

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

## STATEMENT


Name: Ian Douglas Hill  
Address: Level 9, 460 Lonsdale Street,  
Melbourne, 3000  
Occupation: Barrister

States:

1. My name is Ian Douglas Hill and I am a member of the Victorian Bar and have been since 1975.
2. On 5 December 2003 I was briefed to appear at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court for a then Detective Sergeant Paul Dale of the Victoria Police. Dale had been arrested and remanded in custody in respect to various offences of conspiracy and drug trafficking. Dale was applying for bail which was granted.
3. At that stage I have no memory of ever having met Nicola Gobbo.
4. In 2004 I was engaged in a Supreme Court trial in New South Wales and on my return in early 2005, I joined Crockett Chambers on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of 530 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.
5. I believe Nicola Gobbo joined my floor of Crockett Chambers in approximately 2006.
6. I did not know her previously and thereafter had little interaction with her. We never appeared together.
7. I do have a vague recollection of her, probably in 2008, seeking my advice informally about the powers of coercive bodies such as either the Office of Police Integrity or the Australian Crime Commission. I do not believe she gave me any details and was seeking to ascertain if I would be prepared, if necessary, to represent her. I have no notes of this conversation and nothing came of it as I know I did not appear for her.
8. In February 2009, Paul Dale was again arrested and charged with the murder of Terence Hodson. I had had no further dealings with Dale since December 2003.
9. In March 2009, I was again briefed by Mr. Tony Hargreaves of Hargreaves and Partners to appear for Dale on a bail application.
10. Shortly prior to the bail application I learnt, to my surprise, from Mr. Hargreaves, that Nicola Gobbo had tape-recorded a conversation between herself and Dale. This was the first occasion on which I had reason to think or believe that Nicola Gobbo was providing information to Victoria Police.

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11. On 13 March 2009, I appeared for Dale on a bail application before the then Chief Justice. Bail was refused.
12. As the Chief Justice's Judgment reveals (copy attached) Nicola Gobbo's identity was suppressed.
13. At about this time I learnt from Mr. Gavin Silbert SC, Chief Crown Prosecutor, that the police feared for Nicola Gobbo's safety.
14. As a result of this information and with Mr. Silbert's express approval I informed some of my chamber colleagues of the potential danger to them and those who worked in Crockett Chambers.
15. As a result, Nicola Gobbo was asked to leave chambers, which she eventually did.
16. I had no dealing with her at this time, nor thereafter.
17. It was not until more recent times, probably during late 2018, and only through what was reported in the daily media, that I learnt of the alleged breadth of the information and assistance she had been providing to Victoria Police. This came as a complete surprise.

  
9 May 2019.