

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

STATEMENT OF RAYMOND JOHN COLLINS

1. My full name is Raymond John Collins. I am a former member of Victoria Police.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 23 May 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (Q 1)

3. I joined Victoria Police in 1990. A summary of my employment history since that time is set out below:
 - (a) in 1990, I graduated from the Victoria Police Academy;
 - (b) between 1990 and 1991, I was a trainee stationed at Carlton Police Station;
 - (c) in 1992, I was promoted to Constable, and was stationed at Russell Street Police Station performing general duties;
 - (d) in 1993, I returned to Carlton Police Station;
 - (e) in 1995, I transferred to the A District Regional Response Unit (formerly the AD SG);
 - (f) in 1997, I was promoted to Senior Constable and stationed at the South Melbourne Police Station;
 - (g) in 1998, I was seconded to the CIU as a Detective for a period of six months, after which I returned to the South Melbourne Police Station;
 - (h) between 2001 to 2003, I was a Prosecutor for Melbourne Prosecutions, and undertook prosecution duties at the Magistrates Court and the Melbourne Children's Court;
 - (i) between 2003 and 2005, I took a leave of absence from Victoria Police and worked overseas;

- (j) in 2005, I returned to Victoria Police and was stationed at the Carlton Police Station for a short period;
 - (k) later in 2005, I transferred to the Human Source Management Unit (**HSMU**) (which is also known as the Informer Management Unit) within the State Intelligence Unit (**SIU**) where I performed administrative duties;
 - (l) in 2006, I commenced a further period of leave; and
 - (m) in January 2007, I resigned from Victoria Police.
4. I have undertaken Victoria Police qualifications and training including:
- (a) the Victoria Police Academy;
 - (b) the Investigators Course;
 - (c) the Drug and Enforcement Course;
 - (d) the Intelligence Practitioners Course;
 - (e) the Prosecutor Training Course; and
 - (f) the Human Source Management Course.
5. I also participated as a trainer in the Human Source Management Course.

Involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo (Q 2)

6. To the best of my knowledge, I have not had any involvement or association with any operations or investigations that had any dealings with Ms Gobbo.
7. From 2001 to 2003, I was a Prosecutor at Melbourne Prosecutions. I came to know Ms Gobbo in her capacity as a defence barrister. Ms Gobbo was frequently in or around the Melbourne Magistrates Court, and I came to know her well enough to say hello to. I also spoke to Ms Gobbo at professional functions, such as Law Society events, from time to time.
8. I do not recall Ms Gobbo defending any person I prosecuted, at least not in a contested hearing. It is possible that she acted in minor matters that did not proceed to a contest, but I have no recollection of any such matter.
9. I was not aware in this period that Ms Gobbo was a registered human source.

10. I took a period of leave from Victoria Police between 2003 and 2005. In 2005, I returned from my period of leave and spent a brief period at the Carlton Police Station. I then saw a position advertised for the HSMU, applied, and was offered the position. My recollection is that I had the title of "Analyst" or "Intelligence Officer".
11. My role at the HSMU was administrative. I had no operational involvement. I did not deal directly with human sources.
12. I was tasked with transferring hard copy human source records into the new state-wide database. Prior to 2005, human source registration details had been registered at a local level with the relevant Superintendent. These registration details were in hard copy and were generally kept in a sealed envelope in a safe. After the HSMU was established, a direction was issued that all human source registrations were to be transferred to the HSMU. As a result, the sealed records were sent in to the HSMU. Part of my job was to open the sealed envelopes and input the data into the database.
13. I was also involved in processing intelligence reports and inputting the data into the database. Each report was inputted into the database, and then disseminated as needed. The reports themselves came from both officers and human sources. Sometimes the report concerned information provided by a human source, and sometimes the report concerned information about the human source. In either case, the data would be entered into the database.
14. As part of my role, I was required to input the data for new registered sources. When an approved application for registration came in, I would transfer the information into the database. Thereafter, I would update the source log with new information as it came in. For example, I would update personal details such as the human source's address, known vehicles, telephone numbers and associates. It also involved logging intelligence about the human source, as I describe above.
15. To the best of my recollection, I did not ever see any information about Ms Gobbo. I believe that if I had seen information that indicated that Ms Gobbo was a human source, I would recall it. The information would have stood out, because I knew Ms Gobbo, as I described above.

How I learned, or were given reason to believe, Ms Gobbo was providing information to police (Q 3)

16. I recall that employees in the HSMU were informed as a group that Ms Gobbo was a human source. I have only a vague recollection of this discussion, and do not recall who it was that informed the group of her status.
17. I believe I was informed at some time prior to 18 May 2006. I say that because, having reviewed my diaries, I have identified that I was asked to attend the County Court to give evidence about the HSMU registration process and, specifically, a change that had been made to the procedure for issuing letters of assistance to persons who had provided assistance to Victoria Police. Ms Gobbo was at Court.
18. Ms Gobbo and I said hello to each other, and she noted that we hadn't seen each other in a while. Ms Gobbo asked me where I was working. I recall that I gave a vague answer to the effect that I was working in an administrative position with Victoria Police. I have a specific recollection of this because I knew she was a human source and I did not want to embarrass her or make her feel awkward by telling her that I worked in the HSMU.

Awareness of others (Q 4)

19. I am not aware of other members of Victoria Police or other organisations who were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police. However, I believe that other members of the HSMU were informed of Ms Gobbo's status at the same time as I was

Authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q 5)

20. I do not know who was involved in the authorisation and continued authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q 6)

21. I refer to my answer to question 2 above.

Information & assistance received (Q7 & Q8)

22. I have no knowledge of any information or assistance given by Ms Gobbo to Victoria Police.

Concerns raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source (Q 9)

23. I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source.

Concerns raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q 10)

24. I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (Q 11)

25. I am not aware of any such discussions.

Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q 12)

26. I am not aware of any other human sources subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

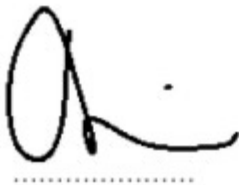
Training (Q 13)

27. I completed a number of training courses throughout my police career. I would have received training on each of the topics identified in question 13 at the Academy and at various stages throughout my police career.

Other information (Q 14)

28. I have no further information to provide.

Dated: 13 November 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. J. Collins', written over a dotted line.

Raymond John Collins