

# Cover Page

Date signed: 16 December 2019

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

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I, **HN96**, c/o Designated Lawyers, PO Box 73779, London WC1A 9NL, WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. This witness statement is made in response to a Rule 9 request dated 28 October 2019. It provides my full recollection of my deployment as an undercover police officer within the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
2. I am known in this Public Inquiry by the nominal HN 96. There is a Restriction Order in force in respect of my real name dated 8 November 2018. When I was initially deployed as an undercover police officer, my rank was Detective Constable. During my time undercover I was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant. I remained at the rank of Detective Sergeant until I retired from the MPS.

**Personal details**

**2**

**3**

3. My name is **HN96** and my date of birth is **in the 1940's**.



[REDACTED]

## Police career before and after serving with the Special Demonstration Squad

4. I joined the MPS in <sup>4</sup>early 1970's<sup>5</sup>. I undertook training at Hendon and was then posted to <sup>6</sup>[REDACTED] as a uniformed Police Constable in early 1970's<sup>7</sup>.
5. In <sup>8</sup>1970's<sup>9</sup> I applied for, and was accepted into, Special Branch as a Detective Constable.
6. All Special Branch recruits, myself included, were on 'probation' for their first <sup>10</sup>year. <sup>11</sup>[REDACTED]

Pre-deployment postings including to 'B' Squad

<sup>12</sup>[REDACTED]

<sup>13</sup>[REDACTED]
7. <sup>14</sup>[REDACTED]

<sup>15</sup>[REDACTED]
8. I joined the SDS towards the end of 1978.
9. I did not do any undercover policing work or work using a cover identity before joining the SDS. I know that some Special Branch officers did things such as go along to speaker's corner in plain clothes, but I did not do anything of that sort.

## Selection for the Special Demonstration Squad

10. Fairly soon after joining Special Branch I became aware that there was an undercover unit. It was common knowledge that a unit like that existed. I was

[REDACTED]

told that it was something you did not apply to join; it was something you were 'spotted' or selected for.

11. I was interested in undercover work. I felt that I would be good at it. I had done youth work before and felt I had the right interpersonal skills to do the job. Although I did not know exactly what would be required, undercover work sounded exciting. Even though it was not something that you could apply for, I decided to go along to the office and introduce myself.
12. I expressed my interest to Geoff Craft, who was the Chief Superintendent of 'S' Squad at the time. 'S' Squad was comprised of several units, including the SDS. Geoff Craft told me that he would look into me joining the SDS and would be in touch.
13. I did not hear anything from him for quite some time. I assumed that the SDS was not interested in me as a recruit, and so I began thinking about my future career.
14. I studied for the promotion exam to Sergeant. Purely by chance, I ran into an SDS officer, <sup>9</sup> [HN356/124] at the exam hall. I had worked with <sup>10</sup> [him] in another Special Branch Unit before joining the SDS. He told me that I was going to be selected for the SDS. I was worried that being promoted would have meant that I would have been too senior to be an undercover officer, so I walked out of the exam hall without finishing the exam.
15. A couple of months later, I received a telephone call from the Chief Inspector in charge of the SDS, who I think by that point was Ken Pryde. He confirmed that I had been selected to join the unit.

[REDACTED]

16. I understand that the management of the SDS spoke to my supervising officers <sup>11</sup> in [REDACTED] Squad, and to current and former SDS officers who knew me. After I left the SDS I was asked similar questions about prospective recruits.

17. There was no interview selection process, and I do not think any psychological profiling was done to decide if someone would be suitable for the role. I understand that selection was done purely on the basis of personal recommendations.

18. I was married when I joined the unit. I understand that the SDS preferred to recruit married officers. One of the main dangers of the unit was over involvement with the role. It was felt that if you had a family at home you would approach the job in a different way to a single man who had nothing other than work in their lives. The thinking was that having a personal life away from the job allowed you to retain an objective distance from your work and the group you were reporting on.

19. I was not told much about the unit or the work I would be doing before I joined. However, once I transferred onto 'S' Squad, I joined the SDS office at Scotland Yard. During my time in the SDS office I learnt what the undercover work involved. Although my job in the SDS office mostly consisted of administrative tasks, I also had the opportunity to talk to the field officers at twice weekly meetings about what they were doing, and how they were doing it.

20. I told the SDS office that I thought it would be beneficial if they met with my (now ex) wife so she would know who to contact if she was having any problems, or she had any concerns relating to my work. I believe that as a result of my request that practice was followed with all future undercover officers.

[REDACTED]

21. Mike Ferguson and Angus Mackintosh came to our home and introduced themselves. They told my ex-wife that if she had any concerns she could telephone them any time that she wanted to. I think that they told her they would be looking after my security so she did not need to worry about me.

22. I do not recall them talking to her much about what the work itself would involve, or the impact it might have upon me or her personally, but they did make it clear that they were available to help with any issues that arose during my undercover deployment.

### **Training and guidance in the Special Demonstration Squad**

23. There was no formal training for being an undercover police officer, but I learnt a lot from officers that were already in the field.

24. When I joined the unit, an undercover officer, <sup>12</sup> [REDACTED] HN296 was coming out of the field. I was told that I would replace him. Although I would not be infiltrating the same groups as him, he gave me advice on how to conduct myself when I went undercover.

25. He told me it would not be difficult to become very involved in the groups you infiltrated and assume positions with lots of responsibility. However, he cautioned me against doing that. He said that I should be helpful and that I should try be in the right place at the right time, but that I should not make myself too accessible to members of target groups. He told me that the higher



[REDACTED]

you rose in an the organisation, the greater the risk of being exposed as an undercover officer.

26. He told me that although undercover officers needed to be involved with their groups to some extent, you did not get better information from being at the top of an organisation than you did from being somewhere in the middle of the hierarchy.

27. He told me that I should take a similar approach to personal relationships. You had to be friendly and helpful, but you did not want to be around too much, or get too close to members of your target groups. He told me not to volunteer too much information about myself, and actually people did not tend to ask.

28. I have been shown a Home Office Circular number 97/1969 (Relativity ref MPS-0727104). I do not recall being made aware of this document by anyone, but I was aware during my time in the SDS that you should not act as an agent provocateur.

29. There was no tradecraft manual or binder containing guidance about how to behave whilst deployed. As I have said, most of the guidance I received came from <sup>12</sup> [REDACTED] HN296. I also spoke to other officers in the field about what they had done in particular situations. I felt that I was expected to use my common sense and sound judgement to decide how to behave in any given situation.

30. I have been asked whether I received advice, guidance, or instructions on a number of matters. My responses are as follows.

<sup>12</sup> [REDACTED] HN296 told me that although I would necessarily form personal relationships with people whilst undercover, it was not in my

[REDACTED]

interests to form close personal relationships with people. I had to be friendly, but I should not seek to become anyone's best friend. Forming close relationships with people just meant that it became more difficult to maintain your cover because you had to be very careful you did not accidentally slip up in conversation.

32. I do not think anyone ever sat me down and said I should not have sexual relationships, but common sense dictated that was definitely not allowed.

33. I do not recall being given any guidance on participating in criminal activity whilst undercover, though I am sure that it would have come up in discussions with the undercover officers I spoke to. My understanding is that it was not permitted.

34. As I have said above, I knew that you should not provoke or encourage members of your groups to participate in criminal activity.

35. I do not recall what guidance I was given on what to do if I was arrested, but I am sure that it would have come up in my discussions with the undercover officers I spoke to. Had the situation arisen during my deployment, I would probably have telephoned the office as soon as I could.

36. I do not recall being given any guidance on what to do if brought before a court as either a defendant or witness, and I do not think I discussed this with anyone.

37. I do not recall any guidance on what to do if I obtained legally privileged information, and I do not think I discussed this with anyone.

[REDACTED]

38. There was no other formal guidance on the way in which you could behave whilst undercover. As I have said above, I had extensive conversations with officers who were already in the field about what they had done and how they had dealt with various situations that had arisen during their deployment.

39. When there were issues or situations that arose during the course of my deployment that I was not sure how to deal with, I would go and speak to the SDS office. I did not ever find myself in any particular difficulty knowing how to behave whilst deployed, but I did occasionally have logistical issues. The location of my cover flat changed several times, for example.

40. I did not receive any training on race or gender equality from the MPS either prior to or during my time in the SDS.

### **Undercover identity**

41. My cover name was Michael James. People called me Mike.

42. Someone in the SDS office told me to find the identity of a deceased child <sup>13</sup> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who would have been a similar age to me had they survived. That was the practice that all SDS officers used when I was on the unit.

43. The full name of the individual whose name I used was Robert Michael James.

<sup>14</sup> [REDACTED] I used his middle name and his last name. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

44. I do not recall if I used his date of birth or if I invented a fictitious date of birth. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I felt that a younger man might be more inclined to be involved with the kind of groups that I was going to infiltrate.

45. I also used his location of birth, which was Blackpool. I do not think that I ever told members of my group that I was from Blackpool, but I had it in my back pocket if it ever came up.

46. The SDS office told me to visit Blackpool, in case a member of my group ever asked about it. With the assistance of the local Special Branch I ascertained that Robert James's family no longer lived at his former address.

47. Other than his name, location of birth, and possibly his date of birth I did not use anything else about his identity as part of my cover identity.

48. I did not use any aspect of any other person's identity in the construction of my undercover legend.

49. I was never quizzed about my background when I was deployed, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

50. I had a cover job as a painter and decorator. I planned on presenting myself to my group as a young man who was making a reasonable living from his job.

51. I told people I had a Jewish girlfriend who was not keen on my political activities. I did that for two reasons. The first reason was in case someone spotted me with my wife whilst I was off duty. The second is that it would have given me a



[REDACTED]

reason to rebuff someone's advances if they showed a romantic interest in me.

Thankfully, neither situation arose during my deployment.

52. My cover background was not very developed beyond the above, though I did have an actual cover employer as I have set out below.

53. Before I was deployed I discussed my cover background with the SDS office and they told me that they approved of it.

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54. [REDACTED] I had a driving licence in my cover name. [REDACTED]

### Cover employment

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55.

My cover employment was in the painter and decorator business. I undertook a couple of minor jobs but did not do any substantive work.

56.

### Cover accommodation

57. I was told by the office that they wanted me to go to East London and become involved with the SWP.

[REDACTED]

58. The first thing that I needed to do was find a cover flat in that area. You were given a budget for accommodation, which was about enough to cover a bedsit. I found a bedsit in Hackney fairly quickly. The bedsit that I found initially did not really fit with how I saw my legend, but it was what the office told me to get.

59. After around 6 months I found a nicer bedsit, still in Hackney, that I felt was more appropriate to my legend. However, this bedsit was on the same road that two other members of the SWP lived on. I therefore decided that it would not be prudent to carry on living there and sought alternative accommodation.

60. I had a discussion with the Detective Chief Inspector of the SDS at that point, Trevor Butler. <sup>19</sup> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I went to look at

[REDACTED] small flats rather than bedsits, and all located in the Hackney area.

61. One of the flats was in a block. It was a bigger flat, but I felt it was in keeping with how members of my group would perceive me. It was on the ground floor and had a kitchen, lounge and a bedroom. It was unfurnished, but I was given a budget to get furniture.

62. It was a big flat. I was concerned that if I lived in it alone, a comrade might see that I had the extra space ask if they could move in. Another SDS officer, <sup>20</sup> [REDACTED] HN106, was in the same geographical area but in different groups. We were friends and our wives knew each other. Having two of us there also gave us better coverage if a member of one of our groups dropped by. Myself and <sup>20</sup> HN106 spoke about sharing the flat, and persuaded the SDS management that it made sense for us to do so. We shared that flat for around three years.

[REDACTED]

21

63.

[REDACTED]

22

64. As I was coming to the end of my deployment, I

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] found another bedsit in the Stoke Newington area. I was in that bedsit for around 6 months and then I left the field.

65. Other than my official cover accommodation set out above, I did not live anywhere else in my cover identity during my deployment.

### **Legend building**

66. Before I joined the SDS I was clean shaven and had short hair.

67. When I joined the SDS I grew a beard and grew my hair longer. I went and bought some casual wear that I thought would suit someone who would be in the SWP – jeans, sweaters, that kind of thing.

68. As I have said above, I visited Blackpool before I was deployed. I did not visit any other people or places to prepare myself for my deployment.

69. When I was first deployed I spent a few weeks exploring the local area and showing my face in the local shops and pubs. Once I had got my bearings and built up a bit of a presence, I approached my target group.

[REDACTED]

70. I had a small estate vehicle and carried around painting and decorating materials with me. Sometimes I would make it look as though I had come from work by splashing a bit of paint on myself.

71. I believe that I bought my cover vehicle from a big car lot somewhere in London. The office paid for it. That car lasted me throughout my deployment.

## **Deployment**

72. The first group that I was targeted to infiltrate was the SWP in East London. I did that for the first two years of my deployment.

73. Getting involved with the SWP was not difficult. I came across street sellers of their newspaper fairly quickly. Their meetings were advertised in the local pubs in Stoke Newington and Hackney. There was a real mix of people involved in it. It attracted young people and older people. Some were very politically aware, others were not.

74. The Hackney area was a melting pot of various political groups, so lots of members of the SWP would associate with people who were involved in other groups. Although I was only targeted towards the SWP in my first two years, during that time I had peripheral interactions with a number of groups, including Red Action and the RCP, however it was only SWP meetings that I attended.

75. After a couple of years, I started to become involved with the TOM in the Hackney area. I was invited to one or two of their social events by members of the TOM, and then I was invited to come to their meetings. I relayed that

[REDACTED]

development to the SDS office, who told me that they thought I should seek to infiltrate the Hackney branch of the TOM. There was no SDS coverage of the TOM at the time and Irish matters were of particular interest to Special Branch due to events in Ireland at the time.

76. Through my involvement with the TOM, I came to meet members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party and the Revolutionary Communist Party, but I do not think that I ever attended any meetings of either of those groups.

77. Only the SWP and the TOM would have regarded me as a member. I do not remember having a membership card for either, or there being any official status of 'member'. I did, however, regularly attend meetings of each during my infiltration of them.

78. I have been provided with nearly 700 reports spanning several large lever arch files. 35 years on I find it impossible to say with certainty whether this represents the totality of my reporting or whether there are any significant groups, individuals or periods in respect of which there are reports missing. I do not think that there are.

79. I have also been asked whether there are any reports which I think have been incorrectly attributed to me. I believe that a large number of reports have been incorrectly attributed to me.

80. Reports which are on the Hackney SWP or Hackney TOM are likely to be my reporting. There are, however, lots of reports which do not fall into that category, and they are unlikely to be my reporting. For example, none of the reports of



[REDACTED]

Revolutionary Communist Party meetings are my reporting. Although I interacted with members of this group, I did not attend their meetings.

81. Sometimes, as I have set out below, the SWP and the TOM would cooperate with other groups to organise demonstrations and rallies, so reports of that sort which mention me are also likely to belong to me.

82. I do not think that the report I have been shown dated 16 October 1978 (Relativity reference UCPI0000012886) belongs to me as I was not involved with the Newham branch and I think that I started submitting reports around the end of 1978, in around December time.

83. I am told that the last reports which the Inquiry believes are attributable to me are dated May 1983. That accords with my recollection of when I came out of the field.

23  
84.

[REDACTED]

85. I do not know why my cover name sometimes appears on reports submitted by me and sometimes does not. I do not know the extent to which it is an indication that the report contains intelligence from another source. My recollection is that if I was submitting a report about a meeting I would report my own name as at that meeting. If the office ever took it out, I do not know why that was.

[REDACTED]

*How my reporting was done*

86. When I attended a meeting, I could not sit and take notes. I had to store everything I could remember about that meeting in my head and then make notes as soon as I reached a safe place (normally my real home) about what I had seen and heard.

87. As soon as I could, I would then write up those notes into a draft report. I would hand that draft report in at the next meeting that I attended at an SDS safe house. I would destroy my notes.

88. I would not see what would happen with the draft report that I submitted, but it is my understanding that a member of the SDS office would then write it up, look up individuals mentioned in Special Branch records, and add anything else he thought relevant into it.

89. Looking, for example, at the report dated 12 February 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013153), the information that I reported is the information in quotation marks following the phrase "The following information has been received from a secret and reliable source".. The remainder of the report appears to have been prepared by someone in the SDS office following a review of Special Branch files related to the individual my draft report referred to.

[REDACTED]

*Reporting generally*

90. SDS reporting took a number of forms. The original purpose of the unit was to provide public order intelligence. At the time that I was in the unit, that was still one of its main roles.

91. Whenever Special Branch became aware of an upcoming demonstration, someone on the relevant Squad would be tasked with producing a threat assessment for the uniformed branch of the MPS who would be policing it. Information from a number of sources would feed into the threat assessment, including from regional Special Branches and the MPS Special Branch. One of the MPS Special Branches' sources of information was the SDS, but I understand that they would collate information from a number of sources.

92. Whenever I came to learn information about an upcoming demonstration, I would always submit a written report. Sometimes I would also inform a member of the SDS office when I saw them at the SDS safe house.

93. SWP and TOM demonstrations would take place perhaps every month or so. As result only the minority of my written reporting contained specific information about upcoming public order events.

94. I do not remember ever being specifically asked what I knew about an upcoming demonstration, but whenever I learnt information about something like that I would report it. I do not know exactly how the information we reported fed into threat assessments, other than it was just part of the information that informed the overall picture.



[REDACTED]

95. Sometimes my deployment did put me in a very good position to provide intelligence on a demonstration, but if providing that intelligence might lead to me being compromised it would not be passed on.

96. I remember one occasion when I was on a TOM committee tasked with organising a rally in support of the Republican movement in Ireland. The TOM had applied for permission to hold a rally in Trafalgar Square, but permission was denied by the MPS. As a result, it was decided to instead hold the rally in a street in the Kilburn area. The plan was to have a number of speakers, and then at the end of the rally everyone would dissipate in all directions and collect in Central London to protest anyway.

97. I told office about this plan. They decided not to pass this onto uniformed branch as although the police could have put in place a strategy to stop people moving around in the area, it would have been obvious that there was an undercover officer or informant who had reported that plan.

98. The other sort of reporting that the SDS did was more general. I would report any information I came to learn about individuals who were in the groups, or their future plans. I understood that the purpose of this reporting was as part of a broader remit that Special Branch had for monitoring subversion. A lot of information sharing took place between Special Branch and the Security Service, who had the lead in relation to this sort of intelligence.

99. When I came to learn a new bit of information I would report it. I not did apply a filter to what I reported, because it was not really for me to decide what was important and what was not. The information collected about individuals would be added to their file and possibly would have been used to identify them at a

[REDACTED]

later date if they were seen at another demonstration or meeting by another UCO or Special Branch officer. In that way Special Branch could keep track of what people in extreme political groups were doing, and avoid misidentification of those individuals in future. Special Branch kept files on individuals involved at both ends of the extreme political spectrum.

100. Sometimes the information on Special Branch files would be used for particular purposes. For example, during my deployment I reported on a member of the TOM called [REDACTED] who was involved in the Republican movement. He moved around a lot and I recall submitting a report on a new address that he had moved to. A few days after I submitted that report, that flat was raided by the anti-terrorist branch of the MPS. Presumably they also had some information that [REDACTED] was involved in something more serious than TOM meetings.

101. The information the SDS gathered on individuals involved in extreme political groups may also have been used for vetting purposes for government positions. If someone was involved in extreme politics and then applied to work in a sensitive government department, it would have been flagged up and they may not have been allowed to take up that position.

### *Tasking*

102. I was initially tasked by the Chief Inspector and Inspector in charge of the unit. At the time that was Mike Ferguson and Angus MacIntosh. They told

[REDACTED]

me that they wanted me to deploy to East London, Hackney area, and join the SWP.

103. I think that it was generally accepted that you would spend about five years on the unit, though I do not remember having a specific conversation about that.

104. I was not tasked to look for specific pieces of information. Before you went out into the field you spent some time speaking to your colleagues already in the field about what they were reporting, but generally you were expected to find your own way. We were all experienced Special Branch officers so it was left to our own common sense what to report on. Obviously any public order intelligence would be of interest, but information about the group itself and its members was also gathered.

105. I was not provided with intelligence about East London SWP, or any other group before I went into the field. I went and bought the SWP paper and things like that, but I essentially went in 'cold'.

106. I was initially tasked to the East London SWP as there was a requirement within Special Branch to have good intelligence on that group. They were potentially the most disruptive group, public order wise, that were currently active. My understanding is that there were <sup>23A</sup> [REDACTED] several [REDACTED] officers in the SDS at the time who were involved with various branches of the SWP, dispersed throughout the London area.

107. I was not given any specific instructions on how to carry out my task.

[REDACTED]

108. Other than changing groups, I would not say that my tasking changed during my deployment. The SDS office never asked me to change the reporting I was submitting. Generally, I exercised my own discretion as to what I reported on, and my reporting seemed to meet with approval.

109. As I have said above, to the extent that there was coordination or overlap between the SWP and the TOM and other groups or individuals, I would report on those other groups or individuals. There was no direction by the SDS office to do this, but I would not omit information from my reports just because it was not solely to do with the SWP or the TOM.

*Premises and meetings with other SDS undercover officers*

110. The main SDS administration office was at Scotland Yard, however I did not go there once I was deployed into the field. There were also two SDS safe houses, which all of the undercover officers attended to meet with SDS management twice per week.

111. Meetings at the safe houses all served the same purpose. I would hand in my draft written reports of meetings I had attended. I would discuss any matters of concern or interest with my senior officers. I would also submit my diary, which would show my overtime hours and expenses.

112. Meetings at the safe house were also an opportunity to socialise with colleagues who were in the field. I would not really talk about my deployment



[REDACTED]

with other UCOs. It was an unwritten rule that was not done, unless you had a particular problem you wanted some advice from someone on.

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113. The only other UCO who I regularly discussed things with was [REDACTED]

**HN106**. We shared accommodation and we were friends.

114. I do not remember other UCOs discussing their deployments with me.

115. I do not think there were any topics that we routinely discussed, we would just talk about the normal things that colleagues do. It was a rare opportunity to be yourself instead of your cover identity.

116. Managers would be at the meetings at the safe house, so they would overhear our conversations then.

117. I would also sometimes just go to the pub with two or three colleagues and have a drink for an hour or so. Management would not attend those sorts of meetings.

#### *Pattern of life whilst undercover*

118. Being undercover was a job you would do seven days a week.

119. At least five days of the week I would be 'on duty' in my cover identity for sixteen hours a day. At least two nights per week I would stay at my cover flat. When I was in my cover identity I would attend meetings, demonstrations, and other events. I would also spend time socialising with members of the groups that I infiltrated.

[REDACTED]

120. The only time I was 'on duty' in my real identity was when I attended meetings at the safe houses, and when I wrote up my draft reports at home.

121. I also had a family so made an effort to spend time with them whenever I could.

122. My working life in the SDS was completely different to the rest of my Special Branch work. My experience of Special Branch prior to going onto the SDS was working in intelligence fields. I wore a suit and a tie to work, and I would only dress down if there was a need to. It was a structured job.

123. Life in the SDS was much less structured. You had to have a lot of self-discipline as you did not have a senior officer behind you all the time telling you what to do. You had to be very conscious to remember that you were a police officer, despite spending your entire time pretending to everyone you met that you were not.

#### *Pay and overtime*

124. Being on the SDS increased my take home pay as I put in a significant amount of overtime. Normal Special Branch working hours were eight hours a day, five days a week, though that could change if there was a big operation.

125. There was no change to my basic pay as a result of joining the SDS. Overtime could be claimed whenever you worked more than eight hours a day, or when you worked more than five days a week. I frequently did both of those things. I think my income increased by around a third as a result.

[REDACTED]

126. The only expenses that were covered by the SDS were those that I incurred as a result of doing my job (such as petrol money and a food allowance if I was on duty for more than eight hours). The expenses I received did not reduce my cost of living.

*Reporting on the Socialist Workers Party*

127. I have been asked about my involvement with the following branches of the SWP:

- a. Hackney;
- b. Clapton;
- c. Stoke Newington; and
- d. Homerton.

128. It is not really correct to refer to those branches as being wholly distinct branches, and I do not recall them being separate organisationally. They were all part of the same geographical area, and the same people would go to all of the same meetings. They were all just the SWP in East London, which was the hub of SWP activity in London as a whole. It is where the SWP's headquarters were located.

129. I think that the first meeting that I attended was in Hackney, but I would go to meetings in all of the above areas.

[REDACTED]

130. I would regularly attend SWP meetings, events, and demonstrations. Meetings were every week, and I would always show my face at those. If there was a demonstration, I would normally go along. My recollection is that would happen about once a month. You had to stay connected to the organisation without being too enthusiastic and attending everything that was going on.

131. I would say that I was well known in East London SWP, I regularly attended meetings and although I was careful not to come across as political, I was always willing to help out. As I had a vehicle, I would give members of the SWP lifts to demonstrations. I sold the SWP paper and generally got involved when I was asked. I went along to the pub after meetings, and went along to social events to help maintain my cover. I was a regular face on the political scene. I formed friendships with members of the SWP, although I would not describe them as close friendships.

132. I have been asked about a number of other parts of the SWP, and whether I had any association with them. The answer is no, other than that I had a loose association with the Irish Sub-Committee. I knew [Privacy] who I believe was quite active within it. I showed some interest in Irish matters within the SWP, and I would talk about those with [Privacy]. I did not attend any meetings of the Irish Sub-Committee.

133. I have been asked about a report dated 12 February 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013153). As I have said above, the information that I reported is the information in quotation marks following the phrase "The following information has been received from a secret and reliable source". The remainder of the



[REDACTED]

report appears to have been prepared by someone in the SDS office following a review of the Special Branch files.

134. I have been asked what the purpose of reporting a detailed physical description of someone was and why I considered it noteworthy that it was acknowledged by his associates that he was once a police officer.

135. When I came to learn a new piece of information about a member of one of my target groups, I would report it. As I have said above, I would not filter what I reported. This information could be used to identify the individual in question if they were spotted on a later occasion, at a demonstration for example, so their activities could be accurately monitored.

136. I have been asked about a report dated 21 February 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013166), and in particular how I came by photographs of members of my groups and the purpose of submitting them with my reporting. The report I have been asked about does not have any photographs appended to it, but I believe I can still assist with the question I have been asked.

137. The information that I submitted within this report is the information in quotation marks in the second paragraph. The third paragraph and the photograph is something that I believe has been added in by the SDS office. The photograph would probably have been taken by the photographic unit of Special Branch. I may have identified the individual named from the photograph, though equally that could have been done by someone in the SDS office, or a Special Branch officer on 'B' Squad who was familiar with the personalities.

[REDACTED]

138. Once again, having a photograph on file would have assisted with this individual being identified if they were, for example, observed by Special Branch officers at a later demonstration.

139. I have been asked about a report dated 26 February 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013171), in particular why I reported so much personal information about the individuals named in the report.

140. Once again, the information that I submitted is in quotes. I would not have known whether they had a Special Branch record or not. Paragraphs 6 and 7 have been added in by someone in the SDS office. As I have said above, I would not filter what I reported about members of groups I was targeting. I reported everything that I came to know about them.

141. I have been asked about a report dated 5 April 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000021162), in particular why I reported that the subject of the report was a 'single woman'. As the inquiry has noted there are reports in my witness pack which describe people as 'single men'. I do not remember reporting such detailed descriptions of people, but as I have said above, details about individuals may be used for later identification. The expectation was that you would try and paint as clear a picture as possible about a person, and what they were involved with.

142. I have been asked about a report dated 22 May 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000021293), in particular why I reported that the subject of the report was divorced and had a daughter aged about 6 years. Once again, the reason I reported personal details of this nature was that I understood that I should give

[REDACTED]

as detailed a description as possible of people I encountered who were involved with my target groups.

143. I have been asked about two reports dated 2 August 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000021118) and 22 August 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013300) and asked why I reported the name of a schoolboy who became a member of the SWP, and if I was given any training or guidance about reporting on children.

144. I would have reported on this individual because he was someone who had joined my target group and in terms of my reporting I did not differentiate between children and adults. I was not given any training or guidance on reporting on people under the age of 18. The SDS management never raised an issue with me with reporting details about a child, if they saw it as a problem I am sure that they would have done.

145. I have been asked to look at a report dated 7 September 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013343) and asked to what extent my work as an undercover officer involved monitoring the activities of trade union branches. I spent no time directly monitoring the activities of trade unions. However, if the SWP was supporting a march or demonstration organised by a trade union, I reported that fact. I also reported the SWP's plans for that demonstration.

146. This report is a good example of the kind of intelligence that may have fed into a threat assessment. It states the organiser's expectation as to numbers, the anticipated mood of the demonstration (peaceful) and the risk that some more extreme elements of SWP may become involved. Those are all things that would assist an officer compiling a threat assessment for a particular demonstration.

[REDACTED]

147. I have been asked whether a report dated 17 September 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013379) is my reporting given that the list of attendees is exclusively female. For that reason, it is probably not my report. If it is, I do not know how I would have come across the information the report contains.

148. I have been shown two reports dated 19 September 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013376) and 7 November 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013580) which relate to my election to a position on the Hackney District Committee. It is correct that I was elected to that position.

149. People would have seen me as being fairly active within the SWP in that area. There were not a lot of people in the SWP who were willing to actually do things beyond attend meetings and demonstrations. I was at a meeting and someone put me forward to sit on the committee.

150. As I have said above, the advice I had received from 25 HN296 was not to get too involved with groups I infiltrated, and not to become too prominent. I remember being concerned that being on the committee might place me in too much of a position of prominence, so expressed reluctance to undertake the role.

151. I was, however, mindful that being on a committee like this might provide me with an opportunity to learn more information about the activities that the SWP were planning to participate in, so I agreed to do it.

152. I do not remember a great deal about the specifics of what the committee did, but essentially the committee assisted with implementing the decisions of the SWP head office at a local level. If SWP head office announced that there



[REDACTED]

would be a demonstration for example, the role of members of the district committee would be to generate interest in that demonstration in the membership of the SWP in their particular area.

153. My recollection is that it was not really a decision making body, it just supported the decisions made at a higher level. I do not think that being on the committee gave me influence over the committee as a whole, or the SWP generally. In my role I helped out with all the usual things that the committee did, but did not seek to influence the direction that it went in.

154. I do not remember when I stopped performing this role.

155. I have been shown a report dated 10 October 1979, which details that on the 3 October 1979 I chaired a meeting of the Clapton branch of the SWP. I cannot remember how I came to chair this meeting. I think that if you were a member of the district committee, then from time to time you would act as chair. Being chair of a meeting just meant that you moved the meeting on and made sure that things that needed to be discussed, were. For example, if there were upcoming demonstrations, you made sure that members were aware of those.

156. I do not recall how many meetings I chaired. I do not remember how often you were expected to be the chair, or if there was a rota which determined when you performed the role. I think I just stepped in to do it whenever there was no one else available.

157. The role did not really give me the opportunity to influence the actions of the Clapton Branch of the SWP or the SWP more generally. Obviously as an individual attending a meeting I would have had a view on what was being

[REDACTED]

discussed, but chairing a meeting was not a decision making role, the chair just made sure items on the agenda were addressed at meetings.

158. I have been shown a report dated 28 September 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013426) and asked why I reported lists of names of people who had attended a particular demonstration, and more generally why reporting of that kind was done.

159. The purpose of reporting information of this kind was to know which individuals within a particular group were attending demonstrations. That information could be used to anticipate how many members of the group might attend future demonstrations. It also kept track to those individuals' involvement in the group and the kinds of things that they were doing. If they were someone who regularly attended demonstrations, that is something that I believe that Special Branch would have wanted to keep track of.

160. I have been shown a report of 26 February 1980 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013803) which records my position as 'District Book Organiser' in my capacity as a member of the district committee. I do not remember being 'District Book Organiser', however given it is written next to my name in this report, I must have been. I do not remember what this role entailed, when it was decided that I would undertake it as a part of my role on the district committee, or when I stopped doing it. I can only assume it was something to do with distributing SWP books or literature.

161. I have been shown a report dated 1 April 1980 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013875), which is a report of the Lea Valley District of the SWP. This

[REDACTED]

is not my reporting. To the best of my recollection I never attended a meeting in Lea Valley and was not involved with the Lea Valley District.

162. I have been shown another report dated 1 April 1980 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013871) which is a report regarding a member of the Cricklewood Socialist Workers Party. This is not my reporting. I was not involved with any branches of the SWP in that area and I did not attend any of their meetings.

163. I have been shown a further report dated 1 April 1980 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013873) which is a report regarding a member of the Finchley and Barnet SWP. Again, this is not my reporting. I was not involved with any branches of the SWP in that area and I did not attend any of their meetings.

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164. [REDACTED]

27  
165. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

166. I have been shown a report dated 29 October 1980 (Relativity ref UCPI0000014631). I do not recall this report specifically or the attachments to it, and I did not fit into any of the categories of people described at paragraph 5 of the report to which the attached information was circulated. I therefore think that it is unlikely to be my reporting. If it is my reporting, I can only assume that I was given the attachments because I was on the district committee of East London SWP.

167. I have been shown a report dated 28 January 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016192) which relates to a social held by the Anti-Apartheid Movement on 24 January 1981. I do not remember attending this particular event, but I may well have attended it. I would often go to the place this social was held.

168. If I did attend this event, the only reason that I would have done so would have been to maintain my cover. However, my recollection is that I would not put in a report on a purely social event unless something of interest unexpectedly arose.

169. I have been asked about a report dated 28 January 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016206), and in particular what the purpose of reporting the information at paragraph 4 of the report was. I do not recognise the names of any of the individuals named in this report, nor do I remember reporting the information contained in the report. I did not operate as far east as Walthamstow or Ilford. I therefore think that this report is probably not mine.

170. I have been shown a report dated 8 April 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016593). I do not think that this is my reporting as I do not recall being



[REDACTED]

closely involved with the CND. It appears to consist of information that was sent out fairly widely within the SWP, including to Yorkshire. It may have been received from the local Special Branch up there.

171. The CND was a widely supported campaign both inside and outside of the SWP. The SWP became involved in it in the same way that they became involved in many causes which were not central to their political aims. I am not sure of the significance of the proposed intervention by the SWP in the CND. The SWP was always looking for causes to support in order to widen its message to new recruits.

172. I have been asked about a report dated 4 June 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015379) and why I reported the fact of the marriage of two individuals named in the report. Once again, the reason I reported personal details of this nature was that I understood that I should give as detailed a description as possible of people I encountered who were involved with my target groups. That would have included details such as the fact that they were married, and who they were married to.

173. I have been asked whether and, if so, to what extent, the SWP was subversive, presented a challenge to public order, and/or was involved in criminality.

174. The SWP was a Trotskyist organisation, but its full-time members were realistic about the fact that as an organisation it did not have sufficient power to replace parliamentary democracy with another system of government. It sought to influence people's views and bring about change through protest, rather than

[REDACTED]

engaging in subversive activities. At the time that I was in the SWP, Special Branch were not concerned that it presented a threat our democracy.

175. The SWP had the capacity to create serious public order issues. There were certainly elements within the SWP that looked to cause trouble and engage in violence at events. It attracted all sorts of people and most of them were entirely peaceful. However, some of the younger members in particular liked to get involved in criminal damage and public disorder at events.

176. Save for some elements being involved in public disorder, the SWP was not to my knowledge involved in criminality.

#### *Red Action*

177. Red Action were a breakaway group of the SWP. Its members were mostly in their 20s and 30s and their main aim was to get into violent confrontations with the National Front. They were small in numbers. Whilst the SWP did not promote violence, they tolerated the presence of Red Action at demonstrations because Red Action would face off against similarly violent elements in National Front counter demonstrations.

178. I did not join Red Action, but members of the group would attend SWP meetings and they would drink in the same pubs as SWP members. I did not form any friendships with members of Red Action. They were a difficult bunch of people to get along with. Despite that, I would find out what they were up to through word of mouth from members of the SWP that I knew.

[REDACTED]

179. I have been shown three reports dated 22 January 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000017111), 29 January 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000017144), and 3 March 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000017224).

180. I believe that the reports dated 22 and 29 January 1982 are likely to have been prepared on the basis of information I submitted because they are general in nature.

181. The report dated 3 March 1982 may be one of my reports, but I did not attend any meetings of Red Action, so if it is, it would have been information that I was told by someone else.

182. I have been asked about a report dated 1 June 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018238) regarding Red Action. I am not certain whether this is my report or not as I had started the process of exfiltration by that time and I do not remember reporting this information. I do however remember that Red Action were involved in violent confrontations at demonstrations. I do not recall being at a demonstration and seeing it happen, but I do remember being told about it by other SWP members.

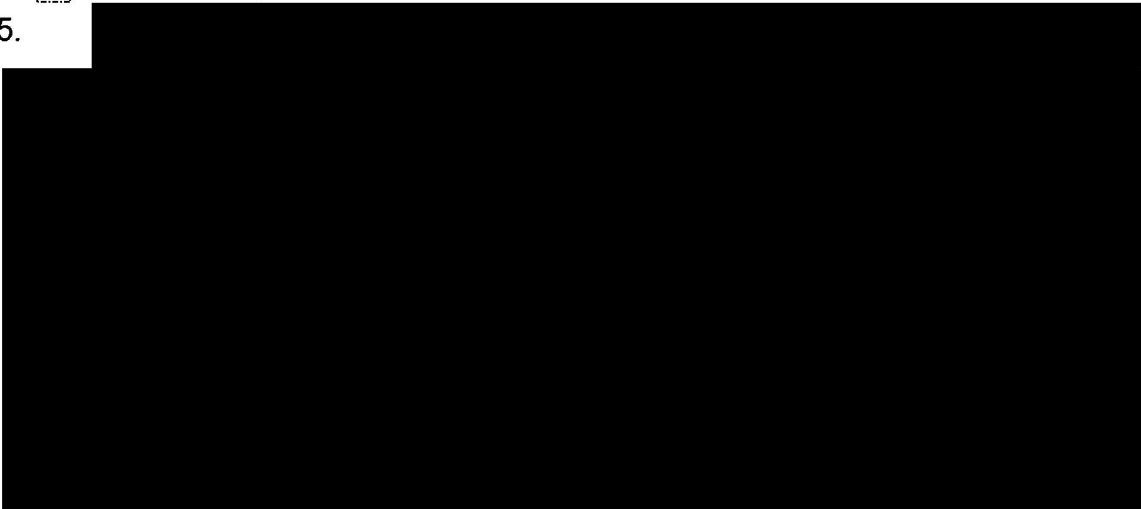
183. Red Action might have had subversive beliefs, but they did not have the power to present a serious threat to democracy. They engaged in violence in order to achieve their aims, and consequently presented a threat to public order and caused issues for the police at demonstrations.

[REDACTED]

*Troops Out Movement*

184. My recollection is that I began reporting on the Hackney TOM towards the end of 1980, around two years into my deployment.

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185.



186. The TOM were eager for new recruits and there was a lot of overlap in membership with the SWP. My recollection is that I got talking to members of the TOM in an 'SWP pub' in Hackney, and they invited me to attend meetings.

187. I discussed that development with the SDS office and they encouraged me to become more involved with the TOM. I understand that at the time there was no one else in the SDS involved in the TOM, whereas the SDS had ample coverage of the SWP.

188. I believe that the principal reason that Special Branch was interested in the TOM was public order concerns, though there was an element of concern about whether it was providing support for the Irish Republican groups who may commit acts of terror.

189. I decided that it would look strange if I was a 'full-time' member of both the SWP and the TOM. My concern was that I would become too prominent on

[REDACTED]

the scene if I did that, and that it might draw attention to me. I agreed with the SDS office that I would keep in social contact with members of the SWP and gain intelligence in that way, but that I would attend fewer SWP meetings, and more meetings of the TOM.

190. In addition to attending meetings of the TOM, I also formed friendships with various members. Members of the SWP and the TOM in Hackney all went to the same pubs so I basically carried on as before.

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191. [REDACTED]

29  
192. [REDACTED]

193. I have been shown a report dated 9 December 1980 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015210) regarding a public meeting organised by the Revolutionary Communist Tendency (the RCT) and the TOM. There was cross over in membership between these two groups. They would sometimes hold joint events, and they would go to the same demonstrations.

194. I have been asked about the purpose of reporting the information in this report, in particular a summary of the speech given by Ernie Roberts MP. It is



[REDACTED]

a meeting I attended, so I would have reported what was said at it, irrespective of the fact the speaker was an MP.

195. [REDACTED]

196. I have been shown a report dated 19 March 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016535) and asked what I understood the 'major mobilisation' referred to in paragraph 3 of the report involved. I do not remember submitting this report, but I assume this phrase means that there would be a lot of people attending the demonstration from a number of different organisations.

197. I have been shown a report dated 14 May 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015337). This is probably my report and [REDACTED] Privacy was someone I was very familiar with. He was one my main contacts in the TOM in Hackney. The information that I reported about him is in quotes at paragraphs 2 and 3 of the report. I think that the photograph of him appended to this report has been attached by the SDS office. I think that the photographic squad of Special Branch probably would have taken it at a demonstration.

198. I have been asked about reports dated 10 November 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016711), 20 November 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016769), and

[REDACTED]

11 December 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016816), and asked about my involvement with the National Steering Committee.

199. Hackney was a particularly 'active' branch of the TOM, in the sense that there were a lot of active and enthusiastic members. A number of its members were on the National Steering Committee. At some point during my time on the TOM there was a vacancy to join the National Steering Committee. The post that was available was that of Membership and Affiliation Secretary and I believe it was decided that post had to be filled by a member of the Hackney branch of the TOM.

200. At paragraph 16 of my impact statement dated 19 September 2017, I stated that I was National Secretary of the TOM. That is incorrect. Having reviewed the contents of my witness pack I can see that the correct title for the role that I undertook in the TOM was Membership and Affiliation Secretary.

201. I was put forward for the post at a meeting of Hackney TOM and I accepted. I came into possession of meeting minutes in that way.

202. Normally I would have shied away from a position like that out of concern that it would draw too much attention to me, but I decided that undertaking the role would give me a closer insight into the things that the TOM were doing.

203. The nomination came out of the blue so I did not have the opportunity to discuss it with my managers beforehand. I spoke to them about it as soon as I could after my nomination had happened. I remember them being pleased.

204. I did not know exactly what the role of Membership and Affiliation Secretary involved at the time I was nominated for it. Although the title makes

[REDACTED]

it sound like it was an important role, in reality it required very little of me. I just dealt with any applications for membership.

205. In the role I also attended meetings of the National Steering Committee, which made decisions about what political platforms the group was taking and which demonstrations it would support. Although I attended these meetings, my legend was that I was not strongly political and was much more of a practical, organisational person. Although I probably contributed to discussions that were had, I would go along with what the majority of people thought rather than playing an active role. If there was something I could do to help, I would, but I was not an 'ideas man'.

206. I believe that I fulfilled the role of Membership and Affiliation Secretary for around a year and a half, until I left the TOM.

207. I have been asked why, in the report dated 11 December 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016816) the name "Mike James" is not listed in paragraph 4 of the report, and why in some instances "Mike James" is listed as having attended meetings but in other instances is not (despite the minutes of those meetings suggesting that I did attend). I have also been shown a report dated 19 July 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018438), which is another example of this. I do not know why this is. It may be that sometimes the SDS office sometimes took my name out of reports submitted. I do not think there is any significance in this fact.

208. I have been shown a report dated 31 March 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000017972) regarding a planned march and rally. I have been asked what the purpose of reporting a remote possibility that Owen Carron MP would

[REDACTED]

Speak at the rally. I reported this simply because it was what was discussed at the meeting. It is information about something that may happen at a demonstration. It was for the SDS office to decide if that information was useful.

209. I have been shown a report dated 12 May 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018080) which records the fact that I was the Membership and Affiliation Secretary of the National Steering Committee. I have discussed this role and what it entailed above.

210. I performed other roles for the TOM as well. For example, in the report dated 31 March 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000017973), which is report of an organising committee for a demonstration, I am listed as the Treasurer of that committee. I did lots of roles like that. I stepped in to help out whenever I was asked. Being on the organising committees for demonstrations such as this enabled me to get detailed and accurate public order intelligence on them.

211. I cannot now recall all of the roles which I performed over the course of my deployment. A couple of times a week I would be helping out with some sort of function. Through making myself useful, I learnt a lot about the group.

212. I have been shown a report dated 25 June 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018365), which records a meeting of the National Steering Committee which I chaired. I do not remember how I came to chair this meeting. I think I probably would have been asked to do so. By that point I was fairly established in the TOM. I believe that being chairman was just a role where you facilitated the meeting dealing with matters that needed to be discussed.



[REDACTED]

213. I did not use these roles to seek to influence the direction of the TOM, I generally just went along with what everyone decided to do, and offered help when I could.

214. I have been shown a report dated 30 June 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018381) which relates to the TOM Delegation Committee to Northern Ireland. I am almost certainly the Mike James referred to in this report, though I have no memory of being on this Committee.

215. I cannot say when, how or why I came to join this Committee. It may have been because I was on the National Steering Committee of the TOM. I do not remember what my role on it involved and cannot assist with any of the questions I have been asked about it.

216. I have been shown a report dated 13 July 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018423) regarding the affiliation of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (the RCLB) to the TOM in April 1982. I do not recognise this report or its contents. The TOM attracted people from all sorts of political affiliations. I do not remember the RCLB as being a big group, so the affiliation may not have been very significant.

217. I have been shown a report dated 30 September 1982 (Relativity reference UCPI0000018658), regarding persons who had become members of the TOM that year. I do not remember putting this report in, but information about who was a member of the TOM would have been of interest to Special Branch. I would not know at the point of reporting someone's name for the first time (or subsequently) whether they had a Special Branch record. As I have



[REDACTED]

said above, file references would be added into the draft reports we submitted by the SDS office.

218. I have been shown a report dated 23 November 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015936) regarding the Manchester Martyrs Commemoration March in Manchester. I do not specifically remember attending this march, but I may have done. I travelled outside of London a couple of times for events, but not frequently.

219. I have been shown a report dated 8 December 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015984) regarding the presentation of a petition to 10 Downing Street calling for the abolition of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. I do not recall reporting this information and I cannot assist with the question about the 'Euro MP' who it refers to.

220. I have been shown a report dated 22 December 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016842), which relates to a demonstration committee for a planned demonstration in London in May 1983. I am listed in the report as the treasurer of that demonstration committee, which is correct.

221. I do not remember how I came to be elected to that role. Once again, I presume it is because I was on the National Steering Committee. I cannot remember exactly what I did in that role, but I assume that it was to account for any funds that were used to organise the demonstration.

222. I was on the committee of the demonstration, so I knew what was going to be planned. In none of my roles did I seek to exert control or influence the

[REDACTED]

direction of the groups that I infiltrated. As I have said above, I went along with what the majority decided.

223. I have been shown a report dated 18 January 1983 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016904) which says that I had resigned as treasurer of this committee. I cannot remember the exact date or why I resigned. I tended to avoid things which involved me committing too much time, so it may have been for that reason. My recollection is that I remained involved with the committee, even though I did not perform the role of treasurer.

224. I have been shown a report dated 16 February 1983 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018707), regarding a bank account held by the TOM. It was an account which the TOM were using to finance their activities so I thought this would be relevant information for Special Branch. I understood that Special Branch would be able to monitor transactions in and out of the account if they wanted to.

225. As I have said above, there was a concern about the fact that the TOM supported Irish Republican groups, so it may have been monitored for suspicious transactions of that nature.

226. The TOM wanted to change opinion about what was happening in Ireland. The main reason it was of interest to Special Branch was not because it was subversive, but because there were concerns about whether it would create public order policing issues when it held demonstrations.

[REDACTED]

227. In my time in the TOM, it rarely attracted enough support to cause any really serious issues for public order policing, but it was a group that was involved in a lot of street activities that the police needed to know about.

228. To my knowledge it was not involved in criminality, but there was always a concern that it might be used to provide support to Irish Republican terrorist groups.

*Revolutionary Communist Party (formerly known as the Revolutionary Communist Tendency)*

229. I had very little to do with the Revolutionary Communist Party (the RCP), beyond encountering its members who were also members of the SWP and/or the TOM. I came across them in that context but that was it.

230. I have been asked about reports dated 11 March 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016508), 17 November 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016727), 18 December 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000017032), 8 June 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018248), 10 August 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018522), 3 November 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015858), and 8 April 1983 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018782). None of these reports are mine. I never attended any meetings of the RCP or reported on any of its activities save to the extent that they crossed over with the activities of the SWP or the TOM.

231. In my limited association with the RCP I did not form a view as to whether it was subversive, created issues of public order, or was involved in criminality.

*Irish Republican Socialist Party*

232. I have been asked about a report dated 31 March 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000017973) regarding a meeting of the May 8<sup>th</sup> Organising Committee, which I attended in my capacity as treasurer.

233. This was a demonstration organised as a joint venture between the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) and the TOM in support of the Hunger Strikers. I believe I was appointed to this committee because of my role on the TOM National Steering Committee.

234. Again, I cannot remember exactly what I did in that role, but I assume that it was to account for any funds that were used to organise the demonstration. At paragraph 4 of the report dated 28 May 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018196) it details that I gave a report of the incomings and outgoings for the demonstration, which reflects the kind of thing that I did.

235. My only reporting on the IRSP was my association with them in connection with events jointly organised with the TOM (of which I was a member). I did not separately infiltrate the IRSP or form any close relationships with its members.

236. In my limited association with the IRSP I did not form a view as to whether it was subversive, presented a challenge to public order or was involved in criminality.

*Other reporting*

237. I have been shown a report dated 30 November 1978 (Relativity ref UCPI0000012993). This is not my reporting. I would not have known the names of all of the individuals in this report at that point. It is probably a report done by 'B' Squad (Irish matters) in conjunction with the photographic unit, where the latter has photographed everyone they could who attended a demonstration and those individuals have then been identified by Special Branch officers familiar with the appearance of individuals on that political scene.

238. I have been shown two reports dated 4 May 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000021231) and 6 February 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016370), which relate to the Hackney Anti-Nazi League.

239. I do not remember the Hackney Anti-Nazi League, or reporting on them as a group, though it may well be an SWP 'sub-organisation', so it could be my reporting.

240. I have been shown a report dated 30 May 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000021297), regarding a leaflet issued by the Friends of Blair Peach Committee. I do not know if this report is mine, anyone could have submitted this leaflet. I did not report on this Committee, but I might have handed in a leaflet I came into possession of. Lots of things were reported on without there being pre-existing intelligence on an individual or group.

241. I have been shown a report dated 13 July 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000021047). This is not my report. I did not attend the funeral of Blair Peach.



- [REDACTED]
242. I have been shown a report dated 11 March 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016508). This is not my report. I did not report on Revolutionary Communist Tendency nor did I attend the conference it refers to.
243. I did not report on the East London Workers Against Racism organisation. For that reason, the report dated 17 March 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016516) is not my report.
244. I have been shown a report dated 7 April 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016589). This is not my report. This is not the sort of thing I reported on during my deployment.
245. I have been shown a report dated 24 June 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015411). This is not my report. I have never heard of the Labour Committee on Ireland.
246. I have been shown a report dated 18 August 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015540), concerning a public meeting held by the Winston Rose Action Campaign on 10 August 1981. This is not my report. I had nothing to do with that group during my deployment.
247. I have been shown a report dated 24 August 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000015548). This is not my report. I did not attend a demonstration in Liverpool during my deployment.
248. I have been shown a report dated 16 October 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016630). This is not my report either. I do not think that I reported on the Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign.

249.



250. I have been shown a report dated 10 February 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000017124). This is not my report. To the best of my recollection I was not involved with the Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group.

*Reporting on Individuals*

251. I have been asked about the purpose of reporting certain kinds of personal information about individuals. I would report what I regarded as useful information that Special Branch would need to know to keep track of their activities. This would be things such as names, whether someone was joining or leaving a group, their position in the group, a physical description, their address, and their telephone number where known.

252. That information would all be stored in Special Branch records and what would happen with it would depend on who the individual was. If the individual became involved in something more serious, the information that I had reported might inform the inquiries that were done about them. At the time I was in Special Branch it had national responsibility for terrorism, and it needed to be ready for when those threats arose. Most of the individuals I reported presented a risk to public order at most, and many may never have come to the attention of Special Branch again after I initially reported their name.

[REDACTED]

253. Information I reported about individuals would also be shared with the Security Service.

*Alternative methods*

254. The organisations I infiltrated were not closed to the public. Anyone could go along to meetings. In practice however, members were wary of outsiders who they did not know, and I do not think that an ordinary Special Branch officer in plain clothes could have obtained the same amount and quality of intelligence that I did.

255. There are times when I obtained intelligence that only an undercover officer could have – for example when I was on the organising committees of demonstrations.

256. During my deployment I came to learn that intelligence gathering was largely about being in the right place at the right time, and that was not always at public meetings. Sometimes the most useful intelligence came from a casual conversation in a pub after a meeting.

*Trade Unions*

257. I did not join any trade union in my cover identity whilst serving on the SDS.

[REDACTED]

258. I did not become involved in any trade union affairs in any way whilst serving with the SDS.

259. I have been shown three reports dated 23 January 1980, 8 February 1980, and 11 February 1980 (Relativity refs UCPI0000013722, UCPI0000013754, and UCPI0000013764), and asked why I reported on a aspects of the ongoing steel workers' dispute and support provided by the SWP. I do not remember submitting these reports, but I would have reported information of this nature. It would have been of interest to Special Branch that the SWP were supporting a particular piece of industrial action, primarily because support from the SWP could mean an increased risk of public order incidents at pickets. There was lots of confrontation on the picket lines of industrial disputes at the time, so Special Branch would want to know about anything that increased the risk of that happening.

260. I do not think that this sort of reporting was used for anything other than public order policing.

261. I have been shown a report dated 17 March 1980 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013858), which is a list of people present at a TUC 'Rally Against the Cuts'. This report looks like one that has been prepared in conjunction with the Special Branch photographic squad.

262. When there was a large demonstration Special Branch would take pictures of those present, and at some point afterwards an album of those pictures might be given to officers on the SDS to see if they could identify individuals. The SDS office would then have put together a report like this

[REDACTED]

containing all of the identifications that members of the squad made. Some of these identifications may have been made by me, but probably not all of them.

263. I have been shown a report dated 20 May 1980 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013991) regarding a march and rally held by Waltham Forest Trades Council in conjunction with the Waltham Forest Trades Union Action Committee. I do not remember this rally, or submitting a report on it, or ever attending a rally principally organised by a trade union body during my deployment.

264. Sometimes when I went to rallies I would submit a report afterwards, sometimes I would not. If it was a large rally, ordinary Special Branch officers would have reported on it anyway. If something took place at a rally, such as a public order issue that I witnessed, I would submit a report about it. If the rally was entirely peaceful and nothing of note happened, I probably would not.

265. This appears to be a report of a fairly small rally of 200-300 people, and there does not seem to be much of interest reported, other than that it was supported by people from organisations such as the Communist Party and the SWP.

266. I have been shown a report dated 30 January 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016207). I do not remember the individual named in this report, or submitting this report about him. By that point in my deployment I had moved away from Hackney SWP and towards the TOM, so it is possible that it is a report from another SDS officer.



[REDACTED]

267. I would, however, have reported the fact that someone who had been elected to the Hackney District Committee of the SWP was the Fire Brigade Union representative at the fire station where he worked. It was part of what was known about him and the kind of thing that would go on his Special Branch record. That information might not be used for anything further, but if he came to the attention of Special Branch again, those things would be known about him.

268. I have been shown a report dated 3 April 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016573) regarding the 'People's March' organised by the North East Region of the Trades Union Congress. This report could have come from anywhere, including a non-SDS Special Branch officer. It is a report of information from a leaflet that someone has picked up. It may be a report that I submitted but I do not remember doing so, or picking up the leaflet. It would have been of interest to Special Branch from a public order policing perspective as it contains information that there would be a few busloads of protestors going to a rally. It would have been passed on to the local constabulary in the area of the rally.

269. I have been shown a report dated 10 December 1981 (Relativity ref UCPI0000016813), which encloses a leaflet relating to a demonstration organised by the Hackney Black Peoples association and the Hackney Legal Defence Committee. Once again this report could have come from anywhere, including a non-SDS Special Branch officer. It is a report of information from a leaflet that someone has picked up, possibly by a local police officer. It may be

[REDACTED]

a report that I submitted but I do not remember doing so, or picking up the leaflet.

270. I have been asked what the purpose of reporting about an upcoming strike would be. The only reason I can think that would have been of interest to Special Branch would be from a public order perspective, i.e. so the police were aware that there would be something going on.

271. I have been shown a report dated 1 June 1982 (Relativity ref UCPI0000018229). I do not think that this is my report as it is not about an individual who I knew. However, I would have reported the fact of someone's trade union membership. It was the kind of information which would be captured by Special Branch reporting.

#### *Public Order*

272. I was not present at any demonstrations when there was any major public disorder during my deployment. I did however attend many rallies where there were public order issues. I saw plenty of scuffles with the police and a few fights with members of the National Front, though I cannot give specific examples after so many years.

273. I was involved in a sit-in in a Central London building during my time in the TOM. It was a protest in support of the IRA hunger strikes, though in the end the police just let us get on with it. I think it was the headquarters of a national trade union body. I was not involved in any fights or public disorder.



## *Violence*

274. As I have said above I saw plenty of scuffles with the police and a few fights with members of the National Front on demonstrations, but I cannot now give specific details of which demonstrations those happened on. I did not witness any violence to property whilst serving undercover.

275. I was not involved in either violence to the person or to property, either as the perpetrator or the victim, whilst deployed undercover.

## *Subversion*

276. I understood that Special Branch had a role in countering subversive activity. Special Branch was an intelligence gathering organisation. It existed to uphold the rule of law, which included obtaining information on individuals and organisations that might seek to undermine our democratic institutions.

277. The SDS was principally set up to obtain information about public order issues, but in doing that it also turned up a lot of intelligence on individuals who were involved in subversive activities. Any counter subversion operation would have been done in conjunction with the Security Service.

278. Special Branch had the lead on Irish Republican Terrorism, but any action in relation to any other subversive groups would be led by the Security Service, who would work with the MPS to take appropriate action.

279. I do not think that any of the activity I witnessed whilst undercover was genuinely subversive in the sense that it was capable of undermining

[REDACTED]

Parliamentary Democracy. The groups that I was involved with were never powerful enough to present a serious threat to the state.

280. My reporting was copied to the Security Service for the reason set out above. It was accepted practice that they would be privy to intelligence we obtained which may enhance what they already knew about subversive individuals or groups.

281. I did not personally have any direct contact with the Security Service during my time undercover. I have been shown a report dated 6 December 1979 (Relativity ref UCPI0000013647). I do not recognise this individual, so I do not think that this is one of my reports.

#### *Sexual relationships*

282. I did not engage in any sexual activity whilst in my undercover identity.

#### *Other relationships*

283. I formed friendships with a lot of people during my undercover deployment, though I would not describe any of them as particularly close friendships. I cannot now remember all of the names of people I associate with, but from reviewing my reports I do recall the following individuals in particular, all of whom I met through meetings of the SWP and the TOM. I would see these individuals both socially and at group meetings:

[REDACTED]

a.	<div style="text-align: center;">Privacy</div>
b.	
c.	
d.	

284. I would say that members of my groups trusted me, but I would not say I assumed any particular positions of trust with them.

*Criminal justice*

285. I did not participate in any criminal activity whilst deployed as an undercover police officer.

286. I was never arrested, charged, tried or convicted of a criminal offence whilst serving as an undercover police officer.

287. I never appeared in criminal proceedings as a witness in my undercover identity, nor was the fact that I was an undercover officer ever disclosed in connection with any such event.

288. I did not provoke, encourage, or cause any other person to participate in any criminal activity whilst I was deployed as an undercover police officer.

289. To my knowledge, the product of my reporting was never used in support of, or otherwise disclosed in connection with, a criminal investigation or prosecution.



290.



291. I did not provide evidence for use in any prosecution arising from my deployment.

*Other legal or disciplinary proceedings*

292. I was not been involved in any way in my undercover identity in any other legal proceedings.

293. I have not been involved in any way in any complaint against a police officer or any disciplinary proceedings involving a police officer in my undercover identity.

*Legal professional privilege*

294. I did not receive or become aware of any legally privileged information whilst I was deployed undercover.

[REDACTED]

*Elected politicians*

295. None of the people upon whom I reported were elected politicians.

*The use to which my reporting was put*

296. Because of the nature of the groups I was reporting on, after my draft reports had been typed up by the SDS office they would have been sent to 'C' Squad. 'C' Squad would then assess whether the reports should be used as a source of intelligence to be part of a threat assessment of an upcoming event, or just put into Special Branch records.

297. I believe that most of the information that went into Special Branch records was never looked at again, though sometimes it was used to inform inquiries about that person if they became a person of interest for a particular reason. My reporting in relation to Privacy is an example of this.

298. I like to think that my reporting made a significant contribution to public order policing at demonstrations and rallies attended by Hackney Branches of the SWP and the TOM. I believe it assisted uniform branch of the MPS in effectively and safely policing those events.

*Exfiltration*

299. My deployment ended in the late spring or early summer of 1983, though I cannot say exactly when. It was for about 5 years, which was the standard

[REDACTED]

length of deployment at the time. I understood 5 years to be the maximum length, but I do not know if this was a formal written rule.

300. My withdrawal from the field was planned. I had a conversation with Dave Short and [REDACTED] <sup>32</sup> HN45 [REDACTED] who were respectively the Chief Inspector and the Inspector of the SDS at the time. It was a general discussion and we agreed that I would gradually leave the field and tell people I was going travelling. We also discussed my future police role.

301. A few months before my deployment was due to end I gradually became less and less involved with the activities of the TOM. By that time, I had very little to do with the SWP. I told people that I was looking to do some travelling and would probably be leaving the country. I told people I was going to Australia. I wrote some postcards <sup>33</sup> [REDACTED] I do not now remember who they were sent to. [REDACTED]

302. Other than the postcards, I did not maintain contact with those on whom I was reporting or make any further use of my cover name.

#### *Managers and administrative staff*

303. When I was in the SDS its structure was that there was a Detective Chief Inspector and a Detective Inspector who 'ran' the unit. There was then a Detective Sergeant who performed primarily an administrative function, and then twelve field officers.

[REDACTED]

304. The DCI and DI in charge of the unit reported to the Superintendent and the Chief Superintendent who ran 'S' Squad. Most of our contact was with the DCI and DI in charge of the unit.

305. Other than the Detective Sergeant and the SDS recruit getting ready to go into the field, there was no other administrative staff.

306. I have been asked whether the following individuals were a manager or administrator serving in the SDS at the same time as I served as an undercover officer. They were all in the SDS at various points during my deployment and their roles are as set out below.

- a. Mike Ferguson: He was my first reporting Detective Chief Inspector when I was on the SDS.
- b. Trevor Butler: He was also a Detective Chief Inspector of the SDS. He took over that role from Mike Ferguson.
- c. Paul Croyden: He was a Detective Sergeant in the SDS office when I was in the field. I think he worked in that role when Trevor Butler was in charge.
- d. Barry Moss: He was a Superintendent in charge of 'S' Squad (SDS and surveillance) when I was in the field.
- e. Chris Skey: He was a Detective Sergeant in the SDS office. He worked in that role under both Mike Ferguson and Trevor Butler.

35

- f. [REDACTED] HN68 [REDACTED] He was a Detective Inspector, who worked alongside Trevor Butler managing the unit.

36

g. [REDACTED] HN45 [REDACTED] He was a Detective Inspector, who worked alongside David Short.

h. David Short: He was a Detective Chief Inspector who worked alongside [REDACTED] HN45 [REDACTED]

i. Angus McIntosh: He was a Detective Inspector alongside Mike Ferguson.

307. I have also been asked about the following two individuals, both of whom I believe were in the SDS office, but after I left. I do not know what roles they performed:

a. Michael Barber.

b. Michael Couch.

308. Although his name has not been mentioned in the rule 9 request, Dick Scully was also a Detective Sergeant in the SDS when I was out in the field.

309. I was perfectly content with the management of the SDS during my time in the unit. I found members of the office to be professional and supportive. We met with them twice a week at SDS safe houses, and I had the opportunity to raise anything I wanted to with them privately.

310. If you had any issues which needed to be addressed you could speak to the managers in person, otherwise they were always available to take a telephone call. I felt they were always available to support and assist me. I always found them very approachable and good at their jobs.



[REDACTED]

311. In hindsight, perhaps we could have been directed a bit more towards particular things that Special Branch was interested in finding out about. I did not feel that really happened in my case and I was largely left to my own devices.

*Management and supervision: general arrangements*

312. I had routine contact with the DCI and DI who were in charge of the unit. I would always see them twice a week at meetings at the SDS safe houses, which would be attended by all of the field officers. I think those meetings would be on a Monday and a Friday.

313. I do not think that I met with them outside of those meetings, though if I had wanted to I think that could have been arranged.

314. I did not have any contact with them outside of the meetings at the SDS safe houses.

315. The SDS safe house meetings were mostly administrative. I would hand in my draft handwritten reports; my expenses would be dealt with the DI or DCI would ask how I was getting on. There was also a social aspect to it. You did not have to be in your cover identity and you could chat to your colleagues in the field.

316. I do not recall ever discussing my reporting with my managers, or receiving any feedback on my reporting.

[REDACTED]

317. If anyone had any issues they wanted to speak to management about privately, the safe houses were big enough that they could have gone somewhere and done that. If you had a welfare issue the management were available to deal with it, but the onus was on the individual concerned to raise it, rather than there being any 'active' monitoring of our welfare.

318. The SDS office helped us to revise for taking our exams, they would take care of us in that sense.

319. The office would also organise an annual get together at Christmas, to which our partners would also be invited.

#### **Senior management and oversight bodies**

320. During my time on the unit MPS Commanders, Deputy Assistant Commissioners and a Commissioner visited the SDS safe house. I cannot now remember their names, but they would drop in, ask how we were doing, and tell us the unit was doing a generally good job. I think it was also useful for them to know a bit about the kinds of things that the unit was doing.

321. I recall that members of the unit were invited to the house of Commander Wilson for a drink, it might have been at Christmas time. I think that its purpose was just as a morale booster.

322. No one from any outside body with regulatory or oversight responsibility for policing visited the SDS during my time in the unit.

[REDACTED]

323. I did not receive any commendations for my work in the SDS. It was Special Branch policy at the time not to give out commendations for sensitive work, save for in the most exceptional circumstances.

### Deployment of contemporaries

324. I have been asked whether the following individuals were in the SDS, and if so whether their service overlapped with mine:

[37]  
a. [REDACTED] HN13 [REDACTED]: In the SDS, but he had left the SDS by the time I joined.

[38]  
b. [REDACTED] HN296 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me for a short time.

[39]  
c. [REDACTED] HN304 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me for a short time.

[40]  
d. [REDACTED]

[41]  
e. [REDACTED] HN354 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

[40]  
f. [REDACTED]

[42]  
g. [REDACTED] HN80 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

[40]  
h. [REDACTED]

[40]  
i. [REDACTED]

[43]  
j. [REDACTED] HN356 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

[44]  
k. [REDACTED] HN20 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

[REDACTED]

45

l. [REDACTED] HN126 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

m. Roger Pearce: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

46

n. [REDACTED] HN106 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

47

o. [REDACTED] HN155 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

48

p. [REDACTED] HN65 [REDACTED]: I believe he was in the office when I was in the SDS, but I do not think he was an SDS officer.

40

q. [REDACTED]

49

r. [REDACTED] HN19 [REDACTED]: I believe he was in the office when I was in the SDS, but I do not think he was an SDS officer.

50

s. [REDACTED] HN67 [REDACTED]: In the SDS but after I had left.

51

t. [REDACTED] HN12 [REDACTED]: In the SDS but after I had left.

52

u. [REDACTED] HN82 [REDACTED]: In the SDS but after I had left.

40

v. [REDACTED]

w. Mike Chitty: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

53

x. [REDACTED] HN33/HN98 [REDACTED]: In the SDS and overlapped with me.

40

[REDACTED]

325. I have been asked if I was aware of allegations that [REDACTED] HN67 [REDACTED] had a relationship with an activist and/or that he fathered a child in his undercover identity. The answer is no.
326. I have been asked if I was aware of any unhappy working relationships between members of the SDS (undercover officers and/or managers). The answer is no. The squad seemed to function very well and I was not aware of any issues.
327. To my knowledge, none of my contemporary undercover officers committed a criminal offence whilst undercover.
328. To my knowledge, none of my contemporary undercover officers, whilst deployed, provoked, encouraged, or caused a third party to commit a criminal offence.
329. To my knowledge, none of my contemporary undercover officers engaged in sexual activity with others whilst in their cover identity.
330. I have a vague recollection that someone on the unit was arrested in their cover identity during my time in the field, but I do not remember who or for what. Other than that, to my knowledge, none of my contemporary undercover officers whilst deployed was arrested, charged, tried or convicted in their undercover identity.
331. Other than my vague recollection of someone being arrested, to my knowledge none of my contemporary undercover officers, whilst deployed, was involved in incidents of public disorder, violence or other criminal activity whilst deployed.



[REDACTED]

332. To my knowledge, none of contemporary undercover officers, whilst deployed, reported any legally privileged information.

333. To my knowledge, none of my contemporary undercover officers, whilst deployed, reported on the activities of any elected politicians.

334. I believe my contemporaries achieved the same kinds of things as me during their deployment. They gathered good intelligence on public order matters which allowed demonstrations, rallies and events to be policed effectively.

335. They also obtained a good deal of other intelligence about individuals involved in extreme politics, some of whom would no doubt have been of interest to the Security Service. I assume that the Security Service also stored that intelligence and made use of it in their inquiries as appropriate.

### **Post deployment**

336. When I came out of the field I had a lot of accrued but untaken leave. Because I worked a lot of late nights and weekends I was owed a lot of days in lieu. I used these all in one go, and I remember that it came to about three to six months in total. I mostly spent time at home but I think we also took a family holiday. I just had time off to decompress from my deployment.

337. I was not formally debriefed, but I was asked to prepare a thorough report on my opinion of the TOM and whether it could be used by Republican

[REDACTED]

terrorist groups for logistical support in the UK. I have not seen this report in my witness pack. This report does not appear in my witness pack.

338. I was not offered any advice or ongoing support by the MPS following my withdrawal. If I had needed that, I would have asked for it.

*Post-Special Demonstration Squad police career*

339. When I was approaching the end of my deployment I was told that my next posting would be to C11, which was a covert unit doing surveillance. The practice in the SDS at the time was to find undercover officers postings that were out of the public eye.

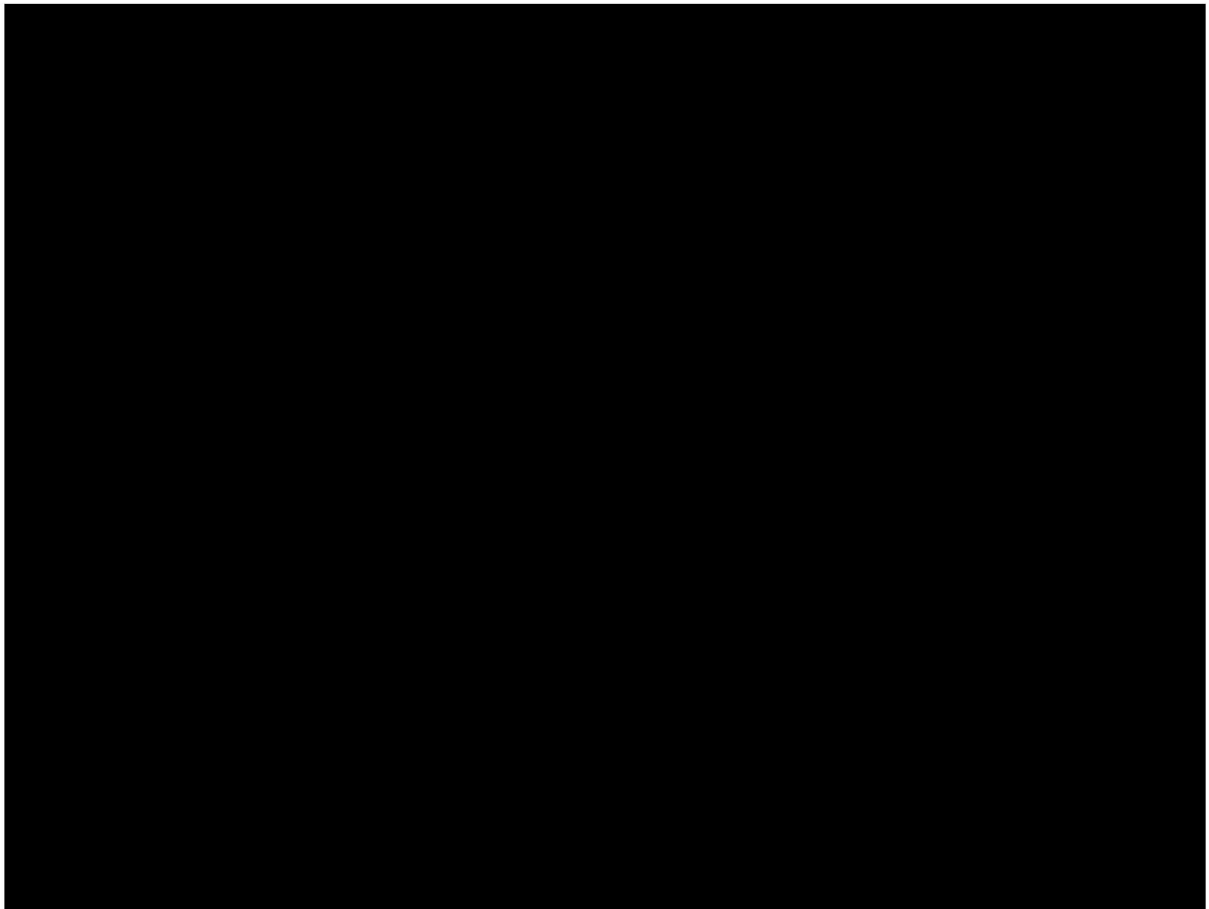
340. However, before my deployment ended, I was told I would be going straight back into ordinary Special Branch, <sup>55</sup> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Special Branch at the time was short of Sergeants, and I understand that the Deputy Assistant Commissioner at the time wanted to retain me within Special Branch rather than send me out to C11 (which was not part of Special Branch).

341. I was unhappy about the decision, but I was not given much choice in the matter. It felt as though concerns for my security totally went away once I left the SDS.

342. <sup>56</sup> [REDACTED]

Details of post-SDS career in Special Branch



347. I do not think that my time undercover had any adverse effect on my welfare. I do not know what welfare support was available to me, but I am sure that it would have been available had I sought it out.

*Leaving the police*

348. My rank on leaving Special Branch, and the MPS, was Detective Sergeant.

349. I retired from the police <sup>57</sup> after 30 years' service. I am currently retired and do not work.



## **Undercover work in the private sector**

350. I was never given any instructions or guidance of any kind about working undercover in the private sector, or using any aspect of my assumed identity in the private sector.

351. I have not undertaken any undercover work in the private sector since leaving the MPS.

## **Any other matters**

352. I do not think there is any other evidence I am able to give which is of relevance to the work of the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

## **Request for documents**

353. I do not have any documents or other information which is potentially of relevance to the Inquiry's terms of reference.

354. My memory has not been refreshed by any document which is not in my witness pack.

## **Photographs**

355. I have been shown an extract from my personal file which contains photographs of me (Relativity ref MPS-0726714). These are all pictures of me.



The photograph in the middle of the page is a picture of me in around 1972. The photograph to the right of that was taken around 1976. The photograph in the top right hand corner was taken in around 1983. The photograph in the middle top of the page was taken in 1981, and was taken during my deployment.

### Diversity

356. I am a white British male.

I believe the content of this statement to be true.

58

HN96

Signed:

59

10.12.19

Dated: