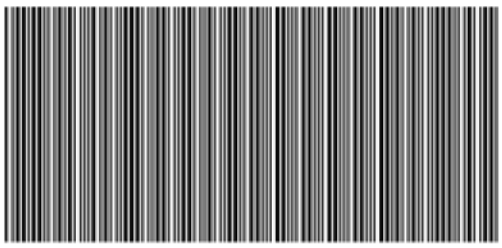
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0009014-A

From: Martin Bottomley
To: David Pinder
Cc: Robert Ashton
Subject: FW: Northmoor correspondence
Date: 29/08/2014 07:52

Dave,

can we speak re this about 8.30 please.

Martin

Force Review Officer
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Contact Details

From: Shannon Davies
Sent: 28 August 2014 17:17
To: Martin Bottomley
Cc: Russ Jackson
Subject: Northmoor correspondence

via dictation

Martin,

Since you're going to write to John, I thought it would be useful to rehearse what is in my book and what I think I said to the RMP.

My notes relate to the fact that following the provost Marshall's view we clarified the fact that Col Leigh is the SME and could be potentially criticised that since it is his staff or at least it is he who would have put the stamp of approval on the detention facilities during the relevant time period. That's not to say that there would be any criticism levied but if there would be criticism for that area of the operation then that would move up the chain of command to him.

Secondly, the Lt Waterworth, is to be put in charge of one SIB regiment, and thirdly, as husband and wife they are not compellable witnesses against each other.

In my view there are five issues that fall from this,

1) Perceptions, regardless of the professionalism or other wise of the two senior officers – there could always be the perception of the lack of impartiality.
2) In connection to (1), there could be indirect pressure on the Northmoor staff, for example: how would the SIO Capt Wright feel about his line management becoming aware in informal conversations or otherwise that his investigation may be criticising Lt Col Waterworth' s husband.

3) In connection to (2), whether there would be an impact on impartiality in practise, so what influence would this, however inadvertently, place on the Northmoor staff?
4) Does this take us back to the question of whether Northmoor should be investigated by RMP or not
5) The impact this could have on the two Colonels themselves, so for example, whilst there is no suggestion that Lt Col Waterworth would be anything but professional, but should she become aware of something it could in our view put her in an uncompromising position

We then rehearsed the options and as we understood it from the paperwork one option that hadn't been considered was to revert this back to another service or organisation. My opinion is that the RMP had gone down an avenue and consideration that this should remain within the RMP, there had been some judicial consultation in connection to that, and I certainly didn't view this as a game changer, bearing in mind there are other options available. Nonetheless, the second option which hadn't been explored in the paperwork in some detail, was setting Northmoor aside as an investigation and this would be my view. By this my judgement would be to form a bubble around the Northmoor staff making it clear in writing that their reporting line is through to GOLD, which is Lt Col John Mc Allister, and from GOLD to the Provost Marshall, the Brigadier. Whilst this does not preclude the issue that all the RMP are part of a wider family, that has in effect already been considered in the initial judgement, this is singularly around that situation that the two colonels are in relevant posts, and whether Lt Waterworth taking command of one SIB regiment makes a difference. For me, I tried to explain that it necessarily follows that if you remove that line management responsibility to some extent that problem is resolved and that would be my recommendation to the RMP to seek to resolve. The third element if they were to take that course of action, is how they should seek to get some independent scrutiny on this, and I note that John McAllister rehearsed some of the independent advisors he would get in for the investigation, my suggestion would be that they consider how they get independent advisors for the more ethical challenges they will get along the way such as this, and for that reason we cited the experience we had in light of the Shipman investigations. Hope that helps, just thought it would be worth rehearsing what was in my book to service what you might wish to write to John. Thanks Martin.

Russ