

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] APM

I, [REDACTED] APM of 637 Flinders Street, Docklands, Victoria, state as follows:

1. I am a member of Victoria Police and my current rank is Superintendent. My normal role is Manager of the Policing Research and Innovation Division within the Capability Department of Victoria Police.
2. On 27 March 2020 I was performing the role of manager of the Planning Cell in the SPOC (State Police Operations Centre). Shortly after commencing my shift at 1500, I received a telephone call from Acting Superintendent [REDACTED] in which she directed me to join her and Assistant Commissioner Michael Grainger on a teleconference at 1630 with representatives of other government departments and agencies to discuss planning for the mandatory quarantine in hotels of overseas travellers returning to Victoria. Around the same time, I also received an email regarding my attendance at this teleconference, however I can't recall if that email was also from [REDACTED] or someone else (and I am presently on leave and do not have access to my emails or the SPOC Planning Manager account emails).
3. My only knowledge of the returned traveller quarantine arrangements to that point was from the news report I had heard of the Prime Minister's announcements earlier that day.
4. Shortly before 1630, I went to a meeting room at Police headquarters at 637 Flinders Street, Docklands. As well as [REDACTED Personal information] and AC Grainger, [REDACTED Personal information] was also in the meeting room. We had a brief conversation before the teleconference began, but I do not recall any discussion at that time regarding any proposed or potential security arrangements for the hotels at which the travellers were to be held in quarantine. Other than this discussion, and my earlier phone call with [REDACTED] I did not have any communication with any other Victoria Police officer regarding this Hotel Quarantine Program (HQP) prior to the teleconference.
5. I have reviewed a transcript that has been prepared of the teleconference [VPOL.0030.0001.0001], including the following section (at page 14, lines 20-33):

AC: Sorry John, can we get, and again apologies, I missed... I had to step out again. But in terms of security at accommodation, have we covered that? So, private security? Victoria Police? I understand that the preference of Victoria Police or the Chief Commissioner is that private security be the first line of security and police to respond as required, is that your understanding Mick?

MG: Yes it's Mick Grainger here, absolutely that's our preference.

AC: So, just curious as to who is going to take responsibility around contracting private security? Is that DJPR?

CF: Yeah, I understand that's for us to take up. So, I'd like to have a follow up conversation with Mick and just understand a little bit more about how he sees that best working. And then we're happy to make sure that the right arrangements are made, both in hotels and also exploring what the arrangements might be for transport as well.

This transcript identifies the persons speaking as being Commissioner Andrew Crisp (AC), AC Grainger (MG) and Claire Febey of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (CF).

6. I made a handwritten note during the teleconference, which I used when preparing the email referred to in paragraph 11 below. I did not retain that note.
7. Immediately following the teleconference, I had another brief discussion with AC Grainger, Supt [REDACTED Personal information] and [REDACTED Personal information], during which I was tasked with preparing a summary of the matters discussed at the teleconference which were of specific relevance to Victoria Police and the role it was to play in the HQP and to begin planning the policing response. This was to be primarily for the use of the SPOC Planning Cell on the following day, as I would not be on duty. I understood that those officers would be responsible for developing the police operational plan for the HQP. A/C Grainger directed me to liaise with representatives of Australian Border Force and Australian Federal Police, and to contact [REDACTED] who was the commander of the division of North West Metro Region (ND4), which covers Melbourne Airport.
8. At 1832 on 27 March 2020, I received an email from AC Grainger in which he included his own notes of the teleconference. At 2045 I received a further email from AC Grainger by which he forwarded to me an email from the State Control Centre enclosing a document headed 'Victoria Enforced Quarantine Planning Process' and advising of a further teleconference to be held the next morning to discuss that document [VPOL.0002.0005.0125; VPOL.0002.0005.0126].
9. Between the end of the meeting on 27 March 2020 and about 2100 hours, I had conversations with the Australian Border Force SPOC liaison officer, [REDACTED] and with Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] [REDACTED Personal information] of the Australian Federal Police regarding the potential roles of those organisations in the HQP, as well as with [REDACTED].
10. I also briefed members of the North West Metro Region leadership team (via telephone) on the initial HQP planning, as I understood it from the discussions during the teleconference, and also as to the proposed resourcing model for the police operations. I provided them with details of the next planning meeting to be held on 28 March 2020. Specifically, I recall contacting Acting Commander [REDACTED Personal information] [REDACTED] although she referred me to Commander Tim Tully, and I briefed him. I also briefed AC Luke Cornelius, although I think he contacted me, and the Deputy State Police Commander.
11. At 2119 on 27 March 2020, I sent an email to AC Grainger, Commander Tully and Supt [REDACTED] [REDACTED Personal information] [VPOL.0002.0005.0117] by which I forwarded AC Grainger's 1832 email and provided my own outline of the known – and then unknown - elements of the HQP which I considered to be most relevant for the purposes of Victoria Police's planning. This email set out my understanding of the discussion at the teleconference and the initial planning for resourcing Victoria Police's enforcement role, including the three proposed components of that role, namely:

Maintain a policing presence at the transfer of passengers from arrival at the hotel through reception process.

*On-going tasking to support the security guards – patrolling the hotels
Providing response to calls for assistance*

12. In my email, I stated, amongst the things that were known:
- *CCP recommendation that private security is to be the first line of security*
13. I have been asked if I can recollect the basis upon which I made this reference to the 'CCP' (ie, the then Chief Commissioner of Police, Graham Ashton) and why I described the use of private security as the first line of security as being his "recommendation". I have no clear recollection as to either matter.
14. As far as I can now recollect, my understanding of all of the matters that I included in my email was informed entirely by:
- (1) the discussions at the State Control Centre teleconference that I attended;
 - (2) the discussion between the VicPol representatives at that teleconference which took place immediately after it concluded;
 - (3) the email I received from AC Grainger at 1832 (and his attached handwritten note [VPOL.0002.0005.0131]);
 - (4) the email from the State Control Centre, and the enclosed 'Victoria Enforced Quarantine Planning Process' document, forwarded to me by AC Grainger at 2045;
 - (5) the telephone discussions referred to in paragraph 9 above, and the email Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] subsequently sent to me [VPOL.0002.0005.0120]); and
 - (6) the briefings I gave to North West Metro Region officers, to which I have referred in paragraph 10 above.
15. I do not recall having any communication with Claire Febey following the State Control Centre teleconference.
16. I have never had any communication with former CCP Ashton concerning any aspect of the HQP.
17. I have no recollection of any of AC Grainger, [REDACTED], [REDACTED Personal information], [REDACTED Personal information] or any of the North West Metro Region officers who I briefed that evening, indicating to me that they had any knowledge of the views of former CCP Ashton regarding any matter concerning the HQP, or that he, or any other VicPol officer, had made any 'recommendation' regarding the use of private security.
18. I can recall that, at the time, there was considerable time pressure to summarise the initial planning discussions at the State Control Centre meeting, to conduct follow-up enquiries and briefings and then

distribute my summary quickly in order to assist with the substantial amount of planning work that I could clearly see would be required of others on the following day.

19. Following the end of my shift at 2300 on 27 March 2020, I had no further involvement in the HQP.

Dated 13 September 2020

REDACTED
Personal information

REDACTED APM