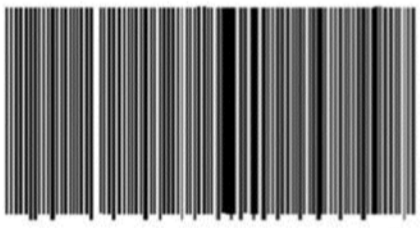
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0002079-A

Witness name: Kristian Paul Rotchell

Statement Number: 3

Dated: 18th August 2023

Exhibits: 80

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY RELATING TO AFGHANISTAN

EXHIBIT TO WITNESS STATEMENT OF COLONEL KRISTIAN PAUL ROTCHELL

DATED 18th AUGUST 2023

Exhibit KR/74

Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan

SPCB_03_03_02

24 Jan 17

PM(A)
AH - NORTHMOOR
SO1 Pol & Com
SO1 MP Cap
CO Spec Ops Regt RMP

TIMELINE- NORTHMOOR FORENSIC DATA HANDLING CAPABILITY SYSTEM (FDHC)

1. **Issue.** To review requirements for the FDHC in support of Op NORTHMOOR.

2. **Recommendation.** PM(A) is invited to note the activities to deliver FDHC:

a. **Work to Date.** Work to date completed which is set out in the table at Annex A. Of note and for a variety of process and responsibility reasons across the Defence IS and commercial community the approvals and scrutiny process has been protracted and difficult. **This Project is novel and contentious**.

b. **Work to Complete.** There is still significant work to do. This is all achievable and is mapped out in the tables at Annex B. There is about 7.5 months of work to be completed, once the DIO build work [in the building] is complete. None of this work can be done concurrently in order to truncate time. **Therefore, unless timelines slip again, the FDHC should be FOC by Mar 18**.

c. **Management.** To date the delivery of the FDHC has been co-ordinated by OC SPCB. He has been very effective but the scope and span of the FDHC Project is now outside the capacity of this position. Therefore the following are to be addressed.

(1). **Governance**. A system of governance to manage the NORTHMOOR Programme which includes the FDHC IS project is to be established as part of the NORTHMOOR Gold Group. This will hold all stakeholders to account, will establish governance (SRO, Programme Boar, Risk and Tolerances etc) in accordance with P3M principles.

(2). **Support to IS Project**. This is an enterprise level and complex project which requires dedicated forensic and technical support to ensure that the IS capability and investigation is appropriately supported and operates effectively. **Currently a business case for this is being drafted for the Mar 17 ISAB at Army HQ**.

(3). **Dedicated Security Assurance Coordinator**. Required to prepare the security and safeguarding documentation which drives the low level design. **Currently expected to be procured and in place by 1Mar 17**. This affects most serials in Annexes A and B.

(4). **Infra work on server room**. This should have been completed by Dec 16. However, the subcontractor went into liquidation. There is a new subcontractor, [Company Name 2], and a meeting is being held with them on 26 Jan 17. **It is anticipated that work will be complete 30 Apr 17**. Until the infra work is completed work cannot begin on the IS system.

3. **Timing**. Routine.

4. **Background.** The FDHC is a £7.5m IS project which has been authorised at Cabinet Office level. A supplier was successfully tendered for and the requisite hardware and software procured and delivered to site. The system will operate at [a certain classification] level and it is a highly complex computer forensic system consisting of 6PB of useable storage. Although there have been some infrastructure delays it is anticipated that the system will be FOC by Mar 18.

5. **Issues to resolve**. As at Enclosure 1 and 2, the following issues have been raised both internally and externally by the Hd Army IS Delivery and MOD Head of Design and by DJEP.

a. **Governance**. A system of governance to manage the NORTHMOOR Programme which includes the FDHC IS project needs to be in place. Initial discussions at HQ PM(A) are seeking to resolve this issue. Further discussion between Hd Army IS Delivery and HQ PM(A) expected. This will formally establish:

(1) Senior Responsible Owner.

(2) Suitably qualified and experienced dedicated Programme manager.

(3) Programme Board with Executive decision making authority.

(4) Formally delegated responsibilities.

(5) Budget tolerances and forecast for the project.

b. **Does Op Nm still require the FDHC?** This question cannot be answered at this stage and is reliant on a GOLD Group discussion next month. This discussion will be informed by consideration of the IRT Review of the investigation and the response back from LDC regarding the 'Leggett Test'. It should be noted that the original decision to procure the FDHC was made on the understanding of the investigative situation at the time and the high volume of complaints received. The application of the 'Leggett Test' could potentially result in 95% of the complaints being discontinued.

PAL Hacker
Maj
OC SPCB
Spec Ops Regt RMP

Enclosure:

1. E-mail: 20161208-Executive_Programme_Board_NORTHMOOR_IS_OCSPCB-OS
2. E-mail: RE: 20170116-Op_NORTHMOOR_ICS

ANNEX A TO
SPCB_03_03_02
DATED JAN 17

WORK COMPLETED 2013 – APR 2016

1. The table below details the timeline of work completed so far, decisions taken and outputs delivered.

Serial (a)	Date (b)	Decision (c)	Work Completed (d)	Output (e)
1	2013	To investigate Human Rights allegations	Initial scope of requirements for FDHC	Initial technical requirement & costing produced.
2	Nov 14	Decision to increase funding for developed scope of FDHC	Funds sought from Army TLB for FDHC. Business Case not completed at this stage.	£9m (incl VAT) provisionally secured
3	Jan 15	DIO confirm RAF St Mawgan as loc	Loc initially scoped for FDHC	Floorplate loc confirmed
4	Apr 15	Requirement for interim solution	Hardware procured internally and software	Requirement determined Location confirmed
5	Jun 15	Initial Business Case is scoped	First draft of business case for FDHC completed	Business case for FDHC presented to DInfo Information Systems Decision Board at Army HQ. Various iterations follow.
5	13 Oct 15	To submit Cabinet Office Papers for FDHC	[redacted] stated FDHC need to be approved by Cabinet Office	Further draft of Business case made. Cabinet Office Papers drafted
6	7 Dec 15	Requirement for a Security Assurance Coordinator (SAC) to support security and safeguarding for FDHC	Business Case drafted and submitted to ISDB at DInfo	Business Case was approved in Jan 16 to procure SAC.
6	11 Dec 15	To submit Cabinet Office Papers	Papers directly submitted to [redacted] ISS and DInfo aware	Pending decision from Chief Tech Officer (CTO) to agree to FDHC
7	4 Jan 16	Obtain SMS approval DInfo	SMS Approved by DInfo	DInfo confirmed funding with DRes
8	8 Jan 16	To submit final BC for FDHC	BC submitted to ISDB for approval at DInfo	Final Draft of FDHC BC to ISDB at Army Info
9	10 Feb 16	Min (Cabinet Office) approval of FDHC procurement	Cabinet Office Officials submit to Minister (CO) for formal approval of Business Case	Minister feels costs are too high, requests information on plan to minimise costs, and 'meat on the

				rationale.'
10	23 Feb 16	To gain SofS support	SO1 Policy contacts COS SofS (after consultation with DJEP) requesting support to brief Min (CO) on rationale for NORTHMOOR	PUS takes up issue personally
11	24 – 26 Feb 16	To brief PUS (at his request)	Written note provided to PUS ahead of telecom with CTO. Followed by F2F Brief regarding FDHC reqt by McAllister & Hacker	Capability and reqt brief given to PUS so he could answer CTO Cab Office questions raised in telecom.
12	8 Mar 16	To brief CTO (at his request)	CTO briefed by Hacker	Project not initially approved. Questions on location, size and security
13	9 Mar 16	To prepare PUS ahead of 2nd telecom with CTO	Written brief provided to PUS answering CTOs questions of 8 Mar	CTO agrees in principle, but questions remain about location. DCIO brought in, who contacts Army Hd IS Brig Cole.
14	11 Mar 16	To brief Hd Army IS Delivery	Briefed Brig Cole Hd Army IS Delivery on CTO decision and process so far	Project outcomes agreed and discussed
15	17 – 21 Mar 16	To satisfy CDIO on size, technical reqts and contracting approach	Written briefings provided to Brig Cole and ISS for onward consultation with CDIO	Confirmation that ISS support size and tech specs.
16	30 Mar 16	CTO approves FDHC Project	Cabinet Office approval for FDHC	DInfo Army HQ informed
17	31 Mar 16	Chief Accountant Army TLB Approves finance Statement of Reqt approved	Equipment procured through CCS	Equipment procured through CCS
18	11 Apr 16	Interim FDHC solution stood up	Security of system and forensic workflow complete and approved by Authority and DAIS Accreditor	IFDHC stood up.
19	30 Jun 16	Deliver to site to prevent storage costs	Equipment delivered	Equipment delivered

ANNEX B TO
SPCB_03_03_02
DATED JAN 17

WORK TO BE COMPLETED

1. It is estimated that there are about seven half months of work to stand the system up once DIO work is complete. Unless timelines slip again the FDHC should FOC by Mar 18. This work is predominantly conducted by [redacted] and their subcontractors. None of this work can be done concurrently in order to truncate time.

Ser	Work to be Completed	Date	Supplier Responsible
[redacted] Details of the suppliers responsible and the specific work they were responsible for, as well as the date ranges the work is to take place.			

2. **Work to be completed by MOD/SPCB**. Some of these work strands are concurrent and are also mapped across to the phases of the work being completed by [redacted]. **FOC is planned for Mar 18.**

Ser	Work to be Completed	Date	Supplier Responsible
[redacted] Details of the suppliers responsible and the specific work they were responsible for, as well as the date ranges the work is to take place.			