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27 July 2009

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By fax to [REDACTED]
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DIRECTORATE OF LEGAL SERVICES

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Enquiries to: [REDACTED]

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Your ref: LC.SMC,SK.M1156001

Our ref: L27086/RAB

Dear Sirs

Re: David Mery & [REDACTED] - v- The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

This letter addresses the issues you raise about fingerprints/palm prints etc.

1. I enclose a further copy of the letter sent to Mr Mery on 5 September 2007 by Mr [REDACTED], senior information manager, SCD12, Metropolitan Police Service which confirms that Mr Mery's fingerprints were destroyed and the entry on the fingerprint database was deleted on 24/7/07 more than 2 years ago. That letter also confirms that Mr Mery's entry on the DNA database was deleted on 20/8/07 and his PNC record was deleted on 30/8/07. Palm-prints would have been destroyed at the same time as fingerprints and there would be no basis to believe that they would be separately retained when the fingerprints were destroyed.
2. Given that all entries on these databases, including all references on the PNC itself, have been deleted, it is not possible to provide a record or printout that confirms there are no entries against Mr Mery's name. The best that can be done is to show Mr Mery a PNC search printout which shows that his name and details are not found when a PNC search is done on 'David Mery'. I enclose a search printout which shows this. This search printout is copied to you on the basis that it is confidential and is only provided as relevant information in this civil action. It must be securely destroyed by you when your file is closed. The reason for this is that it contains some personal data about other individuals with names similar to Mr Mery.
3. All litigation files maintained by the Directorate of Legal Services are not kept for longer than 6 years. Then they are destroyed. The same is true of relevant DPS files.
4. The photographs to which you refer (and of which you have been provided copies) will be destroyed in accordance with 3 above. The Defendant does not agree to the piecemeal destruction or handing over of items relevant to this civil claim. However, the Claimants can be reassured that the photographs do not form any part of any crime investigation file or investigative database.

I trust that this provides the confirmations that you need.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Directorate of Legal Services