

Force Commended by Crown Court Judge

His Honour Justice Treacey asked Chief Constable Keith Bristow to step forward at the conclusion of the trial of seven men at Birmingham Crown Court. All seven were convicted of the murder of Gerry Tobin on the M40 and sentenced to a total of 191 years imprisonment. Here is a transcript of his words:

"I would like to thank you and commend you and your officers for an extremely effective and efficient enquiry. This was a crime which attracted national attention and notoriety. Within minutes of the killing taking place, your officers were involved in what appears to have been a very efficient exercise in closing the motorway, in preserving the vehicles and scene and in beginning to gather important evidence. You are a force which is well prepared and ready to deal with major incidents at short notice.

"The process did not stop there. It is clear to me that in the days which followed the shooting, your officers must have scald and scoured the county for other relevant evidence. We have seen how the opportunities for gathering CCTV and ANPR analysis has yielded important evidence for the enquiry.

"The importance of gathering such evidence is paramount. This has been done effectively and efficiently to the benefit of the investigation and following that were swiftly executed arrests.

"Over the weeks in which this trial has progressed your force, no doubt assisted by other specialists, proceeded in an exemplary manner in bringing this dreadful crime to a satisfactory conclusion in the sense that the perpetrators have been found and brought appropriately to justice.

"I am extremely grateful to you and your force and commend you as highly as I can. "