

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

FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF GAVAN ANTHONY RYAN

1. My full name is Gavan Anthony Ryan.
2. I made statements to the Royal Commission on 13 June and 31 July 2019. I make this further statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission dated 6 April 2020 (**Request**). This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.
3. In responding to the questions in the Request, it has not been possible for me to go through all potentially relevant documents or to meet with my legal representatives to do that but I have done my best to respond to the questions in the time available and in the prevailing circumstances. My responses are below.

Question 1: Knowledge and involvement in the matters listed in (a)-(f) of the Request

4. In relation to the matter in 1(a) of the Request, I cannot recall whether that matter was or was not noted at a Steering Committee meeting when the Petra Taskforce commenced.
5. In relation to the matters in 1(b)-(e) of the Request, I refer to paragraphs 76 and 77 of my first statement and to my oral evidence. I add the following:
 - (a) I have no recollection of briefing the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee about the SDU debrief on 22 May 2007 referred to in paragraph 1(d) of the Request and in paragraph 77 of my first statement (**SDU debrief**).
 - (b) I doubt that I would have done so given the role of the Steering Committee and the nature of my briefings.
 - (c) I understood the role of the Steering Committee to be to provide high-level oversight of strategic rather than operational matters. My briefings were usually quick. They were usually no more than about 10 minutes. I would ordinarily walk into the room, speak at a high-level about the topics in my written updates, answer any questions and then leave. I was in charge of the operational work of the Petra Taskforce and I did not understand that it was the role of the Steering Committee to be across the detail of the operational work.
 - (d) I have no recollection of briefing any of the individual members of the Steering Committee about the SDU debrief outside of formal meetings. If I mentioned



the SDU debrief to anyone then it would have been to DC Overland and I would have assumed that he would have discussed it with his fellow committee members if he saw a reason for the committee to consider it as part of its role.

- (e) I have been shown an entry in the Source Management Log for 25 May 2007 which purports to record a meeting between the SDU, DC Overland and Superintendent Tony Biggin about Ms Gobbo's knowledge of Paul Dale's involvement in the stolen Information Reports, the Dublin Street burglary and Hodson murders¹.
 - (f) I have no recollection of attending the above meeting. My diaries show that I worked for 30 minutes in the morning of 24 May 2007 and then commenced leave until returning to work on 11 June 2007. I returned to work for one day during this period on 6 June 2007 when I travelled to see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
6. In relation to the matter in 1(f) of the Request, I assume that is intended to be a summary of my evidence at T4598.2-24. If my evidence was unclear then I now clarify it below and add some further matters:
- (a) My evidence was that I did not think it would be right that Mr Ashton first came to know that Ms Gobbo was a human source through a conversation with me at the OPI on 19 July 2007.
 - (b) I said that I did not think that would be right because I thought I would have mentioned Ms Gobbo at meetings of the Petra Taskforce Steering Committee. I said that she would have come up in conversation. It was then put to me "You're confident there would have been discussion about her status?" and I responded "Yeah, yeah".
 - (c) As my evidence indicates, I have no actual recollection of Ms Gobbo being mentioned at meetings of the Steering Committee. However, as stated in evidence, I expect that her role as a source would have come up at meetings.
 - (d) For the sake of clarity, if it is the case that I mentioned Ms Gobbo in the context of her being a source at meetings then I would not have used her name. I would have referred to her in that context as "3838" or simply "a source". It was my practice, and a widespread practice at Victoria Police, to refer to human sources by their registration number. I cannot imagine walking into a Steering Committee meeting and openly talking about someone (using their name) as a human source. That is not the way I operated or, in my experience, how other

¹ VPL.2000.0001.9447 at 9557



police operated. It was not for me to reveal the identity of a source in a meeting like that.

- (e) If I referred to Ms Gobbo at meetings of the Steering Committee in another context, such as her being a witness, then I would have used her name. For example, if I was to tell the committee that the taskforce had spoken to a new witness this week or that consideration was being given to who the OPI may wish to question and I was asked who those people were then I would have used Ms Gobbo's name in that context.
- (f) My evidence that I thought that Mr Ashton would have known before 19 July 2007 that Ms Gobbo was a source was based on two assumptions, being my assumption that I had mentioned Ms Gobbo as a source at meetings before that time (referring to her as "3838" or as "a source") and an assumption that after I left, Mr Overland would have told the other committee members who the source was in committee discussion about the briefing. On that basis, my expectation was that Mr Ashton would have known that Ms Gobbo was a source prior to 19 July 2007 but I do not know whether he knew or not.²

Question 2: Paul Dale's notes

- 7. I have no knowledge of police receiving notes written by Paul Dale.
- 8. I have been sent entries in Officer Wolf's diary on 9 and 19 March 2008 which appear to refer to the Dale notes.³ I have no recollection of the conversations referred to in the diary entries. As noted below, I was on leave at the time that these conversations are said to have occurred.
- 9. Further, at the time of the apparent conversations, I was no longer a member of the Petra Taskforce, having returned to the Purana Taskforce in August 2007.
- 10. My leave dates in March 2008 were: 1, 2, 6 to 11, 13 to 25 and 27 to 31 March 2008.⁴
- 11. I have also been sent a copy of the Dale notes to read and they are not familiar to me at all.⁵ I have no recollection of ever seeing them.

² This topic was also addressed briefly in paragraph 96 of my first statement

³ VPL.2000.0001.0098 at 0113; VPL.2000.0001.3534.

⁴ VPL.0005.0288.0001

⁵ VPL.2000.0002.0061



Question 3: Petra Taskforce in February and March 2008

12. As stated above, I was not part of the Petra Taskforce in February and March 2008. I was at the Purana Taskforce. In February 2008, I was also on rest days at least 2 days per week.⁶
13. My recollection is that, around February and March 2008, Acting Inspector Shane O'Connell was at the Petra Taskforce and that he remained there until Detective Inspector Steve Smith took up the position.
14. I can recall that AI O'Connell contacted me with questions from time to time. I cannot recall any detail now. As stated in paragraph 92 of my first statement, I do not have my police diary for February and March 2008 and so I have not been able to check for any notes of these conversations or to check it generally.
15. I have been sent the following documents for review:
- (a) An entry in the Source Management Log for 5 February 2008 which states that I told the SDU that Petra investigators wanted to speak to Ms Gobbo.⁷
 - (b) An entry in Officer White's diary for 29 February 2008, which records that investigators are to be informed that I would be the intermediary for all contact with Ms Gobbo.⁸
 - (c) An entry in Officer Wolf's diary for 4 March 2008 which indicates that Mr O'Connell was advised that I was to speak with Ms Gobbo about "helping out" with Andrew Hodson.⁹
 - (d) An entry in the Source Management Log for 5 March 2008, in which it is noted that, in the context of Ms Gobbo's concerns regarding her being the subject of surveillance, I am "all over it".¹⁰ On the same date, ICR 7 records a conversation between Mr Davey and Mr O'Connell, where it is indicated that anything to do with Ms Gobbo and the Hodsons or Higgs will come directly through me¹¹.
16. I do not have any clear memory of the above matters. The diary entries seem to record an intention to have me provide the assistance referred to in the diary entries. I vaguely recall issues being raised with me by Petra investigators but I do not recall any detail. Whilst one of the diary entries contemplates me speaking to Ms Gobbo, I would never have done so.

⁶ VPL.0005.0288.0001

⁷ VPL.2000.0001.9236 at 9238

⁸ VPL.2000.0001.1361 at 1373

⁹ VPL.2000.0001.0098 at 0099

¹⁰ VPL.2000.0001.9236 at 9243

¹¹ VPL.2000.0003.0812



I have no memory of speaking to her and it is not something that I would have done. It may be that the SDU and/or Mr O'Connell said to others that I was to be the contact because they wanted others to stop contact with her. I am speculating. In any event, I do not believe that I went on to do the things referred to in the diary entries. I have no memory of becoming an intermediary for all contact with Ms Gobbo or of the matters concerning Andrew Hodson.

Dated 5 May 2020



Gavan Anthony Ryan