

BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS

STATEMENT FROM THE FAMILY OF DANIEL MORGAN

18 March 2022

Over nine months following the publication of the report of the Daniel Morgan Independent Panel in June 2021, the Metropolitan Police Service (“the Met”) have finally released their full response to the report and its recommendations. In this light, the family have made the following statement:

“We, the family of Daniel Morgan, welcomed the report of the Independent Panel into the circumstances surrounding his murder in 1987 when it was published last year. In particular, we welcome the recognition that we – and the public at large – have been failed over the decades by a culture of corruption and cover up in the Met, an institutionalised corruption that has permeated successive regimes in the Met and beyond to this day.

“The Met’s immediate response to the Panel’s report was very disappointing, to say the least: its central finding of institutionalised corruption was rejected out of hand, no doubt because of the existential challenge that posed to the senior management of the force. As the Chair of the Panel subsequently remarked in her evidence to the Police & Crime Committee of the Greater London Authority:

“We have found the MPS to be institutionally corrupt. ... The public statements, which we have heard from the Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis, Cressida Dick DBE QPM], Deputy Commissioner [Sir Stephen House QPM] and Assistant Commissioner [Nick Ephgrave] in the days following the publication illustrate exactly the problem we have been describing.”

“Nine months later, we are saddened – but not surprised – to see in the Met’s considered response to the Panel’s report that the organisation remains paralysed in relation to the Panel’s key finding of institutional corruption: the Commissioner and her team remain unable or unwilling to confront its far-reaching implications.

“We found in the Panel’s 1250-page 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 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.

“We had hoped that those responsible for holding the Met to account – the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), the Mayor’s Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) and the Home Secretary – might yet find the integrity and the will required to confront and acknowledge the culture of corruption and cover up in the Met as identified by the Panel. We hoped that they would 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.

“And we had hoped against hope that, despite their treatment of us throughout these years, the Met would take the opportunity provided by the Panel’s report to do the right thing at last: to finally confront that culture of corruption within their ranks which has served to ensure that those responsible for Daniel’s murder remain protected from justice to this day.

“In the event, we find that we – and the public at large – have been let down yet again by all concerned. While the present Commissioner, Cressida Dick, is about to leave the force, her team remains in place, as does the culture of corruption, cover up and denial that continues to flourish at the highest ranks. And neither the Home Secretary nor the Mayor nor those in charge of the IOPC have shown any signs of will or ability to address this crisis.

“For our part, we consider that we have done all that could be asked of us to bring our concerns to the attention of the relevant authorities. This has been at a great personal cost to us: three generations of our family have already suffered as the collateral damage resulting from the inexcusable failure of the institutions of the state to do what was required of them. The burden remains on those institutions to fulfil their responsibilities, so that the sickness of corruption identified by the Panel may be properly addressed at long last. And it is now for the wider public to hold those institutions to account: having done what we can, we owe it to ourselves to get on with our lives.”

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