

**Royal Commission****into the Management of Police Informants****SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF TERRY FRANCIS PURTON**

1. My full name is Terry Francis Purton. I am a retired former member of Victoria Police.
2. I have previously provided a statement to the Royal Commission dated 6 May 2019. I make this supplementary statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants by letter dated 5 July 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

**Establishment of the SDU**

3. I refer to paragraph 4 of my statement of 6 May 2019. Throughout 2001, I conducted a review of the Victoria Police Drug Squad. At this time, I was a Detective Superintendent. The Drug Squad Review was instigated in response to corruption within the Drug Squad and in particular, corrupt relationships between police officers and informers.
4. The Drug Squad review was comprehensive. I conducted the review with the assistance of 11 members of the Corporate Management Review Division of Victoria Police. The review itself took around six weeks to complete. 35 members of the Drug Squad were interviewed and transcripts of those interviews were annexed to the report. It was an in depth review which identified all issues that had played a role in the corruption within the Drug Squad so that those issues could be addressed.
5. On 28 September 2001, a report of the findings of the Drug Squad Review was endorsed by the Steering Committee.<sup>1</sup>
6. In all, the Report made 144 recommendations. The recommendations made in the Report were wide ranging. As a result of the review, the Drug Squad was restructured and became the Major Drug Investigation Division (M.D.I.D). With regard to human sources, the Drug Squad Review identified informer management as being a critical risk and recommended that a centralised Informer Management Unit be established for the whole of the Force.

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<sup>1</sup> VPL.0005.0028.0037

7. After the Drug Squad Review was completed, an Implementation Steering Committee was established, which was chaired by Assistant Commissioner Trevor Thompson. The Steering Committee reported to Executive Command and included myself, Detective Superintendent Tony Biggin and others. A number of other Steering Committees were also established to oversee the implementation of specific recommendations made.
8. A specific Steering Committee was established to implement the Drug Squad Review recommendations in relation to informer management, however, I do not recall when this occurred. I have reviewed some entries that I made in my diary in this period that relate to human source issues (4 July 2003, 2 September 2003), such as workshops and training, however, I have not been able to identify an entry that sets out when a specific human source management Steering Committee was established. To the best of my recollection, this Steering Committee started in the first half of 2002.
9. On 11 September 2003, Detective Superintendent Biggin and Officer Sandy White prepared a Project Proposal for the review of the Human Source Management Policy.<sup>2</sup> I am listed as the Project Director and as a member of the Steering Committee. While I have no recollection of receiving the Project Proposal at the time it was produced, I believe I would have been provided with a copy at that time.
10. On 22 September 2003, a new informer management policy was implemented in line with the Drug Squad recommendations.<sup>3</sup> I would have been provided with a draft copy of the policy before it was implemented as part of my ongoing role in the implementation of the recommendations of the Drug Squad Review. However, I have no specific recollection of this document or reviewing it prior to its implementation.
11. On 27 September 2003, David Miechel was arrested at [REDACTED] Dublin Street, East Oakleigh. Shortly after his arrest, I received a call from Detective Inspector Shawyer at the M.D.I.D. and attended at the office. David Miechel and Paul Dale were both charged some weeks later. The arrest of Miechel and Dale affected morale within the M.D.I.D. as it was another example of a police officer forming a corrupt relationship with an informer, which had been identified as a critical risk in the Drug Squad Review.
12. In the first half of 2004, two reports were produced relevant to informer management. In around March 2004, the Human Source Management Project produced a Report titled,

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<sup>2</sup> VPL.0100.0048.1064

<sup>3</sup> VPL.0002.0001.2196

*Review and Develop Best Practice Human Source Management Policy*.<sup>4</sup> In May 2004, the Dedicated Source Handling Teams Project issued its Final Report.<sup>5</sup> I was on the Steering Committee for the Project Teams for both of these reports. I do not recall why two separate reports were prepared. Prior to this, each squad managed its own human sources. Dedicated high-risk source handling was a natural evolution from the implementation of the new informer management policy in September 2003. Having reviewed these documents for the purpose of this statement, it is clear that both the Crime Department and State Intelligence Division thought that dedicated source development should be managed within their respective departments. This was not something that I recall thinking about at the time.

13. On 10 June 2004, Executive Command convened a meeting of the Human Source Dedicated Teams Coordination Committee. It was decided at this meeting that a pilot of a dedicated source unit should be run for six months and the future management of the project should be transferred to the Intelligence and Covert Support Department, so as to establish a sterile corridor between Crime and Intelligence. It was also agreed that a new Steering Committee would be established, which was to comprise Acting Commander Rod Wilson, Detective Inspector Doug Cowlshaw, Detective Superintendent Biggin and myself. I have no recollection of this meeting but have been shown the meeting minutes and have no reason to doubt that they are accurate.<sup>6</sup>
14. On 11 June 2004, Acting Inspector Geoff McLean prepared an Issue Cover Sheet recommending that the Intelligence and Covert Support Department be allocated sufficient finances and resources for the implementation of all of the recommendations of the Dedicated Source Handling Teams Final Report.<sup>7</sup>
15. On 6 July 2004, I attended a meeting with regard to the Dedicated Source Handling Team Project at which it was agreed that a six month pilot of the Dedicated Source Handling Project would be established and that a Steering Committee would be formed, which was to comprise Commander Dannye Moloney, Acting Commander Wilson, Detective Superintendent Biggin, Detective Inspector Cowlshaw and myself. I have no recollection

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<sup>4</sup> VPL.0100.0048.0789

<sup>5</sup> VPL.0100.0048.0884

<sup>6</sup> VPL.0100.0048.1276

<sup>7</sup> VPL.0100.0048.0669

of this meeting but have been shown the meeting minutes and have no reason to doubt that they are accurate.<sup>8</sup>

16. In the period from around July 2004 to February 2005, I attended many Dedicated Human Source Management Team Pilot Steering Committee meetings that were chaired by Commander Moloney. I do not have any specific recollection of these meetings. However, I have reviewed the minutes of these meetings and believe that they accurately record what was discussed at those meetings.<sup>9</sup>
17. While the Dedicated Source Unit pilot was being run by Intelligence and Covert Support, it was still important for the Crime Department to be represented on the Steering Committee. There was initial resistance to some aspects of the pilot and my role on the Steering Committee was to ensure that Members in the Crime Department complied with the new policy. While I sat on the Steering Committee, I played no active role in the pilot. However, I did receive a letter from Commander Maloney dated 14 October 2004 asking that a review be conducted by Local Informer Registrars at the Crime Department of [REDACTED] persons currently listed as human sources.<sup>10</sup> I received this letter in my capacity as Commander (Crime), not as a Steering Committee member.
18. Based on a review of the minutes, I believe that the pilot commenced on 1 November 2004.
19. Having reviewed the minutes, I observe that human source management training was evaluated and discussed at a number of Steering Committee meetings. I have no independent recollection of those discussions and had no role in the development of training in relation to human source management, other than my participation on the Steering Committee.

**Diary entries that refer to Ms Gobbo**

20. I refer to paragraph 8 of my statement of 6 May 2019. I did not review all of my diary entries for the purposes of preparing both my 6 May statement and this statement, rather I relied on members of Taskforce Landow to review my diaries on my behalf and identify the relevant diary entries for me which I then reviewed. Having reviewed further diary

<sup>8</sup> VPL.0100.0048.1277

<sup>9</sup> See, for example, VPL.0100.0048.0742 (16 July 2004); VPL.0100.0048.1148 (30 July 2004); VPL.0100.0048.1115 (13 August 2004); VPL.0100.0048.1140 (27 August 2004); VPL.0100.0048.1073 (8 October 2004); VPL.0100.0048.1089 (22 October 2004); VPL.0100.0048.1084 (19 November 2004); VPL.0100.0048.1101 (7 January 2005); VPL.0100.0048.1097 (28 January 2005); VPL.0100.0048.1076 (11 February 2005).

<sup>10</sup> VPL.0100.0048.1394

entries for the purpose of preparing this statement, it is now clear to me that I was previously only provided with copies of relevant diary entries from after the date of Ms Gobbo's registration as a human source in 2005.

21. Prior to her being registered as a source in 2005, Ms Gobbo acted for a number of high profile criminals that were charged as part of Taskforce Purana and by the M.D.I.D. As part of her role as a lawyer acting for her clients, she had a number of interactions with police that were reported to me in my role as Commander (Crime), which I set out below.
22. Throughout 2003-2004, I attended a number of Taskforce Purana progress meetings. During these meetings, updates were provided to me and to others in Crime Command about the status of the various investigations being undertaken by the Taskforce. I recorded these updates in my diary<sup>11</sup> and in the course of preparing this statement, I have identified references to Ms Gobbo at Taskforce Purana Progress meetings on the following dates: 1 October 2003, 3 November 2003, 10 November 2003, 16 February 2004, 1 March 2004, 25 March 2004, 5 April 2004, 8 April 2004, 3 May 2004, 17 May 2004, 24 May 2004, 21 June 2004 and 12 July 2004.
23. I have no independent recollection of these progress meetings.
24. On 23 March 2004, I received a call from a representative from the Ethical Standards Division about <sup>P12</sup> who was represented by Ms Gobbo. I made a note of this call in my diary. I have no independent recollection of this call.
25. I refer to paragraph 9 of my statement of 6 May 2019. Having reviewed these additional diary entries, I believe that I was aware that Ms Gobbo was acting for targets of the Purana Taskforce and for other persons of interest from 2003. However, I was not aware that she was providing information or assistance to police until September 2005, as I say in my first statement.

Dated: 21 August 2019



Terry Purton

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<sup>11</sup> VPL.0005.0146.0001