

22. The additional statements that have been provided, in particular from the HAT officers, demonstrate that there were a number of HAT teams and officers involved in particular with the Anthony Walgate investigation, but also across all four deaths. None were sighted on all the information or evidence available at any one time. This lack of consistency has further contributed to a lack of oversight and understanding and enhances the point that had SC&O1 taken the investigation of Anthony Walgate and placed it on HOLMES all information would have been captured in one place and all the appropriate actions would have been identified and completed.

23. In respect of the deaths of Gabriel Kovari and Daniel Whitworth, I have had an opportunity to consider the witness statements of DCI Lyons²⁴ and ADS Denley²⁵. DCI Lyons states that he did not accept as face value that Daniel Whitworth was responsible for the death of Gabriel Kovari²⁶. It was documented as a manslaughter suicide in HAT advice²⁷ and that advice was circulated to all SCD Superintendents. This included Detective Superintendent Sweeney who was on call that week and who had previous oversight of the Anthony Walgate investigation²⁸. The decision regarding investigations taken on by SC&O1 was the responsibility of the Detective Superintendent. There was no request from Borough CID and SC&O1 did not consider it to be in their remit.

24. I maintain my opinion that SC&O1 should have taken responsibility for the investigation into both deaths as per the policy which states: SC&O1 will take responsibility for all murders, manslaughters (where there is likely to be culpability for the loss of life) and infanticide²⁹.

25. I considered that deaths from an overdose of GHB were rare. Supt Soole (para 110) confirms that in 2014 there were only 8 deaths in Barking and Dagenham as a consequence of a drug overdose. The fact that three of these were from GHB, and at least four were being investigated by the borough CID, should have raised some questions.

26. At paragraph 79 of his statement Supt Soole³⁰ sets out the responsibilities of the Borough departments and ranks in respect of unexplained deaths. It states that the borough DCI has the ultimate responsibility. In the case of all four deaths that was TDCI Kirk.

²⁴ MPS000639 (DCI Cliff Lyons witness statement 30 September 2020) and MPS000638 (DCI Cliff Lyons second witness statement 30 September 2020)

²⁵ MPS000590 (DS Stuart Denley witness statement 16 September 2020)

²⁶ MPS000638 (DCI Cliff Lyons second witness statement 30 September 2020 para 12)

²⁷ IPC000011 (HAT case report 21 September 2014)

²⁸ MPS000638 (DCI Cliff Lyons second witness statement 30 September 2020 paras 8 and 16)

²⁹ IPC000062 (Homicide and unexplained death policy dated July 2014)

³⁰ MPS001100 (DSu Soole witness statement 11 December 2020 para 79)