



**The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry
Witness Statement**

Adama Jalloh

**Taken by [REDACTED]
Via MS Teams
On 21 October 2022**

1. My name is Adama Jalloh. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1980. My address is c/o Aamer Anwar & Co, Blythswood Square. I am employed as a support worker. I am the sister of Sheku Bayoh.
2. I am asked when and how I first learned of Sheku’s death. Ade Johnson had called my husband, [REDACTED] to tell him about what had happened. My husband had already left for work. Ade rang my husband and told him because I was with my mum at the time. My mum was staying with me in London at the time. My mum suffers from high blood pressure, so Kadi didn’t want to ring me straight away or Ade didn’t want to ring me straight away because I was with my mum, so Ade rang my husband and told my husband. My husband had to contact my mum’s brothers, sister and step-mum to come and break the news to us. He came back from work, then shortly after that all the family members that he managed to contact, they

Signature of witness.....
DocuSigned by: [REDACTED]
0CBF4AE64C574AA.....

came home, and they broke the news to us. That's how I found out, as well as my mum.

3. I am asked if I recall what time it was, I found out about Sheku or when my husband was told by Ade. It was a Sunday, and it must have been some time after half past one because that's when he left for work, so Ade must have rung him around about that time. When he came home, he didn't say anything to me at the time. I was downstairs with my mum. He just went straight upstairs. Shortly after that my mum's family arrived. They decided to gather all of us together and that's when they broke the news to us. By the time all of that happened, it must have been round about four or five o'clock in the afternoon.
4. I am asked whether when my husband told us what had happened, he gave any details about how Sheku had died. No, at that time, we didn't have many details. He didn't give out much at the time. He just said to my husband that Shek has passed away. But he was more concerned about my mum's health, so he was trying to find a way as to how we were going to break the news to my mum and obviously myself, so he just said, "Shek has passed away and the police are involved, but we don't know much details as to exactly what happened at that time."
5. The next day, Monday, we went up to Scotland. On the Monday, I don't think things were quite clear with Kadi. They had five different versions as to what happened to Shek. We were told a passer-by found him and they called an ambulance, they said he was hit by a car, and they said he was involved in a fight or something. At that time, there was nothing about the fact that police officers were involved, that they had come in contact with Shek at all. So, by the time we got there by Monday, still things were not clear to us. Things were not clear at all.

Signature of witness..........
DocuSigned by:
0CBF4AE64C574AA...

6. I am asked whether I had any communication with Police Scotland on the Sunday about Sheku. No, I did not. I am asked whether when we arrived in Scotland on the Monday that things started to become a bit clearer to you as to what had happened to Sheku? Not at that time, no, because when we went to Scotland, if I'm right, I'm sure we went up there Monday night, so it must have been either Tuesday or Wednesday when we went to Aamer's office for a meeting. I think that's when we gathered that police officers were involved. But even at that, we didn't know the details. We said the body needs to be identified because when I found out I was asking Kadi, "Are you sure it's Shek? Because I know I spoke to him on Friday." Kadi saw him on Saturday. I said, "Are you sure it's Shek?" Because the body hadn't been identified, we rushed our mum so she could travel first thing in the morning, the Monday morning, then we drove up late evening just to get there to identify the body. So, it was when we got to Aamer's office that we found out that the post-mortem had already been done, which we were all shocked about and obviously not happy about.

7. I am asked for my recollection regarding the discussions about identification of the body. I don't remember there being much discussion at that time, no. Not much at that time because it was when we were in Aamer's office. We were still in shock, we were saying, "Maybe it's not Shek. Maybe he's with a friend," because we had not identified the body. We didn't know much. Even though they went to Kadi, and they said, "It was Shek. It was your brother," but we were still in doubt and in shock. So we were saying, "Maybe it's not Shek." So not until we got to Aamer's office, that's when we found out the post-mortem had already been done.

8. We were shocked, really, really, shocked because my mum didn't get to see her son again at all. She at least wanted to go see him, to check if it was him at the time because we were all in denial and in shock. She wasn't able to see her son, and we were still in denial until we had the chance to go and identify

Signature of witness.....
DocuSigned by: [Redacted]
0CBF4AE64C574AA.....

the body in Edinburgh. Those who went to see the body in Edinburgh were myself, Kadi, Ade and a close family friend. I am asked whether it was the family's request to see the body or whether this was suggested by someone else. I'm not sure.

9. I am asked whether I had any interaction with Police Scotland in advance of seeing Sheku's body. I did not. I am asked whether I ever attended meetings with anyone from Police Scotland. I did not.

10. I am asked to give my opinion of what, in the initial hours and days after the news was delivered to myself, was my impression of how Police Scotland were handling things? From the little I've gathered from Kadi and Ade when I went up to Scotland there were lies initially, when we were not told that police were involved. It just really made me angry and as a family really, really angry and upset because if you are to break the news to a family of your loved one being killed, at least all you need to do is tell the truth. We deserve the truth. We need to know the truth at least from the first day, not tell us two different, five different versions and not have the decency to tell us the truth. At least we deserve that.

11. I am asked whether I had any interaction with family liaison officers, either from Police Scotland or the PIRC. I think I maybe met with two representatives from the PIRC. I'm sure we attended one meeting in Aamer's office but, to be honest, I can't remember what it was because I was just all over the place, to be honest. But I remember two representatives from the PIRC were in Aamer's office. But, to be honest, what was discussed, I can't recall. I can't remember.

12. I am asked whether I had any further engagements or discussions with the PIRC at all about what had happened or for them to provide updates on the investigation? Maybe Kadi and Ade might have met with them but not me personally. I returned back to London after a week while we were waiting for

Signature of witness.....
DocuSigned by: [Redacted]
0CBF4AE64C574AA.....

the body to be released because my kids were quite young then and I was struggling with childcare, so I had to come back. Most of the meetings that took place were dealt with by Kadi and Ade.

13. I am asked whether, in relation to the post mortem whether I, at any point, expressed any concerns about a post-mortem taking place immediately? The only concern we had was the disrespect to my mum and us as a family. That is where the anger came from because we were rushing to put stuff together for my mum to go there just to be there in time to identify the body. The pain and anger of that was more for my mum. I am asked whether I was involved in any discussions about the post mortem not taking place. There might have been discussions but, like I said, all the information was via Kadi and Ade. But I'm sure there might have been a discussion. I might be wrong, but I'm sure they said it would have been on Monday or Tuesday because that's why there was a rush for my mum to travel straight up to Scotland so she would be there in time. We had told Kadi that we were travelling up and she knew about those arrangements.

14. We found out that the post mortem had taken place when we were in Aamer's office. When we found out, we were just in shock. I just broke down in tears. I just couldn't say anything else after that.

15. I am asked how I felt the PIRC dealt with the investigation. I felt like they were not open and honest with the family. At that point in time, I felt like there was so much stuff hidden from the family that obviously we couldn't argue about at that time. We just felt that we're not treated fairly because at that point in time they had a lot to tell the family which they didn't. I am asked whether I raised these concerns with our solicitor Aamer Anwar. I believe Kadi must have dealt with that. It is such a shame that Kadi had everything on her shoulders.

Signature of witness..........
DocuSigned by:
0CBF4AE64C574AA...

16. I am asked whether I recall attending any meetings with the Lord Advocate or those within the Crown Office that were working on the investigation? Yes. We had a meeting with the Lord Advocate when he met the family. I can't remember his name now but obviously it's not this present one, the one prior to that. I am asked whether the Lord Advocate I mean is Frank Mulholland. Yes. I can't recall exactly what was discussed at these meetings because there was so much discussion going on at that time. The little I can remember is that he would do his best to make sure we are supported, and we find out the truth. I am asked how I felt after those meetings and whether I had trust in the process. With the very first Lord Advocate, Frank Mulholland, we met, yes. That changed with the other Lord Advocate, James Wolffe. We had a meeting with him, and, again, he gave us his word that he would do his best for the family and make sure we find out the truth, but I believe it was that same Lord Advocate we had a last meeting with that we were told that the officers were not going to be prosecuted. We felt let down. I am asked how we found out about the decision not to prosecute. We were told in a meeting with the Lord Advocate.


17. I am asked about how I feel the death of Sheku was dealt with in the media. I felt like some headlines about Sheku were just either not true or harsh. There were so many papers coming out when we had meetings, or something happened, or the anniversary happens. I felt the headlines were brutal. I felt that they focussed on things like drugs rather than the fact Sheku was handled by the police. The main focus was not looked at.

18. I am asked whether there is anything further I want to add about the post incident management or investigation into Sheku's death. Since Shek's death, it's been really hard for us as a family. We miss Shek every day. The timeframe is also really hard for us to deal with. We have been through the first hearings. Obviously, you don't forget; you're trying to ease off a bit, and now the other hearings are starting up again. It's building up and building up

Signature of witness.....
DocuSigned by: [Redacted]
0CBF4AE64C574AA.....

and building up. As a family, we've lost a lot physically, mentally, emotionally. We miss Shek every day. Talking about him is so hard. I'm trying to cope, to move on, but it is so hard. We just want the truth.

19. 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.

January 12, 2023 | 5:34 PM GMT
Date..... Signature of witness 
DocuSigned by:
0CBF4AE64C574AA.....