

Witness Statement of Cameron Matthew DAVEY

1. My full name is Cameron Matthew DAVEY and I am currently employed as a Senior Investigator at the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).
2. Between 25 June 1990 and 30 June 2011 I was a member of Victoria Police, registered number 29012.
3. My work history with Victoria Police is as follows (the dates indicated are as accurate as possible given I no longer have access to my Victoria Police work history file):
 - a. 25 June 1990 - 2 November 1990 – Victoria Police Academy Constables' Course;
 - b. November - December 1990 – Melbourne City Traffic – Probationary Constable;
 - c. 1991 – Stawell Police Station – General duties policing – Probationary Constable;
 - d. 1992 – 1995 – Ballarat Police Station – General duties policing - Constable;
 - e. 1996 – “M” District Support Group - Constable
 - f. January – March 1997 – Asset Confiscation Squad – Temporary duties
 - g. April 1997 – 2002 – Flemington Crime Investigation Unit (CIU) – Detective Senior Constable (including attendance at Detective Training School - January – April 1998);
 - h. 2002 – January 2007 – Homicide Squad – Detective Senior Constable;
 - i. January 2007 – April 2007 – Criminal Proceeds Squad – Temporary Duties – Detective Senior Constable;
 - j. April 2007 – August 2010 – Petra Taskforce – Detective Leading Senior Constable;
 - k. September 2010 – November 2010 – Security Intelligence Group – Temporary duties - Detective Leading Senior Constable; and
 - l. November 2010 – Commenced employment at the Victorian Building Authority (then Building Commission) as an Investigator but remained an employee of Victoria Police until 30 June 2011 when I officially resigned.
4. This document is written for the information of the Royal Commission into the Victoria Police Management of Informers, to bring to its attention the involvement of Nicola GOBBO (GOBBO) as a witness in the Petra Taskforce investigation of the murders of

Terrence and Christine HODSON; and to bring to its attention my concerns that Victoria Police disbanded this Taskforce in order to protect the secrecy of the fact that Victoria Police was utilising GOBBO as a registered informer.

5. I wish to make it clear from the outset that at no time during my dealings with GOBBO was I aware that she was a registered informer for Victoria Police, nor did Petra Taskforce utilise GOBBO as an informer. GOBBO was a witness in the Petra Taskforce investigation into the murders of Terrence and Christine HODSON, who made a signed statement in her own name and was later referred to as Witness F, in order to protect her identity as a witness.
6. At the time of the HODSON murders in 2004 I was attached to the Victoria Police Homicide Squad as a Detective Senior Constable. Following discovery of the murders of Terrence and Christine HODSON, my team and I attended at their home in Kew, where they had been murdered and an investigation commenced. I was the lead investigator in this matter. Detective Sergeant Sol SOLOMON was my immediate supervisor at that time.
7. SOLOMON has recently provided me with a copy of a signed statement which he has made, dated 15 January 2019. This statement was made by SOLOMON to inform the Royal Commission of the Petra Taskforce involvement with GOBBO during the HODSON murder investigation. SOLOMON requested that I forward his statement to the Royal Commission. I have attached a copy of SOLOMON's statement to this document. As SOLOMON has provided a comprehensive account in his attached statement, I will not repeat that information. There are however some matters which I will expand on.

Contact with GOBBO prior to Petra Taskforce

8. Prior to the formation of the Petra Taskforce, during the early phase of the Homicide Squad investigation into the HODSON murders, I spoke to GOBBO in relation to the HODSON murders. I do not believe I had spoken to GOBBO on any occasion prior to that occasion in my career for any reason. On 30 June 2004 I contacted GOBBO by phone and requested she attend at the Homicide Squad offices to speak with investigators regarding the HODSON murders. An appointment was made for her to attend at the Homicide Squad offices the following day. On 1 July 2004 GOBBO attended at the Homicide Squad offices and Detective Senior Sergeant Charlie BEZZINA and I spoke with her. The conversation took place in an interview room as

video recording facilities were available in that room to record the conversation. The conversation was informal but the conversation was video recorded. As I no longer have access to the Victoria Police investigation files for the HODSON murders I cannot be specific about what was discussed with GOBBO, however my memory is that she was spoken to about her knowledge of the HODSONs, their associates and her knowledge (if any) of their murders. The conversation took place in order to attempt to further the investigation. I believe that I recorded a summary of the conversation in an Information Report, but I have no access to that document. I do not believe I spoke to GOBBO again at any stage until after the formation of the Petra Taskforce.

Early suspects

9. On page 2 of SOLOMON's statement, SOLOMON stated that by April 2007 the investigation was active however we had not yet identified any clear and definite suspects. It should be noted that ex-Victoria Police officer Paul DALE was identified as a suspect very early on in the investigation. This was due to the fact that DALE and another ex-Victoria Police officer David MIECHEL had been charged along with Terrence HODSON with offences stemming from a burglary at a house in Dublin Street Oakleigh. The house had contained significant quantities of drugs and cash and was the subject of a Victoria Police Drug Squad/MDID investigation at that time. HODSON was at that time a Victoria Police registered informer who was being handled by MIECHEL and DALE, who were attached to the Drug Squad/MDID. MIECHEL and HODSON were arrested in the vicinity of the address on the night of the burglary. HODSON later made a statement to the Victoria Police Ethical Standards Department regarding both DALE and MIECHEL's involvement in the planning of the burglary. HODSON was to be a prosecution witness against MIECHEL and DALE in the Court proceedings for those charges.
10. DALE and MIECHEL were arrested on 17 May 2004 and interviewed regarding the murders. DALE provided an alibi which was investigated and it was confirmed that DALE was in Bendigo at the time of the murders. MIECHEL also provided details of his movements over that weekend. DALE and MIECHEL remained persons of interest to the investigation.
11. Another significant suspect named Mark SMITH was also identified during the Homicide Squad phase of the investigation. SMITH was an associate of HODSON. During the investigation of SMITH, on 18 September 2004 a search warrant was executed at SMITH's home in Queensland and during that search 31 pages of Victoria

Police Information Reports were located and seized. Analysis of those documents identified that they were from 10 separate Information Reports, prepared by MIECHEL and DALE, containing information provided to them by HODSON. Subsequent investigations revealed that these Information Reports were sent from a fax machine connected to Tony MOKBEL. Subsequent investigations into the whereabouts of Mark SMITH at the time of the murders identified that he was in Queensland on the weekend of the murders.

The WILLIAMS statement

12. In March 2007, as I understand it, Detective Senior Sergeant Jim O'BRIEN and Detective Sergeant Stuart BATESON were in communication with Carl WILLIAMS regarding unrelated investigations. WILLIAMS indicated that he could make a statement regarding his corrupt relationship with DALE and his knowledge of the HODSON murders. As a result, I attended at Barwon Prison with BATESON and obtained a statement from WILLIAMS. WILLIAMS signed that statement on 24 April 2007.
13. The WILLIAMS statement was the catalyst for the formation of the Petra Taskforce, to which SOLOMON and I were seconded. The initial functions of the Taskforce were to investigate the WILLIAMS statement with a view to determining the accuracy of his information, and to continue the HODSON murder investigation.

Contacts with GOBBO during Petra Taskforce

14. During the investigation it became apparent that GOBBO was associating with numerous persons of interest to the investigation. SOLOMON and I wished to ask GOBBO a number of questions relating to the investigation. I compiled a list of matters which we wished to speak with her about, which became known as the Questionnaire. I was required to submit the Questionnaire through the chain of command for approval. I did not know why this was necessary at the time and I do not know who provided the ultimate approval for SOLOMON and myself to meet with GOBBO to discuss the matters contained within the Questionnaire. Following approval of the Questionnaire, we were provided approval to contact GOBBO and request to meet with her. We were instructed not to discuss matters other than those contained within the Questionnaire with GOBBO.
15. On 21 February 2008 SOLOMON and I called GOBBO and made an appointment to meet with her. The initial meeting occurred on 26 February 2008, with further

meetings taking place on 28 February and 5 March 2008. During these meetings SOLOMON and I asked GOBBO about matters contained within the Questionnaire. GOBBO did not provide any privileged information during these meetings and was not acting as an informer, but answered questions which the investigation had raised.

16. Following those meetings, analysis of various telephone numbers of interest identified that DALE was operating a "safe phone" in a false name, and this safe phone was communicating with other phones, including a phone suspected of being operated by GOBBO in a false name. On 17 November 2008 SOLOMON and I again spoke to GOBBO by appointment regarding her knowledge of DALE's safe phone. GOBBO admitted that she was in communication with DALE using a safe phone operated in a false name, and that the phone had been provided to her by Azzam AHMED. AHMED had been identified as being involved in the operation of the house in Dublin Street Oakleigh. I advised GOBBO that I may ask her to make a statement regarding her possession of the phone and her contact with DALE on his safe phone, but I did not formally request her to make a statement at that time.
17. On 26 November 2008 DALE appeared before a coercive examination at the Australian Crime Commission (ACC). During that examination the matters detailed in [REDACTED] statement were put to DALE, including the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] assertion that DALE had approached [REDACTED]
18. Following that ACC examination, DALE called GOBBO by phone and asked to meet her. DALE and GOBBO were friends, but GOBBO was not acting for DALE, nor had she previously. GOBBO called SOLOMON, as detailed in SOLOMON's statement. I believe GOBBO offered to record a meeting with DALE.
19. As a result, on 3 December 2008 I met with GOBBO in company with Detective Senior Sergeant Shane O'CONNELL from the Petra Taskforce. The purpose of the meeting was to confirm that GOBBO was in fact prepared to record her meeting with DALE. GOBBO confirmed that she had offered to record the meeting and was still prepared to do so.
20. On 6 December 2008 O'CONNELL and I again met with GOBBO to confirm the meeting, which had been arranged for the following day.

21. On 7 December 2008 O'CONNELL and I met with GOBBO prior to her meeting with DALE. GOBBO was provided a covert recording device. GOBBO then left and met with DALE. At the completion of the meeting we again met with GOBBO and retrieved the covert recording device. GOBBO indicated that during the meeting DALE had passed her a piece of paper on which he had written "ACC".
22. I then reviewed the covert recording. During the recorded conversation between DALE and GOBBO, DALE indicated that WILLIAMS had made a statement and that the statement was very accurate. DALE knew the details of the WILLIAMS statement from the questions put to him during the ACC examination. This admission to the accuracy of the WILLIAMS statement was very significant, because the statement related to DALE and WILLIAMS' corrupt relationship and DALE approaching WILLIAMS to arrange the murder of Terrence HODSON.
23. On 11 December 2008 O'CONNELL and I again met with GOBBO. I advised her that the recording was very significant and I requested her to make a statement. GOBBO asked me how important it was that she make a statement and I told her that it may be the difference between DALE being charged or not charged regarding the HODSON murders. GOBBO advised me that she would consider my request.
24. I was later advised that GOBBO had agreed to make a statement and arrangements were then made for a statement to be obtained from her. On 30 December 2008 I spoke to GOBBO regarding statement arrangements.
25. On 1 January and 2 January 2009 SOLOMON and I met with GOBBO and obtained a statement from her. The statement was made in her own name. GOBBO made it clear that she had never represented DALE in any matter and there was no issue of legal professional privilege. On 7 January 2009 I again met GOBBO. On that date GOBBO signed her statement and provided me with documents relevant to her statement.
26. On 3 January 2009 I received a phone call from GOBBO to advise me that her letterbox at her home address had been damaged. I advised her to contact Detective Senior Sergeant Shane O'CONNELL to discuss the matter with him.
27. On 13 February 2009 I charged DALE with the murder of Terrence HODSON.

28. On 11 March 2009 SOLOMON and I met with GOBBO. The purpose of the meeting was to check on her welfare. GOBBO expressed no concerns regarding her welfare.
29. On 20 March 2009 I charged Rodney COLLINS with the murders of Terrence and Christine HODSON.
30. I had no further contact with GOBBO until SOLOMON and I flew to Queensland and met with GOBBO on 20, 21 and 22 August 2009. The purpose of that meeting was for GOBBO to review the covert recording of her meeting with DALE and compare the recording to the transcript of the recording. This recording review and transcript comparison was requested by GOBBO. During that Queensland meeting, GOBBO advised me that she had once sent an email to a solicitor, Tony HARGREAVES, to advise him that she could not act for DALE.
31. On 10 September 2009 I spoke to GOBBO in relation to a defence subpoena which had been received from solicitors representing COLLINS. Specifically, I spoke to GOBBO regarding Item 105 of the subpoena. I do not know what Item 105 referred to, however my notes taken at the time indicate that GOBBO advised me that there were no other documents originating from GOBBO in the possession of Victoria Police, other than the documents she had provided to me (on 7 January 2009). I draw the conclusion that Item 105 referred to any documents provided to Victoria Police by GOBBO.
32. On 14 September 2009 SOLOMON and I met with GOBBO. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with GOBBO whether she was prepared to make a further statement relating to providing the email to HARGREAVES to advise that she could not act for DALE.
33. I was not present for a welfare check with GOBBO on 29 December 2009 which SOLOMON refers to on page 12 of his statement.
34. On 8 February 2010 SOLOMON and I met with GOBBO and served on her a witness summons to attend and give evidence at the committal hearing of DALE at the Melbourne Magistrates Court. My memory is that GOBBO had a walking stick or walking frame and oxygen bottle to provide her oxygen at the time we met with her. GOBBO stated that she was not medically capable of giving evidence. I also again

discussed with GOBBO the matter of her making a further statement, but this matter was not resolved and GOBBO never provided a further statement.

35. On 23 February 2010 an event chronology relating to the HODSON investigation was prepared for the OPP. During the course of preparing this chronology of events, it was identified that GOBBO may have been involved as a conduit in the transmission of Victoria Police Information Reports from DALE to MOKBEL before the documents were faxed to Queensland.
36. On 16 March 2010 an application was made to set aside GOBBO's witness summons. The Court granted a three month stay due to GOBBO's medical condition. Following that, a letter was received from GOBBO's solicitors advising that her medical condition had deteriorated and that she was now wheelchair bound. Surveillance on the day the letter was received showed GOBBO walking unaided up the front steps to her accommodation.
37. On 19 April 2010, WILLIAMS, who was a key prosecution witness was murdered.
38. On 21 April 2010 I attended a meeting with Assistant Commissioner CORNELIUS and was advised that the Homicide Squad was investigating the murder of WILLIAMS and a new Taskforce, Driver, was being established to investigate the circumstances surrounding his murder.
39. In late April or early May 2010 GOBBO lodged a writ against Victoria Police. This matter is covered in the statement of SOLOMON. The information I would add is that on 25 May 2010 I provided a copy of the brief of evidence against DALE to VGSO for the defence of the writ and on 2 June 2010 I provided VGSO with surveillance footage of GOBBO which disproved her claims that she was wheelchair bound.
40. On 4 June 2010 the charges relating to the HODSON murders were withdrawn following the murder of WILLIAMS.
41. On 9 June 2010 Petra Taskforce held a conference to discuss further avenues to be pursued in the investigation. As a part of this conference it was decided that investigations should be commenced to determine whether GOBBO had any involvement in the unlawful releasing of the HODSON Information Reports to elements of the criminal underworld. As a result of the conference, a document was prepared

outlining the intended future investigative directions of the Taskforce, including the intention to investigate GOBBO. This document was provided to the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee, advising the Steering Committee of the intention to investigate GOBBO.

42. In August 2010 the writ against Victoria Police was settled with GOBBO. It seemed highly unusual to me and others that the writ could be settled so quickly, and for what I understood to be a considerable sum, given that I had provided physical evidence to VGSO which suggested GOBBO's claimed physical state of health was not completely accurate.
43. Around 16 August 2010 a document was received at the Petra Taskforce. The document was a written direction from the Chief Commissioner that Petra Taskforce staff have no further contact with GOBBO. This was a staggering and perplexing direction to issue, given that the Steering Committee knew that we suspected GOBBO of being involved in the unlawful distribution of the HODSON Information Reports and knew that we intended to summons GOBBO to a coercive examination before the ACC; and that GOBBO was a critical witness for a future Coronial Inquest into the HODSON murders and would be a critical witness in a future prosecution of DALE for providing false information to the ACC. I refused to sign the direction, as did SOLOMON I believe. I do not recall if other members of the Taskforce refused to sign the direction, but it was certainly returned without all Taskforce staff consenting to the direction to have no further contact with GOBBO.
44. On 18 August 2010 Assistant Commissioner MALONEY advised that the Petra Taskforce was disbanded. We were advised that the HODSON investigation would be taken over by Driver Taskforce and that no investigators from Petra would continue on the investigation, other than for a brief handover period.
45. To my knowledge the Driver Taskforce did not make any further headway in the HODSON murder investigation and did not investigate GOBBO.
46. Throughout the entire time I was investigating the HODSON murders, both at the Homicide Squad and at the Petra Taskforce I was unaware that GOBBO was in fact a registered informer.

47. It is now apparent that GOBBO was a registered informer with Victoria Police. It is my belief that the fact that GOBBO was a police informer played a significant role in the decision to disband the Petra Taskforce; and by extension had a significant detrimental effect on the investigation of the HODSON murders. Whilst not privy to the discussions of the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee and Police Command, I suspect that Police Command considered the Petra Taskforce's efforts to solve a double murder caused a risk of exposing the fact that GOBBO was a registered informer. This is based on the following factors:
- a. The Taskforce was responding to a large number of defence subpoenas for information, some of which related to GOBBO, which may have caused Police Command concern that information relating to GOBBO acting as an informer could be captured by the subpoena requests;
 - b. GOBBO would be required to give evidence and therefore be subject to cross examination;
 - c. The Taskforce proposed to investigate GOBBO; and
 - d. Members of the Taskforce refused to comply with a direction to cease all contact with GOBBO.
48. All of these factors put GOBBO's role as a registered informer at risk of being exposed. I suspect that Victoria Police made the decision to disband the Petra Taskforce in order to reduce the risk of this unethical relationship between GOBBO and Victoria Police being exposed. The reason for disbanding the Petra Taskforce which was provided at the time was "to enable the investigation to be viewed with fresh eyes"; however in my view this was a ludicrous explanation as six years of investigation knowledge accumulated by SOLOMON and myself, not to mention the other members of the Taskforce who had been investigating the matter since 2007, was effectively no longer being utilised. I can think of no logical reason for the Taskforce to be disbanded other than the reason I have provided.
49. In doing so, those responsible for that decision effectively nobbled the HODSON murder investigation and denied the HODSON family any chance for justice.

Cameron Matthew DAVEY

13 May 2019