

IN THE UNDERCOVER POLICING INQUIRY

OPENING STATEMENT FOR T2P1 ON BEHALF OF
STAFFORD SCOTT AND THE BROADWATER FARM DEFENCE COMMITTEE
REPRESENTED BY BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS

1. Stafford Scott was asked to make a Rule 9 statement for the Broadwater Farm Defence Committee ("BFDC"). He was not asked to submit a separate Rule 9 statement about his own position. This opening statement is made both on his own behalf and on behalf of the organisation.
2. The largest single source of reporting on the BFDC and Stafford Scott is contained in HN25's intelligence reports. HN25 has prepared a supplementary witness statement dated 21 February 2022 (MPS-0748042) but this has not yet been disclosed in full in the hearing bundle. HN25 has submitted over thirty reports referring to BFDC and Stafford Scott. He has noted that approximately three quarters of his reporting is missing.
3. The witness statement of HN5 has not yet been disclosed. HN5 lived on Broadwater Farm in his cover identity having deceived Helen Steele into a relationship. Stafford Scott has seen just one paragraph from HN5's witness statement which he factually disputes. He has also been made aware of reports being written by HN90 yet this statement has not yet been disclosed. The request for this opening statement is, to that extent, premature and Stafford Scott would welcome the opportunity to make a further opening statement once he has been given access to all of the relevant material.
4. Finally, it should also be noted that Stafford Scott was not allowed to discuss the evidence relating to BFDC with other people who had worked for the organisation. It is regrettable that this opportunity to obtain further evidence that may have been relevant to the Inquiry has been missed.
5. Stafford Scott's Rule 9 witness statement contains details of the history and actions of the BFDC. These do not need to be repeated in this statement. It is a sufficient summary to

say that the organisation was conceived by the community with the support of the local authority and Member of Parliament and worked to protect the rights of community in the aftermath of the Broadwater Farm disturbances and the killing of PC Blakelock. The need for this organisation can be demonstrated by the wrongful prosecutions and convictions that followed and in the wider treatment of the local community by the police.

6. Stafford Scott was one of the first to suffer from this police misconduct. In his witness statement he refers to his arrest and detention by the police in 1985. During this arrest, Stafford Scott, along with members of his family, was arrested at gunpoint, he was held incommunicado for 36 hours and was subjected to racist taunts. Although liability was denied, the Metropolitan Police paid him substantial damages, including aggravated damages in respect of his claims for assault, false imprisonment, trespass and malicious prosecution.¹
7. This was not an isolated experience for Stafford Scott. Shockingly, at the age of 54 he was again subjected to a wrongful arrest, handcuffed and held at a police station after he had been subjected to racist harassment in the street.² In a subsequent letter of apology by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Martin, Stafford Scott's work with the MPS and other organisations "to better improve community relations" was acknowledged.
8. This acknowledgement by DAC Martin is highly relevant to the concern about reporting on Stafford Scott and the BFDC. Stafford Scott has always worked to bring about improvement and change in the experiences of his community and in the policing of that community. He has no political affiliations. He has campaigned for justice for those who have been the victims of police misconduct and malpractice. He has engaged with the police, often at great personal cost, most notably in his attempts to work with the MPS on the Trident initiatives. And he has sought to calm tensions in his local community when the police have created and inflamed those tensions. Many of the issues and themes that Stafford Scott has worked on and the concerns he has raised have subsequently been acknowledged in official reports and inquiries. Most recently, Stafford Scott's work in exposing the racist and divisive operation of the "Gangs Matrix" resulted in it being withdrawn by the MPS.³

¹ [Family paid damages over police raid: Community worker describes being subjected to a humiliating ordeal by officers after the Broadwater Farm riots. Heather Mills reports | The Independent | The Independent](#)

² <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/05/humiliated-and-degraded-this-is-how-black-men-are-treated-by-police>

³ <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/gangs-violence-matrix>

9. What is clear from this work is that it has never been remotely connected to subversion or public order. It is work that is deeply rooted in securing accountability and justice. Despite the reality of this work, both Stafford Scott and BFDC had registry file numbers opened on them by Special Branch. Their activities were clearly of interest to the MPS, whether through undercover policing, other forms of covert surveillance or through uniformed policing.
10. The explanation given for the reporting on Stafford Scott and BFDC by undercover officers is either that it was tangential to reporting on 'political' organisations or that it was for public order purposes. HN25 states that, "*the purpose of reporting on justice campaigns was predominantly for public order purposes where public events were planned*" (MPS-0746375-33). He goes on to state that reporting on campaigns against wrongful convictions was justified, even where the convictions had been overturned, to understand the potential for co-operation between groups or to see where funding came from. This discloses an interest in obtaining information about the workings of the campaigns themselves, not a concern about public order or subversion.
11. There was never any suggestion of public order issues arising at BFDC events. One example is the report by HN25 of a demonstration at Wormwood Scrubs prison on the day before a Court of Appeal hearing for the Tottenham Three (UCPI0000023772). This was an entirely peaceful demonstration by a small number of people and was addressed by Tony Benn MP. The agenda of the police can be seen by the attempts to report a reggae song that was being played about the struggle people face to overcome injustice as somehow being an indication of violent behaviour or guilt. It is indicative of the racist attitudes of the police and their portrayal of black people as confrontational or violent even in the most peaceful of circumstances.
12. A further report by HN25 refers to one of the acquitted Guildford Four attending a human rights conference with a family member of the Tottenham Three and discusses the 'tactics' of these justice campaigns (UCPI0000023820). There is no possible legitimate issue of public order or subversion arising from this type of reporting. The only purpose of such a report is to discuss 'tactics' being used by those involved in the criminal appeals processes.
13. The suggestion that reporting on what the Inquiry has classified as "justice campaigns" was incidental is repeated in the witness evidence of HN5, HN78 and HN90. This explanation lacks any credibility. The reports disclosed by undercover officers reveal an

intense interest in these campaigns. These are campaigns that have sought to hold the police to account for their actions, whether it be the wrongful convictions of the Tottenham Three or the killings of Cherry Groce, Joy Gardner, Roger Sylvester, Stephen Lawrence and others. The BFDC was not alone in being the subject of attention, with all of the individual campaigns as well as organisations such as Newham Monitoring Project and Hackney Community Defence Association being the subject of undercover reporting. Indeed, HN78 even goes as far to admit that he was allowed to look at files held by HCDA dealing with police corruption (UCPI0000035076, page 29).

14. Stafford Scott remains of the view that the police had difficulty in infiltrating community organisations and so used political campaigns to gain access to them. To an extent, this is acknowledged in the statement of HN78, albeit that he justifies the reporting as keeping tabs on the attempts by those organisations to make inroads into the community for their own purposes (UCPI0000035076, p 111). The sheer volume and range of reports on justice campaigns and the reference to such campaigns in the SDS annual reports, the copying of such reports to the Security Services and existence of registry file numbers for individuals and organisations makes the undercover officers' explanation hollow. HN78 accepts that he alone reported on campaigns concerning the Tottenham Three, Winston Silcott Defence Campaign, Rolan Adams Family, Brian Douglas and Joy Gardner (ibid, p 110). He also specifically accepts that his move to the Tottenham SWP may have been a directed move from his managers and was connected to issues arising from the death of Joy Gardner (UCPI0000035076, page 89).
15. Stafford Scott continues with his work as a community activist, race equality specialist and through anti-racist advocacy work. He is a visiting professor at Goldsmith's University. In recent years he has curated "War Inna Babylon", a ground breaking exhibition on community struggles for truth and rights⁴ and the Open Wounds exhibition, an online exhibition hosted by the King's Fund, exploring the connections between health, racism and inequalities, and how this has affected generations of black people through their own eyes.⁵
16. The Inquiry is asked not to repeat the and compound the treatment that Stafford Scott and those who were connected to the BFDC have experienced from the MPS by further marginalising his experiences and his potential to contribute to this Inquiry.

⁴ [ICA | War Inna Babylon: The Community's Struggle for Truths and Rights](#)

⁵ [Open Wounds \(kingsfund.org.uk\)](#)

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19 June 2024