| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-583Responded to: 06 April 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

**I am looking for documents and internal correspondence concerning the preparation and announcement of the indictment of two Libyan suspects behind the Pan Am 103 bombing. The press conference for that event took place on the 14th Nov 1991. I would be looking for documents sourced from the period of Oct-Nov 1991.**

Three documents of potential relevance to your request have been sourced.

These are three press releases and they are included at the end of this document.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.

**Press release A:**

LOCKERBIE INVESTIGATION - ANNOUNCEMENT BY LORD ADVOCATE

THE LOCKERBIE INVESTIGATION HAS NOW BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS. IN THE RECENT MONTHS THE LOCKERBIE INVESTIGATION TEAM HEADED BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY MR. GEORGE ESSON AND THE SENIOR INVESTIGATING OFFICER CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT STUART HENDERSON HAVE BEEN REPORTING TO THE PROCURATOR FISCAL ON THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION.

 IN CONSULTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL I HAVE CONCLUDED THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY APPLICATION TO THE

COURT FOR WARRANTS FOR THE ARREST OF NAMED INDIVIDUALS. I INSTRUCTED THE PROCURATOR FISCAL AT DUMFRIES TO MAKE THE NECESSARY APPLICATION TO THE SHERIFF AND YESTERDAY HE OBTAINED FROM HIM THE GRANT OF WARRANTS FOR THE ARREST OF TWO LIBYAN NATIONALS ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY, MURDER AND CONTRAVENTION OF THE AVIATION SECURITY ACT, 1982.

 THE ACCUSED ARE

 ABDELBASET ALI MOHMED AL MEGRAHI

 AND

 AL AMIN KHALIFA FHIMAH

 IT IS ALLEGED THAT MEGRAHI IS A SENIOR OFFICER OF THE LIBYAN

 INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, HOLDING POSITIONS WITH LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES AND

 AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES IN TRIPOLI AT THE TIME

 OF THESE OFFENCES.

 IT IS ALLEGED THAT FHIMAH WAS ALSO AN OFFICER OF THE LIBYAN

 INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, HOLDING A POSITION AS STATION OFFICER WITH

 LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES IN MALTA.

THE FIRST CHARGE IS THAT BETWEEN 1 JANUARY, 1985 AND 21 DECEMBER, 1988 AT THE PREMISES OCCUPIED BY MEGRAHI AND BY THE LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, IN TRIPOLI, LIBYA, AT A SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING AREA, SABHA, LIBYA, AT THE PREMISES OCCUPIED BY THE FIRM MEBO AG AT THE NOVAPARK HOTEL, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, AT THE HOLIDAY INN AND THE LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTRE, BOTH IN SLIEMA, MALTA, AT THE HOUSE OCCUPIED BY FHIMAH AT 3 ST. JOHN'S FLAT, MOSTA, MALTA, AT LUQA AIRPORT, MALTA AND AT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU, EAST BERLIN, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND ELSEWHERE IN LIBYA, MALTA, SWITZERLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

BEING MEMBERS OF THE LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, AND IN PARTICULAR MEGRAHI BEING THE HEAD OF SECURITY OF LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES AND THEREAFTER DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES, TRIPOLI, LIBYA AND FHIMAH BEING THE STATION MANAGER OF LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES IN MALTA DID CONSPIRE TOGETHER AND WITH OTHERS TO FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF THE LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES BY CRIMINAL MEANS, NAMELY THE COMMISSION OF ACTS OF TERRORISM DIRECTED AGAINST NATIONALS AND THE INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND IN PARTICULAR THE DESTRUCTION OF A CIVIL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND MURDER OF ITS OCCUPANTS

 AND, IN PURSUANCE OF THE CONSPIRACY, WHILE ACTING IN CONCERT TOGETHER AND WITH OTHERS

 (A) BETWEEN 1 JANUARY, 1985 AND 31 DECEMBER, 1985 AT THE PREMISES

 OCCUPIED BY MEBO AG, IN ZURICH, AT THE PREMISES OF THE LIBYAN

 INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, IN TRIPOLI, AT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU, EAST

 BERLIN AND ELSEWHERE, THEY DID ORDER, CAUSE TO BE MANUFACTURED AND

 OBTAIN FROM THE FIRM OF MEBO AG TWENTY ELECTRONIC TIMERS CAPABLE OF

 DETONATING EXPLOSIVE DEVICES;

 (B) BETWEEN 1 JANUARY, 1985 AND 31 JULY, 1986 AT THE SPECIAL FORCES

 TRAINING AREA AT SABHA, LIBYA THEY DID CAUSE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH

 TIMERS TO BE TESTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXPLOSIVES;

 (C) BETWEEN 20 MARCH, 1986 AND 31 DECEMBER, 1988 WITHIN THE OFFICES

 OF LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES AT LUQA AIRPORT, MALTA AND AT THE SAID LIBYAN

 CULTURAL CENTRE, SLIEMA, AND ELSEWHERE IN MALTA THEY DID HAVE IN THEIR

 POSSESSION AND UNDER THEIR CONTROL A QUANTITY OF HIGH PERFORMANCE

 PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE;

 (D) BETWEEN 31 JULY, 1987 AND 21 DECEMBER, 1988 WITHIN THE PREMISES

 OCCUPIED BY MEBO AG, IN ZURICH THEY DID ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A

 PRETENDED BUSINESS UNDER THE NAME ABH AS A COVER FOR THE OPERATIONS OF

 THE LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES;

 (E) ON 20 FEBRUARY, 1988 AT DAKAR AIRPORT, SENEGAL THEY DID CAUSE ONE

 OF SAID TIMERS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER COMPONENTS OF AN IMPROVISED

 EXPLOSIVE DEVICE INCLUDING A QUANTITY OF HIGH PERFORMANCE PLASTIC

 EXPLOSIVE AND A FIREARM AND AMMUNITION TO BE INTRODUCED INTO SENEGAL

 FOR TERRORIST PURPOSES;

 (F) BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER, 1988 AND 21 DECEMBER, 1988 AT EUCHARISTIC

 CONGRESS ROAD, MALTA THEY DID ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A PRETENDED

 BUSINESS TO BE KNOWN AS AND UNDER THE NAME OF MED TOURS OR MEDTOURS

 SERVICES LIMITED, AS A COVER FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE LIBYAN

 INTELLIGENCE SERVICES;

 (G) BETWEEN 1 AND 20 DECEMBER, 1988 AT THE PREMISES OCCUPIED BY MEBO

 AG, IN ZURICH AT THE PREMISES OCCUPIED BY MEGRAHI AND BY THE LIBYAN

 INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, IN TRIPOLI AND ELSEWHERE IN SWITZERLAND AND

 LIBYA THEY DID ORDER AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DELIVERY OF FORTY FURTHER

 SUCH TIMERS FROM THE FIRM OF MEBO AG;

 (H) BETWEEN 1 AND 21 DECEMBER, 1988 AT LUQA AIRPORT, MALTA OR

 ELSEWHERE IN MALTA THEY DID UNLAWFULLY ACQUIRE AIRLINE LUGGAGE TAGS;

 (I) ON 7 DECEMBER, 1988 IN THE SHOP PREMISES KNOWN AS MARY'S HOUSE AT

 TOWER ROAD, SLIEMA, MALTA THEY DID PURCHASE A QUANTITY OF CLOTHING AND

 AN UMBRELLA;

 (J) ON 20 DECEMBER, 1988 AT LUQA AIRPORT, MALTA, MEGRAHI DID ENTER

 MALTA USING A PASSPORT IN THE FALSE NAME OF AHMED KHALIFA ABDUSAMAD

 AND THEY DID CAUSE A SUITCASE TO BE INTRODUCED TO MALTA;

 (K) ON 20 AND 21 DECEMBER, 1988 MEGRAHI DID RESIDE AT THE HOLIDAY

 INN, SLIEMA, MALTA UNDER THE FALSE IDENTITY OF AHMED KHALIFA

 ABDUSAMAD; AND

 (L) ON 21 DECEMBER, 1988 AT LUQA AIRPORT, THEY DID PLACE OR CAUSE TO

 BE PLACED ON BOARD AN AIRCRAFT OF AIR MALTA FLIGHT KM180 TO FRANKFURT

 AM MAIN AIRPORT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY THE SUITCASE OR A SIMILAR

 SUITCASE CONTAINING CLOTHING AND UMBRELLA AND AN IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE

 DEVICE CONTAINING HIGH PERFORMANCE PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE CONCEALED WITHIN

 A RADIO CASSETTE RECORDER AND PROGRAMMED TO BE DETONATED BY ONE OF THE

 ELECTRONIC TIMERS, HAVING TAGGED OR CAUSED SUCH SUITCASE TO BE TAGGED

 SO AS TO BE CARRIED BY AIRCRAFT FROM FRANKFURT AM MAIN VIA LONDON,

 HEATHROW AIRPORT TO NEW YORK, JOHN F KENNEDY AIRPORT

 AND SUCH SUITCASE WAS THUS CARRIED TO FRANKFURT AM MAIN AIRPORT AND

 THERE PLACED ON BOARD AN AIRCRAFT OF PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS FLIGHT

 PA103A AND CARRIED TO LONDON, HEATHROW AIRPORT AND THERE IN TURN,

 PLACED ON BOARD AN AIRCRAFT OF PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS FLIGHT PA103

 TO NEW YORK, JOHN F KENNEDY AIRPORT

 AND THE IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETONATED AND EXPLODED ON BOARD

 THE AIRCRAFT FLIGHT PA103 WHILE IN FLIGHT NEAR TO LOCKERBIE, WHEREBY

 THE AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED AND THE WRECKAGE CRASHED TO THE GROUND AND

 THE 259 PASSENGERS AND CREW AND 11 RESIDENTS OF LOCKERBIE WERE KILLED

 AND THEY DID MURDER THEM

 THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE CHARGE IS ONE OF MURDER ON A MORE RESTRICTED

 BASIS

 THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE CHARGE IS THAT

 BEING MEMBERS OF THE LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND HAVING, WHILE

 ACTING IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS, FORMED A CRIMINAL PURPOSE TO DESTROY A

 CIVIL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND MURDER THE OCCUPANTS AND HAVING OBTAINED

 POSSESSION OF AND TESTED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTRONIC TIMERS AND

 BEING IN POSSESSION OF AND HAVING UNDER THEIR CONTROL A QUANTITY OF

 HIGH PERFORMANCE PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE, THEY DID ON AND BETWEEN THE DATES

 AND AT THE PLACES AND BY THE MEANS STATED IN THE SECOND CHARGE

 UNLAWFULLY AND INTENTIONALLY DESTROY THE AIRCRAFT IN SERVICE AND

 COMMIT ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH WERE

 LIKELY TO AND DID ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF THE AIRCRAFT, IN RESPECT THAT

 THEY DID MURDER THOSE 270 PERSONS:

 CONTRARY TO THE AVIATION SECURITY ACT 1982, SECTION 2(1) AND (5)

 BOTH ACCUSED ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN LIBYA, THE WARRANTS WILL BE

 CIRCULATED THROUGH INTERPOL BUT IT IS CONSIDERED UNLIKELY THAT THEY

 WILL BE ARRESTED IN THE NORMAL WAY. A DEMAND IS BEING MADE TO LIBYA

 FOR THE SURRENDER OF THESE MEN FOR TRIAL.

 A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT IS BEING MADE IN WASHINGTON BY ATTORNEY

 GENERAL BARR FOLLOWING ON THE HANDING DOWN OF AN INDICTMENT BY A GRAND

 JURY. THE TERMS OF THE U.S. INDICTMENTS AND THE SCOTTISH PETITION

 HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP IN FULL CONSULTATION. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE

 INDICTMENT AND PETITION ARE EXPLAINED BY DIFFERENCES IN OUR LEGAL

 SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES AND I WOULD WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE

 IN FULL AGREEMENT ON THE ALLEGATIONS MADE. THE CHARGES ARE

 ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL AND ARE IN RESPECT OF THE SAME TWO ACCUSED.

 THIS DOES NOT MARK THE END OF THE POLICE INVESTIGATION, ALTHOUGH IT

 PLAINLY MARKS THE MOST IMPORTANT PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT TO DATE IN THIS

 UNIQUE CRIMINAL INQUIRY. I WOULD WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE

 OUTSTANDING WORK AND ONGOING COMMITMENT SHOWN BY MANY POLICE OFFICERS

 AND AGENCIES NOT ONLY IN THIS COUNTRY BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN

 THEIR DETERMINED EFFORTS TO SOLVE THIS CRIME.

 I WOULD WISH TO MAKE PARTICULAR MENTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK BY

 FORENSIC SCIENTISTS AND OTHER SPECIALISTS.

 I REMAIN COMMITTED TO BRINGING THIS MATTER TO A PROPER CONCLUSION IN A

 COURT OF LAW WHETHER IN THIS COUNTRY OR IN THE UNITED STATES.

 I MUST REMIND THE MEDIA THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTEMPT OF COURT

 ACT 1981 PROCEEDINGS BECAME ACTIVE WHEN THE SHERIFF GRANTED WARRANTS

 FOR ARREST. THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AND I CANNOT AND WILL NOT COMMENT ON

 THE EVIDENCE ON WHICH THESE CHARGES ARE BASED.

**Press release B:**

14 November, 1991

 STATEMENT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE ON LOCKERBIE INVESTIGATION

 Mr. George Esson, Chief Constable, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary

 said today:

 "Today, the 1,059th day of the investigation, it is very appropriate

 for me to recognise the great efforts of and extend my deep

 appreciation to a number of people - people who collectively have made

 considerable contributions to this complex investigation. I pay

 tribute to the investigation team' as a whole for their commitment and

 their magnificent team effort; and to acknowledge the precision

 forensic work which has enabled the investigation to progress and

 develop the thorough painstaking Police work.

 "This international terrorist inquiry has involved Police Officers

 travelling thousands of air miles across the world. Enquiries have

 been conducted in 70 different countries and we have had to visit 23

 countries ourselves.

 "Since the investigation started a total of some 15,000 statements

 have been taken and over 20,000 names recorded on the Investigation's

 HOLMES Computer System (Home Office Large Major Enquiry System).

 About 18,000 items of property were recovered and have been recorded

 on the HOLMES System with 90 per cent of the property already returned

 to relatives. Over 35,000 photographs have been taken in connection

 with the investigation.

 "Vehicles deployed by the Police have travelled in excess of two

 million miles since December 21, 1988.

 "The cost of the aftermath work and Police inquiry to date amounts to

 some $17 million.

 "This is a unique inquiry without parallel or precedent - it has

 required the co-operation and support of many countries throughout the

 world, their Governments, Judicial Authorities and Police Forces, and

 only with their support have we reached this point".

 November 14, 1991

**Press release C:**

Title: PRESS RELEASE 141191 SEC OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

14 November, 1991

MR. LANG PRAISES POLICE ON LOCKERBIE

"I cannot speak too highly of the endeavours of the Scottish Police

 Service - and especially the Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary - in

 the Lockerbie criminal investigation. I am sure that view will be

 shared by the whole of Scotland and, in particular, the people

 of Dumfries and Galloway", the Rt. Hon. Ian Lang MP, Secretary of

 State for Scotland said today.

Mr. Lang added:

"Their painstaking and skilled work is simply breathtaking. The

 international community owe them a great debt of gratitude.

"I should also pay a particular tribute to John Boyd, who first

 commanded the police criminal investigation and to his very worthy

 successor, George Esson, who have throughout acted in the best

 traditions of the Police Service. I salute the efforts of the many

 officers from the various forces who contributed to the work of the

 Lockerbie team.

"Today's announcement also says much about the strengths of the

 Scottish Criminal Justice System and the positive spirit of

 co-operation between all the agencies involved".