

clear reason for requiring such a submission. What T/DCI Kirk described did accord with my recollection of the practice when I operated at the rank of constable, sergeant and inspector. At that time we would seize the note for the Coroner.

14. I subsequently learned from A/DI McCarthy that a member of the team had shown the note to Mr Whitworth's step-father and I was informed he had stated the handwriting looked like that of his step-son Daniel Whitworth. I had considered whether we should still submit the note for forensic analysis in light of this. Mindful of my earlier discussion with T/DCI Kirk I did not pursue this.
15. The next day (22nd September 2014), at 12:40 hrs, I received an email from T/DCI Tony Kirk (**IPC000218**). He advised that SC&O1 were not going to take primacy for the investigation. I recall subsequently speaking by phone to the OCU Commander for SC&O1 (whose name I do not recall) in an attempt to have them accept primacy for the investigation. I do not recall when I had this conversation. I recall the view from this officer was that, although there was an apparent confession to involvement in Mr Kovari's death, Mr Whitworth was deceased so there were no suspects outstanding. We discussed this at length, as I did not agree with this and felt experienced homicide officers should investigate both deaths. However, I conceded given at the time there was no clear evidence of homicide and the Borough retained ownership of the investigation with SC&O1 support. At the time the Borough had primacy.
16. The decision to accept primacy for an investigation rests ultimately with SC&O1. In the absence of SC&O1's agreement I would have no choice but for the Borough to retain the investigation given that the death occurred in my Borough's police area. The Borough can refer the investigation to SC&O1 again for its decision on primacy to be revisited should further significant information come to light during the course of the Borough's investigation.
17. Whilst I did not agree with the SC&O1 decision not to accept the investigation and that the Borough was to retain primacy, I decided not to escalate to either Chief Superintendent Ewing or Commander Watson. In all my years of policing, it is not uncommon to encounter disputes between teams and commands over primacy for cases and investigations particularly where the circumstances are not as apparent as they could be. The circumstances as they were presented at the time were unexplained rather than suspicious. On the face of it there was a suicide note that outlined the circumstances and there was no indication at that time of the involvement of other