



## BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

24/12/18

Statement from Patrick Rice, Head of Law Enforcement:

'Given that it is almost a year since we began this complex investigation, I think it important to remind the community about facts already established as part of our enquiries.

'On the morning of Monday 8th January officers attended, alongside colleagues from the Fire Service, a secluded area near Petit Bot where a car had been burnt-out. Initial enquiries were carried out but as a result of the significant fire damage to the vehicle, a further detailed forensic examination was required. Advice from Fire colleagues was that the vehicle should be left for 48 hours to ensure it was safe for further examination. The detailed forensic examination was carried out by specialist Scenes of Crime Officers on Wednesday 10th January, and they found what they suspected were small parts of skeletal remains.

'The remains found in the vehicle were subsequently confirmed as human and DNA evidence established the remains to be that of Mikus Alps. The remains of a shotgun were also found in the car alongside the remains of Mr Alps. Additionally, a sombre and reflective letter that had been handed to police was confirmed via a handwriting expert to have been written by Mr Alps.

'It is known that Mr Alps was a supporter of a pro-Ukrainian movement and had visited the country. We are aware that Mr Alps' Facebook account has been active since his remains were found; it is not uncommon for people to share their social media log-in details with others. Based on what we have established so far, there is no evidence linking Mr Alps' activity in Ukraine with his remains being found in a burnt-out car in Guernsey.

'I have previously stated that this was always going to be a lengthy and complex investigation. While not appropriate to go into minute detail, the nature of the remains found in the burnt-out car led us to request support from highly specialised experts to carry out further detailed examinations to try and help determine cause of death. There are very few specialists of this nature, which meant we were very much in their hands in terms of timings. However, we considered it essential to wait for these findings to ensure we explored every legitimate line of enquiry.

'We are currently awaiting the final report from the UK Home Office pathologist, who will consider the findings from two experts in this field before finalising their report. We expect to receive this final forensic report by the end of March.

'While I had hoped to be in a position to conclude our enquiries before the end of this year, we are reliant on the off-island specialist support we have received and the demands on those experts' time

is understandably extensive. Our officers have concluded all lines of enquiry currently open to us, but we must wait for the final forensic report. We will provide more detail once that report has been received.

'We remain in close contact with Mr Alps' family and our thoughts are with them, particularly at this time of year.'