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PRESS RELEASE

Issued at 11.47am on Saturday 5 June

As the investigation continues into the tragic shootings in Cumbria, the Senior Investigating Officer, Detective Chief Superintendent Iain Goulding, today confirmed further details about what may have driven Bird to go on his 45 mile killing rampage.

He said: "Detectives are focusing on several key areas and are working to verify suggestions that Bird was involved in personal disputes with fellow taxi drivers, or others. We have also been reviewing his finances and investigating issues of taxation. We can confirm that Derrick Bird was subject to an ongoing investigation by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

"While we continue to investigate these issues, we may never fully understand what could have driven Bird to commit such atrocities as he is no longer here to answer our questions.

"Detectives have seized a large amount of paperwork from Bird's house, but no "suicide note" or what the media have referred to as a "hit list" have been found.

"We were simultaneously faced with investigating 12 murders and 11 attempted murders. Within 48 hours we have established who was involved, the major detail of what took place and are building a picture of what may have driven Bird to do this.

"While our investigation continues at a pace, our thoughts are with the families and friends of those who were killed in the most tragic of circumstances."

End