

ISSUE:

Letter received from Mr. and Mrs. S. MILLER concerning an investigation undertaken by Detective Sergeant Desmond relating to the death of their son, Scott Stuart MILLER at Darling Harbour on 2 March 1997.

BACKGROUND:

On 9 December 1997 Crime Agencies allocated to the writer an investigation concerning a number of issues raised by the MILLER family in a letter addressed to the State Coroners Office, Glebe seeking a further Police investigation relating to the murder of their son, Scott MILLER at Darling Harbour on 2 March 1997.

Crime Agencies 'terms of reference' (97-0440) were inter alia:-

conduct inquiries into the death of Scott Stuart MILLER, in particular the issues raised in correspondence by Mrs. Christine MILLER, mother of the deceased

On 23 March 1998 the writer convened a conference with the MILLER family where the original and subsequent investigation was comprehensively discussed. The family were advised all avenues of investigation had been addressed which resulted in no fresh or additional evidence. During the course of the conference Christine MILLER requested [REDACTED] to be re-interviewed as she had concerns [REDACTED] may have been involved in the death of their son.

The writer indicated [REDACTED] came forward at [REDACTED] own volition, after a media release to assist Police, and there is no evidence, whatsoever, to implicate this person in the death of their son. However, the writer gave an undertaking to interview this witness. Be it noted this witness was [REDACTED]

On 26 March 1998 the writer conversed with Mr. Stuart MILLER and advised him that [REDACTED] was presently [REDACTED] and is returning to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] would be interviewed.

A letter, dated 28 March 1998 (attachment 'a') under the hand of the writer was forwarded to the MILLER family summarising matters discussed on the 23rd instant.

COMMENT:

In the MILLER letter (attachment 'b'), dated 12 May 1998 the following issues are raised:-

- (i) *'review of the investigation did not indicate new or expanded approach that one would expect in a 'full review' of the original investigation'*
- (ii) *'seeking a full report of the writers investigation'*
- (iii) *'undertake certain inquiries concerning [REDACTED] background'*
- (iv) *'present position as to the Government Reward'*

RESPONSE:

For the purposes of simplicity, the writer will address each issue individually.

- (i) *As indicated in this report the terms of reference was primarily to investigate issues raised by the MILLER family and was not in effect a full review of the original investigation conducted by 'The Rocks' Local Area Command. Notwithstanding this, the writer is au fait with all facets of the original investigation, which was properly investigated and heard before a Coronial Inquest.*

Taking these matters into consideration there was no new or expanded approach and the MILLER family was fully appraised of this situation.

- (ii) *In the circumstances a summary of the investigation as previously outlined fully meets the 'charter of victims rights' and it is superfluous in itemising every facet of the investigation.*

Further, on 20 April, 1998 the writer conversed with Mr. MILLER concerning the letter forwarded by the writer and the subject was broached as to itemised account of the investigation. The writer advised Mr. MILLER as the investigation primarily was to re-interview witnesses the letter in summary form outlined matters investigated. Mr. MILLER did not seek any further elaboration on any particular issue and appeared to be satisfied with the status quo.

Since that date no further requests were received from the MILLER family.

(iii) ***This issue has been discussed and as indicated the writer intends to interview this witness upon [REDACTED]***

(iv) ***On 28 April 1998 the writer conversed with Mr. MILLER and advised him that the 'government reward' had been considered by the NSW Police Service 'reward evaluation committee' and the submission was being forwarded to Police Minister's Office for consideration.***

Accordingly, the MILLER family will be advised on the outcome of the Ministers decision.

The 'termination report' and accompanying reports outlining the complete investigation is on hand at Crime Agencies.

The writer throughout the inquiry has continually advised the MILLER family of the status of the investigation, and ensured all their concerns were adequately addressed.

RECOMMENDATION: This report be forwarded to the Commander, Crime Agencies for information and for a reply letter sent to the MILLER family.


K J Desmond
Detective Senior Sergeant
Parramatta Local Area Command
E/N [REDACTED]
15 June 1998.

1. Crime Manager, Parramatta Local Area Command

Recommended. [Signature] 12/6/98.

2. Commander, Parramatta Local Area Command

supported. [Signature] 16.6.98

3. Manager, Operations Coordination, Crime Agencies. Draft reply prepared for signature. *[Signature] 22/6/98*

4. Commander, Crime Agencies Letter signed. Papers returned to Detective Senior Sergeant Desmond for further report regarding developments.

5. Local Area Commander, Parramatta.

[Signature] 23.6.98