

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

STATEMENT OF ROBERT JOHN HILL

1. My full name is Robert John Hill. I am an Assistant Commissioner of Victoria Police, with responsibility for the Southern Metro Region.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 19 March 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (Q1)

3. I joined Victoria Police in 1978 and after initial recruit training, performed duties at various metropolitan police stations including Russell Street, St Kilda and Frankston. In 1985 I was appointed as a Detective Senior Constable, initially assigned to the Frankston Criminal Investigation Branch (CIU) and later, transferred to the Crime Department, assigned to the Armed Robbery Squad.
4. In 1989 I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant at the Richmond Police Station and in the same year returned to the Crime Department as a Detective Sergeant at the Homicide Squad. In 1997 I transferred to Dandenong CIU. In 1997 I was promoted to the rank of Senior Sergeant and relieved at various suburban Police Stations, CIU's and Regional Response Units. In 1999 I returned to the Crime Department as a Detective Senior Sergeant at the Drug Squad and later, the Armed Offenders Squad.
5. In 2001 I was promoted to the rank of Detective Inspector and performed the role of Staff Officer to the Assistant Commissioner - Crime, Task Force Management assignments and later, Units 1 & 3 Major Drug Investigation Division (MDID). At that time, MDID had three separate investigative units, namely: Unit 1 (Cannabis), Unit 2 (Clandestine Laboratories) & Unit 3 (Heroin).
6. In 2006 I transferred from the Crime Department and performed an Inspector role in Region 5 as the Casey Police Service Area Manager. I was promoted to the rank of Superintendent in 2008 and assigned to the Police Academy responsible for Foundation Training. In 2012 I was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner having organisational responsibility for Road Policing. I commenced in my current position at the Southern Metro Region in September 2015.
7. My tertiary qualifications are as follows:
 - a) Masters of Public Administration (Executive) Honours, Monash Uni (2013)
 - b) Graduate Diploma in Executive Leadership, AIPM (2007)
 - c) Graduate Certificate in Police Management, Charles Sturt Uni (2003)

1990



8. I have completed various, external and internal training courses and promotional programs throughout my career including but not limited to:
 - a) Company Directors Course, Aust. Institute of Company Directors (2017)
 - b) Australia and New Zealand Police Leadership Strategy, AIPM (2014)
 - c) Senior Managers' Leadership Development Program (2006)
 - d) Police Executive Leadership Program, AIPM (2004)
 - e) Inspectors' Course (2001)
 - f) Sergeants' Course (1989)
 - g) Detective Training Course (1986)

My involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings in any way with Ms Gobbo (Q2)

9. My involvement or association with any investigation which had any dealings with Ms Gobbo occurred between September and November 2005 when I was performing Acting Superintendent and Inspector roles at the MDID. I have refreshed my memory of these events by way of reference to my Official Police Diary.
10. The first reference in my diary is on 8 September 2005. At 2.55 p.m. I met with ^{Jones-DSS} , ^{Jones-DSS} ^{Brennan-DS} , DS Mansell and DSC Rowe. We discussed Operation Quills, offender Mr Bickley and legal representative Ms Gobbo. I do not recall the details of this meeting. However, I believe that it was initiated by an earlier contact between the MDID and the Dedicated Source Unit (DSU).
11. I have been shown a document titled "Request for Assistance Source Development Unit",¹ which shows a date of request of 7 September 2005 and lists me as the requesting member. I believe submission of this form initiated the subsequent meeting on 8 September 2005. I have no recollection as to who completed the form.
12. On 19 September 2005 at 9.10 a.m. I attended a meeting with ^{Jones-DSS} DSS O'Brien, DS Mansell and ^{Brennan-DS} here was a discussion about meeting with a potential human source on Friday. My diary records that the DSU were still debriefing the human source and that there would be a further meeting at the end of the week. My diary also refers to a discussion relating to tactical issues, a bribery offer and money laundering. I do not recall the specifics of these matters. I believe the potential human source referred to in this entry was Ms Gobbo.
13. At 12.00 p.m. on the same day, I briefed Commander Purton in relation to the meeting with ^{Jones-DSS} and DSS O'Brien. My diary also records that I discussed the meeting with the potential human source and that I would brief him further in relation to the matter later in the week.

¹ VPL.2000.0002.0712

14. On 20 September 2005 I received a phone call from an AFP officer in relation to Operation Quills.
15. On 21 September 2005 at 4.50 p.m. I met with DI White (who was a fellow Inspector at the MDID), DS Mansell, DSC Rowe and DSC Burrows. We discussed the progress of enquiries in relation to the registered human source regarding Operation Quills. A further meeting was to be held on Friday. This is the first entry in my diary which refers to Ms Gobbo as a "registered" human source.
16. I have been shown a form titled "Informer Registration/Re-Activation Application".² This indicates that Ms Gobbo was registered through the DSU. Superintendent Ian Thomas of the State Intelligence Division (SID) is recorded as the Local Informer Registrar.
17. On 22 September 2005 at 1.45 p.m. I met with ^{Jones-DSS} Jones-DSS and ^{Jones-DSS} Jones-DSS discussed Operation Quills and the registered human source ^{Jones-DSS} Jones-DSS advised me that they were still debriefing the human source.
18. On 27 September 2005 at 2.00 p.m. I attended a meeting with Commander Purton, DAI O'Brien, ^{Jones-DSS} Jones-DSS ^{Brennan-DSS} Brennan-DSS DSC's Rowe and Burrows. My diary records that discussions occurred in relation to the high risk human source, the intelligence provided and investigation resources. My diary further records the following: ^{Jones-DSS} Jones-DSS will continue to debrief the human source and a further meeting will be reconvened; O'Brien and Hill to consider resources; Purton to raise resources with AC Crime and to raise issue of confidentiality with AC re human source reporting of CRs (contact reports) and IRs (information reports); and further meeting to be reconvened next week. At the relevant time the AC Crime was Simon Overland. I believe that the reference to "issue of confidentiality" in my diary relates to the identity of the human source.
19. At 3.10 p.m. on the same day I met with DAI O'Brien, DSC's Rowe and Burrows and discussed the Task Force staffing requirements.
20. On 28 September 2005 at 8.30 a.m. I had a discussion with Commander Purton regarding meeting times for next week and the registered human source. My diary also records that ^{Jones-DSS} Jones-DSS and DAI O'Brien were to meet with ^{P/I} [REDACTED] who I believe at that time was the Detective Senior Sergeant in charge of the Covert (Undercover) Unit.
21. On 30 September 2005 at 2.30 p.m. I met with Commander Purton, DAI O'Brien, DASS Flynn, DSC Rowe, DSC Burrows, DI Hardy and ^{Brennan-DSS} Brennan-DSS a discussion occurred in relation to Operation Sages and a registered human source. I am not sure whether this human source was Ms Gobbo or someone else. My notes also record that

² VPL.0005.0017.0001

there was a discussion about setting up a taskforce and that DS Flynn was to discuss the tactical plan with ^{PII} [REDACTED] and Brennan-DS

22. On 5 October 2005 at 3.30 p.m. I met with Commander Malone, Supt Biggin, Supt Thomas, Commander Purton, ^{PII} [REDACTED] ^{Jones-DSS} [REDACTED] ^{Brennan-DS} [REDACTED] DASS Flynn and DSC Burrows. My notes record that there was a discussion regarding the operational plan. A tactical meeting was to occur between the services and investigators.
23. By 14 November 2005, after a period of leave, I resumed duties as a Detective Inspector at the MDID in charge of Units 1 and 3. I was no longer performing the MDID Detective Acting Superintendent role.
24. On 14 November 2005 at 3.00 p.m. I attended a meeting with Supt Grant, Commander Purton and Inspector White. My diary records that there was a discussion regarding Operation Posse, taskforce and staffing strategy. In relation to this meeting, I have the name Overland crossed out in my diary. I believe this is because I had an expectation that AC Overland would be attending the meeting, which he did not attend.
25. I had no further dealings with any investigation that had anything to do with Ms Gobbo after 14 November 2005.
26. In mid-December 2005 I commenced recreational leave and when I resumed duty on 3 January 2006, began in a new role as the Casey Police Service Area Manager.

How I learned, or were given reason to believe, Ms Gobbo was providing information to police (Q3)

27. I refer to my answer to question 2.

Awareness of others (Q4)

28. I believe that the persons I have referred to in question 2 as attending the meetings I attended were aware of Ms Gobbo's status. I believe that AC Overland had been briefed by Commander Purton in relation to Ms Gobbo.

Authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q5)

29. From being shown the form titled "Informer Registration/ReActivation Application", I believe that Superintendent Thomas was involved in the registration of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q6)

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

Information & assistance received (Q7 & Q8)

31. I am not aware of the details of information or assistance provided by Ms Gobbo to Victoria Police. I recall from my involvement in 2005 that Ms Gobbo had information to provide Victoria Police which related to Tony Mokbel and his associates.

Concerns raised as to the use of a legal practitioner and Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q9 & Q10)

32. I am not aware of the specific details of the information or assistance to be provided by Ms Gobbo or how that information was obtained by her. I believe that her occupation as a lawyer would have been among the reasons why Ms Gobbo was referred to the DSU for assessment.

Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (Q11)

33. I have no knowledge of any such discussions.

Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q12)

34. I have no knowledge of any such human sources.

Training (Q13)

35. I have not undertaken a detailed review of the Victoria Police courses I have completed and the content of those courses. However, I recall receiving training in relation to these topics while completing Detective Training School in 1986 and to a certain extent, the promotional programs I have completed throughout my career.

Other information (Q14)

36. I have nothing further to add in response to question 14.

Dated: 9 May 2019



Robert John Hill