

**ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF POLICE INFORMANTS
STATEMENT OF JEFF POPE**

1. My full name is Jeffrey Stephen Pope. I am currently the Deputy Electoral Commissioner at the Australian Electoral Commission. I am a former member of Victoria Police.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 8 March 2019. This statement concerns my dealings with Nicola Gobbo in the period 1993 to 2000. This statement does not refer to events subsequent to 2000.

Education background and employment history between 1993 and 2000

3. I hold the following qualifications:
 - (a) Bachelor of Laws (LLB), La Trobe University;
 - (b) Bachelor of Arts (Police Studies), Monash University; and
 - (c) Diploma in Company Directorship, the Australian Institute of Company Directors.
4. I graduated from the Victorian Police Academy in June 1990, and commenced as a constable with Victoria Police on graduating from the Academy. I do not currently have access to my employment history with Victoria Police. Set out below is my recollection of my employment history at Victoria Police between 1993 and 2000:
 - (a) early 1993 to approximately the end of 1993: uniformed officer at the City West police station;
 - (b) 1994: plain-clothed officer at the Russell Street District Support group;
 - (c) late 1994 to October 1995: uniformed officer at the Richmond police station;
 - (d) October 1995 to January 1998: Detective Senior Constable at the Asset Recovery Squad;
 - (e) January 1998 to early 1999: Detective Senior Constable at the Special Response Squad; and
 - (f) early 1999 to late 2000: return to Detective Senior Constable at the Asset Recovery Squad.



Involvement with any investigation which had dealings in any way with Ms Gobbo in the period 1993 – 2000

5. In 1999 and 2000, I was working in the Asset Recovery Squad which was part of the Major Fraud Group. I was investigating Melbourne lawyer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Ms Gobbo was used as a human source in relation to that investigation. I do not recall having involvement in any other investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo in the period 1993-2000.
6. In preparing this statement I have been provided by the lawyers for Victoria Police with access to extracts of my official diary and information reports relating to the investigation into [REDACTED]
7. In 1999, it was my practice to keep a 'day book', in which I recorded details of my day to day activities on a real time basis. I used my day book as an aid to complete my official diary and information reports. I do not have any of my day books. My official diary records a brief summary of my daily activities. The information reports provide a more detailed description of meetings and conversations, and form part of Victoria Police's intelligence database.
8. The investigation into [REDACTED] was referred to as Operation Ramsden. I do not recall the precise nature of the allegations against [REDACTED] but I recall there was a suspicion that he was laundering drug money through his law firm trust account. The investigation was allocated to the team on which I worked, which included Detective Sergeant Segrave, Detective Senior Constable Olney and Detective Senior Constable Sneddon. I led the investigation and reported to Detective Sergeant Segrave.
9. On 27 April 1999, I first became aware of the Operation Ramsden investigation by the Drug Squad.¹ On 28 April 1999, D/Sgt Segrave and I met with D/S/Sgt Strawhorn and Kruger [REDACTED] Kruger [REDACTED] at the Drug Squad.² I cannot recall what was discussed at this meeting, however the investigation log indicates that I was told about the investigation into [REDACTED] and that Ms Gobbo, a former employee of [REDACTED] might have information relevant to that investigation.³
10. After the meeting at the Drug Squad I returned to the Asset Recovery Squad and informed D/A/Insp Curran about the investigation and the proposed use of Ms Gobbo as an informer.⁴ D/A/Insp Curran was the acting officer in charge of the Asset Recovery Squad.

¹ VPL.0005.0007.0164.

² VPL.0005.0007.0164.

³ VPI.0005.0007.0189.

⁴ VPL.0005.0007.0164.



I also had a conversation with Roger Jeans, who was a solicitor at the Asset Recovery Squad.⁵ I do not recall what was said in this conversation.

11. I first met with Ms Gobbo on 12 May 1999.⁶ At this meeting, D/S/Sgt Strawhorn and Kruger introduced D/Sgt Segrave and me to Ms Gobbo. I recall this meeting took place at the Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne and lasted a couple of hours. My diary shows that I expended \$50 at this meeting.⁷ It is likely that this expenditure related to drinks and snacks for those present at the meeting. Detective Inspector Calderbank has signed this entry in my diary, which means I would have been reimbursed for this expenditure. The information report states that as this was the first meeting, no real information was discussed.⁸
12. I have been provided by the lawyers for Victoria Police with an Informer Registration Application dated 13 May 1999 for Ms Gobbo, which lists me as the applicant.⁹ D/Sgt Segrave recommended that she be registered, and A/Superintendent Sheridan approved her registration. I do not recall submitting this application.
13. On 17 May 1999, D/Sgt Segrave and I met with Ms Gobbo. I do not recall details of this meeting. The information report states that Ms Gobbo provided details of specific offences concerning [REDACTED] including charging clients directly who were eligible for Legal Aid funding, improper trust accounting, and involvement in a suspicious property transaction.¹⁰
14. On 19 May 1999, D/Sgt Segrave and I met with Ms Gobbo. I do not recall details of this meeting. The information report states that Ms Gobbo provided information about a property transaction in [REDACTED] related to the repayment of a drug debt, and that [REDACTED] had acted for both parties to the transaction.¹¹
15. On 27 May and 31 May 1999, Ms Gobbo emailed me attaching law notes for my personal use.¹² I do not recall these emails.
16. On 2 June 1999, my official diary records that I left a message for Ms Gobbo.¹³ I do not recall leaving this message.

⁵ VPL.0005.0007.0164.

⁶ VPL.0005.0007.0189.

⁷ VPL.0005.0007.0164 (at 0166).

⁸ VPL.0005.0007.0193.

⁹ VPL.0002.0002.0048.

¹⁰ VPL.0005.0007.0194.

¹¹ VPL.0005.0007.0196.

¹² VPL.0005.0007.0202 and VPL.0005.0007.0205.

¹³ VPL.0005.0007.0164 (at 0169).



17. On 3 June 1999, I had a telephone conversation with Ms Gobbo and arranged to meet her the following day.¹⁴ On 4 June 1999, D/Sgt Segrave and I met with Ms Gobbo. I do not recall the details of that telephone conversation or meeting. The information report states that we discussed Ms Gobbo providing computer discs containing information regarding [REDACTED]⁵ I do not recall what computer discs those were or how Ms Gobbo had access to them.
18. On 7 June 1999, I received a message from Ms Gobbo informing me that the computer disks were ready to be collected.¹⁶ On 8 June 1999 I left a message for Ms Gobbo.¹⁷ On 9 June 199 I called Ms Gobbo and arranged to meet her on 11 June 1999, but that date was subsequently postponed by Ms Gobbo to 14 June 1999.¹⁸ I do not recall the message or subsequent telephone conversations.
19. On 14 June 1999, I met with Ms Gobbo. I do not recall details of this meeting. The information report states that D/S/C Olney and D/S/C Sneddon provided security for this meeting, and that Ms Gobbo provided me with a computer disc which she said contained documents saved directly from [REDACTED] computer.¹⁹
20. On 15 June 1999, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo. The information report states that during this telephone call Ms Gobbo raised the issue of Victoria Police consenting to a variation of a restraining order over a property in [REDACTED] owned by a client of hers.²⁰ I informed her that I would speak to the relevant informant and get back to her. On 16 June 1999, I called Ms Gobbo and told her that Victoria Police was not in a position to consent to the variation sought and if any application was brought in respect of a variation, Victoria Police would oppose it.²¹ I do not recall details of these telephone calls.
21. On 30 June, 2 August, 6 September and 23 September 1999, my official diary records that I had telephone calls with Ms Gobbo.²² I do not recall these telephone calls.
22. On 1 October 1999, I met with Ms Gobbo. I do not recall details of this meeting. The information report states that at the meeting Ms Gobbo had no new information relevant to the investigation into [REDACTED]

¹⁴ VPL.0005.0007.0206.

¹⁵ VPL.0005.0007.0208.

¹⁶ VPL.0005.0007.0209.

¹⁷ VPL.0005.0007.0164 (at 0170).

¹⁸ VPL.0005.0007.0214 and VPL.0005.0007.0215.

¹⁹ VPL.0005.0007.0216.

²⁰ VPL.0005.0007.0217.

²¹ VPL.0005.0007.0218.

²² VPL.0005.0007.0164 (at 0173-0176).

²³ VPL.0005.0007.0219.



23. Sometime after this meeting the investigation into [REDACTED] was abandoned. I cannot recall why the investigation was abandoned. In May 2000, I referred the matter to the Legal Ombudsman as the appropriate body to continue any investigation into [REDACTED]
24. I recall one further meeting with Ms Gobbo which took place sometime after the investigation into [REDACTED] was abandoned. I recall running into Ms Gobbo at the Melbourne Magistrates Court precinct and we had a coffee nearby.
25. I recall that sometime in 2000, the Drug Squad executed a search at the premises of a suspected drug dealer, [REDACTED]. The team that I worked on at the Asset Recovery Squad was asked to assist in the subsequent investigation. I have not seen any documents pertaining to this investigation, however I recall at some stage having a one off conversation with Ms Gobbo where she said words to the effect of "you have no idea what you have stumbled across". I cannot recall if this was said during a conversation referred to above or a subsequent telephone conversation. I do not recall how Ms Gobbo knew of the investigation into [REDACTED]. As far as I recall Ms Gobbo did not have any involvement in the investigation into [REDACTED]
26. I cannot recall having any contact with Ms Gobbo between 1993 and 2000 other than what is referred to in this statement.

Dated: 1/4/19

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Jeffrey Pope

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within the meaning of the
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