
**Statement to the Undercover Policing
Inquiry from 'Mary'**

I, Mary, say as follows:

1. From September 1972 to July 1975 I was enrolled on a teacher training course in the Education Department at Goldsmith College. I was politically active in the student movement and a member of the Socialist Society. After I finished my course, I remained in my flat and active around student politics for another year.
2. The first time I met Rick Gibson was at Goldsmith College when he approached me while I was distributing political literature. He came up to me and showed an interest in our political campaign.
3. He introduced himself as an evening class student and appeared to have no political knowledge or background. He was older than most students, and it struck me at the time that he seemed to have no history of political involvement. This seemed to be his first encounter with political activity, and he seemed keen to become more active.
4. I rented a flat that I shared with another Goldsmith student who was also politically active. I was involved in various campaigns and student solidarity work. My flatmate was active in the Troops Out Movement. Rick Gibson befriended her as well, socialising and talking politics.
5. Due to the fact that the flat had a landline, lots of organising was happening from our flat. I often hosted meetings of the International Marxist Group (IMG) branch in my flat. Various people with leading positions in the organisation would visit.
6. Rick Gibson very quickly became a frequent visitor to the flat to see me and my flatmate to coordinate TOM publicity and planning - as well as for socialising and conversation. He was also offering transport in his vehicle.
7. Rick Gibson soon became more involved in the Troops Out Movement, and moved up in the organisation i.e. away from the student scene. At that point I lost contact, we didn't keep in touch, I never heard from him again.
8. At one point while he was still a regular visitor, Rick Gibson and I became sexually intimate for a short period of time. It was a rather half-hearted effort from his side, he came across as sexually dysfunctional.
9. My flatmate related to me that she had had a similar experience with him.

10. Between the two of us, my flatmate and I realised that there was something very odd about our encounters with him:

- He would never spend the entire night.
- He never told me anything about his life.
- He didn't have a back story, he didn't have a family he talked about, a history.
- He didn't have a past in political activities.
- I was never invited to where he lived.
- He worked strange hours and he was mysterious about where he worked and what he did.

11. I first found out about the discoveries about Rick Gibson when Richard Chessum came to tell us about the investigation by Big Flame.

12. It felt very embarrassing and upsetting to discover that somebody you regarded your friend and associate had abused our hospitality and friendship.

13. I feel very used by him, and by the state, invading my privacy and my body. I do wonder how many other people he has deceived and hurt over time.

14. On discovering that my friends and I had been in the presence of an undercover officer this left me feeling fearful of further open and legal political activity.

15. By knowing me and my flatmate, Rick Gibson was coming into contact with a lot of political activists involved in various campaigns, including the Troops Out Movement (TOM). Furthermore, visiting our flat, Rick would have had access to all our literature and correspondence. He would also have overheard conversations and phone calls.

16. I came from South Africa, thinking I had escaped that kind of interference by the state in the life of its citizens. To find that the police and the state in the UK operate in a similar fashion is very disturbing to me.

17. I want to know what kind of information the state holds on me. I want to see it, to verify its accuracy, and if there is any false information included. I also want to know whether the state holds any photographs of me, taken by Rick Gibson.

18. In the public interest, I think we are entitled to know who he was and to what extent he was operating on instruction from senior figures in the police of the government of the time. Was he acting on his own initiative? If so, what steps will be taken to hold his senior police officers who sanctioned this activity? If senior civil servants of previous government ministers sanctioned this, or knew about these activities they also need to be held accountable.

19. Furthermore, I think the real name of Rick Gibson should be revealed, to look into his subsequent career and possible further involvement in undercover policing, for instance following a promotion or in the private sector.

20. Finally, what I hope the Inquiry will understand and appreciate is my example illustrates that the tactic and strategy of the police having intimate relationship with women activists was not a 1990's phenomenon, but something that was employed much earlier.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Dated 25 January 2018