



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

PROFESSIONALISM HQ

Mr Andrew Harris Senior Coroner
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Our Ref: IX/3494/19

Date: 26 July 2022

Dear Mr Harris

I am the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Directorate of Professionalism in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), and I am responding on behalf of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis in relation to the matters of concern raised following the conclusion of the inquest into the death of Mr Ian McDonald Taylor who sadly died on 29th June 2019.

Matters of concern: Given the evidence heard in court before the family and members of the press, it is in the public interest that statutory bodies consider whether further investigations or reports are warranted to give reassurance to the public about the fitness of this officer to serve by

- 1. The IOPC, not only on the basis of conduct at the scene, but the evidence of his attitude, insight and extent of learning in court.**
- 2. The Metropolitan Police Service as to his supervision after the incident, assessment of training needs and provision of any further training.**

You will note from the IOPC's response to matter of concern 1 in their letter dated 30th June 2022, that the MPS has reviewed the evidence provided and concluded that the officer should be referred to the reflective practice review process. In coming to this conclusion, the Appropriate Authority (AA) for the MPS considered whether the matters you have highlighted require any further handling under the Police Reform Act 2002 (PRA).

The AA carefully considered whether the matter should be recorded as a public complaint. This was considered during the original review which was handled as a Death or Serious Injury incident. The AA is unaware of any person who meets the definition of complainant as described in the PRA as ever having made a complaint. However, given that the coroner has relayed the family's continued concern it remains open to them to make a complaint to the MPS, and should they wish to do so, it will be handled under the provisions of the PRA.

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In the absence of a public complaint, the AA has applied the PRA using the Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2020 (PCMR). The following definition of conduct can be found within the PCMR.

“A conduct matter is any matter which is not and has not been the subject of a complaint, where there is an indication (whether from the circumstances or otherwise) that a person serving with the police may have committed a criminal offence or behaved in a manner which would justify disciplinary proceedings. Section 12, Police Reform Act 2002”.

The PCMR also includes a duty to refer certain conduct matters to the IOPC.

Conduct matters which must be referred to the IOPC are:

- matters which relate to any incident or circumstances in which (or in consequence of which) a person has died or suffered a serious injury;
- serious assaults;
- serious sexual offences;
- serious corruption;
- a criminal offence of behaviour liable to lead to disciplinary proceedings which was aggravated by discriminatory behaviour;
- a relevant offence;
- conduct alleged to have taken place in the same incident as one in which one or more of the foregoing types of conduct is alleged.

The AA has considered whether the matters reported would meet the definition of a conduct matter described above. There are two occasions when one of the attending officers makes comments. On the first occasion he is speaking to a supervisor on a private call. Mr Taylor can be seen in the background of the footage lying on the pavement in handcuffs, he is being tended to by two other officers. The officer is providing an update on the scene and explains that he does not believe that the breathing difficulties Mr Taylor is complaining of are genuine. His tone is flippant when he states; *“poor me, poor me,”* however he confirms that they will be taking Mr Taylor to hospital. Later on in the footage when he is not in the vicinity of Mr Taylor, he is on a further private call on his radio and again expresses the opinion that the breathing difficulties are not genuine by using the phrase; *‘chest pains, blah, blah, blah all a load of nonsense’*. The AA recognises the severe distress that these comments made at the scene and the lack of reflection shown by the subject officer at the inquest, will have caused to Mr Taylor’s family. This is conduct which could damage public confidence in the police service.

It is the position of the AA that whilst the officer’s comments had no bearing on the circumstances of the incident, the flippant nature of the words demonstrate a lack of professionalism and are in breach of the standards of professional behaviour outlined in the code of ethics issued by the college of policing.

The AA also considered whether the comments made indicated a racial prejudice. The Angiolini Report, was referenced in the Inquest. The AA understands that the report suggests that officers are more likely to believe a person is faking illness if they are black. There is nothing in the words or behaviour that indicate that the comments made were due to the fact that he was treating Mr Taylor differently. In support of this opinion the AA took note of the

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officer's actions when Mr Taylor's condition deteriorated. The officer reacted in accordance with his emergency life support training assisting his colleagues in administering the first aid.

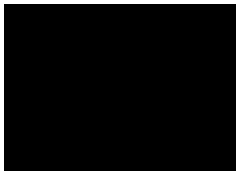
The AA has determined that the conduct does not meet the threshold for justifying disciplinary proceedings. The AA has identified practice requiring improvement and determined that the officer will be referred the reflective practice review process, as set out in Part 6 of the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020. In particular the AA has determined that the reflective practice review process will include an opportunity for the officer to reflect on the missed opportunity to offer an apology to Mr Taylor's family.

Therefore, in response to your matter of concern, "The Metropolitan Police Service as to his supervision after the incident, assessment of training needs and provision of any further training", the Reflective Practice Review Process (RPRP) will be implemented for this officer. It is a reflective practice designed to give officers, line managers and Forces an opportunity to discuss, learn and develop when things could have gone better, with a view to improving ways of working in the future and look for ways of addressing issues. It should demonstrate the officer's ability to reflect, learn and improve. As part of the process, the officer's line manager will identify whether there are any additional training needs for the officer.

In Conclusion

I wish to express my sincere condolences to the family of Mr Taylor. I trust this provides the reassurance that the MPS has considered the matters of concern raised by Her Majesty's Coroner and that they have been addressed in relation to this matter. Please do not hesitate in contacting me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Deputy Assistant Commissioner