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# Cameron considers widening policing inquiries after Lawrence allegations

Prime minister will hold talks with Theresa May on his return to Britain from overseas trip



📷 David Cameron in Kabul. Photograph: WPA pool/Getty Images

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David Cameron is giving active consideration to widening the scope of two inquiries examining allegations that undercover officers worked to **undermine the campaign for justice** led by the family of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence.

The prime minister will hold talks with **Theresa May** on his return to Britain from his overseas trip to decide whether further inquiries need to be held into the "very disturbing allegations" revealed by the Guardian.

Downing Street, which points out that two inquiries are already examining the allegations, is looking seriously at widening the scope of the investigations in the light of the **call by Doreen Lawrence** for a public judicial inquiry.

The mother of the murdered teenager, who said she felt "quite sick to the stomach" when she learned of allegations that the Met sought evidence to smear campaigners after her son's death, said she had been encouraged by a meeting last week with the home secretary. May echoed the view of Cameron who said last week that "nothing is off the table" in deciding how to investigate the allegations.

The prime minister indicated on Sunday that the government had an open mind about extending the two inquiries currently under way. Speaking in Islamabad shortly before flying to Kazakhstan, he said: "We will do whatever needs to be done. So I will discuss with [Theresa May] when I get back on Monday whether we think what we have is enough or whether we need to do more.

"They are very disturbing allegations, there is no doubt about that. We have these two inquiries under way. They have effectively been sort of widened."

The government asked Mark Ellison, the QC who is already examining allegations of corruption in the original police investigation into the Lawrence murder in April 1993, to examine the smear allegations and further **allegations that the Met bugged meetings** between the teenager's friend Duwayne Brooks and his lawyer. The BBC first reported the bugging allegations.

Brooks witnessed the murder of his friend and was later charged with violent disorder. He was cleared after a judge ruled that the case against him was an abuse of process.

Ministers also said Operation Herne, an ongoing internal Metropolitan police review of undercover tactics, led by the Derbyshire chief constable, Mick Creedon, would also examine the allegations.

The prime minister is instinctively wary of public inquiries because he believes they are time-consuming and costly. But he is determined to offer assurances to **Doreen Lawrence** and is open to the idea of opening up a new line of inquiry, which would fall short of a full public inquiry, to ensure that the latest allegations are examined on their own merits. No decisions have been made.

Cameron highlighted this thinking when he said in Islamabad: "We need to ask the question: is that [the two current enquiries] enough? Will that work? Will that get to the bottom of things? Are there other powers, are there further inquiries that are necessary? We need to ask and answer these questions.

"But there is no sense in - when you have already got two inquiries under way you have to think carefully about how to add to them. So I will do that with the home secretary when I return."

The allegations about the police conduct emerged when a former undercover officer, Peter Francis, told the Guardian he had been asked to find evidence



