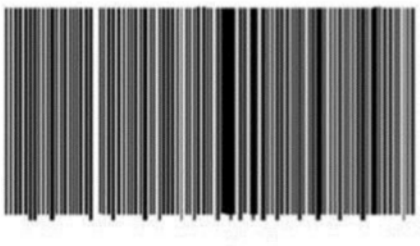
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0007119-A

From: Martin Bottomley
To: Name Given
Subject: MB 23
Date: 29 July 2025 10:19:33
Attachments: Northmoor issues July 2016.docx

From: Martin Bottomley
Sent: 20 September 2016 14:06
To: 'WILLIAMSON, Paul' Contact Details
Subject: Op Northmoor - Current issues

Hi Paul,

Further to your e-mail and voicemail, please see below and attached.

Feel free to give me a ring when you have had a look at the issues below.

Although John acknowledged the e-mail at the time as follows, we have not yet received a response:
Martin, I am literally going on leave today. I have passed this to my deputy Tina Stitson, to draft a response when I return. I agree that an early meeting is essential. I am now going to the HWG in July (cast of one again), so can catch up then. Tina – Please look at each of the issues, put down your thoughts and speak to me on my return. John

I would also be interested to know what the ToR are for Jon Murphy, David Shaw, Mark Ellison.

Regards,

Martin
Martin Bottomley
Force Review Officer
Nexus House
Alexandria Drive
Ashton under Lyne
OL7 0QP

Contact Details

From: Martin Bottomley
Sent: 07 July 2016 12:43
To: 'NORTHMOOR TEAM-HQ-GoldComd (McAllister, John Lt Col)'
Cc: Russ Jackson
Subject: Op Northmoor - Current issues

Hi John,

Further to the last Gold meeting myself and Russ attended, I have asked a member of my team to prepare the attached briefing paper for you to consider.

Bearing in mind your intention to retire shortly, we both think it would be beneficial if we were to arrange a meeting between yourself, your replacement and Col Morrison (?) to discuss the issues we have highlighted therein.

Please let me know your thoughts on how we should progress this.

The attached document charts the involvement we have had with Northmoor from May 2015 to date. Essentially, the briefing paper takes stock of what we have been able to contribute so far, how our initial Terms of Reference are now in need of a refresh and concerns we raised at the meeting on 6th June 2016 which we thought it appropriate to raise in writing as a courtesy and for further development/discussion.

We recognise that Northmoor is a very unusual, resource intensive case and that you are operating in an incredibly difficult environment. You have had considerable obstacles to overcome, not least with recruiting appropriately skilled and experienced staff, location of the MIR and secrecy issues. The investigation is extremely complex and demanding in so many ways and most crucially has national public interest and security issues attached. It is for these latter reasons above all that we consider our independent views need to be shared with you formally. Albeit we are advising you from a civilian police perspective, we feel the issues noted are transferable to your environment, even though you are working under much more difficult conditions than we normally operate in. Clearly I cannot go into too much detail in this e-mail, but I am certain you will get the gist of what I am alluding to.

Our main concerns in brief are listed as follows:

The role of Gold and the inherent risks in this role collapsing into an OIOC or SIO decision making role;
Continuity of staff, particularly at Gold and OIOC level;
The critical role of the Team 1 SIO, (enduring continuity and appropriately experienced) leading a Cat A + plus murder with huge national security implications and organisational risk;
Support to Team 1 SIO (PIP 4 and/or bespoke review);
Regularity and structured agenda of fully minuted Gold Meetings;
Clearly defined terms of reference for each senior role and each strand of the overall Operation;
Decision making of Team 1 SIO in relation to declaration of suspect status and rationale for allowing 'suspect' to remain operational, apparently without full appreciation of attendant risk in not notifying appropriate higher authorities;
Potential for independent panel to assess risk attached to minor complaints (and disposal thereof); and
HOLMES set up – trained but inexperienced staff; not co-located with SIOs.

Can I conclude by emphasising that we remain fully committed to reviewing the elements of Operation Northmoor you wish us to look at, nevertheless I believe now is an opportune time to clarify our role and re-write our terms of reference, if we are to add value and the independent advisory element from a civilian police perspective.

Regards and Best Wishes in your retirement, but we would hope to meet to discuss all of the above and attached further when convenient,

Martin
Martin Bottomley
Force Review Officer
Nexus House
Alexandria Drive
Ashton under Lyne
OL7 0QP

From: NORTHMOOR TEAM-HQ-GoldComd (McAllister, John Lt Col) Contact details [redacted]
Sent: 27 June 2016 10:17
To: 'WILLIAMSON, Paul'; Martin Bottomley
Subject: 20160627_Resignation_McAllister-GOLD

Paul/Martin,

Wanted to let you personally. You are both aware that I resigned. Initially I would have been here until Christmas but have decided to leave early. I will now be out in September.

My replacement will be John Harvey and I will manage the hand over to him in August.

Will discuss the finer points when we next speak.

John

Lieutenant Colonel John McAllister | SO1 Investigations
Headquarters Provost Marshal (Army), 2nd Floor Zone 5, Ramillies Building, Marlborough Lines, Monxton Road, Andover, Hampshire SP11 8HJ
Contact details [redacted]

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