

Statement made on behalf of: The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Witness: Neil Hutchison

Statement No: 2

Exhibits Referred to: NH/160609/1, NH/160609/2, NH/160609/3,
NH/160609/4, NH/160609/5, NH/160609/6,
NH/160609/7

Date Statement Made: 9th June 2016

IN THE MATTER OF: PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

This is the exhibit marked NH/160609/1 referred to in Neil Hutchison's statement dated 9th June 2016

Request under Rule 9 – Tenth Request

Background

1. The Inquiry is aware that the Metropolitan Police holds numerous documents, across a range of archives, databases and other records, which are likely to be of relevance to its investigations.
2. The Inquiry notes, in particular, the observations made at paragraphs 15 of the statement made by Neil Hutchinson dated 29 January 2016 as to the process being followed by the Metropolitan Police in responding to rule 9 requests.
3. The Inquiry further notes the observations made at paragraph 44 of the same statement as to the requirements for authorisations at certain levels for the destruction of some categories of documents.
4. The Inquiry further notes the observations made at paragraph 48 as to the steps being taken to address the risk that individual officers or staff may deliberately seek to destroy or amend parts of the record, and particularly the observations about restricted access to material held by Operation Herne, the General Registry, INFOS, IMOS and the IMS.

Rule 9(1) request for witness statement

5. The Inquiry Panel requests that an appropriate person speaking on behalf of the Metropolitan Police provide a statement to the Inquiry setting out:
 - a. Whether any written authorisations have been granted permitting the deletion of material in accordance with the first, second or fifth bullet point of paragraph 44 of that statement, and if so the details including the basis for any assessment that was made as to the likelihood of relevant information being destroyed.
 - b. What steps if any the Metropolitan Police has taken to verify that there are no conflicts of interest (including, but not limited to, former service as an undercover officer) by any person in the following roles:
 1. A member of AC-PIT staff with any role in relation to this Inquiry

2. A member of MPS Directorate of Legal Services with any role in relation to this Inquiry
3. Any person with access to material secured by Operation Herne's Holmes and Altia databases or exhibit storage systems (whether or not that person would thereby be in a position to amend or delete any part of Operation Herne's records)
4. Any person with a position within the General Registry/Record Management System whose role includes making any decision about the destruction of records or who has the practical ability to do so, or who has the authority or practical ability to amend, delete or prevent the creation of records of access to files.
5. Any person with the authority or practical ability to delete material from the INFOS system.
6. Any person with the authority or practical ability to amend, delete or prevent the creation of records on the IT index system for IMOS.
7. Any person with the authority or practical ability to amend, delete or prevent the creation of records on the IMS system.