

Met Police seek to avoid liability to Cherry Groce's family for 1985 shooting

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner is to argue that the family of Cherry Groce should not be permitted to pursue any claim against him for the irreparable harm caused to them as a result of the raid by armed police officers on their family home in 1985.

Mrs Groce was shot and seriously injured in front of her young children during the 1985 raid, and she died 26 years later in 2011 as a result of those injuries. In July 2014, an inquest jury found that the shooting – and her death – was the result of serious and multiple police failures on the part of officers across the ranks.

In the wake of the inquest, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner offered a personal apology for those failures. He said:

“On Saturday 28 September 1985 an officer from the Metropolitan Police shot Dorothy “Cherry” Groce. It was preventable and her injuries left her paralysed until her death 25 years later in April 2011.

“Today, I apologise unreservedly for our failings. I also apologise for the inexcusable fact that it has taken until now, for the Met to make this public apology.

“Sadly, this means that the person who most deserved to hear the apology, those words “we are sorry”, is no longer here.

“However, Cherry’s children, her friends and others are here and they too deserve an apology. I am sorry for the years of suffering which our actions and omissions caused to your family.

“What is clear is that in this case, we, as an organisation, failed to meet those responsibilities and in doing so caused irreparable damage to a mother and her family.”

Notwithstanding that apology, the Commissioner is now seeking to avoid liability for the admitted *irreparable damage* caused to this family.

The hearing of his attempt to do so is due to take place before Mr Justice Jay at the High Court in the Royal Courts of Justice, London, commencing at 10.30am on Tuesday 24 May 2016.

The listing details are as follows:

Queen's Bench Division daily cause list

COURT 14
Before MR JUSTICE JAY
Tuesday, 24th May 2016
At half past 10

TLQ/15/1488 Lawrence & ors v The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis

For further information, please contact Raju Bhatt of Bhatt Murphy.

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