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TRANSCRIPT OF AFTERNOON PROCEEDINGS

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INDEPENDENT BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

MELBOURNE

WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2020

(3rd day of examinations)

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE ROBERT REDLICH AM, QC

Counsel Assisting: Mr Paul Lawrie  
Mr Joseph Amin

OPERATION ESPERANCE INVESTIGATION

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS PURSUANT TO PART 6 OF THE INDEPENDENT BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION ACT 2011

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*Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of transcripts. Any inaccuracies will be corrected as soon as possible.*

1 UPON RESUMING AT 2.19 PM:

2 COMMISSIONER: Could you commence the video recording, please.

3 It's Wednesday, 28 October, almost 2.20 pm. Mr Bollas,  
4 I'm the IBAC Commissioner, and I'm conducting this  
5 examination under powers delegated to the Commission. The  
6 examination is being held in accordance with Part 6 of  
7 the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission Act  
8 2011.

9 I authorise Mr Paul Lawrie to be Counsel  
10 Assisting, and I authorise Mr Lawrie to examine you.  
11 During the course of questioning Mr Lawrie will ask you  
12 most questions, but I may ask questions from time to time  
13 also.

14 The process that we follow is known as an  
15 inquisitorial process; that is, it is a process where we  
16 are not bound by the rules of evidence. But, as is  
17 ordinarily the case in examinations I conduct, I will as  
18 far as possible continue to observe the rules of evidence  
19 and the way in which proceedings are conducted in a court  
20 of law.

21 The examination today is being conducted by an  
22 audiovisual link pursuant to Division 3 of Part 3 of  
23 the COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) (Integrity  
24 Entities) Regulations 2020. Witnesses and their legal  
25 representatives are not required to stand at the  
26 commencement breaks or at the end of examination or when  
27 taking an oath or giving their appearances.

28 A legal representative should mute their  
29 microphone unless addressing the examination, although

1 I understand that may be difficult in the current  
2 circumstances. If you, Mr Bollas, or your legal  
3 representative cannot hear what's being said in an  
4 examination, please alert the examiner or those operating  
5 the virtual hearing process as quickly as you can.

6 Now, Mr Bollas, the examination we're conducting  
7 today is, as I think you would appreciate, into serious  
8 issues. The examination will not be a short one and,  
9 needless to say, it may therefore be stressful for you.  
10 So I want to ensure that you understand you can take  
11 breaks whenever you or Mr Hargreaves, who appears for you  
12 today - when either of you feel that a break is required,  
13 and you should indicate that whenever you see fit.

14 As you're also aware, the Commission has  
15 available to you and at call independent counselling to  
16 address any welfare issues that might arise for you as the  
17 examination proceeds. But the important thing for you to  
18 understand is you need to be satisfied that you can do  
19 justice to your position. So if you need breaks at any  
20 stage, if you need to get advice from your counsel, you  
21 should just indicate and we'll take a break. Do you  
22 follow?

23 MR BOLLAS: Yes, Commissioner.

24 COMMISSIONER: Mr Bollas, I'll go through the matters about  
25 which you are to be questioned today. During the  
26 examination you'll be asked about your knowledge of and  
27 responsibilities for the transparency and integrity of  
28 major services procurements and tendering processes within  
29 the public transport sector in Victoria, including but not

1 limited to conflicts of interest, undeclared relationships  
2 and gifts to public officers that may give rise to actual  
3 or perceived corrupt conduct; the nature and history of  
4 your relationship with George Haritos and any other owner,  
5 director, officer, employee, subcontractor, associate,  
6 representative or agent of Transclean Facilities Pty Ltd,  
7 including the frequency and the nature of your  
8 communications with them; whether you or other public  
9 officers involved in major contract tender and procurement  
10 processes have been improperly influenced through direct  
11 or indirect benefit, including but not limited to your  
12 interactions with George Haritos and any owner, director,  
13 officer, employee, subcontractor, associate,  
14 representative or agent of Transclean; the systems and  
15 controls in place within the public transport sector, in  
16 particular as they relate to Metro Trains Melbourne,  
17 concerning procurement and tendering for major contracts,  
18 with particular focus on the existence and adequacy of  
19 systems and controls for ensuring the integrity of the  
20 procurement process, including by detecting instances of  
21 public officers obtaining corrupt benefits or being unduly  
22 influenced by contractors; and, finally, the nature and  
23 level of your knowledge and involvement in relation to  
24 Transclean's contracts with Metro Trains Melbourne,  
25 including the variations made to those contracts, the  
26 reasons for those variations, and relevant audit reports  
27 in relation to the performance of or payments to  
28 Transclean.

29 <PETER BOLLAS, sworn and examined:

1 COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Bollas. Mr Hargreaves,  
2 I understand you appear for Mr Bollas.  
3 MR HARGREAVES: I seek leave to do so, sir.  
4 COMMISSIONER: Yes, yes, of course. If at any stage,  
5 Mr Hargreaves, you wish to make an objection or proffer  
6 any observation that will be of assistance, please raise  
7 your hand or interrupt as you see fit.  
8 MR HARGREAVES: Thank you, Commissioner.  
9 COMMISSIONER: Mr Bollas, now I just need to finally remind you  
10 of your rights and obligations. At the time you were  
11 served with the summons to attend today did you receive a  
12 document titled 'Statements of rights and  
13 obligations'?---Yes.  
14 And has Mr Hargreaves or any other lawyer explained that  
15 document to you?---Yes.  
16 I'm having a little difficulty hearing you?---Yes.  
17 Thank you. Do you understand the contents of the document, or  
18 do you wish me to inform you again of your rights and  
19 obligations or to have anything explained to  
20 you?---I understand it, Commissioner.  
21 Very good. Just to summarise, you're entitled to seek legal  
22 advice and to have representation at the examination. You  
23 have done so. You can claim a privilege, but you're not  
24 excused from answering the question, giving information or  
25 producing a document or other thing on the ground that the  
26 answer, information, document or other thing might tend to  
27 incriminate you or make you liable to a penalty. If you  
28 do give an answer or provide information or produce a  
29 document or other thing that may tend to incriminate you,

1 an immunity as to the use of that evidence may apply. You  
2 have the right to complain of course about the proceedings  
3 to the Victorian Inspectorate about any aspect of the  
4 manner in which the proceedings have been conducted. So,  
5 in summary, you're obliged to answer the questions unless  
6 you have a reasonable excuse for not doing so. You must  
7 answer the questions even if they may incriminate you or  
8 make you liable to a penalty. You must answer the  
9 questions truthfully, otherwise you may expose yourself to  
10 a risk of perjury, which carries a penalty of up to  
11 15 years imprisonment. Importantly, if you answer the  
12 questions truthfully, then those answers are not  
13 admissible and cannot be used against you in any court.  
14 There's one further thing I would like to say before we  
15 commence, and I say this to all witnesses involved in the  
16 Commission's examinations. Counsel Assisting may ask you  
17 what lawyers describe as an open-ended question; that is,  
18 the question doesn't assume any facts or put any facts to  
19 you. You shouldn't assume because counsel asks an  
20 open-ended question that Counsel Assisting doesn't already  
21 know the answer to that question. So I say that because  
22 it's important for you to recognise that you ensure you  
23 give truthful and accurate evidence no matter that the  
24 question is an open-ended one, which doesn't suggest on  
25 its face that counsel already knows the answer to it. Do  
26 you follow?---Yes, Commissioner.

27 Very well. Yes, Mr Lawrie.

28 MR LAWRIE: Thank you, Commissioner.

29 <EXAMINED BY MR LAWRIE:

1 Mr Bollas, just up on screen we're going to show for you to  
2 identify a copy of the covering letter, the summons, the  
3 confidentiality notice and the statement of rights and  
4 obligations. We'll just scroll through those reasonably  
5 quickly. Please say if you need to slow down. This is  
6 just to identify what the Commissioner was talking about a  
7 moment ago. That's the summons, and then we go through  
8 the statement of rights and obligations. Perhaps we can  
9 speed through that a little bit. That's the  
10 confidentiality notice.

11 MR HARGREAVES: Mr Lawrie, if we're supposed to be seeing a  
12 document on screen, there's no document on screen.

13 MR LAWRIE: Nothing is coming up?

14 MR HARGREAVES: I beg your pardon, it's small. It's on  
15 Mr Bollas's screen. I can't see it on the screen I'm  
16 using. That's all right. I beg your pardon. It's quite  
17 small.

18 COMMISSIONER: Mr Hargreaves, are you able to see what's on  
19 Mr Bollas's screen?

20 MR HARGREAVES: No, but it's all right, thank you,  
21 Commissioner.

22 COMMISSIONER: Very good.

23 MR LAWRIE: Can we increase the zoom on that document, please?  
24 Does that assist you, Mr Bollas?---Thank you, Mr Lawrie.

25 COMMISSIONER: This is just for the purpose, Mr Bollas, of you  
26 confirming whether these are the documents you  
27 received?---Yes, Commissioner.

28 MR LAWRIE: Again, we're going through the legislative  
29 structure that lies behind the confidentiality notice that

1           was delivered?---Sorry, Mr Lawrie, some of that was out of  
2           my grasp of understanding, but I did read it all, yes.  
3 I understand. But you've taken advice about your rights and  
4           obligations and the confidentiality notice?---Yes.  
5 And you are satisfied that you understand those  
6           matters?---Sorry, Mr Lawrie, I wasn't allowed to speak  
7           about being - receiving a summons.  
8 Thank you. All right. Commissioner, I tender the summons  
9           together with the covering letter, the confidentiality  
10          notice, and the statement of rights and obligations.  
11 COMMISSIONER: Very good. The bundle of documents served on  
12          Mr Bollas will be PB1.  
13 #EXHIBIT PB1 - Bundle of documents served on Mr Bollas.  
14 MR LAWRIE: Just a couple of technical matters, Mr Bollas. The  
15          nature of the audio where you are is not exactly ideal.  
16          So I may remind you to just keep your voice up as we go  
17          along?---Yes.  
18 And that may also be aided if you lean forward a bit from time  
19          to time?---Yes, okay.  
20 From time to time I'll be asking for matters to be brought up  
21          on screen. I can't see the nature of the screen you've  
22          got in front of you. So it's very important that, if what  
23          I'm bringing up is too small or otherwise, please indicate  
24          that and we'll take steps at our end to rectify it. Do  
25          you understand that?---Yes, Mr Lawrie.  
26 My first question to you is over the last two and a half days  
27          have you taken the opportunity to follow some of  
28          the public examinations of Mr Pinder over the  
29          internet?---Yes.



1 Did you watch any of it on Monday?---Yes.

2 Can you say how much you watched on Monday, and I'm not  
3 suggesting there's anything wrong in you doing  
4 that?---I watched the whole thing.

5 And is that also for yesterday?---Minus a couple of minutes  
6 when I went to the toilet.

7 And this morning?---Yes, I was here in the office with Tony.

8 Please understand I'm not suggesting that's improper. I just  
9 wanted to understand how familiar you may be with some of  
10 the material that we've already covered. When did you  
11 first commence employment at Metro Trains?---Eight and a  
12 half years ago.

13 So that's in 2012. What was your commencing role?---I started  
14 as an improvement manager at the Craigieburn depot, which  
15 the depot is called the Centre of Excellence.

16 Sorry, that depot is called the Centre of Excellence, is  
17 it?---That is correct, yes.

18 And it only relates to the Craigieburn depot and no other area  
19 of Metro?---That's true.

20 Is it appropriate to call you the Depot Manager?---No.

21 I'm sorry, but Centre of Excellence is a little confusing. How  
22 else might you call that role?---Well, it became extra  
23 practice manager afterwards, which it - I was in the same  
24 office, and now it's the head of operations support,  
25 because it evolved. The job itself evolved. The role.

26 Metro's got a rolling stock division, doesn't it?---That is  
27 correct, Mr Lawrie.

28 Could you just explain, please, what the principal divisions of  
29 Metro are. So we've got rolling stock. What are the

1 other ones?---Operations, infrastructure, signals.  
2 And does that cover it?---No, there's the training department.  
3 There's the Metro academy of training, yes.  
4 It's not meant to be a quiz, but does that capture the  
5 important divisions at least from your  
6 perspective?---Correct.  
7 Did you become manager of the rolling stock division?---No,  
8 never.  
9 Never?---No, never.  
10 What's the highest position you reached?---The one I've - it's  
11 the same position, Mr Lawrie. They have just changed the  
12 name, that's all. So it was centre of excellence manager.  
13 Then it turned - I got some more work given to me because  
14 the work structure changed, and it became extra practice  
15 manager, and then some more work came onboard, and then  
16 from there it turned into operations support manager, head  
17 of operations support manager for rolling stock.  
18 So you have occupied the one position but that position has  
19 evolved in terms of the breadth of responsibility; is that  
20 right?---That's correct.  
21 As part of that evolution, in about March of 2014 was it  
22 expanded to include managing contracts for internal and  
23 external cleaning of trains - - -?---That's correct.  
24 And ensuring that the suburban train fleet was maintained to  
25 those contractual cleaning requirements?---I think - yes,  
26 I think I've been in that particular role for five and a  
27 half years. That's I believe so, Mr Lawrie.  
28 That would seem to line up with my suggestion that in 2014 your  
29 role expanded to capture those particular

1 responsibilities?---That's correct.

2 When did you first meet Mr Haritos?---When my predecessor was  
3 leaving we went out to dinner.

4 Can you put a year or a month on that, please?---No. No,  
5 Mr Lawrie.

6 Could you put a year on it?---Five years ago. Mr Cunningham  
7 left. He went back to England. There was another chap  
8 before him that was looking after it as well. They only  
9 stayed there for a few years, and then they placed me in  
10 that role.

11 Okay. With the expansion of your role and your responsibility  
12 for managing cleaning contracts for rolling stock, you  
13 would have acquainted yourself with what the contractual  
14 situation was between Transclean and Metro, wouldn't  
15 you?---On my level, yes.

16 So on that subject I just want to run through what at least my  
17 understanding is of the major contracts that Transclean  
18 had with Metro and see if that accords with what you  
19 understand. There was a station contract between  
20 Transclean and Metro, wasn't there, for the cleaning of  
21 railway stations which was outside your responsibility;  
22 were you aware of that?---Yes.

23 And say if you have knowledge either direct or indirect of what  
24 I'm putting, but I suggest that contract started in about  
25 November 2010, went through to November 2017, but was not  
26 renewed to Transclean; it went to a different supplier in  
27 2017, do you know that?---Yes.

28 There was also a carriage contract, if we can call it that,  
29 which was for rolling stock cleaning service, and that was

1           within the ambit of your responsibility, wasn't it?---Yes.  
2    You would be aware that that was entered into between Metro and  
3           Transclean in February 2011, even though that's before  
4           your time?---Yes, I'm sure it was.  
5    And that continued - that continues to be the state of play,  
6           doesn't it?---That is correct.  
7    And it's in that environment, the existence of the carriage  
8           contract for rolling stock cleaning services between Metro  
9           and Transclean, that you first came to meet  
10           Mr Haritos?---Yes.  
11   Who introduced you to him?---I can't recall the exact person,  
12           but I know that we got introduced at the depot, I believe  
13           so, and then from there, like I said, we went out to  
14           dinner.  
15   Can you say how many years you've known Mr Haritos for?---Since  
16           that meeting, I would say.  
17   I'm just trying to understand the timing of that meeting.  
18           Approaching it a different way, would you say you've known  
19           him for five years or longer or shorter?---Yes, Mr Lawrie.  
20   About five years; is that right?---Yes.  
21   Okay. Did you meet anyone else at Transclean?---Yes, I had met  
22           the supervisors obviously beforehand. They're the same  
23           supervisors that are there now, that are currently, and  
24           the train presentation manager and train presentation  
25           officer showed me the people, but that was pretty much it,  
26           at that time.  
27   I've just been informed that others who are transcribing these  
28           proceedings are having difficulty with your audio,  
29           Mr Bollas. I'm terribly sorry?---Sorry, do you want me to

1 bring that closer?

2 We are going to have to do something?---Is that better?

3 Can you say your name again, please?---Peter Bollas.

4 COMMISSIONER: Mr Lawrie, we might adjourn for a moment so that

5 the technical people can work on improving the audio.

6 MR LAWRIE: Yes, thank you, Commissioner.

7 (Short adjournment.)

8 COMMISSIONER: Thank you. I think we're ready to proceed

9 again, Mr Lawrie.

10 MR LAWRIE: We are, Commissioner, thank you. Mr Bollas, I was

11 asking you about your arrival and your history at Metro

12 Trains. Now, Mr Pinder arrived at Metro Trains to take up

13 a role there, didn't he?---Yes.

14 Do you recall when he arrived?---Not the exact date, but I know

15 that he left - he arrived whilst the previous GM was

16 there.

17 But you had already started at Metro when Mr Pinder arrived and

18 started at Metro?---Yes.

19 And what was his initial role, as you understood it?---To my

20 knowledge, he took over as the GM of rolling stock when he

21 came on board.

22 Did you report to him?---Yes.

23 Was he your immediate superior or was there someone in between

24 the two of you in the hierarchy?---Immediate.

25 And how frequently would you report to him?---Once a week on a

26 Monday or Tuesday when we had visualisation; via phone

27 when required and as required to close out any tasks that

28 were open, just that kind of frequency.

29 You would have picked up no doubt from Mr Pinder's evidence

1 that you became friends with him to the extent that you  
2 would frequently socialise together; do you agree with  
3 that?---Yes.

4 Can you say approximately when the working relationship changed  
5 into a social relationship where you would go out and  
6 drink or have a dinner?---I can't recall exactly,  
7 Mr Lawrie, but - honestly I can't.

8 That's all right. Do you have a memory, for example, of  
9 working as his subordinate for some years before you  
10 became friends and socialised or was it more quick than  
11 that?---No, it was quicker than that, I would say. It  
12 wasn't some years, no.

13 And as you sit now in the latter half of 2020 how do you  
14 describe your friendship with him, with Mr Pinder?---I'm  
15 not in a good place, Mr Lawrie.

16 Perhaps I'll rephrase the question. You were the subject of a  
17 search warrant that was executed by IBAC investigators on  
18 19 August?---Yes.

19 2020; correct?---Correct.

20 And I take it when you say you're not in a good place you're  
21 referring to events in your life from that day forward; is  
22 that right?---And my relationship with him.

23 So perhaps - - -?---And - sorry, Mr Lawrie, and others.

24 Certainly. So perhaps if I rephrase my question this way.

25 Before all this happened, before you were the subject of  
26 the search warrant and your circumstances changed  
27 substantially in August, prior to August how would you  
28 describe your friendship and relationship with  
29 Mr Pinder?---Yes, it was good.

1 Would you say he was a close mate?---Yes.

2 And at about that time, so perhaps if it helps you to think,  
3 June or July of this year, how would you describe your  
4 relationship with Mr Haritos?---Was an up and down  
5 relationship. A very up and down relationship with  
6 Mr Haritos, myself and him, and some of the transcripts  
7 you played that's evident.

8 I mean, one part of your relationship with Mr Haritos, and  
9 again I'm focusing on, for the ease of your memory, 2020,  
10 up until June or July, one part of your relationship was a  
11 business relationship, wasn't it?---Correct, Mr Lawrie.  
12 Because you at Metro were the manager who was responsible for  
13 contract management of the carriages contract, weren't  
14 you?---Yes.

15 And that included proper performance by Transclean of its  
16 contractual obligations; is that correct?---Yes, myself  
17 and the two people who assist; yes.

18 I'm not suggesting that it was just you; but you had others  
19 within the organisation who would assist you in contract  
20 management in that regard, is that the case?---Yes.

21 As at that time, as at, say, the start of 2020, who did you  
22 know at Transclean?---Most of them. Most of the people  
23 there.

24 Well, can I start obviously with George Haritos?---Yes.

25 You understood him to be the managing director of  
26 Transclean?---Yes.

27 Did he share a directorship with anyone else that you  
28 knew?---I believe so.

29 And would that be Mr Alex Kyritsis?---Yes.

1 Did you understand those two to - either directly or through a  
2 parent company to own Transclean?---I didn't know exactly  
3 how he worked. I know there was an abbreviation, but  
4 I don't know exactly how it was.

5 Is the abbreviation you're referring to AES Pty  
6 Ltd?---I believe so.

7 If you don't remember that's fine, but how does that come into  
8 your memory? When did you first come across AES Pty  
9 Ltd?---Sorry, Mr Lawrie.

10 No, that's all right. If I was to explain to you that AES Pty  
11 Ltd is the parent company that wholly owned Transclean  
12 does that make sense to you? Does that fit at least with  
13 your vague understanding?---It sits on top, is that what  
14 you're saying? It sits on top of Transclean, yes?

15 Yes, all right. As well as Alex Kyritsis did you know of Steve  
16 Kyritsis?---Yes.

17 Obviously related to Alex?---Yes.

18 Was his nephew by marriage; is that right?---I believe so, yes.

19 Marie or Maria, how did you - Maria Tsakopoulos, did you know  
20 her as Marie or Maria?---Marie.

21 And when did you first meet her?---No, I can't remember.

22 Just to be clear, when I ask you a date I don't expect that you  
23 will have a precise date. But if all your memory can do  
24 is say a year or - - -?---A few years, yes.

25 You've known her for a few years?---Correct, yes. Sorry,  
26 Mr Lawrie, just one sec. Tony, the laptop's going to turn  
27 off. Sorry.

28 No, thank you.

29 COMMISSIONER: The trials and tribulations of technology.



1 MR LAWRIE: I was going to say something similar, Commissioner.  
2 We'll get there. I think we've got power in now. What  
3 did you understand Maria - sorry, Marie Tsakopoulos's role  
4 to be at Transclean?---She was one of the supervisors or  
5 one of the managers for one of their divisions, I believe.  
6 A contract manager?---I think so, yes.  
7 She was in fact a contract manager at the Transclean end of  
8 the carriages contract between Transclean and Metro,  
9 wasn't she?---For us, no.  
10 Who was your contract manager?---When I started? When I took  
11 over, is that what you're asking, Mr Lawrie?  
12 Well, we'll start there and if it changes - - -?---  
13  
14 I'm sorry, can you say that name again, the audio  
15 broke?---.  
16 Thank you. Did you understand Marie to have a contract  
17 management role at Transclean?---I thought she was either  
18 a supervisor or some sort of manager. I didn't know  
19 exactly what her role was.  
20 Did you know a ?---No.  
21 Never met him?---No. I've met - Mr Lawrie, I've met a lot of  
22 them. It's just - - -  
23 No, that's all right?---Just to prove it, I've got your name  
24 written here because I'm terrible.  
25 No, that's all right. So if I understand your answer perhaps  
26 you're saying, 'Look, I may have met him but  
27 I now - I wouldn't put the name to that instant of meeting  
28 him'?---Yes.  
29 Because you've met a lot of people at Transclean?---I've met a

1 lot of people that I interacted with for work.

2 Okay. All right. What did you understand to be - no, I'll

3 withdraw that question. Did you ever socialise, that is

4 as a group of three, Mr Haritos, Mr Pinder and

5 yourself?---Yes.

6 Did you have any joint commercial interest?---No.

7 Did you have any joint gambling interests?---No.

8 If you've followed the - - -?---Yes, I know.

9 And that's fine. I'll ask you about this in a moment. You

10 said at the start quite openly, 'Look, I've followed the

11 proceedings over the last two and a half days,' and I said

12 that's fine, that's completely proper. You would have

13 heard Mr Pinder speak at some length about a gambling

14 syndicate?---Correct.

15 That's the three of you?---Correct.

16 What do you say about that evidence?---I was never in a

17 gambling syndicate, Mr Lawrie.

18 Have you ever been in any other gambling syndicate?---I've had

19 horses, Mr Lawrie.

20 But you've never been involved in that way - and I'm not

21 suggesting to be in a punters' club or a gambling

22 syndicate is illegal or improper, but you've never been

23 involved in anything like that with Mr Haritos or

24 Mr Pinder?---No, Mr Lawrie.

25 Okay. You would appreciate that from Mr Pinder's evidence that

26 this purported gambling syndicate provides the source of

27 multiple large cash payments that he received from

28 Mr Haritos; you would have gleaned that from listening to

29 his evidence?---Yes, Mr Lawrie.

1 Have you ever received cash payments from Mr Haritos?---Yes,

2 Mr Lawrie.

3 What were they for?---To assist in - - -

4 I'm sorry?---Pretty much all that evidence you put up,

5 Mr Lawrie, over the last two days. To assist and to grow

6 the business back to what it was.

7 To grow Transclean's business; is that correct?---Yes,

8 Mr Lawrie.

9 Mr Bollas, I'm sure we all appreciate that answer and it will

10 I'm sure reduce the number of matters that I need to take

11 you to. So that's appreciated. But I will still just

12 take you to a few matters of detail, but understanding the

13 position that you've spoken about from the outset. How

14 much cash can you say you've received from Mr Haritos, and

15 I appreciate if you can't put an exact number on it, but

16 if you can estimate as best you can how much cash in total

17 do you think you've received?---A hundred and fifty.

18 And - - -?---That's not in once, yes; it's over a period.

19 I understand. So when you say 150 you're talking \$150,000

20 approximately?---That's correct, Mr Lawrie.

21 And as best you can say over what period of time?---Three, four

22 years. Three, I think; three and a half I think it was.

23 Were the payments a regular amount or not?---Yes. Well, yes.

24 Okay?---I'd say yes.

25 And perhaps I'm being a bit too precise there. I mean, they

26 may have varied from time to time, but generally were they

27 of the same amount?---Yes.

28 Is what you're saying? What was that amount?---Either eight or

29 10.

1 And how frequently would you receive that? Was there an  
2 arrangement for frequency?---The arrangement was every  
3 month, Mr Lawrie, but it didn't find that - that didn't  
4 occur like that.

5 So the arrangement was eight to 10,000 every month, but  
6 sometimes months would be missed; is that what you're  
7 saying?---Yes, Mr Lawrie.

8 Those months that were missed, was that because Mr Haritos was  
9 unable to pay on those occasions because of cash flow  
10 problems at Transclean?---I don't know.

11 Okay. Did you ask him why it wasn't happening that month? Did  
12 he offer an explanation?---I don't think I asked,  
13 Mr Lawrie. No.

14 You would have heard me play yesterday a fairly lengthy  
15 conversation between you and Mr Bollas where there's a  
16 discussion about 50 each?---Yes.

17 Do you recall watching that evidence?---Yes.

18 And Mr Pinder said, well, that was you suggesting that you go  
19 to Mr Haritos to seek an extra \$50,000 each?---Correct.

20 And that he played - essentially you were blowing off steam or  
21 you were agitated and he was playing along to calm you  
22 down or to pacify you; is that how you would characterise  
23 that phone call?---Yes and no. I was very stressed at  
24 that period of my life, yes. There was a lot happening,  
25 working 12 to 15-hour days. There was a lot happening.

26 And we can hear that in some of your phone calls that you're  
27 obviously very, can I say this, frustrated with George  
28 Haritos and frustrated with Transclean and their level of  
29 performance; is that a fair summary?---Yes.

1 And that particular conversation also comes at a time in March  
2 of this year when cleaning services were being  
3 substantially ramped up in response to the COVID-19  
4 pandemic new cleaning requirements, yes?---Correct.

5 And you speak with Mr Pinder about the substantial extra  
6 payments that are being made to Transclean as a result of  
7 that extra work, don't you? I think you say it's  
8 1.4 million a month and he says it's half a million a  
9 month from his end?---Yes.

10 That is the V/Line end. And that, notwithstanding some of the  
11 work being provided at a discount, that Transclean and  
12 Mr Haritos have to be making a substantial amount of  
13 additional profit because of the new circumstances; is  
14 that right?---Yes, Mr Lawrie. By the way, that was just  
15 an assumption of mine.

16 Well, I think we can follow the logic of that assumption. And  
17 so it's in that context that there's this discussion about  
18 seeking the extra 50,000 each, isn't there?---Yes,  
19 Mr Lawrie.

20 Did Mr Pinder make it clear to you that it was to be him that  
21 would make the approach to Mr Haritos to seek the extra  
22 payment?---No, I asked him to do it, didn't I? It's in  
23 the recording and the transcript.

24 Well, at the start of that conversation can I suggest this,  
25 there's a little bit of tension between you and Mr Pinder  
26 about who's to make the approach and whether or not you've  
27 made an approach first or whether he's to make the  
28 approach to Haritos; do you agree with that?---Yes.

29 And so was it the understanding that it would be Mr Pinder that

1 would make the approach to Haritos for that  
2 purpose?---I think the conversation was clear on the  
3 audio.  
4 Yes, okay. At the end of that audio Mr Pinder leaves you with  
5 the impression that he's going to go off and make that  
6 approach; that's what you understood would happen?---Yes,  
7 Mr Lawrie.  
8 Did anything ever come of this conversation? Was there an  
9 additional payment that you received over and above your  
10 eight to \$10,000 per month?---Yes, Mr Lawrie.  
11 What additional payment - I'm sorry, I'm sure you would have  
12 heard the reference to the sprinkle and the Christmas  
13 bonus?---Yes.  
14 And those terms are used in this same context, aren't they,  
15 this approach to Haritos for this extra amount,  
16 yes?---Yes, Mr Lawrie.  
17 So from your end what came of all this in terms of an  
18 additional cash payment?---An extra 10,000.  
19 When did you get that? Look, if you can't remember the date,  
20 don't worry about it but - - -?---(Indistinct) before he  
21 came to my house.  
22 I'm sorry?---Two to three weeks before he came to my house.  
23 Certainly.  
24 MR HARGREAVES: Commissioner, would it be possible for  
25 Mr Bollas to have a break, please, sir?  
26 COMMISSIONER: Yes, I was just going to ask would you like to  
27 have a break for a few minutes, Mr Bollas?---Yes.  
28 We'll adjourn for 10 minutes, Mr Hargreaves.  
29 MR HARGREAVES: Thank you, sir.

1 (Short adjournment.)

2 COMMISSIONER: Are you ready to proceed, Mr Bollas?---Yes,  
3 Commissioner.

4 Very good. Yes, Mr Lawrie.

5 MR LAWRIE: Thank you, Commissioner. Mr Bollas, you spoke  
6 briefly about the gambling syndicate that you were a  
7 member of with Mr Pinder and [REDACTED]?---I never said  
8 that, but yes.

9 Sorry, I may have got that wrong. But you were a member of a  
10 different gambling syndicate at some stage, were  
11 you?---Correct.

12 COMMISSIONER: I don't think he suggested it was one involving  
13 Mr - - -

14 MR LAWRIE: I may have got that wrong. I may have got that  
15 wrong. Do you know who the members were of that  
16 syndicate?---My understanding was the three of us.

17 Who's the three of you?---Myself - James organised it all,  
18 [REDACTED] and myself.

19 So that's the three members of the other syndicate. What sort  
20 of money was involved in that? And don't think that I'm  
21 suggesting that it's an illegal activity; it's not?---What  
22 do you mean - - -

23 I just want to understand what was at play, whether it was \$20,  
24 100 or 1,000?---You bet your own money, my understanding  
25 was.

26 Okay. And how much would you bet?---A couple of hundred here,  
27 a couple ever hundred there, depending. It wasn't the  
28 best horse.

29 And how successful was it? How much did you take out of the

1 pool?---What do you mean by that, Mr Lawrie? I don't  
2 understand the question, sorry?  
3 Were you pooling your money to make joint wages, joint  
4 bets?---Wages? Sorry?  
5 Were you making joint bets, like - I'll start again. This  
6 syndicate that you've just spoken about, were you pooling  
7 your money to make particular bets?---No. Well, we might  
8 have bet for one another every so often.

9 COMMISSIONER: Is it relevant, Mr Lawrie?

10 MR LAWRIE: It is just to be clear about something,  
11 Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER: All right. Very good.

13 MR LAWRIE: So what you're talking about is an arrangement that  
14 doesn't involve contributions and payouts from a kitty or  
15 a pool?---No.

16 All right. And so it couldn't possibly be confused with what  
17 you heard Mr Pinder describing?---No.

18 In 2020 you were looking at the performance of Transclean in  
19 respect of its cleaning of Metro trains in March, weren't  
20 you?---As part of my duties, yes.

21 Were you concerned about the level of service of the actual  
22 cleaning activities that were being performed by  
23 Transclean ?---Yes.

24 What were your concerns?---I don't go on night shift, but  
25 I started going because of what was happening in that  
26 period of time, and I was concerned not just for them but  
27 for Metro as well. Metro's only got two - apart from  
28 myself, there's a train presentation manager and a train  
29 presentation officer. We've asked for more people. We



1 never got them. So without supervision in particular  
2 locations people do what they want, come when they want.  
3 So, in my opinion, the quality wasn't there. The cleaning  
4 was there, they cleaned well, but the quality wasn't  
5 there, if that makes sense.

6 In one of the telephone conversations you've had with Mr Pinder  
7 we heard you saying to him that they weren't even  
8 spraying. What was that a reference to?---So they were  
9 spraying, but when they were - they were spraying, but it  
10 was looking like they were doing it so quickly - - -  
11 Yes?---You with me?

12 COMMISSIONER: Sorry, Mr Bollas, you're now talking about  
13 cleaning during the COVID period, are you?---That's  
14 correct, Commissioner.

15 MR LAWRIE: And you could tell quite clearly that it was a  
16 perfunctory or, you know, a superficial go at the spray?  
17 It wasn't going to be good enough to do what it was  
18 intended to do?---We were doing it more than what we had  
19 to at the period of time, but it wasn't what we asked for.  
20 Were they meant to put on a fourth person on these cleaning  
21 crews rather than just three people?---That was my mistake  
22 as well in that conversation. What I found out later was  
23 they had extra people or they had extra time on it. So  
24 they utilised the same people and they either came an hour  
25 or two hours earlier or an hour later or they stayed - or  
26 there wasn't someone at all.

27 All right?---But it varied by locations as well because people  
28 moved because of the number of trains at locations.

29 Okay. Look, I might come back to that in a little while if

1 I may, but for the moment can I just return - - -

2 COMMISSIONER: I'm sorry, just this, Mr Lawrie, we heard  
3 evidence in the last two days that because of the needs in  
4 the COVID pandemic situation there needed to be increased  
5 cleaning services provided, and we heard discussion  
6 between you and Mr Pinder about Mr Haritos looking to get  
7 additional work. Did he get that additional work to  
8 address those COVID needs?---Sorry, Commissioner, can you  
9 rephrase that for me, please?

10 Yes. There was some discussion in one or more of the  
11 transcripts that's been played - - -?---Yes.

12 About there being increased work for Transclean to address the  
13 COVID needs?---Yes.

14 Did Transclean get that increased work?---Yes.

15 And how was that achieved?---So I was asked by the general  
16 manager of rolling stock to go and get a price list of all  
17 the criterias that were brought to me, which was - do you  
18 want me to go through every single one, Commissioner?

19 No, no, just talk in the general will be fine?---So they asked  
20 for the criteria. We sat down with Transclean. They  
21 worked out a price and a beat rate of how they're going to  
22 do it in line with what was coming out of the DHHS at the  
23 time. Then I took it back and I emailed it to my manager,  
24 who forwarded it on to obviously higher up.

25 Higher up in Metro, do you mean?---Yes.

26 Yes. And was it clear that Transclean would be required to do  
27 this work?---Yes, they're the ones that - well, it's quite  
28 difficult to get anyone else at such a fast beat rate due  
29 to the fact that there's so many multiple sites, so many

1 multiple locations, keys, access cards, storage; it's not  
2 as easy as just picking up another X amount of cleaners  
3 from another contract and just plonking them in there,  
4 especially with having only a train presentation manager  
5 and a train presentation officer. It's an impossibility.

6 Yes. And the evidence you gave a few moments ago about the  
7 efficiency or the adequacy of the work that was being  
8 done, that related to that additional work, did  
9 it?---Correct.

10 Yes, thank you.

11 MR LAWRIE: Mr Bollas, I want to return, please, to the first  
12 issue really that we were speaking about, which is the  
13 regular cash payments from George Haritos. Did you and  
14 Mr Pinder, apart from the conversation that we've already  
15 spoken about, the extra 50, did you speak about the  
16 regular cash payments with him?---Yes.

17 How often would you do that?---Once a week, once a fortnight,  
18 once every three weeks, depending on what was happening,  
19 Mr Lawrie.

20 What did you understand to be the arrangement as between  
21 Mr Haritos and Mr Pinder for cash payments? Was it the  
22 same as yours or different?---Correct.

23 It was the same as yours, was it?---Correct.

24 So that is eight to \$10,000 per month?---Correct.

25 Albeit that some months were missed?---Correct.

26 COMMISSIONER: Again, forgive me, Mr Lawrie, but can I just get  
27 clarification about one thing, Mr Bollas?---Yes.

28 I think you said to Mr Lawrie that you thought this arrangement  
29 went on for three or four years; is that so?---Yes, three

1 and a half, four years, somewhere in there.  
2 Something like that?---Yes.  
3 And there were occasions when he didn't make the monthly  
4 payment. How often did he not make the monthly payment?  
5 How frequently did he not do a monthly payment?---It would  
6 vary, Mr Commissioner. I went through my text messages,  
7 which you guys have got, and I tried to have a look at  
8 when and how and what. It varied. Honestly, it varied.  
9 Could you give us a rough idea of over that three and a half  
10 year period how often he didn't meet his monthly  
11 obligation?---Like I said to Tony, probably 50 in a year,  
12 maybe - - -  
13 I'm sorry?---Sorry, Commissioner?  
14 I didn't quite catch that. How many in a year?---I can only  
15 speak for myself. I don't know - probably 50K a year.  
16 MR LAWRIE: So what you were promised, if I can put it that  
17 way, from Mr Haritos was eight to 10,000 a month but it  
18 only materialised as about 50,000 a year; is that a  
19 correct summary?---Mr Lawrie, I would be lying to you if  
20 I tell you it was exactly 50 or - - -  
21 I appreciate that. But this is not meant to be more precise  
22 than it's made out to be. But by what you're saying it  
23 sounds like every other month he might miss the monthly  
24 obligation; would that be about right?---Probably, yes.  
25 COMMISSIONER: And if he missed a month it was not made up  
26 thereafter?---No.  
27 I asked you because on a very rough calculation, Mr Bollas, if  
28 he was making - just to take the lower figure of \$8,000 a  
29 month, that's just shy of \$100,000 a year. So if he was

1 making his payments every month for three and a half years  
2 we wouldn't be talking about 150,000; we would be talking  
3 about 350,000, wouldn't we?---Like I said to Tony, for  
4 that three-year period I'd say - again only going through  
5 all my text messages, and you guys have got all those,  
6 it's not hard to work out, I'm sure you've already done  
7 it, that's what it looks like. Again, if you want to hold  
8 me to that number, hold me to that number.

9 No, no, we're just trying to get a general idea of your  
10 position, Mr Bollas.

11 MR LAWRIE: Thank you, Commissioner. Mr Bollas, do you recall  
12 the start of this arrangement, how it came into being, and  
13 by that I mean who approached who and who proposed it and  
14 who accepted it?---Mr Lawrie, if you asked me at the start  
15 of the year when my mind was clearer, you know, I would  
16 probably give you an answer.

17 That's all right?---It's like a beaten egg up there now.

18 What I'll endeavour to do is not provide you with just hard  
19 memory tests but I'll try to ask questions that may best  
20 lead to an answer that you can recall. Do you think that  
21 you played a part in negotiating the arrangement with  
22 Mr Haritos?---I don't believe so. I don't know who did.  
23 I can't recall. But I know I didn't.

24 Do you remember your first conversation with Mr Pinder after  
25 the arrangement came into being?---With Mr Pinder?

26 Yes?---No, Mr Lawrie. Honestly.

27 COMMISSIONER: Your current position, Mr Bollas, is you can't  
28 remember exactly when it started or how it came about, but  
29 it's been an arrangement going on for a long

1 time?---That's correct, Commissioner.

2 MR LAWRIE: Was the arrangement in place whilst Mr Pinder was  
3 at Metro or only after he had come back and joined  
4 V/Line?---I don't know.

5 That's all right?---I don't know. I don't know if he was - - -  
6 And I'm talking about your knowledge of it?---If I had  
7 knowledge of it?

8 Yes?---I don't know. They had, it's clear, a different  
9 relationship than what I had with George.

10 If I can put it this way. Do you think that Mr Pinder had the  
11 lead relationship with Mr Haritos when you consider the  
12 three of you as a group? Is that a fair characterisation  
13 or do you disagree with it?---No, I don't disagree.

14 COMMISSIONER: We saw, Mr Bollas, a number of times in your  
15 conversations that were played today and yesterday that  
16 when you were talking about going back to Mr Haritos the  
17 suggestion was that Mr Pinder should take the issue up  
18 with him alone, not with you present. Was that commonly  
19 the case?---Yes. Yes, Commissioner.

20 And was that because you're relationship with Mr Haritos was a  
21 bit up and down and a bit more prickly?---Yes,  
22 Commissioner.

23 MR LAWRIE: There was some talk in the same conversation when  
24 you discussed with Mr Pinder about the additional 50,000  
25 each about an apartment. Do you remember the reference to  
26 the apartment?---Do I remember?

27 Yes?---That he said 'you spoke about apartments'?

28 So I'm talking about the evidence that's been played  
29 yesterday?---Yes, Mr Lawrie.

1 You recall that particular phone call?---Yes.  
2 Where you're speaking about the potential for the extra \$50,000  
3 each, and Mr Pinder introduces the notion at some stage  
4 there was an apartment being spoken of. Do you remember  
5 that, in that phone conversation that was played?---Yes,  
6 Mr Lawrie.  
7 What was that a reference to?---To get an apartment.  
8 And who was to get the apartment?---James and myself.  
9 Together?---Yes.  
10 And when was that prospect being floated? Years before or at  
11 about the same time?---No, not years before.  
12 I'm sorry?---Not years before, Mr Lawrie. I would say roughly  
13 that period of time. Roughly that period of time.  
14 Okay. Did that ever eventuate as far as you were  
15 concerned?---Never, Mr Lawrie.  
16 I'm sorry?---Never, Mr Lawrie.  
17 Did you ever become aware of any financial arrangement between  
18 Transclean or Mr Haritos and James Pinder over and above  
19 the monthly payments - - -?---Only when I started watching  
20 IBAC.  
21 I was about to say in respect of his house?---Only when  
22 I started watching IBAC.  
23 He never spoke to you about a loan or any other financial  
24 arrangement or any direct payment from  
25 Transclean?---Never.  
26 Associated with the - - -?---You've got my text messages,  
27 Mr Lawrie. You see what I offered him.  
28 You know when he bought his house, don't you, in  
29 Williamstown?---When he bought it?

1 Yes. Back in December 2018?---Yes, it was in 2018, yes, late,  
2 yes.  
3 And then it didn't settle until early 2019. Did you lend him  
4 money at about that time?---Yes, sir.  
5 How much did you lend him?---Twenty thousand.  
6 And was that your own cash money?---Yes, that came out of  
7 my - I'm sure you've got the records. It came out of my -  
8 the redraw of our house.  
9 Your redraw against your home mortgage?---You know how you've  
10 got when you pay extra - we've always paid extra, trying  
11 to keep on top of things just in case something happens.  
12 Did he pay that back?---Yes.  
13 Did he speak to you about any other - well, he must have said  
14 to you something that he was short on the deposit or short  
15 on the settlement, mustn't he?---Correct. That's all he  
16 said. He goes, 'I need your help. Any chance? I don't  
17 want to ring anyone else. Any chance I could borrow?'  
18 I go, 'Yes, you can borrow, but for how long?' And it was  
19 12 months.  
20 Okay?---It took a little bit longer as you know, Mr Lawrie,  
21 but - - -  
22 That's all right. Did you receive - was it always Mr Haritos  
23 that was delivering the cash to you?---No.  
24 Monthly payments. Who else was delivering cash to  
25 you?---James.  
26 James Pinder?---Yes.  
27 So would sometimes on some occasions would he take both his  
28 share and your share and then deliver your share to  
29 you?---I would either go and pick it up or it would get



1 delivered.

2 Okay. On how many occasions did you receive the cash directly  
3 from Mr Haritos compared to getting it passed on by  
4 Mr Pinder?---Not many. Not many. Just I think a couple -  
5 a couple of times this year. Not many.

6 So on the majority of occasions the cash from Mr Haritos was  
7 passed to you by Mr Pinder; is that right?---Yes.

8 Much of the phone calls that we've played over the last two  
9 days have involved a telephone that was operated by  
10 Mr Pinder but subscribed in the name of Marie Tsakopoulos;  
11 you're aware of that? We've called it a burner phone or a  
12 secret phone?---I heard when you guys spoke about it, yes.  
13 I thought it was - like, I've got my personal phone.  
14 I thought it was his personal phone.

15 And there's also been a series of text messages that were  
16 played this morning, a sequence some months apart, about  
17 you enquiring about a job at V/Line with James  
18 Pinder?---Yes.

19 In that second text exchange he corrects you and says 'wrong  
20 phone'. Do you recall that coming up this  
21 morning?---Correct.

22 Did you have instructions about a particular phone to  
23 communicate with - - -?---I've only got those two numbers  
24 in my phone. You've seen them. I've got those two  
25 numbers in my phone, and I didn't know what he was talking  
26 about.

27 Did you know that he was - just to be clear, did you know that  
28 he was operating a secret phone or not provided by  
29 Haritos?---No. I didn't know a lot of things, Mr Lawrie.

1 Fair enough. On the occasions that Mr Pinder would deliver the  
2 cash to you what were the circumstances of those meetings?  
3 Where would you meet?---Just at a coffee shop or just  
4 stuff like that. Nothing - - -  
5 Okay. Your residence was the subject of a search warrant that  
6 was executed on 19 August of 2020; that's  
7 correct?---That's correct, Mr Lawrie.  
8 And during the search investigators uncovered a quantity of  
9 cash that was in a duffle bag; is that right?---Yes, in a  
10 bag. I just call it a bag. You guys call it a duffle  
11 bag.  
12 Okay. And it was bundled apparently in five and \$10,000  
13 increments; is that right?---Correct, Mr Lawrie.  
14 Can you say how much in total the cash was that was  
15 found?---When they asked me I didn't know exactly, but it  
16 was either 55 or 65, Mr Lawrie.  
17 And whose cash is that?---So 15 of that - and I spoke to Tony  
18 about this, 15 of that was and I say still is my mother's.  
19 It's her money. And the other was the money that I got  
20 and I've been saving.  
21 I see. So I appreciate you can't be precise about the total  
22 amount without me putting a total to you, but from your  
23 evidence something in the order of \$40,000 or thereabouts  
24 represents what you've put away from the direct payments  
25 from Haritos to you which on most occasions have been  
26 delivered via Mr Pinder?---No, not just delivered. Also  
27 I went and picked them up.  
28 Sorry, you picked them up from Mr Pinder?---I either picked  
29 them up or they got delivered.

1 But, either way, they have been given or they have been passed  
2 on to you by him?---Yes, but a couple of times at the end,  
3 like I said, I've got some from George.  
4 Okay. Did Mr Pinder ever talk to you about how much he was  
5 putting away, that is putting away as a saved  
6 amount?---No, Mr Lawrie.  
7 Did he ever speak to you about what he was spending the cash  
8 on?---No.  
9 Do you yourself visit the casino?---Yes, I go, but not like  
10 they would go.  
11 Does Mr Pinder visit the casino, to your knowledge?---Yes. He  
12 used to a lot.  
13 Sorry, he used to do it lots?---A lot.  
14 How much is a lot? Weekly visits or - - -?---Weekly visits,  
15 Mr Lawrie.  
16 Did he talk to you about how much - how active he was at the  
17 casino?---He just said 'good weekend' or 'bad weekend' or,  
18 you know, like, in passing, not in a serious conversation  
19 yeah, like, 'I won \$1.55.' It was just, 'Did you have a  
20 good weekend?' Yes. I went to the cas. Had a great  
21 time.'  
22 Did he give you or did he tell you amounts to give you an idea  
23 whether, when he had a good night, it was \$100, 1,000 or  
24 10,000?---No, Mr Lawrie.  
25 I'm sorry?---No, no.  
26 So when he said he was having a good night you had no idea what  
27 that meant in dollar terms?---Correct.  
28 Okay. Did you get an idea of how much he might have been  
29 spending when he was having a bad night?---No.

1 Can I just come back for a moment to that job offer that you  
2 were discussing with him in 2017 and then went over to  
3 2018; that is, the potential for you to pick up a spot at  
4 Transclean?---Yes. What, sorry?  
5 Sorry, potential for you to pick up a spot at V/Line, my  
6 apologies?---Yes.  
7 You were seriously investigating the potential to move from  
8 Metro to V/Line, weren't you?---There was a lot of people  
9 leaving Metro at the time; a lot of people coming to Metro  
10 at the time from various places. Yes, an opportunity is  
11 an opportunity, you would say, in the job.  
12 And in the second text message exchange in January of 2018 you  
13 actually get down to tintacks, if I can put it that way.  
14 You start talking potential figures - - -?---Yes.  
15 Of 225,000 or 250,000 and whether there's a car in there as  
16 well. What expectation did you have of whether Mr Pinder  
17 could deliver that job to you if that's what you  
18 wanted?---No, I didn't think he could do it. I met - no.  
19 But he was telling you that he could do it, wasn't he?---Yes,  
20 Mr Lawrie.  
21 You didn't make that move?---No.  
22 Is there any reason why you didn't make that move?---No  
23 particular reason. I've always said the grass isn't  
24 greener. Definitely not greener now, Mr Lawrie.  
25 Commissioner - - -  
26 COMMISSIONER: Yes, I note the time. There's just one matter  
27 I wanted to raise before we adjourn, Mr Lawrie.  
28 Mr Bollas, in one of the conversations that you will have  
29 heard played you and Mr Pinder talk about having been

1 handfeeding Mr Haritos, Transclean, for the last four or  
2 five years, I think it's handfeeding him stuff on a plate,  
3 and that's in the context of then the discussion of going  
4 back to him and asking for another 50. In the most  
5 general terms what were you or Mr Pinder doing that  
6 Mr Haritos thought was worthwhile rewarding you in the way  
7 in which he has? What were you doing for Transclean?---We  
8 were promoting his business - I was. I speak for myself.  
9 I know what I was doing.

10 Yes?---Promoting, helping him a lot in relation to learning how  
11 to be more progressive in the new cleaning regimes and  
12 what-have-you; overlooking any issues, one would say, and  
13 you made that clear when you brought that up earlier.

14 So he would have perceived you as facilitating Transclean  
15 continuing to have a good reputation that would keep work  
16 coming in his direction?---Yes.

17 MR LAWRIE: And perhaps not imperil the existing  
18 contracts?---Pardon? Sorry?

19 Perhaps not imperil the existing contracts?---Correct.

20 Just before we break, did Mr Pinder talk to you about  
21 Transclean's winning of the V/Line contract?---No, never.

22 Is that a convenient time, Commissioner?

23 COMMISSIONER: It is. Mr Bollas, we'll see you then at  
24 10 o'clock tomorrow. I note that you have a  
25 confidentiality notice which accompanied your summons.  
26 But I wouldn't require that that precludes you from  
27 talking to your wife or your immediate family about the  
28 issues that you're facing. Do you follow? But it's  
29 really important that, outside your family, you do not

1 speak to anyone about the issues that have been explored  
2 or that you anticipate are going to be explored; do you  
3 follow?---Yes, Commissioner.

4 Very good. We'll adjourn then until 10 am tomorrow morning.

5 <(THE WITNESS WITHDREW)

6 ADJOURNED UNTIL THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2020

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