

Undercover Policing Inquiry

Voluntary statement

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF DAVE MORRIS

Date signed: 20 March 2020

1. My name is Dave Morris. My date of birth is Privacy I ask that my dob be kept confidential.
2. I am providing this witness statement in response to 3 documents provided to me by the Inquiry on 19.2.20 ('disclosure').
3. I have not been asked, through a Rule 9 request from the Inquiry, to provide a statement, at this stage in the Inquiry (ie for 'tranche 1', the period of undercover police activity between 1968 and 1982). I understand that I may be asked to provide a statement in a later tranche of the Inquiry.
4. However, I think it is important that I provide this, a preliminary statement, given the very serious concerns I have about the nature of undercover policing even in the tranche 1 period and the Inquiry's attitude to the non-state, non-police core participants (NSNPCPs). This statement should not be considered my final word on the question of undercover policing.

5. My background is as follows. I have been a libertarian and community activist since 1974. I have been involved in a range of groups and campaigns trying to encourage people to support one another and to make the world a better place. Such groups include ones promoting libertarian socialist politics, workplace solidarity, environmental campaigning, opposition to corporate power and exploitation, the anti-poll tax movement, and groups promoting community mutual aid and self-organisation to encourage people to speak up for their needs as local residents and the needs of their own local neighbourhoods. I have been designated a core participant ('CP') in category 'L' (as a social and environmental activist) through my involvement in London Greenpeace ¹ and being one of the 'McLibel 2' ². I am currently Secretary of the Haringey Federation of Residents Associations, and Chair of the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces.
6. The three items of disclosure provided to me, all Special Branch ('SB') general intelligence reports linked to the Special Demonstration Squad ('SDS'), relate to 3 separate matters. I note that none of them identify the undercover officer and the Inquiry has not provided me with any information about them, not even the officer(s)' cover names.
7. The first document relates to a public meeting chaired by myself in 1976 on the theme of 'The Right to Live'. The speakers/themes reported were the Claimants Union, Campaign Against the Criminal Trespass Law, People With Disabilities,

¹ http://www.mcspotlight.org/people/biogs/london_grnpeace.html.

² <http://www.mcspotlight.org/case/>.

and the Fare Fight affordable travel campaign. [**doc 1 UCPI0000021496-CLF** Met Police SDS report 19.10.1976].

8. The second document relates to a local community march against nuclear waste transport through Hackney, organised by Hackney Anti Nuclear Group in 1980. [**doc 2 UCPI0000013749** Met Police SDS report 30.1.1980].

9. The third document is a detailed Met police analysis of the movement opposing the growth of nuclear power in the UK, referring to various groups and individuals involved [**doc 3 UCPI0000013890** SDS Report 12.4.1980].

10. I consider all the above activities to be a genuine effort by people - usually with extensive public support - to try to protect and improve society by challenging government policy and proposing valid alternatives. The right to engage in political activity, and to not face discrimination because of it, is protected by a range of UK and international laws and charters.

11. I believe the targeting of such efforts by secret police spying units is unethical and unacceptable. It is political policing and a waste of public resources.

12. In addition, I note the recent uproar [January 2020] over police 'counter-terrorism' documents including details about a range of left wing and progressive campaigning groups ³. The groups targeted included Extinction Rebellion

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jan/17/greenpeace-included-with-neo-nazis-on-uk-counter-terror-list>.

following their civil disobedience efforts to blockade a number of London streets and sites for days at a time to bring attention to the climate crisis, challenge government policy and propose alternatives.

13. In particular I welcome the following official response of the Government (Security Minister Brandon Lewis MP) to questions about these controversial police documents raised in parliament (as reported 22 Jan 2020). He stated 'I want to reiterate that Extinction Rebellion is in no way considered an extremist group under the 2015 definition of extremism and the Home Secretary has been clear on this point.'⁴ I believe this Government statement to be useful for the Inquiry's deliberations on the public's rights and freedom to protest.

14. I need more information about the undercover officer(s) who spied on me in order to understand how and why I was spied on and effectively engage with the Inquiry and assist this Public Inquiry to establish the truth⁵. I therefore formally request the details and photos be disclosed of which Undercover Officers or other personnel were involved in supplying the above information about me to the SDS.

15. The Inquiry has indicated that 1000 organisations were targeted, or information collated on, by undercover police officers. Please send me the list of these organisations as this will help everyone identify the extent of the political policing operation.

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/22/minister-denies-government-considers-extinction-rebellion-extremist>.

⁵ I note that the Inquiry's home page has this declaration: *Getting to the truth of undercover policing and providing recommendations for the future.*

16. I have already advised the Inquiry, through my solicitors, that I do not seek a restriction order over the disclosure to protect my privacy. I wish the Inquiry to be as open as possible with me and other activists and the public. I therefore also formally request that this statement be deemed a public document, and/or be permitted to be shared with all other NSNPCPs and that there be no restriction order over any of it except my date of birth.

Statement of Truth

17. I believe the content of this statement to be true.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DKJ' followed by a long horizontal stroke that ends in a small hook.

Signed:

Date: 20 March 2020

