



**Devonwall Police**  
MAJOR CRIME INVESTIGATION TEAM

**SEALED**

CONFIDENTIAL SOLUTION

PTI-URN <b>50PL/0742/26</b>	OPERATION <b>SHEARWATER</b>	PAGE <b>1 of 1</b>	RESTRICTION <b>OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE</b>
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### SEALED SOLUTION

Host answer key - Operation SHEARWATER - confidential, host eyes only

**DO NOT OPEN UNTIL VERDICT**

**HOST EYES ONLY.** This is the sealed answer key for Operation SHEARWATER. If you are a player - **STOP READING NOW:** this sheet names the killer and walks through exactly how the case is solved. Reading it spoils the entire mystery for yourself and everyone at the table. Re-seal the envelope and hand it to whoever is running the game.

### 1. THE ANSWER - WHO DID IT

<p><b>LT</b> <b>Lee Tamblyn</b> <b>GUILTY</b></p> <p>Site manager (subcontractor on the Vantage Wharf development)</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> Murder, contrary to common law</p> <p><b>Motive:</b> to stop Marcus Reeve reporting his cladding fraud and supplier kickbacks to Building Control</p>	<p><b>MR</b> <b>Marcus Reeve</b> <b>DECEASED</b></p> <p>The victim - unlawfully killed</p> <p><b>Time of death:</b> between 21:00 and 22:30 on 4 June 2026</p> <p><b>Decisive exhibit:</b> Lee Tamblyn's fingerprint impressed in the victim's wet blood on the scaffold clamp (PB/4), with the door-access log (JE/16) and ANPR (JE/15)</p>
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CULPRIT	<b>Lee Tamblyn, 38 - site manager (subcontractor) on the Vantage Wharf development</b>
METHOD (IN BRIEF)	<b>a single blow to the head with a galvanised scaffold clamp, staged as a fall from the open mezzanine</b>
WEAPON	<b>a galvanised scaffold clamp (double coupler), Exhibit PB/4, recovered at the scene</b>
MOTIVE (IN BRIEF)	<b>to stop Marcus Reeve reporting his Pelican Facades kickbacks and the non-compliant Class-B cladding to Building Control</b>

## 2. HOW IT WAS DONE - METHOD & STAGING

- At 16:42 on Thursday 4 June 2026 Marcus Reeve emailed Lee Tamblyn about the Pelican Facades invoices and the non-compliant Class-B cladding board, saying he would take it to Building Control on Monday (Exhibit JE/6). That email is the trigger. If Marcus reported it, Tamblyn faced a Building Safety Act prosecution and the loss of his kickback arrangement with the supplier.
- Tamblyn went to the Dolphin on the Barbican from 18:55 to build an ordinary evening. His last pub card payment is timed at 20:36, after which he slipped out and drove his white Ford Transit (WR65 NXJ) back to the wharf. ANPR captured the van inbound near Sutton Harbour at 20:58 (Exhibit JE/15).
- He let himself into Vantage Wharf with his own site fob at 21:07 (door-access log, Exhibit JE/16). On the mezzanine, at about 21:10, he struck Marcus Reeve once on the head with a galvanised scaffold clamp (double coupler), Exhibit PB/4 - a single heavy blow. He then rolled the body to the foot of the internal scaffold, below the open mezzanine, and displaced a guard-rail so the death would read as an accidental fall.
- His fob recorded him exiting at 21:34 and his van cleared the Sutton Harbour ANPR at 21:39 (JE/16, JE/15). Across that whole period his handset (07700 900 471) was served by the Sutton Harbour cell from 21:05 to 21:36, placing him at the locus through the assault. Derek Coombe, an early security contractor, found the body at about 06:35 on Friday 5 June and dialled 999 at 06:38.
- The staging fails on the pathology. Dr Imogen R. Carlyon found one focused impact to the head and none of the spread injuries a genuine fall down the scaffold would leave, and that the body had been moved after death (post-mortem report, Exhibit RH/14). The fall was arranged, not suffered.

## 3. THE PROOF CHAIN

Each link below is provable from a document the players hold. Follow them in order to reach the only safe verdict.

#	WHAT IT PROVES	HOW A PLAYER GETS THERE	DOCUMENT / EXHIBIT
1	<b>Not a fall</b> - this is unlawful killing, not an accident.	The post-mortem records one focused blow to the head, not the spread injuries of a fall, and finds the body was moved after death. The staged fall is broken.	RH/14
2	<b>The weapon</b> - the death was caused by the scaffold clamp.	The galvanised scaffold clamp (double coupler) recovered at the scene carries Marcus Reeve's blood and matches the head wound described in the post-mortem.	PB/4 · RH/14
3	<b>Motive</b> - Lee Tamblyn had to silence the victim.	Marcus's 16:42 email of 4 June threatens to report the Pelican Facades kickbacks and the non-compliant Class-B cladding to Building Control on Monday; the inflated Pelican invoice (about £42,000) confirms the fraud.	JE/6 · JE/11
4	<b>Gareth Pollard cleared</b> - the loudest motive is not the killer.	Pollard was at the Chamber of Commerce dinner, Duke of Cornwall Hotel, 21:30-22:45: CCTV at 21:30, named guests, and his card paid the bill at 22:41 - he could not have been at the wharf.	Duke of Cornwall CCTV & card · JE/9 · RP/2
5	<b>Helena Reeve cleared</b> - the wife is not the killer.	She was at her sister's in Saltash from 19:40 (sister's statement) and her car shows on ANPR crossing the Tamar away from the Barbican.	JE/15 · MG11

#	WHAT IT PROVES	HOW A PLAYER GETS THERE	DOCUMENT / EXHIBIT
6	<b>Priya Anand cleared</b> - the angry investor is not the killer.	She was in London all evening: train from Plymouth 16:05, hotel, restaurant card at 20:35; she had already filed a fraud complaint rather than acting violently.	Rail ticket & London card · JE/9
7	<b>Opportunity</b> - Lee Tamblyn's alibi is false; he was at the scene.	His last pub card is 20:36, but his van ANPRs near Sutton Harbour inbound 20:58 and leaving 21:39, his site fob enters 21:07 and exits 21:34, and his handset (07700 900 471) is on the Sutton Harbour cell 21:05-21:36 - through the time of death.	JE/15 · JE/16 · RP/1
8	<b>The clincher</b> - Lee Tamblyn's hand was on the weapon as the victim bled.	A fingerprint attributed to Lee Tamblyn is impressed <i>in</i> Marcus Reeve's wet blood on the scaffold clamp, so it was left at the moment of the assault, not by innocent prior handling. With the broken alibi, only Tamblyn fits.	PB/4

**The clinching link:** step 8. The fingerprint impressed in the victim's wet blood on the clamp (PB/4) places Lee Tamblyn's hand on the weapon at the instant Marcus Reeve was bleeding, and the door log (JE/16), ANPR (JE/15) and cell-site put him alone at the wharf 21:07-21:34. That print-in-blood is the "aha" the case is built around. **Fair-play note:** Tamblyn's plain DNA is all over the site because he works there daily, so DNA on the clamp is *not* probative against him on its own - only the fingerprint-in-blood plus the broken timeline convict.

#### 4. RED HERRINGS EXPLAINED

RED HERRING	WHY IT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS	HOW IT IS CLEARED
Gareth Pollard and the £750,000 key-man insurance	The co-founder and finance director stood to collect £750,000 of key-man insurance for the firm on a partner's death, gained sole control, and had argued with Marcus.	He was at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce dinner, Duke of Cornwall Hotel, 21:30-22:45: CCTV at 21:30, named guests, and his card paid the bill at 22:41 (Duke of Cornwall CCTV and card, JE/9). He had means and motive but no opportunity.
Helena Reeve, the affair and the £500,000 life policy	The wife had found Marcus's affair and holds a £500,000 Mercia Life policy she keeps if he dies now but loses in a divorce.	She was at her sister's in Saltash from 19:40 (sister's MG11 statement) and her car shows on ANPR crossing the Tamar away from the Barbican (JE/15). She is not at the locus.
Priya Anand, the investor's £250,000 loss	The investor had put £250,000 in, discovered the firm insolvent and that she had been misled, and sent angry emails to Marcus.	She was in London all evening: train from Plymouth 16:05, hotel, restaurant card at 20:35 (rail ticket and London card, JE/9), and had already filed a fraud complaint rather than acting violently.
The "accidental fall" from the mezzanine	The displaced guard-rail and the body at the foot of the scaffold suggest Marcus simply slipped and fell while on site after hours.	The post-mortem records a single focused blow to the head, not the spread injuries of a fall, and finds the body was moved after death (RH/14). The scene was staged.

**Fair-play check:** every herring above is resolved by a document the players hold - never by a fact that lives only on this sheet. If you add a herring, plant its rebuttal in the evidence pack first.

**5. SCORING & DEBRIEF NOTE**

CORRECT CULPRIT (LEE TAMBLYN)	<b>3 points - required to “solve” the case.</b>
CORRECT METHOD & WEAPON	<b>2 points - identifies the galvanised scaffold clamp (double coupler), Exhibit PB/4, and the staged fall from the mezzanine.</b>
CORRECT MOTIVE	<b>1 point - silencing Marcus over the Pelican Facades kickbacks and the non-compliant Class-B cladding before Building Control was told.</b>
FULL PROOF CHAIN (ALL 8 LINKS)	<b>2 bonus points - cited the exhibits in order.</b>
CAUGHT A RED HERRING	<b>1 point each - explained why a planted distraction (Pollard, Helena, Anand or the staged fall) is cleared.</b>

**Host debrief:** after the verdict, read out the proof chain in §3 link by link, then open the floor on the herrings in §4. The intended “solve time” is roughly 90-120 minutes for 4-6 players; if a table stalls, nudge them toward step 7 (compare Tamblyn's 20:36 pub card with the 20:58/21:39 ANPR and the 21:07/21:34 fob log) rather than naming anyone.

**SEALED BY**

This answer key was prepared for hosting *Operation SHEARWATER* and sealed prior to play. It is a game artefact only and forms no part of any genuine investigation.

*Game Host*

GAME HOST - HOST / GAME-MASTER

DATE SEALED - 08 JUNE 2026