

**STATEMENT OF COLIN EDWARD WATKINS
OF REDACTED**

**TAKEN BY SUPERINTENDENT M D SYMONS, ANTI-CORRUPTION BRANCH,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE AT 8.05 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2002 AT
HIS HOME ADDRESS.**

I am a former member of the South Australia Police. I was the Assistant Commissioner of Crime for the South Australia Police between 1987 to 1994. Part of my duties during that period entailed the strategic oversight of crime issues for the State. Chief Superintendent Bartlett was a Detective Chief Superintendent in my area. In effect, he was my 2 IC. When I was absent he would relieve my position as A/C. He would handle the operational issues as well as other matters.

On 17 July 2002 Superintendent Symons came to my house to discuss an investigation into paedophiles. This investigation was apparently known as Operation Deny. Superintendent Symons showed me a copy of a file relating to this operation.

I have no independent recollection of this particular matter. However, I can recall an investigation with paedophiles conducted by Detective Bean from Elizabeth. I can recall Barry Presgrave (Detective Inspector) being involved. Bean could be described as a very good operator and very dedicated to his investigation. I know there was some concern about the resources being allocated to his investigation. It became a situation where I had to make a decision about the allocation of resources.

While his operation was important, I had to consider what other matters needed to be investigated. I made a decision to reduce the amount of people dedicated to his operation. I know he was upset about this because of his dedication to his particular cause. If I remember rightly, I think he went to the media but I am not sure of that.

I have no recollection of the investigation known as Operation Deny. My role was not operational so this is not unusual. John Bartlett was the person who ran this type of investigation. I read on the file a document which I have written "approved" on a number of recommendations (from John Bartlett dated 1 November 1993). I cannot recall anything about this particular document even though I did write on it.

It should be noted my overall role was to oversight the investigation of serious crime within South Australia. This meant I had to re-allocate resources on occasion. This would be done on an "as needs" basis. Obviously there were times when these decisions would impact on some investigation but I had to look at the total picture.

I repeat that I have no independent recollection of Operation Deny or anything associated with it. Even reading through the file does not assist me. It must be understood that there would be at least 30-40 files coming through my office on a daily basis. The process I adopted was to have my staff officer either Jim Carter or Barry Wright to prepare some information about the file. They would sit in the office and we would go through the files. They would provide me with information about the file. I would make a decision about it and they would prepare the appropriate minute or other documentation – I would then sign it off. The same type of process

was adopted in my dealings with John Bartlett. He would discuss issues with me and a decision would be made.