

Our reference
AG/VICT20952-9143050

567 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia
GPO Box 9925, Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia
Tel +61 3 9672 3000
Fax +61 3 9672 3010
www.corrs.com.au

**CORRS
CHAMBERS
WESTGARTH**

Sydney
Melbourne
Brisbane
Perth
Port Moresby

29 May 2020

By email: howard.rapke [REDACTED]
Mr Howard Rapke
Solicitors Assisting the Royal Commission
into the Management of Police Informants
PO Box 18208
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Contact
Abigail Gill (03) [REDACTED]
Email: abigail.gill@c [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Rapke

Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants — Exhibit RC1084

Victoria Police is continuing to review matters raised at the hearings to ensure that it meets its obligations to respond to any outstanding requests for information from the Royal Commission.

One matter identified by Victoria Police relates to the provenance of two blue hard copy folders, which were tendered as Exhibit RC1084 titled “Folder 1 and 2 of the blue folder in Assistant Commissioner Crime Office” on 31 January 2020. Since that date the folders have been in the possession of the Royal Commission.

The folders contain documents predominately relating to the activities of the Petra Taskforce between 2007 and 2009, some of which appear to contain hand written notes made by Simon Overland. The folders also contain a document known as the ‘SWOT Analysis’ prepared by Officer Black (a pseudonym) dated 31 December 2008.

We note that, at the time the folders were tendered, Counsel for Victoria Police indicated that further inquiries would be made as to the provenance of the folders and a statement could be provided outlining the outcome of further investigations. We are writing to update the Commission as to the outcome of those investigations.

Investigations regarding Exhibit RC1084

Victoria Police’s investigations regarding RC1084 have included enquiries being made with former members of the Petra Taskforce steering committee and staff officers and executive assistants to Mr Overland. We confirm that, in the course of these enquiries, no members or former members have had any specific recollections regarding the folders. Former members of the Petra Taskforce steering committee have indicated that, while it would be common practice to retain a set of the Petra Taskforce updates, they do not recall the manner in which Mr Overland would retain the updates.

29 May 2020

Solicitors Assisting the Royal Commission into the Management of
Police Informants

CORRS
CHAMBERS
WESTGARTH

**Royal Commission into the Management of Police
Informants — Exhibit RC1084**

Victoria Police has also conducted further reviews of document holdings, including laborious manual reviews of hand written documents, and made enquiries with members and former members for their recollections regarding the folders.

On 26 May 2020, Victoria Police located a document, VPL.0100.0046.0058, which appears to relate to Exhibit RC1084. The document title is:

HIGHLY PROTECTED REGISTER

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OVERLAND

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

The document appears to be a hand written index of documents received at Mr Overland's office. We are instructed that the documents were recorded and then likely filed in a safe in the office of the Deputy Commissioner. The entries appear to include many of the same documents that are within Exhibit RC1084. It appears that entry 161, which relates to a "SDU Report re Witness 'F'", may be referring to the SWOT Analysis.

This document is **attached** and will be produced formally shortly.

This document was initially reviewed by Victoria Police on 1 July 2019, however, it was marked as 'not relevant' at that time. Although it was responsive to key word search terms, it was likely considered an administrative document and as it is an index without any of the documents attached, it was not identified as being relevant at the time. Given the relevant text is in hand writing, the document has been identified following a manual re-review by Victoria Police to uncover its relevance.

Statement regarding Exhibit RC1084

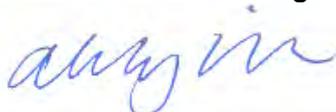
Around the time Exhibit RC1084 was tendered, Counsel for Victoria Police indicated that a statement would be prepared outlining the investigations undertaken by Victoria Police into the provenance of the folders. Given the limited further information that has been identified by Victoria Police, please confirm whether the Commission requires production of a statement addressing these matters.

In the event that a statement is required, we request that the Commission return the folders to Victoria Police, to assist with the preparation of the statement.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

Corrs Chambers Westgarth



Abigail Gill

Partner

attachments