

Royal Commission
into the Management of Police Informants

STATEMENT OF GAVAN SEGRAVE

1. My full name is Gavan Segrave. I am a Detective Inspector attached to the North West Metro Region, Victoria Police.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 8 March 2019.

Educational background and employment history (question 1)

3. I commenced employment with Victoria Police in October 1984 and graduated from the Police Academy in February 1985. I then performed duties as follows:
 - a) 02/1985 – 06/1986: Probationary Constable at Carlton, Russell Street and Port Melbourne Police Stations.
 - b) 06/1986 – 07/1989: General Duties Constable at Russell Street and Richmond Police Stations, and Special Duties at the 'A' District Support Group.
 - c) 07/1989 – 12/1996: Detective Senior Constable at Fairfield Criminal Investigation Branch, the Tactical Investigation Group, the Rape Squad, and the Special Response Squad.
 - d) 12/1996 – 03/1999: Sergeant at the Richmond Police Station and the Region One Regional Response Unit.
 - e) 03/1999 – 12/2002: Detective Sergeant at the Asset Recovery Squad and the Arson Squad.
 - f) 12/2002 – 09/2007: Detective Senior Sergeant at the State Intelligence Division Intelligence & Covert Support Command, including management of the DNA Management Unit, the Sex Offenders Registry, the Strategic Intelligence Unit, and the Security Intelligence Group Undercover Unit.
 - g) 09/2007 – Present: Inspector at the Corporate Management Review Division, the Special Projects Unit Covert Services Division Intelligence & Covert Support

Command, the Foundation Training Division People Development Command, the Operations Support Division North West Metro Region.

In the course of the approximately four and a half years that I was the Detective Inspector at the Special Projects Unit, I had periods of upgrading into the role of the Detective Acting Superintendent Covert Services Division, which included line control of the then Source Development Unit.

4. I have undertaken the following police training:

- a) 1984-85: Police Recruit Training
- b) 1987: Senior Constables' Exams
- c) 1990: Detective Training School
- d) 1991: Economic Crime Course
- e) 1995: Sergeants' Exams
- f) 1996: Sub-Officers' Course
- g) 1996: Brief Managers' Course
- h) 1998: Sergeants' Investigation Management Course
- i) 1998: Drug Law & Investigation Course
- j) 1999: Critical Incident & Management Course
- k) 2000: Primary Analysis Course
- l) 2002: Arson Investigation Course
- m) 2003: Joint Intelligence Group Officers' Course
- n) 2003: Joint Intelligence Group Co-ordinators' Course
- o) 2003: National Strategic Intelligence Course
- p) 2004: Project Management Course
- q) 2008: Inspectors' Qualifying Program
- r) 2008-09: VicPol sponsored training with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)
- s) 2017-18: Managers' Leadership Program

5. I possess the following tertiary qualifications:

- a) 1997-2002: Bachelor of Business (Business Administration and Management), RMIT University
- b) 2000: Post Graduate Certificate (Fraud Investigation), La Trobe University

- c) 2003: Post Graduate Certificate (Industrial & Employee Relations), Monash University
- d) 2006: Post Grad Certificate (Applied Management Criminal Intelligence), Charles Sturt University
- e) 2002-2005: Master's Degree (Organisational Leadership), Monash University.

Involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings with Nicola Gobbo (question 2)

Operation Ramsden

6. My only involvement with Ms Gobbo occurred during 1999 when Ms Gobbo was registered as a human source in the course of investigations related to Operation Ramsden.
7. I have very little memory of the 1999 events and have relied heavily on my review of the available records in making this statement. Those records consist of:
 - a) The Informer Registration Application for Ms Gobbo;¹
 - b) A memorandum dated 3 January 2000 in which I requested Ms Gobbo be declassified;²
 - c) An extract of the Victoria Police Manual Operating Procedures that applied at the relevant time;³
 - d) My official police diary for the relevant period;⁴ and
 - e) The information reports referred to in this statement.
8. In 1999, I was a Detective Sergeant at the Asset Recovery Squad. I reported to Detective Senior Sergeant Brett Curran. D/S/C Jeffrey Pope reported to me.
9. The Asset Recovery Squad was part of the Crime Department, Major Fraud Group. The Squad was a multi-disciplinary team that investigated activities associated with assets recovery action in accordance with the *Confiscations Act 1997*. The business model for

1 VPL.0005.0013.0952.

2 VPL.0002.0002.0053.

3 VPL.0002.0001.1914.

4 VPL.0005.0013.0959; VPL.0005.0013.0962; VPL.0005.0013.0964.

the Asset Recovery Squad involved the squad liaising with other investigative units in relation to high level jobs they were investigating. Often those investigations concerned major fraud or drug related offending. The squad regularly liaised with the Drug Squad, including Detective Senior Sergeant Wayne Strawhorn.

10. From my review of the records, I believe that D/S/Sgt Strawhorn approached myself or someone else at the Asset Recovery Squad about receiving information from Ms Gobbo concerning alleged fraudulent activities by ██████████ of the law firm, ██████████
██████████ Ms Gobbo was working as a lawyer with ██████████ and alleged that there were irregularities in the trust account operated by him. I can't remember now whether this information was conveyed to me by D/S/Sgt Strawhorn or by Ms Gobbo, however, I recall that D/S/Sgt Strawhorn introduced us to Ms Gobbo and then stepped away from the investigation into the alleged fraud and the management of Ms Gobbo. The subject matter of the investigation would have placed it outside the remit of the Drug Squad. Operation Ramsden was the name given to the intended investigation into the alleged activities of Mr ██████████
11. My diary shows that on 12 May 1999 at 3.15pm I attended the Drug Squad and spoke to D/S/Sgt Strawhorn and D/S/C Kruger for ten minutes. At 4.10pm I left the office with D/S/C Pope and attended at the Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne where we met Ms Gobbo, who was then an unregistered informer, until 7.10pm. I have no recollection of this meeting and no note in my diary of what was discussed. My recollection is that, during that time, I would not note details of meetings with an informer in my diary due to security concerns, and that relevant information would instead be noted in an information report. I have been provided with a copy of an information report relating to the meeting on 12 May 1999.⁵ While I don't have an independent memory of this meeting I accept that the information report accurately records what occurred.
12. On 17 May 1999 at 12.20pm I attended a meeting with D/S/C Pope and Ms Gobbo in Armadale. The meeting concluded at 4.15pm. I have no recollection of this meeting and no note in my diary of what was discussed. I have been provided with a copy of an information report relating to this meeting.⁶ While I don't have an independent

⁵ VPL.0005.0007.0193.

⁶ VPL.0005.0007.0194.

memory of this meeting I accept that the information report accurately records what occurred.

13. On 19 May 1999 at 5.20pm I left the office with D/S/C Pope and met with Ms Gobbo in South Melbourne. I have no recollection of this meeting and no note in my diary of what was discussed. I have been provided with a copy of an information report relating to this meeting.⁷ While I don't have an independent memory of this meeting I accept that the information report accurately records what occurred.
14. Ms Gobbo was registered and assigned local informer registry number MFG13. I have no independent recollection of the registration process. However, as a Detective Sergeant my role including ensuring that we acted in accordance with the relevant Victoria Police policy that applied at that time. That policy provided little guidance as to when an informer should be registered and I believe there were few registered informers used by the Major Fraud group at that time. I expect that I would have discussed the matter with my Senior Sergeant and others before a decision was made to register Ms Gobbo in accordance with the policy. I believe, although I don't specifically recall, that Ms Gobbo's position as a lawyer, together with the subject matter of the information she was expected to provide, would have been relevant considerations in determining that she should be registered at an early stage of our interactions with her.
15. At that time, registration was a paper-based system. I have reviewed the Informer Registration Application for Ms Gobbo and recognise my handwriting and signature in Part B underneath the heading "This part to be completed by the Applicant's Supervisor". This section is dated 19 May 1999. I also recognise my signature at the bottom of the page headed Part B in the area labelled "Signature of Supervisor" and dated 26 May 1999.
16. It is apparent from Part C of the Informer Registration Application that the Local Informer Registrar, A/Superintendent Kevin Sheridan, approved Ms Gobbo as suitable for registration.
17. I have been asked whether Ms Gobbo would have been aware that she had been registered in 1999. Although I have no specific recollection of this, I suspect that she

⁷ VPL.0005.0007.0196.

may not have been. The Victoria Police policy at that time did not require an informer to be notified of their registration and my recollection of the practice that existed at that time is that informers were usually not told.

18. On 27 May 1999 my diary shows that I was in the office. However, I have been shown an information report that records that D/S/C Pope and I met with an informer in relation to Operation Ramsden at approximately 11.30am.⁸ I have been provided with the name of the informer, which has been redacted in the information report. While I don't have an independent memory of this meeting, I have no reason to dispute the accuracy of the information report. I cannot account for why my diary entry for that date does not detail any activity consistent with the information report.

19. My diary shows that on 28 May 1999 and on 1 and 3 June 1999 I undertook work in the office in relation to Operation Ramsden.

20. On 4 June 1999 at 7.00am I attended the South Melbourne area with D/S/C Pope and met with Ms Gobbo. My diary notes indicate that an information report was prepared in relation to this meeting. I have been provided with a copy of the relevant information report.⁹ While I don't have an independent memory of this meeting I accept that the information report accurately records what occurred.

21. I have no record of having any further contact with Ms Gobbo after 4 June 1999.

22. Operation Ramsden did not progress as an investigation and did not result in any person being charged with a criminal offence. My recollection is that Ms Gobbo was ultimately unwilling or unable to provide the information she had initially promised concerning the trust account and alleged fraud.

23. On 3 January 2000 I recommended that Ms Gobbo's status be reclassified from "active" to "inactive" and that she be de-registered. This would have been because the Operation Ramsden investigation had concluded.

⁸ VPL.0005.0007.0200.

⁹ VPL.0005.0007.0208.

Involvement in other investigations which had dealings in any way with Ms Gobbo

24. As noted in paragraph 3 above, while an Inspector of Special Projects, I was from time to time performing duties as an Acting Superintendent in the Covert Services Division. At one point while performing these duties, I received reports and provided briefings to the Assistant Commissioner, Intelligence and Covert Support Command in relation to the civil proceedings that were occurring at that time concerning Ms Gobbo.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 3

25. I refer to my response to question 2 concerning my state of knowledge as to information or assistance provided by Ms Gobbo during 1999.

26. In addition, I note that in Part B of the Informer Registration Application for Ms Gobbo I wrote that Ms Gobbo "has no known previous history of supplying info to law enforcement agencies". While that was my belief at the time, in hindsight, given Ms Gobbo was introduced to us by D/S/Sgt Strawhorn I suspect that Ms Gobbo may have been providing information to D/S/Sgt Strawhorn.

27. I have been asked whether I had any knowledge or belief that Ms Gobbo was providing information to police subsequent to 1999. I only became aware of this during the period of time that I was an Acting Superintendent, as described in paragraph 24 above. The knowledge I received during that time concerning Ms Gobbo's role was minimal and was conveyed to me within the context of the civil proceedings that were then on foot.

Question 4

28. I believe the following members of Victoria Police were aware in 1999-2000 that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police: D/S/C Jeffrey Pope, D/S/C Kiera Olney, D/S/C Robert Sneddon, D/S/Sgt Brett Curran, A/Superintendent Kevin Sheridan, D/S/Sgt Wayne Strawhorn, and Kruger, Kruger, Kruger

29. I have no knowledge of any other member or organisation being aware of Ms Gobbo's role.

Questions 5-7

30. I refer to my response to question 2.

Question 8

31. I have no knowledge in relation to this matter.

Concerns in relation to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Questions 9 and 10

32. As stated in response to question 2, I expect, although I don't recall, that Ms Gobbo's position as a lawyer, together with the subject matter of the information she was expected to provide, would have been relevant considerations in determining that she should be registered at an early stage of our interactions with her.

33. I am otherwise not aware of any concerns being raised by members of Victoria Police or any other organisation as to the use of a legal practitioner or Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 11

34. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Other relevant matters

Question 12

35. I have no knowledge of this matter.

Question 13

36. In the time available, I have not had an opportunity to review the course content of the training I have undertaken. However, my recollection of the relevant training or retraining I have received is as follows:

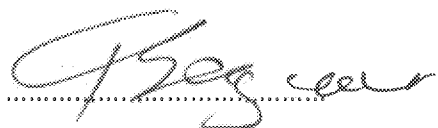
- a) I expect that I would have undertaken training and retraining in relation to disclosure generally but I cannot recall the details or the courses in which this was covered.
- b) The right of an accused person to silence is a fundamental matter which was taught at the Academy and consistently reinforced at subsequent training. This right is referred to whenever a member cautions an alleged offender.
- c) Similarly, the right of an accused person to a legal professional is a fundamental matter which was taught at the Academy and consistently reinforced at subsequent training. This right is referred to whenever a member cautions an alleged offender.
- d) My recollection is that legal professional privilege was only touched upon during my foundation training. I received more detailed training about this once I moved into fraud investigations. I believe the topic was covered during the Economic Crime Course I undertook in 1991 and Post Graduate Certificate (Fraud Investigation) I obtained in 2000.
- e) I don't recall receiving training about public interest immunity, except as part of the Drug Law & Investigation Course I undertook in 1998. I gained most of my knowledge about public interest immunity when I worked in the Covert Services Division, Intelligence and Covert Support Command.
- f) Professional and ethical decision making is a constant theme throughout all police training and courses.

Question 14

37. In 2010, I together with Inspector Glenn Jackson, conducted the Corporate Management Review Division *Audit of Victoria Police Human Source Management Practices*.¹⁰

¹⁰ VPL.0002.0001.0382 and VPL.0002.0001.0414.

Dated: 22 March 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavan Segrave', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Gavan Segrave