

Other Document Form

Number

132

Title **EMAILS FROM** **Code A** **DCS WATTS RE LOCATION OF ROCHESTER TEAM**

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Code A

From: Haycock, Graham
Sent: 20 October 2003 18:21
To: Watts, Steve
Cc: Niven, Nigel; Code A Bedford, Kerry; Moore, Shaun
Subject: RE: OP Rochester

Steve

I appreciate that you will not see this until the 10th Nov but reply now whilst events are fresh in my mind rather than wait for you to return.

I have always been happy to accommodate the investigative team at HP and as you know recently moved the schools liaison officer out of her adjacent office in order that you could expand your operation. This has meant that HP have been unable to use their briefing room for some considerable time.

However, the ongoing amalgamation work has identified the need to locate a fairly substantial new team of 11 officers (Pro - active team) which will need to be in place by 1st April 2004. You will be aware, better than most, that it is highly desirable that such a unit with its covert obs vans and decoy vehicles etc are not located at Gosport or Fareham, as both have active full time custody centres. In addition, the new BCU wide unit needs to have one central location to work from, and the ability to deploy to GG, HF or HP areas from a fairly central location. Thus HP.

I understand the difficulties you may face by placing the investigative team at Gosport for the reasons articulated, but in the case of HF do not believe that any car park charges can be used as a reason not to be based anywhere when so many of my staff and visitors already pay for such. The MIR room at HF is never used and remains resolutely devoid of intelligent life, a situation difficult to balance when we have such extreme pressures on space at this station. which will become far more pronounced with the arrival of Finance manager/Personnel manager and Media manager etc. I am surprised that you think that the MIR would not be large enough to accommodate your team as it is larger than the office you currently have at HP with two further annexe offices also available for storage etc. Given the paucity of times, over the last 24 months, that the MIR has been used, it may be that this is the pragmatic option given that Rochester is a major enquiry.

HP is unfortunately seen by many officers as " the best kept secret location in the Force " to use a quote from one member of the Op Rochester team, and we therefore currently accommodate the following as a result of it not being such a secret

- Insp Phil BOSWELL and team
- Dog section
- numerous vehicles from Tannery House staff and SB office
- often used by PSD re interviews
- Op Rochester
- and 5 uniform shifts and CBO team !!

My only other option if you felt that the unused MIR room at HF is not appropriate is for me to try and make space available at HB for your team which I can do. That location is certainly quiet, secure and would be unlikely to involve any potential HF patient employees. It would not be prudent to locate the Pro active team at HB due to the regularity of their deployments to GG and HF areas and the distances that would then be involved. My understanding is that your team are unlikely to be visiting the Gosport area with the same frequency.

Whilst maintaining continued support to the corporate needs I have to also ensure that the new BCU is able to operate efficiently and effectively and not at the expense of the former

Graham HAYCOCK

Superintendent
BCU Commander
"H"

-----Original Message-----

From: Watts, Steve
Sent: 17 October 2003 14:19
To: Haycock, Graham

Cc: Niven, Nigel; Kenny, Owen
Subject: OP Rochester

Graham,

I understand that you have been in touch with Nigel Niven regarding a proposal that OP Rochester be relocated from Park Gate in April 2004 following the GG/HF amalgamation.

I have with the Op Rochester team given careful consideration to this matter, and it is not lightly that I have to say that I feel that it would be wholly inappropriate for the team and their material to be relocated.

The key issue is that this, as you know is probably the most critical investigation to the reputation of the Force at this time, and possibly for many years.

The PCA is supervising complaints against Senior Officers, which in essence emanate from complaints made by families of relatives allegedly killed at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. We have done an enormous amount of work bringing the families back on side and convincing them that the Force is committed to this investigation and winning their confidence.

I have to say, however that our relationship is very fragile, I know this very well from meetings that I have had with them.

A move of the operating centre for Rochester would, I strongly believe be seen as a change in the stance of the Force, and interpreted as a reduction in commitment. You may consider this an over sensitive stance, but I do assure you that it is a real possibility. I am happy to sit down with you and explain the problems that we have had, in fact as discussed we will look to giving you a briefing when you talked up the suiipremo post in April.

In addition, we are moving into a second phase of work in the investigation, very soon, over 640 files of papers will be moved into the office, and staffing will increase.

In short, Park Gate is a good location for the enquiry in terms of its proximity to enquiry loci, operating & storage facilities, as well as the fact that the team are able outside the MIR setting to concentrate on Rochester in a way that would be impossible in an MIR setting.

I understand that you suggested Fareham or Gosport as alternatives;

In respect of Fareham, the satellite MIR would not be available for live time homicides in accordance with the agreement, and if used would impact upon the security of Rochester material. In any event the room is not large enough to accommodate the files & staff anticipated. Parking is an issue, and would incur a cost of more than £80.00 per week using the car park over the road.

In addition, Fareham town is within the practice area of the main suspect in this case and it is likely that staff employed at fareham will be patients (indeed already amongst the families we know of there are members of support staff).

In respect of Gosport - I see this as the nightmare scenario. The enquiry is focused upon Gosport, and therefore in addition to the lack of space issues, and potential compromise of patients described above, the trail of complaints emanated from when the first allegations were made to Gosport Police. A DI from Gosport was disciplined in respect of a flawed investigation. I don't think that I have to emphasise too strongly the potential impact upon the families and therefore the investigation of moving the enquiry to Gosport.

There is no space in any of the MIR complexes, indeed it was moved to Park Gate due to such difficulties..

From April, the case will be that of the new GG/HF BCU. I made no pretences to you when we sought permission to move Rochester to Park Gate, that it would be a short term measure, and whilst I appreciate that some things have changed, I cannot see any alternative to it remaining in situ at Park Gate.

More than happy to discuss, I'm on leave from later this afternoon until 10/11/03.

Please let me know your views

Regards
SW