

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: THORNHILL, PAUL

Age if under 18: (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: CHEIF FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR

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This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) 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 in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: PAUL THORNHILL

Date: 08/02/2016

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

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I am Paul THORNHILL and currently the MPS's Chief Firearms Instructor (CFI) and have been so since February 2013. My rank is that of temporary Chief Inspector.

The role of the Chief Firearms Instructor is to manage the design, delivery and management of all firearms training within their Police Force. The Chief Firearms Instructor carries this out on behalf of their portfolio holder. In the MPS, that is currently Commander MUSKER. I have been asked to answer the following questions:

1. The normal process for any officer returning to operational SFO duties;
2. The process W80 went through;
3. Any assessments conducted with W80;
4. Results of any assessments;
5. Decision making/rationale regarding W80 fitness to return to operational duties, both physical competence and mental.

With regard to question 1. I am making the assumption that this means returning from Instructor duties to operational duties. It is the responsibility that this means returning from instructor duties to operational duties. It is the responsibility of the Chief Firearms Instructor to determine the level and frequency of refresher training relevant to each role profile. These are called contact hours. As a general guide, the more competencies and complex skills an officer holds by virtue of their individual Role Profile, the more training they have to do to maintain their operational status. The contact hours I have set for Counter

Signature: Paul Thornhill  
2020

Signature witnessed by:

Terrorism Specialist Firearms Officers (CTSFO) is 165 hours. This is to remain operationally and occupationally competent, as laid out in the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum (NPFTC) and governed by the College of Policing (CoP). All the elements of the Role Profile must be refreshed in a training year. Firearms instructors by virtue of their role, deliver training to students in the skill set they hold. This skill set is determined by their Role Profile. In the case of a CTSFO, it is recognised that their delivery of training off sets the requirement to complete the full 165 hours. I have set the contact hours as a student to be 67 hours. All instructors must complete this. I am satisfied that W80 has exceeded this requirement.

Question 2. I have supplied the IPCC details of the training that W80 undertook in the training year. He has exceeded the set requirement of 67 hours and has completed 165 hours.

Question 3. The processes that W80 completed throughout the course of the year are all the core skills/competencies relevant to the CTSFO role profile being refreshed; these are subject to individual assessment by the instructors. This is the same for all the role profiles the MPS train. New training is subject to summative assessment as is all shooting classifications. The new training undertaken by W80 and summatively assessed was D4 training this is searching. I have supplied the details of all W80's training for the past year

Question 4. W80 has passed all assessed areas, details supplied.

Question 5. The fact that the instructors remain operationally competent means that a rotation policy exists between training and operations. Officers are attached to training for at least a year at a time. Should no training take place in a three year period, the officers are deemed to have had their competence expire and would require full courses.

Firearms instructors also provide the strategic reserve for the MPS and unless they have maintained their skill set through restricted duty or injury, they can be called upon to deploy operationally at short notice. I'm not sure that we are able to assess mental competence. Should officers display behaviour that is not believed to be what is regarded as normal, then they would be referred to the MPS's internal Occupational Health specialists. All operational officers are required to complete a F6620 and that form is subsequently signed off by the OCU commander as authority to deploy with firearms.

Paul Thornhill

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2020

Signature witnessed by: