



**CORONERS COURT
OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Inquest:	Inquest into the disappearance and suspected death of Ms Revelle Sabine Balmain
Hearing dates:	29-30 April 2024, 1-3 May 2024, 2-4 February 2026
Date of findings:	31 July 2026
Place of findings:	Coroners Court of New South Wales, Lidcombe
Findings of:	Judge Joan Baptie, Deputy State Coroner
Catchwords:	CORONIAL LAW – long term missing person – whether missing person is deceased – whether findings with regards to identity, date, place, cause, and manner of death can be made – circumstances of disappearance – possible homicide – whether there is sufficient evidence to enliven <i>Coroners Act 2009</i> section 78(1) and (4).
File number:	1994/00125145
Representation:	Counsel assisting the Coroner: Mr Matthew Johnson SC and Ms Rebecca McMahon, instructed by Ms C Healey-Nash and Ms I McArdle-Pearson of the NSW Crown Solicitor's Office Commissioner of Police, NSW Police Force: Ms Emma Sullivan, instructed by Ms Alaana Wooldridge (Office of General Counsel) Ms Jane King: Mr Bryan Wrench (Murphy's Lawyers Inc.) Mr Zoran Stanojevic: Mr Matthew Lorkin, Solicitor

	Mr Gavin Samer: Mr Pierre de Dassel, instructed by Mr Richard Cummins, Solicitor
Non-publication orders:	A significant number of orders and notations made by the Court prohibit the publication and/or restrict release of evidence tendered in the coronial proceedings. The orders and notations can be obtained on application to the Coroners Court registry.
Findings:	Identity The person who died was Revelle Sabine Balmain. Date of death Revelle Balmain died on or around 5 November 1994. Place of death I am unable to determine the place of Revelle Balmain's death. Cause of death I am unable to determine the cause of Revelle Balmain's death. Manner of death I am unable to determine the manner of Revelle Balmain's death.
Recommendations:	To the Commissioner of Police, NSW Police Force 1. That the death of Revelle Balmain be referred to the Unsolved Homicide Unit of the NSW Police Force Homicide Squad for further investigation in accordance with the protocols and procedures of that Team.

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The Coroners Act 2009 (NSW) pursuant to section 81(1) requires that when an inquest is held, the coroner must record in writing his or her findings as to various aspects of the death. These are the findings of an inquest into the disappearance and suspected death of Ms Revelle Sabine Balmain.

Introduction

- 1 This inquest concerns the disappearance and suspected death of Ms Revelle Sabine Balmain.
- 2 Ms Balmain was born on 11 July 1972. Ms Balmain was last known to be alive in the early evening of 5 November 1994. There has been no evidence proffered to this inquest to suggest that Ms Balmain is alive.
- 3 An earlier inquest was held in 1998-1999. A number of witnesses were called during those proceedings. At the conclusion of that inquest, Deputy State Coroner (**DSC**) Abernethy (as he then was) concluded on 28 May 1999 that in relation to the date and time of Ms Balmain's death:

“I am satisfied that Revelle Balmain probably died in New South Wales somewhere, highly possibly either in Sydney or its environs, but the evidence doesn't enable me to be more precise than that. I am satisfied that she died on or about 5 November, very possibly on the night of five November 1994.”
- 4 On 26 November 2021, the State Coroner, Judge O'Sullivan, considered and granted an application prepared by the officer in charge of the ongoing investigation, Detective Chief Inspector Bell (**DCI Bell**), seeking a fresh inquest into the circumstances surrounding Ms Balmain's disappearance and likely death.
- 5 Section 83 of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW) (**the Act**) empowers the State Coroner to conduct a fresh inquest “even though the death or suspected death was previously the subject of another inquest.”
- 6 Section 83(4) provides that an inquest must be held if:
 - (a) an application for a fresh inquest or inquiry is made under this section, and
 - (b) on the basis of the application, the State Coroner is of the opinion that the discovery of new evidence or facts makes it necessary or desirable in the interests of justice to hold a fresh inquest or inquiry.
- 7 The findings of a fresh inquest “may be expressed to be in addition to or in substitution for the findings on any previous inquest...”

- 8 The Act requires a coroner to investigate all reportable deaths and to make findings as to the person's identity; as well as when and how the person died. A coroner is also required to identify the manner and cause of the person's death. In addition, a coroner may make recommendations, based on the evidence presented during the inquest, which may improve public health and safety.
- 9 This inquest into Ms Balmain's death is mandatory due to the enlivening of both section 83(4) and section 27(1)(a), (c) and (d) of the Act.
- 10 Section 27 (1) requires an inquest to be held in any of the following circumstances:
- (a) if it appears to the coroner concerned that the person died or might have died as a result of homicide (not including suicide),
 - (b)
 - (c) if it appears to the coroner concerned that:
 - (i) it has not been sufficiently disclosed whether the person has died, or
 - (ii) the person's identity and the date and place of the person's death have not been sufficiently disclosed,
 - (d) if it appears to the coroner concerned that the manner and cause of the person's death have not been sufficiently disclosed...
- 11 Although DSC Abernethy was "satisfied that (Ms Balmain's) death was in (the) nature of a homicide," he was unable to determine the cause and manner of Ms Balmain's death.
- 12 During these proceedings, a 10-volume brief of evidence containing statements, Records of Interview, photographs, transcripts from the 1998-99 inquest and other documentation, was tendered in court and admitted into evidence. In addition, oral evidence was received from the following witnesses:
- DCI Bell;
 - Jane King (formerly Stanojevic);
 - Zoran Stanojevic;
 - Kate Brentnall;
 - Piers Fisher-Pollard;
 - Zoe Brock;
 - Adam Irwin;

- Former Select Companions escort “Sophie”;
- Former Select Companions escort “Sloane”;
- Former Select Companions escort “Chevon”;
- Former Select Companions receptionist “Danielle”;
- Ms VA, a former resident of McNair Avenue;
- Isabel Ritchie;
- Gavin Samer;
- Former Select Companions escort “Jade”.

- 13 All the material placed before the Court has been thoroughly reviewed and considered. I have been greatly assisted by the written submissions prepared by counsel assisting, Mr Matthew Johnson SC and Ms Rebecca McMahon, and Ms Emma Sullivan on behalf of the Commissioner of Police. At times, I have embraced their descriptions in these findings.
- 14 I would like to express my sincere condolences to Ms Balmain’s family. Ms Balmain’s parents are now deceased and never knew what happened to their dearly beloved daughter. Ms Balmain’s sister, Ms Suellen Simpson told the Court of her anger, heartache and enduring uncertainty surrounding her sister’s disappearance. This uncertainty “caused long-lasting distress for her family, with unresolved questions about justice adding to ongoing emotional pain. Ms Simpson has been unwavering in her determination to ascertain the circumstances of her sister’s death and identify those responsible for her death. I acknowledge the sense of profound loss and anguish experienced by Ms Simpson and Ms Balmain’s friends.
- 15 Ms Simpson described Ms Balmain as “a cherished family member, a classically trained dancer since the age of three...She was also an aspiring model with great potential for a bright future.”
- 16 I hope that Ms Balmain’s memory has been honoured by the careful examination of the circumstances surrounding her death and the lessons that have been learned from the circumstances of her passing.

A brief overview of Ms Balmain’s life

- 17 Ms Balmain was born on 11 July 1972, to her parents, Mrs Jan Balmain and Mr Ivor Balmain. Her mother was a highly qualified dance teacher as well as a dancer, trained in classical ballet, jazz and tap. Her father was a World War Two Veteran, and a chef, waiter and maître d’.

- 18 Ms Balmain has a sister, Ms Suellen Simpson. Ms Balmain had a younger brother, Matthew, who died accidentally at the age of 17 months.
- 19 Ms Balmain was also a classically trained dancer since the age of three.
- 20 Ms Balmain continued to work professionally as a dancer and a model after she had finished her schooling. In 1994, Ms Balmain's began modelling with Satellite Model Agency and appeared to be on the cover of 'Oyster' magazine.
- 21 In 1994, Ms Balmain commenced working part-time as an escort at VIP Escorts and later at Select Companions.
- 22 Ms Balmain was residing with a flatmate, Mr Geoffrey Spears at Bellevue Hill.
- 23 In early October 1994, Ms Balmain commenced a personal relationship with Mr Piers Fisher-Pollard. According to Ms Balmain's close friends, they appeared to be very committed to each other.

List of issues considered during the inquest

- 24 The following list of issues was prepared before the proceedings commenced and were considered and provided focus during the inquest, namely:
1. Is Revelle Balmain deceased?
 2. What were the manner and cause of Ms Balmain's death?
 3. Identifying information relating to the identity of persons involved with the disappearance or death of Ms Balmain including:
 - i. Persons working with Select Companions;
 - ii. Persons associated with Select Companions;
 - iii. Persons who had contact with Ms Balmain in the days leading up to her death;
 - iv. Persons who intended to meet Ms Balmain following her appointment with Mr Gavin Samer.
 4. Whether Bojan Prvulovic, Shemsadim Krasniqi or any other person was involved with the disappearance or death of Ms Balmain.
 5. Relating to (1) – (4), is there sufficient evidence to satisfy the elements of section 78 of the Coroners Act 2009 to refer known person(s) to the Director of Public Prosecutions for potential prosecution?
 6. What findings should be made pursuant to section 81(1) of the Coroners Act 2009?

7. Should any recommendations be made pursuant to section 82 of the Coroners Act 2009?

Manner and Cause of Death – Original Findings

25 The manner and cause of Ms Balmain's death was the focus of this inquest.

26 DSC Abernethy concluded in his Findings in 1999, that:

"The evidence does not enable me to say just how she died, so I am satisfied that her death was in nature of a homicide. There had been no plausible motive advanced and I certainly cannot accept that there existed some sort of plausible motive on the part of either her former employers or for that matter, Mr Samer. Her former employers gave evidence and I have no reason to disbelieve the totality of their evidence. In fact, though she may have owed some money to her employers, the amount was insignificant and certainly insufficient to provide a real meaningful motive for her death or a reason for her to disappear. The fact that she seems to have been moonlighting for the last hour with Mr Samer was probably quite unknown to her employers until sometime later. The evidence of Coughlan, [REDACTED] and Bayliss and others is inherently unreliable and I rejected.

Whilst the evidence makes me suspicious of Gavin Samer, as I have said it is insufficient to establish a prima facie case against him in respect of an indictable offence. Whilst Mr Samer certainly had the opportunity to kill Ms Balmain, and rightly in my view is the main person of interest, there is no possible motive proved."

Police Investigation Timeline

27 At 3pm on 5 November 1994, Mr Gavin Samer contacted the Select Companions agency and made a booking with the receptionist, Danielle (a pseudonym). Danielle contacted Ms Balmain who accepted the engagement with Mr Samer.

28 At 3.50pm, Ms Balmain contacted Danielle to advise her that she had arrived at Mr Samer's residence at McNair Avenue, Kingsford.

29 At 5.50pm, Ms Balmain contacted Danielle to advise her that she was leaving Mr Samer's residence.

30 Mr Samer subsequently told investigating police that Ms Balmain had agreed to remain for another hour, without Ms Balmain advising the Select Companions agency. He indicated that he drove Ms Balmain to the nearby Red Tomato Inn in Kingsford at around 7pm.

- 31 At 7pm, a friend of Ms Balmain, Ms Kate Brentnall, contacted Ms Balmain's pager service. At 7.15pm, Ms Balmain called Ms Brentnall's phone and confirmed that she was going home and would call Ms Brentnall in about one hour. The two women had planned to go out later that evening to celebrate Ms Balmain's forthcoming trip to Japan. Ms Balmain was planning to meet Ms Brentnall at her house and then meet her boyfriend, Mr Piers Fisher-Pollard and other friends at a bar later that evening.
- 32 Ms Balmain did not contact Ms Brentnall as planned.
- 33 Ms Balmain had arranged to meet her parents in Newcastle the following morning being 6 November 1994. Ms Balmain's mother, Ms Jan Balmain attended Newcastle railway station at 11am and waited for the 11.11am train from Sydney. Ms Balmain was not on the train and was uncontactable.
- 34 At 11.30pm on 6 November 1994, Mrs Jan Balmain attended the Nelson Bay Police Station and reported Ms Balmain as a missing person.
- 35 On 6 and 7 November 1994, various personal items belonging to Ms Balmain were handed into police at Maroubra Police station. Initial investigations were undertaken by Maroubra Detectives before Ms Balmain's matter was assigned to Detective Sergeant (**DS**) Graeme Mulherin at Rose Bay Police station later that day.
- 36 DS Mulherin conducted a number of enquiries prior to compiling a brief of evidence which was tendered at the 1998-99 Inquest.
- 37 In 2004, the NSW Police Unsolved Homicide Squad reviewed the earlier investigation. The review noted a number of issues raised by DSC Abernethy and seven new lines of investigation were identified for further investigation.
- 38 On 27 April 2007, Detective Chief Inspector (**DCI**) Joseph Doueihy (as he then was) was assigned as the officer in charge of a cold case review, which was provided with the terms of reference to further investigate the death of Ms Balmain. In addition to the seven lines of enquiry outlined in the terms of reference, Detective Doueihy identified two additional lines of enquiry.
- 39 Between 2007 – 2009, these enquiries were investigated. The further investigation did not provide police with any "fresh or compelling evidence to conduct a prosecution against Gavin Samer or any other person."
- 40 In April 2020, the State Crime Command Homicide Squad allocated Ms Balmain's previous investigations to Detective Chief Inspector (**DCI**) Stuart Bell for review. In the course of his review, DCI Bell identified 12 new lines of inquiry.
- 41 In January 2021, the NSW Police Unsolved Homicide Squad Review Committee allocated the investigation into Ms Balmain's disappearance and suspected homicide to DCI Bell to undertake the 12 new lines of inquiry identified in his re-

investigation. The investigation was conducted and continued under the name 'Strike Force ARAMAC' (**SF ARAMAC**).

42 DCI Bell noted in his statement dated 14 April 2022 that:

“unsolved homicides can be given to experienced senior detectives to review. The review is not a re-investigation of the unsolved homicide. Rather, it is an examination of the statements, documents, intelligence and exhibits to determine if opportunities exist for new investigative strategies and lines of enquiry.”

43 As part of his investigative review, DCI Bell reviewed the original 1998-99 coronial Brief of Evidence prepared by DS Mulherin. DSC Abernethy was critical of the “Mulherin” investigation including failing to investigate the appointments of Select Companions escorts on the evening of 5 November 1994 and the records of the hotels visited by the escorts.

44 DCI Bell remained the officer in charge of the investigation during this inquest.

Background to Ms Balmain’s disappearance

VIP Escorts

45 Between 4 January 1994 and 26 September 1994, Ms Balmain worked on a casual basis with VIP Escorts located in Duxford Street, Paddington. Ms Balmain used the assumed name of “Rachel” while she was engaged with this business.

46 Mr Anthony (Tony) Henderson owned VIP Escorts. Mr Henderson participated in a typed Record of Interview dated 21 November 1994. He provided business records to the investigating police and confirmed that Ms Balmain had told him she was “going overseas and she would be away for several months” shortly after 26 September 1994. He further stated that his telephone records confirmed that he had been using “a computer to invest on Hong Kong (horse) races via a modem and a customer input terminal” between 3.30pm to 10 or 11pm on 5 November 1994. Mr Henderson is now deceased and was unable to be re-interviewed by DCI Bell during SF ARAMAC.

Select Companions

47 On 27 September 1994, Ms Balmain commenced working on a casual basis for Select Companions escort agency located at [REDACTED], Potts Point. The registered company that operated Select Companions was Labstar Pty Ltd and the owners of the company were Jane and Zoran Stanojevic. The agency phone number was [REDACTED].

- 48 Jane and Zoran Stanojevic resided in Potts Point. Their home landline number was [REDACTED].
- 49 Mrs Jane Stanojevic had two mobile phones listed under her name being [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. On 5 November 1994, Mrs Stanojevic was using the mobile number [REDACTED] and Mr Stanojevic was using the mobile number [REDACTED].
- 50 Ms Jane King, (**Ms King**) formerly Mrs Stanojevic, controlled the business. Mr Stanojevic was engaged as the driver who would transport escorts to and from clients and would collect the agency's fees from each escort at the conclusion of their engagement with a client. Some of the staff would take taxi cabs to and from a client's locations rather than have Mr Stanojevic transport them.
- 51 Ms King maintained that staff were self-employed, however Labstar carried Workers' Compensation insurance for staff through Commercial Union Insurance.
- 52 Select Companions clients would book escorts by the hour and pay cash, cheque or credit card. The agency would charge clients \$150 per hour, (with a 10% surcharge for the use of a cheque).
- 53 Ms Balmain was paid \$90 per hour and \$80 for each hour thereafter. Ms Balmain would attend and leave bookings by taxi or would be driven by Mr Stanojevic.
- 54 Ms Balmain did not attend the office operated by Select Companions and was only contactable on her pager service 016020#224498.
- 55 Whilst working at Select Companions, Ms Balmain used the working name 'Mischa' and sometimes 'Rachel' or 'Michelle'.
- 56 At the time of her disappearance, Ms Balmain reportedly owed the owners of Select Companions a sum of money. Ms King initially suggested that that sum was \$110 and then later stated that the sum was \$300. DCI Bell indicated that the sum owed was "approximately \$400," which was a "significant amount of money in 1994, money that her bank account showed she clearly did not have."
- 57 Ms Balmain was known to engage with clients on a private basis and without the knowledge of Select Companions. This practice was known as "moonlighting."

The days leading up to 5 November 1994

- 58 On 31 October 1994, Ms Balmain met her friend, Ms Harrington for lunch. Ms Balmain indicated that she was looking forward to travelling to Japan, although she was not happy about leaving Mr Fisher-Pollard.
- 59 Ms Harrington attempted to contact Ms Balmain through her paging service on 3 November and 6 November 1994, however, she did not receive any response.

- 60 On 3 November 1994, Ms Balmain worked for the Select Companions agency between 5pm and 6pm. Her client was Mr OC, who was interviewed by police on 8 November 1994. Mr OC confirmed that on a previous occasion he had attempted to meet Ms Balmain privately, without the knowledge of the agency and Ms Balmain declined his request. Ms Balmain suggested that he contact her friend “Gita” who may be able to assist him.
- 61 On 3 November 1994, Ms Balmain attended Ms Hazel-Dawson’s birthday party with a number of friends. Ms Hazel-Dawson was the owner of the modelling agency, Satellite Model Agency.
- 62 On 4 November 1994, Ms Balmain had lunch with her friend, Ms Brentnall. Ms Balmain told Ms Brentnall that she owed a debt to Select Companions and that she was going to “take the next opportunity” to “repay her employer and at the same time the opportunity to conclude her activities as a gentleman’s escort.”
- 63 On 4 November 1994, Ms Balmain received a message from Ms King on her pager, asking her to “PLS call Jenny”. Ms King referred to herself as “Jenny” whilst engaged with the business. The telephone records do not disclose a call from Ms Balmain to Ms King that day, and there is no record of Ms Balmain working for Select Companions on 4 November 1994.
- 64 At about 4pm on 4 November 1994, Ms Balmain ran into “Gita” in Kings Cross. Ms Balmain told “Gita” that she was going to be working for Select Companions the following day. Ms Balmain indicated that she didn’t want to work but owed Select Companions “something like \$150 and they knew she was leaving to go to Japan”. “Gita” recalled Ms Balmain indicating that the agency was “pissed off” about her owing them money.
- 65 “Gita” was reinterviewed by police in 2021, and told police that Ms Balmain appeared to have been crying. Gita recalled Ms Balmain saying that “her pimp wanted \$350 and asked for money. Balmain said she needed money and was going to do one last job to pay her pimp back.”
- 66 In her initial interview with police, “Gita” indicated that Ms Balmain appeared to be “in good spirits.”
- 67 From 4.45pm until 5.45pm on 4 November 1994, Ms Balmain was at a modelling casting session with Ms Hazel-Dawson.
- 68 Ms Balmain’s housemate, Mr Spears told police that Ms Balmain and Mr Fisher-Pollard returned home on the evening of 4 November 1994 and stayed the night.

Events of 5 – 6 November 1994 according to the evidence available in the first inquest

Mr Gavin Samer

- 69 Mr Samer became the major person of interest in Ms Balmain's disappearance during the "Mulherin" police investigation and the first inquest. He remained a person of interest during this inquest.
- 70 Mr Samer participated in a 'Record of Interview' with police on 7 November 1994 and was interviewed further by police on 30 January 1995. Mr Samer gave evidence during the first inquest on 1 April 1999 and during this inquest on 29 April 2024.
- 71 In November 1994, Mr Samer was in a de facto relationship with Ms Oswald-Sealy. They resided at 3 McNair Avenue, Kingsford.
- 72 On 4 November 1994, Mr Samer dropped Ms Oswald-Sealy at Sydney Airport at 3.30pm, for a weekend trip to Brisbane. Ms Oswald-Sealy subsequently confirmed with police that the house was in reasonable order and there did not appear to be anything "unusual" with Mr Samer's behaviour.
- 73 Mr Samer stated to police in his initial interview that he had driven to Palm Beach at 4.30am on the morning of 5 November 1994. He then drove to Whale Beach where he surfed for about an hour to an hour and a half, before getting changed and returning home.
- 74 At around 9am, he went to the Aceben Pawn shop in Bondi Junction and pawned Ms Oswald-Sealy's clarinet for \$250. He then attended the Red Tomato Inn, a hotel in Kingsford approximately 800 metres from his home. He couldn't be certain how long he remained at the hotel but thought it was around an hour to an hour and a half. During his time at the hotel, he played the card machines and drank 3 or 4 small twist tops of beer, which were provided on a complimentary basis by the hotel while patrons were playing the gambling machines.
- 75 Mr Samer told police that he had won about \$150 on the card machines and returned home with \$400 in cash at around noon. The hotel publican was interviewed by police; however, hotel records were unable to confirm if Mr Samer's claims were correct and no CCTV footage was functional inside the premises in 1994.
- 76 At 3pm, Mr Samer contacted Select Companions from his landline to arrange an escort. He spoke with Danielle, the receptionist at the agency, who described Mr Samer as sounding "nervous."

- 77 Danielle told police in her Electronically Recorded Interview with a Suspected Person (**ERISP**), dated 12 November 1994, that “I got his phone number and he told me a different name. I described Misha [sic] to him. I then checked the phone number before I called him back and told him that the phone number was listed under a different name. The male then gave me the correct name (Gavin Samer) and asked if we accepted cheques.”
- 78 DS Mulherin confirmed in his statement that Danielle told Mr Samer that the cost was \$150 per hour plus 10% if he elected to pay by cheque and a further \$50 for the champagne he was requesting, making a total booking cost of \$380. DS Mulherin indicated that Mr Samer used a Westpac cheque to pay even though subsequent enquiries confirmed that Mr Samer’s account contained only \$3.34.
- 79 Danielle had Mr Samer’s cheque approved with TRANSAX, with the approval number being recorded in the agency ledger. In 1994, “TRANSAX was a cheque warranty service. They guaranteed payment if the cheque was dishonoured.”
- 80 Mr Samer confirmed that Ms Balmain arrived at around 4pm for a two-hour booking. He recalled that Ms Balmain called the agency “she was working for and got the name for the cheques and that’s when I thought it may seem a bit funny on my bank things and I said, Well hang on I might pay this in cash and whatever, that’s when I got the cash and that’s for the whole afternoon, that was just sitting on the coffee table.”
- 81 This booking was varied by mutual agreement sometime later to extend the booking for a further hour without the agency being involved known as “moonlighting.”
- 82 Mr Samer later confirmed to police that he had paid Ms Balmain an “even \$400 in cash” together with a cash cheque to the value of \$100.
- 83 In his second interview with police, Mr Samer stated that he had written a cash cheque for \$100, which “was to cover the Champagne and a bit of a personal tip for her. I was assuming that the cash that I gave her was for the Agency.”
- 84 He recalled when he told Ms Balmain that he would add a tip, she had indicated “that’s great, I really need the money, I owe these people a fair bit.” He also recalled Ms Balmain saying that she was going to “Japan and she owed the agency a fair bit of money.”
- 85 In his evidence at this inquest, he agreed that the change in the method of payment did not change the overall price and also stated that “I asked if she wanted to stay a bit longer, that was definitely paid by a cash cheque,” and that was “a cheque for her, not to the agency.”
- 86 Ms Samer stated that Ms Balmain had a pager which had activated between three to six times during the afternoon and that Ms Balmain had used his landline

telephone on a number of occasions during the afternoon to make personal calls. He confirmed that Ms Balmain had responded to the pager messages “reasonably immediately.”

- 87 Mr Samer recalled during this inquest that Ms Balmain had made a call after they had negotiated the additional time, and he had assumed that she was calling the agency to advise them that she was staying longer. At other times in his evidence, he was unsure who Ms Balmain was calling as she had asked him to leave the room while she made the telephone calls.
- 88 In his second interview, he stated that Ms Balmain had told him she had other phone calls to make, but she would make those calls after she had left his home, saying “Near Botany somewhere I wouldn’t hear.”
- 89 Mr Samer indicated that Ms Balmain had told him that she had another client booked after she had finished with him. He also recalled that Ms Balmain had told him that she “had a date with her boyfriend or some bloke at a night club late, late, late, late, late that night.”
- 90 Mr Samer was questioned about his recollection of Ms Balmain telling him about another work commitment as he had not told police about this information in either of his police interviews. Mr Samer was quite certain that Ms Balmain had told him this information and “she was pretty keen to get to it,” and “it was definitely a job” and not another social commitment.
- 91 In his first police interview, Ms Samer described Ms Balmain as wearing “a striped jumper horizontal stripes and multi coloured. It was a knitted jumper. A flowing ankle length skirt which was scalloped at the bottom and a matching T shirt type top. They were blue/grey coloured. The T shirt was normal T shirt length. She had no bra on and white men’s jocks, some trendy brand. They were all white in a bikini cut. She had clogs on.” He also described her having “2 loose over the shoulder bags. 1 was a canvas type bag and the other was an over the shoulder type but I’m not sure.”
- 92 Mr Samer recalled Ms Balmain telling him she was hungry and would get “something to eat down the street somewhere.” Mr Samer stated that he gave Ms Balmain a lift in his car to the rear of the Red Tomato Inn at about 7pm. He said he “parked the car and we got out together and she walked into the hotel I’m pretty sure.” He did not see her again.
- 93 Mr Samer told police that he went “straight into the bottle shop” at the Red Tomato Inn and bought three Strongbow whites and some cigarettes. Police obtained the bottle shop records which indicated that a sale had been made at 7.22pm for a purchase of four bottles of Strongbow cider but no cigarettes.

- 94 Police also spoke with the manager of the Red Tomato Inn as to whether he had sighted Ms Balmain that evening. The manager stated he hadn't, and "If a girl like that walked in here, the whole joint would stop," given how attractive Ms Balmain was.
- 95 Mr Samer told police that at this time he was driving a 1994 Holden Commodore Wagon, green in colour, with the registration number TFU-416. The vehicle was registered in Mr Samer's father's name.
- 96 Mr Samer returned home and confirmed that Ms Oswald-Sealy called him about 7.30 or 8pm that night. Ms Oswald-Sealy rang Mr Samer at 8.22pm and asked him why he had not answered her call that afternoon and what he had been doing that day. Mr Samer told her that "I was surfing in the morning, then I went to the pub and went home after a few drinks."
- 97 Mr Samer told police that he "watched TV and had one drink and crashed and woke up for the second half of the football...Had another two drinks watching the footy and that's it. Went to sleep after the football."

Ms Revelle Balmain

- 98 At 12.35pm on 5 November 1994, Ms Balmain received a pager message from Ms King (then Mrs Stanojevic). Ms Balmain responded to the message and indicated that she was with Mr Fisher-Pollard attending a doctor's appointment.
- 99 At 3.08 and 3.11pm, Ms Balmain received two pager messages asking her to contact Danielle at Select Companions.
- 100 It has been assumed that Ms Balmain contacted the landline at Select Companions sometime after receiving the two pager messages. In 1994, landline accounts did not contain call records, although mobile phone accounts did document call records.
- 101 Police were unable to determine how Ms Balmain had travelled to Mr Samer's home.
- 102 Police spoke with Mr U on 17 November 1994. Mr U worked as a taxi driver and had previously been a client of Ms Balmain's. He told police that he was parked at the taxi rank on Market Street, Sydney at around 3pm on 5 November 1994. He recognised Ms Balmain as she entered a taxi directly in front of his taxi at the taxi rank. He saw that taxi turn left onto Pitt Street in a southerly direction.
- 103 Ms Balmain travelled to Mr Samer's residence, arriving at around 3.50pm.
- 104 Shortly after arriving at Mr Samer's home, Ms Balmain contacted Danielle to confirm that she had arrived at the client's residence.

- 105 At around 5pm, Ms Balmain called Ms Brock from Mr Samer's landline. Ms Brock was very good friends with Mr Fisher-Pollard. Ms Balmain told Ms Brock that she would be going home shortly and asked Ms Brock to ring her back at 8pm to wake her up. Ms Brock told police later that Ms Balmain "sounded calm."
- 106 At either 5.50pm or 6pm, Ms Balmain rang Danielle at Select Companions to advise her that she was leaving the client's address.
- 107 At 7pm, Ms Brentnall sent a pager message to Ms Balmain asking her to call. At either 7.15pm or 7.30pm, (although it is likely to have been earlier), Ms Balmain responded to the message and called Ms Brentnall. Ms Brentnall recalled Ms Balmain telling her that she was with a client and assumed that Ms Balmain was not in a position to talk with her. Ms Balmain told her that she would be leaving soon, and "I'll call you from home in about an hour and get changed and then I'll come to your house and we'll go to the Royal for a few beers and I'll meet up with [Piers] later." Ms Brentnall offered to drive to Kingsford and pick Ms Balmain up; however, her offer was declined.
- 108 As outlined above, Mr Samer stated to police that he then gave Ms Balmain a lift to the Red Tomato Inn.
- 109 Ms Balmain did not make any calls after this time, although she continued to receive the following pager messages:
- a. At 8.24pm and 8.31pm, Ms Balmain received two pager messages from Danielle to call work ("PLS ring work" and "Call work immediately").
 - b. At 8.58pm, Ms Brentnall sent a pager message to Ms Balmain requesting that she ring Ms Brentnall at her home.
 - c. At 9.03pm, Ms Balmain received two pager messages from Mr Fisher-Pollard advising her, amongst other things, that he was "going to a party" and that he would page her when he arrived at the party with details of the address.
 - d. At 10.45pm, Mr Fisher-Pollard sent another pager message to Ms Balmain advising her that he was "[g]oing to Goodbar's" and that he would meet her there.
 - e. At 11.53pm, Mr Fisher-Pollard sent a further pager message to Ms Balmain stating, "I'm at Goodbar where are you try to make it if you can Piers."

Danielle – Receptionist at Select Companions

- 110 As stated above, Danielle participated in an ERISP with police on 12 November 1994, and provided a statement to DCI Bell dated 10 August 2021. Danielle was not called to give evidence during the first inquest and gave evidence during these proceedings on 1 May 2024.
- 111 Danielle was employed as the company receptionist and had only worked with the company as a receptionist for approximately two weeks on or around 5 November 1994, according to Ms King.
- 112 Danielle confirmed that Ms Balmain was known as “Mischa” at Select Companions. She indicated that the name “Rachel” was written on Ms Balmain’s card, however, Ms Balmain was never referred to as Rachel. Danielle had spoken with Ms Balmain over the phone, however, they had never met in person.
- 113 Danielle indicated that Ms Balmain could only be contacted through her paging service. Danielle also confirmed that the agency operated during the hours from noon until 2am.
- 114 Danielle stated that she would manually record daily job details on a booking sheet at the agency. A copy of the booking sheet for 5 November 1994 was tendered in these proceedings. [REDACTED]
- 115 Danielle stated that she received a phone call from Ms Balmain at 3.50pm confirming her arrival at Mr Samer’s residence. Danielle recalled telling Ms Balmain to ensure that the client made his cheque out in favour of Labstar. Danielle told police that Ms Balmain was “sort of in the background saying, Oh, I’ll have to ask the client. So, I assumed that he was writing it there.”
- 116 Danielle told police that she wasn’t clear whether Ms Balmain called her at around 5.50pm or whether she had to call Ms Balmain at around 6pm to confirm that Ms Balmain was leaving Mr Samer’s home.
- 117 Danielle recalled telling Ms Balmain at that time that there was another booking on offer at Summer Hill. Ms Balmain declined the booking as she did not like the area. Danielle indicated to Ms Balmain that she would try to find someone else to take the job or would cancel the booking. The Summer Hill booking does not appear in the booking ledger prepared by Danielle.

- 118 During the same phone call, Danielle recalled asking Ms Balmain, “are you leaving, are you finishing up,” and Ms Balmain confirmed that she was leaving. Danielle then recalled saying “OK, I’ll, I’ll try to get something for you later, ‘cause I knew she was going overseas. And she said, OK. And that was, I, I assumed that she leaving to go and meet friends or you know, go back home, whatever.”
- 119 Danielle confirmed that “I tried to page her later and she didn’t answer, and I figured that she just sort of disappeared with the money, cause she was intending to go overseas on Monday.”
- 120 Danielle also stated:
- “I tried to contact her maybe, um, I don’t know, maybe two hours, an hour later. And there was no, there was no answer. And um, a second time I paged her, no answer, the third time the call.....immediately, and there was no answer so, I just assumed that, that she had decided not to work for the rest of the night. Which sort of happens occasionally. And um, so I just sort of disregarded it and took her off the list for the night. And um, when Jane called in I just let her know that Mischa was, wasn’t answering. She, she agreed with me that we thought she’d just decided to take the money and run basically.....Especially when we found out that the guy had actually paid cash instead of a cheque.”
- 121 Danielle confirmed to police that she called Mr Samer at about 11pm or 11.30pm, “to ask him to have the cheque cancelled because um, first of all we thought that she’d, she’d just taken off with it, but it, um, and again I asked him, it is very important that you have it cancelled because, um, you know, we said that it was put in the washing machine, so he obviously must’ve thought I was a fool at the time, ‘cause he hadn’t, hadn’t paid her by cheque. But um, he was apparently he was with his girlfriend or something and he couldn’t talk. So, he called us back the next day and spoke with Jane.”
- 122 Mr Samer told police that he received two phone calls from Danielle on the Sunday night, 6 November 1994.

Ms Balmain’s personal possessions located on 5-6 November 1994

- 123 On 5 November 1994, Ms Rice was a resident of Ainslie Street, Kingsford. Ainslie Street is located approximately 500 metres from McNair Avenue.
- 124 At 11.20pm, Ms Rice located a cane bag containing a birth certificate in the name of Revelle Sabine Balmain, a gym card, a salon card, a black drawstring bag, a make-up bag and other items outside her house.

- 125 Ms Rice told police that she left her house at 8.10pm that night and the property was not there.
- 126 At 8.30am on 6 November 1994, Ms Rice located a cradle for a pager, make up, a comb and some tea tree oil from the road on Ainslie Road. Ms Rice also saw a left shoe with shells on the top of the scuff strap in the gutter, along with a Medicare card and an ANZ card in the name of Ms Balmain.
- 127 Ms Rice took the bag containing the personal items to Maroubra police station later that day.
- 128 A local resident, Ms SC, returned home from work at around 12.15am on 6 November 1994. At 1.10am, Ms SC was in bed and heard a loud skid of brakes from a car, car doors slamming and “ethnic sounding” male voices arguing. Ms SC then heard a female scream, describing the scream as being “short sharp and high pitched.”
- 129 Ms SC looked out of her bedroom window onto Bass Street and saw two cars driving very slowly along the street. Ms SC described the first car as being “a dark green or dark blue four door sedan possibly a Commodore or Camira styled vehicle” which was very shiny. In that car, there were about three or four persons in the back seat. One of those persons, she described as having as “surfy sort of haircut, very straight” and stood out as the hair colour was different from the other occupants.
- 130 Ms SC described the second car as being a “red station wagon, not a new car, possibly a holden or similar size car.” Ms SC also commented that it was an older station wagon with only the driver as an occupant. Ms SC believed there was going to be an altercation between the occupants of the two vehicles, when suddenly the red station wagon accelerated quickly along Anzac Parade. Ms SC wrote down the registration number of one of the vehicles but was unable to locate the piece of paper that she had written the number on when she spoke with police.
- 131 Ms SC later heard two men talking for some time on the corner of Anzac Parade and Bass Street, with one of the males thanking the other one for coming.
- 132 At 7.50am on 6 November 1994, Ms SC and her daughter were walking along Bass Street when they noticed tyre skid marks, a washed coloured denim T shirt and a clog style platform shoe laying on its side with the sole pointed to the centre of the roadway. Ms SC described the shoe as being a “cork platform style with no back strap” with a “pattern carved into it.”
- 133 Ms AM was a resident of Araluen Street. At 9am on 6 November 1994, Ms AM was approaching her car when she saw a cyclist stopped close to her car. The cyclist told her that he had just found some keys and handed a set of keys to Ms AM.

- 134 Ms AM gave the keys to another neighbour, Mr Whitaker who “knew everyone in the street.” Mr Whitaker placed a sign on his letterbox indicating that he had found some lost keys. On 13 November 1994, police contacted Mr Whitaker and collected the keys.
- 135 The set of keys consisted of three keys and were later identified by Ms Balmain’s housemate as belonging to Ms Balmain.
- 136 On 28 November 1994, Mr Whitaker’s wife, Ms AB provided a statement to police. Ms AB told police that sometime between 7pm and 8pm on 5 November 1994, she was at the front of her house, watering the garden. Ms AB said that it was dark and she was using a driveway light to illuminate her garden.
- 137 Ms AB recalled seeing a car “similar to a 1990 Holden Commodore station wagon, dark in colour, drive east in Araluen Street, stopping opposite her homeThe driver’s door was opened, and the interior of the vehicle illuminated. She could see one male in the driver’s seat with short hair. About a minute later, the door closed, and the car was driven east at normal speed.” At the first inquest, Ms AB described “hearing a noise consistent with keys hitting a hard surface at the time the door of the car was open.”
- 138 A map of the Kingsford area depicting the locations of Ms Balmain’s personal items is extracted below:



The Police investigation led by Detective Sergeant Grahame Mulherin

- 139 On 7 November 1994, DS Mulherin read the missing person report filed by Ms Balmain's mother on 6 November 1994.
- 140 DS Mulherin received a phone call from Ms Balmain's housemate, Mr Spears, who provided him with various contact details, including Mr Piers Fisher-Pollard and Ms Hazel-Dawson.
- 141 DS Mulherin was provided with Ms Balmain's personal possessions which had been handed in to police by Ms Rice. DS Mulherin was also informed that Ms Balmain had worked for both Ms Hazel-Dawson and a woman called "Jenny".
- 142 "Jenny" was Jane Stanojevic. He called Mrs Stanojevic and arranged to speak with her later that day. Mrs Stanojevic, now Ms King, told police that Ms Balmain had accepted a job with a client called Mr Gavin Samer on 5 November 1994.
- 143 DS Mulherin received a phone call from Ms Harrington. During the call, Ms Harrington informed police that Ms Balmain had experienced difficulties with "Tony", the manager of the escort agency, VIP Escorts.
- 144 DS Mulherin attended the workplace of Mr Spears, who provided police with Ms Balmain's personal address book. Police later searched Ms Balmain's home and were satisfied that there were no signs of a struggle. Police located an airline ticket, a passport in the name of "Revelle Cheshire" and a half-packed bag.
- 145 Ms Balmain's mother's maiden name was Cheshire, which Ms Balmain used for her dancing career.
- 146 The airline ticket was in the name of Revelle Cheshire for travel from Sydney to Brisbane on Flight 540 at 7pm on 8 November 1994. DS Mulherin was advised by the airline that no-one had collected the ticket and police seized the item. Police also placed Ms Balmain on the Passenger alert system under her name and the surname of Cheshire.
- 147 Ms Balmain's diary contained an entry for 9 November 1994 which read, "Brisbane rehearsal start."
- 148 DS Mulherin then attended on Ms Hazel-Dawson and Ms Lynch. Ms Lynch told police that she had received a phone call from Ms Balmain on the morning of 6 November 1994. Ms Lynch told the caller that she was half asleep and would call her back. Ms Lynch was adamant that the caller was Ms Balmain. Subsequently, call charge records (**CCRs**) confirmed that the caller was "Amanda" and not Ms Balmain. Amanda also provided police with a statement.

- 149 DS Mulherin received a phone call from Ms Balmain's sister, Ms Suellen Simpson, who was able to confirm with police Ms Balmain's proposed travel itinerary.
- 150 Ms Samer contacted police and later attended Maroubra police station at 5.20pm on 7 November 1994. He was accompanied by Ms Oswald-Sealey and his solicitor. He agreed to participate in a Record of Interview (**ROI**) with police.

Mr Samer – additional evidence

- 151 Prior to the commencement of Mr Samer's ROI, DS Mulherin noticed scratch marks on both sides of his neck. The mark to the right side of his neck was described as being "approximately three quarters of an inch long....red and slightly raised and the width of the scratch mark was approximately one third of its length." The mark on the left side of his neck was "quite faint under his left ear below the jaw and another small mark on the left side of his neck."
- 152 DS Mulherin left the interview room and spoke with Ms Oswald-Sealy and asked if she knew how he had sustained the scratch marks. Ms Oswald-Sealy responded, "No I don't but I saw them when he picked me up from the airport on Sunday and I asked him and he couldn't tell me."
- 153 At the conclusion of the ROI, DS Mulherin told Mr Samer that he wanted to photograph the scratch marks on his neck. Mr Samer consented.
- 154 Mr Samer removed his shirt and DS Mulherin identified "a number of small, wide scratches on the left side of his rib cage." DS Mulherin questioned Mr Samer as to how he had sustained the scratches and he responded, "Surfing I suppose."
- 155 DS Mulherin then asked Mr Samer to show him his hands. DS Mulherin detected "a mark on both sides of his middle finger which had broken the skin both sides of the first joint of the middle finger. The top and bottom of the finger were not marked. This injury appeared to me to have resulted from a bite." DS Mulherin asked Mr Samer how he had sustained the injury and Mr Samer responded, "One cut was from my surfboard and the other cut was from string around a box at work." DS Mulherin photographed each of the injuries. He also made arrangements for the injuries to be professionally photographed by the Crime Scene Unit the following day.
- 156 DS Mulherin asked Mr Samer if he had any objection to his car being searched. Mr Samer consented and DS Mulherin requested Ms Oswald-Sealey to be present during the search. The car was then searched and Ms Oswald-Sealey confirmed that nothing appeared to be out of place and no personal items of Ms Balmain's were located. The car was later searched physically but not forensically examined on 13 November 1994. On 13 November 1994, no traces of blood were located.

- 157 During his ROI, Mr Samer was asked if he had received any phone calls from Danielle, the receptionist. He confirmed that she had called him on 6 November 1994, at either 10.30pm or 11.30pm. He recalled that she “said that the girl had lost the cheque, could I cancel it and asked for her to give me a phone number because I couldn’t talk because my girlfriend was in bed with me.” He said he wrote the number down and within five minutes, “the same person rang me and was very adamant about me cancelling the cheque and I said OK and she said call her after midday which I did and that’s when they told me that the girl had gone missing.”
- 158 Ms Oswald-Sealey confirmed with police that she was present when Mr Samer received the calls on the evening of 6 November 1994.
- 159 DS Mulherin asked Mr Samer if he could show him his cheque book. They then all travelled to Mr Samer’s home. Mr Samer went to the front bedroom and reached into the pocket of a jacket in the wardrobe and said the cheque book was not there. He then looked in the dresser and located the deposit book for the cheque account. He said, “It lives in my jacket or the top drawer” and he had used it “on Saturday when he wrote a cheque for Ms Balmain in the lounge room and had not taken the book out of the house.” DS Mulherin asked Mr Samer to search his house and was of the opinion that Mr Samer “did not appear to be concerned by the missing cheque book.”
- 160 Mr Samer subsequently told police when asked, that he had cancelled his cheque account and asked for a stop to be put on any cheques from the account. DS Mulherin indicated that no deposit was made to the cheque account until 25 November 1994.
- 161 DS Mulherin conducted a cursory search of the house at this time and did not locate any items of interest.
- 162 On 8 November 1994, DS Mulherin attended Mr Samer’s house whilst Ms Oswald-Sealey was moving out her belongings. He searched the inside of the house, the backyard and under the house. Again, no items of interest were located, and the property was not subjected to a forensic search.
- 163 On 12 November 1994, a former girlfriend of Mr Samer, Ms McMichael told police that Mr Samer became “violent” when he drank alcohol and that she had “got a few black eyes from him.”
- 164 Mr Samer’s brother told police that Mr Samer had a history of domestic violence incidents.
- 165 Ms Oswald-Sealey confirmed to police that Mr Samer had gambling addiction and alcohol abuse issues.

166

167 Mr Samer participated in a second police interview, described as an ERISP, on 30 January 1995.

168 During this interview Mr Samer was asked about Ms AB's statement, including the disposal of Ms Balmain's keys from a car which resembled the car that Mr Samer was driving at that time. Mr Samer denied that he had driven along Araluen Street in his car on 5 November 1994 and denied disposing of any of Ms Balmain's personal possessions.

169 In his second ERISP interview, Mr Samer told police that "[on] later recollection....I do remember I was out doing some gardening, I may have had some scratches then, that was on the Sunday". He continued to state, "I know for a fact there's some cuts on my fingers that I did on an old surfboard of mine, cut them with um, fibreglass on the back and the others I mean to this day I'm not sure about, I know that I was gardening and I may have scratched myself gardening but I don't know."

170 It was suggested to Mr Samer that the police had received information that the marks on his finger may be consistent with bite marks. Mr Samer stated, "Well I know that I did them on my surfboard, I wouldn't have a clue."

171 Ms Oswald-Sealey participated in an ERISP with police on 8 September 1998 and agreed that sometimes Mr Samer would assist with the gardening. She did not notice if any gardening had been done over the weekend that she was in Queensland.

172 In that same interview, Ms Oswald-Sealey told police that Mr Samer had said to her that "any idiot can hide a body."

173 A forensic pathologist, Dr Allan Cala prepared an expert report dated 20 January 1998.

174 In his report, Dr Cala reviewed the photographs of Mr Samer's injuries, describing five photographs as depicting a "male's upper body, and in particular, there are some close-up photographs of an injury in the lower right side of the neck. There are four photographs depicting injuries to the left middle finger and two photographs depicting injuries to the left lower chest region."

175 Dr Cala opined that:

- a. The photographs "depict healing injuries which appear to be of similar age (three to five days old).

b. “The neck abrasion appears to be a healing scratch and in particular, has features of a fingernail-type scratch, however I am prepared to concede that there are other possible explanations for this injury.”

c. “The injury to the left middle finger is possibly due to a bite mark where the distal middle finger has entered a person’s mouth, resulting in the injuries described....”

d. “The injuries on the left lower chest could also be scratches, particularly the more lateral injury which has a curved appearance. The other two injuries are quite nonspecific.”

176 Dr Cala indicated that:

“the overall pattern of the injuries, their anatomical site, age and general characteristics suggest to me that they have arisen possibly during a struggle, particularly the injuries to the finger and neck. The chest injuries are non-specific in nature although their features suggest fingernail-type scratches. The injuries to the middle finger are consistent with, but not diagnostic of, a bite mark.”

Ms Jane King’s (aka Stanojevic) evidence available at the first inquest

177 Ms King provided police with the following statements:

- an ERISP interview with police on 12 November 1994,
- an ERISP interview on 26 October 1995,
- a statement to police on 28 January 1998,
- a statement to police on 25 January 1999,
- an interview with police on 8 January 2008,
- a statement to police on 6 September 2021.

178 Ms King also gave evidence during the first inquest on 25 January 1999 and during this inquest on 3 May 2024 and 3 February 2026. During all of her interviews with police and her appearances during the first inquest and this inquest, Ms King was legally represented.

179 On the morning of 5 November 1994, Ms King was working in her office. She was seven months pregnant.

180 On 7 November 1994, DS Mulherin spoke with Ms King, however no formal statement was obtained from her at that time.

- 181 Ms King indicated that Danielle was rostered on as the receptionist for a double shift on 5 November 1994, from noon until 2am on 6 November 1994.
- 182 Ms King confirmed the payment regime and explained that rates varied due to travel charges. Ms King indicated that a client would be charged for travel money, and if Ms Balmain travelled by taxi, she would receive the travel fee and if she was driven by Mr Stanojevic, he would receive the travel fee. Ms King indicated that she would “know by the amount of money that had changed hands whether she went with the driver or not.” Ms King indicated that if Ms Balmain “was broke, she used to like to go with the driver, but um, quite often she used to like to go by cab as well.”
- 183 Ms King was asked how Ms Balmain would “get moneys earned back to the agency?” and she explained that Ms Balmain would meet “up with the driver. Like, if she left a booking and he was going to pick her up, they’d fix the money then, or that particular week, we’d arranged to do it on the Saturday, because that was going to be her last day.....So we were going to catch up with her that night...towards the end of her shift.”
- 184 Ms King stated that Ms Balmain was in debt to the company. She told police that “before she went on the booking on Saturday, it was \$300.” Ms King indicated that it was not unusual for staff to have “money outstanding,” and that “we catch up with each other when we can.”
- 185 Ms King confirmed that she was aware that Ms Balmain had a “contract to go to Japan dancing”, and that she was due to leave on Monday or Tuesday, being either 7 or 8 November 1994.
- 186 Ms King explained that it “wasn’t uncommon for (Ms Balmain) to disappear on me during the shift. I mean, she’d ring in and then we’d try and page her and she’d be unavailable because she’d gone to her boyfriend’s, so when Danielle couldn’t contact her that evening, I just didn’t think anything of it, I thought she must’ve just gone to her boyfriend’s, so she was quite erratic with us.”
- 187 Ms King confirmed that Danielle had called her “cause she was trying to contact her to send her on a booking...And she, she just said, because Revelle knew she had a 10 o’clock appointment.....she was a bit upset ‘cause she couldn’t get hold of her. But she did offer her another booking when she was leaving Kingsford. She spoke to her on the phone... and had another booking for her, but she refused to go.”
- 188 Ms King was asked if it was common for Ms Balmain to take a bottle of champagne to a booking. Ms King indicated that it wasn’t that common and agreed that the disbursement was not recorded in the business records as it “a separate thing” and they “just reimburse the money when they arrive.”

Ms King's ERISP interview dated 12 November 1994

- 189 Ms King confirmed that Ms Balmain was known as "Mischa" and had been working part-time with Select Companions for about eight weeks.
- 190 Ms King indicated that the agency operated from noon until 2am, and she employed one receptionist, a woman called Danielle.
- 191 Ms King's husband, Mr Zoran Stanojevic owned a black BMW and would drive the escorts to and from clients. He would also collect money from the escorts after they had finished with the client.
- 192 Ms King was aware that Ms Balmain had previously worked for another agency called VIP Escorts. Ms King and Mr Stanojevic had also previously worked at VIP Escorts.
- 193 Ms King confirmed that most of the escorts would receive a pager message or a phone call to attend a client, rather than waiting in the agency office.
- 194 She stated that Ms Balmain's usual fee would be \$90 per hour, and if the booking was extended, she would then receive \$80 per hour. Travel money would be paid additionally if the escort took a taxi to a client and if the escort was collected by the agency driver, Mr Stanojevic, he would keep the travel money. According to Danielle, the agency would charge the client an additional sum of \$60 per hour for one hour.
- 195 Ms King told police that client bookings were recorded on a piece of paper. Ms King produced a copy of the handwritten document that Danielle had prepared for the bookings on 5 November 1994. Ms King went on to explain that the details on the booking sheet would be transferred by her to the agency's computer and the original booking sheet would be destroyed.
- 196 Ms King stated that any money that Ms Balmain owed the agency would be paid when she was collected by Mr Stanojevic. She explained
- "if she left a booking and he was going to pick her up, they'd fix the money then, or that particular week, we'd arranged to do it on the Saturday, because that was going to be her last day....so we were going to catch up with her that night...towards the end of her shift."
- 197 Ms King said that she had received about five or six complaints from clients about Ms Balmain's behaviour. Ms King indicated that she had phone calls saying that she
- "wasn't very friendly and that she'd had quite a bad attitude with them...(and) she was very particular about who she would and wouldn't see...she set her standard and that was it, basically. If the people didn't meet that requirement, she didn't want to know about them...she didn't want to

see anybody old, anybody ugly, anybody ethnic, anybody that lived in a funny area, you know, we had to be quite sort of selective about where we sent her.”

198 Ms King confirmed that Mr Stanojevic knew where Ms Balmain lived as he had collected her from home to attend clients.

199 After Ms Balmain’s disappearance, Ms King told police she had received phone calls from Ms Balmain’s boyfriend, flatmate and her mother.

Ms King’s ERISP interview dated 26 October 1995

200 Ms King was asked again how Ms Balmain would settle her account with the agency. Ms King indicated that Ms Balmain would pay her husband, Zoran Stanojevic, in his car.

201 She stated that:

“Well, most of the time when she did bookings she’d go by taxi... and then, she’d do that for a few days and she’d keep a hold of the money and then she’d do a booking and we’d want to get paid so I’d say, “I’ll get someone to drive you or Zoran will pick you up and settle your account.”

202 Ms King agreed that the exchange of money would be pre-arranged to suit both parties. Ms King commented that:

“I wasn’t overly concerned about the money with Revelle.”

203 Ms King confirmed that she sent a pager message to Ms Balmain at 12.35pm on 5 November 1994. Ms Balmain called Ms King, and they discussed whether Ms Balmain was available to take bookings. Ms Balmain indicated that she would be available from 1pm.

204 Ms King stated that she told Ms Balmain that she wanted Ms Balmain to attend an appointment with some Yugoslav clients at 10.30pm. Ms King recalled telling Ms Balmain: “Don’t go disappearing on me, because she used to do it all the time, and that was the last thing I ever said to her. And she said “No, no, no, I definitely won’t”, oh, yeah, and I told you before that she had the appointment at 10.30 and they were someclients, and that’s why I said, “Don’t go disappearing”, because it was her last day.”

205 Ms King indicated in the interview that these clients were Yugoslavians and were visiting Australia. She recalled that one of the Yugoslav clients was named ‘Bogin’ and was residing at the Swiss Grand Hotel at Bondi.

206 Ms King stated that they were people Zoran knew and that the booking would be recorded on the agency’s computer.

- 207 Ms King told police that Ms Balmain:
- “didn’t have the details of it, she just knew she had a 10.30pm appointment.”
- 208 Ms King was asked how Zoran had reacted when Ms Balmain failed to keep the 10.30pm appointment, and she responded:
- “Well, nothing, she used to do that all the time....He was OK. He sent someone else.” (Emphasis added)
- 209 Ms King stated that “Danielle tried to page her several times during the night, cause she was rostered on to 12.00, but she didn’t answer.”
- 210 Ms King was asked the reason for Danielle’s pager messages on the evening of 5 November 1994, and she commented:
- “Well I’d imagine so. And she had an account outstanding that we were going to settle that evening.”
- 211 Ms King confirmed that Danielle called her sometime shortly before 3.30pm on the afternoon of 5 November 1994 to advise her that Ms Balmain had accepted a job for a client at Kingsford for two hours. Danielle told Ms King that the client would be paying by cheque. Ms King recalled that she was on her way to a restaurant in East Sydney with Mr Stanojevic when she received the call.
- 212 Ms King stated that she told Mr Stanojevic that “Revelle had a booking in Kingsford.”
- 213 Ms King became aware that Ms Balmain had declined the job at Summer Hill sometime later, possibly around 7pm.
- 214 Prior to attending the restaurant, Ms King stated that she had attended Harvey Norman and Freedom Furniture with her husband. They had purchased a TV for the office from the Harvey Norman store at Moore Park and paid for the purchase on an American Express card.
- 215 She stated that they then attended ‘The Edge’ restaurant in Stanley Street and had a pizza. Ms King indicated that they left the restaurant at 4.30pm and returned home. She told police that she “went to bed and had a lay down, and he went off to the office to take the TV in.”
- 216 Ms King then commented that Mr Stanojevic came home because he watches the soccer on Saturdays at 5.30pm. After the match ended, Ms King was unsure if Mr Stanojevic had left their home.
- 217 Ms King then stated:
- “he probably would have worked.....Well, I have got a red book and I had a look at it today for that day, but there’s no times in there. So I mean, Danielle

would know, but he works every night, so he would have worked that night. And in fact I think he did, because she, Revelle had a booking for 10.30 that evening with some overseas visitors of ours and he, I feel sure that he would have taken other people to see them that night.”

218 Ms King stated that she became aware that Ms Balmain was missing “on the Monday.” Ms King denied speaking with Mr Spears on Sunday, saying that Danielle had spoken with him.

219 Ms King indicated that she had phoned the manager at The Edge restaurant on the Tuesday (8 November 1994). Ms King was asked why she called the restaurant and she stated:

“Because I wanted to be sure about my whereabouts with Zoran that day, because you said there would be a police enquiry, and I knew that we had been out and about all afternoon, and that we would be able to show to you where we’d been, and I thought that’s what people did, like they do on the TV. You were going to ask us where we were, like now, and I can tell you where we’d been. In fact, I think maybe I called on the Monday afternoon, but the manager wasn’t there till the Tuesday. Then I called on the Tuesday and they said to me, “If you come and see us, we, you know, we will remember you”. I mean, I was very heavy, I was seven months pregnant, and I just didn’t bother to go.”

220 Ms King was pressed on the reason she didn’t subsequently attend the restaurant, and she stated:

“Cause I forgot.”

221 Ms King was asked if she could provide police with the contact details of her staff. Ms King responded that “I can go through my red book and give you their names....I’ll give you what I’ve got.”

Ms King’s statement to police dated 25 January 1999

222 Ms King indicated that she prepared a statement with the assistance of her legal representatives about one month prior to her appearance before the first inquest, and signed the statement on 25 January 1999. The statement was dated 25 January 1999, the same day that she gave her evidence.

223 At the request of the police, Ms King prepared her statement to address a number of matters which had arisen during the first inquest.

224 Ms King indicated that the escort that attended the Swiss Grand Hotel instead of Ms Balmain was known as “Kelly”, and that Kelly had been contacted by Danielle at

around 9.30pm and told that Mr Stanojevic would collect her and take her to a client at the Swiss Grand Hotel.

225 Ms King confirmed that the address was in fact incorrect and should have been the Park Royal Hotel at Darling Harbour rather than the Swiss Grand. Ms King stated that her “confusion arose from the fact that the same client was at the Swiss Grand Hotel and had seen escorts at that hotel on 2 and 4 November 1994. I can only presume that he moved to the Park Royal on 5 November 1994 as that was the location at which the services were provided by Kelly to that client on that date.”

226 In her oral evidence, Ms King indicated that Mr Stanojevic had forgotten to tell her they had moved and that was her explanation for having filled in the agency ledger with the incorrect address.

227 Ms King named the client at the “Swiss Grand (Park Royal) Hotel” as “Bojan Prvulovic” rather than ‘Bogin’, who she referred to in her ERISP dated 26 October 1995.

228 Ms King stated in her oral evidence that the 10.30pm booking was for another Yugoslav, ‘Shemazin’ and not ‘Bogin’.

229 Ms King had been requested to provide details of the mobile phones and landlines used by the company. Ms King stated that “I believe that we had only one mobile telephone at that time. The phone number for that service was [REDACTED]”.

230 Ms King admitted in her oral evidence that they had two mobile phones at that time. Mr Stanojevic’s number was [REDACTED] and her number was [REDACTED]. On 5 November 1994, Mr Stanojevic and Ms King swapped mobile phones as her phone had more of a battery charge.

231 Ms King denied that her husband had made any threatening statements to any escort in her presence. Similarly, she had not received any complaints from any of the escorts which would suggest that her husband had threatened any person.

232 Ms King stated that:

“I spoke with my husband from time to time during the night, as he would call me at home from his mobile. I recall that I last saw my husband at home at approximately 6.30pm and that I did not see him until 7.00am the next morning, when I awoke and he was in bed beside me. I did not wake on his return and am unable to give an approximate time of his return that night.”

Mr Zoran Stanojevic’s evidence available at the first inquest

233 Mr Zoran Stanojevic provided police with the following statements:

- ERISP interview dated 15 November 1994,

- Statement to police dated 25 January 1999,
- ERISP interview dated 30 September 2021.

234 Mr Stanojevic also gave sworn evidence before the first inquest on 27 January 1999.

Mr Stanojevic's ERISP interview dated 15 November 1994

- 235 Mr Stanojevic told police that him and his wife, Mrs Stanojevic (now Ms King), were the joint owners of Select Companions Escort Agency. He explained that his role was "to take the girls to the reservation spot, hotel or a private residence. Then I stay there and I wait until she calls the agency and confirms that everything is ok. And then I drive off. And you know when I receive the call from the agency and I take the girls back to their homes." He explained that if the client's location was further away, he may stay in his car and wait.
- 236 Mr Stanojevic was accompanied by his legal representative during this interview.
- 237 Mr Stanojevic recalled meeting Ms Balmain about ten or twelve weeks prior when he picked her up in his car to attend an interview at Select Companions.
- 238 He indicated that he had driven Ms Balmain approximately ten or fifteen times, and that she would have him drive her when she was short of money, and other times she would take a taxi.
- 239 He confirmed that his vehicle was a luxury BMW sedan, charcoal in colour, with registration plates ABW60X. The vehicle was owned by the company Labstar.
- 240 Mr Stanojevic described the Ms Balmain as an "easy going person". He noted that "she was not happy to go to Newtown area or areas like that. She always wanted you know, more sophisticated places."
- 241 He told police that Ms Balmain had advised them at her interview that she would stay for 2 or 3 months and was then planning on travelling to Japan. Mr Stanojevic said that was why they were prepared to put up with her behaviour when she refused to answer her pager messages as "she was just staying temporarily with us. And she, she was very beautiful. She was a beautiful girl."
- 242 Mr Stanojevic denied that there were any issues between his wife and Ms Balmain. He also indicated that there were no issues over money, saying, "sometimes she owed her some money but it was settled satisfactory."
- 243 Mr Stanojevic knew that Ms Balmain had a new boyfriend and also worked as a model and a dancer. He also knew that she was leaving to travel to Japan the following Tuesday.
- 244 He claimed that he had not seen Ms Balmain at all on Saturday 5 November 1994.

- 245 Mr Stanojevic was asked if he was working on Saturday 5 November 1994. He responded “No. On Saturday no.”
- 246 He then went on to explain to the police that on Saturday 5 November 1994, he and his wife had gone to Freedom Furniture at around 3pm and then went to Harvey Norman and purchased a small TV set for the office. He provided police with a copy of the purchase receipt from Harvey Norman confirming the purchase at 3.15pm.
- 247 They returned home at approximately 5pm and he watched the soccer on the television. He then left home at twenty past six and took the TV to the office where he installed the TV and returned home at 6.45 or 7pm.
- 248 Mr Stanojevic agreed that he knew that Ms Balmain owed the agency about \$400 for two or three reservations. He stated:
- “No, we were not that strict or pressuring her because after two or three days she came. Yes. And on Sunday I received a telephone call on my mobile from a person, a person who used to live with her, share the place. And then he said that she disappeared. Now, I thought probably you know that he was making up the story because she owed the money. I said, forget about that. I’m not crazy but leave it as it is.”
- 249 At the end of his interview and not prompted by either of the police interviewing him, Mr Stanojevic stated:
- “What I would like really to add, that we were all very friendly, Revelle and myself. And you know it was not easy to become a friend with her. But once you started, you know, just close the barrier, she was very good friend. Devoted friend. Because she used to be a model you know, she was a little bit up in the sky. She was not like an average girl. That’s all what I wanted to add.”
- 250 Issues were subsequently raised by Mr Stanojevic regarding the accuracy of the translation from Serbian to English of the above-mentioned statement (see paragraphs 635 to 644 below).

Mr Stanojevic’s statement to police dated 25 January 1999

- 251 Mr Stanojevic prepared this statement with the assistance of his legal representatives. He was scheduled to give evidence before the first inquest on 27 January 1999.
- 252 In his statement he said:
- “I was the driver for Select Companions on or about 5 November 1994. I state that on 5 November 1998 (sic) I picked up an escort that I knew by the name

of Kelly from what I understood be her home address at approximately 10pm. I am not sure who requested me to pick up Kelly or when that request was made. I believe that it was Danielle, the then receptionist of the business and that she called me at approximately 9.30pm on my mobile phone.”

253 He stated that he drove Kelly to “an appointment with a Yugoslav client at the Park Royal Hotel at Darling Harbour”, where he waited in the vicinity of the hotel for two hours until Kelly’s appointment was concluded.

254 He indicated that he then drove Kelly to a regular booking at the Airport Sheraton where he waited at the hotel until either 1 or 2am. He was driving Kelly home when his car tyre went flat, and he did not drop Kelly home until after 2am.

255 He recalled that Kelly had an appointment earlier in the evening with a regular client on New South Head Road, Double Bay. He stated:

“I received a call requesting me to pick her up and take her to the appointment at approximately 7pm, picked her up at approximately 7.15pm and dropped her at the Double Bay address at approximately 7.30pm.”

256 He then travelled to the Cosmopolitan Café until he received a call asking him to collect Kelly and drive her home, arriving at her address at approximately 9pm. He then proceeded to Café Andiamo where “I remained until I received a call requesting me to pick up Kelly and to take her to the appointment at the Park Royal Hotel.”

257 He denied that:

“it was my habit to threaten and coerce girls working as escorts for Select Companions. I state that I have never threatened any person in the manner alleged or in any other manner.”

██████████

258 ██████████ became a person of interest during the initial police investigation and was interviewed by police on 11 February 1997.

259 ██████████ had been a client of Ms Balmain at VIP Escorts. He confirmed that on occasions Ms Balmain would see him without the knowledge of the agency.

260 ██████████ told police that he had last seen Ms Balmain in Double Bay two months prior to her disappearance and that he had loaned Ms Balmain \$1000 because “she was broke and wanted to go to Japan”.

261 Police interviewed an associate of ██████████, Mr Jeremy Coghlan, who stated that ██████████ had told him; “She [Ms Balmain] is 10 foot under, and no one will find her body. That’s what you get for moonlighting.” ██████████ denied making such a

statement when he was interviewed by police and again when called to give oral evidence at the first inquest.

262 DS Mulherin later conceded that Mr Coghlan and another associate, Mr Adam Jacovides were not being truthful when they made the allegations against [REDACTED].

263 [REDACTED] was not interviewed by DCI Bell and was not a witness at this inquest.

The first Inquest

264 The first coronial inquest ran for ten days, including 7 September 1998, 15-17 September 1998, 25 January, 27-29 January 1999 and 1 April 1999. DSC Abernethy delivered his Findings on 28 May 1999.

265 Ms Samer was called to give oral evidence. He confirmed the contents of his police interviews but declined to answer any further questions on the basis that the answers may be incriminating.

266 A number of witnesses were not called to give evidence, including Danielle and Mr Henderson. As stated, Mr Henderson is now deceased.

Ms King's oral evidence at the first inquest

267 As indicated above, Ms King prepared a statement dated 25 January 1999, which was the same day that she gave evidence in the first inquest. In her statement to police, she told them that the agency only had one mobile phone, with the number [REDACTED]. In her oral evidence she stated that there was a second mobile phone with the number [REDACTED].

268 Ms King gave oral evidence that the mobile phone with the number [REDACTED] was her mobile phone, and the mobile phone with the number [REDACTED] was Mr Stanojevic's. She said that on 5 November 1994, that they had swapped phones so that Mr Stanojevic was in possession of her mobile phone and she was in possession of his mobile phone. She explained that this was because Mr Stanojevic would take the phone with the most battery charge when he went to work.

269 Ms King agreed that the CCRs indicated that she made a call to the agency at 3.55pm. She further agreed that the CCRs indicated that she made a call to Mr Stanojevic at 8.01pm. She stated that she couldn't really remember making that call, however, "I rang him a lot." She later conceded that it would be her calling Mr Stanojevic. She further indicated that she didn't know where he was at that time.

270 Ms King was asked when she first became aware of Mr Samer's address in Kingsford and she responded, "I think it would've been the next day when I picked up the booking sheet from the office."

- 271 Ms King conceded that it would have been “very easy” for her to obtain the details of Mr Samer’s address. She agreed that she had received a call from Danielle at 3.30 or 4pm when she was in the car with Mr Stanojevic and advised him that Ms Balmain had taken at booking at Kingsford.
- 272 Ms King indicated that they travelled from Moore Park to “the Edge” restaurant at about 4pm and remained there for “an hour max”. She stated that the kitchen was closed and they were only serving pizza. Ms King said that they left the restaurant and arrived home “a bit before” 5pm.
- 273 Ms King gave evidence that Mr Stanojevic stayed at home with her and watched the European football which “finished at about half past six, so he left after that” to take the recently purchased television to the agency’s office.
- 274 Ms King stated that the last contact she had with Mr Stanojevic was at 8.01pm until she woke the following morning and he was asleep in their bed.
- 275 Ms King conceded that her statement to police that there had been complaints from clients about Ms Balmain’s behaviour “weren’t severe complaints.” When pressed on the detail of the complaints, Ms King stated that Ms Balmain could be “a little cooler than most.” Ms King then said that she thought “being cool is having a bad attitude.”
- 276 Ms King commented on the 10.30pm booking in her oral evidence as follows:
- “A man called Shemazin, I haven’t got his full name here in front of me, and I thought it was at the Swiss Grand at Bondi but...Well I thought it was at the Swiss Grand Hotel, because he had been staying there all week. But in actual fact it was at the Park Royal at Darling Harbour....He was there with a friend of his, this Bojan Prvulovic, and they were staying together at the Swiss Grand. Now they made contact with my husband, they were both from Yugoslavia, and they had a mutual friend with him. So he actually handling that booking because they didn’t speak English...It was an unusual set of circumstances. They’d used the service throughout the week at the Swiss Grand, they’d never met Revelle, and they wanted to see somebody on the Saturday, they told my husband on the Friday, and when I spoke to Revelle on the Saturday I notified her that she had a booking at 10.30 that night. But she didn’t have the details for it, and in fact neither did I.”
- 277 Ms King denied that the Yugoslavian clients were in Australia to visit her husband, nor that he had prior knowledge that they were coming to Australia.
- 278 Ms King was questioned about her interview with police dated 26 October 1995, where she referred to these two clients as being “some overseas visitors of ours”. She responded:

“Well I’d never met them, I had never met them, so, I mean all I can say is that they were Yugoslavian people that Zoran was having contact with. They certainly weren’t visitors of ours, and if I said that then it certainly wasn’t what I meant.”

279 Ms King indicated that she had originally believed that two escorts were required for this booking, as they had a previous booking for two escorts. Ms King stated that Kelly attended the appointment when Ms Balmain was unavailable.

280 Ms King was questioned about her statement dated 25 January 1999, where she advised “I’ve been asked to supply the name of the Yugoslav client at the Swiss Grand (Park Royal) Hotel. I recall that I supplied the name Bogin to police on 26 October 1995....I have since been advised that the client’s correct name is Mr Bojan Prvulovic.”

281 Ms King indicated that she:

“did this statement maybe a month ago, but I hadn’t signed it until this morning.” Ms King was asked if her statement was true when she signed, and she responded, “Yeah but I didn’t have Shemazin - I hadn’t put Shemazin’s name in here, I had given it ...to the solicitors but at that stage we thought that Bojan had seen the young lady, but my husband notified me that it wasn’t Bojan it was Shemazin.” She stated that her husband had advised her of this fact “yesterday”.

282 Ms King was asked where she had gleaned the information about the client moving from the Swiss Grand to the Park Royal and Ms King stated from the “booking sheet...I picked up the next day, and Danielle records the bookings on the booking sheet....She wrote it up as the Swiss Grand, because they’d been at the Swiss Grand for the whole of the week...But Zoran had forgotten to tell her that they’d moved to the Park Royal.”

283 It should be noted that at this time during the inquest, the very neat booking sheet and the Red Book had not been produced. The Red Book does not contain an address for the 10.30pm booking and the very neat booking sheet records the address as being the “[REDACTED]”

284 Later in her evidence, Ms King was asked if there was a diary or a record kept of appointments for a particular day and she responded, stating, “It would go on a booking sheet”, which was handwritten and were not retained. Ms King indicated that there’s “no booking sheet but I wrote in the ledger from the booking sheet the details from that day when I collected the booking sheet the next morning from work.” From the ledger “the details were put into the computer and the police came and made a disc and took that away as well.”

- 285 Ms King was asked if she was able to provide the contact details for “Kelly” and she indicated that:
- “I couldn’t contact her now, but at the time I did give all the details about the escorts that were working with the agency to the police.” (Police interviewed Kelly on 26 January 1999 and Kelly gave evidence during the first inquest on 28 January 1999.)
- 286 Ms King stated in her oral evidence that her husband’s role in the business was “Minimal.... He drives and that’s it....he does things for me like banking, running round, shopping, that sort of thing, but when it comes to the staff, runnings of the business and bookings that’s with me and the receptionist.”
- 287 Ms King confirmed that he would also be involved in the “transaction of money” in his car and the “receptionist would tell him how much to give the women or how much they were to be giving him....he wasn’t working out the money or anything like that, that as all done from our end.”
- 288 Ms King indicated that the overall hourly rate was “\$170 or \$180 at that time. And that would include the travel fees as well, I think, unless it was a long way away and then there’d be maybe an extra \$20 to cover taxis or the driver.”
- 289 Ms King gave evidence suggesting that she was relaxed about the outstanding debt Ms Balmain owed and they could have done it the following day.
- 290 Ms King was asked if the ledger contained the amount of money an escort may owe the agency, and Ms King indicated “No, yeah, we just do that manually throughout the shift.....we’d just keep a running total of it, I mean it was pretty casual.” Ms King stated that the amount of money owed “would usually be on the booking sheet....Yeah. I wouldn’t really put it into the ledger” even though she agreed that the booking sheet had been destroyed on 6 November 1994.
- 291 Ms King indicated that Ms Balmain would have owed the agency \$140 from the Samer booking and that it was unusual for a client to pay by cash when they had made an earlier arrangement to pay by cheque or credit card.
- 292 Ms King stated that she didn’t know what Mr Stanojevic’s reaction was when he became aware that Ms Balmain was not going to attend the 10.30pm appointment. Ms King went on to say, “Well it wouldn’t have mattered because somebody else went” and also confirmed that she had not spoken to him after the phone call at 8.01pm, which appeared to be inconsistent with the CCRs.
- 293 Ms King confirmed that she had spoken to Danielle at around 6pm in relation to the Summer Hill client, “because I think she was a bit panicky and didn’t know what to do.”

- 294 Ms King did not recall speaking to Danielle about the Yugoslav client's booking during this phone call. Ms King stated that she was not particularly worried at this time that Ms Balmain would not attend the later appointment, as Ms Balmain was "very definite with me at lunchtime that she would be going, and I think the reason she didn't want to go to Summer Hill was because she was meeting some friends for drinks and she didn't want to go to Summer Hill."
- 295 Ms King stated that she first became aware that Ms Balmain may not be attending the 10.30pm appointment at around 9pm.
- 296 Ms King confirmed that she had not made any arrangements with her husband to meet with Ms Balmain that evening because "we wouldn't organise a specific time, because we never know how the evening is going to turn out."
- 297 Ms King recalled speaking with Danielle about whether they should call Mr Samer about his cheque. Ms King said that she had concerns as the cheque was to the value of \$270. Ms King then indicated that Mr Samer's cheque should have totalled \$380, including travel and the champagne.
- 298 Ms King believed that the debt of \$300 that she had described to police in her initial interview would have been written up in "a little notebook" which she had not given to police as they "didn't ask" her for it. Ms King stated that Mr Samer's cheque could have been made out to "cash" or to the company for the \$380 due for 5 November 1994, however she never saw the cheque.
- 299 Ms King stated that she would have gone into the office the following morning "to get the booking sheet." She remembered speaking with Danielle "quite a bit but not to Zoran." Mr King believed that Danielle had continued to try and page Ms Balmain on the Sunday morning in order to settle the account.

Mr Stanojevic's evidence at the first inquest

- 300 Prior to commencing his evidence, Mr Stanojevic's barrister informed the Court that her client "speaks English well enough with patience to communicate. With the assistance of counsel assisting an interpreter has presented."
- 301 In his oral evidence, Mr Stanojevic described himself as a "Company Director" and "a driver, part-time driver".
- 302 Mr Stanojevic was taken to his interview dated 15 November 1994, when he was asked if he was working on 5 November 1994, and he responded "No, on Saturday, no." He explained that "I said to the police that I don't work during the day, usually the business starts around 6pm, 6, 7, it depends."
- 303 Mr Stanojevic was told that arrangements had been made for Reville Balmain to attend a booking at 10.30pm on 5 November 1994. He responded:

“I don’t know about that. I was just the driver at that time. Who does the bookings I don’t know.”

304 He was then asked if he remembered a booking that was made that evening with a Yugoslav friend of his, and he responded:

“Yeah, there was a booking made for a certain Yugoslav person who wanted an escort, wanted company, but it was not specified who did he want.”

305 He recalled the client’s name was ‘Semsadim’, who was someone he had met in Sydney; however, he was not really a friend. He indicated that he spoke with Semsadim about wanting to make a booking on Friday. He stated that Semsadim was “quite dark” and “a short man, black hair and very elegantly dressed.”

306 He told the court that he knew Bogan Privolovic (sic), and that both Semsadim and Bogan came to Australia together as tourists.

307 Mr Stanojevic confirmed that both men had used the escort services provided by Select Companions previously.

308 He indicated that he was not aware when the booking was made for 5 November 1994, that Ms Balmain would be attending the booking, and “really to me it doesn’t make any difference who was the girl.”

309 Mr Stanojevic denied that he knew that Ms Balmain had accepted an appointment at Kingsford on 5 November 1994.

310 He was taken to his statement dated 25 January 1999, where he indicated that he had received a call from the agency at 7pm directing him to pick up Kelly from Surry Hills and drive her to a client at Double Bay for a 7.30 appointment. He confirmed in his evidence that he had dropped Kelly at the Double Bay for the 7.30pm appointment.

311 Mr Stanojevic was taken to his mobile phone records which did not display any calls from the agency to him at around 7pm. He responded stating: “Actually now I am a little bit unsure. I know that that evening I was driving her. I’m not quite sure whether I picked her up from her home or what were the movements. A hundred per cent I was her driver that night or that day.”

312 He agreed he then waited at the Cosmopolitan Café in Double Bay until he was required to drive Kelly home to Surry Hills. He was then taken to the CCRs which did not disclose the phone calls he was suggesting and asked if he was still certain that his evidence was correct. He indicated, “Yes, I am, yes.” He then attempted to explain that:

“At the time my wife had one mobile phone, I had the other mobile phone. Maybe I just grabbed her telephone, her mobile instead of mine, I don’t know, but that night I worked on that number [REDACTED].”

313 It should be noted that both mobile phones ended in the digits [REDACTED].

314 Later, Mr Stanojevic indicated that he was “a little bit unsure” as to whether he had “picked (Kelly) up from her home or what were the movements. A hundred per cent I was her driver that night or that day.”

315 Mr Stanojevic gave evidence that he picked Kelly up from the Park Royal Hotel and drove her to the Airport Sheraton and on the way home from the later appointment, his car ended up with a flat tyre. He initially stated that Kelly remained in the car and then indicated that she was standing next to him.

316 He denied that he was aware on 5 November 1994 that Ms Balmain owed the agency any money.

317 Mr Stanojevic stated that he never drove escorts to bookings at any time before 6 or 7pm, despite the fact that the agency operated from noon. He was unable to offer an explanation for why he had told police he was not working on Saturday. He also confirmed that he was the only agency driver.

318 He gave evidence that after the soccer he went to the office and installed the new TV. He then stated that he went to the coffee shop, which was at odds with his earlier version where he told police he had gone home. He stated that what he was meaning in his interview was that he went home at 2 or 3am the next morning after finishing work.

319 He recalled driving Kelly to appointments that evening and despite the fact that two or three other escorts were also working that night, he “spent all evening with (Kelly) or on her case because she had one assignment after the other.” His explanation for failing to tell police about transporting Kelly that night was “nobody asked me that.”

320 Mr Stanojevic maintained throughout his evidence that he did not know that Ms Balmain owed the agency money. He stated that he had last seen her about one week before 5 November 1994, and he had only once or twice been asked by her to take money to the office to settle her account, “otherwise she went to the office and gave money there.” He stated that he only became aware that Ms Balmain owed a debt to the agency after she was reported missing.

321 He claimed during his evidence that he had nothing to do with the agency’s finances and would only discuss the company’s finances to ensure they had enough money to pay the bills.

- 322 He also maintained throughout his evidence that he was unaware that 5 November 1994 was to be Ms Balmain's last day working for the agency, despite telling police during his interview that he was aware of that fact.
- 323 Mr Stanojevic also denied knowing that Ms Balmain had an appointment at Kingsford that afternoon. He later suggested that his wife may have told him later that evening during the soccer match, or he may have overheard a telephone conversation she was having with the receptionist at the office.
- 324 Mr Stanojevic told the inquest that he had met up with the two "Yugoslavian gentlemen" at a coffee shop the previous day, 4 November 1994. He indicated that Semsadim wanted to book an appointment for the Saturday night.
- 325 He was aware they were residing at the Swiss Grand Hotel, although they were "just temporarily at the Park Royal" as there was no vacancy at the Swiss Grand Hotel.
- 326 Mr Stanojevic denied arranging the appointment, saying "Not me, I don't go into these details. Only my wife and the reception they do that," and that he would only provide the phone number of the agency to perspective clients. It is noted that he had previously indicated that neither of the "Yugoslavian gentlemen" spoke English. He also indicated that he had never spoken to Ms King about these clients.
- 327 Mr Stanojevic stated that he had dropped Kelly at the Park Royal Hotel and had then waited in the bar at the hotel with Mr Prvulovic for the two hours.
- 328 He confirmed that he had then taken Kelly to her appointment at the Airport Sheraton.
- 329 Mr Stanojevic was asked about his phone records, specifically a call he received from the number [REDACTED] at 3.21am on 6 November 1994. He initially suggested he may have called the receptionist to ensure that everything was okay. When he was told that he hadn't made the call, he offered the suggestion that he may have been calling the receptionist to enquire if she needed a lift home. Danielle's evidence was that she was living at the office as she was between houses.
- 330 He was also asked whether he recalled making a mobile phone call to another number in the vicinity of Darling Harbour at 9.17am on 6 November 1994. He responded, "I don't know. No, I don't know. Maybe my wife was there."
- 331 He told the inquest that he thought he had arrived home at about 3am on 6 November 1994.

Kelly's ERISP interview dated 26 January 1999

- 332 Kelly was first interviewed by police on 26 January 1999.

- 333 Kelly had commenced working at Select Companions at the end of October 1994 and ceased working at the agency at the end of November 1994.
- 334 Kelly was unable to recall an escort named Mischa or Revelle Balmain.
- 335 Kelly did not recall a person called Zoran, but did recall being transported by a male driver of a black BMW, who had an accent. Kelly denied ever being mistreated by this driver.
- 336 Kelly stated that financial transactions between herself and the agency were “done in the car between myself and the driver.” Kelly indicated that there was only one occasion that she went to the agency’s office and that was when she was leaving and was owed money by the agency.
- 337 Kelly recalled attending a client’s home on New South Head Road, Double Bay, however, could not be certain of the date of this appointment. Kelly indicated that she had “a vague memory of this taxi dropping me there but I was picked up by the driver.” She said that she thought the appointment was for “7 or 7.30pm” and she was picked up by the driver at 8.30pm and taken to the next appointment at the Park Royal Hotel.
- 338 Kelly conceded that she may have been taken home after the first appointment and contacted by the agency later. Her mobile phone records show the agency telephoning her at 6.07pm and again at 8.26pm.
- 339 Kelly recalled that after the appointment at the Park Royal Hotel she was taken by the same driver to the next appointment and on the way home from that appointment the car had a flat tyre. She recalled it was the back right hand side tyre and she helped the driver by unbolting the nuts.

Kelly’s evidence at the first inquest

- 340 Two days after participating in her ERISP with police, Kelly was called to give evidence before the first inquest.
- 341 Kelly conceded on various occasions that her memory was affected by the lapse of time. Kelly indicated that the police that interviewed her gave her the date 5 November 1994 and described the first appointment at Double Bay and she was then able to recall the other two appointments and the sequence of events. Kelly indicated that the police had also told her the name of the client at Double Bay and she recalled him clearly.
- 342 Kelly was not sure if she took a taxi to the first appointment at Double Bay but was certain that the driver transported her in the black BMW for the rest of the evening.

- 343 Kelly was also uncertain if she had been transported home after the first appointment and before the 10.30pm appointment.
- 344 Kelly was asked if she recalled being telephoned by the agency at 6.07pm and if that call was to remind her about the Double Bay booking. Kelly agreed that was likely.
- 345 Kelly also agreed that it was possible that she had been telephoned by the agency later that night asking if she was able to take another booking as another escort was now unavailable. She responded, “Well they wouldn’t have worded it like that but that’s possible.”
- 346 In relation to the evidence of Ms King and Mr Stanojevc, DSC Abernethy found:
- “As to the Stanojevics, despite, Mr Stanojevic’s initial story, I am satisfied that they, or either of them, are highly unlikely to have anything at all to do with the death of Revell Balmain. I have no evidence at all that they knew at any relevant time where she was working, that is the actual address she was working at. To the contrary she dealt at all relevant times with [Danielle]. I am satisfied that the final hour with Samer was spent “moonlighting” or working for herself. I have no evidence that the Stanojevics knew this on 5 November 1994. The only way knowledge of either the “moonlighting” or the work address at Kingsford can be imputed to Mr Stanojevic is by him seeing the work sheets or speaking to [Danielle]. In that situation, the time frame for him to act is tight to the point of making it highly unlikely that he was in any way involved.”

NSW Police Cold Case Investigation – 2007 to 2009

- 347 A review of the initial 1994 investigation was conducted by the Unsolved Homicide Squad on 17 March 2004. The review identified the following lines of inquiry which required further investigation:
- Forensic examination of 3 McNair Avenue Kingsford.
 - Forensic examination of exhibits.
 - Forensic examination of motor vehicle TFU-416.
 - Forensic Odontologist – comparison of dental records to photographs of injury to Gavin Samer finger.
 - Forensic examination of anonymous letter.
 - Interviewing of Gavin Samer associates.
 - Locating Gavin Samer.

348 On 27 April 2007, DCI Doueihy was allocated the role of officer in charge of the re-investigation into the death of Ms Balmain. In addition to the above-mentioned seven lines of inquiry, DCI Doueihy identified two further lines of inquiry, being:

- Enquiries with Missing Person's Unit regarding unidentified remains, and
- Zoran Stanojevic.

349 Forensic examination of the McNair Avenue property:

Between 12 and 14 November 2007, a forensic examination was undertaken at Mr Samer's former residence at 3 McNair Avenue. All furniture and floor coverings were removed to conduct luminol testing and a manual excavation of the area under the house was also undertaken. No human remains or forensic evidence was located.

350 Ms Balmain's belongings submitted for further analysis:

A number of Ms Balmain's personal items were submitted for forensic analysis, including all of the items located in the streets surrounding McNair Avenue. DNA testing was performed on each item. An unknown male DNA was located on Ms Balmain's right shoe which was consistent with the DNA of Mr Samer. This was not deemed to be a significant discovery as Mr Samer had been in Ms Balmain's company for several hours prior to her disappearance.

351 Other unknown DNA was detected on Ms Balmain's diary and a letter, however, DCI Doueihy noted that "all the exhibits had been physically handled by numerous persons, including police, court staff and the victim's family over several years, during the course of the investigation and subsequent Coroner's Inquest. This ultimately raised the issue of contamination and subsequent unreliability of any DNA located in the recent testing."

352 Mr Samer's Holden Commodore:

Mr Samer's Holden Commodore had been physically examined on 13 November 1994 but not forensically examined. In 1994, police collected six fibre lifts from within the rear parcel area of the car which were never tested. The strands were tested and were found to be fine brown and light brown hairs; however, the DNA profile was not suitable for DNA testing. The Holden Commodore was subjected to forensic testing with no trances of blood detected.

353 Mr Samer's Finger Injury:

Ms Balmain's dental records were obtained. An advice was sought from Professor Chris Griffiths in relation to bite-mark comparisons. Professor Griffiths "advised that it would be highly unlikely that he could state that the injury came from a tooth; furthermore, without a complete set of dental records from Reville Balmain no such comparison could be made."

354 Interviewing Mr Samer's associates:

A number of Mr Samer's family and friends were interviewed. Ms Oswald-Sealy told police that Mr Samer used to get "rough" during intercourse and she wondered whether he had harmed Ms Balmain on 5 November 1994 during intercourse and then hurt or killed her due to concerns he may have held that he would be in "trouble."

355 Further questioning of Mr Samer:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. DCI Doueihy said to Mr Samer, "Gavin you are the only firm suspect in this investigation....I believe Revelle didn't leave your house alive. I believe that there was a dispute over the payment which resulted in Revelle's death." Mr Samer denied he had any involvement in Ms Balmain's death.

356 DCI Doueihy arranged for a review of unidentified remains held by the Missing Persons Unit, and a DNA comparison of remains held since Ms Balmain's disappearance. No remains were linked to Ms Balmain.

357 DCI Doueihy attempted to interview the former escort "Kelly", however, she was not prepared to engage with police.

358 Further investigations relating to Mr Stanojevic:

- a. Police arranged for Mr Stanojevic's former vehicle, the BMW to be forensically examined using Luminol. No positive indication for blood was obtained.
- b. Mr Stanojevic declined to participate in an interview or provide his DNA.

359 Ms King was interviewed by police on 8 January 2008:

Ms King indicated to police that she had sold Select Companions in 2001 and had separated from Mr Stanojevic in 2003.

Ms King also told police the following:

- a. Mr Stanojevic was a "sociopath" who had "rage issues".
- b. He was violent towards her.

c. Mr Stanojevic had been “furious” that Ms Balmain could not be contacted on the evening of 5 November 1994, as he had “talked up” Ms Balmain to the “important” Serbian clients.

d. She stated that it was possible Mr Stanojevic knew the clients before the evening of 5 November 1994 and that they were linked to Serbian organised crime.

360 Further inquiries regarding the Serbian clients

- a. Police made formal requests to Australian Federal authorities to identify passport details for Mr Bojan Prvulovic and Mr Semsadim Krasniqi. The Australian passport database did not return a match for either Mr Prvulovic or Mr Krasniqi, including various variations of both names.
- b. Police also sought the assistance from the Yugoslavian consulate; however, the consulate was unable to assist.

361 An anonymous letter:

- a. An anonymous letter was received by police dated 16 September 1998, which coincided with the third day of hearing at the first inquest. The letter described Ms Balmain being in the vicinity of the Red Tomato Inn on the night she disappeared. The author of the letter indicated that Ms Balmain was wearing a dress, was staggering and was not in possession of a handbag.
- b. Police made a preliminary comparison between the handwriting in the letter and Mr Samer’s handwriting and formed the view that they were significantly different.
- c. Unidentified fingerprints were located on the letter.
- d. Police decided to discontinue this line of inquiry.

Interview with Mr V

362 Mr V was a client of Select Companions who attended a booking with Kelly on 5 November 1994, into the early hours of 6 November 1994.

363 On 22 January 2009, investigators from the cold case review spoke with Mr V over the phone regarding this booking. Given the time that had elapsed, Mr V did not remember this particular booking, though he did recall Select Companions. Mr V was a regular user of escort services and had used them frequently since 1994.

364 Mr V told investigators that if the escort did not have a driver, he would call them a cab. At the time, he lived on a busy street in Sydney’s East which was a main thoroughfare for traffic. He said it would not have been difficult to hail a taxi from the street.

365 Mr V was interviewed by DCI Bell on 5 September 2022, during which he confirmed the above information.

Interview with Ms King on 8 January 2008

366 As foreshadowed, Police interviewed Ms King on 8 January 2008 and prepared an Investigator's Note. Ms King was offered the opportunity to participate in an induced statement. Ms King sought to refresh her memory by reading her previous interviews.

367 Prior to gaining access to her earlier statements, Ms King told police that the only details that she may have previously withheld from the police related to Mr Stanojevic's personality. She described him to have rage issues and said that he was a sociopath. Ms King claimed that he was often violent with her and practised coercive control.

368 Ms King told police that her relationship with Mr Stanojevic ended in early 2003.

369 Ms King claimed that Mr Stanojevic had major links to, and involvement with the Yugoslav mafia and believed that he was currently involved in marijuana production and organised theft. Ms King indicated that she would require witness protection for herself and her children if she was to give evidence against him as he had previously threatened to kill the three of them.

370 Ms King provided the following information to investigators:

- Ms King did not know if Mr Stanojevic watched the soccer before or after he attended the office.
- There were two main books used at the business, being the "daily booking book" and a smaller book used as a ledger by her which recorded the details of money paid and owed between the agency and the escorts.
- Ms King believed that Mr Stanojevic was reluctant to disclose his role in the money exchange in his car as he may have thought such behaviour was illegal. She confirmed that he handled a lot of money during these exchanges.
- Ms King believed that Mr Stanojevic knew the Yugoslav clients prior to 5 November 1994 and that they too were linked to Yugoslav organised crime.
- Ms King firmly believed that Ms Balmain would not have told a client her real name, "especially one she met for the first/only time, even on her last shift".
- Ms King believed that Ms Balmain had her husband's mobile phone number.

- Ms King changed her version regarding Mr Stanojevic not being upset that Ms Balmain was not available for the 10.30pm appointment, with the notes stating, “Zoran was furious that she was uncontactable and did not attend. Says Zoran had “talked up” Balmain to the clients and described her physically to them, and that she was their only blonde escort working at that time. Says Zoran would have taken it as personally offensive because he had arranged the booking and now had to provide an alternative – that he would feel foolish in front of clients and that’s why he was furious.”
- Ms King said she did not know why she initially said that Mr Stanojevic was not angry about this. The investigator’s notes indicate that Ms King “thinks maybe that she was so certain at the time that Zoran was not involved that she did not want to say that he was furious with Balmain on the day/night she went missing and therefore bring him under more suspicion with the police/investigation. Says she was in complete denial about her own circumstances and environment at the time.”
- Mr Stanojevic would make decisions about which escorts to send to bookings that he arranged. Mr Stanojevic would not have been worried about the outstanding money owed by Ms Balmain as he had “rapport with her from selling her the stolen clothing.”
- Ms King did not think that Kelly would lie to cover for Mr Stanojevic.

Detective Inspector Bell’s review of Ms Balmain’s case from April 2020 – 2022

- 371 In April 2020, DCI Bell was allocated Ms Balmain’s case for further investigation and review by the State Crime Command Homicide Squad.
- 372 DCI Bell then undertook an extensive investigation and review of the earlier evidence and records from the 1994-99 and 2007-09 investigations, as well as the first coronial inquest.
- 373 DCI Bell then compiled a comprehensive summary timeline between January 1994 and December 2010. Included within this timeline were areas identified as requiring further investigation. DCI Bell then “proposed investigative strategies and lines of inquiry to further the investigation.”
- 374 DCI Bell prepared two statements dated 14 April 2022 and 14 February 2024. He also gave evidence during the second inquest on 29 April 2024 and 2 February 2026.
- 375 The further investigations and strategies included the following:
- A review of the reward for information.
 - Information about the black BMW.

- Mr Stanojevic's offending.
- Further interviews with Select Companions personnel.
- Further interviews with Mr Stanojevic and Ms King.
- A further interview with Danielle.
- A further interview with Kelly.
- Interviews with other escorts not previously interviewed.
- Review and further investigations relating to the Yugoslavian clients.

Review of the reward for information leading to a conviction

- a. The NSW Government gazetted an increase to the earlier 'rewards for information leading to a conviction' to \$1 million in the 2020-2022 investigation.
- b. 18 Crime Stopper calls were received and investigated.
- c. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- d. Police attempted to speak with AB on 10 August 2021; however, she refused to speak with police or provide a statement.

Information about the black BMW

- a. Ms VA had been a long-time resident of McNair Avenue in 1994. Although Ms VA indicated that she was spoken to by police in 1994, no statement was taken from her until 10 February 2021.
- b. A police "Standard Canvas Form" was produced by police that confirmed that Ms VA had spoken to police canvassing the area on 10 November 1994, and she had told them seeing a "new sporty black car driving around the area in the afternoon on the weekend (unsure as to whether it was sat or sun but definitely in the afternoon)."
- c. Ms VA described McNair Avenue in 1994 as a "quiet suburban street. There was no through traffic or the like. Generally, only those who lived in the street or those who were visiting would drive in the street. Everyone knew everyone in the street."
- d. Ms VA recalled police canvassing her street and "telling police that she had seen a black BMW car parked in McNair Street. I think someone was sitting in the vehicle, someone with black hair but I can't be certain because it was so long ago. I can't remember if the engine was on or off. The BMW wasn't a big BMW; it was a smallish to medium sized BMW. The BMW was well kept. The car has stood out in my memory because I thought it was odd the car was parked in the street.

It was odd because it was very rare that you would see a BMW in our street. The BMW was parked directly out the front of a vacant home.”

- e. DCI Bell confirmed from Ms VA’s description that the BMW was likely parked outside 11 or 13 McNair Avenue which would have provided a clear view of 3 McNair Avenue.

Danielle’s second interview with police on 10 August 2021

376 Danielle identified the booking record she completed on 5 November 1994. She agreed that it was a very neat record and conceded that she may have re-written the notations as “if it was busy, and it was just crazy, and there was stuff written everywhere, cause there are phones going all over the place, it can get quite crazy. Umm you would then write, a second one that was neat. That could explain why it was neat, like that.” Danielle denied she had altered or fabricated the record she had handwritten at the request of either Ms King or Mr Stanojevic.

377 Danielle confirmed that her booking record had [REDACTED], as compared with the ‘Red Book’ entry which had “Mr Bogin” at the top. Danielle agreed that the Mr Bogin entry might have been a pre-booking, rather than a booking she had received. Danielle noted that the second record did not appear to have booking times recorded on the document.

378 Danielle could not recall the details of Ms Balmain’s booking with Mr Samer.

379 Danielle was reminded that she had told police in her first interview that she had had to phone Ms Balmain at 6pm, some ten minutes after the end of the booking. Danielle stated: “I might have tried to call before and that was when I called again. I don’t recall. Cause I would of, if she was finishing at 5.50 I would have had to call her at 5.40, so that she had time to prepare and be out on time. Like to the minute.”

380 Danielle also confirmed that she spoke with Ms Balmain during the above conversation about another booking at Summer Hill, which Ms Balmain declined to attend. She stated: “I tried to call her to finish the appointment and she wasn’t answering and then, then that Jane came in after and was upset that she, was probably staying with him for extra money or something.” (Emphasis added)

381 Danielle agreed that she would have called Ms King after 6pm to either tell her that:

“I can’t get hold of this girl, or no that must have been to tell her that she refused a booking and that I had nobody else to cover it. So whether she had any ideas of anyone else I could send.”

382 Danielle stated:

“I didn’t, I had no idea, I was so young and stupid, I had no idea what was going on until Jane said she’s probably staying longer and I thought ohhh. So

it wasn't the area, but it might have been the area as well, as in who wants to go to Summer Hill."

383 Danielle commented:

"but that is a common thing, I think, it's whenever you can't find someone, ohh the first thing you think she is doing something on the side, cause that's what a lot of them do, you know. It is not really ethical, but.....Ohh I think it is frowned upon everywhere, it is like any business."

384 Danielle confirmed that if she was unable to take a booking, such as the Summer Hill job, she would not write the job on the booking sheet.

385 Danielle was asked if she had told Mr Stanojevic about the appointment with Mr Samer. Danielle stated:

"I can't remember. I probably, if he was around he would have heard it being talked about."

386 Later, Danielle was asked the following questions:

Q. "Would he have gone to pick up Revelle?

A. I don't remember at the time whether he had. Oh it might have been yeah. Might have been to say I can't get hold of her.

Q. Do you think he would of, did you tell him the address?

A. He would have known the address, yeah. He would have known the address from.

Q. So would he have gone around to get her?

A. If she wasn't answering, he might have gone around to get her."

387 Danielle indicated later:

"He would have to, wouldn't he? I don't, can't say for sure. I don't know. But I mean it's, with everybody coming or calling or coming in and checking what's happening, and them being together and talking about what's going on surely then he might of known. I don't really know....He probably did know after she didn't turn up because Jane would have no doubt said she's probably staying longer or she hasn't called in, or whatever reason."

388 Danielle was asked if Mr Stanojevic would have been angry at Ms Balmain for 'moonlighting', and she responded:

"Well anyone would probably get angry if someone was cheating their business by yeah. I don't know

389 She was asked if she had told Mr Stanojevic about the Summer Hill job and Ms Balmain's refusal to attend, and commented:

"Again, if he was around and heard it, probably I don't I don't quite remember. I wouldn't have withheld information from them because they were the owners of the company, you know it's not my place to hide information by any means. And why would I" You know. We were all a bit outraged at the fact she just disappeared and had you know commitments and things."

390 Danielle was asked if losing the Summer Hill booking would have upset Mr Stanojevic, and she responded: "Well, I mean they're losing a booking, probably. But I don't know..."

391 Danielle confirmed that Mr Stanojevic never threatened her and described Mr Stanojevic as a "normal, decent guy. I know he would um, I heard him yelling on the phone a few times, but he was never rough or rude with us."

392 Danielle indicated that she had never heard that Mr Stanojevic was infatuated with Ms Balmain.

393 Danielle was unable to recall if Mr Stanojevic came to the office on the evening of 5 November 1994 to install a television. She stated: "...I don't remember talking to, aww him coming in that night. It's possible, it's possible I just don't remember it."

394 Danielle confirmed that she had not taken the booking for "Mr Bogan", and suggested that "[perhaps] he was ah, Jane was arranging it because he was a friend you know it was in the family, Jane must have been arranging that themselves."

395 Danielle was asked about Mr Stanojevic's name appearing underneath Mr Bogan's name and she stated "so that would be him probably going to drop her off or pick her up maybe."

396 Danielle was told by police that Ms Balmain owed the agency \$400. Danielle acknowledged that the agency would sometimes owe the escorts money, but commented, "oooh so that's quite a big amount wasn't it, for back then. Yeah that's stupid." Danielle further agreed that "Zoran would have been angry about this."

397 Danielle recalled Ms King coming "in that afternoon" and asked me to contact Mr Samer about the cheque. She commented:

"Yeah it was something to do with a cheque and someone said that it'd been put through the washing machine or something I can't remember the details of it, something to do with the cheque and I had to call him and ask what time she left or something and something yeah I think to cancel a cheque because he was going to pay cash instead or something was it? They were

going to go and pick yep cash or something like it was something to do with a cheque and changing the payment or something.”

398 Danielle indicated that she was never asked to give evidence at the first inquest and denied actively avoiding attending Court or being told by Ms King or Mr Stanojevic not to attend Court.

“Sophie’s” statement to police dated 11 August 2021

399 Sophie was a close friend of Ms Balmain’s. They had met at the “Spott” modelling agency where Sophie was working as a stylist and Ms Balmain was working as a model in 1993. Sophie was aware that Ms Balmain was also working as a model at the Satellite modelling agency.

400 Sophie began working at VIP Escorts and Select Companions at around the same time as Ms Balmain, and their relationship developed into a friendship.

401 A day or two after Ms Balmain’s disappearance, police contacted Sophie at home. She recalled telling the police that “Zoran was infatuated with Revelle during this phone call. The police told me that would be in touch, I think I had another phone call about a week later from police.” Sophie was not subsequently asked to provide a statement to the police.

402 A police running sheet was prepared on 20 November 1994, which was clearly never shown to Sophie and was not adopted by her. The running sheet entry noted that Sophie was a friend of Ms Balmain and they both worked at VIP Escorts. Sophie lived across the road from Ms Balmain in Bellevue Hill.

403 The running sheet entry indicated that Sophie last saw Ms Balmain on 31 October 1994 at about 10.30pm when she was dropped home by the driver from Select Companions in his black BMW. Sophie said the driver would drive her to her clients about 80 per cent of the time and the rest of the time she caught cabs.

404 The running sheet stated that Sophie mentioned that a sheikh had been a client of Ms Balmain’s when she worked at VIP Escorts, and he had invited her to Arabia. She also mentioned that Ms Balmain would never walk around in public carrying her shoes.

405 In her statement Sophie said that Ms King ran “Select Companions like a boot camp, very military style and I didn’t get along with her. She was making money off? us and treating us like secondary citizens. I felt like she looked down at us. She appeared the boss and ran the show, but I think it was a double act.”

406 Sophie recalled that Ms King liked Mr Stanojevic to drive the “girls” to their appointments to stop them moonlighting with clients. She described Zoran’s car as being a black BMW, which was only a couple of years old and very clean.

- 407 Sophie stated that when she first started with the agency, Mr Stanojevic would transport her to and from clients. She said that the inside of Mr Stanojevic's car was like an office and she would hand over the cash or credit card payment to him. Sophie indicated that she did not recall any client paying by cheque.
- 408 Sophie recalled that she would sometimes receive a pager message from Ms King during a booking telling her to meet Mr Stanojevic outside to hand over the payment. She would then return to the booking. Sophie commented that Ms King was "money hungry."
- 409 She indicated that if she wasn't being collected by Mr Stanojevic she was expected to take the payment to the office. If the office was closed, "they would be on your case the next morning...otherwise Zoran would collect the cash from you from your home address." Sophie stated that there "was a sense of urgency to get the money the whole time," as compared with the process at VIP Escorts, which was more relaxed.
- 410 Sophie stated that she would moonlight on occasions, but less so when she was working at Select Companions because of Mr Stanojevic. She said he was always "lurking around. You would not want to be caught out by Zoran. There would be shouting and carrying on. I was worried that they would send me to a shonky booking."
- 411 Sophie told police in 2021 that Mr Stanojevic was "explosive" and would yell and scream at other escorts, telling them to "get out of the fucking car". She also described him as being "grumpy and in a bad mood."
- 412 Sophie recalled that Mr Stanojevic treated Ms Balmain differently, describing him as always being "perky and upbeat" when he was in her company. He would drive Ms Balmain to run errands and take her places when she was not working for the agency. Sophie stated that she "believed he was following (Ms Balmain) around. She was not scared of him at all. I think there was something going on. I don't know what it was, but I think she was working him. Out of seven days of the week, she would be in his company for five."
- 413 Sophie was aware that Ms Balmain had a dance contract and was flying to Japan. They had arranged to meet up for farewell drinks on the Saturday night.
- 414 Sophie indicated that on the Saturday morning, Ms Balmain had told her that she had a booking at Kensington and that they would meet up at around 7-8pm. She didn't recall being told that Ms Balmain had another booking scheduled for 11pm.
- 415 Sophie described Ms Balmain as not a "drama queen and was a solid little number. She was a great girl, wasn't the whinging type. She had a little bit of sass. I never saw her in conflict with anyone from the agency."

- 416 Sophie confirmed that “Revelle used drugs, mainly cocaine. She didn’t have a problem, but she’d have a line of cocaine socially. She liked drinking. I would use cocaine as well. We used it mainly to stay awake and because the clients used it. The clients would supply it. It wasn’t every client that use coke, probably fifty-fifty.”
- 417 Ms Balmain’s pager records confirm that Sophie contacted her on 12 occasions between 8 August 1994 and 6 November 1994. Some of the messages may have been consistent with the two women “moonlighting” together.

Kelly’s second interview

- 418 Kelly was contacted by DCI Bell on 29 October 2021. DCI Bell’s investigator’s note stated, “Kelly was very reluctant to talk to police. She stated that she had nothing more to contribute and did not want to give evidence. Kelly previously declined to talk to investigators in 2009...”
- 419 In this interview, Kelly indicated that she could not remember much as she was “a big drinker back then” and the “only thing that I remember is that the car had a flat tyre and I had to help the driver change the tyre. I was a farm girl I just wanted to get the job done and get home.”

Mr Stanojevic’s interview dated 30 September 2021

- 420 Mr Stanojevic participated in an ERISP interview with DCI Bell on 30 September 2021.
- 421 He again maintained that he was simply the driver and that Ms King handled all of the business dealings. He indicated that the escorts would come into the office and give the money to Jane.
- 422 Mr Stanojevic was asked about his whereabouts on 5 November 1994, and he stated that:
- “I worked that night but I didn’t drive her and this booking in Kensington because I was in an airport with another lady and I wait over there. And ah, all night is normal, we close....”
- 423 Later in the same interview he was asked where he was at 7.15pm, and he stated that he was at home. He also told police that he was with his wife all the time.
- 424 Mr Stanojevic didn’t recall Danielle living in the office at this time.
- 425 He stated that Ms Balmain was not booked to see the two Yugoslavian clients, and he believed that two other escorts saw the Yugoslavians.

- 426 Mr Stanojevic agreed that he travelled to Melbourne with a friend in late October 1994 to attend the Melbourne Cup but did not meet either Bogan or Shemsadin in Melbourne.
- 427 Mr Stanojevic could not recall telling the Coroner in the first inquest that he was drinking in the bar with Bojan while Shemsadin was seeing the escorts.
- 428 Later in the interview, he indicated in relation to the booking with the two Yugoslavians that:
- “Yeah we want to Revelle go there, we want but she didn’t answer. And we took another two girls. I don’t know which. I forgot.”
- 429 He also indicated that the two Yugoslavians had always stayed at the Swiss Grand Hotel and had not stayed at the Park Royal. He stated that he didn’t know why the booking had been changed to the Park Royal Hotel.
- 430 He told police that Bojan rented a car while he was in Sydney, “I remember some Holden.”
- 431 Mr Stanojevic initially agreed that he had given Kelly a lift to an appointment at 7.15pm, and then was unable to recall if that was correct.
- 432 When questioned whether Ms Balmain owed money, he stated that it was “normal for us.”
- 433 Mr Stanojevic denied that he had been told by Ms King that Ms Balmain had an appointment with Mr Samer and also said that he didn’t know anything about Ms Balmain turning down the Summer Hill appointment.
- 434 He told police that he had only driven Ms Balmain “two, three times”.
- 435 He denied that he had sent a pager message to Ms Balmain on the morning of 6 November 1994, saying that Ms King would take care of all business matters.
- 436 Mr Stanojevic was questioned about making a phone call to the Serbian Consulate on 7 November 1994, and he indicated he was calling a friend at the consulate.

The Yugoslavian clients and others

- 437 DCI Bell undertook a review and made further inquiries in relation to Mr Prvulovic and Mr Krasniqi.
- 438 The evidence gleaned by police prior to DCI Bell’s investigation suggested that Ms Balmain was scheduled to visit either Mr Prvulovic or Mr Krasniqi (or both men) at 10.30pm on 5 November 1994, at either the Swiss Grand Hotel or the Park Royal Darling Harbour.

439 In the 1994 and 2007-2009 investigations, police failed to locate Mr Prvulovic and Mr Krasniqi. In addition, no inquiries were conducted of the Swiss Grand Hotel and the Park Royal Darling Harbour businesses.

440 International transit records confirming entry and exit to Australia

Mr Bojan Prvulovic

- i. On 25 October 1994, Mr Prvulovic entered Australia via Melbourne airport. His passenger card indicated that he intended to remain in Australia for 21 days. He listed his address as 6/52 Manchester Street, Sydney.
- ii. Mr Prvulovic left Australia 13 days later on 7 November 1994 on flight QF1, bound for Thailand, two days after Ms Balmain's disappearance.
- iii. Mr Prvulovic's Australian Border Force passenger records confirm that he has not returned to Australia since 7 November 1994.
- iv. Interestingly, Mr Stanojevic's CCRs show that he telephoned the Serbian and Thai consulates on 7 November 1994.

Mr Semsadim Krasniqi

- i. Mr Krasniqi's passenger records show that he also arrived at Melbourne airport on 25 October 1994, on the same flight as Mr Prvulovic.
- ii. Mr Krasniqi departed Australia on 11 November 1994 and has not returned to Australia since.

Mr Prvulovic and Mr Krasniqi's prior association with Mr Stanojevic

- i. DCI Bell undertook a review of Mr Stanojevic's CCRs to confirm if there were any prior links to either Mr Prvulovic or Mr Krasniqi.
- ii. Mr Stanojevic's phone records confirm that his mobile phone had 'pinged' cell towers in Melbourne between 29 October and 2 November 1994.
- iii. On 3 November 1994 at 12.10am, the cell tower changed to Sydney. A call was made to Mr Stanojevic's home number at this time.
- iv. On 3 November 1994, Mr Prvulovic commenced using the services of Select Companions at the Swiss Grand Hotel.

Mr Prvulovic and Mr Krasniqi's association with Select Companions

- i. On 3 November 1994, 'Nina' and 'Chevon' from Select Companions visited Mr Prvulovic in Room 514 of the Swiss Grand Hotel in Bondi.

- ii. The appointment is recorded in the agency's Red Book, with Mr Stanojevic being recorded as the 'source' for the booking.
- iii. Neither Nina nor Chevon were interviewed by police in 1994. Nina left Australia and travelled to Sweden in 1999 and has not returned to Australia since.
- iv. On 4 November 1994, 'Jade' visited Mr Prvulovic between 10.25pm and 11.20pm at the Swiss Grand Hotel and then 'Sarah' visited him between 11.30pm and 12.30pm in the same room. The source of the appointment was recorded as "regular" in the Red Book.
- v. On 5 November 1994, the booking sheet and the Red Book record the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]". The very neat booking sheet records the client's address as "[REDACTED]", whilst the Red Book does not refer to an address. The time of the booking is recorded as [REDACTED], and the escort is named as "[REDACTED]."
- vi. On 9 November 1994, the Select Companions Red Book recorded 'Chevon' as the escort meeting with Mr Prvulovic between midnight and 3am in Room 424 at the Swiss Grand Hotel.
- vii. On 10 November 1994, the Red Book recorded 'Sarah' as the escort meeting with Mr Prvulovic between midnight and 2am in Room 424 at the Swiss Grand Hotel.
- viii. Both Sarah and Chevon were interviewed by police in 2021, however, could not recall the client.
- ix. It is noted that Mr Prvulovic left Australia on 7 November 1994, so it is a possibility that the client referred to on 9 and 10 November 1994 was Mr Krasniqi and not Mr Prvulovic.

441 DCI Bell confirmed with both the Swiss Grand Hotel and the Park Royal Hotel that they had not retained their business records from 1994 by the time of DCI Bell's 2020-2022 investigation.

Mr Stanojevic's denials

- i. On 7 November 1994, at 12.54pm, Mr Stanojevic called the Serbian Consulate in Woollahra. At 1.50pm, he called "All Tours Travel Agency" in Potts Point. At 2.38pm, he contacted the Thai Consulate in Sydney.
- ii. Mr Stanojevic was interviewed by police on 30 September 2021. He told police that he had travelled to Melbourne with a friend but denied being in the company of Mr Prvulovic and Mr Krasniqi, on or around 29 October 1994.

- iii. Telephone records suggest that Mr Stanojevic was in Melbourne at the same time as Mr Prvulovic and Mr Krasniqi in the week prior to Ms Balmain's disappearance.
- iv. He further denied that Mr Prvulovic had an appointment with Kelly at the Park Royal Hotel on 5 November 1994.
- v. Mr Stanojevic told police in 2021 that he met Mr Prvulovic at a café in Sydney and that Mr Krasniqi was not really a friend, but merely a person he had met in Sydney.

Other Yugoslavian nationals of interest to the investigation

442 On 4 June 2021, Police showed Mr Stanojevic photographs which included images of Mr Bojan Prvulovic, Mr Ratko Ljuboja and Zoran Zakula and asked if he recognised any of the men. Mr Stanojevic indicated that he did not recognise any of them. He later clarified that he knew Mr Ljuboja as he played soccer with him and that he was from Belgrade. He denied knowing either Mr Prvulovic or Mr Zakula.

Mr Ratko Ljuboja

443 Police had been able to establish that Mr Ljuboja is an associate of Mr Prvulovic and he is known to police for criminal offending including stealing, goods in custody, and traffic offences. He is also known to police intelligence holdings as the co-ordinator of large-scale shoplifting syndicates. He is currently in prison in Western Australia

Mr Zoran Zakula

444 Between October 1994 and June 1995, the Select Companions 'Red Book' contained entries for a "*Tony (Kole) of [REDACTED]*."

445 Police were able to establish that Tony Kole was Zoran Zakula, also known as Dragan Nikolic.

446 On 19 June 1995, Mr Zakula/Nikolic and Mr Stanojevic were arrested together at Bondi Junction for pickpocketing. Mr Nikolic's fingerprints were obtained and matched with the fingerprints on record for Zoran Zakula.

447 Mr Zakula had also been arrested in Melbourne in 1988 for attempting to pickpocket and off-duty police officer.

448 Arrest photographs of Zoran Zakula and Dragan Nikolic confirm that they are the same person.

449 The Australian Border Force advised that there is no record of a Zoran Zakula, born 8 September 1957, having travelled to Australia. Inquiries made with Interpol Serbia confirmed that Zoran Zakula was known to the Serbian authorities and died on 1 October 2006 in Belgrade.

- 450 On 9 September 2021, some 6 months after being shown a photograph of Zoran Zakula in which Mr Stanojevic was unable to identify Mr Zakula, Mr Stanojevic was shown another photograph of Mr Zakula. After viewing the second photograph of Mr Zakula, Mr Stanojevic told police that he knew the male in the picture, however, he had passed away in either 1997 or 1998.
- 451 During her interview with police on 16 September 2021, Ms King indicated that she met Mr Stanojevic when he was living with Mr Zakula/Nikolic at an address on [REDACTED] Street. Ms King said, "I think they've been doing stuff together for a long time...they used to do sporting events....pickpocket stuff...", which appears at odds with Mr Stanojevic's assertion that he only met Mr Zakula on the day they were both arrested by police for pickpocketing in 1994.

Ms Brentnall

- 452 Ms Brentnall provided a second statement to police dated 24 June 2022.
- 453 Ms Brentnall told police that Ms Balmain's friend, Sophie, made her nervous, and she felt Sophie "had a hold over Revelle."
- 454 Ms Brentnall stated that "Revelle was so happy to be getting out of escorting and she was giddy about her new boyfriend Piers."
- 455 Ms Brentnall confirmed that they had arranged to go to the Royal Hotel in Paddington on the evening of 5 November 1994.
- 456 Ms Brentnall said that at some point after Ms Balmain went missing, she "built up the courage to call Select Companions to find out what happened to Revelle." Ms Brentnall asked the receptionist, "I'm looking for Mischa" and the receptionist said, "she went to that job, and she had a driver." Ms Brentnall believed that the receptionist was referring to the job at Mr Samer's residence.

Mr Spears

- 457 Ms Balmain's flatmate, Mr Geoffrey Spears, provided an interview to police on 12 November 1994.
- 458 During his interview with Police on 12 November 1994, Mr Spears told investigators that on the Monday, being 7 November 1994, he dialled the number for 'Jenny' in Ms Balmain's phone book and:
- "...got through to some guy who was either French or Hungarian or something like that, he had an accent, to explain if I could I was looking for Revelle and that's when um, I got a bit of verbal abuse from him purely and simply because...Well he basically said that I was lying, that I was covering up for her, that she owed him money um, swore down the phone and I said, Look, I don't have a clue what you're

talking about, and then, I don't want to speak to you anymore, so I put the phone down. And then I got a phone call from Jenny to say that, to apologise for the obnoxious phone call..."

459 Mr Spears gave evidence at the first inquest on 17 September 1998. He told the Court that it was "very unlike [Revelle's] personality to just totally disappear and not speak to her friends, family or myself and notify someone of her whereabouts".

Forensic Examinations

460 There were no further leads or results.

DCI Bell's conclusions

461 DCI Bell concluded in his statement dated 14 April 2022 that:

"Throughout the investigation, Zoran Stanojevic has maintained he had no involvement in the disappearance and murder of Revelle Balmain. He maintained he had minimal contact with her during her time working at Select Companions.

There are discrepancies with his alibi evidence, contradictions between his evidence and that of Jane Stanojevic and other witnesses. He continually distanced himself from Bojan Prvulovic and the day-to-day operations of Select Companions to be a driver only but was clearly involved in arranging escorts and collecting money. This has raised significant suspicion surrounding his movements on the night Balmain disappeared.

Based on the available evidence, Zoran Stanojevic's whereabouts and movements on the night of 5 November 1994 are not able to be conclusively established. He therefore cannot be discounted as a person of interest."

Further inquiries undertaken by DCI Bell between 26 September 2022 – 14 February 2024

462 DCI Bell's second statement referred to further investigations undertaken between 26 September 2022 and 14 February 2024.

Further Investigations

463 The further investigations included:

- a. Police interviewed "Nikki" who was a receptionist at Select Companions before Ms Balmain commenced working at the agency. Nikki described Ms King as "pushy" and Mr Stanojevic as a "nasty little man with a temper"

who used to hang out with “horrible Yugoslavian men”. She never saw Mr Stanojevic get angry with the staff, just with Ms King.

- b. Further inquiries regarding Mr Prvulovic and Mr Kransiqi did not provide any further information.
- c. Mr Rade Ljuboja was in Bali with Mr Prvulovic in 2006. He was interviewed by police in Western Australia (WA) in 2021. On 20 July 2023, he sent a letter to WA police written in Serbian. The letter referred to Milivoje Matovic and the murder of a prostitute. Mr Ljuboja also expressed “shock” in the letter about an inference that he knew about a murder of a prostitute in Sydney. He was unable to provide police with any information about Mr Prvulovic’s involvement in the disappearance of Ms Balmain but stated that Mr Prvulovic was in the ‘crime business’ and that their Bali meeting was to talk about the drug business. He stated that he had known Mr Stanojevic for about 30 years and had seen him on about 10 occasions during that time. Australian Border Force records confirmed that Mr Ljuboja was not in Australia at the time of Ms Balmain’s disappearance.
- d. DCI Bell met with Professor Griffiths regarding Mr Samer’s finger injury. Professor Griffiths indicated that he would not be able to state that the injury was a bite mark from the quality of the photograph. He stated that there needs to be a huge amount of force to create a bite mark impression and five teeth marks are needed in each impression. He opined that the injury may be consistent with a bite mark there are a “100 other reasons” that could be given for how the injury was sustained.
- e. Further discussions with Ms Harrington and Ms Hazel-Dawson did not yield any significant information.
- f. A review of intelligence reports and Crime Stopper reports did not yield any significant leads.
- g. Investigators noted that a former surgeon, [REDACTED] had been a client of Ms Balmain’s on 14 May 1994 when she was working at VIP Escorts and on another occasion when she was working at Select Companions. [REDACTED] was charged with the manslaughter of two escorts who died from overdoses after he supplied them with cocaine. [REDACTED] was working at Goulburn Base Hospital between 9 June 1994 and 8 January 1997. He was never questioned about Ms Balmain’s disappearance and was deported from Australia on 14 August 2014.

‘60 Minutes’ Episode

- 464 On 19 September 2023, a ‘60 Minutes’ program aired with reporter Ms Tara Brown interviewing Ms King, Adam Irwin, Suellen Simpson and DCI Bell.
- 465 There were a number of conversations between Ms Brown and Ms King. DCI Bell inquired about these conversations with Ms Brown as to their contents and Ms Brown indicated that she could not recall the content of the conversations.
- 466 The program’s producer, Ms Clancy advised DCI Bell that if the conversations were important they would have been addressed in the interview.

Further investigations arising from the first tranche of the second inquest

Adam Gelfe

- 467 Adam Gelfe is a Security Senior Lead in the Law Enforcement Liaison Section of Telstra. On 16 December 2025, Mr Gelfe provided a statement to DCI Bell.
- 468 Mr Gelfe confirmed, amongst other things, that:
- “Based on the call records provided for the home service (), the calls originated from the landline () to the mobile () on the following dates and times: 08 Nov at 12:55 pm, 04 Nov at 1 :11 pm, and 08 Nov at 4:48 pm.
- The diversion settings, if any, on do not allow outgoing calls to be made from other locations, nor would it impact billing for any services listed.”

Cause and manner of Ms Balmain’s death

- 469 Ms Balmain enjoyed a close network of family and friends.
- 470 She had lunch with her close friend, Ms Brentnall on 4 November 1994, and shared her happiness about her new relationship with Mr Fisher-Pollard and her success with her recent modelling shoots, including being on the cover of Oyster magazine.
- 471 She was looking forward to her dancing contract in Japan and had planned to visit her parents in Newcastle on 6 November 1994, prior to her departure for Japan.
- 472 There is no evidence that Ms Balmain had voluntarily chosen to cease her contact with her family and friends, nor did she have any mental health history which would suggest any motivation to self-harm.
- 473 The evidence in this inquest leads to the same conclusion as the first inquest, that unfortunately, Ms Balmain is deceased, and that a person or persons unknown has

caused her death. The evidence does not permit a conclusion as to the cause or the manner of Ms Balmain's death and an open finding will be returned.

Section 78 of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW)

474 Section 78 of the Act permits the Court to hear evidence until the Coroner forms the opinion that the evidence is capable of satisfying a jury beyond reasonable doubt that a known person has committed an indictable offence and that there is a reasonable prospect that a jury would convict the known person of the indictable offence.

475 Whilst the evidence heard during this inquest invites a conclusion that one or more of the persons of interest in this inquest was involved in her disappearance and murder, there is insufficient evidence to consider a referral to the Director of Public Prosecutions pursuant to section 78.

An analysis of the evidence

Gavin Samer

476 Mr Samer gave evidence in these proceedings on 29 April 2024.

477 Mr Samer gave evidence which was reasonably consistent with his two earlier ERISP interviews that had been conducted with investigating police in 1994 and 1995.

478 In his evidence, Mr Samer was somewhat emphatic that Ms Balmain had told him that she had another appointment to attend after she left his residence. Mr Samer maintained that Ms Balmain's later appointment was separate and distinct from her plans to meet her boyfriend much later that night at a nightclub.

479 Mr Samer confirmed that Ms Balmain made a number of telephone calls at various times whilst she was at his home. On at least one occasion he was asked by her to give her some privacy while she made a telephone call.

480 Ms Balmain may not have been intending to attend another appointment and may have simply told Mr Samer this version so he would not ask for another extension of the booking, or indeed some other reason.

481 The evidence from Danielle, if correct, would suggest that Ms Balmain advised that she would not attend the appointment at Summer Hill sometime around 6pm.

482 Ms Balmain's boyfriend and friends were paging her at around this time to clarify plans to meet for farewell drinks in Darlinghurst. Ms Balmain may have intended to meet with her friends and then still attend the booking with Mr Prvulovic and Mr Krasniqi at 10.30pm.

483 Alternatively, Ms Balmain may have been moonlighting with another unknown client
and had no intention of maintaining contact with the agency.

484 DCI Bell provided a comprehensive summary of the circumstantial evidence in his
statements and oral evidence which may give rise to a suspicion that Mr Samer had
been involved in Ms Balmain's death.

485 Mr Samer was the last known person to see Ms Balmain alive.

486 He claimed that he had driven Ms Balmain to the Red Tomato Inn some 800 metres
from his home, however, no witnesses were able to confirm that Ms Balmain was
seen in the vicinity of the hotel, although an anonymous letter was received by
police during the first inquest, the contents of which were questioned by police.

487 Mr Samer's statement that he went straight to the bottle shop and purchased
cigarettes and three bottles of Strongbow cider could not be corroborated in full.

488 Sometime between 7-8pm, a resident of a nearby street noticed a car very similar
to Mr Samer's Holden Commodore stop in Araluen Street and the driver's door open
and then the witness heard a noise consistent with the sound of keys hitting a hard
surface at the time the car door was open. The following morning, Ms Balmain's keys
were retrieved from this location.

489 In addition, a number of Ms Balmain's personal belongings were strewn around the
streets close to Mr Samer's house. DSC Abernethy considered whether this was
indicative of Ms Balmain meeting with foul play in that area.

490 It is a curious consideration. One may posit that it would be incredibly reckless to
dispose of Ms Balmain's property so close to your own home, and inconsistent with
a desire to conceal your involvement in the disappearance and harm to a person
who is known to be attending your home.

491 Another issue was that Mr Samer was never able to locate his cheque book, and
according to DS Mulherin did not appear to be phased by the fact. In addition, Mr
Samer told police that a favourite shirt was missing.

492 The physical injuries to Mr Samer, including scratches to his body and significant
marks to one of his fingers have been investigated, with expert opinions being
obtained. The expert opinions were somewhat hampered by the reliance on
photographs of the injuries, rather than physical examination, and could not provide
a conclusive cause of the injuries.

493 Ms Brentnall was able to confirm that she spoke with Ms Balmain sometime after
she sent a pager message at 7pm. Ms Brentnall recalled that Ms Balmain confirmed
that she was still with a client and did not sound distressed or concerned.

494 The initial police physical investigation was superficial and lacked focus. cursory searches and examinations were undertaken, lacking forensic rigor. It wasn't until 2008, that police conducted an in-depth forensic examination of Mr Samer's home, including removing floor coverings and excavating under the house. No human remains were located, and no forensic evidence was found.

495

[REDACTED]

496

[REDACTED]

497 Mr Samer has continued to deny any involvement in Ms Balmain's disappearance or death.

498 The evidence against Mr Samer has not advanced, improved or developed since the first inquest. Although he remains a person of interest, the circumstantial case against Mr Samer is less persuasive than it was at the first inquest.

499 On the balance of probabilities, there appears to be insufficient evidence to establish that Mr Samer was involved in, or responsible for the disappearance and death of Ms Balmain.

Relevant call charge records

500 CCRs were obtained for the mobile phone services owned by Mr Stanojevic, Ms King, and their home and office landline accounts.

501 Perplexingly, Ms King stated in her statement dated 25 January 1999, that only one mobile phone was owned by them, being the service [REDACTED]. Although Ms King indicated in her sworn evidence at the first inquest that her statement had been prepared about one month earlier, she agree that she had signed the statement on the morning of 25 January 1999, just before giving her sworn evidence.

502 In her sworn evidence, Ms King admitted that together they owned two mobile phones, with the second phone number being [REDACTED]. Ms King identified this service as belonging to Mr Stanojevic and the service [REDACTED] belonging to her. She further stated that on the evening of 5 November 1994, they had swapped phones.

503 The following calls of relevance appear from 11.57am on 5 November 1994 until 12.25am on 6 November 1994:

Time	Communication	Duration (if known)	Cell tower (if known)
11:57am	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:25	Nil
12:04pm	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	1:54	Nil
12:09pm	[REDACTED] (Jane mobile) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	Voicemail – 0:30	Kirribilli
12.11pm	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:49	Nil
12.20pm	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	1:11	Nil
12.25pm	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:18	Nil

- 504 There were clearly a number of calls being made between Ms King and Mr Stanojevic and the office during this 38-minute period.
- 505 Interestingly, at 12.35pm, Ms King says she paged Ms Balmain and when Ms Balmain responded to her pager message, Ms King says they discussed the appointment with the “Yugoslav gentlemen” later that night, with the words, “Don’t go disappearing on me.”
- 506 There is an available inference that Ms King and Mr Stanojevic had discussed work related issues during at least one of the earlier calls.
- 507 At 1.43pm, the records show that Ms King called the office and the call lasted for 3.30 minutes.
- 508 At 3.14pm, Ms King again called the office, with the call lasting 1.30 minutes.
- 509 At 3.15pm, Ms King and Mr Stanojevic purchased the new television according to a Harvey Norman receipt showing an American Express card purchase in the name of Mr Stanojevic.
- 510 At 3.55pm, Ms King’s mobile contacted the office landline for one minute. This is shortly after Ms Balmain called the office according to Danielle.
- 511 At 6.07pm, the office landline called Kelly. Kelly suggested that this call was probably related to the 7.30pm booking rather than the 10.30pm booking.

- 512 At 6.09pm, the record indicated that the office landline connected to Mr Stanojevic's mobile phone for a period of 1.22 minutes.
- 513 These two calls, at 6.07pm and 6.09pm are made shortly after Danielle stated that she had spoken with Ms Balmain who had declined the appointment at Summer Hill.
- 514 At 8.01pm, a call from Ms King's mobile to Mr Stanojevic's mobile appeared for a period of one minute.
- 515 At 8.17pm, 8.24pm and 8.31pm the record indicated that a pager message was sent to Ms Balmain from the Select Companions office.
- 516 At 8.26pm, a call was made to Kelly's mobile phone from the office. This may have been consistent with Danielle's stated practice that she would call the escorts shortly before the end of their appointment to ensure they were out of the appointment on time or alternatively, that Kelly was being informed that she was going to be collected by Mr Stanojevic. If it had been Kelly making the call, the call record would not have been recorded on the office account.
- 517 At 8.38pm, Ms King's home landline contacted Mr Stanojevic's mobile for a period of 1.50 minutes.
- 518 At 9.02pm and 9.12pm, Ms King's home landline again connected with Mr Stanojevic's mobile for a period of 1.25 minutes and 1.32 minutes respectively.
- 519 At 9.51pm, Mr Stanojevic's mobile contacted Mr Tony Kole, aka Zoran Zakula, for 30 seconds.
- 520 At 10.23pm, 10.26pm and 10.44pm, Mr Stanojevic's mobile phone contacted the Select Companions office landline.
- 521 At 11.27pm, Mr Stanojevic contacted the Village Grill Restaurant for two minutes.
- 522 At 11.51pm, Mr Stanojevic called the office for one minute.
- 523 At 11.55pm, Mr Stanojevic contacted the Park Royal Hotel at Darling Harbour. In his evidence, Mr Stanojevic stated that he was waiting at the hotel in a small bar with Mr Prvulovic during the appointment. The phone record does not assist by indicating if this call was connected to a guest room within the hotel.
- 524 Between 12.01am and 3.21am a number of calls were made between the office, Ms King and Mr Stanojevic. The table Below includes an extract of those calls:

Time	Communication	Duration (if known)	Cell tower (if known)
12:01am	[REDACTED] (Zoran mobile) to [REDACTED] (Select office)	1:00	Darling Harbour
12:09am	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:09	Nil
12:10am	[REDACTED] (Jane landline) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:41	Nil
12:46am	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:50	Nil
12:54am	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	1:00	Nil
1:08am	[REDACTED] (Jane landline) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:43	Nil
1:09am	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:35	Nil
1:57am	[REDACTED] (Zoran mobile) to [REDACTED] (Select office)	2:00	Botany
2:42am	[REDACTED] (Zoran mobile) to [REDACTED] (Select office)	0:30	Botany
2:59am	[REDACTED] (Select office) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	0:48	Nil
3:21am	[REDACTED] (Jane landline) to [REDACTED] (Zoran mobile)	5:35	Nil

525 The 3.21am call was clearly a significant call in terms of the recorded duration, being 5.35 minutes.

Ms King's evidence regarding the 9.02pm call and the 3.21am call

526 Ms King has provided inconsistent accounts as to whether she spoke with Mr Stanojevic after 6.30pm on 5 November 1994. At times she has contended that there was no contact, and at other times appeared to accept that they had been in contact during the evening.

527 Ms King gave oral evidence on two occasions during this inquest, on 3 May 2024 and again on 4 February 2026.

528 In relation to the 9.12pm call, Ms King testified for the first time in this inquest that she did not make this call and that her home phone ([REDACTED]) had been diverted to Danielle earlier in the evening. Ms King stated in her oral evidence on 3 May 2024:

“So, if you’ve got outbound calls going to Zoran for [REDACTED], Select office, that phone is actually in my home being diverted, just as the [REDACTED] number is from my home being diverted. So, I don’t think that that was me calling Zoran. I really don’t, because they’re short calls....I don’t know why I would ring my husband and speak to him for 41 seconds and do that quite often throughout the night. I really cannot recall those – having those conversations.”

529 In her earlier accounts she stated that:

“I spoke with my husband from time to time during the night, as he would call me from his mobile.”

530 The expert evidence of Mr Adam Gelfe referred to above was obtained in relation to her evidence on 3 May 2024 and contradicts her assertion.

531 Mr Gelfe stated that:

“based on the call records provided for the home service ([REDACTED]), the calls originated from the landline ([REDACTED]).....The diversion settings, if any, on [REDACTED] do not allow outgoing calls to be made from other locations, nor would it impact billing for any services listed.”

532 DCI Bell gave further clarification in his evidence on 2 February 2026, stating:

“Calls can be diverted in 1994 from one phone to another, but if a phone call is made from one number, then that number appears on that bill. So I think Ms King said she didn’t make those calls, but the calls had to come from her home address. So you can’t make a call from a diverted home and have it appear on the home address bill...so even (though) it’s diverted to there, you

can only answer it. Any call it makes from that call would be on the office account, and any numbers dialled from the home account, would be on the home account. You can't divert a call and have it come up on either as or other record."

533 If one was to accept Ms King's assertion that the home landline service was being diverted, contrary to the expert evidence of Mr Gelfe, it fails to explain why Danielle would have made a call at 12.09am from the office landline to Mr Stanojevic and then immediately afterwards at 12.10am would make a call from Ms King's diverted home line to Mr Stanojevic.

534 This recent invention by Ms King is troubling and implausible. It is unclear the reasoning behind her assertion.

535 In her oral evidence on 3 May 2024, Ms King was asked:

"Q. Is it possible that you were in relatively constant contact with Zoran during the course of that night?

A. I don't think I was. I mean, it's possible, but I just don't know why I would've been. I mean, some of these to the office are, like, nine seconds."

536 At this stage, Ms King was not specifically denying that she had made the calls, but appeared to be questioning whether she had due to their short duration.

537 In her evidence given on 4 February 2026, Ms King was adamant that she was not a party to the landline calls from the home landline to the office and Mr Stanojevic.

538 Specifically, in relation to the 8.01pm call, Ms King could not recall the call.

539 In relation to the 8.38pm call, Ms King stated that "it was not me that made that call."

540 With regards to the 9.02pm call and the 9.12pm call from her home landline to Mr Stanojevic's mobile phone, Ms King was asked:

"Q. Again, you would say you didn't make those call?

A. No, definitely not."

541 In relation to both the 1.08am call and the 3.21am call from Ms King's landline to Mr Stanojevic, Ms King denied making either call.

542 During her oral evidence on 2 February 2026, Ms King stated emphatically:

"there's no way I rang him at 3.21am in the morning. I didn't ring him at any of these times."

543 Later in her evidence, and in contradiction of the above, Ms King was asked:

“Q. The more critical issue that we’re interested in, with respect, is the fact that you actually had contact with your husband.

A. I could’ve done.”

544 In her ‘60 Minutes’ interview, Ms King stated:

“Maybe that happened. I can’t remember. But I know that I called him at about 3.30am. I woke up in the night, and I called him at about 3.30am in the morning cause it was like unusual for him to be so late. And I just said, “Oh, you know, when you’re coming home” I think I probably asked him to pick me something up at the servo that I shouldn’t have been eating at the time.”

545 Reviewing and analysing Ms King’s evidence regarding the telephone calls on 5 and 6 November 1994, permits a conclusion that Ms King has deliberately attempted to mislead both the police investigation and this Court. Her assertions are confusing, contradictory and calculated. I firmly reject her assertions that she was overwhelmed by her pregnancy and that this in some way compromised her recollections, particularly given the number of versions that she has explored both in interviews with police and sworn evidence before the Courts.

Zoran Stanojevic

546 Mr Stanojevic was called to give evidence during these proceedings on 4 February 2026.

547 Mr Stanojevic has provided various improbable, contradictory and implausible versions of events relating to the disappearance of Ms Balmain since he was first interviewed in 1994.

548 His versions of events over a number of years are improbable and contradictory of objective and subjective evidence.

549 The areas of significance include the following:

a. where was he on the evening of 5 November and the early morning of 6 November 1994?

b. why was there a need for such obfuscation around the CCRs, the number of phones registered to the company and who was in possession of which phone on the night in question?

c. was he aware of the address of Mr Samer on the afternoon/evening of 5 November 1994?

d. was he responsible for debt collection and bookings, and why did he attempt to distance himself from both?

- e. the 10.30 appointment with the “Yugoslav gentlemen”.
- f. his relationship with Ms Balmain.
- g. his purported violence towards escorts and Ms King.
- h. his association with Serbian crime.

Mr Stanojevic’s whereabouts on 5-6 November 1994

550 Mr Stanojevic participated in two police interviews, provided a statement through his legal representative and gave evidence at the first inquest. In each of those pieces of evidence he gave inconsistent accounts of his whereabouts and activities during the crucial hours associated with Ms Balmain’s disappearance.

551 His position, association and involvement with Ms Balman, according to various witnesses, suggested that he should have been able to provide a clear and plausible account of his actions on 5 November 1994 when he consented to being interviewed by police and giving oral evidence. The fact that his accounts are vague and inconsistent, affects his credibility and gives rise to a suspicion that he was attempting to hide his involvement by giving false and/or missing versions.

552 In his first interview with police on 15 November 1994, Mr Stanojevic stated that he was in the company of Ms King and after purchasing the new television, went to:

“Stanley Street, the pizzeria, ate, we went for dinner. After that we went home approximately 5 o’clock. And then there I was watching soccer because on Saturdays there are always soccer games. And at six, twenty past six, when the soccer game finished I took the TV set to our office. I installed the TV set and approximately quarter to seven or seven I returned home.”

553 He did not suggest to police during that interview that anything occurred after 7pm that night, in terms of him again leaving the house. One was left with the impression that he stayed home for the remainder of the night.

554 Ms King was not questioned about Mr Stanojevic’s movements in her first interview with police on 12 November 1994. In her second interview, dated 26 October 1995, Ms King stated that Zoran dropped her home after being at the Edge restaurant and then went to the office to install the TV and then returned to watch the soccer on the TV at home. Ms King was asked the following questions and gave the following responses:

“Q. Are you able to tell me what Zoren did then?

A. No.

Q. Did, did Zoran go out of the house?

A. I can't remember.

Q. Did Zoran, are you able to tell me.....

A. He probably would have worked."

555 The receptionist, Danielle, was living in the office at that time and was unclear as to whether she saw Mr Stanojevic around that time and was unclear whether she saw him installing a new television.

556 Mr Stanojevic's and Ms King's statements dated 25 January 1999 were intriguing.

557 Both statements were made with the assistance of their shared legal representatives during the first inquest to apparently address matters that had arisen during the course of the first inquest.

558 Ms King's statement was limited in relation to detail, although she made some significant comments relating to their mobile phone or phones, which will be addressed below.

559 Mr Stanojevic's statement was more detailed. His statement appeared to focus on the period around 7pm, which was persuasive of an inference that he was attempting to establish an alibi. Clearly, his earlier statement was at odds with other evidence, including that of Ms King.

560 Ms King's 1999 statement indicated that:

"I recall that my husband performed duties as the driver for the escorts on the night of 5 November 1994. On 5 November 1994, I was expecting our first child and I spoke with my husband from time to time during the night, as he would call me at home from his mobile. I recall that I last saw my husband at home at approximately 6.30pm and that I did not see him until approximately 7 am the next morning, when I woke up and he was in bed beside me. I did not wake on his return and am unable to give an approximate time of his return that night."

561 7pm was of particular significance in this case, given that the evidence suggests this was around the time that Ms Balmain left Mr Samer's house in his car and was also around the time that Ms Brentnall spoke with Ms Balmain.

562 Mr Stanojevic's 1999 statement is replicated in part as follows:

[5] I state that on 5 November 1998 I picked up an escort that I knew by the name of Kelly from what I understood to be her home at approximately 10:00 PM. I am not sure who requested me to pick up Kelly or when that request was made. I believe that it was Danielle the then receptionist of the business and that she called me at approximately 9:30 PM on my mobile phone.

[6] I state that I took Kelly to an appointment with a Yugoslav client at the Park Royal Hotel at Darling Harbour. On arrival at that address; I waited in the car whilst Kelly entered into the hotel and until I received a call from select companions to advise me that Kelly had met with the client. I recall that I waited in the vicinity of the hotel for approximately 2 hours and then collected Kelly as she exited the hotel and took her to the Airport Sheraton where there was a booking for a regular client in room 807. I then repeated the procedure of waiting until I received a call from select companions advising me that Kelly had met with the client.

[7] I recall that I waited for Kelly in the vicinity of the Airport Sheraton until she exited the hotel at approximately 1:00 or 2:00 AM when I picked her up and commenced to take her to her home. On the way to her home, the vehicle had a flat tyre and it is my recollection that I did not drop Kelly at her home until sometime after 2:00 AM.

[8] I note that Kelly had had another appointment earlier in the evening. That appointment was with a regular client in a premises at New South head Rd, Double Bay. I received a call requesting me to pick her up and take her to the appointment at approximately 7:00 PM, picked her up at approximately 7:15 PM and dropped her at the Double Bay address at approximately 7:30 PM. I then waited according to our practise to ensure she had met with a client. On receiving a call to that effect from Select Companions I proceeded to the Cosmopolitan Cafe where I remained until I received a call that she was ready to return home. I then picked her up and took her home, arriving at that address at approximately 9:00 PM. I then proceeded to Café Andiamo where I remained until I received the call requesting me to pick up Kelly and to take her to the appointment at the Park Royal Hotel.

563 The CCRs are at odds with Mr Stanojevic's abovementioned account. In particular, the CCRs do not disclose the following:

- a. there is no record of a call to Mr Stanojevic's mobile phone at 7pm from Select Companions (or anyone else) directing him to pick up Kelly;
- b. there is no record of a call to Mr Stanojevic's mobile phone supporting his claim that he received a call to confirm that Kelly had met with the client at around 7.30pm;
- c. there is no record of a call to Mr Stanojevic's mobile phone to substantiate his claim that he received a call from Danielle at approximately 9.30pm to pick up Kelly at her home address. There is, however, a call at 9.12pm from Ms King's landline.

Did Mr Stanojevic know that Ms Balmain had attended an appointment at Mr Samer's home on 5 November 1994?

564 The evidence permits the conclusion that Mr Stanojevic was aware that Ms Balmain had accepted an appointment with Mr Samer either during the afternoon of 5 November 1994 or sometime later that day.

565 Ms King confirmed that Danielle had told her about the appointment in Kingsford shortly before 3.30pm. Ms King further confirmed that before 4pm, both herself and Mr Stanojevic knew about the appointment, stating:

“Q. So at this period, probably before 4pm, both you and Zoran were both aware that Ms Balmain had this booking in Kingsford?

A. Yes”

566 Danielle indicated that she had called Mr Stanojevic at 6.09pm, to tell him that Ms Balmain had declined the Summer Hill appointment. She also spoke with him later and believed she would have “told him what was going on, that we couldn't get hold of” Ms Balmain.

567 Danielle was unable to recall whether she had provided either Ms King or Mr Stanojevic with Mr Samer's specific address or whether she had simply indicated that Ms Balmain was to attend an appointment at Kingsford.

568 Mr Stanojevic denied that he had attended McNair Avenue, Kingsford on 5 November 1994.

569 Ms VA was spoken to by police during a canvas of the area on 10 November 1994. The canvas form confirms that Ms VA told police about a black BMW being parked in McNair Avenue on either the Saturday or the Sunday.

570 Ms VA provided a statement to police dated 10 February 2021, in which she describes seeing a black BMW parked on McNair Avenue with a person with black hair sitting in the driver's seat.

571 Ms VA thought this was unusual as McNair Avenue was a suburban street with no through traffic, which meant locals were usually the only users of the road.

572 DCI Bell considered Ms VA's evidence regarding the location of the BMW and concluded that the driver “would have had a clear view of 3 McNair Avenue and could have seen any person entering or leaving that location”.

573 Ms VA gave evidence during this inquest and impressed as a witness who was attempting to provide her best recollection of events. Ms VA was prepared to concede that she may have been wrong about whether the BMW was parked on the

street in the morning, and that it may have been parked there in the afternoon when she was walking to the corner store.

- 574 Ms VA's evidence would support a conclusion that Mr Stanojevic was on McNair Avenue on 5 November 1994, if it could be established that he had been informed, or became aware of Mr Samer's address.
- 575 Mr Stanojevic's attempts to provide himself with an alibi at around 7pm should also be considered as significant.
- 576 He appeared to have concocted an alibi which was at odds with the CCRs and Kelly's evidence.
- 577 Whilst the alibi appears concocted, it is not permissible to positively conclude that Mr Stanojevic knew Mr Samer's address, but it does raise significant suspicion surrounding his knowledge and movements with regards to Ms Balmain's disappearance.
- 578 Similarly, there is the confounding evidence provided by both Ms King and Mr Stanojevic relating to their assertion that they both attended "The Edge" restaurant between 3.30-4.30pm on 5 November 1994.
- 579 The evidence suggests that either before they arrive, or shortly after they arrive (on their versions), Ms King has called Danielle on two occasions at 3.14pm and 3.55pm. Danielle indicated that she advised Ms King that Ms Balmain had accepted the appointment with Mr Samer at around the time of the first call.
- 580 Ms King and Mr Stanojevic claim that the kitchen was closed at the restaurant, however, they were able to order pizza. Ms King indicated that the restaurant was very quiet and they left at around 5pm.
- 581 Mr Irwin, the manager of "The Edge" provided a statement to police on 22 November 1994 and gave oral evidence on 1 May 2024. Mr Irwin stated that the kitchen closed at 3.30 pm and re-opened at 6pm. He was clear that between those times a customer would not be served food. He confirmed that if someone ordered food at 3.30pm, as suggested by Ms King, they would not be served.
- 582 Mr Irwin agreed that this detail was not recorded in his statement, however he believed that he had told the police this information.
- 583 Ms King asserted that although she was informed that the kitchen was closed, they told them that they could have pizza. She stated: "So, we were like, "okay, we'll have pizza. So, we had a pizza each, a couple of soft drinks and we were in and out pretty much within an hour because Zoran wanted to get back to watch the football."

- 584 Ms King indicated that the restaurant “was empty”. Mr Irwin told police that “afternoons are usually quiet between 2.30 to 5.30pm when there would only be ten to twenty people in the restaurant.”
- 585 On the Sunday (6 November 1994), Mr Irwin told police that he received a phone message from work indicating that a woman had called the restaurant wanting to speak with him.
- 586 He called “Jill or Jenny” back and was told by the caller that
- “One of my staff members has been murdered. The police are investigating all leads. They need to know the whereabouts of all people concerned. I was dining in your restaurant on Saturday and I would like to know if you could confirm with the police that I was there.”
- 587 Mr Irwin recalled the caller telling him she was “pregnant, I was with my husband, we dined there fairly late. Can you remember me?” Mr Irwin told the caller that she would need to come to the restaurant so he could see her and would then be able to advise her whether he could recall her face. Mr Irwin told the caller that he would be available the next day if she would like to call in. He confirmed that he was not approached by anyone regarding this matter the following day or days.
- 588 Ms King agreed that she didn’t attend the restaurant the following day and stated:
- “I rang that man at that restaurant because I knew that – well, I thought he would remember us, but he didn’t. Okay. Fair enough. He said, “Come down”, and then I just – like, I’m just being ridiculous, you know, like, so I didn’t bother going down. Like, if I’d had something to be concerned about, I would’ve gone down there, but I didn’t.”
- 589 Mr Irwin told the inquest he could not recall seeing a heavily pregnant woman in the restaurant on the afternoon of 5 November 1994, and he described her tone during the phone call as changing from “aggressive to blasé.”
- 590 Ms King gave evidence during this inquest and explained the reason for her call to the restaurant as follows:
- “I really worried about Revelle. I felt that something really bad had happened. Zoran didn’t want me to ring the police, and I knew that, you know, like, I stood out, right. You couldn’t miss me and there was no one else in that restaurant at 5 o’clock, so I thought-and you know, maybe it was like, you know, pregnancy paranoia. I don’t know. I wasn’t thinking, but I thought, well, if she doesn’t surface, I’m going to report it to the police tomorrow when Zoran ends asleep, and I will have a list of our whereabouts so that they know where we were. So I rang.”

591 Ms King told '60 Minutes' the reason that she had contacted Mr Irwin was:

“....somebody that worked for us had been reported as missing, and I was trying to piece together our movements, so that I could, if necessary, give them to the police. Because, you know, Serbian escort agency owner, kind of rings as, um, you know, suspect number one. If we – if you’re looking at, at that from outside in. And I knew that we were at the restaurant, so I was just hoping that the people that served us would remember we were at the restaurant, so that I could piece our times together should I need to.”

592 Mr Irwin was also interviewed for the program and conceded that the female caller may have referred to a person as “missing” rather than “murdered”; however, he confirmed that his account was accurate.

593 The evidence has explored the possibility that Mr Stanojevic was advised of Mr Samer’s actual address and that Mr Stanojevic attended the address towards the end of Ms Balmain’s booking at 5.50pm. Similarly, the evidence does not advance the proposition that Mr Stanojevic attended Mr Samer’s address much earlier towards the commencement of the appointment and therefore necessitated the need for an alibi from the manager of “The Edge” restaurant.

594 In addition, if Mr Stanojevic drove Ms Balmain to her appointment with Mr Samer at 3.50pm, it seems plausible, and in keeping with Mr Stanojevic’s practice where he was concerned about an escort moonlighting, (or her failing to attend the 10.30pm appointment), he would have remained in the vicinity of McNair Avenue. In those circumstances, he may have been assisted with an alibi such as the “Edge” restaurant.

595 On the available evidence, it seems less likely that Mr Stanojevic drove Ms Balmain to her appointment with Mr Samer at 3.50pm rather than Ms Balmain travelling by taxi, as inferred by Mr U.

596 Ms King’s explanation that she couldn’t “bother going down” to the restaurant to speak with Mr Irwin is implausible given the seriousness of the situation.

597 Ms King told Ms Tara Brown that she was concerned that Mr Stanojevic could have been a suspect and this evidence would have provided a timeline and/or a partial alibi for his movements on 5 November 1994.

598 It further raises questions as to Ms King’s assertions that she did not speak with Mr Stanojevic about his whereabouts on 5 November 1994.

Ms Balmain's outstanding debt and 'moonlighting'

599 Ms King first advised the police on 12 November 1994, that Ms Balmain had an outstanding debt to the company to the sum of \$300, prior to her attending the appointment with Mr Samer. Ms King also referred to the sum of \$110 as owing to the agency at around this time.

600 Mr Samer's booking fee was assessed by Ms King to be \$380.

601 During the investigation, the sum outstanding to the agency had been referred to as being \$150, according to Gita, and \$400 according to Ms King.

602 Ms King gave evidence before the first inquest that she kept a tally of outstanding amounts owed to the agency in a little notebook. In her interview with police on 9 January 2008, the police notes suggest that Ms King told them that she recorded the debts in a ledger.

603 In the first inquest, it was suggested to Ms King that the total outstanding debt owed to the agency was \$680, being the \$300 originally owing, together with Mr Samer's payment. Ms King stated that it would be less than \$680, as Ms Balmain's fees for the Samer appointment would need to be deducted.

604 Ms King gave the following evidence during this inquest as follows:

"Q. The money from that may well have settled the amount of money that she owed you?

A. Yes.

Q. But there would have been at least in the back of your mind a need to make sure that that was collected?

A. It wasn't in the back of my mind.

Q. Well, it was...

A. It was in the front of my mind.

Q. It was important?

A. I spoke to her on the phone about it."

605 Ms King also commented in her evidence:

"And then I think we spoke about the account before I said the "Don't go disappearing on us", and I said, "Okay, well, we'll just figure it out later, you can just drop it in on Sunday or whatever", something along those lines. I didn't have concerns about Revelle with money."

606 Ms King gave similar accounts at different times during the investigation, to the effect that she was relaxed about the debt owed and was not overly concerned, including:

“There was not a stress about the money....You’re not going to be, you know, getting aggro with people in that business over money, because if you do that no one will ever work there.”

607 Evidence from other witnesses was at odds with Ms King’s recollection.

608 Danielle gave evidence as follows:

“Q. You said a little earlier that Jane didn’t trust Revelle or Mischa. What was it that caused you to have that opinion?

A. Well, she didn’t, I, she didn’t, she was very suspicious about the ..(not transcribable)...situation and she’s my impression at the time was that she’d either done that before or they had suspected it before or something, that she didn’t, she didn’t trust her and was suspicious about where she was and what she’d been, where the money was or why she couldn’t get hold of her, and she thought that she would, had taken off with , with the payment, although what she was going to do with a cheque, I don’t know. But I think that was after she found out that the cheque was, Misha had talked the man into not paying with a cheque and paying cash instead. And Jane thought that she was going to fun off with all the money.”

609 Interestingly, both Ms King and Danielle indicated that they had discussed Danielle ringing Mr Samer at 11pm on Saturday 5 November 1994 regarding cancelling the cheque.

610 Mr Samer said he received a phone call from the Select Companion receptionist on Sunday 6 November 1994, at around 11pm which was corroborated by Ms Oswald-Sealy.

611 Danielle recalled speaking with Ms Balmain at the commencement of the appointment about having Mr Samer make out the cheque in favour of the company, Labstar.

612 It is unclear what the purpose of cancelling the cheque may have been from Ms King’s perspective, however, it lends itself to the inference that Ms King must have either been advised or speculated that Ms Balmain had either been paid in cash or a cash cheque. Similarly, the motivation for calling Mr Samer may have been a charade with the purpose of having him concede that he had paid in cash.

613 There was some conjecture during the extended investigation whether a \$400 debt would have been regarded as a significant debt in 1994. It is noted that some of the

handwritten calculations in the Red Book kept by Ms King, showed that the agency would average a nett income of \$5-600 per night.

- 614 As outlined above, Ms Balmain's housemate, Mr Spears told police that he had received "four or five" phone calls on Sunday, 6 November 1994, from "Jenny" (Ms King) who was looking for Ms Balmain. When Mr Spears attempted to speak with Ms King on 7 November 1994, he spoke instead with Mr Stanojevic, and received "a bit of verbal abuse from him because....he...said that I was lying, that I was covering up for [Ms Balmain], that she owed him money...." Ms King called Mr Spears later and apologised for Mr Stanojevic's "obnoxious phone call."
- 615 A number of former Select Companions agency staff confirmed that arranging or extending bookings privately, also known in the media by the police as "moonlighting" was a serious issue which was not tolerated by escort agency owners.
- 616 Sloane (a pseudonym) had previously worked at Select Companions and gave evidence during this inquest. Sloane recalled an incident with Ms King when it was discovered that Sloane had been seeing a client privately. Sloane described the occasion as follows:
- "I took a phone number from one of the, one of the client's to see him privately. I had done that booking, I'd got back home. I can't remember whether Zoran took me home or I got myself there or not. But when I spoke to Jane it was, she was absolutely enraged. She, she knew about it, whether it was a set up or, or what, I'm not too sure, but she knew about it, and was extremely angry. I didn't even recognise her when I first spoke to her because She was just screaming at me, just raging, I couldn't, couldn't understand the words that she was saying, but it was pretty much to the effect, "You don't do this. You, you know, you betrayed me. You'll never work here again" sort of thing. There was a lot of swearing, and just, just screaming, just absolutely, I couldn't believe it. It wasn't, never seen that side of her or knew that she had that in her, you know, to be so enraged and so angry. That was the last time I spoke to her."
- 617 Sloane agreed that the trigger for the above behaviour exhibited by Ms King related to the fact that she had taken a client's private number. Sloane stated that she was shocked and frightened by the exchange.
- 618 Sloane also recounted a conversation she had with the owner of VIP Escorts where he stated, "You do not moonlight, you do not take the cream from the milk, you will find out very quickly here." She recalled on another occasion, hearing him say, "It's very easy for people to disappear in Sydney."

- 619 Sophie (a pseudonym) recalled a situation where she had extended a booking without notifying Ms King. In her evidence, Sophie stated, “Zoran would turn up sometimes at the hotel and we’d have to go downstairs.” Sophie also recalled that Ms King would be “very annoyed” and would raise her voice. Mr Stanojevic would be “not happy, kind of aggressive.”
- 620 Chevon (a pseudonym) was asked if she had ever extended a booking without informing the agency and then took the payment for herself, and she responded, “oh god no, because you couldn’t do that” and the consequences would be that you would “lose your position there. You would lose your job. They would kick you out..”
- 621 Jade (a pseudonym) said that extending a booking without notifying the agency was “frowned upon” and the consequence would be that “[t]hey would just not get any work, so they, it would literally be that they’d, they’d sacrifice their income for this one client. So it wasn’t a very clever thing to do.”
- 622 The evidence from these witnesses and others, confirmed that the practice of extending bookings (or moonlighting) was considered to be a serious breach of agency etiquette which would be dealt with harshly.
- 623 In contrast, Mr Stanojevic told DCI Bell in his interview on 30 September 2021, that moonlighting was “very common” and that he would do “nothing” if he discovered that one of the agency staff was engaging in the practice. In the face of evidence to the contrary, little or no weight should be attached to Mr Stanojevic’s assertions.
- 624 The evidence permits a reasonable inference that Mr Stanojevic was either informed or concluded that Ms Balmain had extended her booking with Mr Samer on the afternoon of 5 November 1994.
- 625 That inference, together with Ms Balmain’s refusal to accept the Summer Hill appointment may well have given Ms King and Mr Stanojevic cause for concern that they would not receive the debt owed to them by Ms Balmain before she left Australia. Given the seriousness of the situation, it is entirely plausible that Mr Stanojevic made efforts to locate Ms Balmain.

The 10.30 booking

- 626 Ms King gave evidence that Mr Stanojevic would make booking for friends of his, particularly if they did not speak English.
- 627 The evidence suggested that the booking was discussed with the clients at a coffee shop and placed with the agency on Friday 4 November 1994.
- 628 The Red Book entry reads “Reg” for regular client, “Mr Bogin” and “Zoran”. No address or time for the booking was recorded. The re-written booking sheet records

the entry "[REDACTED]" The time of the attendance of Kelly is recorded as [REDACTED].

629 Ms King's sworn evidence was that the booking came from Mr Stanojevic and that he particularly wanted Ms Balmain to attend the booking. Ms King said she confirmed the booking with Ms Balmain during their phone conversation at 12.35pm.

630 In Mr Stanojevic' interview with police dated 30 September 2021, Mr Stanojevic denied that he would have been upset if Ms Balmain reneged on her agreement to attend the booking.

631 Ms King indicated that she was unaware that Ms Balmain did not attend the 10.30pm booking until the next day. This seems to be at odds with the evidence given by Danielle, as follows:

"Q...We've spoken earlier about a 10.30 appointment. Were you aware that the 10.30 appointment for Mischa was for friends of Zoran?

A. I remember Jane saying that there was a meeting, one of his friends wanted to meet her later I don't know if I knew the exact time. I may have. I can't remember that part. But he arranged for her to meet his friend.

Q. When it became apparent that Mischa was not answering calls at around 8:00 through to 8:30, was there an issue raised by Jane or Zoran about the fact that she wouldn't make that 10:30 appointment?

A. I remember Jane, vaguely, Jane saying something about she, she would have to arrange someone else for this friend of his, or something to that effect, that she wouldn't make it to that booking but I don't remember the details again, sorry.

Q. You don't remember there being any big issue about the fact that she was unavailable to take that booking at 10:30?

A. Well, yes, that we, that we couldn't get hold of her and it was a problem that she, you know, wasn't contactable. As far as that booking, I mean, you know, if it's a friend then you obviously want to make a nice impression, I guess, and that's probably why it was an issue as well, and the fact that she owed money to the company. Those were the issues that were, I remember being discussed, and that it was, you know, obviously the staff members aren't available for things....(not transcribable)..."

632 At the first inquest, Ms King was asked when she first became aware that Ms Balmain was not attending the 10.30 appointment, and Ms King answered:

"A. Probably at 9 o'clock.

Q. 9pm?

A. I'd say it was around that time.

A. Okay.

Q. Again, as we discussed earlier, you were under oath and you were trying to be truthful at the time. Was it the case that you did find out around 9 o'clock on the night of 5 November that Ms Balmain was not going to turn up to the Yugoslavs?

A. It's possible. Danni may have called me. I just can't remember. Like today, I can't remember."

633 During Ms King's discussion with police in 2008, she radically changed her recollection to state that "Zoran was not upset about Balmain not being available for 10.30pm appointment with the Yugoslav client's....Zoran was furious that she was uncontactable and did not attend."

634 During this inquest, Ms King's evidence on this topic was wholly unreliable when she stated, "I didn't know on the night whether he was angry or not."

Mr Stanojevic's relationship with Ms Balmain

635 In his statement to police on 15 November 1994, Mr Stanojevic unprompted stated to police,

"What I would like really to add, that we were all very friendly, Revelle and myself. And you know it was not easy to become a friend with her. But once you started, you know, just close the barrier, she was very good friend. Devoted friend. Because she used to be a model you know, she was a little up in the sky. She was not like an average girl. Tah's all what I wanted to add."

636 During the first inquest, it appeared that his legal representatives raised his concern that the translator in the above interview was Croatian and not Serbian and had misquoted his statement.

637 In his interview with police on 30 September 2021, he was asked if Ms Balmain and him "got on" and he responded, "No way because I tell you, I just driver and sit in back and professional, Drive that's it...."

638 Sophie noticed Mr Stanojevic's interest in Ms Balmain when she was working at the agency. Sophie indicated:

"Q. Did Zoran treat Revell differently to the way he treated you?

A. Yes.

Q. And what did you observe in relation to that?

A. Much friendlier.

Q. And in terms of that answer “much friendlier” what did you observe in relation to it? Are there any particular examples?

A. Well, Revelle would always sit in the front of the car, next, next to the driver, Zoran, yeah. He was just kind of all over her.”

639 Sophie also told police in 1994, that Mr Stanojevic was infatuated with Ms Balmain. During the inquest, Sophie stated:

“Q. Now, what was the basis of the information that you had that Zoran was infatuated with

A. He was always around. He was taking her, even when she wasn’t working he was taking, doing errands with her. She, the car was there a lot when it wasn’t meant to be there. He was around.

Q. Okay. Did you ever see him waiting for her in what was purely a social context?

A. A couple of times.”

640 Ms King told the inquest that Mr Stanojevic never used to speak about the escorts, but one day he said:

“you know, we get on really well, and she really loves fashion”, and he was really into , you know, fashion, and, you know, she’s....”

641 Ms King told Ms Tara Brown:

“Okay. Well then, I thought that, um, he got on quite well with her because they both had a common interest in fashion and they used to sort of chat a lot on the way to and from bookings. And, um, but now I’m not, I’m not really sure about what the nature of the relationship between Zoran and Revelle was. Um, I know that he, ah, at times called her home at 9, 9:00 in the morning and there would be absolutely no reason for him to even have her number. Um, and, you know, that’s something that’s been put to me more recently. Um, so I don’t know. I think it was probably a bit broader than just him being someone that drove her to and from bookings..... I really don’t know how broad it was. I don’t know the nature of it, but it was certainly not within the normal range of, umm, the driver escort scenario.”

642 Mr Stanojevic’s original comment to police in 1994 is a curious comment to have been made in a completely unsolicited situation.

643 His attempt in 1999 to blame a poor translation on his comment was not advanced again when he was spoken to police in 2021.

644 It appeared to be contrary to his interests and was more of a stream of consciousness rather than a single word or sentence that was capable of misinterpretation.

Evidence suggesting Mr Stanojevic had a propensity for violence against women

645 [REDACTED]

646 Ms King told police in 2008, that Mr Stanojevic had rage issues and was violent towards her and their children.

647 Jade indicated that Mr Stanojevic was always polite, and she never felt threatened by him.

648 Sophie stated that she had witnessed him being aggressive and threatening, including hitting objects and telling escorts to “Just get out of the fucking car.”

649 In April 1996, a former Select Companions escort made a complaint to police regarding Mr Stanojevic’s conduct including that he “grabbed [her] by the hair and dragged her into the vehicle...”

650 No action was ultimately taken by police in relation to this complaint, and neither the complainant nor the police officer in charge of the investigation were available to give evidence in the inquest.

651 In his interview with police in 2021, Mr Stanojevic denied ever assaulting escorts.

652 It is difficult to assess this information and the complaints, particularly as the complaints are untested before the Courts.

Further and continuing investigations relating to the Serbian Associates

653 DCI Bell made a number of inquiries into Mr Prvulovic, Mr Krasniqi and their association with Mr Stanojevic.

654 DCI Bell was able to confirm that Mr Prvulovic and Mr Krasniqi were staying at the Swiss Grand Hotel for the entire time they were in Sydney and did not stay at the Park Royal Hotel at Darling Harbour.

655 This information was clearly inconsistent with Mr Stanojevic’s repeated assertions that both men had moved from the Swiss Grand Hotel and relocated to the Park Royal Hotel on the evening of 5 November 1994.

- 656 Mr Stanojevic continually attempted to distance himself from both men during all of his interviews and oral evidence. In his 2021 interview with police he denied meeting the men in Melbourne when CCRs and other information suggests otherwise.
- 657 DCI Bell spoke with the concierge at the Swiss Grand Hotel, who confirmed that in 1994, they would only refer customers to one car rental business in Kings Cross. The rental business was able to confirm that in 1994, Holden Commodores were the main vehicle that was available for hire by customers.
- 658 It is noted that both Ms AB and Ms SC observed a Holden Commodore station wagon on the evening of 5 November and the early morning of 6 November in Araluen St and Bass Street, Kingsford, close to where Ms Balmain's keys and other personal items were located. Ms SC heard male voices arguing and a female scream.
- 659 DCI Bell told the Court that he is focused on continuing to investigate the links between Mr Stanojevic and the two Serbian associates as follows:
- “A. I would like to interview Mr Prvulovic if that was possible, but he flicks between Serbia and Montenegro....
- Q. But that proximity to the disappearance of Ms Balmain and the unexplained links are certainly a matter that's in your mind unresolved?
- A. Oh, certainly. They were important clients, and that was a stressed point in the investigation. And, you know, if they're the important clients, you need to know why they were important and, you know, I've been told that Zoran was furious about them not maybe attending that... That just needs to be explored further if and when it's possible.”

DCI Bell's other considerations

- 660 DCI Bell was asked if he had considered whether Ms Balmain may have been either robbed or abducted by an unrelated party or parties. He responded:
- “It was a consideration of the investigative team whether or not she would have been kidnapped, abducted, or robbed on that night. The team reviewed all of the events and incidents around the same time to ascertain if there could be any similar acts or likenesses as to how she disappeared. I find it - me as an investigator, I find it highly unlikely that she would have been kidnapped or - and/or robbed. If she was kidnapped, her property would have been with her. If she was robbed, I don't see why someone would dispose of her property around the streets near where the last client's house was. That's highly unusual.”

661 Mr JW made a statement to police on 27 May 2021. He stated that between 6.30pm and 7.30pm on 5 November 1994, he was travelling along Anzac Parade towards the University of NSW, and he noticed a female on High Street. DCI Bell was unable to corroborate this statement due to the lack of CCTV available in 1994.

Considerations

662 A Royal Commission into the New South Wales Police service was established by Letters Patent on 13 May 1994. Between 1994 and 1997, the Royal Commission investigated the NSW Police Force and its practices.

663 In 1994, it was illegal, pursuant to the *Summary Offences Act 1988* for any person to knowingly live wholly or in part on the earnings of another person's prostitution. The penalty was 12 months in prison or a fine. In 1995, the legislation was changed and the criminal sanctions were removed.

664 Despite legislative amendments and general regulation of the industry, sex workers in NSW continue to be exploited, abused and violated.

665 Ms Balmain was operating in an environment which offered no regulation or protections to persons working in that sphere.

666 It was in this context that Ms Balmain's disappearance was reported, and the evidence was investigated and considered by the investigating police in 1994.

667 Mr Samer became the focus of the initial investigation.

668 It is accepted that Mr Samer was an obvious suspect. He was the last person reported to have seen Ms Balmain. His version of his movements after leaving his home could not be independently corroborated, his cheque book was missing and he was unable to explain the significant injuries to his finger.

669 The problem that marred this investigation throughout the years, was that the Mulherin investigation remained anchored to the perception that Mr Samer was the only suspect in Ms Balmain's disappearance and likely death.

670 The initial police investigation did not appear to consider Ms King, Mr Stanojevic or other individuals as persons of interest until criticisms were made during the first inquest.

671 Belatedly, police began investigating the versions that had previously been provided by Ms King and Mr Stanojevic.

672 Importantly, investigators did not appear to have sufficiently utilised the independent CCRs which clearly showed that both Ms King and Mr Stanojevic's accounts to police were inconsistent with their own accounts and accounts given by others.

673 The accounts provided by both Ms King and Mr Stanojevic in their individual statements dated 25 January 1999 were littered with inconsistencies and untruths.

674 Not only were these statements inconsistent and redolent of untruths when compared with each other, they were also inconsistent with subjective and objective evidence which was available to police at that time.

675 The original police investigation confined itself to undertaking cursory or physical (rather than forensic) searches of Mr Samer's car and home. Considering the significant and largely unexplained injuries to Mr Samer's finger and abdomen this was obviously a failing and a lost opportunity.

676 Despite the criticisms raised during the first inquest, forensic analysis of a number of items was not undertaken until the second investigation. By then, it was arguably too late to obtain anything of significance to the investigation.

677 DCI Bell indicated that Mr Samer must remain a person interest in his investigation and this appears to be a reasonable conclusion.

678 Another lost opportunity revolved around the failure to consider Mr Prvulovic as a person of interest. On the current available evidence, and despite the protestations of Mr Stanojevic, Mr Prvulovic was an associate of Mr Stanojevic and left Australia very suddenly on 7 November 1994, likely with the assistance of Mr Stanojevic.

679 The Select Companions records regarded Mr Prvulovic as a "regular" client prior to Ms Balmain's disappearance.

680 The evidence indicated that Mr Prvulovic was in the company of Mr Stanojevic during the 10.30pm appointment and had possibly hired a motor vehicle, likely a Holden Commodore whilst in Sydney.

681 Mr Stanojevic gave implausible and unsatisfactory evidence over a number of years regarding his association with Mr Prvulovic, Mr Krasniqi and other known Serbian crime figures.

682 DCI Bell has indicated that he continues to pursue this line of inquiry.

683 Mr Stanojevic has deliberately given inaccurate and false testimony to police and before the first inquest. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

684 I am of the view that he deliberately lied to the police investigators, as well as DSC Abernethy during the first inquest about his whereabouts on 5 to 6 November 1994 and his contact with Ms King during that period of time.

685 Similarly, Ms King has given implausible evidence to the police and during this inquest. Her evidence has been contrived and calculated.

- 686 It simply cannot be accepted that she had no communication with Mr Stanojevic on the evening of 5 November 1994 and the morning of 6 November 1994 when the CCRs are analysed. I reject her belated assertion that she may have spoken with him at 3.21am for 5.35 minutes about picking up some food to satisfy her food craving. The telephone call also contradicts Mr Stanojevic's contention that he was already at home and in bed.
- 687 Ms King's changing evidence regarding the financial accounts and client bookings were progressive untruths. Despite Ms King's evidence to the contrary, I am satisfied that she was very much focused on ensuring that escorts satisfied any outstanding debts to her and the agency.
- 688 I am also more than satisfied that Mr Stanojevic's role in the company was much more significant than he was prepared to admit. He was clearly involved in money collection and client bookings, particularly relating to Serbian clients.
- 689 Neither Ms King nor Mr Stanojevic were witnesses of truth and their lies permit a conclusion that they either knew who was responsible for Ms Balmain's disappearance or were themselves somehow involved.

Conclusions

- 690 I would again like to acknowledge the unfathomable grief and ongoing anger being experienced by Ms Balmain's sister and friends.
- 691 I share Ms Simpson's sentiment when she told this Court that she would "also want to thank the ladies who bravely returned to testify" in these proceedings.
- 692 Before turning to the Findings that I am required to make, I would like to acknowledge my gratitude to Mr Matthew Johnson of Senior Counsel, Ms Rebecca McMahon of Counsel, Ms Caitlin Healey-Nash, Principal Solicitor and Ms Imogen McArdle-Pearson, Senior Solicitor for their support, commitment and their extraordinary preparation of such a complex matter.
- 693 I would also like to acknowledge and thank the officer in charge of the investigation, Detective Chief Inspector Stuart Bell, as well as his investigative team, including Detective Sergeant Matthew Stratton, Senior Constable Lauren Murden and Senior Constable Annie Dixon, amongst many others.

Findings pursuant to section 81(1) of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW)

- 694 I make the following findings pursuant to section 81(1) of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW):

Identity

The person who died was Revelle Sabine Balmain.

Date of death

Revelle Balmain died on or around 5 November 1994.

Place of death

I am unable to determine the place of Revelle Balmain's death.

Cause of death

I am unable to determine the cause of Revelle Balmain's death.

Manner of death

I am unable to determine the manner of Revelle Balmain's death.

Recommendations pursuant to section 82 of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW)

695 I make the following recommendations pursuant to section 82 of *the Coroners Act 2009* (NSW):

To the Commissioner of Police, NSW Police Force

1. That the death of Revelle Balmain be referred to the Unsolved Homicide Unit of the NSW Police Force Homicide Squad for further investigation in accordance with the protocols and procedures of that Team.

696 I now close this inquest.

Judge Joan Baptie

Deputy State Coroner

31 July 2026