

PRESS RELEASE: 21 MAY 2012

**FAMILY OF MURDERED PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
QUIZ MET POLICE AND CPS OVER 'REVIEW' OF COLLAPSED PROSECUTION**

The family of murdered private investigator Daniel Morgan met today with representatives of the Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to hear what they had to say about their handling of the case, some fifteen months after the collapse of their last attempt at a prosecution for the murder.

The collapse of the prosecution enabled five men accused in connection with the murder (including a former member of the Met squad who first investigated the murder) to walk free. In its wake, the then Acting Commissioner of the Met, Tim Godwin, apologised personally to the Morgan family and acknowledged publicly that there had been a "repeated failure by the MPS over many years following Daniel's murder to accept that corruption had played such a significant part in failing to bring those responsible to justice". He added: "We recognise that we have to take responsibility for the consequences of the repeated failure of the MPS over the years to confront the role played by police corruption in protecting those responsible for the murder from being brought to justice."

What the family heard today from the Met and the CPS was what they were told 15 months ago: that the collapse of the prosecution on 11 March 2011 was due to a series of disclosure blunders and allegations that a supergrass witness had been "coached", and that there was no realistic scope or prospect of any further attempt at investigation or prosecution.

In that light, the family now look to the Home Secretary Theresa May to stop prevaricating on their call to her to hold a public judicial inquiry into the murder and its handling over the decades by the Metropolitan Police. The call – on the basis of representations made last year on their behalf by their solicitors Bhatt Murphy– has been supported unanimously by the Metropolitan Police Authority on 31 March 2011, and in Parliament following an adjournment debate on the case in February 2012. For her part, however, the Home Secretary has so far declined to reach any final decision in respect of the call, and a letter dated 22 December 2012 from the family's solicitors asking her to clarify her position remains unanswered over five months later.

Daniel Morgan's brother Alastair said today:

"All of the available evidence indicates that Daniel was murdered because he was about to expose serious police corruption, and that, after his murder, his private detective agency Southern Investigations became the hub or of industrial-scale police and press corruption. This was the beginning of a deeply corrupt relationship between the Metropolitan Police and News of the World journalists, and the seeds of the scandal that is unravelling at the Leveson Inquiry were planted then, a quarter of a century ago in that car park in south-east London where the murder took place.. We want to know how deeply this interfered with the five subsequent investigations into murder and the political response to allegations of police involvement in the murder".

Raju Bhatt, solicitor for the Morgan family, said:

"It beggars belief that it has taken the best minds in the Met and the CPS some 15 months to 'review' some 18 months' proceedings in court, only to produce some 17 pages of factual summary of those proceedings followed by 10 pages of 'good practice points' that amount to little more than an exhortation that the Met and the CPS should do their job properly, something we are entitled to expect them to be doing in any event! The publication of this 'review' does serve one purpose: it removes the alibi which the Home Secretary Theresa May has sought to use in her attempts to avoid reaching a decision on the family's call for a public judicial inquiry into the murder and its handling over the decades by the Met and the criminal justice system at large. The family is now entitled to expect that she will at long last agree to hold the inquiry, so that scrutiny may be brought to bear upon the reasons behind and the consequences of the repeated failure of the MPS over the years to confront the role played by police corruption in protecting those responsible for the murder from being brought to justice."

For further information please contact Mr Raju Bhatt on r.bhatt@bhattmurphy.co.uk.

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