

BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS

STATEMENT FROM THE FAMILY OF DANIEL MORGAN

1 August 2019

The family of Daniel Morgan have made the following statement in the wake of the damages awarded by the High Court on 31 July 2019 in respect of the claim brought against the Metropolitan Police by those suspected of the murder of Daniel Morgan in March 1987.

Daniel's brother Alastair Morgan said:

“The concerns that we have raised over the decades about the police corruption at the heart of Daniel's murder have remained wholly unaddressed by this litigation: instead, it has been focussed simply on the conduct of Detective Superintendent David Cook as the Senior Investigating Officer in charge of the last police investigation into the murder and the ensuing prosecution which collapsed in 2011.

“Over the two decades preceding that investigation and prosecution, my family had done everything democratically and legally possible to expose that police corruption, and to secure justice for Daniel, only to be met with stubborn obstruction and worse at the highest levels of the Metropolitan Police. We encountered an impotent police complaints system, and inertia on the part of successive governments. We were failed utterly by all of the institutions designed to protect us, and we saw for ourselves a criminal justice system which proved incapable of coming to terms with the murder or the subsequent criminality of those charged with enforcing the law.

“In the midst of such a tragic mess, we recognise that David Cook and his team did their utmost to redress the catastrophic failures of earlier investigations. In the process, they made themselves unpopular with many in the hierarchy of the Metropolitan Police, especially those who would have preferred to leave unturned the stones behind which the stench of police corruption continued to flourish. That is the context in which that hierarchy appears to have allowed David Cook to be made the scapegoat for the real mischief in this case: *‘the repeated failure of the MPS over the years to confront the role played by police corruption in protecting those responsible for the murder from being brought to justice’*, as acknowledged and admitted publicly in March 2011 by the then Acting Metropolitan Police Commissioner Tim Godwin.

"In that light, we consider that the ongoing vilification of David Cook – like the outcome of this litigation – amounts to a grave travesty of justice, and we continue to look to the Daniel Morgan Independent Panel under the leadership of Baroness Nuala O'Loan to answer the real question that remains unanswered: *Why have those at the highest levels of the Metropolitan Police repeatedly failed to confront the police corruption that has stared them in the face over the decades in relation to this case?*”

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