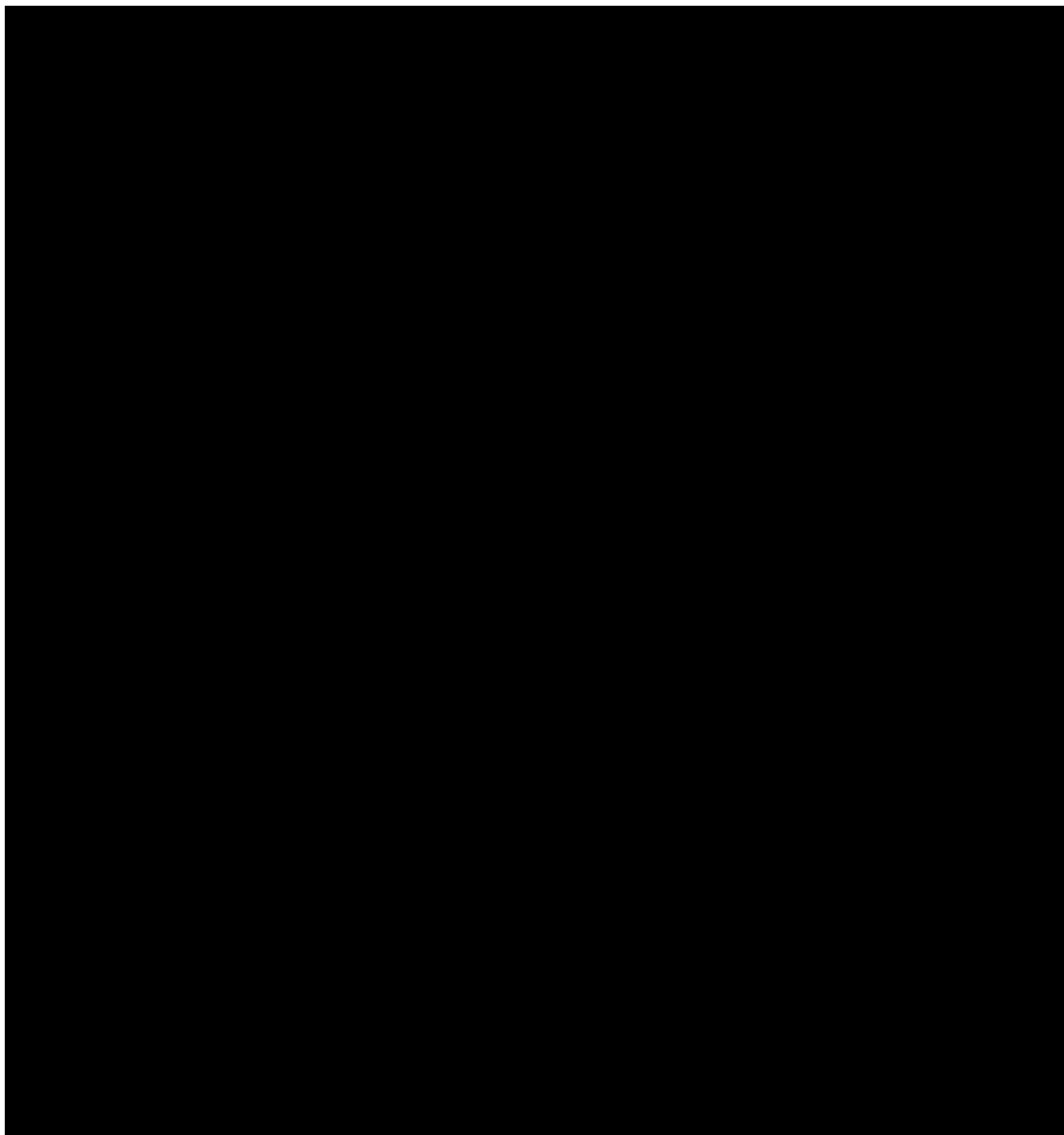


NSW Police  
**INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Investigation:</b> | Strike Force Parrabell                                    |
| <b>Title of Note:</b> | [REDACTED]<br>Review of Case 11 Peter SHEIL<br>[REDACTED] |

**Narrative:**



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**Case 11 – Peter SHEIL**

Peter SHEIL was located in Gordon's Bay in April 1983. Gordon's Bay was also known as Thompsons Bay. SHEIL's body was located without any trousers on. It's alleged these trousers were located neatly folded; however, family corrected this and stated his fly was undone. In all Reports there was never an exact date of death for SHEIL. In the Report of Detective Chief Inspector LEHMAN he states "Records were unable to be located regarding this case".

After examination of the Sydney Morning Herald dated 02 May 1983 a death notice was located which reads:

SHEIL, Peter John – April 28,  
1983, of Clovelly, dearly loved  
Son of Peter and Patricia. Loved  
Brother of Christopher, Hugh,  
Robert and Margaret. May he  
rest in peace.  
For funeral arrangements  
watch these columns.  
(See Attached)

A death certificate has been requested through I\_Ask7375401. This has not yet been received.

Ann LAMBINO, the registrar at the New South Wales Coroner's Court Informed there was material from the NSW State Coroners available at the government records repository, Kingswood. The documents related to the inquest of SHEIL 123/83 on the 1 September 1983, Goldschmid was the Coroner. These documents according to the Registrar are contained in GRR Reference number K312020. Kathleen ANSETT from the Government Records Repository advised the documents for SHEIL were not in the box and they are unable to be located. Further checks were completed by LAMBINO however the details of where the records should be located reveal they are not in the correct place therefore being unable to find documentation on SHEIL.

(See attached emails)

The Gay Hate Decades: 30 unsolved deaths (<http://www.sbs.com.au/gayhatedecades>), by Rick FENELY on behalf of SBS is an interactive website which reports the following information on the death of SHEIL:

Peter SHEIL's body was found at the base of a cliff at Gordons Bay, north of Coogee, in April 1983. The fly of his trousers was undone, his brother Christopher says. Their father, now dead, and a police officer arrived at the conclusion of misadventure after an "inquiry" that lasted "all of about a minute", says Christopher. None of this detail is included in the police summary of SHEIL's death, contained among the 30 unsolved cases they have reviewed. In less than three lines, police say: "There are no coronial records of a death of a person of this name. The source details of [Sue] Thompson's spreadsheet indicate that the information is a sibling of Mr SHEIL.

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This is unable to be verified." But police made no attempt to verify anything, say brother's Hugh and Christopher. "They've never been in contact," Hugh says.

It is just over three years since this SBS reporter verified the SHEIL siblings as the source of this case, quoting Hugh and Christopher in a report for Fairfax Media's Good Weekend magazine in August 2013. The police summary makes no mention of this or the family's concerns.

Peter SHEIL suffered from mental illness. However, his mother, now dead, always insisted he was not depressed when he called her about 8pm to say he would walk home from the Coogee Bay Hotel via the sea-cliffs path. He was agitated about getting home to the hostel where he was living by its 9pm curfew, but he was often anxious and his mother was determined that he was not suicidal that night.

This ocean path passed gay beats. His siblings say Peter, 29, was not gay.

Back at the cliffs at Gordons Bay, Christopher remembers his brother.

"He wrote extraordinary poetry. It was a way to attract the girls.

"Peter wasn't gay, but he was mentally ill and he could be very gregarious. And he was reckless. It's plausible that he was mistaken for being gay while walking through a gay beat – that he was attacked for that reason."

The siblings also accept it is possible Peter fell accidentally to his death. Had he stepped off the path to urinate, then fallen from the cliff? Might that explain the open fly on his pants? But the cliff edge he went to, much lower than others nearby, was quite a downhill scramble from the ocean path, and Peter was close to his hostel by that time. The family has corrected an earlier reported recollection that Peter was found with his pants removed. It was more than a day before a fisherman found his body.

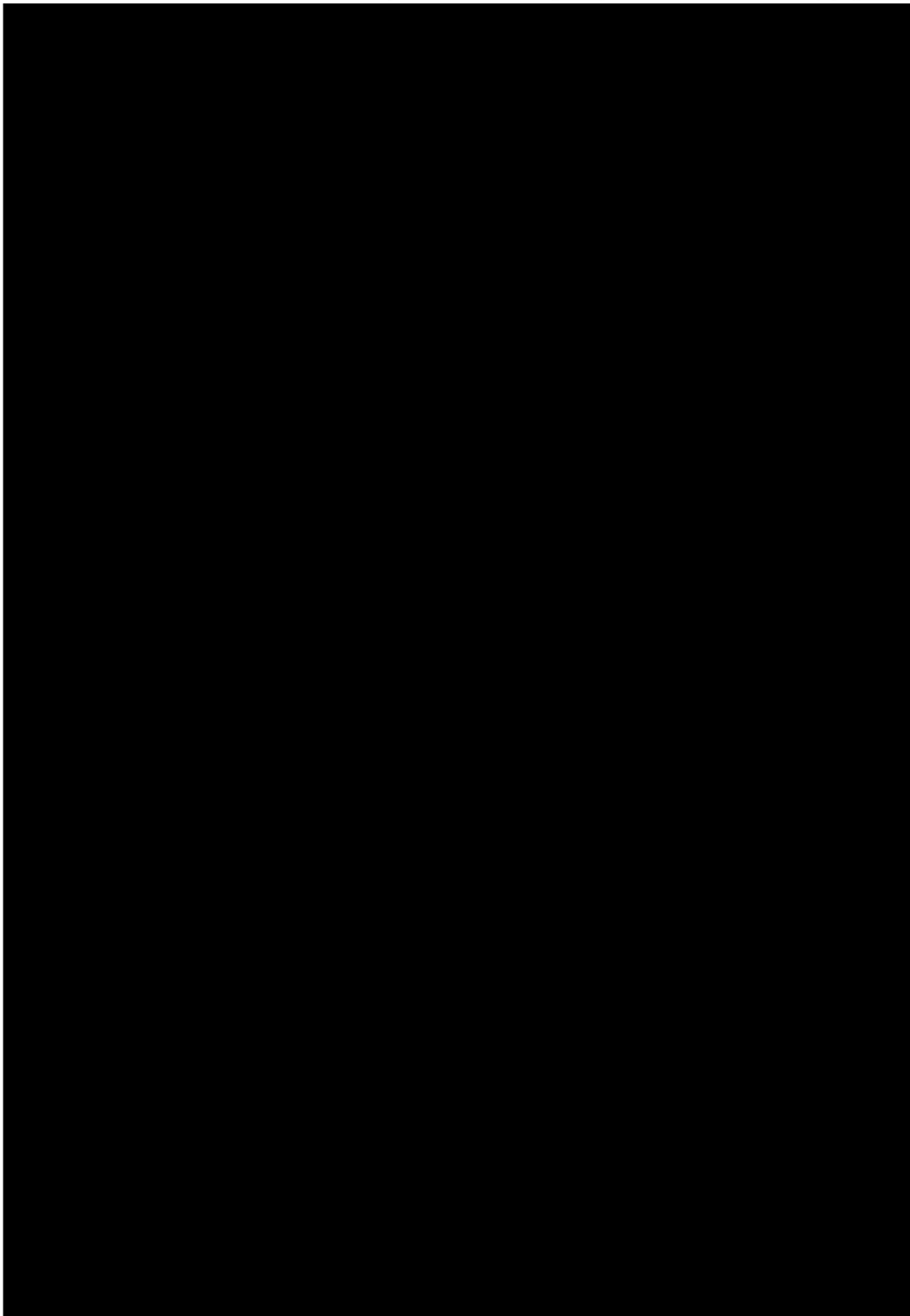
Christopher, then 27, vividly remembers being at the police station with his father. He challenged the hasty conclusion of misadventure agreed to by his father and the policeman. "I said, 'We don't know whether he jumped, fell or was pushed.' Dad said, 'Ah, we're not gunna go into any of that.'"

Peter's mother was a devout Catholic and had not wanted to countenance suicide, but Christopher SHEIL says: "We can't rule out the possibility that he fell or that he jumped to his death. He was mentally disturbed. "But if you consider the lowness of the cliff where his body was found, and the much higher cliffs nearby that he could have chosen if suicide was his intention, we think that's the least likely explanation."

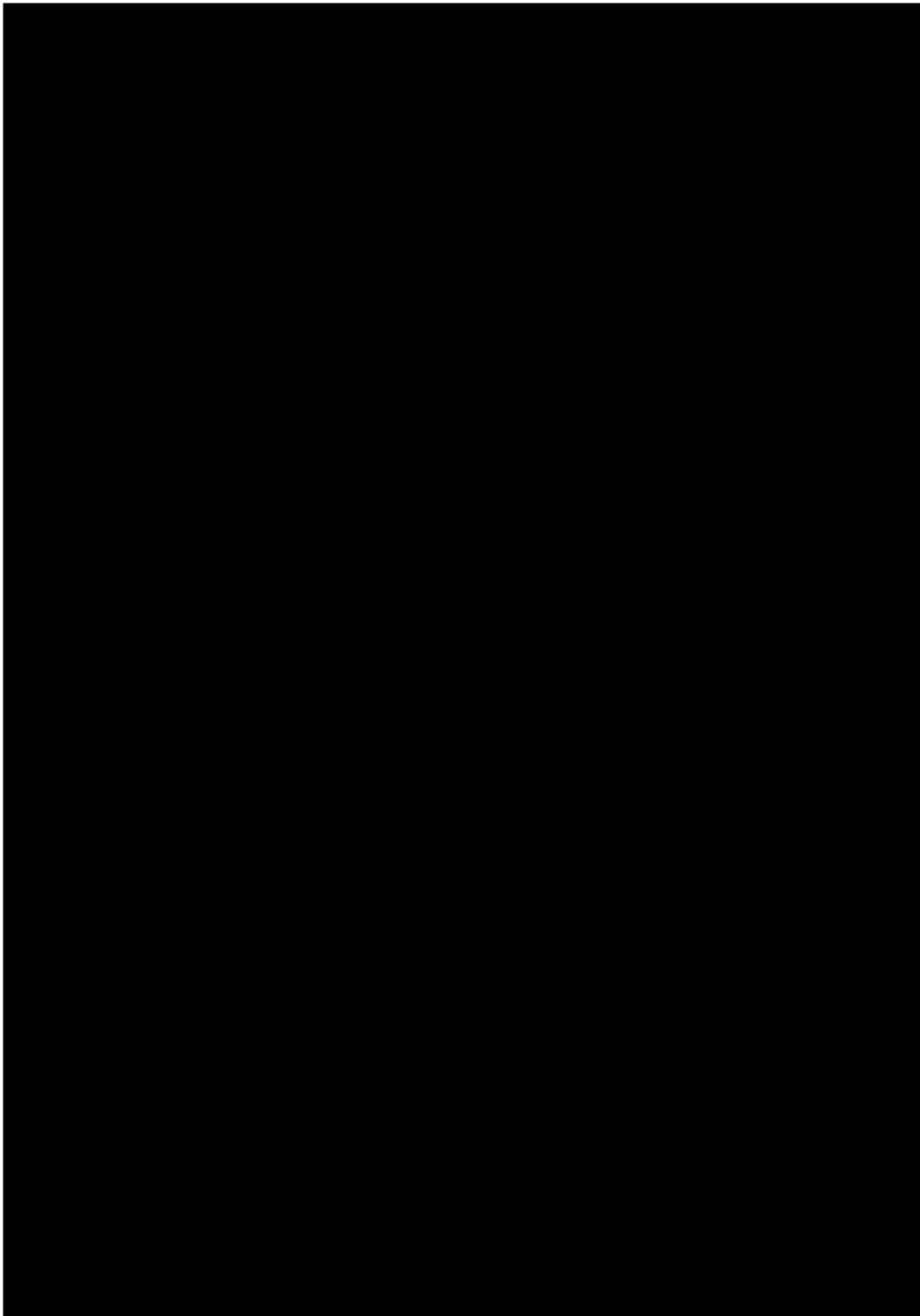
The point, he says, is that police did nothing to establish the facts about Peter's death. Leaving the cliff where Peter spent his last moments alive, Christopher says: "We want the truth. But what would you prefer to know – that your brother fell, jumped or was pushed to his death? It's hard. What version of the truth do you really want?"

Currently we have exhausted all available avenues in respect to locating documents on SHEIL.

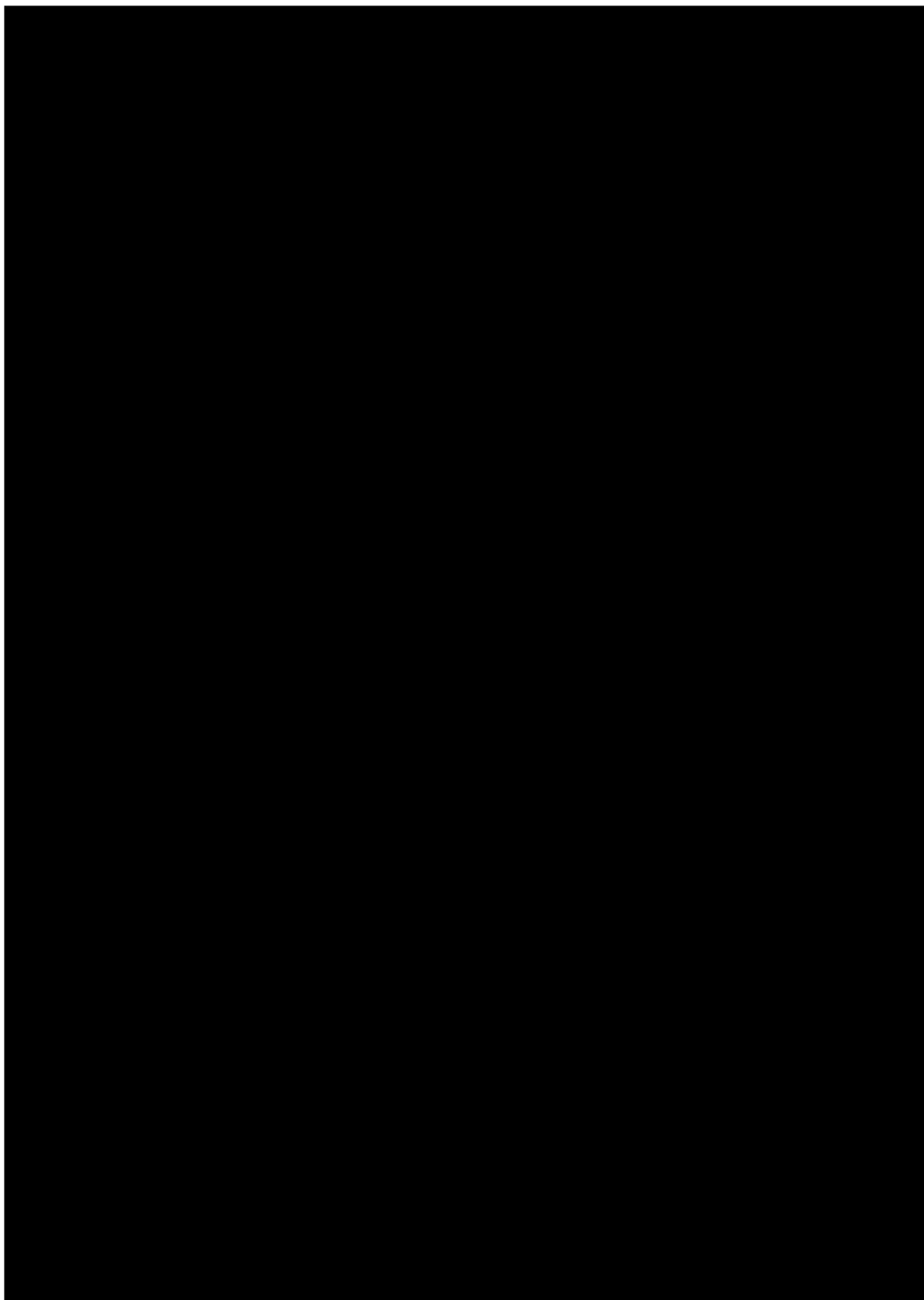
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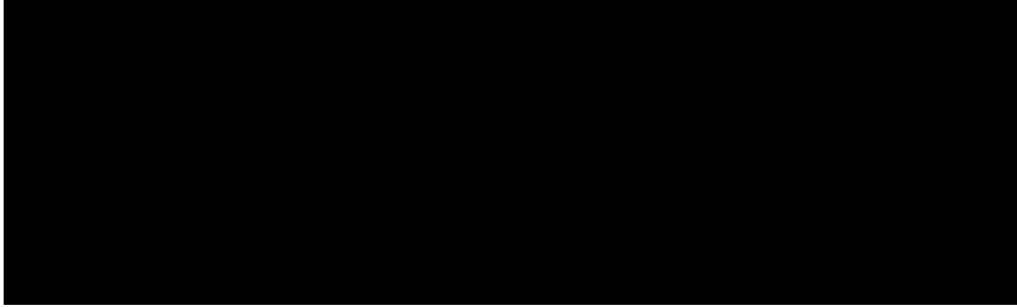
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|-----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Prepared By:</b>   | Constable BORG |
| <b>Registered No:</b> | ██████         |
| <b>Date:</b>          | 13/10/2016     |