

Statement made on behalf of: The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis
Witness: N241
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: N/A
Date Statement Made: 2017

IN THE MATTER OF: PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

Witness: N241
Occupation: Retired
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 an impact statement about the effect of disclosure of my real and/or cover name by the Inquiry. I have not been shown any documents to refresh my memory in making this impact statement.

Details of my undercover deployment

2. I was deployed for a few [REDACTED] years. The main group I infiltrated was [REDACTED]. There were no subsidiary groups but I ended up involved with the [REDACTED]. I cannot

remember how. I was invited to go on a [REDACTED] but this was declined on my behalf. I told management that this was on offer.

3. Our tasking was not terribly specific in the early days. We were directed towards a particular organisation to penetrate. That was the way it was. It was amateurish. You made up your own legend and method of infiltration. The cover was minimal. I would go to demonstrations and meetings. There would be proselytising - trying to sell the message. I would help with *methods of publishing the group message* [REDACTED].
4. My cover name was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I initially had some assistance with my cover story. My back story was that [REDACTED]. My cover for most of the time was that I worked for [REDACTED] for which I had a [REDACTED]. Subsequently, and I can't remember why I changed, my [REDACTED] and I went to work *elsewhere* [REDACTED].
5. In terms of the individuals I came into contact with, I remember [REDACTED]. I don't remember other names. I did not consider him to be a violent individual. He was a bit like Jeremy Corbyn. He never grew up. He was focused on [REDACTED] and fitted the rest of his life around that. The violent ones I met were in some other [REDACTED] groups with whom I was involved tangentially because we had people infiltrating those as well. One of the chaps was [REDACTED] and the other was [REDACTED].
6. After my deployment I stayed in Special Branch but not the SDS. They hid me out at Details of post-SDS posting. Then I was Details of post-SDS posting [REDACTED] and I was on [REDACTED]. Much later in my career I did some protection work linked with [REDACTED] for a time. I was in charge of quite a few others, including [REDACTED] protection. I was not involved in any other covert operations.

7. I am now retired.

The impact of deployment on me

8. At the time of my deployment, ***Gist: details of extent of partner's awareness of deployment at the time.*** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9. I changed my appearance [REDACTED]

10. I was not aware of any effect on me at the time. Looking back, it did produce stresses in relationships. You became very used to hiding things, having a different persona. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

11. I did not take any security measures at home after my deployment. I moved out of the cover flat I was in and moved into a flat in [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED], living with people who had nothing to do with the police, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12. There was no recognition from the SDS about welfare. It was only retrospectively that I realised it myself. I just get on with things. It was difficult to identify horses for courses; it was a matter of luck as to whether people recruited to the SDS could hack it. There were no checks on mental suitability for the role.

Compromise of my identity

13. During one demonstration while in my cover identity I was carrying [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I heard a voice [REDACTED]
saying [REDACTED]. It was an old family friend from
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

14. There was an incident in [REDACTED] at some point during my
deployment. **Gist: event where officer avoided a threat of violence.** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

15. I don't see how this could be linked to my deployment. I never saw this man
again. I never went back to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I did not tell the MPS about
this incident. With hindsight, it was a silly thing to do but I don't think it had
anything to do with my deployment. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We were used to mixing with these sorts of
people. I didn't feel that there was anything particularly dangerous about it. I
don't see that there is any on-going risk arising from that incident.

16. There came a point later when my cover was blown. I was told that ***gist: event details where status as undercover officer became known to a small group*** [REDACTED]

17. ***Gist: Detail of MPS management reaction to this compromise.*** [REDACTED]

18. I learnt that people were trying to find out more about me after my cover was blown. ***Gist: further detail of this event.*** [REDACTED]

19. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21. [REDACTED]

22. [REDACTED]

The impact that publication of my real and/or cover names would have on me

23. I wish to be given anonymity over my real name. This is not for just my own sake but for my family. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am concerned about what effect it could have on them if my real name was released. I would be worried about the media intrusion they might face. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You can't tell but I would prefer that the situation didn't arise.

24. My *partner* [REDACTED] would also worry were my identity to be confirmed [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

25. When I left the SDS I maintained a total silence as to what I had been doing and that silence has continued to this date. There was a culture of secrecy within Special Branch and its activities in those days and were not discussed outside Branch circles. I have maintained that discretion throughout my working life and after retirement. My career as a police officer is known only to friends and my neighbours are not aware of my past.