

**SHEKU
BAYOH
INQUIRY**

The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

Zahid Saeed

**Taken by [REDACTED] in person
on 22 March 2022**

1. My full name is Zahid Saeed. My date of birth is in 1983. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am self-employed in the construction industry.
2. I am asked about my relationship with Sheku Bayoh. I first met Sheku when I was 16 or 17. Sheku had moved up from London to Scotland. I met him through FRAE Fife, where [REDACTED] was working. It was an ethnic sort of community group. We were really close friends. Over time our friendship obviously grew to a point, we were like brothers. So wherever Shek went, I was there, and wherever Shek went I was there. Basically you won't see Shek without me and you won't see me without Shek. So everywhere we went we were together pretty much. It was a good relationship. I heard from him every day.
3. I am asked about the time I spent with Shek the night before he died. On the afternoon of the 2nd May I was with Shek at his [REDACTED] birthday party. I was with him at Ade Johnson's house and everyone was together. Sheku invited me along. The original plan had been for him to come over to my

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house with Collette for dinner but that fell through. I can't remember why but the plans changed. I ended up going to Ade's house as well. I can't remember the time I arrived at the party but it was in the evening. I can't give you an exact time. Sheku appeared happy at the party. He was talkative and full of joy. I saw Sheku drinking alcohol at the party. He wasn't drunk. It was a children's party but adults were there and having a drink but everyone was behaving.

4. I am asked about what happened after the party. I left the party with Shek at approximately nine o'clock. I think it was just after nine because I remember Asda closing at ten o'clock, or they stopped selling alcohol at ten so we went to Asda to get beverages. When we went to Asda we didn't buy a lot of alcohol. I think we bought a few beers and a small bottle of vodka or something like that. We went back to Shek's house.
5. We arrived after ten o'clock back at Shek's house. We had a few drinks at the house and listened to some music. We were looking forward to watching the fight. The original plan was that we were supposed to go back to Shek's house to watch a boxing match. I think it was the Floyd Mayweather and Pacquiao fight that night. We were looking forward to watching the fight but Sheku didn't have Sky or the pay per view for the fight. We arranged to watch the fight at our friend Martyn Dick's house. I cannot remember the address of Martyn's house. Martyn invited us to his house to watch the fight after he finished work at three o'clock in the morning.
6. I am asked what we were doing between arriving at Sheku's house and going to Martyn Dick's house. I am asked how Sheku was presenting at that time. Sheku was so happy and full of joy. We had music on and were talking. I am afraid there were drugs used. Sheku had taken MDMA and Ecstasy. We were both taking substances. Sheku had taken drugs before in my company. He would take them just the same as everybody else, when everybody's going on a night out or getting together with friends. Recreational use. I am asked

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about the quantity Sheku took that night. I don't know to be honest because I wasn't really paying attention or measuring but Sheku is quite safe with drugs. He would always give drugs in a smaller dose because he had explained to me that he was always worried about someone taking a stroke or the side effects you can have with drugs. He would not overdo it with drugs. I am asked about the previous occasions in which Sheku has taken drugs and the effects it had on him. Like I said, he would be happy, full of joy. Talkative and full of energy and love.

7. I am asked about whether he ever had any negative experiences or effects on drugs. There was one time at the beginning of 2015. We were at a friend's house, at a party, and Sheku started to assume that people were talking about him, about his race, about his colour. I had to take him to the kitchen/utility room to speak to him to get through to him that "There's nobody here speaking about your race or your colour or anything like that, it's all in your head." I was with him and I had not heard anyone saying anything like that. At that point I thought he was hallucinating. His mind was back and forward. I mean, I was in the same room as the five other guys and nobody was speaking about skin colours, nobody was speaking about race. I said to him "It's all in your head. Nobody's saying anything. Because you're African, I'm Asian, so there's no skin colour getting spoken in this room, everything's a good environment." He then realised that he was wrong. A few of his friends did mention to me, "You handled that situation pretty well" and I said "Well, I've known him since I was 17, he is like a brother to me. So I'm not going to leave him thinking that he's in some sort of bad company. "

8. I am asked what substances he was taking that night. It was the same, MDMA and ecstasy. I am asked about whether there was something about the quantity he had taken or the type of drug that caused that reaction? I really don't know. I mean, it is a drug that makes you happy. You take one, take two, you could lose track but he is quite sensible in that way. He doesn't overdo it. He knows he had to go to work the next day and he goes to bed at

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a certain time. He is quite well structured. He has a routine and he was very organised.

9. I am asked again about the morning of 3 May 2015 and whether I noticed any changes to Mr Bayoh's mood and whether he was having a positive or negative reaction to the drugs taken. At around ten o'clock the reaction was positive. It wasn't really negative at all. I left the house for about an hour/ hour and a half to see a friend. I am asked what time I left the house. I left the house at approximately 1.30/2.00 am and I returned to the house just after 3am. When I returned his mood was happy but I thought maybe he was annoyed at me because I had left him. He was steady I would say. He wasn't too negative or too happy, he just said to me "What took you so long?"

10. I am asked whether, between 10pm and 1.30am anyone other than myself and Sheku Bayoh were in the house. I was there the whole time and no one ever entered the house.

11. I am asked about what we did later in the evening. We went to Martyn's house just after four o'clock. When we arrived at Martyn's house Sheku was a little bit more drunk and more happy, still happy. His mood sort of lifted again, he was just full of stories but his mood did change when I was speaking to Martyn in the kitchen. I was speaking to Martyn about a few personal things. Sheku was in the living room but was walking back into the kitchen and tried to have a conversation with us but Shek wasn't taking us seriously enough. We were having a serious conversation. Kirsty McLeod, Martyn's girlfriend was also in the house. She was in the living room. Shek's energy started to dip like something was on his mind or bothering him. His presence was different. I tried to lift up the mood, so did Martyn, but I felt like there was an elephant in the room. We were all sitting in the living room having a conversation among each other. I did feel like as though some sort of slight, I don't know what's the best word to use, slight awkwardness in the room. I think Martyn and Kirsty were feeling a bit caught off guard. I think me and

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Martyn and Kirsty were having a three-way conversation, I can't remember what the conversation was. Sheku was talking to Martyn and Kirsty as well but it was just at that point I do remember that the three-way conversation we were having, I think he was feeling a bit agitated and he was acting out of character. The mood here wasn't the same. He was agitated and I felt like it was uncomfortable. My concern was that I didn't know if he had used any more substances when I left him earlier in the night. I felt I was still normal. I didn't take any more substances when I left him for that time period. When I came back to pick him up I was still the same person and full of joy, but my concern was - did he take any more? I am asked whether or not I asked him if he had taken any more substances in that time. I don't know. I don't think I asked him if he had taken anything more.

12. I am asked how things progressed from there. I can't remember the full conversation but I do remember Sheku standing up and saying "I think I need to go" and I was quite surprised because the boxing match hadn't even started. This was about five thirty or quarter to six. I think the match was on pause and we hadn't started watching it yet. There was a slight elephant in the room and Martyn and Kirsty did feel the presence. I felt at that time that Sheku was experiencing the same reaction as he had back in January. When he walked out I was concerned about his behaviour because it's not like Sheku to behave like that and so I followed him. I actually apologised to Martyn and Kirsty. I said "I don't know what's up with Shek. I don't know what's going on with him at this moment but it's not like him." Martyn said "You better go and get him, see if he's all right."

13. When I left Martyn's house I could not see him anywhere. I was concerned. I went back to Sheku's house to see if I could see him. I tried phoning him. He didn't answer his phone. Then I noticed him walking along the street where he stays. I got to his house before he did and was standing at his front door when he was walking along towards his house. I was obviously concerned about his behaviour and because of what happened back in January I thought

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he was having the same episode again. He approached the front door and I was standing at the front door and asked him if everything was okay, "It's not like you to behave like this." He said "I'm fine." I said "No, there's obviously something irritating you or something playing on your mind." He said "No, no, I'm fine." He opened his front door and, he usually invites me in, but he opened the front door and he just looked at me. I said "Are you sure you're okay?" at this point I invited myself in to try and get to the bottom of what was bothering him or something, whatever was on his mind.

14. We were in the kitchen and he asked me if I was CID. I was surprised, very surprised, quite shocked, to be fair. But at that point I knew he wasn't thinking straight. He was either hallucinating or his mind was playing tricks with him. But then eventually I laughed and I said, "Shek, CID, where's this coming from?" And he looked at me and said, "Are you sure you're not CID?" I said "No. Why would I be part of CID? I'm not a CID officer. You know, we've known each other for such a long time." Then he switched again back to himself. I told him that it is obviously the substances that he's been taking, that's MDMA, I said "it's obviously been mixed with other substances and it's not agreeing with you" because I didn't feel right myself and that is why I didn't take anymore. I didn't feel quite right. The side effects were not agreeing with me and I thought "if it's not agreeing with me it's definitely not agreeing with you, whatever it is that it's been mixed with, whatever substance you've been told, it's not what it is."

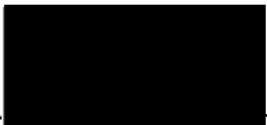
15. I am asked whether or not you would know what MDMA is mixed with. MDMA is pure ecstasy. It should be that, It should be full of joy, it should not make you aggressive. It shouldn't make you negative in any way. It is a drug that lifts your mood up.

16. Shek agreed with me and said "No, you're right." I said "Look, whatever its been mixed with, whatever it is, it's obviously played some kind of detrimental effect. Maybe it is for the best that you stop taking it." I am asked how he took

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that advice. Like I said, he was back and forward . One minute he thought I was CID, the next minute he thought I was Zahid again. He was being sort of awkward in the kitchen, I could feel the negative energy coming from him. I wouldn't say angry, but he was quite cold. But when he switched back to being Sheku again he was listening because at that point I told him about the substances disagreeing with him, I told him he better get rid of it completely, flush it down the toilet. He gave me what he had left to get rid of it. I am being referred to my previous statement where I say that I flushed the bag of drugs down the toilet pan in my mum's bathroom. I am asked if this is accurate. Yes, that is what happened. Once he gave me the bag of drugs he switched again and thought I was CID again. I am asked to describe what I mean by "switched", whether he appeared physically different. He was physically different, his body language was different. Shek is quite a bouncy person but I mean he switched in the sense he turned quite sturdy and firm. I remember him putting his hand on the cooker and took a big sigh, not out of relief, but more like, I don't know whether it was anger or not. His eyes sort of switched. I was talking to him and his eyes were lit and full of joy when he was tripping. And then I noticed when his eyes just switched. He had a look in his eyes. I did not feel safe at that point. I thought the best idea was for me to leave. I thought tomorrow morning he is going to wake up and everything is going to be fine again. I said "Maybe it's best for me to leave now" and he said "Yeah, it's better for you to leave." It is not like Sheku to respond to me like that. He usually tells me to stay longer or puts some music on but his attitude was completely different. It wasn't like I was speaking to Shek at all at that point. He kept switching back and forwards. It was like an instant, within five seconds.

17. I am asked whether this reaction was similar to the incident in January 2015. At the beginning I thought it was similar when I was in Martyn's house. But when I got to Sheku's house I just felt that this time round it was worse. The fact he turned round and mentioned I was a CID officer. At that point I knew it was my cue to leave because if he cannot recognise who I was then I thought

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maybe me being present here is only making matters worse. I was concerned because he is like a brother to me so I wanted to make sure he was safe and well.

18. The back door was open at that point. I didn't feel safe and my gut was telling me to leave. The minute I turned my back to walk out the kitchen door that's when Sheku sucker punched me from behind. He punched me on the head. I was half in and half out the door. I sort of stumbled after being punched. I was quite shocked, very surprised when it happened. I was just thinking "Did he really just hit me?" But at that time I just seen him charging towards me. I knew it wasn't him, I knew he wasn't himself at that point. I don't know what was going through his head and I don't know what he was feeling, but I knew I wasn't safe and I had to leave as quickly as I could. Because we never, ever fought. We never had a bad argument. We never exchanged an aggressive tone towards one another. It was more like I was giving him advice, he was giving me advice. And I was giving him driving lessons, you know, before all this happened. I was always pushing him. You know, he's made me [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Like I said, the relationship me and Shek had was like a brother relationship, probably beyond that. Anytime he had a problem, anytime I had a problem, phone, ask for advice, ask for help. "Okay, I'll do it." "That's fine." "I'll pick you up." "That's fine." That's it. That's why I was a bit surprised, you know, when he did something like that, it was never like him in a million years to do anything like that. I mean, I'm still surprised the fact he'd done something like that and I don't know why. I blame the drugs.

19. I am asked about what happened after I stumbled. I was sort of in shock and I was startled, I felt a bit of dizziness, because he caught me behind my ear. I remember I looked at him, turned around, realised that he'd hit me, then I looked towards the kitchen door and I seen him start charging towards me. I thought it's probably just best for me to leave or we'll end up fighting outside of the kitchen, in the back garden. I started running, because I seen him start running towards me. I started running when he picked up the washing line

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pole. He literally chased me all the way round the back of the house with the washing line pole, a wooden one. I knew this wasn't Shek at this point. I thought this is somebody else right now. I thought Shek was hallucinating.

20. I am asked whether there was any shouting or did Shek say something to me or me to him. I don't remember him saying anything. I tried to get away as quick as I could. I didn't want to make my situation worse but he eventually caught me. He did throw the washing line pole but it missed me. I said "Shek this is not you" I was shouting that at him. I was shouting "Stop" and "What are you doing?" By the time I got round the front of the house and was running from him, I remember I turned around and I slipped. I was trying to calm him down. At that time he pushed me onto the floor in a neighbour's garden. I think I fell over a wall. I can't remember, but I remember I was in somebody's front garden, he was on top of me. At that point he was throwing punches into my head. I tried to protect my head at that point. He did throw a good few punches. While I was on the ground and he was on top of me, I asked him to stop. I don't think he realised what he was doing. I can't remember if he said anything to me at this time. I am asked whether I tried to defend myself, whether I threw any punches myself. I did not. I wasn't pushing back, I wasn't throwing punches. I was actually trying to protect my head because he was aiming for my head. At that point he was bashing my head.

21. I was lying on the ground, on my side with my arm over my face trying to protect my face and he was on top of me, literally sitting on me. I was saying to him to stop. I said to him "Do you realise what you are doing?" He stopped and stood up. His eyes looked as they had in the kitchen. I recognised the look. It was an angry look. His eyes went all bloodshot, red. I don't know whether he was having a split personality moment.

22. I am asked how Sheku was presenting at the moment he stopped punching me and stood up. When he stood up he was calm. He literally just stood up and looked at me. I was thinking "What the hell?" I felt like grabbing him and

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hitting him back but I was so confused. I was shocked and startled. I was in flight mode. I tried to get away as quickly as I could. I knew if I stayed I would have fought back and it would have got worse. Somebody could have been seriously hurt. I knew it wouldn't help the situation. At that point I thought it was best to get away and phone for help. I thought Martyn Dick was probably the best person to help because he had seen his behaviour in the house. I didn't phone anyone else. I just phoned Martyn. Sheku has never, ever acted in this way towards anyone. He is quite friendly and warm and everyone said he was a gentleman.

23. I walked into the main road and the minute I got away I phoned Martyn. I told Martyn what had happened. He was shocked himself and said he would come and get me. Martyn drove down and picked me up. This was about 6.30 am. I can remember where I was standing, a couple of streets away from his house, round the corner from the Co Op. When Martyn picked me up he was very surprised and shocked. He said "That's not like Shek to be like that." He was asking me if I was okay because I was angry at this point.

24. When Martyn picked me up we drove right around to Shek's house again to see if he was in the house, to see if he was okay in the house. We weren't too sure to check up on him or not, but I told Martyn "I don't feel comfortable going in after what just happened." He said, "That's fine, we just want to see if he's in the house." I said "Yeah, it looks like he's in the house." I am asked whether or not I saw him in the house. I did not see him but I assumed he was in the house because when he left me he walked back in the direction of his house.

25. Martyn took me back to his house. It was just before seven o'clock. I was really angry toward Shek behaving like that. In fact, I was quite concerned. I was worried about Collette as well because she had to go back to the house and I was worried that if he had acted like that toward me, [REDACTED] being there as well. I spoke to Martyn about it and I was starting to get concerned. I

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asked Martyn "Should I tell Collette or not what has just happened?" He said, "Well, it's entirely up to yourself, you know, but you could wait or not wait." I said "What if Collette goes back, you know, first thing in the morning, he's not been himself and something could happen." He's done that towards me. He could do that towards anyone. So, yeah, I did text Collette and I did tell her what had happened. She phoned me. She was quite surprised as well and asked "He attacked you?" I said Yeah, I don't why." I told her not to go to the house. Martyn took me down to Shek's house round about ten-past/quarter-past seven to get my car. I got out the van, jumped in the car and I drove home.

26. I am asked what happened after I got home. I think I got a call from Collette. I think this was at approximately 8am. She asked "Did you have a fight in the kitchen?" I said "No." She said "All the cupboard units and everything are open and the drawers are open and the kitchen's a mess." I said "What do you mean, a mess?" She said, "It's a mess as in the drawers are left open and the cupboard doors are open and the whole place has been sort of " she just said a mess. I'm not too sure if she meant like trashed or not. When I was in the house it was very neat and clean. Everything was tidy. I said "No, we didn't have any sort of fight inside the house." She said she couldn't see him, that he wasn't in the house. I don't know what time she went to the house. I can't remember if she came to the house while the police were there or before the police were there. I do remember her mentioning the kitchen was a mess. Collette was upset. I said "I don't know, he's probably away for a walk to cool himself down. I don't know." But I do remember just around about eight o'clock, I would say, or after eight, the house was all taped off. I was quite surprised, because she was in the house and she told me the house was being taped up. I was, like, well, something obviously serious has happened for the police to tape off the house. At that stage, I didn't know Shek was dead. You know, I did think, I don't care what he's done, I hope he's done nothing stupid. It was quite worrying.

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27. I am asked about what happened after I had spoken with Collette. I can't remember exactly what happened next, but I do remember two CID officers coming to my house round about ten o'clock.
28. I am asked about the statement I gave to PIRC on 8 May 2015. I'm told that my statement reads "At this point he went and put his hand into the top of one of his socks and pulled out a money bag, clear money bag. All I remember was seeing a white coloured substance and a number of purple tablets." I am asked whether that this the package I flushed down the toilet. Yes, this is the package I flushed down the toilet. Sheku did pull that package out of his socks. I am asked about the fact that in that statement I said "I'm always telling him I'm against drugs and that they were no good for him." I am asked whether I said that. I did say that. I said to him "Look it wasn't agreeing with you." The drugs sort of gave me a different vide and I mentioned to him I'm not what it is, there is obviously something else. Whatever he'd taken, they were not agreeing with you.
29. I am asked about whether or not I am aware of anything that could have been within that drug that could have caused Sheku's reaction? I really don't know to be honest. It looked like it was MDMA. The colour was MDMA but whoever, wherever it came from, I don't know what they were putting it in, how it was made, none of that.
30. I am asked about the appearance of MDMA. It was a crystal brow look. It is a brownish white colour. It is crystal, like a sugar cube. I am asked whether the white substance in the money bag could have been MDMA. Yes, in my view that was MDMA. I am asked about the purple tablets. They were ecstasy.
31. I am asked about a comment in my PIRC statement about how I felt when I was Sheku's house having left Martyn Dick's house. I said "I stayed for a good hour speaking to him and never felt threatened." I am asked about how in my statement today I said I could see a switch in Shek and was fearful. I did

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feel uncomfortable but I was getting to my point where I did start feeling a bit safe, I was starting to connect to him, you know, managed to communicate. But when he was switching again, that's when I felt like maybe I shouldn't be present or maybe I should stay, try and speak to him, try to connect to him again, try and get through to him. It was mixed but I did feel, at one point, I did feel like maybe I should leave and that was towards the end, when my gut feeling told me, "Maybe it's better for you to leave." That's when he put his hand on the kitchen cooker and I seen his eyes, his body language, the energy, his personality, it just completely changed at that point. I knew for my own safety that I had to leave. That is when I said "Maybe it's better for me to leave."

32. Shek is not a dangerous person. He's not a danger to society or danger to anyone. It's just unfortunate what happened, you know, and substances are used, some people's personalities do change for the better or for the good. But it wasn't Shek's fault. You know, he didn't know that he was taking substances that would change our personalities. I mean, both our intentions was to be happy and have a good night. He's not an aggressive person. It's the first time I ever witnessed him being aggressive.

33. 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.

Signed.....

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the witness.

May 4, 2022 | 8:17 AM BST
Date.....