

WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of A179 URN: [] [] [] []

Age if under 18 Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Constable

This statement (consisting of: ... 3..... pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: A179 A179 Date: 28th March 2021.....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded [] (supply witness details on rear)

- 1. I write this statement further to my initial statement dated 11th December 2015 and a further statement at the request of the then Independent Police Complaints Commission dated 24th February 2016.
2. I make this statement to address a number of questions asked by the Inquiry Legal Team.
3. To the best of my recollection, I was briefed by the SFO Inspector who was on duty in Central 3000 that day and in the room, namely the Tactical Adviser for Operation Ankaa whom I remember by name and who, I have been informed, is referred to in this Inquiry by the cipher S48. I was not present at any briefings save the briefing at C3000 on the morning of the operation.
4. As explained in my earlier statements, my role that day was to listen continuously to the main surveillance channel. I was also listening simultaneously to the back-to-back radio channel used by the CT SFOs. In doing this, I was stationed at a desk in C3000 with radios, a map book, and an iPad. My role was to be aware at all times of the up-to-date situation in respect of the subject vehicle - its movements, location, direction of travel, people it was picking up or anything else of note that it may have been doing - and be able to pass such up-to-date information on to whomever required it.
5. I would not actively take the initiative of passing on this information unless something particularly significant happened which I would have to communicate immediately - I cannot recall any such instance on the morning of 11th December 2015. Rather I would give updates when they were requested of me. I was not the only conduit of information from the radio and was aware that others in the room were also listening. As per my statement dated 24th February 2016, such updates which I can recall giving included where surveillance officers believed the subject vehicle of this operation may be in convoy with a Black

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Continuation of Statement of A179

Audi, and when it stopped to pick up other people, again referencing that previous statement I would pass on any locations where the subject vehicle had stopped as described by the surveillance team. I cannot recall all of my updates passed, but general directions of the subject vehicle would have been passed, especially as the information was that it may be heading to Wood Green Crown Court.

- 6. A clarification of my previous statements is necessary: the main person to whom I passed on information emanating from the surveillance channel was S48 the Tactical Advisor, rather than the TFC; S48 would then pass on whatever he deemed relevant to the TFC. My direct contact with the TFC was therefore minimal. S48 was the only other MO19 person in the room and already known to me. However, I also passed on information to others who would occasionally look over my shoulder and ask for the latest updates, and this may well have included the TFC. I had no particular reason to note who precisely these others were, since everyone in the room was engaged on the same operation and properly had an interest in the information from the surveillance channel, so I would share that information with whomever asked.
- 7. I cannot recall any specific response to any of the information I passed on to other officers in the room other than their confirming understanding. I would not have expected any other response, since my updates were in a sense no different than if they had been listening to the radio channel themselves.
- 8. At the time this incident took place, the practice of following a surveillance team relied upon map books, and we were provided with *A-to-Z* map books for this purpose. These would be annotated with sticky tabs which I would move in the map book to indicate the position and direction of the vehicle, mark places of interest etc. This was a tried and tested and effective system, but I had found that it could be rendered more efficient by also using my personal iPad to obtain further information on the locations that were mentioned during commentary. This would have included surveillance officers relaying business names and landmarks that were not all shown on the map book I was also using. I had the correct equipment for my role but chose also to use my personal equipment to make the task more efficient. I used these two methods in conjunction with, rather than to the exclusion of, each other. In 2015, the use of iPads was not as widespread as it is now, and using an iPad for this task was not yet organisational practice. Now, however, iPads with specific software installed are provided by the MPS for following surveillance commentary.
- 9. I did not record any of the information passed on to other officers for a number of reasons. I had not been instructed to keep any sort of log, and I was only passing on information on locations and subject vehicle's movements, basically repeating what was being said on the radio. I also believed that the radio

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