

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

STATEMENT OF DALE GREGORY JOHNSON

1. My full name is Dale Gregory Johnson.
2. I am a Detective Senior Sergeant of Victoria Police.
3. 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 (Q1)

4. I graduated from the Victoria Police Academy in 1975.
5. I originally retired from Victoria Police as a Detective Senior Sergeant in the Clandestine Laboratory Squad in 1996.
6. I returned to Victoria Police in 2000 as a Constable at Cheltenham Police Station. I was promoted to Senior Constable in 2002 and was appointed a Detective Sergeant in the Major Drug Investigation Division (MDID) in 2002.
7. In 2003, my crew and I relocated to Purana Taskforce.
8. In August 2006, I got the opportunity to act in a Senior Sergeant role at the Moorabbin Regional Response Unit.
9. Ultimately, I was promoted to a permanent Senior Sergeant role at Moorabbin RRU.
10. Since August 2006, I have been at Moorabbin RRU, then Brighton Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU) (which ultimately became Bayside CIU). I am currently stationed at Glen Eira CIU, following the merger of Bayside and Caulfield stations.

Involvement or association with any investigation which dealt with Ms Gobbo (Q2)

Purana Taskforce

11. On 26 August 2003, I was informed by Superintendent Tony Biggin that my crew was relocating to Purana Taskforce.
12. I was the Detective Sergeant in charge of a crew of four or five Detective Senior Constables.

13. I was leading the investigations and supervising my crew. My role was focused on oversight of the crew's investigations and I would not take on the Informant role for any accused my crew arrested. Informant duties would be allocated to a member of the crew on the basis of workload at any given time.
14. Some crews at Purana Taskforce (including mine) were responsible for investigation drug-related activities. Other crews were responsible for investigating related homicides.

Operation Posse

15. On [REDACTED] 2006, I was involved in the execution of a search warrant at a [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] were [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED]
16. I was tasked to search [REDACTED] for firearms and to assist with cleaning up the premises.
17. I did not have any contact with [REDACTED] during this period although I was aware he had been arrested.
18. I did not have any further involvement with Operation Posse outside of the assistance some members of my crew and I provided in relation to the [REDACTED]
19. My last day at Purana Taskforce was 4 August 2006. I started at Moorabbin RRU on 7 August 2006.

How I learned, or was given reason to believe, Ms Gobbo was providing information (Q3)

20. I became aware that Ms Gobbo was an informer when the [REDACTED] was taken out in [REDACTED] 2006.
21. I was not told that Ms Gobbo was a human source. I saw her at St Kilda Road Police Station with members of the Source Development Unit (SDU). It was clear to me from what I saw that she was a human source.
22. I don't recall which members of the SDU were with her.
23. I had had dealings with the SDU previously so knew some of the members and that they were responsible for managing high risk sources.
24. I did not discuss what I saw with anyone. I recall that Detective Acting Inspector Jim O'Brien and Detective Senior Sergeant Gavan Ryan were present when the members of SDU were with Ms Gobbo.
25. At this time, I did not know or discover that Ms Gobbo was 3838.

26. I don't recall any discussions about 3838 while I was at Purana Taskforce.

27. I found out that Ms Gobbo was 3838 from media coverage.

Awareness of others (Q4)

28. I have no knowledge of this matter beyond the matters set out in response to question 3.

Authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q5)

29. I have no knowledge of this matter.

Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q6)

30. I knew of Ms Gobbo as a lawyer when I was at MDID in 2002.

31. She was representing a lot of the gangland figures at the time. I do not specifically recall knowing specifically who she was acting for.

32. I also recall being aware that she had a reputation for socialising with her clients.

33. I have a recollection of seeing Ms Gobbo at court on occasions however I have never had any dealings with her.

Information & assistance received (Q7 & Q8)

34. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Concerns raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source (Q9)

35. I have no knowledge of this matter.

Concerns raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q10)

36. I have no knowledge of this matter.

Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (Q11)

37. I have no knowledge of this matter.

Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q12)

38. I have no knowledge of this matter.

Training (Q13)

39. I have been asked about my training on the following topics:

- (a) Obligation of disclosure;
- (b) The right of accused person to silence and to a legal practitioner;
- (c) Legal professional privilege;

- (d) Public interest immunity; and
- (e) Professional and ethical decision making.


40. These topics would have been covered to some degree at Detective Training School (DTS) and Advanced DTS.

41. There is also a lot of "on the job" learning that occurs.

Other information (Q14)

42. I have nothing further to add.

Dated: 2 December 2019



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Dale Gregory] Johnson