

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

STATEMENT OF CASSANDRA AUDREY STEPHENS

1. My full name is Cassandra Audrey Stephens. I am Executive Assistant to the Chief Commissioner of Police, Graham Ashton.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 2 September 2019. This statement will be produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (question 1)

3. In 2007, I commenced employment with the Office of Police Integrity (OPI) in an administrative role.
4. In 2008, I was seconded as Executive Assistant to Graham Ashton, who was then Deputy Director of OPI. I remained in this role until approximately March 2010.
5. In March 2010, I commenced with Victoria Police as an Executive Assistant.
6. In July 2015, I became the Executive Assistant to Chief Commissioner, Graham Ashton. I still hold that role.

Involvement or role with any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo and note taking at meetings (questions 2-3)

Question 2

7. I did not have any involvement or role in any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo other than providing administrative support such as scheduling meetings, preparing and sending correspondence. I did not attend meetings relevant to investigations.
8. I have not had access to my emails for the relevant period for the purpose of preparing this statement.
9. I may have seen correspondence referring to "3838" and "witness F" but I did not turn my mind to what this actually meant at the time. Due to the nature of my role, it was common for me to see human source pseudonyms.
10. I recall that Ms Gobbo was dealing with Victoria Police in some capacity but did not believe this to be providing information or assistance to Victoria Police. The significance of the situation did not enter my mind and I was not interested in any information about Ms Gobbo.

11. In or about December 2018, I recall Mr Ashton announced the decision of the High Court and the subsequent Royal Commission. I believe this to be the first time I had knowledge that Ms Gobbo was a police informer.

Question 3

12. I refer to my answer to question 2 above. I confirm that I did not attend any meetings relevant to any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (questions 4-6)

Question 4

13. I refer to my answer to question 2 above. I believe the first time I had knowledge that Ms Gobbo was a police informer was at the time of the High Court decision and announcement of a Royal Commission in December 2018.

Question 5

14. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 6

15. I have not had any personal contact with Ms Gobbo.

Concerns in relation to Ms Gobbo (questions 7-8)

Question 7

16. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 8

17. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Other relevant matters (questions 9-10)

Question 9

18. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 10

19. I have nothing further to add in response to question 10.

Dated: 30 September 2019


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Cassandra Audrey Stephens

Statutory declaration