

Note

To: Code An, Press Office

Re: Operation Rochester

1. I set out some general thoughts having discussed all of the issues with Code A.
2. It seems abundantly clear that it would be an act of great folly for SCD to have direct contact with Victoria Taylor (to whom I assume the police have kindly passed on my details). Obviously, she is aware of your involvement and all contact should go through the Press Office. Hopefully, it would be possible for you to explain to her that the interests of the families are paramount. They would be extremely hurt and annoyed if there was any prior contact with the media.
3. Even if any attempt was made to talk to the Press it could not be limited to one journalist.
4. I note you propose to disclose the amount of Counsels' fees. I have no accurate information regarding these but if such disclosure reflects the Director's policy then I am sure that Paul Beresford and Carmen Dowd can supply details to you. I can find no one within SCD who has ever known of disclosure of precise fees in one of our cases for the benefit of the media. I can envisage that such information would, in this particular case, would not be used for our benefit.
5. The matter which most concerns me is the attempt by others to pressure the CPS into disclosing information beyond that in the press release. The issue was raised by the police with you with a view to incorporating comments (attributable to the CPS and/or David Perry QC) as to the commendable quality of the police enquiry. As we have discussed in detail I consider that such an observation at this stage could have potentially very damaging consequences. Such a comment may later be regretted and in any event would certainly alienate the families. I am left in no doubt that this view is correct in the light of your helpful observation that your contact within the IPCC Press Office suggests that the Commissions' view is that the police enquiry was "rubbish." It would not be difficult for that angle to be developed by the media.
6. Clearly the most appropriate course is that all media communication in this matter must be dealt with through the Press Office.
7. Please let me know if we need to discuss these issues more fully.

Paul Close
Special Crime Division

Code A