

Witness: First Witness Statement of [REDACTED]

Exhibits Referred to: None

Date Statement Made: 9 November 2021

---

**UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY**

---

**Witness:** [REDACTED]

**Occupation:** Retired Police Officer

**Address:** c/o Metropolitan Police Service, Directorate of Legal Services, Empress State Building, London SW6 1TR

1. I am providing this witness statement in support of an application for a Restriction Order over my real name being made by the Commissioner's Lawyer.
2. I would like to stress that I am keen to cooperate with the Inquiry and happy to give evidence before it if I am granted anonymity. I worked for the MPS for decades and was always keen to do the job to the best of my ability, which obviously includes assisting the Inquiry. However, as I explain below, I strongly believe that I should be granted anonymity to do so. My concerns fall roughly into two areas: firstly, that the sensitivity of the work I have done relatively recently places me at risk if my true identity is revealed; and secondly, that I suffer from debilitating physical and mental health conditions for which I currently receive psychiatric and other care. These conditions and their symptoms are strongly exacerbated by the stress I feel at the thought of giving evidence and will undoubtedly get worse if I am named by the Inquiry.







[REDACTED]

4. As set out above, due to my physical and mental health difficulties, from 2018 my work has not required me to have direct frontline contact with CHISs. However, I continued to work in highly sensitive areas until my recent retirement. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. Throughout my career in sensitive policing I have gone to some lengths to protect my identity, including [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] take my security and that of my family extremely seriously. I am highly concerned that the Inquiry may reveal my name publicly and that could cause terrible consequences for me and my family.

**Work on the SPT**

6. In making this statement, I recognise I deviate from Neither Confirm nor Deny (NCND) and only do so with the knowledge that the Commissioner's Lawyers

are content that I do so for these purposes. I have never been an undercover officer. I was never deployed in the SDS nor was I a manager in the SDS. █

█ task was to conduct an organisational learning review following the closure of the SDS. This was a paper review based on the contents of a safe containing SDS material. I was tasked to conduct this review by DCI Flood and Detective Superintendent McKinney, and spent some nine months in 2008/9 producing it. As a result of my review, I wrote a report entitled "Closing Report" dated 25 June 2009. Despite the report's title, I should make it clear that █ my review took place, and the report was written after the SDS had been closed earlier in 2008. The report analyses the work of the SDS and makes 15 recommendations including for future covert policing in SO15. During this period, █ my focus was on conducting the review. █

### **Health concerns**

7. My health is a matter of ongoing and utmost concern; I suffer from both physical and mental conditions which have worsened very significantly in recent years and have a severe impact on my daily life.
  
8. I have seen my GP, counsellors and psychiatrists about my mental health and am currently under consultant-led care. I suffer from extreme anxiety, and this gets worse every time I think about the Inquiry and the possibility of my name being mentioned and becoming widely available online. In particular, I dread █ finding out my real name and coming to do me or

my family harm, or [REDACTED] instructing others to do me or my family harm, or [REDACTED] revealing my identity and role to others who come and do me or my family harm. There is also the possibility of the media turning up at my house. I am aware that a redacted copy of the report I produced was provided to the *Guardian* in 2015 (I became aware of this in 2020). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There are also financial implications as I have decided that if anyone traces me to my home address, I will move myself and my family to a new address; I would prefer the hassle, expense and adverse medical effect of moving home to the thought that my real name is in the media and people are turning up (or might turn up) at my house. Even if no-one comes to my door, I know that I will not be able to cope with the thought that it might happen at any moment. I feel angry and depressed that I have been put in this situation when I have [REDACTED] [REDACTED] carefully concealing my identity from anyone who might show a harmful interest in it.

9. In addition to anxiety, I have been diagnosed with depression, [REDACTED] and PTSD. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *[Gist: In addition to anxiety, I have been diagnosed*

*with depression and PTSD. My partner is aware of some of the issues and incredibly supportive.]*

10. I am currently taking high doses of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I understand that the range of medications I take are set out in medical reports provided by my doctors.

11. Physically, I suffer from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] they are clearly connected to the stress and anxiety that I feel about the Inquiry.

12. I have also recently been diagnosed with [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I understand that this condition is most likely triggered by my stress and anxiety.



13. My medical conditions have had an extremely detrimental impact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

14. Stress is a major cause of all of my conditions; that stress derives in part from

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in part from the “drip drip” effect of the Public Inquiry; and now, mostly from the thought of the Inquiry and my name being published. Specifically, the stress related to the Inquiry is caused by thoughts that my name will be published [REDACTED] leading to me being identified by people who want to do me or my family harm. My symptoms are exacerbated whenever I have a meeting to do with the Inquiry and I experience feelings of impending doom, hopelessness and loss of control. A particular source of stress and anxiety came when I realised, in 2020, that a redacted copy of the report I produced had been provided to the *Guardian* in 2015.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

16. I understand that the authors of the Risk Assessment and the Addendum Risk assessment conclude that as there is a strong sterile corridor in place, the risk of harm in my case is low. All I can say is that my perception of the risk is totally different. While I respect their professional opinion, and my opinion is not 'objective' because I am the person facing the potential risk, my opinion is informed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

17. I understand that my report will be explored by the Inquiry and that some of those who served with the SDS are not pleased with the views I expressed in it and the recommendations I made. I understand that the Inquiry may wish to obtain a witness statement from me, and potentially to obtain oral evidence from me (although given my state of health and my desire to recover as quickly as possible, my strong preference would be to give written evidence and to do so as soon as possible). Given the nature of my involvement in the matters the Inquiry is focussing on, my service background and my health, I simply do not see why my name needs to be published to enable this to happen. My health has deteriorated rapidly at the thought of my identity being revealed. I know that my health will further deteriorate drastically in the event that my name is actually published. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I find the thought of my identity being revealed and the resultant effects on me and my family traumatic and I fear that my situation may become untenable.

18. My involvement in this Inquiry generally, and in particular the prospect of giving evidence in my real name is having a negative impact on my recovery. It causes me immense anxiety and I do not feel that I will be able to recover fully until my involvement in the Inquiry process has concluded.

19. As I stated above, I am more than willing to assist the Inquiry in principle. I just dread the thought of doing so in my real name, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and that dread is having a huge impact on my life.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I believe the content of this statement to be true.

Signed.....

Dated .....