



ISLE OF MAN CONSTABULARY

MEDIA RELEASE

OPERATION ANCESTRAL - UPDATE

Operation Ancestral is the re-opened investigation into the discovery of a new born baby boy at the old Nobles Hospital Nurses Home on 8th August 1989. A media appeal was made in August 2007 to coincide with the 18th anniversary of the baby's discovery.

Since 1989, enormous advances in scientific techniques have been seen, and a DNA profile of the baby has now been obtained. Local officers have been liaising with scientists from the Forensic Science Service in relation to familial DNA. This technique is intended to assist investigators to trace potential relatives of the baby using the inherited components of DNA.

As a result of reviewing the initial investigation and the work which has been carried out by scientists, investigators are now considering a targeted mass DNA screen. The intention of this will be to request a mouth swab from selected individuals who may be of interest to the investigation either through the review of the original investigation or as a result of the scientific work carried out, with the ultimate aim being to identify the mother of the baby. The police are keen to stress that any samples sought will be obtained on a voluntary basis.

Detective Inspector Phil Shimmin is in charge of the investigation. He said: 'I am still very keen to hear from anyone who may be able to assist me in identifying who may be responsible for leaving the baby in the Nurses Home all those years ago.

'I cannot exclude the possibility that the baby was left by a traumatised mother who simply could not cope and who intended the child to be discovered. I would appeal directly to the mother of the baby to contact me so that this matter can be resolved and so that the baby can have an identity. I would far rather the mother come forward voluntarily than be identified by DNA technology further down the line. I will personally guarantee that any information will be treated in the strictest confidence.'

Anyone having information is asked to contact the Police. A dedicated email address has been created for anyone who may wish to pass information by this method. It is ancestral.dha@gov.im

Anyone who has information about this incident should contact Police Headquarters on 631212. A reward may be payable as a result of your information.

You may also contact Isle of Man Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Crimestoppers is an independent Manx charity established to enable callers to pass information regarding criminal activity anonymously. Crimestoppers is not an agency of the Police. Crimestoppers will never ask callers for any personal details.



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