

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

**From:** McRae, Findlay  
**Sent:** Mon, 19 Jul 2010 15:17:32 +1000  
**To:** Pope, Jeff;Lardner, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: Witness F contacts

Jeff

I have had a short discussion with VGSO regarding the civil litigation and the timing of the mediation.

Our advice is as follows:

- Vicpol agree to meet with Ms Gobbo to discuss possible entry to WPP
- After discussion with yourself we agree Paul Evans and/ Andrew Crisp should lead negotiations for Vicpol
- A VGSO representative attend the meeting (as it is expected Ms Gobbo will attend with lawyers)
- It is likely that any arrangements would be on an interim basis pending the mediation
- A draft [REDACTED] has already been provided to Piper Alderman. The detail of the [REDACTED] would further negotiated at the mediation (11 August 2010)

Next steps

- JP to inform Paul Evans and Graham of the recommended approach
- FM to arrange a meeting of Paul Evans, Andrew Crisp, Graham and David Ryan (VGSO)
- Graham to arrange a meeting time with Ms Gobbo

**Findlay McRae | Victoria Police**  
Director | Legal Services  
Victoria Police Centre  
637 Flinders St Melbourne 3005 | DX 310096  
T: [REDACTED] | F: 03 [REDACTED]

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**From:** Pope, Jeff  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 July 2010 2:13 PM  
**To:** McRae, Findlay; Lardner, Peter  
**Subject:** FW: Witness F contacts

Gents

FYI - GOBBO has been in touch with our investigators over the weekend following our letter to the solicitors on Friday. The start of this email is background and context. The last three paragraphs the most relevant - but no doubts cuts across current litigation. Grateful for your advice

JP

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**From:** O'Connell, Shane  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 July 2010 10:17 AM  
**To:** Pope, Jeff  
**Subject:** Witness F contacts

A/C POPE,

On Friday morning, 16 July, I became aware of an SMS threat received by Nicola GOBBO and advised you of same. As a result of discussion with you I contacted David RYAN at VGSO, to get him to draft a formal letter to GOBBO's solicitor, suggesting she reconsider entry into the Witness Protection Program (WPP).

*Dave,*

*As per our phone conversation, Nicola GOBBO received a death threat via SMS last night. This matter is now under investigation.*

*I have also received information that she is making an attempt to be placed on the visit list of a prisoner housed at the Barwon Prison. Any visit by her to the prison increases the threat to her.*

*I have spoken with Assistant Commissioner Jeff POPE, who has requested that correspondence be drafted and forwarded to her, via Piper Alderman, in relation to these issues. Basically, our view is that the threat again reinforces the need for her to reconsider the Witness Protection Program and the prison visits pose a greater risk to her safety.*

*I would appreciate it if you could draft a letter covering these issues for transmission to Piper Alderman.*



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Regards

Shane

David drafted a letter and forwarded it to me for consideration. This letter made reference to the WPP, as follows -

*We have been instructed that your client last night received an SMS message containing a threat to her safety. In the circumstances, we are instructed to urge your client to reconsider her position in relation to entry into the Victorian witness protection program on the terms set out in the draft [REDACTED] provided to you on 19 February 2010.*

*We are also instructed that your client proposes to visit a prisoner in Barwon Prison. Victoria Police is of the view that such a visit is likely to increase the risk to her safety and they recommend that she consider not proceeding with the proposed visit.*

*We invite you or your client to contact Graham Evans-O [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] Taskforce if your client wishes to discuss the assessment of the risk to her safety and/or entry into the Victorian witness protection program.*

David then advised me via e-mail that "On reflection, I think we should avoid discussion of the Feb 2010 MOU". He provided me with an amended letter, as follows -

*We have been instructed that your client last night received an SMS message containing a threat to her safety. In the circumstances, we confirm that that Victoria Police is willing to discuss with you the provision of reasonable protection and assistance.*

*We are also instructed that your client proposes to visit a prisoner in Barwon Prison. Victoria Police is of the view that such a visit is likely to increase the risk to her safety and they recommend that she consider not proceeding with the proposed visit.*

*We invite you or your client to contact Graham Evans-O [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] Taskforce if your client wishes to discuss the assessment of the risk to her safety and reasonable steps to reduce this risk.*

There is no reference to the WPP in this second letter. I spoke with David about this and advised that I thought there should be reference to the WPP, but had no issue with removing the reference to the Feb 2010 MOU. I also advised David that I had been speaking with you and that Fin McRAE was now aware of what had occurred. I requested he speak with Fin in relation to the letter.

David later CC'd me into the email he forwarded to Piper Alderman, which contained the second draft of the letter, with no reference to WPP. He advised me that he had spoken with Fin.

Prior to the letter being sent to Piper Alderman, I had Graham Evans-O speak directly with GOBBO, as per your request and he reinforced our position, that being that she should immediately enter the WPP. Her response -

*She was aggressive as usual.*

- *Blamed Vic Pol re her medical condition, stress, etc*
- *Claimed Vic Pol have lied in response to the subpoena and she didn't approach police*
- *Stated her response will reveal her former status causing her stress*
- *Wants someone from Vic Pol to intervene so matter can be resolved.*
- *Bagged Geoff Always but stated she willing to go into the Witsec program and has from the start.*

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- Frustrated because she sees herself as being in the same position as 12 months ago
- Is willing to talk re Witsec but wants unprecedented flexibility as promised originally.
- Will not [REDACTED]
- Is willing to talk to me [Graham] about it but understands I haven't got the authority to make decision. Frustrates her.
- The fact that she wants to go to Barwon is none of our fucking business and she has ran it by the Governor.
- She is visiting as a private person, not legal.

GOBBO has since contacted Graham Evans twice over the weekend. Based on the letter that was sent to Piper Alderman, she has now stated that she wants someone from Vicpol, with authority, to have a meeting with her to negotiate her entry into the WPP, but she does reinforce that her "conditions" remain, ie - she won't [REDACTED] etc....

This is basically the position she has always maintained, entry into the WPP on her terms, which has been rejected by Vicpol.

I recommend that a further letter be drafted to Piper Alderman, advising them that their client, GOBBO, has been in contact with Graham Evans and has requested Vicpol to negotiate with her in relation to her entry into the WPP. This letter should state that Vicpol's position has not changed in respect to this issue, in that entry into the WPP would be in accordance with the [REDACTED] from Feb 2010.

Forwarded for consideration.

Shane

**Shane O'CONNELL | Detective Acting Inspector 23964**  
**PETRA Task Force | Crime Department Victoria Police**

phone: [REDACTED] | fax: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED]