

WITNESS STATEMENT

Agency Ref : S280  
PF Ref :

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Surname : STEWART Other or previous surname :

Forenames : Steven DoB : [REDACTED]/1969 Age : 45

Occupation : Police Inspector Other Occupation :

Police Station : Bilston Glen ACR, Edinburgh Years Service : 22

Disclosable address :

Post Code:

This statement was taken :

Date and time : 9th of October 2015 10.20

By : INV MAURICE RHODES  
Place : Bilston Glen ACR, Edinburgh

In the presence of : INV ROSS STEWART

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 employed as a Police Inspector by the Police Service of Scotland (Police Scotland). I have completed 22 years police service, the last 3 years of which have been within the Area Control Room (ACR) at Bilston Glen, Edinburgh. My current role is known as Duty Officer, East Overview, with oversight of all control functions and activities for the East Command Area.

Today (9 October 2015) I have been visited at the ACR Bilston Glen, by Investigators Maurice Rhodes and Ross Stewart of the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner Office (PIRC) Hamilton, who have explained their role to me. They have informed me that they are carrying out Crown led investigations into the

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Death in Police Custody of Sheku Bayoh in the Kirkcaldy area on Sunday 3rd May 2015. They have confirmed to me that my status is that of a witness.

I have been asked by Investigator Rhodes to give an explanation of my role within the C3 Division which is Communication, Command and Control Division for Police Scotland, which comprises of Service Centres and the Area Control Room for the East Command Area. My specific role as Duty Officer consist of having an overview of activity within the East Command Policing Area, with specific responsibility for control and co-ordination of specialist resources, which would include firearms, road policing, public order, negotiators, dog unit, air support, infact, any specials, resources available to Police Scotland. This includes the appropriate deployment of these resources to support Divisional and local policing objectives.

The set up at Bilston Glen ACR consists of a Service Centre (Contact Centre) that receives 101 and 999 calls from the public and partner agencies, a control room consisting of four separate divisional control areas servicing, four different geographical divisions, each of which are overseen by a supervisor area (Police Sergeant or Police Staff supervisor), and finally the East Overview Room itself which sits in a oversight role regarding these other functions.

East overview consists of a Duty Officer (Police Inspector), Police Sergeant, Communications Officer and a RAID Officer (Researcher and Intelligence Officer), who is always a Police Constable. The Communications officer is always a member of Police Staff.

On Sunday 3rd May 2015, I commenced duty at Bilston Glen ACR at 0615 hours. Generally, I would then receive a handover from the nightshift Duty Officer at 0630 hours at which time I would assume responsibility for the Duty Officer function.

Just after that handover, and as part of my role as Duty Officer, I was contacted by telephone by the Edinburgh ARV (Armed Response Vehicles) crews, which consist of two double crewed vehicles (4 Officers) FM1 and FM11 call signs. At that point I issued a formal warning and declaration to these officers regarding their fitness to carry out the role of Firearms Office that day, that shift. One of these officers was an Operational Firearms Commander (OFC) and I discussed with him their operational commitments for that day. At 0645 hours I then briefed the Stirling ARV crews, FM13 in a similar fashion. This is then followed by the Airport (Edinburgh) crews. This process in itself could take anything up to 45 minutes to complete, but runs alongside other routine business that requires my attention.

That morning sometime after 0700 hours, I was occupied elsewhere in the building, but I don't recall for what purpose, I may have been talking to one of the control room Sergeants, but I cannot be sure. However, when I returned to the EOV (East Overview) I was made aware by the EOV Sergeant that there was an ongoing incident in the Kirkcaldy area regarding a male seen in possession of a knife. I immediately sat down at my desk and started to look the incident, to ascertain what exactly were the circumstances. My immediate concerns were to ensure that the call had been actioned and that there were sets (resources) attending the call. Also that the local supervisors, the Inspector and/or Sergeant, was aware and that sufficient

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resources were being deployed, from a divisional point of view. At this time I considered that a Divisional response was appropriate.

At that point my main actions were to gather a clearer picture, including intelligence ,that would assist the officers attending the call. Whilst doing this I instructed my Sergeant (Sergeant [REDACTED] to recontact the informant Joyce Joyce (Witness) to obtain a live time update as to what was happening at that time and as to whether or not she could still see the male, and say whether or not he was still in possession of a knife.

In addition I began to monitor the local airwave channel, which is Kirkcaldy 1.

There were several calls coming in regarding the incident and I had tasked the RAID officer to establish if the calls were linked and at the same time had tasked the communications officer to establish the whereabouts of specialist resources, dispatch a dog unit immediately and make the firearms officers aware of a developing divisional incident on Kirkcaldy 1.

At that point, I pressed the PTT (Press To talk) button on my console and I made a transmission to all officers attending the incident.

I have been shown by Investigator Rhodes:

Label No.                      Transcripts of Police Scotland Airwave Talkgroup 'Kirkcaldy 01'  
   on 3rd May 2015                      between 0616 and 0800 GMT

and I have signed the label attached to this document. The document clearly shows my transmission which is as follows:

"Inspector Stewart area control room to the set attending eh... I'm monitoring this obviously from a ...eh... an 'A.R.V' perspective, eh if you get sightings of the male you need to make an initial assessment yourself... em... and feedback through straight away... em... and I'll listen out on the channel". As far as I recall this is a true reflection of the statement that I transmitted that morning.

The purpose of that transmission was twofold. Firstly to ensure that the officers were aware of the need to make a Dynamic Risk Assessment of the situation they were entering into in accordance with their officer safety training and secondly to provide me with key information regarding the level of threat that was being presented. I need that information and intelligence live time to feed the NDM (National Decision Model) which I basically use to make an accurate threat and risk assessment. That in turn would inform my decision making as to what specialist resources may be required to be deployed.

My transmission was not one that I necessarily required to make at that specific point, but I was being proactive in reminding them of safety considerations and of the need to pass current information to me.

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I can confirm that my transmission is not an instruction to the officers to 'stand off' but merely a reminder for them to make a professional risk assessment of the circumstances facing them and report back in line with training.

What happened after that was that within a matter of seconds, five or ten, the emergency activation light on my console was activated which told me that an officer had pressed the emergency button on his or her airwave terminal for immediate emergency assistance.

At that point I was waiting for the next transmission from the attending officers to assess what was happening. The next transmission that I recall informed me that an officer had been injured and that a male had been secured on the ground.

I can confirm that over the next few hours, basically for the rest of my shift, I spent my time in an overview perspective, dealing with resource requests from division and other logistical requirements.

From a firearms perspective, I can confirm that there had been no tactical relocation of any firearms resources. They had been contacted and informed to monitor 'Kirkcaldy 1' in relation to this ongoing incident and almost at that time the divisional officers have arrived at the locus and dealt with the incident. When I became aware that the male was under control and that there were no weapons involved, which was immediately, I made the decision to stand down any firearms involvement as no threat thereafter existed. This all occurred over a very short period of time.

I don't recall, but thereafter it would have been normal practice to alert the media of a road closure at that locus, either Traffic Scotland or INRIX, regard an ongoing police incident. No other information was passed to the media from East Overview.

This is a true and accurate account of my involvement.

Signed : (Witness)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL - NOT TO BE DISCLOSED

Surname : STEWART      Forenames:      Steven  
Alias/known as :

Place of birth : [REDACTED]      Age : over 18

Home address : [REDACTED]      Telephone :

Post code : [REDACTED]

Business address : Bilston Glen ACR      Telephone : [REDACTED]  
Dryden Road  
Loanhead  
Midlothian

Post Code : EH209LZ

Mobile :  
Email : [REDACTED]

Fax/Pager :  
Other :

Dates when unavailable in next 12 months :

Other Confidential Material :