

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. Professional in recurrent(?) committing crime? I didn't
18 believe we would be acting under any form of privilege
19 at all, if I have understood --

20 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

21 A. -- if I have understood your question properly.

22 Q. I think -- well, let me -- it may be you've answered it,
23 but not in the way I was expecting.

24 Legal professional privilege is a doctrine whereby
25 what a lawyer -- what passes between a lawyer and client

1 is confidential and essentially sacrosanct?

2 A. Yeah, right.

3 Q. Did you understand that, or did you -- did you have any

4 idea of that concept?

5 A. Well, no, I'd have understood that contact. But

6 I thought we were talking about were we to be arrested.

7 Q. I was moving on to the next topic.

8 Well, where had you got your understanding of

9 legal professional privilege from?

10 A. Well, just by being a police officer for several years.

11 Q. What was your understanding of the definition

12 of "subversion"?

13 A. I've thought a great deal about this. I'm not sure

14 I actually can recall we ever had a defined,

15 comprehensive definition of "subversion".

16 Subversion was one of the elements that

17 Special Branch was tasked with operating against,

18 working against; it was one of the: terrorism,

19 subversion, espionage, etc. But the actual definition

20 of "subversion" and everything was a matter for

21 the Security Service. They were the -- it was that

22 organisation which defined an organisation as

23 a subversive organisation.

24 Q. So, what was your understanding as a member of the SDS

25 of the definition of "subversion"?

1 A. I'm not too sure I was really concerned about that, to
2 be brutally honest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 Q. And without giving away any state secrets, what were
2 the other boundaries?
- 3 A. Journalists were of an issue. You had to be very
4 careful with reporting journalists. But of course,
5 "journalist" was a phrase that we used for all sorts of
6 publications. It was just generally if they were
7 sensitive, and the -- I mean, at this stage, of course,
8 I was essentially the foot soldier, and therefore would
9 seek -- seek authority or permission from others to see
10 if this was appropriate.
- 11 Q. I'm going to move now to your cover identity.
- 12 You tell us in your witness statement that you were
13 instructed to attend St Catherine's House. Who
14 instructed you to do that?
- 15 A. It would be -- it would be the office. I -- I can't say
16 who. It was part of -- when -- when you start building
17 up your alternative identity, you would go to
18 St Catherine's House and search there for the name.
- 19 Q. Was that a written instruction or an oral instruction?
- 20 A. Oral. I don't remember anything being -- being written
21 down.
- 22 Q. Were you told why you were being asked to use a deceased
23 child's identity to found your cover identity?
- 24 A. The -- the need to have a legitimate identity that --
25 that could then be used for other official documentation

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

7 Q. Who explained that to you?

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

15 Q. Was it explained to you why?

16 A. Why it was a security weakness?

17 Q. Yes.

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

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

23 --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- who had died?

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

1 So you'd be talking about over 20.

2 Q. 20 what, sorry?

3 A. Indices to search through.

4 Q. To search through.

5 A. And then of course, if the child had moved from

6 the birth area, then again that makes it more

7 complicated -- complicated as well. It was to stop

8 the immediate -- just walk across and find it straight

9 away. It didn't mean to say it was absolutely

10 foolproof, but it was more secure.

11 Q. You've explained to me why -- the positive reason why

12 you were told to use a deceased child's identity. Were

13 you given any other reason as to why not to use

14 a fictitious identity?

15 A. Only that anecdotally -- and I don't know which officers

16 was involved -- have been identified by members who

17 might enquiries into them, and that we should have as

18 robust a history as possible.

19 Q. Can you help, being very careful about names again --

20 use the file as necessary -- who it is that you were

21 told had been identified?

22 A. Initially I was told it was kept very general, but with

23 later information, it would have been HN297.

24 Q. The Inquiry knows that HN297 had used a deceased child's

25 identity, and the evidence we've heard was that he was

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

- 1 identity to found your cover identity?
- 2 A. Not at the time. You didn't just take a -- a deceased
3 child's identity, you obviously made some general
4 enquiries. In my own particular case, I -- I searched
5 the birth records and could find no trace of the mother
6 anywhere in the region or something like that, so
7 I figured it was as anonymous as one could hope.
- 8 Q. Did you consider that there was a risk that the family
9 of the deceased child might find out?
- 10 A. I thought that was extremely unlikely.
- 11 Q. Did you consider how they might feel if it were to come
12 out?
- 13 A. I don't believe I gave that any attention at all.
- 14 Q. On reflection, what are your views now about using that
15 method?
- 16 A. I think it would be unnecessary now. The whole of
17 the registration system not only has been computerised
18 but it's been modernised and changed, so that it
19 wouldn't work. I think it was possibly the best
20 available at the time.
- 21 Q. If we proceed on the assumption that that is right, do
22 you have any moral qualms about having used that system
23 now?
- 24 A. I can see that it was -- unless extreme care was taken,
25 there was a risk -- change -- I mean, I changed my first

1 name as well from the child. There's nobody by my field
2 name that was ever born anywhere near the date of birth
3 that I was born, because I changed the first name. And
4 that was up to individual officers to -- to do that when
5 building their own legend.

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

8 A. As I recall.

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

12 A. No.

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

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

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

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

1 Q. Now, obviously the mother was recorded on the birth
2 certificate, and you say there was no trace of her.
3 What research did you do to establish that there was no
4 trace of her?

5 A. Local enquiries were the main one. Obviously things
6 like the voters' register and elements such as that.
7 The normal indices that were publicly available or
8 available to police at a, you know, comfortable level.
9 Obviously not known to local police, for example,
10 voters' registers from the address, things like that.
11 So she must have moved or changed her name.

12 Q. And you say that another feature of the child you chose
13 was that he was born outside London. What was the value
14 of that?

15 A. Again, just to make it, if -- if someone decided to go
16 and try and trace the parent, or either parent, make any
17 enquiries at all, just physically the further away
18 I thought would act as something that would make them
19 disinclined to travel. If it was just round the corner,
20 they could do it very casually.

21 Q. You've told us already a little about how much the name
22 you adopted. Can you help us with what details of
23 the child's identity you did use?

24 A. It would be the surname and the date of birth.

25 Q. I don't want you to go into any detail at all; if you

1 could keep the answer to this next question short and
2 focused, please.

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

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

7 Q. Thank you.

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

12 A. That's correct.

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

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

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

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

- 1 the communications were under some kind of control.
- 2 Q. Going back to using a deceased child's identity, did you
3 consider the risk -- what you would do if you were
4 confronted with a death certificate?
- 5 A. I -- obviously, in the back of your mind there is
6 constantly the concern that you might be identified as
7 a police officer, whether by the death certificate,
8 somebody knowing you, somebody saying the wrong thing.
9 So there -- it was a constant concern that affected you
10 in all sorts of ways, and the way you conducted
11 yourself. You had to be alert to every opportunity.
- 12 Q. Thank you.
- 13 Did you have any particular plan in mind, any
14 contingency plan if that were to happen to you, or were
15 you just going to play it by ear?
- 16 A. Play it by ear. I mean, you just couldn't picture every
17 possible set of circumstances under which it would
18 occur.
- 19 Q. Was your cover identity tested by your managers before
20 you deployed?
- 21 A. They spoke to my cover employer, we spoke about
22 the location, the nature of the work and
23 the communication that the employer would have with
24 the office.
- 25 Q. Anything more than that?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 their feet and handle awkward situations. There were
2 always applicants to join the SDS who would never get
3 through the selection process, because either
4 the pressure of the job or the ability to think quickly
5 was not considered sufficient to do the job.

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

10 A. Yeah.

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

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

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

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

1 Q. Another aspect of your cover identity was, you tell us,
2 to say that you'd been in a serious committed
3 relationship which went toxic?

4 A. I did say that.

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

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

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

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

23 A. No, I don't -- I don't believe we ever discussed --
24 I can remember no conversation where any of the field
25 officers or the office actually said, "Are we explaining

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

1 relationship?

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

5 Q. Did it have that effect?

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

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

10 A. I did.

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

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

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

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

1 the -- in the region. The fact that --

2 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

3 A. Sorry.

4 Q. No, you carry on.

5 A. It may be helpful that IS/SWP was the most populist of
6 all the organisations, and therefore was your way in to
7 many other organisations anyway. So that if you went
8 out there and found that another group was active that
9 management or anyone else wanted you to get involved
10 with, you could discuss it -- if it was feasible, but to
11 be an ex-SWP member moving to another one was easier
12 than going the other way. So it was -- it was a feeder
13 -- it was also in some ways seen -- I stress "seen" by
14 us -- as a feeder organisation; one from which you could
15 be disaffected and join a less populist, more idealistic
16 line.

17 Q. And did that understanding affect your choice of target?

18 A. No, it wasn't so much a target, I went out there looking
19 for what was going on, and what -- what I found going on
20 first of all was confrontations on the Street between
21 people selling the Socialist Worker newspaper and
22 members of the National Front. So I approached
23 the paper sellers and said, "If this -- if this turns
24 into anything nasty, I'll be here to support you." And
25 then I slowly became more involved from there.

1 Q. If you did that, how does that gel with being tasked to
2 find an active subversive group?

3 A. Well, that was the start of it. That would obviously
4 get you known as, there's this chap who's obviously
5 anti-fascist; "Come along to this meeting and see what
6 you think." Then we'd discuss it, and I'd say to
7 the office, I've been invited along to -- in this case
8 it was Walthamstow SWP; you'd discuss it with the office
9 and the office would say, "Yeah, carry on there; that's
10 a group we are interested in."

11 Q. And what was your understanding of whether or not
12 the SWP in Walthamstow was an active subversive group?

13 A. They were -- the SWP was defined as subversive by those
14 who are more expert in that field at the time and
15 knew -- knew it was. Waltham Forest was an active
16 group. Furthermore, it led -- it led you so that you
17 could meet other active groups -- active elements within
18 the organisation.

19 Q. Now, you say that you went out and gleaned that there
20 was a lot of tension between the far right and the far
21 left on the streets. Have I fairly summarised that?

22 A. There was -- yes, there was.

23 Q. Did you consider infiltrating the far right?

24 A. That would -- that would obviously be something that had
25 to be discussed with the office. I don't think I should

1 talk about far right deployments at this stage.

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

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

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

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

16 A. Yes.

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

19 A. No.

20 Q. Or any other part of the SWP?

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

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

1 organised?

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

4 Q. And you brought some organisation to it?

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

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

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

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

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

24 So they'd have sufficient thing, so yes, come along,
25 you can make your -- make your protest known,

1 absolutely, but you're not going to attack and close
2 the town hall down, or anything like that.

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

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. How well did that work?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 A. Excuse me. (Pause)

15 That's correct, yes. Sorry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 Q. And were they during working days?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. During the daytime?

15 A. Generally.

16 Q. And they were attended by UCOs?

17 A. Yes.

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

19 A. Some combination thereof, yes.

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

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

23 Q. Anyone else?

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

1 a word; or indeed, senior police officers from other
2 branches who were -- who were aware of our existence
3 wanted to come down and have a word. That would be
4 a very rare occasion.

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

7 A. There were two, yes.

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

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

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

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

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

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. How big were these premises?

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

1 a sort of two or three bedroom flat, or house of similar
2 proportions.

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

5 A. Yeah.

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

9 A. You had to do that, yes.

10 Q. And would you submit your reports?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. In manuscript or typed up?

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

16 Q. Were they read on the spot?

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

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

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

23 Q. Did that happen very often?

24 A. I had one or two corrections made.

25 Q. Were they of style or substance?

1 A. They're -- there was very much a Special Branch style.
2 And since this was -- since these would then be
3 copied -- or may well be copied outside, and certainly
4 to the Security Service, it was expected to reach
5 certain standards.

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

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

15 Q. Did people speak freely?

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

18 Q. Could you help me with that?

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

1 submitted into the centre anyway.

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

7 Q. Were these meetings quite laid-back?

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

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

25 Q. Venting?

- 1 A. Within the bounds of reasonableness, yeah.
- 2 Q. You say "as the afternoon wore on". Was that lubricated
3 by alcohol?
- 4 A. On occasions.
- 5 Q. In the flat, in a pub, or both?
- 6 A. Either, to be honest. And then of course, that wouldn't
7 necessarily relate to everybody, because as the -- as
8 the afternoon wore on, you -- for example, I had to get
9 from the West to East London, it was a long drive, so
10 I left early and didn't get involved in that kind of
11 thing. There was always these different demands. So it
12 wasn't a three line whip that everyone would go to have
13 a drink together, or something like that. But
14 sometimes, if you had a laid-back time you might go for
15 a drink with somebody just to discuss life.
- 16 Q. And accepting that people would have had fluctuating
17 commitments, would it be right that both managers and
18 UCOs attended these meetings, including the social
19 aspects of them?
- 20 A. The -- the management would leave at whatever time, and
21 sometimes you would stay a bit longer. Because you were
22 killing -- essentially you were killing time before that
23 and getting to the -- your evening commitment. So there
24 is no point in getting there ...
- 25 Q. Were the managers staying long enough to be present when

1 things had become quite relaxed?

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

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

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

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

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

1 the political stance.

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

4 A. Both.

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

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

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

17 A. Beyond what we've discussed already?

18 Q. Yes.

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

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

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

1 Q. Would you --

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

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

7 A. Yes.

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

11 A. Yes.

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

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly it would be.

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

17 A. Certainly.

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

21 The time is now 11.50 am, so we shall reconvene at
22 12.05 pm.

23 Thank you.

24 (11.48 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (12.05 pm)

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

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

5 Chairman.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

7 Mr Barr.

8 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

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

12 A. Right.

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

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

25 Q. So, to take an example, how well did you know HN304, who

1 used the cover name "Graham Coates"?

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

7 Q. Understood.

8 Did you have any particular friends?

9 A. Can I just look up a name?

10 Q. Of course.

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

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

15 A. I understand.

16 Q. Not personally to you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 Q. I'm thinking much more at an anecdotal, casual level.
25 I mean, for example, did you ever hear talk about

1 a female activist who could lactate on demand?

2 A. Never.

3 Q. Were jokes ever made in your conversations?

4 A. I wouldn't say they weren't, but I can't -- I can't

5 remember anything. There was a certain amount, as

6 I say, of more stress relief by being -- to have an open

7 conversation in a secure location. So I wouldn't say

8 that it was entirely po-faced. But if you mean were

9 there jokes taken against members of the organisation,

10 I would say minimal. Probably made more jokes about

11 other police officers than you would about the people

12 that ...

13 Q. Was there banter generally?

14 A. On occasions, yeah.

15 Q. And both about police officers, but also about

16 the people with whom you were mixing undercover?

17 A. Not so much about the people, because nobody else would

18 know them. I mean, the people I was mixing with very --

19 only a few perhaps on the fringes would be known

20 by other -- so what's the point in telling --

21 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

22 A. -- (inaudible).

23 Q. Was there any teasing or banter about what individual

24 undercover officers might have been getting up to?

25 A. No, not that I recall.

- 1 Q. Were there sexual jokes?
- 2 A. Not that I -- again, not that I recall. It -- it wasn't
3 like the stereotypical rugby club after the match type
4 atmosphere, if that's what -- if that helps in
5 describing what I remember.
- 6 Q. The Inquiry's heard evidence from another former UCO of
7 a particular comment, which is something along
8 the lines -- about a woman -- something along the lines
9 of, "He'll have made her bite the blankets again last
10 night." Did you ever hear that, or anything like it?
- 11 A. No. I mean, I would stress that I've never -- never
12 heard anything like that at all.
- 13 Q. Were there jokes that a 1970s feminist might have found
14 offensive?
- 15 A. I mean, possibly is all I can -- I can't -- I can't
16 recall any, but I wouldn't like to exclude that jokes
17 that were -- I don't know, somebody may well say, "Did
18 you hear the Jim Davidson joke of last night." His
19 humour would no longer be acceptable, but that might be
20 going round and you'd be told that, yeah.
- 21 Q. Did the managers hear such banter as there was?
- 22 A. On occasions, something around the edges, I'd have
23 thought.
- 24 Q. Did they join in?
- 25 A. No, not really. I mean, I -- I -- we have different

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Q. We've heard evidence that that -- that his reputation as

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

1 A. I knew him very briefly in the SDS, and things like
2 that. Certainly after he left the SDS and (inaudible),
3 his life was full of pursuing women, yeah.

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

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

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

11 A. It was -- not on the SDS, but after that there were many
12 a story about [restricted], what he'd been up -- about
13 what he'd been up to.

14 MR BARR: Sir, do you want to stop?

15 A. I'm fine, if you want to carry on.
16 I'm sorry. I beg your pardon.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Forgive me. You said something that
18 shouldn't have been said. It's bound to happen, don't
19 worry about it.
20 I think we'd better pause now while a restriction
21 order is made, put up in the hearing room and not
22 repeated outside it.

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

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Please don't worry. These mistakes are bound

1 to happen, and that's why we have a procedure in place
2 to deal with them. We'll now deal with it. And for
3 the time being, for the next few minutes, your evidence
4 will be suspended.

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

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

11 (12.18 pm)

12 (A short break)

13 (12.30 pm)

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

17 Chairman.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

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

23 Mr Barr.

24 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

25 354, we were talking about 300. Did 300 talk in

1 your presence about sexual relationships with women?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Do you know from others whether he ever spoke about

4 falling in love with an activist?

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

6 Q. Do you know whether he spoke about falling in love with

7 anybody else whilst he was undercover?

8 A. No. I have no recollection of that at all. He was only

9 out -- our time in the field was -- was very brief.

10 Q. I mean, I'm not limiting my question to what you might

11 have heard whilst you were both in the unit --

12 A. Oh, I see what you mean.

13 Q. -- at all.

14 A. No, I think I heard stories when he was getting married

15 for the second or third time.

16 Q. Do you know anything about the third time, without

17 naming the name of the woman concerned?

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

19 professional.

20 Q. And do you know whether 300 had met his third wife

21 whilst undercover?

22 A. I don't know that. I -- I don't think that would comply

23 with the timings as I remember them, but I -- I clearly

24 don't know this.

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

1 Tompkins".

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Did he have a reputation with women of any kind?

4 A. Yes, I suppose he did to a certain extent. I had some

5 knowledge of him before the SDS. And he was somebody

6 who enjoyed the company of women.

7 Q. Was he a man who tried to seduce women?

8 A. I wouldn't -- not when I was with him. I'm sorry,

9 I don't want this to sound glib, but I just don't know.

10 Q. Did you hear any talk about whether or not he'd had any

11 sexual contact with people whilst he was undercover?

12 A. No, I didn't hear that. As I recall, he got married

13 about the same time as he went undercover. I don't know

14 if that's relevant to anything, but that's my only real

15 recollection of 106 while we were out.

16 Q. Can I ask you now about HN155, who used the cover name

17 "Phil Cooper"?

18 A. Yeah. Sorry, yes.

19 Q. Did he have a reputation of any kind with women?

20 A. Firstly, 155 and I didn't do any SDS work at the same

21 time, so I can't say for what he was doing when he was

22 out there. He seemed to get in all kinds of scrapes,

23 which were the stories that went round.

24 Q. Did they involve women or not?

25 A. Women, drink and all sorts of things.

1 Q. Do you know whether or not he had sex with anyone
2 undercover?

3 A. I don't know.

4 Q. Whether --

5 A. As I say, I had left the SDS by the time he was
6 undercover, so why would he tell me?

7 Q. Well --

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

9 Q. I'm not limiting my questions to just when you were in
10 the SDS. Anything you may have gleaned later on.
11 Were there any rumours about him having sex with
12 anyone undercover?

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

14 Q. We heard evidence last week that there was banter about
15 sexual relations between undercover police officers and
16 activists. Having now taken you through some of
17 the specifics, can I ask you again, can you recall there
18 ever being any joking or banter about sexual contact
19 between SDS undercover officers and members of
20 the public?

21 A. I remain convinced that that was never a subject of
22 banter in my presence.

23 Q. We've heard some evidence that managers seemed to turn
24 a blind eye to the question of sexual relationships
25 between undercover officers and members of the public;

1 is that right?

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

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

12 A. Yes, I think I probably would.

13 Q. Was anything done about that?

14 A. Not to my knowledge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Q. Was there any discussion of feminism?

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

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

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Did the question of women's liberation and its merits
17 ever get ventilated in the safe house or in the pub?

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

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

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

24 Q. Were there any racist jokes told?

25 A. I can't recall any, but racist jokes were more common in

1 those days. As I referred earlier, the mainstream
2 comedians would use things that would now be considered
3 unacceptable.

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

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

9 Q. Were racist opinions ventilated?

10 A. No.

11 Q. By anyone?

12 A. Not that I heard.

13 Q. Are you sure?

14 A. I'm absolutely certain.

15 Q. Even in the late 1970s?

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

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

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

23 A. Yes, indeed.

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

1 A. It was expected that every member would actively sell
2 the paper.

3 Q. And it was very important both to spread -- to them,
4 both to spread their message and for financial reasons?

5 A. Both of those, yes.

6 Q. Would you attend pickets?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Demonstrations?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were they quite frequent?

11 A. Not so many pickets, but demonstrations were quite
12 common.

13 Q. National call-outs?

14 A. If there was a national call-out, I would certainly
15 attend it.

16 Q. And then, perhaps on the lighter side, attend birthday
17 parties?

18 A. Yes, probably.

19 Q. Music concerts?

20 A. In principle, yes. I -- I can only remember going to
21 one musical event.

22 Q. Which was that?

23 A. The Rock Against Racism concert.

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

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

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

- 1 Fundraisers?
- 2 A. You would go to anything that you were expected to go
3 to.
- 4 Q. You'd help people to move house?
- 5 A. Yes, yes.
- 6 Q. You'd socialise after meetings?
- 7 A. You'd probably have a drink after the meeting, yes.
- 8 Q. How frequently were you drinking with members of
9 the SWP?
- 10 A. Well, if you mean after the meeting, then almost every
11 time, because the meetings were, for the main part, held
12 in pubs.
- 13 Q. Was it just after the meetings, or was it on other
14 occasions as well?
- 15 A. Primarily after -- after meetings. But obviously
16 sometimes in your other activities you would go round
17 and you'd be discussing other matters and things like to
18 that and you may well have with a drink then as well,
19 yeah.
- 20 Q. And you've mentioned that the meetings were often held
21 in pubs. Would you drink at the houses of activists,
22 either after the pub or on other occasions?
- 23 A. On other occasions I have done, yes.
- 24 Q. And go to other parties?
- 25 A. If invited.

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

- 1 A. Not that I recall.
- 2 Q. You were described by "Madeleine" yesterday as "always
3 first to the bar". That could be taken either literally
4 or euphemistically. Shall we deal with literally. Were
5 you literally always first to the bar?
- 6 A. Pretty much.
- 7 Q. And does it follow from that that euphemistically you
8 certainly were?
- 9 A. Well, could I -- we can -- I think there's an
10 interpretation thing here. One of the things that
11 I learned whilst out in the field is that you always go
12 to the pub first, no matter who you were going with,
13 because when I entered the pub -- and it happened to me
14 on a couple of occasions -- there was somebody else in
15 the pub who knew you in your real identity, by going
16 first in, you could see with it, deal with it, come up
17 with a story and cover it. So, I always was the first
18 in the pub.
- 19 Q. I see. Thank you.
- 20 A. And generally, in the pub -- and -- and it -- and it's
21 maintained now, to the humour of my family -- I would
22 always sit in a place where I can watch the door of
23 any premises in case somebody comes in who I need to
24 know. I still do it now.
- 25 Q. I see, thank you.

1 A. So, being first to the bar, if you -- if you translate
2 that that to first in the pub, I would absolutely say
3 that was me.

4 Q. So for fieldcraft reasons?

5 A. Yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 Q. How well did you get to know, first of all, the members
17 of the Walthamstow Branch?

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

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

1 A. Yes, fair. But of course, a lot of the other thing was
2 you used it as introductions to other people who weren't
3 part of Walthamstow Branch. So, you tried to cast your
4 net wider, sure.

5 Q. But in terms of how closely you knew those who were also
6 branch stalwarts, presumably you know a good deal about
7 what they were doing politically and a good deal about
8 what was going on in their private lives?

9 A. Certainly you know politically. You know -- know where
10 they lived, know how active they were. I'm not sure
11 I was an expert on their private lives. Many of the --
12 the branch were married and things like that, and
13 obviously had their -- their full married life, as it
14 were, away -- away from it, so I didn't really know what
15 was going on in their activities.

16 Professionally, they were -- they had more in common
17 with each other than me, so I -- there were other things
18 I didn't know.

19 Q. I mean, these things are always a matter of fact and
20 degree, but presumably you can't talk to people in
21 the pub when you're drinking every day, and go to
22 parties, and sell newspapers with them, and travel to
23 demonstrations and so forth without getting to know
24 people reasonably well?

25 A. Yeah, that would be true, if they were the people I was

1 travelling to the demonstration with.

2 Q. You say in your witness statement that you kept
3 a definite distance between your group and yourself.
4 Was that really possible?

5 A. I think I kept quite a distance. Even though it was
6 available, very few contacted me through work. They
7 contacted me through -- through the -- they'd have to
8 call at the flat. If the flat was not occupied
9 or --then I had control over when they were getting in
10 touch with me as -- as far as practicable. So I did --
11 I do feel I kept a certain distance.

12 I don't think you will be able to find any member,
13 for example, who spent any considerable time at my cover
14 address, which is what -- what was happening, if we were
15 on a really friendship basis, you'd expect people to
16 call round and spend time with you. That didn't happen.

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

19 A. I'd take issue with the word "quite a bit", but
20 certainly at -- where I spent time.

21 Q. These are questions, again, of fact and degrees, so
22 perhaps you could be more precise. How --

23 A. Well --

24 Q. Pick the activist's home you were spending the most time
25 at and give us an idea of how much time you were

1 spending there.

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

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

7 A. I don't want to be -- I don't think it was as frequent
8 as has been suggested elsewhere. I'd probably say
9 probably monthly. But it was -- nothing was that
10 planned, it was just what happened at certain times.

11 If, for example -- I can think of one example.
12 I went round for a committee meeting for the branch and
13 I was the only one who turned up for the branch
14 committee meeting. So, those who did turn up -- because
15 they cancelled it without telling me. So, you know,
16 there were things like that that happened.

17 Q. Presumably that's quite an extreme example?

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

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

21 A. I don't know. Fairly early on in the -- in my
22 secondment out -- out there. I don't remember the --
23 the first occasion.

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

25 A. I would say, certainly when I started, not that often.

1 I mean, she was there. She would -- she would be at
2 activities and things like that, just part of the 20 or
3 30 people there. Yes, I'd meet her at that branch
4 meeting, if that's what --

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

7 A. They were.

8 Q. And she was an active member, wasn't she?

9 A. Reasonably active, yeah.

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

12 A. I -- my impression is it wasn't that -- she didn't
13 attend that regularly at that time. But I -- but
14 I honestly have no real recall for it, because why would
15 I remember the one in particular?

16 Q. And would there have been other occasions, for example
17 paper selling and all the other activities we've been
18 through, where you would have seen her and been present
19 with her?

20 A. On occasions, yeah. She wasn't -- wasn't part of -- on
21 my regular paper-selling pitch, she wasn't there every
22 week.

23 Q. Sometimes?

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

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

1 A. Just that she was a party member. I knew very little
2 about her.

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

5 A. I -- I believe I knew that she had been married and was
6 no longer with her husband and pretty much that was it.

7 Q. And how did you know that?

8 A. From general talk, because if you went round the flat,
9 they were -- they were talking of -- there are
10 references to this person who I didn't know, and you
11 realise after a while, as you say, in general
12 conversation, that this was the husband that was no
13 longer present.

14 Q. You reported on the wedding, didn't you?

15 A. I must have done, yes. I didn't attend it.

16 Q. No. We saw it yesterday. It was a 1978 report of
17 a 1976 wedding. Why was the wedding reported on so long
18 after the event?

19 A. Probably because nobody had reported that she was
20 married, or the dates, or to keep -- keep the records up
21 to date.

22 Q. Was it normal to report things like that, or did you
23 report it because of anything particular to "Madeleine"?

24 A. No, certainly nothing to do with that. Any person who
25 was of interest -- and by that I mean had been allocated

1 some kind of reference by the Security Service or SB--
2 if something came that was a change in their
3 circumstances, you'd report it.

4 Q. Coming back to "Madeleine's" husband, is it right that
5 you would have gone to their house regularly?

6 A. Not when he was there. I don't even know if -- I assume
7 that they lived together in -- in the same flat, as we
8 were talking about "Madeleine's". I have -- I don't
9 think I ever met him there.

10 Q. You said in your witness statement that you were not
11 sure you knew that she'd been married. Obviously
12 the evidence you're giving now is a little different.
13 What is it that has caused you to change your evidence
14 on that point?

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

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

22 A. No, I -- I can deduct who -- who the husband must be,
23 but I had no -- I have no recollection that -- if you'd
24 given me that photograph separately, I wouldn't have
25 known who he was.

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

2 A. Of course.

3 Q. We've been provided with a number of photographs of you

4 undercover by "Madeleine". We can turn them up if you

5 want to see them again.

6 A. No, I --

7 Q. But you are wearing a white shirt in each of

8 the photographs, aren't you?

9 A. I don't want to quibble. I'd certainly say a pale

10 shirt.

11 Q. On the photographs we've got, they're white,

12 aren't they?

13 A. Well, they're black and white photographs. Sorry,

14 I think this is a fairly moot point. I mean --

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

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

17 Q. And does that mean that your witness statement on that

18 point, which says that you didn't dress in white shirts,

19 is mistaken?

20 A. I think that it should have said "dress exclusively in

21 white shirts". That would have been more accurate.

22 MR BARR: Sir, would now be a convenient time to break for

23 lunch?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly, with apologies for the delay;

25 I was trying to locate the mute button.

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

4 We will resume at 2 pm. Thank you.

5 (1.02 pm)

6 (The short adjournment)

7 (2.00 pm)

8 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to
9 the afternoon session of today's evidential hearings.

10 For those in the virtual hearing room, please
11 remember to turn off both your camera and microphone.

12 I will now hand over to the Chairman,
13 Sir John Mitting, to continue proceedings.

14 Chairman.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 As at the beginning of every live evidential
17 session, a recording made earlier is going to be played.

18 I am conducting this Inquiry under a statute,
19 the Inquiries Act 2005, which gives me the power to make
20 orders regulating the conduct of the Inquiry, including
21 its hearings. In the exercise of that power, I have
22 made a number of orders which affect what you may and
23 may not do in the hearing rooms and after you leave
24 them. Breach of any of the orders is a serious matter
25 and may have serious consequences for you.

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

10 Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
11 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
12 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
13 record what is said by a witness or anyone else in
14 the hearing rooms.

15 You may bring your mobile telephone into the hearing
16 rooms, but you may not use it for any of those purposes.
17 You may use it silently for any other purpose. In
18 particular, you may transmit your account of what you
19 have seen and heard in a hearing room to any other
20 person, but only once at least ten minutes have elapsed
21 since the event which you are describing took place.

22 This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
23 the Inquiry I have made orders prohibiting the public
24 disclosure of information, for example about
25 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.

1 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
2 whether by accident or design, information which I have
3 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
4 be disclosed in a hearing. If and when that happens,
5 I will immediately suspend the hearing and make an order
6 prohibiting further disclosure of the information
7 outside the hearing rooms. The consequence will be that
8 no further disclosure of that information may be made by
9 mobile telephone or other portable electronic device
10 from within the hearing room, or by any means outside
11 it.

12 I am sorry if you find this message alarming. It is
13 not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
14 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
15 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
16 the truth about undercover policing. You, as members of
17 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
18 evidence as I will hear, and to reach your own
19 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
20 best to ensure that you can.

21 If you have any doubt about the terms of this
22 message, or what you may or may not do, you should not
23 hesitate to ask one of them and, with my help if
24 necessary, they will provide you with the answer.

25 Mr Barr.

1 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

2 354, can I ask you next, what was "Madeleine's"
3 attitude to the police?

4 A. I can't remember any specific comment or attitude.

5 There was a general feeling amongst all members of
6 distrust. They were -- the police service was generally
7 on -- more likely to be right wing and against them than
8 to be neutral. There was a view that they -- the police
9 would intercept communications for almost everybody,
10 telephone tappings, mail and everything. It was
11 commonly spread like that.

12 Certainly amongst the more active people that
13 I spoke to on the subject, that was the sort of view
14 that was given, but I can't remember her ever actually
15 saying anything specifically other than following
16 the party line, as it were.

17 Q. Was there a concern that the police were viewed as
18 protecting the extreme right?

19 A. It was a standard cry at the time of "Police protect
20 the Nazis". It was expect -- they always felt that when
21 -- when the decision was made to facilitate
22 a demonstration, for example, then that was a sign of
23 protecting the Nazis, as opposed to allowing all people
24 the right to demonstrate.

25 Q. And was there a feeling that the police propped up

- 1 the capitalist state?
- 2 A. I think so. We've seen it as "the repressive arm of
3 the state", that some people would use that phrase.
4 I don't remember her ever using that phrase, but it was
5 one that was used.
- 6 Q. How friendly were you with "Madeleine" before your
7 relationship became sexual?
- 8 A. I would say it was quite marginal. I hardly knew her at
9 all. I mean, I knew who she was, I -- a little bit more
10 than that. Very little knowledge about her at all.
- 11 Q. What had you told her about yourself?
- 12 A. Specifically I can't -- I don't really recall telling
13 her anything, but my cover story was pretty much as
14 we've discussed, that I had -- I'd been in a long term
15 relationship that had finished, it had ended badly from
16 my point of view, and that I essentially had no family
17 left to -- to return to.
- 18 Q. Had you told her that before your relationship became
19 sexual?
- 20 A. Certainly -- well, I'd used that as -- as the story.
21 I can't -- to say specifically told one person that
22 whole story, I can't -- I don't recall, but that -- that
23 was the story I'd use to anybody who -- who'd made
24 enquiries, as it were.
- 25 Q. I'm specifically interested in whether you had told her

- 1 that before your relationship became sexual. I'm
2 understanding you to say that you can't say; is that
3 fair?
- 4 A. It is. I'm -- I'm sorry. This is 40-odd years ago.
5 I'm struggling to remember monthly events.
- 6 Q. I'd now like to locate in time when the relationship
7 became sexual. "Madeleine" recalls that it was late
8 summer or early autumn. I'm understanding your witness
9 statement as not disputing that; is that fair?
- 10 A. I think if I -- I have a slight feeling it was a little
11 earlier that -- subsequent events that there was going
12 on, but I have no -- it must have been about that time.
- 13 Q. On the day in question, when did you first meet
14 "Madeleine"?
- 15 A. The day in question? At wherever the social event was
16 taking place. It was not pre-arranged. I hadn't
17 planned to meet her or done anything else like that.
18 I just turned up for a social event.
- 19 Q. Can you recall where that social event was?
- 20 A. No. Until I heard, I had absolutely no memory at all of
21 where it was.
- 22 Q. Do you have any reason to doubt "Madeleine's" account
23 that it was at a party in Ilford?
- 24 A. I've no reason to doubt it, I just can't, in all
25 honesty, confirm it.

- 1 Q. And is it right that that was the sort of house party
2 where there was both drinking and dancing?
- 3 A. I -- I have no reason to challenge it. I can't remember
4 dance -- dancing and things like that, but probably.
- 5 Q. And do you have any reason to doubt the estimate of
6 numbers at between 40 and 50 people?
- 7 A. No. I really don't remember any of the details of that
8 event apart from that I went there and then went back
9 later.
- 10 Q. So, would it follow from that that there may have come
11 a time when you were sitting on a chair and you pulled
12 "Madeleine" onto your lap?
- 13 A. I'd certainly accept that I was sitting on a chair and
14 she sat on my lap. I don't recall pulling her on.
15 I think I'd be fairly cautious about doing that.
- 16 Q. And if you're accepting that there may have come a time
17 when you were sitting on a chair with "Madeleine" on
18 your lap, would it be fair to say that what happened
19 next could be characterised as chatting and flirting?
- 20 A. I -- I would imagine it was. It was party -- like, it
21 was a gentle -- a good humoured, happy place to be.
- 22 Q. And that if a man had asked "Madeleine" to dance, you
23 might have indicated that she was happy where she was?
- 24 A. It -- it's possible. I don't -- I don't recall that
25 taking place. I don't recall stopping her from getting

1 up and going elsewhere. I don't recall any -- any such
2 action.

3 Q. Are you able to give us an indication of how much
4 alcohol you had had to drink?

5 A. No. No, anything I said would just be a guess. I've no
6 idea. I don't think a great deal. At those events you
7 took your own, and there wasn't a lot floating around,
8 so it would be not a huge amount.

9 Q. May there have come a time when "Madeleine's" friends
10 offered her a lift but you assured them that you would
11 make sure she got home okay?

12 A. It's possible. I -- I don't remember the event.

13 Q. And may it have been that you drove "Madeleine" back to
14 her home in your van?

15 A. I think that's certainly true. I don't remember whether
16 I made the offer or whether it was in answer to
17 a request. I don't know.

18 Q. And may you have had a drink at her house?

19 A. I think we did. We were sitting around in the lounge
20 with other people and chatting away.

21 Q. And there came a time when you both ended up in bed?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And was the personal chemistry between the two of you by
24 that stage that, whatever the minute details,
25 the reality was that you both knew where it was going to

- 1 end up?
- 2 A. Yes, that would be fair to say.
- 3 Q. What is your recollection as to precisely what happened
- 4 to take you into the bedroom?
- 5 A. My belief is that we were talking about things and she
- 6 said she was going to bed and that I could join her --
- 7 in front of other people, which is why I was a little
- 8 surprised. I wasn't expecting this. Although after
- 9 the evening of it, I can see that that would be -- but
- 10 I just didn't -- that's how I -- that's how I recall it.
- 11 Q. Her account is a little bit different from that.
- 12 A. I understand.
- 13 Q. Might she be right?
- 14 A. I stress on the word "might". Of course, I mean, I have
- 15 very little real memory of the event, apart from
- 16 the fact it took place.
- 17 Q. I'm going to assume, for the purposes of my next
- 18 question, that on this particular point your
- 19 recollection is to be preferred. If she invited you to
- 20 bed, that was the opportunity at which you, as an
- 21 undercover police officer, on duty, could have said no,
- 22 wasn't it?
- 23 A. Yes, it would have been.
- 24 Q. Why didn't you?
- 25 A. I -- it's hard to say. I think -- I think the prospect

1 of not driving home and spending a pleasant evening
2 continued and overcame my hesitation.

3 Q. If "Madeleine's" account on that point is to be
4 preferred, you still had an option to say no, didn't
5 you?

6 A. Yes, of course.

7 Q. Whatever the precise circumstances in which you did not
8 say no, did you go into the bedroom because you wanted
9 sex, despite the fact you were a serving police officer
10 on duty?

11 A. I think I'd have to say yes.

12 Q. I don't want any details at all, please, but the two of
13 you had sex?

14 A. We did.

15 Q. And you stayed the night?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. Did you have breakfast together in the morning?

18 A. Not that I remember.

19 Q. What happened in the morning?

20 A. I think we chatted. I think -- I think she bought
21 a drink to the bedroom, and we went about our normal
22 business.

23 Q. So what sort of time did you leave the house?

24 A. I really can't remember. I don't think it was
25 particularly late.

- 1 Q. Morning or afternoon?
- 2 A. I'd have thought morning, but I honestly don't know.
- 3 Q. In the aftermath of your sexual encounter, did
4 the amount of social contact that you had with
5 "Madeleine" increase?
- 6 A. I don't believe so, no.
- 7 Q. Might it have been that you sat at the table with her
8 more often than previously?
- 9 A. I don't -- I don't believe so, no. She was a member of
10 the other branch now, so we didn't necessarily meet
11 every week. I thought we were still on good and
12 friendly terms. But there was no -- we never did
13 anything as a couple, if you like. We never did any
14 social event. We never, as a duo, went to concerts or
15 films, or -- she never came round to my cover address --
16 certainly at my invitation she never came round to my
17 cover address. And we just bumped into each other as
18 you would, without arrangement.
- 19 Q. Did that evening you had spent together chatting and
20 flirting then ending up in bed with one another not have
21 some impact on your feelings for her?
- 22 A. I was -- yes, well, I -- difficult to find the precise
23 words. Obviously I knew her better, because she chatted
24 away and gave me various more information about herself,
25 as you do, in those circumstances. So yes, I did know

- 1 her better.
- 2 Q. And might that not naturally have led to you speaking
3 more to her afterwards than you had done before?
- 4 A. Of course that's a possibility. I think I -- I would
5 definitely make the point that we didn't make
6 arrangements to meet at all.
- 7 Q. I'm not interested in that at the moment, because
8 I understand that's your evidence.
- 9 What I'm --
- 10 A. I'm sorry.
- 11 Q. -- interested in is, when you were in the same place as
12 her afterwards, did not what had happened that evening
13 and that night mean that you were drawn to her, spoke to
14 her more than previously?
- 15 A. Certainly more from previously, because, as I think I've
16 said, I hardly had spoken to her individually before
17 that evening. So obviously there was more. We knew
18 each other better, and we spoke more.
- 19 Q. You have spoken a little bit about "Madeleine" opening
20 up to you on the evening in question. Did you open up
21 to her?
- 22 A. Not beyond the parameters which I've already said
23 I discussed about my life. I don't remember it being
24 raised, and I don't remember saying anything more
25 about it.

1 Q. Can you recall now what you did or did not say to her on
2 that evening and during that night?

3 A. No. Not specifically.

4 Q. Did there come a time after you had first had sex when
5 you spoke to her about your previous toxic relationship
6 and your desire not to get involved in another
7 relationship because you didn't want to get hurt?

8 A. I don't remember a specific conversation with
9 "Madeleine" about that. It was a conversation that
10 I would say to anybody who was asking about my
11 antecedents.

12 Q. Would there not have been a reason for you to have
13 spoken to her in those terms after you had had sex?

14 A. Only to reinforce what she must have already known,
15 I suppose. It may have happened. I can't recall it
16 happening.

17 Q. Did there come a time when you went to bed with her
18 a second time?

19 A. Not that I recall.

20 Q. Can we have on the screen, please, {UCPI/34310}.

21 I think you've seen this document before, haven't
22 you?

23 A. I have seen the document, yes.

24 Q. For the benefit of people who can't see the screen, it's
25 an extract from the diary of "Madeleine's" friend at

1 the bus garage. Dated Wednesday, 9 January, and she's
2 confirmed it was 9 January 1980:

3 "Further tales of Vince -- ['M']'s ex-lover.
4 Apparently his flees into the night after an evening of
5 uninhibited lust were originally construed to be
6 a 'psychological hang up'. Further investigation may
7 reveal him to be an over-sexed vampire, his dash from
8 the bed, an attempt to return to his coffin before
9 sunrise. Is Vince in America ... or Transylvania? Is
10 he under contract to Hammer Films Inc? Until further
11 news of his whereabouts, keep your jugulars covered."

12 You can put aside, please, the vampirism for
13 the purposes of these questions. What I'd like to focus
14 on is the suggestion of a dash from the bed during
15 the night.

16 You've confirmed in your evidence that you stayed
17 the whole night the first time that you slept with
18 "Madeleine". Does not this near-contemporary document,
19 which suggests that there were further occasions on
20 which you stayed for only part of the night, jog your
21 memory?

22 A. No, it would seem very strange behaviour. It doesn't
23 jog my memory. I would observe that it's dated
24 9 January, and I'd left the field by about three months
25 by that ... so whilst you say it's a contemporary note,

1 I would suggest that it's perhaps a little older than
2 that.

3 Q. I said "near-contemporary"?

4 A. I beg your pardon. I misinterpreted it.

5 Q. And I accept that you -- as far as we know, you left
6 the field around October 1979.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Even if that hasn't jogged your memory, is the reality
9 that you did in fact sleep with "Madeleine" on further
10 occasions and that you did leave the bed during
11 the night?

12 A. I have no memory of such actions.

13 Q. Might that have happened?

14 A. I find that hard to answer, since this is -- this is --
15 I have no memory of it; and therefore what is possible
16 and what isn't possible is -- is a difficult question to
17 answer. If you say "might it have happened", then how
18 can I answer when I don't have a memory of it one way or
19 the other?

20 Q. It's consistent --

21 A. Sorry, that sounds rather rude, and I didn't mean to be.

22 Q. It's consistent with your cover story, isn't it, of
23 having been hurt and being guarded about a future
24 relationship?

25 A. I can see -- I can see the -- the pattern, but I can't

- 1 confirm that it happened.
- 2 Q. And it's consistent, isn't it, with the advice you told
3 us this morning you'd received from a manager not to get
4 involved in a relationship?
- 5 A. Yes, that's all true.
- 6 Q. And you didn't let a full-blown relationship develop,
7 did you?
- 8 A. No, I did not.
- 9 Q. But you did sleep with her more than once, didn't you?
- 10 A. I slept with her on the first occasion is the only one
11 I remember.
- 12 Q. Is it right that "Madeleine's" best friend and her
13 brother knew that your relationship had become sexual?
- 14 A. I could only assume so. I don't know that for a fact.
- 15 Q. And was it obvious to you that "Madeleine" was
16 interested in more than a one night stand?
- 17 A. No, I don't think it was obvious. As I say, there was
18 no contact made apart from through party meetings. We
19 never met anywhere else, she didn't contact me through
20 work, didn't leave a note to contact her, or anything
21 else, at my home address. So I assumed that we'd
22 accepted that it was a pleasant enough activity but it
23 was -- that was it.
- 24 Q. Do you doubt her evidence that she was in fact fond of
25 you and wanted matters to go further?

- 1 A. I think it's very difficult for me to comment on her
2 emotional feelings towards me. I was unaware of them,
3 for the reasons I have just outlined.
- 4 Q. Was there no sign at all after that night together, and
5 the chatting and the flirting, that she was more
6 interested in you than she had hitherto been?
- 7 A. I -- well, I -- I'm repeating what I've said. There was
8 no contact apart from through when we met at party
9 functions. Obviously we were still friendly and polite.
10 I don't know how else I can comment on what her feelings
11 were.
- 12 Q. Was there any physical contact at all?
- 13 A. Not that I remember.
- 14 Q. Did you tell "Madeleine" that you'd grown up in
15 a children's home?
- 16 A. Not that I remember. I don't remember that being part
17 of my story at all.
- 18 Q. Did you feign an interest in West Coast music?
- 19 A. No, I have a genuine interest in West Coast music.
- 20 Q. Did you tell "Madeleine" about that?
- 21 A. I told anybody who was interested. When we were
22 discussing music, I would often refer to West Coast
23 music as probably my preferred genre.
- 24 Q. Do you accept that you told "Madeleine" that you had had
25 a previous relationship that had gone wrong?

1 A. I certainly had told anyone who was interested that
2 that's how my circumstances were --

3 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

4 A. -- I don't remember -- sorry.

5 Q. No, you carry on.

6 A. I don't remember taking her to -- you know, having
7 a specific one-on-one discussion where that was
8 mentioned.

9 Q. And that you were afraid that you would be hurt again?

10 A. That would follow, wouldn't it? I don't remember having
11 that one-to-one conversation with her.

12 Q. "Madeleine's" evidence was that you had that
13 conversation in bed. Did that jog your memory at all?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Is that something that you would have forgotten?

16 A. It's very hard to say. I think I would stick to my
17 cover story under what -- whatever circumstances,
18 because it was very important for the security of myself
19 and other people doing the job. If that's what -- if
20 that's what I had mentioned before, then I would stick
21 to that story. But to say that I particularly
22 remembered it on any one particular occasion, I'm afraid
23 I can't help.

24 Q. Well, if you hadn't told her that before, can I take it
25 from the answer you've just given me that you are not

1 denying that you might have told her that in bed after
2 you'd had sex?

3 A. That would be correct. I'm not denying that I might
4 have said it.

5 Q. And was it entirely consistent with your cover that you
6 would have made it clear that you were not interested in
7 forming a long-term relationship?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you consider that telling a woman your cover story
10 about previous relationships being toxic and not wanting
11 to be hurt again, growing up in a children's home, might
12 evince feelings of compassion and sympathy and motherly
13 instincts?

14 A. Could we just go back to that question?

15 You've included again that I said I grew up in
16 a children's home. I did not say that to anybody. But
17 if I could go back to the general theme of the question,
18 I didn't really -- you're suggesting that it was used as
19 some kind of ploy; and I'm saying it was not used as
20 a ploy, it was used as a cover story for protection.

21 Q. Actually, my question -- and I'm quite happy for you to
22 modify it in the way you've suggested -- was: did you
23 consider, did you think about that being an effect it
24 might have?

25 A. I -- no, I don't -- I don't think I did. It was -- it

1 was -- it was my cover story and I stuck to it,
2 irrespective of relationships or friendships that would
3 have developed after I'd started with that story.

4 Q. Do you have any doubt about "Madeleine's" account that
5 it did in fact have precisely those effects upon her?

6 A. Having heard what she had to say, I can see that --
7 I believe what she said was genuine, but I was unaware.

8 Q. When was the last time that you saw "Madeleine"?

9 A. I don't know. I heard what she had to say about my --
10 what I -- I think was my leaving meal, as it were, but
11 I don't remember the incident as she described it at
12 all.

13 Q. Is it right, though, that there was a second
14 sexual relationship with the other activist which
15 occurred after the sexual relationship you had with
16 "Madeleine"?

17 A. There was.

18 Q. So might it have been that you were in the same
19 gathering with the other activist at the same time as
20 "Madeleine" after your relationship with "Madeleine" had
21 become sexual?

22 A. Yes, it certainly could have happened. I understand
23 that it was a small gathering of people. They were
24 effectively saying goodbye, because I was -- I was --
25 I was leaving. "Madeleine" could have been there.

- 1 Q. Can you recall having a conversation with "Madeleine"
2 which was your goodbye conversation?
- 3 A. Not as she described. In fact, I -- I don't actually
4 remember her being at that event at all, but I -- but
5 I -- but I have to accept the possibility that she would
6 have been.
- 7 Q. Can you recall any goodbye conversation with
8 "Madeleine"?
- 9 A. Not in particular, no.
- 10 Q. Does it follow from that that you didn't in fact have
11 any real feelings for "Madeleine"?
- 12 A. Beyond friendship, and I thought we were friends, and we
13 were going -- going our separate ways, I thought still
14 on friendly terms.
- 15 Q. Is it possible, 354, that you are not being quite as
16 forthcoming about the full extent of your sexual
17 relations with "Madeleine" because you know that
18 a relationship is worse than a one night stand?
- 19 A. I have no recollection of any further sexual
20 relationships with her, irrespective of whatever -- my
21 motivation for not having that, because I have no
22 recollection of that at all. It was quite a stressful
23 time for me in all sorts of ways, and my memory for that
24 period, as -- if we go back to the reports written at
25 the time, I realise my memory on that period is somewhat

1 vague. So if you say is it at all possible, all I can
2 keep saying is I just have no memory of it.

3 Q. Can I take it from the answers you've given today that
4 you are not seeking to blame your conduct on alcohol?

5 A. No, I don't blame it. It was a -- obviously it was my
6 responsibility on whether (inaudible). As you
7 highlighted earlier, whoever made the invitation,
8 I could have -- I could have declined. It's therefore
9 my responsibility.

10 Q. You've told us that on your recollection, there were
11 other people present when you and "Madeleine" went to
12 the bedroom, therefore other people knew that
13 the relationship had become sexual; is that right?

14 A. Other people present in the lounge, which we left to go
15 to the bedroom.

16 Q. So it would follow a reasonable, a reasonable
17 inference --

18 A. I'm sorry, I'm being pedantic.

19 Q. Did sleeping with "Madeleine" enhance your cover?

20 A. I don't -- I don't think it was -- it wasn't in any way
21 intended to, and I can't think how it would have done.

22 Q. That's two different things.

23 A. Well, I -- well, I -- there is a continuous issue, if
24 you've been out in the field for some time and not had
25 any relationships, people are inclined to wonder why.

1 So I suppose it's a sign that you're living a normal --
2 a more normal life. But that would be the only comment
3 I could make on that, I think.

4 Q. So it might dispel suspicion?

5 A. Yes, it would fit that people would expect you to have
6 some kind of relationship. And since I was not having
7 a relationship either with party members or outside
8 party members, it's -- it's somewhat unusual over
9 a prolonged period for people in their late 20s.

10 Q. And people wouldn't expect a serving
11 undercover police officer to do that, would they?

12 A. It depends on your view of undercover police officers.
13 I suspect they would think that
14 undercover police officers would use any means they
15 could to get whatever they wanted to get. Not
16 necessarily the truth, but that's what I think their
17 perception would be.

18 Q. Did sleeping with "Madeleine" discourage advances from
19 gay men?

20 A. There was one who was becoming persistent. Not a party
21 member. I don't know if he ever knew about "Madeleine".

22 Q. Did you sleep with her for that purpose, or was any
23 effect in that regard simply a byproduct?

24 A. It would be a byproduct. It was nothing -- there was no
25 intent for anything other than the fact it happened.

1 Q. Would "Madeleine" have had sex with you if she had known
2 who you really were?

3 A. Difficult to say. If she knew -- if she really knew who
4 I really was, then possibly she would have liked me. If
5 she knew that I was a police officer, then almost
6 certainly not. But I'm both a police officer and
7 a person, so she might have seen the person not the --
8 not the police officer. And therefore I can't really
9 answer that.

10 Q. Would "Madeleine" have slept with someone she knew to be
11 an undercover police officer?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you give any thought to that at the time?

14 A. I would think not.

15 Q. And if you had given any thought to that at the time,
16 what would you have done?

17 A. Had I given it proper consideration, then I would have
18 avoided the situation.

19 Q. Have you reflected on that since?

20 A. I hadn't until fairly recently, when events of 40 years
21 ago have been brought back to the front of my mind.

22 Q. What are your reflections now?

23 A. My reflections are that it was a difficult job that
24 I was doing under a great deal of pressure and strain
25 at the moment, for all sorts of different reasons, and

1 I made a mistake.

2 Q. Have you reflected on "Madeleine's" feelings?

3 A. I hadn't really known about her feelings until recent
4 testimony. I also saw in the first statement that she
5 seemed to have a very successful and happy life, and I'm
6 pleased for it. The fact that she was a member of
7 a group that we were monitoring does not mean to say
8 that I think they're an unpleasant person.

9 Q. Have you reflected on your own conduct towards
10 "Madeleine" in the light of hearing her testimony?

11 A. I think I was wrong to allow it, and I think I've said
12 that.

13 Q. Did you use contraception?

14 A. Not that I recall.

15 Q. Did you give any thought to the consequences of
16 fathering a child when you were in fact an
17 undercover police officer?

18 A. No, I didn't. I think my perception was that as a full
19 feminist socialist supporter, then if there was any --
20 any need for protection, then she would have mentioned
21 it. You know, there's not -- I didn't see her as some
22 kind of shrinking violet, or something like that. This
23 was a member of the women's movement, and things like
24 that, and women had the same right to ask for things and
25 to insist on things as a man. And I would have

1 supported that then. I incidentally still do. So she
2 would have had the right -- absolute right to insist, if
3 it was necessary.

4 Q. But in the absence of any insistence --

5 A. Then I assumed everything was safe. In contraceptive
6 terms.

7 Q. "Madeleine" spoke yesterday of feeling betrayed,
8 vulnerable, disgusted. Do you accept that you betrayed
9 her?

10 A. That's a very strong word. I think I would reflect on
11 the fact that my field name was out in the public domain
12 for some time and didn't generate any reaction. So
13 I didn't -- my -- I think my feeling was that she wasn't
14 overly concerned by the situation, and therefore
15 betrayal seems to me a little over the top.

16 But I will return to the point that she would not
17 have had anything to do with me had she known me as an
18 undercover police officer.

19 Q. She was a very committed activist, wasn't she?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you all trusted one another in your activism
22 together?

23 A. Yes, and it was building up that trust over the time;
24 that is why you had friendships.

25 Q. More than two years by the time you had sex?

- 1 A. From initially meeting her, certainly.
- 2 Q. Is not the fact that you were really an
3 undercover police officer and that you went ahead and
4 had sex with her, is that not a betrayal?
- 5 A. I still take it as -- as a very strong word for what
6 happened.
- 7 Q. What would it have taken to prevent what happened from
8 happening?
- 9 A. I think me being more -- more alert to the possible
10 consequences.
- 11 Q. Did the attitude of your peers affect your behaviour?
- 12 A. I'm assuming you mean police officer peers not comrades?
- 13 Q. Yes.
- 14 A. They wouldn't, no.
- 15 Q. That's not quite what I was driving at.
- 16 A. I beg your pardon.
- 17 Q. What I'm driving at is, was there a feeling that it
18 didn't matter too much if you had sex with an activist?
- 19 A. I don't remember that kind of attitude ever being
20 discussed.
- 21 Q. We heard last week evidence to the effect that
22 the response in cases which were known was "good for
23 you", or something along those lines. Was that
24 the prevailing culture?
- 25 A. I think -- I think the prevailing culture was that you

1 had to look after yourself out in the field, there was
2 no one else there to help you, because of everything
3 else like that; and if things happened, how did you cope
4 with them? There was not a scoreboard, or anything else
5 like that, or any kind of conversations along those
6 lines, if that's what you're suggesting.

7 Q. Did the attitude of your managers affect your behaviour?

8 A. Again, I didn't tell them, and as far as I'm aware they
9 -- they remained unaware.

10 Q. Well, you told us earlier today that one manager
11 positively discouraged you.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can I take it that his advice met with deaf ears, so far
14 as "Madeleine" was concerned?

15 A. I think that's self-evident. Although, of course, he
16 had moved on by then and we had a different management.
17 But that doesn't take the responsibility away from me.

18 Q. When did you first tell anyone that you'd had sex with
19 "Madeleine"?

20 A. I believe the first time I told it was when I was making
21 the statement in discussions concerning this Inquiry.

22 Q. Before I move on, is there anything in relation to
23 "Madeleine" that I have not covered that you would like
24 to add?

25 A. I think I -- with the benefit of more maturity and

1 hindsight, and less stress, then -- then I will say that
2 that was -- the night we spent together was
3 inappropriate and unprofessional. There was no
4 intention -- sorry, can I say that again.

5 She was not targeted in any way; it was not any part
6 of any kind of system; it was not something either
7 expected by the management, or indeed expected by my
8 peer group, to show you are one of the boys. It was in
9 fact something that happened at a convivial evening.
10 And that's how I -- how it happened, how I reviewed it
11 and, how I've never -- I never discussed it with
12 anybody, until these events, where I felt that total
13 openness and honesty would be what was required.

14 Q. Can I move now to the --

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Before you do, can I interject to ask
16 a question of my own?

17 MR BARR: Of course.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 HN354, I, no doubt like you, listened carefully to
20 the evidence of "Madeleine" when it was given. I make
21 it clear that she impressed me as a sincere and
22 essentially truthful person, trying to tell me, as best
23 as she could remember, what happened between you and
24 her. And you will know, obviously, that her evidence
25 was that this was not just a one night stand, but

1 something that, from her point of view, was all together
2 potentially more meaningful, and included, as she put
3 it, I think, over the next two months, a number of
4 occasions, not more than once a week, I think slightly
5 less than once a week, on which you and she had sexual
6 intercourse, which caused her to have feelings possibly
7 for you greater than it seems you realised.

8 Can you offer any explanation for the sequence of
9 events that led that to happen?

10 A. Explanation would be difficult. I think I would say
11 that events of 40 years ago are vague in my mind and may
12 have been changed in hers. The diary entry which you
13 presented was three months after I left. It may have
14 coloured her views. I really don't feel inclined to
15 attack or address anything she said. I watched her with
16 great intent, and I could believe what she said. It's
17 just that my own memory is to the contrary.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Is it a case, as can happen in life, of two
19 people remembering a series of events differently? Or
20 is it something more than that? My understanding is
21 that you do not say that she is consciously or
22 unconsciously making this up, you accept that her
23 evidence is genuine; your recollection remains
24 different. I'm simply seeking to ask if there is any
25 reason why your accounts are, in significant respects,

1 different. If you could help me, I'd be grateful.

2 A. I -- it would -- it would be inappropriate, I think, for
3 me to suggest there was any other motive for her in --
4 in trying to diminish the reputation of
5 undercover officers, but that thought would cross my
6 mind.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Very well. But it's a thought that, as
8 I understand it, you dismiss from your mind?

9 A. I think you asked, Sir, and I'm sure you'll correct me,
10 that if there was any other explanation, that's the only
11 one I could furnish.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I was wondering whether, on your own side,
13 there was any reason why your perception of these events
14 might be different from hers.

15 A. I think I've mentioned a couple of times, this was
16 a particularly difficult time for me. I was -- my
17 memory, for almost everything at that time I have
18 realised, by looking through reports and things like
19 that, is extremely vague. From the summer through to
20 the autumn when other opportunities within service were
21 being made, this required me to do an awful lot of work
22 away from being an undercover officer, and yet at
23 the same time maintaining the other image. And I think,
24 quite frankly, my memory for that whole period is
25 somewhat vague and mixed. I will -- I have to concede

1 that, because you could ask me many questions about that
2 period, and my -- and I realise now, from having gone
3 through it, with assistance, is that I just don't
4 remember what happened then.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you tell me, in outline, what it was that
6 was causing you the stress which has led to some
7 difficulty in remembering the details --

8 A. Well, it was on -- on several layers. The one in
9 particular that obviously ties it was the changes to my
10 professional life, which required a very long and
11 complicated selection procedure.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: -- (overspeaking) --

13 A. And -- sorry, Sir.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: This is for an aspect of other police work
15 into which you then went?

16 A. Indeed, Sir. And I was interviewed then by senior
17 officers from other forces, who of course had no idea
18 why this person was being presented to them in a rather
19 hirsute manner that they would never allow in their
20 constabulary. And I of course had to answer questions
21 on aspects of policing that were nothing to do with what
22 I was a specialist in.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: So the pressures were from your police
24 professional life, rather than from your personal life?

25 A. My personal life was still somewhat of a mess. I have

1 reflected the fact that my long term relationship had
2 ended, and, as I think has been brought out in
3 the questions and answers, I've said the commitment to
4 working on this was long, and therefore friendships and
5 things like that were very strained. It was quite
6 a stressful time. Indeed, I think I include in
7 the thing I was -- I was probably less than polite to
8 some of my senior officers, who showed a great deal of
9 tolerance in trying to see me through it.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

11 Mr Barr, you want to turn to another topic.

12 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir, yes.

13 Can we turn to the other female activist. It's of
14 course important that we don't --

15 A. Of course.

16 Q. -- identify her in the course of answering my questions.

17 Was she a member of the Walthamstow Branch of the SWP?

18 A. Certainly the district. I honestly can't remember if
19 she was Walthamstow or Leyton, because by that time
20 the two had split. But she was well known to
21 the Walthamstow/Leyton conglomeration.

22 Q. When did you first meet her?

23 A. Oh, right from the outset.

24 Q. How often did you see her?

25 A. She -- she wasn't as active as others, but she'd

1 certainly turn up for any call-out, national call-out,
2 any area call-out. She was an active person, but not so
3 much that -- I don't recall ever seeing her on the
4 routine paper sales, for example.

5 Q. Had you seen her socially as well?

6 A. At gathering -- not -- not on an individual --
7 individual basis, but where there's been a gathering,
8 she would be -- yes, be one of the people who attended.

9 Q. And without giving identifying details, how much did
10 you know about her?

11 A. I knew occupation, who she was. Little more than that.

12 Q. What was her attitude to the police?

13 A. I don't think we ever discussed it, but I would assume
14 it would be exactly the same as I've said before. As
15 a member of the party, she would not be in favour.

16 Q. What had you told her about yourself?

17 A. Exactly the same as I've told everybody else.

18 Q. How friendly had the two of you been before your
19 relationship became --

20 A. I think we had been very good friends. She had been in
21 a long term relationship, so there was never any
22 suggestion like that. We did get on, generally.

23 Q. Without giving any identifying details away, in what
24 circumstances did your relationship become sexual?

25 A. I went round for some party business to her home address

1 and we had a chat. And in that time I revealed that
2 I was leaving the area, and in fact going off to
3 America. We celebrated the event, congratulated me for
4 going where I'd be happy, and the evening continued.

5 Q. Was this a location where the two of you were together
6 alone, or were other people present?

7 A. Earlier in the evening another person had been present,
8 but he left.

9 Q. And how much had you drunk?

10 A. I drank with her. A bit more than -- certainly I should
11 not have been driving. But I wouldn't say I was drunk.

12 Q. Does the same apply to her, or had she drunk more or
13 less than you?

14 A. I think we were drinking together.

15 Q. Did you stay the night?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you have sex with her?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you have sex with her more than once?

20 A. That one night.

21 Q. I was meaning on other occasions?

22 A. Yes, that was the only occasion.

23 Q. Did you have any form of sexual contact with her after
24 that?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Was there any form of romantic attachment or
2 relationship?

3 A. No, she -- we were quite happy. We met on a couple of
4 other occasions; we got on very well.

5 Q. Did you stay in touch with her?

6 A. Not specifically. Of course, there was a very short
7 period of time before the time that I said I was going
8 and I did go. We met on a couple of party events, and
9 she was at the -- what I'm calling the "leaving meal".

10 Q. Did you stay in touch with her after your deployment
11 ended?

12 A. No -- sorry, that was a bit aggressive.

13 Q. Would she have had sex with you if she had known you
14 were an undercover officer?

15 A. I think I refer to the earlier answer: of course -- of
16 course not. If she only saw me as the police officer,
17 then of course not.

18 Q. And can we refer to your early answers -- your earlier
19 answers on the question of whether you gave any thought
20 to that issue at the time?

21 A. Indeed. I -- I gave no thought. It just seemed a happy
22 way of finishing the evening.

23 Q. And what do you think about that now?

24 A. I think I reflect again that it was not the best of
25 things I could have done.

1 Q. Wrong?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. Did you use contraception?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you give any thought to the potential consequences?

6 A. No. I again refer to the fact that I had -- I'm not
7 trying to shift the emphasis here, but I would have
8 thought it would have been mentioned. Generally, it is
9 something that is discussed, and it needs to be
10 discussed, I found -- I did find. It's a long time ago,
11 sorry.

12 Q. If I asked you all the same questions about what it
13 would have taken to stop it happening and whether there
14 was any influence from your fellow police officers or
15 managers, would your answers be any different in
16 relation to the second activist than they were in
17 relation to "Madeleine"?

18 A. Absolutely -- absolutely not. Neither activist was
19 targeted, neither was it a part of any kind of cultural
20 activity that's seen within the Squad or any expectation
21 that Squad members would do it. They were just two what
22 I thought were isolated incidents.

23 Q. Can we move now to the first non-activist. You told
24 the Inquiry at the anonymity stage of our process and
25 again in your witness statement that you also had sex

1 with two non-activists. I don't want you to give any
2 name over this Zoom channel.

3 A. Right.

4 Q. I'll deal with them, in time, first and second.

5 The first one: can you remember her name or any part
6 of her name?

7 A. No.

8 Could I, perhaps -- I realise I may not -- I may not
9 have been quite as accurate. These other relationships
10 were before "Madeleine", and these were when I was
11 becoming known in the area.

12 Q. Which year?

13 A. I -- it would be very early on in my attachment out
14 there. And they -- to be honest, they were not
15 interested in forming anything further. That's what
16 I remember.

17 Q. Without giving any identifying details, how well did
18 you know the first woman?

19 A. Virtually nothing. It was a meeting in a pub, and
20 things just developed.

21 Q. Did you spend the night with her?

22 A. No.

23 Q. She's described in your witness statement as "a friend
24 of a friend"?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Is that the friend of an SWP friend?
- 2 A. No, it was somebody else who I had met in a pub, trying
3 to establish some sort of local knowledge. The pub had
4 other people in there. You get introduced. Not my
5 greatest moment.
- 6 Q. What had you told her about yourself?
- 7 A. I'm not even sure that we discussed much personal
8 details at all.
- 9 Q. Had you told her what your cover employment was?
- 10 A. I -- I don't recall.
- 11 Q. You've given -- in the risk assessment to your witness
12 statement and your supplementary witness statement
13 you've said that -- in the risk assessment, you met in
14 the course of your daily routine; in your witness
15 statement, "I attended a party and stayed over"; and in
16 your supplementary witness statement that you met in
17 the area. Today you've said -- you've given me
18 the impression you met in a pub.
- 19 How sure are you of your recollection?
- 20 A. I'm -- this is extremely vague. I don't want to --
21 I can't give specific details. This is completely lost
22 in the mists of time for me. I just didn't want, when
23 we were talking about things, to hide or obscure
24 anything that might reflect on what I did.
- 25 Q. What role did alcohol play?

1 A. It was present. I ...

2 Q. Did you stay in touch with her?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Would she have had sex with you if she'd known who you
5 really were?

6 A. I'm not sure.

7 Q. Did you give any thought to that?

8 A. No, I don't think I did.

9 Q. The Metropolitan Police Service has now made clear that
10 sexual relationships between undercover officers and
11 members of the public should not happen. Do you accept
12 that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you use contraception?

15 A. Not that I recall, no.

16 Q. Did the attitude of your peers or managers affect your
17 behaviour?

18 A. No. I'd hoped I'd made it clear that I'd not discussed
19 these -- these relationships with anybody else in that
20 group.

21 Q. The second non-activist. Without saying the name over
22 Zoom, if you know it, do you know the name or any part
23 of it --

24 A. No, I can't remember. It was very similar sets of
25 circumstances. People you meet casually; it turns into

- 1 a longer evening.
- 2 Q. Is there anything that stands out that you can recall in
3 relation to this second encounter?
- 4 A. I can't be precise, but I'm pretty sure that she made it
5 clear she didn't want to continue the relationship.
- 6 Q. Anything else to distinguish it from the account you've
7 given me about the first non-activist?
- 8 A. I'm sorry, I -- I'm aware of how this must sound, but
9 I just do not have any recollection of this.
- 10 Q. If you had sex in your undercover identity with two
11 non-activist women and then you end up having sex with
12 two activist women during the course of your deployment,
13 should we regard this as a progression, a breaking down
14 of inhibitions?
- 15 A. I don't believe so. I think the -- as I said, certainly
16 when -- once you get to know people and you understand
17 the situation, then I should have avoided the situation.
18 But I don't think that's a complete breakdown of all my
19 inhibitions.
- 20 Q. Was there any connection between the second non-activist
21 woman and the SWP, whether through mutual friends or in
22 any other way?
- 23 A. None at all, that I'm aware of. Never saw her again.
- 24 Q. Why did your impact statement not mention the two
25 non-activist women?

1 A. Because they would have no idea who I was and I've no
2 idea who they were, so the impact -- I can't see how
3 what happened 40 years ago would be having any impact
4 upon them. If -- you know, when -- when my cover names
5 are published and everything else, the name they know,
6 I'm sure they're not looking to see, "Blimey, that's
7 the chap I knew 40 years ago."

8 Q. Why did your solicitor's letter, dated 22 February 2018,
9 which is a response to specific questions which were
10 aimed at all sexual relationships, why didn't that
11 mention the two non-activist women?

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. I want to return to the gist we looked at this morning
14 and the passage about relationships being morally
15 questionable. Can I take it that you now accept that in
16 relation to all four women your actions were morally
17 questionable?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Would much stricter guidance from the SDS have made any
20 difference, or would you still have taken
21 the opportunity to have sex with these four women
22 undercover and kept quiet about it, even if there had
23 been much stricter guidance from the SDS?

24 A. I think probably it would have had stricter -- I think
25 a stricter regime would have -- would have caused me to

1 make different decisions.

2 Q. What sort of stricter regime do you have in mind?

3 A. Well, I think we were -- it was a very -- and I think --
4 I think it was necessary that we were completely alone
5 out there, making our own decisions; there was no ways
6 of getting support or guidance like that. And I guess
7 it -- for me, I guess I'd have needed firmer and more
8 rigorous questions about my activities.

9 Q. And --

10 A. So just the questioning of that would of course
11 reinforce the standards that were required.

12 Q. I mean, you've told us this morning that you did have
13 some guidance, which fell on -- you told me this
14 afternoon, fell on deaf ears. So how much more frequent
15 or stronger would it have had to have been?

16 A. That's -- that's very difficult to say. I think it --
17 I think -- you asked the question, would it have had an
18 impact; I believe it would have. How much impact and
19 how much was required to stop these activities, then
20 I think that's hard to say. I think a different regime
21 and different things happening in my personal life would
22 have changed things, yeah. But to quantify it, then it
23 may well be a case of the personality saying as -- more
24 than the actual message, something like that, may have
25 had the effect. But when we are in things of, could it

1 and would it have had an effect, then I have to accept
2 that it could have done.

3 Q. Do you think there's a certain type of personality who
4 ought not to be deployed as an undercover officer
5 because of the risk of not being able to say no?

6 A. I think you need a -- a strong personality to do
7 the job. And if you are -- you asked questions earlier
8 about -- about a couple of other officers. I would not
9 consider myself an active woman -- womaniser or
10 anything, despite the questions you've been presenting.

11 Q. Well, as a further question: there's obviously a type of
12 personality who's going beyond not saying no and
13 actively chasing women.

14 A. I think there are those who are -- who would be
15 unsuitable to do the job, completely. And there are
16 many different reasons why that might apply, not just
17 womanising.

18 MR BARR: Sir, is now a convenient time for our
19 mid-afternoon break?

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly. I imagine we're now going to move
21 on to the objectives of the deployment and what occurred
22 during it.

23 MR BARR: We are indeed, Sir.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

25 Then HN354, you, like us, may take a quarter of an

1 hour break now. Will you be ready to resume afterwards,
2 when we will move from highly personal matters to your
3 deployment?

4 A. Ready whenever you are, Sir.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

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

9 The time is now 3.15 pm, so we shall reconvene at
10 3.30 pm. Thank you.

11 (3.16 pm)

12 (A short break)

13 (3.30 pm)

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

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

17 Chairman.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 HN354, are you ready to continue?

20 A. Yes, thank you, Sir.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm afraid you're still in for a long
22 afternoon. We're not likely to finish before 6. Are
23 you content to continue to the end?

24 A. I'd prefer to finish it this evening, if possible, Sir.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: So would I, and I will comply with your

1 request.

2 A. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: But it may be a long day.

4 Mr Barr.

5 A. It feels long already, Sir.

6 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

7 354, I'm now moving to your reporting on the SWP and
8 your infiltration, in more general terms, of that group.

9 Can I start by looking at the completeness of
10 the reporting that we've recovered.

11 You tell us in your witness statement that you think
12 you actually submitted considerably more reports than we
13 were able to find and put into your witness pack; is
14 that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And that your reports may have included composite
17 reports on occasions, in particular put together with
18 the officers we know as "HN80" and "HN126".

19 A. Oh yes.

20 Q. You've already told us that you would sometimes identify
21 people from photographs at the safe house. Did you ever
22 take photographs yourself?

23 A. No. No, there was a specific unit that did it, in --
24 again, for security and safety reasons.

25 Q. As far as you were able to remember, aided by

1 the reporting we've provided to you, the earliest report
2 you were able to identify confidently as one of your own
3 was from February 1977, which referred to a meeting on
4 26 January 1977. Is that still your recollection?

5 A. I believe so, yes.

6 Q. Could we look, please, at the document which is at tab 5
7 {UCPI/17753}.

8 This is not that exact document, this is slightly
9 later. This is 22 February 1977, and it's a document
10 I'd like to look at paragraphs 2 to 4, please. It's
11 a report on the Socialist Workers Party. It bears Chief
12 Inspector Craft's name at the end. It reads:

13 "On Saturday 19th February 1977, the Walthamstow
14 Trades Council held an anti-racialist march which began
15 at 2.30 pm at Stanley Road, E17 and finished at 4.30 pm
16 at High Street, E17. Approximately 100 persons
17 attended.

18 "The demonstration received the report of all local
19 radical groups and was headed by the Bishop of
20 Colchester and Eric Deakins, the local Labour MP.
21 Various political groups were represented, including
22 the Liberal Party, the Communist Party of Great Britain
23 and the Communist Party of England (M-L), but the
24 majority of demonstrators were supporters of
25 the Socialist Workers Party.

1 "The march passed without incident, apart from one
2 or two persons being guided away from the rally by
3 the Police when they began to shout in favour of
4 racialism, but ended abruptly with the local
5 Communist Party and Trades Council members haranguing
6 supporters of the SWP."

7 Can you help us, first of all, as to why it was
8 relevant to report on what is essentially an uneventful
9 anti-racialist march headed by a member of parliament
10 and a bishop?

11 A. Well, firstly, we attended it because you didn't know it
12 was going to be uneventful. You can see that there was
13 an element of opposition. So that was useful to know
14 that.

15 Secondly, such routine matters were commonly
16 reported because had, a month later, a similar event be
17 called somewhere, then you'd have some idea of who was
18 going to go there, what the mood was going to be, and
19 elements like that. It's part of compiling information
20 so that you can use it in the future.

21 Q. You tell us in your witness statement that you had been
22 given some direction about how to deal with members of
23 parliament, and that you were to mark only "MP" and make
24 no further enquiries. Can you tell us who told you to
25 adopt that procedure?

1 A. I -- not specifically. There wasn't just SDS. This was
2 across the whole of Special Branch. You would not
3 report or do any investigation into a member of
4 parliament. You only put the fact they were an MP in
5 order to ensure that that name actually referred to an
6 MP and not somebody else of the same name.

7 Q. Was this an oral instruction or a written instruction?

8 A. I -- I think oral, but it's part of-- it's one of
9 the first thing you're taught. One of the many lessons
10 you'll learn. And had you put anything in the reports
11 like that, you'd have been told very quickly that that's
12 not appropriate and you don't do it.

13 Q. How widespread was this instruction within
14 Special Branch?

15 A. Oh, it was everywhere. It was common. It was -- it was
16 policy. It was not to be deferred from.

17 Q. And I don't want you to go into details of specific
18 methods, but can you give us any idea of what you mean
19 by "no further enquiries"?

20 A. Well, I mean, if, for example, a person comes along and
21 is suddenly seen at the middle of a lot of events where
22 there's a potential for disorder, if it -- then you
23 would generate -- in the end, you'd try and find out who
24 they were and what they were doing, what their
25 motivation behind it was, if indeed there was any, or

1 you may decide that there was nothing more to be
2 considered. But you'd -- you'd have a look at them.

3 Once -- if it was an MP, then you wouldn't do any
4 more enquiries at all.

5 Q. And having a look at them means gathering information,
6 does it, about their life in general, who they're
7 married to, whether they've got children --

8 A. Identifying features, and then obviously the political
9 or criminal inclinations of them, if known.

10 Q. And opening a personal file, in some cases?

11 A. If there was sufficient -- shall I say, generate a
12 sufficient information, then at a chief inspector type
13 rank, you would decide to open the file. Or, indeed, if
14 there was a request from the Security Service, you may
15 well decide to open a file then, because you can see
16 that they have found something out that they'd like to
17 know more about.

18 Q. Can I move now please to the industrial dispute at
19 the Grunwick factory?

20 A. Of course.

21 Q. That was a long running dispute, wasn't it?

22 A. It was.

23 Q. There's a document in the pack, which we may not need to
24 turn up, which talks about APEX and the Brent
25 Trades Council proposing to mount a seven-day mass

1 picket, which they realise may lead to confrontation
2 with the police.

3 Was that typical of the sort of thing that was going
4 on during that dispute?

5 A. I'm not an expert on the dispute. On the day when
6 I went -- went up there, that was being passed around.
7 Reporting from the SDS side, you weren't there to
8 analyse everything, every piece of information that came
9 in; you'd pass on what was happening. Other people who
10 had a broader view would consider whether that was
11 typical of activities in that area.

12 Q. I'm thinking more from the perspective of you being
13 a member of the Walthamstow SWP not a million miles away
14 and at the material time. Was there a lot of
15 organisation going on to support the strike?

16 A. Grunwicks was north-west London, wasn't it? So it was
17 a fair way away from Walthamstow. But the generalism of
18 the -- of the question is, almost every union dispute
19 would automatically get the support of the SWP and
20 I think most other groups on the left. And it was just
21 a case of assessing what impact or what policing would
22 be required. It's not your job to prevent the activity
23 like that, just to ensure that there's public safety and
24 not too much disorder.

25 Q. On the day that you attended, can you give us -- I mean,

1 you cover it in your witness statement, but what I'm
2 really interested in is, can you give us an impression
3 of when you were close to the front, what that
4 experience was like?

5 A. Yes, it was -- it was relatively early in the morning.
6 It was all quite convivial. When the coaches arrived
7 with the non-union labour to get in, there was an awful
8 lot of pushing and shoving. The protesters were there
9 to try and close it, to stop -- stop the buses going in.
10 The police were there to ensure the buses don't get in.
11 We were on the side of those pushing against the police.

12 Q. Can you recall submitting any intelligence at all that
13 would have been of use to uniformed police officers
14 charged with policing that industrial action?

15 A. Further along the line, the system would be that we
16 would hand our information in, it would then go in, if
17 you like, to other officers within Special Branch, who
18 would assess that, our information, information from
19 other sources, and then provide an assessment of what we
20 thought -- what the Branch thought was likely to happen,
21 so that the uniformed police could have an appropriate
22 response.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 A. -- (overspeaking) -- directly, if I'm not being --

25 Q. You helpfully explained the process, but my specific

1 question was whether you think you submitted any
2 intelligence that would have been of assistance in that
3 regard.

4 A. The report you saw was probably the only one I did.

5 There may well have been leaflets or documents that
6 would have gone in, to assist people doing that.

7 I can't remember, because that would be so routine.

8 Q. Moving away from a specific dispute, more generally to
9 the SWP's involvement in industrial matters, we've seen
10 documents to suggest that you were in the Industrial
11 group; and you were not only in that group, but you were
12 one of the two leaders with Pete Weardon. Can you
13 recall that?

14 A. I -- I know the report. It would be right to say that
15 certain persons within the party were trying to develop
16 me as a party activist. I was put into that without my
17 agreement, and chose not to do anything about it at all.
18 It was a title that I didn't pursue.

19 Q. Sorry, when you say "chose not to do anything about it
20 at all", what do you mean?

21 A. Well, I didn't go out to factories a great deal, or try
22 and recruit other people.

23 Q. So how did you actually come to have that role?

24 A. It was -- it was given to me.

25 Q. By? Don't use names?

- 1 A. Probably -- and I can't remember -- probably in this
2 case, Pete Weardon. Sorry, I should not have said that.
- 3 Q. I was going to say, don't use a name, unless it's a very
4 prominent member of the SWP, but if you could describe
5 the position they held.
- 6 A. Yes, I'm sorry. I think we just referred to him earlier
7 though.
- 8 Q. And what did you do?
- 9 A. As far as the Industrial section, virtually nothing. In
10 fact, I don't think I did do anything. It's very easy
11 to be apathetic about activities when you're a party
12 member, because so many are.
- 13 Q. We've heard evidence that you were a useful member of
14 the group, and you've told us about the various
15 activities you did get involved in. So why be reticent
16 about industrial matters?
- 17 A. It goes back to the personal judgment. I mean, this --
18 a trade union dispute is not something that would
19 attract the attention of the SDS. It would be if days
20 of action came on, and this was an impact, and things
21 like that. It wasn't our job to find out why something
22 was happening inside a factory. But you would of course
23 support -- the SWP would support their activity.
- 24 Q. Perhaps it might help if we go to the document at
25 tab 58, which is {UCPI/13063}.

1 This is quite a long report dated 3 January 1979,
2 under the name of the chief superintendent. And it
3 says:

4 "The following information concerning the newly
5 formed Waltham Forest District of
6 the Socialist Workers Party has been received from
7 a reliable source ..."

8 And then it sets out lots of information about
9 the Waltham Forest district. Is that based on
10 intelligence which you would have submitted?

11 A. Almost certainly.

12 Q. If we could go, please, to page {UCPI/13063/3}. Thank
13 you.

14 And at letter (b), we get the section of the report
15 which deals with industrial matters; and that extends
16 for the rest of the page.

17 There are four paragraphs. The first paragraph --
18 it's not easy to read, but we'll have a go:

19 "Convened by [Privacy] (specifically moved into
20 Waltham Forest by [Privacy] for the purpose), this
21 active and politically aware group is concentrating on
22 building its contacts within the local factories, mainly
23 based on the 'Staffa Road Industrial Estate'. Sales of
24 the Party's newspaper 'Socialist Worker' are on
25 the increase, but not in factories where the workforce

1 is predominantly Asian, as these workers have stated
2 that they have been threatened with either violence or
3 the sack if they were to persist in their support."

4 So first of all, this is described as an active and
5 politically aware group. If it was an active and
6 politically aware group and you were the leader of it,
7 how would you have avoided being an active participant?

8 A. I was not an active part -- this is reporting what
9 somebody else was saying had already happened. I did
10 not have any involvement with this industrial group at
11 all. There were people who are -- who had their
12 contacts and things like that, who were developing
13 the SW's influence as far as possible.

14 Q. But you obviously obtained this information. How did
15 you do that?

16 A. At a public meeting or a branch meeting.

17 Q. The second paragraph deals with a bulletin which seems
18 to have been based on the Staffa Road Industrial Estate.
19 Is publishing bulletins the sort of industrial activity
20 that the SWP was involved in?

21 A. One of the ways of supporting any industrial dispute
22 would be to publish a leaflet, support in any way,
23 documents -- not only paper-sell but give out leaflets.
24 Anything to build up support for both the cause and
25 the party.

1 Q. You've touched upon paper sales, which are covered by
2 the third paragraph.

3 The fourth paragraph deals with recruiting. Is it
4 fair to say that the SWP sought to recruit from
5 the industrial sector?

6 A. Actively, yes.

7 Q. So, looking at those four paragraphs in total and the
8 subjects they cover, it does seem that you were
9 reporting on the ambit of the SWP's industrial
10 activities, weren't you?

11 A. I was.

12 Q. And what was the purpose of that?

13 A. Part of providing intelligence into -- well,
14 information/intelligence into -- into the system, so
15 that people can know what's -- what's going on locally.

16 There's a great deal amongst, I would say, all --
17 all of the activists to claim all sorts of things on
18 numbers, their activities, and things like that. By
19 having reports on things like that, you can have a more
20 realistic idea of what is happening and what can be
21 expected. And this is a report of what SW organisers
22 were saying was happening. And that has to then be put
23 in context, to see whether that was in fact the true
24 reality.

25 Q. Can we take that document down, please.

1 I want to move now to the relationship between
2 the far right and the SWP.

3 You say in your witness statement -- and I'm quoting
4 one passage -- "often the National Front would turn up
5 and start fighting, jeering the SWP". Can you give us
6 an indication, first of all about how frequently that
7 sort of thing occurred?

8 A. Depending on where you were on a -- oh, certainly weekly
9 basis, depending on where you were and what activity you
10 were doing. In some locations it would be a persistent
11 and continuous battle.

12 Q. Can you give us some idea of the severity of the fights
13 that you recall seeing?

14 A. Well, there weren't -- the vast majority were violent
15 scuffles, because uniformed police would -- would be
16 aware, and would -- would stop it from getting too
17 serious. But there were many a -- many a punch-up and
18 running away from people. When flyposting, you may well
19 have to run a decent distance to get away from some of
20 the right wing extremists. It was a continuous issue at
21 the time.

22 I'm talking about relatively small groups of course.
23 It may only be two or three having a go at two or three.
24 But if happened to be the two or three that were at
25 the receiving end, it was quite unpleasant.

1 Q. So does it come as no surprise to you that yesterday we
2 heard "Madeleine" talking about her prowess as a runner?

3 A. It would be a very useful skill to have.

4 Q. When people weren't able to run, what sort of level of
5 violence are we talking about, punching?

6 A. Punching -- I think it would depend on who you were with
7 and things like that. So some of it was, yes, punching,
8 kicking, rolling on the ground.

9 Q. Weapons?

10 A. I don't recall any ones, but had something been to hand,
11 it would have been used. I'm -- I wouldn't go as far as
12 saying knives or anything else like that. Placard
13 things and things like that, tools would be used. These
14 are people used to violence -- were therefore able to
15 use it. I'm not saying the SWP, I'm saying the right
16 wing.

17 Q. Missiles?

18 A. On occasion, certainly, if they were available.

19 Q. There's a report in the bundle we might look at. It's
20 tab 15 {UCPI/11059}. Once it's up, it's paragraph 6 at
21 the bottom of the page that I'm interested in.

22 This is, I should say, 22 July 1977, this report:

23 "[Privacy] closed the meeting by announcing that
24 a former member of the National Front had recently been
25 recruited in Tower Hamlets. The information gleaned

1 from this man showed that the National Front could be
2 expected to change its tactics in dealing with the SWP.
3 From now on it [something] be anticipated that the Front
4 would be armed with missiles at every demonstration.
5 [Privacy] said that this force would be met with even
6 greater force and that all London members of the SWP
7 should go to Lewisham for the 'Lewisham 21 Defence
8 Committee' demonstration on 23 July 1977 and
9 the National Front march on 13 August 1977."

10 In relation to the sentiment "force should be met
11 with even greater force", you have said that all agreed
12 with the sentiment; is that right?

13 A. I think they'd agree with this -- the sentiment of
14 the sentence.

15 Q. You've said that though only a few actually fought?

16 A. Yeah. Street fighting doesn't come naturally to
17 everybody. This is -- although everyone would agree
18 that force has to be met with force, they were careful
19 about -- about how they would go about this purpose.
20 This is the rhetoric that was being used, as opposed to
21 the practice.

22 Q. Yes, well, I'm trying to explore the difference between
23 the two. So perhaps you can give us an indication of
24 what you mean by "only a few fought".

25 A. There would always be skirmishes around the edges that

1 some people would be caught up. And some people were
2 more willing to be involved in the aggression than
3 others.

4 Q. When you say "aggression", there's a difference between
5 responding to violence and initiating it. Are you
6 saying that there are some who would initiate it?

7 A. Yes. At certain circumstances.

8 Q. What sort of circumstances?

9 A. Well, if they suddenly saw -- if an -- if it was
10 opportunist and they were -- and the mood had developed.
11 And it would depend on the location as well and what
12 else had happened. An awful lot of different factors
13 would come into it.

14 Q. You have given an example in your witness statement of
15 being in a car which passed a group of skinheads;
16 the car stopped, people got out and fought
17 the skinheads.

18 Could you give us, first of all, an indication of
19 the numbers of people involved?

20 A. Oh, a small number. There were three or four of us in
21 the car. We'd been to a meeting at -- somewhere on
22 inner East London, Tower Hamlets area. And the -- as we
23 were coming back from the meeting, we saw some three
24 obviously -- not obvious, from their appearance
25 apparently right wing skinhead types. And one of them,

1 who was extremely wound up, just got out the car and ran
2 across to confront them.

3 Q. Did you?

4 A. Eventually you have to go out to help him, but that was
5 to stop the violence in its own way, because we took him
6 away. He was going to lose anyway.

7 Q. One person attacking three?

8 A. Yes, that's why -- I remember it. He was really
9 committed to stopping them everywhere, not letting them
10 take the streets under any circumstances.

11 Q. And so what happened?

12 A. Well, by the time the rest of us got out of it, there
13 was a lot of pushing and shoving and screaming, and you
14 basically went your own way after a while.

15 Q. What level of violence was involved?

16 A. ABH, I suppose. Nothing that would get reported to
17 police or require hospital treatment.

18 Q. Can I go now, please, to 23 April 1977: the Battle of
19 Wood Green?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. There's a document in the bundle which appears to be
22 a call-out to that occasion. Did you attend?

23 A. I -- I can't remember.

24 Q. Do you think --

25 A. -- (overspeaking) -- if I looked at the report I might

1 be able to say. I pretty much attended everything we
2 were called out to.

3 Q. The report is just a call-out, but we can certainly turn
4 it up. It's --

5 A. I don't remember going -- sorry, I don't remember going
6 to Wood Green for a -- a particular incident, no. So
7 I would probably say I didn't.

8 Q. Do you think you would have remembered if you had
9 attended --

10 A. Depending -- Wood Green was quite -- if I recall, it was
11 quite an aggressive thing. So I think I would have
12 remembered that. I remember the worst ones.

13 Q. Could we go now to tab 12, {UCPI/11019}.

14 Now, this may be -- my first question is: if you
15 have a look at this report, 15 July 1977, a report about
16 a meeting on Friday, 8 July 1977, on the first floor of
17 the Oxford Arms Public House, Deptford, Church Street.

18 My first question to you is, is this your reporting?

19 A. I wouldn't have thought so. And I have no recollection
20 of going to Deptford for a meeting.

21 Q. We think this might well be that of the man who we know
22 as "HN356", who used the cover name "Bill Biggs", and
23 was -- (overspeaking) -- to be operating in that part of
24 London. Might that be right? I'm afraid Mr Biggs has
25 passed away and is unable to assist us --

1 A. Certainly 356 worked south London. And as you know,
2 there tends to be quite a barrier, so you don't
3 naturally go through it for activities.

4 Q. Okay. It won't matter for the purposes of my questions.

5 Can we go down to paragraph 4 at the bottom of
6 the page, please. Because what this is about is
7 something which is said to be coming from the central
8 committee. So I'll read it out so people can
9 understand, but what I'm going to be interested in is
10 whether you were aware of anything like this. 4 reads:

11 "He went on to say that the Central Committee was
12 currently finalising plans to organise long term defence
13 groups at district level which would be mobilised at
14 short notice to defend meetings or demonstrations all
15 over London. District organisers would be responsible
16 for mobilising at least 20 comrades and for explaining
17 how to defend the area, using the following tactics:-

18 "(a) comrades must be split up into groups of three
19 or four around the meeting. For defence, at least 40
20 comrades must be used and, on larger meetings and
21 demonstrations at least 100 comrades must be used.

22 "(b) the groups should watch each other, as well as
23 the meeting, and have an escape route through shops with
24 back entrances, pedestrian precincts, etc, in order to
25 escape arrest on arrival of police."

1 Over the page {UCPI/11019/2}. Thank you:

2 "Experience had shown that incidents were over in
3 less than a minute. Superior numbers should be used
4 whenever possible, otherwise a longish fight could ensue
5 when the object was to give individual members of
6 the Front a good beating. Where necessary groups would
7 enter pubs, coffee bars etc and attack the Front, but it
8 should be done quickly in order to minimise the risk of
9 arrest. All fines would be paid by
10 the Socialist Workers Party.

11 "(d) The best method of street fighting was for
12 a group to give one fascist a good kicking, which was
13 more effective than punching. If police, when
14 outnumbered, tried to arrest members of the defence
15 groups or comrades at the meeting, they should be
16 attacked.

17 "(e) If police were in attendance at any
18 confrontation with the Front then shouting and pushing
19 should be used rather than actual violence. When
20 the Front moved away from the vicinity and out of
21 the eyesight of police, they (the Front) should be
22 attacked again. Ten or more groups in a busy shopping
23 area could not all be watched unless police were out in
24 large numbers."

25 First of all, were you ever aware of these plans or

1 plans like them being prepared and distributed by
2 the central committee of the SWP?

3 A. I don't recall this particular one but it would be in --
4 in keeping with the spirit of the type of message that
5 would -- would come out when -- when the activity was
6 focused against the National Front or other right wing
7 groups. The simple fact is there was a lot more talking
8 about what should be done than in actual fact did occur
9 once we realised what the reaction would be.

10 Q. Sorry, can you help us with what the reaction was?

11 A. Well, what I'm saying is, as far as I'm aware, and we
12 were in quite an active area, such groups were never
13 actually formed. Although there was never any shortage
14 of people coming up with good ideas as to what should be
15 done, there was always a shortage of people who can
16 actually do it.

17 Q. So what actually was done?

18 A. I don't remember anything for support groups and things
19 like that, apart from activities where you would -- you
20 would be trying to help somebody who was getting
21 particular aggression from members of the Front.

22 Q. Do you mean a member of the SWP or a member of
23 the public?

24 A. Well, no, quite frankly, if a member of the public was
25 getting it, then you would be expected to help, if it

1 was anti-fascist.

2 Q. So what steps did the Walthamstow District SWP take to
3 defend itself from the far right?

4 A. Well, I think we -- well, I don't remember doing any of
5 these kind -- these types of activity. We were -- there
6 was, however, and understandably, the direct policy of
7 confronting the Front whenever they appeared. And I
8 think I've mentioned it in other reports -- I don't know
9 if we're coming to it, but the regular paper pitch, if
10 the Front turned up there, if there weren't enough SW
11 members, then calls would be made, and you would
12 increase the numbers of SW members. And of course
13 supporters. There's an awful lot of people who would
14 support activities against the National Front who
15 weren't particularly left wing or Socialist Workers
16 Party certainly, but they would definitely come out and
17 assist you if it meant confronting the National Front or
18 people of that ilk.

19 Q. Can we move to 13 August 1977, or at least a couple of
20 days before then. 13 August was the Battle of Lewisham?

21 A. I remember it, Sir.

22 Q. If we could start, please, with tab 21, which is
23 {MPS/733365}. This is 11 August (inaudible) beforehand,
24 when it comes up -- my apologies.

25 And if we could zoom in on the centre section, which

1 is entitled "Cdr Ops". This is a minute sheet. It
2 says:

3 "DAC SB has indicated that he wishes to see this
4 report, which shows that the SWP are determined to
5 provoke a violent confrontation with
6 the National Front."

7 I think it's right that you were a member of
8 the Walthamstow SWP at the time, and that you were
9 present both at the battle and, on your account, took
10 part in some of the preparations for it as well?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Does the phrase "the SWP are determined to provoke
13 a violent confrontation with the National Front", does
14 that accord with your understanding of what was going
15 on?

16 A. Yes, I think it does.

17 Q. If we could go over to the next page, please,
18 {MPS/733365/2}.

19 Can you help us with the format of this document.
20 We're understanding it as being a cover sheet --
21 a covering letter, which shows the attached report going
22 from Commander Ops Special Branch to Commandeer A8.
23 Have we understood it correctly?

24 A. I'm assuming it's a memorandum where the boxes, as it
25 were, have -- have been lost in translation.

1 Q. It reads:

2 "Attached for your information is a Special Branch
3 report detailing up-to-date intelligence regarding
4 tactics to be used by left-wing groups opposing
5 the National Front march in Lewisham on Saturday
6 13 August ..."

7 And there's a request to be careful, for security
8 reasons essentially.

9 If we go over the page, {MPS/733365/3}, to
10 the report itself, paragraph 1 reads:

11 "The following information has been collated about
12 tactics to be used by left-wing groups in their counter
13 demonstration to the National Front match in Lewisham on
14 Saturday 13 August 1977. It would appear from this that
15 they are under the impression that the march is to be
16 routed via Lewisham Way ..."

17 Do you know whether any of your intelligence made up
18 part of this report? If that's a question you'd rather
19 answer once we've looked further at it, do say so.

20 A. I can't say definitely, but I would -- I would expect it
21 would have contributed.

22 Q. Paragraph 2:

23 "The Socialist Workers Party has acquired a squat in
24 Clifton Rise, where a number of stewards will meet on
25 Friday evening and remain overnight."

1 Did you know that that had happened?

2 A. I -- from memory, I think I knew that it was planned.

3 I don't -- I don't know if it actually happened.

4 Although there was certainly activity going on into the

5 early hours by those of us who were asked to steward.

6 Q. Was it your branch of the SWP's understanding that

7 the route was going to be via Lewisham Way?

8 A. I honestly can't remember the name of the actual road.

9 I think they did have the route correctly.

10 Q. And Lewisham Way is the main road --

11 A. It was the main -- they came out of the side road and --

12 Q. -- the main road --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- between Lewisham and New Cross?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Paragraph 4:

17 "Each branch of the SWP has been asked to provide

18 two groups of six 'heavies' to act as protection squads.

19 These people will meet at noon at Laurie Grove, SE14,

20 before dispersing to various points in the locality,

21 including New Cross and New Cross Gate Railway

22 Stations."

23 Does that ring any bells?

24 A. Not specifically, no, but it wouldn't surprise me.

25 Q. Can we go to paragraph 6, please, at the bottom of

1 the page. Thank you:

2 "The SWP's main objective is to prevent
3 the National Front march taking place and the Party has
4 assigned a specially selected squad to attack roving NF
5 sympathisers as a means of splitting police ranks.
6 Should this fail, the SWP will 'Attack, harass and
7 intimidate the National Front, with the ultimate
8 intention of creating a riot situation', and attempt to
9 isolate the rear section of the NF column, between
10 Clifton Rise and Malpas Road, SE4 -- using buildings and
11 shoppers as protection against police action. A vehicle
12 may be used to stop the march should it go into Lewisham
13 Way via Amersham Road, this road being considered
14 sufficiently narrow to be closed by such means."

15 Turning first to the main objective. Was it
16 the SWP's main objective to prevent the march?

17 A. Yes, I think. And not only the SWP's, the whole of --
18 any group that was against the rise of
19 the National Front.

20 Q. Do you know anything about specially selected squads to
21 attack roving NF sympathisers?

22 A. Not specifically. I don't recall that. But it wouldn't
23 surprise me if that kind of instruction came out, but
24 I don't remember it coming to me.

25 Q. Do you recall anything about the SWP planning to attack,

- 1 harass and intimidate the National Front with
2 the ultimate intention of creating a riot situation?
- 3 A. On this -- on this particular event, I think the plan
4 was that the National Front had -- had to be stopped
5 from marching. And therefore it was one of the more
6 organised and planned systems by SWP and others to
7 prevent the march from taking place. And these are
8 the tactics -- I can't remember these particular roads
9 or anything else like that, but these types of tactics
10 would have been discussed.
- 11 Q. And was the imperative to stop the march connected with
12 the sheer level of intimidation that came from
13 the National Front -- to quote another witness --
14 "swaggering" through this particular area?
- 15 A. Yeah, it was deliberately confrontational, in my belief.
16 And I don't think these situations would be allowed to
17 take place now. It was the full colour party who was
18 going to lead it, which was flags and drums and almost
19 military presence, and a great deal of taunting and
20 unpleasantness between the two groups.
- 21 Q. Paragraph 7 reads:
- 22 "Once the National Front march has passed Malpas
23 Road, SWP supporters will use all available transport to
24 travel to Lewisham Railway Station and reassemble in
25 Loampit Vale near to the junction with Thurston Road,

1 SE13. From this position they will further attack
2 the National Front march in Lewisham High Street."

3 Were you aware at this stage of events of any such
4 plan?

5 A. Certainly I can't remember the actual precise details,
6 something like that, but certainly there was plans for,
7 when finished at point A, to carry on like this, because
8 this is going to carry on.

9 Q. You tell us that you played some role in immediate
10 preparations for events on the day. Are we talking
11 about the night before?

12 A. The night before, yes.

13 Q. Who were you with? No names, please, unless they're
14 especially prominent members of the SWP?

15 A. I'm afraid I can't remember who actually went to -- to
16 the stewards' meeting with me. There was obviously
17 a lot from all over the area. I don't remember any
18 branch members that went with me. There must have been,
19 but I just don't remember who it was.

20 Q. So you've told us that you were appointed as a steward
21 for this event?

22 A. Yes, to look after the members of my own branch,
23 basically, to tell them what was going on, pass on
24 the information.

25 Q. How many stewards from your branch?

- 1 A. I -- I can't be specific. Probably half a dozen, but
2 I don't know.
- 3 Q. And how many of you went to Lewisham the night before?
- 4 A. I remember -- all I really remember about this, having
5 gone there and had the briefing, I was wandering around
6 on my own seeing what was being organised and working on
7 my own, for different reasons. I had a different
8 purpose for being there. So I detached myself from
9 anyone else who knew me, just walked up and down and
10 noted what was happening.
- 11 Q. When you say "noted what was happening", can you help us
12 with what it was you were noting?
- 13 A. Well, I think I'd put it -- another one that the --
14 there were certain elements, and I don't know if they
15 were SWP or other, who were placing piles of half-bricks
16 and other debris along the route, very often in
17 the front garden of people's houses, rather than on
18 the pavement, so that they wouldn't be picked up.
- 19 Q. Where was this material coming from?
- 20 A. I don't know. Any building site or -- I just don't
21 know. I saw them carrying it and placing it in various
22 locations. And indeed, when the march started, these --
23 these were hurled at the police and the National Front
24 colour party.
- 25 Q. Did you recognise any of the people who were carrying

1 out this activity?

2 A. When it was going on, no, I didn't recognise. It was
3 quite chaotic when it -- when it -- when the -- when it
4 was all kicking off. I'm afraid it was very high
5 profile.

6 Q. Well, at the moment I'm asking you about the night
7 before. Did you recognise --

8 A. Oh, no, no. These were -- I didn't know anybody.
9 They -- you were just walking up and down and talking.
10 You just saw these things being placed here, there and
11 the other -- I didn't interrupt it. I didn't want to
12 draw attention to myself in any way.

13 Q. Did you take anybody to this activity in your van?

14 A. No, I don't think so. I -- I don't remember who else
15 I went with.

16 Q. Did you participate in the stashing of bricks?

17 A. No. And I reported it as soon as possible, so that
18 people knew they were there.

19 Q. How did you report it?

20 A. By telephone.

21 Q. Where were the bricks being stashed, in terms of which
22 roads?

23 A. Along that main street. That's -- that's where -- where
24 I was located, along the main street. As they came out
25 the side street where they gathered -- I'm afraid

1 I can't remember the name of the road -- the first main
2 road where they came out with the drums going and the
3 flags flying.

4 Q. That's now the A2, the main road that leads --

5 A. From my memory of the A2, that would certainly be it,
6 but I -- I don't want to mislead by saying the wrong
7 road name.

8 Q. From New Cross into Deptford, as opposed to Lewisham Way
9 which joins -- (overspeaking) --

10 A. I think it was the area between -- (overspeaking) --

11 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- Lewisham?

12 A. -- between the two New Cross situations, or something.

13 Q. Between New Cross gate and New Cross Station?

14 A. I believe that's the area that I'm talking about.

15 Certainly I was working that area some time during
16 the night -- it was a long night.

17 Q. Why were they stashing bricks there if they thought the
18 march -- (overspeaking) --

19 A. I think -- (overspeaking) -- my understanding was all
20 the way along the route, wherever they were going, there
21 would be opposition.

22 Q. Did you do anything else on the reconnaissance?

23 A. Only trying to gather numbers, how -- how realistic
24 the claim that we saw -- we can see the sort of claims
25 that were being made at meetings and stuff -- to try and

1 help assist what the intentions were, the numbers
2 that were likely to come. If somebody had said, "Oh
3 yes, this organisation is also sending along
4 a significant turnout, it's an all London call-out or
5 national call-out" -- I can't remember all those
6 particular details, but all that I gathered were phoned
7 into the office, to accumulate all the information from
8 all the different sources, so that a realistic
9 assessment of what was likely to happen could be made.

10 Q. Can I go to the day of the event itself, 13 August.

11 There was, at the start of the day, a peaceful
12 demonstration organised by ALCARAF. Did you participate
13 in that?

14 A. No, I don't think -- no, I didn't.

15 Q. Where did you go?

16 A. Well, I think it had been a long night, and by the time
17 I came back I -- my memory of it is I then went to
18 the actual -- the main demonstration. I don't think
19 I was there in the morning.

20 Q. Can you recall whereabouts you were when the -- you
21 describe the march coming -- coming out -- essentially
22 out of its forming-up side road --

23 A. -- (overspeaking) --

24 Q. -- -- (overspeaking) -- the main road. Can you remember
25 where you were?

1 A. Probably within the first 200 yards of the main road
2 where -- where it was all just beginning to get started,
3 before the main body had swung into the -- into the --
4 into the road.

5 Q. Can you describe where you were and what you saw when
6 the march emerged from the side road?

7 A. I was on the pavement, at the barriers(?), and as they
8 came -- as they progressed, missiles started to fly.

9 Q. And at that point in the day, who was attacking who?

10 A. The -- various groups were opposing the National
11 Front march were doing the attacking. This -- because
12 at this stage it was still the flags flying and the
13 pretence that it was a -- some kind of patriotic march.

14 Q. Had you witnessed any violence before that point?

15 A. No, not there.

16 Q. Had you witnessed any violence earlier in the day when
17 the police came to try and clear the main road?

18 A. No, I wasn't there when the police tried any -- any such
19 activity.

20 Q. After the march had turned into the main road and was
21 proceeding through Deptford towards Blackheath, what did
22 you do?

23 A. Jeered and tried to gee up my comrades, and make sure
24 they knew what they were doing. The group I was with
25 were not hurling missiles, they were coming from other

1 groups behind. And just generally -- then -- then as
2 things became more chaotic, we just tried to keep some
3 sort of control and sense.

4 Q. Did you follow the march?

5 A. Following the march would -- would be -- would suggest
6 it was far more controlled than it was. It was chaos.
7 Certainly where we were. You'll recall, I'm sure, as
8 you saw from the photographs that were shown yesterday,
9 the police had no protective gear still at that time.
10 And the mounted branch took a complete hammering from
11 all these missiles coming down on just flat caps and
12 things like that. Once the band was stopped, then every
13 -- then everything came and the police were caught
14 between the two, and that started running confrontations
15 between two sides who were determined to have
16 a confrontation. And that continued for the rest of
17 the day over quite a wide area.

18 Q. Did you see any violence being perpetrated by members of
19 the far right?

20 A. They were -- once -- once -- once any pretence of
21 a real march had finished, they were -- they were up
22 for it, and they were ready to come -- yeah, they were
23 quite ready to come at the protesters.

24 Q. How close to the action did you stay?

25 A. Too close for my own comfort. But I was aware of

1 the instructions and things like that, so I didn't get
2 involved in any direct physical violence.

3 Q. Did you phone in or otherwise communicate intelligence
4 on events during the course of the day?

5 A. Not until the evening. It was -- it wouldn't have been
6 an easy thing to do.

7 Q. How did you discharge your stewarding duties?

8 A. After -- after the initial attacks and things like that,
9 I think it was pretty much everybody was looking after
10 themselves and doing what they wanted to do. I remember
11 I got separated from others, or whether I'd separated
12 myself I can't remember, and made my own lonely way back
13 at the end of the evening.

14 Q. Can we look now, please, at the document at tab 22,
15 which is {MPS/733367}.

16 This is quite a long report submitted by a chief
17 inspector. It's not marked specifically as an SDS
18 report, and it covers events on the day generally. Are
19 you able to help us with whether or not you contributed
20 to this report at all?

21 A. It would have been indirect. My -- there would have
22 been a composite report put in. Obviously there was
23 a great deal of concern and investigation and review of
24 what had happened on the day. So my comments about, for
25 example, and -- my comments about weaponry being --

1 being placed on the route and yet no -- no real activity
2 to prevent it being used would have come some -- I'm not
3 fully aware of the full report, but would have gone into
4 the review somewhere along the line.

5 Q. We -- I mean, I'll be corrected no doubt by your legal
6 team if I'm wrong about this, but we can't find any
7 reference to that.

8 A. Well --

9 Q. -- in the report -- (overspeaking) --

10 A. There may be a very good reason for that, insofar as
11 looking at this, this was -- for my information to go
12 in, it would have reclassified the document, and
13 therefore its circulation would have been more
14 restricted. So perhaps this is a confidential version
15 that was passed around, excluding any information that
16 would be classified as secret, which of course would
17 have caused the change in classification.

18 Q. This particular report, might there be another potential
19 explanation, namely that if you didn't report until
20 the evening, and this report is dated the 13th --

21 A. Ah --

22 Q. -- whether it would have got in in time?

23 A. Indeed, that may have been done straight away, because
24 on such activities many people asked the Commissioner,
25 who asked the others just what the heck happened --

1 Q. Can we take that down and have a -- (overspeaking) --
2 sorry, did you want to say something?

3 A. No, I think I finished the point, to be honest.

4 Q. If we could take that down and look at tab 23, please,
5 which is {MPS/733369}.

6 Now, this is a report dated 23 August 1977, and
7 the subject is a debriefing, Lewisham, 13 August 1977.
8 It's under the name of a superintendent.

9 Paragraph 1 reads:

10 "A de-briefing of the eighteen Special Branch
11 officers on duty in Lewisham on 13 August 1977 was held
12 in Special Branch under the chairmanship of
13 Superintendent [redacted]. Personal accounts and views
14 of these officers on all aspects of the day's events
15 were discussed at length and the following analysis of
16 the material obtained attempts to define the tactics of
17 demonstrators and to examine the effectiveness of police
18 action to neutralise them."

19 I don't want you to name anyone else who may have
20 taken part in this exercise, but did you take part in
21 this debriefing?

22 A. Not that I recall direct -- directly. For the 18
23 officers, this is obviously a lot of officers who are
24 not SDS officers, normal Special Branch officers who
25 were covering the demonstration.

1 Q. Are you able to help us with whether or not the SDS was
2 involved in this debriefing?

3 A. Certainly SDS information was presented at a very high
4 level, but not by me.

5 Q. And did you -- if it was presented by someone at a high
6 level, what was your role in contributing to what was
7 presented?

8 A. We'd have had the discussion beforehand. But the pure
9 logistics of getting a large number of SDS officers into
10 a place where you could discuss it with the senior
11 uniformed officers and the potential risk to your own
12 security, the breach of your own safety, and everything
13 else like that, meant that only a number -- I think two
14 representatives went to discuss it at a very high level.
15 That's -- that's my recollection.

16 But obviously the -- as a group and with our -- our
17 SDS management, we'd -- we'd have discussed it. And of
18 course, we'd have explained we were very disappointed
19 that a lot of what we said seemed to have been ignored,
20 and that turned into a very violent situation.

21 I believe I'm right in saying it's the first time
22 shields and safety equipment were deployed on
23 the mainland. It was a turning point for public order
24 in this country.

25 Q. Could we look -- bearing your comments in mind, could we

1 look, please, at page 2, {MPS/733369/2}, at subparagraph
2 (iv). It's just a little bit above that, please,
3 subparagraph (iv). Thank you. Under the subheading,
4 "Hooliganism", it says:

5 "Lewisham cannot be said to be immune from this
6 social impediment and of course the arrest of
7 the Lewisham 21 was the catalyst for several recent
8 political demonstrations. On 13 August there is no
9 doubt that a large number of coloured hooligans were
10 enjoying the chance to indulge themselves, not only
11 under the umbrella of political agitation but elsewhere,
12 in the anticipation that areas in Lewisham and New Cross
13 would probably be unpoliced."

14 To your mind, how accurate a description is that?

15 A. The language is rather fixed in the 1970s. The policy
16 that other people would get involved to take
17 the opportunity is fairly routine and standard when
18 things have gone to a riot situation.

19 Q. Would you and your colleagues in the safe house have
20 discussed events at the Battle of Lewisham?

21 A. I think we did discuss it. The first -- the first thing
22 we -- we did was phone each other up and make sure we
23 all got back all right. I remember that.

24 Q. Presumably it was a very big deal and would have been
25 the source of quite a lot of conversation?

1 A. Yeah. And because it wasn't just -- it wasn't just
2 the SWP out who were there, so -- so there was a large
3 SDS presence, if I recall correctly; a significant
4 number would have been there. Because any group that
5 was called, knowing that it's this type of event, that's
6 exactly what the SDS were there to -- to assist with.

7 Q. And can you recall any conversation along the lines of
8 the frustrations that you personally have ventilated
9 about your intelligence not being used?

10 A. I think to be specific is difficult. I think several of
11 us were amazed that having given the information we
12 gave, and pointing out that if they went a different
13 route, they would bypass an awful lot of the planned
14 confrontation and could still have a -- make their point
15 and then -- there would have still been confrontation
16 but it would not have been as organised and planned --
17 a couple of us had suggested just go a different route.
18 And all such information was completely ignored. It was
19 as if we hadn't put any information in at all. There --
20 there was obviously a view that the Metropolitan Police
21 can ensure that demonstrations will take place along
22 the agreed lines, since it was not illegal for them to
23 have that march.

24 Q. In terms of the discussions in the safe house about this
25 event, you've already described the passage I've read as

1 being couched in language of the 1970s. Was
2 the discussion that took place in the safe house couched
3 in the language of the 1970s?

4 A. I -- I suppose to a certain extent you have to say
5 yeah -- I mean, we've all changed the way that we talk
6 over the last 40 years, and phrases that were acceptable
7 and commonplace then are now completely not allowed to
8 be used, or you would not choose to use them; and you
9 wouldn't feel comfortable using them. I mean, I think
10 this is of a particular style that was -- that was
11 unusual even then, but I just point out this, that
12 I don't think it's the phrases that we would use as an
13 SDS report.

14 Q. Would you have used the word "coloured"?

15 A. I -- no, I'm pretty sure "coloured" had gone out of my
16 lexicon by then. You'd -- you'd have chosen some kind
17 of other -- other phrase to identify "local hooligans"
18 or "support of the Lewisham 21", or whatever.
19 "Coloured" was a phrase I think was already going out of
20 fashion, but of course some people at the older range of
21 the service were probably still using it.

22 Q. We have seen SDS reports which use the word "coloured".
23 So is that a word that might have been used in the SDS
24 safe house after the Battle of Lewisham?

25 A. I -- I can't say it wasn't, but I certainly don't

1 remember it being used. I mean, that's a very hard
2 question to answer, if I might say so.

3 Q. Was the view that the hooligans had been enjoying
4 the chance to indulge themselves?

5 A. I'm reading this, and I would suggest that's certainly
6 being suggested, yes.

7 Q. What I'm asking is, was that the view within
8 the SDS house?

9 A. I think our conversation was much more around what our
10 organisations did on the day, rather than local
11 inhabitants who got involved. This -- anything like
12 this would have come from other SB officers not part of
13 the SDS, who had been monitoring the events.

14 Q. I understand that this particular document may not have
15 come straight from the SDS, but what I'm asking is
16 whether the same view was shared by those of you who
17 were in the SDS?

18 A. I don't remember it being discussed in -- in those
19 terms, but it -- but the general tenor of it, that
20 locals would get involved in areas where police were
21 already involved elsewhere, that would be right. But as
22 far as this particular event is concerned, I don't
23 remember.

24 Q. Was there comment about groups of black youths becoming
25 involved in the violence?

1 A. I find that hard to answer after 40 years. I think we'd
2 have probably said locals got involved as well, it
3 wasn't just party members. But if you're asking, as
4 I believe you are, what precise language was being used
5 at the time, then I find that very difficult to answer.

6 Q. I'm asking not just about the language but also about
7 the understanding. Was it the understanding that these
8 black youths were enjoying the chance to indulge
9 themselves?

10 A. I didn't know that, but other officers may have done.

11 Q. Well, what was your -- how would you have described what
12 black youths were doing on the day -- (overspeaking) --

13 A. -- (overspeaking) -- I would say that the political
14 groups under there were supported after -- after things
15 happened by locals coming -- coming out and joining in
16 the general chaos and mayhem.

17 Q. And why were they doing that?

18 A. Ah ... to make a point, on one level. I mean, any group
19 of youths, there will be those who enjoy the violence
20 and confrontation against opposites, whether it's a day
21 like this, or as you know full well, going on at the
22 same time, you had football crowds doing exactly
23 the same thing. There was an element of youth that
24 enjoyed getting involved in confrontation.

25 Q. When you say "to make a point", what point do you mean?

1 A. That either the National Front shouldn't be allowed to
2 march through -- through the district, or that police
3 were incapable of controlling the streets. One of these
4 types of points. I'm -- you're -- you're asking me to
5 speculate on views of people I don't know.

6 Q. Did you have any sense that what was going on was real
7 burning anger?

8 A. There was a great deal of anger from a lot of people,
9 and an even greater feeling that the National Front
10 should not be allowed to march in such manner.

11 Q. Can we move on now to -- take that down, please, and
12 look at the document at tab 25, which is {UCPI/11196}.

13 This is a document dated not long after
14 the Battle of Lewisham, 26 August, about a meeting on
15 17 August at the Crown Public House, with which
16 I understand you were very familiar?

17 A. Indeed.

18 Q. I'm interested in paragraph 4:

19 "It was concluded that the main tactic of the now
20 beaten and retreating National Front would be individual
21 intimidation. Following a lengthy discussion on this
22 issue, several comrades decided that they would arm
23 themselves with catapults and ball bearings for use in
24 the event of personal attacks."

25 First of all, is this intelligence that you would

- 1 have reported?
- 2 A. I believe so, certainly.
- 3 Q. It's couched in language which suggests that this was
4 a proposal for the purposes of self-defence; is that
5 fair?
- 6 A. It was -- as I recall, it was being prepared for
7 the backlash.
- 8 Q. And to your knowledge, did anyone actually arm
9 themselves with a catapult and ball bearings?
- 10 A. To the best of my knowledge, not one person did. There
11 was often a great deal of rhetoric and language that was
12 much stronger than the action that followed.
- 13 Q. Can we take that down, please.
- 14 I want to move next to the Ilford by-election in
15 1978. Can you recall that?
- 16 A. I do, Sir.
- 17 Q. There's a document in the bundle which we may not need
18 to turn up, which talks about there being
19 anti-National Front work. Were you involved in any of
20 the attempts to disrupt the National Front's election
21 campaign in Ilford in 1978?
- 22 A. I certainly attended picketing of -- I think it was
23 the town hall, where they were holding an election
24 meeting. And we were picketing the outside of that to
25 express our discomfort with the fact they were allowed

1 to hold the meeting there.

2 Q. Was there any violence?

3 A. It was -- it was quite strongly policed, so the -- so

4 there was some pushing and shoving. But there was no

5 confrontation when I was there, or I'm aware of, between

6 left and right, violence -- I think it was policed in

7 such a manner that that couldn't happen.

8 Q. Can I move now to Southall and 23 April 1979. This is

9 the demonstration at which Blair Peach met with fatal

10 injuries?

11 A. I remember it.

12 Q. Were you present at that demonstration?

13 A. No, Southall was a long way away and there wasn't

14 a call-out that I recall.

15 Q. Did you get involved with Blair Peach's funeral?

16 A. No. Sorry, could you remind me of the date for that?

17 Q. 23 April 1979.

18 A. No, I don't remember Blair Peach's funeral.

19 Q. Did you report on the justice campaign for Blair Peach?

20 A. I'd have reported on anything that was being spoken

21 about amongst the people I did mix with. So if somebody

22 had gone there as a delegate or as a member and came

23 back and said, "This is what's happening," I would

24 report that. I didn't go and attend the meetings

25 myself.

1 It may -- may assist. I don't know if other SDS
2 members were going there. And if other -- others were
3 there, you didn't over-support such meetings. There's
4 no need for you to go there; there's no benefit. And
5 there's quite a lot to do when you're out there anyway.

6 Q. Can you recall any discussions at the safe house about
7 Blair Peach's death?

8 A. I don't recall anything in particular. I think there
9 was obviously a great deal of discomfort that
10 the incident had led to the death of anybody. And you
11 had to think, one of the reasons we were out there was
12 to try and ensure that events were correctly policed and
13 therefore minimum harm to anyone, and clearly something
14 had gone wrong. So yeah, there had been some reflection
15 upon it. And also, perhaps more pertinently, what we
16 thought we were there -- what the reaction would be
17 around the Capital.

18 Q. I've been asking you about violence between the extreme
19 left and extreme right. I'm going to move now to
20 violence by the extreme right against other people.

21 But perhaps, Sir, that's something we could pick up
22 after the break?

23 A. As you -- whatever want.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, did you say something?

25 A. I just said, Sir, whatever you wish. I'm happy to carry

1 on, or I'll stop now, if someone needs to --

2 THE CHAIRMAN: We have to have quarter of an hour breaks for
3 the shorthand writers.

4 A. Of course, and I was being unsympathetic, I apologise.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I think you may have been.

6 Can you be back in quarter of an hour?

7 A. Thanks.

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

11 The time is now 4.45 pm, so we shall reconvene at
12 5 pm. Thank you.

13 (4.45 pm)

14 (A short break)

15 (5.00 pm)

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

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

19 Chairman.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 Mr Barr.

22 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

23 354, as I said, we're moving on to the question of
24 attacks by the far right on members of the public.

25 There's a report in the pack talking about the SWP's

1 defence work and organising a rota of people to stay
2 with a couple, a black girl and her Jewish boyfriend, to
3 protect them from attacks from the National Front.

4 Can you recall that?

5 A. No, I only read it in the report. I don't really recall
6 it, the actual event.

7 Q. Is it right, though, that there were attacks by
8 the National Front on people who were Jewish or black,
9 aimed at intimidating them?

10 A. Absolutely, or any other minority faction of any kind.

11 Q. And that the SWP did organise defence work to protect
12 them?

13 A. Certainly individuals would do whatever they could, yes.

14 Q. And did that include other activities such as removing
15 graffiti that had been put up by the National Front?

16 A. I'm unaware that that ever happened, but it wouldn't
17 surprise me if it did.

18 Q. There is another report in the bundle. We can turn it
19 up. It's tab 58 {UCPI/13063}. If we go over the page
20 to page 2, {UCPI/13063/2}.

21 In fairness, this is actually a part of the report
22 that's about the Anti-Nazi League, but at the bottom of
23 the -- the very bottom of the page, the last paragraph
24 about the Anti-Nazi League:

25 "The group's current activities consist of slogan

1 painting, 'fly-posting', elimination of 'Nazi' based
2 graffiti and trying to recruit persons who have
3 expressed sympathy with the policies of the League."

4 Is that the sort of thing that SWP members might
5 have participated in?

6 A. Yes, I'd say it's entirely feasible. I -- I never got
7 involved with any removal of graffiti myself.

8 Q. And might it also include replacing that with the ANL's
9 or the SWP's own graffiti; is that fair?

10 A. I would have expected that.

11 Q. In your experience during your time with the SWP, did
12 their defence work ever spill over into vigilantism?

13 A. No, I think that would be a -- I think that would be
14 a -- just -- just a shade too far to say that they would
15 go to be in vigilantism.

16 There were people who were prepared to oppose them
17 wherever they came across them, even if they weren't
18 supported. The -- I think it's important to express
19 the depth of feeling against -- against fascist groups
20 that many members had. This wasn't just random
21 hooliganism, they really believed that
22 the National Front had to be stopped, and that
23 the prospect of them gaining any greater power would be
24 dreadful for all.

25 Q. Thank you.

1 Can we take the document down, please.

2 Do you think that your work reporting on the SWP did
3 anything to protect members of the public from attacks
4 by the far right?

5 A. Not -- not, I suppose, if you're talking about random
6 attacks on individual people; that would be claiming too
7 much. But it -- but I suppose, to some degree, my
8 involvement and I think -- sorry, I'm not expressing
9 myself well -- would have generated more -- more
10 enthusiasm for the general combat -- combating
11 the extreme right. So, as a direct consequence, again,
12 individual attacks very unlikely. Obviously there were
13 certain times you got involved in individual
14 confrontations yourself and things like that, because
15 I looked different. But I'm not sure how, in
16 the greater scheme of things, that would have stopped
17 the right wing from progressing -- the extreme right
18 wing from progressing.

19 Q. Can we move now to Ireland and the SWP; and can we start
20 by looking at the document at tab 13, which is
21 {UCPI/17571}.

22 This is dated 15 July 1977. It's a report, as we
23 see from paragraph 2, please -- if we could have that
24 zoomed in onto:

25 "On Wednesday 6 July 1977, from 8.15 pm to 10.30 pm,

1 at the Rose and Crown Public House, Hoe Street, E17,
2 the Walthamstow Branch of the Socialist Workers Party
3 held its regular weekly meeting. About 30 persons were
4 present."

5 So is that likely to be one of your reports?

6 A. I would say almost certainly.

7 Q. If we go over the page {UCPI/17571/2}, and I'm looking
8 for subparagraph (viii), which is near the bottom of
9 the page. If that could be blown up, please.

10 This is in a list of the chief points raised. It
11 says:

12 "The SWP restated its support for
13 the Provisional IRA but remained critical of that
14 organisation's policy of random bombing of working class
15 people."

16 Now, that is very different from saying they were
17 critical of bombing; it's confined to the "random
18 bombing of working class people".

19 From your experience of spending three years
20 infiltrating the SWP, what was the SWP's house line on
21 the Provisional IRA?

22 A. My recollection is -- is that they would support Irish
23 republicanism by -- by the means -- the fact that there
24 would be conflict against the British oppressors would
25 be another reflection of what would happen anyway as

1 a new society emerged.

2 They were very critical of the fact that random
3 bombings in cities and city centres, shopping centres
4 and stuff like that, were wrong. But as I recall -- and
5 I didn't get heavily involved in the Irish side of it --
6 they would not be so critical of military targets.

7 Q. I'm not going to mince my words. What was the SWP's
8 line on, for example, the murder of soldiers?

9 A. It was inevitable and it was -- and acceptable.

10 Q. The Royal Ulster Constabulary?

11 A. Despised.

12 Q. Murdering them?

13 A. Well, it was just part of the reaction.

14 I'm not saying that the SWP had anybody that would
15 -- would be able to do that, or anything else like that,
16 but the -- the stated support would be unequivocal. But
17 they supported all sorts of activities which they --
18 which time showed they didn't actually have the ability
19 to pursue.

20 Q. And what was the level of individual support for that
21 house line?

22 A. I think it was accepted that -- that as expressed there,
23 that was -- that was the party line and individual --
24 I don't remember anybody saying that they had any
25 different view. There were other left wing groups that

1 supported the IRA more positively, but not the ones
2 I was directly involved with.

3 Q. So, can we take that down and look, please, at
4 the document at tab 40, which is {UCPI/11803}.

5 This is a report dated 9 February 1978. It's about
6 an event at the North London Polytechnic, which speakers
7 included Eamonn McCann and also Tony Cliff. Were you
8 present at this event, as far as you can recall?

9 A. I don't believe I was. Not from those speakers.

10 Q. I'll put the points to you anyway. Say if you're able
11 to assist.

12 I'm interested, first of all, at the bottom of
13 paragraph 3. I'm afraid it's -- the document is of
14 appalling copy quality. But Eamonn McCann is recorded
15 towards the bottom of paragraph 3 as saying:

16 "He called on all revolutionaries in this country to
17 give unqualified support to the Provisional IRA, which
18 was proving itself to be the only effective
19 anti-imperialist force on either side of the border in
20 Ireland."

21 Is that the sort of view that some speakers might
22 have articulated at events which either held by or
23 supported by the SWP?

24 A. I think that would be expected. After -- after
25 the event, there would probably be a meeting to say, can

1 we give it such unqualified -- there would be
2 the revision, as they call it. As each party did, they
3 interpreted everything like that. The general principle
4 that left wing groups would support the Provisional IRA
5 I think was always accepted. It's just some of
6 the methods they were employing in the 70s did not sit
7 well with the party.

8 Q. And if we could go over the page to paragraph 6, please,
9 we do see a slightly different view being articulated by
10 Tony Cliff. {UCPI/11803/2}.

11 A. You'll have to read it to me, if you can. I'm afraid
12 I can't make --

13 Q. I'll do my best.

14 From about halfway down paragraph 6:

15 "... recognise the Irish struggle as a class
16 struggle and not merely as anti-British and troops out
17 of Ireland campaign. The IRA had alienated British
18 working class support by setting off bombs in London and
19 Birmingham thereby killing British workers. He thought
20 that they had not now ..."

21 I'm afraid I'm really struggling with this:

22 "... how now then [something] and hoped there would
23 be no further attacks on the mainland."

24 Is that the sort of --

25 THE CHAIRMAN: "Seen their error".

1 MR BARR: "Seen their error", thank you, Sir.

2 Is that the sort of qualification on the view that
3 I read out earlier that was being made?

4 A. Very much so. Tony Cliff was the -- one of
5 the theoretical gurus of the whole party. If I remember
6 correctly, a founder member in -- in the first place.
7 I'm not too sure on that. And certainly that would be
8 the -- the express line.

9 Q. Thank you.

10 Can we now move on from Ireland to the question of
11 positions of responsibility that you assumed during your
12 deployment.

13 A. Of course.

14 Q. You were the district treasurer at one point, weren't
15 you?

16 A. I was at one stage, yeah.

17 Q. And what information did that give you access to?

18 A. Membership list, home addresses, contact phone numbers.
19 I think that's pretty much all. A few might have had
20 bank details, but not many.

21 Q. And would I be right to understand your attitude to
22 having that post and that information was that it was,
23 from a policing point of view, fantastic?

24 A. Yeah. It gave you an accurate idea of how many people
25 were actually there, instead of just guessing or things

1 like that. And you could see by the frequency of
2 contribution, to a certain extent, the involvement.
3 Obviously there were those who couldn't afford to pay
4 subs, but you would soon get to know those. So you
5 would have a -- a very clear idea very quickly of where
6 people were.

7 And of course it gave you justification on knocking
8 on any door at any time to talk to anybody if you wanted
9 to find anything else out.

10 Q. Why did the police want that information?

11 A. Well, knowing the size of -- of the group which you're
12 monitoring is -- is critical. I mean, is it worth
13 monitoring, would be the first thing. Some of
14 the breakaway groups that we'd had had slowly died
15 a death, and this was a way of indicating the virility
16 of the organisation.

17 Q. You are recorded as having resigned because of a period
18 of disorder and ineffectiveness. Can you help us with
19 what the disorder and ineffectiveness was?

20 A. That was fairly late in my secondment, as I -- as
21 I recall. To be brutally honest, I can't. I resigned
22 on the grounds that whoever it was resigned with me told
23 me that I was going to have to resign because we were
24 forming a different view. I was politically naive even
25 at that stage, and said, "I'll go -- if that's what you

1 want us to do, I'll go along, I'm a member of the branch
2 and will stick with the branch." I don't think we
3 expressed it in quite those terms.

4 There was, as there seems to be continuously in
5 the Trotskyist groups of the 70s, a constant vying for
6 authority, power, control. So that any of these things
7 would be going on, and you would just -- you would go
8 with such a split, in case it formed into yet another
9 organisation or such a structure; or indeed you had to
10 apologise and come back. It was one of the ways of
11 monitoring what was going on.

12 The fact that I didn't understand the full basis of
13 what the dispute was didn't seem to matter to anybody.

14 Q. What was your attitude to all of that?

15 A. I -- I -- all I can really remember about it was I was
16 surprised it had got so far; and if they thought it was
17 a good idea that we -- that we resigned, then I'd
18 resign.

19 Q. Did it bother you, from your perspective, that you were
20 losing access to important -- what you regarded as
21 important intelligence?

22 A. No, I think you have to move on. Things like that --
23 that, a pretty fair picture had been gained, and if
24 there was something else happening there, it was our job
25 to -- to monitor and see what else was happening in

1 the organisation.

2 Q. You were also the branch treasurer, weren't you?

3 A. I was a branch treasurer, yeah.

4 Q. You talk about -- in your statement about one of
5 the advantages of being a treasurer being that it gave
6 you an opportunity to go round to see where people lived
7 and the circumstances in which they lived; is that
8 right?

9 A. Well, certainly -- certainly to meet them there. I'm
10 not sure about the circumstances. I mean, if they were
11 long-term unemployed or something and couldn't afford
12 the subs, it would tell you that, but, yes, it gave --
13 and you could meet them. People who were -- had become
14 less active or whatever, you would -- you would have
15 that, and you'd -- so you'd know a wider group of
16 people. And you might find out that some of them were
17 more involved in a different aspect. For example,
18 anti-Nazi work rather than just SWP work; they might
19 have swung their enthusiasm and energy in that
20 direction.

21 Q. Was that an opportunity that arose both as a result of
22 being a branch treasurer and district treasurer, or
23 was it limited to one of those roles?

24 A. Well, I think -- obviously being a district treasurer
25 you could go further afield. You'd have justification

1 for calling on an address well beyond the remit of what
2 the Walthamstow one would be -- (overspeaking) --

3 Q. As I'd understood it, you'd thought it gave you an
4 opportunity to report on people's living arrangements?

5 A. Well, if -- yes, you might -- might well be saying that
6 living with four other active members of the party, or
7 something similar that might be of use.

8 Very often, if I might sidetrack slightly, you
9 didn't necessarily know the value of what you were
10 putting in. We were at the rawest end of just grabbing
11 the information, and things like that. When it got
12 entered into the machine, if you like, that turned
13 around and gave it some assessment, that you'd actually
14 know its true value. We -- we were just harvesting
15 whatever we could and letting others analyse.

16 Q. Could you give us your best estimate of the proportion
17 of the Walthamstow Branch whose homes you visited?

18 A. Oh, in direct connection with their subs, as it were?
19 Or just any reason at all?

20 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- at all.

21 A. For any reason at all, I would say almost everyone of
22 those that I would call active and a fair number of
23 those who had been active or at least signed up.

24 Q. As a result of through being the treasurer?

25 A. Yeah, and -- and being one of the more active ones,

1 I was also asked to go out with some other comrades when
2 a member of the public, uncommitted, had filled in
3 the contact slip on the newspaper of going to
4 the headquarters, that wanted to come down to
5 the branch -- say, "Go and knock on the door and see if
6 you can persuade them to" -- or invite them along,
7 things like that. So a couple of times I would go along
8 in support of the member who was actually tasked with
9 trying to bring them along.

10 Q. Would you file a report about a person who was
11 interested in the SWP but not yet a member?

12 A. Probably not. You'd probably wait until -- depending on
13 the type of response you got, if -- if they said, "Oh
14 yes, I'm really fed up with the IMG, I want to come
15 across," which would not happen, but something like
16 that, then that would come in. But if it's just, as
17 many were, students showing an interest, and that was
18 the sum total of their activity as far as I was aware,
19 then you wouldn't bother.

20 Q. And can you answer the same question about
21 the proportion of members' homes that you visited for
22 the Leyton and Leytonstone branch?

23 A. Certainly three-quarters, I'd have thought, over
24 the time. But as I wasn't part of that branch, then it
25 was more, did you meet for, you know, whatever reason.

- 1 Not necessarily in connection with the treasurer,
2 I mean. I'm sorry, I'm not very clear there.
- 3 Q. Overall, are you saying it was about three-quarters?
4 A. Yeah, because you were out -- I mean, you were out there
5 every night of the week; there was a reason to visit
6 people and things like that. You got to know them.
7 There's no point in trying to report on an organisation
8 unless you know its members.
- 9 Q. And could you help us with the proportion of homes of
10 members of the Walthamstow district that you would have
11 visited?
12 A. It would -- I suppose it would be a composite of
13 the two: it would still be about three-quarters of
14 the whole lot. I definitely showed a diminution in
15 interest as time went on.
- 16 Q. Can you help us with whether you got any management
17 reaction from being able to report so extensively on
18 this district and its composite branches?
19 A. I don't believe there was any particular one. I think
20 it was almost expected that if we're out there, we'll
21 get the information. If you weren't getting
22 the information, the question would be: why are you out
23 there?
- 24 Q. You served on the social committee of the Outer East
25 London District --

- 1 A. (inaudible) -- I was placed on that, yes.
- 2 Q. What did that involve?
- 3 A. Virtually nothing, as far as I was concerned. There
4 were people involved (inaudible) social events. I said,
5 "Thanks for putting me on it." Again, it was part of
6 their development of me; I was put on it, but I don't
7 think I ever arranged anything.
- 8 Q. And you chaired meetings from time to time; is that
9 right?
- 10 A. Yes, as time goes on -- I tried to avoid it, in all
11 honesty. But there were those certain members who
12 wanted to develop me as a representative of the party,
13 and therefore being able to chair meetings and control
14 the scene is one of those steps forward. So -- so they
15 started asking me to chair meetings, and after a while
16 it was very difficult -- apart from not doing it very
17 well, it was very difficult not to do it.
- 18 Q. Did that give you control over things like points of
19 order?
- 20 A. It would have done, but to be honest the meetings
21 weren't structured along those ways, it was much more
22 relaxed. I don't remember anybody saying -- raising
23 a point of order or -- it -- it was much less
24 formalised. It was mainly you -- you just whatever
25 the topic was, you'd introduce a speaker and remind

1 people to pay their subs, and then come out with
2 the announcements, if any had come from the centre.

3 Q. Would you have any control over the agenda?

4 A. It would be wrong to say you had no control, but of
5 course an awful lot of it was centrally controlled. And
6 you know, the centre would have said these are the
7 things that are happening this week, so you'd make --
8 you'd make -- there would be bulletins coming -- coming
9 from the centre; you'd make members aware.

10 Q. What was the attitude of your managers to you assuming
11 positions of responsibility?

12 A. I think it was they're -- they're quite relaxed: if you
13 think you can do it and you think it would work, then go
14 ahead and do it; we're not instructing you to do it;
15 it's up to you to find your own way in whatever
16 organisation. And of course, different branches varied
17 quite dramatically as well.

18 Q. Were they pleased when you did obtain a position of
19 responsibility which enabled you to access more
20 information than you otherwise would have been able to
21 obtain?

22 A. I -- I think -- I go back to the point, I think they
23 thought I was doing my job; and that's what they wanted
24 me to -- they wanted information, and that's one way of
25 getting it. Had there been another way of getting it,

1 as long as they got the information, we were doing what
2 we were expected to do. As I say, we were all out
3 there, very individualistic, and acting on your own
4 reactions all the time at this stage, so it was up to
5 you to find your own path.

6 Q. Did you ever have any concerns that you might be
7 influencing the course of the group at all?

8 A. I don't think my political -- or my lack of political
9 nous influenced any of them.

10 Q. I'm thinking in terms of from your position of
11 responsibility, with responsibility for its finances,
12 responsibility for its social events. Surely that gave
13 you some influence over what was happening?

14 A. I suppose some influence, but I don't -- I don't think
15 it necessarily had a huge -- I don't think I could have
16 changed -- could have changed any of their perspectives
17 on -- on any particular issue. I soon found out that
18 there was no great concern whether they paid their subs
19 or not, or anything else like that. Everything was
20 quite casual, to be honest.

21 Q. Can I move now to the question of revolution.

22 A. Right.

23 Q. The SWP openly broadcast that its long-term aim is to
24 change the system to a socialist one. Was your
25 experience that the members of the SWP that you were

1 mixing with felt that a revolution was coming any time
2 soon?

3 A. I think "soon" would be optimistic. The -- those who
4 did consider it were considering that you still need to
5 develop the awareness of the working class, and keep
6 developing that, and that the country wasn't yet ready
7 for it. What they did openly say was that there was no
8 path to a truly socialist society by democratic means.

9 Q. And what was anticipated so far as violence was
10 concerned?

11 A. I think, to be honest, the vast majority just saw that
12 as something in the future that may or may not happen.
13 "Eventually there will have to be", or "we can expect
14 the state to respond, and we will have to be more robust
15 in our actions". But for the vast majority, I began to
16 realise that there was an awful lot talked about and
17 very little action in that direction.

18 Q. Is what you're saying that some anticipated that there
19 might need to be a violent climax to the revolutionary
20 process?

21 A. I think if you -- if you really boiled down and could
22 push somebody far enough along the line, then they --
23 some would probably say that. But I think they were far
24 more interested in building the working class movement,
25 in order to generate an attitude whereby a new society

- 1 could be formed.
- 2 Q. And was one of the aims which might not require violence
3 changing the system through a general strike?
- 4 A. General strike would be seen as one of the ways of -- of
5 gaining the impetus towards -- towards long-term change,
6 yes, of course. And working with the industrial base
7 and -- and the workers, then that would be one of
8 the tools that could be used quite effectively.
- 9 Q. There are some reports from a speaker who had come from
10 Chile, which talk about the need to arm, and not being
11 able to take on the armed forces, and so forth. In your
12 experience, did the SWP, where you were infiltrating it,
13 take any steps at all to arm itself for revolutionary
14 purposes?
- 15 A. No, but at least I knew that.
- 16 Q. Is it right that acts of individual violence were
17 positively discouraged by the SWP?
- 18 A. Yes, I think -- yes, I think that would be a fair
19 comment.
- 20 Q. Is it right that there was a good deal of what might be
21 described as local, community-based campaigning? We've
22 heard evidence about, for example, an anti-Jubilee
23 picnic and a campaign against price rises in
24 Sainsbury's. Is that the sort of thing that the SWP
25 spent quite a lot of its time organising and supporting?

1 A. Yeah, there were a number of small campaigns that -- it
2 seemed to me that if a particular group of members felt
3 particularly strongly about, then they would roll their
4 activity up and wrap it up in -- in the label.

5 The anti-Jubilee thing was much more of a national
6 activity by the SWP and one of their more successful
7 campaigns, to be honest.

8 Q. Can I move now to your reporting on individuals. One
9 line of your reporting is reporting on people's bank
10 accounts; is that right?

11 A. If -- if I -- if -- if I came across a bank account,
12 I would report it, yes.

13 Q. And was that kind of information routinely sought by
14 Special Branch?

15 A. I don't know about routinely sought. Certainly, if it
16 became available, it was gathered. If, for example, in
17 the long term, you -- you were having to look for
18 somebody, which is what the -- the longer term point of
19 having the intelligence was, you know, at the end, you
20 may have to take action, somebody may have to take
21 action, by having such details as that you'd know where
22 they were, because people take their money with them,
23 for example. So there was always a purpose on this.
24 This wasn't just a case of: let's have this because it's
25 nice to have it. It's because these individuals had

1 been identified by Security Services as people who
2 were -- who were worthy of watching and therefore
3 "worthy of watching" means knowing where they are and
4 how to get hold of them.

5 Q. Like a number of your colleagues, some of your reports
6 refer to children. Can I take it there was no
7 prohibition or guidance on or about reporting on
8 children?

9 A. Well, the report would go in to identify that the person
10 had children, or something like that, and sit there.
11 The children wouldn't have files opened on them or
12 anything else like that. It's just more colour to
13 the picture of the -- of the main target.

14 Q. Are you sure that files wouldn't have been opened on
15 children? We heard --

16 A. It depends on the age of the child. I think we might
17 be -- I might have been taking a younger child than
18 you're considering. Certainly when you're getting to 15
19 and 16-year olds, some of those would be considered if
20 -- if they were being sufficiently active to be worthy
21 of a bit more attention.

22 Q. Does that mean opening a file?

23 A. Eventually. I -- I mean -- and some -- and in terms
24 of -- this was a hugely paper-driven system, and -- and
25 the fact that you opened a file actually reduced hugely

1 the amount of paperwork that was involved. I mean,
2 I won't go into the huge filing processes, but it
3 actually made everything a lot quicker and -- and
4 structures and that. So if somebody was constantly
5 being referred to in all sorts of purposes, then they'd
6 probably get a file number, purely and simply because it
7 structured everything better. That would then be
8 reviewed after -- well, it was up to the person who
9 opened the file. Normally the Chief Inspector rank
10 would review it after 12 months, and if no longer
11 relevant, for example, that activity, would order its
12 destruction.

13 Q. But if a child was of sufficient relevance, being
14 reported on enough, it follows, does it, that that might
15 lead to a file being opened?

16 A. It would take an awful lot, but I wouldn't say it was
17 impossible. I can't think of any examples where it
18 happened. You may have -- have one from other sources.
19 I can't think of anyone where that -- their activity was
20 sufficiently great, as a child, to generate a file.

21 Q. One of your reports about the newly formed
22 Waltham Forest District includes a reference to an
23 individual as an "aggressive homosexual". I think in
24 your witness statement, if I've understood it correctly,
25 you're essentially saying not a phrase you would use now

- 1 but one that you did use then?
- 2 A. It's -- I was uncomfortable when I read it. I don't
3 remember using it and I certainly wouldn't use it now.
4 I -- I am surprised that it actually got through
5 the vetting process by the office.
- 6 Q. Is the reality it just says something about what
7 the culture and attitudes were in the 1970s --
- 8 A. I think it was --
- 9 Q. -- in the SDS?
- 10 A. I wish I could remember the individual involved, because
11 I'm taking it he was an aggressive person and I should
12 have -- I should have been more -- used more delicate
13 type of language, I -- I accept that. I would refute
14 any possibility that I was in any way anti-homosexual,
15 or structuring anything along those lines.
- 16 Q. Really my point was, is the reality, though, that
17 the use of this sort of terminology in the SDS in
18 the 1970s was not uncommon?
- 19 A. I would say that the language would be common beyond
20 the SDS, throughout the police and throughout most of
21 society.
- 22 Q. You reported on "Madeleine". We heard yesterday about
23 a number of reports about her work and we touched,
24 earlier on, the report about her wedding.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Why did you report on her?
- 2 A. She was an activist of interest to the Security Service.
3 Her file was already in existence and therefore I was
4 updating the information.
- 5 Q. We've heard that the -- about the SWP's industrial work.
6 Would you report, for example, on an SWP sympathiser at
7 a factory?
- 8 A. There's a possibility that his -- his or her name would
9 be included in a general report, as I think some of
10 the reports have. You were being addressed by a member
11 from the factory who was asking for more support, or
12 financial support, or something like that. So his name
13 -- I say "his" -- the name would be entered -- entered
14 in the report. To then shift it around to start saying
15 this person, and you start doing what we -- what we --
16 well, we didn't do it in the field, but you start saying
17 the fully comprehensive report, where you fully identify
18 and do everything like that, that wouldn't be
19 sufficient.
- 20 Q. Do you know whether the intelligence that you were
21 reporting about people either being in the SWP or
22 associated with it, do you know what happened to that
23 and how it was used?
- 24 A. In the -- in the simplest possible terms, I think almost
25 everything would have been sent to the Security Service

1 for their information, as they were responsible for
2 defining who's subversive and who isn't and obviously
3 advising the Home Secretary of anything that they need
4 to know about.

5 Within the Branch, it would go to a desk where
6 the officers would specialise in Trotskyist groups so
7 that they -- they could pull together at any time
8 a national -- and I mean national -- picture, because if
9 something came along and they sent a national call out,
10 the immediate question was: well, how many people are
11 coming; what's their attitude going to be; what will
12 their tactics be at something like an NUS march.

13 Q. Would it have gone to the industrial desk?

14 A. I'm not really quite sure what the industrial -- what
15 the industrial desk's terms of reference was.

16 I don't -- if it said that the person was active in
17 something like that, then yes, I guess it would go to
18 the industrial desk for their information.

19 Q. Are you in a position, personally, to tell us what
20 the industrial desk would have done with it?

21 A. I -- all I can tell you about the -- the industrial desk
22 is where it was situated on the 19th floor. I'm sorry
23 if that sounds glib, but I never got involved, I never
24 did it -- any of my activities in the branch, non-SDS,
25 I was never involved with the industrial section.

1 Q. Can we move to the Security Service now, please. We've
2 got, for example, in the bundle a list of SWP members.
3 Is this the sort of intelligence that
4 the Security Service wanted?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And there's another document in the bundle which refers
7 to the Security Service wanting to know if the SDS's
8 source, in terms which rather suggests it was you, had
9 any comments on queries raised about
10 the Walthamstow Branch of the SWP.

11 Did you ever meet the Security Service to talk to
12 them about the Walthamstow Branch of the SWP?

13 A. I did not. I didn't. I'm unaware if any SDS officer
14 actually met one. I think a couple might have done on
15 the fringes some time in -- in the years. There was no
16 contact. We were an isolated group. They didn't know
17 who we were, they didn't know our real names, they
18 didn't know anything like that. It's all part of
19 the need to know.

20 Q. How sure are you that the SDS weren't known, as an
21 entity, to --

22 A. Oh, they're known as an entity, certainly. But they
23 wouldn't have known my -- my name -- my real name.

24 Q. If you didn't meet them personally, can you recall
25 whether the Security Service's questions about the SWP's

1 Walthamstow Branch were put to you and whether you
2 answered them?

3 A. Generally, I would answer any question that came
4 through. I think there was a document, at the end,
5 where they -- when I was leaving, they asked me to do
6 a comprehensive thing on everybody, and I didn't have
7 time to do that, and I explained that I didn't have time
8 and never -- so I never answered it. I looked at it
9 because it was, I didn't think, particularly accurate
10 and I thought this is going to take far too long, and
11 next thing I knew I was out of London.

12 Q. Can I move now to a couple of specific individuals.
13 First of all, the person that we are referring to
14 as "HN67".

15 A. We haven't got an HN67.

16 Would you mind checking, because I can't see a 67 on
17 there.

18 Sorry.

19 (Pause)

20 I'll go through the long way.

21 (Pause)

22 I'm afraid 67 isn't on my cipher key.

23 Q. All right. I shall do my best without you knowing who
24 I'm talking. I think what I have to put to you is such
25 that you --

- 1 A. I may work out who it is.
- 2 Q. Did anyone -- any officer that you knew from the SDS say
3 or do anything to give you the impression that he had
4 fathered a child whilst undercover with a member of
5 the public?
- 6 A. Not while I was in the field, no.
- 7 Q. At any time?
- 8 A. I believe -- I don't -- I don't think I was told by
9 the officer involved. I think it became knowledge when
10 things were unravelling.
- 11 Q. Now, we know that Bob Lambert fathered a child. Are we
12 talking about somebody other than him?
- 13 A. No, I think Bob was the only one. I think Bob was
14 the only one. I'm being -- I know -- I'm sorry if I'm
15 being vague here. I was, by this time, some way removed
16 from the Branch and not entitled to know certain things
17 like this, so it would have only been through gossip, or
18 indeed, in Bob Lambert's situation, stuff that actually
19 hit the -- the normal newspapers.
- 20 Q. Do you know -- don't use a name now, but do you know of
21 any -- were you told of any other officers who fathered
22 children undercover?
- 23 A. No, I can't -- (inaudible) give it due consideration.
24 No, I don't know anything that happened then.
- 25 Q. Can I move now to Mike Ferguson.

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. Did you hear whether or not he had assumed any positions
3 of responsibility whilst undercover in either
4 the Stop the Seventy Tour or
5 the Anti-Apartheid Movement?
- 6 A. My knowledge of -- of Mike's activities was that he was,
7 I think, the only officer who did two tours, as it were.
- 8 Q. Could you just answer my specific questions. Did he
9 assume any positions of responsibility in
10 the Anti-Apartheid Movement?
- 11 A. I had -- I did not know -- I did not know even which
12 organisations he'd belonged to, so I certainly did not
13 know if he'd reached any positions of -- of authority.
- 14 Q. Did he have any particular views on the assumption of
15 positions of responsibility by SDS officers?
- 16 A. I don't remember him having anything different from what
17 -- what was the normal expectations.
- 18 Q. My final topic: welfare.
- 19 You have described your time with the SDS as having
20 had both short term and long term impacts upon you. You
21 describe it affecting where you sit in pubs and
22 restaurants, turning up first to social gatherings and
23 being very -- if I'm summarising what you say, rather
24 edgy when you first left.
- 25 Do you consider that the support that you got from

1 the SDS whilst you were a member of the SDS was
2 adequate?

3 A. I think more professional advice could have been
4 available that we -- we would have had faith in.

5 I think it's also fair and right of me to say that
6 when management was trying to offer me help and things
7 like that, I was determined to go my own path as an
8 individual and carried on, and I didn't take my real
9 advantage of the help and advice that would have been
10 available. But there was no external person to whom we
11 could talk or structure.

12 So, as -- as I did have a clash with
13 Mike Ferguson -- which was my fault -- it would have
14 been nice if there was somewhere else I could -- I could
15 have gone to discuss things with, but I had no one else
16 that I could discuss things with. So that would have
17 been helpful, in my view, but I want to make it clear
18 that Mike Ferguson and others, even though we'd had
19 the clash, were there to assist, had I actually asked
20 for help.

21 Q. After you left the SDS, were there any sources of
22 support?

23 A. No, but part of that is because I left the branch, and
24 therefore the automatic atmosphere of support wasn't
25 there. The club, if you like, couldn't extend across

1 the whole of the force, because that would have meant
2 revealing to other units that we existed. So security
3 and officer safety for those in the field was always
4 paramount.

5 Q. Would access to support after you'd left the unit have
6 been beneficial?

7 A. I believe it would. It would take -- it would take some
8 convincing that the person -- that it was trustworthy.
9 Certainly in -- in my time, or perhaps it's just as an
10 individual, you were very much concerned that you were
11 there for your own safety. There was no -- you know,
12 I've referred to it -- I don't think here but
13 previously -- you had no mobile phone to call for help,
14 or anything else like that; you were always on your own.
15 And therefore you developed a sense that you could cope
16 with anything. In my case I think it was probably a bit
17 misplaced, probably a bit arrogant.

18 Q. I'm thinking more about in the years after you had left
19 the SDS; would it have helped --

20 A. Same thing -- I applied -- I won't go into the details,
21 if you'll bear with me on that. I did ask for -- to see
22 if they could assist me with one particular posting
23 which was going to cause -- had potential for causing me
24 difficulties, and I was told they couldn't effect that.

25 MR BARR: Thank you very much.

1 (6.15 pm)

2 MR FERNANDES: Welcome back, everyone. I will now hand over
3 to the Chairman to continue proceedings.

4 Chairman.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Barr, I understand that you have received
6 some questions under the Rule 10 process, which you're
7 now going to ask.

8 MR BARR: Yes, it's fair to say 354's evidence has elicited
9 quite a degree of interest.

10 354, there are a few questions.

11 First of all, the evidence that you gave about using
12 a story which involved dead parents and then later on
13 one which involved heartbreak in your personal life,
14 you've made clear that you alighted upon those ideas of
15 your own volition. But what I would like to ask you is
16 whether you raised in discussion, or others asked of
17 you, anything which might have sowed that idea in
18 the minds of other UCOs who were serving with you or
19 after you?

20 A. I don't believe I did.

21 Q. There are questions now about the Battle of Lewisham.

22 A. Right.

23 Q. In advance of the demonstration, were you asked to
24 identify people who might be of particular interest to
25 the police on the day?

1 A. No, I don't think we were. I think we just reported
2 that there was a call-out, and it would be well
3 supported by whatever level of call-out there was, and
4 there was a great deal of local support. You didn't
5 say, "These are likely runners," you only reported on
6 matters of fact that you knew had actually arrived.

7 Q. And would that involve particular individuals who were
8 going to attend?

9 A. Subsequent to the event, we would say that this person
10 attended the event, yes.

11 Q. I'm talking prior to the event?

12 A. We wouldn't say anything. Unless it was something like,
13 and it's being organised by a person, we might say
14 the organiser there, because you would expect that
15 person to be somewhere present at the situation. But at
16 branch level, that wouldn't apply.

17 Q. HN67. Please don't use the name, but I understand that
18 during the break you have been informed of HN67's real
19 name.

20 A. I am now. Thank you.

21 Q. And he was a person who you did know quite well, wasn't
22 he?

23 A. Yes, indeed.

24 Q. And did he ever talk to you about sexual relationships
25 with members of the public while undercover?

- 1 A. Not at that time. It would be -- I think -- I think for
2 full openness and frankness, which might make it a lot
3 easier, we are family friends, our families are friends,
4 and it's only recently that I know that he told his --
5 well, that I became aware that he told his wife that
6 he'd had some intimate relationship with a party member.
7 I don't know who the party member was, and I only found
8 that out -- and perhaps he was keeping it shielded
9 because my wife was talking to his wife; I don't know.
- 10 Q. Do you know whether he fathered a child with an
11 activist?
- 12 A. I don't know.
- 13 Q. Did he say anything about that to you?
- 14 A. He has never -- he has never spoken to me out of his own
15 course(?). He's not in a position to discuss these
16 things now.
- 17 Q. You were asked by me some questions about whether your
18 identity was tested, and you said that if your identity
19 had been tested whilst you were undercover, you would
20 have contacted the office. Would that have led to
21 a report being created by somebody, if that had
22 happened?
- 23 A. No, I think that would have been -- I believe it would
24 have been -- it would have been handled within
25 the Squad. And when I say "the Squad", that's the whole

1 of S Squad, which was extended beyond just the SDS. So
2 the chief superintendent in charge would have discussed
3 matters.

4 If there was a matter of officer safety that
5 involved anything further, then I guess it might have
6 extended, but I don't know of any such situation.

7 Q. And how -- what I'm really driving at is what written
8 record might there be of an SDS officer contacting
9 the office to say, "Look, my identity's being tested"?

10 A. I would be surprised if there was any written record.

11 Q. Now a question about your tasking by Geoffrey Craft.
12 And you said that there was a sense that north-east
13 London -- there was a gap in coverage, and a gap in
14 the service you were providing to others. That's
15 the gist of what --

16 A. Indeed, yes.

17 Q. I'm -- what I'm interested in is just being clear about
18 who the others were in terms of the service that you
19 were providing.

20 A. The two essential customers, if that's the phrase, would
21 of course be the Security Service -- I repeat, they were
22 always interested to see what was going on in all parts,
23 and things like that; and what we would loosely call
24 the "A8 branch", which was the public order branch, so
25 that if something was happening and you said that the --

1 well, Waltham Forest group were turning up, they -- they
2 would know that we could say -- if we said 50 people
3 were turning up, they could rely upon that it was 50
4 people, not five or 500.

5 Q. Were private companies part of the customer base at all?

6 A. Not -- absolutely not.

7 Q. Some questions now about Blair Peach.

8 First of all, I think I may have made a mistake and
9 misunderstood when you asked me for a date. I gave you
10 the date of the demonstration, and I think you were
11 asking for the date of the funeral. The date of
12 the funeral was 13 June 1979. Does that cause you to
13 revisit the evidence you gave about whether or not you
14 attended the funeral?

15 A. I remain sure that I did not attend.

16 Q. You said during the course of your replies about that
17 issue that clearly something had gone wrong at Southall.
18 Can you help with what that something was, in
19 the opinion of you and your colleagues?

20 A. I'd be hesitant to answer that in -- I -- I wasn't
21 there. I don't know the tactics; I've only read what
22 other people have read. I would say any public order
23 situation which brings in extreme violence, and even
24 worse the death of anybody, means something has gone
25 wrong. And police should take responsibility for

- 1 the safety of the public; that's what we're here for.
- 2 Q. You also said that there was discomfort at the death.
3 Could you help, please, with in what sense you meant
4 that?
- 5 A. Well, a sense -- a sense of somewhere the system has
6 failed, and we are part of that system, and therefore,
7 to some degree, the -- there's an onus of, well,
8 possibly guilty. Some of us feel very conscious of our
9 responsibilities to the public.
- 10 Q. Finally, did Blair Peach's death lead to any form of
11 instructions or guidance about reporting on justice
12 campaigns?
- 13 A. I don't remember any specific information or -- being
14 sought about that at all.
- 15 MR BARR: 354, thank you. You've been very patient, and
16 those are all my questions.
- 17 A. Thank you, Sir.
- 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We're almost at the end now.
19 Is there any re-examination?
- 20 MR SANDERS: No, thank you, Sir.
- 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HN354. I'm afraid you've had
22 a very long day, but I hope it's of benefit to you to
23 have completed your evidence in the one day.
- 24 A. It has indeed, Sir, thank you.
- 25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

1 We will now adjourn until tomorrow. Tomorrow we're
2 going to hear summaries and the evidence -- live
3 evidence of HN126. In the hearing room that will be
4 heard, not heard and seen. It will be seen by those who
5 are in two of the side rooms, and by the legal
6 representatives of the officer, by
7 Counsel to the Inquiry and by me.

8 We will adjourn then until tomorrow.

9 MR FERNANDES: Thank you, everyone. The hearings have now
10 finished for the day. We shall resume at 10.00 am
11 tomorrow.

12 (6.25 pm)

13 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on Wednesday,
14 12 May 2021)

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