

Statement by Hickman and Rose solicitors on behalf of Irene Stanley and family

3.20pm 9 November 2004

The family of Harry Stanley, unlawfully killed by police officers in September 1999, welcomes the decision of the MPS that the officers concerned 'must remain suspended'. The family are pleased that Sir Ian Blair, Deputy Commissioner has now stated, on the record that the inquest jury:

'reached this conclusion [unlawful killing] on directions that they could only find such a verdict if it was proved beyond reasonable doubt. It is also the case that, by the nature of the circumstances, that verdict is directed, not at a systems failure, but at the actions of the two officers involved.'

However, the family is very concerned that Sir Ian Blair has set up an urgent review of possible alternatives to suspension, to report in three weeks, and announced that he will personally review the 'continuing need' for the suspension of these officers in a month. The family reject the idea of a 'half way house'. The family considers that the officers should remain suspended and should not return to work in any capacity albeit limited, pending a decision on charges by the CPS.

The family acknowledges the genuine public concern and debate about the death of Harry Stanley and the inquest verdict. However, the family would like all parties to await the CPS decision before commenting further on the case.