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These claims are not yet resolved.

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

STATEMENT OF WENDY STEENDAM APM

1. My full name is Wendy Steendam. I am a Deputy Commissioner, Specialist Operations, Victoria Police.
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 is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.
3. I have reviewed my official Victoria Police diaries and emails for the purposes of preparing this statement.

Educational background and employment history (Q1)

4. I joined Victoria Police in October 1984. Below is a summary of the roles I have undertaken and my progression through the ranks.
5. Between 1984 and May 2003, I held many diverse policing roles including general duties roles in the Western suburbs and Dandenong area, as well as duties at Doveton Community Policing Squad. In 1990, I qualified as a Senior Detective and worked at the Fraud Squad as well as the Asset Recovery Squad. I transferred to Moorabbin Criminal Investigation Unit in September 1993 and also performed secondment duties at the Rape Squad. I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant at the Moorabbin Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Unit in 1997. I was promoted to the rank of Senior Sergeant in 2000 at the Moorabbin Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Unit and worked there until 2003. During this period, I was involved in policy development and major organisational reforms in relation to violence against women and children. I was promoted to the rank of Inspector in 2003 after performing higher duties in Region 1.
6. From May 2003 until February 2006 I was an Inspector at the Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Co-ordination Unit and the Local Priority Policing Office.
7. Between February 2006 and July 2010, I was a Detective Superintendent, Crime Department.
8. While performing my substantive role as Detective Superintendent, Crime Department I acted in the following roles at various times:
 - a) 26 May 2006 to 12 June 2006 - Superintendent Operations, for Superintendent John Whitmore;
 - b) 21 August 2006 to 13 September 2006 and from 11 to 22 December 2006 – Superintendent, Tasking Coordination, for Superintendent Jack Blayney;
 - c) 8 October 2007 to 7 January 2008 – Chief of Staff to Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon;

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- d) 28 September 2009 to 9 November 2009 – Assistant Commissioner, Crime, for AC Danye Moloney.
- 9. From 12 July 2010 until July 2013, I was an Assistant Commissioner, Eastern Region.
- 10. Between 25 February and 20 April 2013, I acted in the role of Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Organisation Development.
- 11. From July 2013 to August 2015, I was Assistant Commissioner, Chief Information Officer.
- 12. From August 2015 to November 2018, I was Deputy Commissioner, Capability. My portfolio included Human Resources Department, Media and Corporate Communications Department, People Development Command (which includes the Airlie Leadership Development Centre), the Victoria Police Response to the VEOHRC review, the Professional Standards Command (which also includes Taskforce Salus), and Capability Command.
- 13. In November 2018, I commenced my current role of Deputy Commissioner, Specialist Operations. In this role I have portfolio responsibility for Counter Terrorism Command, Road Policing Command, Crime Command, Intelligence & Covert Support Command, Forensic Services Department and Legal Services Department. I also have oversight and responsibility for Victoria Police's response to the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants.

Qualifications

- 14. I hold the following qualifications:
 - a) Victoria Police Leadership Business Mentoring Program (2014)
 - b) Victorian Leadership Centre, Senior Executive Leadership Program (2011)
 - c) Completion of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course (2009)
 - d) Completion of the Victoria Police Senior Management Leadership Development Program (2008)
 - e) Executive Masters of Public Administration from Melbourne University and Australian and New Zealand School of Government (2006)
 - f) Graduate Certificate in Applied Management, Charles Stuart University (2003)
 - g) Police Management Development Program, Australia Institute of Police Management, Manly, NSW (2002)

Awards and commendations

- 15. I have received the following awards and commendations:
 - a) Inducted as a Victorian Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia, Victoria Division (2014)
 - b) Recipient of the Australian Federal Police service medal for contribution to 'Operation Neath' (2013)
 - c) Recipient of the Australian Police Medal (2011)
 - d) Chief Commissioner Commendation for the implementation of the 2002 – 2007 Violence Against Women Strategy - *A Way Forward* (2009)

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- e) Australasian Council for Women and Policing Award for Leadership in policing outcomes for women (2007)
- f) Angela Taylor Scholarship (1992)

Involvement in any investigation or meeting at the OPI or Victoria Police which related in any way to Ms Gobbo (Q2)

16. My current role as Deputy Commissioner, Specialist Operations has required me to acquire familiarity with Ms Gobbo's interactions with Victoria Police. My response to this question reflects my best attempt to set out my knowledge and involvement in events prior to commencing my current role in November 2018.

Detective Superintendent, Crime Department

17. Between February 2006 and July 2010, I was a Detective Superintendent, Crime Department. In this role my responsibilities included leading strategic cultural change within the Crime Department and assisting with the implementation of a change reform agenda relating to the Major Crime Management Model. This included significant organisational structure changes within the Department, developing the strategic objectives for the Department going forward including research and policy development via establishment and management of the Crime Strategy Group, and assisting with the setting up of the Major Crime Desks.
18. Specific roles and responsibilities undertaken by me during this time include:
- a) Participating in and on occasions chairing the Crime Department Board of Management meetings;
 - b) Media lead for the Crime Department in relation to complex organisational structural reforms relating to the major crime squads and specifically the homicide squad;
 - c) Joint responsibility and accountability with the Crime Department Executive Management Team for the governance and performance of Crime Department operational workgroups and their outcomes, including financial performance;
 - d) Corporate portfolio responsibility for the delivery of the Violence against Women and Children Strategy and leading the major reforms within Victoria Police in relation to family violence, sexual assault and child abuse;
 - e) Representing Victoria Police and influencing the strategic agenda at International, National and State forums in support of major crime management, including in relation to drugs law enforcement; and
 - f) Key stakeholder management and engagement with other Departments and Commands within Victoria Police.
19. Prior to February 2009, I performed a strategic role in the Crime Department. From 16 February 2009, I moved into and performed an operational management role, as well as continuing to be part of the Executive Management Team. As part of these roles, I received high level briefings about investigations conducted by the Crime Department which I now know may have involved Ms Gobbo. Generally, these briefings were received by me as an

attendee at Operation Management Meetings or Board of Management meetings, which I refer to below. I was not briefed on the detail of the investigations within the Crime Department. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, I was not briefed in relation to intelligence or information received by investigators that had been provided by Ms Gobbo. My review of my diary and emails is consistent with this recollection.

My presence as an observer at the St Kilda Road police complex on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 2006

20. As stated above, I commenced as a Superintendent in the Crime Department on 6 February 2006. In this role, I worked from the St Kilda Road police complex.
21. On 14 March 2006, my diary records that I attended a coaching session with Assistant Commissioner Simon Overland. As I was new to the Crime Department, it was agreed as part of my professional development and reintegration that I would shadow Superintendents Jack Blayney and Richard Grant to assist my understanding of the Crime Department and current operations it was undertaking.
22. I now know that [REDACTED] was arrested on [REDACTED] 2006. I was on rest days on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 2006. I had no knowledge or involvement in the arrest of [REDACTED] or any role played by Ms Gobbo.
23. At 6.30pm on [REDACTED] 2006, I had a discussion with Supt Grant in which he offered me an opportunity to observe in relation to Operation [REDACTED]. At 7.20pm, I (as an observer) and Supt Grant attended the Operations Room and Command Post on level 16 at St Kilda Road.
24. I was present during discussions at this time concerning whether to proceed as a buy bust operation the following day or go into the arrest phase of the operation. There was an agreement to proceed as planned on [REDACTED] 2006. I don't have any notes of the target of the operation and can't recall whether I would have been informed of this. However, I expect the target's name, which I am informed by my legal representatives was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would have been mentioned.
25. I had no information or knowledge about what evidence or intelligence had been gathered during the investigation up to that point. I don't recall whether or not I was told a source had been involved.
26. At 10.20pm I cleared and spoke to Supt Grant about attending the following day to further observe.
27. On [REDACTED] 2006 at 4.00pm I attended (as an observer) a briefing conducted by Acting Inspector Jim O'Brien regarding Operation [REDACTED]. I have no independent recollection of this now but I assume that it would have been a briefing to those involved in executing warrants and effecting the arrest. I cleared at 4.40pm to attend to other duties.
28. At 5.10pm I again attended the Command Post to observe an arrest phase in relation to Operation [REDACTED]. I believe I attended with Supt Grant and observed until 8pm. I then

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attended a brief one-on-one debrief with Supt Grant before leaving St Kilda Road shortly thereafter. The debrief with Supt Grant related to my shadowing of him rather than the job I had observed.

29. I have no recollection of observing any persons who had been arrested once they'd been brought back to St Kilda Road, nor would there have been any reason for me to have done so. I did not see Ms Gobbo while I was there.
30. I had no active involvement in any of the operational or tactical processes related to this job. I was there as an observer for professional development purposes.

Operation Management and Board of Management Meetings

31. As a Superintendent in the Crime Department, I regularly attended governance meetings including Operation Management (OMT) meetings and Board of Management meetings.
32. The format of the OMT meetings changed during my time at the Crime Department but typically occurred between one and three times a week. The meetings would be attended by Superintendents and/or Inspectors on behalf of the various workgroups, the Business Manager, Staff Officer to the Assistant Commissioner Crime and the secretariat.
33. There would usually be a Superintendent catch up for 15 minutes prior to the OMT meetings.
34. Each OMT meeting would last for about an hour and between 12 to 15 workgroups could be represented at any meeting. The purpose of the OMT was a short, sharp, high level briefing from each workgroup in relation to any significant developments in operations in the preceding days or likely developments over the weekend or in the forthcoming days.
35. The Board of Management was established in October 2006 with the first meeting occurring on 13 October 2006. It was wound down around 12 November 2008. There was an agreement that we should have a rotating chairperson for the Board of Management with the Business Manager given the Deputy Chairperson role for consistency. Rotations were to occur every three months subject to availability of the next relevant individual Board member. Indications in my diary are that I was Chair of the Board of Management at different points between 13 October 2006 and 6 July 2007, and again from 5 May 2008 to 26 June 2008.
36. Formal governance Board of Management meetings occurred monthly and were focused on strategy and governance issues such as the management of resources as well as policy. Attendees included the relevant operation Superintendents, Crime Strategy Group Superintendent, the Business Manager, and the secretariat.
37. I have reviewed my diaries and emails to identify any references to investigations that I now understand may have had dealings with Ms Gobbo.

Operation ██████████

38. My diary records that Operation ██████████ was mentioned at OMT meetings on ██████████, ██████████, ██████████, ██████████ and ██████████ 2006. The entries relate to resourcing although on ██████████ 2006 my diary also records that Superintendent Grant informed the OMT that ██████████ was arrested. I have no independent recollection of this discussion and at the time I do not think I was aware of who ██████████ was.
39. My diary records that Operation ██████████ was also mentioned at the Superintendent catch up meetings prior to the OMT on 21 August and 10 September 2016 and during a Tasking and Coordination meeting on 30 August 2006.

Purana Taskforce

40. My diary records that Taskforce Purana was mentioned at OMT meetings on 29 March, 11 April, 28 August, 22 September, 25 October, 18 December and 22 December 2006. The entries indicate that the OMT received a high-level briefing in relation to warrants and resourcing issues. My notes of the OMT meeting on ██████████ 2006 state "Purana – bail of ██████████ disappeared."
41. Outside of OMT meetings my diary records discussions regarding Taskforce Purana on 25 July, 12 September and 24 November 2006. These discussions primarily concerned finances and resourcing. My diary for 24 November 2006 states, "Farrugia bail, Sunday SOG require arrest plan".
42. Taskforce Purana was mentioned at OMT meetings on 23 February, 9 May, 11 May, 18 May, 30 May, 8 June, 13 June, 27 June, 6 August and 8 August 2007. Many of the discussions about Taskforce Purana at these meetings relate to funding and resourcing.
43. On 9 May 2007 my diary records "ACC/VicPol. Leak re dissemination. Purana info management. George to progress file and review." George was an Inspector at Tasking Coordination. The reference to dissemination refers to dissemination of information between ACC and Victoria Police.
44. Outside of OMT meetings, my diary records discussions regarding Taskforce Purana on 16 May, 23 May, 28 May, 30 May, 6 June, 8 June, 12 June, 13 June, 14 June, and 1 August 2007. Most of these discussions concerned finances and resourcing.
45. On 28 May 2007, I received an email from Nicole McKechnie about a media enquiry.¹ I believe I received this email as the Chair of the Board of Management. I forwarded this email to Supt Blayney to action and received a response from him which indicated that he had dealt with the enquiry.²

¹ VPL.6119.0202.7046

² VPL.6119.0202.6842

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46. On 6 June 2007 my diary records that I had a conversation with Supt Blayney in relation to CCP Nixon attending at Taskforce Purana at 10.00am the following day in order to thank them.
47. On 7 June 2007 my diary records that I attended a morning tea at Taskforce Purana at 10.00 am with CCP Nixon and AC Overland, I cleared at 10.45am. I have no recollection of who else was in attendance at the morning tea.
48. On 6 August 2007, my diary says "Purana/Jason Kelly. THASM concern re HS. Target Tony Bayer. Plus Taskforce 500 to possibly take job". I don't recall anything further about this discussion. I assume HS means human source, however, I have no knowledge of the identity of the human source being discussed on this day and it would not have been expected or normal practise for this information to be disclosed at an OMT.
49. On 8 August 2007, I have a note in my diary that states "Purana issues re AFP wanting to i/v Mokbel report re not to progress sent thru OPP. Senior Managers etc". I do not recall what this was about. I am not sure whether "i/v" is shorthand for investigate or interview.
50. On 31 October 2007 and 2 January 2008, I was included in emails regarding a FOI request by Antonios Mokbel's legal representative.³
51. On 13 May 2008, I attended a Corporate Committee meeting as the Crime Department representative. At this time, the Board of Management was doing a spill and fill of senior positions in the Department as part of the implementation of the Major Crime Management Model. During this period, there were also discussions at the Board of Management meetings about staffing across the Crime Department, including the Purana and Petra Taskforces.
52. On 5 June 2008, I was included in an email from Supt Blayney regarding likely media reporting of arrests made by Purana that morning of persons who had assisted Mokbel leave Australia. The email also referred to anticipated media interest the following day in relation to the Petra Taskforce.⁴
53. On 4 August 2008, I attended a Board of Management meeting where Taskforce Purana was mentioned in relation to a budget review across the Department.

Operation Gallop

54. Operation Gallop was mentioned at an OMT meeting on 24 November 2006.

Petra and Briars Taskforces

55. On 23 March, 26 March, 2 April and 3 April 2007, I attended Board of Management/Executive Management Team meetings where there was a discussion about the establishment of two new taskforces and the staffing and resources for the new taskforces. The scope of the taskforces was not discussed at the meetings.

³ VPL.6119.0088.1657; VPL.6119.0088.1658;

⁴ VPL.6119.0091.6118

56. I have a diary note on 23 March 2007 where Detective Inspector Gavan Ryan and Detective Senior Sergeant Shane O'Connell were mentioned. I also have a diary note on 26 March 2007 mentioning Ron Iddles and other staffing and indicating that a joint committee was required and that ESD had the lead. I now believe that the new taskforces were Petra and Briars.
57. Taskforce Petra was mentioned at the OMT and subsequent Board of Management meeting on 18 April and at the OMT meeting on 2 May 2007. At the OMT meeting on 2 May 2007, I was informed that there were weekly meetings between OPI, ESD and Taskforce Petra.
58. On 27 June 2007, my diary notes that I attended a Board of Management meeting where the potential reduction of two personnel from Taskforce Petra was mentioned during staffing and structure discussions.
59. On 6 June 2008, I attended Petra Taskforce and spoke to DSS O'Connell and staff. This was a workplace visit and welfare check in my capacity as Chair of the Board of Management, as OPI hearings were due to commence the following week relating to inappropriate relations and/or communications between current members and Paul Dale.
60. On 13 June 2008, my diary notes that I attended a Board of Management meeting where we discussed an increase in staff for Petra Taskforce.

Operation Magnum and the extradition of Tony Mokbel

61. Operation Magnum was mentioned at OMT meetings on 27 April, 18 May, 21 May 4 June, 6 June and 8 June 2007. I have no recollection of these discussions beyond what is contained in my diary.
62. On 23 May 2007, I was informed by Supt Blayney that Detective Sergeant Jim Coghlan was travelling to Greece and that he needed authority for a [REDACTED]. I have no independent recollection of the conversation and I am unsure if the authority for [REDACTED] was related to DS Coghlan's travel or some other matter. I assume I was advised because financial approval was required from me as then Chair of the Board of Management.
63. On 1 June 2007 I had a discussion with Inspector Brett Curran from the Office of the CCP who asked to be advised if Operation Magnum moved into the arrest phase over the coming weekend. I subsequently briefed Supt Blayney in relation to this conversation and requirement.
64. On 29 June 2007, I, along with the Crime Department Business Manager, attended a thank you event for Purana Taskforce in relation to Operation Magnum.
65. On 5 May 2008, I was briefed in my role as Chair of the Management Board regarding progress of Tony Mokbel's extradition.

Operation Agamas

66. Operation Agamas was mentioned at OMT meetings on 30 May, 8 June, 13 June, 15 June, 29 June, 2 July, 1 August, 6 August and 10 August 2007. Discussions largely related to the formation of a Joint Agency Agreement with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and resourcing.
67. On 13 June 2008, I attended a Board of Management meeting where we discussed a proposal regarding Operation Agamas.
68. On 19 June 2008, I was briefed by Supt Blayney regarding an Operation Agamas issue. I was briefed in my capacity as Chair. I do not recall what the issues were.
69. I have a note in my diary on 6 July 2008 which refers to the AFP.
70. On 8 August 2008, I was included in an email sent by CCP Nixon congratulating Operation Agamas investigators on arrests.⁵
71. From approximately 27 August 2008, I attended Victoria Police/AFP liaison meetings. On this date, my diary notes that I attended a meeting and there is a reference to Inca. I don't recall what was discussed in relation to Operation Inca (which I understand is the same Operation as Agamas). However, I remember that the relationship between Victoria Police and AFP had become strained during this operation and there had been some intra-operability and coordination tension points.
72. Between 7 April 2009 and 24 April 2009, I was briefed in relation to concerns about leaks from Operation Agamas.⁶ I am aware that the leak allegations were not substantiated.

Driver Taskforce

73. On 19 April 2010, I was notified of the death of Carl Williams at Barwon Prison. In the following days, I received further briefings in relation to this matter from Detective Inspector Bernie Edwards, and briefed AC Moloney and DC Jones. I was involved in establishing the management structure around the homicide investigation into Williams' death, and the establishment of Taskforce Driver, headed by Supt Fryer.

Acting Superintendent, Operations (26 May 2006 – 12 June 2006)

74. Outside of OMT and Board of Management meetings, my diary records three discussions related to the Purana Taskforce while I was Acting Superintendent, Operations.
75. On Tuesday 30 May 2006, I have a note of having spoken to "Gavan" regarding a Purana briefing being delayed until Monday. My diary for the following Monday 5 June 2006 does not include any reference to being briefed about Purana.

⁵ VPL.6119.0095.5781.

⁶ VPL.6119.0104.6266; VPL.6119.0104.6377; VPL.6119.0105.4264; VPL.6119.0105.4265; VPL.6119.0105.4131.

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76. On 6 June 2006, I had a discussion with Supt Blayney regarding a Purana update. I don't recall the details, but my diary refers to DSS O'Connell backfilling a role.
77. On 7 June 2006 during OMT discussions I have a note of DI O'Brien going on leave for six weeks.

Acting Superintendent Tasking Co-ordination (21 August – 13 September 2006; 11 – 22 December 2006, followed by 7 weeks of leave)

78. During these two periods I was acting in the role usually performed by Supt Blayney, while continuing to perform many of my usual duties managing Crime Strategy.
79. On 16 August 2006, I received a handover from Supt Blayney in relation to the Tasking Co-ordination role that I was about to undertake. This handover continued on 17 August 2006.
80. My diary records that I received updates or had discussions about matters relating to the Purana Taskforce on 21 August, 28 August, 30 August, 31 August and 18 December 2006. These were high level updates that predominantly concerned resources.
81. On 11 September 2006, I received another briefing from Supt Blayney prior to commencing my second period of acting in the Tasking Co-ordination role. My diary note for this date refers to Purana Taskforce and states "issues re 3838 and request to reallocate due to risk factors. Gavan to facilitate".
82. I have no recollection of this discussion. However, I believe that I would have understood that "3838" was a human source but that I would not have known the source's identity. I am not sure if the "Gavan" referred to relates to Gavan Ryan or Gavan Seagrave, but I assume it was Gavan Ryan as he was attached to the Crime Command.
83. My reading of this diary entry is that no action was required from me, but from a governance perspective, I needed to be aware that this was a risk that was being managed by others. There are no further references in my diary to this issue. This suggests to me that the issue was managed by others during the period that I acted in Supt Blayney's role and there was no need for me to be briefed further about the matter.
84. I have no other references to "3838" in my diary.

Detective Superintendent, Operations Support

85. I commenced this role on 16 February 2009. There were three operations superintendents in the Crime Department at this time, the others being Superintendents Gerry Ryan and Graham Brown.

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86. I had responsibility for the following operational workgroups – Homicide, Sex Crimes, Arson and Explosives, Organised Motor Vehicle Theft Squad, Fraud, Clandestine Laboratories and Criminal Proceeds.⁷
87. In this role, I had more involvement in the operational workgroups than in my previous role. Much of my role involved coaching and supporting the relevant Inspectors. The Black Saturday bushfires had also just occurred, and I was involved in managing our response to this emergency. I was also still involved in significant organisational reform work relating to sexual offences, child abuse and violence against women.
88. Purana Taskforce is mentioned at OMT and other meetings on 15 April, 17 April and 26 June 2009 and on 2 February 2010. I also had a further discussion about resourcing of Purana Taskforce on 7 May 2009 with the Inspector, Tasking Coordination and People Performance. My diary notes movement of resources to Taskforce Petra from Taskforce Purana for four weeks.
89. On 12 June 2009, I attended an AFP Liaison meeting which included discussion about Operation Inca.
90. On 25 June 2009, I attended a Purana directions briefing to the Executive Management team.
91. In late February 2010 I was tasked to develop a knife strategy for the organisation. My position within Crime Operations Support was backfilled whilst I performed this work until middle to late March 2010.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Crime (28 September – 9 November 2009)

92. From 28 September to 9 November 2009 I acted in this role, which was usually performed by AC Moloney.
93. On 28 September 2009 I received a handover from AC Moloney. My diary states, "Briars/Petra PII email, speak to Susan". Susan was AC Moloney's Executive Assistant. I assume this was something unresolved that I needed to deal with. I can't find any further reference to this issue in my notes for the period in which I was Acting AC and have no independent recollection of what the issue related to.
94. During this handover we also discussed staffing, and I have a note in my diary "Briars/Petra, no more staff at this stage"
95. On 8 Oct 2009, I signed a community custody order for Taskforce Purana. I don't know who the order related to.
96. On 5 November 2009, I attended a meeting with Fin McRae and Peter Lardner about the Casino Control Act 1991. My diary note records that we discussed the following topics in relation to the Act: PII, closed court applications, costs, the Human Rights Charter,

⁷ VPL.6119.0079.6384; VPL.6119.0079.6430.

intelligence and warrants. Barrister Gerard McGuire is mentioned in relation to PII. There is a reference in my notes of this meeting to "Horty?", which I assume to be Horty Mokbel. My diary note records that Fin McRae was going to provide some advice. I don't recall the detail of the meeting beyond what is recorded in my diary.

Deputy Commissioner, Specialist Operations

97. As stated in response to question 1, I commenced in this role in November 2018. In this role, I have oversight and responsibility for Victoria Police's response to the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants.
98. After commencing in this role, I attended several meetings of the Operation Bendigo Steering Committee as part of the handover process. Operation Bendigo was established to investigate potential legal conflict issues surrounding Victoria Police's use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.⁸
99. Following the decision of the Court of Appeal and the High Court, Victoria Police decided to close down Operation Bendigo. The Landow Taskforce and Steering Committee were subsequently established with new terms of reference to co-ordinate and facilitate Victoria Police's assistance and response to the Royal Commission. I chair the Landow Steering Committee.

My role as Chief of Staff to Chief Commissioner of Police, Christine Nixon in 2007 (Q3)

100. I have been asked to provide information to the Royal Commission concerning my role as Chief of Staff to CCP Nixon.
101. I undertook this role on an Acting basis between 8 October 2007 and 7 January 2008.
102. My day-to-day duties included management of the Office of Chief Commissioner, progress of relevant files and correspondence, keeping abreast of significant operational issues across the organisation that the Chief Commissioner needed to be aware of, and otherwise assisting the Chief Commissioner as required. I would sometimes accompany the Chief Commissioner to events and would attend meetings with her as required.
103. During this time, some of my work related to the OPI hearings and investigations involving Paul Mullett, Noel Ashby and Steve Linnell. Part of my role involved providing welfare support to persons or teams affected by these matters.
104. I have reviewed my diaries and emails and have identified the following references to the OPI hearings and investigations.
105. On 8 October 2007, I attended ESD for a briefing from AC Luke Cornelius. My diary does not record what the briefing was about. I also spoke to Fin McRae regarding legal

⁸ VPL.0005.0003.2428.

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representation at OPI, he indicated this was to be directed through to him or Steve Gleeson. I am not sure which OPI hearing that relates to.

106. On 2 November 2007 at CCP Nixon's request I arranged for Victoria Police laptops used by Steve Linnell and Noel Ashby to be collected from them and delivered to the OPI.
107. On 7 November 2007 I spoke to Nicole McKechnie regarding preparation of a global email and a media interview by CCP Nixon; I spoke to Fin McRae regarding legal representation and I attended a meeting with AC Cornelius, DC Overland and CCP Nixon regarding OPI issues.
108. Between 8 and 15 November 2007, I was included in emails sent by AC Cornelius that were also sent to CCP Nixon and Nicole McKechnie.⁹ These emails attached his notes from the OPI hearings for the information of CCP Nixon.¹⁰ On occasion, I forwarded these emails to Fin McRae and Kirsty McIntyre.¹¹ I believe that I would not have read all of these emails.
109. On 8 November 2007, I attended a meeting with CCP Nixon, DC Overland, and AC Cornelius regarding OPI progress. I have no recollection of what we discussed.
110. On 9 November 2007, I had discussions with AC Cornelius and Detective Inspector Phil Swindells regarding clearing Noel Ashby's kit. I had further discussions with Ms McKechnie and I attended a press conference with CCP Nixon regarding the OPI hearings.
111. A Corporate Committee meeting was also held on 9 November 2007. The members of the Corporate Committee were CCP Nixon, Department heads, the Deputy Commissioners, the Deputy Secretaries, and the Assistant Commissioners. At the meeting Corporate Committee discussed the OPI progress to date, the resignation of Noel Ashby, and associated communications across the organisation.
112. On 12 November 2007, I have a diary note there was an OPI debriefing and we discussed the dissemination of a global email and preparation of information for the Corporate Committee. I also checked in with Ms McKechnie regarding her welfare as Steven Linnell had been her manager.
113. On 13 November 2007, I have a diary note indicating that I was tasked to set up a meeting with Briars and Purana. Later that day I debriefed with Office of the Chief Commissioner staff regarding the OPI hearings.
114. On 14 November 2007, I worked with Ms McKechnie on communications and attended a further debrief with CCP Nixon, DC Overland and AC Cornelius regarding the OPI hearings.

⁹ VPL.6119.0116.6298; VPL.6119.0116.6189; VPL.6119.0116.4306; VPL.6119.0116.3840; VPL.6119.0116.2412

¹⁰ VPL.6119.0116.6299; VPL.6119.0116.6190; VPL.6119.0116.4307; VPL.6119.0116.3841; VPL.6119.0116.2413

¹¹ VPL.6119.0021.2747; VPL.6119.0021.2748; VPL.6119.0116.3536; VPL.6119.0116.3538

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115. On 15 November 2007, I attended a meeting with CCP Nixon, Fin McRae, Peter Hanks QC, DC Overland, AC Cornelius and Jonathan Spears regarding legal options relevant to the OPI. Later that day I had a further debrief with AC Cornelius and DC Overland regarding the hearings and global communications. I also attended a media interview with CCP Nixon and a further Corporate Committee meeting. I also requested suspension documents for Paul Mullett to be delivered to ESD for service.
116. On 16 November 2007, I spoke to Supt Wayne Taylor regarding the service of the second suspension notice on Paul Mullett. I spoke to Fin McRae regarding a letter from The Police Association (TPA) and service attempts. I also spoke to Inspector Andrew Glow regarding concerns of members. I spoke to AC Cornelius and DC Overland about this and was advised to contact Superintendent Rod Wilson and ask that he speak to Inspector Glow.
117. Between 19 November and 23 November 2007, I attended meetings with Fin McRae, AC Cornelius, Jonathan Spears, Liz Cheligoy, Sanjib Roy and various TPA representatives regarding issues related to Paul Mullett.
118. On 23 November and 3 December 2007 I have a number of diary entries relating to Briars Taskforce.
119. On 3 December 2007, I attended a meeting with CCP Nixon, AC Cornelius and Briars Taskforce members at the OPI office. I have no clear recollection of what was discussed at that meeting, however I believe it was a general workplace visit. On that date I also spoke to Fin McRae about legal representation for OPI related issues.
120. On 21 December 2007, I met with Fin McRae, AC Cornelius, Nicole McKechnie and Jonathan Spears regarding a writ and advice being sought. I recall that this was relevant to the Ashby/Mullett situation because Peter Hanks QC had been providing advice about these issues.
121. On 3 January and 7 January 2008, I conducted a handover of the Chief of Staff role to Peter Bull who was commencing in the role.

Knowledge of steps taken by the Briars Taskforce to obtain a statement from Ms Gobbo (Q3a)

122. I have no knowledge of this matter. There are no references in my official diary or emails to me having any knowledge or involvement in any operational matters relevant to the Briars Taskforce.

Meetings I attended regarding Operation Briars (Q3b)

123. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, I did not attend any meetings of the Briars or Petra Steering Committees.
124. I have been advised that my name is listed as an optional attendee on calendar invites for meetings of the Briars and Petra Steering Committees scheduled for the following dates:
 - a) 5 October 2009 (Petra)

- b) 19 October 2009 (Petra)
 - c) 4 November 2009 (Briars)
 - d) 16 November 2009 (Petra)
 - e) 30 November 2009 (Petra)
 - f) 27 January 2010 (Briars and Petra)
 - g) 8 February 2010 (Petra)
 - h) 22 February (Briars and Petra)
125. I believe that I was added as an optional attendee at the Briars and Petra Steering Committee meetings when I acted in AC Moloney's role between 28 September and 9 November 2009, and that there was a delay in removing me from the optional attendees once AC Moloney returned to the role.
126. I have checked my diary entries for these dates, and I have no record of having attended these meetings. If I had attended these meetings, I believe that I would have noted this in my diary. I was on leave on 19 October 2009 and 27 January 2010.
127. As set out in response to question 2, I was present at some meetings where Briars Taskforce was mentioned.

Meeting on 14 September 2007 (Q3c)

128. I was on leave on 14 September 2007 and did not attend any meeting.
129. My diary records that I commenced leave on 11 September 2007 and returned to work on 21 September 2007. I flew interstate from 25 to 28 September 2007 for a National Committee related activity. I then took further leave from 1 October to 5 October 2007.
130. I have been shown page 2 of ICR 100,¹² which refers to a tasking of Ms Gobbo in relation to an OPI hearing. I have no awareness or knowledge of this matter and did not know that Ms Gobbo had received this tasking.

Notes of meetings (Q4)

131. I did not take any notes of the meetings referred to in question 3.

¹² VPL.2000.0003.2796 at .2797.

How I learned, or were given reason to believe, Ms Gobbo was providing information to police (Q5)

132. To the best of my recollection, I did not know that Ms Gobbo was a human source prior to commencing in my current role in November 2018. My review of my diaries and emails is consistent with my recollection. Since November 2018, I have been formally briefed in relation to Ms Gobbo's role and have familiarised myself with the Comrie and Kellam reviews and the decisions of the Court of Appeal and High Court.
133. Prior to commencing in my current role, I was generally aware that there were proceedings underway in the Court of Appeal concerning a human source, however, I am unsure if I knew at that time that the human source was Ms Gobbo. Another member of the Executive had carriage of this matter and I was not formally briefed or involved in the proceedings while they were on foot.
134. In preparing this statement I have located an email dated 5 May 2010 that I was cc'd into. The email was addressed to members of the Purana taskforce and informed members to cease contact with Nicola Gobbo also known as Witness F. The email referred to Ms Gobbo as having been a prosecution witness for Petra Taskforce. I don't recall reading this email but if I did it was unremarkable to me.
135. There is only one mention of 3838 in my diary, which is referred to in my response to question 2 above.
136. I was not aware of Ms Gobbo's 1995 and 1999 registrations until I was briefed about these matters earlier this year.

Awareness of others (Q6)

137. I don't know who was aware, prior to 2012, that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police. I believe that the head of the Purana Taskforce, members of the SDU and members of the Petra and Briars Steering Committees may have known. I also believe it is possible that DS Blayney, Superintendent Paul Hollowood, Superintendent Tony Biggin and Simon Overland, in his capacity as Assistant Commissioner of Crime Command and then also as the Deputy Commissioner Specialist Operations, may have known.

Authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q7)

138. 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 (Q8)

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

Information and assistance received (Q9 & Q10)

140. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Concerns raised as to the use of a legal practitioner or Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q11 & Q12)

141. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (Q13)

142. I have no knowledge of these matters, other than the disclosure processes that have occurred since November 2018.

Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q14)

143. I am aware of the other human sources who Victoria Police have provided information to the Royal Commission about. I have learned of these in my current role.

Training (Q15)

144. I have not undertaken a detailed review of the Victoria Police courses I have completed and the content of those courses. However, I believe that these topics would have been covered in training that I have undertaken including:

- a) Brief Managers Course
- b) Economic Crime Course
- c) DTS and Advanced DTS

145. Professional and ethical decision making is a core component of all Victoria Police training, including all of our leadership development courses. I have also undertaken a Diploma of Applied Management and a Masters of Public Administration with these courses covering aspects of ethical leadership, ethics and associated decision making.

Other matters (Q16)

146. If the Royal Commission would like any further information from me about the above matters or any other matter I would be pleased to provide such information.

Dated: 4 December 2019



Wendy Steendam APM