

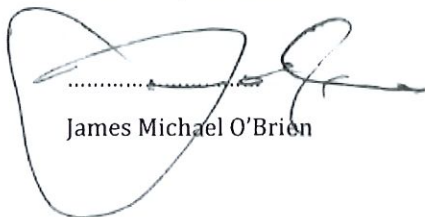
**Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants**

**Further Statement of James Michael O'Brien**

1. My full name is James Michael O'Brien. I am employed as a General Manager. I was previously employed by Victoria Police.
  2. I have previously made a statement dated 14 June 2019 in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 8 March 2019.
  3. I have read paragraph 32 of the statement that Paul Dale has provided to the Royal Commission.
  4. Records of contact and tasking with regard to Terry Hodson are recorded in his informer management file. I been provided with and have reviewed part of this file to prepare this further statement. Based on those documents and to the best of my recollection:
    - a) from time to time, Terry Hodson would provide information about drug dealers in and around Melbourne;
    - b) our standard procedure on receipt of this information of this type was to make a decision as to whether or not to make a sample [REDACTED] purchase;
    - c) if a sample purchase was made, it would be subject to a forensic analysis;
    - d) a forensic analysis of a sample purchase would reveal information such as:
      - i. purity of the drugs;
      - ii. possible manufacturer of the drug; and
      - iii. proliferation of that same drug on the street;
    - e) the result of the forensic analysis would determine our investigative strategy, which may include a 'bulk purchase' of the drug. We would never authorise a bulk purchase without an arrest strategy;
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- f) from time to time, Terry Hodson would be tasked with making sample purchases. This would occasionally lead to the progression of the investigation and a bulk purchase;
- g) every time Terry was tasked by Victoria Police with making a purchase of drugs, that purchase would be supported by documentation authorising the purchase, which would be recorded in the informer management file. Some of these authorisations have been provided to me for the purpose of making this statement;
- h) on occasion, Terry would obtain a sample without sanction by Victoria Police. These samples would be confiscated and forensically tested and/or destroyed;
- i) while I recall the issue referred to in paragraph 32 of Dale's statement, I do not recall the purported discussion between Dale, Detective Superintendent Tony Biggin and myself;
- j) in around October 2002, Hodson acquired 3000 ecstasy tablets and a subsequent authorisation was given. Dale's awareness of this is noted in the informer management file; and
- k) a purchase of 5000 tablets (or 3000 tablets) is a large amount of drugs (possibly a commercial quantity depending on the purity of the drug) and would be considered a bulk purchase;
- l) to the best of my recollection, every purchase made by Hodson was either:
  - i. authorised at the time of purchase under section 51 of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* (Vic); or
  - ii. retrospectively authorised by Victoria Police;
- m) my recollection is supported by the part of the informer management file that I have reviewed for the purpose of this statement.

Dated: 14 June 2019



James Michael O'Brien