

Witness Name: Patricia F Gallan QPM

Statement No: 1

## **PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF JERMAINE BAKER**

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### **Witness Statement of Patricia F Gallan QPM**

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I, Patricia F Gallan QPM, will say as follows:-

1. I began my police career at the Metropolitan Police Service in 1987. I served in Merseyside Police and the National Crime Squad as a Chief Officer before returning to the Metropolitan Police in 2012 as a Deputy Assistant Commissioner. I was appointed an Assistant Commissioner in 2015. An Assistant Commissioner is the equivalent of a Chief Constable in other police forces.
2. During 2015 I was Assistant Commissioner, Specialist Crime and Operations. This means I was ultimately responsible for what was then SCO7, the unit of the MPS dedicated to combating serious and organised crime.
3. I am aware of the terms of reference for the Public Inquiry into the death of Jermaine Baker. I have been informed that the Inquiry has sought information as to my knowledge of Operation Ankaa.
4. Due to the size and the unique challenges of policing London, an Assistant Commissioner of the MPS has significant responsibility. I dealt with a large number of highly unusual investigations during this period. Furthermore, Operation Ankaa occurred almost six years ago, and in addition I have been retired from policing for nearly three years (I retired in 2018). Accordingly, my

recollection of the genesis and development of Operation Ankaa is limited, but I have been assisted by the documents with which I have been provided.

5. My knowledge of Operation Ankaa arose in the context of an application for property interference made in November 2015. This was part of the broader Operation Utara surveillance authorisations that were sought from me. I was familiar with Operation Utara due to the number of authorisations that were made and the extremely serious criminality that was being investigated. It is important to recognise the challenges that the MPS faces in dealing with dangerous OCGs such as those involved in Operation Ankaa. Their activities bring untold misery to victims across the UK. The MPS has a duty to confront the activities of these groups and many lives are saved as a result.
6. In November 2015 I was made aware that there was an intention to install a tracker in a vehicle in connection with an attempted break out of an individual from prison. I requested that a personal presentation be given to me pertaining to the application. I also asked for Commander Duncan Ball's views on the operation and for the relevant Superintendent to attend the presentation that was to be given to me when I was first informed of the application.
7. I can see from an email from Sam Marshall dated 12 November 2015 that this presentation took place on 13 November 2015 at 13:30 **MPS0003664** **MPS0003664** . As this application was nearly six years ago, my recollection of it is limited. I do recall aspects of the presentation, and in particular that it was an unusual set of circumstances because it was a particularly audacious act by the criminals, and indeed that is why I would have asked whether Commander Ball was aware of the operation on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 when I was first informed about the application that was to be made to me.
8. I recall, having seen relevant documents relating to the application, one of the key difficulties was that if we merely disrupted the escape plot, then the criminals would likely attempt this again when we were unprepared, which would be more dangerous for all involved. I believe that this was a concern

that was reported to me at the time of the presentation by the presenting officers.


9. Further to the application, on 16 November 2015 I was provided with a Property Interference Application (Relativity reference MPS0003246). The background to the operation was explained in the application, stressing that the OCG was a well organised and sophisticated network. It was noted that the authority would greatly assist the operational team by placing them in a position where evidence could be gathered, leading to a successful prosecution. Due to the personal presentation that I had received on 13 November 2015, I would have been familiar with the details of the application. I approved the application, making reference to the personal briefing I had received. I noted (in handwritten notes on the last page) that the operation had been *“risk assessed, contingencies put in place and it is proportionate and necessary where less intrusive tactics would not achieve the aims”* (Relativity reference MPS0003228).
10. I subsequently received a further Property Interference Application (Relativity reference MPS0003190) relating to the installation of an audio probe into the same vehicle. I authorised this second application on 1 December 2015 (Relativity reference MPS0003313), being satisfied that the test was made out. I did not require any further briefing.
11. To the best of my recollection (and again I must stress that these events occurred six years ago and it has been several years since my retirement), I did not have any knowledge of the strategic or tactical firearms deployment plan for Operation Ankaa beyond what I was told on 13, 16, and 24 November 2015 (at the presentation and in the two applications).
12. I do not believe that I was aware of the briefing that was given to Sweeney J on 8 December 2015, but Commander Ball might have mentioned this to me. I do not recall this, however. I was not involved in drafting the briefing or the template that was provided on this occasion.

13. It should be noted that my role when considering the property interference applications was not to authorise Operation Ankaa, but to decide whether this specific surveillance tactic was appropriate. I requested a personal presentation pertaining to the application from those responsible for Operation Ankaa and a review by Commander Ball of the operation. Had I had concerns about the operation overall then I would not have approved a property interference application and would likely have directed Commander Ball to tell his officers to look at the options again.

14. I have been asked about the degree to which I would interfere with strategic and tactical decisions in regard to an operation. As mentioned above, the responsibilities of an Assistant Commissioner were very considerable. Furthermore, there is a well-defined structure, set out in APP, for the command and control of firearms operations. Accordingly, it would have been neither feasible nor appropriate for me to interfere with or seek to second guess decisions made by appropriate officers. However, as above, if I was made aware of an operation that caused me significant concerns then I would have intervened through appropriate dialogue with the relevant officers.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.



**Signed:**

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**Dated:**     \_14/6/21\_\_\_\_\_

