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From: Paul Pugh
Head of Operational
Policing Policy Unit
Room 529
Queen Anne's Gate
☎ 0171-273-3141
28 January 1998

cc: Home Secretary
Mr Michael
Mr O'Brien
Lord Williams
Mr Omand
Mr Boys Smith

Mr Middleton
Mr R Evans
Mr Edmundson
Ms Scott
Mr Warner
Mr Owen

Linda Rushton
APS/Mr Howarth

HILLSBOROUGH

Your note of 27 January records Mr Howarth's reactions to my submission of 22 January about Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's report. I agree with most of Mr Howarth's comments about handling, but there is one point which I ought to clarify.

2. Mr Howarth refers to 'the failure on the part of South Yorkshire Police to disclose sections of the video tapes' and suggests that this should be deplored. There is no evidence that South Yorkshire Police failed to disclose any video material. There have been allegations that the West Midlands Police, who investigated the disaster on behalf of the Taylor Inquiry and the Coroner, deliberately omitted relevant material from the compilation tapes which they prepared for the inquiry and the inquest. That is an allegation which, I understand Lord Justice Stuart-Smith considers to be completely unfounded; and there are clear records that all the material from police video cameras was secured immediately after the disaster and made available to the investigating team, and that any of the material which the investigating team did not include on the compilation tapes was available at the time for viewing by any legal representatives of the parties to the inquiry or inquest. I do not think that the issue of inadequate disclosure by the South Yorkshire Police of video material arises.

Paul Pugh

PAUL PUGH

RESTRICTED: POLICY

From: Linda Rushton
APS/Mr Howarth
Room 702
Queen Anne's Gate
☎ 273 4238

27 January 1998

cc: Mr Michael
Mr O'Brien
Lord Williams
Mr Omand
Mr Boys Smith
Mr Middleton
Mr R Evans
Mr Pugh
Mr Edmundson
Ms Scott
Mr Warner
Mr Owen

Clare Sumner
PS/Home Secretary

HILLSBOROUGH

Mr Howarth has seen Paul Pugh's submission of 22 January concerning the handling arrangements of Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's report.

2. As I mentioned yesterday Mr Howarth feels that, in view of the reaction that this report will provoke on Merseyside, it would be helpful if a meeting could be arranged between himself, the Home Secretary, Jane Kennedy and Peter Kilfoyle (who are also Liverpool MPs) before the handling arrangements are finalised. He was content with your suggestion today that he could discuss this matter informally with the Home Secretary however he still feels that a meeting with the above would be necessary.

3. With regard to handling, Mr Howarth has stated that the positive measures that have been introduced (or are in the process of being introduced) to reduce the likelihood of such a disaster repeating itself should be emphasised as fully as possible. In particular, he has made the following points:

- Emphasis should be given to the measures being taken by the Home Secretary and Mr Michael to reduce the numbers of serving police officers who seek to evade disciplinary action by taking medical retirement.
- As far as possible, the failure on the part of the South Yorkshire Police to disclose sections of the video tapes should be deplored.

RESTRICTED: POLICY

- Subject to Lord William's views, it will be important to have lines to take on Coroner's Inquests in such cases.

Linda Rushton .

Linda Rushton

From: Sarah Clifford
Communication Directorate
x2284

28 January 1998

cc: Mr Michael
Mr O'Brien
Mr Pugh
Mr Edmundson
Mr Bone
Mr Warner
Mr Owen

1. Mr Butler

2. Home Secretary

HILLSBOROUGH REPORT: MEDIA HANDLING FOR THE HANDOVER

Issue

Media handling for tomorrow's "handover" by Lord Justice Stuart Smith of the Scrutiny report.

Timing

Pressing - I understand the report is now due to be handed over to the Home Office tomorrow, rather than Friday.

Recommendation

That you agree the attached draft press statement is issued to Merseyside, Sheffield and national media tomorrow, as soon as the report is given to the Home Office. The media are awaiting news of the "handover" and this upfront approach will forestall the news leaking out via the families and make your position clear. Mr Owen agrees with this approach.

Are you content with the statement and the handling arrangements?

28 January 1998

0171 273 4610

HILLSBOROUGH SCRUTINY: HOME SECRETARY CONSIDERS JUDGE'S REPORT

Home Secretary Jack Straw today received the report of the Hillsborough Scrutiny from Lord Justice Stuart Smith.

Mr Straw said:

"I am grateful to Lord Justice Stuart Smith for the enormous amount of work he has done carrying out the Scrutiny.

"I will now carefully consider his report. I hope to be able to publish both the report and my response to it shortly ."

Notes to Editors

1. The Scrutiny was announced by the Home Secretary on 30 June 1997.
2. Its terms of reference are:

To ascertain whether any evidence exists relating to the disaster at the Hillsborough Stadium on 15 April 1989 which was not available:

- (a) To the Inquiry conducted by the late Lord Taylor; or
- (b) To the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney General for the purpose of discharging their respective statutory responsibilities; or
- (c) To the Chief Officer of the South Yorkshire Police in relation to police disciplinary matters;

And in relation to (a) to advise whether any evidence not previously available is of such significance as to justify establishment by the Secretary of State for the Home Department of a further Public Inquiry; and in relation to (b) and (c) to draw to their attention any evidence not previously considered by them which may be relevant to their respective duties; and to advise whether there is any other action which should be taken in the public interest.



Police Policy Directorate

Paul Pugh

Head of Operational Policing Policy Unit (OPPU)

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**RESTRICTED
PERSONAL**

Peter Edmondson

Richard Wells Esq QPM MA (Oxon) CI Mgt
Chief Constable
South Yorkshire Police
Snig Hill
Sheffield
SS3 8LY

29 January 1998

Dear Richard

HILLSBOROUGH

As I mentioned on the telephone, the Home Secretary has agreed that you should have a copy of Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's report because as disciplinary authority for South Yorkshire police officers, you are in that sense one of those to whom the report is addressed in order to consider whether any questions of a disciplinary nature arise from the report. A copy of the report is enclosed with this letter.

I emphasise that the report at this stage is for your personal consideration, and for that of ACC Daines, with whom you may wish to discuss its contents. The Home Secretary has not formed any view about the report's conclusions, nor will he be making any public comment about the content of the report until he has considered it and decided the terms of the response which he will make when the report is published. As I mentioned, I would expect publication to be in February. I know that I can rely on you to respect the confidentiality of the report. In addition to yourself and Home Office officials, only the offices of the Attorney-General and the DPP have received copies.

I expect to be in touch again soon, when the Home Secretary has considered the report.

Yours,

Paul Pugh

PAUL PUGH