

Our ref: BQ/nms

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**SURREY
POLICE**
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Surrey safer

Robert F Quick QPM MBA
Chief Constable

29th January 2007

CONFIDENTIAL

As Yalor
Paul
I'd like to reply
to Bob today for sake
of confidence. To give
you views on para's 9
& 12 + confirm you
by budget will pick up work.

Dear Paul

Re: Operation Ribble

With reference to our meeting of Friday 26th January 2007 where you briefed me on a number of more recent developments in relation to Operation Ribble and in particular a meeting you had with a senior official earlier that day. You asked me to give additional consideration to security and integrity issues in the light of remarks made at this meeting. Central to these considerations is the welfare of Operation Ribble staff and in particular its senior officers, who for obvious reasons are under extraordinary scrutiny and pressure.

Accordingly, in line with our discussion, I would make the following observations and recommendations for your consideration.

A review of Operation Ribble was conducted by me in December 2006 and this revealed a strict security and disclosure regime with apparent high levels of compliance. During that review I found no evidence to suggest any weaknesses in the integrity of the investigation but did become aware of a degree of injudiciousness in the disclosure of information by parties outside of the MPS to whom the investigation has properly provided information. I know you are aware of these issues.

It is clear from your briefing that the risks to the MPS, to the investigation and its senior officers are increasing. The developments of the last few weeks must be creating serious anxieties among some of those subject of the investigation and the potential for the inquiry and those leading it to come under operational attack has risen substantially. I am aware of persistent insinuation from some quarters that the MPS is tactically and maliciously leaking information to the media.

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Clearly the MPS will wish in such circumstances to ensure extraordinary measures are in place to protect the security and integrity of the inquiry and the welfare of senior officers.

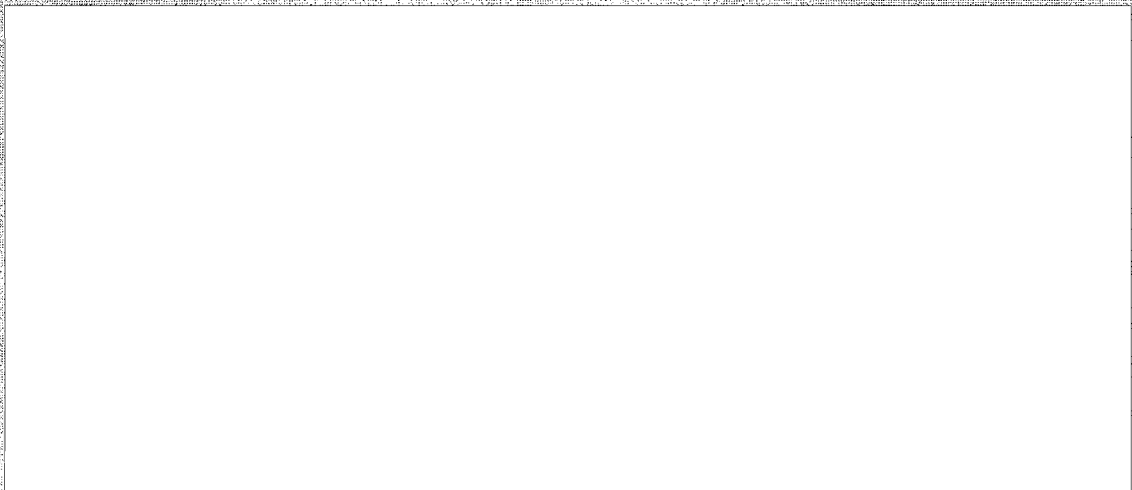
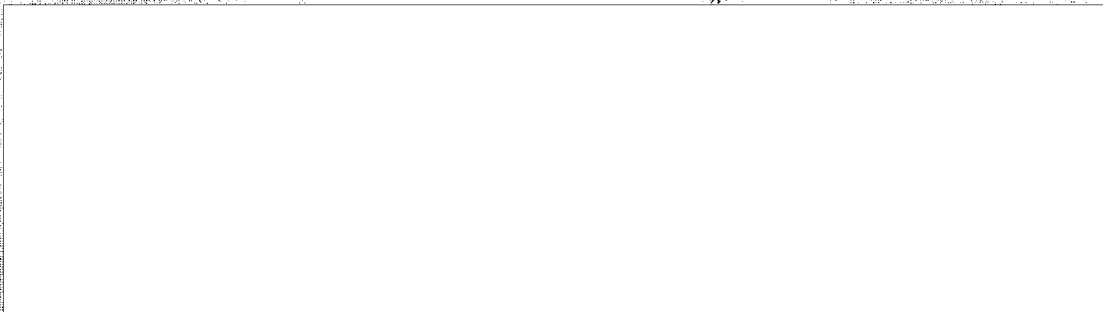
We have agreed that, at this critical stage of the inquiry, Assistant Commissioner John Yates is seen, not surprisingly by critics of the investigation, as the key individual and consequently he is drawing much of the 'fire' (although unsubstantiated) and is likely to continue to do so.

In view of the information you have provided I make the following recommendations

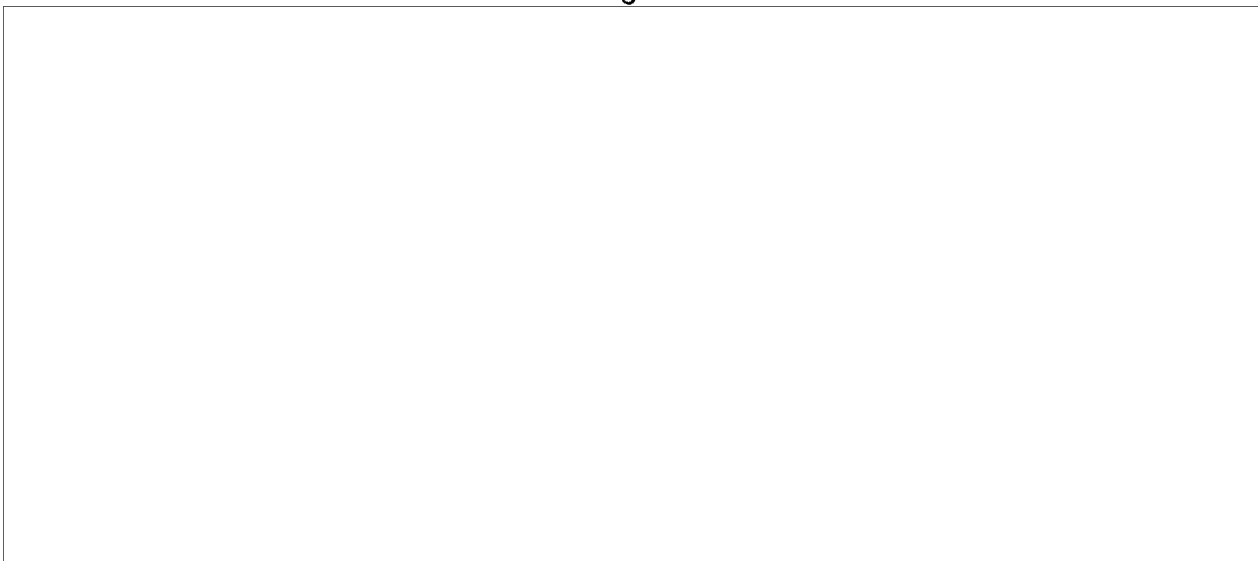
Protective Security

Surveillance

1. Asst Commissioner Yates is made subject of a *'Protective Strategy'* to reduce the risk of unfounded or malicious allegations, attempts to orchestrate any form of compromise or attempts to discredit his professional or personal integrity.



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Additional Security

5. A further review of security measures identified by MPS operational security reviews but not yet implemented will be conducted in consultation with Asst Commissioner Yates.

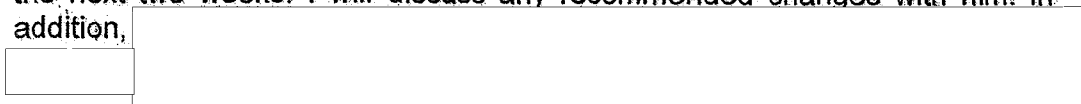
Other Officers

6. The arrangements in relation to other Operation Ribble senior officers will be kept under regular review.

Protective Audit

Audit

7. I have undertaken to review Asst Commissioner Yates' diary and risk assess the next two weeks. I will discuss any recommended changes with him. In addition,



Communications security and audit

8. Mr Yates has agreed to log all calls that could be deemed or interpreted as remotely connected to Operation Ribble. All incoming mobile calls will be screened by allowing them to go to voice mail first. Any relevant calls returned by Mr Yates will be logged and the content summarised. This will be auditable alongside billing records.

Records of relevant calls on landline facilities will be kept by Asst Commissioner Yates. His personal assistant and inquiry office manager may be able to assist with this task.

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Contact with Journalists

9. Consideration should be given to temporarily suspending all telephone and one to one contacts with all journalists (i.e. two week blackout period). Alternatively, if this is felt unachievable due to risk of undermining long term relationships etc., such contacts should be minimised and made in such circumstances as to provide corroboration as to what is said (i.e. on conference facility with witnesses or one sided recording).
10. Surpol is researching the legality of recording options and I will report on these imminently.

Analysis of Information in the Public Domain

11. Work to analyse and time line the appearance of relevant information (sensitive and confidential) in the media as recommended in the December review will be expedited by the MPS. This will be mapped against the timing of the release of information through pre-interview disclosure or times at which information/facts could reasonably have been implied through the questions put to witnesses.
12. Finally, consideration should be given to Surrey Police or the Metropolitan Police conducting a retrospective analysis of Asst Commissioner Yates' telephone records (work/private) at times leading up to the appearance of key pieces of sensitive information in the media. This may offer a further layer of audit to counter unsubstantiated claims that sensitive information has been provided to the press. Any relevant contacts can be debriefed with Asst Commissioner Yates so as to ascertain their nature in order to have as comprehensive records as possible available as to the timing and nature of contacts with journalists.
13. Asst Commissioner Yates will nominate an operational security contact as a single point of liaison for Detective Chief Superintendent Pennant of Surrey Police who will act as my agent in taking forward any operational activity involving Surrey Police staff in pursuance of these recommendations. This will facilitate a low key approach to the management of surveillance and obtaining material such as billing data which will be secured by the MPS.

I hope these recommendations are helpful in raising welfare, integrity and security arrangements to meet what appear to be escalating risks. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require clarification or further discussion before I proceed further. I would particularly seek your views in relation to recommendation 12. I have not raised 'recommendation 12' with Asst Commissioner Yates pending your views.

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I would also seek an indication that the MPS will be prepared to reimburse Surrey Police Authority reasonable costs for the provision of two weeks protective surveillance as detailed above.

Yours sincerely

Robert Quick
Chief Constable