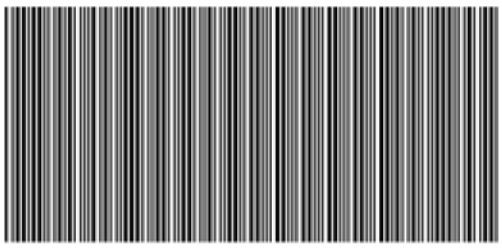
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0008760-A

[redacted] (Army PM-IIA-Paralegal 2)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 July 2014 07:57
To: David Pinder; Robert Ashton; Mark Y. Crowley; Debbie Conlon Houldershaw
Subject: Proposed letter from DCS Jackson
Attachments: Dear John.docx

Views ? ?

Discuss at 10 am

----- Forwarded by Martin Bottomley/Bradford/GMP on 10/07/2014 07:55 -----

From: Russ Jackson [redacted]

To: Martin Bottomley [redacted]

Date: 10/07/2014 07:49

Subject:

Martin

Is this compatible with your views

Russ(See attached file: Dear John.docx)

Dear John

I write further to our conversation this week and make some observations based on the meeting with Captain Wright on June 26th.

I should stress, of course, that these are early observations based on the first meeting. Our views will inevitably evolve as we continue to review the investigation and my colleague Martin Bottomley who is the Review Officer will provide fuller detail as the review proceeds to both yourself and the SIO.

We have also separately written to Captain Wright.

Our observations are as follows:

1. It appears that there are 140 allegations ranging considerably in scope and severity. Some are from our understanding, highly unlikely to have sufficient information for more than an initial assessment, whether this be on evidential or simply practical grounds. We also note that the RAF Police have already investigated some matters. In relation to this category of allegations, we would recommend that you consider constituting a panel which would be able to agree the dispensing of cases in a reasonable and defensible manner. Our suggestion is that there is an independent element to this panel who is able to speak on behalf of the alleged victim. A well constituted panel would allow the SIO to declutter the investigation but do so in a manner which is defensible for him, for Gold and the Army.

2. It may further be that you consider that the panel evolves to the hearing of every case which is not going to another more formal judicial body eg a court of some kind. This would again provide support to the SIO in his decision making, Gold and for that matter reassurance to the Provost Marshall and British Army.

3. Where cases are dispensed with you will of course wish to draw out systemic issues and to this end we expect to be defensible, it would be helpful if you were able to show that learning from any previous reviews have been adequately actioned.

4. There was a very helpful presentation by Captain Wright when we met. As SIO, there will be considerable pressure on him and his ability to organise resources, maintain very clear lines of enquiry in an investigation which could all too easily mushroom and become unmanageable will be essential. We recommend that you consider close professional support for him.

5. In relation to the last point, we would wish to stress that we have come in very early in this investigation. It is not a traditional post event review. Ours seems far more akin to what we would determine an organisational review which is an on-going

relationship with the SIO which reviews and assesses how the investigation is going but also provides clarity to the organisation on key issues including organisational vulnerability as the investigation progresses.

6. We assess that there is the potential of significant media interest and intrusion. It is likely that the detail of some cases will emerge one way or another and we recommend that you consider being as transparent with the media as far as reasonably possible. One tactic may be to hold a full on record briefing but one which does not including recording equipment where soundbytes can be extracted for media effect.

7. Lastly we would make an observation on resources. It seems that Captain Wright has in the main, a team of inexperienced soldiers usually engaged in general police duties, who are based some many miles away. In terms of experience and lines of communication, given the scope of what you have, we consider this to be unsatisfactory at present and recommend that you reconsider the current staffing position. With adequate leadership and staffing, our early assessment is that good traction can be made quickly. As alluded to above it seems that a good number of the allegations could be triaged out rapidly. What remains however needs adequately resourcing and some cases may in themselves be a significant investigation. Adequate resourcing from the outset certainly, therefore, seems essential.

As I mentioned at the start of the letter, these are early observations from an initial meeting. Martin will of course provide more detailed information and assessment as the review progresses.

Yours sincerely