

Our reference: GN95/99/1

Date: 3 November, 1999



Mr Lyndon Paul Barsten
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METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE
Records Management Branch

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Dear Mr Barsten

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

I am responding to your letter dated 18 October 1999 concerning the records of the Metropolitan Police that refer to the arrest and extradition of James Earl Ray to the USA in 1968.

I can assure you that the current loss of our records of this case is a matter of considerable concern to the MPS, particularly as, by now, they should have been made available to the UK national archive.

In endeavouring to respond to your initial request, extensive searches were made to find our records appertaining to this high profile case. In doing so, the matter was escalated to senior management level but, as explained in my previous letter, we have only been able to trace an extract from the original documents which has been supplied to you.

I note your comments about the publicity that may arise from this unsatisfactory situation. I acknowledge that at this point in time, we have not fulfilled our legal or moral obligations by preserving adequate records of the police involvement in this case.

Please be assured that we will contact you again as soon as there have been any developments in recovering these records.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Brown".

Andrew Brown
Assistant Departmental Record Officer

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