

SPECIALCOMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LGBTIQ HATE CRIMES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

16.	William DUTFIELD #50	Date of Death 19/11/1991	Solved	SF PARRABELL <i>Insufficient Information</i>	ACADEMIC REVIEW <i>Insufficient Information</i>
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William James DUTFIELD, 41, identified as bisexual. DUTFIELD was close friends with Arthur ASHWORTH, 76. On the night of the murder, DUTFIELD and ASHWORTH had been to dinner at a nearby Mosman restaurant. They returned to DUTFIELD'S unit about 8pm with ASHWORTH leaving about 9pm, returning to his own residence nearby. Later the same evening, a neighbour of DUTFIELD'S, [REDACTED] 158 heard a verbal argument from DUTFIELD'S unit followed by a loud thud. [REDACTED] 158 did not act on this noise and DUTFIELD wasn't located deceased until the next day, by ASHWORTH, who attended DUTFIELD'S unit to check on his welfare. ASHWORTH was initially excluded as a suspect in relation to the murder of DUTFIELD as investigators believed he was too old and frail. DUTFIELD had sustained numerous injuries to his head having been violently assaulted with a heavy cast iron sticky tape dispenser and a lamp. It was deduced that DUTFIELD had been attacked from behind whilst sitting in his lounge chair. An almost empty bottle of whiskey with two glasses was located on the coffee table. Bloodied tissues were located in the bin. The offender had broken out of the rear of the premise. A small sum of cash was stolen from DUTFIELD. About one month prior to his murder, DUTFIELD was the victim of a violent assault and robbery at his residence where he was punched and kicked about the head and had \$900 stolen from him. There were no suspects identified for this robbery. The murder was investigated however no suspects were identified. In 1998 the matter was reinvestigated by Police investigating the ARKELL murder (SF Lincoln) and [REDACTED] NP63 was identified as a suspect after his fingerprints were identified on a cigarette packet which had been left behind at DUTFIELD'S unit in 1991, but two weeks before his murder. [REDACTED] NP63 was serving a custodial sentence for the manslaughter of Gordon MILLS (*Case 66*) in 1994 (three years post DUTFIELD'S murder). [REDACTED] NP63 (who was 20 at the time of DUTFIELD'S murder) was known to frequent numerous pubs and clubs in the Sydney and Kings Cross area at the time and was believed to identify as a bisexual. Eventually [REDACTED] NP63 was excluded as the suspect as he was in custody from 02/11/1991 to 24/04/1992, the time of DUTFIELD'S murder, so the murder remained unsolved.

STATUS: In 2008 the matter was reviewed by the Unsolved Homicide Team [SF HAMISH] and the murder was reinvestigated. This 2008 investigation reaffirmed ASHWORTH as a possible suspect in the murder. His DNA was matched to the sticky tape dispenser (murder weapon) located in the sink and also the blood located on the tissues. He was also known as a very aggressive and violent drunk. His original timeline of events was also found to be incorrect and untruthful. Unfortunately, ASHWORTH died in 2006. The level of violence and injuries sustained by DUTFIELD were considered excessive with DUTFIELD'S skull being extensively fractured. Coroner ABERNATHY stated, "*that he (DUTFIELD) was bashed - well that he invited someone home and there was effect some sort of rip-off, probably for money.*" It appeared unlikely that sexuality or other bias was involved in the death of William DUTFIELD with the motive most likely being robbery however this could not be confirmed. ASHWORTH remains the prime suspect for this murder.

SF Parrabell concluded there was insufficient information (II on bias)

The matter was referred to the UHT by the Coroner and is currently classified as '*solved*'. SF Hamish – from 2008 the matter was comprehensively reinvestigated by UHT, and it was established forensically that the victim's partner was most likely responsible for the murder. The victim's partner died in 2006.

Security Classification – Protected.**POST OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT****STRIKE FORCE HAMISH
SCC 2008-0586**

A standardised format for all operational assessments has been developed. The detail reported in any one area will be determined on a case by case basis. A minimum endorsement of 'not applicable' is required.

1. Terms of Reference:

To further investigate the circumstances surrounding the murder of William James DUTFIELD at Mosman on the 19/11/1991.

2. Investigation Summary:**Original Investigation.**

The deceased William James DUTFIELD born [REDACTED] resided at [REDACTED] Spit Road Mosman. The deceased was a homosexual male who had a heavy drinking habit. He kept his Homosexual life secret.

The owner of [REDACTED] Spit Road Mosman is Arthur ASHWORTH. ASHWORTH resided at this addresses before going into a retirement village and William DUTFIELD the deceased, a long term friend of ASHWORTH, moved into the unit.

On Tuesday the 19 November 1991 the deceased and Arthur William ASHWORTH, a friend and the owner of the deceased unit went to dinner at the Mosquito Bar Restaurant in Mosman. The deceased and ASHWORTH returned to the deceased unit. Between 8pm to 10pm the deceased and ASHWORTH had a few drinks. ASHWORTH left the deceased and there was a third of a bottle of Scotch left. Prior to leaving ASHWORTH had washed the drinking glasses out and put them in the kitchen.

About 9.30pm to 10pm a neighbours heard a verbal argument from the deceased unit and a number of loud thuds. The neighbours did not act on this noise.

At 11.03am on Wednesday 20/11/1991 the deceased body was located in his unit by ASHWORTH. ASHWORTH entered the unit using his key. The deceased was located lying face down on lounge chair at home address. The deceased had a large head injury to the back of his head. Two full drinking glasses were located on a coffee table next to the deceased. The Scotch bottle was almost empty.

An Examination of the crime scene revealed what police believed to be the Murder Weapon. This was a sticky tape dispenser which was normally kept on top of the refrigerator but was located in the kitchen sink and appears to have been wiped down by a nearby cloth. There was a blood stained tissue located in the waster paper basket. No fingerprints located. There was no sign of any forced entry and the premises were locked. There is no sign of the unit being disturbed or searched apart from the deceased body.

Security Classification – Protected.

The time of death estimated by the Government Medical Officer Dr Joseph DE FLOU is around 10pm to 11pm. Post Mortem was conducted on the night of the 20/11/1991 at Glebe Morgue. Dr DE FLOU indicated the deceased died from massive wounds to the back of the head caused by a heavy blunt instrument. Twelve blows to the head were counted and it appears death was instantaneous. Examination indicated the deceased had not been sexually interfered with.

According to Arthur ASHWORTH the deceased had between \$150 and \$180 in cash in his wallet the night before. This money was missing.

The OIC of this matter, Det Sergeant O'TOOLE discounted ASHWORTH as a possible suspect due to his old age and health at the time. A large canvass was conducted and an extensive search of local hotels and locations that men of a homosexual background frequent. A number of other POI's were investigated and discounted. The investigation centred around the Murder being a homosexual assault and robbery.

Coroners Inquest

On the 12/12/1994 there was a Coroners Inquest into the death of William DUTFIELD. The coroner made the following finding. That on the 19/11/1991, William James DUTFIELD died at [REDACTED] Spit Road, Mosman, of head injuries inflicted on him by a person or persons unknown.

Possible related incident

On the 16 October 1991 the deceased reported he had been at the 'Bottoms Up Bar' at the Rex Hotel Kings Cross and picked up a young male person. This young person went home with the deceased to [REDACTED] Spit Road Mosman. There they had a few drinks and then the young person stood up and assaulted the deceased and stole \$900 from the deceased. The unknown young person took the keys to the unit and locked the deceased in his unit (The locks to the unit were changed). As a result of this robbery a fingerprint of [REDACTED] NP63 was located on a cigarette packet wrapper. It appears that [REDACTED] NP63 has not been spoken to by police at this stage. At the time of this investigation [REDACTED] NP63 was in custody [REDACTED]. The POI [REDACTED] NP63 was on remand for manslaughter matter at the time. He was released prior to this happening. It appears that Richards has never been interviewed or spoken to about the matter.

Further Investigations

This investigation was REOPENED 1998 as it was thought to have link with ARKELL murder (POI dismembered victims) SF LINCOLN. Investigators found this matter to be unrelated.

In 2005 this matter was reviewed by Unsolved Homicide Team. The tissue and cigarette butts were resubmitted to DAL for further DNA testing. It was determined the blood on the tissue was not from the deceased or [REDACTED] NP63. DAL reference FS05/2452. The cigarette butts were either determined to have DNA from the deceased or unidentified DNA.

Operational Summary into this investigation

On the 9 September 2008 DSC HUNGERFORD from Unsolved Homicide was allocated as the Officer in Charge of S/F Hamish.

The initial stage of the re-investigation into this matter centred around the collection of records from Police Archives and the Coroners Court. These records were extensively reviewed. After reviewing the brief there were three main issues detected as listed below.

- i) Outstanding follow up with possible suspect [REDACTED] NP63
- ii) Outstanding exhibit inquires.

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- iii) Outstanding inquires with Arthur ASHWORTH who appeared had never been considered a suspect. He provided a statement and was spoken to on a second occasion in Running sheet 6/2/3 with a further statement/ interview to follow that was never conducted.

i) Suspect identified in Original Investigation NP63NP63DOB [REDACTED]CNI [REDACTED]

On the 16/10/1991 a robbery was committed on the deceased at his unit [REDACTED] Spit Road Mosman and about \$900 dollars was stolen. There was a fingerprint located in the unit on a cigarette cellophane wrap of NP63. There is no mention of this Cigarette cellophane wrap in the statements of police or William DUTFIELD.

NP63 was considered the main suspect for the murder into William DUTFIELD on the 19/11/1991 because of his possible involvement in the Robbery on the 16/10/1991 and his extensive criminal history. Police have subsequently made inquires with Department of Corrections showing that NP63 was arrested on the 25/10/1991 and in custody until the 24/04/1992. **This puts NP63 in custody at the time of the Murder.**

- No other outstanding suspects were identified from the original investigation.

ii) Exhibit Inquires

On the 18 and 19th of September 2009 and again on the 17 November 2009 a physical search for the exhibits in this matter was conducted at North Sydney and Mosman Police Station by investigators and exhibit staff.

On the 9 June 2010 a Forensic Review was conducted. This has resulted in further exhibits being submitted for examination.

DNA of Arthur Ashworth

Arthur ASHWORTH was a close friend of the deceased, he was the owner of the unit that the deceased lived in. He was the last person to see him alive and the person who found him deceased.

- DNA of Arthur ASHWORTH – not taken in Original Investigation
- Arthur ASHWORTH died on the 29/07/2006 this is prior to the reopening of this investigation.
- On the 12/09/2010 DSC HUNGERFORD took a buccal swab from 183 who is a nephew of Arthur ASHWORTH for comparison to exhibits. Arthur ASHWORTH did not have any children. Positive 'Y' profile results from DAL resulted see below in exhibit examination.
- In November 2010 DSC HUNGERFORD had a conversation with 179 another nephew of Arthur ASHWORTH looking for any personal items that police could use to obtain a DNA profile of ASHWORTH. 179 stated he had a personal diary and Australian Passport of Arthur ASHWORTH.
- On the 18/11/2010 DSC HUNGERFORD obtained the personal diary and Australian Passport of Arthur ASHWORTH and these items were submitted to DAL for DNA testing. A positive DNA comparison resulted see below in exhibit examination.

Additional Information from Exhibits of interest.

1. Sticky Tape Dispenser – murder weapon – was located in the sink and wet rag near it and inside dispenser was blood, appears to have been washed down.

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- Information was provided from Sergeant WEST of Fingerprints Major Crime that a fingerprint of Arthur ASHWORTH had been identified on the Sticky Tape Dispenser. The position of the fingerprint is consistent with the tape dispenser being held from the outside. This fingerprint was located and identified in the original investigation in 1991 and passed onto investigators however appears to have been overlooked as it is not mentioned in a running sheet, any statements or the inquest.
 - DNA of the deceased was located on the tape dispenser, no other DNA.
2. Tissue from waste bin – located in bin with blood on it – blood did not belong to the deceased believed by investigators at the time to be offenders.
 - In 1991 DAL examined and confirmed blood on tissue had a different grouping to that of the deceased.
 - Blood was located in bathroom sink and blood located on tissue box near the sink however Crime scene did not have ability to collect it in 1991. The tissue box is missing unable to be further tested.
 - In 2010 DAL conducted further testing of blood on the tissue. There was a 'Y' profile DNA match to that of the DNA sample taken from 183 the nephew of Arthur ASHWORTH.
 - In 2011 DAL conducted further testing of the personal diary of Arthur ASHWORTH and DNA profile from that Diary is a match to that of the blood on the tissue.
 3. Cardigan located on lounge suite – located with blood stains on it – blood did not belong to the deceased – believed by investigators at the time to be the offenders.
 - In 1991 DAL examined and confirmed blood on tissue it had different grouping to that of the deceased.
 - In 2010 DAL conducted further testing of blood on the cardigan and was found to have the same profile as that on the tissue. There was a 'Y' profile DNA match to that of the DNA sample taken from 183 the nephew of Arthur ASHWORTH.
 - In 2011 DAL conducted further testing of the personal diary of Arthur ASHWORTH and DNA profile from that Diary is a match to that of the blood on the cardigan.
 4. There have been no other exhibits of interest.

iii) Suspect – Arthur ASHWORTH, dob 16/06/1914 age 77 at the time.

Arthur ASHWORTH was a close friend of the deceased; he was the owner of the unit that the deceased lived in. He was the last person to see him alive and the person who found him deceased. He was not considered a suspect in the original investigation. Arthur ASHWORTH died on the 29/07/2006. It is now believed that Arthur ASHWORTH is the suspect responsible for the murder of the deceased William DUTFIELD. The reasons for this are listed below.

OIC Original Investigation spoken to – Retired Detective Sergeant Dennis O'Toole.

- On the 14/09/2010 DSC Hungerford spoke to Retired Detective Sergeant Dennis O'Toole. He stated the main belief of him and the other investigators was that the person who killed him was a male prostitute or male pretending to be a prostitute to rob Dutfield.
- Arthur ASHWORTH never considered as a suspect due to his age and investigators believe it was physically incapable of committing the murder. He stated that he was unaware of the fingerprint of Ashworth being located on the Murder Weapon and that being the case should have been considered a suspect. Can not say why there was no follow up statement from Ashworth as stated in the running sheet (6/2/3).

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Ashworth's health

The original investigation never considered Arthur ASHWORTH to be a suspect. The OIC has advised police that this was due to his age and apparent poor health.

- Arthur ASHWORTH was born on the 16/03/1914 which makes him 77 at the time of the Murder.
- On the 10/09/2010 police spoke to Dr Tony ANDREW his GP who stated his health was reasonable until about 2004 and 2005. He had a carer [I55]
- On the 23/09/2010 police spoke to [I56] a friend of ASHWORTH who stated that his health was reasonable until about 2004 when he became frail and lost contact with him and had a carer.
- On the 03/11/2010 police spoke to [I55] who became a carer/friend of Arthur ASHWORTH in the last 5 years of his life. [I55] worked at the Garrison Retirement Village. He travel overseas with him a couple of times in the last 5 years of his life. He travelled with him as a carer and he was getting more frail however still capable of overseas travel and getting around.
- Arthur ASHWORTH died on the 29/07/2006 which made him 92 at the time of his death.
- ASHWORTH lived another 15 years after the murder of William DUTFIELD. His health was reasonable until 2004 to 2005. The deceased was a very small man who had been a jockey and the murder weapon was not a particularly heavy item.

Physical Evidence

Three main exhibits as listed in detail above all pointing strongly to suspect Arthur ASHWORTH.

1. Sticky Tape Dispenser – murder weapon – was located in the sink and wet rag near it and inside dispenser was blood, appears to have been washed down.
 - Blood and DNA of the deceased
 - Pattern from tape dispenser matches the deceased injuries on his head.
 - Fingerprints of Arthur ASHWORTH on the outside of the tape dispenser.
 - Ashworth mentions the tape dispenser in his statement to police and Ashworth states it is his tape dispenser and is normally on the fridge. His statement details what he does and what he touches when he finds the deceased and there is no mention of him going to the kitchen or touching the tape dispenser.
 - The fact that ASHWORTH's fingerprints were located on the murder weapon was never directly investigated. ASHWORTH was never asked about it. The tape dispenser is ASHWORTH's however if the offender washed the tape dispenser down why are ASHWORTH's fingerprints still located.

2. Tissue from waste bin – located in bin with blood on it – blood did not belong to the deceased believed by investigators at the time to be offenders.
 - There was blood located in bathroom sink and blood located on tissue box near the sink. Crime scene did not have ability to collect the blood from the sink in 1991. Tissue box missing unable to be further tested. This would be consistent with the offender cutting himself in some minor way as there was a few drops in the bathroom sink and one drop on the tissue box and a small amount of blood on the tissue.
 - ASHWORTH is the first person to find the deceased and in his statement to police details where he goes in the unit and what he touches. He makes no mention of cutting himself in the unit. He makes no mention of going into the bathroom where the blood is in the sink and on the tissue box and makes no mention of going into the kitchen and putting a blood stained tissue in the rubbish bin.
 - There is no record of ASHWORTH being directly asked about the tissue with blood on it and the investigators have no memory of his response. However having regard to the importance investigators placed on the blood on the tissue the Original OIC believes

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that ASHWORTH would have been asked questions to exclude him being the person who put the tissue in the rubbish bin and he would have replied in the negative otherwise there would be a record of it and there would not have been the importance placed on this item.

- In 2011 DAL testing confirmed the DNA from the blood on the tissue appears match ed to that of Arthur ASHWORTH.
 - ASHWORTH died in 2006 before this information was known.
3. Grey cardigan located on lounge suite – located with blood stains on it – blood did not belong to the deceased – believed by investigators at the time to be the offenders.
- The owner of this Cardigan was not known to investigators
 - The Cardigan is located on the couch near that of the deceased.
 - In 2011 DAL testing confirmed the DNA from the blood on the cardigan was the same as that on the blood on the tissue and appears to match that of Arthur ASHWORTH.
 - Arthur ASHWORTH's family only had a few photos of ASHWORTH and none of them where he was wearing the cardigan.
 - Grey coloured top is what ASHWORTH is described as wearing on the night of the 19/11/1991 the night of the murder by witnesses.

Ashworth Time Discrepancy

- Ashworth made a statement to police on the 20/11/1991 and was aware of the significance of the times as he was the last person to see the deceased alive and first person to find him. Ashworth further advised police he was sure about the times on the 21/11/1991 as recorded in Running sheet 6/2/3.
- Ashworth and the deceased where together from about 4.30pm on the 19/11/1991 at the deceased unit then out to dinner and then returned to the deceased unit. The deceased and Ashworth where consuming alcohol during this time.
- At 7pm on the 19/11/1991 Ashworth and the deceased went to Dinner at the Mosquito Bar.
- Ashworth states they left Mosquito Bar at 7.45pm and walks to the deceased house and has a few drinks. The owner of the restaurant states Ashworth and the deceased left between 8.25pm and 8.45pm. Other patrons arrived at the Mosquito bar at 8.40pm and recall seeing Ashworth and the deceased still there but did not take notice of what time they left.
- Ashworth states the deceased and him arrived at the deceased's unit at 7.55pm and has a couple of drinks and washes up and leaves at 8pm (Ashworth allows only 5 minutes for 2 drinks and washing up)
- Ashworth states he walks home at 8.15pm and goes to bed there are no witnesses to this.
- At 9.30pm to 10.30pm neighbours of the deceased hear a loud bang from the deceased unit about 4 to 5 times. This would appear to be the sounds of the murder.
- It is known that Ashworth and the deceased where still at the Mosquito Bar until at least 8.40pm. If police start the time line 8.40pm and add 10 minutes to walk to the deceased home and then has two drinks and washing up allow about 30 minutes. Then this puts Ashworth in the deceased house at about the time of the murder.

Clothing discrepancy and dry cleaning

- On the night of the 19/11/1991 Ashworth is described by 3 different witnesses as wearing blue grey trouser and grey top.
- On the 20/11/1991 Ashworth went to Bondi Junction and at Lawrence Dry Cleaners at Wynyard Railway Station and dropped off blue trousers for dry cleaning. (Ashworth did not mention this in his statement but did mention going to Wynyard.)
- On the 21/11/1991 time not known, investigators attended the residence of Ashworth. Ashworth handed to police the clothing he had been wearing which he stated was a brown suit.

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When asked about dry cleaning he told police about Lawrence drycleaners. He handed police the grey trousers he had dry cleaned at Wynyard however stated they were not the ones he had on 19/11/1991.

- Lawrence Dry Cleaners were spoken to by police however had no memory of Ashworth or the clothing.
- In 1991 Ashworth's clothing was tested by the Crime Scene Officer and nil blood was detected. The clothing was never entered as an exhibit. There was only limited testing available in 1991 and there is no record of what happened to Ashworth's clothing. It would appear it was tested and handed back to Ashworth.
- Ashworth appears to have lied to police as to what clothing he was wearing on the 19/11/1991 and handed to police the wrong clothing. Ashworth dropped off clothing at Wynyard Drycleaners despite living at Mosman and there are 6 other drycleaners in Mosman near Ashworth's unit. The description of the trousers Ashworth dropped at Wynyard are consistent with what the witnesses stated Ashworth was wearing on the 19/11/1991.

Ashworth discrepancy in finding of the body.

- At 9.45am on the 20/11/1991 Arthur ASHWORTH went to [I64] a friends house at Woollahra for coffee and general chat then travelled to Martin Place Railway Station.
- [I64] was a friend of Arthur ASHWORTH. [I64] knew the deceased but only through knowing ASHWORTH.
- [I64] died on the 27/03/1996.
- About 11am [I64] left ASHWORTH at Martin Place as ASHWORTH had a teachers reunion to go to. ASHWORTH has then gone to Wynyard Railway Station and decided to try to call the deceased DUTFIELD as he is normally up at this time. He got no answer and instead of going to the reunion he has caught the train back to Mosman to go and check on the deceased DUTFIELD finding him deceased.
- The reason for not going to the reunion and going to check on the deceased DUTFIELD does not seem to make sense and was never pursued by investigators.
- At 6.30pm on the 20/11/1991 [I64] contacted Arthur ASHWORTH to ask him how the Teachers Reunion has gone. ASHWORTH informed [I64] that the deceased had been murdered and he was very upset. He stated that [I54] had tried to call the deceased and then gone to his house and found the body. ASHWORTH did not state he had been to the house or found the body.
- Investigators have never asked ASHWORTH about this discrepancy.
- On the 04/11/2010 DSC Hungerford spoke with [I54] he stated that he did not try to call DUTFIELD the deceased on the 20/11/1991 nor did he go to the house and find the body. He stated he did not see the body of the deceased at all. He had found out about the death about 5pm on the 20/11/1991 when police knocked on his door and told him.

Ashworth Omitted to tell police evidence.

- Ashworth has made a statement to police on the 20/11/1991 and was aware that he was the last person to see the deceased alive and the first person to find him. Knowing this Ashworth omitted to tell police that as he was leaving the unit complex he saw a male enter the lift. He did not tell police about this until 21/11/1991 (Running sheet 6/2/3), this was never put into a statement.
- This information is too important for Ashworth to leave out of his statement knowing what he knew about the death. He only informed police about this information after police asked about his clothing he was wearing on the 19/11/1991. This would have suggested to him he was being considered as a suspect.

Security Classification – Protected.

Ashworth's Motive.

- Ashworth is a long term friend of the deceased William DUTFIELD. William DUTFIELD resides in a unit belonging to Arthur ASHWORTH. William DUTFIELD was a homosexual male. Family and friends of Arthur ASHWORTH thought him to be a Homosexual Male who never disclosed this to anyone.
- On the 13/10/1991 Community Health Centre at North Sydney received a phone call from an elderly male who stated he was living with a male who had alcohol problems and he was driving him crazy and wanted advice. On the 14/11/1991 Dr Allsopp a GP in Cremore referred William DUTFIELD to Community Health Centre at North Sydney on the advice of two good friends Arthur ASHWORTH and [REDACTED] 154.
- In the statement of [REDACTED] 154 a friend of the deceased William DUTFIELD he states the deceased was a aggressive and sensitive drunk and he was drunk on the night of the murder and he knew this from a phone call with him on the night he died.
- There are not witnesses spoken to that would suggest a motive for ASHWORTH to want to kill the deceased person.
- Ashworth appears to have lied to police in relation to the timing of his movements that night, the clothing he was wearing.

In Conclusion

- The investigation has excluded all known suspects from the original investigation
- There has been extensive further testing of the Exhibits in this matter.
- The investigation has identified a new main suspect being Arthur ASHWORTH. The evidence for this to be the main suspect is listed above. The Suspect Arthur ASHWORTH died in 2006. If Arthur ASHWORTH was still alive today there is sufficient evidence to arrest this person.

Question of Further Coronial Inquest.

On the 12/12/1994 there was a Coroners Inquest into the death of William DUTFIELD. The coroner made the following finding. That on the 19/11/1991, William James DUTFIELD died at his unit at [REDACTED] Spit Road, Mosman, of head injuries inflicted on him by a person or persons unknown.

On the 19 November 2011 investigators met with Sergeant Daniel MADDOCKS from the Glebe Prosectors about this matter and the fact police had identified Arthur ASHWORTH as the main suspect and that he was deceased. He advised investigators he would met with the Coroner to discuss the matter to determine if it was appropriate to re-open an inquest allowing the coroner to change the finding from persons unknown to known person.

Between the 19/11/2011 and 26/06/2012 summary documents, time line where forwarded to Sergeant Daniel MADDOCKS for review by the coroner.

On the 26/06/2012 Sergeant Daniel MADDOCKS contacted DSC Hungerford and advised him that the Coroner and him are of the view that a further inquest would not be warranted as there must be sufficient clear and cogent evidence that Arthur ASHWORTH was the only person who could be responsible. Arthur ASHWORTH can not defend himself or answer any of the unanswered questions. Therefore the Coroner would be in the same position that he was in 1994 and would have to hand down the same finding.

Security Classification – Protected.
Next of Kin Notified of Investigation Findings

On the 02/10/2012 DSC Hungerford contacted the Next of Kin Robert DUTFIELD and informed him of the current status of the police investigation including the conclusions reached above. Hungerford stated he was willing to meet and discuss this in detail with him and any of his brothers. A number of attempts have been made by police for this to happen however Robert appears to be reluctant however has been advised that police are still willing to meet if required in the future.

3. Key Findings:

The key finding of this investigation is that Arthur ASHWORTH is the offender responsible for the murder of William DUTFIELD. The reasons for investigators believing this are listed above in the Operational Summary. Arthur ASHWORTH died on the 29/07/2006. If Arthur ASHWORTH was still alive today there would be sufficient evidence to arrest this person.

There is no further investigation that can be taken in relation to this matter and Strike Force HAMISH status should be changed to Investigation Complete.

Operational Management and Practice

Exhibit Handling

- A number of exhibits were seized in the original investigation in 1991 and they were stored as exhibits at Mosman and North Sydney Police Station, some of these exhibits were sent for examination and were destroyed or went missing.
- A few exhibits were seized in 1991 by investigators and never entered as exhibits and are missing or destroyed.

Impact

This matter is an unsolved murder from 1991. The investigation was reopened in 2008 and has been reviewed. Suspects identified in the 1991 investigation have been excluded and a new suspect identified. Investigators believe that Arthur ASHWORTH is the offender responsible for the murder of William DUTFIELD. Arthur ASHWORTH died on the 29/07/2006. If Arthur ASHWORTH was still alive today there would be sufficient evidence to arrest this person.

Assessment of Future Threat: Not relevant as the offender is deceased.

Legislation: Nil issues.

Policy: Nil issues.

Performance Review: Nil issues

e@gle.i: All products for this matter have been accepted. All tasks for this matter have been completed.

COPS: COPS case C39986312 has been updated and set to Investigation complete.

Investigative Opportunities: No investigative opportunities are outstanding.

Security Classification – Protected.

4. Recommendations: Nil.

5. Annexure/s: Nil