

Cover Sheet

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

I, Vincent James Harvey, c/o Designated Lawyers, PO Box 73779, London WC1A 9NL,
WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. This witness statement is made in response to a Rule 9 request dated 9 October 2019. It provides my full recollection of my deployment as an undercover police officer within the Special Demonstration Squad ("SDS") of the Metropolitan Police Service ("MPS").
2. I am known in this Public Inquiry by the nominal HN354. There is a Restriction Order in force in respect of my real name dated 9 October 2018. When I was an undercover police officer, my rank was Detective Constable, and when I left the MPS it was Detective Chief Inspector.

Personal details

3. My full name is Vincent James Harvey and my date of birth is [REDACTED] 1951. 3

Police career before and after serving with the Special Demonstration Squad

4. I joined the MPS on 31 August 1971. I was posted to West Hampstead police station in December 1971 until April 1974.

- [REDACTED]
5. In early 1974, Special Branch ("SB") put out an advert in a police circular called "Police Orders". I was interested in the opportunity and therefore applied.
 6. I was successful and joined SB on 5 May 1974 as a Temporary Detective Constable ("TDC"). I was first posted to "B" squad (Irish Enquiries) from April 1974 until October 1974.
 7. I moved to "S" Squad (Surveillance) from October 1974 until May 1975 still as a TDC. I was then posted to "E" Squad (Middle East) from May 1975 until December 1975. I was then posted to "B" Squad (Irish Enquiries) from December 1975 until February 1976.
 8. I had never conducted any undercover policing or work using a cover identity prior to joining the SDS.
 9. Prior to joining the SDS, I had never conducted any work within SB which in any way involved me dealing with the SDS.

Selection for the Special Demonstration Squad

10. I have been asked when and how I first heard about the SDS. I find this question hard to answer because it was so long ago. I suspect that the first time that I

10 got an inkling that there was an undercover unit within SB was when I saw [REDACTED]

an officer with long hair and a beard at an SB social event.

11. I remember being told by a senior officer, whose name I cannot recall, not to

ask the officer referred to above

any questions about his work.

[REDACTED]

12. My selection for the SDS was an informal process. I bumped into Geoffrey Craft in the corridor. He pulled me aside and asked if I was interested in joining his team. I said that I was.

13. I cannot recall the specifics of what happened next. I suspect I had a meeting where he took me through the work and what it would entail. I do not recall whether he, or any other person, specifically told me about what, if any impact the work might have on me.

14. At the time, I was not married. I was in a long-term relationship which I think Geoffrey Craft knew about. I did not live with my girlfriend. I do recall being asked by Geoffrey Craft if I was married. I suspect his concern was due to the nature of the work as it would help a UCO to be able to spend their mornings at home with their young family. I did not have such support.

15. I have been asked whether the guidance prior to joining the SDS was accurate and sufficient for me to understand what the work would entail. I cannot recall. I was told by Geoffrey Craft that at any point I could leave the SDS and it would have no effect on my career. I was also told that after my deployment I would be placed in a non-public facing role ¹² [REDACTED].

16. I joined the SDS on 2 February 1976.

17. When I first joined I was based in the Back Office which was then at New Scotland Yard.

Training and guidance in the Special Demonstration Squad

[REDACTED]

18. There was no formal training before I was deployed. I undertook various administrative tasks in the Back Office and also spent time developing my own legend.

19. For example, on the administrative side I would man the phones and read the reports that were being produced by deployed Officers. I would also generally attend the twice-weekly meetings in the SDS safe house.

20. This was a useful way to learn how to conduct an undercover deployment.

21. I have been asked about whether I was shown a document titled, "*Home Office Circular number 97/1969 'Informants who take part in crime'*" (**MPS-0727104**) at any time during my service. I cannot recall the specific document but am fully aware of this guidance. I suspect that it was placed in a police file which contained general guidance called "General Orders" or the "Notes for Guidance" provided on the CID initial course.

22. I was never made aware of a "Tradecraft manual".

23. I cannot recall if I was given any specific advice, guidance or instruction on how far it was acceptable to become involved in the private lives of those I met while undercover or how close my relationship with them could be. I suspect it was left to my own judgement.

24. As to guidance on sexual relationships, I do not recall it being discussed.

25. As to participation in crime, it was made clear only low-level criminal activity was permitted, for example flyposting. When I attended demonstrations, I would

[REDACTED]

not carry banners with heavy poles as the risk was that I could have been arrested for carrying an offensive weapon. Similarly, I never carried a knife, or lumps of wood to a demonstration.

26. As to provoking or encouraging another to participate in criminal activity, I do not remember it being talked about specifically. I suspect that it was not permitted. I recall being told by member of the office, whose name I cannot remember, that if I engaged in sufficiently serious criminal activity I would be pulled out of the field.

27. The guidance for what to do if arrested was that I was to stick to my cover story and wait to be bailed. I would then call the Office at the first opportunity.

28. If I was due to appear in Court either as a Defendant or a witness, again I would call the Office.

29. I have been asked what advice, guidance, or instructions I received or I was given in relation to obtaining information subject to legal professional privilege. I can't remember any guidance specifically. I suspect I was told that I should speak to the Office and ask what to do with the information. The Office was always happy to assist.

30. I cannot recall any other ethical or legal limitation on the way in which I could behave while undercover. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

31. My training and guidance was not formally repeated or refreshed. The twice weekly meetings would be the opportunity where management would direct me.

32. I did not receive any training on gender or race equality from the MPS either prior to or during my time with the SDS.

Undercover identity

33. Whilst deployed I adopted the cover name of Vincent Miller. I was often called "Vince".

34. I was instructed by the Office to attend St Catherine's House to find a deceased child's identity [15] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I found a child who died at about six years with the surname Miller. I cannot recall their [16] [REDACTED] date of birth. [17] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

35. When I cross referred to the birth certificate, I recall that there was no father listed. I recall that the child was born out of London and, on the loose information available, I could find no trace of the mother.

[18] [REDACTED]

36. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

37. There was no formal training as to creation of a legend and certainly no manual. I recall that the green binders listed birth records, red the marriages, and black the deaths.

[REDACTED]

38. I never visited where the family were from, nor did I use any aspect of the deceased child's or any other person's identity (living or dead) in the construction of my undercover legend.

39. I have been asked whether my undercover persona was sufficiently developed to include a cover background – I simply made my legend up as I went along. I had an employment, a driving licence, and accommodation. ²⁰ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This was sufficient for my legend.

40. I remember being asked by someone that I was reporting upon what I was going to do in the Christmas period. I think that this was in 1976. I said that both my parents were dead. I then stuck to that story.

41. I also recall saying to people on whom I reported that prior to joining the SWP, I had been in a serious committed relationship which went toxic. I just walked out and left everything behind. This fitted in with my cover flat being sparsely decorated. I was never asked about what area I came from or anything like that.

42. My legend was not tested by the managers.

Cover employment

²¹

43. I obtained my cover employment [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] discussion of arrangements made in respect of cover employment [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

44. I said that I was engaged in installing portable cabins and/or suspended ceilings. I cannot remember name of the company.

45. It was an ideal job. I remember visiting a few places to make sure that I would have the correct tools in the van for cover.

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46. I did not in fact do any work.

47. I would occasionally visit my cover employer. It worked well as an arrangement. Sometimes, members of my group would call my cover employer who would take a message. This would then be relayed to me via the Office.

Cover accommodation

48. I lived in Forest Road in Walthamstow throughout my deployment. It was perfect and so I did not see a need to change it. My room was located above a motorcycle repair shop. It was a bedsit with a shared bathroom with another bedsit.

23

49. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

50. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

51. I never met the person with whom I shared the bathroom.

[REDACTED]

52. I approached a letting Agency in my cover identity to obtain the accommodation. I would pay rent every month in cash.

Legend building

53. My ordinary appearance was that I had short hair. I do not recall if I had a beard or not at the time. If I had a beard it would have been very smart because I was a DC on probation.

54. During my time in the Office I grew my hair long. It went past my shoulders. I also had a long curly beard.

55. Changing my appearance helped in social situations because it added an air of credibility.

56. I did not visit any places or people in order to prepare myself for being the person I pretended to be apart from meeting with the employer and visiting my accommodation.

57. I used a van in my cover identity which I purportedly used for my employment. I would use it as transport.

58. I undertook several duties between joining the SDS and deploying undercover. The two main duties were to be Office support and to create my legend. A handwritten report would come in and I recall that Les Willingale would read it. Sometimes separate reports would be merged and sometimes one report would be separated out. There was a typing pool in SB who were vetted up to the

[REDACTED]

highest standard and who would type out the reports. I would check if the typist had correctly typed up the handwritten notes.

59. I would also attend most SDS safe house meetings unless I was already engaged. I did not research any Marxist theory. My plan was to go into the SWP as a naïve person who was not politically educated.

Deployment

60. I infiltrated the SWP in Walthamstow. It was the only group that would have regarded me as a member.

61. Membership was formal insofar as I had to pay a subscription. I did not have a badge. My name was on the central list as a member. I started to approach the group at the end of 1976 and became a party member in 1977. I left in October 1979.

62. I was able to infiltrate the group by buying the regular paper called the Socialist Worker in Walthamstow. Often, the National Front ("NF") would turn up and start fighting or jeering the SWP. After buying the paper a few times I was invited to a branch meeting at the Rose and Crown pub.

63. I have been shown a number of reports. During the three years I was deployed, I submitted considerably more reports than the ones provided in my witness pack. On occasion, I would draft a composite report with [REDACTED]

24

HN80 and HN126

when I attended an SDS meeting.

[REDACTED]

Also, after certain big demonstrations I would be shown a big album of photographs and be asked to identify who each person was. The Office would bring these albums to the safe house meetings.

64. There are a large number of reports that I have been shown which I believe are incorrectly attributed to me.

65. I think reports have been incorrectly attributed to me because: they are simply too early; they concern the wrong group (for example the International Socialists); or they report about an area where I was not deployed [REDACTED] [25] [REDACTED].

66. I have been shown my risk assessment which states that I was deployed into the field [REDACTED] [26] [REDACTED] in mid [REDACTED] 1976. It took me some time to infiltrate the SWP and cannot recall the specific date. I do not recall infiltrating the International Socialists. As detailed below I suspect the first report based on my intelligence or information is February 1977.

67. I believe the following reports were not based on information or intelligence provided by me:

- i. UCPI-0000009749-1, 9 June 1976;
- ii. UCPI-0000010659-1, 13 July 1976;
- iii. UCPI-0000010711-1, 26 July 1976;
- iv. UCPI-0000010712-2, 26 July 1976;
- v. UCPI-0000010769, 4 August 1976;
- vi. UCPI-0000010770, 4 August 1976;



- vii. UCPI-0000010779, 4 August 1976;
- viii. UCPI-0000010771-1, 5 August 1976;
- ix. UCPI-0000010783-1, 6 August 1976;
- x. UCPI-0000010784-1, 6 August 1976;
- xi. UCPI-0000010816-1, 18 August 1976;
- xii. UCPI-0000010831-1, 24 August 1976;
- xiii. UCPI-0000014945-1, 24 August 1976;
- xiv. UCPI-0000010843-1, 26 August 1976;
- xv. UCPI-0000010847-1, 26 August 1976;
- xvi. UCPI-0000021342, 15 September 1976;
- xvii. UCPI-0000021359, 17 September 1976;
- xviii. UCPI-0000021372, 22 September 1976;
- xix. UCPI-0000021403-1, 29 September 1976;
- xx. UCPI-0000021413, 29 September 1976;
- xxi. UCPI-0000021416, 29 September 1976;
- xxii. UCPI-0000021409, 30 September 1976;
- xxiii. UCPI-0000021419, 30 September 1976;
- xxiv. **UCPI0000021457**, 11 October 1976;
- xxv. UCPI-0000021474, 14 October 1976;
- xxvi. UCPI-0000021478, 14 October 1976;
- xxvii. UCPI-0000021479, 14 October 1976;
- xxviii. UCPI-0000021480, 14 October 1976;
- xxix. UCPI-0000021503, 21 October 1976;
- xxx. UCPI-0000021522, 26 October 1976;
- xxxi. UCPI-0000021527, 2 November 1976;

- xxxii. UCPI-0000021535, 3 November 1976;
- xxxiii. UCPI-0000021537, 3 November 1976;
- xxxiv. UCPI-0000021549, 3 November 1976;
- xxxv. UCPI-0000021554, 5 November 1976;
- xxxvi. UCPI-0000021564, 9 November 1976;
- xxxvii. UCPI-0000021572, 9 November 1976;
- xxxviii. UCPI-0000021577, 9 November 1976;
- xxxix. UCPI-0000021605, 16 November 1976;
- xl. UCPI-0000021620, 17 November 1976;
- xli. UCPI-0000017579, 24 November 1976;
- xl. UCPI-0000017703-1, 1 February 1977;
- xl. UCPI-0000011019, 15 July 1977;
- xl. UCPI-0000011243-1, 30 August 1977;
- xl. UCPI-0000011532-1, 11 November 1977;
- xl. UCPI-0000011563-1, 21 November 1977;
- xl. UCPI-0000011603-1, 5 December 1977;
- xl. UCPI-0000011604-1, 5 December 1977;
- xl. UCPI-0000011613-1, 5 December 1977;
- l. UCPI-0000011665-1, 12 January 1978;
- li. UCPI-0000011695, 30 January 1978;
- lii. UCPI-0000011787, 8 February 1978;
- liii. UCPI-0000011803, 9 February 1978;
- liv. UCPI0000011864, 10 March 1978;
- lv. UCPI-0000011895, 23 March 1978;
- lvi. UCPI-0000011913-1, 30 March 1978;

- [REDACTED]
- lvii. UCPI-0000011923-1, 10 April 1978;
 - lviii. UCPI-0000011968-1, 19 April 1978;
 - lix. UCPI-0000012881-1, 11 October 1978;
 - lx. UCPI-0000012885-1, 11 October 1978;
 - lxi. UCPI-0000013018-1, 28 November 1978;
 - lxii. UCPI-0000013275-1, 28 March 1979;
 - lxiii. UCPI-0000021260-1, 17 May 1979;
 - lxiv. UCPI-0000021264-1, 22 May 1979;
 - lxv. UCPI-0000021324-1, 13 June 1979;
 - lxvi. UCPI-0000021133-1, 24 July 1979; and
 - lxvii. UCPI-0000022513-1, 1 December 1979.

Tasking

68. I was tasked by Geoffrey Craft who was the DCI. As I recall, I was asked I go to an area of London which had not had any SDS cover for some time. I was asked to observe and then become involved in an active subversive group that were of interest to SB.

69. I was therefore not specifically tasked to infiltrate the SWP.

70. My role was to gather both information and intelligence regarding potential public order problems and activities defined as subversive by the Security Service. It is important to distinguish between intelligence and information. Intelligence is any material that is of operational value to the police for example

[REDACTED]

how many people were to attend a demonstration. Information is facts provided or learned about something or someone.

71. I was told that my deployment would be about 4 years including time to enter and exit my group. ²⁷ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

72. I was not provided with any information from other sources about the intended target/s of my undercover work. I would get advice on how to infiltrate my group from both the Office and the bi-weekly meetings. There would be tradecraft suggestions ²⁸ [REDACTED] how quickly should I infiltrate my group. All the advice was given orally.

73. My tasking was not changed or refined during my deployment. I did influence my own tasking. I was deployed as an individual and I used my own judgement as to what to report. I would also work closely with the office.

74. I have been asked the extent to which my reporting covered matters that I had not been specifically tasked to obtain intelligence or information on. This is a difficult question to answer because of the nature of the SWP. The SWP was defined as a subversive group by the Security Service and had an active group of hard-core members. I would report the intelligence and information that I thought was of use.

Premises and meetings with other Special Demonstration Squad undercover officers

[REDACTED]

75. The Office throughout my time in the SDS was in New Scotland Yard. Once I was deployed I never went there nor indeed any other police premises.

76. There were also two safe houses where we would have meetings every Monday and Thursday. ²⁹ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] HN354 makes reference to two safehouses one in West London and one in South London [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

77. The meetings would be in the afternoon and I had to attend unless I had a prior engagement with my group. On Monday I had to submit a diary which contained any incidental expenses and overtime to be signed off by the Office. It was an extremely sanitised document because it would be submitted to SB.

78. I would drive to the meetings. Upon arrival I would hand in my handwritten reports. There also might be queries from Scotland Yard for example: is **Privacy** **Privacy** still at this address.

79. If there was a big demonstration planned, the UCOs would discuss the likely support of their group. It would also be an opportunity for me to look at the photographs taken at other demonstrations and try to identify people.

80. It was also possible to have a private meeting with management. The management were very tolerant and supportive of me. I cannot specifically recall ever having to have a private meeting but I might have done.

[REDACTED]

81. I also might meet with my fellow officers in a public house. For welfare, it was nice to have a different chat and not talk about work. The pressure of the job meant that at times I was quite stressed. These meetings were an opportunity to talk to one another and release some stress.

82. I have been asked how often these meeting would take place. I cannot recall but suspect it was about once every couple of months. I also recall having Christmas dinner in one of the flats in which a separate person would cook each dish.

83. I also might bump into a fellow UCO at the garage where we had our vehicles maintained.

84. During my deployment I spent on average 10 hours a day off duty including time to sleep. I would spend roughly one third on duty in my real identity and roughly two thirds on duty in my cover identity. However, it would vary enormously. The dividing line is somewhat artificial for example if I drove to have my van serviced, whilst driving I would be in my cover identity with my insurance, driving license, and vehicle registration. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

85. The Office introduced a policy where UCOs had to take a day off a week but for me it was not possible. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

86. I also would take occasional trips to my cover employment. I would run errands for my group if they needed any things moved. Sometimes I would help with the distribution of the newspaper where I would drive to the printing press and drop off copies at the magazine district organiser.

87. I did not participate with the SWP on the national level. Having said this, certain activities would get a national call out and then the local group would respond.

88. Every Saturday, the SWP would sell their paper. I would attend on most Saturdays. There would also be demonstrations including picketing and as well as protesting against NF meetings. If the national group called upon members to support a cause, then it was more than likely that I would get involved. There was an expectation on me to be selling papers and I was expected to be seen with newspapers.

89. I also would attend birthday parties and occasionally take trips to music venues. The SWP were heavily into reggae music. I recall a big source of disagreement was as to who was a better artist: Peter Tosh or Bob Marley. There were also fundraising socials for various causes.

Pay and overtime

90. I obtained a significant amount of paid overtime compared to elsewhere in SB. I recall that a limit was imposed in late 1977 or early 1978. I remember having to be a little creative with my accounts because I had to show that I had taken a day off. For example, I would not record overtime on my day off and I would lose that time.

[REDACTED]

91. I accrued lots of rest days that were meant to be taken at the end of my deployment. Unfortunately, I was not able to take these rest days because I was at Hendon undergoing training as detailed below.

92. I cannot recall how my pay increased.

93. I cannot think of any other factors that affected my take home pay.

Reporting on the Socialist Workers Party

94. I have been shown a number of reports.

95. I believe that the first report that I might have drafted is dated 1 February 1977 (UCPI-0000017703-2). It concerns a meeting at the Rose and Crown Public House on 26 January 1977.

96. I have been shown a report dated 22 February 1977 (UCPI-0000017753) which reports about an anti-racist march. I cannot remember if I attended the anti-racist march on 19 February 1977 but it would be consistent with my deployment. I note that the report records that an MP had participated in the march. The instructions on reporting on MPs was to putting "MP" next to their name and undertake no enquires on that person. This would enable the reader to know that the person listed was the MP with that name or not as the case may be. For example, if I were to list "David Cameron" it would signify that person was not David Cameron MP.

97. I have been shown a report dated 5 May 1977 (UCPI-0000017345) where the decision was taken to start holding SWP meetings in the Walthamstow branch

[REDACTED]

every week rather than every fortnight. I cannot recall this meeting nor whether I contacted my supervisors about whether I should attend meetings as frequently as this.

98. I have been shown a report dated 31 May 1977 (**UCPI-0000017438**) which records the fact of an upcoming 7-day mass picket outside the Grunwick factory in North London. I cannot recall for how long this event had been planned. I understand that the intention of the picket was to prevent non-striking workers from attending work. I understood the picketers would prevent anything or anyone from leaving the factory by blocking the road with their bodies, having confrontations with police, and being violent on some days. I recall that the uniformed police had ample numbers to get the coaches through. I was never tasked by SB to record any events that involved Unions. On occasions, the SWP would support a trade dispute and that trade dispute would touch on the industrial sector. For example, if I found out that the SWP were sending a coach load of supporters then I would report it to the Office. For example, I recall reporting on the Ford Dagenham ladies dispute.

99. I only ever participated in the Grunwicks Dispute one day in 1977. I cannot recall specifically what month. I drove from my cover address, and cannot remember if I gave anyone a lift. I remember parking my vehicle in the vicinity and walking down the high street trying to find somewhere that was open for breakfast. The only place I could find open was a corner shop and I bought a samosa which was foul. After breakfast I joined in the main line. There was lots of pushing and shoving against police. I did not get involved in this. I recall that the coaches came through and the police created a gap in the picket. The coach

[REDACTED]

went through that gap. I do not recall writing a report but I may have done. I do recall discussing this incident in the SDS safe house.

100. I have been referred to a report dated 13 June 1977 (**UCPI-0000017456**) which reports about a meeting. I do not recall this meeting at all. I do not recall writing this report. I do not recall informing SB about the intended action. I do not recall if thought was given by my supervisors as to whether I should try to be elected treasurer.

101. I have been referred to a report dated 22 July 1977 (**UCPI-0000011059**) which reports an attendee asserting, in relation to the NF, that "force should be met with even greater force". When I was deployed there was frequent violence between the NF and SWP. I recollect that all members would agree with this sentiment but it would only be a few who would actually engage in violence. I recall meeting my group in a pub and then being given a lift home. Sometimes the violent members would feed off each other. I recall once the car drove past a group of skinheads. It was stopped and some SWP members got out to fight them.

102. I recall a **Privacy** who was a Jewish teacher, hurl himself into a group of skinheads. He had an absolute fear of the right wing because of the Nazis actions during the second World War. It was odd because most of the time he was a placid school teacher. I am sure that alcohol had an effect as well as being surrounded by others who were prepared to fight. I also recall an **Privacy** **Privacy** who was a shop steward but was also a fighter.

[REDACTED]

103. The SWP would picket the NF election meetings. I remember attending and seeing a large group of police officers. I recall an SWP member stating that the SWP had a legal right to be there.

104. I have been referred to the SDS Annual Report for 1977 (**MPS-0728981**) which reports on the 'Battle of Lewisham'.

105. I did not attend in July 1977 but attended in August 1977. The night before, I turned up with the SWP to plan the counter demonstration. Some members of the SWP deposited bricks at strategic locations to use the next day. I called the office at about 2am and gave the locations of where the bricks were stashed and where the route should be directed. I also gave intelligence on the number of SWP demonstrators. I suspect a composite of these details were passed to A8.

106. The next day I travelled back to Lewisham arriving mid-afternoon. The NF were on their march and had large union jack flags and bands playing.

107. The SWP proceeded with their counter demonstration which soon turned violent. It was absolute chaos. I was surprised because the police did not re-route the NF march. This enabled some SWP members to obtain and throw the stashed bricks at the police who were trying to keep order. I later learned that it was the first time that shields were deployed by police officers. There were running battles between SWP and police, SWP and NF, and NF and police.

108. I did not partake in any violence or encourage anyone else to do so.

[REDACTED]

109. I left mid-evening because I had had enough. By this point I was separated from my group and could sneak away. When it was safe to do so I called the office and said that I was safe.

[32]

HN354 confirms that he was not the only UCO present on the march

[REDACTED]

110. The upside of the demonstration was that it gave me a large amount of credibility with the SWP. Due to my police background, I had already had experience of a riot. Because of this fact I was calm during the riot and was able to pull my group away from the violence.

111. I do not know how much of my reporting assisted with the policing on that day because I do not know if my intelligence was disseminated, considered or acted upon by A8. All I can say is that the police took a hammering during that demonstration.

112. I have been referred to a report dated 27 July 1977 (**UCPI-0000011091**) which records solely the bank account number and details for the East London SW Society. I was tasked to gather intelligence and information on a group that was defined as subversive. Financial information is important. I suspect that this information was passed to the Security Service. I never received feedback asking me not to send such intelligence.

113. I have been referred to a report dated 15 August 1978 (**UCPI-0000011389**) where the bank account details of 7 SWP members are set out. SB needed this information because it concerned members of a subversive group. It might have been useful information in the future.

[REDACTED]

114. I am not aware of SB or any other authority gaining access to information about these people's bank balances or debts.

115. I have been referred to a report dated 27 July 1977 (**UCPI-0000011138**) recording information about Privacy. I have been asked: to what use did you understand SB would put this degree of personal information. I suspect that it would be disseminated to the Security Service 33 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

116. I have been shown two reports both dated 27 July 1977 where my cover name appears as a member having been elected to be district treasurer and on to the Social Committee of the Outer East London District branch of the SWP (**UCPI-0000011144** and **UCPI-0000011141**).

117. I have been asked whether I sought authority from my supervisors before standing for election. I cannot remember. I suspect that I probably would have told them I had been nominated.

118. I cannot recall the purpose of the Social Committee.

119. Becoming treasurer was fantastic for information and intelligence gathering. I was given a list of all the members along with their addresses. I also had the task of knocking on the doors of members to check that the address was current and to chase subscription payments. This gave me an insight into occupations and living arrangements.

120. I have been shown a report dated 1 August 1977 which attaches a circular of financial information about the cost of manufacture of the Socialist Worker newspaper (**UCPI-0000011113**). I have no recollection of this report or any recollection of what it reports. It could be my report and I could have passed it back.

121. I have been shown two reports dated 2 August 1977 and 25 August 1977 (**UCPI-0000011129** and **UCPI-0000011226**) about a meeting where a Chilean revolutionary fighter gave a speech and made a reference to Chilean struggle. I cannot recall the specific meeting but suspect that the speaker's message that an armed revolution was both imminent and inevitable received wholesale agreement.

122. At one point I did understand that the London SWP were supportive of the message that 'workers had to be properly armed and have adequate supplies at the time of the revolution'. I cannot recall any person buying firearms however.

123. I have been referred to a report dated 17 August 1977 which records that the SWP were advocating that they "will not hesitate to capitalise on any [police] indiscretion" and "are prepared, if necessary, to attack police should the latter come out in force" at the Notting Hill Carnival.

124. I attended the Notting Hill Carnival on one occasion. I cannot recall the year. It could have been 1977 or 1978. I did not see any violence or public disorder when I was there. I remember seeing a gathering of people playing

[REDACTED]

music in an underpass. I tried to approach the group to listen, but a large black man did not let me pass because I was white. I left after that.

125. I have been shown a report dated 26 August 1977 (**UCPI-0000011196**) which records the intention of several members of the Walthamstow branch of the SWP to arm themselves with ball bearing and catapults to defend themselves from the NF. I recall the only person who would have done this was Privacy He was a firebrand. I personally never saw these weapons used, either on this occasion or ever.

126. I have been shown a report dated 20 September 1977 (**UCPI-0000010957**) showing how the SWP were to set up a new 'front organisation' to increase the reach of the SWP. Evolution of groups was common within the field of left wing activism. The SWP aimed to be a populist group. The SWP formed "Rock Against Racism", the Anti-Nazi league, Women Against Rape, School Kids Against Nazis. The SWP hoped that these groups would be a good source of recruitment.

127. I have been shown a report dated 7 December 1977 (**UCPI-0000011626**) where a list of members of the SWP is supplied. I cannot recall this report but it is consistent with my deployment. I would have been tasked to supply this information for the Security Service.

128. I have been shown a report dated 26 January 1978 (**UCPI-0000011677**) about the size of the East London SWP groups. SB needed to know about the size and make-up of the group because it was a subversive group. It would also

[REDACTED]

be useful information for public order. Finally, the Security Service would want to know this information.

129. I have been shown a report dated 30 January 1978 (UCPI-0000011692) which records that [Privacy] has now been sacked by Fords of Dagenham but that he had only obtained a job there for political reasons. This is an example of entryism, however, it was espoused more in theory than in practice. [Privacy] was a strong character and more independent than a usual SWP member. He was more interested in taking action rather than talking about theory. I recall hearing about an intention to have an SWP member in every school as a teacher. There was half a dozen or so teachers who I knew in the SWP. I recall that [Privacy] was a full time member of the party and was a primary school teacher.

130. I have been shown a report dated 27 February 1978 (UCPI-0000011831) in which the Chairperson [Privacy] announced upcoming anti-NF work during the Ilford by-election. I have been asked: why did I not consider it important to report this work back to Special Branch? I did consider it to be important and I would have submitted it in a separate report. The handling of intelligence is much easier if you separate out the various strands of it. I have not seen this separate report within my witness pack.

131. I have been shown a report dated 13 March 1978 (UCPI-0000011874) which appears to be a report about a sixteen-year-old.

132. I drafted this report, and others that mentioned children, because the SWP had two youth movements that generated considerable support. It was

[REDACTED]

important that SB and the Security Service knew of the impact of these group. If it was inappropriate or not useful then I would expect the Office to destroy it and/or not disseminate it. I cannot recall any training, guidance, or instruction on reporting on children. The fact that the report has survived is indicative of it being of use to some person. I do not remember the person named.

133. I have been shown two reports dated 18 May 1978 and 19 October 1978 (**UCPI-0000017902** and **UCPI-0000017909**) which demonstrate that I was still the elected treasurer for the Walthamstow Branch of the SWP. I accept that I was trusted with much personal information and detail about the financial situation of the SWP. As I mention above, becoming a treasurer gave access to useful intelligence and information. I was never tasked to discover financial information about any specific individual.

134. I have been shown two reports both dated 18 July 1978 (**UCPI-0000011310** and **UCPI-0000011316**) where I am listed in my cover name as being present at a meeting of the SWP in Walthamstow. I do not know why my names appears in these reports. As stated, I never saw the finalised reports and only provided the raw product. I suspect that the Office made the decision to include or remove my name.

135. I have been shown a report dated 18 July 1978 in which elections took place for SWP district representatives at the National Conference where Privacy Privacy secured no votes due to a new atmosphere (**UCPI-0000011322**). I cannot recall anything about this meeting or the new atmosphere.

[REDACTED]

136. I have been shown a report dated 24 July 1978 in which [Privacy] [Privacy] denounces the use of violent struggle to achieve their political ends (UCPI-0000011323). As to the extent to which the rest of the SWP agreed that non-violent tactics were essential, it is my view that the SWP at this point thought that the mechanism by which they would obtain power would be by a general strike. By becoming a workers' party and workers striking the idea was that the SWP would not have to rely on street violence to gain power. Having said this, street violence was seen as permissible against the fascists.

137. I have been shown a report dated 31 July 1978 in which I am listed as being part of the industrial group (UCPI-0000011337). I have no recollection of this group.

138. I have been shown a report dated 25 November 1978 which records a meeting where an employee at [Privacy] who was a strike supervisor spoke about ways in which the SWP could assist the strike (UCPI-0000012994). I do not know why I did not record what those ways were in this report. It could be the case that this information is in another report. I understood that SB considered that the SWP posed a threat to public order.

139. The SWP was always running out of money. I was never tasked to run down the funds of the group and nor did I do so. The SWP wanted to move me up as an active party member because people who are engaged in administrative tasks were always in high demand.

140. I have been shown a report dated 28 November 1978 where my name appears in the text of the document (UCPI-0000013018). As stated above I did

[REDACTED]

not author this document. I do not remember anything about a Birmingham conference so do not think that I attended it at all.

141. I have been shown a report dated 15 December 1978 which refers to me holding regular business meetings of the Walthamstow branch of the SWP (UCPI-0000013040). I do not recall these meetings specifically. I suspect that I would let people speak as and when appropriate.

142. I have been shown a report dated 3 January 1979 which sets out the operational structure of the SWP and how it was changing (UCPI-0000013063). I do not recall reporting this information. I cannot recall if this was my experience in the Walthamstow branch. The report also mentions that [Privacy] was an 'aggressive homosexual'. It is not a phrase I would use now but I cannot think of any other UCO who would have submitted it. I do not recall [Privacy] [Privacy] at all.

143. I have been shown a report dated 22 March 1979 (UCPI-0000013240) where it is recorded that I resigned from my post as District Treasurer to mark the "disorder and ineffectiveness" within the relevant branch of the SWP.

144. This report is mine but I do not remember very much about this meeting or resignation. I can't remember but suspect I remained a part of the SWP. I cannot recall why I made a stand about the ineffectiveness of the SWP.

145. 1979 was a complicated year for me. I had taken a Sergeant's exam which was competitively examined. I was invited for the extended interview for

[REDACTED]

the Special Course. I was successful which meant I would have a guaranteed promotion in within 12 months.

146. I have been referred to a report dated 25 September 1979 where I am recorded as indicating that I would be taking a prolonged holiday (UCPI-³⁴0000013419). [REDACTED]

147. I have been referred to a report dated 31 May 1979 (UCPI0000021295) which records that ^{34A}Privacy has changed jobs. I do not recall this report. I recorded as much information about active subjects as I could and I note he has a [REDACTED] RF number so was likely to have been of some interest.

148. I suspect that someone from SB would have reviewed his file. There would also have been a comprehensive report including his date of birth; his parents; any photographs, and his employment.

149. I have been referred to a report dated 24 July 1979 (UCPI-0000021133) setting out information about ^{34A}Privacy. I cannot remember how I obtained the information constrained within it. I suspect that she told me. I never had an intimate relationship with her either during or after my deployment.

150. I have been shown a report dated 1 December 1979 (UCPI-0000022513). I did not write this report because it is not in my handwriting. I assume that it is a debriefing document. The reference F6 [REDACTED] meant that it was destined for or originated from the Security Service.

Alternative methods

151. It would not have been feasible to obtain the same quality and quantity of intelligence and information about the SWP without using the undercover tactic.

152. There are two other methods that I have considered: tapping phones; and using informants.

153. For tapping – when I was deployed there was a limited amount of lines that could be tapped. ³⁵ [REDACTED]

Further, SB would first have to get intelligence about which phone lines to tap.

154. For informants – there would have been a problem with reliability and availability. It would take hundreds of approaches to find a person.

Trade Unions

155. I never joined a trade union or became involved in trade union affairs.

Public order and violence

156. Aside from Lewisham as described, I can recall public disorder and violence at Brick Lane marketplace most Sundays. There was a territorial fight between the NF and the SWP. Both groups wanted to sell newspapers at the market. Often it would depend on who attended first. I recall spending the whole night there in order to obtain the best selling point.

[REDACTED]

157. The market was heavily policed at all times. There was a tension where violence could break out at any moment.

158. Aside from Brick Lane and Lewisham there were so many events that they all to blur into one. I remember the Ilford Town Hall NF election rallies but cannot recall the specifics. There were also national call-outs for students for their annual march.

159. At these marches the anarchists would sometimes attend, split off and cause trouble.

160. At the local level it was not an infrequent occurrence to see a constant battle between the left and right. It was intimidating for the public.

Subversion

161. I understood that one of the primary functions of SB was countering subversion. The scope of that role was monitoring the activities of subversive groups.

162. The activity that I witnessed undercover was subversive. The objective of the SWP was to create a socialist state. This could not be achieved using legitimate democratic means via elections. Only direct action would work. A general strike was their preferred method.

[REDACTED]

163. I suspect my reporting was copied to the Security Service because they had the overall responsibility for subversive groups and the definition thereof. They had a national remit that SB did not have.

164. I never had any direct contact with the Security Service.

Sexual relationships

165. At the time of my deployment I was in a long term relationship. This ended roughly twelve months into my deployment. After my relationship ended, I engaged in sexual activity whilst in my undercover identify on four occasions. All four were one night stands. All sexual activity was between two consenting adults.

166. The first sexual activity that I engaged in was with [REDACTED] 'Madeleine' who worked as a bus conductor. I attended a social event at her flat which was shared with other SWP party members in London. I had driven to the event and intended not to drink. In the end I drank and so couldn't drive home because I was over the limit. I found a chair to sleep on for when the party was over. She unexpectedly asked me to come into her bedroom. It only happened on one occasion.

167. I also recall having sexual activity with a woman called [REDACTED] Privacy. Again there was a social event at her place and drink was involved. I cannot recall her

[REDACTED]

surname nor have I seen her in the reports. The two other people were not in the SWP but friends of friends. Again, I attended a party and stayed over.

168. I have been asked: was sexual activity in my cover identity permitted during my deployment? I find this very difficult to answer. I suspect the Office would have a concern with the security risk. All of my sexual activity came after my long term relationship finished.

169. I never told my managers because I didn't attribute it much importance. I only reported on Madeleine insofar as her attendance at meetings and her employment.

Other relationships

170. I have been asked which individuals I formed the closest personal relationships with. When I started my deployment, the two closest friends I had were the SWP members Privacy and Privacy. They couldn't be more friendly and helpful until I actually joined. They then dropped me as a friend. I did have drinks with my group and go to social events because it was quite an inclusive group. I never went on holiday with any members. I also helped with moving houses. I would say that I kept a definite distance between my group and me. I also found that after I had been there a certain amount of time members would never ask about my background.

Criminal justice

171. The only criminal activity that I participated in was flyposting. I do not recall if I told my managers about it. I do not think that they would have worried about this.

172. I was never arrested, charged, tried or convicted of a criminal offence. I was never involved in any way in my undercover identity in any other legal proceedings or in any complaint against a police Officer. I did not appear in criminal proceedings as a witness in my undercover identity. I do not know if the fact that I was an undercover police Officer was disclosed in connection with such an event. Similarly, I do not know if the product of my reporting was ever used in support of, or otherwise disclosed in connection with, a criminal investigation or prosecution. I never provided evidence for use in any investigation or prosecution. I was never involved in any way in my undercover identity in any other legal or disciplinary proceedings. I did not receive or become aware of any legally privileged information whilst I was deployed.

173. I did not report on elected politicians

174. To my understanding my reports, were copied to the Security Service. I presume that they were also disseminated to other interested, and authorised, parties.

175. It is difficult for me to opine upon the contribution that my reporting made to policing. I was told that it was very valuable and was appreciate by Senior Officers. Further, I suggest that the continuation of the SDS was a testament to

[REDACTED]

its utility. I was told by the Office that the continuation of the Unit was one of the first decisions that a new Home Secretary had to make on their appointment. Each Home Secretary, from the various political parties, approved the SDS.

Exfiltration

176. I cannot recall the specific date that my deployment ended. It was in Autumn 1979.

177. The reason for my deployment finishing was that I had been selected for accelerated promotion as stated above. The difficulty for me was that the course lasted a year and started in January. I was also required to attend another course in October. I had to therefore leave my group.

178. I recall the selection process in Preston in the summer of 1979. I had three days' worth of test including an interview with a Senior Officer. It was extremely competitive.

179. I had to balance my deployment with revising for this day. I recall that SB sent a notice to Preston inviting them to disregard my appearance. The first question that the Senior Officer asked me was why I had long hair and a beard! I declined to answer, which irritated the interview panel. Despite this I was successful and was notified in September.

180. In terms of how I withdrew from my deployment - I came up with a story that my friend had bought me a ticket to the USA and that I would travel there to follow the music scene. I remember telling a member of the SWP that we

[REDACTED]

had obtained a six-month visa. He replied that that was impossible and I had to come up with a story that my friend was arranging the visa. I said to my group that I would overstay in the USA.

181. To that extent, my withdrawal was planned. It was supervised by the Office.

38 182. The only contact I had with my target group after was some postcards that were sent from the United States. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I cannot remember which person I sent the postcards to.

183. I do not recall an authorisation process for maintaining cover.

Managers and administrative staff

184. Derek Kneale managed the SDS very well. I liked him and found him supportive. He was prepared.

185. I believe that the following were in my chain of command during the time that I was in the SDS:

- i. Geoffrey Craft DCI;
- ii. Mike Ferguson DI;
- iii. Angus McIntosh DI;
- iv. Les Willingale DS;

39 v. [REDACTED] DS;

[REDACTED]

vi. Angus McIntosh DI;

vii. Chris Skey DS;

viii. Martin Gray DS;

40 ix. [REDACTED] HN336 [REDACTED] DS; and

x. Trevor Butler DS.

186. I am struggling to remember if these officers were in the Office when I was deployed or whether I met them at subsequent drinks and reunions.

187. There were no managers who were in the SDS that were not in my chain of command. It is important to remember that SB was quite like a club and the SDS was a club within a club. Ranks were not particularly important. The structure of the unit was so that it was not rank conscious.

188. There were no administrative staff within the office. There was an SB typing pool that would be used.

189. In terms of how my deployment was managed and supervised it was all fluid. I would call in every morning. Any of the Management could pick up the phone. I would also attend the meetings as described above. I also had the home phone numbers of Geoffrey Craft, and after that Mike Ferguson, if something really dire occurred. Other Office staff were easily reachable. I never had to call them in this regard.

[REDACTED]

190. The only difficulty that I heard about was Rick Clarke who infiltrated the Troops Out Movement. I heard that he was confronted by his group. There was a meeting but I do not know the rest of the story.

191. I would hand write my reports in my spare time at my real address. I would hand them in at my meeting. At some meetings some of us would draft a combined report.

192. I do not remember any particular response to my reporting. I imagine that if it had been below standard I would have been told to rectify it.

193. There were no formal arrangements for monitoring my welfare during the course of my deployment.

Senior management and oversight bodies

194. When I was in the SDS Back Office prior to my deployment, in New Scotland Yard, Superintendent Derek Kneale would walk in every hour. I recall this because I was the young DC and I had to make his tea.

195. Derek Kneale would also come to the safe house. I imagine that he wanted to meet the "troops" and be visible. I never saw anyone else.

196. I do not recall any outside body with any form of regulatory or oversight responsibility for policing visiting the SDS during my tour of duty with the unit.

197. I never received a commendation for my work as an SDS Officer. I recall that Roger Pearce felt strongly that SDS officers should be recognised for their

[REDACTED]

work. However, there was the problem with security because the commendation would have to state what it was for which might compromise the SDS.

Deployments of contemporaries

198. The following were managers of the SDS and their service overlapped with mine:

- i. Geoffrey Craft;
- ii. Angus McIntosh;
- iii. Trevor Butler;
- iv. Derek Kneale; and
- v. Les Willingale.

199. I do not recall working under Ken Pryde or Ray Wilson.

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HN20, HN353, HN80, HN96, HN106, HN126, HN304, Roger Pearce and other officers were UCOs in the SDS whose service overlapped with mine

[42]

201. I recall that [HN155] was deployed after I left.

202. I was never aware of any unhappy working relationships but there were tensions at times. I remember falling out with Mike Ferguson at one point but I do not recall over what. I was being overly sensitive and I was rude to him. I did apologise because I was in the wrong.

203. As far as I know, none of my contemporary UCOs committed a criminal offence save for flyposting.

204. So far as I know, none of my contemporaries provoked, encouraged or caused a third party to commit a criminal offence. I do not know if any of my contemporaries engaged in sexual activity with others in their cover identities.

205. I have been asked in particular: whilst I was sharing a flat with [redacted]
[43] [HN67] did I become aware of whether he was having a sexual relationship with anyone he had met in his undercover identity? We shared a flat in 1976 prior to my and his deployment. He moved out when he married and I did in 1977. We never shared a flat or other accommodation at any point after that let alone while either of us was deployed undercover.

206. I do not know if any of my contemporaries were arrested, charged, tried or convicted in their undercover identities. I do not know if any of my

[REDACTED]

contemporaries were involved in incidents of inciting public disorder, violence or other criminal activity whilst deployed. I do not know if any of my contemporary undercover police Officers, whilst deployed, reported on any legally privileged information. I do not know if any of my contemporary undercover police Officers, whilst deployed, reported on the activities of any elected politicians.

207. Much of the benefits of the SDS were a cumulative intelligence rather than individual intelligence. Sometimes negative information can be as useful as positive information. For example, if my colleagues reported that only 20 as opposed to 20,000 demonstrators would attend, A8 would manage it proportionately.

208. I have no direct knowledge of what my contemporaries achieved to assist the Security Service in its work.

Post deployment

209. I had no rest whatsoever. I had to attend my course in Hendon and then in Bramshill. I cannot recall being debriefed by anyone.

210. I was not offered any advice or ongoing support by the SDS or the MPS following my withdrawal.

Post Special Demonstration Squad career

- [REDACTED]
211. After my course finished in December 1980, I went to "C" Squad public order as a DS. I was part of the right wing section. At that time, to the best of my knowledge there were no deployed UCOs in this area. Therefore, I cannot specifically recall managing, seeking, receiving, using or disseminating intelligence emanating from the SDS at that point.
212. In 1981, I was posted to Paddington police station as an Inspector on Uniformed Patrol. It had the holding cell for terrorist suspects. It was often picketed by the Troops Out Movement and Irish Freedom Movement. I asked the SDS office whether I could be moved because of the security risk but was told that they could not do anything about it. I had a wonderful time at Paddington.
213. From 1982 until 1985 I obtained the Bramshill Scholarship and studied Social Psychology at LSE.
214. I returned to SB in 1985 as a DI on "C" Squad enquires. I cannot recall managing, seeking, receiving, using or disseminating intelligence emanating from the SDS. I was promoted to DCI in April 1987. In October 1988 I undertook an MBA at Warwick University.
215. I returned to Wimbledon police station as a DCI in February 1990 until December 1991. I was the Staff Officer to a DAC from December 1991 until December 1992 and was area DCI from December 1992. I left to join Kent police as a Superintendent. After Kent police I moved to the NCIS as the National Director with the equivalent rank of a Commander.

[REDACTED]

216. I have been referred to a document which records the fact that I became aware of a NCIS operation that could undermine the safety of undercover officers. I cannot recall how I learned this information. I used a deceased child's identity as detailed above. I only had sporadic contact with the SDS after I left.

217. I have been asked if working as a UCO had any long term effect on my welfare. It is impossible to judge. I would say that it has had a long lasting impact on my life and has lived with me for a long time. I still find myself, despite every piece of logic telling me not to, deliberately choosing where I sit in pubs or restaurants. I have to have my back to the wall and face the door just in case something happens. I always turn up first to a public social gathering so that I can see who is there. The excuse that I give is that I am trained in protection but the truth is that I am paranoid about my deployment. Similarly, I am not on any social media.

218. I am not aware of any welfare support or services within the MPS.

219. When I left SB I was a DCI. I left the MPS as a DCI to become a Superintendent with Kent police.

220. I am retired now.

Undercover work in the private sector

221. I was not given any instructions or guidance of any kind about working undercover in the private sector nor did I undertake or manage any such work.

Any other matters

[REDACTED]

222. I have no other evidence that I wish to give.

Request for documents

223. I have no documents or other information which are potentially relevant to the Inquiry's terms of reference.

224. My memory has not been refreshed by any document which is not in my witness pack.

Diversity

225. I am a white English male.

I believe the content of this statement to be true.

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Signed:

Vincent Harvey

51

Dated:

18th November 2019