

**Sheku Bayoh Inquiry**

**Opening Statement for**

**Retired Chief Superintendent Garry McEwan**

**and**

**Chief Superintendent Conrad Trickett**

Chief Superintendent Garry McEwan retired from Police Scotland in 2021 after 31 years service.

Chief Superintendent Conrad Trickett has twenty-three years police service remains a serving police officer.

Both core participants are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the work of this Inquiry today, and in the months ahead.

At the outset, both retired Chief Superintendent McEwan and Chief Superintendent Trickett wish to place on public record their sincere condolences to the family of Sheku Bayoh for their enduring loss.

It is apparent from the evidence already available that he was a much-loved man who came from a close and caring family. These hearings will be difficult for all involved but will be most painful for the Bayoh family.

In the vast range of issues this Inquiry will cover, the central tragedy remains that a young man lost his life. That is at the core of why this Inquiry was established and it is why Chief Superintendents McEwan and Trickett are committed to assisting this Inquiry in its vital work.

Both have provided full statements and answered every question put to them by the Inquiry team.

These officers have dedicated a significant part of their lives to advocating policing which commands community confidence. They share the desire of the family and of the public to build the fullest picture of events on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015 in Hayfield Road. More widely, there is a unity of purpose in ensuring that communities across Scotland continue to trust and value their police service.

It is important for those following this Inquiry to understand from the outset that neither Garry McEwan nor Conrad Trickett had any part in the events leading to the death of Sheku Bayoh.

Neither was present in Hayfield Road or ever came into contact with Sheku Bayoh.

Rather, their role involved dealing with the aftermath of the incident and the procedures triggered by Sheku Bayoh's death.

On the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015, retired Chief Superintendent McEwan was on-duty in the capacity of a strategic firearms commander overseeing a separate operation. He was informed of the incident involving Mr Bayoh and was responsible for declaring this to be a critical incident.

At a meeting later that morning where the critical incident was explained to other senior officers, the decision was taken that a Post Incident Manager was required. Conrad Trickett (who was then a Chief Inspector and the on call Chief Inspector for Operational Support Division) proactively offered to assist and perform that role in light of his previous training and experience. He was thereafter appointed as Post Incident Manager by the Assistant Chief Constable. His involvement was voluntary and driven by a desire to help.

All of the subsequent actions and decisions taken will be examined by this Inquiry in detail in the months and years ahead.

For today, it is sufficient to record that at every stage both officers acted honestly, in good faith, with professionalism and to the very best of their ability in difficult circumstances.

Both retired Chief Superintendent McEwan and Chief Superintendent Trickett are clear that that they will attend the Inquiry and will give evidence if asked to do so.

The desire of the family for a definitive investigation and clear conclusions based on evidence is one which they share.

This Inquiry has a vital role to play in ensuring that the public continues to trust police officers and the wider police service in Scotland.

Both Garry McEwan and Conrad Trickett have devoted their careers to that goal.

Their hope is that by full and open participation in this Inquiry not only will the Bayoh family have full answers to the questions they have posed, but that in providing those answers this Inquiry can renew and refresh that essential bond of trust between police officers and the public they serve.

**Duncan Hamilton QC**  
**4th May 2022**