

The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

PC Jaci Aitken

**Taken by [REDACTED] by MS Teams
on Thursday 6 April 2023**

Witness details

1. My full name is Jaclyn Aitken. I prefer to be called Jaci. I was born in 1978. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. On 3 May 2013 I was a Police Constable stationed at Levenmouth Police Station. I was a response officer, responding to the calls that were coming in. This would involve calls for sudden deaths, locus protection or anything that was ongoing at that time.
3. I'm now a Detective Constable (DC). I work in the Sex Offenders Policing Unit where I manage registered sex offenders in the community. I'm based in Fife. I joined this department in June 2020 and that's when I became a DC.

Signature of witness.... [REDACTED]

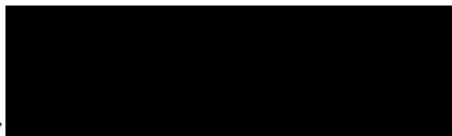
Previous statement

4. I have read my previous statement (PS08011). I have no recollection of writing this statement but it's obviously me who has done it. It's obvious because that's what I would do, I would prepare an operational statement after my involvement.
5. I don't remember why I came to write it. I don't recall if anyone asked me to prepare it.
6. I've got no recollection of my involvement in this locus protection and so it's difficult to know my involvement.
7. I have no better recollection of what happened now that I've read the statement. When I was young in service I did a lot of locus protection. Nothing in the statement jogs my memory. All locus protections are basically the same.

Daybook

8. I have read my notebook (PS04702). This is my notebook and it's my handwriting.
9. I have been provided a scanned copy of my notebook by Police Scotland and I can see that the parts that are redacted in the Inquiry copy are all relating to something I was doing about another incident.
10. I don't remember why I've taken these details in my notebook. I don't remember who any of the people are.

Signature of witness....



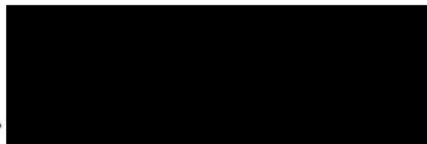
Media

11. I first became aware of a man dying following contact with police in the early morning of 3 May 2015. Not long after I started duty at 7am we were all aware of it. I think it was in regards to someone seeing the call cards and said there was an incident in Kirkcaldy and a male had died.
12. I would presume I would've been made aware the address I was going to for locus protection was connected to Sheku Bayoh but I've got no memory of being made aware. It would've been normal to have been given some relevant details of what the locus was for but I can't remember what was said or who said it.
13. My Sergeant that day is written in my notebook as PS 935 Robert Hutchison on page 1 of the scan (PS04702). He wasn't my normal Sergeant on my shift. He would be my first line manager.
14. I would've read about it back then and I did also watch parts of the Inquiry with the initial officers at the scene. Some but not all of the officers. I've not seen anything else from the Public Inquiry.
15. I think I watched Craig Walker, Ash Tomlinson, Danny Gibson and Alan Paton. I've went in and out of it when it was on. Nothing stands out but it's interesting to see their perspective and their timeline to it. It was being spoken about at work that it was ongoing. Other people were watching it, mainly police colleagues, so I watched bits and pieces as well. It's something that happened local to me so I am interested in it.

Training

16. I'm a DC but I haven't done the Detectives Training Course. It should've been done but hasn't yet because of Covid and other things. I'm in line to do it.

Signature of witness.....

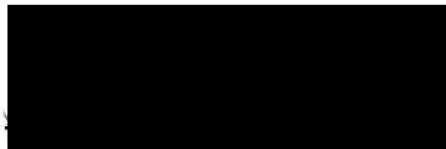
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17. I was a new constable on 3 May 2015, not long out of Tulliallan. I joined the police in 2014. Locus protection would've been covered whilst at Tulliallan. I don't remember what the training involved. It was probably just keeping a training log, preventing entry to the scene and handing over to the next person on duty. It was just basics like that.
18. I have been asked what training I had in relation to race and diversity issues. I can't remember any specifics but it's something that would've been covered at the college. We were mindful of all aspects of diversity and race as we were going in to be a police constable. I imagine it was important to know about language barriers, how to access these services, just things like that.

3 May 2015

19. I was based in Levenmouth Police Station and I started shift at 0700. I can see that from my notebook.
20. The time I have in my notebook for taking the first person's name is 1309. It's cut off in the redacted scan the Inquiry gave me. I would've attended the address for locus protection just at that time or thereabouts.
21. I don't have any information in my notebook about a briefing. I maybe wouldn't normally write about a briefing but I would've written down what locus I have attended. I haven't done that here but I've written the names of the people that were there.
22. I can't remember what I was told before we went to the address. I genuinely can't remember anything. I don't remember why this address was being put under locus protection.

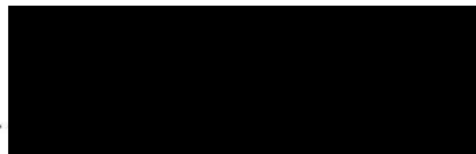
Signature of witness....



Zahid Saeed's address

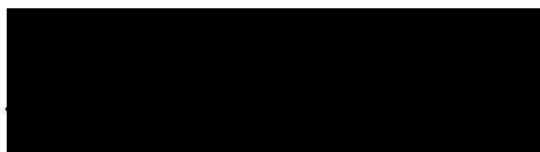
23. I don't remember the people at the address. The statement I've prepared is that I've given the expectation that it's empty. Normally with locus protection you expect it to be a vacant property. I can't remember any incident where I've attended for locus protection and I've had to remove the occupiers.
24. I don't remember anything about what's in my statement.
25. I don't remember asking the occupiers to leave. The statement states that I contacted the CID so they must've removed the occupiers.
26. I have been asked if I recall the legal basis for securing the property. I don't remember. I have no recollection.
27. I have been asked if the word "contempt" was used by any police officers in speaking to the occupiers. I have no memory of this.
28. I have been asked if I remember anyone saying that if the occupants didn't leave they would be forced out. I don't remember.
29. I would take direction from a senior officer. If you're on locus protection generally it's an empty property. This is a different situation. I was young in service and I've clearly asked the people who were in a better position to make decisions like that.
30. I have been asked if I remember any of the occupiers and anything that was said by anyone. I don't remember anything. In my notebook I've got names and details so I have spoken to people. I've got no idea about any conversations or anything that's happened within.
31. I have been asked if I remember any phones being seized from anyone at the address. I don't remember this.

Signature of witness.....



32. I have been asked if any cultural or language concerns raised by the occupants at the time that I was at the address. Not that I recall.
33. I have been asked if I recall if any of the occupants had had surgery recently. I don't remember.
34. I have been asked if we made any telephone calls to senior officers in the course of our interactions with the occupants. I don't remember any other calls. If PC Rhuaridh Fraser and I were there at the same time I might assume he was contacting CID and I was taking their details.
35. I have been asked if I recall any male plainclothes officer whisper anything to me while I was in front of any of the occupants. I don't remember.
36. I have been asked if any of the occupants asked to use the bathroom before they left. I don't remember.
37. I have been asked if I recall any other occupiers returning to the address and entering. I don't remember.
38. I have been asked if I had the impression that the occupants were intimidated by me and the other officers. I don't recall.
39. I have been asked what arrangements were made to deal with the occupants. I don't know what happened to the occupants after they were removed.
40. I have been asked if I'm aware of a complaint being made by the occupants about the police attendance that day. I didn't know about a complaint. This is the first I've heard of it.
41. I have been asked if I know an officer called Inspector Tom Brown and whether he spoke to me at all about this incident. I know Tom Brown. I don't remember him speaking to me about this.

Signature of witness.

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42. I don't recall PIRC speaking to me about my actions on this day. I think I would've remembered if PIRC did speak to me about this so no they didn't.

Search of the property

43. I don't remember any searches of the property while I was there. I would've put that in my statement and in my notebook if I was present or took part in a search.
44. I have been asked if I know of a female officer who attended, was around 5' 3 or 4", fair, had her hair tied back and was wearing blue gloves. I'm 5' 3" and would have my hair tied back as we would do. I don't remember being there but it would be normal to wear blue gloves. It's not normal for locus protection standing at the locus to wear blue gloves. If you were involved in searches or going into the property, that's when you would use them. If I was wearing blue gloves that's because I was doing searches or going into the property.

Leaving the property

45. I don't remember when I left the property. It would normally be a shout on the radio and the next shift was coming on. You would be relieved. It could happen in a number of ways. I don't remember the handover.

Scene entry log

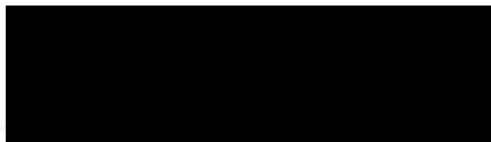
46. I have been shown the Scene Entry Log for the Saeed home address (PS18504).
47. Most of the writing doesn't look like my handwriting. I see "Incident" isn't completed at the top of the front page, which suggests we didn't know the incident when we completed it.

Signature of witness..



48. Pages 7 and 8 is my handwriting. I had "1309" noted in my notebook so I've completed that time in the notebook entry after arriving at the scene, not when I arrived. The Scene Entry Log will be the correct times. I don't remember Mr Saeed Ahmed returning. I can't remember any of the occupants. I see there's a young person noted but I don't remember them.
49. I have been shown the Scene Entry Log (PS18504) at page 9. I think that's Rhuaridh's handwriting and that's me signing and writing "PC328". The first part is not my handwriting.
50. We were going to locus protection but it wasn't a secure locus when we arrived so we would need to secure the locus and then commence locus protection. Securing a locus is to ensure all windows and doors are locked and nobody is coming or going. We would ensure oversight of the property.
51. If you're securing a locus then it has to be vacant. The people coming and going are possibly needed for scene examiners. As part of securing a locus you would need to secure the people in the locus. It would be to take the people out the property.
52. I don't recall ever going to a locus for locus protection that hasn't been a vacant property. However I have gone to answer a call and had to vacate the property of the occupants because it has become a locus.
53. I have been asked if there is a difference between answering a call and asked to go and carry out locus protection. From my recollection I haven't been told why this was to be a locus. If you're doing locus protection it's because you have to secure evidence of some description.
54. I'm answering "N" on the log that none of the protective clothing has been worn. That would mean I haven't worn any of this clothing including gloves.

Signature of witness.....



- 55. My handwriting is at page 9 that I left at 1500. I would prefer the scene entry log to my statement for the timing of when I left.
- 56. I have been referred the Scene Entry Log (PS18504) at page 14 under "Scene Closure" where reference is made to the signatures of the Crime Scene Manager and the Senior Investigating Officer.
- 57. I imagined they would be checked by senior officers. I can't recall any instance when I've been asked about this.
- 58. I think this is the full extent of my involvement, based on my statement.

Race

- 59. I have been asked if I have heard or told any racist jokes among police officers. No. I have been asked if I'm aware of any racist views held by police officers. I'm not aware. I have been asked if I'm aware of any racial discrimination by any police officers. No.
- 60. 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.

Date 19/5/23 Signature of witness.....

