



**The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry**

**Witness Statement**

**CI Chris Stones**

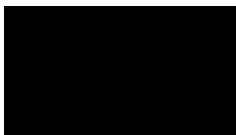
**Taken by [REDACTED] on MS Teams  
on Monday 7 November 2022**

**Witness details**

1. My full name is Christopher Stones. My date of birth is in 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I retired at Superintendent rank in November 2019. I was based at the Scottish Police College when I retired.

**Previous statements**

3. I have provided an operational statement in relation to 3 May 2015. I was asked to provide a statement a couple of years after the fact. My name appeared on a call card from the Area Control Room. I was a loose end in the enquiry so I provided almost a single page statement. It was to a Police Scotland employee, not PIRC, and I wasn't asked anything after that. Nobody's spoken to me at all.

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4. I don't recall if the request was PIRC or Police Scotland, but I imagine the request was from PIRC via Police Scotland. I've not seen that statement since I provided it.
5. Nobody has ever spoken to me about the incident. It was an email request. It was basic because my involvement was relatively little.

**Notebook and daybook**

6. I always kept a daybook but I do recall at the time there was very little in my daybook about the incident. Thinking back now it was pretty much: I received a call about it, made a call, and it was a couple of lines. The DI on the day had ensured that me being informed and me informing the duty Superintendent was recorded on the call card, it being recorded in that way.
7. My daybooks would've been archived all those years ago. I kept a decision book as well but I didn't record any decisions that morning because I didn't need to make any decisions I only had to inform people about directions of travel and things like that.
8. I had a police notebook but I didn't note anything in my police notebook that day. It wasn't the kind of scenario where I would note anything.

**Media**

9. I have not been following the Public Inquiry. I haven't seen anything on the website. I've not researched or seen anything on the Inquiry's website.
10. I have seen things on the news, some time ago. It was probably earlier this year that it was in the news. I don't remember what it was. I do remember given I was on duty it attracted my attention. I don't think it was evidence I

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feel it was more general because it hasn't stuck in my memory. I've not seen any evidence in the Public Inquiry.

11. If I have seen anything about the facts of the Sheku Bayoh incident itself in the media then I can't recall it. I'll say I haven't seen anything, to the best of my memory.
12. I have been asked if my recollection has been affected by what I have seen in the media. No, because how I feel about how I feel, my memory is very slim on the facts. I've not seen anything over the years along the way to remind me.
13. I don't have much to remember about the incident because it was a relatively short involvement. I'm not sure if I would know if I was reminded unless I was told something. I remember the general way my morning went that day. Hearing anything from someone else probably wouldn't affect that. The things I'm lost on is times and the order of telephone calls. I have wracked my brains but I'm not much further forward remembering this.

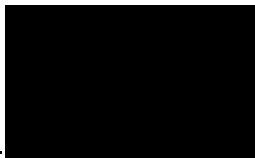
**Role on 3 May 2015**

14. My role on the third of May 2015 was Chief Inspector. I was the duty CI that weekend, which was fulfilled on a rota basis by different CI's who would work Saturday and Sundays. I was on the Fife rota to help with staff numbers. I was posted outside the division at that time. On Saturday and Sunday I was responsible for the on call CI role. Monday I was back to my day job.
15. At that time my day job was in the Scottish Police College in a training role. I was duty CI on the weekend and then go back to the Police College on the Monday. I would come through to Fife on the weekend. On 3 May 2015 I based myself in Dunfermline. That station had video conference facilities so I

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could carry out the day's business. I was the on-duty CI for Fife division or P division. They're the same thing.

16. The duty CI was responsible for monitoring ongoing incidents. On commencing duty I would self-brief from various documents, crime bulletins, logs available in the division that show me what happened in the pasts 24 hours. That's the basis for what the weekend would look like. I'd review ongoing incidents. I'd review crimes in the past 24 hours. I'd review any missing persons. I would also be monitoring events as they went on throughout the day.
17. On any given weekend I'd have a uniformed inspector in charge of staff. I'd have a DI in charge of investigations. They were my closest contacts. I was responsible for resources and assisting them with priorities. Saturdays and Sundays a lot happens in the prior 24 hours and prioritising that was a significant part of my day. On a daily basis when I arrived at work I'd self-brief then speak to the uniformed Inspector and also the DI and assess if anything needing done there and then. There might've been more than one Inspector that day. Uniformed Inspectors would deal with the daily business of policing and the DI was responsible for the investigative side. They'd speak throughout the day and see how they could support each other and that kind of thing. The DI and uniformed Inspectors were for the whole Division.
18. They'd always self-brief before speaking to me. Thereafter we'd have a tele-conference or video conference and we'd go through the things we'd self-briefed about, ask questions and help with resourcing and priorities. Thereafter I have a monitoring role and I'm on the end of phone to provide assistance. There was always a duty Superintendent or a Chief Superintendent and if there was anything that needed escalated to a strategic level, I would be the person that would do that, such as with this tragedy.

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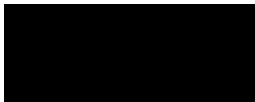
- 19. It's fair to say I was the highest ranking officer on duty. But the duty Chief Superintendent happened to be the Fife Divisional commander, Gary McEwan. It could've been someone from any division that weekend but just so happened to be Gary.
- 20. Laterally in my career as a Superintendent when I was on call this means being on duty in practice. You will be on duty that day at some point. I know that from experience as Super and experience from being a CI.

**Events on 3 May 2015**

- 21. I am aware and remember it was a Sunday when the incident happened, 3 May 2015. I was on duty on the Saturday. I would attend the police office between 7am and 8am and that would be me on duty. I would typically work an 8 hour duty. I wouldn't be parading for duty because there was nobody senior to me. In the old days you would parade in front of a Sergeant but not anymore.
- 22. I'm going to say it was 7am that I commenced duty because that's when I normally start. It was important to self-brief and chair the video conference.
- 23. I recall commencing duty and starting to self-brief from the previous 24 hours. That involved reading through a crime bulletin and reading logs from the night before. I recall being informed that there had been an incident in Kirkcaldy and I understand it was either the duty Inspector or the DI who informed me. I can't remember which. I spoke to both through the morning but I can't remember who informed me there was an incident ongoing at Kirkcaldy.
- 24. At the point when I was informed, the officers involved in the incident were carrying out CPR on the male. It's difficult to remember exactly. Significantly it was enough for me to be phoned about it. It was significant enough for those ranks to phone me. Perhaps they can remember.

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25. I do recall that the DI was attending at the scene. Whether he did or not I don't know. I remember his intention. Colin Robson was DI and the uniformed Inspector was Stephen Kay.
26. I don't think much time passed before I was phoned again about the incident and I think that was by Colin Robson to tell me that the male was unresponsive and was going to hospital. I can't recall if that was two different phone calls but I think it was. I remember speaking to Stephen Kay. They were both Kirkcaldy based inspectors and knew the area well. I asked Stephen Kay if he was aware about the ongoing incident. If they hadn't been aware before, they were aware very quickly about the incident from me phoning them.
27. It was a significant thing obviously. That's not a thing that happens all the time. It was a shock. I remember thinking it was a shock and I said they need to let me know what happens next. I don't remember it being too long after I was told the man was taken to hospital I was then told he had passed away. This is obviously as significant an incident for all those involved as you can get.
28. At that point I telephoned Chief Superintendent Gary McEwan to let him know. This is where I had less to do. Gary McEwan was the divisional commander so these are his staff in the area and his to command. We didn't have a discussion about what to do next but I understand he would brief himself and he was going to attend the station at Kirkcaldy when he could.
29. At that point I was aware that the officers involved had returned to Kirkcaldy Police Station and I do remember a discussion with Inspector Kay about them, not in any great detail but you need to look after their welfare until we have escalated this and the relevant people have been informed. That was me asking Inspector Kay to consider that. At no point did I speak to the

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officers or see them. I do recall that. I don't recall the order of the calls, no matter how much I try.

- 30. What was next for me was that I had to find some way of resourcing Kirkcaldy because the officers were not on patrol. To lose a resource as significant as that in its entirety I needed to find resources outside Kirkcaldy to police it. Business as usual had to continue. I don't remember how I did it, but I would phone different sergeants and say to trim resources and ask them to come to Kirkcaldy. I can't remember if Inspector Kay did that himself or not. It's not a heavily resourced division so it's never easy to do that kind of thing.
- 31. The next thing I do remember happening was Chief Superintendent McEwan recalled his local Chief Inspector and brought them back on duty to look after the ongoing community impact. It's a tragedy so you need community impact involvement. You need someone local involved in the community and with the various factors on an ongoing and long term basis. I was tasked with general policing, business as usual while the investigation into the death was carried on. I was asked to step back.
- 32. From there I don't think I heard anything further. I don't recall speaking to anybody in the few days after, which then became months and years. It sounds counterintuitive but because of the scale of the investigation into this horrible thing in reality I wasn't part of that so I didn't expect anybody to speak to me.
- 33. I do listen to the police radio sometimes in the morning. I would have it with me anyway. Whether or not I'd have it on when self-briefing, I don't know. That's based largely because there would be a unfirmed Inspector on anyway who would be monitoring it. I didn't routinely monitor radio messages. I think, but I'm not sure, I would've put my radio on when I was informed at the point this incident was happening. But I don't recall detail of any messages or

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anything. I would be surprised if I hadn't put my radio on the Kirkcaldy channel. I can't remember hearing anything specific.

- 34. The DI was attending the scene so he was in charge of that on the ground. I can't remember at what point he went but I recall the scene was secure and he'd attended. Whether he'd attended the scene before it was secure I don't know or. I was content the scene where this had happened was secure. Whether he used his staff or not I'm not sure but I was content that that was in hand.
  
- 35. I wasn't aware of the Control Room's involvement in the incident other than I do know that the contact between the DI and me, and me informing the Chief Superintendent I did say make sure this goes on the call cards .I didn't hear any ACR radio messages or instructions or anything like that.
  
- 36. I don't know anything about the availability of the Dog Unit or the Armed Response Vehicle.
  
- 37. I'm familiar with a critical incident. Laterally, I was trained in critical incident management after this incident. It's an incident where there's significant community impact that usually requires particular attention on a continuous basis. I've been retired for a number of years so I can't remember the exact wording of the definition.
  
- 38. I could've declared a critical incident when the male became unresponsive. It wouldn't have changed the actions in the short period of time. I am aware that the Chief Superintendent did declare a critical incident a short time after. I don't think there's anything that did or didn't happen because I didn't declare a critical incident at that point myself. The critical incident element was linked to the local Chief Inspector being brought back on duty. The local Chief Inspector being back was looking after that long term, from a critical incident point of view.

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39. In later years, in my experience, the things that happen and critical incident are not about on the ground decisions, they are about long term strategy. In later years I was responsible for tasking Community Impact Assessments. It's certainly not something you'd do in the earliest moments. The earliest moments are about securing evidence, securing witness, identifying what needs to be looked after in terms of a scene which was a number of people in this case. There would be a chain of command, PIRC would be involved, the Crown Office would be involved.
40. I have been told PI Stephen Kay's account is that he informed me on the phone in the morning update when he was hearing developments on the police radio. That does clarify my point about how I found out. I speak with the Inspectors every morning. That makes sense and clarifies how I found out. But I don't remember anything further having been told that.

**Attending Kirkcaldy**

41. I went later on to Kirkcaldy. This was to look at resourcing. This was about midday. I deliberately didn't speak to the officers involved because knew there were a number of senior officers already there and didn't want to overwhelm the officers. I know Kirkcaldy Police Station quite well. I worked there for 5 years but they renovated it after I worked there and before 3 May 2015.
42. I do remember I explicitly didn't want them to see another person of rank they didn't know so I went in a different door. I knew they were in the canteen area in the station and so didn't go in the back door that would take me through the canteen. I went in the door into the CID area.
43. I didn't feel like I achieved very much when I arrived. I knew a lot of people attended there. I can't remember who I specifically spoke to. There wasn't a

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specific thing, I remember thinking at the time we had everything up and running in the division but I was concerned about not having great staff numbers. Everyone's phone would've been red hot so I thought I could go through in person to check. At this point I was separate to the investigation completely so it wasn't about that it was about the general policing. I don't think I spoke to Gary McEwan. We didn't have any formal meeting. Everything was in hand, the place was very busy, people had already arrived. The reason I remember this is because it felt odd from my perspective not to be involved. I was a CI but it wasn't my division, I am mature and knowledgeable enough to know why I wasn't involved but it felt slightly counterintuitive.

- 44. The local CI was Nicola Shepherd. I don't think I saw her. It might've been because I arrived and a meeting was on. I don't know.
- 45. I knew that the DI had spoken to the officers, and it's an assumption the Chief Superintendent had spoken to them. This was a decision I made because I don't know them and they don't know me. I don't work in the division and it's probably not constructive for me to go in and it come across as insincere and that was my conscious decision, rightly or wrongly.
- 46. At that point I wasn't responsible for the officers' welfare, but earlier on I was responsible for their welfare. I did have responsibility but when the Chief Superintendent took over I did feel that at that point the division were looking after their own staff.
- 47. I would never step back from that responsibility of officer welfare unless someone told me to step back. I was at the point when the division would have control and I didn't have to be responsible for those officers. I needed to satisfy myself that that was the case. There is a lot of trust involved in terms of the very capable inspectors, I trusted them to look after that. Then when the command came in that overview was handed over. I do remember having

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a specific handover drawing the lines. I can't remember what was said but I knew the line was drawn.

- 48. The conversation with Gary McEwan was definitely the point when I knew to get on with the rest of the division. It was a confirmation. He was obviously satisfied he had the resources in command for the investigation side. I could look after the rest of the division.
- 49. I didn't attend any meetings or briefings Kirkcaldy Police Station.
- 50. I wasn't aware of CCTV not working. I didn't work there. I'm going to guess it would be the estates department who would look after that. Somebody in the Fife divisions would be far better positioned. If the CCTV wasn't working we'd raise that with estates. I don't know who's responsible for CCTV camera positioning. I would assume there would be a local element with estates and a subcontractor. Whether that would be assessed properly, inspected, I don't know. I had responsibility liaising with estates in later years of my career.
- 51. I don't recall any conversations about having Nicole Short's injuries photographed. I know I didn't make any decisions based on that. I'm assuming it came from Inspector Kay. I don't recall us making any decisions. I don't remember anything further about that.

**Media engagement**

- 52. My role didn't involve media management on that day. It potentially could. As CI and latterly a Superintendent, some significant incidents might require a talking head in front of the media. I didn't give any instructions or hear media being mentioned in my short term. I didn't ask about it.
- 53. Ordinarily in a different set of circumstances that weren't as significant, the CI might be expected to release something early. On 3 May 2015 I was involved

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and then not involved in a short period of time and it was escalated to the Chief Superintendent. He would look at media.

**Loci in Kirkcaldy**

54. I was involved in loci matters only from a resourcing point of view. I wasn't told about them. I have been told there were five loci, that's the first I've heard of this. Ordinarily if we had to resource loci I would be involved in that. But I don't know how that was handled. I wasn't informed about this.

**Race**

55. I was informed Sheku Bayoh was black. I don't know if that was Inspector Kay who told me. It had no bearing on my involvement. At that early stage I didn't think of it. In the earliest stages it was dealt with as, and I don't want to be disrespectful, a regular incident. Later on the community impact would be more significant. I'm not blind to race being an issue later but in the early stages it wasn't a factor.

56. My involvement didn't reach the point of what happens next with community engagement. The phase that happened next was one the Chief Superintendent and his team took on.

57. I have not come across examples of discriminatory behaviour by police officers. If I did I would've challenged it. I'm not aware of any racist views held by police officers. I don't remember any racist jokes or comments made by police officers.

58. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that this statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.

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November 16, 2022 | 4:00 PM GMT

Date.....Signature of witness.....