



VICTORIA POLICE

**Deputy Commissioners' Office**

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Dear Witness 'F'

**Entry into Witness Protection Programme**

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You would be aware of the extended negotiations between yourself and our staff about entering the Witness Protection Programme. While these negotiations have been continuing, Victoria Police has provided interim protection and assistance to you, including ad hoc security arrangements, as required.

In my letter to you dated 4 June 2009 Victoria Police confirmed advice, already given to you in person by our staff, that it was essential to include you in the Witness Protection Programme as soon as possible, in view of the risks to your safety.

You are subject to extreme risk of harm as it is known in the criminal community that you will be giving evidence in the Dale matter. Further, it may be assumed by persons within the criminal community that you may give evidence in other matters to the detriment of those persons.

You are also aware that you have been the subject of specific death threats by SMS messaging.

In view of your continued association with certain persons, and your unwillingness to comply with the recommendations of Victoria Police in relation to your safety, Victoria Police has become increasingly concerned about your personal security. I have considered a full threat and [REDACTED] about the potential for physical harm to be directed against you. That [REDACTED] has also considered the risk of harm to police officers who have assumed the responsibility for offering protection to you under the existing ad hoc security arrangements. The [REDACTED] concludes that in the view of the extreme risk of harm to yourself, existing ad hoc security arrangements are inadequate to effectively reduce the risk of harm to you and to others.

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

Your urgent acceptance of an offer to participate as a protected witness in the Witness Protection Programme is the most appropriate means of reducing and controlling this risk of harm. As explained in our earlier letter, the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] within the [REDACTED] and your co-operation with the reasonable requirements of Victoria Police directed towards maintaining your safety, are the most appropriate means of reducing and controlling the risk of harm to you, and to the police officers who may be the subject of threat in providing protection services to you.

In our earlier letter, we suggested further negotiations take place concerning the [REDACTED] to be [REDACTED] between you and the Chief Commissioner in relation to your [REDACTED]

I am advised that although these negotiations have continued over recent weeks with various staff of Victoria Police, including members of the Witness Security Unit, these matters are unresolved, and no agreement has been reached. Continuing the present ad hoc security arrangements represents an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of the police officers who have been protecting you. Accordingly, we advise that the existing ad hoc security arrangements are to be discontinued with effect from Thursday, 3 September 2009. You may however, be afforded protection within the [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] with the Chief Commissioner. The [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] can be inspected by yourself at a meeting at your request. The meeting should occur no later than Thursday, 3 September 2009.

As participation in the Witness Protection Programme is voluntary the decision to participate is a matter for you. Should you decide not to participate in the Witness Protection Programme then you will be treated in the same manner as any other witness called upon to give evidence in a criminal proceeding. If Victoria Police becomes aware of any imminent threat to you, we will take action. If you believe your personal safety is at imminent risk, you should call 000 for police assistance.

In relation to ongoing financial assistance, current arrangements in relation to your living expenses while you are not in a position to pursue your occupation will continue subject to the absolute discretion of the Chief Commissioner. That financial assistance consists of a contribution of \$1,000.00 per week towards your living expenses, in addition to certain costs related to your accommodation.

If you wish to participate in the witness protection programme in accordance with the [REDACTED] you may contact Geoff Always [Ph: [REDACTED]]. It remains open for you to join the witness protection programme at any time.

Yours faithfully



Kieran Walshe

Deputy Commissioner Victoria Police