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Inquiry Ref:

Witness name: N2444

Statement Number: 1

Dated: 16 November 2023

Exhibits: 2

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY RELATING TO AFGHANISTAN

WITNESS STATEMENT OF

N2444

DATED: 16 NOVEMBER 2023

1. I, N2444, am making this statement in response to a Rule 9 Request dated 4 September 2023. In particular, this statement is directed to assisting the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan ("IIRTA") by providing answers to the following questions: (i) Did I provide a witness statement to the RMP on 21 January 2018?; (ii) Was that witness statement true to the best of my knowledge and belief?; and (iii) Whether there are any other matters I wish to draw to the Inquiry's attention. I understand that I was given the nominal N2444 for the purposes of the RMP's Operation Northmoor investigation.

Military Career

2. Joined UKAF in late 1990s and completed UKSF training in mid 2000s after which joined UKSF3 as a SUM Commander during which he deployed on an operational tour of Afghanistan.

3. In late 2000s N2444 was posted to SFHQ(UK)

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[REDACTED], where I worked from [REDACTED] Date Given until [REDACTED] 2011: first, as the [REDACTED] Role [REDACTED] Given; then, as the SO Operations (A) for one year. Throughout my time in DSF, my responsibilities related to monitoring, supporting and reporting on UKSF operational activity, primarily in Afghanistan [REDACTED]. It is also worth noting that some team job titles changed during this period, so my email address became [REDACTED], although my responsibilities did not change.

4. [REDACTED] Provides summary of UKAF service and UKSF roles and posts

5. [REDACTED] Details of further jobs and roles

RMP Witness Statement

6. I previously provided a witness statement to the RMP on 21 November 2018 (not, as the Rule 9 request states, on 21 January 2018). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have only been able to review a redacted version of this witness statement.

For ease of reference, I produce the redacted version of that statement as [REDACTED] MOD-198-0002869-A

7. Within [REDACTED] MOD-198-0002869-A, I exhibited an email chain, which included an email I had sent on 7 April 2011. For ease of reference, I produce a redacted version (the only version I have been able to review) of that email chain as [REDACTED] MOD-198-0000334-A

8. I have read the contents of both [REDACTED] MOD-198-0002869-A and [REDACTED] MOD-198-0000334-A and I confirm that they are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I

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provided commentary on the contents of [REDACTED] MOD-198-0000334-A in [REDACTED] MOD-198-0002869-A

[REDACTED] Given the passage of time, I am unable to provide any further commentary on the contents of the email I sent on 7 April 2011.

9. I was shown another document during the course of my interview with the RMP.

That document was called NWS/14A and it is described within [REDACTED] MOD-198-0002869-A

[REDACTED] as containing EXSUMs pertaining to DDOs. In the course of drafting this witness statement, I have reviewed a redacted version of NWS/14A. I recall seeing this document and discussing it with the RMP.

10. Again, there is nothing that I wish add to the commentary I offered in [REDACTED] MOD-198-0002869-A

[REDACTED] on NWS/14A, save for clarifying that I did not create NWS/14A and this was not the document upon which I based my review. At the time I was asked to perform my review, my role as SO2 Operations (A) consisted of reviewing the OPSUMs for all UKSF operations globally. I therefore would have had my own direct access to the OPSUMs I reviewed.

11. I do not wish to draw any other matters to the Inquiry's attention.

Statement of truth

I believe the contents of this statement to be true.

Signed: [REDACTED] N2444

[I have electronically approved an OPEN version of this statement]

Dated: 17 November 2023

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