

**NI LEGACY INVESTIGATIONS/INQUIRIES**

1. Many Borderers will be aware of the ongoing inquiries regarding legacy incidents during OP BANNER. These have been played out in the public eye with many veterans feeling abandoned by the MOD and UK Government. In response the MOD has set up the AOLB (Army Operational Legal Branch) see att briefing note on their remit.

2. As any Borderer who served on OP BANNER could be part of an inquiry, these are conducted by the Coroners Service Northern Ireland (CSNI), it is important to understand there is now a support process in place.

* If you receive a letter from CSNI do not ignore it.
* Phone the number on the letter and establish comms with the MODs Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy (DJEP).
* DJEP are the MOD lawyers working for you if you request legal assistance.
* If you request the Army to support you DJEP will pass your details to AOLB
* Once your contact details are received AOLB will inform RHQ and ask how to proceed. (RHQ KOSB will assist HQ SCOTS)
* A Veterans Visiting Officer (VVO) will be appointed and will arrange a visit to you to establish what support is needed.
* After the visit the VVO will coordinate any welfare assistance required and ensure all parties are notified.
* The VVO will provide real life support and if required accompany the veteran to the inquest held in Belfast if the veteran is summoned.
* You can contact RHQ in Berwick at any time.
* The VVOs are experienced LE Officers’ who are on your side.

3. The process by CSNI should not be seen as a witch hunt that you can ignore, it is a legal process that we must acknowledge. Veterans can use their own Legal team if they prefer, you have the same rights as any other citizen and can choose to make no comment. Please make sure you get legal advice before making any statement or acknowledgement.

4. At present of the 50 active cases none involve any Borderers, although it is noted that one inquest can open up another line of enquiry.

5. The process can be to our advantage, last summer a team from the Met Police working in support of NI legacy investigations submitted a request to RHQ KOSB through MOD, Army and HQ SCOTS that we allow them sight of Operational logs books from 1972 held in our archive. The request was in relation to the fatal shooting of a civilian in the June of 1972 and that the KOSB were responsible. We were able to prove to the Police over a 2 day period that the KOSB were in Edinburgh on public duties, having left Belfast in April 1972 and the next Tour not starting until Nov 1972.

6. Please be assured that no information will be released from RHQ without consultation and clear legal direction. If you get a letter or have concerns please feel free to contact me at RHQ:

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