

BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS

STATEMENT FROM THE FAMILY OF DANIEL MORGAN

22 March 2022

In light of the report released by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) this morning, the family have made the following statement:

“We, the family of Daniel Morgan, note the Inspectorate’s overall finding that, 35 years since his murder in 1987, the Met’s ‘approach to tackling police corruption is not fit for purpose’, and that ‘the Met’s counter-corruption arrangements and procedures are fundamentally flawed’.

“This sits rather uncomfortably with the Inspectorate’s accompanying pronouncements that ‘it would not describe the Met as institutionally corrupt’ and that ‘the Met’s capability to investigate the most serious corruption allegations is particularly impressive’.

“From our perspective, if the Met has the capability to do the job, then a lack of will to investigate serious corruption can be the only explanation for the Met’s failures over the decades as illustrated in Daniel’s case. That lack of will at the highest ranks is also consistent with the Inspectorate’s further findings that there is no evidence of any determination within the Met to ensure that what happened in Daniel’s case does not happen again: that all the necessary lessons are learned from the successive failed investigations into his murder, so that we may avoid the kind of police corruption which has served to protect those responsible for his murder from justice over the decades.

“The Inspectorate appears to have lacked the courage we saw in the report of the Daniel Morgan Independent Panel last year and its recognition that we – and the public at large – have been failed over the decades by a culture of corruption and cover up in the Metropolitan Police: an institutionalised corruption that has permeated successive regimes in the Metropolitan Police and beyond to this day. The refusal of the Inspectorate to use that language may well be a matter of semantics, since its findings describe the way in which the sickness of police corruption continues to be allowed to flourish in the Met.

“As Daniel’s family, we became aware of the police corruption at the heart of this matter within weeks of the murder: we said so then, and we had to say so repeatedly over the decades since the murder.

“Through those decades, we had to engage in public protests, meetings with police officers at the highest ranks, lobbying of politicians and pleas to the media. At almost every step, we found ourselves lied to, fobbed off, bullied, degraded and let down time and time again. What we were required to endure was nothing less than torture, and that has changed our relationship with this country forever.

“We found in the Panel’s report an accurate reflection of our lived experience: the complicity and worse of the British state in the police corruption and criminality that has blighted our lives over the last 35 years since Daniel’s murder. We recognised in the Panel’s report a blueprint, an invaluable guide, as to what can happen when we allow such corruption and criminality to go unchecked within the police and similar agencies of the state.

“Our experiences have taught us that the lack of will to address the sickness of police corruption is too deeply institutionalised within the Met to allow it to respond in any meaningful or constructive way to the Inspectorate’s report. We expect its leadership to retreat once more into its defensive shell, in denial of the evidence presented by the Inspectorates report this year, just as it remained in denial of the findings of in the Panel’s report last year. Unless and until we see root-and-branch changes in that leadership team, we consider we are unlikely to see any meaningful progress within the Met in relation to police corruption.

“So, the challenge is there to those responsible for and oversight of the Met – within the force, at the Mayor’s Office (MOPAC), at the Home Office and at the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) – to address the sickness of police corruption. We look to them to find the integrity and the will required to acknowledge and confront the culture of corruption and cover up that remains rife in the Met. We call on them to stop turning a blind eye to those within the Met who – at best – deliberately turned away from the stench of police corruption; those who sought to manage the fallout from that corruption instead of confronting it.”

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