



The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

DC Jennifer McAulay or Bruce

**Taken by [REDACTED] by MS Teams
on Monday 14 March 2022**

Witness Details

1. My full name is Jennifer Bruce. I was born in 1984 and I'm 37 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I have 14 years police service. I'm a Detective Constable and have been at this rank since 2011 or 2012. I was a Police Constable for about 4 years.
3. I started as a PC in uniform. I worked in Dundee city centre. I was then in Lochee area in Dundee, then Ryehill in Dundee and then Maryfield in Dundee. After that I went to the drugs branch and became a Detective Constable. I was only there a few months.
4. When Police Scotland started in 2012 half the team I was in formed the Major Investigation Team (MIT). I started as a Detective Constable in the MIT which is where I was when this inquiry took place. I think I did about 4 years in the MIT and then went to divisional CID then to a divisional rape team.

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5. I'm currently in the National Rape Task Force. The divisional team is essentially doing inquiries into local rape and sexual offences. The national team is similar to that, but we cover the north and we take on more protracted inquiries, maybe higher profile inquiries. I'm involved in investigating higher tariff, serious sexual crimes.
6. In May 2015 I was a Detective Constable. I was in the MIT and mainly dealing with investigating murders.
7. I've never worked in Kirkcaldy, I've always worked in Dundee. From the MIT in Dundee we helped cover the general north and Fife area. I would sometimes be working weekend cover and I would be asked to go to Kirkcaldy. I've been through to Kirkcaldy Police Station occasionally. From Dundee we would often help in Fife, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Inverness. This would be across the north area of Scotland and help in any kind of major inquiries.
8. I'd maybe recognise a couple of the Kirkcaldy officers by face in May 2015 but not by name and I wouldn't know them particularly well. I didn't know any of the response officers before I met them to take their clothing. I didn't know any of the uniform officers in Fife. I only knew their Major Investigation Team.
9. I don't know any of the ones in Fife that I worked with that day and I've had no other contact with any of them to date.

Previous statement

10. I prepared my own statement on 5 May 2015 (PIRC-00163). I wrote a true and accurate account. We would routinely do this if we've helped out on any inquiry. Over the next couple of days we will supply them with our own statement of our involvement. I don't know of any guideline or target for when we're expected to prepare these statements.

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11. What tends to happen, all these major inquiries will go on what we call the "HOLMES system", so it generates actions for everything that's needing done. So any officer's involvement, all witnesses, all productions, all go into the system and the staff in that team will generate actions which will include for every officer involved to prepare and submit their own statement. We preempt that that's going to happen, so we'll just prepare our statement and send it in knowing that we will be asked for it from the HOLMES team at some point.
12. You could probably, in theory, wait until you get asked by the HOLMES team for your statement. It just depends how long it takes them to request it from you. I don't think there's any specific time period.
13. I don't think I've ever been asked for a statement from PIRC. I wouldn't have said no if they asked me so I don't think I was ever asked for one.

3 May 2015

14. On 3 May 2015 I started duty at 0800 hours at Police Headquarters in Dundee. Every weekend we would have one pair working the weekend cover. That day it was me and my colleague, Keith Stockton. We were the only two working in the MIT in Dundee. [REDACTED]
15. We were asked to go and help in Kirkcaldy, so the two of us travelled to Kirkcaldy.
16. We were briefed by a Sergeant there. I don't remember specifically what was in the briefing. We wouldn't have probably had a lot of information at that time because it was early doors in the inquiry. It would have been along the lines of that a male had died whilst being restrained by uniform officers after causing

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some sort of disturbance, and that we were making inquiries into his death and the circumstances around it.

17. Me and DC Stockton were tasked with noting a statement from a witness. I noted that statement with Keith present.

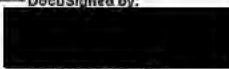
18. After that, I think Keith had to finish on time or get home early, so I ended up there kind of on my own. I was paired up with a uniform Inspector just to seize some clothing. Her name was Inspector Jane Combe. I hadn't worked with her before. I don't remember who asked me to do that.

Seizing clothing

19. We seized the clothing of four officers and I wrote up the labels and helped seal up the bags. Seizing the clothing of the officers is to try and preserve the productions forensically.

20. Specifically on that day, as best as I can remember, we got the officers to stand on a brown paper bag and take each item of their uniform off. We were in forensic suits as well, with gloves on. As they took each item off, they would hand it to me or the inspector, and we would put it in a production bag, and we would give the production a name by writing on the bag or label. We just did that until we had every item that we needed. Then we bagged up our own forensic suits and gloves. You end up with a pile of everything that they were wearing, everything that we were wearing, all bagged and labelled and sealed for each officer.

21. Different officers wear their equipment differently. We didn't remove or unclip any of it. So for Samantha Davidson I have written in my statement on page 3 "VEST (WITH BATON)" which means it is clipped on or in one of the pockets.

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22. We were in an office in Kirkcaldy Police Station, I don't know whose office it was. I don't know the building at all so I can't describe where in the building it was.

23. In my previous statement on page 2 I wrote that we seized PC Kayleigh Good's clothing between 1647 and 1653 hours and Nicole Short's clothing between 1808 and 1812 hours. I don't know why there was a delay between these two officers having their clothing seized. I don't think the delay would have been on our part.

24. I also seized clothing from Samantha Davidson between 1909 and 1915 hours and James McDonough between 1955 and 2002 hours. This is in my previous statement.

25. I went home after that.

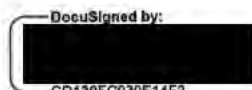
Nicole Short

26. The 4 minutes to seize Nicole Short's clothing was the time for her to take them off and for us to put them in the bags. I don't think I would've spent much longer with her before or after that. She would've had to get re-dressed into something afterwards but that would be about it.

27. When she came to us, she had her t-shirt, then microfleece and then her vest. I don't remember there being anything unusual about any of the uniform I seized that day. I don't remember if any of it was marked.

28. A microfleece is just like a really thin, fleecy top. It's not one of the big, bulky, thick fleece jackets. It's quite a thin material. It's just plain black with "Police" on the arm. You wear it over your t-shirt and under your vest.

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29. I don't remember if Nicole Short said anything to me about her uniform when she came to us. I didn't have much of a conversation with any of them. I don't think any of them said very much at all, but I can't specifically remember.

30. I didn't consider photographing any of the clothing. This is not something I would normally do. It's not routinely done.

Time with the officers

31. The officers weren't accompanied by anybody, as far as I remember. I don't remember anything that anybody said.


32. When I was seizing the officers clothing, it was clear to all parties that bagging and labelling the uniform was our only role at that time. There was a mutual understanding that we would not ask the officers any questions and they would not discuss the incident with us. Our role that day was purely to seize their clothing, not to obtain any information from them.

Media

33. I've not really been following the media surrounding this case. I see the headlines occasionally or if it's on STV news at night. I don't go out of my way to follow it.

34. I haven't really seen much more other than that, maybe a headline on the news about his family. I really haven't followed it much at all. The family were making a complaint about how it was dealt with. That's all I know, really. I've maybe seen a family member or their solicitor making comment about complaints that they've made and the processes they're going through. I've not seen anything outwith that, about the incident itself.

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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.

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