

21. On arrival at Cooke Street I recall there were a number of officers present, including uniformed officers, local Borough CID officers together with the three HAT car officers, namely DS Callaghan, DC Cross and DC Priestley. I could see that a crime scene investigation tent had been placed outside the entry point to a nearby block of flats.
22. I would have most likely received a briefing as to the circumstances from DS Callaghan as the senior HAT officer on scene immediately following my arrival but I cannot recall who in fact briefed me. From the briefing I received, I understood that a male had been reportedly found collapsed outside the block of flats by a local resident and was now confirmed deceased following attendance by London Ambulance Service and a doctor. Due to concerns expressed by first responding (Borough) officers, who described a visible footprint to the torso of the male in addition to what appeared to be blood to the mouth area, the death had been declared suspicious and the decision taken to call HAT.
23. Also in attendance on my arrival was Crime Scene Manager (“**CSM**”) Cheryl Kynaston who I believe had already viewed the body in situ. I recall a conversation in which CSM Kynaston stated there were no immediate signs of physical injury as described by the first attending Borough officers.
24. Wearing appropriate protective clothing, CSM Kynaston and I entered the tent where I saw the body of a man I now know to be Anthony Walgate, who I recall was clothed and laying on his back. The purpose of this was to develop my own assessment of the reported injuries to support my initial investigation and decision making. Whilst I cannot recall the exact state of the Mr Walgate’s upper clothing I do recall visually examining both the relevant area of his torso and body in situ. From what I could immediately observe I could not see any signs of physical injury that may have contributed to the death of Mr Walgate. Whilst I do not recall the exact conversation, I agreed with CSM Kynaston’s initial view regarding the absence of immediate signs of physical injuries. That said, given the unexplained nature of his death and initial concerns in respect of apparent injury to torso, it was agreed we would request authority from the Coroner for a special Post Mortem in order to collect and preserve all evidential opportunities.
25. Whilst it was clear that the circumstances surrounding Anthony Walgate’s death required further investigation, it was my decision at this time to declare the death be treated as ‘unexplained’. Had I felt any information known to me suggested the death of Mr Walgate was a homicide I would have declared the death as ‘suspicious’ and referred the investigation to the on call D/Supt for further consideration.