

**Royal Commission
into the Management of Police Informants**

STATEMENT OF ROGER NEWELL JEANS

1. My full name is Roger Newell Jeans. I am a solicitor employed by Victoria Police. I am not a sworn 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 April 2019.
3. I do not possess any documents, correspondence or legal advice which concern Ms Gobbo. From around 2004, as a solicitor for Victoria Police I started to maintain a general diary to record hours worked and leave taken, and occasionally other notes such as to do lists or other general issues such as upcoming appointments. I have these diaries for the last five years. I do not know where my earlier diaries are located.

Educational background and employment history

4. I have a Bachelor of Laws/Jurisprudence from Monash University.
5. I was admitted to practice in November 1979.
6. My employment history is as follows:
 - (a) In 1981, I was appointed solicitor in the Office of the Solicitor to the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.
 - (b) In June 1991, I was appointed solicitor attached to the Victoria Police Corporate Crime Group. In this role I was advising in relation to complex corporate fraud investigations.
 - (c) In February 1995, I was appointed solicitor attached to the Victoria Police Asset Recovery Squad. In this role I assisted the investigators to conduct asset investigations and to advise them on making the appropriate applications under the relevant Confiscation legislation. I was also heavily involved in various working parties dealing with amendments to the Confiscation legislation and making law reform submissions.
 - (d) From May 1997 to December 1998, I was seconded to Operation Caledon to investigate fraud involving tendering of contracts at the Metropolitan Ambulance Service (which was a referral from the Victorian Government).

- (e) From December 1999 to December 2000, I was seconded to the investigation team at the Royal Commission into the Metropolitan Ambulance Service.
- (f) In September 2006, I was appointed solicitor with Victoria Police Crime Department Specialist Resources Lawyers. This was a new entity which had responsibility for assisting the Crime Department in general. I continued to advise in relation to confiscation issues.
- (g) From February 2007 to March 2009, while still part of Specialist Resources Lawyers, I provided assistance to the Criminal Proceeds team located in the Purana Taskforce in relation to asset investigations and preparation of applications under the Confiscation legislation. I also liaised with the Confiscation section of the Victorian OPP.
- (h) In March 2009, I retired from Victoria Police.
- (i) In July 2009, I re-joined Victoria Police as a solicitor with the Crime Department Specialist Resources Lawyers, including giving further assistance to the Purana Criminal Proceeds team and providing assistance for a period of approximately 12 months to Security and Organised Crime Intelligence in relation to Operation Rescind, which involved a large civil forfeiture investigation.
- (j) From February to December 2015, I was seconded to Taskforce Heracles to respond to the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption.
- (k) From December 2015 to date, I have continued working as a solicitor with the Crime Department Specialist Resources Lawyers, which is now called Legal Services Specialist Crime Lawyers.

Involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings in any way with Ms Gobbo (question 2)

7. During the period principally between early 2007 and March 2009, I assisted the Criminal Proceeds team who were conducting confiscation investigations for the Purana Taskforce. I had been the solicitor attached to the then Asset Recovery Squad for some years prior to this. Due to my experience in confiscation/proceeds of crime law, I was requested to provide support to the Criminal Proceeds team.
8. During this time, I became aware from discussions around the office that Ms Gobbo was representing a number of people who were the subject of Purana investigations. I was aware that she was dealing with police to secure plea deals for some clients which involved providing police with details of assistance her clients could provide to police in relation to other investigations. I am aware that some of Ms Gobbo's clients did receive reduced sentences for making witness statements and giving evidence in other proceedings.

9. Otherwise, I have no recollection of being involved in any investigation which had dealings in any way with Ms Gobbo.
10. I have been asked whether I recall meeting or speaking with Gavan Segrave, Jeff Pope, Kruger and/or Brett Curran while I was attached to the Asset Recovery Squad in relation to **Solicitor 1** Operation Ramsden or Ms Gobbo. I do not recall any meeting or discussion with any of these people involving such matters. I have no recollection of Operation Ramsden or what it was in relation to. My role was to provide advice in relation to confiscation issues. Operational issues would not be something I would advise on.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (questions 3-8)

Question 3

11. At some point in time, I became aware that Ms Gobbo had been registered as police informer 3838. I cannot remember when or how I became aware of this. From media reports, I understand this happened in 2005.
12. Until recent media reports, I had no knowledge of any registration of Ms Gobbo in 1995 or 1999. I had no involvement in these registrations and have no knowledge as to how they came about.
13. I have no knowledge of the registration and management of police informers.

Question 4

14. As discussed in my response to question 2, from general office discussion, I became aware that Ms Gobbo had some contact with members of the Purana Taskforce from time to time. I am unaware of when, how or what that contact entailed.

Question 5

15. I have no information to provide in response to this question.

Question 6

16. I have never met, spoken with or had any contact with Ms Gobbo.

Questions 7 and 8

17. I have no information to provide in response to these questions.

Concerns in relation to Ms Gobbo (questions 9-11)

Questions 9 and 10

18. I am not aware of any concerns being raised at any time by members of Victoria Police (or other policing or law enforcement agents) as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source, including Ms Gobbo.
19. I have never been asked to give advice regarding the use of a legal practitioner as a human source. If I had of been asked to give advice regarding this, I would have directed the person seeking the advice to seek advice from Victoria Police's Legal Services department who in turn could seek advice from the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office. My role at Victoria Police does not and has never concerned the use of police informers and I have no expertise in this area.

Questions 11

20. I have no information to provide in response to this question.

Other relevant matters

Question 12

21. I am not aware of any human source that has provided information or assistance to Victoria Police who were subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.


Question 13

22. As a solicitor, I have knowledge of the duty of disclosure, the right to silence, the right to an accused person to a legal practitioner, legal professional privilege, public interest immunity and professional and ethical decision making. In my experience as a solicitor at Victoria Police, any issue in relation to legal professional privilege, public interest immunity and disclosure was the domain of the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office. They provide advice and litigate those matters on behalf of Victoria Police.

Question 14

23. I have nothing further to add in response to question 14.

Dated: 11 April 2019


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Roger Newell Jeans