

Statement of Former Sergeant Paul Firth

I **PAUL FIRTH** In response to the Notice to Produce No NP - 229 make the following statement:

Outline of my involvement or association with Ms Gobbo

1. I was a member of Victoria Police from July, 1993 to January, 2005. At the time of my resignation I held the rank of Sergeant and was stationed at Flemington Police Station. Between February, 1999 and June 2003 I was attached to the Drug Squad which was later known as the Major Drug Investigation Division.
2. During my time at the Drug Squad and Major Drug Investigation Division I became aware of a barrister named Nicola Gobbo. I cannot recall if she represented any offenders I charged. I recall exchanging pleasantries outside courtrooms on several occasions. Outside of this I had no involvement or association with Nicola Gobbo.

Outline of Ms Gobbo's relationship with other members of Victoria Police

3. I have no knowledge of Nicola Gobbo's relationships with other members of Victoria Police other than what I have read in media reports recently.

Details of when I learned or had reason to suspect that Ms Gobbo was providing information to Victoria Police

4. I first became aware of Nicola Gobbo providing assistance or information to the Victoria Police several months ago as a result of media reports.

Any other matters that may assist the Royal Commission

5. I was never involved in the recruitment or management of Nicola Gobbo as a human source. I was unaware of her acting in this role until recent media reports. As far as I am aware, I was not involved in any prosecution which was affected by Nicola Gobbo's conduct as a human source and I am unable to comment on the number of, and extent to which any other prosecutions may have been affected by her in that way.

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6. I do not have any knowledge of the conduct of current or former members of Victoria Police in their disclosures about and recruitment, handling and management of Nicola Gobbo as a human source.

7. I do not have any other information that would be relevant to the Royal Commission's inquiry.

Dated: 14 May 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Firth", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Firth