



Metropolitan Police Authority

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BY HAND

Sir John Gieve
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Dear John,

Operation KRATOS: suicide bombers

As you know, Sir Ian Blair copied to me his letter to you about the role of the IPCC in this situation, and I have also seen your reply .

The Authority fully supports Sir Ian in his concern that that the operation of the formal processes of the Police Reform Act 2002 must not hinder an ongoing investigation of such importance. It would be contrary to the national interest if, for example, IPCC investigators were able to demand access to the scene, or for them to expect the MPS to reveal highly sensitive tactical or source material, without appropriate safeguards for the integrity of the on-going investigation.

That said, I would be surprised if the IPCC did not appreciate the need to balance the public interest in the investigation of the fatal shooting with the greater public interest in the apprehension of the terrorists. I would also expect them to be sensitive to the problems surrounding disclosure of information to relatives if this would compromise security. I would hope that a protocol could be developed that enables independent investigation to occur in cases such as this without detriment to the major investigation.

In regard to the suspension of Section 17 proposed by Sir Ian, I have said to him that I am not sure that is necessary or desirable, and that it will be better to find a common sense solution to problems within the existing law, and with IPCC, MPS and MPA acting in co-operation. I am glad that you take a similar view. It is in the interests of the MPS and the police service as a whole that fatal incidents such as this can be investigated impartially, thoroughly and objectively, no matter what the surrounding circumstances may be.

I would like a representative of the MPA to be included in the meeting that you propose to organise with Sir Ian and Nick Hardwick , so that this important matter can be taken forward co-operatively between all the bodies with legal duties.

Yours sincerely

Len Duvall AM
Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority

Cc Sir Ian Blair; Nick Hardwick Chair IPCC