OPERATION ROCHESTER MINUTES OF MEETING 18/10/2004

PRESENT.

DET.CH. SUPT. WATTS. D.C.I. NIVEN.

D.I. KENNY

Code A

APOLOGIES.

DET. SUPT. WILLIAMS. Code A

Code A

INSP. KENNY

(REF. THE ACTION REVIEW) THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ACTIONS OUTSTANDING AND THE MAIN THRUST OF THEIR COMPLETION IS BEING DIRECTED TOWARDS THE CASES WHICH ARE TO BE FAST TRACKED.

DCI. NIVEN.

SPOKE REF. THE IMPENDING INITIAL INTERVIEW WITH DR. BARTON REGARDING THE LOCATION AND STRATEGY ETC.

> ARE TO BE THE DESIGNATED Code A

INTERVIEWING OFFICERS AND THEY ARE PREPARING THE FINAL STAGES OF THEIR APPROACH ETC.

Code A

REF. FAMILY LIASON. A NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED REQUESTING PERMISSION TO HAVE THE HASLAR NOTES RELEASED TO THE POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS ENOUIRY FOR THE BENFIT OF THE MEDICAL EXPERTS.

A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE PORTSMOUTH EVENING NEWS WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE CAUSED SOME UNREST WITH SOME OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS

DCI. NIVEN.

MENTIONED CONTACT WITH THE CORONER (MR. HORSLEY) AND THE FACT THAT SOME DISCLOSURE HAS BEEN MADE TO THE G.M.C. AND SIMILAR DISCLOSURE WILL BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO THE NURSING AND MID WIFERY COUNCIL.

LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALEXANDER HARRIS, THE STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY AND THE APPROPRIATE PRIMARY CARE TRUST TO UPDATE THEM WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION.

EXPERT EVIDENCE STILL AWAITS CLARIFICATION FROM MR. LOHN REF. THE GRADING ON CERTAIN CASES.

THE REMAINING CATEGORY 2 CASES ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN SO BUT THIS HAS YET TO BE CONFIRMED.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT GILLIAN MACKENZIE HAS RAISED AN ISSUE CHALLENGING THE ACCURACY OF SOME NURSING RECORDS, BUT THE RELEVANT STATEMENTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN ORDER.

Code A

REQUESTS THAT AS AND WHEN A DEFINITIVE DECISION IS MADE REGARDING GLADYS RICHARDS, THAT A PERSONAL VISIT BE MADE TO GILLIAN MACKENZIE AND LESLY RICHARDS, BY A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE ENQUIRY TEAM TO EXPLAIN ANY DECISION TO THEM.

D.C.I. NIVEN

IT IS HOPED THAT A LETTER WILL BE PREPARED AND SENT OUT TO ALL REMAINING CATEGORY 2 CASES IN NOVEMBER.

MR. NIVEN WILL BE SEEING ANNE ALEXANDER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE CATEGORY 2 CASES AND ANY IMPACT THAT THE DECISION MAY HAVE ON THE RELEVANT FAMILY MEMBERS.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE CATEGORY 2 CASES WILL BE FINALISED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL CONCERNED SHOULD BE AWARE OF ANY PUBLICITY WHICH MAY COME FROM THE DECISIONS AND IT IS VITAL THAT THE RELEVANT FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE THE RESPECTIVE INFORMATION PRIOR TO ANY PRESS RELEASE ETC.

THE MATTER OF CIVIL ISSUE MAY ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

MR. RIPLEY WAS SPOKEN OF TO A POINT THAT THE POLICE MAY ASSIST HIM IN ANY CIVIL CLAIM SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

THERE MAY BE NEED TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE CATEGORY 3 CASES WITH ANNE ALEXANDER AS AND WHEN.

ALL APPEARS TO BE WELL WITH THE H.O.L.M.E.S. OPERATOR

Code A ALTHOUGH HE MAY BE ABSENT OCCASIONALY DUE
TO HIS NEW SUPERVISORY ROLE.

MR. NIVEN SPOKE OF THE CURRENT BUDGET SITUATION AND WAS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT HIS SPENDING HAD BEEN WELL MANAGED AND THAT, DUE TO PRUDENCE THE ENQUIRY WAS STILL WITHIN THE SET MARGINS.

WITH REGARDS TO THE ENQUIRY POLICY, A COPY OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN SENT TO MR SMITH, A.C.C. AS GOLD COMMAND.

Code A

SPOKE OF THE WITNESSES WHO HAVE BEEN SEEN AND WHO WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE NOTHING ILL TO SAY OF DR. BARTON AND OF OTHERS WHO, IN THE PAST, HAVE HAD DAMAGE TO THEIR CARS AFTER TALKING TO THE POLICE.

D.C.I. NIVEN

IN REPLY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOODWILL OF SOME OF THE HOSPITALS STAFF MAY DIMINISH IN THE PROGRESS OF THE ENQUIRY BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN SEEN SO MANY TIMES AND THEY MAY TIRE OF IT ALL.

MEMBERS OF THE K C T HAVE BEEN SENT LETTERS OF THANKS FOR THEIR WORK AND SUPPORT

Code A

WITH REGARDS TO ANY SUSPECT INTERVIEWS A DEVELOPED MEDIA STRATEGY SHOLD BE PUT ITO PLACE AND THE INTERVIEWING TEAM SHOLD BE CONTENT WITH THE INTERVIEW STRATEGY

THERE WAS A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE METHOD OF APPROACH TO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE INTERVIEW AND IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE SUSPECT SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT THE INTERVIEW WAS IN CONNECTION WITH UNLAWFUL KILLING.

Code A REQUESTED THAT THE MINUTES RECORD HIS PERSONAL THANKS TO THE 'OPERATION ROCHESTER' TEAM FOR ALL OF THEIR PAST AND CONTINUING HARD WORK. THE ENQUIRY WAS AT A STAGE WHERE COMPLEXITIES HAD BEEN OVERCOME BY THE WORK OF THE TEAM AND THEY HAD GAINED THE RESPECT OF STAKEHOLDERS AND PROFESSIONALS BY THEIR ATTITUDE AND COMMITMENT. "I REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE SUPPORT OF ALL CONCERNED

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