

# Cover sheet

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

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[1]

I, [HN301] c/o Designated Lawyers, PO Box 73779, London WC1A 9NL,  
WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS

1. This witness statement is prepared in response to a Rule 9 request dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and concerns my deployment as an undercover officer ("UCO") within the Metropolitan Police Service Special Demonstration Squad ("SDS") from 1971 to 1976.
2. I have been shown the documents attached to the Rule 9 request but I have not otherwise refreshed my memory by looking at any other documents.
3. I am known in this Public Inquiry by my cover name of Bob Stubbs. There is a restriction order in respect of my real name. My nominal number is HN301.

### Personal details

- [2] [3]  
4. I was born on [in the 1940's] My full name is [redacted]

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

- [4]  
5. According to my personnel records, I joined the police [in the late 1960's]  
and moved to C Division in [5] [redacted] the same year.

- [REDACTED]
6. I joined Special Branch in <sup>6</sup> the early 1970's as a Detective Constable. It was always my intention to join Special Branch as I considered it to be an elite unit. Before joining the SDS I worked <sup>6A</sup> [REDACTED] sets out previous Special Branch career [REDACTED]
7. I had not undertaken any undercover work before joining the SDS.

### **Selection for the Special Demonstration Squad**

8. I joined the SDS in 1971. I was approached by one of the senior officers within the SDS; I think it was probably <sup>7</sup> [REDACTED] HN332 [REDACTED] I had barely heard of the SDS before I was invited to join it. I was relatively new to Special Branch and although I had heard rumours of an undercover infiltration unit I did not know anything more about it.
9. I think I might have been chosen for the SDS because of my appearance. I suspect that those in charge hoped that my relatively dark skin would allow me to infiltrate protest groups with primarily Middle-Eastern members. At the time, the "Black September" group and Palestinian hijackings were of significant concern.
10. I decided to join because I was flattered to have been asked, particularly since I had not been in Special Branch for that long. I do not recall what precise information I was given before joining but I must have been told that it involved long-term undercover work. I do not recall discussing the possible impact on my family and no SDS manager spoke with my spouse before I joined. I did attend a social event with my wife and other SDS officers before I formally

[REDACTED]

joined, but I would be surprised if any managers discussed my future role with my wife at this event.

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

11. As far as I am aware there was no formal SDS training. I learned all that I needed to while working in the SDS back office before I was deployed. I think I was there for about two or three months before going into the field. During this time I was given intelligence files on various protest groups to read. I would also go along to the meetings with the UCOs at the SDS flat during which I could ask any questions of them and pick up general advice and guidance. I remember that <sup>8</sup> [REDACTED] HN343 [REDACTED] was an informal mentor to me and was particularly helpful both before and during my deployment.
12. I have been asked about a Home Office Circular entitled "Informants who take part in crime" (MPS-0727104). I do not remember having been shown this before. I have also been asked whether I was ever shown a "Tradecraft Manual" or binder containing guidance about how to behave while undercover. I have no recollection of any such guidance.
13. I do not think I was given any guidance or advice about: becoming involved in the private lives of activists; sexual relationships with activists; participation in criminality; encouraging or provoking others to participate in criminality; what to do if arrested or brought before a court; or the ethical or legal limitations of my deployment. I think we were expected to employ common sense, judgement

[REDACTED]

and experience. For example, it should have been obvious that we weren't to participate in criminality.

14. I was never given any race equality or gender equality training.

## Undercover identity

### Cover name

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15. My undercover name was Bob Stubbs.

Details of how the undercover name and a contact work phone number were chosen

In the end I never actually gave out that number to anyone.

16. I did not use a deceased child's identity or make use of any aspect of a real person's identity other than as set out above. My undercover identity was not sufficiently developed to include a cover back story beyond my cover employment. I think the general wisdom was not to let things get too complicated as it would be easy for the story to fall apart under investigation. I

[REDACTED]

tried to avoid divulging information to activists unless I had to and I do not think I ever really talked much about myself.

17. I have been asked about Frederick Forsyth's novel "Day of the Jackal" and whether this influenced the decision to use deceased children's identities. I do not know whether this novel influenced the SDS's development of undercover identities. I am not aware of when and why the practice of using deceased children's identities started or who the first officer to use this method was.

*Cover employment*

18. I first worked as a laboratory technician at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I think I did this for a couple of months and went along to the laboratory most days. It was pretty much a full-time job [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All I remember doing was weighing things on scientific scales and using a centrifuge. [REDACTED]

The reasons why I did this employment are detailed below.

19. After the laboratory technician job, I became a handyman for a VW garage and showroom in Finchley Road. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I would drive cars between garages and also wash cars. I think this was a pretty regular job and I probably went in most days. I remember it being quite hard work. [REDACTED]

[14]

20. [REDACTED] I also had the potential cover of saying that I worked as a runner for a firm of solicitors [REDACTED] [14] I never actually did this job, it was just a cover story. [REDACTED] [14] [REDACTED]

### *Cover accommodation*

[15]

21. My first cover accommodation was [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] flat in Clapham. I never actually stayed there but just used it as an address that I could give if anyone asked where I lived. If someone had turned up, [REDACTED] [15] an occupant [REDACTED] would be able to say that I was not in. I never gave the address out in the end.

22. I later arranged proper cover accommodation. I rented a room in an elderly lady's house. I think it was in Ealing Common. I may have stayed there once or twice but I otherwise would just park my cover vehicle outside the property and visit it occasionally. I do not think any activists ever visited my cover accommodation and no-one else lived there.

23. I never lived anywhere else in my undercover identity.

### *Legend building*

24. My ordinary appearance was clean shaven, reasonably short hair, smartly dressed. Before I was deployed I grew my hair to shoulder length, let my beard

[REDACTED]

grow and wore casual clothes. I did not visit any people or places to develop my undercover identity.

25. I do not think I lived in my undercover identity for a period of time before approaching activists. My recollection is that I got started straight away. I imagine that I would have wanted to seem proactive.

26. I had use of a cover vehicle. When I first joined the SDS we used hire vehicles and I shared a hire car with another SDS officer, <sup>16</sup> [REDACTED] HN338 [REDACTED]. After some time, vehicles were purchased for officers and I eventually got my own vehicle. I would use it to go to SDS meetings and activist meetings. I do not remember giving lifts to any activists.

## Deployment

### *Infiltration of groups*

27. The original plan for my deployment was based around my work as a laboratory technician at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital. A member of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign also worked at the laboratory and the intention was that I should get to know him and gradually start attending their meetings. I always thought that this plan was pretty unrealistic and although I worked in the laboratory for a couple of months I did not manage to get close to the individual.

28. I then focused on the International Socialists ("IS"), which later became the Socialist Workers Party ("SWP"). I became a member of the Hammersmith & Fulham branch of IS by attending their meetings, which were publicly



advertised. I would estimate that 12 to 18 people were regular attendees at our meetings. Membership was official in as much as you had to pay membership fees. I believe that I reported on IS for the whole of my deployment but I also used my IS involvement to attend meetings of other politically aligned groups.

29. Apart from IS, I also recall going along to meetings of the Anti-Internment League ("AIL") and the Troops Out Movement ("TOM"). To the best of my recollection there was no official membership of either AIL or TOM; "members" were effectively anyone who went along to the meetings. My involvement with AIL and TOM was less significant than my involvement with IS. I do not recall being directed to join these groups by my managers but I am sure that I would have informed them of the possibility of going along to their meetings and they indicated that I should attend.

30. I have been asked to consider the totality of reports that have been included within my witness pack and comment upon whether this reflects the reporting that I recall providing. This is very difficult for me to answer. I have no clear memory of the full extent of my reporting. All that I can say is that I doubt that this represents all of my reporting. For example, my reporting on IS starts from April 1973 and post-dates some of my AIL reporting; this cannot be right as IS was the first group that I became involved with and I would have submitted reports from the outset of my involvement. The earliest report that I have been shown is from May 1972 and the latest is from May 1976. I think that I was deployed before May 1972 but I did leave around May 1976. Furthermore, paragraphs 107-110 below outline other reporting I did which is also not reflected in the records provided in my witness pack.

[REDACTED]

31. I have been asked whether any reports have been incorrectly attributed to me.

I am unclear whether all reports included within my witness pack are deemed to be attributed to me and, if they are, on what basis they have been attributed to me. Since I have no proper memory of the events detailed in the reports, the only way that I can judge attribution is if my name appears as the author of the report or if I have been listed as an attendee at the meeting. I am happy to accept that if my name is at the bottom of a report then I have most likely provided the information contained within it. I am otherwise unable to say whether a report has been produced by me as I just cannot remember.

### *Tasking*

32. I would not say that I was tasked as such. There must have been discussion about which groups I should focus on at the beginning but I think this was more of a collaborative decision than the SDS managers directing me towards a particular target. That said, I was initially told that I should try to become friendly with the member of the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign who I worked with, but after this did not work out, I think there was a more open discussion about where I should focus my efforts.

33. I would have mentioned anything significant that I was doing while undercover during the regular SDS meetings and no doubt any specific requests would have been communicated to me during these but I do not remember anything of this nature. I am sure that if my superiors disapproved of the direction my deployment was taking, they would have intervened.



34. I do not recall ever being told how I should approach my deployment or what information I should gather and I certainly do not remember being given any specific instructions about how I should conduct myself. I learnt from watching the other SDS officers and the sort of information that they provided. I was also given a substantial amount of free rein and to a large extent I directed my own tasking. We were expected to exercise sound judgement and propose avenues to progress our deployment. I believe that I reported on TOM and AIL without specifically being asked to do so but I would have sought my managers' approval for this. I would not report upon matters that were not of any interest to Special Branch.

35. I understood that the SDS's function was to gather information about groups and individuals that posed a threat of public disorder and violence. That said, the SDS gradually morphed into more of a general intelligence-gathering unit.

36. I do not recall being told how long I would be in the SDS when I started or whether I was given access to other sources of information about my targets beyond the files mentioned in paragraph 11 above.

*Premises and meetings with the SDS*

37. While I was part of the SDS, the "back office" was in New Scotland Yard. The SDS also had various flats where the UCOs and management would meet. The location of the flats changed; while I was on the squad I think there were flats

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in

central, North West and South London

[REDACTED]

38. To begin with, I would visit the SDS flats two or three times per week. By the end of my deployment, the routine had changed and I would go three times per week on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All UCOs who were available would be expected to attend and we would meet with the managers from the SDS office.

39. The SDS managers would meet us at the cover flat. We would spend most of the afternoon there unless we had somewhere else we needed to be. We took food there and would cook together. It was also a social occasion as well as a time to hand over reports and discuss matters with the bosses. We did not get to socialise very much while undercover so this was probably deemed to be important for our welfare.

40. I do not recall there being any real structure to our meetings. We would hand over the diaries that we had produced for that week and any reports we had written. We would also have general conversations about how we were getting on, what we had been up to, who we had interacted with that week. There was a fair bit of cross-over of membership between the various activist groups so it was not uncommon that some of us would know the same activists. We would also have a general chat about our personal lives – the usual things that you would discuss with colleagues. Managers were present for most of the conversations that we had and would have overheard them. I do not recall seeing the other UCOs outside of the SDS meetings except for [REDACTED] 18 [REDACTED] HN13 [REDACTED]

18A [REDACTED]

and who I would see socially.

[REDACTED]

41. I do not remember going to the SDS flat at other times. I wrote my SDS reports while at my family home so had no cause to attend the SDS flat in order to do paperwork.

*Pattern of life whilst undercover*

42. During my deployment, the proportions of my working time spent undercover and in my real identity varied depending on the cover employment I was undertaking and I find it difficult to give a percentage breakdown. I would also have some mornings, evenings and weekends off duty but this did not always follow a set pattern:

- a. In terms of time spent in my cover identity, I was occasionally at my cover flat and more regularly at my cover employment and I would attend meetings with activists at least once per week in the evenings, go to a protest or march most weekends and sell copies of the SWP newspaper on Saturday mornings.
- b. In terms of time spent in my real identity, I spent time writing reports at my family home, phoning in to the SDS office and attending the meetings at the SDS flats.

43. My working life in the SDS was quite different to that in Special Branch as there was no set pattern to my day while in the SDS. There was some shift work in Special Branch but it followed more of a routine.

[REDACTED]

*Pay and over-time*

44. I do not recall whether we received overtime pay in the SDS. I have a feeling that we received a "detective duty allowance" which catered for the additional work that we did but I cannot remember this clearly. I do not remember whether my take home pay was different while in the SDS.

*Reporting on the Anti-Internment League*

45. I reported on the activities of the Anti-Internment League ("AIL"). I don't recall specifically being tasked to infiltrate them. I was already involved with IS before I started attending AIL meetings and I think I would have said to the SDS managers that I had the opportunity of attending AIL meetings as well and asked them whether they wanted me to go along. I do not remember this conversation but I would not have started going to meetings of a new group without telling the SDS managers. Since the activities of AIL were connected to the Troubles, there was automatic interest in their activities and there was a desire to obtain any available intelligence on Irish matters.

46. The AIL's main objective was to stop the practice of imprisoning people in Northern Ireland without trial. They were trying to bring this practice to people's attention but by and large the public in England were not very sympathetic to this cause. The AIL was also opposed to British involvement in Ireland. I presume that there was cross-over between members of AIL and those who supported the republican terrorist campaign. In fact, some of the reporting that I have been shown demonstrates a level of support for the activities of the

[REDACTED]

Provisional IRA. I do not specifically recall AIL members approving of the use of violence as a method but I suspect that some did given their political leaning. I cannot remember the AIL posing any particular threat of public disorder; I think the interest in the AIL was more focused on general intelligence gathering due to the cross-over between AIL members and those supportive of terrorist activities.

47. A number of the AIL reports that I have been shown bear my name. I assume that I have written these reports and am the reliable source referred to but I do not have any memory of writing these particular reports. If my name is not on the report, I am unable to say where the information has come from. I think there were other SDS officers involved in the AIL given the level of interest in Irish matters.

48. I have been asked about AIL reporting from 1972-1973 that has been signed off by <sup>19</sup> [REDACTED] HN294 [REDACTED]. I believe that Inspector [REDACTED] HN294 [REDACTED] was one of my managers during this time. I do not know for certain whether [REDACTED] HN294 [REDACTED] performed some undercover duties but I would not have thought he did since he was a manager. I am not sure why [REDACTED] HN294 [REDACTED] would have signed off these reports as the apparent author. My only guess is that this information has been obtained from a number of different sources and UCOs and [REDACTED] HN294 [REDACTED] has therefore taken overall ownership of it. I cannot recall this being the practice but, for example, the report dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 1972 (MPS-0728918) contains a long list of names of those present at a meeting. I doubt that one SDS officer has provided all of these names and it may be that various officers have identified individuals from photographs taken.



49. One of the reports (UCPI0000008034) lists "Bob Stubbs" as an attendee at the meeting of the South London branch of AIL. I presume that I am the Bob Stubbs referred to as it would be too much of a coincidence for there to be another person of this name. I may well be the source of the information contained within the report but I really cannot recall. This is the sort of information that I would submit after attending a meeting. I have been asked about two further reports that do not include my name as an attendee (MPS-0740793 and MPS-0728918). In relation to MPS-0728918, this is the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1972 report that I have commented on above. I think the list of attendees in this report has probably come from various officers. I am not sure that MPS-0740793 relates to this question as this document appears to be a "discussion document" produced by the AIL and not a report of a meeting.

50. I have been asked whether I was present at an AIL delegates meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1972. I cannot recall this but I presume that I was present since I have signed off the report referring to this meeting. Another report refers to Bob Stubbs being an AIL South London delegate. I must be the Bob Stubbs referred to but I have no memory at all of being an AIL delegate or what this entailed. To the best of my recollection, I did not attain any position of responsibility within AIL.

51. I have been referred to a report dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 1972 that is signed off by myself, 20 21 HN298 and HN338 (MPS-0728845). I do not recall this meeting or whether all three of us attended but given that we all appear to have contributed to this report, I assume all three of us were present. I note that this meeting was the AIL National Conference. It is therefore not surprising that

[REDACTED]

three SDS officers were present, particularly if each of us was involved with AIL in a different area of London. I think our involvement with AIL was not the primary objective of our deployments but was incidental to the main groups that we each focused on. I recall that <sup>21</sup> [REDACTED] HN338 [REDACTED] infiltrated the International Marxists and I think there was cross-over between AIL and the Marxists. I cannot remember what groups <sup>20</sup> [REDACTED] HN298 [REDACTED] was principally involved with. As I have said, there was a lot of interest in any Irish-related matters so this may explain why it was considered appropriate for three officers to report on the AIL.

52. I have no memory of when, why or how I ceased reporting on the AIL. I do not believe that I reported on the AIL throughout my deployment but I cannot say whether a report dated 13<sup>th</sup> August 1975 (UCPI0000007481) is likely to have originated from me or whether my last report was a report dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 1973 (UCPI0000008072).

*Reporting on the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association ("NICRA")*

53. I do not remember having any involvement with NICRA and I do not believe that I regularly reported on this group.

54. There are two reports relating to NICRA that bear my name. The first report (UCPI0000016081) simply submits a leaflet advertising a NICRA rally on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1972. I may well have been given this as part of my involvement in other groups such as the AIL or TOM. The second report (MPS-0737808) is an account of a meeting that was held shortly after the advertised 9<sup>th</sup> July 1972 rally. I assume that I must have intended this meeting. As I have said, I do not



remember having any involvement with this group. It is possible that this is the only meeting I attended. The report records that the rally "was a failure"; SDS managers may have concluded that I no longer needed to report on this group but I am just speculating.

55. I have no memory of NICRA's objectives or whether they were involved with subversion, disorder or violence.

*Reporting on the International Sub-Committee of the Belfast Ten Defence Committee*

56. I have been asked about a report of the inaugural meeting of the International Sub-Committee of the Belfast Ten Defence Committee (UCPI0000008077). One of the members of this sub-committee is listed as Bob Stubbs. I assume that I am the Bob Stubbs referred to but I have no recollection of any involvement with this sub-committee or how I came to be included within it. I note that this is the only report I have been given relating to this sub-committee and it is therefore possible that this was my only involvement with it. I am afraid I cannot say anything about the objectives or tactics of this group or the apparent involvement of two undercover officers.

57. I have been asked about a report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1973 ( UCPI0000008105 ) reporting on a demonstration outside HMP Brixton. My name appears at the bottom of this report (along with another UCO's) and I therefore assume that I must have provided some of the information contained within the report.

[REDACTED]

*Reporting on the Troops Out Movement*

58. I reported on TOM during my deployment but from recollection I do not think I was as involved with TOM as I was with IS. I cannot recall being specifically directed towards TOM but, as with the AIL, I presume that the opportunity arose to become involved with TOM and my managers approved this course of action.

59. I suspect I was involved with the West London branch of TOM as my involvement with IS was in West London. I can see from the reports I have been given (UCPI0000009938 and UCPI0000009942) that the West London branch was the founding branch of TOM and that I was involved towards the beginning of TOM's activity. From memory I think TOM was a small movement when I joined. I cannot remember precisely how I became involved but I presume that it was initially a fringe meeting that I happened to attend and it grew from there. My involvement in the early days of TOM did not confer any special responsibilities on me.

60. TOM's principal objective was to achieve the removal of British troops from Northern Ireland and I cannot remember if they wanted the British State to withdraw altogether. They may well have had wider objectives as well but I cannot remember these or whether they were subversive. Given that they wished to see an end to British military involvement in Northern Ireland, I suspect that a number of their members approved of violence but I cannot recall TOM deploying violence, criminality or public disorder as a tactic. As with the AIL, I presume that SDS interest in TOM arose due to their connection to Irish extremism and the necessity of gathering intelligence about Irish-related matters.

HN301 comments on intelligence reports relating to TOM, including a report dated 12 November 1973 (UCPI0000009938) and a report dated 16 November 1973 (UCPI0000009942), which bear his name. He believes that he is responsible for the provision of the information in these reports as his name appears on them. He does not recall reporting regularly on TOM.

62. I have been shown five intelligence reports from 1975 (UCPI0000007306; UCPI0000012647; UCPI0000012646; UCPI0000012696; UCPI0000009309) relating to West London TOM. These reports do not bear my name and I am unable to say if the information has come from me. I cannot recall when I ceased to be involved with TOM.

[REDACTED]  
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63. I have been asked whether [REDACTED] HN298 [REDACTED] was identified as an undercover officer at a West London TOM meeting. I have no recollection of such an incident and cannot comment upon it.

#### *Reporting on the International Socialists*

64. IS was the principal group that I reported on. As I have said above, I think the decision for me to infiltrate IS came about as a result of discussion between myself and the SDS managers. I believe that I started infiltrating IS as soon as I was deployed and my reporting on IS therefore would have started in 1971 or early 1972. I do not believe that the earliest report I have been shown (dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 1973, UCPI0000015700) is the first report I produced on IS. This report relates to a joint public meeting held by IS, the International Marxist Group and the Socialist Labour League. This report is signed off by myself and 24 [REDACTED] HN338 [REDACTED]. I would have attended due to my infiltration of IS and I presume that 24 [REDACTED] HN338 [REDACTED] attended as a result of his involvement with IMG. I doubt that the topic of the meeting (police oppression) had anything to do with our attendance.

65. I think IS were primarily of interest to the SDS because of the possibility of public disorder and violence, particularly during anti-fascist counter-protests. IS's objectives were to support workers in their struggle for fair treatment, to bring down the government and to establish socialism in the UK. Their objectives could therefore be considered to be subversive. IS did not officially approve of the use of violence but I did witness violence at some protests. Demonstrations were particularly likely to become violent and disorderly if they

[REDACTED]

were a counter-protest against, or came into contact with a counter-protest by, the National Front. Members of IS and the National Front detested each other and they would frequently turn out in force at each other's demonstrations. There was always the potential for these to become violent. I only specifically recall details about two demonstrations I attended when the National Front was also present, one was in Leicester and the other was at Red Lion Square. I cannot remember much about the Leicester occasion. I have provided information about the Red Lion Square protest below. I am sure that my supervising officers would have been aware that I attended anti-fascist counter-demonstrations and no doubt I would have told them of my intention to go to Leicester.

66. I have been asked about a lengthy report that I produced following the IS annual conference in March 1973 (UCPI0000007905). I recall attending this meeting because it was the first annual conference that I was responsible for producing the report on. I think that <sup>25</sup> [REDACTED] HN343 [REDACTED] had produced reports for earlier IS annual conferences. I would have attended the conference in my capacity as an IS member. One of the topics discussed at the conference appears to have been IS's response to Irish republican matters. I do not recall specifically being tasked to report upon this but you were meant to record everything that occurred, particularly at a national conference, and obviously any matters related to Irish republicanism would have been of interest. I have attached the National Committee Report to my account of the conference. This document must have been publicly available if it came into my possession.



67. There are no reports from April 1973 - April 1974 and from April 1974 - September 1974 but I believe that I continued to report upon the activities of the Hammersmith & Fulham branch of IS during this time. The April 1974 report (UCPI0000007915) relates to the formation of an IS lawyers group to give advice about interactions with the police. I do not believe that I was tasked to provide information about IS's recourse to legal services.

68. It appears from the reports that I have been shown that I started to attend meetings of the Wandsworth and Battersea IS branch from November 1974 (UCPI0000015010). I had not originally recalled this but now that I have seen reference to this in a report, the Wandsworth and Battersea branch does ring a bell and I think I did move branches. The timings and reasons for this are now unclear to me. This report refers to a suggestion that members should be recruited from within prisons; I do not know to what use this particular intelligence was put and I have no memory of a drive to recruit IS members in this way.

69. I have been shown a report dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 1975 (UCPI0000006921) recording that an IS member is standing as a candidate in a Walsall by-election. I do not remember being specifically asked to provide this sort of information but I would have thought it was of interest and we generally passed back all information that we could.

70. I have been asked whether I am aware of IS routinely using covert means to infiltrate businesses and recruit new members. IS were certainly keen to recruit new members and recruiting from workplaces would have been an obvious tactic for obtaining new members. I recall IS recruiting from particular



workplaces but I cannot remember which ones they were. I suspect that this would have been undertaken covertly as employers would not be happy about large-scale membership of IS amongst their employees since IS supported strike action. However, I do not know whether IS members joined certain workplaces with the express intention of recruiting members or whether they would just try to recruit from workplaces where they were already employed.

71. With regards to a report dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 1975 (UCPI0000007189), I am not sure that this report has originated from me as it does not bear my name. I do not recall being tasked to report on matters that may pose a threat to business but no doubt UCOs would have passed this information on as we tried to report on everything that we could.

72. A report dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 1976 (UCPI0000009537) states that Bob Stubbs has taken over as branch treasurer of the Paddington IS branch. If this is correct and it relates to me, then I am confused by it. I did become treasurer of a branch of IS but I had thought that this was the Hammersmith & Fulham branch, which I was involved with from the beginning of my time in IS. I have no memory of a Paddington branch of IS and the attendees relating to this branch are not familiar to me. I think I have read in the reports that the Hammersmith & Fulham branch split to form the Paddington branch and I suppose this may explain my confusion. However, my memory was also that I became treasurer earlier on in my deployment than this report suggests.

73. I cannot remember the specifics of how I became treasurer. I think that there was a vacant position and I simply volunteered for it. Other than collecting subscription fees, I do not recall what this role involved. I think SDS officers

[REDACTED]

were encouraged to take positions that would permit them access to information about the membership of the group; I recall <sup>26</sup> [REDACTED] HN343 [REDACTED] informing me of this towards the beginning of my deployment. I would have told my supervising officers that the position of treasurer was available and I presume they told me to put myself forward.

74. I have been asked about a number of reports relating to West London IS dating from September 1975 to April 1976 that do not bear my name as the author and do not include my cover name as an attendee at the meeting ( UCPI0000007566 - UCPI0000012326 ). I do not think that I have provided the information in these reports and I am not able to say who may have supplied the information. I have read through the lists of attendees at these meetings and the meeting places and they are not at all familiar to me. As I have said, I have no memory of involvement with Paddington IS. That said, there is one report, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1976 (UCPI0000009589), that refers to Bob Stubbs being present at a Paddington IS meeting and the report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1976 (UCPI0000012374) states that Bob Stubbs has left Paddington IS. Assuming I was the Bob Stubbs being referred to, it does appear from this that I must have had some involvement with Paddington IS.

75. I have been asked whether I was responsible for a report dated 28<sup>th</sup> October 1975 (UCPI0000009250) that details IS's plans for various women's rights events. I do not believe that I was responsible for this report as it is not signed by me and I am not listed as an attendee. I do not recall being tasked to provide information of this sort but, as I have said, we passed on all information we could.

76. A number of the IS reports I have reviewed refer to the Right to Work Campaign.

I have no memory of reporting on this campaign or of being tasked to report on it.

77. I have been referred to a report dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 1976 (UCPI0000012230)

concerning a march against the National Front in Coventry. I do not believe that I am responsible for this report and I have no memory of being present at this march. The only place that I recall attending a march outside London was Leicester, as described above.

78. I believe that my deployment with IS ended in May 1976 as did my service with

the SDS. I have a commemorative cup that was given to me by the SDS and the date on this cup is May 1976. The cups were usually given out at the end of your service with a unit. This also fits with a report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1976 that records that Bob Stubbs was no longer a member of Paddington IS and was now living and working in Portsmouth. This is my recollection of how my deployment ended but I do not think I provided this report as it would have been strange to include information about myself that was not true – I obviously was not living in Portsmouth but did say that I was going to move there.

79. I have been asked about reports that relate to the general activities of the

Socialist Workers Party rather than branch-specific reports (UCPI0000014968, UCPI0000015000, UCPI0000015064, UCPI0000015075, UCPI0000015076, UCPI0000015104, UCPI0000015106, UCPI0000015121, UCPI0000014958, UCPI0000015001, UCPI0000015013, UCPI0000012065, UCPI0000007069, UCPI0000007186, UCPI0000007214, UCPI0000012714). I am not named as the author of any of these reports or mentioned within them. Any UCOs involved

[REDACTED]

in left-wing activism could have come across information of this sort so it is very difficult to say who has provided it. Where reports begin "the following has been received from a reliable source" I think this means that it has come from a UCO but I would not want to speculate as to which UCO it was. I do not recognise any of this reporting as my own.

#### *Reporting on miscellaneous groups*

80. I do not believe that I am responsible for a report dated 21<sup>st</sup> November 1974 (UCPI0000014968) relating to the Wandsworth and Battersea Trades Council Anti-Fascist Campaign or a report dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 1975 (UCPI0000012093) concerning the Battersea Development Action Group. I have no recollection of either of these groups.

#### *Reporting on individuals*

81. I routinely reported information about the individual members of groups that I infiltrated. Information about the members of groups was needed in order to identify those who were involved and I imagine that it was helpful to build up as full a picture of them as possible. I just provided all of the information that I could without really thinking too much about what it was going to be used for. I do not recall being asked to provide information about specific individuals but it is possible that this information was sometimes requested.

[REDACTED]

*Alternative methods*

82. I have been asked whether the intelligence that I gathered could have been obtained without using undercover tactics. I presume that some of the information I reported on could have been obtained in other ways. For example, information about where someone lived or worked could have been sought through the tax office. I suppose it would also be possible for a surveillance team to take photographs of people attending group meetings to gather information about the number of people attending but they could not be identified unless their appearance was already known to Special Branch. A lot of the information I reported could not have been obtained without direct long-term involvement in the groups concerned. It would not have been feasible to identify everyone who regularly attended meetings by non-covert tactics; both because this would have been too time-consuming and also because the identity of all members would not have been known. Perhaps more importantly, information about planned demonstrations could definitely not have been obtained without attendance at the meetings.

*Trade Unions*

83. I did not join a trade union or become involved in trade union affairs whilst serving with the Special Demonstration Squad.

[REDACTED]

*Public order and violence*

84. I did witness public disorder and violence while deployed. There was criminal damage at protests where I was present; I recall once seeing someone throwing a brick through a window and I think I also read about disorder in the newspapers after some protests. It was not uncommon for IS to stage counter-demonstrations against the National Front and I recall that these could become violent. The only specific occasion that I can now remember was a protest at Red Lion Square involving the National Front and IS. I do not remember the date of this. I recall being hit by a police officer during this protest but I otherwise cannot remember much else about it. Generally-speaking I tried to stay out of any violence or public disorder and not put myself in a position where I could accidentally become involved. When I got punched at Red Lion Square I happened to be towards the front of the protest and so was unable to get out of the way. I did not do anything to warrant being hit by the officer; I think the situation must just have been rather chaotic and frightening for the officers present so I do not feel aggrieved about what happened. I was never violent and I did not participate in public disorder.

85. If there was no National Front involvement, my recollection is that IS's protests would be relatively peaceful. I attended lots of pickets, marches and demonstrations while undercover. I would estimate that there was probably at least one per week.

[REDACTED]

*Subversion*

86. As to whether Special Branch had a role in countering subversive activity, Special Branch was certainly concerned with the economic security of the country and was interested in the activities of groups that threatened this. I suppose that such groups could be considered to be subversive and Special Branch did have a role in investigating their activities. I am not sure that they were necessarily trying to counter these groups but they were trying to stop them from causing economic harm.

87. I have been asked whether I witnessed any subversive activity whilst undercover. I find it difficult to assess what subversive activity would look like so it is a difficult question to answer. I do not remember seeing anything that would obviously be described as subversive. The aim of IS was to overthrow the political system. This is a subversive aim but I am not sure that their day-to-day activities were actually subversive.

88. I am not sure why my reporting was copied to the Security Service. Thinking about it now, I think we gathered quite a lot of intelligence on behalf of the Security Service and could be described as "their executive arm". The Security Service was interested in groups that aimed to disrupt the security of our country so there was a natural cross over with what the SDS was doing.

89. To my knowledge I did not have any direct contact with the Security Service while deployed.



*Sexual relationships*

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

*Other relationships*

91. I don't recall forming particularly close relationships with any of the activists. I was certainly on friendly terms with them and we would sometimes have a pint together after a meeting but it never went beyond that. Having been through the various lists of names in the reporting shown to me, the only person that I remember more clearly is Privacy He was always happy to go for a drink after meetings so I may well have spent more time with him than others but I would not say it was a close relationship. I found that the activists were not interested in talking about anything other than their political causes and I remained relatively guarded throughout my deployment so unsurprisingly the relationships I had did not develop very far.

92. I have been asked whether I assumed any positions of trust. As I have said above, I did become treasurer of one of the IS branches, although I am now uncertain about which branch it was. To the best of my recollection I did not occupy any other positions of trust.

*Criminal justice and other legal or disciplinary proceedings*

93. I did not participate in any criminal activity while deployed and I did not encourage any other person to do so. I was never arrested or charged with any

[REDACTED]

criminal offences and I never had any involvement with any legal or disciplinary proceedings in connection with my undercover work. I do not believe that the product of my reporting was used in connection with any criminal investigation or prosecution. I never became aware of any legally privileged information to my knowledge.

*Elected politicians*

94. I did not report on the activities of elected politicians.

*The use to which my reporting was put*

95. I do not know what was ultimately done with the intelligence I provided. I assume that my reports were sent to the Security Service and sometimes to individual Special Branch squads and that parts of their contents were passed on to Metropolitan Police uniformed divisions. A lot of the information we provided was quite sensitive so I imagine that it may not have been passed on word-for-word. I presume that the SDS managers would have filtered the information we gave and decided what needed to be passed on and in what format. They would not have wanted to risk compromising our positions by passing on information that must have come from a source within our target groups. I would guess that either such reports would not have been disseminated or they would have been sanitised so that it was not apparent that there was a source.

[REDACTED]

96. I cannot comment upon the contribution that my reporting made to policing as I do not recall ever being told what the outcome of my reporting was. I hope that my five years in the SDS was useful.

### *Exfiltration*

97. I think my deployment ended in mid-1976. Five years seemed to be the going rate for deployments although I think some people remained deployed for slightly longer. I recall that <sup>27</sup> [REDACTED] HN68 [REDACTED] was undercover for a long time; I presume because his position and intelligence were of particular value. I assume that deployments of five years were deemed to be the optimal length. Five years would allow time for officers to become comfortable in their role and get to know activists but it was not such a long period that they would then find it hard to transition back to their normal lives.

98. I withdrew from my deployment by telling activists that I had been offered a job elsewhere and would be moving away from London. I can see from some of the reports that I said I had been offered a job in Portsmouth, which definitely rings a bell. I must then just have disappeared but I do not remember how I went about this or who I spoke with before leaving. I certainly do not recall any grand send-off and I doubt anyone paid much notice to the fact that I left.

99. My withdrawal was planned as I was told by my manager that my deployment should come to an end. I do not recall whether they also supervised my withdrawal; they may well have done. I think the only document that I had in my undercover name was a driving licence so I must have returned that.

[REDACTED]

100. I have not had any contact with those I reported on since I left.

*Managers and administrative staff*

101. When I joined the SDS, Dave Smith was the SDS Sergeant and I think <sup>28</sup> [REDACTED] HN332 [REDACTED] was the DCI. I believe that Dave Smith remained the Sergeant throughout my time. I think <sup>29</sup> [REDACTED] HN294 [REDACTED] was a DI and my recollection is that Phil Saunders was before my time but I might be wrong about this. I also remember that Derek Brice was a DI in the SDS at some point during my deployment and I think Geoff Craft and Derek Kneale were also in management positions. Not all of these managers were in the SDS at the same time but I am unable to recall their dates of service or the precise chain of command.

102. Dave Bicknell was in overall charge of the SDS for some of the time that I was there. I think he was a Superintendent.

103. I do not believe that there were any administrative staff within the SDS other than Dave Smith. I think that the SDS would use the general Special Branch typists to type up our reports.

*Management and supervision: general arrangements*

104. The managers that I remember having routine contact with were Dave <sup>30</sup> Smith, <sup>31</sup> [REDACTED] HN294 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] HN332 [REDACTED], Derek Kneale, Derek Bryce and Geoff Craft. I would see these managers at the SDS flats during our regular meetings, which I think occurred three times per week. I remember that Dave Bicknell

[REDACTED]

would also sometimes come along to the SDS flats to see us. I recall him attending the flat we had in <sup>32</sup> [REDACTED] South London I would not see my managers face-to-face other than at these meetings.

105. In addition to face-to-face contact, I would call into the SDS office every day from my home phone. The purpose of this was two-fold: to confirm that I was alive and well and to pass on any relevant information that I had picked up. I would also sometimes phone during or immediately after attending meetings or demonstrations if there was something that needed to be passed on urgently.

106. It is hard to recall what topics I discussed with my managers. I would update them on my deployment, who I had been meeting with, any important developments within my groups, what I planned to do in the following days etc. We would also have more of a general chat about sport, our wives – the typical conversations that you would have with friends and colleagues. I think the SDS meetings also served as an informal way of monitoring our welfare. The managers would have got a pretty good idea of whether we were coping during the meetings and no doubt would have raised any concerns they had. I felt this approach worked quite well. There were no formal arrangements for monitoring welfare.

#### *Procedure for reporting information*

107. My recollection of the general practice for the production of reports is that I would hand-write full reports at my own home. I don't recall handing in



small scraps of information in writing but I suppose I may have done this, for example, if I had noted down a number plate that needed to be passed on.

108. I would tend to write reports about any meetings that I had attended. I also remember producing a lengthy report about an IS annual conference. I would put in reports about upcoming protests and demonstrations and about what had happened at small-scale events such as pickets and note that none of these are in my witness pack. However, I do not recall writing reports about large-scale demonstrations and I assume that these would have been covered by the relevant Special Branch squad or uniformed division as their officers would have been present and would have had a better overview of numbers, incidents and arrests etc.

109. It is hard to estimate how often I produced written reports; it would have been whenever there was information that needed to be passed on in writing. I handed in my reports at the SDS meetings and these would be typed up and have file references added in back at the Yard.

110. As well as reporting in writing, I would also give information orally at the SDS meetings and over the phone. I cannot recall whether anyone took notes of what was said during the SDS meetings but I presume that they would have written down any important information. I recall phoning in during and immediately after some demonstrations to provide information about who was present and what had happened. I would try to slip away from the demonstration and find a phone-box to call while the names or other details were still fresh in my mind. I remember one occasion when I saw someone throw a brick through a window during a demonstration and I called the office

[REDACTED]

to report this. I may also have reported over the phone about meetings if something urgent needed to be passed on but usually I would submit a written report about meetings. I assume that someone within the SDS office must have taken a note of what I said over the phone if it was deemed to be important, but there are no records of any such calls in my witness pack.

111. I do not recall my managers really responding to the reporting that I provided. I am sure that if they were unhappy with what I was providing, I would have been told.

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

112. I have been asked whether any senior managers ever visited the SDS during my time there. The Commissioner of Police, Sir Robert Mark, came to <sup>33</sup> the North West London SDS flat one day, which was a bit of a surprise. He was interested in what we did. I think he wanted to see what we looked like and how we operated. I cannot remember what was discussed with him but I think he said that he was happy with what we were doing and to keep up the good work. This occurred early on in my deployment, I would guess 1971 or 1972.

113. Dave Bicknell visited us two or three times at the SDS flats. I think he was the Superintendent with responsibility for the SDS. I do not remember there being anything different about these meetings compared to our usual SDS meetings. I think we had a general chat with him and he joined us for our meal. I cannot remember any particular discussion.

114. I do not remember anyone from any outside body visiting the SDS.

[REDACTED]

115. I did not receive any commendations for my work on the SDS.

### Deployment of contemporaries

116. I have been asked about whether certain people were in the SDS. I am not certain about this but I think the following people were in the SDS and were there at the same time as me: [REDACTED]

34

HN340, HN45, HN298, HN338, HN299/HN342, HN343, HN348, HN303, HN200,  
HN353, HN13, HN300, HN351, HN296, HN304, HN354, Jill Mosdell, Richard  
Clark and others

117. To the best of my knowledge we were a pretty happy and harmonious group of people. The only source of discord that I can remember is when certain officers did not help out with the cooking and clean up when we ate together at the SDS flat! I do not think there were any other difficulties amongst the officers.

35

36

118. I do not know whether [REDACTED] HN332 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] HN294 [REDACTED] used a cover name. I assume that [REDACTED] HN300 [REDACTED] must have used a cover name as he was deployed but I do not know what it was.

37

119. I have been asked about Richard Clark's deployment. I cannot recall having any involvement with the South-East London Troops Out Movement or coming across Rick Clark while I was deployed. I am not able to comment upon Rick Clark's conduct as an undercover officer.



120. To my knowledge, none of my contemporaries committed criminal offences or encouraged others to do so, engaged in sexual activity or were arrested or charged in their undercover identities. I do not know whether any were involved in public disorder or violence. I am not aware of anyone reporting legally privileged information or reporting on the activities of elected politicians.

121. I am not able to comment upon my contemporaries' contribution to policing or their assistance of the Security Service. I do not know of any notable achievements during my time but these things were not really discussed, to my recollection.

## **Post-deployment**

### *Period immediately post-deployment*

122. Following my withdrawal, I cannot recall having a period of rest but it is possible that I used some of my annual leave to take time off. I presume that I would have been debriefed but I cannot remember this. I expect I was told that I could get in touch with the SDS if I had any problems in the future arising out of my deployment. I do not recall being offered any specific support following my withdrawal. I believe that support would have been available had I needed it.

Post Special Demonstration Squad police career

123. Immediately after I left the SDS I started working for Special Branch

38

Details post-SDS career

. This role was selected because there would be no chance of any activists bumping into me and realising that I was a police officer. I do not remember having any say over where I was posted.

39

Details post-SDS career

124. I do not think that my time on the SDS had any influence on the roles that I undertook in my post-SDS career and I am not aware of having used SDS intelligence during this time.

125. Working undercover did not have any long-term effect on my welfare. I tended not to dwell on my time there and it was not something I thought about that much until this Inquiry. I am not aware of whether any specific welfare services were available to me as a former undercover officer. As I have said, I am sure that help would have been offered if I requested it. When my wife became unwell later in my career I was asked if I needed any support but I did not feel the need to take up the offer.

[REDACTED]

*Leaving the police*

126. I left the Police <sup>40</sup> [REDACTED] in the late 1990's when I retired. I was a Detective Constable. After retiring I worked <sup>41</sup> [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Sets out post police work and full retirement in mid-2000s

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

127. I was not given any instructions about working undercover in the private sector or using aspects of my previous undercover identity in the private sector by the Metropolitan Police Service. I did not do any undercover work in the private sector.

### **Any other matters**

128. There is no further relevant evidence that I am able to give.

### **Request for documents**

129. I do not have any documents that are potentially of relevance to the Inquiry's terms of reference and I have not referred to any document other than those included with the Rule 9 request.



**Diversity information**

130. I am a white British male.

I believe the content of this statement to be true.

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HN301

Signed .....

43

25th October 2019

Dated ...