1			
1	MS LAMBERT: Sir, we are grateful for that. I think, so far	1	responsible for two investigations that are ongoing,
2	as we are concerned, that concludes the business of	2	both the Operation Resolve investigation, which is
3	the day, save for, sir, any observations you wish to	3	a managed IPCC investigation, or at least part of it is,
4	raise in respect of the IPCC.	4	and the IPCC's own independent investigation.
5	LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: Well, I think I will do that now,	5	Sir, with respect to both of those investigations,
6	because it is a matter that troubles me.	6	the IPCC has a statutory duty to inform interested
7	Mr O'Connor, this is not to you personally, as I am	7	parties who are defined in the Act of the progress of
8	sure you appreciate. I am bound to say that I was	8	those investigations.
9	troubled by the announcement, if that is what it was,	9	LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: I am sure it doesn't have
10	precisely, that the IPCC apparently issued on Thursday	10	a statutory duty to do so if it would be thought that so
11	in relation to suspects.	11	informing them prejudiced an independent judicial
12	I really questioned whether it was appropriate, days	12	proceeding.
13	before these inquests were due to start, to issue	13	MR O'CONNOR: Sir, that is clearly right, and, with respect,
14	something like that. I had made an order under the	14	that is why the arrangements that we thought had been
15	Contempt of Court Act which was perfectly clear, and	15	put in place were put in place, so that your team were
16	I have no doubt that I was not the only person to be	16	happy with what we posted on the internet. The
17	troubled about it, and I would like to know how it	17	requirements are that we do it every 28 days. The
18	happened.	18	practice has been that we do it shortly following
19	MR O'CONNOR: Sir, I wonder if I may respond to that in two	19	pre-inquest reviews. That was the process that was
20	parts?	20	followed last week, as it has been followed on previous
21	LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: Of course.	21	occasions, sir.
22	MR O'CONNOR: Sir, dealing first with one particular tweet	22	I know that there has been some discomfit not only
23	that was tweeted on Thursday evening	23	from you but from other Interested Persons.
24	LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: This was done by tweets, was it?	24	LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: It is not surprising, Mr O'Connor,
25	MR O'CONNOR: Sir, there were public statements made by	25	just stepping back for a moment, is it?
	Page 1		Page 3
1	a number of different means. There were discussions at	1	MR O'CONNOR: Sir. our position is that there is a difficult
1 2	a number of different means. There were discussions at court with the press. There was a regular IPCC update	1 2	MR O'CONNOR: Sir, our position is that there is a difficult balance to be struck between observing the statutory
2	court with the press. There was a regular IPCC update	2	balance to be struck between observing the statutory
2 3	court with the press. There was a regular IPCC update posted on the IPCC website.	2 3	balance to be struck between observing the statutory duty that we have to inform the large group of people
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1 1 correctly pointed out that updates are provided to your because the work of the IPCC falls into two parts. 2 team. It should, however, be said that when the last 2 There is a formal update, which is what was run past 3 3 your team last week, but there is also the ability of note was circulated, Mr Suter of your team responded to 4 4 the IPCC, undertaking to review the note as usual, but the IPCC to tweet information, and, as we understand it, 5 5 what happened is this hearing -- the pre-inquest hearing saying that it was a matter for the IPCC to decide 6 finished at 17.07 pm on Thursday, and at 17:57, so 6 whether anything might infringe the Attorney General's 7 7 notice about contempt, because Mr Suter was unwilling to within an hour, there was a tweet which referred 8 8 become, as he described it, a one-stop shop for advice directly to information which had come to light during 9 the course of the hearing and which was prohibited from on the subject. 10 10 LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: Quite. publication under the order which you had made. 11 MR HOUGH: Of course, we are not in the position to be that 11 That was picked up very quickly in the thread of 12 12 for anybody. We can clarify the extent of your orders the tweets, because the very next one was saying, "Is 13 that information you should tweet? What's the point? 13 under the Contempt of Court Act, but it is for everybody 14 14 Is it a PR exercise?", and the answer to that from the publishing information about these inquests to make very 15 IPCC was: 15 sure that they don't commit a contempt by publishing 16 "The information was given at the pre-inquest 16 prejudicial material. 17 17 LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: Thank you, Mr Hough. I think the hearing today and is part of our monthly update." 18 The problem with that, so far as Interested Persons 18 position is pretty clear, isn't it, Mr O'Connor? 19 19 are concerned, is that there was a recognition in that MR O'CONNOR: Sir, yes. Sir, can I just respond briefly to 20 tweet that the information that was being tweeted was 20 the points Ms Barton made? There was the tweet that she 21 21 referred to. That, in fact, was the point I had been part of the hearing and therefore was the subject of 22 22 coming to, and I didn't get to it. Ms Barton is right the order. 23 The difficulty that that then created was that the 23 to say that there were some words in the middle of that 24 24 tweet which linked the IPCC's publicity about the fact Chief Constable of South Yorkshire then wrote to the 25 25 of there being 13 suspects with what had been said in IPCC, and emailed it on Friday morning. We had no Page 5 Page 7 1 response to that, until 12.07 pm today, and the result 1 court that day. 2 2 was that that tweet remained on the internet for those Sir, we do accept that that was a breach of 3 3 the section 4(2) order. We apologise, of course, for to see until today. 4 So, having tweeted it within an hour of the close of 4 that. It sprang from an inadvertence in the fact that 5 the proceeding, it remained there for three days. We 5 someone in the press office hadn't appreciated what 6 are very concerned that the IPCC did not see the 6 exactly were the implications of the order that you had 7 seriousness of what they had done in the course of this 7 made. Sir, in fact, the tweet was taken down on 8 particular tweet. They must be treated in the same way 8 Saturday, it wasn't still up this morning, but you may 9 as everyone else within these proceedings -- the 9 not think that is a matter of great importance. 10 families, the Interested Persons who might otherwise 10 Sir, as far as Mr Hough is concerned, perhaps it has 11 wish to tweet -- and there is a very real concern that 11 been a learning exercise for everyone. We will, of 12 they have seriously overstepped the mark and, in doing 12 course, take on board what he has said as well, of 13 13 so, there has been a flagrant disregard of the order course, as what you have said. There does remain the 14 14 which you made. issue of the duty we are under, but we will take great 15 LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: Thank you very much, Ms Barton. 15 care in future as to how we seek to discharge it. 16 MR HOUGH: Sir, may I just deal with a couple of points? 16 LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: Well, I am quite clear that the LORD JUSTICE GOLDRING: Of course. 17 17 duty, as I dare say you know, Mr O'Connor, cannot 18 MR HOUGH: First of all, in relation to your order last 18 override the fairness of proceedings. 19 week, that of course prohibited publication of what was 19 MR O'CONNOR: Sir, we wouldn't suggest otherwise for 20 20 said in the proceedings last week. It doesn't, of a moment. I'm grateful. 21 itself, prohibit an Interested Person from disclosing 21 22 22 a fact known to that Interested Person, although care 23 would obviously have to be taken not to commit 23 24 a contempt in doing so. That is the first point. 24 25 25 The second point I would make is that Mr O'Connor

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