

PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF JERMAINE BAKER

Witness Statement of Chief Superintendent Andrew Walker

1. I am a Chief Superintendent in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). Since March 2018 I have been the head of the MPS Specialist Firearms Command (SCO19).
2. Further to my statement to the Jermaine Baker Inquiry dated 3rd August 2021, I have been asked to provide some additional information.
3. W80 was suspended from 16th December 2015 until 26th June 2017. His suspension was lifted when the CPS determined that he would not face any criminal charges. W80 initially returned to work in a purely administrative, back-office role. I can confirm that the decision for W80 to take up his current role providing support to a training team was only reached after the CPS decision not to prosecute was finally confirmed (i.e. after the 'right to review' process had been completed on 19 March 2018).
4. The decision about W80's day-to-day duties since December 2015 has been the responsibility of the SCO19 OCU Commander. This is the post that I have held since March 2018 and therefore the decision that W80 could take up a training role ultimately rested with me. However, this decision was informed by a number of factors. In particular, my decision was subject to consultation with the Chief Officer with responsibility for the Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS), Commander Catherine Roper, who had the power to impose restrictions on W80's employment (although in the event none were imposed). In addition, the decision about W80's duties involved consultation with the Gold Group for this incident, which has been chaired since 2015 by a Commander (latterly a DAC) and whose membership includes senior officers and lawyers with knowledge of the case. These discussions took place over the course of March and early April 2018. W80 was also specifically referred back to Occupational Health in April 2018, for an assessment as to his suitability to occupy a training role. Following a consultation in May 2018, W80 took up his current role.
5. I have been asked to elaborate on the comment at paragraph 7 of my previous statement, that W80 is not involved in training in relation to any of the CTSFO tactics which were employed in relation to Jermaine Baker's death. To clarify, W80 is not involved in training the specific CTSFO tactics that have been referenced during the Inquiry. CTSFOs are trained in a range of modules that are defined and set by the College of Policing - the modules that are particularly relevant for present purposes are Module D8 ("Provides armed support to covert operations") and Module D3 ("Deals with subjects in vehicles"). The modular nature of the MPS training programme means that it is straightforward to demarcate lessons for which W80 would not be relied upon, in order to ensure he is not placed in training

scenarios that might replicate the incident in December 2015. In any event, as set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 in my previous statement, W80's current function is largely administrative, and where he plays a role in the physical delivery of training sessions he does so by way of assisting the training team, such as by playing the role of a member of the public in a role play scenario.

6. In the context of proceedings into the shooting of Jermaine Baker being ongoing, I was and remain of the view that a role of this defined nature struck an appropriate balance of the factors to be considered in this particular case. Those factors include W80's wishes and wellbeing, the public interest in providing value to the taxpayers who pay his salary, the current status of any disciplinary proceedings, and the need not to pre-empt or speculate about conclusions that may be reached in ongoing proceedings. As I expressed in my previous statement, I consider that the nature of W80's current role is both meaningful and appropriate in the circumstances.

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:  _____

Dated: _____ 22 August 2021 _____