First Witness Statement of HN45
Dated signed: 2019

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

I, HN45 c/o Designated Lawyers, PO Box 73779, London WC1A 9NL, WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS

1. This witness statement is prepared in response to a Rule 9 request dated 23rd July 2019 and concerns my deployment as an undercover officer ("UCO") within the Special Demonstration Squad ("SDS") from 1970 – 1973.

2. I have been shown the documents attached to the Rule 9 request but I have not otherwise refreshed my memory by looking at any other documents.

3. I am known in this Public Inquiry by my cover name of Dave Robertson. There is a restriction order in respect of my real name. My nominal number is HN45.

Personal details

4. I was born in the 1930's. My full name is HN45.

Police career before serving with the Special Demonstration Squad

5. I cannot recall exact dates, but I have been shown my Central Record of Service and have taken the following dates from that document. I can see from my records that I joined the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on in the 1960's in my late 20's. I attended the training school until the 1960's and then I was deployed on uniformed duties.
6. I was posted to 'C' Squad in Special Branch as a Detective Constable. I see that I passed the competitive exams for promotion to Sergeant in the early 1970's.

7. I did not do any undercover police work prior to joining the SDS.

Selection for the Special Demonstration Squad

8. I joined the SDS in 1970 after I was approached by a Sergeant on my desk in C squad, Helen Crampton, but I have no real memory of this discussion so cannot say whether I was told what the job would entail. I was single when I joined the SDS.

9. Prior to being recruited, I didn't know anything about the SDS, except that they were called the 'Hairies' because they had long hair and beards. The Hairies were generally known about within the Branch but I did not know what they were doing.

10. I cannot recall there being any formal selection process. I worked in the SDS back office before being deployed and I am sure that they continued to assess my suitability for deployment during this time.

11. I think I joined the SDS because it sounded like a good idea but I do not remember the rationale behind my decision to join. I imagine it seemed like something different to do and I thought it would be interesting.

Training and guidance in the Special Demonstration Squad

12. As far as I recall, there was no formal or informal training for the SDS. In fact, even the senior managers within the SDS were still very much feeling their way at this point. I was based in the SDS office for some time before being deployed.
and I picked up a lot of information during this time and was able to meet the deployed UCOs at least once per week; no doubt this would have helped to prepare me for undercover work as the UCOs would have discussed what they were doing and what methods they were using.

13. I do not believe that I have seen the Home Office Circular titled "Informants who take part in crime". This document seems to be more geared towards the management of paid informants who take part in crime rather than the undercover work that I was doing and for that reason I assume that it was directed towards members of CID. I was not handling informants or directing the activity of informants and the document does not seem that relevant to the work that I was carrying out. As far as I recall, the people I gathered intelligence on were not involved in criminality other than public disorder offences and it would have been obvious to me that I would never have encouraged this.

14. I was never made aware of a Trade Craft manual or binder containing guidance about how I should behave whilst deployed undercover.

15. I cannot recall being given any advice or guidance in relation to relationships with activists, participation in or encouragement of crime, what to do if arrested or brought before a court, legally privileged information or the ethical and legal limitations on our behaviour. I consider it deeply insulting to suggest that I would ever have been involved in crime as an undercover officer. This is completely contrary to what we were trying to do, which was to prevent crime. As far as I am concerned, Policemen should have known where the line was as a matter of common sense and based on their previous experience.

16. Since I never received any training, there was never any refresher or repeat training.
17. I did not receive race equality training. I did not encounter any problems with race during my career in Special Branch.

Undercover identity

Cover name

18. I chose my own cover name of Dave Robertson. My cover name is not a deceased child’s identity.

19. My recollection is that we were meant to receive advice given about choosing a name, but we were not otherwise given any instructions about the choice of our name;

20. In terms of a cover background, I don’t believe that I developed much of a backstory. The only additional detail I recall is that I would have said that I was born in a remote part of Scotland where I know that lots of Robertsons came from. I was interrogated on one occasion about my background and I must have come up with satisfactory answers at the time but I cannot now remember what I said. All I recall of this incident was that I was sat in a circle with activists who fired questions at me. I cannot say who they were or when it happened. It was not uncommon for some activists to question new recruits who they didn’t know as they were aware of possible infiltration by police spies. That said, other activists were very welcoming and just happy to have any new members.
Cover employment

21. I chose my cover employment as a driver for a garage [redacted]. I was careful not to tell activists where the garage was.

22. I never actually did any work for the garage but I would visit it reasonably regularly.

Cover accommodation

23. My cover address was a flat on West End Lane in Camden. I didn’t live there permanently but went there regularly overnight. If I was going to meetings undercover, I always made sure that I went to the cover flat before the meeting so that I would leave from there and I would stay there the night after any meetings in case anyone followed me back. I can’t recall how this cover flat was arranged and I did not share the accommodation with anyone else. I did not live anywhere else in my cover identity.

24. The rest of the time I would stay either at the SDS flats or my own flat. The SDS had various flats used as safe-houses. As I was single, I was often asked to stay overnight in a flat to make sure that the place was secure, for example if there were sensitive documents there, and to give the appearance that it was a normal, occupied flat. My recollection is that I stayed at an SDS flat more often than I stayed at my cover flat.
Legend Building

25. Prior to being deployed I was clean shaven with short hair. I grew a big moustache and a mop of hair. I also had a beard off and on. No one told me to do this, but it was just obvious that you would want to change your appearance as much as possible. I dressed in pretty normal clothing and I did not change my hygiene habits.

26. I don’t think I visited any places or people to prepare myself for deployment undercover. I can’t recall whether I lived in my new identity for a time before approaching my targets but I expect that I would have attended a few meetings before actually approaching anyone.

27. I did not use a vehicle in my cover identity and I did not have a driving licence in my cover identity.

Deployment

Infiltration of groups

28. I was tasked to infiltrate Maoist groups. It is difficult for me to say which groups would have regarded me as a member and when I interacted with them because the membership of these groups was very fluid and groups were constantly splintering and re-forming under different names. There was also a lot of overlap between the members of various groups so it is hard to say which group I was actually dealing with. Many of the groups that I attended were very small, with only six or so members who turned up regularly.

29. Having looked through the documents that I have been shown, I recall some of the names of particular groups but I cannot remember details about them. I recall the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, but this was an umbrella name for lots
of groups. I also recall the Indo-China Solidarity Committee and the Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist). From looking at the documents I have been given, it seems that I may also have been involved with the Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist League, Friends of China, British Vietnam Solidarity Front, the Marxist-Leninist Workers Association, the Hackney United Tenants Ad-Hoc Committee and Indo-China Solidarity Conference. It is apparent from the intelligence reports that there was significant overlap between the attendees at meetings of these groups and I can see in particular that Abhimanya Manchanda and [Privacy] played central roles in many of them.

My memory is that there was often little distinction between the various groups.

30. I became involved with these groups by initially going along to meetings that would have been advertised. At the beginning, I think I took it very gently and did not do anything to attract attention to myself. I tried not to come across as too eager as this may have seemed suspicious. After a while I gradually got to know some of the activists and moved into different groups that they attended but I don't remember clearly how I achieved this. I think it was quite straightforward to become involved as they all wanted to recruit people to their groups and causes.

31. I have been asked whether my deployment started in March 1970 or August 1970. I am afraid I cannot remember when my deployment started. It is possible that I was in the SDS back office from March to August 1970 but this seems longer than I recall. If I was deployed before August 1970, I cannot say why there are no intelligence reports attributed to me prior to this date but it is conceivable that it took me some time to get involved with the groups or intelligence reports for this period no longer exist.
Tasking

32. I have very little memory of my tasking while in the SDS. I know that I was given the broad task of focusing on Maoist groups and I imagine that either Phil Saunders or HN294 would have told me to do this. All UCOs would be told which areas of activism they should focus on to make sure that there was not too much overlap. I knew that I was meant to find out about the Maoist organisations: what they were all about, what they were planning, who their members were et cetera. The SDS was trying to find out whether these groups posed a risk to public order and the security services also had an interest in gathering information about any risks posed to state security.

33. I would have been told to find out where meetings were occurring and go along. I don’t recall being given any further instructions about how to carry out my task of infiltrating groups. There was no clear next step once you got connected with a group; you were expected to use your initiative, discretion and judgment but I would not have reported on matters that did not fall within my broad remit.

34. I knew that my role was to gather as much intelligence as I could on my target groups and pass this back to the SDS; it was up to the powers that be to decide what information was relevant and needed to be passed on. There was no further remit to disrupt or distract the groups from what they were doing.

35. We may have also been given specific tasks and asked to gather particular pieces of intelligence but I don’t have any strong memory of this. I suspect that this would have been communicated at the weekly SDS meetings or on an ad-hoc basis if required more urgently.
36. I have been asked whether I had access to other sources of information about my targets. I have a vague memory of being shown some Special Branch files during SDS meetings and, if we needed to, I imagine we would have been able to review documents held by Special Branch.

37. I do not recall being told how long I would be deployed for.

**Premises and meetings with the SDS**

38. During my time on the unit, the SDS had headquarters and also maintained various flats that were used as safe-houses. There was only ever one SDS flat at any time but the location changed and I cannot remember where they were.

39. All UCOs would meet at the SDS flat once per week. This was usually on a Wednesday during the daytime, as there would be no other meetings going on then. There were also extraordinary meetings if there was anything special to discuss, for example if a demonstration was arranged at short notice and information about this needed to be provided. As a UCO, I would also be in telephone contact with the office. Most people would call in every day just to say that they were ok.

40. At the weekly meeting, UCOs brought their reports along. I am not sure when and where officers prepared their reports; everyone had their own method of working but I remember that some people would write up their reports at the beginning of the weekly meetings. Reports would be collected and taken back to the SDS office to be put into good English and typed up. Not everyone brought a report every week, only if they had something to pass on. Special Branch would come back to us if more information was required. These
meetings were useful times to exchange good ideas amongst the UCOs and to update and Phil about what we were up to. The meetings were very informal and I don't remember there being any set pattern to them.

41. I would generally only see other UCOs at the weekly meetings but I may also have seen them when we attended the SDS flat at other times, for example to make a secure phone call or to write up our notes. I do not recall seeing them socially during my deployment. I would have discussed my deployment with the other UCOs at the SDS flat. We were a close knit group and we trusted each other. We would have had general conversations about what we were up to during our deployments. I cannot say specifically what topics we would have routinely discussed and Phil would be there for much of our discussions and I don't recall that the conversations changed if they were present.

**Pattern of life whilst undercover**

42. I cannot remember how much time I spent in my assumed identity. I would work as and when required, which was variable from week to week.

43. When in my undercover identity I would attended meetings and protests. I attended meetings very frequently as these groups held endless meetings. The only clear memory I have is of some terrible "Maoist indoctrination meetings". I recall one in blistering summer heat where a Canadian, was going through Chairman Mao's Red Book. At one point, he said that he would treat us to some light relief, and proceeded to play us a version of 'Take not a needle and thread from the masses' that he had set to music with his guitar. I also used to go on lots of demonstrations. They were two a penny at that time. I have no
real recollection of what my precise routine was while undercover but I remember that I did not socialise with any of my targets.

44. While I was in my real identity I would attend SDS meetings and spent a good deal of time writing up my reports in the SDS flat.

45. I don't think that my working life was that different to in the rest of Special Branch. The hours would have been a bit more unpredictable and variable but I don't remember working much longer hours.

Motor cars

46. I have been asked about the use of motor cars in the SDS. I never used a vehicle while undercover.

47. I do remember the SDS using hired vehicles but I don't remember what these were for. Since I never had one, I didn't pay much attention to them. I think there were a couple of vehicles for use by the office. I have no recollection of a transition from hiring cars to purchasing cars for individual officers.

Pay and over-time

48. I do not remember whether serving on the SDS affected my take-home pay or whether I was paid over-time.

49. We submitted expenses at the weekly meetings, and would receive cash to reimburse us for the previous week. We did not have cover bank accounts and so I would pay out of my own pocket and claim it back. We kept a diary, like every officer in Special Branch, and would record our hours and expenses, but the diary accounts were very bland as we did not want to put sensitive
information in them. We could claim expenses for things like meals purchased while working extra hours in line with the then current regulations.

Reporting on Abhimanya Manchanda and groups linked to him

50. I should say at the outset that I have no memory of most of the matters contained within the intelligence reports that I have been shown. This is not surprising given that nearly 50 years has passed.

51. I have been asked about reports recording that certain activists were encouraged to take jobs at Ford and the Metal Box Co. I have no idea if these people succeeded in obtaining the jobs sought. I have no memory of this at all.

52. 

53. I have been asked whether my supervisors concluded that I no longer needed to report on the Revolutionary Marxist Leninist-League (RMLL) after the group was damaged irreparably by a loss of faith in Manchanda’s leadership. I have no memory of my supervisors’ response to this but the documents indicate that I continued to report on their activities and the group subsequently changed its name. I only did what I was asked to do so I assume that I was still required to report on them. If my supervisors did not want me to go to these meetings, they
would have said so and there would have been discussion that reports on this
group were no longer required. I do not know why they would still have wanted
information about the RMLL after Manchanda left but they must have felt it still
contained people of interest.

54. I can see from the documents that the RMLL re-formed under Privacy’s
leadership. I cannot remember what view I formed on the risk of subversion
under Privacy’s leadership and whether I expressed this to my supervisors.
With the benefit of hindsight, I’m not convinced that the group posed a threat of
subversion or revolution under either Privacy or Manchanda’s leadership given
how low the membership was but I suspect this may not have been appreciated
at the time.

55. I cannot comment upon how quickly it became apparent that the re-formed
RMLL posed little threat of public disorder; I just do not remember this level of
detail. Similarly, I do not know why I was still asked to monitor groups that
Manchanda was involved in after it became apparent that his influence was
diminishing. It was not for me to decide whether these people were legitimate
targets and I would have just gone along with my instructions. At the time I did
not really question why Special Branch or the security services might be
interested in particular groups or people; that was above my pay grade.

56. I have been asked about two meetings that I attended with Jill Mosdell, a female
UCO. I believe that Jill had previously been trying to infiltrate women’s groups
but had not had much success with this and was a bit nervous. Phil Saunders
asked me to try to place her in one of the Maoist groups. I tried to feed her into
the more fringe Maoist groups by taking her along to a couple of meetings but
that did not work out. I think ultimately she didn’t really want to be a UCO.
According to the intelligence reports, one of these meetings was only attended by four other people. This is not indicative of any special position of trust that I had obtained it is simply that some of these meetings were not well attended and they were happy to have any attendees that they could.

Maoist groups

57. I have been asked about whether I reported upon a number of specific groups. As I have said, I find it difficult to remember which particular groups I was involved in. The documents that I have seen indicate that I reported upon the British Vietnam Solidarity Front, the Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist League and that I attended a few meetings of the Hackney United Tenants Association Ad-Hoc Committee.

58. As mentioned above, membership of Maoist groups was fluid and there was a lot of cross-over. The groups would frequently splinter or evolve and often there weren’t easily identifiable members or even well-defined groups so it was easy and natural to move between the different groups. I just went along to meetings that I heard about and generally they were glad to have attendees. I don’t remember being particularly trusted within these groups but my attendance at lots of groups would not arouse suspicion as it was common for people to be members of multiple groups.

59. I have been asked about why I have recorded that half of the attendees at a meeting of the Anti-Imperialist Co-Ordinating Committee were Arabs and Coloureds. This would simply have been a statement of fact and I tried to pass on as much information as possible.
Relationship with Gajawan V. Bijur and Banner Books

60. Banner Books was an extreme left-wing book shop in Camden run by Gajawan Bijur. Mr Bijur was a committed Maoist. While deployed I would go in to have a browse in Banner Books and it was easy to fall into conversation; they wanted to speak to you and recruit people to their causes. I think I used to help out in the bookshop; as far as I recall, this wasn’t anything formal but I would be there quite a bit so I was helpful when I could be.

61. I was aware that Mr Bijur was looking for somebody to take over running Banner Books. I believe that I continued to attend the bookshop but was not otherwise involved in the running of it.

Reporting on the East London Branch of the Anti-Internment League

62. I have been asked about a report of the Anti-Internment League dated 6 January 1972 (Doc 2: MPS-0740355). Since my name is at the bottom of this report, I assume that I have supplied the information contained within it or have written up the report myself. I have no recollection of this report. Similarly, I have no idea why the SDS was gathering intelligence on the Anti-Internment League and I don’t remember having anything to do with them myself.
This document is not an SDS document, it is a standard Special Branch meeting report. I do not believe that I attended this meeting as the names of attendees mean nothing to me.

64. I do not know why Special Branch was interested in the Anti-Apartheid Movement as I never had any involvement with them to the best of my recollection.

Reporting on Individuals

65. I have been asked about reports containing the names, addresses, occupations and positions of individual members of my target groups. I would have reported this sort of information if I could. Special Branch would have been interested in the membership of groups; one of the main reasons we were deployed was to gather intelligence about who was involved in these protest groups. I do not believe that I was selective with the information that I passed back. It was not for me to decide what was relevant and what was not as this could risk skewing the picture given to Special Branch.

Trade Unions

66. I did not join a trade union or become involved with trade union affairs while undercover.
Public order and violence

67. I did witness public disorder while undercover. The occasion that comes to my mind was when I saw protesters trying to put lit rags into the petrol tank of a commercial vehicle. I have no memory of who these protesters were. I had originally thought that this occurred at the second Grosvenor Square riot but now that I think about this, that cannot be right. I recall that I was undercover when I witnessed it because I was worried when some officers went past me and almost recognised me. If I was undercover, it cannot have been the second riot that happened in 1968. It is possible that this was another protest in Grosvenor Square as it was a popular place for demonstrations but I am now not confident of this memory. I don't remember what the date of this protest was.

68. I can't recall any other specific incidents and I don't remember seeing any Maoists committing public disorder while deployed but I may have just forgotten over the years. I did not participate in any public disorder.

69. I cannot say with any certainty whether I witnessed any particular incident of violence but I suspect it was going on around me during some protests. I have been asked about an SDS annual report (Doc 3: MPS-0728975), which suggests that by the end of 1973, violent protest by Maoist groups had diminished. I suspect that I was the source of this information as I think I was the only UCO involved with the Maoists at this time but I cannot remember forming this view and in fact my recollection now is that the Maoists were generally not violent.

70. I was not involved with any violence myself.
Subversion

71. I have not really thought about whether Special Branch had a role in countering subversive activity; I didn’t tend to think in any great detail about the purpose of Special Branch as I just got on with the job in hand. Special Branch was certainly interested in the activity of people who were considered to be subversive so I assume that they must have had a role in countering subversion.

72. The activity that I witnessed while undercover was subversive in the sense that the whole purpose of the Maoists was to subvert the political system but they could not actually achieve this as they did not have the means to do so and were largely pretty ineffective.

73. I am sure that much of my reporting was copied to the security service; the decision as to whether to pass the reports on to them would be taken by someone in a senior position. They would have been interested in many of the groups that we reported on since they potentially posed a risk to state security. The security services were interested in everything and you did not ask questions about why they wanted certain information. Although Special Branch and the security services worked closely together, this was only further up the hierarchy so I have no idea about discussions between them.
Sexual relationships

75. I did not engage in any sexual activity whilst in my undercover identity. This would have been completely inappropriate.

Other relationships

76. I cannot really remember having any particularly close relationships with any activists while deployed but I must have been closer with Mr Bijur, Al Manchanda and his wife Diane Langford. I got to know Mr Bijur through Banner Books but I did not otherwise socialise with him. I became friendly with Al Manchanda and his wife by attending meetings and I recall baby-sitting for them on one occasion. I cannot remember why I came to baby-sit their child; I assume that they must have asked me to do so and I thought it would have seemed odd if I refused.

77. I did not otherwise occupy any positions of trust within my target groups.

Criminal Justice and other legal or disciplinary proceedings

78. I did not participate in any criminal activity while deployed and I did not encourage any other person to do so. I was never arrested or charged with any criminal offences and I never had any involvement with any legal or disciplinary proceedings in connection with my undercover work. I do not believe that the product of my reporting was used in connection with any criminal investigation or prosecution. I never became aware of any legally privileged information to my knowledge.
Elected politicians

79. I did not report on elected politicians.

The use to which my reporting was put

80. The information that I passed back was typed up to produce intelligence reports. These would then be filed against the groups and individuals that they related to. I presume that the reports would have been reviewed by the Chief Superintendents of the relevant Special Branch squads, who would have decided if any follow-up was needed. As I have said, reports were also sent to the security service. After the information left me, I had no say in how it was used.

81. I have never really thought about what my reporting achieved for Special Branch or the police. Thinking back on it, I suppose that it helped to build up a picture of the groups that I was involved with. Although in hindsight the Maoist groups may not actually have posed a particular threat, this may not have been understood at the time and it was also important for the police to have negative intelligence so as not to waste police resources.

82. I was never 100% clear on the end goal of the SDS but I think that the unit had its origins in the Grosvenor Square riots. I was present at the first Grosvenor Square riot in uniform. We had nothing but a raincoat and a small truncheon and we were completely overwhelmed. The starting point for the SDS was to gather advanced warning of the possible number of people that could be involved in disorder. It was purely intelligence gathering. In my view, this was a suitable response to the public disorder. The SDS evolved to gather intelligence about people. It just evolved in the natural way. The SDS was always about
collecting intelligence, the only thing that changed was how it was used. In the early days, we were just trying to counteract people on the streets. Later on, the intelligence was used not just to help with the police response, but to find out about different people’s involvement and who was manipulating who.

83. I have not received any particular recognition for my work with the SDS.

84. I have been asked about whether all of the reports I have been provided with were authored by me. I can only say that if they have my name on, I assume I would have provided the information contained within them. I did not actually type them up myself so the wording may have been slightly altered. I cannot comment upon the reports that do not bear my name as I have no knowledge of who authored them or where they have come from and any suggestions 50 years after the event would just be guesswork.

**Exfiltration**

85. My SDS deployment ended in December 1973 when I was recognised at a meeting at the London School of Economics by a woman called Ethel. I met Ethel whilst I was still a uniformed officer. At the LSE meeting, Ethel said in a loud voice: ‘here are Scotland Yard come to take us away’. Not many people picked up on it, but
I still made my excuses and left at the first opportunity. I telephoned Phil Saunders at home to tell him.

86. The next day, or very soon after, the head of Special Branch, Vic Gilbert, and the Deputy Commissioner, Roland Watts, came to speak to me. They came with a masterplan that if I was ever confronted about being a UCO, I should say that I was acting completely ‘off my own bat’ and that my superior officers were unaware of what I was doing. I was livid that they refused to take responsibility and walked away from them both. Phil Saunders was not present at this meeting.

87. I withdrew from all undercover activities straight away. I never again made contact with the people I had known as a UCO and I had no issues following my departure. I was posted to [redacted] with immediate effect. People came and went in Maoist circles all the time, so I was not concerned that it would appear particularly suspicious.

88. I have been asked about an account of my deployment written by Diane Langford (Doc 4: MPS-0746274 ). This account is inaccurate in the following respects:

a. My cover employment was that I worked for a garage, not a car rental firm. It was only a cover so I cannot have been seen driving different cars. I did not have an undercover car nor cover licence. I would not have claimed to have worked for a car rental firm. I don’t recall saying that I worked at the Tatty Bogle as I would have no reason to do so.

b. It is suggested that I was suspected as a UCO and assigned particularly onerous tasks. I was never given any impression that I was not accepted
by the group and I am sure that if they suspected me, they would not have tolerated my presence.

c. I do not think that I was made to undertake tasks that were any different to other members. I certainly don’t recall having to carry and collect heavy banners and I never memorised long passages of James Maxton’s writing. I certainly did not buy drinks for everyone as I did not socialise with my target groups.

d. Diane Langford’s account of my encounter with Ethel is completely inaccurate. I have a good memory of this incident as it is the sort of alarming occasion that sticks with you over the years. Diane Langford was not standing next to Ethel when this incident occurred and I did not grab Ethel by the wrist. I in fact gave Ethel a hug and whispered in her ear that I was going to leave and asked that she not tell anyone who I was. I then left.

e. I did not threaten Ethel. I would have had no opportunity to do this as I left the meeting and then never had any further contact with Ethel. My deployment ended the following day.

f. I note that Diane Langford reports on a conversation that she had with Ethel. Whilst I cannot comment on what Ethel might have said, I didn’t even know that Ethel was Irish as I had only met her once before and certainly did not know that she had family in Ireland. I made no such threats to Ethel.

g. I can only assume that Diane Langford feels betrayed by my involvement with her and is trying to ridicule me and paint me in a poor light as a result of this.
89. I had no particular debriefing apart from the meeting with Vic Gilbert and Roland Watts. During this meeting they were really only concerned with how Special Branch could be protected and did not otherwise discuss my deployment. I would have wanted some sympathy for my position, and I was certainly not expecting them to say what they did. It would have been better if we had discussed where I would like to be deployed next, but in the end it was of no consequence and I was posted to

Managers and Administrative Staff

90. When I joined the SDS, it was run by DCI Phil Saunders. I had not met him before the SDS. He worked with DI [HN294]. I think Phil and [HN294] remained in charge the whole time I was out in the field but it was a pretty loose hierarchy and it was all very informal. There would also have been a Sergeant in the SDS and a Chief Superintendent with overall responsibility for the SDS but I cannot remember who they were.

91. I cannot recall if there were any administrative staff based at the SDS headquarters but I assume that there must have been.

Management and supervision: general arrangements

92. I would have had routine contact with [HN294] and Phil and whichever Sergeant was in the SDS. I kept in touch with Phil and [HN294] at the weekly SDS meeting, at any ad-hoc meetings that were arranged and over the phone. I think I spoke to one of them pretty much every day.
93. I cannot recall specifically what I would have discussed with HN294 and Phil but it would have been anything that was topical at the time. I would have updated them about the meetings I had attended and no doubt they would have raised any questions arising from my previous reports and let me know if any specific intelligence was required. No topics would have been off-limits. Both HN294 and Phil were extremely nice men and we could have approached them with anything.

94. The intelligence that I provided was sometimes reported orally over the phone but was generally passed on as hand-written notes at the weekly meetings. If there was something more urgent, I may have arranged for a hand-written report to be submitted at other times. I am not able to remember how often I provided written reports and I do not know whether the reports that I have been shown provide a complete picture.

95. I don't recall my supervisors' responses to my reporting but I think they seemed content enough. No doubt if there were any issues with my reports they would have raised this with me. I do remember that managers were very particular about our spelling and grammar but that is about it!

96. There were no real arrangements for monitoring the welfare of UCOs but I'm sure that HN294 and Phil would have got a good enough feel for how we were at the weekly meetings.

97. I was never affected by my work as a UCO. I cope quite well with adversity and do not dwell on things. To me, it was just a day job. I was never exposed to risk of physical harm and never perceived myself as being in danger. With the benefit of hindsight, I would have liked to have had identity documents in my cover name.
Senior management and oversight bodies

98. There used to be a Chief Superintendent in charge of the SDS and they would come down to the unit every now and again but I don't remember who they were. I think they mostly visited the SDS headquarters but may also have come to the SDS flat too on occasion. I don't remember ever speaking to them myself and don't know what their visits entailed.

99. I do not recall anyone external visiting the SDS other than an auditor from F-branch of the MPS who would come to check the unit's accounts.

Deployment of contemporaries

100. I believe that the following were members of the SDS:

- HN332; Phil Saunders; HN294; Derek Brice;
- HN68; Mike Ferguson; HN298; HN301; HN303;
- HN326; HN336; HN338; HN339; HN340;
- HN342/299; HN343; HN344; Jill Mosdell;
- HN347; HN348.

I could not now say when they were in the SDS.

101. I think that my service overlapped with the following people but I am not confident in all of their cases:

- Phil Saunders; HN294; HN68; Mike Ferguson; HN301; HN303; HN326; HN336;
- HN338; HN339; HN340; HN342/299; HN343; HN344; Jill Mosdell; HN347; HN348.
102. **HN68** was a member of the SDS. He was in the unit for a long time but I do not know the precise dates. I think he was still involved when I left in 1973.

103. I do not know whether David Fisher, **HN332** or **HN294** used cover names.

104. To my knowledge, none of my contemporaries committed criminal offences or encouraged others to do so, engaged in sexual activity or were arrested or charged in their undercover identities. I do not know whether any were involved in public disorder or violence; I suspect that some could have become caught up in this at protests. I am not aware of anyone reporting legally privileged information or reporting on the activities of elected politicians.

105. I cannot comment on what my contemporaries achieved for the benefit of policing or the security service. I am sure the work they were doing was valuable but since there was no culture of openly praising the work we did, I would not have been aware of the consequences of their work.

**Post-deployment**

*Period immediately post-deployment*

106. There was no period of rest following my deployment as I was moved to the next day. As I had not been particularly affected by my work in the SDS, I didn't feel that I needed a rest period. I was not offered any advice or support.
Post Special Demonstration Squad police career

107. I returned to the SDS in an administrative role from 1982-1985 and I understand that I will be asked about this in due course.

108. I don't believe that my time in the SDS affected any of my subsequent postings.

109. It is likely that I used intelligence from the SDS in my later work in Special Branch. All SDS intelligence reports were placed on Special Branch files and these were available to Special Branch officers. Information from the SDS may have been specifically brought to my attention if it was relevant to my work but I have no memory of the circumstances in which this would be done. I must
have looked at hundreds upon hundreds of files in my time in Special Branch so no doubt I did review SDS intelligence but I cannot recall any specific incidents. I do not believe that I ever made requests for particular information from the SDS as that would have been done at Chief Inspector level.

Leaving the police

113. I retired from the Police in the 1990s.

Undercover work in the private sector

115. I was not given any instructions about working undercover in the private sector or using aspects of my previous undercover identity in the private sector by the MPS. I did not do any undercover work in the private sector.

Any other matters

116. There is no further relevant evidence that I am able to give.

Request for documents

117. I do not have any documents that are potentially of relevance to the Inquiry’s terms of reference and I have not referred to any document other than those included with the Rule 9 request.
Diversity information

118. I am a white British male.

I believe the content of this statement to be true.

Signed

Dated 30.08.2019