

# **UNATTRIBUTED EXCERPTS**

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## 1. ARREST OF UCO

### Excerpt 1

Q Thank you. [Redact], I am going to start, please, by asking you about a period of time prior to your deployment when you attended court when an undercover officer, SDS officer [Redact] [Gist: HN331] was appearing in court, and I just want to ask you a little bit about that, please. At your paras.37 to 38, you deal with the procedure that was followed after arrest as a consequence of political activities and you said, in the general course of events, a search of Special Branch records would be made of anybody arrested after political activities. Is that right?

A Yes.

Q And was that true in all cases? In your experience, was that true in all cases?

A I believe so, yes.

Q And presumably that was to discover if that particular individual was of interest to Special Branch already or had a Special Branch reference, is that right, on the file?

A That's correct, yes.

Q Was it then the case that -- you go on to deal with if an undercover officer was arrested as part of a political activity, that he would, that that would be flagged to his supervisors because it would come up on a search of Special Branch records -- was it then the case that each SDS officer had their own Special Branch file for that purpose?

A I would think so, yes.

Q A Special Branch search would then be made. That officer's name would be flagged and the supervisors would then be notified. How did you come to know that that was the procedure that was followed in the event of an SDS officer being arrested? Do you know?

A Well, I think it was probably just part of normal procedure. I mean, at that stage, I don't think there was any difference between a police officer and a member of the public. If a person was arrested for a political offence or similar, searches are done in a number of indices and at some stage on this occasion, and others I suspect, a flag was raised that, in this case [Redact] [Gist:HN331] --I don't know what his cover name was -- "Oh gosh, he's been arrested" and the duty officer at the time, there would obviously be a mark on the file "refer to" and that reference was made and that then led to subsequent activity.

Q But do you know when that procedure began?

A I don't, but I imagine, as a matter of practice and safeguard, it would have been instigated from the very beginning.

Q Thank you. And do you know whether that continued beyond the date of your deployment? Does it follow, if it was instigated as a matter of practical safeguarding, it would have continued beyond?

A I see no reason why it wouldn't have been continued.

Q Thank you. In November of 1968, you were a member of Special Branch assigned to special inquiries and asked to cover a court case at Bow Street. I am told that you might recognise the defendant, and that defendant turned out to be somebody that you knew, did you, from your Special Branch time as *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN331]*, is that right?

A Yes. I wouldn't get too carried away with "special inquiries". It was merely a way of reserving an officer to stay in the office all day, or for the time you were on special inquiries, to deal with this sort of eventuality.

Q Thank you. Can you recall when you attended court whether *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN331]* was appearing in -- I know you say you cannot remember his undercover name -- but was he appearing in his real name, can you remember?

A No, it would have been his undercover name.

Q Thank you. And, when you say you were asked to cover court, what did that entail?

A Well, it was a routine really. Special Branch had an interest in *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN331]*, as it would have done with A N Other in these circumstances. I understand that he had been arrested for fly posting, so, at that time, perhaps a person who had been arrested had not come to notice before, so our office would be deputed to cover the court proceedings and submit a report, a very simple report: the day, the time, the place, Bow Street Magistrates' Court or something similar.

Q And who did you have to report to? Can you recall?

A In the court?

Q Who did you have to report to? When you put together your report about that day's procedure and that day's proceedings in the Magistrates' Court, who did you report to? Who were you asked to report to?

A I can't remember, but I imagine, because I was the only person who had been privy to the fact that it had been *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN331]*, I imagine the report was submitted as a routine. *[Redact]*

- Q Thank you. And can you recall this? Were any court staff aware that you were a member of Special Branch sitting in the public gallery?
- A No.
- Q And can you recall whether the prosecution in that case would have been aware that there was an undercover police officer in the dock?
- A No, and I'm not so sure there was a prosecution case. I think it might have been handled by the court inspector.
- Q Right. And how about the Magistrate or Magistrates who were sitting in the court? Were you aware whether they knew that there was an SDS officer in the dock?
- A I was not aware of whether they were aware or not, no.
- Q And were you aware whether there were any court staff that knew there was an SDS officer in the dock?
- A No, I don't think they did, no.

## **2. CONTEMPORARIES**

### Excerpt 2

- Q I am going to move now to your interaction with other officers and with your managers.
- A Yes.
- Q How well did you get to know your fellow undercover officers?
- A Fairly well, fairly well.
- Q And did you form any particular friendships?
- A Um I did with certain officers and certain other officers were in different fields, but there was no ... I am trying to think of any particular officers at any particular time, but of course the squad was constantly changing and people were coming in and going out. [Redact] he was very useful to me talking away about various tradecraft stuff, but the others, [Redact] we were quite, we were quite friendly, but not in each other's pockets so to speak.
- Q I think, if I have understood your statement correctly, you served with Vince Harvey [Redact].
- A Oh Vince, Vince Harvey, yes, I certainly did.

Q How well did you know him?

A I knew Vince reasonably well [Redact]

Q We know that you would meet regularly in the safe house.

A Yes.

Q Would you share anecdotes there?

A About operational work, yes, yes.

Q And points of practice and fieldcraft?

A That's right. Yes, so we would talk about, [Redact], it was trying to decide, you know, what action was going to be taken because it was quite a busy time and it was also, it was relaxing to be able to talk to somebody about it because you couldn't really talk to anybody, certainly not other officers who had been friendly who were not on this course.

## **2. DECEASED CHILD IDENTITIES**

### Excerpt 3

Q And you tell us in your witness statement that you adopted some particulars of a deceased [Redact] [Gist: child] [Redact].

A I did.

Q Would I be right to have ascertained from your statement that that was your decision?

A Er yes, it was.

Q That it was one which, a proposal which you put to your managers and which they accepted?

A Yes.

[Redact]

Q You say that you remember discussing the practice with your colleagues. Are these your fellow officers?

A Practice, sorry?

Q Of using a deceased child's identity.

A Yes.

Q Was using [Redact] [Gist: the] identity something you discussed with your fellow SDS officers?

A I will have. I would have discussed him almost certainly with [Redact] and possibly [Redact] as well and, and others, but, I mean, you know, there were, there was the, the, the detective inspector and chief inspector and I think it wouldn't have happened just in a bang. It would have been, there would have been thoughts about it and considerations as, as, as I spent time in the back office and the other bits I was doing.

[Redact]

Q Can you recall an officer Richard Clark?

A Yes.

Q Can you recall how his deployment came to an end?

A As far as I can remember, Rick was compromised in some form or another. Again, I'm not sure I knew the details. I'm almost certain that would have come across in some form or fashion from a third party, that I certainly didn't get that from Rick himself, but I can't remember. I understand he was compromised.

Q The Inquiry has had some evidence to the effect that the then SDS managers told members of the unit what had happened to Richard Clark, which was that he had used the identity of a deceased child but was confronted with the child's death certificate by activists.

A Okay that sounds familiar.

Q Does that ring bells?

A It does.

Q Can you recall whether or not you were told that at the time?

A I can't recall. It wasn't ... I think I would have heard about it whilst I was on the SDS. I can't recall it being actually announced or brought up at any time.

#### Excerpt 4

Q [Redact] I would like to ask you some questions about is how you constructed your cover identity. You told us in your witness statement -- that is para.23 just for the record, you do not need to look at it at this

stage -- that when preparing your cover identity, you used the name of a deceased child, is that right?

A That is correct.

Q And that, in doing so, you remember considering the moral implications, but considered it nonetheless the right thing to do.

A Yes, indeed.

Q The first thing I wanted to ask you is what do you mean by the "moral implications"? What were the things that you considered?

A Well, I had [Redact] [Gist: a relative who died] and I, I thought about using [Redact] [Gist: their] name, if somebody else used [Gist: their] name. That's the context of how I, how I addressed that issue.

Q And what did you consider how you would feel if you had used [Redact] [Gist: their] name?

A I felt at the time, and I still feel now, it was in a good cause. It was the only proper way to provide yourself with a long-term easy to protect identity. Of course, with computerisation in 2000 that all changed.

Q Yes.

A But, up until then, you were very much restricted by the national births and deaths records and the local births and deaths records.

Q Did you ever consider it would be likely that the families of the real children whose names were used would ever find out that they had been adopted?

A No. No, the whole idea was that the whole operation was secret.

Q Is this something that was discussed between you and your managers?

A Never that I recollect.

Q But they did instruct you how to obtain the name of----

A When you say "discussed", you are talking about the morality?

Q Yes, I am just talking about the morality at this stage.

A Yes.

Q That was never discussed with management?

A No, no.

- Q Was it ever discussed with your fellow UCOs do you recall?
- A Not really, no. *[Redact]*
- Q Were you aware, *[Redact]* of any other UCOs in the SDS having problems using a deceased child's identity?
- [Redact]*
- A Yes.
- Q Yes, and what was that?
- A That was the exposure of one of my colleagues.
- Q And am I right that that was Richard Clark?
- A That's correct.
- Q That is HN297, for an Inquiry reference, and what did you become aware of just regarding his cover identity at this stage?
- A Initially, the office told us that he had been presented with his death certificate at a meeting in a pub or a meeting somewhere in a restaurant or something.
- Q Did that make you, you personally, question how safe this tactic was?
- A It made me aware of a potential vulnerability, as there is in all systems. You know, you can always find a way round them. It is difficult to quantify that.

Excerpt 5

- Q *[Redact]* You used the identity of a deceased child and you say in your witness statement you were told by somebody to sort yourself out with a cover identity from Somerset House. This is right at the beginning of your deployment with the SDS, was it?
- A It was, yes.
- Q Can you recall who it was that asked you to organise the cover identity in that way?
- A No, I can't remember exactly, but there were a few, a few officers in the staff really and it might have been *[Redact]*, but I really couldn't say.
- Q But it was a member of management, was it, rather than a----

A Oh yes, yes.

Q Thank you. Did you know, or did you come to understand, why you were being asked to use the identity of a deceased child as your cover identity?

A Well, yes. It was, it was a means of developing an alternative persona so that you were a person with an identity operating in your chosen field as opposed to my real name, a means of disguise.

Q Were you aware of how others, other of your fellow SDS officers constructed, or had constructed, their cover identities?

A I think in general terms yes, my recollection is that we all used a similar process.

Q *[Redact]* Do you know why you *[Redact]* were asked to use an actual identity?

A No, I am not and, in hindsight, I am not so sure that it was particularly useful because I think the whole purpose of using a recorded name is so that you can use other documents like a passport. I mean, without a birth certificate you can't get a passport, so it is a means of developing a comprehensive identity, much like the Soviet spies used before this period and, with hindsight, frankly, you could use any name, but I think people felt secure in the knowledge that you had a recorded identity.

#### **4. DEPLOYMENT**

##### Excerpt 6

Q Okay. I am just going to move on now, *[Redact]*, to your cover ID. So, we have established that you think it was at the next meeting----

A I do.

Q -- that you came up with your pseudonym *[Redact]*.

A Yes.

Q And you gave a fake address. I know you cannot remember what the address was, but can you remember how you might have come up with it?

A Well----

Q Do you think you----

A [Redact] it would have been some sort of fake address, but where it would have been or the exact address I don't know.

Even if I, I'm not even quite sure if I would have given a specific address other than my name and a fictitious surname.

Q Yes.

[Redact]

Q And did you make a note of the fake address you had given them? I mean, a mental note.

A A mental note, yes, I would have done.

Q And, after you had submitted these details, did you report the fact of this back to Special Branch management? Did you tell them that you had submitted these details?

A Oh yes definitely. They were, they were quite, they were very interested as to what procedures I had to go through to be invited to the second meeting and any subsequent meetings.

Q And were they concerned at all that you had had to come up with a fake address?

A No, I don't, no. I don't think they were. Again, I think the decision would have been taken for me to run with it because nothing, you know, nothing too serious had occurred at that stage.

Q And were there any concerns expressed about the group perhaps investigating this fake address or looking into it?

A No, I don't. No, there weren't.

Q You describe in your witness statement that there was a Special Branch [Redact]

A Yes.

Q Were you attending meetings in this garb?

A I don't think I would have been at that stage because that would have been extremely obvious, so I would have worn something a lot lower key [Redact]

Q Indeed.

A -- actually at the meeting.

Q And was that something you did autonomously? Did you decide to do that yourself or were you advised?

A Yes. No, it was something that I certainly would have decided myself because it would have been far too obvious.

Q Yes.

A Yes.

Q And, in that vein, you also say that, when you joined the SDS, you were already growing your hair.

A Yes.

Q So, again, this was part of changing your image to be less conspicuous.

A Yes, it was, yes, yes.

Q And, again, you decided to do that yourself---

A Yes.

Q -- no one told you to do that?

A No.

*[Redact]*

Q Now, you say that you, it was not your decision to move into the SDS, but did you relay to management that you had concerns about the group uncovering your status as a Special Branch officer?

A I don't think I would have relayed concerns about it, but once I knew of the existence of the SDS, I knew that steps must have been put in place to give me some sort of cover that would have been accurate and provable. So, at that stage, I assumed that a decision would have been taken, bearing in mind *[Redact]* background information to back up who I was and my identity.

Q Indeed.

A Yes.

Q So, at what stage did you become aware of the existence of the SDS? Can you remember?

A Probably when I came back from *[Redact]* and it was decided at that stage for me to carry on *[Redact]*. At that stage, I suddenly realised that

my involvement wasn't just going to be accidental. From then on, it would be far more, far more seriously taken.

*[Redact]*

Q So, it seems from your reports, you were reporting on this group in your Special Branch guise, so before you joined SDS.

A Yes.

Q From *[Redact]* and during this period before you joined the SDS, were you forming closer relationships with people within this group?

A Yes, I think I was.

Q And were these close personal relationships or?

A No, they weren't. They would not be personal under any circumstances. They would be more on an intellectual and a common view of the political situation *[Redact]* but there was no personal involvement like going to their homes or taking any further meetings outside of the meetings organised by the group.

Q Right so, yes, you have pre-empted my next question. So, you did not socialise with them as such?

A No.

Q You did not visit pubs with them?

A No, definitely not.

Q And it was always on an ideological level then---

A Yes, it was.

Q -- on which you connected?

A Yes.

Q Did you find though that even this manner of interacting with the group was putting your cover ID under pressure at all or not?

A No, I didn't feel that at all. I think I would have had a sixth sense that something was not quite right---

Q Yes.

A -- and I never actually felt that at the time other than they were very extremist *[Redact]*.

*[Redact]*

Q Yes. You refer to the "greater security protections", in your witness statement, "offered by the SDS as opposed to Special Branch."

A Yes.

*[Redact]*

Q Were you given any other security protections beyond this?

A No.

Q And you say that you were told nothing about the unit other than the reasons for its genesis.

A Yes.

Q And that it was to provide intelligence for public order purposes.

A Yes.

*[Redact]*

Q Were SDS management, when they recruited you, were they aware or did you get the impression that they were aware of the nature and extent of your Special Branch work *[Redact]*?

A Yes.

Q And, as far as you know, was it this experience that led them to recruit you?

A Yes, it was. I think, because it was so accidental *[Redact]* and the fact that I had done it by accident rather than by design, stood me in good stead. So, I think that they took that I had managed to get that far without any suspicion being raised as very much a plus factor in my favour.

Q Yes. You say in your witness statement that your "deployment into the SDS was an experiment to capitalise on your prior Special Branch work".

A Yes.

Q So really reiterating what you just said.

A Yes.

Q And you say that "If the experiment did not work, there was no place for you in the SDS".

A Yes.

Q So was that said to you explicitly at the time by management?

A No, it wasn't said. No, again, I think it was a given. So, it was very much a step by step operation.

Q Yes, but you understood that at the time?

A Yes, I did.

Q And so you understood that there was an element of you being a guinea pig as it were?

A Yes, yes.

Q And this suggestion that, if the experiment failed or this inference that if the experiment failed, there would be no place for you in the SDS, did you understand that to mean that, if the experiment failed, it would be your fault?

A No. I didn't, no. It was just a given. I was given to understand that, you know if that happened, it happened and I would just go back to my Special Branch duties, which I wasn't worried about, which I enjoyed doing anyway.

Q Right.

A So I wasn't worried about being removed from SDS.

Q So you did not feel on a professional level it was sort of high stakes?

A No.

Q Were you made aware by SDS managers that the Security Services were interested [Redact]?

A Yes, but not until I had really got further in, infiltrated into the group.

Q Right, so not at the time you joined the SDS?

A No, definitely not. I would have been totally unaware.

Excerpt 7

Q Thank you. I am going to move on now to para.121 of your witness statement, where you have described attending [Redact] wedding.

A Yes.

Q Can you help us with how big an event that was?

A It was very small, very small.

Q How small?

A A dozen people.

Q And was there any discussion with your managers before you attended that event?

A Yes, there was.

Q And what was the nature of the discussion?

A (inaudible), they invited me to their wedding. *[Redact]*. It was, it was good for my cover to go there. I would have had to have made an excuse.

Q Some might say that attending people's weddings, particularly if it was a small affair, is a particularly invasive thing to do. Was there any discussion of the proportionality of attending as opposed to just making an excuse?

A No. No, it was, it was pushed to management. I asked if it was okay to go to the wedding and they said yes.

Q You also describe babysitting *[Redact]*.

A Yes.

Q Again, was there any discussion with your managers before you did that?

A No, I don't think there was. I think that is a decision I took onto myself.

Q What age was the child or children?

A *[Redact]*

Q And did you babysit at their home?

A Yes.

Q Do you think they would have asked you to do that if they had known who you really were?

A No.

Q Again, some might say it was particularly invasive of private and family life to look after someone's [Redact] [Gist: young child/ren]. Was it really necessary to do that?

A No, I don't think it was when you look at it in the cold light of day, but, at that particular time, they wanted to go out and they asked me if I could babysit for them and I said "Yeah, okay" and that was it. It wasn't like a long-term plan. It would have made me look a bit awkward [Redact] fast asleep anyway, so I just checked [Redact].

Q I know times have changed somewhat in the 40-odd years since these events took place, but just so I can understand, did you go through any, any form of risk assessment or evaluation of proportionality or was it something you just decided it would be good for your cover to do?

A It would be good for my cover, but it was something I thought they needed to get away for a while because they were ... yes, I just thought it would be a good thing to do.

Q Cannabis.

A Ah.

Q You were offered cannabis.

A Yes.

Q You went further than Bill Clinton has admitted and took a puff.

A Yes.

Q And thereafter passed yourself off as a drinker.

A Yes.

Q Do you think that there is anything that your managers could have done by way of training or instruction that would have made dealing with that situation any easier?

A I don't think, I don't think it was. When one looks at it now, at that particular time, cannabis was quite a serious offence to get caught with. I don't think our management had the experience to be able to do anything about it. I think they left it up to our own individual responsibility and my initial thing was I didn't want to smoke. I didn't smoke anyway [Redact].

Q So why did you take a puff?

A I took a puff because I thought I would have a puff and I would cough and I just said "That's disgusting" and so it showed that I had done it. On

other occasions, they passed something around and they were so stoned that they didn't know that I didn't puff it. So, it was one of those things that I actually fudged the issue, but some of the people, the only other, there were a couple of people who had, I think had serious drug problems, but that was more harder drugs.

Excerpt 8

Q You, I think, before moving onto the SDS had been involved in [Redact] [Gist: a SB squad], is that right?

A Correct.

Q Did you have any concerns just at the point at which you joined the SDS about recognition by other people of you from your work in [Redact] [Gist: that] Squad?

A No, no, I hadn't considered that to be a problem. I was in an office for much of the time, [Redact], I was on sort of light duties. I think I was the [Redact] Squad collator for a time.

Q Right, so does that mean that you were not----

A So, I wasn't out and about meeting people.

Q That is what I was going to ask, thank you. The final thing I wanted to ask you on this subject is did you ever encounter any problems yourself with your identity being interrogated by the groups you were involved in?

A I was always of the personal opinion that, once they start interrogating you, then it is time to go anyway. So, [Redact], the Rick Clark saga was something that was known amongst [Redact] [Gist: extreme left-wing].

Q Right.

A And I was looked at to some degree. [Redact]. I wasn't one to give details, so I won't say about my education and this and that.

Q Yes.

A A back story, I think, is problematic if you had to go down that road.

Q So, you kept details to a minimum?

A Yes, yes, absolutely.

Q And, just for completeness, the name I think you adopted was [Redact]. Is that right?

A That's correct.

Thank you. On a [Redact] more general topic, you told us in your witness statement that you, in the course of preparation for your deployment, you read some material in the back office, including reporting and also some material on left-wing politics. Can you remember what sort of material you were reading? I obviously don't need specifics.

Q

They were mainly reports. I had bought myself a book that had been published in [Redact] about protests and the protest movement and [Redact] [Gist: extreme left wing]. I bought that myself and just read it at home. I put that together with the reports and the various information sheets there were on [Redact] [Gist: extreme left wing] and that is how I sort of gained a knowledge and understanding of it, but, again, you don't want to have too much knowledge when you are first appearing. You want to be taught by them.

A

Q

Right.

A

So, I was always aware of that as well.

Q

Was that something you were schooled in by those in the office already or was that something you just---

A

Partially. I mean, partially with reading reports and assessments of [Redact] [Gist: extreme left wing] and partially it was chatting to the senior officers in the office.

Q

Did you feel, in terms of the ideology or the background of the groups you were going to move into, or certainly the group you were going to move into at first, did you feel you knew enough when you were deployed?

A

Yes, [Redact] [Gist: Discussion of ideological nature of group reported on.]

### Excerpt 9

Q

Thank you. Can I now ask about your wider friendships with activists? You say in your witness statement that you often attended meetings, or it is clear from your witness statement and from the reports that you often attended meetings in private houses and you spent time in the pub with activists that you met during the course of your deployment. Would you go to the pub after meetings generally?

A

Habitually.

Q

And, on any other occasions, would you meet socially just for, even if it was not after a meeting?

A Yes, very early on I developed a particular friendship with [Redact]. We would meet on a fairly regular basis. We would go and have two or three pints. His wife, or his girlfriend, [Redact], was an activist [Redact] I babysat for their young [Redact] [Gist: child] on occasions.

Q You acknowledge that a number of the activists with whom you spent time would have seen you as a friend. Would they have seen you as a good friend do you think?

A Yeah, I think so.

Q I mean, you have described somebody entrusting the care of their child to you.

A Yes. Yeah, I mean, I deliberately attempted to cultivate them.

Q And did they share details of their lives with you, confide in you in the ordinary way that you would with a friend?

A Yeah.

Q Did you actively seek to cultivate friendship because it assisted you with your cover identity?

A Yes.

Q And with your infiltration of activist groups?

A Yes.

Q Was that something that was encouraged by management as a way of obtaining intelligence?

A Management really I don't think discussed it with me. It was what I considered to be the way that I would operate. I mean, how can you spy without being ... how do you get access unless you have trust?

Q And was that something, a topic that was discussed with management at all?

A No.

Q Do you think that the activists who became your friends would have fraternised with you so freely had they known that you were a serving police officer?

A No, certainly not.

Q And did you have any qualms or anxieties at the time about forming such friendships in your undercover persona?

A No.

## **5. EVENTS - PUBLIC ORDER**

### Excerpt 10

Q You stuck up posters, so that is fly posting essentially?

A Yes.

Q You went to demonstrations, socialised, [Redact] in pubs and at meetings and at social events.

A Yes.

Q Does this pretty much sum up the activities that you undertook with the group?

A It did.

[Redact]

Q Right. You say also that the demonstrations were planned well in advance----

A Yes.

Q -- which meant that you could provide good intelligence about what would take place and when. So, do you think that your intelligence helped the police?

A Without a doubt.

Q Right. We have touched upon this but just again to set it out clearly, you say in your witness statement that you "did not witness or participate in any violence or disorder". So, from that, does it follow that, on these demonstrations, there was no violence----

A No.

Q -- or disorder from [Redact]?

A No, in some ways I suspect I was very lucky. Certain colleagues of mine got the thin end of the stick so to speak from attending demonstrations where obviously the police didn't know that there were SDS or Metropolitan Police members.

Q Right.

A So probably more by luck than judgement.

Excerpt 11

Q Now, [Redact], I would like to move on to [Redact] public order issues.

[Redact]

Q And do you remember were you involved at all in witnessing any cooperation between the group you were reporting on and the police in the run-up to the march? I am not talking about the marches themselves or the protests.

A Yes, at various times, yes.

Q What sort of thing do you recall?

A I suppose [Redact] was the perfect example, where it was very heavy, effective, well-planned bleaching(sic) policing, I think it was.

Q Yes.

A And we were stunned at, at the numbers that were deployed and the way the inspectors and sergeants came up and sort of basically told us the rules.

Q That was on the day, was it?

A That was on the day when we actually arrived at [Redact], yes.

[Redact]

Q -- just so that we all on the same page.

A Well, that was [Redact] [Gist: the 1970s] wasn't it?

Q That was [Redact] [Gist: the 1970s], yes. If I can start with an event which was [Redact], a demonstration at [Redact].

A Yes.

Q Which was held in [Redact]. I think you were at that demonstration or protest, were you not?

A Yes.

Q And do you recall what happened?

A I don't recall any liaison between the police and the demonstrators when we arrived.

Q Okay.

A We just arrived, warmed up and then headed towards the National Front.

Q Moving on from the issue of liaison, there was, do you recall, violence and public disorder that afternoon?

A Yes, yes.

Q And what sort of thing was going on just generally?

A The police plan, for some reason, was that they would stand between a place where the National Front march would go and the left-wing march would go and the distance between them was not, not that much and it resulted in the police getting attacked by us to try and get at the National Front.

*[Redact]*

Q Right and, in terms of passing information to your, back to the office, was that done by telephone?

A Yes, you would try and break away, find yourself a phone box and----

Q Let them know what was happening.

A -- phone it through, yes?

*[Redact]*

*[Redact]* Thank you, Sir. So, *[Redact]* we know took place, or the events in *[Redact]*, I think, and *[Redact]* took place on *[Redact]*. You were present, I think, at that demonstration too, were you not?

A Yes

Q Is it fair to say that the major difference between what took place in *[Redact]* and Lewisham *[Redact]* was the police numbers and the police preparation for what was coming?

A That was my distinct impression.

Q You have described what took place, the police response rather to what was taking place, as "more aggressive" tactics. Do you consider that they were more effective?

A Could I ask what you mean by "aggressive"?

Q I think in your witness statement you used the word "aggressive"---

A Ah.

Q -- to describe what took place.

A I would substitute that for disciplined.

Q Disciplined?

A Yes, rather than aggressive.

Q And whichever word is used, would you---

A Yes.

Q -- would you consider they were more effective?

A Much more effective, yes.

Q And why was that?

A Because they had the numbers. They had planned how they were going to keep both groups completely separate and anything we tried to do, the one tactic was you break away, go in a shop to buy a glass of water and then come out and try and go down back streets. They were just on top of everything. There were always units watching you even when you broke off from the demonstration, so we had no chance to do what we wanted to do.

*[Redact]*

Q Do you think it is likely, or possible, that the police, the change in police tactics at *[Redact]*, were a result of what had happened *[Redact]* at *[Redact]*?

A I am sure that was part of it, yes.

Q Thank you.

A *[Redact]*

Q Was that much larger than the presence at *[Redact]*?

A Yes, yes.

Excerpt 12

Q I am going to move now to [Redact] ----

A Yes.

Q -- [Redact]. How did you come to be there?

A Again, it was a, it was a decision that we, at that particular time, I think it was the National Front -- I think it was Martin Webster -- standing by something. They were going to do a march through [Redact] and so it was, it was decided by [Redact] [Gist: my group we] would have a mobilisation to have a go at the National Front. So, I went up there and, again, drove people up there and I think on that occasion I took the banner.

Q And when you say "took people up there", these are people from [Redact] [Gist: my group]?

A Yes, at that time.

Q Were you able to provide any useful advance intelligence----

A Yes.

Q -- about the day?

A I think we all did as a group and we got together and one of the things we said is that "There is going to be violence".

Q When you say "we"?

A The group, because there were several of us [Redact] and we agreed that there would be violence on that particular day and that they were going to try and attack them, especially Webster. There were no specifics about individuals, but the collective idea was that there was going to be violence.

Q What violence did you personally witness on the day?

A I, I saw several people fighting. There were things thrown at people, as usual bricks and whatever and then, when I think it was the Maoists who were involved in it, there was a quite considerable disorder with them because they were joining around, if I recollect, from a lorry, singing Maoist songs and I recognised that one of my colleagues from SDS was actually on that wagon and I saw him arrested.

Q Which colleague?

A *[Redact] [Gist: HN13]*, and that's when I phoned up a bit later to tell them that *[Redact] [Gist: HN13]* had been arrested, but that was, that was really quite a messy day. There were lots of scraps going on and I think that there were, there was a bit of aggravation down in the Tube on the way home. Mind you, we had gone by then.

Q You describe in your witness statement being chased by the National Front.

A Yes, I do.

Q Could you help us with what happened to you personally?

A I forgot all about that. *[Redact] [Gist: UCO remembers an incident and sets out the details]*.

Q Can I take it that was an incident that stayed with you?

A Yes, it wasn't very pleasant. It wasn't very pleasant as I knew that, if they had caught me, I would have got a good kicking. I was a little bit unnerved. Then I found the comrades and then we went on further. I told them. They laughed. They thought it was very amusing. Yes, we carried on with the demonstration.

## **6. EVENTS - PUBLIC ORDER - GRUNWICK**

### Excerpt 13

Q I want to move now to some of the public order, or perhaps I should say public disorder, in which you were involved during the course of your deployment, and I would like to start, if I may, with the Grunwick strike.

A Yes, of course.

Q How often did you attend the picket lines?

A It wasn't a regular occurrence. That sounds a very general answer, but it was because I was *[Redact]*. I would say I probably went up there about half a dozen times because you had to get *[Redact]*.

Q And so who did you go with when you did go?

A It depended on who was available from *[Redact]* and one of the things was, because you had a car, you used to be able to ferry people around, so I could only usually take two or three or four.

Q Were you ever able to provide advance intelligence about plans, numbers, things like that or anything else that might have been of use to those who were charged with policing the picket lines?

A I think so. I think, because you got an idea of what the support was and how many people would go there and (inaudible) provided. You know, there were no individual reports, but it was, say, at one of the meetings. It would be trying to gauge what the support was for the picket.

Q And, just so we can understand the extent to which you were able to assist, would your intelligence have been confined to the turnout from [Redact]?

A Mostly, but, if we had a [Redact] meeting, then you would get some idea of what the enthusiasm was, say, from neighbouring districts, say [Redact].

Q I appreciate what I am going to ask you next may be difficult, but could you help us with what you witnessed there?

A On several occasions, it was rowdy and the police held the line. On other occasions, it was extremely violent, things being thrown at the police, policemen injured, the crowd injured, general disorder. I can't remember the specifics of that, but a lot of it was noise. I remember, I think I recollect that I was present when Arthur Scargill turned up and that added a bit of frisson to the whole event, but I think it was reasonably rowdy but not violent on that occasion, but there was at least one occasion where violence was, with quite heavy bricks being thrown etc., etc., and policemen going down.

Q How close were you personally to this violence?

A It depended where it happened. I tried to stay away from it as much as possible because of the fear of arrest and being snatched up by one of your colleagues, but we were right there.

Q What role did you personally play in events?

A Mostly ferrying, ferrying people about. I can't remember if we took any banners. It was basically picking up people [Redact], trying to find somewhere to have a bit of breakfast and then going on the picket line and sometimes there were [Redact] [Gist: activists] who you knew, who would point you in a certain direction, saying "We are going to do this and we're going to do that" and then you would just shout as the bus came in and reacted to the police appropriately. So, I was one of a group. I wasn't a leader.

Q Can you recall whether you got any feedback through the management chain about your intelligence in relation to the picket line at Grunwicks?

A It was basically "Thanks a lot lads, that did really well", they were quite happy with that, or occasionally "We need more detailed intelligence

about whether there is going to be violence". It depended on your position in the organisation.

Q Were there any particular individuals that they were keen to hear about?

A No, no they weren't.

Excerpt 14

Q *[Redact]* the demonstrations which were held outside the Grunwicks photo-processing laboratory in North West London. This was *[Redact]* June or July *[Redact]* *[Gist: 1977]*. You told us in your witness statement that you attended some of those protests.

A Yes, I did.

Q Do you remember whether you were directed by your managers to go or was this something that you were just doing with your group?

A It was something that we would have discussed with our managers having been asked to by the group.

Q Right.

A So, the group wanted us to go. We discussed with them and then had a system of phoning up sort of last minute changes and night before plans.

*[Redact]*

Q Were you generally being asked to report on industrial disputes or was it more public----

A No.

Q -- order that was----

A No, it was revolutionaries who got involved in industrial disputes for or on behalf of their organisations. That was the threat and that was the issue.

Excerpt 15

Q I am going to ask you to turn to *[Redact]* paragraph of this annual report *[Gist: for 1977]*. It is para.21, which is on the page preceding, so that is p.12.

A Yes.

Q The report makes a [Redact] claim that "Throughout this dispute invaluable information was supplied by the SDS of last minute tactics and the numbers attending, the degree of violence anticipated, which enabled the uniform branch to effectively police one of the most violent and longstanding disputes for many years.

[Redact]

Are you able to say whether you provided that intelligence?

A Almost certainly, yes.

Q Yes. How are you able to be so sure?

A Because I remember the incident.

[Redact]

Q And, again, is this the sort of thing that would have been passed to the office?

A Yes, absolutely.

Q By phone.

A Yes.

## **7. EVENTS - PUBLIC ORDER - LEWISHAM**

### Excerpt 16

Q I want to move now to the Battle of Lewisham on 13th August 1977. How did you come to be there?

A Again, it was "Smash the Nazis". The National Front were going to march through Deptford, down to Deptford, through New Cross and come up by New Cross Gate and, again, we sat down and it was quite obvious there was going to be confrontation between them and us. We do think the whole thing had been inflamed by some arrests. It was loads of different ingredients, it really was, and there were loads and loads of rumours about firebombs and god knows what else, but, as far as I was concerned from my particular group, there was nothing that extreme, but there was a movement at that particular time for confrontation. So, we were all there. [Redact]. You had to be there.

Q Which of your SDS colleagues can you recall being there?

A Vince Harvey was there. [Redact] [Gist: HN356] was there. I think [Redact] [Gist: HN80] was there, but I didn't see him there. I think those

were the only ones that I saw there, but [Redact] [Gist: there were others who] would have, would have been, would have been there.

Q Were you involved [Redact] in any of the advance preparations for the day?

A No. It was just to [Redact] [Gist: transport people there] and to be there, to hand out leaflets. I can't remember if we did that. [Redact] because it was a very febrile atmosphere and quite intimidating.

Q Can you help us with what sort of advance intelligence you were able to provide, if any, prior to the day?

A That it was going to kick off. That it was, that this was going to happen. If they marched that particular route at that particular time, coming up that road, then a lot of my comrades seemed to be aware of where they were going to come out or the only possible way they could go and so the focus was on that, on that particular area.

Q Can I take it from that answer that you had some advance information about intended routes?

A Yes, I think it possibly could have been from other sources, I don't know, but it was that they were going to come out and that there was going to be trouble.

Q Were you able to provide any information about numbers?

A Yes, it was almost as if you used to get together with your fellow officers and to say it is going to be about these number of people, that our organisation is going to support it up to this, but as to exact numbers, that had to be something that was done by the management with other sources and in coordination with the local policing as to what might happen.

[Redact]

Q Coming back to the demonstration itself, could you help us with what you witnessed?

A I am trying to think. The National Front, the first thing we heard, we saw lots of cops, lots of policeman, and then all the Union Jacks stretching out. It was one of the biggest turnouts I think that they had had for quite a while and they came out and I can remember thinking "They should come out there because we know." You know, the demonstrators seemed to know that that's the only way they could come up. It was okay and then suddenly it all kicked off for a while, people throwing bricks, bottles, flares. The police were going down because they weren't dressed in any riot gear, they were just dressed, I think they just had their helmets on. I saw various National Front people getting hit. Then

I was standing opposite as they came out and I looked behind me and there were lots of youths with bricks and sacks of bricks, lobbing them right at the top.

Then I did notice somebody with a knife and I thought "This is getting a bit, a bit serious". [Redact] [Gist: Set out details of incident and injury].

Then I managed to extricate myself from that and went off and went to the right-hand side and then as some youths walked forward and starting fighting with the National Front and I thought "Run away, get out of this because this is getting, you know." And then another police horse, the police horses charged again [Redact].

[Redact] We watched some of the other stuff going on, but then we decided that we couldn't do anything and it was, it was a bit like skirmishes going on all over the place. [Redact] it wasn't pleasant.

Q There is a report in the bundle at tab 62, which is a record of intelligence which appears to have been telephoned in during the day about [Redact] [Gist: activists' movements].

A That wasn't me.

Q The report does not bear your name.

A No. It could be ... some of the reports which I looked at when I was doing it were amalgamations of various bits of intelligence that had come in from (inaudible) as it were.

Q Can you recall whether you telephoned-in any intelligence during the course of the day?

A Yes, I did. I did phone in. I think the reason why I phoned in was to say that I was safe and well, that I hadn't been arrested yet and that it was still going on, but nothing specific.

Q Can you recall, after the riot had finished in the aftermath, whether you were involved in the provision of any oral or written feedback?

A Yes, whenever the next meeting was, which would probably have been on the Monday, we had a long chat with the, with the management to get our point of view of the flavour of what was going on. Rather than just pure factual stuff, it was, it was linked up with lots of things to do with the community on from those arrests and, of course, the newspapers were all about the first time the riot shields and severe oppression had been seen on the streets of London and so it was that management was quite interested in what we felt could happen next.

Q When you say "management", is that SDS management?

A Yes, SDS, yes.

Q Were you involved in any feedback to more senior levels of management?

A Not at that particular time.

Q And did you get any feedback about your role in and the intelligence you provided about the Lewisham riots?

A Not specifically because it was, it appeared to be at that time it was what was expected of you because that's what you, that's what you were getting paid for, yes.

Excerpt 17

Q *[Redact]* Lewisham in August of *[Redact]* *[Gist: 1977]* and I think you attended that *[Redact]*, 13th August to be specific. Are you able to help us, firstly, with who else from the SDS was present that day? I can give you some names if that might help.

A That might help, yes.

*[Redact]*

Q Before we go into the details of what happened in Lewisham----

A Yes

Q -- that day, I just wanted to dig into a little more detail about phone messages that were passed back to the office.

A Yes.

Q You have told us that they *[Redact]* tended report plans in advance. What sort of level of detail would they tend to go into? Are we talking about numbers or routes or things like that?

A When you say "they", you are talking about----

Q The messages. Sorry, I should have been clear, the messages that you would call to the office to say, how much detail would they go into?

A That would depend on how much, how well, if you were involved in stewarding, you would be fully aware of all the tactics. If you were attending there as a member, then you would not be so well-informed, but you might pick up in chitchat from comrades and things, so ...

Q I see.

A The stewarding was actually quite important and I am talking about within *[Redact]* *[Gist: left-wing groups]* not any other sort of law-abiding or moderate groups who may have attended. It was *[Redact]* *[Gist: left-wing groups]*.

Q Had this practice, and by that I mean phoning in information, is that something you had been encouraged to do?

A Yes, and they would man the office sometimes on a Saturday morning if the demonstration was Saturday lunchtime or the afternoon. Somebody would be in the office to, to deal with last minute pieces of information that were then passed on to the public order desk.

Q And that was going to be my next question: did you know what happened to this intelligence, but I think you have answered that.

A It was passed on to the public order desk, yes. It was passed to them, sorry.

*[Redact]*

Q If I can *[Redact]* move on to the tactics that were used by the police that day in order to deal with the rival marches that they were facing, from reading your witness statement, would it be fair to say that the failure in the tactics that were used was down to the inability to keep the two groups who were protesting, marching and counter-protesting, sufficiently far apart?

A Yes, I would agree with that.

Q And do you think there was a lack of police resource to do that? Do you think that is what went wrong?

A That would certainly be one of the issues. I mean, I was a lowly detective *[Redact]* and these plans were drawn up by an assistant commissioner or a commander, so I just think the *[Redact]* march, there were just more than enough resources to deal with anything and that was why it was one of the most effective ones that I saw in the way they managed all the potential issues.

Q I think you say in your witness statement that you had reported before the march in Lewisham that the routes were going to get very close to each other. Is that right, something along those lines? Was that a concern that you had before the march took place?

A No. No, it wasn't.

Q This was something that you realised afterwards.

A And during the march.

Q And during the march.

A When you could actually see them in the distance and all the policemen in between.

Q In terms of what happened in terms of public order that afternoon, how would you describe what happened in terms of violence and public disorder?

A I think the demonstrations got out of control was the impression I got. *[Redact]* *[Gist: Some groups]* tried to attack through the police and couldn't do that. They therefore attacked the police with bricks and rocks and that was the issue and the National Front were just as eager to because they weren't divided enough or they weren't separated enough it evolved into chaos very quickly.

Q Having had this experience, your view of what had gone wrong, was that passed to your managers afterwards? Was there a debriefing? Was there a discussion?

A Yes, yes. We will have discussed it, what we saw and our particularly viewpoint as to how the policing went.

*[Redact]*

CHAIRMAN Go back a page to satisfy yourself that you are talking there about the Lewisham fracas on 13 August. *[Redact]*, you describe what you told me in oral evidence half an hour ago that happened at *[Redact]*.

A Indeed.

Q Which was it?

A It was Lewisham. I do beg your pardon. I thought it was *[Redact]*.

Q Do not worry, it was a long time ago.

A Yes.

### Excerpt 18

Q *[Redact]* to the annual report which is volume 1 -- sorry to flip between them - and it is para.26 I need to ask you about, please. So, towards the end of p.13 we go into a discussion: "From June onwards, meetings and demonstrations in Lewisham to support a group of 24 coloured persons arrested for theft and" -- over the page -- "conspiracy to steal were being held by the extreme left Lewisham 24 Defence Committee".

Then if we skip forward a sentence, this is the section I am going to read out and I will ask you a question or two about: "Amongst the information regarding numbers and tactics obtained from penetrated extremist groups on this occasion was the fact that an empty house at the junction of New Cross Road and Laurie Grove (opposite Clifton Rise) would be occupied on the night of 12th August by members of the Socialist Workers' Party, armed with missiles, intent on attacking the National Front march as it passed the location. As a result, this house was searched and cleared by uniformed police on the morning of 13th August, thereby preventing a planned and premediated act of violence."

Was that a piece of information that you passed on?

A I don't specifically remember having done so, but probably. It depends which branch decided that they were going to do that. I would have thought it would have been the local branch who would do that, while, where I was, we would just form part of a demonstration, a counter-demonstration. So, I would expect that that would be from the local branch. I don't remember that bit of information.

Q Do I take it from that that you do not remember staying at an empty house on the junction of New Cross Road and Laurie Grove the night before?

A I definitely don't remember that.

#### Excerpt 19

*[GIST: Another officer was asked about the intelligence underlying the 1977 SDS Annual Report and was unable to say whether he was the source.]*

### **8. SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS - GENERAL**

#### Excerpt 20

Q Did you hear any banter or information in any other form about Vince Harvey having sex with people whilst he was undercover?

A No.

Q Did you hear any talk about HN302 *[Redact]* having had a sexual encounter with a woman whilst undercover?

A No.

Q Did you hear anything to the effect that HN80 [Redact] had had sexual encounters whilst undercover?

A No.

Q Did you hear anything to the effect that HN106 [Redact] had had a sexual encounter undercover?

A No.

Q Did you hear anything to that effect about HN67 [Redact]?

A No.

Q In particular, was there ever any rumour that you heard to the effect that [Redact] [Gist: HN67] had fathered a child whilst undercover?

A That was a, there was, the word "rumour", it was -- how can I put it -- it was, it was a bit of ribbing from certain other officers, but I wasn't aware it was (inaudible) but I just thought it was, that it was ribbing.

Q Can you assist us with which officers were ribbing [Redact] [Gist: HN67]?

A No, I can't. It could have been Vince Harvey because they were quite close, Vince Harvey and [Redact] [Gist: HN67].

Q Can you recall what the ribbing was?

A No, I can't. It was just, I think one of the words was "I saw somebody pushing a pram and it looked just like you", or something in that region. I thought that was a bit of banter, but I didn't think there was any basis in that particular comment.

Q Now, are you able to help us any further with sexual relationships between your undercover contemporaries and members of the public whilst in their undercover identities?

A Unfortunately not. If I could, I would, but no, I can't.

### Excerpt 21

Q Did [Redact] [Gist: HN155] had a reputation or did you become aware of him sleeping with anyone he was reporting on?

A No, he was an ebullient, you know, character, but, no, he had no reputation that I was aware of, but, I again didn't know of him until he arrived on the squad.

Excerpt 22

Q Did you ever hear anything about [Redact] and any form of sexual contact with anybody under cover?

A Definitely not.

Q Did you hear any other rumours or banter which might have suggested any sexual relationships between your colleagues and people under cover?

A No. It wasn't something that was, it wasn't something which, I mean, even, even when I think back to talking with like [Redact] or, or I'm picking those two in particular and, I mean, there were a dozen others, I, I don't, I have no recall of open knowledge of, of any of my colleagues having, having sexual relations and, frankly, if, if they were, I think they would, I think we would, they would advertise it and I think the likelihood of it would be maybe they would be, it would be inclined to disclose it to people who were, if they were that way inclined, more inclined to what they were like themselves.

Sorry, is that complicated? So, I don't know. If Rick Clark and [Redact] [Gist: HN300] were, were, were getting involved in that way, it may be they spoke to one another about it, but it was certainly not something ... I would say (a) it would be an embarrassment, but (b) it was also something that wasn't encouraged, so I would suggest that, as far as that was concerned, that, because I hadn't heard it ... so, okay, yeah, because I hadn't heard it, I would say that folk respected the fact that it shouldn't be something that should be done.

[Redact]

A If, if, if I look back at, at what we did at those meetings [Gist: in the safe house], I mean, these, these type of meetings, there was a social element to it, but, but the reality was it was a working meeting and so I wouldn't say there was a huge amount of time spent in talking about, I don't know, sexual relations or anything else [Redact].

Excerpt 23

Q [Redact] [Gist: You told us that, in terms of the guidance you were given on sexual relationships, that happened between UCOs and those that they were reporting on.] "Geoffery Craft said that it would be beyond stupid and would cause all sorts of problems". That is para.15 of your witness statement.

A That is sort of paraphrasing it, but----

Q Yes, by the end of your deployment, did you share this view?

A Absolutely. It would be, in my view, suicidal. I like to be careful and precise and go at things slowly and sort of assess risks and I worry about things further down the line that I never, never considered [Redact] years later that, you know, initial problems, plus having seen the Rick Clark saga.

Q Well, we will come onto the specific examples in a moment, but just in terms of the [Redact] general guidance and your understanding of it---

A Yes.

Q -- what sort of problems did you envisage Geoffery Craft was referring to?

A Compromise and getting involved in things that were morally wrong and could blow up in your face.

Q So, did you understand that some of these problems were moral aspects as well as security aspects?

A Very much so. You know, it is the same as having affairs in the office and promising to leave your wife. You know, if you are not being honest and straightforward, if you are just doing it for your own ends, then, you know, there is a serious moral issue there, isn't there?

Q Would you agree that there was an element of duplicity in it?

A In what, in?

Q Having relationships with those that people were reporting on?

A I think it is much more complicated than that, if you read the various articles and the various experts in psychology who have come out who have said with the problems in the CIA and the FBI of people having such relationships, they were things that had to be managed in a very specialist way to ensure that people didn't go down that road, particularly people who were performers in relation to intelligence-gathering who were very good at it. There is always a risk that you will go too far and you won't be able to take a step back and look at this objectively because you are too involved, and I don't think managers are really able to do it. You need professional people to do it. Certainly the FBI and the CIA have found that out as well.

Q Do you think that selecting married officers to deploy into the SDS made a difference?

A Absolutely, yes.

Q How so?

A Because you had a normality to go back to, a wife and family and friends and that was a great balancer. Again, it goes back to what I was just saying before about going too far, doing too many hours on it, getting too involved or “a bit more and I can achieve this, this”, and it is having that objective viewpoint, being able to step back and look at it.

Q In relation to a more general topic, what guidance was given to you by your managers about socialising with your target groups? And I am not talking about sexual relationships.

A No, no. I am just trying to think how I can answer that. I think it was always regarded as potentially an effective tool that you could learn more from being in the pub and chatting to them after a meeting, but of course you then have the road that you can go down or which you don't want to go down of meeting somebody who is nice and they're nice to you and there is a mutual attraction, etc., etc.

Q Were you given----

A Plus consumption of alcohol.

Q That was going to be precisely my next question. Were you given any guidance about drinking with your targets?

A I remember having a conversation with Geoff Craft *[Redact]* it was never really a problem with me, but it certainly could be.

Q Were you aware of it being a problem with some of your colleagues?

A I don't. I don't really remember. Maybe one or two. Maybe there were examples of people that drank too much.

Q Were the concerns, were there concerns about that in terms of security, do you recall?

A We were always told, you know, to manage our security sensibly and make sure we didn't get too drunk or, you know, do and say stupid things. So, security was a constant issue that was mentioned at the meetings that we had sort of three or four days twice a week that you had with the office and I think they were, they would always judge you. There would always be two guys over in the corner, the Sergeant and DI and they would just be looking at you while you were talking to others, so I think they generally had a system of analysing people to see if there were changes there and issues, but it was the “seat of the pants” method.

Q Right. Do I take it from that that the safehouse where these meetings took place was considered a place to sort of relax and unwind between UCOs?

A I would say going down the pub after the meeting----

Q I see.

A -- was where people relaxed. People were a bit more formal when they were in the flat, although a little group could get together and have a laugh and a giggle about something within the flat.

Q Did you----

A But it was later on that you let your hair down.

Q I see. When you did let your hair down, whether it be in the pub or possibly in the flat, did you discuss what was going on with your colleagues' deployments or events of note that had happened to them or you just generally?

A You had to be very careful. Special Branch, much the same as the Security Service, are very much into the need to know philosophy that, if you don't need to know things, then you mustn't be told them and, when we were together as a group, we always tried to manage that and we didn't sort of discuss things that you might inadvertently say later at a meeting or anything like that.

Q I see.

A So, the need to know thing was very important. So, you could talk about the politics of groups, but you wouldn't talk about actions and things going on that you were particularly involved in as distinct from public demonstrations and things and plans like that.

Q Would you include personal events within your colleagues' lives as things that you would discuss?

A What?

Q Things that were going on at home, the normal sort of things that colleagues might discuss with each other?

A Yes, yes, you would discuss things like that yes, yes.

Q And did this extend to sexual relationships whilst deployed? Do you ever remember anyone discussing a sexual relationship they were involved in?

A Never in the office, in the flat.

Q Yes, or the pub afterwards?

A But once in the pub.

Q Right well we will come----

A And of course the (inaudible) as well.

Q Yes, we will come onto those now.

A There was a difference between in the flat, which was to a degree formal, although not on dress, and in the pub later, where the officer wouldn't be there or maybe one of the junior sergeants would pop along for half an hour.

Excerpt 24

Q I would like to ask you about a number of other officers [Redact] and whether you are aware of them becoming sexually involved with those that they reported on or had reputations for womanising or anything relevant like that.

Q How about "Barry Tompkins"?

A No.

Q [Redact]?

A No.

Q [Redact]?

A No.

Q [Redact] Vince Harvey?

A Vince Harvey was a single man. I was very much of the opinion, you know, that the strategy of having married men is, is preferable, for the reasons we have already discussed. So, I knew of no stories about him. I know he came off early, but I was never told when he came off. He just, he didn't like it anymore. He wasn't happy doing it was the story that I heard when he came off.

[Redact]

I mean Vince Harvey had nowhere to go to that he had to go and no commitments elsewhere because he was a single man.

[Redact]

Q You mentioned a moment ago that Vince Harvey had encountered some problems during his deployment. You said in your statement that he was

struggling and wanted to come off the unit. Were you involved in this at all?

A Not at all.

Q No?

A No.

Q He didn't discuss what was going on with you?

A No, no.

## **9. SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS - RICHARD CLARK "RICK GIBSON" AND HN300 "JIM PICKFORD"**

### Excerpt 25

Q *[Redact]* Was there ever any banter about Richard Clark's contact with women there amongst the other UCOs?

A Not that I can recall, no.

Q *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]*

A *[Redact]*

Q Did you ever hear any rumours or reports of any sexual liaison he might have had during the course of his undercover work?

A Not when he was deployed, no.

Q When did you hear about any sexual liaisons he may have had?

A Well, I knew, I think I had met his wife at a social event at some stage and I knew that he was having a divorce, *[Redact]*, he was confined to the office because he was an alcoholic and I think he was into his fourth wife and he might have remarried, his fourth marriage might have been a remarriage to his first, I'm not so sure, but at that time it was quite clear that he was a sexual predator.

Q Right and so does it follow that you extrapolated from that that there may have been something that went on or you found out that there was something that went on during his UCO time?

A I didn't know that anything had gone on, but I extrapolated that, yes.

Q Right, because we now know that he in fact met and married an activist that he----

A Now, that is news to me.

Excerpt 26

Q Right. If I can come on then to Richard Clark, you have told us *[Redact]* *[Gist: before]* that he told you he had been involved in in fact two sexual relationships which led to his compromise. Just before we come onto that conversation in the pub, were you aware of him having any sort of reputation within the unit? *[Redact]*.

A Not within the unit, but within the branch, I think, within the branch generally.

Q What? What was the reputation?

A He probably had a reputation for being a bit of a lad. I am sure I remember having heard that.

Q And by "a bit of a lad", did that include womanising?

A Yes.

Q Is that what you mean?

A Yes, yes.

Q Now, just in terms of timings, the Inquiry has received evidence that his compromise likely took place in sort of September of 1976 or there or thereabouts.

A Right.

Q And he was certainly withdrawn by October of that year, we know that.

*[Redact]*

Q Had you had any meaningful contact before this incident in the pub?

A Not really, no.

Q You said in your statement that you believe that Geoffrey Craft may not have been told by Richard Clark about having sex with two of the women that he was reporting on, which is what he told you.

A I am utterly convinced he didn't tell him.

Q Why? Why are you convinced of that?

A Because Geoff Craft's attitude was sort of conservative and straight down the line and I cannot believe for a second he wouldn't have been apoplectic about that and we wouldn't have all been lectured to at length about it. I am sure he and the office weren't aware, utterly convinced of it.

Q What was your reaction to being told by Richard Clark in the pub about what had happened to him?

A I was shocked.

Q And why was that?

A Because I had been told a story, and I can't remember whether it was on the same day, I am sure it probably was on the same day, in the flat about him being presented with a birth certificate and then I am getting a completely different story in the pub and I just thought it was, leaving aside the morality of it, it was incredibly stupid to do that sort of thing whilst you were engaged in undercover work because it was a quick road to disaster, as it turned out to be for him.

Q Were you worried that you could somehow be compromised by his activity?

A I was worried that the security checks within various revolutionary groups would increase.

Q I see.

A Because it was known. I think there was an article in the *Guardian* that came out sometime afterwards about it.

Q Right.

A It didn't name him, but there was a generalised article that they had come across something very important and then the thing just died, but it just struck me as unprofessional in the extreme: how can you, you know, act like that and have a professional job that requires very delicate and sort of thoughtful approaches? I mean, it is just beyond belief.

Q Was this conversation with Richard Clark the first time you had heard about an officer having sex or sexual relationships with someone?

A Absolutely yes.

Q Did you speak to Geoffrey Craft or any of your other managers about what you had been told?

A No, I didn't.

Q

And why not?

A

Um why not? I felt quite vulnerable as an officer on the squad. There had been reports put in to stop me being on the squad by other people and I felt I was in a vulnerable position and I didn't know that Geoff Craft didn't know at that time. So, it wasn't something that I sort of considered at length because I just naturally assumed that the office would have been aware but it hadn't come up in the meeting, and I hadn't sort of sat down and put together the two contradictions of what was said in the flat and the pub. It was just general conversation chitchat and it was a snippet. It wasn't a long conversation about how he had got involved with, with two women. It was something, from memory, that was said in half a minute or so and that was it, we moved on.

Q

Was this contradiction that you have described something that you arrived at later, something that you realised later?

A

Yes, yes, I think so, yeah.

Q

Did you speak to any of your other officers about what Richard Clark had told you, any of your colleagues?

A

Look, I have no recollection of that because there were a group of us, four or five or six in this pub, chatting away and I assumed everyone else had heard it as well. So, it wasn't a conversation to say "Ooh do you realise Rick ...". It would only be commenting on the professionalism and I have got no, no recollection of that.

Q

You have no memory of thereafter someone mentioning it to you or it being mentioned in passing amongst colleagues even if not brought up by you?

A

It might have been brought up in my later in-depth conversation with [Redact] [Gist: HN300].

Q

Right.

A

I can't actually remember that.

Q

Well, let us move onto that in that case. You have told us about the incident where [Redact] [Gist: HN300] came to your cover address----

A

Yes.

Q

-- and told you that he had, in effect, fallen in love with someone in his group and didn't know what to do about it. Just in terms of timings so that we can orientate this within your deployment, we know that [Redact] [Gist: HN300] was withdrawn from the field in December 1976. So, to your memory, do you remember him coming to your cover flat [Redact]?

A Well, it would have been at the time he was taken out of the field because one thing led to another. He came to my flat, stayed there for the weekend because I didn't want him to go back. I spoke to the office on the Monday. They spoke to him in the afternoon and then he was withdrawn.

Q Did you know----

A How quickly----

Q Sorry.

A -- I don't remember, you know, whether it was instantly that day or he was allowed to sort of go and make excuses. I have got no idea of what happened subsequently.

Q Did you know *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]* much before he came to your flat that day?

A No, he was the one who had come to me when I first joined SDS and said "Do you know you have got problems? There were reports put in about you and I didn't agree with them", etc., etc.

Q Right.

A Why he did that I don't know. I think he thought I was a safe pair of hands. I wouldn't take the micky out of him or ignore him. I would listen to what he had to say and tell him what I thought he should do.

Q Would others "take the micky out of him or ignore him"? Is that what you are suggesting?

A I think he probably felt that.

Q Right.

A I mean, if you compare Rick and *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]*, and I am sorry to have to say this because they are both deceased, but Rick was a carnivore and the other one wasn't. He was, he couldn't hold himself. He genuinely fell in love with people all over the place.

Q Well, my next----

A So, they were chalk and cheese in that respect.

Q I see. So, the next thing I was going to ask you is whether *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]* had a reputation for womanising or anything like that within the unit or Special Branch?

A For falling in love all over the place was his reputation.

Q Right.

A Because he genuinely did. He couldn't see, you know, the problems of doing that on a regular basis.

Q Can we take it from what you have told us both today and in your statement that you got the impression that what he was telling you in his flat, in your flat, was genuine?

A I believed it because we were there for two days. You know, he came on a Friday or a Saturday morning and, on the Monday, I went off to have a quick meeting with one of the office to explain the problem initially and he was there all the way through.

Q Were you surprised by what [Redact] [Gist: HN300] was telling you that weekend? Was it shocking?

A I thought at the time it was honest and straightforward. As I said earlier about you know, you socialise with people, you have a drink. One is very nice. They like you and you like them. It is an easy road to go down and it is easy to make excuses "Oh this won't be a problem" and of course it is.

Q What were your managers' response to being told this?

A By me you mean?

Q By you.

A They briefly explained that, you know, they will have to go and see him and how did I want to do that, did I want to go back to my flat and collect him and bring him down and----

Q Can you remember what you did?

A I've got a feeling the office phoned him in my flat and he went down on his own. I didn't go back and get him.

Q Were you present when they spoke to him?

A No, I know nothing about what happened subsequently at all. I was completely out of the loop. I had done my thing and that was the end of it----

Q Right.

A -- I think because the office knew.

Q Who were the managers or manager that you spoke to about this? Can you remember?

A I cannot remember his name. Can you give me a few names?

Q Well, the two I was going to suggest is Geoffrey Craft or Leslie Willingale?

A No.

Q It is neither of them?

A It is neither of them. There was another one. In fact, I don't know whether he was an Inspector at the same time. He might have been a sergeant.

Q Well, I will not ask you to guess.

A Well, if you say the name, I will know it.

Q Possibly Brice or Pryde. Those were the two I was thinking of.

A No, no, neither of them, a Scottish name.

Q McIntosh

CHAIRMAN McIntosh.

*[Redact]* McIntosh.

A That is who it was, Angus McIntosh.

Q Angus McIntosh?

A Yeah, he was the one that met me in the pub.

Q Right.

A Because he was worried that I had gone rogue. I had a surveillance team and all sorts for this meeting in the pub, which was a bit unfortunate.

Q Did you ever speak to *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]* again after he left your flat?

A Not whilst I was on SDS.

Q Okay.

A I came across him subsequently in the branch.

Q Did you ever discuss the relationship that he had entered into with someone he was reporting on with him again?

A No. He told me he hadn't entered into a relationship, he was approaching that rather than having done it.

Q Right.

A But we talked about that at length and that is exactly and precisely what he told me because I repeatedly asked him about that.

Q And, sorry, was that after you had left the SDS or was that that day?

A No, that was----

Q That weekend?

A -- while we were locked for two days together, yes.

Q I see.

A Because I was quite shocked and taken aback by the whole thing: (a) I didn't know how he knew where my duff flat was, (b) I wondered what was going on and (c) I had no experience in dealing with such matters.

Q Were you surprised to learn that another member of the SDS had fallen in love with someone or a member of the SDS had fallen in love with someone he was reporting on?

A I was not aware of *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]* before I joined the SDS, so I didn't know anything about him. I thought that he had done a good thing by owning up to me before he actually got involved, and that was his story to me, but he knew he was going to have to because he had fallen for this lady big style.

Q The Inquiry has received evidence which strongly suggests that *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]* was likely to have married a woman from his deployment. Are you shocked or surprised to learn this?

A I, I find that absolutely hard to believe because how did he get his vetting and, I mean, that would have come out, wouldn't it, with all the others? He was in Special Branch. So, I am stunned as to the possibility that that would have happened, particularly as he had come off for that particular reason.

*[Redact]*

Q -- but just before we leave this topic, you have told us about two officers, Richard Clark and *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]*, that had either told you that they had had sex with someone they were reporting on or had fallen in

love, in one of the cases, [Redact] [Gist: HN300]. This was clearly inconsistent with what Geoffery Craft had told you, that to get involved would be disastrous. Do you have any idea why these things were happening within the unit? Did you think about it?

A Um again there is this issue of working too hard, doing too much.

[Redact]

Q -- was there ever, can you recall, training or a conversation that happened with managers about what should or shouldn't happen? Was it ever reiterated to you that relationships were dangerous and a bad idea given what had happened between Rick Clark and [Redact] [Gist: HN300] within six months or so?

A I have to say no. I think the fact that we were all vetted people meant that we were all aware of the issues that might come up that would cause us to lose our vetting and, therefore, it wasn't really necessary, just like I was told, you know, not told not to do bank robberies. You know, I mean, it was considered so stupid by most of us out there, perhaps we weren't clever enough to handle it, but I don't think any human being is clever enough to handle that and all they cause is misery and blowback, you know.

Q Do you think that there was an element of acceptance amongst your colleagues that this sort of thing went on, that this what has been termed "Jack the lad" behaviour was allowed?

A No, no. My view was ... I mean, you had to take it in context. This is the [Redact] [Gist: 70s/80s]. There were different moral viewpoints and approaches without a shadow of a doubt, but I would say the majority of people I worked with would be shocked by it, you know, what went on in relation to Rick Clark. [Redact] [Gist: HN300] didn't do the deed, according to him, and, you know, that was, that was an almost lucky escape.

Q Do you think it is fair to say that a blind eye was turned by your management to this sort of behaviour?

A No, I don't. I don't think that is fair at all.

Q Why not?

A Again, you had to look at management groupings. You had Geoff Craft and his No. 2, who were very strict, straight down the line guys and then you had [Redact] others who were pretty much the same way, but they had their own style and whether that changed anything I don't know, but the viewpoint I always got from them was that that sort of behaviour is [Redact], unprofessional and morally wrong.

Q What was your reaction to learning about the relationships that did go on, whether they were in the media or through this Inquiry, looking back?

A But, again, the only one I know of is the Rick Clark one. The others [Redact] [Gist: HN300] was an almost but didn't go down that road.

Q Yes.

A And he realised there was a potential problem that he himself felt he couldn't control.

Q Well, if it assists, [Redact], the Inquiry has heard evidence that, in addition to Rick Clark and [Redact] [Gist: HN300] three other officers [Redact]

A Yes.

Q -- did engage in sexual relations or experiences with those that they were reporting on.

A Hmm.

Q And it is your reaction to that that I am keen to get.

A I am shocked at the stupidity of it, the wrongness of it and, you know, "For God sakes what are you going to achieve? You know, are you just doing it to carve notches on your belt? Are you that stupid?" I just find that beyond belief. And these are confirmed, are they, all three others?

Q Yes.

A Right.

Q Given what you have told us about the nature of deployments, do you consider that sexual relationships were inevitable between officers and those they were deployed to report on (inaudible)?

A It is difficult to say inevitable because you have got to start from an individual's moral base and the Jack the lad issue of "I am very clever and I can, you know, get away anything". Can you ask the question again? Sorry.

Q Given what you have told us about the nature of deployments and your experience, yours obviously----

A Yes.

Q -- do you consider that sexual relationships between those deployed and those they were reporting on were inevitable? Were they always going to happen given the circumstances?

A There was always a threat, but I am stunned that the individuals couldn't manage it, couldn't say "No", you know, couldn't be Mr Grumpy, couldn't be offhand and, you know, cut it dead before it went down the road and could be dangerous. I'm stunned because the work was so demanding and you had to be so careful in every other way. This strikes me as ridiculously stupid.

[Redact]

[Redact] Just one matter, please, Sir. [Redact], just in terms of the [Redact] [Gist: HN300] incident and him coming to your flat and saying that he had fallen in love with someone, just to clarify, he wasn't saying that he had started a relationship or was in a sexual relationship?

A I asked him on a whole series of occasions repeatedly that question and he insisted that he hadn't.

Q And did he, because you spoke about it at length over a weekend----

A Yes.

Q -- what did he tell you about the woman and whether she had feelings for him or whether she knew about his feelings or anything along those lines?

A The impression he gave me -- I can't remember precisely -- was that it was very much a mutual thing, yes.

Q And what did you talk about for the two days that you went into it?

A Repeatedly I asked him exactly where we were in relation to his situation and was he happy for me to talk to the office about it because that was the second issue. It was, first, calming him down and sort of finding out what had happened and then seeing if he wanted the office to be involved, which of course they had to be, but it was persuading him along that road.

Q I see.

A So, much of it was spent with that second part of persuading him that the office should be involved. He, I seem to remember, thought that he might be able to manage it now he had poured his heart out to me and I was very sort of firmly of the view that he had to speak to the office about it.

Q And did he understand that it would mean the end of his deployment?

A I think so, yes. Yes, I think he did. I mean, he was a brilliant communicator, so as a Special Branch officer that would mean dealing

with issues. He never had any, would have any problems and it wasn't as if he was going to be a fish out of water. It was just getting him to face up to the reality of where he, in his words to me, "almost was".

Q And, when you say he came to your flat, was this your cover, your----

A Yes.

Q -- duff flat?

A Yes.

[Redact] Yes. Thank you, you, Sir, that is all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN I want to ask you a little more about [Redact] [Gist: Richard Clark].

[Redact]

A My understanding was that [Redact]. Rick Clark had his problems not with the Troops Out Movement but with Big Flame that he was trying to join or had joined or recently joined, I think.

Q Right.

A I think they were the people. They also had a reputation for being very careful about the people who joined.

Q Did you know then that he was then in the Troops Out Movement as well as trying to get into Big Flame?

A No, I wouldn't have had sort of precise information.

Q No, is it the position that you knew he was trying to get into Big Flame or had just done so, but you didn't know about him and the Troops Out Movement?

A Yes, I knew about him and the Troops Out Movement. He was just moving on to Big Flame and it was the Big Flame who confronted him with his death certificate.

Q Yes.

A Was the story I was told.

Q Who told you that?

A That was the office, probably Geoff Craft and Angus McIntosh and Les Willingale.

Q And can you remember when you first learnt that?

A Well, you say when, Sir?

Q We know the event occurred in September.

A Yes.

Q 1976. What I am trying to get at is when you first learnt that it had occurred, that he had been confronted with his death certificate?

A It was when he was brought down to the flat to say goodbye to us. Up until that time, I certainly hadn't been aware of any incident, but he then was brought down to the flat to say cheerio to us and the office explained what had happened. He had been confronted by comrades in Big Flame and shown his death certificate and asked who he was.

Q Yes. And that would be in early October 1976, I think were the dates?

A If you say so, Sir, yes.

Q Well, the incident occurred in September.

A Yes.

Q He was immediately withdrawn from the field and----

A Was he immediately withdrawn or was there a period where they managed him closely? I have got in the back of my mind that was not immediately there and then withdrawn. He was, he circulated for a day or two or whatever and was closely managed by people and then was withdrawn, yeah, but only for a day or two or a few days.

Q From what I have learnt from the documents and from what I have been told, he was closely questioned by the Big Flame people and the questioning, when he was being closely questioned, one or two of the managers were close at hand to provide protection if need be.

A Yes, so he already knew there was a problem is the inference there.

Q They already knew that there was a problem, but he was then confronted with the birth and death certificate of the child who----

A I wasn't aware at that time that the office were already managing him. So, he may well have been withdrawn there and then.

Q No, no. The sequence of events, it may never be possible to establish it for certain, and my understanding may be imperfect, but my understanding is that before he was actually confronted with his death certificate----

A

Yes.

Q

-- he was challenged about things by the Big Flame people. He then tried to explain it away by saying that he was on the run and that is why he had adopted a false identity. So, the sequence of events may be as you recollect, that he was confronted and then an attempt was made to manage him out of it, but at any event all of that took place within a fairly short period of time.

A

I would agree with that.

Q

And the precise sequence of events may not matter, but we know for a fact that the reason he was withdrawn was that he was confronted with his birth and death certificate and that he was not able to explain that away.

A

That's right, yes. That was my impression.

Q

What I am trying to get at with you is when you first knew that something along those lines had happened.

A

I would suspect that that was within a week of it happening, but I don't think he went away for months and then reappeared at a meeting. I think that was probably the next or the one after that meeting after his problem that he was brought down. There was the official thing in the flat and then the guys went out.

Q

I will ask about that in a moment, but I am trying to establish timings and sequences.

A

Thank you. I would think, from what you say, Sir, it would be within the week of the incident happening.

Q

So, that the managers and Geoffrey Craft, Angus McIntosh and Les Willingale, knew that he had been confronted with his death certificate and told, he told you that that is what had happened. He, Rick Clark, told you that that is what had happened.

A

In the flat?

Q

Yes.

A

He didn't tell me, but he told the group of us, yes.

Q

Yes.

A

Yes, he agreed with all the management. I think the management explained the issue and then he then (inaudible).

Q

So, this is a meeting which was attended by the managers----

A Yes.

Q -- and by him and by undercover officers generally?

A Indeed, yes, Sir.

*[Redact]*

Q Now, Rick Clark spoke to you in the pub afterwards.

A Yes, he spoke to me and the group. He didn't take me aside and have a one-to-one conversation. He was just talking in the pub with a group of us.

Q A group of fellow undercover officers?

A Of fellow SDS officers, yes.

Q Yes. Can you remember who was in that group?

A I can't to be honest without going through the names of them.

Q We can, I can give you a list of names from those that were put to you and, if you want to----

A That would be helpful.

Q -- look at them without listening to me read them, you can turn to tab 1 in section A and go to para.180.

A This is the first binder?

Q The first binder. I am so sorry, the first binder, section *[Redact]*. Take your time. There is no hurry.

A The number again, sorry?

Q *[Redact]* where you list the undercover officers who were deployed at the same time as you. (Pause)

A In all honesty, I can't, Sir. I can't recollect anybody.

Q No.

A The problem is they joined at various different times during my deployment?

Q You can't tell me what you can't remember and no one could conceivably criticise you and I certainly don't----

A I apologise, Sir.

Q -- after all these years, but it was told not just to you personally but to a group of you.

A To a group of us, three, four, five of us.

Q Yes, and the impression that you got was that the two women were in the group into which he was being deployed, Big Flame?

A That was never, I have no idea whether it was the Troops Out Movement----

Q No.

A -- or Big Flame that the ... I would have thought the first because the second he was still in the process of joining. I don't think he had been there for any period of time.

Q He is not here to ask----

A Indeed.

Q -- and I have heard evidence about relationships that he had which may mean that it is two women in Big Flame rather than TOM who, as it were---  
---

A Right.

Q -- exposed him.

A Right, Sir.

Q Now, you are convinced that he did not tell Geoffrey Craft or Angus McIntosh?

A Not in my hearing and not while we were in the flat. Whether, obviously there was a period where they were together after he was initially taken away from that meeting where he had the death certificate. What was said then I can't comment on.

Q No.

A But the very strong impression I had was that Geoff Craft had been told and the office, the senior members of the office, had been told merely that he had been confronted with his death certificate. And it didn't come across, it was a time of nervous reaction from us on the ground floor, so we were very thoughtful about what exactly was happening and it was very much that that's what has happened.

Q What gave you the strong impression that he had merely been told that he had been confronted with his death certificate?

A That was what we were told in the main meeting when he was brought down to say cheerio to us all. That's the logic there.

Q In the annual report which covers this event, signed by Geoffrey Craft, it refers to, in effect, the sinister group Big Flame who had got better research capacities than any others that they had encountered. There is no mention at all of difficulties created by sexual relationships. From what you know of Geoffrey Craft and knew of him then, could he have put his name to a description of the event of the kind I have indicated if he knew that sexual relationships with at least two women were involved?

A I would have said that there was no way that Geoff Craft would do that. He is just not that sort of person. He is not the sort of "Oh yeah we can sort this out hoo hoo". He was a straight down the line, effective, good manager and that always stood out about him. So, I cannot comprehend that he would not have taken probably disciplinary matters against Rick if he had known anything. I am sure he would have and it would have ruined Rick's sort of future promotion potential if he had done that, and he would have done that because it was the right thing to do.

Excerpt 27

Q Can you help us with whether you ever heard or came to know that Richard Clark had had sexual relations with activists whilst he was under cover?

A Definitely not.

Q Was there any----

A I didn't know. I didn't know.

Q -- was there any banter which alluded to that?

A It's, I can remember once it being mentioned and I remember because I found it so funny and it was, it was banter. That's all I can say it was and I remember Rick saying that there was a lot going on his group as far as "horizontal politics" was concerned; and by "horizontal politics", he meant sexual activity, but nothing beyond that, absolutely nothing. There was nothing volunteered. I, there were, I had no knowledge of the rumours. It wasn't something, I don't think it was something, I'm sure, for me, it wasn't something that was spoken about.

Q Did Mr Clark have a reputation when it came to members of the opposite sex?

A Reputation? Rick was ... so I didn't know him outside the SDS at that time. I never saw him in, in any, any circumstances where he was with the opposite sex or how he reacted, but Rick was a very friendly sort. Now, whether or not, whether or not that extended to sexual relations I certainly didn't know at the time.

Q But was----

A I have, I have no knowledge of that. The banter was the "horizontal politics" and there was certainly nothing ever mentioned at SDS meetings about people having sex or boasting or anything like that.

Q Was there anything about the way that Mr Clark spoke about women that might have suggested that he was particularly keen to seduce women?

A No.

Q Can I move now to *[Redact] [Gist: HN300]*?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever come to hear anything to the effect that *[Redact] [Gist: HN300]* had had any form of sexual relationship whilst under cover?

A No.

Q The Inquiry's understanding is that *[Redact] [Gist: HN300]* did do that and in fact he left his then second wife and married a person he met whilst under cover. Did you ever hear anything----

A I'm astounded to hear that.

Q -- about that?

A I'm astonished to hear that and disappointed.

Q Was *[Redact] [Gist: HN300]* a man who was particularly interested in women?

A I, I have no recall. He was, he was an outgoing soul. I don't think, I can't remember any indications or anything that would give me an indication that he was, he was that way inclined. I actually can't remember that. As I say, he was outgoing. You know, there may have been banter, there may have been, you know, along the lines of joking. It was all young, young, young men at the time, but no, I, I don't. And, again, I'm not sure that anybody who was doing that would have, would have been outward and expressing what they were getting up to. I didn't know that.

Excerpt 28

Q In the course of your service with the SDS, or indeed afterwards, did you hear any talk or banter about Rick Clark being involved whilst he was under cover in sexual relationships?

A Yes, I did, yes.

Q Could you explain what you heard, please?

A Rick, Rick had a certain reputation and it gradually came out that he had had a sexual relationship which led to his being compromised, and that was, to my way of thinking, generally well-known among the existing SDS officers.

Q Would that include the managers who served within the SDS?

A I wouldn't know if they knew or if it was just a rank and file thing. I should imagine that some of them did.

Q Can you recall any particulars of the information that you learned about Rick Gibson's relationship?

A There were no specifics. There was no specific information about, as far as I was aware, about who the person was. I might have known who the group was because I knew that Rick quite often was on trips out there, but no.

Q Could I ask you now about the officer that we know as HN300, that is *[Redact]*? Did you hear any talk or banter about *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]* and sexual relationships with people whilst he was under cover?

A No.

Q The Inquiry has heard evidence that *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN300]* in fact met someone whilst he was under cover and got married to them. Did you hear anything about that *[Redact]*?

A Not at all. *[Redact]* I never knew he was married.

**10. SUBVERSION**

Excerpt 29

Q Did management mention anything about subversion?

A No.

Q So, as far as you understood it, the SDS did not have a role in countering subversion or?

A Well, countering subversion, no. I think the main criteria, certainly at that stage, was public order and any aspects to criminality, but I don't know, whether subversion was a given I couldn't comment on.

Q Right, but that was not made explicit----

A No, no, no.

Q -- as far as you recall---

A No, no.

Q -- when you joined?

A No.

Q Did you understand, as part of your Special Branch role, that it was, that it was part of your role to counter subversion?

A Yes.

Q So, it was your understanding when you joined the SDS that, if anything, your focus had narrowed, it was purely public order----

A Yes, it was.

Q -- that you were addressing?

A Yes, yes, *[Redact]*.

Excerpt 30

*[Redact]* Now, *[Redact]*, the next *[Redact]* theme *[Redact]* is subversion or reporting on groups that you have classed as subversive within your statement. Within your witness statement you described your definition of "subversion" -- this is para.49 -- as "by covert means attempting to infiltrate and overthrow democratic structures of our society". Was this a definition that was given to you at the time or is this something that you just understood?

A I don't recollect it being given to me or said to me. It was what I understood. You know, there was ... a classic example in the sixties and seventies was the Communist Party of Great Britain, which was a revolutionary group that went down the parliamentary road system and how that would not be subject to our interest. That is the main

Communist Party and not some of the revolutionary splinters that came off it. So that was an ethos within the branch really.

Q So, do I take it from that that your understanding of what was and was not subversive was from your experience in Special Branch?

A Yes, yes.

Q Rather than the SDS as you were in subsequently?

A I am sure it was mentioned in the office during the six months to some degree or other, but not as a specific "You must understand A, B, C, D".

Q I see.

A It was assumed we, we already knew.

Q Do you, and did you, consider that *[Redact]* *[Gist: groups on which you reported]* fell within this definition?

A Yes, very much so. *[Redact]* *[Gist: They said that this]* is what they wanted to do.

*[Redact]*

Q You have also told us in your witness statement that you consider that all of the activity you reported on was subversive. Is that right?

A It was intelligence gathered regarding people who supported subversion and subversive, a subversive group. There is a slight difference there.

Q Yes, no, no, I quite see the difference and my next question is that I think you have probably answered it, is that is the reason why that material qualified as subversive, if I can call it that way, is because these groups met the definition?

A Yes, I think so, yes.

Q Can we take it from that really that anything that you encountered intelligence wise, whatever it may be, was legitimate intelligence you considered professionally that you were obtaining?

A Well, of course, there is the Supreme Court 2015 judgment, isn't there, where Lord Sumption talks about intelligence as a very broad indiscriminatory, I think is the word he uses, in its initial gathering and then it is subsequently assessed and decided whether it is to be retained or got rid of, but the initial gathering is without any real consideration as to whether it is relevant morally or any other way. It is just whether it is relevant to the subjects you are dealing with and somebody else then later decides.

Q Can we take it that you consider that definition, the indiscriminate definition you have just mentioned, fitted with your understanding of what you were doing?

A Yes. The initial, yes.

Q The initial obtaining. I understand whatever happened with it thereafter is not something you could comment on, but we are just interested in what you understood you were doing.

A Yes. No, it was indiscriminate. I mean, it happened with criminal records as well. When they were put on computers and things, huge amounts of bric-a-brac info was taken off them and destroyed, but it was initially being gathered because it related to a target rather than a moral consideration of that target.

Q Did you make any assessment of relevance in terms of what you were putting into reports or was it simply everything?

A There would obviously be some form of perception because we are all human beings and we have our own sort of particular thing that we would want to emphasise or not put in, but I wasn't aware of a particular bent of "No, I won't do this but I will do that" on the information I was gathering.

## **11. TRADE UNION AND ENTRYISM**

### Excerpt 31

Q How did you get away with not joining a trade union?

A Because I, I didn't belong to a, I didn't have a trade and I didn't belong to a grouping that could have even, you know, perhaps the General Workers' Union at the time, I wouldn't have fitted for that.

Q Was there any reason why you didn't join a trade union?

A I wouldn't have joined anyway, I don't think, even if I ... I think I could, I think I could have got away with not joining. I wouldn't have wanted to join a trade union. I mean, basically the trade union, it potentially would have opened up an area of danger or difficulty in, in infiltrating a trade union.

Q What sort of difficulty?

A Well, these are legal organisations which, which are, are obviously, they are, they operate for, for the public, for the general public in a democracy and, unless they were involved with disorder or terrorism, subversion, I

would have said that I wouldn't have had a need to actually go into a trades union.

Q Can you recall whether this was a decision that you discussed with your managers?

A I'm sure I did.

Q Can you recall which ones?

A No, I can't. I think it came up as a result of the report. It would have been introduced in the reporting. Can I say that, as far as the, as far ... there were some individuals in the organisation who were in, in employments which did have trade unions and they, they were encouraged to maintain their trade union contact and, again, the aspirational aspect of the organisation, I think, was that they would look to putting people into trade unions, student movements or whatever, in order to try and, and increase their influence.

Q But, when you were discussing trade union membership with your managers, did they leave the decision to you or did they instruct you not to join?

A I can't remember. They wouldn't have been, they would, I don't think they would have been keen on me joining. I think I would have probably suggested I wouldn't, wouldn't have joined and I am sure they would have agreed.

Q Standing back a little but still on the topic of entryism, was entryism as practised by the [Redact] overt, covert or a bit of both?

A Entryism into what, into like unions?

Q Yes.

A I would have said covert. They wouldn't have wanted to go in the [Redact] member, the [Redact] organisation. If I can say, we read it in that previous report that they weren't going to go in and say they were [Redact]. They were going to go in as something else and then they would convert everybody to [Redact], you know.

Q Did you come across entryism by [Redact] into anything other than trade unions?

A No, I would guess they possibly had, and again as a bottom feeder I was never asked, but I would, I would, I would assume that senior members of the organisation would, would have acted in an entryist capacity with, with, whether it was a union or otherwise. I think they would have done it, but that's an assumption.

Q Relations with other [Redact] groups. There is a report in the bundle which talks about an agreement in principle to merge [Redact] [Gist: groups]. Can you help us with what the significance of this sort of intelligence would have been for Special Branch?

A In what regard?

Q In tracking the relations between the various [Redact] groups.

A [Redact] The significance is that, if they did join and if they did, if they did grow, they would, or the feel would be that they would increase their influence, and they were extremists. So, having some intelligence that these, that the organisation would move into other areas and it would be to influence others by whatever means and whether they went in softly and then took over I would say was, was crucial intelligence as far as Special Branch was concerned in looking at order and disorder.

## 12. TRAINING

### Excerpt 32

Q And you state in your witness statement that you had received no training in undercover work.

A None whatsoever. I wasn't even aware that the SDS was actually in existence. So, it was completely out of context and, as I say, totally accidental. [Redact].

A Yes.

Q So were you a little disconcerted? Did you feel a bit out of your depth?

A I didn't feel out of my depth [Redact].

Q Yes, so you were knowledgeable, so you felt you would not be caught out?

A Yes, yes.

Q Now, was it at that meeting that you think you were asked for your name and address or a subsequent meeting?

A I will be quite honest, I think it may well have been something subsequently because I was invited to a subsequent meeting and I think, at that stage, because I had been present at the former meeting, I was asked what was my name because they were obviously growing naturally concerned as to who I was and what was my background.

Q So there were no security measures, as far as you recall, at this first meeting?

A No, there weren't, not as far as I was aware, other than my own Special Branch colleague.

CHAIRMAN I think the question was whether there were any security measures taken by the group, not by---

A No, I don't think there were. I don't think there were, other than the two people on the door itself, which was obviously, if anybody had got past that, they would have been expected to go into the meeting.

*[Redact]*

Q And you reported back to your Special Branch managers?

A Yes.

Q And you were instructed to continue infiltrating this group; is that correct?

A Yes, or to continue to go into meetings. As long as I ... I don't think the word "infiltrate" was used, but to continue to monitor from an inside point of view rather than actually infiltrate. I don't think at that stage any concern was made about any further involvement other than to just keep it going, if possible.

Q In a sort of piecemeal fashion?

A Yes, exactly, yes.

Q Just to keep it turning over.

A Yes, very much on a low-key basis.

Q And you were aware that it had gone up to the top, as it were, that authority had been sought from very senior management?

A Yes, there was a very strict chain of command and, *[Redact]*, I would have been very carefully monitored and so anything further would have had to be taken up at quite a high level.

Q So, you say you were very closely monitored. What do you mean by that? Like what form did that take?

A What, in terms of Special Branch?

Q Yes.

A Well, I was under the aegis of a detective sergeant and he would have reported to the detective inspector or the detective chief inspector in charge of the squad that I was attached to because everything would have been logged and on paper. So, I was aware that it would have had to have gone to quite a high level.

*[Redact]*

Q Right. And were you given any advice on how to conduct yourself in the meeting?

A No.

Q Were you told anything more by your Special Branch managers about the group and its aims?

A No.

*[Redact]*

Q Yes, I will return to that. You mention *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN68]*----

A Yes.

Q -- so now seems a good point to look into that a little more.

A Yes.

Q You were close friends with *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN68]*, is that correct?

A I was extremely close to *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN68]*, yes.

Q And he was already in the SDS when you joined.

A Correct.

Q Did you know him already through Special Branch?

A No.

Q So you got to know him purely through----

A Yes, I had never met him beforehand, nor any other members of the SDS. They were completely unknown to me.

Q Right and did you become close *[Redact]*?

A Yes, I would say we would, I think in terms of temperament. *[Redact]* so we got on well socially and I think----

Q

Yes.

*[Redact]*

Q

Yes, and did he help you? You state that you were not given any formal training----

A

Yes, *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN68]*----

Q

-- but did he train you, as it were, informally?

A

-- *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN68]* certainly did, yes. He was a great emotional support to me.

Q

Yes, and he, were you aware that we have obtained documentation which suggests that he ascended relatively high in the ranks of Provisional Sinn Féin?

A

Yes, he did. Yes, I know, he did.

Q

And did you discuss that with him?

A

No, I did not. No, I didn't. It was, I suppose it was because he, there were certain things you didn't discuss.

Q

Yes.

A

Although I knew that he was doing particularly well and he had got into a particularly precarious position at the Old Bailey----

Q

Yes, yes.

A

-- that I am sure people are aware of that made him extremely vulnerable.

Q

Yes.

*[Redact]*

Q

Because he explained to you -- was it tradecraft he explained to you *[Redact]*?

A

No, I think it was more, it was much more a subjective feeling of understanding what one should not be involved in and the advantages of being in the positions we were.

Q

Right.

A In other words, you didn't want to become too visible and also you didn't want to move into a territory where you became, effectively, an *agent provocateur*----

Q Yes.

A -- which from my end was completely a no-no go area.

Q Yes.

A And which, again, *[Redact]* *[Gist: HN68]* also realised. So, in other words, you wanted to be in the middle where you weren't noticed and you didn't stick your head above the parapet.

Q Yes. He, I cannot, my memory is failing me, but did he -- given that he did ascend quite high----

A Yes.

Q -- because I seem to remember that he was attending executive committee meetings ---

A Yes, he did.

Q -- of Official Sinn Féin----

A Yes, yes.

Q -- would you say that this idea that you should not ascend too high, he was not actually putting it into practice himself?

A No, I think, because he kept such a low profile, it was, you know, *[Redact]*.

Q Yes, you say he "kept a low profile".

A Yes.

Q Do you mean that, even within his growing stature within the group, as it were ----

A Yes, yes.

Q -- you still think that he kept a low profile within that?

A Yes.