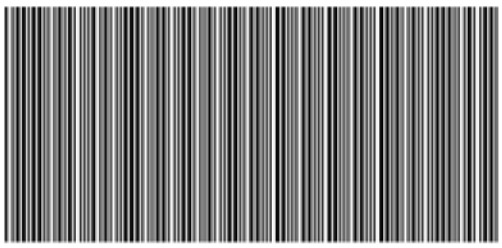
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0009062-A

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From: Martin Bottomley
To: David Pinder; Robert Ashton; Mark Y Crowley; Debbie Conlon-Houldershaw [Contact Details]
Subject: Proposed letter from DCS Jackson
Date: 10/07/2014 07:56
Attachments: Dear John.docx

Views ? ?

Discuss at 10 am

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

From: Russ Jackson <Contact Details>
To: Martin Bottomley <Contact Details>
Date: 10/07/2014 07:49
Subject:

Martin

Is this compatible with your views



Russ Dear John.docx

From: Martin Bottomley
To: David Pinder; Robert Ashton; Mark Y Crowley; [redacted]
Subject: Dear John
Date: 10/07/2014 15:41

Please cast your eyes over this rough draft and feed back to me tomorrow:

Dear John,

I write further to the conversation you have had this week with Detective Chief Superintendent Russ Jackson and subsequent to the e-mail I sent to Captain Jason Wright on 30th June indicating the intentions of the review team going forward.

You will be aware that we have had the benefit of a strategic briefing at Bulford on 20th June and access to the SIO's policy logs and mature assessments, PM (A) direction documents, two lists of names of individuals from Operations Isoptic and Elsinore, sight of two letters of claim from Leigh Day, but nothing else of note pertinent to the investigation material itself. We are still trying to gain access to all the material you hold. This is taking some time.

I would contrast this with the material we were presented with when we commenced Operation Paxton (the 'Danny Boy' Review) when we had immediate access to over 20 'Banner' boxes of material which we were able to research, review and make recommendations in relation to.

I make this observation to illustrate the point that we have not even begun to scratch the surface of this investigation, most of which remains opaque to the review team. Consequently, I am loathe to make any formal recommendations to you without a full appreciation of context and detailed knowledge of the SIO's tactical considerations. I am also cognisant of our agreed Terms of Reference, which lists one of our priorities as:

(Page 2, point a): "Review the initial investigative strategies . . . "

That said, I appreciate that some appreciation of our initial observations, given the caveats rehearsed above, may be of assistance to you at this early stage of the investigation. Accordingly, I would ask you to note, without prejudice, the areas outlined below which we would seek to explore in greater depth and how we propose to take this forward.

The learning arising from the Danny Boy review cannot be underestimated. The formation of a Gold Support Group which effectively guides and supports the SIO is paramount. In particular, we consider there may be a risk to the prompt and effective investigation of allegations if sufficient **skilled** resources, with a tenure policy of the length of the investigation, are not made available to the SIO, co-located with him (with the exception of those staff necessarily deployed abroad for the purposes of evidence gathering and interviewing).

The investigation parameters, as directed by PM (A) appear at fist sight to be extensive and wide ranging. An initial option that we have considered would be the assignment of one SIO and supporting investigative resources to each of the two aspects (Elsinore and Isoptic) of Operation Northmoor.

This would allow for prompt and focused evidence gathering, the interviewing of witnesses and give some clarity to the definition of what appears a confusing picture in terms of what you are, and more properly **should** be dealing with, be

it criminal or non criminal allegations or incidents, and whom you are dealing with, namely claimants, complainants, victims or witnesses.

An obvious advantage of this approach would be to allow for a 'compare and contrast' assessment of the results of both legs of the separate enquiries to more objectively address the overarching question of any systemic issues of concern.

Another area we would like to comment formally on in greater detail at the appropriate point is the constitution of a panel, with a significant independent element, to assist the SIO(s) in de-cluttering the investigation by applying a 'reasonableness' test to the scope and extent of individual elements of the investigation.

You will be aware that we assess that there is the potential for significant media interest and intrusion. It is likely that the detail of some cases will emerge one way or another. In our experience transparency is key. One tactic we have successfully employed is to hold a full 'on record' briefing at at the appropriate time.

In order to progress the above observations, but more importantly to assist the SIO and fulfil our terms of reference, I would now propose that we aim to fulfil our first priority by reviewing the SIO's detailed investigation plan (if one currently exists - I do not consider SIO policy decision 22 provides necessary detail) and making appropriate recommendations. I believe that to fulfil this initial aim, it will be necessary for three of my staff to spend up to four days on site at Bulford and examine as much material as possible, until we have a firm grasp on the tactical aspects of Northmoor. To date, we have only been privy to strategic guidance.

As a starting point, we consider the detail of plans in relation to the following considerations to be of some urgency:

- The interview of those persons still in custody in Afghanistan.
- The obtaining of detailed information from Leigh Day in relation to each claimant/complainant, leading to interview.
- Immediate retrieval of DOT claimant/complainant documentation, leading to interview.
- Immediate focused evidence retrieval

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