

# Justice For Willie

## **Full Witness Report**



Compiled by Ailie Wallace, Campaign PR & Media Coordinator

## November 2016

# List of Witnesses

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## Section 1: At the Scene

Witnesses Spoken to:

1. **Tourist** who discovered the crash scene.
2. **SNP Member** – was waved down by the tourist who had discovered the crash scene. Came to offer his assistance. By coincidence, he was an SNP member, who knew Willie McRae
3. **Doctor** who was a passenger in the car alongside the SNP member. Also offered assistance at the crash scene
4. **Detective Chief Inspector (DCI)** who attended the crash scene.
5. **First Officer** – the first officer at the scene.
6. **Traffic Officer** – Traffic Patrol Officer and Vehicle Examiner
7. **Control Room Officer** – on duty at the police control room in Inverness
8. **Recovery Vehicle Driver** – removed Willie's car from the scene
9. **Driver's Son** – Son of the Recovery vehicle driver (aged 15), who also attended the scene
10. **Uniformed PC** – attended the garage where Willie's car was stationed.
11. **Additional witness** – was driving in the highlands and came across the scene. He offered assistance but was told everything was under control.

Others identified by the investigation, but not spoken to

**Tourist's Wife** – John Weir spoke to her by telephone. She told him that she knew nothing about the incident, and that he should speak to her husband.

**Allison** – ex-wife of the **SNP Member**, also travelling in the same car as the SNP member and doctor. We were unable to trace her, despite help from her former husband, the SNP member.

**George Lochhead** - The **Doctor's** former partner, and also part of the group who arrived in the car. Unable to trace.

**Ambulance Driver** –Transported Willie McRae from the scene to Inverness hospital. Declined to be interviewed.

**John Ratter** (deceased) – Detective Inspector who supported the original investigation and who listed Willie's property when it was recovered from the scene.

**John Cathcart** (deceased) – also worked on the original investigation, and believed to be the firearms officer who would have processed the gun at the scene.

**Michael Nisbett** – Another driver from West End Garage, Fort Augustus, who may have also attended the scene. Current whereabouts unknown.

## Section 2: Alleged Incident At West Nile Street

Witnesses Spoken to:

1. **Donald Morrison** – Ex police officer who alleges incidents relating to Willie McRae, including on West Nile Street on Friday 5th April 1985, and also a prior incident at Willie McRae's flat in Glasgow.
2. **Off-licence Manager** – at Agnews Off-sales in West Nile Street, Glasgow, where Willie is alleged to have visited on Friday 5th April 1985. Also the cousin of **Donald Morrison**.
3. **Police Officer #1** – Colleague of **Donald Morrison** who also partnered **PC David Phinn**.
4. **Police Officer #2** – Detective Constable 1975-1980 (5 years prior to alleged events).
5. **Police Officer #3** – Served for 30 years, and also Police control room officer for 4 years.
6. **Police Officer #4** – Former police officer, who has known Donald Morrison for over 30 years.
7. **Police Officer #5** – Retired police officer from A-division
8. **Communications Officer** – Retired communications officer who is alleged to have broadcast a message via police radio regarding files being taken from Willie's flat.
9. **Archivist** – Current archivist & records keeper at Police Scotland

Others identified by the investigation:

**Off Licence Manager's Wife** – She was also working on Friday 5th April 1985. Her husband would not permit our investigators to speak with her.

**PC David Phinn** (deceased) – Named by Donald Morrison in his statement as the officer who allegedly received a commendation for his involvement in the "files incident."

**PC James Harris** (deceased) – Named by Donald Morrison in his statement

**PC Ian Neil** – Named by Donald Morrison in his statement. Unable to trace

**PC Alan Ogilvie** – Named by Donald Morrison in his statement. Unable to trace

**PC Alistair McPhee** – Named by Donald Morrison in his statement. Unable to trace

### **Section 3: Those Who Knew Willie Personally**

Witnesses spoken to:

1. **Solicitor #1** – Worked with Willie at Levy and McRae & also [Willie's Brother]'s legal representative.
2. **Friend #1** – Had known Willie since the 1960s through family connections and briefly served as Willie's driver.
3. **Solicitor #2** – Served as Willie's apprentice in the 1970s
4. **Solicitor #3** – Also served an apprenticeship under Willie
5. **Willie's Brother** – Willie's brother and next of kin.
6. **Female Neighbour** – Neighbour of Willie's in 1985
7. **Male Neighbour** – Neighbour of Willie's in 1985
8. **Friend #2** – Was firstly a client of Willie's but later became friends.
9. **Friend #3** – A friend of Willie's since school
10. **Friend #4** – Wife of one of Willie's partners from Levy & McRae
11. **Friend #5** – Son of one of Willie's partners from Levy & McRae. Referred to Willie as "Uncle Willie"

Also identified by the investigation, but not spoken to:

**Ronnie Welsh** – business colleague and close friend of Willie's – unable to trace.

**Former Politician** – Lawyer and SNP Politician who submitted queries to the Crown Office regarding the case. Now in her 80s.



## Section 4: Additional / Miscellaneous

Witnesses Spoken to:

1. **Private Investigator's Ex-Wife** – was married to a former police officer and Private Investigator (now deceased)
2. **Nurse** – Nurse at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Not interviewed by our investigators, but was spoken to on a previous occasion by lawyer **Hugh Fraser** and journalist **Paul Delamore**
3. **Driver** – Driving in the area close to Willie's crash site
4. **Hitchhiker** – believes he met with Donald Morrison whilst hitchhiking in 1990.
5. **SNP Supporter** – Received a letter from Willie McRae relating to a local resident.
6. **MacRae & Dick mechanic #1** – Current service manager at MacRae & Dick garage, Inverness.
7. **MacRae & Dick mechanic #2** – Garage worker at MacRae & Dick, Inverness with 45 years' service

Others identified by the investigation:

**Eric Turner** – He was the tow truck driver for MacRae & Dick in 1985. Deceased 5 years ago. His wife is also deceased.

**John Finnie, MSP** – According to Journalist Paul Delamore, John Finnie has an ex-police friend who says that the car was returned to site on the Sunday.

**Paul Delamore** – Journalist who was involved with the campaign initially, however ceased contact when we challenged him because we felt he had deliberately misled the campaign.

**Severin Carrell** – Journalist and colleague of Paul Delamore. Declined to be interviewed unless we were going to provide him with an exclusive story.

# Witness Statements

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Note: All Statements are reproduced here verbatim, which includes any spelling mistakes, typos and anomalies.

## Section 1: At the Scene

### 1. Tourist

#### EMAILS BETWEEN JOURNALIST PAUL DELAMORE AND [TOURIST]

On Tue, Aug 5, 2014 at 11:25 AM, [Tourist] wrote:

Hi **Paul**, Your enquiry to Bega Valley Community Transport has been forwarded to me and I suspect I am the [Tourist] that you are seeking. Since you are based in Scotland and the main news seems to be about the possibility of Scottish separation I assume you are interested in the circumstances surrounding the death of Willie McRae. Since we found Mr McRae I have been interviewed a number of times by the Scottish press and Channel 4 and participated in a filmed interview by a freelance journalist in Canberra. I am not sure that I can add anything useful except to correct the entry in Wikipedia that says the vehicle was 30 yards from the road. The vehicle was 2-300 yards from the road, upright and facing up the hill. Using binoculars I was able to make out that there was something in the car but not that it was a person. It was only after I walked down the steep slope almost all the way to the car that I realised a person was in the driver's seat. Had the car been in any other position I would not have seen the shape and probably would not have gone down to the car. I hope that answers any questions you may have. If not you will need to be quick because we are about to head overseas (not the UK) for 11 weeks. Regards, [Tourist]

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ii. From: Paul Delamore

Sent: Tuesday, 5 August 2014 8:39 PM

To: [Tourist]

Subject: Re: ENQUIRY BY **PAUL DELAMORE** RE [TOURIST]

Hello [Tourist], Many thanks for getting in touch. I appreciate it. I'll be very quick. I'm not sure if you were ever shown the photos of the car, but we now have access to them. Could you please confirm if the car is in the correct position? You mention that the car was 2-300 yards from the road, yet the car is only 27 yards from the road in the photos. I guess my question would be is the car in the incorrect position and the incorrect distance from the road? You are not alone in believing the car was further from the road, so your account is of great importance to help solve this mystery.

Many thanks, **Paul Delamore** Strathclyde Investigative Journalism Project

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iii. On Tue, Aug 5, 2014 at 12:24 PM, **[Tourist]** wrote:

Hi **Paul**,

I have not seen the photos before. The weather when we were there was very poor with very low cloud and thick misty rain. We could only see the vehicle from about where photo 3 was taken or perhaps a little further back and that is where I walked from to the car. I had not realised that the shortest distance from the road to the vehicle was about where the white vehicle is in photo 4. I stand by the estimate of 2-300 yards to get from the road where we stopped but it could have been much less further down the road (but too steep to get down in the conditions). As to the positioning of the car, it appears to have rotated and tipped to the right but that is not surprising. When I got to the car it was in a very precarious position and quite unstable. There was a lot of water flowing under the vehicle. It was tricky getting McRae out of the car and into a litter but the car did not move much when we removed him. It did not appear to have moved when we returned the next day to try and find a glove I lost. However, the police were present at that time and they may have disturbed the vehicle as they completed their investigation. What is not shown in any of the photos is a rock a few metres short of where the vehicle came to rest. It had broken glass around it that appeared to be from the driver's side window. I thought there was some blood on the rock, particularly since the only obvious injury was swelling and a little blood on the right side of the head. I am not a doctor, however, it was obvious McRae was alive at the time but unconscious and completely unresponsive. His body had started to swell and he had urinated and defecated. He was also soaking wet indicating rain had been coming through the broken window for some time. I have been asked repeatedly about papers and a gun. There were no papers visible in or around the vehicle but they could have been in a briefcase in the cabin or in the boot. I did not see a gun but I was not looking for one. I hope all of that helps.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

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iv. From: Paul Delamore

Sent: Tuesday, 5 August 2014 9:47 PM

To: [Tourist]

Subject: Re: ENQUIRY BY PAUL DELAMORE RE [TOURIST]

On Tue, Aug 5, 2014 at 12:44 PM, **Paul Delamore** wrote:

Hello **[Tourist]**, Thank you for your incredibly detailed response. It is most helpful. I obviously don't want to disturb you further than this question, you've no doubt got holidays on your mind, but can you confirm that the car was there the next day when you returned? Many thanks for your help in everything.

Kind regards,

**Paul Delamore** Strathclyde Investigative Journalism Project

P.S. This may seem like a silly question **[Tourist]**, but it could be important - did you find the glove? If so, where was it in relation to the car? Some yards away?

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v. On Wed, Aug 6, 2014 at 5:23 AM, **[Tourist]** wrote:

Hi **Paul**, I never found the glove and the car was there the next day when we returned. It appeared to be in the same position that it was on the previous day. If you really need to contact me I will be checking this email periodically over the next 10-11 weeks but it may take over a week for me to respond.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

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Date: Mon, 25 Aug 2014 12:46:16 +0100

Subject: Re: ENQUIRY BY PAUL DELAMORE RE [TOURIST]

From: **Paul Delamore**

To: **[Tourist]**

Hello **[Tourist]**, Thanks once again for your response. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you, we're all currently very invested in our thesis work! We just have a few other questions for you that I hope you don't mind answering: Did you approach the car before the others got there and open the driver's door? Or was this a group effort? One of the other witnesses present claims that he found a pile of papers about 15-20 yards from the car up towards the road, as you have heard. He claims he gave them to the young policeman. You say you don't remember seeing papers in or around the car, but what about further up from the car? Did you see this man hand the papers over to the policeman? Were you still there by the time the officer arrived or had you left? Was a statement from you ever taken? Did you give an address? Can I also ask if you can recall how many people were at the scene? We know of the four you stopped at the road, the policeman and the ambulance driver. And, of course, yourself and your wife. Have I missed anyone? In regards to the next day, can you recall how many police officers were there the next day? Do you recall if the officers said anything to you? Did they let you walk around the car to look for your glove? Do you recall overhearing any conversations? What were they doing?

You said that the car "appears to have rotated and tipped to the right". Can I just confirm what you mean by this? And does the car look like it's in the right place? Do you recall, upon returning to the site of the accident the next day, if you had any questioning thoughts about the position of the car relevant to the previous day? I have also attached a map of the site. I may be asking a lot of your memory **[Tourist]**, but I am wondering if you can recall where the incident took place? I have included two markers on the map. From one of the markers, you can see the Dam and it is to the North of the Loch. From another, you cannot see the Dam and it is closer to the middle of the Loch. Which one, from memory, do you believe is

correct? And, lastly, in regards to the photos - we're unsure as to when the photographs were taken; yet, you mentioned there being a number of officers at the scene the next day. This is absent in the photographs. Do the photos correlate with when you returned the next day? Do you recall those vehicles being there? Thanks for your time once again and your patience with our one million and one questions.

Kind regards, **Paul** @ Strathclyde Investigative Journalism Project

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vii. On Wed, Sep 3, 2014 at 2:03 AM, **[Tourist]** wrote:

Hi **Paul**, My apologies for the delay in responding but we have been in the US National Parks for the last several weeks without internet. I type this sitting in our 30ft motor home in Yellowstone National Park. Hopefully I will be able to send it to you on 2 September from Sheridan Wyoming. To answer your questions:

1. I did not open the door when I first arrived on the scene. Since the driver's side window was broken I was able to reach through and check for a pulse in his neck and to reach his hand to see if he could grasp mine. There was a pulse but no response to gripping his hand or to calling him. When **the doctor** arrived I was back up at the road. She went down to the car before I realised she was a **doctor** and I followed about 50 metres behind. I think she must have opened the door because by the time I arrived at the car she had hold of the man's head and appeared to be attempting to turn it. I believe that would have been impossible with the door closed. (Unfortunately I was rather abrupt with her about risking neck injuries before she told me she was a doctor.) The group effort was after the ambulance arrived (with driver only) in lifting a heavy unconscious person out of the vehicle onto a stretcher and then hauling up to the road.
2. I saw no papers in the vehicle, around the vehicle or anywhere between the vehicle and the road.
3. We left the scene before the police arrived and did not see police until the next day when we returned to look for my glove. We gave the police our UK address and the information we had about the incident at that time but no official statement was taken.
4. Initially only **[Wife]** and I were at the scene. I am not sure how many were in the car that stopped (really only saw the **doctor** and one other) but **[Wife]** assures me that there were four people in the car. The ambulance that arrived sometime later had only the driver. As we left before the police arrived I cannot say how many attended on that day.
5. On the next day there were two police officers and their vehicle. No other vehicles were present. I approached the police officers, identified myself and passed the information and address. They allowed me to look for my glove along the path I took from the road. I did not attempt to approach the vehicle - my accident investigation training - do not contaminate an accident scene! I did not overhear any conversations and the police appeared to be doing very little. I assumed that they were waiting for someone to come and recover the vehicle or to conduct a detailed examination.

6. When I first saw the vehicle it appeared to be almost parallel to the road. Had it been in the position shown in the photograph (facing more up the hill towards the road) I am not sure that I would have been able to see the driver's side of the car. The vehicle also seemed to be almost upright. The photograph shows quite a list. I believe the vehicle is in the right place (having seen the photographs that explain the difference in distance that I covered to reach the vehicle and the direct line distance. I am not surprised that vehicle appears to have moved. It was in a very unstable position and we were concerned that it could slide or roll when we were extricating the driver. If the police attempted to enter the car or the tow truck driver tried to attach lines the vehicle could moved dramatically.

7. Regarding the position on the map, it was very misty and raining but we think we could see some water. What we do have is an X marks the spot on our AA Road Atlas of Britain. Unfortunately that is at home in Australia and I will not be able to send you a scanned copy until we get back home on 21 October.

8. When we returned the next day there were only the two police officers and their vehicle. There was no sign of other activity at or near the vehicle or along the road edge so I am inclined to think the photos were taken after we departed. There is one other point, and I am not sure I mentioned it to you in previous emails but I certainly mentioned it to the police officers. It was obvious to me that the vehicle had left the road at very low speed and there was no sign of braking. I say that because there was quite a steep drop of the edge of the road (perhaps one metre drop in the first one metre) and the wheel tracks were very clear and straight without any signs that brakes had been applied. Had the vehicle been travelling at speed there would have been a gap as it got airborne. Had it been in a skid it would have almost certainly rolled immediately it left the road. Instead, it appears to have trundled down the hill and only rolled once just before it stopped, upright and facing generally back towards the road. I hope all of the above helps. On 3-5 September we will be in the Badlands South Dakota and probably out of internet contact. After that we should be able to get emails on most days. This email address is the best contact until we get home.  
Regards,

**[Tourist]**

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**From: Paul Delamore**

Sent: Monday, 20 October 2014 6:04 AM

To: **[TOURIST]**

Subject: Re: ENQUIRY BY **PAUL DELAMORE** RE **[TOURIST]**

Hello again **[Tourist]**,

I apologise for not responding and thanking you for the detailed response sooner! I believe we were all very invested in finishing our academic work at the time. I remembered that you had mentioned that you would be back in Australia on the 21st of October. I do hope you had a nice holiday. We would indeed be very interested in seeing a scanned copy of the AA map you have. Did you mark it with a cross at the time of the incident? I also have a few questions about the tyre marks you mention, if you don't mind? I'll number them this time

to make it easier for you to navigate: 1) Whereabouts did you see the tyre tracks that indicated that the car had been going at a slow speed? Were the tracks at the bend, close to the point you initially stopped at (photo 3) or were they where photo 6 has been taken? 2) And when did you see them? The Saturday, the Sunday or both days? 3) Did you see any other tyre marks? 4) Could I also confirm that there were just two marks? Not four? (i.e. skid marks) 5) Also, you mention that there was no gap with the tyre marks? Were the tyre marks completely uninterrupted and did they stop at a certain point? (i.e. when the car rolled) Was it clear how the car had rolled from these tyre marks? 6) How did the police officers respond to your theory about the slow speed/tracks? 7) Did the police officers identify themselves? And, if so, (a big ask) can you remember any names? Were they male or female? And can you remember if they were younger or older? 8) Can you remember how the conversation went with the officers? Did they give you any further information on the incident? 9) And, finally, can I ask if you remember the small concrete structure (as featured in photo 1) being there? I apologise, once again, if I am asking too much of your memory, as well as [your wife's], but anything that you remember would be most welcome. Many thanks.

Kind regards, **Paul Delamore**

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Hi **Paul**, We are home after 5 weeks and nearly 6000 miles in a motor home around the US northwest and over 8000 nautical miles and a month across the Pacific by ship. Needless to say the grass needed my urgent attention but I did manage to get in a round of golf today. Back to your request – attached are two scanned images from our AA map, one in colour and one in black and white. On each of them you will find a small x between the A87 and Loch Loyne. Obviously the scale of the map does not allow for much precision but we did mark the map at the time we found the car knowing that the information could be important, particularly if we had to leave the scene to raise the alarm. In response to your questions I offer the following:

- 1) I believe the tyre tracks were close to photo 3.
- 2) I saw them when we first discovered the car. From memory, after I walked down to the car I tracked back along the path that the car had taken from the road. I probably walked that way again when I returned to look for my glove But I could not be certain.
- 3) I did not see any other tyre marks.
- 4) There were no skid marks but I could see the tracks from all four wheels in the soft, damp soil with the rear wheel tracks only partially displaced from the front tracks (half overlapping).
- 5) The tyre tracks continued uninterrupted from the edge to the road, over the steep drop shown in Photo 3 and on for just a few yards. My assessment of slow speed was based on that continuous track. Had the vehicle been going more than about 25 MPH (my opinion) at least the front wheels would have left the ground as it went over that step edge. After a few yards the ground became quite rocky. There were signs that the vehicle had hit a

number of the rocks and bounced repeatedly as it headed down the hill. From the marks that I saw it appeared to me that the vehicle only rolled once and that was just before it stopped. That was where I saw broken glass that seemed to match the broken driver's window. The broken glass was around a rock that appeared to have some dark dried liquid that I assume to be blood. That seemed to match the driver's head wound.

6) I told the officers of my observations, they thanked me but did not appear to take any notes. I did not see them do anything that I would describe as investigating or examining the scene but I was not there for very long on the second day.

7) The police officers were in uniform and they may have said their names but I do not recall them doing so. I thought they were both male but they were rugged up and I really only spoke to one officer who appeared to be about my age (38 at the time).

8) The conversation with the police was very one-way. I explained who I was, what I observed when we found the car and why we had returned to the scene. I gave them my contact details, they thanked me and we left.

9) I do not remember seeing the small concrete structure. I hope all of that information helps.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

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From: **Paul Delamore**

Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 4:29 AM

To: **[Tourist]**

Subject: Re: ENQUIRY BY PAUL DELAMORE RE [TOURIST]

Hello **[Tourist]**, Thanks so much for the info and the scans of the map. It's a big help. Sounds like you had quite the trip! Hope all the time off the fairways didn't affect your game too much. I do have quite a few more questions - hope you don't mind - but I do believe we've near enough exhausted your knowledge on this subject. The 29 years that have passed has seen many reports full of inaccurate information and we're trying to get the accuracy right - hence the detailed questions. I don't imagine we would have many more:

1) In regards to the tyre tracks you talked of, do you mind looking at photo 6? Are you sure that the tracks you saw are different and in an alternate position to where they are in that photo? Photo 6 is quite close to where the breakdown vehicle, van and the police car are parked (as can be seen in the other photos) and are, from the looks of it, a good 150-160 yards from where you originally saw the vehicle (close to where photo 3 was taken). This location is part of the straight stretch of road. Whereas photo 3 was taken just after the lay-by and was, therefore, just before the road straightened out and, where I presume, you saw the car from originally. So I would ask if you can recall whether or not the tyre tracks on the grass came from close to the lay-by and the bend in the road (as can be seen in photos 1-3) or from the straight stretch of road (photos 5-7)?



- 2) Can you recall seeing any skid-marks on the road by the lay-by at all?
- 3) Can you recall if the keys were still in the ignition of the car or were they on Mr McRae's lap? If they were still in the ignition, was the engine still running? Were any of the lights at the front or the rear of the car still on?
- 4) Was there a flat tyre on the backseat of the car?
- 5) I'm just curious to know if you are now aware that the gun hadn't been found when the police allowed you to walk around the locus the following day? This isn't an indictment on yourself **[Tourist]**, as you were unaware of what happened to Mr McRae at that point, I'm just curious if the police gave any directions to you regarding the scene or did you rely on awareness of your own training in the forces?
- 6) There was an account that had said that you didn't stop at first, due to not being sure about what you saw off the road, but only returned after debating with [your wife] that you possibly saw a car. Is that true?
- 7) How long were you on holiday for in the UK and where were you heading on the day you found Mr McRae and the following day when you came back through?
- 8) Did you give a UK address to one of the other witnesses on the Saturday or just to the police on Sunday? Can you remember what that address/those addresses was/were? In our research, we believe the address you gave to the police was **\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\***, Bracknell, Berkshire and that you jotted down one on a postcard for another of the witnesses on the Saturday - **\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\***, Aldgrove. This information came from a journalist who failed to track you down sometime ago and I'm not sure if it's true or not. Neither address appears to exist! Hoping you'd be able to clear that up.
- 9) Can you recall what time you found Mr McRae at? Was it about 10? 10.30? And do you recall when you left? We've been told the call to the emergency services was made around 11.15.
- 10) Can I just confirm that you left after Mr McRae was loaded onto the stretcher and into the ambulance? Did the ambulance leave before you left?
- 11) If the ambulance left before you and your wife did, do you recall what the rest of the witnesses did? We heard that the **[Doctor]** went in the ambulance while the rest of her party (the other three that your wife remembers) followed behind, but that doesn't seem to link up with the rest of the story.
- 12) Can you also recall who went off to make the emergency call? Was it someone from the other party of four?
- 13) When were you made aware of Mr McRae's fate? It's our understanding that you only found out about the case around 1991/1992 when you were contacted by Callum McRae who was making a documentary for Channel 4?

I also just have a couple questions about your background (for the sake of posterity), if that's okay? If there's anything you'd rather not divulge, then by all means let me know:

14) Can I ask what age yourself and your wife are? And what age you both were at the time? I note that you mentioned 38 earlier?

15) You've been reported as an airline pilot and an air force pilot. I am very certain, given my original research into locating you and what you've said so far, that you were part of the RAAF. Could you specify your career? And, if it's okay with your wife, her career too?

Thanks once again **[Tourist]**, we're very appreciative of what you've provided so far. As I said, I don't imagine we'd have too many more questions unless something else pops up in our research. Kind regards, **Paul Delamore**

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Forwarded Message Attachment-From: **[Tourist]**,

To: **Paul Delamore**

Subject: RE: ENQUIRY BY PAUL DELAMORE RE [TOURIST]

Date: Tue, 28 Oct 2014 17:46:40 +1100

Hi **Paul**, The break did nothing for my golf! In response to your questions:

1) The tracks in photo 6 appear to be much deeper than those I saw and their position in relation to the vehicle seems wrong. From the road where I saw the tracks I could also see the right hand side of the vehicle. My best estimate is that the tracks were near where photo 3 was taken but a little closer to the vehicles in the distance.

2) I did not see any skid marks on the road or in the gravel on the edge of the road.

3) Regarding the ignition keys, I hope I am not reconstructing events but your question jogged my memory. I think the keys were in the ignition and I turned the key off to reduce the risk of fire. The engine was not running and no lights were on. I do not recall if I checked to see if they were selected on.

4) I did not see a tyre on the back seat.

5) Regarding the gun, the police did not mention it but they did tell me Mr McCrae had died. I did not learn how he died until about 5-6 years later when I was contacted by a journalist from Channel 4(?) At the scene, the police were very relaxed. They took my details and, from memory, when I explained that I was looking for a glove they let me look around the vehicle, back along the path that I had taken down to the vehicle and along the way that McCrae was carried to the ambulance.

6) We did not stop at first because we had driven several miles past when **[Wife]** said she thought she saw a car off the road. After some discussion about whether it was one that had been dumped or an accident we decided that we could not risk leaving someone injured in such an isolated area so we drove back.

7) I was attending the RAF Staff College Course at Bracknell. We were on the Easter break for 4-5 days. On the day we were heading to the Kyle of Lochalsh and Duirinish to do some family history research. On the Sunday we were heading to Fort William. We had planned to go a different way but decided to retrace our steps to see if we could find my glove.

8) I do not recall giving our address to anyone on the Saturday but I cannot imagine me leaving the scene of an accident without doing so. The address I gave to the police on the Sunday was \*\*\*\*\* Berkshire. It was on the college grounds. Since the college has now closed and the land sold in 2004 I am not surprised you cannot find it on the maps.

9) I am really unsure about times but I believe we found Mr McCrae in the car mid morning and left the scene around midday or early afternoon.

10) We left after the ambulance departed.

11) The ambulance had Mr McCrae and the **doctor** onboard and the others followed in their car.

12) Someone from the other group (not sure who) went off to make the call.

13) I should have read ahead (see Q5). It was quite a shock to learn 5-6 years later that McCrae had been shot rather than killed in a traffic accident.

14) **[Wife]** and I were both 38 at the time of the accident. She is now 68 and I am 67.

15) I have attached my Bio for your information. I am still on the Air Force Reserve having been given an extension to age 70! **[Wife]** has had a very varied life, starting primary school in Pakistan and high school in Germany. She has worked as a business manager for Grace Brothers, a computer programmer and systems analyst for ESSO, A high school teacher specialising in maths physics and computing and a primary school (special education) teacher focussing on grades 1 & 2. She is a keen family historian who has written several reference books and previously been president of the local genealogy society. **[Wife]** is also a volunteer driver for the local community transport service.

I hope all of that fills in some gaps.

Regards,

**[Tourist]**

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Date: Tue, 6 Jan 2015 14:47:59 +0000

Subject: Willie McRae update

From: Paul Delamore

To: **[Tourist]**

Hello **[Tourist]**, I hope you are doing well and that the golf swing is back to its best. I'm contacting you again in regards to Willie McRae (using my own personal email this time, in

case you are wondering!) Before I write anything else, I do ask that you please keep the information in this email exchange strictly between yourself and [your wife]. I'm sure it will become clear to you why discretion is needed. Both I - and my colleague Steven Semple - meticulously researched the McRae case whilst at Strathclyde University. During this research, we came across the many conflicting versions of what happened to Mr McRae. However, we tried to explain these anomalies using a logical process rather than speculative thoughts. During this process, we spotted and unearthed information of great interest. This saw us contacting those who were involved in the case for information and clarification - including yourself and [your wife]. I will explain as coherently as possible what exactly we have found, why it is important and why I am contacting you about this matter again. I will be as detailed as possible with this information so that you understand what we will be suggesting in this article so that you are satisfied with how your account will be presented. Firstly, we unearthed a previously ignored document that put Mr McRae's Volvo at a garage in a small town close to the crash site during the afternoon of the 6th April 1985. The 6th April 1985 is when you found Mr McRae in his Volvo, unconscious. The document seemingly contradicts everything that was previously thought about the timeline of events. It has always reported that Mr McRae's vehicle had been removed at noon on the 7th April 1985. We believe that the whole mystery surrounding the case could be explained by this anomaly. As you may remember, you informed me that you and [your wife] were back at the scene on the morning of the 7th April 1985 where you saw two police officers, their vehicle and Mr McRae's car - which was still in the same location/position. Yesterday, a police officer involved in the case confirmed that the document was correct and that Mr McRae's car had been removed from the scene on the afternoon of the 6th April 1985 to a garage. The police officer, however, denied that the car was back at the scene on the 7th April 1985. Currently, we have a draft article submitted with *The Guardian* that will be published very soon. We have been working on this case with their Scottish correspondent - **Severin Carrell**. In our article, we are setting out that Northern Constabulary removed Mr McRae's car from the scene believing it to be a road traffic accident. However, when it was discovered that Mr McRae had a bullet lodged in his brain, his car was secretly moved back to the crash site.

As you can see, your account supports our findings and I must ensure that I have fully understood what you said to me in the previous email exchange. So, if possible, could I please ask both yourself and [your wife] to each respond to the following questions separately so that we understand that you are both clear on the sequence of events, during that weekend, from your respective perspectives:

- 1) On the 7th April 1985, did you go back to the scene of the crash? If so, was Mr McRae's maroon Volvo still at the site of the crash site on that day?
- 2) Did the Northern Constabulary police or a representative of the Crown Office contact you regarding Mr McRae's death? If so, did you give a statement?

I do apologise for asking you these questions again but, as I'm sure you can understand, it is a necessity to ensure that we have fully understood your account and to ensure that we have no misrepresented your version of events. I hope to hear from you soon. Many thanks.

Kind regards, **Paul Delamore**

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On Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 5:54 PM, [Tourist] wrote:

Hi **Paul**, would you believe I am in England at the moment, shivering with the cold conditions having left Australia on Sunday with 30+ degrees? We are in Southampton about to get on a ship tomorrow to cruise back to Singapore and then fly home? We are staying at the Holiday Inn, Southampton, and will be here until about 10 am tomorrow. Regarding your questions, I have put them to [my wife] and offer the following responses:

**[Tourist]**

(1) We found the vehicle one day, left the scene and returned the morning of the next day. The vehicle was in the same location on the second day. I do not have any notes with me but I am confident the dates were 6 and 7 April 1985.

(2) The only time I spoke to police officers was on the day that I returned to the scene. From memory I gave them my details (sufficient for them to allow me to look for my glove). I did not make any formal statement at that time and I have never been contacted by the police or any other officials since that date.

**[WIFE]**

(1) We found the vehicle on 6 Apr 1985 and returned on the morning of the next day. The vehicle was there on that day.

(2) As far as I am aware, [Tourist] only gave details to the police on the scene on the second day and he has never been contacted by the police or other officials since then.

We note your concerns about confidentiality and will not discuss the matter with anyone without your knowledge. Regards, [Tourist]

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Forwarded Message Attachment-

From: **Paul Delamore**

To: [Tourist]

Subject: Re: Willie McRae update

Date: Thu, 8 Jan 2015 05:11:08 +1100

Hello [Tourist], Funnily enough, my only namesake in the world (that I am aware of) is a Southampton councillor. I do hope you have a pleasant journey to Singapore and from there onwards; I'm sure it'll get better once you're out of Southampton! Many thanks for your response and your confidentiality, it is appreciated. **Severin** from *The Guardian* is going to give you a call at about 6.30'ish if that is quite alright? We have got him up-to-speed on the case and what you have said previously and he should be able to better clarify what the position of our story currently is at the moment. I will let you know when the article goes live on the web too. Many thanks for your help on this matter.

Kind regards, **Paul**

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**From: Paul Delamore**

Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2015 8:54 PM

To: **[TOURIST];**

Subject: Regarding Willie McRae

Hello **[Tourist]** and **[Wife]**, Firstly, I hope your trip went/is going well. Thank you very much for the help you have given us so far and thank you for keeping confidentiality on our work. I would ask you again for confidentiality, which we would much appreciate. We are currently switching over to a different paper away from *The Guardian*. Both Steven and I, and *The Guardian*, felt the audience would be better suited with a Scottish audience who know the story better as our piece is getting denser, which I will explain below. We are going with the most reputable Sunday paper, the *Scotland on Sunday*. I have a bit of information for you regarding witness statements. I'm not sure if **Severin** from the Guardian had contacted you regarding this, but I shall fill you in.

We have been told that Police Scotland (formerly Northern Constabulary) have witness statements for both yourself and [your wife]. They were given to the Crown Office in 1985. Given your comments in our conversations - you stated that you did not give an official statement and that the police did not appear to take any notes - so this came as a great surprise to us, and it may come as a surprise to you too. We asked the Crown Office to confirm if they were signed and dated. Crucially, they refused to be drawn on the question and reverted to an earlier statement. So, I have these three questions for you that I hope you wouldn't mind answering. Again, individual statements in response to these questions from yourself and [your wife] would be a great help so that we can establish if one of you or both of you or neither of you are in agreement/disagreement with the official statements:

- 1) Since we already know that neither of you have been approached for a statement since you left the scene, did either of you give a statement - even a short summary - to the officers on the scene?
- 2) Were either of you asked for signatures?
- 3) Did the two officers write down any of the information that you provided to them?

Thank you once again, and we hope to hear from you very soon.

Kind regards, Paul

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On Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 10:41 AM, **[Tourist]** wrote:

Hello Paul, We are at home having had a great trip from the UK to Singapore via the Med and many places along the way. I must say that the British have much to answer for in training India in Bureaucracy. Every state has a different immigration process so we had to fill out 37 different forms and complete 4 different inspection procedures for the 4 port

visits in India – never again! Regarding your request, I think the police must have been talking to someone else. Our response to your questions is as follows:

RESPONSE FROM **[Wife]**

1. **[Wife]** remained at the car while **[Tourist]** was down at the accident site with the police officers. She thinks that one of the officers came up to the car and asked if we were the Australians who found the vehicle the day before. **[Wife]** did not give a statement to the police officers.
2. **[Wife]** was not asked to sign anything.
3. **[Wife]** did not see the officers writing down any detail.

RESPONSE FROM **[Tourist]**

1. I spoke to the officers down at the accident scene explaining who I was and that I was on the scene the previous day but I was certainly not questioned in any formal way.
2. I was not asked to sign anything
3. I do not recall the officers writing down anything. However, thinking about it now I find it surprising that they did not at least take my name and address – perhaps I have just forgotten. I know that **[Wife]** and I were initially surprised that there appeared to be no follow-up call to confirm details. In the end we assumed that it was simply a traffic accident that could be explained by the evidence at the scene ( not knowing about the bullet wound). I hope all of that helps.

For information, we will again be overseas, this time 11 April to 22 May. We should be contactable on **[Wife]**'s email for most of that time.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

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--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: **pauldelamore**

To: **[Tourist]**

Subject: Re: Regarding Willie McRae

Date: Sun, 29 Mar 2015 08:09:33 +1100

Hello **[Tourist]**, Many thanks for your response again. Glad to hear the trip went well, even if some of it must have felt more like an admin job! Our article is penned in for next Sunday. I will keep you updated on any progress. Thanks once again for your co-operation.

Kind regards, **Paul**

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--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: **pauldelamore**  
To: **[Tourist]**  
Subject: Regarding Willie McRae  
Date: Fri, 2 Oct 2015 13:14:47 +1100

Dear **[Tourist]** and **[Wife]**, I hope you are both well. I am contacting you again regarding Willie McRae. I ask you to please keep the contents of this message private and confidential. I have been asked if you would be prepared to chat by telephone to a Scottish lawyer, based in the Middle East, who is currently putting together a legal challenge against the Crown Office's decision not to pursue an inquiry into the case of Willie McRae's death?

He is currently taking affidavits from key witnesses. I have chatted to him about your evidence. I informed him that you both came across as very reliable, honest witnesses with no apparent motive (political or otherwise) behind your claims. In terms of a legal challenge, these affidavits would be highly valuable - particularly as you have claimed that neither of you gave witness statements. Since I presume that the authorities have yet to contact you since we last spoke, this is a chance to correct this oversight so that your statements are properly recorded for future reference by a notary public - thus making them legally binding. Therefore, these statements could provide vital clues in any possible future legal or criminal investigation relating to the case. Since we last spoke, Police Scotland and the Crown Office have repeatedly denied that Willie McRae's car was back at the site on Sunday, 7th April 1985. This is why we believe that your properly recorded statements are of such great value. I hope you agree and I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards, **Paul Delamore**

**END OF EMAILS BETWEEN PAUL AND [Tourist]**

#### **EMAILS BETWEEN [TOURIST] AND INVESTIGATOR, JOHN WEIR**

From: **[Tourist]**  
To: johnweir  
Subject: TEST CALL  
Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2016 20:34:44 +1100

Hi John,  
A test to establish contact.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

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From: **johnweir**  
To: **[Tourist]**



Subject: RE: TEST CALL

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2016 09:55:18 +0000

Thanks **[Tourist]** Got it. Now that we have established e mail contact I can advise you of my interest in this lengthy affair. As a retired senior detective officer with 30 years police service I have now taken on some consultancy and research work. I was approached by a charitable organisation who are seeking to resolve the various anomalies that are associated with the death of Mr McRae. I have been tasked to conduct some investigation around the circumstances of the recovery of the weapon and the removal of the Volvo motor vehicle from the hillside. I would very much appreciate any assistance that you and your wife can provide. I also appreciate that you have your hands full at this difficult personal time therefore, if it is more helpful for you, I can post some points for clarity onto e mail which you can consider at your own convenience. I will be directed by your pleasure.

kindest regards, **John**.

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From: **[Tourist]**

To: **johnweir**

Subject: RE: TEST CALL

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2016 22:52:39 +1100

Hi John, I would appreciate you providing those points so that I can review all of my material at a somewhat slower pace and provide clarification if possible.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

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From: **johnweir**

Subject: Re: TEST CALL

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2016 12:00:28 +0000

To: **[Tourist]**

Thanks **[Tourist]** I have a meeting with a colleague tomorrow and we will provide a suite of points that you can hopefully assist with. Meantime best wishes to you and your family over the next few days

Kind regards **John**

Sent from my iPhone

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From: johnweir

To: **[Tourist]**

Subject: Willie McRae

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2016 14:45:05 +0000

Hello **[Tourist]**, As briefly discussed I have outlined a number of points that I seek your assistance with. Apologies that they are many in number but as a former detective officer I try to recreate the scene from those sources best placed and to ingather a sense of the incident. I have one main point that I have placed to the forefront of the list and it is this point I would like to prioritise if I may. Although the other points are important, I would be happy to receive your comments about the first point and the others can follow later. I also know that you may have covered some of the points previously with **Paul** and therefore apologise if they are duplicates, as I said he only sent me some extracts from your e mails. Once again many thanks for your assistance, **John**.

SUNDAY 7 APRIL 1985 Was the car there on Sunday 7 April 1985 and if so can you describe its position in terms of the previous day. Please note that this particular point is crucial for the following reasons: The official position of the police and Scottish Government is that the car was recovered on the Saturday 6th April and never returned to the scene. This is based upon evidence provided by witnesses and the police at that time who of course would have had to facilitate the car's return via some means and within a very short timeframe. From my own investigation in 2016 I have traced and interviewed those responsible for the car's recovery on the Saturday who describe that the car was initially removed for inspection at 15.30 hours on Saturday to their garage and the police report confirms this to be the case. The car was thereafter removed to a secure police pound that evening. That recovery company is the only one in the immediate area and the staff confirm that they were not further involved in the movement of the car. I can think of no forensic or other crime scene motive for returning the car to the scene on the Sunday because the car is now secured, searched and examined and by that time the local Procurator Fiscal (Crown Prosecutor) was aware of the circumstances and would know that the car was in police storage. The only other explanation for the police returning the car to the scene would be to cover embarrassment for moving it prematurely on Saturday when they thought that they were dealing with a straight forward road accident but this would, in my experience, seem disproportionate and very, very risky due to the extensive involvement in other non police persons and even active police officers who would be expected to conduct some sort of corporate cover up. The logistics of replacing the car to the same location is a challenging prospect and would require to involve non-police support, such as an air lift or other ground based lifting device which on a Sunday holiday weekend would be very difficult to organise in real time. I explored the possibility that it could have been re-lowered down to the rest site but the terrain would have severely hindered if not entirely prevented this type of replacement. There had been suggestions that another recovery company based about an hour away in Inverness may have attended at the scene but I have attended there, spoke to their staff and found no evidence that this firm were in any way involved.

Saturday 6 April 1985

1. Can you describe when you arrived at scene and what the weather conditions were like. Did [your wife] accompany you to the car or did she remain within your car.

2. Did you observe any property out-with the car at the scene and if so, can you describe the property's location.
3. Can you describe the general condition of the car including missing windows, dents, debris etc. and its position in terms of the ability to fully open the driver door
4. Can you describe the position of the injured man including the position of his head, body, hands, car keys, did he smell of alcohol, was he seatbelted.
5. Can you describe the terrain where the car had come to rest and in particular the steepness of slope, natural objects, softness/firmness of the ground, streams, bushes etc.
6. Can you describe who arrived after you at the scene and how many people were eventually present prior to you leaving. This would include the arrival of police and ambulance services.
7. Were you present when the recovery truck arrived to remove the car and if so can you recall how many people operated that recovery function and how they achieved it.
8. Can you recall the car and scene being photographed.
9. Can you recall when you and [your wife]left the scene and who remained there and what other vehicles were there.
10. Did you leave your contact details with anyone or provide anyone with a statement.
11. Where did you travel to when you left the scene.
12. Did the police or anyone else contact you or [your wife]on the Saturday evening or did you contact anyone in relation to the incident, if so what was the nature of that contact and conversation. Sunday 7 April 1985
13. Did you return to the scene on the Sunday and if so can you describe the circumstances that caused you to do so and did you notice any drag marks on the ground relating to the movement of the car.
14. If you did in fact return to the scene can you describe who else was there and had they been there the previous day.
15. Did you speak to anyone or leave details with anyone and were you updated regarding the nature of the injured man's condition.
16. There was a further police re-examination of evidence in 2011, were you ever contacted re this.

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From: [Tourist]  
To: johnweir

Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Tue, 8 Mar 2016 08:41:14 +1100

**John**, I should be able to provide information on all the points but please do not expect anything before Sunday PM our time. Regards, **[Tourist]**

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On 12 Mar 2016, at 11:58, **[Tourist]** wrote:

Hi **John**, I have already provided much of the information to **Paul Delamere** over the last year or so, and to an interview conducted in Canberra several years ago. Before I try and rehash old memories I have attached all the relevant emails to and from **Paul**. I think that they will largely answer your questions. Could I ask that you consider that information first. Thanks, **[Tourist]**

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From: **John Weir**  
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 11:21 PM  
To: **[Tourist]**  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae

Thanks **[Tourist]** I will read over these attachments over the weekend and I very much appreciate your reply. The burning question that I seek clarity on is the movement of the car. As I indicated on my e mail there appears to be overwhelming information to indicate that , when the car was removed on the Saturday, it was not returned to the scene therefore was not present when you re visited the site on the Sunday. This is further evidenced in the Crown Office response years later which claims that the gun was found by police on the Sunday at a position where the drivers door had been (past tense). Again this implies that the gun was recovered when the car was not present. I have interviewed one of the police officers who states that the car was not returned to the scene. This is why I am so keen to ask you to advise me of your account directly. I can cross check the other points against your correspondence with **Paul**. Thanks again and best wishes **John**

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Tourist]**  
To: **johnweir** CC: **pauldelamore**  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Sun, 13 Mar 2016 10:18:55 +1100

Hi **John**, I am sure you know that eyewitness accounts are notoriously inaccurate. My time as a Base Flight Safety Officer, investigating incidents and accidents, and similar time with the Australian Department of Civil Aviation (as it was called then) have convinced me that

most eyewitnesses are very unreliable. That unreliability increases over time as they reprint the incident in their minds. After 30+ years and countless retelling of the incident, my account should be questioned by you and by me. With that in mind I have gone over the material evidence in my possession to see if I can prove or disprove the following:

- That we returned to the scene on the Sunday rather than later in the day on the Saturday
- The presence (or absence) of the car at the scene on the Sunday

Fortunately my wife keeps everything and she is extremely methodical. Attached are two documents that she has retained and we had put away in a safe place and forgotten. One is her small diary that she wrote at the time. The other is a 2-page extract from her photo album that she created during the time we were in the UK. Unfortunately the photo album does not include photos of the accident site. The weather was poor, the camera was not a digital one and we had better things to use film on than a wrecked car. However, I think the two documents, together, provide a clear indication that we returned on the Sunday rather than later on the Saturday. The issue of whether the car was there on the Sunday is less clear.

Some points suggest to me that it was and those points are:

- **[Wife]'s** notes on the photo album do not mention the car was not there. A double negative I know but I would expect her to have noted such a change
- We found the site. Yes there were police and that would have attracted our attention but it was in an ill-defined area and we were confident we were at the correct location
- I walked down to the police beside the path the vehicle had taken of the road. Since that track was fairly unclear I believe I needed a view of the vehicle to get that alignment
- The police were very relaxed and allowed me to wander around looking for my glove. If the vehicle had been moved and the firearm discovered I cannot imagine any police officer worth his salt allowing me to do so. Surely it was, or should have been a crime scene and me searching for a glove (or the gun I lost!) should have rung alarm bells.
- Why were the police there on Sunday if the car had been moved on Saturday? Searching for more evidence? The officers I saw were just milling around across what should have been a crime scene. The area was not secured. They had no systematic search pattern and they did not appear to be looking for anything.

To confuse the issue further, I have thought about the theory that the vehicle was moved on Saturday and returned on Sunday. To do so would have taken extraordinary effort and created considerable disturbance on the ground (unless the vehicle was lifted by helicopter). I saw no sign of the vehicle having been dragged across the terrain. That raises the possibility that the vehicle was moved on the Sunday after we were there. If so, I believe the police were there not to search but awaiting the tow truck so that they could control traffic as the truck blocked the road while winching the vehicle.

Of course the simple solution is to discount this eyewitness account (as I have had to do in the past) and assume the vehicle was removed on Saturday and not returned. I will not be offended if you should chose to do so and it will allow you to concentrate on whether Willie McCrae committed suicide or was murdered. I think the choice is yours.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

Ps. **[Wife]** asked me to mention that her great, great grand-father, Simon Shaw, was a police officer in Glasgow. She also asked that I mention that she was very suspicious of the coincidence that the first car to arrive contained Willie McCrae's campaign manager and a doctor.

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From: **johnweir**

To: **[Tourist]**

Subject: RE: Willie McCrae

Date: Sun, 13 Mar 2016 11:33:38 +0000

**[Tourist]**, Once again thank you for this very helpful information. Like me, you are clearly an experienced investigator and undoubtedly appreciate scene management and your observations about eye witness accounts resonate with me. I have found over the years that I subconsciously place information into three different categories, that which is undeniably true and accurate, that which is untrue and inaccurate and of course that which is challengeable in the face of contradictory information. The first two are of course easy to work with but it is the third that has caused me the most challenges over the years. I have absolutely no doubt that you and [your wife] were at the scene on both days, no doubt whatsoever. I am however unclear about the presence of that car on both days and would like to explain my rationale if I may. The movement timeline of the car on the Saturday 6th is that it was discovered by you and [your wife] in the morning and as we know a number of helpers arrived and the injured man was taken away by ambulance to Inverness hospital as a perceived road traffic accident victim, indeed the off duty **[Doctor]** conducted a brief on site diagnosis and found no bullet wound. About noon that day the recovery truck from West End Garage, Fort Augustus arrived to recover the car which it achieved by cable tow winch over very heavy, undulating ground. According to the driver and his assistant, whom I have interviewed in February this year, the cable in question was a 30 metre length which just reached the car, thus providing a distance reference to the car from the roadway. Police scene photographs were taken prior to the car being removed and in some of those photographs you can see the recovery truck. This has been confirmed by the proprietor who attended that day. Once hauled aboard the truck, the car was removed to that garage in Fort Augustus where it remained aboard and in a covered shed. The police attended later that day, about 14.00 hours, and advised that the car required to be inspected as the incident was more serious than first thought. It is noted that the police did not mention a bullet wound but in any case, if the driver was likely to prove fatal as a result of a road accident, then the incident would have been up-scaled anyway. The car was inspected by 2 police officers who recorded a report which they signed and dated as 6 April 1985 3.30 p.m. they

then instructed the proprietor to remove the car to the police secure impound at Inverness Police station, about an hour away. The recovery company at that time was local and was not contracted to the police, they were used as they were the nearest to the scene therefore bore no particular loyalty or sense of servitude to the police. Prior to the trip to the police impound, the proprietor was told by the police inspection officers that they would be returning to the scene to look for evidence. They made no specific reference to a weapon. That recovery firm had no further involvement in the movement of the Volvo car however the proprietor when interviewed stated that there is no easy way to return the car to the site on the Sunday due mainly to the sloping, heavy boggy terrain. He also formed the view that it would require an air lift to replace it and that facility was not available to the police at that time. The timescale for such an operation would require significant finance and authority at Chief Officer level, if not Governmental level. I made enquiries with a recovery garage in Inverness in case they had been utilised or at least asked to return the car but they had no knowledge of this incident other than the retrospective media coverage.

Sunday 7 April 1985 There is photographic evidence on line in public domain showing the gun, identified as the deceased's, which has a police evidence label attached and is signed by the recovering officers. It is dated 7 April 1985 which indicates when it was recovered. This would imply that following the discovery of the bullet wound sometime on the Saturday afternoon that the police were instructed to attend the scene at first light on the Sunday to conduct a search. Given that the car was no longer there, the only police officer who would know where to start a search would be the officer who was there on the Saturday, prior to the car being recovered, and he is identified as **[First Officer]** who also was one of the officers who examined the car at the garage. The gun was in fact recovered and recorded as being found in a stream under a point where the driver's door had been (rather than "is"). This officer later produced a drawn sketch (available on line) which again suggests that the car was absent, otherwise the find would have been photographed as "in situ" rather than a retrospective drawing to depict the relationship between gun and car. I am entirely convinced that you and [your wife] attended the scene on that Sunday to recover the lost glove and that the police there advised you that Mr McRae had succumbed. The police may have been searching for other personal effects or awaiting support or transport or any other reason, I intend to interview them and ask them. Their casual demeanour at the scene on your arrival may have been because they had, by that time found the gun, and were awaiting further instructions, therefore had no problem with you searching for your glove. I know that my above narrative is lengthy and detailed but thought that you would appreciate the information and other accounts. I have looked at the diary pages and photographs with comments appended and note the absence of any mention of the car on the Sunday. The absence of "car still there" or "car not there" comments leaves this issue somewhat vague and accordingly has made it very difficult for me to establish a position on the matter which falls into my "third category of information". I suppose the best way to move forward on the matter is to simply ask outright – Can you or [your wife] visualise the absence or presence of the car on the Sunday when you were looking for your glove and when you spoke with the police. Was it both of you who went down the hillside to look for the glove or just one of you. Can either of you place a % either way on your recollection? I would be very pleased to hear your thoughts on the matters I have shared with you and once again send

my very best wishes and gratitude for your help. I noted that [your wife] had family who worked in the Glasgow Police but that would have been well before my time, however I have relatives near to you (comparatively speaking in a country the size of Australia), Shell Harbour to be precise in Wollongong. My wife and I visited back in 1998 and done a bit of a tour of Australia visiting Cairns, Ullaroo, Sydney, Port Douglas and places in between. Loved it !! The other suspicion that [your wife] had regarding the arrival of a doctor and fellow SNP member is understandable but all evidence seems to indicate that this was indeed entirely co-incidence. I look forward to hearing from you. kindest regards, **John**.

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On 14 Mar 2016, at 06:43, **[Tourist]** wrote:

Hi **John**, In response to one of your questions, I went down the hill, **[Wife]** stayed up on the road. Now to the difficult question, can I visualise the car? Unfortunately, the answer is yes and no. If I concentrate only on my recollections, or I read any of the numerous conspiracy theory articles, I can create an image in my mind of the car sitting there with the police officers walking around. If I read through the material that you have provided I can create an equally clear image that does not have the car there. I still believe the car was there on Sunday but the following is an explanation of why I am reluctant to make an unequivocal response.

I did not mention before that on return to Australia I was promoted and assumed command of a flying squadron. As a consequence I was appointed as a Summary Authority under the Defence Force Discipline Act to hear charges against Service personnel and impose punishments. I was subsequently appointed as a Superior Summary Authority, an appointment that required me to review proceedings and punishments to ensure procedural correctness and fairness of punishments. I believe that gave me a clear understanding of the levels of proof required to meet "balance of probability" and "beyond reasonable doubt" standards.

I am very confident that the information I have provided regarding the Saturday fits the beyond reasonable doubt standard. For the Sunday, the extended period of time, coupled with my reading of the vast amount of wild speculation about what might have happened forces me to retreat to the balance of probability standard. I still believe I saw the car there on Sunday but if I was the presiding judge and the potential penalty was incarceration I could not accept my evidence alone as fact. As I said in my previous email, I think the choice is yours.

Now that I have your attention I would like to put the following on record. In all the years since the incident I have never been approached by the police for a statement (contrary to information in one of **Paul's** emails about statements held by the police). I have also never been asked about what I thought happened – a little disappointing since I was qualified to make some observations. For what it is worth the following is my best guess. Willie McRae crashed at least a few hours before we came on the scene. That would place the time of the accident at late on Friday night or early Saturday morning, before first light. The weather



conditions we experienced were low cloud with some thick mist in parts and thick misty rain, not heavy but requiring regular use of the wipers. Apparently those conditions had persisted throughout the previous day. The road surface was good but it was poorly marked and narrow in places. There were a few small flocks of sheep or goats in the area. In daylight we found that a speed of around 30-35 mph was about our safe limit. At night it would have been lower. I believe Willie McRae was not run off the road by another vehicle, person or animal and he was not in control of the vehicle when it left the road at low speed. I say that because I followed the tracks to the vehicle and I saw no skid marks either on the road or on the path to the accident site. All four wheels were in contact with the ground as it went over the edge and down the hill. There was no violent change of direction until just before the accident site. At that point the vehicle appeared to turn hard right (up the hill) and roll over, ending up facing up the hill in the creek. Whether that turn was McRae's input or a random motion I cannot tell. There were no obvious pieces of the vehicle or other material on the road or the ground along the vehicle's path until the point of roll over. At that point there was broken glass on a sharp rock and what may have been blood (although I doubt it since the roll would have been too quick to allow much bleeding and the persistent rain would have washed any blood away). McRae was upright in the vehicle. His eyes were closed and he appeared relaxed. There were no obvious injuries except for a small wound on the right side of his head in the vicinity of the temple. There was very little blood at the wound although it had run down onto his shirt and jacket. Rain had apparently washed the blood from his head. I did not enter the vehicle or go to the other side so it was possible he sustained other injuries. I did not open the driver's door because the vehicle was unstable and there was a risk of the driver falling out. I called him without receiving any response and then attempted to get him to grip my hand- no reaction. I found a weak pulse and by placing my hand near his mouth I detected shallow breathing. I could not smell alcohol but that may have been concealed by the smell from faeces and urine. His body had started to swell and his clothing was very tight, particularly around his legs and neck. I decided not to loosen his tie because of the possibility he had sustained neck or spinal injuries. Everything I saw that day suggested the car had simply run off the road without any correcting input from the driver. It rolled once causing the driver to strike his head and then stopped, upright some distance from the road. Why was McRae not in control of the vehicle? Was he determined to end it all, incapacitated, incapacitated by the actions of others, or asleep?

While McRae may have been suicidal at the time I discount the possibility of him just letting the vehicle run over the edge. The terrain was such that he would have had a good chance of survival, perhaps avoiding injury of any kind.

He may have been incapacitated. However, I suspect any autopsy stopped at the bullet in the head so we may never know if he had a heart attack or stroke.

I doubt he was incapacitated by others before the vehicle left the road. The side window appears to have been intact until the car rolled (no broken glass until that point) so the "others" could not have shot him as he drove along the road at night, in thick misty rain. Instead they would have to have made him stop and wind down the window or open the door. Given the information I have about Willie McRae, I cannot imagine him being prepared to stop for someone on a lonely road in the middle of the night. Asleep seems to

be the most likely cause of the departure from the road. I understand McRae had been to a function and then there had been a fire in his home. He had been known to have a drink or two, or more and the article at the link implies that alcohol may have been involved with the fire incident the previous day . The conditions on the Friday night were conducive to sleep in that there would have been little optical stimulus from the grey, misty darkness and the poorly defined road. If he was asleep and woke as the car bounced towards its resting place he would have been completely disorientated and, since he appears to have not been wearing the seatbelt, he would have had great difficulty in taking any action to regain control. If all of the above is correct, at some time after the accident Willie McRae was shot in the head. Was he shot with his pistol? I have not seen any forensic evidence confirming the bullet came from his gun. Did he shoot himself or did someone else shoot him? I do not know the answers but I looked at both possibilities.

First, the someone else theory. Assuming all of the above is correct it seems difficult to imagine someone with a reason to kill McRae finding the crash site in the dark, walking down the hill, finding his pistol, shooting him in the head and then dumping the weapon and leaving, perhaps with the papers that many claim were in or around the car. As an aside, there were definitely no papers scattered around the car when we were at the scene. The area was pristine so any papers that may have been scattered were either collected before we arrived (a very difficult task as they would have been wet and fragile) or they were scattered by someone after we left on Saturday and collected before we returned on Sunday. Both options seem highly improbable. On the other hand, there may have been a dark briefcase on the ground or in the car when we were there. I was focussed on McRae rather than his possessions. Unless there is forensic evidence that McRae was shot with his own weapon it is possible that someone else shot him with another weapon. I assess that as highly unlikely since discovery of the different bullet would immediately raise the possibility of it being murder rather than suicide.

Now, the Willie McRae shot himself theory. If my idea is correct that he fell asleep and hit his head during the roll-over then it is possible that he regained consciousness some time later. If so, he would have found himself in the dark, soaked from the rain coming through the broken side window, perhaps suffering the effects of a hangover, stroke or heart attack and perhaps sitting in his own excrement and urine. At the very least he would have been extremely embarrassed at running off the road he apparently knew well. I have seen reports that he was depressed and perhaps suicidal. The scenario that I have just painted provides any number of triggers that would cause someone to take their life and I believe that it the most likely scenario. I understand there is some doubt as to the position of the gun in relation to the vehicle, particularly one report that places it well away from the car. Three ideas come to mind. The weapon could have fallen out of McRae's hand and out the broken window. The weapon could have fallen onto the floor beside McRae's right knee and then fallen out, unnoticed, as the ambulance driver opened the door to place McRae on the litter. McRae did not die immediately so it is just possible that he threw the weapon out the window before collapsing – unlikely but possible.

Now for some speculation about the papers that McRae is reported as never letting out of his possession. I did not see papers or a case that might carry papers. The possibilities seem to be that:

- They were never in the car,
- They were in the car when it crashed and removed before we arrived on the scene,
- They were in or near the car and they were removed by the police at some time after the crash,
- They were removed by persons unknown after the crash, or
- They are still somewhere out there near the crash site.

I completely reject the version I just discovered on the web at [http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12129405.The\\_death\\_of\\_Willie\\_McRae/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12129405.The_death_of_Willie_McRae/). There are numerous errors but the following extract is the strangest part of the article: "He **[SNP Member]** also noticed a heap of other papers, away from the car -- "meticulously ripped up" -- topped, in a weird pyramid, by McRae's smashed watch and a garage bill with McRae's name on it. Flashing this before the constable, **[SNP Member]** convinced the constable that the victim was, indeed, Mr William McRae."

I will leave it to you to consider the options with one exception - removal after the crash by persons unknown. **[SNP Member]** who was in the vehicle that stopped to assist was reported as knowing McRae. He told **[Wife]** that he was McRae's campaign manager. It is not clear what campaign he was referring to and it could have been McCrae's attempt at parliament or leadership of the SNP. Whatever the case it seems **[SNP Member]** knew McRae well and he probably knew that McRae was believed to be was about to expose a paedophile ring and implicate senior government members. He would have also known about McRae's earlier activities related to nuclear issues and the reported involvement of MI5. He would have also been aware that McRae continued to have influence in the SNP and could have material related to its activities.

Unless I am mistaken **[SNP Member]** was the only person at the crash site that would have had that knowledge of McRae's activities and his propensity to retain sensitive material in his possession, material that McRae would not want handed to authorities who he believed would simply bury the information. At this point I simply note that **[SNP Member]** was probably the only one present (while I was there) who knew that McRae usually carried sensitive information with him. He was the one most likely to understand the implications of such material being concealed or released in a way that did not further McRae's purported aims. He was in a position (as were all of us) to remove material while others were occupied in getting McRae from the car to the ambulance. His arrival at the site may have been coincidence but it did present an opportunity. Did he do it? I have no idea.

Well I think I have exhausted all my information and bored you with my ideas of what might have happened. Tomorrow we head off to Caboolture in Queensland to attend a family funeral, the second in a week. We will not be back until late on Sunday so I am afraid any further questions will have to wait until then.

Regards,

**[Tourist]**

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From: **johnweir**

Subject: Re: Willie McRae

Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2016 07:55:45 +0000

To: **[Tourist]**

Thank you **[Tourist]** I am also very surprised that the police didn't take more time to interview you and discuss your observations and thoughts in more detail. Had I been the senior investigator I would have thought myself very fortunate to know that the principle witness included a respected aviation scene investigator with knowledge of victim behaviour and crash sites, not to mention other witnesses including s doctor and campaign manager for the deceased...what's the odds? I thank you sincerely for the considerable information that you have given **Paul** and I. I will carefully go over all of the attachments that you sent and leave you in peace this week. I can advise you that a ballistics report confirmed a bullet match to Mr McRae's gun which was the one recovered. Re the car on the Sunday, in visualising yourself returning to the scene for your glove, I wondered if you recalled having to search under or around the car or indeed inside in case someone else had picked it up and placed it inside. If that were the case and knowing of your crash scene experience I would imagine that you would have proactively sought permission from the police on site. Unless the senior officer was present or the scene had been stood down, the constables would not have the authority to grant permission to go near the car. If however the car was not there and there was no longer a scene to preserve then the police would have no issue with your search or potential contamination of the scene . Did you find the glove? If not, it was either in the car when recovered on Saturday or recovered by police who presumed that it was McRae's.

Kindest regards **John**

Sent from my iPhone

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From: johnweir

Subject: Re: Willie McRae

Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2016 08:30:10 +0000

To: **[Tourist]**

Hi **[Tourist]** I also find the newspaper link that you sent very dubious for a number of reasons. I had actually seen it previously and more or less dismissed it. **John**

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **johnweir**

To: **[Tourist]**

Subject: W. M.

Date: Sun, 20 Mar 2016 14:09:56 +0000

Hello **[Tourist]** , IN STRICT CONFIDENCE I hope that this e mail finds you well. On the back of my last e mail to you where I mention visualising your search for your glove I am now positioned to inform you that I traced and met with one of the police officers from that weekend. I interviewed him on Friday 18 March 2016 and noted his statement. I am happy to share with you the highlights of his evidence but respectfully request that you retain what I am going to tell you as very confidential and do not share it with any one else or copy anyone into your reply to me. The information is significant and the witness does not want to be further contacted by members of the press or by any other independent journalists. The **[Traffic Officer]** had 10 years police service at the material time and was a trained vehicle examiner who was a member of the traffic unit. He was recalled to duty on the Saturday morning to examine the car in situ on the hillside under the direction that it was a road traffic accident only at that time. He attended, obviously after you had left the scene, and met with police on site. He examined the car and noted its position and damage etc He was present when the police scene of crime officer photographed general views of the car (as a road accident only at that point). No detailed photographs of the car's interior or search areas were considered at that time. The **[Traffic Officer]** then directed the removal of the car to the West End Garage in nearby Fort Augustus where he and the other officer on site also attended where they examined the car further in the garage shed. This was started at 15.30 hrs and was to check for defects etc that may have been causal factors in the cash. Later that day he received information about the bullet wound and that he was required for duty early the next day for a scene search. He attended the site on the Sunday along with a search dog handler, photographer, detective officers and uniformed officers and they met with 2 other uniformed officers who were already there having attended from the nearer Fort Augustus police station. Those 2 officers are the ones that you likely encountered when you went to find your glove and before the other officers arrived. If this seems logical then it follows that the gun had NOT been recovered at this time. This means that the 2 officers let you search for your glove with the gun still outstanding, which is in my view, bad form. The search team arrived after you left and taped off the search area using measurements and references from the previous day. The gun was found in a small pool under a foot high waterfall positioned directly beneath where the car's driver door had been the previous day. THE CAR WAS NOT ON SITE ON THE SUNDAY. The gun was retrieved from the pool before it was photographed in situ, again bad form. It was made safe by a firearms officer and taken to the police office. The search was stood down a short time later and a report of this was submitted accordingly. This **[Traffic Officer]** completed 30 ears service and knew nothing of a car on the Sunday until he was doorstepped by **Mr Delamore** and 2 others last May 2015 when he was shown a photograph of a maroon Volvo on board a different truck and was told that this photograph was taken of the Sunday at the site. When I later asked **Paul Delamore** about this photographed he denied knowledge of it. I am sure that you will find

these facts very interesting and rather alarming in parts but I thought as one professional to another that I should share this with you in strict confidence to enable you to review your account whilst armed with more witness information. I would be very pleased to receive your reaction and thoughts regarding this significant development. Hope to hear from you soon,

kindest regards, **John**

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From: **[Tourist]**  
To: **johnweir**  
Subject: WM REPLY  
Date: Mon, 21 Mar 2016 15:24:05 +1100

Hi John, I have received your email WM of 21 March. It raises some issues that I would like to think over for a couple of days before responding. We have just returned from a family funeral in Queensland, our second in the last week. The funeral was difficult enough but with four significant car problems along the way, a misplaced camera (that is now in Melbourne) and our toll tag apparently not recording our passage through detectors on tollways in Queensland, things are a little chaotic at the moment. I will respond in more detail by Friday.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

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From: **johnweir**  
Subject: Re: WM REPLY  
Date: Mon, 21 Mar 2016 07:30:42 +0000  
To: **[Tourist]**

Thanks **[Tourist]** Sorry to hear about the mishaps on your trip  
Regards **John**  
Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Tourist]**  
To: **johnweir**  
Subject: WM SUMMARY  
Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2016 16:49:25 +1100

Hi **John**, McRae - Response to **John Weir** March 2016 Channel 4 Video In developing a response to your email of 21 March I reviewed much of my material and did a web search of articles written over the years about McRae. In doing so I came across the Channel 4 video, now on Youtube, a video I was promised when they spoke to me but never delivered. Seeing it for the first time proved very interesting. Three points perhaps worth noting:

- the cairn for Willie McRae is definitely in the wrong place. The alternate position in the video, marked with an X is about where we thought the car was located. Indeed the X looks as though it is taken from our AA map.
- I disagree with almost everything said by **[SNP Member]** in his interview. My wife believes he did not go down to the vehicle to assist in removing McRae. Instead, she thinks he stayed up on the road because he was very upset. The two other men assisted. A police officer did not assist getting McRae out because there were no police present until after the ambulance left and we departed. If the ambulance officer lose his hat I did not notice and I would be very surprised if anyone got down to look near the driver's door. The vehicle was unstable and appeared ready to slide further down the hill, risking injury to anyone inclined to put their head in the way.
- The "discovery" of two sets of Volvo pieces in two locations is, in my view, not credible. Were they really pieces missing from McRae's car? Were the two sets viewed together or was one set viewed at different times in different places? Who viewed them and what did they do to report the discovery(s)? What was the role or interest of the person (police, journalist, conspiracy theorist, etc)? Did someone remove them from one site and relocate them to confuse any investigation or to discredit police? Without answers to any of those questions my suspicious mind says fabrication by person or persons unknown for their own reasons.

To my mind the rest of the video provides interesting information and plenty of emotion but little in the way of relevant evidence. Concerns About Bias Before I address the substance of your email and the **[Traffic Officer]**'s information let me outline my concerns about issues peripheral to the incident but central to identifying what actually happened. My concern is that almost everyone who has sought my input over the years had already formed an opinion and developed a bias without access to some (or any) of the facts. Conjecture, rumour and strongly held views about McRae's "murder" were unintentionally or deliberately used to frame leading questions encouraging me to assume some external agency involvement in his death. (I exclude **Paul Delamore** and you from that group). As a result I am reluctant to accept "evidence" or opinion at face value.

From the first time that I was contacted in Australia there were three themes presented to me as fact: 1. there was at least one conspiracy against McRae. Over time I heard theories (presented as fact) about MI5 and anti-separatists wanting to stop McRae. His campaigns against nuclear waste sites in Scotland were cited as generating great hostility to McRae. More recently I heard about McRae apparently ready to name senior people involved in paedophilia and people ready to stop him. 2. McRae was shot. I cannot recall anyone indicating he committed suicide other than in the context of that being a claim by police. 3. It was fact that the police returned the vehicle to the scene on Sunday. The police did so because they had bungled the initial investigation.

Conspiracy From my first contact with the UK media after I returned to Australia leading questions about each of these issues were the norm. When that caller realised I did not know what had happened the emphasis was on McRae as a high profile Scottish separatist who had views and aims that were not popular with some people. It was clear to me at the time that the caller was looking for the most sensational outcome and the questions were designed to gain support for the theory that McRae had been killed. I was sufficiently concerned at the time (I was still in the full-time RAAF) that I contacted the High Commission in London and was advised not to become involved in what was believed to be an attempt by the tabloid press to gain controversial publicity. McRae Was Shot Articles on the web have McRae shot with weapons ranging from his own .22 pistol to a weapon of .45 calibre. One article states that the writer's car was hit by a high velocity round some time before the death of McRae, implying that MI5 was involved and hinting that McRae could have suffered the same fate.

***Note:** This reference may relate to the information provided by the witness **[Friend #3]** who was unknown to the investigation at the time of correspondence with **[Tourist]** but who was eventually interviewed in October 2016 by John Weir about his incident.*

The only fact I will accept from all this material is that a small calibre bullet was found in McRae's head. I draw conclusions that the round was low velocity since a high velocity, large calibre weapon would probably have caused significant visible damage and an exit wound. I cannot say if the weapon was fired at close range. There were no obvious powder burns but the injury had blood visible and McRae's head was wet from rain entering the vehicle. Vehicle Returned on Sunday I cannot recall when it was first suggested that the vehicle was returned on Sunday or who made that suggestion. However, it seems like a classic attempt to bend information from several conflicting sources to produce "evidence". For the record, I have not, and still do not subscribe to the theory that the vehicle was removed and then returned. I still see an image of the vehicle in place on the Sunday and I have found at least one web article that states the vehicle was removed at midday on the Sunday. That fits nicely with the view in my memory. However, I have also just watched a documentary on the brain and how it can be misled. Essentially, a 30-year old memory is not worth the neuron it is written on. You may wish to watch it at the link: <http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/633608259667/secrets-of-the-brain-what-makes-me>.

It seems to me returning the vehicle on Easter Sunday would, almost certainly, have been observed and queried unless the vehicle was drivable. In that case it could probably have been driven to the site and down the same path it took earlier without attracting much attention. If it was not drivable the choices seem to be by truck or heavy-lift helicopter. The truck option would have required something like a block and tackle to drag the vehicle from the road leaving a clear trail. The helicopter would have been seen and heard for miles. In either case a large, covert (perhaps even clandestine) team would have been required and the risk of observation and comment extremely high. What if **[Wife]** and I had returned a little earlier to see a helicopter flying towards the site with the Volvo hanging below? Even a layman would have questioned the use of a large helicopter to place a damaged vehicle off the road or a block and tackle to drag it down the hill on Easter Sunday, and to what end?



Why return the vehicle? It is much easier to conceal or distort evidence through manipulation of paperwork and false statements than to move and alter a large piece of physical evidence, and the risks are usually much lower. I understand that one theory was the vehicle was returned to get photographs. The **[Traffic Officer]** indicated that general photographs were taken on Saturday. If so, what extra photographs would have been needed so desperately to risk returning the vehicle? Just drop the camera and claim the film was damaged seems a much easier solution. At one stage of my career my title was Director Military Strategy. My role was to develop ways and means to achieve military objectives balancing risk against cost (in terms of lives, resources and financial cost). I have tried to apply the same logic to replacing McRae's vehicle and failed. With the exception of driving the vehicle to the site, the risk of detection would have been unacceptably high. I cannot think of a reasonable objective that would be achieved by replacing the vehicle but I can identify multiple adverse outcomes such as criminal charges for concealing evidence and damage to reputations. On that basis, despite others strong views to the contrary, I believe the vehicle was never returned to the site. Instead, if it was there on Sunday it stayed overnight. Police Incompetence The police were always presented to me as incompetent or in league with someone who wanted to conceal the truth, or both. The logic seems to be that they failed to recognise that McRae had been shot and therefore failed to secure the site. The site was certainly not secure when I was there on Saturday and Sunday. However, if we look at Saturday this is my understanding of what happened :

I was the first person prepared to say they were on the scene. I saw a head injury that seemed to align with the broken glass from the driver's side window. I did not recognise a gunshot wound. The **[Doctor]** doctor was the next on scene. She did not say that she recognised a gunshot wound. The ambulance driver apparently did not recognise a wound. The two men who assisted in removing McRae did not recognise the wound. Apparently the triage staff and doctor at the hospital did not recognise the wound. The nurse who is reported as bathing the wound suspected it was a gunshot. That was apparently only confirmed by X-ray. If all of the above is correct, the police did not learn of the gunshot until the night of Saturday 6 April. Until then every piece of available evidence appeared to point to a traffic accident. Did the police secure the site and search it thoroughly on Saturday? I do not know. Had it been an aircraft accident and I been the investigating officer the area would have been secured and guarded overnight by specially briefed personnel instructed to touch nothing. Was that the required protocol? Whatever the protocol for traffic accidents, was it followed? If not, perhaps incompetence was involved.

Turning to Easter Sunday, the site was not secure when we arrived. Either the two officers present were not told about the need to secure the site or they did not understand the need or what was required. Whatever the reason, there was a failure in communication with potentially serious consequences had I been returning to retrieve evidence. I am not in a position to comment on police activities on Saturday afternoon or after I left on Sunday; however, if it was secured it was possibly too late. Summary I apologise for such a lengthy dissertation. I think it was Churchill who said if I had more time it would have been shorter. My aim was to show that my views have been influenced by a barrage of fairly one-sided information for many years and it has had an effect. Add to that the possibility, highlighted in the video on the brain that I mentioned, that someone can tell you about your

involvement in something that never happened and your brain makes you believe you were there. Your brain then embellishes that myth in great detail with more fiction that you believe is reality. Has that happened to me? I do not know but it is a possibility. I do know that I have developed an opinion that many people (police, conspiracy theorists, family, investigative journalists, and perhaps me) have become so entrenched in their views based on fiction or reality that the truth will not be forthcoming. I also know that I am extremely cautious in accepting any "evidence" at face value. It is with that in mind that I turn to the material in your email.

Witness Information - At first look the information provided by the **[Traffic Officer]** is compelling. The amount of detail is surprising. Indeed, I have difficulty believing the officer could provide such detail 30 years after the incident unless he retained his notes. Has he retained notes? If not, my confidence in the information is reduced, particularly since the officer seems to indicate he will not provide further material or participate in any investigation. If we take his information as correct then clearly the vehicle was not there on Sunday WHEN HE ARRIVED. While highly unlikely, it does not mean the vehicle was not there on Sunday BEFORE THE OFFICER ARRIVED. I know I am being pedantic and I have already stated I do not believe the vehicle was returned on Sunday. However, I am pointing out (without causing offence I hope) that the information provided in your email does not warrant the statement that "THE CAR WAS NOT ON SITE ON THE SUNDAY."

If there are errors in the **[Traffic Officer]**'s information what might they be and how could I bend two disparate views to fit? I know this approach is unscientific but it has been happening to me for 30 years and I have just watched a documentary showing how it can be done so perhaps you will indulge me. What if the car was left overnight and all of the **[Traffic Officer]**'s investigation was on Sunday not Saturday? On Saturday it was assumed to be an accident and the only injured person had been conveyed to hospital. There was no urgency to collect the vehicle. Then it was suspected by hospital staff that the person had a gunshot wound. That gunshot was not confirmed by X-ray until late in the day, perhaps after sunset. That set the wheels in motion for a more detailed investigation but just finding the vehicle in the dark would be difficult and who, at night would see the vehicle much less scramble down in the dark. What police presence could be provided in that remote area given other police commitments at the time? Decision: send two junior police officers out very early Easter Sunday to find the vehicle and wait for a team to arrive. Before the team arrived we came along, explained who we were, provided our names and contact details and I asked for permission to search for my glove. Permission was granted and I searched unsuccessfully for the glove then left. Later the specialist team arrived and conducted their investigation. The vehicle was then removed from the scene on Sunday afternoon. This scenario requires no removal and replacement of the vehicle and minimal criticism of the police effort given the information and resources available at the time. Because the vehicle was in place at the time the junior police officers arrived, any suggestion that the police searched in the wrong place is eliminated. You will see that I have done to you what has been done to me for 30 years - create a plausible scenario that suits my position. Just phasing it in a positive way ('it happened that way' rather than 'one possibility is...') has a strong influence on many witnesses. I am not suggesting my scenario is true but it only

requires manipulation of memory and a few people prepared to change their view under the weight of "evidence" and it becomes "fact" for some people.

Manipulation - There is a good example of the manipulation process in your email. The incident that you describe where the **[Traffic Officer]** was presented with a photograph of the vehicle on a truck is one example of the way information has been presented to me over the last 30 years. I understand the **[Traffic Officer]** was presented with several "facts" implied in the photograph and statements by those he met. The "facts" were: 1.this is a photo of McRae's Volvo 2.it is on the truck that removed it from the site 3. it was removed on Easter Sunday I assume they had no other "evidence" and therefore suspect they were hoping that the **[Traffic Officer]** would confirm their suspicions or beliefs.

A Plea - You are presenting me with a challenge by placing me in a position that would normally be avoided in a formal investigation. First, you are asking me to provide evidence in relation to the events in 1985. Second, you are asking me to review and comment on the evidence of others. Third, you are asking me to review, and possibly amend the information that I provided.

The challenge is to retain clearly in my mind, without contemporaneous notes, the real images from 1985. My training and experience as an investigator and summary authority in the RAAF convinces me that eye witnesses have great credibility with the public and the tabloid press and very little credibility with investigators and the judicial system. My exploration of how memory works and how the brain can be misled confirms my view. In this case there are no available eye witnesses to the incident only witnesses to the scenes on Saturday and Sunday and the events are 30 years old. The physical evidence is incomplete and all of the gaps have been filled with conjecture and supposition. With all that in mind I think I have reach the limit of useful information. If I can summarise my position as follows:

- I believe my memory of events on Saturday 6 April 1985 to be essentially correct
- I believe my memory of the car being present when we were there on Sunday 7 April to be correct but I recognise my views have been heavily influenced by material suggesting that the vehicle was removed and replaced as part of some form of conspiracy or cover up or a degree of incompetence during the investigation, and by material indicating McRae was under threat because of his activities ·
- I believe my review and comment on other information has been fair and balanced but it has been limited to the material presented and may change if I was to review all of the available material
- I believe my review of my own information, particularly in relation to the Sunday has been thorough. I have emphasised the challenges in recalling old memories and identified known causes of memory shift. That said, I still have an image of the car there on Sunday morning. Whether it is real or a mirage is for others to decide.

**Paul Delamore** has raised the issue of statements by **[Wife]** and I, held by the authorities. The record from the Scotland Police that Paul sent me indicates statements exist; however, they are undated, unsigned and the interviewing officer is not identified. **Paul** is keen to get

a copy. I do not care and I do not know what it would achieve other than to embarrass whoever claimed to hold those statements. **[Wife]** and I know that we did not make a formal statement to police and we did not sign anything. We only spoke to the junior officers on the scene on Sunday and then only to give them our contact details at Bracknell. As far as I can recall since then I have only spoken to reporters, journalists and you. Unless I can understand what benefit will come from asking for those statements I do not intend to do so. I will let **Paul** know of that position. I also think I have reached the limit of useful information for you and **Paul**. You have certainly made me think very carefully about the incident and what I saw (or thought I saw). Perhaps unfortunately for your investigation I am not prepared to rescind my view regarding Sunday but I think I have provided you with enough background on memory challenges to shift my evidence left out of the "beyond reasonable doubt" category. On the other hand, much of the other "evidence" needs to shift to "balance of probability" or further left to "information yet to be validated". Finally, you may wish to start a pile similar to mine, labelled, "you've got to be joking".

Regards, **[Tourist]**

Ps Both **Paul** and you have asked me to keep information confidential at various times and I will continue to respect that confidentiality. However, I have no objection to you sharing with **Paul** all of the information I have provided to you. Similarly, **Paul** can share my information with you. I will let him know that shortly. I would ask that the information goes no further with my name attached, not because I am concerned about anything I have provided but I do not need the tabloids ringing me at all hours.

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From: **johnweir**

To: **[Tourist]**

Subject: RE: WM SUMMARY

Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2016 16:48:48 +0000

**[Tourist]**, Hope you are well. Thanks again for taking time to author a very detailed informative e mail in which you have articulated your thoughts and recall from 30 odd years ago. I completely accept that facts and circumstances become distorted and difficult to reconcile over the passage of time. Please allow me to explain and hopefully clarify some important points that I have ingathered this year whilst interviewing witnesses who were also there at the material time I have also considered that in cases generally some people may have a personal agenda and would therefore distort and/or omit information that may portray their own involvement or interest in a uncomplimentary light. It is those people who may seek to manipulate the views of others to make the story "fit". I personally pay careful cautionary attention to such possibilities and consequently cross check such information with other accounts in an effort to reconcile the whole story. I have no connection to the events on that date and have no agenda other than seeking to reconstruct events through witness recollection and factual documents. This is basic investigatory process and as you know, if you follow the evidence logically the story is often fairly simple and straightforward.

My points below are designed to inform you about some issues that you have mentioned in your e mail that you may not previously been advised about, other than reading a newspaper article or other publication. To my points:

1. The car was examined and photographed by police on Saturday then, early afternoon recovered to the west end garage, Fort Augustus. This is evidenced by police in attendance, the **[Recovery Vehicle Driver]** and **[Driver's Son]** (also at the scene) and the photographs which include the recovery truck which was only at the scene on the Saturday. The vehicle inspection report, which is a formal police document, is timed and dated 15.30 hours on Saturday 6th April 1985 and signed by both police officers. The garage staff also confirm the car's inspection on the Saturday in a covered shed. This evidence from different sources is corroborative and the absence of contrary evidence, dismisses the car being left in situ at the site overnight to facilitate photos on the Sunday. To do this would also compromise the integrity of the car, should it be tampered with during the night.

2. The bullet wound was discovered between 17.00 hrs and 19.00 on the Saturday and the inquiry was handed to the Criminal Investigation Department. A briefing was held on the Saturday evening and arrangements were made for a daylight search to be made on the Sunday morning. The **[Detective Chief Inspector]** attended the hillside site on the Saturday evening to scope the search parameters and then attended the west end garage where he viewed the car before instructing it be taken to the police impound for a forensic search and examination the next day.

3. On the Sunday 2 uniformed officers attended the site first, most likely from the nearer Fort Augustus office and likely the two that you refer to on the Sunday. You and [your wife] arrive and search for the glove. At that point the gun is not found because the cops are waiting for a search team to come by mini bus from Inverness. The cops were remiss in permitting you to search for the glove as it clearly compromised a potential crime scene. Nonetheless you left after an unsuccessful search and went on your way. The search team later arrived and marked off the search area from a number of reference points including, measurements and sketch from the attending officers on the Saturday, drag marks from the vehicle's recovery and its resting position prior to recovery. The stream that ran under the car and the associated small waterfall and pool that would have been under the driver's door (according to the officer who examined the car on site the previous day (Saturday)). There is no operational or logical reason for the cars return because they all know the search site and photographs were already taken the day before.

4. The **[First Officer]** from the site on Saturday, who knew exactly where the car had been, found the gun submerged in the small pool and lifted it out in the presence of the search team. It should have been left submerged and photographed in situ but wasn't, again an error. The police could have replaced the gun in the pool then photographed it as if it had never been lifted out but, quite rightly chose not to do so. The gun was made safe and removed to the police office and the search stood down with nothing else recovered. The police had no cause to return to the site after the search concluded and this was for four main reasons viz: the deceased was in hospital. the car was in police custody the recovered

weapon was in police custody. The car and locus had been photographed on the Saturday  
Those 4 elements are the 'fait accompli' for this event.

5. Ballistics examination by another independent police force confirmed that the bullet was from the same gun, which was also identified as the deceased's by his family and work colleague. The gun was a small silver metal handgun with a pearl handle, difficult to easily see in a pool of water, unless of course you know where to look. 6. The bullet entry wound was small and consistent with a .22 calibre weapon of low power. No scorch and residue discharge on the head skin due to the barrel being pressed tight against the head and the bullet with discharge burrowing forward. not back drafted.

7. Media reports claimed that another recovery company identified as Mac Rae and Dick from Inverness had moved the Volvo but I have not seen any evidence in statement form or identified witness who can confirm this. The story does however perpetuate the rumour of the car's return. I interviewed staff at this garage in Inverness and they have no knowledge of the car. **[Tourist]** these points are simply covering tangible evidence that I have gathered from people with no agenda. They are not writing a book about the mystery nor are they selling information to newspapers, on the contrary, they are very much like you in wanting to help but now would like to park the incident and move on with their own lives. I am in no way trying to manipulate your recall but thought that it would be derelict of my not to at least advise of the information gathered from other witnesses. I hope that you are not offended by this.

There is one outstanding point that only occurred to me today and I wondered if you could assist? Q. When you arrived first on the scene and were alone at the car, did you check any papers, receipts or other documents in the car or on the person of the injured party to try to identify him or ascertain a phone number or address etc. It would be an obvious thing to do given that you had no way of knowing who he was or that another car containing a man who knew him was later to arrive on the scene. If this is the case can you describe to me the circumstances It would be helpful to know this. thank you once again **[Tourist]** kindest regards, **John**

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From: **[Tourist]**  
To: **johnweir**  
Subject: RE: WM SUMMARY  
Date: Sun, 27 Mar 2016 21:25:26 +1100

Hi **John**, thank you for the detailed response to my missive. Perhaps if the detail you have included was in the public domain 30 years ago those wishing to denigrate the police would have had less ammunition. I was also going to say that the conspiracy theorists would have been less vocal but, given the man and the circumstances, that was not going to happen. My inclination is to accept everything you have provided as fact. Perhaps that is because I lived in communities that saw police as generally honest and most officers wanted to help the public, and catch the "bad guys". However, unfortunately reality is not quite so clear cut.

Recent publicity suggests the Scottish Police Force has many of the same problems as police forces around the world – a few bad “cops” prepared to misuse that trust for their own purposes. In Australia at the moment we are watching the trial of two very senior police officers accused of murdering someone over drugs. The result of all these issues is doubt. I hear what you say (or at least I read it and gain the feeling that you believe it all to be correct) but I get the same sense from others with contrary views. I think the logic of your arguments is strong, stronger than others, so I am inclined to accept your view of events but that image in my mind is still quite strong.

I also still have two questions that remain unanswered: 1. Did the **[Traffic Officer]** have his contemporaneous notes from the time or was he, like me trying to reconstruct events from 30-year old memories? 2. Was the car drivable?

You asked whether I tried to identify the person in the vehicle by searching for “papers, receipts or other documents”. The answer is an unequivocal NO. I found a person barely alive. The first aid DRABCD does not include, find out the name and address of the person who might die very soon. That information is simply not relevant to the survival of the person – it did not enter my head to ask who he was or look for material to answer the question! I did check his wrists for what we call a MEDICALERT bracelet. It would have told me of diabetic or allergy problems. There was no bracelet and, before you ask, I do not recall seeing a watch. I also do not recall seeing any papers, receipts or other documents in the vehicle. I did not attempt to check his pockets. In fact, he was so swollen and his clothing so tight that I think it would have been very difficult to do so. I hope that information is useful.

Regards, **[Tourist]**

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From: **johnweir**

Subject: Re: WM SUMMARY

Date: Sun, 27 Mar 2016 12:07:32 +0100

To: **[Tourist]**

Hi **[Tourist]** Thanks again for this response which again is of great assistance to me in trying to piece the events together. I suppose that I am fortunate and advantaged because I have access to people who were there at the material time therefore have the ability to note only note their recollections but also to share with them the evidence provided by their contemporaries. This of course has been prevalent in our correspondence which I truly hope you have found helpful and inoffensive. I have used similar methodology with others and it has enhanced their focus immeasurably. Your points about the drivability of the car and officer's notes are entirely valid, particularly the drivability issue which I will now take back to the officer. The **[Traffic Officer]** did NOT refer to any notes when I interviewed him, everything he recounted was from memory. It is however notable that there were many details he could NOT recall but, rather than second guess, he simply advised that he didn't know and we moved on. The information that I noted and have shared with you is what he is 100% certain about and as I mentioned it is supported by independent accounts from non

police staff. Thanks for the response about the papers and watch. Only yesterday I interviewed one of those that you waved down to help, **[SNP Member]**. His account includes that he saw a number of papers and bank cards on the ground in a neat pile some 10 yards from the car. He later gave them to the cop who arrived. I had of course considered that , you being the only person known to have been there before him, may have found those items in or nearer the car and checked for identification then simply placed them aside. Nothing sinister or untoward, as I said previously, a logical sensible course of action in the circumstances of what at first sight was a road accident. I hope that you follow my logic there. Over my 30 year career I have interviewed many many witnesses who have given varying accounts of the same incident and in many cases I have simply not been able to resolve the disparities. In such cases I provide the courts with all of the evidence available and leave it to them to weigh it up and come to a reasoned conclusion. There will always be those who challenge and disagree with the outcome but that's life. I very much appreciate all of your help and I proffer my sincere gratitude for your patience with me. During my career I was often described as "a dug wi a burst ba' " which is translated as a dog holding on to a burst ball and never ready to let it go or give it up. I don't intend to inconvenience you further as I believe we have exhausted events through our correspondence. My e mail door however is always open to you should you recall anything else. You are a true gentleman who deserves peace from this affair and an enjoyable healthy life. Please take care my friend.

Kindest regards **John**

Ps perhaps if I come out to visit my relatives in Wollongong we could hook up for a social interaction , similarly if you visit the UK again I am sure that I could stretch to buying you a wee dram or 5?Smiling face with smiling eyes **John**

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **johnweir**

Subject: Re: WM SUMMARY

Date: Sun, 27 Mar 2016 22:06:24 +0100

To: **[Tourist]**

Hi **[Tourist]** Further update from the **[Traffic Officer]** is that the car would have been drivable post incident. He assessed that it could not have been driven to its resting point and landed there on Saturday due to the momentum of it leaving the road and rolling over at least once. The soft boggy marshy lumpy ground would not enable it being driven "normally" to its resting place after its initial recovery Hope this helps

**John**

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Tourist]**

To: **johnweir**

Subject: RE: WM SUMMARY

Date: Mon, 28 Mar 2016 19:45:18 +1100



Hi **John**, thank you for the update. I suspect that Scottish authorities would prefer that the assessment not become common knowledge. I can imagine the tabloid press having a field day suggesting the possibilities and accusing everyone from MI5 to suspect politicians of driving the car back to the site. I will leave it to you to decide how that information might be used. On the possibility of getting together, please keep in touch if you plan to come to Australia. We live well south of Wollongong (about Edinburgh to Manchester distance) but **[Wife]** and I have relatives in Sydney and we could combine visits. At this stage we have no plans to travel to the UK. We will be in Gibraltar for one day in May (27th) as part of a cruise around the western Mediterranean but that is as close as we get. I will have a dram or two and I hope you do the same. In closing I would like to thank you for your patience in letting me ramble about all of my frustrations over the years. I have found your approach to be refreshing and logical. I hope that you are able to pull all of the threads together so that at least some of the more unrealistic arguments are discarded.  
Good luck in your endeavours. Regards, **[Tourist]**

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From: **John Weir**  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 10:35 PM >  
To: **[Tourist]**  
Subject: > >

Sorry **[Tourist]**, just a quicky.....re the weather on the Saturday morning, was it windy? On a scale of 0-10 with 0 being no wind and 10 being gale force, what number would you apply ?

Thank you **John**

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Tourist\*\*\*\*\* >  
To: johnweir\*\*\*\*\* >  
Subject: RE: >  
Date: Tue, 29 Mar 2016 07:45:43 +1100

**[Tourist] wrote:**

1

**END OF EMAILS BETWEEN [Tourist] AND JOHN.**

## 2. SNP Member

### Statement of SNP Member

Noted on Friday 25 March 2016 between 10.30 and 12.30 hours

Taken by John Weir/John Walker

**[SNP Member]** States:

On the morning of Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April I was a front seat passenger in my friend's motor car heading to Skye. The car was black colour but I don't know what make or model it was. My friend **George Lothead** was driving and his girlfriend at the time, the **[Doctor]** along with my wife, **Allison** were in the back seat. At a point in the road, where I now know is above the crash site that we are discussing, our car was waved down by a man who told us that a car was lying further down the hillside and had someone inside it. I noted that his own car was parked on the roadway and that a woman whom I presumed to be his wife was sitting inside. The man spoke with an Australian accent and I now know him to be the **[Tourist]**.

I immediately made my way on foot with **George** downhill towards the car which was a maroon coloured Volvo. The Australian man **[Tourist]** did not accompany us as he at that point got into his own car and left the scene. This left **George** and I to check the Volvo.

When I saw the man inside the car I recognised him as Willie MacRae whom I had known through the SNP. The driver's door was still closed and the car was lying at an angle making it impossible to open the door fully. This also meant that we could not have got Willie out of the driver's side of the car. I have been shown photographs that you have brought and I can confirm that it's the same car at the same location and position. The driver's window was either open or missing but in any case I could reach and see through it. I noticed that Willie still had his seatbelt on and I am 100% sure of that. I didn't see where the car keys were and I noticed a shopping bag, papers and a briefcase lying on the back seat. I have been asked about a spare wheel but saw no such item. I saw no debris or items lying immediately next to the car however I did notice a small pile of what looked like torn up receipts and 2 or 3 cards that looked like bank cards lying on a piece of scrubland about 10 yards from the front of the car. They didn't look like they had fallen or been blown there but rather they looked like they had been placed there. They couldn't have been placed there by Willie because he was still seat-belted inside his car with no way of getting out of the driver's door. They had to have been placed there prior to my arrival by someone else at the scene, possibly by the **[Tourist]** who had been there a short time before we arrived. I don't recall seeing a watch there. The only other people who were there when I was there was **George** and then **[Doctor]** came down because she is a doctor and she came down to try to examine the Willie inside the car when he was in situ. It was only **[Doctor]** who came down as **Allison** stayed in our car on the roadway. One of my party must have called emergency services because I think **Allison** and **[Doctor]** had mobile phones at that time. I did not have mine with me. **Allison** may also have alerted some other passing motorist to go call help, I honestly don't know. When **[Doctor]** checked Willie he was still alive and I presumed at the

time that this was a road accident, albeit serious in terms of Willie's injuries and his general demeanour. A short time later a uniformed police constable **[First Officer]** arrived then a single ambulance driver. Someone, possibly me, undid his seatbelt and we tried to remove him from the car. It was impossible to get him out of the driver's door therefore the **[First Officer]**, ambulance man and **George** went round to the passenger door, opened it and tried to remove him through that door. I remained at the driver side and tried to move his legs out from under the dashboard and swivel them round so that they could pull him out backwards. This proved to be quite difficult due to Willie's size and the fact that the car was at a downward angle and his legs and feet were under the steering column and dashboard area. During that part the **[First Officer]**'s hat fell off and into the stream that ran under the car from the front nearside to the driver's door. The hat actually floated in the stream, right under the car to where I was standing. I simply picked it up and passed it back to him. I noticed nothing in particular as I done this, but of course I wasn't looking for anything else at that point. I have been asked if there was a small waterfall and pool under the driver's door but I honestly don't recall. You have shown me a police sketch of the scene and I can confirm that the stream and car indicated are in the correct respective places. Once they pulled him out of the car they carried him up to the ambulance whilst I remained at the Volvo. The **[First Officer]** asked me to pick up any belongings that were lying about and I did so, placing them into a plastic bag which was possibly the one that I saw lying on the back seat of the car. This included the papers and bank cards that I referred to. **[Doctor]** went in the ambulance with Willie and I went in the car with **George** and **Allison**. We left following the ambulance and went to Inverness, to the hospital to collect **[Doctor]**. **George** then drove us to Inverness and we checked into a hotel. Only the **[First Officer]** was left at the scene with the car. I honestly can't recall if another police officer arrived. If the car was recovered that day it was after we had left the scene. The **[First Officer]** retained the bag of items that I had collected. I noted that the car was missing the front windscreen and that the back window was broken. From photographs numbered 9 and 10 I confirm that this was the same car at the same scene and in the same position that I had seen it.

The hillside scene itself had long grass with some bare patches and it was muddy, marshy and a stream running under the car downhill as I have previously described when the officer's hat fell into it. The weather that day was rainy with low cloud. We left the scene about 11.00 a.m.

I don't remember leaving my details with the police but **[Doctor]** may have at the hospital or with the ambulance driver. I did not proactively seek an update from the hospital nor was I contacted with an update by anyone that weekend. I didn't know that Willie was dead until a Glasgow Herald journalist called me a week or so later to tell me and it was several weeks later before the police interviewed me in Dundee.

I never returned to the site on the Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> of April 1985 and in fact it was about 10 years later when I went to the area where there was a small ceremony to erect a cairn in Willie's honour. The site of the cairn is nowhere near the actual site of the crash. The information that I have provided is derived from my own actions and observations. Any other material that has been provided by others is something that I cannot affirm or contest, particularly

about events at the site on the Sunday 7th of April 1985 because I wasn't there. The information that I provided is true and accurate to the best of my recollection.

I have been asked by John Weir about the weather, specifically the wind on the morning of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1985 and on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being no wind and 10 being gale-force, I would say it was 3. I would also add that my recollection is finding the receipts and cards, after the casualty was removed from the car, and then putting them in a bag for the policeman.

### 3. Doctor

#### Statement of [Doctor] given by e mail

Hello John,

I hope I can help with your enquiries.

1. I think that Mr MacRae had a seatbelt on, the door was wedged against the uneven ground. I checked on him through the open window. He was unresponsive with an injury to the temple. There was blood clotted in his hair There was a strong smell of stale alcohol.

2. The police and ambulance had arrived and Mr MacRae was removed through the passenger door , the car was partly over the stream and yes, I do remember **[SNP Member]** picking up the police officer's hat when it fell. We had been travelling in my car and **Alison** was sitting in that when this was going on.

3. The ambulance had a lone paramedic so I travelled in the back of the ambulance with Mr MacRae whose condition was stable during the journey to Inverness.

4. I do remember **[SNP Member]** showing us some receipts which I thought were torn up. I'm not sure about the cards. He said they were in a pile a few yards from the car but I didn't see him find them and don't know what happened to them. I certainly don't remember anyone removing items from the car or from the casualty while he was moved. I did not move anything or see the receipts before being shown them by **[SNP Member]**.

5. I left the accident and emergency department and we went to a hotel to stay the night. I can't remember at what point we found out that Mr MacRae had been found to have a gunshot wound rather than the injury having been sustained when the car left the road. The hospital didn't contact us and I wasn't asked for a police interview. We went to Speyside the following day and stayed with friends of the **[SNP Member]**. We didn't return to the site of the incident.

Let me know if you have any further queries and I'd be interested to hear the outcome of your investigation.

PS I did give an interview to reporters which was on television. That was several years after the incident but my memory at that time would have been a lot better than it is now. I don't know whether you saw that or can track it down.

Regards

**[Doctor]**

#### 4. Detective Chief Inspector (DCI)

##### Statement of [Detective Chief Inspector] (retired)

**Statement taken by John Walker at 1548 hours on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at above address [redacted] in response to preset questions.**

I received a phone call from the Chief Constable in the early evening of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 1985, informing me that Willie MacRae had been removed from Inverness Hospital to Aberdeen where it had been discovered that he had a bullet wound to the head.

I attended at Inverness police office where I was further briefed by officers from the CID, I can't recall going to the locus that evening but I remember it was getting dark and that a search of the locus would be better carried out in the morning.

I have also been asked if I attended at the West End Garage to see the car and I can't recall I might have been there.

I gave a briefing on Sunday morning at Inverness Police Office (7/4/85) to a number of officers, I believe **DI John Ratter** was there and **DS John Cathcart**.

Officers from Fort Augustus were instructed to assist with the search but did not attend the briefing.

I was at the locus on the Sunday morning so that I would be present whilst the search was conducted, and an area was taped off around where the car had been.

Based on the information from officers attending the hospital and the injury sustained by Mr. MacRae, I suspected that it was most likely a suicide we were dealing with. As a result of that information I instructed officers to look for a gun close to where the car had been the previous day.

The position of the gun would either be where Willie MacRae was taken from the car or where the driver's door was opened.

I can categorically say that the Volvo motorcar belonging to Mr. MacRae was not at the locus on the Sunday, and the only way it could have returned to the exact position was to have it dropped there by helicopter.

Whilst the search was being conducted by officers, I returned to my car, which was parked, on the roadway to make a call on the radio. Whilst I was there at my car as far as I recall **DS Cathcart** shouted that the gun had been found.

I returned to the locus and discovered that a uniformed officer [**First Officer**] had lifted the gun from a pool of water directly below the driver's door of where the car had been.

I am unsure whether I instructed the officer to return the gun to where it had been found or just hold it to be photographed.

Everybody at the locus concluded that where the gun was found could only have been directly below where the car door was.

I have been asked if I authorised both the gun and the car to be forensically examined, I can't recall giving authorisation but that task might have been undertaken by **DI Ratter** or **DS Cathcart**.

Further to this I made a trip to Glasgow and spoke with Willie MacRae's brother who was a doctor, he informed me that Willie had not been himself, he was depressed and drinking heavily, he further stated that the gun found was Willies gun that he kept it in his office.

As far as I'm concerned the investigation into Willie MacRae's death was carried out correctly and concluded properly as a suicide.

**Further telephone conversation with [Detective Chief Inspector] on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 1610 hours.**

I have read over the typed statement taken by **John Walker**, which I agree with except I now don't think the area where the search for the gun on the Sunday was taped off.

I am now sure that the reference point for the search was the plough marks on the ground where the car had been dragged from, where it had come to rest, and we lined up the position from that point to begin the search.

I have been further asked if I remember what time the Chief Constable had telephoned me to inform me about the circumstances surrounding Mr. MacRae's death and I now think that it was about twenty past seven that evening on the Saturday.

I have also been asked if I remember visiting the West End Garage in Fort Augustus that evening to view Mr. MacRae's car, I can honestly say that I don't remember visiting the locus or the garage that evening and the only recollection I have is visiting the locus on the Sunday whilst the search was being conducted.

I have also been further asked if I showed a photograph of the gun, which was found on the Sunday to Mr. MacRae's brother and I am certain that it was by showing a photograph of the gun that Willie's brother immediately identified it as being Willie MacRae's gun that he had kept in his office.

**Further telephone conversation with [Detective Chief Inspector] on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2016 at 1725 hours.**

I received your email with a further list of questions and I will try to answer them.

I can now remember that I did visit the locus of the road accident on the evening of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 1985, and I remember that it was dark and the car I was in had its headlamps on, and I thought at that time that there would be no way that a search of the locus could be carried out so I decided that the search should be conducted the next morning when it was light.

I cannot remember who was at the hospital; I know that officers were there before the Chief Constable phoned me; I think **DI John Ratter** took to do with the hospital enquiry, all that I remember is that from the information obtained from the hospital I knew we were dealing with a suicide.

I can also remember that the Willie MacRae's gun was photographed when it was recovered on the Sunday morning, however I can't remember if the gun was examined for fingerprints.

***Note:** John Weir confirmed via FOI that the gun was photographed on the Sunday when recovered but that the Police no longer hold that photograph.*

I did not attend the post mortem and again I can't really remember who attended but I seem to think it may have been **DI John Ratter** that would have dealt with that.

I don't remember any blood alcohol examination being conducted on Mr. MacRae, I do seem to remember he had a high blood alcohol count but I can't substantiate where I got that information.

**Additional Statement of [Detective Chief Inspector] Taken from telephone conversation by John Walker at 1150 Hours on Thursday 16th June 2016.**

I have previously provided a statement to **John Walker** regarding my involvement into the death of Willie McRae on Sunday 7th April 1985.

I have been informed that contact has been made with Willie McRae's brother, who stated that he remembered informing the police on Saturday 6th April 1985 that Willie had possession of a handgun, which he had obtained when he served in India.

Now that I have been informed of this information, I remember being made aware that evening about the gun and certainly before the search was conducted the following morning.

[end]

## 5. First Officer

**Telephone conversation with [First Officer], Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016 between 16.30 hours and 16.39 hours.**

My wife gave me your details and informed me that you had left a questionnaire regarding the death of Willie McRae and my involvement in the police enquiry.

I really don't want to talk about this even though I realize you're an ex police officer, but I have been hounded by the press just about every year on the anniversary of his death who have printed some wild accounts about what had happened. In one of the stories they actually claimed that I was responsible for his death, my wife has kept some of the newspaper articles.

Q: Were you the first officer at the scene of the Road Accident.

A: Yes

Q: can you remember who was there when you arrived and how many.

A: Not really, there were people there but I can't remember how many.

Q: Did you remain at the scene until the traffic examiner **[Traffic Officer]** arrived?

A: Yes

Q: Were you the officer that found the gun.

A: Yes it was me that found the gun.



Q: Did you find the gun in a pool of water under where the car had been?

A: I found it in a pool of water.

Q: was the car there when you found it

A: No

Q: Was the car brought back to the locus on the Sunday?

A: No.

Q: Was **[Uniformed PC]** there with you when you were searching the locus?

A: I can't remember

Q: Can you remember if the gun was photographed?

A: Not really

Q: There was an article printed in the Glasgow Herald in March 1995 where it said that you stated that the gun was found "some yards" from where the car had been is that correct.

A: I spoke to a journalist on the phone and what he printed was out of context it's a lot of rubbish.

Q: You left the police shortly after the Willie MacRae incident was that anything to do with you leaving.

A: Not at all, I enjoyed my time in the police but I've moved on since then and I work away from home. Look no offence I don't want to answer any more questions I just want to move on with my life.

## 6. Traffic Officer

### Statement taken by John Walker

**Friday 18th March 2016 at 1730 hours and amended by [Traffic Officer] on Wednesday 23rd March 2016**

I joined Northern Constabulary on the 19th of January 1975 and I retired on the 19th of December 2005. At the time of the incident, I had 10 years service and I was a traffic officer, based at Inverness Police Office. I was a qualified vehicle examiner and at that time there were only 2 vehicle examiners based in Inverness and we worked on an 'on-call rota'. On both the 6th and 7th of April 1985, I was back shift, my rostered hours were 2pm until 10pm.

Due to the passage of nearly 31 years, I am not able to remember all aspects of the case under review, but the main outline is familiar to me.

During my normal duties, I was double-manned, however, in my role as Police vehicle examiner, when I was requested to attend serious road traffic accidents, I attended alone because the initial attending officer was always at the locus. I would use the initial attending officer as corroboration as to my findings. On the morning of Saturday 6th April 1985, I received a call at home from the control room to attend a serious road accident at Bunloyne, near Fort Augustus, in my capacity as vehicle examiner. I imagine that the time would have been somewhere late morning although at this stage I can be no more precise. I travelled to Inverness Police Office to uplift a police vehicle, I cannot recall if it was a marked vehicle, but I seem to recollect I would have used the spare vehicle which was an unmarked Vauxhall Cavalier. It took me about an hour to get to the locus.

On my arrival at the locus, I can confirm that **[First Officer]**, who was stationed at Fort Augustus section station, was present, I also believe that an I.B (Identification Bureau) Officer was there, I identified from the photograph shown to me by John Weir and John Walker, that the Inverness I.B Sherpa Van was present. I believe it may have been **D.C Angus Byrnie**, and the recovery vehicle was there. I remember **[Recovery Vehicle Driver]** being there and I also remember other persons being at the locus (civilians), but I was not aware of who they were.

I would have spoken to **[First Officer]**, and got brief details as to how the accident had been discovered and subsequent actions by **[First Officer]**, and medical personnel. I purposely did not speak to any other persons who were at the scene or may have information regarding the occurrence of the accident. This is so I can investigate the scene and base my findings on what I can see myself. I think I attended in civilian clothing and may have worn a boiler suit, but I would have worn a fluorescent jacket with police on it.

I parked my car at the top of the hill, and made my way down to the accident damaged car, which was about 25-30 yards from the roadside. It was a maroon coloured Volvo 240 series. The casualty had been removed from the scene to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, by the

ambulance service prior to my arrival.

I would have looked over the vehicle and examined it to see if there were any indications of the involvement of any other vehicle. Part of my examination was inspecting the roadway for some distance prior to the vehicle leaving the road, and its pathway once it had left the road.

There was no debris on the roadside, but there was debris on the hillside down to where the vehicle had come to rest.

I have been asked if there was a briefcase, spare wheel and whisky within the car. All I can remember is that there may have been a briefcase but I am not sure, I do not remember a spare wheel being there. I do remember a half bottle of whisky, which was less than half full, although I cannot remember its whereabouts in the car.

I would have spent around 1.5-2 hours at the locus examining the car and helping **[First Officer]** take measurements, which required corroboration.

At the conclusion of my examination, I authorised **[Recovery Vehicle Driver]** to remove the Volvo by winch and take it to his garage at the west-end garage in Fort Augustus (not the present location, it was removed to the former garage).

I decided to carry out a full examination of the car at the garage, and **[First Officer]** attended with me. I arrived at the garage at around 1530 hours where I carried out the examination and completed a report on vehicle examination form, which was corroborated by **[First Officer]**. I completed the report, a copy of which has been shown to me, minus one page. I can confirm that I completed that form. I should add that the reason for such an examination being carried out is to ascertain if there was any fault with the vehicle which may have caused or contributed to the occurrence of the accident.

At the conclusion of the examination, I returned to Inverness, reported to the duty Inspector, and thereafter returned home, to change and take a meal break. Whilst there, I received a call from **Inspector Hugh McKay (the duty Inspector)** to attend Inverness Police Office as soon as possible in order to supply a statement. I was also informed the injured party had sustained a bullet wound to the head.

I attended at Inverness and supplied a statement; I was then instructed to convey **[Detective Chief Inspector]** (officer in charge of inquiry) to the locus. When I returned to the locus with the DCI it was getting dark, so we only spent about 20 minutes there. I recollect that we were unable to see very much due to darkness. After I left the locus with the DCI, we attended at the west-end garage to examine the vehicle. I think we arrived there between 2100 hours and 2200 hours. We spent about 20 minutes looking over the vehicle. I then conveyed the DCI back to Inverness and concluded my tour of duty a short time later. Either before going off duty or early the next morning, I was instructed to attend to be part of the search team to return to the locus on Sunday 7th April 1985 my rostered tour of duty for

that day was to be 1400 hours to 2200 hours.

I did start early in the morning and attended at Inverness Police Office. I am not sure if a briefing was carried out at Police headquarters, Inverness, prior to us leaving, I consider that a more likely scenario would have been that the briefing would have been carried out at the locus as **[First Officer]** was to join us there. Also present from recollection, were **DI John Ratter, DS John Cathcart, [First Officer]**, I am not sure if **[Uniformed PC]** was present. I remember other personnel being there, but I cannot name them, I also think that there was a Police dog handler there as well as the I.B department. I cannot recall if the I.B officer was the same one who had attended the previous day.

I think I travelled to the locus from Inverness Police Office by people-carrier. It took about an hour to arrive at the scene. It may have been between 1000 hours and 1100 hours. The search was structured, and red and white barrier tape with pegs were used to mark out a search area, which extended from the point where the vehicle had left the road and to the north to a point some distance beyond the vehicle's final resting place. The search area extended downhill from the road to a point a considerable distance beyond the final resting place of the vehicle. This was to account for any objects or debris that may have projected from the car as it cascaded down the hill to its final resting place.

Bearing in mind that the car was not there on the Sunday during the search process, the search teams reference point, in relation to the cars final resting place, was a small 1.5-2ft high waterfall that was formed by the burn than ran downhill from the road under the car at a point between the front nearside of the car and the drivers door on the offside. The waterfall was on the driver's door side and it flowed into a small pool approximately 2ft in length.

When we commenced the search, the team started a line search to the south of where the vehicle had been located, starting at the lower point of the hill. The line search was conducted uphill to the road, in a systematic manner, the team returning downhill, moving north towards where the car had been and searched uphill again, combing the ground as we went. We repeated that technique as we moved northwards towards the final resting place of the car. As we reached the point where the car had been towards the lower part of the hill, I heard **[First Officer]** saying the words to the effect that "I found it" or "I got it". I have a picture in my mind of him holding up a small silver handgun, which he was holding by the tip of the grip which I remember was white. The barrel was pointing to the ground, with water dripping from it. He had recovered it from the pool under the waterfall, which was located at the offside of the car, which I had seen there the day before at a point under the driver's door.

**DS John Cathcart**, who was an AFO (Authorised Firearms Officer) took control of the gun to ensure it was safe. There was nothing else of significance found at the scene. I am certain of the position of the car, as even though it was not there (Sunday 7th April 1985) when the gun was recovered, I knew from measurements taken from the day before and from my examination of the scene on the day before. We continued to carry out a search at the locus

for some time, but nothing of any significance was found.

We returned to Inverness Police Office, I have been shown a diagram of the locus drawn by **[First Officer]**, (which I can authenticate). I note from the drawing that both **[First Officer]** and my signature are appended there on. I played no other significant part in this enquiry.

I have been shown a photograph of the gun and a production label and I can confirm that two signatures on the label are **[First Officer]** and **DS Cathcart**.

I should add that members of the search party, included **[First Officer]**, and possibly **[Uniformed PC]**, who at that time were based in Fort Augustus and therefore, would have made their way directly, possibly in a shared vehicle and not in our people-carrier. When we left in the people-carrier they (**[First Officer]**, and possibly **[Uniformed PC]**) may have left at the same time or maybe later. During the search of the locus on the Sunday I did not speak to any members of the public, at the conclusion of the search, the cordon tape removed.

I think last May (2015), I was visited unprompted by 3 journalists. The older journalist identified himself a **Severin Carrell**, the Scotland correspondent of the Guardian and Observer Newspapers. **Mr Carrell** presented me with his business card. He explained to me that the other two men were student journalists and they were doing their dissertation on the case of the death of William MacRae, one of the students was **Paul Delamore**, whom I have identified from photographs on the internet. I do not recall the other man's name. They questioned me about the incident for about 2.5 hours, and at one stage I have a recollection of one of them showing me a photograph of a white recovery vehicle with a maroon Volvo on the back, the photograph was taken from some distance and the Volvo was side on, making it impossible to identify the vehicle. The position of the recovery vehicle was on the roadway at a point, which resembled the roadway at the location of the accident I had attended, I would say this because of the hard-shoulder area that looked similar. The photograph was not timed or dated, nor was its origin identified to me, so I do not know where it came from. One of the journalists quizzed me about the vehicle involved in the accident being taken back to the locus on Sunday 7th April and placed back in the position it had come to rest after the accident. I was also told that the recovery vehicle was that of MacRae and Dick, Inverness, and they had been employed to take the vehicle back to the locus. I was informed that MacRae and Dick had confirmed this to them. I am not sure if the vehicle was returned to the locus. Logic dictates that it wasn't given, that scenes of crime examinations would have to be carried out on the vehicle. One thing of which I am entirely certain is that if the vehicle was returned to the locus, it was not put back down the hill where it came to rest after the accident. To do so would have required lifting equipment which we did not have present at the locus on the Sunday.

I have looked at other photographs and note that blue circles with numbers are contained within, that is indicative of police-taken photographs. However the photograph shown to me by the journalists to my recollection did not have blue circles thereon.

**The [Traffic Officer] was later asked about the weather conditions, specifically the windiness at the scene. He stated:**

You are asking now, I don't recollect it being that windy, although you are right at the top of the hill. It may have been breezy, but I'm not sure at all. If it had been very windy I think I would have remembered. As far as I can remember it was overcast with sunny intervals, but it must have been dry, otherwise we wouldn't have seen the marks on the road.

**Note; the witness was later advised that two journalists had denied showing him photographs of a car aboard a recovery truck. He stated:**

To be quite honest I'm getting a wee bit fed up of all this. From memory the three of them arrived at my door about 6.30 or so. I normally come in from work about that time. I was wallpapering the room you were in at that time but not actually when they arrived. My wife was preparing our meal in the kitchen. I took them into the sitting room. The suite was all covered over and they could not sit. Yes they asked to record and I saw no reason why not, after all I have no axe to grind with this and I can only be honest about my part in this.

I certainly recollect being shown a photograph as I described but I will say that their visit was about 1 year ago, but I do have an image in my mind of a photograph. They brought up the subject of MacRae and Dick bringing the vehicle back to the locus. I have stated all along that this may be possible, I can't see a reason why it should be brought back. If it was brought back I can categorically state that it was not put back where it came to rest. As I have already said I logically believe that the car would have been undergoing a forensic examination by IB at the time we were searching.

**Delamore and Carrell** told me that they had confirmed with MacRae and Dick that the vehicle had been taken back on the Sunday. They were certainly in my house for a length of time considerably longer than 35 to 45 minutes. I didn't get my meal till well after 8pm.

Even if my mind is playing tricks about the photograph, which I doubt, it does not alter what I told them and I told you, which should match up on the relevant points, or should I say the points of contention.

That is all I want to say on the matter. I do apologise if you picked up a tone of annoyance, it was not with you as from my meeting with you I know that you and John will put across a balanced view of the matter. I have to admit to being annoyed with the journalists and if I thought for a minute their standpoint was that of conspiracy I would have slammed the door in their face. In my time in the control room I had daily contact with members of the press and would like to think I had built up a good working relationship with.

I have to admit I have had a good think tonight and I have decided that I will not be answering any queries which originate from them. I will however answer as best I can any legitimate queries from you or John. It is in the interest of truth to do so.

So put your mind at rest.

This must be taking up an inordinate amount of your time.

One thing that has occurred to me, you asked about the possibility of the car being pushed off the road. I believe you told me that an Australian air crash investigator did his own reconstruction and I did read something about this and recollect that his findings were along the lines of the conclusion I came to.

Hope that is some help.

[signed]

## 7. Control Room Officer

**Taken at 12:57 hrs 22/6/16 by John Walker**

I am a retired police officer. I served for 27 and a half years retiring from Northern Constabulary in May 2001.

I have been asked about my involvement surrounding the death of Willie McRae on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 1985.

On Saturday 6th April 1985 I commenced duty as duty officer at the force control centre at Inverness at 13:30hrs. My colleagues within the control room were a mixture of civilians and police staff.

As normal, I was briefed by the early shift regarding any incidents that had occurred that day. I was made aware of a serious road accident that had occurred involving a car that had left the road at the A87 at Bun Loyne dam .

At some point around 5:30 that evening, one of the controllers directed me to a phone call from a neurosurgeon consultant, who I think may have been a professor calling from Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. He advised me that the road accident victim, a Willie McRae, had suffered a gunshot wound to the head. He further advised me that from the initial assessment it was a low calibre bullet, possibly a .22 and that the patient's condition was critical. I realised due to the severity of this news that senior officers in our forces would have to be contacted and briefed.

I established that Mr Mcrae's car was secured at the West End garage in Fort Augustus and that the constable who had attended the scene earlier that day was **[First Officer]**, whom I knew.

There had been previously been an incident report of the vehicle accident, but now that it was discovered to be a gunshot wound, I started a fresh log. I then commanded a callout cascade whereby a number of senior officers were contacted by telephone and briefed regarding the incident update.

**[First Officer]** was located and returned to duty at Inverness, as was **[Detective Chief Inspector]** and other members of his team. This was to facilitate a further investigative briefing and set parameters for an enquiry.

I remained in the control room to coordinate correspondence and maintain the said incident log.

At this stage, major incident force procedures would be initiated, which at that time would include contacting and briefing the on duty procurator fiscal and also providing hospital attendance by Grampian colleagues to ensure the evidential integrity of the patient.

I believe that I terminated duty in the early hours of Sunday morning (7th April 1985) and I later became aware that the patient had died of his injuries, but I can't remember if that was before or after I finished duty.

The following day (Sunday 7th April) I commenced duty at 13:30 hours at the control room. I was briefed by the outbound shift and from study of the incident log I became aware that a gun had been recovered at the road accident scene.

I was not personally aware of the officers that were involved in the search – that information would be included within the log.

I am aware that **[First Officer]** was based at Fort Augustus together with a colleague, **[Uniformed PC]**, therefore if **[First Officer]** attended on the Sunday, **[Uniformed PC]** would probably have joined him.

At some stage, the Volvo car was recovered from the West End garage in Fort Augustus to Inverness Police office at the behest of a senior officer. I can't remember if it was my shift in the control room that carried out that information.

At no time did my team or I or anyone else to my knowledge have the Volvo motor car returned to the road accident scene on the Sunday.

I did not personally speak to the patient's next of kin, and I don't know who did.

I am not aware of the car's movements after Inverness police office.

I have been advised of an incident where files were allegedly found and removed from a house breaking at Willie McRae's office and photo copied.

The radio terminology quotes by **Donald Morrison** in my experience would never be used.



## 8. Recovery Vehicle Driver

**Noted at 10.45 on Wednesday 17/02/2016 at West End Garage, Fort Augustus by John Weir [signed]**

I have been asked about the recovery of a car back in 1985. I have been in my current business since 1979. The car you mentioned was a maroon coloured Volvo motor car reg FGB214X on 6th April 1985. I recovered it from a hillside at Loch Loyneside

My **Son** and I attended to recover the car but I can't remember what time we got there, I think sometime late morning but it may have been early afternoon. We used a cable winch to pull it up onto the bank of a Ford A series with beaver tails ramps. At the time the driver's door was open and the car was damaged, it had obviously rolled over when it left the road. There were no people in the car at the time of the recovery. I think there may have been a police officer there but no-one else.

The car was taken by us to the former West End Garage premises that at that time was located on the Fort William Road in Fort Augustus, just along from this garage. It was around late morning when we recovered the car. It went to our garage and I reversed the lorry in to the premises so it was under cover. Roughly an hour, an hour and half later a **Uniformed Police Officer** arrived and asked if the car was still there. He told us that it was more serious than a road traffic accident and that we had to keep the car safe and secure until another officer arrived to inspect it.

Sometime late another police officer arrived and the car was inspected on my premises. The car would have been taken off the lorry and inspected. The police completed the inspection and instructed me to remove the car to the police compound which was on the Old Perth Road in Inverness. I took it on my own and put the Volvo in the police compound which was uncovered.

When I recovered the car originally from the hillside I was not aware that it had been photographed by anyone. When I left it in the police compound I had no further involvement with the car.

I had previously seen in the papers that another recovery company had been involved in the recovery of the car but it was a totally different location which was reported as Loch Cluanieside which is across over a different hill about 7 miles by road. I have been shown printed photographs of the Volvo car on the hillside and I can confirm that it is the same Volvo that I am talking about and it is the same position from which I have recovered it.

The other recovery company mentioned was MacRae and Dick from Inverness but they were bought over by Parks of Hamilton. That company was run by a Mr Hamilton who sold up and moved to Jersey. They did recovery at that time but stopped it during the past few years.

I have been asked if I was aware if the car had been returned to the scene after I have recovered it. I have absolutely no knowledge of that and frankly wouldn't see any point in doing so. At that time we operated on a 'next in queue' call out system so any other

contractor could have been involved. I first knew that the injured man was Willie McRae more or less at the scene from the policeman. I was told that he was a lawyer firstly, then learned that he was an MP.

I meant to add that I believe that the gun was found by the police on the Saturday, not the Sunday because they knew on the Saturday afternoon that it was not a road accident.

#### **Further Statement of the Recovery Vehicle Driver,**

**obtained by telephone at 11.45 on Thursday 25th February 2016**

You are asking me to clarify some points regarding the events of Saturday 6 April 1985. I had previously told you that I believed the gun involved in Mr McRae's shooting was found by the police on the same day that I recovered his car from the hillside, that's Saturday 6th April 1985.

This is because the **Uniformed Police Officer** was at my garage that day after the car had been recovered and either him or the policeman with him told me that they had to go back to the hillside to look for something. This must have been before I took the Volvo car to the Inverness police compound. The **Uniformed Police Officer** didn't mention what they were going back to look for and I didn't ask because it was police business. Sometime later, not the same day but a few days later I think, I met the same **Uniformed Police Officer** in Fort Augustus and said hello. I asked him how he got on looking for whatever he was looking for and he said something like 'fine, we got it'. I had found out at some point that the driver was Mr Willie McRae and that he had been shot. I therefore presumed that whatever the **Uniformed Police Officer** had found was connected to the shooting and was possibly the gun.

The police officer who was with the **Uniformed Police Officer** initially was unknown to me so he might have been from Inverness or somewhere like that. I can't remember if he was the same officer who was at the hillside when I recovered the car. I know most of the local officers but can't really place any others from different areas.

You have mentioned a **Traffic Officer** who I know very well. He is interested in cars and comes into the garage occasionally or at least he did at that time. He was at the garage that Saturday to examine the damaged Volvo. I just didn't remember because he was in often and I couldn't recall if the Saturday was one of the days that he was there. Going back to the officer who I didn't recognize, the one on the hillside I don't recall if he was joined by other officer or not because I was concentrating on pulling that car up the hill.

I realise that photographs were taken on that day at the hillside because I have seen them but I can't recall seeing who actually took them. I would assess that the Volvo was 25 - 30 metres down the hillside because I moved my truck slightly off-road onto a flat, solid piece of ground above the Volvo and fully extended the cable from the truck all the way down to hook onto the car. The cable is a 30 metre cable and it was almost fully extended. If the Volvo was further down then that cable would not have reached it. Again there is no way

that the Volvo could have been replaced on the site after I had recovered it.. The ground was lumpy and like a bog so it would be impossible to drive it or tow it down there. In very extreme circumstances it could be air-lifted but that's a bit of a stretch. I had heard through local gossip some time later that a bottle and a half of whisky had been found in the car at the site and that Mr McRae had bought them from a place that used to be known as 'the Garry Pub' in Invergarry whilst he was heading to his house in Kintail. This would have been Friday night before his car went off the road. I honestly can't remember who told me this. The Garry Pub was at the time next to the Invergarry Hotel and it had to look of a garage or outhouse. There was no sign or anything to indicate that it was a pub or that it sold alcohol, it was just well known to the locals. I have no idea what time it would have closed at. I suppose if it was shut then you could buy a carry out from the Invergarry Hotel itself. I think that the Garry Pub and Hotel are knocked down and houses are there now.

I think that the **Uniformed Police Officer** has retired and has moved to Shetland now cos that is where his wife is from. He occasionally comes back to Fort Augustus for a trip to see his own family. I will let him know if I see him that you would like to speak with him and I will give him your number.

## 9. Driver's Son

I am a self employed mechanic at the West End Garage, I have worked there since 1986. About 10.30 hours this morning, Wednesday the 17th February 2016, the **[Recovery Vehicle Driver]** was visited at West End Garage by two ex police officers, John Weir and John Walker, who are carrying out research into the death of Willie McRae, who died on the 6th April 1985. My father was having trouble remembering details of the removal of Willie McRae's car on that day and asked me to assist him.

I was present on the day Willie McRae's Volvo, reg no FGB 214X was recovered from the side of the A87 on Loch Loyne side. On the early afternoon of Saturday 6th April 1985 my father received a phone call from Police Headquarters at Inverness to the effect that a Volvo no (FGB 214X) had left the road on the A87 and required to be removed.

At that time we were the only garage to carry out vehicle removals from the scene of road accidents in the local area. Along with my father, I attended at the scene of the accident along with an ex-employee **Michael Nisbett** (whereabouts unknown) in the recovery truck.

When I attended at the scene, I think there was only one police officer at the scene. I could see the Volvo no FGB 214X approximately 150 - 200 metres at the side of the road. I have been shown a photograph (no6) which confirms this. Along with Michael I made my way down to the Volvo, at that point I only knew that it had been an RTA and that the injured person had been removed to Raigmore hospital [Inverness].

When I got to the car I observed that the car was fairly extensively damaged, with windows missing. I also remember that the vehicle was straddling over the burn, this is confirmed by photograph no 8 which I have been shown. My father remained at the recovery vehicle to operate the winch. Along with Michael, I secured a chain and ropes to the front suspension of the car. The Volvo was then winched to the roadway by my father. I remember it took the best part of an hour. The car would have certainly left drag marks on the ground and it would be evident for anyone to see the marking.

I don't remember any other police officer being at the scene. The only police officer that was there was the **[Uniformed PC]** The Volvo was then removed to West End Garage at the original site which is slightly further north from the new premises. It would normally just remain there until it was assessed by an insurance company. I think that the Volvo never left the recovery truck. I have been shown a copy of a vehicle examination report by John Walker, I cannot remember the vehicle being examined by the Police at our garage.

The Volvo was removed to our garage sometime in the mid afternoon. A short time after that my father received a call from the police stating that the road accident was more serious and that the injured person's condition has deteriorated. The Volvo was then removed to Police Headquarters at Inverness by my father and that was late afternoon. I played no further part in this incident.

Later on that day, Saturday 6th April 1985, I learned from my father that a gun had been recovered close to where the Volvo had left the road. I can confirm that the gun was definitely not recovered the next day on the Sunday. I remember that when we recovered the car it was light but not raining.

I have subsequently heard that a company called MacRae and Dick also removed the Volvo mv, I can confirm this is not the case. I have also heard that the Volvo motor vehicle was returned to the scene of the accident. As far as I am concerned that this would be an impossibility because in order for the Volvo to return to the exact spot we recovered it, it would require a lot of momentum to get there. It simply couldn't be driven to that location because it is basically a bog and you couldn't drive a car on it. It would also be impossible for a recovery truck to drive down to where the Volvo was recovered in order to winch the car to the spot.

This statement was taken from me by John Walker an ex police officer.

I have been asked by John Walker to clarify the following, if that was the West End Garage recovery vehicle in the email photograph send to my father. I can confirm that it is the Ford A Series flatbed recovery vehicle we used on that day. I have also been shown a series of photographs which show our recovery vehicle in a few of them. I do not remember the photographs being taken but I do remember a police vehicle also being there. I have been asked to clarify if my father received a phonecall at our garage when we had removed the Volvo reg FGB 214X to the premises. I cannot remember if it was a phonecall he received about the RTA being more serious but I do remember the **[Uniformed PC]** attending at our garage and looking inside the Volvo MV. The photographs I have been shown could not have

been taken on Sunday 7th April 1985 and must have been taken on the Saturday (6th April 1985).

## 10. Uniformed PC

**Taken by phone on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 1920 hours.**

*Note: [Uniformed PC] is a hostile witness in as much as he did not want to talk directly about his involvement in the death of Willie MacRae, he did state during the thirty minute conversation that he would be contacting Police Scotland to gain advice as to whether he could comment on the case.*

Q. Did you attend the scene of the road accident on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 1985?

A. I was never at the locus.

Q. Did you attend at the West End Garage in relation to Willie MacRae's Volvo motorcar.

A. I don't want to answer that

Q. Was the Volvo motor car returned to the locus of the road accident on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 1985.

A. No that's the first time I've heard of that.

[Uniformed PC] refused to answer any more questions and kept reiterating that he would have to seek advice from Police Scotland, to date he has made no further contact.

## 11. Additional witness

**Taken Monday 16/5/16 13:00hrs**

On the weekend of Saturday 6th April 1985 I was driving in the Scottish highlands with my then girlfriend. I can't remember if I was driving my own green Morris Minor or my dad's vehicle, which was a blue Mini Metro Van.

In any case, we were travelling northwards to Skye on the A81 road when we both saw what looked like a road accident. There was a brown or burgundy coloured Volvo lying down the hillside about 30 yards from the road on our left hand side.

We both got out of our car and I shouted down to a group of people who were standing at the car. It was about 10 o'clock in the morning or thereabouts. I'm not sure about the time. I asked the group if we could help, but they replied that they were waiting on an ambulance to arrive. I was only in my early 20s at the time, and they were all a bit older, so I presumed that they knew what they were doing.

I would say that there were about between two and five people in the group at the car. You have suggested that it may have been three people plus the occupant of the car, and I would agree with that.

After their response, [girlfriend] and I continued on our way and thought nothing more of it. We stayed at a guest house called "Silverdale" in the hamlet called Skinidin in the area near Dunvegan.

It was several years later when I read a paper or saw a TV programme about Willie MacRae's death. I went to the play in Edinburgh about it and spoke briefly with Mark MacNicol and was intrigued by his involvement in the case.

You have shown me a number of photographs of a burgundy coloured Volvo car lying on its driver's side on a hillside, and I can confirm that this looks like the car location and position as I recall it.

## Section 2: West Nile Street Incident and "Confidential Files"

### 1. Donald Morrison

#### Signed Affidavit of Donald John Morrison

Signed on 9/08/2015 in front of Hugh Fraser, Notary Public in Scotland

I, Donald John Morrison, retired police constable, date of birth 27/7/1941, residing at [redacted] do hereby do make this statement to record my witness evidence in relation to the death of Mr William MacRae on 7 April 1985:-

1. I was a police constable in the service of City of Glasgow Police and then Strathclyde Police continuously between 1971 and 1997 when I retired.
2. I was on police study in West Nile Street Glasgow at approximately 11am to 12:30pm on Friday 5th April 1985 near the junction with Bath Street. I notice two individuals who appeared to be plain clothes police officers who [sic] taking observations on a subject. I initially could not identify the subject. It was clear to me that they were acting in a manner I would expect from police officers as I had conducted plain clothes duties myself but I did not recognise them as being from my Division.
3. I then was Willie MacRae emerge from Agnew's store in West Nile Street close to me. I knew Mr MacRae from previous engagement with him in his role as a lawyer. The persons taking the observations immediately focussed on MacRae and it became clear to me that he was their subject. I knew the manager [**Off-licence Manager**] and he later advised me that he had sold two bottle of Islay Mist whisky and 40 Benson and Hedges cigarettes to Mr MacRae, which was his normal purchase. Mr MacRae placed one of the bottles on the roof of the car while he opened the driver's door and I grabbed the bottle before it slipped to the roadway. We joked about asking him to take a breathalyser test and he responded that I was jealous because he was heading up to his house in Kintail to review the papers in his briefcase. The two who were taking observations would have seen this and that bottle would have my prints thereon and that would tie me to seeing hi at the car before he set off. Willie left West Nile St. between 11am and 12:30 at the latest. I know it was no later than 12:30 because at 12:30 I would have been in the police office for lunch. What he told me in West Nile St. was that he was heading up north right away to get settled in. His last words to me were "I think I've got them this time," then he repeated "yes, I've got them this time," as he winked. Again he said for the third time "I've got them this time," as he patted his bulging briefcase. "I have to go through all this during the weekend up in Kintail."
4. The body language of the two who were taking surveillance suggested to me that they were very annoyed at me speaking to MacRae as he sat in the car. As a matter of fact I looked over my shoulder two or three times and saw the man in the blue suit with an open hand gesture as if to say "what the hell is this cop speaking to MacRae?" That was the feeling I got. At that point it crossed my mind to tell MacRae that he was being watched. Now I wish

I had. I stopped traffic to allow him to do a 'U' turn as he headed northwards in West Nile St. I unintentionally caught them (the surveillance two) on the hop. This resulted in them running northwards across Sauchiehall St and along West Nile St pushing pedestrians to the side to allow them to rendezvous with the two waiting cars which were either parked in West Nile St or in Renfrew Lane (which does not exist anymore). Both were black or blue (dark colours) and I cannot be sure but I believe one was a Ford Granada or similar with grey well trims and one was a Triumph. Both were double-manned and went through red traffic signals to tail him.

5. I was so suspicious of the whole exercise that I decided to see for myself what was happening. The second car having gone through the lights and causing pedestrians who were crossing to scatter seemed to apologise to the pedestrians who were shouting at them by extending his right arm out the driver's window – a common practice used by police in a hurry. The manner in which this surveillance was carried out so meticulously made me very, very suspicious. Having witnessed what happened in West Nile St Glasgow that forenoon, I knew right away that it was very well planned and was also aware within myself that I would not see Mr. William MacRae alive again. I pulled my radio out of my pocket to inform HQ about what I had seen but decided from doing so because I had not taken the reg. no. of Willie MacRae's car. I tried to convince myself that Mr MacRae had been under surveillance for some time and that his life was not placed in danger. I went along to Stewart St. police office and told colleagues what had happened. The advice that I was given was "For your own good keep your nose out of it." I did fear for my own life and that of my wife. I was also aware that it was a waste of time reporting the matter to police as they were already aware of MacRae being under surveillance along with Special Branch.

6. A short time before MacRae's death, Constable David Phinn (now deceased) got a call via his personal radio to attend the premises of William MacRae after a suspicious break-in where no cash was ever stolen but filing cabinets only forced open. A short time later another message came over the radio saying that PC David Phinn had attended the premises of William MacRae and had found "highly confidential files that were so important they could bring the government down." and requesting that **[Police Officer #2]** attends. **[Police Officer #2]** attended and contacted **Supt. Robert Henderson** and Special Branch who arranged for all files from Willie's office to be secretly taken to Stewart St. police office to be photocopied. **Supt. Henderson** authorised documents being taken to Stewart St. Willie was not present and had not been made aware of this. I was part of the police team asked to remove and photocopy the files. The files were removed in a red escort car and not in a marked police vehicle. Willie unexpectedly appeared at his office and was very annoyed at police removing his documents. I was present when **Supt. Hamilton** told him the lie that his filings were removed in the interest of safety. Willie was raging because of this. There was so much to be photocopied that **Supt. Hamilton** suggested getting another loan of a photocopying machine from M&S Sauchiehall St.

7. I cannot recall how long before 5 April 1985 this event occurred but I am aware that PC Phinn was awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation in relation to this incident and so this can trace the timing. The background to this is that PC Phinn was awarded a Chief Constable's Commendation for finding the documents that were considered so dangerous



that they could bring the government down. To give me an idea of when PC DP [David Phinn] found this info I sent an FOI [Freedom of Information Request] by recorded delivery to Insp. C, 173 Pitt St Glasgow G24JS on 16th Feb 2015 requesting that I was given the date PC DP (who was my neighbour on occasions in police) was commended by the Chief Constable. A negative response was received.

8. About 4/5 weeks before Willie's death, a former policeman [**Mr Iain Fraser**] who had left because of poor wages set up his own private detective agency and had an office in the same office block as Willie MacRae's in Bath St. He received a phone call enquiring if he knew Mr MacRae. He said that he did know him. This phone was believed to be from Newcastle. **Iain** was told that MacRae would be attending an SNP conference in Edinburgh on a particular date and he was asked to take surveillance on Willie and the other two people who would be with him. He was then asked to submit his report asap to a Box Number in Newcastle. A few days later he received a cheque for about £130 for a day's work along with another retired police sergeant from Greenock. A week or so later, **Iain** got a job abroad and remained there for several weeks. He was not aware that Willie had met his death until he came back to Glasgow.

9. Willie's executive office in Bath St was broken into 5 times as far as I recall. There was never any cash stolen but his filing cabinets were always burst open. As a rule **Tommy Sheridan's** small office 5 up at 12/14 Renfield St was broken into the same night as MacRae's. It was forming a pattern! MacRae's office was 1 up to the right hand side while a Celtic millionaire director's office was to the left on the landing. He told me that he had been there for 28 years and that the security of his property had never been overcome until MacRae arrived. He blamed Willie's presence for the break-ins. I added this in my statement but again this has been deleted. I wasn't surprised that senior officers whom I approached were not interested about the break-ins and asked me to give him 'flannel'. Willie himself knew that they were not real house break-ins and blamed Special Branch/MI5.

10. I was asked by senior officers to get a copy of keys to MacRae's law firm's office 1up in Bath Street. To the best of my knowledge this was a considerable time before 1985. Partner Len Murray and MacRae didn't see 'eye to eye' and MacRae left the office they had shared some 2 years approx. before his demise. He had moved along to another office some 1 hundred yards along westwards in Bath St. I enquired of the senior officer if I could get a copy of the Chubb keys with a pencil. He replied "no, no, this can be done by pushing the keys into wet soap or plasticine." I was quite friendly with the Commissionaire and admired the way he was turned out sometimes wearing his active Service War medals. I had too much respect for him and did not feel comfortable to ask him as the reply would more likely be negative [sic]. However I recall that I did visit the cleaning lady but she was very suspicious of police presence in the lawyers' office. So I failed to get a copy of the keys.

11. I was on uniform patrol one night when dog patrol officers pulled up near to Watt Bros, corner of Sauchiehall St/Hope St. I recall that the driver knew me and stopped to say hello. To the best of my knowledge this would be either PC Kenny or PC Alasdair (I can't remember their surnames). While speaking to the driver both of us heard a message coming over the AS radio in the van. (Note: This radio was for traffic vehicles, while beat police used

a local personal radio system.) The message was to the effect that Special Branch were following Willie MacRae's car (he was a suspected drunk driver). They requested that a marked police car attended to stop his vehicle as they could not do so. Mr MacRae, I believe, had a drink driving charge pending. I do not know whether he was stopped or not that night. Once anybody is taken into custody all their personal belongings are removed from them. There is no doubt that should SB [Special Branch] wish to do so – they could gain access to examine that property including keys etc. I cannot put a time on this but I feel it may have been probably a year or even more [sic].

12. Between 1975 to 1977, I'm not sure when, I recall being on duty with a colleague in the 5 Ways area Buchanan St/Bath St, when we received a call asking for our position. We confirmed our position and, shortly after that, police sergeant Y told us that Special Branch and MI5 were taking observations on the premises of Willie MacRae and warned us not to go near the premises that night. Also he added that no marked police vehicles were permitted in the area of Bath St that night. None of these witnesses were contacted by police until I gave them the names 27 years later.

13. One day, a long time before his death and before he left his office in Bath St, I attended at Willie's former office with a fax message from the Procurator Fiscal regarding a sudden court adjournment. The heavy maroon curtains were drawn on a warm summer's day. I pulled the curtains over and Willie said, "no! no." and indicated that he was under surveillance from property across the road (1 up).

14. Another time, again a long time before his death and before he left his office in Bath St, MacRae reported to Stewart St. police office that a strange blue Triumph car was circling his block. I attended along with a colleague and obtained the registration number and a complaint from him. The reg. no. isn't known now. Like most policemen at Stewart St, neither us [sic] was really surprised to learn this as we both knew that Willie was under surveillance for some unknown reason: we were never told why! I attended at Stewart St police and asked the controller to do a PNC (Police National Computer Check) and the result came back as 'no trace' as we expected. We went back to see Willie with our findings and told him that reg. no. did not exist. He looked at us both for what seemed like a minute and he said "MI5 and Special Branch motors are not registered in Swansea." Supt. BH decided to send two plain clothes officers to visit MacRae about his complaint. Immediately, it was suddenly cancelled after Supt. BH received a telephone message from the Chief Constable's office to say that Mr. MacRae had sent a letter of complaint to Pitt St HQ. It was then decided to send a police Insp. and Sergeant instead of plain clothes to deal with the matter.

15. In 2005 I raised my concerns with [Name redacted] MSP who raised my concerns with the Crown Office. Their response was that they [sic] were satisfied that MacRae's death had been fully investigated and that MacRae had not been under police surveillance. I know that this statement is not correct.

16. I have continued to raise my concerns with the police, the press and MSPs since 2005 to no avail. In 2011 the police took a statement from me. My first contact with police was on 22 March 2011 when **Det. Sergeant Gavin Andrews** (now Det. Inspector) took a lengthy statement from me. I was aware that they were coming so I secretly contacted **Iain**

**Fraser** (a former policeman) and he was in my home that day. A Det. Const. obtained a statement from him in a separate room within my home.

I also asked the police to contact **[Off-licence Manager]** who was the manager of Agnew's stores West Nile St, and who sold MacRae whisky and cigarettes on Friday 5 Apr 1985. I was assured that they would contact him. Six months later the police had failed to even phone him I phoned the Inverness Constabulary team who were dealing with the MacRae case and enquired as to why **[Off-licence Manager]** had not been interviewed despite me giving his details in my statement. Their reply was "we will phone you back." Police did phone me later that day and told me that they did not have **[Off-licence Manager]**'s details. They said that on 4 November 2011 a Detective Constable would attend at my home for **[Off-licence Manager]**'s details. A Det. Const. did visit me to get **[Off-licence Manager]**'s address. I also told **Det. Sergeant GA** who took my statement that after witnessing what I observed that day (Friday 5 April 1985) I was afraid not only for my own life but also for my wife's safety. The sergeant did not add this to my statement, but added "they would not do that, would they?" I said "There is the unwritten Ways and Means Act." He did not make a reply.

17. I did not photocopy the statement I gave as the Det. Sgt. promised that a police Supt would visit me at a later date to go over the 15/16 page statement with me to see if there was anything that I wished to add. This never happened of course and I didn't get the chance to photocopy my statement. This raised my suspicion that something was not right. No Superintendent came and I did not receive a copy of my statement. Two years later I sent a recorded delivery letter to the Chief Supt. at Inverness requesting that he forwarded my letter to FOI for a copy of my original statement. He completely declined to acknowledge my letter. Thereafter I sent another recorded delivery letter to **[name redacted]** FOI for a copy of my original statement. After about several months I phoned her and asked what the delay was! She said that it wasn't lost and that a Special Branch officer was attending from Aberdeen a week the following Monday and that he would know where my statement was. Then she added "It was them that was dealing with the case from the start." Some two months later I got a 'doctored' copy of my alleged statement. Omitted deliberately from my statement were 7 or 8 very pertinent points. Last year I made a detailed official complaint to the Chief Constable for Scotland. I could not believe it when this was sent to a senior CID officer at Inverness who was dealing with MacRae's case in the Spring of 2011. Chief inspector **[name redacted]** sent me a letter saying that my statement had not been doctored.

18. I am concerned that my wish to give my evidence is being opposed by one or more unknown parties. On 9 March 2015 I received a death threat letter bearing a Glasgow postmark. I was also followed on a car journey between Cullen and Fraserburgh by a motorcyclist, a distance of some 50 miles, on 13 June 2015. I reported this to the police in Elgin but no action was taken. I am also noticing messages that emails I am sending in relation to the MacRae case are showing the recipients in red rather than black font.

Sworn by me the said **Donald John Morrison** at Aberdeen on 9 August 2015 before **Hugh Fraser**, Notary Public in Scotland

[Signatures included]

## Statement of Donald Morrison

Taken on 18/2/2016 by John Weir

I have been asked to clarify some points from a previous affidavit noted by the solicitor Hugh Fraser.

I completed 26 ½ years service because I joined when I was 30 years old. During my service I always served in Glasgow. The majority of my service was in uniform but I also did my CID aide for a period of time when required and I also did plain clothes duty.

I worked between different groups although I never received any form of surveillance training my experience trained me to be a keen observer when I was based at Stewart Street Glasgow mainly but sometimes was posted in Cranstonhill and Paisley. The local CID worked out of Stewart St as well and so did plain clothes officers.

On Friday 5 April 1985 I would have been early shift but rather than working between 7am and 2pm I was 8am to 4pm. This is why I took my piece break at 12:30pm.

The two individuals that I saw in West Nile Street were in suits, shirts and ties. I would describe the men as follows – 37/38 years, 6ft tall, slim, athletic, full head of white or grey hair, clean shaven, collar and tie, thin face, high cheek bones, pale blue suit, I don't know about his shoes.

The second man was about 5'10" heavier build, dark hair, no facial hair, square jaw, dark coloured suit, not sure about the shoes, about 37/38 years.

They were on the footpath (west) of West Nile St standing about 3 to 4 metres apart talking to each other. The first man was looking directly across to Agnew's store. There were no other pedestrians outside Agnew's at that time. The second man was looking into a shop window which would have provided him with a reflective view of Agnew's shop.

When Willie came out of Agnew's both men looked across at him. The men were not A-Division cops. When I spoke with Willie McRae he was wearing a tweed jacket, brown trousers. His briefcase was bulging and was lying on the passenger seat next to Willie when he patted it and made comments. I didn't ask him to elaborate on who "them" were when he made the comments. He didn't volunteer it to me so it could have been anyone he was referring to.

As I was talking to Willie the man in the light blue suit was looking at me in frustration with his arm out, palms up, as if to say "what are you doing?" I didn't approach the men to identify themselves because they ran from the scene as soon as Willie drove away. I opined that they were police officers simply because they looked like police observers. I accept the possibility that they could have been private detectives or government officials.

As the men ran away they rendezvoused with two cars that were parked at the top of West Nile St at Renfrew St. The cars U-turned, screeching and followed the same direction as Willie. I presumed that both men entered one of the cars or a car each. As they drove

through the red light there were no other cars crossing there. A lot of pedestrians were shouting at the cars because of their conduct.

I didn't believe that I would see Willie alive again because of the confidential files found in his office and his remarks about "getting them." I mentioned that I thought about using my radio but didn't have Willie's registration number.

On hindsight I accept that I had the option of radioing the colour, make and model of Willie's car and that he was being pursued by the two cars that had breached the red lights at speed, but didn't think about it at the time. I now regret that I hadn't because Willie may have been alive today.

The colleagues I told at Stewart Street were members of the pipe band and all of the cops who were there. It was I think ~~Callum Murray/Smith/ McKenzie~~ who told me to keep my mouth shut. He said that Willie McRae had a pending drink driving charge.

The terminology of **David Phinn** finding "highly confidential files that could bring the government down" is accurate. This is exactly what was broadcast over the police radio. I think that it was for the benefit of the CID because **[Police Officer #2]** attended. The request for **Supt. Hamilton** of Special Branch was also broadcast via personal radio.

Willie arrived at his office after the files were taken but there were a number of cops including me. It was a radio message to **Supt. Hamilton** that prompted him to attend outside Willie's office where they spoke.

The files were photocopied at Stewart Street Police Office. I was not involved in the photocopying. I did not physically see the files or their contents. They were boxed up when removed to the police office.

Although I had the opportunity to discuss the files with **David Phinn**, I never actually asked him about the files, their content, or impact on the government. The assumption was that the files were about Douneray or nuclear waste but no one other than **David** actually knew. In terms of those who photocopied the files I think it was **[Police Officer #2]** and **David Phinn**. **David Phinn's** wife may still be alive and living in the Clarkston area.

The information relating to **Iain Fraser** was told to me by him directly, but he is now deceased.

The senior officer who I spoke to was Inspector **John Campbell**.

The issue about copying the keys in Willie's office was in 1977.

The issue of the A5 radio message about Special Branch following Willie's car is accurate as far as the terminology is concerned. The controller used the phrase "Special Branch are following Willie's car."

On the occasion that **Sgt Thomas Younger** told us to avoid the area of Willie McRae's premises to facilitate a surveillance operation, it was the only occasion in my entire service that I was given this instruction.

On the occasion that I mentioned opening the heavy maroon curtains, Willie pointed out the window to the building across the road and said that he was under surveillance by MI5 and Special Branch.

In paragraph 14 of my previous affidavit, I noted the information as a matter for extra attention, rather than a criminal complaint. The 'no trace' was not further explored by the control room. The letter of complaint referred to was about the suspicious Triumph car, not the conduct or response of the police.

In paragraph 16 of my affidavit I made the comment about my safety in response to the advice given by police colleagues on Friday 5 April 1985 when they told me to "keep out of it." My comment about "the unwritten Ways and Means Act" was in reference to the fear and concern about what I had seen in West Nile St on 5 April 1985. If people in authority could target a man like Willie McRae then I could have been similarly at risk, albeit at that time I had not been directly threatened.

On 9 March 2015 I received a death threat letter which I handed in to **Sgt Morag Clark** at Buchie police office on Tuesday 15 June 2015. She told me that there was little chance of identifying the source of the threat. I don't know if the letter was forensically examined because no one has told me.

Signed Donald Morrison.

#### **Email Correspondence with Donald Morrison**

**[note: reprinted word for word, including typos, spelling mistakes etc.]**

On 16 Feb 2016, at 15:02, John Weir <johnweir wrote:

Hello Donald Can you give me a call please re the subject

Thanks John.

Sent from my iPhone

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On 16/02/2016 17:10, John Weir wrote:

Donald I meant to mention that I am a friend of Mark MacNicol who gave me your contact details I am helping him re the campaign

John

Sent from my iPhone

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On 16 Feb 2016, at 19:16, Donald <Donald Morrison > wrote:

Hello John ! I recall a John Weir in A Div. in the early 70's ! Could this be yourself or a relative. Anyway it is more that likely that we met at one time or another. I spent all my service in A Div. having joined the Gorbals sub.office in 1971.

Mark mentioned that you were willing to help with a view to get to the truth about Willie McRae which have been avoiding us for far too long. Ask Mark to give you a copy of affidavit I signed last year in the presence of lawyer and notary Hugh Fraser. I have no doubt that there has been a concerted major cover-up by Special Branch et al in the death of Mcrae whilst enroute to his holiday home in Kintail.

Craig Macdonald of the Sunday has a lot of incriminating info which he will publish in rthe not too distant future !

Cheers

Donald

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie Mac Crae  
Date: Tue, 16 Feb 2016 20:43:34 +0000  
To: Donald Morrison

Hi Donald Tried calling but you are engaged  
John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie Mac Crae  
Date: Wed, 17 Feb 2016 06:54:12 +0000  
To: Donald Morrison

Hi Donald I joined 1984 worked mostly govan and pollock, retired 2014. Sorry I missed your call will catch up later today hopefully

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Donald Morrison  
Subject: Re: Willie Mac Crae  
Date: Fri, 19 Feb 2016 10:25:12 +0000  
To: johnweir

Hi John ! Hope both of arrived home safely after your long drive from the north coast. It was good to see you both and enjoyed the banter about old memories. Anyway I am sure that both of you are just as concerned as I am about getting some semblance of truth about how McRae met his death. It still haunts me after over 30yrs as I could have done something about it as he left West Nile St. that morning. Remember , I said that McRae's diary had been interfered with and several pages were pulled out and burnt to cinder and left on carpet. There is no doubt that his planned visit to Kintail would be highlighted in his diary . I recall him asking me if it was possible to get prints from his light blue ( half H size) diary. I said that because of the rough outside cover it was very unlikely. He said that he always left his diary in the top drawer and it was removed from there and left on top of his desk. You said that it was unusual for those taking surveillance to be dressed in suits as was the case with McRae. However McRae was in transit from his home , called at his office in Bath St. then made an unplanned visit to Agnews store ( probably his pursuers would not have been aware of this call beforehand) to purchase Islay Mist this being the only whisky he took according to manager [**Off-licence Manager**] whilst enroute to Kintail. This could be the reason that both males taking OBS were wearing suits. I admit that I did not go on a course for surveillance but I had quite a lot of experience in very serious surveillance work along with CID which I cannot go into in detail just now but will tell you later next time we visit Glasgow. When you get time John maybe you could e-mail me a copy of our discussion on Thursday 18th. I knew you were anxious to hit the road back along the A9 so I did not read it ! Regards to Ginger John !

Donald  
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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie Mac Crae  
Date: Fri, 19 Feb 2016 11:18:01 +0000  
To: Donald Morrison

Yes Donald we made it home safe and sound (despite Red's frantic driving). I will give you a copy of my notes when you are down. Thanks for the additional information in your e-mail, all noted with gratitude. Finally thank you to you and your good lady for excellent hospitality and of course your very generous gift Please take care,

Kindest regards Wee John Police officer

Sent from my iPhone  
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From: Donald Morrison  
Subject: Re: Willie Mac Crae  
Date: Sun, 21 Feb 2016 09:32:29 +0000  
To: johnweir

Hi John ! Just one little point which neither of us picked up on during your visit on Friday 19th. Remember when Mcrae reported a blue triumph persistently circling his office premises. He reported this to Stewart St police office by contacting **Supt. Hamilton** and by writing letter of complaint to Chief Constables office. I attended with a colleague and got female controller to do a PNC check. With 'No trace' result !. You mentioned that ( No Trace) this could be a result of Block --- when some company had a large amount of veh's. This Block you referred to was indeed Block Insurance Policy, which covered all company veh's. but company had to deposit if my memory serves me either £50,000 or £100,000 with some Government Authority before this cover was given.. It did not apply to DVLA identity of motor veh's. Also I have checked back and see that I was Community officer working alternative weekly shifts of 8am -4pm and 10am- 6 pm from 1983. and did not work other shifts thereafter .So on 5th April 1985,the day I saw Mcrae - I was on 8am to 4pm shift. My regular neighbour was '**Chopper** ' **James Harris** but was not with me on this particular lovely and clear Spring day.. We always refreshed with the pipe-band unit who were stationed at Stewart street at that time. I recall going into the canteen -1 up at Stewart St and joining several pipe band unit.The topic was that **David Phinn** who was present had been put forward to be awarded Chief Constables Commendation by Special Branch after finding files considered dangerous to the Government. I recall that **PC Phinn** was delighted about the proposal of being mention in dispatches. I believe **John Wilson** was sergeant at that time, **Insp Dougie Gillespie** , **pc James Wark**,**pc Harry McAteer** , **pc Sid Spence**, **pc Barry Donaldson**, (later Insp.) **pc James MacLean**, ( **Probably Alistair MacPhee**) **pc Iain MacLellan**, **pc Alick Connell** and **pc David Phinn** were present at that time. I have written a FOI to Pitt St requesting date **David Phinn** was awarded Commendation but given negative result . See you when I visit Glasgow !

Cheers Donald

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie Mac Crae  
Date: Sun, 21 Feb 2016 10:06:59 +0000  
To: Donald Morrison

Thanks Donald very helpful

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From: johnweir  
Subject: W MacC

Date: Tue, 23 Feb 2016 16:41:10 +0000

To: Donald Morrison

Can you give the contact details for the ex CID officer that you mentioned may have info I will contact him to discuss case Cheers Donald

Sent from my iPhone

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From: johnweir

Subject: Fwd: W MacC

Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2016 09:19:16 +0000

To: Donald Morrison

Hi Donald hope you are well Don't know if you got my previous e mail so this is just a re send

Thanks John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Donald Morrison

Subject: Visit on Friday

Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2016 09:20:53 +0000

To: johnweir

Hello John ! I sent **Roddy** an e-mail to see if he had any info about those involved in the McRae case. Understandably, as I expected **Roddy** is not interested in chasing this up or getting any way involved after all these years. Him and his wife have not been enjoying the best of health like ourselves over the past couple of years. On Friday morning before you arrived Mary and I attended at Spec Savers, Elgin where I got new specs some 4 weeks ago and had various tests carried out on both my eyes. They have now referred me to hospital for cataracts in both eyes and quite serious pressure at the back of my right eye. It could not have happened at a worse time as we now have to possibly cancel holidays and other engagements. I suppose it is part of getting old ! They also retained the new specs I bought only a few weeks ago, so I am now having to use glasses for long distance vision. That was the reason that I suggested that you read over the notes I gave you and 'ginger John' as it was all blurred to me. By that ,I am not critical of your handwriting ! We intended visiting relatives in Glasgow within the next few weeks but that will now take place much later in the year. Whatever you do John ! Please do not call to see our relative **[Off-licence Manager]** and his wife. His wife strongly believes that they and their family are targets by 'forces of darkness' for their association and observations of Willie McRae. Both have spent sleepless nights because of this. Since i am now curtailed to the house maybe you could send me a

copy of our deliberations by e-mail or post. Should you or 'Ginger John' visit this area give us a call ! regards Donald.

Hi Roddy ! Did you have any involvement in this case ?? Donald

Although aware of this case I had no involvement. At that time I was in the CID in Inverness. Smells a bit. Roddy

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Visit on Friday  
Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2016 09:26:17 +0000  
To: Donald Morrison

All noted Donald I am sad to learn the bad news regarding your eyes and I hope that this is addressed soon. I also respectfully acknowledge the position of **Off Licence Manager** and your relatives I will scan and e mail your statement this weekend Take care

John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Donald Morrison  
Subject: Re: Visit on Friday  
Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2016 09:36:03 +0000  
To: johnweir

Hi John !

There are too many **Roddy's. Roddy Mitchell** ! The CID officer is the one I was referring to in the first couple of lines . Thank you for concern about my eyes !!

Cheers Donald

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Visit on Friday  
Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2016 09:46:32 +0000  
To: Donald Morrison

Thanks Donald

Sent from my iPhone

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----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Info.  
Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2016 10:06:07 +0000

From: Donald <Donald Morrison To: Donald <Donald Morrison

Hello John ! Forgive me if you feel that I am pesturing you !! This is an avenue which has not been any research done relative to the mistery about Willie. I think it was about 2006 that the beautiful Isla Traquair attended at my home along with a camera team from Grampian Television. This tape should be somewhere in Grampian TV archives at Aberdeen. I was interviewed along with **Iain Fraser** at my home. Therafter [**Off-licence Manager**] was also interviewed at his home in Glasgow. I recall that after the team left here they said that they were heading to Inverness to see other folk. Worth a look John because to my knowledge nobody have looked at this and it could be very informative !!Snippets like this could be usefull !!

Cheers Donald

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Info.  
Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2016 10:18:56 +0000  
To: Donald Morrison

Noted will do  
Sent from my iPhone

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From: Donald Morrison  
Subject: RE Willie  
To: johnweir  
Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2016 09:33:21 +0000

Hello John ! Thank you for sending statement about MCRae.. Just one vital point I noticed which reads \_\_\_( Paragraph 6. ) On Friday 5th April 1985 when colleague told me " Keep out of it " . Willie was not dead until 6th April and I was not aware of how he met his death for several days later. Even then I thought that Mcrae had drank the 2 bottles of Islay Mist ( The only whisky he drank.) on the way up to Kintail. It was later I learned that it was suspected suicide !!

Cheers Donald

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On 5 May 2016, at 17:06, Donald <Donald Morrison wrote:

Hi John ! Just to clear up a couple of points John !. Did you visit **Chief Insp. Sutherland**, or **DI . Gavin Andrews**, or **Support officer Andrene Mac Leod** (at FOI Inverness) or **Sgt Morag Clark** at Buckie police office on Wednesday / Thursday when you gave me a visit. I remember you saying on Wed. morning at 0940hrs that you were phoning from Fort William and that you would see me in an hours time having travelled from Glasgow that morning. It takes at least

2 / 3 hrs to get here from Fort William . Was it not Inverness you phoned from that morning. When I phoned you in the late afternoon to see what the delay was you said that you were held up and that you would not see me until lunch-time Thursday. I feel that statements from the above would have been very important to this case as my statements have been doctored by police. I have made complaint to Chief Constable and Procurator fiscal at Elgin regarding this matter. I strongly feel that an English force should interview Scottish police officers involved in McRae case under caution with a view to get to the truth ! Mark told me that you had interviewed new witnesses ! Cheers Donald

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On 05/05/2016 20:17, John Weir wrote:

Hi Donald The simple answer is NO John and I didn't visit or speak to any of the people that you mentioned as we had no reason to do so at this stage We were trying to focus upon the events of Friday 5 to Sunday 7 April 1985 to bottom out the anomalies around the car, gun, who did and saw what and the "neat pile of papers and cards" that were 10 yards from the car.

Also John and I didn't stay in Fort William, we passed through en route to Fort Augustus, then to Sallachy, then on to Inverness where we stayed over and the following morning we researched our papers before coming to you We were delayed for two reasons the main one being that we spent time going back through your affidavit and also researched the statements that we had taken en route to you. We also got sidetracked on a new road that didn't register on our sat/nav . If indeed your statements had been doctored as you say, the one that I took from you is not. It is this statement that has progressed our investigation and that is being provided to the campaign group Hope this explains your points

Cheers John

Sent from my iPhone

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On 5 May 2016, at 22:46, Donald <Donald Morrison wrote:

Hello John ! Thanks for e-mail My apology if you thought that I inferred that the statement you took from me was doctored . The lengthy statement that Insp. **Gavin Adrew** obtained from me in March 2011 had as many 8 to 10 paragraphs deliberately missing, Details of my relative, **[Off-licence Manager]** who served McRae that Friday morning were also deleted with my signature photocopied and added to my alleged statement. Letter from **CH. Inspector Sutherland** who was detailed the inquiry by the Crown Office makes a feeble attempt to say that my statement was not doctored. There is no doubt that there has been a cover- up of the truth by police . Probably pressure applied by Special Branch on behalf of M15 or other Government Branch, as I said I spoke to Mr. McRae for several minutes that morning and he was in good spirits and looking forward to going through what was within his bulging briefcase in Kintail . As I said I contacted MP Teresa May last year with a view to get her to contact the Paedophile Police Team south of the border. Again the PF in Elgin

appeared to refer my complaint to Pf's office in Edinburgh with negative result. My wife and I attended at Buckie police office on Tuesday 16th June and made a complaint about being under surveillance from Cullen , to Fraseburgh via Port Soy, Banff, MacDuff , a distance of 39mls. I **Sgt Clark** refused to give us a copy of statement. She said that she would need to contact **Insp. Gavin Andrew** at Inverness. It now transpires that our complaint was not recorded in the offence / crime report register at HQ. We are both displeased about this and now considering getting GLasgow lawyer to take whatever action he deems necessary !! Best of luck with your enquiry !!

Cheers Donald

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On 05/05/2016 22:55, John Weir wrote:

All noted Donald

Thank you John

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Subject: Re: Police Inverness

To: johnweir

From: Donald Morrison

Date: Fri, 6 May 2016 11:45:26 +0100

Yes John ! I strongly suspect that Willie McRae had highly confidential info about paedophile ring -north and south of the border, In my original statement to **Det. Sgt. Gavin Andrew** I stated that I attended at Mcrae's office with a late court adjournment which he was due to attend on behalf of someone. Mcrae obviously expected this court adjournment from the PF and said something to that effect. He looked terrible and obviously had been sobbing and smelling of alcohol. He said " The bastards have killed Leui " Then he went on to say that Lord Lieu Mountbatten was a personal friend of his and served with him in India during WW11. As you will be aware he met his death on 28th August 1979. This illustrates the length of time that McRae was under observation and McRae was aware of this himself. I believe that Mountbatten may have been one Willie McRae,s source of information. For some reason the police at Stewart St. were led to believe that the finger of suspicion pointed at McRae for making incendiary device for blowing up the Postal Box at South Frederick St. near old post office HQ. ( Postal boxes had the Crown ) I have been keeping newspaper cuttings about McRae since his death. I read somewhere that **former Solicitor General Nicholas Fairburn** attended at the Crown Office the following week after McRae demise !. I feel that the occupants of the two cars ( whom i observed) that followed McRae from West Nile St on Friday 5th April 1985 would have been aware that they would not be held responsible for whatever action they took ! The reason I asked you to stay overnight was to inform you both of all I knew about Mcrae. My wife and I will be visiting Glasgow again about 20th of May .

Cheers Donald

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Subject: Statement

Date: Tue, 10 May 2016 10:11:09 +0100

From: Donald <Donald Morrison

Hello John

Reference Statement I gave you about AFFIDAVID. At the end of page 4 and the start of page 5 you write " I was not involved in the photocopying" This is true because I was not physically involved in this process but I did see the two who were involved in the photocopying at the photocopying machine in the corridor between the Uniform Bar and the boiler room. In paragraph 6 in my AFFIDAVID i said that I was part of the police team tasked to remove and photocopy files is correct . Also omitted from my statement was the fact that I was instructed by 4/5 plain clothes officers in attendance to stand directly across the road in Bath Street near McCormicks music shop to take observations on the red ford escort car that was parked outside McRae's office which was going to be used to take files in boxes to Stewart Street. I was there for at least an hour and remember getting terribly cold. Parking restrictions would have been in operation at that time. Also missing was the fact that under no circumstances whatsoever was I to leave my post even if I received an emergency call to attend elsewhere. I also helped to place boxes in the car. I cannot remember whether the boxes were open or closed at the top at that time. There was so many boxes in the escort that there was no room for anybody else other than the driver. I then walked to Stewart Street police office. This took about 5 mins. On my arrival there I attended the corridor where the Photocopying machine was placed . Some of the boxes had already been removed from the the escort car and were placed on the floor across from the machine. At this point (as I already told you ) **Supt. Hamilton** ordered **PC David Phinn** and I to go up to the canteen /refreshment area ( 1 up) and bring one of the tables down to the corridor to place the boxes containing the files thereon. At this point there were 4/5 plain clothes officers present- two of whom were engaged with photocopying files while the others were inspecting the files within the opened boxes. At this point **Supt. Hamilton** suggested getting a loan of another photocopying machine from Marks & Spencers, S/ Hall St. I told **Supt. Hamilton** that I was friendly with one of the officers in the Scottish Crime Squad who were on the second floor at Stewart Street police office and that they would give us the use of their photocopying machine. We grabbed a box of files each and went up to the second floor to see them. I was surprised and indeed embarrassed when our request was refused. Thereafter both **Mr. Hamilton** and I returned the boxes to the table in the corridor. Both **Mr Hamilton** and I were willing to help and indeed removed files from one of the boxes for inspection. I do not recall whether any of the files we removed from the boxes were of enough interest to be photocopied. After a while one of the officers present asked **Mr. Hamilton** and I to refrain from examining the files as only they knew' the order' in which the files were removed from the filing cabinets. Also not included in my statement was the fact Mr McRae was very angry and shouting at myself and other uniform officers outside his premises in Bath Street after him discovering his filing cabinet contents were taken to Stewart Street police office. One of the uniformed officers present( whom I believe was **PC David Phinn** ) said " I am not taken anymore of this shit" and requested **Supt. Hamilton** to

attend. A few minutes later **Mr.Hamilton** arrived in marked police car . Both were shouting at each other in the street outside McRae's office. **Mr.Hamilton** said that files were taken to Stewart Street for safe keeping. This was a blatant lie as I saw Mcrae's files being photocopied at Stewart Street police office. Not surprisingly, charity containers with cash and petty cash box were not taken to Stewart street for safe keeping. Some day in the near future we may get to the truth as to how McRae met his death.

Donald

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On 10 May 2016, at 10:51, Donald <Donald Morrison wrote:

Hello ! As a retired Detective Ch. Insp. John Weir, does it not surprise you that the team of plain clothes officers who attended at Willie McRae's office to remove files from his office in Bath Street that morning had done a disappearing act when it came to returning Willie McRae's files to his office ?? This was done by several of us uniformed officers in Alpha Mike 6 the division van used for picking up prisoners to make the whole operation look genuine to lawyer Mr. McRae !. There is no doubt that statements to police about McRae have gone through a doctored and alteration process with a view to exclude SB & M15 involvement in the case. Time for inquiry !!

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On 10/05/2016 12:12, John Weir wrote:

Donald I am keen to follow this up if possible Can you advise me of the details of any of the other officers who were involved in the removal of and copying of the files from Willies office? I know of **Phinn** and **[Police Officer #2]** but would like to speak with others

Thanks John

Sent from my iPhone

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On 10 May 2016, at 13:00, Donald <Donald Morrison wrote:

Hi John ! I recall **[Police Officer #2]** being involved with at least three others in removal of boxes from McRae's office. I knew all cid officers from the boss to the d/c's and had a very friendly relationship with them all and often passed info to them about 'Main Index' offenders. I had a very good knowledge of criminal activity within the division and passed this on to cid officers who were appreciative of info I gave them. Of course you will appreciate that I cannot go into this on line. Had it been local cid officers who were along with **[Police Officer #2]** I would have known them as I knew them all by 1st name. Wherever they came from I feel that they were not from A Div.. I recall that some of the boxes if not all were numbered ! At the end of the day I would like the police to tell the truth . Senior officers at H.Q. at Pitt Street at the time would have no doubt been aware and discussed the McRae case . It is now over 30yrs since McRae's death ,itis such a pity that someone



with your police knowledge did not take an interest some years ago to get involved. ! Thanks again John !

Donald

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On 11/05/2016 08:37, John Weir wrote:

Donald I get that you were present when boxes were removed from Willies office and that other cid officers unknown to you except [**Police Officer #2**] assisted but what other uniformed colleagues were there that I can interview for corroboration?? For example AM6 crew?? I am trying to back up your story re the boxes etc

John

Sent from my iPhone

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On 11/05/2016 10:01, Donald wrote:

Hi John ! There were no uniform officers involved in taking the boxes from McRae's office. I recall [**Police Officer #2**] being there well dressed . The others present were all casually dressed and not known to me. I can only assume that they were CID from some other branch. I recall that there were at least four or five of us in uniform involved in returning the boxes. The only one I recall being there was **PC David Phinn** who took objection to Willie MCRae shouting and bawling at us for removing his files. **David Phinn** said that he was not taking any more shit from McRae and it was him who requested **Supt. Hamilton** to attend. I just cannot recall who the other officers were. Probably at this point it would help if Mark McNicol got in touch with the press and requested that officers involved in McRae case came forward.

Cheers Donald

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On 11/05/2016 10:33, John Weir wrote:

Donald, all noted. As you will know **David Phinn** is now sadly deceased and [**Police Officer #2**] has absolutely no idea about this incident. He states that he was not involved in, or has knowledge of such an incident. This is why I was looking for some other area of corroboration from someone else who was there. If your position is that only [**Police Officer #2**] and **David Phinn** were involved in copying documents then I'm afraid I can take this no further for the reasons mentioned. You mentioned officers from AM6, who were they? You may ne interested to know that I have traced and spoken with **Ian Fraser's** former wife. Can you advise me if you know of a man called [**Friend #1**] and if so where I can reach him. He was a friend of Willie's.

John.

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Subject: Re: Statement  
To: johnweir  
From: Donald Morrison  
Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 11:20:24 +0100

Hello John ! Of course I am not surprised to hear that **[Police Officer #2]** has no knowledge of this incident. He acknowledged the call to attend at Willie McRae's office after **pc David Phinn** found the files that were considered so dangerous that they could bring the government down. From the time **David Phinn** received the call to attend until the time he recovered the said files was I recall very brief. I believe that **PC Phinn** was probably told secretly what /where to find such files. Just a matter of minutes after **David Phinn** recovered these doc's he obviously got in touch with the ( female civilian) controller. ( **[Communications Officer]** and **[name redacted]** were two of the controllers, I dont recall the other two who were there ) I definately heard the call coming over the radio requesting **[Police Officer #2]** to attend. Therafter I heard another call coming over the PR radio to the effect that **SB and Supt Hamilton** were informed of the circumstances. I have already informed you that there was 4/5 people ( other than **Supt. Hamilton** and I) involved in the corridor at the photocopyier which was situated between the uniform bar and the boiler room . It was **PC Phinn** and I who were instructed by **Mr. Hamilton** to bring a table from messroom on the first floor to place the boxed files on top . It is not my position that only **David Phinn** and **[Police Officer #2]** were involved in photocopying the said files. John ! The driver of AM6 was not involved in photocopying any of the files. When McRae unexpectedly arrived at his office that day he obviously contacted Stewart Street police office about files missing. At this particular time the said files were at Stewart St. being photocopied. This immediately caused 'Pandemonium' and caused **Mr Hamilton** to go in a flap. Suddenly the files were taken back to McRae's office by AM6 driver and other uniformed officers including myself and **David Phinn**. There were two if not three other officers involved with us to take boxed files to McRae's office. AS I said in my previous e-mail I do not recall who these other officers were. However I suggest that you try and contact **PC Iain Neil/ Alan Ogilvie/ James Harris/ Alisdair MacPhee / [Police Officer #3]** and **[Police Officer #5]** who was the Div. Commander's driver. It may have been him that brought **Supt. Hamilton** to Bath Street when McRae was giving the uniformed officers a hard time regarding files been removed from his office. You ask me who **[Friend #1]** is ! This is the same person as **[Friend #1]**. You seem to be in touch with him already as you mentioned that he was abroad at present and that he has a holiday home In North Uist which he lets out. You said that you spoke to Iain Fraser's former wife **[Private Investigator's Ex- Wife]**. Two years ago she tried to get a copy of statement that was taken at my home in 2011 by CID from Inverness. She was not successful. I secretly arranged for **Iain Fraser** to come to my home the day officers from Inverness were attending to see me. Some 4/5 weeks before McRae's death he got a call from Newcastle requesting that he took obseration on McRae and others who would be with him while attending an SNP meeting in EDinvurgh. **Iain** , who was a former CID officer had left the force and set up his own private detective agency . His office was 4/5 up - above

the lawyers offices of Murray,McRae & Spens in Bath St. In 1981 , after a fall out **Len Murray** and McRae parted company and he moved along Bath St.. Next to McRae's office on the first floor to the left was Celtic millionaire Director. He had been there he told me for 28yrs with out a break-in until McRae arrived. He blamed McRae's presence for the security of his property being overcome and was raging about this happening. McRae property had been broken into 4/5 times and never discovered until the following .No cash was ever taken. When McRae was office -sharing with **Len Murray** before 1981 I was asked on several occasions by senior uniformed officers to try and get copy of keys from either cleaning lady or door commissionaire. John ! The longer this evasiveness of the truth continues the harder it will be to get to the truth. I believe Willie McRae was silenced probably because of what he knew about PAEDOPHILE RING north / south of the border.. Only an Inquiry will get to the truth. There has been a massive cover-up by police in this case !

Cheers Donald

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Subject: Re: Statement  
To: johnweir  
From: Donald Morrison  
Date: Wed, 11 May 2016 16:12:09 +0100

I have been trying to recollect who the other uniformed policemen were. Have you got access to retired officers names / addresses ? I think it maybe worth while trying to contact the following who used to work with me to see if they remember being there ! **Pc Jamas Harris** who was dayshift with me . He retired in the late 80's I believe. **Alisdair MacPhee** was also dayshift community officer with me about this time. **Pc Iain Neil** who stayed near [address redacted] was also community cop at that time he may have been involved. Possibly **Alan Ogilvy** may remember whether he was there or not. **[Police Officer #3]** was also community officer he may recall if he was there at the time files were returned. **[Police Officer #5]** was the the bosses divisional driver . he used to stay in [address redacted]. He may recall if it was him who **brought Mr. Hamilton** to Bath St. to see Mr. McRae.

Cheers Donald

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Statement  
Date: Wed, 11 May 2016 16:58:59 +0100  
To: Donald Morrison

Noted thanks I will follow this I but it may take some time

John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Statement  
Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 11:46:42 +0100  
To: Donald Morrison  
CC: johnnyred

Thanks Donald I had an e mail address for **[Friend #1]** but he didn't respond I have since heard that he had moved to the east coast somewhere and I am trying to find him I also have traced the whereabouts of **[Police Officer #3]** and will progress that line of inquiry I have spoken to **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** and she told about the Newcastle contract **[Police Officer #2]** seemed to me to be genuine and I can't think why after all this time as a retired senior police officer he would be untruthful, nonetheless I will pursue the others you mentioned to seek corroboration

You now advise me that YOU were one of the officers who took the original files back to Willies office, did that not afford you a good opportunity to look at the files or at least ask those who copied them what they were about??? It seems reasonable that, having learned of their importance and high profile risk , you would be professionally curious enough to want to know what all the fuss was about??, what the "pandemonium" was about Even in the days following the incident it would be the talk of the steamy at Stewart street among the troops but according to you there was absolutely no discussion or mention of it?? Even although you worked with **Davy Phinn** you claim that you didn't speak about the files contents , you surely must agree that this seems odd that such an event didn't merit canteen gossip!! As it stands I have no one speaking to the contents of those files but perhaps **[Police Officer #3]** will shed some light I will of course keep you advised

Cheers John

Sent from my iPhone

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Subject: Re: Statement  
To: johnweir  
From: Donald Morrison  
Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 12:18:46 +0100

John !

Ref. **[Communications Officer]** Her name was [redacted] ( Daughter of GP who had practice in Gt. Western Rd.) She married cop **[Police Officer #1]** from Stewart St P.O.. One of the other controllers became ' Supers clerk' and I believe remained there for over 20yrs. and only retired a couple of years ago . John Walker would remember her I am sure !

Donald

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Subject: Re: Statement  
To: johnweir  
From: Donald Morrison  
Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 12:47:28 +0100

Yes John ! There was plenty gossip within Stewart St. I can assure you. **David Phinn** was recommended for Chief Constables commendation by SB according to him. I was at Stewart St, when he mentioned this to several pipe band police officers. He was advised not to discuss the matter You seem to suggest that the uniformed officers who were engaged in returning the files from Stewart St had an opportunity to inspect contents of files in boxes . It takes about 3/4 mins from Stewart St to McRae's office in Bath St. and Mr. McRae was already waiting for their return outside his office in Bath St. I have already told you that Willie McRae was giving the uniformed officers a hard time shouting and bawling at us when we returned the files. At this point **PC David Phinn** rather sarcastically said that he had enough of this 'SHIT' and requested **Supt. Hamilton** to attend. Those who had taken the files from his office copied the files as I already told you had done a disappearing act. They did not wish to know and were not involved in their return for obvious reasons.. I saw **David Phinn** discussing case with pipe band unit in messroom. I suggest that you also contact retired **Ch. Supt. John Wilson** who would have been aware of **David Phinn's** involvement in the case. He was at that time senior officer in the pipe band unit.  
Donald

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From: johnweir  
To: Donald Morrison  
Subject: RE: Statement  
Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 14:14:06 +0100

Donald, If , as you suggest, officers returning the files had insufficient time to read any of them to learn their contents because Mr McRae was going crazy at the scene, why did no one simply ask [**Police Officer #2**] and/or **Davy Phinn** what was in the files. Surely there was enough time in the following days to strike that conversation? If Mr McRae was giving the officers a hard time at the scene did those officers not consider warning him re his conduct or taking further action ? Did Mr McRae make a formal complaint against the police? He was a lawyer after all so would know what powers the police had to remove property. The police could have advised that the files were taken for finger printing and would be returned when completed. This would have given plenty of time to copy , .read or do anything else to the files I am not doubting that **David** may have been commended for his actions but that does not enlighten anyone regarding the contents of the file. One would imagine that when a cop on the shift carries out his duty in such a manner that it merits a Chief Constable's commendation, then the whole shift and indeed the office would be bursting to know what he had done to get it. I myself have received such an award back in 1985 and was inundated

with calls and questions from curious colleagues about what I had done to merit such an award. It would have been read out in the DBR! If **Davy Phinn** broadcast a radio message that informs everyone on duty that he has recovered files so sensitive that they could bring down the government then every cop and his dog would be bursting to know what it was about, yet according to you, you didn't ask him and he didn't tell you even though you neighbored him afterwards and talked to him in the office. Unless I am mistaken the only people that should be available now to know the content of the files are **[Police Officer #2]**, unidentified plainers and possibly members of the pipe band unit, albeit we don't know exactly what they were told if anything. As I said, I will track down other officers that you have mentioned in the sincere hope that I can corroborate your version of events

John

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Subject: Re: Statement

To: johnweir

From: Donald Morrison

Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 19:14:29 +0100

Hi John ! As you well know that when the security of property is overcome and the keyholder is not available a joiner is called out to make the premises secure. Not so with Willie McRae ! and no wonder he was raging and very angry. In all my service I did not read any material whatsoever that was available in office premises after housebreakings. Why should uniform police read these files ? they had nothing to do with us. I personally do not know whether Mr McRae made a complaint about police conduct by removing contents of his private cabinets . I feel that he had a just reason to complain. Mr. McRae was anything but stupid and was aware that he was under surveillance by SB / M15. Yes ! He told us so on several occasions. You say that he was a lawyer and would know what police powers had to remove private ,personal ,property. You also suggest that police could have said that files were removed to be finger printing and would be returned later. BY saying so ,you appear to endorse the removal of files !. In that case you would have thought that the whole burst filing cabinets would also have been taken to police office for fingerprinting. By suggesting that this cheating seems to be agreeable to you is beyond the pale ! No doubt had anyone asked **David Phinn** or **[Police Officer #2]** what was in the files the reply would have been likely negative . Do you not understand that whatever was in the files were obviously of a very serious nature , hence the reason that immediately Special Branch recommended that he should get Chief Constables commendation. At the time there were rumours that SB/M15 interest in McRae was related to nuclear dumping in Scotland. AS I told you when you visited me I said that there was also a rumour about the office that Willie McRae was involved in blowing up Crown postal box in George Square. This would make him a target would it not ?? However I now believe that McRae had information relating to Paedophile Ring north / south of the border. I do not consider that any cop illegally sifting through personal lawyers property are worthy as you say of commendation. All **David Phinn** said to the pipe band officers in the messroom was that he got commendation for finding files which were dangerous to the Government ! Nothing else, Probably he was warned not to discuss the matter any further. None of us were all that interested or considered it the

'crime of the year' Again you say that **David Phinn** broadcasted a message that informs everyone on duty that he had recovered files ! It was the [**Communications Officer**] at Stewart St . police office that relayed this message on the radio and not **David Phinn** !! John! you are deliberately trying to make me a scapegoat for not doing this and that and now feel that it is a waste of time giving you any more information about this case. As I told you when you visited my home that Hindsight is a wonderful thing. The Press have suddenly got interested in the McRae scenario and are looking for any leads. It was quite obvious to me in 2011 when I eventually realised that my statements to Inverness CID were doctored that there had been a major Police Cover-up in the death of Mr McRae. Why should senior police officers do this are a period of 27yrs smells as a former Inverness police inspector told me recently. I also have a few Chief Constables commendations .some from other forces which I helped while off duty.

Cheers Donald

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----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Re: Fwd: RE: Statement  
Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 21:58:52 +0100  
From: Donald <Donald Morrison

Hello John ! You are making an issue as to why the uniformed officers returning the files to Willie Mcrae's office did not look to see what the contents were ! I am quite sure that none of us had the slightest interest in starting to look at the files in boxes while in transit. Willie McRae was outside his office waiting for our arrival and he was like a raging bull and to be truthful I did not blame him. You will know that it is common practice to get a joiner to secure property after a break in if the police are unable to contact keyholder. When neither **David Phinn** or indeed [**Police Officer #2**] volunteer to tell us what serious information was in McRae's files surely it is understandable that they did not wish to divulge such secret information. More than likely they were well warned not to tell anybody what it was all about. Personally I was not the slightest interested as to whatever was in the files. You mention mcRae 's conduct at the locus and why he was not warned ! By your suggestion that the police could have said that the files were taken for finger printing and would be returned brings this enquiry to a new low ! I certainly do not know whether Mr.McRae made a formal complaint to police HQ or not at this time.You also add that Mr. Mcrae being a lawyer would have known police powers that would authorise the removal of said files. That I am sure depends on what was in the files !. John ! you also seem to agree that pc **David Phinn** was justifiably awarded Commendation for finding the files and informing CID / Special Branch. This information that was in McRae's files may or may not have led to a conviction at the highest Court in the land. There is no doubt that McRae was under surveillance and he was aware of this.Regarding Commendations - I also hae commendations for helping police from outside forces while on holidays. I never considered this a big deal- just part of the job. You also mention that if **Davie Phinn** broadcasted a radio message that informs all on duty that he had recovered sensitive files dangerous to the Government. It was not **David Phinn** that relayed that message but the [**Communications Officer**]. who requested that [**Police Officer #2**] attended. Then the call came over that he

was in fact attending. You also stated that I could have asked **pc Phinn** about contents of files . To be quite honest with you I was not all that interested at that particular time, I only got interested in the McRae case after meeting his death after being followed by two double manned cars from West Nile St while he made his way to Kintail. I say again, I believe that he was silenced for information he had in his possession. Yes the very information that was photocopied by police Authority at Stewart st. police office.

Cheers Donald  
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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Statement  
Date: Thu, 12 May 2016 23:03:05 +0100  
To: Donald Morrison

Donald Wow!!! A lot coming back here Firstly I am not supporting nor condoning the removal of files for no reason or suggesting any form of cheating as you implicate. If you are subjective you will realise that I am simply saying that if the police at Stewart street were trying to covertly access and copy Willies files they could have told him that they needed them for fingerprinting and Wille being a lawyer would likely have accepted that explanation for their seizure. Also I am NOT saying that uniform cops should have any interest in the content of the files but as an ex cop myself I am saying that curiosity would have been a major draw to asking about the contents that were broadcast as having potential to bring down the government Where does the paedophile motive come from???? The files could have been about anything so why throw in paedophilia as opposed to say... communism or nuclear waste or nationalism or homophobia??? for example I am also not suggesting that **Davy Phinn** sifting through personal files is worthy of commendation but it was YOU who said he got a commendation for recovering the files I am suggesting that you or others, not **Davy**, could have checked the content to ascertain what was so sensitive etc etc How do you know what **Davy** told the pipe band? Were you there? I know that **Phinn** didn't broadcast the files stuff to all officers but he must have radioed that to the control room who then broadcast it I am not making you a scapegoat for anything, on the contrary, I am eager to pan out your story but it doesn't add up ....yet. As I said I will follow up leads re the files issue and get back to you

John  
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On 13/05/2016 14:13, John Weir wrote:

Donald I am currently tracing police witnesses re your statement and in my efforts to support your account of events on Friday 5/4/85 it is imperative that I speak with [**Off-licence Manager**] I would be happy to speak with him under his terms and would if required keep his name out of the inquiry I am also happy for you to contact him first and explain my role in supporting the campaigns search for the truth



I know that you were not keen for him to be contacted but this is vitally important as I am meeting with the campaign group next week and have to report my findings Your continued help would be appreciated

John

Sent from my iPhone

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Subject: Re: WM

To: johnweir

From: Donald Morrison

Date: Fri, 13 May 2016 16:09:17 +0100

Hi John ! You are wasting your time ! **[Off-licence Manager]** has told me that he does not wish anyone to contact him or his wife who also worked in Agnews store at the time of Willie McRae's death. **[Off-licence Manager's Wife]** is absolutely terrified that her and her family could be exposed to life threatening danger for continuing this campaign about Mr McRae . I visit them quite regularly when in Glasgow and socialise with them along with other relatives. However she is liable to go into convulsions at McRae's name being mentioned. She runs into the kitchen every time the phone rings because she also knew McRae as a regular customer. All **[Off-licence Manager]** spoke to was that McRae was a regular customer and that he stocked Islay Mist especially for him and him alone . On occasions when he was out of stock Willie would not take anything else and would wait until he replenished his stock. On Friday 5th April.1985 he was on duty in the shop. He does not recall whether it was forenoon or shortly thereafter when Mr. McRae came into his shop. He made a purchase of two bottles of Islay Mist and had a blether with Willie. Mcrae told him that he was heading up to Kintail for the long weekend. Mr.McRae was in a jovial mood and very much looking forward to visit his family home. He said to **[Off-licence Manager]** as he was leaving" I will be sitting tonight in front of a log fire and enjoying a dram " I was in **[Off-licence Manager]** 's company some three weeks ago and I suggested to him that I would write an FOI for him to sign with a view to obtain a copy of his statement to Inverness police in Oct. 2011. I had personally given **[Off-licence Manager]** 's details ( Address and Tel. number) to **Det. Sgt. Gavin Andrews**, from Inverness on22.3.2011 when he obtained a statement from me . I deliberately never mentioned that **[Off-licence Manager]** was related to my wife and I. Probably the Inverness police were of the opinion that I had recovered **[Off-licence Manager]**'s details from keyholders register. We phone each other near enough on a fortnightly basis. He kept reminding me for months that the police had not interviewed him about McRae.. Eventually I phoned **CH. Insp. Sutherland** in Sept. and informed him that I had given **[Off-licence Manager]** 's details in my statement but that he had not been visited..On hearing this he said that he would phone me back. He did phone me back and told me that he was sending a D/Const to see me to get **[Off-licence Manager]** 's details. At 1225hrs on 4/11/11 A Det, Cost. (D/c 576 attended my home and he obtained statement giving **[Off-licence Manager]** 's details. This time I told the D/c that both my wife and I were related to **[Off-licence Manager]** and tis was included

in the statement. Surprisingly when I received a copy of my original statement Mr **[Off-licence Manager]** 's name / Tel.number were missing from my statement. Therafter I sent another recorded delivery letter to FOI for a copy of my second statement to the Det/Const.. Surprised to learn again that the copy of the second statement also had **[Off-licence Manager]** 's details were again missing. **Hugh Fraser** spoke to **[Off-licence Manager]** via phone a few months ago. He now does not wish McRae's case mentioned under any circumstances.. Maybe Hugh can update you on what he said to him ! Cheers !

Donald.

( Another cop who might have been involved in returning Doc's to McRae's is **PC Gordon Aitkin** , now also retired )

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Fwd: WM

Date: Sat, 14 May 2016 08:00:19 +0100

To: markmacnicol johnnyred

Guys Please see latest from Donald I think I've pretty much exhausted enquiry with him at this stage I will try to track down **[Off-licence Manager]** independently to see if he can corroborate any of Donald's account

John

Sent from my iPhone  
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On 19/05/2016 19:53, John Weir wrote:

Hi Donald, hope you are well Was speaking to a former sergeant whom I briefly worked with in Greenock in the 1980s who hailed from Stornaway and says he knows you either from a course or enquiry in Glasgow , described you as a real character with loads of chaff. his words not mine ☺ His name is **Iain Macleod** , now retired 20 years, big guy, absolute gentleman . We managed to trace and speak with **[Police officer #3]**, **[Communications Officer]**, **[Police Officer #1]** and **[Off-licence Manager]** and have arranged to see **[Police Officer #5]** Thanks again for your help and if you can recall anyone else who may be able to provide info about the recovery of the files or the Friday surveillance please advise

Cheers John

Sent from my iPhone  
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On 19 May 2016, at 22:59, Donald <Donald Morrison wrote:

Don't forget to see retired Ch.**Supt. John Wilson**. He was pipe band Sgt . or Inspector at this time in A Div. when **David Phinn** was nominated for Commendation by SB. **JohnWilson** was very,very, friendly with pc Harry McAteer and it is possible that Harry updated **John Wilson** on what **David Phinn** told him about his visit to McRae's office. I overheard **David Phinn**

discussing this with pipe band personell Sad to say that Harry passed away several years ago .. By the way i do not recall a Sgt Iain MacLeod from Stornoway . There were several other **Doanld Morrison's** in the Div. There was also another dc in Serious Crime Squad.

CHeers Donald

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: WM  
Date: Thu, 19 May 2016 23:03:40 +0100  
To: Donald Morrison

Noted Donald Was **Gregor Macleod** in the pipe band group that may have known about the files it surveillance?

Sent from my iPhone

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Subject: Re: WM  
To: johnweir  
From: Donald Morrison  
Date: Thu, 19 May 2016 23:23:07 +0100

Hello John ! **Gregor MacLeod** might have been in the band then ! But I have a sneaking suspicion that he joined the band later on after this ! However worth a try. **Alec Connell** is another cop who would certainly be there at that time. He stays somewhere in Chyston area. Another possible is 'Big Iain' side drummer I am quite sure that he might very well be there at that time when **David Phinn** was 'cock a hoop'with recommendation proposal ! However I feel that we need something more substantial evidence. This will only get a few police to confirm that **Phinn** was recommended to Chief Cons. for his consideration,  
Donald

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END OF EMAILS BETWEEN DONALD AND JOHN.

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## 2. Off-Licence Manager

### Statement taken by John Walker Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 1440 Hours.

I have been asked if I knew Willie McRae and I did, I knew him well. He was a regular customer of mine when I was the manager of Agnews Off Sales in West Nile Street in Glasgow.

Willie McRae only drank Islay Mist Whiskey and when I didn't have any he didn't buy anything else.

I have been asked if I remember seeing him back on Friday 5th April 1985 before he died.

I do remember seeing him, he came into the shop, I think it was late morning early lunchtime, he bought two bottles of Islay Mist and cigarettes.

He told me he was going to make me jealous because he would be having a dram by the log fire in his holiday home up North.

When he purchased the whiskey he went out to his car, I never went outside.

I have been asked if I saw anything unusual happening when Willie went out to his car, I did not.

I have been asked if my wife was in the shop with me, she was but she did not go outside and will have nothing to add.

That was the last time I saw Willie McRae, I later found out that he had died when I heard it on the radio.

I was also asked if I heard or saw anything outside or a commotion after Willie left. I didn't hear or see anything at all.

I have also been asked if **Donald Morrison** came into the shop after Willie McRae left and he did not.

I don't want to be bothered about this anymore, I have been pestered over the years about the death of Willie McCrae.

### 3. Police Officer #1

**Taken at 17/5/16 at 11:00hrs**

I was in the police between 1977 and 2005 when I retired. I was based in Glasgow during my entire police service, although I did carry out a number of different duties.

You have mentioned some names to me that I remember working with in Glasgow during the 1980s. I knew a cop called **Donald Morrison** who worked in A-Division. I wasn't a close friend of his, but I knew who he was. I also knew a cop called **Davy Phinn** who I neighboured on many occasions.

You have told me about information relating to an incident in West Nile Street Glasgow on 5th April 1985 that **Donald Morrison** has described. I have never heard of that incident before.

You have also told me about information provided by Donald about secret files being removed by **Davy Phinn** at a break-in to Willie McRae's office in Bath Street Glasgow some time in 1985. Again, I have to tell you that I have never heard of such a story.

The terminology described by **Donald** that was used over the radio is very unlikely and extremely doubtful. If the police came across any sensitive material during their course of duty then without the controller detailing over the radio what it was, a supervisor would be directed to attend. I personally was radioed to call the office by telephone on an occasion where a huge amount of money was missing from a building society. This turned out to be a banking error, but nonetheless the details were not broadcast over the radio. The police were always aware that some people could tune in to police radio wavelengths therefore calls were coded and sensitive details were never broadcast.

My wife [**Communications Officer**] worked in the control room and would be able to advise you in more detail.

I can't understand why **Donald** would say such a thing and I understand that you have to try to bottom it out. I always found **Donald Morrison** to be a "Walter Mitty" type of character who would simply make up stories or exaggerate the truth.

If during canteen chit-chat someone was telling a story then **Donald** would somehow have a part to play in it. **Donald** worked mostly dayshift or in the office. He rarely worked at night and as far as I know he had no special training. We used to joke that if you shuffled a pack of cards, **Donald** would know the top card.

I worked with **Davy Phinn** and have never heard of him being commended by the Chief Constable or being nominated for such an award. I should add that **Donald Morrison** was a real busybody who liked to know everything that was going on. If he thought that **Davy Phinn** or anyone else for that matter knew about secret files that threatened the Government then he would have pestered the life out of them for the story.

## 4. Police Officer #2

I have been retired from the police for 15 years. During my service I worked in uniform and CID roles in various places including Glasgow City Centre.

You have asked me about an incident mentioned by ex police constable **Donald Morrison**, where he described a break-in to premises occupied by Willie McRae. You have told me that it was office premises in Bath Street, Glasgow and that **PC David Phinn** also attended.

I was a Detective Constable in Glasgow city centre between 1975 and 1980 when I transferred to Maryhill as a uniformed sergeant. I knew **PC David Phinn** as a cop who worked out of Stewart Street police office, whereas I worked out of Cranstonhill as a uniform cop, then out of Turnbull Street as a Detective Constable. I didn't really work with **David** but knew who he was.

I also remember a **Donald Morrison** at A-Division but never worked with him.

I have a very good memory about my police career but can honestly state that I have absolutely no knowledge nor involvement in any files or boxes being taken from an office occupied by Willie McRae.

I knew that there was a Superintendent at A-Division called **Willie Henderson** but did not know anyone called **Superintendent Hamilton**. I absolutely did not copy any files. The whole issue of me and **David Phinn** moving and copying files is utter nonsense.

I should add that **Superintendent Henderson** was not at A-Division while I worked there.

## 5. Police Officer #3

**Taken 13/5/16 at 10:30**

[Re. A list of names shown, which had been provided by Donald Morrison]

The names were all community officers except **McPhee** and **Donald Morrison** worked with them from 1989 onwards. I have no knowledge about files from Willie McRae's office being removed for copying and that any such files contained information that would bring down the government. Such a story would have been the talk of the office. I don't know anything about **David Phinn** getting a commendation.

**Donald Morrison** has appeared to have named officers that he worked with in late 1989 onwards and brought them to an incident in 1984. I was a trained police controller for about 4 years and there is no way that a controller would broadcast details about "information so

sensitive or important that it would bring the government down." This just would not have happened in the police.

At the time in 1985 I was very friendly with an officer, now deceased, who worked in special branch and if there was any copying of files or a cover up then he would have told me. I was the officers' reference in vetting in Special branch.

I knew **Donald Morrison** very well, he gave me a lift to work every day and he was a real gossip who could not keep his mouth shut. If he had seen anything suspicious in West Nile Street he would have been telling us all about it and asking everyone what was going on.

I retired in 2001 and served for 30 years. I have never heard anything about **Donald's** allegations until you told me today. I knew **[Off-licence Manager]** really well from Agnews as it was on my beat. If anything had happened on Friday 5th April 1985 then **[Off-licence Manager]** would have told me about it.

In 1985 I was in the licensing department which was dayshift with the occasional backshift. I did not work as a beat cop in 1985 when Donald claims the "file" incident occurred. I was then, and remain a staunch republican nationalist, and **Donald Morrison** knows this. If he suspected any sort of conspiracy against Willie McRae in 1985 he would have discussed it with me.

## 6. Police Officer #4

### **Statement of ex-Police Officer, Interviewed by John Weir on 13 September 2016 at Glasgow.**

*Note: The ACPO reference in this statement refers to The Association of Chief Police Officers and PNC refers to Police National Computer which is UK wide.*

I have been made aware of the content of a statement by **Donald Morrison**, an ex-police officer from Strathclyde Police 'A' Division in relation to the death of Willie McRae in 1985. I have known **Donald Morrison** for over 30 years, I worked alongside him in Community Policing when I was a constable in 'A' Division.

**Donald** was a "character" in the police. He is in my opinion an attention seeker, he was always looking to get the attention of the senior management of the Division, washing their cars, buying them lunch (at his expense) and running personal errands for them.

He was also, in my opinion, someone who couldn't be trusted & I don't mean that in a dishonest sense, but in the sense of he would do anything to enhance his own profile often at the expense of others. He would in effect "fire you in" if it got him some kudos.

I have been made aware that he claims to have been involved in an incident in West Nile Street Glasgow in April 1985, where he states that plain clothes police officers were 'watching' Willie McRae and that he was suspicious of them. I have been told that he claims the officers were acting *"...in the manner I would expect from police officers...."*. I'm not sure what he means by this comment however, the fundamental skills of a plain clothes police officer is to blend in with the surrounding area, so as not to arouse suspicion. Indeed, if the circumstances as described by **Mr Morrison** were true, the police officers would certainly not have made themselves known to him nor made any gestures that would have drawn attention to them.

I am also advised that **Mr Morrison** claims that a former colleague, now deceased had attended a call of a housebreaking at the office premises of Willie McRae and had claimed to have found documents *"that were so important that they would bring the government down"*. I do not believe this to have happened. Firstly, as a former Police Controller, I can advise that such a message would not be broadcast over an open radio frequency. Secondly, to suggest that a Superintendent attended the premises and ordered photocopies to be taken of such documents and then to seize them without lawful authority just beggars belief. I also refuse to believe that senior officers would ask **Mr Morrison** to unlawfully obtain keys for premises.

I have also been advised that **Mr Morrison** claims that he asked the Controller to PNC check a vehicle, the result of which was "no trace". There has been a suggestion that Special Branch & MI5 vehicles are not registered on PNC and that "no trace" of their vehicles would be expected if a check were carried out. I am a former Chairman of the ACPO PNC Vehicle Working Group and can confirm that **ALL** registered vehicles are recorded on PNC. In the case of 'sensitive' police and security services vehicles, these can be recorded as "BLOCKED" on PNC. This in effect means that the blue Triumph vehicle checked by Mr Morrison, either bore false plates or he recorded the information incorrectly.

In conclusion, as stated above, I have known **Donald Morrison** for over 30 years. Whilst he is a likeable man, he is in my opinion a "Walter Mitty" character who is capable of doing what he can to enhance his credibility or put him in the limelight for that "fifteen minutes of fame".

## 7. Police Officer #5

12:00 hrs 25/05/16

I live alone at the above address [redacted]. I joined the City of Glasgow police on May 1955 and I retired from Strathclyde Police in 1988. I spent my entire service in A-Div working from Turnbull Street, Lawmoor and Stewart Street. It was whilst at Stewart Street that I was aware of an officer called **Donald Morrison**.

I have been made aware by John Walker and John Weir who are conducting an investigation for the Justice for Willie McRae Campaign, that Donald Morrison has mentioned my name regarding an incident that happened in the city centre.



I have been shown a statement by Donald Morrison that states there was a break-in to Willie McRae's office where sensitive documents were removed by police to be photocopied. I was also shown an email extract from **Donald Morrison** that mentions that I drove **Superintendent Hamilton** to the office.

I can categorically say I was not involved in this incident and I have no knowledge of any incident ever taking place.

**Donald's** statement mentioned **David Phinn** receiving the documents and receiving a commendation. I knew **David Phinn** very well and I have no knowledge of **David** ever receiving a Police Constable commendation.

I also know **Donald Morrison** very well and I would describe him as completely unreliable and a fantasist.

I read in **Donald's** statement about Willie McRae being watched by surveillance officers on Friday 5th April 1985. I have never heard anything about it, but I wouldn't believe anything **Donald** said.

## 8. Communications Officer

### Taken by phone at 20:25 on 17/5/16

I was a civilian in the A-division control room between 1980 and 1988 when I was transferred to Force HQ at Pitt Street. I left the service in 1990.

You have asked about my knowledge of an incident in 1985 or thereabouts regarding a break-in to the office of Willie McRae in Bath Street, Glasgow where files were recovered and removed for copying by the police before being taken back.

You have explained that this story has come from **Donald Morrison**, whom I remember as a constable from Stewart Street.

I have absolutely no knowledge or recollection of this incident and find it difficult to believe that radio terminology such as "files so secret or sensitive that they would bring the government down" would be broadcast to officers. If a matter was indeed sensitive or secret then a radio message would be broadcast asking a supervisor, like a sergeant or inspector, to phone the control room where they would be briefed.

The incident would then be managed with little detail being radio broadcast.

I remember that **Donald Morrison** was a bit of a character, but I didn't know him that well. I have no knowledge of **PC David Phinn** from my group getting a commendation, and if he did

I'm sure everyone on the shift would have been talking about it. Sorry I can't be of more help. The other police comms officer called Madge is now dead I think.

## 9. Archivist

**Archivist/Registrar, Police Scotland Glasgow. Interviewed by return phonecall at 16:20 on 26/05/2016**

In relation to your enquiry about a former police officer called **David Phinn**, who worked in Glasgow City Centre in the 1980s – You asked me if he had ever been nominated or had been awarded a Chief Constable's commendation.

My colleagues and I have carried out extensive research of all computer records and microfiche, and I can confirm to you that there is no trace of a nomination or award of a Chief Constable's commendation to an officer called **David Phinn** at any time.

## Section 3: People who knew Willie personally

### 1. Solicitor #1

**Taken by phonecall on Tuesday August 16th**

**Note** - The call was made to John Weir's mobile phone whilst he was not at home therefore had no access to pen/paper. For this reason the version of events was noted later that day at the earliest opportunity.

When **John Weir** identified himself and the nature of the interest **[Solicitor #1]** immediately stated that he did not wish to discuss Willie McRae as he was fed up reading non-sense over the years about the circumstances of his death.

**John Weir** persuaded **[Solicitor #1]** to remain on the line to discuss his knowledge of Willie McRae. **[Solicitor #1]** offered the following. He had known Willie McRae for many years and they were colleagues at Levy and McRae, **[Solicitor #1]** being a retired solicitor.

**[Solicitor #1]** stated that Willie was a heavy drinker who suffered from depression but who continued to carry a heavy workload both in law and politics. **[Solicitor #1]** knew the McRae family very well and in fact was **[Willie's Brother]**'s legal representative and had accompanied **[Willie's Brother]** when Crown Office met to discuss Willie's death. **[Solicitor #1]** was present when **[Willie's Brother]** was allowed access to the files on Willie's death and he (**[Solicitor #1]**) in fact read those files personally. Having scrutinised those files and reports, he was absolutely 100% convinced that Willie had committed suicide and that there was no evidence to determine otherwise. He stated that he knew of reasons that Willie would have killed himself but was not willing to discuss them. He has become aware of the various news reports over the years and is strongly dismissive of them. He knew of fellow solicitors **Ronnie Welsh**, **[Solicitor #2]** and **[Solicitor #3]** but did not know them personally. He knew that Willie had spent time in the Forces abroad, India in particular and that he had acquired a handgun there. He was also aware, from access to the files presumably, that it was Willie's gun that fired the shot. He did not specifically know what papers were within Willie's briefcase when he was found but did state that it could have been anything from court paperwork, client notes or anything that he had been working on politically. When asked if it could have been papers pertaining to nuclear dumping or similar he stated yes it could have been anything. He was aware that Willie had become high profile due to his work on anti-nuclear matters but could not affirm that this was business he had that weekend. He was not prepared to divulge specific information from the case files and would not be pressed on this matter. He simply summarised by stating that he was absolutely satisfied that the police investigation was appropriate and conducted properly and that the conspiracies over the years that Willie was murdered were without foundation other than press speculation and rumour. He ended the call by stating that he would never discuss this matter again and did not want anyone to try to contact him. He was given an assurance by **John Weir** on behalf of the campaign that his wishes would be honoured. The conversation lasted 25 minutes.

## 2. Friend #1

### Statement

#### From notes taken from discussion on Monday 6 June 2016 in Glasgow.

I first met Willie McRae in the late 1960s through family connections from up north in Uist.

Although I was born and brought up in Glasgow, my family through past generations were from the Hebrides and, as tended to be the way back then, people from that part of Scotland looked out for each other. As Willie was from up North he and I later became friends. I had attended University and I had studied to become a physicist. My first job was with a company in the east end of Glasgow called John Laird and Sons who were packaging manufacturers. I came to know Willie as a strong passionate Scottish Nationalist who was proud of his roots and his country. He was a very intelligent man who went out of his way to help people and he did a lot of work whilst serving in India to help under-privileged children and adults to better their education and employment prospects.

During the early 1970s, (February & October 1974) he was standing for the Ross and Cromarty election and at that time I did a bit of driving for him. I enjoyed driving his car which at that time was a big 3.5 Litre Rover Coupe. I also enjoyed socialising with Willie and we both enjoyed a dram and a blether. Willie was a very clever man who never bragged about what he done or what he had done for others, he was a true gentleman who devoted himself to his legal work and to his political work. In his personal life he was quite a private man who was happy in his own company but also enjoyed the company of others. There have been rumours over the years about his sexuality, probably because he was single. I can absolutely confirm that Willie gave no indications that he was anything other than heterosexual and spoke of relationships that he had had with women whilst overseas. I kept in touch with Willie fairly regularly until I moved in 1979 to a job in the States with The Seagram Company, owners of Chivas Brothers, Paisley. I lived in New York but still maintained some contact with Willie for business reasons. I think Willie lived in his Falkirk house at that time; it was Watling Lodge and was situated next to the Roman wall that is of historical interest.

You have asked me about Willie's drinking habits and I would say that he was a whisky drinker exclusively. He did not tend to drink any other spirit or beer. His favourite brands of whisky were Islay Mist which was an unusual blend of malt whiskies and Glenmorangie, a single malt. If he was having a dram in his office or with some friends or colleague he usually had a half bottle of Grouse or Bells. He never had those brands in full bottle size, always a half bottle size. I would describe him as a moderate to heavy drinker depending on how you would class it.

I obviously know that Willie died of a gunshot wound to his head and you have asked me if he ever discussed suicide with me. I am not for one minute suggesting that Willie was contemplating suicide or that he was hinting about it but he was such an experienced and clever man that he once said to me that if someone was going to kill themselves by shooting

themselves then the sure fire way to do it would be to place the muzzle of the gun under their chin and shoot upwards through the mouth because that's where the soft tissue is and it would offer less resistance than bone or skull for example.

I knew that he liked nothing better than sitting in his cottage in Dornie with a glass of Glenmorangie and his cigarettes in front of a real peat fire. He once said to me "If things ever got too much for me, you will find me here in my armchair with an empty bottle of Glenmorangie and a cigarette in my hand".

I just took that comment as a bit of humour. There is no way that I would interpret that remark as anything other than a bit of banter between friends.

I knew Willie between 1969 and 1985 and would describe him as hugely inspirational, a great lawyer, great speaker and great human being.

I went to work in the former Yugoslavia (1990/91) and then Poland in April 1991.

I first heard about Willie's death when my father phoned me on the Sunday, the 7th April 1985 about 10 a.m. and he told me that Willie was dead and that he had been shot. He told me about his car being found and that it was on a road that both he & I were very familiar with.

I immediately drove up to the site and arrived sometime between 1p.m. and 2p.m.

I took photographs of the site where the car had previously been. I could identify the site easily because of the drag marks of the tyres where the recovery truck had pulled it up the hillside. It would have been about 30 yards down the hillside.

It did not look to me as if Willie's car had left the road on a bend because the roadway above the hillside is fairly straight. I can only speculate that, if no other car was involved, then Willie must have been distracted, perhaps by a dropped cigarette or something in the road that caused him to momentarily lose his attention. It's a road that he has driven dozens of times so there are no surprise bends or anything like that. I doubt very much that he would have been drinking whilst driving but he was very probably smoking at the time.

I have provided you with copies of the photographs that I have referred to. The Volvo car was not present during the time that I was there and it is obviously not in my photographs.

I learned later that Willie's car had been taken to premises owned by an Inverness garage called MacRae and Dick. I can't recall who told me, it may have been Willie's business associate, **Ronnie Welsh** or his brother, I'm not sure. In any case I travelled to Inverness and I saw the car in their yard. It was not fenced in a compound or anything, it was just sitting there. I am 100% certain that it was Willie's car because I saw the registration number and I had driven that car dozens of times. It was about 3 or 4 weeks after Willie's death that I saw the car in MacRae and Dick's yard. You have asked me if I know whether **[Willie's Brother]** or **Ronnie** had it taken there after the police had finished their examination and search of the car. I honestly don't know, it's possible that once the police were finished with it they contacted **[Willie's Brother]** but more likely **Ronnie** to have it removed for insurance

assessment and they may have moved it to MacRae and Dick's yard at the behest of the insurance company, I honestly don't know and I am only speculating. You should try to trace and speak with **Ronnie Welsh** or **[Willie's Brother]**.

When I saw the car at MacRae and Dick's it was not on a trailer or ramps or anything like that, it was simply parked in their yard but I did recall seeing what looked like a spare wheel on the back seat.

I also recall **Ronnie Welsh** talking about a road accident that Willie was involved in prior to the events of his death and that another car was involved. **Ronnie** was a guy who loved his fast cars and I am not sure of the circumstances or if they are true, again if you trace **Ronnie** he can perhaps explain further.

I am happy to help your investigation and I just want to know one way or another happened. I have no preconceived agenda and like many people would just to have closure rather than read about all of the theories and speculation.

Willie McRae was a man who did far more good than many people and I will always remember him most fondly.

### 3. Solicitor #2

by phonecall at 13:54 on Thursday 26/05/2016

**[Solicitor #2]** was advised of a request to help trace the whereabouts of a former colleague of Willie McRae, **Mr Ronnie Welsh**. He stated that he did not know the whereabouts of **Ronnie Welsh** as he had last seen him about 30 years ago.

He further stated:

"**Ronnie** was a friend of Willie McRae through the SNP, and Willie was supporting **Ronnie** to become a lawyer. I don't know if **Ronnie** ever qualified as a lawyer, but he worked in the office. Willie McRae was my mentor, I was his legal apprentice. I knew him as a heavy drinker and that he appeared to suffer from depression. He normally had a bottle of Glenmorangie in the office quite often. Willie and **Ronnie** were both heavy drinkers, and ultimately I think this impacted on **Ronnie's** career.

Another colleague who worked under Willie was **[Solicitor #3]** who started with Willie's firm earlier than me. Perhaps he can assist in tracing **Ronnie Welsh**.

I would say that although Willie McRae was a heavy drinker and was unpredictable, he was a nice man.

## 4. Solicitor #3

By phonecall 15:40 on 26/5/16

[Solicitor #3] was advised of efforts to trace the whereabouts of **Ronnie Welsh**. He advised that he had not heard from **Ronnie** for about 25 to 30 years but was aware that he worked with Willie McRae in his law firm. He also advised that Willie had helped **Ronnie** to become a lawyer.

When asked about his working relationship with Willie, he stated:

I worked under Willie McRae as his apprentice. I knew him to be a heavy drinker and a staunch nationalist who was a member of the SNP. Back in the 1980s the SNP were a fairly small party, and I think that Willie stood for election in the Ross and Cromarty constituency but never got elected. Willie's specialism was corporate law and conveyancing, not court work. He rarely left the office and if he represented a client in a criminal matter then he would task one of his legal colleagues to attend court to represent them on behalf of the firm.

I read somewhere that an ex-policeman called **Donald Morrison** claimed to know Willie McRae, but I can't work out how. I saw **Donald Morrison** now and then at court but Willie McRae was never at court personally, so I don't know how **Donald** could have met him there.

I also read that **Donald Morrison** claimed that Willie McRae only drank Islay Mist whisky. That is nonsense. I worked with Willie from 1975 to 1979 and I know that he drank Glenmorangie malt whisky.

*Note - At this point, [Solicitor #3] was advised that a bottle of Glenmorangie malt whisky was recovered from the Volvo at the crash site.*

He stated: "I am not surprised, because that is the whisky he preferred to drink. He was also a heavy smoker."

[Solicitor #3] was asked if he ever became aware of the contents of Willie's briefcase when he left Glasgow on 5th April 1985.

He stated:

No, I have no idea about that incident.

[Solicitor #3] further stated, in respect of Ronnie Welsh:

I have researched the files of registered practising solicitors in Glasgow in the 1980s and can see an entry for William McRae in 1982 but there is nothing for a **Ronnie Welsh**."

[Solicitor #3] kindly offered to conduct some further research to help the investigators trace **Ronnie Welsh**, and stated that he would call **John Weir** if successful.

## 5. Willie's Brother

by Telephone at 12:15 on Friday 24/6/16

*[Willie's Brother] was asked about the disposal of Willie's personal property from the car on 6th April 1985 and some further questions about Willie's work and personal life.*

I am now 87 years old and sometimes my memory is not the best. I do however remember some things that happened around the time of Willie's death.

The police had returned all of his personal effects to me like a bottle of malt whisky and a brown briefcase with papers in it. I looked at the papers but I didn't really know what they were about. I do remember that there was nothing untoward or sinister in the paperwork, it was nothing that seemed unusual or special. I can't remember what type of malt whisky it was, that was not really a matter of importance to me.

Willie was an alcoholic but was always in denial about it. He sort of ignored his heavy drinking but we all knew that he drank heavily. I don't know if he tried to get help for his drinking as I said he wouldn't accept that he had a problem.

I can't remember if I had been asked by the police to authorise the movement of Willie's car to a garage in Inverness after the police had finished with it. I was his next of kin so I possibly did but honestly can't recall. It was so long ago, I'm sorry.

I never kept any of his property, I just got rid of it over the years. I don't think that the police returned his gun to me, but I had had that gun in my possession for about a year. I didn't have any bullets for it and I didn't have a licence for it. I just kept hold of it but gave it back to Willie at some stage. It was a lovely looking wee gun and very ornamental looking.

When I heard about Willie being in hospital I travelled up to Aberdeen and spoke to the police. In my statement to the police I mentioned that Willie owned a gun. This was because I had been told that he had a gunshot wound to his head. I can't remember exactly when I told the police about Willie having a gun but it was whilst I was at the hospital in Aberdeen and before the police searched for the gun at the crash site.

At some time later either on the day that they found the gun, or perhaps the next day, the police visited me in Aberdeen and showed me the actual gun that they had found. I immediately recognised it as Willie's gun.

Willie at times suffered depression when things got on top of him. he was involved in so many things that he struggled to cope at times. Who wouldn't in his position? Again, I don't know whether he was getting help for this.

The police up in Inverness kept me informed of their investigation and I have to say that I think they did a thorough and professional job. I can't think of any person or organisation that would want to cause harm to Willie. He was very popular and well liked.

I'm sorry that I can't remember more detail about his personal effects and the car.



## 6. Female Neighbour

**(85 years old)**

**by telephone at 13:25 17/5/16**

I can't recall a man called Willie McRae who lived at no.6 nor can I remember anyone like the description you have given me. I had been living at this address in 1985, but don't remember anything about a fire. I'm sorry.

## 7. Male Neighbour

**(aged 85 years) - Taken 16/5/16, 14.35hrs**

I have lived at this address for about 40 years.

You have asked me about a man called Willie MacRae who used to stay at no.6 in a flat above us. I vaguely remember him as a big heavy-set man who just used to come and go. I didn't really know him as a personal friend or close neighbour. In this street over the years, so many people have come and went.

You mentioned to me about a fire in this man's house in 1985. I do recall a fire in the building a long time ago, but didn't know whose house it was. I don't know anything about the man's personal life or habits or friends or acquaintances. I'm sorry that I can't be of any help to you.

## 8. Friend #2

**Retired Research Chemist & Newspaper Editor (aged 94)**

I knew Willie McRae, firstly as a solicitor in 1948.

He was the solicitor for my father's company which was the newspaper known as The Jewish Echo.

In 1958 I got married and Willie McRae became my solicitor helping me with the purchase of a house. When Mr. McRae began organising my personal affairs I began to become more friendly with him.

I would say I was a good friend of his but not a close friend. I did stay with my family at his holiday house.

Willie McRae helped Jewish refugees advising them of their rights and was very sympathetic about their condition. My wife was Hungarian and had been in Auschwitz with her sister; she got on very well with Willie.

Abraham Levy started a solicitors practice in Glasgow and may in fact have been the first Jewish solicitor in Scotland, it was known as A B Levy.

Sometime later Abraham Levy took on Willie McRae to work with him and the practice was then changed to Levy & McRae, I think the premises were in Bath Street, Glasgow.

A few years before his death, Willie spoke to my wife about two the partners he had taken on in his firm, who were his protégés, I can't remember their names, but they eventually ousted Willie from the company and he was very upset about it.

I have a recollection that when I learned of Willie's death, I seem to remember that I might have seen him shortly before it happened.

I visited him at his office, I can't remember where it was, it wasn't where his original office was. The office was in a state of disarray, there were papers right around the room scattered everywhere.

He had an assistant with him; I think it was **Ronnie Welsh**, whom I thought was rather odd.

It was very distressing to see Willie, he looked disturbed and was vague and had lost his train of thought, he couldn't concentrate on anything and was very hesitant speaking.

I suspected he had been drinking; I think he may have been alcohol dependant, I was shocked and disturbed by his demeanour. He was certainly different then than he had been in previous years, there was a notable deterioration.

That was the last time I saw him.

## 9. Friend #3

**The following statement is a self-penned open letter by [Friend #3] which was published online on the Scotland U.N. Committee webpage.**

Friends,

Whenever the name Willie McRae is mentioned my immediate reaction is, "Oh no, not again! Please let him rest in peace". Then common sense kicks in. So here goes with a brief glossary of where Willie McRae fits in with Scotland-UN.

Willie McRae was not only a member of Scotland-UN; he was our legal representative. He was my personal legal representative, my lawyer on the political front. My lawyer on the civil front is a local man who is my lawyer on civil matters to this day. We were at school together. However, because of the atmosphere in politics in Scotland during the 1960s, 70s and 80s it was prudent to have on board a lawyer of impeccable nationalist credentials. Willie McRae was that person.

Before we get to the day of Willie's assassination please bear with me in some of the happenings leading up to his state sponsored murder.

While I was trying to set up the Scotland-UN Committee I approached the SNP, thinking the party would support such a move. To cut a very long story short, chairman Billy Wolfe told me I was wasting my time, and its constitutional expert Prof. Neil McCormack told me if it had been possible he would have done it himself!

I have to say it was to be my final attempt to gain support from someone in the SNP, and failing a third time I was prepared to dump the whole idea. Willie McRae jumped at the idea, and as they say the rest is history!

It has to be said that Willie had already got me released from police custody, I having been arrested on the streets of Ayr for daring to exercise my right of free public speaking. My agents at that time were a local doctor and a local bank manager, and they were arrested with me even though they had written permission from the local authority to allow me, the SNP Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, to address the general public from the corners of Beresford Terrace and Miller Road, outside the bank managed by one of my agents.

Willie made one phone call, and we were released and allowed to continue with our public speaking. Later in the 1980s there came to the town of Ayr a man called Dr Feates of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, who persuaded the local council to consider building an underground vault in the surrounding hills for the storage of nuclear waste. When the matter came up in the local council, Dr Feates revealed that the waste would mostly come from abroad, mainly Japan. To say some of us hit the roof is an understatement. The Anti Nuclear Dumping in the Hills around Mullwharchar campaign was born. Willie McRae was one of us. To cut a long story short, our campaign culminated in a public enquiry in Ayr Town Hall lasting three months. Willie McRae was with us every day of that enquiry. He led our case. We won. The plans were dropped but we were by then all marked men and women. He never charged us one penny and to this day his firm never tendered an invoice for three month's work.

During every day of the enquiry there could be seen in the car park of Strathclyde Police three black Rover saloon cars with consecutive London registration plates. Their occupants were monitored by our campaigners, who described them as "darksuited men with bulging left-breasted suits!" That is what we were told by trustworthy colleagues, who saluted them daily with Churchillian signs of respect!

Then there was the caravan incident. Dr Feates and his AEA colleagues attempted to trail a caravan through the Galloway Forest Park to the proposed dumping site at Mullwharchar via

the humpbacked bridge just outside Dalrymple. The caravan stuck on the bridge, and while Dr Feates and his colleagues walked back to a garage in Dalrymple for help some local children removed the valves from the tyres of the caravan. And so the story goes on!

The stories that can be told would fill a book. For example, one day we were holding a private campaign meeting in a properly hired public hall in Peebles Street in Ayr when sounds were heard outside the room. One of our more perceptive members crept up to the door and opened it very quickly. One uniformed policeman and two plainclothes characters "fell" in to the room.

The chairman demanded an explanation, but the trio scampered - but not before the chairman had the uniformed officer's shoulder number. Willie McRae wrote the riot act to the local Chief Constable.

Then, on another occasion, while marching in Troon we were attacked by a group of BNP members from outside Scotland taking their spite upon our Saltire by spitting at it. Willie McRae took the matter to the Chief Constable because once again we had the written permission of the local council for our march.

*Note - [Friend #3] agreed to be interviewed about the above content with focus upon his references to Willie McRae and to a separate incident involving damage to his own car on the A77 Road between Ayr and Glasgow. [Friend #3] had made it clear prior to the interview that he was not prepared to undergo a lengthy question and answer session and furthermore that, after the interview, he would never discuss McRae again. With this in mind, and to avoid duplicating what he had previously stated, the interview was therefore based around the above letter with points raised for clarification.*

#### **Point number 1.**

I could go on and on in this vein, like the morning I was driving up the A77 road to Glasgow, to my office in Scotland Street. About one mile north of Fenwick, where the road passes through open country except for a clump of trees and scrub to the west of the A77 at that point, the car shuddered at the rear end, slewing to one side with the rear wheel striking the kerb as I made an emergency braking. (Strathclyde police later informed me that I then took all the wrong actions.) Once my car, a two-litre double skinned two-tonne Saab, came to a halt I got out to see what had happened, thinking I'd struck something on the road. To cut this story short the police told me I should have remained in the vehicle until help arrived!

These were the days before mobile phones. I eventually drove to Newton Mearns to phone Willie McRae from a public phone box. Willie instructed me to drive to Pitt Street Police Station in Glasgow, where I was met by a police officer and two forensic scientists. I became a passenger in my own car being driven to Helen Street Police Laboratory in Govan to be informed there was a bullet hole at the lower end of the car chassis near the rear wheel arch. I'd been shot at.

The car was returned to me about five o'clock that day, after nine hours of forensic examination. To this day neither Willie McRae nor I ever got a report from Strathclyde Police despite several requests for one. So that is merely a flavour of the political atmosphere

within which we were operating in those days. What happened next never crossed our minds.

*Q. Can you tell me more about that incident and what the police thought had taken place?*

A. The police looked at the hole in the rear offside wheel arch area of my car and stated that it looked like a bullet hole, possibly from a poacher on the Fenwick Moor area who may have been illegally shooting deer.

*Q. What size was the hole for example in terms of a coin size?*

A. It was about the size of a one pence piece and when the police returned my car to me later that day, after their examination at their Helen Street Garage, they had repaired the hole because it was closed over. I found this to be unusual. The car was returned to me at my business premises in Castlemilk.

*Q. You say that neither you nor Willie heard any more from the police about that incident?*

A. That's correct. Willie had told me to leave it with him to follow up and, knowing Willie, he would not have given them a minute's peace but they did not come back to either of us so I presumed that they did not find out who had done this. I was quite shocked to learn that someone had shot at my car. It's not as if there was another car following behind mine or coming at me head on so the poacher possibility seemed reasonable.

## **Point number 2.**

The weekend of Willie McRae's state murder is etched into my consciousness permanently. I first heard of Willie's death from coverage in the Sunday Post the day after the shooting on Sunday, April 7th 1985. To say I was shocked is yet another understatement. I immediately telephoned the Sunday Post who merely explained Mr. McRae had committed suicide!

I objected and gave them my reasons for disbelieving that assertion.

*Q. What at that time were your reasons for disbelieving that he had committed suicide?*

A. Willie had been invited to my daughter's wedding on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April and told me how much he was looking forward to it. I had actually bought him 6 bottles of Glenmorangie malt whisky, which was his favourite so he was in good cheer when I spoke with him on the Friday morning (5<sup>th</sup> April 1985). He joked to me that the "waddin" would last a week or two so there is no way at that time he was suicidal or depressed in my opinion.

## **Point number 3.**

I then telephoned the hospital and was given the same story. I telephoned the Inverness police station only to have the Sunday Post version confirmed. The operator gave me the

number of a police station in Lochaber, which in fact turned out to be Fort William. The Lochaber operator gave me the same story. By now my suspicions were real.

I now believed that the story of Willie McRae's death had been written before he died. In my mind I was looking at state murder. Why? I have given you the flavour of the previous year's political atmosphere in Scotland prior to Willie's murder.

*Q Why did you feel this to be the case?*

A. I think it was because at that time there were various stories going around and that people had told me things therefore I naturally assumed them to be true. I can't verify their truth or otherwise but I knew that Willie had strongly opposed the nuclear dumping in Scotland and had won the Mullwharchar case.

#### **Point number 4.**

What neither the Sunday Post, the Hospital in Inverness, nor Grampian or Lochaber Police ever admitted is the following story I told each of those agencies as to why I believed (and still do) that Willie McRae was not in a suicidal mood, but was in fact murdered, and here's why.

On Saturday, April 6th 1985, Willie McRae was shot dead with two bullets behind his right ear. The classic SAS kill.

*Q. How do you know this?*

A. It's just what I had heard, what someone told me or what I read somewhere.

*Q. Can you recall who told you or where you may have read this, for example was it a police officer or doctor or did you read any autopsy report?*

A. No it wasn't the police it may have been a nurse when I telephoned the hospital at Inverness. I didn't see any autopsy report or anything like that. This is why I found it hard to accept suicide because there is no way you can shoot yourself twice behind the right ear, it's impossible.

*Q. I can advise you that our information from various sources is that Mr McRae was shot once in the right temple, would that change your view?*

A. Well I didn't know that, for all of those years I believed that he was shot twice behind the right ear. Of course this information changes my view.

*Q. Did you know that Willie had a handgun and that the bullet from his head matched that handgun?*

A. No, I didn't know he had a gun and I had never seen him with a gun.

*Q. When the gun was recovered from the scene it was later shown to his brother who identified it as Willie's gun that he had brought back from India.*

A. I see but how would **[Willie's Brother]** know what Willie's gun looked like?

*Q. Because sometime before Willie's death [Willie's Brother] had taken the gun from Willie and kept it for about a year so he knew the gun well.*

A. Was it given back to **[Willie's Brother]** then?

*Q. No, it was not licensed therefore the police would have at some point in time destroyed it.*

**Point number 5.**

The gun was found some forty feet from his Volvo Estate car where Willie was found slumped behind the wheel.

*Q. How do you know this?*

A. I was told this by a policeman in Inverness when I phoned them

*Q. Did you get the policeman's name or rank or anything like that?*

A. No I didn't. I called the police several times at different police offices and I also called the hospital and the newspapers to tell them that I had spoken with Willie the day before on the phone. Not one of them called me back to speak with me or to get my statement. I found this to be unbelievable considering I was the last person to speak to him.

*Q. Are you aware that a retired police officer has provided information to the press and us that he saw Willie in Glasgow City Centre around noon on that Friday which would have been after you spoke with him?*

A. No I didn't know that.

*Q. Also we have anecdotal information, not confirmed, that Willie returned to his Glasgow address around 6pm on that Friday before leaving for Kintail and his neighbours there spoke with him.*

A. No I didn't know that either.

*Q. Are you aware that the official position regarding the recovery position of the gun was given as below where the driver's door had been?*

A. No I didn't know that.

*Q. We have interviewed the **[First Officer]** who found the gun and the officer who examined the car in situ and who was present when the gun was found. Both affirm that the gun was not recovered forty feet or any considerable distance from the car, that in fact it was found in*

*a pool of water at a stream running under the car and next to the driver's door. The then **Detective Chief Inspector** who was in charge of the incident also confirmed this to us and it is a matter of record in a letter from the Lord Advocate, Lord Fraser of Carmyle.*

A. No I didn't know that either. There have been stories printed in the papers about the gun being found away from the car.

**Point number 6.**

If Willie was suicidal (which he was not) he knew enough about suicide by gunshot to know to put the barrel in your mouth and squeeze the trigger.

*Q. How are you able to say that Willie was not suicidal?*

A. Because of what I told you about him looking forward to the wedding of my daughter and he sounded fine when I spoke with him on the phone.

*Q. I understand that but would you accept that other people who also knew Willie and had contact with him may offer a different view that he was at times depressed, drank a lot and was unpredictable.*

A. Well that may be their view but I always found him to be positive and cheery. He liked drinking whisky but so did I at that time. I can't now because of medication I am taking.

*Q. Would you accept that neither you nor any of his friends, family or colleagues are in a position to absolutely state with certainty what Willie's state of mind and wellbeing were at the time of the incident?*

A. Yes I would have to agree with that. All I can say is that when I was with him or spoke with him he was positive and good company. He did not seem depressed or suicidal to me.

**Point number 7.**

Blow your brains out, death instantaneous. It is virtually impossible for an individual to shoot themselves twice behind the ear because of what is known as "the dead man's grip"; you might get off one shot but highly unlikely you'd get off a second one. Besides you would then suffer a slow painful death, as did Willie McRae.

Note: This point has been covered previously.

**Point number 8.**

There follows a summary of the story I gave the Sunday Post, the hospital and two police officers. To this day I have never been contacted as a result of my enquiries that weekend



nor have I ever been interviewed as a result of my immediate enquiries on Sunday April 7th 1985.

On the morning of Friday April 5th 1985 Willie McRae phoned me to tell me, "[Friend #3], I've got the buggers. They're going to bury the stuff where the sand never dries! I'm taking the week off at the Croft to prepare my case. I'll see you at the "wadden"!" He was of course talking about the ongoing debate about the disposal of nuclear waste.

Willie liked to talk in riddles.

Of course there are only two places where "the sand never dries" - the sea bed, but in Scotland's case also the sands at Applecross. The plan was to create an underground storage facility which would be then under the protection of the nearby Royal Naval Base and the NATO Naval Base also nearby at that time.

*Q. You say that 'of course he was talking about the debate about dumping nuclear waste', did he actually tell you that?*

A. I knew that he had been working on the Mulwharcher case in Ayrshire and he and I had addressed several meetings on the subject. It was obvious to me that this is what he was referring to especially when he said 'bury the stuff' and that he would be working on the case whilst away at the Croft. He might not have actually said it but of course he was very careful about what he said over the phone. As I said, he liked to talk in riddles.

*Q. Do you know for a fact what the contents of his briefcase were that weekend.*

A. I know that he would have had his speech for the wedding and the papers for the work he was doing.

*Q. Are you assuming this or do you know for a fact exactly what papers he had.*

A. I am assuming on the basis of how well I knew the man and how passionate he was about fighting the dumping of atomic waste in not only Scotland but in the UK. This and the fact that he said he would be working on the case whilst he was away at his Croft.

*Q. Did you ever tell anyone about Willie saying "I've got the buggers"?*

A. No I told no-one that.

### **Point number 9.**

Willie McRae believed he had the AEA (Atomic Energy Authority) evidence but his brief case was never found at the murder scene.

*Q. How do you know this?*

A. It's what I have been told.

*Q. By whom?*

A. I don't remember, I might have read it somewhere that his briefcase was missing when he was found.

*Q. Can I tell you that his briefcase and an attaché case were accounted for, recorded in a police evidence list and itemised with other property such as clothing, grooming material and personal items including a bottle of Glenmorangie and a part consumed half bottle of Grouse Whisky.*

A. Well he drank Glenmorangie, I've already told you that. He also drank Grouse whisky and the attaché case is probably where he had his wedding speech.

*Q. But do you now understand that I am telling you that his briefcase was in fact recovered.*

A. Well where is it then?

*Q. It was returned to his brother*

A. Why was it given to him?

*Q. Because he was Willie's next of kin and I have spoken with him and he confirms that the briefcase plus its contents were returned to him and that the papers inside were described by him as normal looking, routine legal case papers. No reference to atomic dumping.*

**Point number 10.**

Crucially, our daughter was due to be married in St Duthack's Church, Dornie, on Saturday April 12th 1985 with the reception (lasting a week!) in the Balmacara Hotel just down the road. Willie McRae was an invited guest and that was the "wadden" he was looking forward to. St Duthack's Church is just across Loch Alsh and Loch Duich from Willie McRae's Croft at Ardelve.

I gave all of this information to all of the aforementioned agencies but I was never interviewed.

The "story" had in my view been written before Willie was murdered.

*Q. Why do you say this?*

A. Because of the stories I had heard at the time about the gun being found away from the car and the double bullet shots to the back of his head. It sounded like an assassination so obviously I believed that this was pre-planned and carried out as an execution. Also that I never believed for one minute that Willie was suicidal, it didn't seem possible.

Willie was looking forward to a real old-fashioned Highland wedding. Suicide was not on his mind.

**Point number 11.**

To draw this to an end, Willie McRae was not a Communist, as was alleged. Willie campaigned actively for the independence of India; he assisted in the creation of the State of Israel. The government of Israel planted an orange grove in Tel Aviv in his honour and memory some months after his murder. Up until his death he was the chairman of the SNP Industry Committee on which I had the privilege to serve. The executive of the SNP at that time gave the impression of being in agreement with the "official" view. I am no longer a card-carrying member of the SNP, but I still do what I can to forward the cause of independence for Scotland. This is the first time I have put all this down on paper since April 1985, which I have found to have therapeutic value. After four heart attacks, one quadruple heart bypass and during the past two years four operations to my vocal chords (benign) allowing me back on to the speakers' circuit, is it any wonder that I have now hung up my boots? I have not hung up my brain!

All I can say, gentlemen, is thank you for your interest. Willie McRae was a great patriot and that is how he should be remembered.

The information contained in this e-mail may be used in defence of the memory of Willie McRae and in the furtherance of Scotland's independence.

Yours always for Scotland. Thank you all.

[signed].

*Q. Are you aware of an allegation that Willie's car was taken from the scene on the Saturday for examination as a road accident vehicle then, when it was discovered that Willie had a gun-shot wound, the car was replaced at the scene by the police to cover up their error in removing it the previous day.*

A. No I have never heard of that. Why would they have to put the car back at the scene, they already had the car under control and had it for examination so why and indeed how would they ever get it back to that site?

*Q. There is an allegation that the car was taken back to be photographed on the Sunday but I can advise you that this was done on the Saturday before it was taken to the Fort Augustus garage and we have significant testimony to confirm this.*

A. Well that makes it even more unlikely then because if it's been photographed on the Saturday and they need to photograph it again they can simply photograph it in the garage. There is no need to take it back to the hill. They would have obviously treated it as a straightforward road accident until the bullet was discovered much later. By that time they would have taken the car away to check it over for any faults that could have caused the accident.

*Q. Are you aware of a newspaper article published in the Scotland on Sunday last April by Paul Delamore and Steven Semple?*

A. I've read so many over the years but I can't recall every one. I do know the name **Paul Delamore**. He came to my house last year, never even phoned first. My wife opened the door to him and he asked for me as if I was expecting him. She showed him into the house and called for me. When I came through I didn't know him. He told me who he was then started asking me personal questions about Willie McRae. I was furious and chased him out of my house. He became cheeky and started raising his voice to me. I'm not the kind of man who would call the police, I prefer to deal with matters on my own terms so I shoved him out of my house and told him never to contact me again or I would call the police. This is why I was reluctant to discuss anything further about Willie when you contacted me.

*Q. Thank you **Friend #3**. Is there anything you want to ask me?*

A. No, just that I will not be discussing Willie McRae again, ever. It's time the man was left to rest in peace and his memory treated with respect.

## 10. Friend #4

Taken by John Weir at 19.15 on 8 November 2016

My husband (now deceased) and I knew Willie McRae for about 50 years. [Husband] was first approached by Willie back in the late 1950s early 1960s and was asked if he wanted to work as a lawyer with him.

[Husband] took up the offer and eventually became a partner with Levy and McRae in Bath Street, Glasgow. It might actually have been in a street next to Bath Street. At that time Willie stayed in Watling Lodge, Falkirk and we stayed in this address having moved from [address redacted].

When my 3 sons were little they referred to Willie as Uncle Willie we were so friendly with him. Willie was a very hard working man who spent long hours working with [Husband] who often got home from Glasgow very late at night. [Husband] wasn't really a drinker but Willie was a whisky drinker and he always drank a good whisky; more often than not it would have been a malt whisky.

Over the years as I got to know Willie he never went to any big functions. He drank in his office and would always have whisky in his office. During the late 1970s early 1980s I noticed that Willie was becoming depressed and his demeanour started to change. He was at some point ousted from the firm by the other lawyers. It could have been because of the drink or his behaviour. He was convicted of drink driving and had to have a driver to drive him about.

**Note:** *this may have been **Friend #1***

This would have devastated Willie and impacted on his independence and reputation.

During the early 1980s we were all at home one night, there was [Husband], me and the 3 boys. The phone went about 9pm and [Husband] took the call. He told us that he had to go and see Willie right away, something was wrong. He left right away and I stayed up whilst the boys went to bed. [Husband] came home sometime in the early hours of the next morning. I asked him what was wrong and he told me that he had arrived at Willie's house and let himself in, the door was not locked. He found Willie sitting in his chair with a gun in his hand. [Husband] asked Willie what was going on and Willie said that it was all too much for him. Willie said "Give me one good reason why I shouldn't kill myself now". [Husband] told him there were 5 good reasons and named our 3 kids and he named the 2 children of another friend. He told Willie how much the kids all loved him and needed him. Willie burst into tears and [Husband] managed to calm him down and he got the gun away from him.

[Husband] hid the gun somewhere in Willie's house, he never brought it home. [Husband] didn't describe the gun and neither he nor I ever knew that Willie had a gun, it was a real shock to us. [Husband] was really upset and worried when he came home, we had both known that Willie was bad with the drink and suffered depression but not to the extent that he was suicidal. Willie would have been ashamed of that incident because he was a very proud upstanding man. His reputation would have suffered when he was convicted of drink driving and lost his licence. When that night occurred I think [Husband] phoned him the next day, to check on Willie. I didn't want [Husband] to go back to Willie's house because I thought it was too dangerous. I didn't see Willie again, I think the drink, loneliness and his depression just got a hold of him. It was when Willie's death was reported on the news in 1985 that I first heard he was dead. I couldn't believe it, I was shocked. There was something on the news and in the papers that he had been murdered. I always believed that he had killed himself. Over the years, every year, I have read all the stories in the papers about Willie and the various conspiracy theories. I am fed up with it all and just want Willie's memory to be left in peace. I will always remember Willie as a kind, warm, generous man who wouldn't hurt a fly. I hope that the information I have given you is helpful.

## 11. Friend #5

Statement of **Friend #5** (Aged 50)

Taken By John Walker at 1915 Hours Tuesday 08/11/16

I live at the above address [redacted] with my partner.

I have been asked if I knew Willie McRae. The reason I knew Willie McRae is because my father (deceased) worked as a solicitor and partner with Willie in a firm called Levy & McRae operating from Bath Street in Glasgow, (Albert Chambers).

Through a chance meeting Willie McRae offered my father the prospect of working as a solicitor, which he accepted. I think my father started studying as a solicitor shortly after I was born in 1966.

My family including my father, mother, myself, and two brothers visited Willie McRae at his house, Watling Lodge in Tamfourhill. As a young child I visited with my family a couple of times a year for a few good years. Myself, and my brothers always referred to Willie as "Uncle Willie".

I would describe Willie as being a very happy, kind and generous man, and always was good fun when we were in his company.

The first time I was aware that Willie had any type of problem was after an incident at Watling lodge involving my father.

I think I would have been between 12 and 14 years of age, when my father told me that Uncle Willie had some problems and that my father had to go and see Willie one night and stayed with till the early hours of the next morning.

I never really paid much attention to that information at that time, but I can't remember ever seeing Willie McRae after that incident again.

Some years later Willie McRae broke away from Levy &McRae and formed his own company, I think it was called McRae and company.

I had no knowledge of why Willie left the company, but my father did tell me the story about what happened that night he went to Watling Lodge to see Willie.

My father said there was one night when he received a phone call from Willie who sounded "in a bad state."

I learned that when my father went into the house, Willie was sitting with a pistol against his head. He was drunk and upset. My father never told me what was making Willie upset, but he remained with Willie until the small hours of the next morning.

Willie asked my dad to give him one good reason for not pulling the trigger and after a moment of thought my father told Willie he couldn't give him one good reason, he could give him five. The five reasons were: one of the other partners ' two children and myself and my two brothers who looked up to him with great respect and love.

Willie broke down into tears at which point my father was able to remove the gun from him.

Through the years in conversation with my dad he told me about Willies boisterous behavior, and his kindness. I also learned that he had a problem with drink and had drink-driving convictions.

I'm not sure when I heard about Willies death, whither it was a day later or a month later, but I remember being very sad.

As far as I'm concerned the death of Willie McRae was suicide, my father also told us that he had no doubt in his mind that Willie committed suicide.

I hope this investigation brings closure for the sake of his family, for which I regard myself part of.

## Section 4: Additional Witnesses / Miscellaneous

### 1. Private Investigator's Ex-Wife

#### Emails Between [Private Investigator's Ex-Wife] And John Weir

From: johnweir  
Subject: Willie McRae  
Date: Sat, 23 Apr 2016 16:51:56 +0100  
To: [Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]

Hi [Private Investigator's Ex-Wife] I am a retired police officer who is investigating the above enquiry on behalf of the campaign for justice group I would be interested in speaking with you re any information that you may have Am I understanding correctly that you know someone whose husband was a retired cop who became a P.I. tasked to surveil Willie McRae? Kind regards John

Sent from my iPhone  
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On 23 Apr 2016, at 20:10, [Private Investigator's Ex-Wife] wrote:

Hi John, My late husband was indeed the man who was asked to have Willie under surveillance and I have no objection to discussing that with you. Another person who is directly concerned is **Donald Morrison**, also a retired policeman, and I have no doubt he would be interested in talking to you - no doubt you already have heard of him? My phone number is \*\*\*\*\*. I live in Caithness but do occasionally travel down to Inverness if you would prefer to meet face to face and would find the travelling to here too difficult?

[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]  
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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
To: [Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]  
Date: Sat, 23 Apr 2016 20:48:16 +0100

Thanks for your prompt response Yes I have indeed interviewed **Donald** and enjoyed his hospitality I also suspect that he has told me the story about Willie being watched by an ex police colleague called Iain Fraser. Does this ring a bell ? If convenient may I call you tomorrow and we can discuss.

Please let me know if this would be agreeable to you

Kind regards John



Sent from my iPhone

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On 24 Apr 2016, at 10:09, **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** wrote:

Hi **John**, I was married to **Iain** and yes, I do know all the pertinent details, although the bare bones of those are more or less public record now as a documentary was made on the subject of Willie and covered this specific topic. It was, however, perhaps a little edited! I have no objection to a call from you - it might be better to leave that till Tuesday if you anticipate or want a longer chat - just a busy couple of days ahead, so I am apologising in advance.

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
Date: Sun, 24 Apr 2016 10:30:26 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Hi **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** Thank you for the opportunity of speaking with you I can call you Tuesday, what time would be convenient for you? **Donald** in general conversation told me about **Iain** being involved in surveillance but he was not positioned to elaborate He also mentioned that **Iain** was present when the police interviewed him at his home and that **Iain** also provided a statement to the police  
Look forward to speaking with you  
Regards John  
Sent from my iPhone

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On 24 Apr 2016, at 16:45, **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** wrote:

Hi **John**,

Just try to reach me any time - it may take a few times but I'll be in and out on Tuesday, depending on weather. Unfortunately, there's no mobile reception here so its landline only. The bare bones are that **Iain** was contacted by phone and given an itinerary of Willie's movements over a specific fairly short period, his remit being to keep him under surveillance and report his movements during that time. His payment came via a PO box arrangement. I doubt that **Donald** would feel comfortable, for various reasons, in describing either **Iain's** driving characteristics, the address of his office, his politics or his roots at that time - it does however bear considerably on the matter. In reverse order, he was brought up in Gorthleck, near Inverness, was an ardent and very active SNP supporter, his office was in the same building as Levy and McRae and **Iain**, with all the energy of Youth, lived life with a hedonistic fervour, devoting as much time as possible to drinking, the pursuit of women and generally being as wild a lad as finances would allow. I am not speaking ill of the dead - **Iain** rather enjoyed being described this way. This does, at the least, shed some light on the point of

the exercise and gives a fair clue as to the background of whoever dreamed up the scheme. However, I am running on and apologise. I am also quite sure you can perceive what was going on without me spelling it out. Nonetheless, if you want any further insight or help, I'm quite happy to go over it all again.

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
Date: Sun, 24 Apr 2016 16:51:29 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Thanks **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** Did **Iain** ever establish who had actually engaged him in this surveillance contract? For example police, media, rival party, private individual, government agency?

John  
Sent from my iPhone

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On 24 Apr 2016, at 21:34, **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** wrote:

Hi **John**, No, he did not. Nor was he intended to, I would think, although, frankly, it was so cack-handed it wouldn't take a great deal of thought to work out the whys and wherefores. Having said that, as far as I know everybody, including **Iain**, who has ever had the smallest interest in this affair is so determined to tailor events to fit a particular theory that this, a pivotal point in it all, is completely misunderstood. Maybe not so cack-handed after all! His assumption was that it was MI5 - there isn't a shred of positive evidence to support that. By the same token, nor is there any to disprove it.

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
Date: Sun, 24 Apr 2016 21:55:13 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Thank you for this I look forward to speaking with you soon  
Kind regards John

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
To: johnweir  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Sun, 24 Apr 2016 22:04:55 +0000

No worries. In advance and to give you time to consider the following points -: Willie was demonstrably aware he was being watched. He originally planned to leave early in the day to drive up to Dornie but that afternoon he found he had a flat tyre, which argues someone wanted to delay his departure, for obvious reasons. I imagine you are aware of his history with regards to Mountbatten, but if not, this is key to understanding the situation he found himself in both in his professional and emotional life. All a matter of record and undoubtedly as a former policeman you would be aware of the significance of Levy and McRae. His car was parked, and left unattended, some distance up a forestry track on his way to Dornie for a period of time during the night he died. Hope this gives you some ideas to mull over.

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From: johnweir  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
Subject: Willie McRae  
Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2016 13:15:43 +0100

Hi **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**, It was nice speaking with you earlier and I look forward to our meeting next week.

Meantime your idea of me posting some questions is spot on and may help to form the basis of our interview. I am open minded about the case and have no agenda other than reporting evidence to the campaign group. All witness details will be redacted prior to submission of their evidence and this is to preserve their privacy and avoid unwanted attention, particularly from the press. Did you personally know Willie and have any conversations with him. Can you advise when **Iain** was contacted to surveill Willie and if the contractor ever identified them selves. You mentioned some events to me and I would be grateful if you could advise how you know about them: Willie's car tyres deflated Willie's car parked in a forrest track prior to his road accident If Willie was being surveilled or followed, what agency was involved. You mentioned that the Easter weekend was significant in terms of timing, can you elaborate on this please. Were you aware of any burglaries at Willie's home or office and, if so, how do you know about them. Do you know what items were recovered from Willie's car on the hillside. Generally is there any information that you feel would be relevant and may provide us with a line of inquiry.

thank you and kindest regards, John.

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
To: johnweir  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2016 15:51:59 +0000

Hi John - I will reply more fully if more comes to mind but to speed things along for you i'll rattle through some answers. I never once spoke with Willie, though did know a relative or

two, of course, that being however, in practical terms, well after his death, who verified that he claimed his house or flat was broken into. To balance that, there was a touch of what I can only call Highland distaste for someone appearing to be more exciting than they are - but that doesn't mean Willie was lying or exaggerating. Just giving you a perspective on it. I was not present at any of the occasions you specify and so, no, I cannot give any personal testimony as to what was or what was not recovered. **Donald's** testimony as regards the whisky would appear, on a balance of probabilities, to be entirely accurate and Willie's preferences in that respect were well known. I would imagine that records from the shop it was purchased from would not exist now. I have no reason to doubt **Donald's** recollection of any part of his conversation with Willie. I do not know, however, if any or all of those items were ever in his car when he left Glasgow - he was delayed, after all. But it would be perfectly reasonable to accept that they were originally present in the car. It is an irrelevant remark but whilst I can see him taking papers into the flat while he waited to leave, I can't see him moving the whisky or the shirts, neither of which appear to have been recovered at the scene. If he had, then those should have been listed as present in his flat. I find the shirts and whisky especially interesting. It's one of the stronger indicators of foul play - again one most often overlooked. It is what I would do if I wanted to hang a cloud over **Donald's** testimony, in that a jury would doubtless deduce the wrong thing from it. No, I do not have any idea who ordered surveillance, or when, although it was shortly before Willie died that the surveillance **Iain** said he carried out took place [I will try to find the exact date for you]. You might have more luck finding out who determined who and what **Iain** was - that would be more likely than not a MI5 type operation. That said, he mentioned once to me that the person appeared to be in, or have something to do with Bradford. **Iain** stayed there as a young man and would have been known of...long story., may have nothing to do with it. Unfortunately **Iain** couldn't elaborate as to why he had that feeling. I can make all sorts of deductions about who might, and might not, be keeping an eye on Willie but I couldn't possibly provide a shred of evidence as to who it was. I find it improbable there is any evidence. **Donald** states that he ascertained the car he had noticed had a blocked registration and that would fit with what I've heard from other sources, but it, in itself, doesn't actually tell me that whoever was allegedly watching him was present on the road where his car was found. I can only tell you what I have heard, though for myself, I prefer to have at least 2 supporting statements before feeling relatively sure as to whether something happened or not, and this is the case with regards to his car being seen abandoned. Willie's car was seen, apparently unattended, hidden up a forestry road during the night. It's a little like **Donald** allowing Willie to turn round, I suspect. Nobody would anticipate another soul to be on the road at that time of night, least of all one with a van lit up like a Christmas tree. You do that in those parts because of the deer. This was reported to Northern Constabulary - and both the witness and the policeman taking the statement were told to ignore it by someone in charge in Inverness (I assume) I can't for the life of me recall the name of the chap in charge. The van was, of course, also seen by whoever was with Willie at that time, (if indeed anyone was with him) I find it interesting - we tend to forget in all the witnesses and stuff that if one assumes "another party", then they too are witnesses; they, too, will react to any given event. It provides only circumstantial evidence but it's worth something to add that perception into what can be proved to have happened.. The tyres - I was told that was deliberately done by someone who claimed to be on the other side of this. I have heard it

said by a few people since but I cannot verify that any one of those actually saw the tyres for themselves. I also heard about it at the time - one of those, "if only he hadn't been delayed" comments people make, with a wink...thats in 85 and that grew out of the usual gossip that attends something like this. Bear in mind it also included such comments "well, Northern Constabulary will say it was a suicide because if you go round pissing everyone off, you are likely to end up in a ditch," along with rumblings about drug cartels, smuggling - diamonds via Amsterdam, paedophile rings and I do recall a very half hearted suggestion that he had annoyed the establishment, but it grew no legs against the other considerations. That was in 85, mind! We weren't so constricted by notions of political correctness. As a once again circumstantial piece of "evidence", it does explain why Willie delayed leaving till the early evening, rather than when he had planned to, only because nobody who knew that road would ever travel on it during an Easter weekend exodus from Glasgow unless absolutely constrained to - and Willie naturally had no time of arrival to worry about. If you want him [or anyone] alone on that road, Easter is good weekend to have handed to you because it is relatively easy to shape when a person will be on it, given Willie's circumstances, as I outlined. Any other weekend between that and the Glasgow Fair would be more tricky to manipulate time wise. Put another way - it is, again, undoubtedly what I would do.

I'm not sure how useful any of this will be for you and hope you can forgive the extraneous observations creeping in. I am in a little bit of an awkward position - I gave my word to not reveal who told me some of this and I just can't break it. It is frustrating but I balanced the 'knowing', or half knowing, with the having to keep the secret, so I am stuck with it. What I can do is talk with you and tell it as it was revealed to me - but none of it has any evidentiary worth at all, so may be a waste of your time. I can't see being able to get away in the near, near future...I will try to reorganise things though with family commitments that could be a bit difficult. I can offer to give you a cottage to stay in if you do decide to travel up...its usually unused around the weekends (I "babysit" a student at Thurso during the week, and she uses the cottage then) As a thought for you - if you want to navigate your way through all the apparent complexities as to why Willie would be disposed of, it really is essential to look for the roots of that in his own - because half your answers lie in his past, in his early life. Nobody ever bothers to take a squint at that or consider what any of it means. I find the parallels with Hector MacDonald interesting too - another chap from the same area who managed to annoy the same sort of people and, allegedly, to shoot himself in the head with alarming acrobatics, but some 80 odd years earlier. I actually don't really have any misgivings about being anonymous, as such, but am grateful to you for the reassurance. I wish I could be more helpful - really I had nothing to do with any of it and so all I can add is some insight here and there, which is unlikely to be of any use to you. If anything else comes to mind, though, I'll pass it along. I will try to find the tv programme that **Iain** participated in too.

Nice to chat with you

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae

Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2016 20:57:27 +0100

To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Thank you for your very prompt and detailed response in which you have more than covered my points I am happy to arrange a meeting at your convenience and on your terms so please feel free to get back in touch when suitable Meantime I will go over your points and discuss with my colleague Thanks again for your help

Regards John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

To: johnweir

Subject: RE: Willie McRae

Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2016 21:40:50 +0000

Hi John - Oh dear - "more than"!! Must be irritating, and I apologise for what seems to be only irrelevant conjecture. I replied quickly because otherwise one can be guilty of crafting a reply. (and I am teasing you, btw) The TV programme was a Grampian regional series - "Unsolved" or "Unsolved: Getting away with Murder." I did have a disc of that particular programme but can't find it. I have asked the person who sourced it for me to get another copy and if you need it I will forward it on to you. I would try but being a technophobe it seems unlikely I'd be successful. Incidentally, it did come to mind that **Iain** worked in Englandshire for a time as a PI and had dealings with MI5 in London at one time, well before all this took place.

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From: johnweir

Subject: Re: Willie McRae

Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2016 22:48:44 +0100

To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Hi **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** Yes re a copy of the TVs programme if you can source a copy it would be very helpful I have seen a couple of them but can't recall **Iain** in them Your point re **Iain** perhaps having dealings with MI5 whilst in England is a good shout I meant ask, where did he serve as a cop and for how long. Was he uniform or cid? Sorry for these extra questions but you have my curiosity now flowing

Hopefully we can meet up next week

Regards John

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From: [Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]  
To: johnweir  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2016 22:54:52 +0000

John - any questions that pop into your head are always welcome. I'm not sure if I can give sufficient information to be of any use but I am more than happy to try so don't worry about asking - any time at all. I will hunt down a copy of the episode for you. **Iain** progressed through the ranks to CID at Tulliallan, as far as I recollect. He was originally based around Dunoon - I am not sure of exact dates for the length of service - not many years though. If it is significant I can try to find out, though doubtless its a matter of record somewhere. From that he variously worked in Africa [mainly] as security for oil companies, notably Chevron, spent some time as a PI and also managed hotels both in Dunoon, Strathpeffer and finally Loch Torridon Hotel, before taking out a lease in his own right over a small hotel near Dornie itself. He spoke with Tam Dalyell at Loch Torridon Hotel about Willie but Tam warned him not to try and poke about in it all, his words being that he himself "wouldn't touch it with a bargepole". Tam Dalyell has no particular difficulty as far as I know if you want to discuss Hilda Murrell type matters. But not Willie McRae. I wasn't present when **Iain** stumbled across people purporting to be security service types in London so can't really give an opinion on that - it was years before all this happened. I will say, as I'm sure you know too, that I've met the odd hopeful soul who tried to tell me he was in the SAS or some such nonsense. Its unlikely anyone who would broadcast the fact and looking at the muscle tone and hands it could only be in the capacity of office boy. Point being, people dramatise all sorts of things so **Iain** may have been deceived anyway. The Bradford episode belongs to **Iain's** youth, in between times on board whilst in the Merchant Navy. It merely popped into my head - this was the sixties. He was staying at some friends flat, police arrived and slipped some cannabis into his jacket pocket, thinking it was the friends coat. Yes, its one everyone would smile at knowingly but no - **Iain** was careful not to ever have anything on him due to his officer status in the Merchant Navy and frankly, I believe he only tried it once or twice. He certainly never showed the slightest interest in smoking dope in all the time I knew, thank God. At any rate, the charges were dropped - it had no effect on his current or later career choices. But who knows? Perhaps it was enough to have him remembered? Assuming **Iain** was accurate as regards his appointment and the nature of it, it is evident that those securing his services would have carefully selected him for what was easily determined about him as a person. Would you choose a womanising ardent SNP Jack the Lad Highlander who shared an office building with what looks like a fellow SNP Highlander to carry out secret surveillance on him you don't need done since you already have his utterly banal itinerary? Jack the Lads do not generally keep their mouths shut. Whoever it was wanted Willie to know he was being followed - and to be completely unperturbed by the fact and must have gone to some trouble to select the most suitable candidate for the job. I notice that there is a tendency to confer extraordinary powers of competence upon "baddies". They made a mistake - several of them, starting with the fact that **Iain** had professional integrity, and that would be subconsciously supported by an inclination to say nothing at all because a Highlander from Inverness is not a Highlander [vaguely] from Dornie. May sound rather odd - but trust me - I spent some time talking to **Iain** about this facet of the affair, and

that emerged. These are people who were raised by people from a different world and time. Hope some of that helps - forgive the length. Background does take up a lot more space!

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2016 08:38:09 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Thank you **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife] Iain** certainly seems to have lived a full and eventful life I had occurred to me that it would have been unusual, but not impossible, for **Iain** to be contracted to surveil a man with whom he shared an office building and who clearly knew him by name and sight. The whole point of surveillance is to blend in and be covert If Willie's schedule was know, it would make more sense to use an "out of townner" rather than a recognisable face ??? Anyway I am only speculating here I am interested in his car on the forestry track and would be grateful if you were able to provide more detail I respect that you want to protect the source of this but wondered if you could tell them about me and my inquiry and ask them to be contactable?? Many thanks and kind regards  
John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
To: johnweir  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2016 11:30:54 +0000

Hi John, Has it happens **Iain** never spoke with Willie and although both had a political affiliation with SNP, very few people were comfortable with Willie's aggressive stance and **Iain** certainly wasn't one of their number. I have to say that on a number of points - selecting **Iain**, lurking obviously around street corners, speeding off in cars through lights - our security services are appallingly ill-trained. It is more comfortable to consider that all those choices were an essential component part of some cunning plan. It is speculation and anything I add can only be precisely that, as even any information I've been told is no more than hearsay. I am ahead of you about contacting one of the people who was a witness to the car being parked. It may take time - as far as I know he isn't in this country much, if at all. I have left messages already to get in touch. One is impossible to locate and the other is the policeman who took the initial report. I am assuming his superior officer won't be forthcoming since he instructed the officer to discard the information in the fist place - and may even be deceased now anyway? I'm rather ambivalent about police mishandling of the affair in that the "proof" of one genuine mistake does not mean all faults were accidental and conversely the "proof" of deliberate obfuscation doesn't mean no innocent mistakes



were made. Its all about human beings - and all it takes is a bad cold, a bereavement, a wife/husband problem or a worry about the mortgage payment - whatever - and a mistake will be made. Years ago, in the bar of the Grant Arms Hotel in Cullen, **Donald** and **Iain** were talking about Willie McRae, endlessly going over details, planning all sorts of trips to the spot where it happened and so on. On one such occasion, Alex Salmond dropped in to do his urbane thing and collect votes - I can't recall if either of them mentioned Willie to him, but I would think it improbable. The point is that when you talk in bars, you can be overheard by the most unlikely of characters and you tend not to even notice they are there. I was told a story but one such person - the why doesn't matter really, but the unexpected arrival of Alex Salmond seemed to prompt it. He didn't speak to **Donald**. **Iain** knew I was talking to him but he didn't sit with us. What struck me was: firstly, he mentioned the car being along the forestry track; secondly it answered satisfactorily every question mark I had about the matter and pretty much confirmed what I had already considered a likely scenario and thirdly, I believed his eyes. The point about the car being parked on the track that night is that it is information that had never been in the public domain. It could, however, simply be that by some coincidence he had heard it from elsewhere. Incidentally, I am not some barfly - I owned the hotel.

But it is a story, John - and I have no way of contacting that man - he was passing through. It was simply one of those strange chance encounters. And, even if I could contact him, I wouldn't. He had suffered enough. Quite happy to tell you it some time but since actual hard evidence is lacking, I am reluctant to waste your time.

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2016 12:44:50 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Thank you **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** The cop who initially attended the scene was over **[First Officer]** but the officer who submitted the report of the circumstances was **[Detective Chief Inspector]**, both of who we have interviewed The officer in overall charge was Det Supt Andy Lister now deceased. A man who claims to have see Willies car near the scene on the Friday/Saturday was **[Driver]** who lives in India, previously Sallachy. **Donald** also mentioned his bar chat with **Iain** about Willie. At the moment I have nothing concrete that Willie was accompanied or otherwise compromised on the night of the incident but of course that could change as we probe further.

Regards John  
Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
To: johnweir  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae

Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2016 14:00:34 +0000

Hi John - yes **[Driver]** was apparently on the road that night and I was trying to get hold of him too. I'm glad you got hold of the officers who dealt with it and thought the one in charge had passed away - seems I was right. I suppose rather a number of people now have died which makes it all more tricky. The same is true for Willie's own contacts around Tain/Balintore on the Black Isle, which is a pity. **Donald** and **Iain** had many such chats. **Iain** had no real interest in Willie before meeting up with Donald although he did stray into that conversation with Tam Dalyell long before becoming involved with it all via **Donald**. Something in his tangential involvement had never sat too well with him. **[Driver]** mentioned the incident to me and described his lights - Highland roads, night time and deer are a bad mix - and what caught my attention in the story I was told was the description of those lights coming up the road. But, it could have been heard anywhere given that the chap had been travelling around. I did ask **[Driver]** - he said he hadn't mentioned it except to the police, but who knows? I gather **[Driver]** had no wish to get involved or pursue anything not least because he detested Willie...and wasn't too keen himself on attracting any police attention. Nothing sinister - nobody does!

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2016 15:44:59 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Noted **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** I understand from those who spoke with **[Driver]** that he saw a car like Willie's parked by the roadside a mile or so before the eventual crash site and it was unoccupied with the drivers door open As **[Driver]** continued his journey in his van, he was later passed by a land rover heading generally south east in opposite direction Putting 2 and 2 together he assessed that this land rover would eventually have passed Willies car and therefore may have had something to do with his ultimate fate I am told that possibly on the Monday that **[Driver]** reported the matter to the police who were dismissive of his story As mentioned I tried to trace **[Driver]** but learned that he and his partner had split up and he went to India. His story is entirely possible but I cannot probe it further due to **[Driver]**'s absence This information is of interest but as it stands proves nothing as the land rover driver has never been traced therefore we don't know what happened next? Willie could have been taking a toilet break at the time or had some other reason to leave his car ( stretching his legs, having a dram, getting some fresh air....who knows? The witnesses we have interviewed to some extent independently corroborate each others information without having been able to confer or collaborate. All very interesting and frustrating at the same time!!

Regards John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
To: johnweir \*\*\*\*\*  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2016 18:26:25 +0000

Hi John, **[Driver]** confirmed to me that it was just after the cattle grid and up the track a little way. His view was relatively clear due to his roof lights and being higher up than if driving a car. In fact, he said that it was only because of those 2 factors that he noticed the car at all, but to verify the accuracy of that would entail reproducing the circumstances and I doubt anyone has done so. It may entirely possible that another car driver wouldn't be able to. I know from experience that having lights on the roof of lorries, horseboxes and so on, and being seated rather higher, does make a huge difference to what can be seen at night. As to the Landrover - of that I have no knowledge at all. I heard from a different source that there was another car, (make unspecified,) involved - but that was part of the story I mentioned and therefore not germane to your quest, as such, being unverifiable. **[Driver]** certainly never mentioned seeing that to me. With regards to the time scale - that marries with what **[Driver]** told me. It probably would have been after the weekend when he contacted the local police. I've never had a reason to disbelieve him. I should mention that neither **Donald** nor **Iain** were aware of Willie's car being parked for any length of time and it was never discussed in the bar, to my knowledge. That is sketchy, admittedly - I was only in there because of Alex arriving and doing the handshake routine. I do pity politicians. It is completely within the bounds of possibility that Willie stopped for any number of innocent reasons, I agree. One wonders why it took him so long to arrive at that point in the road, given the time he left his friends to continue his journey - I understand he stopped off en route after leaving Glasgow. The great joy of driving at that time of night is that it takes half the time to get anywhere.

I can't imagine Willie had enough of any kind of whisky in his system to support the idea that he sat there for hours, drinking - did the autopsy suggest anything of that sort? For what it might be worth, I recall it being mentioned in passing that he was quite capable of taking a nip whilst driving...but it didn't involve stopping the car. And, I stress, that isn't a thing I've observed....it could be nothing more than a throwaway comment. I personally find it extremely improbable that the evidence you would like to find ever existed. At best, in the conspirator scenario, all you could have would be someone saying they were responsible for his death or a witness to it. It still wouldn't actually prove anything. Even if you were prepared to accept a witness statement, the potential age of the person now might argue incoherent memory and not bear close examination. Oh dear - it is all "ifs and ands". I'm rather at a loss as to how one could definitively prove the case either way - unless evidence does exist of wrongdoing and those in whose interest it was to commit the act find it convenient to now release the details. That wouldn't, frankly, surprise me very much. In fact, I find your quest more interesting than Willie's unfortunate fate, which must make me seem very uncaring. I do hope I have managed to avoid heaping too much of the extraneous material onto you - I do appreciate that it is counterproductive, but it is very difficult to avoid straying into it all, especially as I am conscious that one snippet can unlock a door. If this were written in that secret, but unmistakable, language of organised murder, one only has to ask to whom were "they" speaking? And we neatly return to speculation!!

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From: johnweir  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2016 11:02:10 +0100

Hi **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**, It is documented by previous investigators that Willie left his flat in Glasgow about 18-30 hours and drove off, intending to go to his cottage. It is unknown at that time if he had the two bottles of whisky that Donald claims he purchased, if indeed this actually occurred. The reason that I say this is because its only **Donald** who is attesting to this purchase, without corroboration. I asked him for contact details of **[Off-licence Manager]**, the off sales man but **Donald** refused to pass them to me therefore I cant check this. Supposing though that he did but 2 bottles of Islay Mist whisky, they were bought about 12 noon but it was over 6 hours later that he left Glasgow therefore he could have left them anywhere as they were not recovered from his car and we have information that he bought more whisky at Invergarry en route to his cottage, logically this would have been unnecessary if he already had the Islay Mist with him. I have requested information about the post mortem examination and if toxicology samples were taken for alcohol or indeed any medication as either may have deteriorated his ability to drive. I wondered if you may have free time next Friday for a meeting to discuss and share thoughts on this case. My colleague, **John Walker** and I would be happy to drive to your preferred location. I realise from your e mails that much of your information may be hearsay but nonetheless it may lead me to new lines of inquiry and would therefore be valuable. The campaign group have asked me to defer the report for a week or so and this will enable me to ingather additional information from existing witnesses and may also create scope for your input.

Please advise regarding the suitability of next Friday and meantime thanks again for your insight and assistance. regards John.

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
To: johnweir  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2016 11:17:49 +0000

Hi John - I thought I'd better reply quickly, if not terribly conclusively! I will do my best but it is finding the time to get down over the next week or two. Unfortunately, your enquiry has coincided with a period of frantic activity between business and family concerns - usually I can be extremely flexible, and I neither like to inconvenience you, nor fail to pass on any crucial clue. What that could be defeats me since I wasn't present at any point during Willie's life, never mind his death. I can't even send you a simplified account of where my thoughts lead because all those - the entire story - was woven into a work of fiction. All the information is contained within the framework of a story, but it is by no means a documented account. I wrote it because I was becoming mildly bored by listening to endless

circular discussions about Willie's whisky and bizarrely ill-trained Secret Service men - I am not an author, being the salient point. Extricating the "data" might take a bit of time - I could have a go if you like or I can email you the whole thing? That said, John - it isn't 'proof'. In a nutshell, it is the whole point about Willie - nobody can prove a single thing without straying into speculation based on circumstantial evidence. Since I seriously doubt the Secret Service had any reason to complete any "disposals of Willie", there would not be a single document, redacted or otherwise, indicating any such sinister intent. I only say that because the manner of his death, if indeed it was contrived, speaks to an entirely different author and one that makes more sense if we accept the speculative approach, and forget the 2+2 sometimes can be added up to 5. As regards the whisky - and I am assuming **Donald's** account is accurate here. First, he's a man and I can't imagine he removed bottles and shirts from the car. I can't even imagine him covering them up. I can believe the shirts because it was Easter and more than likely he'd have to deal with some family visits - visits which a moment's consideration might prompt him to buy inferior brands which he had no intention of drinking, but potential guests might. Second, there is not a cat in hell's chance Willie either drove to an intentional death or a simple visit to his house without those particular bottles of whisky. He wouldn't drink many, if any, other brands. People are like that - especially "alcoholics" of Willie's colour. We aren't talking about Norwegian sailors who will boil raspberry jam and brasso to make alcohol. (I met some once). I do not believe he would buy it and quietly dispose of himself without enjoying it first. Even the possible, but unlikely, shock of realising he had left it behind seems insufficient justification for buying one he detested, drinking it, and then shooting himself in the head - as a matter of interest have you tried sitting in that model of car and trying to do it? Willie was a creature of the grand gesture, of passions...torment even. But by 1985 what drove him was the colder anger that grows from deep grief, which is somewhat different to despair. Observationally speaking, the volatile character almost never acts out his threats of self harm to any serious extent, but if Willie had fallen prey to that relatively rare certainty of purpose I suspect the lawyer in him would leave a long and detailed diatribe as to his reasons. And he would drink the whisky. I am being pointless again - it is all deduction based on speculation, with a few cornerstone factual details to knit it together. Giving you chapter and verse of psychology and so on isn't really very helpful. Do I believe there was foul play? On balance, I have to think there was - for all his difficulties, Willie could not discard the dictates of a God inculcated on him from birth. Suicide is too great a sin to genuinely contemplate, especially if you are alone, on a dark road, with only the hills to hear you. I think his God would be too close in those circumstances. I will talk to Mike, my husband, and see if I can squeeze a full day out of other commitments.

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2016 12:21:57 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

All noted  
Thank you John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Fwd: Willie McRae  
Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2016 12:25:37 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

I meant ask **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**, are you still in the hotel trade or have you ventured into something else?

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**  
To: johnweir  
Subject: RE: Willie McRae  
Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2016 13:43:16 +0000

Hi John, No, I remarried and now participate a little in the maelstrom otherwise known as haulage. We run lorries, mainly from Inverness, although that does not necessitate my being there - in fact, at times, like now, its the reverse. as we have a ton of paperwork to wade through with limited time to get it done in. Usually, I can organise my days a bit better especially as my youngest is now 13 and definitely doesn't require a mother to bath him. I never was a hotelier - I only bought one because Iain wanted to continue in that trade. The chances of me successfully pulling a pint are vanishingly remote. If someone desperately wanted to assign a label to me, it would be that of labourer, with hands to match, rather than management material. I'm not really an "anything" - I'm a mother of 7 children and have been nothing else over the last 36 years worth talking about. High-powered I am not, and very happy to have avoided it! I'm just saying it as it is, **John**, because I really don't want to appear to be something I am not - that is, especially placed to know vital information. It never ceases to amaze me, though, how people gravitate to me to tell me all sorts of trivia, most of which I have little or no interest in, except I find it compellingly curious that they need to. Perhaps people carry something they want to offload and I am, on occasion, a suitable receptacle. That was the sensation I had with the chap in the bar. Honestly, you couldn't make it up! I mention this because whilst loquacious strangers may seem rather random, {unless they are Glaswegian!}, I find it quite usual. He was a Londoner, by the way. Thank you - a welcome break from tachographs, which I regard with some degree of loathing.

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: Willie McRae  
Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2016 14:49:23 +0100  
To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

All duly noted I asked because a colleague of mine runs a hotel up north somewhere and your paths may have crossed By the way the campaign group's press officer is putting out a piece next week re our investigation I will let you know when it's going out

John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: johnweir

Subject: WM

Date: Wed, 4 May 2016 12:22:17 +0100

To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

Hi **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** I wondered if you had any time to meet for a chat next week I can come up to Caithness or Inverness, whatever suits you I would only need about an hour of your time

Regards John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

To: johnweir

Subject: RE: WM

Date: Wed, 4 May 2016 11:31:20 +0000

Hi John - I am more than happy to chat but can't really afford the time in the near future to spend a day going to Inverness...its a lot of diesel so I try to incorporate other tasks with any trip there! You would always be more than welcome here and can stay as long as you want. I have not the slightest anxiety about being "identified" with the whole conundrum - I just am not a witness to anything that would even crawl through a Court of Law, and very much want to emphasise that so as not to be accused of false claims! Any day/time if you want to drive up here, except Monday...I'm fencing on Monday and doubt I'll be able to speak after hammering in 70 posts with a post driver. Yours, **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

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From: johnweir

Subject: Re: WM

Date: Wed, 4 May 2016 12:54:09 +0100

To: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

All noted **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]** thanks I will speak to the group and then decide if I require a face to face or if the group are happy to accept the info that you have provided by e mail Regards John

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From: **[Private Investigator's Ex-Wife]**

To: johnweir \*\*\*\*\*  
Subject: RE: WM  
Date: Wed, 4 May 2016 18:19:04 +0000

Hi **John**, I do apologise for being inconvenient. I had hoped my son might drag himself back from Edinburgh for a weekend in Inverness, which would have facilitated meeting you there, but he has been unexpectedly overrun with work issues too. Must be something in the air? I'm perfectly happy either way - that is, I can perceive that the issue is important, certainly to many people if not simply in itself, but my interest in it springs solely from an intellectual curiosity rather than a wish to be elevated to a 'person of significance' within its framework. It is a great pity - and unfortunately unprovable - but of the 2 people in whom Willie allegedly confided, apparently immediately before his own demise, one is, I believe, deceased and the other is never going to breathe a word. Not much help really. I do wish I could have been of some concrete assistance to you - Yours [**Private Investigator's Ex-Wife**]

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From: johnweir  
Subject: Re: WM  
Date: Wed, 4 May 2016 20:10:08 +0100  
To: [**Private Investigator's Ex-Wife**]

No problem We are in contact with a guy who helped Willie when his house was on fire the night before he left for Kintail Also have another close friend who can help us  
Take care John

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [**Private Investigator's Ex-Wife**]  
To: johnweir \*\*\*\*\*  
Subject: RE: WM  
Date: Wed, 4 May 2016 20:01:00 +0000

Excellent, John - Hope you have enjoyed investigating the whole thing!

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END OF CORRESPONDENCE



## 2. Nurse

### Statement taken by Hugh Fraser

*Hugh: I did meet with [Nurse] in Aberdeen (with Paul Delamore), the nurse in charge of Ward 40 when McRae was admitted at about 8pm on 6 April. I do not have a statement but from my notes the only matters which I noted as of potential relevance were:-*

- 1) McRae was in a mess when he arrived; in his own pyjamas, long un-kept hair and feet and lower legs black from proximity to smoke/fire
- 2) He was advised by the consultant neurosurgeon, Blakelok, that the x-rays showed a bullet in McRae's head, and that Blakelok advised the police. This was about 8pm that evening.
- 3) McRae's life support was switched off in the early hours of 7 April with the permission of his relatives.

## 3. Driver

Our investigation first became aware of **[Driver]** via the lawyer Hugh Fraser, who is part of the campaign group. Hugh Fraser (along with **Paul Delamore**) had spoken to **[Driver]** informally during a meeting at the Willie McRae crash site in 2015.

Here is a copy of an email sent by Hugh Fraser at that time: (Statement 1)

Subject: **[Driver]** Update

Date: 12:41, 14th Nov 2015

From: Hugh Fraser

To: Justice For Willie Campaign

All, a short note to confirm that **Paul** and I conducted a site visit with **[Driver]** on Friday 6 November.

**[Driver]** stated the following:-

- 1) **[Driver]** was part of what was seen as a "hippie" community at Sallachy at the time. He knew McRae - was not particularly keen on him - and there were tensions between the locals and the Sallachy contingent due to alleged drugs usage. **[Driver]** was originally from Halifax in Yorkshire and had migrated to the West Highlands due to his interest in hillwalking in the area.

2) **[Driver]** was returning from Halifax to his home on "the Friday or the Saturday" of the easter weekend. At some point between 2am and 6am (he believes at the earlier part of that range) he passed a 4x4 vehicle being driven very suspiciously at a point 5.6 miles back towards Invergarry from the current McRae cairn site.

3) At a layby, 3.1 miles further on towards Bunloyne, **[Driver]** then came across McRae's abandoned car, badly parked on the grass verge with both front doors open and no sign of any occupants. He described the car as a "dark blue or green Volvo". He was very uneasy at the locus and was concerned the 4x4 might return to follow him. He did not leave his van but drove past very slowly. This lay-by is 2.5 miles back towards Invergarry from the current cairn site.

4) He heard over the weekend from a neighbour that McRae had been in a fatal accident and telephoned Kyle of Lochalsh police station early on the Monday morning. He was told his evidence was not relevant or words to that effect.

5) He was interviewed by the police over 2 days approximately 2 years ago. We agreed that **Paul** would advise him on how to do a FOI request to get a copy of his statement - HF to connect **Paul** and **[Driver]** by email.

Please note one specific detail which caught my attention: **[Driver]** remarked that the 4x4 had Goodyear tyres with white lettering: **Donald Morrison** mentioned to me that one of the cars chasing McRae in Glasgow had distinctive "white rimmed tyres".

I did not have any concerns about **[Driver]** 's credibility as a witness, and I think **Paul** shares that view.

Please note that we do NOT yet have an affidavit from **[Driver]** as this was not practical at the locus and was premature until his evidence was discussed and bottomed out. I suggest we get his police statement via FOI and then proceed with an affidavit.

I have today forwarded two separate items of correspondence from the Crown Office and have asked **Donald Morrison** to speak with him again today.

Finally, apologies for the recent radio silence which was due to technical challenges, and extensive business travel and commitments last week.

Hugh

\*\*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*\*

Statement 2 (obtained directly from **[Driver]** in June 2017:

My name is actually xxxxxxxxxxx but I have always been known as xxxx.

My recollection of the events surrounding the death of Willie MacRae are fairly vague after all this time and I suppose that I remember more from what I told the police in statements and having spoken to people over the years.

I recall that I was driving my van northwards towards the Kyle of Lochalsh during the early hours of the Saturday morning [5 April 1985]. It was a route I knew well because I worked for a while as a driver delivering seafood across the country. It was dark and the road as usual were very quiet at the time. At a point on my journey I was passed by a dark coloured Diahatsu 4 x 4 track motor car. It was driving slowly generally southward in the opposite direction to me. I didn't recognise the car but it sort of stood out because it was very clean and shiny, not mud spattered like a farm or poacher vehicle and it also had white lettering around the outside of its tyres. It looked new. Other than the driver I do not know if other people were in the car. The car had its headlights on and there were no other added lights like a roof bar or anything like that. I thought nothing more about it but as I continued along the road for about 3 miles I saw a dark coloured Volvo parked on the side of the road to my left. It was not actually on the road but on the verge. Its front doors were open because as I passed it I could see straight through the front part of the car and noted that there was no driver or front seat passenger. I didn't see anyone next to or near the car. I can't recall if the interior light was on and I don't know if anyone was in the rear seat area of the car. It was a Volvo and was either dark green or dark blue in colour. This location was on the south side of the summit about 2 miles short of where the memorial cairn is now situated. I wondered at that point if there was a connection between the two cars but drove on to complete my journey.

On the Sunday morning [7 April 1985] a neighbour told me that Willie McRae had been found dead in his car and that he had been shot. I knew Willie McRae because he spent some time up in that area and in fact he was the defence lawyer for a couple of guys who had been charged with an assault at someone's house.

At that time I enjoyed a bit of hash but only recreational, nothing heavy. The two guys who had been charged with assault were sort of vigilantes who targeted people who smoked hash. At the time part of their defence to the charges was that the area was awash with drugs and dealers and these two guys were simply trying to discourage it. This of course was nonsense and merely an attempt to get them off with it. I sort of disliked Willie McRae because of this ridiculous defence he was putting up for them because it made people who used a bit of hash look like the bad guys and in fact they were harmless. In any case I decided to report my sightings of the two cars to the local police so I telephone the Kyle of Lochalsh police office. The policeman told me that the inquiry was ongoing and I think he took my details. I presumed that someone would contact me for a statement but they didn't.

I thought no more about it. Over the next few years I had no further thoughts about the incident and then out of the blue I was contacted by CID officers from Northern Constabulary who wanted to speak to me.

I don't remember the exact date but they told me that it was the 28 year anniversary of his death so I guess it would have been round about 2013 . I told them my story and again heard nothing further.

Sometime later I was contacted by a journalist called Paul Delamore, a guy with long hair. He was researching Willie's death and asked me about what I had seen. I told him the story and he told me that Willie's gun was found about 30 feet away from the car and that the car had been taken away by the police but put back again the next day. I found this very strange and wondered how that could be possible, I mean how could a Volvo car like that be replaced to the same spot that it was taken from, on a hillside. Everyone would know about it, its a busy road and people would see it wouldn't they.

Over the years I found the conspiracy theories to be a bit far fetched, in fact I was actually named as the person who shot him because I didn't agree with the stories about the area being awash with drugs and dealers. It was utter nonsense.

That's all I can remember at this point and as I said a lot of my recall is what I remember from speaking to the police and others.

Reading through my statement I find it to be an accurate account of my by now hazy memory of the event. The only issue that might need clarifying is why I thought it necessary to contact the police on the Monday. My neighbour turned up on the Sunday morning and told me that Willie Mcrae had been shot on Friday night at the top of the "Garry". I immediately thought back to the Daihatsu jeep which at the time seemed extremely odd. It didn't look local and in those days tourists didn't travel at night, it was travelling at less than 10 m.p.h but didn't cause me to think drunken driver. This encounter is still my most vivid memory of that night, for whatever reason at the time I found it sinister. When I heard that Willie had been shot I made an instant connection to the jeep. I hope this adds some clarity to my response.

#### 4. Hitchhiker

**Statement taken by John Walker over the telephone Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

I contacted the Justice for Willie McRae campaign regarding a meeting I had with a person who I think is **Donald Morrison** in the summer of 1990 / 91.

I have been sent a recent photograph of **Donald Morrison**, by **John Walker**, which is on Facebook, I don't recognise him from that, I have however identified **Donald** from a video clip on You Tube, where he is visiting Willie McRae's cairn along with Mark McNicol,

In 1990 I played in a band called Rootlove in Edinburgh, one of the band members moved up to Skye so I used to travel between Edinburgh and Skye by hitch hiking, I didn't drive at the time.

I used to wear a tee shirt at the time when the band played, which said on the front "Who killed Willie McRae" and on the back it said, "Who gives a fuck" with an exclamation mark.

Back at that time Willie McRae's death was a fairly topical issue, as it was felt by myself, and others, that his death was a set up, and he was killed by the state.

One of the times I was hitch hiking to get to Skye was in the summer of 1990/ 1991, I'm sure it was the summer because I remember the weather being good, I managed to hitch a lift from a man who I think was **Donald Morrison** from near Fort William.

I told **Donald** I was travelling to the Skye and he told me he was going to stay at a friend's house in Kintail for a holiday, during the journey I discussed the death of Willie McRae and told **Donald** about the band and myself.

As we were approaching Willie McRae's cairn, I asked to stop there so I could spend a little time there, I told **Donald** that he could drop me there and that I would hitchhike the rest of the way, he said he would wait for me.

We stopped at the cairn so I could pay my respects, after a short time we set off again heading for Kintail where **Donald** was going to stay.

When we got there **Donald** offered me a cup of tea, which I accepted, he also told me that he would run me up to Skye, whilst I was in the house with **Donald** I asked him if I could roll a joint and he said it was okay but to open the window and stand near it as his friend that owned the place didn't smoke. He also had a dog at the accommodation, which stopped to feed and give some water whilst we had tea.

After we had a cup of tea, we set off again heading up to Skye, on the way there we stopped at the Kyle of Lochalsh, at the first pub, I can't remember what it is called and **Donald** bought me lunch.

After lunch and during our conversation **Donald** said, " I know everything about you" and then talked about the death of Willie McRae.

He mentioned two things that I thought was quite strange and told me there were two little parts to the whole conundrum about the case, and when everything comes to light these facts will become apparent.

He told me that a high-ranking police officer involved in the case of Willie McRae's death took early retirement after Willie died and that Willie was involved with a group or organisation in Edinburgh, but he didn't explain this any further.

When he was about to leave in his car, which was in the car park beside the tourist office in Kyle, he did however say that either he was still a policeman or had been and that I should watch myself.

I didn't see **Donald** after that day until I saw him on a video clip on You Tube, I have always felt what he said was strange and that's why I contacted the campaign with this information.

## 5. SNP Supporter

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016-05-22 1135 hours**

I live at the above address [redacted] with my wife. I recently made contact with 'The Justice for Willie MacRae' campaign through my wife who emailed Mark MacNicol. The reason contact was made was in reaction to a letter I received from Willie MacRae dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 1984.

The content of the letter to me was totally out of context. Willie was requesting me in the letter to make enquiry about a local resident to my area, Mr [redacted] of [redacted], Dunfermline. The letter suggested that Willie MacRae wanted to know everything about Mr [redacted] and his association with the Boys Brigade. At that time, I knew Mr [redacted] from the local area, but not to talk to. I knew his son through the SNP – I am an active office bearer through the SNP. At that time, I don't recall sending a written reply to Willie. I am pretty sure I would have spoken to Willie verbally but I don't recall the conversation. I did not carry out any enquiry at this time into Mr [redacted] and I did not think that the letter merited more than being out of context and I thought no more of it.

I first came across Willie MacRae when he spoke at SNP conference in Elgin, 1974. In 1981, I approached Mr MacRae with regards to a building to give SNP a base and to sell some flats to raise money for the SNP. Willie agreed to do the conveyancing and gave us several ideas in relation to the building.

I have kept numerous documents from Willie MacRae over the years regarding his conveyancing work, which has his signature on all of the documents in green ink.

There recently was an article; I think in the Scotland on Sunday about a year ago, where it mentioned that Willie MacRae may have had details about a paedophile ring. This is what made me think about the letter I received from Willie because it mentioned Mr [redacted]'s association with the Boys Brigade.

I am aware that over the years there has been suspicion with men associated with boys associations such as those. I suspected that the content of the letter perhaps had something

to link with that article. I didn't think that the content of the letter merited contacting the police.

The information I have about Willie's death is only what I have read in the press. I knew one of the witnesses to the incident, **[SNP Member]** who was an SNP councillor. I was in his company a few times, and discussed Willie's death. He only told me what he had witnessed and he never discussed anything sinister.

Willie MacRae never discussed his private life, only about his days in India, I did not know the private individual Willie MacRae.

I have handed over a redacted copy of the letter from Willie MacRae to **John Walker**. **John** has seen the original, I have allowed **John** to take a couple of photos of Willie's signature from other documents.

I have been asked if I have anything to add or to ask. I would like to say that I don't think Willie MacRae committed suicide, I don't think he did because he wasn't the type, He has looking forward to his retirement.

I have also been asked if alternatively I think he was murdered, and I think he was but I don't know by who or how.

## 6. MacRae & Dick Mechanic #1

## & 7. MacRae & Dick Mechanic #2

Although we spoke with spoke with two staff members from MacRae & Dick, Inverness, we did not take any formal statements, as it became clear they did not have any information to advance the case, or indicate that they were involved in the recovery / replacement of Willie's car at the site.

The current service manager at McRae & Dick garage was not yet born in 1985 and had no knowledge of the Willie McRae investigation, or the recovery of a Volvo motor vehicle.

Another garage worker (with 45 years' service) advised that in 1985, McRae & Dick operated a recovery service from Inverness and the now deceased Eric Turner was the recovery driver. He also advised that, had Eric been involved in the recovery of Willie McRae's car, it would have been the subject of workshop discussion. He had no knowledge of the car's recovery.

## Others

The campaign felt it necessary to include a copy of our correspondence with MSP John Finnie, and journalist Paul Delamore, in the interest of clarity and transparency.

As detailed in the Summary Report, John Finnie MSP is a former police officer who we were told may have information relating to the McRae case.

Paul Delamore is the journalist who we feel misled the campaign in his article in *Scotland on Sunday* where he details his theory of Willie's car being returned to the crash site on the Sunday.

## John Finnie, MSP

At 14:15 hours on Wednesday 27th of July 2016, John Walker telephoned **MSP John Finnie** at his Inverness office:

John Walker introduced himself as a retired police officer working for the campaign on the investigation into the death of Willie McRae and then explained that he had already spoken with the **[Detective Chief Inspector]**, the **[Control Room Officer]**, **[Uniformed PC]**, the **[First Officer]** who had found the gun and the vehicle examiner **[Traffic Officer]** as well as other civilian witnesses.

**Mr. Finnie** said that numerous people had tried to talk to him about Willie McRae and although John had introduced himself he stated that "I don't know who I'm talking to"

John Walker then asked him if he knew a journalist called **Paul Delamore** explaining his involvement with the campaign, **Mr. Finnie** didn't answer. John Walker then told him about the article **Paul Delamore** printed in the Scotsman in 2015 where he quoted **Mr. Finnie** as having been told by a retired police officer that the car had been returned on the Sunday, but that there was now significant witness testimony that the car was not returned.

**Mr. Finnie** thanked Walker for the call and hung up.

John Walker tried calling back but the phone was continually engaged.

## Paul Delamore

On Tue, May 10, 2016 at 9:03 AM, Mark MacNicol wrote:

Hi Paul

Quick question for you Re one of your articles.

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/the-truth-about-activist-willie-mcrae-s-tragic-death-1-3738745>



There's a section says previously unseen police reports show Willie's car was removed and then returned.

Which document shows Willie's car was returned to scene? Can we see it or a copy?

ps I'll let you know when the next meet is prob be w/c 16th or 23rd May.

Thanks

Mark

**From:** Paul Delamore

**Date:** 19 May 2016 at 14:04:37 BST

**To:** Mark MacNicol

**Subject: Re: question**

Hi Mark,

This is just an email to say that I'm formally withdrawing from the campaign.

There are numerous reasons for this - both personal and I guess what is usually called 'professional' reasons/incompatibilities too.

However, to at least answer your question, the first part of that paragraph is absolutely true; however, the second half certainly leaves a lot of doubt. Again, this was the editorial team mixing things up (like the '3000 Trees writer' stuff). I think it's actually clearer in the paper version, because it shows a picture of the document beside that paragraph showing the car was in West End Garage on Saturday afternoon; but since it's not included in the online version, it's definitely more confusing.

I complained (between you and I) to SoS editorial team 3 times about their changes, but it mostly fell on deaf ears. It then went through a final edit that was unseen to myself where most of the damage to our completely accurate and watertight draft was done (for example, the 'solved' angle wasn't included at all in our draft - we were just focused on the new info we had found out). I was not happy with the article, but they had the power at that point. C'est la vie. The second half of the article, if I recall, is actually pretty much what we wrote - and that's the most accurate part.

On the contrary, my recent Sunday Herald article was, for example, almost exactly word-for-word what I wrote; I intentionally didn't go back to the SoS/Scotsman with that article because of their behaviour on the previous article.

I wouldn't go as far as to call it completely misleading, more poorly edited/choice of words/grammar that probably came from the ignorance of the proof reader and because the editorial team were pushing it for the front page. However, I certainly wouldn't disagree with anyone if they did find it misled them.

Anyway, best of luck with the rest of the campaign and hope you get what you're looking for.

Kind regards,

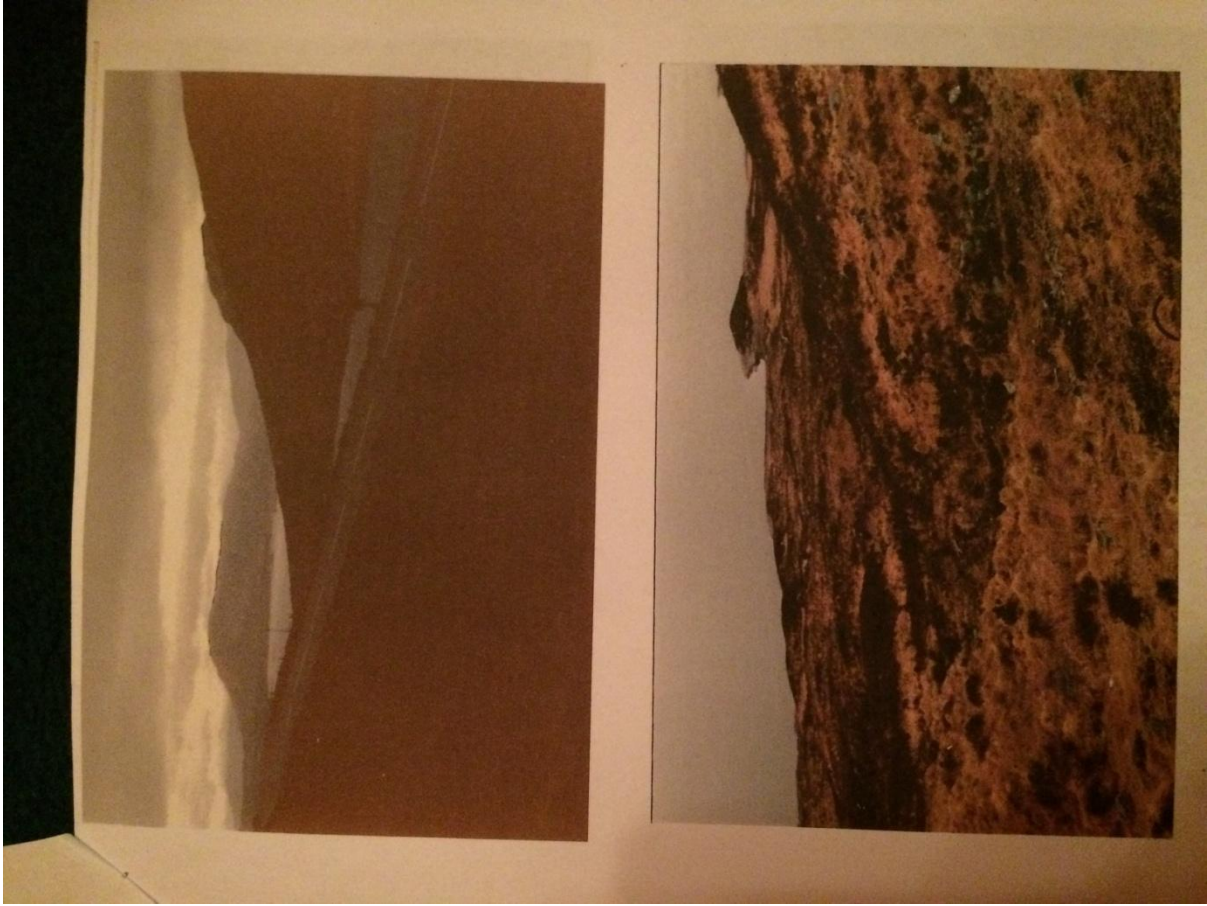
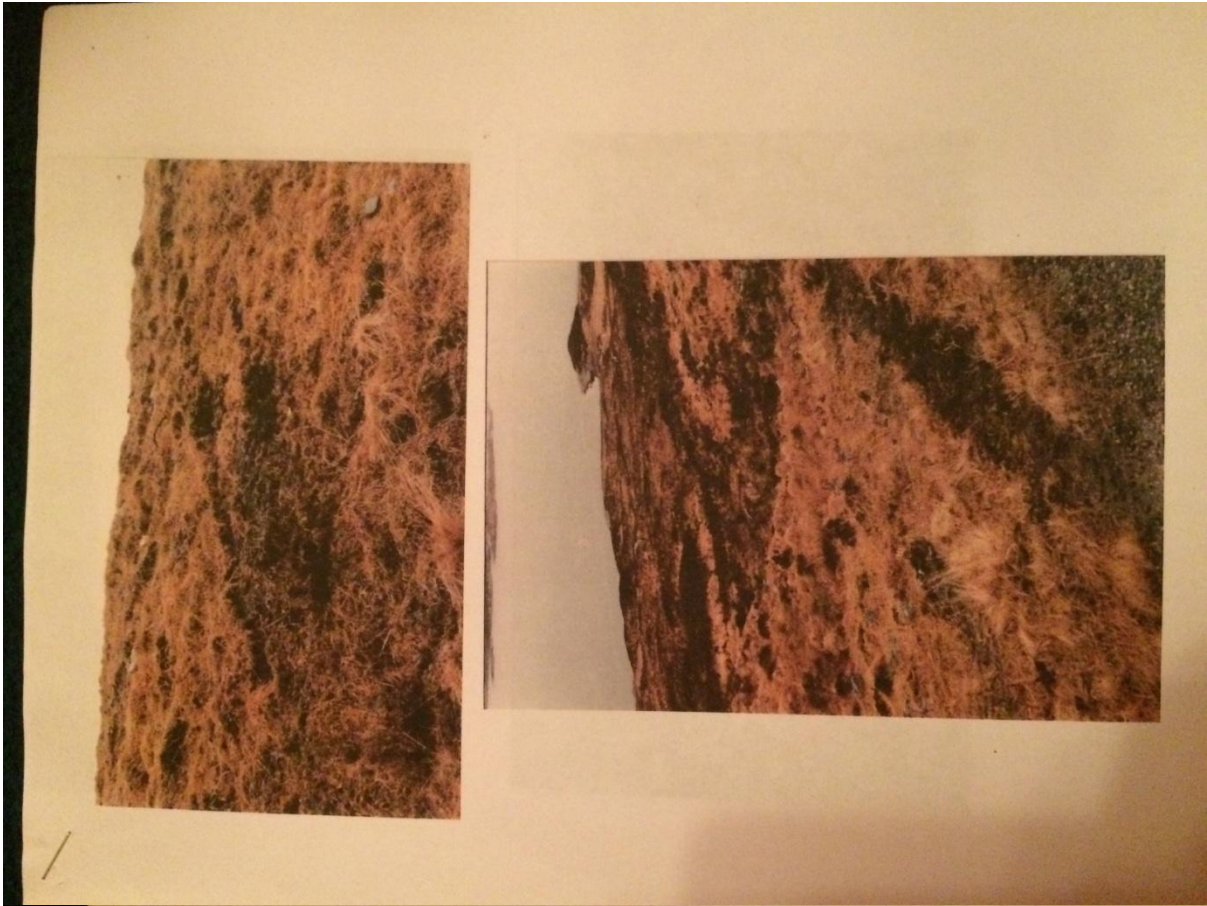
Paul

## Appendices & Photographs

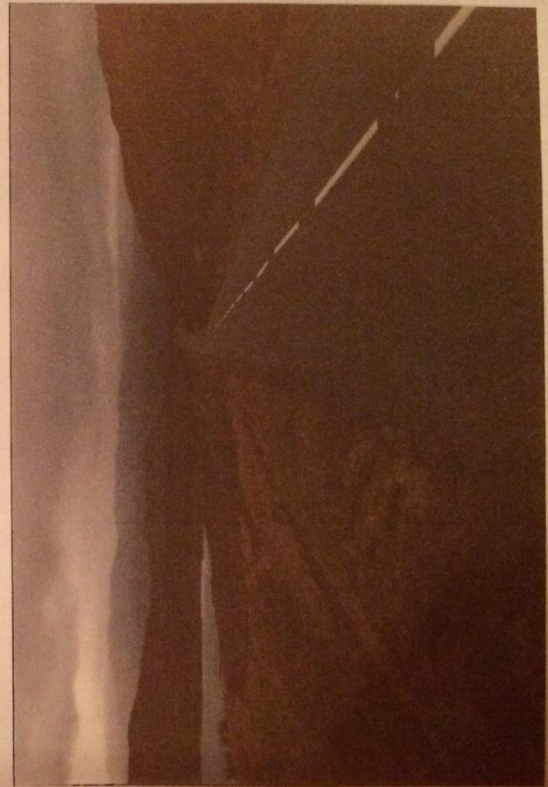
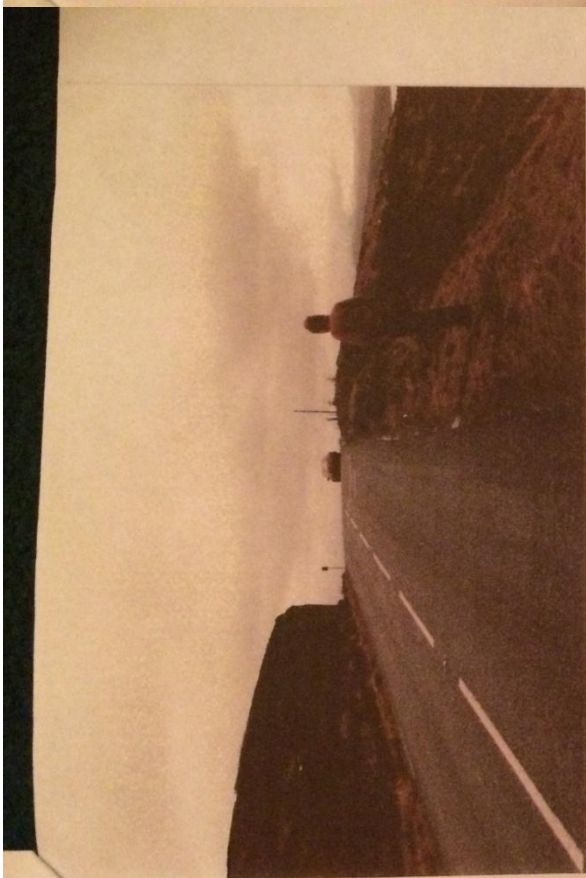
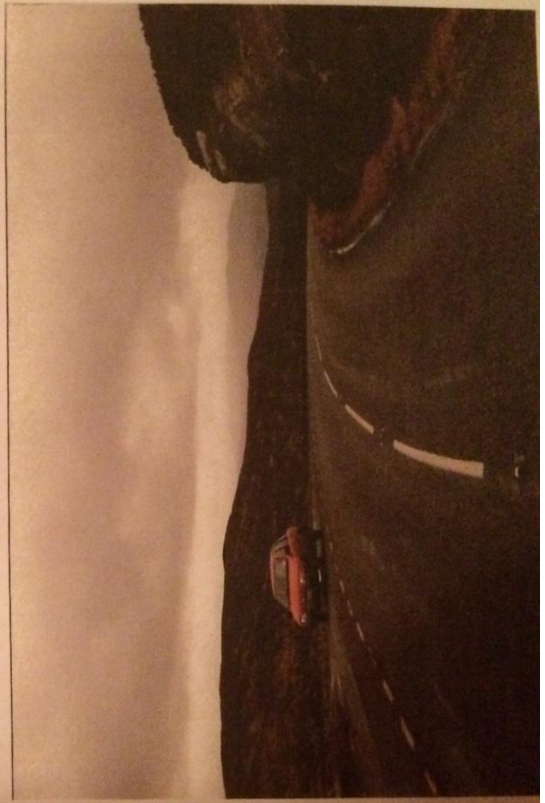
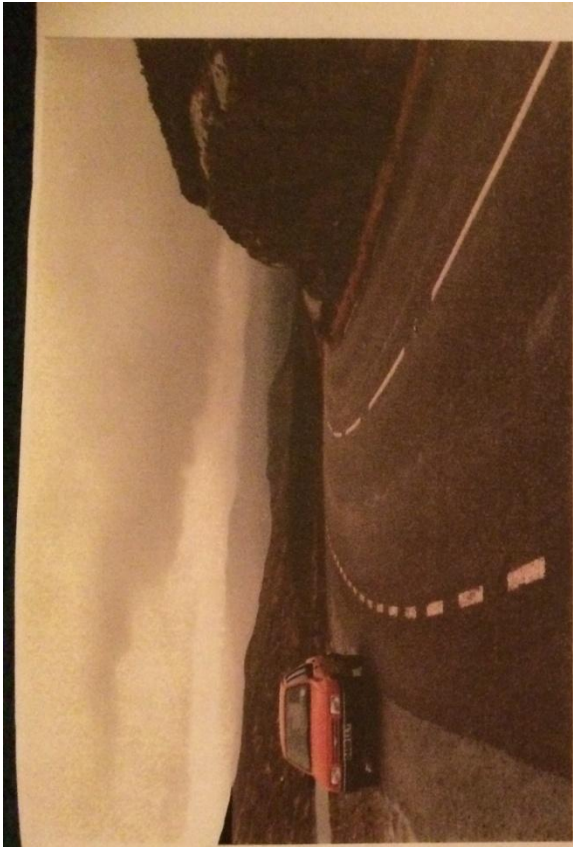
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### **Appendix 1**

Photographs of locus taken on Sunday 7 April 1985 between 13.00 and 14.00 hours by **[Friend#1]**.







## **Appendix 2**

Police documents and photographs online

These can be found at - [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/willie\\_macrae\\_death](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/willie_macrae_death)

**Northern Constabulary Synopsis**

NORTHERN CONSTABULARY

SYNOPSIS

Known circumstances surrounding the death of William MacRae (61 years)

6, Balvicar Drive, Queens Park, Glasgow.

deceased who is 61 years of age, is single and resides at the given address. He is a partner in the firm of solicitors known as MacRae and Company, 16 Buchanan Street, Glasgow and a senior member of the Scottish National Party.

On Friday the 5th April, 1985, MacRae contacted his partner, Ronald Cullen Kerr Welsh and asked him to call at his home where there had been a fire. The deceased has previous convictions for drunk driving and was recently caught, and this offence is still pending. Since the commission of this last crime and offence MacRae was very concerned about it and was afraid that he may do a term of imprisonment and was therefore depressed because of those circumstances. On Friday, he informed his partner Welsh that he intended to travel to his holiday home at Dornie to spend the Easter weekend.

His partner Welsh was aware that MacRae possessed a small calibre, possibly .22 revolver, which was a chrome, silver finish with a pearl handle. The deceased left Glasgow on the afternoon of Friday, to travel to Dornie and his partner had arranged to contact him at his home number. About 7.30 p.m. that evening his partner, Mr. Welsh telephoned his Dornie number and got no reply. He was so concerned regarding his partner's state of mind that he contacted all police stations en route from Glasgow to Kyle. He driving his maroon coloured Volvo, registration number FGB 214X.

It is still to be ascertained whether the deceased has a fire arm certificate regarding the revolver mentioned.

About 1115 hours on Saturday, 6th April, 1985, Constable Kenneth Stewart Crawford, Stationed at Fort Augustus received a telephone message from U.R. Control Room at Police Headquarters, to the effect that a single vehicle accident had occurred on the A.87 Kyle of Lochalsh to Invergarry Road. Constable Crawford went to the locus, which was on the A.87 Kyle of Lochalsh to Invergarry Road and confirmed the Volvo car, FGB 214X had left the road on the nearside opposite the Bunloyne Dam and rolled down an embankment. The local ambulance officer attended at the locus and with the help of witnesses the injured party was removed to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. MacRae had serious head injuries and he was removed to the Neurosurgical Unit at Aberdeen Infirmary, where he was examined by Mr. Blaiklock, Nureosurgeon, who, on his examination found a bullet wound in the deceased's right temple. X-rays showed that there was a bullet in his brain. At this point senior officers were informed, attended at the locus, the vehicle was secured and removed to Police Headquarters at Inverness.

About 3.30 a.m. on Sunday 7th April, 1985, MacRae died of his injuries without regaining consciousness. From the position of the wound in the deceased's right temple it appeared to be self inflicted and as a result, police officers carried out a search of the locus and found the weapon, previously described, with two spent cartridges in the chamber. From enquiries and the evidence collated and the circumstances at hand enquiry officers are satisfied that this is a case of suicide and that no other person is involved.

The Procurator Fiscal has been informed. The remains are being removed to Inverness where a post mortem will be carried out by Doctor Richmond.  
Witnesses/...

Witnesses have been requested to attend at Police Headquarters at 9 a.m. on Tuesday morning for the purposes of identification. A copy of Mr. Blacklock's report and a statement from the deceased's partner is attached to this synopsis.

*b d Alan Donald*

Detective Chief Inspector



Northern Constabulary Production Form

NORTHERN CONSTABULARY

PRODUCTION FORM

SUDDEN DEATH.

ACCUSED ..... WILLIAM MACRAE

CHARGE ..

PART 1

PRODUCTION  
(BRIEF DESCRIPTION)

1 SMITH & WESSON .22 7 shot pistol  
5 Live rounds of ammunition .22  
2 DENO ROUNDS

NAME AND ADDRESS OF  
OWNER OF EACH  
PRODUCTION

DECEASED

DATE SEIZED

7/4 85

(OFFICE STAMP)



SIGNATURE

*L. J. MacDonald*  
sc

ENTERED IN REGISTER AT INVERNESS

AS NO. /

(SIGNATURE) .....

(DATE) .....

(DISPOSAL FACILITIES OVERLEAF)

NORTHERN CONSTABULARY

PRODUCTION FORM

ACCUSED *WILLIAM MARAZ (Deceased)*  
CHARGE .....

PART 1

<p>PRODUCTION (BRIEF DESCRIPTION)</p>	<p><i>Seven sealed poly bags. Eight brown bags containing clothing</i></p>
<p>NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER OF EACH PRODUCTION</p>	<p><i>WILLIAM MARAZ 6 BALVICAR DRIVE, QUEENS PARK GLASGOW</i></p>
<p>DATE SEIZED</p>	<p><i>6 4 85</i></p>
<p>(OFFICE STAMP)</p>	<p><u>SIGNATURE</u> <i>Steven Campbell</i></p>

ENTRURED IN REGISTER AT INVERNESS  
AS NO. /

(SIGNATURE) .....  
(DATE) .....

(DISPOSAL FACILITIES OVERLEAF)

Property Receipt & Report

NORTHERN CONSTABULARY

RECEIPT

Received from the Chief Constable of Northern Constabulary,

per *Det. Sgt. J. W. Kettle* .....

Police Station, *Green* .....

the following property/money:

*Cream and Tan Shopping bag containing*  
various receipts, notepads and papers,  
telephone dial code book  
red booklet.

Royal Bank of Scotland Access card No. ....

Telecom Credit Card No. ....

Diners Club International Card No. ....

One Zenith Wrist watch with half bracelet strap.

Half bottle of Grouse Whisky 1/6 full.

Brown envelope containing various documents and files relating to work.

Black attache case containing

One book Scottish Highlanders

2 Scots Magazines

2 Annual Reports

Various loose papers

1 packet Biz Razors

1 Shaving Brush

1 Tube Antiseptic Cream

1 Bottle of T.C.P.

1 box Palmolive Shaving Cream

1 Tube of Tablets

1 bottle of Tablets

1 Broken tablet bottle

1 Navy blue Tie.

1 Brown envelope - still sealed. + 2 bunches of keys.

Signature *J. W. Kettle* .....

Witness *J. W. Kettle* .....

Date *10/4/85* .....

**Smaller Black attache case containing**  
**1 full bottle of Glenmorangie Whisky**  
**Various loose papers**  
**3 shirts**  
**2 pillow cases**  
**1 pair pyjamas**  
**2 pairs of socks**  
**7 handkerchiefs**  
**2 pairs pants**  
**1 black tie**  
**1 Cardigan**  
**Blue case containing various cuff links and tie pins.**  
**1 Razor.**  
**Black leather pen case.**  
**1 Brown Leather Brief Case containing**  
**Various business documents.**

Signature ..... *DG Howard* .....  
Witness ..... *J. K. Hall* .....  
Date ..... *10/14/85* .....

PROPERTY TAKEN POSSESSION OF AT WARD 40 ABERDEEN ROYAL INFIRMARY ON 6.4.85  
BELONGING TO WILLIAM McRAE, 6 BALVICAR DRIVE, QUEENS PARK, GLASGOW.

GREY SUIT JACKET  
PAIR OF GREY SUIT TROUSERS  
BLACK/BROWN PLASTIC BELT  
CREAM/WINE STRIPE VAN HEUSEN SHIRT  
WHITE UNDERPANTS  
PAIR OF BLACK SHOES  
PAIR OF GREEN SOCKS  
HANDKERCHIEF

All contained in brown  
paper bags.

The following items are all contained within Bag1.

Royal Bank of Scotland Cheque Book  
Brown wallet containing  
14 x £10 notes  
9 x £1 notes  
2 American Express Cards  
Volvo Owners Card  
IPCA Card  
Royal Bank of Scotland Access Card  
American Express Centurion Card  
SNP Credentials Card  
SNP Membership Card 1983.  
2 Glasgow University Library Cards  
John McLean Society Card  
2 English Speaking Union Membership Cards  
MOT Certificate  
Hector Powe Receipt.  
2 Car Insurance Certificates  
AA Membership Card  
SNP National Assembly Credentials Card  
Falkirk District Library Card  
50p Postal Order  
SNP Membership Card 1984  
Certificate of Vaccination  
Certificate of Passing Driving Test  
British Telecom Credit Card  
SNP Special National Conference Credentials Card  
Driving Licence in name William McRae.  
Bank of China 8 x 10 Yuan Foreign Exchange Certificates.  
Sundry Papers.

The following items are all contained within Bag 2.

Black Plastic Folder containing Discount Card.

The following items are all contained within Bag 3

Yellow metal ring

The following items are all contained within Bag 4

29 Assorted keys

The following items are all contained within Bag 5

Assorted coins to value of £14.18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p

The following items are all contained within Bag 6

Royal Bank of Scotland blank cheque in name of McRae and Co. Firm Account  
3 Diaries  
Scottish Law Agents Memorandum Book  
Sundry

The following items are all contained within Bag 7

Box of matches  
Cigar Probe  
Key ring scissors  
Comb  
Registration Document for FGB 214X  
Book of Matches  
Sundry Documents

Note - Bags 1 and 5 are lodged within safe at Force HQ.

NORTHERN CONSTABULARY

RECEIPT

Received from the Chief Constable of Northern Constabulary,

per *Det. Insp. J. W. Ratter* .....

Police Station, *Green* .....

the following property/money:

Grey Suit Jacket  
Pair of grey suit trousers  
Black/Brown plastic belt  
Cream/wine stripe Van Heusen shirt  
White underpants  
Pair of black shoes  
Pair of green socks  
Handkerchief  
Royal Bank of Scotland Cheque Book  
Brown wallet  
14 x £10 notes  
9 x £1 notes  
2 American Express Cards  
Volvo Owners Card  
IPCA Card  
Royal Bank of Scotland Access Card  
American Express Centurion Card  
SNP Credentials Card  
SNP Membership Card 1983  
2 Glasgow University Library Cards  
John McLean Society Card  
2 English Speaking Union Membership Cards  
MOT Certificate  
Hector Powe Receipt  
2 Car Insurance Certificates  
AA Membership Card  
SNP National Assembly Credentials Card  
Falkirk District library Card  
50p Postal Order  
SNP Membership Card 1984  
Certificate of Vaccination  
Certificate of Vaccination

British Telecom Credit Card  
SNP Special National Conference Credentials Card  
Driving Licence in name William McRae  
Bank of China 8 x 10 Yuan Foreign Exchange Certificates  
Sundry Papers  
Black Plastic Folder containing Discount Card  
Yellow metal ring  
29 Assorted keys  
Assorted coins to value of £14.18½  
Royal Bank of Scotland blank cheque in name of McRae and Co. Firm Account  
3 Diaries  
Scottish Law Agents Memorandum Book  
Sundry  
Box of matches  
Cigar Probe  
Key ring scissors  
Comb  
Registration Document for FGB 214X  
Book of Matches  
Sundry Documents

Signature .. *Alc. Swain* ..  
Witness .. *John G. G. G.* ..  
Date .. *10.4.85* ..



**Vehicle Inspection Report**

REPORT ON VEHICLE EXAMINATION (VEHICLE NOT EXCEEDING 30 CWT)

Date 6-4-85 Time 15:30 Place WEST END GARAGE FT AUGUST  
 Permission Obtained N/A  
 Persons Present CONS 252 CRAWFORD  
 Make of Vehicle VOLVO Model 244 DL Regs. No. FGB 214X  
 Type H.D.R. SALOON Colour MAROON Recorded mileage 79694  
 1st Registered FEB 1982 Road Tested YES/NO

DAMAGE

Impact REAR WINDSCREEN DRIVERS DOOR WINDOW SHATTERED  
ROOF WINGS DOORS + FRONT PANEL BUCKLED  
 Previous N/A

STEERING

Type RAK + PINION POWER ASSIST HYDRAULIC  
 Steering Box/Rack GOOD  
 Linkage NO WEAR  
 Ball Joints NO WEAR GOOD CONDITION  
 Swivel Pins/Bushes GOOD  
 Remarks NO DEFECTS

SUSPENSION

<u>Front</u>	<u>Rear</u>
Type <u>MAG STRUT</u>	Type <u>COIL SEMI-TRAIL</u>
Dampers <u>INTEGRAL</u>	Dampers <u>TELESCOPIC</u>
Anti Roll Bar <u>YES</u>	Anti Roll Bar <u>NO</u>
Condition <u>ALL IN GOOD</u>	Condition <u>GOOD CONDITION</u>
<u>CONDITION</u>	
Remarks <u>NO DEFECTS</u>	

BRAKING SYSTEM

Type DUAL SYSTEM

Servo Unit YES

Reservoir OK

F.N.S. DISC MATERIAL OK

F.O.S. DISC "

R.N.S. DISC "

R.O.S. DISC "

Handbrake - R.N.S. WORKING

R.O.S. WORKING

Remarks NO DEFECT

WHEELS & TYRES

<u>N.S.F.</u>	<u>O.S.F.</u>	<u>O.S.R.</u>	<u>N.S.R.</u>
Make <u>GLASCOW</u>	Make <u>SPEED</u>	Make <u>216</u>	Make <u>RADIAL TUBES</u>
Size <u>175 SR 14</u>	Size <u>175 SR 14</u>	Size <u>175 SR 14</u>	Size <u>175 SR 14</u>
Ser.No. <u>NONE</u>	Ser. No. <u>"</u>	Ser.No. <u>"</u>	Ser.No. <u>"</u>
Type <u>RADIAL</u>	Type <u>"</u>	Type <u>"</u>	Type <u>"</u>
Pressure <u>OK</u>	Pressure <u>OK</u>	Pressure <u>NONE</u>	Pressure <u>OK</u>
Tread <u>S</u>	Tread <u>S</u>	Tread <u>S</u>	Tread <u>S</u>
Wheel <u>OK</u>	Wheel <u>RIM DAMAGED</u>	Wheel <u>RIM DAMAGED</u>	Wheel <u>OK</u>
Remarks <u>LOSS OF PRESSURE DUE TO ACCIDENT</u>			
<u>DAMAGE (REAR OFFSIDE) OTHERWISE NO DEFECTS</u>			

OTHER COMPONENTS

Security of Seats ..... *OK* ..... Speedometer ..... *N/A* .....

Seat Belts ..... *OK* ..... Side & Tail Lights ..... *N/A* .....

Wiper ..... *N/A* ..... Headlights ..... *N/A* .....

Washer ..... *N/A* ..... Indicators ..... *N/A* .....

Horn ..... *N/A* ..... Brake Lights ..... *N/A* .....

Exhaust ..... *GOOD* .....

Remarks ..... *UNABLE TO TEST ELECTRICALS* .....

..... *OTHERWISE NO DEFECTS* .....

.....

CONCLUSION

*Vehicle been well maintained. No defects*

Examined By .. *L. W. M. S. PCH63* .....

Corroborating Officer .. *David J. ...* .....

Date ..... *6-4-85* .....





STRATHCLYDE POLICE

SIR PATRICK HAMILL, Q.P.M.  
Chief Constable

The Chief Constable  
Northern Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
Perth Road  
INVERNESS  
IV2 3SY

Identification Bureau  
Police Headquarters  
173 Pitt Street  
GLASGOW  
G2 4JS  
Switchboard 041-204 2626  
Direct Line 041-227

Your ref.

Our ref. 51/AP/CG B.57/85

Date 19 April 1985

For the attention of Det Inspector Ratter

Dear Sir

BALLISTICS EXAMINATION

Please find enclosed a copy of the joint report from the officers concerned.

The productions may be uplifted at your convenience and an account for this examination will be forwarded in due course.

Yours faithfully

  
Chief Superintendent

ALISTAIR BUCHANAN PATON

(42)

Sergeant  
Identification Bureau  
Strathclyde Police

I have 23 years Police Service and am at present a member of the Identification Bureau of the above Force. I have made a practical study of firearms and am familiar with the various types of weapons and their ammunition. I have extended this study to include the matching of fired bullets and fired cartridge cases to specific weapons by means of the rifling systems and firing pin impressions respectively engraved upon them in the course of discharge.

RODERICK MacDONALD

(34)

Constable  
Identification Bureau  
Strathclyde Police

I have 13 years Police Service and am at present a member of the Identification Bureau of the above Force. I have made a practical study of firearms and am familiar with the various types of weapons and their ammunition. I have extended this study to include the matching of fired bullets and fired cartridge cases to specific weapons by means of the rifling systems and firing pin impressions respectively engraved upon them in the course of discharge.

SHOWN

Pro No

Joint Report dated 10 April 1985.

This is a true report and relates to our examination of the articles received from Northern Constabulary (Inverness) on 10 April 1985.

SHOWN

Label No

Revolver.

"

5 live and 2 fired cartridges

"

1 fired bullet.

These are the articles referred to in our Report.

STRATHOLYDE POLICE

IDENTIFICATION BUREAU

FATAL SHOOTING - INVERGARRY/KYLE ROAD

We, Alistair Buchanan Paton and Roderick MacDonald, forensic scientists authorised by the Secretary of State for the purposes of Section 26(2) of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 to make reports in relation to ballistics and physical examination for the purposes of summary criminal proceedings hereby report as follows:-

On 10 April 1985, the undernoted items submitted for examination were received from Northern Constabulary (Inverness) in connection with the above incident.

REVOLVER

A 7 chamber, top hinged, external hammer, single action revolver of American manufacture (Smith & Wesson) designed to chamber .22 short rim fire cartridges. It bore the serial number 90686 and was in fair outward condition. Although fully capable of being fired the ratchet mechanism on the rear of the cylinder was so worn that the cylinder had to be rotated manually to align the chambers with the barrel. Nevertheless test shots (produced) were successfully discharged in the weapon and the fired bullets recovered for comparison purposes. At no time during our examination could the cocked weapon be induced to discharge accidentally, despite being struck butt first against hard and verticle and horizontal surfaces.

5 LIVE AND 2 FIRED CARTRIDGES

The above were all .22 short rim fire cartridges of British manufacture (ICI) suitable for use in the above Smith & Wesson Revolver. Five were apparently live/...

live and the two fire cases bore a clearly defined hammer impression in each of their rims. When these were compared in a comparison microscope such detail was present within the hammer impressions of each as to enable us to form the opinion that both had been fired in the same weapon.

BULLET

A .22 calibre bullet of typical fired appearance and around its circumference were the engraved marks of rifling system.

The test cartridge cases fired in the Smith & Wesson Revolver submitted were compared one with another in a comparison microscope and it was found that the hammer imparted its own repeated, individual characteristics to each of the cartridge cases. When one of these cases was similarly compared against one of the fired cases submitted such agreement was again present as to enable us to form the opinion that the two fired cartridge cases submitted had indeed been fired in a Smith & Wesson Revolver serial number 90686.

Similar comparisons between the test bullets fired in the submitted Revolver and the fired bullet submitted again showed such agreement in detail within the markings caused by the rifling system of the weapon that we formed the opinion that this bullet had also been fired from the Smith & Wesson Revolver serial number 90686.

*Alistair Paton*

Sergeant  
Identification Bureau

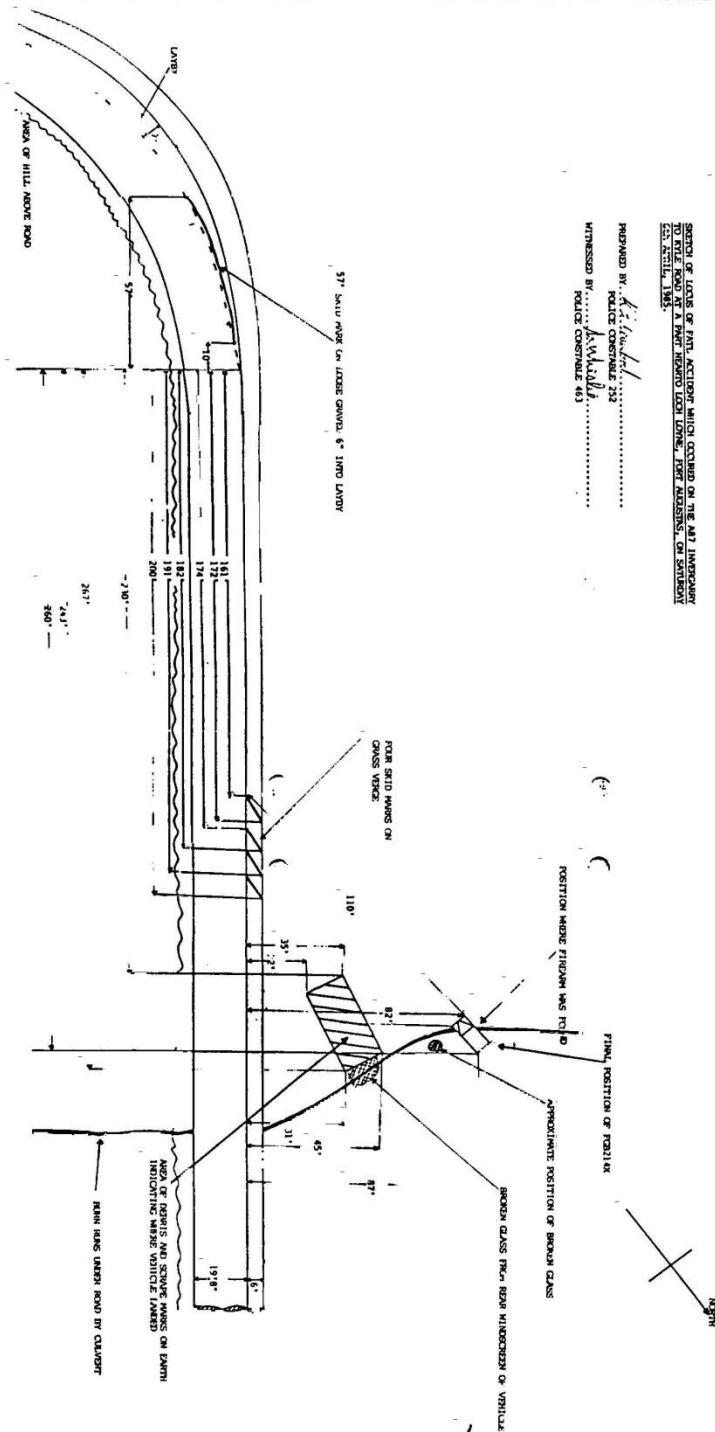
*D. Macdonald*

Constable  
Identification Bureau

10 April 1985



# Map of incident



1990 Letter



CROWN OFFICE  
5/7 Regent Road Edinburgh EH7 5BL  
Telephone: 031-557 3800, ext254

12 April

Hugh C Macmillan QPM  
Chief Constable  
Northern Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
Perth Road  
INVERNESS IV2 3SY



C

Dear Chief Constable

DEATH OF WILLIAM McRAE

As you will have seen there has been recent Press comment and speculation concerning the circumstances of the death of William McRae on 7 April 1985. The Lord Advocate has noted such reports with concern. The matter has now been raised formally with him by Sir Nicholas Fairbairn and the Lord Advocate has decided to make public his reply to him. The reply will be made public at midday tomorrow, Friday.

I enclose for your information a copy of that reply. I have also sent a to Mr Heywood the Procurator Fiscal at Inverness.

I understand from the late Mr McRae's brother, Dr Fergus McRae, and his solicitors that a statement may also be issued on behalf of the family

Yours faithfully

A D VANNET  
Assistant Solicitor

DIRECTIVE SUPT.  
FOR INFORMATION  
& RETENTION  
IN MACRAE FILE  
FT.

Seen by Det. Supt. McCullough  
on 30/4/90  
FJS.

McCullough  
noted

to do. for cc.





LORD ADVOCATE'S CHAMBERS  
REGENT ROAD  
EDINBURGH EH7 5BL

Telephone: 031-557 3800  
Fax (GP3): 031-556 0154

11 April 1990

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn QC MP  
Fordell Castle  
by Dunfermline  
Fife

Thank you for your letter of 5 April concerning the death of William McRae in 1985. You refer in particular to the report in the "Scotland on Sunday" newspaper of 1 April which I had noted along with other recent Press comment and speculation concerning the circumstances of the death.

In July 1985 the Crown Office issued a statement explaining that the results of the investigation into the death by the police and Procurator Fiscal at Inverness had been carefully considered by Crown Counsel who were satisfied that there were no circumstances to warrant criminal proceedings. That statement also explained that the results of the Procurator Fiscal's investigations had been disclosed to the next of kin, Dr Fergus McRae, and discussed with him and that he had expressed satisfaction with the extent of the investigation and had indicated that there was no wish on the part of the family for a Public Inquiry.

I am well aware that the close relatives of the late Mr McRae have found particularly distressing the number of incorrect and inaccurate facts and exaggerated allegations and suspicions about the circumstances of the death which have been reported in the Press. And I can only express my dismay that his "friends" should after his death show such scant regard for his family with this continuing ill-founded speculation and discussion of increasingly fanciful and bizarre theories.

Considering the continuing intrusion into the close family's privacy and the anxiety and distress occasioned to them I have reluctantly come to the view that contrary to our established practice further information as to the circumstances of the death should be revealed.

Mr William McRae died as a result of a single gun shot wound to the head. Post mortem examination showed that the muzzle of the gun had been held firmly against the skin. Ballistics examination established that the bullet had been fired from a .22 revolver which belonged for some considerable time to the late Mr McRae. While there were two fired cartridges in the chamber of the revolver, I must emphasise there was only one shot wound to the head. There were no other bullet injuries and there was no trace of a second spent bullet in or about the car, nor was any damage caused by a bullet to the car. The revolver was recovered by police on 7 April 1985 from a burn directly below where the driver's door of his car had been. I wish further to emphasise the position of the gun when recovered. It was not found some distance from Mr McRae's car as has been reported. I/

I may say that the irresistible inference to be drawn from all the facts and circumstances surrounding this tragic death is that Mr McRae took his own life. This inference draws yet further support from the conversations Mr McRae had with his brother and another friend shortly before his death indicating firm suicidal intentions following a number of personal incidents which had troubled him deeply.

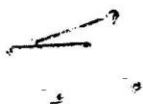
As you know a Fatal Accident Inquiry is not normally instructed into a suicide. The discretion which the Lord Advocate has under section 1(1)(b) of the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976 to instruct an inquiry relates to the case of a death which was sudden, suspicious or unexplained or occurred in circumstances such as to give rise to serious public concern. Given the results of the investigations by the police and Procurator Fiscal the firm view was that Mr McRae's death was neither suspicious or unexplained nor, despite the bizzare theories which have been promoted in some quarters, that the death occurred in circumstances such as to give rise to serious public concern in the sense in which that phrase is used in the Act.

I can confirm that I did indeed speak to Gordon Wilson. I did so at a time when the opinion of the family regarding an FAI was already known and the view formed independently that there should be no Inquiry. Gordon Wilson was similarly aware of the opinion of the family. In no sense was he asked to usurp the role of the Lord Advocate and he did not seek to do so. If he had expressed the view that there was serious public concern regarding the circumstances of Mr McRae's death, that view would have been very carefully considered. In the event he did not indicate any such view. I might add that if an FAI had been instructed at the time when it was already known Mr McRae had died at his own hand, Law Officers might well have been criticised for using an FAI only to cause embarrassment to the SNP. All that an FAI would have revealed would have been unhappy personal details of a very prominent member of that Party.

I trust I have re-assured you there is no mystery about this death. It was a sad and unhappy end for Mr McRae. It is now time to respect the wishes of his family and leave his memory in peace.

FRASER OF CARMYLLIE

## 1993 Request



DCI Herbert  
West Mercia Constabulary  
Divisional Office  
SHREWSBURY

GEG/LC

21 July 1993

Dear Mr Herbert

I write in response to our discussions about "Enemies of the State", and refer to the photocopy of relevant sections forwarded by you for comment.

I apologise for my delay in responding which is entirely due to competing demands for time, and ultimately I had to have a DI compare notes between the book and the Police enquiry surrounding the death of Mr MacRae.

The article is inaccurate in many respects, and does not give a true representation of the circumstances or the investigation, however as you are already aware, references to other agencies and coincidental circumstances can be made in such a way as to infer a conclusion for which there is no positive denial.

There is absolutely no doubt the Northern Constabulary investigated the death of Mr MacRae initially as a road accident, until it was medically realised a firearm had been used. Mr MacRae was subsequently deduced to have committed suicide, using his own firearm found at the locus, with no justification for thinking otherwise. There is no justification for suggesting SB or Security Service had an active interest in Mr MacRae, certainly not with the knowledge or involvement/collusion of Northern Constabulary.

The following assertions are positively refuted:

1                   **"Revolver recovered some distance from the car".**

The revolver was in fact recovered in a shallow stream immediately below the position of the driver's door of Mr MacRae's vehicle.

2                   **"There can be no doubt that sometime after the crash, and the first people arriving at the scene, someone searched through MacRae's pockets and ransacked the car".**

There is no evidence to justify this suggestion.

/..



- 3 "Police investigations were stopped short by the Home Office because of MI5 involvement".

Nonsense. Police investigation was carried out by DCI MacDonald (now retired) until he was satisfied that no crime had been committed, concluding that Mr MacRae had committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with his own revolver, and reporting to the satisfaction of the Prosecuting Authority, the Procurator Fiscal and the Crown Office.

- 4 <sup>TWO</sup> "The bullet wounds were found in his brain".

One bullet was recovered from Mr MacRae's head.

I attach a copy of a letter from the Lord Advocate's Chambers, which was made public in 1990, in order to allay concerns about Mr MacRae's death being expressed by the media over the years, and causing upset for his family. I trust it will serve to support my comments above.

Northern Constabulary have been approached regularly over the years by the media seeking to further the "conspiracy" theory of Mr MacRae's death, especially around the anniversary of his death which serves as a pilgrimage for some of his "friends" who may be politically motivated. We have not entered into debate about the circumstances, as we do not consider it necessary or appropriate, nor would we have the authorisation of the Procurator Fiscal or the support of Macrae's family.

It is not our intention to challenge Mr Murray's theories, or take any action which might highlight the issue of Mr MacRae's death to the benefit of some, and the upset of others. I therefore respectfully request you use the foregoing information discreetly, and not in any public or court arena.

Yours sincerely

Detective Superintendent

Enc.

# Northern Constabulary

Force Control Room, Headquarters, Old Perth Road, Inverness

Tel (0463) 715555 Fax (0463) 230800

Confidential Line Available on (0463) 720367

## PRESS RELEASE

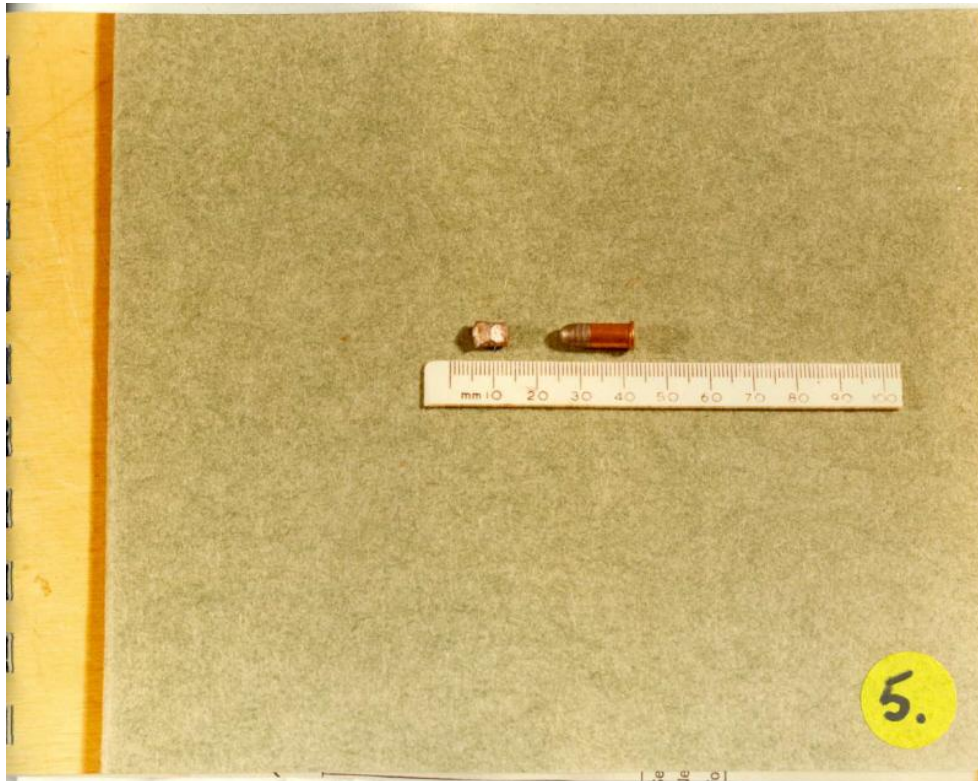
Issue Date: 27 March 1995	Time: 5:19pm	No:53/3
SUBJECT:	DEATH OF WILLIAM MACRAE - 1985.	
<p>With reference to the Death of Mr. William MacRae on 7th. April 1985, and a recent article published in "The Herald", the following is offered in response to further Press Enquiries on the matter, viz:</p> <p>Northern Constabulary conducted investigations at the time of Mr MacRae's death and submitted a full report to the Procurator Fiscal and the Crown Office. We have no further comment to Offer.</p>		
Any enquiries concerning this message should be directed to: The Duty Officer, Force Control Room		

Distribution:LOCAL MEDIA, THE HERALD, THE SCOTSMAN, ALAN DOW.





2013 Request (Photos of gun)







**Police Photographs**



















