# SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY <br> INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE POLICE INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ALLEGATIONS IN THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE 

At Newcastle Supreme Court Court Room Number 1, Church Street, Newcastle NSW

On Monday, 24 June 2013 at 10.18am (Day 11)

Before Commissioner: Ms Margaret Cunneen SC<br>Counsel Assisting:<br>Ms Julia Lonergan SC<br>Mr David Kell<br>Mr Warwick Hunt<br>Crown Solicitor's Office: Ms Emma Sullivan, Ms Jessica Wardle

MS LONERGAN: This is the resumption of the hearing of the Special Commission of Inquiry into term of reference 1. For those present and for those in the body of the court, I remind all that term of reference 1 is examining the circumstances in which Detective Chief Inspector Fox was asked to cease investigating relevant matters and whether it was appropriate to do so. "Relevant matters" are defined as any matter directly or indirectly relating to alleged child sexual abuse involving Denis McAlinden or James Fletcher, including the responses to such allegations by officials of the Catholic Church and whether or not the matter involved is alleged to have involved criminal conduct.

Commissioner, today we are going to follow through the witness list that was commenced back in May. We will hear evidence from Detective Sergeant Little followed by journalist Joanne McCarthy.

Before we move to that, I need to formally note something on the record. I formally note that a submission has been received from Mr Cohen, who is counsel for Detective Chief Inspector Fox, and that submission requests that certain matters that are not currently within the terms of reference before the Commissioner be examined by this Commission.

That application, Commissioner, has been forwarded to be considered by the relevant person and through the relevant channels. The submission arises out of issues raised in a Lateline program last Thursday evening regarding the operation of a group known as the Professional Standards Resource Group. I understand that it has been reported by the NSW Police that that issue is to be considered within the hearing of this Special Commission of Inquiry and or by this Special Commission of Inquiry.

For the record, I note that some limited examination of the operations of the New South Wales Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Church will occur, but only to the extent that they're relevant to this Commission's terms of reference, and that will only be relevant to term of reference 2 , the hearing of which commences next Monday.

It is the understanding of the staff who assist you
that the Professional Standards Resource Group, which was the subject of that particular Lateline report, was and is an advisory body and not involved in the exchange of information between the Catholic Church and the police. There's presently no evidence that any Professional Standards Resource Group meeting or body dealt with any matters involving Fletcher or McAlinden.

Evidence will be led in terms of reference 2 that explains the role of the Professional Standards Office to the extent it was involved in "relevant matters" as defined and its role in reporting information on behalf of the Catholic Church to the NSW Police.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MS LONERGAN: I call Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Little.
<JEFFREY LESTER LITTLE sworn:
[10.22am]
<EXAMINATION BY MS LONERGAN:
THE COMMISSIONER: Please take a seat.
MS LONERGAN: Q. Detective Sergeant Little, is your full name Jeffrey Lester Little?
A. It is.
Q. That microphone doesn't amplify so would you keep your voice up. You prepared a statement in consultation with your lawyers dated 7 March 2013?
A. I did.
Q. I show you a copy of that document. Could you have a look at that. Is that your signature on page 7 of the statement?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Are the contents true and correct?
A. Yes.

MS LONERGAN: I tender that statement, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: The statement of Detective Sergeant Little, dated 7 March 2013, will be admitted and marked exhibit 25.

## EXHIBIT \#25 STATEMENT OF JEFFREY LESTER LITTLE DATED 7/03/2013

MS LONERGAN: Q. You were the officer in charge of the investigation known as Strike Force Lantle from 31 December 2010 to date?
A. Correct.
Q. Your statement addresses various matters in broad terms relevant to your role on Strike Force Lantle?
A. Yes.
Q. There's particular emphasis in your statement on issues relevant to this Special Commission of Inquiry's term of reference 1, which is to the extent you had interface with Detective Chief Inspector Fox?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. I'm just going to go through in broad terms your background training and experience. Detective sergeant, you were attested a police officer in October 1990?
A. Correct.
Q. You'11 have to speak up a little for the people in the back of the court so they can hear you?
A. That's correct.
Q. You did general duties for a year and then moved to special operations for about 18 months after that?
A. Yes.
Q. Then you worked in general duties for a further period and then moved to criminal investigations in Broken Hill for a couple of years from 1997?
A. Yes.
Q. Then in 1999, you had a two year secondment to the Australian Federal Police?
A. In Melbourne, yes.
Q. During your time down there, you were working on various investigations?
A. Yes.
Q. Including complicated criminal investigations?
A. That's correct.
Q. And those investigations involved analysis of materials and preparation of briefs of evidence?
A. Yes.
Q. In 2001, you were engaged as senior investigator in the special crime and internal affairs branch of the NSW Police?
A. That's correct. I was actually attached at the end of 2000, but I didn't attend until 2001, correct.
Q. Can you outline what your particular duties were there just in broad terms?
A. Essentially, it was larger scale investigations in relation to police corruption.
Q. In relation to?
A. Police corrupt activity, allegations.
Q. In 2002, you moved back to the Australian Federal Police; is that correct?
A. Correct.
Q. You carried out some duties there for approximately five years?
A. Yes, correct.
Q. Again, that was involved in investigations as well as some tactical response training?
A. Yes, as well as some overseas work as well, yes.
Q. The overseas postings were in the nature of covert investigations?
A. Negative. They were capacity development of other police forces in fragile states and in post-war zones.
Q. You returned to the NSW Police in October 2007 and carried out duties at Lake Macquarie Local Area Command? A. Correct.
Q. And then later at Port Stephens Local Area Command?
A. That's correct.
Q. For a period that you were at Port Stephens Local Area Command, did you work under Detective Chief Inspector Fox? A. Not directly. But he was certainly one of my superiors, yes.
Q. For what sort of period did you work at Port Stephens Local Area Command?
A. As I recall, it was from April to December 2010.
Q. Did you get to know Detective Chief Inspector Fox at least to some extent as a colleague?
A. Yes.
Q. How do you describe your relationship with Detective Chief Inspector Fox during that period?
A. Look, it was fairly innocuous. He was always pleasant to me and I was always respectful to him. He was a - it was a - there was no direct involvement with him in relation to investigations or anything like that. I would assist him with some computer issues if he needed it, that type of thing.
Q. At the end of 2010, you transferred to the Newcastle Local Area Command and were promoted to the role of detective sergeant?
A. That's correct.
Q. In late December, we understand from your statement that you met with the crime manager or the then crime manager inspector Wayne Humphrey?
A. That's correct.
Q. Detective Chief Inspector Wayne Humphrey. He appointed you the officer in charge of Strike Force Lantle? A. He did.
Q. Prior to that time, did you have any knowledge about the operations of Strike Force Lantle?
A. I didn't.
Q. Were you told at the time you were engaged as officer in charge any particular information regarding the confidentiality status of that investigation at least up to that time?
A. It was a highly protected investigation, I was told, yes.
Q. A highly protected investigation.
A. Yes.
Q. Can you outline what that entailed in terms of its availability for review by others within the police force?
A. Yes. "High1y protected' by the terms of the e@gle.i database which is used for such an investigation is a category put on an investigation on all documents which fall under that investigation whereby the access to those documents is extremely limited to merely the OIC and those who were attached to it on the e@gle.i database. In this particular case it would have been Detective Chief Inspector Wayne Humphrey, later to be Detective Inspector Graeme Parker and, at that particular time, it was now Assistant Commissioner Max Mitchell and currently Superintendent John Gralton.
Q. Can we take it prior to your having this discussion with Detective Chief Inspector Wayne Humphrey, you didn't have any details about staff allocated to the investigation or the progress of the investigation in any way?
A. That's correct.
Q. You were informed, as you set out in your statement in paragraph 13, that there had been officers allocated to the matter previously - I'm sorry, it is in paragraph 12 of your statement - but they had reported on sick leave and there was ultimately resignations of those officers from the police force. Did you have any information available to you prior to 30 December 2010 to the effect that those officers were likely to leave the force on sick leave?
A. I had no idea that they were even on that
investigation with the exception of a media article that was published certainly not from any police.
Q. When you were appointed as officer in charge, you were advised that you could make use of other officers to assist you?
A. Yes.
Q. And you've named those in paragraph 13 of your statement and they were Senior Constable Jason Freney, F-R-E-N-E-Y, and also a plain clothes Senior Constable Troy Dominish?
A. Correct.
Q. Had you worked with those two gentlemen before?
A. Never.
Q. Did you take the opportunity to have them assist you on various tasks as you worked through your time on the Lantle brief?
A. Yes.
Q. As at 30 December 2010 when you discussed the matter with Detective Chief Inspector Wayne Humphrey and your allocation as officer in charge, did he say anything to you regarding Detective Chief Inspector Fox's involvement or otherwise in matters touching on the Lantle investigation?
A. No, he didn't.
Q. Did Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey make any comment to you at any time either negative or positive about Detective Chief Inspector Fox's role relating to issues that would be reviewed by Lantle?
A. No.
Q. Did you have any reason to exclude or refuse to consult with Detective Chief Inspector Fox in relation to any matters he could provide to you by way of assistance? A. Certainly not.
Q. In paragraph 14 of your statement, you refer to the fact that you were told by Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey when you were engaged that you must not speak to the media about the investigation?
A. Yes .
Q. He specifically mentioned Joanne McCarthy, on your recollection?
A. He did.
Q. Did he say particularly why she was somebody identified as someone you ought not speak to?
A. No, he didn't.
Q. Did you have any understanding as to why you ought not speak to her specifically?
A. I didn't have an understanding from him. However, I was aware of the article that had been published by her, so I put two and two together on that basis alone.
Q. The status of the investigation as "high1y protected", does that have any particular implication in terms of media involvement in the general course of matters being investigated by the NSW police force?
A. Yes, it does. It is not something to be disclosed to media and by the very fact it is a major investigation, it falls under a specific area of media policy in which
something like that shouldn't be spoken about to the media, except through our own corporate spokesperson who, at that stage would have been superintendent Max Mitchell, at that stage, or a nominated commissioned officer. It would be more appropriate - in fact, it would be entirely inappropriate for anyone other than the local area commander or the region commander, in my case, my direct commander, to speak to the media about this matter.
Q. There was nothing unusual in that particular instruction conveyed to you by Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey?
A. No.
Q. In paragraph 15 of your statement, I just want you to explain one particular comment you make there, which is the last sentence of paragraph 15. You state:

> It is my view that where a reasonab7e
> direction is issued by a senior officer as
> it relates to a highly protected
> investigation, extraneous issues could
> exist, however, it would have been
> inappropriate for me to question the
> judgment or direction of a senior police officer in such circumstances.

What do you mean by that statement?
A. If I've given a direction, it is on a need to know basis. A highly protected investigation is a need to know basis. If I needed to know, they would have told me. If there was aware of issues, I wasn't aware of them, but if they were and I was told, I respected what they told me.
Q. From your answer, can we take it that you subsequently found out there were some issues, but they weren't of relevance to you at that time?
A. That's correct.
Q. In paragraph 18 of your statement you deal with the question of a meeting that was held on 2 December 2010 where issues relating to Strike Force Lantle were discussed. It is evident from your statement you weren't present at that meeting and you're nodding yes?
A. Yes, that's correct.
Q. Do you now recall at what point you viewed the
annexure to your statement which is annexure A which is the minutes of that particular meeting?
A. I don't recall exactly what month I would have viewed it. It would have been early on.
Q. Early on in your review of the holdings of the Lantle brief?
A. That's correct.
Q. Did anyone draw to your attention there was any particular animosity or problem arising from the 2 December meeting?
A. No.
Q. When you read the investigator's note which is annexure A, was there anything in there that surprised you in terms of general police approach to investigations of this nature and background?
A. No.
Q. In paragraph 19 of your statement, you talk about there being no restriction placed upon you that prevented you from seeking to obtain any information from Detective Chief Inspector Fox. Can I ask you this question: When did you become aware that Detective Chief Inspector Fox was someone who had carried out at least some initial investigatory steps that were relevant to the material you were examining?
A. Look, the investigator's note for 2 December 2010 spoke fairly clearly that DCI Fox had an interest and wanted to continue an interest and was asked to disclose all information to the team. So it was basically from that point on.
Q. Did you form a view that all the information that Detective Chief Inspector Fox could provide had already been provided?
A. Yes. In fact, following the investigator's note, I had no other reason to believe it hadn't been provided. He had been asked and I had no other document or reason to believe he hadn't disclosed it.
Q. Because of issues that are relevant to the matter we're examining, I'11 just ask a few further questions on that subject matter. Did anybody discourage you from approaching Detective Chief Inspector Fox by way of making negative comments regarding his involvement in these
matters?
A. No. The only discouragement would have been a later investigator's note where he was actually nominated as being a possible leak in relation to information.
Q. That subsequent investigator's note, are you able to place that in time?
A. Yes. It was 14 Apri1 2011, from memory.
Q. That was subsequent to the decision on 2 December and the meeting where, as you read the investigator's note that we have just been referring to, Detective Chief Inspector Fox was advised that the investigation would be conducted at the Newcastle Local Area Command?
A. Yes, he was.
Q. In terms of one local area command, in this case, Newcastle, being allocated to run an investigation of this nature, is there anything unusual in that approach that one local area command will be in charge?
A. No. In fact, it would make sense that that was actually conducted by Newcastle because the concealed offences predominantly occurred in the Newcastle Local Area Command.
Q. Can I ask you when you first contacted Detective Chief Inspector Fox to see if there was anything further that he could assist you with and why you made that particular contact at that time?
A. Look, I recall there was a phone conversation between myself and DCI Fox on 15 February in which case - during which he gave me a phone number for (name suppressed) [BI] so I could actually speak with him. However --
Q. What year was that? Sorry to cut across you.
A. That would have been 2012. However, the first contact that I had with DCI Fox in relation to anything further was during April 2012..
Q. Was there any reason why you did not contact Detective Chief Inspector Fox earlier than February 2012?
A. No. As my understanding was, he had disclosed all the information. I had no other reason to believe that he hadn't.
Q. There were two separate drafts of the terms of reference for Strike Force Lantle; is that correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Are you able to assist with the date on which the first terms of reference became objective?
A. The first terms of reference would have become operative in October 12, 2010.
Q. And you've looked at records that form the basis for that view?
A. Yes.
Q. Here was an amendment to the term of reference the following year, was there?
A. Yes, there was.
Q. Are you able to assist with the date for those further amended terms of reference?
A. Yes. It was from the date that DI Jacob consulted with me and DI Parker on, from memory, 11 May 2011.
Q. The call in February 2012 with Detective Chief Inspector Fox that you refer to, forgive me if I missed the reason for the call, was that prompted by you or did the call come in to you?
A. No, it was a call dialled by Detective Inspector Parker and on our return trip from Sydney, return journey from Sydney. And that was simply to see, to ascertain whether there was absolutely any other information that DCI Fox may have been able to assist the investigation with to be absolutely clear that we had covered everything in relation to it.
Q. We're talking about February 2012; is that right?
A. I'm sorry, no. Sorry, which phone call are you talking about?
Q. I was talking about the February 2012 one.
A. Sorry, my mistake.
Q. We'll come back to the April phone calls. February 2012 you said you made contact or contact had been made with you?
A. I can't absolutely recall whether it was myself who contacted Detective Chief Inspector Fox or he contacted me initially, but the actual phone call to where I received that phone number, I can't recall how it came about, but he actually contacted me.
Q. The contact was out of the blue, as it were?
A. Again, I can't recall as to whether how that was precipitated but he did actually telephone me on that day.
Q. You did give some evidence about what you discussed. What was that matter that you discussed with him?
A. Essentially, I got a phone number for [BI].
Q. He was somebody you wanted to speak to?
A. Yes. I needed to ascertain something that relates to T2.
Q. You noted that on a date in April Detective Chief Inspector Parker and you made a phone call together?
A. Yes, we did.
Q. To Detective Chief Inspector Fox?
A. Yes.
Q. You've referred to at least one phone call in your statement. Can I ask you just to clarify the dates of these exchanges. Would you mind turning to annexure D of your statement, just to clarify some dates. Down the bottom of the page there's some pagination. This has got page 264 down the bottom centre of the page.
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Do you see that that appears to be email exchanges between you and Peter Fox? Peter Fox sent something directly to Detective Chief Inspector Parker. They appear to be dated 2 April 2012?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. It is not evident on those documents what prompted that email exchange. Are you able to assist with whether there was a phone call, a discussion, that prompted that email exchange on 2 April?
A. It would be hearsay what I'm going to say, but essentially Detective Inspector Parker informed me that he had a phone conversation with DCI Fox.
Q. There is no need to go any more detail. Detective Chief Inspector Parker will be called and he'll give evidence on that. You see at the bottom of 264 in the email of Detective Chief Inspector Fox to yourself and Detective Chief Inspector Parker, there is mention of
annexing a report that Detective Chief Inspector Fox said he sent to region in December 2010. I don't want you to go into any detail in relation to what was in the report, but can I ask you this question: are you able to say whether before 2 April you had read that particular report which, although it states was December, was a long report of 25 November 2010 authored by DCI Fox?
A. Yes ma'am, I had.
Q. Are you able to say when you had read that report? A. It was definitely in the early days and in fact that's evidenced by my reply to DCI Fox above on the same page.
Q. You reply above is as follows:

Hi Pete,
Yes, I have that report dated 25/11/10 and am aware of that passage. However, Graeme mentioned you interviewed CLARKE???
A. Correct.
Q. That doesn't, with respect, give you a clear indication as to how long before this particular date you read it?
A. Sure.
Q. It is your recollection, is it, that you read it some time before?
A. Yes.
Q. Are you able to say whether it was soon after you were engaged as officer in charge or you're just not able to identify?
A. No, it was soon after. I just can't say whether it was in the first few weeks or - it was some time in the first few weeks.
Q. In your hearing, did Detective Chief Inspector Parker say to Fox at any time that he had not read - "he" being Parker - the 25 November 2010 report before April 2012?
A. Sorry, had DI Parker?
Q. Had not read; did Parker say in your hearing that he had not read that report?
A. No, no, I didn't hear the conversation between him and Detective Chief Inspector Fox.
Q. In annexure B of your statement, there is an email from Detective Chief Inspector Fox to Detective Chief Inspector Parker and yourself attaching a summary of various matters. Do you see that?
A. This was on the date of? This is very, very --
Q. The date is 5 Apri1 2012 and it is annexure B to your statement.
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. The bottom half of page 252.
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. The text that I'm referring to is over the page, headed with the word "Graeme"?
A. Yes ma'am.
Q. It goes over to the following page as well. Is it fair to say that that's an outline that you and Detective Chief Inspector Parker received from Detective Chief Inspector Fox where he raised certain matters with you and Detective Chief Inspector Parker?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Did you form a plan as to how best to follow through those matters that had been raised? I don't want to you go into any detail about the subject matter, but just in terms of the plans if you prepared one or discussed one with Detective Chief Inspector Parker as to how you should deal with these matters that had been raised in this email from Detective Chief Inspector Fox?
A. Well, it was just something I took on board to do myself actually. I was a little bit surprised by the fact that we received this because we had a phone call the day before saying that he had nothing more; and yet, the next day we get this esoteric email saying or outlining the content of this particular email, so I actually took it upon myself to break that down, yes.
Q. Thank you for reminding me about the phone call. If the witness could be shown the term of reference 1 tender bundle, please. Tab 123. It is in volume 3.
A. 123?
Q. Volume 3, tab 123?
A. Sorry, yes. Diary entries?
Q. Yes, that's it. Behind tab 123 is your diary from 2012, an extract from it, I should say?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. There's an entry dated 4 Apri1 2012; do you see?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Is that your handwriting next to "12 noon"?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. Can you just read on to the record what you have notated there?
A. I had "12.08", which was the time of the phone call --
Q. Yes.
A. -- and the time he actually said this. I've got "PC", which stands for phone call, I've got "Parker to Fox", and then I've got - and this is by Fox:
"No. I've got nothing more. I didn't do an interview with Clarke. I only had an off the record chat to him that wasn't recorded."
Q. You put inverted commas around the statement from the word "No" to the word "recorded". Why is that?
A. Because that's exactly what he said at the time he said it. I was sitting in the passenger's seat and I wrote it down immediately to make sure nothing was lost in translation.
Q. Why did you do that?
A. To have a clear and concise record of what was said, to place that on the record on the database for later reference should it be required.
Q. I'm just going to ask you to turn back to your statement paragraph 24. You make the comment that you wanted to make sure you'd exhausted all available avenues of investigation and you also wanted to ensure that any information in the possession of Detective Chief Inspector Fox, whether by way of documentation or otherwise, had been disclosed. My question is: did you by this time, that is, April 2012, become aware there had been some previous issues regarding disclosure of documentation or it's just your terminology in that paragraph?
A. That's just my terminology.
Q. You had no reason to expect or suspect that Detective Chief Inspector Fox was holding back any information that you needed?
A. No. In fact, that was part of my investigation plan, it was to in fact contact Detective Chief Inspector Fox in the interview investigation to ensure that in fact $I$ hadn't missed anything along the way.
Q. I'm going to ask you to turn to annexure E of your statement, which is the text of an email you sent and the reply provided by Detective Chief Inspector Fox. Perhaps for completeness, before we go to that annexure E, if you wouldn't mind looking at your initiating email, which is behind tab $D$ and it's got "page 269" down the bottom centre.
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. That's an emai1, it appears, from you to Detective Chief Inspector Fox where you have copied in Graeme Parker and John Gralton?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Can you outline who John Gralton is?
A. John Gralton is actually my commander in the Newcastle LAC.
Q. Why did you include him in this particular email?
A. Because this is a fairly significant investigation for the local area command. Whilst it is complex, it certainly has a high community concern and a corporate risk. So essentially, based on that alone, the fact it was a major investigation, it's only prudent and proper that he should be kept across the progress of that investigation and where it is at.
Q. This email was sent to Detective Chief Inspector Fox at 6.45am on 10 April 2012 --
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. -- according to the entry at the top there; is that correct?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Over the page, you outline certain matters where you request specific responses from Detective Chief Inspector

Fox about matters he had raised in his previous summary email?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. I don't want you to go into the content of the matters you raised for various reasons, but why did you do this by way of email in particular?
A. As I've actually said there, I wanted to make sure it was properly and thoroughly clarified and not lost in translation. What I mean by that I need to have a record I like to operate with facts - and I wanted to make sure that what I was operating on was clearly and concisely what he in fact told me. Those are his answers, not my interpretation.
Q. I'm going to get you to turn to annexure E. There's some water in the witness box. Please take a break and pour yourself a glass.

Do you recollect that Detective Chief Inspector Fox actually sent a reply to you where his replies were interspersed with your questions in red type?
A. Yes, they were.
Q. Would it assist you to look at a copy that's actually in colour of those matters?
A. It most certainly would.
Q. I'11 just hand that up to you for your particular use. I'm going to go to only some matters as certain parts of what's recorded may well either be irrelevant to our terms of reference or relating to matters that don't need to be and ought not be pursued at least in your evidence today.

In broad terms, were the questions that you posed answered in a way that allowed you to satisfy yourself that there were no other channels of inquiry that you ought to pursue based on matters raised by Detective Chief Inspector Fox?
A. Just to be complete with that answer, yes, ultimately, yes. I did follow a line, but ultimately, yes.
Q. Was the line to do with an allegation about a brief having been prepared regarding former Bishop Malone?
A. That was one concern that I followed - make that two items I followed. I followed an interview with --
Q. Let's just deal with the Bishop Malone brief issue. In the answers provided by Detective Chief Inspector Fox, which occur under question 3.1, and just ahead of where question 4 is entered in your document there; do you see that?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. There is a paragraph commencing with "I did prepare a brief against Bishop Malone..."; do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. And:
... and spoke to the ODPP but we decided against charging him on the basis of keeping him \& others on-side to give evidence against Fletcher.
A. Yes.
Q. Did that statement by Detective Chief Inspector Fox lead you to believe that there was in fact a formal brief prepared by him regarding those matters?
A. Absolutely.
Q. Did you go and look for the brief?
A. Ultimately, yes.
Q. Did you find one?
A. No.
Q. Did you follow up with Detective Chief Inspector Fox on that particular issue subsequently?
A. I tried to.
Q. Have a look - we might as well finish off on that particular issue while we're looking at it - at annexure F to your statement.
A. Yes.
Q. Do you see that's an email from you to Detective Chief Inspector Fox dated 3 May 2012?
A. Yes, I just can't read the text, though. It is fairly blurry.
Q. All right. Can you read it sufficiently to make that out? If you can't, I'll pass up --
A. I actually can't.
Q. Just for the officer's assistance, I'11 pass up annexure $F$ from my copy.
A. Thank you. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Do you see that's an email from you to Detective Chief Inspector Fox?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Dated 3 May 2012?
A. Yes.
Q. The purpose of that email is to chase up where this brief may be and where you would be able to find relevant entries in the NSW Police Force records?
A. Most definitely.
Q. And you didn't receive any reply to this email; is that the position?
A. That's correct.
Q. Did it subsequently come to your attention that there was a reason why you didn't receive a reply?
A. Yes. I actually made follow-up inquiries to try and contact DCI Fox and found he was actually on sick leave.
Q. Could you just turn up that --

MR SKINNER: I didn't hear that answer, Commissioner. I wonder whether we could hear it again.

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Are you able to render it again, sergeant, or will we have it read back?
A. Absolutely, ma'am. I tried to follow up on whether in relation to this with DCI Fox; however, I found out he was on sick leave.

MR SKINNER: Thank you.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MS LONERGAN: Q. Did you subsequently become aware of the reason why or a reason why you didn't receive any particular email reply at least from Detective Chief Inspector Fox?
A. Just the fact that he was on sick leave, ma'am.
Q. And that's your understanding as to the position?
A. Yes.
Q. Just for your assistance, would you mind having a look at tab 132 of volume 3 of the bundle of material.
A. 132?
Q. 132. Do you see, right at the top of the first page that appears behind that tab, you've copied in Ma'am York recording that particular email that you sent to DCI Fox?
A. Yes.
Q. You stated as follows:

I did receive a response, however, when tested, nothing of substance emanated.

You go on to say:
I had attempted to elicit response to
further [questions], however, his email bounced back.
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. :

I made [inquiries] at that point and ascertained he was off on sick report.
A. Exactly.
Q. In your experience, if an officer's inbox gets over-full, you can have a situation where an email bounces back and it does not in fact reach the inbox of the officer?
A. That's correct, it's automated.
Q. Have you been informed by any reliable source that that's in fact what happened here, or you're only able to state as much as you have with this particular email?
A. What's happened - that the emai 1 bounced back or --
Q. Whether Detective Chief Inspector Fox ever received the email or whether that email itself in fact bounced back?
A. No, that email, he wouldn't have received it because the email, the fact that it bounced back from my recollection his inbox was full and that was the result of him being on sick leave and it would have filled up fairly quickly.
Q. In your view, he would not have received that email?
A. That's correct.
Q. Probably?
A. Correct.
Q. Did you have any opportunity to telephone him subsequent to learning he was on sick report to ask him any further questions about that particular matter; that is, the brief of evidence that is alleged to have existed regarding former Bishop Malone?
A. No, because on his return from that particular stint of sick leave, he'd taken another stint of sick leave. So I didn't get that opportunity.
Q. It is not appropriate for an officer to contact an officer on sick leave; is that correct?
A. Certainly not.
Q. You mentioned there was another matter that you followed through from the material that had been raised by Detective Chief Inspector Fox in his email responses to you. What was that?
A. That was an interview with another member of the clergy.
Q. There's no need to go into detail about which member of the clergy that was, but may we take it that it was helpful for you to have that information from Detective Chief Inspector Fox so you could pursue that line of inquiry?
A. It was a line of inquiry but nothing emanated from it, no.
Q. But you were able to satisfy yourself that a further line of inquiry that had been suggested would be pursued and inquiry completed?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you articulate what line of inquiry that was? Was that about Bishop Clarke?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. In paragraph 31 of your statement, detective sergeant, you outline the amount of material that you collated to comprise the brief of evidence that resulted from your investigations in Strike Force Lantle?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. It is not appropriate for us to go into any details about the content of that material, but you have observed that the brief of evidence was 2,970 pages in total and you prepared a 255-page executive summary that summarised that material in the brief in the evidence?
A. That's correct, ma'am.
Q. And you conducted some 19 records of interview; does that sound about right?
A. I think it was probably in the early 20s, ma'am, initially.
Q. You are satisfied that you followed through appropriately the matters that Detective Chief Inspector Fox raised as items that were worth pursuing to the extent they were relevant to the term of reference of Strike Force Lantle?
A. I did.

MS LONERGAN: Those are my questions, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Cohen?
MR SAIDI: I omitted, although I understood it to be the case, that this witness would be noted as taking advantage of the provisions of section 23.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Saidi. That is noted. Thank you.

## <EXAMINATION BY MR COHEN:

MR COHEN: Q. In your statement, you have given evidence about a number of matters concerning Detective Chief
Inspector Fox. You have identified, in particular at paragraph 24, as you put it, you wanted to ensure that you had exhausted all available avenues of investigation. Do you see that?
A. Sure.
Q. You go on to say:

I also wanted to ensure that any information in the possession of [DCI] Fox ... had been disclosed.

Do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. That speaks as at Apri1 2012, does it not?
A. Yes, it does.
Q. You became the officer in charge of Strike Force Lantle in approximately April 2011, did you not?
A. No.
Q. I see. When did you become the officer in charge?
A. December 2010.
Q. Could you explain to the Commissioner, then, why you waited 15 months to make a contact of this type to Detective Chief Inspector Fox?
A. As stated earlier, it was part of my investigation plan. I had no other reason to contact DCI Fox prior to that.
Q. You say you wanted to be sure, in effect, at the end of the process that you, to put in the vernacular, had shaken the trees, but wouldn't it be more appropriate to do it at the beginning rather than the end of the process?
A. No.
Q. No?
A. No.
Q. How could you be sure you had received all the material information that you believed might be out there if you didn't do it at the beginning of process?
A. Because Mr Cohen, as I said earlier, the investigator's note from 2 December 2010 indicated he had been asked to hand over all information to the team, disclose all information to the team. I had no other information to suggest that he hadn't handed over that information.
Q. Well, you're just making an assumption there was
nothing else, having read a report by a third party; is that right?
A. It is not an assumption. It is based on the investigator's note.
Q. I see. That was then Detective Sergeant Quinn, wasn't it?
A. That's correct.
Q. He had already left the force by then, I take it; is that right?
A. No.
Q. No?
A. No.
Q. Did you speak to him about the investigator's note?
A. No, I didn't need to.
Q. Is it not a good idea to have at least a corridor conversation with a colleague about the gist of such matters?
A. I didn't need to speak to him about the investigator's note.
Q. That wasn't an answer to my question. Isn't it a good idea at least to have a corridor conversation with him?
A. Well, I didn't speak to him about the investigator's note.
Q. I think we're at cross-purposes. I'm asking you: isn't it a good idea to have a conversation about such matters with a colleague who is in the same proximity, the same building, and able to give you any bits of information that may be useful?
A. If there's something to converse about, yes.
Q. So you decided there was nothing, did you?
A. In relation to that investigator's note, no.
Q. On the face of the document alone?
A. Yes.
Q. And that's where it began and ended, was it, as far as you were concerned?
A. I don't understand what you're asking me.
Q. Well, you looked at the document. The document spoke for itself. There was nothing else to be discussed. Is that the long and short of it?
A. That's correct.
Q. There could be no other source of information available to you than what was disclosed in that way; is that right?
A. I was satisfied with what was in that document.
Q. Isn't that being just a bit bureaucratic about the approach?

MR SAIDI: I object. The terms of reference relate to whether or not DCI Fox was asked to cease investigating. It does not go into whether or not this police officer adequately, improperly or negligently investigated during the course of Strike Force Lantle. The Strike Force Lantle material is material which is specifically not coming before this inquiry for investigation or in terms of any information to be provided. The issue of relevance clearly arises.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you Mr Saidi. Your question I think Mr Cohen, was?

MR COHEN: "Isn't that approach just a bit bureaucratic in the circumstances?"

THE COMMISSIONER: Bureaucratic. I don't think it is particularly helpful to me, Mr Cohen. Perhaps you could put precisely why it was that you suggest it may have been propitious for the witness to speak to Mr Quinn.

MR COHEN: Thank you, Commissioner. I'll approach it this way.
Q. You don't exclude the possibility, do you detective sergeant, that there might be some other information you just don't know about that, notwithstanding your assumption that there wasn't, that there was something unaware, to you, that was in the possession of somebody else, like Detective Sergeant Quinn, for example?
A. No, because the holdings for that investigation would have been provided to me by DCI Humphrey. I had no reason to believe that Detective Senior Sergeant Quinn would have held any of those holdings. It is not normal business.
Q. I beg your pardon?
A. It is not normal business.
Q. If something is not on the holdings, it doesn't exist;
is that your proposition?
A. If it is not in the holdings or e@gle.i, that's correct - at that particular time at that station, yes.
Q. No other holdings - no chance that there could be information outside the holdings that could be of any use to you; is that right?
A. That's not what I said.
Q. Well, what do you mean?
A. I followed up my investigation to get what I needed for that investigation. I didn't need to speak to Detective Senior Sergeant Quinn in relation to that investigator's note.
Q. Is that because you'd already spoken to Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey?
A. I had spoken to Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey when he handed the brief of evidence over to me.
Q. My question was: was that because you had spoken to Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey?
A. Was what because I'd spoken to him?
Q. That there was no other person to whom you needed to speak?
A. That doesn't make sense because that's part of my investigation, is to speak to people.
Q. You got your briefing initially, didn't you, from Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. He provided you with a verbal briefing, I take it?
A. Yes, he did.
Q. It wasn't just a desktop note?
A. No.
Q. It wasn't just an investigator's note?
A. No.
Q. All right. If can you get information from Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey in that fashion, why not, for example, from Detective Sergeant Quinn?
A. Well, I didn't say I didn't receive any information from Detective Sergeant Quinn, but I had no need to speak to him about that investigator's note.
Q. You just exclude on any basis any possibility of him having information or some other third party beyond Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey having some information?
A. I hadn't excluded anybody.
Q. You just didn't need to speak to anybody?
A. Not in relation to that investigator's note, no.
Q. This discussion that was had with Detective Chief Inspector Fox that you've referred to that was in February of 2012, it was a case of you wanted information - I'm sorry, excuse me, detective sergeant. I just need to stop and ask the Commissioner something.

MR COHEN: Reference has been made to a name. I'm not quite sure whether or not that name is in the course of this investigation properly anonymised or not. Before I inadvertently step on a landmine, can I check to see if that's the case. The name used before - excuse me can I have the benefit of a discussion with Ms Lonergan?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

## (Mr Cohen and Ms Lonergan confer)

MR COHEN: Q. You're clearly not aware of this process, detective sergeant, but there are a series of pseudonyms used to anonymise persons. You made reference to a name that name is the subject of the a pseudonym. Do you have a list of pseudonyms with you in the witness box?
A. Yes.
Q. Number 32, if I could assist you to direct your attention to that. I'm sorry if this appears a little strange, but we just need to be careful how we treat this. I think you'11 understand why.
A. Sure.
Q. Do you see the reference to the pseudonym applied to the name that's on the list as number 32?
A. Yes.
Q. That's the person who whom you referred earlier, isn't it?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. The pseudonym there is [BI].
A. That's correct.
Q. Having established that much, we can refer to him in that way in this discussion.

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, may I get a non-publication order over the name that was previously uttered and ask that the pseudonym [BI] be substituted, please.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you. I make a non-publication order in relation to the name previously uttered and substitute it with the pseudonym [BI].

MR COHEN: Thank you, Commissioner, for allowing me to set the scene.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MR COHEN: Q. Detective sergeant, the reference you made in your evidence earlier was to the person we will refer to as [BI]. In the context of your conversation with Detective Chief Inspector Fox in February 2012, you made the contact by telephone to him, didn't you?
A. Well, all I can recall is he contacted me and gave me that particular person's phone number.
Q. Isn't it the case that in fact you contacted him? You were looking for the phone number for [BI] and, having called him, you asked him for that number and he gave it to you; isn't that right?
A. I don't recall actually asking him for anything, but I could have asked him for a contact of some description, yes.
Q. The situation was that you didn't know how to contact [BI] and you had been told by some third party that DCI Fox could assist you in that endeavour. That's what happened, isn't it?
A. I don't know where you get that from.
Q. Pardon me?
A. I don't know where you get that from because $I$ have no recollection of that.
Q. If you have no recollection, it is entirely possible it happened that way, isn't it?
A. I don't believe it did.
Q. I see. You have no recollection but you don't believe it did; is that right?

MR SAIDI: He said he had no recollection of that occurring.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR COHEN: Q. Let me put it to you that that's what did happen. When you made the contact, Detective Chief Inspector Fox obliged with providing the information you sought; isn't that happened?
A. He did give me a phone number, that's correct.
Q. Sorry?
A. Yes, he gave me a phone number. That's what I said, yes.
Q. There was no reluctance to help, was there?
A. No.

MR COHEN: Excuse me, Commissioner, I just need a moment.
The further redacted statement we received in morning has excised a great dollop of material. I just need to, if I may, have a moment to rejig my approach.
Q. You make reference in paragraph 25 to annexure C. It is the case that annexure $C$ has been redacted out. It doesn't exist, but you do, nonetheless, have evidence there to the effect that you prepared a document headed "Executive summary"; is that right?
A. That's correct.
Q. Who was the executive for whom you were summarising? A. I'm not sure I should be answering that if it's been redacted.
Q. That question is perfectly open. I don't hear any objections. Perhaps you could answer it.

MR SAIDI: Let me formally object, Commissioner.
I understand that material in that annexure is confidential. I rise to my feet, but I'11 leave it to counsel assisting as to whether or not it should proceed.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Saidi.
MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, our submission is that that question would be permissible but any question that requests any information about the content other than what's revealed already in that paragraph in relation to Detective Chief Inspector Fox would not be permissible.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Ms Lonergan.
Q. In that case, sergeant, would you answer the question.
A. It was for Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas.

MR COHEN: Q. That occurred in late September 2012?
A. Yes.
Q. Was that a consequence of the fact that there was a public meeting in early September 2012 sponsored by the Newcastle Herald called "Shine the Light"?
A. Part thereof, yes.
Q. Sorry?
A. Part thereof.
Q. What was the other part that wasn't thereof?
A. I was requested to provide a summary.
Q. Of what?
A. Of my dealings with Mr Fox prior to Mr Kaldas visiting Mr Fox.
Q. You dropped your voice right at the end. Prior to who visiting?
A. Prior to Deputy Commissioner Kaldas conversing with

DCI Fox, he required a summary in relation to my dealings with him in relation to this job.
Q. I see. That was prior to Deputy Commissioner Kaldas extending an apology to Detective Chief Inspector Fox, was it?
A. You'd have to ask Mr Kaldas about that.
Q. Yes. Can I draw your attention, if I may, to your paragraph in your statement 29?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you see that refers to the email to which you were taken by my learned friend Ms Lonergan which is, I believe, behind tab 132. Do you recall that document to which you were taken?
A. Yes.
Q. This paragraph refers to it. Your evidence in that paragraph is that you sent a further email, you annexed a copy of the email, which is annexure $F$, and then you say you did not get a response to it. That's just a little disingenuous, isn't it?
A. I don't understand your question.
Q. Well, isn't it the case that you were aware at the time that you didn't get a response to it because the email didn't arrive? Isn't that right?
A. I said I didn't get a reply because it wouldn't have been received by DCI Fox. I gave that in evidence.
Q. Isn't it just a little disingenuous to say you didn't get a response when in fact you did and the response was that the email didn't get there?
A. Yes, and I would have evidenced that by attaching the email saying it bounced back.
Q. You didn't say that in your paragraph. What stopped you saying, "I didn't get a response because the email didn't arrive"?
A. I didn't get a response.
Q. I'11 put the question one more time. It's just a bit disingenuous to put it that way, isn't it?
A. No, it's true. I didn't get a response.
Q. It is true as far as it goes, isn't it?

MR SAIDI: Commissioner, there's a limit to how many times my friend can keep asking the same question when he is getting the same answer.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. You've made your point, I think, Mr Cohen.

MR COHEN: I am indebted to you, Commissioner. I get the message. I shall carry on. Excuse me, Commissioner, I'm just checking my notes.
Q. In an answer you gave to Ms Lonergan, when she was putting a question to you about whether or not Detective Inspector Parker said that he had not read the report by DCI Fox of 25 October 2010, I would like to check your response because, as $I$ heard it, it was slightly equivocal. Did you say in response to my learned friend's question that "No, he did not say it"; or "No, I did not hear the conversation."
A. First of all, that report wasn't 25 October 2012. It was 25 November 2012. I said that I actually didn't hear that conversation.
Q. That was your evidence?
A. With DCI Fox.
Q. So there was no hearing. Thank you; I'm grateful for that. The conversation about which this arose in the first instance was after an email that had been provided by Detective Chief Inspector Fox to Superintendent Gralton, was it not.

MS LONERGAN: There's a lack of clarity about what conversation is being referred to. The only conversation on the table at the moment is the one that this witness did not hear. Could that be clarified.

MR COHEN: I take my learned friend's point.
Q. The questioning Ms Lonergan put to you, if I can summarise, in the Parker conversation with Detective Chief Inspector Fox, was the conversation, was it not, in the motor vehicle; is that correct? No?
A. In relation to the report?
Q. Yes.
A. No.
Q. I'm sorry, I beg your pardon. The conversation that was held by Detective Chief Inspector Fox and Detective Chief Inspector Parker in the motor vehicle when you were travelling back from Sydney in April 2011, was it?
A. 2012 .
Q. 2012, sorry. That arose a matter of days after a communication by Detective Chief Inspector Fox to Superintendent Gralton asking about the status of the investigation and whether or not he was permitted to have further access, was it not?
A. Sorry, he was permitted to have?
Q. Further access to --
A. I can't remember. I think that was probably March, there was a conversation, as I understand, with Superintendent Gralton.
Q. There was an email?
A. I'm not aware of that, I don't believe.
Q. I see.
A. If there was, I don't recall it. If I see the document, $I$ can talk to it.
Q. Thank you, detective sergeant. The document to which you were referred at tab 123 in the evidence that Ms Lonergan led from you was, as I understand your evidence, and please correct me if I am wrong, a transcription of a comment made by DCI Fox during the course of that conversation while you were in the car listening; is that right?
A. I was part of that conversation, yes. I was listening also.
Q. Did you transcribe anything else beyond that conversation that you recorded?
A. No, no.
Q. As far as understand it, that's an accurate recording of what you heard?
A. 100 per cent, yes.
Q. Do you understand that what you give evidence about there could easily be characterised as interpretation of a type to which you earlier eschewed in your evidence?
A. That is exactly what he said and I wrote it down as he said it. I have absolutely no question in my mind that that's 100 per cent what he said.
Q. But I'm not asking you that question. What I'm asking you about is whether or not your approach to what it means
could indeed be the sort of interpretation that you purport to eschew?
A. I don't understand what you're asking, sorry.
Q. Have a look at tab 123 in volume 3 of the bundle.

Take a moment or two to look at it and read it and absorb its context and meaning. This is recorded as your
travelling in the car. You were passenger presumably, not the driver?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you see:
"No I've got nothing more. I didn't do an interview with CLARKE. I only had an off the record chat with him that wasn't recorded."

That's what you've written?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you accept the context of that is he's got nothing more about Clarke, not that he's got nothing more, full stop?
A. No.
Q. It must be so, surely?
A. No.
Q. This is one sentence spoken without pause.
A. The thing was the question was --
Q. No, no, just answer the question?
A. I'm trying to, if you'11 let me answer the question. He was asked by --
Q. No, please, detective?
A. He was asked by Detective Inspector Parker if he had anything further, to which he said "No, I've got nothing more" and the rest of it.
Q. Would you attend to my question, sergeant. This is recorded as one undivided answer to a question, is it not? A. Yes.
Q. There's no pause, there's no full stop:
"No I've got nothing more. I didn't do an interview with CLARKE. I only had an off the record chat with him that wasn't recorded.

In one sentence, was it?
A. Two, not one; "that wasn't recorded", correct.
Q. Said in one undivided sentence without pause?
A. Yes.

MS LONERGAN: Three sentences, Mr Cohen.
MR COHEN: Q. One undivided phrase without pause; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. Let me put it to you, detective sergeant, you're misconstruing what the meaning of that sentence is, aren't you?
A. No.
Q. And the meaning was that he had nothing more about Clarke?
A. No.
Q. If there's nothing else than your approach to this and your construction, surely you would have recorded Detective Chief Inspector Parker's question, wouldn't you?
A. Well, I did.
Q. Did you?
A. Yes.
Q. Where?
A. In the investigator's note on the same day, as I believe, yes.
Q. No, I mean at the time?
A. It's still contemporaneous.
Q. You indicated you wrote this down to be sure about it, didn't you?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. Wouldn't it have been appropriate at the same time to write down the question as well?
A. I needed to hear exactly what - I wrote down exactly what he said as he said it. The other was just from my recollection and I did an investigator's note on the same day, as I recalled it.
Q. So you were poised ready to write down everything that fell from Detective Chief Inspector Fox's mouth via the speakerphone in the car?
A. Poised ready to write down anything that was relevant. That's what I did.
Q. Doesn't that mean the question from Detective Chief Inspector Parker was also relevant?
A. That's why $I$ recorded it in the investigator's note.
Q. Why didn't you record it at the time?
A. I recorded it in the IN.
Q. Why didn't you record at the time?
A. I didn't need to record everything. That's an aide-memoire for me and $I$ used it as an aide-memoire for the investigator's note. I don't need to do anything more. I did what was required and I did that.
Q. It is good enough to rely on your memory unaided as to the question, but you had to write down everything that Detective Chief Inspector Fox said, did you?
A. It was good enough for me to rely on for that investigator's note, 100 per cent, yes.
Q. Isn't that a one-sided, lopsided way of approaching this?
A. No.

MR COHEN: I notice the time, Commissioner. Are we still sitting to according to the --

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. As you've raised it, I think it was proposed that we may sit on until 4.30 this afternoon unless there are any vehement objections. Perhaps anyone who has such an objection can raise it with me when we resume. 20 minutes, Mr Cohen.

MR COHEN: Thank you very much, Commissioner.
SHORT ADJOURNMENT

MR COHEN: Q. Just before the adjournment, earlier I put some questions to you about the conversation in February of 2012 and I understand that we have a point of difference about the gist about it, but the conversation, however it arose, was about [BI], was it not, and seeking access to [BI] by way of getting his telephone number; is that right?
A. He provided a number for [BI], yes.
Q. And did you ring it?

MS LONERGAN: I object, Commissioner. For reasons that we've been over previously, questions that go to who was interviewed in the content of the Lantle investigation are not necessary to further examine for the purposes of your inquiry, Commissioner, and also ought not be gone to.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you Ms Lonergan. Do you understand, Mr Cohen?

MR COHEN: I certainly do. I'm not seeking to descend into any of the detail, and I certainly understand the sensitivity, I can assure you of that, Commissioner. I just want to understand, at threshold, one matter. I'11 put it this way.
Q. Allow me to put this question and can $I$ say this to you, Detective Sergeant Little, I'm going to phrase a question for the Commissioner to consider, please don't respond it. Allow the Commissioner to consider it before it is answered, if it is answered at all. The question I want to put is: was any opportunity taken to make contact with [BI] after receipt of information of how to make contact?

THE COMMISSIONER: There's no objection to just that question and answer being given?

MS LONERGAN: No, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. It can be answered.
MR COHEN: Q. Do you have the question?
A. Did I contact [BI]?
Q. Yes.
A. Yes.
Q. You did?
A. Yes.
Q. And that happened around about February of 2012, did it?

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, may I raise an objection that any further questions would be inappropriate. The question that has already been asked as to whether contact was made using the information provided by Detective Chief Inspector Fox appears to be the limit of usefulness to the, matters unique to this review, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you, Ms Lonergan.
Mr Cohen. We have that the witness made use of the information provided by Detective Chief Inspector Fox. Isn't that sufficient for your purposes?

MR COHEN: I just wanted to fix it as to a time. Again, I don't want to descend into details. I want to understand when that occurred. Unless you, Commissioner are prepared to draw inferences about when that happened.

THE COMMISSIONER: I would infer that it must have occurred after the telephone call was provided from the answer that has been given, but --

MR COHEN: I'm content with that.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Cohen.
MR COHEN: If you're satisfied, I'm content with that.
THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Would that be an inaccurate inference, Detective Sergeant Little?
A. No, ma'am.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Cohen.
MR COHEN: Given the very evident and stringent constraints to which I'm entirely alive, Commissioner, I have no further questions.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you Mr Cohen. Mr Terracini?
MR TERRACINI: I have no questions, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: I expect that Mr Gyles, Ms Needham and Mr Skinner have no questions.

MR SKINNER: May I just say this, Commissioner. I understand that Detective Sergeant Little is coming back for the second term of reference.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS LONERGAN: That's right.
MR SKINNER: I'11 leave my questioning until then.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Skinner. Yes, Mr Saidi?
MR SAIDI: Commissioner, Ms Lonergan had placed in front of the witness a coloured document. That hasn't been tendered. Could I ask counsel assisting if it is intended to be tendered and could I make a request that it be tendered.

THE COMMISSIONER: The pseudonym list, Mr Saidi? Is that what you mean?

MR SAIDI: That's the response that was provided to the list of questions, the answer and the comments made by the witness.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, that's in fact an annexure to Detective Sergeant Little's statement. It was simply provided in that form --

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 25.
MS LONERGAN: -- to assist the witness in delineating what parts were in red type, which were Detective Chief Inspector Fox's replies and what parts were in blue type which were his questions. There's nothing additional or different in that colour copy that was provided to the witness that is any different from the copy that's annexed to the witness's statement.

THE COMMISSIONER: Except the colours.

MS LONERGAN: Except the colours.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Ms Lonergan.
Mr Saidi, does that satisfy you or would you like to have a coloured copy?

MR SAIDI: I was going to suggest a coloured copy formally. I don't have the coloured copy. I don't know whether anyone else has had access to the coloured copy, but the coloured copy is certainly much more easily able to be understood, managed, et cetera.

THE COMMISSIONER: No doubt it can be reproduced perhaps not immediately, but --

MS LONERGAN: Yes, Commissioner. That's a good suggestion by Mr Saidi. Because of the limited access to colour Copying here, we will pursue that course and parties can be provided with a copy of that. The document will need to be carefully redacted for reasons I've already outlined.

There had been a request by the press to have exhibit 25 released to them. If all present at the Bar table could consider whether they have any objections to the redacted version of that document being provided, could they let me know by 2 pm . I will tender the coloured copy of the email exchange just so that it will be readily identified as exhibit 26.

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 26 will be the coloured copy of the email exchange.

## EXHIBIT \#26 COLOURED COPY OF EMAIL EXCHANGE

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Saidi?
<EXAMINATION BY MR SAIDI:
MR SAIDI: Q. Detective, I think with all due respect to you, you have been somewhat humble in terms of your experience and past experience as an investigator. I would like to draw that out a bit more from you if I can. You're aware, as I approach this, that some suggestion was made on the part of the Detective Chief Inspector Fox about you having had limited experience when you came into Strike Force Lantle?
A. I am.
Q. In terms of your experience, you've been involved in a number of very substantial investigations, have you not?
A. I have.
Q. Both in Australia and overseas?
A. Correct.
Q. Could you tell the Commission the nature and extent of your involvement in these investigations in the overseas context?
A. I guess, to start with, in relation to overseas, I investigated human rights atrocities in East Timor as a result of war, as a result of pro-independence actions. I investigated a number of massacres while I was there, the massacre of human innocent civilians.
Q. Coming back to Australia, in terms of your experience in investigations, did you have experience prior to taking up Strike Force Lantle in terms of sexual assault matters?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you give us some idea of that experience?
A. Yes. I actually ran, for a period of time, from 12 to 18 months, a criminal investigation and quasi sexual assault unit as a result of the volume that we had in the Barrier Local Area Command. I think there's some misconception in relation to the work in general duties in fact performed prior to me ever assuming a role in a plainclothes position or a criminal investigative position. I conducted a two-year investigation in relation to a multitude of sexual assaults during the early 1990s, which I actually received a commendation for. As a result of the sexual assault investigations, I managed a lot of those as well in Barrier Local Area Command. And I think that pretty much answers that part of the question, sir.
Q. In terms of your involvement in sexual abuse allegations - and I can assure you I won't make the same mistake I made when asking Mr Jacob questions about his sexual experience. I will qualify yours as to your investigative experience - was it in terms of a managerial role in terms of investigations?
A. In relation to?
Q. An advisory and a managerial role?
A. Yes.
Q. You were responsible for supervising other police officers when carrying out those sexual abuse investigations?
A. Correct.
Q. Coming back to your overseas experience, was that in a supervisory and managerial role as well?
A. It was actually a hands-on and supervisory role, yes.
Q. In terms of any suggestion made, you're aware of these suggestions by Detective Chief Inspector Fox, that you had limited experience coming into Strike Force Lantle; what do you say about that?
A. I was disappointed by the comment.
Q. Detective Chief Inspector Fox has indicated that you worked in uniform in the same local area command at a point of time when he was working there?
A. That's true.
Q. You worked there for a period of some months, according to your evidence today?
A. Correct.
Q. Did you work directly with him upon any investigation of any kind?
A. No, I did not.
Q. At any stage did he approach you and ask you for information relating to what your experience was in terms of investigating serious crime?
A. Never.
Q. Prior to your completion of Strike Force Lantle, did Detective Chief Inspector Fox, on any occasion, approach you and ask you about your experience in terms of conducting investigations?
A. At no stage.
Q. Or as an investigative officer?
A. At no stage.
Q. I want to ask you about a specific matter and it relates to the term "Catholic mafia". Had you heard that term whilst conducting Strike Force Lantle, from your
perspective?
A. Not until this Commission.
Q. Was there any indication that you can tell the Commissioner about whilst you were working on Strike Force Lantle about any steps taken by any person, whether police officer or otherwise, to discourage you from carrying out your functions?
A. Absolutely none.
Q. In terms of the resources of the strike force, to what extent were you satisfied as to it being resourced?
A. Satisfied.
Q. In terms of the assistance provided by you or to you by other police officers, what can you tell the Commissioner about that?
A. It was provided when it was requested.
Q. Let me ask you this question - you may find it offensive, but I need to ask it - it has been suggested that Strike Force Lantle was set up to fail. What do you say about that?
A. I was absolutely mortified by those comments.
Q. Was there any indication of any kind that you can point to the Commissioner which would lead one to suspect that Strike Force Lantle was set up to fail?

MR COHEN: I object. It is a question for you, Commissioner.

MR SAIDI: It is a question for his knowledge.
THE COMMISSIONER: I will allow it.
THE WITNESS: Absolutely to the contrary.
MR SAIDI: Q. Why do you say "to the contrary"?
A. Because if it was set up to be a sham and set up to fail, I wouldn't have had the two things that Detective Chief Inspector Fox didn't have, and that was the support of my superiors - because I wasn't operating in secret, and I was being honest and I was recording things - and a plan.

MR COHEN: I object.

THE COMMISSIONER: What's your objection?
MR COHEN: There are a whole series of value judgments and opinions being wrapped up in the purported answer to that question which, in my respectful submission, can't assist you. Those value judgments are a matter for you, Commissioner - no-one else. You're the determiner; you are the evaluator and determiner of such questions, no-one else in this Commission can do that. It is a matter for you to report. You'11 have assistance from counsel assisting, you'll have submissions from various counsel, but you decide those questions - no-one else.

If I may respectfully submit, it is no different from the notion, as is often the case in civil law matters, where it is asserted that there can be probative evidence provided by witnesses about what other practitioners do, that, routinely, judges have decided that's a matter for them, not for the impressions of others.

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, could I be heard on this?
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS LONERGAN: It is a matter for you to weigh the evidence which includes opinions of, in this case, a number of experienced officers about matters that they have observed or done. It is completely appropriate that the evidence be received and it can be weighed accordingly at a later time. It is not a question of ultimate issue and therefore a witness can't give evidence about the ultimate issue, that's not relevant to the matters or the approach we need to take to examining these matters before you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. I regard it as Detective Sergeant Little's opinion, Mr Cohen, and I don't think the answer was in any way objectionable.

MR COHEN: If the court pleases?
MR SAIDI: $Q$ could you start your answer again rather than finish it half or part of the way through?
A. Sure. As I said, I believe it was to the contrary in relation to it being set up to fail. I had the two things that DCI Fox didn't have, which was the support of my superiors, and because I wasn't operating in secret, I recorded things. I didn't operate on speculation or any
manipulation of the truth.
MR COHEN: I object. These are the very evaluative judgments that only you can make, Commissioner. This is a platform to attack Detective Chief Inspector Fox, not an evaluation of evidence, in my respectful submission.

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, may I be heard on that?
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS LONERGAN: There has been evidence offered by Detective Chief Inspector Fox that this gentleman conducted an investigation that was a sham and was set up to fail. It is appropriate that this witness be given an opportunity to provide his views and his perceptions of what he was doing in this way. The question is appropriate, in my submission, and it should be allowed to be answered.

MR COHEN: Indeed, but my submission is that there is no warrant for the adjectival qualifications that are being appended to this evidence.

THE COMMISSIONER: You were particularly concerned about the expression "manipulation of the truth", I expect.

MR COHEN: Yes, and "in secret".
MS LONERGAN: It is hard to see a more negative implication to a police officer's investigation than claiming in the public domain that it is a sham and set up to fail. In my respectful submission, this officer ought to have the opportunity to provide a response.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you Ms Lonergan. I agree.
Q. Would you continue with your answer, detective.
A. Thank you, Madam Commissioner. The comments in relation to manipulation of the truth is as a result of documents that have been tendered in relation to the report on 25 November 2010 which had errors through it, along with even the public portrayal that Detective Chief Inspector Fox had conducted interviews with Bishop Leo Clarke, which is completely untrue, along with a brief of evidence, which was supposed to have existed for Bishop Malone, which is completely untrue again.

As for the brief of evidence being set up to be a sham, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, my superiors have been completely supportive throughout this. I cannot speak highly enough of them. If it had been set up as a sham, it would have been a case of, "Detective Sergeant Little, you have three months to complete this. That's it. See how you go." At no stage was any pressure put on me to terminate this investigation. In fact, to the contrary, I was encouraged, and when I needed to step outside the bounds of the terms of reference, for example, where I needed to make further investigations and conduct those inquiries, I was encouraged to do so. I was never knocked back and they were very flexible about it.

MR SAIDI: Q. The Commission knows there was assistance provided by the State Crime Command through Detective Inspector Paul Jacob?
A. Correct.
Q. And you called on that assistance. That appears to be in the evidence?
A. Absolutely.
Q. Are you able to say whether or not at any stage, in terms of the calling upon or calling for that assistance, there was any lack of resourcing flagged to be provided or any failure to meet the request for assistance?
A. No, no issue with that at all.
Q. In terms of the assistance provided by Detective Inspector Jacob, what can you say about the nature and quality of the assistance provided?
A. Detective Inspector Jacob has been an absolute rock throughout this and I certainly rely upon his background and his experience to that effect. He has always made himself available and continues to do so.
Q. It has been suggested by Detective Chief Inspector Fox - and I'm going to be particular in terms of what I put to you now - that he made an offer to sit down with the investigators to go through the material he had been directed to hand over and that was never followed up. Do you agree or disagree with that comment?
A. That I never --
Q. Sorry, it was never followed up by Detective Little or Inspector Parker?
A. That I didn't sit down with him?
Q. Yes. I'11 quote it again:

My offer to sit down with the investigators to go through the material I had been directed to hand over at the warrant meeting in December 2010 was never followed up on by Detective Little or Inspector Parker.
A. Actually, we had never precluded that. However,

DCI Fox went off on sick report himself anyway and precluded that. We had not ruled that out. He precluded that himself. Having said that, on the basis of some errors, and I would say untruths, in his initial report, along with the esoteric email responses that he sent, I would have certainly been guarded in relation to any of that. It is not a matter of just sitting down and having a cosy chat about the things, as he puts it, in the back of his brain or in the back of his head, or in his head. These are matters that happened some eight to ten years ago, so they need to be properly recorded and they were properly recorded the way we did it. Certainly, by the mere fact that he's written a saddle of lies at this point was a concern for me. As far as I'm concerned, I've had those things documented with his proper answers and I've responded to those.
Q. They're strong statements. Let me ask you about the reference to the "saddle of lies" that he's written upon. There's a report of 25 November 2010. You've already made mention of that. Did that report contain inaccuracies, to your belief?
A. Yes.
Q. When did you first form the belief that the inaccuracies were contained within that report?
A. Within the first six months of going through all the documentation and making those inquiries.
Q. The inaccuracies that you believed existed, were they significant or otherwise?
A. Significant.
Q. Did that have any effect on you about whether or not you should call for assistance from Detective Chief

Inspector Fox?
A. It was a credibility issue.
Q. In coming to that judgment on your own part, did you arrive at that judgment by yourself or did anyone else assist you in forming that judgment at that time?
A. Nobody influenced me on that judgment. That was my judgment alone.
Q. In a general sense, are you able to say whether or not you had a belief as to whether you could rely upon the matters contained in the report of 25 November 2010 that was prepared by Detective Chief Inspector Fox?
A. With caution.
Q. I want to put another proposition to you. Detective Chief Inspector Fox maintains that he was "never asked to provide a statement of my conversation with Bishop Leo Clarke", when he lied about his knowledge of further victims of Father McAlinden?
A. By his own email, Detective Chief Inspector Fox forwarded his attachment and referred Detective Inspector Parker's and my attention, or drew our attention, from memory, to the fourth paragraph on page 2 of that report, indicating that that's the only dealings he had with Bishop Leo Clarke which, again, his answers are inconsistent with the email to [Detective X], and I use that pseudonym, on 16 September 2010, during which he said in that email he interviewed Bishop Leo Clarke - again another inconsistency in what he had to say.
Q. Did he, for his part, ever indicate to you that he had information at his disposal that was worthy of being reduced to a police statement for the purposes of Strike Force Lantle in relation to Bishop Clarke?
A. No.
Q. I want to take you to an email. I think you've got the tabs in front of you, tab 124. Do you have that there in front of you?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. That's an email of 5 April 2012.
A. Yes.
Q. At 14.01 hours?
A. Correct.
Q. That's at page 663, for the record. If you go down to the third last paragraph from the bottom, the paragraph commencing, "I don't have any more documents off the top of my head"?
A. And it continues:

I was directed by Max to surrender all, which I did.
Q. Right. That's a representation that was made to him or rather, by him to you, on that date, that all documents had previously been surrendered; is that so?
A. Yes, which supports my assertion to Mr Cohen earlier in relation to the investigator's note on 2 December 2010.
Q. I'11 bring you to that investigator's note. Would you turn to tab 125. That investigator's note was created on 5 Apri1 2012. Do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. That appears to be on the same date as the email I referred you to?
A. Correct.
Q. The investigator's note you prepared on that date sets out part of that conversation which was had with Detective Chief Inspector Fox; is that correct?
A. Correct.
Q. It records in the investigator's note the fact that a conversation took place on a loudspeaker?
A. Correct.
Q. During which Parker inquired whether Fox had any further information or evidence relating to the investigation?
A. Yes, and I emphasise the word "Any".
Q. I was going to ask you about that. Why did you emphasise the word "Any", that is by capitalising that word?
A. Because, by the very context of this investigator's note, I wanted to make it clear to any other reader, should it be subject of a review, that Detective Inspector Parker made it very, very clear to him we were chasing any further information so that we could properly and thoroughly
investigate anything that he may have which may be of relevance to this investigation.

MR SAIDI: Given the nature of the cross-examination by Mr Cohen in relation to that conversation and that note, I know it is contained at tab 124, I was going to ask it be recorded or received as a separate exhibit.

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, I had a note to send to Mr Saidi to the effect it would be appropriate, given the examination, that the investigator's note behind tab 125 be tendered now as a separate exhibit.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, that investigator's note dated 5 April 2012 and paginated as 666 will be admitted and marked exhibit 27.

## EXHIBIT \#27 INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE DATED 5/4/2012 (TAB 124)

MR SAIDI: Q. You were present in court when Mr Lloyd QC gave his evidence in relation to his review of Strike Force Lantle?
A. Yes.
Q. In terms of the matters raised by him, he appeared to indicate that he was satisfied with the way in which the investigation was carried out and that all matters had been attended to?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. From that date until today, on the assumption you've had an opportunity of reflecting upon that evidence, are you satisfied as of today that all matters have been attended to?
A. In relation to --
Q. The investigation conducted by Strike Force Lantle?
A. Yes.
Q. Are you satisfied as of today as to whether or not any further matters are required to be attended to before final advising by the DPP?

MS LONERGAN: I object. It is offending the matter that has already been raised.

MR SAIDI: I'm sorry. I should exclude that matter and
make it the brief as delivered.
MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, it is best not to go down that line, given matters that have already been raised about the need to protect that private investigation.

THE COMMISSIONER: I can't admit that type of question.
MR SAIDI: I won't press that, Commissioner, and I'11 take on board what counsel assisting says.
Q. I want to put another allegation made by Detective Chief Inspector Fox in relation to your involvement with Strike Force Lantle. The suggestion was that you were only working part-time for a very considerable period on Strike Force Lantle. What do you say to that suggestion?
A. Nothing would be further from the truth. In fact, at the behest of my own family, I spent a lot of time on that investigation.
Q. Were there periods when you were engaged in other duties whilst carrying out the investigation?
A. Certainly.
Q. Can you give us a background as to what other duties you were carrying out and the reasons why?
A. Yes. I work as a detective sergeant in the largest local area command in New South Wales. It is a very busy office with some highly competent investigators. By the very nature of that office, we are on a daily basis inundated with serious crime, including and not limited to, armed robberies and sexual assaults and, from time to time, homicides. Such jobs like that require an all-hands-on-deck approach to ensure that those - that that evidence is actually captured on those live investigations.

Now, we're talking about crime scenes whereby the integrity of those need to be protected and that the evidence needs to be properly collected rather than lost, to ensure that we look after the victims in relation to those matters and ensure a high solvability rate. Some of the matters that I was involved in include at least one homicide, armed robberies and the malicious wounding of another police officer on duty.
Q. They were, of course, then current matters that needed to be urgently investigated?
A. They were urgently required to be investigated, yes.
Q. Whereas the matters involved with Strike Force Lantle appeared to be more after historical nature?
A. That's correct. Equally important, but historical.
Q. That's in relation to the suggestion you only worked part-time. The suggestion also was that Inspector Parker was only working part-time on the Catholic Church investigation what. Do you say about that?
A. Detective Inspector Parker is my immediate superior and my commander. He has to have a helicopter view of all investigations. It is not for him to hop on, hands on and take statements and so forth. However, whenever
I requested the assistance of DI Parker, at no stage did he falter or refuse or decline in any way. In fact, he went out of his way to assist. Where I believed it was appropriate, he actually sat in on interviews with me as a result of dignity and the appropriateness of those interviews with regard to the subjects that we were dealing with.
Q. I'm going to put this assertion to you: Clearly it was a strike force in name own for media purposes and not a dedicated unit. What do you say about that assertion? A. The only thing comes to mind is that that's complete rubbish.
Q. Can you tell us why?
A. It was a dedicated strike force. It was one that Detective Inspector Parker and I substantially were involved in. Due to the fact it had, previously to our involvement, leaked like a sieve, we decided to ensure the integrity of the investigation and we kept it tight to that effect. Now, when other investigators, and they have been mentioned during evidence here, were available, they assisted. However, given the nature of the office that I've spoken about and the serious crimes that had transpired, they too had competing interests. Should I have required further assistance, I believe I would have achieved that. However, as a result of conversations between myself and Detective Inspector Parker, it was decided that the integrity of this investigation was of paramount importance and, as a result of that, we limited the amount of people who were going to be involved on that investigation.

MR SAIDI: They are my questions, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
MS LONERGAN: No further examination, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you for your evidence, sir. You
are excused.
THE WITNESS: Thank you.
<THE WITNESS WITHDREW
MR HUNT: I call Joanne McCarthy.
MR TERRACINI: There is no application under section 23
for this witness. If it becomes apparent to us, then I'11 bring your attention to it, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Terracini. That is understood.
<JOANNE McCARTHY, affirmed:
<EXAMINATION BY MR HUNT:
MR HUNT: Q. Is your name Joanne McCarthy?
A. Yes.
Q. Ms McCarthy, have you affirmed two affidavits to assist those assisting the Commissioner, one being an affidavit provided before the commencement of the first public hearing in relation to this term of reference?
A. Yes.
Q. And a more substantial one provided more recently?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you have copies of those affidavits in the witness box with you, if you need to refer to them?
A. I've got the first one.
Q. Could I rely on your solicitor to hand that to you. Thank you. If you just open that up, you'11 see that's partially redacted, but have reference to that if you want to as I ask you some questions about some of its contents. A. Yes.
Q. I wanted to start by asking you some questions about your professional experience. You started work at the Gosford Star newspaper, which was a free weekly newspaper, in February 1980?
A. Yes .
Q. And you became an employee of the Central Coast Express Advocate in 1987 --
A. Yes.
Q. -- when that paper merged with the other one?
A. Yes.
Q. You moved to the Newcastle Herald in August 2002?
A. Yes.
Q. Where did you first work geographically when you commenced to work at the Newcastle Herald?
A. I've always worked on the Central Coast. They had an office Erina on the Central Coast. I've never worked in the Newcastle Herald office in Goulburn Street.
Q. Did you complete an arts degree at Newcastle University in 2004 during the time that you were working with the Express Advocate?
A. And the Newcastle Herald, yes.
Q. In March of this year, were you named the winner of the 2012 Graham Perkin Award for investigative journalism? A. Yes.
Q. What was the work that you were undertaking that gave rise to that award?
A. It was basically 2012 work on the Catholic Church and the royal commission - the campaign for a royal commission.
Q. I want to start by asking you some questions about your general practice since you've been a journalist with the Newcastle Herald in relation to contact with police generally and then I'm going to ask you some questions about your earliest contact with DCI Fox. Do you understand?
A. Yes .
Q. Would you address the Commissioner in general the circumstances in which you would be in contact with police
officers and practices that you take to that sort of contact?
A. I had very little contact with police prior to this church stuff starting. I've never been a police roundsman, so I might have had the occasional phone call to a police officer, none come to mind, but I worked more in local government, government, courts. By the time matters reach courts, police and witnesses, I'm not talking to them, so --
Q. Al1 right. I want to come generally to your work investigating historical sexual abuse matters and, particularly, relating to the Catholic Church.
A. Yes.
Q. Are you able to indicate, first of all, what sort of contact and the kinds of interactions that you had in a general sense with Detective Sergeant Kristi Faber in respect to Strike Force Georgiana?
A. When it was first set up, very little. I was aware that she was involved with it, but it wasn't until probably early 2010 that I had any real talking contact with her.
Q. Then just broadly, what was the nature of that contact? Why would you be in touch with her or why would she be in touch with you?
A. It wasn't that we were in touch. It was simply - can I name the priest, because he's on fresh charges?
Q. No. Just have a look at the pseudonym list and I think you're talking somebody with the name [NP], but -A. No, it wasn't that one. It was another one.
Q. He does have a pseudonym, but I'm --
A. It's somewhere in there.
Q. I know who you're talking about and he has been allocated a pseudonym. Perhaps you could write the person's name on a piece of paper, if you would, for the moment. Could that be handed up to the Commissioner and we'11 insert the pseudonym when it comes to hand. I have an idea it might be NP3, Commissioner.
A. (Witness does as requested)

MR HUNT: Could that be handed up to the Commissioner and we'11 insert the pseudonym when it comes to hand. I have an idea it might be [NP3], Commissioner.

THE WITNESS: That person - I had contact with Detective Faber when that person was before the court down in Sydney and there had been guilty pleas and we had discussions. Obviously by that stage she was aware - Detective Faber was aware of some of the work that I'd done and so we just had a chat in terms of what to do with this particular matter.

MR HUNT: Just bear with me. Could I just have a moment with those who instruct me, Commissioner?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. I will hand down the name of the person that the witness is speaking about.

MR HUNT: Thank you, Commissioner. It is proposed that the person that the witness has referred to be [NP3].
Q. That just hasn't made its way on to the pseudonym list, I'm sorry, and I'm grateful you're being careful about that, Ms McCarthy.
A. Yes, there's a few of them.
Q. You might see the redacted copy has pseudonyms in there so you can safely refer to those.
A. Yes.
Q. Would you go to, in a general sense rather than interactions particular to this matter that I'll come to, any general kind of contacts that you had with Detective Shaun McLeod, the nature of those?
A. With McLeod, it would have been the same. My memory is that he was at that court at the same - I can sort of picture Faber and McLeod together. I don't even remember having a conversation with him at that point. We had spoken on the phone, but it was a couple of years earlier.
Q. Is there a general reason in the normal course of your duty that you would ring a police officer?
A. Not really. Not - as I said, apart from the Strike Force Georgiana, and this - between 2010 and now, prior to that, it just didn't come up that I would have much contact with police.
Q. Are you able to indicate the first circumstance in which you can determine that you had contact with Peter Fox?
A. That was in 2007, September, and it was in - after the
name McAlinden came up first.
Q. And how did it come up? Was DCI Fox in touch with you or you were in touch with him back in 2007 ?
A. I was in touch with him.
Q. Can you tell the Commissioner how you came to be in touch with him, that is, why once the name McAlinden came up, you elected to be in touch with Fox?
A. Because where he was based - I think it was because us I was aware - you see, at this stage I didn't know police who might have been investigating these things apart from Georgiana. I contacted - so this is 2007. Actually, Georgiana wasn't even begun.

I knew that he had been involved with the prosecution of Jim Fletcher, so, in the absence of knowing police to ring, I rang him, and he just said that he'd had some contact with McAlinden. He provided the McAlinden investigation, so he provided me with useful information to let me know there was legs in the McAlinden matter. "Legs" being, sorry, that from a police point of view, they were aware of McAlinden or had been aware of him.
Q. Was your purpose at that stage to try and work out whether the police were actively investigating McAlinden or to find out information from police holdings or just trying to --
A. At that stage, it was more - I was ringing a lot of people at that point because McAlinden's name came up out of the blue when somebody put that name to me and it came immediately after the Ryan/Cotter article. So it was just basically, "Well, if you're looking at longstanding priest matters, look at McAlinden." So, yes, that's how it came up.
Q. Are you able to tell the Commissioner how many contacts or phone calls or emails you would have had with DCI Fox back in 2007?
A. Oh, it was - it was only a couple. He told me that yes, there had been a warrant issued for McAlinden's arrest. He told me that - he was the one who told me that the complaint related to offences in the early 1950s. That was very useful, because I'd also been in contact with Broken Rites, so it just established that the police were aware that McAlinden - some of the alleged offences were, you know, quite early.
Q. Did DCI Fox, at that stage when you were in contact with him in 2007, give you the impression that he was actively investigating McAlinden at that stage?
A. No - well, no, no.
Q. Is what you've had to say to the Commissioner on that topic the extent effectively of your contact with Fox at that time?
A. Yes. It was useful but it was limited to, you know, "Yes, we're aware of McAlinden, yes, this formal sort of action was attempted to have been taken."
Q. At that point, was there anything out of the ordinary in terms of your contact with DCI Fox or his contact with you as opposed to the other kinds of contact you'd had with police professionally?
A. No.
Q. Are you able to isolate when it was next? You might want to look at paragraph 5 of your second affidavit, your more recent affidavit. Are you able to ascertain when it was you next had contact with Peter Fox?
A. Yes. That was May 30, 2008.
Q. What was the context of that, looking carefully at the pseudonyms there?
A. Yes. Maitland-Newcastle diocese had issued a media statement. It was in relation to - it named two priests, an action that the diocese had taken. By May 2008, I was sort of the Newcastle Herald's go-to person for these Catholic things, so the statement was sent to me.
Q. Did the media release relate to one priest [NP]?
A. Yes.
Q. Yes.
A. And it mentioned the second priest.
Q. That's [NP4]?
A. Yes.

MR HUNT: Can I indicate to those at the Bar table there's a slight lag in terms of the pseudonyms. If people want to know, during the course of the examination or immediately afterwards, the real identities of people attached to pseudonyms the witness or I mention, I'm happy to give that
information.
Q. What led you to contact DCI Fox when you saw that media release?
A. Simply that he was another police officer. With something like that, you just ring anyone you can think of to see what information you could get. At that stage, my knowledge of [NP] was not in relation to child sexual abuse things. It was in relation to other matters that he'd been involved with. Because the diocese's statement had just said, "Professional conduct requiring independent investigation", as a journalist we had to be careful about the imputation that somebody might have been stood down, particularly if you're naming them, and people might think that it is child sexual abuse. I was trying to establish why is this man being stood down and whether the police were involved with it. The diocese wasn't saying. So I just rang - as I said, I can't remember, until this was raised in the Commission, I didn't even have any memory of this happening. It was on7y when I checked back with the archive and, yes, that's what it's all about.
Q. In terms of the methodology of arriving at the material you rely on in your affidavits to assist your oral evidence today, is some of the material from your memory and other material based on you key-word searching articles that you'd written and the like to see what material you relevantly once knew; is that right?
A. Yes. I didn't remember even making that call, but when I saw the date, looked up FDC and the article, I just said, "Oh, that's what that's about." And I did remember Fox just ruling out anything to do with [NP].
Q. Effectively, you were asking Fox whether he was investigating either [NP] or [NP4]?
A. No, not [NP4] because I knew Georgiana was looking at [NP4].
Q. Did Fox tell you he wasn't investigating [NP]?
A. Yes. That was my memory.
Q. Did he, either on this occasion or on any occasion, give you material that related to Strike Force Georgiana investigations?
A. No.
Q. After he told you that he wasn't investigating [NP],
did he either direct you - "he" being DCI Fox - somewhere else or tell you who was investigating [NP]?
A. He might have. As I said, all I can remember is, it was a quick phone call. I didn't know him, so - in fact, I would even sort of almost suggest it was like a brush-off thing, you know. That's my memory of it, so --
Q. Can you recall whether he confirmed that there was some kind of police investigation in relation to [NP]? A. No. No.
Q. Does that mean you can't remember?
A. I can't remember and really, in the way - in the form that it appeared in the article, obviously I haven't got anything much from anyone, because I think I said the "Herald understands" or something that police have - and I think I was relying on what a person from the diocese had told me on that, so --
Q. All right. Are you able to indicate who that person was?
A. Oh, I can. Helen Keevers.
Q. Have a look at paragraph 7 of your affidavit, if you would. Was your first contact with Detective Shaun McLeod when he was attached to Strike Force Georgiana on either 25 January 2008 or 11 February 2008?
A. Yes.
Q. How are you able to define it was one of those two dates?
A. Because I took my lawnower in to be fixed at a place called Bridge Mowers at East Gosford and that was the one and only time I ever took it there, because my lawnmower person wasn't there, so I can't remember whether it was the day I dropped it off or the day I picked it up. They confirmed to me that that was the drop-off and pick-up date.
Q. Do you have a memory of talking to him on one of those trips?
A. I was standing - yes, when the phone rang I was actually standing outside Bridge Mowers at East Gosford and it was probably about a 20-minute conversation as I stood outside the police.
Q. The context of that conversation was that

Detective McLeod telephoned you?
A. Yes.
Q. And he wanted you to place certain material --
A. An opinion piece.
Q. -- in an opinion piece?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you get the impression that he thought that would be beneficial to investigations that he was making about somebody called [NP4]?
A. He was hoping it would prompt people to come forward about that particular matter.
Q. Is that something that has happened from time to time in your professional work? If we can treat one category where you're contacting police officers to seek confirmation about involvement or progress of an investigation, is that one class of contact?
A. Yes .
Q. And then another class of contact is police officers telephoning you?
A. A much more restricted class, yes.
Q. And that was --
A. This was unusual.
Q. -- an example of the second case, but unusual?
A. Yes.
Q. Had it ever happened to you before?
A. No. My memory is that this would have been the first time.
Q. Was it as a result of Detective McLeod calling you, whatever date it was in early 2008, about the [NP4] matter, was that the reason that you ultimately contacted him when you came to have some documents in your possession about McAlinden?
A. Not in relation to the [NP4] matter. We had had discussions about another person who - I'm not sure what his pseudonym is.
Q. Just have a look at this document, if you would, Ms McCarthy. I'm grateful to Mr Irving for ferrying
material to the witness box.
A. None of those.
Q. I don't want you to mention the person.
A. I know you don't want me to mention them.
Q. Are you able to tell the Commissioner how it was that you first came to have some documents that related to key decisions that were made or apparently made within the diocese that related to McAlinden and certain processes? I don't want you to go into the detail, but you got some documents?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. How did you get those documents?
A. I was contacted by [AL] in - it was September/October 2009 and she knows that I like to collect documents and pieces of paper. She rang me up and said that she had these documents, would I like them? I said, "Yes, next time I'm up that way I'11 drop by," which I did, and she gave them to me. And there were a couple of letters and I actually copied out the letters. I can't even remember why I made a distinction between the two.
Q. At the time that [AL] gave you those documents in later 2009, did she say what she wanted you to do with them?
A. No, no, it was just - you know, she knows I like to collect documents. She thought I might like these ones and I offered to copy them and give her the originals back.
Q. Was it an explicit part of your conversation with her that you might use them for the purposes of writing articles or an article?
A. No. No.
Q. Was it an explicit part of your conversation with her at that stage that you might pass them on to the police?
A. No. No.
Q. You ultimately did pass those documents on to the police?
A. Yes.
Q. Did [AL] know that you were going to do that?
A. Yes.
Q. Some time between you first getting them in about September 2009 and you making contact with Detective McLeod in about April 2010 - is that right - you had a conversation with [AL] where she --
A. Yes. I think it was after I had a look at them. As I said, I filed them. I was working. I didn't even I must have scanned them. The significance of them just obviously went straight past me and it was only after a phone call from somebody in April 2010, that I pulled them out and that's when the significance of them struck.
Q. When you say "scanned them", you are meaning that in the old-fashioned word of skimming over them?
A. Yes.
Q. Could you look at volume 1 of 3 there, which is part of the tender bundle in relation to term of reference 1? You might helpfully keep that volume in front of you. Would you look behind tab 27.
A. Yes .
Q. Is the short situation that when you first contacted Detective McLeod, that he was going on leave?
A. He was on leave.
Q. And he indicated that he would be grateful to meet with you and take hold of the documents when he returned from leave?
A. Yes.
Q. The document that is behind tab 27, the first document is a receipt that both you and Detective Senior Constable Shaun McLeod signed at Charlestown police station on 23 April 2010 when you handed certain documents to him? A. Yes.
Q. Would you just look without saying all of the detail of what's behind there, but satisfy yourself that the documents that are behind that receipt until the marker for tab 28 are the documents that you provided?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you provide him with all of the documents that [AL] had provided to you at this stage?
A. Yes. The ones that don't appear are the handwritten ones, the copies. I think I might have said to him that she had the originals of those and I think he got them from
her - I think.
Q. In any event, you, apart from maybe keeping some handwritten copies, otherwise provided McLeod with everything that [AL] had given to you?
A. Yes.

MR HUNT: Could I just have a moment with my friend, Mr Gyles?
(Mr Hunt and Mr Gyles conferred)
MR HUNT: Mr Cohen helpfully reminds me of the time. It is a perfect time to take the luncheon break, if that suits you, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. We will adjourn until two o'clock.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

## UPON RESUMPTION:

MR HUNT: Commissioner, while the witness is coming back up, there has been a request that exhibit 27 be released to the press and I would be grateful, if anyone at the Bar table has an issue you about that, that they contact Ms Lonergan about it by 4 o'clock.

And Ms McCarthy understands she's bound by the affirmation she took before the break.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I am sure.
MR HUNT: Q. Ms McCarthy, what I want to do is now keep moving through the chronology of relevant events after the time that you provided the documents that you had got from [AL] to Detective Senior Constable MacLeod?
A. Yes.
Q. You had a discussion with Inspector Dave Waddel 1 from Lake Macquarie relative to the issue of what was required for the police to initiate an investigation?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you talk to him because he was Waddell's - I mean MacLeod's supervisor. Is that how you came to talk to him? A. Yes. Shaun MacLeod probably referred me to him I think.
Q. What was the effect of the conversation that you had with Inspector Waddell about what would be required to initiate an investigation in terms of there being a complaint on --
A. There needed to be a complaint from [AL]. There needed to be a formal thing from her.
Q. Did you then have a discussion with [AL] and you understood that she came to make something in writing? A. Yes.
Q. I think in Apri1 2010 you contacted DCI Fox about this matter as well?
A. Yes.
Q. Does that contact represent, first of all, the next relevant contact that you had with DCI Fox apart from those ones you gave evidence of before lunch?
A. Yes.
Q. Does that incident when you first are in touch with him in April 2010 represent the first time that you talked to DCI Fox relative to this general topic at all?
A. Yes.
Q. Given that you had had a communication - and indeed handed the documents to Detective Senior Constable MacLeod and had a discussion with Inspector Waddell - what was your purpose in talking to DCI Fox about the matter?
A. To write the articles. MacLeod was in relation to MacLeod, when I spoke to him - sorry, I gave him the documents, but Fox was in relation to preparing the articles, so getting some more information.
Q. Do we understand from that that you had a different attitude to Detective Senior Constable MacLeod because he was the one that you understood at that stage was investigating the [AL] material?
A. Simply, that he was the obvious one to hand the material over to, and I'm a journalist, you just talk to anybody. At that stage, I was talking to a lot of people.
Q. Are you able to articulate for the benefit of the Commissioner what it was about Fox or why you went to Fox, at that stage, to have some discussions that might end up in articles?
A. In the same way that I also contacted Troy Grant. I think it was just who had I spoken to in 2007. Grant was in relation to Vince Ryan, so the Ryan matter was obviously also pertinent to, you know, writing an article.
Q. Can I just understand this: was your first contact with DCI Fox about writing an article was that because of his connection with the Fletcher matter?
A. Simply that I'd spoken to him in 2007 as well. So when I wrote the 2007 McAlinden articles, it was on the basis of, you know, the laicisation, the attempted laicisation was sort of mentioned but it was this benign thing. And then when I got the documents in 2010, it was like, well, actually, no, it was a much more serious thing showing knowledge. So I just revisited - you know, I spoke to Broken Rites. I spoke to a lot of people.
Q. Can you remember in Apri1 2010 the kind of material, if any, that you got from DCI Fox?
A. Nothing. I mean, I contacted him, I suppose to make it clear. Because had I documents in front of me and they said certain things, which was different to our understanding in 2007, then I went to, you know, Fox for comment, Grant for comment, because it was people in the church had knowledge of things. So it was more to see if there was any possibility of comment, I suppose, which I don't think happened.
Q. And I think part of the knowledge that you had from Fox in 2007 was that there had been an arrest warrant taken out in relation to McAlinden at that stage?
A. Yes.
Q. Or at some earlier time?
A. Yes.
Q. In the conversations that you had with him in April 2010, did that include him talking to you about what the former Bishop Clarke had said to him?
A. Yes.
Q. What can you tell the Commissioner about that?
A. Fox said - because I read out part of I think Clarke's
letter to McAlinden, in 1995, and then Fox responded that he was angry, I think, and that's when he said that Clarke had - he'd spoken to Clarke, I think he said in 2002 or 2003, and said that Clarke had denied any knowledge of McAlinden as an offender.
Q. In the context of the conversation with Fox, did you understand that that conversation that he had had with former Bishop Clarke was a formal or an informal conversation?
A. I don't - I'm not sure. I think he might have said that he interviewed Clarke. He mentioned the other detective - Joy.
Q. As being the --
A. As being with him as well. So I got from that that there was some kind of, you know, two detectives going to speak with him - yes, with Clarke.
Q. Whether authored or authored by opinion pieces authored by other people, there were a number of articles on 28 and then 29 April 2010?
A. And there were follow-up ones as well, yes.
Q. As a result of those articles, did the person with the pseudonym [AJ] contact you on 3 May 2010?
A. Yes .
Q. I think the position was that [AJ] didn't first reveal her identity to you?
A. That's correct.
Q. But what sort of things did she tell you in broad, without mentioning names, just broadly the kind of information that she gave you?
A. Yes. She identified that she was a victim of McAlinden. She identified her relationship with people within the diocese. She identified some conversations she'd had with people whose names were familiar to me. She identified certain things that she alleged had happened.
Q. Did you have a view about the utility of the material that she gave you for purposes that were unrelated to publishing of articles?
A. Yes.
Q. What was that?
A. That basically she was somebody who clearly would have been able to assist police or certainly she had information that I thought might have helped police.
Q. Did you ultimately come to know her identity?
A. Yes.
Q. How did that happen?
A. I can't - I don't think it was the next conversation that we had, but possibly the third, by the third definitely, she'd identified herself. And she was somebody that I'd contacted three years earlier and left a message for.
Q. Was that because her details had come to you in some fashion?
A. Yes.
Q. From a source?
A. From a source, yes.
Q. But that attempt to contact her in 2007 had been fruitless in that it hadn't --
A. I attempted again, but she didn't reply.
Q. Yes. I think the next thing that happens in the chronology, as we step through it date by date, is that you had a relatively lengthy conversation with Inspector Dave Wadde11?
A. Yes.
Q. At Lake Macquarie on 4 May?
A. Yes.
Q. Included in that were you indicating to - first of all, Inspector Waddell indicated to you that Strike Force Georgiana was closing up some cases. But at that time it looked like the matter that you had been talking to him about, that is, the [AL] papers that had been handed by you to Detective Senior Constable McLeod, looked like it would be sent to Newcastle Local Area Command?
A. Yes.
Q. You, in turn, indicated that you would be - "you" being the Newcastle Herald - writing some articles on concealment and other issues --
A. There would be the obvious follow-up articles, yes.
Q. Inspector Waddell said words to the effect that he felt sorry for Bishop Malone because of the cooperation that Malone had shown?
A. Yes.
Q. And you broadly agreed with those propositions, but also pointed out to him your view that the bishop, nonetheless, was the representative of an organisation that had other responsibilities that you didn't think had been met, in effect?
A. Yes.
Q. The inspector went on to say some things about the challenges of proving concealment matters?
A. Yes.
Q. You made your response about your opinion in relation to those things?
A. Yes.
Q. Waddell said to you, effectively, that the church wasn't being treated as a special case?
A. Yes.
Q. You gave him your opinion that you thought the church maybe was being treated in a different fashion. In conclusion, Waddell told you that there would be an assessment of the information to see where the investigation would go and that that would take about a week?
A. Yes.
Q. In response to that, you had some communications with Andrew Morrison of senior counsel?
A. Yes.
Q. He was a representative of the Australian Lawyers Alliance?
A. Yes.
Q. Is it a fair proposition that the Australian Lawyers Alliance, or certainly Mr Morrison or both of them, had similar interests and concerns in relation to this issue?
A. Yes.
Q. That you had from time to time quoted Mr Morrison as a representative of the Alliance and continued to in terms of these issues?
A. Yes. I was talking with Andrew Morrison at the time, because, in amongst the follow-up articles were some in relation to the church's handling of a Catholic lay teacher. And so that article I think appeared on the 3, 4, 5, 6 May - something like that.
Q. Was Mr Morrison representing you or did he have some different relationship --
A. No, he wasn't representing me.
Q. How would you articulate your involvement with him or the alliance in terms of this journalistic assignment that you were undertaking?
A. He represented an organisation. He was also a senior counsel with some expertise in this area or certainly knowledge and he was a very useful person - contact, I think.
Q. Toward the conclusion of the conversation that you have already given evidence about with Inspector Wadde11, did he refer you to Inspector Tony Townsend after you said
you intended or hoped to run an article in relation to the police view about the "McAlinden" documents and by "McAlinden" documents, I think you mean the documents that [AL] had given to you; is that right?
A. [AL] - yes.
Q. Did you end up quoting Inspector Townsend in an article on that issue?
A. Yes.
Q. Was that an article that was published on 6 [sic] May 2010?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you understand why it was that Inspector Waddel1 had invited you to be in contact with Inspector Tony Townsend?
A. Yes. I think Inspector Townsend was the operations manager and because it was being - there was already reference to it might go to Newcastle, well, it made sense that there would be somebody with a more overarching position to comment at that point. So I didn't think anything of it.

MR HUNT: Just bear with me for a moment, please, Commissioner.
Q. I will just show you this document. Is that the article that you have just given evidence about?
A. Yes.

MR HUNT: I tender that. Really, the basis, Commissioner, is for completeness in terms of indicating some of the times in which the witness published material.

THE COMMISSIONER: That's an article of 6 May 2010; is that right?

MR HUNT: That's so.
THE COMMISSIONER: That will be admitted and marked exhibit 28.

THE WITNESS: I think it is actually marked 8 May.
THE COMMISSIONER: Is it?

THE WITNESS: The one I've got. Sorry, I think we might have - maybe I've written down --

MR HUNT: Q. I might have led the wrong date in error from the affidavit. In any event, that's the article you're talking about?
A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is 8 May.
MR HUNT: Is there a copy for you, Commissioner?
THE COMMISSIONER: Not as yet, but I'11 take your word for it.

MR HUNT: It hardly seems fair, Commissioner, that everybody else should have a copy and you don't.

EXHIBIT \#28 ARTICLE FROM THE NEWCASTLE HERALD, DATED 8/5/2013

MR HUNT: Q. Would you now look at tab 33 at volume 1 that you've got open there. Just directing your attention not to the section of the email where it is forwarded on to other sections within the NSW Police Force, but do you see that at the bottom of the first page and the second page is an email that you forwarded to Shaun MacLeod; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. Is the position that you were advising, amongst other things, Detective Senior Constable MacLeod of the existence of [AJ] without naming her?
A. Yes.
Q. What was your purpose in telling MacLeod about the existence of somebody like --

MR ROSER: It is [AL]. I think my friend said [AJ].
THE WITNESS: The second woman is [AJ].
MR HUNT: Q. The second page, where you say "the second woman"?
A. That's [AJ].
Q. That's [AJ]. Thank you. What was your purpose in
advising Shaun MacLeod of the existence of somebody in [AJ]'s category?
A. Having given MacLeod the documents and then
subsequently having this contact with [AJ], I just thought obviously he would want to know.
Q. On 9 May you contacted Strath Gordon of the NSW Police Media Unit?
A. Yes.
Q. And that was to see if the media unit would authorise Grant to comment on certain things?
A. Yes.
Q. Why did you go through the Police Media Unit on that occasion?
A. That was at Mr Grant's request.
Q. Effectively, he said that he wouldn't provide a comment unless there was some --
A. Oh, we had a discussion, but he just - that was the way he wanted to do it, so that was fine.
Q. Had you needed to do that with other officers in the past?
A. No, but subsequently I have. I mean, that's nothing some officers do it that way. He wasn't in that command, so, again, I didn't think anything of it.
Q. Effectively, you were asking him to comment on something from a command that he'd moved on from?
A. Yes, and he wanted to - I think he just wanted to do it that way.
Q. Would you now look behind tab 40 of volume 1 . Does that email relate to you providing, under cover of the email, certain materials relative to the witness [AK]? A. Yes.
Q. How did you get the [AK] materials?
A. I think [AL] had contacted [AK] and they'd had a discussion and [AK] forwarded it to me, so I can't remember if we - if I spoke to [AK] and gave her the email address or whether [AL] gave her the - I don't remember.
Q. Can you remember whether [AK] authorised you to provide her documents to the police?
A. That was the point of her contacting me with it, yes.
Q. Do we understand from that that the reason that [AK], to your understanding, gave you the documents was principally for them to be provided to the police rather than necessarily for articles?
A. Yes.
Q. Yes.
A. Oh, I think - it was probably for articles too, but I - -
Q. You're not saying that you were quarantined from using it for articles?
A. No.
Q. But you know you were authorised to forward them to the police?
A. Yes.
Q. I understand. Can you now remember why it was that you forwarded that material to then Detective Chief Inspector Tayler?
A. I didn't know - I didn't know him at that point, so I'm - I'm pretty sure it would have been because Waddell had asked me to or MacLeod had asked me to. One of them had asked me to, so --
Q. You had come to understand that the papers that you had provided to MacLeod from [AL] were now being looked at in Newcastle LAC rather than Lake Macquarie?
A. Yes. Well, that Tayler - to tell you the truth, Tayler being at Newcastle didn't really resonate with me. It was just there were different police looking at it, so it - -
Q. Somehow you got to know that Tayler was the person that --
A. Yes, that I had to send these things to.
Q. You, I think, checked your email records both to prepare your affidavits and for the purposes of answering a summons by this Special Commission?
A. Yes.
Q. Does it seem to you, on that review, that 7 June 2010 represents the first occasion that you sent an email to

DCI Fox about this issue?
A. Yes.
Q. I think you sent him some Herald articles by you on 8 June because he requested them?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you understand from him in the context of any communications between the two of you, why he wanted those articles?
A. Background; he just wanted to see - my memory is that he just asked me for anything that I'd written about McAlinden as background.
Q. Did you understand from things that he communicated to you that he was investigating something to do with
McAlinden or thinking about investigating something to do with McAlinden?
A. That he had an interest in it because of - he'd been involved with it earlier on. At that point he was just one of the police who was looking at it, as far as I was concerned.

MR HUNT: The article, I think it is exhibit 28 , is it, Commissioner, the article of 8 May?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hunt.
MR HUNT: Thank you.
Q. That had included reference attributed to Inspector Tony Townsend that there might be a pooling of police resources?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you draw any view about DCI Fox being in contact with you about McAlinden relative to those comments from Inspector Townsend?
A. Only that the pooling of resources, that it made sense to me, that McAlinden had been all over Maitland-Newcastle, all over the Hunter, so obviously there would be different police perspectives and if there was going to be an investigation, they might sort of draw on people from different parts of the Hunter.
Q. To the extent that you said that McAlinden had been all over the Hunter, was that something that you'd come to
understand because of accounts that you'd received from complainants and victims?
A. Yes. And also Broken Rites had provided me with a record of some of the places that he had been at in the Hunter. They had the Catholic priest registry thing, so they provided me with a bunch of different parishes he'd been at.
Q. Some time in June, you became aware that Detective Senior Constable MacLeod wasn't going to investigate himself the McAlinden matters?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you remember how you became aware of that?
A. I've thought about it. I'm not sure whether it was in a discussion with Waddell first, where he'd given an indication that Shaun MacLeod wouldn't be because of his he'd done enough in the Catholic Church sort of thing and Waddell was concerned for his welfare, or whether it was MacLeod himself who indicated something. I think it might have been Waddell's indication first that MacLeod wasn't going to; and then, subsequent to that, Shaun confirmed that he wasn't going to.
Q. And there were issues - whether it was by Waddell or MacLeod, there were certain issues about stress and stress leave raised?
A. Yes.

MR HUNT: Bear with me for a moment, please, Commissioner.
Q. Do you recall that you received an email from DCI Fox on 22 June that included his comment to you something like at least, "There are a few things going on behind the scenes that concern me a bit."
A. Yes.
Q. Did you have any understanding of in fact what he was talking about by setting that out?
A. No.
Q. Did you draw your own conclusions about --
A. I drew some conclusions because I think by the 22nd I would have known that MacLeod wasn't doing it. There might have been indications from MacLeod that he'd wanted to and wasn't going to be. Also, from the initial responses from police, the thing about raising the issue of

Malone being a good person, it was obvious, I was asking them a fair bit, that we were looking at conceal -
I already knew by then an investigation of Catholic Church and conceal hadn't been done and we were entering new territory.
Q. Did you know that just from generalised research that you'd done about other articles or --
A. In terms of --
Q. -- about the idea that there hadn't been any police investigations of concealing offences in a Catholic Church context?
A. I'd spoken to - Andrew Morrison I think was the first person I'd spoken to about that, was he aware of any other prosecutions. He wasn't. I spoke with one of our company lawyers at the time. It was more from that side of things. Section 316, there's material available on section 316 that's readily available in the Law Reform Commission.
Q. Was it around this time, in other words, towards the end of June or early July 2010, that you became aware from [AJ] that she wished to speak to police about things she had to recollect and say?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you make a recommendation as to who she should speak to?
A. She wanted to speak to police and because I wasn't sure what the police were actually doing at that point, we ended up with - I suggested Peter Fox.
Q. Given that you had forwarded the [AK] material to Chief Inspector Brad Tayler, did you give any thought to him being --
A. No.
Q. -- the one to be in contact with [AJ]?
A. I went with Peter Fox mainly because Fox had been involved with the Fletcher investigation, so to me it was logical to go with somebody that I knew had already been involved in such an investigation and that $I$ also had first-hand comment back from the victim and his family that they thought he was very supportive.
Q. In relation to the Fletcher matter about DCI Fox?
A. Yes. I didn't know if Brad Tayler - there was nothing
against Brad Tayler, but I just didn't know anyone else.
Q. How did you make the referral or what happened in terms of, first of all, any discussion between yourself and [AJ] about the idea of DCI Fox being involved in taking her statement?
A. I just said, "Look, I'm aware of one police officer, Peter Fox, involved with the Fletcher matter", and [AJ] responded that she'd heard of him. She knew - the name was familiar.
Q. Could I just double back. Look at tab 51 for a moment just for completeness. This is going back to that email exchange that I asked you about a moment ago, I'm sorry. Do you see that, before we get to your reply on the same day, there is an email to you from DCI Fox at his police address, on 22 June 2010, first of all, asking you for a contact for [AC]?
A. Yes .
Q. Did you ultimately give him a contact for [AC] after you got her permission? Do you recall that or not?
A. I don't think so.
Q. In any event, that was an example, was it, of DCI Fox wanting some information from you relative to your own investigations or contacts with people?
A. Yes .
Q. You will see the final paragraph is:

There have been a few things going on behind the (police) scene that concern me a bit. I'll discuss with you later.
A. Yes.
Q. Then in your response, apart from, first of all, you indicated you want to contact [AC] before providing her material to DCI Fox?
A. Yes.
Q. Then in your last paragraph of the response sent that same day:

The behind the scenes police stuff doesn't surprise me.
A. Yes.
Q. What did you mean by that?
A. What I was talking about earlier. When I spoke with, say, Wadde11 in particular, it was just the - not wholeheartedly sort of buying into the idea of investigating and I'm not saying that necessarily in a negative way. It's just I've been writing this stuff for three years and people's initial response - and so I started with sort of the community then and people have this thing, "But it's the church", I suppose is the best way of explaining it. So in some of Mr Waddel1's responses, and I forget what his rank is --
Q. Inspector.
A. Inspector, sorry - it was that sort of thing, which is not saying you're against something, but it's just there is this step that you have to take, and that's what I meant that there was those little things - that "Malone's done such good work" and some of the other responses he gave: so the behind-the-scenes stuff. It's just we have to make that step yet, if that makes sense.
Q. All right. When you were saying in response to DCI Fox's comment "The behind the scenes police stuff doesn't surprise me", you were talking about this idea of there being some inertia to get going on the investigation?
A. It's not inertia; it's just - I've described it to people that you have to jump a hurdle. The community has had to jump a hurdle on this, the media has had to jump a hurdle, the politicians have had to jump a hurdle. It is this initial "But it is the church" and you have to jump that hurdle and say, "Yes, but there's a crime."
Q. So, in this circumstance, back at this time where you were reflecting on Inspector Waddell being, you would have said, at the hurdle you didn't necessarily see anything wrong in that.
A. No.
Q. It was just a stage to go through.
A. Yes.
Q. I understand. In fairness to you, I asked you whether you were able to provide DCI Fox with [AC]'s contact details. Would you look behind tab 54. There is an email
that you then sent to DCI Fox on 23 June 2010?
A. Yes.
Q. I'm not being critical, there is a fair bit of material --
A. No. I don't remember it.
Q. -- a fair reading of that is that you provided him with [AC]'s contact details?
A. Yes.
Q. In context, does that mean you contacted [AC] and got her permission?
A. She must have, said it, yes.
Q. Then you also on the next line provided another number in response to a request by DCI Fox?
A. Yes.
Q. Then you provided some contact details from somebody at Broken Rites as well?
A. Yes.
Q. And that was at DCI Fox's request?
A. Yes.
Q. So, in fairness, the character of that email at least is you providing to DCI Fox material sourced from your researches?
A. Yes.
Q. What did you assume that he was going to do with that material?
A. Contact the people and expand his knowledge of what was available.
Q. Does it seem to you, looking behind tab 52, that under the heading, Fox to you on 23 June, is him asking you for contact with Broken Rites, et cetera?
A. Yes.
Q. And the contact for the other number that you provided?
A. Yes.
Q. He says this:

> If I am going to put a submission together I need to get a few statements to support it.

Do you know what he meant by that?
A. As to an investigation.
Q. But the submission part of it, did you know what he was talking about in terms of putting a submission forward? A. How it would run.
Q. Higher up in that same email, there is some reference to "Suzanne" and receiving an on1ine comment from the ABC website, suggesting to you that behind there is somebody with the same first name as [AC], which is a slightly unusual name --
A. Yes.
Q. -- with respect to "last Friday's Lateline." Can you now think about what the Lateline would have been relative to in June 2010?
A. I don't watch television at all, sorry.
Q. Don't be sorry, Ms McCarthy.
A. Honestly, I don't watch television at all. So I yes.
Q. Can I just ask you about this: after setting out some things about [AC] having an unusual Christian name and so on he says:

> Just thought I'd better let you know so that the right hand knows what the left is doing.

Do you know what DCI Fox was meaning to communicate or what he was talking about when he said those things to you?
A. Probably I suppose he was sort of thinking, "Oh, well, I'm talking to you. Is it okay if I talk to another journalist?" I can't say I thought much of it.
Q. Was there then an objective in mind? At that stage, did you see that you were working with --
A. No.
Q. -- Fox on something where you were coordinating efforts or something of that nature?
A. No. Really, I looked at that and it was just, "Is it okay if I speak to another journalist?"
Q. I see. I am now going to take you back to your conversations with [AJ].
A. Yes.
Q. You have heard some recommendations about how DCI Fox had comported himself from the view of the victim's family in relation to the Fletcher prosecution?
A. Yes.
Q. That was one of the things you had in mind when you thought that he was the police officer that [AJ] should be in contact with?
A. It was a big step for her to speak to police and I wanted her to be looked after.
Q. Did you have a conversation with her about the idea of DCI Fox being the person that she ought or could speak to?
A. His was about the only relevant name where I could that I knew was looking at this - where I could give a firsthand recommendation, you know. I know from speaking to the family of the victim and the victim in the Fletcher matter that they speak very highly of him.
Q. Did you have any involvement in bringing the two of them together in terms of the practical arrangements of him being in contact with her or her being in contact with him? A. I gave Peter Fox her contact details.
Q. And you later came to understand that he must have contacted her?
A. Yes.
Q. Did he indeed from time to time communicate in a general fashion to you that he was speaking with [AJ] and that it was going well?
A. Yes, and she told me that as well.
Q. I might have slightly got the timeline wrong when I suggested it was maybe later June or early. Would you just look back behind tab 51 at the moment, Ms McCarthy. I'm sorry to make you jump all over the place with the tender bundle. You will see that in the place where he asks for a contact for [AJ], [AC] that thereafter he says on 22 June:

I am gradually working through all you sent me.
A. Yes.
Q. And:
(As my wife will testify) I am progressing with [AJ] and this may be very promising.
A. Yes.
Q. Did that represent, effectively, an update that things were progressing?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you come to know that he and [AJ] had met on a number of occasions for her to provide a statement?
A. Yes.
Q. You can separate your answer if you need to. In terms of DCI Fox's interviewing of [AJ] and then what you imagined was the steps that he would take to follow up with, say, [AC] and the school official that's mentioned in some of the email trail, did you have a view at that stage whether whatever it was that DCI Fox was doing in relation to those various people was part of an official police investigation or rather some surreptitious covert investigation? What would you tell the Commissioner about that?
A. I just thought that [AJ] had come forward saying she was, you know, ready to give a statement, so it made sense, well, let's get this statement, that Fox's following up of other people was a collection of information. So to me I can't say that I gave it any thought. It was just I know what I do as a journalist: you speak to everybody, you gather information, and the more information that you have - so to me this was just a police officer gathering information, other police officers were doing what they were doing, and then at some point they decide what they're going to do.
Q. Is it a fair proposition that there was nothing in terms of the way that you were dealing with DCI Fox at this stage that suggested something out of the usual?
A. No.
Q. That is something covert --
A. I don't know how police work. I know how journalists work and I know how I've worked on these matters with other journalists through Fairfax. We each have our particular things and then, you know, at the point where an article has to be written, someone will do one thing and somebody will do something else. So to me it didn't - I wasn't registering anything untoward.
Q. Doubling back again, I'm sorry to do this, Fox indicated to you, "There are things going on behind the (police) scenes ... I'll talk to you about it some time." Did he ever talk to you about what was going on behind the police scenes?
A. I don't remember any conversation about that.

I wasn't thinking "I need to have a talk to him. Something dreadful is happening." So I don't remember a conversation at all.
Q. Until quite a bit later in 2010 when there's material that suggests that DCI Fox, at that stage. Was saying "look, I'm going to hold on to some statements unless I absolutely have to give them over", up until that point you weren't having conversations with Fox that suggested that he was running some kind of off-the-books investigation, if you like?
A. Obviously, he had a different approach to it to some of the other police. So that's probably a better way of putting it. Obviously, he'd jumped the hurdle, I suppose, is one way of putting it, and so he was pretty keen. Some of the other police weren't so keen compared to his keenness.
Q. According to your records, you have identified that Stephen Rae, a police officer, telephoned you on 13 August 2010?
A. Yes.
Q. Had you had conversations with Officer Rae before?
A. No.
Q. What was the context of the conversation that you had with him?
A. I was on my way down to Sydney to see a play and I had my phone and it came up "private number". It was after work, because the play was on at sort of 8 or 8.30 or
something, and I had to pull over at Pymble or Gordon or something like that. I thought it was one of the subs checking on copy or something, and then he identified himself as a police officer, Stephen Rae, and started to talk.

I was in one of those clearway things, you know, I didn't fancy being run up the back, so I said to him, "Could I get your number. I want to go around corner." I didn't say, "I want to go around the corner." I said, "Can I ring you back?" He said, "Yes" and gave me a number. I went around the corner, rang the number back, and we had a conversation. If I was asked to give a time, I would say it was six something.
Q. Was that a conversation that you took notes of at the time?
A. No. It was on the side of the road in the dark.
Q. What's your broad recollection of that conversation?
A. He was ringing me about the McAlinden matter to have a discussion with me about it.
Q. Did he tell you his relationship with the matter in the sense he was the officer in charge or working with somebody or --
A. No. No, I don't remember - I remember him saying something about the northern command. I got the impression he was senior, but in one of those overarching positions, like Inspector Townsend, and it was just a discussion. I can't remember exactly how he started it, but it related to the documents, my expectations, the expectations of victims. At a certain point - oh, he also discussed the difficulties of section 316 , the conceal matters, you know. So we sort of chatted along those lines.

At a certain point, he said the thing about that there was just the documents, that there was nothing to prosecute with the documents, which sort of surprised me a little bit, and that was when I was thinking - I got the impression he was sort of sussing out how I felt about it and maybe how strongly I felt about it.
Q. Would he have come to know how you felt about it in the context of the conversation?
A. Well, I was interested in where it was going to go. So, you know, we had a friendly conversation and I was
interested in, again, that thing about jumping the hurdle which sounds ridiculous, but it is sort of: where is this person at in terms of the belief that everyone talks about priests being transferred from parish to parish and all that kind of stuff? It's almost like it's, "Oh, well, we're not going to do anything about it." So that's the jumping the hurdle thing. I just wanted to get his ideas about it, and that's when he said the thing about the Catholic Church and he raised the issue that prosecutions weren't the way to go with the Catholic Church, and then we discussed - I can understand partly historic child sex abuse matters the prosecutions, we know, they're difficult and often the victims get hurt in that process again, but then he talked about well maybe a "Truth and Reconciliation" thing like they have in South Africa would be a better way to go. And I thought in my head, "As if"; you know, at that point no-one was talking about that.
Q. Did you express any views to him about --
A. Not really, no.
Q. In a practical sense, did the conversation with Officer Rae end with him telling you that Lake Macquarie would be looking at the matter?
A. Yes. That it was going to be with Lake Macquarie and it related to the fact that, you know, they'd had Strike Force Georgiana, they had the expertise - something along those lines.
Q. Did you have a view about the reasonableness of that information or that proposal?
A. He's the overarching person, he said, in

Lake Macquarie and he seemed to be --
Q. You're doing things with your face to suggest that you didn't really have --
A. Oh, no, it's --
Q. You weren't assessing the reasonableness of leaving it to police?
A. Not really. It's not for journalists; it's not my -
if that's where it goes, that's where it goes.
Q. Did he suggest that you ought to phone Inspector Waddell at some stage to confirm that material?
A. Yes. Because I think I indicated that, you know, that fine I would like to write something about that - so, yes.
Q. Did you then contact Inspector Waddell?
A. Yes.
Q. What came of that?
A. It wasn't a very long conversation. He didn't sound pleased, so --
Q. Did you get the impression that he had the file or didn't have the file at that time?
A. Didn't have the file.
Q. All right.
A. And maybe he wasn't really happy that a journalist had been told it was going back to him.
Q. Did he direct you or suggest that there was somebody else that you should talk about --
A. I might have to check. I think he might have said Tony Townsend. Was it back to Townsend or --
Q. Do you want to look at the very base of paragraph 30 of your affidavit, which is in the small white folder there. You're looking for page 10.
A. Yes.
Q. If you go to the top of paragraph 31, it seems that you did ultimately speak to Inspector Townsend?
A. Yes.
Q. Then he advised you to talk to an officer called Inspector Fay Dunn?
A. Fay Dunn, yes.
Q. Did you understand she was attached to the Northern Region in one of those overarching or assisting positions? A. Yes.
Q. What could she tell you about the matter?
A. Nothing. She was nice. She was apologetic, but it obviously was a phone call she wasn't expecting, so --
Q. Did you ultimately talk to Inspector Townsend again and he indicated to you that the matter had been referred to Newcastle and that there would be an officer allocated to investigate the matter?
A. Yes.
Q. By 3 September 2010, did you have a conversation with Andrew Morrison of the Australian Lawyers Alliance which led or was about the topic of the Australian Lawyers Alliance addressing a letter of concern about the McAlinden matter?
A. Yes.
Q. Was there thereafter a response from Assistant Commissioner Max Mitchell who declined to comment on the status of the investigation?
A. Yes.
Q. Have you searched the Newcastle Herald's computer archives and established that, in a period between 1 May 2010 and 30 September 2010, you wrote 11 articles that concerned McAlinden or the investigation in relation to him?
A. Yes.
Q. On 18 October, did you get an email from Detective Chief Inspector Fox, which was your first point at which you understood that he was not going to be part of an investigation in relation to the McAlinden matter?
A. Yes .
Q. Would you just a look behind tab 71.
A. Is that annexure U?
Q. You will need to go to volume 2, I'm sorry. Do you see there behind tab 71 is that email?
A. Yes.
Q. Had you understood that that was something that was likely to happen from your conversations with DCI Fox ahead of that time?
A. I don't think so.
Q. Could I just ask you about this part of it. DCI Fox says:

> I may have to part with the other statements if they push. I will argue over
> [AJ]'s statement due to her insistence on
> confidentiality and her mental state, but
> if they 'Departmentally Direct' me I will
> have no choice.

Did you understand in the context of any prior discussions between you and DCI Fox why it would be that he would say "I may have to part with the other statements if they push"?
A. No. It's obviously, you know, he was being told, "You're not doing it", but, no.
Q. Had [AJ] had conversations with you consistent with her insisting on confidentiality or things that suggested that she would only deal with DCI Fox rather than other police?
A. She was concerned for her privacy. I can't say that I can specifically remember any conversation with her - no, I just can't remember anything specifically on that.
Q. I just want to draw your attention to one other part of this email. You will see that DCI Fox, at the very bottom of the first page behind tab 71, says:

Both Humphrey and Haggett are practising Catholics from Nelson Bay ...

Had you had any earlier dialogue with DCI Fox about that kind of issue, about police officers and their religious affiliations?
A. No, not on - no. I know - look, he did raise it. But I'm pretty sure that was the first time there was any mention of "Catholic". He might have - I know he sort of waved it past me once or twice, but I didn't buy into it for reasons that $I$ put in the affidavit.
Q. I want to come to those reasons. First of all, I want to ask you this: you express yourself in this way, chronologically after discussing the emails and the bit I've taken to you on 18 October, and you say:

I can only recall Fox referring to the possible religious beliefs of police
officers once or twice after that.
A. Yes.
Q. In relation to that is that the conversations that you talk about there?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you get a sense that he was trying to explore your appetite for something between religious persuasions of officers and what they did or didn't do, or --
A. Possibly, but I think it was more just sort of throwing it out there, putting it there and certainly not pressing it.
Q. Just read to yourself now, paragraph 40 - that's the slender volume there - because you express your own views about why, from a journalistic point of view, you would never, absent certain material, publish something along those kind of lines about religious beliefs and action or inaction?
A. Yes.
Q. Just refresh yourself, if you would, and I just want you to tell the Commissioner why it is that you wouldn't move to write an article based on that kind of speculation. A. Simply because as a journalist - well, there are a couple of reasons, defamation being the most obvious one just because someone is Catholic, it is then a very big leap to say "Because you're Catholic, you're not able to do your job." And within that leap, you've got an imputation, you've got defamation. I've put it in there. Unless I had an email or a document from, you know, police officer A to police officer B saying, you know, "We're not going to investigate priest $X$, who we think is a paedophile. Because we're Catholic and we want to protect the church," unless I had a piece of paper saying that, and even then I would be checking the veracity of that piece of paper, you would not just write an article simply because it is defamatory. That's one reason.

Then there's a much more obvious reason for the Newcastle Herald, which I've put in the affidavit. My parents are still practising Catholics. They're friendly with Bishop Michael Malone, who used to be at their parish in East Gosford, and I'm the one writing most of these articles. So for somebody to suggest that because I was raised Catholic and went to Catholic schools and my parents are Catholic, the sort guilt by association, is ridiculous. It is just not an --
Q. Just to link that up, what you're saying is the way you see the world journalistically and otherwise is that you don't act on the guilt by association idea?
A. No, no, because it is just way too - our lawyers would
never - like, no way.
Q. You had come to have contact from time to time with [AL]?
A. Yes.
Q. Would you characterise her as a friend or how would you characterise your dealings or relationship with [AL] in late 2010?
A. [AL] first contacted me in 2007 and she was very distraught and we had a lot of contact, email and phone, between 2007 and 2010. Friends - you know, there's different categories of friends. I don't socialise with [AL]. I don't socialise basically with any of the people that I've had dealings with who are victims' families. Do I have a relationship with them that's different to my relationship, say, with Mr Irving? Yes. Do I have a relationship with them that's different to my work colleagues? Yes. Are they significant relationships? Yes - simply because trust is the key to the relationship.
Q. This may seem like a stupid question, and it is not meant to be, but is that driven by the kind of subject matter that you find yourself talking with these people about?
A. Yes, clearly, we're talking about things - we're talking about suicides; we're talking about life and death things; we're talking about why somebody, you know, attempted suicide and didn't; we're talking - I'm talking to family members where there have been deaths. I'm talking to - these are significant relationships. [AL] had a very difficult time between 2007 and - she's a very strong woman, courageous but, you know, she knows I've got her back. She's friends with another person who provides more of the friend kind of contact, comfort for her.
Q. In the context of that kind of relationship with her, did [AL] tell you that she was going to be interviewed by personnel associated with Strike Force Lantle?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you have an attitude as to whether she should do that?
A. Yes.
Q. What was that and what did you do about it?
A. Very supportive. I said that it was really - we had a
lot of emails, contact and phone, and she said that she was scared about doing it but she wanted to and she needed to do it and it was important enough, and I said, "It's really good that you're doing it and I'm really pleased that you're doing it."
Q. Did you have some contact with [AL] on 9 November 2010 on that issue of her having been or going to be interviewed in relation to Strike Force Lantle?
A. Yes. She rang me up and she was really, really upset and it was - it was difficult to really understand what had happened, but she was very upset, crying. She was talking about that she'd walked out of the interview because of certain things. Did you want me to --
Q. Pick up your answer, if you could.
A. She alleged certain things that had happened in the interview that she'd been sort of pushed about making a statement. She was very upset about the fact that she was called in to the police station to do it, the fact that sorry, she said that the times had been changed, that she felt used because of it, and then that she'd got - she readily admitted that she'd got upset and angry during the interview. And then there was some kind of response from the police officers about, you know, that her anger was inappropriate or shouldn't have been accepted or something along those lines, and she was also given, you know - she had to make a decision about whether she was going to make a statement and it had to be that day or some kind of - a deadline set for when she had to make a decision about making a statement.
Q. Did you get any sense from [AL] how much of her statement had been taken?
A. No. We didn't talk about that.
Q. I think you've talked about another relationship that [AL] has where she gets support of more of a friendship kind?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you come to understand there was dialogue between [AL] and that person to assist her to advance some concerns that she had about what had happened in a written fashion and a formal fashion to the police force?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you later come to understand that those matters had been formalised in a complaint?
A. Yes.
Q. On 19 November, did you call Assistant Commissioner Max Mitchel?
A. Yes.
Q. Why, at that stage, were you contacting him about the matter?
A. I think maybe I'd been - oh, actually, no, it was because of the letters from the Lawyers Alliance. At some point it was obvious that Max Mitchell was the go-to person, so --
Q. Did you know he was the local area commander at that stage?
A. The titles of the police don't really - what's the word?
Q. Resonate with you?
A. Yes, something like that.
Q. A11 right. In any event, for whatever reason that you were speaking to Assistant Commissioner Max Mitchell, did you make an inquiry of him about [AL]'s complaint?
A. I rang him to get angry with him, to let him know very forcefully that I wasn't happy because I had encouraged her to speak to police and she had been obviously badly hurt by that experience and it was just not appropriate.
Q. Is it a fair characterisation of some of your articles and some of the things that you understood the Australian Lawyers Alliance were doing, were putting pressure on the police to actually get moving and take some fundamental steps towards advancing the investigation that became Strike Force Lantle?
A. That would be a fair summing up, yes.
Q. However it was handled in terms of the sensitivities of the interview, can you see a possible interaction between that encouragement to impetus and some desire to take statements from people like [AL]?
A. We were talking about the end of November by then I think it had a little bit more to do with the way that a statement was taken than any sort of pressure on the police. You can be pressured and still do a good job of
taking a statement.
Q. Did you have conversation with Assistant Commissioner Mitchell about your concerns about the interview and did he say some things to you about that process as well?
A. Yes. Are you talking about in terms of the - in that discussion with him?
Q. Broadly, what did you say to him about what had happened with [AL] and what did he say to you about the process?
A. I said that, you know, [AL] had alleged certain things, and that I got the impression that the person who had interviewed [AL] didn't - she didn't do the kind of job that I thought was appropriate, let's just say, and that [AL] had been hurt. Mitchell responded that the police officer didn't have experience and --
Q. Did he limit that in some fashion, in terms of what she didn't have experience with?
A. With child sex abuse matters.
Q. How did that discussion end or was there more relevant content to it?
A. He then - I also said that it was open to me at that point to take the matter to a more formal - that I thought it was serious enough that I could complain as to what were the police doing? I definitely raised that with him. And he said to me that the police officer wasn't experienced. Then he said that maybe it would be a good idea if, you know, I got together with the police and we could - I think he used the word "team", and that I could give them some tips, which I just thought was bizarre.
Q. Did he ultimately indicate that either Detective Chief Inspector Tayler would be in touch with you or that you ought to be in touch with DCI Tayler?
A. Tayler would be in touch with me.
Q. Ultimately, was there an agreement reached by email that there could be a meeting at Newcastle police station about the matter?
A. Yes.
Q. You asked Andrew Morrison to accompany you?
A. Yes.
Q. Why was that?
A. Because, one, as the Lawyers Alliance representative he had had an interest in the matter, so I thought it was appropriate for him to be involved. Two, we were discussing, from what the assistant commissioner had said, you know, moving forward and I thought those elements of section 316, those legal things that Morrison would be able to contribute on that, and also because I wanted a witness.
Q. Did you have a perception about what the meeting was about from your point of view or what you thought was going to happen at the meeting?
A. How we could go forward, how, you know, with the first witness, with such a strong complaint, and such a significant problem then, that the investigator - you know, that that wasn't a good look? What do we do then? And also that, obviously, [AL] wanted to give a statement. She was adamant that she was not going to give a statement to that officer. What were they going to do? So my understanding, I suppose, was maybe how do we move this forward?
Q. You estimate that the meeting, when it took place at 12.30 on 25 November 2010, took somewhere between 30 and 60 minutes?
A. That's my rough memory of it.
Q. You indicate it became clear to you fairly shortly into that meeting that DCI Tayler and you had quite different opinions or beliefs about what the meeting might be about?
A. Yes.
Q. What gave you that impression or what happened that made you think that?
A. Inspector Tayler said that we weren't going to be discussing the investigation, that we weren't going to be discussing that. So I said "Okay, well, that's not a good start." And then he asked me for names and details of other witnesses, which threw me a little bit because it was like "Hang on, that's not my understanding of what we're doing. We have a complaint from the first witness." At that point I was thinking, "Well, who am I going to be giving him details about?", because I'd furnished details. I knew other people, but not knowing what the police were going to be doing or where they were going, I was thinking "Well, who exactly is he talking about?" Without knowing
which way they're taking it, I don't know who is going to be potentially relevant or not, but I certainly hadn't turned up with a list of names and phone numbers.
Q. Effectively, you were at cross-purposes, it seems?
A. That would be a nice way of putting it.
Q. Did you discuss how things might proceed in terms of taking [AL]'s statement?
A. Only insofar as saying that she wasn't going to make the statement to the particular officer. Then Inspector Tayler said something about [AL], that, you know, if she was angry and aggressive and - you know, that she was aggressive and what could they do, or something. It was sort of like, "Oh, well, it's out of our hands." I didn't think much of that response and that was when I said that, you know, it was the responsibility of the police to be able to interview a victim of historic child sexual abuse.
Q. Was there discussion about support people if [AL] were to be reinterviewed by police?
A. Yes.
Q. How did that happen?
A. Well, I think Inspector Tayler and I reached an impasse a couple of times where I was sort of going, "Well, you know, this complaint from the first person", da, da, da, and he would respond, "We11, we need the names and phone number." And then I went, "Well, there's a complaint and it's a live complaint", and he said, "Well, we need the names and phone numbers."

So it was pretty obvious we weren't going to get far with that. I think I actually raised, "Look, what about if I sit with [AL]?" I knew she'd already asked me to go to the interview with her, so in desperation I'm like, "Well, okay, is there something I can sign? Is there something I can do?" It was Andrew Morrison who actually said, "No, that's not appropriate." I said, "Okay." I do remember Inspector Tayler saying something and I'm guessing - I mean I heard his evidence. He said something like "No", so they just wiped that out and --
Q. So the idea of you as a support person was rejected?
A. Yes. I mean I really didn't want to be there, but I thought, "For heaven's sake, if we - will that do it? I'11 sign something."
Q. Could I get you to focus on this - at the point that you were proposing yourself as the possible support person for [AL], was that with a view of getting some kind of inside seat to the police investigation of [AL]'s complaint --
A. No.
Q. -- or was it for some other reason.
A. It was to support [AL]. The police were placing so much reliance on getting her statement and very definitely in that meeting it was made clear to us that without - and Inspector Tayler said this, that without the statements from [AL] and [AK], there was nothing. So that was the point where I went, "Well, okay. What about if I sit with her? What about that?"
Q. Once Morrison and Tayler excluded you as being the support person, I think you accepted that ruling?
A. Well, I didn't want to - sorry, I didn't want to be the support person.
Q. Were there other options suggested, I'm thinking Helen Keevers?
A. Yes. But then she was potentially a witness as well, so that was sort of - oh, okay, right, that's not going to work; so, yes.
Q. Was that issue finally not resolved at that meeting?
A. No, not really.
Q. After that meeting, did you have another conversation with [AL] about this issue of assisting the police or giving a statement to the police and she told you her attitude to --
A. That's right. She wanted to - she just wanted a rest from it. I think she did indicate that she would give a statement to Peter Fox. Yes, I'm sure Peter Fox's name came up in it, that she would speak to Peter Fox.
Q. Did she advise you that she'd asked the detective chief inspector that there not be any contact with her until the new year?
A. Yes.
Q. You came to understand that there had been attempts by Justin Quinn and DCI Tayler to communicate with [AL]?
A. Yes.

MR HUNT: Commissioner, I think your intention is to take sit until 4.30. The witness has been in the witness box a long time. I'm wondering if we could have a five-minute break for concentration purposes. Without everyone going to the four winds, could we have five minutes and then we'11 pick up again.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right. We will adjourn for five minutes.

## SHORT ADJOURNMENT

MR HUNT: Q. Ms McCarthy, could you turn to paragraph 61 of your affidavit which is on page 19. I apologise that I'm going to take something that's slightly out of the chronological order that I've been taking, but it's following the order of your affidavit.
A. Yes.
Q. This is, in context, an event that happened a couple of days before your meeting with DCI Tayler and others at Newcastle?
A. Yes.
Q. Would you now turn to tab 77 of volume 2 .
A. Yes.
Q. Are you familiar with the email that I'm talking about?
A. Yes.
Q. In context, in paragraph 61 of your affidavit you set out your recollection of things that were happening at this time in your professional and personal life?
A. Yes.
Q. You'll see that a whole lot of it has been redacted on the copy that's been served on parties because it is to do with confidential or private material. Nonetheless, there were a conjunctive set of things that were happening at that particular time?
A. Yes.
Q. I now want to take your attention now to the email from Peter Fox to you. You'11 see that it comes from an
email address that's been identified in the other evidence as being DCI Fox's home address rather than his police address. Do you see that?
A. Yes .
Q. There's a report as an attachment and that's a report that has as an issue, "Allegations of child sexual abuse and cover up in the Maitland-Newcastle diocese of the Catholic Church", some pages of background and a recommendation, which is DCI Fox's recommendation that there is sufficient evidence to conduct a full and comprehensive investigation. Do you see that there?
A. Yes.
Q. The body of the email says:

Have a read of the attached report and let me know what you think.
A. Yes.
Q. And then:
PS.

It is getting late and I haven't proofread, so please let me know any grammar or amendments you feel might help. I'7l have a final look at this in the morning before $I$ run it down to the region office.

Are you able to say whether you did at some stage read the report that was attached?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you ever let DCI Fox know any grammar or amendments?
A. No.
Q. The email forwarding effectively the draft report went to you at 23.50 on 24 November 2010?
A. Yes.
Q. If you turn to the next tab, 78, you will see that at 17.05, in other words, the next afternoon, just after five o'clock on 25 November, there's a further email from DCI Fox to you saying:
Here's the final report $I$ submitted today.
There were a few changes at the end to what
I sent you last night.
A. Yes.
Q. Can you say, looking at those two emails, when in the time frame you would have read the draft report?
A. My email is, what, 4.34 am on the 25 th.
Q. Yes.
A. So I sort of responded to him from there. So I've obviously read it.
Q. In context, there, where you say "I think it is excellent. I'm going to be telling Brad Tayler tomorrow", et cetera, in context there, you're referring to the meeting you've just been giving evidence about before the short break, that is, the meeting on the 26 th?
A. Yes.
Q. That chain of events, does that suggest to you that you didn't read the draft report until some time after the final report had been submitted, or is that not right?
A. No. Because I've - he --
Q. Oh, I'm sorry?
A. Yes.
Q. So at 4.34--
A. am.
Q. -- am after he sent you the draft report about
midnight --
A. The previous - yes.
Q. -- you respond?
A. Yes.
Q. Saying it's excellent.
A. Yes.
Q. Clearly in context you don't make any grammatical or substantive changes. Did you have a view about whether that was something that you would do?
A. What, make changes?
Q. Yes.
A. No. No. There are a couple of issues with that.

One, no I wouldn't; and, two --
Q. Why wouldn't you?
A. Just because it is his report, and my memory at that time of the morning, I've had a quick scan through it and gone, "That's good", because - a scan, in the old-fashioned sense of scan in the sense of quick skim through it. It's good that he's coming up with a different approach saying a holistic and, you know, a bigger approach. It is not my issue to sort of make amendments or things like that, nor can I.

The fatal flaw in my doing any amendments to anyone else's documents is that I'm appalling at computers. Everybody in the Newcastle Herald would laugh their heads off at the thought of me amending someone's document. I can't do an attachment to an email without ringing Ashleigh McNeilley, our editorial assistant. So it's not going to happen.
Q. What you are saying is even if you had the desire, which you didn't, you wouldn't have the capacity?
A. That's a bit brutal; but, yes, that's one way of putting it.
Q. In paragraph 63, you say this:

Fox advised me he was called to a meeting at Waratah on 2 December --

In context it must be 2010?
A. Yes.
Q. Then:
with senior police and State Crime Command. He was very positive about the meeting.
A. Yes.
Q. Is this a telephone call? Is this descriptive of a telephone call you had with him?
A. I'd say so, yes.
Q. I am reminded of something else I wanted to take up with you before we move on to 2 December. I apologise, Ms McCarthy. If you look at the email behind tab 78 now, which is Peter Fox's email to you forwarding the final report of 25 November - are you with me?
A. Yes.
Q. After a comment about him wondering why you were reading emails at 4.30 in the morning, he finishes that email of 25 November 2010 with this:

Anyway, the die is cast - let the games begin.

What did you take that rather portentous comment to mean? A. That he was going to keep pushing to expand the investigation. Obviously by that stage there was a Strike Force Lantle. That October 18 th email made it clear that he wasn't part of it, so he was still pushing to be part of it. That's a colourful comment to say he's still pushing.
Q. What was the word you just used - "colourful"? Is that kind of hyperbole consistent with a lot of the communications you can from DCI Fox?
A. It is fair to say. I mean, I use colourful phrases as well, so - they're emails, so, yes.
Q. Can I just ask you one more thing about [AL] before we go to 2 December and communications after that meeting. In terms of [AL]'s concerns expressed to you about how she'd been interviewed, did it seem to you in context that she had an impression that the officer who was taking her statement initially should have known more about her circumstances than she did?
A. Yes. And I think that was - that was also one of my concerns. If there had been a little bit of context, if there had been a little bit of understanding on the calling her into a police station just should not have happened because --
Q. I just want to link this to the question that you saw somewhere in the material DCI Fox said to you he would try to hold back statements unless he was required to hand them over.
A. Yes.
Q. Did you ever get the impression from [AL] that she
thought the police generally knew more about her because of other contacts that she might have had with police officers?
A. No. I think it was more that she felt that she should - that what happened to her shouldn't have happened. I think it was more sort of, "It's happened to me once before. That's what the church did. Why is it happening to me again?" It was more at that level.
Q. I just want to now go to where we were up to, which is DCI Fox's first communications with you after the meeting of 2 December.
A. Yes.
Q. I think your best memory is that his having said that he was very positive about the meeting, you thought was communicated to you in a telephone call?
A. I think so, yes. Look, he might have emailed as well. This time of day, I'm guessing we had a conversation about it.
Q. Did you ultimately then get an email from him that was perhaps a different tone to being positive about the meeting?
A. Yes. I had a phone call from him first, though.
Q. Can you remember anything of the content of that phone call save for this impression that he was very positive about the meeting and that there had been --
A. Oh, that phone call --
Q. -- senior police present?
A. Yes. He said something about that he expected - State Crime Command was going to be there, or something or other, and - so he had the impression that it was going to finally decide if a bigger investigation was possibly going to be on the table and I - I mean, it happened not long after his report, so I think he thought that maybe there'd been some positive response to that.
Q. I'm trying to understand, though, in the context of paragraph 63, as I read it, that was Peter Fox advising you that he had been called to a meeting and he was positive about how the meeting had gone. Am I right in that?
A. I am sorry. Look, I have worded that really badly. I put that he was very positive about the meeting as if he's talking to me after the event. He was very positive about
the possibilities of the meeting.
Q. The prospect of the meeting?
A. Yes, yes, sorry.
Q. That wasn't a reporting to you about the meeting?
A. No. Actually, when I read that back here today,

I thought, "Hmm, that's a bit ambiguous." Sorry about that.
Q. Going then to the email behind tab 84 of volume 2, this effectively is an email that you received from DCI Fox from his home address at 23.19 on 2 December?
A. Yes, which I would have read the next morning.
Q. And is it fair to say that the tone is not consistent with being positive about the outcome of the meeting?
A. No.
Q. I think that can probably be summed up by the last two sentences where the author says:

The pricks can shove it. The whole thing stinks and they can bit me.

Which I think you read to mean "bite me"?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you understand, as a result of what was set out in that, that DCI Fox intended to keep communicating with you, notwithstanding that that had been one of the directions that he not do so?
A. Yes. He rang me some time in the afternoon of that day.
Q. Of the 2nd?
A. Yes.
Q. And what sort of things did he say to you then?
A. It was a very short conversation and it was very
formal. I got the impression there was somebody else
there, and I don't know whether that's correct, but
I didn't - it wasn't a chatty conversation and it was to advise me that he wasn't to contact me and that if
I contacted him, he had to formally log it or report it, or something. And then the conversation - and I just said, "Okay", or something like that, and that was the end of the
conversation.
Q. In context then, receiving the email much later that evening, did it seem to you that he was going through the motions of notifying you that there wouldn't be contact? A. Yes.
Q. I want to take you to the email that is behind tab 87 and I just want to read the last substantive paragraph after the "PS", which says - you address it in your affidavit, but I want to read it fully before you address your reaction and any action that you took or didn't take in response to this:

> FYI the COPS can do online checks of computers. If you retain an email on your system they can read it, who sent it, where and when and that sender's computer ID. If you print and delete it is a dead end for them. Another alternative is to save it to a word file and then to a disc or memory stick, again deleting the email. Don't let the bad guys know.

You read that at the time?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you take that to be either an implied or explicit suggestion to you that you could use the kind of techniques described to avoid detection of any email correspondence that you had with DCI Fox?
A. I just pulled a face then because again I wouldn't know how to do that and also - I mean, literally I would not have a clue what he's talking about, but leaving that aside --
Q. The question at the moment is not so much getting at anything that you did or could do in relation to it yet.
A. Yes.
Q. What I'm asking you to direct your attention to at the moment is what you understood to be the intention behind that material being addressed to you?
A. Well, it's obvious, you know, if you were of a mind to get rid of things, this is a way of doing it.
Q. Putting to one side your Luddite tendencies concerning
technology --
A. Technical inability.
Q. -- in terms of impossibility and just assume for the moment that you had those capacities --
A. Yes .
Q. -- first of all, did you or would you behave in the way that is encouraged in that paragraph?
A. No, I didn't and I wouldn't.
Q. Why wouldn't you?
A. Just practice; just, you know, as a journalist you don't get rid of things because you just don't, so --
Q. Did you ultimately receive a summons from this Commission?
A. Yes.
Q. In relation to your email correspondence relative to DCI Fox?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you produce about one and a half photocopy boxes full of hard copy emails?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you ultimately have cause to search for a few more other bits and pieces and provide some extra material on top of that hard copy that you provided?
A. Yes.
Q. Were you able to satisfy yourself that in terms of converting, with the assistance of the editorial assistant of the Newcastle Herald --
A. The wonderful Ashleigh.
Q. -- to the best of your knowledge, anything that was in cyberspace has been reduced into a hard copy form for production?
A. Yes .
Q. Can I just ask you now, having clarified your position about those things, Ms McCarthy, to turn to the page immediately before that one that I've been asking you questions about. It's got paginated number 369 on the bottom. It is the third page of that email.
A. So we'll still on tab $87 ?$
Q. Yes, I'm sorry.
A. Sorry, which page?
Q. It is the second page of the email. It's got 369 down the bottom. Do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you see in the second half that DCI Fox goes through possible options in relation to the investigation moving forward?
A. Yes.
Q. And then he says this:

It is all a bit early at present: you may
have to just see how the witnesses want
this to play out.
Did you understand what was meant by that?
A. Well, I suppose the witnesses would have had an opinion about their expectations of the police investigation.
Q. Was there by this stage any plan that either you had in mind or that DCI Fox had shared with you about plans towards trying to bring about a royal commission in relation to some of the issues --
A. No, definitely not.
Q. That was some time --
A. No.
Q. That happened, but some time much later; is that right?
A. Yes, 2012. At that stage, as I said, when Stephen Rae mentioned the Truth and Reconciliation - I think one of my emails just says, "Well, as if that's going to happen." It just wasn't on the radar as a realistic proposition in 2010.
Q. Where DCI Fox said this to you:

You will have to decide what to do depending on when this investigation finishes. I have a feeling that you will

What did that relate to?
A. Well, I'm guessing that there he's - I'm not guessing, you can read it, that, you know, my job, as he sees it, is to sort of criticise the police at that point. Just because it is written doesn't mean to say that it is going to happen, though.
Q. Were those things that you were doing, if you were doing them, in your interests or in his or in both, or how would you express that in terms of criticism of police? I'm asking whether that was part of your set of priorities as a journalist or whether you were doing it because Fox was encouraging you to do it?
A. My criticism of police at that point was restricted to the treatment of [AL], and if that interview had gone well then I wouldn't have been - there wouldn't have been a phone call from me to Max Mitchell. Peter Fox's part of it was a separate issue. He believed that he should have been involved in the investigation, but that was his position.
Q. Do you see that there's a possible implication available that you getting an email from DCI Fox that says, "You may have to just see how the witnesses want this to play out, and you will have to decide what to do depending on when this investigation finishes," et cetera, there's a suggestion, at least from Fox's point of view, that he saw you in league with him in some way?
A. Clearly.
Q. Was that a perception that you shared, that you felt to be that you were in league for a higher purpose, perhaps in 2012; but at this point did you consider that you were in league with Peter Fox against either the church or the police or both?
A. I wanted the victims to be looked after. I wanted the witnesses to be looked after and I wanted the police to investigate the matter and do it in a way that looked after those victims.
Q. Do you think that, to the extent that there was that possible alliance with DCI Fox, that affected your objectivity in relation to decisions or reporting that you made about the balance of the police, given that he was so at odds with them?
A. No.
Q. Al1 right.
A. Because I think if you look at the totality of the material that we didn't produce, particularly in December and the article, that seems to have caused the police the most grief, that "Strike farce" article, it was completely open to me in that article to put in that there had been a formal complaint against police by that strike force.
I didn't do that. I didn't want to go to the police.
I would have been thrilled to bits if they'd just investigated the matter and I didn't have to have any part in it.
Q. Can I just ask you about this: you accept that the article that you're referring to as "Strike farce" is the article which was a front-page article on 24 December 2010? A. Yes.
Q. And it identified, among other things, that the three officers who were most closely attached to Strike Force Lantle had gone off on sick leave?
A. Yes.
Q. The title of the article itself, is that your words?
A. No. "Strike farce" is the sub-editor's or the editor's. Particularly on the front page, the journalist who writes the copy for a newspaper like ours does not write the heading, the headline. I wrote the copy, but I had nothing to do with the headline.
Q. Picking up what you were just talking about a couple of answers ago about having this objective of wanting the police to do a thorough investigation, I think there was a point in around April 2011 when you formed the view, because of communications from people who may have I don't want you to go into the details of the identity or anything like that, but you were having feedback with people who may have been involved in a further stage of the investigation, April 2011 and onward?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you form the view that the kind of things that you had wanted to achieve, that is, a thorough and efficient investigation, were happening?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you cease to write articles about the issue around
that time?
A. Yes.
Q. Why?
A. Because the police were doing the investigation, and the feedback that I had from the victims was that they were being looked after.
Q. Have you come to understand that there's a possible interpretation available that some of DCI Fox's actions may have been to do with internal police relations between him and certain other officers?
A. Yes.
Q. Could you say something about your attitude to that sort of material as opposed to the sort of material that you've just been talking about, about your desire for an effective investigation to take place?
A. Right. So you're talking about --
Q. You said that your, as I understand it, at least principal motivation was to get an investigation happening? A. Yes.
Q. And the police to do what you perceived to be their job?
A. Yes.
Q. In April 2011, you were satisfied that that was happening and you stopped writing articles at a certain point because you were satisfied that your desire had been met by action?
A. In April 2011, I wrote the article that was basically that a year has gone by and that was a critical article.
It was --
Q. And then you did certain other things we're going to come to around about that time?
A. Yes. Subsequent to that, when I had feedback from the victims who had contact with Detective Little and it was very positive and after that there was --
Q. No further articles relative to dilatory police behaviour?
A. No.
Q. What I'm asking you to now comment on, having given
your evidence about what your principal objective was, or maybe it was your only objective, I don't know --
A. It was my only objective.
Q. -- I'm asking you if there's an available inference that some of whatever other motivations for good or $i 11$ he may have had, that part of DCI Fox's motivations may have been connected with internal police alliances or non-alliances and so on. What's your attitude to aligning to support DCI Fox on those things?
A. Whether I was aligned to them?
Q. Yes. Whether that was another objective that you were trying to pursue --
A. No.
Q. -- was to advance his agenda against certain police?
A. No, definitely not.
Q. You say you wrote a critical article in April 2011?
A. Yes.
Q. I think you mean "critical" in both ways, don't you; critical in the sense that it was critical of the police? A. Yes.
Q. But critical in the sense that you saw it as being important?
A. Oh, well, I thought it was necessary.
Q. There was something else that you did as a citizen alongside that time frame of writing that particular article in April 2011; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. Could you explain what you did and why you did it? A. I wrote a complaint to the Police Integrity Commission about my beliefs about the police handling of certain documents and just some of the things that followed after it. I wrote it acknowledging that I was a journalist and I wrote it for a number of reasons. A year had gone by. I had had advice that if I had concerns, the Police Integrity Commission was the appropriate place to take it to, and also because when people contact the media, if somebody contacts me and they've got a complaint about something, say a government body or anything, virtually the first thing I say to them is, "Have you formally
complained?" So, if they have a serious issue, "Have you complained? Is there a written complaint from you to that body so that that body can address your issues?" To my way of thinking, I write the article because I'm a journalist, but I also put in a formal complaint because I wasn't happy with the way that it had gone and I thought it was appropriate to put down the reason for it.
Q. Were you complaining as a journalist or as a citizen, or both?
A. Both. I mean, if I was complaining - it wasn't on the Newcastle Herald letterhead. I made it clear in my affidavit I did not - I thought about it for quite a few weeks, actually. In the end, I did not consult the editor mainly because, I mean, you know, a journalist complaining to the Police Integrity Commission on something as sensitive as this, I didn't have a clue what was going to happen. So I thought about it and I thought, no. I wanted the editor to be able to honestly - can I use the proverbial phase? If the shit had hit the fan, I wanted the editor to be able to honestly say, "I did not know about this." But I still thought it was important to raise it and just because I was a journalist did not preclude me from having rights as a citizen. So I clearly flagged that I was writing it as a journalist, but it wasn't on a letterhead.
Q. Just step-wise, could you - and thank you for that go to tab 111 which is towards the back of volume 2. Relying on the paginated numbers at the bottom, would you go to page 528. Albeit imperfectly copied and perhaps not presented as glamorously as it might have been on the Newcastle Herald --
A. It was only page 8.
Q. Is that the article that you were talking about that's headed "Inquiry into church cover-up 'disgrace'"?
A. Yes.
Q. Was that published on page 8 of the Newcastle Herald for Monday, 18 Apri1 2011?
A. Yes.

MR HUNT: Would you excuse me a moment, Commissioner.
I will tender that for completeness.
THE COMMISSIONER: Page 528, under tab 111, being a
newspaper article by Ms McCarthy of 18 April 2011, will be admitted and marked exhibit 29.

## EXHIBIT \#29 PAGE 528 UNDER TAB 111, NEWCASTLE HERALD ARTICLE BY MS McCARTHY DATED 18/4/2011

MR HUNT: Q. Can I show you a document that has a file ID of LM1102477 and a TRIM file reference of F/2013/13924.
Could you just have a look at this and I direct your attention, first of all, to the last three pages which are typewritten. Is that the complaint that you made to the Police Integrity Commission?
A. Yes .

MR HUNT: My friends who act for the NSW Police Force are just going to consider this. I've indicated it is my intention to tender this whole set of material but it needs to be considered.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR HUNT: Could I say something about sitting times while that's happening?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR HUNT: I think your intention for tomorrow is to sit between 9.30 and 4.30 .

THE COMMISSIONER: Correct.
MR HUNT: And then, on Wednesday and Thursday, to sit between 9.30 and 4 pm . On those occasions ending at 4 pm simply because there are things that those who are assisting need to do that are important and time consuming and relate to this Commission. The earnest hope is that the evidence might be finished by the end of Thursday, but I think, Commissioner, you've reserved Friday in case, but the firm desire is that evidence that relates to term of reference number 1 conclude this week because term of reference 2 starts on 1 July.

THE COMMISSIONER: Monday.
MR HUNT: Yes.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you Mr Hunt. That's all correct.

MR HUNT: I don't have much more with this witness, but if the position is that a view can't be reached now, perhaps we could pick up the evidence-in-chief and conclude it, except that means, Commissioner, that you will be stopping six minutes ahead of the projected time.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, you know how diligent I am.
MR HUNT: I do. That's why I'm asking your indulgence, but I'm also trying to lip-read what Mr McIlwaine is saying to me.

MR McILWAINE: I'm seeking your indulgence, Commissioner. I have five to 10 minutes evidence of this witness.

THE COMMISSIONER: Would you like to do that now? That's a good idea.

MR HUNT: I'm diligent but I'm also chivalrous, so I'm prepared to stop my examination-in-chief and allow Mr McIlwaine to ask some questions.

MR McILWAINE: They are very limited.
MR HUNT: Q. Ms McCarthy, I'm going to finish asking questions and we're going to deal with this document in the morning. Mr McIlwaine, because he has a very limited involvement in the matter, is going to cross-examine you now.
A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr McIlwaine.

## <EXAMINATION BY MR McILWAINE:

MR McILWAINE: Q. I represent the interests of former Detective Inspector Brad Tayler and former Detective Sergeant Justin Quinn.
A. Yes.
Q. The first question $I$ want to ask you is: a significant complaint you had is the way police officers, initially at least, dealt with [AL]?
A. Yes.
Q. That complaint is based on information given to you by
[AL] about what took place; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. You, of course, don't have the version of what took place in those meetings of Officer $X$, for example, do you? A. No.
Q. And you are entirely reliant on what she has conveyed to you - that is, what [AL] has conveyed to you -is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. In those circumstances, would you concede that you could be incorrect in making criticisms of the way that Officer X dealt with [AL], if the information you received was in fact unreliable?
A. My involvement with it was to raise the issue with Assistant Commissioner Mitchell and it was expressing my concerns because I'd encouraged her. So as to the nature of what happened, that was why the complaint was important. It was for the police to sort out what had happened, not me.
Q. I accept that, but you have no objective evidence about what happened other than what [AL] has told you; correct?
A. Correct.

MR McILWAINE: Could the witness be shown exhibit 15, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR McILWAINE: Q. That's a two-page document you have in front of you?
A. Actually, sorry, it's just occurred to me that $I$ also have what Assistant Commissioner Mitchell conceded to me in the discussion on the 19th.
Q. But your knowledge, of course, is that Assistant Commissioner Mitchell wasn't present at [AL]'s interview? A. Correct.
Q. Would you look at that document that's just been handed to you. Have you seen that document before?
A. Yes.
Q. Would you turn to the second page. It is shown as being copied to you?
A. Yes.
Q. You have seen that before?
A. Yes.
Q. It appears to have been a document signed by [AL] and forwarded on 9 November 2010. Did you see that document before it was forwarded to the NSW Police?
A. Yes.
Q. You did?
A. Yes.
Q. What were the circumstances in which you saw that document?
A. The person supporting [AL] provided me with a draft of it, emailed me a draft.
Q. Has that email draft to you been provided to this Commission?
A. Yes.
Q. After you received the email draft, did you make any changes?
A. No.
Q. You will see in the heading the person it is addressed to is Ms York. Do you see that, the top left hand of the front page?
A. Yes .
Q. The information there about her rank and position, was that information you conveyed to [AL]?
A. Yes.
Q. You will see --
A. At her request.
Q. Do you see at the bottom of the second page the document is copied to a number of persons?
A. Yes.
Q. With their ranks and/or positions?
A. Yes.
Q. Is that also information you conveyed to [AL]?
A. And the support person who asked me - he drafted the letter and then asked me who should it - because I had been dealing with the police, so who should it go to.
Q. You just said he drafted the letter?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you know the name of that person?
A. Yes.
Q. I don't want you to give it - yes?
A. Yes.
Q. I don't know if the name is one of the persons who has a pseudonym?
A. I'm not sure.

MR HUNT: The position is the person doesn't have a pseudonym, but perhaps the relationship with [AL] would disclose her identity, and that's why I've been careful about that.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
MR McILWAINE: Q. I'm happy to refer to it in a vacuum. So is it your understanding that the male person you have been talking about drafted this letter?
A. With [AL].
Q. When you say that, were you present when he drafted it?
A. No.
Q. How do you know he was present with [AL] when it was drafted?
A. Because she told me, he told me - we had discussions.
Q. But the words in the letter, is it your understanding that they are the words of this male person, not the words of [AL]?
A. No.
Q. Do you know if [AL] - you've known her for three years, I think; is that right?
A. Since 2007.
Q. Would you look at, for example, the second line, we'11 go back a step - do you see the salutation, "Dear Commander"?
A. Sorry?
Q. The salutation; it's the words at the top left-hand of the page on under the address "Dear Commander"?
A. Yes.

MR HUNT: I object to this. I can anticipate what Mr McIlwaine is endeavouring to do through this. He's saying [AL] had some help in drafting the complaint, which might not come as a surprise, but more importantly, how is it going to inform your view, Commissioner, as to matters that are within the term of reference?

MR McILWAINE: Perhaps can I answer, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr McIlwaine.
MR McILWAINE: My clients, and Officer $X$ as well, have been subject to criticism as to how they dealt with [AL]. I've certainly not seen any evidence from [AL] where she expresses that criticism. There is some evidence from Officer $X$ about what took place, which we have, Commissioner, I don't know how restricted I am to commenting on that evidence.

MR HUNT: You're restricted at this stage, given it was taken in camera.

MR McILWAINE: All can I say is, in my submission, is that would throw some doubt on the validity of the complaint. I'11 say nothing more than that.

THE COMMISSIONER: I completely understand your position, Mr McIlwaine.

MR McILWAINE: That's why I'm going to this issue.
I think I've covered it. I simply didn't know anything at all about the circumstances in which this document came into existence and objectively, on the face of it, there were matters which went to the provenance of it as having come from [AL], and that was my concern. I think I've probably covered that.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. What is understood is that
another person drafted this letter for [AL], but it may not be that this witness can tell us precisely how much input [AL] had.

MR McILWAINE: I suppose I just wanted to exclude her as a suspect, effectively.

THE WITNESS: Thanks.
MR McILWAINE: Q. You've given evidence about a meeting with Detective Tayler and Detective Quinn and others and Mr Morrison --
A. Yes.
Q. -- and these issues were discussed. You've said from your observation of it, yourself, and Mr Morrison perhaps, had come to the meeting with an entirely different preconception as to what was going to take place at the meeting from Detective Tayler in particular; correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Your observation was that Detective Tayler had an understanding that you were going to provide some information to him; correct?
A. Yes .
Q. What was your understanding of the purpose of the meeting?
A. To try and sort out a way forward. It was pretty vague because it was actually Assistant Commissioner Mitchell who suggested the meeting, but he wasn't at the meeting. So it was more sort of we can get you together with the police, you know, to take it forward.
Q. Was that part of the problem - the meeting had been suggested by somebody else who wasn't there?
A. Yes.
Q. In regard to Mr Morrison, he didn't act for [AL]?
A. No.
Q. He didn't act for any other victim of Father McAlinden; correct?
A. No.
Q. Would you agree with the proposition that, therefore, it would have been totally inappropriate for New South

Wales police officers to provide him with any information about their contact with [AL]?
A. We weren't there to talk about - sorry, what was the question again?
Q. [AL] had made a complaint or was in the process of making a complaint to the NSW Police about the conduct of Father McAlinden?
A. But that wasn't the subject of the meeting.
Q. I thought the subject of the meeting was to progress the investigation of the complaint that there had been a cover-up, a concealment of a serious offence; correct?
A. The point of the meeting was to take it forward with [AL], but the issue of her complaint had nothing to do with the meeting because that was separate to be dealt with by the police.
Q. We're using the word "complaint" in two different senses. I'm talking about her complaint about Father McAlinden and the cover-up?
A. Oh, the original, yes.
Q. That's what it was all about?
A. Yes.
Q. Everyone wanted that to be progressed?
A. Yes.
Q. It would have been inappropriate, I suggest to you, for Detective Tayler or any other police officer to provide you with information about you or Mr Morrison about their contact with [AL] in those circumstances?
A. We weren't after information about their contact with [AL]. It was more she had expressed very strongly that she was not going to deal with that particular officer. It was a matter of "Okay, what's the next step?"
Q. The police officers were expressing to you - that's Detective Tayler - to progress the investigation of the concealment offence, they had to have a statement from [AL]. That was their view; do you agree with that?
A. Yes.
Q. And you understand that subsequently, Detective Justin Quinn spoke to [AL]?
A. Yes.
Q. And seemed to establish a good relationship with her did that come back to you?
A. I think at the point he wanted to speak with her and then she rang me again because she didn't want - she expressed that she didn't want to be contacted. The issue of the complaint was still there and hadn't been addressed. So it was sort of this --
Q. The complaint wasn't about Detective Quinn?
A. No.
Q. What I want to put to you is --
A. But I think she had expressed that, you know, she'd lost trust with "the police" or --
Q. Did you come to understand that, ultimately, she reached an agreement with Detective Justin Quinn that they would meet in the near future and she would speak to him about the matter?
A. I think so, yes.

MR McILWAINE: Nothing further, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you Mr McIlwaine. I will adjourn until 9.30.

AT 4.40PM THE COMMISSION WAS ADJOURNED TO TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2013 AT 9.30AM


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