

WITNESS STATEMENT

Agency Ref : **S250**

PF Ref :

Surname : GEDDES Other or previous surname :

Forenames : Brian [REDACTED] DoB : [REDACTED] 1969 Age : 45

Occupation : Police Officer Other Occupation :

Police Station : Kirkcaldy Police Office Years Service : 14

Disclosable address :

Police Scotland
Kirkcaldy Police Office
St Brycedale Road
Kirkcaldy

Post Code: KY2 6JN

This statement was taken :

Date and time : 14th of July 2015 13.10

By : INV KAREEN PATTENDEN

Place : Kirkcaldy Police Office

In the presence of : DSI KEITH HARROWER

I have/the witness signed/refused to sign this and all other pages

It was/not read over to the witness and was/not recorded on Audio tape and/or Video tape

States :

I am Constable Brian Geddes, Police Scotland, currently employed as a member of Team 4, Kirkcaldy Police Office, St Brycedale Road, Kirkcaldy where I have worked for about 6 years. I am currently working within the custody facility in Kirkcaldy due to manpower shortages. I fulfil this role on a regular basis.

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I am responsible for looking after detainees, booking them in, taking fingerprints and photographs, recording their possessions, ensuring they are secure within a cell. During their stay in custody, I bring them food, refreshments and make regular cell checks.

I am qualified for this role having completed a 2/3 day course in custody at Glenrothes.

The following individuals are also members of Team 4, [REDACTED] Constables Alan Smith, Craig Walker, Alan Paton, Kayleigh Good, James McDonough, Nicole Short, Ashley Tomlinson and Scott Maxwell, who at times acts up as Sgt when [REDACTED] is off. I know all these members reasonably well.

On Sunday 3 May 2015, I was employed as a member of the custody staff, Kirkcaldy Police Office. Also on duty in the custody facility were Custody Sgt Eric Anderson and Constable Tony Lamb, from memory Constable Lamb was also filling a gap due to manpower issues. Constable Lamb normally works from Levenmouth Police Office. In addition that day there were two male police officers from [REDACTED], who were there to provide constant observations on a high profile prisoner. I do not remember their names.

I arrived at the custody facility about 0645 hours that morning and I prepared for Hand Over from the nightshift. As is normal practice, I seem to remember carrying out cell checks together with Constable Lamb and Sgt Anderson.

I believe that the two police officers from [REDACTED] were sat on chairs outside of the observation cell when I entered in to the cell corridor, from memory I believe they each had a hand held airwave radio in their possession at this time. I do not know whether either of them were listening to their airwave radio. Again, from memory I remember Constable Mark Hay from Glenrothes Police Office being present in the cell corridor. I believe he was initially sent to Kirkcaldy Police Office to carry out constant observations on the high profile prisoner, that was due to being unaware that cover had been sought by [REDACTED] to cover this role. He was therefore stood within the cell corridor.

I remember hearing the sound of what I can only describe as running feet from above my head. I understood this to be the sound of police officers running along the first floor corridor as if in a hurry to leave the building. This in itself is common practice to hear if a call for police assistance is heard. So I understood from this sound that a call had indeed come in and my operational colleagues were responding. I was aware at this time that it was my operational team, Team 4 that was responding to this call, however, I did not know what this call was regarding.

About a minute later I remember being told that the call was regarding a male walking in the road with a knife. I believe I was told this by one of the [REDACTED] police officers, however, I am not 100% sure of this. I just remember being in the cell corridor carrying out the cell checks when I was informed of this.

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From what I was told, I can only assume that the [REDACTED] police officers had turned their airwave terminals to the Kirkcaldy channel. Although I cannot be 100% sure, I believe it was about 0710/0715 hours.

I seem to remember that this resulted in Constable Hay paying closer attention to what was being said over the airwave terminal. I believe he was the person that informed me that a cop (police officer) had been assaulted. I remember it was about this time that Sgt Anderson was informing Constable Hay that he could go back to Glenrothes as he was no longer needed in Kirkcaldy. Constable Hay then started asking Sgt Anderson if he could go and assist with the incident, he was also asking me to attend with him. Both Sgt Anderson and I informed him that I was working custody duties therefore could not attend. This eventually resulted in Constable Hay leaving the custody facility by himself, I believe with the intention of attending the incident.

Prior to Constable Hay mentioning that a 'cop had been assaulted' I remember that one of the police officers from [REDACTED] had also made mention of this, although I cannot remember the exact words being said but I seem to remember that he said a female officer had been assaulted, there was the name 'Ash' being referred to. I understood this to be Constable Ashley Tomlinson, who is male. I can't remember the exact response I had but I believe that I did point out that Ash was male. This resulted in me not being 100% sure whether a female had been assaulted or whether Constable Tomlinson had been assaulted.

Shortly after this the cell checks were complete.

That day Lorraine Dewar was working within the Enquiry Office. She is employed as Clerical Assistant and assists with members of the public who attend at the Enquiry Office.

Lorraine works on the same shift as Team 4 and myself, which is two dayshifts 0700 hours to 1600 hours (Friday and Saturdays 0700 hours to 1700 hours), two backshifts 1500 hours to midnight (Friday and Saturday 1700 hours to 0300 hours), two nightshifts 2200 hours to 0700 hours (Friday and Saturday 2100 hours to 0700 hours). From memory that was day one in the shift cycle.

Within the Enquiry Office there is a static airwave terminal, which in general is switched on, allowing everyone within the office to hear what is being transmitted. You can hear both sides of any transmitted conversations.

Having completed the cell checks, Sgt Anderson, Constable Lamb and I all went to the Enquiry Office.

At this time Lorraine was present within the Enquiry Office.

I cannot recall how the conversation came up but I remember Lorraine informing all of us that Nicole Short had been assaulted. I don't remember the exact words used, however I understood from what was said that this assault was connected to the man with the knife. I believe someone, again I can't remember if it was Sgt Anderson or Constable Lamb or even myself that asked a question along the lines of

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had she been stabbed. Lorraine could not provide an answer to the question at this time.

I remember hearing a number of updates of what had occurred and was currently occurring. I can't remember if Lorraine was providing myself, Sgt Anderson and Constable Lamb this information or if I was hearing it myself from the airwave terminal but what I do remember is being aware that police officers were trying to restrain this man and he had been CS sprayed and PAVA sprayed at least 3 times, however, this had no effect. A baton had been used, striking him I believe to the head. From memory Constable Tomlinson was the officer who used his baton. The officers managed to get him to the ground where he (the man) went into cardiac arrest, they were then waiting on an ambulance. I also became aware that Constable Short had not been stabbed. Again, I cannot be specific of where I got the information but I believe it was either Lorraine or the airwave terminal.

I also remember being informed that the knife the man had was either a machete or other such large knife.

I don't know how long I remained in the Enquiry Office at this time, I don't believe it would be any great length of time as I would have general custody duties to perform. Although the general conversation within the Enquiry Office was centered on this incident and the general welfare of the officers involved.

I don't remember specifically discussing this incident in any great detail with either of the police officers from [REDACTED], however, it is possible that I did so.

Although I have access to my own airwave terminal as well as the static airwave terminal in the Enquiry Office, I at no time made contact with any of the officers involved in the incident. I was worried for their welfare, however, I did not feel that it was appropriate to make such transmissions. Similarly, I did have access to a telephone and I made no telephone contact with them for the same reason.

At no point of time did I see any of the officers involved in the incident return to Kirkcaldy Police Office. I understood that the following police officers were involved:-

A/Sgt Maxwell, he was acting up that day.

Constable Smith

Constable Walker

Constable Paton

Constable Good

Constable McDonough

Constable Short

Constable Tomlinson

In addition I now remember Constable Danny Gibson, also Team 4.

I am unsure when these officers returned to Kirkcaldy Police Office, however, I do remember being informed by I believe, Detective Inspector Colin Robson, CID, that the officers involved were coming back to Kirkcaldy Police Office and that they were going to be in the canteen. He stated that no one was to go near the canteen as the

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officers were to be de-briefed. I believe he came in to the Enquiry Office to deliver this message, I cannot be 100% sure who else was there.

As this incident was on going, as in still live, I remember that I did access the computer system looking at the calling cards (STORM) for the incident.

The first time I became aware that Team 4 had returned was early afternoon, the exact time I do not remember, I was exiting the custody cell area, heading towards the Enquiry Office. I noticed that Constable Walker was in front of me at the door leading in to the corridor from the custody area. I do not remember if he was wearing uniform or civilian clothing. As I caught up to him I remember asking him if he was 'alright'. At this he turned and I could clearly see that looked pale and had a blank expression on his face, he looked to me to be in shock. It's unusual for Constable Walker not to have a smile on his face. I noticed at this time he had a full packet of plastic cups in his hands. The two of us continued through the doorway in to the corridor. I'm not completely sure but I think Constable Lamb was also present. I remember asking him whether or not it was true that Ash (Const Tomlinson) had hit the man with his baton. I do not remember the exact words I used. I remember his reply being along the lines of "we awe did". Again I remember asking him how Constable Short was but I cannot remember his response nor do I remember exactly what I said.

At this point of time I was aware that the clothing from all of the police officers involved in the incident were to be siezed but I do not know how I became aware of this information, I don't know why.

Shortly after seeing Constable Walker, I remember seeing Constable Tomlinson in the corridor next to the food preparation. I cannot remember what he was wearing. I asked him if he was alright to which he smiled and told me yes. He did not appear upset in any way. I didn't ask him any further questions. I just wanted to make sure he was alright and I didn't feel it appropriate to bring up him striking the man with the baton. I was worried for all members of Team 4.

At no time did I enter the canteen nor did I have any further conversations regarding the incident with the officers involved.

About 1400 hours later that day, the backshift's duty commenced. This cycle was being taken over by members of Team 5, who I believe were [REDACTED]

I do not remember which one. It is possible that I had conversations with these individuals regarding the incident but I do not remember.

Between 1530 hours and 1600 hours, later that day I completed my shift and left Kirkcaldy Police Office.

About 2000 hours that night, I remember forwarding a text message to Constable McDonough asking if he was alright. I did this using my personal mobile telephone. Constable McDonough replied informing me he was fine and that he'd just returned home. I can't remember exactly what was said on the text messages. I do not have either of these messages saved on my mobile telephone. During this exchange

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there was no mention of the incident. I simply text him out of welfare as he is my probationer and I am his Tutor Constable so I wanted to ensure he was okay.

I had no telephone contact with any other member of Team 4.

During the course of my shift, I remember being aware, I believe from members of the enquiry team, although I either can't remember or don't know who, that a number of witnesses would be coming into Kirkcaldy Police Office for interview. However I did not witness any witnesses arrive for interview or leave after interview.

At no point of time did I have any discussions regarding the actual incident itself with any members of the enquiry team.

I would like to add that when I was in the Enquiry Office and I heard the updates being transmitted over the airwave, I do not know who was saying what. It was apparent that the updates were from the officers at the scene but I do not know who said what. However, I also now remember hearing that CPR was being carried out.

At no time did I over hear any conversations involving the officers involved in the incident.

Signed : (Witness)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL - NOT TO BE DISCLOSED

Surname : GEDDES Forenames: Brian [REDACTED]
Alias/known as :

Place of birth : [REDACTED] Age : over 18

Home address : [REDACTED] Telephone : [REDACTED]

Post code : [REDACTED]

Business address : Telephone :

Police Scotland
Kirkcaldy Police Office
St Brycedale Road
Kirkcaldy

Post Code : [REDACTED]

Mobile : [REDACTED]
Email : [REDACTED]

Fax/Pager :
Other :

Dates when unavailable in next 12 months :

Other Confidential Material :