

Date: 30 August 1988

Subject: COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY POLICE IN RELATION TO SUMMER CAMP HELD ON ISLAND OF INCHMOAN ON LOCH LOMOND

1 I refer to the above and have to report as follows.

On Sunday evening, 17 July 1988, the police at Alexandria were notified that a summer camp run by a Thomas Hamilton, 7 Kent Road, Stirling, on the island of Inchmoan, on Loch Lomond, involving a number of young boys, aged 8 to 11 years, was being run improperly.

Enquiries were made and a number of statements have been obtained. Several parents expressed concern about their respective sons who were still on the island or who had began their holiday after 17 July 1988. One set of parents most vociferous were Parents P of [REDACTED] who demanded that the police take immediate action about the situation as their two sons had just arrived on the island.

4 On the evening of Thursday 21 July 1988, after contacting ten sets of parents, I arranged for them to meet their respective sons and judge for themselves first hand if anything untoward was taking place. Only six sets of parents, including parents P, attended at Dumbarton Police Office and spoke with their respective sons. Four boys, including one of the child P, refused to leave the camp and had no complaint to make. Indeed none of the boys interviewed at this time made any complaint, but several felt homesick and were taken home, in some cases reluctantly, by their parents. All the parents present spoke with Hamilton who was quite happy to speak with them. None of the parents present were prepared to make any complaints or malign Hamilton in any way. Indeed some praised him.

5 Whilst at Dumbarton Police Office I spoke to Hamilton and ascertained his full particulars as Thomas Watt Hamilton (36) Born 10.5.52, Unemployed, of 7 Kent Road, Stirling (Tel. No. Stirling 72228). He informed me that he ran Sports Clubs for boys aged 8 - 11 years in [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], the one in [REDACTED] being in existence for almost 15 years. He was not licensed by the local authorities but had the use of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on alternate evenings. Each club catered for 30 members, each paying 50 pence per week subscription. He maintained he was qualified to teach gymnastics through the British Amateur Gymnastics Association of which he was a member. Once a year, during the school summer holidays, he ran a summer camp on either the islands of Inchmoan or Inchmurrin on Loch Lomond, but mainly on Inchmoan, and had been operating them for the past 15 years, this being his 55th camp. I informed him that the police had received a number of complaints from concerned parents to which he expressed sorrow, but maintained he was not acting improperly. He admitted there was no telephone on the island and that he had no arrangements with any of the local doctors or hospitals should a medical emergency arise. He stated that his boat was his only means of communication/transport with the island. I learned that it was a 30 minute journey from Inchmoan to Balmaha and one hour's journey from Inchmoan to Balloch. Hamilton did not deny striking some of the children, maintaining/

~~he was not forcing discipline in the absence of the~~
~~boys' parents, adding that a number of boys were bullies, disruptive~~
~~and cheeky. I informed him that enquiries were ongoing and that I may~~
~~require to speak with him again.~~

~~In respect of the allegations made against WITNESS 10 and WITNESS~~
~~11 of exposing and rubbing their private parts, these remain~~
~~uncorroborated.~~

7 Although many of the complaints are non-criminal in themselves it does
seem that the camp conditions are extremely primitive, with the lack of
ease of access and communication being a prime concern. In this respect
it could be argued there is serious concern for the boys' moral and
physical wellbeing. As yet no charges have been preferred.

8 I respectfully request that this report, together with the attached
statements and accompanying leaflets in connection with the summer camp,
be forwarded to the Procurator Fiscal, 3 High Street, Dumbarton, and the
Reporter to the Children's Panel, McLean Place, Dumbarton, for their
information and any further action they may deem necessary.

Sgt. Divisional Officer
transmitted 30 August 1983

To Procurator Fiscal
Dumbarton