ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF POLICE INFORMANTS

Held in Melbourne, Victoria

On Tuesday, 30 April 2019

Led by Commissioner: The Honourable Margaret McMurdo AC

Also Present

Counsel Assisting: Mr C. Winneke QC

Mr A. Woods Ms M. Tittensor

Counsel for Victoria Police Mr S. Holt QC

Ms R. Enbom

Ms K. Argiropoulos

Counsel for State of Victoria Ms C. Button SC

Counsel for Nicola Gobbo Mr P. Collinson QC

Mr R. Nathwani

Counsel for DPP/SPP Ms K. O'Gorman

2 10:04:55 3 MR WINNEKE: Commissioner, I appear with Mr Woods and 10:04:56 4 Ms Tittensor to assist. 10:04:58 5 10:04:59 COMMISSIONER: 6 Thank you. 10:04:59 7 10:05:00 MR COLLINSON: I'm with Mr Nathwani for Ms Gobbo. 10:05:01 8 9 10:05:03 COMMISSIONER: Thank you. 10:05:03 10 11 10:05:04 10:05:04 12 MR MORRISSEY: I seek leave to appear. My name is Morrissey and I seek leave to appear for Mr Strawhorn. 10:05:08 13 10:05:10 14 COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you Mr Morrissey. 10:05:10 **15** 10:05:14 **16** 10:05:14 17 I appear with my learned friend Ms Enbom and 10:05:15 18 Ms Argiropoulos for Victoria Police. 19 10:05:17 20 COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Holt. 21 10:05:17 Commissioner, it's Ms Button for the State of MS BUTTON: 10:05:18 22 10:05:21 23 Victoria. 10:05:21 24 COMMISSIONER: Thanks Ms Button. 25 10:05:22 26 Ms O'Gorman for the DPP. 27 MS O'GORMAN: 28 29 COMMISSIONER: Thanks Ms O'Gorman. Yes Mr Winneke. 10:05:24 10:05:27 30 10:05:28 31 MR WINNEKE: Commissioner, Mr Strawhorn is the first of a 10:05:30 32 number of witnesses in which we propose to look into some 10:05:34 33 aspects of the relationship between Victoria Police and 10:05:38 34 Ms Gobbo in the period around 98 through to 2002/3. 10:05:47 35 Mr Strawhorn has provided a statement and I understand Mr Morrissey is going to lead or tender that statement. 10:05:53 36 10:05:58 37 Can I say this, Commissioner, that there are aspects of that statement and the evidence that Mr Strawhorn will give 10:06:02 38 10:06:07 39 which we understand will be the subject of a claim for 10:06:11 40 public interest immunity because that evidence will concern 10:06:17 41 informers other than Ms Gobbo. As has been stated before, 10:06:23 42 it's certainly the desire to present as much of the 10:06:26 43 evidence as possible in public, although I anticipate that Mr Holt will suggest that there are certainly significant 10:06:33 44 10:06:38 45 aspects of the evidence which cannot be so given. 10:06:44 46 Mr Holt may wish to raise that issue now and I suppose the 10:06:50 47 point is can we do it on a piecemeal basis or is it

Yes, could I ask for appearances, please.

COMMISSIONER:

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something that really needs to be dealt with upfront? It may well be Mr Holt can give us some assistance there.

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COMMISSIONER: All right then. Of course we are still operating on the 15 minute delay with streaming, aren't we?

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MR WINNEKE: We are. Yes, we are.

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COMMISSIONER: Mr Holt, I understand that there's public interest immunity in not having the names of informers disclosed but why could we not have the witness give evidence referring to the first

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MR HOLT: No, Commissioner, there are potentially four. We communicated with the Royal Commission about that. But there are certainly three of particular concern. Can I deal with it piecemeal and in reverse order.

COMMISSIONER: Yes.

10:07:44 **21** 10:07:45 **22**

MR HOLT: If the Commissioner has Mr Strawhorn's statement. Paragraphs - and I'll do this as coyly as I can, to avoid the need for us to go into private hearing.

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COMMISSIONER: Sure.

10:07:54 **27** 10:07:55 **28**

MR HOLT: Paragraphs 27 and 28 each name a person.

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COMMISSIONER: Sorry. I mustn't have the current one. Does someone have an affidavit for me? I've seen them and I've seen the proposed redacted one. Does anyone have a hard copy? The one I have, there's only 21 paragraphs.

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MR WINNEKE: I can hand up, Commissioner.

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COMMISSIONER: Yes, I know, I've seen those two statements. I've read them and marked them up but, I'm sorry, I don't have them with me.

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MR WINNEKE: I can hand up a red box version.

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COMMISSIONER: Okay, that'll be fine. That's what I'd done with MY statement which I haven't brought with me, I'm sorry.

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1 MR WINNEKE: No, I think you've got the unbox red version. 10:08:43

> COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MR HOLT: Page 7, paragraphs 27 and 28.

COMMISSIONER: Yes.

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MR HOLT: Those relate to - ignoring the informer number, that's a separate question, but it names two persons and the person named in the first line of 27.

COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MR HOLT: And then, among other places, in the last line of 28.

Yes. COMMISSIONER:

MR HOLT: Both of those persons either were or may have been informers. The Commissioner will be aware we only received the statement, no criticism at all, very recently, but in any event, and obviously on its face, those issues raise very significant concerns about human safety if those persons were identified. Any exploration of those, in our submission, at least carries a very significant risk of identification of those persons. It may be that those aren't the names that are of particular interest to the Commission, we're not sure, but those are certainly names where if they were to be explored we would respectfully ask

They probably are of interest to the COMMISSIONER: Commission given the widening of the Terms of Reference to all people with legal obligations of privilege and confidentiality.

I should have qualified that. In relation to MR HOLT: this particular period that we're talking about at present they may not be entirely essential. But in any event, given that that information, particularly that in 28, is only recently in our hands and we presume only very recently in the hands of the Commission, it may well be that the Commissioner and counsel assisting the Commission wish to explore that issue and if so our respectful submission would be that that ought be done in a short private hearing to understand that there is more detail

that will then require further examination or investigations to be undertaken.

COMMISSIONER: So why could that not be done by using Person 4 or Person 3?

MR HOLT: The short answer at present, Commissioner, is I don't have instructions to that effect and I just seek some time to take them. We made this claim on Friday with the proposal that, with the offer in effect that Victoria Police would not assert public interest immunity in respect of publication within a closed hearing because that would be a sufficiently safe environment, in effect, for these issues to be explored. I would simply need the opportunity to take instructions to see whether it could be done on an anonymised basis and I'd just simply seek the time to do That hasn't been proposed to us that, Commissioner. And I should say, the difficulty is whilst anonymisation, on its face, often is a sensible way of proceeding, we simply don't know in the absence of instructions, which we can obtain quickly, as to whether there are nonetheless risks because of other facts that may be explored or identified in the capacity then of people to identify who those persons might be where there are genuine safety concerns about those issues.

COMMISSIONER: How long will it take you to get those instructions?

I'm not sure, Commissioner, but I expect to be MR HOLT: able to do it relatively quickly. Senior people are aware of this issue so it should be something I can take instructions relatively quickly.

COMMISSIONER: Are you not pressing for any redactions before then to his statement?

No, Commissioner, we provided a redacted version MR HOLT: of the statement with explanations for public interest immunity claims and we've received no response from the Commission as to any difficulty with those claims. been assessed and explained. We would ask that the statement - - -

COMMISSIONER: I didn't understand that they'd been accepted.

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We made the submission, Commissioner. MR HOLT:

COMMISSIONER: All right, you've made the submission, I'm saying to you, why can't we - for example, what's the problem with knowing the name of the - starting with paragraph 8, where the first one is, what's the problem with knowing the Operation name, which I'm sure has been referred to in other parts of evidence.

I'm sorry, Commissioner? MR HOLT:

COMMISSIONER: Paragraph 8 is the first redaction.

Yes. MR HOLT:

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COMMISSIONER: First proposed redaction, the Operation That's already been referred to and it's already on the public record. Why should that go out?

MR HOLT: I'm instructed, Commissioner, that the details in the statement which are sought to be redacted over which the PII claim is made is because of the capacity of that information to be put together with other information to be able to identify or carry a significant risk of identifying the identity of that informer. So it might not be - these are not necessarily immediately apparent on their face but they effectively can be put together as a jigsaw puzzle by those who might wish to identify who those persons are and then they will be people who wish to identify who those persons are.

That's already on the public record so I'm COMMISSIONER: not prepared to allow that one as a public interest What I suggest then - you know, nor the immunity claim. next one at the committal proceedings and the date.

Commissioner, the difficulty is that those are precisely, with respect, those are precisely the sorts of details which can be then discovered and put together by persons who will be interested in a - -

COMMISSIONER: I understand that submission but it's already on the public record. So if those people want to do that they already can do it.

No, but what this does, Commissioner, it gives MR HOLT: them essentially source documentation which permits them to

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put those inquiries together and I'm instructed that that carries genuine risks of safety to persons who were As I say, Commissioner, I apologise, we had informers. provided these explanations and redactions I think very late last week, having been provided with Mr Strawhorn's If the Commissioner is against us essentially in respect of these matters we'd seek the opportunity to provide affidavit evidence so these matters can be assessed on a proper basis.

Why haven't you got that ready now? COMMISSIONER:

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Commissioner, because we've operated in accordance with what we understood to be the protocol, in effect, which is to identify what those public interest immunity claims were. We were asked for a redacted copy of the statement, which we assumed was for the purposes of production, without any indication there was to be any difficulty, notwithstanding numerous conversations between both counsel and solicitors assisting and us. been the position we would have, of course, been in a position to do so, Commissioner. In respect of the risks to that person, those have already been the subject of a confidential affidavit which the Commissioner has which was filed a number of weeks ago. So those aspects of it are already known to the Commissioner. I'm instructed the details that are raised carry the risk, in combination with other matters, of identifying a human source, and that is a matter which is, with respect, protected on a core basis by public interest immunity.

COMMISSIONER: All right. In the interests of going forward we can tender the statement unredacted and it doesn't become public, is that sufficient?

MR HOLT: And for our position, Commissioner, if the Commissioner wished to make as much of Mr Strawhorn's evidence as possible public as this point, there will also be no difficulty with the redacted statements being provided, being tendered and published, subject of course to whatever future order the Commissioner might make or any review of that ruling.

COMMISSIONER: I'm not happy with the redacted statement because it doesn't flow as a narrative and it could very easily have been made to flow as a narrative by using some pseudonyms, Person 1, 2, 3, et cetera.

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MR HOLT: As I say, Commissioner, I'm content of course to seek to take those instructions.

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10:16:40 10:16:42 10 COMMISSIONER: At this stage the unredacted document, statement can be tendered.

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Commissioner, in respect of that unredacted statement, I respectfully seek an order that that unredacted statement to be tendered subject to further order by the Commissioner, that it be retained in a sealed envelope, given that it directly names at least two human sources.

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COMMISSIONER: Well, the Commission obviously needs access to it.

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MR HOLT: Of course, Commissioner. It's simply to ensure its security. It's not in any sense to suggest that the Commission itself shouldn't have access to the document. What I'm proposing is that the witness will give evidence by referring to these people in a way where the details for example, he could say, "The first recollection I have of contact with Ms Gobbo relates to persons charged in an investigation I conducted in November 1997", that Ms Gobbo was acting for one of the defendants and "who approached and spoke to me. This led to Ms Gobbo, who was acting on behalf of the defendant, telephoning me and arranging a meeting on behalf of and with the client. I met Gobbo and the client where I discussed the process and requirements of becoming an informer. Arrangements were made to introduce Person 1 to an interstate counterpart", et cetera.

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10:18:30 43 10:18:31 44 10:18:32 45

10:18:32 46 10:18:36 47 MR HOLT: Commissioner, can I indicate that's with respect precisely the sort of approach that counsel assisting - - -

COMMISSIONER: I'm only reading But this is unredacted. parts of the unredacted statement here.

Yes, Commissioner. MR HOLT:

COMMISSIONER: Now you're telling me that's going to add up.

No, I'm not saying anything about the details we MR HOLT: sought to have redacted, that we make a public interest

immunity claim over, in combination, on our instructions, carry the risk of identifying the human source which in turn carries significant risks to the human safety of that human source. That is, with respect, our only concern. The way in which counsel assisting the Commissioner have dealt with these sorts of issues to date, and of course they become more acute as we move forward, we accept that, but the way they've been deal with today is to do precisely what, I think, with respect, the Commissioner is suggesting, which is to deal with things in a general manner that doesn't lead to that kind of identification. We have no difficulty with that. Our respectful submission is that Commission wishes to in relation to these particular human sources hear in effect entirely free evidence about those issues which the Commissioner may well need to fulfil your task, then we are content for that to be done in a closed hearing, even though that would in itself not ordinarily be done. Ordinarily a public interest immunity claim would not even permit that to We are, with respect, attempting to assist the Commission by effectively offering that process, so suggesting we could deal even with the names of those people in a short closed hearing to discover those issues so the Commission can ask whatever questions it needs to about those particular persons using their names with appropriate non-publication orders, and then, as a result of that process, to be able to deal with matters in public hearing to the greatest extent possible without placing human life at risk. So that's the proposal, with respect, Commissioner. And as the Commissioner will appreciate, this is not a Victoria Police statement, it's a statement that came to us late last week, and so we're attempting to deal with it in a way that manages those risks which we're certain the witness would accept that.

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Why don't we start with Mr Morrissey taking COMMISSIONER: - we'll tender the unredacted statement and it'll be placed in a sealed envelope with an order only to be opened, marked "Only to be opened by the order of the Commissioner and then we can tender the redacted statement for public use and then Mr Morrissey, I gather, will want to take your witness through the statement, is that what's being proposed?

MR MORRISSEY: It hadn't been proposed, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER: No? That's all right.

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COMMISSIONER: You're just going to tender it, excellent, that's fine. And then allow questions to be asked.

MR MORRISSEY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER: Everyone has heard what I have in mind. We have a 15 minute delay on streaming in any case.

MR MORRISSEY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER: Does anyone else want to say anything about what I propose?

MR HOLT: Commissioner, might I respectfully request a five minute adjournment to take instructions on that basis. I'm sorry, Commissioner, but once the cat's out of the bag it's out of the bag and I need to take some instructions.

COMMISSIONER: Yes, all right then.

(Short adjournment.)

COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Holt.

MR HOLT: Yes, Commissioner, I have instructions to attempt to proceed on that basis and I've had discussions with all of our learned friends at the Bar table who we think all understand the need for caution and the lack of specificity about detail. There was a list, as we understood it, coming down but there were some printing opportunities. I simply wanted to have an opportunity to review that first to make sure that there weren't any complications, I'm sorry, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER: Right. That was my impatience, I got impatient.

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                            No, we were told that there were some
                 difficulties with the printer on this floor.
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                 COMMISSIONER:
                                 That's right.
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                 MR HOLT:
                            But I just want to check it to make sure there
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                 are no issues.
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                 COMMISSIONER:
                                 I understand, but we can start.
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                                                                     Let's start
                 with the tendering of the statements.
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                                                           Thanks very much
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                 Mr Holt.
                           Yes Mr Morrissey.
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                 MR MORRISSEY:
                                 If it please the Commission I call Wayne
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                 Strawhorn.
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                 COMMISSIONER: Oath or affirmation, Mr Strawhorn?---Oath.
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                 <WAYNE GEOFFREY STRAWHORN, sworn and examined:</pre>
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                 COMMISSIONER:
                                 Yes Mr Morrissey.
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                 MR MORRISSEY:
                                 Thanks Commissioner.
                                                         Mr Strawhorn, what's
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                 your full name?---Wayne Geoffrey Strawhorn.
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                 Were you previously employed by Victoria Police from 1974
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                 to early 2003?---I was.
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                 Are you now retired?---I am.
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                 Did you make a statement for the purposes of this
                 Commission dated 18/4/2019?---I did.
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                 Do you have a marked copy of it in front of you there?---I
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                 do.
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                 Can I just ask that this unmarked original be provided to
                 Mr Strawhorn. Would you just look at the document that's
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                 being provided to you and is that an unmarked, an
10:44:41 40
                 unredacted statement dated 18/4/2019?---Yes, it is.
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                 Is that your statement?---Yes, it is.
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                 Are the contents of that statement true and correct?---To
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                 the best of my knowledge and belief they are.
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Yes, Commissioner, I tender that statement.

10:45:06 47

10:45:10 1 10:45:12 2 #EXHIBIT RC79 - Statement of Wayne Geoffrey Strawhorn. 10:45:19 10:45:20 4 COMMISSIONER: That statement will be placed in a sealed envelope and marked "To be opened only on order of the 5 10:45:21 Commissioner". 10:45:26 6 7 10:45:27 10:45:28 8 MR MORRISSEY: Thank you Mr Strawhorn. Would you just wait there for the questions that are coming. 9 10:45:31 10:45:32 10 COMMISSIONER: Thank you Mr Morrissey. Yes, Mr Winneke, 10:45:33 11 10:45:34 12 are you going to tender the redacted statement now? 10:45:36 13 MR WINNEKE: Yes, I will. Mr Strawhorn, do you have a copy 10:45:37 14 of the redacted version of the statement? 10:45:40 15 10:45:47 **16** COMMISSIONER: 10:45:48 17 No. 10:45:49 18 MR WINNEKE: Redacted with black - no, all right?---No, I 10:45:49 19 don't. 10:45:52 **20** 10:45:54 21 I wonder if we can get a copy of that. 10:45:55 22 We'll get to that, 10:46:01 23 Commissioner, because it's being printed as I understand I'll tender it when I get it in my hands but in the 10:46:04 24 meantime I'll just start asking some questions. 10:46:08 25 10:46:11 26 10:46:12 27 COMMISSIONER: Yes. 28 <CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR WINNEKE:</pre> 29 30 10:46:18 31 Just have a look at that, Mr Strawhorn. Just hand it up to Mr Morrissey's kindly provided me that and 10:46:21 32 Mr Strawhorn. 10:46:30 33 it has someone's writing on it or someone's writing on it. 10:46:32 **34** Just have a look at that. You might want to compare it 10:46:43 35 with your statement and satisfy yourself that it's - - -?---It does appear to be a copy of it. 10:46:51 36 10:46:53 37 It does appear to be. What I'll do is tender a copy of a 10:46:54 38 10:46:58 39 redacted version. I won't tender Mr Morrissey's statement. 10:47:02 40 We'll get a fresh redacted version of it so as it can go on

the court - - -

MR HOLT: We have one we can provide, Commissioner, if that assists.

COMMISSIONER: Thank you. There you go, sir, we have a clean copy of the redacted statement.

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10:50:02 46 10:50:05 47 MR WINNEKE: I tender that. Perhaps Mr Strawhorn better see it. If we can hand that other one back so Mr Morrissey has a copy of it. I tender that, Commissioner.

#EXHIBIT RC80 - Redacted version of statement of Wayne Geoffrey Strawhorn.

MR WINNEKE: Mr Strawhorn, I just want to ask you a couple of questions about your experience. You were obviously a member of the Victoria Police Force for many years and you started back in 1974 when you entered the Police Academy?---That is true.

Then the progress through the Police Force is set out in your statement and I needn't go to that. But vou became a detective initially in the late 70s and you were performing investigative duties at Russell Street and the Elsternwick CIB and then specialist investigations at the Break-in Squad and the Racing Squad. Can you tell the Commission about the sort of instructions or education that you got back in those days about, firstly, a suspect's right to silence, right to see a lawyer and so forth. I know that's changed over the years but can you give the Commission a bit of a potted history of your learnings and understandings of those matters?---My learnings and understandings were basically what we were taught at the time and what we did at the time, that is a right to silence and a right to legal advice with a suspect.

Were those things that young police officers were taught pretty early on in their careers?---Yes.

And were those concepts that, from your understanding, that virtually every police officer - it would be second nature to a police officer I assume?---I would assume so. I would expect so.

And should be, shouldn't it?---It should be.

Insofar as a suspect was given the opportunity to see a legal practitioner, again from your experience can you explain to the Commission how that occurred and what efforts were put in place to enable a person to speak to a lawyer privately?---Certainly. They were given the opportunity to do so, to make a phone call, and basically nothing would take place until that had taken place, until

they'd had that contact and been given his rights.

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If someone was at a police station and they'd just been interviewed, would they be allowed to do that in private?---I would expect so.

Was that the understanding, that police officers wouldn't be permitted to listen to lawyers?---Yes, that is correct.

What about your understanding of concepts such as legal professional privilege, those sorts of issues, were those matters that were taught to you?---I'm sure it would have come up during courses that I did a very long time ago.

Obviously those courses would have been, what, when you first became a police officer?---Exactly, yes.

Training courses?---You had detective training courses, you had your initial course, there were other courses as I've mentioned in my statement.

Yes, all right. I mean the purpose is, I assume, so that a suspect, a person who's charged, has the opportunity to speak to a lawyer absolutely freely to give that lawyer instructions to enable that lawyer to give them legal advice? --- Correct.

That's something that would be second nature to all police officers, or they'd understand that I assume?---Yes.

Can I ask you about your movement into the Drug Squad. your first involvement as a detective in the Drug Squad in the late 90s when you were a Detective Sergeant, mid to late - I'm sorry, mid to late 80s, I apologise?---I'd agree with that, yes.

And are you able to explain how the Drug Squad was set up when you first became involved in the Drug Squad?---I was one of many Detective Sergeants as a team leader in the Drug Squad at the time. We were certainly based in a different location then, which was the old Russell Street headquarters, and it was a bit of a rabbit warren, there was an upstairs section, downstairs section, there were multiple sections in there. Different units. I'll refer to them as units.

How many units were there from your recollection?---From

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that timeframe I honestly can't recall, but certainly when 10:52:59 1 10:53:01 2 we transferred across to the new building in St Kilda Road 3 it was four investigative units and one technical unit. 10:53:04 10:53:09 4 When I say technical unit, intel unit I meant. 5 the analysts. 10:53:13

> All right?---So I would assume that transferred across in the same format.

Were you in charge of a unit, let's talk about when you transferred to Russell Street, were you in charge of one of the units?---No, not at all. The Senior Sergeant's in I was a Detective Sergeant, a member charge of the unit. of one of the units in charge of a team of three detective.

What year do you recall transferring over to Russell Street?---I believe that was around 95.

Sorry, St Kilda Road?---St Kilda Road, sorry, around 95 I believe.

At that time do you recall what unit you were in?---Initially?

Yes? --- No.

In 95 you'd transferred into Division 2?---Yes, I went into a different unit.

Right?---Whether that was an immediate transfer there or a little bit after I can't be 100 per cent about, but certainly I did go into Unit 2 which was then the Clandestine Laboratory Unit.

The statement that you've tendered, can you Right, okay. tell the Commission how you made that statement, was it based on any notes, diaries that you had or was it based on recollection only?---Based on recollection, which I really had to delve into the deep dark past to get to.

Delve into your recollection?---Correct.

Yes, all right. You got diaries I take it, is that right, were they provided to you?---Yes, we certainly went and, I think to Corrs to have a look at diary entries.

Do you recall when that was when you went to Corrs?---Two

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weeks ago. Two or three weeks ago, I can't say. 10:55:12 **1** 10:55:15 2 Prior to that you'd spoken to investigators; is that 10:55:15 3 10:55:19 4 right?---Yes, on three occasions. 5 10:55:20 10:55:20 6 And the first occasion, as I understand it, was on 1 March 10:55:24 7 of this year, you spoke to Woltsche and Pattie; is that right?---That is correct. 10:55:31 8 9 10:55:31 10:55:32 10 At that stage were you aware that you were going to be spoken to about your recollection of these matters?---No, I 10:55:36 11 10:55:39 12 actually thought it was estate agents turning up at my 10:55:44 13 door. 10:55:44 14 You had a discussion with police officers?---I did. 10:55:46 **15** 10:55:49 **16** 10:55:52 17 You were asked questions about I think at that stage 3838 which we now know is Nicola Gobbo?---Yes. 10:55:59 18 10:56:02 19 You had some recollections of her?---I did. 10:56:02 **20** 10:56:05 21 You were asked whether you had dealt with her - in what 10:56:06 22 10:56:10 23 ways you'd dealt with her; is that right?---Correct. 10:56:12 **24** At that stage is that the first time you had brought these 10:56:16 **25** or heard her name for quite some time; is that 10:56:20 **26** 10:56:25 27 right?---Sorry, could you repeat that, please? 10:56:28 **28** 10:56:28 29 When you spoke to these police officers is that the first time that you turned your mind to - - - ?---Exactly. 10:56:31 30 10:56:38 31 Subsequently you spoke to those police officers again I 10:56:44 **32** think on 4 March?---It was. 10:56:48 33 10:56:51 34 10:56:51 **35** About three days later?---Yes, they turned up on Friday 1 They came back on 4 March. 10:56:55 **36** March. 10:56:57 37 And then they came back on 20 March; is that 10:56:57 38 10:57:02 **39** right?---Well, I can't be positive about that date but I 10:57:05 40 wouldn't doubt it. 10:57:06 41 10:57:06 42 Yes, all right. Were you ever given a copy of notes that 10:57:09 43 had been taken as a result of those discussions?---No. 10:57:12 44 10:57:13 45 You haven't seen them?---No.

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I might come back to those if you don't mind. What I want

10:57:14 **46** 10:57:15 **47**

to do is ask you about a couple of matters that you were involved in. Do you recall being involved in an operation called Operation Phalanx?---I do.

I think you make reference to it at paragraph 16 of your Can you explain to the Commission broadly speaking what that operation was about?---Operation Phalanx commenced in about 92, 93. It targeted a very high level I don't know whether I should be drug trafficker. mentioning names at this point.

I don't think there's any secret that it involved a gentleman by the name of Higgs?---John William Samuel Higgs, yes, that is correct.

And obviously other people, is that correct?---He was the number one target and we expanded the investigation because of his large amount of associates and he ended up running that investigation for three or four years. Final arrest took place I believe mid-96 after the burglary that took place.

After the burglary at St Kilda police station; is that right?---Correct. Clarify that, not St Kilda police station, the Drug Squad offices.

Can you explain what that was about, what happened?---Yes. A brief was being prepared against Mr Higgs and co-accused, and there were quite a few of them. A room had been put aside for the preparation of that brief in the Drug Squad offices. Due to the amount of time that took place between the commencement of the operation and the conclusion other members involved in the investigation had moved on so effectively there was only a couple left there that had knowledge of it. That brief was being put together in a locked area for security sake.

Yes?---During the period of Christmas of 95 and 6 January 96 unlawful entry was made into that room and a heap of original documents, tapes and other evidence were unlawfully removed.

Was that January 96 or 97 to the best of your recollection?---96.

96, right?---To the best of my recollection.

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The arrests occurred after that?---There had been a number 1 11:00:21 11:00:24 2 of arrests at various stages up to that point but this was the main evidence that we had which involved importations 11:00:27 11:00:30 4 in serious drug trafficking. That meant that we had to re-establish that evidence, take further statements from 5 11:00:38 the person who'd provided most of the evidence, who at that 11:00:41 6 11:00:45 7 stage was overseas, before we could take any further 11:00:48 8 Once we had all that and redid the statements, had them resigned, probably mid-96 arrests took place, final 9 11:00:52 11:01:00 10 arrests by that phase.

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I don't want you to name the solicitor, but was there a solicitor, a particular solicitor who had been instructed to represent a number of those people who had been charged?---I believe that's the case. I do recall attending an office with one of my detectives serving paperwork at some point.

Yes?---And it was part of the committal proceedings.

Right?---I can't tell you exactly when that was. I know which suburb it was but I won't mention that.

No, all right. And you've got in mind the name of the particular solicitor?---Certainly have.

Perhaps for the purpose of this exercise we might call him Solicitor 1?---Okay.

COMMISSIONER: That's, just in terms of the narrative that's already the pseudonym given to this solicitor, isn't it, in the Commission?

MR WINNEKE: I'll make it clear. Ms Gobbo was employed by a particular solicitor?---Correct.

Is it the same solicitor?---Yes.

Yes, okay, all right. Did you form a view as to whether or not the solicitor we're talking about, whether that particular solicitor had been used by his clients for the purposes of cleaning money?---At that point in time, no.

Did you later form that view?---Certainly I'd formed no view whatsoever.

Right, all right. Did you ever read an article by John

1 Silvester in which there was a reference to something of 11:02:54 that sort?---When was that article? 11:02:57 2 11:03:01 3 11:03:01 4 About 2013 after Mr Higgs had been subsequently imprisoned. Is that something that comes to mind?---No. If I read that 5 11:03:11 article but I certainly don't recall it. 11:03:15 6 7 11:03:17 11:03:17 8 You don't recall it, okay. Were you aware that in 1997 Ms Gobbo was working for that solicitor?---Yes. 9 11:03:42 11:03:48 10 I take it you'd had dealings with the solicitor over a 11:03:50 11 11:03:55 12 number of years because of his involvement in representing - - - ?---Correct. 11:04:00 13 11:04:01 14 relatively high profile alleged drug 11:04:01 15 traffickers?---Yes. 11:04:05 **16** 11:04:06 17 11:04:07 18 You'd also had dealings with Ms Gobbo in that way; is that right?---In what period? 11:04:15 19 11:04:16 **20** In 1997. Do you recall that?---Yes, the end of 97 I 11:04:16 **21** believe. 11:04:24 22 11:04:24 23 11:04:25 **24** Are you aware of a view within the Drug Squad, perhaps a negative view, about that solicitor?---No. 11:04:30 25 11:04:34 26 11:04:35 27 In 1997 or thereabouts?---No. 11:04:36 28 11:04:37 29 Never? - - - Never. 11:04:38 30 11:04:39 31 All right. Can I ask you, in 1997 are you able to explain what your position was with respect to the Drug Squad? 11:04:49 32 11:04:56 33 Were you in the Clandestine Unit at that stage, the drug 11:05:02 34 unit, I'm sorry?---Yes, I was. 11:05:04 **35** 11:05:06 **36** Did that unit have any involvement with other units which 11:05:10 37 were carrying out investigations within the Drug Squad?---Certainly we were all in the same floor. 11:05:13 38 11:05:16 39 11:05:16 40 Yes?---And we certainly all knew each other. 11:05:19 41 11:05:19 42 Yes?---But our involvement with each other's investigations 11:05:22 43 was minimal. 11:05:23 44 11:05:23 45 Was it?---Yes. 11:05:23 46

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Can I ask you about a particular operation called Operation

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Carron?---Yes, I know that one.
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                 You were involved in that operation?---I was.
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                 What was your involvement in that operation?---I led the
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                 investigative team and basically managed and conducted that
11:05:37
11:05:42 7
                 investigation.
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                 What unit was conducting that, was it your unit or was it
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                 another unit?---Clandestine Laboratory Unit.
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                 Kruger, was he in that unit?---Yes.
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                           Sorry, Commissioner, that's a matter of
11:06:05 14
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                 suppression.
11:06:09 16
11:06:09 17
                 COMMISSIONER: Yes.
                                       If the record could have that name
                 removed and we'll replay that?---Mr Kruger was in that
11:06:10 18
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                 particular unit.
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                 That particular police officer has a pseudonym - - - ?---I
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                 understand.
        22
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                  - - - for the inquiry which is Kruger, so if you're
                 referring to that police officer if you could in future use
11:06:20 25
11:06:23 26
                 Kruger.
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                 MR WINNEKE:
                               I'll ask the question again.
                                                              You're aware
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                 that Mr Kruger was involved in that Operation?---Yes.
11:06:29 30
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                 Was he in your team?---No.
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                 Whose team was he in?---I can't say at that time.
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                 Was he in - do you recall a person by the name of
                 Bowden? - - - Yes.
11:06:40 36
11:06:41 37
                 Was he a Sergeant?---No, Mr Bowden was a Senior Sergeant.
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                 He was a leader of that team?---He was a leader of that
11:06:48 41
                 unit.
                        Operations manager for that unit.
11:06:50 42
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                              You were in effect the director of the
                 Yes, okay.
11:06:59 44
                 operation.
                              What role does that - can you explain then what
11:07:03 45
                 role you had, what did you do?---In that investigation, if
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                 you're basically the team leader running that investigation
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                 you establish the parameters of the investigation, direct
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11:09:12 45 11:09:16 46 11:09:19 47 the investigators, generally direct any informer that may be involved. Basically you pretty well run the investigation, as much as you're allowed to.

And would you speak to the other police officers about what they were doing?---The investigative team, yes, yes.

And how frequently would you seek to them?---If it's your team you're talking to them all the time, every day.

On a daily basis, I assume, is that correct?---Correct.

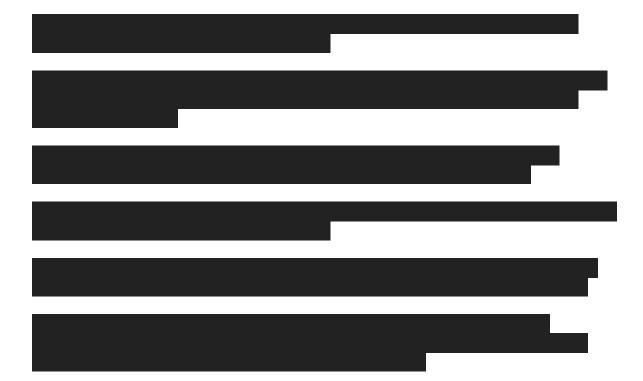
Do you recall how many people there were in the investigative team that were involved in Operation Carron?---No.

As a matter of course would it vary as between operations?---It varies as the investigation expands and from memory that expanded a fair bit.

It was a fairly large operation?---It was.

Did it take in other operations?---Yes, it did.

In particular an operation called Hamadan, is that right?---Yes, it split, it split into two different directions.



11:09:21 1 2 Right?---11:09:22 3 11:09:25

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MR WINNEKE: We might need to resort to a document which I wonder if you could have a look at you can be shown. we've got a document that will be shown you?---Thank you.



Right, okay. I wonder if I can show you a document.

COMMISSIONER: That document with the names of Person 1 to 5 will be Exhibit 81.

#EXHIBIT RC81 -Document with names of Persons 1-5.

COMMISSIONER: At the conclusion of this witness's evidence it can be placed in a sealed envelope and to be marked "only to be opened on order of the Commissioner".

MR WINNEKE: Yes, just excuse me. I'd like to show you a document if I could. Obviously we're not going to name the people in the document and the document's not going to be published into its complete form for the purposes of this exercise at the moment but can you tell the Commission what that is, firstly?---It appears to be some sort of property document.

Right?---Whether it's a transfer document, a sale document, I don't know.

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11:12:13 1 11:12:15 **2** It appears to be a document with the names of Person 1 and Person 2 on it?---Correct. 11:12:22 11:12:23 4 Is that right?---And Solicitor 1. 5 11:12:23 11:12:25 6 And Solicitor 1. The date of that document?---25 July 96. 7 11:12:25 11:12:33 8 That's a document which you had in your possession; is 9 11:12:33 that right?---I did. 11:12:42 10 11:12:42 11 11:12:42 12

You provided that document to police investigators?---I did.

To Landow investigators and to the Commission?---Correct.

Can you tell the Commission when you came into possession of that document?---I have no idea when I came into possession of that document. I didn't even know I had it to be honest.

Where was the document?---It was in a file of documents, a folder of documents which were documents that were part of a - provided by the prosecution during my trials.

Right, okay. That document you were able to produce to investigators?---Correct.

How was it that you came to produce that document, were you asked to produce any particular or look for any particular document?---No, when they turned up on the Friday, during the weekend I was trying to reflect on investigations that were conducted during that period and what documents I may have to refresh my memory.

Yes?---In a plastic sleeve there was that document plus another thick document which I - - -

Right. Which was a document related to Operation Carron?---Correct.

The summary?---Yes.

Clearly you were asked, I assume, to locate documents which may be relevant to the issue of Nicola Gobbo, your knowledge of Nicola Gobbo, anything to do with Nicola Gobbo; is that right?---If that was put, that was put.

11:13:08 **23** 11:13:11 **24** 11:13:19 **25**

11:12:48 13

11:12:48 14

11:12:48 **15** 11:12:52 **16** 11:12:52 **17**

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11:13:02 **20** 11:13:03 **21**

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11:13:37 **30** 11:13:42 **31**

11:13:45 **32** 11:13:49 **33** 11:13:54 **34**

11:13:55 **35** 11:13:55 **36**

11:13:59 **37** 11:14:01 **38**

11:14:01 **39** 11:14:04 **40** 11:14:05 **41**

11:14:05 **42** 11:14:07 **43**

11:14:10 **45** 11:14:15 **46**

11:14:07 44

11:14:18 47

11:14:21 1 11:14:22 2 Well, why then did you produce that document?---Well I was look for timeframes and reflection on what occurred and 11:14:26 4 when. 11:14:32 5 11:14:32 Right?---Because I knew that my involvement with Ms Gobbo 6 11:14:33 came about after the conclusion of Carron. 7 11:14:35 11:14:38 8 Right?---So that certainly gave me some dates to allow me 9 11:14:38 to reflect on. 11:14:46 10 11:14:47 11 11:14:47 12 Right. So having reflected on that you went and found that 11:14:50 13 document?---Correct. 11:14:51 14 11:14:56 15 Can I ask you to provide a little bit more detail. 11:15:00 **16** specifically was that document relevant to the question of 11:15:03 17 Nicola Gobbo?---It wasn't. It was in with the Operation Carron summary that I provided. 11:15:08 18 11:15:09 19 11:15:09 20 Right?---Actually it's when they, when the investigators asked something about a property transfer I produced that 11:15:14 **21** document. 11:15:17 22 11:15:17 23 They asked you something about a property transfer?---Yes, 11:15:18 24 11:15:21 25 correct, a property document. 11:15:22 **26** Yes, okay?---I said, "Is this the document you're talking 11:15:22 27 about?" 11:15:26 **28** 11:15:27 **29** 11:15:27 30 Which investigators asked you about that?---The two members 11:15:31 31 who came out. 11:15:32 32 11:15:32 33 So that's Woltsche and Pattie; is that right?---Correct. 11:15:37 34 11:15:39 **35** Was that on the first occasion they spoke to you or the second occasion? --- No, second occasion. 11:15:42 36 11:15:44 37 What did they say, what was the question?---Basically how 11:15:44 38 11:15:50 39 that document came into being in my possession. 11:15:54 40 11:15:54 41 They asked you that?---I think so. 11:15:58 42 11:15:58 43 What I'm trying to ascertain - - - ?---Yes, please, get to 11:16:01 44 the point.

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Why did you choose that document?---Because it was in the

same sleeve with the Operation Carron summary.

11:16:01 **45** 11:16:01 **46**

11:16:04 47

```
11:16:08
        1
        2
                 Yes, all right?---That's why.
11:16:08
11:16:10
11:16:11 4
                 You knew that Ms Gobbo acted for one of those people,
        5
                 didn't you?---Yes.
11:16:15
11:16:15
        6
                 Which one?---We'll call him Person 2.
        7
11:16:15
11:16:21
        8
                 Hey?---Sorry? Are you talking in relation to this
        9
11:16:21
                 document?
11:16:25 10
11:16:25 11
11:16:26 12
                 Yes?---Yes, Person 2.
11:16:28 13
                 What about the other one?---I'm unsure.
                                                            Person 1, I'm
11:16:28 14
11:16:32 15
                 unsure.
11:16:33 16
11:16:34 17
                 It must have been, it must have occurred to you when you
                 handed that document over that Ms Gobbo acted for one of
11:16:37 18
                 those people?---Yes.
11:16:40 19
11:16:41 20
                 And indeed you'd had quite a few dealings with Ms Gobbo in
11:16:41 21
                 relation to one of those people, hadn't you?---I had some
11:16:45 22
11:16:49 23
                 dealings, yes.
11:16:50 24
                 And are you able to tell the Commission, firstly, how you
11:16:50 25
                 came to be aware that Ms Gobbo acted for one of those
11:16:56 26
11:17:02 27
                 people and what your involvement was with Ms Gobbo and that
                 person, and I'm talking specifically about Person 2?---Yes,
11:17:06 28
11:17:12 29
                 I will.
11:17:13 30
11:17:13 31
                 Yes?---At the conclusion of the investigation, once charges
                 were laid against members of that, Person 2, I spoke to
11:17:17 32
11:17:23 33
                 Person 2 after he'd been charged to advise him of his
11:17:27 34
                 options for a penalty reduction which would be to be an
11:17:32 35
                            He didn't make any comment whatsoever in
                 informer.
                 relation to that. He virtually remained silent all through
11:17:38 36
11:17:42 37
                 all proceedings with him.
11:17:43 38
11:17:44 39
                 Can I stop you there.
                                         Is that after he was - - - ?---After
11:17:47 40
                 he was charged, yes.
11:17:48 41
11:17:49 42
                 After he was charged?---Correct.
11:17:51 43
                 That's around 18 November 1997?---Correct, yes. If that
11:17:51 44
11:17:55 45
                 was - - -
11:17:56 46
                                 Was Nicola Gobbo present then?---No.
11:17:56 47
                 COMMISSIONER:
```

11:17:58 **1** 11:17:59 **2**

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11:18:22 **6** 11:18:28 **7**

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11:18:31 **8** 11:18:33 **9**

11:18:34 **10** 11:18:37 **11** 11:18:42 **12**

11:18:43 **13** 11:18:43 **14**

11:18:46 15

11:18:46 **16** 11:18:46 **17**

11:18:52 **18** 11:18:58 **19**

11:19:01 **20** 11:19:04 **21**

11:19:04 **22** 11:19:09 **23**

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11:19:44 **35** 11:19:49 **36**

11:19:53 **37** 11:19:53 **38**

11:19:53 **39** 11:19:58 **40**

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11:20:08 **44** 11:20:11 **45**

11:20:11 46

11:20:11 47

Thank you?---No. At the committal Person 2 actually came and sat down beside me outside the court and spoke to me and it was not - and it was just a general conversation. I think he was basically feeling me out and it was after that I got contacted by Ms Gobbo on behalf of Person 2 to have a meeting to discuss the parameters of him becoming an informer.

MR WINNEKE: How did that meeting come about? How did the contact - did she approach you or ring you?---I believe it was phone contact.

Had you had any contact with her before?---I don't believe so.

Right. As in relation - I'm talking about generally speaking had you dealt with her?---We could have bumped into each other at court hearings but I certainly have no recollection of any dealings with her prior to that.

Right. You said before that as a general proposition in 97 you would speak to the employer in relation to clients who you'd been involved in investigating and charging?---Sorry, I'm - - -

You said before that in 1997 you would have had discussions with the employer, that is her employer, in relation to clients generally who the Drug Squad had charged?

COMMISSIONER: Solicitor 1?---I don't recall any specific conversation I had with him about that.

MR WINNEKE: As a general - I'm talking generally. I asked you before generally when you'd spoken - - - ?---Generally if we bumped into each other at court it would be a brief hello.

And you bumped into Ms Gobbo generally - - - ?---That's quite possible, quite probable.

So the occasion that she'd contacted you in relation to Person 2, it wasn't the first time you'd ever spoken to her?---It was the first time I recall having a conversation with her.

Your first specific recollection?---Correct, because of the

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11:20:14 1 11:20:15 2 3 11:20:16 11:20:19 4 5 11:20:23 6 11:20:27 7 11:20:31 11:20:31 8 9 11:20:36 11:20:43 10 11:20:43 11 11:20:43 12 11:20:54 13 11:20:59 14 11:21:00 15 11:21:06 **16** 11:21:10 17 11:21:11 18 11:21:12 19 11:21:18 20 11:21:22 21 11:21:22 22 11:21:24 23 11:21:26 **24** 11:21:30 **25** 11:21:34 **26** 11:21:38 27 11:21:38 28 11:21:43 **29** 11:21:44 30 11:21:45 31 11:21:46 32 11:21:53 33 11:21:55 34 11:21:56 35 11:22:00 36 11:22:04 37 11:22:08 38 11:22:08 39 11:22:09 40 11:22:14 41 11:22:18 42 11:22:22 43

11:22:25 44 11:22:26 45 11:22:32 46 11:22:34 47 importance of Person 2.

Yes, all right. Were you aware that she, or certainly her firm was representing other people charged in relation to Operation Carron?---I believe the firm represented many, many people charged by many sections of the Drug Squad.

Yes, but in relation to Operation Carron you were aware that she represented other people that you'd charged?---She may have.

On 11 May 98 your diary records that you met with the OPP, Pellisier, Ms Gobbo, Kruger regarding?---Correct.

He was another person who had been charged?---He was the offshoot of Hamadan.

You were aware that she was also representing a fellow called Arnautovic?---No.

You don't recall that now?---No.

In 1997 one assumes you would have been all over it and you would have been aware that she was, or at least the firm and she were representing Arnautovic?---No.

You wouldn't have been aware of that in 97?---I'm not aware of that now. I have no recollection of it.

Let me just ask this though. Let's just assume that this operation led to charges against Arnautovic, that is operation Hamadan?---Correct. That it did.

You would have been aware when you were the leader of this investigation, which included Hamadan and Carron, that Arnautovic would have been charged?---I was certainly aware of that.



11:22:35 1 2 Sorry, Commissioner, can I just be heard? 11:22:35 wonder whether what's just been said in the course of the 11:22:37 last 30 seconds, in light of what had been earlier been 11:22:40 4 5 said, now permits absolute identification of human sources 11:22:44 and I'm going to ask for the last period to be excised and 11:22:49 6 7 if we need to move into closed hearing I ask for that to be 11:22:51 11:22:52 8 done now, otherwise I wish to be heard about further steps.

COMMISSIONER: All right.

MR HOLT: The first thing I ask is that the web casting be stopped so that last 15 minutes is not played.

COMMISSIONER: Yes. Just the last question or - - -

MR HOLT: No, I'd like - the problem is, as I indicated this morning, it's the jigsaw effect.

COMMISSIONER: Yes, but is it the last question that you're concerned about?

MR HOLT: No, I actually ask that we now not play the last 15 minutes so that I can be heard and these matters can be properly dealt with because I'm concerned now about the way in which even if the - the last question was the last piece of the puzzle, so that needs to be go unquestionably, but I remain concerned about the way in which the matters can now be put together.

COMMISSIONER: Would you like it replayed and we'll talk about what part you want stopped. Let's be specific about this.

MR HOLT: I'm content to do that, Commissioner. I wonder whether these issues, if my learned friend wishes to pursue these issues, and I understand why the Commission wishes to, I respectfully reiterate our request that that be done in closed hearing. At the moment we're in a position where material has now been said which it does not take a lot to work out.

COMMISSIONER: Yes. I'm wanting to know from what point do you say it should be struck out of the hearing, of the transcription?

MR HOLT: The last question and answer.

11:23:14 **23** 11:23:16 **24**

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11:24:07 **47**

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11:24:08 1 2 COMMISSIONER: We can easily do that. Rather than sort of 11:24:09 jumping in and out of public and private hearings, perhaps, 11:24:12 11:24:17 **4** Mr Winneke, if you're going to pursue a line of questioning now that might lead to the identity of the informer being 5 11:24:22 exposed it might be better to come back to that in a 11:24:27 6 7 private hearing, or if you are able to continue without 11:24:31 11:24:35 8 that happening? 9 11:24:42

MR WINNEKE: Well, look, I'll see if I can do it and skirt around there.

COMMISSIONER: All right then. Let's see how we go. You stand up, Mr Holt, and you tell me if you're concerned, all right.

MR HOLT: Yes. Thank you, Commissioner.

MR WINNEKE: If I come back to this proposition, that around that period of time, 1997 through to 1998, you're aware of the involvement of Ms Gobbo and her employer in the representation of various people involved in this operation?---Yes.

Right, okay. You say that - this is something that there was no objection earlier, but subsequent to the committal proceeding you had a discussion with Person 2?---And Ms Gobbo, yes.

And Ms Gobbo.

11:24:42 10

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11:24:51 **14** 11:24:55 **15**

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11:26:31 **42** 11:26:31 **43**

11:26:33 **44** 11:26:33 **45**

11:26:37 **46** 11:26:37 **47**

COMMISSIONER: Person 2 and Ms Gobbo?---Correct.

MR WINNEKE: Yes, thank you Commissioner. Can you explain, firstly, the discussion that you had with Ms Gobbo and if you're able to give the specifics of it or at least the gist of it that would be useful?---The specifics I can't. I do recall a meeting.

Yes?---Basically it was to advise on what the requirements would be.

The requirements?---Of Person 2.

Yes?---To get a discount that he was after.

Yes?---And the parameters that needed to be gone through

```
for that.
        1
11:26:45
11:26:46
        2
                 That was a discussion which occurred at the Drug Squad or
11:26:48
11:26:53 4
                 elsewhere?---No, it was elsewhere.
        5
11:26:55
                 Do you recall where it occurred?---I believe it was a café
11:26:55
        6
                 in St Kilda Road.
        7
11:26:58
        8
11:26:59
                 Do you recall the name of the café?---No.
        9
11:27:00
11:27:02 10
                 Would you have made a note of that conversation?---I would
11:27:08 11
11:27:12 12
                 have expected so.
11:27:13 13
11:27:22 14
                 Subsequent to that conversation what
                 occurred?---Arrangements were made to attend the Crime
11:27:26 15
11:27:39 16
                 Commission in Sydney.
11:27:40 17
11:27:40 18
                 Was that something that you had arranged with
                 Ms Gobbo?---My view was pretty straightforward.
11:27:48 19
                                                                      The
11:27:50 20
                 suppliers of the heroin to Person 2 were Sydney based.
11:27:56 21
11:27:56 22
                 Yes?---And there was a long history of that and clearly the
11:28:04 23
                 best discount that Person 2 would get would be to do some
11:28:13 24
                 work on those suppliers in Sydney.
11:28:15 25
                 Yes?---So subsequently the hierarchy of the Drug Squad
11:28:16 26
11:28:21 27
                 liaised with New South Wales and arrangements were made to
11:28:26 28
                 take Person 2 up to Sydney.
11:28:29 29
11:28:30 30
                 COMMISSIONER:
                                 Sorry, that needs to be struck from the
11:28:31 31
                 record, thank you.
                                     That's Person 2?---I apologise.
                 turn that document over.
11:28:35 32
11:28:36 33
11:28:36 34
                                Keep the document in front of you.
                 That's okay.
                                                                      We've got
11:28:39 35
                 this delay system?---I apologise for that.
11:28:42 36
11:28:44 37
                           Commissioner, that name's now been given in an
                 MR HOLT:
                 open courtroom in the hearing in circumstances - - -
11:28:46 38
11:28:49 39
11:28:49 40
                 COMMISSIONER:
                                 I direct the name of that person is not to
11:28:51 41
                 be published.
11:28:53 42
11:28:54 43
                 MR HOLT:
                           Commissioner, this is the difficulty with
11:28:55 44
                 respect.
       45
        46
                 COMMISSIONER:
                                 Well we just have to work around it.
                                                                         We can
11:28:56 47
                 work around it.
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11:28:56 1 2 This is about the protection of something which 11:28:56 is core protected by public interest immunity, that is the 11:28:58 11:29:01 4 name of a human source, with respect, and I reiterate our 5 application to have these issues dealt with in closed 11:29:04 We've now seen two instances where with the best 11:29:08 6 7 will in the world names are being used or indications are 11:29:11 11:29:13 8 being given which are sufficient to identify the names of The resources which will need to be 9 human sources. 11:29:18 deployed to deal with those risks even on the basis of what 11:29:19 10 has just been said by Victoria Police are profound because 11:29:20 11 11:29:23 12 the risks are serious and I respectfully ask that these

question of law to the Supreme Court.

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COMMISSIONER: All right. What do you say, Mr Winneke?

Commissioner, then I ask that this issue be referred as a

issues be dealt with in private hearing and, if not,

MR WINNEKE: Commissioner, as I understand it the name that's been given won't - - -

COMMISSIONER: I can make a direction that it not be published outside this courtroom and it's struck from the record. And I so direct, that the name not be published outside this hearing room.

MR WINNEKE: Commissioner, that name is on the piece of paper that Mr Strawhorn has in front of him. The people, I would imagine, have heard your ruling and therefore it can't be published outside of this room. We'll continue on that basis. As far as my submission is concerned, that can be done.

MR HOLT: We assert, Commissioner, the public interest immunity claim that we've made in respect of the material that is now being examined which relates to and risks as has been demonstrated twice this morning the identification of human sources and we maintain the position on our instructions that if the Commission wishes to address this issue it can do so in a private hearing. We do not assert public interest immunity in respect of a private hearing with proper orders in place that would allow for proper protections to be made.

COMMISSIONER: Yes, I understand. Does anybody else want to be heard on this point? No. I think we'll deal with the rest of this topic in a private hearing, but if you

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want to continue on other topics now and do as much as you 11:31:03 1 2 can in public hearing, Mr Winneke. 11:31:07 3 11:31:09 11:31:09 4 MR WINNEKE: Commissioner, look, I think whilst we're on it I'd rather deal with this issue and ask questions of 5 11:31:13 Mr Strawhorn about it now. 11:31:17 6 7 11:31:18 8 COMMISSIONER: All right. 11:31:18 9 11:31:22 11:31:23 10

WITNESS: May I apologise to the Commissioner for that, that was just a slip.

COMMISSIONER: No, no.

11:31:25 **11**11:31:26 **12**11:31:26 **13**

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MR HOLT: Commissioner, in light of what's occurred this morning, the matters that are in paragraphs 27 and 28 of Mr Strawhorn's statement, which are matters with respect that upon review this morning it would seem very difficult to explore to any degree without risk of identification should also be dealt with in private hearing and that might conveniently be done now if we're otherwise going to deal with it.

COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MR HOLT: Can I indicate this, in respect to that private hearing, that is in respect of paragraphs 27 and 28, if the Commissioner accedes to our submission, our submission is that all parties at the Bar table would remain present other than Ms Gobbo's representatives. Those two do not have anything to do, as we understand it, with her, they relate to other aspects of the Commissioner's work.

COMMISSIONER: That seems reasonable Mr Holt. What do you say, Mr Winneke?

MR WINNEKE: That seems reasonable, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER: Mr Collinson? It doesn't seem to have anything to do with your client.

MR COLLINSON: No.

MR NATHWANI: Obviously I understand who Person 3 is.

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COMMISSIONER: Sorry, this is Person 4 and 5.

MR NATHWANI: I'm sorry, part of the difficulties we've got is a completely redacted statement so I don't know who's referred to - - -

COMMISSIONER: Have you not been shown that.

MR NATHWANI: No, we've not been given any documents in unredacted form.

COMMISSIONER: Is there an issue in showing them what this is about? I suppose there is.

MR HOLT: Might I be able to speak our learned friends and we might be able to resolve it quickly.

COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MR NATHWANI: Given the undertaking we've been given, which we of course accept, from Mr Holt that it doesn't impinge on Ms Gobbo at all we don't have any submissions to make.

COMMISSIONER: No, it doesn't, and if it's changed and it did impinge well I'd make sure that due process is followed and you were given access to the transcript and allowed to appear.

MR NATHWANI: We understand that. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER: Mr Winneke, if I could just make this point then, if we are going to go into private hearing to deal with the rest of this current topic and the topics in 27 and 28, I still want us to then resume in public hearing so that as much as possible of this witness's evidence can be given in public.

MR WINNEKE: I agree, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER: Yes, all right then.

MR WINNEKE: Perhaps we can have a - - -

COMMISSIONER: Under s.26 of the *Inquiries Act* I've already made an order prohibiting the publication of the name of the person last mentioned by the witness outside this courtroom and under s.24 of the *Inquiries Act* I make an order excluding, for the time being, all persons from the proceedings other than the legal representatives assisting

11:33:17 **20** 11:33:19 **21**

11:32:40 **4**

11:32:43 7

11:32:48 8

11:32:50 10

11:32:52 **11**11:32:54 **12**11:32:55 **13**

11:32:58 **14** 11:33:00 **15**

11:33:01 **16**

11:33:11 **17** 11:33:12 **18**

11:33:16 **19**

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11:32:40 11:32:43

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11:33:19 **22** 11:33:22 **23** 11:33:26 **24**

11:33:29 **25** 11:33:29 **26**

11:33:23 **27** 11:33:30 **27**

11:33:30 **28** 11:33:31 **29**

11:33:33 **30** 11:33:36 **31**

11:33:39 **32** 11:33:45 **33** 11:33:49 **34**

11:33:50 **35** 11:33:50 **36**

11:33:51 **37**

11:33:52 **38** 11:34:00 **39**

11:34:01 **40** 11:34:02 **41**

11:34:10 **43** 11:34:14 **44**

11:34:02 42

11:34:19 **45** 11:34:34 **46**

11:34:41 47

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the Commission, those appearing for Mr Strawhorn, the
        1
11:34:47
                 Victoria Police, the State of Victoria and the DPP.
11:34:53 2
        3
11:35:00
                                Sorry, I understood that we - - -
11:35:00 4
                 MR NATHWANI:
        5
11:35:02
                 COMMISSIONER:
                                 You'll be here for the first part.
        6
11:35:02
       7
11:35:05
11:35:06 8
                 MR NATHWANI:
                                Exactly.
        9
11:35:06
                 COMMISSIONER: Yes, quite right. I'll vary that order when
11:35:08 10
                 it's necessary. For the time being that order will also
11:35:12 11
11:35:15 12
                 allow Ms Gobbo's legal representatives to be present.
11:35:19 13
                 I'd now ask all people, all others to leave the courtroom.
11:35:19 14
                 Mr Winneke, did I understand you wanted a short
11:35:23 15
11:35:26 16
                 adjournment?
11:35:26 17
                               Look I think if we could have a short
                 MR WINNEKE:
11:35:27 18
11:35:32 19
                 adjournment that might be of some assistance.
11:35:34 20
11:35:34 21
                 COMMISSIONER:
                                 All right then.
                                                   Thank you.
                                                               We'll have a
                 short adjournment.
11:35:38 22
11:35:58 23
11:35:58 24
                 (Short adjournment.)
        25
11:44:12 26
                 (IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS FOLLOW)
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45 46 47

















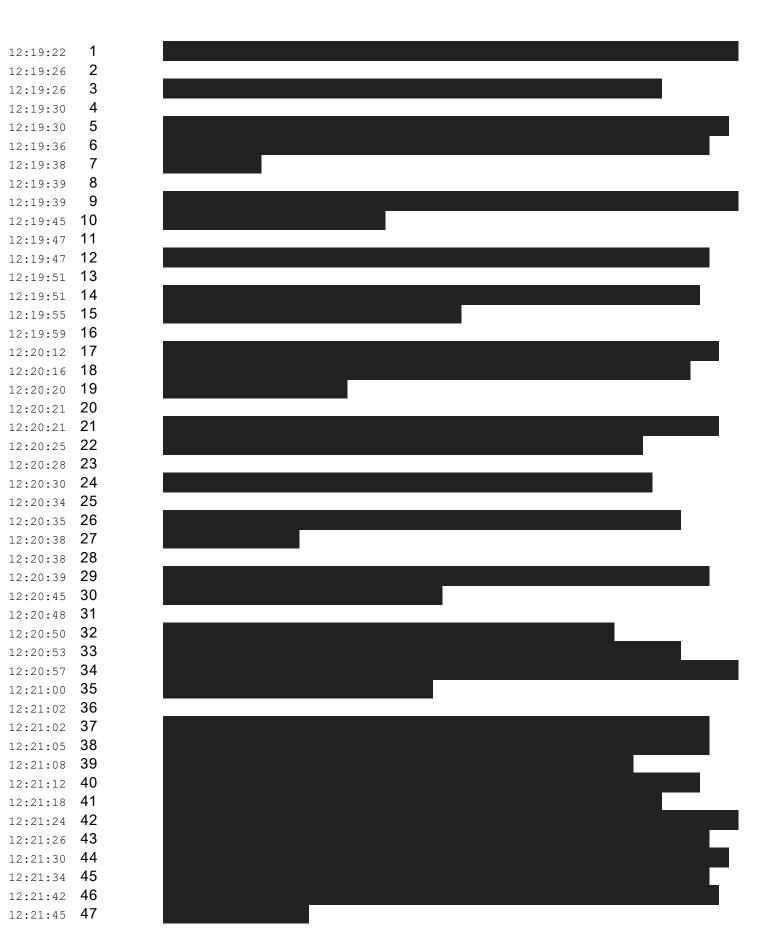
























































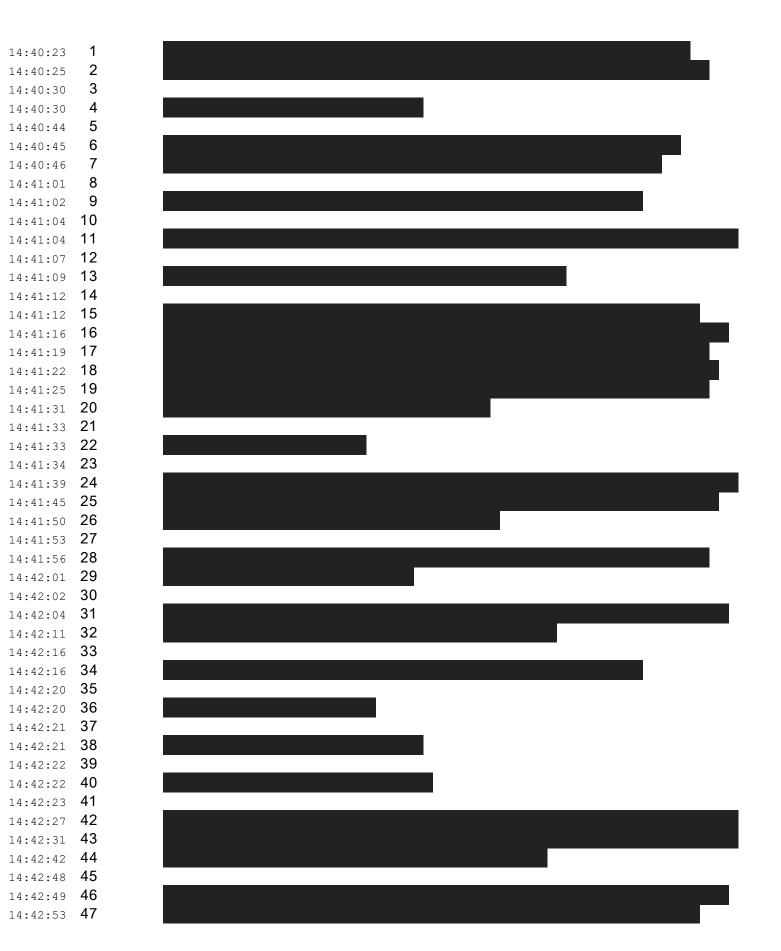
















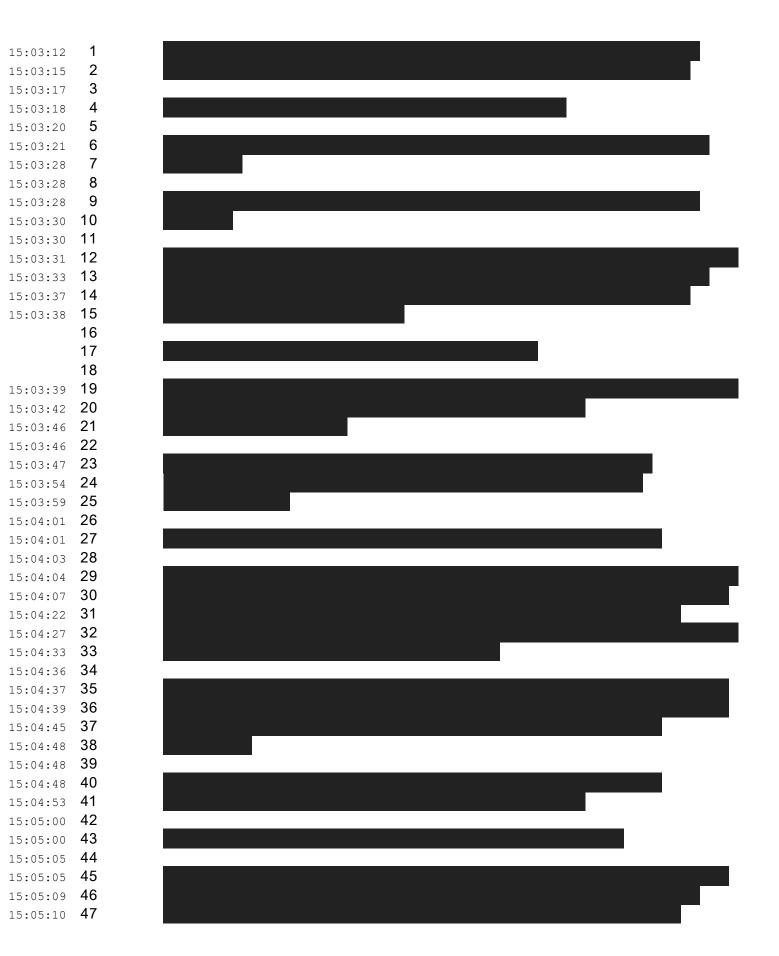


















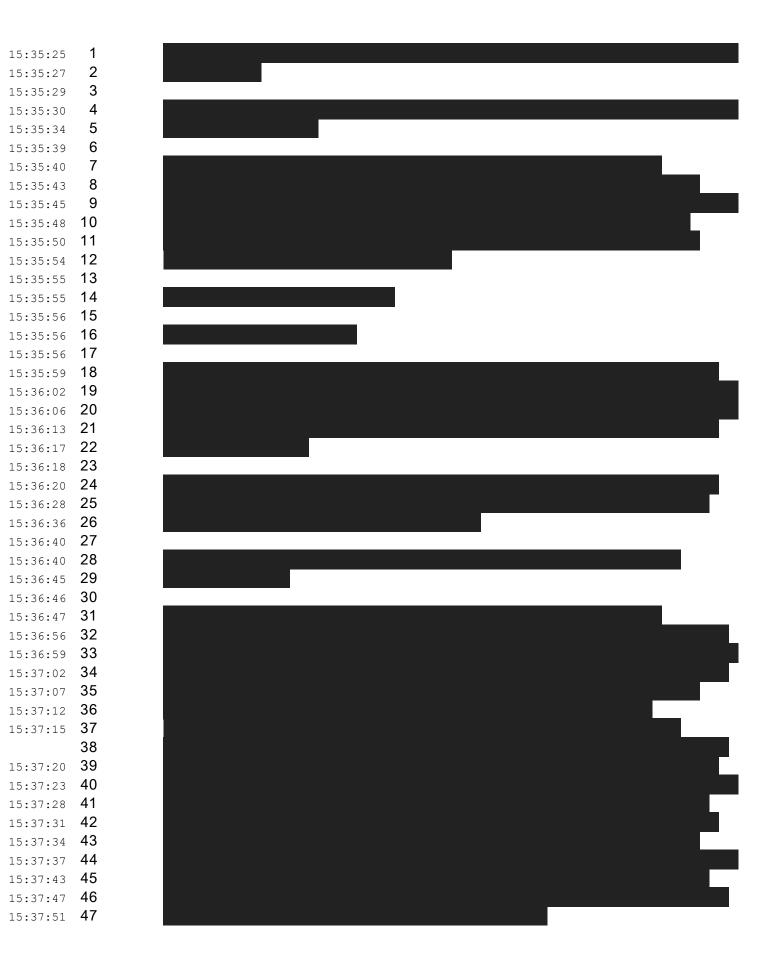
















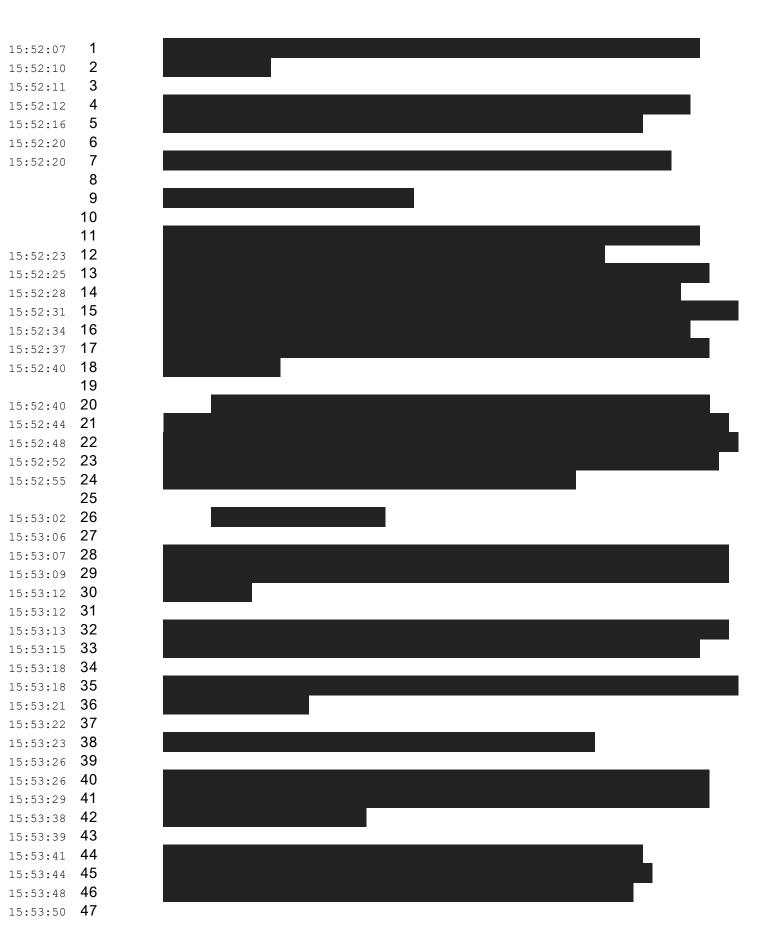




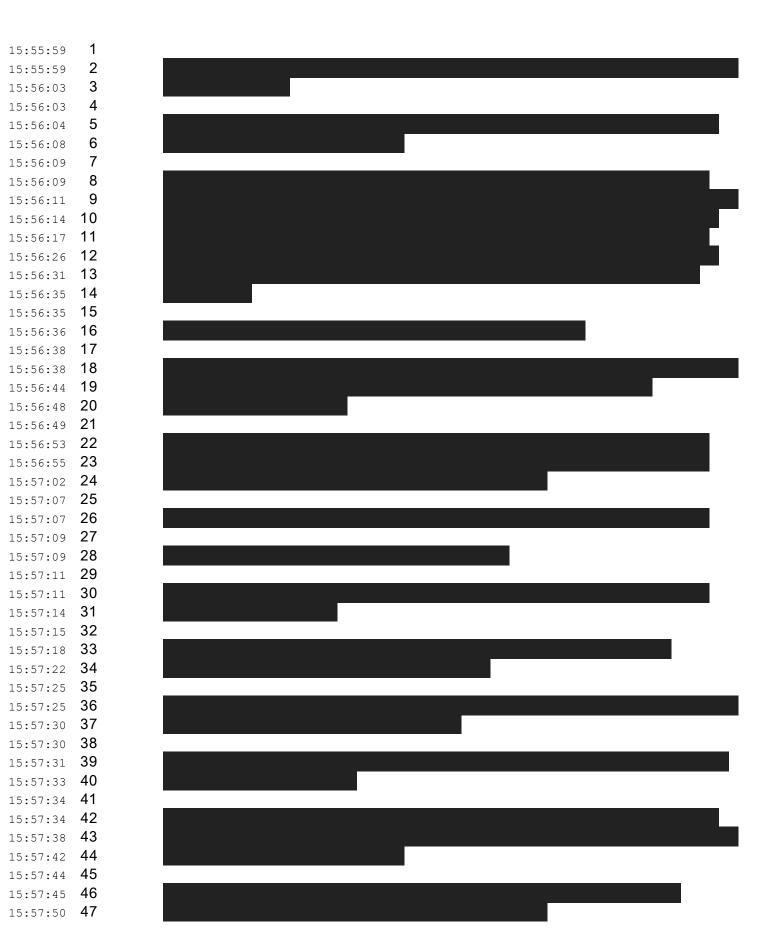
















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