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20/06/2022

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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE PETER M. HALL QC  
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION TOLOSA

Reference: Operation E17/1221

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON MONDAY 20 JUNE, 2022

AT 2.00PM

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This transcript has been prepared in accordance with conventions used in the Supreme Court.

MR DARAMS: Yes, Mr Chidiac, I'll come back to you arranging meetings, or text messages in relation to that again but I want to ask you some questions about some different matters just now. So could I ask you this question? Did you go to the I-Prosperity Christmas party that was held on a yacht or a boat on the harbour?---I did, yes, yes.

10 So how many Christmas parties of IPG, or you understood were organised by IPG, have you gone to?---Quite a few.

How many, what, five?---I'm not going to guess, Mr Darams.

So how many of them were held on a boat on the Sydney Harbour?---I can't recall, Mr Darams.

More than one?---Possibly, yes.

20 Okay. Let me deal with it this way, then. Can the witness be shown volume 1.2, page 108? Next page. Just zoom into the top email, just all the way down. So see the email from Ms Li to you dated 5 December, 2016?---I do.

She says there "Please see the boat invitation. I meet you there at 11.45." ---I, I see it, yes.

Does this email – well, perhaps if we show you the invitation. Scroll down, please. Seeing this now, does this assist you with your recollection of attending this Christmas party in December 2016?---No, it doesn't, Mr  
30 Darams.

Did you take Mr Tsirekas to any of the IPG Christmas parties, or I-Prosperity Christmas parties?---I can't recall, Mr Darams.

Just noting a few details here. See it says the address, Star City Casino Wharf and the departure time, 11.45am?---I can see it, yes.

Just keep those in your mind because I want to show you some other documents to maybe help you with your recollection, Mr Chidiac, okay?  
40 Could I ask that the witness be shown volume 6.2, page 53? I just want to zoom in on the – see here? So this is a WhatsApp message you send to a

person who's identified or saved in your phone as Sid. Does that person Sid or the name Sid ring any bells with you?---If you go through my contacts, Mr Darams, I've got a lot of Sids as contacts.

10 Sure. I'll come to the number in a moment but I just wanted to know firstly whether you're able to assist me before I do that. But I'll do it in a different way in a moment. Anyway, I just want to note, see the photo, a larger version of the photo in a moment, but I just want you to note the date that you have sent this, it's 7 December, 2016. See that?---Well, it's the 7<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup>, yes, I see that, yeah.

Yeah. So that's the same date as the date on the invitation of the I-Prosperty Christmas party that I just took you to. Do you accept that? ---Well, I take your word for it, Mr Darams.

20 Could I ask that you be shown volume 6.1, page 70? So the message I just took you to before with the photo, which I will come back to in a moment, that came from an exchange between you and this person who's identified in this exchange here but a latter part in time. So I'll just draw your attention to this box here, where the hand is. Do you see there's a number and then under that there's a Sid and then below is obviously your number and your name. Now, you don't have to say it out but the number above your name, with 6-1 being the Australia country code, that's your mobile number after that, correct?---The one ending with 0-3-9, that's correct, yes.

Correct. So if you just look at the one above that, that looks like an overseas number to me. Would I be right about that?---Yeah, absolutely right.

30 So where you have this overseas number and the Sid, are you able to assist us to whether – is that a family member or something?---Yeah, it's a family member, Mr Darams.

Right. because we can go through the text messages, if it looks like there's a lot of personal messages going backward and forward between you and the person named as Sid, photos of family or kids and things like that. So, that's family relative, correct?---That's correct, yeah.

40 If we can then go back now to volume 6.2, page 53. Just bear with me one moment. I'll expand that message there. Just tell me if you can see it but it

looks like it's obviously a photo of you on the left and Mr Tsirekas on the right. Do you note that?---I can see, yes.

Yeah. So if we can go now to page 336. So this is the message you send on 7 December, 2016 to Sid. Can you tell us why you might have sent this photo to Sid?---I send a lot of photos to Sid.

You can't tell us why you sent this photo in particular?---No, I can't, Mr Darams. Can't recall.

10

Just going back to the invitation to the I-Prosperity Christmas party on 7 December, 2016, the reference to it being a boat party, then we see this photo sent on 7 December, 2016, does that assist you with your recollection as to whether or not you attended a IPG Christmas party and Mr Tsirekas went along with you?---I can't recall, no.

It seems from what I've showed you that in fact you attended on this Christmas party and you took Mr Tsirekas with you. What do you say about that? It seems most likely.---I can't recall, Mr Darams.

20

Could I just - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Darams, there is evidence, isn't there, that this is what your questions are suggesting?

MR DARAMS: Absolutely.

THE COMMISSIONER: It was a Christmas party.

30 MR DARAMS: Yeah.

THE COMMISSIONER: You may take it, Mr Chidiac, whether you say you remember it or not, this is a photo taken in respect of the I-Prosperity Christmas function in a boat somewhere on Sydney Harbour. Is that right, Mr Darams?

MR DARAMS: Sorry. What I'm putting to Mr Chidiac is based on the invitation he was sent, the date of the invitation, being 7 December, 2016, the date this photo was sent to his family relative, being 7 December, 2016.  
40 I've put to him that this is a photo taken at the I-Prosperity Christmas party and I was asking Mr Chidiac does showing him this photo and showing him

the invitation assist him with his recollection as to whether he took Mr Tsirekas to the Christmas party.

THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. All right. So, Mr Chidiac, you've been given all that information. Then do you now recall going to the I-Prosperty Christmas function in 2016?---I can't recall, Commissioner.

You're serious about that are you?---Absolutely, Commissioner.

- 10 Notwithstanding there you are with Mr Tsirekas on a boat which can be assumed is the same date as the Christmas function to which you were invited and then you are seriously sitting there saying I can't remember. Is that truthful?---That's the truth, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: Could I ask that the witness be shown volume 6.3, page 145. Just zoom into the first – so here we have a record of a time stamp of it looks like a trip you took on 7 December, 2016 in an Uber. Now, you take Ubers from time to time?---I do. I used to, yes.

- 20 What about this time in 2016, were you taking Ubers?---Well, that suggests that's the case, yes.

Does it accord with your recollection of when you used to take Ubers because you seem to say you don't do it now?---No, I, I use a different platform. I took Ubers everywhere.

- 30 So just wanting to see whether this helps you with your recollection. This Uber or, sorry, this record seems to suggest that you picked, picked someone up or you emanated your journey from Formosa Street, Drummoyne and you ended up at Pirrama Road, Pyrmont. Does that assist you now, this little bit more of information?---No, it doesn't at all.

Seems to suggest that – I'll come back one. [REDACTED]

Do you live in Formosa?---I also know a lot of people that work in Formosa.

Who do you know that works in Formosa?---Jacob brothers. My - - -

Did you take the Jacobs brothers on the Christmas, IPG Christmas party in 2016?---I can't recall. I know my accountant that operates out of there as well.

Mr Bruzzano, is that right?---Mr Frank Bruzzano, yes.

Did you take him on the I-Prosperity Christmas party in December 2016? ---I can't recall. Also know, know Frank Colacicco works, used to work in that street as well.

10

Yeah, did you take him on the I-Prosperity Christmas party 2016?---I can't recall.

[REDACTED]

Yeah. Did you remember now taking Mr Tsirekas to the Christmas party in December 2016?---No, I don't.

20 No, okay. What if it was suggested to you that in fact the evidence clearly demonstrates that you did take Mr Tsirekas to the I-Prosperity Christmas party in December 2016? What would you say about that?---Which evidence are we talking about?

Well, the invitation, the photo, the Uber message. All of those appear to demonstrate quite clearly, I want to suggest to you, that you did take Mr Tsirekas to the I-Prosperity Christmas party in December 2016. What would you say about that?---No, I disagree with you, Mr Darams.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Chidiac, what would you say if the proposition was put that you are pretending that you don't remember and you're doing that to protect Mr Tsirekas from having also been on the boat at this Christmas function? What would you say if that proposition was put?---I disagree with that, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: Can I move to a slightly different topic, but something related to what you said this morning. Could the witness be shown volume 1B, page 22. Just have a look at this invoice, please, Mr Chidiac.---I can see it, yes.

40 The invoice is dated 10 June, 2016. Do you see that?---I do.

The amount invoiced to I-Prosperity or one of the I-Prosperity companies was \$165,000. Do you see that?---It's 181,500, Mr Darams.

Including the GST, that's right.---That's right. That's the total.

That amount was paid, correct?---That, that account was deposited into my account, that's correct.

10 You gave some evidence this morning where you referred to some verbal contract you say you had with Harry Huang. Do you remember that evidence?---It wasn't with Harry Huang.

With Michael Gu, was it?---That's correct, yes.

I may have mistaken, but I think that you referred to in some of the, in some of your answers or one of your answers to my questions, you referred to this invoice, is that right?---When we, when was that, what conversation?

20 Earlier this morning.---I can't remember referring to that invoice, but that particular invoice, invoice number, ending with 226. I can't remember referring to that.

No, you certainly didn't refer to the invoice number this morning, but you referred to an invoice about an amount that was paid that you say, as I understood your evidence this morning, was in accordance with this verbal contract you had with, you say, Mr Gu. Correct?---That's correct, yeah.

Is this the invoice you were referring to?---Yes, that's the invoice, yes.

30 Do you say this invoice then was for services or your part of the saving in price in relation to that B1 property, 1 Marquet Street, do you say that? Is that your evidence?---That's, that's right, yeah.

So you said earlier today that the agreement, the verbal agreement you had with I-Prosperity or Michael Gu was that you would get 50 per cent of the saving in price that you were able to achieve for I-Prosperity, is that right?---That's correct, yeah.

40 I think you said that it was about, what, \$1 million that you had saved I-Prosperity on the sale price, is that right?---The total saving, yes.

So you say you were entitled under this verbal contract to 500,000 of that?  
---No, I saved them \$2 million.

So you're entitled to \$1 million?---\$1 million.

So this 165,000 is part-payment of that \$1 million, is it?---Well, the negotiation process was in stages.

10 Is this \$165,000 part-payment of what you say you were entitled to, \$1 million?---That, that's correct, yeah. Payment in advance for that, yeah, for that, for that saving.

THE COMMISSIONER: Part-payment in advance, did you say?---For that saving, yes.

What, in advance of your services?---Commissioner, can I elaborate, please?

20 Yep.---Okay.

Just briefly.---Briefly. Andrew Ferguson and B1 had an asking price of \$8.2 million for 1 Marquet Street and I-Prosperty had, they had that - - -

Yeah, I think you've been over this, yes.---Okay, okay.

Yes, don't worry about going any further.---Okay.

30 MR DARAMS: Mr Chidiac, what if it was suggested to you that the evidence you gave this morning and the evidence you've just given now in relation to this \$165,000 payment has just been made up by you? What would you say to that?---I totally disagree with you, Mr Darams, but I know what you're referring to.

Well, what if it was suggested to you that because you know what I'm referring to, since I asked you those questions about this invoice last time, you've come up with a different story to explain how it is you came to charge I-Prosperty this \$165,000? What if that was suggested to you?  
---Can you remind me what my story was, Mr Darams?

THE COMMISSIONER: No, no, no. Mr Chidiac, I keep telling you, you're not here to ask questions.---Yes, Commissioner. My apologies, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: What if it was suggested to you that you've come up with or made up another story in relation to this invoice since the last time you were asked questions about it? What would you say about that?---I disagree with you, Mr Darams. No disrespect.

10 Could the witness be shown transcript page 1105 of the compulsory examination on 5 April, 2022? I just want to draw your attention to about line 26 where I say "Right. Could the witness be shown page 22 of volume 1B?" I just want to show you some pages of the transcript, Mr Chidiac. So if you can just read on from there and let me know when you've finished this page and I'll ask that you be shown the next page.---So where am I reading from, 26?

Yeah, just from there, just read down.---Okay. Yeah, yes.

20 Go over to the next page.---Yep.

Just go to the next page.---Am I reading the whole page, Mr Darams?

Yes, please. Just tell me when you get to the end of that page.---Yeah, I've read it. I've read it.

Just I want to suggest to you that in this part of the extract I've just taken you to at no stage in there do you mention this oral contract you say you had which you say you negotiated with Michael Gu for which you are now  
30 saying this 165,000 was part payment in respect of, do you?---Well, I wasn't asked about what agreement I had.

Well, let's just go back to some of the questions on page 1107. I just want to draw your attention to line 19 and the question here was put, "So let's just go back and explore this. You said this payment was in advance?" "Yeah." Then "Payment in advance of the consulting fee that you were charging them?" You said, "Well, I just asked. I said, 'Look, I, I need some, some money. If you could pay me in advance?' And he said, 'What do you, what do you need?' I, I asked for an amount and that's what he ended up giving  
40 me." I then say, "When you say payment in advance, that must be in advance of you having some other entitlement to the fees. Correct?"

“Some other entitlement? There’s no entitlements there at all outside, outside, outside my contract.” “Correct.” “That wasn’t part of the contract, no.” “So payment in advance of what?” Then you say, “Payment, I just wanted, I just wanted a lump sum, okay, that would eventually come out of my, come out of my contracted period.” And then the Chief Commissioner puts to you, “But you wouldn’t know how long the contract was going to last. It could have lasted, well, it could have finished in June 2016.” “That’s right, Your Honour.” “Well, why would they advance money of this order in those circumstances?” So you were clearly being asked  
10 questions about the contract you had with I-Prosperty. You accept all of that?---The agreement I had with I-Prosperty, yes.

Well, contract, agreement, same thing. And nowhere do you mention this evidence or this explanation you’ve now given today. What do you say about that?---Well, I would have possibly mistakenly neglected to - - -

See what if it was suggested you weren’t possibly mistaken about anything when you gave this evidence on 5 April, 2022, what would you say about that?---I’d disagree with you, Mr Darams.

20 What if it was suggested that in fact you’ve come up with this story today in the witness box to give a different explanation as to the basis upon which you were paid this \$165,000, Mr Chidiac, because of the questions that you were asked on the last occasion, what would you say about that?---I’d disagree with you, Mr Darams.

If I could ask, just in relation to the \$165,000 why is it if you have the agreement with Michael, a verbal agreement with Michael Gu, why isn’t it you didn’t go to him and ask for the payment in advance?---He was rarely in  
30 Australia, Mr Darams.

But you could contact him by way of text message.---Very difficult to contact.

You could contact him by way of text message.---Very difficult to get hold off, Mr Darams.

Can you answer my question. You could contact him by text message.  
---I’ve tried on numerous occasion previously to no, no, to no avail.

40

You didn't refer – just going back to page 1106. I'll just draw your attention to the Commissioner's, Chief Commissioner's questions about line 6.---Yes.

You didn't say anywhere, in answer to these questions, that this agreement or the agreement pursuant to which you were paid this 165,000 in advance was an agreement with Mr Gu, did you?---Sorry, Mr Darams, I missed that.

10 You didn't say anywhere, in answering these questions here that were being put to you about who you spoke to about the payment, that the agreement, the verbal agreement was something you struck with Mr Gu.---I wasn't asked who the agreement was struck with.

Well, you were asked about the payment in what you call in advance, or the \$165,000 payment. You were asked about that, though, weren't you?---I was.

20 Why didn't you just say, "Yeah, I remember now, that's the agreement that I had with Michael Gu in relation to the B1 site at 1 Marquet Street"?---I wasn't asked who the agreement was with.

Why didn't you, in answer, why didn't you volunteer that, when you were asked about this payment, why didn't you say this was a payment under a contract I had with Michael Gu?---Because every time I volunteered to elaborate, I get slapped on the wrist.

Where do you say you were slapped on the wrist in this part of the questioning here, Mr - - -?---Well, from the start to the end.

30 No, just focus on when you were asked about these questions here. Where were you slapped on the wrist?---Well, how about we go through the whole transcripts?

Just focus on, just focus - - -?---No, it doesn't show here.

Just focus here.---It doesn't show here. Just - - -

There was nothing - - -?---There was hundreds of pages.

40 Now, what if it was suggested, noting – sorry, if we can go back to volume 1B, page 22. Noting the date of your invoice, June 2016 or 10 June, 2016, what if it was suggested that this payment or this additional payment to you

was some form of additional compensation because I-Prosperity's planning proposal had been dealt with recently by the council at a meeting on 31 May, 2016? What would you say about that?---No, I disagree, Mr Darams.

What if it was – do you deny that there is any association whatsoever between this payment, the \$165,000, and the dealing with I-Prosperity's planning proposal at the Canada Bay Council meeting on 31 May, 2016?  
---Totally disagree.

- 10 When you say you disagree, you mean there's nothing or no association whatsoever between this payment and the fact that I-Prosperity's planning proposal was dealt with by the Canada Bay Council on the 31<sup>st</sup>?  
---Absolutely.

Could the witness be shown volume 5B, point 1, page 44. Mr Chidiac, do you remember I asked you some questions this morning about the payment for the hotel in January 2016 in Shanghai?---Today?

Yes.---I do remember it, yeah.

20

Do you remember you were referring to records you say you have that demonstrated or was relevant to the hotel accommodation, do you remember that?---I do.

Do you remember you said something to this effect, this is my sort of paraphrasing, but somehow the Commission neglected to provide a copy of one of the records you say you had? Do you remember saying something to that effect?---(NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

- 30 Just do you remember - - -

MR STANTON: Commissioner, I rise, if I may. My note says "to refer to" not to "provide".

THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry, Mr Stanton, I couldn't hear you.

MR STANTON: My apologies, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Could you use the microphone?

40

MR STANTON: To assist my learned friend - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Could you use the microphone?

MR STANTON: My apologies. Thank you, Commissioner. My note says “to refer to” as opposed to “provide”. “The Commission failed to refer to the document” as opposed to “provide it”, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Stanton.

10 MR DARAMS: Do you remember you were referring to some records that you said you said you had that were relevant, as I understood your evidence, to the accommodation or the attempt to pay the accommodation in January 2016?---In that context, yeah.

This is the record that you were referring to, isn't it?---That's a record, yes.

The record?---That is the record, yeah.

20 So which or what entry on this record do you say is the payment or relevant to the payment of the hotel accommodation?---Okay. The 7<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, where you see “Linjing”. Yes.

Why do you say that – what do you say that transaction is in relation to? Do you say that's a transaction where The Langham has charged you for this accommodation?---Well, you were making allegation that whenever, that we, I never paid for the hotel accommodation.

That's right.---Obviously, yeah, obviously, no, I did.

30 Do you say that this reference here that you've referred me to, the one on 5 January, 2016, do you say that's the charge by The Langham for the hotel, do you?---No, it was charged twice.

That's what I'm asking you. Do you say that this is a charge by The Langham hotel, correct?---That's one of the charges, yes.

You say, if I understood your evidence before, that you and Mr Tsirekas got together cash to pay the accommodation, is that right?---That's correct, yeah.

40

So just working on these figures here, do you say that the hotel accommodation was \$3,600-odd?---Well, that's what shows here, yes.

Well, I thought I understood your evidence earlier to be that first your credit card wasn't accepted or was declined, is that right?---My credit card was declined, yes.

Mr Tsirekas' credit card was declined?---That's correct, yeah.

10 So you and he paid the accommodation in cash?---We pooled our resources together and paid the accommodation, yes.

In cash?---In cash.

Mr Tsirekas came up with 600 to \$800?---Approximately, yes.

You paid the rest?---That's correct.

20 When you say 600 to \$800, you're talking 600 to \$800 Australian?---That's correct, yeah.

Then you say this record, is this how I understand your evidence, just help me out, this record is The Langham charging you subsequently for the hotel accommodation?---That's correct, yeah.

So working off these figures here, if Mr Tsirekas came up with 600 to 800 Australian dollars you came up with the balance, is that right?---That's correct, yeah.

30 What, somewhere between \$2,800 to \$3,000 Australian dollars?---I'll take your word for that, Mr, I don't have a calculator in front of me.

No, I'm just, rough figures. If Mr Tsirekas was between 600 and 800, you were the balance. Could be anywhere just under 3,000, maybe, to just over 3,000.---No, it would be under 3,000. It's between 600 and 800, but anyway, point taken, point taken.

Well, no, I want to be clear and to be fair.---Yeah.

40 If Mr Tsirekas had 600 Australian dollars, you've come up with \$3,069, correct?---That's correct but if he gave 800 - - -

Okay. That's all right, that's why I gave a range.---Under 3,000, yeah.

From either under 3,000 or just over 3,000.---Yeah, yeah, yeah.

So you had that Australian cash with you, did you?---Absolutely.

10 So you travelled to China, is it, that you had at least \$2,800 Australian cash on you as you were leaving China, were you, is that right?---That's right, yeah.

So just going back to this here, the entry was reversed on, well it seems to 18 January, 2016. Do you see that?---Yes, yes.

Why do you say that the entry on 5 January, 2016 is an entry for or charged by The Langham hotel?---Why do I say that?

20 Yeah. There's nothing in that, I want to suggest to you, there's nothing in that entry there that identifies The Langham at all.---Oh, I mean, some Chinese, I don't know what exactly that, that means, but that, that's, that's, from my recollection, that's exactly what happened in 2016.

Well, I've just, I'm, you're giving us this explanation. I'm just trying to explore how you can help us with it 'cause there's no reference at all to The Langham, as I can read in that, whereas we – I'll come to it in a moment, but there seems to be other evidence that if a transaction occurs that The Langham might have their name in the - - -?---Not necessarily. Could have been a parent company.

30 Well, do you say - - -?---I'm sure you'll be able to check that.

Well, I'm just asking. You seem to assert quite positively, if I'm not mistaken, in your evidence that that in fact is a charge by The Langham and you've been charged twice because you say you paid in cash and they charged you electronically.---Yeah.

I'm wanting to know how you can establish that's The Langham from that transaction.---Because I remember the episode very well.

40 Well, clearly, you must have found out when you were in Australia, right? ---That I'd been charged?

Yeah.---Yes.

Well, how – so help us out with that. Like, how do you – you know this episode real well. How do you know that this is the charge that was made by The Langham?---’Cause I wouldn’t have spent that sort of money anywhere else.

10 Did you use your credit card while you were in China?---Rarely.

Did you use your credit card while you were in China on this trip?---Rarely.

THE COMMISSIONER: Please. Would you just answer the question?

MR DARAMS: Did you use your credit card when you were in China on this trip?---Possibly.

20 Well, is it possible that someone else in China might have just skimmed or scammed, or whatever the terminology is, your card?---That’s a possibility.

So it’s entirely possible that this transaction had nothing to do with The Langham at all.---Why would you say that?

Well, there’s no reference in here to The Langham. You’ve got no email from The Langham, do you, saying, “Oh, sorry, Mr Chidiac, we’ve charged you twice.” You don’t have any of those records, do you?---I spoke to them verbally.

30 My question is do you have any other record that can link or associate this transaction with you being charged by The Langham for this accommodation?---Well, can, can I answer that?

THE COMMISSIONER: You must answer it directly.---Okay.

Do you have any such documentation?---I would have presented the documentation to ANZ to get that reimbursed.

40 MR DARAMS: Well, what’s this documentation you say you would have - - -?---That would have been The Langham receipt.

Well, where’s this Langham receipt?

THE COMMISSIONER: I'm not interested in what would have been - - -

THE WITNESS: ANZ would have it.

THE COMMISSIONER: What specifically? Let's go back to the first question. Did you hold any documentation from The Langham about this amount of \$3,669 and some cents? Did you have anything?---To get reimbursed, Commissioner, I would have had to present some sort of  
10 documentation.

No, just anything. Just anything.---Yes, I would, I would have had a receipt, Commissioner.

Have you got that?---I don't. ANZ would have for them to reimburse the money.

Do you still have it?---I don't know what I have, Commissioner. But ANZ should have a copy.  
20

What about any other documentation to establish that this amount related to The Langham accommodation?---I don't know, Commissioner. I don't know whether I have or not. That was seven years ago, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: Could the witness be shown volume 5A, page 427. Mr Chidiac, if you see the account number, top right-hand page corner.---Yes, yes, yes, yes.

Do you recognise that as one of your account numbers?---I do, yes.  
30

THE COMMISSIONER: Is this the ANZ or - - -

MR DARAMS: No, this is a Commonwealth Bank number.

THE COMMISSIONER: Commonwealth.

MR DARAMS: You can take it from me, but I can show you if you want me to, but the statement period here is June 2017 and December 2017. Do you see the - so this is an entry or on 1 December, 2017.---Yes.  
40

See the reference there to the merchant?---Yes.

That identifies it as being with The Langham hotel, do you accept that?---I see that, yes.

What about if we go over to page 430? See the reference on 24 March? So this is March 2018. See the reference there to the merchant?---I do.

10 Go to page 530. So this is for the period October to November 2018, you can see in that top right-hand corner. Scroll down.---Sorry, what am I, what am I looking at?

Just see the transaction period?---Yes, yes, yes.

If we go down to the entry for 1 November, 2018. Again, the merchant's identified as The Langham Shanghai. There's three examples here that identify transactions on credit cards with The Langham that clearly identified The Langham. Do you accept that?---I do.

20 If we just go back to volume 5B.1, page 44. Is it possible that that transaction relates to some other services or things that you might have purchased while you were in Shanghai?---No, it's not.

Might have used your credit card at a nightclub or entertainment venue? ---No.

30 What about your card getting skimmed or charges being charged fraudulently to your card in China? What if it was suggested to you that that's what happened in relation to this entry here?---From memory, the only time my credit card was used was at the hotel because we were, we were warned not to use the credit card outside the hotel.

Well, is it possible that despite that warning, you were away on a trip, you might have gone to an entertainment venue, you might have had a few drinks, you might have been a bit relaxed and used your card despite the warnings?---No, not possible.

40 Not possible.---You can have a look at the exhibits, Mr Darams. The conversation between Chu and Belinda states that I paid for the hotel bill. Sorry, Commissioner. My apologies.

THE COMMISSIONER: Did you have the occasion or occasions to spend money on entertainment of one kind or another when you were in Shanghai in January 2016?---As a group, yes.

What sort of, I've called it entertainment, but what sort of activities or entertainment could you expect some money that we're talking about, \$,3000-odd?---No. No, no occasion for that sort of money.

10 Well, what sort of entertainment or activities did you participate in in Shanghai for which there was a charge?---Drinking at the pubs, what they call nightclubs. Karaoke.

Drinking, karaoke. What else?---Getting foot massages.

Massages, ah hmm. What else?---That's about it from memory, Commissioner.

20 Just stop and think, though. Drinks, karaoke, massage. What else?---That's all I can recall, Commissioner.

I just want you to be careful about this. You are on oath and I want you to be very careful in the answers you give that it's the truth. What other sort of activities which cost you a fair bit of money in Shanghai in January 2016? ---Drinking.

No, you've already put that on the list, you know.---Yes.

30 I'm talking about expensive activity.---Yeah, I don't know what you're talking about, Commissioner.

Well, is there any other form of activity, entertainment that could have cost you money other than what you've now identified?---Absolutely not, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: What possibly would have been the moment where you forgot about the risk or the suggestion you shouldn't use your credit card and you decided to pay for the services or goods or whatever it is using your credit card? Is that a possibility?---No, no, no chance.

40 No chance. Well, just in relation to – you said drinking, cost a lot of drinking. You use your credit card to pay for that, did you?---No.

Okay. Well, how did you pay for all these expensive drinks?---They weren't expensive drinks. We pooled our money together, Mr Darams.

Who pooled the money together?---The group. We always travel with the group.

Who was in the group?---Which, which trip we talking about, Mr Darams?

10 We're talking January 2016.---Well, there's friends from China grouped together. They - - -

Who are these people that pulled money together?---There's Kevin, Kevin Xuei, Xuei, Xuei, Kevin. There's Mr (not transcribable). There's quite a few, quite a few friends there that, that we've caught up together.

Just another trip you took in August 2016, in Shanghai, do you remember that trip?---Just going through my emails, yes, I do remember that trip. I remember going to China in 2016 after I referred to my emails and photos.

20

So on this trip, you went to China on this occasion to attend another wedding, is that right?---After I was – that's right, after I was, yeah, you've, you've, after the private hearing that we had, you brought that to my attention, yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry, I'm not following what you're saying. ---Well - - -

We're talking about, is it August 2015?---'16.

30

'16. You went to Shanghai. It's your second trip that year, as I understand it.---That's correct, Commissioner.

And was there a wedding or wedding banquet that you attended in August 2016 in Shanghai?---There was a wedding, Commissioner, yes, yes.

So it's – we're talking about two weddings, two different times, one in January 2016.---That's right, Commissioner.

40 And this one's in August 2016. Right?---That's correct, Commissioner, yeah.

MR DARAMS: Could the witness be shown – sorry, just before I do, you remember this second wedding in 2016 in China that you attended?---I remember going to a wedding. I don't remember the actual wedding.

THE COMMISSIONER: Whose wedding was it?---A chap by the name of Kevin.

10 What's his surname?---Oh, I don't, I honestly don't know. There'd be an invitation in your, in your exhibits there. I can't remember the surname.

Friend of yours?---No, he's not a friend, no.

Well, how did you come to be invited – you were invited?---I was.

20 How did that come about?---He, that chap, from memory, came to pick up my passport to get us a, get us a visa stamped, and he said, "Would you be interested in, I know you're going to China in late, late 2016, would you be interested in turning up to my wedding?" I said, "Yeah, send me an invitation."

MR DARAMS: So just walk this through a little bit. So Mr Ji, focus on this period of time up to July 2016. When did you meet Mr Ji first?---I can't recall, Mr Darams.

Where did you meet Mr Ji first?---I think he came and picked up my passport to get my visa stamped.

30 How many times did he do that?---Possibly twice.

So when you say picked your passport up to get it stamped, so you went to China in, the first time you went was November 2015.---That's correct, yeah.

Did he pick up your passport on that occasion?---No.

Okay. The second time you went to China was January 2016. Do you remember that?---I do.

There was an issue with your passport or your visa on that occasion. Do you remember I took you to the text messages on that occasion?---Yeah, I remember that very well.

So it looks like you didn't get another visa for that trip in January 2016. Would you accept that?---That's what it looks like, yeah.

So it doesn't look like Mr Ji has picked up your passport to get your visa stamped on that occasion. Correct?---That's correct, yeah.

10

So tell me when Mr Ji picks up your passport to get your visa stamped?  
---When or where?

Yeah, when? So it's obviously not before January 2016 because you've got the visa issues at customs.---Yeah, yeah.

So it's after January 2016. Correct?---Yes, yes, yes.

20 When does this happen, when does he come and pick up your passport to get your visa stamped?---Are you asking for a date, Mr Darams?

I'm giving you a round about one. If you can give me a date that would be good.---I don't know the date, Mr Darams.

Well, what about an approximate time?---Not really sure, Mr Darams.

So on one occasion. if I'm accepting your evidence, on one occasion after January 2016 and before the end of July 2016 Mr Ji comes to pick up your passport to get your visa stamped.---That's correct, yeah.

30

At that there are you saying under oath he, Mr Ji, invites you to his wedding?---He could have invited me at the wedding but also I'd met him at other, other events.

Where are these other events you met him?---I might have met him at, I can't recall but I might have met him at the Christmas, IPG Christmas parties.

40 So which IP – okay. Well, let's just go back again because I think IPG Christmas party. When was the first Christmas party you went to?---I honestly can't remember, Mr Darams.

Well, what if I suggest to you it wouldn't have been before the Christmas party in December 2016? Unlikely to be before that. Correct?---Before when?

December 2016.---December 2016. I don't know. I can't recall.

Did you go to the I-Prosperity Christmas party in December 2015?---I went to a few of the Christmas parties.

10

Did you go to the one in December, did you go to one in 2015?---I can't recall, Mr Darams.

So you might have met him at a Christmas party for I-Prosperity but you don't know when that happened.---No, I don't, no.

He possibly picked up your passport to get your visa stamped. That's right?---That's right, yeah.

20

So there's possibly two occasions where you might have spoken to him but as a consequence of that you get an invitation to his wedding. Is that what you're saying under oath?---I could have met him at IPG's head office as well. I could have. That's a possibility there.

THE COMMISSIONER: He was associated in some way with I-Prosperity was he?---That's right, Commissioner.

Do you know what his job was there?---Wouldn't have a clue, Commissioner.

30

MR DARAMS: Could the witness be shown volume 1.2, page 77. The next page. Just zoom in a little bit just to the date of the email. So you get this invitation sent to you by Mr Ji who for some reason copies in Mr Gu from I-Prosperity. Do you know why he copied Mr Gu in? Do you know why Mr Ji copies Mr Gu in?---No, Mr Darams.

So you get this invitation on 23 July, 2016. So these occasions where you've met Mr Ji must have occurred obviously before 23 July, 2016. Correct?---Not necessarily, no.

40

Well, in order to get the invitation from, is he your friend at this stage Mr Ji?---No, no, no.

Okay. So he's not your friend.---Can't even remember what he looks like.

Sorry?---I said I can't even remember what he looks like.

So why is it that you get an invitation along with Mr Tsirekas to a wedding from Mr Ji? Can you help us with that? Why does that happen?---I  
10 wouldn't have a clue, Mr Darams.

What if it was suggested to you that the only reason you were getting, you and Mr Tsirekas were getting an invitation to this wedding from Mr Ji was because someone from I-Prosperity said or told Mr Ji that you should get an invitation to the wedding. What do you say about that?

MR STANTON: Well, Commissioner, how can that - - -

THE WITNESS: I'm not aware of anyone from I-Prosperity giving Kevin  
20 Ji directions to invite us, no.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, if you look at the email, as you no doubt did, it starts off "Fwd: Wedding invitation." It's from Kevin Ji, it's to you and a copy is sent through to IP – Michael Gu. So this is a wedding invitation coming through to a wedding soon to take place. It's obvious, isn't it, that Mr Gu's behind it and he wants you and Mr Tsirekas to have this invitation. That's fairly plain, isn't it, from when you look at it?---Well, by looking at it I, I can see that he's been cc'd in it but I can't sit out here and honestly tell you what was their, who's instructions were to send an  
30 invitation or not.

Yeah. You really didn't know Mr Ji very well as at this date, did you?  
---Sorry, Commissioner?

You didn't know Mr Ji very well?---No, no.

No. And it's obvious that Mr Ji is inviting you and Mr Tsirekas not because he, Mr Ji, had thought of it, but Mr Gu did, is that right? That's the way it appears anyway, doesn't it?---It doesn't appear to me like that, Mr  
40 Commissioner.

Well, what do you think he's sending a copy to Mr Gu for? Mr Gu is the big boss, isn't he?---He's one of the big bosses, yes.

Yeah. Well, I'm asking you - - -?---I don't know what the motivation would have been, Commissioner. I don't know.

You can't work that motivation out from this document that Mr Gu's behind it?---I can't, no. I don't want to sit out here and assume, Commissioner. It's unfair of me to assume, Commissioner.

10

Unfair to who?---It's unfair for me to sit here and assume.

Oh, yes, very. Yes, I see.

MR DARAMS: Did you pay for your airfares on this trip?---I honestly can't recall, Mr Darams.

Did you pay for Mr Tsirekas' airfares on this trip?---I honestly can't recall, Mr Darams.

20

Did you pay for your accommodation on this trip?---I, I would have to go back through my bank accounts and my credit cards and - - -

Did you pay for Mr Tsirekas' accommodation on this trip?---I can't recall, Mr Darams.

Do you have any record whatsoever of paying for your accommodation or your airfare for this trip?---I haven't looked for any evidence.

30

If you were to pay for your accommodation and the airfare, I suggest there would be some bank transfer or some credit card transaction?---Airfare, yes.

And that would be on one of your credit card statements or bank transfer statement?---Well, yes, yes, that's right, yeah. What date are we talking about here, August 2016, Mr Darams?

Well, the wedding's in August 2016, this invitation is July 2016.---Is that when Ms Tsirekas was a private citizen?

40

Don't worry about that, just focus on the dates here.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think if you just confine yourself to answering questions.---My apologies, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: Back to my question, maybe you agree with this, but if there was some record of you paying for your airfare that would either be on a credit card statement or bank transfer, is that right?---I'd agree, yeah. That's correct, Mr Darams.

10 Is there any reason why you – sorry. Is there any reason you can suggest why you or Mr Tsirekas wouldn't have paid for your flights and accommodation for this wedding, to attend this wedding?---No reason, Mr Darams. I've always made it very clear to Mr Tsirekas that I'm paying for the trip.

What if it was suggested to you that neither you nor Mr Tsirekas paid for any of those travel expenses for this trip, including the airfares or the accommodation and they were paid by someone else? What would you say about that?---I would be very surprised, Mr Darams.

20 Why would you be surprised, Mr Chidiac?---We'd never let anyone pay for our trips or any of the cost that was made directly to whoever associated, that we won't expect, accept any payments or any gifts.

THE COMMISSIONER: But you would accept benefits, wouldn't you? You accepted benefits from time to time when you went to Shanghai?---No, no, benefits.

Paid by others.---No. Absolutely, not.

30 MR DARAMS: Well, you accepted the benefits of travel outside of Shanghai on the trip in January 2016, didn't you?---We paid for that. I paid for that.

You accepted the benefits at that time. You didn't pay for it at that time, did you?---I eventually paid for it.

You didn't pay for it at that time, do you?---It was a group booking, Mr Darams.

40 You did not pay for it at that time.---I ended up paying for it, Mr Darams.

The evidence you say you ended up paying for it is these three box of cigars and a couple of whiskies, is it?---That's exactly what happened, Mr Darams. I could have told you I paid in cash, but I would have been lying to you, Mr Darams.

What about in relation to – you recall on this trip in August 2016 having lunch with Harry Huang and Chun and Belinda and others?---Not in 2016, no, Mr Darams. I can't even ever recall having lunch with Harry there.

10 Dinner with Harry?---I can't even recall having dinner with Harry, no.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Tsirekas, sorry, Mr Chidiac, what would you say if it was suggested, the proposition was put to you that, through the various trips you had to Shanghai where you met up with I-Prosperity people and when the socialising that was done with I-Prosperity people in Sydney, that you were being, as it were, groomed by I-Prosperity to favour their, to help favour or to succeed in their planning proposal? What would you say if that proposition was put?---I object to that and I find that insulting, Mr Commissioner.

20

I don't care if you find it insulting or not. I just want to get your response in terms of whether it's true, whether it became apparent to you either at an early stage or at a later stage in the relationship that you had with the I-Prosperity company and people.---Commissioner, I'm a grown-up person. No one grooms me. I don't know what thoughts you've got of me. I never allow any entity or any individual to ever groom me to do anything.

30 Thank you. And what would you say if the proposition was put that you willingly wanted to be well looked after by I-Prosperity in terms of benefits of one kind or another? You were more than happy to receive those benefits. What would you say?---No, I totally disagree, Commissioner. I had plenty of entities wanting to engage me that I refused their work.

Thank you.

40 MR DARAMS: Just want to go back, Mr Chidiac, and ask you a few more questions about other entries in messages between you and Ms Li now. If I can ask you to be shown volume 6.8, page 141. These are messages between you and Ms Li. So I'll just draw your attention to the message on the, the next message now, 7 February, 2017. You send to Ms Li this message, "Have you spoken to David yet?" Now, when you say, "Have you

spoken to David?" you're referring to Mr Furlong, is that right?---I don't know who I'm referring to, Mr Darams, but I assume it was Mr Furlong.

Was there any other David who you might be referring to with Ms Li, in text messages with Ms Li? From your recollection.---There was plenty of Davids.

10 No, but from your recollection of your engagements with Ms Li, did you refer to any other David other than Mr Furlong? Did you?---There would have been, yeah.

Who were those Davids?---The tradesmen, potential tradesmen that she was using on other jobs, renderers, bricklayers, painters. You find a lot of the, no disrespect to the Asians, the, it's very common for themselves to call themselves David or Kevin or – there's a lot of Davids.

20 Okay, well, let's go back to, let's see Ms Li's response. She responds, "Yes, he said he would call Angelo this morning." Now, how many of these tradesmen named David did you speak to with Ms Li who might also call Mr Tsirekas?---No one comes to mind.

So the David would be Mr Furlong, though?---I assume so, yeah, Mr Darams.

30 Yeah. Then if you go down to the next message. Then Ms Li says, "I called him straight away this morning." Then you respond, "He will call Angelo tomorrow morning." So you're referring to David Furlong calling Angelo, correct?---Sorry, where is that message again, Mr Darams? Yeah, "straight away this morning".

Next one down. "He will call Angelo tomorrow morning."---I assume it's David Furlong, yes.

Can I just ask you, these messages are in February 2017. See that date?---I do, yeah.

Mr Tsirekas isn't the mayor at this stage.---I can't recall what date he came back on - - -

40 Well, you know that he ran for the federal election in 2016?---I do.

He becomes mayor again in September 2017.---I'll take your word for it, yeah. I don't know the dates.

Does that accord with your recollection though?---No.

What's your recollection, or you don't have any recollection?---I don't have no recollection.

10 Well, just on the assumption that he wasn't the mayor at this stage, why is Mr Tsirekas still being involved in these text exchanges between you and Ms Li?---You want me to answer that?

Yeah.---I-Prosperity, I-Prosperity in general were being bullied by Andrew Ferguson and his cronies on council. Okay. She needed a shoulder to cry on. She needed someone to hear her out. That's one of the reasons.

20 What are the other reasons?---Other reasons, obviously she's pretty disappointed that council aren't cooperating, council are stuffing around. The process had been too slow. She just needed to vent it out, like she needs to have a, you know, chat to someone.

But why does it have to be Angelo Tsirekas, citizen?---Why not?

I'm just asking you, why? You're the one - - -?---Angelo, Angelo is a good listener.

30 Let me finish. You're the person who's involving Mr Tsirekas in this. What if it was suggested that you were still involving Mr Tsirekas in these exchanges with Ms Li because you knew, because you'd had some conversation with Mr Tsirekas by this stage, that he was going to run for council again later on that year. What if that was suggested to you?---No, totally disagree. I was, I was encouraging him not to run for council.

Did you encourage him to do anything else?---Yes, to try and travel as much as he can. His life has been turned upside down, he needed to, needed to have a break.

40 How was his life turned upside down?---Well, he was going through a messy, messy divorce. His kids weren't, his kids weren't talking to him.

When did you start – so just let me ask you about this. So you say you paid for Mr Tsirekas’ travel expenses to Shanghai in January 2016, correct?  
---That’s what I’m claiming, yes.

Mr Tsirekas was divorced at this stage?---I can’t recall the exact dates.

He has separated from his wife?---Separated, probably better term, yes.

10 How many trips before January 2016 did you find Mr Tsirekas’ travelling expenses?---None.

So after you get engaged by I-Prosperity in December 2015, is it just coincidental you start funding Mr Tsirekas’ travel expenses, is it?---If that’s the way you want to put it, that’s the way you want to put it.

I’m just putting suggestions.---I never funded them, it was a loan. He was loaned and that money was paid back.

20 I thought you rejected the proposition before when the Chief Commissioner earlier today put to you that you were loaning this money to Mr Tsirekas and you said, “I’ve never loaned him any money.” Do you remember giving that evidence earlier?---I never loaned him any cash, Mr Darams.

30 So just go back to my question. I mean, what if it’s suggested that, given your answers, you never funded his travel, whether you call it a loan or a gift or whatever you want to describe it, you never funded his travel before January 2016 but you start funding it, particularly on your evidence, to Shanghai once I-Prosperity have engaged you. Is that just a mere coincidence, is it?---Oh, you could say that, yeah.

No, is that what you would say?---That’s I would say, yeah.

No correlation at all or no relationship at all with you starting to fund Mr Tsirekas’ travel with the engagement of you by I-Prosperity?---Say that again, Mr Darams?

There’s no relationship at all between you funding Mr Tsirekas’ travel and your engagement by I-Prosperity?---There’s China.

40 Well, I understand you’re funding his travel to China, but in terms of you funding those expenses. ‘Cause I understand your evidence you didn’t do

any funding of his travel expenses before January 2016, is that right?---  
That's right, yeah, but - - -

But, but you know Mr – is it the case you know Mr Tsirekas is going  
through his hardship or his divorce or however you want to describe it  
before January 2016, that's right?---No, I didn't know.

10 So you found, so you found – when did you find out that he was having this  
hardship, going through his divorce and things like that?---I can't put an  
exact date on it.

Are you seriously suggesting that you didn't know when your good friend  
Mr Tsirekas was going through this hardship, through his divorce or  
associated with his divorce?---Absolutely. If you know Mr Tsirekas, he's a  
very private person. His late father and his mother and his current partner  
brought that to my attention.

20 Brought what to your attention?---That what Angelo was going through.  
He's a very private person.

Could the witness be shown volume 6.8, page 149. Pick up the messages on  
14 March, 2017, the middle of the page. This is a message from Ms Li to  
yourself. Now just read the rest of the messages. I want to - - -?---Where  
am I reading from, Mr Darams?

Just read from this message there, where the hand is, to the bottom of the  
page.---Yep, yep. Yes, read.

30 So the last message there, “Copo Café, Victoria Road, Drummoyne. You  
can enter from Formosa Street near Harris Farm.” You send that message to  
Ms Li. Is that you trying to arrange some meeting with Ms Li, is that right?  
---That's what that appears like, yeah.

Go over the page. Just read from the top down. Tell me if you need me to  
help you as to who's sending these messages and who's receiving them.  
---Well, can you tell me who's, who's sending them and who's receiving  
them?

40 Well, the top, the top one is Ms Li to you, saying, “Okay,” in relation to the  
previous message. You see that?---Okay, okay, yes, yes.

Then you respond, “How are we going?”---Yes.

Is this, when you say, “How are we going?” is this because the I-Prosperity matter’s being debated before council, is that right? On this evening, 14 March, 2017.---What date’s that? 14 - - -

14 March, 2017.---Would that be a Tuesday?

10 We can check that all up, but you don’t recall now as to - - -?---No, no, I don’t recall the conversation. Absolutely not.

Then Ms Li says, “Haven’t started yet.” And then she says, “Will message you when start.” And then you say, “Okay.” And then she says, “Starts.” Then you say, “Okay, I’m with Angelo.” Now, just asking, just pausing there. Why is it important for you to let Ms Li know you’re with Angelo on this occasion?---I wouldn’t have a clue, Mr Darams.

20 Again, he’s off council at this stage, he’s not the mayor. What if it was suggested to you this is another example of you trying to demonstrate to I-Prosperity your relationship with Mr Tsirekas and that, notwithstanding he’s off council, it still continues or it maintains? Is that right?---No, I disagree, Mr Darams.

Well, why would you be saying to her, “Okay, I’m with Angelo”? What’s the relevance of you being with Angelo?---I don’t know, maybe self-promoting.

Sorry, what’s that?---Maybe I’m self-promoting.

30 Self-promoting the fact that you were charging I-Prosperity, by this stage, in excess of \$30,000 a month to consult to them. So if you’re self-promoting, you’re self-promoting your relationship with Mr Tsirekas, aren’t you? ---Yes, yes.

‘Cause that’s one of the services that you were providing, that is access to Mr Tsirekas.---No, that’s – disagree totally.

40 So we go to page 154. Actually, just going back to page 153, I just want to pick up this text exchange from Ms Li to you. So starting at the top of the page, scroll down. So this is Ms, it says on 19 March, this is Ms Li to you. Just read here, “Canada Bay Council two week.” Next one she said,

“Councillor not work at all.” And then you say, “It’s Tony.” Who’s the Tony you’re referring to, is that Tony McNamara?---I wouldn’t have a clue, Mr Darams.

Well, who’s the Tony you’re referring to, Mr - - - ?---I wouldn’t have a clue, Mr Darams.

Well, you’re the one who says Tony, who could it be?---I can’t recall the conversation - - -

10

Is it probably likely to be Tony McNamara?---I can’t recall the conversation, Mr Darams.

What about Mr Pavlovic?---I never met either of those individuals.

Well, is it clear, is it likely you were referring to someone within council, Mr Tsirekas, sorry, Mr Chidiac?---I could have been referring to Neil Kenzler.

20 Well, Mr Kenzler’s name isn’t Tony, right?---I think I used to nickname him Tony from memory.

Is that a serious answer, is it, that you’re referring to Mr Kenzler here? ---That’s, that’s my answer, Mr Darams.

Then Ms Li, whatever, she says, “Mayor very weak.” Then you, and then she says, “Yes, too stupid, not competitive at all.”

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Who is the mayor at this time?---Can’t remember her - - -

MR DARAMS: Ms McCaffrey?---Yes, yes.

Then you say, “No leadership.”---Yes, we thought she was useless.

Who’s we?---The community. She did nothing while she was on - - -

Who was “we” when you say “we”?---The community.

40 That’s not an answer to my question. You said, “We thought she was stupid.”---No, I didn’t say stupid. Useless, Mr Darams, please.

You said, “We thought she was useless.” Is the “we” including Mr Tsirekas?---No, Mr Tsirekas made her deputy mayor. He was very fond of her from memory.

Is the “we” including Ms Li and others on behalf of I-Prosperity?---No, I was talking about the community in general. ‘Cause she did nothing while she was on there.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: This is a running messaging, is it? While the matter concerning I-Prosperity is before council, she’s sending message, “Mayor very weak,” you’re responding, “Yes, too stupid.” Is that the context?---Where did I use the word “stupid”, where did I use that?

Halfway down the page.

MR DARAMS: No, that’s Ms Li I think.

THE WITNESS: That’s Ms Li, Commissioner.

20

THE COMMISSIONER: Who’s saying that?

MR DARAMS: Ms Li.

THE WITNESS: I wouldn’t use those words.

THE COMMISSIONER: That’s Ms Li, is it?

MR DARAMS: Yep.

30

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Darams?

MR DARAMS: Yes, it is Ms Li, Chief Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I apologise, Mr Chidiac. I thought it was you talking, it wasn’t, it was her saying those words. And what was going on at this time, this messaging back and forth so far as I-Prosperity’s proposal was concerned?---I honestly can’t recall, Commissioner.

40 MR DARAMS: Well, it seems, could I suggest this to you, it seems from the exchanges on 17 March and 19 March that the I-Prosperity planning

proposal was before council and something adverse to I-Prosperity occurred at the council and Ms Li was venting her frustrations to you, is that right?  
---I can't recall the reason behind that conversation. We were in constant contact, Belinda and I. Could have been, could have been anything, it could have been a project at Ryde, project at Campsie, project at Burwood, could have been anything.

Well, let's go over to page 154, pick up the, scroll down. There's a message from Ms Li to you, "They should go retire now." Then she says, "No  
10 planning, no mind, no action, only ego." Again that's a message from Ms Li to you. Just pausing there. At this time in March 2017 did you, were you involved in some other matter that was before another council on behalf of I-Prosperity?---I can't remember, I can't recall the exact date but I was involved in multiple, multiple sites with I-Prosperity yes.

But can you recall whether, you can't recall whether in this time in March 2017 that this might have been referring to some meeting or some conduct by Ryde Council, is that right?---I can't remember the, I can't recall the exact reason behind that conversation but I know she had multiple projects  
20 in multiple precincts.

Then you say, "Hopefully they will all go soon." See that message there?  
---I do, yeah. Is that from Ms Li? Yeah.

No, that's from you. That's from you.---No, it's not.

It is. Incoming.---Oh, okay.

So - - -?---What's, what's - oh, okay, yeah.  
30

Were you hopeful that at the upcoming election in 2017 Mr Tsirekas would be returned?---No, I was hoping Neil Kenzler will, will go, because he was advocating for Andrew Ferguson and B1 to disrupt I-Prosperity planning proposal. And he ended up going anyway.

Then if we scroll down, then you send this message, "Are you around to talk tomorrow?" Ms Li responds, "Yes, any time." And then you say, "Angelo will join us around 12.00pm. Will confirm in the morning." Why did you, in light of this text exchange where Ms Li is venting, for want of a better  
40 description, you accept venting in some degree?---Absolutely, yeah, yeah.

Why are you suggesting that, or indicating that Angelo's going to be joining for this meeting?---Like I said earlier, Angelo's a good listener. He will still have an interest what's going on in his local, local council.

Is this consistent, you'd say that he was there to be a shoulder to cry on or something like that?---He was there for all, both parties that needed to have a chat and needed to have a, some advice. Not only he was there for I-Prosperty.

10 So we go to the next page. So Ms Li lets you know she's going to be in Rhodes the next day. And then if we scroll down, you tell her you're waiting for Angelo to finish his meeting. "Once he ring, call me back." "I'll call you back." Go down. Just read those to yourself.---Which one am I reading, Mr Darams?

Just read the rest of the messages to yourself, please.---From?

From there. Just the top message, "Okay."---Okay, yes, sorry, yeah, "I have a meeting at" – I read it, yes.

20

I suggest here's another example of you arranging for Mr Tsirekas to be available to meet with Ms Li or others on behalf of I-Prosperty. What do you say about that? Do you agree with that?---I did for Belinda what I did for others.

My question, though, is that this is just another example of you, in relation to the agreement you had with I-Prosperty, arranging for Mr Tsirekas to be available to meet with I-Prosperty or Ms Li in relation to, I want to suggest to you again, the development at Rhodes. What do you say about that?---Mr

30

Darams, that was my standard operating procedures.

Is that a roundabout way of agreeing with the proposition I was putting to you?---My standard operating procedures was to get Angelo to speak or make himself available to any business or ratepayer in the area. That was my intention.

40

THE COMMISSIONER: What's being put to you is that on 20 March, 2017, you were acting, providing services to I-Prosperty, in particular to Ms Li, to arrange a meeting with Mr Tsirekas concerning the I-Prosperty project. Do you agree with that?---Well, in that message it doesn't say what

she wanted to talk about. She could have been talking, wanted to talk about Ryde, get some advice on Ryde project.

No, no, no, I'm talking about 20 March, '17, the message. Perhaps – where is that on the screen? You were there communicating, were you not, with Ms Li, saying that in effect you were arranging a meeting between her and Mr Tsirekas when he was available. Yes?---Yes.

10 To meet with her and – or if not her, others from IP, I-Prosperity.---Are you asking me if - - -

This messaging is about arranging a meeting between Ms Li or somebody else from I-Prosperity with Mr Tsirekas.---Well, from what I understand from that message, Ms Li wanted, or Belinda, wanted to catch up with me and, and Angelo. That's what I take from it. Doesn't mention anyone else from IPG.

20 What do you recall it was that she wanted to discuss?---I honestly can't remember, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: Can I ask the witness be shown page 158? Now, I just want to pick it up from the entry on 27 March, sorry, towards the bottom of the page. So just scroll up a little bit. No, no, the other way, please. That's it. I just want you to read through the next page or so if texts, Mr Chidiac, and then I'm going to ask you some questions about what's occurring in this exchange, okay? So let me know when you're ready to go to the next page. ---Sorry, where am I ready from, Mr Darams?

30 See the name on 29 March?---Yeah, "Ring in 30 minutes." Yeah.

So just keep reading from there.

THE COMMISSIONER: So just to make it clear to Mr Chidiac, which messages relate to him and to - - -

MR DARAMS: So just again, reading it, Mr Chidiac, the outgoing message is from Ms Li to you, okay? Where you see "Direction, outgoing". ---You've confused, you've confused - - -

40 No, no, just, I don't want to confuse - - -?---Okay. "Ring in 30 minutes." Is that Belinda or me?

Well, let's scroll up here so I can see it.---Yeah. "30 minute."

This is from you. So it's incoming.---Okay. So I'm, yeah.

THE COMMISSIONER: Incoming is you.---Yeah, yeah. I know what incoming means, yeah.

Just remember that, okay?

10

THE WITNESS: Yep.

MR DARAMS: We're going to the next page.---Yep. Referring to a reference, yes. Yes. Yes.

Next page. Next page.---Yes.

20 So just stopping there. So this exchange, does it not, demonstrate text messages between you and Ms Li where you're obtaining information from Ms Li to go into a reference to be given or provided by Mr Tsirekas on behalf of Mr Huang, correct?---That's what it demonstrates, yeah.

Can you assist us as to how that came about? And what I mean by how that came about, did Ms Li ask you or did Mr Huang ask you to get Mr Tsirekas to give a reference for the benefit of Mr Huang?---I honestly can't remember, Mr Darams, but if you want me to assume, I assume it was Belinda.

30 And do I take it that you then went to Mr Tsirekas and said to him, "Look, Harry needs a reference. Can you prepare a reference? I'll get the information for you"?---I, I don't think he knows how to prepare a reference but someone prepared a reference, yeah.

Well, I just want to understand, can you recollect the conversation you had with Mr Tsirekas in order to get Mr Tsirekas onboard, in effect, to give this reference?---I don't know. I, I've taken a lot of references to Mr Tsirekas.

40 Was Mr Tsirekas doing a favour for you or was he doing a favour for Mr Huang?---I don't think that the reference was ever signed.

Don't worry about whether it was signed or not. You clearly went to Mr Tsirekas and asked him whether he would give the reference, correct?---I can't recall going to him, no.

If you went to Mr Tsirekas and asked him to give a reference, would he be doing that as a favour for you or doing that as a favour for Mr Huang, or both of you?---Oh, you would have to ask Mr Tsirekas.

No, I'm asking you.---I can't, I don't know. I'm not sure.

10

You must have some idea why you would go to Mr Tsirekas and ask Mr Tsirekas to provide a reference on behalf of Mr Huang though, don't you? ---I go to Mr Tsirekas for a lot of things.

Just focus on - - -?---I go to him for a lot of references.

Just focus on this one for Mr Huang, please.---I don't recall, Mr Darams. I honestly can't recall.

20 When you then go to Mr Tsirekas and ask him to give a reference on behalf of all sorts of people, is he doing that and are you asking him as a favour for you, or are you asking as a favour for the person who is wanting the reference, or both?---No, I wouldn't use the word "favour", Mr Darams.

Well, what, what - - -?---Never asked him for any favours.

What would you use, then?---He, I would have asked him to help someone out, a family out.

30 Right.---Keep someone out of trouble, get someone into school, that's what I would have been doing. We do that on a regular basis.

And can we assume, then, that you would ask Mr Tsirekas to say things that you know or you understand that he can't possibly know in a reference, is that right?---I, I doubt I would have ever asked him to write something that he's not comfortable with.

Well, did you sit down with him and say, "Look, this is all the information Ms Li has given me to put into Mr, to the reference on behalf of Mr Huang. Do you agree with all these things?" Did you do that?---I can't recall doing that.

40

Why didn't you just say to Ms Li, "Look, here's Angelo's number. You text him about all this. You ask him about all these things. Don't, don't involve me in all of this"?---She knew I was friends with Mr Tsirekas. Probably thought I, she had a better chance with me, doing it through me.

Well, is it the case that she, you knew she thought she had a better chance going through you because she understood quite clearly, because of conversations and dealings she had with you, that you were the avenue for  
10 her to get to Mr Tsirekas in relation to anything she wanted?---I can't tell you what she thinks, Mr Darams.

That's what you - - -?---I'd be guessing.

That's what you understood to be the case, though, from your conversations with Ms Li, from your dealings with Ms Li?---She knew I was good friends with Mr Tsirekas.

Yeah, but she understood that you were the link between her and others on  
20 I-Prosperity and Mr Tsirekas, and to the extent that they needed – that is I-Prosperity or Ms Li – needed something, then, from Mr Tsirekas, then they'd go through you to get that.---Well, on that occasion they obviously tried to go through me, yeah, on that occasion, yeah.

Well, when you say they tried to go through you, they actually went through you and a draft reference was prepared, and it was provided to you, and you provided it on, didn't you not?---I can't recall that, Mr Darams.

No?---I, I remember, I, I, reading it in the evidence. It was never signed. It  
30 was never agreed upon.

Perhaps if the witness could be shown volume 1.2, page 119.

THE COMMISSIONER: What's that reference again?

MR DARAMS: Volume 1.2, page 119. Next page, please. Have you had a chance to read that, Mr Chidiac?---I've read it previously in the evidence, Mr Darams.

40 So this is what happens, based on what I've just shown you. There's a text exchange between you and Ms Li, correct?---There is, yes.

Where Ms Li is providing you with the information to be included in this reference.---Yes, yes.

You get that information or give that information on to Mr Tsirekas, that's right?---I can't recall that, who I gave it to.

Well, I want to suggest to you you give that information to Ms Crichton to give to Mr Tsirekas.---I honestly can't recall, Mr Darams, who I gave it to,  
10 but my email would show.

Then Ms Crichton prepares the reference or sends the – I should withdraw that. Then Ms Crichton sends the reference to Mr Tsirekas's Yahoo account. See that?---From, yes, I see that, yes.

He sends it on to you, that is Mr Tsirekas, that's right?---Yes, yes, yes, yes.

You then send that on to Ms Li.---I can't recall ever sending it to Ms Li.

20 Well, can we go to the next page, please? Next page, sorry. Does that assist with your recollection, Mr Chidiac?---It does, yes.

So you send it on to Ms Li, that's right?---Well, that's what it shows here, Mr Darams, yes.

And we can assume that you forward it on to Ms Li because you're acting upon what Mr Tsirekas asked you to do that, is find out from Harry whether this is okay and then I'll print it off, correct?---I don't like to assume, Mr Darams, I can't recall.

30 Well, how does the message get from you, from Mr Tsirekas to you, from you to Ms Li? Are you saying you independently decided to send this on to Ms Li?---Well, I emailed it to her.

Yes, but what I'm suggesting to you, if we go back to page 119, where Mr Tsirekas says to you, "Please send to Harry to see if this is okay before I print." You, reading that message you go, okay, Angelo's asked me to do this, I'll send it to Belinda who will then send it on to – on your understanding – to Harry?---I'm not sure whether Belinda had sent it off to  
40 Harry but I sent it to Belinda so yeah, yeah - - -

So that it could get back to Harry one way or the other?---I sent it to Belinda, Mr Darams.

So that it could get to Harry one way or another?---Harry never asked me for it, Belinda asked me for it and I gave her what she asked for.

And you know because Mr Tsirekas says to you, “Please send to Harry to see if this is okay.” Instead of sending it to Harry, you send it to Belinda to get it to Harry, correct?---Well, I sent it to Belinda, Mr Darams, yes.

10

Going back now to page 163 of volume 6.8. I draw your attention to the message second from the bottom of the page on 9 April, 2017. Again, remember “outgoing” is Ms Li to you. “Joseph, I’m in Rhodes office, let me know when catch up.”---Yep.

You respond, “We’ll let you know, Angelo want to join us, he had to take his father to hospital last night.” Do you see that?---I see that, yes.

20 Can you recall now why Angelo wants to join you and Ms Li again?---  
Sorry, Mr Darams, what’s your question?

Can you recall now why it is that Mr Tsirekas wants to join in this additional meeting or this further meeting with Ms Li?---I can’t assume why Mr Tsirekas wanted to - - -

Do you know why though?---No, I don’t. Happy to assume if you want, Mr Darams.

30 Fast forward a little bit, go to page 180. Now, pick up the message from the bottom, second bottom from the page. This is a message 8 May, 2017 from you to Ms Li. “Hi Belinda, Angelo and myself will not be available this Friday night. We forgot we are invited to the football, do you want to join us?” Ms Li responds, “How about Thursday?” Go over the page, scroll up. Then she also says, “I booked Furlong and Stephen already.” Then she says, “Can reschedule.” But just going back to the I booked Furlong and Stephen already, she’s obviously referring to Mr David Furlong and Mr Bowers or Browsers, correct?---I can’t remember his surname but I - - -

40 It’s the architect?---The architect, yes, yes.

So clearly, would you accept that this is a meeting that had been arranged in relation to the I-Prosperity proposed development in Rhodes West, that's right?---It's obvious she's booked the meeting with Mr Furlong and Stephen.

But you understood, and it's obvious from this text exchange, isn't it, Mr Chidiac, that the meeting that was being organised which you had to apologise for on behalf of Mr Tsirekas was about the planning proposal or the proposed development of I-Prosperity in Rhodes West, that's right?

10 ---Not necessarily Rhodes West, it could have been any other projects, Mr Darams.

What other projects at this time in May 2017 did I-Prosperity have Mr Furlong as the town planner and Mr Stephen Bowers as the architect that you were also involved in that you were involving Mr Tsirekas in? What other project other than the one in Rhodes West?---Well, let's exclude Mr Tsirekas here - - -

20 No, no, no. I'm not, I don't - - ?---There was a, there was Ryde project.

Listen to me, please. I do not want you to exclude Mr Tsirekas because this is about you organising meetings or apologising for Mr Tsirekas not to be available. It has to involve it. So focus on my question, please. What other development or proposal on behalf of I-Prosperity were you involved in at this stage, at this time in May 2017, with Mr Furlong, Mr Stephen, the architect, that you were involving Mr Tsirekas in? What other planning proposal, other than Rhodes West?---Just before I answer that question, I appreciate if you don't raise your voice at me.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Please, no, no. No prefatory statements. Answer the question directly.---I, I don't know.

MR DARAMS: I want to suggest to you that - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Chidiac, really and truly think about that answer. Think about the answer.---I am, Mr Commissioner.

40 Now think again. This is organising a meeting, you, Ms Tsirekas, the architect et cetera, et cetera, with I-Prosperity. Isn't it obvious that it must have some connection with the Rhodes planning process of I-Prosperity? ---Commissioner, no disrespect but that doesn't look obvious to me.

Yes, Mr Darams.

MR DARAMS: Can the witness be shown page 186 of volume 6.8? Just start at the top of the page, Mr Chidiac. There's a message from Ms Li to yourself, and just read down the page and let me know when you finish.  
---Yes.

10 Go over to the next page, please. Read this page to yourself.---That [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], that's coming, that's going from me, isn't it?

Yep.---Yes.

Now, the last message is you, "We are downstairs." So I want to suggest to you that this exchange that I've just taken you to demonstrates you arranging a meeting or a time to meet with Ms Li with Mr Tsirekas, correct?---I think Belinda is trying to arrange a meeting, yeah.

20 But you're corresponding with her?---Yeah, yeah. That's correct, yeah.

When you are responding to her, you're talking about Mr Tsirekas also being available and attending that meeting as well, correct?---That's correct, yeah.

I take it you've no recollection of this meeting now?---No, no.

30 Again, another example of you, is it not, demonstrating the skill, sorry, demonstrating the services you were providing to I-Prosperity for which you were charging, by this time, in excess or about \$30-odd-thousand a month, correct?---It's no different to what I was providing to non-paying customers.

The question that I put to you though, or the suggestion I put to you was that this is you demonstrating the services that you could provide and were providing to I-Prosperity for which you were charging them \$30-odd-thousand a month, correct?---I provided a lot of services to I-Prosperity, Mr Darams.

40 THE COMMISSIONER: Would you answer the question?---I thought I did, Commissioner.

No, you didn't.

THE WITNESS: How would you like me to answer the question, Mr Darams? What answer do you want?

MR DARAMS: I suggest to you this is another example of you demonstrating the services that you were providing to I-Prosperity at this time for which you were charging I-Prosperity in excess of about \$30,000 a month, correct?---No, disagree.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Why not?---Because we could have been discussing any other matter but not, but not include the scope of work that I was engaged to provide.

But obviously a meeting is being set up to discuss matters concerning I-Prosperity.---Not necessarily, no.

Are you being deliberately obstructive?---Come on, Commissioner. Give me a break, please.

20 Are you being - - -?---No, I'm not. I'm not, Commissioner.

It's obvious, isn't it not?---It's, that's, that's not my intention, Commissioner.

You've already said what you were being paid for by I-Prosperity was to provide services. I think we ascertained that earlier in the afternoon.  
---That's correct, Commissioner.

30 Services included bringing people together, arranging meetings.---That's correct.

This is an example, isn't it, of you doing just that, arranging a meeting for you, Ms Li, Mr Tsirekas, is that right?---It's probably to the, to our benefit, not to Belinda's benefit. We were chasing sponsorship.

Mmm, but that's an example, isn't it, of doing, you rendering services, arranging meetings for I-Prosperity, such as this one, a meeting at which you'll be present, Mr Tsirekas will be present.---But I wasn't sure what the content of that meeting was.  
40

No, but it's obvious, though, from that information you have, from your own emails or - - -?---Texts.

Text messages. That that's what you were doing. You were having to bring people together – being yourself, Mr Tsirekas, I-Prosperity – to meet, that's to meet.---It wasn't always - - -

10 That was a demonstration of the sort of services you were providing or being paid for by I-Prosperity.---But it wasn't always related to Rhodes West.

No, but this one, this one.---It could have been a culmination of a few, a few things, Commissioner.

20 No, but it is certainly consistent with you doing what you're being paid to do by I-Prosperity. Namely, arranging a meeting between Ms Li, Mr Tsirekas and yourself. It's consistent with your, what you're being paid to do, correct?---Well, I wasn't sure what the reason for that meeting was, Commissioner.

No, no, but just merely arranging the meeting, whatever was on the agenda. ---Okay, yes. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

It's an example of what you said before you were prepared to do and sign up to for I-Prosperity's benefit.---And our, and my benefit to get a sponsor for West Tigers, Commissioner.

30 It might have been for your benefit, but there was – in this case, arranging a meeting between, I'll put it again, Mr Tsirekas, you, Ms Li is entirely consistent with what you agreed to do for I-Prosperity, namely arrange meetings, isn't it?---With multiple entities and multiple individuals, yes.

It is consistent, is it not - - -?---It is consistent, yes.

- - - with you providing such services?---But I think on that occasion - - -

40 No, no, no. Wait, before you go on with something else. It is consistent, is it not, with you on this occasion providing the services you said you'd provide? Consistent with?---Could have been a social gathering.

No, but it is also consistent with, is it not, you providing services for I-Prosperty as you agreed to do?---But that could have been a social gathering, Commissioner. No disrespect, Commissioner.

But it's still arranging a meeting.---I will not give you the answer you want.

It's still arranging a meeting at the request of I-Prosperty, isn't it?---On that occasion, on Belinda's request, yes.

10 Well, it took a long time to get there, but we got there, Mr Chidiac.---Thank you, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: Can I just understand some of your answers? Are you seriously suggesting under oath that you were also speaking with Ms Li about sponsoring the West Tigers, were you?---Can I answer? Okay - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Speak up. Keep your voice up.---Yeah, no, no, I'm just trying to gather my thoughts, Commissioner.

20 Just answer the question. No, don't - - ?---I just don't, don't want to be rushed, Commissioner, that's all.

No, just answer the question.---I just want to give the correct answer if you don't mind. We started off with Mr Gu. We weren't succeeding. Went to Mr Thornton, we weren't succeeding. Went to Harry, we were unsuccessful. Was talking to, I was talking to Belinda and trying to bring Angelo along to talk to the crew to go out and re-sponsor the West Tigers, Mr Darams.

30 MR DARAMS: So if I understand that evidence, you start at the top with the people who might make the decisions about spending thousands of dollars sponsoring, and you work your way down the list to eventually Ms Li, who is associated with I-Prosperty and the planning proposal, but not employed or engaged by I-Prosperty to your understanding. Is that how we understand your evidence, then?---Well, I'm pretty persistent, Mr Darams.

But how would you, if you were unsuccessful with the people who were the founders and the directors of I-Prosperty, how would you end up persuading I-Prosperty to donate money by working your way down the chain and then trying to lobby or, sorry, or trying to persuade someone who  
40 isn't engaged by I-Prosperty or an employee of I-Prosperty to donate?

How does that make sense?---She was a partner in one of the projects, Mr Darams. And she was highly regarded by the management of I-Prosperity.

So you thought you – you couldn't convince the founders, but you would be able to convince someone else to get the founders to change their mind. Is that how I understand your evidence?---I still hadn't given up on convincing the – just Mr Gu was very hard to get hold of.

10 What if it was suggested to you, Mr Chidiac, that you've just made that evidence up now and you weren't discussing West Tigers sponsorship with Ms Li in any of these conversations or any of these meetings you were arranging and having Mr Tsirekas present at? What if that was suggested to you? What would you say?---I respect their opinion but I disagree with you, Mr Darams.

20 If we go to page 209, sorry go back to page 208. So message at the top is from you to Ms Li, "Dinner 7.00pm tomorrow night." Then Ms Li says, "Cannot make tomorrow, do you want to meet tonight dinner?" You respond, "Angelo not available tonight." Then Ms Li says, "Oh okay, how about lunch tomorrow if you can?" Then a few messages down you say, "No, we have a function tomorrow afternoon." Down, this is Monday, and then you say, "We'll let you know tomorrow." Continue over the page, just read those messages to yourself, Mr Chidiac.---Start it from the top.

Yes, we are.---Okay, so I'm outgoing, okay.

Outgoing is Ms Li.---Yes, yes, I understand that, I'm just trying to work out where's Ms Li, so 8.00pm tomorrow night is me, is it?

30 Yes, you seem to write tomorrow sometimes like "2morrow" like that, don't you?---I do, yes, I do. Sometimes I get my daughters to write the message up.

You're not suggesting your daughters are texting these, are you, on your behalf, are you?---I didn't say that. What I'm telling you is I get my daughters sometimes to text messages out to me, 8.30 - - -

40 THE COMMISSIONER: Come on, let's get on with the questions and answers.---I'm trying to read the email, Commissioner. Yes, I see that, I see that.

MR DARAMS: Again, another, can I suggest, another example of you trying to organise or arrange a meeting with Mr Tsirekas and yourself, is that right?---That's an example there Mr Darams, yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think we'll call it a day. Yes, very well, we'll adjourn and resume tomorrow. Be back here tomorrow at 10 o'clock tomorrow. 10'clock start. I'll adjourn.

10      **THE WITNESS STOOD DOWN**      **[3.57pm]**

**AT 3.57PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY**  
**[3.57pm]**