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3838
- 29/5/07.

Nicola Gobbo

From: "pauldale" [REDACTED]
To: "Nicol GOBBO" [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 April 2004 10:21 PM
Subject: Complaint to ombudsman for your advice please

THE OMBUDSMAN

VICTORIA

21 APRIL 2004

Police Complaints

Subject: **Official Complaint against members of the Ethical Standards Department,
Victoria Police Force**

My full name is Paul Noel DALE, I am 35 years of age and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Coburg, 3058. My telephone numbers are [REDACTED] & [REDACTED].

I have been a member of the Victoria Police Force since November 1988 some 15 years and 5 months.

During my service with the Victoria Police Force I have worked at a number of inner city stations within uniform sections, transferring to the Criminal Investigations area in 1995.

I commenced my career as a Detective at the Brunswick Criminal Investigation Unit in 1995 transferring to the Homicide Squad in 1997.

I transferred from the Homicide Squad in 2000 on promotion to Sergeant.

I again transferred back to the Criminal Investigation area in June 2002, to the newly formed Major Drug Investigation Division.

On arriving at the Major Drug Investigation Division I was placed in charge of a crew of subordinates.

I was immediately introduced to a very high level criminal who was acting as a police informant to one of my subordinates, Detective Senior Constable David MIECHEL. This informer was Terrence Bernard HODSON.

I became the co-handler of HODSON and the majority of my crew's investigations and Intel gathering was directly obtained by HODSON.

HODSON has serious prior convictions for drug offences along with offences of violence. He has many connections within the top echelon of drug traffickers within Melbourne and interstate.

He has direct and strong connections to a number of persons currently the target of the Piranha task force (Gangland killings).

28/05/2007

A number of successful operations were conducted through the utilisation of HODSON, who gathered intelligence on our behalf and purchased drugs under the immunity of a section 51 indemnity. These drugs to my knowledge were always supplied to investigators for correct handling procedures.

In August 2003 my crew became involved in an operation code named Operation GALLOP.

Operation GALLOP was an investigation into the manufacturing and trafficking of Ecstasy from a rented suburban house at [REDACTED] Dublin Street, East Oakleigh.

During this investigation, contact continued with HODSON who was continually gathering information and samples of drugs for me with the intention of commencing targeted operations on the suppliers on a priority basis.

It was during Operation GALLOP that it became apparent that HODSON was being supplied ecstasy tablets by the main targets of our Operation.

HODSON was instructed to continue to purchase small samples of the ecstasy tablets to assist investigators identifying coded talk on telephone intercepts relating to the type of tablets available from the targets.

Due to HODSON's involvement in this Operation he was given details about the investigation at many of our regular meetings.

On the 27 September 2003 I became aware that HODSON had been arrested nearby the target address of Operation GALLOP. I was also informed that one of my subordinates Detective Senior Constable MIECHEL had also been arrested nearby on suspicion of committing a burglary on our target address.

As a result of the above information I co-ordinated a number of search warrants to be executed and a number of persons to be arrested, due to evidence gathered throughout operation GALLOP. These cases are still before the courts.

At the time of his arrest HODSON was interviewed and released by the Ethical Standards Department.

Due to injuries sustained by MIECHEL he was interviewed some days later. He was not charged at that time.

On 2 October 2003 my crew members and I were requested to attend at the offices of the Ethical Standards Department, where we made statements in relation to our involvement in operation GALLOP and the handling of Terrence HODSON as an informer.

On the 5 December 2003 members of the Ethical Standards Department, lead by Detective Senior Sergeant Murray GREGOR 24792 attended at my home address in possession of a Crimes Act, Section 465 search warrant, authorising the search of my premises.

At the conclusion of the search I was conveyed to the offices of the Ethical Standards Department. (Nothing was seized from my premises).

I was subsequently interviewed, charged and remanded in custody in relation to conspiracy to traffick large commercial quantities of drugs. I was granted bail on the 15 December 2003 after ten days at Port Phillip Prison.

This matter is obviously before the courts and in due process I will be vindicated of these charges, which are based solely on the uncorroborated statement of HODSON!

Now that I have given you a brief background of my career and the scenario leading up to my arrest, I now wish to identify my complaint,

COMPLAINT 1) PERSONAL DETAILS OF POLICE MEMBERS AND CIVILIAN WITNESSES PROVIDED TO A CRIMINAL.

On the 5 February 2004 a hand up brief was served upon me via my solicitor, Tony HARGREAVES of Kenna Croxford and Co.

On examining this brief I was surprised to see that almost all of the civilian witnesses as well as Detective Senior Constable MIECHEL and my own home address and telephone numbers were identified through out the brief.

A number of the civilian witnesses requested that their personal details not be provided to any person without their express permission. One of the witnesses actually makes his statement in the presence of a solicitor who stipulates that their home address not be divulged.

Being very concerned that the criminal HODSON, a man of his own admissions carries a firearm and is willing to commit aggravated burglaries, may also have been served with this brief, I requested Tony HARGREAVES make inquiries with GREGOR the informant.

It has since been confirmed that it was an identical brief served on HODSON without any deletion of personal details of civilian witnesses, MIECHEL or my own.

This alone is a breach of the Victoria Police Manual, (Operations); see section 112-2 Victims & Witnesses – Interviews and Statements, Section 4.1, where clear guidelines exist regarding the inclusion of personal details of witnesses in statements.

I believe it is also a blatant breach of a duty of care in relation to two police members, where our personal details have been supplied to a high level criminal. This in itself is a major breach of our security and the safety of our families. I have a wife and 2-year-old child living with me.

As I have been charged by the Ethical Standards Department I do not believe that that office can impartially investigate this matter. I request that this matter be looked upon as a serious misconduct issue and appropriate measure taken against all members failing to comply with instructions and the obvious dereliction of duty by providing police members private details to a criminal.

Paul DALE
Current Suspended Detective Sergeant 27243

