

This document has been redacted for Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police.  
These claims are not yet resolved.

15 November 2019

Holding Redlich  
Solicitors Assisting the Royal Commission

I refer to your letter dated 8 November 2019 requesting a statement from me. In response to your request that I prepare a statement addressing the matters specified in your letter, I say as follows:

1. I have never had any association with Ms. Gobbo. My only involvement with Ms. Gobbo was at court when I appeared for the Chief Commissioner of Police in response to a subpoena or subpoenas requiring the production of documents. In serious criminal matters subpoenas are routinely served on police informants, demanding the production of generic categories of documents (sometimes thousands of documents of no conceivable relevance) or other items when it is obvious that the ambit and/or vagueness of the demand suggests that it is a fishing expedition and that no legitimate forensic purpose can be demonstrated for the demand. Although I have no specific recollection of the nature of the objections I took, I believe that such an objection would have been taken. Sometimes production was also resisted on the grounds of public interest immunity. I cannot recall whether there was any such claim for public interest immunity on the occasion or occasions Ms. Gobbo appeared. To the best of my recollection Ms. Gobbo appeared on behalf of the accused in at least one such matter possibly two. I have no clear recollection of the details or the identity of her client on that occasion although I believe that I was briefed to appear on behalf of the Chief Commissioner in relation to subpoenas relating to charges against Mokbel and Williams during or around 2006. To the best of my recollection, the matter in which Ms Gobbo appeared was resolved by the Chief Commissioner agreeing to provide some documents and resisting the production of others. That was a common and efficient way of dealing with such subpoenas. It was not unusual for a further subpoena to be issued later in the same proceeding either in the Magistrates Court on committal or on the trial, seeking the same documents or additional documents and sometimes including documents which had already been supplied.
2. When I dealt with Ms. Gobbo, I was completely unaware that Ms. Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police. I cannot confidently recall whether I first heard such suggestions or reports during discussions amongst members of the bar or when I read newspaper reports to that effect, although I think it was more likely the former.
3. As I have stated in paragraph 1 above, I believe that I was briefed on a few occasions in or around 2006 by Victoria Police in relation to subpoenas. I believe that another such occasion was during the committal hearing of charges against Benbrika and others (the terrorist committal). I think public interest immunity was claimed in those matters.

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4. I have no knowledge of any other matters relevant or potentially relevant to the terms of reference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Brian Dennis