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PUBLIC
HEARING

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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE REGINALD BLANCH AM QC

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION SCANIA

Reference: Operation E15/0978

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, 2016

AT 10.00AM

Any person who publishes any part of this transcript in any way and to any person contrary to a Commission direction against publication commits an offence against section 112(2) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988.

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

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Mack.

MR MACK: Commissioner, I call Ali Taleb.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Mr Taleb, will you take an oath or an affirmation?

MR TALEB: Affirmation.

10 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Affirmation?

MR TALEB: Yeah.

<ALI TALEB, affirmed

[10.02am]

MR McMAHON: Commissioner, just before the examination begins, my
name's McMahon and I seek your leave to appear for Mr Ali Taleb today.
20

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Sorry, Dunne, was it?

MR McMAHON: McMahon.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: McMahon. Yes, Mr McMahon.
Certainly, I grant you leave.

MR McMAHON: Yes, thank you.

30 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Mr Taleb, in the course of answering
questions you might cause some problems for yourself either in civil or
criminal liability, and I can make an order protecting you against that. Have
you discussed that with Mr McMahon?---Yes.

And would you like me to make that order?---Yes, I would like to make the
order.

40 Thank you. Then pursuant to section 38 of the Independent Commission
Against Corruption Act, I declare that all answers given by this witness and
all documents and things produced by this witness during the course of the
witness's evidence at this public inquiry are to be regarded as having been
given or produced on objection and there is no need for the witness to make
objection in respect of any particular answer given or document or thing
produced.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 38 OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION ACT, I DECLARE THAT ALL ANSWERS GIVEN BY THIS WITNESS AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND THINGS PRODUCED BY THIS WITNESS DURING THE COURSE OF THE WITNESS'S EVIDENCE AT THIS PUBLIC INQUIRY ARE TO BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN GIVEN OR PRODUCED ON OBJECTION AND THERE IS NO
10 **NEED FOR THE WITNESS TO MAKE OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF ANY PARTICULAR ANSWER GIVEN OR DOCUMENT OR THING PRODUCED.**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: That gives you the protection, Mr Taleb, but it doesn't protect you if you tell lies on oath. Do you understand that?
---Yes.

20 Thank you. Yes, Mr Mack.

MR MACK: Mr Taleb, were you born in 1995?---Yes.

Is your father named Nosir Kabite?---Yes.

And when you were born in 1995, was your father's name Nosir Kabite then?---I'm not too sure.

Not too sure. Has your surname always been Taleb?---Yes.

30 And do you have an uncle called Sam?---Sam, yes. Sam Taleb.

Sam Taleb. And does he also have another name Ahmed?---Ahmed Taleb, yeah.

And do you know somebody by the name of Mohamad Taleb?---Mohamad Taleb, yes.

40 And what's your relationship with Mohamad in terms of family? Is he a cousin or an uncle?---Cousin.

He's a cousin?---Yes.

And do you know Atef Fattah?---Atef Fattah, yes.

And what's his relationship with you?---What's his relationship with me?

Yeah.---Same.

Cousin?---Cousin, yeah.

Do you speak any other languages besides English?---Yes.

What are they?---Arabic.

And in conversations you've had with your father, do you usually speak to him in Arabic or English?---English and Arabic. English and Arabic.

10 If you were talking to him on the phone - - -?---Yeah.

- - - what language would you speak to him in?---What language I would usually speak to my father in? I don't know. I'm not too sure with that question, actually. English.

English.---Yeah, just English. Arabic.

And when you say - - -?---Both, both.

20 Do you mean you mix it up a bit when you - - -?---Yeah, yeah. Like, mix it up.

All right. Are you familiar with a company called ATM Excavation & Demolition?---Demolition Tipper Hire, yes.

And how are you related to ATM Excavation?---My company.

It's your company?---It's my company, yeah.

30 So you're a director of that company?---Yes.

Have you always been a director?---I've always been the director of the company.

Can the witness be shown volume 14, page 13? Have you seen this document before, Mr Taleb?---Yes.

All right. It says that as of 2 October the directors have been changed from Sam Taleb, who I presume is your uncle, over to you.---Since 2013, yes.

40

No, no. It says that ATM Excavation & Demolition & Tipper Hire were formed in 2013. You see that?---Yeah.

And then it says that you became a director of the company - - -?---Yeah.

- - - on 2 October 2015?---Oh, yes. That's true, yeah.

Can you recall when you became a director of the company or have you always been a director of the company?---I think I became last year. I think I became a director of the company last year but I'm not too sure.

Do you understand the difference between being the director of a company and owning shares in a company?---No.

Okay. Do you own shares in ATM Excavation?---ATM Excavation?

10 Yes.---No.

No, you don't?---No. I used to but now, no, not anymore.

Okay. Well, back when the company was formed - - -?---Ah hmm.

- - - did you own shares in ATM Excavation?---Yes, of course I owned shares.

20 And do you know what proportion of the shares you owned percentage-wise?---No.

No. Do you know what proportion your uncle owned?---No.

All right. So you can't say whether it was - - -?---No, I can't - - -

- - - 50 per cent you and 50 per cent him?---50 per cent, 100 per cent, can't say.

30 Do you know why, just looking back at this document, on 2 October, 2015, do you know why you became a director of the company?---That's not here. I can't - - -

All right. So I'll take you to the date at the top.---The computer screen. The computer screen, like - - -

Yes. Can you see where the mouse cursor is at the top?---Oh, yeah. Sorry, yeah, yeah.

40 So 2 October.---2 October.

And then I want to take you to the second sentence of the first paragraph. And it says, "Directors has been changed over today from Sam Taleb to" - - - .---To Mr Ali Taleb. Yes. Yes, that's true. That's correct.

Do you know why that happened? Do you know why you became a director on that day?---No. I don't know why I became a director.

Can the witness be shown volume 14 page 12? I'm just printing up a different version of that same document that doesn't have the black squares on it. See that address there at Constitution Hill?---Yeah.

Is that your current address?---Yes.

And see the address at the top for Nosir Kabite.---Ah hmm.

10 Is that his current address?---Is that his current address. No, I don't think so.

Was that your dad's address in 2015?---2015. Yes, yes, I think so.

You think so. All right.---I think it was last year.

20 I want to take you to a different document now. It's a document at volume 9, page 30, and you can't see it on -- well, perhaps I'll ask if the un-redacted version can be shown, but first of all, if the un-redacted version could be shown at volume 9, page 20 and then I'll take you to page 30 in due course. This is a copy of a lease for a property at Bandon Road, Riverstone. Can you recall seeing this document before?---Yes.

And can you see where it says guarantor?---Ah hmm.

It's got your father's - - -?---Yeah.

See where the mouse is now?---The guarantor, yeah.

30 And it says Nosir Kabite?---Nosir Kabite, yeah.

And it's got an address there at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], yeah.

Yeah. Did your -- did you ever live with your dad at [REDACTED]?
---Yes.

But you don't live there with your dad now?---Me?

40 Yeah.---Yeah.

You still live at [REDACTED]?---Yeah, I still live at [REDACTED] but
- - -

Does your father still live there?---But my dad still, no.

No, he doesn't live there?---My dad doesn't live there any more, yeah.

All right. When did he stop living there?---I'm not too sure actually. A year ago.

A year ago.---On, on and off the – he comes and - - -

Okay.--- - - - goes and stuff, yeah.

And you said you recall seeing this document.---Yeah.

10 Do you understand what the, the effect of the document is?---Yes.

Well, can you explain to the Commission what your understanding?---That this – the date of the – this date is made in both parties. It's a (not transcribable) lease just, just for number, number 28 Bandon, where is it, Bandon Road, yeah.

So can you recall discussing leasing a property at Bandon Road - - -?---Yes.

20 - - - with your father?---Yes, I can, I can recall discussing the property.

And can you recall discussing it with your Uncle Sam?---What is it, this?

No, no, just stepping away from the screen now. I'm just asking you a question.---Oh.

Can you recall having discussions with your dad about leasing a place at Bandon Road in Riverstone?---Yes, yes, of course I can recall that.

30 And can you recall having discussions with your Uncle Sam about leasing - - -?---About, about that Bandon Road, yeah.

Can you recall why you entered into a lease, why ATM Excavation entered into a lease?---Why entered into a lease?

Yeah, why, yeah.---Excavation business.

And can you recall whose idea it was to rent Bandon Road?---Whose idea was it. No, I don't think I know whose idea it was. I think - - -

40 Was it your idea?--- - - - all together, like we just, yeah, my, my idea.

Your idea was it?---Yeah.

And can you recall inspecting the Bandon Road site before you entered into the lease?---No.

Can you recall if your father inspected the site?---Yes. Yes, I think he did inspect it (not transcribable).

Can you recall if your uncle inspected the site?---Yes.

Do you know anybody by the name of Angus McVay?---Angus McVay?

Yes. Have you heard that name before?---Yes, I've heard that name before.

Do you know what Angus McVay's job is?---No, I'm not too sure, I forgot. But I've heard, but I've heard the name before, yeah.

10

All right. If I was to say that he helped lease the property - - -?---Oh, yes, yes.

- - - to yourself does that - - -?---Yes.

- - - refresh your memory about - - -?---Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's, that's true, yes.

Did you ever meet Angus McVay?---No, I never met with Angus.

20

Do you know somebody called Sam Darwiche?---Sam Darwiche?

Yes.---No.

I'm going to take you to – first of all, did you read – can you recall reading this agreement?---What, what agreement?

This lease agreement.---Oh, yeah.

30 Yes?---Yes, I do recall reading.

And your evidence is that you entered into the lease for the purpose of running an excavation business?---Running an excavation business, yeah.

And were you going to excavate the site at Bandon Road?---We were going to excavate the site there, yeah.

And why were you going to excavate the site?---I'm not too sure. I don't know why. My dad like he was there.

40

So your dad knows - - -?---Yeah. So my dad like, yeah, he knows.

But you didn't own the site did you?---No.

So you were renting - - -?---I didn't own the site, yeah.

- - - it off the owner - - -?---Yeah, I was just renting off the owner.

- - - and you understood that you were going to go there and excavate the site?---Ah hmm.

Well, what did you think - - -?---My dad, my dad was.

Well, what was your understanding - - -?---My dad was excavating it.

- - - about the excavation?---Me?

10 Yeah.---I didn't, I didn't go. I did go there a little bit though, like not, not like, you know, a lot (not transcribable).

But did you think – was it your understanding that you leased it so you could dig a big hole?---Yeah.

And why would you need to dig a big hole at the site?---Why would you need to dig a big hole. I don't know why. I'm not too sure.

20 Are you telling the truth, Mr Taleb?---No, I'm not.

All right. Well, can you tell the Commission the truth.---Yes. We were, we were going to - - -

Were - - -?---

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Now you're protected - - -.---What was that, sorry?

30 I've given you the protection - - -?---Yeah.

- - - in this thing so just, just tell us.---I was given protection.

You've got – you're all protected.---Soil, yeah. We just – we were just there, we just wanted to put dirt and stuff, landfill.

MR MACK: You were going to put landfill there?---Yeah, we were going to put landfill.

40 And what do you mean by landfill?---What do you mean what do I mean by landfill? Dirt and stuff.

Dirt and stuff.---Sorry.

So does that include bricks?---Yes.

Construction waste?---Yes.

Asbestos?---Yes.

And did you tell the owner of the property that you were going to use the site for the purposes of bringing in landfill?---No.

So you told lies to the owner, the person you were leasing the property from?---Ah hmm.

You're agreeing with me?---Oh, no, no.

10 No.---No.

All right. So did you tell the - - -?---I didn't, I didn't, I did not tell, tell that guy anything, yeah, and speak to him or anything.

But did somebody else - - -?---Yeah.

- - - tell the owners - - -?---Tell the owner.

- - - or Angus McVay or whoever - - -?---No, I don't think so.

20

All right.---I don't think that they did tell them that.

So was what was told to the person you were leasing the property from - - - ?---Yeah.

- - - is it your understanding that they were told it was being used for landfill?---Yes.

And for putting asbestos?---It was being for, no.

30

No.---No, not for, not for, not for asbestos and stuff.

And did you have any discussions with your dad or your uncle about the amount of fill that you wanted to bring into the place?---No. No.

Can the witness be shown volume 9, page 29? And this is, do you understand what a clause is?---No.

All right. Well, see where it says 54?---Ah hmm.

40

This records what both parties to the lease agreed to.---Ah hmm.

And the lessee, and that's ATM Excavation, you can take that from me - - - ---Ah hmm.

- - - agrees to use the allocated land, that's the Bandon Road site, for the specified usage only and understands that no waste is to be permanently left on the site. And it is further agreed and understood that no hazardous or

contaminated waste is to be brought onto the property. Can you recall reading that part of the agreement before?---Reading that part of the agreement, no. I can't recall reading that exact part.

Can I show you page 30 of the unredacted version of the lease? Can you see your name there?---Yeah.

Is that your handwriting?---Yes.

10 Is that your signature?---Yes.

So you accept that you signed the lease?---Yes, I did sign the lease.

And over the page, at page 31.---Ah hmm.

You'll see your name again. Is that your handwriting?---Yeah.

And is that your signature?---Yes.

20 And can you recall where you were when you signed this document?---Can I recall where?

Yes, can you recall what room you were in?---What room?

Yeah.---No, I can't.

Can you recall who was with you when you signed the document?---No.

30 Do you know Bernard Li?---Who, sorry?

Bernard Li. See down the - - -?---Bernard Li?

Yeah.---No, I don't know any Bernard Li.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Was your father with you when you signed the document?---Yes, he was.

40 MR MACK: Was your uncle with you?---Was my uncle with me when I signed the document? Yeah, I think he came too.

Okay. When you say he came, did he come to - - -?---I'm not too sure.

Is it refreshing your memory about - - -?---Yeah, yeah. It's just refreshing my memory. He did come with us, yeah.

So did you drive somewhere to sign the document?---Yes, we did. We drove to, I forgot what the area's called. Winston, Winston, Winston Hills. No, not Winston Hills, sorry. I don't know. I just, I forgot where.

All right.---Where the place was. Norwest.

Norwest?---Yeah.

Yeah, I know Norwest. That's a real estate agent's?---Norwest, yeah, yeah.
At the real estate agent.

10 And was there a real estate agent there when you signed the document?
---Yes. Yes, there was a real estate agent.

And can you recall who that was?---No. I forgot.

Have you been involved, other than Bandon Road - - -?---Ah hmm.

- - - have you or ATM Excavations been involved in taking landfill to other
sites in Sydney?---Have we? Yes, we have.

20 All right. Before Bandon Road, before you entered into the lease at Bandon
Road - - -?---Yes. Ah hmm.

- - - were you personally involved in taking landfill to a place at 405
Willowdene Avenue?---Willowdene Avenue, yes, I was.

And how many times, approximately, would you take landfill to 405
Willowdene?---How many times?

Yeah.---I'm not too sure. It was, like, a long time ago.

30 Okay. Do you have a truck driver's licence?---Me? No.

Well, would you - - -?---I don't have a truck driver's licence.

Okay. So would you drive the trucks?---Who, me?

Yeah.---No.

40 Okay. So what was your role at 405 Willowdene?---At 405 Willowdene?
Excavator.

Excavator.---Yeah, excavator.

So you can drive an excavator?---Yeah.

Can your dad drive an excavator?---Yes.

Can your uncle drive an excavator?---Yes.

And can you recall how many days you worked out at 405 Willowdene on an excavator?---Yeah.

How many days, roughly, would you - - -?---How many days, what, would I what?

How many days did you spend on an excavator out at 405 Willowdene?
---405 Willowdene, how many days? About, I don't know, a year.

10 A year?---Yeah, a year we were at that site.

Not every day for a year but - - -?---No, no, no. No, not, like, every single day, yeah.

And can you recall when you stopped going out to the property at 405 Willowdene Avenue and using an excavator?---Yes, I think we stopped going last year. Last year, no, sorry. The beginning of the year, I think.

20 Can you recall why you stopped going out there?---Sorry?

Can you recall why you stopped working at - - -?---Yes.

Why is that?---Because we got caught with, like, you know, landfilling and stuff there.

So is the reason why you needed to lease another property because you could no longer take waste to 405 Willowdene?---Yes. Yes.

30 Thank you. Do you know somebody by the name of Craig Izzard?---No.

Do you recognise this person behind me? Never seen him before?---Never seen him before.

Never met a Craig Izzard out at 405 Willowdene?---No.

Do you know what, have you ever heard of the dumping squad?---Dumping squad?

40 Yes.---Yeah. Of course. Everybody's heard of the dumping squad.

All right. Well, who are they?---What do you mean? Who is - - -

Well, who are they? Who are the dumping squad? What do they do?
---Who, like, they, they, they're supposed to get, like, the people that, you know, the people that, like, dump stuff illegally.

And do you know, have you seen them before in operation?---Who, me?
No.

No. So you don't know what uniform they wear?---Oh, yeah.

Well, what uniform do they wear?---They wear, like, the, I don't know, like
- - -

Is it green or purple or pink or - - -?---Green, yeah, yeah. What colour, like,
just this colour.

10 The colour of the panelling in this courtroom?---Yeah, of the panelling.

Underneath the black trim?---Yeah, yeah, yeah.

That's a whitish - - -?---Whitish, creamish colour.

And have you ever seen anybody wearing this uniform?---Yes.

Have you ever seen anybody wearing that uniform out at 405 Willowdene?
---Yes, I have.

20

Do you recall that person's name?---No, I don't recall that person's name. I
think her name was Anne, I don't know, Anne, Anne - - -

Anna?---No, no. No, not Anna. Anne.

Anne?---Yeah, Anne. Yeah, I think so. Her name was Anne.

And when you were working at 405 Willowdene on the excavator - - -?
---Ah hmm.

30

- - - was it your understanding that you were covering up soil that might
have contained asbestos?---Yes.

Do you know that your father went to court for what happened at 405
Willowdene?---Yes.

Can you recall discussing court with your dad?---No.

40 So you didn't talk to him about it?---No, I didn't. Didn't talk to him about
that court.

Do you know a person by the name of Andy Cannuli?---Andy Cannuli,
yeah.

How do you know him?---He's my dad's mate.

And do they do business together?---Yes, they do business.

What's Andy's role?---Hmm?

What's Andy's role in the business?---Andy's role in the business? I'm not too sure what he does in, like, you know, in it and stuff. I don't know about Andy that much.

Were you ever at 405 Willowdene when Andy was there?---When Andy was there, yeah. Couple of times.

10 And what was Andy doing there?---Nothing.

He didn't drive an excavator?---No, he didn't drive no excavator or anything.

Do you know if your dad ever paid Andy Cannuli?---If he paid him? Yeah.

Do you know - - -?---I think he did pay him. I'm not sure, but.

Did your dad pay you?---Me? Yes, he did pay me.

20 And how much would he pay you for a day on the excavator?---About, I don't know, one, one hundred, no, not a hundred bucks.

Hundred bucks?---Hundred bucks, yeah.

Do you know if he would pay Andy a similar amount of money?---No. I don't know what, what, like, he, you know, gave Andy.

Do you know how much it cost to tip a load of soil with asbestos in it at an official tip?---No.

30

No. Do you think it would be expensive?---Yes, of course it would be expensive.

So it's a lot cheaper to dump it at - - -?---It's a lot cheaper to dump it, yeah.

So do you know how much money, or would people pay your dad - - -?
---Ah hmm.

- - - for letting them tip at 405 Willowdene?---No. I don't know about that.

40

Would people pay your dad for tipping at Bandon Road?---Yes.

Well, how much would he charge?---I'm not too sure about how much.

How often would you go out to Bandon Road?---Me? Not that often.

More than once?---More than once, yes. Not that often.

Were there many trucks out there when you went out there?---Were there many trucks? There was a bit, yeah.

Would it surprise you – I'll withdraw that. Do you know what a truck and dog is?---Yes, I do.

Do you know how many tonnes you can fit in a truck and dog?---No.

10 Do you know how many tonnes of soil you can fit in a truck?---How many -
--

Tonnes.---How many tonnes?

Yeah.---No, I'm not too sure.

Would it surprise you if I said that over 20,000 tonnes of material was dumped at Bandon Road?---Would it surprise me?

20 Yeah.---Yes, it would.

So how much material did you think was being tipped at Bandon Road? Just a little bit or a lot or - - -?---Yeah, a bit. A bit, like.

More than what was tipped at Willowdene or less than what was tipped at - - -?---Less.

Less.---Yeah.

30 And you said you worked at 405 Willowdene for about a year.---Yeah.

And you knew it was illegal, didn't you?---Yes, I knew it was illegal at the time.

Did you ever wonder why nobody was stopping you?---No.

Did you ever wonder why nobody from the dumping police came out and said, "We've had some complaints. We think you're tipping material illegally"? Did you ever wonder why that didn't happen?---No.

40 Did you ever talk to your dad about why that didn't happen?---No.

Did you ever talk to Mr Cannuli about - - -?---Why that didn't happen as well? No.

What about Uncle Sam?---No.

So you never talked to anybody about why nobody noticed or seemed to care that you were dumping - - -?---The council or anything, no.

Are you telling the truth?---Yes.

At Bandon Road, was there somebody that marked the trucks as they came in?---Was there somebody that marked the trucks?

Yeah.---Yes.

10 And whose job was that?---That was my uncle's.

Uncle Sam?---Yeah, my uncle, Sam.

What about Mohamad?---Yeah. Him too.

Him too. But it wasn't your job?---Who, me?

Yeah.---I did it too. A little bit, though. Like, not like, you know, a lot.

20 And what would you record as you marked trucks on the way in? You said you marked - - -?---What was it, sorry?

Did you write in a notebook or - - -?---Yeah, I did mark trucks, yeah, yeah.

Take the rego?---Yeah.

And then you'd - - -?---I took it of the rego, yeah.

30 And then where would that information go?---Where would that information go?

Yeah.---That information would go, that information would, I think, go to my uncle.

Okay.---Goes to my uncle.

Do you know how much it's going to cost to fix up the site, the asbestos contamination at the Bandon Road site?---No.

40 Would it surprise you if I said it's going to cost \$9 million?---Yes, it would surprise me.

All right. Well, I can tell you that somebody gave evidence here at this Commission earlier and said it's going to cost \$9 million to fix up that site. ---Yeah.

How do you feel about that?---Well, \$9 million. Well, I don't know. I'm surprised about that, honestly.

So you think that you can tip asbestos around Sydney illegally and nobody has to pay for it?---No, I don't think that.

Well, who has to pay for it?---Me.

Well, somebody has to pay to fix it up, don't they?---Oh, yeah, yeah.

Do you want to tell the Commission about other sites around Sydney where you've tipped or your dad's tipped or your uncle's tipped illegal asbestos?
10 ---No. I don't want to tell the Commission.

You don't want to? Well - - -.---No.

I'm going to ask you now to tell the Commission. Tell the Commission other sites around Sydney.---Other sites? I forgot, honestly.

That's a lie, isn't it?---No, it's not a lie.

So there's only two sites you've ever dumped?---Oh, no. No.
20

All right.---There was, there was more.

Well, where were they?---Where?

Yes.---I forgot where. I forgot.

Do you know a place - - -?---Where they were.

Do you know where Park Road, Wallacia is?---Park Road, Wallacia, yeah.
30

Is there one at Park Road, Wallacia?---We did, we did that one too, yeah, at Park Road, Wallacia.

Do you know if there's one at Bargo? A new one?---Where? Where sorry?

Bargo, south of Sydney. B-a-r-g-o.---No. Never been to Bargo.

Are there any that you've been to in the last month?---Who, me?

40 Yes.---No.

In the last six months?---Last - - -

Six months.---Six months? No.

Where was the last place you dumped soil that contained asbestos?---The last place?

Yes.---Riverstone.

At Bandon Road?---Yeah, at Bandon Road property.

What do you do for work at the moment?---Me? I don't work now. I'm actually unemployed.

Have you talked to dad about the ICAC? About ICAC?---Yes.

10 What have you said to your dad about - - -?---What have I said to him about this?

Yeah.---I've got, that I've, that I just got this, that I just got this thing to, like, appear. Yeah, and that's it.

Did you ask him if he was meant to appear?---Yes.

And what did he say?---Yes.

20 Did you ask him why?---No, I didn't ask him why. I know why.

Well, why?---Because of that. Because of that guy. What's this guy's name again? That guy, I forget his name.

Izzard?---Yeah.

The guy you've never heard of?---Yeah, the guy I've never, yeah.

30 And you're sure you've never heard of him?---Who, me?

Yeah.---Yeah, I'm sure I've never heard of him.

Never heard your dad talking to somebody from - - -?---Oh, from - - -

- - - the dumping squad?---From some, from dumping squad? No, I don't think so.

Do you know if your dad's got a connection in the dumping squad?---No.

40 Do you know if your dad's got a connection with somebody in the council? ---No.

Has he ever talked to you about a connection that he's had in the council? ---No.

Ever talked to you about a connection he's had with somebody from what's known as the RID Squad?---No.

Does your dad have any connections with people in positions of power?---I don't know.

Do you talk to your dad very often now?---Do I talk to my dad very often? Not that much.

Do you know a person by the name of Fred?---By the name of Fred? Yes.

10 Do you know a person by the name of Ali Abdul-Rahman?---Ali Abdul-Rahman?

Yes.---No, I don't think so.

Well, who is Fred?---Sorry?

Who is Fred?---He used to, he used to help us out with the, you know, excavation and stuff.

20 Do you know his surname?---No, I don't know his surname.

When you say help you out with the excavation, is that at Bandon Road? ---Yes.

Do you know if your dad still is involved in dumping soil?---Yeah.

He still does it?---No.

Are you sure about that?---Yes.

30 Do you know if he still keeps in touch with Andy Cannuli?---No, I don't know if he keeps in touch with him.

Do you know what your dad does for money now?---Now. No, I don't know what he does.

Did your dad ever ask you to get an iPhone for somebody, for somebody else?---Did, did my dad ever ask me to get an iPhone for somebody. Yes.

40 Yeah.---Yes, he did ask me.

When did he ask you that?---Asked me that last, last year.

And did he tell you who the iPhone was for?---No.

Does he often ask you to get iPhones?---No, he doesn't often ask me.

Did you find it unusual that he was asking you to get an iPhone?---No.

Can you recall the conversation when he asked you to get an iPhone?---Yes, I can recall the conversation.

What did he say?---He, he just goes to me if, if I can go get one and that's it.

He just said Ali, can you go get me an iPhone?---Yeah.

Was it an iPhone 5, 6, 7?---Can you get me an iPhone. I think it was iPhone 4, 4. I think it was an iPhone 4s.

10

And did he want it for himself?---Huh?

Did he want it for himself?---Did he want it for himself?

Yes.---No.

Did your dad want an iPhone?---No.

20 Well, why would he be asking you to get an iPhone?---Because he had one. I don't know why.

You do know why don't you?---No, I don't know why.

So what did you - - -?---(not transcribable) ask him.

Did you get the iPhone?---Yes, I did get the iPhone.

And did you give it to your dad?---Yes.

30 Did you ask him why he needed it?---No.

Are you aware if your dad gave any – gave a phone to anyone in council?
---Am, am I aware. No.

Are you aware if your dad has ever given any money to anybody in council?---No.

40 Are you – do you know if – I withdraw that. At the end of last year were you and your dad living together?---At the end of last year?

End of 2015?---At the end of 2015 I was in Lebanon.

All right. Do you recall - - -?---End of last year.

Do you recall your dad having visitors over to your house when you lived together?---Yes, of course I recall having visitors.

Well, do you recall regular visitors to your house?---No.

Do you recall if anybody from council ever came to your house to meet your dad?---No.

Before you said that you gave the iPhone to your dad.---Ah hmm.

Are you sure about that, you didn't go and give it to somebody else or put it in a letterbox somewhere?---Yes, I am sure.

10 You didn't put the iPhone in a letterbox?---No.

Where did you get the iPhone from?---From, where did I get it from again. I forgot, honestly. I don't know off who I got it off.

I have no further questions.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Do you have any questions, Mr McMahan?

20 MR McMAHON: Commissioner, I don't, no.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Patterson.

MR PATTERSON: Yes, Commissioner, just a few brief questions. Mr Taleb, my name is Patterson. I represent Mr Izzard.---Ah hmm.

You said in your evidence earlier this morning that the Bandon Road site was to be used for bringing in landfill. Do you recall that?---Yes.

30 Do you have any knowledge that the site was to be used to operate a skip bin business?---Yes.

Your father discussed that with you?---Yes, yes, he did discuss it.

And did your father tell you that to prepare the site for operation of a skip bin business it was necessary to bring in material to level the site?---Yes, he did.

Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner.

40

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Are there any other questions, anything arising?

MR MACK: It's not arising but with the leave.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MR MACK: Did you ever use your cousin Mohamad's telephone?---Yeah, I think so.

Well how often did you use it?---Not that often.

Did you ever use it to call your dad?---I can't – I think so. I think I did, yeah.

10 And why would you use Mohamad's telephone and not your own?---I don't know why. It was, it was, it was I think like, I think it was a year ago, I forgot, I don't know why I would use his phone instead of mine.

Do you know Mohamad's number off the top of your head?---No.

When you say about a year ago, do you mean before you went to Lebanon?--Yes, before I went to Lebanon.

20 And what dates were you in Lebanon?---I, I got there on November, the 1st and I was back here on - - -

10 January?---Yes. On 10 January.

All right. No further questions, Commissioner.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: This business was basically your father's business, was it?---Yes.

30 And your father and your uncle or just your father?---Just him.

Just your father?---Mainly, yeah.

Yeah?---Both, both actually like, you know that, like they would just work together and stuff, yeah.

All right. And it was your father who organised everything?---Yeah.

And did everything?---Yeah, yeah.

40 Yeah. Anything arising out of that? Then you can step down, thank you. You're excused?---All right, thank you.

MR MACK: Can I just ask that the witness be stood down and not excused until after the next witness. They just – I'm just foreseeing an issue that might arise?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Well don't go, you can stand down until after the next witness and then we'll excuse you, okay?---All right. No worries. Thank you.

THE WITNESS STOOD DOWN

[10.48am]

10 MR MACK: Commissioner, I call Mohamad Taleb. Commissioner, I'm told that Mohamad Taleb is not present. And in that case I'll call Atef Fattah but I understand that he's not there either. Perhaps if the matter is stood down until 10 o'clock and we'll make some inquiries and if we need longer I can let legal representatives know and - - -

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Well we may as well take the morning tea adjournment so we'll go till 10 past 11.00.

MR MACK: Thank you, Commissioner.

20

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

[10.49am]