

Statement made on behalf of: The Metropolitan Police, Designated Lawyers

Witness: HN9

Statement No: 1

Date Statement Made: 24 November 2017

IN THE MATTER OF: PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

Address: c/o Designated Lawyer, PO Box 73779, London, WC1A 9NL

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

Unsigned but approved

1. I have been asked to make a statement about the impact on me if my real or cover name(s) were released in connection with the UCPI. My cover name whilst deployed *in the 1980s* [redacted] was [redacted] *describes how he had a later cover officer role in the 2000s and that he applies for a restriction order over real and cover names including the cover name used when a cover officer* [redacted]

[redacted] I would very much like to minimise my involvement in the Inquiry. If I have to be involved, then I cannot countenance doing so unless reassured about my anonymity.

2. The dates set out below are from memory. I have made this statement without having seen any documents, save for:
 - a. The medical report of Dr Busuttil referred to below;
 - b. An early draft of a Risk Assessment which I suggested corrections to. *Gives example of an error.* [redacted]
 - c. *A further document is described* [redacted]

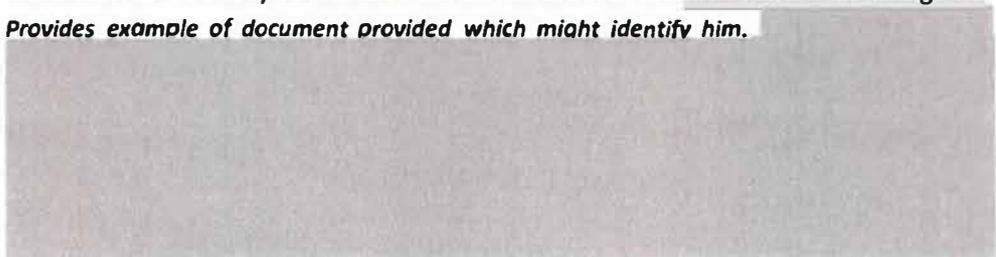
3. I turn to *issue over cover name* [REDACTED] below, but deal with the medical evidence first.

Medical report

4. I have seen the report by Dr Walter Busuttil, Consultant Psychiatrist, dated 21 August 2017 and rely on it in support of the restriction of my real and cover names. Dr Busuttil confirms that I am suffering from an Adjustment Disorder and am at risk of suffering from a depressive episode. He concludes that I am at very high risk of completed suicide if either my true or cover identities are released, whether I have treatment or not. From my own point of view, maintaining my anonymity will provide some comfort but I still wish that the Inquiry would simply stop as, unless it does, I feel that I have no control over what might come out. Whilst I don't wish to go into further details here, it is plain that the knock on effect on others if I were to take my own life are obviously profound.
5. I would hope that the medical evidence is sufficient for the Chairman to restrict my real and cover names. I do, however, also rely on wider points of impact and risk in support of my application as detailed below.

General concerns

6. I would also like to set out some general concerns that I have:
- a. Firstly, I am concerned that the MPS will not have all of the documents related to my deployment for 2 main reasons. The first is that they would not bear my name or signature so that they may not be found, and the second is that I witnessed shredding of intelligence reports by a young DC which I have already told Operation Herne about, although they misrepresented me in the first draft so that it looked like I was involved in shredding which I certainly was not. In the last 6 months of the old E squad I happened to see a young DC with a stack of secret pink files. I asked him what he was up to and he said he was deciding whether they should go to Kew, be retained or be shredded. It so happened that an open file had my intelligence reports on show. The DC was going to shred it and I did not interfere as I did not want to draw attention to my role or the SDS which were both secret.
 - b. Secondly, I am also concerned that the MPS has shared documents with my real and cover name with the Inquiry without contacting me. It will only take a mistake or infiltration for the very information which I would want to remain secret coming out. *Provides example of document provided which might identify him.*



[REDACTED]

- c. Thirdly, I have particular concerns about the approach taken to tracing families of those children whose identities were used by UCOs. I cover this in more detail further below.

Brief career and SDS history

- 7. I was a field officer in the SDS, infiltrating *one group in the 1980s* [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My cover name was [REDACTED] which was based on the identity of a deceased child, which I discuss further below. *Sets out subsequent non-SDS role* [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I returned to the SDS as a *cover officer in the 2000s*
[REDACTED] Some of my last few years in the MPS included particularly sensitive *issues*
[REDACTED] I retired from the MPS in *provides year of retirement and summary*
post-MPS career [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Regarding cover name creation

- 8. [REDACTED]
provides details
[REDACTED]
- 9. [REDACTED]

Anonymity

- 10. Medical reasons apart, I do not want my real or cover names published in connection with the SDS for several reasons:
 - a. I was proud of what I did in the SDS and it has all been poisoned. The risk at the time was not small and I lived my life then and since with limitations and these limitations have also affected my family, including *my children* [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - b. I do recall that I was assured verbally that what I was doing was secret, even within Special Branch, and that any private contact with former colleagues in SB should be

carefully assessed. Equally I was advised to withdraw from private friendships that may become inquisitive as my appearance changed. **provides details of change made to friendship groups, including giving up on certain friendships.**

The quid pro quo for my sacrifices should be secrecy over my real and cover name. **Gives details of social interactions.**

- c. The friends that I kept and new friends that I made as well as family recall me having **a different appearance**. They know that I was in the police and assumed, until now, that I was on the drugs squad. When attending important family events such as weddings and funerals my appearance was not what I would have wanted. **Gives example of occasion where change of appearance had particular effect.**

I have lived my life in the shadow of my SDS past, **provides examples.**

- d. **Gives details of where he lives**. If it comes out that **cover name** was a UCO then friends will ask me about it, **sets out reason**. Even a few weeks ago I was asked by a longstanding friend as to whether I was involved in the SDS. I have had to lie and betray friends to keep the MPS's secrets and yet the MPS are not keeping to their side of the bargain now that the Inquiry is underway. I fear that **sets out fear of how he might be identified**

- e. **Sets out route by which he might be identified/his address being discovered and the concern of a family member.**

- [REDACTED]
- f. I was given assurances of confidentiality by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I later recruited people to the SDS and now feel guilty because of the Inquiry. I gave assurances of confidentiality to recruits after their formal selection. I can't help but compare the physical manifestations of how far the MPS would go to maintain secrecy e.g. the lengths the MPS would go to to keep us secret from uniform police and, later, the John Dines affair and the attention given to the risks of me being exposed now.

The group infiltrated

11. Whilst at group [REDACTED] I was merely [REDACTED] a useful person but not high up. ***Provides details of membership and his role***

I went to public and private meetings, including the [REDACTED]

There may be no physical risk to me, but the risk is to my mental health and my wider family and the stress of the Inquiry, which is not to be underestimated. This thing has no edges.

12. I see and hear of those who I came across whilst I was deployed ***gives details of individuals***

I don't think they'd recognise me but I can't be sure. I am told that [REDACTED] is a Core Participant. Whilst I can't recognise other core participants, I believe that there is still a loose group called [REDACTED] who would be in contact with each other and keen to work out who infiltrated them.

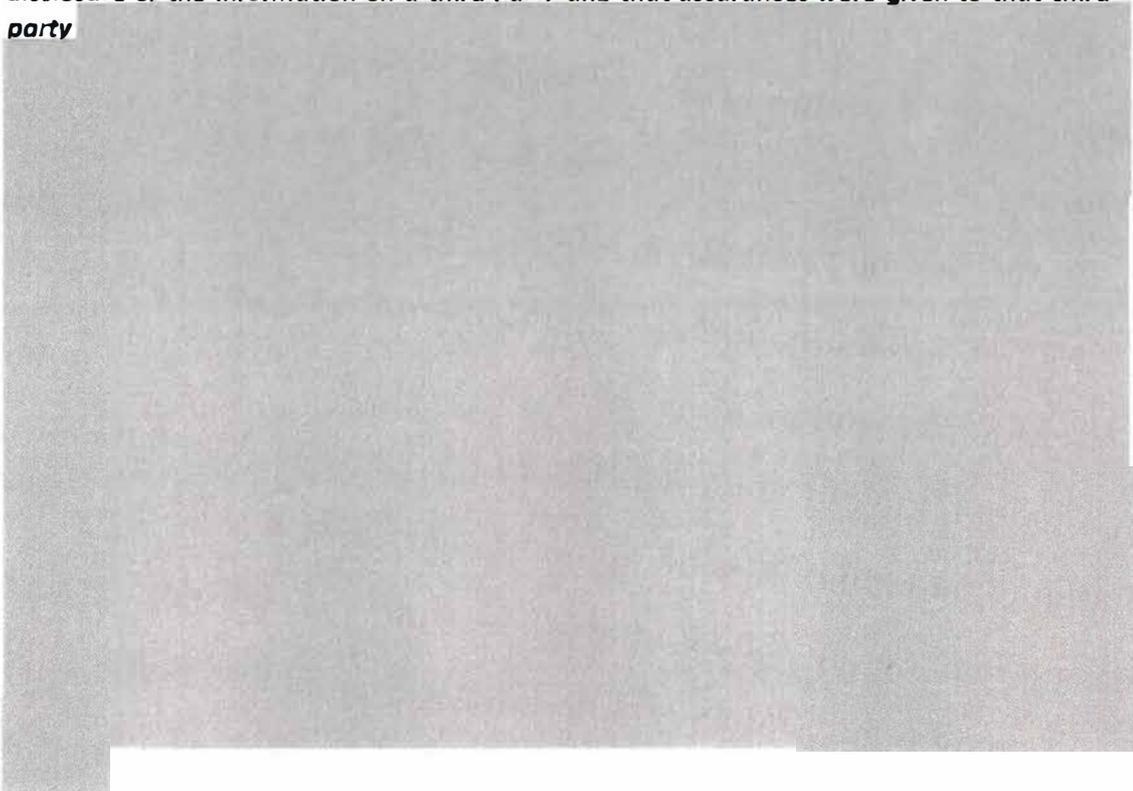
13. I do not think there was suspicion about me by ***the group*** [REDACTED] at the time, but in hindsight my deployment had classic SDS hallmarks.

14. ***Sets out a concern arising relating to discovery of the cover name and the existence of photographs***

15. Whilst it is easy for the Risk Assessor to say that the cover name does not lead to my real name, I don't see it that way. They cannot prove the positive, so they assume the negative. They haven't found a link and are, therefore, prepared to take that risk. I do not want that risk to be taken. I see the consequences of ***any*** risk as disastrous.

Cover employment

16. Whilst deployed I ***gives identificatory information about cover employer and the effect of disclosure of the information on a third party and that assurances were given to that third party***



Wrongdoing

17. I had no sexual contact with anyone, male or female. I was never Agent Provocateur. I did not engage in any serious criminality. I was arrested for flyposting but released. It was not my idea to go fly posting and I did not supply the material. I never attended court or gave evidence in my cover name.

Career between SDS roles:

18. ***Sets out role in the police between SDS roles.***



Cover officer role/Management

19. When a cover officer, ***sets out details of roles as cover officer***



[REDACTED]

20. [REDACTED]

21. [REDACTED]

22. [REDACTED]

23. [REDACTED]

True Spies

24. I was very surprised and really didn't believe it was happening at the time. I watched it ***with my family. Effect on them and other consequences described*** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I could identify the contributors to true spies even if pre dated me from seeing them in SB.

My Risk assessment

25. ***Refers to second cover name used by HNS in role as cover officer*** [REDACTED]

26. I note that the Risk Assessor has identified a number of ways in which release of my real name would lead to my home address. ***Provides further link not shared with Risk Assessor*** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] That may be a further risk of breaching the so-called sterile corridor.

27. ***Describes risks to third parties from his potential identification*** [REDACTED]

28. I note that physical risk is low, but it is not the physical risk that worries me. Rather, I am worried about the overall impact on me and my family from publication of details of my cover and my

deployment and my life as I know it being picked at and turned over by friends and others. That is something that I do not think I can bear, not least because there are things that I simply cannot say about my police career.

29. ***Sets out details of hobby/commercial activity***

[REDACTED]

I am concerned about my character being impugned by association with the SDS and I would lose this source of income and enjoyment if *source of income* [REDACTED] dispensed of my services.

30. I am the ***describes role in community***

[REDACTED] again, I am worried about guilt by association and that it may simply be "easier" for [REDACTED] to give the role to someone else and, again, I would lose status and my sense of purpose.

Post-SDS career

31. ***Describes details of post-SDS current career.***

[REDACTED]

32.

[REDACTED]

33.

[REDACTED]

If I am tarred with the same brush as other SDS officers it will affect my credibility and I will lose work. I have already had work interfered with by having to meet people for the purpose of preparing for the Inquiry.

34. Whilst it may be that there is no great risk of violence, I'd rather take a beating – you can deal with that rather than an open ended thing with no edges where you have it hanging over you and your family.

35. I don't know how I or other people will react to disclosure of names or other triggers. I feel out of control. I refer back to the medical report for the effect on my mental health. I can't see how I can engage in the recommended treatment as I can't discuss my work.

Current position

36. I am *in my 50s* [REDACTED] and in reasonable physical health with [REDACTED], which is medicated. I have suffered from severe mental problems brought about solely by the Inquiry and the prospect of disclosure of my real and cover name. I have, for the first time in my life, which professionally has had a fair amount of stress and problems, considered suicide. This has shocked me and my family and caused us ongoing problems. My relationship with *family members* [REDACTED] has been affected. I do not know how long or how permanent these issues will be.
37. I ask that the Inquiry respects my privacy and that of my family and my anonymity and allows me to have as small a role as possible in the Inquiry.

Approved by HN9 24 November 2017