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PRESS NOTE

Issued at 7.30am on Thursday 3 June 2010

Cumbria Police are continuing their investigation into the deaths of thirteen people following the shootings in West Cumbria yesterday morning (2 June 2010).

A dedicated team of family liaison officers are continuing to formally identify those who were killed and inform immediate family members. This morning police can confirm the details of one of those who tragically died as 60-year-old Kevin Joseph Commons. Mr Commons, a local solicitor and senior partner in law firm KJ.Commons and Co, was found dead in the driveway of his house on Frizington Road, Frizington, yesterday afternoon. His immediate family have been informed and his death is being fully investigated by police.

Cordons have been lifted at the majority of the casualty sites which were closed by police yesterday for full forensic examination and crime scene investigation. Cordons remain in place and manned by police at a house at Lamplugh, Derrick Bird's house on Rowrah Road, Rowrah, and two locations at Boot including the wooded area where the body of Mr Bird was found at around 1:40pm yesterday. At this time we believe that he took his own life. No shots were fired by police officers.

Two weapons have been seized by police and are being examined by forensic experts. These are a shotgun and a .22 rifle fitted with a telescopic sight. It is understood that Derrick Bird was a licenced firearms holder for twenty years and police are now investigating whether the license covers the firearms which were seized.

More than 100 Cumbrian detectives are dedicated to piecing together the full sequence of events and working on trying to establish a motive. This is understandably a difficult and slow process and we would ask the public and the media to be patient whilst we carry out our thorough investigation to ascertain the facts around this tragic incident.

Officers are following up more than 1400 calls which have been received by the Police Helpline ranging from witnesses aiding the investigation to concerned friends and relatives reporting their concerns. The Police Helpline, 0800 096 0095 remains open for any witnesses or anyone with concerns about friends or family.

Whilst this was a terrifying and horrific incident, it is by its nature, very unusual - locally, regionally and nationally. Cumbria prides itself on being a safe place to live, work, and visit. Cumbria is a tight knit community and its strength is in its people who support one another to get through difficult times. It remains one of the safest areas of the UK and is very much open for business and tourism despite the tragic circumstances of yesterday.