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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION

Mr. Martin Rosenbaum
BBC

Mr. Nigel Shankster
Metropolitan Police Service
Public Access Office
Empress State Building
Empress Approach
Lillie Road
London
SW61TR
Telephone: 0207 161 3649
Facsimile:
Email:

9 January 2008

Your ref:
Our ref: 2006070010200

Dear Mr Rosenbaum,

Following the latest review of your original request by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), you will have been notified by the Information Commissioner's Office that the MPS has indeed located information pertinent to that request.

Part of the information obtained concerned 'Press Lines', held by the MPS Directorate of Public Affairs, produced in the event of any enquiry by a journalist, such lines are not disclosed following an enquiry by a member of the public.

Following consultation, I have decided that the Press Lines can be disclosed to you outside of FOIA legislation, purely on the basis that, as a journalist, a phone call to the MPS Directorate of Public Affairs would have provided you with the information you sought. Accordingly, I have reproduced the lines for you below.

FROM 13/4/06

NON ATTRIBUTABLE: re inquest into woman found two-years after her death: On Monday 10.04.06 an inquest opened at Hornsey Corner's Court into the death of Mrs Joyce Vincent, 41 years, of Wood Green, N22.

The inquest recorded an open verdict.

IF ASKED: circumstances of events: On 26.01.06 at 12 noon, Haringey police were alerted to bodily remains, found at an address in Wood Green.

It was apparent the body had been in situ at the property for a period of time.

Confirmed through dental records, the identification of the deceased was Mrs Joyce Vincent of Wood Green, N22.

A Post Mortem held at Hornsey Mortuary on 27.01.06 was inconclusive.

From items found within the property, it is believed Mrs Vincent died in December 2003.

The death is not being treated as suspicious.

IF ASKED: Does she have family: We believe she has family in London area.

IF ASKED: Who alerted police: a bailiff employed by a County Court. N/K which.

FROM 26/4/06

IF ASKED: Is the case of Joyce Vincent being re-opened by Haringey police:

This was a tragic incident, the deceased was found in an extremely decomposed condition where she had lay undiscovered for a considerable period of time and was only identifiable through dental records.

Police are eager to stress this period of time, by itself, does not automatically indicate foul play.

At this stage, police enquires do not indicate any suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of Ms Vincent. However, in cases where an open verdict has been recorded, officers always remain open-minded. If new evidence came to light this will be examined accordingly - at this time there is no fresh evidence to re-examine the case. The death of Ms Vincent remains as non-suspicious.

IF ASKED: Re police investigation into previous reports of domestic violence against Ms Vincent:

At this time police are aware of one domestic incident in January 1998, relating to financial matters, which did not involve violence or injury to the deceased. No offences were disclosed to police at the time of reporting, and the matter was agreed to be resolved between the two parties involved.

Following the inquest police believed Ms Vincent died in December 2003 - five years after this incident. Police have not linked this with her subsequent death.

IF ASKED: Did Ms Vincent visit hospital prior to her death:

NON ATTRIBUTABLE: It is known that Ms Vincent was admitted into North Middlesex hospital in November 2003, she had complained of vomiting blood. It was determined Ms Vincent was suffering from a peptic ulcer and was released following two days of treatment.

IF ASKED: Any indication the ulcer was caused by violence:

NON ATTRIBUTABLE: There was no suggestion this condition was caused or exacerbated by violence.

Please accept my apologies for the delays in processing this particular matter. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 0207 161 3649 or my email address.

Yours sincerely,

**Nigel Shankster
Information Access Manager
Public Access Office**

cc Mr Ben Tomes, ICO's Office