

Tuesday, 11 May 2021

(10.00 am)

MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Day 14 of hearings in Tranche 1 Phase 2 at the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

My name is Neil Fernandes and I am the hearings manager. For those of you in the virtual hearings room, please turn off both your camera and microphone unless you're invited to speak by the Chairman, as Zoom will pick up on all noises and you will be on screen.

I now hand over to the Chairman, Sir John Mitting, to formally start proceedings.

Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Because of transport difficulties which Mr Barr, Counsel to the Inquiry, has encountered, he is going to arrive -- or will have arrived by now slightly late at the Amba Hotel. Accordingly, we are going to have a delayed start. We will begin at 10.30 not 10 this morning, but to avoid losing more time than is necessary, I'm now going to ask that the video recording made earlier is played as it is at the beginning of every evidential session. We will then begin promptly at 10.30.

I am conducting this Inquiry under a statute,

1 the Inquiries Act 2005, which gives me the power to make
2 orders regulating the conduct of the Inquiry, including
3 its hearings. In the exercise of that power, I have
4 made a number of orders which affect what you may and
5 may not do in the hearing rooms and after you leave
6 them. Breach of any of the orders is a serious matter
7 and may have serious consequences for you.

8 If I am satisfied that a person may have breached an
9 order, I have the power to certify the matter to
10 the High Court, which will investigate and deal with it
11 as if it had been a contempt of that court. If
12 satisfied that a breach has occurred and merits
13 the imposition of a penalty, the High Court may impose
14 a severe sanction on the person in breach, including
15 a fine, imprisonment for up to two years and
16 sequestration of their assets.

17 Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
18 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
19 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
20 record what is said by a witness or anyone else in
21 the hearing rooms. You may bring your mobile telephone
22 into the hearing rooms, but you may not use it for any
23 of those purposes. You may use it silently for any
24 other purpose. In particular, you may transmit your
25 account of what you have seen and heard in a hearing

1 room to any other person, but only once at least
2 ten minutes have elapsed since the event which you are
3 describing took place.

4 This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
5 the Inquiry, I have made orders prohibiting the public
6 disclosure of information, for example about
7 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.
8 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
9 whether by accident or design, information which I have
10 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
11 be disclosed in a hearing.

12 If and when that happens, I will immediately suspend
13 the hearing and make an order prohibiting further
14 disclosure of the information outside the hearing rooms.
15 The consequence will be that no further disclosure of
16 that information may be made by mobile telephone or
17 other portable electronic device from within the hearing
18 room, or by any means outside it.

19 I am sorry if you find this message alarming. It is
20 not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
21 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
22 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
23 the truth about undercover policing. You, as members of
24 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
25 evidence as I will hear, and to reach your own

1 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
2 best to ensure that you can. If you have any doubt
3 about the terms of this message, or what you may or may
4 not do, you should not hesitate to ask one of them and,
5 with my help if necessary, they will provide you with
6 the answer.

7 MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone. We will now take
8 a break. May I remind those in the virtual hearing room
9 to remember to join your break-out rooms, please.

10 The time is now 10.05 am, so we shall reconvene at
11 10.30 am. Thank you.

12 (10.05 am)

13 (A short break)

14 (10.30 am)

15 MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone, and welcome back.

16 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
17 proceedings.

18 Chairman.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

20 HN354/"Vince Miller"

21 THE CHAIRMAN: HN354, I'm sorry about the delayed start.

22 I understand Mr Barr, who has spoken to you, has
23 explained the reasons for it. Are you ready to give
24 evidence now?

25 A. I am, Sir. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to swear or to affirm?

2 A. Affirm, please.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Then may the words of affirmation be read to
4 you, please.

5 (Witness affirmed)

6 Thank you.

7 Mr Barr.

8 Questions by MR BARR

9 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

10 354, can you first of all confirm that you are
11 the person that we know by the Herne nominal "354"?

12 A. Yes, I am.

13 Q. And are the contents of your consolidated witness
14 statement dated 10 March 2021 true and correct to
15 the best of your knowledge and belief?

16 A. They are.

17 Q. You tell us in that statement that you had done no
18 undercover work prior to joining the SDS; is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And that you'd had no previous dealings with the SDS?

21 A. None at all.

22 Q. But you did have a vague awareness from seeing a "hairy"
23 at a Special Branch function that there was an
24 undercover unit?

25 A. That was my first realisation.

1 Q. You were invited to join the SDS by Geoffrey Craft?

2 A. I was.

3 Q. Who you bumped into in a corridor. Was that at

4 New Scotland Yard?

5 A. It was indeed, yeah.

6 Q. Were you interviewed at all for the position?

7 A. I think -- not formally. I think he may have had

8 a discussion with me, explaining some of the pressures

9 that would be on, and making sure that I was -- I would

10 be interested in doing that job.

11 Q. One of the things you tell us is that you were asked

12 whether you were married?

13 A. That's one of the first questions.

14 Q. And you say that you weren't married but you were in

15 a long-term relationship at the time?

16 A. I was indeed.

17 Q. Do you know why you were asked?

18 A. I believe I was the first person who wasn't married who

19 was asked to do the job. The philosophy, I think, was

20 that it was more supportive if someone came from

21 a family background, whereby the hours that you spent in

22 the evenings and weekends were less of a strain, because

23 you could be at home with your family during your

24 off-duty hours.

25 Q. And you tell us that you initially worked in the SDS

- 1 back office --
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. -- before deploying. Was that for a number of months?
- 4 A. It was until the vacancy appeared. You were transferred
- 5 to the Squad, and then it was when the vacancy appeared.
- 6 There was a limit to the number of officers that were
- 7 engaged in SDS work.
- 8 Q. Did, in your case, in the result, it amount to working
- 9 in the back office for a number of months?
- 10 A. I believe it was about three or four months, yes.
- 11 Q. You tell us that one of the things that you did in
- 12 the office was to answer the telephone?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Would that have been incoming calls from
- 15 the undercover officers?
- 16 A. It would include those, yes.
- 17 Q. And how frequently did they ring in?
- 18 A. Well, telephone contact with the office was expected
- 19 every day. Normally they would of course ring
- 20 the supervising officers, but if they weren't available
- 21 or whatever, you'd take the call, because of course you
- 22 didn't know what time they were coming in. But you
- 23 didn't necessarily have a content to the call, you would
- 24 just receive the call and pass on the message.
- 25 Q. And were you receiving calls from cover employers?

1 A. Not that I recall. There may have been one coming in if
2 a cover employer had a problem and wished some sort of
3 advice or guidance from the management, then I may have
4 taken that. But I can't recall ever that happening.

5 Q. And you tell us that you read the reports of
6 the undercover officers who were deployed --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- is that right?

9 A. -- we did.

10 Q. So would you have gleaned from those -- you would have
11 formed a good picture of the groups that were being
12 infiltrated and reported on?

13 A. Snapshots, I would say, rather than a comprehensive
14 picture.

15 Q. And would you have seen the kind of information that
16 the SDS was reporting?

17 A. Yes, the kind of information and the style that was
18 required.

19 Q. And were they different in any way from the type of
20 content and the style of reporting within Special Branch
21 generally or not?

22 A. Not significantly different, no. Some of
23 the classification of the information of course was
24 a higher grade of security around the report.

25 Q. And was that because of the nature of the content, or

1 the nature of the source?

2 A. The nature of the source would direct that any reference
3 therefore would make the whole document secure at
4 a higher level.

5 Q. I see.

6 You tell us that some reporting that came in from
7 undercover officers was merged into a single typed
8 report; is that right?

9 A. Yes, that would happen, and if there had been
10 a conference or big public meetings which more than one
11 had attended then you'd compile the report for each --
12 accessed by other people.

13 Q. And it may also work the other way round: you say some
14 reports were separated out?

15 A. Yes, depending on the nature -- certain elements of
16 the information that was coming in would be better
17 processed separately.

18 Q. Who made the decision as to whether to merge a report,
19 or separate it out, or to leave it as it was?

20 A. Whoever was doing the checking of the reports would --
21 would do that. Then, having had the reports typed, it
22 was given to other parts of the management who would
23 check and agree that that's the right way forward. So
24 I would draft it and everything like that, and then one
25 of the office staff would agree that that's appropriate

1 to go forward in that -- in that format.

2 Q. Did you or other people in the office obtain
3 the Special Branch file references that we see so
4 typically listed alongside the names of people at the
5 end of reports?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Could we have up on the screen, please, tab 3 from
8 the bundle, which is {UCPI/10718}.

9 354, there are some people who will be following
10 the Inquiry who can't see this, so I have to read out
11 what it is.

12 This is a document stamped "SDS", dated
13 27 July 1976. It's on a special report form. At
14 the bottom it's got your signature, which has been
15 redacted, and it reads at paragraph 1:

16 "In their letter [redacted] dated 13.7.1976, Box 500
17 refer to [Privacy] of [Privacy] [Privacy]. They state
18 that [Privacy], an active member of the RCG and the
19 TOM might be an alias of [Privacy] [Privacy] of
20 [Privacy] and ask if a photograph of [Privacy] forwarded
21 with their letter might be a likeness of [Privacy].

22 "2. The photograph has been shown to informants who
23 know [Privacy] and they have positively identified it.

24 "3. [Privacy] has to date been the subject of
25 Special Branch [Privacy]."

1 So, it appears from the stamp at the top of
2 the document that this is a document you will have
3 generated whilst working in the back office for the SDS;
4 is that right?

5 A. Most certainly, yes. I don't recall it, but yes, it
6 would be.

7 Q. And "Box 500" means the Security Service, doesn't it?

8 A. Yes. It's fairly standard for the Security Service to
9 write asking Special Branch to resolve any issues that
10 they may have.

11 Q. And how frequently did you deal with such requests?

12 A. Regularly, I would say. I honestly can't give a number.
13 There's a regular flow of questions and -- to and from
14 the Security Service on organisations such as this.

15 Q. Can you help us with how much of the SDS's intelligence
16 and information was passed on to the Security Service?

17 A. I would say that almost every report that was submitted
18 on the groups that we were working with would -- would
19 be copied across to the Security Service. This is
20 slightly different on the example you've said because it
21 is a request from the Security Service about somebody
22 they were obviously interested in and wanted an update
23 from that. Perhaps their interest had been generated
24 because he'd been identified by SDS officers.

25 Q. I see. Thank you.

1 Could we take that document down now, please.

2 You tell us in your witness statement that
3 Superintendent Derek Kneale would walk into
4 the back office every hour, and that he sometimes also
5 visited the safe house. How well did Derek Kneale, at
6 that stage in his career, know the SDS?

7 A. I'd have thought very well.

8 Q. You tell us that you attended the twice-weekly meetings
9 at the safe house; is that right?

10 A. Not every one when I was in the office, but fairly
11 often.

12 Q. And I gather from your statement that you found it
13 a useful way to learn how to conduct an undercover
14 operation?

15 A. Yes, you got your sort of tradecraft from -- from
16 the experiences of others.

17 Q. Can you help us with just how that process worked? Did
18 you ask questions of the UCOs, or did you sit there and
19 just absorb what they were saying, or a little bit of
20 both?

21 A. I think -- I think it was less formal than that. There
22 would be a discussion, for example, on -- a good example
23 would be the type of vehicle to get, you know, and their
24 experiences of what type of vehicle had worked well as
25 an -- as an officer working out in the field; some would

1 be better than others.

2 Q. I see.

3 Can I take it that during your months in
4 the back office, you would have got to know all of
5 the UCOs who were serving at that time with the SDS?

6 A. Yes, I think you could say that.

7 Q. And then you would have had plenty of opportunity to
8 hear what they were saying to the managers at
9 the meetings in the safe house to get some understanding
10 of what life was like undercover?

11 A. I think that would be -- in general terms, yes. If any
12 officer had a particular point of concern or needed
13 a personal talk, then obviously that would be done in
14 private in a separate room in the safe house. But the
15 lessons learned from there would then be disseminated.

16 Q. And how common were those private meetings?

17 A. Very hard for me to say, because officers would contact
18 management direct and then that would happen perhaps
19 even before I joined the meeting. What I would say is
20 that management always made themselves available if
21 anyone felt the need.

22 Q. And were the meetings twice-weekly throughout your
23 career in the SDS?

24 A. Pretty much. I believe, in the early -- earlier days,
25 it had been three times a week. But in my time it was

1 twice. Three times was considered just too difficult.

2 Q. Would it be right to say that you had no formal training
3 from the SDS at all?

4 A. There was no classroom-type thing or manual to work to.

5 Q. Were you given advice and guidance?

6 A. Yes, I think so. When adopting the various issues, it
7 was the best way of getting rented property to ensure
8 your security, for example, and the type of place you
9 should look for. Obviously there was a budgetary
10 control, but you -- you know, things that would ensure
11 your own safety whilst out there.

12 Q. Were you given any advice or guidance about how far you
13 should involve yourself in the private lives of members
14 of the public when undercover?

15 A. Not that I recall.

16 Q. Were you given any advice or guidance about
17 sexual relationships?

18 A. Not that I recall.

19 Q. In your witness statement you say that you suspect it
20 was left to your own judgment?

21 A. I think we were very much left as individual officers.
22 We were out there at that critical time. There was no
23 communication or anything once you were out in
24 the field, no phones, no mobile phones, no computers.
25 So everything you had to do had to be your own reaction

1 to the situation you found yourself in. Afterwards you
2 could go and say, "This has happened," of course, and
3 ask advice. But generally you just couldn't prepare for
4 every possible set of circumstances that you might meet.

5 Q. On the question of relationships, including
6 sexual relationships, were you given any assistance at
7 all as to how to exercise your own judgment?

8 A. Not that I recall.

9 Q. Were you ever given to understand that you should be
10 very careful?

11 A. I can honestly say that I don't remember any discussion
12 about personal relationships at all, whether I should be
13 careful or -- or whether it would be condoned in any
14 way.

15 Q. Could we have up, please, {UCPI/34356}.

16 Could you scroll down just a little bit. I'm
17 looking for the second paragraph above the number 2.
18 Thank you.

19 354, this is a gist of, amongst other things,
20 the risk assessment that was conducted when you applied
21 for a restriction order.

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. And if we look at the paragraphs -- I'll read them out.
24 First of all:

25 "[H]N354 was adamant that none of these incidents

1 were planned or designed to further his standing in
2 the group, or for the purpose of
3 intelligence-gathering."

4 And that's referring to sexual relationships:

5 "He was a single man in his 20s at the time and
6 these were spontaneous events, although he believes it
7 would have appeared odd to have acted otherwise. He
8 also said that he had deliberately distanced himself
9 from potential relationships, which had then invited
10 overtures from a gay activist. Although not the driving
11 factor, the sexual encounters avoided this other equally
12 awkward situation.

13 "To illustrate this distinction, [H]N354 said that
14 [Privacy] (4.8 above) was keen to start a relationship
15 with him and had made this clear. He did not
16 reciprocate for the very reason that this was contrary
17 to SDS directions, morally questionable and could have
18 compromised his deployment. There is no indication that
19 any children were born as a result of these
20 relationships."

21 What I'd like to ask you about at this stage -- and
22 we'll be coming back to the relationships later -- at
23 this stage, the phrase "contrary to SDS directions".
24 What directions were you there referring to?

25 A. There was no written or formal instruction given on

1 that. I think in general discussion, the management say
2 you should avoid anything -- I think I was -- I was
3 discussing what happens when somebody is -- was trying
4 to establish more of a relationship than you thought was
5 appropriate, and they would say, "You should try and
6 avoid that." There was no written instruction. Though
7 I'm not -- I hope I'm not contradicting myself too much.
8 There was no formal structure around it, it was just
9 that they were saying this shouldn't really go on.

10 Q. Being careful about using names, and consult the file if
11 you need to do so, who was it who gave you
12 the directions that you've just referred to?

13 A. That would be HN34.

14 Q. When?

15 A. I -- when I was in the field and found it to be becoming
16 an issue. I'm afraid I can't tell you the actual date
17 or month.

18 Q. So when you say when it was "becoming an issue", are we
19 talking about "Madeleine" or one of the other women?

20 A. This particular one was another person.

21 Q. Now, you've told us about a total of four. If I -- we
22 have "Madeleine". If I call the next one "the other
23 activist".

24 A. Very well.

25 Q. And then there are two other people I'll call "the first

1 other woman" and "the second other woman", which are we
2 talking about?

3 A. This was a person who I had no -- no physical
4 sexual relationship with whatsoever. So it's not one of
5 the four.

6 Q. Is this the activist who you say wanted to have an
7 intimate relationship with you?

8 A. Very much gave that impression, yes.

9 Q. Okay.

10 So, was that before or after you had
11 a sexual relationship with "Madeleine"?

12 A. That would be before.

13 Q. Can you help us with which year?

14 A. It's difficult to put the timings on it, because
15 obviously we knew each other for a long time, and then
16 the -- I got -- I got the impression that she wanted to
17 take it further. I would say -- I mean, I'd been out in
18 the field for about a year/18 months. So about halfway
19 through my deployment.

20 Q. Would that be sort of the middle of 1978, or
21 thereabouts?

22 A. It would be thereabouts. I can only be vague on this,
23 I'm afraid.

24 Q. And when you had a conversation with HN34, was that
25 a conversation that you initiated?

1 A. I would think so, otherwise he'd have had -- without --
2 I hope this doesn't sound flippant, he'd have no idea
3 that it was an issue.

4 Q. Was this a private conversation?

5 A. It would have been, yes.

6 Q. And as best you can recall, can you help us, without
7 identifying the woman concerned, what you said and
8 the response you got?

9 A. I'm sorry, to her, or to -- or to HN34?

10 Q. To HN34, please.

11 A. I said -- I said I thought it was becoming an issue, and
12 generally asked -- asked what his opinion would be if
13 such situations developed. He then said that he didn't
14 think it was a very good idea.

15 Q. Was he saying that a relationship wouldn't be a very
16 good idea, or that sex wouldn't be a very good idea, or
17 both?

18 A. Knowing HN34, he'd have said both.

19 Q. And what did you think about that advice?

20 A. I took it as good advice and something that should have
21 been followed.

22 Q. And with the woman that we're presently talking about,
23 did you follow that advice?

24 A. Did I follow? Certainly. Never -- never went -- never
25 developed any kind of -- beyond -- beyond friendship,

1 never developed any kind of relationship at all.

2 Q. Why wasn't this advice mentioned in your witness
3 statement?

4 A. I -- I don't really have an answer to that apart from
5 the fact that this was a general chat as opposed to
6 formal advice. Perhaps I -- I omitted it for that
7 reason.

8 Q. I can help you that HN34 is Geoff Craft, and we are able
9 to use his name.

10 A. Very well, thank you. That's helpful, thank you.

11 Q. We can be more open about that.

12 The other phrase in the document that I just read
13 was "morally questionable". In what sense did you
14 understand a relationship whilst you were an
15 undercover officer to be morally questionable?

16 A. I suppose it's because we were not being totally honest
17 with the other persons involved in the relationship.

18 Q. They didn't know who you really were?

19 A. They certainly didn't.

20 Q. And you would be leaving the field at some point?

21 A. That's also true.

22 Q. Did that apply to sex, to relationships, or both, in
23 your mind?

24 A. I think obviously the sexual side is one -- to say on
25 relationships -- as you were out in the field for some

1 time, you -- with certain people, in any group, you
2 become friendly; some you get on with more than others.
3 So it depends on the nature of -- of the relationship.
4 Some, I would say, we were friendly with. And indeed,
5 being friendly helped you do your job.

6 Q. I don't think that quite answers my question.

7 A. Sorry.

8 Q. Did you think it was morally questionable to have an
9 intimate relationship with someone, by which I'm meaning
10 something which extends over a period of time and is
11 sexual?

12 A. If it -- if it's sexual extending over a long period of
13 time, I'd have definitely said that was wrong, yes.

14 Q. Did you think that a one night stand in the literal
15 sense of that term, literally having sex with a person
16 once and never again, did you think that was morally
17 questionable?

18 A. On reflection, I would say it was.

19 Q. And at the time?

20 A. Well, obviously there was an occasion when -- when my --
21 my worries about such things were overcome. I have to
22 accept that that was -- that was an incorrect act.

23 Q. We'll come back to relationships later, but for
24 the moment I'm going to move on now to continue
25 the theme of any advice and guidance you might have been

1 given before you deployed.

2 Were you given any advice or guidance about
3 participation in crime?

4 A. It was -- it was a general part of the philosophy --
5 I -- that we were not to participate in any criminal
6 act. It was accepted that flyposting would be probable
7 and allowable, mainly because field officers had
8 vehicles and were often in demand to transport people
9 around whilst they were flyposting. So the possibility
10 of being stopped or involved in some kind of discussion
11 on the streets was increased.

12 It was quite clear that no actual crime, if -- if
13 you can put it on some kind of continuum, would be
14 entered into.

15 I think I used the example there that if we went on
16 a demonstration, we were always told to avoid carrying
17 any of the larger banners, particularly things like
18 trade union banners, which sometimes got very heavy,
19 because of the nature of the wood and everything else
20 like that. These were substantial pieces of wood. And
21 we didn't want an enthusiastic police officer to think
22 you were using it as -- as an offensive weapon.

23 Q. And did you go flyposting?

24 A. I did go flyposting.

25 Q. Did you take people flyposting in your van?

1 A. I certainly did.

2 Q. Did you ever drink drive?

3 A. I think I probably did, on reflection.

4 Q. And was that something that was rather more common in
5 the 1970s than it is now?

6 A. It was considerably more common then than now.

7 Q. Were you given advice as to what to do if you were
8 arrested?

9 A. The advice to that was at the earliest possibility to
10 contact the office and apart from that just to keep
11 a very low profile until things were sorted out.

12 Q. Were you given any advice or guidance about
13 the definition of what is legal professional privilege?

14 A. Not that I recall.

15 Q. What was your understanding of the definition of
16 "legal professional privilege" -- (overspeaking) --

17 A. (inaudible) -- committing crime? I didn't believe we
18 would be acting under any form of privilege at all --

19 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

20 A. If I have understood your question correctly.

21 Q. It may be you've answered it, but not in the way I was
22 expecting.

23 Legal professional privilege is a doctrine whereby
24 what a lawyer -- what passes between a lawyer and client
25 is confidential and essentially sacrosanct?

- 1 A. Yeah, right.
- 2 Q. Did you understand that, or did you -- did you have any
3 idea of that concept?
- 4 A. Well, no, I'd have understood that contact. But
5 I thought we were talking about were we to be arrested.
- 6 Q. I was moving on to the next topic.
- 7 Well, where had you got your understanding of
8 legal professional privilege from?
- 9 A. Well, just by being a police officer for several years.
- 10 Q. What was your understanding of the definition
11 of "subversion"?
- 12 A. I've thought a great deal about this. I'm not sure
13 I actually can recall we ever had a defined,
14 comprehensive definition of "subversion".
- 15 Subversion was one of the elements that
16 Special Branch was tasked with operating against,
17 working against; it was one of the: terrorism,
18 subversion, espionage, etc. But the actual definition
19 of "subversion" and everything was a matter for
20 the Security Service. They were the -- it was that
21 organisation which defined an organisation as
22 a subversive organisation.
- 23 Q. So, what was your understanding as a member of the SDS
24 of the definition of "subversion"?
- 25 A. I'm not too sure I was really concerned about that, to

1 be brutally honest.

2 Q. Well, what, in your mind, was subversive and what
3 wasn't?

4 A. I would go along the line if it was working to act
5 illegally to bring about -- to bring about bad
6 influences to the state.

7 Q. And did that mean the system of parliamentary democracy,
8 or the government of the day, or both?

9 A. I think the subversive would -- would seek to change
10 things without going through the democratic system.

11 Q. I'm moving on to the topic of what you should report.

12 Were you given any advice and guidance above and
13 beyond seeing it happen in practice from the back office
14 about what you should and should not report?

15 A. There were general rules that applied across all of
16 Special Branch obviously, even before you joined
17 the SDS, about persons who would not be reported on,
18 elements that would not be reported on, areas where you
19 should not go without further permission. For example
20 -- and I think I include it in the statement -- if
21 attending a meeting was a Member of Parliament, you
22 would not do any work or anything beyond saying this was
23 the Member of Parliament rather than somebody else with
24 the same name.

25 Q. And without giving away any state secrets, what were

- 1 the other boundaries?
- 2 A. Journalists were of an issue. You had to be very
3 careful with reporting journalists. But of course,
4 "journalist" was a phrase that we used for all sorts of
5 publications. It was just generally if they were
6 sensitive, and the -- I mean, at this stage, of course,
7 I was essentially the foot soldier, and therefore would
8 seek -- seek authority or permission from others to see
9 if this was appropriate.
- 10 Q. I'm going to move now to your cover identity.
- 11 You tell us in your witness statement that you were
12 instructed to attend St Catherine's House. Who
13 instructed you to do that?
- 14 A. It would be -- it would be the office. I -- I can't say
15 who. It was part of -- when -- when you start building
16 up your alternative identity, you would go to
17 St Catherine's House and search there for the name.
- 18 Q. Was that a written instruction or an oral instruction?
- 19 A. Oral. I don't remember anything being -- being written
20 down.
- 21 Q. Were you told why you were being asked to use a deceased
22 child's identity to found your cover identity?
- 23 A. The -- the need to have a legitimate identity that --
24 that could then be used for other official documentation
25 to give you more protection was seen as important for

1 your own safety. And the idea that you'd -- you would
2 use the identity of a deceased child was the fact that
3 that person had not had any significant life, and
4 therefore you were not taking the identity of any living
5 person.

6 Q. Who explained that to you?

7 A. I can't remember particularly. It would be in
8 the general talk, and things like this. It was a very
9 paper-driven system and -- and initially -- initially it
10 was -- it was to find the names of children who'd
11 effectively died at birth and never had a life, but that
12 unfortunately had proven to be a bit of a security
13 weakness.

14 Q. Was it explained to you why?

15 A. Why it was a security weakness?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Well, would it help if I explained the system a little
18 further, or have you already heard this to the point --

19 Q. I don't think we want the precise details, but is it
20 right that you went to St Catherine's House and you
21 looked through manuscript records and selected a child

22 --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- who had died?

25 A. Yes. You'd start off by -- by looking through

- 1 the death -- death registries, to find -- to find an
2 appropriate one with an appropriate name.
- 3 Q. And I -- what my question is: why were you guided away
4 from using a child who had died very, very young?
- 5 A. The -- the way the system worked was that both the death
6 registers, the indices to the death registers and the
7 birth ones were adjacent -- physically adjacent in
8 St Catherine's House. If somebody had an idea of your
9 date of birth and wished to check on it, they could look
10 it up in the index and see which part of the country,
11 etc, it was born, then just walk across to exactly
12 the same quarter in the death things, turn it up and see
13 that you were in fact not a living person. By taking
14 one where the child was slightly older, you therefore
15 make the number of death searches to be made
16 considerably more, and therefore increasing the size of
17 the haystack.
- 18 Q. Can you give us some idea of how big the haystack
19 becomes in terms of the enormity of the task of
20 searching for a death if someone had died at the age of
21 five as opposed to one day?
- 22 A. There were four -- if I recall, there -- there was
23 a separate index for each of the quarters of the year,
24 and then of course you had to know the geographic area.
25 So you'd be talking about over 20.

- 1 Q. 20 what, sorry?
- 2 A. Indices to search through.
- 3 Q. To search through.
- 4 A. And then of course, if the child had moved from
- 5 the birth area, then again that makes it more
- 6 complicated -- complicated as well. It was to stop
- 7 the immediate -- just walk across and find it straight
- 8 away. It didn't mean to say it was absolutely
- 9 foolproof, but it was more secure.
- 10 Q. You've explained to me why -- the positive reason why
- 11 you were told to use a deceased child's identity. Were
- 12 you given any other reason as to why not to use
- 13 a fictitious identity?
- 14 A. Only that anecdotally -- and I don't know which officers
- 15 was involved -- have been identified by members who
- 16 might enquire into them, and that we should have as
- 17 robust a history as possible.
- 18 Q. Can you help, being very careful about names again --
- 19 use the file as necessary -- who it is that you were
- 20 told had been identified?
- 21 A. Initially I was told it was kept very general, but with
- 22 later information, it would have been HN297.
- 23 Q. The Inquiry knows that HN297 had used a deceased child's
- 24 identity, and the evidence we've heard was that he was
- 25 confronted with a copy of the death certificate.

- 1 A. Indeed.
- 2 Q. Were you given to understand that anyone who had used
3 a fictitious identity had been compromised as a result
4 of enquiries into their background?
- 5 A. No, I don't think that happened. It was more the case
6 that you wanted something that was robust were enquiries
7 to be made; because you obviously -- sorry -- if you had
8 obviously told people that you were born in a certain
9 place at a certain time and they knew your birthday,
10 some of them may still go and look; and there had to be
11 a record there to verify that, otherwise you would be
12 exposed for not having told the truth.
- 13 Q. Were you given any choice in the method that you used?
- 14 A. No, it was left -- left to you as an individual. There
15 was advice that you should try and use a name that you
16 were comfortable with.
- 17 Q. Sorry, just to be clear, were you given any choice about
18 whether or not you used the name of a deceased child's
19 identity?
- 20 A. No, I don't think so. I think it was -- it was
21 considered the correct practice.
- 22 Q. Did anyone come with you to St Catherine's House?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Did you have any qualms about using a deceased child's
25 identity to found your cover identity?

1 A. Not at the time. You didn't just take a -- a deceased
2 child's identity, you obviously made some general
3 enquiries. In my own particular case, I -- I searched
4 the birth records and could find no trace of the mother
5 anywhere in the region or something like that, so
6 I figured it was as anonymous as one could hope.

7 Q. Did you consider that there was a risk that the family
8 of the deceased child might find out?

9 A. I thought that was extremely unlikely.

10 Q. Did you consider how they might feel if it were to come
11 out?

12 A. I don't believe I gave that any attention at all.

13 Q. On reflection, what are your views now about using that
14 method?

15 A. I think it would be unnecessary now. The whole of
16 the registration system not only has been computerised
17 but it's been modernised and changed, so that it
18 wouldn't work. I think it was possibly the best
19 available at the time.

20 Q. If we proceed on the assumption that that is right, do
21 you have any moral qualms about having used that system
22 now?

23 A. I can see that it was -- unless extreme care was taken,
24 there was a risk -- change -- I mean, I changed my first
25 name as well from the child. There's nobody by my field

1 name that was ever born anywhere near the date of birth
2 that I was born, because I changed the first name. And
3 that was up to individual officers to -- to do that when
4 building their own legend.

5 Q. Now, you tell us that you picked a child who died at
6 about six-years old?

7 A. As I recall.

8 Q. Did you have any tools to assist you? For example, were
9 you given a list of common surnames, or anything like
10 that?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You tell us that you picked a child where the birth
13 certificate recorded no father?

14 A. That -- sorry, that was -- I was going to use
15 the word "lucky". It's not lucky, but when I did
16 the search there was no father recorded, which obviously
17 makes it that little bit more obscure, that much harder
18 to find.

19 Q. To what extent did that influence your choice of that
20 child?

21 A. I -- I think it -- well, as I couldn't find the mother
22 and there was no -- no father that I know of, then
23 I thought it would be a much harder person to trace
24 the parent.

25 Q. Now, obviously the mother was recorded on the birth

- 1 certificate, and you say there was no trace of her.
- 2 What research did you do to establish that there was no
- 3 trace of her?
- 4 A. Local enquiries were the main one. Obviously things
- 5 like the voters' register and elements such as that.
- 6 The normal indices that were publicly available or
- 7 available to police at a, you know, comfortable level.
- 8 Obviously not known to local police, for example,
- 9 voters' registers from the address, things like that.
- 10 So she must have moved or changed her name.
- 11 Q. And you say that another feature of the child you chose
- 12 was that he was born outside London. What was the value
- 13 of that?
- 14 A. Again, just to make it, if -- if someone decided to go
- 15 and try and trace the parent, or either parent, make any
- 16 enquiries at all, just physically the further away
- 17 I thought would act as something that would make them
- 18 disinclined to travel. If it was just round the corner,
- 19 they could do it very casually.
- 20 Q. You've told us already a little about how much the name
- 21 you adopted. Can you help us with what details of
- 22 the child's identity you did use?
- 23 A. It would be the surname and the date of birth.
- 24 Q. I don't want you to go into any detail at all; if you
- 25 could keep the answer to this next question short and

1 focused, please.

2 Did you use the birth certificate to obtain any
3 documents?

4 A. I -- no. I don't want to mislead. Obviously the date
5 of birth was used for things like driving licences.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 I'm going to move now to your cover employment. You
8 tell us in your witness statement that your cover
9 employment was as the installer of Portakabins,
10 partitions and suspended ceilings?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Again, without going into details, was there an actual,
13 real cover employer?

14 A. There was a real cover employer, yes.

15 Q. Coming back to your legend in the round, did you go
16 through any risk assessment, whether formally or just in
17 your head, about the various risks that might arise from
18 using the particular legend that you created?

19 A. I think in discussion with others, people would say that
20 it's use -- for example, the employment meant that I --
21 that I was mobile, I was never fixed in one -- on one
22 site, and therefore would -- would not be so easily
23 contacted. They'd have to go through a certain route.
24 So that was a good -- a good buffer to make sure that
25 the communications were under some kind of control.

1 Q. Going back to using a deceased child's identity, did you
2 consider the risk -- what you would do if you were
3 confronted with a death certificate?

4 A. I -- obviously, in the back of your mind there is
5 constantly the concern that you might be identified as
6 a police officer, whether by the death certificate,
7 somebody knowing you, somebody saying the wrong thing.
8 So there -- it was a constant concern that affected you
9 in all sorts of ways, and the way you conducted
10 yourself. You had to be alert to every opportunity.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 Did you have any particular plan in mind, any
13 contingency plan if that were to happen to you, or were
14 you just going to play it by ear?

15 A. Play it by ear. I mean, you just couldn't picture every
16 possible set of circumstances under which it would
17 occur.

18 Q. Was your cover identity tested by your managers before
19 you deployed?

20 A. They spoke to my cover employer, we spoke about
21 the location, the nature of the work and
22 the communication that the employer would have with
23 the office.

24 Q. Anything more than that?

25 A. I think that was it. Unless there's a point I --

- 1 I omitted, sorry.
- 2 Q. Were you warned that your cover identity might be tested
3 by your target group?
- 4 A. Yes, and we -- and we certainly warned the employer that
5 if certain phone calls come in, that this is the way --
6 so you had to know who was going to answer the telephone
7 and what sort of response they would give. If -- if I'm
8 answering your question. I appear not to be.
- 9 Q. You're certainly answering part of it. But if I could
10 ask you to step back a bit and not focus just on your
11 cover employment, and to concentrate on the whole of
12 your cover identity.
- 13 Were you warned that that may be tested and probed
14 by your group?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. And what guidance were you given about that?
- 17 A. Very much if -- if we had any -- any feeling at all that
18 something was going wrong, then we should contact
19 the office at whatever time, and discuss the route
20 forward for both you and -- and the situation.
- 21 Q. Was your undercover identity ever tested whilst you were
22 undercover?
- 23 A. There were a couple of instances where I was -- I was
24 uncomfortable. For example, I was recognised on
25 a street activity by -- by a police officer who knew who

1 I was and recognised me in my new appearance. I was
2 just pleased that he didn't actually say anything there
3 and then; he in fact phoned Scotland Yard and reported
4 me in for being -- working within a political group.

5 Things like that were happening all the time. You
6 could go into -- into a pub. You'd have to look round
7 first to see who else was in there, to make sure that
8 you were -- your two lives weren't meeting
9 inadvertently.

10 Q. You've told us in your witness statement that so far as
11 -- apart from the basic details that we've gone over,
12 that other parts of your legend you just made up as you
13 went along; is that right?

14 A. Yes, I think that's a fair summary.

15 Q. Did you consider the pros and cons of that approach?

16 A. I think it was more a case of that we were on our own
17 out there, and it was up to us to sort out whatever came
18 along.

19 Q. Isn't there a risk that thinking on your feet can
20 sometimes go wrong, you can tie yourself up in knots?

21 A. Yes, of course there is. And that's -- I think
22 that's -- I don't know if we're going to that, but part
23 of the selection system and everything else, that was to
24 find officers who the management felt could think on
25 their feet and handle awkward situations. There were

1 always applicants to join the SDS who would never get
2 through the selection process, because either
3 the pressure of the job or the ability to think quickly
4 was not considered sufficient to do the job.

5 Q. Now, one of the things you tell us is that one Christmas
6 when you were asked where you were going, you decided to
7 deal with it just by saying that both your parent were
8 dead.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Was it out of having to come up with that that you later
11 went on to talk about being brought up in care and
12 having experiences as a foster child?

13 A. Right. That -- I remember the incident when I was
14 asked, "Where are you going for Christmas? Are you
15 going to spend it with your parents?" And I said, "No,
16 I can't, because my parents are dead." I have no
17 recollection and would strongly refute the fact that
18 I ever said I was raised as a foster child, or anything
19 like that. I don't believe I ever said anything about
20 my childhood.

21 Q. Did you ever get into conversations about when your
22 parents had died?

23 A. No, it was one of those comments that -- that closed
24 the conversation.

25 Q. Another aspect of your cover identity was, you tell us,

1 to say that you'd been in a serious committed
2 relationship which went toxic?

3 A. I did say that.

4 Q. When did you first come up with that layer to your
5 cover?

6 A. I'm not sure that -- I remember when we were discussing
7 various -- various things and I was -- with certain
8 people I was meeting, their music was one of the things
9 -- the universal things we would talk about. And then
10 they would say, "What's your music collection? What
11 have you got?" And I had to explain why I was living in
12 this rather rundown bedsit without any music or any
13 records, or stuff like that. So that's when I said
14 I'd just left my whole record collection behind when
15 I left my long-term relationship.

16 I'm not sure that I'd given it an awful lot of
17 thought. It was probably fairly spontaneous. But I'm
18 not sure when I formed the actual germ of an idea.

19 Q. When you say "fairly spontaneous", was it the sort of
20 thing that you had discussed with others in the safe
21 house, or anything like that?

22 A. No, I don't -- I don't believe we ever discussed --
23 I can remember no conversation where any of the field
24 officers or the office actually said, "Are we explaining
25 how -- how we come to live in these circumstances?"

- 1 Q. Were you aware whether any -- any other officers had
2 used a similar story?
- 3 A. I actually have no idea what story any of the other
4 officers used or why they were living the life they were
5 leading.
- 6 Q. You've described coming up with the idea to explain away
7 the absence of a record collection. Can I take it from
8 that that at that stage, it had nothing to do with
9 trying to avoid an intimate relationship?
- 10 A. Absolutely. No, it was purely and simply to explain
11 the -- the circumstances under which I was living. If
12 you were to see the bedsit, you'd think it was the sort
13 of place that most people would try and move out fairly
14 quickly.
- 15 Q. Did you later develop that aspect of your cover story to
16 deter a long-term intimate relationship?
- 17 A. I believe I maintained it and -- and explained -- and --
18 and to be honest, it was reflected in true life. I had
19 been through a -- a personal split-up at the same time.
20 So it was relatively easy to say that, yes, I've -- I've
21 been through a bad period personally.
- 22 Q. Sorry, if you could just answer the precise question.
- 23 A. Sorry.
- 24 Q. Did you ever use it to deter a long-term intimate
25 relationship?

1 A. I -- I think, to use the phrase "use it" in that reason,
2 no, but I maintained it as a reason, and if other people
3 interpreted it that way -- I didn't use it as an excuse.

4 Q. Did it have that effect?

5 A. I believe it did, from what I've heard since.

6 Q. Can I move now to the question of tasking. You
7 infiltrated the Walthamstow Branch of the SWP, didn't
8 you?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. And was that the only target that you had for the whole
11 of your deployment?

12 A. It was -- yes, it was the only group I joined.

13 Q. You say that you were tasked by Geoffrey Craft, and you
14 say the terms of the tasking were that you were asked to
15 observe and then become involved in an active subversive
16 group that was of interest to Special Branch, and that
17 you were not specifically tasked to infiltrate the SWP;
18 is that right?

19 A. That's correct. It was more a case of, this was -- if
20 you looked at the squad as a whole, it was an area of
21 London where we were not represented, and was quite
22 active politically. And therefore, as part of
23 the service that we were providing to others, it was
24 useful to have some kind of idea what was going on in
25 the -- in the region. The fact that --

- 1 Q. -- (overspeaking) --
- 2 A. Sorry.
- 3 Q. No, you carry on.
- 4 A. It may be helpful that IS/SWP was the most populist of
5 all the organisations, and therefore was your way in to
6 many other organisations anyway. So that if you went
7 out there and found that another group was active that
8 management or anyone else wanted you to get involved
9 with, you could discuss it -- if it was feasible, but to
10 be an ex-SWP member moving to another one was easier
11 than going the other way. So it was -- it was a feeder
12 -- it was also in some ways seen -- I stress "seen" by
13 us -- as a feeder organisation; one from which you could
14 be disaffected and join a less populist, more idealistic
15 line.
- 16 Q. And did that understanding affect your choice of target?
- 17 A. No, it wasn't so much a target, I went out there looking
18 for what was going on, and what -- what I found going on
19 first of all was confrontations on the Street between
20 people selling the Socialist Worker newspaper and
21 members of the National Front. So I approached
22 the paper sellers and said, "If this -- if this turns
23 into anything nasty, I'll be here to support you." And
24 then I slowly became more involved from there.
- 25 Q. If you did that, how does that gel with being tasked to

- 1 find an active subversive group?
- 2 A. Well, that was the start of it. That would obviously
3 get you known as, there's this chap who's obviously
4 anti-fascist; "Come along to this meeting and see what
5 you think." Then we'd discuss it, and I'd say to
6 the office, I've been invited along to -- in this case
7 it was Walthamstow SWP; you'd discuss it with the office
8 and the office would say, "Yeah, carry on there; that's
9 a group we are interested in."
- 10 Q. And what was your understanding of whether or not
11 the SWP in Walthamstow was an active subversive group?
- 12 A. They were -- the SWP was defined as subversive by those
13 who are more expert in that field at the time and
14 knew -- knew it was. Waltham Forest was an active
15 group. Furthermore, it led -- it led you so that you
16 could meet other active groups -- active elements within
17 the organisation.
- 18 Q. Now, you say that you went out and gleaned that there
19 was a lot of tension between the far right and the far
20 left on the streets. Have I fairly summarised that?
- 21 A. There was -- yes, there was.
- 22 Q. Did you consider infiltrating the far right?
- 23 A. That would -- that would obviously be something that had
24 to be discussed with the office. I don't think I should
25 talk about far right deployments at this stage.

1 I'm not sure -- and I'm afraid you'd have to seek
2 information from others -- that at that time, the far
3 right, which was mainly the National Front, not the new
4 National Front or British Movement or Knights of St
5 George, or any of those -- I'm not sure at that time it
6 was classified as subversive, and therefore would not
7 have been within our remit.

8 Q. Was it your understanding that the reality was that
9 the SDS was at that time only infiltrating the far left?

10 A. And anarchists. I accept that's a fine difference, but
11 it was important at the time.

12 Q. You say that you were asked to collect information and
13 intelligence about public order and subversion; is that
14 right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Were you ever tasked in any way to influence the course
17 of the Walthamstow Branch of the SWP?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Or any other part of the SWP?

20 A. No, only insofar as I think most of the SDS and most
21 the police officers have a tendency to want to organise
22 things that aren't organised.

23 Q. Can I take it from your answer that you didn't consider
24 the Walthamstow Branch of the SWP to be particularly
25 organised?

1 A. I think that's the fairest comment -- the fairest way of
2 putting it, if I can leave it at that.

3 Q. And you brought some organisation to it?

4 A. Marginally. I mean, they made me treasurer fairly
5 quickly. And because you were running around doing
6 various tasks for them, that kept it a bit more
7 organised.

8 Q. Were you ever tasked to disrupt the SWP in any way?

9 A. No. Only insofar as I suppose it would be right to say
10 that I would be reporting that there was going to be
11 a presence at such and such a place, and therefore
12 uniformed police may decide that their presence should
13 be made known, so -- so there weren't surprise packages
14 that needed to be policed. But this was not to stop
15 the demonstration, it was merely to stop the nature of
16 the demonstration.

17 Q. Can you help us with that distinction. What do you mean
18 by "the nature"?

19 A. Well, there was no banning of -- no "you can't gather
20 here", no -- anything else like that. Come along and
21 make a peaceful demonstration; if you're picketing an
22 election meeting or something like this.

23 So they'd have sufficient thing, so yes, come along,
24 you can make your -- make your protest known,
25 absolutely, but you're not going to attack and close

1 the town hall down, or anything like that.

2 Q. You tell us in your witness statement that you played
3 the part of a person who was politically naive?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. How well did that work?

6 A. Quite well. I was politically naive. I certainly had
7 no great understanding of the differences between
8 the various interpretations of the works of Marx.

9 Q. Did you consider the pros and cons of educating yourself
10 a little bit politically before starting or progressing
11 your infiltration of the SWP?

12 A. I gave it very little thought. I wanted to be somebody
13 who would be influenced by whichever party -- whichever
14 party, whichever group, whatever their line was. There
15 were so many groups at that time, splitting -- all
16 obviously with their own interpretation, and I'd have to
17 become adherent to whatever line that party was taking.

18 Q. Now, you say in your statement that you gleaned
19 fieldcraft advice from the office and at the safe house
20 meetings. We've touched upon this already to some
21 extent, but I'd just like to explore with you who that
22 advice was coming from. Was it coming from the UCOs or
23 was it coming from the managers, or both?

24 A. I think both. I find that a difficult question.

25 I think it would be in a general discussion, and there

1 would be a discussion about, "I'm going out to get my
2 vehicle next week," and then people would say different
3 things, and the management would say that is acceptable
4 or not. So, many of those decisions were a conglomerate
5 view of all people who had -- who had some experience in
6 it. Or indeed something that had proven not to be
7 successful in the past in some way.

8 Q. As far as the Inquiry is aware, the DCI at the time that
9 you were in the back office and starting your deployment
10 was Geoffrey Craft, the detective inspector was
11 Angus McIntosh, and the Detective Sergeant that we are
12 referring to as "HN368" was around.

13 A. Excuse me. (Pause)

14 That's correct, yes. Sorry.

15 Q. Did any of them have any undercover experience, to your
16 knowledge?

17 A. None had been in the SDS, and I've no knowledge of them
18 doing anything -- well, there was virtually no other
19 undercover work.

20 Q. So would it be fair to say that the first-hand
21 experience was coming entirely from undercover officers
22 at the time that you were in the back office?

23 A. Yes, apart from the fact they'd managed for some time
24 and had some experience of seeing the problems that
25 would arise.

- 1 Q. You say that you both influenced your own tasking, used
2 your own judgment and worked closely with the office.
3 Could you explain that a little bit further, so we have
4 a better idea of the mix of those things?
- 5 A. Well, as I say, I was tasked with looking at
6 a geographic area and found the most active group in
7 there, and that's pretty much all -- all we had to do
8 when I initially started. Then there was quite enough
9 work there for me not to move on, if that answers -- I'm
10 not sure I fully understood your question.
- 11 Q. I suppose what I'm driving at is I'm getting
12 the impression that throughout your deployment there is
13 a dialogue between you and your managers. You are
14 making decisions on the ground but you're talking to
15 your managers about them, and there is therefore an
16 interplay between you. Is that a fair impression of
17 what's going on?
- 18 A. Yes, and if -- if a change of direction was required
19 or -- for whatever reason, that would be discussed.
- 20 Q. And you say that you reported what you thought would be
21 of use?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Can you help us with how you were able to decide what
24 was of use?
- 25 A. From our end of it, we just provided as much information

1 as we could so that it could be assessed and turned into
2 intelligence. If they -- if you got -- were asked
3 a query about somebody or the other, you would answer
4 your question to say: yes, this person, which I see is
5 of interest already, this is now where they're living or
6 working.

7 Q. I want to move now to the time when you are deployed,
8 and to the meetings at the safe house whilst you were
9 deployed. How long were they?

10 A. It varied, but generally the whole afternoon.

11 Q. And were they during working days?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. During the daytime?

14 A. Generally.

15 Q. And they were attended by UCOs?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. By the SDS as managers, the DCI, the DI and the DS?

18 A. Some combination thereof, yes.

19 Q. Any new recruits who, as you had done --

20 A. Office -- office staff would begin to come out there,
21 yes.

22 Q. Anyone else?

23 A. Unless, on the very rare occasion, a senior police
24 officer from SB or whatever wanted to come down and have
25 a word; or indeed, senior police officers from other

1 branches who were -- who were aware of our existence
2 wanted to come down and have a word. That would be
3 a very rare occasion.

4 Q. You tell us that there were two safe houses. Was that
5 the position throughout your deployment?

6 A. There were two, yes.

7 Q. You say there was one in the south and one in the west?

8 A. That's how they were referred to, yes.

9 Q. Was there any pattern as to which one was used?

10 A. No, the office would tell you it's -- it's -- which one
11 you were meeting at on the day. Obviously, if -- if
12 a UCO wanted to meet at a particular one for some
13 reason, perhaps because of a work commitment or
14 something else going on, then you'd -- you'd just go to
15 the other one -- go to the one that they wanted.

16 Q. I don't want any precise addresses, but was there
17 a change of safe house whilst you were operational?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. How big were these premises?

20 A. Well, they had to be large enough to take a team of --
21 what are we talking about -- a meeting point of anything
22 up to 20 people, I suppose, with everything else like
23 that. So they were normally different styles,
24 obviously. They'd normally be a sort of large flat,
25 a sort of two or three bedroom flat, or house of similar

1 proportions.

2 Q. Would it follow from the numbers that you would meet in
3 the living room?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And are we to understand that you would submit your
6 diary so that you could make claims for expenses and
7 overtime?

8 A. You had to do that, yes.

9 Q. And would you submit your reports?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In manuscript or typed up?

12 A. When we were doing it, it was manuscript. I believe, as
13 time went on, they actually issued typewriters, so you
14 could do it yourself at home.

15 Q. Were they read on the spot?

16 A. Not unless you said, "I really need you to see this now
17 and let's discuss it." But what I would count as the
18 routine ones just went into the office for later
19 consideration.

20 Q. Would you get feedback later on, at a future meeting?

21 A. You'd get feedback if it wasn't up to standard, yes.

22 Q. Did that happen very often?

23 A. I had one or two corrections made.

24 Q. Were they of style or substance?

25 A. They're -- there was very much a Special Branch style.

1 And since this was -- since these would then be
2 copied -- or may well be copied outside, and certainly
3 to the Security Service, it was expected to reach
4 certain standards.

5 Q. Was there an agenda to the meeting at the safe house?

6 A. Not unless one was brought down by the officers, who
7 said, "I've got to" -- you know, "Something has
8 changed," perhaps with the organisation or
9 the administration that we all needed to know about,
10 then they'd come down and say we'll have a meeting about
11 that. Otherwise it was a general update, make sure
12 everybody was functioning okay, and discuss what was
13 going on.

14 Q. Did people speak freely?

15 A. I think we discussed freely but not so much about
16 the organisations we were in.

17 Q. Could you help me with that?

18 A. This was not a "Oh yes, my group's doing this" and "My
19 group's doing that". The most you'd get to is something
20 like, "There's going to be a national call out for such
21 and such a thing, are you supporting it?" Or, "I see
22 from your paper there is an all London turnout for this,
23 what's -- what's -- you know, what's your view of how
24 many people will go?" Which of course is what was being
25 submitted into the centre anyway.

1 So -- but you wouldn't have a big discussion about
2 individuals, apart from somebody who might have known
3 the same -- same individuals to help you identify who
4 that person must have been who you saw organising
5 something.

6 Q. Were these meetings quite laid-back?

7 A. As the afternoon wore on, they became more laid-back,
8 yeah. There was a useful way -- when -- there's no one
9 else you can -- you can discuss even routine things.
10 I mean, your own family and friends didn't know what you
11 were doing. Other Special Branch officers didn't really
12 know what you were doing. No other police officers know
13 what you were doing. Where else could you just have
14 a general vent about things or words like that?

15 And of course, because this was a rolling group,
16 there was almost every likelihood that what you were
17 finding difficult as a new field officer had been met by
18 somebody else, who had said, "Look, I tried this and it
19 did work," or, "It didn't work." It was a very much
20 a laid-back thing as the afternoon went on. Which is
21 where you'd got a sort of informal exchange of
22 information, but also a release so that you could
23 actually talk about things somewhere.

24 Q. Venting?

25 A. Within the bounds of reasonableness, yeah.

1 Q. You say "as the afternoon wore on". Was that lubricated
2 by alcohol?

3 A. On occasions.

4 Q. In the flat, in a pub, or both?

5 A. Either, to be honest. And then of course, that wouldn't
6 necessarily relate to everybody, because as the -- as
7 the afternoon wore on, you -- for example, I had to get
8 from the West to East London, it was a long drive, so
9 I left early and didn't get involved in that kind of
10 thing. There was always these different demands. So it
11 wasn't a three line whip that everyone would go to have
12 a drink together, or something like that. But
13 sometimes, if you had a laid-back time you might go for
14 a drink with somebody just to discuss life.

15 Q. And accepting that people would have had fluctuating
16 commitments, would it be right that both managers and
17 UCOs attended these meetings, including the social
18 aspects of them?

19 A. The -- the management would leave at whatever time, and
20 sometimes you would stay a bit longer. Because you were
21 killing -- essentially you were killing time before that
22 and getting to the -- your evening commitment. So there
23 is no point in getting there ...

24 Q. Were the managers staying long enough to be present when
25 things had become quite relaxed?

1 A. On occasions, yeah. And there were different management
2 styles. You know, different people wanted -- wanted
3 a more relaxed, open conversation.

4 Q. Can you help me just with an impression. I'd like to
5 know, was this a seamless atmosphere and whether
6 a manager was present or not made no difference,
7 sometimes they were, sometimes they weren't? Or was
8 this a question of, once the managers walked out of
9 the building, the nature of the conversation changed and
10 the atmosphere changed?

11 A. It certainly wasn't the latter, but -- but I think
12 different meetings had different atmospheres depending
13 on -- you know, if somebody had been in trouble or
14 something like that, or felt exposed or something like
15 that, then it would take a more serious tone, and you'd
16 all be considering your own actions were it to happen to
17 you, or whatever.

18 If there'd been a particular request from any part
19 -- part of the -- the police that they wanted to know,
20 like that, you might have a serious conversation: "This
21 is not something I (inaudible), but what do you think?"

22 So, some of them were very serious and go on.
23 The only thing, as I say, that we didn't discuss in
24 great detail is the different interpretations of
25 the political stance.

1 Q. When you say "some of them were very serious", were you
2 referring to the discussions or to individual managers?

3 A. Both.

4 Q. Who were the graver of the managers that you worked
5 with?

6 A. Oh, they had -- they had different styles. I would say
7 probably Geoff Craft. Yes, I would say probably. But
8 he was still very supportive and -- and helpful. And
9 generally the view was that we were doing a job that not
10 many people could or would do, and it was valuable and
11 therefore they were still -- even though we may be
12 bouncing along not perfectly, it was better than not
13 having anything there at all.

14 Q. Was there any boundary-setting down by managers relating
15 to what you should and should not do undercover?

16 A. Beyond what we've discussed already?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. I can't -- I can't think of anything without
19 a specific -- if you had a specific, I could answer.
20 I can't think of anything automatic. As I say, there
21 was no list of things that we should do or avoid doing.

22 Q. Was there an opportunity to discuss welfare issues?

23 A. They were always available for that, if -- if you asked
24 for it -- (overspeaking) --

25 Q. Would you --

1 A. -- they may even have offered to it, and -- and
2 the nature of some of us is we probably turned it down
3 even if we should have taken their -- their help.

4 Q. Were queries from other parts of the police or from
5 the Security Service communicated at these meetings?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And would you look at photographs that were produced of
8 people taken at demonstrations and in other places, for
9 relevant UCOs to try and identify?

10 A. Yes.

11 MR BARR: Sir, would now be an appropriate time to take our
12 mid-morning break?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly it would be.

14 We break now for quarter of an hour. Can you be
15 back at the end of that time?

16 A. Certainly.

17 MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone. We will now take
18 a break. May I remind those in the virtual hearing room
19 to remember to join your break-out rooms, please.

20 The time is now 11.50 am, so we shall reconvene at
21 12.05 pm.

22 Thank you.

23 (11.48 am)

24 (A short break)

25 (12.05 pm)

1 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome back.

2 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
3 proceedings.

4 Chairman.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Mr Barr.

7 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

8 354, we're still on the subject of the meetings that
9 happened twice weekly, including any socialising
10 afterwards.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Could you help me with how well you got to know your
13 colleagues during the course of your deployment?

14 A. Some more than others, I suppose. There was -- there
15 was, I suppose, a natural inclination that those who
16 went out roughly the same time, faced the same problems
17 at the same time, would perhaps meet. But obviously, as
18 -- as you were more and more established and that,
19 people had many other demands, and would have different
20 timings. So I would say -- I'd say we were on friendly
21 terms with all of them, but like in any group of people,
22 and it applies I think across the board, you get on with
23 some better than others.

24 Q. So, to take an example, how well did you know HN304, who
25 used the cover name "Graham Coates"?

1 A. 304 was -- was in the field before me, and, yeah, I knew
2 -- we -- yeah, fairly well, I thought. We didn't
3 socialise. I never -- never went to his family home
4 or -- for a -- any kind of domestic celebration, or
5 anything like that.

6 Q. Understood.

7 Did you have any particular friends?

8 A. Can I just look up a name?

9 Q. Of course.

10 A. HN21 and -- just have a quick -- and 86 probably
11 the most at that time.

12 Q. I'm going to ask you some general questions about what
13 you discussed; and I am using "you" in the plural.

14 A. I understand.

15 Q. Not personally to you.

16 Did you discuss the organisational skills of
17 the various groups that were being infiltrated?

18 A. I think we -- I think we discussed the nature of -- of
19 the group and the demands it was placing upon you. I
20 mean, for example -- I'm sorry, I talked across you, but
21 the Maoist, for example, would talk about just how much
22 they had to study that week in order to meet the next
23 meeting. Whereas the populist groups such as mine,
24 the need for political theory was fairly minimal.

25 Q. And did you ever mock the plans of some of the groups?

1 A. No. I don't -- no. I'd say -- (inaudible) not. To do
2 this job properly, you had to -- you had to have
3 a certain amount of agreement and belief, and things
4 like that. You didn't go in and mock the people you
5 were with. Some of them you would count as friends.
6 But, no, this wasn't a sit-on-the-outside, take
7 the Mickey out of people. This was take them seriously
8 and -- they took their beliefs seriously, and to
9 a certain extent you -- you could respect that -- that
10 belief.

11 Q. Did you discuss notable personalities within the group,
12 perhaps the characters that people were --

13 A. Some of the leading names would obviously be discussed,
14 because they were -- they were matters for internal
15 conjecture anyway. You know, some of the, if you like,
16 central committee members and some of the machinations
17 that were going on like that. And people from different
18 aspects would know different things. On the smaller
19 groups of course, then it was a much smaller element to
20 keep track of. But they would say, "What a strange
21 person," or, "They're always trying to do that," or
22 whatever. That kind of thing.

23 Q. I'm thinking much more at an anecdotal, casual level.
24 I mean, for example, did you ever hear talk about
25 a female activist who could lactate on demand?

- 1 A. Never.
- 2 Q. Were jokes ever made in your conversations?
- 3 A. I wouldn't say they weren't, but I can't -- I can't
4 remember anything. There was a certain amount, as
5 I say, of more stress relief by being -- to have an open
6 conversation in a secure location. So I wouldn't say
7 that it was entirely po-faced. But if you mean were
8 there jokes taken against members of the organisation,
9 I would say minimal. Probably made more jokes about
10 other police officers than you would about the people
11 that ...
- 12 Q. Was there banter generally?
- 13 A. On occasions, yeah.
- 14 Q. And both about police officers, but also about
15 the people with whom you were mixing undercover?
- 16 A. Not so much about the people, because nobody else would
17 know them. I mean, the people I was mixing with very --
18 only a few perhaps on the fringes would be known
19 by other -- so what's the point in telling --
- 20 Q. -- (overspeaking) --
- 21 A. -- (inaudible).
- 22 Q. Was there any teasing or banter about what individual
23 undercover officers might have been getting up to?
- 24 A. No, not that I recall.
- 25 Q. Were there sexual jokes?

1 A. Not that I -- again, not that I recall. It -- it wasn't
2 like the stereotypical rugby club after the match type
3 atmosphere, if that's what -- if that helps in
4 describing what I remember.

5 Q. The Inquiry's heard evidence from another former UCO of
6 a particular comment, which is something along
7 the lines -- about a woman -- something along the lines
8 of, "He'll have made her bite the blankets again last
9 night." Did you ever hear that, or anything like it?

10 A. No. I mean, I would stress that I've never -- never
11 heard anything like that at all.

12 Q. Were there jokes that a 1970s feminist might have found
13 offensive?

14 A. I mean, possibly is all I can -- I can't -- I can't
15 recall any, but I wouldn't like to exclude that jokes
16 that were -- I don't know, somebody may well say, "Did
17 you hear the Jim Davidson joke of last night." His
18 humour would no longer be acceptable, but that might be
19 going round and you'd be told that, yeah.

20 Q. Did the managers hear such banter as there was?

21 A. On occasions, something around the edges, I'd have
22 thought.

23 Q. Did they join in?

24 A. No, not really. I mean, I -- I -- we have different
25 personalities and different -- different people

1 interacted in different ways. So some would be more
2 willing to get involved than -- than others on anything
3 else like that.

4 Q. I'd like to ask you some specific questions about
5 specific colleagues. First of all, HN297. He's one of
6 the few officers whose real name we can use,
7 Richard Clark. Did he ever have his leg pulled for
8 being a bit of a ladies' man?

9 A. My recollection of Rick was that, yes, he was a ladies'
10 man, but far more after he'd left the SDS the Mickey was
11 taken out of him for that. As an SDS officer I don't
12 remember anything being said at all.

13 Q. Can you be clear with me about whether he had
14 a reputation as a ladies' man whilst he was in the SDS.

15 A. Not to me. I -- and I think I would have known.

16 Q. And you say more so afterwards. What was the basis for
17 that?

18 A. Well, because I remained friends with Rick for some time
19 afterwards. He's one of the people that I did stay
20 friends with when we were back in mainstream work. And
21 he was regularly visiting bars and things like that
22 where -- in order to meet women. It was known. His
23 wife knew. It was known.

24 Q. We've heard evidence that that -- that his reputation as
25 a womaniser was known whilst he was in the SDS. Does

- 1 that assist your recollection?
- 2 A. It doesn't, and I didn't know Rick until I joined
3 the SDS, and he left fairly soon after I was out in
4 the field. So I don't have that recollection at all.
5 And I'm not being defensive, I just ...
- 6 Q. Were you socialising with him at the time when you were
7 in the SDS and he wasn't?
- 8 A. No. No, you didn't mix across that kind of border.
- 9 Q. Do you know whether or not Richard Clark had sexual
10 relations with activists whilst he was undercover?
- 11 A. I had no knowledge at the time. I've heard afterwards,
12 whilst preparing for this and things, that he did. But
13 that's my only knowledge of it.
- 14 Q. Having known him and how he was behaving in his life
15 outside his undercover deployment, does it surprise you
16 that he did so?
- 17 A. Not entirely, but of course I'd have thought his need
18 for personal security would have -- would have overcome
19 any -- any long-term relationship, but I just don't
20 know. I never discussed it with him. I don't know.
- 21 Q. I want to move now to the officer who we know
22 as "HN300", whose cover name was "Jim Pickford".
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. Was he always chasing after women?
- 25 A. I knew him very briefly in the SDS, and things like

1 that. Certainly after he left the SDS and (inaudible),
2 his life was full of pursuing women, yeah.

3 Q. And was that well known? Did he have a reputation
4 for it?

5 A. He got married several times. He was known for this.
6 And a lot of his activities weren't exactly approved of
7 by others. He probably crossed the line.

8 Q. Did you pick this up from what he was saying, from what
9 others were saying?

10 A. It was not on the SDS, but after that there were many
11 a story about (inaudible), what he'd been -- about what
12 he'd been up to.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Sir, do you want to stop?

14 A. I'm fine, if you want to carry on.

15 I'm sorry, I beg your pardon.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Forgive me. You said something that
17 shouldn't have been said. It's bound to happen, don't
18 worry about it.

19 I think we'd better pause now while a restriction
20 order is made, put up in the hearing room and not
21 repeated outside it.

22 A. Yeah. I apologise for that. I thought it was a name
23 that was known. I'm sorry.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Please don't worry. These mistakes are bound
25 to happen, and that's why we have a procedure in place

1 to deal with them. We'll now deal with it. And for
2 the time being, for the next few minutes, your evidence
3 will be suspended.

4 No one, please, reporting upon these proceedings
5 from within the hearing room may broadcast anything said
6 within the last ten minutes until and unless I say so.

7 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone. We will now take
8 a break. May I remind those in the virtual hearing room
9 to remember to join your break-out rooms, thank you.

10 (12.18 pm)

11 (A short break)

12 (12.30 pm)

13 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for
14 your patience. I will now hand over to the Chairman to
15 continue proceedings.

16 Chairman.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

18 Anybody is free to communicate what has happened in
19 the hearing rooms apart from that which is set out in
20 the notice which is on the wall, namely the topic of
21 names between the two minutes stated there.

22 Mr Barr.

23 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

24 354, we were talking about 300. Did 300 talk in
25 your presence about sexual relationships with women?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Do you know from others whether he ever spoke about
3 falling in love with an activist?

4 A. No. I've no knowledge of that at all.

5 Q. Do you know whether he spoke about falling in love with
6 anybody else whilst he was undercover?

7 A. No. I have no recollection of that at all. He was only
8 out -- our time in the field was -- was very brief.

9 Q. I mean, I'm not limiting my question to what you might
10 have heard whilst you were both in the --

11 A. Oh, I see.

12 Q. -- at all.

13 A. No, I think I heard stories when he was getting married
14 for the second or third time.

15 Q. Do you know anything about the third time, without
16 naming the name of the woman concerned?

17 A. Well, I may have the order wrong, but it was a medical
18 professional.

19 Q. And do you know whether 300 had met his third wife
20 whilst undercover?

21 A. I don't know that. I -- I don't think that would comply
22 with the timings as I remember them, but I -- I clearly
23 don't know this.

24 Q. Can I move now to HN106, who used the cover name "Barry
25 Tompkins".

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. Did he have a reputation with women of any kind?
- 3 A. Yes, I suppose he did to a certain extent. I had some
4 knowledge of him before the SDS and he was somebody who
5 enjoyed the company of women.
- 6 Q. Was he a man who tried to seduce women?
- 7 A. I wouldn't -- not when I was with him. I'm sorry,
8 I don't want this to sound glib, but I just don't know.
- 9 Q. Did you hear any talk about whether or not he'd had any
10 sexual contact with people whilst he was undercover?
- 11 A. No, I didn't hear that. As I recall, he got married
12 about the same time as he went undercover. I don't know
13 if that's relevant to anything, but that's my only real
14 recollection of 106 while we were out.
- 15 Q. Can I ask you now about HN155 who used the cover name
16 "Phil Cooper"?
- 17 A. Yeah. Sorry, yes.
- 18 Q. Did he have a reputation of any kind with women?
- 19 A. Firstly, 155 and I didn't do any SDS work at the same
20 time, so I can't say for what he was doing when he was
21 out there. He seemed to get in all kinds of scrapes,
22 which were the stories that went round.
- 23 Q. Did they involve women or not?
- 24 A. Women, drink and all sorts of things.
- 25 Q. Do you know whether or not he had sex with anyone

1 undercover?

2 A. I don't know.

3 Q. Whether --

4 A. As I say, I had left the SDS by the time he was

5 undercover, so why would he tell me?

6 Q. Well --

7 A. I'm sorry, I shouldn't ask that.

8 Q. I'm not limiting my questions to just when you were in

9 the SDS. Anything you may have gleaned later on.

10 Were there any rumours about him having sex with

11 anyone undercover?

12 A. Not that I recall, but I -- I wouldn't put it past him.

13 Q. We heard evidence last week that there was banter about

14 sexual relations between undercover police officers and

15 activists. Having now taken you through some of

16 the specifics, can I ask you again, can you recall there

17 ever being any joking or banter about sexual contact

18 between SDS undercover officers and members of

19 the public?

20 A. I remain convinced that that was never a subject of

21 banter in my presence.

22 Q. We've heard some evidence that managers seemed to turn

23 a blind eye to the question of sexual relationships

24 between undercover officers and members of the public;

25 is that right?

1 A. I don't feel qualified to answer that. I'm unaware that
2 the management ever knew of any such relationships that
3 had taken place and therefore I don't know if it was
4 ever discussed. It was certainly never openly said,
5 "Yeah, get on with it", or anything like that.

6 Q. We've heard evidence to the effect that with people such
7 as Richard Clark and HN300, it was inevitable that there
8 would be sexual encounters between members of the public
9 and undercover police officers. Would you agree with
10 that proposition?

11 A. Yes, I think I probably would.

12 Q. Was anything done about that?

13 A. Not to my knowledge.

14 Q. We heard some evidence that retaining SDS officers was
15 seen as very important to the extent that requests made
16 by officers were accommodated where at all possible.
17 Does that chime with your experience?

18 A. They were generally tolerant of our -- of our requests.
19 I don't know if there's a particular line here, but yes,
20 they were very supportive and understood that you would
21 make requests at certain times.

22 Q. Was there any discussion at all about the possibility or
23 the temptation of having sex undercover with members of
24 the public?

25 A. I don't believe so.

- 1 Q. Was there any exploration of the left wing political
2 views of the groups that were being infiltrated by
3 the SDS?
- 4 A. The political views ... I suppose there would be some
5 discussions if they were supporting certain causes.
- 6 Q. And what were the purposes of these discussions?
- 7 A. If, for example, you knew that an organisation was
8 supporting a particular cause, be it international or
9 trade dispute and that, then that would -- that would
10 impact upon any demonstration or protest or something
11 else like that that might need policing.
- 12 Q. Were any judgments made about the merits of the politics
13 of the groups that were being infiltrated?
- 14 A. No, I -- I don't think so. I think it was generally
15 accepted that some of the heavier, in theory, groups
16 would be less likely to achieve much, because they were
17 not able to generate large numbers. But beyond that ...
- 18 Q. What do you mean by "heavier", please?
- 19 A. Well, Maoist, primarily, would be the -- would be the --
20 CPML and things like that. And of course, at the
21 time -- and it has certainly changed, as we've seen in
22 recent years -- the anarchist group couldn't agree or
23 organise themselves to do anything particularly special
24 on the streets.
- 25 Q. The views of these groups are of course those which

1 would be regarded by many people as on the far left and
2 in cases of some of the groups you've just mentioned,
3 very far to the left. Was there any comment about that?

4 A. Not particularly. I think police officers have to deal
5 with what they have to deal with, and you just have to
6 accept that people have strange views and -- our views
7 that don't chime with yours and cope with that.

8 Q. Was there any discussion of feminism?

9 A. Not specifically. You -- you certainly expected
10 the women in your organisation to be strongly supporting
11 the feminist movement.

12 Q. It's right, isn't it, there were no women in the SDS at
13 the time you were serving in the SDS?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Did the question of Women's Liberation and its merits
16 ever get ventilated in the safe house or in the pub?

17 A. I can't recall any occasion when it would have been
18 discussed.

19 Q. We've heard evidence that the attitude -- that it was
20 raised and that the attitude was that they were angry
21 women who could be ignored. Does that ring any bells?

22 A. No, and I don't think that was my experience either.

23 Q. Were there any racist jokes told?

24 A. I can't recall any, but racist jokes were more common in
25 those days. As I referred earlier, the mainstream

1 comedians would use things that would now be considered
2 unacceptable.

3 Q. So could I take it that there may have been racist
4 joking?

5 A. I can't actually say there was none, there was never
6 anything that had a racial element to it. No, I can't
7 say it didn't happen.

8 Q. Were racist opinions ventilated?

9 A. No.

10 Q. By anyone?

11 A. Not that I heard.

12 Q. Are you sure?

13 A. I'm absolutely certain.

14 Q. Even in the late 1970s?

15 A. In the late 1970s. I would say I would limit that to
16 the SDS, not necessarily the whole of the police
17 service.

18 Q. Can I move now to the SWP, please. I'm going to start
19 with some general questions about what life was like.

20 Once you had infiltrated the SWP, is it right to say
21 that you would get involved with paper sales?

22 A. Yes, indeed.

23 Q. And that selling Socialist Worker was an important part
24 of the Socialist Workers Party's operation?

25 A. It was expected that every member would actively sell

1 the paper.

2 Q. And it was very important both to spread -- to them both

3 to spread their message and for financial reasons?

4 A. Both of those, yes.

5 Q. Would you attend pickets?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Demonstrations?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were they quite frequent?

10 A. Not so many pickets, but demonstrations were quite

11 common.

12 Q. National call outs?

13 A. If there was a national call out, I would certainly

14 attend it.

15 Q. And then, perhaps on the lighter side, attend birthday

16 parties?

17 A. Yes, probably.

18 Q. Music concerts?

19 A. In principle, yes. I -- I can only remember going to

20 one musical event.

21 Q. Which was that?

22 A. The Rock Against Racism concert.

23 Q. Was music an important part of that left wing scene?

24 A. Not across the board, but it was a mutual -- there were

25 several there who you could discuss music with.

- 1 Q. I think you mention in your witness statement reggae
2 being very popular?
- 3 A. It was -- yes. And certainly that particular one
4 I remember having quite a discussion because not many
5 people knew the names we were talking about.
- 6 Q. That's a reference to whether Bob Marley or Peter Tosh
7 were the better?
- 8 A. Were the better pure reggae artist, yes.
- 9 Q. Those were very well known names particularly the first
10 one?
- 11 A. Bob Marley, was, but in the mid-seventies he wasn't so
12 well known. Of course was just coming through.
13 Peter Tosh was even less well known at the time.
14 I mean, I didn't set myself up or expect to be seen as
15 an expert on reggae, it was just that we were talking
16 about it and then music -- you know, you discussed music
17 to a slightly higher degree than just having listened to
18 radio one.
- 19 Q. But were you involved enough in the social scene to be
20 having these conversations?
- 21 A. Actually, that particular conversation was while we were
22 selling the newspaper at Walthamstow market
23 -- (overspeaking) -- only activity sometimes.
- 24 Q. I see.
25 Fundraisers?

1 A. You would go to anything that you were expected to go
2 to.

3 Q. You'd help people to move house?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. You'd socialise after meetings?

6 A. You'd probably have a drink after the meeting, yes.

7 Q. How frequently were you drinking with members of
8 the SWP?

9 A. Well, if you mean after the meeting, then almost every
10 time, because the meetings were for the main part held
11 in pubs.

12 Q. Was it just after the meetings, or was it on other
13 occasions as well?

14 A. Primarily after -- after meetings, but obviously
15 sometimes in your other activities you would go round
16 and you'd be discussing other matters and things like to
17 that and you may have with a drink then as well, yeah.

18 Q. And you've mentioned that the meetings were often held
19 in pubs. Would you drink at the houses of activists
20 either after the pub or on other occasions?

21 A. On other occasions I have done, yes.

22 Q. And go to other parties?

23 A. If invited.

24 Q. From your last answer, can I take it that you were
25 saying that you would go to activists' houses to drink

- 1 not only after branch meetings but also on other
2 occasions as well?
- 3 A. There would be or occasions where you were invited
4 around.
- 5 Q. And can you give us an idea of how much you would drink
6 whilst undercover?
- 7 A. That -- I find that hard to -- hard to remember.
8 Probably every day, that's for sure.
- 9 Q. And --
- 10 A. And on -- on reflection, there must have been times when
11 I was driving when I shouldn't have done.
- 12 Q. That deals with frequency. Can we deal with volume,
13 please.
- 14 What sort of amounts might you have been drinking?
- 15 A. I was a beer drinker, I'd drink two or three pints at
16 the end of the evening. I drank pints. A lot of
17 the other group would make do with a half pint all
18 evening; I didn't.
- 19 Q. Are we talking about an average consumption, a minimum
20 or a maximum?
- 21 A. Certainly -- it depends on the location of the place
22 like that. But an average, certainly.
- 23 Q. Did you ever get drunk?
- 24 A. Not that I recall.
- 25 Q. You were described by "Madeleine" yesterday as "always

1 first to the bar". That could be taken either literally
2 or euphemistically. Shall we deal with literally. Were
3 you literally always first to the bar?

4 A. Pretty much.

5 Q. And does it follow from that that euphemistically you
6 certainly were?

7 A. Well, could I -- we can -- I think there's an
8 interpretation thing here. One of the things that
9 I learned whilst out in the field is that you always go
10 to the pub first no matter who you were going with.
11 Because when you entered the pub and it happened to me
12 on a couple of occasions there was somebody else in
13 the pub who knew you in your real identity. By going
14 first in, you could see with it, deal with it, come up
15 with a story and cover it. So, I always was the first
16 in the pub.

17 Q. I see. Thank you.

18 A. And generally in the pub and it's maintained now to
19 the humour of my family I will always sit in a place
20 where I can watch the door of the premises in case
21 somebody comes in who I need to know. I still do it
22 now.

23 Q. I see, thank you.

24 A. So by being first to the bar, if you -- if you translate
25 that that to first in the pub, I would absolutely say

1 that was me.

2 Q. So for fieldcraft reasons?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. So, in terms of quantity of drinking, where were you in
5 relation to your SWP peers?

6 A. Oh, definitely more than they would generally drink.

7 Q. But was there any management line on how much you should
8 drink with your target group?

9 A. No, I don't think there was.

10 Q. Were you ever asked by your managers how much you were
11 drinking with your target group?

12 A. Not that I recall. But they knew you were meeting in
13 the pub once a week or whatever.

14 Q. How well did you get to know first of all the members of
15 the Walthamstow Branch?

16 A. Quite well, I thought. Certainly the -- the initial,
17 when I first joined, I seemed to know those better
18 than -- than as time went by. I don't know why.

19 Q. But one assumes from a pattern of involvement in quite
20 a lot of different political activity plus the ancillary
21 social events over a course of three years, you would
22 have got to know people pretty well; is that fair?

23 A. Yes, fair, but of course a lot of the other thing was
24 you used it as introductions to other people who weren't
25 part of Walthamstow Branch. So, you tried to cast your

- 1 net wider.
- 2 Q. Sure, but in terms of how closely you knew those who
3 were also branch stalwarts, presumably you know a good
4 deal about what they were doing politically and a good
5 deal about what was going on in their private lives.
- 6 A. Certainly you'd know politically. You'd know -- know
7 where they lived, know how active they were. I'm not
8 sure I was an expert on their private lives. Many of
9 the -- the branch were married and things like that and
10 obviously had their -- their full married life, as it
11 were, away -- away from it, so I didn't really know what
12 was going on in their activities. Professionally, they
13 were -- they had more in common with each other than me,
14 so other things I didn't know.
- 15 Q. These things are always a matter of fact and degree, but
16 presumably you can't talk to people in the pub when
17 you're drinking every day and go to parties and sell
18 newspapers with them and travel to demonstrations and so
19 forth without getting to know people reasonably well?
- 20 A. Yeah, that -- that would be true. If they were
21 the people I was travelling to the demonstration with.
- 22 Q. You say in your witness statement that you kept
23 a definite distance between your group and yourself.
24 Was that really possible?
- 25 A. I think I kept quite a distance. Even though it was

1 available, very few contacted me through work. They
2 contacted me through the -- they'd have to call at
3 the flat. If the flat was not occupied, although I had
4 control over when they were getting in touch with me as
5 far as practicable.

6 So I do feel I kept a certain distance.

7 I don't think you will be able to find any member,
8 for example, who spent any considerable time at my cover
9 address, which is what's happening if we were on really
10 friendship basis, you'd expect people to call round and
11 spend time with you. That didn't happen.

12 Q. But there were places -- activists' homes where you were
13 spending quite a bit of time, weren't there?

14 A. I'd take issue with the word "quite a bit", but
15 certainly where I spent time.

16 Q. These are questions of fact and degrees, so perhaps you
17 could be more precise -- (overspeaking) -- I think
18 the activist time you were spending most time at and
19 give us an idea of how much time you were spending
20 there?

21 A. Most would be, as you know from "Madeleine", because
22 there was a group of SW members and you could call in,
23 they'd be doing various party activities as well as it
24 was a social and friendly group.

25 Q. So how often would you be going there?

1 A. I don't want -- I don't think it's as frequent as has
2 been suggested elsewhere. I'd probably say probably
3 monthly. But it was -- nothing was that planned, it was
4 just what happened at certain times. If, for example --
5 I think of one example I went round for a committee
6 meeting at the branch and I was the only person who
7 turned up for the branch committee meeting so those who
8 did turn up -- because they cancelled it without telling
9 me, so there were things like that that happened.

10 Q. Presumably that was quite an extreme example?

11 A. I was just trying to think. That stuck -- stuck in my
12 mind, that's why.

13 Q. When did you first meet "Madeleine"?

14 A. I don't know. Fairly early on in the -- in my
15 secondment out -- out there. I don't remember the --
16 the first occasion.

17 Q. How often did you see "Madeleine"?

18 A. I would say certainly when I started not that often.
19 I mean, she was there, she -- she would be at activities
20 and activities and things like that, just part of the 20
21 or 30 people there -- (overspeaking) -- yes I'd meet her
22 at that branch meeting, if that's what --

23 Q. Yes, the branch meetings at that stage were once per
24 week, weren't they?

25 A. They were.

1 Q. And does it follow -- and she was an active member,
2 wasn't she?

3 A. Reasonably active, yeah.

4 Q. So would it follow that you would see her usually weekly
5 at the branch meetings?

6 A. I -- my impression is it wasn't that -- she didn't
7 attend that regularly at that time, but I -- but
8 I honestly have no real recall for it because why would
9 I remember the one thing in particular.

10 Q. And would there have been other occasions for example
11 paper selling and all the other activities we've been
12 through where you would have seen her and been present
13 with her?

14 A. On occasions, yeah. She wasn't -- wasn't part of -- on
15 my regular paper selling pitch, she wasn't there every
16 week.

17 Q. Sometimes?

18 A. Sometimes, but I can't remember how often.

19 Q. In what context did you see "Madeleine"?

20 A. Just that she was a party member. I knew very little
21 about her.

22 Q. What did you know about her and her personal
23 circumstances before the night on which you had sex?

24 A. I -- I believe I knew that she had been married and was
25 no longer with her husband. And pretty much that was

- 1 it.
- 2 Q. And how did you know that?
- 3 A. From general talk, because if you went round the flat,
4 they were talking of -- there are references to this
5 person who I didn't know and you realise after a while,
6 as you say, in general conversation, that this was
7 the husband that was no longer present.
- 8 Q. You reported on the wedding, didn't you?
- 9 A. I must have done, yes. I didn't attend it.
- 10 Q. No. We saw it yesterday. It's a 1978 report of a 1976
11 wedding. Why was the wedding reported on so long after
12 the event?
- 13 A. Probably because nobody had reported that she was
14 married or the dates or to keep -- keep the records up
15 to date.
- 16 Q. Was it normal to report things like that, or did you
17 report it because of anything particular to "Madeleine"?
- 18 A. No, certainly nothing to do with that. Any person who
19 was of interest -- and by that I mean had been allocated
20 some kind of reference by the Security Service or SB--
21 if something came -- there was a change in their
22 circumstances, you'd report it.
- 23 Q. Coming back to "Madeleine's" husband. Is it right that
24 you would have gone to their house regularly?
- 25 A. Not when he was there. I don't even know -- I assume

1 they lived together in the same flat as we're talking
2 about "Madeleine". I have -- I don't think I ever met
3 him there.

4 Q. You said in your witness statement that you were not
5 sure you knew that she'd been married. Obviously now
6 the evidence you're giving now is a little different.
7 What is it that has caused you to change your evidence
8 on that point?

9 A. Well, I -- I've listened to other -- other evidence and
10 it seems to me self-evident that I must have -- must
11 have been aware, although I can't recall it.

12 Q. I understand you've been shown an unredacted copy of one
13 of the photographs, the one that was taken after
14 the Rock Against Racism concert. Has that affected your
15 memory at all?

16 A. No, I -- I can deduct who the husband must be, but I've
17 no -- I've no recollection -- if you'd given me that
18 photograph separately, I wouldn't have known who he was.

19 Q. Can I come to what you wore whilst you were undercover.

20 A. Of course.

21 Q. We've been provided with a number of photographs of you
22 undercover by "Madeleine". We can turn them up if you
23 want to see them again.

24 A. No --

25 Q. But you were wearing a white shirt in each of

1 the photographs, aren't you?

2 A. I don't want to quibble. I'd certainly say a pale
3 shirt.

4 Q. On the photographs we've got, they're white,
5 aren't they?

6 A. Well, they're black and white photographs. Sorry,
7 I think this is a fairly moot point. I mean --

8 Q. Did you wear white shirts when you were undercover?

9 A. I probably wore white shirts on some occasions, yes.

10 Q. And does that mean that your witness statement on that
11 point which says that you didn't dress in white shirts
12 is mistaken?

13 A. I think it should have said "dressed exclusively in
14 white shirts". That would have been more accurate.

15 MR BARR: Sir, would now be a convenient time to break for
16 lunch?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly. With apologies for the delay.
18 I was trying to locate the mute button.

19 MR FERNANDES: We will now take a break for lunch. May
20 I remind those in the virtual hearing rooms to remember
21 to join your break-out rooms, please.

22 We will resume at 2 pm. Thank you.

23 (1.02 pm)

24 (The short adjournment)

25