it, yeah, so - so society sort of changes a bit.

WITNESS F: Mind you, I don't remember there being the pills and powders that are around the scene.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, not when I - not when I grew up.

WITNESS F: When I was at uni it was either wine or speed, it wasn't anything - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: - - - like - and my - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: [REDACTED] all in their early 20s and they - they tell me that the nightclub scene is - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, it's just - - -

WITNESS F: - - - all pills - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - pills - pills and that, G
- GH - you know, that liquid stuff, GHB or something.

WITNESS F: They tell me that nobody's that bothered getting
drunk, they're more likely to invest 25 to 30 bucks for
pills or something.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: That's the - that's the acceptable - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: - - - expected

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And that's - and it's
interesting how, you know, that - that generation the -
of what is it, their values or what I dunno, but they -
they look at that as socially acceptable. We - you and
me go out we're 20-year-olds and let's - we'll pop a pill
each or take some GHB or whatever or do - - -

WITNESS F: It's also trusting of what's in it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh - - -

WITNESS F: what they put - what they sell - I
mean, we know that they're made - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: MM.

WITNESS F: But they don't seem to have an idea.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, it's not made by
Sigma - - -

WITNESS F: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Pharmaceuticals or whatever - - -

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - one of those.

WITNESS F: but they - they seem to do it
weekly - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm. And every - once a - once a
year or a couple of times a year there's a - the tragedy
of the parent who - who's got - who's had their, you
know, they've lost their son or their daughter because
they've taken a - some, you know, Ratsak or
whatever - - -

WITNESS F: That's right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: All right, well - - -

WITNESS F: That's what I - that's why Jim O'Brien was so
upset about Tony's sentence and probably rightly so - I
mean - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: What's - what's happened with
that - is it - was there a muck-up in the trial in the -
in what the judges - - -

WITNESS F: No, he got 22 - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But that 22 doesn't start
for - - -

WITNESS F: No, the 22 - you know how he had to reset the non-
parole period - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: The 22 starts from last week.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: All right.

WITNESS F: But the judge ordered - made an order to go out
pre-sentence detention about 320 days which was the time
- he - yeah, thank you.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Uh - - -

WITNESS F: He - he made an order of the pre-sentence detention
of that 320 days which, I - I think is the time that he's

been in prison

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, right, okay.

WITNESS F: So effectively what it means is, 21 years from last week.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: He

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Still a long time though.

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Not 21 months.

WITNESS F: No, 21 years.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: 21 years.

WITNESS F: It's a long time. He'll start talking now.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You reckon?

WITNESS F: With the right, with the right approach - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: - - - he will start talking.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And it's - but he - he was - his solicitor or barrister said he was gunna appeal, wasn't he?

WITNESS F: Yeah, he is

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But he can't appeal against conviction because he pleaded guilty.

WITNESS F: No, purely the sentence.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Sentence.

WITNESS F: But everyone is. I mean, it's always - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: When you work out 21 years why would you sit there and think, oh, should I? Even if you get a year cut off you're - - -

WITNESS F: And it's not coming out of your pocket, it's Legal Aid, so who cares?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, is he Legal Aid, is he?

WITNESS F: Yeah, all of 'em are, they're - all that - all the ecstasy boys, the - the importation - Barbaros and really all them, they're all Legal Aid.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: Every single one of them. But they don't care

..... it's not their money that they're worried about.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, and, look - look, at the end of the day, if I was in their position - - -

WITNESS F:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You - you - you want because, nuh, you know, if you - you've got a lot of time to think time and you're thinking, should I - should I - and you - you - - -

WITNESS F: Well, yeah, it's the - it's the ideal time - it is the ideal time for someone from Victoria Police with the proper approach 'cause

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: I've know him - I've known him too long. And he won't wanna be in gaol for that long.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: And he - he's always

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And it is a long time, isn't it - 20 - 20 years.

WITNESS F: Yeah, and I think of it like if I was in gaol now - at my - 39.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: I still pretend I'm 38 'cause I can't face turning
40 in November but - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's not that bad, Nicola - - -

WITNESS F: It is - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - turning 40.

WITNESS F: - - - for a female, it is.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, for a bloke, well, some -
some blokes think it's a big thing.

WITNESS F: I've had this discussion with a male friend - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: - - - I was with on Sunday afternoon with - who
I've been out with in the past.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: And I was saying to him, it's not the same - for a
guy it's just not the same.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: For a female it's horrifying.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Is it?

WITNESS F: But anyway, imagine going to gaol now and if - and
if 40 - these are the best years - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: - - - of you life. So, I think, look at it from
where Tony's position - he's 40 - - -

U/K MALE:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You're right, mate, cheers, thank
you, ta.

WITNESS F: He's 46 - is he 46 in August or 47 - no, 46
so - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So what's that, 46, 60 - 67.

WITNESS F: Mm.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's a - - -

WITNESS F: But they're

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's a big chunk out of your
life - is he - and he's got - how many kids has he got?
He's got one with the - - -

WITNESS F: Three, three.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And how old are the kids.

WITNESS F: [REDACTED] - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, so he's got older - - -

WITNESS F: [REDACTED]

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: 'Cause you don't hear anything
about them.

WITNESS F: No. Well, they're mother was Carmel Mokbel, and
then there's the baby, or it's not a baby any more,

[REDACTED]

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's the one he had with - - -

WITNESS F: Danielle.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Maguire.

WITNESS F: Yep. Well, she's moved on to bigger and better
things.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: so is she the one linked with
Toby - I was gunna say Toby Mokbel, Toby Mitchell?

WITNESS F: Yeah, she got that "I love Tony" tattoo burnt -
removed off and had "I love Toby" put in it's place.
You're laughing, I'm so furious. And where she had the
tattoo would have been quite painful, I suspect, to get
them burnt off - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, well.

WITNESS F: - - - and redone.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, well, each to their own.

WITNESS F: Yep. I think that - that's part of the reason,
well, because of her relationship with Toby, why she got
bashed up here a month ago or six weeks ago. By the way,
I - I should have, speaking of bashing, I should have
left you a message on Sunday in case you got a call
because I called the police on Sunday morning, at home.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So at your house, which is -
you're in [REDACTED] somewhere, aren't you?

WITNESS F: Yeah, not for me. I was - I was sitting inside
reading the paper and I could hear this guy screaming at
the top of his lungs, "You fucking dog, you cocksucker,
you dog," over and over again, which got my attention.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: So I went to the window. This guy's screaming
on - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Where are you - in [REDACTED]
or something - [REDACTED] - - -

WITNESS F: Corner of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Street so I - I - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] oh, yeah, O.K.

WITNESS F: We had a - you know where the [REDACTED] is?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Not really, oh, yeah, as you go
towards the [REDACTED] - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - it's on the right-hand
side.

WITNESS F: Yeah, I'm in that block - that - that building.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep, yep.

WITNESS F: But I'm not - I don't face the front.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep.

WITNESS F: But if, though - I went to the window and this guy
was stumbling around obviously drug or alcohol
affected - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: What time was this in the

morning?

WITNESS F: Oh, 11, 11.30.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, in the - jeepers.

WITNESS F: Not late.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: I mean, not early.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Not early, yeah, yeah.

WITNESS F: And, I thought, I'll just mind my own business, go back inside or actually I hadn't gone outside at that point. Anyway, he got louder and louder and then I could hear smashing sounds and I've gone back to the window and he had a baseball bat and he was - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, shit.

WITNESS F: - - - just smashing the window of a car, then he started smashing - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Obviously, obviously the person he was - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - aggrieved about, yeah.

WitF20120710.003

WITNESS F: Well, I - that's what I thought, but - and then he smashed the side mirror as well. And even then I didn't wanna call the police 'cause I - I don't wanna get involved.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: Thank you very much, but I don't wanna get involved.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: However, then a female came out and he raised the bat with her - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, no.

WITNESS F: And at that point I thought - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Triple O.

WITNESS F: - - - I'd ring 'em. So I rang the police and gee, they came fast.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Good, that's good, so they should.

WITNESS F: They came so fast, but the funny thing was when they - the first divvy van screamed around the corner, another guy jumped in the car that had been smashed and

started to drive away. Well, there was apparently a police chase that went for five blocks and went through five red lights before they finally got him. It turned out - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Was he the bloke with the baseball bat?

WITNESS F: No, it was another - it turned out to be his brother.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah.

WITNESS F: And he was driving the car away because they'd broken an interlock device to get it started.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, that huff and puff - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah, both - both him and the other, the pissed guy, were both, well, apparently they were both over 05 and both subject to the interlock device. The car that was smashed was his car - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah.

WITNESS F: It was a ute, that he'd smashed.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, yeah.

WITNESS F: But then I think to myself, well, probably - police probably won't ring me for a statement because you can't

be charged with smashing your own car.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Not unless your put up - - -

WITNESS F: Claim insurance.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Claim insurance, yeah.

WITNESS F: So anyway the - the - so many people, because he
was so loud, so many people were - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It would have been busy because
it was a nice day on Sunday - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - and a lot of people would
be around, eh.

WITNESS F: Yeah, and a lot of people were on their balconies,
but it was very frightening, if you're a kid - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, terrible.

WITNESS F: Anyone who walks up and down the street he was
trying to have a go at because he was just - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: - - - off and out of his mind. Anyway, he ran away
when the divvy van turned up, the first car turned up.

But the police then arrested him and I don't know what happened to him. I presume he just got carted off to - to sober up somewhere.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, he might have been section 10'd, you know, like, a mental health type stuff.

WITNESS F: Yeah, I think

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, like, drugs.

WITNESS F: But I felt sorry for the - the girl when he raised the baseball bat - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, it's terrible, you know, because you've seen in the courts, you only, you know, these mindless incidences is where people, you know swing a bat - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - someone hits someone and they either causes them serious brain injury or kills them or it happens - - -

WITNESS F: Well, yeah, and it - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - like, happened, like in poor David Hookes, you know - - -

WITNESS F: That's right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: He got - got one - one punch in
the face - - -

WITNESS F: Ow.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - falls back, and they knock
their head and - - -

WITNESS F: And it was exactly at that point when he raised
the - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - and that base of the
skull - - -

WITNESS F: - - - when he raised the - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - stops them breathing
and - - -

WITNESS F: - - - raised the baseball bat again that I called
triple O.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Good.

WITNESS F: Maybe that's why they came so fast because it was a
female who was in danger.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh - - -

WITNESS F: Um - - -

WitF20120710.003

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: They'd come fast to that - it's
good you rang.

WITNESS F: Well, I wasn't the only one - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: The lady didn't get hurt though.

WITNESS F: It turned out that - no.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Physically hurt.

WITNESS F: Turned out that a lot of people - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, I dare say triple O would
have been inundated with - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah, yeah. Well, the operator asked me
for the rego of the car that was being smashed but I said
I can't see it from where I am - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: And I'm not going down there - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, shit, no.

WITNESS F: - - - to get a rego for them.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: 'Cause I was three storeys up but, yeah, that - the police were there for ages. I - it's a - I was waiting for my brother to pick me up on Sunday morning so I spoke to a couple of the uniform members who turned up and said to my brother afterwards that they've got to do that horrible job of dealing with people that are off their dial and abusive and disgusting - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: - - - all the time.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: We deal with them - deal with them at the - at their worst possible time and a lot of the people are in crisis when they're - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - we deal with them and then you - but then they get charged and they present in court and, you know - - -

WITNESS F: I know.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - with a bag of fruit and looking - - -

WITNESS F: You know - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - looking a million dollars and, oh, you know, butter wouldn't melt in their mouth

but - - -

WITNESS F: John, that's funny. I go back to my drinking days before my stroke, and it only ever happened to me once but I was out with a - a solicitor, blind, just - really smashed - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: We'd been drinking for 12 hours and there was a riot van that was called to this particular pub and I can remember standing out the front as - we got thrown out of that pub - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: We were standing out the front and this sergeant grabs my elbow and he said you've got three seconds to decide - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: - - - happy or out of here?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: And - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Pretty easy choice.

WITNESS F: Yeah, it was a pretty easy choice, but the smart-

arse lawyer I was with said, "I'm gunna take - are you taking some temporaneous notes, blah blah blah," and he just had a go at - just to be a smart arse.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: We look back now and we are utterly embarrassed - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm, lucky I wasn't the sergeant because I'd probably throw the solicitor in the back of the - back of the van.

WITNESS F: Well, we were lucky because an off duty - an off duty police car hit a truck about a block away - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And got you home.

WITNESS F: He was just - no, took us somewhere where we could get another drink.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh.

WITNESS F: where we could get more drinks.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Um, I'll come back - - -

WITNESS F: I'm talking - I'm talking eight years ago.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, statute of limitations has gone.

WITNESS F: Oh, I'm not worried about that.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I'll come back to ya. I'm gunna
go deliver this in town - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: - - - now and I'll - I've gotta
speak to my bosses and then I'll - I'll give you a call
back in a few days hopefully.

WITNESS F: Yeah, look, it might all - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So you're saying it's this
Thursday, you think it's gunna be tabled.

WITNESS F: No, this Thursday is my last day to respond to it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep - - -

WITNESS F: Um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Which you're gunna do.

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So you don't know when it's
gunna be tabled though?

WITNESS F: No, and they - and they won't tell.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: All right. Well, if you do hear
at some point it's gunna be tabled, let me know,
because - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Um - - -

WITNESS F: I might - I might ring and ask because it's only -
or when that - when - I think that's within next month.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep.

WITNESS F: I don't know how - I don't know how I can tell you
the detail without potentially breaking the law.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, no, I understand - I
understand where you're at and that - and it's - it's
given me a good spot to start.

WITNESS F: Some smart-arse people think it's - think that it's
- I suppose the bottom line is though it - it all comes
back to somebody within Victoria Police who is not happy
with what happened to me, because that's where this all
comes from.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, well, I don't - I
can't - - -

WITNESS F: It's someone - it's someone - it's someone who knew

some - some level of my - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: They didn't know where it - they weren't - I know where it's come from, it's not come from someone who is in your group, who you

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

WITNESS F: It's come from someone who - from an idea that I might have dropped a bat, but didn't know the whole story.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, well, it's - I'll - I can't comment on that.

WITNESS F: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So I'll - and I've got no knowledge of that, so I'll - I'll come back to ya. Look after your leg, all right.

WITNESS F: Yeah, I will.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: All right.

WITNESS F: I'm waiting for the pathology result because - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, you said it was a big golf ball.

WITNESS F: Big chunks were taken out.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm. All right. Thanks for the
coffee.

WITNESS F: No worries.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Take care. Speak soon.

WITNESS F: I'll let you go first.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So you'll ring that bloke?

WITNESS F: Yep, I will.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: O.K., thanks, ta, bye.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: The time is now 12.12 pm. Stop
the recording.

END OF RECORDING