



## Media Release.

### Operation Ancestral New technology leads to review of investigation into dead baby found at Nurses Home, Douglas, 18 years ago

On the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1989 the body of a male infant was found in a communal bathroom at the Nurses Home on Westmoreland Road, Douglas, Isle of Man. This child, who had been born probably no more than 24 hours previously, became known as 'Baby A' and at a subsequent Inquest the cause of his death was given as "lack of attention".

Despite a protracted and detailed investigation neither the mother nor any other person responsible were identified. It was believed at the time that, in addition to the mother, at least one other person with access to the hospital and having some medical knowledge was involved in the birth, due to the baby having been found wrapped in clean linen which belonged to the hospital and certain marks on the baby which indicated medical intervention in the birth.

It is now eighteen years since the discovery of Baby A, however; in light of recent advances in forensic science the police have decided to review the investigation with the aim of identifying possible lines of enquiry which could lead to the persons involved with his birth, short life and subsequent death. This review, known as Operation Ancestral, is being led by Acting Detective Inspector Andy Turner and involves close liaison with the Forensic Science Service and the National Police Improvement Agency in the UK.

A/DI Turner says:

*The use of DNA technology in this type of inquiry is at the 'cutting edge' of investigative techniques and is certainly new ground for the Constabulary. Despite that we still need the help of the community in identifying persons who could have been involved in the incident, in particular the mother or the father. I am mindful that there could be particularly sensitive issues and there may be many reasons why the mother could not provide the necessary care after the birth, but I urge anyone with any information which may assist this inquiry to contact me. We will be able to eliminate people from this enquiry relatively quickly.*

*Had the child been alive today he would have been 18 years old, but his life was only brief and the reasons why the child was left in such circumstances deserve to be re-visited using technology that was not available at the time of our initial investigation.*

*Any person able to assist the inquiry should contact Police Headquarters on 01624 631212 or use the confidential Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111. Messages can be left on a dedicated Operation Ancestral message line 01624 631275 or emailed to [ancestral.dha@gov.im](mailto:ancestral.dha@gov.im).*

Officer issuing A/DI Andy Turner.

Time and date of issue. IoM media briefing 1300hours on 09/08/07