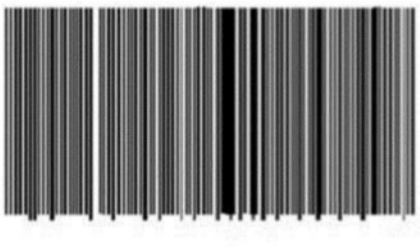
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0007120-A

From: Martin Bottomley
To: Name Given
Subject: FW: 20161122_Op Northmoor_GMP_Issues-SO1NM
Date: 16 June 2025 17:43:53
Attachments: 20161115_NCA_Excel_Recommendations_NORTHMOOR_Team-OS.xlsx
20161116-SIB_Regt_NM_Cov_manning_proposal-OSP.doc
20161118-IRT_TORS_NORTHMOOR-V2-GOLD-OS.docx
20161116_Gold_TORS-DRAFT-V1-GOLD-OS.docx
20161116_NORTHMOOR_TEAM_JCRP_TOR_DRAFT-V3-OS.docx

As previous email.

From: NORTHMOOR TEAM-HQ-GoldComd (Harvey, John Maj) Contact details

Sent: 22 November 2016 14:07
To: Martin Bottomley <Contact Details>
Cc: Russ Jackson <Contact Details>
Subject: 20161122_Op Northmoor_GMP_Issues-SO1NM

Martin,

I am conscious that I promised you a response irt that below and following on from our discussion at the SIO conference (apologies for the delay).

FYSA I have attached a spread sheet of all the NCA and GMP recommendations, you will see those that have been actioned and those yet to be addressed, strands of work that are still in progress!

Iot provide you assurance over the matters raised from your original email:

1. The role of Gold and the inherent risks in this role collapsing into an OIOC or SIO decision making role; noted and I am conscious of the discipline required not to collapse into these roles.

2. Continuity of staff, particularly at Gold and OIOC level; As in any organisation there are manning constraints and sourcing of suitably qualified and experienced personnel (SQEP) is an issue, that said resilience is being factored into the manning requirement and a number of SQEPs have been identified (see attached manning proposal).

3. 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; Acknowledged, this has been considered and the balance between the importance of the role and individual, his career progression and any successor has been raised to PM(A).

4. Support to Team 1 SIO (PIP 4 and/or bespoke review); The SIO is being supported by the NCA advisor, in addition and as mentioned PM(A) has instigated the IAG and in particular taken advice from Sir Jon Murphy in so far as initiating an Independent review team, the draft TOR are attached FYSA. Once the IRT has concluded your recommendation and theirs will be considered and actioned where possible.

5. Regularity and structured agenda of fully minuted Gold Meetings; Acknowledged, my

draft TOR and frequency of meetings is attached.

6. Clearly defined terms of reference for each senior role and each strand of the overall Operation; Acknowledged, I am in the process of drafting these and will take into consideration the recommendations of NCA, GMP and the IRT.

7. 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; The declaration of suspect status was considered and the rationale pollicised by the SIO with advice from the NCA advisor. Allowing the suspect to remain operational has been considered by PM(A) and he has accepted the risk at this time.

8. Potential for independent panel to assess risk attached to minor complaints (and disposal thereof); The JCRP process has been finessed, the draft TOR are attached FYSA, you will recall my explanation wrt the statutory duty placed on RMP irt Criminal Conduct Offence and Non-Criminal Conduct offences and noting those that do not meet the EST, once consultation with the Service Prosecuting Authority has taken place, will be referred to the Systemic Working Group or Army Lessons and Safety Fusion Group (ALSFG).

9. HOLMES set up – trained but inexperienced staff; not co-located with SIOs. The HOLMES system and staff are now co-located with the SIO and Op NORTHMOOR team in St Mawgan. There are issues with Trg and experience, but that is something I wish to address and would seek your advice.

I will be sending out a calling notice for the GOLD Group shortly, tentative date is Tue 13 Dec 16, are you available?

Happy to chat.

Regards
Lt Col John Harvey

SO1 Op NORTHMOOR | Special Investigation Branch Regiment, Royal Military Police, Bldg 33 , Ward Bks, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire, SP4 9NA.

Contact details [redacted]

From: [redacted] Martin Bottomley [Contact Details]
Sent: 25 October 2016 12:44
To: SIB RMP-RHQ-2IC (Harvey, John Maj)
Cc: [redacted] Russ Jackson [Contact Details]
Subject: Op Northmoor - Current Issues (July 2016)

WARNING: *An attachment to this email may contain a potentially harmful file. If this email is unsolicited* ***DO NOT*** *open the attachment and advise your local help desk immediately. If you requested the attachment ensure that a virus scan is carried out before the file is opened.*

Hi John,
Please see below the e-mail exchange I referred to when we met the other day.
Martin

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

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 July 2016 12:43
To: NORTHMOOR TEAM-HQ-GoldComd (McAllister, John Lt Col)
Cc: [redacted]
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

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