



The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

Alan Pearson

**Taken by [REDACTED] via telephone
on Tuesday 5 April 2022**

Witness Details

1. My full name Alan [REDACTED] Pearson. I am 37 years old. [REDACTED] My contact details are known to the Inquiry and that is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
2. At about 7 or 7.30 in the morning of Sunday 3 May 2015, I was dropping the [REDACTED]. My car was a grey Ford Focus with a '59' registration plate.
3. [REDACTED] you would come along Dunnikier Road and then turn down Hendry Road down the hill towards where the White Heather pub is. It used to be called Gallaghers.
4. It was dry but it wasn't bright sunshine or that, I don't think. I think it was quite dull but, you know, dry at the same time.

Signature of witness..... [REDACTED]

5. Coming from Hendry Road towards the White Heather Pub, at the mini roundabout I turned right onto Templehall Avenue. It wasn't me that spotted it at first, because I was driving, it was [REDACTED] says, "Oh, that guy's got a knife."
6. If I remember right, there's a row of trees between the houses and the road, so he was walking between that, and I think it's called Lochlea Terrace, I'm not too sure. So, she says, "Oh, he's got a knife." And obviously so early in the morning I'm thinking, "What are you talking about?" I was, like, "Dinnae be daft".
7. But by the time I had turned to look we had already driven past him. I did see the person, but at that time I never saw anything else. He was on my side, the driver's side.
8. I remember he was blue jeans, white t-shirt and that's pretty much all I remember about what he was wearing. I never even noticed whether he was black or white at that point in time.
9. So if you come down Sidlaw Street and take another right along Cheviot Road and then [REDACTED] it's [REDACTED] at the end of Cheviot Road. I never go down the first left on Templehall Avenue because it's just a bit of a nightmare for cars parked, so I usually go along to Sidlaw and then down.
10. As we drove the rest of the way [REDACTED] said, "Oh, go back round and check." I was, like, "Right. Okay. Fine. Whatever." So, when I dropped her off, I turned the car at the end of Cheviot Road and then drove back up Sidlaw, back up Templehall Avenue back to the roundabout. And obviously by then he's nowhere to be seen.

Signature of witness.....[REDACTED].....

11. I think [REDACTED] just wanted me to make sure and maybe phone the police if he did, you know, if he did have something in his hand or something. It was strange at that time of the morning in a place like Kirkcaldy.
12. I could not see the person there. So I turned at the roundabout. I then turned right towards the White Heather again, and then left to go along Hayfield. And to be honest, I don't even know that or why I didn't just go straight up Hendry Road anyway. So, when I turned into Hayfield Road, maybe drove maybe another few hundred yards, and I noticed him, the same person, on my left but quite a good bit up the street, maybe halfway along Hayfield Road.
13. He was probably in line with where the community centre is. There's a community centre on the right hand side. Just after the turning for the industrial estate. So just past that, that's where I noticed him.
14. He was on the left on the pavement. He was walking away from me. I immediately recognised from his clothes that he was the man [REDACTED] had seen earlier. In the morning you'd expect maybe somebody to have a jacket on or a hoodie, but this guy just had a t-shirt.
15. So, I just thought, "Right. Okay. Fine. I'll just drive, I'll just go along and see what's going on."
16. And then the next thing he crosses into the middle of the road. And there's a car coming towards me. It was a taxi, but I don't know what taxi firm it was, I can't remember, I think it had the thing on the roof for the taxi. It was almost like he was trying to flag the taxi down.
17. The taxi stopped and then he, I don't know, it looked like he hit the roof. It was as if to say, "Why would you not let me in?"

Signature of witness.....[REDACTED].....

18. When I first saw him, he wasn't doing anything, he was just walking along, but then it was the taxi coming the opposite way, and then he stepped out into the road. It looked like he was trying to flag the taxi down rather than trying to attack anything. I didn't hear him, or the taxi driver, say anything. He hit the car on its rood one or more times, but I didn't see him do anything else like kick the car.
19. And that's when I stopped. I thought, "Oh, hang on a minute, here. I'm not going any further."
20. And when the taxi then started driving away from him, he turned to sort of towards me and that's when I seen he was, he was sort of standing with his hands by his side, like when you put your hands out, palms out.
21. He was facing me, and in his right hand was what looked like a knife
22. It was a fairly large knife. You know, not a pocket knife. It looked like the kind of thing that you would have in your kitchen for carving a turkey, for instance. I wouldn't even describe it as a bread knife, it was bigger than that.
23. He turned in my direction but did not do anything directly to threaten me. He was either standing or slowly walking in my direction.
24. He was large man, bigger than average.
25. So I turned the car in the street and started driving back the way. Of course, by then there was a few cars behind me, so when I turned around, because he was quite a bit away, maybe another 300 yards away. I put my window down and I said to a couple of drivers, "I would turn around, that guy's got a knife."

Signature of witness..........

26. I turned around back towards the White Heather. Turned right to go up Hendry Road. And there's a layby at the top of Hendry Road, it's a bus stop. I pulled into there and I thought, "Right, phone the police." So I phoned 999, told them, "Look, there's a guy in the middle of the street in Hayfield Road with a knife in his hand."

27. And that was about it. Obviously, at the time they say, "Oh, can you describe him?" I says, "Right. Blue jeans, white top, quite a big guy." And at that point I says, "Coloured or black." They says, "Right. Okay. We'll send someone out."

28. So I sat and waited in the car for a few minutes and I thought, "Christ, what if somebody gets attacked or whatever?" Or if he tries to run. So, I gave it a few minutes and then I turned the car again at the top of Hendry Road and started driving back down.

29. By the time I got to the mini roundabout at the end of Templehall Avenue there was a police van, it wasn't a big van, it was maybe like a Transit Connect or something. It was already coming up Hendry Road and turned right into Hayfield Road.

30. Maybe five seconds later I continued down to the bottom of Hendry Road to the Valley, because I thought to myself, "Right. Okay. The police are there. Fine. That's it. I'll just go up the road."

31. I never actually seen the arrest, I never seen anybody getting confronted, all I seen was the police van turning into Hayfield Road.

32. I didn't see the police van stop. I did see that it had blue lights on. I can't remember whether it had a siren on, I think it did.

33. After that, I went [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] back home.

Signature of witness..... [REDACTED]

34. [REDACTED] was back maybe about three o'clock in the afternoon, I says to her, "Look, I went back round, ken, seen the guy, phoned the police." And it wasn't until maybe about half-five, six o'clock, it might have even been later that, that the CID appeared at the door to take a statement. And that's when we found out that he had passed away.

35. 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.

May 9, 2022 | 5:06 PM BST
Date Signature of witness

[REDACTED]