

In the Undercover Policing Inquiry

2nd Witness Statement of Richard Chessum

22nd May 2023

This statement is provided to the Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI) further to my giving live evidence on **Monday 5th May 2021**

1. As the Chair will recall I gave live evidence to the Inquiry in 2021. I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify my comments and recollections as it related to the picket of the home of Roland Moyle MP who was at that time the Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.
2. Although I personally don't recall the exact date, having reviewed document MPS-0728723 it would appear that the picket took place on Sunday 20th July 1975. The decision to have the picket came after a democratic discussion and debate at the South East London branch of the Troops Out Movement. I recall that initially we had considered to hold a picket of his surgery, but instead we decided to picket his home address. I presume there was some problem holding a picket at his surgery.

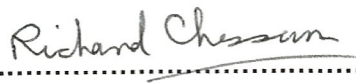
3. The house was set back from the road with a pathway to the home. We were therefore not directly under his window. I recall that the picket lasted a few hours, but by the end of the afternoon there were only about 5 or 6 of us left.
4. I do remember that [Privacy] (a member of TOM) during the course of the picket decided to knock on the door of the house and asked to speak with someone inside, preferably Roland Moyle himself. He asked me to go with him, but I was uncomfortable to go as I felt it would constitute harassment. When he called at the house he was advised that Roland Moyle MP was not there and they refused him entry.
5. [Privacy] returned to the picket and we continued. Our slogans on our placards clearly indicated our opposition to the British policy in Ireland and we called for a change.
6. I do recall the road was very busy and there was plenty of traffic going through. I think our picket was understood. The slogans were clear.
7. As we were packing up, and as we were about to leave, we were invited into the house. I think we were called into the house when the numbers had dwindled, and I suspect the people who invited us into the house thought correctly we were the main organisers.
8. We were settled into the living room and provided with tea and biscuits. We were then asked a number of questions about the protest and our views on Northern Ireland. I recall we were asked which organisations we would most identify with in Northern Ireland. I think I said the newly formed Irish Republican Socialist Party because they combined republicanism with socialism. Like

others in Northern Ireland that I spoke to at the time, I did not realise they had an armed wing. Provisional Sinn Fein (as they were called then) were old style romantic republicans. Only later when they gained mass support amongst working class people and their leadership changed accordingly did they become much more left of centre.

9. With regard to Rick Gibson, it was likely he was on the picket, but he did not come into the house. The reason he was not in the house is that he had left already. Indeed I think that is why his report is limited in its scope.

10. There was only one picket of Roland Moyles home – I am very certain that we did not repeat it.

I believe that the content of this statement to be true

Signed Richard Chessum.....

Date: 22nd May 2023