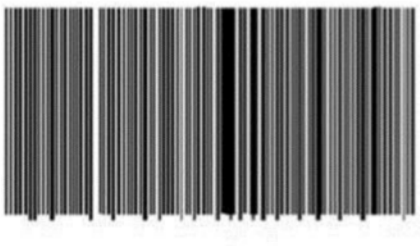
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0007065-A

From Brigadier Bill Warren MBE

Provost Marshal (Army)

Headquarters Provost Marshal (Army)
Ramillies Building (IDL 431)
Marlborough Lines, Monxton Road
Andover, Hampshire SP11 8HJ

Telephone: Contact details
Fax:
DII:
e-mail:

ACC S Heywood
Police Headquarters
Greater Manchester Police
Central Park
Northampton Road
Manchester
M40 5BP

15th April 2014

Dear Mr Heywood,

REQUEST FOR MAJOR INCIDENT REVIEW SUPPORT – ROYAL MILITARY POLICE

I understand that this issue has been briefly raised with you already. The Special Investigation Branch Regiment of the Royal Military Police based in Bulford, Wilts has recently commenced a complex investigation involving allegations of mistreatment, assault and cultural abuses from individuals who have been or claim to have been detained by the British forces in Afghanistan between 2005 and 2013. A total of 144 complainants have come forward so far and we anticipate more in the future.

As these allegations mostly relate to incidents which allegedly occurred during the time that the complainants spent in British custody, we have decided to examine all the allegations under one investigation entitled Op NORTHMOOR. The investigation aims are to determine if there is any substance to the allegations and additionally to determine if there was any common theme which may reveal systemic failings in the treatment of detainees. It is a HOLMES 2 based investigation with the SIO nominated as Captain Jason Wright.

There has recently been a great deal of legal activity and external scrutiny of the Royal Military Police, predominantly in the Civil Courts, in relation to our independence and effectiveness when we have investigated offences allegedly committed against civilians by service personnel in Operational Areas. To mitigate this I suggested to Treasury Solicitors and Counsel for MOD that we provide external assurance of the investigation by seeking an external review from commencement. This was accepted as being the most desirable and practical solution for all concerned, and would provide us with both a degree of transparency and oversight from an external force as the investigation progresses.

The National Crime Agency has provided a PIP Level 4 SIO Mentor to advise on the investigation set up and to ensure that the lines of enquiry are set to capture any institutional wrongdoing. I would therefore seek your support in providing the Major Incident Review (MIR) Team from GMP to provide support to the investigation and the necessary external assurance of independence.

Given the size and scope of the investigation we anticipate that it is likely to last in excess of 12 months.

If you are in agreement with our proposal, I would intend to send a draft set of TORs for your consideration and agreement on finances. The MOD would pay all costs associated with the activity.

I realise the resource constraints which are being experienced by us all and how much of a burden this could be, but I assure you that this is seen as essential to provide transparency and openness in order to meet ECHR requirements and we would be extremely grateful for your support and the mentorship and oversight that the MIR would provide to us in the Royal Military Police during this strategically important investigation.

Yours sincerely

