Date: 21 November 2018

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Mrs Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convenor, Justice Committee
Justice Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

[Signature]

OPERATION SANDWOOD

Police Scotland’s inquiry into allegations of potential criminality in relation to the handling of the investigation and prosecution of the Lockerbie bombing case has concluded.

Operation Sandwood, which looked at nine allegations made by the Justice for Megrahi campaign group, has found no evidence of criminality.

A dedicated team of detectives has spent the last four years examining the allegations and their findings have been validated by a senior Queen’s Counsel, entirely unconnected with and acting independently from the Crown Office.

Officers carried out a methodical and rigorous inquiry using our major investigation framework under the direction of an experienced Senior Investigating Officer. I have had oversight of the investigation since its outset.

The substance of the allegations were diverse in nature and the sheer scale and complexity of the task has resulted in a particularly protracted enquiry which has taken longer than originally thought.

However, this reflects the hard work and professionalism of the officers involved and their meticulous approach to the inquiry. I would stress again that the findings and conclusions have been validated by an independent senior Queen’s Counsel.
I have written to the Lord Advocate to inform him Operation Sandwood is now complete and that there is no evidence of criminality and therefore no basis to submit a standard prosecution report.

The material collated during the inquiry and the findings and conclusions reached have relevance to both the ongoing live investigation and the potential appeal against conviction lodged on behalf of the late Mr Megrahi. The materials have therefore been handed to Crown Office officials.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Iain Livingstone QPM
Chief Constable