

Message



From

To

14 July 2003

As per our conversation last week, I can confirm that I met with [redacted] of the Wiesbaden CID on Monday 7 July. He appeared very open and co-operative, and understood the concern we showed about the case. So that you are aware, he is based within the Serious Crime section of the Wiesbaden police, which is part of the regional police, the LKA [redacted]. He deals with robbery through to murder, but only crimes of a purely local dimension.

It would seem from our discussion that, [redacted] a full investigation was undertaken. I believe you have a copy of the police report, which the family is having translated. I too have a copy here should you have questions relating to it. I informed [redacted] that the family has a copy of the report, as he had indicated that the family would not be able to see it without permission of the local prosecutor. Apparently it was the prosecutor who supplied them with a copy, so there is no problem. It should be noted that the German police do not have the policy of openness which we now have, so any disclosure of information has to be negotiated gently. I explained the concept of Family Liaison officers, and whilst this is not normal practice here, it was accepted that it was good practice, and [redacted] assured me he would assist with any questions where able.

I will not seek to explain the reasons for our German colleagues' belief that it was a case of Jeremy taking his own life, as you will get a copy of the report. I have been assured that all four drivers who witnessed the two incidents have been interviewed, as witnesses, and other parties

or other witnesses have been ruled out. Note that CCTV is not widespread in Germany as they have a very different attitude to it than in the UK. There is apparently no CCTV at the accident spot or along the likely route taken by Jeremy.

It would appear that the accident has been fully investigated.

I have enquired with colleagues here as to the law in relation to suicides. Please note that the following is only what I have been told by colleagues, albeit ones who have joined the BKA as trained lawyers. It may be that a German lawyer would be able to better advise the family if they are seeking independent legal advice.

Apparently suicide is not illegal in Germany, neither is there such a thing as 'incitement to commit suicide'. If someone is told to go and commit suicide, and then does it, there is no law against this, even if the person were to supply them with the means to do it. The only example in this area was what has become known here as the 'Sirius case'. This was where an elderly lady was convinced by a third party that she would have a better life if she took her life, after having taken out life insurance to the benefit of the third party. She was told to sit in a bath and plunge a hair dryer into the bath. She tried this several times, and only after a couple of attempts which she survived did the police find out about it. With her testimony a conviction was obtained on the basis that the third party effectively used her as an instrument to commit murder. The officer who advised me about this case also advised that it would appear on the basis of what I had told him to be impossible to use in a case such as Jeremy's because of, amongst other things, the lack of very direct evidence of 'cause and effect'.

With regard to the Schiller institute, it is known to colleagues in Wiesbaden, but not in any great detail.

If I may help any further in this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,