

1 Wednesday, 18 November 2020

2 (12.00 pm)

3 MS PURSER: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to
4 Tranche 1, Phase 1 of the Undercover Policing Inquiry.
5 Unfortunately, our opening statement for this morning
6 has been delayed. However, we will resume at 2 pm where
7 we will hear evidence from one of our witnesses.

8 Thank you very much for your patience. We'll be
9 back at 2.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: May I just confirm that. Helen Steel was
11 going to make her opening statement but is not at
12 present able to do it. Accordingly, we'll put that back
13 until an unknown date in the future.

14 We will resume at 2.

15 MS PURSER: Thank you very much, everyone. You may now move
16 into your break-out rooms.

17 (12.00 pm)

18 (The short adjournment)

19 (2.00 pm)

20 MS PURSER: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to
21 the afternoon session of today's hearings. For those of
22 you in the virtual hearing room, can I remind you to
23 please switch off both your camera and microphone unless
24 you are invited to speak by the Chairman.

25 I will now hand over to our Chairman,

1 Sir John Mitting, to continue proceedings.

2 Chairman.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 Good afternoon. As at the beginning of every
5 evidential session, a recording made earlier by me is
6 going to be played. Would those listening to it for
7 the first time please listen carefully.

8 "I am conducting this Inquiry under a statute,
9 the Inquiries Act 2005, which gives me the power to make
10 orders regulating the conduct of the Inquiry, including
11 its hearings. In the exercise of that power, I have
12 made a number of orders which affect what you may and
13 may not do in the hearing rooms and after you leave
14 them. Breach of any of the orders is a serious matter
15 and may have serious consequences for you.

16 "If I am satisfied that a person may have breached
17 an order, I have the power to certify the matter to
18 the High Court, which will investigate and deal with it
19 as if it had been a contempt of that court. If
20 satisfied that a breach has occurred and merits
21 the imposition of a penalty, the High Court may impose
22 a severe sanction on the person in breach, including
23 a fine, imprisonment for up to two years and
24 sequestration of their assets.

25 "Evidence is going to be given live over screens in

1 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
2 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
3 record what is said by a witness or anyone else in
4 the hearing rooms. You may bring your mobile telephone
5 into the hearing rooms, but you may not use it for any
6 of those purposes. You may use it silently for any
7 other purpose. In particular, you may transmit your
8 account of what you have seen and heard in a hearing
9 room to any other person, but only once at least ten
10 minutes have elapsed since the event which you are
11 describing took place.

12 "This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
13 the Inquiry, I have made orders prohibiting the public
14 disclosure of information, for example about
15 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.
16 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
17 whether by accident or design, information which I have
18 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
19 be disclosed in a hearing.

20 "If and when that happens, I will immediately
21 suspend the hearing and make an order prohibiting
22 further disclosure of the information outside
23 the hearing rooms. The consequence will be that no
24 further disclosure of that information may be made by
25 mobile telephone or other portable electronic device

1 from within the hearing room, or by any means outside
2 it.

3 "I am sorry if you find this message alarming; it is
4 not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
5 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
6 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
7 the truth about undercover policing. You, as members of
8 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
9 evidence as I will hear and to reach your own
10 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
11 best to ensure that you can. If you have any doubt
12 about the terms of this message, or what you may or may
13 not do, you should not hesitate to ask one of them and,
14 with my help, if necessary, they will provide you with
15 the answer."

16 May witness HN348 please be sworn or affirmed, at
17 her wish.

18 HN348

19 MS PURSER: Good afternoon, HN348. Can you see and hear me?

20 A. Yes, I can.

21 MS PURSER: Thank you. I understand that you would like to
22 swear on the Bible?

23 A. That's correct.

24 (Witness sworn)

25 MS PURSER: Thank you very much.

1 Chairman.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there anyone else in the room
3 with you?

4 A. No.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Ms Wilkinson?

7 Questions by MS WILKINSON

8 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, sir.

9 HN348, you made a statement for the Inquiry which is
10 dated 14 October 2019. Have you had a chance to read
11 and check that statement?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. And is it true to the best of your knowledge and belief?

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 Q. As far as your cover name was concerned, you recall
16 using the name "Sandra"; that's right, isn't it?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. And by a process of elimination, having looked now at
19 a number of the reports, given that there were no other
20 Sandras that you recall attending the groups, you think
21 it's possible that you used the name "Sandra Davis" when
22 you attended the meetings?

23 A. That's possible, but I can't remember it.

24 Q. Well, we'll look a little bit later at the reports.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. On the topic of names on the reports, at the bottom of
2 the reports -- and we'll be looking at some today -- we
3 often see the signatures of a chief inspector and
4 a chief superintendent; and although we see your real
5 name appearing as a cipher in the reports as we look at
6 them today, your real name is typed underneath with your
7 rank of "WDC" next to it, isn't it?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. It might be obvious, but can you confirm why your name
10 appears at the bottom of these reports?

11 A. Is it because I've written them?

12 Q. That, on the face of it, seems to make sense. Is that
13 correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. 348. Thank you.

16 Did you actually type them yourself?

17 A. No, I didn't.

18 Q. How did you supply the information?

19 A. In the form of a written report.

20 Q. And where did you write your reports?

21 A. At our cover house.

22 Q. Is that one of the two safe houses you referred to in
23 your statement?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. How often did you write your reports?

- 1 A. Each event that I attended was then followed by
2 a report.
- 3 Q. Sometimes we see -- and if you'd like to see an example
4 on the screen we can pull one up. But sometimes we see
5 a difference in dates, between the date of the report
6 and the event, of something like a matter of days, three
7 or four days. Would you be writing the notes on
8 the date of the report or at some point in between
9 the event and the date on the report?
- 10 A. I might well have written some notes on the day then
11 followed it up with a full report.
- 12 Q. And the full reports were always written in the safe
13 houses. Where would you keep your notes?
- 14 A. I would have kept them on my person.
- 15 Q. What information did you understand you should include
16 in your reports?
- 17 A. The date and time and location of the meeting, who was
18 present, and the main reason and the outcome of
19 the meeting, in essence, yeah.
- 20 Q. Was there anything you understood you should not include
21 in your reports?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. So, in terms of any training or experience you'd had of
24 writing the sorts of reports that you were writing when
25 you were in the Special Demonstration Squad or the SDS,

1 had you had any previous experience of writing those
2 kinds of reports?

3 A. No. No, not as such.

4 Q. Were you given any specific guidance about what it was
5 that Special Branch, who received your reports, were
6 interested in?

7 A. Yes. The formation of the squad was based on the lack
8 of evidence in the past relating to demonstrations where
9 the police were not prepared for the numbers and
10 the outcome of the demonstrations, particularly what
11 happened in Grosvenor Square back in the 60s. And
12 I think, it's my understanding, that that's why the --
13 the squad was formed, so that the police could be
14 prepared for incidents like this and building up on
15 intelligence so that they could prepare for what might
16 occur.

17 Q. Did that include building up personal information about
18 people that you interacted with?

19 A. Yes, to a degree. Building up a picture of the people
20 that were involved in these various groups for an
21 understanding of, you know, what their motives were
22 really.

23 Q. Can we have a look at, on the screen, report
24 {UCPI0000026387}, please. If you wait there, it will
25 come up on the screen, 348.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Is this an example of a report where you are passing on
3 information solely about an individual that you've come
4 into contact with?

5 If we just scroll down, we can see, underneath,
6 where your cipher is there, and your rank appears at
7 the bottom right. Do you see that, 348?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Thank you.

10 If we just look a little bit further up at
11 the content --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- do you see that it says:

14 "The following information has been received from
15 a reliable source ..."

16 You're the reliable source here, aren't you?

17 A. That's correct, yeah.

18 Q. "[privacy] ..."

19 And on the face of it a name appears underneath
20 that:

21 "... of the Women's Liberation Front and the North
22 London Alliance in Defence of Workers' Rights left this
23 country on 14.8.71 en route for a holiday in Albania.
24 She apparently travelled by sea/coach, although her
25 route was not known.

1 "On her return she plans to cease her present
2 employment and intends working for [privacy] in a
3 bookshop he hopes to open in the Portobello Road
4 shortly."

5 And you submit that with a copy of the photograph of
6 the person during an Indian Workers Association
7 demonstration, and confirm it's a good likeness of her.

8 Why did you understand it necessary to provide that
9 sort of personal information about that character to
10 the Special Branch?

11 A. I think it's to do with the link with the -- with
12 the bookshop in -- in North London and the links with
13 other extreme groups associated with that bookshop and
14 other groups, as far as I can remember. I -- I think
15 that's why that might have been relevant.

16 Q. Are you suggesting that the groups that you've listed in
17 this report are extreme in their nature, or are you
18 suggesting that other groups that attended the bookshop
19 might have been extreme?

20 A. I think, because of the way that the members of this
21 Women's Liberation Front were expressing themselves and
22 their links, more information was required to see
23 the relevance of them.

24 Q. So that's a -- that's a report about an individual --
25 a particular individual; and there are other examples of

1 that sort of reporting.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. But having looked at your report, would you agree that
4 by far the majority of the reporting that you provided
5 was in relation to your attending at regular meetings in
6 people's homes, actually?

7 A. Yes, that and at public meetings.

8 Q. Yes, some public meetings, but we'll look in a little
9 bit more detail about -- the sort of regular weekly
10 meeting, I think, was set up in a couple of homes; and
11 we'll look at that in a little bit more detail.

12 A. Right.

13 Q. But when you were attending meetings in people's homes,
14 just concentrating on what you were reporting back -- we
15 can take this example down from the screen now, please.
16 Thank you.

17 Concentrating on what you understood you needed to
18 report back, were you ever given guidance about
19 the balance of the private information that should
20 appear in your reports and what was actually needed by
21 Special Branch for effective policing?

22 A. I think there's so much of an overlap between
23 the personal behaviour and the behaviour that they were
24 involved in, it's difficult to separate one from
25 the other, really.

1 Q. But were you given guidance, when you began attending at
2 people's home addresses for meetings within their
3 kitchen or somewhere else in their home, were you given
4 guidance by anybody as to how you should approach what
5 you should and shouldn't report about what you saw and
6 heard in their homes?

7 A. What I do remember being told was that I was there as an
8 observer not as a participant, and that I was told
9 about "agent provocateur", that I should avoid that
10 short of involvement. I was just recording what was
11 said and planned at these meetings.

12 Q. Beyond that, on the face of what you're saying, you
13 received no guidance about whether, if you picked up
14 some private or personal information about what was
15 going on in the home, whether you should include that in
16 your reports?

17 A. Not as such, because if I'm writing a report, my senior
18 officer would be there with me reading it, and probably
19 would have told me at the time, "Well, that's not
20 necessary; that's not what we want." So I'm writing
21 the report and giving it to him. And at that point,
22 you know, he would accept it and say, "Well" -- you know
23 -- "continue doing what you're doing."

24 Q. And when that report had been written -- handwritten by
25 you and given to your superior --

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. -- did you then see what happened next? How did it come
3 to be a typed report, with editing or not from your
4 superior?
- 5 A. I don't know where it went. It was handed to my senior
6 officer, who then dealt with it. I don't know who typed
7 it, or what happened to it.
- 8 Q. And when he -- do you recall any occasions when what you
9 had handwritten in a report was pointed out to be
10 irrelevant by one of your superiors?
- 11 A. I can't -- I can't recall. I can't remember.
- 12 Q. Do you recall an occasion when any of your superiors
13 said, "Don't include this amount of detail," or, "Don't
14 -- please don't feed back this sort of information"?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Where did you understand your intelligence was
17 ultimately sent on to?
- 18 A. I assumed it went to senior police officers and possibly
19 the security services.
- 20 Q. Did you know at the time it was being sent to
21 the Security Service?
- 22 A. No, I don't think I really thought about that at the
23 time, no.
- 24 Q. Is that something that you've picked up from reading
25 the material during this Inquiry?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. Could we just have a look at {UCPI0000014736}, please.

3 If we just scroll down to the bottom and confirm that

4 this is your identity. Thank you, there's 348,

5 your cipher, and your rank appearing there.

6 If we just scroll back up again.

7 Can we see there this is a report dated

8 2 February 1973. It's actually quite close, I think,

9 towards the end of your deployment, 348. But this is

10 a letter, or it refers to a letter from Box 500. Did

11 you know that at the time to be the shorthand for

12 the security services?

13 A. No, I don't think I did. I might have done. I can't

14 remember.

15 Q. This is:

16 "Box 500 letter [blank] of 15.1.73 ..."

17 That's being referred to. And the report says:

18 "... refers to recent correspondence concerning

19 the move of [privacy] and [privacy] asks whether

20 the London Alliance in Defence of Workers' Rights has

21 also changed its address and if the [privacy] have a

22 telephone at their new address."

23 So on the face of it, this is a question that's

24 being raised by the Security Services; they want to find

25 some information out about a change of address and

1 a telephone. Do you see that, 348?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And then at paragraph 2 of the report:

4 "The following information has now been received
5 from a reliable source."

6 And then at paragraph 3, do we see the -- can we
7 just scroll a little bit further down, please -- that
8 you are able to report back:

9 "'Although [privacy] are now living at [privacy]
10 they are still using their former address [privacy]
11 for ..."

12 And that's the initials of that London Alliance
13 group:

14 "... and Revolutionary Women's Union purposes.
15 Their new address is supposed to be "a secret" and they
16 have said they have no intention of holding political
17 meetings there until they are 'well-established'."

18 "There is no telephone at [privacy] and the number
19 [privacy] remains printed on all correspondence.

20 "[privacy] are the subject of [privacy]."

21 So, on the face of it, intelligence you have
22 gathered has been specifically used to answer questions
23 there that the Security Service raise.

24 Do you recall being tasked specifically at the time
25 to answer questions that have been raised by

1 the Security Service?

2 A. No, I -- I don't recall that at all.

3 Q. And is that an example of a report typed up afterwards

4 based on information from you which appears to be in

5 quotations in the middle?

6 A. That's how it seems.

7 Q. I'll ask this question in case you're able to help us

8 with it. Do you know what the notation "copy to dummy

9 file" means? Does that help -- does that mean anything

10 to you at all?

11 A. No, I don't know what that means.

12 Q. Can I move on now -- and we can take this report off

13 the screen, please -- to your selection and training,

14 please.

15 Had you been security vetted before you joined

16 the police force?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you joined the police service and had several years'

19 experience, some in another force and some in

20 the Metropolitan Police Service, before joining

21 Special Branch in January 1971; is that right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. From that joining in January '71, you were then

24 recruited very quickly to the SDS, and we'll see your

25 early reports are as soon as 17 February 1971. Does

- 1 that time frame sound right to you?
- 2 A. Yeah, that seems right, yeah.
- 3 Q. Had you done any undercover policing or work using
- 4 a cover identity before joining the Special
- 5 Demonstration Squad?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. How were you selected to join Special Branch?
- 8 A. I was invited to apply.
- 9 Q. Was there a procedure that you had to undergo?
- 10 A. Yes. I had to sit a written examination, and I had
- 11 several interviews.
- 12 Q. And as far as training once you had been offered
- 13 the role in Special Branch, was there any training
- 14 before -- once you secured your place?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Was it as short as three or four weeks between joining
- 17 Special Branch and ultimately being recruited to join
- 18 the Special Demonstration Squad?
- 19 A. I think it was more than weeks, but it was definitely --
- 20 perhaps months. I can't remember. It was -- it was
- 21 quite a short period of time, but it might have been
- 22 just a few months, I think.
- 23 Q. What had you hoped to do in Special Branch when you
- 24 applied to join them?
- 25 A. At the time, I was considering the police force as my

1 long-term career; and I saw it as a way of expanding my
2 experience, really; because I was due to take my
3 Sergeant's exam, and I thought the experience in
4 the branch would, you know, extend my knowledge and give
5 me better grounding for further development.

6 Q. And presumably, with that in mind, when you were spoken
7 to, as we understand, by Peter Imbert, who later became
8 the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police Service,
9 and he explained there was this opportunity to work at
10 the Special Demonstration Squad, did that -- did that
11 fit with your aspirations?

12 A. Yes, I think so. I mean, I don't really think I quite
13 understood what I was getting into at the time; but
14 I thought it was, again, a part of my career
15 development; because at the time, the way that
16 the police service operated was as one got promoted,
17 you know, once you'd taken exams, etc, then you would be
18 promoted and transferred perhaps to another department.
19 They moved police officers around a lot more; they don't
20 leave them into one place these days. Yeah, so that was
21 kind of part and parcel of it, I think. That was my
22 thinking at the time.

23 Q. How did you -- how did it happen that he came to speak
24 to you?

25 A. I've got no idea. Perhaps they were just looking for

1 a woman. And, you know, women in those days, there
2 weren't that many of us --

3 Q. Had you --

4 A. Perhaps there was nobody else.

5 Q. Had you heard -- had you heard about the Special
6 Demonstration Squad before?

7 A. No, I didn't know about it.

8 Q. Or special duties section I think at one stage; the SDS
9 in any event. You hadn't heard about it.

10 Did Peter Imbert explain that it was a secret unit?

11 A. He said it was undercover, to collate and disseminate
12 information about anti-social behaviour, I think. That
13 was the essence of it, yeah.

14 Q. And did you understand -- I think you helped us with
15 this a little earlier -- that it had been set up because
16 the police had felt that they hadn't been prepared
17 enough for the demonstrations in the past?

18 A. That's right -- well, they were really inadequately
19 prepared for the Grosvenor Square, you know, for an
20 example -- that particular demonstration.

21 Q. What did he explain your role would be as an
22 undercover officer?

23 A. I don't think he explained the role as such. As I said,
24 you know, he talked about "agent provocateur" and not
25 getting too deeply involved, to be more of a bystander,

1 an observer; and to report back, you know, with any
2 intelligence relating to public order.

3 Q. Using the term "agent provocateur", what did you
4 understand that to mean?

5 A. Well, to get very involved, I suppose, or to be
6 provocative and to promote, you know, the wrong sort of
7 behaviour then.

8 Q. And what was the wrong sort of behaviour?

9 A. Well, violent behaviour, anything that was aimed at
10 undermining our democracy. Yeah, I think not getting
11 too involved, I think, is -- is what he meant.

12 Q. Did he at that stage -- and we will just -- we'll look
13 at the annual report which deals with the fact that your
14 entry to the unit doubled the number of female officers
15 in the unit and what that meant for the unit. But did
16 he explain at the time, when he was talking to you, that
17 he envisaged that you would be deployed into
18 the Women's Liberation Movement?

19 A. No, he didn't specify any of that at the -- at that
20 meeting I had with him.

21 Q. Let's just look, then, at that record of your entry to
22 the -- to the unit and what it meant for them. If we
23 pull up {MPS-0728971}, please, and we'll go to page 5,
24 {MPS-0728971/5}. Thank you.

25 Paragraph 9, right there for us in the middle of

1 the screen, appears to refer to your entry into the unit
2 because it says:

3 "The arrival of a second woman officer has added
4 considerably to the Squad's flexibility, and has proved
5 invaluable in the comparatively recent field of 'Women's
6 Liberation'."

7 Did you understand that there was already a lady
8 officer in the unit by the name of Jill Mosdell when you
9 joined?

10 A. I didn't know at the time, but I did get to know Jill
11 once I started work there, yes.

12 Q. You can take that down now. Thank you.

13 How long did you understand your deployment would
14 last for?

15 A. I didn't know.

16 Q. Was any expression mentioned to you that it would -- it
17 should not last any longer than a year?

18 A. No, that wasn't -- that wasn't laid down to me at all,
19 no.

20 Q. Did anyone discuss with you the impact it might have on
21 your home life?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did anyone make a home visit to meet you, or -- I think
24 ultimately you were married during the course of your
25 deployment -- to meet you or your husband in due course?

1 A. You mean any senior officer?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. No.

4 Q. The other female detective constable was Jill Mosdell,
5 wasn't it, in the unit with you at the time?

6 A. That's right, yes.

7 Q. She was deployed, I think, into a different field?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 Q. I think we'll hear that her area was
10 the Stop the Seventy Tour and the Anti-Apartheid
11 Movement. And she was in the movement from 1970 to
12 1973; so very much overlapping with your time frame,
13 1971 to 1973?

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. Did she become a good friend?

16 A. She did.

17 Q. And did she offer her view or any knowledge that she'd
18 picked up about how long deployments should last for?

19 A. I don't think we ever discussed that, no.

20 Q. The cover identity or legend that you used was that you
21 portrayed yourself as a student at the Goldsmiths
22 College; is that right?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And you had a cover address in a house share in
25 Paddington, and you chose to wear no make up and took

1 off your wedding and engagement rings. What -- what
2 training had you had to prompt you to do -- to take
3 those sorts of steps and to have that sort of back story
4 in place?

5 A. I didn't have any formal training. I might have been
6 advised to remove my -- my rings. And my style of dress
7 was just very simple, no particular style. I think
8 I describe it as "worn and washed" in my statement.

9 Q. Yes. When you say you were "advised", did that take
10 the form of a meeting in the police offices and
11 information shared with you, or was there something in
12 writing that helped you to understand that you would
13 have this identity and address?

14 A. As far as I recall, it was not in writing. It would
15 have been in conversation with the senior officers at
16 the time.

17 Q. Did you visit the address in Paddington?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How frequently, do you think?

20 A. I think I'd call in there perhaps once a week. I can't
21 remember exactly. Dropped in there periodically.

22 Q. And was this a bedroom in a big house?

23 A. That's right, yes. Just one room.

24 Q. Can you remember how many other people were in
25 the house?

1 A. No. It was a big house. I never got to know any of
2 the other people in the house. There was a lot of toing
3 and froing. It was sort of -- yeah, no, I -- I never
4 got to know anybody there. In fact, I think that
5 whenever I went there, there was never anybody there --
6 or that I ran into at least.

7 Q. To the extent that you ever had to introduce yourself to
8 anybody, was it that you were prepared to give a name to
9 those people, the same name that you were giving to your
10 -- to the group you were infiltrating?

11 A. I would have thought so, if that had been necessary, but
12 I don't think I ever did.

13 Q. We see that you first -- and again, we'll come on to
14 looking at the reports in due course, to the extent we
15 need to. But do you recall that you first attended
16 a public meeting in a public house where
17 the Women's Liberation Front were having a meeting, and
18 then moved into, by invitation, smaller meetings at
19 people's homes?

20 A. Yes. No, I can't remember exactly the sequence of that,
21 but the first meeting that I would have attended would
22 have been a big public meeting under the umbrella of
23 the Women's Liberation Movement. And within that
24 meeting there were all sorts of different groups, each
25 with varying philosophies. And it would have been

1 probably during that public meeting that I would have
2 been approached by this -- this group and invited, then,
3 to one of their meetings.

4 Q. And you recall it that way round, do you, that you were
5 approached by them, rather than you approaching?

6 A. Yes. Yeah, yeah.

7 Q. How many -- how many people were at these meetings,
8 these big meetings?

9 A. Well, at some of the big meetings, there were hundreds
10 of women there, from all different walks of life and
11 representing different groups, different bodies. There
12 was usually a public platform at the big public
13 meetings. And then the various groups, you know, would
14 be invited to comment or ask questions. And they would
15 ask it in a way that would -- putting forward their
16 philosophies, really. I always thought they were using
17 the movement -- the wider movement as a way of
18 expressing their own particular views.

19 Q. And how -- how did it happen that these groups within --
20 that had all attended such a large public meeting --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- would come to approach a lone woman attending, like
23 you?

24 A. Well, I think they had different stands with leaflets.
25 They were doing a lot of leafletting. And they were

1 handing out the leaflets. And probably that would have
2 triggered a conversation to the effect that, you know,
3 if I was interested in, you know, women's issues, would
4 like to come to this meeting, and "literature about our
5 group". Along those lines, in any case. The different
6 political factions.

7 Q. Who told you that that was the way to start infiltrating
8 a group?

9 A. Nobody told me. I would just attend a meeting, report
10 back, tell my superior officer at the time, "I've been
11 given this leaflet, I've been invited to this meeting,
12 what do you think?", and, you know, at their direction,
13 on their advice, I would go to that meeting, or not.

14 Q. Was that pattern repeated after every meeting, so that
15 you would have prior authority, effectively, to go?

16 A. Yes, yeah. Before I would go to any of these meetings,
17 I would discuss it with my -- my senior officer at the
18 time, yeah.

19 Q. Now, HN45 --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- was somebody who was deployed into a similar field.

22 If we have a look at a report of his that
23 chronologically may have triggered the beginning of your
24 deployment, it may help. If we look at HN-- sorry,
25 forgive me {UCPI0000010567}, please.

1 It will come up on the screen for you.

2 A. Oh, okay, right.

3 Q. Don't worry. I know that you have a bundle of hard
4 copy, but we'll look on the screen.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. This is a report dated 22 January, and we see at
7 paragraph 3 that -- well, we'll start at the top.

8 This is a meeting that has been -- that is being
9 recorded by a reliable source, in this instance HN45.
10 So not you, but your colleague HN45. Did you know him
11 well?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. Did you know him before joining the SDS?

14 A. No.

15 Q. So, given this is January 1971, this is still quite
16 early --

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. -- in -- in terms of your exposure.

19 He records that:

20 "'On Wednesday 20 January 1971 ..."

21 At an address there in north-west London, there was:

22 "... a meeting of the Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist
23 League ..."

24 And it:

25 "... was held from 7 pm to 10.30 pm. The chairman

1 was Abhimanya Manchanda and fourteen persons were
2 present."

3 And he goes on to say that:

4 "The object of the meeting was to plan ..."

5 And there's the shorthand for the group:

6 "... activities for 1971, including
7 the Women's Liberation Front, British
8 Vietnam Solidarity Front and Friends of China."

9 If we scroll down a little further on the screen,
10 please. At paragraph 5, do we see there that there is
11 reference to:

12 "The Women's Liberation Front hoped to extend its
13 activities in the same sphere. Two new branches had
14 been formed, one in South London and another in North
15 London, which was in the Palmers Green area and would be
16 run by [privacy] and [privacy] [privacy]. This location
17 has been carefully chosen so as to be close to a factory
18 of the Metal Box Co, on the North Circular Road which
19 employed a large number of women. [privacy] said she
20 would end her present employment in order to take
21 employment with the Metal Box Co."

22 HN45 -- we can just scroll down to the bottom to
23 confirm that's who wrote this report, please -- perhaps
24 we don't need to. But HN45 was -- thank you very much,
25 there we are -- was somebody who was familiar with

1 the politics in that area -- in this particular area; is
2 that right?

3 A. Yes, yes, he was.

4 Q. And did he give you a presentation about the relevant
5 politics that were involved in the Women's Liberation
6 Front?

7 A. Yes, he did.

8 Q. What was that presentation about?

9 A. It was mainly to do with the Maoist movement.

10 Q. And what did he explain there of the Maoist movement and
11 perhaps the thinking behind the name -- the man -- or
12 the principles enunciated by Mr Manchanda; what did you
13 understand those to be about?

14 A. Well, I can't remember one word of that presentation but
15 it was really a group that was opposed to our form of
16 democracy. But I can't remember the details of any of
17 the Maoist policies.

18 Q. Were you familiar with the identity Chairman Mao?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And had he -- did he have some quite extreme views to
21 express about how you go about changing democracy or
22 government if you disagree with it?

23 A. I think so, yes. I think that was -- that was
24 the reasoning behind, you know, this -- these groups
25 being looked at more closely.

1 Q. Did you ever -- apart from that presentation, were you
2 ever given any other advice about how to conduct
3 yourself in these meetings, or about the background
4 political situation?

5 A. Well, apart from keeping a low profile, no, not really.

6 Q. Did you ever ask for access to any Special Branch files
7 on anyone during your deployment for researching, or for
8 any other reason?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Were you ever given guidance on the definition of
11 the term "subversion"?

12 A. No.

13 Q. What about the definition of the term "extremism"?

14 A. Well, I think we all understood that these groups were
15 working against our form of democracy.

16 Q. How did you understand that they were carrying out that
17 "work against"? What in your mind was extremism?

18 A. Well, I think that's what we were looking at. That was
19 the purpose of our job, to see whether or not they were
20 going to take direct action, or whether it was just
21 words.

22 Q. And do I understand from that distinction in your mind
23 that direct action was a problem but just words weren't?

24 A. Well, in our society, you know, we were entitled to our
25 opinions, you know? We can say what we like,

1 basically -- well, no, we can't say exactly what we
2 like, of course. But we've got Speakers' Corner, where
3 people do stand up. And as long as they're -- just
4 don't go too far, they can express their views.

5 Q. You were -- again, just looking at the guidance and
6 the sort of understanding of the remit that you had
7 before you started your deployment, you were spoken to
8 about the extent to which you could participate in
9 crime, and I think you -- this is where you referenced
10 the phrase "agent provocateur".

11 Could we just bring up your statement to see
12 a particular expression you use at paragraph 18.
13 The reference for the screen is MPS -- and we'll bring
14 it up for you, 348 -- {MPS-0741698}.

15 We need page 8, please. {MPS-0741698/8}.

16 This is a question you were asked in your statement
17 about a Home Office circular, entitled "Informants who
18 take part in crime". And in this question of your
19 statement you were asked whether you had seen it. And
20 you explain that you don't recall being shown
21 the circular, but you would say you were made aware of
22 the principles. This is where you explain that:

23 "Peter Imbert certainly referred to the term agent
24 provocateur."

25 And it was explained to you as meaning not to be

1 involved in any illegal activities. You go on to say:

2 "Being arrested, going to court and issues of legal
3 privilege were never discussed explicitly. I think
4 the assumption was that we were protected ..."

5 And you go on to say:

6 "... but personally I would never have been involved
7 in any criminal activities."

8 What did you mean by that expression "I think
9 the assumption was that we were protected"?

10 A. I -- I'm not sure what that means.

11 As an individual, I would not get involved in any
12 criminal activities. That's the sort of person I am.
13 As a police officer, that is part of what you are.
14 You're there to uphold the law, not to -- not to break
15 it and get involved in criminal activities, regardless
16 of what role you're playing. And I think that was
17 understood without question, that even as an
18 undercover officer, you're still a police officer,
19 you're still an individual, and that's -- that's not
20 what you do.

21 Q. The document that was being referred to was titled
22 "Informants who take part in crime", and I think was
23 designed to cover a situation where, if you are, for
24 the sake of gathering further information or important
25 intelligence, in a situation where you might have to

1 commit a criminal offence, what might happen then. Does
2 that help with what you were expressing there in terms
3 of your thinking that you would be protected if you had
4 had to get involved in something that you -- that
5 crossed the line into criminality?

6 A. No. As an individual, I would not cross the line.

7 I think, when you talk about "informants" generally in
8 the police service, they do use informants that are
9 involved in criminality for information. But not police
10 officers get involved in criminality.

11 Q. That's then your understanding as it was during your
12 deployment?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Were you aware of the SDS ever using civilian informants
15 anybody other than using undercover police officers?

16 A. I don't know -- I mean, it might have been possible, but
17 not in my experience.

18 Q. What did you understand the rules were about forming
19 close relationships with activists, or being involved in
20 their private lives?

21 A. As I understood it, you know, we were not briefed to get
22 involved closely with these people, that we kept a
23 distance. We were there as observers and to listen,
24 learn and report back on any activities that, as I've
25 already said, public order and aimed at undermining our

- 1 democracy.
- 2 Q. Do I take it from that answer that your understanding
3 was that you shouldn't form such relationships?
- 4 A. Absolutely.
- 5 Q. Did you ever form such a relationship with one of
6 the people that you were -- became involved with or not?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. In your statement -- and we don't need to bring it up if
9 you remember this particular phrase -- you said that you
10 knew sexual relationships were not allowed, although it
11 was never discussed explicitly. How did you know they
12 weren't allowed if it was never discussed explicitly?
- 13 A. I think it was -- it didn't need to be discussed
14 specifically, it was something that didn't happen.
- 15 Q. By that, do I understand your answer to the next
16 question will be a no: were you ever aware of any of
17 your colleagues having intimate or sexual relationships
18 with anyone in their target group?
- 19 A. No. Within the group that I worked with at that time,
20 as far as I am aware -- and I'm -- just I can really say
21 no, that none of them were involved with the --
22 the groups in that way.
- 23 Q. In your statement at paragraph 17, you have said that
24 once you were in the field, "we supported each other as
25 UCOs when we had our meetings". Were these the meetings

1 in the safe houses?

2 A. That's right, yes, yeah.

3 Q. How often did you have these meetings?

4 A. Oh, quite a few times a week. Sometimes, you know,

5 every day -- week day. I can't remember exactly.

6 Q. Were all the deployed officers there at the same time?

7 A. Most of them were most of the time, yeah.

8 Q. How -- (overspeaking) --

9 A. (inaudible) -- within the group that I was working with

10 at the time.

11 Q. Yes. Within the group of the unit, do you mean?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Or within the group of your field of expertise?

14 A. No, within all -- all of the group, although they were

15 with -- working in -- with different groups.

16 Q. Right. So all of the deployed undercover officers from

17 the SDS would meet at the same time?

18 A. Yes, together with the senior officers.

19 Q. And about how many were there, roughly?

20 A. At the time that I was there, I think there were about

21 12 of us, excluding the senior officers.

22 Q. And how long would these meetings last?

23 A. Oh, it varied really. A good part of the day. They're

24 usually during -- during the daytime; and, you know,

25 perhaps from 10 to 4, something like that.

- 1 Q. The figure of 12 included senior officers. About how
2 many senior officers would be there?
- 3 A. There were -- I think it was two superintendents,
4 the chief inspector and two sergeants, but I'm not
5 absolutely sure.
- 6 Q. Were any administrative staff there to type anything up?
- 7 A. No, no.
- 8 Q. And when you were at these meetings and you offered
9 support to each other, help us to understand what you
10 mean by that. What sort of things would you discuss in
11 a way that offered support to each other?
- 12 A. I think we didn't discuss the detail of what we were
13 involved in even with each other. We just, I think,
14 generally talked about perhaps some of the outrageous
15 things that we'd heard, but we didn't go into too much
16 detail of what we were doing. The detail of our
17 meetings was just shared with my senior officer and my
18 written report.
- 19 Q. What sort of outrageous things are you thinking of when
20 you say that?
- 21 A. Well, some of them were quite small groups, and their
22 thoughts of how they would overthrow, you know, our
23 government.
- 24 Q. And these would be reported back by your colleagues as
25 having been heard about the group that they were

1 infiltrating?

2 A. I can't remember the detail of it, to be honest.

3 Q. That's the sort of example you are able to help us with?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Does it -- does it follow from that -- was there no rule
6 against sharing what you had picked up from other
7 people's groups?

8 A. I don't know if you can say "a rule". It's just that we
9 didn't share. That was only shared in our -- our
10 written reports and with our one-to-one with our senior
11 officer.

12 Q. The one-to-one with the senior officer, may I just
13 explore a bit further. Who -- which of the senior
14 officers? You said two detective sergeants, a chief
15 inspector and a superintendent would be there at your
16 meetings?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And this could be every weekday on some occasions -- on
19 some weeks?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Who was the person that you would have your one-on-one
22 with?

23 A. You want me to name his name?

24 Q. Well, no, tell us the rank, actually, please.

25 A. Okay, well, I think at that time he was either

1 superintendent or chief superintendent; but I can't
2 remember, because I think he was promoted.

3 Q. All right.

4 Do you have a cipher key next to you there, 34 --

5 A. Yes. Do you want me to see if I can find it?

6 Q. If you can, yes, please.

7 A. (Pause)

8 Sorry about this.

9 Q. It's all right.

10 I can help with -- I think I can help with a chief
11 inspector name, which I know is a name that I can reveal
12 that does not have a cipher?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Chief Inspector Phil Saunders?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Was it him, or was it one of the others? There was also
17 -- (overspeaking) --

18 A. It was Phil Saunders, yes, yeah.

19 Q. There was also HN294, I think, at the same sort of rank?

20 A. 294 ... 294, yes, he was one of the -- so what rank was
21 he at that time? Yes, 294 was the other senior officer.
22 But in the main, together with the previous -- with
23 Phil Saunders, yeah.

24 Q. And then was there also HN332 in your management
25 structure?

1 A. 332 ... HN332 ... now, I do remember his name, but
2 I don't think he came -- if he did, he didn't come on
3 a regular basis to our -- our safe house, yeah.

4 Q. So Phil Saunders did, 294 did?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was an officer by the surname "Cunningham" at any of
7 those meetings -- (overspeaking) --

8 A. (inaudible).

9 Q. And you would have a one-on-one with either -- with your
10 senior officer, Phil Saunders?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Might that alternate to HN294 some days, or was it
13 always the same senior officer you reported to?

14 A. It was -- it was mainly with Phil Saunders.

15 Q. And did he have a one-to-one with each of the officers
16 in your unit at these meetings?

17 A. Yes, that's right.

18 Q. And how long were you in -- you've referenced a sort of
19 six-hour period that these meetings might last for. How
20 long did you end up speaking to your senior officer for?

21 A. Oh, it could have been half an hour, 20 minutes.

22 Q. And then for the rest of the time, what would you and
23 your colleagues do?

24 A. Well, sometimes we were -- I mentioned the occasion that
25 -- oh gosh -- HN45 gave his presentation about

1 the Maoist; and there might be some other presentations
2 about other political groups, to educate us a little bit
3 more about their philosophies. I can't remember
4 the details. There was usually something like that
5 during the course of the day, then writing our reports
6 up.

7 Q. And had you -- if somebody had been having a difficulty
8 in their deployment, or had found themselves in
9 a compromising situation with an activist, would that
10 have been the sort of environment and the occasion to
11 share it with you or with your other colleagues?

12 A. Yes, I think if somebody really was having a difficult
13 time, they -- I mean, the first instance, they probably
14 would have shared it with Phil Saunders.

15 Q. Were you supervised on a day-to-day basis when you went
16 out to your meetings?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And I think, in fact, at paragraph 17 of your statement,
19 you said you had no back-up and no support, it was just
20 you attending meetings on your own?

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. And I think you went on to explain that sometimes when
23 the meetings finished late and you were travelling home
24 on public transport, it was your husband that used to
25 pick you up?

1 A. That's right, yes.

2 Q. And that was an arrangement you had to make; nothing was
3 arranged through your police unit?

4 A. No, no.

5 Q. Did you ever attend any of the SDS reunion events that
6 ever happened over the years?

7 A. No.

8 Q. When did you first come to learn that some
9 undercover officers working within the SDS had had
10 relationships -- intimate relationships with the people
11 that they'd been targeting?

12 A. Well, it wasn't until I received the telephone call from
13 the Met Police back -- is it over three years ago now --
14 is it three years ago?

15 Q. So in the recent -- in the recent years --

16 A. Yes. They contacted me and -- I didn't know anything
17 about it. And I did find it quite shocking at the time.
18 And then they suggested that I look at -- I think there
19 was a World In Action programme about it all -- some
20 other investigative documentary. And there had been
21 a book written as well by one of the officers, and they
22 suggested that I -- I read that. But I didn't know,
23 you know, truth from lies at that time, what was fiction
24 or any of it.

25 So, yeah, this is what this Inquiry's about, seeing

1 where the truth and the lies begin and end. So, no,
2 I knew nothing about it at all.

3 Q. Looking now at your deployment, moving on from training
4 and guidance that you had received, you were deployed
5 ultimately into the Women's Liberation Movement. And
6 from your earlier answers, does it sound like it was
7 coincidence or your choice ultimately that you collected
8 flyers for the Women's Liberation Front?

9 A. I think I collected quite a lot of literature, not --
10 not just from the -- because there was -- at these
11 meetings there was a lot of literature flying around.
12 So yes, I picked up all sorts. And all of that would
13 have been submitted with my report.

14 Q. Can we look at your statement again. The reference
15 again is {MPS-0741698}, and it will come up on
16 the screen. At page 18, please, {MPS-0741698/18}. I'm
17 going to look at paragraph 42.

18 Just look at the latter part of that paragraph,
19 where -- this is a reference in fact to that part of
20 the annual report we'd looked at, about the fact that
21 your addition to the unit had proved invaluable in
22 the comparatively recent field of Women's Liberation,
23 and you say:

24 "Again, I was not aware that I was specifically
25 recruited for this purpose, but it is possible."

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. "Women's Liberation was viewed as a worrying trend at
3 the time ..."
- 4 Was how you put it.
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. By whom?
- 7 A. By whom? Yeah, that's right. By all sorts of people.
- 8 Q. Who did you mean when you wrote that?
- 9 A. I think it wasn't just the -- the whole -- I think it
10 was factions within the movement that were worrying at
11 the time, not the whole of the Women's Liberation
12 Movement.
- 13 Q. You were a woman in the Metropolitan Police force in
14 1971, and I think you've already alluded to the fact
15 that there weren't many of you?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. On the same document, can we go to page 6, please,
18 {MPS-0741698/6}. Paragraph 11.
- 19 Did you have, as a woman in the Metropolitan Police
20 Service, the same police powers as your male colleagues?
- 21 A. Yes, I did.
- 22 Q. But were you paid the same?
- 23 A. No, we were not.
- 24 Q. How much were you paid?
- 25 A. We were paid 90% of the men's salary.

1 Q. Page 47, please, of the same document, {MPS-0741698/47}.
2 Paragraph 130.

3 You are there recounting an incident which helps
4 give a flavour of the -- of that attitude I think you're
5 alluding to when you talk about the views that were held
6 by certain people. This was an incident when you were
7 a uniformed police officer. And you were here
8 explaining how you were not expected to show weakness.
9 This was a demonstration. We can tell from the timings
10 of other information that this was a demonstration in
11 the London area. Can you recall this from your
12 statement, 348?

13 A. Yes, yeah.

14 Q. And you had been sitting on a police bus operating
15 the radio and other officers were walking outside. You
16 said that:

17 "There must have been a sort of incident for them to
18 have left the bus. We got trapped in a narrow street
19 and detached from the rest of the other police vehicles.
20 The crowds were throwing rocks from skips at the side of
21 the road. They started rocking the bus and trying to
22 set fire to it. I had to pull injured officers off
23 the street and back onto the bus. Eventually we got
24 some support and managed to get away from there. When
25 I got back to the station I was covered in blood. I was

1 really quite frightened but there was no counselling.
2 The men used to say: 'you joined a man's job so get on
3 with it'."

4 Is that a flavour of your experience in the police
5 force as a woman at the time?

6 A. At that time, I think, yes, yes. There were -- I mean,
7 not all policemen, but that was a general feeling,
8 I think, amongst many officers.

9 Q. That incident was a demonstration in the London area.
10 Does that help us tie in a broad time frame for the time
11 period, certainly before 1971 when you were deployed
12 into Special Branch and the SDS, and certainly after
13 the late 60s which we're concerned with. Does that help
14 us tie that time frame down?

15 A. Yes, I think so, yeah.

16 Q. Now, we can take that document down.

17 The main issues that were being campaigned for by
18 the Women's Liberation Movement at the time, according
19 to your statement, were equal pay, free contraception to
20 enable women to choose whether to have children or not,
21 and free nursery provision, to enable women to go to
22 work, and those were issues that you had genuine
23 interest in; is that right?

24 A. Yes, yeah.

25 Q. Was campaigning on those issues considered subversive or

1 unlawful at all?

2 A. No, I don't think -- so, no.

3 Q. So why did you understand that you had been deployed to
4 infiltrate this movement?

5 A. Well, because of the links with other, more extreme
6 groups, where women were involved.

7 Q. Were you given the names of the groups that you -- that
8 were more extreme that you had to look out for?

9 A. I think at the time there was a lot of unrest in many
10 areas, and I think the -- the "Angry Brigade" were
11 mentioned. And there were all sorts of links to Irish
12 extremists, because the Irish situation was very
13 volatile at that -- I think we were all mindful of that
14 as well.

15 Q. Did you in fact see any subversive or disruptive or
16 violent extremist behaviour in the group that you
17 infiltrated?

18 A. No, I didn't.

19 Q. If I just deal with two aspects of your statement on
20 this point and then it may be a convenient moment for
21 a break.

22 Can we have a look at, again the same document
23 again, your statement, {MPS-0741698}, please. Page 9,
24 please, {MPS-0741698/9}. Paragraph 19, third line down:

25 "The activists were not breaking any laws by meeting

1 and demonstrating unless they took a further step and
2 broke the law. The activities the groups I infiltrated
3 were involved in were hosting meetings, leafletting and
4 demonstrations. They were all within the bounds of
5 the law. The political ideology they were promoting did
6 not spill over into what they were doing. They were
7 just very vocal. Of course, the MPS were concerned
8 about whether it would spill over. The Irish situation
9 was very bad at the time and there were links between
10 Ireland and some of the groups we were infiltrating."

11 In the two years you infiltrated the groups that you
12 were reporting on, did you ever see it spill over?

13 A. No. No, not that I can recall. I had no knowledge of
14 it in any case.

15 Q. Page 38 of the same document, please, {MPS-0741698/38}.
16 Paragraph 93:

17 "I did not witness or participate in any public
18 disorder whilst serving with the SDS. I do not even
19 recall going on any marches or demonstrations. I did
20 not witness nor was I involved in any violence."

21 And further down, paragraph 94, third line down:

22 "The WLF ..."

23 The Women's Liberation Front:

24 "... was involved in influencing people's thinking,
25 but I do not know if this could be considered

1 subversive. The WLF was much more talk than action.
2 I was tasked to observe them because Special Branch did
3 not know much about them and wanted to find out what was
4 really happening."

5 Is that the situation of your entire two-year
6 deployment: you were just finding out what was going on?

7 A. Yes. That's -- that's probably right, yes, yeah.

8 MS WILKINSON: If we pause there, sir, if it's a convenient
9 moment for a break, and we'll come back to look at a few
10 example reports after the break.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Indeed it is. Can we resume at 25 to? That
12 will give you just over 15 minutes' break. Is that
13 enough?

14 Sorry, HN348?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: We're having just over a 15-minute break.
17 I wondered whether that was enough for you. You can
18 have longer if you prefer.

19 A. No, that's fine. Thank you, sir.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Then 25 to.

21 A. Okay.

22 MS PURSER: Thank you, everyone. We will now take a short
23 break until 25 to. Please return to your break-out
24 rooms in the meantime.

25 Thank you.

1 (3.18 pm)

2 (A short break)

3 (3.35 pm)

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

6 Chairman.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

8 Ms Wilkinson.

9 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, sir.

10 348, we had been looking at a part of your statement
11 which explains that it was the links and particularly
12 the Irish connections that were of concern to
13 Special Branch that were linking from the groups that
14 you were meeting with.

15 So can we just have a look now at some example
16 reports to help demonstrate the sort of links and
17 attitudes that Special Branch were particularly
18 concerned about.

19 Can we bring up, please, {UCPI0000026692}.

20 Did I say that wrongly? {UCPI0000026992}. I think
21 it should be just be two pages, and I'm interested in
22 the first page.

23 This is a report dated 15 March about an event on
24 11 March. So is this an example of you having attended
25 something and then writing it up at a meeting a few days

1 later?

2 A. (inaudible).

3 Q. Do we see that this is a report of a meeting on 11 March
4 between 7.30 and 9.30. It was a meeting held by
5 the Women's Liberation Front, and it was titled "a study
6 group"; it was at somebody's home and there were seven
7 people present.

8 Can we scroll down, further down that page, please.

9 There was discussion of -- about the fact that
10 the speakers had not been of very good quality. And
11 ultimately there was various discussion about other
12 campaigns that could be supported.

13 Then finally this:

14 "On Ulster, [privacy] praised the recent actions of
15 the IRA, which she described as 'a good way to start
16 a revolution'."

17 And then you list who else was present. Did you
18 note that down specifically using quotes in your report
19 because you felt that was important for Special Branch
20 to know precisely the sort of concern that you
21 understood you were being tasked to find out about?

22 A. Yes, that's probably right, yes.

23 Q. Two more reports, please. This is {UCPI0000026996},
24 please. This is 21 April 1971, a report where you are
25 attending a meeting of the North London branch of

1 the Women's Liberation Front. It's a study group again,
2 taking place in someone's home, and there were 11 people
3 present.

4 Just towards the bottom of that, that we can see on
5 the screen, do we see that what you were discussing that
6 evening was that there was a general discussion
7 regarding the Chinese Revolutionary Film called
8 "The East is Red"? That film was going to be screened
9 at the community hall. And indeed we'll see another
10 report where it was.

11 Do you recall that that was a film supporting
12 the Maoist approach and agenda?

13 A. I'm assuming that that's what that was, yes.

14 Q. The next report deals with the same film. This is
15 {UCPI0000026997}, please.

16 This was a meeting, I think, a couple of weeks later
17 in -- on 4 May, about a meeting of the Friends of China
18 that was held at the home of Diane Langford. Did you
19 know her to be the partner of Abhimanya Manchanda?

20 A. No, I don't think so. I don't know. I don't remember.

21 If I haven't included it in my report, then I wouldn't
22 have known. I certainly don't remember.

23 Q. Do you recall why you were attending a meeting of
24 the Friends of China?

25 A. No, I must have been directed to go to it.

1 Q. Was Diane Langford somebody involved in
2 the Women's Liberation Front?

3 A. I can't remember.

4 Q. The third paragraph demonstrates that:

5 "[privacy] opened the meeting by discussing
6 the Women's Liberation Front Magazine."

7 So obviously there is some overlap here, but that:

8 "[privacy] denigrated the WLF and the publication,
9 claiming that too much time and money had been used in
10 the production."

11 If we scroll down, please, to paragraph 5 -- thank
12 you. There was then:

13 "A discussion then took place on the film, 'The East
14 is Red', most members had seen the film at the Cameo
15 Poly Theatre, Regent Street ... During the discussion,
16 [privacy] said the film had portrayed too much violence.
17 [privacy] [privacy] however, felt that not enough
18 violence had been displayed in the film."

19 Were you aware of a contingent of the group that you
20 were infiltrating who was keen on advocating violence?

21 A. If I've written anything to that effect in my reports,
22 then that must have been what I thought at the time.

23 Q. {UCPI0000027026}, please, another report.

24 This is a meeting on 8 December 1971. It's
25 a meeting of the Women's Liberation Front and there were

1 18 people present.

2 If you just scroll down again further, please.

3 "The meeting was chaired by [privacy] who opened
4 the meeting at 7.30pm by introducing the speaker,
5 [privacy]

6 "[privacy] who had recently returned from China
7 having visited there on several previous occasions,
8 began with an outline of recent Chinese history up to
9 the present day."

10 And there was then discussion further about what
11 the group -- how the groups were running themselves in
12 China.

13 Scroll down please to paragraph 5:

14 "[privacy] was clearly very impressed by the Chinese
15 system. The group was then invited to ask questions and
16 the meeting developed into a discussion on
17 the day-to-day lives of the Chinese in every aspect, in
18 particular on the new medical methods, especially
19 acupuncture. [privacy] mentioned that he had visited
20 many hospitals, schools, factories and communes in
21 various cities and had taken photographs of these which
22 he then showed to the group on a projector."

23 Next page, please:

24 "[privacy] asked [privacy] if our society needed
25 change and whether the Chinese methods would work here.

1 [privacy] felt our society was in desperate need of
2 change and that the Chinese methods would work here. He
3 then asked [privacy] how he would achieve the change to
4 which [privacy] replied 'by violent revolution'.
5 [privacy] agreed."

6 Is that another example of you using quotations to
7 highlight to your superiors the views of some of
8 the group that you were reporting on of exactly
9 the sorts of things that Special Branch were concerned
10 to monitor and follow?

11 A. I've tried to -- if I've included it in the report, yes.

12 Q. {UCPI0000010905}.

13 This is the annual general meeting in February 1972,
14 and that you are reporting on the events that took place
15 at that meeting of the Women's Liberation Front's first
16 general meeting -- annual general meeting.

17 If we scroll down to see the agenda, please,
18 paragraph 3:

19 "The proposed agenda was as follows:

20 "Acting Secretary' report ...

21 "Treasurer's report ...

22 "Adoption of new aims and constitution.

23 "Election of officers and committee.

24 "Future Activities.

25 "Any other business."

1 Could we move to paragraph 9 on the next page,
2 please, {UCPI0000010905/2}:

3 "[privacy] suggested that the 'Women's Liberation
4 Front' should change its name and it was proposed that
5 the organisation be known as the 'Revolutionary Women's
6 League'. It was decided that this could not be
7 implemented until there was further discussion ..."

8 And then matters of administration were dealt with.
9 But did that indicate a shift at all in your experience
10 of the group, a shift in the attitude or the aims of
11 the group for them to want to rename to include
12 the word "revolution" in their title?

13 A. Yeah. Yeah, that would appear so.

14 Q. You append with this report the documents that were
15 handed out at the meeting. And we see that if we scroll
16 down to page 4, {UCPI0000010905/4}.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Forgive me. My emergency telephone operated.

18 It was nothing more than a request to you, HN348,
19 please, to speak up a bit, because people are having
20 difficulty hearing you.

21 A. Oh right, sorry.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Not at all.

23 MS WILKINSON: This, 348, is the first page of a lengthy
24 document that was supplied and you collected from
25 the AGM of the Women's Liberation Front's meeting. Do

1 you recall collecting that and submitting that with your
2 report?

3 A. I don't recall any of it, but if it's been submitted
4 with my report and my name's next to it, I must have
5 done it, yes.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 Do we see there at the second paragraph, with some
8 numbers slightly obscured, but that the aims of this new
9 group, with the direction heading towards revolution if
10 the name change is an indication of their intentions --
11 let's have a look at what their aims are:

12 "To organise women in general, working class women
13 in particular, to fight for the elimination of all
14 exploitation and oppression and for a socialist society.

15 "To expose the oppression suffered by women and to
16 relate this to capitalist society and to oppose those
17 who confuse the effects of women's oppression for
18 the real cause, ie the private ownership of the means of
19 production.

20 "To demand equal opportunities in employment and
21 education.

22 "To fight for equal pay for work of equal value.

23 "In order that women have real opportunities to take
24 part in social production, we demand that crèches and
25 nurseries are installed at the place of work, education

1 and in the community, wherever there is a need.

2 "All women should have the right to have children or
3 not. In order to make this right effective, alongside
4 child-care facilities, adequate contraceptive and
5 abortion information and facilities should be made
6 available free on the NHS.

7 "To demand maternity leave for a definite period
8 with no loss of pay, in the pre-natal and post-natal
9 periods, and the right to return to the same job,
10 guaranteed by law.

11 "To fight against all discrimination and injustice
12 suffered by women in all realms of society, in laws as
13 regards marriage and divorce, in the superstructure;
14 customs and culture.

15 "To fight against the discrimination suffered by
16 unmarried mothers and their children.

17 "To wage a consistent struggle against male
18 chauvinism and to strive to educate and encourage men to
19 participate in all our activities.

20 "To take our full part in the struggles against
21 the growing attacks on our standard of living and our
22 democratic rights and against the growing racism and
23 fascist policies of the ruling class.

24 "To mobilise women to support the anti-imperialist
25 struggles of all oppressed peoples for the realisation

1 of our common aim, the ending of the system of
2 exploitation and oppression."

3 Did that list of items there, the aims set out 1 to
4 12 there, 348, represent the core aims of the group
5 whether it was called -- well, as it became known,
6 the "Revolutionary Women's Union"?

7 A. Well, that's what's written down in their constitution,
8 and that's what their aims were.

9 Q. Finally on this topic, {UCPI0000008274}. This is
10 a little difficult to read, but it's better on
11 the screen.

12 This is a meeting in April 1972. It is
13 the Women's Liberation conference that was held at
14 the student union building. And, here, you reference
15 the links to and people that were attending that had
16 links to the "Angry Brigade" and I think
17 the Stoke Newington 8. Were those the sort of groups
18 that you were particularly tasked -- yes, it's
19 paragraph 31, which is at page 6 of this report, as an
20 example, {UCPI0000008274/6}.

21 Do we see there at the top:

22 "Several women asked that the next conference should
23 have a firm agenda and a more rigid format. These
24 suggestions were subjected to the usual heckling by
25 the many ..."

1 It's difficult to read this part:

2 "... and ..."

3 I think that's:

4 "... many GLF ..."

5 Who were the Gay Liberation Front members, I think:

6 " ... and 'Angry Brigade' members."

7 And then at paragraph 31:

8 "An unidentified female, associated with

9 the 'Angry Brigade' gave out copies of 'Conspiracy

10 Notes' ... and made a short statement on the ..."

11 And it's difficult to determine what that --:

12 "... on the necessity for groups to organise

13 against 'growing oppression in society'."

14 She explained where she could be contacted, and:

15 "She said that the 'Stoke Newington 8' had been

16 charged with very serious offences and asked for

17 assistance from any groups prepared to work with them."

18 Were you aware whether assistance was given to this

19 lady connected with the "Angry Brigade" or

20 the Stoke Newington 8 by the Women's Liberation Front or

21 the Revolutionary Women's Union, as it became known?

22 A. I can't remember, but not to my knowledge, if I haven't

23 reported on it, because I can't remember any of this.

24 Q. But these were the sorts of links that you understood

25 you were expected to report back as being of particular

1 interest to Special Branch?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. One further group I'd like to ask you about in terms of
4 the reporting. Please could we have up
5 {UCPI0000027028}. This is a report dated
6 23 November 1971. It's a report about
7 the Women's Liberation Front. It's recording your
8 attendance at a meeting on 18 November. It's a weekly
9 meeting in someone's home, and there were 15 people
10 present.

11 If we can scroll down, please. Thank you.

12 At paragraph 3 we can see that:

13 "The meeting was opened by [privacy] who chaired
14 the meeting. She announced that the evening would be
15 devoted to a talk from Leila Hassan of the Black Unity
16 and Freedom Party ... Women's Action Group, on
17 the oppression of Black Women."

18 Was this group a group that you had been asked to
19 pay particular attention to by Special Branch at all?

20 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

21 Q. Were you aware at the time of a significant trial that
22 was ongoing of a number of people called the Mangrove 9,
23 who were being tried for inciting riot?

24 A. No. I have got no -- no recollection of that.

25 Q. Were you aware of the Mangrove 9, who were a number of

1 people being prosecuted. They had been arrested
2 following an incident at a restaurant known as
3 The Mangrove, which was frequented by the black
4 community and had been often raided by the police?

5 A. No, I'd never heard of that group until now, until
6 you've mentioned it.

7 Q. So it follows that you wouldn't have known of this lady
8 Leila Hassan's connection with that group?

9 A. No.

10 Q. The Mangrove 9?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Can we take this report down, please.

13 Can we now examine quite how it was that you carried
14 out your role in terms of your reporting and chart your
15 entry into the group and try and summarise its
16 development during your infiltration.

17 If we have open -- sorry, if we have up on
18 the screen the report {UCPI0000026988}, please.

19 This is a report dated 17 February 1971. And it is
20 the first report that we've been able to find with your
21 name typed on it, 348. You'll recall we saw a little
22 earlier that report from HN45 that had returned to
23 the fact that a new branch of the Women's Liberation
24 Front was going to be opening in North London and one in
25 South London. That was on 22 January. And here on

1 17 February, so three weeks later, you are attending
2 a meeting of the Women's Liberation Front in a pub.
3 Does that help you with the timing of your start date of
4 the deployment and why you were targeting this
5 particular group?

6 A. No, not really --

7 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

8 A. -- (inaudible) -- I can't remember this at all.

9 Q. This was a meeting in the Duke of Clarence public house
10 in South-east London. It was a public meeting. If we
11 just scroll down a little, please.

12 There were 20 people present and the speakers were
13 Myra Childs, Roberta Farr, Jack somebody and Mary Spurr.
14 And the chairman was Diane Langford. Some individuals
15 had been identified and they're marked there, including
16 Abhimanya Manchanda. Does this sound like the sort of
17 public meeting that you recalled as being the beginning
18 of your deployment, or were you referring to something
19 different?

20 A. I don't recall this meeting in a public house at all.

21 The public meetings that I went to were larger, in
22 bigger public buildings.

23 Q. Just scroll down, because we do see your cipher and
24 therefore your typed name at the bottom.

25 A. Yeah, that -- if that's the case, then it must be right,

1 but I've got no recollection at all.

2 Q. I think it's on the next page that we would see your ...
3 there we are. {UCPI0000026988/2}.

4 Then, let's move to the next report on 25 February,
5 so a week later. This is {UCPI0000026989}.

6 And here, it's again at the meeting of
7 the Women's Liberation Front, but the source of
8 the information stems from a personal invitation from
9 former Women's Liberation meeting. Again, your name
10 appears at the bottom. Would it make sense if you had
11 been invited during the course of the meeting in
12 the Duke of Clarence pub to attend this meeting?

13 A. Yeah, that would follow, but -- I'm sorry, but I can't
14 remember any of this at all.

15 Q. This was in a "private flat occupied by [privacy]" and
16 the subject is "Women's Liberation 'study group'".

17 If we just scroll down, please, to the top of
18 page 2, {UCPI0000026989/2}. Thank you.

19 "The study group commenced with [privacy] reading
20 from a booklet relating to a conversation between
21 Lenin and Clara Zetkin ..."

22 And on the face of it, it appears to be discussions
23 as titled, a study group, and your name appears at
24 the bottom.

25 Do you recall how many meetings of a public nature

1 you went to before being invited into people's private
2 homes?

3 A. No, I can't recall numbers.

4 Q. We can see one example. Do you think there were many
5 more?

6 A. I think I went to more than one, yes.

7 Q. What we then see in the reporting is a pattern of weekly
8 meetings in people's homes. Can we have a look at
9 the next report {UCPI0000026990}, please.

10 The last report had been of a meeting on
11 25 February, and this is the meeting of 4 March. So on
12 the face of it, a week later. Again, it was in
13 a private location, and again it was by personal
14 invitation. Again, a study group.

15 Does this help you with remembering the pattern of
16 the meetings that you were attending during your
17 deployment?

18 A. No, it doesn't. I don't recognise the format of this
19 report at all.

20 Q. If we scroll down to the bottom of the page -- sorry,
21 the next page, forgive me, page 2, {UCPI0000026990/2}.
22 Your name and rank appear right at the bottom, and your
23 signature is there.

24 A. Well -- (overspeaking) -- if that's the case, then that
25 would have been my report. But I don't recognise

1 the way that that's been formatted.

2 Q. Well, then, let's look at the next one in sequence, and
3 perhaps that will be enough for this point, because you
4 may be more familiar with the format.

5 The next one in sequence is a week later. It's
6 {UCPI0000026992}.

7 It's 15 March. The last meeting had been the 4th.
8 And this is the 11th and it's a -- it's a meeting
9 between 7.30 and 9.30 in the evening. Do you recall
10 that the meetings in people's homes tended to be in
11 the evenings, 348?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And it was:

14 "... the Women's Liberation Front study group at
15 [privacy], the home of [privacy] ..."

16 There were seven people present.

17 You again are reading out from extracts of
18 the booklet entitled "Lenin Conversation with
19 Clara Zetkin", and studying, as in the earlier meeting
20 reports; a study group.

21 Does that help? Does that format seem a little bit
22 more familiar, if we scroll down the page to see your
23 signature -- or your name typed at the bottom? Does
24 that help? Does that format look a bit more familiar to
25 you?

1 A. Yes. That looks more familiar, but if my signature is
2 on it, then I must have written it.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 A. But I can't recall it, sorry.

5 Q. Recalling now your deployment overall, the meetings --
6 the meetings reveal a pattern of week frequency; that
7 you were attending these meetings every week. And they
8 were at two home addresses. The first one initial --
9 there was the initial host, whose home you attended
10 every week, by and large, between February 1971 and
11 February 1972. Does that accord with your recollection
12 of your deployment?

13 A. As far as I can recall, yes.

14 Q. There came a time, however, in February 1972 where there
15 was quite some disagreement internally within the group
16 and ultimately the direction of the group and which
17 direction it should be taking was not agreed. And there
18 was a change of leadership, and that led in turn to
19 a change of host for these weekly meetings. And they
20 then began to take place at somebody else's home, on
21 a fairly frequent basis, from February 1972. Does that
22 accord with your recollections of your deployment?

23 A. I can't remember, I'm sorry.

24 Q. If we look at what happened in February 1972, we can
25 see, at the AGM, that on the face of it, you began being

1 able to report on different information, because you
2 secured access to the executive committee by becoming
3 treasurer of the group. Can you remember that?

4 A. I don't remember it at all, no.

5 Q. Let's have a look to see the reports that you were able
6 to submit.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. {UCPI0000010908}, please.

9 This is the Women's Liberation Front. And in
10 the left-hand side there's also the reference to known
11 as the "Revolutionary Women's Union". And it's
12 a meeting that takes place on 17 February 1972.

13 If we scroll to item 3, please, or paragraph 3, we
14 can see that the meeting was chaired and the following
15 agenda was proposed.

16 There was a discussion of the previous meeting.
17 There was a discussion of the anti-apartheid
18 demonstration held on Sunday, 6 February. There was
19 the film show "Red Detachment of Women". There was then
20 reference to a jumble sale required for fundraising, and
21 then discussion of future activities and the change of
22 the name of the organisation.

23 If we look to the minutes of that meeting that were
24 appended, or minutes of the AGM that were appended at
25 page 4 of this document, {UCPI0000010908/4}, and if we

1 zoom in. Do we see there that there is a reference to
2 the fact that a number of officers had been elected at
3 the recent AGM. [privacy] and [privacy] were elected as
4 secretary and president. And then Sandra Davies was
5 elected as treasurer. Given you recall no other Sandras
6 in the group, is it possible that that was you?

7 A. I don't recall this but it possibly could be me. But
8 I have no recollection of taking up that post as
9 treasurer.

10 Q. Would you agree that those posts appear to be the posts
11 that would comprise the executive committee of
12 the Women's Liberation Front, who'd changed their name?

13 A. Yeah, yeah, that would be it.

14 Q. And so, from the month of February on, if you had been
15 elected to treasurer, it would have enabled you to
16 report on the executive committee, as we in fact see
17 that you did.

18 Can we see {UCPI0000010906}, please.

19 16 February 1972:

20 "On Wednesday 9 February 1972, the Executive
21 Committee of the Women's Liberation Front hold a meeting
22 at the home of [privacy]. The following persons were
23 present."

24 If we pan out, we can see that your cipher, and
25 therefore typed name, appears at the bottom. Does that

- 1 help with your recollection?
- 2 A. If my -- if I've signed that, then I must have submitted
3 it, but I've got no recollection.
- 4 Q. You wouldn't then recall that -- as we see the reporting
5 from the executive committee, it's a very small number
6 of people that attend these meetings, rarely more than
7 five, and you are amongst them, meeting in people's
8 homes. Does that accord with your recollection of your
9 deployment that spanned over two years -- nearly two
10 years?
- 11 A. Are you questioning the -- the number of people that
12 were ... I -- I think beforehand, one wouldn't have
13 known how many people would have attended these
14 meetings, whether they're small or large.
- 15 Q. Well, helpfully, you record every time how many people
16 are there, and record a list of names of the people that
17 are there. And for the weekly meetings in people's
18 homes, it's right to say that there were rarely more
19 than 15, often more like 10 or 11 people attending in
20 these two homes that you frequented every week. Does
21 that help with your recollection?
- 22 A. If I've written it and signed it, then it must have been
23 what's happened. But now I don't recall it.
- 24 Q. Then, when you secured greater access to the executive
25 committee, in that there was a smaller number of people,

1 there, there were about five or so that would routinely
2 meet as part of the executive group; do you remember
3 that?

4 A. No, not really.

5 Q. Can you just help us picture these meetings in people's
6 homes. They began at sort of 7/7.30 in the evening and
7 would often last to about 10/10.30 at night; is that
8 right?

9 A. If that's what I've written, yes, yes.

10 Q. Where were they in the home? Which room?

11 A. They were in -- in a lounge, I think, with just
12 comfortable seating and a table --

13 Q. Would the hosts -- would the hosts offer you food or
14 drink?

15 A. Not that I recall, no.

16 Q. Would you have eaten then before you went?

17 A. Probably, yes.

18 Q. Did people all arrive at the same time, or did people
19 arrive bit by bit?

20 A. I can't remember.

21 Q. Were there general discussions before the formal meeting
22 began?

23 A. I can't remember.

24 Q. Did people naturally discuss or reveal information about
25 how their day had been, or what was going on in their

- 1 lives when they would meet you every week?
- 2 A. No, not that I recall.
- 3 Q. Did you ever reveal any information about yourself
- 4 during these many hour meetings every week?
- 5 A. No, I didn't.
- 6 Q. How did you avoid that?
- 7 A. I was never asked. These people were very vocal; they
- 8 did a lot of talking. And I think they were quite happy
- 9 to have some ears to listen to.
- 10 Q. You told us that you informed your senior managers about
- 11 the fact that you were attending meetings in people's
- 12 homes. Did those senior managers ever indicate to you
- 13 that they had given any consideration of whether you
- 14 should be doing this?
- 15 A. No. I was told to continue on with what I was doing.
- 16 Q. Did you ever get the impression that there was any
- 17 balance operating in the minds of the senior managers
- 18 about how involved you should be in attending these
- 19 close-knit meetings in people's homes?
- 20 A. I discussed with them the meetings, the numbers, what
- 21 went on, I submitted a written report; and the feedback
- 22 that I had from my senior officers was that I should
- 23 continue doing what I was doing.
- 24 Q. Did you ever feel uncomfortable seeing these women week
- 25 in week out when they didn't know that you were

1 a policewoman and were reporting their discussions back
2 to Special Branch?

3 A. Did I feel uncomfortable about that ... I -- I was doing
4 a job at the time, so I wasn't -- I don't think
5 I considered that, no. I was just doing my job.

6 Q. Some of the things that you reported back to
7 Special Branch were of a different nature from links to
8 the IRA, and included information about what the group
9 was going to do in relation to, for example, baking.

10 Can we see {UCPI0000010932} on the screen, please.

11 If we look, this was a meeting in December --
12 mid-December 1971.

13 If we go to the top of the second page, please, at
14 paragraph 5, {UCPI0000010932/2}, can we see at
15 paragraph 5 there that:

16 "[privacy] stated that the BUFP intended to hold
17 a children's Christmas party on Saturday
18 18 December 1971 at Stoke Newington ..."

19 And the Women's Liberation Front members were being
20 asked:

21 "... for contributions in the form of homemade
22 sweets and cakes."

23 Why did you think that Special Branch needed to know
24 that?

25 A. I don't think the information itself, it's just the fact

1 that they were involving themselves with children, and
2 the sweets and the cakes were an addition to that. What
3 they wanted to do was to get their philosophy across to
4 as many groups as they could. That -- that was their
5 aim.

6 Q. The next report {UCPI0000010907}. If we scroll down,
7 please, to paragraph 5. You have included there in your
8 report that:

9 "The provisional date for the fund-raising Jumble
10 Sale was set as 25.3.72 but the venue was not arranged."

11 Why did Special Branch need to know the date of
12 the jumble sale?

13 A. It would have been a group activity, I imagine. There's
14 no details of where it was being held, but I think they
15 would have used it as another opportunity to advertising
16 their -- their aims.

17 Q. And finally on this topic {UCPI0000010931}, please.

18 Now, this is a little more difficult to read. This
19 is a January 1972 report. It's the paragraph that
20 begins that we can see on the screen there:

21 "The meeting was opened by [privacy] ..."

22 Difficult to read there, but it says:

23 "She read a copy of a letter ..."

24 Referencing there the fact that a letter had been
25 sent to somebody of Banner Books -- "[privacy] of

1 Banner Books" regarding the -- something to do with
2 the Women's Liberation Front.

3 But then this:

4 "The letter criticised [privacy] for ..."

5 It's difficult to read there, but it appears to be:

6 "... for saying that [privacy] [privacy] of having
7 an affair with [privacy] allegation had prompted
8 [privacy] to [I think] end her employment at
9 Banner Books ..."

10 Do you recall this incident and why you needed to
11 report back about the allegation of an affair amongst
12 the group?

13 A. As I said, I don't recall it. But it's a document
14 signed by me, so therefore I must have written it. And
15 probably this was just showing an example of how this --
16 this group was functioning.

17 Q. And how would information about whether somebody had had
18 an affair within the group help the effective policing
19 of this group and its movement?

20 A. I think it's just -- gives people an insight into what
21 was happening at that time.

22 Q. Was this ever an example of you reporting to one of your
23 superiors and being told, "Well, that information's
24 irrelevant, we don't need to know that information in
25 the future"? Was this an example?

1 A. Well, I would have written the report, discussed it with
2 my senior officer. If at the time he thought that that
3 was irrelevant, then he would have probably told me to
4 exclude it, and he would have said to me, "Well, we
5 don't need to know that."

6 Q. But given it still remains in the report, obviously that
7 view was not formed?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. As appears to have been the case, for you to have been
10 reporting on the executive committee, you must have, on
11 the face of it, been elected as treasurer, as the AGM in
12 February 1972 records. Do you agree, is it fair to say,
13 that you must have been trusted by the group?

14 A. Yes, I must -- I was trusted by the group.

15 Q. In that role, did you make some decisions about
16 the direction of the group?

17 A. I didn't make any decisions about the direction of
18 the group.

19 Q. Can we have {UCPI0000010906} up, please.

20 This is a report of 16 February 1972. It's about
21 the executive committee meeting on 9 February 1972 being
22 held in their home address of "[privacy]" and:

23 "The following persons were present ..."

24 Now, if it were necessary, we can confirm that there
25 were five names there under that redaction, that privacy

1 redaction, revealing who was named to be present at that
2 meeting.

3 If we scroll down, can we see -- I'll just get my
4 copy up -- do we see at item 7 -- forgive me -- item 7
5 on the agenda, {UCPI0000010906/2} -- thank you:

6 "[privacy] proposed that the name of
7 the organisation be changed to
8 the 'Revolutionary Women's Union'. After some
9 discussion this too was agreed."

10 The discussion could only have been amongst
11 the executive committee, 348; is that right?

12 A. I assume so.

13 Q. And so you were one of a group, including yourself, of
14 six who made the decision to change the name of
15 the group to include the word "revolution"; do you
16 recall that?

17 A. No, I don't recall making any decisions about how
18 the group would be run.

19 Q. {UCPI0000010911}, please.

20 Again, this is a meeting now a month later in
21 March 1972. It's the executive committee again.
22 The name has changed and it's
23 the "Revolutionary Women's Union" now. There's an
24 "emergency meeting at the home of [privacy]" and:

25 "Those present included ..."

1 And those names are blacked out for privacy reasons.

2 Can I just help you with your recollections. Again,
3 do you recall that there were only five names listed as
4 present at that meeting of the executive committee, six
5 of you, include you?

6 A. If that's what I've written, that's correct. But
7 I don't recall it.

8 Q. And if we scroll to paragraph 4.

9 Did the meeting disrupt -- discuss the various
10 incidents at length that had happened recently, some
11 disruptive behaviour that had been going on, and was it
12 decided eventually:

13 "... that the three offending members should be
14 served with an official written suspension from the
15 organisation. This document ... would take some three
16 weeks to compile [and], would outline many of their
17 disruptive tactics and a copy would be circulated to all
18 members ..."

19 And then the meeting concluded at 11.30 pm with your
20 name typed at the bottom.

21 Do you recall you were amongst a group of six who
22 decided to suspend three members of the Revolutionary
23 Women's Union?

24 A. No, I don't recall any of this, but I accept that my
25 name is at the bottom of that report.

1 Q. Do you recall that this internal division led to reduced
2 enthusiasm and drive within the group?

3 A. I can't comment on that. I've got no idea.

4 Q. {UCPI0000010913}, please.

5 Do we see in that report, dated 8 May 1972, that
6 the meeting having been held at the home of somebody
7 there was opened with a statement of the current
8 position of the Revolutionary Women's Union:

9 "She felt that the organisation was not functioning
10 as it should and that there was a general lack of
11 enthusiasm toward activities. She also commented on
12 the lack of new membership and the falling off of old
13 members."

14 Does that fit with internal division and
15 the suspension of members, which you'd had a hand in?

16 A. That seems to be the case, yes.

17 Q. Ultimately, 348, did you -- were you withdrawn from
18 the field in February 1973?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. To the extent that you reported on activities of other
21 groups, was that as those other groups and activities
22 occurred on the periphery of the main group,
23 the Women's Liberation Front, that later became known as
24 the Revolutionary Women's Union?

25 A. I'm sorry, could you -- I don't understand the question.

1 Q. You reported on other groups. We saw an example earlier
2 of the -- I think there was a -- the Friends of China
3 group that had a report title. Those groups or meetings
4 you attended, were they a specific -- specifically
5 because they were operating on the periphery of your
6 main target group, hence you were tasked to attend?

7 A. You're -- you're referring to my withdrawal from my
8 work?

9 Q. I'm trying to sort of deal with your deployment as
10 a whole. Your main target group was
11 the Women's Liberation Front, which later changed its
12 name; would you agree with that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And to the extent that you reported on other groups, was
15 that because they were spinoffs, or there had been
16 a reason, prompted by your infiltration of the main
17 group?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You attended a number of conferences. Again, was that
20 because you were a trusted member of the Women's
21 Liberation Front?

22 A. I think those larger meetings were public meetings,
23 weren't they?

24 Q. And you -- and you gathered the materials and reports
25 that were handed out at those meetings and passed them

1 back to Special Branch?

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. You were withdrawn because of some matter connected with
4 another undercover officer; is that right?

5 A. That's right, yes.

6 Q. And I think you say at paragraph 34 of your statement,
7 if we just bring that up, it's page 15,
8 paragraph 34 {MPS-0741698/15} --

9 A. Excuse me, I need to put the light on.

10 Q. Oh, has it got dark? Yes, of course.
11 We're nearly there.

12 A. That's better.

13 Q. Can you see now?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Paragraph 34, we see on screen there. You said, halfway
16 through that paragraph:
17 "It was not until the SDS got involved that we knew
18 if it was worthwhile to infiltrate a group. I do not
19 think my work really yielded any good intelligence, but
20 I eliminated the [Women's Liberation Front] from public
21 order concerns."

22 When do you think you had done that?

23 A. It's difficult to judge really. Probably up until
24 the time that I -- I finished working there, you know,
25 until the time I was withdrawn. I can't be -- I can't

1 pin it down. I find it very difficult, the sequencing
2 of these events, as it's nearly 50 years ago.

3 Q. I fully understand that you're being asked to recount
4 events a long time ago. I'm asking about the phrase
5 that you chose to use in your statement there, thinking
6 that you hadn't "really yielded any good intelligence".

7 Given you were withdrawn from your deployment for
8 a reason connected with a different officer, do you
9 understand whether you would have continued to be
10 deployed in the Women's Liberation Front if it weren't
11 for that incident?

12 A. As I understood it, I -- I probably would have been,
13 yes. There was no indication that I was going to be
14 withdrawn otherwise.

15 Q. Did you raise the view that, certainly by February 1973,
16 you'd concluded that the Women's Liberation Front didn't
17 pose any public order concerns?

18 A. Well, I was submitting my reports to my senior officer
19 and was guided by -- by him really.

20 Q. Page 44 of the same document, please, paragraph 116
21 {MPS-0741698/44}.

22 The last line of that paragraph:

23 "In hindsight, I would not have joined the SDS as
24 I was putting myself too much at risk and there were
25 more worthwhile things I could have been doing."

1 Does that indicate that, in your view, your
2 infiltration of the Women's Liberation Front, which
3 later changed its name, was not worthwhile?

4 A. I think, you know, I wrote this statement over a year
5 ago, and 50 years on from when -- so that statement is
6 made with a much older head, and therefore, hindsight is
7 a wonderful thing and I stand by what I say. I could
8 have been doing much more worthwhile things with my time
9 than doing my work with the SDS.

10 Q. Did you also offer in your statement an opinion as to
11 undercover policing by policemen at all at page 49 of
12 your statement and paragraph 133?

13 It's right at the top of -- actually, bottom of
14 page 48 of the same document, please {MPS-0741698/48}.

15 Right at the bottom:

16 "I question whether police officers should be
17 undercover at all."

18 Going on to the next page {MPS-0741698/69}:

19 "It seems to me that perhaps undercover work should
20 all be dealt with by the Security Service, simply with
21 links to senior police officers."

22 A. Yes, that's my view now.

23 Q. Having done the job for two years, that's your view now?

24 A. Yeah, and 50 years on, yeah.

25 MS WILKINSON: 348, if you wait there, please, there will

1 follow, I think, a pause for about 10 minutes or so, and
2 then I think the Chairman will come back and we'll see
3 if there are any further questions to be asked of you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you bear with us for another 10 minutes
5 while those who may have questions they wish to ask you
6 reflect on whether or not they need to do so? Your
7 giving of evidence will be over very soon; that,
8 I promise. Would you bear with us for that 10 minutes?

9 A. Right.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

11 MS PURSER: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. We will take
12 a short pause for 10 minutes.

13 (4.42 pm)

14 (A short break)

15 (4.52 pm)

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

18 Chairman.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

20 Ms Brander, is there any question that you want to
21 ask arising out of that evidence?

22 MS BRANDER: Sir, there are three topics. If I could very
23 briefly ask questions on those.

24 The first is the SDS meetings and what was
25 discussed.

1 The second is whether this witness was aware of any
2 activity falling below the level of sexual relationships
3 but of the nature that we've heard. So for example,
4 going out for a drink with a member of the opposite sex
5 from a group.

6 And the third issue is just really one question, or
7 possibly two, in relation to the Schools Action Union.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: You may ask questions about all three topics.

9 Questions by MS BRANDER

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

11 HN348, I'm sorry, I can't yet see you on screen.

12 Can you see and hear me okay?

13 A. Yes, I can see and hear you.

14 Q. Thank you. I'm hoping that you'll pop up next time,
15 when I ask the question.

16 You were asked by Ms Wilkinson about the SDS
17 meetings, the regular meetings you had at the cover
18 flat, and I think you said that they took up a good part
19 of the day but that you didn't discuss the detail of
20 deployments, just if there was anything really unusual,
21 and sometimes there would be a briefing like the one
22 you'd received from HN45.

23 I just wondered, given that they took up a good part
24 of the day, what was it that was discussed at those
25 meetings?

1 A. Well, each individual officer would spend time writing
2 their feedback reports and then have a one-to-one
3 session with the senior officer, and that would be in
4 another area away from the main group. So, we would be
5 just waiting for our turn really to go and talk to
6 a senior officer, so that usually took quite a bit of
7 time.

8 Q. And were you all together when you were waiting?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So would you be chatting to one another?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. I mean, what was the atmosphere like? Was it friendly?

13 A. Yes, it was.

14 Q. And, I mean, would there be sort of office banter
15 between you, that sort of thing?

16 A. Yes, yes, to a degree, yeah.

17 Q. And what about the atmosphere? I mean, we heard from
18 you it was quite unusual for you to be a female officer
19 in the force in general, but in that unit I think there
20 was just two of you.

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. How did that feel?

23 A. Well, because there were two of us, we got on very well,
24 and we supported each other, I think, within that group.

25 Q. And what about your relationships with the men? I mean,

1 was there any -- did you feel an air of sexism within
2 the group?

3 A. No, I -- I -- I didn't experience that at all. Yeah,
4 there were quite an amenable group, actually, that I was
5 with.

6 Q. And what about banter? Was there ever any banter within
7 the group?

8 A. Yes, I think there was. You know, all police officers
9 together. But it was -- it was not offensive.

10 Q. And did your fellow officers ever mention individuals in
11 the groups that they were deployed into?

12 A. No, we generally didn't discuss our individual groups
13 amongst the larger groups.

14 Q. And you said that sometimes someone would say something
15 if there was something really unusual. Did that ever
16 involve comments on individuals?

17 A. Not that I can recall specifically. We tended to not
18 talk to each other about the groups that we were
19 involved with. The discussions about our group was only
20 with the senior officer.

21 Q. And so what was the conversation about? What sort of
22 thing would you be discussing?

23 A. Well, I would write my report and submit it, and then
24 I would usually discuss the -- the latest meeting that
25 I'd been to with -- with my senior officer.

1 Q. Oh, sorry, I didn't mean the discussion with the senior
2 officer, I meant in the group. You were saying you were
3 hanging around, basically, for quite a long time waiting
4 to see --

5 A. Right, yeah.

6 Q. -- the senior officer. If you weren't talking about
7 your deployment, what were you talking about?

8 A. Well, I can't remember, but I suppose we just talked
9 about the things that, you know, people do, holidays,
10 and houses and families.

11 Q. Okay.

12 And you said that you weren't aware of any
13 relationships within your group in the sense that, as
14 far as you were aware, no one within your cohort had
15 a sexual relationship with a member of a group that they
16 were deployed into; is that right?

17 A. No, I -- I feel pretty sure that they didn't, no. Not
18 at all.

19 Q. Were you aware of any of your cohort going out for
20 a drink with a member of a group that they were deployed
21 into?

22 A. I wasn't aware of that, no.

23 Q. Or taking a member of a group out to dinner?

24 A. No, not at all. I think their involvement was much --
25 was much more distant. I mean, I don't know where they

1 were having their meetings. I mean, if they met in --
2 in a pub as a group, then probably they would have
3 shared a drink together. But I'm -- I'm just guessing.
4 I'm surmising that --

5 Q. And -- sorry.

6 In terms of building credibility with the group that
7 you were infiltrating, was there ever a discussion with
8 your colleagues about ways to do that?

9 A. No.

10 Q. So there wasn't any discussion of making friendships, or
11 perhaps taking people out for a drink, was a good way of
12 building credibility with the group?

13 A. No, no, not at all.

14 Q. I want to ask you -- is it possible to have up on screen
15 {UCPI0000010928}, please.

16 Okay, so, this is a report dated 12 May 1972.

17 And if it's possible to go down to the second page,
18 the bottom of the second page {UCPI0000010928}.

19 And it's redacted, but do you see there it
20 has "HN348"?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. "WDC".

23 So, does this appear to be a report that has your
24 name on?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. And, sorry, just going back up to the first page
2 {UCPI0000010928/1}. Thank you.

3 It appears to be a report about a school strike on
4 Monday, 8 May 1972, by the Schools Action Union. Do you
5 recall reporting on that group?

6 A. No, I don't.

7 Q. Just looking down, it says they had:

8 "... organised a school strike which affected
9 several North London schools. They were demanding:

10 "1) Teacher pupil committees to run the schools.

11 "2) No school uniforms.

12 "3) No corporate punishment.

13 "4) Free school meals and milk.

14 "5) Freedom to leave the school during
15 the lunchtime break."

16 And then in paragraph 2, it says:

17 "Approximately 800 children left their various
18 schools during the mid-morning break and participated in
19 a protest march which was led by [privacy redaction]
20 a member of the Schools Action Union and the London
21 Alliance."

22 Does that ring any bells?

23 A. Well, I obviously reported on what I was told at
24 a meeting.

25 Q. So you think this was a report of something that you had

1 been told at a meeting?

2 A. Yeah, because I wasn't involved in any of that.

3 Q. So you weren't involved in that group, but you were
4 reporting on it.

5 And just looking in the left-hand side where it says
6 "Reference to papers", and it's not very clearly printed
7 but I don't know if that would be a "4" there -- "400".
8 Does that code there under "Reference to papers", does
9 that indicate it's a Special Branch file?

10 A. I don't know. I don't know what it refers to.

11 Q. I know you were asked previously by Ms Wilkinson about
12 consideration of the groups that you were reporting on,
13 but was any consideration given to the appropriateness
14 of reporting on school children?

15 A. Do you mean by the question the reporting on school
16 children? I was reporting on the action of groups --

17 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

18 A. -- (inaudible) what was said to me. I wasn't reporting
19 on children.

20 Q. Well, the report here is about action taken by children,
21 isn't it?

22 A. Yeah. I think -- I'm just surmising that this
23 information is about a report that came out from
24 a meeting that I attended, but I don't know anything
25 about the Schools Action Union; I wasn't involved in any

1 of that.

2 Q. It's quite a lengthy report, isn't it?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. It gives quite a lot of detail about the action that
5 the children were taking.

6 If we scroll down on to the second page

7 {UCPI0000010928/2}.

8 It refers to two arrests there, one of an
9 18-year-old and one of a 16-year old. The fact that
10 they'd been granted bail. Then we've got at
11 paragraph 8:

12 "During Monday evening ..."

13 And then there's a redaction:

14 "... and four other young boys and girls who had
15 participated in the marched pasted up a number of
16 posters advertising a further strike for the next
17 day ..."

18 A. I think what this report is is me quoting what was said
19 at a meeting.

20 Q. I see. So you think all of this detail was given to you
21 at a meeting? But my question is -- this is information
22 then that was reported back to your senior officers --
23 did your senior officers express any concern to you
24 about whether it was appropriate to be reporting and
25 recording information about school children?

1 A. Well, if I've submitted this report, it would have been
2 to my senior officer. I would have had a meeting with
3 him, and if -- if he didn't want to submit it, he would
4 have told me at the time.

5 Q. And can you remember him telling you anything about it?

6 A. No, I don't. Otherwise it wouldn't have been submitted.

7 MS BRANDER: Okay.

8 Thank you, sir, those are all my questions.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Menon, was there any topic on which you
10 would want to ask questions?

11 MS BRANDER: Mr Menon has just indicated to me that he
12 doesn't have any questions.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 Mr Sanders, do you have any what in old-fashioned
15 terms is called "re-examination"?

16 MR SANDERS: No, thank you, sir.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

18 HN348, thank you for bearing with us. Your evidence
19 about all events 49/50 years ago has been very
20 interesting; I'm very grateful to you for coming here
21 and telling us all about it. Your time is now finished
22 with the Inquiry. Thank you.

23 A. Thank you, sir.

24 MS PURSER: Thank you very much, everyone. That concludes
25 today's hearings. We will resume at 11.00 am tomorrow.

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7
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9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

INDEX

HN3484
 Questions by MS WILKINSON5
 Questions by MS BRANDER84