

Inquest into the death of Mrs Dorothy Groce

Questions for the jury in respect of the planning and implementation of the planned surprise, forced-entry armed raid on 28 September 1985 at 22 Normandy Road

1. Was there a failure to communicate among the police officers involved in the search for Michael Groce accurate information as to:

(a) Whether by the time of the first briefing held on 27 September 1985, Michael Groce was no longer wanted by the Hertfordshire Constabulary for an offence of armed robbery? *Yes*

(b) Whether or not Michael Groce had fired a shotgun at or in the presence of officers from the Hertfordshire Constabulary? *Yes*

(c) Whether the shotgun seen in the hands of Michael Groce at Stamford Street was recovered by Metropolitan Police Officers at that address? *Yes*

Was there a failure to make adequate enquiries about the occupants of 22 Normandy Road as at 27/28 September 1985 before the implementation of the planned surprise, forced-entry, armed raid? *yes (10/11)*

Was there a failure to make the officers attending the briefings on 27 and 28 September 1985, aware that the names of three women including that of Mrs Groce appeared on the electoral roll in connection with 22 Normandy Road? *Yes*

Was there a failure to consider whether women or children might be present in 22 Normandy Road at the time of the planned surprise, forced-entry armed raid? *yes*

Was there a failure to make adequate observations of 22 Normandy Road before the planned surprise, forced-entry armed raid took place? *Yes (10/11)*

Was there a failure to call off the planned surprise, forced-entry armed raid:

- (a) at the briefing on 28 September 1985 at Brixton Police Station? Yes
- (b) at the time of entry into 22 Normandy Road at 7 a.m. on 28 September 1985 by the entry group? No (10/11)

Conclusion

If the answer to any of the above is "yes", is it more likely than not that this, or these factors, more than minimally, trivially or negligibly contributed to Mrs Groce's death?

If so, you may reach a conclusion, which may read:

"Mrs Groce was shot by police during a planned surprise, forced-entry raid on her home and her subsequent death was contributed to by failures in the planning and implementation of that "raid".

If you find there were no failings that were more than minimally, trivially or negligibly contributive to Mrs Groce's death you may reach a conclusion which may read:

"Mrs Groce died from complications arising from a police shooting in 1985 which left her with serious injuries and a paraplegic."

8/7/14