

Sensitive: Personal

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

My name is Avenue-O [REDACTED] I am a Detective Senior Sergeant of Police, currently attached to the Victoria Police [REDACTED] I have been a member of Victoria Police for 30 years.

I make this statement in response to a Notice to Produce served on me by the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants.

Personal information

1. I successfully completed my VCE in 1987.
2. I commenced employment with Victoria Police on the [REDACTED] 1989 and graduated on the [REDACTED] 1989. The following is a synopsis of my career with Victoria Police:
 - July 1989 to June 1990 – [REDACTED] Police Station (Constable general duties)
 - June 1990 to December 1992 – [REDACTED] Police Station (Constable general duties)
 - January 1993 to August 1995 – [REDACTED] Police Station (Constable general duties)
 - Including a 12 month secondment to the [REDACTED] Divisional Response Unit
 - August 1995 to October 1996 – [REDACTED] Police Station (Senior Constable general duties)
 - October 1996 to November 1999 – [REDACTED] Criminal Investigation Branch (Detective Senior Constable)
 - Including a 6 month secondment to the [REDACTED] Embona Taskforce, investigating armed robberies and robberies committed in [REDACTED] District
 - November 1999 to October 2000 – [REDACTED] Criminal Investigation Branch (Detective Senior Constable)
 - October 2000 to December 2002 – [REDACTED] (Detective Senior Constable)
 - Including extended upgrading to Detective Acting Sergeant
 - December 2002 to September 2004 - [REDACTED] Crime Investigation Unit (Detective Senior Constable)
 - Including upgrading to Detective Acting Sergeant
 - Including upgrading to Acting Sergeant at [REDACTED] Police Station
 - Including upgrading to Acting Sergeant at [REDACTED] Police Station
 - September 2004 to September 2005 – [REDACTED] Police Station (Sergeant)
 - Completed Diploma of Police Supervision
 - Completed the Human Source [REDACTED] course

Sensitive: Personal

Sensitive: Personal

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

- September 2005 to November 2007 – [REDACTED]
Taskforce (Detective Sergeant)
 - Completed Human Source [REDACTED] course
 - This course was replaced by the Human Source [REDACTED] course on which I was an instructor and syndicate leader over the following years
- November 2007 to December 2008 – Source Development Unit [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- December 2008 to February 2009 – [REDACTED]
- February 2009 to April 2009 - [REDACTED] Taskforce [REDACTED]
 - 14 days Operation Angora (Scene examination and recovery of multiple deceased in Kinglake West, as well as the recovery of human remains from Kinglake West, Pheasant Creek, Strathewen and Humevale
 - 74 days Operation Groove (Evidence collection, investigation and welfare management relevant to the fatal fire in the Marysville and surrounding area)
- April 2009 to September 2009 – [REDACTED]
- September 2009 to October 2010 – [REDACTED]
- October 2010 to July 2012 – Source Development Unit [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- July 2012 to August 2014 – [REDACTED] Region Investigation & Response [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - Including secondments upgraded to [REDACTED] Region Investigation and Response, Crime Coordinator, as [REDACTED]
- August 2014 to June 2017 – [REDACTED] Divisional Response Unit / Embona Taskforce [REDACTED]
 - Included establishment and management of the North West Metro, Division [REDACTED]
 - Included establishment and management of the North West Metro, [REDACTED] Taskforce, targeting [REDACTED]
 - Included secondments upgraded to North West Metro, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] as [REDACTED]
- June 2017 to Current – Crime Command, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - Included secondments upgraded to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Squad, as [REDACTED]

Sensitive: Personal

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

3. As far as I can recall I did not have any involvement or association with any investigation that had dealings with Ms Gobbo as far as I am aware. I have not had access to the records of SDU to confirm this and so this is my best recollection without access to that documentation.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

4. In the course of operations meetings when I was working at SDU I became aware of Ms Gobbo's use as an informer. I learnt of this on arrival at SDU in November 2007. I am unable to recall exactly who advised me of this fact, however I can say that it was in the course of an operations meeting at the SDU. I was party to an operations meeting involving assets at the SDU, however I am unable to recall from memory the specifics of what I was told about Ms Gobbo's use as a human source.
5. During these operations meetings members of the SDU would routinely be present including Controllers ████████ Handlers ████████ and Intelligence practitioners ████████ however I am unable to recall exactly who was present at any particular operations meeting.
6. Prior to the end of 2012, through my operational engagement at SDU I did become aware that there were people external to the SDU within Victoria Police who were aware Ms Gobbo was providing information. Without recourse to the SDU records I cannot presently recall who some of those people were.
7. I am not aware of who was involved in the authorisation and continued authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.
8. On my arrival at SDU I became aware Ms Gobbo was providing information to the SDU. I was aware of this through my position as a Handler at the unit, however I am unable to provide specific details of what that information involved as I was never involved as her Handler. Because I was not a handler of Ms Gobbo I have no knowledge of when information was received from her. I am only aware that information was provided by Ms Gobbo to SDU Handlers and Controllers. I do not know what use was made of that information.
9. I was present during operations meetings at the SDU when material provided by Ms Gobbo was discussed, however I am unable to recall from memory the specifics of any assistance given by Ms Gobbo to Victoria Police.

Sensitive: Personal

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

10. I do not have any knowledge of the details of any assistance given by Ms Gobbo to Victoria Police.

Concerns in relation to use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

11. I do not have any knowledge about whether any concerns were raised at any time by members of Victoria Police (or other policing or law enforcement agencies for example the AFP, the Office of Public Prosecutions, the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions) as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source

12. Nor do I have any knowledge as to whether any concerns were raised at any time by members of Victoria Police (or other policing or law enforcement agencies for example the AFP, the Office of Public Prosecutions, the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions) as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

13. I am not aware of any discussion within Victoria Police about the obligation of disclosure in relation to material concerning the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Other relevant matters

14. I was not involved in the matter of Mr Cvetanovski and I am not aware of any other human source who was subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

15. I received the following training:

- a) **obligation of disclosure to accused persons, prosecution agencies and the courts;** - I am unable to comment on formal training in this area, as I am unsure if any of the training courses I attended specifically contained this topic in the curriculum.
- b) **the right of an accused person to silence;** - I received initial training in relation to this as a recruit at the Victoria Police Academy and have received ongoing awareness during promotional courses and development courses including, but not limited to, Detective Training School (course [REDACTED]), Diploma of Police Supervision (Sergeant's) Investigation Management Course (Detective Sergeant's), Brief Quality

Sensitive: Personal

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

Assurance Course, Senior Sergeants Qualification Program (Course # [REDACTED], 2014) and Senior Sergeant Development Program (2016). I am unsure if curriculum was specific to learning outcomes on this topic

- c) **the right of an accused person to a legal practitioner;** - I received initial training in relation to this as a recruit at the Victoria Police Academy and have received retraining during promotional courses and development courses including, but not limited to, Detective Training School (course [REDACTED]), Diploma of Police Supervision (Sergeant's) Investigation Management Course (Detective Sergeant's), Brief Quality Assurance Course, Senior Sergeants Qualification Program (Course [REDACTED] 2014) and Senior Sergeant Development Program (2016). I am unsure if curriculum was specific to learning outcomes on this topic
- d) **legal professional privilege;** - I am unable to comment on formal training in this area, as I am unsure if any of the training courses, I have attended specifically contained legal professional privilege in the curriculum. I have awareness of this issue through exposure to investigations and prosecutions within the Magistrates', County, Supreme, Children's and Coroners Court's, as an investigator, supervisor and manager.
- e) **public interest immunity;** - I am unable to comment on formal training in this area, as I am unsure if any of the training courses I have attended specifically contained public interest immunity in the curriculum, however I have awareness of this issue through exposure to investigations and prosecutions within the Magistrates', County, Supreme, Children's and Coroners Court's, as an investigator, supervisor and manager.
- f) **professional and ethical decision making;** - Training in relation to professional and ethical decision making has been ever-present throughout my career, including at the Victoria Police Academy and reinforced during promotional courses and development courses including, but not limited to, Detective Training School (course [REDACTED]), Diploma of Police Supervision (Sergeant's) Investigation Management Course (Detective Sergeant's), Brief Quality Assurance Course, Senior Sergeants Qualification Program (Course [REDACTED] 2014) and Senior Sergeant Development Program (2016). I am acutely aware of the Victoria Police Integrity Framework, VPM-Policy Rules – Professional and Ethical Standards, the Victoria Police Code of Ethics and the S.E.L.F. test, all of which are reinforced on a regular basis and something I am committed to in my professional and private life.

Sensitive: Personal

Sensitive: Personal

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

16. There are no other matters relevant to the Commission's terms of reference about which I am able to provide assistance to the Commission.

Avenue-O

Dated: 28/08/2019

Sensitive: Personal