

**DI ROLF SCHAMBERGER (MPS)**

**MG14 RESPONSE TO CAUTION**

I wish to make a written response to the Regulation 16 Notice dated served on me by the IPCC on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016. I understand that I do not have to say anything, but that it may harm my case if I do not mention when interviewed, or providing this written response, something which I later rely on in any misconduct proceedings under the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2012. I understand this statement may be used in any proceedings under the Regulations.

Signed.. **Signature** ..... Dated.. *03/09/2017* .....

DI Rolf Schamberger

1. I joined the Metropolitan Police Service in June 2003. After initially serving on Havering Borough as a Police Constable and Detective Constable, I moved to Barking & Dagenham Borough on promotion to the rank of Police Sergeant in April 2010. In May 2016, again on promotion, I moved to the Met Intelligence Command.
2. On the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014, I was asked to "act up" as Detective Inspector. I had become a Substantive Detective Constable in 2007 before my promotion to Sergeant, and had worked as a Uniform Sergeant and a Detective Sergeant on Barking and Dagenham Borough. I have never worked as a Uniform Inspector. From March 2013 I was working as a Detective Sergeant; but due to problems with staffing levels with a Detective Inspector being absent for some time, I was asked to temporarily "act up" in the role of Detective Inspector on the Borough.

3. I had no specialist training in fulfilling this role, had not been on a Detective Inspector's course (Management of Serious Crime Development Programme) , and had never been on an Investigating Officer's (IO) course (Management of Serious Crime) or let alone a Senior Investigating Officer's (SIO) course (National SIO Development Programme). An SIO is normally a Detective Chief Inspector, or at least an experienced Detective Inspector who has been on a specialist course. Additionally, I had never received any training in relation to dealing with chemsex related offences and had no specific training or experience in being involved in cases concerning the gay community specifically. I think there was some LGBT training which took place on Borough, but that may have been after these events.
  
4. My new remit as an Acting Detective Inspector on Barking & Dagenham Borough included MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub), CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation), MISPERs (Missing Persons), YOS (Youth Offending Service), Gangs Unit, IOM (Integrated Offender Management) and Operation Jigsaw (managing the borough's high-risk sexual and violent offenders); as well as chairing MAPPa (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement – manages high-risk sexual and violent offenders) and MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference – manages the most high-risk domestic abuse cases). This all required a substantial amount of learning and substantial preparation. Obviously, both MAPPa and MARAC were both very busy and extremely high risk, as were the other parts of my remit. I was also required to regularly perform the role of Duty Detective inspector for the borough, covering during the daytime until 1900 hrs. A Detective Constable, Saima Rizvi, was drafted in as an Acting Detective Sergeant to cover my role, but as she had no experience in this field I was continually alongside her, and trying to support her in that role, as well as covering and learning my new temporary remit as best I possibly could. I did not know at that time, how long my "Acting" position would last.

September 2014. I was not working on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014, I was off on rest days.

7. My first collection of being involved in any matter relating to Stephen Port was on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 when I was the Duty Acting Detective Inspector on the Borough and was told that the body of Daniel Whitworth had been found two days previously. I was told that the Homicide Advisory Team had attended and advice had been sought.
  - I was aware that a note found on Daniel Whitworth's body linked him to another death, that of a Gabriel Kovari, whose body had been found in the same location by the same dog walker, on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014.
  - I was aware that FLOs (Family Liaison Officers) had been appointed to both families; DC Baxter for the Kovari family and DC Slaymaker for the Whitworth family. I have had the opportunity to consider the CRIS in relation to Daniel Whitworth (5115490/14).
  - On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September I was on duty performing the role of Duty Detective Inspector until 19:00 hours. I know that I had a meeting with Assistant Commissioner King at 12:00 midday at Fresh Wharf, and there was a Gold Group meeting at 16:00 hours, which I believe was in relation to the Kovari/Whitworth deaths.
8. I do not recall when I first viewed the CRIS. My recollection is that T/DCI Kirk spoke to me on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, asking me to deal with the Whitworth body in that the following day there was going to be a Special Post-Mortem. I cannot remember if this was face-to-face meeting, or a telephone call.

13. On the 26<sup>th</sup> September, I was at Roycraft House for a Strategy meeting concerning missing persons (Awad, Ahmed and Mahmood) who had been seen by Immigration Officers and housed on the Borough. I also took part in a Gangs Teleconference, and a Police Protection Meeting, at 15:30 hours. It is clear that very early in the morning (07:49, p.17) I went into the Whitworth CRIS and added a short supervisory note.

- At that stage I had no reason to believe that any investigation into this non-suspicious death had any links in relation to the Kovari death were not being dealt with properly, efficiently and expeditiously by my colleagues. DS Turrell was a capable officer who was more experienced than me in the role. I cannot now remember when I saw the HAT Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014.

14. I cannot remember exactly when I was told, or who by, that the handwritten note found in the possession of Whitworth had been sent either in part, or in its entirety, for verification as to the handwriting to his family.

- My recollection is that DC Slaymaker was keeping me updated generally, but one of the problems always was that being physically remote, unless something was put in writing, or a specific telephone call was made to me, I was not naturally in an environment where I could be kept or was keeping abreast of every development.

15. On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September, there were Pacesetter meetings at Fresh Wharf Base and I was the Duty Detective Inspector for East Cluster, from 07:00 to 19:00 hours, which means that you are the Duty Detective Inspector for eight Boroughs. This is, of course, a substantial undertaking. I would have worked at Freshwharf Patrol Base that weekend performing the Cluster duties.

- On the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014, I was duty Detective Inspector again. I attended a Gold Group in relation to rape allegations on the Borough, and a MASH meeting.

18. My recollection is that after this I became primarily involved in trying to assist the Coroner in relation to what was going to be a Joint Inquest in relation to Kovari and Whitworth. Throughout the end of October, I was still performing as the Duty Detective Inspector on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, and involved in substantial meetings around other issues, concerning operational policing matters within my remit.

- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015, the Closing Report in relation to Gabriel Kovari had been updated and there, obviously, is an e-mail train which sets out the degree of liaison and contact I had with the Coroner's Officer around arrangements in relation to the Inquests. I gave evidence at the Inquest, as it was me that completed and submitted the Coroner's Report in relation to both Gabriel Kovari and Daniel Whitworth.

19. I have now also considered the Review entry from the CRIS. It is quite often my practice to prepare a Word document which I then cut and paste into the CRIS so that I can write out my own thoughts and the matters which I think are outstanding. I know, for example, that I did this on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014, in relation to a Review which was quite extensive, and which I am certain then made its way into the CRIS, with updates, as a full Review.

20. The fact that there was a Special Post-Mortem in relation to Daniel Whitworth was not something which cause me to have any heightened sense of concern around whether it was a suspicious death, or not. It was clear that an initial view had been taken by DS Sweetman in relation to when the body of Gabriel Kovari was found, and a similar view by DS Turrell, in relation to Daniel

suggest that the Coroner identified actions and directed officers to deal with those. In relation particularly to the Whitworth document, the suggestion that she said that the bed sheet should go "for analysis now" and that the handwriting should go for expert analysis after the Inquest and the GHB bottle be submitted for fingerprint analysis, after the Inquest, is totally misleading and paints a false picture, not only of the evidence which I gave, but also of the remarks of the Coroner at the conclusion of both Inquests.

22. I clearly appreciate the significance of the bed sheet in the mind of the Coroner after the Inquest, as I refer to the evidence which I gave in my statement of the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The bed sheet appears to be Exhibit IRS/8, which was retrieved from the scene by PCSO Smith who had dealt with the exhibits from the scene in relation to Daniel Whitworth.

- It never occurred to me what the significance of the bed sheet might be at the time, and it certainly had never been brought to my attention as a significant item.
- It was not forensically examined, and although I am aware that the Coroner had raised concerns about it, the first I knew of this was the afternoon before the Inquest and thereafter during and after the Inquests themselves, the Coroner did not direct that she felt it still now should be forensically examined.
- I was not aware whether a similar sheet, or item, had been found to be of any relevance in relation to the circumstances surrounding the finding the body of Gabriel Kovari.

Certainly I have no recollection saying anything which Dr Swift could have interpreted as being an acknowledgement by me that this specific enquiry should be undertaken. As far as I can remember, I was not even aware that a bed sheet had been found at the scene relating to Daniel Whitworth, but I was aware of the note found on Daniel Whitworth and therefore the relevance of the pen.

- In relation to John Pape, I have seen his statement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. I knew who he was and saw him before the Inquest and spoke with him afterwards as well I think. I had been on my own at the Kovari Inquest and was then joined in the afternoon by PS Slaymaker and DC Berry for the Whitworth Inquest. Clearly other officers were speaking to him about lifestyle and other issues and DS Baxter was the appointed FLO in relation to Kovari. I do not think I had contact with him before the Inquest and cannot remember really having a conversation before the Inquest, but do agree I spoke to him afterwards. I cannot remember what discussion we had but do not recall him being particularly forthcoming about information in relation to sex parties. I think I did discuss the note and that the family had confirmed that the handwriting was that of Daniel Whitworth. I cannot recall the sort of detail he describes in terms of the conversation that was had after the Inquest, but certainly my recollection is that neither he nor the Coroner at any stage had indicated that it was felt there was insufficient information for the Inquest to proceed, or at least not be adjourned, and I do not remember being specifically tasked with carrying out actions as a result of the Inquest, by the Coroner, or as a result of my conversation with Mr. Pape. I had seen him give evidence and believed that most of the enquiries referred to during the course of the Inquest had been dealt with.

- I cannot remember when I saw the HAT Case Report dated the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014 that was the subject of referral by A/DS Denley to DS Turrell.
- I have no recollection of seeing the Teresa Steadman emails around October 2014.
- I do not believe I had seen the emails between the Coroner and others dated the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014, and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
- I cannot remember seeing the report of Dr Swift dated the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in relation to Daniel Whitworth and certainly do not recall reading paragraph 8 and what he said about what had happened at the debrief following the post mortem in relation to the bed sheet. Given he refers to suggesting that at the debriefing and still not being made aware of any findings arising out of that comment, I think if I had read that, it would have caused me to have enquiries made around the bed sheet; not that I was at that stage, I think, fully aware of its presence at the time the body of Daniel Whitworth was found.
- I do not believe I had seen the Inquest file relating to Kovari which is produced.
- The report of Dr Swift dated the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014 appears to be a preliminary report, I believe I had seen this prior to the Inquest.
- I think I did see the statement of John Pape dated the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in the case papers at some stage.