

**The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry**

**Witness Statement**

**Neil Morgan**

**Taken by [REDACTED] by telephone  
on Tuesday 18 January 2022**

1. My full name is Neil Wyn Morgan. My date of birth is in 1970. I live at Arran Crescent, Kirkcaldy. I live with my wife and daughter [REDACTED]. My wife is Pauline Morgan, my daughter is Tegan Morgan. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I lived at Arran Crescent for 22 years. I know the neighbourhood quite well. I know a lot of the neighbours. I knew Sheku Bayoh as Chris. This is how he introduced himself to me. I knew him for about a year or more before he died.
3. I don't remember the date he died. I remember the morning but not the date. From my statement to PIRC (PIRC-00073) on page 2 I said I was on a night shift on Saturday 2 May 2015 and that "*Saturday night was my fourth night and I finished on Sunday 3/5/15 at 06.00am*". That will be right.
4. I'm not 100% sure when I first met Chris. He lived more or less directly opposite me. If he was taking the bins out or passing he would say "Hi". I think he introduced himself when he first moved in there. I never really saw him much. He's been over the house for a jar of coffee or sugar sometimes.

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5. I've seen him down the high street when I've been down for a drink and he's been down for a drink. One time I was out having a drink and I actually saw him outside a chip shop on the high street at the end of the night. I was waiting to be served and I was a bit drunk. He seemed okay, though. We were just having a little chatting.
6. I saw his girl, I don't know if they were married or just girlfriend/boyfriend. I never really talked to her at all. I think they lived together. I don't remember anybody else who lived with Chris. In my statement at page 1 I mentioned "*I believe he stayed with his girlfriend and baby who we rarely saw*". That is right, I remember.
7. I remember one time in the summer of 2013 or 2014, Chris had loads of his family over. It don't know if he was at a wedding or a birthday. Two kids that were playing there came over to my garden and played with my daughter.
8. Chris was a nice guy, very quiet I would say. He was always pleasant, no hassle. I never saw any hassle in the street because of him. He was just a nice guy.
9. He was quite a fit guy. He had short hair. He was black. He's not a very tall guy but quite broad. You can tell he looks after himself a bit. Not a massive body but he had muscle on him. A bit of weight behind him. He's short, not very tall. I'm 5' 6' and we were the same size, I would say.
10. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The night of 2 May 2015 was my last night shift of four.

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11. When the shift ended at 6am I come home. I get home about 20/25 past 6. I remember the boxing was on because a few of the boys was watching the fight on their phone.
12. When I first come home nothing was happening. I made myself a cup of coffee.
13. Whilst I was drinking my cup of coffee, my daughter shouted from upstairs that Chris was fighting somebody in the garden. So I said for her to just leave it, leave them to it and carry on. She said "No, they're fighting, dad".
14. I've been told in my statement at page 2 I said "*Tegan came downstairs with her friend Amy Hutchison*". I know Amy and it's a good possibility Amy was staying there that night, she stayed over quite a lot. I can't remember seeing Amy that morning, to be honest.
15. I've also been told that in my statement at page 2 I said "*Tegan said 'Chris is fighting in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] garden'.*" [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] They stay opposite me to the left. I remember that is what Tegan told me.
16. I put my coffee down and I went out to the street. I went to check if everything was all right around [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
17. When I went out to the street, I never saw Chris fighting anybody, but he was walking out of his house with a knife.
18. I've been told in my statement at page 2 I said "*...and by this time they were no longer in the garden and Chris was down by the lane to the right side of my home*". I remember this now. I remember where I saw Chris and I remember that I never saw the other guy.

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19. On the satellite map of Kirkcaldy (SBPI-00006) I have marked the point where I spoke to Chris with a "1".
20. Chris was going towards Templehall Avenue. Towards the White Heather, in that direction. The White Heather is the pub. If you walk from my house to the pub you walk along Templehall Avenue, then it goes onto Hendry Road then you walk down a bit there and the pub's there. He was on my side of the street walking down.
21. It's maybe a 10 minute walk from where I spoke to Chris to where the incident happened on Hayfield Road.
22. My manner and tone of voice was calm. I could see he was upset about something so I wanted him to chill out a bit, relax a bit. I was being friendly. I invited him in for a cup of tea or coffee so he can relax a bit.
23. He looked like someone who has had a good drink. He wasn't staggering like if he was drunk. You could see he was just generally upset. He wasn't in a rage or a frenzy or nothing like that. He clearly wasn't normal.
24. He had a starey eye. They were wide open eyes like the adrenaline's pumping. You could clearly see he wasn't right. It looked like he'd either been drinking or he's took some drugs or something. He wasn't himself. He wasn't angry talking to me but he looked like he was angry and upset about something.
25. I think he had a white top on. I've been told in my statement at page 2 I said "*When I approached Chris he was wearing a navy top with a hood...*". I don't remember, but whatever I said at the time of the statement will be right.

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26. I don't remember the weather at the time I spoke to Chris. I've been told in my statement at page 2 I said "*That morning it was raining but it daylight*". I can't remember this but the statement will be right.

27. I approached him. He was doing just a casual walk so I could walk to catch up to him. I said, "Chris, what you doing, mate?" And he goes, "Oh, I'm all right, man, I'm all right, I'm all right". I said, "No, mate, you're not all right." I could clearly see he wasn't right.

28. Chris sounded calm-ish. His voice was calm but I could tell he was upset about something.

29. He had a knife. It was the same kitchen knife you get from the block of six knives in the kitchen. It was the biggest one out of the set. If I can remember rightly, it had a light grey handle on it. The blade was about 8 inches.

30. He was holding the knife in his right hand. It was down by his right hand side.

31. I said, "Look, you can't walk around the street like that, mate, you're going to get done".

32. And he goes, "No, it's all right, man, it's all right, it's not even sharp" and he sort of poked it in my belly. Not ramming it into my belly just giving it a little poke at my belly. I was a bit wary about that bit, to be honest.

33. I've been told there's no mention of Chris poking the knife into my belly in my statement to PIRC. I don't remember if I did or didn't tell PIRC about this. I can't think of any reason why I wouldn't tell them. It definitely happened.

34. Chris isn't a nasty guy, I've never seen him as a nasty guy anyway. I sort of had the trust with him although I never knew him that well. I didn't feel

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threatened by him apart from feeling wary when he poked the knife at my belly. When that happened I sort of realised what I was doing at the time and felt wary. I just wanted him not to walk around the streets with a knife in his hand.

35. I said, "Look, mate, come back, because I know you've been fighting. I don't know what it was about". I said, "Look, come back in the house, you need to have a cup of coffee with me, chill out and relax a bit".

36. And he goes, "No, no, I'm all right" and he walked off and that was it. That's all the connection I had with him that morning.

37. When he was leaving he was still just walking with the knife down to his side.

38. I left because I thought there was nothing else I can do now to stop him. I've asked him, he's rejected my offer and he's just walked away. He had no intentions of coming into my house. Whatever was going on in his head at that time, he was fixed on that.

39. I had a row off my wife for going out and speaking to Chris and inviting him back to the house. I told her about how Chris poked the knife at my belly.

40. I think I spoke to my daughter about what happened but I couldn't tell you the conversation.

41. I went to bed not long after that. When I woke up there were all the police vans and all that within the street then. I woke up between 1pm and 2:30pm. Nobody from the police came to speak to me that day. I'm not sure if anyone spoke to my wife on that day.

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42. I first knew that Chris had died later on that day. Someone in my family told me but I'm not sure if it was my wife or daughter.
43. I couldn't tell you when PIRC contacted me. They came out to visit me a couple of times. I remember two men visited the house and we went out to the garden. They said they were from Glasgow or Strathclyde. One might have been from Fife police.
44. They took a statement from me and one from my daughter. I can't remember if they took a statement from my wife.
45. I've been told my statement has been recorded as being taken on 7 May 2015 at 4:20pm. That will be right because it wasn't a long time in the future.
46. When I gave my statement to PIRC I told them the truth. My memory would definitely be better back when I gave my statement than it is now. If there is a discrepancy between my statement to PIRC and the Inquiry, the PIRC statement should be preferred because my memory was better when I gave it.
47. I can't remember if I read over and signed my statement but I would have done this if they asked me. I've been shown my PIRC statement and it is my signature at the bottom of each of the pages.
48. I saw this case in the media. I was following it quite closely for a while. One thing that stood out is I'm sure I heard that he never had a knife and I know for sure that he did, when I saw him. If he got rid of it on the way, I don't know.
49. The newspaper did actually approach me and my daughter and we said we don't want our pictures in the paper. It was the Sun I think. We just said our bit to the newspaper at that time. They asked for our story of what happened. I

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don't think they put our names in because we told them not to. I think they put that we "Lived in the same street" but not our address.

50. I spoke to the newspaper a couple of months after the incident. I saw the article when it came out. It was just a small thing. They never exaggerated nothing and just said what we said.

51. I don't remember if I told the newspaper that he poked the knife into my belly. I can't think why I wouldn't have told them.

52. When I was following the media closely I read that when the police approached him he was angry and charging. I thought that didn't sound like him. I know when I left him he wasn't angry or in a rage. It's a 10 minute walk to Hayfield Road and I'm thinking how can someone be so calm and then go into a fit of rage just walking down the street within 10 minutes?

53. Me, my wife and my daughter went to a memorial thing for him where it happened. We went to pay our respects to the family. We approached them and I think people were arguing if he had a knife or not, when we knew he did. I was more going down the line of saying when I saw him he wasn't angry in a fit of rage.

54. There was a [REDACTED] there, I think [REDACTED] helped Chris when he first came to the country. I think [REDACTED] was in a public service, [REDACTED] helped house him and stuff like that. [REDACTED] We talked to [REDACTED] and told [REDACTED] what we saw as well. [REDACTED] visited us once with Chris's lawyer to get the story.

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[REDACTED]



55. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that this statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.

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..... Date 5/4/22.....

