

**RECORDED INTERVIEW
BETWEEN EMMA ALBERICI AND DCI PAMELA YOUNG**

Lateline Studio

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1

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1 EMMA ALBERICI: Okay. Pam Young, tell us first of all
2 about your position within the police force and what your
3 role has been in this case?
4

5 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. I'm a detective chief inspector
6 at the unsolved homicide team of the homicide squad. I've
7 been a police officer for over 30 years now, I've been
8 a detective for 28 of those 30 years, and I've been in the
9 homicide squad for 17 years. I've spent the last two years
10 in the unsolved homicide team.
11

12 EMMA ALBERICI: And how long have you spent assessing the
13 case of Scott Johnson's death?
14

15 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Nearly the - the two years that I've
16 been in the unsolved homicide team.
17

18 EMMA ALBERICI: What were your recommendations to the
19 coroner in your report?
20

21 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. I don't technically make
22 recommendations to the coroner. I have formed an opinion
23 and provided a written opinion to the coroner that appears
24 in a - a statement, as we call it, formal statement, and
25 that is that I was unable to determine the cause of Scott's
26 death, in that it still could be one of the three
27 categories that we had, which is homicide, which is the
28 death of a human being by a human being; misadventure,
29 which is commonly known, thought of, as an accident; and
30 suicide.
31

32 EMMA ALBERICI: What's your personal opinion about what
33 happened to Scott Johnson?
34

35 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. My - oh --
36

37 EMMA ALBERICI: That's all right. Take your time, take
38 your time.
39

40 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah. My - my formal view to - to the
41 coroner is, of course, it could sit under those - any of
42 those three categories that I've said. But my personal
43 view, on the amount of additional information we've been
44 able to gather about Scott - Scott's personality, that
45 Scott mentioned to his partner of the time about an
46 attempted suicide, and that that information has some
47 corroboration as well - that's it's feasible that Scott

1 could have - was in - in the place where the suicide could
2 have taken place - there's some real veracity around that -
3 that. So I am swayed, personally, that the current
4 finding, the open finding, could move a bit more towards
5 suicide again. Though I think probably the most
6 appropriate finding is what currently exists, which is an
7 open finding.

8
9 EMMA ALBERICI: Can I just help you here, because it feels
10 to me like you're struggling a bit there.

11
12 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yep.

13
14 EMMA ALBERICI: Okay. So - I wouldn't normally do that to
15 a bloke, even though, normally, they've got a tie over here
16 and they've got a hair sticking up at the back. I'm going
17 to get to you do that again.

18
19 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.

20
21 EMMA ALBERICI: Because it was great, but I just think
22 that you were a little bit nervous about it.

23
24 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.

25
26 EMMA ALBERICI: So do you want another go at it?

27
28 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes.

29
30 EMMA ALBERICI: So you might --

31
32 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Do you want that amount of detail, or
33 you just want me to say I think it --

34
35 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, no, I want that detail.

36
37 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I could just leave that last bit,
38 which - I think --

39
40 EMMA ALBERICI: But I want the detail that you think it
41 was --

42
43 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: -- we would sway more towards
44 homicide - suicide. Suicide.

45
46 EMMA ALBERICI: I think that - I think that - I think that
47 you might just want to say that - that your personal view

1 is that it's most likely to be suicide based on dah, dah
2 and dah.
3
4 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
5
6 EMMA ALBERICI: Based on whatever it is it's based on.
7
8 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: That is - just let me - that is such
9 a controversial statement. I want to say I believe, it's
10 my true belief, but it's going to be so controversial, once
11 it gets out there. I just need to - there's always a way
12 of expressing --
13
14 EMMA ALBERICI: I think you said it well.
15
16 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah.
17
18 EMMA ALBERICI: But I think it was convoluted and I think
19 you could just make it, you know, more --
20
21 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
22
23 EMMA ALBERICI: Do you agree?
24
25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think so, yeah (indistinct) --
26
27 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, you could just make it a little more
28 snappy.
29
30 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- you are heading down the right
31 path in couching it in - in the - in those terms.
32
33 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
34
35 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But if you just kind of get to
36 it --
37
38 EMMA ALBERICI: More conversationally and - you know?
39
40 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
41
42 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just get (indistinct).
43
44 EMMA ALBERICI: Like, just say - you're allowed to say
45 what you think. I mean, you've obviously made a very big
46 report and you've been investigating it for two years.
47

1 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm, mmm.
2
3 EMMA ALBERICI: You're kind of more - you know, you've got
4 more authority over this and more --
5
6 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
7
8 EMMA ALBERICI: You know more about this than anybody
9 else.
10
11 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
12
13 EMMA ALBERICI: And you come at it - and if you want to
14 say something about the fact that - the other thing
15 I thought - I don't want to put words in your mouth, but
16 I think you may have said this to me at some point when
17 we've spoken, that as - as a police officer, or whatever,
18 you want to know what happened to Scott.
19
20 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
21
22 EMMA ALBERICI: And you've been trying to determine that.
23 Because they're trying to paint you as people who don't
24 care and who want to just get rid of it quickly, and that
25 it's all too much of a bother and that it costs too much
26 money, and - so if you want to say something about the fact
27 that, actually, because you've been working on this, you
28 want to know --
29
30 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah, well, I --
31
32 EMMA ALBERICI: -- and what you think.
33
34 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I'd be happy - would you ask me do
35 I care about Scott? Will you ask me that?
36
37 EMMA ALBERICI: Well, no, because I don't need to.
38
39 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: You won't?
40
41 EMMA ALBERICI: I'll ask you --
42
43 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I'd like you to.
44
45 EMMA ALBERICI: -- what you think happened. No, I can ask
46 you what you think happened.
47

1 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yep, yep.
2
3 EMMA ALBERICI: And you can put it in there, is what I'm
4 saying.
5
6 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah, I - I meant not replace the
7 question; I mean an extra question.
8
9 EMMA ALBERICI: No, I'm saying that --
10
11 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yep.
12
13 EMMA ALBERICI: -- put it in the answer. "What do you
14 think happened to Scott?", and you can say, "Well, this is
15 what's been", you know, "consuming me for two years".
16
17 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I don't - the answers are different.
18 But anyway, I'll - I'll answer the question.
19
20 EMMA ALBERICI: Look at politicians: they don't care what
21 my question is; they say whatever they want.
22
23 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah. Yeah.
24
25 EMMA ALBERICI: I'm saying employ a bit of that.
26
27 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah, yeah. Okay. It still might be
28 a bit long.
29
30 EMMA ALBERICI: That's okay. It doesn't matter that it's
31 long.
32
33 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah, okay.
34
35 EMMA ALBERICI: It doesn't matter. That's not what I was
36 getting at.
37
38 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
39
40 EMMA ALBERICI: It was just that you seemed to be
41 cautious.
42
43 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
44
45 EMMA ALBERICI: Where I don't think you need to worry
46 about being cautious. Just tell me what you think is okay.
47

1 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
2
3 EMMA ALBERICI: You know, I don't think we're on, you
4 know, tricky ground there, basically.
5
6 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
7
8 EMMA ALBERICI: I think when we get to the other
9 questions, we might be, but this one, I don't think you
10 need to worry too much.
11
12 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
13
14 EMMA ALBERICI: So what do you think, personally?
15 Personally, what do you think happened to Scott Johnson?
16
17 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I think there's a real possibility that
18 Scott did actually suicide. We've been able to find and
19 analyse a lot more information, some very nuanced, about
20 his personality; certainly his physical ability to have
21 attempted suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge at the time;
22 and that there's corroboration of telling that to his
23 partner at the time --
24
25 EMMA ALBERICI: Okay, sorry, people listening --
26
27 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah.
28
29 EMMA ALBERICI: -- have never heard about this before, so
30 they don't know what you're talking about. So you'll have
31 to actually say, "We have evidence that he tried - that he
32 attempted suicide once before, off the Golden Gate Bridge,
33 but" - because you just mentioned the Golden Gate Bridge
34 without telling us what you mean.
35
36 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Right.
37
38 EMMA ALBERICI: So you've got to remember, the people
39 listening and watching this have never heard this before.
40
41 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Right.
42
43 EMMA ALBERICI: That's why I'm saying be more simple: you
44 don't have to --
45
46 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. I can't. I can't.
47

1 EMMA ALBERICI: But you have to sort of --
2
3 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Penny has to put up with this every
4 day.
5
6 EMMA ALBERICI: But, no - but you have to remember that
7 people have never heard this before. Like, you and I know
8 it --
9
10 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yep.
11
12 EMMA ALBERICI: -- but the people watching don't know it.
13
14 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Right.
15
16 EMMA ALBERICI: So you have to be talking to someone who
17 doesn't know it at all.
18
19 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes.
20
21 EMMA ALBERICI: And just telling them. Do you know what
22 I mean? Like --
23
24 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yep.
25
26 PENNY: But what about - well, I know what I'm - like, I'm
27 apprehensive for Pam, as well.
28
29 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah.
30
31 PENNY: Because Steve Johnson and Dan Glick --
32
33 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They'll try and write off the whole
34 investigation because I've approached it believing --
35
36 PENNY: Yeah, they'll jump on that and just say that --
37
38 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: That's what they'll do when this
39 answer's out.
40
41 PENNY: Yeah.
42
43 EMMA ALBERICI: Well, but then you can say: "After all
44 this time I've spent on this, and I've looked, and I care".
45 That's why I said you should inject in there that you do
46 care and that you've --
47

1 PENNY: You care what happened to Scott.
2
3 EMMA ALBERICI: You've became - you've become very
4 determined to find out.
5
6 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
7
8 EMMA ALBERICI: That's why I'm saying, you can put that in
9 this answer to help soften the answer - you know what
10 I mean? Like the --
11
12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, it's like you're --
13
14 EMMA ALBERICI: You're not just saying it because it's
15 your throw- - and my next question will be that they think
16 that you've done a pretty shoddy investigation, all of you,
17 and then we can keep going. You know what I mean?
18
19 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
20
21 EMMA ALBERICI: Like - don't have to answer everything in
22 the one answer.
23
24 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
25
26 EMMA ALBERICI: But I'm saying if you wanted to take that
27 opportunity to kind of go, "I've formed this view because
28 of the fact that - that we know that he tried to suicide
29 once before, and that was corroborated; he tried that off
30 the Golden Gate Bridge, dah dah dah; and he dah dah dah,
31 dah dah dah."
32
33 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Can I just - I have to be able
34 (indistinct). I've got to be very specific.
35
36 EMMA ALBERICI: That's okay.
37
38 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: The corroboration is that Scott tells
39 Michael --
40
41 EMMA ALBERICI: And Michael tells two of his mates.
42
43 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: -- and Michael tells two --
44
45 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah.
46
47 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: So the corroboration is that Michael

1 told two friends.
2
3 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
4
5 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mutual friends of them. Not that Scott
6 told --
7
8 EMMA ALBERICI: No, that's right.
9
10 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: So the corroboration is not --
11
12 EMMA ALBERICI: First-hand.
13
14 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes.
15
16 EMMA ALBERICI: It's one, and there were three.
17
18 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah, that's right. And there were
19 two, and then there's a bridge, and then --
20
21 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, oh God. Brain hurts. So - but you
22 can - you can distil that. You can say that.
23
24 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
25
26 EMMA ALBERICI: "He told his partner. His partner told
27 a couple of friends. This happened a few years ago."
28
29 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I'm - yeah. I'm inclined to just - to
30 actually shorten the answer.
31
32 EMMA ALBERICI: Or you can shorten that.
33
34 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I'll just say "suicide", but I'll say -
35 I want to say about caring about Scott, because we do. We
36 feel he's been lost in this. So I want to say that.
37
38 PENNY: I think - yeah.
39
40 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, yeah.
41
42 PENNY: He's been forgotten (indistinct) --
43
44 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: But - but that will --
45
46 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, but you also have to say why you've
47 arrived at that view, otherwise it will just sound like you

1 just want to get it over with - you know what I mean?
2
3 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No. Yeah - well, but isn't this just
4 for a grab, basically --
5
6 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, yeah, but this is also --
7
8 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: -- to attract attention, so --
9
10 EMMA ALBERICI: But this is also for - if I put this on
11 PM --
12
13 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah.
14
15 EMMA ALBERICI: -- with Mark Colvin, I can do it a bit
16 longer.
17
18 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Right.
19
20 EMMA ALBERICI: It will still be radio, but it will --
21
22 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah.
23
24 EMMA ALBERICI: -- it will - it can be a little bit
25 longer.
26
27 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah.
28
29 EMMA ALBERICI: As the day rolls on, because PM's in the
30 afternoon, late.
31
32 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm, mmm.
33
34 EMMA ALBERICI: Then, at the end, it's like, you know,
35 "Watch Lateline for more"?
36
37 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah. Okay.
38
39 EMMA ALBERICI: So let's try that again. Sorry, Chris.
40
41 So what do you personally think happened to
42 Scott Johnson?
43
44 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I believe that Scott may well have
45 suicided. We have a lot more information and evidence that
46 supports that, that hasn't been available before, including
47 some corroboration of a prior suicide attempt, or a thought

1 that he would suicide, before, that he expressed. That is
2 quite impressive, that that has happened, and we have to
3 take notice of that. But, of course, we haven't found that
4 Scott was diagnosed with any depressive disorder, again, so
5 that's the balance. But, considering everything, I am
6 swayed that suicide is - is a distinct possibility.

7
8 And I have very much cared to look at what happened to
9 Scott. In a lot of ways, his personal characteristics and
10 his personal interests have been drowned by some
11 speculation around - around his death, as opposed to the
12 man himself. And so, yes, my team and myself have got
13 attached very much to finding out what's happened to him.
14 But I have to say, I do think suicide is - is a distinct
15 possibility.

16
17 EMMA ALBERICI: And is that only because he had previously
18 attempted suicide or talked about attempting suicide?

19
20 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No. It is also the corroboration that
21 I have mentioned, that - it's more detailed in my report to
22 the coroner. It's the fact that there was an opportunity
23 for him. So he's in - where - the country, in the city, at
24 the time that it possibly happened, based on the
25 information that we had; that when he spoke to or wrote to
26 his partner at the time about it, that there's consistency
27 in - with that information as well.

28
29 There's also some indications of such - such an
30 introverted and shy personality, and a very dysfunctional
31 childhood. I have to say, I'm swayed in that, even though
32 I'm not an expert in those areas, it is - it is - it is -
33 it should carry some weight in - in considering it.

34
35 EMMA ALBERICI: What view did you form about the
36 relationship between Scott Johnson and his brother,
37 Steve Johnson?

38
39 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I believe that they were close
40 brothers. I think they were - the closeness came about by
41 the absence of proper parenting and proper support.
42 I think particularly Scott's older brother had to grow up
43 more before his time and became more controlling of the
44 situation at home.

45
46 I think they were close at that time, but I - I -
47 I know that the older brother didn't have close contact

1 with Scott towards Scott's later years, and that the person
2 most close to him at that time was his partner at the time.

3
4 EMMA ALBERICI: Did Steve Johnson, in your view, accept
5 Scott's sexuality?

6
7 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I - Emma, you're really going places,
8 aren't you?

9
10 EMMA ALBERICI: Is it - is it your view, having assessed
11 all the evidence and the statements, that Steve Johnson was
12 accepting of his brother's homosexuality?

13
14 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I have picked up on information and
15 I have a sense that, no, it wasn't welcome news; it wasn't
16 expected news. That's the impression I have.

17
18 EMMA ALBERICI: Because I note in your report that,
19 initially, Scott Johnson tells his brother he's seeing
20 someone called "Michelle"?

21
22 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes, yes. They're - they're the
23 indications. I mean, there's a discomfort in the exchange
24 about it. In fact, there's an avoidance of telling his
25 older brother about it and then it's raised in increments,
26 I suppose, gently, probably testing the - the - the
27 reaction to it. So - which I think on one level is
28 entirely understandable, in that era especially. I - I
29 understand that. That, in itself, doesn't - in itself it
30 doesn't show they had a bad relationship, but - but in the
31 context of that time, that was not - and I'm losing my
32 place here.

33
34 EMMA ALBERICI: That's all right. That's okay.

35
36 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yep. It's - that's another very
37 controversial one.

38
39 EMMA ALBERICI: A tricky one. So the Johnson family say
40 they have evidence - they have accumulated evidence of
41 50 potential suspects.

42
43 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.

44
45 EMMA ALBERICI: They think there should be a finding of
46 murder.

47

1 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
2
3 EMMA ALBERICI: Not only that, they say the murderer is
4 easy to find.
5
6 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. Well, I have no idea what they're
7 talking about, on the level of them finding suspects. I -
8 I mean --
9
10 EMMA ALBERICI: Did they not present that information to
11 you?
12
13 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Can I just put my hair to the side,
14 sorry?
15
16 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, that's all right.
17
18 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Do you want to ask me that again?
19
20 EMMA ALBERICI: I have the same issue with mine.
21
22 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
23
24 EMMA ALBERICI: The Johnson family say they've identified
25 50 potential murder suspects.
26
27 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
28
29 EMMA ALBERICI: So they are not only expecting a coronial
30 inquest to determine murder, but they say they could even
31 imagine finding the murderer.
32
33 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes. Well, if they have 50 suspects,
34 they should certainly let us know about it. They've not
35 presented that type of information or evidence to us at any
36 time.
37
38 They've certainly, through their investigative
39 journalist, who is paid to - to look into the matter for
40 them, through public records of court convictions and the
41 facts of those matters, they - they did bring to us, which
42 was great - they did bring to us some - some names of
43 convicted people, people who were convicted with
44 gay-hate crimes. So that was helpful. But I'm not -
45 I can't necessarily make a link between that and 50 - 50
46 suspects that they've spoken to you about.
47

1 EMMA ALBERICI: Do you have any suspicions about anyone
2 who may have been involved in the death of Scott Johnson?
3

4 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: The - we haven't found any evidence of
5 a direct link between any person or group or gang and the
6 death of Scott. No direct evidence at all.
7

8 EMMA ALBERICI: So how do you explain the need for another
9 inquest?
10

11 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Well, that's, of course, for the
12 coroner. Only the coroner can decide if - if it's of
13 interest to the public and if the resources it would
14 require is valid. So I - very happy to go to inquest. It
15 would be good to have the detail of our extensive
16 investigation scrutinised and - and made available.
17 I think it might help a lot to bring a balance back to
18 potential fears that are out there about the behaviour of -
19 "marauding gangs" has been used, and - and the response by
20 police. I think it might bring the perspective back into
21 balance.
22

23 EMMA ALBERICI: The Johnson family, again, say there were
24 a spate of gay-hate crimes that were never solved and were
25 never brought to the attention of the public and, you know,
26 fall into the category of unsolved, you know, murders
27 potentially.
28

29 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Sorry, can I just add - I need -
30 I wanted to add something to the last question.
31

32 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, yeah, go.
33

34 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: So this is related - relates to the
35 last question.
36

37 EMMA ALBERICI: Mmm-hmm.
38

39 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Of course, even one gay-hate crime, one
40 violent crime against any person, is entirely unacceptable
41 and worthy of a high-level investigation. So, in saying
42 that possibly our investigation will bring a more balanced
43 view to the public, maybe lower concern and fear, it's not
44 to disregard every crime of that type. It did happen.
45 It's just saying it's not of a scale that I have got the
46 impression of through media that I would say is -
47 misrepresents some of the actual facts. So that that's

1 what I - that's what I mean by "balance".

2

3 EMMA ALBERICI: Again, the - the investigators employed by
4 the Johnson family say they've uncovered 30 unsolved
5 murders, deaths, that they would categorise as potential
6 gay-hate crimes?

7

8 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. Mmm. They first published that
9 view in the media; they didn't come to us first. But it
10 was good; we - we followed it up and we were given
11 information from Sue Thompson, who has assisted them. And
12 looking into those - those 30, we haven't found that that
13 number's the case. We've found eight possibles, yes.

14

15 EMMA ALBERICI: That were unsolved?

16

17 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I have to have a think - a look at
18 that. They are on our books, on - eight - eight are on our
19 books.

20

21 EMMA ALBERICI: But I think they - but they were - they
22 were found to have been gay-hate, weren't they?

23

24 PENNY: Or suspected gay --

25

26 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Pardon?

27

28 EMMA ALBERICI: Or suspected.

29

30 PENNY: Out of that 30, there - we've got eight suspected.

31

32 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Which are - which have been captured by
33 us.

34

35 EMMA ALBERICI: And are they in the unsolved --

36

37 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes, so they've been captured by us.
38 So they're not neglected; they're - they're captured by us.
39 So, in other words --

40

41 EMMA ALBERICI: So they're unsolved?

42

43 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They're - they're - they're - yes.
44 Yes, so --

45

46 EMMA ALBERICI: So they weren't put down as - as suicide?

47

1 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No.
2
3 PENNY: No, they're all --
4
5 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No.
6
7 EMMA ALBERICI: So it's not the same as Scott, is what I'm
8 saying.
9
10 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No, no.
11
12 EMMA ALBERICI: So do you want to make that point? That's
13 what I'm getting at.
14
15 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I don't think that's what they've been
16 claiming.
17
18 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah.
19
20 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They haven't claimed that 30 are put
21 down as suicides.
22
23 EMMA ALBERICI: No.
24
25 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No.
26
27 EMMA ALBERICI: Because they just say there's been 30 that
28 could be --
29
30 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes.
31
32 EMMA ALBERICI: -- all gay-hate crimes.
33
34 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes.
35
36 EMMA ALBERICI: And they also think Scott Johnson was
37 a gay-hate crime.
38
39 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes, but the eight have never been
40 considered as suicides. Do you see - so I'm not sure where
41 suicide is relevant to that.
42
43 EMMA ALBERICI: No, as in the similarity with the
44 Scott Johnson case.
45
46 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Well, they are not similar at all.
47

1 PENNY: Oh, so you're saying that there's 30 --
2
3 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They are males.
4
5 PENNY: Thirty deaths.
6
7 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: May or may not be gay. So that's the
8 only similarity, so --
9
10 EMMA ALBERICI: I know, I'm agreeing with you, but I need
11 you to answer the question, you know what I mean?
12
13 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yep. But aren't - yeah.
14
15 EMMA ALBERICI: Like, I just need you to address it,
16 because they say to me that there are 30 unsolved
17 deaths that could be categorised as gay-hate crimes.
18
19 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
20
21 EMMA ALBERICI: And so the public hasn't seen your report
22 and so they don't know that only eight of them actually
23 stack up, because they're still out there saying 30.
24
25 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. But there's no - I just - you
26 raised suicide there. There's not - suicide's irrelevant
27 to all of those.
28
29 PENNY: There's 30 - they're 30 deaths.
30
31 EMMA ALBERICI: I know.
32
33 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Thirty deaths, you see.
34
35 EMMA ALBERICI: All I'm saying is --
36
37 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: It's not that are put down to suicide
38 just like Scott's but they're really homicides. Do you
39 see? They're just - they're deaths.
40
41 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, yeah, yeah, no.
42
43 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: In any circumstances. Yeah.
44
45 EMMA ALBERICI: I get that, but what I - what they're
46 trying - they're trying to draw parallels and I'm saying
47 that there's so much - there - there isn't a parallel, to

1 the extent that they're not even put down as suicide. It's
2 not like they were dismissed as suicides, and - we're going
3 back. But I'll just ask you the - all you need to say is
4 that, "We could only find eight --

5
6 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah, we --

7
8 EMMA ALBERICI: -- out of the 30."

9
10 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes, eight, we - we have defined --
11 mmm.

12
13 EMMA ALBERICI: So let me ask you the thing again. So
14 the - the Johnson family claim that there are 30 unsolved
15 deaths in the Sydney region which could be put down to
16 gay-hate crimes.

17
18 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes. They first published that in - in
19 the media and didn't bring that to us, but, of course, it
20 was good, we asked for it and they provided it to us.

21
22 But - so we tested that, that figure, and that figure
23 is not correct. We have eight of those ones that they
24 identified as unsolved homicides, which we are looking
25 after in the unsolved homicide team.

26
27 EMMA ALBERICI: Do they have any similarities, those
28 eight, to Scott Johnson's case?

29
30 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Similarities in that they are male
31 victims.

32
33 EMMA ALBERICI: Is that the only similarity?

34
35 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They didn't happen on North Head, so -
36 so no.

37
38 EMMA ALBERICI: That was what I was looking for.

39
40 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I mean, they were --

41
42 EMMA ALBERICI: You just did it. It was perfect.

43
44 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: But - I mean, I could have said --

45
46 EMMA ALBERICI: I know, it seems obvious, but the audience
47 doesn't know --

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DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They're males and they may be gay or may have been thought to be gay; that was the --

EMMA ALBERICI: That was brilliant. But that was brilliant. That was what I was looking for. Because they try to muddy it and say "They're all the same".

DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes, yes, I know.

EMMA ALBERICI: But they're not the same.

DCI PAMELA YOUNG: But as you say - and you said "Sydney region": is Newcastle Sydney region?

EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, I know, I know.

DCI PAMELA YOUNG: You know - so --

EMMA ALBERICI: Okay, so, sorry, we're nearly done.

DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.

EMMA ALBERICI: What's changed since the last coronial inquest that would warrant another one?

DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Well, again, that's an ultimate question for the coroner to decide, whether one's justified or not. We certainly have done a broader investigation. We've looked at a lot of crime reports - thousands of crime reports, actually, from that time - to see about patterns, to see about - with similarities. We've gone to more detail about the victimology - so that's what Scott was like and what people thought of Scott, including his brother. We have a lot of detail along that line.

We have put to the test some of the findings of Operation Taradale, which was - did identify or reinvestigate some gay-hate crimes in Bondi, and two were found to be possible homicides. So we've - we've provided a more analytical basis and a broader basis of the investigation, and we of course interviewed a lot of people, gathered more witness statements - not witnesses to Scott's death; there are no eyewitnesses to Scott's death. And we've also done some operations.

EMMA ALBERICI: At some point there was a \$100,000 reward

1 for information. Did that generate any new leads?
2
3 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No, it didn't. We were surprised,
4 actually, with the low response we got in - not just to the
5 reward, but to the extensive coverage that has been given
6 to Scott's death generated by the family. We really hoped
7 and expected, like they did, that that would generate a lot
8 more spontaneous and new information, but it has not.
9 There would be in the - less than 20 - and I'll just check
10 that with Penny --
11
12 PENNY: I would say 25 to be --
13
14 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Right.
15
16 EMMA ALBERICI: "There have been" - you can just start
17 with, "There have" - "There have been".
18
19 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yep. Twenty-five? Is that what you
20 said, sorry?
21
22 PENNY: Well, we'd say "less than". "Less than". So less
23 than 25. There's about 18, I think - 18 or 22.
24
25 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes, so less than 20, that's what I --
26
27 PENNY: Well, there might be 22, because we got those new
28 ones at the end there, those ones that --
29
30 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah.
31
32 PENNY: That - that man that came in to a police station.
33
34 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Okay, I'll say "about 20". That will
35 cover it - a bit over, a bit under.
36
37 EMMA ALBERICI: Okay, yeah, that's fine. That's fine.
38
39 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: We were surprised and a bit
40 disappointed to find there were only 20 spontaneous calls
41 from the public and other pieces of information that came
42 in, that we hadn't had before. Some were completely
43 irrelevant to anything we could work on and completely
44 irrelevant to all the circumstances of Scott's death, and
45 others, though, may have repeated information about people
46 previously charged in different areas with gay-hate crimes.
47 We unfortunately didn't get any new leads that could be -

1 that could be followed up. Mmm.

2

3 EMMA ALBERICI: There has been a lot of criticism about
4 the police throughout the last 26, 27 years since
5 Scott Johnson's death. A lot of criticism about the way
6 this investigation was handled right from the start. What
7 do you say to criticism of the way this was handled, and
8 also the fact that the Johnson family has levelled
9 accusations that police themselves were anti-gay and
10 actively against the sort of thorough investigation of this
11 crime on account of his sexuality?

12

13 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Sorry, I had an answer, but your
14 question went on so long, I lost it, sorry.

15

16 EMMA ALBERICI: I know. I almost lost what I was saying
17 myself.

18

19 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I was thinking, what was the beginning
20 of that?

21

22 EMMA ALBERICI: Okay, let me - let me make it concise.
23 Now I'm the one that's being verbose.

24

25 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No. I - I liked the first bit. You
26 added on too many other elements.

27

28 EMMA ALBERICI: Other things.

29

30 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes.

31

32 EMMA ALBERICI: There's been significant criticism of the
33 police investigation, dating back the sort of 26, 27 years
34 since Scott Johnson's death. What's your response to
35 accusations that the investigation was shoddy and - and
36 what were the other (indistinct) - that it was not thorough
37 enough; is that what they're saying, that you weren't
38 thorough?

39

40 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They've used all sorts of --

41

42 EMMA ALBERICI: Okay, sorry, I will do it again.

43

44 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: So it was - it was - you could say
45 this --

46

47 EMMA ALBERICI: I was just trying to think of the actual

1 criticisms.

2

3 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They've used a lot of different terms,
4 so anyone you choose, they probably used it.

5

6 EMMA ALBERICI: They've just said you were hopeless.

7

8 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah. Just say that one.

9

10 EMMA ALBERICI: Okay. Sorry, I don't want to be that
11 obviously --

12

13 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.

14

15 EMMA ALBERICI: There's been a lot of criticism about the
16 police investigation over the last nearly three decades
17 since Scott Johnson's death. What do you say to
18 accusations that, essentially, the investigation has been
19 pretty hopeless?

20

21 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. The allegations have come from
22 Scott's family, from his - his brother in particular, so to
23 say there's significant criticism, it's - is it significant
24 when it's from one source that's repeated extensively in
25 the media? So I don't see that there's been significant
26 criticism.

27

28 EMMA ALBERICI: It's also come from, with respect, people
29 they've been working with who are ex-police - people like
30 Sue Thompson and Steve Page and others they've employed to
31 help them in the investigation, in their own personal
32 investigation.

33

34 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. But it's still all based on the
35 same information. It's the Johnson information that makes
36 that, as they call it - they call it their "investigation
37 team". So the Johnson investigation team rely on all the
38 same pieces of information and, unsurprisingly, make the
39 same criticisms of police. So - but - so it - so that's -
40 I would just debate whether it's significant criticism.
41 It's significant in that it keeps getting repeated in - in
42 the public.

43

44 Now, a lot has changed in investigation since 1988 to
45 now. We have gotten a lot better and a lot more technical
46 in our approach to investigations. So that's why we're
47 able to deliver a much broader, voluminous investigation

1 than what was provided before.

2

3 When they allege - and they have provided us with some
4 allegations about police and named police and things.
5 There haven't been - it hasn't been believable. We've
6 reported it up - we've reported it - sorry, I have to go
7 back again. Sorry

8

9 EMMA ALBERICI: That's all right. I can patch this
10 together. You've investigated internally, or --

11

12 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No, well, we reported to others who
13 have that responsibility.

14

15 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, yeah.

16

17 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: But I just want to say it's --

18

19 EMMA ALBERICI: But the New South Wales Crime Commission,
20 or something, looked into it, didn't it?

21

22 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Into our investigation?

23

24 EMMA ALBERICI: Yes.

25

26 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: They were asked to review it and see if
27 it was adequate. That's never, ever, ever been done
28 before. Again, the Johnson family are very special.

29

30 EMMA ALBERICI: What do you mean?

31

32 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Don't use that.

33

34 EMMA ALBERICI: Don't put that bit in? Okay. So do you
35 want to say that, about the New South Wales Crime
36 Commission and that it hasn't happened before, and then
37 maybe that can get us into the conversation about why that
38 might be?

39

40 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. Yeah, it's - again - it's - if
41 I just throw out some things, you just put it together.

42

43 EMMA ALBERICI: Yes, absolutely.

44

45 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I can't - I - you know --

46

47 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, yeah.

1
2 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: An answer from start to finish is --
3
4 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, no, I know, it's hard.
5
6 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: -- a bit difficult. Is that first bit
7 okay?
8
9 EMMA ALBERICI: Yep, it was.
10
11 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: That's okay?
12
13 This - this investigation also got a review and was
14 scrutinised by the New South Wales Crime Commission. That
15 is a very unusual step. In fact, I don't think it's ever
16 been done before. It was to just, again, reassure the
17 Johnson family, from another government agency who is
18 responsible for investigations, that they also thought that
19 what we were doing was adequate and on track. And that is
20 what they - what they have reported themselves. So that -
21 nor is - so that's not --
22
23 EMMA ALBERICI: I think the New South Wales Crime
24 Commission said your investigation was "comprehensive and
25 thorough".
26
27 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Probably, because it is.
28
29 EMMA ALBERICI: So let's get --
30
31 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Then --
32
33 EMMA ALBERICI: Yes.
34
35 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Then - sorry, another --
36
37 EMMA ALBERICI: I think that's --
38
39 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Because I've answered about ours. You
40 have asked me about the early one.
41
42 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, but yours is - yours goes over
43 everything that's been done to this date, anyway.
44
45 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yeah. I just want to --
46
47 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah?

1
2 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I want to put in, though - it's - it's
3 important, though, when - assuming that this is significant
4 criticism of the police, it also involves coroners. So
5 there'd be two coroners who would be potentially captured
6 in that criticism - certainly the first coroner, from 1989,
7 who directs police and accepts evidence and information
8 from police or decides it is insufficient and - and turns
9 it away, so - for the police to come back again with more.

10
11 So I don't think it's - it's - it's interesting how
12 the police - conveniently, the police, again, are targeted
13 for criticism, but there is a whole process of properly
14 reporting a death that must also, I assume, be in the
15 Johnsons' criticism.

16
17 EMMA ALBERICI: What's your - what's your view on why this
18 particular case has garnered the amount of
19 disproportionately high attention?

20
21 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. There's certainly been a lot of
22 time and energy and money and lobbying put in by the
23 Johnson family. They are fortunate that they have been in
24 a position to do that. Though I have not been involved in
25 a case, and I don't know any of my colleagues in all these
26 years that's been involved in a case that has had the -
27 the - basically a direction from the police minister at the
28 time, Mr Gallacher, to form a strike force immediately and
29 attend resources to it and - and get a reinvestigation
30 under way. It certainly put a lot of strain on the
31 resources and other jobs that we were doing at that time
32 and for a long time into the investigation.

33
34 EMMA ALBERICI: How did that come about?

35
36 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Well, interestingly, it was as
37 a result, as I understand it, of an Australian Story that
38 was done in February 2013. There seemed to be some concern
39 from the minister about what that program showed, and, as
40 I understand, the minister rang the Johnson family directly
41 and invited them in to meet him.

42
43 The - I was also required to be at that meeting and --

44
45 EMMA ALBERICI: As the head of the unsolved homicide
46 squad?

47

1 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: As the person to be selected to do the
2 reinvestigation. The acting commander of the homicide
3 squad was also there at the time, and the police minister
4 seemed to be impressed with whatever the Johnson family
5 told the minister and what the Johnson family wanted to be
6 done. And all families would want the most extensive
7 investigation, but it's very important that we manage
8 expectations. Some - there's some very unrealistic things
9 that we just can't achieve for people.

10

11 EMMA ALBERICI: And why did this family get the kind of
12 attention they've got? Is it the kind of attention most
13 families would get who've lost a loved one and can't
14 explain their loss?

15

16 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: We certainly give all the attention
17 that we have and follow up all reasonable inquiries and go
18 that extra mile for every suspicious death. That is what
19 we do best. That is what we are passionate about. That is
20 what - why we exist, why we work where we do. It's why
21 I've stayed in that area for so long.

22

23 What is unusual about the case is that it was - this
24 investigation was to take priority over other cases that we
25 had going at that time. And let's, instead of use the word
26 "cases", let's talk about people. Other people who had
27 been murdered or were suspected to be murdered - it took
28 priority over them. Cases that were under way at the time
29 or cases that would - would come, be the next jobs to be
30 done. This - this job, this investigation, was to take
31 priority over all of that.

32

33 EMMA ALBERICI: How do you explain that?

34

35 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I - I don't know. I know I felt very -
36 very despondent about it and very responsible to all the
37 other families that we have. We have hundreds of families
38 expecting the best from us, expecting us to attend to their
39 needs. I felt a burden that I wasn't able to equitably
40 help those families, in the way that there was an
41 expectation, now, that we reinvestigated Scott's - Scott's
42 death.

43

44 EMMA ALBERICI: Are you aware of any donations the Johnson
45 family has given to the New South Wales Government?

46

47 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: No.

1
2 EMMA ALBERICI: How else might you explain the attention
3 the police minister has given this particular case?
4
5 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. I really don't know. So purely
6 my thoughts on it - because I have puzzled over it myself;
7 no-one's told me why, even, you know, after this length of
8 time. They are a - an impressive family. They make their
9 presence felt. I - I wonder if people were impressed by
10 that and felt some obligation or - to - some obligation to
11 live up to their expectations and to deliver everything
12 that they asked for.
13
14 EMMA ALBERICI: Have they had undue influence over the New
15 South Wales Government?
16
17 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I - I have no idea about that. I know
18 they had influence over the resources of me and my team and
19 the homicide squad as a whole, which hasn't happened
20 before.
21
22 EMMA ALBERICI: And I, in reading your report, note that
23 they are friendly with the Kennedy family?
24
25 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: That's their - that's what they wrote.
26 I have no idea if that's the case. But perhaps that name,
27 in a - in correspondence, whether it's factual or not,
28 might - might impress people.
29
30 EMMA ALBERICI: Because representations were made on
31 behalf of the Johnson family by the Kennedy family in the
32 US.
33
34 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes, that is what they have included in
35 their - I think that has appeared in the media. So that's
36 what they claim happened. I - I don't know if that's
37 happened. But I know there are people who are impressed by
38 that sort of thing. I'm just not one of those people.
39
40 EMMA ALBERICI: So it's - okay. We had better not keep
41 going down that path, because we might get - I think that
42 was all right
43
44 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. It's a - a tap-dancer.
45
46 EMMA ALBERICI: What do you mean?
47

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, you can't go --
2
3 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah, we can't go too --
4
5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can't go (indistinct).
6
7 EMMA ALBERICI: No, mmm
8
9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indistinct).
10
11 EMMA ALBERICI: Okay, let me just see if there was
12 anything else you wanted me to scope over before we go.
13 Oh, oh, just something that they said to me, I just have to
14 remember how I was going to couch this. Oh, shivers,
15 I can't remember. I'll just ask you a general question,
16 and that is: what's your assessment of the value of the
17 information and evidence that's been gathered by
18 Steve Johnson's own private investigation?
19
20 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: I have found it in - once it arrives,
21 it has little substance or application for us. It has
22 often arrived with very confident statements from them. Of
23 course, they would have high hopes that anything they
24 provided us will be the key or the - "the breakthrough" is
25 a term they often used. It didn't - it didn't appear and
26 didn't bear out to be that, to us, because we have to apply
27 rules of law and evidence, and often that makes
28 a breakthrough not a breakthrough, and often the material
29 was completely irrelevant.
30
31 EMMA ALBERICI: And I'm just going to put two things to
32 you that constantly come up from the Johnson family: the
33 Johnson family say, "No-one ever suicides in the nude.
34 No-one ever jumps to their death in the nude"?
35
36 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. Well, it's not true; people do.
37 And I can't imagine why they would confidently make
38 a statement about something that they can't possibly know
39 about.
40
41 EMMA ALBERICI: But as someone who's been looking into
42 these sorts of issues for more than 30 years --
43
44 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm.
45
46 EMMA ALBERICI: -- have you seen other examples of people
47 jumping to their deaths in the nude?

1
2 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes, it does happen. It does happen.
3 And there are references to that in my report.
4
5 EMMA ALBERICI: What about the fact that there wasn't
6 a suicide note?
7
8 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Well, as is commonly known and was told
9 to the Johnson family back in 1989, it's still the case
10 that more often than not there is no suicide note.
11
12 EMMA ALBERICI: And just a final overview one: how have
13 you felt personally, over the last two years looking into
14 this information, knowing that the public perception during
15 that time, generated by the Johnson family, has been one of
16 quite a great deal of mistrust of the police and scepticism
17 about your collective interest in this case, on account, in
18 part, of Scott's homosexuality? They've - they've
19 essentially said the police force is homophobic.
20
21 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. Certainly individuals are and can
22 be and were back in 1988 and are today, same as anywhere.
23 But we also have gay people and - gay men and lesbians who
24 are part of the police force. Things have changed.
25 Things - it's so much more natural. It's almost, really,
26 a non-topic now. So --
27
28 EMMA ALBERICI: Did it colour the investigation in the
29 beginning?
30
31 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Our investigation?
32
33 EMMA ALBERICI: Back in '89 - back in 1989.
34
35 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: There's no indication of that
36 whatsoever. At the 1989 inquest there was information
37 available about where there were gay-hate crimes in - in
38 around Manly and the outer suburbs of the Northern - of the
39 Northern Beaches. So it was reported. Gay-hate crimes
40 were reported and responded to by police and people were
41 charged. So that - that - surely, that is - supports the
42 notion that police didn't cover up or - or conspire to
43 cover up gay-hate crimes.
44
45 EMMA ALBERICI: Thank you.
46
47 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: There was - I did like the first part

1 of the question that you asked, and I didn't - not that
2 one, the one before, and I didn't get to answer it. I
3 forget what it was, and you've forgotten too
4

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indistinct).
6

7 PENNY: Yeah, so they've personally targeted - they made
8 it known to people they don't like Pam and I.
9

10 EMMA ALBERICI: Yeah. Okay. So let me ask the question
11 again.
12

13 How do you feel - how have you felt, personally, over
14 the last couple of years that you've dedicated to
15 reinvestigating, essentially, this death? How have you
16 felt, knowing that the public perception is essentially
17 quite mistrusting of the police's role throughout these
18 almost three decades.
19

20 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. We have to roll with the
21 criticism; I should start off by saying that. But I have
22 found it personally very challenging and - and hurt - it
23 has hurt me. I certainly haven't let that show through the
24 investigation. I have done as much as I possibly can, and
25 my team has been excellent in their scrutiny and their
26 trustworthiness and their - the application of their
27 experience and their analysis of - of all the information
28 that we have.
29

30 So it has been hurtful, and it's very unusual. It's
31 very unusual not to feel - not to have a - a good working
32 relationship with a deceased person's family. It actually
33 is where - it's actually a very - usually, a very
34 comfortable, though sad, relationship. I haven't had that
35 experience in this case, and, sadly, nor have the Johnson
36 family, it seems. But they have taken exception to all the
37 police that they have ever dealt with. So I suppose I was
38 just, again, the type of person that they don't trust, and
39 that's fine. Some people don't. But I - I'm in this job,
40 I've been in the job for a long time. I don't come to work
41 in the homicide squad because I like seeing dead bodies.
42 I come because it is a really important, significant
43 contribution I can make to people's grief and to the
44 community as a whole. I take it very personally and I'm
45 very passionate about it.
46

47 EMMA ALBERICI: How do you explain Steve Johnson's dogged

1 determination for this long to establish a murder verdict?
2 What's driving that, if the evidence simply doesn't support
3 it?

4
5 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes. I haven't had a situation where
6 a next of kin has kept to one position and one position
7 only. Many start thinking that, but as we walk them
8 through, then, what becomes the facts, what becomes known,
9 they - they can accept that their - that other things
10 have - other circumstances have led to the death.

11
12 I - I have found Steve Johnson a very intense person,
13 and I suppose - like I've said, I'm passionate; I suppose
14 he might say that about himself. But I - I feel it's
15 passion without perspective. It's great to be passionate,
16 but you have to bring perspective into that, and that can
17 be very hard for a grieving family. But also, it is many
18 years after, and there - there's - it's interesting that
19 that passion without perspective persists.

20
21 EMMA ALBERICI: Thank you. I think that was terrific.

22
23 THE INTERVIEW CONCLUDED

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