



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Ex. MET officer involved in Menezes fiasco joins IPCC management board.

This story courtesy of the Police Oracle newsletter <http://www.policeoracle.com>

A top Scotland Yard officer who was personally criticised for failings in the Jean Charles de Menezes shooting has been appointed to the leadership of the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Commander Moir Stewart will be the IPCC's new director of investigations and a member of its management board.

Menezes was shot dead on July 22, 2005, after being mistaken by armed police for a suicide bomber. At the time Stewart was a top aide to Met commissioner Sir Ian Blair, serving as his staff officer. The IPCC report into the killing of the innocent Brazilian found Stewart had failed to tell Blair of a "major" development, which suggested the wrong man had been shot. Blair claimed he did not know this until the next day despite many inside the force soon fearing that an innocent man had been killed.

Stewart was also a senior figure in the Met team at the Old Bailey trial in which the force was convicted of catastrophic failings in the case. During the trial the Menezes family claimed the Met had tried to smear the character of their loved one.

The Menezes family said Stewart's appointment was "shocking", a former top Met officer said it risked damaging the already fragile confidence in the police watchdog, while the IPCC said he was an "outstanding" candidate for the job.

Harriet Wistrich, solicitor for the De Menezes family described Stewart as "a shocking appointment" and issued a direct challenge to Stewart: *"If he wants to obtain any confidence from complainants, we would expect him to disown the attempt to smear Jean Charles de Menezes at the health and safety trial."*

During that trial the family were angered when the Met's barrister, Ronald Thwaites QC, suggested cocaine use by the Brazilian could cause *"distortion of thought processes"* and, when its direct effects wore off, anxiety manifesting itself as paranoia.

In its report the IPCC criticised Stewart and a fellow aide to Blair, Caroline Murdoch: *"Ms Murdoch and chief superintendent Stewart, the commissioner's personal staff, were amongst those who became aware during the afternoon of 22 July of the discovery of a wallet containing a Brazilian identification document near the body of the shot man."*

Not keeping the commissioner informed about what was clearly a major development and critical matter for the force was a mistake on their part."

The PPP comments ... whilst Ian Blair is hawking his whitewashed memoirs in the press and on the BBC, one of his disingenuous colleagues takes early retirement and a plum job in the jokingly described 'INDEPENDENT' PCC. . . Yet another can of worms for the Tories to sort out.