

statement to the Petra Taskforce investigators. To the best of my recollection, these discussions were already underway when I joined the Steering Committee.

97. I have no recollection of being part of a final decision about the transfer of Ms Gobbo from human source to witness. However, I was involved in discussions about the issue. My attitude to the question was that the force should not go down the path of transitioning someone from a source to a witness without knowing what they were going to say. Only after preparing a detailed record of their evidence could you properly assess the value of that evidence against the risks of transitioning someone from source to witness. Those risks would be assessed through a formal assessment process. My best recollection is that I recommended that the situation be assessed after a statement had been taken and a risk assessment completed.
98. I have been made aware that Superintendent Biggin has a diary note to the effect that, on 30 December 2008, I told him that Ms Gobbo was to be a witness and was to sign a statement. I have no direct recollection of that discussion. I have no reason to doubt Superintendent Biggin's note. I believe that I told Superintendent Biggin that Ms Gobbo was going to become a witness so that he could identify the issues that would arise for the SDU, and plan for the transition.
99. I have sighted a briefing note dated 31 December 2008 and prepared by Officer Black, and which was elevated to me by Superintendent Biggin.<sup>24</sup> I recall seeing this document. When I read the document, I thought it should be provided to the Steering Committee for consideration.
100. Superintendent Biggin had a practice of giving me a verbal briefing about significant matters before they were elevated to me. While I have no independent memory of such a discussion, I think it is highly likely that Superintendent Biggin spoke to me about the briefing note before sending it to me.
101. On 5 January 2009, I sent the briefing note to DC Overland, with the action "Petra Steering Committee - Consideration".<sup>25</sup> I did so because the briefing note makes clear that the SDU had concerns about the transition, and I considered it was appropriate for the Steering Committee to be informed of, and to consider, those views.

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<sup>24</sup> VPL.0100.0035.0001 at 0004 – 0006.

<sup>25</sup> VPL.0100.0035.0001.

102. I note that the briefing note itself lists me on the Distribution and Authority List and bears the notation "approved / not approved". Despite that notation appearing, this document did not need to be "approved" or "not approved". The document was a briefing note. It did not require approval. Rather, it was necessary that it be distributed to others for their consideration. This is why I elevated it to DC Overland with the note "Petra Steering Committee – Consideration".
103. I am informed that there may have been a meeting of the Petra Steering Committee on 5 January 2009. I have no independent recollection of such a meeting, do not have my diary from that period and have not seen any minutes.
104. My best recollection is that the Steering Committee did not make the final decision to transition Ms Gobbo from human source to witness; rather, the issue was discussed at the Steering Committee, but the final decision rested with the head of the Petra Investigation (who at the time was DC Overland).
105. This was common. The Steering Committee made some decisions, but the majority of decisions ultimately rested with the head of the Taskforce. The Steering Committee provided advice and guidance, but in relation to key operational matters the ultimate decision rested with the head of the Taskforce. My best recollection is that I supported the transition from source to witness because of the importance of her evidence to the Petra Investigation and the options available to ensure her safety, including high level witness protection.

#### Events of 2009

106. I am informed that Ms Gobbo signed a witness statement on 6 January 2009. I have no recollection of ever seeing or reading Ms Gobbo's witness statement.
107. I do not recall the events of January – March 2009 in any detail. However, my general recollection is that after the decision was made to transition Ms Gobbo from human source to witness, she was deactivated as a human source. I recall that Ms Gobbo entered into a phase of negotiations with WitSec, and that she was known in this period as "Witness F".
108. I recall that I received a briefing (whether at the Steering Committee or otherwise) about the attempt to transfer Ms Gobbo into WitSec. I remember that her ongoing security was referred to WitSec, and that there were significant difficulties that resulted in Ms Gobbo

Details of information received by Victoria Police where I knew or suspected that the source of the information was Ms Gobbo (question 7)

144. I have no knowledge of these matters, apart from what I have described in response to question 3.

Details of any assistance given to Victoria Police, other than as a potential witness from 2009, where you knew, believed or had reason to suspect that such assistance was provided by Ms Gobbo (question 8)

145. I have no knowledge of these matters, apart from what I have described in response to question 3.

Whether any concerns were raised at any time about the use of a legal practitioner as a human sources (question 9)

146. Superintendent Biggin raised concerns with me as set out in my answer to question 2 above. I believe that these concerns were discussed at the Petra Steering Committee. I have no recollection of other concerns being raised.

Whether any concerns were raised at any time about the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (question 10)

147. Superintendent Biggin raised concerns with me as set out in my answer to question 2 above. I believe that these concerns were discussed at the Petra Steering Committee. I have no recollection of other concerns being raised.

Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (question 11)

148. I have no knowledge of these matters, apart from what I have described in response to question 3.

Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (question 12)

149. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Training (question 13)

150. I completed a number of courses during my time at Victoria Police and do not currently have access to the content of those courses. however, I recall receiving training in relation to: