

WITNESS STATEMENT

Agency Ref :S013A
PF Ref :

Surname : BELL Other or previous surname :

Forenames : Collette [REDACTED] DoB : [REDACTED]/1988 Age : 26

Occupation : [REDACTED] Other Occupation :

Police Station : Years Service :

Disclosable address :

Post Code:

This statement was taken :

Date and time : 8th of May 2015 15.15

By : INV JOHN CLERKIN

Place : [REDACTED]

In the presence of : PIRC INV ALISTAIR LEWIS AND MS LORRAINE BELL

I have/the witness signed/refused to sign this and all other pages

It was/not read over to the witness and was/not recorded on Audio tape and/or Video tape

States :

I am Collette [REDACTED] Bell. I live at an address that I have made available to the Police Investigation and Review Commissioner (PIRC). I am the partner of Sheku Ahmed Tejan Bayoh (deceased). Sheku and I have a 15 week old son. Our son's name is [REDACTED] A Lewis and John Clerkin (both Investigators with PIRC) have made it known to me that PIRC are investigating the circumstances of my partner Sheku's death, following his contact with Police Scotland on Sunday 3May 2015. I am also made aware that the PIRC investigation into this matter is directed by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

I have previously provided a statement to Police Scotland on 3 May 2015. This statement was taken by Detective Constable Parker, within Kirkcaldy Police Office. I was presented with a typed copy of this statement by John Clerkin and Alistair Lewis

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and was afforded the opportunity to read through the content of the statement that I previously provided to the Police Service. Having done this, there are a number of matters that I now wish to make clear. These matters relate to inaccuracies that I have observed in the police statement. These matters are listed as follows:-

At no time did I state to anyone within the police service that Sheku was intending to watch a boxing match. Sheku did tell me that he and Zahid (his friend) were going to chill and listen to music together. There was never any discussion about boxing at that time. Previously Sheku did refer to the boxing but he had also said that he did not know how he could watch it as in order to do so he would have to pay money. I got the impression that Sheku had no intention of paying to see the boxing match.

The police statement makes reference to a drawer in the kitchen of my home address that contains knives and cutlery. I wish to point out that I made it absolutely clear to Police that the drawer did not contain knives. I stated this to police on several occasions and in view of this I cannot understand why the police statement states that the drawer did contain knives.

The police statement further states that fridge magnets were all over the kitchen floor. I cannot understand why the police statement states this as I clearly saw the fridge magnets on the concrete area of the rear garden.

The police statement also makes the following point "I thought it safer to get my mum. I drove to Glenrothes to get my mum and returned home. " This section of the police statement does not reflect matters accurately. I had no concerns regarding my safety. Quite simply I was going home in order to get my son, to pick him up along with my mum. This was the information that I confirmed during the course of the 999 call that I had made to the police.

I wish to make it clear that when I returned to my home address at around 09.15 hours on 3 May 2015 that there were four police officers at my address. The statement I made to Police Scotland states that only two plain clothed officers were at my address. This was not the case there were two other police officers present as well. These police officers were wearing police uniforms. All four police officers entered the property. Three of whom entered my living room, two plain clothed police officers and one of the police officers who was in uniform. The other police officer in uniform walked right through into my kitchen. I never saw this police officer again. One of the CID officers, plain clothes, asked if it was ok to have a look around the house. I said that it was ok. The uniformed officer who had remained stayed in the living room. One of the plain clothed officers then looked around. After the check was carried out police made a phone call from a car outside. After the phone call was made I was asked to go down to Kirkcaldy Police Office to make a statement. It was also suggested that my mother would have to look after my young son [REDACTED].

There were several points that I discussed with police in addition to the above points that I have clarified. Police when I was at Kirkcaldy Police Office asked me if Sheku went to the gym. They asked if Sheku visited the gym every day.

I confirmed that Sheku up until quite recently had gone most days during the week. I stated that he did but that in recent weeks he had cut down on the number of times

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that he went along to the gym. It was also the case that in more recent times Sheku, when he did go along to the gym, did so for a much shorter time. It seemed to me that he was getting more tired when he did go along. I told all of this to the police. John Clerkin from PIRC asked me what gym Sheku used and visited. I confirmed that he used to visit Templehall, Kirkcaldy.

Aside from the points that I have mentioned above in relation to my statement to police I am satisfied that the matters referred to in the statement are accurate. I have this date signed the typed copy of the Police statement that I provided along with the production backing sheet. The statement (copy) I gave to police and backing sheet were presented to me by John Clerkin from PIRC.

I now wish to confirm some further points to PIRC.

Sheku was a Muslim. I would not describe him as a strict Muslim. It might be fair to say that he had his own way. However, I do know that he did pray each day. He was not concerned that I was none Muslim but he did wash in preparation of prayer. It is fair to say that he took his prayers quite seriously.

John Clerkin has asked me about any preferences Sheku had towards drink and drugs. Sheku did drink but really only at the weekend. In the last few weeks he had not taken any drink at all. There is nothing further I can add about drug-related matters in addition to what I said in my statement to Police Scotland.

I do wish to state that I made it known to Sheku that I was not appreciative of the use of drugs by anybody. To the best of my knowledge I do not think that Sheku took drugs during our relationship, in saying this I refer to illegal drugs. I can state that Sheku was taking prescription medication for indigestion problems and for sinus problems. Sheku was in times gone by what I would describe as a light smoker. He only had a smoke when he took a drink at the weekend. In recent times, since the birth of our son, he hardly took a smoke at all.

In summary I would describe Sheku as a family man who enjoyed the company of his friends and family members. He enjoyed listening to music, especially rap music. Sheku was a very loving person, he was never violent or aggressive towards me or to anyone else that I know. He was never known to raise his voice towards me; he was tactile, loving and caring in his ways. He was overjoyed about the birth of [REDACTED] our son. In the last year Sheku had taken a maths course and was taking car driving lessons. He was making plans for our future, even simple things like taking [REDACTED] swimming.

Sheku was conscious that other people were disapproving of the mixed race relationship that Sheku and I had together. He sometimes felt that people could be rude towards him. I hold the view that Sheku believed that this was race related. It bothered Sheku that people could be racist towards him. However, he did not allow such things to take over his life and fully consume him. However, it became more of a concern to him that people were racist towards him in recent times. In all the time that I knew Sheku he never resorted to violence and certainly not in relation to race issues, this includes the immediate times before 3 May 2015.

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I was asked by John Clerkin regarding Sheku's view towards police. I hold the view that Sheku felt police were corrupt and could not be trusted. He felt police would all look out for each other. He was uncomfortable with a view that police could be trusted to deal with a confrontation fairly. He was of the belief that they would stop him in the street because he was black. When Sheku was younger (15 years ago) he lived in London. He often stated that he felt police stopped him back then simply because he was black.

In regard to how I feel at the moment, really all I can say is that I feel numb. I am angry because I really think Sheku would still be here if he had not come into contact with the police. Things at the moment do not feel real. I am finding it difficult to come to terms with what has happened. I have lost a loved one and I feel very hurt and alone.

None of what has happened makes sense to me. I cannot understand how Sheku could come into contact with the police and shortly later require an ambulance and then be pronounced dead. I want to know the full truth of what has happened. I want all evidence and information to be assessed and considered and for the full truth of what happened to be made known to me. I want to know the whole truth.

I was afforded the opportunity to read over this statement and make changes to it as I saw fit. This is a true & accurate statement.

Signed :

(Witness)

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CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL - NOT TO BE DISCLOSED

Surname : BELL Forenames: Collette [REDACTED]
Alias/known as :

Place of birth : [REDACTED] Age : over 18

Home address : [REDACTED] Telephone : [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Arran Crescent Kirkcaldy Fife

Post code : [REDACTED]

Business address : Telephone :

Post Code :

Mobile : [REDACTED]
Email :
Fax/Pager :
Other :

Dates when unavailable in next 12 months :

Other Confidential Material :