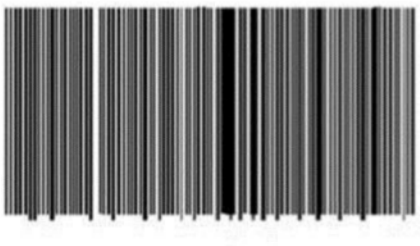
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0007075-A

From: Army PM-PM (Warren, Bill Brig)

Sent: 13 February 2015 10:04

To: Army Sec-Dep-Comd-Sec (Gregg, Daren SCS)

Cc: Army Sec-DiscWelfare2-SO1([redacted N1836]); Army Sec-DiscWelfare-AD ([redacted IIA647]); Army PM-PolComSO1 (McKay, David Mr); DJEP-D (Ryan, Peter SCS); DJEP-Public Inquiries Hd (Duke-Evans, Jonathan SCS1); Army ACGS-PrivateOffice-MA ([redacted Name Given])

Subject: 20150212-Op_NORTHMOOR-PM(A)-OS

Daren

You asked me for a short Note, that sets out the kernel of the Op NORTHMOOR issue that the Army should take note of and action accordingly. To my mind, it is:

1. Op NORTHMOOR is a significant set of investigations into allegations of unlawful killing and abuse involving UK military personnel on operations in Afghanistan. There are 141 complainants, who have made in excess of 266 allegations of abuse, which includes 5 allegations of unlawful killing. Knowledge of these investigations is already in the public domain, in that a number of concurrent civil claims have been made, with consideration of those claims currently stayed while matters are subject to criminal investigation. RMP has the investigative lead for Op NORTHMOOR, and its investigations will undoubtedly be subject to challenge in both the criminal and civil courts; testing the promptness, independence and effectiveness of any investigation, and whether systemic issues have been identified and addressed. To demonstrate promptness and effectiveness of its investigative efforts to the courts, RMP will have to group approximately 160 of its personnel and will

need to enhance both its estate and technical infrastructure to manage the amount of potentially evidential material, including classified material. The staff work to initiate this has been put in train, but permission for PM(A) to "authorise elsewhere" 160 personnel from 1 MP Bde has not been forthcoming and PM(A) has yet to persuade the DIO of the imperative to provide a timely estate solution. In sum: if Op NORTHMOOR is not provided for, there is a significant risk to Defence and the Army's reputation, and the Army's ability to be seen to investigate allegations of unlawful killing and other significant matters resulting from operational deployments; a requirement in international law. And, in the absence of any other Force being in a position to investigate, I suspect there will be pressure for a Public Inquiry or the potential for the International Criminal Court to exert jurisdiction.

2. As to the timelines that might apply to authorising manpower and providing the estate: I cannot set out a definitive timeline, but the courts will comment unfavourably if they judge matters have not been progressed promptly and effectively.

3. My staff standby to meet with yours next week, to develop the draft Note we produced this week accommodating the discussion we had yesterday with DJEP and my summary above.

Bill

(MA/ACGS – Name Given – I bumped into General David straight after meeting with Dep Comd Sec and DJEP to discuss Op NORTHMOOR, and mentioned the purpose of the meeting, and he may want to be sighted on this Note. PM(A))

Brigadier Bill Warren MBE | Provost Marshal (Army)

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