Suspected Arson-Murder

<Date>

Introduction ......................................................................................................................................................... 2
Suspected Arson-Murder ........................................................................................................................................... 3
Exhibit 1: Burnt Out House ...................................................................................................................................... 4
Exhibit 2: Yard View of Gate .................................................................................................................................... 4
Exhibit 3: Store House ............................................................................................................................................. 5
Exhibit 4: Open Barn and Yard .................................................................................................................................. 5
Exhibit 5: ‘Preparation Area’ and Yard .................................................................................................................. 6
Exhibit 6: ‘Preparation Area’ and Approach ........................................................................................................... 6
Exhibit 7: Switch Location ....................................................................................................................................... 7
Exhibit 8: Bathroom Window Sill with Brown Drugs Bottle ...................................................................................... 7
Exhibit 9: Device (Electrical Components) ............................................................................................................. 8
Exhibit 10: Device (Green Plastic Bottle Component) ............................................................................................. 8
Exhibit 11: Hallway and Fuse Box ........................................................................................................................ 9
Exhibit 12: Car Waiting Area .................................................................................................................................. 9
Exhibit 13: <Make> <Model> <Mark> Passenger Side Indicator Light ....................................................................... 10
Exhibit 14: Switch .................................................................................................................................................... 10
Exhibit 15: Red Bull Can ...................................................................................................................................... 11
Exhibit 16: Brown Drug Bottle ................................................................................................................................ 11
**Introduction**

This British citizen died violently <redacted> leaving behind <redacted> a grieving community in rural <redacted> where <redacted> was very popular and highly respected.

On <date> I received from <redacted> the Autopsy report as well as the Press Clippings and Depositions related to the death containing location, time, background and circumstances details.

This document outlines why this tragic death should be treated as suspected arson-murder, and is written with a particular suspect (British citizen living in <redacted>) in mind. It also provides some clues from a lay person’s perspective on how the case could be investigated and brought to a successful prosecution.

All information is offered without prejudice in good faith with all due respect to individuals concerned with this case.

Particularly salient points are underlined while points that are questioned and worthy of further investigation are shown in italics.

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Note: The 7 pages of commentary on autopsy report and depositions have been redacted to protect the identity of the witnesses.
**Suspected Arson-Murder**

The Open Verdict and the various documents leave doubt about the cause of the fire. Given the uncertainty, circumstances and evidence found on the scene it is herewith suggested to investigate this incident as suspected ‘Arson-Murder’.

The following outline is offered as a hypothesis:

1. Arsonist-Murderer drives up towards the property <redacted>.
2. Suspect may have befriended the deceased <redacted>.
3. When the deceased <redacted> returns to the yard the suspect runs over the deceased with a car causing multiple broken limbs.
4. The injured <house owner> gets drugged to avoid screaming, and becomes unconscious.
5. The suspect drags the body into the hall way <redacted>.
6. The suspect douses the body of the deceased, the body of the dog and the whole house with ignitable liquid.
7. The suspect prepares a ‘timer’ or ‘remote control’ explosive incendiary device to set alight everything - rapidly.
8. The suspect discards the left passenger side indicator light that broke when smashing into the <house owner>.
9. The suspect discards fuel ‘containers’ and ‘cans’ in the ‘Preparation Area’.
10. The suspect discards ‘refreshment’ Red Bull can in the ‘Preparation Area’.
11. The suspect discards outside the gate an electric switch which relates to the explosive incendiary device.
12. The suspect leaves the drug bottle on the bathroom window sill.
13. Suspect sets off shortly before <time> and waits in the ‘<redacted> car’ for the ‘effect’ of <redacted> actions.
14. <redacted> may have seen the suspect sitting in <redacted> car on <redacted> way down to alert <redacted>.
15. <redacted> was given a lift ‘back up’ by <redacted>.
16. <redacted> saw the (redacted) car arriving and <redacted> getting out.
17. Various Police and Fire Services personnel as well as locals may have seen the <redacted> car and/or the <redacted> (who may have well ‘mingled’ with the crowds as perpetrators sometimes do – getting a buzz out of feeling invincible and undetectable).
Exhibit 1: Burnt Out House
All pictures were taken on <date>. This picture shows the <redacted> house. According to the Autopsy the body of the deceased was found in the hall that houses the entrance and the bathroom. The roof of this annex is intact.

Exhibit 2: Yard View of Gate
This picture shows the gate – apparently the neighbours could go no further due to the heat at the stage when 2/3 of the roof had collapsed.
Exhibit 3: Store House
This picture shows the building used for <redacted> at the right of the <redacted> house. The door on the right was used to get things in and out.

Exhibit 4: Open Barn and Yard
This picture shows the open barn <redacted>, and a shed <redacted> on the right. It is suspected that the deceased was ‘run over’ on this yard.
Exhibit 5: ‘Preparation Area’ and Yard
Being on the opposite side of the yard not much attention would have been paid in the investigation to the objects in the ‘Preparation Area’.

Exhibit 6: ‘Preparation Area’ and Approach
This picture shows several white containers lying around and a blue box. In this area the grey indicator unit was found. Next to it was the Red Bull can – a drink unlikely to have been consumed by the deceased. The electric switch was found next to the red car (see next exhibit). 10 yards lower a waiting car would have been ‘invisible’ to the deceased.
Exhibit 7: Switch Location
A white ‘switch’ unit was found next to the approach – it stood out as there were no other artefacts there (but may have no relevance whatsoever).

Exhibit 8: Bathroom Window Sill with Brown Drugs Bottle
Without a ‘theory’ involving maliciousness the drug bottle remained ‘in situ’.
Exhibit 9: Device (Electrical Components)
An odd device featuring a transformer, metal elements and casing was found outside the house. This may be part of an explosive incendiary device.

Exhibit 10: Device (Green Plastic Bottle Component)
The odd device also featured a green plastic bottle.
Exhibit 11: Hallway and Fuse Box
This picture shows where according to the <redacted> reports the body was found between kitchen/dining room and sitting room ‘on top of roof tiles’. According to the Autopsy Report the body was found in the entrance hall where the roof is intact. The <redacted> pictures would clarify the exact location. The square area in the top right of the picture is where the fuse box was located.

Exhibit 12: Car Waiting Area
This picture shows where the <redacted> car was parked when <redacted> cycled up to the fire. The <redacted> offered a lift ‘back up’.
Exhibit 13: <Make> <Model> <Mark> Passenger Side Indicator Light
A grey object was spotted in the Preparation Area with a round hole. The object had a ‘Made in <country>’ mark but no part identification number. The parts and service specialist at the local <Make> garage immediately identified the part as belonging to a <Make> <Model> – a <redacted> car in production from <year> to <year>. When ordering a second hand part to compare a Mark <X> version was supplied (redacted) hence the broken object found would be from a Mark <y> version. Such an old car would not be available through vehicle hire. There can be no more than a few dozen cars of this type in <colour> registered. It is likely that the suspect borrowed this car from a friend or relative – possibly on multiple occasions.

Exhibit 14: Switch
A white switch was found next to the approach which may have something to do with the fire – or may be unrelated.
Exhibit 15: Red Bull Can
A Red Bull can was found in the Preparation Area. It is extremely unlikely that this drink was consumed by the deceased as it is so counter to <redacted> lifestyle. Naturally finger prints and DNA could be compared to the suspect.

Exhibit 16: Brown Drug Bottle
This small bottle was found on the Bathroom window sill. The suspect is said to be an expert in drugging and doping, and is said to have a crack/cocaine habit. Naturally the bottle could be examined for finger prints and DNA.