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PRESS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE MAINTAIN VEIL OF SECURITY OVER DISCIPLINARY OF OFFICER INVOLVED IN DETENTION OF ROGER SYLVESTER

SOLICITORS
*Hickman
Rose &*
Human Rights specialists

144 Liverpool Road
LONDON N1 1LA
Nearest Tube: Angel

0207 700 2211 (office hours)
07659 138106 (emergencies)

DX: 122234 Upper Islington
Fax: 0207 609 6044
E Mail: mail@hickmanandrose.co.uk

The Metropolitan Police Service today disciplined an officer involved in the detention of Roger Sylvester, who died in police custody in January 1999.

The officer was disciplined in connection with the destruction of pages from his notebook, but the family of Roger Sylvester was refused permission to be at today's hearing, so know no more than was printed in today's Guardian newspaper (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/celldeaths/article/0,2763,526426,00.html>) about the charge.

The family is aware that an officer was taking contemporaneous notes on the night of Roger's detention. The police have refused to say what was in or on the missing pages or what punishment the officer was given, as a result of charges forced upon the police by the PCA. The family feels that when the police say that the punishment was 'suitable', it actually consisted of nothing more than a 'slap on the wrist'. Bernard Renwick, oldest brother of the late Roger Sylvester, gave the following reaction on behalf of the family:

"The family is disgusted by the hypocrisy of the police in talking about openness and transparency while doing everything behind closed doors. This is just more of the same type of treatment the family have received since January 1999 from all the agencies involved in my brother's death and the investigation of his death. Once again, this is the Met Police doing what is best for itself and not the people it serves"