

██████████ APPROVED 7.8.2017

For: Undercover Police Inquiry

By: MPS Designated Lawyer

Statement of witness: N322

Dated: 07.08.2017

**RE: PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING
IMPACT STATEMENT OF HN322**

1. I am *in my 70s* ██████████ years old and am retired, having left the Metropolitan Police ("MPS") over 20 years ago. I live some distance away from London and do not travel into London at all, nor do I wish to do so. As is set out below, it appears that I was with the SDS for 2 months, although I have a very limited memory of that time and do not recall any detail of what I did. I was able to meet with a member of the DL team last month and now understand a lot more about the process. At that stage, they had no papers in relation to my case.
2. I understand that there will be an application for a restriction order in respect of my real name. I fully support that application.
3. I am told that two risk assessments have been conducted by the MPS in relation to the risks to me and others in respect of the Inquiry's decision about whether a restriction order should be made. I have not seen those documents and I have not met with the risk assessors.
4. When the risk assessors contacted me, I did not understand what assistance I could be or what was being asked. I therefore wrote on 17 December 2016 indicating that I did not think I had anything I could add and indicating that I did not want to be contacted. I did however return the pro forma. I am told that a copy of this was not annexed to the risk assessment and so is not in the papers provided to the DL team.
5. I understand that there will be an application for a restriction order in respect of my real name. I fully support that application.

Career

6. I have had a lengthy career within the MPS and have held a number of different roles. My career includes a number of roles ██████████ which are of a sensitive nature. I had always understood that my involvement in that work was strictly confidential and I am not comfortable revealing details of those roles without the MPS formally agreeing to me doing so.
7. I do not recall the exact dates of where I was during my police career but was able to provide a summary which I was able to remember with the assistance of my

partner [REDACTED]. The DL team have recently had access to my personnel file and the dates set out below come from those documents. I [REDACTED] worked in a number of different areas.

8. I arrived in London to join the MPS in [REDACTED]. My probation period was spent in [REDACTED]. I was encouraged to apply for Special Branch and did so. I was in Special Branch from [REDACTED].

Gist: Chronology of police career.

9. [REDACTED] I did not return to the SDS in any role nor have any role in any capacity to do with SDS after my short deployment in 1968.
10. Once accepted into Special Branch, there was a formal induction, including signing the Official Secrets Act declaration and agreeing to the vetting process. An important part of this induction was the emphasis placed upon the unique responsibilities of working with classified material in a sensitive environment. The 'need to know' principle would rule our lives. Individual officer worked in a compartmentalised manner, only involving other officers/departments when the needs of a particular enquiry made this necessary.
11. Special Branch officers were expected to be totally discreet, loyal, impeccably behaved and trustworthy. These demands were non-negotiable but, rather than seen as a burden, they generated a great pride in being a member of the organisation.
12. These lessons understandably stayed with me for the whole of my life. [REDACTED]
13. I was not asked about the work that I did during the course of my career and find it very strange to talk about it.
14. [REDACTED] I now volunteer [REDACTED]. I am therefore now well known locally as a person who gives [REDACTED] time to the community and would not want anything to get in the way of me being able to contribute in this way.

SDS Deployment

15. I was deployed to the SDS for a very short period. I do not recall the precise dates but remembered that it was for no longer than a few months in around 1968. That is 49 years ago. As far as I am aware I did not have a cover name. I certainly do not recall having or using one.
16. [REDACTED]
17. I have since been told about a document that says that I was deployed from *a short time in 1968* [REDACTED] and the organisation that I was tasked to deal with was the SE London VSC. The length of time for being with the SDS is consistent with what I recall, although I don't recall anything specific about attending any particular meetings.
18. I recall very little about my time with the SDS. I do remember that I would attend various public meetings while I was in Special Branch and this may have included in 1968.
19. I realised that the work involved in being in the SDS in the longer term meant spending more time away from home, and I did not want to be away from home, nor did I consider myself brave enough to do the work of long term infiltration. I therefore asked to come off it.
20. For the reasons set out above, I understood that all of my deployments were confidential and that the work I did would be kept confidential. I have always maintained confidentiality after my career and have told nobody any of the details of my time in Special Branch or the detail of the work that I did. My *partner* [REDACTED] knew that I was in Special Branch and a very little about what I did. My close family knew that I was in Special Branch, but nothing else about it and they did not ask. I did not volunteer any details. I am someone who has kept my family and work life separate and do not regularly talk about any of the work I had done.
21. The confidentiality was intrinsic in the training, but also in the way work was done. Things were done on a need to know basis and people just didn't ask questions about other people's work. I signed the Official Secrets Act and would guard my tongue.
22. I am therefore horrified to hear that, after all these years, the 'state' is considering failing to honour its side of the contract of confidentiality which I accepted and have honoured to this day.
23. I always took it for granted that, as long as I carried out my role to the best of my ability, in good faith and according to my training, my interests would be protected by the organisation. Since leaving the police service I have continued to protect the knowledge which I gained in the course of those activities. I have

eschewed social media in any form for this reason, to reduce the likelihood of my past duties invading my retirement.

24. I would not have done the sensitive jobs that I have done if I thought that my identity would be put in the public domain.
25. I am particularly concerned because I had no cover name that the Inquiry might decide to reveal my real name. I would be concerned about the impact on me and my family and the potential safety issues given the negative coverage of SDS officers.

Family / Third Party

26. I have *details of family* [REDACTED] and would be concerned about their safety and the impact on them if my name was released.
27. I believe that [REDACTED] my career coupled with a disclosure that I was in the SDS are bound to increase the vulnerability of my family and I at a time when there are people seeking targets to publicise their extreme views.
28. I am very concerned about the impact upon my family and private life if my real name was to be published. I would like to spend my retirement in peace.

Health

29. I am in good physical and mental health for my age. However, I find myself getting emotional about things but I don't know why. I find this very frustrating and it is not something that has happened to me before.

Conclusion

30. I carried out my career with integrity and in a professional manner. I am anxious about the risk to me and my family if my name is released into the public domain. As far as I recall I did not get to the stage of formally going undercover, although it may be that I was preparing to do so but realised that it was not for me. Given my limited involvement, [REDACTED] and I did not engage any sexual relationships during my career, I would ask that my identity is protected. I do not see how the release of my name assists the Inquiry but the consequences to me of doing so could be quite significant.

Approved by telephone on 7/8. Signed copy to follow.