

# **INQUIRY INTO THE RETIREMENT OF THE FORMER COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN GIBRALTAR**

## **FOURTH WITNESS STATEMENT OF RETIRED SUPERINTENDENT PAUL RICHARDSON**

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1. I, Paul Richardson, make this fourth statement in response to letters from the Solicitor to the Inquiry (“STI”) dated 14 and 26 November 2024.
2. On 15 June 2023 my legal team disclosed “curated” ie relevant WhatsApp messages exchanged with Mr McGrail on his mobile number [REDACTED]4000 between 14 February 2019 and 9 June 2020, the day of the Commissioner’s Farewell Parade. As far as I am aware Mr McGrail used this mobile number for both work and personal calls.
3. I retrieved the messages from my personal mobile phone number +350 [REDACTED]9135 and selected 9 June 2020 as the cut-off point as that was Mr McGrail’s last day at work with RGP.
4. Sometime before commencing pre-retirement leave in May 2021, I returned my work issued mobile iPhone and SIM card with subscriber number +350 [REDACTED]9004. Individual users did not have access to an Apple ID for managing their work phones which were wiped once they were returned. The only phone I was able to search for messages to disclose to STI was my personal phone.
5. STI’s letter dated 14 November 2024 requested disclosure covering the period 1 January to 30 June 2020 and so I reviewed the exchanges with Mr McGrail again and disclosed slightly later exchanges from my personal mobile to his mobile number +350 [REDACTED]4000 covering the period 9 to 30 June 2020. When carrying out this review I discovered a series of messages in June 2020 to Mr McGrail’s new mobile phone with number +350 [REDACTED]8000. I understand my legal team disclosed both sets of messages to STI on 21 November 2024.
6. I confirm I do remember sending a message to Mr McGrail when the warrant was about to be executed on 12 May 2020. Unless the mobile phone coverage in the area was under 4G in strength it would have been by WhatsApp rather than SMS. I confirm there are no messages from my personal phone to Mr McGrail’s mobile on 12 May 2020.

7. The messages exchanged with Mr McGrail from my personal phone to his phone number +350 [REDACTED] 4000 between 1 January and 30 June 2020 are at Exhibit 1 to this statement. Those that were not disclosed in June 2023 have been highlighted in red. All of these messages were disclosed on 21 November 2024.
8. At Exhibit 2 is a list of the messages that were exchanged with Mr McGrail's number +350 [REDACTED] 8000 over the same period. These too were disclosed on 21 November 2020. They were not disclosed in June 2023.
9. I extracted the WhatsApp messages between my mobile phone number and numbers +350 [REDACTED] 4000 and +350 [REDACTED] 8000 respectively by using the export function on the App. I then opened the exported document in text edit on my Mac. I deleted those messages that were sent before 1 January 2020 and after 30 June 2020 and then copied the truncated document onto Clipboard. I then converted it into a Word document and exported it to PDF.

I believe that the facts set out in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed.....

Dated.....