# **Cover Sheet**

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Date signed: 5 September 2022

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

I, HN126 PM, c/o Designated Lawyers, PO Box 73779, London WC1A 9NL, WILL

SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. This second witness statement is made in response to an addendum Rule 9 request sent under cover of a letter dated 10 August 2022 and responds to questions asked in that addendum request. It is made in addition to my witness

said by the Inquiry to be "a former member of the West Hampstead Anti-Nazi

I have been shown a witness statement dated 9 July 2022 from a Neil Hardie,

statement dated 17 July 2019, which I will refer to as my first witness statement.

League" (ANL), detailing his memory of my deployment and a number of

documents (referenced below). Amongst other things, Mr Hardie alleges that I

had a relationship with a Ros Gardner. Mr Hardie's statement only provides

limited information about dates where we might have come across each other.

For this reason, and generally, I have considered parts of the witness pack of

documents provided to me for the purposes of giving evidence previously, as

referred to below.

2.

3. Without recourse to the witness pack provided when I provided my first statement

and the additional documents provided with the latest Rule 9 request, I had no

independent recollection of Mr Hardie. Even now, I cannot picture him. I might

recall his face if I was provided with a photograph. I have a better memory of Ros Gardner (discussed below), but that is still limited.

- 4. Having considered a number of documents from my original witness pack, the following information is apparent and helps to provide some context for the period of time in question and I comment on those reports where I can:
  - a. UCPl0000011411, a report from August 1978 provides detail about Mr Hardie. He is described as Chairman of the West Hampstead Branch of the ANL and had written to the Kilburn Times on 9 June 1978 inviting readers to a forthcoming public ANL meeting on 19 June 1978 (in the event cancelled). On page 2 of the report is a cutting from the Kilburn Times dated 9 June 1978 and I recognise my hand writing there. The report must therefore, be compiled from information that I provided at least in part. The reference to him working at Harrods in the report vaguely rings a bell (but that is not to say that I can picture Mr Hardie). There is also a description of Mr Hardie, but this has not particularly helped. For example, I cannot tell you where Kingsgate Road was (his apparent address). The format of the report suggests that this is the first detailed report on Mr Hardie.
  - b. UCPI0000011380, a report dated 16 August 1978, discussed at paragraph

    210f of my initial statement, lists me, Neil Hardie and Ros Gardner as

    present at a meeting of the West Hampstead Branch of the ANL at Privacy

    Privacy

    NW6. I do not remember that address at this point in time

    (although it might be Privacy s address, the Secretary of that ANL

    Branch see UCPI0000011401). I note that Ros Gardner's name has

"unable to identify" next to it. It may be that this is the first time that I came across Ms Gardner. The report appends the ANL August Newsletter (discussed in my first witness statement) and I note that Neil Hardie is listed as "Chairman" on the newsletter. I note that "Graffiti Erasing" is planned for Saturday 19 August in Gospel Oak. I cannot recall whether I would have attended, but I address questions about criminality below. I am unable to assist with which came first in time out of UCPI0000011411 (above) and UCPI0000011380.

- at paragraph 201 of my first witness statement shows further attendance by Neil Hardie, Ros Gardner and me at a West Hampstead ANL meeting where the minutes are provided. Ros Gardner, Neil Hardie and others appear to be much more active than I was. Neither Ms Gardner nor Mr Hardie have RF numbers as yet.
- d. I have considered a report dated 12 September 1978 [UCPI0000011460] which notes that Mr Hardie became a member of the SWP on 23 August 1978, joining the Cricklewood Branch. Whilst I note that Mr Hardie denies being a member of the SWP (paragraph 11 of his statement), that information must have come from somewhere at the time. I may well have been the source of that information.
- e. A report dated 15 September 1978 [UCPl0000011470] concerning a public meeting of the West Hampstead ANL was attended by both Neil Hardie and Ros Gardner. He now has an RF number, but she does not. The topic of the meeting "Stop Racist Murders in the East End" with a focus on Brick

Lane, is consistent with the issues of the day as discussed in my first statement.

f. A report dated 20 September 1978 [UCPI0000011497], discussed at paragraphs 197 and 201 of my first statement, appears to be the first West Hampstead ANL meeting at 8 Aldred Road. I do recall an Aldred Road address as a key meeting and social point for the ANL/SWP. Further, I do now remember that address (and specifically number 8) being Ros Gardner's address. This memory is derived from a combination of having considered documents in my Witness Pack in 2019, having given oral evidence (12 May 2021) and having considered the original witness pack again, along with further documents for this statement. I had no reason, until now, to concentrate on Ros Gardner or Neil Hardie in particular. There are people who I have better memories of, including those mentioned at paragraph 259 of my first witness statement. I can also picture

Privacy quite well - see below.

g. I see that Ros Gardner has an RF number by 24 October 1978 [UCPI0000012903]. This, and other documents from my original witness pack, tend to show a mixture of public and private meetings of the West Hampstead ANL with similar people attending at this time, including Neil Hardie and Ros Gardner. That said, a report dated 2 November 1978 [UCPI0000012918] indicates that Mr Hardie and I were at the same SWP "social" on 21 October 1978, but there is no mention of Ros Gardner and it was not at her house.

- i. I see from a report dated 30 November 1978 [UCPI0000013002] that Bob Cox is listed as a new member of the Hampstead and West Hampstead Camden Against Racism/ANL Group, having attended a meeting on 19 November 1978 also attended by Ros Gardner, Neil Hardie and me. I see from other documents (see below) that Bob Cox and Ros Gardner embarked upon a long-term relationship, certainly by 30 May 1979 (see [UCPI0000021298] below).
- j. It appears, having read a report dated 30 November 1978 [UCPI0000013006], that I attended a meeting of the Hampstead and West Hampstead Camden Against Racism/ANL Group at Ros Gardner's home on 13 November 1978, along with Neil Hardie and others.
- k. I note that Neil Hardie and Ros Gardner attended SWP meetings as well as ANL meetings, e.g. 14 December 1978 (see report 4 January 1979 [UCPl0000013066]).

- I note from a report dated 19 February 1979 [UCPl0000013140] that Neil Hardie is said to have moved to Wembley and was expected to transfer his SWP membership to that branch.
- m. According to a report of 12 May 1982 [UCPI0000018111] Neil Hardie had moved to Lancaster in the summer of 1979 and had not been seen in SWP and ANL circles in London since that time.
- 5. In general terms, I am perfectly happy to accept that the documents do tend to show an overlap in attendance at the meetings of the ANL (and related groups), and the SWP between Ros Gardner, Neil Hardie and me from summer 1978 to summer 1979.
- 6. My recollection of Ros Gardner is of a very short, white woman with short hair who was bossy. My memory of her is tied up with Aldred Road (discussed further below). For example, before seeing the documents, I did not know that she had children and a grandson.
- 7. Whilst I recognise the name Bob Cox, I can only recall him as a quiet man. The documents suggest that he was Ros Gardner's partner from at least May 1979.
- 8. At this point, I feel it is necessary to add some further detail from my personal life. I do so with reluctance but it gives further context to paragraph 127 of my first witness statement:
  - a. I separated from my first wife in vear during the vear year of my deployment as a UCO. I then moved into a flat with a serving police officer

    We were married as soon as this could be arranged

following the formalisation of my divorce from my first wife. My managers were aware of this change in my personal circumstances.

- b. My cover flat was in North London and my cover employment was in South London. I attended my cover flat for some time every day and I visited my cover employer almost every weekday. Prior to my separation from my first wife, it was a straightforward matter for me to spend the night at my cover accommodation and I had good reason to do so in order to make this seem like my 'home' in the early stages of my deployment. Once I was living with my soon-to-be second wife in our flat, I spent most nights with her at our home.
- 9. For these reasons, there was no time for any shenanigans with Ms Gardner should the occasion or desire ever have arisen, which it did not. Furthermore, it is only as a result of having my memory refreshed as part of this inquiry that I can remember her even vaguely. On the basis of my reports, it seems that one or other of her male partners 'lived-in' at her home during the whole period that I was aware of her existence as a member of West Hampstead SWP.
- 10. Hereafter, I adopt the headings as used in the Addendum Rule 9 request, save for the additional heading of "Other matters", and I comment on other individuals in the further documents that I have seen, below.

### Criminality

11. In paragraph 28 of his statement, Mr Hardie has given evidence to the Inquiry that: "We used to conduct flyposting to advertise upcoming events as was normal practice for many groups at the time. This was illegal at the time and we were all

aware of that. HN126 did flypost with us but he did not mention this in his evidence. We would also paint out offensive racist graffiti which, strictly speaking, was also illegal. HN126 had the van that we needed to transport the equipment."

- 12. I am asked to note what I said in evidence at paragraph 261 of my Witness Statement dated 17 July 2019 and in my oral evidence to the Inquiry on 12 May 2021 and asked whether I participated in flyposting and/or the painting out of graffiti. The fact that I stated in my first witness statement for the Inquiry that I had never committed an offence does require further explanation.
- 13. When my SWP branch took part in flyposting and while I have no specific recollection, it seems likely that I would have driven my van and it would have been full of comrades, posters, glue pots and brushes. Working on that probable basis, I would have been in attendance supporting the comrades but I would have been sitting in the driver's seat with the engine turning over just in case they needed to perform a quick get-away. I would not have left my van for that reason.

  I cannot remember ever taking part in white-washing out graffiti.
- 14. On further reflection, every time I stood in front of a member of the public in the street or outside a railway station in order to sell him or her a copy of the 'Socialist Worker' newspaper, I would technically have been committing the offence of wilfully obstructing free passage along the highway. This would have happened every time I participated in a paper sale. It is unlikely that such behaviour would have resulted in charge, however, let alone a conviction.
- 15. Any objection to these activities would likely have led to suspicion and it is fair to say that I was able to maintain my cover, consistent with my role. I am asked whether I made my managers aware of this activity: I do not think I discussed it

with managers, but I think they would not have objected to my involvement in minor offences such as these, provided it was consistent with maintaining my cover.

- 16. During the whole period of my deployment, my comrades were very happy to cadge lifts in the back of my van to any event, whether it was a meeting, demonstration or rally. Most of our meetings were held in pubs and so a pint or two would be consumed by many of those attending. As I explained at the evidential hearings, a pint or two of Watney's Special, Whitbread Tankard or Ind Coope Double Diamond Draught would definitely not have caused a positive breathalyser reading: they were extremely weak beers. My comrades were always very happy to accept lifts home from meetings and other events too.
- 17. It is essential that the Inquiry understands that, given my cover employment was as a van driver, I had a very good reason not to overindulge in alcohol with my comrades. At no time would I have risked losing my (cover) driving licence and thus my (cover) employment and career. There was a very strong tendency within the group for individuals to buy their own drinks and avoid getting into 'rounds' so I do not recall ever being required to explain this.
- 18. As I have set out in my previous statement, the process of recalling events so long ago, considering the many documents provided and the many questions asked over the course of many days was difficult and tiring. I answered the question dealt with at paragraph 261 of my first statement to the best of my ability at the time and it is simply the case that my memory has been further jogged. I certainly did not intend to mislead the Inquiry.

## Reporting on Elected Officials

- 19. Once again, I am referred to Mr Hardie's statement (paragraph 45): "There were other members of the ANL who were elected politicians, such as Ken Livingstone, who lived around the corner, and sometimes attended meetings; he may have been reported on by HN126, if he was including lists of people who attended meetings, as Ken Livingstone was a member of the GLC. Another was Lena Jeger, who was also a Labour MP during this period."
- 20. I am asked a number of questions, with reference to what I said in evidence at paragraph 271 of my Witness Statement dated 17 July 2019 and answer as follows: I do remember Ken Livingstone at socials at Aldred Road. I do not recall him being at ANL or any other meetings. I do not know whether he had any elected position at the date. I understand that he did not become an MP until 1981. My recollection is that Labour supporters in that part of London at that time were distinct from those with whom I mixed. I do not recall reporting on Ken Livingstone. Nor do I recall who Lena Jeger is or was so assume that I did not report on her. I have not had my attention drawn by the Inquiry to any particular reporting that shows me reporting on elected politicians for the preparation of this statement. As set out at paragraph 271 of my first witness statement, I do not think that [UCPI000012944] is my reporting.

#### Astrid Proll

21. I am referred to Mr Hardie's evidence to the Inquiry at paragraphs 49-50 of his Witness Statement that: "A woman, who I later discovered was Astrid Proll, worked as a mechanic in West Hampstead. She worked on the vehicles of some

of the members of the ANL, including on HN126's van. I was not aware at the time that she had been involved in the Baader-Meinhof Gang in West Germany. She was uncovered and extradited to Germany to face trial.

I have suspected for some time that HN126 may have identified her. She did attend SWP and ANL meetings and had taken an active part. I suspect that HN126 identified her during this period and if he did, it must have gone to the Security Services. It seems too much of a coincidence that they were in the same place at the same time. I saw them attend the same meetings and demonstrations and she worked on his van, which was always breaking down."

- 22. I am told that the Inquiry understands that Astrid Proll may have been using the pseudonym Anna Puttick while in the UK. I am asked a number of questions, which I answer as follows:
- 23. So far as I am aware, I have never heard of Astrid Proll (or Puttick) and do not recall knowing anyone called Astrid or any mechanics whilst deployed. I do not recall any such person attending meetings (and I would have reported upon members and attendees as can be seen in the various documents shown to me). I have not had my attention drawn to any such reporting by the Inquiry. It follows, that I could not, and did not, identify her to the MPS or any other agency. I believe that Mr Hardie is simply wrong to connect me with Astrid Proll in any way.
- 24. I am asked whether my van was serviced by Astrid Proll. Chris Skey was in charge of keeping vans serviced etc. In any event, I would not have had my van serviced outside of MPS arrangements. Neither of my vans broke down or otherwise required ad hoc assistance by a member of a target group. It is of

passing interest to note that other members of the ANL had access to vehicles, such that I may not have been the only "man with a van".

#### Ros Gardner

- 25. I have had my attention drawn to various parts of Mr Hardie's statement in respect of Ros Gardner and his allegation that we were in a relationship. In particular:
  - a. That Mr Hardie has given evidence to the Inquiry at paragraphs 31-32 of his Witness Statement dated 9 July 2022 that: "I first became aware about the relationship between Ros Gardner and HN126 because Ros Gardner's flat was used for the fund-raising parties. I saw them repeatedly together there. They would sit together on the sofa and she would look 'doe-eyed' and adoringly at him. This left an impression as she had a tough, tom-boy image and this behaviour was very out of character. I did not see anything more than that but I got the impression that he was staying the night. One night, I stayed behind at the end of the party to help clear up and I remember washing the dishes with HN126. When I left, he stayed."
  - b. Further, at paragraphs 38-39: "I would see HN126 and Ros Gardner together at the fundraising parties and they were about once a month. They were not always at Ros Gardner's flat but they were there regularly.
    - Most people assumed that they were an item but I am not aware if anyone asked directly. I did not speak to anyone about it directly. I felt it was not my business and they were two consenting adults and therefore it was no one

else's business. Clearly my view would have been different if I had been aware that HN126 was a Police Officer."

- 26. Before answering the Inquiry's questions, it is worth commenting that Mr Hardie's account appears to be based on how he perceived Ros Gardner to be looking at me and also on other (unnamed) people's apparent assumptions, which he did not discuss with either them or Ms Gardner (or me for that matter).
- 27. I am told that the Inquiry understands that Ros Gardner was a member of Cricklewood and later Kilburn branches of the SWP, the Branch Secretary of Kilburn SWP from January to October 1980, and District Secretary for the North West London District SWP from mid-1980. I have been shown a number of new documents to assist in refreshing my memory and comment on each as follows:
  - a. I am referred to a report dated 15 December 1978 [UCPI0000013030], which explains that Ros Gardner enrolled as a member of the SWP on 28 November 1978, after a Public Meeting at the White Horse Public House, Church Road, NW10. It gives her home address as 8 Aldred Road, NW6 and says that she had recently joined the Kilburn branch of the SWP. The report records that she was also an active member of the Hampstead and West Hampstead Camden against Racism/Anti-Nazi League (which is consistent with my reporting, set out above). It is recorded that "she continues to live with Privacy at the above address". As I have set-out above, it appears that I came across Ms Gardner and Mr Hardie earlier than this, in the West Hampstead ANL before it amalgamated to form another anti-racist group. I cannot recall Mr Hardie or Mr Privacy

- b. A report dated 30 May 1979 [UCPI0000021298], notes that the relationship between Ros Gardner and Mr Privacy ended and that he had moved out of her home and in with his parents. The report says that Ros Gardner's "new boyfriend is Bob Cox, a member of the Camden Branch" of the SWP and that he had moved in. Again, I have been able to locate Mr Cox within reports from 30 November 1978 onwards e.g. UCPI0000013002 discussed above.
- c. A report dated 18 January 1980 [UCPl0000013705], details a meeting of the Kilburn branch of the SWP at Ms Gardner's address, which eight people attended. The report also indicates that future meetings would be elsewhere: at Don Trudell's home. Ros Gardner was elected Branch Secretary. As I have said above, Ms Gardner's address was a regular location for meetings and socials.
- d. A report dated 11 July 1980 [UCPI0000014118] is "an assessment of the North-West/District London/of the Socialist Workers Party, the Engineers Charter Group and the Anti-Nazi League". Ros Gardner is listed as someone who was part of the NW London SWP District Committee, meeting every Tuesday at the Lancefield Building. She is described as the District Secretary. In a section specifically on the Kilburn SWP both Ros Gardner and I are listed as members (a total of 13 are named). The meetings are said to take place every Wednesday at the Lancefield Building, Beethoven Street, W10 (a location I can recall). A Neil Hardie is mentioned at paragraph 12 amongst those who "although not members of the NW London SWP now, have been members during the past twelve

months". Bob Cox and Ros Gardner are referenced as available for any ANL 'call-out' from West Hampstead and Hampstead ANL. Assuming it is correct, the 1982 report discussed above [UCPI0000018111] suggests that Mr Hardie had left the scene long before this, in Summer 1979.

- e. A report dated 21 October 1980 [UCPl0000014813] shows that Ros Gardner had resigned from the position of branch secretary of Kilburn and had joined Cricklewood, apparently as a result of "considerable internal differences between her and other female members of Kilburn SWP". She remained NW London SWP District Secretary.
- f. A report dated 6 May 1982 [UCPI0000018054] indicates that Bob Cox had been living with Ros Gardner for the past three years at her address and paying the bills for Ros Gardner and wider family, which appears to include her 3 children and a grandson, all living at the same address.
- g. A report dated 17 May 1982 [UCPI0000018131] provides further information on Privacy, mentioned above, and repeats (in essence) the reasons for the breakdown in what is described as a "long-standing friendship" between him and Ros Gardner.
- h. A second report dated 17 May 1982 [UCPI0000018134] provides further information about Ros Gardner, including her date of birth and that she continued to live at the same address with her boyfriend, Bob Cox, her three children and grandson. I note that there is about a year age gap between Ms Gardner and me (and longer still in my cover identity). Various further details are given, including her work as a nursery nurse, her providing meals, accommodation etc to SWP delegates and "her domineering

attitude towards other women in the SWP branch has led to several female 'comrades' transferring to other branches..." I note a reference to Ms Gardner being involved with West Hampstead CND and I wonder whether that information had come from another UCO or other SB source rather than me.

- 28. The timing of the last 3 reports is consistent with the period when I was in the office and providing information to update files (see paragraph 275 of my first statement). Some of the details are more likely to come from C squad than SDS, for example bank details.
- 29. I have the following general comments on Mr Hardie's statement.
  - a. Mr Hardie is not clear as to the dates which he is describing, save for us meeting in 1978. The documents I have seen suggest that he could only have known me from summer 1978 (he says early 1978) to summer 1979 and that Ros Gardner was in relationships, first, with Mr Privacy and, then, with Mr Cox at this time.
  - b. I note from his date of birth that he is somewhat younger than me and younger still than Ms Gardner.
  - c. I note that Mr Hardie says that "I did not know HN126 well personally..."

    (para 30). He says that he knew Ros Gardner well, although more as a colleague than a personal friend (paragraph 36).
  - d. Whilst Mr Hardie says that he was never a member of the SWP (para 11), the reporting that I have seen suggests that he was ([UCPI0000011460], [UCPI0000013140]).

- e. Mr Hardie makes no mention of Ms Gardner's relationships with either Mr Privacy or Mr Cox.
- 30. I am asked to note what I said in evidence at paragraph 257-260 of my Witness Statement dated 17 July 2019 and in my oral evidence to the Inquiry on 12 May 2021 and asked to describe in as much detail as I can recall the nature of any relationship I had with Ros Gardner.
- 31. As I have said above, I do not recall Ms Gardner's family, which is indicative of the sort of relationship we had, i.e. comrades within the SWP and ANL rather than particularly as friends, still less in a relationship. I think in general, everyone was appreciative of her hospitality and the use of her house for meetings and socials. I do not recall her falling out with other branch members, but assume that the contemporaneous reporting is accurate (although I am not necessarily sure that it is all my reporting, but accept it most likely is when I am mentioned as attending).
- As set out in my first witness statement at paragraph 259, I think that my relationship with Ms Gardner was probably on a par with Sheila Robin and Privacy

  Privacy

  I would probably have a chat with Ms Gardner when dropping off papers and we clearly met regularly at meetings and social events, including those held at her house. I think the fact that she had nice accommodation stands out and I think she liked to entertain. I think it was a whole house, probably a terrace, but I only ever went to the ground and lower ground floor. I do not recall her looking at me "doe-eyed" or any other action which suggested that she was or wanted to be over-familiar with me.

- 33. I would not describe my relationship with Ros Gardner as close. I did not have a sexual relationship with Ros Gardner or anyone else whilst in my undercover identity. Ros Gardner was little different from anyone else that I had reported upon. I did not find it hard to form friendly relationships when deployed.
- 34. I am asked whether I was aware that members of my groups believed me and Ros Gardner to be in a sexual relationship. I was not so aware, and I doubt any of them held this belief and there was no reason why they would have done. It is also plain from the reporting that Ros Gardner was in a relationship with Bob Cox for a considerable period of the time that I knew her and, seemingly, with Privacy before that, although the reporting doesn't allow me to judge whether there was a gap between those relationships.
- I am asked whether I agree with the evidence given by Mr Hardie. I do not agree with what Mr Hardie says about there being a relationship between Ros Gardner and me, apart from as friendly colleagues within the SWP and ANL. Whilst I have no memory of Mr Hardie, I expect I had a similar relationship with him, but significantly shorter-lived on what I have seen from the documents. More specifically, I do not recall washing up with Mr Hardie at Ms Gardner's home or being the last to leave a party there on any occasion.
  - a. I find it odd that Mr Hardie could have acquired sufficient information to come to the view that I was in a relationship with Ros Gardner and yet be unaware of her apparently simultaneous relationships with Mr Privacy and then Mr Cox and, indeed, the existence of her children and grandchild. Had I been in a relationship with Ros Gardner during the currency of her relationships with Mr Privacy and Mr Cox, or others had thought that I was,

it seems to me inconceivable that no-one would have discussed this openly and that it would have been treated as a tacitly assumed private matter.

b. I also note that Mr Hardie's discretion in never discussing his beliefs with anyone means he is unable to name a single person to corroborate his claims. Similarly, it appears from online research linking to "Socialist Worker" obituaries for Ros Gardner and Mr Cox that they both sadly died some time ago and therefore cannot confirm or deny the truth of Mr Hardie's allegations.

#### Other matters

Referred to but with which I disagree. I recall a Privacy but his surname was Privacy. He was a great chap. I do recall him being a porter, but I did not know where. We would travel together to Brick Lane (by train), but I do not think he had family in Brick Lane. I would also pick him up or drop him off at his family's flat in West Hampstead when there were events. I do not know anything about Privacy 's arrest, which I think I would have done if it had happened whilst I was deployed (and which must have been the case if Mr Hardie was still in London). While I do not believe that I saw Privacy in the last couple of years of my deployment, I am certain that he would have alerted his SWP comrades if there was any threat of his being deported.

37. I have not been asked to comment on what Mr Hardie says about blacklisting or deportation, but this is not what I understood the remit of the SDS or MPSB in general to cover.

