

GISTED WITNESS STATEMENT OF EN291

EN291 has provided the Inquiry with a witness statement comprising non-numbered 28 paragraphs.

Italicised text in square brackets below represents where the contents of the witness statement have been gisted.

Non-italicised text in square brackets below represents where acronyms have been spelled out.

Personal Impact Statement

The following information is provided for the Operation Motion team and the Metropolitan Police Department for Legal Services (DLS) as required to support their work for the Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI). This statement is written from memory, without reference to any material / notes and therefore some dates / event names etc.. may be inaccurate.

(i) I have worked for the Metropolitan Police Service since [date] to the present day. I completed training at Hendon in [month/year] and was posted to [boroughs]. I joined Metropolitan Police Special Branch (MPSB) in [month/year], first working at [Unit #1]. I was posted to the Domestic Extremist (DE) Squad based at [location], in [month/year]. During my MPSB posting, I also worked on [Unit #2], [and other named units] and a number of short term deployments. These included [specific operations].

The periods that I believe are of interest to the UCPI are while I worked on the Domestic Extremist Squad (from [month/year to month/year]) and subsequently on [Unit #2] ([month/year to month/year]). I was never posted or attached to the [National Public Order intelligence Unit] but did deploy [National Public Order intelligence Unit] Undercover Officers in support of intelligence operations while on both of these MPSB units. One of the [National Public Order intelligence Unit undercover officers] I deployed had also previously worked on the Special Demonstration Squad – [HN66]¹. At the same time, I was also [conducting other work] in the Domestic Extremist field.

My day to day work on the Domestic Extremist squad (Extreme Left wing desk) involved intelligence operations to identify those within activist groups that were seeking to create disorder at Public Order events, often from within areas of lawful public protest. This involved obtaining information from a variety of sources including [EN291 provides examples]. This information/intelligence was used to write Event Threat Assessments and, when appropriate, advise Gold/Silver of potential threats to events. I also supported crime investigations, particularly on the [named investigations].

Whilst on the Domestic Extremist squad I was deployed to [EN291 describes the work s/he carried out].

[EN291 describes the work s/he has carried out since having left Unit #2]

(ii) I will be applying for anonymity for my real name. I was not trained or deployed as an Undercover Officer.

¹ The original version of the statement mistakenly referred to the officer as 'EN66'. As mentioned at paragraph 25 of the Inquiry Chairman's 'Minded to' note dated 15 November 2018, HN66 is the same person as EN327.

While I had a cover name, this was for my work on [Unit #2]. [EN291 describes the use to which the cover name was put.]

(iii) Having not been deployed as [an undercover officer] I was never offered or expected confidentiality as part of my work. No assurances (verbal or written) were provided to me by the [Metropolitan Police Service] or any other agency.

(iv) I was not deployed as [an undercover officer] but did change my appearance regularly as part of my work on the Domestic Extremist squad. This was due to the variance of my work which included meetings with [various people].

The irregular and long hours, often at very short notice, had a detrimental effect on my personal and family life. In order to protect our home and my [partner] while I was carrying out this work, I had a house alarm fitted at my own expense. I did not receive any threats but carried out the above security measures to prevent any potential threat to my family, property and myself.

(v) [EN291 describes a set of circumstances considered to be a compromise of EN291's identity].

It is my opinion (with 20/20 hindsight) that this action was ill-judged [and had other negative consequences]. This had a significant impact on me, causing considerable personal distress for many months and affected the work I could carry out on [Unit #2] in the short and medium term.

(vi) While working in domestic extremism I took greater security measures than I had previously and this undoubtedly affected both me and the relationship with my [partner]. This included basic security measures including varying routes to work and times, as well as being very specific about the types of premises I frequent and the clothes I wore.

Subsequent to [the circumstances described above, at (v)], this affected my personality because I was unable to do the work about which I was so passionate and it took significant time (several months) for [adjustments to be made], in spite of my best efforts.

While friends are aware that I work for the Metropolitan Police, very few know of the work I undertook as listed above. [EN291 gives further information about his/her friends].

When employing people to carry out work on our house I am always cautious. Generally I do not reveal what I do for a living and ensure that there is as little as possible in the house that reflects my profession, even in drawers and cupboards.

[EN291 describes his/her internet presence, or lack thereof].

(vii) Because I have not been trained or deployed as [an undercover officer], I did not feel fearful for myself. At the time, I did not consider that my work as a cover officer would be of interest.

(viii) Re the UCPI, I am very concerned about giving evidence without special measures, regardless of whether my application for anonymity is successful.

There is a general concern about being associated with the [National Public Order intelligence Unit] and because I may be targeted by those aggrieved at the [National Public Order intelligence Unit], the [undercover officers] and the work undertaken. The fact that I am of interest has substantially raised my concern and I am keen for news that may reduce the impact upon me.

(ix) I anticipate but do not yet know what would be the ramifications of my real name being made public. Currently, I would assess the threat of physical violence to my family and me is low but I anticipate that this could change if I am identified. There is the potential for harassment from those aggrieved at the [National Public Order intelligence Unit] and its activities.

Although hypothetical, I also perceive I may be researched by the Undercover Researchers group in order that they can identify other Special Branch officers, particularly [undercover officers].

(x) As stated above, I was never trained or deployed as [an undercover officer].

(xi) In March 2014, I was diagnosed with [*mental health conditions*] and attended Counselling. The reasons for the diagnosis were complex and my work as a police officer was a contributory factor. This has not been fully resolved, e.g. my sleep pattern continues to be severely affected. This has impacted both my work, my career development and, more importantly, my relationship with my [*partner*]. Publication of my real name and needing to appear in public for UCPI could only make this worse.

(xii) [*EN291 explains why s/he believes there may be a risk to other individuals in the event that EN291's real name is not restricted*]. This risk is currently unknown.

I trust that cumulatively the above information will contribute to a successful application for a restriction to protect my real name and identity.

EN291 12 April 2017