

Royal Commission
into the Management of Police Informants

STATEMENT OF DAVID RONALD BARTLETT

1. My full name is David Ronald Bartlett. I am employed by Victoria Police as a Detective Senior Constable.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 23 April 2019.
3. I make this statement based on my recollection and with reference to my official police dairies for this period, which were located yesterday. In the time available I have endeavoured to identify and review all relevant extracts in my diaries.

Educational background and employment history

4. I graduated from the Victoria Police Academy in February 1987.
 5. After my probation period during which I performed general duties in the Dandenong/Glen Waverley areas, I joined the District Support Group "P" in around 1988 or 1989. I also did temporary duties with the Drug Squad around this time.
 6. From July 1993 to October 1994, I was with the Transit CIB as a Detective.
 7. From October 1994 to November 1996, I undertook work in a covert capacity.
 8. From November 1996 to September 1998, I moved to Cranbourne CIB as a Detective in the "E" District.
 9. In September 1998, I joined the Drug Squad in Unit 1 (general drugs). I later transferred to Unit 2 (clandestine laboratories). I was Detective Senior Constable.
 10. In late 2003, I left the Drug Squad. I then performed duties at the Casino Squad before joining Crime Operations (Taskforce 500).
 11. In December 2006, I commenced other duties with Victoria Police.
 12. During my time with Victoria Police, I have completed numerous training programs including Detective Training School (DTS) and clandestine laboratory training.
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Involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings in any way with Ms Gobbo (question 2)

13. During my time at the Drug Squad, Ms Gobbo represented a number of the targets of investigations I was involved, including Taskforce Kayak and Operation Matchless. I believe that Ms Gobbo represented Tony Mokbel in relation to Taskforce Kayak and acted for [REDACTED] in relation to Operation Matchless.
14. From a review of my diaries within the time available I have identified the following relevant entries.
15. On 9 May 2002 Ms Gobbo was at the Drug Squad listening to recordings in relation to ^{Op1}
16. On 11 April 2003 DS Flynn, **DS Griffin** and I were involved in the execution of a search warrant and arrest of [REDACTED] and Rimond Kachab in Coburg. Other persons were arrested on the same date. I have no record in my diary of Ms Gobbo providing advice or acting for any of these persons.
17. On 14 April 2003 at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court I provided Ms Gobbo with interview tapes regarding Kabalan Mokbel.
18. On 31 May 2004 I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo thanking me for service of the brief regarding Kabalan Mokbel.
19. On 9 August 2004 I attended the Melbourne Magistrates' Court for the committal mention in relation to Operations Matchless and ^{Op2}. I have a note that Ms Gobbo appeared on behalf of [REDACTED] and Kabalan Mokbel.
20. On 21 March 2005 I attended the Melbourne Magistrates' Court with DS Dale Flynn in relation to Operations Matchless and ^{Op2}. I have a note that Ms Gobbo appeared on behalf of [REDACTED] DS Flynn and I also met with the OPP that day regarding these matters.
21. On 22 March 2005 I again attended the Melbourne Magistrates' Court in relation to Operations Matchless and ^{Op2}. I have no note of Ms Gobbo appearing on this date.
22. On 27 February 2006 I attended the County Court at Melbourne in relation to Tony Mokbel's Commonwealth trial. Mr Heliotis and Ms Gobbo appeared on behalf of Tony Mokbel.
23. On 28 April 2006 I attended the County Court at Melbourne with DS Flynn in relation to Operation Matchless. Ms Gobbo appeared on behalf of [REDACTED]

24. On 15 May 2006 I commenced taking a statement from [REDACTED]. This process continued over several days. I had been asked to take this statement by DS Flynn, who was then performing work at the Purana Taskforce. I have a note in my diary that [REDACTED] telephoned Ms Gobbo on 15, 17 and 18 May 2006.
25. On 10 November 2006 I spoke to DS Adam Shoesmith regarding a bail application that was to be made by Person 8. Ms Gobbo represented Person 8. My diary indicates that a further interview and statement was to be made by Person 8 implicating others. Later that day I spoke to Ms Gobbo about Person 8. I briefed DAI Gary Barker in relation to these matters.
26. On 13 November 2006 Ms Gobbo telephoned me in relation to Person 8's bail application.
27. On 14 November 2006 I attended the Melbourne Magistrates' Court for Person 8's bail application. DS Shoesmith and DSC Blair Thompson were also in attendance. I did not remain at court for the hearing of the application. At 4.40pm Ms Gobbo telephoned me and advised that Person 8 had been granted bail.
28. On 15 November 2006 I was involved in the execution of a search warrant and arrest of persons in Wodonga in relation to firearms and the manufacture of drugs. A number of persons were charged with drug and firearm offences that day. There are references to Person 8 in my diary on this date, however I can't now recall how he was relevant to the job I was undertaking on 15 November 2006.

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

Question 3

29. I became aware of Ms Gobbo's role as a human source through media reports. I was not previously aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.

Question 4

30. I have no knowledge of any other member of Victoria Police or any other organisation who was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.

Question 5

31. I have no knowledge of the authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 6

32. I refer to my response to question 2.
33. I also recall on occasion seeing and saying hello to Ms Gobbo in or around the Courts precinct, including at the Petty Sessions coffee shop. I cannot recall each of these occasions or the nature of these conversations.

Questions 7 and 8

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

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

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

Other relevant matters

Question 12

36. I am not aware of any other human sources that have provided information or assistance to Victoria Police who were subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

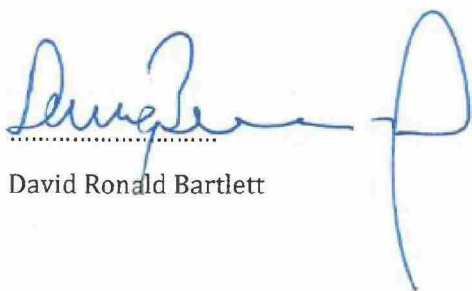
Question 13

37. I have undertaken numerous courses during my time at Victoria Police. I do not have access to the content of all these courses. However, I recall receiving training in the identified topics as follows:
- (a) The obligation of disclosure – DTS;
 - (b) The right of an accused person to silence – Academy training, DTS, caution cards;
 - (c) The right of an accused person to a legal practitioner – Academy training, DTS, caution cards;
 - (d) Legal professional privilege – DTS;
 - (e) Public interest immunity - experience on the job;
 - (f) Professional and ethical behaviour – eLearning modules.

Question 14

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

Dated: ^{2 May}~~30 April~~ 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Bartlett', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right. A dotted line is visible beneath the signature.

David Ronald Bartlett