

Friday, 13 November 2020

(10.00 am)

MS PURSER: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the third day of evidential hearings in Tranche 1, Phase 1 of the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

My name is Jacqueline Purser and I'm the hearings manager. As a reminder to those of you in the virtual hearing room, please turn off both your camera and microphone unless you are invited to speak by the Chairman.

I will now hand over to our Chairman, Sir John Mitting, to formally start proceedings.

Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. This morning's proceedings are going to begin by the summarising by Ms Monahan of the evidence of three undercover officers who've provided witness statements and by her indicating in the case of two deceased officers where the relevant material can be found.

We will then adjourn for a short period and resume with live evidence. The first part of the proceedings will be live-streamed, the second, the live evidence period, won't.

Ms Monahan.

1 Summary of witness statement of HN330, HN321 and HN322 by MS

2 MONAHAN

3 MS MONAHAN: Thank you. Good morning, sir.

4 HN330. 330's reporting shows that he served briefly
5 in the SDS between at least 26 September 1968 and
6 29th October 1968, and this is confirmed by his witness
7 statement. He infiltrated the Havering branch of
8 the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign using the cover name
9 "Don de Freitas". Publication of his real name is
10 restricted.

11 330 served in Special Branch both before and after
12 his posting to the SDS. He recalls using false names
13 and occupations casually and habitually whilst working
14 in Special Branch, and contrasts this with his use of
15 a fixed false identity in the SDS.

16 Before his posting, he reported on Tariq Ali and
17 a demonstration on 25 May 1968 regarding a local issue
18 in Powis Square, London, which involved the Notting Hill
19 VSC and led to arrests.

20 He knew Conrad Dixon socially and was asked to join
21 the SDS when they met by chance in the corridors of
22 Scotland Yard. At that time, 330 held the rank of
23 detective sergeant. He describes the unit
24 as "informal".

25 Save for his Special Branch experience, he had no

1 additional training and was not told what the job
2 entailed. Married at the time of joining, he recalls
3 that no managers spoke to his spouse about his new role
4 and the possible impact on his personal life.

5 He received no guidance on creating a false identity
6 and so came up with his own cover name and cover
7 employment as a driver. He dressed casually for
8 the role but did nothing to change his appearance. He
9 had no cover accommodation and operated out of Scotland
10 Yard.

11 The documents show that 330 initially attended
12 a public meeting of Havering International Socialists
13 held on 26 September 1968, which had been advertised by
14 leaflets distributed in Romford Market. At that meeting
15 a Havering VSC committee was appointed and agreed to
16 meet in private. 330 recalls that by ingratiating
17 himself with speakers and attendees at the public
18 meeting he was invited to join these private committee
19 meetings. At Conrad Dixon's suggestion, he and HN334,
20 "Margaret White", attended as a couple, to make them
21 less suspicious.

22 His remit was to find out as much as possible about
23 the group's plans for the demonstration of
24 27 October 1968 and identify its members. Accordingly,
25 he reported on the group until just after the 27 October

1 demonstration, soon after which his deployment ended.

2 His reports evidence the group's preparations for
3 the demonstration, such as the composition and
4 distribution of leaflets and flyposting, something 330
5 admits to doing during his deployment.

6 His reporting and evidence on the group suggests
7 that Havering VSC was peaceful in its aims and not
8 subversive, and he describes most of its members
9 as "unwilling to support acts of civil disobedience or
10 terrorism". He states that on 27 October 1968, he and
11 the group marched from Trafalgar Square chanting "Ho,
12 Ho, Ho Chi Min", and disbanded at Hyde Park.

13 In his final report, dated 29 October 1968, he
14 relays the general opinion of Havering VSC that
15 the demonstration was a "complete and utter disaster".

16 Two reports contain information on a Labour Party
17 official who was a member of the group, which he states
18 was because MI5 was interested in whether extremists
19 were penetrating what he describes as "legitimate
20 left-wing political organisations".

21 In addition to his reporting on Havering VSC, there
22 is a note on a telegram concerning intelligence that
23 a person was seeking to obtain ingredients to make smoke
24 bombs for use at the demonstration, which tasks 330 to
25 enquire into this and then report.

1 The Inquiry also holds a 330 report which concerns
2 the plans of anarchists from University College,
3 Swansea, to attend the 27 October demonstration, but it
4 is unclear whether he came by this information in his
5 undercover role or by other means.

6 Three documents postdate 330's service in the SDS
7 and show his involvement in monitoring public events
8 organised by the Anti-Apartheid Movement between
9 July 1969 and June 1970. All three reports were copied
10 to the security services. There is no evidence to
11 suggest that 330 engaged in sexual activity while in his
12 cover identity.

13 That concludes the summary for 330. I will now move
14 on to HN321.

15 321's real name is restricted. He is believed to
16 have used the cover name "William Bill Paul Lewis". He
17 lives abroad and has provided a witness statement to
18 the inquiry.

19 321's reporting held by the Inquiry dates from
20 the 18 September 1968 to 30 September 1969. In his
21 evidence, he states that he resigned from
22 the Metropolitan Police soon after leaving the SDS
23 because he had "tired of the work". The majority of his
24 reports relate to the International Marxist Group.

25 Prior to his recruitment, 321 worked in

1 Special Branch, B Squad. In this role he had no false
2 identity but would attend public meetings and
3 demonstrations in casual clothes, noting attendees and
4 their activities.

5 He describes how a detective inspector colleague,
6 impressed by the detail in one of HN321's reports on
7 a radical group, encouraged him to attend a meeting
8 regarding the formation of a new squad.

9 321 recalls attending an initial meeting in
10 September 1968 to set up the SDS called by Conrad Dixon
11 and attended by around 30 others, where they were told
12 that their work in the squad would be kept secret.
13 Single and in his 20s, with no responsibilities, 321
14 accepted the invitation to volunteer for the SDS. He
15 held the rank of detective constable.

16 321 received no formal training before his
17 deployment and no guidance as to how best to conduct his
18 duties beyond the set objective of gathering
19 intelligence around the October 27 demonstration. He
20 received no guidance on creating a false identity and
21 made up his own cover name and cover employment as an
22 instrumentation and control technician; something he
23 could talk about if necessary.

24 He was also tasked with finding his own cover
25 accommodation. He recalls two cover flats: one in Earls

1 Court and one in Acton, where he lived alone during his
2 deployment. He states that he attended the SDS safe
3 house several times a week; a practice advised by
4 Conrad Dixon, in order to keep SDS officers engaged
5 during their downtime.

6 He states that while SDS officers operated alone
7 they learned through sharing their experiences. He
8 gives as an example of this an SDS officer colleague
9 working under cover who saw a real life acquaintance in
10 a pub.

11 And explained to his colleagues the way in which he
12 avoided blowing his cover.

13 321 did no preparatory work for his undercover role.

14 321 recalls that he was not assigned to a particular
15 group but attended a demonstration and later a meeting,
16 which he subsequently discovered was a meeting of
17 the IMG.

18 Conrad Dixon then instructed him to attend further
19 meetings on the basis that the IMG's activities were of
20 interest to the SDS.

21 His reports on the IMG span the entire period of his
22 deployment, and the majority postdate the 27 October
23 demonstration. His first report is on a public meeting
24 attended by core participant Ernie Tate and
25 the socialist candidate for the American presidency,

1 Fred Halstead, but his reporting thereafter covers
2 private events.

3 In addition to his reports on the IMG, there are
4 early reports on Lambeth VSC and its increasing
5 domination by the IMG and other parts of the VSC.

6 In a telegram dated 26 October 1968, 321 relays
7 suggestions made at a meeting of the south-west VSC
8 Ad Hoc Committee in Brixton that police coaches in
9 the car park on Vauxhall Bridge should be sabotaged
10 prior to the VSC demonstration the following day. In
11 his witness statement, however, he notes that he did not
12 think the IMG would have carried out this threat as
13 while "they talked a lot about revolution", they
14 were "actually quite passive and intellectual". He
15 states that he did not express this view to his SDS
16 managers, reporting only the facts of what took place at
17 the meetings he attended.

18 321 recalls an occasion when he was able to record
19 the details of around 80 members of the IMG, information
20 which was subsequently passed to the security services.
21 He also reported on discussions and planned
22 demonstrations in relation to Northern Ireland, a post
23 mortem of the October 27 demonstration, the Middle East,
24 the 9th International Congress of
25 the Fourth International, Scottish nationalism and

1 women's rights.

2 His final reports concern the IMG 1969 education
3 camp in Dunbartonshire Scotland, which he attended using
4 his cover vehicle, giving a lift to three IMG members.

5 321 states that he engaged in no criminal activity
6 while undercover, other than obstruction of the highway
7 and perhaps flyposting. He was never arrested.

8 Generally he recalls being advised not to resist arrest
9 if it happened, and that it could be "sorted out"
10 further down the line with charges probably being
11 dropped.

12 There is no evidence to suggest that 321 engaged in
13 sexual activity while in his cover identity.

14 That concludes the summary for 321.

15 HN322. 322 served in the SDS for a short period of
16 time in the early months of its existence. He was never
17 deployed undercover and so had no cover name.

18 Publication of his real name has been restricted. He
19 has provided a witness statement to the Inquiry.

20 His SDS tenure was bracketed by generic
21 Special Branch work. In his evidence, he states that
22 there was little difference between the two roles, in
23 his experience. Both involved attending meetings in
24 plain clothes and gathering intelligence. He held
25 the rank of detective constable while in the SDS. 322

1 went on to have a long career in the MPS, attaining
2 a senior rank.

3 He was first made aware of the SDS's existence when
4 Conrad Dixon approached him and personally invited him
5 to join. Married, with a young family at the time, 322
6 states in evidence that no manager spoke to his wife
7 about the possible impact of undercover work on his
8 family life, and he was told nothing about what the work
9 entailed.

10 Once he had signed up and understood the job
11 involved periods of time away from his family, he asked
12 to be taken off the squad. He received no training or
13 guidance for his SDS role. He had no cover employment
14 and no cover flat. He did not alter his appearance.

15 322 was not deployed to any particular group,
16 although, had he remained a member of the SDS for
17 a longer time period, he may have been directed to
18 the south-east London VSC. He recalls being told to
19 attend, observe and report back on a few different
20 meetings; and this is reflected in the small number of
21 his reports held by the Inquiry, which show attendance
22 at three meetings: two of the Earls Court VSC and one of
23 the south-east London Ad Hoc Committee of the VSC.

24 There is some additional reporting which post-dates
25 the demonstration and covers private meetings and

1 planned activities of the British
2 Vietnam Solidarity Front and the Revolutionary Socialist
3 Students Federation. These are reports written on
4 behalf of HN335, Mike Tyrell.

5 In his statement, he contrasts the formality of
6 Special Branch work with the lack of direction and
7 supervision in the SDS. He recalls that he was advised
8 to go to meetings but given no direction or guidance
9 about what he should do when in attendance. He
10 remembers no contact or discussion with managers and had
11 a lot of free time. He was based at New Scotland Yard,
12 where he would type up his reports. There is no
13 evidence to suggest that HN322 engaged in sexual
14 activity while in his cover identity.

15 That concludes the summaries of the three officers.

16 In addition to the witness statements and
17 the documents for those officers, which are being
18 published today, the Inquiry is also publishing
19 documents in relation to two deceased officers.

20 HN135, whose real name is Mike Ferguson, and who
21 reported on the British Vietnam Solidarity Front,
22 the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign and Stop the
23 Seventy Tour; and this analysis can be found at pages
24 123 to 126 of appendix 2 to Counsel to the Inquiry's
25 written opening statement.

1 made a number of orders which affect what you may and
2 may not do in the hearing rooms and after you leave
3 them. Breach of any of the orders is a serious matter
4 and may have serious consequences for you.

5 "If I am satisfied that a person may have breached
6 an order, I have the power to certify the matter to
7 the High Court, which will investigate and deal with it
8 as if it had been a contempt of that court. If
9 satisfied that a breach has occurred and merits
10 the imposition of a penalty, the High Court may impose
11 a severe sanction on the person in breach, including
12 a fine, imprisonment for up to two years and
13 sequestration of their assets.

14 "Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
15 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
16 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
17 record what is said by a witness or anyone else in
18 the hearing rooms. You may bring your mobile telephone
19 into the hearing rooms, but you may not use it for any
20 of those purposes. You may use it silently for any
21 other purpose. In particular, you may transmit your
22 account of what you have seen and heard in a hearing
23 room to any other person, but only once at least ten
24 minutes have elapsed since the event which you are
25 describing took place.

1 "This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
2 the Inquiry, I have made orders prohibiting the public
3 disclosure of information, for example about
4 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.
5 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
6 whether by accident or design, information which I have
7 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
8 be disclosed in a hearing.

9 "If and when that happens, I will immediately
10 suspend the hearing and make an order prohibiting
11 further disclosure of the information outside
12 the hearing rooms. The consequence will be that no
13 further disclosure of that information may be made by
14 mobile telephone or other portable electronic device
15 from within the hearing room, or by any means outside
16 it.

17 "I am sorry if you find this message alarming. It
18 is not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
19 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
20 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
21 the truth about undercover policing. You, as members of
22 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
23 evidence as I will hear, and to reach your own
24 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
25 best to ensure that you can.

1 a rest.

2 Mr Warner.

3 Questions by MR WARNER

4 MR WARNER: Thank you, sir.

5 Can you confirm please that your name is
6 Joan Hillier and that you have also been referred to by
7 the cipher HN328 by this Inquiry?

8 A. Yes, I can confirm that.

9 Q. Now, Ms Hillier, I think it's right that you've made two
10 statements to this Inquiry. Before I ask you about
11 the truth of their contents, can I take you to
12 the second one of those statements, please. It will be
13 brought up on the screen. Please can we have
14 <MPS-0746302>. And can we go to page 3, please, and
15 page 5.

16 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a statement that you made
17 listing identifications of those within a photograph.
18 It may help if we have the photograph open and I'll read
19 out paragraph 5 and then ask you a question or two
20 about it. Please can we replace the image with
21 <MPS-0735439>.

22 If we could just zoom in a little. Thank you.

23 Now, Ms Hillier, I will read out paragraph 5 of
24 the statement that I just showed you, and if you have
25 this image in front of you, it may help.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Paragraph 5 reads as follows:

3 "Looking at the first picture (MPS-0735439) on
4 the front row moving from the right of the picture, is
5 HN332, HN334, Conrad Dixon, me, Phil Saunders and HN331.
6 On the second row from the right is HN330, Mike Tyrell,
7 HN321. The person just visible behind HN321 I cannot
8 identify. To the right of that person is HN334, then
9 Riby Wilson and lastly Roy Creamer. On the back row
10 from the right, just visible, Bill Furner, then HN68,
11 HN329 (in the hat) and Dave Fisher."

12 That's the end of paragraph 5.

13 Now, Ms Hillier, you have listed in that paragraph
14 HN334 twice. Was that deliberate or an error?

15 A. That was an error.

16 Q. Which mention of HN334 was an error? Was it the one in
17 the first row or the second row?

18 A. I think this is a different picture. I'm not -- I'm not
19 -- I'm not very clear about this.

20 Q. Well, if we just take it stage by stage. The first list
21 of people you have given is HN332, and then along one
22 from HN332 we can see in the picture as number 6?

23 A. Yeah, and then the next one is Helen Crampton.

24 Q. Ah, right. So you have said in your statement HN334.
25 That's incorrect, is it?

- 1 A. Sorry, I got confused. Yes, that's Helen Crampton.
- 2 Q. Right. So that's Helen Crampton on the front row, not
3 HN334?
- 4 A. That's right, yes.
- 5 Q. Thank you. Could that photo be taken down, please.
- 6 Now, Ms Hillier, other than that correction that
7 you've just made, are both of the statements that you've
8 provided to the Inquiry true to the best of your
9 knowledge and belief?
- 10 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.
- 11 Q. Thank you very much.
- 12 Now, Ms Hillier, you've told us in your first
13 statement, dated 6 November 2018, that you joined
14 the Metropolitan Police on 17 November 1958, so over
15 60 years ago. I'd like to ask you a couple of
16 questions, please, if you can assist us, with
17 the training that you had when you joined the police.
18 Can you remember attending police training?
- 19 A. Oh yes. Certainly, yes.
- 20 Q. And how much training were you given, just generally
21 speaking -- (overspeaking) --
- 22 A. -- (overspeaking) -- training school, which was at Peel
23 House in -- I think it was ten weeks. I can't honestly
24 remember. It was either ten weeks or 13 weeks.
- 25 Q. Thank you.

1 And generally speaking, in this introductory
2 training when you joined the police, were issues such as
3 the police's duty to keep the peace and ethics and
4 standards included in that training?

5 A. Oh yes, certainly.

6 Q. And once you had finished that training and joined
7 the police in full, were you on a probation period?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And are you able to say whether you were given
10 supervision during that probation period?

11 A. Oh yes, certainly.

12 Q. Are you able to remember roughly the length of that
13 probation period and training?

14 A. I think it was two years.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 Ms Hillier, moving on. You've told us that you
17 joined Special Branch in March 1968, so nearly ten years
18 after you had been in the police; is that correct?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. And are you able to remember generally the application
21 and selection process that was undertaken for you to
22 join Special Branch?

23 A. For me, there was a -- we had police orders. I don't
24 know if you're familiar with that? Police orders came
25 out every week or so. And there was a -- in -- in

1 the orders, there was an -- applications were requested
2 for Special Branch; if you wanted to join, you were --
3 you were asked to apply if you were interested.

4 Q. And so, "police orders", just so we're clear, that's
5 announcements of some kind; is that right?

6 A. It gives -- it gives the number of officers that have
7 joined, officers that have left, have died, have retired
8 on pension, and all other general information. I don't
9 know if it still exists.

10 Q. Are you able to remember whether there was a level of
11 competition to join Special Branch back then?

12 A. Yes, you -- you -- you had to complete a -- a written
13 exam and then there was a selection board.

14 Q. And the selection board, could you just tell us a little
15 about that. How involved was that process?

16 A. I think there was three or four senior officers. There
17 was -- there was -- the head of the women police at the
18 time was a woman called Shirley Beck, she was on
19 the selection -- at the selection board, and other --
20 other senior officers, plus a senior officer from
21 Special Branch I know was there, and -- and as I say,
22 a written examination.

23 Q. Were you subject to any vetting checks when you joined
24 Special Branch?

25 A. Yes, we were all positively vetted.

1 Q. Once you joined Special Branch, do you remember any
2 training you were given as a means to induction?

3 A. We were just assigned to another officer and we were
4 trained by -- by experienced officers mainly.

5 Q. Was this a formal training course or given on the job?

6 A. Not really. You learnt on the job.

7 Q. Was there any mentoring process you can remember when
8 you joined Special Branch?

9 A. Not really, no.

10 Q. Now, Ms Hillier, you've told us in your first witness
11 statement that you joined Special Branch the day after
12 the March 1968 demonstration in Grosvenor Square.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was that just coincidence?

15 A. Totally coincidence, yes.

16 Q. Were you present at the March demonstration?

17 A. No. No. I wasn't actually in Special Branch then, it
18 was before I joined -- the day before I joined.

19 Q. Were you at the time aware of what had happened in
20 London that day?

21 A. Yes, it was very newsworthy event.

22 Q. Was it something that was discussed within
23 Special Branch after you'd joined it?

24 A. Oh yes, certainly, yes.

25 Q. And how -- how was the events of March 1968 in London

1 viewed within Special Branch?

2 A. Well, they were very unhappy with the result of
3 the march and the demonstration, because the American
4 Embassy had nearly been breached, and they -- they
5 failed to keep order really. And so it -- there was
6 great concern among everybody.

7 Q. Moving on to a different topic, Ms Hillier. You've told
8 us in your witness statement that the Home Secretary
9 placed pressure on the police to come up with a solution
10 to stop the March disorder happening again. Where did
11 this understanding that you had come from?

12 A. I don't think "place pressure" is -- is the right
13 phrase. But I -- I was just given to understand. It
14 was general knowledge that the police were very unhappy
15 with the results of the policing of the March
16 demonstration, and they wanted to get it right in -- for
17 the October demonstration. So presumably discuss --
18 I mean, far, far above my pay grade, discussions were
19 had, and it was decided to form the Special
20 Demonstration Squad.

21 Q. Right.

22 Could we just bring up a copy of your witness
23 statement. It's <MPS-0740760>, and it's page 4, please,
24 <MPS-0740760/4>, paragraph 9. And I'll just read to you
25 what the relevant part of paragraph 9 that you've said

1 there:

2 "I don't know who set up the SDS, but I was given to
3 understand it was the Home Secretary, not that he said
4 'let's form "the Hairies"', as we called the SDS, but
5 that he put pressure on the police to come up with
6 a solution to stop what happened in March 1968 happening
7 again."

8 Is that your view now, Ms Hillier?

9 A. Yes. I suppose it was the word "pressure". It sounded
10 as though we were all being pressurised; it didn't feel
11 like that at the time. But perhaps it's the choice of
12 words. I -- more or less that is exactly what I said
13 and it is -- it is what I would say now.

14 Q. Is it fair to say that that is a view that was commonly
15 held within Special Branch after the March '68
16 demonstration?

17 A. What, that pressure was put on?

18 Q. Well, that the Special Demonstration Squad came from
19 the circumstance that you've explained, the police being
20 worried not for it to happen again?

21 A. Yes, that is -- that is correct, yes.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 A. I think that was everybody's inference from that.

24 Q. Thank you very much.

25 Now, a little later in that same witness

1 statement -- we don't need to go to it -- you've told us
2 that the Special Demonstration Squad came from a series
3 of meetings that you remember attending with
4 Conrad Dixon; is that right?

5 A. That's right, yes.

6 Q. Now, we know that you joined the squad in March of that
7 year. Can you remember, roughly speaking, when these
8 meetings took place?

9 A. I joined Special Branch in March of that year.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. The Special Demonstration Squad was formed some time
12 later. I've got a -- I think round about July they
13 actually -- they actually formed the Special
14 Demonstration Squad. And that was when we were all
15 brought together. And those particular meetings was
16 that -- was to discuss what we should do and how we
17 should do it and what was the best way of getting
18 the information.

19 Q. So, assuming that these meetings happened some time
20 before July, or close to July --

21 A. Well, they -- the squad was formed round about July.
22 And once the squad was formed, then we all got together
23 after that to discuss what we should do and what should
24 be done and which groups to infiltrate. But there was
25 no discussion until it was formed; and it wasn't formed

1 until, as I say, July -- I think. I'm not totally sure.

2 Q. So are you suggesting that the squad -- the tactics that
3 the squad used to obtain evidence -- relevant
4 intelligence, rather, came from those meetings but not
5 the squad itself?

6 A. No, I think we're at cross-purposes.

7 The Special Demonstration Squad was formed round
8 about July, so it was formed with Special Branch
9 officers from different squads around Special Branch.
10 So it -- it wasn't made a squad until -- until July,
11 round about July time.

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. And once it was made into a squad, which was the Special
14 Demonstration Squad, is what they called it, then we
15 were all together, and that is when we -- we took it
16 from there.

17 Q. Right. So you took the tactics from there; is that what
18 you're saying?

19 A. Once the -- once the squad was formed, then they discuss
20 what -- what should be done to -- to achieve what they
21 wanted us to achieve.

22 Q. Right.

23 Going, then, to the meetings, were you more junior
24 or more senior than the other people there, or was it
25 a mix of seniorities?

1 A. I -- I was -- it was a mix of seniorities. There was
2 Conrad Dixon, who was the chief inspector, there were
3 some inspectors, sergeants and then DCs, of which I was
4 one. And as well as that I was also very new to
5 Special Branch, so I was quite inexperienced.

6 Q. Was Conrad Dixon, to your memory, the most senior
7 officer present?

8 A. Yes, he was.

9 Q. Did you contribute at all to the discussions in these
10 meetings -- these early meetings?

11 A. Not really no. I didn't personally.

12 Q. The tactic that we're discussing is the use of police
13 officers posing as members of groups to obtain
14 intelligence from them. Was there any opposition within
15 these meetings to the idea of using that tactic?

16 A. I don't think so, no. I think it was decided that that
17 was the only way to do the job. It had never -- it
18 wasn't Special Branch policy to do that; it hadn't been
19 done before. But this particular time, they felt -- if
20 we had -- if we -- we weren't to have a repetition of
21 what happened in March, then that was the only way to
22 police the demonstration.

23 Q. You've told us in your witness statement that the risks
24 of becoming an agent provocateur were discussed at these
25 meetings.

1 A. Yes, that's correct.

2 Q. Can you remember any other possible downsides of using
3 this tactic being discussed at the meetings?

4 A. No, I don't think so, no.

5 Q. Was the risks of becoming involved in criminal activity,
6 for instance, discussed at all?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Any concerns mentioned about developing relationships,
9 whether they be personal or sexual, with those being
10 reported on?

11 A. No, never.

12 Q. Were the -- were any concerns about the types of groups
13 being reported on discussed?

14 A. No, not to my knowledge.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 Were, to your memory, any other possible police
17 tactics discussed as a means to obtain the intelligence
18 that were required?

19 A. As far as I remember, it was only undercover officers
20 that were -- it was discussed and decided upon. I don't
21 remember -- it -- a lot of it was very casual anyway.
22 It -- it wasn't sort of sitting down in groups; we would
23 talk casually among yourselves. And that is what was
24 decided upon: the only way to find out what was going to
25 happen was to send officers undercover.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 Now, I don't want you to necessarily name anybody,
3 but is it fair to say that most of the people in these
4 meetings ended up on the Special Demonstration Squad, as
5 it later became known?

6 A. You mean officers?

7 Q. Yes, officers, sorry.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Well, they were already on the Special Demonstration
10 Squad. It had been formed by that time. So when --
11 after it was formed and we were told what it was formed
12 for, then that's when the discussions came up as to what
13 we could do about it. And I should say, there wasn't
14 a lot of time in which to do it, really.

15 Q. Ms Hillier, you've told us, I think, in your witness
16 statement that you were told to attend this meeting, or
17 these meetings, and thereby become a member of
18 the squad. To your knowledge, did anyone volunteer for
19 this role?

20 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

21 Q. Right.

22 Moving on slightly, are you aware whether there was
23 any criteria used by officers when selecting who should
24 become a member of the squad?

25 A. No, I wasn't. None at all.

1 Q. Now, in your statement -- if we could bring it up,
2 please, that's <MPS-0740760>, and it's page 4, please
3 <MPS-0740760/4>, paragraph 8.

4 You've said this:

5 "I believe the [unit] was set up to try and
6 infiltrate groups so as to better understand what would
7 happen at the planned demonstration in London in
8 October 1968."

9 Ms Hillier, did you understand that the unit's role
10 was limited to intelligence in relation to public order
11 issues only?

12 A. Yes, I think so. I think that's about right.

13 Q. Did you understand that the unit should have any role --
14 play any role in countering subversion?

15 A. No, it was set up purely for the demonstration, to
16 police the demonstration.

17 Q. It's right, isn't it, Ms Hillier, that many of
18 the unit's reports were sent to the Security Service?

19 A. Yes, they were.

20 Q. Did you understand them to have a role in public order
21 policing?

22 A. No, not at all. I don't think so.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 If we could take that down, please, and instead put
25 up document <MPS-0724119>. Thank you.

1 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a paper which was authored
2 by Conrad Dixon in November of 1968, entitled
3 "Penetration of Extremist Groups". It's a document
4 which I think you've seen before, I hope.

5 Can you just help us, if you can, please. When this
6 document refers to "extremist groups", what would that
7 have been understood to have encompassed back in 1968?

8 A. First, I should say, I don't think I've seen this
9 document before.

10 Extremist people who would use extreme means to gain
11 what -- to gain what they wanted. Would use violence,
12 would use disorder. That's all I would say to that.

13 Q. Okay.

14 Could we go to page 5 of this document, please
15 <MPS-0724119/5>. Thank you.

16 Now, this is a document, as I say, which sets out
17 a template for a unit such as the SDS going forwards
18 after the demonstration, and explains as follows within
19 the first paragraph on this page -- and I will read it
20 out for the transcript:

21 "When we are in a position to obtain evidence about
22 a serious offence arrangements have to be made so that
23 it is obtained by an 'uncommitted' officer, and thus
24 avoid compromising the undercover man. An 'uncommitted'
25 officer is an essential part of the unit; women officers

1 fill the role extremely well and can be taken to public
2 or private gatherings where the evidence is obtainable
3 with little risk of denunciation."

4 And if we can turn to page 9 of this document,
5 please <MPS-0724119/9> and right at the bottom of that
6 page you can see -- thank you -- Ms Hillier, your name
7 is listed along with a number of others.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And in terms of the role, although it's faint and
10 slightly difficult to read, it says:

11 "Liaison with HQ flat and 'uncommitted' officer ..."

12 Now, Ms Hillier, you've explained in your witness
13 statement that you don't recognise this role. Are you
14 able to help us with why it is that you have been
15 ascribed it within this document?

16 A. I have absolutely no idea. "Uncommitted officer" is
17 something I have never seen or heard of before. It was
18 -- it was -- I have seen this document and it was
19 totally new to me. I can't help you at all, I'm sorry.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 Can we take it from that that you were not aware of
22 Helen Crampton, a fellow female -- early female officer
23 within the unit, ever fulfilling this role?

24 A. No, I don't think she ever did.

25 Q. Right.

1 Well, Ms Hillier, are you aware that she gave
2 evidence, or potentially assisted with a prosecution
3 against someone she had reported on from
4 the Notting Hill VSC in 1969?

5 A. No, not at all.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. No idea.

8 Q. This related to an incident on 9 October 1968, which was
9 alleged to have taken place at a Notting Hill VSC
10 meeting.

11 Could we please bring up the document <MPS-0739187>.
12 Thank you.

13 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a report dated the same
14 day, 9 October of 1968. And as I say, it is of
15 the meeting which took place at the Essex Church Hall,
16 Palace Gardens, West 8.

17 And if we could turn, please, to the second page of
18 this report, <MPS-0739187/2>, right at the bottom --
19 thank you -- we can see that this report is signed by
20 Helen Crampton on the right, and you are listed as one
21 of the officers who attended the meeting in question.

22 Do you have any memory of an incident whereby
23 somebody handed Ms Hillier [sic] a leaflet for which he
24 was later produced?

25 A. No, I have no idea -- recollection of that at all.

1 Q. Were you -- do I take it from that that you were not
2 involved in any way in the prosecution arising from this
3 report?

4 A. No. No, not to my recollection, no.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 Please could we go back to <MPS-0724119>. If we
7 could turn to page 8, please, <MPS-0724119/8>. Thank
8 you.

9 This, Ms Hillier, is the structure within
10 the appendix to this document. And you can see that
11 the structure as envisaged is that a chief inspector
12 sits in charge of the unit with three detective
13 inspectors sitting underneath them with different roles
14 given to them.

15 The detective inspector on the right of the three
16 branches is given the role of "press and liaison". Is
17 that a role that you recognise?

18 A. No, I don't.

19 Q. Can you help us at all, then, with what that means, what
20 that relates to?

21 A. I have never seen this document. I don't know what it
22 means, frankly. It was obviously sent upwards rather
23 than down to me, or people at my level.

24 Q. Does it broadly fit with your understanding of how
25 the unit was structured from the end of 1968 onwards?

1 A. Not really, no. Not at all, no.

2 Q. Could we go to page 6 of this document, please,
3 <MPS-0724119/6>. Thank you. If we could just scroll
4 down to the middle of the page. Thank you.

5 Now, Ms Hillier, I will read out a section of text
6 here, just for the transcript. Under the heading "Scope
7 of Activities", the following is written:

8 "The incompetence of the British left is notorious,
9 and officers must take care not to get into a position
10 where they achieve prominence in an organisation through
11 natural ability. A firm line must be drawn between
12 activity as a follower and a leader, and members of
13 the squad should be told in no uncertain terms that they
14 must not take office in a group, chair meetings, draft
15 leaflets, speak in public or initiate activity."

16 Ms Hillier, does that section fit with your
17 understanding of what officers should and shouldn't do
18 when reporting on groups?

19 A. This was never brought to my attention, certainly. All
20 I can say is that after the October '68 demonstration,
21 I was -- only did admin duties. I was in the general
22 office, and all my duties were admin. I didn't go to
23 meetings, so perhaps it wasn't brought to my attention.
24 But that, no, I don't remember.

25 Q. Before the October demonstration when you did go to some

1 meetings, which we'll come on to, were you aware as
2 a Special Branch SDS officer that you shouldn't attain
3 positions of leadership within groups?

4 A. It wasn't brought to my attention, no.

5 Q. Did you ever hear of such things happening during your
6 time in the SDS?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 Now, moving on to a slightly different topic. In
10 your witness statement, you've said that officers didn't
11 really need training as it was all experience -- as you
12 were all experienced officers and knew what you should
13 and should not do.

14 Now, you've told us that you weren't that
15 experienced at that point in time, but were you working
16 with people who were more experienced than you?

17 A. Well, I was an experienced police officer at that
18 particular -- I had ten years' service as a police
19 officer. So I feel that it would -- it would be -- your
20 common sense would tell you there were certain things
21 you -- you should not do. And if -- if it was anything
22 in addition to that, then probably we -- we would have
23 been instructed. But most of it we would have known --
24 we would know anyway. Instinct would tell you what you
25 shouldn't do and what you should do.

1 Q. Do you, looking back on that time, think that instinct
2 would tell you not to become too involved in people's
3 personal lives that they were reporting on?

4 A. Most certainly, yes.

5 Q. Would that extend to becoming involved in a sexual
6 relationship with someone they were reporting on?

7 A. Certainly, yes.

8 Q. How about becoming involved in criminal activity whilst
9 reporting on a group?

10 A. No, we wouldn't do that.

11 Q. How about attending court in a cover identity? Was that
12 something you would have thought you should or shouldn't
13 do?

14 A. You shouldn't do that, no.

15 Q. On this topic, Ms Hillier, were you aware of colleagues
16 at the time of yours within the unit taking people from
17 the groups that they were reporting on, often women, out
18 on a date?

19 A. No, I wasn't aware of that.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 Now, Ms Hillier, moving on to a slightly separate
22 issue. What was your understanding about what should
23 and shouldn't be reported in Special Branch reports
24 about people, individuals? How much detail should
25 reports have gone into?

1 A. You would go into detail, I presume, that you thought
2 was necessary, on the reasoning you -- if you were
3 writing a report or reporting on what their activities
4 were, then you would go into as much detail as you
5 thought was necessary and needed.

6 Q. Were you given any training on what level of detail
7 should be included in reports?

8 A. Not really. You -- you -- you were given guidance by --
9 by other officers, especially if you were new in
10 Special Branch, you were told what to do, what not to do
11 and why you were doing it, and you -- you just had to
12 sort of follow your instincts.

13 Q. Were you, to your memory, given any feedback on
14 the contents of the reports that you were involved in
15 submitting?

16 A. I don't remember any feedback, no.

17 Q. Right.

18 Do you remember being instructed, either by your
19 colleagues or your superiors, to filter in any way what
20 was being put into reports?

21 A. No. I don't remember that.

22 Q. Could we please turn to document number <MPS-0732699>.

23 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a report dated 9 April
24 which has been submitted by you on behalf of another
25 officer, and within this report you have detailed, in

1 paragraph 1, an address of somebody and the fact that
2 they are a regular and enthusiastic supporter of
3 the British Vietnam Solidarity Front activities.

4 In paragraph 2 you've explained -- and I'll quote:

5 "She is invariably in the company of [privacy],
6 the chairman of the BVSF, and has made a number of
7 visits to London with him in recent weeks to take part
8 in BVSF demonstrations and meetings."

9 You then go on to provide a description of
10 the person in question.

11 If the document goes down, please.

12 We can see, after the description it says:

13 "She is known to me."

14 And then, on the final line:

15 "[privacy] cannot be identified in Special Branch
16 records on the particulars available."

17 Now, Ms Hillier, why were details such as this
18 included within Special Branch reports?

19 A. Well, firstly, may I say, that I probably wrote this --
20 or typed it, for somebody else. This isn't my report.
21 Often they -- they gave a rough copy and I -- I would --
22 I would type it up. In fact, I -- I'm presuming this is
23 1969.

24 Q. It is, yes.

25 A. Yes. So at that particular time, I would have been in

1 the office and doing admin work, and the officer
2 concerned would have asked me to type this up and put it
3 in on his behalf. So he obviously thought that this --
4 what he was putting in was necessary, was useful and it
5 would be -- to somebody. And so he -- he put in
6 the information.

7 Q. Well, Ms Hillier, we can go to another example that you
8 have authored. Please could we bring up <MPS-0722098>,
9 page 186, please <MPS-0722098/186>.

10 Ms Hillier, this is a report from August of 1968
11 that is authored by you. I don't propose to read it
12 out. It identifies a number of people who have been
13 redacted for privacy reasons, and a number of them have
14 dates of birth, addresses and other particulars
15 contained within it.

16 Why would you have included such detail within
17 the report that you submitted?

18 A. Well, I don't recognise the report, and I don't know
19 where the information came from, but it was obviously
20 given to me to -- to do the report. Presumably these
21 were people that were of interest to Special Branch, so
22 they -- it would be added to their file -- dates of
23 birth, addresses, etc -- in case it was needed in
24 the future.

25 But I don't -- I don't recognise the report and

1 I had -- I had no dealings with Highgate and Holloway
2 VSC, so I can only assume the information came from
3 somebody else and I -- I just typed it.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 Ms Hillier, is it -- going to your deployment with
6 the SDS, or your involvement with it in the runup to
7 the October 1968 demonstration, before the unit was set
8 up in your time in Special Branch, so we're talking
9 about March to around July 1968, is it right that you
10 tended to attend large public meetings to report -- to
11 provide reporting?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Could we go to an example of that, please, at
14 <MPS-0732692>. Thank you.

15 Now, this is a report of 4 April 1968, so not long
16 after you joined Special Branch.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And we can see that by attendance the number is given as
19 "about 110" people. And we can see that Tariq Ali, who
20 is a core participant in this Inquiry, is mentioned as
21 a speaker.

22 And if we could just scroll down to the second half
23 of this page, please, we can see that Ernie Tate, who is
24 also a core participant, is mentioned as someone being
25 identify.

1 Now, if we could scroll to the bottom of the page,
2 please, <MPS-0732692/2>, we can see that you attended
3 this meeting with another officer who has the cipher
4 HN342/299.

5 Now, are you able to remember, Ms Hillier, why
6 people such as Tariq Ali or Ernie Tate were of interest
7 to Special Branch?

8 A. They were of interest to Special Branch because they
9 were big names in the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, and
10 it -- it just -- it made -- made a picture of -- of --
11 of where they were. They attended this meeting where
12 they would be expected to attend at that meeting.

13 Q. Can we take it from that that your object, as you
14 understood it, was to try and obtain a picture of what
15 was going on in organisations such as this at the time?

16 A. Well, we were trying to get a picture, yes, of what was
17 going on within the VSC, who was -- who was active, who
18 was prominent, who was -- who was making the decisions.

19 Q. You've told us, moving forward in time a little, that
20 once you started working on the SDS, as it later became
21 known, your work didn't really differ much from your
22 work a Special Branch which had immediately preceded it.
23 To your knowledge, did the work that other officers
24 undertook differ significantly?

25 A. I don't think so. The SDS was another squad within

- 1 Special Branch.
- 2 Q. That being the case, what was thought to be
3 the advantage to reporting on groups in an undercover
4 identity?
- 5 A. Well, if you were undercover, then they didn't -- you --
6 you became a member, you -- you got in with the group,
7 you attended private meetings as opposed to public
8 meetings, and you -- you got to know what was -- what
9 was actually being planned. Information that you would
10 never have -- get at a public meeting.
- 11 Q. It's right, I think, that the reports that we have
12 obtained that you were involved in detail accounts of
13 what happened at public meetings, both before and after
14 your involvement in the SDS; is that right?
- 15 A. That's right, yes.
- 16 Q. To your memory, were the groups that you were reporting
17 on, specifically the Notting Hill VSC, which we'll come
18 to, doing things secretly, out of public view?
- 19 A. I think they were, yes. I mean, I don't know
20 personally, but I think, yes. They were planning --
21 they were making plans for the demonstration that --
22 that weren't generally known. You know, the general
23 public weren't made privy to.
- 24 Q. In your view, before I turn to some specific examples,
25 was the SDS able to obtain intelligence which would have

- 1 been otherwise unavailable to Special Branch?
- 2 A. Oh, I think so, yes.
- 3 Q. Turning, then, to your specific involvement reporting on
- 4 the SDS, you've told us, as I've said, that your role
- 5 didn't change very much between before and after you
- 6 reported on the SDS, or rather before and during. Would
- 7 you have given a cover name, for instance, if you had
- 8 been asked at a meeting what your name was?
- 9 A. I wouldn't have given my real name, no.
- 10 Q. So you would have given a ...?
- 11 A. I would have given a cover name, yes.
- 12 Q. Would you have given a cover job if you had been so
- 13 asked at a meeting?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And would that have differed from what you would have
- 16 done before you started reporting with the SDS?
- 17 A. No, it would be exactly the same.
- 18 Q. Now, turning to, then, the SDS and your involvement in
- 19 it from the start, you've told us in your statement that
- 20 you were involved in -- with Helen Crampton in setting
- 21 up a cover -- a flat for the SDS. At this location, did
- 22 you become aware that others within the unit were
- 23 reporting on the VSC?
- 24 A. I'm sorry, I don't quite understand the question.
- 25 Q. I'll -- my mistake. I'll ask it another way.

1 Did you become aware that other people within
2 the unit were reporting on the VSC as well as those you
3 were attending meetings with?

4 A. Oh yes.

5 Q. Was it discussed?

6 A. Within the -- within the SDS?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Probably, yes. In fact -- you mean
9 the undercover officers, do you, in particular?

10 Q. Yes, I do.

11 A. Yes, it would be discussed, because they wouldn't do
12 a report, so they would let us -- Helen Crampton and
13 myself, they would tell us who was there and fill in --
14 fill in the blanks that we didn't know.

15 Q. Were you given any training by those within the unit or
16 outside of it about the groups that you were reporting
17 on?

18 A. Yes, we were.

19 Q. And what did this training consist of?

20 A. Well, it -- it was general discussion. If -- you -- it
21 was all political. If you -- if you -- if you didn't
22 know what the politics were, they would -- you know,
23 there were people there who did know. And it -- it was
24 -- we didn't go to lectures and that sort of thing, but
25 it was just general conversation. We were -- we were

1 all told exactly what was going on.

2 Q. So would it be fair to say that it was informal --

3 A. Informal, yes.

4 Q. Okay.

5 And do you remember any informal training or formal
6 training by those around you on how to undertake
7 a deployment into these groups?

8 A. No, you didn't have training, but there were plenty of
9 people to ask, because -- once the SDS was formed,
10 because we were a small group of people. So I should
11 think general conversation. But I didn't go to that
12 many meetings, so it didn't really apply to me. I --
13 I went to very few meetings.

14 Q. Well, let's come on to those then. Were you aware of
15 the Notting Hill VSC before you went to some of their
16 meetings?

17 A. Not really, no. Not until I was told to go.

18 Q. So you weren't given any briefings --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- either formal or otherwise on them?

21 A. Probably in -- probably informal. I can't say no
22 I wasn't, it was too long ago. But any briefings, they
23 would have been informal.

24 Q. What was your role in attending these meetings?

25 A. I went -- always went with Helen Crampton. The two of

1 us always went together.

2 And probably because it looked -- two women going
3 in, it was more acceptable. And we just went in,
4 listened to what was being said; any leaflets that were
5 there being distributed, we would take leaflets. And
6 that -- that would be it.

7 Q. Were you given any instruction or guidance on what to
8 look out for, what to report on?

9 A. No, not really, no.

10 Q. You've told us that you attended with Helen Crampton.
11 It's right, isn't it, that you had in fact attended,
12 before you joined the Special Demonstration Squad, some
13 meetings -- or a meeting -- at least one -- on your own?

14 A. I think there was just one. I'm not sure.

15 Q. In your view, do you have any idea why a slightly
16 different tack was taken with your involvement on
17 the SDS? Why was it that you weren't sent on your own?

18 A. I don't know. That is the short -- the only answer
19 I can give you. I don't know why I wasn't sent on my
20 own. Probably because I -- I wasn't experienced enough.

21 Q. Right.

22 Can we go, please, to an example of one of these
23 meetings at document <MPS-0730070>. Thank you.

24 This is a meeting of the 16 October of 1968 that you
25 attended, along with some others that we'll come on to.

1 Could we go, please, firstly, to page 10 of this
2 report, <MPS-0730070/10>. And if we could zoom in on
3 the bottom paragraph of the page.

4 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a document that was
5 obtained by presumably you or your colleagues from this
6 meeting, which was literature produced from it, and I'm
7 just going to read the bottom paragraph into
8 the transcript. It reads as follows:

9 "Information.

10 "The pig who framed comrades in this group is known
11 to be walking on the beat. The Ministry of the Interior
12 have begun an investigation into his methods. They will
13 conclude that they are premature, not that they are
14 wrong and we must realise that the pigs will intensify
15 their terrors if we do not constantly keep guard and
16 watch their moves at all level from their agents among
17 us to their leaders in large polished cars."

18 Now, Ms Hillier, that suggests that there was some
19 concern within the group about police becoming
20 infiltrators. Do you remember that being a concern
21 in -- certainly amongst the Notting Hill VSC?

22 A. No, I don't remember. It's just that -- I'm not saying
23 that it didn't happen, I'm just saying I don't remember.

24 Q. Do you recall the group taking any measures to
25 counteract a concern about infiltration? Did they do

1 anything to try and ... that you can remember?

2 A. Not when I was at their meetings, no.

3 Q. Can I take it from that that you don't remember being
4 challenged by the group at all?

5 A. Never. I don't remember that, and I think I would, if
6 it happened.

7 Q. Right.

8 Can we turn to page 2, please, of this report
9 <MPS-0730070/2>. Thank you.

10 I'm going, Ms Hillier, to read a passage of this and
11 then ask you a question or two about it. The second
12 paragraph down reads:

13 "After the film Ken Murray talked at some length
14 about the 27th October, and particularly about
15 the group's activities on the demonstration. He
16 repeated what had been suggested at earlier meetings,
17 that 'comrades' form into groups of five and stick
18 together, rescuing those arrested and taking part
19 together in surprise attacks and skirmishes. He also
20 suggested, that as a result of his own experiences at
21 previous demonstrations, people taking part should link
22 arms with those near them -- the objects being twofold
23 -- so that they could take over whole streets and -- as
24 there would be hundreds of plain clothes 'fuzz' in
25 the crowd, by making them link arms, the demonstrators

1 would immobilise them. Those who refused to link arms
2 would probably be 'fuzz' and were to be viewed with
3 great suspicion.

4 "Murray then went on to suggest that those taking
5 part should come armed with the following 'which could
6 easily be concealed on one's person':-

7 "One wet and one dry handkerchief for protection
8 against tear gas, banner poles made of hardwood for
9 protection against police truncheons and lastly
10 the following for use against Police horses:-

11 "Penknives for use on the soft under-belly, needles
12 and pepper on the eyes and 'Jumping Jack 'fireworks to
13 make the horses rear."

14 Ms Hillier, did you understand the information such
15 as that to be of value to Special Branch?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. And why is that?

18 A. Because knowing that, we could prevent public disorder.
19 That is what -- that is what we were there for.

20 Q. Were you looking out for information such as this?

21 A. Oh certainly, yes.

22 Q. Now, you've explained in your witness statement that
23 information such as this would have been passed to
24 the uniform branch. Are you able to say how this would
25 have been done?

1 A. Well, it -- probably -- it would be on the -- on
2 the directions of whoever signed that report, probably
3 Conrad Dixon, and it would just be probably -- he would
4 know where to send it, I wouldn't know, but he would --
5 he would send it to whoever needed to have that
6 information.

7 Q. To your knowledge, did you hear anything back about
8 the value of such information within the unit?

9 A. Not to my knowledge, but frankly I -- I personally
10 wouldn't hear.

11 Q. The information that I've -- I've read out, the threats
12 to "come armed", were things like that taken seriously
13 within the SDS?

14 A. Oh yes. Oh yes, certainly.

15 Q. I think it's right to say that -- and we'll come on to
16 this -- the October demonstration did not in fact result
17 in violence such as that?

18 A. No, it didn't. No, it didn't.

19 Q. All right. I'm just going to read one short other
20 section from this document and then ask you a question
21 or two about it.

22 If we could go down to the next paragraph which
23 starts, "Murray also ..." Thank you. If we could leave
24 it there. Perfect. I will read as follows:

25 "Murray also announced that Hornsey VSC had agreed

1 to swap banners with Notting Hill and Earls Court were
2 quite keen on this idea. He said that this was
3 necessary because the local Notting Hill Gate police
4 would probably march with their local groups, and this
5 would make it more difficult for the police to identify
6 people with their correct groups."

7 Ms Hillier, can you remember a specific concern
8 within this group about people being identified on
9 the march?

10 A. I don't, no. I don't remember.

11 Q. And were -- was there a concern more generally within
12 the SDS that people were identified within reports
13 provided?

14 A. I'm sorry, I -- I'm not quite clear what you mean.

15 Q. Was there a concern -- was the SDS interested in
16 reporting people's identities within the reports that
17 were submitted?

18 A. Oh yes.

19 Q. And just to be clear, why was this?

20 A. Well, they -- they wanted to know who was going to be at
21 the demonstrations, who was -- who were part of
22 the groups. Information is never wasted really. I --
23 I don't know how else to answer that.

24 Q. Can we turn, please, to a different document now
25 <MPS-0730758>.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Warner, would this be a good moment at
2 which to pause, so the shorthand writers can have their
3 break?

4 MR WARNER: Certainly, sir.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: While we pause, could you have a look again
6 at the photograph, please, because I think there has
7 been a muddle, and I think the witness was right when
8 she said in her description that it may not be that
9 photograph that she was describing in her witness
10 statement?

11 MR WARNER: Yes, sir.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Either find another photograph, if there is
13 one readily available, or, alternatively, ask her to
14 identify the people whose faces we can actually see.

15 MR WARNER: Yes, sir.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Then we'll resume at 8 minutes to
17 12, please.

18 MS PURSER: Thank you, everyone. We will now take
19 a 15-minute break and resume at 8 minutes to 12. You
20 may now go into your break-out rooms. Thank you.

21 (11.37 am)

22 (A short break)

23 (11.52 am)

24 MS PURSER: Welcome back, everyone. I will now hand over to
25 the Chairman to continue proceedings.

1 Chairman.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 Mr Warner.

4 MR WARNER: Thank you, sir.

5 Ms Hillier, can we just clear up the issue that
6 the chairman raised just before we broke for the short
7 adjournment. Are you there?

8 A. Yes, I'm here.

9 Q. Sorry, I couldn't see you.

10 Could we bring up the photograph again that you saw
11 first thing this morning at <MPS-0735439>.

12 Now, Ms Hillier, I'm going to just read out again to
13 you what's said in your statement. You've said:

14 "Looking at the first picture ..."

15 And this is the picture being described:

16 "... on the front row, moving from the right of
17 the picture, is HN332 ..."

18 What you have now told us to be Helen Crampton:

19 "... Conrad Dixon, me, Phil Saunders and HN331."

20 Now, if you look at that picture, Ms Hillier, it
21 would appear that what you actually mean to say is: on
22 the front row, moving to the right of the picture from
23 the left, we can see HN332, Helen Crampton,
24 Conrad Dixon, me, Phil Saunders and 331. Is that right?

25 A. That is correct, yes.

1 Q. So the word "from" should read "to" as well?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. Thank you, that's, I think, cleared that up.

4 Can we turn to the document that I brought up just
5 before we stopped. That's <MPS-0730758>. Thank you
6 very much.

7 This is another one of the reports that you are
8 mentioned in, in relation to the Notting Hill VSC, dated
9 30 October of 1968. And if we could just focus in
10 on "persons identified", please, in the middle of the
11 page. Thank you.

12 You can see here, Ms Hillier, that there is a number
13 of persons that have been identified that have been
14 redacted for privacy reasons by the Inquiry.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you can see that a description of one of them has
17 remained on the page, and it reads:

18 "(Scot thought to be mentally deficient.)"

19 Now, Ms Hillier, why would a detail such as that
20 have been reported within a Special Branch report on
21 somebody?

22 A. I suppose because whoever did it thought it was relevant
23 that -- you know, to identify him, or perhaps --
24 I honestly don't know.

25 Q. Are you able to help us with what would have happened

1 with that information that was reported on somebody?

2 What would have been done with it?

3 A. Presumably they would have looked to see if he'd got
4 a Special Branch record, and if he had added it -- added
5 it to the record that, you know, he was identified in
6 this report as being at this particular meeting. Apart
7 from that, I can't think of anything else.

8 Q. Could we turn, please, to the second page of this report
9 now, <MPS-0730758/2>. Thank you.

10 And I'm just going to read the first paragraph out:

11 "The meeting took the usual form of open discussion,
12 but it was interesting to note that there were
13 many 'strange' faces and they soon disclosed themselves
14 to be International Socialists. They were obviously
15 there to try and take over the Notting Hill VSC because
16 of their militant reputation."

17 Ms Hillier, were you aware that the Notting Hill VSC
18 had such a reputation?

19 A. I don't know, is the answer to that. It's really too
20 long ago.

21 Q. I understand.

22 Within that paragraph there's mention of a potential
23 takeover of the Notting Hill VSC by members of
24 the International Socialists. Were details such as that
25 of interest to the SDS?

1 A. I don't think with the SDS particularly, no. I would
2 have thought that was more of interest to Special Branch
3 in general.

4 Q. Is that why the information there might have been
5 reported?

6 A. Possibly, yes.

7 Q. And if we could scroll down, please, to the fourth
8 paragraph -- we can see it there, thank you.

9 I'm just going to read an extract from the fourth
10 paragraph of this page. Halfway through the paragraph
11 it reads:

12 "The committee consisted of [privacy] and three
13 others not known to me. Ken Murray said that he
14 understood that the Notting Hill area was going to be
15 turned into a 'Chelsea' and there was going to be vast
16 clearance of coloureds and the poor from the area.

17 "[privacy] said that in his opinion a good way of
18 working effectively in the area would be: when landlords
19 evicted tenants, the landlords houses should be burned.
20 This action in his opinion would be far more effective
21 than stupid demonstrations."

22 Ms Hillier, was information such as this, a threat
23 to potentially burn houses, of interest to
24 Special Branch or the SDS?

25 A. Well, it would be interest to Special Branch, the SDS

1 and also to the uniform branch, if they're threatening
2 to burn down buildings. So yes, it would be of
3 interest. It would be passed on to the various
4 departments who -- who would need to know. That's all
5 I can say really.

6 Q. More generally, did the SDS seek out criminal
7 intelligence as opposed to just public order
8 intelligence?

9 A. No, if criminal intelligence came their way, then --
10 you know, they would pass it on. But they didn't seek
11 it out, I don't think.

12 Q. Thank you.

13 If this document could be taken down, please.

14 More generally, Ms Hillier, did you attend
15 the October demonstration in London that year?

16 A. I did, yes.

17 Q. And what can you remember about that day?

18 A. I can't -- I can remember being there. I can
19 remember marching. I can remember marching along Oxford
20 Street. It was a huge demonstration, big crowds. But
21 there was no disorder; and when is finished, it
22 dispersed quite peacefully really. That's all I can
23 remember.

24 Q. Did you attend it with the Notting Hill VSC?

25 A. With the Notting Hill VSC and Helen Crampton yet again,

1 the two of us.

2 Q. And do you remember whether you were in Grosvenor Square
3 that day or whether you just stayed within the main
4 group?

5 A. No, I don't think we went to Grosvenor Square. I think
6 we -- when we finished, it -- it was at Marble Arch.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 Ms Hillier, I'd like to turn to a different topic
9 now, please. You've said in your witness statement to
10 the Inquiry that you don't really think any of
11 the women, certainly in the early days, who were
12 involved in the SDS went undercover; is that right?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. Now, we know that in addition to Helen Crampton and
15 yourself an officer with the nominal HN334 was deployed
16 in the early days of the SDS, and she has provided
17 a witness statement to the Inquiry which explains that
18 she was deployed undercover with a cover job and a cover
19 address, which I think is distinct from your experience.

20 Does this accord with your memory of the time?

21 A. Well, if that's what she says, it will be correct, yes.
22 Perhaps I -- I -- you know, after the period of time,
23 I've forgotten. She's got no reason to say that if it
24 wasn't correct, so I would accept that.

25 Q. I'm just interested to know whether you can remember her

- 1 doing that or not, given the --
- 2 A. I didn't realise she was -- I know she went to meetings,
3 but I thought they were all public meetings. I didn't
4 realise that she was undercover and, you know, doing
5 private meetings, etc.
- 6 Q. You've also said in your witness statement that
7 the difference between -- or certainly one of
8 the differences between your role and the men on
9 the unit at the time was that they went to private
10 meetings. Other than the example we've just talked
11 about, did you understand your role to be different from
12 them in any other significant way?
- 13 A. Not really, no.
- 14 Q. It also appears that in addition to HN334 that we just
15 mentioned, Helen Crampton may also have attended private
16 meetings, although possibly not on her own. Does that
17 accord with your memory?
- 18 A. No, not at all. I don't remember Helen ever going to
19 private meetings.
- 20 Q. Are you able to help us with why certainly HN334's
21 experience was possibly different from your own on
22 the SDS?
- 23 A. No, I can't.
- 24 Q. Just before we --
- 25 A. (inaudible) a lapse of memory, frankly, on my part.

1 Q. Just before we move on, another question on a similar
2 topic.

3 When you were involved in the SDS, either in
4 the runup to the October demonstration or in the back
5 office after October, do you remember any of your male
6 colleagues discussing women from the groups that they
7 were reporting on?

8 A. No, not -- not -- I mean, they -- they discussed
9 the groups and they discussed the members of the groups,
10 but not in particular women, no.

11 Q. Right.

12 Moving on to that subsequent role that you undertook
13 in the back office. Could you please explain what your
14 role was as opposed to what it had been before
15 the October demonstration?

16 A. After the October demonstration, my role was purely
17 admin role. It was taking telephone calls, dealing with
18 files, the officers' reports, typing reports for
19 the officers. I was a go-between between
20 the Scotland Yard office where I worked and the premises
21 where they -- they stayed, so that anything they wanted,
22 I would take out to them. We did filing, indexing, that
23 sort of thing. It was purely admin, all of it.

24 Q. Can we take it from that that the SDS at that point was
25 occupying two separate premises?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And your role was to go between the two?

3 A. Well, no, there was -- it was Scotland Yard and then
4 they had another premises, a flat elsewhere, where
5 they -- they worked. They didn't want to -- to come
6 to -- they didn't want to come to The Yard at all, for
7 -- well, for obvious reasons, in case they were spotted.

8 Q. Yes.

9 Turning, then, firstly, to the process of writing up
10 the reports that you've said that you did, how would
11 that work?

12 A. An officer would -- would give me a copy of their
13 report. They would -- they would write it out in
14 pencil, perhaps, roughly, give me the names of all
15 the people in the reports who were present at meetings,
16 or for whatever reason. I would search all those names
17 in Special Branch records, to see if we had a record of
18 them, and make a note of the file numbers. Then I would
19 type up the report and -- and sign it on their behalf
20 and then give the report usually to Conrad Dixon.

21 Q. Okay.

22 Perhaps it might help if we just had a look at an
23 example of this.

24 A. Mm.

25 Q. Could we please bring up <MPS-0732690>. And if we could

- 1 go to the bottom of the second page firstly.
- 2 <MPS-0732690/2>.
- 3 Is this an example of what you were just explaining,
- 4 Ms Hillier?
- 5 A. Yes, I think it would be, yes.
- 6 Q. So, in this instance, it's a report of a meeting at
- 7 which Detective Sergeant Ferguson and detective
- 8 constable HN336 attended, and we can see that you've
- 9 said "J Hillier WDC" --
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. -- "for HN336"?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. So we can take it, can we, that where a report is signed
- 14 for someone else, you wouldn't have been in attendance
- 15 at the meeting and would have just been doing an
- 16 admin --
- 17 A. That's right. I mean, that wasn't a general thing that
- 18 happened in Special Branch, but I think it happened --
- 19 because of -- the officers weren't -- were at -- at
- 20 the other flat, it just saved a lot of back and forth;
- 21 it was just easier if I signed them.
- 22 Q. Now, we can see, looking at this report, that it is then
- 23 countersigned by Conrad Dixon, who you've mentioned
- 24 earlier?
- 25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And a copy -- it says, "Send copy to Box 500", which we
2 know is a reference to the Security Service?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Who determined who reports were sent out to?

5 A. Oh, Conrad Dixon.

6 Q. So it -- (overspeaking) --

7 A. -- (inaudible) -- we were just given the report and it
8 was up to him where he sent it, you know, and what
9 action was taken.

10 Q. So where we can see it's written below, is it likely
11 then that that's his --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- signature -- his handwriting or his sign?

14 A. I would say that would be his handwriting, yeah.

15 Q. Can you help us on this: at the time you were within
16 the SDS working in the back office, are you able to give
17 us an estimate of what sort of volume of the reports
18 that were coming out of the unit were sent to
19 the Security Service?

20 A. I would think probably most of them. I don't know, but
21 at -- at a guess it would be most of them.

22 Q. And just to help us, if you can, please, we can see on
23 this page it says "submitted" on the left-hand side
24 below "officers present", and then we see Conrad Dixon's
25 signature. What does "submitted" mean in that context?

1 A. I don't know, frankly, no. I may -- I suppose it
2 means -- well, Conrad Dixon would put in who -- who was
3 to see the report, I suppose. The answer is I don't
4 know, I think is easiest.

5 Q. Okay.

6 Now, you can see on the face of this report that in
7 addition to HN336 Detective Sergeant Ferguson is
8 mentioned and that's Michael Ferguson who there are
9 a number of reports in -- that the Inquiry has obtained
10 that you signed for him presumably in an and had
11 administrative function.

12 If we can take this a step at a time. Firstly, do
13 you recall detective sergeant Michael Ferguson?

14 A. Yes, I can.

15 Q. Did you hear anything about his activities as an
16 undercover police officer within the SDS at this time?

17 A. Well, I -- I would have done. I -- I mean, if I was on
18 the SDS and he was, then -- then I would have heard
19 being in the off -- general office, but I can't --
20 I can't recall anything specific.

21 Q. Are you able to help us then with any roles he may have
22 undertaken with the Anti-Apartheid Movement?

23 A. I knew that was the -- the organisation I believe he had
24 infiltrated the Anti-Apartheid Movement, but apart from
25 that, no. He -- he seldom came to the office -- to the

1 -- to the -- he never came to Scotland Yard and
2 I wouldn't have seen him very often.

3 Q. Are you aware whether Detective Sergeant Ferguson
4 undertook active roles in that group?

5 A. I am now. I wasn't at the time, but I am now.

6 Q. Are you aware whether the senior management within
7 the unit were aware of his involvement taking active
8 roles in that group or not?

9 A. No, I don't know.

10 Q. Thank you.

11 On a similar topic in terms of your back office job,
12 you've told us that you would search the people that are
13 mentioned within the reports and to see whether they had
14 any Special Branch files on them. How did that system
15 work? Did you go and obtain the files yourself if they
16 existed?

17 A. Yes, I -- I -- we had a registry with -- I would search
18 them in Special Branch registry. If they had a file,
19 I would draw it and give it -- if -- give it to
20 the officer, or, you know, who was interested.

21 Q. Are you able to say how often you had to undertake this
22 task? Was it regular?

23 A. No, I couldn't -- I couldn't even guess. Not after all
24 this time.

25 Q. You've also made mention of a card system. Can you just

1 explain what that is, please?

2 A. I know we had an index system. This is in the days
3 before computers, so basically it -- it was just
4 a reference. You would look in the card and you would
5 find -- under a certain name and you'd probably find
6 reference to other files. That is as far as I can
7 remember.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 Ms Hillier, just a couple more questions. Finally,
10 generally, what would you describe the ethos of the unit
11 was when you were involved in it? What was it like?

12 A. What do you mean "ethos"?

13 Q. What was the general mood within the unit? How did it
14 feel when you were working in it?

15 A. Initially, when I joined, it was a very nice unit. It
16 was very happy. Everybody got on well together. They
17 were all going for a common cause. And it was a very
18 happy unit. That's the only way I can describe it
19 really.

20 Q. Did that change at all during your time, or was that --

21 A. No, no, for the whole time. Conrad Dixon was a very
22 good boss. Everybody liked him. They trusted him. And
23 I think they knew they could go to him if there were any
24 problems and he -- he was -- was a very good boss.

25 Q. And looking back on it all this time later, is that

1 still your view of what your time was like on --

2 A. Yes, it was a very happy time. It was a very happy
3 squad and it worked well.

4 MR WARNER: Thank you, Ms Hillier. Those are the only
5 questions I have for you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I understand that there is an
7 application from Mr Menon.

8 MR MENON: Yes, sir, there is.

9 Sir, I apply under rule 10 in the alternative
10 subsection 3 in the alternative subsection 4 to ask
11 questions on a few discrete topics of this witness that
12 have not been asked by Counsel to the Inquiry.

13 If you want me to spell out those issues and those
14 questions, sir, I'm happy to do so, but could
15 the witness be -- I don't know what the phrase is --
16 sent back to her break-out room if I am to do that?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that technically possible? I don't ask
18 you, I ask the people operating the system.

19 MR MENON: I see there is somebody, I believe, from
20 the inquiry sitting behind the witness, and he should be
21 able to the same way that you and I can enter break-out
22 rooms behind.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: The person sitting behind is from her legal
24 representative.

25 MR MENON: Oh, my apologies.

1 MS PURSER: Sir, if I may interrupt. It's possible to send
2 everyone into their break-out room at once, but it's not
3 possible to send individual people from the main hearing
4 room just into the break-out room.

5 MR MENON: Very well, I'll make the application, sir. If
6 it's not possible, I understand. Shall I spell out
7 the general areas, sir, on which I wish to ask further
8 questions?

9 Sir, can you hear me?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: I can and I thought you could hear me as I'm
11 not muted. My answer was "yes, please".

12 MR MENON: Thank you. I wish to ask questions about
13 the following topics, please. Firstly, the fact that
14 she's giving evidence in her real name.

15 Secondly, one specific question arising from
16 Mr Warner's questions about the "Penetration of
17 Extremist Groups" document that the witness was shown.

18 Thirdly, some further questions about Notting Hill
19 Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and Ms Hillier's involvement
20 in that organisation.

21 Fourthly, specific questions about the topic of
22 intimate relationships and of all my topics this is
23 the one that is most important and most relevant, sir,
24 to your terms of reference.

25 Fifthly, one further question arising from

1 a document shown to the witness by Mr Warner in relation
2 to her attendance at a meeting of the Highgate and
3 Holloway branch of the VSC in which she recorded
4 the names and addresses of a number of individuals
5 present at that meeting.

6 And finally, sir, some questions about
7 the interrelationship and interaction between
8 Special Branch and SDS on the one hand and MI5 on
9 the other that Ms Hillier specifically deals with in her
10 witness statement but that she was not taken to when
11 questioned by Counsel to the Inquiry.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Menon, as I'm sure you know, I have
13 published various statements about the questioning of
14 witnesses by those who represent other participants or
15 witnesses in the Inquiry and I have indicated that
16 I will permit, indeed encourage, questions to be asked
17 where there are disputes of fact about an important
18 topic between those who were parties to the fact. To
19 take the most extreme example, if there is a dispute
20 between a male undercover officer and a female activist
21 about whether they had an intimate relationship, and if
22 so when and where it took place, then I would permit
23 questions on both sides of both witnesses to that
24 claimed event.

25 But I have not stated and it is not my intention

1 that general questioning of the kind that you have
2 indicated you wish to undertake with this witness, not
3 about disputes of fact between your core participants
4 and her but about general topics, I have indicated that
5 those will be conducted, as they will be, by
6 Counsel to the Inquiry. I know you submit questions to
7 counsel who are going to ask questions of a witness
8 beforehand and they respond to you saying which of them
9 they will ask and which of them they won't.

10 Occasionally -- and I anticipate this will be very
11 rarely -- then I would be willing to second guess
12 Counsel to the Inquiry's judgment about the matter.

13 But I'm afraid I'm not willing to do it as a matter
14 of general practice, which is I think what you're
15 encouraging me to do.

16 MR MENON: I'm simply seeking, sir, to ask questions on
17 relevant matters that are squarely within your terms of
18 reference which in our submission will assist you in
19 getting to the truth, and those inevitably will include
20 matters where there are specific factual disputes and
21 I anticipate, if you allow me in particular to ask
22 questions about Ms Hillier's attendance at the meetings
23 of the Notting Hill branch of the Vietnam Solidarity
24 Campaign and what happened specifically in relation to
25 her attendance at those meetings, those factual disputes

1 will in fact emerge.

2 But even, sir, where they don't emerge, if
3 the questions concern relevant matters which will assist
4 you at the end of the day and we have considerable time
5 at 12.20 now before the next witness is due to give
6 evidence, I would ask for a little latitude to be able
7 to explore these matters with the witness. You will
8 then see whether I'm in fact asking questions about
9 relevant matters or not, and if future you can make
10 a decision about it. But I do ask you, with all due
11 respect, to exercise your discretion in favour of
12 allowing me to ask what I submit as a barrister with
13 26 years experience are relevant questions not asked by
14 Counsel to the Inquiry in spite of the fact that
15 I provided a list of 42 questions that I submit are
16 relevant under the terms of reference. I'll be no
17 longer than 10 to 15 minutes.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: (inaudible) is the question of fact arising
19 out of the Notting Hill VSC meetings on which this
20 witness reported.

21 MR MENON: Sorry, I didn't hear your --

22 THE CHAIRMAN: What dispute of fact and between whom arises
23 out of the reporting on the Notting Hill VSC meetings?

24 MR MENON: Specifically to do with the conduct of now
25 deceased SDS officer Helen Crampton and her involvement

1 with that branch of the VSC.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: And between whom is this dispute of fact?

3 MR MENON: It's a dispute of fact as to the evidence given
4 by the current witness and information that I am privy
5 to from another source which I want to ask in the form
6 of open-ended questions of this witness to see whether
7 she can assist you in determining the truth of
8 the matter.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Have you indicated, as I said in statements
10 about the questioning of witnesses, that the source to
11 whom you refer, who you have not yet identified, will
12 give evidence about the matter?

13 MR MENON: Well, I'm not -- I'm not in a position to answer
14 that, sir, at this stage. It's a -- it's a -- I've set
15 out in detail the questions in the document I've
16 submitted to the Inquiry. I certainly hope that
17 the questions that I'm about to ask, if you allow me to
18 ask them, will be subsequently supported by a witness
19 statement, but I cannot give at this stage a cast iron
20 guarantee to that effect, because it's a -- it's an
21 issue that has only just arisen as far as -- as a result
22 of developments in the last few days.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: What is the issue?

24 MR MENON: Well, the issue is whether or not Helen Crampton
25 had a relationship of some kind with a leading member of

1 the Notting Hill Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: With whom?

3 MR MENON: A man by the name of George Cochrane who can be
4 seen in a number of meetings -- sorry the intelligence
5 reports of meetings as having been a chairman of that
6 branch of the VSC.

7 We say this is obviously relevant because it would
8 be -- if there were any truth to the matter -- the very
9 first example of an officer of the SDS engaging in some
10 form of intimate relationship with a member of a target
11 organisation.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Is Mr Cochrane alive?

13 MR MENON: I have no idea. His name is not redacted in any
14 of the documents, which would suggest to me that
15 the Inquiry believes that he's not alive. His name
16 features in many, many Notting Hill VSC documents, some
17 of which I wish to take this witness to with permission
18 from you, of course.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: You may ask the witness about this topic,
20 about whether there was a relationship between
21 Helen Crampton and George Cochrane because
22 the likelihood is that he is not in a position to be
23 able to give evidence about it, but I'm afraid that you
24 must take it that that is an exceptional course and I do
25 not propose to invite you to ask questions on any other

1 topic.

2 MR MENON: Thank you.

3 Ms Hillier, can you see and hear me?

4 A. I can, yes.

5 Q. You, in answer to questions from Mr Warner, who
6 questioned you this morning, indicated that all
7 the meetings that you attended with the exception of one
8 meeting which you attended alone were meetings of
9 the Notting Hill branch of the Vietnam Solidarity
10 Campaign which I attended together with your then
11 colleague Helen Crampton; is that right?

12 A. That's correct, yes.

13 Q. Prior to attending those meetings of the Notting Hill
14 Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, had you been told by
15 anybody in a senior position within SDS that that
16 particular branch of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign had
17 been disowned by the national council of the Vietnam
18 Solidarity Campaign because of some of the political
19 positions that it was taking?

20 A. I didn't know that. Until I saw it in the report I saw
21 this morning, I didn't know that.

22 Q. You indicated this morning that you attended
23 the October 27 March against the Vietnam War together
24 with Helen Crampton and other members of
25 the Notting Hill Vietnam Solidarity Campaign; is that

- 1 right?
- 2 A. That's correct, yes.
- 3 Q. And obviously you had previously attended a number of
4 the branch's meetings in September and October; is that
5 right?
- 6 A. About four.
- 7 Q. Had you, during that period when you had attended
8 meetings, become on first name terms with any members of
9 the Notting Hill Vietnam Solidarity Campaign?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Well, when you and Helen Crampton marched together, are
12 you saying that you marched completely separate from
13 anybody else, or did you march together with other
14 members of that branch?
- 15 A. Marched with other members of that branch.
- 16 Q. And I assume that you would have spoken to them and --
17 as you were marching through the streets of London?
- 18 A. Presumably, yes.
- 19 Q. And they would have asked you your name and they would
20 have -- you would have asked them their name, perhaps?
- 21 A. It was 52 years ago, but presumably, yes.
- 22 Q. And I think your evidence is that obviously if you had
23 been asked for area name, you would have not given your
24 name, you would have given a false name, for obvious
25 reasons?

- 1 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 2 Q. Now, you were asked earlier today about, on the topic of
3 interim relationships, whether any of your SDS
4 colleagues, to the best of your knowledge, had had
5 intimate relationships with a member of a target group.
6 Do you remember that question?
- 7 A. I do, yes.
- 8 Q. And can you just repeat again what your answer to that
9 question is?
- 10 A. My answer is no, I don't know of any.
- 11 Q. And would that include both male and female officers
12 within the SDS?
- 13 A. It would include everybody.
- 14 Q. And would that include even, for example, going on
15 a date with a member of a target organisation?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. As far as you're concerned, it wouldn't happen?
- 18 A. I didn't say it wouldn't happen, I'm saying I didn't --
19 I don't think it happened.
- 20 Q. Well, to be more specific about it, Ms Hillier, to
21 the best of your knowledge or belief, did your former
22 colleague Helen Crampton have some kind of intimate
23 relationship or go out with a member of the Notting Hill
24 Vietnam Solidarity Campaign?
- 25 A. I don't know the -- of course I don't know for certain,

1 but I would say I doubt it very much.

2 Q. Did she never at any stage whilst you were both
3 colleagues in the SDS indicate to you that any kind of
4 social or intimate relationship with anybody in
5 the Notting Hill VSC.

6 A. No, never.

7 Q. Could we please have on the screen the following
8 document <MPS-0739188>. Ms Hillier, you can see that
9 this is an intelligence report of a meeting of
10 the Notting Hill VSC --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- on 12 October 1968; do you see that?

13 A. Two October?

14 Q. Two October, yes, sorry, did I say something else?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And we can see that it's described as a regular public
17 meeting?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And we can see a number of names there, and we can see
20 the name George Cochrane?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Listed as the Chairman of that meeting; do you see that?

23 A. Yeah, I do, yes.

24 Q. And if we could just go to the next page, please
25 <MPS-0739188/2>, and the bottom bit, please, underneath

1 the description of what happened.

2 We can see there that you were present at that
3 meeting is that right?

4 A. That's right, yes.

5 Q. And two other officers with the numbers 68 and 331?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. And I believe it's Helen Crampton's name on the right
8 under the number 3?

9 A. That's right. She signed the report.

10 Q. Signed the report. It's very -- it's very poorly marked
11 there.

12 Does the name George Cochrane ring any bells?

13 A. None at all, no.

14 Q. Are you in a position to say one way or another whether
15 Helen Crampton had any kind of social or intimate
16 relationship with the man who chaired this particular
17 meeting?

18 A. I think my answer's got to be no. I would doubt it very
19 much.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 Could we have the following document on the screen,
22 please <MPS-0722099/2>. This is a file of VSC
23 documents, Ms Hillier?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Could we turn, please, to page 34 in this larger file

1 <MPS-0722099/34>.

2 This is a report in a different type of format
3 headed, "Public meetings and poster parades". It's in
4 relation to an event of some kind, a meeting, I assume,
5 on 1 September 1968 of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.
6 We see again the name George Cochrane there under
7 the heading "chairman"; do you see that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And then a few lines down it says that there were about
10 40 people present at this event. The police
11 arrangements were "casual observation "well with "1 PC";
12 do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then could we go to the next page, please
15 <MPS-0722099/35>. Some indication here about some films
16 that were played at this event.

17 Go to the next page, please <MPS-0722099/36>.
18 Actually, I'm sorry about that, could you go back up two
19 pages to the Phil Hearse page <MPS-0722099/34>. Yes,
20 I'm sorry, thank you.

21 Sorry, we only had the top of the first page and it
22 was my make.

23 Do you see the heading, "Origin of information about
24 meeting", about halfway down the page?

25 A. "Telephone call from chairman", yes.

1 Q. Exactly.

2 A. Mm.

3 Q. Can you tell us what that means, please, "Telephone call
4 from chairman"?

5 A. Obviously the Chairman phoned either the local police
6 station or Scotland Yard. He phoned somebody anyway and
7 told them about the poster parade as -- as it was an
8 event that was taking place in the street, they would --
9 they would do that. It -- it didn't -- it didn't say
10 a telephone call to Special Branch, or telephone call to
11 Helen Crampton, it just said telephone call.

12 Q. I see.

13 A. To anybody.

14 Q. So it indicates that the Chairman of this meeting has
15 informed the police about the meeting?

16 A. That's right, yes. They would. It's a public meeting
17 in the street, so it would -- it would be policed.
18 They'd send a uniform officer there as well.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 Could we have the following document on the screen,
21 please <MPS-0722098>. This is again another large file
22 of Special Branch papers. Could we go to page 222,
23 please <MPS-0722098/222>.

24 Again, the same heading of, "Public meetings and
25 poster parades"; is that right?

- 1 A. That's right.
- 2 Q. An event, again of the Vietnam solidarity", it says.
3 There's a specific address given there Powis Terrace,
4 W11?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. Date 20 August 68.
7 Then it says:
8 "Subject of meeting", you can see that
9 the word "parade" has been crossed out, so this seems to
10 be a meeting on American aggression in Vietnam being
11 held at that particular address.
- 12 A. I think that they're saying that the organisation is
13 the Vietnam solidarity and their address is
14 Powis Terrace, W11. They're not saying that's where
15 the meeting was held.
- 16 Q. Okay. Is there any indication --
- 17 A. And they're informing the police that they intend to
18 hold a public meeting in the Street --
- 19 Q. -- (overspeaking) --
- 20 A. -- (inaudible).
- 21 Q. -- (overspeaking) --
- 22 A. -- (inaudible).
- 23 Q. I'm trying to understand why you're saying it's in
24 the street given --
- 25 A. -- (overspeaking) -- other poster parade. That would be

1 held outdoors in the street. They would be marching
2 with placarded.

3 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- the heading at the top of the page
4 is millimetre public meetings and poster parades?

5 A. Yes, that was a public meeting. That's why there would
6 have been police arrangements, there would have been one
7 constable and two policemen there to make sure they
8 didn't get into the road they didn't hold up the traffic
9 that sort of thing. That's why they would have informed
10 the police --

11 Q. You're saying -- you're saying this is a -- because
12 the word parade is crossed out that this is an
13 indication of a public meeting in the Street --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- as opposed to a public meeting in a house or a ?

16 A. -- (overspeaking) --

17 Q. -- centre of some kind?

18 A. That's right, it's a street meeting or a poster parade,
19 which is the same thing, where they march up -- march up
20 and down with placards. This -- this wasn't held -- and
21 of course people -- the organisers of -- and the heads
22 of these Vietnam Solidarity Campaign would know that
23 they had to inform the police of what they intended to
24 do, because it was in a public place so it didn't cause
25 any -- any public disorder, or public nuisance.

1 Q. Could we turn to the next page, please --

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I think, before we do, can we go back to that

3 page, please. We can see there the number of people

4 present being reported "60-70". Is there any issue

5 about whether or not this was a public meeting?

6 MR MENON: Sir, are you asking me, sir?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

8 MR MENON: Well, I'm suggesting it is a public meeting.

9 That's what I'm asking about, because the word "parade"

10 is crossed out.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: I had misunderstood your purpose. I do

12 apologise. It's common ground this was a public

13 meeting.

14 MR MENON: Yes, exactly.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 MR MENON: I'm just asking about -- yes, absolutely.

17 I mean, that's what I assumed because the word "parade"

18 is crossed out. This was on the face of it a public

19 meeting that was scheduled to take place between 8 pm

20 and 10.15 pm on 20 August.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I'm sorry to interrupt you. Please

22 carry on.

23 MR MENON: No problem at all.

24 Could we have the next page, please

25 <MPS-0722098/223>. And I think this is -- this looks to

1 be effectively a duplicate of the earlier page. Same
2 date, same time. Yes, thank you, we don't need to look
3 at that.

4 Ms Hillier, you were asked by Mr Warner some time
5 ago about whether you were aware -- whether you were
6 aware of Helen Crampton giving evidence for
7 the prosecution in the trial of a man who I will refer
8 to as "Mr X" in relation to a leaflet that he was said
9 to have been distributing at a meeting of
10 the Notting Hill Vietnam Solidarity Campaign on
11 9 October 1968. Do you remember that question?

12 A. I do, yes.

13 Q. I'm just going to show you a document that will confirm
14 that you were present at that meeting <MPS-0739187>.
15 There we have the date, 9 October,
16 Notting Hill VSC, "regular public meeting". Kenneth
17 Murray listed as the Chairman of this meeting.

18 Can we scroll down, please. Under the
19 heading "literature" we can see it says:

20 "Document entitled 'Potential of a militant
21 demonstration -- is dealt with separately."

22 Next you bit, please, a summary of what happened at
23 that public meeting.

24 Next please. And there again we can see four police
25 officers present, you and two others, 68 and 331,

1 Helen Crampton there listed under number 4; do you see
2 that?

3 A. I do, yes.

4 Q. Now, I know this is more than 50 years ago, Ms Hillier,
5 I entirely appreciate that, but are you saying that you
6 have no recollection at all about your former colleague
7 Helen Crampton being a prosecution witness of a man who
8 I am referring to as "Mr X" who was tried at
9 the Central Criminal Court in 1969 for inciting riot?
10 You really have no recollection of that at all?

11 A. I have absolutely no recollection at all.

12 Q. I'm assuming, given you don't have any recollection of
13 this, that you were not a prosecution witness --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- at this trial or any other trial?

16 A. No, I wasn't.

17 Q. Can I ask you to look at <MPS-0739150>.

18 This is a police Special Branch document summarising
19 the trial. I'm not going to take you through all of it,
20 just a few salient bits. We can see that it took place
21 in February 1969 before Mr Justice Hines at
22 the Central Criminal Court, the principal charge under
23 number 1, "Inciting to riot" do you see that?

24 A. I do, yes.

25 Q. If we can go down, please.

1 Something about representation at the bottom of
2 the page. We can see that --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- Mr X was convicted on counts 1 and 2 and sentenced to
5 a total of two years imprisonment.

6 Next page, please <MPS-0739150/2>.

7 We can see at the second paragraph there the brief
8 description of the facts. Mr X was alleged to have been
9 distributing a leaflet entitled, "The potential of
10 a militant demonstration". This is at the meeting at
11 which you were present.

12 Pausing there, do you have no independent
13 recollection today --

14 A. I'm sorry, I really don't.

15 Q. -- of -- let me just -- can I just finish the question
16 -- (overspeaking) -- no recollection today of
17 Helen Crampton obtaining a leaflet at this meeting and
18 saying, "Look at this", showing you the leaflet for
19 example and saying, "Look at what this leaflet says", or
20 handing that leaflet to Conrad Dixon, or discussing it
21 at any meetings? None of this triggers anything?

22 A. None of it triggers anything at all, I'm sorry. Nothing
23 triggers -- it triggers nothing.

24 Q. -- (overspeaking) --.

25 A. -- (overspeaking) --

1 Q. (inaudible) Ms Hillier given we are discussing events
2 that took place 50 years ago on most other matters you
3 have an astonishingly good memory of events which is why
4 I'm hoping that showing you these documents might
5 trigger a recollection.

6 A. I don't remember the document and I certainly don't
7 remember the trial, and it was -- it was 6 January -- it
8 was early '69. I do not remember, I'm sorry.

9 Q. You don't remember Helen Crampton ever telling you about
10 this?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Thank you.

13 Sir, I think that's all I can sensibly ask to this
14 topic. Thank you very much.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I was muted.

16 There is another application by Ms Brander. I have
17 it deal with that first and then there may be some other
18 questions of you from your own counsel but we'll be
19 finished by 1.

20 A. Thank you, sir.

21 MS PURSER: Sir, whilst -- I'm sorry to interrupt you, but
22 whilst we're unable to open break-out rooms whilst
23 the hearing room is open, would it be sensible to ask
24 the witness to physically leave the room that she is in?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: No, there's no need to do that.

1 MS BRANDER: Sir, I've been able to unmute myself -- now I'm
2 able to start the video, perhaps. There we are. Can
3 you see and hear me, sir?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I can see and hear you. I hope you can see
5 and what are me. I'm relieved to discover that others
6 are also troubled by the technology.

7 MS BRANDER: Yes, it's a learning experience, sir.

8 In light of your earlier indication and in view of
9 the fact that unlike Mr Menon there are not areas with
10 respect to this witness that have been omitted to any
11 significant degree by Mr Warner I'm not pursuing my
12 application in respect of this witness.

13 However, sir, I do make this application perhaps for
14 a hearing if at all possible next week -- and I know
15 we're not sitting on Tuesday and we have a late start on
16 Wednesday -- at which we could address you, sir, in
17 relation to the scope of questioning for witnesses,
18 because, as you know, sir, under rule 10.4 there is
19 a right for recognised legal representatives of
20 core participants to apply to you for permission to ask
21 questions of a witness, and it is a matter that
22 the non-state core participants who I represent as
23 a cooperating group feel very strongly about.

24 As you know, they're extremely keen to participate
25 in this Inquiry. They don't wish to disrupt or derail

1 it, but they do wish to assist you in getting to
2 the truth. And with respect, sir, there are issues on
3 which I give the example of the women in relationships
4 that they feel that they have matters that they can
5 contribute by way of questioning that they would ask to
6 be put to the witnesses and I have obviously been
7 submitting rule 10 questions to the Inquiry and I'm
8 grateful to Counsel to the Inquiry for getting back to
9 me. However, I would seek an opportunity to address you
10 more fully than now -- I don't want to detain this
11 witness making a full submission at this stage, but that
12 if time could be set aside where those who wish to
13 address on you this can do so as to agreeing perhaps,
14 subject to your decision, obviously, sir, a process by
15 which there is a little more scope for core participants
16 to feed in in relation to questioning.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms Brander, you rightly say that Tuesday is
18 a day when we were going to receive evidence but are not
19 now going to. It takes quite a bit of setting up to
20 make arrangements to have a hearing of any sort and it
21 may be that that would not be possible on Tuesday. We
22 have two further opening statements to receive from Dave
23 Smith and Helen Steel and discussions I know are going
24 on behind the scenes about when their opening statements
25 may be fitted in.

1 Would you leave your request with me, please?

2 I will discuss it with my team and they will communicate
3 with you when we have reflect upon your application.

4 MS BRANDER: I'm grateful, sir. And if it is possible to
5 have -- I appreciate the difficulties, but if it is
6 possible to have a hearing, obviously it would be
7 beneficial if we could do it sooner rather than later so
8 that if you are with us, it can be heard before there
9 are too many more witnesses.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think Monday is a fairly full day and
11 there will not be time to do it on Monday. But please
12 leave it with me. I will see that your application is
13 considered and reflected upon within our team and we
14 will then revert to you.

15 MS BRANDER: I'm grateful, sir, thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 Mr Sanders, do you have any questions arising out of
18 what has been asked today in what I think traditionally
19 is called re-examination?

20 MR SANDERS: On one matter only, sir. So it should not take
21 long.

22 Ms Hillier, can you see and hear me?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: The answer appears to be no.

24 Can you hear Mr Sanders? He's rather quietly
25 spoken?

- 1 A. I can hear you, sir, but nobody else, sorry.
- 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Right, Mr Sanders I'm afraid you're going to
3 have to speak up. You're not muted I know that because
4 I could just about hear you but you're going to have to
5 speak up louder than you usually do.
- 6 MR SANDERS: I'll try to. I've pulled the iMac closer to
7 me. Is that better, Ms Hillier.
- 8 A. Yes, that's better, thank you.
- 9 Q. Sorry about that.
- 10 I just wanted to take you back to one document that
11 you were asked about, and if we could have it on
12 the screen. It's reference <MPS-0722098>. I'll just
13 wait for that to come on the screen. And particularly
14 within that it's page 186 <MPS-0722098/186>.
- 15 You've already said Ms Hillier that you didn't
16 attend any meetings of the Highgate Holloway VSC; that's
17 right, isn't it?
- 18 A. That is right, yes.
- 19 Q. And looking at this report, can I just ask you to
20 comment on a couple of matters. The top right-hand
21 corner, do you see a number there "40A"?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Do you recall what those numbers would mean, why they
24 were added?
- 25 A. I think it was the page number.

1 Q. Of the file itself?

2 A. From the file itself.

3 No, the file is a general file, so it -- it probably
4 take anything relating to the VSC and I can only think
5 that 40A-- would -- they had give it the page number.
6 The first document to go in would be 1A and so forth
7 until the document was filled.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 A. So to find that one in future to a general file which
10 was a 400/68/161 which was a general file and folio
11 40A would be the page number.

12 Q. Thank you very much.

13 And just looking at this document, which is in your
14 name, you'll see that it seems to be picking out
15 addresses and whether there's a file reference for
16 individuals, so we see:

17 "[privacy] has been identified as [privacy] correct
18 address [privacy] no trace SB records."

19 So that would be taking a name, finding out who it
20 is, where they live and whether there's a Special Branch
21 file?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And just looking at the first paragraph, it says:

24 "With reference to report of 6th August, 1968, on
25 400/68/161 (37A) ..."

1 So 400/68/161 would be this file; is that correct?

2 A. That would be that file. So you turn back three pages
3 and you'll find the page number.

4 Q. You'll find 37A.

5 If we could just go to that. It's at 173 of this
6 file <MPS-0722098/173>. If we could have that on
7 the screen.

8 So you'll see there in the top right-hand
9 corner "37A"?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. "Temporary minute sheet responsible placed on
12 400/68/161" and says that there's an attachment, which
13 is the appendix, and then it lists who's going to see
14 this.

15 Then if we look down -- scroll to the next page to
16 see the appendix <MPS-0722098/174> you'll see it's been
17 removed:

18 "Information from a sensitive source. Details of
19 persons attending a VSC branch meeting."

20 Given the cross-reference to 37A in the report we
21 were just looking at, do you think that you were asked
22 to find out -- to make Special Branch enquiries in
23 relation to the individuals at the meeting who are in
24 this redacted document?

25 A. I wouldn't think so. I think it was just given to me to

1 type, frankly.

2 Q. So someone else would have done that and then you would
3 have typed it up?

4 A. Somebody else would have done all that and I just typed
5 it.

6 MR SANDERS: Thank you. It was just to clarify that point.

7 Sir, if I could just give you for your reference,
8 it's paragraph 29 of Ms Hillier's first witness
9 statement where she -- she talks about the document she
10 was asked about.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Does that conclude your
12 questions?

13 MR SANDERS: That's it. Nothing else. Thank you very much,
14 sir.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 Ms Hillier, thank you very much for your evidence
17 and your assistance. I have no reason to think that
18 the Inquiry will trouble you again, but if we do, please
19 bear with us.

20 A. Thank you, sir.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

22 We will now adjourn until 2 o'clock.

23 MS PURSER: Thank you, everyone. That concludes this
24 morning's session. We will be back at 2 pm this
25 afternoon.

1 (12.54 pm)

2 (The short adjournment)

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