

Confidential**Email**

27 May 2020

Mr Howard Rapke, Ms Alexandra Tighe & Ms Kylie Hall
 Solicitors Assisting the Royal Commission
 Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants



Our ref 13615/19613/80203807

Dear Mr Rapke, Ms Tighe & Ms Hall

Victorian Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants

We refer to your letter dated 19 May 2020.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) will provide a redacted version of our letter of 9 April 2020 that is suitable for publication once the AFP has completed consultation with the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC).

The AFP reiterates it had no awareness, prior to Ms Gobbo's evidence before the Royal Commission on 4 February 2020, of the meeting that purportedly took place between FA 3 and FA 4 and Ms Gobbo on 7 July 1998. The AFP notes the entry subsequently located in FA 3's official AFP diary for that date contains no reference to Ms Gobbo, and there is nothing on the face of the entry to indicate it related to a possible meeting with Ms Gobbo. The AFP also notes FA 3 has consistently advised he can only recall one meeting with Ms Gobbo which took place in the performance of AFP duties, being the meeting of 30 June 1998.

The AFP provides the following responses to the Royal Commission's questions. The AFP notes FA 4 has transferred to another agency and is no longer a serving member of the AFP.

1. Have FA 4's diaries and/or log books been reviewed for the purpose of identifying corresponding entries on 30 June and 7 July 1998?
 - 1.1 The AFP has been unable to locate FA 4's official AFP diary for this period. The AFP undertook enquiries in 2019 to locate FA 4's diary after FA 3 self-reported the meeting that took place on 30 June 1998. The AFP spoke to FA 4 who indicated he was not aware of the location of his diary. FA 4 said he had undertaken an international deployment from January 1999 through to January 2002, and his diary would have been archived prior to his deployment.
 - 1.2 The AFP subsequently recalled all of FA 4's archived material. A thorough search of this material failed to locate FA 4's diary or any other relevant records. These enquiries were undertaken prior to the AFP's first communication to the Royal Commission about the AFP's interactions with Ms Gobbo in 1998.
2. Have FA 4's diaries and/or log books been reviewed on the other dates referred to during Ms Gobbo's evidence to the Commission?
 - 2.1 As above.

3. **On what dates since 1998 has FA 4 undertaken secondments to the NCA (now ACIC)?**
- 3.1 The AFP is liaising with the ACIC on this question and will respond to the Royal Commission in due course.
4. **Has the AFP spoken to FA 4 since Ms Gobbo gave evidence to the Commission? If yes, what are his recollections (if any) of these meetings with Ms Gobbo?**
- 4.1 When the AFP first spoke to FA 4, he could only recall one meeting with Ms Gobbo. Because his official AFP diary for the relevant period could not be located, FA 4 was relying solely on his recollection of events some 21 years prior. FA 4 could not recall anything about the meeting beyond what had already been reported by FA 3.
- 4.2 The AFP has spoken to FA 4 more recently and provided him with a summary of the evidence given by Ms Gobbo to the Royal Commission. FA 4 has advised that, having had the benefit of reading the summary of Ms Gobbo's evidence, he now recalls a second meeting which he attended with FA 3. FA 4 has advised that, to his memory:
 - (a) both meetings were sought by Ms Gobbo;
 - (b) the main topic of these meetings was the alleged fraudulent and money laundering activities of Solicitor 1;
 - (c) the first meeting was general in nature but Ms Gobbo provided more specific information at the second meeting; and
 - (d) Ms Gobbo openly expanded on how she became aware of Solicitor 1 alleged activities.
5. **Has the AFP investigated whether information provided by Ms Gobbo to either FA 4 or FA 3 on 30 June or 7 July 1998 (or any other dates) was provided to any other AFP officer or intelligence personnel by way of report or any other means?**
- 5.1 When FA 3 self-reported the meeting that took place on 30 June 1998, he advised he had no independent recollection of providing any information disclosed by Ms Gobbo to another AFP member, whether by way of report or other means. FA 4 provided a similar response. The AFP conducted searches but found no records relating to the meeting beyond the entry in FA 3's official AFP diary for 30 June 1998.
- 5.2 In the more recent discussions that have taken place, both FA 3 and FA 4 have confirmed they have no independent recollection of providing any information disclosed by Ms Gobbo to another AFP member. FA 4 has further advised that:
 - (a) he has no independent recollection of typing any records of the meetings or undertaking any follow up action; and
 - (b) he believes the matter would have been reported in line with procedures at the time, however any documents would not contain references to Ms Gobbo.
- 5.3 The AFP has since conducted further searches and has located:

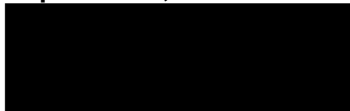
- (a) no relevant records from around this time relating to **Solicitor 1** and
- (b) no additional records relating to interactions between **FA 3** and **FA 4** and Ms Gobbo beyond the entries in **FA 3**'s official AFP diary that have already been provided to the Royal Commission.

Please contact Pip Mitchell or Isabelle Minnett with any queries.

Yours sincerely



Pip Mitchell, Partner



Isabelle Minnett, Lawyer

