
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

COMMISSIONER: HON. RAY FINKELSTEIN AO QC

**IN THE MATTER OF A ROYAL COMMISSION
INTO THE CASINO OPERATOR AND LICENCE**

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

11.56 AM, THURSDAY, 24 JUNE 2021

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11:56 1
11:56 2
11:56 3
11:56 4 COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
11:56 5
11:56 6 Good late morning, everybody.
11:57 7
11:57 8 MR FINANZIO: I'll call the first witness. Take a seat.
11:57 9
11:57 10
11:57 11 **SECURITY OFFICER 1, SWORN**
11:57 12
11:57 13
11:57 14 **EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR FINANZIO**
11:57 15
11:57 16
11:57 17 COMMISSIONER: You can take a seat. We're going to call you
11:57 18 Security Officer 1.
11:57 19
11:57 20 A. Yes, Commissioner.
11:57 21
11:57 22 MR FINANZIO: Can we start this way. On 17 May, you met
11:58 23 with Solicitors Assisting the Commission?
11:58 24
11:58 25 A. Yes sir.
11:58 26
11:58 27 Q. You don't have to call me "sir".
11:58 28
11:58 29 A. Yes.
11:58 30
11:58 31 Q. And you did so voluntarily?
11:58 32
11:58 33 A. Yes.
11:58 34
11:58 35 Q. With the view of cooperating with the Commission fully?
11:58 36
11:58 37 A. Yes.
11:58 38
11:58 39 Q. You know also that a few days before that, your business
11:58 40 partner known as "Security Officer 2" ---
11:58 41
11:58 42 A. Yes.
11:58 43
11:58 44 Q. --- also met with the Commission or spoke with the
11:58 45 Commission?
11:58 46
11:58 47 A. Yes.

11:58 1
11:58 2 Q. Afterwards, the entity that you control voluntarily provided
11:58 3 documents to the Commission?
11:58 4
11:58 5 A. Yes.
11:58 6
11:58 7 Q. You provided those in response to a Notice to Produce that
11:58 8 gave you seven days, but you did it in one day?
11:58 9
11:58 10 A. That's correct.
11:58 11
11:58 12 Q. You helpfully provided some important background
11:59 13 information to the Commission based on the questions you were
11:59 14 asked?
11:59 15
11:59 16 A. Yes.
11:59 17
11:59 18 Q. It's fair to say to you that the purpose of your presence
11:59 19 today is to record those things in these hearings, but also to
11:59 20 explore a few additional matters in relation to the matters that
11:59 21 you've described to the Solicitors Assisting, okay. So, I just
11:59 22 wanted to set the framework.
11:59 23
11:59 24 A. Yes.
11:59 25
11:59 26 Q. Other than with your lawyer and Personal Information have you
11:59 27 discussed the fact that you were being called to give evidence
11:59 28 today with any other person in the days leading up to coming
11:59 29 here?
11:59 30
11:59 31 A. Not since I received notice.
11:59 32
11:59 33 Q. And before that?
11:59 34
11:59 35 A. Yes, I have.
11:59 36
11:59 37 Q. With whom?
11:59 38
11:59 39 A. Family, some friends, trusted people that I would --- there's
12:00 40 a high likelihood that I would be called, yes.
12:00 41
12:00 42 Q. Any current or former employee of Crown?
12:00 43
12:00 44 A. Yes.
12:00 45
12:00 46 Q. Who?
12:00 47

12:00 1 A. Craig Walsh.
12:00 2
12:00 3 Q. When did you discuss your attendance here with him?
12:00 4
12:00 5 A. We had a birthday dinner with friends last Friday.
12:00 6
12:00 7 COMMISSIONER: I've just been told that you referred to the
12:00 8 other witness by name. Security Officer 1 referred to the other
12:00 9 witness by name.
12:00 10
12:00 11 MR FINANZIO: I can't hear? Referred to the other witness?
12:00 12
12:00 13 COMMISSIONER: He referred to Security Officer 2 by name.
12:00 14
12:00 15 You've just got to be careful.
12:00 16
12:00 17 A. Oh, sorry, sorry.
12:00 18
12:00 19 MR FINANZIO: It's okay. Lucky I didn't do it!
12:00 20
12:00 21 A. Can I have that removed?
12:00 22
12:00 23 COMMISSIONER: Yes.
12:00 24
12:00 25 A. Sorry. This is new for me.
12:01 26
12:01 27 COMMISSIONER: No, it's natural.
12:01 28
12:01 29 MR FINANZIO: It's not natural for everybody. You were
12:01 30 describing the circumstances in which you'd had the conversation
12:01 31 with the Crown employee?
12:01 32
12:01 33 A. That's right, yeah.
12:01 34
12:01 35 Q. What was it? I think you said a birthday?
12:01 36
12:01 37 A. It was a birthday for a group of us mutual friends and my
12:01 38 partner.
12:01 39
12:01 40 Q. And is it fair to say that you're friends with Craig Walsh?
12:01 41
12:01 42 A. Correct.
12:01 43
12:01 44 Q. Close friends?
12:01 45
12:01 46 A. Yes.
12:01 47

12:01 1 Q. And have been for a long time?
12:01 2
12:01 3 A. Since the end of '94, on and off.
12:01 4
12:01 5 Q. And why is that?
12:01 6
12:01 7 A. We went for an interview for the same job on that same day
12:01 8 and he ended up getting the job a month ahead of me. Is that ---
12:01 9 I was in the police force, so
12:01 10
12:01 11 Q. And you went in the academy with him?
12:01 12
12:01 13 A. Yes, but he was a group of squads ahead of me by four
12:02 14 weeks.
12:02 15
12:02 16 Q. What was the nature of your conversation with Mr Walsh
12:02 17 the other night at the birthday party? What did he say?
12:02 18
12:02 19 A. Not much on the night of the birthday party, but as the last
12:02 20 few years and what's happened in NSW and stuff, it was more
12:02 21 generally around the perception of the junket and the people
12:02 22 involved in it, and how what was published and publicised was
12:02 23 just different to what it really was.
12:02 24
12:02 25 Q. Okay.
12:02 26
12:02 27 A. Yeah, we were both kind of --- I was a bit bemused by it. I
12:02 28 didn't understand it.
12:02 29
12:02 30 Q. Since the birthday party --- when was the birthday party?
12:02 31
12:02 32 A. Friday.
12:02 33
12:02 34 Q. Last week?
12:02 35
12:02 36 A. Last Friday.
12:02 37
12:02 38 Q. Since the birthday party, have you had any other
12:02 39 conversations with him?
12:02 40
12:02 41 A. No.
12:02 42
12:02 43 Q. I do want to ask you some questions about a former client.
12:03 44
12:03 45 A. Yes.
12:03 46
12:03 47 Q. Zhou Jiuming, Tom Zhou. Am I pronouncing it --

12:03 1
12:03 2 A. I used to say it sounds like "go" in Mandarin.
12:03 3
12:03 4 Q. You first met him in 2016?
12:03 5
12:03 6 A. I did.
12:03 7
12:03 8 Q. You worked for him for about five months?
12:03 9
12:03 10 A. I did.
12:03 11
12:03 12 Q. It's the work you did for him in the last five months that I'm
12:03 13 most interested in.
12:03 14
12:03 15 A. Yes.
12:03 16
12:03 17 Q. As between you and Security Officer 2, you were the one
12:03 18 who had the most to do with him personally?
12:03 19
12:03 20 A. Face-to-face, correct.
12:03 21
12:03 22 Q. Whereas Security Officer 2 was really doing accounts and
12:03 23 bookkeeping and other things?
12:03 24
12:03 25 A. Back of house, correct, which included that, yes.
12:03 26
12:03 27 COMMISSIONER: Are you and Security Officer 2 in business
12:03 28 together?
12:03 29
12:03 30 A. Yes sir, and we have been for a long time.
12:04 31
12:04 32 COMMISSIONER: And just in a word or two, what's the nature
12:04 33 of the business?
12:04 34
12:04 35 MR FINANZIO: Can I put it in these terms ---
12:04 36
12:04 37 A. Yes.
12:04 38
12:04 39 Q. --- just to satisfy you. Can I show you this document ---
12:04 40
12:04 41 A. Yes, yes.
12:04 42
12:04 43 Q. --- it's a document that is a flyer or a pamphlet that
12:04 44 describes your business and can I ask you to just --- can you pass
12:04 45 this to the witness?
12:04 46
12:04 47 A. Is this current, this one?

12:04 1
12:04 2 Q. You tell me. And it also includes at the back the other ---
12:04 3
12:04 4 A. Yeah. 70 per cent of our work is in the IT area of risk
12:04 5 management.
12:04 6
12:04 7 Q. Yes.
12:05 8
12:05 9 A. Now. And ---
12:05 10
12:05 11 Q. Is it right to say that at the time of your working for Mr
12:05 12 Zhou, the things listed there so training, risk management and
12:05 13 other things was an accurate representation of what your
12:05 14 company did?
12:05 15
12:05 16 A. Well, as individuals, we were licenced to perform those
12:05 17 duties.
12:05 18
12:05 19 Q. Yes.
12:05 20
12:05 21 A. We weren't a licenced company. That existed in
12:05 22 registration only, so we weren't licenced as in formally licenced,
12:05 23 but we were individually licenced to do ---
12:05 24
12:05 25 Q. All those things?
12:05 26
12:05 27 A. All those things, yes.
12:05 28
12:05 29 Q. So the entity wasn't in name licence to do those things?
12:05 30
12:05 31 A. That's right.
12:05 32
12:05 33 Q. But you as individuals were licenced to do the things listed
12:05 34 that I've just shown you?
12:05 35
12:05 36 A. Yeah, yeah.
12:05 37
12:05 38 Q. Can you pass that document back to me, please?
12:06 39
12:06 40 A. Sorry.
12:06 41
12:06 42 Q. That is in your folder, Commissioner, at tab 21 and it's at
12:06 43 page 1 of that, and I do seek to tender that.
12:06 44
12:06 45 So, at the time in 2019 you were personally licenced for security?
12:06 46
12:06 47 A. Personally licenced, yeah.

12:06 1
12:06 2 Q. And also, licenced to the extent that that's required to
12:06 3 undertake --- and also licenced personally to undertake private
12:06 4 investigation?
12:06 5
12:06 6 A. Correct.
12:07 7
12:07 8 Q. How did you first meet Mr Zhou?
12:07 9
12:07 10 A. Through --- do I say names?
12:07 11
12:07 12 COMMISSIONER: Yes.
12:07 13
12:07 14 MR FINANZIO: That's all right, if you're uncertain, you should
12:07 15 ---
12:07 16
12:07 17 A. So, it was a --- and I can't remember whether it was a
12:07 18 planned thing, because I lived --- we lived and worked in
12:07 19 Southbank. We used the gym at Crown and all that sort of stuff.
12:07 20 I don't know whether I was walking through Crown Towers going
12:07 21 to the gym or going to the office, or whether Craig's rung me and
12:07 22 texted me and said "I need to see ya." He said they had a junket
12:07 23 operator who required some advice and assistance at his house.
12:07 24
12:07 25 Q. So Craig told you it was a junket operator?
12:07 26
12:07 27 A. I'm not sure if it was a junket operator or a VVIP, a very
12:08 28 very important person for the casino, who needed some advice in
12:08 29 relation to personal risk issues.
12:08 30
12:08 31 Q. Personal risk issues?
12:08 32
12:08 33 A. Well --- or property, around his house . It had to do with
12:08 34 his house. It had --- apparently and I don't think Craig knew the
12:08 35 details of it --- he was like, "Can you just deal with this, we don't
12:08 36 do security for people individually."
12:08 37
12:08 38 Q. Did you get the impression from the conversation that he
12:08 39 had been asked to do security for Zhou?
12:08 40
12:08 41 A. No, I think he was sought advice as to who could --- who
12:08 42 could we get to help? Because it's clearly not a Crown
12:08 43 responsibility, I wouldn't think, and Craig certainly made it clear
12:08 44 outside Crown that his house was anything to do with him.
12:08 45
12:08 46 Q. I missed ---
12:08 47

12:08 1 A. That it was anything to do with him or Crown, so he's
12:09 2 palmed him off onto us, "You do what you've got to do."
12:09 3
12:09 4 Q. Did he describe what the nature of that "Do what you've got
12:09 5 to do" meant?
12:09 6
12:09 7 A. Talk to him and hopefully --- I'm pretty sure it was around
12:09 8 a burglary, a historical burglary and some security cameras and
12:09 9 maybe a lock.
12:09 10
12:09 11 Q. Right. Let me just ask you some questions now about the
12:09 12 work you did for him, for Zhou.
12:09 13
12:09 14 A. Yep.
12:09 15
12:09 16 Q. Looking at that list of things that at the time you did do, it's
12:09 17 right, isn't it, that some of the jobs you did for Zhou didn't really
12:09 18 fit into that list of things?
12:09 19
12:09 20 A. No.
12:09 21
12:09 22 Q. Is that right?
12:09 23
12:09 24 A. Predominantly, very little had anything to do with what ---
12:09 25 yeah.
12:09 26
12:09 27 Q. You ended up becoming a sort of personal assistant to him?
12:09 28
12:09 29 A. Yep. He even referred to me as his assistant manager or
12:09 30 executive assistant, "gwailo" other derogatory terms.
12:10 31
12:10 32 Q. What was that, sorry?
12:10 33
12:10 34 A. He didn't speak English or pretend --- not pretend it --- he
12:10 35 made out he didn't speak any English, yet he had an Australian
12:10 36 passport. Anyway ---
12:10 37
12:10 38 Q. Did I hear you use a Chinese word there, to describe you?
12:10 39
12:10 40 A. He'd say it in conversation with other --- because I've
12:10 41 worked previously in another industry and that was in another
12:10 42 totally separate industry, I worked in China and Hong Kong, I've
12:10 43 worked in Asia. So I knew ---
12:10 44
12:10 45 Q. Some Chinese words?
12:10 46
12:10 47 A. I knew some words anyway, and culture and all that sort of

12:10 1 thing.
12:10 2
12:10 3 Q. What was the word you used a minute ago?
12:10 4
12:10 5 A. He'd refer to me as like a "gwailo", just over the period of
12:10 6 time.
12:10 7
12:10 8 Q. And what does that mean?
12:10 9
12:10 10 A. It's a derogatory term for "white man" is my understanding.
12:10 11
12:10 12 Q. Okay.
12:10 13
12:10 14 A. He would refer to me as **Personal Information** again I'm not
12:11 15 counting the pronunciation but that's Chinese for **Personal**
12:11 16 **Information** apparently. He'd refer to me as "boss", he would refer to me as
12:11 17 "lao ban, lao ban", which is "boss" and "da lao ban", which is
12:11 18 "big boss". That was --- he'd refer to me as that a fair bit of that
12:11 19 all the time.
12:11 20
12:11 21 Q. Yeah.
12:11 22
12:11 23 A. Half the time I didn't know whether he was taking the
12:11 24 mickey, or whether he was ---
12:11 25
12:11 26 Q. Probably taking the mickey.
12:11 27
12:11 28 A. Yes, yeah, that's exactly it.
12:11 29
12:11 30 Q. Over the course of the time --- you only worked for him for
12:11 31 five months?
12:11 32
12:11 33 A. Yeah, and it wasn't everyday.
12:11 34
12:11 35 Q. Is it fair to say that by the end of the five months you didn't
12:11 36 like him very much?
12:11 37
12:11 38 A. I didn't like him after about five minutes, to be honest.
12:11 39
12:11 40 COMMISSIONER: Can you tell me what kind of work you did?
12:11 41
12:11 42 MR FINANZIO: I'm just going to do that, just give me one sec.
12:11 43
12:11 44 COMMISSIONER: Okay.
12:11 45
12:11 46 MR FINANZIO: You thought he was a bit of a bully?
12:11 47

- 12:11 1 A. Absolutely.
12:11 2
12:11 3 Q. Not particularly friendly towards you and the others around
12:11 4 him?
12:11 5
12:11 6 A. Correct.
12:12 7
12:12 8 Q. One of the things you did for him was getting rid of the nest
12:12 9 of wasps at the Toorak property?
12:12 10
12:12 11 A. Yes, that's true.
12:12 12
12:12 13 Q. You arranged for some locks to be changed at his house?
12:12 14
12:12 15 A. Yes.
12:12 16
12:12 17 Q. Am I right here that Zhou's wife or partner moved to
12:12 18 Sydney from China at one point?
12:12 19
12:12 20 A. Yes.
12:12 21
12:12 22 Q. And you arranged for the children of the wife or partner to
12:12 23 be enrolled at Scott's College in Sydney?
12:12 24
12:12 25 A. That's correct, because there was a requirement by the
12:12 26 school that they have an English-speaking person as a contact.
12:12 27 So one of the boys was boarding, so I was the contact and I had a
12:12 28 lot to do with the master in charge of the house and also the
12:12 29 younger boy, who --- English was his second language, so there
12:12 30 was parent-teacher stuff I went to. One was little, one was a bit
12:12 31 older. Different parts of the school, but that's correct.
12:13 32
12:13 33 Q. You did things like arrange school uniforms?
12:13 34
12:13 35 A. Correct.
12:13 36
12:13 37 Q. And you arranged for the family up in Sydney and
12:13 38 extension of the lease of the apartment?
12:13 39
12:13 40 A. Correct.
12:13 41
12:13 42 Q. You've also helped Zhou purchase a property at
12:13 43 Murrindindi, didn't you?
12:13 44
12:13 45 A. Yes, I did.
12:13 46
12:13 47 Q. Where he paid a deposit of about \$750,000?

12:13 1
12:13 2 A. Yes, that's correct.
12:13 3
12:13 4 Q. Did he pay that in cash?
12:13 5
12:13 6 A. No.
12:13 7
12:13 8 Q. You met him and spent time with him at the Toorak
12:13 9 property?
12:13 10
12:13 11 A. Yes, a few times, yes.
12:13 12
12:13 13 Q. Your impression was that he was pretty wealthy?
12:13 14
12:13 15 A. Absolutely.
12:13 16
12:13 17 Q. Where did at the time you think he got his money from?
12:13 18
12:13 19 A. As a --- the operator of a licenced junket operating in a
12:14 20 billion-dollar industry bringing --- like, it's just, it was like a false
12:14 21 reality, just the money the chips, it was just ridiculous. And even
12:14 22 a small percentage of what these guys were betting would make
12:14 23 him extremely wealthy if that's what they were getting.
12:14 24
12:14 25 Q. Is it right that when you started working for him, Mr Zhou
12:14 26 wasn't a very big player at Crown but was trying to become a
12:14 27 bigger player?
12:14 28
12:14 29 A. Personally he wasn't, he was self-excluded from casinos, in
12:14 30 fact every casino in Australia is my belief, so he wasn't allowed
12:14 31 on any gaming floors, even the private salons. So he was
12:14 32 restricted to hospo, hospitality. But as far as a player, I thought, I
12:14 33 thought the Suncity one was bigger. I didn't know where in the
12:15 34 pecking order Chinatown sat, but I thought they must be --- up
12:15 35 there. I didn't know how many junkets was involved, I didn't
12:15 36 understand --- I didn't even know what a junket was until ---
12:15 37
12:15 38 Q. You knew that he had an office in one of the suites at
12:15 39 Crown?
12:15 40
12:15 41 A. Yeah, they had a room, it was like a muster room where
12:15 42 two or three bedrooms, where the assistants who would be up
12:15 43 with the players all night, and all they would hot bed and sleep,
12:15 44 and there would be a table there and it would be like cups of tea.
12:15 45 It was like a ceremony, and there was a little lounge room. So, it
12:15 46 was like a --- yeah, I'd call it an office, I'm not sure. But
12:15 47 definitely ---

12:15 1
12:15 2 Q. He was frequently at the casino, wasn't he?
12:15 3
12:15 4 A. Pardon?
12:15 5
12:15 6 Q. He was frequently at the casino?
12:15 7
12:15 8 A. Look, he really, he spent more time out of Melbourne in my
12:16 9 view, because at this time, it became obvious to me he wasn't
12:16 10 happy with Crown.
12:16 11
12:16 12 Q. Alright. When he was at the casino, you were with him
12:16 13 from time to time, weren't you?
12:16 14
12:16 15 A. Yeah, a few times, yeah.
12:16 16
12:16 17 Q. What jobs were you doing for him at the casino?
12:16 18
12:16 19 A. There was a --- some floor space underneath Crown
12:16 20 Towers which is on a mezzanine floor which is like a
12:16 21 convenience store, which was up for lease and he ---
12:16 22
12:16 23 Q. This is the Fidel cigar bar?
12:16 24
12:16 25 A. Next to Fidel.
12:16 26
12:16 27 Q. Next to Fidel cigar bar.
12:16 28
12:16 29 A. I think it was called the Lobby Shop, I can't remember, but
12:16 30 either way, people that were in it weren't doing very well. So
12:16 31 with the influx of Chinese players, he thought that he could turn
12:16 32 that into a boutique to sell high-end liquor, Chinese cigarettes,
12:17 33 other items that these players at 24/7 at the push of a button could
12:17 34 access either to their rooms or to the salons. So we started the
12:17 35 process, I started the process of looking at the lease, getting
12:17 36 lawyers to look at the lease, talking to a Crown manager who was
12:17 37 in charge of that.
12:17 38
12:17 39 Q. David Stoddard?
12:17 40
12:17 41 A. Yes, that's right.
12:17 42
12:17 43 Q. Is it the case that you managed the process while it was
12:17 44 ongoing of trying to lease that space?
12:17 45
12:17 46 A. We were trying --- were doing the preparation into leasing
12:17 47 it ---

- 12:17 1
12:17 2 Q. Yes.
12:17 3
12:17 4 A. --- and that included Crown come up with --- Zhou put
12:17 5 forward that he wanted to put it under a company name, either ---
12:17 6 that wasn't Australian, I can't remember, it was either Hong Kong
12:18 7 or Macau or maybe even China. And they'd come back and said,
12:18 8 "You can't do that, it's got to be an Australian entity". He
12:18 9 proposed that an entity be formed, and it was always with the ---
12:18 10 it was implied that we would be involved in this, that we would
12:18 11 become partners in this.
12:18 12
12:18 13 Q. You became a director of the company, didn't you?
12:18 14
12:18 15 A. And as a result I became a director of a new entity to ---
12:18 16 and I did initiate through lawyers a liquor licence process, what
12:18 17 would that look like to get that going.
12:18 18
12:18 19 Q. Let's just go through that one step-by-step. You became a
12:18 20 director of an entity called Chinatown International?
12:18 21
12:18 22 A. Yes.
12:18 23
12:18 24 Q. You made application for the liquor licence for the site?
12:18 25
12:18 26 A. We ---
12:18 27
12:18 28 Q. Or made inquiries about it?
12:18 29
12:18 30 A. Yeah, through a law firm, yes.
12:18 31
12:18 32 Q. And engaged lawyers to assist in that process?
12:19 33
12:19 34 A. That's right.
12:19 35
12:19 36 Q. You negotiated the lease of the space and also, I think,
12:19 37 there were some drawings about in relation to how that space
12:19 38 might be set up?
12:19 39
12:19 40 A. Yeah, we --- I organised, I pulled a few favours and got a
12:19 41 designer to, in their own time, to put together a --- and I think I
12:19 42 may have supplied it.
12:19 43
12:19 44 Q. Yes.
12:19 45
12:19 46 A. Put together a proposal, some ideas and, you know,
12:19 47 spit balling a lot of stuff, and a really well-known one, too. That

12:19 1 would have usually cost a lot of money. And also, just while I've
12:19 2 remembered, the actual negotiation --- I don't think we got down
12:19 3 to negotiating how much and all that sort of stuff, the terms of the
12:19 4 lease. I went back to the lawyers and it came back. I did a --- I
12:19 5 tried to do a --- I did a licencee or nominee liquor course that
12:19 6 would require if a liquor licence was granted. So, yeah, I made
12:19 7 inquiries through customs brokers in relation to importing, what
12:20 8 the duty would look like and what the cost would look like to
12:20 9 import Chinese products that these high rollers might want. So
12:20 10 there was a fair bit going on.

12:20 11
12:20 12 Q. I wonder if the witness could be shown document
12:20 13 PRG.0002.0001.0123.

12:20 14
12:20 15 Got it in front of you there?

12:20 16
12:20 17 A. Yeah.

12:20 18
12:20 19 Q. Those negotiations ended on 26 October. The work you
12:20 20 did in respect of that project was during the month of --- around
12:20 21 October, late September/October, right?

12:20 22
12:20 23 A. Yeah, but --- September into October and there's all these
12:20 24 residual --- this sort of thing was a residual thing where I'd
12:20 25 engage people and I thought if I had of walked away when I
12:21 26 wanted to, or when we wanted to, I would have been letting all
12:21 27 these people down who were there under my name, so I had to
12:21 28 follow these things up and make sure they were finalised, make
12:21 29 sure that the people who had to get paid, that they paid it and that
12:21 30 these guys got --- did all that.

12:21 31
12:21 32 Q. Let me just lock in a couple of facts. You became a
12:21 33 director of the company on 20 September 2016. Sound right?

12:21 34
12:21 35 A. I'll take your word on that, but it was around that time, yep.

12:21 36
12:21 37 Q. The project came to an end on 26 October with this letter to
12:21 38 David Stoddard saying:

12:21 39
12:21 40 *With regret I have been directed by the Big Boss to cease*
12:21 41 *negotiations with Crown in relation to the retail lease and*
12:21 42 *project.*

12:21 43
12:21 44
12:21 45 A. Yes.

12:21 46
12:21 47 Q. By the "Big Boss" you're referring there to Zhou?

12:21 1
12:21 2 A. Zhou, yes.
12:22 3
12:22 4 Q. When Zhou attended Crown ---
12:22 5
12:22 6 A. Yeah.
12:22 7
12:22 8 Q. --- you sometimes went with him?
12:22 9
12:22 10 A. Went with him? No, I'd usually meet him there.
12:22 11
12:22 12 Q. Meet him there?
12:22 13
12:22 14 A. Yeah.
12:22 15
12:22 16 Q. And you would go around with him; is that correct?
12:22 17
12:22 18 A. When you say "go around", we would go, we'd walk to
12:22 19 Lucky Chan --
12:22 20
12:22 21 Q. Yes.
12:22 22
12:22 23 A. --- and have lunch. We'd have the private dining room, or
12:22 24 dinner. One thing, he made sure I always ate. So you'd go there,
12:22 25 lunch back, sometimes he'd go straight back to the atrium and
12:22 26 straight home again. Sometimes I'd wait for him ---
12:22 27
12:22 28 COMMISSIONER: Just give me one second. I want to mention
12:23 29 one thing. Up on the screen, there are --- and there will be
12:23 30 documents with names, and there's a non-publication order about
12:23 31 the names. So, everybody remembers that.
12:23 32
12:23 33 MR WARNER: Yes, thank you, Commissioner. Everybody
12:23 34 knows that, yes, and I think there are documents that Mr Finanzio
12:23 35 is going to take you to with physical addresses in other jurisdictions
12:23 36 outside of Australia, so those will need to be ---
12:23 37
12:23 38 COMMISSIONER: Redacted in due course.
12:23 39
12:23 40 MR WARNER: Yes.
12:23 41
12:23 42 COMMISSIONER: Okay.
12:23 43
12:23 44 MR FINANZIO: How much time did you spend with him at
12:23 45 Crown?
12:23 46
12:23 47 A. It wasn't a lot of time at Crown. It certainly wasn't daily.

12:23 1 There'd be times I'd be trying to get this sort of thing done
12:23 2 without him, or Personal would be working behind the scenes ---
12:23 3 sorry, Number 2 would be working behind the scenes at a
12:24 4 temporary office that we had, printing stuff for me. Doing
12:24 5 checks, whatever I needed done. Printing stuff.
12:24 6
12:24 7 Q. Is it the case, I note in that email there that you called him
12:24 8 "Big Boss".
12:24 9
12:24 10 A. Yeah.
12:24 11
12:24 12 Q. Did you also call him "lao ban"?
12:24 13
12:24 14 A. Yeah.
12:24 15
12:24 16 Q. And that means "boss" too?
12:24 17
12:24 18 A. Yeah. Or "da lao ban" means "big boss" as well. But he
12:24 19 would call me that, too.
12:24 20
12:24 21 Q. I see. You provided us with some invoices in relation to
12:24 22 work that you did ---
12:24 23
12:24 24 A. No, I didn't provide them.
12:24 25
12:24 26 Q. Well, the entity did.
12:24 27
12:24 28 A. Yes.
12:24 29
12:24 30 Q. And you're a director of the entity.
12:24 31
12:24 32 A. That's right, yes, yep.
12:24 33
12:24 34 Q. The invoices don't record any work that you did before
12:25 35 October, 2016, but you did do work before October 2016?
12:25 36
12:25 37 A. Yeah.
12:25 38
12:25 39 Q. How were you paid?
12:25 40
12:25 41 A. Cash.
12:25 42
12:25 43 Q. And ---
12:25 44
12:25 45 A. If we were paid.
12:25 46
12:25 47 Q. How much cash were you paid ?

12:25 1
12:25 2 A. I didn't handle that side of things, so it's a question for

12:25 3
12:25 4 Q. For?
12:25 5
12:25 6 A. For Security 2.
12:25 7
12:25 8 Q. For Security 2.
12:25 9
12:25 10 A. That wasn't mine.
12:25 11
12:25 12 Q. No one ever gave you cash?
12:25 13
12:25 14 A. There was cash used in the course of travelling,
12:25 15 particularly.
12:25 16
12:25 17 Q. No, but I mean to pay you for your services. I asked you
12:25 18 how you were paid ---
12:25 19
12:25 20 A. Yeah.
12:25 21
12:25 22 Q. And you said "in cash".
12:25 23
12:25 24 A. Yeah.
12:25 25
12:25 26 Q. And I'm asking how much.
12:25 27
12:25 28 A. I couldn't --- what did the invoices say, that's what I'm ---
12:26 29
12:26 30 Q. There are no invoices before October ---
12:26 31
12:26 32 A. In fairness, we were only asked to supply --- I think it was
12:26 33 only asked to supply invoices to a certain, between dates and
12:26 34 that's what was supplied.
12:26 35
12:26 36 Q. Yes, okay. We'll come back to that. Let's go with what you
12:26 37 said a minute ago, though. You were paid in cash at times.
12:26 38
12:26 39 A. Correct, yes.
12:26 40
12:26 41 Q. And how was the cash delivered to you?
12:26 42
12:26 43 A. It wasn't delivered to me.
12:26 44
12:26 45 Q. Okay. At some point Zhou stopped paying your invoices;
12:26 46 is that right?
12:26 47

12:26 1 A. I think from the start everything was a negotiation. Like,
12:26 2 with everyone he dealt with, there was a --- they'd defer or reduce
12:26 3 paying everything. Everything was like a negotiation.
12:26 4
12:26 5 Q. Okay.
12:26 6
12:26 7 A. He did it with everybody.
12:26 8
12:26 9 Q. You accompanied Zhou interstate?
12:26 10
12:26 11 A. Yes.
12:26 12
12:26 13 Q. You were paid to go on those trips?
12:26 14
12:26 15 A. Yes.
12:27 16
12:27 17 Q. Where you did some tasks for him?
12:27 18
12:27 19 A. Yes.
12:27 20
12:27 21 Q. You weren't trained as a business adviser?
12:27 22
12:27 23 A. No, I did, I do have some qualifications and study in that
12:27 24 area, but no.
12:27 25
12:27 26 Q. What were the tasks that you did when you travelled?
12:27 27
12:27 28 A. Well, the school, the children.
12:27 29
12:27 30 Q. Yes.
12:27 31
12:27 32 A. Looking for properties for him.
12:27 33
12:27 34 Q. Personal assistant?
12:27 35
12:27 36 A. Sometimes green tea maker, yeah.
12:27 37
12:27 38 Q. Security adviser?
12:27 39
12:27 40 A. We operated in a --- everything was at the casinos. So,
12:27 41 you're in some of the most secure environments in the world, so
12:27 42 there wasn't any need --- I would talk, I spoke to the security
12:28 43 guys, bosses at interstate casinos, and their concerns were his
12:28 44 behaviour and he wasn't allowed on the gaming floor, so.
12:28 45
12:28 46 Q. Let me just come back to that now. When he travelled
12:28 47 interstate, he went to casinos?

12:28 1
12:28 2 A. Yeah, or to hotels associated with.
12:28 3
12:28 4 Q. And you travelled with him to the casinos, or the hotels
12:28 5 associated with it?
12:28 6
12:28 7 A. Not all the time, but yes.
12:28 8
12:28 9 Q. And you would, on occasion ---
12:28 10
12:28 11 A. Yeah.
12:28 12
12:28 13 Q. --- you would, in advance, call the security people at the
12:28 14 hotels?
12:28 15
12:28 16 A. No, not as a matter of practice. I think I spoke to the fella
12:28 17 in Sydney just as a courtesy, um.....
12:28 18
12:28 19 Q. Why?
12:28 20
12:28 21 A. Just as a matter of courtesy, just to introduce myself,
12:28 22 because ---
12:28 23
12:28 24 Q. Because you were providing him with security services,
12:28 25 one security person to another?
12:29 26
12:29 27 A. No, they were more concerned about his behaviour and
12:29 28 going on the gaming room floors.
12:29 29
12:29 30 Q. He regularly did that, didn't he?
12:29 31
12:29 32 A. Regularly, what?
12:29 33
12:29 34 Q. He regularly went onto the gaming floors where he wasn't
12:29 35 supposed to?
12:29 36
12:29 37 A. He tried to a couple of times when I was there.
12:29 38
12:29 39 Q. In your company?
12:29 40
12:29 41 A. Yeah, and I grabbed him. I physically grabbed him once
12:29 42 and stopped him. At Melbourne, at Crown they would just stop
12:29 43 him and go, "Come on, mate", and I'd pull him --- from the time I
12:29 44 was there, pulled him away, or he'd light up a cigarette walking
12:29 45 down the Concord and I'd rip that off him.
12:29 46
12:29 47 Q. One of your jobs, wasn't it, when you were with him was to

12:29 1 keep him out of trouble?
12:29 2
12:29 3 A. I kind of took that on myself.
12:29 4
12:29 5 Q. That wasn't one of the reasons you were asked by Walsh ---
12:29 6
12:29 7 A. No.
12:29 8
12:29 9 Q. --- to talk to him?
12:29 10
12:29 11 A. No, because he was excluded from there.
12:29 12
12:29 13 Q. He was excluded from there, but he was known to be
12:29 14 breaching the self-exclusion orders all the time by the time that
12:29 15 you were engaged?
12:30 16
12:30 17 A. Oh, before me?
12:30 18
12:30 19 Q. Yes.
12:30 20
12:30 21 A. I don't know about that, but when I was with him, I tried.
12:30 22 Like, if he lit up a smoke walking to the restaurant --- and he'd
12:30 23 look at me and laugh.
12:30 24
12:30 25 Q. Can we agree this, that by the time you knew him and spent
12:30 26 time with him in the casino ---
12:30 27
12:30 28 A. Yeah.
12:30 29
12:30 30 Q. --- that he would try to enter the casino gaming areas but
12:30 31 you would stop him?
12:30 32
12:30 33 A. Well, maybe it would have been once, I reckon, maybe
12:30 34 once or twice. It wasn't a regular thing that he did, because he
12:30 35 knew. And again, I think that was him like, was he testing me, I
12:30 36 think he was half the time --- or it felt like --- everything was a
12:30 37 test. You know, there was a lot of things he did that just

12:30 38
12:30 39 Q. A lot of things he did that just?
12:30 40
12:30 41 A. Well, he did stuff, did things that I thought "He's just taking
12:30 42 the mickey out of me", just being disrespectful, like waking me
12:31 43 up on a Sunday morning trying to get to a real estate agent in
12:31 44 Mosman to get a --- open up a house that's for sale, a 40 or \$50
12:31 45 million house.
12:31 46
12:31 47 Q. He could have been just treating you like a servant or a

12:31 1 lackey, couldn't he?
12:31 2
12:31 3 A. Well, he tried, yeah.
12:31 4
12:31 5 Q. You travelled, one of the places you travelled with him to
12:31 6 ---
12:31 7
12:31 8 A. Yes.
12:31 9
12:31 10 Q. --- is Perth.
12:31 11
12:31 12 A. Yes.
12:31 13
12:31 14 Q. I just want to show you a document. It's
12:31 15 PRG.0002.0001.0012. You went with him to Perth in, I think,
12:32 16 June 2016?
12:32 17
12:32 18 A. I think so. I don't know exact date.
12:32 19
12:32 20 Q. I think that's a document that you provided to us. You see
12:32 21 your details there?
12:32 22
12:32 23 A. Yeah, yeah, that's Melbourne to Sydney on 28 June.
12:32 24
12:32 25 Q. And then if I can just ask you to have a look at
12:32 26 PRG.0002.0001.0155. That's another trip ---
12:32 27
12:32 28 A. Yeah.
12:32 29
12:32 30 Q. --- to Perth?
12:32 31
12:32 32 A. Yeah. That's Sydney to Melbourne.
12:33 33
12:33 34 Q. Sorry. That's you, is it?
12:33 35
12:33 36 A. Yeah. Yes, that's me.
12:33 37
12:33 38 Q. It's also the case, you also travelled to Perth on the private
12:33 39 jets from time to time, the Crown private jets?
12:33 40
12:33 41 A. There was one, one trip to Perth that I had on the charter,
12:33 42 yes.
12:33 43
12:33 44 Q. And who else was on that plane?
12:33 45
12:33 46 A. Zhou. One or two of the assistants. Another associate.
12:34 47

12:34 1 Q. All right. It's right, isn't it on that plane Ishan Ratnam went
12:34 2 with you to Perth?
12:34 3
12:34 4 A. He may have, yes.
12:34 5
12:34 6 Q. You say he may have.
12:34 7
12:34 8 A. Well, I might --- I remember him definitely being there, I
12:34 9 can't remember if he flew with us.
12:34 10
12:34 11 Q. You know Ishan Ratnam?
12:34 12
12:34 13 A. No, yeah, just a couple of times, seen him around.
12:34 14
12:34 15 Q. Okay, and what did you understand his role was at Crown?
12:34 16
12:34 17 A. Executive vice-president of something.
12:34 18
12:34 19 Q. Do you recall who the associate was on the plane? You
12:35 20 mean low-level associates?
12:35 21
12:35 22 A. Yeah, I don't remember who they were.
12:35 23
12:35 24 Q. Can I ask the witness to be shown CWN.502.004.2770?
12:35 25 This was a trip, and I just want to show you the manifest, the
12:35 26 flight manifest for that.
12:35 27
12:35 28 A. Okay, good.
12:35 29
12:35 30 Q. On the second page. Do you see there, that's the jet for the
12:35 31 12th of the 7th, page 2 of that; do you see that email at the top
12:35 32 there?
12:35 33
12:35 34 A. Yes, yes, that's right, yes.
12:35 35
12:35 36 Q. Tom Zhou. Does that jog your memory?
12:35 37
12:35 38 A. Yes, it does actually, very helpful.
12:36 39
12:36 40 Q. Who's Greg Leather?
12:36 41
12:36 42 A. He was an associate of ours at the time.
12:36 43
12:36 44 Q. Did he work for your ---
12:36 45
12:36 46 A. Not directly worked for us, we were supporting and
12:36 47 assisting him.

12:36 1
12:36 2 Q. Right. And do you remember who else was there now that
12:36 3 you've listed at that list of name?
12:36 4
12:36 5 A. Yeah, I do.
12:36 6
12:36 7 Q. Tell us who they are?
12:36 8
12:36 9 A. Zhou. Tao Xin could have been Mr Tao, more a senior
12:36 10 assistant to him. Zhu Shen Xin, I don't know who that is. Ren
12:36 11 Zhong is Wade. Dong Ting Ting, I believe is Ting which is --
12:36 12 she's --
12:36 13
12:36 14 Q. --- (overspeaking) --- Wade, did you say?
12:36 15
12:36 16 A. I think so. And myself and Leather.
12:36 17
12:36 18 Q. That trip was organised by Veng Anh ---
12:37 19
12:37 20 A. I don't know. With the travel I would give --- very short
12:37 21 notice, be at the atrium, at 8 o'clock in the morning or whenever.
12:37 22
12:37 23 Q. Where was that, atrium?
12:37 24
12:37 25 A. The atrium valet. Whether Zhou was doing something with
12:37 26 Star or going to Queensland, that would always be the meeting
12:37 27 point.
12:37 28
12:37 29 Q. Over the time that you did work for Zhou, how much
12:37 30 interaction would you say you had with Ratnam?
12:37 31
12:37 32 A. With?
12:37 33
12:37 34 Q. With Ishan Ratnam?
12:37 35
12:37 36 A. Might have been --- not a lot, he was not very personable,
12:37 37 like --- to me he was perceived as a big boss.
12:37 38
12:37 39 Q. A big boss?
12:37 40
12:37 41 A. He was a bit --- yeah. He was always polite to me, but
12:37 42 there wasn't ---
12:37 43
12:37 44 Q. And how much interaction did you have with Veng Anh?
12:38 45
12:38 46 A. I had very little to do with him. He acted as a translator a
12:38 47 couple of times. He also, too, was very aloof with me. He was

12:38 1 bordering on disrespectful. I just didn't like him.
12:38 2
12:38 3 Q. Now that we've talked about Veng Anh, I'd like to come
12:38 4 back to the first time that you met Mr Zhou, which was after
12:38 5 you'd spoken with Craig Walsh in the manner that you described.
12:38 6
12:38 7 A. Yep.
12:38 8
12:38 9 Q. You first met Mr Zhou at his house?
12:38 10
12:38 11 A. Yes.
12:38 12
12:38 13 Q. In Toorak?
12:38 14
12:38 15 A. Yes.
12:38 16
12:38 17 Q. At the meeting was Veng Anh?
12:38 18
12:38 19 A. Yes.
12:38 20
12:38 21 Q. Had you met him before?
12:38 22
12:38 23 A. I don't know, I don't think I had, I can't remember meeting
12:38 24 him.
12:38 25
12:39 26 Q. You knew him to be a Crown employee?
12:39 27
12:39 28 A. I think I worked it out pretty quick, but he made it
12:39 29 absolutely clear at all times that "I'm just --- I'm just here as a
12:39 30 translator. "
12:39 31
12:39 32 Q. Why do you think he was making it absolutely clear in the
12:39 33 way that you just described?
12:39 34
12:39 35 A. Because he knew that I had a close relationship with
12:39 36 Craig Walsh, and that Craig Walsh was straight down the line,
12:39 37 and that anything that I thought untoward that would affect,
12:39 38 anything illegal I would go straight to Craig and I would, and I
12:39 39 would have.
12:39 40
12:39 41 Q. But why would he have any reason to think that there was
12:39 42 anything untoward or illegal going on in that meeting?
12:39 43
12:39 44 A. Exactly.
12:39 45
12:39 46 Q. So why was he so keen to make clear to you that there was
12:39 47 anything untoward that might be going on?

12:39 1
12:40 2 A. Maybe his relationship was a bit more than --- I'm only
12:40 3 speculating, I don't know.
12:40 4
12:40 5 Q. I'm interested in your speculation. You're a police officer
12:40 6 with a lot of experience.
12:40 7
12:40 8 A. Well, maybe his relationship wasn't just as a translator, but
12:40 9 ---
12:40 10
12:40 11 Q. Well, tell us what your suspicions were?
12:40 12
12:40 13 A. Clearly, he was at Zhou's beck and call, Chinatown's Beck
12:40 14 and call as well and ---
12:40 15
12:40 16 Q. For the whole time?
12:40 17
12:40 18 A. Yeah, I think they would ring --- like, literally ring those
12:40 19 guys 24/7 if they had to.
12:40 20
12:40 21 Q. So, why the suspicion, why the concern?
12:40 22
12:40 23 A. There was no concern. This came later. At the time I took
12:40 24 it on face value that okay, he's being very helpful and he's above
12:40 25 and --- but if he's such an important client for Crown, why
12:40 26 wouldn't you go and ---
12:40 27
12:40 28 Q. You said a minute ago that Veng was there making it very
12:40 29 clear to you that he was only there as a translator ---
12:40 30
12:40 31 A. Yeah.
12:40 32
12:40 33 Q. --- and not in any other capacity?
12:40 34
12:40 35 A. Correct.
12:40 36
12:40 37 Q. And you said a minute ago to the effect that you thought he
12:41 38 was concerned that Craig Walsh might know that he was there?
12:41 39
12:41 40 A. Over time I developed that, yeah. I wouldn't say that
12:41 41 happened right on that day, but it was a very strange meeting,
12:41 42 because Zhou asked us about, he asked some ---
12:41 43
12:41 44 Q. I'll come to what he asked you about in a minute, but it's
12:41 45 true, isn't it, that your impression was that Veng was behaving
12:41 46 strangely at that meeting?
12:41 47

12:41 1 A. No, not at that meeting. No. Over time --- I don't want to
12:41 2 take it out of context, but at the time you think, back then I said
12:41 3 yeah, he was. There's an argument that he was also just
12:41 4 translating on behalf of VVIP for Crown.
12:41 5
12:41 6 Q. I'm not interested in the argument, but interested in what
12:41 7 your impressions were.
12:41 8
12:41 9 A. My impression was it could have gone both ways and that
12:41 10 developed over a period of time, not on that initial sort of
12:41 11 meeting. I'm not trying to be ---
12:41 12
12:41 13 Q. No. Would you use the phrase that Mr Veng Anh behaved
12:42 14 in a way that made you think that he was shit scared of Walsh in
12:42 15 that meeting that you first had? I'm using those words
12:42 16 deliberately.
12:42 17
12:42 18 A. Yeah, yeah, I would say that, that if he had of put a foot
12:42 19 wrong I would have gone straight back to Walsh.
12:42 20
12:42 21 Q. So your impression at that meeting was that Veng was shit
12:42 22 scared of Craig?
12:42 23
12:42 24 A. No, I think he was shit scared of me telling Craig Walsh.
12:42 25 Because Walsh would play a very straight line with any
12:42 26 behaviour that was to the detriment of Crown, that's for sure.
12:42 27
12:42 28 Q. Okay, and what arising from that meeting would make you
12:42 29 think that there was any behaviour going on that might be
12:42 30 detrimental to Crown?
12:42 31
12:42 32 A. I just thought he was rude. He was rude to me.
12:42 33
12:42 34 Q. Just the rudeness --- that would be detrimental to Crown,
12:42 35 would it?
12:43 36
12:43 37 A. Well, it's a good question. It's just a gut feeling. I can't put
12:43 38 a finger ---
12:43 39
12:43 40 Q. I'm interested in your gut feelings.
12:43 41
12:43 42 A. I didn't like the bloke, he was rude to me. He'd call me
12:43 43 "yes sir, no, sir, yes, sir, yes, sir", and I just thought he's..... what's
12:43 44 the word? Sorry, you know, he was trying to pump my tyres up, I
12:43 45 don't think he was a straight-up bloke.
12:43 46
12:43 47 Q. Okay. At the meeting, Zhou asked you whether you were

12:43 1 connected to any criminal gangs, didn't he?
12:43 2
12:43 3 A. That's right, that is exactly right.
12:43 4
12:43 5 Q. And he asked you whether you were connected to bikies?
12:43 6
12:43 7 A. Correct.
12:43 8
12:43 9 Q. And he asked you whether you might be connected to Mick
12:43 10 Gatto?
12:43 11
12:43 12 A. No, I'm not sure if Mick --- no, I don't think he asked about
12:43 13 Mick Gatto, no.
12:43 14
12:43 15 Q. All right, and he asked you whether you were connected to
12:43 16 the Communist Party of China?
12:43 17
12:43 18 A. Correct. Or government.
12:44 19
12:44 20 Q. Or government.
12:44 21
12:44 22 A. Yes.
12:44 23
12:44 24 Q. And you explained that you were ex-police ---
12:44 25
12:44 26 A. Yes.
12:44 27
12:44 28 Q. --- and that you did investigations?
12:44 29
12:44 30 A. And risk --- yeah.
12:44 31
12:44 32 Q. Did it strike you as odd that he would ask you those
12:44 33 questions?
12:44 34
12:44 35 A. Yes.
12:44 36
12:44 37 Q. What about it was odd to you at the time?
12:44 38
12:44 39 A. It was surreal, it was just surreal. It was very odd.
12:44 40
12:44 41 Q. It's fair to say that your suspicions were aroused?
12:44 42
12:44 43 Q. It was odd.
12:44 44
12:44 45 A. I don't know, was it his way of doing his due diligence on
12:44 46 us.
12:44 47

12:44 1 Q. Yes, all right. At that meeting, no arrangements were made
12:44 2 for the work that you had been ---
12:44 3
12:44 4 A. No.
12:44 5
12:44 6 Q. --- asked to go there to source out?
12:44 7
12:44 8 A. No.
12:44 9
12:44 10 Q. And it was Veng Anh who told you that there would be a
12:44 11 subsequent discussion? You'd talk about the details of the work
12:45 12 later, if I can put it that way.
12:45 13
12:45 14 A. Not sure whether it was Veng or whether it was one of the
12:45 15 assistants who had a good grasp of English who was then tasked
12:45 16 with communicating with us.
12:45 17
12:45 18 Q. Certainly at the time you had that first meeting with him ---
12:45 19 can we put a date around that --- that's around April/May 2016?
12:45 20
12:45 21 A. I think so, yeah.
12:45 22
12:45 23 Q. At the time of the first meeting, at the end of it, you didn't
12:45 24 really know what the engagement was going to be?
12:45 25
12:45 26 A. I was thinking it was the cameras and the burglary.
12:45 27
12:45 28 Q. But didn't you notice that when you went there, there was
12:45 29 already cameras and ---
12:45 30
12:45 31 A. Yep, absolutely.
12:45 32
12:45 33 Q. --- pretty well fitted out from a security point of view?
12:45 34
12:45 35 A. I didn't get to see the monitor or the NVR, I didn't see what
12:45 36 the cameras were picking up.
12:45 37
12:45 38 Q. And indeed you were never asked to do anything like that
12:45 39 other than change locks?
12:46 40
12:46 41 A. No, I think we did --- we got the tech to have a look at the
12:46 42 system, I'm pretty sure. But that was just ---
12:46 43
12:46 44 Q. --- (overspeaking) --- about that but certainly you didn't put
12:46 45 any new security cameras in?
12:46 46
12:46 47 A. Yes.

12:46 1
12:46 2 Q. And your original impression was you were being asked to
12:46 3 go there to do that?
12:46 4
12:46 5 A. Yeah, just general, I suppose general security with the
12:46 6 burglary he'd had there.
12:46 7
12:46 8 Q. I think in the materials that you provided to us, you
12:46 9 included a document, PRG --- and I think in discussions with
12:46 10 Solicitors Assisting you mentioned this, PRG.0002.0001.0001 ---
12:46 11 you see that email there?
12:46 12
12:46 13 A. Yes, yep.
12:46 14
12:46 15 Q. That's an email to Qantas Frequent Flyer seeking to claim
12:47 16 some points back in relation to a flight EK403; do you see that?
12:47 17
12:47 18 A. Yes, that's correct.
12:47 19
12:47 20 Q. That's a flight from Auckland to Melbourne?
12:47 21
12:47 22 A. Yep.
12:47 23
12:47 24 Q. I think you went on a business trip with Zhou to Auckland;
12:47 25 is that right?
12:47 26
12:47 27 A. Yes.
12:47 28
12:47 29 Q. Zhou was interested in buying a casino in New Zealand?
12:47 30
12:47 31 A. I think that was floated at the time, yeah, by one of his
12:47 32 juniors, yeah.
12:47 33
12:47 34 Q. You went with him on the trip. Correct?
12:47 35
12:47 36 A. It's my understanding the casino was in Auckland. I think
12:47 37 it was Queenstown. Yeah, I went .
12:47 38
12:47 39 Q. You went on the trip to Auckland?
12:47 40
12:47 41 A. That's right, that's correct, yeah, I did.
12:47 42
12:47 43 Q. And this records --- we'll get to that in a minute --- while
12:47 44 you were there you went to the private gaming room with him?
12:48 45
12:48 46 A. Yes.
12:48 47

- 12:48 1 Q. Zhou obtained, in New Zealand dollars, \$24 million?
12:48 2
12:48 3 A. Correct.
12:48 4
12:48 5 Q. In chips?
12:48 6
12:48 7 A. Correct.
12:48 8
12:48 9 Q. He told you to guard the chips?
12:48 10
12:48 11 A. Yeah, he told me --- well, the casino guards the chips, but
12:48 12 he told me not to ---
12:48 13
12:48 14 Q. Keep an eye on the chips?
12:48 15
12:48 16 A. "Hang on to these", that it's my responsibility to hold the
12:48 17 money.
12:48 18
12:48 19 Q. Right. So, that was one of the jobs ---
12:48 20
12:48 21 A. I had many jobs.
12:48 22
12:48 23 Q. One of the many jobs that you were asked to do?
12:48 24
12:48 25 A. That was one of the jobs.
12:48 26
12:48 27 Q. And you told --- you placed them under a camera in the
12:48 28 gaming room?
12:48 29
12:48 30 A. I put the chips under the cameras on a table that wasn't
12:48 31 being used.
12:48 32
12:48 33 Q. And you instructed the host to keep an eye on them, as
12:48 34 well?
12:48 35
12:48 36 A. Yeah, under the cameras, correct.
12:48 37
12:48 38 Q. Then you distributed the chips to the players in the group?
12:48 39
12:48 40 A. Not initially, there might have been once or twice, because
12:48 41 Zhou would have been, when he was there --- I think it was more
12:49 42 for when he wasn't there --- but he would dish them out, or he
12:49 43 would tell me to give him --- because they were in, again, it's so
12:49 44 surreal, the chips were in --- \$350,000 chips. Like, it was just
12:49 45 unbelievable. And then they'd roll over the chips and they were
12:49 46 playing baccarat, I still to this day don't understand that game, but
12:49 47 --- and you'd sign the chips for them. And no one was winning.

12:49 1 The three of them playing, no one was winning.
12:49 2
12:49 3 Q. The group lost millions of dollars?
12:49 4
12:49 5 A. Correct.
12:49 6
12:49 7 Q. The next morning you were ordered to arrange commercial
12:49 8 flights back to Australia? That's this one?
12:49 9
12:49 10 A. He was screaming at me. I hadn't slept, I stayed in that
12:49 11 room. Whatever he and his mates did. But, screaming at me
12:49 12 going "380, 380". "380, 380", and I don't mean --- I had no idea
12:50 13 what he meant by that, but eventually, after a few texts back to
12:50 14 Melbourne, he meant Airbus 380, because he couldn't get the
12:50 15 charter flight.
12:50 16
12:50 17 Q. He couldn't get a charter flight back to Melbourne?
12:50 18
12:50 19 A. He couldn't get a charter flight.
12:50 20
12:50 21 Q. And he ordered you to try and arrange commercial flights
12:50 22 back to Melbourne?
12:50 23
12:50 24 A. Yeah, and I've jumped on the phone and said to Ting Ting,
12:50 25 "I think the boss is angry, he wants flights and he wants a 380."
12:50 26
12:50 27 Q. I want to walk through a couple of steps. You organised
12:50 28 the flights?
12:50 29
12:50 30 A. No, I did.
12:50 31
12:50 32 Q. But you arranged for them to be organised?
12:50 33
12:50 34 A. Simultaneously he'd been on to --- because of the time
12:50 35 differences and all that sort of stuff --- so the message I got
12:50 36 through from him, at the same time as I'm trying to get onto him,
12:50 37 and I was trying to speak to Ting whose English is second
12:50 38 language, as well, so it was --- it was pretty ---
12:51 39
12:51 40 Q. And you cashed in the remaining chips?
12:51 41
12:51 42 A. Yeah, I took what was left, yeah.
12:51 43
12:51 44 Q. That was about \$16 million worth?
12:51 45
12:51 46 A. About that, yeah.
12:51 47

12:51 1 Q. You withdrew \$180,000 ---
12:51 2
12:51 3 A. No, a bag, there was --- NZ\$180,000 cash was waiting in a
12:51 4 brown bag that I signed for.
12:51 5
12:51 6 Q. That you signed for?
12:51 7
12:51 8 A. Yes, this is at the bank or the cage where you take the
12:51 9 chips.
12:51 10
12:51 11 Q. You thought that was Zhou's commission?
12:51 12
12:51 13 A. Well, I assumed it was his commission, yeah.
12:51 14
12:51 15 Q. And you brought back that bag of \$180,000 in cash to
12:51 16 Australia?
12:51 17
12:51 18 A. In a paper bag, that's correct.
12:51 19
12:51 20 Q. In your luggage?
12:51 21
12:51 22 A. No, no, I carried it.
12:51 23
12:51 24 Q. You carried it, and did you declare the sum?
12:51 25
12:51 26 A. Absolutely.
12:51 27
12:51 28 Q. What happened to the cash?
12:51 29
12:51 30 A. Gave --- it was given to his --- outside Customs, I ---
12:51 31 because I kept, I made sure I had everything in the top, like the
12:52 32 gaming chips, everything, and the receipt from the New Zealand,
12:52 33 from the Auckland casino, and it was handed to one of his ---
12:52 34
12:52 35 Q. Offsiders?
12:52 36
12:52 37 A. Offsiders, in front of everyone, "There you go, I don't want
12:52 38 anything to do with this anymore, here's your money."
12:52 39
12:52 40 And that date, that August date, that's the date that I decided "I
12:52 41 need to start an exit, get out of this."
12:52 42
12:52 43 Q. See, it's funny you say that, because you become a director
12:52 44 of the company to set up the bar ---
12:52 45
12:52 46 A. I know.
12:52 47

12:52 1 Q. --- on 29 September, almost a month later.
12:52 2
12:52 3 A. That's right, because I'd started, I'd engaged other people,
12:52 4 I'd brought other people into it, outside this Chinese community
12:52 5 or the junket community, so ---
12:52 6
12:52 7 Q. But you definitely thought, from that date, that there was
12:52 8 something not right?
12:52 9
12:52 10 A. No, I just thought he was rude. I just thought he was ---
12:52 11
12:52 12 Q. It wasn't the cash in the brown bag that you were asked to
12:53 13 transport to Australia that was the reason why you thought was a
12:53 14 good idea to get out of it?
12:53 15
12:53 16 A. Well, I don't have a problem --- you work in a casino, you
12:53 17 deal with cash. It's declared. I'm walking through the cameras ---
12:53 18 I'm under cameras everywhere I go.
12:53 19
12:53 20 Q. Sure.
12:53 21
12:53 22 A. It was declared.
12:53 23
12:53 24 Q. But you were suspicious about the activity, weren't you?
12:53 25
12:53 26 A. Not at all.
12:53 27
12:53 28 Q. Okay.
12:53 29
12:53 30 A. If they've lost --- how much? 8 million, he's taken home
12:53 31 180,000, I don't think it's a good return on your money.
12:53 32
12:53 33 Q. Tell me this. The document that's up on the screen now
12:53 34 records your flight back to Australia.
12:53 35
12:53 36 A. Yeah.
12:53 37
12:53 38 Q. How did you get there?
12:53 39
12:53 40 A. A charter flight.
12:53 41
12:53 42 Q. Where did it go?
12:53 43
12:53 44 A. To Auckland.
12:53 45
12:53 46 Q. Yes, but how did it get there? Direct?
12:53 47

- 12:53 1 A. It was a direct flight from Coolangatta, Gold Coast.
12:53 2
12:53 3 Q. Right, direct from Coolangatta, Gold Coast?
12:53 4
12:53 5 A. Correct.
12:54 6
12:54 7 Q. Is it right that the flight at Coolangatta, Gold Coast was
12:54 8 boarded by Australian Federal Police before it took off?
12:54 9
12:54 10 A. Well, we didn't know that. We were delayed at the gate,
12:54 11 just before that tiny little check in to go to international.
12:54 12
12:54 13 Q. You didn't know when it was being boarded?
12:54 14
12:54 15 A. We didn't know --- well, I worked it out that it had been,
12:54 16 but it wasn't boarded by us when we were on the plane.
12:54 17
12:54 18 Q. No.
12:54 19
12:54 20 A. Before --- so you go to the charter people, all your luggage
12:54 21 gets put on their thing, you check in there, then you walk into the
12:54 22 terminal and you do the international Customs stuff, and they
12:54 23 pick you up on the other side of Customs and drive you.
12:54 24
12:54 25 Q. When did you become aware?
12:54 26
12:54 27 A. When I saw the Federal Police, that the Border Force
12:54 28 people said that Federal Police were coming.
12:54 29
12:54 30 Q. On the day?
12:54 31
12:54 32 A. Yeah, on the day, at the gate. I thought, "Yeah, all right,
12:55 33 going to get checked." And all our luggage would have been
12:55 34 checked anyway, because it was going on an overseas flight.
12:55 35 There was nothing to hide.
12:55 36
12:55 37 Q. So you knew on that day that the plane was boarded by
12:55 38 Federal Police?
12:55 39
12:55 40 A. I don't know if it was that day, but --- I don't know if it was
12:55 41 Federal Police or Border Force.
12:55 42
12:55 43 Q. Around that time?
12:55 44
12:55 45 A. Authorities that were interested in that flight, yes.
12:55 46
12:55 47 Q. Did that, in combination with the cash and everything else

12:55 1 that was going on, pique your suspicion that something might not
12:55 2 be right?
12:55 3
12:55 4 A. Look, I know it seems --- it's like a movie that these guys
12:55 5 are travelling in charter flights and they're going to casinos, but
12:55 6 they're also licenced to operate. Their job is to gamble and cash
12:56 7 is their currency.
12:56 8
12:56 9 Q. You've said that "licence to operate" a couple of times.
12:56 10
12:56 11 A. Yeah.
12:56 12
12:56 13 Q. How did you know that they were licenced to operate?
12:56 14
12:56 15 A. Because we checked.
12:56 16
12:56 17 Q. Right. Who did you check with?
12:56 18
12:56 19 A. We did open source as much as we could on Zhou.
12:56 20
12:56 21 Q. Did you ask Craig Walsh?
12:56 22
12:56 23 A. No ---
12:56 24
12:56 25 Q. Did you ask Ishan Ratnam?
12:56 26
12:56 27 A. I think --- I don't know who told us, whether it was Walsh
12:56 28 or Ishan, that they were a licenced junket, but there was a copy on
12:56 29 the internet of the junket licence.
12:56 30
12:56 31 Q. That's Chinatown?
12:56 32
12:56 33 A. Yeah. So I thought it was reasonable.
12:56 34
12:56 35 Q. Did it strike you as odd that someone who was a
12:56 36 self-excluded person could be a licensed junket operator?
12:57 37
12:57 38 A. I suppose --- when I look at it now, I suppose yeah, but at
12:57 39 the end of the day he was just facilitating a service or cash to
12:57 40 high-roller players, so he didn't need to be in the gaming room
12:57 41 with them.
12:57 42
12:57 43 Q. You decided that you wanted to get out of this because you
12:57 44 didn't really want to be around this activity. Correct?
12:57 45
12:57 46 A. I didn't want to be around him.
12:57 47

12:57 1 Q. Right.

12:57 2

12:57 3 A. And the other thing, but the opportunity, too. There was
12:57 4 some good people, too, that worked for him. And some
12:57 5 hardworking graduates and that. Like this boutique, I really
12:57 6 thought that was an opportunity to get a really good business in a
12:57 7 market that you could corner, because these players had money.
12:57 8 They want these high-end products and if they can have it
12:57 9 delivered to them when they want them that's what they're all
12:57 10 about, so you can make good margin. I think with the amount of
12:57 11 numbers at the time that were going through, it's probably, and
12:58 12 plus walk-ins, and then you market it right, it would have been a
12:58 13 good thing.

12:58 14

12:58 15 Q. But is that you saying that you actually wouldn't have
12:58 16 minded being part of that business?

12:58 17

12:58 18 A. I wouldn't have minded being part of that business, for sure.

12:58 19

12:58 20 Q. Even though you didn't like him?

12:58 21

12:58 22 A. That's right.

12:58 23

12:58 24 Q. And even though you decided a month before you were
12:58 25 going to get out of it; is that right?

12:58 26

12:58 27 A. Well, I didn't ---

12:58 28

12:58 29 Q. Get out of your association with him.

12:58 30

12:58 31 A. Doing these, making tea for him and that sort of stuff. I
12:58 32 didn't want to do that.

12:58 33

12:58 34 Q. I see. But you were still happy to be in business with him?

12:58 35

12:58 36 A. Well, I'm not sure it was business with him, but I would
12:58 37 have been happy to keep pursuing --- and it didn't go ahead
12:58 38 anyway, the opportunity, I'd be silly not to, on behalf of our
12:58 39 business, to do that.

12:58 40

12:58 41 Q. Okay.

12:58 42

12:58 43 A. Or at least have a look at it. We also had our own lawyers.
12:58 44 We had people, so we were getting advice, too. So that legal
12:58 45 protection, we were always asking, "What do you think? What
12:59 46 do you think?"

12:59 47

12:59 1 Q. All of these experiences that you've described with him ---
12:59 2
12:59 3 A. Yep.
12:59 4
12:59 5 Q. --- they're pretty unusual, aren't they? Waiting for a private
12:59 6 jet that gets boarded by the AFP, they're stories, aren't they, that
12:59 7 you tell your mates?
12:59 8
12:59 9 A. Also at the same time I'm working for Universal Studios.
12:59 10
12:59 11 Q. Yeah, but I'm not interested in who else you were working
12:59 12 for.
12:59 13
12:59 14 A. When you say, we're talking about a world of celebrities
12:59 15 and VIP jets, and all that sort of stuff as well.
12:59 16
12:59 17 Q. Is it right that over the 5-month period you were working
12:59 18 for Zhou, that you shared stories of those experiences with
12:59 19 Craig Walsh?
12:59 20
12:59 21 A. I would have, yeah. Of course I would have, yeah.
12:59 22
12:59 23 Q. Including that the plane was delayed because it had been
12:59 24 boarded by the police?
12:59 25
12:59 26 A. I don't think --- it wasn't until later that that became a ---
13:00 27
13:00 28 Q. I see.
13:00 29
13:00 30 A. --- I would expect our Border Force to do that when you've
13:00 31 got Australian citizen, Chinese national, whoever there, going on
13:00 32 a charter flight. I would expect Border Force to do that anyway.
13:00 33
13:00 34 COMMISSIONER: Can I ask a question?
13:00 35
13:00 36 A. Yes, sir.
13:00 37
13:00 38 COMMISSIONER: When you boarded the plane, did it have the
13:00 39 \$24 million on it?
13:00 40
13:00 41 A. No, that \$24 million came out of the cage, I suppose, at the
13:00 42 Auckland Casino.
13:00 43
13:00 44 COMMISSIONER: Chips were there?
13:00 45
13:00 46 A. Chips were there, yeah. And Zhou got them.
13:00 47

13:00 1 COMMISSIONER: I'm just trying to work out whether you took
13:00 2 the cash over there and swapped it.
13:00 3
13:00 4 A. No, there was no cash. There was no cash taken out.
13:00 5
13:00 6 COMMISSIONER: Just chips available at the other end?
13:00 7
13:00 8 A. Yeah, and if they searched the plane, which I assume they
13:00 9 did, there was nothing. That money was there in Auckland in the
13:00 10 cage, and they'd be signed, there's paperwork for everything.
13:01 11
13:01 12 MR FINANZIO: Okay. Commissioner, I'm not sure, do you
13:01 13 want to break for lunch at 1, a short time? That might be useful.
13:01 14
13:01 15 COMMISSIONER: A quarter after, maybe.
13:01 16
13:01 17 MR FINANZIO: No, now would be the better time.
13:01 18
13:01 19 COMMISSIONER: Okay, come back at quarter to 2. I'll adjourn
13:01 20 until quarter to 2.
13:01 21
13:01 22
13:01 23 **ADJOURNED** [1.01 PM]
13:42 24
13:42 25
13:43 26 **RESUMED** [1.49 PM]
13:49 27
13:49 28
13:49 29 MR FINANZIO: Commissioner, I just need to tender a few
13:49 30 things.
13:49 31
13:49 32 COMMISSIONER: I can't work out what exhibits we're up to.
13:49 33
13:49 34 MR FINANZIO: I'm sure your associate will be on top of it.
13:49 35
13:49 36 COMMISSIONER: She's about to tell me!
13:49 37
13:49 38 MR FINANZIO: Can I just tender in the first instance ---
13:49 39 witness, do you have in front of you a sheet of paper that at the
13:50 40 top of it has "Security Officer 1" written on it?
13:50 41
13:50 42 A. Sorry, no.
13:50 43
13:50 44 Q. Does it say your name on that piece of paper?
13:50 45
13:50 46 A. Yes, it does.
13:50 47

13:50 1 COMMISSIONER: Document identifying Security Officer No. 1
13:50 2 will be Exhibit 250, confidential.

13:50 3

13:50 4

13:50 5 **EXHIBIT #RCPH0250 - WITNESS IDENTIFICATION**

13:50 6 **DOCUMENT - SECURITY OFFICER 1 (CONFIDENTIAL)**

13:50 7

13:50 8

13:50 9 MR FINANZIO: Can I tender what's behind tab 2 in your folder?

13:50 10

13:50 11 COMMISSIONER: That's the patron information document?

13:50 12

13:50 13 MR FINANZIO: Correct. It's the Frequent Flyer. Tab 2.

13:51 14

13:51 15 COMMISSIONER: I'm just getting it. I'll just describe it as
13:51 16 email 1 September 2016 regarding Qantas Frequent Flyer. That
13:51 17 will be Exhibit 251.

13:51 18

13:51 19

13:51 20 **EXHIBIT #RCPH0251 - EMAIL REGARDING QANTAS**

13:51 21 **FREQUENT FLYER DATED 1 SEPTEMBER 2016**

13:51 22

13:51 23

13:51 24 MR FINANZIO: Tab 3.

25

26 COMMISSIONER: 252 will be a passenger e-ticket receipt.

27

28 MR FINANZIO: I think there were two e-ticket receipts behind
29 that tab.

30

13:51 31 COMMISSIONER: Receipts, plural.

13:51 32

13:51 33

13:51 34 **EXHIBIT #RCPH0252 - PASSENGER E-TICKET**

13:51 35 **RECEIPTS**

13:51 36

13:51 37

13:51 38 MR FINANZIO: Thank you. And, tab 4, which is the passenger
13:51 39 manifest.

13:51 40

13:51 41 COMMISSIONER: I will describe it as a passenger manifest,
13:51 42 Exhibit 253.

13:51 43

13:51 44

13:52 45 **EXHIBIT #RCPH0253 - PASSENGER MANIFEST**

13:52 46

13:52 47

13:52 1 MR FINANZIO: Thank you, Commissioner. I think I had
13:52 2 already tendered what was behind tab 16, the company search.
13:52 3
13:52 4 COMMISSIONER: I don't have a company search behind 16.
13:52 5
13:52 6 MR FINANZIO: You don't?
13:52 7
13:52 8 COMMISSIONER: No. Email.
13:52 9
13:52 10 MR FINANZIO: Okay, I'll come back to that.
13:52 11
13:52 12 COMMISSIONER: Yes, we'll do the documents at the end once
13:53 13 your bundle coincides with mine.
13:53 14
13:53 15 MR FINANZIO: Thank you.
13:53 16
13:53 17 We'll come back to where we left off before lunch. We
13:53 18 discussed before lunch that the work was referred to you
13:53 19 by Mr Walsh at Crown Casino?
13:53 20
13:53 21 A. Yes.
13:53 22
13:53 23 Q. You'd described your relationship as friends?
13:53 24
13:53 25 A. Absolutely.
13:53 26
13:53 27 Q. When you say "absolutely", he's one of your best mates,
13:53 28 one of your longest standing mates, isn't he?
13:53 29
13:53 30 A. Longest standing mates, yeah.
13:53 31
13:53 32 Q. Someone who you communicate with almost every day in
13:53 33 one form or another?
13:53 34
13:53 35 A. No, not every day, but I'd say at least once a week.
13:53 36 Sometimes. It depends if Collingwood is winning or losing. You
13:53 37 know, it's just that sort of relationship.
13:53 38
13:53 39 Q. Let's not go there! Do you train at the gym with him at
13:53 40 Crown?
13:53 41
13:53 42 A. No. They've got a staff gym.
13:54 43
13:54 44 Q. But you drink together?
13:54 45
13:54 46 A. Yeah, yep.
13:54 47

13:54 1 Q. And you socialise together regularly?
13:54 2
13:54 3 A. Yes.
13:54 4
13:54 5 Q. Have you done any other work for Crown?
13:54 6
13:54 7 A. Post --- yes, I have, yes.
13:54 8
13:54 9 Q. Post or during?
13:54 10
13:54 11 A. Post this?
13:54 12
13:54 13 Q. 2016.
13:54 14
13:54 15 A. Yes.
13:54 16
13:54 17 Q. What about any other work for any other clients during
13:54 18 2016 for Crown?
13:54 19
13:54 20 A. Clients for Crown in 2016?
13:54 21
13:54 22 Q. Yes.
13:54 23
13:54 24 A. No.
13:54 25
13:54 26 Q. Any other referral work by Craig Walsh in the period 2016?
13:54 27
13:54 28 A. I don't think it was 2016. We did a private job for an
13:54 29 educational institution interstate, but nothing at all to do with
13:54 30 casinos or Crown.
13:54 31
13:54 32 Q. What was that private job?
13:55 33
13:55 34 A. That was a vulnerability assessment around
13:55 35 counter-terrorism, active shooters for a very large facility in
13:55 36 another State.
13:55 37
13:55 38 Q. But you've been referred work by Craig Walsh for Crown
13:55 39 since 2016; is that right?
13:55 40
13:55 41 A. No, not directly Craig Walsh. Well, my colleague and
13:55 42 another team member of ours did some team member awareness
13:55 43 around domestic violence and, yeah --- yep.
13:55 44
13:55 45 Q. I wonder if the witness could be shown
13:55 46 CRW.510.071.1637, please. Can you look at that document? It's
13:56 47 dated 18 May 2016, so around the time that you commenced

13:56 1 working for Zhou. It's an email from you to Craig Walsh and it
13:56 2 looks to be a log of events over two days. Do you see that? Like
13:56 3 a surveillance log.
13:56 4
13:56 5 A. Yeah, yep.
13:56 6
13:56 7 Q. What's that about? It's not in Sydney, is it?
13:56 8
13:56 9 A. No, no, you're right. I actually didn't remember that. That's
13:56 10 a --- I think that's a report from some private detectives in relation
13:56 11 to an individual not directly for Craig Walsh, but for Ishan, I
13:56 12 think.
13:56 13
13:56 14 Q. Ishan?
13:56 15
13:56 16 A. Yeah.
13:56 17
13:56 18 Q. And you're giving that to Craig Walsh?
13:56 19
13:56 20 A. Yes, to pass on.
13:56 21
13:56 22 Q. What was the work for Ishan?
13:56 23
13:56 24 A. I think it related to a reporter who had personally --- it's
13:57 25 nothing to do with, it wasn't a Crown thing, it was about Ishan
13:57 26 personally and a car or a boat or something. Again, I was just
13:57 27 passing on information, I didn't have anything ---
13:57 28
13:57 29 Q. Who engaged you?
13:57 30
13:57 31 A. --- to do that. Well, we did clearly, but I didn't ---
13:57 32
13:57 33 Q. Sorry, you were passing on information in this email; is that
13:57 34 right?
13:57 35
13:57 36 A. Yes.
13:57 37
13:57 38 Q. Where did you get the information from?
13:57 39
13:57 40 A. Private detectives.
13:57 41
13:57 42 Q. Did you engage the private detectives?
13:57 43
13:57 44 A. Yes, we did, yeah.
13:57 45
13:57 46 Q. Who asked you to engage them?
13:57 47

13:57 1 A. We, we engaged them. It wasn't directly an instruction
13:57 2 from Crown or Walsh or anyone else, it was to investigate an
13:57 3 individual.
13:57 4
13:57 5 Q. Was the individual a journalist?
13:57 6
13:57 7 A. Yes.
13:57 8
13:57 9 Q. So you engaged a private detective to do surveillance on a
13:57 10 journalist?
13:57 11
13:57 12 A. Yes.
13:57 13
13:57 14 Q. Who had been investigating Ishan Ratnam?
13:58 15
13:58 16 A. Yes.
13:58 17
13:58 18 Q. And then you reported it to Craig Walsh?
13:58 19
13:58 20 A. Correct.
13:58 21
13:58 22 Q. Why?
13:58 23
13:58 24 A. Because I don't think I had direct comms with Ishan.
13:58 25
13:58 26 Q. So, you went through Craig Walsh to Ishan?
13:58 27
13:58 28 A. Yeah, yep.
13:58 29
13:58 30 Q. And, was that the first time you did that?
13:58 31
13:58 32 A. Well, I'd --- I don't remember seeing that. Obviously I've
13:58 33 done it, but.....
13:58 34
13:58 35 Q. No, listen to my question.
13:58 36
13:58 37 A. Yeah, sorry.
13:58 38
13:58 39 Q. Was that the first time that that kind of arrangement, where
13:58 40 you did work for Ishan but passed the results through Craig
13:58 41 Walsh, occurred? Was that the first time?
13:58 42
13:58 43 A. There might have been messages.
13:58 44
13:58 45 Q. When you say "there might have been" ---
13:58 46
13:58 47 A. Well, I can't remember.

13:59 1
13:59 2 Q. You've given us very detailed accounts of different things
13:59 3 that happened in 2016, so now I'm asking you ---
13:59 4
13:59 5 A. That was from documentation. It's a long time ago.
13:59 6
13:59 7 Q. I see.
13:59 8
13:59 9 A. But I can't discount ---
13:59 10
13:59 11 Q. Wait for the question.
13:59 12
13:59 13 A. Okay.
13:59 14
13:59 15 Q. Did you do that sort of thing for Ishan through Craig Walsh
13:59 16 after this point in time? Totally unrelated to Zhou.
13:59 17
13:59 18 A. No, I passed on --- I'm not sure, I think this was before the
13:59 19 Zhou stuff, but I can't be exactly sure because of the time, but I'm
13:59 20 sure if you showed me something I'll put it in time context. But
13:59 21 after it, I passed on information that Zhou was taking. Zhou
14:00 22 wasn't happy with Crown. He clearly wasn't happy with what his
14:00 23 numbers were, what the percentage and what he was getting paid.
14:00 24 So he was deliberately --- and this is what he did --- the players,
14:00 25 the VVIPs from overseas, deliberately take them interstate away
14:00 26 from Crown. So, I did pass that on to --- at that time, but they
14:00 27 were already aware of that. They knew he was taking players out
14:00 28 and at the same time Zhou was negotiating his deal with the
14:00 29 interstate casinos, so
14:00 30
14:00 31 Q. Can I put this to you.
14:00 32
14:00 33 A. Yeah.
14:00 34
14:00 35 Q. You were in the thick of the Chinatown business talking to
14:00 36 Crown all the time about the things you just described; is that
14:00 37 right?
14:00 38
14:00 39 A. It wasn't all the time, no. It wasn't all the time.
14:00 40
14:00 41 Q. Okay, a lot?
14:00 42
14:00 43 A. It wasn't necessarily a lot, because it was happening under
14:00 44 their noses, so, I don't --- yeah, you're walking around the most
14:01 45 surveilled environment in the world.
14:01 46
14:01 47 Q. I'm not talking about what's surveilled, I'm talking about

14:01 1 what you know. You were involved in passing messages to
14:01 2 Ishan, meeting with Ishan --
14:01 3
14:01 4 A. Yeah, of course.
14:01 5
14:01 6 Q. --- concerning the Zhou business. Correct?
14:01 7
14:01 8 A. Yes, yeah.
14:01 9
14:01 10 Q. I want to show you --- I'll tender that document.
14:01 11
14:01 12 COMMISSIONER: Email to Craig Walsh dated 18 May 2016,
14:01 13 "Subject: Schedule", Exhibit 254.
14:01 14
14:01 15
14:01 16 **EXHIBIT #RCPH0254 - EMAIL TO CRAIG WALSH**
14:01 17 **"SUBJECT: SCHEDULE" DATED 18 MAY 2016**
14:01 18
14:01 19
14:01 20 MR FINANZIO: What happened as a result of this email you
14:02 21 provided?
14:02 22
14:02 23 A. You're talking about this email?
14:02 24
14:02 25 Q. Yes, pardon me.
14:02 26
14:02 27 A. Nothing, because the subject of it was --- turned out to be a
14:02 28 really good bloke.
14:02 29
14:02 30 Q. I wonder if the witness can be provided with the folder.
14:02 31 Does the Commissioner have a copy of that folder? I think
14:02 32 there's one for Crown, as well. I've done this Commissioner in
14:02 33 hard copy, just because it will be too cumbersome to do it on the
14:02 34 screen.
14:02 35
14:02 36 You communicated with Mr Walsh extensively by text
14:03 37 message, didn't you?
14:03 38
14:03 39 A. Yes.
14:03 40
14:03 41 Q. Produced to us just last night at 9 o'clock were text
14:03 42 messages between you and he over the phone. This is a
14:03 43 collection of some of them, but there are about 2,000-odd sitting
14:03 44 down there on the floor.
14:03 45
14:03 46 A. Yeah.
14:03 47

14:03 1 Q. I just want to take you to some of them.
14:03 2
14:03 3 A. Yeah, yeah.
14:03 4
14:03 5 Q. One is around 20 May.
14:03 6
14:03 7 A. Sorry?
14:03 8
14:03 9 Q. The first one in the packet there is 20 May. Do you have
14:03 10 that? 2016?
14:03 11
14:03 12 A. Yeah, yeah, yep.
14:04 13
14:04 14 Q. Now, you'll see, just to orientate yourself in the bundle,
14:04 15 they're all in numerical number, the last four digits of each page
14:04 16 are in the top right-hand corner?
14:04 17
14:04 18 A. Yeah, yeah, yep.
14:04 19
14:04 20 Q. They don't necessarily follow sequentially. Some are not
14:04 21 there because they're not particularly interesting.
14:04 22
14:04 23 A. Yeah, yeah.
14:04 24
14:04 25 Q. But I just want to take you to some of those.
14:04 26
14:04 27 A. Okie doke.
14:04 28
14:04 29 MR FINANZIO: Does the Commissioner have them and do you
14:04 30 follow that?
14:04 31
14:04 32 COMMISSIONER: Yes.
14:04 33
14:04 34 MR FINANZIO: See where it says there "from" and it has a
14:04 35 name?
14:04 36
14:04 37 A. Yep.
14:04 38
14:04 39 Q. That's your nickname?
14:04 40
14:04 41 A. Yes.
14:04 42
14:04 43 Q. And that's from you to him ---
14:04 44
14:04 45 A. Yes.
14:04 46
14:04 47 Q. --- to Mr Walsh? I won't trouble you with that one, but ask

14:04 1 you instead to go to the one that has 203 in the top right-hand
14:04 2 corner.
14:05 3
14:05 4 A. Yeah.
14:05 5
14:05 6 Q. Where it says:
14:05 7
14:05 8 *Must say I was pretty happy with the new jet yesterday.*
14:05 9 *Smoking in planes is back.*
14:05 10
14:05 11 A. Yes.
14:05 12
14:05 13 Q. Then the next one:
14:05 14
14:05 15 *Just been called in by boss to CT.*
14:05 16
14:05 17 A. Yes.
14:05 18
14:05 19 Q. First of all, I just want to clarify "boss" is Zhou, right?
14:05 20
14:05 21 A. Yeah.
14:05 22
14:05 23 Q. Who or what is CT?
14:05 24
14:05 25 A. Crown Towers.
14:05 26
14:05 27 Q. Right. So, then the next one. Craig Walsh to you:
14:05 28
14:05 29 *Take the fifth.*
14:05 30
14:05 31 A. Yeah.
14:05 32
14:05 33 Q. Do you recall why you were summoned by Zhou early on
14:05 34 in mid-May 2016?
14:06 35
14:06 36 A. No. Not at all.
14:06 37
14:06 38 Q. Was he accustomed to summoning you to the Tower?
14:06 39
14:06 40 A. Was I?
14:06 41
14:06 42 Q. Yes.
14:06 43
14:06 44 A. So this is pretty fresh, so ---
14:06 45
14:06 46 Q. Pretty early on in the relationship?
14:06 47

14:06 1 A. Yes.
2
3 Q. No reason to take the fifth?
4
5 A. I don't even know what context that's in.
6
7 Q. There's another email ---
8
14:06 9 A. Oh, that's from him to me.
14:06 10
14:06 11 Q. It's from him to you.
14:06 12
14:06 13 A. I think you need to understand our sense of humour, I don't
14:06 14 know what context that's in.
14:06 15
14:06 16 Q. The next one, 216. Have you got 216?
14:06 17
14:06 18 A. Yep.
14:06 19
14:06 20 Q.
14:06 21
14:06 22 *Apparently trial looking around August. Will confirm.*
14:06 23
14:06 24 A. Yes.
14:06 25
14:06 26 Q. Do you remember what that was about?
14:06 27
14:06 28 A. No.
14:06 29
14:06 30 Q. Go to the next page.
14:07 31
14:07 32 A. Can I just say, that may have been around an ex-colleague
14:07 33 who was in trouble, I don't know. I don't know.
14:07 34
14:07 35 Q. I accept your word for that. Can you go to the next page
14:07 36 218? King --- see there?
14:07 37
14:07 38 A. Yeah.
14:07 39
14:07 40 Q. King is Mr Walsh, isn't it?
14:07 41
14:07 42 A. Yeah.
14:07 43
14:07 44 Q.
14:07 45
14:07 46 *Sorry to bother you, I'm in Sydney, are you able to assist*
14:07 47 *with below? I believe he gambles in Melbourne. These*

14:07 1 *may be updated info for you.*
14:07 2
14:07 3 A. Yeah.
14:07 4
14:07 5 MR FINANZIO: There are some documents, Commissioner, that
14:07 6 aren't in the bundle, because we only found them and looked at
14:07 7 them. Can I ask for 302.005.0019 to be called up? This is the
14:07 8 photo that was attached to the text, I think.
14:08 9
14:08 10 A. Yep. Yes.
14:08 11
14:08 12 Q. And then the same prefix, but the next page really 0220; do
14:08 13 you see that? Where it says:
14:08 14
14:08 15 *Dude --- u are even writing in pidgin Chinese these*
14:08 16 *days!..... what do u need to know my friend?*
14:08 17
14:08 18 That's from Craig Walsh to you.
14:08 19
14:08 20 A. Yep.
14:08 21
14:08 22 Q. The next one is 221.
14:08 23
14:08 24 A. Excuse my language, this is between two individuals, too.
14:08 25
14:08 26 Q. I understand and I don't intend to embarrass you by the use
14:08 27 of language like that, but it says:
14:08 28
14:09 29 *..... does this person gamble with you and is the details on*
14:09 30 *the licence the same as what you have.*
14:09 31
14:09 32 A. Yes.
14:09 33
14:09 34 Q. That's you ---
14:09 35
14:09 36 A. Yes.
14:09 37
14:09 38 Q. --- in Sydney ---
14:09 39
14:09 40 A. Yes.
14:09 41
14:09 42 Q. --- calling the head of security at Crown ---
14:09 43
14:09 44 A. Correct.
14:09 45
14:09 46 Q. --- asking for him to provide you with information about a
14:09 47 patron at Crown that is gambling or may be gambling with you.

14:09 1 Correct?
14:09 2
14:09 3 A. No. What it is, is, the licence that you showed me, he owed
14:09 4 Chinatown millions. So what I did was convinced eventually Mr
14:09 5 Zhou, or Zhou, to engage lawyers and proper debt collectors,
14:09 6 because I found a contract, a finance contract for the --- he got
14:09 7 advance money and he didn't pay back the debt. It was millions.
14:10 8 So that all went to lawyers and debt collectors in Sydney, so I did
14:10 9 --- I was told that he gambled in Melbourne, so it was more about
14:10 10 making sure that he didn't owe any money down there and if he
14:10 11 did, that proceedings were being started and they did actually go
14:10 12 --- I went to the day in court in Sydney and got the money back.
14:10 13
14:10 14 Q. So you went to the head of security in Melbourne ---
14:10 15
14:10 16 A. Yep.
14:10 17
14:10 18 Q. --- to get that information?
14:10 19
14:10 20 A. No, I already had the information. I was passing it on to
14:10 21 him to see if he'd gambled any in Melbourne and if he owed
14:10 22 Crown any money and if so.....
14:10 23
14:10 24 Q. Go to the next page.
14:10 25
14:10 26 A. Yeah.
14:10 27
14:10 28 Q. Mr Walsh's reply to you:
14:10 29
14:10 30 *Standby.*
14:10 31
14:11 32 Pardon me, 2200 is the next page for the operator.
14:11 33
14:11 34 A. Sorry?
14:11 35
14:11 36 Q. It's okay, it's on the machine. We'll have a look at the
14:11 37 machine. Just look up on the machine, the document ending
14:11 38 0222.
14:11 39
14:11 40 A. I've got 221 on the machine.
14:11 41
14:11 42 Q. It's okay, it hasn't gone up.
14:11 43
14:11 44 While we're waiting for that to come up, is it right that you were
14:11 45 sending a warning to Crown to Craig Walsh that there might be a
14:11 46 gambler that owes a lot of money in Melbourne; is that the point
14:11 47 you're making?

14:11 1
14:11 2 A. That there is a gambler. There is a man who is a --- I think
14:12 3 he was even a high roller, he might have even been a junket
14:12 4 himself, I don't really recall, who owes a lot of money and he's
14:12 5 going to court to get it repaid, and if it's of any interest to Crown.
14:12 6 Because there was nothing illegal about that.
14:12 7
14:12 8 Q. I see. Could I ask you to go to, in your folder at 235.
14:12 9
14:12 10 A. 0235, yes.
14:12 11
14:12 12 Q. It starts off chapter 321.
14:12 13
14:12 14 A. Yes.
14:12 15
14:12 16 Q.
14:12 17
14:12 18 *Driving Rolls Royce through Sydney with half a bottle of*
14:12 19 *Johnny Blue on board.*
14:12 20
14:12 21 A. Yes.
14:12 22
14:12 23 Q. Are you with Zhou at that time?
14:12 24
14:12 25 A. No. Well, I don't think so. I don't recall.
14:12 26
14:12 27 Q. What were you doing in Sydney in 2016? In June 2016.
14:13 28
14:13 29 A. 3 June 2016, it could have been the court case, it could
14:13 30 have been school stuff. It could have been leasing a house, it
14:13 31 could have been a whole lot of stuff.
14:13 32
14:13 33 Q. You're sharing with your mate ---
14:13 34
14:13 35 A. Yeah.
14:13 36
14:13 37 Q. --- the experience of driving through Sydney in a Rolls
14:13 38 Royce --
14:13 39
14:13 40 A. Yes.
14:13 41
14:13 42 Q. --- drinking a bottle of Johnny Blue.
14:13 43
14:13 44 A. That's right.
14:13 45
14:13 46 Q. You shared stories with Craig about your experiences all
14:13 47 the time.

14:13 1
14:13 2 A. Well, yeah, but ---
14:13 3
14:13 4 Q. Like all good mates do.
14:13 5
14:13 6 A. It's a chat between two mates totally irrelevant to what job
14:13 7 he does, that is, that particular thing.
14:13 8
14:13 9 Q. Your relationship with him was such that you shared your
14:13 10 experiences with him, experiences that were like driving through
14:13 11 Sydney in a Rolls Royce.
14:13 12
14:13 13 A. Yeah, and still to this day I do. During this period, we also
14:13 14 had a mate die, go through, you know, in tragic circumstances
14:14 15 and his colleague, another mate who got really sick. We had a lot
14:14 16 of things that bonded us. There was a lot of stuff going on, so
14:14 17 you know, this is --- I worked in the homicide squad, in the
14:14 18 armed robbery squad --- this is black humour, stupid humour.
14:14 19 Childish, immature.
14:14 20
14:14 21 COMMISSIONER: Whose Rolls Royce was it?
14:14 22
14:14 23 A. It was Zhou's, Sydney one. He had one in Melbourne, too.
14:14 24 Sorry, I'll just say, I was the only one who could work out how to
14:14 25 drive it. None of the other ones --- they're complex to drive, so
14:14 26
14:14 27
14:14 28 MR FINANZIO: Can I ask you to go to page 246.
14:14 29
14:14 30 A. Yep.
14:14 31
14:14 32 Q. You see that there? Have you got 246 in the top right-hand
14:15 33 corner?
14:15 34
14:15 35 A. Yes.
14:15 36
14:15 37 Q. 10 June.
14:15 38
14:15 39 A. Yep.
14:15 40
14:15 41 Q. I accept that people make typographical errors when they
14:15 42 do text messages:
14:15 43
14:15 44 *Had a great chat to your man, hope he's feeling a bit*
14:15 45 *better about things.*
14:15 46
14:15 47 A. Yeah.

14:15 1
14:15 2 Q. Is "your man" Ishan?
14:15 3
14:15 4 A. Actually I think so.
14:15 5
14:15 6 Q. We've got a lot of these emails to go through.
14:15 7
14:15 8 A. Yeah, yeah, no.
14:15 9
14:15 10 Q. "Your man" is Ishan, right?
14:15 11
14:15 12 A. I just need to see the context. You pick one thing out --- if
14:15 13 I can see it.
14:15 14
14:15 15 Q. Why do you call Ishan "your man"?
14:15 16
14:15 17 A. Because it's just, I don't know, it's ---
14:15 18
14:15 19 Q. Do you know him by any other nicknames, or any other
14:15 20 names?
14:15 21
14:15 22 A. Ishan?
14:15 23
14:15 24 Q. Yes.
14:15 25
14:15 26 A. "Boss". "Your boss", "your man".
14:15 27
14:15 28 Q. He was the one in charge, wasn't he?
14:16 29
14:16 30 A. In charge of?
14:16 31
14:16 32 Q. The VIP international outfit.
14:16 33
14:16 34 A. Well, I assume so, yeah.
14:16 35
14:16 36 Q. He was the one that everybody answered to?
14:16 37
14:16 38 A. No, I don't --- there was ---
14:16 39
14:16 40 Q. Craig answered to him.
14:16 41
14:16 42 A. Well, yeah, he was the executive director or something,
14:16 43 yeah. Well not --- yeah. It was very top-heavy. Like Craig had
14:16 44 to answer to a lot of people.
14:16 45
14:16 46 Q. I'll take you to the next one. So, just follow this email
14:16 47 chain:

14:16 1
14:16 2 *Had a great chat with your man. Hope he's feeling a bit*
14:16 3 *better about things.*
14:16 4
14:16 5 A. Yeah.
14:16 6
14:16 7 Q. Do you recall what that was about, or not?
14:17 8
14:17 9 A. I think it might have been about Ishan's personal concerns
14:17 10 around Mark Hawthorn.
14:17 11
14:17 12 Q. Why were you chatting with Ishan?
14:17 13
14:17 14 A. I probably ran into him. I don't, I don't really..... yeah.
14:17 15
14:17 16 Q. Next email 0247:
14:17 17
14:17 18 *So it was Ishan, no probs, mate.*
14:17 19
14:17 20 And then the next one at 248:
14:17 21
14:17 22 *Yeah, was with him when you rang.*
14:17 23
14:17 24 A. Yeah.
14:17 25
14:17 26 Q. Can I ask you when you say you ran into Ishan, you knew
14:17 27 him by sight?
14:17 28
14:17 29 A. Yeah, yeah, yes.
14:18 30
14:18 31 Q. And you knew him to have a chat with?
14:18 32
14:18 33 A. Yeah, yes.
14:18 34
14:18 35 Q. And you were on close terms with him?
14:18 36
14:18 37 A. No, definitely not on close terms. He was definitely aloof.
14:18 38 I knew he barracked for Richmond, he was a big executive at
14:18 39 Crown. You know, he could be hot and cold with ya. He'd walk
14:18 40 past you on the promenade one day, or he'd walk past you the
14:18 41 next and shake hands and want to talk about the footy.
14:18 42
14:18 43 Q. Can we go to the next one, 252:
14:18 44
14:18 45 *Might run into you later.*
14:18 46
14:18 47 This is you to Walsh. There's the expletive circus:

14:18 1
14:18 2 *working with boss, think we're meeting with Ishan*
14:18 3 *soon.*
14:18 4
14:18 5 A. Yes.
14:18 6
14:18 7 Q. You're involved at this stage in meetings with Ishan and
14:18 8 Zhou, correct?
14:19 9
14:19 10 A. I might have been in the same room, yeah, but it wasn't
14:19 11 very often.
14:19 12
14:19 13 Q. What kind of meetings did you attend when Zhou and Ishan
14:19 14 were together?
14:19 15
14:19 16 A. They might have been talking about their contract, I don't
14:19 17 --- I'm not sure.
14:19 18
14:19 19 COMMISSIONER: Why would you be there?
14:19 20
14:19 21 A. I don't know. I just, sometimes I was just there.
14:19 22
14:19 23 COMMISSIONER: That doesn't make sense.
14:19 24
14:19 25 A. Zhou, I might be with him, we were doing other stuff and
14:19 26 he's having --- we were going out for dinner after that, because he
14:19 27 loved --- at 6 o'clock every day he had dinner. I know it doesn't
14:19 28 make sense, but I'm not sure, sometimes I was in meetings.
14:19 29
14:19 30 COMMISSIONER: If I just look at this email, the meeting was
14:19 31 an accident.
14:19 32
14:19 33 A. Yeah, true.
14:19 34
14:19 35 COMMISSIONER: --- (overspeaking) --- in advance that you
14:19 36 were going to meet?
14:19 37
14:19 38 A. I probably didn't, I probably found out around that time.
14:19 39
14:19 40 COMMISSIONER: Is that so?
14:19 41
14:19 42 A. I said "Think we're meeting with Ishan soon," probably
14:20 43 because I've been told the boss wants to meet with Ishan. But
14:20 44 that could have been about --- he might have wanted to whinge
14:20 45 about Crown charging all these employees for valet parking like
14:20 46 he just went off his head once for.
14:20 47

14:20 1 COMMISSIONER: Are you just making that up?
14:20 2
14:20 3 A. No, of course not. I'm not, sir. I really don't remember
14:20 4 what the meeting was about, and I said "I think we're meeting
14:20 5 with Ishan soon," so --- I'm not just making it up. It was a very
14:20 6 tiring time.
14:20 7
14:20 8 COMMISSIONER: In what sense?
14:20 9
14:20 10 A. It was just --- it was like, yeah they operate differently
14:20 11 to us.
14:20 12
14:20 13 COMMISSIONER: Sorry, you said?
14:20 14
14:20 15 A. It operates differently to what you expect. Zhou kept you
14:20 16 very much in the dark until the last minute and then it would be
14:20 17 like pulling teeth to ask his assistants who could speak,
14:20 18 Chinese-speaking, "What are we doing?", "Oh, boss don't know
14:21 19 yet, boss don't know yet"; it was really like pulling teeth.
14:21 20
14:21 21 COMMISSIONER: Okay.
14:21 22
14:21 23 MR FINANZIO: Just bear with me for one second.
14:21 24
14:21 25 A. Sorry, what number, sir?
14:21 26
14:21 27 Q. I'm coming to it. Can I take you to 323? It's a bit further
14:21 28 forward.
14:21 29
14:21 30 A. Yeah, yeah.
14:21 31
14:21 32 Q. It's a text on 7 August.
14:21 33
14:21 34 A. Yeah.
14:21 35
14:21 36 Q.
14:21 37
14:21 38 *Just sent this to your man mate Personal
Informati got some very*
14:21 39 *reliable mail last night re-FC case. Apparently it will not*
14:22 40 *go beyond civil. More to come when I get back. But it's*
14:22 41 *looking good.*
14:22 42
14:22 43 A. I'm just trying to remember what the FC case was.
14:22 44
14:22 45 Q. And why would you be sending it to Ishan? You've been
14:22 46 very co-operative in many respects up to this point.
14:22 47

14:22 1 A. I'm trying to wrack my brains as to what the FC case was.
14:22 2
14:22 3 Q. I want you to tell us now ---
14:22 4
14:22 5 A. Yeah.
14:22 6
14:22 7 Q. --- what relationship you had with Ishan and what work you
14:22 8 had been doing with him that you have not told us about to date.
14:22 9
14:22 10 A. The work I've been doing, it's here. The work we've been
14:22 11 doing is here.
14:22 12
14:22 13 Q. What other work ---
14:22 14
14:22 15 A. I'm pretty sure this related to an incident in 2014 or '15
14:23 16 where somebody --- there was a boat or a car involved --- Ishan's
14:23 17 name come up as an individual and I think it wasn't pursued
14:23 18 criminally and I think it was pursued civilly. But Personal
Informatic ask
14:23 19 No. 2, he will probably remember it. I'm not, I am not.
14:23 20
14:23 21 Q. All right, I want to take you now to some other text
14:23 22 messages. Can you go to 0406?
14:24 23
14:24 24 A. Yeah.
14:24 25
14:24 26 Q.
14:24 27
14:24 28 *I've told King just FYI I've told Veng I'm out with you*
14:24 29 *tonight at a function just to keep that on his toes.*
14:24 30
14:24 31 A. Yeah.
14:24 32
14:24 33 Q. Why?
14:24 34
14:24 35 A. Well, because I didn't trust him. He was very aloof and ---
14:24 36 you know, it was like ---
14:24 37
14:24 38 Q. Aloof, that's not a reason not to trust someone ---
14:24 39
14:24 40 A. I would try to ask him ---
14:24 41
14:24 42 Q. Hang on a second. Being aloof is not a reason not to trust
14:24 43 somebody.
14:24 44
14:24 45 A. Yeah, true.
14:24 46
14:24 47 Q. What did he do to make you feel that you shouldn't trust

14:24 1 him?
14:24 2
14:24 3 A. Because I would ask him things thinking that he would
14:24 4 know. "Where are we going?" What are we doing tomorrow?
14:24 5 Help me translate here, Veng." And he would just be "Yes, sir,
14:24 6 no, sir, too busy, sir." And he would only come to me --- if I
14:24 7 asked him something, sometimes he'd walk straight past me.
14:24 8
14:24 9 Q. It's right that you were suspicious of him, isn't it?
14:24 10
14:24 11 A. I just didn't like the bloke --- that's true.
14:25 12
14:25 13 Q. Why didn't you like him? Because he was aloof?
14:25 14
14:25 15 A. Just because of the way he was. He was just

14:25 16
14:25 17 Q. Next email, 0408.
14:25 18
14:25 19 A. Text message.
14:25 20
14:25 21 Q. Sorry, text message. You see that there?
14:25 22
14:25 23 A. Yeah.
14:25 24
14:25 25 Q. When you say "roller-coaster", what do you mean by that?
14:25 26 What would make you describe your experience with him as a
14:25 27 "roller-coaster"?
14:25 28
14:25 29 A. Because --- a roller-coaster, I can't remember the exact
14:25 30 context of that comment, but it was a roller-coaster, it was up and
14:25 31 down. There was opportunity, then there was this is going
14:25 32 nowhere, it was being summoned at the last minute. It was not
14:25 33 being told anything. It was trying to ask direct questions and get
14:25 34 --- you just --- and then, you know, be expected to be there to go
14:26 35 to Sydney to go and pick out some school uniforms. I just ---
14:26 36
14:26 37 Q. Can we go to 0476, please.
14:26 38
14:26 39 A. Yeah.
14:26 40
14:26 41 Q. It's the next one.
14:26 42
14:26 43 A. 0476, sorry?
14:26 44
14:26 45 Q. It's a text message from you to Walsh:
14:26 46
14:26 47 *Mate, hope you don't mind, I put you down as a reference*

- 14:26 1 *for boss. We are leaving the Sydney house, I suppose*
14:26 2 *18/10 counts as a permanent lease. Does that sound*
14:26 3 *okay?*
14:26 4
14:26 5 A. Yeah.
14:26 6
14:26 7 Q. Am I right to read that as you asking Craig Walsh to be a
14:26 8 referee for Zhou?
14:26 9
14:26 10 A. I did, yeah. Because they had a permanent room there,
14:26 11 which I assume was part of the financial arrangement in the
14:27 12 course --- yeah, I did.
14:27 13
14:27 14 Q. Can I just ask you, the operator will need to go to 0478. He
14:27 15 did give that reference, didn't he?
14:27 16
14:27 17 A. Pardon?
14:27 18
14:27 19 Q. He gave that reference?
14:27 20
14:27 21 A. Oh, no, I don't think so, I don't think it ever went ahead,
14:27 22 because he decided to --- I think that's where he decided to stay at
14:27 23 that time at his apartment.
14:27 24
14:27 25 Q. Was he prepared to give the reference, Walsh?
14:27 26
14:27 27 A. I can't remember what his response was.
14:27 28
14:27 29 Q. His response wasn't "Sure mate"?
14:27 30
14:27 31 A. Okay.
14:27 32
14:27 33 Q. Well, I'm asking you.
14:27 34
14:27 35 A. If that was his response well, it would seem, yeah.
14:27 36
14:27 37 Q. You wouldn't have asked him to give a reference for Zhou
14:27 38 if you didn't think there was a fair chance he'd do it.
14:27 39
14:27 40 A. I suppose, but I'm talking about in relation to a room that
14:28 41 they had, a permanent room that they had there.
14:28 42
14:28 43 Q. But you wouldn't ask him to give a reference to Zhou ---
14:28 44
14:28 45 A. Yeah.
14:28 46
14:28 47 Q. --- unless you thought there was a fair chance he would do

14:28 1 it.
14:28 2
14:28 3 A. That's true, or --- and it was easy for me, probably.
14:28 4
14:28 5 Q. Is it right that the reason you asked him to give the
14:28 6 reference is that his word might have some sway to the people
14:28 7 that you were giving the reference to?
14:28 8
14:28 9 A. No, I think it's just more --- maybe, yeah, maybe. Maybe it
14:28 10 was more about having a sense of permanency for the lease.
14:28 11
14:28 12 Q. Can I ask you to go to 518?
14:29 13
14:29 14 A. Sorry?
14:29 15
14:29 16 Q. 518.
14:29 17
14:29 18 A. 518.
14:29 19
14:29 20 Q.
14:29 21
14:29 22 *King, have you spoken to Veng mate. I've got to meet the*
14:29 23 *banana tonight.*
14:29 24
14:29 25 Then the next email, 519, "Code 5".
14:29 26
14:29 27 A. Yeah.
14:29 28
14:29 29 Q. What does code 5 mean?
14:29 30
14:29 31 A. Out, at a location.
14:29 32
14:29 33 Q. Sorry, you'll have to decode that further.
14:29 34
14:29 35 A. Code 5 means you're out of the car at a location.
14:29 36
14:29 37 Q. At a location doing what?
14:29 38
14:29 39 A. Whatever you're doing, probably arriving at a location.
14:29 40
14:29 41 Q. Is it police talk, is it?
14:29 42
14:29 43 A. Yeah, it's --- yeah.
14:30 44
14:30 45 Q. What does it mean?
14:30 46
14:30 47 A. It means you've pulled up at a car and you're out of the car

14:30 1 at an address at a location, at a place.
14:30 2
14:30 3 Q. For what purpose?
14:30 4
14:30 5 A. Whatever purpose it is you're there for.
14:30 6
14:30 7 COMMISSIONER: Does it mean that he can't really respond to
14:30 8 you in any detail, because he's doing something?
14:30 9
14:30 10 A. Pardon? Oh, sorry.
14:30 11
14:30 12 MR FINANZIO: Does it mean that you can't respond because
14:30 13 you're busy?
14:30 14
14:30 15 A. No, no, I think it would mean that I'm there. That I'm at
14:30 16 Crown.
14:30 17
14:30 18 Q. Can I take you to 0542. This is a text from you to Craig:
14:30 19
14:31 20 *We just clicked over 10 mill turnover at Crown and you're*
14:31 21 *in charge of 20,000 staff and 100,000 people a day.*
14:31 22 *gold.*
14:31 23
14:31 24 That's two good mates giving each other a high five about
14:31 25 where they're at in life at the moment, isn't it?
14:31 26
14:31 27 A. Yes, yeah.
14:31 28
14:31 29 Q. You were by that stage --- 27 September 2016 --- living the
14:31 30 life. Correct?
14:31 31
14:31 32 A. I wouldn't say that. I'd like to see --- I don't know what the
14:31 33 context of it, either side, was I being ---
14:31 34
14:31 35 Q. You say:
14:31 36
14:31 37 *.... we just clicked over 10 mill turnover.....*
14:31 38
14:31 39 You're not clicking over 10 mill turnover for anybody other than
14:31 40 Zhou, are you?
14:31 41
14:32 42 A. That's right, but I don't know the context of it.
14:32 43
14:32 44 Q. You told us earlier today, a month before, you started
14:32 45 thinking about giving the business with Zhou away.
14:32 46
14:32 47 A. That's right, but if I'm there and it's clicked, he wouldn't

14:32 1 have been there, if I'm in the gaming room.
14:32 2
14:32 3 Q. "We just clicked over", the "we" there is Chinatown, isn't
14:32 4 it?
14:32 5
14:32 6 A. Yeah, that's language, I'm not sure of the context and it's
14:32 7 mucking around. I don't ---
14:32 8
14:32 9 Q. Okay.
14:32 10
14:32 11 COMMISSIONER: I'm not sure what you're mucking around
14:32 12 about here.
14:32 13
14:32 14 A. Sir, I don't know what either side of the messages were to
14:32 15 ---
14:32 16
14:32 17 COMMISSIONER: Let's say there's no "either side".
14:32 18
14:32 19 A. Well, you take that in isolation and I'm just, yeah ---
14:32 20
14:32 21 COMMISSIONER: In isolation it means you're with somebody
14:32 22 who's just turned over 10 million gambling.
14:32 23
14:32 24 A. Yeah, whether they won or lost. That's what I mean sir.
14:32 25 Yes, that's right.
14:32 26
14:32 27 COMMISSIONER: And there could only be one person?
14:33 28
14:33 29 A. It would be one of his players or a group of his players. It
14:33 30 couldn't have been Zhou, because he wasn't allowed to gamble. It
14:33 31 would have been one of his customers, or the junket's customers.
14:33 32
14:33 33 MR FINANZIO: So, can I give you the context. This is the first
14:33 34 text message in the chain.
14:33 35
14:33 36 A. Okay.
14:33 37
14:33 38 Q. The next text message says:
14:33 39
14:33 40 *Bill, that is.*
14:33 41
14:33 42 In other words not 10 mill or 10 nil, but 10 bill, as in
14:33 43 10 billion.
14:33 44
14:33 45 A. Okay, yes.
14:33 46
14:33 47 Q. "We just turned over, we just clicked over 10 billion

14:33 1 turnover at Crown and you are in charge of 20K staff and 10K"
14:34 2 --- that's you high-fiving the life you were living --
14:34 3
14:34 4 A. That's --- yes.
14:34 5
14:34 6 Q. --- as at 27 September 2016, a month after you told us
14:34 7 before ---
14:34 8
14:34 9 A. Yeah.
14:34 10
14:34 11 Q. --- that you were going to leave this because you didn't like
14:34 12 the business.
14:34 13
14:34 14 A. I didn't like the person. But if we take this in isolation,
14:34 15 that's right. I do remember that was a big thing because the
14:34 16 accountant told one of the associates. This didn't come from
14:34 17 Zhou who told me that Chinatown had clicked over that much
14:34 18 money.
14:34 19
14:34 20 Q. You were celebrating in it, weren't you?
14:34 21
14:34 22 A. I sent a text, so, yeah.
14:34 23
14:34 24 Q. You sent a text celebrating in it, didn't you?
14:34 25
14:34 26 A. Am I celebrating in it? It's a good thing maybe, that's what
14:34 27 it implies, yeah. Did I financially benefit from it? No.
14:34 28
14:35 29 Q. Then there is Mr Walsh's response about a minute later.
14:35 30 "Bring it on". It's not in your pack, because we only got these last
14:35 31 night.
14:35 32
14:35 33 A. Pardon?
14:35 34
14:35 35 Q. I don't think the operator can bring it up immediately. It's
14:35 36 document number 0545.
14:35 37
14:35 38 It's not in your folder, sir? Never mind. I'll withdraw that earlier
14:36 39 question, Commissioner. We haven't got the document in and I'll
14:36 40 deal with it in a different way.
14:36 41
14:36 42 Can I take you to 0613. Got that?
14:36 43
14:36 44 A. Yeah, I got that.
14:36 45
14:36 46 Q.
14:36 47

14:36 1 *King. How goes it? Any further on the big banana.*
14:36 2
14:36 3 A. Yeah.
14:36 4
14:36 5 Q. The big banana is Veng Anh?
14:36 6
14:36 7 A. Yeah.
14:36 8
14:36 9 Q. Why did you call him "the big banana"?
14:36 10
14:36 11 A. He called himself that?
14:37 12
14:37 13 Q. Big banana as a means of aggrandisement, he's the big
14:37 14 banana?
14:37 15
14:37 16 A. It was more because he used to say he looked like a big
14:37 17 banana.
14:37 18
14:37 19 Q. I see. When you say "How goes it", what are you talking
14:37 20 about there?
14:37 21
14:37 22 A. I don't know.
14:37 23
14:37 24 Q. In October 2016. Perhaps if I take you to the next one,
14:37 25 5614, Mr, Walsh's response:
14:37 26
14:37 27 *All good mate --- still pending at this stage.*
14:37 28
14:37 29 A. Yes.
14:37 30
14:37 31 Q. Then the next one, what does "ack" mean, "acknowledge"?
14:37 32
14:37 33 A. Yes.
14:37 34
14:37 35 Q.
14:37 36
14:37 37 *I haven't seen the germ around.*
14:37 38
14:37 39 The germ is Veng, correct?
14:37 40
14:37 41 A. I would assume, yes.
14:37 42
14:37 43 Q. When you say you assume --
14:37 44
14:37 45 A. In this context, yes, absolutely.
14:37 46
14:37 47 Q. We know why he called himself big banana, I'm assuming

14:38 1 he didn't call himself a germ. Why are you calling him "the
14:38 2 germ"?

14:38 3

14:38 4 A. Because I didn't like him.

14:38 5

14:38 6 Q.

14:38 7

14:38 8 *Boss laying very low.*

14:38 9

14:38 10 A. Yep.

14:38 11

14:38 12 Q. That's Zhou, correct?

14:38 13

14:38 14 A. Yes.

14:38 15

14:38 16 Q. Can you recall what that exchange was about in early
14:38 17 October?

14:38 18

14:38 19 A. I don't think I even --- no, I don't, I don't.

14:38 20

14:38 21 Q. So, can I take you now again to 10 October 2016, which is
14:38 22 0644:

14:38 23

14:38 24 *Mate spoke to Ishan. I agree about the dinner. It can't*
14:39 25 *wait until he gets back.*

14:39 26

14:39 27 A. Yes.

14:39 28

14:39 29 Q. What's that about?

14:39 30

14:39 31 A. I think that's where Zhou wanted to have dinner with Craig
14:39 32 Walsh.

14:39 33

14:39 34 Q. Why?

14:39 35

14:39 36 A. I don't know, he just wanted me to arrange a dinner with
14:39 37 him and Walshie said no, it's got to be --- he wouldn't do it.

14:39 38

14:39 39 Q. He wouldn't have a dinner alone with Zhou?

14:39 40

14:39 41 A. That's right.

14:39 42

14:39 43 Q. Why not?

14:39 44

14:39 45 A. Well, because that wasn't --- I don't think it was part of his
14:39 46 role. I don't know, he just didn't. He just didn't. He didn't spend
14:39 47 any time alone with him.

14:39 1
14:39 2 Q. Kept his distance from Zhou, did he?
14:39 3
14:39 4 A. Well, it wasn't his role.
14:39 5
14:39 6 Q. I see. You then say to him in the next email --- 646:
14:39 7
14:40 8 *Can you please flick me Ishan's email address.*
14:40 9
14:40 10 A. Yes.
14:40 11
14:40 12 Q. Then, the email address is provided in the next email that
14:40 13 you have 649. It's:
14:40 14
14:40 15 *ishan@ihavetoomuchcash.com.au*
14:40 16
14:40 17 From Craig to you.
14:40 18
14:40 19 A. Yeah.
14:40 20
14:40 21 Q. Was that humourous or was that actually his email?
14:40 22
14:40 23 A. It's humourous.
14:40 24
14:40 25 Q. And what did you take to mean the joke?
14:40 26
14:40 27 A. That it was humourous.
14:40 28
14:40 29 Q. But why was it funny?
14:40 30
14:40 31 A. I don't know, I just I thought it was funny.
14:40 32
14:40 33 Q. Did Ishan have a lot of cash?
14:40 34
14:40 35 A. I assume being an executive at Crown you'd be getting paid
14:40 36 a fortune, I don't know.
14:40 37
14:40 38 Q. Let's go to the next page, 654:
14:40 39
14:41 40 *King banana saga continues. Got a sit rep when u get a*
14:41 41 *chance.*
14:41 42
14:41 43 What's that mean?
14:41 44
14:41 45 A. I don't know, I don't know.
14:41 46
14:41 47 Q. It's not some code like code 5 or ack, or anything like that?

14:41 1
14:41 2 A. No.
14:41 3
14:41 4 Q. Then let's go to the next one, 697.
14:41 5
14:41 6 A. 697, sorry?
14:41 7
14:41 8 Q. Yes:
14:41 9
14:41 10 *King want me to go China.*
14:41 11
14:41 12 That's you?
14:41 13
14:41 14 A. Yep.
14:41 15
14:41 16 Q. That's on 18 October?
14:41 17
14:41 18 A. Yeah.
14:41 19
14:41 20 Q. Why would you be asking him if he wants you to go to
14:42 21 China?
14:42 22
14:42 23 A. I'm just assuming from that it was a joke in bad taste.
14:42 24
14:42 25 Q. About what?
14:42 26
14:42 27 A. Because people have been locked up in China.
14:42 28
14:42 29 Q. And then, 698 is the response:
14:42 30
14:42 31 *..... bloody dangerous over there.*
14:42 32
14:42 33 A. Yeah.
14:42 34
14:42 35 Q. Last one. Second last one --- 772.
14:42 36
14:42 37 A. 772, yeah.
14:42 38
14:42 39 Q.
14:42 40
14:42 41 *Just picked uppity midget.....*
14:42 42
14:42 43 Who's the midget?
14:42 44
14:42 45 A. His daughter.
14:42 46
14:42 47 Q.

14:42 1
14:42 2 *Our conversations will be on the same level.*
14:42 3
14:42 4 Thank you for that. The last one I will take you to in
14:43 5 the bundle 0723:
14:43 6
14:43 7 *Ishan across it from the big boss.*
14:43 8
14:43 9 That's obviously a reference to communications from Zhou
14:43 10 to Ishan?
14:43 11
14:43 12 A. I think so, yeah, but I don't remember exactly what it was.
14:43 13
14:43 14 Q. You know that Zhou was subsequently arrested?
14:43 15
14:43 16 A. No, I didn't. Well, I heard I read that, yes.
14:43 17
14:43 18 Q. You now know?
14:43 19
14:43 20 A. I know now, yeah. I don't know where and I don't know the
14:43 21 circumstances.
14:43 22
14:43 23 Q. Is it your evidence to this Commission that the AFP
14:43 24 boarding the plane in Coolangatta did not raise any suspicions in
14:44 25 your mind about the activities of Zhou at the time?
14:44 26
14:44 27 A. Sorry. As I said, I'm not sure it was the AFP. I think it was
14:44 28 Border Force ---
14:44 29
14:44 30 Q. Did not raise any suspicions?
14:44 31
14:44 32 A. With me?
14:44 33
14:44 34 Q. Yes.
14:44 35
14:44 36 A. At that stage I was naive, I just thought they were licenced
14:44 37 blokes with plenty of cash who were doing what they wanted to
14:44 38 do because they had plenty of money.
14:44 39
14:44 40 Q. Is it your evidence to this Commission that you did not
14:44 41 convey that information to Craig Walsh at all?
14:44 42
14:44 43 A. I don't know, I can't remember. Is it in here? I don't know.
14:44 44
14:44 45 Q. I'm asking you.
14:44 46
14:44 47 A. I don't remember if I specifically conveyed it to him.

14:44 1
14:44 2 Q. You're talking about driving around in Sydney in a Rolls
14:44 3 Royce drinking whiskey.
14:44 4
14:44 5 A. I'm not trying to hide anything. If it's in the messages, I've
14:44 6 told him. If it's over a beer, I've told him, but since then, he
14:44 7 knows --- of course he knows.
14:44 8
14:44 9 Q. Yes, but I'm asking you whether you told him at the time
14:44 10 that it happened.
14:44 11
14:44 12 A. I don't remember telling him exactly, no.
14:45 13
14:45 14 Q. You've told him intricate details of almost everything that
14:45 15 happens to you during the course of your ---
14:45 16
14:45 17 A. I think, with respect, there's --- that's not intricate details of
14:45 18 everything. There's nothing about, you know, the school or the
14:45 19 debt collectors, there's lot of stuff that's just not in there --- house
14:45 20 shopping and on the Gold Coast and ---
14:45 21
14:45 22 Q. Sure, but not only are you communicating by text message,
14:45 23 you're also talking to him regularly. Correct?
14:45 24
14:45 25 A. Did we talk? Yeah, we probably spoke on the phone. The
14:45 26 phone records will show exactly when we spoke. I don't
14:45 27 remember.
14:45 28
14:45 29 Q. So your evidence is not that you didn't tell him at the time
14:45 30 that the plane was boarded in Coolangatta ---
14:45 31
14:45 32 A. Yeah.
14:45 33
14:45 34 Q. --- but you don't remember whether you did or not?
14:45 35
14:45 36 A. I don't specifically remember texting Craig Walsh to say,
14:45 37 "Mate, we're going to New Zealand". I might have, I don't know,
14:45 38 I don't remember.
14:46 39
14:46 40 Q. Did you convey to him --- did you tell him about any of
14:46 41 your other experiences with Zhou?
14:46 42
14:46 43 A. Yeah, probably.
14:46 44
14:46 45 Q. Lots of them.
14:46 46
14:46 47 A. Well, I ---

14:46 1
14:46 2 Q. Well, certainly you conveyed to him that you were pleased
14:46 3 that Zhou and Chinatown had done \$10 billion in turnover?
14:46 4
14:46 5 A. Yeah.
14:46 6
14:46 7 Q. Right?
14:46 8
14:46 9 A. Yeah ---
14:46 10
14:46 11 Q. Certainly you conveyed to him all the intricacies of your
14:46 12 discussion with Ishan about a variety of things to do with Zhou.
14:46 13 Correct?
14:46 14
14:46 15 A. Yeah, yeah.
14:46 16
14:46 17 Q. So why wouldn't you convey to him details of Zhou's
14:46 18 activities that you were involved with, verbally?
14:46 19
14:46 20 A. Yeah, yeah, of course I would have, but I don't specifically
14:46 21 remember in what form they took, whether they were text, or
14:47 22 whether I rang him, or whether we were having a beer, or
14:47 23 whether we were at the footy or whatever we were doing. I don't
14:47 24 remember --- yeah, of course we did.
14:47 25
14:47 26 Q. But it's likely you did, right?
14:47 27
14:47 28 A. It's likely that we --- but ---
14:47 29
14:47 30 Q. Let me put this to you. We've gone through, in the course
14:47 31 of this examination, lots of different engagements and activities
14:47 32 that you undertook with Zhou in the course of your employment
14:47 33 with him. Right?
14:47 34
14:47 35 A. Yeah.
14:47 36
14:47 37 Q. Are you telling the Commission that none of those raised
14:47 38 any suspicion in your mind at all about the lawfulness of the
14:47 39 activities of Zhou?
14:47 40
14:47 41 A. No.
14:47 42
14:47 43 Q. Never suspicious at all?
14:47 44
14:47 45 A. No. It wasn't until everyone got arrested that I'm starting to
14:47 46 think, well, and I was out of it --- but no, no. But I always,
14:48 47 always thought this bloke is licenced. Everywhere he goes he's

14:48 1 got, his business operates in the most surveilled environment in
14:48 2 the world whenever he goes. They fly somewhere, it's the
14:48 3 security. I had no reason to, no.

14:48 4
14:48 5 Q. Not even being paid in cash?

14:48 6
14:48 7 A. No. That's the way they work, that's the way he works. I
14:48 8 might add that I have assisted other jurisdictions too, in the last
14:48 9 couple of years, as well.

14:48 10
14:48 11 Q. With what?

14:48 12
14:48 13 A. With information, when asked. So it's not as if I had of had
14:48 14 any suspicions it wouldn't have been reported to the authorities,
14:48 15 federally and State.

14:48 16
14:48 17 MR FINANZIO: That's the end of the examination.

14:48 18
14:49 19 COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Questions from anybody?

14:49 20
21 MR ROZEN: Yes, it's better if I do it before.

22
23 COMMISSIONER: Yes.

24
25

26 **CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ROZEN**

27
28

14:49 29 MR ROZEN: Sir, I represent the VCGLR, my name is Mr
14:49 30 Rozen. I want to ask a question about your original coming into
14:49 31 contact with Mr Zhou which was via Mr Walsh, is that right?

14:49 32
14:49 33 A. That's right.

14:49 34
14:49 35 Q. As I've recorded the evidence you gave earlier today, when
14:49 36 Mr Walsh spoke to you initially about Mr Zhou he said he was a
14:49 37 junket operator or a VVIP?

14:49 38
14:49 39 A. I'm really sorry, I'm nearly deaf in my left ear and hard of
14:49 40 hearing.

14:49 41
14:49 42 Q. I'll come closer to the microphone.

14:49 43
14:49 44 When Mr Walsh first spoke to you of Mr Zhou he described him
14:49 45 as a junket operator or a VVIP. Do you recall saying that earlier?

14:49 46
14:49 47 A. Yeah, yeah.

14:49 1
14:49 2 Q. And VVIP, I take it, is "very, very important person"?
14:50 3
14:50 4 A. Correct.
14:50 5
14:50 6 Q. You also said at one point as I've noted it down that
14:50 7 Mr Zhou was the operator of a licenced junket; do you recall
14:50 8 saying that earlier?
14:50 9
14:50 10 A. Yes.
14:50 11
14:50 12 Q. And, in fact, you've a number of times made reference to
14:50 13 him being licenced.
14:50 14
14:50 15 A. Yes, that's my thing, or permitted, or whatever you had to
14:50 16 do.
14:50 17
14:50 18 Q. That knowledge, was that based firstly on what Mr Walsh
14:50 19 said to you when you were first introduced to Mr Zhou?
14:50 20
14:50 21 A. No, it was on my Number 2. He did some open source data
14:50 22 investigating and yeah, I think he was the one who confirmed it
14:50 23 for me.
14:50 24
14:50 25 Q. Okay, so there was the initial information from Mr Walsh
14:50 26 and then Security Officer No. 2 --
14:50 27
14:50 28 A. Yep.
14:50 29
14:50 30 Q. --- confirmed that, as you understood it, based on some
14:51 31 investigations; is that right?
14:51 32
14:51 33 A. Well, based on --- yeah, yeah.
14:51 34
14:51 35 Q. During the period that you were working for Mr Zhou, I
14:51 36 take it that you spent the entire time of the view that he was a
14:51 37 licenced junket operator?
14:51 38
14:51 39 A. That was my understanding, yeah.
14:51 40
14:51 41 MR ROZEN: Thank you, those are my questions.
14:51 42
14:51 43 COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
14:51 44
14:51 45 MR WARNER: Just one matter to clarify, Commissioner.
14:51 46
14:51 47

14:51 1 **CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR WARNER.**

14:51 2

14:51 3

14:51 4 MR WARNER: My name is Mr Warner and I act for the Crown.

14:51 5 You gave some evidence about Mr Zhou being excluded from the

14:51 6 gaming floors ---

14:51 7

14:51 8 A. Yes.

14:51 9

14:51 10 Q. --- throughout Australia and certain things would happen

14:51 11 when he tried to enter the gaming floors?

14:51 12

14:51 13 A. That's right.

14:51 14

14:51 15 Q. What would happen when he tried to enter the floors?

14:51 16

14:51 17 A. Crown Melbourne?

14:51 18

14:51 19 Q. Yes.

14:51 20

14:51 21 A. He got stopped.

14:51 22

14:51 23 COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much. You're free to go.

14:51 24

14:51 25 A. Thank you.

14:52 26

14:52 27

14:52 28 **THE WITNESS WITHDREW**

14:52 29

14:52 30

14:52 31 MR FINANZIO: I call Officer Number 2.

14:52 32

14:52 33

14:52 34 **SECURITY OFFICER 2, CALLED**

14:53 35

14:53 36

14:53 37 MR FINANZIO: Are you the person whose name is printed on

14:53 38 the piece of paper?

14:53 39

14:53 40 WITNESS: Yes, I am.

14:53 41

14:53 42

14:53 43 **WITNESS SWORN**

14:54 44

45

46

47 COMMISSIONER: Sit down, please.

1
2 A. Thank you.

3
4 COMMISSIONER: I'll just mark the identification sheet.

5
6 Document containing the witness of Security Officer 2, that's
7 what we are calling you, will be Exhibit 255.

8
9

10 **EXHIBIT #RCPH0255 - WITNESS IDENTIFICATION**
11 **DOCUMENT - SECURITY OFFICER 2 (CONFIDENTIAL)**

12
13

14 **EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR FINANZIO**

15
16

14:54 17 MR FINANZIO: Sir, I'm not going to introduce you by reference
14:54 18 to your experience and qualifications, except to say that for a
14:54 19 period you were a policeman?

14:54 20
14:54 21 A. Yes.

14:54 22
14:54 23 Q. And now, you are in business with Security Officer 1?

14:54 24
14:54 25 A. Correct.

14:54 26
14:54 27 Q. You were in business with Security Officer 1 in the period

14:54 28 2016?

14:55 29
14:55 30 A. It's correct.

14:55 31
14:55 32 Q. You are familiar with some of the circumstances, which I

14:55 33 will ask you about in a bit more detail in a moment, the
14:55 34 relationship between your entity and Tom Zhou?

14:55 35
14:55 36 A. Yes. Yes, I am, yes.

14:55 37
14:55 38 Q. The evidence so far is that Security Officer 1 had most of

14:55 39 the face-to-face dealings with Mr Zhou?

14:55 40
14:55 41 A. That's correct, yes.

14:55 42
14:55 43 Q. You accompanied Security Officer 1 to the first meeting

14:55 44 with Mr Zhou?

14:55 45
14:55 46 A. That's correct.
14:55 47

14:55 1 Q. But that apart from that, you mainly handled the accounts
14:55 2 side?
14:55 3
14:55 4 A. Yes.
14:55 5
14:55 6 Q. You produced, in accordance with a Notice to Produce,
14:55 7 some accounts from your records?
14:55 8
14:56 9 A. Yep.
14:56 10
14:56 11 MR FINANZIO: Those records are behind, Commissioner, tab 5.
14:56 12
14:56 13 COMMISSIONER: I have some tax invoices behind tab 5.
14:56 14
14:56 15 MR FINANZIO: Can the witness be shown PRG.0001.0001,
14:56 16 please.
14:56 17
14:56 18 These are the tax invoices?
14:56 19
14:56 20 A. Yep.
14:56 21
14:56 22 Q. I tender them. The tax invoices cover periods that
14:56 23 commence in October.
14:56 24
14:56 25 A. Mmm-hmm.
14:56 26
14:56 27 Q. But not periods before that?
14:56 28
14:56 29 A. That's correct.
14:56 30
14:56 31 Q. It's right that the arrangements that were made with
14:57 32 Mr Zhou at the first meeting were oral arrangements ---
14:57 33
14:57 34 A. Yes.
14:57 35
14:57 36 Q. --- not a written contract?
14:57 37
14:57 38 A. That's correct.
14:57 39
14:57 40 Q. And a number of services were carried out from the period
14:57 41 in May 2016, between May 2016 and October 2016, that are not
14:57 42 invoiced formally?
14:57 43
14:57 44 A. That's correct.
14:57 45
14:57 46 Q. But the payment for them was in cash?
14:57 47

- 14:57 1 A. Correct.
14:57 2
14:57 3 Q. The cash payments totalled something in the order of \$130
14:57 4 to \$150,000?
14:57 5
14:57 6 A. I was thinking around \$140 to 160. Maybe 140 to 160,
14:57 7 yeah.
14:57 8
14:57 9 Q. The cash payments were made how?
14:57 10
14:57 11 A. Um, in cash.
14:57 12
14:57 13 Q. No, sorry. It was a stupid question of mine.
14:57 14
14:57 15 A. No, you're right.
14:57 16
14:57 17 Q. When a payment is made in cash, there has to be a delivery
14:57 18 of the cash?
14:57 19
14:57 20 A. That's correct.
14:57 21
14:57 22 Q. Did you receive the cash yourself?
14:57 23
14:57 24 A. Yes.
14:57 25
14:57 26 Q. In what circumstances? Where were you when you
14:58 27 received the cash?
14:58 28
14:58 29 A. In the casino area --- I can't remember what exactly led to
14:58 30 meeting them, but I would have got a phone call from someone
14:58 31 saying they wanted to see me about fixing it up, because there
14:58 32 was a lot of to-ing and fro-ing about the payment amounts, and
14:58 33 the disputes over how much was meant --- so an invoice such as
14:58 34 this might have been invoiced, but it might have taken weeks of
14:58 35 them saying, "We don't want to pay the full amount", so I would
14:58 36 have got a phone call to meet them in the vicinity of Crown, or
14:58 37 over the road at the Macca's store to get burger.
14:58 38
14:58 39 Q. I want you to try to remember receiving the cash.
14:58 40
14:58 41 A. Yeah.
14:58 42
14:58 43 Q. When you say "you would probably have" ---
14:58 44
14:58 45 A. Yeah.
14:58 46
14:58 47 Q. --- there were occasions when you went to Crown?

14:58 1
14:58 2 A. Correct.
14:58 3
14:58 4 Q. There were occasions when you went to Macca's?
14:59 5
14:59 6 A. Sort of in the vicinity of Macca's, yes.
14:59 7
14:59 8 Q. Macca's near Crown?
14:59 9
14:59 10 A. Yeah, the one opposite, yeah.
14:59 11
14:59 12 Q. The one opposite where?
14:59 13
14:59 14 A. Oh, it sits below Freshwater Place.
14:59 15
14:59 16 Q. Right, and you would be handed cash in a bag?
14:59 17
14:59 18 A. Correct.
14:59 19
14:59 20 Q. What kind of bag?
14:59 21
14:59 22 A. Just a brown Crown bag, like a little square bag.
14:59 23
14:59 24 Q. How would the cash be --- how would the cash be gathered
14:59 25 together?
14:59 26
14:59 27 A. Well, it was in, it was just in 100-dollar notes and I don't
14:59 28 remember how many in each wad, but I think it was \$5,000
14:59 29 increments --
14:59 30
14:59 31 Q. Wads?
14:59 32
14:59 33 A. --- yes, just with a white piece of paper wrapped around it.
14:59 34
14:59 35 Q. With a Crown insignia on it?
14:59 36
14:59 37 A. I can't recall that exactly, I think it may have had a date on
14:59 38 it, but I can't recall exactly.
14:59 39
14:59 40 Q. Did any of your other customers pay you in cash like that?
14:59 41
14:59 42 A. Some people did.
14:59 43
14:59 44 Q. In wads of cash like that?
14:59 45
14:59 46 A. Not in wads.
15:00 47

15:00 1 Q. You do a cash job for a few hundred dollars?
15:00 2
15:00 3 A. Not in that amount.
15:00 4
15:00 5 Q. How many wads in the bag?
15:00 6
15:00 7 A. It might have been four or five wads in the bag.
15:00 8
15:00 9 Q. You'd get paid in 20 or \$30,000 increments?
15:00 10
15:00 11 A. Correct.
15:00 12
15:00 13 Q. Of cash?
15:00 14
15:00 15 A. Correct.
15:00 16
15:00 17 Q. What were those services for?
15:00 18
15:00 19 A. For services that are listed on ---
15:00 20
15:00 21 Q. Well, these invoices don't amount to \$130,000?
15:00 22
15:00 23 A. There would have been earlier invoices that related to it.
15:00 24 There were disputes from day one about the cost and you could
15:00 25 give them an invoice for \$40,000 and they would argue it should
15:00 26 be for \$20,000. I had worked the cost out originally at \$120 to
15:00 27 \$140 per hour to do the work for them.
15:00 28
15:00 29 Q. It's a pretty unusual way to be paid for your services in such
15:00 30 large amounts in cash, isn't it?
15:00 31
15:00 32 A. Yeah, well ---
15:00 33
15:00 34 Q. Am I right in saying that unusual, and something that you
15:01 35 raised with, or that you told Security Officer 1 about?
15:01 36
15:01 37 A. And in fairness, I raised it with them. I actually said to
15:01 38 them, "Why are we doing it this way? Why can't you just put the
15:01 39 money in the bank account?" So that, I raised that with them
15:01 40 early in the piece.
15:01 41
15:01 42 Q. You explained those conversations to Personal Information To
15:01 43 Security Officer 1?
15:01 44
15:01 45 A. Yes, I would have, yeah. If I can say on that point, though,
15:01 46 that when the money came like that, I would have --- I assumed
15:01 47 at the time that well, the money's coming out of the casino, I don't

15:01 1 know how it works, I don't know whether they cash a chip in to
15:01 2 get the money. In that stage I didn't even know really what a
15:01 3 junket was, if we're referring to that, so ---
15:01 4
15:01 5 Q. But it did raise your suspicion, didn't it?
15:02 6
15:02 7 A. No.
15:02 8
15:02 9 Q. No?
15:02 10
15:02 11 A. No, I don't think it raised any suspicion as to how the
15:02 12 money came. I don't understand why they didn't want to put it
15:02 13 into the bank account when I'd given them an invoice. I wouldn't
15:02 14 say it raised a suspicion around that side of it, no.
15:02 15
15:02 16 Q. Just bear with me for one second. Did you discuss the
15:02 17 nature of the work that security officer number 1 was doing for
15:02 18 Zhou?
15:02 19
15:02 20 A. Generally not, no. No, generally not.
15:02 21
15:02 22 Q. He travelled a bit for it?
15:02 23
15:02 24 A. Well, he travelled a lot. Do you want me to answer the
15:03 25 question, sorry?
15:03 26
15:03 27 Q. Yes, sure.
15:03 28
15:03 29 A. I didn't discuss it. Obviously it's someone I known for 30
15:03 30 or 40 years, and telling me what I needed to know to put on the
15:03 31 invoice, when it came to the inside and outs, I really didn't know
15:03 32 what he was doing.
15:03 33
15:03 34 Q. Did he tell you about extraordinary experiences that might
15:03 35 have arisen during the course of work for Zhou?
15:03 36
15:03 37 A. I don't know what extraordinary experiences you mean.
15:03 38
15:03 39 Q. Did he talk to you about riding in a Rolls Royce in Sydney,
15:03 40 for example?
15:03 41
15:03 42 A. No, he told me --- I think he told me he was in a Roller, but
15:03 43 he was going to look at a property in Sydney. He told me things
15:03 44 like that, yeah.
15:03 45
15:03 46 Q. Okay. Did he tell you about his travels to New Zealand?
15:03 47

15:03 1 A. I don't think he elaborated on it. He said that he was either
15:03 2 going or he'd been, because this fella was looking at, looking at
15:03 3 purchasing the Auckland --- is there a casino in Auckland, maybe
15:04 4 --- he was looking at purchasing a casino, but I didn't get into the
15:04 5 specifics of the trip.
15:04 6
15:04 7 Q. Did he explain to you that he brought cash back from
15:04 8 Auckland in his suitcase?
15:04 9
15:04 10 A. No, he didn't, he didn't tell me that at the time, no.
15:04 11
15:04 12 Q. Did he tell you that the plane that was taking them from
15:04 13 Coolangatta to Auckland was boarded by law enforcement
15:04 14 agencies and searched?
15:04 15
15:04 16 A. Yeah, he told me that --- yeah, he did mention that at the
15:04 17 time. So it must have been after it, obviously.
15:04 18
15:04 19 Q. Okay. Did he share with you any stories of his experiences
15:04 20 working for the junkets?
15:04 21
15:05 22 A. I think the impression I got ---
15:05 23
15:05 24 Q. No, at this point in time I'm not asking you about
15:05 25 impressions.
15:05 26
15:05 27 A. Well, you've asked me a question about did he share any
15:05 28 stories ---
15:05 29
15:05 30 Q. --- (overspeaking) --- stories.
15:05 31
15:05 32 A. I don't recall any stories. I just --- what I got from him was
15:05 33 that Tom Zhou was just a different sort of character that was very
15:05 34 demanding, he was quite irrational. Different stories, no, I didn't
15:05 35 share a lot of stories at the time.
15:05 36
15:05 37 MR FINANZIO: Okay. All right, thank you. That's the end.
15:05 38
15:05 39 COMMISSIONER: Okay. Questions?
15:05 40
15:05 41 MR WARNER: Can you take a short adjournment?
15:05 42
15:05 43 COMMISSIONER: Take a short adjournment? Okay, yes. 5
15:05 44 minutes?
15:05 45
15:05 46 MR WARNER: Thank you.
15:05 47

15:05 1 MR FINANZIO: Yes, that's right.

15:05 2

15:05 3

15:05 4 **ADJOURNED** [3.05 PM]

15:09 5

15:09 6

15:09 7 **RESUMED** [3.09 PM]

15:09 8

15:09 9

15:09 10 COMMISSIONER: I'll call it a day, and we'll adjourn until 9.30

15:09 11 tomorrow morning. Thank you.

15:10 12

13

14 **HEARING ADJOURNED AT 3.10 PM UNTIL FRIDAY, 25**

15 **JUNE 2021 AT 9.30 AM**

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