



From: Mr Michael J.C. Burgess  
-Coroner of The Queen's Household - A - H.M. Coroner for Surrey-

28 October 2003

++ Personal & Private ++

Paul Burnell, Esq.,  


Dear Mr Burnell,

**Inquests into the death of the late Diana, Princess of Wales and the late Dodi Fayed**

As you may know, I am the Coroner of The Queen's Household and, as such am seized of the inquest into the death of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Additionally, as H.M. Coroner for Surrey, I am seized of the inquest into the death of the late Dodi Fayed. Inquiries into both deaths continue and in due course, I will be conducting both of those inquests. In case it is of interest to you, as coroner I am an independent judicial officer and have to work within the law as laid down by Parliament and as interpreted by the High Court. Any inquest is expected to address certain limited factual issues and the coroner's inquest does not determine criminal liability by a named person nor civil liability.

In the meantime, it has been drawn to my attention that you may have a letter which contains information which may be relevant and germane to the inquest and the manner of the death of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. As I am sure you are aware, there is a common law duty to provide to the coroner all and any information relevant to a death which you may have in your possession or is within your knowledge even without the coroner specifically seeking this from you. Ultimately, it is up to me as the coroner to determine whether a document or matter is relevant to the inquests.

I wish to have sight of that letter, please, together with any other documents or writings which may have a similar relevance. I will also need to know the baals upon which the letter was written or document(s) were created and/or came into your possession because that may then place them into some sort of context. The letter and/or other documents may need to be examined forensically.

I therefore ask that you make the letter and any other documents available to me and also assist me further by providing a statement setting out those matters to which I have referred as well as all and any other information. I will ask a police officer who has been seconded to me for the purposes of assisting me with my pre-inquest inquiries to take such a statement from you.