

Wednesday, 12 May 2021

(10.00 am)

MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Day 15 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 hearing room, please turn off both your camera and microphone unless you are 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.

We're going to begin today by a summary of the evidence of two undercover officers by Ms Monahan. When she has finished that, there will be a break to permit the technology to be rearranged, and we will then embark on live evidence from HN126.

I'm going to ask, first of all, that the usual recording is played, made earlier; and this applies to the stage at which live evidence is being given, not to the stage at which Ms Monahan is summarising the evidence of officers, which will be broadcast live.

1 May the recording be played, please.

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

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

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

1 other purpose. In particular, you may transmit your
2 account of what you have seen and heard in a hearing
3 room to any other person, but only once at least
4 ten minutes have elapsed since the event which you are
5 describing took place.

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

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

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

1 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
2 evidence as I will hear and to reach your own
3 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
4 best to ensure that you can.

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

9 Ms Monahan.

10 Summary of evidence of HN80/"Colin Clark"

11 MS MONAHAN: Thank you, Sir.

12 HN80. Publication of the real name of HN80,
13 "Colin Clark", is restricted. He has provided
14 the Inquiry with a signed witness statement, but has
15 been excused from giving oral evidence for health
16 reasons.

17 HN80 infiltrated the Socialist Workers Party, or
18 SWP, primarily in North London, from March 1977 onwards.
19 He began within the Seven Sisters branch, which appears
20 to have merged with or become the Haringey branch, and
21 then became involved with the Lea Valley district of
22 that organisation and the Right to Work Campaign.

23 HN80 held the position of treasurer at all these
24 levels of the SWP. To a lesser extent, HN80 also
25 reported on the Anti-Nazi League, or ANL. His

1 deployment ended in March 1982.

2 Rick Clark, HN297, told HN80 about the SDS and
3 encouraged him to be put forward as a UCO. HN80 spent
4 three months in the SDS back office before entering
5 the field, during which time he grew his hair and
6 a beard and dressed down. He was deployed on
7 17 March 1977.

8 HN80 states that the practice of using
9 the identities of deceased children distressed him. And
10 as he knew that it would cause distress to the family of
11 the child if it were discovered, he refused to adopt it.
12 Instead, he obtained a death certificate for a Paul
13 Clark, but used the forename "Colin". He wanted to use
14 his own date of birth, to which his managers assented,
15 but due to what HN80 describes as "a problem with
16 the system", the cover documents were issued with
17 a different birth date.

18 Prior to deployment, he recalls being spoken to by
19 Mike Ferguson, Geoff Craft and HN68, all of whom he
20 describes as "excellent management staff". He recalls
21 Geoff Craft, during a particularly lengthy discussion,
22 tasking him to collect information on "extreme left-wing
23 activists and groups, in order to protect the public in
24 London, to help the MPS to police demonstrations and to
25 assist MI5 in its counter-subversion role".

1 He contrasts the discretion he had in the SDS to
2 determine the type of information he provided with
3 the more prescriptive approach to intelligence-gathering
4 in Special Branch.

5 He had no formal training and received no specific
6 guidance on matters such as forming relationships with
7 group members and involvement in criminality. He
8 asserts that his strong family values obviated the need
9 for guidance on forming sexual relationships and that
10 his back story, that he was involved in a long-term,
11 long-distance relationship with an air hostess from
12 New Zealand, was constructed to forestall romantic
13 advances from group members. Married with a young child
14 at the time of joining the SDS, he states that nobody
15 from management spoke to his wife before he joined or
16 afterwards.

17 HN80 found cover employment as a mechanic, working
18 in a garage somewhere in Wood Green, but he left after
19 a couple of months to go freelance doing vehicle
20 repairs, for which he charged only the cost of parts and
21 no fee. HN80 had a passport in his cover name.

22 At the beginning of his deployment, HN80 states that
23 he attended meetings at the SDS safe flats twice a week,
24 where he put in his expenses and reports, which he typed
25 up at home, and where he could speak to senior

1 management. Occasionally, he would put together
2 a consolidated report with other officers, make
3 identifications from photographs and de-conflict which
4 officers would go to certain events. Later in his
5 deployment, a lack of time meant he attended SDS
6 meetings only once a week.

7 HN80 disliked the bi-weekly meetings, as he felt
8 that a dozen or so individuals converging on a flat on
9 a regular basis was likely to attract unwanted attention
10 and put his cover identity at risk.

11 He recalls that on occasion, UCOs and managers met
12 socially, where they would discuss sports, their
13 personal lives and events in London or nationally,
14 rather than their deployments.

15 HN80 would call into the office on a daily basis,
16 except on weekends, and if particularly urgent matters
17 arose, it was possible to contact managers at home. He
18 had cover accommodation in North London, as his managers
19 deemed it "a good place to be based in order to make
20 contact with the more important individuals on
21 the extreme left wing". And he was directed to obtain
22 information generally on groups in this political arena.

23 Conversation with an SWP paper seller, who was keen
24 to recruit, provided an opening for HN80, and he was
25 eventually invited to an SWP meeting in May 1977. In

1 addition to his infiltration of the Seven Sisters and
2 Haringey branches of the SWP, HN80 had some dealings
3 with the Tottenham branch. The first reports in which
4 HN80 is named in his cover identity date from
5 October 1977 and concern meetings held in September of
6 that year.

7 Some early reports from HN80 dated mid-to-late 1977
8 contain details of members of the Seven Sisters branch,
9 including physical descriptions, race, children,
10 occupations, vehicles, union affiliations and living
11 arrangements.

12 HN80 disputes authorship of reports from April and
13 August 1980, which relate private, sexual and medical
14 relationship, on the basis that he would not have
15 regarded the health of individuals as significant for
16 reporting.

17 Concerning reports on talks on women and fascism and
18 what is sexism, HN80 recalls that while the talks
19 themselves may not have been worth reporting,
20 "the attendance lists were of greater relevance to
21 Special Branch"; and he provides a similar rationale for
22 recording the names of attendees at a Women's Voice
23 fundraising evening.

24 HN80 was also able to submit regular copies of
25 the weekly information sheets prepared by the SWP

1 Central Committee for restricted circulation and handed
2 out to members at meetings and which, he comments,
3 provided useful information about future events.

4 In 1977, HN80 also provided reporting on
5 the build-up to and aftermath of the events of 13 August
6 in Lewisham, including a threat made by the neo-Nazi
7 group Column 88 to burn down the house of an SWP central
8 committee member. In that year, he also started to
9 reporting on the newly established ANL.

10 Regarding a report on an ANL carnival in 1978,
11 listing 229 attendees, HN80 asserts that the group:

12 "... was known to use violence and seek out
13 confrontation. It was important to know where its
14 support came from and was likely to come from in
15 future."

16 HN80 also provided an eight-page report on an ANL
17 conference in Birmingham in November 1978.

18 A few reports touch upon matters relating to
19 the Labour Party and the Young Liberals, including
20 a delegate conference of the Haringey Labour Movement
21 anti-racist anti-fascist campaign, set up by three North
22 London constituency Labour parties, and a list of
23 attendees at a Troops Out of Ireland demonstration
24 organised by the Young Liberals.

25 In certain reports, HN80 records the presence of

1 elected politicians, such as Ken Livingstone, but states
2 that he has no recollection of ever actually reporting
3 on them.

4 One report suggests that HN80, along with his branch
5 of the SWP, attended a demonstration in October 1979
6 protesting against police involvement in the death of
7 Blair Peach. He believes that he may be the author of
8 a report on a public meeting organised by Black People
9 Against State Harassment.

10 In July 1977, HN80 reported on a public meeting held
11 by the SWP on the tactics to be used at a demonstration
12 at the Grunwick factory. HN80 asserts that this
13 information was of interest to Special Branch as
14 the dispute "had significant public order implications".
15 HN80 states that as far as he knew, there was no
16 standing instruction to report on industrial disputes
17 unless they bore the potential for violence or disorder.

18 HN80 often reported union affiliation and attended
19 the founding conference for the Defend Our Unions
20 campaign set up by the SWP. On his SWP registration
21 form, HN80 noted that he was a member of the amalgamated
22 union of engineering workers, which he claimed he added
23 only to bolster his credentials. He states he joined no
24 trade union during his deployment.

25 On four consecutive years over his deployment, HN80

1 attended the SWP national delegate conference, and he
2 recalls providing detailed reports on each one. One
3 such report lists HN80 in his cover name as a steward
4 with the responsibility for security.

5 HN80's evolving stature within the SWP was
6 reflecting in being trusted to lecture nationally on
7 political standards and recruitment on behalf of
8 the party and to Women's Voice. By March 1980, HN80 had
9 been appointed treasurer of the Tottenham branch of
10 the SWP, and already sat on the Lea Valley district
11 committee, as he recalls by virtue of becoming treasurer
12 at that level, too. He notes that he did not actively
13 pursue these roles, but that other members encouraged
14 him to take them up.

15 By July 1980, he is documented as national treasurer
16 of the Right to Work Campaign. He states that he
17 assisted SWP groups within the region with practical
18 affairs only, and never sought to influence policy or
19 activities.

20 Although his role as district treasurer gave him
21 a vote at district meetings, he attests that he tried to
22 ensure that he always followed the majority. Trusted by
23 his managers to act appropriately, he does not believe
24 that he was required to inform them of his ascendance in
25 the SWP.

1 Around a week before the 1980 Right to Work march,
2 HN80 submitted a report which detailed the logistics,
3 finances, trade union sponsorship and likely numbers for
4 the march. Some months after the march, he also
5 submitted a 12-page report containing the names and
6 details of those who had attended, and another
7 listing details of the schoolchildren recruited as
8 a result of a picket of schools at the march starting
9 point in Port Talbot.

10 HN80 notes in a similar context:

11 "Youth was not determinative of innocence of any
12 potential public disorder."

13 HN80 attended the whole of the march, but remembers
14 that there was some violence at its concluding event,
15 the picket of the Conservative Party conference.
16 Unable, he claims, to stay on the sidelines, he was
17 badly assaulted around the head and shoulders and struck
18 out in self-defence. HN80 received a commendation for
19 his actions during this incident.

20 HN80 did not attend the 1981 march, but he is
21 documented as present at a seven-person meeting of its
22 organising committee.

23 From 1981 onwards, HN80's reporting changed in focus
24 from district branch activities to matters related to
25 the SWP national office and central committee. He

1 states that his perceived "can-do" attitude led to his
2 being asked to help out on an ad hoc basis with
3 administrative work at SWP headquarters. He agreed.
4 And notes that while this granted him access to
5 information he would struggle to obtain as district
6 treasurer, it was not a specific tasking.

7 HN80 even received an offer to join the central
8 committee, but seeing the role as "wholly inconsistent
9 with his responsibilities as a deployed UCO", he
10 believes that he said he was too busy to give up any
11 more time.

12 He, nonetheless, continued to have access to
13 the upper echelons of the SWP, and notes that his
14 managers "were a little surprised on occasions by
15 the activists that I was able to have contact with and
16 gain information on, even if only fleetingly".

17 Access to the SWP hierarchy allowed HN80 to provide
18 considerable intelligence on the SWP's finances,
19 membership and organisation nationally, including an
20 extensive international distribution list for
21 Socialist Worker, SWP membership records and bank
22 details of those who paid their subscriptions by
23 banker's draft, possibly documented with photographs.

24 MI5 appears to have valued HN80's intelligence
25 product. Notes for file from late 1981 refer to

1 intelligence obtained by an SDS officer, likely to have
2 been HN80, who had access to SWP headquarters. And in
3 a letter sent to the deputy assistant
4 commissioner regarding its debrief of him, MI5 expressed
5 thanks for the "very fruitful discussion" which had
6 filled a number of gaps in its knowledge.

7 HN80 does not believe that he was operating amongst
8 subversives. He asserts that while those on whom he
9 reported may have been strongly opposed to government
10 policy, he believes that they were not seeking to
11 subvert the institutions of the State.

12 HN80 recalls that he also had peripheral contact
13 with those on the left wing of politics, who supported
14 Republicanism in Northern Ireland, including those who
15 supported the Provisional IRA. While he believes that
16 most of the related reporting is missing from his pack,
17 a small number of his reports touch on this topic.

18 HN80 states that many of the reports provided in his
19 witness pack do not reflect those he recalls submitting,
20 a large number of which give brief indications of likely
21 demonstrations and public order matters and were
22 imparted by telephone.

23 There is also a lack of reporting data between
24 November 1978 and spring/summer of the following year,
25 despite HN80's recollection of submitting reports in

1 the normal way during this period.

2 He notes that his pay increased considerably as
3 a result of "thousands of hours' worth of overtime
4 payments" during his deployment. He states that while
5 overtime was claimed routinely on the basis of officers'
6 own self-reporting, there was however an upper ceiling
7 on the number of overtime hours on which SDS management
8 would sign off.

9 HN80 recalls that he was recognised in his real
10 identity by people selling the SWP newspaper, who found
11 out from his wife his real home address. His immediate
12 managers supported HN80's subsequent request to move
13 outside the 20-mile limit, which was however ultimately
14 rejected by the MPS hierarchy.

15 He also recalls that on three or four occasions
16 after he was withdrawn, he was approached by people who
17 had known him in his cover identity.

18 HN80 considers SDS management to have been
19 effective, providing practical assistance and guidance
20 when necessary, but also notes that "the MPS as an
21 organisation ignored sensible representations about
22 the risks".

23 HN80 states that he witnessed violence on several
24 occasions in the context of public disorder, from minor
25 assaults to severe beatings. Other than the incident at

1 the Right to Work march in 1980, where he asserts he
2 acted in self-defence, he participated in no violent
3 incidents.

4 He states he was not arrested, charged nor convicted
5 of a criminal offence while serving undercover, and he
6 did not appear in criminal proceedings as a witness.
7 There is no evidence to suggest that he engaged in
8 sexual activity while in his cover identity.

9 Summary of evidence of HN106/"Barry Tompkins"

10 MS MONAHAN: HN106.

11 HN106, who used the cover name "Barry Tompkins", has
12 provided a witness statement. A restriction order
13 prohibits publication of his real name. He is unable to
14 give oral evidence for health reasons.

15 HN106 joined the police in the early 1970s. For
16 six months before joining the SDS whilst in
17 Special Branch, he carried out plain clothes
18 surveillance work, but had no undercover identity.

19 He believes he was told of vacancies within the SDS,
20 and so approached its head, Mike Ferguson. Although
21 there was no formal interview process, discussions
22 followed, and Mike Ferguson went to HN106's family home,
23 where he explained to HN106 and his wife that he did not
24 want him to join if it were likely to cause difficulties
25 in their marriage.

1 HN106 assumes that the SDS preferred recruiting
2 married officers because a spouse could provide support,
3 and probably also as it would reduce the likelihood of
4 an undercover officer "going rogue".

5 HN106 believes he received no formal training when
6 he joined the unit during 1978. He recalls no advice or
7 guidance on involvement in the private lives of those he
8 would meet undercover or sexual relationships, but
9 states it would have been obvious to him that becoming
10 sexually involved with targets was not a good idea.

11 HN106 is not sure that the precise legal and ethical
12 limits on officers' behaviour while undercover was spelt
13 out.

14 HN106 remembers receiving informal training while
15 working in the SDS back office, where he read
16 intelligence reports and activist literature.

17 He describes having a reasonable level of influence
18 over his tasking, which he saw as inevitable given he
19 would have to use his own common sense and judgment in
20 the field.

21 For his cover identity, HN106 used the name and date
22 of birth of a deceased child. His cover background, he
23 believes, consisted only of telling people that he was
24 born or had lived abroad but had come to England with
25 his parents. He had cover employment as a delivery

1 driver for a garden centre in Greater London, and
2 a cover vehicle, which he sometimes used to ferry around
3 activist contacts. He had a cover driving licence but
4 no passport.

5 He also had a number of cover flats during his
6 deployment, including one in Stoke Newington that he
7 shared with another undercover officer, HN96.

8 HN106 states that he would handwrite his reports
9 either at his family home or during the twice-weekly SDS
10 meetings where he would hand them in. Urgent
11 information he relayed by telephone.

12 HN106 states that generally he passed on all
13 the information he could recall, and understood that SDS
14 managers would then decide which parts formally to
15 report and to disseminate.

16 HN106 is unable to recall providing most of
17 the information contained in the intelligence reports in
18 his pack, although he disputes attribution in relation
19 to certain groups. There are also details in reports,
20 such as immigration status or telephone subscriber
21 information, which were outside his purview, and which
22 he believes came from other sources and/or were added by
23 the SDS office after he submitted his reports.

24 HN106 understands that officers were expected to
25 attend at least one of the twice-weekly SDS meetings.

1 At these, most people would provide a brief oral update
2 about their deployments, which were also discussed in
3 general terms, including any unusual situations. And
4 officers would also chat and occasionally argue.

5 SDS managers, who were usually present, would have
6 overheard any discussions, and sometimes gave advice and
7 guidance.

8 He recalls that he may on occasion have arranged
9 separate meetings if there was something of importance
10 to discuss. He would also call the office every day to
11 let them know he was okay.

12 HN106 states that management directed him towards
13 the far left wing and to look into whether groups other
14 than those already well covered by the SDS, such as
15 the SWP, should be targeted.

16 To enable the police to assess a group's threat to
17 public order, HN106 understood that he should report on
18 its membership and on planned protests and
19 demonstrations. He was also expected to identify those
20 who broke the law before, during or after
21 demonstrations, and to report on a group's long-term
22 aims.

23 HN106 entered the field in April 1979, and suspects
24 he would have started reporting in May of that year.
25 The earliest report contained in his bundle is dated

1 30 May 1979, and relates to a leaflet issued by
2 the Friends of Blair Peach Committee.

3 His bundle also contains a report listing attendees
4 at a Blair Peach demonstration in April 1980, and
5 another from July 1980 on efforts of the Friends of
6 Blair Peach Committee to form a national coordinating
7 body concerned with cases of state brutality by
8 the police and prison authorities.

9 HN106 states that, to the best of his recollection,
10 he had no involvement with the Friends of Blair Peach
11 Committee, although it is possible that he came into
12 possession of the leaflet in the early report.

13 HN106 disputes authorship of an intelligence report
14 from July 1979 which lists attendees at Blair Peach's
15 funeral, as he says he has no recollection of attending
16 and would have been unable to name such a large number
17 of people so early in his deployment.

18 HN106 states that he came across
19 the Spartacus League, which he describes as
20 a revolutionary Trotskyist group, because they were
21 active in East London where he was based. HN106 recalls
22 thinking the group might be of interest to the SDS after
23 speaking with members who expressed pride at having
24 thrown bricks at police officers during the miners'
25 strike pickets.

1 HN106 assumes he became involved through buying
2 the group's newspaper and attending their meetings. In
3 order to gain legitimacy, he describes attending some
4 general left wing and Labour Party events, and getting
5 a basic knowledge of Marxist/Trotskyist literature. He
6 would also socialise with activists in the pub and in
7 their homes.

8 The Spartacus League is the main focus of HN106's
9 intelligence reports until around mid-1980. He attended
10 their office on a couple of occasions, and believes he
11 was considered a relatively trusted supporter, rather
12 than a member.

13 He states he did not really witness the group posing
14 a significant challenge to disorder, and although they
15 sometimes gave the impression of wanting to split off
16 from peaceful demonstrations to "cause trouble
17 elsewhere", this never really amounted to much. He
18 believes, however, that their support for
19 the Provisional IRA may have been of greater concern,
20 and suspects that the group would have been capable of
21 providing low level support to this organisation.

22 HN106 produced some reporting on the revolutionary
23 Marxist tendency, or RMT, from mid-1980 onwards, which
24 he believes was "effectively a sister organisation to
25 the Spartacus League". A large majority of HN106's

1 reporting from 1980 onwards concerned the RCT, and at
2 the end of 1980 Workers Against Racism, or WAR,
3 described in the reporting as "a front" for the RCT.

4 The RCT changed its name to the Revolutionary
5 Communist Group, RCG, and then to the Revolutionary
6 Communist Party, RCP. He states that he took up no
7 formal roles within these groups.

8 One report on an RCT educational on Ireland, held in
9 February 1981 and attended by 12 people, records
10 a discussion of what unconditional support the Irish
11 Republican Army actually entails, with one individual
12 asking whether it should extend to planting bombs or
13 gunrunning. Although this is repudiated by other
14 members.

15 As with the Spartacus League, HN106 presumes the SDS
16 wanted intelligence on the RCT in part because of its
17 support for the Provisional IRA. Some of
18 the RCT reporting indicates an apparent desire to
19 support the Irish Republican Army, and there is limited
20 reporting on the RCP-linked Irish Freedom Movement.

21 The intelligence reports attributed to HN106
22 describe no significant instances of public disorder
23 instigated by the RCT or RCP, and instead focus on the
24 membership and on public meetings and conferences.

25 HN106 recalls that some time into his deployment, he

1 and two individuals he met through either
2 the Spartacus League or the RMT set up a new group as
3 a vehicle for them to voice disapproval of the way in
4 which existing groups operated. He states that they
5 sought no other members.

6 HN106 recalls that during his deployment,
7 a KGB officer attempted to recruit him to deliver
8 information on behalf of the Russian Security Service,
9 and said that he would need to go to Russia for
10 training. It was decided with SDS managers that his
11 cover identity would not withstand scrutiny in Russia,
12 so he rejected the offer, after which there was no
13 further contact.

14 HN106 believes this officer to be a Russian
15 individual reported by him as attending two RCP meetings
16 in 1982. A contemporaneous MI5 document records that
17 Special Branch were "totally against allowing an SDS
18 source to become involved with such a situation".

19 HN106 also believes that for a number of months
20 during his deployment, he and the two other founding
21 members of his small group passed bits of information to
22 an individual who may have been working for a foreign
23 Security Service, and who was particularly interested to
24 know about views on apartheid, in return for sums which
25 came to hundreds of pounds. HN106 states that the SDS

1 office was aware of the individual, and that he was
2 funding HN106's group in exchange for information.

3 In addition to WAR, HN106 presumes he was involved
4 with East London Workers Against Racism, or ELWAR, as
5 the reporting indicates.

6 HN106 believes WAR was established to recruit
7 a broader constituency to the RCP, as many more people
8 considered themselves to be anti-racists than
9 communists. HN106 recollects that he and three or four
10 WAR members would visit families that were experiencing
11 race-related difficulties, and to whom they would offer
12 assistance and encouragement to become involved with
13 WAR.

14 One report records a visit by a delegation of 17,
15 including a Time Out journalist, to a Walthamstow
16 housing estate, to garner physical support for
17 a resident family subject to racial harassment by youths
18 from the estate. It contains the names and addresses of
19 another three families being helped by ELWAR after
20 suffering racist attacks.

21 Concerning this, HN106 states that if he came into
22 possession of information that people were being
23 attacked and racially abused, he would have thought this
24 should be passed on to the police.

25 HN106 recalls that he was tasked by SDS managers to

1 consider the accuracy of a Daily Mail article suggesting
2 that WAR was a militant organisation. He thinks there
3 was concern at the time, which was around the Brixton
4 riots of 1981, that communist groups would try to foment
5 disorder amongst ethnic minority groups. In fact, HN106
6 formed the view that WAR did not represent much of
7 a threat, and states that its largely white
8 RCP membership struggled easily to win the trust of
9 ethnic minority communities, which undermined its
10 credibility as an organisation.

11 In relation to a report from April 1981 on an ELWAR
12 public election meeting, at which speakers apparently
13 criticised the police for their attitude to young black
14 people, HN106 says he has no recollection that reporting
15 members' views on the police was considered especially
16 important, and that such information might have helped
17 in understanding the causes of the Brixton riots.

18 One report on a WAR meeting in April 1983 relates to
19 the group's involvement in the case of a 13-year
20 old "West Indian boy" who claimed to have been beaten up
21 and stabbed by the police. While HN106 states that he
22 cannot recall the meeting, he believes that
23 the reference in the report to whether the case could
24 have the "agitative potential of the Colin Roach
25 incident" would render information on the allegation and

1 its perceived credibility useful to the SDS.

2 There are also reports on a meeting of the Hackney
3 Legal Defence Committee on a public meeting of
4 the Newham 8 Defence Campaign, held in October 1982,
5 featuring Gareth Peirce, of which HN106 has no
6 recollection, and another on Gareth Peirce acting for
7 six of the 12 youths arrested during disturbances in
8 Bradford in July 1981.

9 HN106 believes that he got information on a private
10 meeting of the organising committee of the Roach family
11 support committee from the East London RCP member
12 recorded as having attended. There are further reports
13 attributed to HN106 which mention Colin Roach as
14 a result of East London RCP or ELWAR support, or through
15 the submission of a Roach Family Support Committee
16 leaflet.

17 HN106's bundle also contains a report on an
18 individual involved with the New Cross Massacre Action
19 Committee and on a meeting of the Winston Rose Action
20 Campaign held in August 1981, which arose from the death
21 of Winston Rose in a police van after being restrained
22 by officers. HN106 says he has no recollection of these
23 groups, nor of providing this information.

24 In respect of the personal information about
25 individuals in his reports, including addresses and

1 occupations, and on occasion specific personal
2 information, such as on family members, partners and
3 sexual relationships, HN106 asserts that it would seem
4 logical to report back information which would help
5 identify members and regular attendees of the groups
6 infiltrated.

7 Some of the intelligence reports contain
8 particularly personal information, such as the subject
9 of the report being in a sexual relationship and
10 suffering from cystitis, an individual's recent abortion
11 and reference to an RCP member's "large bosom".

12 HN106 states that he would be surprised if he
13 provided the information in the first two reports, and
14 doubts very much that he would have included the comment
15 in the third.

16 The documents suggest that HN106 ceased operational
17 duties in June 1983 from his debrief by MI5 in
18 July 1983. Although he recalls his deployment ending in
19 the latter half of 1983.

20 While HN106 states that he did not join
21 a trade union while deployed, the MI5 debrief note
22 records him as saying that he was an inactive branch
23 member of the Transport and General Workers' Union and
24 allowed his membership to lapse.

25 HN106 does not think he witnessed subversion during

1 his deployment. He believes the left wing communist
2 groups lacked the degree of influence to achieve their
3 aim of communist government in the UK, and so does not
4 regard them as actively or effectively subversive.

5 HN106 states that he engaged in no
6 sexual relationships whilst undercover. He understands
7 that his Operation Herne interview, regarding a possible
8 relationship with an activist, was the result of what he
9 describes as a "flippant remark" in an MI5 file note
10 that he had "probably bedded" a potential informant but
11 had "been warned off by [his] bosses".

12 HN106 states he has no clear memory of this person,
13 and certainly had no sexual relationship with her; and
14 notes that the Herne investigation found no evidence to
15 the contrary.

16 He believes that the file note might have arisen
17 from an incident relating to a quite close platonic
18 relationship that he formed with the ex-partner of an
19 activist who was not an activist herself.

20 They would meet up for drinks, and he would
21 sometimes stay the night at her house in a separate room
22 if he were unable to drive home. Some activists started
23 to refer to her as "Barry's girlfriend", which he claims
24 helped his cover. A reference in an intercepted
25 telephone call to potentially storing items from Ireland

1 at "Barry's girlfriend's place" apparently led to
2 a meeting at which Trevor Butler said something like,
3 "You're not going to get us into trouble are you?" To
4 which he responded, "No, it's nothing like that."

5 HN106 is unable to recall any specific incidents of
6 public disorder or violence, and participated in none.
7 While he was once intentionally tripped up by police
8 officers at a demonstration, he does not think this
9 amounted to violence.

10 HN106 believes that it would have been difficult to
11 gain the sort of information he reported without the use
12 of undercover officers. He has no real idea of what was
13 done with his reports or of their value to policing, but
14 hopes they provided a realistic and fair assessment of
15 the threat posed by groups.

16 HN106 states that he sometimes engaged in low level
17 criminality while deployed, and recalls one incident
18 when he acted as a look-out while Spartacus League
19 activists sprayed graffiti on Bow Bridge.

20 He believes it was understood that you could get
21 involved in such activity if necessary to maintain your
22 cover, but that UCOs would certainly not have been
23 allowed to take part in serious crime, nor would they
24 have encouraged others to act unlawfully. In the event
25 of arrest, he thinks they were told not to reveal that

1 they were UCOs, and to ring the office straight away.

2 He was never arrested in his cover identity, nor did
3 he appear or participate in criminal proceedings.

4 HN106 states that he had no concerns for his or his
5 family's welfare, and describes how he was given a pager
6 when his wife was pregnant with their second child,
7 which enabled him to be present for his child's birth.

8 He does not believe that his time in the SDS had an
9 impact on his long-term welfare.

10 Around five years after he left the SDS, HN106
11 recalls that Tony Waite, who was head of the unit at
12 that time, contacted him about the subject of some of
13 his SDS reports, and asked whether he stood by
14 the information he provided, which HN106 confirmed. He
15 believes that this was in relation to a deportation
16 matter, but he cannot be sure.

17 That concludes the summary for these officers.

18 In addition to the witness statements and documents
19 for these two officers, the Inquiry is also publishing
20 today documents in relation to HN356.

21 HN356 had the cover name "Bill Biggs", and reported
22 on the International Socialists, which became the SWP,
23 during his deployment.

24 Analysis of his documents can be found at pages 225
25 to 232 of Counsel to the Inquiry's opening statement for

1 Tranch 1 Phase 2.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

4 There will now be a break of about a quarter of an
5 hour, while the technology is rearranged to permit us to
6 have live evidence.

7 Thank you.

8 MR FERNANDES: Good morning, 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 10.45 am, so we shall reconvene at
12 11 am.

13 Thank you.

14 (10.42 am)

15 (A short break)

16 (11.00 am)

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

18 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
19 proceedings.

20 Chairman.

21 HN126/"Paul Gray"

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

23 HN126, can you hear me?

24 A. Yes, I can.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Splendid. Do you wish to swear or to affirm?

1 A. To swear, please.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Then will you take the Bible in your hand,
3 and the words of the oath will be read to you.

4 (Witness sworn)

5 HN126, can you confirm that there is no one else in
6 your room apart from yourself? There is one person, is
7 there?

8 A. Just the one person.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Just the one person.

10 A. That's it.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: And you and I can see and hear each other,
12 but those in the hearing room can only hear you. And
13 indeed, they can only hear me, unusually. They normally
14 have the pleasure that it is of seeing me, too.

15 Ms Gargitter.

16 Oh, I'm so sorry. First of all, you have been
17 sworn. Ms Gargitter.

18 A. Thank you, Sir.

19 Questions by MS GARGITTER

20 MS GARGITTER: Thank you, Sir.

21 HN126, just before I commence, can you see and hear
22 me clearly?

23 A. I can, yes.

24 Q. And I'm referring to you as "HN126", because there is
25 a restriction order over your real name, but for

1 the purposes of the Inquiry, as we will come to, you
2 were known in your undercover deployment by the cover
3 name "Paul Gray", that's right, isn't it?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And as Counsel to the Inquiry, I will be asking you
6 either all or the vast majority of questions today,
7 informed by questions proposed by the Inquiry's
8 core participants.

9 Before I do that, do you recall making a witness
10 statement to this Inquiry dated 17 July 2019 and
11 consisting of 85 pages?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. And I have been notified that there is one area of that
14 witness statement that you may wish to clarify in
15 relation to the manner in which reporting that you
16 created was checked by you or not after its creation.
17 Is there anything that you wish to address about that
18 before I invite you to confirm the truth and accuracy of
19 your witness statement?

20 A. With regards to -- to what? Could you re-explain that?

21 Q. Yes, so maybe it would help, before we go any further,
22 if I could ask, please, the technicians to bring up
23 a paragraph of your witness statement. It will come up
24 on the screen. So the reference to the witness
25 statement is {MPS/740761/19}. And I'm going to ask you,

1 please, as an example, to look at paragraph 79, which is
2 on page 19 of that document. So I hope that will come
3 up on the screen for you to be able to see. Thank you.

4 Paragraph 79. You say there that having -- this is
5 in regard to you submitting written intelligence reports
6 that:

7 "The typed up report would then be given back to me
8 at a subsequent meeting at the SDS flat for checking.
9 I think I would have initialled the final typed report
10 if it was correct, but I cannot remember."

11 A. Yes, I think most of what I can see in front of me is
12 incorrect. I did have a small typewriter at home that
13 I used to sometimes write my notes up in. Whether or
14 not that is -- has confused me. But they were normally
15 done in longhand and would have been passed to
16 the office staff in order to mark them up.

17 I cannot remember ever signing them at the end of
18 the day, but I do remember -- and I think we can see, or
19 we will see later on -- that they were all signed and
20 approved by -- on behalf of the chief superintendent.

21 Q. So insofar as paragraph 79 suggests that you thought you
22 would have initialled the final typed report --

23 A. No, I don't think that's --

24 Q. -- you think that didn't happen?

25 A. I don't think that's right, no. I can't -- I can't

1 remember.

2 Q. And subject to that amendment or clarification, are you
3 content that the contents of your written statement are
4 true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and
5 belief?

6 A. As far as I know, yes.

7 Q. That witness statement will stand as your evidence to
8 the Inquiry. What I'm going to do is ask you questions
9 about certain aspects of it today, do you follow?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. We can take that down now, please. We'll come back to
12 that topic in a little more detail later, HN126.

13 And again, just before I get on to the substantive
14 questioning, and just so that it's clear, I've also been
15 informed that you have brought with you into the room
16 some notes today, so that if you refer to what's in
17 front of you, just so that it's clear to everybody what
18 it is you have in the room, is it right that you have
19 noted yourself some dates about certain events in your
20 life, to assist you in recalling when certain things
21 happened?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Have you brought with you printed copies of part of
24 the transcript of the evidence of Celia Stubbs to
25 the inquiry?

1 A. I have.

2 Q. And have you also brought with you a printed section of
3 the witness statement of the MI5 witness, witness Z --

4 A. Yes, I have.

5 Q. -- in particular paragraph 123?

6 A. I have.

7 Q. So if you are going to refer to any of those, can I ask
8 you to make it clear that you are referring to them when
9 you're answering my questions?

10 A. Yes, I will do.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 All right, first topic that I want to move to is
13 your recruitment to the SDS, please. You say in your
14 witness statement that before you became an SDS officer,
15 you were a Special Branch officer; that's right?

16 A. Yes, I was a Special Branch officer for nine years
17 before I joined.

18 Q. And no need to be specific about the dates at
19 the moment, but it's right, isn't it, that after your
20 SDS deployment had concluded, you also returned to
21 Special Branch at some point, and spent most if not all
22 of your career in Special Branch thereafter?

23 A. Yes, all my career.

24 Q. You mention in your witness statement that prior to your
25 work on the SDS, you had worked on C Squad of

1 Special Branch and at that time you refer to it
2 as "the industrial section"; is that right?

3 A. No, I -- I didn't work on C Squad until I came back to
4 the branch after being on the SDS. But I worked on
5 several squads before I joined the SDS.

6 Q. At some point, did you work on C Squad when it was
7 the industrial section?

8 A. I did work on C Squad, but I was a senior officer in
9 the office of C Squad.

10 Q. And when you worked on it, was it dealing with
11 industrial matters?

12 A. I can't remember it being just the industrial squad. I
13 did -- I worked on C Squad as a whole, but not on -- not
14 on the industrial section.

15 Q. So dealing with issues wider than simply industrial
16 matters?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did it include industrial matters?

19 A. Not to my memory.

20 Q. Did it include left wing extremism, as it was termed,
21 and public order when you worked on C Squad?

22 A. Part of C Squad would have done, but I can't remember
23 what section I was on. I was only there for a year.

24 Q. During your time at C Squad, were you conscious of
25 handling or being in receipt of intelligence that had

1 come from SDS officers?

2 A. I was not, no.

3 Q. Your recruitment then to the SDS directly. You describe
4 in your witness statement two attempts to recruit you.
5 I'm going to ask you about the first attempt first.

6 Don't mention any names, but is it right that you
7 had or you knew someone who was in the SDS at the time
8 who invited you to join? The first attempt at
9 recruitment.

10 A. It's correct.

11 Q. Again, no names. Was that person, to your knowledge, an
12 undercover officer at the time, or in the supervisory
13 chain?

14 A. He was an undercover officer, and I think he probably
15 finished by the time he spoke to me.

16 Q. At the point of that first approach to you, did you know
17 what the work of the SDS involved?

18 A. Vaguely.

19 Q. And what was your understanding? What was your vague
20 understanding?

21 A. That officers were asked to -- they would be tasked with
22 entering an area of London with the -- with an attempt
23 to try and get into an organisation that the senior
24 officer had pushed you in that way, and -- and they said
25 that I would be good at the job, basically.

1 Q. At this stage, at the first attempt to recruit you,
2 the "they" you refer to who said you'd be good at
3 the job, was that the individual you've already
4 described, who had been an undercover officer himself?

5 A. Mm-hm. Yes.

6 Q. And your understanding of what the SDS did, as you've
7 just described it, where did that understanding come
8 from? Did somebody tell you that?

9 A. I would imagine that it was probably him.

10 Q. Now, again, we won't go into the details, but for
11 personal reasons, you didn't take up that first
12 suggestion of joining the SDS; is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Did you feel under any pressure to say yes or no when
15 you were approached?

16 A. Not at all.

17 Q. And you say in your witness statement that it was a few
18 years later that the same person approached you again to
19 join the SDS, and on this occasion you agreed; is that
20 right?

21 A. Yes. There had been a change in the circumstances in my
22 life, and therefore I was available.

23 Q. At the time of this second approach, was the person who
24 approached you within the SDS?

25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Was the person a Special Branch officer at that time?
- 2 A. Yes, he was.
- 3 Q. When you agreed to take up the role, did you have any
4 greater understanding of what it would involve than
5 the understanding you've already described?
- 6 A. Not -- not in any particular way, no.
- 7 Q. Did you or were you given any indication of how long you
8 would be expected to serve on the SDS when you were
9 approached to join?
- 10 A. I can't remember that being mentioned. And if -- if
11 I've not mentioned it in my statement, then -- then
12 probably no.
- 13 Q. In your witness statement -- I can bring it up if you
14 like, but I'll quote it -- you describe Special Branch
15 as a:
- 16 "... small, collegiate work environment, everyone
17 knew everyone else, and we all called one another by our
18 first names."
- 19 Is that accurate?
- 20 A. Very accurate.
- 21 Q. Does it follow that whoever it was that approached you
22 to join the SDS would probably have known your name and
23 a little bit about your work within Special Branch?
- 24 A. Yes, absolutely.
- 25 Q. And when you came to meet the supervising officers for

1 the SDS as part of the recruitment process, were those
2 names and faces similarly familiar to you?

3 A. Yes, yes. Most of the people who were in the office in
4 the SDS I had worked with for the last nine years. In
5 fact, the chief superintendent was a sergeant when
6 I first met -- joined.

7 Q. Did you speak to anybody else before agreeing to join
8 the SDS, other than the person who approached you, about
9 what the work would involve, for example?

10 A. Not that I can remember.

11 Q. In your witness statement you describe those two
12 approaches, and then in terms of recruitment process you
13 recall an interview. And you say that you remember
14 being told that the work would be secret and your
15 anonymity would be protected at the interview?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I just want to ask you about your recollection of that
18 interview in some other respects.

19 Do you recall there being any questions asked of you
20 about your suitability for an undercover role?

21 A. I can't remember any particular questions being asked,
22 no.

23 Q. Do you recall any discussion, whether at the interview
24 or at any other stage of the recruitment process, such
25 that it was, any discussion about your home life? You

- 1 were married at the time. Did that ever come up in
2 discussion?
- 3 A. Not in the initial discussion. It probably did later on
4 when I was getting closer to going out, leaving
5 the office.
- 6 Q. Do you mean -- by "leaving the office", do you mean
7 going undercover into your deployment?
- 8 A. Yes. Yes, indeed.
- 9 Q. And at that stage, do you recall some discussion about
10 your home life, your marriage?
- 11 A. I'm sure that would have come up. I -- I really cannot
12 recollect that long ago.
- 13 Q. When you say it would have come up -- I'm sorry to press
14 you -- do you mean in a formal sense that you would have
15 been asked questions by your supervisor, or do you mean
16 as part of informal chats with others?
- 17 A. Probably informal chats. Most of my colleagues,
18 including those who were in -- already in the office of
19 the SDS, knew my home arrangements, and we all used to
20 socialise together, with wives, many times. So yes,
21 they did; they were aware.
- 22 Q. Did you have some understanding at that early stage, so
23 when you were being recruited and in the first few
24 months, about what you were permitted to share with your
25 wife about what you would be doing?

- 1 A. I can't remember that ever being brought up. I --
2 I can't remember. It's a long time ago.
- 3 Q. And at any stage, was it suggested to you that being
4 married was seen as a positive attribute for a potential
5 recruit to the SDS?
- 6 A. I must admit, I thought that you had to be married, and
7 that most -- that all of the people on the Squad at the
8 time were married. It was only when I got out there
9 I realised that one hadn't -- wasn't married.
- 10 Q. What was it that led you to the conclusion that you
11 thought you had to be married?
- 12 A. Because it -- it led to a secure background, a secure
13 home, and I -- I suppose it was -- it was good to have
14 somebody at home when you -- when you came back after
15 a long weekend or a long day, and that you had somebody
16 there.
- 17 Q. And why was that considered important, do you think, to
18 have somebody there when you came home?
- 19 A. Well, so that you didn't go round the bend, quite
20 honestly.
- 21 Q. So, some sort of support for your welfare?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. To your knowledge, did anybody from the SDS speak to
24 your wife about what the role would require of you
25 before you deployed undercover?

1 A. I don't think so, but I can't remember that.

2 Q. I'm going to ask you, whilst we're discussing your wife
3 at the time you were recruited, to look at a series of
4 documents. They're actually dated some time after your
5 recruitment. It's {MPS/726912}, and it will come up on
6 the screen for you, HN126.

7 I'm going to ask, please, to start at page 9 of that
8 document, {MPS/726912/9}.

9 Now, HN126, for the purposes of publication, this
10 has been typed to make it legible, but it was once
11 a handwritten --

12 A. Oh yeah, yeah.

13 Q. -- letter.

14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 Q. And it's a letter that was sent to the commissioner at
16 the time, and it reads as follows -- I'm reading it,
17 HN126. You can see it, but for those who can't, who are
18 following this remotely online, it says this:

19 "Could you please look into why your supposed
20 undercover Special Branch officers ..."

21 Then there's a redaction, a gist, "undertake [a
22 particular] pastime openly":

23 "... have affairs with members of the opposite sex
24 who are also in the force, and in some instances
25 actually live in police accommodation together, nice bit

1 of undercover work, no wonder the police are coming in
2 for increasing criticism.

3 "Sorry that this is anonymous, but I can assure you
4 that the facts are correct, so what about some action
5 before the likes of the National Front (who you are
6 supposedly infiltrating for one) or the Press find out.

7 "Yours in hope of justice An ex-friend of a Hairy."

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If we could please scroll up in that document to page 6
10 {MPS/726912/6}, there's a report from 27 June 1980, and
11 paragraph 4, if we could focus on that. It might
12 require us to scroll down a little bit, if that's
13 possible. Thank you very much.

14 HN126, this is a report about that letter. You see
15 on the left-hand side, "Anonymous letter to
16 the Commissioner" is the subject of this report.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And paragraph 4 says:

19 "[HN126] was of the opinion that the only person who
20 was likely to have written the letter, and who would
21 have had sufficient knowledge of both his private
22 affairs and SDS operations to do so would be his wife
23 ... with whom he is currently involved in divorce
24 proceedings."

25 Does that accurately reflect your opinion at the

1 time as to the likely origins of the letter?

2 A. I'm sure that's where the letter did come from, but this
3 of course is my private life you're talking about.

4 Q. Yes, there are redactions in place to protect identities
5 here. I just want to ask you a few narrow questions
6 about this, if I may.

7 This confirms that the person who wrote the letter
8 was on the way to becoming your ex-wife at the time
9 the letter was written; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And I want to ask you this. Did you, following divorce
12 proceedings from that individual, did you later remarry?

13 A. I did later remarry, but could -- could we just look
14 back at this letter, and could you give me the date that
15 it's --

16 Q. Yes. The letter was written in May -- or received in
17 May 1980.

18 A. So that's three years after I'd gone undercover.

19 Q. After you'd joined the SDS, yes.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And the report that's on the screen at the moment, that
22 is dated 27 June 1980.

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. And so, we're talking about May/June 1980, involved in
25 divorce proceedings.

- 1 You've confirmed that you later remarried.
- 2 A. I did.
- 3 Q. My next question is, had you, by the time the letter was
4 written in May 1980, already met the woman who went on
5 to become your wife?
- 6 A. In -- yes, indeed. Yes.
- 7 Q. And what did that woman do for a living?
- 8 A. She was -- she worked alongside me. She was in the same
9 --
- 10 Q. So she worked for the police?
- 11 A. I beg your pardon?
- 12 Q. So she worked for the police?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. I'm just going to ask you about one other aspect of
15 these documents, please. Paragraph 3, just above on
16 the screen, the same report, dated 27 June 1980, about
17 halfway through that paragraph it records:
- 18 "[HN126] has correctly reported all the appropriate
19 details of his private life to the Commissioner, and
20 nothing is contained in the letter which was not already
21 known to his supervising officers."
- 22 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 23 Q. But does it --
- 24 A. Absolutely correct.
- 25 Q. Does it follow that you had informed your supervising

1 officers within the SDS that you were involved, first of
2 all, in divorce proceedings?

3 A. Yes, indeed.

4 Q. And, secondly, that you were in a new relationship with
5 a --

6 A. Absolutely.

7 Q. -- police officer?

8 A. And I had to ask permission to move into
9 the accommodation that we both lived in. As was every
10 officer: when they moved, they had to inform the --
11 excuse me -- they had to inform the chief superintendent
12 where they'd gone to.

13 Q. Other than for the purposes of informing them of your
14 home accommodation, if I can term it that way, was there
15 any other reason for telling your supervising officers
16 in the SDS about the circumstances of your private life?

17 A. Well, all of the senior officers -- all the senior
18 officers that -- in the SDS were -- knew -- knew the --
19 the person that I was -- moved in with and later
20 married. They all -- as you know, they all knew her.

21 Q. Your supervising officers in the SDS, did they seem to
22 take an interest in your private and family life?
23 Was it something that they would ask questions of you
24 about? Or did they wait to be approached by you about
25 things like that?

- 1 A. Yeah, I -- I think probably the latter.
- 2 Q. And just for clarification, did you ever have
3 a relationship during your undercover deployment with
4 somebody who you'd met in your undercover identity?
- 5 A. Absolutely not.
- 6 Q. If you had engaged in a relationship in your undercover
7 identity, is that something you would have expected to
8 inform your supervising officers about?
- 9 A. It was something that I would never have done. And none
10 of my colleagues at that time were expected to.
11 Although I now have found out certain -- certain of them
12 did have relationships.
- 13 Q. We'll come back to that as a topic a bit later.
- 14 Could I ask you this in relation to -- we can take
15 the document down now, please.
- 16 Can I ask you this. In relation to your
17 relationship with your wife that we see there that ended
18 in divorce, to what extent, if at all, did you take
19 the view that your undercover deployment with the SDS
20 had had an impact on their health or the strength of
21 that relationship?
- 22 A. I suppose it probably had -- did have, but it's not
23 something that -- I wasn't expecting her to react --
24 although, having seen the letter and having been aware
25 of this for a long time, she was fighting for her

- 1 husband, and I could understand that --
- 2 Q. And --
- 3 A. -- and Barry and Ray both -- both were aware of that.
- 4 Q. Insofar as you've just said that your undercover
- 5 deployment may have had an impact on your relationship
- 6 with your wife, can I press you, what about your
- 7 deployment was it that had an impact?
- 8 A. I -- I can't tell you. I -- I can't recollect. It's
- 9 many years ago. But one thing I did offer to do was to
- 10 -- to hand in my resignation, if that's what they felt
- 11 was the best thing to do. And I was persuaded by
- 12 the senior officers not to.
- 13 Q. Sorry, just to clarify, what do you think your
- 14 resignation would achieve in relation to your private
- 15 life?
- 16 A. It wouldn't have achieved anything to do with my private
- 17 life, but at least my work life would have been under --
- 18 under control.
- 19 Q. Did you regard the circumstances of your undercover
- 20 deployment to be out of control in some way?
- 21 A. Not at all.
- 22 Q. So when you say your work would have been under control,
- 23 can I just ask you to expand on what you mean by that?
- 24 A. I can't.
- 25 Q. Right. What I'm trying to get at is this. You've

1 suggested that it's possible that your undercover
2 deployment may have had an impact on your relationship
3 with your wife that ended in divorce, and I'm trying to
4 get at what it is about your undercover deployment that
5 might have made that relationship more difficult, if
6 that's what you were intending to express.

7 A. I -- I can't really answer that question.

8 Q. Final question about the letter that came in from your
9 wife. It was signed off "an ex-friend of a Hairy", so
10 the term "Hairy" is used in the letter?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. To what extent was that term in use whilst you were an
13 SDS undercover officer, and what did it mean?

14 A. It meant a member of the SDS, most of whom had got long
15 hair and beards. Not all, but most of them.

16 Q. And your wife at the time was obviously aware of that
17 term. Was it in common usage not just amongst
18 SDS officers but with their wives or partners as well?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I'm going to move on to a different topic now, HN126,
21 and that is the use, or how you came to use your cover
22 identity of "Paul Gray".

23 When you gave your witness statement to the Inquiry,
24 you indicated that HN356 -- and if you want to consult
25 the key, please do, because his real name is

1 restricted --

2 A. Did you say "356"?

3 Q. I did, yes.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. So you indicated in your witness statement that 356 was

6 in the finishing stages of preparing for his deployment

7 when you joined the SDS, and he showed you how to get

8 your cover identity from records at

9 St Catherine's House?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. When you say he showed you, do you mean he took you

12 physically to St Catherine's House, or just that he

13 described to you what it was you were to do?

14 A. I -- I think he took me along, but when I first joined

15 the -- the Squad and I had my initial interview with --

16 I think it was -- excuse me -- HN608, who was the chief

17 inspector, I suppose, at the time, and he advised that

18 the two of us went along. And he showed me what to do,

19 and it was all done in one visit, I think.

20 Q. Just to clarify that answer. Was it HN608 who directed

21 you to go to St Catherine's House --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and HN356 who accompanied you?

24 A. Yeah. Yeah, because he was still -- 356 was still in

25 the office waiting to go out.

1 Q. Were you aware when you were directed to do that -- or
2 if I put it this way: did you understand you had
3 a choice about whether or not to create your cover
4 identity in that way?

5 A. That was never mentioned.

6 Q. Any discussion at all before you went to
7 St Catherine's House of whether simply making up
8 a completely false identity was an option?

9 A. I don't think so.

10 Q. Were you aware that SDS undercover officers in the early
11 days of the Squad had used entirely made up identities
12 for their cover identities?

13 A. No, I wasn't.

14 Q. And so, as far as you were concerned, was this approach
15 the approach that you were to take; no alternative
16 available?

17 A. I don't -- I can't answer that, because we'd all watched
18 "The Day of the Jackal" a couple of years earlier, when
19 it came out, and that's how the identity was done in
20 that. And obviously it had been adopted by the SDS, and
21 had obviously proved successful.

22 Q. And do I take it from that that your understanding is
23 that the idea of using the identity of a deceased person
24 was an idea that sprung from "The Day of the Jackal"?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You describe in your witness statement -- I'm going to
2 quote from paragraph 43 {MPS/740761/12} -- you describe
3 the practice of using the identity of a deceased child
4 as like "a sensible precaution, just in case someone
5 decided to look you up". Do you remain of that view?

6 A. I do remain of that view. I can't remember saying it,
7 but I remain of that view.

8 Q. Did you consider at any stage the possibility that you
9 might be presented with the death certificate of
10 the individual whose identity you were going to select?

11 A. It wasn't something that I'd thought about, but I was
12 very aware of one of my predecessors having had that
13 done to him a couple of years earlier. It was very much
14 in all our minds when we joined the Squad.

15 Q. I can use that officer's real name. It was Detective
16 Constable Richard, or Rick, Clark; that name is not
17 restricted.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Who had been presented with his own death certificate,
20 as you say, a little bit before you joined the unit?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did the fact that his cover identity had been
23 compromised in that way lead you to question whether or
24 not using a deceased child's identity was in fact
25 a secure method of establishing a cover for your

- 1 deployment?
- 2 A. It didn't at all. I was assured by the staff in
3 the office that it would be okay; and there were other
4 parts of his deployment that I would never have got
5 into, so in my mind it didn't matter.
- 6 Q. Two questions following on from that.
- 7 When you say you were assured by the staff in
8 the office, do you mean to refer to the detective
9 chief inspector, the detective inspector and/or anybody
10 else? Can you be clear which level of person in
11 the office you're referring to?
- 12 A. Well, I've already said that 608 had told me to go along
13 to St Catherine's House with my other colleague --
14 I can't see him. Yeah.
- 15 Q. So the information you were getting about using this
16 method was coming from HN608?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. I've just been handed a note, I'm grateful. HN608's
19 name is not restricted?
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 Q. So you're referring to Ken Pryde; is that right?
- 22 A. Ken Pryde.
- 23 Q. In your witness statement you said you thought you
24 believed the practice of going to St Catherine's House
25 had been thought up by Conrad Dixon, who founded

1 the SDS. But from what you've just said, you seem to be
2 suggesting that it came into being as a practice
3 somewhat later than that?

4 A. As far as I remember.

5 Q. Are you able to assist as to whether you still remain of
6 the view that it might have been thought up by
7 Conrad Dixon?

8 A. Not having listened to all the hearing that took place
9 during his -- his colleagues being heard at the inquiry,
10 I -- I don't know what was said at -- at that, whether
11 they used the same practice, but I -- I wouldn't have
12 thought so. I would have thought that "The Day of the
13 Jackal" was a little bit more likely.

14 Q. And then just going back to your previous answer, that
15 you became aware that Richard or Rick Clark had had his
16 death certificate presented to him, you said that there
17 were parts of his deployment that you would never have
18 gotten into and so it didn't concern you; what bits of
19 his deployment were parts that you would never have
20 gotten into? What were you referring to there?

21 A. I think you probably know what I'm talking about.

22 Q. Well, 126, forgive me, I need to elicit the evidence
23 from you, so that you can explain what it is you mean.

24 A. Well --

25 Q. So was there something in particular that you were

- 1 referring to?
- 2 A. From -- yes, I was talking about the fact that he'd
3 obviously had an affair whilst he was undercover. And
4 as a result of that, suspicions had been brought about,
5 and they had passed -- they'd found his death
6 certificate, or the death certificate of the child,
7 which ...
- 8 Q. Did you understand that at the time, when you were being
9 asked to go to St Catherine's House, did you know all
10 about those circumstances of HN297, Rick Clark's
11 deployment?
- 12 A. I didn't know the details of it at all --
- 13 Q. What --
- 14 A. -- but the rumour -- the rumour around was that he'd
15 come off in a hurry.
- 16 Q. And did that rumour include reference to him having
17 affairs with women whilst undercover?
- 18 A. Yes. As I said, rumours.
- 19 Q. Presumably, entering into an undercover deployment, you
20 contemplated the risk of being recognised or being
21 unmasked yourself in advance. To what extent did
22 relying on a deceased child's identity reassure you in
23 that regard that you would be able to maintain your
24 cover by using a deceased child's identity?
- 25 A. Well, it was -- it was a backbone for me. I didn't use

1 all the details. And it enabled me to apply for
2 a driving licence, and also I think possibly a passport.
3 Although I never travelled abroad whilst undercover.

4 Q. Did you undertake any research into the family life of
5 the child whose identity you were going to use?

6 A. No, I didn't.

7 Q. Did anybody ever suggest to you that you might like to
8 do so, or was that never --

9 A. Not -- not at all. Not to my memory anyhow. I can't
10 remember.

11 Q. Could I ask, please, for your witness statement to be
12 brought up on screen, to assist you to refresh your
13 memory. That's {MPS/740761/12} at paragraph 44, which
14 is on page 12 of the document on Opus.

15 If we could zoom in on paragraph 44 towards
16 the bottom, please.

17 126, you say at paragraph 44:

18 "I cannot remember much else ..."

19 Having said you were a van driver:

20 "I cannot remember much else about my cover identity
21 now, and it is possible that it was not very detailed.

22 I do not think anyone ever really tested it. I probably
23 would have bluffed my way through the conversation had
24 anyone asked about my background."

25 The reference there to nobody ever really testing

1 it, did you mean to refer to nobody who you met whilst
2 deployed undercover, or did you mean to refer to your
3 supervisors?

4 A. Whilst I was undercover, not my supervisors.

5 Q. Did your supervisors, or your contemporary
6 undercover officers before your deployment, ever test
7 your cover identity to see whether it stood up to
8 scrutiny?

9 A. Not that I can remember.

10 Q. Was it ever suggested to you whilst you were preparing
11 to deploy undercover that you should get not just
12 a cover name and identity, but also a background story
13 straight, so that it could withstand enquiry in
14 the event somebody tested it?

15 A. I had in my mind a very good background story, and I was
16 very happy with that, if I needed to use it. But the
17 opportunity never arose.

18 Q. And when you say you probably would have bluffed your
19 way through had anybody asked; again, was that something
20 that was a suggested technique, if it can be called
21 a "technique"?

22 A. I don't think it's a technique. I think that's just
23 the way that the person who wrote my statement down
24 has -- has presented it on the page.

25 Q. Would you have bluffed your way through if your identity

- 1 had been tested?
- 2 A. Not half.
- 3 Q. Did you at any stage feel uncomfortable with using
4 the identity of a person who had died in childhood?
- 5 A. I don't think it ever crossed my mind after it had all
6 been okayed with the people in the office.
- 7 Q. Did you ever hear anybody within the SDS, supervisor or
8 undercover officer, express any reservations about
9 the technique?
- 10 A. No, I didn't.
- 11 Q. Did you ever have regard -- did you ever think about the
12 family of the deceased child and how they might feel
13 about their relative's identity being used by a police
14 officer in this way?
- 15 A. I didn't, probably because I only took certain parts
16 from the identity and didn't take everything. So, I --
17 it's not something -- I was too busy doing the job,
18 quite honestly, I'm afraid.
- 19 Q. Was only taking certain parts of the identity -- did you
20 do that because of concern about using the deceased
21 child's identity or the family, or for some other
22 reason?
- 23 A. I did it because it was simpler for me to remember.
- 24 Q. All right, thank you.
- 25 I'm going to move on to another topic now, please,

1 and that is about the time that you spent before your
2 deployment in the office of the SDS. Can I ask
3 the witness statement to be taken down for now, please.

4 During -- or I should say, after you were recruited
5 to the SDS, I think you tell us in your witness
6 statement you think you spent around six months
7 preparing to go into the field; is that right?

8 A. Approximately.

9 Q. And during that time, you say you would attend
10 twice-weekly meetings at an SDS cover flat?

11 A. Once or twice a week.

12 Q. And at those meetings, would you see the officers who
13 were already deployed undercover?

14 A. Yes, I would.

15 Q. Did you remain present throughout those meetings when
16 you attended them?

17 A. Most of the time, as far as I know.

18 Q. And can you give us some idea of how long those meetings
19 would last when you attended them?

20 A. I couldn't tell you.

21 Q. Are you able to give a rough idea of whether it was
22 a ten-minute meeting or several hours?

23 A. People came at different times. I was obviously out
24 there probably driving the people from the office to get
25 there, so I would have been there the same length of

- 1 time as they were there. But as for the officers who
2 were in the field, I couldn't tell you, I'm afraid.
- 3 Q. The people from the office who attended, was it always
4 the same people who attended, or did that vary depending
5 on the meeting?
- 6 A. It varied. It seemed to vary.
- 7 Q. And so for example, the detective chief inspector might
8 not be present for every meeting?
- 9 A. I would say that he was present.
- 10 Q. And what about the detective inspector at the time? Was
11 that individual usually present?
- 12 A. It could be. It all depends really.
- 13 Q. The format of the meetings, were they structured so that
14 everybody took their turn to speak, or was it a more
15 informal style?
- 16 A. It was an informal style, but everybody was allowed to
17 -- to say their bit. But obviously the Chief Inspector
18 was the one who told us what was still going on back at
19 the Yard to keep us in mind of what -- what was going
20 on. We still read police orders, which were very
21 important.
- 22 Q. Was your role there, or your purpose in attending these
23 meetings before you deployed, to learn from others who
24 were already doing the job?
- 25 A. Yes. I -- I probably got most of my knowledge from

- 1 them, yes.
- 2 Q. And so does it follow that you spoke to the deployed
3 officers about what they were up to as part of their
4 deployments?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. How did you learn from them, then, if you weren't
7 speaking to them about what they were doing undercover?
- 8 A. Well, obviously I would have seen their reports, because
9 the reports would have come back to the office and they
10 would have been handled through the -- throughout
11 the office.
- 12 Q. But sticking to the meetings at the SDS cover flat that
13 you attended.
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. Were you learning at those meetings about what was going
16 to be expected of you when you were deployed undercover?
- 17 A. Yes, probably.
- 18 Q. And what aspects of being an undercover officer did you
19 learn from attending those meetings?
- 20 A. How to -- how to -- how to present a report, or how to
21 present notes. It was -- I -- I couldn't -- I can't
22 tell you.
- 23 Q. Did the individual undercover officers who attended
24 those meetings speak about what they were doing during
25 their deployments whilst you were there?

1 A. If they did, then it would have been to speak to one of
2 the other officers from the -- from the -- from
3 the office, because they would have possibly had a --
4 something they wanted to tell them about, or -- tell
5 them about their deployment.

6 Q. Do you mean to indicate a private conversation between
7 the officer and a supervising officer?

8 A. If it was private, then they would probably have gone
9 into another -- another room.

10 Q. And so if they were having the conversation in the main
11 room, does it follow that others would have been able to
12 hear what was being discussed?

13 A. Not always, because quite honestly -- I'm going -- I'm
14 going on now to when I was out in the field -- I hadn't
15 a clue what the other officers were doing, apart from --
16 even -- even the ones who were in the same group as me.
17 It wasn't something that was talked about a lot.

18 Q. Was it talked about at all?

19 A. Very little. I've -- I've learnt a lot during this
20 Inquiry as to what some of the other colleagues of mine
21 were doing. I -- I hadn't a clue.

22 Q. You've referred to the fact that you carried on going to
23 those meetings once you were deployed undercover. Once
24 you were deployed undercover, what did you consider
25 the purpose of those meetings to be, for you?

1 A. For me? To -- to bring in any reports that you'd made
2 notes on at home or that -- that you -- and then to ask
3 during quite a few -- a couple of years that I was
4 there, you'd come into the meetings, and before
5 the meeting started, one of the inspectors from
6 the office would come out and give you a promotion
7 class, because of course we were still police officers,
8 and we were still taking our exams whilst we were out
9 there. And that was absolutely brilliant. They used to
10 come out and get us -- get us through the exams in the
11 end.

12 Q. If you had had a difficulty with your undercover
13 deployment, is that the sort of thing you might have
14 discussed at one of these meetings?

15 A. If I was in difficulty?

16 Q. Yes. So if you had an issue that was troubling you in
17 relation to your undercover deployment, is that the sort
18 of thing you might have discussed at one of these
19 meetings?

20 A. Yes, yes, it would. Or I would have asked for
21 a one-to-one meeting on a squash court or whatever.

22 Q. Can I ask, please, for your witness statement to be
23 brought up again, please, at paragraph 24, which is
24 page 8, {MPS/740761/8}.

25 Sorry, I think we might have to start on page 7

1 {MPS/740761/7}. Thank you.

2 126, your -- this part of your witness statement is
3 addressing the time before you deployed undercover and
4 the meetings that we've just been discussing, and at
5 paragraph 24 you say this:

6 "After the meetings, I would go and have a pint in
7 a local pub with the officers who were undertaking
8 deployments in groups similar to the one that I would
9 be ..."

10 And then over the page, please, {MPS/740761/8}:

11 "... that I would be deployed into. If they did not
12 drink, they would just have a chat with me at the end of
13 the meeting at the SDS cover flat. They would give me
14 advice on what I should be doing when I went into
15 the field. I cannot remember which officers gave me
16 advice in that way as it was a very long time ago now."

17 Does it follow from that that you knew before you
18 went undercover which group you would be deploying into?

19 A. I would have done after several weeks in the office.

20 Q. And does it also follow that you knew which of

21 the officers already deployed undercover were in that
22 same group?

23 A. Not all of them, no, because not all of them stayed --

24 does it say there "did not drink"? Not all of them
25 would go for a pint.

1 Q. I think if we -- it's at the earlier part of
2 the paragraph. If we could just skip back up, please,
3 to the beginning of paragraph 24, {MPS/740761/7}.

4 You say:

5 "... I would go and have a pint in a local pub with
6 the officers who were undertaking deployments in groups
7 similar to the one that I would be deployed into."

8 That rather suggests, doesn't it, that you knew when
9 you were going to the pub with them that they were
10 already deployed into groups like the one you would be
11 deployed into?

12 A. Yes, it would, but as I've just said, not all
13 the officers used to go to the pubs.

14 Q. No, but those that did -- if we restrict it to those
15 that did --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- that would have been the position?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. As far as you were concerned, was this method of
20 learning from those already deployed in similar areas an
21 accepted method of learning within the SDS? Was this
22 the norm?

23 A. I think at that time it probably was.

24 Q. Did you ever receive any more structured teaching or
25 guidance than turning up at meetings and speaking to

- 1 the officers already deployed?
- 2 A. I was -- on certain occasions I was advised to sit and
3 read through some reports -- (overspeaking) --
- 4 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- I'm sorry.
- 5 A. I can't remember any more with -- you know, we're so far
6 away.
- 7 Q. Just when you say read through reports, do you mean
8 the reports that were being submitted by those already
9 undercover?
- 10 A. Yes, and possibly even the policy reports.
- 11 Q. When you spoke to officers either at the meetings or, if
12 they came to the pub, in the pub, can you help us as to
13 what sort of information they shared with you?
- 14 A. I can't, I'm sorry.
- 15 Q. I'm going to ask you about some individuals who
16 the Inquiry understands were deployed into
17 the Socialist Workers Party at the time that you were in
18 the office preparing for your deployment, to see if
19 I can jog your memory as to who might have given you
20 guidance or advice. And refer to the cipher key as you
21 need to.
- 22 First of all, HN356, who you've already mentioned
23 coming with you to St Catherine's House.
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. Other than in relation to the creation of your cover

1 identity in that way, did he provide you with any advice
2 about how to start your undercover deployment?

3 A. Yes, he did.

4 Q. And are you able to say what advice he gave you, other
5 than in relation to your identity?

6 A. He probably gave me some advice on how to go about
7 finding a flat to live in, and possibly about -- I --
8 I can't remember what else he did. I don't know. He
9 was very -- very useful. And obviously the person
10 that's closer to -- closest to you as you go out into
11 the field is probably the one that you stick -- you
12 stick with all the way through.

13 Q. And for you, was that HN356?

14 A. At that time, yes.

15 Q. Did you remain closest to HN356 of all of the officers
16 that you were deployed alongside, do you think?

17 A. At that time, yes.

18 Q. Another officer who I'm just going to ask whether they
19 gave you any advice -- again, the real name is
20 restricted -- HN296, also deploys into the SWP. Did he
21 give you any advice, that you recall, about deploying
22 undercover?

23 A. No, because I -- I think he had -- he was already
24 winding down when I -- yes, he possibly could have done.
25 But I was winding down when he -- he was winding down

1 when I came onto the Squad, and I probably replaced him
2 in that area of London. And quite a lot of the reports
3 that were given to me to look at when I made my
4 statement were quite -- to me, quite obviously his.

5 Q. So, you regard him as your predecessor officer; is that
6 right?

7 A. Yes. Not in exactly the same area, but in the general
8 area of London.

9 Q. Another officer, same question, whether they gave you
10 any advice. HN80. The real name is restricted.

11 A. I knew him before I joined and was very -- well, knew
12 him very well before he joined the Squad. I don't think
13 I got that much advice from him, as we were in
14 a completely different part of London.

15 Q. And then the same question, please, HN354, also an SWP
16 deployment. The Inquiry heard from him yesterday.
17 Based in Walthamstow and Leytonstone.

18 A. Yeah, I met him. I didn't know him before I joined
19 the Squad. He hadn't been around in my younger days.
20 He'd -- I think he must have come on to the Squad very
21 quickly after joining the Branch. And I didn't see him,
22 for obvious reasons. I would see him occasionally at
23 the -- at the flat, but I think he had other friends in
24 the Squad at the time.

25 Q. Both HN354 and HN80 have provided evidence to

1 the Inquiry, either written or orally, to suggest that
2 they might sometimes have drafted composite reports with
3 you on the SWP. Do you recall that?

4 A. I don't think I would have known if that had been done.

5 If we all gave information about, for instance,
6 a conference, or a march, I wouldn't have known who
7 the others -- other officers were.

8 Q. So are you --

9 A. But that's -- that's something that could easily have
10 happened.

11 Q. Right. So are you surprised if they are -- if they
12 appear able to tell the Inquiry that they drafted
13 composite reports with you?

14 A. I honestly couldn't help you on that. Quite often,
15 the composite reports were sometimes done by the
16 C Squad; they would gather in all the information and
17 write up a report.

18 Q. I'll come back later today to ask you a little bit more
19 about the process of report writing.

20 Just, finally, as to officers who may have given you
21 advice as you were going into the field, I'm going to
22 ask you, please, about HN96 -- real name is restricted
23 -- would have deployed around the same time as you, most
24 likely?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do you remember him?

2 A. Yes, I remember him.

3 Q. And did you discuss undercover deployment with HN96?

4 A. I could possibly have done. He followed me out into

5 the field, so ...

6 Q. Might you have given him advice?

7 A. I probably would -- would have done.

8 Q. This -- you've described the going to the pub with some

9 of the officers after the meetings. Is that something

10 that continued to happen once you were deployed

11 undercover?

12 A. If you had time, yes.

13 Q. And at those meetings and at the pub, once you were an

14 undercover officer, did you follow the pattern of

15 providing advice and guidance to those who followed you,

16 generally?

17 A. Quite honestly, when we got to the pub, we didn't really

18 talk about the pub for obviously -- obvious reasons, but

19 we were probably talking about how Millwall were getting

20 on, or whatever.

21 MS GARGITTER: HN126, I'm being asked to ensure that we have

22 a break now, because there are, in particular, shorthand

23 writers who need to keep up with what we're saying.

24 So, Sir, would that be a convenient moment?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, it would. We'll break for a quarter of

1 an hour.

2 MS GARGITTER: Thank you.

3 A. Thank you.

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

7 The time is now 12.05 pm, so we shall reconvene at
8 12.20 pm. Thank you.

9 (12.04 pm)

10 (A short break)

11 (12.20 pm)

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

13 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
14 proceedings.

15 Chairman.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 Ms Gargitter.

18 MS GARGITTER: Thank you, Sir.

19 HN126, just before the break I was asking you some
20 questions about guidance that was provided to you before
21 you deployed. I just want to ask you a series of
22 questions about particular topics and whether or not you
23 were ever provided with guidance about those topics in
24 particular.

25 So, first of all, were you ever provided with

1 guidance about the extent to which it would be
2 appropriate for you to form relationships with those you
3 came into contact with? And by "relationships", can you
4 address first of all friendships, and then separately
5 any sort of closer sexual relationship with anybody.

6 A. As far as the first part there, you were allowed --
7 I was allowed to get close, because obviously I was
8 going to -- if I was joining a branch of whatever party,
9 I was going to have to be able to get on with them,
10 speak to them. Being the only person, quite often, with
11 a van, they were always cadging lifts, so I used to get
12 on very well with the men and the women. The women --
13 it was never mentioned that we were not able to have
14 relationships, but there again, it was not expected.
15 And I'm sure if -- if I'd heard about anybody else who
16 was having a relationship, I'm afraid I would have
17 reported it to the office.

18 Q. So, you're saying if you had become aware of anybody
19 having a sexual relationship whilst in their undercover
20 identity, that's something you --

21 A. I was never aware of anybody who worked at the same time
22 as me having a sexual relationship.

23 Q. I'll come back to that in a moment. I'm just going to
24 continue on topics, asking you about whether you
25 received any formal guidance on a list of topics.

1 The second topic is the extent to which it was
2 permissible for you to participate in committing crimes
3 whilst undercover. Did you receive any guidance on
4 that?

5 A. I can't remember having any guidance. It was really
6 common sense more than anything.

7 Q. Can you just expand, what was common sense, as far as
8 you were concerned?

9 A. Common sense that obviously, if you're going to go to
10 the pub after a meeting, or a lot of the meetings were
11 held in pubs, you would have a couple of pints, and that
12 you were going to drive home. You had to deliver all
13 the people in your branch back to where they lived. So,
14 that's as far as the breaking the law was concerned.

15 Q. So, as far as you were concerned -- and correct me if
16 I'm wrong, do I understand you to be saying you
17 considered it was permissible to drive having consumed
18 more alcohol than was permitted, but no other criminal
19 activity beyond that?

20 A. It was very difficult to have more alcohol than was
21 permitted, because those were the days of Watney's Red
22 Barrel and Whitbread Tankard, and they weren't very
23 strong.

24 Q. I just ask you that because my question was whether you
25 were given any guidance on the extent to which you were

1 permitted to participate in criminal behaviour, and you
2 mentioned going to the pub, having a couple of pints and
3 driving. So I'll go back to my initial question: were
4 you given any guidance on whether you were permitted to
5 participate in crime?

6 A. Not that I can remember -- (overspeaking) --

7 Q. So either way -- (overspeaking) --

8 A. It was common sense -- it was all common sense.

9 Q. Can I just explore that. When you say "it was all
10 common sense", do you mean it was left to your own
11 judgment to use your own common sense?

12 A. Yes, I mean, if you're talking about having a couple of
13 pints and then driving, yes. But I had to be very
14 careful, because my employment was as a driver, and
15 I always had an excuse for leaving the pub a bit early,
16 if necessary.

17 Q. And what about other types of crime? What if you'd been
18 invited to, say, get involved in a violent demonstration
19 and commit an act of violence? Is that something you
20 thought you were permitted to do or not permitted to do?

21 A. Not permitted to do, because if you were -- if you were
22 invited to go to a violent demonstration, there's no way
23 that you knew it was going to be violent before it
24 started. It's -- normally it took off, and I would
25 always make sure that I was in a place where I wasn't

- 1 going to get arrested.
- 2 Q. Did you receive any guidance on whether it was
3 permissible for you to report information that was
4 subject to legal professional privilege?
- 5 A. Yeah, I don't understand that.
- 6 Q. Do you understand what "legal professional privilege"
7 means?
- 8 A. I don't, no.
- 9 Q. Communications between a lawyer and the lawyer's client
10 to be kept confidential. That's the simplest way of
11 putting it. Were you aware of that when you were an
12 undercover officer?
- 13 A. Not at all. I've never heard of that before.
- 14 Q. So does it follow that you didn't receive any guidance
15 on whether or not you could report that sort of
16 information?
- 17 A. I can't have done. I can't have done. I don't think
18 that impression was in existence in those days.
- 19 Q. Were you given any formal guidance about types of
20 information that you should or should not include in
21 your reporting?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. And were you given any formal guidance on ethical or
24 legal limits to what you could do whilst undercover,
25 other than the topics I've already asked you about?

1 A. I -- not specifically, no.

2 Q. In your witness statement you refer to two -- I'm going
3 to call them "managers"; I think you refer to them
4 as "the office". So two people who were in the office.
5 The first is Mike Ferguson, whose name you can use.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And the second is HN68, whose name is restricted. Would
8 you like to look at the key, so that you know --

9 A. Yeah. Okay, yeah. Yes.

10 Q. And in your witness statement you say that you knew they
11 had previously been undercover officers with the SDS?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Did either of those managers at the time offer you
14 advice on how you should go about your undercover
15 deployment?

16 A. Yes, I'm sure they did. It's difficult to separate what
17 I learnt from them on the squash court rather than in
18 the office. I mean, we were -- we were big friends --

19 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

20 A. -- you know.

21 Q. I'm just going to ask you to pause there. So these are
22 two individuals who you knew relatively well both at
23 work and outside of work; is that right?

24 A. Absolutely. Nearly all the people in the office I knew
25 outside work and before I had joined the Squad.

- 1 Q. In relation to these two managers in particular,
2 Mike Ferguson and HN68, you said in your witness
3 statement -- I'm quoting:
4 "... [they] were absolutely brilliant, very
5 experienced. They would always be there if you needed
6 them."
7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. When you say they were "very experienced", was that
9 a reference to their experience of being deployed
10 undercover themselves, or did you mean to refer simply
11 to their experience or their attitude as managers?
12 A. They had both got great experience as working
13 undercover, which they passed on to us, and -- and
14 the other -- the other as well. They were good all
15 round officers.
- 16 Q. In your witness statement you suggest that you would
17 discuss with them what was going on in your group and
18 how you were getting on; is that right?
19 A. Sounds -- sounds good to me.
- 20 Q. And the phrase "what was going on in your group", what
21 does that encompass? What were you discussing with
22 them, in broad terms?
23 A. Probably whether or not the group was increasing in
24 numbers or decreasing in numbers, whether it was time to
25 move on to a different area, a different topic for me.

1 I don't know. It was general chit-chat whilst -- as you
2 do.

3 Q. And don't answer this if you're not able to say, but are
4 you able to say whether other undercover officers who
5 served at the same time as you had a similar sort of
6 relationship with the managers and would discuss things
7 to a similar level of detail?

8 A. I would like to think so, but I don't know.

9 Q. Can I ask, please, for your witness statement to be
10 brought up on the screen at paragraph 112, just so that
11 you can refresh your memory. It's page 31 on
12 the electronic system, {MPS/740761/31}.

13 I'm going to read a part of paragraph 112. It's
14 a section of your witness statement, 126, where you're
15 talking about tasking, and you say this:

16 "If it got to the stage in the field that if I was
17 unsure about what to do next, I would have talked to my
18 fellow officers before going to the office to talk about
19 things. That being said, there were lots of
20 opportunities to catch up on what you were doing with
21 the office, both in person and over the telephone in
22 the morning, so they were well aware what I was doing at
23 any one time."

24 Is that an accurate summary of management's level of
25 knowledge of what you were doing during your deployment?

- 1 A. Yes, that sounds quite good.
- 2 Q. In terms of management knowledge then and what you were
3 doing, they would be receiving intelligence reporting
4 from you, daily calls and potentially seeing you up to
5 twice a week at meetings. Is that the sort of level of
6 contact that you had with them regularly whilst
7 deployed?
- 8 A. Yes, I would -- as I've said before, I would see them
9 sometimes outside those periods of time when we were
10 receiving promotion exam lessons and playing on
11 the squash court. I mean, these are -- I would see them
12 this both those contexts.
- 13 Q. Would it be a fair summary that you felt that your
14 managers had a pretty good idea what you were up to
15 whilst you were undercover?
- 16 A. Yeah. I would think they would agree with that as well.
- 17 Q. Just remaining -- if we could just scroll up a little
18 bit, just on paragraph 112 of your witness statement --
19 I read it out a moment ago -- I have just one more
20 question, please -- sorry, paragraph 112, page 31,
21 {MPS/740761/31}. Thank you.
- 22 You say there that if you got to the stage where you
23 were unsure about what to do whilst in the field, you
24 would have talked to your fellow officers first. Are
25 you able to say whether there was anyone in particular

1 who you would have gone to for advice? Use the cipher
2 key if you are going to refer to anybody, please.

3 A. I can't -- I can't remember any particular officers.

4 Q. Can we scroll down, please, in the witness statement to
5 page 33, paragraph 121, {MPS/740761/33}. I'm just going
6 to ask you some more questions now about your
7 relationships with your fellow undercover officers,
8 HN126.

9 You refer at paragraph 121 to occasionally meeting
10 with the other undercover officers who were deployed:

11 "We would do things like go out for a curry. They
12 were my colleagues. We would try to carry on normal
13 life as much as we could away from our undercover jobs.
14 We would never talk about our undercover jobs when we
15 met like that, unless you needed some advice from
16 someone who had done it before. Generally, you would
17 have absolutely no idea what the others were doing."

18 Again, are you able to say now, using the nominals
19 on the cipher key, which officers you would do things
20 with, like go out for a curry?

21 A. I can try. Let me have a look. (Pause)

22 Yes, 355, 356. That's the starting place.

23 Q. You told us, for example, earlier that you knew HN80
24 quite well. Is that someone who you would have gone out
25 for a curry, or something similar, with outside of your

- 1 deployment?
- 2 A. Probably not, because he was always having to get back
3 to his area of London, which was always a long way away
4 from the cover flats.
- 5 Q. I'm going to ask you about two other officers in
6 particular as well now, HN155. Was that somebody you
7 spent time with away from work?
- 8 A. No, I -- I can't remember meeting him after he -- he
9 came quite a time after me. I can't remember going out
10 for a -- socialising with him.
- 11 Q. And HN106?
- 12 A. No. He came a bit after me. I can't remember.
13 I remember him at the office meetings. I don't think he
14 ever went for promotion, so he didn't come to promotion
15 classes. So, can't remember. He would have been in
16 the pub, probably, if we'd been to a local pub near one
17 of the safe houses, but that's all.
- 18 Q. In that paragraph of your witness statement,
19 paragraph 121, you say you wouldn't talk about your
20 undercover jobs unless you needed some advice from
21 someone who had done it before. Does it follow from
22 that that you recall that there were occasions when you
23 either sought or gave advice in that context about your
24 undercover deployment?
- 25 A. That's what I've said there.

1 Q. Do you remember giving or receiving advice from anyone
2 in particular about any particular topic?

3 A. 45 years ago, no.

4 Q. You say a bit later in your statement -- it's
5 paragraph 241 -- I'll ask that it be brought up so that
6 you can see it as you're answering the questions. It's
7 page 67, please, of the witness statement,
8 {MPS/740761/67}.

9 Just by way of an example, at the very top there,
10 you refer -- I'll wait for it to come up -- you say:

11 "Several of my SDS colleagues attended and reported
12 on the Grunwicks disputes."

13 How did you know that your colleagues -- what your
14 colleagues were reporting on? In particular that
15 aspect?

16 A. One of the reasons that I was moved to that particular
17 part of London was to replace an officer who had in
18 the past reported on Grunwicks. You have got to
19 remember, Grunwicks went on for two years, every day.
20 And I don't think I submitted any reports, because most
21 of the work done with myself was going to the early
22 morning pickets of -- of the Grunwicks factory, and
23 giving detail beforehand -- giving details to the office
24 of how much -- how many people were likely to be on
25 the streets, whether it was going to be a big one or

1 a small one. And that was all done by telephone.

2 That's why probably I say I don't recall submitting any
3 reports.

4 Q. Just coming back to the question, if I may, it says that
5 several of your colleagues attended and reported on
6 the dispute.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. The question is, how, by what method did you know what
9 your colleagues were doing?

10 A. I didn't know what my colleagues were doing. We -- you
11 might see one of them. We're talking about 7 o'clock in
12 the morning when -- when the Grunwicks employers were
13 being bussed in. On some days, it was a big punch-up;
14 on other days there were hardly any pickets there at
15 all. But the pickets came from all over the country,
16 and quite notable people were attending.

17 Q. I'm just going to ask once more. How was it that you
18 knew that several of your SDS colleagues attended and
19 reported on those disputes?

20 A. I obviously didn't see their reports, but -- well,
21 I think it -- it explains it there in the third
22 sentence:

23 "My colleagues were far better placed to do ..."

24 I would have possibly talked to them, but I -- I do
25 not recall writing any reports myself.

1 Q. Could it be, for example, that that was the sort of
2 thing that was discussed when you all met twice
3 weekly -- once or twice weekly, at the SDS cover flats?

4 A. It's possible. I can't remember.

5 Q. Can I ask you, please, to have a look at the cipher key.
6 I'm going to ask you about an officer with the nominal
7 "304".

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. That officer deployed into the International Socialists
10 that became the SWP in Hackney, and his deployment in
11 fact ended just before you joined the SDS, I think. But
12 he's given evidence to this Inquiry about the meetings
13 at the SDS cover flat. And in summary, he says that at
14 those meetings there was informal banter and jokey
15 remarks, including about women and about sexual
16 encounters with women whilst undercover.

17 Do you remember that sort of joking or banter
18 occurring at the meetings you attended?

19 A. Not at any of the meetings I attended. Or even in
20 the pub afterwards.

21 Q. If you had heard banter or joking of that nature, is it
22 something that you would have approved of?

23 A. I wouldn't have approved of it, and I quite honestly
24 can't imagine any of the colleagues that I knew doing
25 anything of that sort.

- 1 Q. You served alongside HN354, who you've already
2 mentioned. You would have been in the field reporting
3 on the SWP for around a year. Did you ever hear any
4 mention of him having sexual relationships in his cover
5 identity at a meeting or in the pub? Any mention of it
6 at the time?
- 7 A. I had no knowledge of what he said until it was said
8 yesterday -- or whenever he spoke, I can't remember.
9 I was very surprised. And had I known about it, I think
10 there would have been a consensus amongst the people who
11 were -- who met in -- in the pub -- sorry, in
12 the safe house. We would have had to speak to the -- to
13 the supervisors. And it didn't come up, because I never
14 -- I must admit, I never knew what was going on. But
15 there again, I wasn't in his circle.
- 16 Q. When you say you weren't in his circle, do you mean
17 privately in your real identities, or in your undercover
18 identities?
- 19 A. In my undercover identity.
- 20 Q. So does it follow that you don't recall attending events
21 in company with him whilst undercover, or anything of
22 that nature?
- 23 A. No. Not at all. I didn't know until the other day that
24 he'd been in the SWP.
- 25 Q. When you gave your witness statement to the Inquiry, one

1 of the things you said about your service and the
2 service of your contemporaries in the SDS was that they
3 had done an exemplary job. It follows from what you've
4 said today that when you made that statement, you didn't
5 know that HN354 had had sex with women in his undercover
6 identity. Now that you know that, does that alter your
7 view about whether or not you and your contemporaries
8 did an exemplary job?

9 A. You can add "as far as I know" they did an exemplary
10 job. I did not know about that occurrence. You will
11 have to ask other officers if they were aware, but
12 I definitely wasn't aware.

13 Q. Now that you do know, do you stand by your description
14 of them doing an exemplary job?

15 A. Yes, I probably do, because I think I say it's as far as
16 I know, they did an exemplary job.

17 Q. I'm going to ask you now about two other officers,
18 HN155, who I mentioned briefly before, an officer who
19 also deployed into the SWP and who you would have served
20 alongside for perhaps two to three years, based on dates
21 of deployment. How close were you to HN155?

22 A. How close? Sorry? How close?

23 Q. How close were you as individuals?

24 A. Work-wise, not at all. I used to see him at
25 the meetings, but apart from that I -- I didn't know --

- 1 didn't know him at all well.
- 2 Q. Did you ever hear any rumours that he was involved with
3 women in his undercover identity?
- 4 A. No, I didn't.
- 5 Q. Did you ever see him whilst you were both undercover?
6 Did you ever come across him?
- 7 A. Yes, because I'd see him at the meetings.
- 8 Q. Sorry, whilst you were actually acting in your
9 undercover --
- 10 A. Oh, acting. No, no. I think we were in particularly
11 different areas, but I can't tell you.
- 12 Q. Did you ever gain the impression about HN155 that he was
13 an officer who was living the alternative lifestyle in
14 his undercover identity to the full, for example
15 drinking heavily or taking drugs? Did you hear anything
16 of that nature?
- 17 A. Not at all, no.
- 18 Q. Were you aware of any difficulties with his conduct as
19 an undercover officer at all?
- 20 A. Not at the time, but I understand since then there's
21 been problems.
- 22 Q. And the next officer: HN106.
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. How close were you to HN106?
- 25 A. Apart from meeting him twice a week and possibly having

1 him joining everybody else for a pint. That was -- that
2 would be -- I -- he -- he might have gone to promotion
3 exams -- classes, I really can't remember. But not --
4 not -- not at all.

5 Q. And did you become aware of any suggestion of him being
6 involved sexually with women in his undercover identity?

7 A. Not at all. Not at.

8 Q. You answered some of my questions earlier with reference
9 to rumours that HN296, who had been presented with his
10 death certificate -- sorry, 297.

11 A. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. Had been presented with his death certificate.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And the rumours were that that was because he had become
15 involved with women whilst in his undercover identity.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Did you hear any other rumours about any other former
18 undercover officers with the SDS having sex with women
19 in their undercover identity?

20 A. Only what I've read in the newspapers.

21 Q. Presumably you mean since you were an undercover, not at
22 the time?

23 A. Yes. Yeah.

24 Q. Finally, in relation to the meetings, which is where
25 this started, the weekly meetings, or twice-weekly

1 meetings at the cover flats or houses, you say in your
2 witness statement that you recall a couple of times
3 the Deputy Assistant Commissioner visiting those
4 meetings and on one occasion a visit from an
5 Assistant Commissioner (Crime) and when they came they
6 told you what a good job you were doing.

7 To what extent did you form the view that they knew
8 that you were a group of undercover officers engaged in
9 long term infiltrations?

10 A. Personally, I got the impression, when
11 the Assistant Chief -- Assistant Commissioner (Crime)
12 came to see us, that he hadn't -- he was very shocked by
13 seeing us and hadn't a clue what we were doing. But we
14 gave him lunch and he went away happy.

15 Q. And what about the Deputy Assistant Commissioner? Does
16 the same go for that person?

17 A. Yeah, I can't remember -- let me -- they were -- they
18 changed quite -- quite often. I can't remember which
19 one was in power at the time of -- of the visit. Have
20 you got a -- a clue?

21 Q. I can't assist you at the moment with the names of
22 the people who would have attended without the precise
23 dates of their attendance being available, so I'm just
24 asking you in a general sense --

25 A. Oh, I see. You can look at --

- 1 Q. -- if you recall -- (overspeaking) --
- 2 A. No, it was always treated with a little bit of humour,
3 but we always fed them well.
- 4 Q. Why was it treated with humour?
- 5 A. Because if you're working in a situation in
6 Scotland Yard where everybody looks the same and they're
7 all doing their job and you then come out to a -- a not
8 very tidy flat in the middle of nowhere and meet ten
9 chaps who are smelly, hairy, not very nice, and you are
10 told that they're your officers, it was a bit of
11 a shock, I think. And that happened on a couple of
12 occasions.
- 13 Q. In their presence, was there any discussion of the sort
14 of groups that you were all deployed into?
- 15 A. No, not at all. I'm sure that would have happened
16 beforehand, but with the -- with the office staff, with
17 the senior office staff.
- 18 Q. Sorry, are you saying that the senior office staff of
19 the SDS would have discussed --
- 20 A. We -- I -- they would have briefed him on the way down
21 in the car.
- 22 Q. And do you know that to have happened, or is that an
23 assumption you're making?
- 24 A. That's an assumption. I'm just using common sense.
- 25 Q. I'm going to move to a different topic. We will break

1 for lunch shortly, but I'll make a start, please, if
2 I may, on the process by which your intelligence reports
3 were created.

4 Can I start, please, by asking for your witness
5 statement at paragraph 75 to be brought on the screen,
6 page 18, please, of the Opus version {MPS/740761/18}.

7 126, you'll see this is under the subheading, "How
8 my written reporting was prepared, submitted, and used".
9 At paragraph 75, you say:

10 "When I attended an event or meeting or learnt some
11 new information that was non-urgent, but I considered
12 may be of interest to Special Branch, I would prepare
13 a draft written intelligence report."

14 I want to ask you a little bit about this section of
15 your witness statement, please. You say at paragraph 76
16 that you wrote your notes by hand. You say:

17 "... as soon as I got home after a meeting,
18 demonstration or event when things were still fresh in
19 my mind. As soon as I had the opportunity I would then
20 write those notes up into a draft report. As far as
21 I recall I would only do one draft of each report.

22 I would handwrite my notes, and my recollection is that
23 I had a portable typewriter that I would use to prepare
24 my draft report."

25 Which you told us earlier.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And then if we could just scroll down a little bit.

3 Paragraph 77, you say:

4 "I would keep my notes and draft report at home
5 until the next meeting I was able to attend at the SDS
6 flat. The notes would probably have gone into
7 the confidential waste sack that was at that flat,
8 whilst the SDS office staff collected in the draft
9 reports."

10 And then at paragraph 78:

11 "The SDS office staff would take the draft reports
12 back to the Yard, type them up, and put the
13 Special Branch file references in. I do not think they
14 would add in anything other than the file references."

15 If we could please scroll down to paragraph 87 --
16 I'm sorry this is a bit lengthy, HN126, but I just want
17 to refresh your memory of what you said in your witness
18 statement. So page 20, paragraph 87 {MPS/740761/20},
19 and here you're talking about file references in reports
20 again. You say at 87:

21 "As I have said above, I believe the SDS office
22 would add these references into my reports. When
23 I reported on someone for the first time I would
24 not know whether or not they had a Special Branch file
25 reference. It is the office who would run the searches

1 to find out if they did. It is only when my reports
2 came back to me for checking I would see whether
3 the individual had an existing file."

4 At the outset of questioning you I asked you whether
5 you wanted to clarify anything and you confirmed that
6 you weren't sure whether reports did come back to you
7 for checking; is that right?

8 A. Yes, it probably is. I can't remember now. I mean, I'm
9 totally confused. You've confused me.

10 Q. All right, well, let me ask you this. Can you now
11 recall how, if at all, you would have become aware that
12 somebody had an RF, a registry file reference?

13 A. Because I was probably told by the member of the office
14 staff who collected all -- all our notes in and our
15 reports.

16 Q. Did you have any access, as an undercover officer with
17 the SDS, to the registry files themselves to look at
18 those?

19 A. No -- I -- I would imagine if you asked for a particular
20 file and it was thought that it was important it came
21 out for you, you -- it would be sent out. But sometimes
22 it's not a good idea to know too much about something.

23 Q. Why do you say that?

24 A. Because if you're -- if you're meeting people on a daily
25 basis all of whom have got RFs and PFs, it's sometimes

1 not a good idea to know whether they've got them or not,
2 because it -- I don't know.

3 Q. Did you ever call for a particular file to be brought to
4 you for review in the way you've just described?

5 A. I probably did, but I can't remember, sorry.

6 Q. I'm going to ask you about a slightly different topic
7 just before the lunch break.

8 Please can we scroll up to paragraph 80 of
9 the witness statement at page 19 {MPS/740761/19}.

10 HN126, you refer at paragraph 80 to "up-to-date
11 reports" and you say:

12 "An example of what would be done with
13 the information I reported in my written reports are
14 the production of 'up-to-date' reports by the SDS
15 office."

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. I just want to ask you a little bit about "up-to-date
18 reports" to clarify what they were.

19 So, you say they were produced by the SDS office,
20 and by that do you mean those in the supervisory chain
21 within the SDS?

22 A. I presume that every now and then the -- the registry
23 would send files out -- I can't say this is true, but
24 I'm presuming -- would send out back the Squad, to
25 the office, if somebody hadn't been active for several

1 -- several months, perhaps -- I don't know how long --
2 and they would ask for an up-to-date inquiry to be done.
3 And this normally happened -- an up-to-date report was
4 usually done by -- at the end of somebody's term -- time
5 on the Squad to make sure that the files on -- that --
6 on the people that they were reporting on were -- were
7 up to date. Were up to date. I mean, that's -- it's
8 quite relevant, "up to date". So ... yeah.

9 Q. So when you say that requests might have come from
10 the registry, or files might have come from
11 the registry, do you know that that happened, or are you
12 presuming?

13 A. I'm presuming, 40 years later.

14 Q. So, the reports that you identify as "up-to-date
15 reports", are you saying they would have been based on
16 intelligence from undercover officers or not?

17 A. Sorry, could you repeat that?

18 Q. Yes, the reports that you identify as "up-to-date
19 reports", are you saying they would have been based on
20 intelligence from SDS undercover officers or not?

21 A. Yes, they would.

22 Q. But not prepared by undercover officers personally; is
23 that the distinction?

24 A. I'm sorry, I can't help you with that. I can't see
25 a difference. What are you ...?

1 Q. I'm trying to understand what the distinction is between
2 the sort of report that you would either handwrite or
3 type up, which I was asking you about a few moments
4 ago --

5 A. Oh, yeah. Those are current reports. The ones that you
6 handwrite or type up, or whatever you're doing with
7 them, are reports that are happening all the time. When
8 files from Special Branch records have been reviewed,
9 for instance if nothing's happened for six months or
10 12 months, they might say, "Well, this person's not
11 active anymore, so could you please do an up-to-date
12 report." And that would be the request that was sent
13 out.

14 Q. And --

15 A. But these -- these are the sort of things that really
16 you ought to be asking the people who worked in
17 the office; and I know you will do one day, but it's
18 going to be a long time.

19 Q. All right. So are you saying that your evidence in
20 relation to how this worked is really a presumption, and
21 that it's the people in the office who would be able to
22 answer more about these?

23 A. They would know everything about it.

24 Q. Can I just ask one question in relation to
25 the up-to-date reports. A number of those that you've

1 identified have photographs attached to them. Were
2 photographs shown to you for your comment whilst you
3 were an undercover officer from time to time?

4 A. The only photographs I saw were those after a big
5 demonstration when the Special Branch photographic
6 branch would have taken photographs of all the people on
7 the demonstration, and then they would have brought
8 the albums out to us, to try and identify. And that is
9 how the photos got onto the files.

10 MS GARGITTER: All right, thank you.

11 I see that it's 1 o'clock, and before I move on
12 slightly, Sir, I wonder if that's an appropriate moment
13 for the lunch break?

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly. Are we in due course going to
15 identify an up-to-date report, so that we've got an
16 example?

17 MS GARGITTER: Yes, sir, I will come on to that -- to those
18 that are at the end of the deployment.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: I think I know what they are, but I want to
20 have it confirmed.

21 MS GARGITTER: Yes, of course.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Then we'll adjourn until 2 o'clock for lunch.

23 Will you be back then, please? Thank you.

24 MR FERNANDES: We will now take a break for lunch. May

25 I remind those in the virtual hearing room to remember

1 to join your break-out rooms, please. Hearings will
2 resume at 2 pm. Thank you.

3 (1.01 pm)

4 (The short adjournment)

5 (2.00 pm)

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

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

10 I will now hand over to the Chairman,
11 Sir John Mitting, to continue proceedings.

12 Chairman.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 As at the beginning of every evidential session,
15 a recording is going to be played. If you are in
16 the hearing room hearing this evidence, it only applies
17 to the recording of the voice.

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.

5 If and when that happens, I will immediately suspend
6 the hearing and make an order prohibiting further
7 disclosure of the information outside the hearing rooms.
8 The consequence will be that no further disclosure of
9 that information may be made by mobile telephone or
10 other portable electronic device from within the hearing
11 room, or by any means outside 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 Ms Gargitter.

1 MS GARGITTER: Thank you, Sir.

2 HN126, can I check that you can see and hear me
3 after the break?

4 A. Yes, both.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 I'm just going to ask you one other topic, to
7 conclude what I was asking you about before the lunch
8 break, to do with how your reports were provided, or how
9 your intelligence was provided.

10 When you gave your witness statement, you offered
11 the view that much of what you reported during your
12 deployment was missing from the written reports that
13 were provided to you. And you said also that much of
14 your reporting was provided over the telephone, or
15 conveyed orally when you met people from the SDS office.
16 And you gave as an example of what you would have
17 provided by telephone urgent information about an
18 imminent demonstration; is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. If intelligence wasn't considered to be urgent, does it
21 follow that you would expect to have written it down
22 into a written report?

23 A. No, I wouldn't. That would have been for the office to
24 do whatever they did with telephoned intelligence --

25 Q. All right --

1 A. About -- about a -- a disturbance or whatever was going
2 to come up. Something that was going to come up in
3 the future.

4 Q. So if you telephoned the intelligence, you didn't know
5 what happened to it after you had conveyed it by
6 telephone; is that right?

7 A. Well, it depended if it was something -- for instance,
8 I mentioned earlier with Grunwicks, if there was
9 something that we'd heard overnight, that there was
10 going to be a big demonstration the next morning at
11 Grunwicks, then I would telephone the office and explain
12 to them -- whoever was in the office, the duty-man, to
13 explain to him what was going to be happening first
14 thing in the morning. So no reports -- I don't know
15 what they would have done with it. I'm sure they would
16 have passed that on to A8, to make sure that there were
17 enough police officers on the streets that morning to
18 cover that demonstration.

19 Q. And if what you had learned was not urgent, was not of
20 that nature, then you would have made either handwritten
21 notes or a typed report to hand in at the next meeting;
22 is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So, in terms of what's missing from the records that
25 the inquiry has provided to you, it's likely to be

1 intelligence about things that were going to happen
2 imminently when you learnt about them; is that a fair --

3 A. Yes, it could be, but I -- I noticed that there were --
4 there didn't seem to be as many meeting reports as
5 I would have expected, because I seemed to go to a hell
6 of a lot of bloody meetings, and --

7 Q. All right, so not just telephone intelligence but also
8 reports about meetings that you attended?

9 A. Yes. They might have gone in somebody else's bundle, as
10 I received lots of their bundles.

11 Q. Are you able to say now how frequently you used to
12 telephone intelligence into the office on a typical
13 week? Would it happen once a week, or more or less
14 frequently than that?

15 A. Depended on what was going on.

16 Q. And were there ever occasions when you reported
17 information by telephone and then also repeated it in
18 a written report, or did that not happen?

19 A. I can't remember, I'm sorry.

20 Q. I'm going to move on to a different topic, broadly what
21 might be referred to as "targeting" or "tasking" of you
22 at the outset of your deployment, and what it was you
23 understood you were supposed to do and to report.

24 Could I ask, please, to start off with, that your
25 witness statement is brought onto the screen: page 31,

1 paragraph 110. {MPS/740761/31}.

2 126, you say there in relation to tasking:

3 "I was not tasked beyond being told to infiltrate
4 the SWP. My tasking was never more specific than that.
5 Thereafter, it was a matter for my judgment how to do to
6 job and what I reported on."

7 And then, in paragraph 111, you refer to continuing
8 the work of whoever your predecessor was in north-west
9 London.

10 So is it implicit in what is written there that you
11 were told to infiltrate not just the SWP but the SWP in
12 particular in north-west London?

13 A. Yes, I was pointed in the direction of where to go to,
14 probably because at that time, we were having a lot of
15 trouble with getting the right numbers of police
16 officers on the streets in the mornings at Grunwicks.

17 Q. And is that an assumption on your part, or were you told
18 that that was part of the reason why you were to go to
19 that area of London?

20 A. I honestly can't remember now.

21 Q. Do you remember who directed you towards the north-west
22 London SWP? And use the cipher key if you need to.

23 A. No, I don't. I'm sorry.

24 Q. You say there, at paragraph 110, that it was a matter
25 for your judgment how to do the job and what you

1 reported on. What did you understand to be the main
2 purpose of your job whilst undercover when you first
3 deployed?

4 A. Well, the first job I had to do was to try and get
5 myself into an organisation that was -- that was worthy
6 of my reporting.

7 Sorry, can you repeat that question?

8 Q. I think you answered. I was asking what you understood
9 to be the main purpose of your job undercover when you
10 first deployed, and I understood your answer to be: to
11 get into an organisation that was worthy of your
12 reporting.

13 A. Yes, yes, it was a very -- it was a very busy area that
14 I moved into. And it was -- wasn't -- it was not
15 difficult to get going.

16 Q. Perhaps if I ask you specifically in relation to
17 the SWP.

18 Can I ask those in control of the documents, please,
19 to move to page 53 of the witness statement, paragraph
20 192, {MPS/740761/53}.

21 HN126, I'm trying to refresh your memory from your
22 witness statement on some of these topics.

23 A. Thank you.

24 Q. So you were asked whether, in your view, the SWP was
25 subversive, presented a challenge to public order and

1 was involved in criminality. And at paragraph 192 you
2 said this:

3 "It was a revolutionary group which was involved in
4 demonstrations. They were willing to achieve that by
5 whatever means possible, and did not believe that
6 the ballot box was the only way. They were dedicated to
7 the downfall of the government at the time. It was
8 a subversive group."

9 A. Yes, sorry.

10 Q. Yes, can I just -- you say there that "it was
11 a subversive group".

12 A. I can't remember -- I can't remember writing this.
13 You've got to remember that this was written for me, and
14 not all of it is in my -- my type of English.

15 Q. All right, but this is a statement that you had a chance
16 to review before signing it; is that right?

17 A. Yes, after nine days.

18 Q. And so, are you suggesting that saying that the SWP was
19 a subversive group is not your view, or was not your
20 view?

21 A. I would say that they were probably trying to subvert,
22 but they -- their -- their most -- I think they were
23 very active in organising demonstrations. And as I said
24 at the beginning, Grunwick's up the lane, which was not
25 very far away.

- 1 Q. Just focusing on the issue of subversion now, are you
2 able to explain your understanding of subversion?
- 3 A. No. My -- my understanding of subversion now would be
4 very different from 45 years ago.
- 5 Q. All right. Well, can I ask you this. You say that
6 the SWP were "willing to achieve its aims by whatever
7 means possible, and did not believe that the ballot box
8 was the only way", there at paragraph 192. Is that, to
9 your mind, a description of subversion?
- 10 A. I'm sorry, that's not my -- that's not my English.
- 11 Q. All right. Well, let me ask you this. Did you consider
12 that a group that was against the government of
13 the time, as opposed to a group that wanted to overthrow
14 the system of the government, was subversive?
- 15 A. I'm sorry, I can't help you.
- 16 Q. You have no view on whether either of those is
17 a subversive --
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. -- position?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Are you able to help as to whether you observed the SWP
22 via its members doing anything during the course of your
23 deployment which sought to bring down the system of
24 government in this country?
- 25 A. Well, you can see in the next line we're talking about

1 counter-protests against the National Front in Brick
2 Lane, which took place nearly every Sunday. And it
3 was -- it was usually quite a big group of people from
4 my area would go down there. And it would be quite
5 violent, and there would be, as you can see there,
6 throwing missiles, getting into fights. And it was
7 very, very unpleasant.

8 Q. So that is you witnessing acts of violence. Do you
9 understand that to have anything to do with subversion?

10 A. With -- beg your pardon?

11 Q. Subversion.

12 A. It could be. What -- whatever subversion is, I don't
13 know.

14 Q. Well, if subversion is seeking to bring down the system
15 of government, does that have anything to do with
16 subversion?

17 A. Yes, I'm sure that that could be included in it.

18 Q. Can I ask, please, that the witness statement is taken
19 down and that the document {UCPI/13385} is brought up on
20 the screen, please. It's a report of 17 September 1979.

21 126, I will read out the parts that I want to draw
22 your attention to. It's a little bit fuzzy on
23 the screen, so bear with me.

24 This is a report about a meeting, we see at
25 paragraph 2:

1 "On Monday, 10 September 1979 at 7 pm at [Privacy]
2 (the home of [Privacy])."

3 So taking place at someone's home. And we see there
4 it was a meeting of the North West London
5 Socialist Workers Party district committee, attended by
6 about seven persons.

7 If we could just scroll down, please, so that
8 paragraph 3 is visible. Thank you.

9 I'm reading from paragraph 3:

10 "The Chairman was [Privacy]. [Privacy],
11 the District Organiser, regretted that the present state
12 of the SWP in this country was at an all time low and
13 that the poor attendance at the meeting was a clear
14 indication of the apathy amongst members since
15 the activity surrounding the General Election in May.
16 The membership of the SWP in Great Britain was down to
17 3,800 and 'Socialist Worker' sales were lower than they
18 had been for many months. A big effort was to be made
19 in local branches to regain the enthusiasm for the SWP
20 politics that seemed to have disappeared in recent
21 months."

22 Do you recall that during the course of your
23 deployment -- and this is a report during the course of
24 your deployment -- that membership of
25 the Socialist Workers Party was at a low?

1 A. I don't remember it being at a low, but there again,
2 I think you have to remind me, hadn't Mrs Thatcher just
3 got into power?

4 Q. Would that affect SWP membership?

5 A. I would have thought it would have made it greater,
6 quite honestly, but you -- it talks there about
7 the general election in May --

8 Q. Yes, and it talks about -- (overspeaking) --

9 A. Yes, sorry, go on, sorry.

10 Q. No, go on. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you.

11 A. No, go on.

12 Q. The fact that the SWP membership then was seen to be at
13 a low point, that's not something that you recall being
14 aware of during your deployment?

15 A. Not at all, and I can't -- I don't remember it -- that
16 happening.

17 Q. If the membership was at a low point during the course
18 of your deployment, is that something that you would
19 have expected to discuss with your supervisors regarding
20 the justification for you continuing to report on
21 the group?

22 A. Well, if this is one of my reports, and I presume it --
23 it probably is. When my supervisors would have read it,
24 I'm sure that they would have come to me and talked
25 about it, but I can't remember them doing that.

1 Q. All right.

2 Just going back, please, to the question of -- if we

3 can take that down -- the question of subversion --

4 A. -- (overspeaking) --

5 Q. Sorry, go on.

6 A. I was going to say, just out of interest, could you pan

7 down to see who signed that?

8 Q. Yes, that's {UCPI/13385}, for the technicians.

9 A. It is -- sorry.

10 Q. Can we scroll to the very end of the report, if that's

11 possible. {UCPI/13385/2}.

12 So that's the signature there. That is understood

13 to be the signature of Mike Ferguson.

14 A. Yeah, so nowhere on that report is it signed by me, but

15 it's signed by the chief superintendent or --

16 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

17 A. -- (inaudible) -- chief superintendent.

18 Q. That signature, HN126, so that you are clear,

19 the Inquiry understands that is the signature of

20 Mike Ferguson in his capacity as the detective chief

21 inspector in charge of the SDS. So he's signing in

22 place of a chief superintendent. Does that -- does that

23 assist?

24 A. (inaudible) -- a bit. But there is nowhere on

25 the report where I sign it. Just -- I'm just pointing

1 this out. And that's the same for nearly all
2 the reports.

3 Q. And --

4 A. It is signed by the chief -- acting chief
5 superintendent. Therefore everything in that report
6 comes underneath -- under his responsibility.

7 Q. But if you provided intelligence in a written report --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and it's signed by Mike Ferguson, it would still be
10 based on intelligence that you had provided, rather than
11 intelligence he had provided, wouldn't it?

12 A. Yes, it is. But what I'm trying to say is that it's --
13 it's -- he's -- he's looked at it, he's read it, he's
14 understood it. And by signing that, he must have agreed
15 with it.

16 Q. I see. So you're commenting on the awareness of your
17 superiors --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- as to the contents of the report?

20 A. In nearly all the reports that are down to me.

21 Q. Yes, I follow. Thank you.

22 Can we take that down, please, and can we put up on
23 the screen another part of HN126's witness statement.
24 It's paragraph 253, and it's page 69 of the statement
25 {MPS/740761/69}.

1 I'm sorry to jump around, HN126, I'm just coming
2 back, because I've found a reference, to the question of
3 subversion that I was asking you about a moment ago.

4 A. Oh yeah.

5 Q. In your witness statement at paragraph 253, you say:

6 "I have been asked what I understood the role of
7 Special Branch to be in countering subversive activity.
8 It is my understanding that it was the role of
9 Special Branch to report on subversive activity, but it
10 was the role of the Security Services to deal with it,
11 not the police. The main role of the SDS was
12 intelligence gathering to assist with public order
13 policing."

14 Does that refresh your memory as to what you were --

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. -- doing in relation to subversion?

17 A. Yes, I can see that now.

18 Q. At the time you were reporting, to what extent did you
19 consider the usefulness of your intelligence to
20 the Security Service -- or the Security Service,
21 I should say?

22 A. The Security Service appeared to be interested in -- in
23 everything that we produced, that -- hence all their
24 reports coming back to us at the -- after all these
25 years --

- 1 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- sorry.
- 2 A. I beg your pardon?
- 3 Q. Did you know that at the time? Sorry to interrupt
- 4 -- (overspeaking) --
- 5 A. At the time I made the statement?
- 6 Q. No, at the time you were an undercover officer?
- 7 A. Did I know that the reports were coming back?
- 8 Q. At the time you were an undercover officer, did you know
- 9 that your reporting was of interest to
- 10 the Security Service?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And how did you know that?
- 13 A. Because a copy went to -- to them of everything that we
- 14 produced. And on those reports you can see it
- 15 says "Box 500" on the corner, the bottom left-hand
- 16 corner. That has been put there -- that's a stamp that
- 17 has been put there by whoever was doing the minuting to
- 18 send it over to Box 500.
- 19 Q. And was that --
- 20 A. That's not their -- that's not theirs, it's -- it's
- 21 the SB stamp.
- 22 Q. And was that common knowledge amongst the SDS
- 23 undercover officers, that their intelligence would be
- 24 provided to the Security Service in that way?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I'm going to ask you please about two reports now
2 briefly that mention Box 500.

3 The first, please, if we can have it on the screen,
4 {UCPI/13713}. It's a report dated 17 January 1980.

5 I'm going to read the first paragraph:

6 "Box 500 letter dated 13 ..."

7 It appears to say December, I think:

8 "... 13.12.79 under reference requests assistance in
9 identifying [Privacy] ... who was reported by us on
10 30.3.79 as having attended a social organised by
11 the North West London District of the Socialist Workers
12 Party."

13 And I'm just going to summarise: paragraph 2 refers
14 to [Privacy] being a member of the Kilburn branch of
15 the SWP. It refers to where he resides.

16 And at paragraph 3, refers to [Privacy] having been
17 involved in a motorcar accident and receiving treatment
18 at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead and continuing
19 to be unemployed.

20 Do you agree that the opening of this report appears
21 to suggest that it's a response to a specific request
22 from the Security Service?

23 A. Yes, it looks like it. The first line mentions "Box 500
24 letter". Yes, that looks like it.

25 Q. And it's on the north-west London district of the SWP

1 and referring to a member of the Kilburn branch.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. That was the area where you were deployed, wasn't it,
4 1979 to '80?

5 A. No, Cricklewood was my branch, but Kilburn was formed --
6 Kilburn was formed later.

7 Q. But North West London District was where you were; is
8 that right?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Were you ever knowingly responding, providing
11 intelligence in response to requests from
12 the Security Service of this nature?

13 A. Well, I would have been asked obviously -- the Box 500
14 letter would have come through the officers in
15 the office. And if I was replying, if this is a reply,
16 then, yes, I would be aware.

17 Q. Thank you. We can take that down.

18 I think in light of that, I probably don't need to
19 ask you about another similar report.

20 Can I ask you this instead. In your witness
21 statement, you describe a close working relationship
22 between the Metropolitan Police Service and the
23 Security Service. Did you regard the SDS in particular,
24 or the Metropolitan Police Service generally, as
25 subordinate to the Security Service in terms of your

1 intelligence-gathering?

2 A. It never crossed my mind. I couldn't give an opinion on
3 that.

4 Q. All right, thank you.

5 I'm going to turn back to the SWP that we were
6 discussing. I'm sorry I've jumped around a little bit,
7 HN126. It's my fault.

8 The witness statement, please, again at
9 paragraph 111. Just checking the page reference. It
10 was page 31, please. {MPS/740761/31}.

11 HN126, we were looking at this a moment ago, and
12 I asked you some questions about infiltrating the North
13 West London SWP. At paragraph 111 you describe the SWP
14 as -- I quote -- "a leading group in the public order
15 field". Are you able to explain what you meant by that?

16 A. Well, the SWP would have been very proud of the fact
17 that they were usually, through their newspaper -- that
18 they would spread the word about what was going on in
19 the public order field. They had a prolific newspaper
20 sales, and still to this day do.

21 Q. And their involvement in public order was what, exactly,
22 based on your experience of the group?

23 A. Yes, nearly every week plans were made to go on
24 a demonstration or to a picket. There was a lot of
25 activity.

1 Q. Do you agree that a demonstration or a picket can be
2 conducted entirely lawfully, so it's possible to
3 demonstrate or picket without any disorder necessarily
4 involved?

5 A. I'm sure it could, but I wasn't aware of very much of
6 that going on.

7 Q. Does it follow, are you saying that when you were
8 witnessing demonstrations and pickets, there was
9 disorder?

10 A. There was disorder on many occasions, and the main
11 reason -- one of the main reasons why we were active
12 within the SWP was to provide a summary of what was
13 likely to happen to our colleagues in A8 department.

14 Q. Can I ask, please, can we go to another part of
15 the witness statement. It's paragraph 193. And that is
16 at page 53, {MPS/740761/53}.

17 Paragraph -- we've looked at this part of
18 the statement before, 126. I'm asking you now
19 particularly about paragraph 193.

20 You say there:

21 "Some of the members of the SWP were involved in
22 criminality. I frequently observed violence at
23 demonstrations by its members. When there were counter
24 protests against the National Front at Brick Lane, for
25 example, there were those who would go there and throw

1 missiles and get into fights. [Privacy], who I have
2 mentioned above, was frequently arrested for violence at
3 demonstrations."

4 You refer there to throwing missiles and getting
5 into fights. Is that the sort of violence that you
6 observed?

7 A. At -- at Brick Lane, yes.

8 Q. What sort of missiles are you talking about there?

9 A. Bricks, rubbish bins, anything that was going. If
10 the SWP witnessed the National Front, they would try and
11 -- and have a go at them. And it was up to the police
12 to try and keep them apart. And it was part of my
13 reporting and my colleagues' reporting to make sure that
14 the -- there were enough police on the streets in order
15 to cope with what was going on.

16 Q. You refer there to the SWP's activities being
17 counter-protests against the National Front at Brick
18 Lane. Does it follow that the events started with
19 protests by the National Front to which the SWP were
20 reacting?

21 A. Yes. The -- the National Front were very keen on
22 demonstrating in Brick Lane because this was
23 a predominantly Asian area, and most of the shops and
24 restaurants in that area were owned by Asians, and
25 the National Front wanted to get rid of them.

1 Q. Did you ever form the opinion when attending these
2 events at Brick Lane that the violence was being
3 provoked by the National Front?

4 A. It was provoked by both sides, and the police had to
5 keep them apart.

6 Q. Did the SWP, as far as you witnessed, ever engage in
7 disorder or violence that wasn't linked to confrontation
8 with the National Front?

9 A. I can't -- I can't get my mind back to those days. You
10 would have to -- you'd have to get up all the archive
11 material on film and look at it.

12 Q. Perhaps if I ask you to have a look at paragraph 245 of
13 your witness statement. It's page 68, {MPS/740761/68}.
14 In fact, I'm sorry, it starts on page 67,
15 {MPS/740761/67}.

16 126, I'm not going to read through paragraphs 243
17 and 244, but you will see that you there describe a role
18 that you played outside the American Embassy in
19 Grosvenor Square on 27 October 1968 during an
20 anti-Vietnam War demonstration. And you describe
21 officers being injured, protesters throwing ball
22 bearings and mayhem, to summarise.

23 Then at paragraph 245 you say:

24 "... I also experienced that level of violence and
25 public disorder during ..."

1 If we can turn over, please {MPS/740761/68}:

2 "... my deployment."

3 But you go on to say that this wasn't reflected in
4 what you were provided in your witness pack, and you
5 say:

6 "... but I am not surprised by this as
7 the intelligence we provided was preemptive."

8 So, I think you recognise that the reporting that
9 was provided to you to look at didn't include reporting
10 on significant violence or public disorder; is that
11 right?

12 A. Can you repeat that question, sorry?

13 Q. Yes.

14 From what you said there in your witness statement,
15 it follows, doesn't it, that you didn't see examples of
16 reporting on significant disorder or violence in
17 the reports provided to you in your witness pack?

18 A. I can't remember what I was shown. I'm sorry.

19 Q. In any event, you said that that's because intelligence
20 provided by the SDS was preemptive. And by that, do you
21 mean that you would generally report in advance about
22 forthcoming demonstrations or protests or events?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So if there was intelligence available to you during
25 your deployment about demonstrations that were

1 forthcoming, that's the sort of thing you would expect
2 to see in intelligence reporting from the SDS?

3 A. Yes, indeed.

4 Q. Can I ask you, please, to look at two reports on this
5 topic of preemptive versus post-event reporting.
6 The first is {UCPI/12951}. It's a report dated
7 8 November 1978. I wonder if we could zoom in so that
8 it's easier to read, hopefully.

9 HN126, I'll read the entirety of paragraph 2:

10 "[Privacy], a member of the Finchley and Barnet
11 Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, was arrested for
12 obstructing police on 2.11.78 outside the Pavilion Hall,
13 Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, whilst a National Front
14 meeting was taking place inside. He was bailed to
15 appear at [Privacy] juvenile court on [Privacy]."

16 And that we see again signed by Mike Ferguson?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. That's an example, isn't it, of a retrospective report,
19 so reporting on something that's already happened?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And so that sort of reporting would have been done as
22 part of the SDS, not just preemptive reporting; does
23 that follow?

24 A. No, this is an intelligence report on something that's
25 happened. And it's obviously referring to a member of

1 Finchley and Barnet branch. And it would -- it would
2 appear from the fact that there are no reference to
3 papers that there was no file reference there. And
4 I would imagine that that is when a file would have been
5 started by whoever opened the files.

6 Q. You accept that this isn't preemptive intelligence,
7 don't you?

8 A. This is -- this is -- this is reporting something that's
9 happened.

10 Q. Yes.

11 Can we take that down and look at another example,
12 please, {UCPI/11447}.

13 Just to orientate yourself, this is a report of
14 4 September 1978. It's got Mike Ferguson's signature at
15 the bottom again. I'll read paragraph 2, which is
16 the material part of the report:

17 "During the afternoon of Saturday, 19th August,
18 1978, a private blue Ford Capri saloon motorcar, index
19 number [Privacy], was used by persons involved in
20 a 'paint-out' of National Front slogans in Parliament
21 Hill Fields, NW3. This operation had been organised by
22 the West Hampstead branch of the Anti-Nazi League."

23 And then there's some details as to who is
24 the registered keeper of the vehicle mentioned.

25 Again, do you accept that that appears to be

1 reporting after an event has happened, rather than
2 preemptive intelligence?

3 A. It's a report of something that's happened, but it's
4 intelligence that would have gone to
5 the Security Service. They would have been very
6 interested in this. And that -- whoever the person --
7 I don't know who it was -- who -- who owned this car,
8 they would -- that would probably be their first
9 mention(?) in Special Branch records and in
10 Security Service records.

11 Q. Can we take that down, please.

12 I just want to ask you about another example you
13 gave in your witness statement of the sorts of violence
14 and public disorder that you saw. So can we start
15 please on page 68 of 126's witness statement,
16 {MPS/740761/68}, just to help you orientate yourself.

17 And if we just scroll down, please, so we can see
18 paragraphs 247 and 248.

19 You're here describing, 126, what you've already
20 given evidence about, which are demonstrations by
21 the National Front at Brick Lane. And you describe them
22 there as "a prime example of the kind of thing that
23 would go on"; and you've described those events already
24 in your evidence.

25 You say there at paragraph 248:

1 "Fights would regularly break out between both
2 sides. People got punched and kicked, or hit with flags
3 and banners. The Bangladeshi restaurants and shops
4 would get smashed up as a result. At their worst, it
5 was chaos, with the police in the middle trying to
6 maintain a semblance of order."

7 Can I just ask you, as to the Bangladeshi
8 restaurants and shops getting smashed up, was that as
9 a result of activities by the National Front?

10 A. Yes, it was. And all of those two paragraphs is exactly
11 what I said to you a couple of minutes ago.

12 Q. All right.

13 Just turning over, please, to move on to a slightly
14 different area of your evidence that you haven't yet
15 addressed, paragraph 249, please, if we can go to
16 the next page, {MPS/740761/69}. You say here:

17 "Some of the demonstrations were immense.
18 Rock Against Racism Rallies were marches culminating in
19 concerts which must have had over 100,000 people
20 attending. The vast majority of people attending were
21 peaceful, but there were always issues when
22 the National Front turned up."

23 Did you yourself attend Rock Against Racism
24 demonstrations or rallies?

25 A. Rallies, yes, I did.

- 1 Q. And did you attend the first one on 30 April 1978 in
2 Victoria Park in East London?
- 3 A. I think I did, but I can't say, it was so far ago. It
4 sounds familiar.
- 5 Q. If I suggested to you that for that particular event
6 the GLC, the Greater London Council, had given
7 permission for the Anti-Nazi League to use Victoria Park
8 for the event, does that ring a bell with you?
- 9 A. Not at all. I wasn't on the organising committee.
- 10 Q. And there were bands playing, weren't there, at
11 Victoria Park --
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- like a sort of music festival?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And the demonstrators had marched from Trafalgar Square,
16 hadn't they, many of them?
- 17 A. Yes, I did.
- 18 Q. You say at paragraph 249 there that "the vast majority
19 of people attending were peaceful", and do you mean that
20 specifically in relation to Rock Against Racism rallies,
21 or do you mean demonstrations generally?
- 22 A. I am talking about the Rock Against Racism rallies were
23 peaceful until, as it says, there were issues when
24 the National Front turned up.
- 25 Q. I'm just going to ask you, please, to have a look at

1 a document. It's a memo written by Mike Ferguson.

2 It's {MPS/726913}, and it's dated 1 May 1978, so
3 the day after the first Rock Against Racism event in
4 Victoria Park. Can we scroll down, please. Thank you.

5 I'm afraid the quality is not very good, but I'm
6 going to read to you paragraph 2 in particular of this
7 memo that you'll see from DCI Ferguson to the detective
8 chief superintendent of what looks like S Squad. So:

9 "In relation to the ANL march, it was always made
10 perfectly clear from our sources ..."

11 Which appears to be a reference to the SDS:

12 "... that a total in the region of 30,000 was
13 anticipated, but that there was no indication that
14 disorder was planned or envisaged. In the event
15 considerably more than the 30,000 took part in this
16 Rally, but there can be no doubt that many thousands of
17 these were Punk Rock fans, whose attendance could hardly
18 have been forecasted by the SDS. There was no
19 disorder."

20 So, that memo appears to suggest that
21 the 30 April 1978 rally was one that did not involve any
22 disorder, doesn't it?

23 A. Yes, it does, but I can't really comment, because
24 I don't think I'd actually -- I'm looking at that date,
25 whether I'd actually got out into the field at that

1 time.

2 Q. I'll come on to it shortly, but if it assists you with
3 your recollection now, the first -- the earliest report
4 you identified as being yours was one recording
5 a meeting in February 1978. So this would have been
6 a few months into your deployment.

7 A. Oh yeah, I beg your pardon. I'm getting the year wrong.
8 I beg your pardon. Yes, I was there, yeah.

9 Q. So, does that assist you? Do you recall, similarly,
10 the Rock Against Racism rally on 30 April 1978,
11 the first one to take place, although large, passed off
12 peacefully, without disorder?

13 A. It -- it had, but I understand -- I mean, from --
14 I can't read it on this at all, but I know that
15 Rock Against Racism rallies used -- used to quite often
16 get attacked by the National Front.

17 Q. Right, thank you.

18 I'm going to move on, please, to ask you about your
19 own involvement, or not, as the case may be, in any
20 actual disorder. Can we have up, please, paragraph 252
21 of HN126's witness statement. It's page 69 of
22 the statement, {MPS/740761/69}.

23 126, you say there:

24 "I have been asked if I was personally involved in
25 any public disorder or violence. I was not although

1 I did witness it at close hand. There was always
2 a subgroup within the main group of people I was with
3 who were looking for trouble and who wanted to be able
4 to say they had punched a police officer or been
5 arrested. However, there were others who did not want
6 any aggravation at all. I tried to stick with
7 the latter sort of people, so I did not get caught up in
8 it. I was never injured on a demonstration as
9 a result."

10 It was possible, therefore, wasn't it, for you to
11 remain with people who were keeping away from any
12 violence or disorder when you attended these events?

13 A. That's true.

14 Q. You didn't see any need, did you, to become involved in
15 violence or disorder in order to prop up your cover as
16 a member of the group?

17 A. That was never an option for me.

18 Q. Why was it never an option for you?

19 A. Because I always found it easy to avoid any violence.

20 Q. Looking at paragraph 252 of your witness statement,
21 would you agree it seems that it was clear to you that
22 who were the peaceful protesters at these events and who
23 was willing to engage in violence? Do you agree with
24 that?

25 A. Yes, I do.

1 Q. When you were deciding what to report on, what to send
2 back reports about, did you ever consider confining your
3 reporting to those who were getting involved in
4 the violence, rather than reporting on everybody in your
5 group?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Why not?

8 A. Because I was reporting -- I'm giving intelligence on
9 the group as a whole, and not everybody behaved the same
10 on two consecutive demonstrations.

11 Q. Were there members of the SWP who were always entirely
12 peaceful and acted entirely lawfully?

13 A. A few, yes. Though verbally they weren't, but
14 physically they were.

15 Q. Can I ask, please, that a report is brought up onto
16 the screen. It's {UCPI/18238}.

17 HN126, as this is being brought up, it's a report
18 dated 1 June 1982. It is not believed by the Inquiry to
19 be your report. I'm showing it to you to ask whether
20 you were aware of some of the information that it
21 records, do you follow?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. At paragraph 2 it reads as follows:

24 "Members of Red Action and other extreme left wing
25 groups normally meet at the 'Carpenters Arms' ..."

1 And it gives an address:

2 "... prior to attending political rallies and
3 marches that commence at Speakers Corner ..."

4 Paragraph 3:

5 "It is worthy of note that Red Action is a group of
6 expelled members of the Socialist Workers Party ... who
7 believe in 'Squadism' -- small groups breaking away from
8 the main body at demonstrations and violently
9 confronting the enemy."

10 Were you aware, HN126, during your deployment, which
11 of course preceded the date of this report by at least
12 a little bit, of small groups breaking away from
13 the SWP, or being expelled from the SWP because they
14 sought to engage in violence?

15 A. No, that happened, I think I've -- I'd finished by then,
16 or I was coming to the end of my time in '82.

17 Q. Thank you, we can take that down.

18 I can draw your attention to your witness statement
19 if you wish, but at paragraph 302, in relation to your
20 contemporary undercover officers, you said that you
21 suspected that all of them had run-ins with the police
22 whilst deployed at demonstrations, but you don't believe
23 any of them were arrested. {MPS/740761/81}.

24 My question is, on what did you base your suspicion
25 that your contemporaries had run-ins with the police at

- 1 demonstrations?
- 2 A. Can you tell me where that is? I need to ...
- 3 Q. Yes, sorry, at paragraph 302 you were asked whether your
- 4 contemporaries were arrested, charged, tried or
- 5 convicted in their undercover identities, and you said:
- 6 "I suspect that all of them had run-ins with
- 7 the police whilst deployed at demonstrations, but I do
- 8 not believe any of them were arrested."
- 9 What led you to suspect that they all had run-ins
- 10 with the police?
- 11 A. Well, when you're on a demonstration, a run-in with
- 12 the police is when you're in a line of people and you're
- 13 trying to break through the line of police. That is
- 14 what a run-in with the police -- they didn't get
- 15 arrested --
- 16 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- sorry.
- 17 A. -- and I -- I -- as far as I know, I don't believe any
- 18 of them were arrested, to my knowledge.
- 19 Q. Did you get involved in what you've described
- 20 as "run-ins" then on demonstrations?
- 21 A. Not run-ins, but I -- I was involved in linking arms and
- 22 trying to stick together with my comrades.
- 23 Q. And so what is it that led you to suspect that your
- 24 contemporary officers had had run-ins, whereas you
- 25 hadn't been involved?

1 A. I'm -- I'm not with you on that. I --
2 I say "I suspect". I'm not saying that they -- we all
3 were involved in demonstrations. I don't know, have you
4 been on a demonstration? That's what it is.

5 Q. All right. I'll move on to another topic.

6 Can we please have up the witness statement at
7 paragraph 112.

8 126, I'm going to move from the reasons, if you
9 like, for your deployment into the group to the reasons
10 why you reported particular information, and at
11 paragraph 112 -- I'm sorry, that's page 31 of
12 the document, {MPS/740761/31} -- you said:

13 "What I reported on and did during my deployment was
14 generally left to my discretion."

15 My question is, what criteria did you apply when
16 deciding what you should report on?

17 A. I -- I can't remember. I'm sorry.

18 Q. Did you ever feel under pressure to churn out reporting?

19 So was the impression ever given to you that
20 the quantity of your reporting was as or more important
21 than its quality?

22 A. Not at all.

23 Q. If we scroll down, please, to paragraph 113, where you
24 carry on, on this topic, {MPS/740761/32}, you say in
25 the middle of that paragraph:

1 "We would never go delving after a specific request,
2 rather we would report any useful information we came
3 across."

4 It's a similar question, but I don't know whether
5 this helps to jog your memory. What did you consider to
6 be useful information in the context of your deployment?
7 What helped you to decide whether something was useful
8 or not?

9 A. I'm sorry, I really can't answer that. I can't remember
10 even reading that or writing it or anything. That's not
11 -- that's not my language.

12 Q. All right. Let's go -- there's another paragraph of
13 your witness statement that deals a bit more with this.
14 Let's see if paragraph 135 at page {MPS/740761/36} helps
15 to jog your memory at all.

16 A. Yes, yes --

17 Q. Paragraph 135.

18 A. Yes, that's -- that's fine, but that's not my English --

19 Q. All right. Well, let me ask you --

20 A. That -- the content of that is fine, yeah.

21 Q. Paragraph 135, it suggests:

22 "... you would report all new relevant information
23 you learnt about individuals who were members of
24 the groups that you were reporting on."

25 Do you accept that that is an accurate description

1 of what you were to report?

2 A. That is an accurate description that was written at that
3 time, paragraph 135. Yes, that -- that's -- yeah,
4 that's fine.

5 Q. How did you decide, when you came to hear information,
6 whether it was information that would be new to
7 Special Branch?

8 A. I -- I wouldn't know it was new until I checked with
9 Special Branch records or got -- asked the office to
10 check with Special Branch office records to do a search
11 on the -- whatever this information was about. And
12 that's how I would find if it was new.

13 Q. And as to relevant information, how did you decide what
14 was relevant?

15 A. Identifying features.

16 Q. Of an individual?

17 A. Yes, of an individual. An all round -- an all round
18 update. An up-to-date report.

19 Q. Was there anything else that you considered to be
20 relevant information to report?

21 A. It was relevant as to how they'd come into my notice.

22 Q. Can you explain that a little more, please.

23 A. Well, for instance, if I went to a branch meeting and
24 there were new people come to the meeting, I would try
25 and identify them, in order to let the Security Service

1 know that they were -- they had moved into the area, or
2 whatever their reasoning for coming along to
3 the meeting.

4 Q. Can I ask, please, if we have a look at paragraph 188 of
5 your witness statement, which is on -- although it jumps
6 around, is on a similar topic. That is page 51, please,
7 of the witness statement, {MPS/740761/51}.

8 You are referring there to being asked questions
9 about reporting on individuals who were not yet members
10 of the SWP. And you say there that that did not mean
11 that they were not, or would not be, of interest to
12 Special Branch.

13 Does --

14 A. Yes, I also say there I do not think that that report is
15 based on my reporting.

16 Q. Yes, I'll come on to some examples, but can I just ask
17 you this. When you were reporting on individuals,
18 including those who weren't members of your group,
19 does it follow that you might have been reporting on
20 individuals who, up to that point, had done nothing that
21 might have been of interest to Special Branch, on
22 the basis that they might one day do something of
23 interest to Special Branch?

24 A. I would try and identify everybody who came to
25 a meeting.

1 Q. So regardless of what actions they were or were not
2 taking, the fact that they turned up at a meeting would
3 be sufficient for you to report on them?

4 A. That -- that was of interest to the Security Service,
5 yes.

6 Q. If we have a little look, please, at an example,
7 a report {UCPI/15483}. It's dated 21 July 1981, so
8 toward the end of your deployment, or the latter part.

9 We see there's privacy redactions, but:

10 "[Privacy], born circa 1966 ..."

11 So at this stage would have been around 15 years
12 old:

13 "... black, of [Privacy], regularly receives
14 the 'Socialist Worker' newspaper, although he is not
15 a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

16 "[Privacy] is a pupil at [Privacy] School, where he
17 comes under the teaching influence of SWP member
18 [Privacy]

19 "[Privacy] is known to have been present at recent
20 anti-National Front demonstrations."

21 And just to assist you, because the [Privacy]
22 redactions cover some information you might find of use,
23 but I can tell you that there's no RF file reference for
24 this person. So this is somebody who is not a member of
25 the SWP and has no existing Special Branch file, aged

1 about 15, and in receipt of the Socialist Worker
2 newspaper.

3 What did you consider to be the purpose of reporting
4 about an individual like this, so not a member, not
5 someone with a pre-existing file?

6 A. Well, presuming the bits I can see of the report, that
7 it would be the first time that this person had come to
8 notice. And I think it would be interesting to see what
9 the -- what the paragraph 3, the last word --
10 the last "[Privacy]", that would be of interest to me,
11 then I could probably help you.

12 But just looking at all the bits with "[Privacy]" on
13 them, I really can't give a comment. He obviously was
14 not a member, but the chances are he probably was within
15 a week or so.

16 Q. All right. So you would report on somebody like this on
17 the assumption that they would become a member of
18 the SWP? Is that what you're saying?

19 A. Well, there's a very good chance, isn't there?

20 Q. Right.

21 Can we just look before -- we will have to go to
22 a break shortly, but one more example before we do,
23 please, if I may {UCPI/21690/1}. This is a report of
24 22 May 1978. I will read it out:

25 "[Privacy] has applied to join

1 the Cricklewood Branch of the Socialist Workers Party
2 after arriving in London only a few months ago."

3 Can I just pause. Cricklewood Branch, SWP,
4 May 1978; that's your branch, isn't it?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Carrying on with the report:

7 "She lives in lodgings at [Privacy] and is employed
8 as a computer programmer by a merchant bank in the City
9 of London."

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. "She has attended ..."

12 It seems to be:

13 "... the last few branch meetings of the Cricklewood
14 SWP and took part in the Anti-Nazi League carnival on
15 30.4.78."

16 Pausing there. That's the Rock Against Racism
17 rally, the first one in Victoria Park, isn't it, that
18 that's referring to?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So this is a person who has attended a few meetings and
21 an event at which there was no disorder. Again, is your
22 answer that you report on this person because she
23 attended meetings of your branch of the SWP? Or is
24 there any other reason why you would report this?

25 A. She's -- she's joined the SWP. If anybody comes along

1 and joins, then that was part of my job, is to collate
2 all this information.

3 MS GARGITTER: All right, thank you.

4 I don't know, Sir, whether that would be
5 a convenient moment for a break. I'm about to move to
6 a slightly different topic.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly. We'll take a quarter of an hour
8 break for the shorthand writers.

9 MS GARGITTER: Thank you.

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

13 The time is now 3.05 pm, so we shall reconvene at
14 3.20 pm. Thank you.

15 (3.05 pm)

16 (A short break)

17 (3.20 pm)

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

19 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
20 proceedings.

21 Chairman.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

23 Ms Gargitter, I understand we're having another
24 break before resuming again but continuing until rather
25 later than we had originally intended.

1 MS GARGITTER: Sir, yes, if that's okay, that's the plan.

2 Thank you.

3 HN126, I'm going to move on now. I've asked you
4 lots of preliminary questions. I'm going to move on to
5 ask you about your deployment into the Socialist
6 Workers Party, how you entered that group and what you
7 did within the group.

8 First of all, how you found your way into membership
9 of the SWP. In your witness statement you say that
10 somebody probably told you to approach a paper seller as
11 the way in; is that right?

12 A. Yes, probably, yeah. I -- I can't remember saying
13 somebody. I don't know who that somebody would be, but
14 I had worked it out for myself that that was the way in,
15 yeah.

16 Q. And the branches you mention being a member of were
17 Cricklewood, later known -- or later Kilburn; is that
18 right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Had those particular branches been brought to your
21 attention as branches to become a member of, or was that
22 just something that happened when you went into
23 the field?

24 A. Somebody in the office probably had pushed me in
25 the direction of north-west London, because, as I said

1 earlier, we had just lost somebody from north-west
2 London, and there were lots of disputes going on,
3 Grunwicks etc, at the moment -- at that time, and
4 the area had to be covered.

5 Q. I'm going to ask you, please, to look at a report now,
6 it's {UCPI/11859}. It's a report dated 7 March 1978,
7 and it records a meeting of the Cricklewood SWP.

8 I'll wait for it to come up on screen.

9 On screen you can see it's recording a meeting on
10 Thursday, 23 February, 1978 at Anson Hall, of
11 the Cricklewood branch of the SWP, and attended by some
12 15 persons.

13 Then at paragraph 2 there's a short summary of what
14 happened.

15 When you gave your witness statement, you identified
16 this as probably the report of the first meeting that
17 you attended. Are you able to say whether you were
18 a member of the Cricklewood SWP by this time?

19 A. I can't say whether I was a member, but I would think
20 that I was recruited quite early in the period that
21 I had contact -- first had contact with members of
22 the -- that branch.

23 Q. So it didn't take very long for you to become a member
24 after you started your deployment?

25 A. It -- I would say two or three months, but it was -- it

1 was something that I had to let them do the approach.

2 Q. The Cricklewood branch of the SWP in particular, did you
3 see that as, if I can put it this way, you having
4 achieved your aim by joining the SWP, or did you see
5 that branch as a stepping stone on to other groups or
6 bits of the organisation?

7 A. Well, when I joined the Cricklewood branch, that was
8 the only branch in the area; Kilburn hadn't been formed
9 then. So I didn't have very much option.

10 Q. Can we take that report down, please, and I'm going to
11 ask you now to look at another report, {UCPI/11354}.

12 This is a report dated 8 August 1978, so about five
13 or six months after the meeting in the last report. You
14 will see at paragraph 2 it refers to a meeting on
15 Wednesday, 26 July 1978. It's at somebody's home.
16 A committee meeting with about ten persons present.
17 The Cricklewood branch of the SWP.

18 I'm going to read from paragraph 3:

19 "The meeting, chaired by [Privacy], was mainly
20 concerned with the election of a new Branch Committee
21 and the following were among those nominated for
22 positions on it ..."

23 And then we see your cover name against
24 the position "Socialist Workers Organiser". And it says
25 in brackets underneath:

1 "(These three comrades plus [Privacy] will form
2 the nucleus of the new Committee and will meet on
3 alternate Thursdays)."

4 First question, how common was it for meetings to
5 take place in private homes?

6 A. Quite common in that area with that branch.

7 Q. And there are about ten persons present, it says in
8 paragraph 2. Again, how typical was that number of
9 people attending these meetings?

10 A. It could be -- I think you'll probably find some other
11 meetings later on where there's 30 or 40. So it's not
12 typical, but I don't know. Can't remember.

13 Q. We see paragraph 3 refers to the meeting being "mainly
14 concerned with the election of a new branch committee".
15 Were you aware before you turned up at a meeting like
16 this, if you don't remember this meeting in particular,
17 when there was going to be a committee election or
18 something similar?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So that was just something that happened without any
21 notice?

22 A. It was something that happened without any notice, and
23 I was obviously nominated from the floor, or whatever,
24 and it was something that I was able to do. You needed
25 to have a -- a vehicle, basically.

- 1 Q. Do you have any recollection of what led to you being
2 nominated as opposed to anybody else? Was it
3 -- (overspeaking) -- you vehicle?
- 4 A. I just -- just said that you needed a vehicle, and I was
5 probably one of the only ones in that branch that had
6 a vehicle.
- 7 Q. The Socialist Worker newspaper, that was an important
8 element to the SWP, wasn't it? An important part of
9 their activity was selling the newspaper?
- 10 A. Yes, it was. And advertising what -- their -- their
11 demonstrations.
- 12 Q. And a means of attracting new members as you had been
13 attracted?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Does it follow that being nominated for that position
16 tends to indicate that you had become a trusted member
17 of the group by then?
- 18 A. Well, I think it must do. I was satisfied, and
19 I presume that the office were satisfied when I told
20 them.
- 21 Q. What caused you to be satisfied that the office -- or to
22 presume that the office were satisfied, rather?
- 23 A. Because it would mean that I was settling in well and
24 reporting back on -- on the branch that they'd pushed me
25 in the direction of.

1 Q. Did you gain access to additional information by taking
2 up that role, than if you were just an ordinary member?

3 A. Sorry? Beg your pardon?

4 Q. Did you get access to additional information by taking
5 on that role, compared on an ordinary member?

6 A. No.

7 Q. In your witness statement you describe this nomination
8 as an opportunity that just arose and was an instant
9 decision. Is that your recollection now, that you had
10 to decide on the spot whether or not to accept this
11 nomination?

12 A. Absolutely, because -- because I seem to remember that
13 that was as an answer to a question, "Did you ask
14 permission if you could become Socialist Worker
15 organiser?", and it was quite obvious that there was no
16 way that I could excuse myself from the meeting and --
17 and try and find a telephone and ring up somebody to
18 give me authority. You had to do it off your own bat.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 Can we take that report down now and move to
21 another, {UCPI/13111}. This is a report of
22 2 February 1979.

23 So we're moving on from July -- a meeting in
24 July 1978 to, here, a meeting in January 1979. And I'll
25 read it into the record.

1 A report of 2 February. Paragraph 2:

2 "On Thursday, 11 January 1979, at 8 pm, at Anson
3 Hall ... the North West London District of
4 the Socialist Workers Party held an aggregate meeting,
5 under the Chairmanship of [Privacy]. About 55 persons
6 attended."

7 So we see here a meeting -- this is the North West
8 London District, as opposed to the Cricklewood branch;
9 is that right?

10 A. Yeah, that's correct.

11 Q. And did you frequently attend North West London District
12 meetings in addition to meetings of your branch?

13 A. They weren't as regular as the branch meetings, so it
14 was no hardship to attend them, but it says
15 there "the election of a new district committee", so
16 I obviously had -- was -- I was aware that they were
17 going to ask me, so I would have been at that meeting,
18 yes.

19 Q. Right. So on this occasion you think you were aware in
20 advance that you were going to be asked to join
21 the district committee?

22 A. I think there's a possibility that I was aware. I don't
23 know. It doesn't say in the -- in the report. And
24 the only -- I can only see a little bit of the report,
25 so I don't know if there's any more.

1 Q. Let's scroll down so you can see what happens next,
2 please. Paragraph 3 of the report:

3 "The main business of the evening was the election
4 of a new District Committee, as under ..."

5 And then there's a list of names, most of which have
6 been redacted for privacy reasons, but amongst them your
7 cover name. So you're one of a number of people elected
8 to a new district committee, HN126.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Do you recall whether you stood for election, by which
11 I mean volunteered yourself, as opposed to being
12 nominated?

13 A. I definitely didn't volunteer.

14 Q. And why are you so confident that you didn't?

15 A. Because I think it was the fact that they appointed me
16 was probably more significant.

17 Q. Sorry, I'm afraid I don't follow that answer. Could you
18 explain --

19 A. Well, if I'd put my hand up and said, "Oh, I want to be
20 in," that would have -- that would have attracted
21 attention to me. I was -- I was appointed, asked to do
22 it, and I said yes. As I had the -- the facilities for
23 carrying all the Socialist Worker newspapers around.

24 Q. And by the "facilities", do you mean your van again?

25 A. Yes, I do.

1 Q. Same question in relation to this role. Did it give you
2 access to information that you wouldn't otherwise have
3 had access to?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 I'm going to ask that that report be taken down and
7 replaced with {UCPI/13123}.

8 This is a report of 9 February 1979, so now one week
9 later. And it's recording a meeting on Monday,
10 22 January. So this is 11 days after you were elected
11 to the district committee, we have a report of a meeting
12 of that committee. Do you follow, HN126?

13 A. Yes, yeah.

14 Q. So I'll just read paragraph 2:

15 "On Monday, 22nd January 1979, at 8 pm at [Privacy]
16 ... the home of [Privacy], the North West London
17 District Committee of the Socialist Workers Party held
18 one of its fortnightly meetings. Some seven persons
19 were present.

20 "The meeting, which was the first of the newly
21 elected district committee, was chaired by [Privacy].
22 [Privacy] asked that all branches within the district
23 compile a list of council depots and factories in their
24 area, so that those could be regularly leafleted."

25 And then paragraph 4:

1 "Paul Gray, nominated as district 'Socialist Worker'
2 newspaper organiser, was requested to hold regular
3 meetings with branch organisers to find out where and
4 how many papers were being sold each week."

5 First question. "District 'Socialist Worker'
6 newspaper organiser", was that the role you occupied on
7 the district committee?

8 A. It was.

9 Q. And did you, as requested, hold regular meetings with
10 branch organisers to find out where and how many papers
11 were being sold each week?

12 A. It gave me the opportunity of visiting other branches
13 around the area, the north-west London area. And
14 I would usually go in and speak for a couple of minutes
15 at the beginning of the meeting, and try and find out if
16 they had any problems selling their papers, and if there
17 was any advice I could give. And that -- that was --
18 I didn't -- when it says "regular meetings", it wasn't
19 an enormous meeting, it was probably part of one of
20 their branch meetings.

21 Q. Right. So being the district committee Socialist Worker
22 organiser did give you the opportunity to visit other
23 branches of the SWP that previously you wouldn't have
24 had access to --

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- is that fair?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. So to that extent, do you think it gave you access to
4 additional intelligence that you didn't have access to
5 before?
- 6 A. Obviously.
- 7 Q. This request that you visit or have regular meetings
8 with branch organisers, that's presumably the branch
9 Socialist Worker organisers, and you had been one of
10 those, hadn't you, we saw, at the Cricklewood branch?
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. Does it follow that you were now considered to be one
13 step up in the SWP hierarchy, if I can put it that way,
14 now that you're on the district committee?
- 15 A. I must admit, I've never thought of it that way.
- 16 Q. What do you think of it now, if I ask you that question,
17 whether you were moving up the hierarchy?
- 18 A. Well, apart from attending district committee meetings
19 and, as you rightfully say, it gave me the opportunity
20 to travel around the district and pop into meetings,
21 being in the hierarchy of the North West London District
22 was -- was nothing -- no big deal, quite honestly,
23 I don't think.
- 24 Q. Did it give you the opportunity, whether or not you took
25 it, to influence what the branch Socialist Worker

1 organisers were doing? For example, if you encouraged
2 them to sell more papers, do you think they might have
3 listened to you?

4 A. I think they would have listened to me. They were
5 always worried about, obviously, collecting the money,
6 which was always very difficult to do. It was very
7 difficult for them to get money. And I used to explain
8 to them that they ought to sell the paper and get
9 the money off whoever they'd sold it to immediately.

10 Q. Can you remember, was your role on the district
11 committee as Socialist Worker organiser, was it
12 considered to be an important role by other members of
13 the SWP that you knew at the time?

14 A. That's never been mentioned before.

15 Q. So nobody ever mentioned that your role was seen as an
16 important one?

17 A. No.

18 Q. I won't take you to the reports, but you saw them when
19 you gave your witness statement. You were re-elected to
20 the same position on the district committee in
21 October 1979 and April 1980. Does that -- does that
22 sound familiar to you?

23 A. I can't say. It doesn't ring a bell with me, but if
24 you're saying that there is a -- then I did, I don't
25 know.

1 Q. So your memory doesn't extend to being the Socialist
2 Worker organiser for the North West London District for
3 a period --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- from February 1979 to some point in 1980?

6 A. It doesn't, but if my name's on the report, then I must
7 have done it. I -- it doesn't ring a bell with me.

8 Q. Are you able to assist as to whether, when you were
9 re-elected, that's something you volunteered for as
10 opposed to being nominated for?

11 A. I can't remember, but I doubt it.

12 Q. I want to ask you, please, to look at a report of
13 the North West London District committee whilst you were
14 on it, another report, please, {UCPI/13435}. This
15 report records a meeting on 24 September 1979, and it's
16 dated 1 October 1979.

17 126, we see at paragraph 2 it's a description of
18 the district committee meeting, with 13 persons in
19 attendance.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Can we scroll down, please, to paragraph 3. We see:

22 "The meeting was chaired by [Privacy] and began with
23 a talk on 'Selling the 'Socialist Worker'' given by
24 the National Socialist Worker Organiser ..."

25 And the name is redacted for privacy. So you there

1 are being addressed, aren't you, by the national
2 Socialist Worker organiser?

3 A. Yeah, so it says.

4 Q. And the paragraph goes on:

5 "He insisted that every organiser should know
6 exactly where each paper was sold every week and that
7 spot checks should be made on members to see that
8 the paper sales were being carried out. He gave a list
9 of selling techniques and tried to persuade the District
10 organiser to visit all the branches in the district on
11 a regular basis to constantly remind them that 'to sell
12 SW is the most important duty of a SWP member'."

13 Paragraph 4:

14 "After a long period of embarrassed silence the rest
15 of the business of the meeting continued with plans to
16 hold meetings on the subject of 'Abortion' during
17 the next few weeks in Brent, Cricklewood, Harlesden,
18 Kilburn, Finchley and Acton."

19 So do you agree, certainly as far as the national
20 Socialist Worker organiser was concerned, selling
21 the Socialist Worker was a very important role in
22 the SWP?

23 A. Yes, it was.

24 Q. He proposed carrying out spot checks to see that paper
25 sales were being carried out. Did you do those?

1 A. I didn't. I've never heard -- that's the first time
2 I've seen that probably since whenever the year was it
3 was written. I can't remember it happening. I know
4 a lot of Socialist Worker members who wouldn't have been
5 pleased with it.

6 Q. And when it says, in the middle of paragraph 3,
7 that "he", that is the national Socialist Worker
8 organiser:

9 "... tried to persuade the District organiser to
10 visit all the branches in the district on a regular
11 basis ..."

12 That's him trying to persuade you, isn't it, to make
13 those visits?

14 A. Yes. And as you'll see I think in the report before,
15 that's what I asked them to do.

16 Q. Do you have any idea why paragraph 4 records
17 that "a long period of embarrassed silence" followed him
18 trying to persuade you to do that?

19 A. I don't know why it happened, but I -- I can -- I can
20 imagine that the people from -- hang on, this is
21 the whole area, isn't it? I think that they probably
22 were feeling guilty that they hadn't been doing what
23 they should have been doing.

24 Q. Well, he was addressing you and trying to persuade you
25 as the district organiser, wasn't he? So do you think

1 that might have been a long period of embarrassed
2 silence on your part because --

3 A. No, not at all.

4 Q. -- you hadn't been doing what was expected of you?

5 A. Not at all.

6 Q. Did you regard your -- the position you had on
7 the district committee as a decision-making role that
8 would allow you to make decisions on behalf of the SWP?

9 A. Not -- not particularly.

10 Q. Can I ask, please, that that report be taken down, and
11 that we look at another one in regard to your role on
12 the North West London District, {UCPI/21170}, please.
13 This is a report dated 12 April 1979, and it concerns
14 a meeting on 3 April 1979, again of the North West
15 London District of the SWP.

16 You'll see at paragraph 2 it refers to:

17 "... a meeting of its branch secretaries and
18 Socialist Worker paper organisers under the chairmanship
19 of [Privacy]."

20 So this is April 1979, after you had been elected as
21 the district Socialist Worker organiser?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. If we have a look at paragraph 3 of the report, we see
24 that the district secretary began proceedings by giving
25 a summary of the duties of branch secretaries. And then

1 if we can scroll down, please, so that we can see
2 paragraphs 4 and 5. And 5 in particular I'll draw your
3 attention to, please, HN126, because it starts, "Paul
4 Gray", that's you:

5 "... the district 'Socialist Worker' organiser asked
6 the branch 'Socialist Worker' organisers to raise
7 the number of papers ordered for the weeks prior to
8 the election in an effort to increase paper sales at
9 appropriate points."

10 So, at this meeting the district secretary spoke,
11 and then you also spoke, it appears, do you follow?

12 A. I -- I can see that, yes.

13 Q. Did you consider yourself to be on a par with
14 the district secretary in the hierarchy of
15 the organisation?

16 A. No way.

17 Q. Why do you say "no way"?

18 A. No way. I was the chap who had a van, who could drive
19 the Socialist Workers, pick them up every week, deliver
20 them to everybody. And I was an organiser of
21 the newspapers. I wasn't as high up as the district
22 secretary.

23 Q. Do you agree that it appears in this report, from what's
24 recorded here, that you were taking the role of
25 encouraging others to sell the Socialist Worker?

1 A. There was a general election just coming up, and it was
2 very important to -- to deliver as many newspapers to
3 the area as possible. And obviously that's why we
4 ordered extra copies, and probably did a lot more sales
5 around housing estates, etc.

6 Q. Would you agree that this report gives the impression
7 that you had some authority or some influence over
8 the branch Socialist Worker organisers?

9 A. Not really. If -- if I hadn't gone and picked up
10 the newspapers every week, they wouldn't have had any
11 newspapers to sell.

12 Q. Can I ask that we look at another report now in regard
13 to the hierarchy and the roles, {UCPI/11361}, please.
14 This is actually an earlier report from 31 July 1978.

15 Just to give you some context, HN126, in your
16 request that led to your witness statement, you were
17 asked questions about this report in connection with
18 reporting on a schoolboy aged about 16. And I will read
19 just paragraph 2 of this:

20 "[Privacy], known as [Privacy], aged about 16 years,
21 a schoolboy, is the Secretary of the Finchley and Barnet
22 Branch of the Socialist Workers Party. He lives with
23 his parents at [Privacy]."

24 When you were asked about why you had reported on
25 this schoolboy, one of the things you said was that as

1 SWP branch secretary, he had a significant
2 organisational role in the party?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. As a district Socialist Worker organiser, were you
5 higher up in the hierarchy than a branch secretary?

6 A. Than a branch Socialist Worker secretary?

7 Q. Yes, this is all about --

8 A. This is not a paper -- he is not a paper organiser, this
9 chap.

10 Q. No, secretary of the branch.

11 A. No, no, it's just -- I don't think anybody -- there were
12 any hierarchies around.

13 Q. Do you consider that you had a significant
14 organisational role as the district organiser for
15 the S -- for the Socialist Worker?

16 A. I did for the district. I went and picked them up every
17 week. If it hadn't been for me, they would have had no
18 papers to sell.

19 Q. I'm going to ask you, please, about another report now
20 with you in the role, {UCPI/14064}, please. Thank you.

21 And we see this is a report dated 3 July 1980, about
22 a meeting on 17 June 1980, the North West London
23 Socialist Workers Party district committee meeting. And
24 this at paragraph 3:

25 "The meeting was chaired by Paul Gray ..."

1 So you chaired this meeting.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Could you explain how it would come about that you
4 chaired a meeting like this of the district committee?

5 A. I think I put it in my statement, the reason. The --
6 all these meetings were done on a rolling chairmanship;
7 and when you got to the meeting, you were not sure who
8 was going to be the chair, and the district organiser --
9 this is -- is this district organised? Yeah, district
10 organiser would have appoint -- would have called on
11 somebody to chair the meeting and passed over the --
12 the agenda for the day.

13 Q. Can we scroll down to one other aspect of this report,
14 if we can scroll down, please. I want to ask you about
15 something that appears later in the report.

16 Paragraph 5 begins:

17 "The meeting was informed that it was feared that
18 Acton SWP had been infiltrated by a 'spy' using the name
19 [Privacy]."

20 And this is a North West London District committee
21 meeting, so covering Acton branch, by the sounds of it.

22 And then various allegations about what this
23 individual had been doing. And at the end:

24 " ... it was decided that he was too inefficient to
25 be a member of the Special Branch, but was probably from

1 the National Association for Freedom."

2 When you gave your witness statement, you said you
3 had no recollection of this meeting. Was it not
4 memorable that you were present as an undercover officer
5 from Special Branch at a meeting at which it was being
6 speculated that somebody else might be an infiltrator
7 from Special Branch?

8 A. I still have no recollection of this meeting -- of this
9 -- could you scroll down -- I'd like to see what date it
10 was.

11 Q. So the meeting -- sorry, the report is dated
12 3 July 1980, and we know that you were re-elected to
13 the district committee in April 1980.

14 A. No, I can't -- I can't remember that ever being
15 mentioned. And you would have to ask -- when you speak
16 to the people from the office who were there at that
17 time, I'm sure if that had been in one of our reports --
18 one of our reports, there would have been quite -- of
19 great interest, anyhow.

20 Q. I'm going to move on slightly, please -- if we can take
21 that report down -- to your move, which happened at some
22 point in your deployment, is this right, from
23 the Cricklewood and Kilburn areas of the SWP down to
24 the Paddington branch of the SWP. So there came a time
25 when you moved; is that right?

- 1 A. It is, correct.
- 2 Q. And I'm not going to go into the details of it, but you
3 were moved, is this right, to avoid a possibility of
4 compromise?
- 5 A. I'm not -- yes, probably. I'm not sure about that.
- 6 Q. I'm going to ask you to look at a series of reports that
7 mention Paddington in different ways.
- 8 Firstly, please, {UCPI/14637}. This is a report
9 dated 31 October 1980 about a meeting on
10 27 October 1980. And this particular report doesn't
11 refer to the Paddington SWP, it refers to the Paddington
12 Campaign Against Racism and Fascism. Do you recall
13 being involved with that campaign?
- 14 A. I don't, no.
- 15 Q. All right. Just to give you your bearings, that's
16 the earliest report in the bit of the hearing bundle
17 relating to you that seems to make mention of
18 the Paddington area. And that's, as I say,
19 31 October 1980.
- 20 A. Yes. If you look further down, you'll see that there
21 were -- that at the meeting there were broad left
22 organisations including the International Marxist Group,
23 and I think that there was somebody from the SDS who was
24 in the International Marxist Group in that area, so it
25 could well be his.

- 1 Q. It also refers, doesn't it, to representatives of
2 the SWP and the Anti-Nazi League, which you were
3 a member of?
- 4 A. It does indeed, but I've -- I think that that was not
5 me.
- 6 Q. All right -- (overspeaking) --
- 7 A. Is there anything further down? Is there anything
8 further down that's of interest?
- 9 Q. You're welcome to have a look. If we can zoom out, so
10 that HN126 can see the rest of the report. I don't plan
11 to draw your attention to anything in particular.
- 12 A. No, I'm sorry, I can't -- I can't help.
- 13 Q. If we can take that one down, please. That's
14 October 1980. If we can have a look at a report almost
15 a year later, in November 1981. It's {UCPI/16676},
16 please, 3 November 1981. And it's referring to
17 a meeting on 28 October 1981 of the Kilburn and
18 Cricklewood branch of the SWP. And you've already told
19 us that those are branches, or a branch that you were
20 involved with during your deployment?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And if we scroll down to the list of people who were in
23 attendance, we see your cover name there at the bottom,
24 "Paul Gray"?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So it seems from that, doesn't it, that whatever
2 reporting there may have been on -- sorry, whenever you
3 moved to Paddington, it hadn't happened by 3 November,
4 or, rather, 28 October 1981, when you were attending
5 this meeting?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Then, finally, just to pin down the dates, can we please
8 have on the screen a report just a couple of months
9 later, {UCPI/17108}. That's a report of
10 25 January 1982. And, 126, you'll see that this is
11 a meeting of the Paddington branch of the Socialist
12 Workers Party, a branch meeting. And can we scroll or
13 allow 126 to see the rest of the report, please. Can we
14 scroll down.

15 We see there at the end, you are listed there in
16 attendance at the Paddington branch?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. So do you agree, it looks from those two reports, those
19 latter two reports, as though your move to
20 the Paddington branch must have occurred towards the end
21 of 1981 or the very beginning of 1982?

22 A. True, yes, correct.

23 Q. Thank you. I just wanted to show you those, to assist
24 with orientation around the dates.

25 I'm going to move now, please, if I may, to ask you

1 some questions about the Anti-Nazi League. When you
2 gave your -- sorry, the document can be taken down.

3 HN126, when you gave your witness statement, you
4 said that all members of the SWP joined
5 the Anti-Nazi League because it was good for
6 recruitment; and you also said that you were expected to
7 join the Anti-Nazi League.

8 Can you just explain, please, when you said it was
9 good for recruitment, recruitment of whom by whom?

10 A. Recruitment into the Socialist Workers Party.

11 Q. From those involved with the Anti-Nazi League?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So does it follow that there were people involved in
14 the Anti-Nazi League that you would have come into
15 contact with who weren't, at the time at least, members
16 of the SWP?

17 A. Yes, a lot.

18 Q. Does it follow from what you say in your witness
19 statement that the Anti-Nazi League wasn't your target
20 when you were first deployed? You weren't targeted
21 towards that group?

22 A. When I was first deployed, there was no
23 Anti-Nazi League.

24 Q. And so did that affect your judgment as to whether or
25 not you should be getting involved with

1 the Anti-Nazi League? Did that -- did that mean
2 anything to you in terms of how you approached that
3 group?

4 A. Not really. It was -- it was a recruiting tool for
5 the Socialist Workers Party, and it was very successful.

6 Q. And so are you saying by that that it was the link
7 between the Anti-Nazi League and the
8 Socialist Workers Party that caused you to take an
9 interest in it?

10 A. It was the general way that -- that
11 the Socialist Workers Party was going. We
12 were recruiting people from the Anti-Nazi League into
13 the Socialist Workers Party. They -- most of them had
14 dual membership.

15 Q. Right.

16 Can I ask us to look at a report, please,
17 {UCPI/11970}. It's dated 20 April 1978.

18 Again, just to help you with dates, HN126, we looked
19 before at the first report -- or what you thought was
20 your first report on the Cricklewood SWP, so your first
21 report in time --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and that was about a meeting on 23 February 1978?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. This report is about a meeting on 23 March 1978, so just

1 a month later, a month after your first report on
2 the SWP; and when you gave your witness statement you
3 said you thought this was probably the first ANL meeting
4 that you attended. Do you follow?

5 A. Yes, it probably was, but -- yeah, probably was.

6 Q. If I read paragraph 2:

7 "On Thursday 23 March 1978 at 8 pm at Anson Hall ...
8 the Anti-Nazi League held an organising meeting to set
9 up a North-West London Branch, attended by 30-35
10 persons."

11 Do you recall being involved in the setting-up of
12 a north-west London branch of the Anti-Nazi League?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. Do you remember how it is you came to be at this meeting
15 on 23 March?

16 A. I would think that probably I -- if -- if you scroll --
17 oh, you can't scroll down. If I could see the 30 to 35
18 persons, I would be able to tell you if the majority of
19 them were Socialist Workers Party members.

20 Q. I suspect most of the names will have been redacted on
21 this version --

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. -- for privacy reasons, but if we can --

24 A. So --

25 Q. -- if we can just allow HN126 to see the bottom of

1 the report, there are occasionally names -- and is there
2 anything else on the next page. No, that's just
3 a reference -- there's a reference in the report to
4 Peter Hain -- (overspeaking) --

5 A. Yeah, I think he was -- (overspeaking) -- probably going
6 to be a speaker coming up, you know. I would imagine.
7 I don't know.

8 Q. So we can't help with the names of anyone --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- here.

11 All right. If we take that report down for now,
12 please, I'm going to ask you now about some other
13 Anti-Nazi League reports, 126. And again, just to help
14 you with dates, so that you can follow the chronology,
15 that was a meeting on 23 March 1978. I'm going to ask
16 you about a meeting on 3 July 1978, so from March to
17 July of the same year. It's {UCPI/11301}.

18 Dated 17 July 1978, about a meeting, we see at
19 paragraph 2, on 3 July 1978, of the organising committee
20 of the Kilburn and Queens Park branch of
21 the Anti-Nazi League, all right? It's a meeting:

22 "... to arrange details for the 'Multi-Racial
23 Festival' scheduled to take place on 23 July, 1978, at
24 Kilburn Grange Park (see leaflet attached). About 10
25 persons were present."

1 If we scroll down just a little bit, we see your
2 cover name there in the list of people attended. And
3 you seem to be associated with the West Hampstead
4 Anti-Nazi League there; do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. First of all, do you recall being a member or associated
7 with the West Hampstead Anti-Nazi League?

8 A. I don't, but I must have been because it says it there.

9 Excuse me, is this -- is this a meeting of
10 the Kilburn --

11 Q. It's a meeting of the organising committee of
12 the Kilburn and Queens Park Anti-Nazi League.

13 A. Oh right, I'm with you. I'm with you.

14 Q. Do you recall being on the organising committee of
15 the Kilburn and Queens Park Anti-Nazi League?

16 A. I don't, I'm afraid.

17 Q. Do you recall being involved in organising what's
18 referred to as a "multi-racial festival" in Kilburn
19 Grange Park?

20 A. I think I was shown a leaflet when I was making my
21 statement, and that -- that reminded me. That's --
22 that's the -- that's, you know, 40-odd years ago.
23 That's the only thing that reminds me.

24 Q. All Right. Can we take that report down, please, and
25 replace it with {UCPI/11497}.

1 HN126, this report, if it assists you, there is --
2 there ought to be a hard copy of this report available
3 through your lawyer who's present with you, if it
4 assists you, because it's particularly difficult to
5 read.

6 A. It is.

7 Q. And I will read from a hard copy myself --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- to assist you.

10 A. No, I think I can -- I think I can work it out.

11 Q. So we see this is a report dated in September 1978, and
12 it's referring to a meeting on 4 September 1978 of
13 the West Hampstead branch of the Anti-Nazi League.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. And it's now the West Hampstead branch's organising
16 committee meeting; do you see that?

17 A. There you go. They kept changing their name.

18 Q. Well, we saw in the last report, which was just about
19 two months before this, that you were listed as present,
20 and you were connected with the West Hampstead
21 Anti-Nazi League in that report, do you remember, in
22 the attendance list at the end?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And now we see the West Hampstead branch organising
25 committee meeting, and you are again listed in

- 1 attendance; do you see that?
- 2 A. I can see it, yes.
- 3 Q. Do you -- does it appear from that report that you were
4 on the organising committee of the West Hampstead branch
5 of the Anti-Nazi League?
- 6 A. I -- I would presume -- I don't know. I can't --
7 I can't really say. I was in the Anti-Nazi League.
8 I can't remember which -- which branch it was.
- 9 Q. Do you recall whether the organising committees of
10 the Anti-Nazi League branches were elected committees,
11 as they appear to have been for some of the SWP
12 committees?
- 13 A. I don't recall at all, sorry.
- 14 Q. Do you have any recollection of standing for election
15 for any position within the Anti-Nazi League?
- 16 A. No. I -- I would only have taken up an appointment if
17 I'd been nominated. I didn't volunteer for anything.
- 18 Q. From the name of the committee, organising committee, it
19 sounds like it had an organisational role, doesn't it?
- 20 A. Yes, probably organising rallies and carnivals, and that
21 sort of thing.
- 22 Q. Do you recall taking up that sort of role within
23 the Anti-Nazi League?
- 24 A. I don't.
- 25 Q. All right. Can we take that report down, please, and

1 I'm going to ask you about another report, {UCPI/12960}.
2 And we're moving ahead another two months in time to
3 November 1978.

4 Again, this is, on screen, particularly difficult to
5 read, so I'm going to have a look at a hard copy, and
6 you should have one available to you, too, if you have
7 any difficulty.

8 So that those who are following who won't have
9 access to this can follow, I will read the parts that
10 I want to draw attention to.

11 So it's a report dated 9 November 1978, and it
12 concerns a meeting on 22 October 1978, Quex Road, NW6,
13 the West Hampstead branch of the Anti-Nazi League again,
14 but this is now a general meeting attended by some 25
15 persons; do you see that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And paragraph 3:

18 "The purpose of the gathering was to set up a new
19 group from the amalgamation of the West Hampstead ANL
20 and the local branch of Camden Against Racism."

21 Do you recall that amalgamation, that creation of
22 a new group?

23 A. I don't, I'm afraid.

24 Q. If we look -- can we scroll down so that we can see more
25 of paragraph 4. I think 4(f). Sorry, no, just bear

1 with me a moment. I've just got the wrong paragraph
2 reference.

3 Sorry, it's paragraph 4 on the next page,
4 {UCPI/12960/2}. And I'll read that into the record:

5 "After a vote it was decided that the name of the
6 new group would be Camden Against
7 Racism/Anti-Nazi League -- West Hampstead and Hampstead
8 Group."

9 Again, do you remember being a member of that group?

10 A. I don't, but that's typical.

11 Q. What is it that you find amusing or typical?

12 A. Camden Against Racism/Anti-Nazi League/West Hampstead
13 and Hampstead Group. It's a bit like Monty Python.

14 Q. So the name of the group is what you're referring to?

15 A. Yeah. It's a very long name.

16 Q. If we just scroll down a little bit further, paragraph 5
17 refers to:

18 "... the formation of the new committee being
19 discussed and the following persons were elected onto
20 it, with responsibilities as shown."

21 And we see your name there next to
22 the responsibility "delegate to Camden Against Racism
23 central committee".

24 So again, you appear here to be occupying a position
25 on a central committee --

1 A. -- (overspeaking) --

2 Q. -- or on a committee of the new group, do you see that

3 --

4 A. Can you tell me where that is? I can't see it.

5 Q. Okay, so it's the only name that isn't redacted for

6 privacy in that list?

7 A. Oh up there, yes.

8 Q. That says "Paul Gray", your cover name -- and thank you

9 to the technicians who are circling it with the cursor.

10 A. Yes, I can see it now.

11 Q. "Delegate to Camden Against Racism central committee".

12 So you are again elected within a group to a committee

13 position --

14 A. "Delegated" it says there.

15 Q. Sorry, it says at paragraph 5:

16 "The following persons were elected

17 -- (overspeaking) -- with responsibilities as shown."

18 So you were elected to the central committee --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- sorry, as a delegate --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- to the central committee?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Do you have any recollection of that election?

25 A. No, I don't have a recollection, no.

1 Q. Were you -- you've said before that you weren't
2 volunteering for these positions, but do you agree it
3 appears that every group that you were part of you seem
4 to have ended up on a committee?

5 A. Eventually.

6 Q. Do you have any explanation for why that might be?

7 A. So that I could do my job better.

8 Q. And can you explain how being on committees allowed you
9 to do your job better?

10 A. Because obviously I would have more knowledge of who was
11 involved, and I was able to then supply intelligence for
12 the Security Service and for Special Branch.

13 Q. Given that these posts allowed you to do your job better
14 in the way you've just described, are you sure they
15 weren't posts that you either chose to occupy or were
16 encouraged to occupy?

17 A. I can't remember ever being encouraged to do anything,
18 but I was supported once I'd got into positions.

19 Q. Was it ever a topic of discussion between you and other
20 undercover officers in the SDS that getting on to
21 committees or to these sorts of positions on committees
22 was a good way to pursue your undercover deployment?

23 A. That was never the topic of any conversations, no.

24 Q. Can we just scroll down a little bit further, please, in
25 this report to paragraph 6.

1 I'm just going to go back to the hard copy,
2 {UCPI/12960/3}, and I'm going to read from paragraph 6:

3 "It was agreed that the chairing of general meetings
4 would be done by each committee member in turn and that
5 this duty should be performed by the same person for
6 three consecutive meetings, to enable him or her to
7 become more proficient at this task. After
8 a discussion, it was agreed that the chairman for
9 the first three general meetings would be Paul Gray."

10 So it appears, doesn't it, the first three meetings
11 of this new amalgamated Camden Against Racism and
12 Anti-Nazi League group were chaired by you?

13 A. So it says there, but I do not recollect it, I'm sorry.

14 Q. All right.

15 Can I ask, if we take that report down -- and as we
16 do so, I'll just remind you, HN126, that that's a report
17 dated 9 November 1978. And I'm going to ask that we
18 bring up {UCPI/13002}.

19 This is a report of a 19 November meeting. So
20 a meeting about ten days after that report. And again,
21 it's not terribly legible on the screen, so I'm going to
22 look at a hard copy, and if you wish to as well, HN126,
23 please do. There should be one available.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And we see here, paragraph 2:

1 "On Sunday, 19th November 1978, at 8 pm, at
2 the Methodist Church Hall, Quex Road, NW6, the Hampstead
3 and West Hampstead Camden Against
4 Racism/Anti-Nazi League Group held a general meeting,
5 attended by about twenty persons."

6 Then at paragraph 3 it notes:

7 "Paul Gray, acting as chairman for the meeting, then
8 discussed the Workers Against the Nazis meeting which
9 had been held at Brent Trades and Labour Hall three days
10 earlier."

11 So we see you there being chairman not long after
12 the decision --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- that you would chair the first three meetings.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And it appears you are reporting back from a meeting at
17 Brent Trade Council and Labour Hall.

18 Was that the sort of thing that you might have done
19 as chairman of this, or do you have no recollection?

20 A. Was it the sort of thing I would do as chairman of this
21 meeting?

22 Q. As chairman of this group, report back from other
23 meetings -- so here you're reporting back from a Workers
24 Against the Nazis meeting, it appears?

25 A. Yeah, well that -- if that had been a meeting -- if that

1 had been the reason for me chairing this meeting or --
2 for the evening, then it would be -- they would need to
3 know what had happened at -- at Brent Trade -- Trade and
4 Labour Hall three days earlier. Otherwise, they -- why
5 was the point -- what was the point in them delegating
6 me as chairman to go and do whatever I did?

7 Q. Perhaps if we just look at another report, a similar
8 report. If we take that down. That's the 9 November
9 meeting. And could we have up, please, {UCPI/13135}.
10 This is a 21 January 1979 meeting of the same new group.

11 And we see paragraph 2 refers to 21 January 1979,
12 same location, Methodist Church Hall, Quex Road, NW6.
13 Same new group, Hamstead and West Hampstead Camden
14 Against Racism/Anti-Nazi League Group, general meeting,
15 under the chairmanship of Paul Gray. So that's you then
16 chairing the meeting?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Which is consistent with the earlier report saying you
19 had been nominated as chairman of the first three
20 meetings?

21 A. Three meetings, yes.

22 Q. Can we scroll down, please, to paragraph 6 of this
23 report. Thank you.

24 It's -- I'm going to read this into the record:

25 "Finally, a report from the last North West London

1 Anti-Nazi League Coordinating Committee Meeting was
2 given by [Privacy]. It was afterwards agreed that Paul
3 Gray should also attend future such meetings to assist
4 her."

5 So it looks there as though a decision was made that
6 you would start attending also coordinating committee
7 meetings for the North West London Anti-Nazi League?

8 A. Yeah, looks like it.

9 Q. Do you have any recollection of attending those
10 meetings?

11 A. Not at all. I'd love to know who "[Privacy]" was, and
12 it might click, but no.

13 Q. Do you recall this coordinating committee meeting having
14 any scope for influence -- influencing the activities of
15 the Anti-Nazi League in that area of London?

16 A. I wouldn't have thought it influenced, but no, I don't
17 think so.

18 Q. Would it have been possible to carry out your deployment
19 into the SWP and this associated group without taking on
20 any of these formal roles or responsibilities and just
21 staying as a normal member of the groups?

22 A. It would have been possible but I wouldn't have been
23 able to obtain the intelligence that I did, for
24 Special Branch and the Security Service.

25 Q. Just regarding the Anti-Nazi League, can I ask, please,

1 that we look at your witness statement, where you were
2 asked about it. It's page 61, please, paragraphs 216 to
3 217, in the witness statement {MPS/740761/61}. Thank
4 you. And if we could just focus on paragraphs 216 to
5 217.

6 You were responding there, 126, to questions about
7 why you had infiltrated the Anti-Nazi League, which you
8 have covered in your answers to me. And you say at
9 paragraph 217:

10 "The ANL was an anti-fascist group rather than
11 a subversive group, but it had subversives as part of
12 its membership."

13 And then further along:

14 "ANL would turn up to the same demonstrations as
15 other far left wing groups."

16 Do you see that?

17 A. Yes, I've --

18 Q. Is that part of your statement accurate?

19 A. Yes, I -- I can't see why it shouldn't ... yes.

20 Q. Then if -- bearing that in mind, if you just look up to
21 paragraph 216.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You say there in regard to the ANL and the SWP and the
24 links between them, that:

25 "They would both go to the same demonstrations and

1 they would both get involved in public disorder and
2 violence ..."

3 And then a phrase we've seen you use before:

4 "... particularly when the National Front turned
5 up."

6 Is that accurate?

7 A. Yes, when the National Front turned up, then there would
8 always usually be some sort of public disorder.

9 Quite honestly, there were very -- as far as I can
10 remember, there were very few SWP members who didn't
11 join the Anti-Nazi League, but there would have been
12 Anti-Nazi League members who didn't join the SWP.

13 Q. And did you regard the Anti-Nazi League members who
14 didn't join the SWP as, if I can put it this way, they
15 were equally your targets as those who were also
16 involved in the SWP? Or did you regard them
17 differently?

18 A. I didn't regard them any differently.

19 Q. Just, finally, a couple of points on the Anti-Nazi
20 League. Can I ask you, please, to look at a report with
21 me, {UCPI/11380}. It's a report dated 16 August 1978.
22 So we're going back to the early months of your
23 involvement in the Anti-Nazi League. And paragraph 2
24 I'll read into the record:

25 "On Monday, 7 August 1978, at 8 pm, at 31 Loveridge

1 Road, NW6, the West Hampstead branch of
2 the Anti-Nazi League held a meeting to discuss
3 the visiting of contacts. It was attended by about 15
4 persons."

5 And then paragraph 3 talks about the division of
6 work of visiting contacts, and it refers to:

7 "Copies of the 'August Newsletter' (copy
8 attached) were then distributed for circulation and all
9 present were also given an 'August Programme' for their
10 own information ..."

11 And what I'm going to ask that we look at, please,
12 is what's attached to this report if we scroll down.
13 Thank you.

14 So before we zoom in to look at the detail, we see,
15 top left, "St Johns Wood, Hampstead, West Hampstead
16 Anti-Nazi League"; do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And, "August Newsletter" at the top?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And "Brick Lane" is in big letters in the middle.

21 You've already told us about Brick Lane?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When you were asked in your witness statement why you
24 appended a leaflet to your reporting or why you
25 submitted a leaflet, you said it was because it gives

- 1 details of demonstrations at Brick Lane.
- 2 A. It did. I can't see from here but that's what it
3 probably would have done. But you've got to remember
4 that this was not our Anti-Nazi League, I don't think.
5 I think -- weren't we Kilburn?
- 6 Q. Sorry, this is -- the report that this is attached to is
7 a report of the West Hampstead Anti-Nazi League, which
8 is --
- 9 A. Oh yes, it's included there. I can see it now.
10 I couldn't see it, yes.
- 11 Q. So if we can, please, zoom into the text, so that it's
12 possible to read the leaflet itself. I'm not going to
13 read the whole thing, but the first paragraph refers to
14 a demoralising setback in council elections for
15 the National Front, and a suggestion that they've
16 returned to the political tactic they understand best --
17 thuggery.
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. "The technique of fascists everywhere has always been to
20 intimidate their opponents and their chosen scapegoats
21 with the crudest forms of violence. This is presently
22 taking the form of attacks on members of the ANL,
23 the labour movement, the major political parties, and
24 the upsurge of racial violence frequently directed
25 against those sections of the immigrant community least

1 able to defend themselves."

2 Is that consistent with what you were describing
3 earlier as to the events at Brick Lane and the
4 National Front's involvement?

5 A. Yeah, it is.

6 Q. And then it goes on to say:

7 "The Front ..."

8 Presumably the National Front:

9 "... appear to have decided to make a stand in Brick
10 Lane -- the heart of the Bengali community in
11 East London. This area has been the scene of two brutal
12 racial murders, frequent attacks on Bengalis by gangs of
13 NF thugs, and a regular presence by gangs of NF paper
14 sellers pushing the most provocative and disgusting
15 racist propaganda."

16 Again, were you aware of that background, so murders
17 and attacks on Bengalis in that area of East London?

18 A. When I read this I was.

19 Q. Do you mean at the time when you were deployed you read
20 this?

21 A. Yes. Is this attached to one of my reports?

22 Q. It is, yes.

23 A. Well, I would have read this. And yes, I was aware,
24 because I read it.

25 Q. And so it goes on to describe more of

1 the National Front's activities. Can I draw your
2 attention to the penultimate paragraph, beginning "if we
3 can" please:

4 "If we can peacefully occupy the area every Sunday
5 morning between now and the general election, we can
6 destroy their credibility amongst the elements that
7 might be impressed by their success ..."

8 Etc, etc.

9 This appears to be a call on behalf of
10 the Anti-Nazi League to peacefully occupy the Brick Lane
11 area. Were you conscious of calls by
12 the Anti-Nazi League for peaceful demonstrations in
13 Brick Lane?

14 A. I can't remember anything differently. I don't know if
15 they used the word "peaceful".

16 Q. Well, it's used there in that paragraph, "if we can
17 peacefully occupy".

18 A. Well, there you are, yeah. Yes, every Sunday morning.
19 It was -- it was a weekly affair for quite a long time.

20 Q. Were the aims of the Anti-Nazi League non-violent action
21 and anti-racism? Is that -- is that a fair summary? Or
22 did you understand their aims to be something different?

23 A. I wouldn't say that they were likely to be overtly
24 aggressive, but you have to remember that a large
25 amount -- a large number of the Anti-Nazi League members

1 were Socialist Workers Party members.

2 Q. Finally, on the Anti-Nazi League, can I ask, please,
3 that your witness statement is brought up again, at
4 pages 17 to 18, so that you can look at paragraph 73,
5 {MPS/740761/17}. And you've given evidence already
6 about not being tasked towards the ANL but all members
7 of the SWP joined?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. The first report of yours. Then if we just read from
10 the bottom, you say:

11 "I carried on going to meetings ..."

12 That's meetings of the ANL:

13 "... thought my deployment, but my recollection is
14 that it gradually fizzled out as a group over time."

15 Do you now recall over what sort of period the ANL
16 fizzled out as a group?

17 A. No, I'm afraid I don't.

18 Q. And did you condition to report on the activities of
19 the group even as it was fizzling out?

20 A. I can't recollect that, I'm sorry.

21 Q. Would the fact that a group seemed to be fizzling out,
22 in your words -- would that cause any reconsideration of
23 whether or not it was appropriate for you still to be
24 reporting on its activities?

25 A. If it was appropriate, then it would have been

1 the senior officers in the office who would have made
2 that decision, having seen my reportage.

3 Q. All right, thank you very much.

4 I'm just going to ask you, as an associated issue,
5 to look at one more report, please, and that's
6 {UCPI/11355}.

7 It's a report from 8 August 1978, and it refers to
8 two -- they're described as:

9 "... active members of the Kilburn and Queen's Park
10 branch of the Anti-Nazi League living together in
11 a 'squat' ..."

12 And along with that report on those individuals is
13 submitted an article about the ANL written by
14 "[Privacy]" and published in the June 1978 edition of
15 Women's Voice.

16 If we can please scroll down, just so that HN126 can
17 see the article that was appended to the report.

18 It's headed, "Organise your street against
19 the Nazis". And I won't go through it all, but broadly
20 it's attempting to encourage people to set up new
21 branches of what's referred to as "Women's Voice" or
22 "Women Against the Nazis"; do you follow?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And when you were asked, when you gave your witness
25 statement, why this would have been of interest to

1 Special Branch, you said that the setting up of a new
2 branch of Women's Voice would have been of interest to
3 Special Branch. And my question is, why? Why would
4 Special Branch have been interested in the Women's Voice
5 organisation?

6 A. I -- I mean, if you read the article, the third chapter
7 they're talking about street meetings in Kilburn High
8 Road. It's all to do with public order. That's what
9 our remit was.

10 Q. Had you ever come across any Women's Voice meetings or
11 street meetings involving any disorder, do you remember?

12 A. I don't remember. I didn't go to any Women's Voice
13 meetings.

14 Q. All right. So when you say street meetings have
15 a connection to the question of public order, that's
16 just on the basis that they might have involved
17 disorder, rather than you having observed any public
18 disorder on the part of this group?

19 A. Well, the -- the reason that this has been submitted is
20 because it actually talks about -- it gives the people
21 back on C Squad, back in the Yard, and -- and the -- in
22 the Security Service, a good overall idea of what's
23 going on with Women's Voice. And they're now -- having
24 formed Women's Voice, they're sliding sideways in
25 organising "your street against the Nazis". It's just

1 intelligence.

2 Q. All right. I'm going to move to a new topic, HN126.

3 Sir, before I do, can I just check that
4 the shorthand writers are content for me to carry on?

5 All right. I don't hear any calls for me to stop, so
6 I'm going to assume that I can move to a new topic.

7 HN126, the next topic I'm going to ask you about is
8 Blair Peach.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Can I ask please that on the screen we have
11 {UCPI/21193}. And it's a report dated 19 April 1979,
12 and it concerns the North West London SWP district
13 committee, which held a meeting on 17 April that year.
14 And to assist you, HN126, you were on the committee at
15 this time, according to other reports we've already
16 looked at.

17 At paragraph 4, at this meeting it indicates that:

18 "Notification was given ..."

19 Presumably to those at the meeting:

20 "... of National Front General Election rallies at
21 Islington Town Hall on 20 April and at Southall Town
22 Hall on 23 April. [Privacy] advised the comrades go to
23 these venues, providing regular SWP meetings were not
24 affected."

25 National Front general election rallies, are they

- 1 the sorts of events that you would have sought out
2 intelligence on because of a risk of public disorder?
- 3 A. I wasn't at the national -- at the -- I didn't go to
4 Southall on 23 April, so I would have put this
5 information in as intelligence, in order for the uniform
6 A8 to make their decisions about how they were going to
7 police it. I'm reading -- I'm trying to read through
8 this, but ...
- 9 Q. Sorry, I'll let you do that, if it assists.
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 No, I can't -- I mean, they're talking here of going
12 to Leicester. Is that -- is that what you're talking
13 about?
- 14 Q. I was asking you about paragraph 4, because it refers
15 to --
- 16 A. Oh right.
- 17 Q. -- Southall on 23 April, which you've --
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. -- identified and you will presumably be aware is --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- the event at which Blair Peach was struck on
22 the head?
- 23 A. Absolutely, yes, I remember it.
- 24 Q. Following which he died -- (overspeaking) --
- 25 A. -- (overspeaking) -- yeah.

1 Q. You said, I think, you weren't at Southall on 23 April?

2 A. I wasn't, no, it was a Monday.

3 Q. Was that -- is that -- I'm about to ask you why you
4 didn't go, since the call seems to have been for
5 everybody to attend?

6 A. I didn't attend because I was either at the office
7 meeting on a Monday, or I was at my employment.

8 Q. Do you mean your cover employment?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. All right.

11 Can we take that down, please, and look now at
12 a report after the events of 23 April, {UCPI/21218}.

13 This is another North West London SWP District
14 committee meeting, but on 30 April 1979. So a week
15 after the fatal blow was struck to Blair Peach?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. You'll see at paragraph 3 -- I'll read some of it into
18 the record:

19 "The meeting was chaired by [Privacy], and began
20 with a summary of the incidents during the past week at
21 Southall given by [Privacy], a teacher and a member of
22 Acton SWP. He stated that a temporary headquarters had
23 been set up in Southall from which [Privacy] and
24 [Privacy] would be carrying out an investigation into
25 the death of Blair Peach."

1 Are you able to help us, as at 30 April 1979, what
2 you had heard about what had happened to Blair Peach on
3 23 April?

4 A. I'm afraid that all I heard about the death of
5 Blair Peach on 23 April was what I saw on the television
6 news.

7 Q. Was it never the subject of discussion amongst SDS
8 undercover officers?

9 A. Not to my -- not to my recollection.

10 Q. The events of 23 April in Southall, including but not
11 limited to the death of Blair Peach, that was a fairly
12 significant event with regard to public disorder, wasn't
13 it?

14 A. It was. From what I've seen on the television.

15 Q. But you say it wasn't the subject of any discussion at
16 all within the SDS?

17 A. I can't recall that.

18 Q. This --

19 A. I'm sure -- I'm sure it would have been mentioned, but
20 I don't think there was anybody from the SDS actually
21 there on the day.

22 Q. This report refers to the setting up of a headquarters
23 for -- partly for the carrying out of an investigation
24 into Blair Peach's death. Did you become aware, either
25 through this report or later, that -- if I can call it

1 this -- that a justice campaign started -- was started
2 by Blair Peach's friends and associates, trying to find
3 out what had caused his death?

4 A. I've heard about it, but only because I read some of
5 the deposition that -- that Celia gave the other day.

6 Q. Were you aware of Celia Stubbs, the partner of
7 Blair Peach, at the time, whilst you were deployed
8 undercover?

9 A. No, I'm afraid I wasn't.

10 Q. Did her name ever come up in discussions at the SDS in
11 connection with the Blair Peach -- Blair Peach's death
12 and the campaign that followed?

13 A. I'm very sorry, I wasn't aware of -- of Celia at all
14 until, sadly, quite recently.

15 Q. Not necessarily in the immediate aftermath of what
16 happened at Southall, but were you ever given to
17 understand that the campaign looking into the death, or
18 calling for investigations into the death of Blair Peach
19 was of interest to the SDS, that you should look out for
20 information about it and report it? Was anything like
21 that ever suggested?

22 A. Not to my recollection.

23 Q. I'm going to ask, please, for another report to be
24 brought up on the screen {UCPI/21313}. We're moving
25 forward about a month to 4 June 1979.

1 Again, a meeting of the North West London District
2 of the SWP. This is an aggregate meeting. And can we
3 look at paragraph 5 of this report, please. Paragraph 5
4 reads as follows:

5 "Before the close of the meeting, [Privacy],
6 a teacher from Acton, asked for as much support as
7 possible for the funeral of Blair Peach on 13 June 1979
8 (a leaflet issued by 'The Friends of Blair Peach
9 Committee' is attached)."

10 Did you attend the funeral?

11 A. I did not attend the funeral.

12 Q. Is there any particular reason why you didn't, given
13 that there appears to have been calls for support --

14 A. Can you confirm what day of the week the 13 June was?

15 Q. I can't on the spot. It may be that someone in
16 the background can assist me.

17 A. In that case, I probably was at work.

18 Q. Thank you. I've been told it's a Wednesday -- it was
19 a Wednesday rather.

20 A. Yes, I probably was at work.

21 Q. All right.

22 Then just a few other reports, if I may, moving
23 forwards in time, {UCPI/13435}. This is dated
24 1 October 1979, another meeting of the North West London
25 SWP district committee.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And if we can scroll down, please. We've looked at this
3 report before in connection with your role as
4 the district organiser for the Socialist Worker, but we
5 see at paragraph 5 reference to 10 October, and it
6 reads:

7 "... the eve of the Blair Peach inquest, a picket
8 will be held outside Harlesden Police Station from
9 7.30 pm until 9.30 pm and Kilburn Police Station from
10 10 pm until 12 midnight. The pickets will coincide
11 with door-to-door leafletting in the area to complain
12 about the proposed introduction of
13 a Special Patrol Group contingent into the Brent area."

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Were you involved in organising those pickets?

16 A. I wasn't involved in organising the pickets, but I may
17 have gone to -- if you've got a report from me saying
18 that I'd gone there, then -- or -- I don't know --

19 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

20 A. I wasn't involved in organising, no.

21 Q. I can assist to this extent, HN126. The Inquiry is in
22 possession of, and sent you to look at, two reports
23 which list persons identified as having been present at
24 those pickets at Kilburn Police Station and Harlesden
25 Police Station. Do you think that those are likely to

1 be yours, or can you not say?

2 A. Have you got them?

3 Q. I can bring them up. Yes, I can bring you an example.

4 So {UCPI/13498}. They are heavily redacted for privacy

5 because they consist of long lists of names.

6 A. Oh right.

7 Q. Does that assist you at all?

8 A. I would imagine that was -- that was one of my reports,

9 yes.

10 Q. And if there are reports of that nature, does it follow

11 that you're likely to have attended the pickets

12 themselves?

13 A. Yes, I probably was there at the picket outside Kilburn

14 Police Station. I -- I'm afraid I don't recollect that

15 day, or any other day.

16 Q. These pickets, were they peaceful events?

17 A. Yes, it would be a picket. The most important thing

18 would have been -- you say there's a lot of people

19 mentioned there. It would have -- the important thing

20 would be to have had a lot of people there. And they

21 were probably chanting and would have had leaflets. And

22 hopefully they would have been selling their

23 Socialist Workers.

24 Q. Did attending a picket like that allow you to report any

25 intelligence of particular importance, do you think?

1 A. It would have allowed me to obviously list -- as you
2 say, there's a big list there -- of the people who were
3 there. It looks as if only one that's shown there has
4 got an RF -- I would imagine all of them had, so it's
5 intelligence-gathering.

6 Q. I realise I'm getting a bit close to a break, but I'm
7 just going to ask, if we can, to finish off this topic,
8 to look at one or two other reports very briefly.

9 Can we please have {UCPI/13520} on the screen. It's
10 a report of 29 October 1979.

11 HN126, this report submits copies of a photograph
12 that had been published in a publication called
13 the "Kilburn Times", and the report says:

14 "It was taken during a torchlight vigil on 10.10.79
15 outside Kilburn Police Station to celebrate the eve of
16 the opening of the inquest into the death of Blair Peach
17 and organised by the Kilburn and Queen's Park Branch of
18 the Anti-Nazi League."

19 So that appears to be a reference back to the same
20 picket that you were just -- (overspeaking) --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- (inaudible)?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Can you help us, what would have been the purpose of
25 submitting a photograph of someone that was from

1 a freely available publication?

2 A. Without being able to see the name of the person, was it
3 somebody who was very active? I don't know who it is,
4 so was it somebody who was active in that --

5 Q. I -- (overspeaking) --

6 A. -- in local politics? Or is it just a member of
7 the public?

8 Q. I can't assist you as to that because of the privacy
9 redactions that are in place for
10 the -- (overspeaking) --

11 A. Ah.

12 Q. -- purpose of the public hearings. You will have seen
13 this report when you wrote your witness statement.

14 But really my question is aimed at not so much who
15 the person was but the fact that this is a photograph
16 from a publication, presumably something that's freely
17 available --

18 A. -- (overspeaking) --

19 Q. What would have been the purpose of submitting a report
20 --

21 A. -- (overspeaking) --

22 Q. -- with a photograph like that?

23 A. Yeah, it's not freely available at Scotland Yard and at
24 the Security Service. I mean, I'm -- I was a conduit
25 between the two. And it's up to them -- they obviously

1 thought it was important, because they've saved it.

2 They've had it in their archives for all these years.

3 Q. All right. I'm going to ask you about one other similar
4 report, please, {UCPI/13539}.

5 This is dated 5 November 1979, so just a few days
6 later. And it concerns an individual, whose name is
7 redacted for privacy reasons, having resigned from
8 the Socialist Workers Party. It reads:

9 "... to maintain her interest in Women's Voice and
10 Anti-Nazi League."

11 And then paragraph 3:

12 "Submitted herewith is a photograph of her taken
13 during the funeral of Blair Peach in London on 13th June
14 ... It shows a good likeness of the subject."

15 And if we just scroll down a little bit, you'll see,
16 although there are privacy redactions -- you'll get an
17 idea of the nature of the photograph, because it
18 remained attached to the report, or at least a copy of
19 it.

20 Can we scroll down a little bit, please.

21 A. Oh. Right.

22 Q. Why -- why would a photograph of somebody attending
23 the funeral of Blair Peach be of interest?

24 A. All I can presume is that the Special Branch
25 photographer was out on the day taking photographs. And

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

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

4 Chairman.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Ms Gargitter.

7 MS GARGITTER: HN126, the next topic I'm going to ask you
8 questions about is some of the reporting that you did on
9 school-age children.

10 When you were asked about this in your witness
11 statement, you said that you gave -- the reason you
12 reported on them was that they were active members of
13 the SWP, taking part in demonstrations.

14 Did you give any consideration, in particular with
15 regard to children, as to whether their participation in
16 demonstrations was entirely peaceful and lawful? Did
17 that make a difference with children, as to whether or
18 not you reported on them?

19 A. Without having the reports in front of me, I don't know
20 whether the incident where I've reported on them was
21 because -- as a result of a demonstration, or whether
22 it's as a result of intelligence being transmitted --
23 transferred back to the branch.

24 Q. Right. Let's have a look at some of the reports to help
25 you out.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. {UCPI/11275}. It's a report dated 19 May 1978. And
3 this is another report where you'll have a -- you should
4 have a hard copy version to assist, in case what comes
5 up on the screen is not terribly legible. I'll just
6 read this into the record:

7 "Submitted herewith are copies of a photograph of
8 [Privacy], a schoolboy, taken during an anti-Nazi
9 demonstration at Brixton on 14.4.78. [Privacy] is
10 a member of the Finchley and Barnet branch of
11 the Socialist Workers Party and an organiser of
12 the North West London District of SKAN (School Kids
13 Against the Nazis).

14 "The photograph is a good likeness of [Privacy] who
15 has previously come to notice in connection with
16 the SWP."

17 So that's an example of a report. Just to assist
18 you, the name is redacted for privacy, but what I will
19 be able to do is show you a number of reports in which
20 the same person is mentioned, to assist you.

21 A. Yes, I understand.

22 Q. This is the first of them.

23 It mentions a demonstration in Brixton, but it
24 provides no details. Is it likely that you were or were
25 not present at Brixton?

- 1 A. It's likely that I -- well, this is a photograph -- this
2 is a photograph, isn't it? So what's happened is,
3 there's been an Anti-Nazi League demonstration in
4 Brixton; there's been a Special Branch photographer
5 present. He has taken an album and has brought
6 the album round to us, and I've looked through it at
7 the next meeting and I've spotted this chap.
- 8 Q. And so that's how this report comes into --
- 9 A. That's how that report comes to ...
- 10 Q. All right.
- 11 A. And only I was able to say if it was a good likeness.
- 12 Q. Just to be fair to you, I'm going to ask that your
13 witness statement is brought up where you address this.
14 It's page 40, paragraph 154(a), {MPS/740761/40}.
- 15 Because when you gave your witness statement, you did
16 say that you didn't recognise this report as being
17 yours, or you said "it may not be mine"?
- 18 A. Without seeing the actual photograph -- which I presume
19 I did see, did I?
- 20 Q. That report refers to a photograph, but doesn't,
21 I think, appear to attach it any longer.
- 22 A. Oh right, so I wouldn't -- well, in that case, if -- if
23 I wasn't able to see the photograph, then I obviously
24 can't answer your question.
- 25 Q. All right.

1 I'm just coming on to what else you said about
2 the report. So you said "this is a report about
3 [privacy]", because of course you could see the name
4 when you saw the report.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I'm just going to refer to this person as "child 1",
7 just because of the privacy redaction. So you say this:

8 "I can see from reading the report that he was
9 previously known ..."

10 Can we go over the page, please, {MPS/740761/41}:

11 "... he was previously known to Special Branch as he
12 had an RF number Special Branch file. I remember that
13 he had a lengthy criminal record for violence at
14 demonstrations. I recall that even at 15 he was 6 foot
15 tall and well built. He was therefore someone who was
16 of interest to Special Branch from a public order
17 perspective, as he often instigated violence."

18 That is addressing the report that we've just looked
19 at, which is dated 19 May 1978.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. I'm just going to assist you. I can bring up
22 the reports if you like, but let me know if you need to
23 see them.

24 So you also appear to have reported on this same
25 person --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- on two earlier occasions, based on the reporting in
3 the hearing bundle. On 20 April 1978 -- and for those
4 who want the reference, it's {UCPI/11970}.

5 On 20 April, you reported on -- or you listed him as
6 an organiser for the North West London Anti-Nazi League,
7 taking responsibility for schools and students.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And what I want to draw your attention to is, on that
10 occasion, his name appeared with the words "no trace" in
11 the list at the end of the report. And "no trace" tends
12 to indicate, doesn't it, that as at 20 April report,
13 this individual had no Special Branch file?

14 A. Is that the first report that is on him?

15 Q. In the hearing bundle and attributed to you, yes?

16 A. Right. So that was probably the first time he'd put his
17 head above the parapet. Although, in the time that
18 I knew him, he was a very active person.

19 Q. Right. Then, just to assist, chronologically, that was
20 20 April. On 27 April 1978 -- and again, the reference
21 for those who want it, {UCPI/11997} -- he was described
22 in a report that's understood to be yours
23 as "a prominent speaker" at a meeting. And at the end
24 of that report, his name had "mentions" next to it. So
25 where you might see an RF reference, it had "mentions".

- 1 Can you assist as to what that's likely to mean?
- 2 A. "Mentions" means that he's been mentioned in reports.
3 He's probably got half a dozen what they call
4 "mentions".
- 5 When somebody has been mentioned, then they get all
6 the -- the registry would come back to us and say,
7 "Look, you've got -- this chap's got half a dozen
8 mentions; isn't it time he had his own file?" And that
9 is what would have happened. So the next time that he
10 came to notice he would have an RF; and he would
11 probably already have got a PF.
- 12 Q. And so, just looking at that chronology that I've just
13 set out to you, two reports from you on 20 and 27 April,
14 no RF and mentions respectively?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And then a report that we looked at on 19 May, so
17 the next month, and he has an RF reference?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. And so my question is, is it possible that it was your
20 reporting that caused this schoolboy to -- to be given
21 his own Special Branch file?
- 22 A. I wouldn't have thought so, because you've just said
23 that it says "mentions", and obviously "mentions" is not
24 the one mention that I gave him previously. So there
25 must be, somewhere in records, a whole series of them

1 for him to get his own file. But sadly we don't have
2 the records anymore.

3 Q. Going back to what you said in your witness statement
4 about this individual, you said that he had a lengthy
5 criminal record for violence at demonstrations. If that
6 were the case as at April 1978 and May 1978, when these
7 reports are from --

8 A. When did I write that? In general? Is that in general?

9 Q. In your witness statement, when you were asked about
10 -- (overspeaking) --

11 A. Oh, in the statement, right -- (overspeaking) --

12 Q. -- the 19 May report, you described this individual as
13 having "a lengthy criminal record for violence at
14 demonstrations"; do you follow?

15 A. Yes, I do.

16 Q. My question is, if he had a lengthy criminal record at
17 that time, April/May 1978 --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- would you have expected him already to have
20 a registry file?

21 A. No, because criminal record files do not connect with
22 Special Branch files; they're different registries.

23 Q. So it's possible that he may have been involved in
24 criminal activity but not have had a Special Branch
25 registry file?

1 A. Yes, if Special Branch didn't know about him beforehand
2 but he'd been arrested as a criminal.

3 Q. How clear is your recollection that aged 15 he had
4 a lengthy record for violent offences?

5 A. I do remember it.

6 Q. So even at 15?

7 A. I think -- yes, I think he was quite proud of the fact
8 that he had a record.

9 Q. Can we have a look, please, at a report, {UCPI/12951},
10 dated 8 November 1978.

11 And HN126, again the privacy redactions take
12 the name out, but I can tell you that the subject of
13 this report is the same person?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. "... a member of the Finchley and Barnet branch of
16 the Socialist Workers Party, was arrested for
17 obstructing police on 2 November 1978 outside the
18 Pavillion Hall, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire ..."

19 We've looked at this:

20 "... whilst a National Front meeting was taking
21 place inside ... failed to appear at [Privacy] juvenile
22 court on [Privacy]."

23 So the sort of offence that it appears you may have
24 reported on him committing here is obstructing a police
25 officer.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is that what you're referring to when you say he had
3 a lengthy record for violent offences?

4 A. No, it isn't.

5 Q. Can we have a look -- if we take that down, please, at
6 another report that you appear to have written about
7 him, {UCPI/21004}, and we're moving forward now to
8 27 June 1979. And again, the same individual is the
9 subject of this report?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. I'm going to read it into the record:
12 "Following a long period of family unrest ending in
13 a serious fistfight with his brother, [Privacy]
14 [Privacy] ..."

15 That's the subject of the report:
16 "... has left his home, having been 'thrown out' by
17 his parents. The subject, who is still a schoolboy, is
18 now lodging with [Privacy] at [Privacy]."

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So this is a report about him having a fistfight with
21 his brother.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Again, this is not presumably the sort of thing that
24 would lead you to conclude or to say that he had
25 a lengthy record --

- 1 A. No, no, it isn't.
- 2 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- of violence.
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Were you a direct witness to his involvement in
5 violence?
- 6 A. I can't say that I witnessed it close at hand, but he
7 was always the first person -- for instance, if we were
8 going down to Brick Lane, he was the first out of
9 the bus and in the face of the National Front. He had
10 that sort of temperament.
- 11 Q. If you had witnessed him committing acts of violence,
12 criminal acts, would you expect to see reporting on
13 that, written reporting?
- 14 A. No. Not -- not unless he'd been arrested and -- and
15 taken to a -- I -- no, I -- I wouldn't have expected any
16 reporting on it.
- 17 Q. But we saw the 19 May report --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- detailed his -- sorry, not 19 May, 8 November report
20 detailed his arrest for obstructing the police?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So my question is, would you expect to see similar
23 reports to that one for arrests of offences of violence,
24 if he was getting arrested?
- 25 A. Are you talking about Special Branch reports or criminal

1 reports --

2 Q. Yes, reporting from you, or perhaps fellow undercover
3 officers --

4 A. Well, only if I knew about him. I don't know if
5 the other undercover officers knew of him, because he
6 worked specifically in north-west London.

7 Q. I was going to ask you to look at one other example of
8 a report mentioning this individual, please,
9 {UCPI/20068}. And can we have a look -- I'll start --
10 this is a report dated 5 October 1979. It concerns
11 a meeting on 1 October 1979 of the North West London
12 Socialist Workers Party district committee.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And can we please scroll down to paragraph 7. HN126,
15 the name redacted at the beginning of paragraph --

16 A. -- (overspeaking) --

17 Q. -- 7 is the same individual again.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. He claimed at this meeting:
20 "... that he had booked a minibus to take him and
21 a party of National Union of School Student members
22 around the schools of the area, to distribute leaflets
23 complaining about the planned education cuts."

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did you consider that to be of significance in a public

1 order sense?

2 A. It was significant in that it's one paragraph in a --
3 quite a long report; and the significance is that it's
4 only one paragraph.

5 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that? What is
6 the significance of it only being one paragraph?

7 A. Well, there was nothing else to say. I was announcing
8 that this chap had booked a minibus, and he was taking
9 a load of his -- and they were very unruly sort of
10 people -- around the schools of the area. It would have
11 been quite unpleasant for the schools who were being
12 leafletted, and for children trying to go in and come
13 out of the schools. I had no evidence of this other
14 than this is what he was boasting about.

15 Q. All right. I'm going to move on from that to ask you in
16 particular about the group School Kids Against the
17 Nazis, because in the first report we looked at
18 regarding this individual, you described him as
19 the North West London District organiser for the group?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And can I ask, please, that your witness statement is
22 brought up in relation to this. It's page 56 of
23 the statement, paragraph 206. {MPS/740761/56}.

24 You were asked here about a number of reports on
25 School Kids Against the Nazis, and I'll come to some

1 examples.

2 Then at paragraph 207, if we could just scroll to
3 that please, you said this:

4 "I have been asked to what extent I considered it
5 justifiable to report on the group. Although SKAN's
6 members were young, they were just as violent as any
7 other anti-fascist group. [Privacy] ..."

8 That's the same individual we've been talking about:

9 "... who led the group, had (as I have already
10 said) a lengthy criminal record for violence at
11 demonstrations. SKAN would regularly attend
12 demonstrations and get into fights."

13 And then I won't take you down to it, but you repeat
14 at the next paragraph that you considered that reporting
15 on them was justifiable from a public order policing
16 perspective?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The clue may be in the name, but School Kids Against the
19 Nazis' membership was school-aged children, wasn't it?

20 A. Yes, it was.

21 Q. And we can see, if I bring up, please, the report
22 {UCPI/11997} -- it's dated 27 April 1978. And again,
23 it's one that if you need, there may be a more legible
24 copy available to you. This one is particularly
25 difficult on screen. I'll read paragraph 2 to you:

1 "On Saturday 22 April 1978 at 7 pm at Shepherd's
2 Bush Labour Party ..."

3 I can't read that:

4 "... Uxbridge Road, London, W12 ..."

5 "Rooms" I think that word is:

6 "... the School Kids Against the Nazis organisation
7 held a meeting for the north-west, west and south-west
8 area of London, attended by 40 to 45 schoolchildren."

9 Does that give some indication of the size of
10 the group School Kids Against the Nazis in London, so
11 north, north-west and south-west gets an attendance of
12 about 40 to 45 children?

13 A. It probably was. This must have come to me secondhand
14 if you're saying this is my report. Otherwise this is
15 somebody else's report, because I didn't cover west
16 London.

17 Q. Well, the Inquiry has considered this attributable to
18 you. It -- you did report on north-west London, didn't
19 you?

20 A. Yes, for north-west London, but there's a distinct --
21 West 14 is --

22 Q. The meeting takes place in Shepherd's Bush, but it's
23 described as a meeting for the north-west, west and
24 south-west areas of London.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. School Kids Against the Nazis.

2 A. Well, I wouldn't have been there, would I, because
3 I wouldn't have got into the meeting?

4 Q. All right. It says the meeting -- I'll read
5 paragraph 3:

6 "The meeting was chaired jointly by [Privacy]
7 representing the Anti-Nazi League and [Privacy]
8 the London organiser of SKAN, who both expressed ideas
9 on how to organise SKAN branches in schools."

10 And this is -- whether or not it's your report,
11 HN126, it is stamped "SDS", and it is signed by
12 Mike Ferguson at the end.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. So it does appear that an SDS officer was able to access
15 information about this report -- about this meeting,
16 doesn't it?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. And then paragraph 4:

19 "A long period of ..."

20 I can't read -- "general discussion", I think:

21 "... followed, with children giving accounts of
22 the political climate in their schools."

23 And we see the first privacy redaction is
24 a reference again to the same individual, a member of
25 Finchley and Barnet branch, being one of the speakers.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. At paragraph 5 we see reference to a speaker from
3 Rock Against Racism giving details of a video film that
4 could be shown in schools.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And then paragraph 6:

7 "Plans made for the forthcoming ANL carnival on 30
8 April 1978, when it was decided that all
9 the schoolchildren from the area would travel to
10 Trafalgar Square by underground. It was stated that
11 they would meet at Richmond, Hammersmith and Ladbroke
12 Grove underground stations ..."

13 Etc, etc.

14 So that's plans being made for them to attend the
15 event we heard about earlier on 30 April that passed off
16 without any disorder?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. There's no indication in that report of the meeting that
19 there was discussion of any plans to create disorder or
20 carry out violence. Is that typical of the sort of
21 discussions that you were aware of for School Kids
22 Against the Nazis?

23 A. I -- I can't really help you, because I wasn't a member
24 of School Kids Against the Nazis, and I don't recollect
25 this report. It's -- I can't see how this has been

1 attributed to me. I probably said that when I first saw
2 them all.

3 Q. All right --

4 A. (inaudible) -- help, I'm sorry.

5 Q. Could I ask you the question this way? If you had
6 learnt of information that School Kids Against the Nazis
7 were planning to attend a demonstration and carry out
8 some violence --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- is that the sort of information you would have
11 reported back?

12 A. I would have probably reported it very quickly on
13 the telephone, in order to make sure that our colleagues
14 at A8 were able to police the -- the demonstration, yes.

15 Q. Can I ask you to have a look at another report,
16 {UCPI/11994}. This is again in the hard copy bundle
17 because of legibility difficulties on the screen.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Here we see a report on a schoolboy who is an active
20 member of the Finchley branch of the Socialist
21 Workers Party and School Kids Against the Nazis.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, we've seen earlier reporting of yours on
24 individuals associated with the Finchley and Barnet
25 branch of the Socialist Workers Party. Is it possible

- 1 that this is your report?
- 2 A. Does that say the Finchley and --
- 3 Q. This says the Finchley branch.
- 4 A. Finchley branch of School Kids Against the Nazis --
- 5 Q. This actually -- (overspeaking) --
- 6 A. -- that would have been -- this individual would have
- 7 been running that. That was his area. I don't know.
- 8 I can't help you on that.
- 9 Q. And this details involvement in minor criminal offending
- 10 and a minor public order arrest.
- 11 A. Yes, that -- that figures, but I -- did you say that
- 12 this individual is shown there? Was this at the home?
- 13 Did you say this was at the home of the schoolboy?
- 14 Q. No, sorry, this report doesn't refer to any home.
- 15 A. Oh, I see.
- 16 Q. It simply mentions that he's a schoolboy and an active
- 17 member of the Finchley branch of the SWP and School Kids
- 18 Against the Nazis, and details some minor criminal
- 19 offending and a minor public order arrest.
- 20 Again, is that the sort of information that you
- 21 would have reported about members of School Kids Against
- 22 the Nazis?
- 23 A. If it was intelligence that I was sending in, yes, it
- 24 would.
- 25 Q. Sorry, can you explain? What do you mean if it was

1 intelligence you were sending in?

2 A. I mean, I can't see -- I can't read this report, so

3 I really can't -- "details of minor criminal offending",

4 what does that mean? In the middle of the page?

5 Q. It's been redacted to protect the privacy of

6 the individual subject of the report, so I can't look --

7 A. I can't guess, you see.

8 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- behind that redaction.

9 A. I'm afraid I can't guess.

10 Q. All right. We'll take the report down.

11 Can I ask you this, going back to your witness

12 statement. When you said that SKAN's members were just

13 as violent as any other anti-fascist group, what other

14 anti-fascist group or groups did you have in mind?

15 A. The Socialist Workers Party and the Anti-Nazi League.

16 Q. So similar levels of violence as you saw in those

17 groups?

18 A. Well, they were nearly all the same people,

19 weren't they?

20 Q. School Kids Against the Nazis, I think you agree, were

21 school-aged children, weren't they? Who presumably

22 didn't make up the majority of the membership of

23 the Socialist Workers Party or the --

24 A. No, they didn't make up the majority, but quite a lot of

25 them came along to meetings.

1 Q. Can I ask -- I'm going to ask you to look, please, at
2 some footage that was played to the Inquiry during
3 the opening statements, of School Kids Against the
4 Nazis, I think in Hackney. It's publicly-available
5 footage. I just want you to watch it, and then I'll ask
6 you a couple of questions about it.

7 I hope the technicians are on notice. It's
8 the footage that Ms Heaven played during her opening.

9 I'm told it's DOC44, if the reference will assist.
10 {DOC/44}.

11 (Video footage played to the Inquiry)

12 All right. Thank you.

13 HN126, to what extent is that footage consistent
14 with the impression that you had of School Kids Against
15 the Nazis at the time?

16 A. Very similar.

17 Q. Do you agree that, certainly from that video, we appear
18 to see some leafletting of schoolchildren, we hear
19 reference to a slogan, "We are black, we are white, we
20 are dynamite", that footage certainly doesn't give
21 the impression, would you agree, of a group with violent
22 aims?

23 A. What you've got to remember is that that's a documentary
24 that's been produced for their -- to -- to bolster them,
25 rather than -- I -- I would say that the characters that

1 I was aware of were a lot more violent than those
2 youngsters there.

3 Q. And were those -- are you referring to individuals
4 within the group, rather than the group's aims as
5 a group, if I can put it that way?

6 A. Yeah. Yes. I mean, the group that I reported on used
7 to go around together, so they were all together in
8 a group. Whereas I think in that documentary, it was --
9 it was done for the cameras and the producer,
10 the director; and how many times was it refilmed?
11 I don't know.

12 Q. Looking back now to your reporting on School Kids
13 Against the Nazis, do you have any concerns at all about
14 the legitimacy of reporting on schoolchildren as part of
15 your undercover deployment with the SDS?

16 A. That's not a question I've been asked before, apart from
17 when I was making my statement.

18 Q. What's your answer to it?

19 A. I can't remember now. But no. I -- I don't think
20 there's a -- in those days -- you've got to remember,
21 we're talking about 40/45 years ago -- if there was
22 a physical threat as well as a political threat, then
23 that was something that I was reporting on. And I don't
24 think I was ever pulled up about it by anybody
25 supervising me.

1 Q. Was it ever discussed with you at all by your
2 supervisors? Was any discussion had of reporting on
3 schoolchildren?

4 A. No, not at all.

5 Q. I want to ask you about one further example, please, of
6 reporting on schoolchildren. It's {UCPI/21267}, and
7 it's a report of 14 May 1979.

8 We see in the bottom, before we zoom in, there's
9 a photograph attached to this report. But if we could,
10 please, just zoom in so it's possible for us to read
11 the content of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. Great. Thank
12 you.

13 So, I'll read it into the record:

14 "[Privacy] of [Privacy] is an active member of
15 the Barnet branch of the Socialist Workers Party and of
16 the Barnet branch of Rebel (the SWP youth movement). He
17 has been a member of the SWP for the past 12 months.

18 "The subject, who is a schoolboy at East Barnet
19 Upper School, Barnet, recently led a strike at his
20 school in protest against the ban imposed there on
21 the wearing of trousers by the schoolgirls.

22 "It is also, perhaps, noteworthy that he was
23 the main speaker at the Rebel meeting held during
24 the SWP Easter rally at Skegness on 15.4.79."

25 And then we see at the bottom "born about 1963", so

1 that would make this individual 15 or 16 roughly at the
2 time of this report.

3 I want to ask you about the reporting there at
4 paragraph 3 about the "strike" -- it's in quotation
5 marks -- at his school in protest against the ban on
6 the wearing of trousers by schoolgirls.

7 When you were asked about this for the purposes of
8 your witness statement, you said that a strike in 1979
9 would have been national news.

10 Do you think that a strike in a school in North
11 London on schoolgirls not being allowed to wear trousers
12 would have been a national event?

13 A. It would have been then, because that sort of thing
14 didn't occur.

15 Q. When you say it would have been national news, do you
16 mean to suggest that it would have been reported in
17 the national media?

18 A. Probably.

19 Q. Did you consider that something being reported in
20 the national media made it of interest, or potential
21 interest, to Special Branch?

22 A. I was reporting on an individual -- is this on this
23 individual on the left? Yes, I can see that.

24 Yeah, it was -- it was just a case of this
25 individual being put on paper, and so that the -- my

1 colleagues on C Squad and the Security Service could be
2 made aware of him. It would be nice to see
3 the photograph, then I might recognise him. But I don't
4 recognise anything else there.

5 Q. If I tell you it's been obliterated by one of
6 the privacy redactions, but that this individual is
7 listed as "no trace" in Special Branch records --

8 A. Yes, yeah.

9 Q. -- does that make any difference as to your answers in
10 reporting this information?

11 A. Paragraph 4 talks about the SWP Easter rally at
12 Skegness. I went to an Easter rally at Skegness, and
13 they are -- there's usually about 2,000 or 3,000 people
14 there. And for a young lad to be getting up and
15 speaking at a meeting of the SWP Easter rally is quite
16 significant.

17 Q. So would you say that that's more significant
18 information than what's contained in paragraph 3 about
19 a strike at a school?

20 A. It's -- it's all intelligence. It's -- it's just
21 putting -- identifying that person as being a member of
22 Rebel, Socialist Workers Party. And that's the start of
23 his journey, I suppose.

24 Q. Before we leave this report, can I ask you one other
25 question. At paragraph 5 there's a description of this

1 boy, and it ends with the words "effeminate manner".

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Can I ask why a child aged 15 or 16, why that
4 description "effeminate manner" was considered necessary
5 or appropriate to appear in a report on them?

6 A. Because in those days, that's what he -- that was
7 the manner that I could describe him by. I can't -- and
8 whoever has signed the report at the bottom has
9 obviously been happy with my language and hasn't thrown
10 it out.

11 Perhaps you can tell me who it is at the bottom?

12 Q. Yes, we can scroll down and have a look, please.

13 So we believe that to be Mike Ferguson's signature.

14 A. Well, there you are.

15 Q. All right. Thank you.

16 Can we take that down.

17 I'm going to move to another topic now, HN126, and
18 that is reporting on trade union activity.

19 In your witness statement, you told the Inquiry that
20 you didn't join a trade union whilst you were in
21 the SDS, and the extent of your involvement in
22 trade union affairs was attending SWP-supported pickets
23 and demonstrations by trade unions. Does that remain an
24 accurate description?

25 A. Yes, it does. The -- the majority of members of

1 the SWP, especially in the Cricklewood branch, were
2 members of the Brent Trades Council, so they had a dual
3 identity.

4 Q. Save for the overlapping membership, was there any other
5 link, as far as you were aware, between the SWP and the
6 Brent Trades Council?

7 A. Not that I'm aware of.

8 Q. All right.

9 I'm going to ask you, please, to have a look at some
10 reporting that makes mention of trade union and related
11 information.

12 Firstly, please, {UCPI/11379}, dated 15 August 1978.
13 If we can please zoom in, so that we can read. Thank
14 you.

15 I'll read this short report into the record:

16 "[Privacy], a leading member of the North West
17 London District of the Socialist Workers Party, is
18 the secretary of the Barnet Trades Council. He is also
19 a member of the National Association of Teachers in
20 Further and Higher Education and is employed as
21 a lecturer at Hendon College of Technology."

22 Why was it relevant to report that an individual
23 was, in this case, a member of the National Association
24 of Teachers in Further and Higher Education?

25 A. Because it's a report that is giving intelligence, and

- 1 it's tying up the loose ends.
- 2 Q. What is the intelligence value of the information about
3 this individual's membership of the National Association
4 of Teachers in Further and Higher Education?
- 5 A. You would have to ask my superiors that.
- 6 Q. Well, HN126, I'm going to ask you, because it's believed
7 that this report is attributable to you.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. You didn't report every single bit of information that
10 you learned about everybody, did you?
- 11 A. No, I didn't.
- 12 Q. So you must have, mustn't you, made some assessment that
13 someone's membership of a union, or this National
14 Association, in this case, of Teachers in Further and
15 Higher Education -- you must have made an assessment
16 that that was relevant to Special Branch and/or to
17 the Security Services?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. At least potentially.
- 20 A. Yes, I mean, he's -- not everybody becomes the secretary
21 of the Barnet Trades Council, which is an enormous
22 organisation. I can't -- I can't comment on the --
23 the last sentence of that paragraph. That was just to
24 put the icing on the cake, I suppose.
- 25 Q. Let me put it this way, becoming the secretary of Barnet

1 Trades Council you considered to be a relatively
2 significant role to take on.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Why add that this individual was a member of this
5 association and employed as a lecturer at a particular
6 location? What purpose did you think this sort of
7 intelligence might be used for?

8 A. It gives you the character of the person in the round.
9 And that's for my superior officers to read, and to pass
10 on or to tear up.

11 I -- as it's still here, this copy that we've got
12 back from Box, they didn't tear it up.

13 Q. All right. I'm going to ask you to look at some other
14 examples, please. {UCPI/13201}. You should have a hard
15 copy of this one, in case you can't read it on
16 the screen, 126.

17 A. Could you read it out to me? That would be the best
18 thing, I think. It's only short.

19 Q. Yes, I will. I'm just turning up my own hard copy --

20 A. Oh, okay.

21 Q. -- so that I can also read it.

22 So, it's a report dated 1 March 1979 and it reads as
23 follows -- it's only got two paragraphs, as we see.

24 The first is the usual introduction and then this:

25 "[Privacy], a member of the Socialist Workers Party,

1 is [in] NUPE (National Union of Public Employees) ..."

2 Oh, sorry:

3 "... is a NUPE ... shop steward at the Central
4 Middlesex Hospital where he is employed as an ambulance
5 driver. He has been trivial involved in the current
6 industrial unrest at this hospital."

7 Or "at the hospital".

8 So, the same sort of questions. What was
9 the relevance to Special Branch of the fact that this
10 person was a shop steward at the Central Middlesex
11 Hospital?

12 A. Well, I'm afraid I have to give you the same answer.
13 This was a bit of intelligence about this person, who
14 was a member of the Socialist Workers Party, and it
15 gives a little bit more information of him in the round.
16 I take -- I take it it's a male, is it?

17 Q. Yes, it seems to be referring to a male.

18 A. Thank you.

19 Q. Can I ask -- I'm just going to ask this. There are
20 several examples, so I'm just going to ask about
21 a couple more, just by way of a representative example
22 across the reporting that's understood to be yours.

23 Can I ask us to look, please, at {UCPI/16795}. This
24 is 4 December 1981. This report refers to:

25 "... a member of the Kensall Rise branch of

1 the Socialist Workers Party ... currently employed as
2 a carpenter by ..."

3 Some particular contractors:

4 "... on a building site in the Pimlico area of
5 London. He is a UCATT shop steward and represents
6 the carpenters on site. He has recently been mediating
7 in a dispute amongst white building workers on the site
8 who refused to use the same toilet facilities as their
9 Indian workmates."

10 I've already asked you about reports on employment
11 and shop stewards, but in this report, what would be
12 the relevance of this individual's involvement in
13 mediating a dispute amongst the workers?

14 A. You would have to ask the person who wrote this, because
15 this is definitely not -- Kensall Rise was miles away
16 from where I was responsible and I wouldn't have known
17 this person. I'm sorry, I can't help you --

18 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

19 A. -- (inaudible).

20 Q. -- Kensall Rise is a neighbourhood just adjacent to
21 Kilburn, isn't it, in London?

22 A. Yes, but it was part of the West London district and not
23 the North West London.

24 Q. If it has an NW postcode, does that make a difference to
25 which district it fell into?

1 A. I -- I'm afraid I didn't draw the lines.

2 Q. All right.

3 I'll ask you about another report that's about a
4 member of the Cricklewood Socialist Workers Party then,
5 please. {UCPI/21645}, please.

6 So:

7 "[Privacy] (full name [Privacy]), a member of
8 Cricklewood Socialist Workers Party ..."

9 So, May 1978, that was your branch, wasn't it?

10 A. Yes, it was --

11 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- now --

12 A. -- (inaudible).

13 Q. Sorry.

14 A. Yes, I say it was my first branch, yes.

15 Q. Okay. So, this person:

16 "... is now employed by General Motors in Burnt Oak
17 where he is actively engaged in union activities. Lives
18 in a 'squat' at [Privacy]."

19 And then there's a reference to his presence at
20 a particular Troops Out Movement rally.

21 I just want to concentrate on paragraph 2. What was
22 the relevance of reporting that this individual was
23 employed at General Motors and actively engaged in union
24 activities?

25 A. Well, first of all, you've got a -- in the second line

1 there it says he's a member of Cricklewood
2 Socialist Workers Party. In the -- paragraph 3, it says
3 he was at the Troops Out rally -- Movement rally, so
4 that's two different organisations. And there's
5 a photograph of him which rounds up the report. That's
6 why the report would have been put in. Nothing to do
7 with his -- where did you say he was -- he was a union
8 man -- union activities? No.

9 Q. If that has nothing to do with the purpose of
10 the report, why include it?

11 A. Oh, I can't tell you now.

12 Q. Let me ask you in this way. Earlier when I was asking
13 you questions, you seemed to be suggesting there were
14 two potential purposes to your reporting. One was
15 a public order role, so reporting in order to try to
16 allow police to better or more effectively police
17 situations of public disorder or violence, and secondly,
18 a potential role in assisting the Security Services in
19 countering subversion.

20 Does somebody's active engagement in union
21 activities assist with either of those aims, in your
22 view?

23 A. No, it doesn't, but the fact that he's a member of
24 the Cricklewood Socialist Workers Party and that he was
25 present at a Troops Out Movement rally do, and also

1 the photograph that goes there, and I was obviously able
2 to say it was a good likeness. As I said before,
3 the trade union part of it is the -- is just topping and
4 tailing a report.

5 Q. All right. We can take that report down.

6 Were you ever, to your knowledge, asked to provide
7 the details of individuals' employment on behalf of
8 the Security Services?

9 A. I was never tasked with that, as far as I know. Unless
10 you can prove different for me.

11 Q. I'm asking you an open question rather than showing you
12 a document.

13 A. Sorry. Not -- not that I would know.

14 Q. Were you ever aware of reporting on individuals'
15 employment leading to them losing that employment
16 because of their involvement in groups like the SWP?

17 A. Not at all, no.

18 Q. Were individuals involved in trade union matters
19 regarded as particularly troublesome by the police?

20 A. I -- I've never heard that before.

21 Q. Were you aware of individuals being blacklisted from
22 particular types of employment because of trade union
23 activity? Do you understand the term "blacklisted"?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. Were you aware of that happening?

1 A. I've never heard of that happening no.

2 Q. Could the information that you were reporting on
3 people's roles as shop stewards have been passed on by
4 Special Branch leading to people being denied employment
5 because of their trade union activity?

6 A. I wouldn't imagine so, no.

7 Q. Were you ever specifically tasked -- I've asked you
8 about the Security Services, but were you ever
9 specifically tasked by your supervisors in the SDS or
10 someone higher up in Special Branch to report on
11 trade union membership or activities?

12 A. No, I wasn't.

13 Q. Was it ever suggested to you, or did you ever hear
14 comment in your presence that it might be politically
15 embarrassing if it became known that Special Branch was
16 reporting on activities by individuals in trade union
17 affairs?

18 A. I've never heard of that.

19 Q. I showed you a sample of reports in which individuals'
20 trade union activities -- so roles as shop stewards,
21 mediating in dispute and trade union membership -- was
22 mentioned. Are you able to say, would you have reported
23 that sort of information about an individual whenever
24 you learnt it? So, if that's information you learnt
25 about a person, it's something you would ordinarily

1 report?

2 A. It wouldn't be the first thing that I reported, but
3 would -- it might be something that just finished off
4 the report to give somebody a full, rounded idea of what
5 somebody was up to.

6 Q. I'm going to move on to a slightly different topic now.
7 Just a few topics left and this is the last significant
8 one.

9 Can I ask, please, for the report {UCPI/15145} to be
10 brought up on the screen, and it is a report dated
11 5 November 1980. I'm going to read it into the record
12 for those following who can't see it:

13 "[Privacy] has recently joined Kilburn branch of
14 the Socialist Workers Party. He is employed by
15 the General Post Office in the international sorting
16 office at [Privacy]. Due to his shift work he is unable
17 to attend SWP meetings but he does a regular
18 'Socialist Worker' newspaper sale in Finchley Road, NW3
19 each Saturday.

20 "He is living temporarily at [Privacy], whilst
21 the usual tenants, [Privacy] and [Privacy], are touring
22 India.

23 "He is the holder of a Girobank account No.
24 [Privacy]."

25 And then if we could just scroll down, please.

1 5:

2 "As well as being an SWP member he is a supporter of
3 the Gay Liberation Movement and is an avid reader of
4 'Gay News'."

5 And then there is a description of the individual
6 included.

7 Now, HN126, when this was provided to you for
8 the purposes of making your witness statement, you said
9 that you didn't remember the individual's name and you
10 didn't think it was your report, all right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. It's a report on a member of Kilburn branch of the SWP
13 in 1980. You were deployed into the Kilburn SWP in
14 1980, weren't you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So, apart from not remembering the name, is there
17 anything else about this, given that it's on a member of
18 your group, that makes you think it's not your report?

19 A. If I could see paragraph 7, I might be able to help you.
20 I -- I probably would have seen paragraph 7 before,
21 didn't I -- wouldn't I?

22 Q. You would have seen it without the privacy redactions,
23 yes.

24 A. Yes. So I don't know what those are and I can't really
25 explain.

1 Reading this report, I quite -- if there were new
2 people joining the branch, I would probably spend
3 the evening drinking with them or chatting to them, and
4 that's how I probably would have found out about where
5 he was staying. Probably I wouldn't have known about
6 where he was living, because I would probably have
7 delivered, if he was a -- did it say he sold the -- yes,
8 he does a Socialist Worker newspaper sale. I would have
9 provided him with the newspapers and I would have taken
10 them round to his place in order for him to do it each
11 Saturday.

12 Q. Right, so do you think this could be your report then,
13 given all of those factors?

14 A. It could be, but I really can't -- I can't -- I can't --
15 I can't sort of say "yes" or "no". If I could see, in
16 paragraph 7, "privacy", I might be able to help you.

17 Q. What would that assist with?

18 A. Well, it would probably -- and also, on the left-hand
19 side, you've probably covered up the fact that he's got
20 an RF. Well, it looks like it.

21 Q. Would that assist you as to whether or not it's your
22 report?

23 A. Well, I'm trying to -- I can't remember, I must admit.
24 I think I said that before, didn't I?

25 Q. All right, let me ask you this then about this report.

- 1 Whether or not it's your report --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- do see the signature of the Detective Chief Inspector
- 4 in charge of the SDS and the SDS stamp appears on
- 5 the top of it? So, working on the basis that it's an
- 6 SDS report --
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. -- are you able to comment on what the relevance would
- 9 be of this individual being a reporter of the Gay
- 10 Liberation Movement and an avid reader of Gay News?
- 11 A. It's probably something that he told me in private, if
- 12 -- if -- if I am the one who reported on it.
- 13 Q. The question was what was the relevance as a piece of
- 14 intelligence, because it's indicating, isn't it, that
- 15 this individual of individual is a homosexual man? What
- 16 would be the relevance of reporting that?
- 17 A. It's reporting that -- ticking all the boxes. You're --
- 18 you're not asking me why I said his height was 5'11, so
- 19 I don't understand what you're -- the Northern Irish
- 20 accent, what ...
- 21 Q. So as far as you're concerned, it's the same --
- 22 the information is of the same nature as his height or
- 23 his accent?
- 24 A. Yes, it is. I'm sorry. It was -- it's something that
- 25 would have given -- identified him in the future.

1 I don't know whether he carried on and was very active,
2 but you would have to tell me that.

3 Q. Can I ask you about another report, please {UCPI/15536}.

4 And can we scroll down so that we can see all
5 the content of the report, please.

6 There have been some privacy redactions to this
7 report, HN126, because it contains details of
8 the private sexual behaviour of the subject of
9 the report; do you follow?

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. And if we can scroll back up, please, so that we can see
12 the beginning, it's about a member of the Kilburn and
13 Cricklewood branch --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- of the Socialist Workers Party. When you gave your
16 witness statement --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- you said it wasn't your report, because you'd moved
19 to Paddington by this time.

20 A. Oh, thanks for pointing that out. You're quite right.

21 Q. But do you recall when we looked at the reporting
22 earlier that it appeared you were still attending
23 meetings of the Kilburn SWP up until November 1981?

24 A. Are you telling me I did, or am I supposed to --

25 Q. Yes, when we looked at reports earlier, you were still

1 attending the Kilburn SWP as late as November 1981. So
2 on that basis, do you think this could in fact be your
3 report?

4 A. If my first impression was that it wasn't mine, then
5 I -- I carry on with that. But I'm -- I'm reading this
6 over and over again:

7 "[Privacy].

8 "Details of private sexual behaviour."

9 I don't understand that.

10 Q. Would you have reported on what somebody was doing in
11 terms of their sexual behaviour behind closed doors?

12 A. Definitely not.

13 Q. Would it have had any purpose, in terms of policing?

14 A. Absolutely not. It -- it wouldn't have been. That's
15 why I'm saying I don't think it's mine.

16 Q. I'm going to move on, please, from that to ask you about
17 a series of what you refer to as "up-to-date reports".

18 Okay?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. We mentioned a little bit about this concept earlier,
21 and when you made your witness statement you commented
22 on a number of reports in May 1982.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Which is around the time of your withdrawal from
25 the field.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you identified them as up-to-date reports done at
3 the end of your employment to bring the files of various
4 individuals up to date before you left the unit; do you
5 follow?

6 A. Yeah, that's correct.

7 Q. First of all, did someone ask you to bring files of
8 various individuals up to date, or was that something
9 you did of your own motion?

10 A. After I withdrew, I was placed in the corner of
11 the office and given a whole load of files to bring up
12 to date.

13 Q. So somebody asked you -- (overspeaking) --

14 A. -- (overspeaking) -- allowed out of the office until I'd
15 done it.

16 Q. So were you requested to do it?

17 A. I was requested to do it, yes.

18 Q. Can we just look at a couple of examples, please.
19 Firstly {UCPI/18131}. It's 17 May 1982 and it's about
20 somebody we see at paragraph 2 who is described here as
21 having:

22 "... consistently avoided any association with
23 extreme left wing politics for the past three years. He
24 claims to have secured a well-trusted job as a civil
25 servant at the Treasury and is concerned that any active

1 involvement with extremist organisations would possibly
2 bar his future promotion should he be subjected to my
3 vetting procedures."

4 And then it sets out where he lives and the break
5 down of a long-standing friendship.

6 A. Yes, so what are you asking me?

7 Q. When you were asked about this report --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- in your witness statement you said that the fact that
10 he was no longer active was relevant new information
11 about him.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. But the report says he'd consistently avoided
14 involvement for three years. Can you explain how that
15 was new information about this individual?

16 A. It wouldn't have been new information, but if this was
17 an up-to-date report, then obviously the powers that be
18 had asked if I could top and tail the report. That's --

19 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- sorry.

20 A. -- (inaudible). I mean, as you say, this is right at
21 the end of my -- probably -- what makes me think it's
22 not my report -- did I say it was my report in my
23 statement?

24 Q. I'll double-check. I think you did. I'm just going to
25 double-check paragraph 158 of your statement

1 {MPS/740761/44}.

2 A. Because don't forget, I'd -- I'd moved to Paddington.

3 Q. Yes, you say:

4 "This report and a number of others next to it are
5 all up-to-date reports that I did at the end of my
6 deployment."

7 A. Well, there you go.

8 Q. Can I ask you -- I'm just going to ask you about another
9 couple of reports of 17 May, other examples that you
10 said were up-to-date reports, please. {UCPI/18134}.

11 Can I just be clear before I ask you about this,
12 these reports, you're saying you drafted them and they
13 were based on information known to you; is that right?

14 A. I beg your pardon?

15 Q. These up-to-date reports, are you -- at the end of your
16 deployment --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- are you saying that you drafted them and
19 the intelligence contained within them is information
20 that was known to you?

21 A. Yes, that's -- that's what happens. So, obviously I was
22 just topping -- we're -- we're back now at ... "West and
23 North-West ... Committee and
24 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament"? I -- I don't --
25 that's -- I don't understand that. I wouldn't have

1 known anything about the CND, I'm afraid.

2 Q. All right.

3 I'm going to ask you to look at some other reports,
4 just moving through at pace because it's getting rather
5 late.

6 Can I ask, please, if we can bring up {UCPI/18099}
7 this is dated 12 May HN126 and is also a report that you
8 identified in your statement as being amongst
9 the up-to-date reports at the end of your --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- deployment.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So, this one appears to be a report on somebody who was
14 involved as a child, so I'll read it:

15 "[Privacy] a former member of the Finchley branch of
16 the Socialist Workers Party, has not been seen in SWP
17 circles in the North-West area of London for the past
18 two and a half years. She originally joined the party
19 during a wave of local SWP activity at her school
20 engendered by [Privacy]. However, she quickly lost
21 interest, probably due to [Privacy] leaving the Finchley
22 area, and her parent's insistence that she spend more
23 time studying for school examinations."

24 And so can you just describe, please, it's an
25 up-to-date report, but what's the purpose of reporting

1 the information that this individual is not involved in
2 the SWP?

3 A. Because it allows the people in the Special Branch
4 registry to probably destroy that report. Obviously
5 the Security Service didn't destroy anything. That's
6 why you've got an SDS report still on microfiche, or
7 whatever it is. But it was a way of topping and
8 tailing, if somebody hadn't been seen. But these are
9 not good examples of up-to-date reports. There's a lot
10 of up-to-date reports there that I identified for you.
11 This is not a -- a good one, but ...

12 Q. All right. These -- I'm picking these from the ones
13 that were identified in your statement as up-to-date
14 reports, if that assists.

15 A. Yeah, it is -- it is an up-to-date report, because it
16 says that she's lost interest, and I would have thought
17 that that -- that would have been the end of her file.
18 If she had a file. She probably didn't. It says --
19 does it give her a file on -- where "Privacy" is?

20 Q. I'm afraid I can't tell you in relation to this report.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. Right, I'm just -- very briefly, I'm just going to go
23 very quickly through some more questions. There's just
24 one more on this particular topic.

25 You were shown a number of reports around this time

1 in May, and some of them you accepted as yours and some
2 of them you said probably weren't yours. I just want to
3 have a look at one or two that you said you thought
4 weren't yours.

5 The first is dated 13 May 1982 -- it's
6 {UCPI/18100} -- so it's the day after the one we've just
7 looked at.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And it refers to somebody not being seen:

10 "... in Socialist Workers Party ... circles in
11 the North-West area of London during the past year."

12 So in the area of London that you were in for
13 the SWP.

14 And then at paragraph 3, it says this:

15 "[Privacy] is a very insecure person who suffers
16 from schizophrenia and has on two occasions, when
17 staying at a comrade's house, gone berserk and wrecked
18 the room in which he was sleeping. Several SWP members
19 have felt sorry for him and offered him accommodation,
20 but, after his bouts of unreasonable behaviour, have had
21 to evict him."

22 My question is, given that this is somebody who was
23 not seen in Socialist Workers Party circles in
24 the north-west area of London during the past year, what
25 makes you think that this isn't your report?

1 A. Well, the date at the top, to start with. I mean, have
2 you got the date of the end of my deployment, because --

3 Q. I can tell you that -- I won't bring the document up
4 now, but there is a document indicating that
5 the Security Services were told on 12 May 1982 that you
6 had been withdrawn.

7 A. Right you are. So you're not going to get a report on
8 13 May, are you.

9 Somebody -- you've got to remember that somebody
10 would have taken my place up in North London, and I was
11 in Paddington at this time, so I wouldn't have been able
12 to up-to-date that at all.

13 But there are loads of up-to-date reports that I did
14 which the Chairman asked about, so he hasn't seen a --
15 a good one yet.

16 Q. Right, well, I will -- I'm sure he can look at the ones
17 that are referred to in your witness statement as
18 up-to-date reports. I'm picking some examples of those
19 that you identified now.

20 But can I ask you about one more, please, or some
21 other aspects of this. You said, because this is
22 13 May 1982, it's not your report, but you did give as
23 an example of one that was your report another dated on
24 the same day.

25 A. Well, one of them I've got wrong.

1 Q. You also said that this -- because it's the north-west
2 area of London and you were in Paddington, this wouldn't
3 be your report. Was Paddington not part of
4 the North West area of the SWP?

5 A. No, it wasn't.

6 Q. What area was it in?

7 A. I can't remember, but it wasn't the same area. The area
8 of Paddington was the same as the area of King's Cross
9 and those branches. All -- all the railway stations.

10 Q. Okay. I'm going to move on. Just two short topics,
11 please, HN126, and I hope the shorthand writers and
12 everyone can bear with me.

13 I just want to ask you a little bit about the social
14 side of your deployment. You've mentioned it as you've
15 gone through. You -- first of all, you made reference
16 to the fact that you would give lifts to people in your
17 van.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you give lifts to people to events such as
20 demonstrations and rallies?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. And is there any possibility that individuals might have
23 been encouraged to attend those sort of events because
24 you were there to provide them with transport?

25 A. I think that's probably very true.

1 Q. Were you advised ever by those who supervised you, or by
2 other undercover officers, that it -- that using your
3 van in this way was a good thing to do, or not a good
4 thing to do?

5 A. The subject had never come up, that I can remember.

6 Q. I think you've also made mention, if not directly then
7 indirectly, of going to the pub with members of your
8 group. In your witness statement you said it was to get
9 to know people and live the usual life of someone in
10 the area. Were you given any guidance about drinking
11 alcohol whilst you were deployed?

12 A. I can't remember ever being talked about it.

13 Q. And that sort of socialising after meetings, was that
14 expected of you, do you think, or encouraged?

15 A. It was. It was -- it was very good for getting to know
16 the people who were in my branch. But the interesting
17 thing about it was that everybody bought their own
18 drinks in those days, and --

19 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

20 A. -- (inaudible), so up to -- up to you. So nobody really
21 knew what -- what you were drinking, or how much you
22 were drinking.

23 Q. Did you -- or I should say what sort of information do
24 you think you obtained by socialising that you couldn't
25 have obtained by going to meetings and demonstrations

- 1 and the like?
- 2 A. Quite -- quite often where the people lived, because
- 3 I would always have a van-load of people in the back who
- 4 wanted to be dropped off. They didn't like catching
- 5 buses.
- 6 Q. Right, so you learnt their addresses?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And in your witness statement you described the people
- 9 you associated with during your undercover deployment as
- 10 a good drinking crowd?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Compared to your non-undercover life, did your
- 13 consumption of alcohol increase, do you think, whilst
- 14 you were undercover?
- 15 A. I don't think it changed at all.
- 16 Q. Was that something that your managers or your
- 17 supervisors seemed alive to or not?
- 18 A. Seem -- seemed to what?
- 19 Q. They seemed alive to the possibility that you might end
- 20 up consuming more alcohol than usual, or was that not an
- 21 issue that was discussed?
- 22 A. Not an issue at all. As I said before, the beer that
- 23 was served in those days was very weak.
- 24 Q. In your witness statement you mention an SWP district
- 25 organiser in north-west London and a female to whom you

1 delivered Socialist Worker papers who would invite you
2 in for a cup of tea as those you became closest to
3 during your deployment undercover.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you expand a little bit on the nature of your
6 friendship with those individuals? Would you describe
7 them as close friendships?

8 A. Not particularly close. I -- I used to deliver
9 the Socialist Worker to lots of people, and they were
10 very lucky, because they were supposed to come and get
11 them from me. So, I used to drop them off and collect
12 the money that they got from the week before, and
13 occasionally somebody would say, "Come for a cup of
14 tea".

15 Q. Can I put it this way, were they the sorts of
16 friendships where those people might have shared
17 personal details about their lives with you?

18 A. Not -- if they're not on -- in -- on reports on them,
19 then no. The -- the one you're talking about had
20 a partner, so he was always there as well.

21 Q. Is that the female to whom you delivered the papers
22 you're talking about?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Right, thank you --

25 A. And he was a member of the party.

1 MS GARGITTER: HN126, those are all the questions I have at
2 the moment, as the Chairman, he may have questions for
3 you, and as he may explain, it's usual for us to take
4 a short break in case others wish to suggest that I've
5 missed something and I should ask you more questions.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: We always have a quarter of an hour at the
7 end of your main evidence for people to propose
8 questions to Ms Gargitter or whoever is asking
9 questions, and if she thinks it right, then she may ask
10 you further questions. Your own counsel may also wish
11 to re-examine you.

12 Would you be prepared to come back for the last leg
13 of your evidence in a quarter of an hour, please?

14 A. Yes, of course.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

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

19 The time is now 6.20 pm, so we shall reconvene at
20 6.35 pm. Thank you.

21 (6.21 pm)

22 (A short break)

23 (6.45 pm)

24 MR FERNANDES: Good evening, everyone, and welcome back.

25 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue

1 proceedings.

2 Chairman.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 Ms Gargitter, are there any questions?

5 MS GARGITTER: Sir, there are. There are five short sets of
6 questions of many more that were put forward that I've
7 agreed to ask.

8 HN126, thank you for bearing with us, and sorry
9 about the slightly longer break. I hope these will be
10 short topics.

11 The first is this. You gave evidence that the idea
12 for using deceased child's identities by SDS officers
13 had originated with "The Day of the Jackal". Can I ask
14 you what the basis is for that view?

15 A. I think it's because I was -- I -- I looked up on
16 Wikipedia when did the "The Day of the Jackal" -- when
17 was it produced, when did the -- the film come out, and
18 it was just prior to -- to the days when we started
19 doing that sort of system --

20 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

21 A. -- (inaudible).

22 Q. Sorry.

23 A. It was a nickname: "The Jackal -- The Day of
24 the Jackal".

25 Q. And have you therefore made an assumption that that was

- 1 the basis rather than that being something you know?
- 2 A. I think it's probably an assumption, but -- yes.
- 3 Q. The second topic is this: right at the beginning of my
4 questions to you much earlier today we looked at
5 a letter that had been sent in by somebody who became
6 your ex-wife in the middle of your deployment. In it
7 she made reference to officers being -- or infiltrating
8 the extreme right wing.
- 9 My question is this: did you ever tell your now
10 ex-wife that the SDS was infiltrating the extreme right
11 wing?
- 12 A. She didn't get it from me, because we weren't, in those
13 days.
- 14 Q. The third topic relates to the visits to the SDS office
15 by the Deputy Assistant Commissioner and
16 the Assistant Commissioner (Crime). I've got some
17 names. I'm going to ask you if you remember if it was
18 any of these people who visited.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So, the Assistant Commissioner (Crime) between 1977 and
21 1984 was Gilbert Kelland?
- 22 A. Really? Because in my mind, I'm thinking of Mastel,
23 M-A-S-T-E-L-L.
- 24 Q. Sorry, I'm just being passed a note, so I'm just going
25 to check whether that's ... No, okay.

1 All right, so Gilbert Kelland doesn't ring any bells
2 as the name of the person who attended?

3 A. I've heard of him, but I -- I can't remember. But it's
4 -- it's a long time ago, I'm sorry.

5 Q. The Deputy Assistant Commissioner who visited, I've got
6 three names to suggest to you. The first is
7 a Deputy Assistant Commissioner who ceased to be
8 Deputy Assistant Commissioner in 1977, just as you were
9 entering the SDS, named Vic Gilbert?

10 A. No, it wasn't him.

11 Q. The next Deputy Assistant Commissioner: Robert Bryan?

12 A. It could have been him.

13 Q. And then finally, from 1981 onwards only, Colin Hewett?

14 A. No, it wasn't him.

15 Q. So of those three, possibly Robert Bryan?

16 A. I would say so, yes.

17 Q. I've just been asked to go back briefly to the first
18 topic and I will.

19 You mentioned, in relation to "Day of the Jackal",
20 that it was a nickname. Can I just clarify, was that
21 a nickname in use in the SDS at the time?

22 A. I can't remember if it was a nickname. I mean, the --
23 I suppose it was. That -- that's -- that's how
24 I describe what we did.

25 Q. Right, so that's your own description rather than

1 something that was --

2 A. Well, I'm sure there were more than just me who
3 mentioned it, but -- but I can't point to people and
4 say, "He's the one who told me".

5 Q. Thank you.

6 I'm going to move now to the fourth topic and I'm
7 going to ask you some very specific questions about
8 this, so can you please answer the next question just
9 "yes" or "no".

10 In your witness statement you describe, at the end
11 of your deployment, writing postcards to the members of
12 your group after you left the field. So "yes" or "no",
13 was that your idea?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And then, again, I'm going to ask you a narrow question.
16 If it was, therefore, suggested to you by someone else,
17 was that someone else a fellow undercover officer, or
18 a supervisor or manager?

19 A. A supervisor.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 And then finally, you gave evidence much earlier
22 today that you heard rumours about HN297, Rick Clark,
23 being confronted with his death certificate whilst
24 undercover.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And that that had resulted, or been the result of him
2 engaging in sexual activity with women. The rumours
3 that you heard, were those rumours circulating amongst
4 SDS undercover officers at the time?
- 5 A. I think it was probably -- no, I wouldn't know that,
6 because obviously he left the SDS before I joined
7 the SDS, so I wasn't mixing with SDS officers then. So
8 it must have been within the Branch as a whole.
- 9 Q. When you say "within the Branch", you mean within wider
10 Special Branch?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Were those rumours rumours that you heard or discussed
13 with supervisors within the SDS?
- 14 A. No, because it happened before I -- before I actually
15 joined the SDS.
- 16 Q. So are you saying you heard the rumours before you
17 joined the SDS?
- 18 A. Yes, indeed.
- 19 Q. Was the fact that a former SDS undercover officer had
20 been presented with his death certificate in these
21 circumstances not the subject of some discussion amongst
22 the SDS? A cautionary tale, for example?
- 23 A. I don't know, I wasn't there at the time.
- 24 Q. I mean at the time that you joined.
- 25 A. I think everybody had forgotten it by then. We were all

1 getting on with our -- our postings and we were making
2 sure we didn't make the same mistake.

3 Q. How was it that you and your colleagues could make sure
4 you weren't making the same mistake unless everybody
5 knew about what had gone wrong, if I can put it that
6 way?

7 A. Well, it was so that we knew that we wouldn't try and
8 have intercourse with somebody else in our -- in -- who
9 -- who was part of one of the subjects of our
10 undercover. But -- well, you know what I'm saying.

11 Q. Well, can I put it this way. Does it follow from that
12 that, as far as you're concerned, your contemporary
13 undercover officers in the SDS were also aware of
14 the rumours about HN297?

15 A. Oh, I'm sure they were.

16 Q. And why are you sure they were?

17 A. Well, they'd have to -- they -- my contemporaries on
18 the SDS were already there, some of them probably
19 working with 297, but I wasn't. I was later.

20 MS GARGITTER: All right, thank you.

21 I think that's as far as I can take it for now, Sir,
22 unless you have any questions, or there's any
23 re-examination from Mr Sanders.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Sanders, any re-examination?

25 Re-examination by MR SANDERS

1 MR SANDERS: Thank you, Sir. Just, I hope, three questions
2 on one topic, please.

3 HN126, we've looked at some Special Branch
4 intelligence reports, and I'll ask for one to come up in
5 a second, but just a general question about them.
6 There's a left-hand margin with a vertical line
7 differentiating it from where the text is and that has
8 some headings. One of them is "Subject" and one of them
9 is "Reference to papers". Does that sound familiar to
10 you?

11 A. Is that a -- on the page of a -- of a -- an SB1,
12 a Special Branch report, or is it on a minute sheet?

13 Q. On the -- on the SB report, on the left-hand side,
14 there's a --

15 A. On the left hand side in the margin, it says? Sorry,
16 again?

17 Q. One subheading is "Subject", and below that there's
18 a subheading "Reference to papers".

19 A. The "Subject" bit is probably -- there was an index in
20 Special Branch records called "the subject index", so
21 that could be short for "the subject index".

22 "Reference to -- reference to papers", you're going
23 to have to, I'm afraid, ask my colleagues who worked in
24 the office.

25 Q. Well, if I can just ask for one to be put up on

1 the screen, and it's {UCPI/11997}. It's one of the ones
2 we looked at earlier.

3 A. Right.

4 Q. So, do you see there there's, top left-hand side,
5 "Subject", and then "Reference to papers"?

6 A. Oh, yes, that's -- that's written on the SB1. That is
7 where your subject would be. So, if it was an
8 Anti-Nazi League meeting, it would be -- it would
9 say "ANL meeting".

10 "Reference to papers", it would have the reference
11 of the Anti-Nazi League.

12 Q. If we could just scroll down, please, on this report.
13 You see there it says -- I think it's,
14 "Socialist Workers Party", and then it's the file
15 reference for the Socialist Workers Party?

16 A. Yes. Yeah. Well, that -- that should have been further
17 up the page.

18 Q. Yes, thank you.

19 This is one of the reports that was about School
20 Kids Against the Nazis.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Does this mean it would be filed on the SWP file?

23 A. Oh, I'm -- I'm sorry, I -- I couldn't -- probably,
24 possibly, but a chat with somebody who worked in
25 the office would -- would give you the answer straight

1 away.

2 Q. Okay, thank you.

3 And if you were reporting on
4 the Socialist Workers Party and
5 the Socialist Workers Party was using
6 the Anti-Nazi League and School Kids Against the Nazis
7 to further its objectives, would that be relevant to
8 your reporting on the Socialist Workers Party?

9 A. I -- I think it would have been, but there -- there were
10 three organisations, and as far as I know they would
11 have had their own main files in records.

12 Q. If one main organisation was using as a front or as
13 a sub-organisation another organisation, might that be
14 intelligence that was relevant to the main organisation?

15 A. I suppose it -- I suppose it could be, but I can't --
16 I'm afraid I can't answer that. I don't know
17 the answer.

18 MR SANDERS: All right, thank you very much.

19 Thank you, Sir.

20 Questions by THE CHAIRMAN

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Sanders.

22 I have just one topic I would like to raise with
23 you. Because I don't want to delay you after a very
24 long day for a minute longer than is necessary, I will
25 do it without showing you a whole lot of documents.

1 A. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: It's the up-to-date reports --

3 A. Yes.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: -- that you were taken to. You were taken to
5 four of them by Ms Gargitter.

6 In your witness statement, you expressly said that
7 one was yours, you dealt with the next two as if they
8 were yours, and you expressly disavowed the final one
9 that was put to you, as you did in your evidence. You
10 also in your witness statement referred to 22 other
11 reports which are not included in this bundle as being
12 the reports that you in May 1982 when you left.

13 A. Yes.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I will, for my own part, seek to have those
15 reports retrieved and will look at them. I can safely
16 take it that they're your reports, can I, if --

17 A. Yes, you can. Most of the up-to-date reports are of a
18 very basic type and they're very standard, and I think
19 even has "this is an up-to-date report" in the text,
20 whereas the ones that we were shown, I'm afraid were not
21 -- not representative of an -- an ordinary
22 up-to-date report.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: But can I take it that when you had time to
24 reflect upon them when you made your witness statement
25 that your recollection as to which were yours and which

1 one wasn't is likely to be better than it is now?

2 A. Probably, yes, sir. I -- I don't know.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Then I'm not going to trouble you any further
4 about them, but I will look at, at any rate, examples of
5 the standard ones to see what you're talking about --

6 A. Yes.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: -- and I will bear in mind your answer about
8 the four that you were shown by Ms Gargitter.

9 A. Thank you, Sir.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for coming in and giving your
11 evidence. I'm sorry it has been such a long day, but no
12 doubt you will find it a relief to have finished it in
13 a day.

14 A. Yes, Sir. Thank you very much, Sir.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 MR FERNANDES: Thank you, everyone. The hearings have now
17 finished for the day. We shall resume at 10.00 am
18 tomorrow.

19 (7.00 pm)

20 (The hearing adjourned until
21 10.00 am on Thursday, 13 May 2021)

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