

Statement made on behalf of: The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis
Witness: N337
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: N/A
Date Statement Made: 2017

IN THE MATTER OF: PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

Witness: N337
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 name and cover name by the Inquiry. I have not been shown any documents to refresh my memory in making this impact statement.

MPS Career

2 I joined the MPS for initial training in [REDACTED] *Date*. and was initially posted to [REDACTED] *Details of postings*. I joined the Special Branch [REDACTED] *Details of SB department*. in [REDACTED] *Date* and served as an SDS Field Officer [REDACTED] *in the 1970s*. I was promoted to [REDACTED] *Rank* while I was in the field.

3 After completing my deployment, I was sent to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Signed: _____ Date: _____

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] **Details of post-UC deployment career.**

4 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] **Details of post-UC deployment career.**

5 I retired on [REDACTED] **Date.**

Undercover Deployment

6 I was deployed [REDACTED] **against 4 groups in the 1970s.** My target groups were [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] **Details of groups.**

7 My cover name was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] **Details of cover name.**

8 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9 I sourced my accommodation for my deployment myself. I just responded to an ad in a newspaper and met the landlady in my cover identity.

10 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] **Details of N337's covert identity.**

11 I always offered as little information as possible. When I was in the field, I quickly realised people didn't offer up their surnames very often. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] **Details of N337's covert identity.**

Signed: _____

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12 [REDACTED] *Details of N337's covert identity.*

Impact of Deployment

13 It was difficult for [REDACTED] *my partner* when I was deployed. I was away [REDACTED] *time period* at a time. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *My partner* found that difficult – not knowing where I was, how long I was going to be away for, and not hearing from me [REDACTED] *time period* at a time.

14 During my deployment, our social life also went out the window. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] our social life was put on hold.

15 [REDACTED]

Discussion of impact of deployment.

16 [REDACTED] *My partner and I* had to develop a system too for when we were out, for if I saw people. So if we were out shopping [REDACTED], if I saw someone I needed to avoid, I would say 'I'll see you at...' and I would meet [REDACTED] *him/her* there when I knew it was safe.

17 I don't think my deployment had any adverse impact on my career. I was promoted while I was in the field. The only impact it really had was that when I came off, [REDACTED] *Details of posting*, but that wasn't adverse really.

Expectation of Confidentiality

18 There was definitely an expectation that both my cover and real identity would be kept confidential. This was implied, not express; it was just something that was

Signed: _____ Date: _____

understood. I was deployed during the very early stages of the SDS so it was nothing formal back then.

Personal and Family Circumstances

19 I currently live in [REDACTED] **outside the United Kingdom.** I am involved in various things in the community here. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Details of N337's community involvement.**

20 I live with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] **my partner who suffers from a long-term physical health condition.** I do not have any health concerns myself.

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Details of N337's current exposure.**

22 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Details of N337's current exposure.**

23 Within our community, some people know I was with the police but nobody really knows what I did. [REDACTED] **My partner** does not know exactly what I did.

24 [REDACTED]

Impact of Publication

25 I wish to be given anonymity over both my real and cover names, though I am particularly concerned about publication of my real name. This is not really for my own sake but for the sake of [REDACTED] **my partner**, who was already affected during the deployment itself. I believe publication of my name would cause [REDACTED] **him/her** extreme concern and anxiety.

26 If my real identity were disclosed, I think there is a fair possibility it would reach the media here [REDACTED]

Signed: _____

Date: _____

██████████ I can look after myself; if people started asking questions I just wouldn't speak to them. But I think media attention would really trouble ██████████ *my partner*.

27 In terms of safety and security, it would be very difficult to say I have concerns at present. This all happened ██████████ *in the 1970s* and I now live ██████████ ██████████ *outside of the United Kingdom*. But I appreciate that I just don't know where the people I associated with are now or their current attitudes.

Conclusions

28 I do not see why either my cover or real name should be published. I did not commit any crimes or behave inappropriately during my deployment.

29 I am aware that there are some former colleagues who did the wrong thing, particularly in terms of relationships with women. That behaviour is totally wrong. If I'd have got myself into a position where failing to develop a relationship would have stopped me advancing my cover, then I'd have left. I wouldn't have done it; I would rather have cut my ties. I'm aware that there are various other allegations in the press. But there are many instances of police officers who over the years have committed crimes or behaved inappropriately and they have just been dealt with. No one has ever suggested that because police officers have done the wrong thing, there has to be a complete inquiry into the whole force. It just doesn't seem right to me that that's what's happening.

30 I am happy to co-operate with the Inquiry but I do not wish to travel to England to give evidence. ██████████ I do not want to leave ██████████ *my partner* for such a significant period.

31 If I am to give evidence, I would like to utilise voice modulation facilities, ██████████ ██████████ *Reason*. I would also like to give evidence behind a screen.

Signed: _____

Date: _____