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

Statement of Stephen James Waddell

States:

- 1 My full name is Stephen James Waddell.
- 2 I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 12 August 2019. The statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a notice to produce.
- 3 In preparing this statement, I have had access to my diaries and other documents to refresh my memory. I have not had access to my emails. Any relevant emails found will be provided to the Royal Commission.

Educational background and employment history (Q1)

- 4 I joined Victoria Police in 1977 and graduated in 1978. I worked at the following areas and at the following ranks:
 - (a) In 1978, I was stationed at Dandenong and then Russell Street Police Headquarters as a Constable.
 - (b) In around 1980, I went to Glen Waverley as a Constable.
 - (c) In 1982, I joined the CIB at Camberwell and then Ferntree Gully CIB.
 - (d) In 1988, I was promoted to Sergeant at South Melbourne.
 - (e) In 1990, I went back to the CIB at Glen Waverley.
 - (f) In 1992, I was stationed at the Crime Department rape squad.
 - (g) In 1995, I was promoted to Senior Sergeant at the Police Academy.
 - (h) From 1996 until around 2006, I was in the Crime Department as a Senior Sergeant. I was predominantly in the homicide squad. I spent around 18 months in the Arson Squad in around 2000.
 - (i) In 2006, I was promoted to Inspector at the Ethical Standards Department (ESD). In March or April of 2007, I was seconded to Taskforce Briars.

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- (j) In 2010, I transferred from ESD to the Police Academy. I retained carriage of Taskforce Briars as Supervisor at this time.
- (k) In 2011, I transferred to the undercover unit. I was a manager there. I retained carriage of Taskforce Briars at this time.
- (l) In 2013, I transferred to the Human Source Management Unit. It was about this point that I ceased involvement with Taskforce Briars.

5 I retired as a sworn police officer at the end of 2015. After I retired, I performed contract work for the homicide squad for around 18 months. I am currently a part time educator at the Police Academy, a role that I have held since September 2017.

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

6 To the best of my recollection, Taskforce Briars is the only investigation that I was involved in that had any dealings with Ms Gobbo.

7 Taskforce Briars was established to investigate the murder of Shane Chartres-Abbott, who was killed in 2003. The murder of Chartres-Abbott was originally investigated by the homicide squad, however, through the Purana Taskforce, information was received about possible corrupt police involvement. As a result, Taskforce Briars was established in early 2007 by then Deputy Commissioner Overland as a joint agency investigation by the Ethical Standards Department and the Office of Police Integrity (OPI).

8 Specifically, Taskforce Briars was established because it was suspected that the murder of Chartres-Abbott involved the intersection of police corruption and organised crime in Victoria. At the time the Taskforce was established, a person known to police, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Evangelous Goussis, Mark Perry, Warren Shae, Robert Mather, Peter Lalor and David Waters in the murder. David Waters – who was known as “Docket” – was a former member of Victoria Police and Peter Lalor – who was known as “Stash” – was a serving member at this time.

9 [REDACTED]

10 The head of Taskforce Briars was Detective Superintendent Rod Wilson. The Taskforce reported to a “Board of Management” or “Steering Committee”, which initially comprised Deputy Commissioner Overland, Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius and Graham Ashton, who at that time was at the OPI.

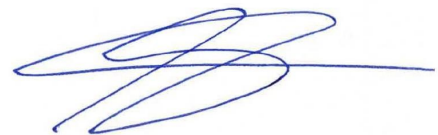
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- 11 Board of Management meetings were held frequently. The head of Taskforce Briars would prepare a written update to present to the Board of Management at those meetings. The purpose of the written update was to keep the Board of Management apprised of the status of the investigation and, where appropriate, to seek the approval of the Board of Management on strategic matters.
- 12 In the period while Detective Superintendent Wilson was in charge of the Taskforce, I would only prepare the written updates and attend the Board of Management meetings in his absence. I have reviewed the written Taskforce Briars updates for the purpose of preparing this statement. To the best of my recollection, I started to routinely attend the Board of Management meetings and prepare these updates from March 2009, when the Taskforce was reconvened.
- 13 Taskforce Briars was a significant investigation that occurred over a number of years and which involved numerous avenues of inquiries. There were several suspects identified and many potential witnesses who were interviewed over a period of many years. During the investigation, I had two interactions with Ms Gobbo, as detailed below. My interactions with Ms Gobbo were a small part of the overall investigation into the murder of Chartres-Abbott.
- 14 At the time it was established, Taskforce Briars was allocated significant resources from Taskforce Purana, homicide and ESD. There was an agreement struck early on that the Purana and homicide members would spend 12 months on the Taskforce and that they would then return to their previous roles.
- 15 My recollection is that early in the investigation, Ms Gobbo was identified as a person who may be able to provide information relevant to our investigation because we had intercepted a number of calls between her and David Waters.
- 16 In the course of preparing this statement, I have been shown:
- (a) a statement taken from Robert Hodgkin, an Inspector of Police on 23 October 2007,¹ in which he states that Ms Gobbo was a regular at the Canada Hotel, along with a number of others; and

¹ VPL.0100.0082.0281

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- (b) a draft statement taken from David Rhys-Jones, a publican who owned the Canada Hotel,² in which he states that he recalls seeing Ms Gobbo at the Canada Hotel.
- 17 The Canada Hotel was significant to our investigation because a number of meetings were alleged to have been held there between [REDACTED], David Waters, Peter Lalor, Bob Mather and others.
- 18 On 14 January 2008, DSS Iddles and I attended Ms Gobbo's chambers to interview her in relation to the Chartres-Abbott murder. I made a note of this interview in my diary and I prepared an Information Report (Briars 301) to record this interview.³ This was my first interaction with Ms Gobbo.
- 19 During the interview, Ms Gobbo confirmed that she attended the Canada Hotel after the acquittal of Waters and Campbell on unrelated matters. She told us that she met Waters through Campbell and that she had met Peter Lalor twice. Ms Gobbo also said that Jim Valos, a solicitor, told her that a client of his – Lee Perry – had told him that [REDACTED] had [REDACTED]. I recall Ms Gobbo saying this in the interview because it was significant and had the potential to advance the investigation.
- 20 As the interview ended, I said to Ms Gobbo that we would need to speak with Mr Valos in light of what she had told us. She said to us words to the effect that she was not concerned with us speaking with him.
- 21 Both DSS Iddles and I knew that Ms Gobbo was a registered source when we met with her in January 2008, although I cannot recall when I first learned that she was a registered source. DSS Iddles and I discussed the fact that Ms Gobbo was a source on at least one occasion. I recall discussing this with DSS Iddles in the car on the way to the interview. While I do not recall everything we discussed, I do recall discussing what we would do if she revealed to us that she was a human source during the interview. I strongly suspect that we discussed the fact that it would be difficult to take a statement from her because of her status as a human source. We would have been concerned that to do so would have risked her status as a human source being disclosed and, therefore, her safety.
- 22 On 15 January 2008, DSS Iddles and I attended the offices of Jim Valos to interview him in relation to the Chartres-Abbott murder. We interviewed him to corroborate what we had

² VPL.0100.0082.0957

³ VPL.0100.0019.1487

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been told by Ms Gobbo. Mr Valos said that he acted for Lee Perry and that he had also acted for his brother Mark Perry. Mr Valos also said that he could not recall ever being told by Lee Perry or anyone else that [REDACTED] was responsible for [REDACTED]. During the interview, I told Mr Valos that Ms Gobbo had passed on this information to us. He denied hearing the suggestion about [REDACTED] from anyone. I prepared an information report (Briars 304) to record this interview.⁴

- 23 During the interview, Mr Valos stated that he would try to find the Perry file and would advise DSS Iddles of the dates that he dealt with him. Mr Valos also advised that we would need a warrant to obtain the file. When I returned to the office, I prepared an information report (Briars 307) in relation to the need to obtain a search warrant to access Valos' files relating to Lee Perry and his brother Mark.⁵ On 25 January 2008, Detective Sergeant Peter Trichias and I executed a warrant and seized Mark Perry's file. Mr Valos was not present but undertook to provide us with Lee Perry's file when he returned on 29 January 2008.
- 24 The files obtained under search warrant did not assist our investigation and were returned to Mr Valos.
- 25 I was of the view that Ms Gobbo may be able to provide information of assistance to our investigation in relation to things that she had seen and heard at the Canada Hotel in May 2003. She said that she had been at the Canada Hotel on several Fridays in this period. In particular, she said that she saw Waters at the Canada Hotel on 29 May 2003, which was the Friday before the murder.
- 26 In the period from January to around August 2008, Taskforce Briars interviewed a number of people who were also present at the Canada Hotel in May 2003.
- 27 On 7 July 2008, I submitted an Information Report (Briars 452), seeking a CCRS (call charge records) to try to ascertain which (if any) nights Ms Gobbo may have been at the Canada Hotel in May 2003.⁶ This was one of many CCRS requests that were made by the Taskforce to try to work out who was at the Canada Hotel in this period.

⁴ VPL.0100.0019.1492

⁵ VPL.0100.0019.1499

⁶ VPL.0100.0019.1536

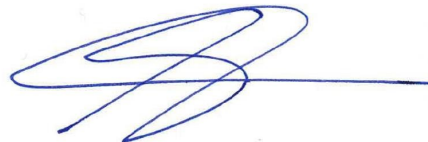
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- 28 On 4 September 2008, I attended a prison to have a conversation with a person of interest to our investigation. At 2.47pm, I sent an email to Detective Superintendent Wilson and Officer Sandy White attaching four letters, three of which referred to Ms Gobbo and one that Ms Gobbo had sent herself.⁷ In the course of preparing this statement, I have reviewed those letters and have no memory of their content. They do not relate to Taskforce Briars, and I expect I paid little attention to them at the time, other than to pass them on to Detective Superintendent Wilson and Officer Sandy White. Based on the fact that I had been at the prison in the morning, I believe that I was handed copies of those letters at prison to give to other police members.
- 29 I have also been shown a diary entry of Officer Sandy White in relation to a conversation that I had with him on the same day.⁸ I have no recollection of that discussion.
- 30 In around mid-2008, the Purana and homicide squad members left Taskforce Briars and resumed their normal duties. Detective Superintendent Wilson returned to ESD at about the same time. When Detective Superintendent Wilson left, I was effectively in charge, although I continued to report to him. I remained at the Taskforce until around November 2008, when I returned to ESD.
- 31 By November 2008, the investigations had been exhausted and Taskforce Briars moved to brief preparation phase. It was no longer necessary to have significant resources. I managed the brief preparation phase while performing my usual duties at ESD.
- 32 On 16 March 2009, I attended a Board of Management meeting in which the decision was taken to reconvene the Taskforce Briars investigation. The Taskforce was reconvened because a potential witness had come forward relating to Mark Perry's involvement in the murder of Chartres-Abbott. I took the view that this witness may also have been able to assist in locating Mark Perry. The potential witness was [REDACTED], which necessitated the involvement of the [REDACTED].
- 33 At around this time, I became aware that Taskforce Petra had taken over the management of Ms Gobbo. As a result of this, I assumed that Ms Gobbo had been deregistered as a human source and that she would be providing a statement to Taskforce Petra. In those

⁷ VPL.2000.0002.0156; VPL.6025.0003.3585; VPL.6025.0003.3589; VPL.6025.0003.3593; VPL.6025.0003.3582

⁸ VPL.2000.0001.1568 at [1586]

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circumstances I thought that she may also now be able to provide a statement to Taskforce Briars.

- 34 On 23 March 2009, I returned to Taskforce Briars. On the same day, I had a conversation with DSS Shane O'Connell, who was a member of Taskforce Petra. My diary records that he advised me that Ms Gobbo would make a statement in respect of the Briars investigation at an appropriate time.
- 35 Once I knew that Ms Gobbo was going to provide a statement, I decided that I should review the SDU holdings in relation to David Waters. In March and April 2009, I had a number of meetings with the SDU to discuss this. My recollection is that they were reluctant to provide this information to me.
- 36 On 6 April 2009, I attended a Taskforce Briars Board of Management meeting with AC Maloney; AC Cornelius; John Nolan (OPI) and Inspector Peter Wilkins (Staff Officer to DC Overland). I prepared an update in advance of this meeting, which had a reference to "Witness D" and stated that there was no indication as to when it might be possible to speak to same.⁹ The reference to "Witness D" is a reference to Ms Gobbo. I subsequently learned that Ms Gobbo had been designated as "Witness F" by Taskforce Petra. Once I learnt this, Taskforce Briars adopted this designation.
- 37 On 9 April 2009, I spoke to DSS O'Connell. He told me that it would be a few weeks before we could speak to Ms Gobbo. I followed up members of the Petra Taskforce about speaking with Ms Gobbo on a number of occasions.
- 38 On 24 April 2009, I met with Officer Sandy White and was provided with a summary document prepared by the SDU in relation to intelligence holdings concerning David Waters.¹⁰
- 39 On 18 May 2009, I attended a Taskforce Briars Board of Management meeting. By the time that this meeting took place, it had been decided that I would go to Bali to take a statement from Ms Gobbo. This was recorded in the written update that I prepared.¹¹ I do not know who decided that the statement should be taken from Ms Gobbo in Bali.

⁹ VPL.0100.0048.1655

¹⁰ VPL.2000.0002.0899

¹¹ VPL.0100.0048.1661

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- 40 In the period from 18 May 2009 to 24 May 2009, I liaised with Taskforce Petra personnel in relation to arrangements for travelling to Bali. DSS Iddles and I flew to Bali on 24 May 2009. On our arrival, we met with Detective Inspector Steve Smith, Officer Graham Evans and DS Lloyd of the Petra Taskforce.
- 41 On 25 May 2009 at around 8.00am, DSS Iddles and I met with Ms Gobbo to take a statement from her. We continued to take a draft statement from Ms Gobbo on 26 and 27 May 2009. My diary records that we completed the draft at 6.00pm on 27 May 2009 and that it was unsigned.¹²
- 42 In her draft statement, Ms Gobbo provided information about David Waters. She said that she met Waters in 1998, through a Victorian police officer, Steven Campbell, who she was dating at the time. She described her relationship with Waters as being a friend and said that she did not see Waters independently of Campbell until she appeared for him in a section 56A application. This was something that Ms Gobbo had said when we met with her in her chambers in January 2008.
- 43 Ms Gobbo's draft statement also said that she had a conversation with Mark Perry at the offices of Jim Valos in which Perry started telling her of his involvement in the murder of Chartres-Abbott. This is not something that Ms Gobbo had said when we met with her in her chambers in 2008.
- 44 I am aware that it has been reported in the media that Mr Iddles has stated that the draft statement taken from Ms Gobbo contained no confession from Mark Perry. The statement records what Ms Gobbo told us in Bali, with the possible exception of some minor matters obtained from follow up inquiries added to the statement after we met with her.
- 45 To my knowledge, there is only one version of Ms Gobbo's draft statement. It was typed on my laptop and was saved into the Briars directory. This is the draft statement that has been produced to the Royal Commission.
- 46 I recall that while we were taking Ms Gobbo's statement, she received some threatening SMS messages. After we completed taking her statement, I had a discussion with DI Smith about this threat because Petra Taskforce were present in Bali to look after her security.

¹² VPL.0002.0002.0120

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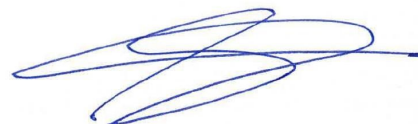
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- 47 I can see that the date on the draft statement shown to me is 21 May 2009. This is because I started formatting the statement prior to leaving Melbourne by setting up a pro-forma statement from the Victoria Police forms.
- 48 On 28 May 2009, I reviewed the draft statement. It was not in a form that could be signed because there were a number of follow up inquiries to be made by both myself and Ms Gobbo. I made some notes in the draft statement of various follow up inquiries. My recollection is that I made these notes when I reviewed the statement on 28 May, but it may have been shortly after I returned to Melbourne on 29 May.
- 49 On 1 June 2009, I attended a Taskforce Briars Board of Management meeting. I prepared an update, which notes, amongst other things that a draft statement had been obtained from "Witness F" but that it was unsigned as inquiries were pending re diary checks etc.¹³
- 50 In order to test the veracity of the content of Ms Gobbo's statement, I asked to be provided with additional contact reports and access to recordings of conversations between Ms Gobbo and the SDU. I made the request by email on 1 June 2009 and on 2 June 2009, received a response to the effect that while the request might take some time to complete, it would be facilitated.¹⁴
- 51 In early to mid-June 2009, I had a number of discussions with representatives of the Covert Support Division about access to this material. My recollection of these discussions is that the SDU and their management were strongly opposed to allowing me to access this material and to the use Ms Gobbo as a witness. This issue was resolved on 16 June 2009 in a meeting I had with Officer Sandy White and Superintendent Biggin in which they agreed to provide access to material, provided I first gave them the scope of the request, which I did.
- 52 In the course of preparing my statement, I have been shown a diary entry of my conversation with Officer Sandy White and Superintendent Biggin on 16 June 2009 that was made by Officer Sandy White.¹⁵ This diary note is an accurate record of what was discussed. The comment in respect of the case being weak was in reference to the case against David Waters.

¹³ VPL.0100.0058.1180

¹⁴ VPL.0005.0012.0854

¹⁵ VPL.2000.0001.1939 at [1942]

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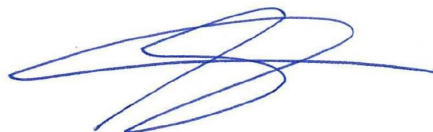
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- 53 On 1 June 2009, Tony Mokbel served a subpoena in relation to his trial for the murder of Lewis Moran. Taskforce Briars sought advice as to whether Taskforce Briars intelligence holdings were covered by the subpoena. I had particular concerns about the draft statement of Ms Gobbo.
- 54 On 10 June 2009, at 11.38am, I sent an email to Fin McRae (Executive Director, Legal Services) in relation to the subpoena and to request that his office brief barrister, Gerard Maguire, to provide advice in relation to it.¹⁶
- 55 On 10 June 2009 at 12.01pm, I sent an email to AC Cornelius in relation to the Taskforce Briars Investigation Plan.¹⁷ I had formed the view that the subpoena served by Mokbel had the potential to make advancing the Taskforce Briars investigation time critical. I sought AC Cornelius' approval for resources to progress to phase 2 of the Taskforce Briars investigation. It was my goal to complete as much as possible of phase 2 prior to the return date of the subpoena.
- 56 On 1 July 2009, I met with Officer Sandy White. My diary records that we met to discuss "source material". My recollection of this meeting is that Officer Sandy White remained very concerned about providing access to the SDU intelligence holdings and that he tried to dissuade me from pursuing the request. He was worried about Ms Gobbo's safety. I said that I needed the materials, but in any event, the production of those materials had been ordered by those above us and that it was out of our hands.
- 57 In the course of preparing my statement, I have been shown Officer Sandy White's diary entry of this discussion. Officer White's diary records that he provided me with a document regarding SDU holdings.¹⁸ While I do not recall receiving a document on this date, I have no reason to doubt that it was provided to me at this meeting. My recollection is that Officer White remained reluctant to produce the audio recordings. I do not believe that I told Officer White that Jeremy Rapke was aware that Ms Gobbo was a witness. I do not recall mentioning Jeremy Rapke's name at all. I have no reason to doubt that I would have discussed the fact that the OPP was aware that a draft statement of Ms Gobbo was in existence because the existence of this statement had been canvassed with officers of the OPP. I also have no reason to doubt that someone within the OPP gave advice to the effect

¹⁶ VPL.6023.0165.4530

¹⁷ VPL.0013.0001.0115

¹⁸ VPL.2000.0001.1952 at [1983]

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that the matter (which I understand to be a reference to the subpoena served by Mokbel) may have to go on appeal or the objection withdrawn. However, Jeremy Rapke did not provide such advice to me because I did not speak with him about the Mokbel subpoena.

58 Barrister Gerard Maguire was acting for Victoria Police in relation to the Mokbel subpoena. I attended Court in relation to the Mokbel subpoena on a number of occasions between June and August 2009. I do not know whether the OPP appeared at those hearings and my diary notes of my attendance at Court do not record whether anyone appeared for the OPP at those hearings (and if so, who it was that appeared).

59 On 2 July 2009, I sent an email to Officer Sandy White requesting further recordings,¹⁹ which were provided to me on 3 July 2009. In the week commencing Sunday 5 July 2009, I reviewed this material.

60 At around the time that I listened to the SDU recordings, I prepared a document called 'summary – witnesses'.²⁰ I have no recollection of preparing the summary, however, it sets out a number of issues that I must have been concerned about in light of listening to the SDU material. I had concerns about Ms Gobbo's credibility because what she had said in Bali was inconsistent with what she had stated when I interviewed her in January 2008, particularly with regard to Mark Perry. I was also concerned about whether Ms Gobbo was acting for David Waters as his lawyer. Prior to listening to the recordings, I had understood that Ms Gobbo was a friend of David Waters and that they would see each other socially. When I met her in chambers in January 2008, she told me that she did not act for him but that she had acted for him once in the past in relation to a s56A Application. However, the SDU recordings put a different complexion on this and I was concerned that she may have been his lawyer. That concerned me because I knew that there were restrictions on lawyers disclosing information about their clients.

61 On 15 July 2009 at 8.08pm, I sent an email to AC Cornelius seeking authority to engage Gerard Maguire to provide advice on the admissibility of certain aspects of Ms Gobbo's statement.²¹ As stated in my email, I considered that there were a number of issues affecting the admissibility of some parts of the statement, including potential legal professional privilege, opinion evidence and some parts where I considered the prejudicial nature of the

¹⁹ VPL.2000.0002.0709

²⁰ VPL.0005.0012.0828

²¹ VPL.0013.0001.0087

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evidence may outweigh any probative value it might have. I do not now recall the specific parts of Ms Gobbo's statement that I was concerned about at the time, save than by referring back to my summary document that is referred to in the preceding paragraph. AC Cornelius approved this request.

62 On around 27 July 2009, I prepared a Taskforce Briars update.²² The update records that the Mokbel subpoena had been finalised and that the potential "compromise of Witness F was no longer an issue". It also recorded that Gerard Maguire was examining Ms Gobbo's statement re admissibility and probative issues. While my diary records that I attended the Taskforce Briars Board of Management meeting on 27 July 2009, I have no recollection of this meeting.

63 I had a number of conversations with Gerard Maguire in July and August 2009 about the advice referred to in the previous two paragraphs and issues related to the Mokbel subpoena. I do not recall when his verbal advice was received, but it was to the effect that the matters disclosed in the statement with regard to Waters were not protected by legal professional privilege.

64 On 24 August 2009, I attended a Taskforce Briars Board of Management meeting. I prepared an update document in anticipation of this meeting.²³ In relation to Ms Gobbo, the written update that I prepared states:

Investigation cannot move forward until situation clarified with this witness - whether to proceed as a witness. [REDACTED]

Early advice from McGuire is that witnesses [Ms Gobbo's] past can probably be protected in prosecution of DALE.

On other hand it is probable that if Perry is charged with murder it is probable that extent of witness assistance will be known.

65 I was aware that Taskforce Petra was trying to have Ms Gobbo [REDACTED]. To the best of my recollection, this is something that had been reported to me by the Board of Management during one of the regular meetings. My view at the time was that there was no point in finalising a statement from Ms Gobbo if the security issues were unable to be

²² VPL.0005.0012.0818

²³ VPL.0100.0048.1650

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resolved. I required some clarity from the Board of Management about this, which is why this matter was included in the written update.

- 66 On 17 September 2009, I sent an email to AC Cornelius in relation to a conference that I had with Gerard Maguire on the same day.²⁴ My diary note of the conference records that we discussed “3838 issues” but I have no independent recollection of this conference.
- 67 On 7 September 2009, I attended a Taskforce Briars Board of Management meeting. I prepared a weekly update in advance of this meeting.²⁵ The weekly update records that consideration was being given to tasking Ms Gobbo with making contact with Jim Valos, in an attempt to locate Mark Perry. This did not occur.
- 68 On 5 October 2009, I attended a Taskforce Briars Board of Management meeting. I prepared a weekly update in advance of this meeting.²⁶ The update records that Ms Gobbo’s statement was being used in SDA and TI affidavits and that her statement was to be signed at some stage. There were a number of applications for surveillance and telephone intercepts in relation to a number of targets of the investigation. Information provided in Ms Gobbo’s statement was a minor part of the information that was relied on to support these applications.
- 69 In the period from October to December 2009, I had a number of discussions with members of Taskforce Petra about Ms Gobbo. The Taskforce Briars members had limited knowledge about what was going on with Ms Gobbo because it was Taskforce Petra that was responsible for her day to day management. We had no access to Ms Gobbo and were not permitted to talk with her. I knew that Ms Gobbo had health issues and that there were ongoing issues related to her security, but I was not provided with any details as to the extent of those issues.
- 70 On 18 January 2010, I transferred to the Academy as Inspector of one of the centres of learning. I was asked to continue to supervise the operations of Taskforce Briars and I continued to report to the Board of Management.
- 71 My diary records that on 4 February 2010, I spoke with DS Lloyd, who told me that Ms Gobbo was “apparently unable to give evidence due to ill health at this stage”. I do not recall this discussion.

²⁴ VPL.0013.0001.0049

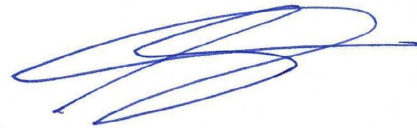
²⁵ VPL.0005.0012.0774

²⁶ VPL.0100.0048.1665

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- 72 On around 30 April 2010, Ms Gobbo commenced civil proceedings against Victoria Police.
- 73 After the civil proceeding was commenced, I assisted Superintendent Peter Lardner from the Victoria Police Civil Litigation Department, as required. I recall meeting with Superintendent Lardner on at least two occasions in relation to the litigation.
- 74 On 12 July 2010, I attended a meeting with Andrew Tinney and Abbey Hogan of the OPP in relation to Ms Gobbo's statement. I also attended a number of Taskforce Briars Board of Management meetings between June and July 2010. During these meetings, the Taskforce was awaiting advice as to whether to proceed with the statement from Ms Gobbo. Ultimately, the OPP decided that the statement need not be finalised because it would not be of any great assistance in any prosecution of David Waters.²⁷ We also formed the view that because Ms Gobbo had made a number of prior inconsistent statements, her evidence against Mark Perry was not of any real value. In light of these matters, Ms Gobbo's statement was not progressed any further.
- 75 In the course of preparing this statement, I have been shown an agenda for a meeting I attended on 21 September 2011 at Gerard Maguire's chambers.²⁸ The reference in my diary to this meeting states that we attended Maguire's chambers "re subpoena issues around Witness F and Taskforce Briars". I have no recollection of attending this meeting. In the course of preparing this statement, I have been told that a written advice was provided to Victoria Police shortly after this meeting. I have no memory of seeing or receiving this advice.
- 76 I continued to assist Taskforce Briars with the investigative work up until 2013, however, the level of my involvement diminished over time.
- 77 Evangelous Goussis, Mark Perry and Warren Shae were ultimately charged with the murder of Chartres-Abbott and faced trial after I left Taskforce Briars. All three were acquitted.
- 78 Robert Mather, Peter Lalor and David Waters were never charged.



²⁷ VPL.0100.0048.1698

²⁸ VPL.0100.0025.4529

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Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 3

- 79 I refer to my answer to question 2, above.
- 80 I knew that Ms Gobbo was a registered human source when I met with her in January 2008. While I do not recall the circumstances in which I first became aware that she was a human source, I believe that it is most likely that I was told that she was a human source by Detective Superintendent Wilson in the context of Taskforce Briars. I have not found a reference in my diary to any conversation that assists me to identify precisely when I was first told she was a human source and by whom.
- 81 Since this Royal Commission commenced, I have learnt that Ms Gobbo was registered as a human source in the 1990s. I had no knowledge of this until it was reported by the media.

Question 4

- 82 The fact that Ms Gobbo had been a registered human source was not something that was discussed openly within Victoria Police. I have set out in my answer to question 2 the people who I believe were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police and the context in which they were aware.

Question 5

- 83 I do not know who was involved in the authorisation and continued authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 6

- 84 I had two interactions with Ms Gobbo, which I have set out in my answer to question 2, above.

Questions 7 and 8

- 85 I refer to my answer to question 2, above.



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

Question 9

86 I am not aware of anyone raising concerns as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source. I refer to my own concern about Ms Gobbo being David Waters' lawyer, as set out in my answer to question 2

Question 10

87 I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 11

88 There were discussions within Taskforce Briars as to the obligation of disclosure in relation to material concerning the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source. I have referred to these discussions in my answer to question 2.

Other relevant matters

Question 12

89 I am not aware of any other human source who has provided information or assistance to Victoria Police who was the subject of legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

Question 13

90 In the course of my police career, I attended numerous training courses. While I do not recall the specifics of each of those courses, I believe that the topics listed in question 13 would have been covered to varying degrees. Those topics are also matters that are learnt on the job.

Question 14

91 In around May 2013, I transferred to the Human Source Management Unit as an Inspector. While at the HSMU, I was tasked with implementing the recommendations of the Comrie Review. Implementing the recommendations was a significant piece of work and included the design of a new risk assessment tool, changes to policies and processes, and the establishment of an ethics committee. Victoria Police also made changes to its human source training, including the implementation of a course [REDACTED]

92 In September 2013, I conducted an updated risk assessment of Ms Gobbo as a result of the publication of a book by Paul Dale.



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

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Dated: 17 September 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Stephen James Waddell

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