Officially Accepted Story:

On August 31st 1997, Diana Princess of Wales died from injuries sustained in a terrible car crash. The crash happened in the Pont de l'Alma road tunnel in Paris, France. Diana was with three other people; her boyfriend Dodi Fayed and the driver of the Mercedes-Benz W140, Henri Paul. Henri Paul was responsible for transporting Dodi and Diana from the Ritz Hotel to Dodi's apartment. They hired a black 1994 Mercedes-Benz S280. A similar decoy vehicle left the hotel first in an attempt to escape the paparazzi that never left Diana's side. With Dodi and Diana's vehicle leaving the hotel slightly later at around 12.20 am, from the rear Rue Cambon exit of the hotel they began their fateful journey...

Conspiracy theories:

Royal Family - MI6

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Dodi's father Mohamed Al-Fayed contended that the crash killing his son and Princess Diana on the night of August 31st was orchestrated by the MI6 (The British Secret Service)...

These sorts of claims brought unwanted attention towards Diana herself and also the royal family. This theory was very serious and in some aspects, relatively easy to believe. Prince Charles showed some remorse towards Diana's death but was not as upset as some would expect after the death of such an important person like Diana. The high reputation that the Royal Family must uphold could have played a very big role in Diana's future after she divorced Prince Charles. The power that they hold allowed them to make a lot of big decisions. The MI6 are highly skilled and could easily cover their tracks...

A strong point about this conspiracy theory is that the Royal Family did show displeasure towards Diana after she divorced Prince Charles. This makes it easy to believe that they could want her to stop putting their name and reputation at risk. Assassinating Diana seems like the most outrageous way to resolve this problem and a very unlikely one. Another hard thing to believe about this conspiracy theory is that the Royal Family who are very well known, would hire a secret service to kill such a well-known and well liked woman like Diana. The actions of the Royal Family are well documented and they are constantly living their lives in the spotlight. Diana was the mother of the future heir to the throne and who was once the wife of Prince Charles. I believe she was an unlikely target for the Royal Family to have killed.

MI6 Paparazzi Involvement

The paparazzi were known as 'legalised stalkers' that could push people to the brink by constantly following them. A conspiracy theory conjoint with the Royal Family- MI6 theory was that members of the MI6 were disguised as paparazzi and were at the scene of the crash. The theory was that the MI6 members chased...

[3] Henri Paul - Was he spiked?

The main question surrounding Paul's state is how he became so drunk? Also how did he get such a strong mixture of drugs in his body? Theories state that someone in the Ritz Hotel may have spiked Henri Paul's drink and that he was unaware of the deadly cocktail mix in his body when he went to drive. There are reports from August 2013 stating that Henri Paul's family believe their son was murdered along with Diana and Dodi. They would like for there to be further investigation into the possibilities of Henri's drink being spiked. It is very clear that Henri had been drinking that night, possibly uncontrollably, and it has been highly debated as to why Diana got into the car with him when he was visibly drunk. Why did her bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones not stop Diana from leaving? Rees-Jones stated in an interview with French investigators that it was Dodi Fayed's idea to call Henri Paul back on duty to drive them from the hotel. Rees-Jones also claims that he has no memory of any of

the events of the crash after they left the Ritz Hotel in the black Mercedes. It is quite possible that Fayed was also in a relatively drunk state and his decision-making wasn't very clear. This could allow for a lot of poor decisions to be made that unfortunately had terrible consequences. Henri Paul was somewhat blamed for the crash along with other factors like the paparazzi. The questions about why Diana got in the car with a drunk driver remain unanswered. The idea of Henri Paul and Dodi Fayed being involved in a plot to kill Diana are relatively realistic. It seems that Diana could not be the only one killed as she was always surrounded by lots people. If someone wished for her to be killed it would have to look like an accident and the only way for that to happen is if other people potentially died as well. Subtly spiking an oblivious Paul's drink would possibly have been very easy and the consequences of the drugs in his body resulted in the crash and death of Diana that someone may have wanted. The main question is who possibly spiked the drink because they are most likely to know who wished for Diana to be killed...

After examining a wide range of conspiracy theories and the official enquiry surrounding the death of Princess Diana, I have come to the conclusion that I believe to be true. The official enquiry examines every accessible detail surrounding Diana's death. I understand that the driver of the black Mercedes-Benz was drunk and this was a very significant factor that contributed to them crashing. I do not understand why Diana was not stopped from getting in a car with a drunk driver. Diana had her bodyguard and boyfriend with her and she was still able to leave in the car. I would expect tighter security surrounding the Princess' safety and well-being. I have no doubt the paparazzi were persistent as per usual on the night of Diana's death. I believe Diana and her entourage were trying to leave the hotel without causing a scene but were unsuccessful. I understand that Diana was trying to leave the hotel and reach the apartment in privacy. I believe the speed the Mercedes travelled at was to get rid of the paparazzi but the combination of that and the drugs and alcohol in driver, Henri Paul's body were a fatal mix. I don't think the Royal Family or the MI6 had any involvement in Diana's death but I do question how such a lethal concoction of drugs and alcohol ever managed to enter Henri Paul's system without him knowing. There was little investigation into who had access to Paul's drinks the night of the crash but I would not rule out the possibility of foul play. I believe that all possible conspiracy theories would have been considered and worked through thoroughly by the investigators. I don't believe there is any further reason to believe that the theories are true. The official inquest into Diana's death was so thoroughly investigated and I am sure all possible evidence was considered... I believe the official story to be the truth about Diana's tragic death...

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[5] Diana's death was hugely significant to New Zealand as were the conspiracies that followed it. Because New Zealand is part of the Commonwealth means that we have the same ideas of democracy as Britain and several other countries. The people of these nations would have felt as though they could no longer put their trust and faith into the monarchy after the actions of the Queen that they saw after Diana's death. The British Monarchy were potentially corrupt and the damage towards their public image could never really be forgotten. The Royal Family had gone from such a popular image to one of internal fraud and dishonour. The shock of Diana's death combined with the suspicious theories that circulated afterwards would have significantly affected New Zealanders and the way they saw and respected the family...

Although the Royal Families involvement in Diana's death was only a conspiracy theory the more significant effect on the New Zealand public was why the Queen didn't show a great deal of remorse. The factual details of the crash revealed how Diana was so tragically killed but it cannot be explained as to why the Royal Family acted the way they did after her death. Grief can severely affect the way people act but from someone as important and experienced as the Queen can we not have expected more from her during such a tragic time of grief?...