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Superintendents Blayney and Hollowood
Tasking and Co-ordination
Crime Department

**Direction to establish Taskforce to investigate the
Hodson murders**

I refer to our recent discussions regarding the establishment of a Taskforce to investigate the murders of Terence and Christine Hodson, who were fatally shot at their home address in Kew in May 2004.

I write to confirm leadership of the taskforce and interim staffing arrangements; provide draft terms of reference and appropriate oversight and reporting arrangements; advise progress on administrative and logistic issues and to reinforce the security imperatives of this investigation.

Taskforce Leadership and membership:

The Taskforce will be overseen by a Crime Department Operations Superintendent and led by Detective Inspector Gavan Ryan.

Interim Victoria Police staffing will comprise two teams of investigators and appropriate intelligence and administrative support officers. Staffing can be reviewed once the Taskforce is established and better positioned to provide advice on on-going staffing requirements, including operation support.

Arrangements will be made for the Taskforce to access on-going legal advice from senior lawyers experienced in criminal law.

Staff selections should initially be recommended by the Taskforce leadership team and confirmed through you. Obviously the leadership team will need to be mindful of security and association issues in selecting staff, given the sensitivity of this investigation.

Terms of Reference:

I propose the following Terms of Reference:

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The Taskforce will rigorously and fully investigate the murders of Terrence and Christine Hodson at Kew on 16 May 2004 to identify and prosecute those responsible. Particular emphasis should be placed on the information from [REDACTED] alleging involvement of a former member of Victoria Police in these murders.

It is likely that in the course of this investigation other offences will be detected, or further information regarding corrupt activities of former or current members of Victoria Police may be forthcoming. These offences or information should be appropriately documented but the scope of the Taskforce's terms of reference is not to change without the prior written approval of the Management Committee.

All aspects of the on-going management of [REDACTED] will remain the responsibility of Detective Inspector O'Brien, who will also be the conduit for all communications between the Taskforce and [REDACTED]

The Taskforce will operate for an initial twelve month period.

Oversight and Reporting Arrangements:

Given the serious and sensitive nature of these allegations the Taskforce will operate 'off-line' from normal management structures and arrangements. The Taskforce will formally report to a Management Committee comprising the responsible Crime Department Operations Superintendent, the Assistant Commissioner ESD, a senior OPI representative and a Deputy Commissioner Victoria Police. The Management Committee is directly accountable to the Chief Commissioner and the Director OPI.

The Management Committee will be responsible for governance and oversight of the Taskforce. This includes authorising the major investigation plan, critically reviewing progress of the investigation and dealing with higher level administrative, logistic and resourcing requirements. The Management Committee will also make recommendations to the Chief Commissioner regarding any change of scope to the terms of reference for the Taskforce, or on alternative arrangements to deal with further allegations of corruption against former or current members of Victoria Police.

The Management Committee will normally meet on a weekly basis with Taskforce management, who will provide a written up-date at each meeting advising an overview of activity in the past week and forecasting activity for the following week. Any emerging issues and/or risks should also be raised through this written brief. If required the Management Committee will convene out of session to deal with any unforeseen contingencies requiring high level management decisions.

Minutes will be kept of all Management Committee meetings. Secretariat support will be provided by the Deputy Commissioner's Staff Officer.

Superintendent Wilson is to be responsible for the day to day management of the Taskforce. Although 'off-line' the Taskforce should follow all policy and procedural requirements that apply to Crime Department investigations, unless prior written agreement is obtained from the Management Committee to deviate from normal

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arrangements. This may be necessary in order to maintain the security of the Taskforce.

The Management Committee will be responsible for ensuring that the Chief Commissioner is kept appropriately briefed.

No public or media comment is to be made about this Taskforce without prior and express approval from the Management Committee.

The Management Committee will conduct thorough quarterly reviews of progress and a major review at the end of twelve months to determine future direction.

Administration and Logistics:

A cost centre is being established and budget allocated for the Taskforce. The cost centre will be held by the Crime Department Business manager and will not be visible through normal corporate reporting.

Reintegration issues will be dealt with by Taskforce management and the Management Committee throughout the life of the Taskforce.

Staff initially deployed to the Taskforce can expect to be seconded for the duration of the investigation detailed in this initial term of reference. They are guaranteed release and return to the positions they occupied prior to secondment to the Task force at completion of this investigation, or earlier if approved by the Management Committee.

Normal conditions of employment will apply to all Taskforce members. Welfare of Taskforce members is of high importance and will primarily be the responsibility of Taskforce management. The Management Committee and other corporate resources are available to assist in ensuring that all staff are appropriately managed and cared for in what may be a long, protracted and stressful investigation.

Accommodation is currently being sourced. The accommodation will be appropriately fitted out, including with Victoria Police IT and telecommunications. Four vehicles will be made available to the Taskforce for initial deployment.

Access to TI/LD and surveillance capacity will be sourced through ESD or other arrangements as agreed with the Management Committee, having appropriate regard for operational security.

Operational Security:

Operational security is imperative. Any uncontrolled release of information or compromise of security will seriously harm the likelihood of a successful investigation and be catastrophic for the reputation of Victoria Police.

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Security needs to be considered and inform every stage of this investigation including; the recruitment and induction of staff; establishment of the Task force; investigation planning and management; and operations, physical, document, IT and staff security.

The 'need to know principle' needs to strictly apply at all stages of this investigation.

Conclusion:

I would appreciate written confirmation that the task force leadership and membership; terms of reference; and oversight and reporting arrangement are agreed by the Taskforce leadership team and that the administration and logistics and operational security matters are noted and agreed.

Simon Overland
Deputy Commissioner

/04/2007

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