**Request to Durham Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act**

**Received on 07/10/2019 Our Ref: DC/FOI/980/19**

**Date: 04/11/2019**

Your request:

|  |
| --- |
| In June 2017 the Liverpool Echo reported that a referral had been made to Durham, as an external investigating force, concerning allegations made against a former South Yorkshire Police officer. Details are scant and there appears to be no 'follow-up' article.The article can be read in full here:<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/hillsborough-officer-facing-police-probe-12938357>Please provide the following information by way of the Freedom of Information Act:1. From whom the referral to Durham came?2. The operational codename given to the investigation?3. The name and rank of the Gold Commander?4. The name and rank of the Silver Commander?5. The terms of reference.6. The date upon which the investigation report was finalised.7. The outcome of the investigation. |

I can confirm that the information that you seek is held by Durham Constabulary.

Please provide the following information by way of the Freedom of Information Act:

1. From whom the referral to Durham came?

**The referral came from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (then the Independent Police Complaints Commission).**

1. The operational codename given to the investigation?

**None given as this was an enquiry rather than an operation however it was managed under reference PS/1/18**

1. The name and rank of the Gold Commander?

**CC M Barton**

1. The name and rank of the Silver Commander?

**SIO D Ellis**

1. The terms of reference.

**This was an initial fact-finding enquiry designed to assure the IPCC that there had been no impropriety within an investigation they were conducting regarding a specific event within the wider Hillsborough disaster. The issue which required greater scrutiny did not have any terms of reference set and although comfortable to progress the enquiry Durham did highlight that point. That said a thorough briefing to the investigative team was conducted by IPCC investigators.**

**The work required was to assure the IOPC that an investigation they were conducting could progress free from an allegation of ‘perverting the course of justice’.**

**The CPS confirmed in writing that they themselves had no concern it was the IPCC stating they simply noted what had occurred and asked to see the notes referred to. Further stating that the IPCC had indicated that they were concerned that offences may have been committed and that they were aware that the IPCC forwarded the file to Durham.**

1. The date upon which the investigation report was finalised.

**29th March 2018**

7. The outcome of the investigation.

**The investigation was completed, the report was forwarded to the IOPC and the findings of the investigation were accepted by the IOPC and the CPS in full.**

Please note that Durham Constabulary’s response to your request is unique and should not be used as a comparison with any other Force response you receive.

**COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

Your attention is drawn to the below link to our website, which details your right to complain:

<https://www.durham.police.uk/About-Us/Freedom-of-information/General/Pages/FOI-Request.aspx>

If you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact me on the above telephone number.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Freedom of Information Decision Maker

Information Rights and Disclosure Unit