

Our reference
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10 February 2020

Private and confidential

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

Contact
Georgie Austin (03) [PII]
Email: [PII]

Partner
Abigail Gill (03) [PII]

Dear Mr Rapke

RCMPI - John Whitmore

We refer to your letter dated 23 January 2020 requesting a statement from Mr John Whitmore.

We have contacted Mr Whitmore about the Royal Commission's request. Mr Whitmore was the Superintendent overseeing the Purana Taskforce from its inception to 2007. In November 2007, Mr Whitmore suffered [PII] which forced him into retirement.

To assist the Royal Commission, we have asked Mr Whitmore a number of preliminary questions. Mr Whitmore's verbal responses are discernibly impacted by [PII], and he is not able to travel to Melbourne (he resides in [PII]). Further, Mr Whitmore does not use, or have access to, email.

At this stage, and without the benefit of any documents or his diaries, we are instructed that Mr Whitmore does not recall ever knowing that Ms Gobbo was a registered human source, nor does he recall ever meeting Ms Gobbo.


Bearing all of this in mind, we ask that the Royal Commission reconsider its request for a statement from Mr Whitmore.

Mr Whitmore's diaries were inspected by the Royal Commission on 14 January 2020 and relevant extracts were produced that day. It seems possible that the particular issues that prompted the request for a statement at this late stage may be answered by a closer inspection of Mr Whitmore's diaries. Please let us know if you would like us to make arrangements for a further inspection.

Alternatively, if the request for a statement is pressed, given the logistical issues associated with taking Mr Whitmore's statement, could you please seek to refine the questions put to Mr Whitmore by reference to the matters that are of particular interest to the Royal Commission?

10 February 2020
Solicitors Assisting the Royal Commission into the Management of
Police Informants
RCMPI - John Whitmore



If you have any queries, please contact Georgie Austin on (03) 

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'abigail'.

Abigail Gill
Partner