



The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

Geoffrey Levy

Taken [REDACTED]
on an audio call on MS Teams
On 14 December 2021

1. My name is Geoffrey Levy. I am 69 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My eyesight is fine although I wear glasses for reading. I didn't wear glasses and had no concerns about my sight back in 2015.
2. I am retired. However, at the time of the incident I was a [REDACTED] for a company called [REDACTED]
3. I am asked about an incident in 2015. I cannot remember exactly when this was possibly summertime as it was light in the early morning. I was working with [REDACTED] David Grey. I believe David was driving and I was in the passenger seat. I left the [REDACTED] depot in Glasgow at around 5.30 am and travelled to Kirkcaldy and the surrounding area [REDACTED]. I can't remember the route we travelled or where exactly we were in Kirkcaldy. I couldn't even tell you the name of [REDACTED] that we was going to. It would have probably been [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. It was a clear morning, visibility was good. I don't remember the window wipers being on. We was just driving up the road. It's quite a wide road, with houses on either side. There was no other traffic about or people. I saw [REDACTED]

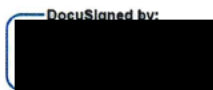
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walking down the middle of the road towards us was a male. I could clearly see that he had a large knife in his right hand. It looked like a big kitchen carving knife. Because we was cash in-transit, and had money on board, we obviously didn't know whether he was up to no good or whether he intended to attack us, so we stopped the vehicle and turned it around. As we turned around, David phoned the police to report what he'd seen. And we just took a detour around other streets to get to the other side of where we saw this male. Whilst making that detour, after a few minutes, we heard police sirens. So, we could only assume that they was going to where this gentlemen was. I didn't see any police vehicles.

5. I had a clear view of the man. I was watching him for a few minutes at most. I couldn't describe the man now, other than to say he was male and a coloured guy. As I say, he had this large carving knife in his right hand. And he was just walking up the road purposely: you'd either think that he's done something or he's going to be up to something, or whether he was on drugs – you just didn't know. And as I say, because we had cash and valuables in our vehicle, we didn't know if he was intending to attack us, so that's why we just turned around, phoned the police, and took a detour.

6. I'm asked about a statement I gave to PIRC in May 2015. I don't remember giving a statement about this incident. However, I accept I must have given one. I'm told my statement says that *"About ten past seven as we were driving along we were waved down by a guy in a car who drove up beside us"* and that the driver told David that *"there was a man standing in the middle of the road with a knife and we should turn around"*. I can't remember that but that is probably what's happened because the statement was given at the time.

7. I'm told the statement goes on to say that *"after speaking to the guy in the car I seen the man with the knife walking in the middle of the road. He was about*

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50-60 metres away from me... He had the knife in his left hand, it looked about twelve inches in length, like a carving knife. He looked quite menacing, he was walking as though he owned the place, full of bravado." That all rings a bell and gives the impression of how he was. Someone walking up the middle of the road without a care in the world with a knife in their hand, they do look menacing. Bearing in mind, that's the way we're trained to think because [REDACTED] I found his whole body language menacing. He was walking up the middle of the road as if he owned it, with that sort of "I am Mr Big" type of look about him. He looked as if he was going to be aggressive. I didn't see him being aggressive to anybody as such, but he had a knife in his hand, which is aggressive enough in the early hours of the morning, walking up middle of the road.

8. I am told my statement goes on to say that "We continued on our journey to our next job...Shortly afterwards I seen one police vehicle with sirens on drive towards us and an ambulance. They were headed in the direction of the guy." That may well have been true. I can't actually remember now seeing these vehicles, but obviously that was five years ago I done that statement. So, it's probably true. Whether that was a police vehicle, ambulance going to that incident with this guy, I don't know. Bearing in mind, we turned around, taken a detour so that the guy was out of our sight. We were unfamiliar with the area, so we're just trying to put details of [REDACTED] into the satnav to get a new route. I would have been dealing with the sat nav as David was driving.

9. I'm asked if I have spoken to any of the other witnesses in this case. The only witness I know is David Grey but that was only through work. I have had no contact with him since I left [REDACTED] I spoke to David about the incident when we were in the vehicle on the day that it happened but have not spoken about it since.

10. I'm asked if I have been following reports in the media about this case. No, I

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[REDACTED]

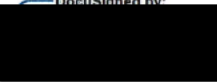
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11. haven't. I got the letter from the Inquiry asking me to provide a statement, so I went online just to see what the Inquiry was all about and found out that the man died in custody. But other than that, I've not looked at anything or followed anything.

12. My memory of the events I've described has definitely faded. It was a number of years ago that this took place. My memory of this incident was at its best in the initial days and weeks after it happened. I now don't remember giving a statements to the PIRC. However, I accept that I gave a statement to them and can say that I would have given a truthful and accurate statement. If there is any discrepancy between what I've said in this statement and my statement to the PIRC, that earlier statement should be preferred.

13. 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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4/2/2022

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