

PRESS STATEMENT

Friday 10 May 2013

The Daniel Morgan Independent Panel:

The family of Daniel Morgan have welcomed the Home Secretary's written statement (attached) announcing her decision to appoint an Independent Panel led by Sir Stanley Burnton to examine the circumstances surrounding Daniel's murder in 1987.

As reflected in the terms of reference governing the Panel's work (attached), its purpose and remit is to examine the circumstances of the murder, its background and the handling of the case over the whole period since March 1987, including:

- police involvement in the murder;
- the role played by police corruption in protecting those responsible for the murder from being brought to justice and the failure to confront that corruption;
- the incidence of connections between private investigators, police officers and journalists at the News of the World and other parts of the media and corruption involved in the linkages between them.

Daniel's brother Alastair said on behalf of his mother Isobel, his sister Jane and himself:

"In 2011, over 24 years after Daniel's murder, the Metropolitan Police finally admitted that their first investigation of this crime was crippled by police corruption.

"As Daniel's family, we were aware of that corruption within three weeks of the murder: we said so then, and we have been saying so ever since.

"Through almost three decades of public protests, meetings with police officers at the highest ranks, lobbying of politicians and pleas to the media, we have found ourselves lied to, fobbed off, bullied, degraded and let down time and time again. What we have been required to endure has been nothing less than mental torture. It has changed our relationship with this country forever.

"In the meanwhile, the allegations and evidence of serious corruption within the Metropolitan Police – extending to recent history and the highest ranks – remained unaddressed through five police investigations and a prosecution aborted after 18 months of pre-trial argument.

"Over most of this period, we witnessed a complete unwillingness by police and successive government to face up to what was occurring, and ultimately a complete failure by police leadership to deal effectively with serious police criminality.

"We trust and hope that the Panel, through its examination and publication of all relevant material and information, will assist the authorities to confront and acknowledge this failure for once and for all, so that we may at last be able to get on with our lives."

ENDS

DANIEL MORGAN: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT PANEL

1. The murder of Daniel Morgan in March 1987 was a personal tragedy for Daniel's family. In the intervening 26 years, there have been five successive police investigations but no one has been successfully prosecuted or convicted for the murder; and in March 2011 the Metropolitan Police acknowledged "the repeated failure of the MPS to confront the role played by police corruption in protecting those responsible for the murder from being brought to justice".

In these circumstances, the Government is committed through the work of the Independent Panel to a full and effective review of corruption as it affected the handling of this case and of the treatment of the family by the police and other parts of the criminal justice system. The Metropolitan Police support this review through the Panel process.

2. The purpose and remit of the Independent Panel is to shine a light on the circumstances of Daniel Morgan's murder, its background and the handling of the case over the whole period since March 1987. In doing so, the Panel will seek to address the questions arising, including those relating to:
 - police involvement in the murder;
 - the role played by police corruption in protecting those responsible for the murder from being brought to justice and the failure to confront that corruption;
 - the incidence of connections between private investigators, police officers and journalists at the News of the World and other parts of the media and corruption involved in the linkages between them.
3. In order to achieve this purpose, the Independent Panel will:
 - (a) engage with members of the family and take their views into account at all stages in relation to the methodology of its work and the results of its work;
 - (b) obtain and examine all relevant documentation from all relevant bodies, governmental and non-governmental alike, including but not limited to papers held by:
 - The Metropolitan Police;
 - The Hampshire Police;
 - The Crown Prosecution Service and the Attorney General's Office;
 - The Police Complaints Authority (as it was then);
 - The Independent Police Complaints Commission;
 - Southwark Coroner's Court;
 - The Home Office.
 - (c) interview and receive relevant information from individuals who are willing to provide that information;

- (d) brief members of the family through a final report which would be made available first to the family and then to the public at large;
 - (e) explain in the final report what the relevant documentation and information reveal about the nature and extent of police corruption in relation to the handling of this case;
 - (f) make any recommendations which the Panel concludes should be made as a result of its work, including recommendations for any further investigation or inquiry.
4. The principles of the Independent Panel's work will be:
- (a) full, genuine and effective participation of the family at all stages of the Panel's work including genuine and full consultation and briefing throughout the process and payment of legal costs incurred on behalf of the family to this end;
 - (b) "the family first" in terms of the release of the Panel's findings and its report;
 - (c) exceptional and full disclosure to the Panel of all relevant documentation including that held by all relevant Government departments and agencies and by the police and other investigative and prosecuting authorities;
 - (d) maximum possible disclosure of documentation and information by the Panel to the family.
5. The Independent Panel will present its final Report to the Home Secretary who will make arrangements for its publication to Parliament.
6. It is envisaged that the Panel will aim to complete its work within 12 months of the documentation being made available. In the meanwhile, it is also envisaged that the Panel will brief the family incrementally, both on the progress of its work and on its emerging findings. The Panel will finalise these and other aspects of its work after 3 months when it has been able to assess the scope of its work and the desirability and practicalities of incremental disclosure.

DANIEL MORGAN: TIME LINE

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10 March 1987 Daniel Morgan's body is found slumped by his BMW in the car park of the Golden Lion pub in Sydenham, South London.

Detective Sergeant Sid Fillery, of Catford Police Station, is assigned to the case. He fails to tell his bosses of his associations with Jonathan Rees – Daniel Morgan's then business partner in Southern Investigations– for whom he had moonlighted in the past.

.....
April 1987 Six people, including Fillery, Jonathan Rees, Rees' brothers-in-law (Glenn and Garry Vian) and two other Met officers are arrested on suspicion of the murder, but all six are released without charge in due course.

.....
March 1988 Fillery retires from the Met to join Southern Investigations as Rees' business partner in place of Daniel Morgan.

.....
April 1988 Inquest at Southwark Coroner's Court where evidence is heard from witnesses including staff from Southern Investigations.

Kevin Lennon, who worked as an accountant, tells the inquest he had watched Rees's relationship with Morgan deteriorate, and that Rees told him six months before the murder that he had found the perfect solution to the problem: "My mates at Catford nick are going to arrange it. Those police officers are friends of mine and will either murder Danny themselves or will arrange it."

Rees is asked if he murdered Daniel Morgan. He replies: "I did not."

The inquest returns a verdict of unlawful killing.

.....
July 1988 Hampshire Police appointed 'to investigate allegations that police were involved in the murder of Daniel Morgan and matters arising therefrom' under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA).

The Met, Hampshire Police and the PCA agree to alter the terms of reference of the investigation – it then proceeds 'in the furtherance of prosecuting the suspects Rees, Goodridge (an associate of Rees), Wisden (Goodridge's girlfriend) and anyone else for the murder of Daniel Morgan'.

.....
February 1989 Rees, Goodridge and Wisden arrested by Hampshire Police on suspicion of the murder – Rees and Goodridge charged with murder; Wisden charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice in relation to the murder.

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May 1989 All charges discontinued.

.....
March 1990 PCA certify satisfaction with Hampshire investigation and confirm that it had revealed 'no evidence of involvement by any police officer in the murder of [DM]'; 'no evidence to support Mr Lennon's allegations [of such involvement]'; 'no evidence to suggest that any member of the murder investigation team took deliberate action to prevent the murder being properly detected'; and 'no grounds for disciplinary action against any officer other than strict admonishment (administered to two officers in relation to their involvement in Belmont Car Auctions matter)'.

1990 - 1997	DM's family continue to raise their concerns in relation to the murder through MPs, meetings with senior police officers and publicity in the media.
July 1997	New Labour Home Secretary Jack Straw MP to Chris Smith MP: '[T]he murder of Daniel Morgan was first investigated by the MPS and was then the subject of a full re-investigation by the Hampshire Constabulary. The Commissioner informs me that there were some allegations that a senior police officer was involved in the murder of Daniel Morgan. He has, however, assured me that those allegations were fully investigated at the time and proved to be incorrect.'
November 1997	DM's family, Chris Smith MP and Richard Livesey MP press their concerns in meeting with MPS Commissioner Sir Paul Condon, Deputy Commissioner John Stevens and Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC) Roy Clark, resulting in an assurance that the case would be reviewed – in fact, a third investigation was then commenced and conducted without the knowledge of the family.
April 1998	Goodridge's claim against Hampshire Police for malicious prosecution settled upon their admission that they had prosecuted him without probable or reasonable cause.
September 1999	DM's family become aware of the third investigation when it is aborted upon discovery of an unrelated criminal conspiracy involving Rees and several others (including a serving Met officer) – all arrested for conspiring to plant cocaine in the car of woman seeking custody of her child from her ex-husband client of Southern Investigations – all charged with conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Fillery arrested on unrelated money-laundering matter but subsequently released on police bail and never charged.
April 2000	DM's family meet DAC Clark to discuss progress including proposal for a formal 'murder review' in relation to the case, and request disclosure of the Hampshire/PCA report in view of continuing reliance by the Met on its stated conclusions.
December 2000	Rees is convicted of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and is jailed for seven years.
July 2001	Fourth investigation into the murder gets underway covertly, under immediate command of Det Supt David Zinzan and overall command of DAC Hayman, following outcome of murder review.
June 2002	Crimewatch broadcast on the launch of the overt phase of fourth under the immediate command of Det Ch Supt (DCS) David Cook as SIO.
October 2002	Arrest of several civilian associates of Rees on suspicion of involvement in murder of DM, all subsequently released without charge.
November 2002	Issue of judicial review proceedings on behalf of DM's family to compel the Met to disclose the Hampshire/PCA report.

2003	Fillery arrested, charged and convicted of offences relating to possession of paedophile images found on his business computer.
July 2003	The Met relent on eve of judicial review trial and consent to order by the High Court requiring disclosure of the Hampshire/PCA report to the family.
September 2003	The Met inform the family of decision by CPS not to bring any prosecution upon Zinzan/Cook investigation
February 2004	Submission on behalf of the family to the then Home Secretary Rt Hon David Blunkett MP seeking a public judicial inquiry.
June 2004	Home Office reject request for a public judicial inquiry.
July 2004	Adjournment debate in the House of Commons in support of the family's call for a public judicial inquiry, addressed by Chris Smith MP and Roger Williams MP.
May 2005	Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) Chair Mr Len Duvall proposes to commission a report into the murder from the Met Commissioner pursuant to section 22(3) of the Police Act 1996.
October 2005	MPA resolves to commission report as proposed by its Chair Mr Len Duvall – the Met's then Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, compelled to admit under questioning by the MPA that Fillery's role in the first investigation had "compromised" it.
January 2006	Fifth investigation into the murder gets underway, under the overall command of DAC John Yates and the immediate command of DCS David Cook as SIO.
April 2006	Report by DAC John Yates on behalf of the Met to the MPA with a formal acknowledgement that the handling of the case "suffered significantly from the taint of corruption".
April 2008	Rees, the Vian brothers and James Cook are arrested and charged with the murder. Fillery is arrested and charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice.
February 2009	DAC John Yates confirms at a meeting with the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of London: "This case is one of the most deplorable episodes in the entire history of the Metropolitan Police Service. This family has been treated disgracefully."
September 2009	Legal arguments begin at the Old Bailey.
February 2010	A key supergrass is dismissed as a witness by the trial judge and the prosecution of Fillery is stayed.
November 2010	Trial judge dismisses second supergrass as witness and prosecution offer no evidence against James Cook.
January 2011	A third supergrass is withdrawn as a witness for the prosecution when police are accused of withholding evidence which proves he is a registered police informant.

11 March 2011	Prosecution admit defeat and offer no evidence against Rees as well as the Vian brothers, bringing the entire prosecution to an end without any trial. Public acknowledgement by Det Ch Supt Campbell on behalf of the Met that “police corruption was a debilitating factor in [the] earlier inquiries” which had therefore “failed the family and the wider public”.
31 March 2011	Public pronouncement by the Met’s then Acting Commissioner Timothy Godwin at a full MPA meeting acknowledging “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”.
August 2011	Submission on behalf of the family to the Home Secretary calling for a public judicial inquiry.
29 February 2012	Adjournment debate in the House of Commons in support of the family’s call for a public judicial inquiry, addressed by Tom Watson MP.
October 2012	Proposal on behalf of the Home Secretary to appoint an Independent Panel to look into the circumstances of the murder.
November 2012 – May 2013	Discussions between the Home Secretary and the family with reference to the terms of reference and make-up of the Panel.
10 May 2013	Home Secretary’s parliamentary written statement to announce the appointment of the Panel.