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Statement made on behalf of: The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis
Witness: N321
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: N/A
Date Statement Made: 30 March 2017

IN THE MATTER OF: PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

Witness: N321
Occupation: **Details**
Address: c/o Directorate of Legal Services, 10 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NR

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

1 I have been asked to provide a "Personal Impact Statement" about the effect of any disclosure of my real name and cover name by the Inquiry. I have not been shown any documents to refresh my memory in making this impact statement, although I have been given some assistance with the dates in paragraph 1 and 6 from an officer from MPS IRSC.

2 *Details of MPS service and deployment.*

3 The Special Branch was a covert entity and while the public knew it existed, its activities were secret. My understanding when I joined the Special Branch was that I was not to discuss its activities outside of the service and my expectation of the Branch was that my identity would also be kept secret. I recall that at the Induction presentation into the Branch that we were warned that we would have access to secret information that we were not to reveal to anyone outside of the Police or to even acknowledge that we were members of the Special Branch. This seemed entirely reasonable to me and for nearly fifty years I have kept faith with that undertaking.

4 *Details of SDS*

5 *Details of deployment*

6 *Details of SDS*

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7 The only people who were aware that I was doing something covert during this time were my parents and *sibling*, since with my scruffy dress and appearance it was obvious that I was not just an office worker. However I never told them what I did and as good supportive parents, they never asked.

8 *Details of deployment*

9 *Details of deployment*

10 *Details of cover name*

Impact of the Inquiry

11 I did not know about the Inquiry until I was contacted recently. With the advent of this Inquiry, my greatest concern is for the welfare of my family if my identity details are revealed. *Age of N321 and partner and partner's health*. My involvement in undercover police work occurred and finished before we met for the first time.

12 *N321's view of own personal safety*: I have no serious concerns with regard to my own personal safety, although it would be prudent to be cautious

13 My only concern is that with the publication of my name and details, I will be subject to intense media scrutiny. The result will be reporters, cameras and other media camped on my door step demanding that I give them an interview or comment which they can publish.

14 We would not want to be around with media with cameras. I've seen it many times – where microphones are put into people's in face. The press are very persistent. My *partner* wouldn't cope well. I'm sure that the neighbours would be asked for comment which would lead to my family being identified.

15 It is also likely that it will affect my current employment. *It* will cause disruption and embarrassment for *my employer* and the only way that I can prevent that is to resign from my employment. *Comparison of N321's case with that of another UCO*.

16 *Details of family*. *My children do not* have any idea of my previous undercover activity, and the publication of my name and their own status within the community is likely to subject them to media intrusion and questions from their professional colleagues.

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17 I myself belong to various social clubs within my local community and I would not look forward to being publicly identified as a former undercover officer with all the innuendo that would follow.

18 Personally I am angered and outraged that the comparatively new legal concept of breach of someone's human rights is now being used as justification for publicly identifying officers who were willing to take part in such a high risk activity. If subsequent undercover officers behaved badly or unlawfully, then by all means they should be investigated. But the wide scope of this Inquiry to potentially identify any officer who has participated in undercover work simply smacks of political expediency on the part of the current UK Government. I served the Metropolitan Police and the UK Government loyally and faithfully during the time of my undercover deployment and I have maintained that loyalty *since*. That loyalty is apparently now considered of little value compared with the advantage to be obtained from political expediency.

19 I believe that at all times I acted faithfully, professionally and in accordance with my instructions from senior officers. I did nothing dishonourable, other than to maintain the necessary subterfuge of a secret identity.

20 I am prepared to attend open court and give evidence to the Inquiry, answer direct questions from the Chairman and other Counsel, provided that my identity and current location are not revealed.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

