

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

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

**STATEMENT OF DAMIAN JACKSON**

I, Detective Acting Superintendent Damian Jackson, of 313 Spencer Street, Melbourne in the State of Victoria say as follows:

1. I am the Acting Superintendent currently in charge of the Covert Services Division in Intelligence & Covert Support Command of Victoria Police. I have performed this role from 13 January 2019 to 30 March 2019 and from 16 June 2019 to present on behalf of the substantive position holder, Detective Superintendent Scott Mahony.
2. My substantive position is as a Detective Inspector at the Organised Crime Intelligence Unit in State Intelligence Division, Intelligence and Covert Support Command. I have held this position since 5 March 2017.
3. I was seconded to Operation Loricated from the former Crime Department, Homicide Squad as a Detective Acting Senior Sergeant from 29 January 2013 until 21 March 2014 inclusive.
4. I am aware that in the course of the Royal Commission two related claims have been made:
  - (a) that the Source Development Unit (**SDU**) stand-alone "Z Drive" was not known about during the course of Operation Loricated; and
  - (b) that the SDU stand-alone "Z Drive" was not able to be accessed until 2019.
5. I can confirm that neither claim is correct. As the following description of the process shows, the SDU stand-alone "Z Drive" was available to Operation Loricated and was accessed. It was a source of useful and relevant material, but it was not a substitute for the work done on Operation Loricated.
6. This statement describes the process of document collation in order to put the accessing of the "Z Drive" into context.

**Operation Loricated**

7. Operation Loricated was a covert operation governed by specific terms of reference and objectives. It concerned the reconstruction, review and analysis of the human source file relating to Nicola Gobbo, identified as 21803838 (**3838**) and later known as 11792958 (**2958**) during her period of management by the SDU and the handover to the Petra Taskforce.
8. Operation Loricated involved four phases, as follows:
  - (a) Phase 1 - the collection of all documents relating to the management of 3838 and the ordering/sequential arrangement of these documents to present a complete record of Victoria Police dealings with 3838;
  - (b) Phase 2 - the migration of all documents into one secure location and the review and analysis of the reconstructed human source file. This involved designing a purpose-built Web Based Solution;
  - (c) Phase 3 - the identification of relevant issues and the grouping of these issues into established investigation themes; and
  - (d) Phase 4 - the identification of opportunities to improve intelligence collection and analysis in the future.
9. At the conclusion of Operation Loricated, project team member, Jim Kalogris and I prepared a completion report dated 21 May 2014 (the **report**). The report sets out the terms of reference, objectives, project governance and details each of the four phases set out above. I understand that the report has been produced to the Royal Commission as VPL.0002.0001.0209.

**Collection of documents**

10. At the commencement of Operation Loricated, the project team was provided with a safe which contained documents and media items relating to SDU management of Nicola Gobbo. The safe also contained material in relation to the Petra Taskforce management of Nicola Gobbo. Provision of the safe was facilitated through Commander Doug Fryer and his Executive Assistant Allison Muller.
11. On Wednesday 30 January 2013 I photographed and recorded the contents of the safe. All items in the safe were compared against an index prepared by the Human Source Management Unit (HSMU). Items were then examined, itemised, labelled and chronologically/sequentially catalogued.
12. On Tuesday 5 February 2013 at 10.45 a.m., an electronic copy of the 3838 Interpose record was provided to the project team on a compact disc. This material, and later the Interpose record itself was reviewed however not relied on as it presented as an incomplete, un-sequential, secondary record of the SDU's dealings with Nicola Gobbo.
13. The project team was advised to contact Detective Inspector John O'Connor in relation to provision of all material relating to the SDU management of Nicola Gobbo as a human source.
14. On Friday 15 February 2013 at 12.30 p.m. I met with Detective Inspector John O'Connor from the SDU in company with Acting Inspector Brian Horan, Inspector Mark Galliot and Barbara Wojtasiak. I established that material was contained both electronically and within hardcopy records.
15. On Monday 18 February 2013 Detective Inspector O'Connor approved access to the SDU network drive. A mirror copy of the drive was subsequently created for use by the project team. The mirror copy was created so as to not impact the integrity of the original drive. The mirror copy was transferred to one of three external drives provided to the project team (master) and a working copy of the drive created on a further external drive. Several documents relating to the SDU management of Nicola Gobbo were located on this drive as well as electronic member diaries commenced by the SDU in mid-2007. Access was also obtained to the Petra network drive which was also audited for information relating to the handover of Nicola Gobbo.
16. On Thursday 28 February 2013 at 2.10 p.m. I met with Detective Superintendent Paul Sheridan and Detective Inspector John O'Connor at Assistant Commissioner Intelligence & Covert Support Command, Jeff Pope's office where I was provided with:
  - (a) six (6) folders containing hardcopy Source Contact Reports (SCR); and
  - (b) six (6) compact discs containing audio material (encrypted) of SDU meetings with Nicola Gobbo.
17. As a result of several further conversations on Tuesday 9 April 2013 at 1.00 p.m. I met with Detective Inspector O'Connor at 412 St Kilda Road, Melbourne who attempted to unencrypt supplied audio files without success. Detective Inspector O'Connor showed me further material relevant to the SDU management of Nicola Gobbo. It was agreed that these items would be collected once Detective Inspector O'Connor managed to get the audio unencrypting software working.
18. On Monday 15 April 2013 at 10.00 a.m., I met with Detective Inspector O'Connor at 412 St Kilda Road, Melbourne who provided me with further material in relation to SDU management of Nicola Gobbo. A copy of the Comrie Review was separately obtained from Commander Fryer's staff officer, Detective Inspector Wayne Newman for review by the project team.
19. Detective Inspector O'Connor also provided the project team with the SDU standalone computer to assist with unencrypting the audio files as he had been unable to achieve this. It was established by the project team that ink on the rear of CDs was preventing the discs from reading. The discs were cleaned, unencrypted and the audio files subsequently copied. Audio summaries were later prepared of approximately 150 hours of audio material contained in the source file

which related to all recorded face to face meetings between the SDU and Nicola Gobbo.

20. During this process a drive labelled Zondex (Y), also referred to as the "Z: Drive", was located on the stand-alone computer. The drive contained further files related to Nicola Gobbo's management as a human source by the SDU including electronic copies of SCRs, information reports (IRs), meeting notes, phone information, registration documents, reports and risk assessments. The drive was copied and subsequently analysed by the project team with all files determined as relevant included in the Loricated reconstruction. The stand-alone computer was later returned to Detective Inspector O'Connor.
21. I have pasted below a screenshot of a PowerPoint update that I did in April 2013 which confirms the above steps and access to the "Z Drive":

## General Achievements

Purpose
General Achievements Operation LORICATED
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>General Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Moved into new office Level 6 Tower 4 WTC on 27/03/2013</li> <li>▪ After the review of several programs including Fotobase DAM (used by Phoenix T/F) D/A/Insp. CORBELL and Insp. Gillian WILSON have advised Microsoft Excel for file reconstruction, noting issues surrounding cost and licensing with Fotobase DAM and other potentially appropriate external software.</li> <li>▪ Obtained Project/Operation name - OP LORICATED refers</li> <li>▪ Set up Covert Interpose Security Group for management of the project - Op LORICATED. Also set up a secure folder in a shared network drive- all project material to be stored on this drive pending reconstruction.</li> <li>▪ Sourced further computers/screens through CORBELL's office to accommodate 5 staff.</li> <li>▪ Met with D/Insp O'CONNOR SDU 15/04. Provided with relevant member diaries and assorted 3838 documents (6 boxes) held at the SDU to assist with reconstruction of the file. Also provided with Standalone computer to assist with burning of encrypted audio material. Further Z: Drive located on standalone computer containing material relating to 3838. Drive copied and analysed by project team. Standalone to be returned to O'CONNOR once audio unencrypted.</li> <li>➤ Identified further Imprest receipts held at SDU. To collect week commencing 06/05.</li> </ul>
<p>29 April 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prepared by D/A/S/Sgt Damian JACKSON</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>

22. I understand that the PowerPoint has been produced to the Royal Commission as VPL.0002.0001.0161.
23. On Thursday 9 May 2013 at 8.40 a.m. I met with Detective Inspector O'Connor who provided further material namely;
- Imprest receipts; and
  - further member diaries for SDU members Officer Peter Smith [REDACTED] and Officer Richards [REDACTED]
24. On Tuesday 28 May 2013 at 4.10 p.m. I spoke to Detective Inspector O'Connor in relation to audio of SDU meetings with Nicola Gobbo on 4 August 2008 and 17 January 2007. Detective Inspector O'Connor was unable to locate a further audio file for 19 October 2006.

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25. On Monday 3 June 2013 at 10.55 a.m. I met with Detective Superintendent Sheridan and copied audio for the meeting on 17 January 2007. Audio for meeting on 4 August 2008 was unable to be copied and original discs were returned.
26. Enquiries were made with Andy Herd from Atek in relation to repair of the corrupted recording (4 August 2008) and enhancing a further disc that had poor audio (Disc S). Mr Herd advised that he needed to have the discs for a couple of days and speak to several people regarding their repair and or enhancement. Due to risks surrounding this, and in consultation with Detective Inspector O'Connor discs were retained, the possible solution noted, and oversighting Steering Committee later notified.
27. On Wednesday 6 November 2013 at 12.35 p.m. I met with Officer Black at 412 St Kilda Road, Melbourne who provided five official diaries, a compact disc containing copies of his electronic diaries and a photocopy of diary entries relevant to Nicola Gobbo.
28. On Thursday 7 November 2013 at 2.45 p.m. Detective Inspector Steve Waddell dropped off three further boxes of SDU member diaries and folders containing handwritten notes.
29. On Friday 31 January 2014 at 8.55 a.m. I met with Officer Black and returned material provided by Officer Black on 6 November 2013 and Waddell on 7 November 2013, the latter which were deemed as not relevant to the Loricated reconstruction.
30. Relevant SDU member diaries were scanned as PDF files ready for uploading into an appropriate IT solution. These were redacted to remove any material deemed as not related to Nicola Gobbo, this was to prevent the identification of any other human sources. News articles mentioned by Nicola Gobbo were also located and collated as appropriate.
31. All material was systematically audited in line with terms of reference. All documents/files were then analysed and electronically filed in chronological/sequential order by SCR with supporting documents linked. Hardcopy files were stored in the safe. Files were catalogued for transfer into an appropriate IT solution outlined in Phase 2 of the report.
32. Items unable to be located include:
  - PB13 for Officer Sandy White predating 3 October 2005;
  - Electronic Diary for Officer Richards 22/12/08 to 03/01/09; and
  - Audio Recording of Meeting 19 October 2006.
33. In addition, the following files were corrupted:
  - Electronic Diaries for Officer Green 22/12/08 to 03/01/09 & 04/01/09 to 09/01/09; and
  - Audio recording of Meeting 4 August 2008.
34. Stage completion was communicated to the oversighting Steering Committee on 2 May 2013. A number of password protected files formed part of the original SDU source file as did a folder labelled "PHONES", located on the "Z: Drive", which contained several call charge records and other telecommunications. These files do not form part of the Loricated IT solution; however, they have been saved in a folder associated with the Loricated IT solution source files should they need to be retrieved.
35. I understand that all material collated by Operation Loricated has been made available to Taskforce Landow for the purposes of complying with Notices to Produce to the Royal Commission.

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 Damian Jackson

Date: 21 February 2020