RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN DETECTIVE INSPECTOR JOHN O'CONNOR AND WITNESS F CONDUCTED AT 2.20 PM ON WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2012

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: The time is now 20 past 2, Thursday[sic] 28th day of November 2012. Detective Inspector O'Connor and Detective Inspector Campbell about to meet with Witness F. So I've just put that on hold so I can just flick it when she - when she turns up.

(Leaving vehicle.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Sorry?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Inaudible.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Brunswick and

(indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Serious.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Really? We can run her (indistinct).

(Ordering from wait staff.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Bring this thing out. Nah, it's good. Good little spot. So we'll just do a - just have a - thank you. Just have a chat with her and - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And introduce you, she'll - she'll rabbit on about crap. And if she says something like, "Are you recording?" then go, "Of course I am."

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's all I say.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Ah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I do not (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct) a bit barmy, can soundly say.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct) it's own, if you know what I

mean. It's the mood.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: She hasn't got my number, so she can't -

can't really ring me back.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: She hasn't?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: She's trying to contact you?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: She probably wouldn't be. She'd be sitting there going, "That fucking idiot, I haven't got his number."

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Laughs.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No answer. She needs - you know, if I feel like ringing 24 up while putting, you know, ring 000 and putting in - complaining about these motorcycles.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Laughs.) That's right. Is that a band down (indistinct)?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, looking at the colours, just standing there like - just addictives.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, just bring out (indistinct) who was it, Dan and, er - oh.

(Wait staff attends to table.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Then our boy Dan will peek at it. They work flat out.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, because the (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Thank you, yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Is that her?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, it better - the blue moon. Is it blue moon? All right. No. No, it's not. I just saw the blue moon going to the loo.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, the one (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh yeah, (indistinct). Thanks. Oh, wait.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: If she turn - does turn up with someone else, or with a - with another solicitor or - then we just kinda walk away. We'll (indistinct) with her later on.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, she'll - she'll know what we want - want to talk about. That's not her?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Definitely not her.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Come on, come on.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Now I have (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (On phone:) Yeah? All right. Did ya? Oh, Claudia, yeah? Who - who was Toby with? Oh. Yeah, all right. You're right to come down to here? You can keep coming - nah, nah. Well, we have to - we saw them before anything, he's my regular so look out for him. All right. So when you get back to your car, you just drive down Barrack Street towards the city and you turn - you turn right into - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Market.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- Market Street, and on the corner - on the corner of Market Street there's - it's - there's a Dim Teena's coffee shop, so that's where that is, then you just come down - it's called Dim Teena's coffee shop, don't go there. Just come down to the next intersection, which is Clarke Street, and there's a coffee shop on the - on your right hand side as you're coming down Market Street, all right? See you then. Bye. (To Campbell:) She said it was - Mitchell's second-incharge, he said - she didn't say who it was, three other people. Three other - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Bikies.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- Bandidos. Or (indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah. Is she right? Is she ---

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: She said, 'Oh, I wish I had - hadn't caught

that conversation.' And/or (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: He said what he said.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah. Don't wanna - they don't wanna get involved in this one, mate. We'd be - I think they heard us.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Get really into it?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Coming to work today I had this list of all

these things I wanted to do.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, I - enormous. Yeah, well, catch

(indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, I'm - it's so much - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Are you working from home for a while?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, this - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Are you actually on leave early?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, I'll - next few days I work from home.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: We can piss the missus off each time.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, she's going to America on Saturday.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So she - she's a bit anxious.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Mm, is that with the young fella?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, no, I'm taking the young fella over

the next day. That's her this time, mate. So.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah. Oh, I was recording all this.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: I was already recording this whole time.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: I'll check the footage. Hang on. Have we decided, she'll ask where I work. Ian Fagan? He's in the paper on the weekend.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Is that going to matter?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Just say you work in (indistinct 11:36:17). She says, 'Where?', just tell her Echo. Because you're gonna be - problem is, if you're gonna be at Echo, you're going to be on the television all the time.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: That's right, so I don't - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You're doing stand ups.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: --- yeah, okay.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So there's no use bullshitting. And she'll

hate - hate the fact that you lied. So.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: She'll hate the fact?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: If you lie.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, I'm not gonna lie.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No. All right. So we're recording now.

**DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL:** (Indistinct words) the northerly wind will

kick in and that'll be the end of - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yes, I'll be calling on the (indistinct).

What's - what suburb are you in?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Mm, whereabouts are you?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: That's right. I used to go to

school, as a young (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Where is that? Which part?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Which - which one?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Where is it?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Mm, ah, good question. Down near High

Street there somewhere, down the bottom of High Street, I'm thinking?

Road? DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: On

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's where my son goes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Is it?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

**DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL:** Okay.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: I only had a couple of years there.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah. Defining moments in your life,

mate, I assume?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (On phone:) Yeah. You're just trying to get a park, are ya? Okay. See you shortly. Bye. Yeah yeah, come back, yeah, you just drove past it. Okay. See you, bye. (To Campbell:) She'll probably go on about legal agreements and all that - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Legal?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Legal agreements. So if we just tell her that I'm going on extended leave, which I am, then you're going to be the point of contact.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And - and if she says, "is it gonna be" - if she's smart enough to go, "Well, hang on, is this gonna be for the future?", I'll - well, if she's asked it I'll just say yes, I'm not gonna lie. She'll - then she'll threaten shits with that, 'cause she loves the idea of - have been speaking to someone from the source unit, and she'll start firing off letters to the Chief Commissioner which - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct)?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh yeah, yeah. She's not ---

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Does the brief stipulate it has to be

someone from the source at all?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Ah, I think it does. I don't know. Does it? Mm. Yeah. Oh, she got paper work, no good.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: No good?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, she's got paper - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Laughs.) Oh - here I - here I go again. It's

not the wind - (indistinct words) - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm. How are ya, Nic?

WITNESS F: Talk about a stressful way to get here.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: I can imagine.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Ha. Oh - Ian Campbell.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Ian Campbell.

WITNESS F: Are you the Ian?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Sorry?

WITNESS F: Are you the Ian?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: The? Oh, depends what you mean by 'The'.

WITNESS F: As in from the paper on the weekend.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: What would you like?

WITNESS F: Could I get an ice coffee please? Thanks.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Thanks. How much damage?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah? Are you - - -

WITNESS F: Ah, about 20.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Really.

WITNESS F: Yeah. Oh, look, it's two panels plus the sensor and, um, the light.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And what happened to it?

WITNESS F: Um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Back-end you or?

WITNESS F: Nah. I was turning, um, at a green light. I was turning left, he was turning right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: He's obviously never heard of, 'Give way to the left.'

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Laws have changed.

WITNESS F: He's still gotta give way to me. Green light.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, for sure.

WITNESS F: He can see me coming, I'm not - I'm going slow to turn the corner, and he just cuts in front of me, and, um, I was already in the turn, so the - obviously the front passenger side of my car has been hit by the back of his car.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And - they injured, or?

WITNESS F: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No way.

WITNESS F: No, no, no, no.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And is he insured?

WITNESS F: Well, that's the thing. I said, 'Well, you know, look', obviously, 'Here's my licence for insurance', so there's no - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: I mean, it's - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No one gets hurt.

WITNESS F: --- good to have insurance for. But for some reason he said, '(Indistinct words) insurance but it's my own business'. So - he's a plumber so he can't be that poor. Honestly, what - they charge - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, there's not - he'd be the only - - -

WITNESS F: - - - a lot of money.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: He'd be the only tradesman who's poor.

WITNESS F: They charge a lot of money. But anyway, he said, 'I'm having a shit day, I've cut my leg,' - he had a bandage on his leg - and I said, 'Do you have to go to hospital?' and the other guy in the car said, 'Nah, he doesn't - he needs to go'. So I got the impression they were in a hurry to get somewhere, um, you know, couldn't wait - didn't want to wait for me to turn and cut me off. So he said, um, 'So what do you do?' and then I said - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Got a - got a shock when you told him?

WITNESS F: I said, 'Well, you're not going to like it', you know. He goes, 'Tell me you don't work for an insurance company.'

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: And I said, 'No, worse than that.' I said, 'I'm a lawyer', but I didn't say barrister, not practising, I didn't give it any - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: --- explanation, I just said - anyway, I'm - I - it's odd, because the - ordinarily someone says, 'Got insurance?' 'Got insurance.' 'Who's your insurance company?' Bang, bang, bang.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, 'Let's sort it out.'

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: They said, 'Nah, get some quotes, I'll fix it.'

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh well.

WITNESS F: And I'm thinking, now that I'm - now that I've had time to - thank you very much.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (To wait staff:) Cheers love.

WITNESS F: Now that I've had time to think about it, think about his reaction, I don't think it's an insurance company problem. I don't reckon he's got a licence.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: He didn't show his licence?

WITNESS F: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You got his rego though?

WITNESS F: So he wrote down his number, wrote down a licence number.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, he knew the number, did he?

WITNESS F: Hmm.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Okay

WITNESS F: Yes. Um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: A lot of professional drivers, they know

their numbers. Know their - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Gosh, I wouldn't know my - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Like truck drivers.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: I wouldn't know my drivers' - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And that type of stuff.

WITNESS F: Yes, but if you - if your licence - if you're licenced to dri - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Did you write his rego down, Nic?

WITNESS F: Yeah, I've photographed it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah. Oh.

WITNESS F: I did the whole bit. I photographed him, his passenger, his car, my car, like a maniac. Um, all I'm saying is, why would you not automatically say who's your insurance company?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Probably with RAC, they're your - - -

WITNESS F: Get them to ring mine, end of story.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Why would you say, 'Get a few quotes and I'll pay it'?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Pay it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh well.

WITNESS F: Because you either don't have insurance or you don't have insurance to drive.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Have you got a good panel beater to go to or?

WITNESS F: Um, I'll find somebody.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Just put him - hand it on to your insurance company, let them do all the work for him.

WITNESS F: Because I've gotta - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You gotta pay the excess for - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- and then you get held up.

WITNESS F: And you've gotta go through - I've only had one other accident, um, in that car, and - and again, not my fault, but, um, it takes ages 'cause you gotta go to their assessment place - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Their (indistinct words).

WITNESS F: - - - which is out near the airport.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Ah, okay.

WITNESS F: You gotta wait two weeks till they have a spare time for you to take the car there, then you've gotta go to their, um, approved preferred - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Preferred, yeah, yeah.

WITNESS F: - - - people and that takes - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, plus you've got a pretty unmarked - - -

WITNESS F: - - - however long.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: --- Merc, haven't you? So you want to go to a Mercedes dealer, don't you?

WITNESS F: And you don't get a choice. You've got to go where the insurance company - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words).

WITNESS F: --- tells you 'cause it's gotta be in a - um, a Mercedes-approved person. 'Cause it's under finance, it's gotta be done that way.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Now, the old Paper Shop Deli - probably won't go there again.

WITNESS F: I don't think so.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: He's always there. Look, I didn't know him. Met him about, probably be a year - a year and a bit ago. Or maybe - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: He does seem to stand out a little bit.

WITNESS F: God, no kidding. 'Sergeant At Arms' on the back of his thing.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: We saw all the bikes parked on the nature strip as we were driving past.

WITNESS F: Yeah, but he gets his prescriptions filled at the pharmacy on the corner.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Okay.

WITNESS F: Because I'm on prescription medication that, um, either I have to go to a hospital pharmacy for or a pharmacy has to order it in for me. So - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, it's not over the counter stuff.

WITNESS F: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: So the guy - the guy who owns that corner pharmacy, um, it's an independent pharmacy. I don't know whether he's a bit dodgy, but he orders my stuff in and he's always very kind to me and very efficient, and, um, Toby and his henchmen are always in there.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: He's always getting stuff. 'Cause one day I was there, they were there, and the pharmacist said to me, 'How do you know these people?'

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Occupational hazard.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, (indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: In the industry that you're in.

WITNESS F: Yeah, but I've never - I've never met him before - before - I was trying to think of how I met him, too. I think - I think John Vince might have introduced him. Um - anyway, I - I just, ah - he just said something about the media and I said, 'Yeah, well, I'm about to have a crack at them too, for what they've done to me', and he said, um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You said that or he said that?

WITNESS F: I said that.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah

WITNESS F: And he said, um, you know, 'What did they say?' 'Yeah,' I said, 'Well, amongst other things, they said I conspired to murder two people with - with, um, a corrupt police officer.' Um, he said, 'They said that or they', um, 'meant that?' And I said, 'No, they said that, in those words.' And he said, 'Well,' you know, 'They've said you're an informer, and people have said you're an informer.' He goes, 'I'm not necessarily saying it, I'm just saying what people are saying.' I said, 'Well, I don't care. I've heard it before, blah blah blah.' If you - if I'd have (indistinct) they knew, they would stop me, you know. I just strapped down, stood my ground with him for the next hour. Talked to him, a free for all about a whole lot of things, because what I - I want - don't want to walk away from a fight like that.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No. Well - - -

WITNESS F: Well, it - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- I'm glad I got priority, (indistinct).

WITNESS F: Well, you were getting windy again, what could I say? Sorry.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I was gonna keep ringing ya.

WITNESS F: It's - it's - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Keep annoying the shit out of ya.

WITNESS F: 'There's some (indistinct) from the Echo taskforce I have to meet. Best I go.'

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (Laughs.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Reckon it was (indistinct), yeah. Quite amazing, there, it's it.

WITNESS F: You know the irony of this, it reminds me of the very first time I met with Sandy White-O

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Um, they arranged for me to go to, um - I don't - some place. I can't even remember what the building was called.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

witness F: But it was the usual, you know, rah-rah. And then - they didn't tell me where it was - I mean, well, they never told me where it was at the - this was the very first meeting, so everyone's paranoia levels - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yep, yeah, of course.

WITNESS F: --- were right up there.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Right up there, yeah.

WITNESS F: I was not particularly impressed, because we went to the building, immediately nextdoor to apartment, and of all the places not to be seen - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Of all the places to go, yeah.

WITNESS F: --- and it had an adjoining car park. So we all had a laugh about that.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Sometime later on. In much the same way that I'll laugh about this later on.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, you had an eventful day with everything - you have, anyway.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: At least the sun's shining.

WITNESS F: Oh, yeah. But I could do without this additional stress.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So - - -

WITNESS F: It doesn't help my nerve pain, does it, either?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: No. no.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So how's your health been?

WITNESS F: Yeah, all right. Up and down.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Up and down, yep. Have you been travelling?

WITNESS F: Only to Bali once.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: S'pose you have a castle there? There's no - anyway. Still would have been nice to - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Mm, I've got a cow - got a camera in the back of your head, see. No.

WITNESS F: Hey - it's a pass on their system. Customs guy said there's been a (indistinct) on my, um - when I left Melbourne last time.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Did they? Made a comment did he?

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: 'Oh, you again.'

WITNESS F: No, no.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: No.

WITNESS F: Not quite like that, but, um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Not at work? No.

WITNESS F: Not quite like that. They never let you see the screen either, so I mean, you can never see what comes up but he was, um, I had a low-cut top on, he just kept talking so - but, I mean, I don't care if there is. It's - so what. I had to get a, um - get a police and a court check done for, um, some voluntary work that the, um, vision impaired or whatever - they've got a name for them, it's for blind people. And, um, that always creates an issue because - or so I'm told, because my name gets given a point within the system and some alert goes off somewhere. So the guy from the records department rang me, which is a very nice thing for him to do.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah

WITNESS F: Um, but it was just a standard thing to make sure I wasn't a child abuser or - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, a Working With Children Check, yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Well, um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: It's pretty standard.

WITNESS F: And - and fraud as well because you have access to, um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, fine - ah - - -

WITNESS F: --- people's credit cards.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: For the donations. This is to do - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's good to do voluntary work.

WITNESS F: Yeah, to do Carols By Candlelight and that sort of stuff.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Excellent. 'Cause that's for Vision

Australia, that's their biggest - - -

WITNESS F: That's their biggest fundraiser.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Biggest fundraiser.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Biggest fundraiser of the year, is Carols,

so.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: There's all - I think nearly all the

performers do it for nothing, so.

WITNESS F: Everyone does it for nothing.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Everyone does it for nothing, so that's - - -

WITNESS F: All of it, volunteers who, like - I've got my - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: What were you going to be doing there?

WITNESS F: I'm doing, um, the full dress rehearsal, which is the day before.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah, yeah.

WITNESS F: And then the two for Christmas Eve. So it's eight hours and then nine or

10 hours.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, good on your doing that.

WITNESS F: You get a t-shirt and cap.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, all right.

WITNESS F: You get to watch it for free.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: How exciting.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Quite a lot of people with young kids go

there the day (indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: There's a cop dog at the window. So I

mean - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: And you get to see the whole thing.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Like - - -

WITNESS F: It's \$2, so.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, who are the - yeah, yeah, pretty good,

hey?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's Christmas Eve with kids, they're in fever pitch, and to get into - have them out late, and there's so - and so many people go

to it, I gotta tell ya.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words) going (indistinct

words), wonderful.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Old Denis Walter and those will be - - -

WITNESS F: I've never - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Marina - and Marina Pryor will be doing

it.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I think they're a great cause.

WITNESS F: I've never been before. I, um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's good you're doing that.

WITNESS F: Yeah, I don't even - well, after our last Christmas, you know, first time

without Mum, it's been really difficult, and I've been - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Nic lost her mum last - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, I'm sorry.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: End of last year, so.

WITNESS F: And my dad died when I was at school, so now - like, I mean, first Christmas, birthday - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: I don't suppose we can go out the back now, I suppose?

WITNESS F: --- whatever, without her was more difficult, but I just decided last year that this year I would do something for somebody else, so.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's good.

WITNESS F: Um, I may as well be there working, um, as opposed to sitting at home drinking red wine or something.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Skinny cocktail?

WITNESS F: No, not - Christmas is a family time, I think, and, um, my mum dying for us splintered our family.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Ah, okay.

WITNESS F: I'm the peacemaker and the - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, okay.

WITNESS F: - - - the go-betweener, between all the factions, that has been a fragile thing.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, well, hopefully the new year will bring something better.

WITNESS F: Well, I like to think it can't get any worse. And every time I say that - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, you don't have - you had a fair day today.

WITNESS F: --- something always happens. No, I just think that's funny.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Nah, the car crash.

WITNESS F: Yeah, I know, but I mean, I think that's funny. Of all people.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Was everything in slow motion?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: In the world.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: When it happens it all - doesn't it?

WITNESS F: Yeah, it was.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's your brain, it goes, 'Ooh, dangerous.'

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: All slowing down.

WITNESS F: You absolutely do. That split second, you know it's gonna happen and there's nothing you can do about it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And it seems to have taken 10 seconds - - -

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- for one second. And, 'Oh, boom.'

WITNESS F: And I thought he was gonna drive off, because he took, like, three blocks to stop. Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Thinking about it.

WITNESS F: I know, I got my phone out, I was ready to call the police.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: 'Cause I thought, 'Have a look at this'. Anyway. Look, you try and do the right thing. Last week I was sitting in - one up and I was sitting in Collins Street, girlfriend of mine's got a restaurant there. I was sitting there having coffee, um, ah, next door to the, um, Regent Theatre. All of a sudden there's this almighty smash and a car comes across the road, has reversed into another car, and the smash is loud enough that a number of tenants and shops came out.

So the car that did the smashing, they're (indistinct) for an hour up the road, like, through a red light, gone. I - I did get the first three numbers on his rego, and a couple of other people got the (indistinct) registration, um, and we wrote it - wrote a note for the - um, the up - car, 'cause it was empty, in a parking spot. And I was putting the note on the guy's windscreen when he came back to his car, and he yells out, 'What are you doing touching my windscreen?' I said, 'Hey, just putting a note there.' And we all saw this accident.

And anyway, he was really grateful, because he said - he would have got into the driver's side, he wouldn't have seen the front of his car, he wouldn't have realised the damage, and, um - anyway, to cut a long story short, I said, um, 'You should probably ring the police, get a report, get the insurance company', because the other car's driven off, blah blah, um - thank you so much. Spent an hour sitting in this car on the front with god knows who.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, okay.

WITNESS F: Police, insurance, whatever. Then he came over and he said, 'Can I buy you a drink to say thank you?' And I said, 'No, 'cause I don't pay here anyway, but I'll - you know.'

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Anyway, he sat down and said that he's a security guard, um, so he - he knows the law, sort of. Says he knows police so he knows what his rights and obligations are, and he's not some crook. Look, I've written my phone number on a piece of paper for, obviously, the insurance company.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (To wait staff:) Cheers, thanks.

WITNESS F: Anyway, he rings me back that night and he said, 'I went to the police, I told them that - they photocopied your note, I hope you don't mind.' I said, 'Well, why? It is what it is. I saw that, no problems.' He said, 'Their comment was, "What sort of an idiot only gets the first three numbers on a rego?".' I said, 'That's me, I'm the idiot. I only got the first three numbers.' I would have thought the first three's better than nothing.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, I would.

WITNESS F: But if you can describe the make and model of the car - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Model of the car you've probably got - scroll through and scroll through.

WITNESS F: It wouldn't be that hard.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: So what sort of an idiot, I thought, have a look at that? Try and do something, but whatever.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Mm, and you've only got two (indistinct).

WITNESS F: Anyway, I'm a big believer in signs but I'm thinking there's got to (indistinct) distress in that size. And don't you think that, like, he said your name last week, then you're in the newspaper on Saturday, and then Toby today. Don't you reckon that's like - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, that's a bit - that's a bit out there, with the highlights only, but yeah.

WITNESS F: There's something about that. I don't know what next but - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, my children.

WITNESS F: Just some - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (To wait staff:) Thank you. (To

Witness F:) You might be joining just a couple of - - -

WITNESS F: What?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Couple of dots.

WITNESS F: Don't you think it's not fair?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh.

WITNESS F: That, you know, one of your number one targets wants to - grabs and wants to speak to me while you're trying to talk to me? I think it's hilarious. It's so funny, I wish I could tell someone.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: It would have been quite (indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, you are, you have. You told us.

WITNESS F: Ah, so.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So you can't, there you go.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: He could be sitting in the - in the cold room - - -

WITNESS F: But it's a ripper story for your office. I mean, how about this for an irony, really? Had it - and had you been five minutes earlier, what a disaster.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: True, or you - you might have - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: The bike on the nature strip since we drove past, oh, plant a big idea that they're here.

WITNESS F: But he's either - he's either there or - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: --- or he's at the Blue Room.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Probably wants his kids to hang out.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Or Street. Is it Street?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Just - Nic - Nic lives in Port Melbourne,

SO.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, okay. Okay, right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So I'm going on extended leave, so - - -

WITNESS F: When are you coming back?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I'm coming back in February, but you'll be

- continue to be talking with - - -

WITNESS F: Ah, but I don't know you.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I know.

WITNESS F: How long since I spoke to you? Five months?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: 23 August.

WITNESS F: Oh, really?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I think.

WITNESS F: End of August. That's not that long ago.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That could be right. It could be 23

August.

WITNESS F: Oh, no, you know, it can't be because I was in Bali.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Nah, it might be 23rd. I got it in the mind,

23rd.

WITNESS F: Might be 23 July?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Might be July. Anyway, it doesn't matter.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I just wanted to introduce you because -

not - - -

WITNESS F: Did you draw the short straw, Ian?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Volunteered.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: I did.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Volunteered, right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Volunteered.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Volunteered, like, 'You will do', yeah.

WITNESS F: I was gonna say, if you did volunteer, what were the choices? (Indistinct words) you a (indistinct) but if you picked me there must have been some other pretty shitty choices.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So yeah, just wanted to introduce you.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: But what am I gonna - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Same set up. Same set up with a number if you need to ring.

WITNESS F: But what am I supposed to ring for? I mean, I - I - I hear alarming things about myself frequently, today being a good example. What am I gonna do? I'm not gonna wait - I said to you (indistinct words) I'm not gonna wait. They're wasting your time really. What - what's the point of ringing you up and saying, you know, 'I think someone's got a contract on me' or, um, 'Paul Dale's floating around Melbourne 'cause he sold his club and he's got an extra 4 million bucks in his pocket'. I mean, what am I supposed - there's no point ringing you.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: What type of - I mean, you can ring if you want. But it's the same, not gonna - you know the score, Nic, that if - if something - you - your life's - if you're worried that someone's, you know, life's in - - -

WITNESS F: I wanna - well - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- safety - safety ---

WITNESS F: I wanna yell all the time, John, but there's nothing I can do within the limits about it.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah

WITNESS F: I - I - I go through all kinds of stuff like, ah, Anzep or moving house, going through the ordeal of - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Are you moving, are ya?

WITNESS F: --- selling - no, I'm saying I - I think about it, like ---

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, yeah.

WITNESS F: - - - the ordeal of selling, finding someone else, like that's, in a way - then I think, that's like running away because you're very - you're safer being somewhere you feel safe, where you know what - you know how to, um - you know, that they're not supposed to be there.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Someone doesn't look right. If I go somewhere else, how am I going to

know who's what where? And all it means is, you know how - how easy is it to find someone if you wanna find them?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, well, it's - - -

WITNESS F: So I think - I think I'll still see - I'll still see my psych every month, um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Good. What about your - the health - - -

WITNESS F: Oh, I haven't got a - haven't had a hole for seven months, so.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Good. So that was the last one, when I saw you up at the Yep, good.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's good.

WITNESS F: So, like, you just - but I mean, um, I would - it's only you, 'cause it will impact - I suspect it will impact upon the Chief Commissioner. I am suing the Herald and Weekly Times for defamation. Um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep.

WITNESS F: --- it - you have 12 months to issue, um, unlike ---

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Issue by associate - yeah.

WITNESS F: --- the normal - unlike the normal statute of limitations, and then the newspaper article, um, in question was the front page article on 27 November last year.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: All right, so - - -

WITNESS F: Quite (indistinct), quite (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- you - you were in a day today.

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: The old year and a day rule, hey, yeah.

WITNESS F: And quite maliciously, they ran an article, um, the weekend before and the one before that as well, um, with the heading, you know, 'Gangland Lawyer Involved In Drugs'. They had this - they had a whole lot of information. I know where they got it from, and you'll be pleased to know that when Victoria Police receive a subpoena containing all that information, you know, two years earlier, the best efforts of Victoria Police to locate that information was, 'There is - we have no information. We can't find that document, that brief, gone, finished.' But a - I believe a current serving member, who alarmingly is detective inspector, provided the information to the paper and then two weeks later provided my statement to police from Paul Dale to the

Herald Sun.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: For the hand-up brief for the - - -

WITNESS F: No, it was withdrawn from the hand-up brief.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, but is that the brief - - -

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- you're talking about - yeah.

WITNESS F: Um, and, you know, I complained about that because I think it's despicable, um, and endangered my life. No one cares. So in the end, thought long and hard about it - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So have you issued process?

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah. Or listed it, however - whatever the terminology is.

WITNESS F: Oh, it's not public yet, John.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: Because the - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But it's the - if you're saying it's a year and today's a year and a day - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- it's already done, then.

WITNESS F: Well, the writ's been done.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Writ, yeah.

WITNESS F: And it's been filed, but it hasn't been served yet.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: So you won't read about it because until the Herald and Weekly Times are served - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: It won't reveal it.

WITNESS F: Exactly. Exactly. And I'm not pump - I'm not - I'm not running around,

as I haven't in the past, I'm not running around being interviewed by people. If a people find out, they find out. But they've gotta know - know serving, a court list.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: You know - you know. I don't think they're a - I don't think - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So where will that be heard?

WITNESS F: Supreme.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's Supreme? It's Supreme.

WITNESS F: And I - well, the reason why, um - the reason why down the track, the - you know, one of my reasons for not wanting to do it is not that it - it's horrendous, expensive litigation, the stress that it causes, um, it drags things out.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words), yeah.

WITNESS F: But one of the reasons I continue to see a psychologist is because I'm effectively treading water. I can't move on with lots of things because - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's like an anchor holding you back, isn't it?

WITNESS F: It's - that's an anchor and the pending inquest is an anchor, because - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: When's the inquest for the Hodson - when's that?

WITNESS F: There's no date set.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Still no date?

WITNESS F: Apparently what happened - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You know, it's in.

WITNESS F: Well, I dunno - look, I got this from the Hodsons themselves. They were told there would be a date late this year or early next year, and then the - a new coroner was appointed, a new State Coroner.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: You know how the Chief Magistrate became - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, here we go.

WITNESS F: - - - the coroner?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, yeah, yep.

WITNESS F: So then they got told, um, that he was now reassessing everything and that that initial six months that Vic - VicPol and the coroner had thought it was gonna take was gonna possibly take that amount of time again. So - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's not gonna happen this year, because we're in - - -

WITNESS F: No, no, no, no, no.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- we're in November, end of November, December.

WITNESS F: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So January - it won't happen - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: No.

WITNESS F: No. The key dates now are Dale's appeal to the Court of Appeal over the - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Constitutional issue.

WITNESS F: Yeah, the - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: - - - other legal issues.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: That's gotta be heard in order for his trial to proceed on February the 11th.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Um, then I've - I've? Everyone would wanna see an inquest after that date. I - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: The logic says that it would happen - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- after that date, so.

WITNESS F: Anyway, ah, look, I thought long and hard about the Herald Sun business, but in the end, I thought I'll at least go to the step of, um, formally engaging a barrister, 'cause I don't know - I don't purport to know that area of the law, it's not my practice area.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: It's just - yeah, you're - - -

WITNESS F: I mean, it may as well - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- other side of the house.

WITNESS F: - - - all be gobbledygook to me.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: So I said, 'I'd like to' - um, I need advice and you reckon criminal lawyers are expensive. These guys are like 10 to 12 grand a day.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words).

WITNESS F: Anyway, I - I got a solicitor to engage one, sat down, um, he forced me to read the article with him, sentence by sentence. I went out and vomited halfway through that conference because the truth is I've - I have never actually managed to read the whole thing. I read the first bit and that made me sick enough. I got inundated with phone messages, text messages, you know, people's comments after it, but I never actually - I didn't realise the actual sentence that said I murdered them with him. And - but that leaves an - more than anything else, I'm not gonna stand back and agree to that. Um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So when will this play out, you think? Next year?

WITNESS F: Next year.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: And the reason why I think that (indistinct words) influenced office - sorry, (indistinct words). One of - one of my reasons in hesitating to do this is because I don't wanna end up in court again, um, not by my own volition anyway. Um, I don't even wanna sue people that owe me money for legal fees, because I don't wanna be in a witness box if I can avoid it. And by definition, that's what might happen with this.

But, well, the other aspect of it is that because the information was provided by a serving member, what's - what's the defence going to be, um, or the - the defence that gets filed by the paper will be interesting, because the - they - they can plead truth as a defence, but if he says true, then produce - you gotta say what you rely on. And if you wanna say that I did conspire to murder two people - bear in mind, this is not an article that has, as they always cover themselves by saying, um, 'The writer does not suggest that such-and-such is a suspect' - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: As a disclaimer.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, (indistinct words).

WITNESS F: But there's no disclaimer anywhere. Um, so what's he - I - I - it'll be very interesting to see what the response is. But the one thing I don't ever want to happen, and I don't want it to happen because somebody issues a subpoena in some other court case, any of my secret stuff to come up. There's a - I mean, I worry about that all the time. I don't - I have my moments where I think someone might maliciously do it, and then I have a - a, um - common sense tells me no one's gonna do that within VicPol. It would be accidental or recklessly or an accident or a - someone not checking something, that might happen. And I worry about that. And even if you said - say to me, as used to, 'You don't need to worry about that', I can't help but worry about that.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, it's natural.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Natural. Anyone in your posi - anyone in your position would.

WITNESS F: John, I've got a lot of demons to worry about. Um, but look, in one sense it should be between the Herald and Weekly Times and me. It shouldn't have anything to do with anybody else. Um, but it remains in seeing what they say, because they're gonna have to at some point say how they got hold of - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: How they got that information.

WITNESS F: --- that statement. And I've got a witness who's provided me with the information of how they got it. And I - and there's no secret to that. I've conveyed that in a letter to the Chief Commissioner - to which he didn't respond, but I - I'm not - there's no game playing near this. That's not on my cards. But I mean, don't call me an informer and a murderer in a newspaper article. Um, you know, you wouldn't if someone did it to you? That's the test. I - and then I - that was my test, I said to people - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You would rate - rate what a reasonable person would do in the circumstances, yeah.

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: No, that was my test. What I said to him - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, that's what I mean.

WITNESS F: But - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: That's what you're saying, yeah.

WITNESS F: --- I said to a couple of people, 'If - if this was' ---

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You.

WITNESS F: --- 'you and this was served at you, what would you do?' Um, so. Look, hopefully it'll settle. We'll see. So if it does impact - if it is going to impact upon, or politely, endanger me in any way or hinder anything coming out, I will let you know.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Good.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Ah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So you just gotta ring the - you just ring the same number, all right, and we'll just go from there.

WITNESS F: Already in my phone. Got it on speed dial.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Have you?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Not on - - -

WITNESS F: No, it's not on speed dial. Do you wanna know what it's stored under?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: 'Arsehole'?

WITNESS F: No.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: I was gonna say, something derogatory.

WITNESS F: Nah, no way.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: What?

WITNESS F: 'Kill Myself Now'.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (Laughs.) Is it?

WITNESS F: There.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: There we go.

WITNESS F: Oh no, I wouldn't put a name there. You never know where your phone might end up, so that leaves it there.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Very true.

WITNESS F: So, Ian, are you having any time off for Christmas?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Two weeks. Just got the - the week leading in - yeah, it's Christmas - late Christmas week and then the following week. Yeah, that's all.

WITNESS F: So was John Silvester's article supposed to, um, assist you or not assist

you? 'Cause I didn't - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: No, it's not to assist us. I - I - I did talk to him about it, um, under the Echo and - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: --- also a bit concerned about what was with all the intimidating and bullying and, you know, debt collecting that's going on at the moment. So it sort of ---

WITNESS F: It's everywhere.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: It's everywhere, so it's really about getting a bit of a message out there that if you engage these people, you - you know, when suddenly it all horribly goes wrong, you know, you're - you're looking at a - a principle as well, so it was about that.

WITNESS F: Feeling - oh. They've started doing it for lawyers, too. Um, and their - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, yeah.

WITNESS F: Because their rate - they're very - very competitive, and very persuasive. Um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: We're just seeing a lot - more and more often. It was actually starting to frustrate new people. (Indistinct) work, people aren't coming to the police station, and they won't - - -

WITNESS F: I said - I said - I persuaded someone to come and talk to the police (indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Who - um, he talked about - I think, probably, four of the (indistinct 12:11:15). They took him - they took him - they robbed him, blackmailed him, extorted money from him.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Took him to a room and bashed him.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Um, and - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, they can be tough. It's just their game, but they, um - they can't speak to the police. They don't actually (indistinct) the fear factor associated - - -

WITNESS F: He did.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct), did he? Okay.

WITNESS F: In the end he did, but he's petrified.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: And I can't blame him.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, well, that's right.

WITNESS F: But at the end of the day, like the Dales of this world, like, if you don't stand up, nothing will change.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Right. So Echo's obviously fairly new and, ah, it's growing and, ah, I've been (indistinct words) so we can move forward strategically with it all, and, ah, it's quite interesting and a lot of work out there, and this is just one of the ones that (indistinct words) actually just frustrating me. It's happening more and more, now that they're growing in confidence, so.

WITNESS F: Do you think it's because there hasn't been enough attention in the past?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Also - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: It's huge - - -

WITNESS F: - - - not enough resources.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah. There has been a huge intelligence gap. There used to be gangs there - - -

WITNESS F: Yep.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: --- come to the old model and, ah, nothing was done about it for many many years. So they were becoming a bit of a (indistinct) around Australia, so.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: But the dip - debt - debt collector's not been licenced. That law changed last year, didn't it?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Oh, that's right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And in come (indistinct 12:12:27) and (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words) be regular (indistinct words) you or I remembering they're debt collectors.

WITNESS F: So if you pin it down (indistinct) but you can not only be debt collectors, they can be finance and the mortgage brokers as well.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words) and that's a bit of a - well. You get a lot of these dodgy morgy - mortgage brokers out there. What they do is they sign up for these loans and when they're starting to pop - - -

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: --- they then engage the OMCGs so they can debt collect ---

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: --- you know, recover - you know, their head's been lobbied 40 per cent. Why, beats me, um, but, you know, 60 per cent's better than nothing, you know, and you don't have to be (indistinct words), put on some colours and away you go and stamp someone's door. And ---

WITNESS F: And most people are too frightened.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words) by paying up and go (indistinct words).

WITNESS F: So unless you get to the, um - that's a really hard one because these are people that are not gonna respond to - kind of like the way piranha attacks people. The same - it's the way that police dealt with that, they can't - they can't be dealt with the same way. As in you can't - you can't, um, deconstruct that the same way.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Nah, no.

WITNESS F: And if you can't - if you bother to charge them - I don't mean, when I say 'bother to', I'm not saying you're not making an effort but - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: No.

WITNESS F: --- look, you waste everybody's time by charging them (indistinct words), they fight it. Waste of your time.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: It won't work. I mean, how are they gonna (indistinct)?

WITNESS F: Yeah. And I've had idiots (indistinct words) a waste of that time if I fail two days later. What's the point of that?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: That's (indistinct).

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: He probably would hide, but he has been done in-between - him and, ah, there's a lot of argument about what had actually

happened, what motorcycle gang's men it was, if that guy didn't (indistinct words) in the first instance.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: And then - then Chris Dunkell sort of said, 'Well, look, you know, might be a (indistinct words). Why are you - why are you, you know, bringing this war on (indistinct)?' Right, you know, rather than (indistinct words). Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: State government needs to make them - make them criminal organisations that (indistinct), that's the thing.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words) like maybe 20 years in the department last week (indistinct words) - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: --- association stuff.

WITNESS F: But it's not going to come in to - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Wait, it'll be 12 months.

WITNESS F: Yes, if that.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: They're mostly civil libertarians, and the OMCGs' got such great resources that they'll do it.

WITNESS F: And they've got the - you know what they've got? They've got lawyers - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Of course they have.

WITNESS F: --- who - no, I was gonna say lawyers who are proudly doing it for free. And you know, um, David Grace had a lot of success (indistinct words) standing had a lot of success in the west when they tried to outlaw certain clubs over there and clubhouses, um, and he's now acting for free here.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Because they get - but then they get the referral business on - - -

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And is it - there is a movie, and it's got a - it's an American movie where he's a lawyer, I've forgotten the name of the bloke and - and the movie's name, but he - he was representing OMCGs.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And then in - sometimes he'd say, you

know, Nicola, you - you resent your pay, and then he said he - he had a partner and he said, 'No, we'll do this one for free', and he goes, 'Why? Why do them for free?', and he said, 'Because they're such good clients.'

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Because they're always getting pinned.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Pinned. I've got another meeting to go to.

WITNESS F: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So I'm gonna - - -

WITNESS F: I'm gonna (indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- go. So yeah, glad you're healthy.

WITNESS F: (Indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And that. Sorry you had a stressful day.

WITNESS F: No, no, no. (Indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Fourth - - -

WITNESS F: (Indistinct) I - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: You do without it, though.

WITNESS F: No. Ian, honestly, after some of what I went through a few years ago, this I can laugh about.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Yeah, we all go through those.

WITNESS F: Wait, can I ask one question, John? What - what - what is gonna happen when that inquest comes on?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: The Hodsons - it's - I dunno. We - 'cause I dunno, do they supress? I don't think they can supress inquests, no. No. But I think - I haven't got the (indistinct), no.

WITNESS F: I'm not a - I'm not trying - I'm not - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: I'm not - I don't want you to think I'll - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: There'll be - there'll be a media frenzy.

WITNESS F: I - I don't want you to think that I'm asking you, or I'm, you know, gonna ask you some question and then you're gonna get some letter sent where I quote you, that's not - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Nah, nah, that's all right.

WITNESS F: --- what this is about. I don't ---

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, no.

WITNESS F: You should know by now that - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, it's not my - no.

WITNESS F: You know me.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You haven't done any of that to us.

WITNESS F: And yeah - and I won't.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No, it's - - -

WITNESS F: Um, you know, I - I can't tell anybody that I even had this conversation, because - who can I tell? Other than my mentor, if there were - other than my psych, and they don't get names, I can't talk about this relationship to anybody. My own lawyer, I can't talk to them about it. Can you imagine telling Alex Launder about this?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No. I couldn't.

WITNESS F: Couldn't - couldn't you?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I couldn't - I couldn't imagine you telling Alex, no.

WITNESS F: No. I mean, what am I gonna say? Um, anyway, I'm just - I mean, in many ways the inquest, when it happens, will - well, we may as well be - I may as well be back in 2009, be - in - in - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words).

WITNESS F: Well, I may as well be back in 2009 because I'm gonna be in exactly the same position with this. There's no question in my mind that I will get a subpoena, and I will answer questions. Um, unless I'm in hospital. Um, but how am I supposed to protect myself there? When - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh. Yeah, I - that's - well, the trial's gonna take - the ACC charge's trial's gonna surely - that's gonna go on, and then after that it'll be the - the inquest. And the reality, the inquest won't be till mid next year.

WITNESS F: Yeah.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: You would think. So, yeah, I - I haven't got the answer to it at the moment.

WITNESS F: Yep, but I mean - the - but the - but the reason I - I mean, I got - I worry about this from time to time because it's not something that might happen - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Oh, it's gonna.

WITNESS F: - - - it's going to happen.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: And it's not something I can run away from. I can't go and hide and I can't - can't, you know, wait till I think they're going to issue me a subpoena and then run away, because - I - it'll come. There's no point running and hiding from that. Um, and - and I'm not - I'm not, um, I'm not gonna be dishonest and try and say that I'm not fit to be giving evidence because unless I'm in hospital having my cancer surgery as I was in March in 2010, and I don't anticipate being again - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, touch wood that's not gonna be - yeah.

WITNESS F: Um, then just because I've got a chronic nerve pain problem and I'm on medication, that's - doesn't make me incompetent or uncompellable. So it's a fact that I've got to deal with.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So we've probably gotta wait, and I - look, I'm assuming that you may get subpoenaed, but you've got to wait and see if you actually do get subpoenaed, yeah.

WITNESS F: But - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And I know it's easy for me 'cause I'm not sitting in your shoes to worry - to worry - - -

WITNESS F: No, but John, that's the other issue. This is the twisted irony of all this. One of the reasons - one of the principal reasons, and I'm on this great (indistinct) reportings in different places say this. One of the reasons I agreed to give evidence was because if I didn't, all kinds of people will say all kinds of things - principally Dale - without a - without really the truth coming out. And the truth comes with some embarrassment from my point of view, some personal embarrassment, but bad luck, that's part of - it comes out, it comes out. It doesn't alter the facts of what happened. So in the event that - I - I'm saying, for example, um, the coroner didn't issue me with a subpoena because for some reason VicPol didn't tell the coroner to do that, that's not gonna stop someone else subpoenaing me.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: No.

WITNESS F: That's the problem. So that - I don't think - I - I know what you're saying, wait and see, but in my mind, because I've been told certain things by other

lawyers, it's not a case that 'Maybe you won't', it's a case of 'I don't know who's gonna do it, but it's gonna happen'.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah. Let's get through Christmas and the - and the New Year - - -

WITNESS F: Why? What do you think will happen then?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, Santa will come, that's for sure. All right.

WITNESS F: He always does, yeah right.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And then it'll turn 2013, you'll have done - - -

WITNESS F: Send me a different piece of my Christmas present.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: --- by Carol - and I'll - yeah. The same one that you sent me, so - --

WITNESS F: Yeah, okay. Ah, well, I don't have your address. You've got mine.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: So - and then we'll - and then we'll talk some more, all right?

WITNESS F: But can you ask somebody to turn their minds to this before it becomes a mess?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep.

WITNESS F: Please?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yep.

WITNESS F: Um - - -

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And I'll pass on - I'll pass on your concerns to my superiors, all right?

WITNESS F: I - I don't care who I have to meet or what I have to do, but there's gotta be some way of - of this being dealt with sensibly.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah.

WITNESS F: Without ending up in a courtroom.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, well, I can't - I can't give you the answer to that.

WITNESS F: I know.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I'm - - -

WITNESS F: But you can actually send a note to somebody saying, 'Can you please work it out?'.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: I'll do what I can. Have a good Christmas.

WITNESS F: Yeah, you too. Have a good - have a good break.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: And I'm very plea - I will. And very pleased you're helping out on voluntary work. Very good.

WITNESS F: Oh.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Very good for the soul.

WITNESS F: I'm not - that's not the only thing I'm doing. I've got other volunteer work.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Well, that's good.

WITNESS F: They just (indistinct words) on police record.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yeah, well, that's good what you're doing.

WITNESS F: Oh, I've gotta get back to some kind of normality, because in the meantime I'm - I'm unable to get a job, which is a real problem.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Good. Look after yourself.

WITNESS F: I will.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Have a good Christmas.

WITNESS F: And I will (indistinct words) okay?

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Yes.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: Me too, (indistinct words).

WITNESS F: I don't think you need to send him videos with him, that's all.

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (Laughs.) Take care.

WITNESS F: I won't (indistinct).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: (Paying for order at till.)

(Leaving café.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CAMPBELL: (Indistinct words.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Still won't go in.

(Getting into vehicle.)

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR O'CONNOR: Time is now 3.15. End recording.

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