

Statement by Chair of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

Mr Paton did not attend the Inquiry for the recording of the permitted Rule 9 questioning. He provided a medical certificate to the effect that he was unfit to attend. I was advised that the consultant forensic psychiatrist who previously reported on his condition will see him again today and will provide a supplementary report. Once that report has been received I shall be in a position to decide how best to take this matter forward.

You will recall that when Mr Paton's evidence was being played I explained that references to certain names had been edited out. I should also now advise that some further names have been edited from the recording and transcript of the playing of the evidence of Mr Paton. After the core participants were given the opportunity to submit any relevant further questions arising from that evidence, counsel to the Inquiry considered that identification of these individuals was not necessary for the Inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference and I am satisfied that that is the case.

Today concludes this particular block of public hearings. Senior counsel to the Inquiry has advised that in addition to the oral evidence we have heard over the past 22 days, we are now ready to publish a large number of statements taken from witnesses by the Inquiry team. The entire content of all of these statements constitutes evidence to the Inquiry and is available to me for further consideration. In addition, we will publish a number of statements taken by the Police and Investigations Review Commissioner, at a time closer to the events, as well as an audio tape of a 999 call by Mrs Joyce Joyce.

Senior counsel has also advised that we will publish on the website a timeline, which is an innovative approach to the presentation of evidence, using witness statements and multimedia to create a curated snapshot of the key events at Hayfield Road on 03 May 2015. As part of this timeline we will also publish, for the first time, the full evidence video timeline, sections of which have been used during the evidential hearing with witnesses. This is the combined audio recordings and visual footage obtained by the Inquiry, played out against the real time clock.

There are three outstanding matters arising from this block. Evidence of these matters will be led in the November 2022. These are:

- the final report from Advanced Laser Imaging;
- expert evidence on officer safety training; and
- expert evidence of further forensic examination of the vest of Nicole Short.

Thereafter, in due course there will be further blocks of hearings which will include:

- examination of the post incident management conducted by Police Scotland;

- the cause of death;
- the investigation conducted by the PIRC and the Lord Advocate; and
- the issue of race.

Preparation in respect of these hearings is ongoing.

Finally, I would like to remind all core participants that it is for the Inquiry to conduct the investigation into the terms of reference. I expect as part of the commitments given by all core participants to co-operate with the Inquiry on that investigation, including the taking of statements from current or prospective witnesses, will be a matter for my Inquiry team alone.

Lord Bracadale

30 June 2022