



**The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry
Supplementary Witness Statement**

PC Brian Geddes

**Taken by [REDACTED] on MS Teams
on Thursday 4 August 2022**

Witness Details

1. My full name is Brian [REDACTED] Geddes. My date of birth is in 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I'm a Police Constable. I have 21 years' service.
3. I previously gave a statement to the Inquiry on 21 February 2022. I gave evidence at the Inquiry hearing on 22 and 24 June 2022.

Email

4. On 28 June 2022 I sent an email to Police Scotland. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I wrote the following:-

I have been asked to forward the following information regarding my evidence given at the Hearing on Friday 24th June 2022.

Signature of witness.....

[REDACTED]

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During the hearing I was asked why I did not challenge an officer who made a comment relating to ISIS being in the building. At the time I was asked this question, I could give no reason as to why I never challenged the officer regarding his comment.

On leaving the hearing and over the weekend, this caused me some issue as I recalled that I did in fact raise the issue with my line manager.

I informed the Custody Sergeant who subsequently informed the Custody Inspector of the officer's comment.

I was informed that the officer's own Sergeant was to then be contacted and made aware of the officer's comment, BSU were to be contacted and requested that the officer was not to be re-deployed in Fife in the future.

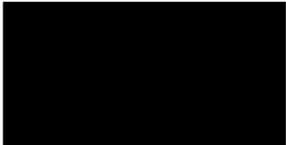
I received no update from the Custody Sergeant regarding this information and as to when this was carried out.

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5. I typed the email. I wrote that BSU, Business Support Unit, were to be contacted. There's been a typo on my part. I put the wrong letters in. It should be RDU, Resource Deployment Unit.

Raising issue regarding racist comment

6. I have been asked why I didn't remember raising this issue until after giving evidence at the hearing. I couldn't remember everything that happened on 3 May 2015. Over the weekend after the hearing with days off I relaxed a bit more. It was still playing on my mind.

Signature of witness..... 

7. I remembered that I did do something about the comment. I remember mentioning it to my Sergeant. He was PS Eric Anderson. I couldn't say what triggered it but there was a wee niggle there that's it's not like me to not say something or do something.

8. Yes, I never said nothing to the boy at the time however I've went straight out and spoke to my Sergeant as soon as I went out of the office. You see on the footage I've walked past the boy when he's spoke to me because I've put the male we were dealing with back in the cell and are getting him processed, fingerprints and that. I just walked past the boy and I went straight back to the Sergeant to update on the system that we've processed the boy and I've mentioned to the Sergeant. Just the passage of time, I'd forgotten about it and this is one of the things that came back to me.

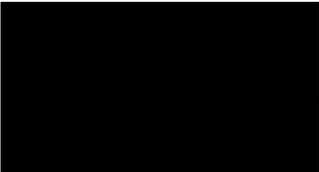
9. I spoke to the Sergeant in the office. On the floorplan of Kirkcaldy Police Station  this is marked "Enquiry Office".

10. I can't remember what I said exact word for word, but I just pointed out to him that the guy's made this comment about ISIS being in the building. I just made him aware that the boy's made this comment.

11. The Sergeant wasn't very impressed he's made this comment. Straightaway he's mentioned that he's going to be contacting the Inspector. The Inspector was PI Logue or Logie.

12. He was going to be making the Inspector aware and saying we want to deal with this because we're not happy that someone's come into the station and making these kind of comments after what had just occurred that day.

13. We weren't happy because it was the day Mr Sheku Bayoh had passed away after the incident. Particularly because at that point we're dealing with Mr Bayoh's death and we didn't know at that time if there was any terrorism

Signature of witness..... 

elements or anything linked to that. There was still a lot of speculation ongoing because, as an office, we weren't fully aware of the circumstances that went on out on the street, so whether it had been a terrorist incident or not.

14. Nobody knew about the situation. There was a lot of the ISIS issues going on in the country. If people were making jokes about ISIS after what was going on outside it seemed inappropriate. Not just because of what was happening that day, but any time it's quite an inappropriate comment.

15. I didn't know the officer's name who made the comment. He wasn't a Fife officer. He was one of the Edinburgh officers who were sent to Kirkcaldy. I never worked with him before and never worked with him after. I've never met him since for anything. I don't know where he is now.

16. I didn't tell the officer that I'd raised the issue about him. I can't recall any other conversations with that boy on the day.

17. PS Anderson is still a Custody Sergeant. I don't do custody anymore so don't work with him. I'm not in touch with him. I've been taken off frontline duties. He used to be my Sergeant at once point but I don't socialise with him.

18. I think the Custody Inspector was Inspector Logue or Logie, I think it was him, I'm sure he's now retired. I've not worked with him professionally since my time in custodies and don't know him personally. I've not spoken to either of them since. I've not spoken to them about issue I raised about the Edinburgh officer. I'm now working at headquarters which means I don't speak to them or have any involvement.

19. I don't know who the Edinburgh Sergeant would be. I don't know if it would be the Sergeant or the Inspector who would be the one contacting them. PS

Signature of witness..........

Anderson said that the officer wouldn't be coming to Fife again. I don't know whose decision that would be.

20. The last of it was on 3 May 2015. I never asked for an update. It's not something for me to deal with. It's for the supervisors to deal with as they saw fit. I never spoke to the Inspector at all that day.

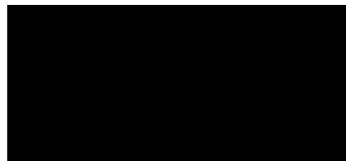
21. Nobody from RDU was in touch with me. RDU's role is for resources. If short-staffed they would look at availability of other officers. They could transfer someone to help. So RDU would be the ones taking officers from Edinburgh to help at Kirkcaldy.

22. Sergeant Anderson said either him or the Inspector would be contacting RDU, so I'm not sure who it was that dealt with the issue once I made Sergeant Anderson aware of it. But either were going to be contacting RDU and making them aware that we're not wanting this officer back covering Fife again.

23. I don't know of any documents that will be available for the issue I raised. I don't know how the Sergeant or Inspector contacted RDU. There was no forms to fill out. I haven't got a clue how they carry out their communications. If they've emailed the person there'll be an email trail. If they just phoned them, it's all going to be phone calls. I don't know if this is recorded in any of our systems.

24. Other than this, I've never made a complaint or raised an issue about another officer. I wouldn't really say it was raising a complaint, I was just making the Sergeant aware of what this person has said, and in light of what was going on at the time with Mr Bayoh, I felt it was an inappropriate comment about, I'm trying not to say the wrong word here, the Asian gentleman that was in the cells. I felt it was an inappropriate comment, the boy said ISIS being in the building.

Signature of witness...

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Process for raising issues

25. I don't know of any process for raising issues with police colleagues. If we had an issue with someone and I didn't feel confident enough to pull the person up about it there and then, I would be going to my line manager and make them aware of what had happened. If they then want potentially to make an official complaint, they may ask me to provide a statement, and send the statement onto them. They would deal with it, or pass it up to the Inspector, or to Professional Standards or whatever.

26. I couldn't say if it's written down, but I think it's one of the things you'd just take to your manager. They'd deal with it or give you advice to help you deal with an issue.

27. If I heard any racist comments again I would've raised the issue with my line manager. If they did it officially they would take a statement and it would go to Professional Standards. They are the PSU, Professional Standards Unit.

28. I don't know if I can go direct to Professional Standards myself. I've never had the need to. I would like to think you would if I had an issue because if I had an issue with my Sergeant or Inspector, who would be the natural progression to report something, I would have to go to my Sergeant and work up the chain that way. I'd like to think I could but I genuinely don't know.

29. I don't know of any involvement of the Federation in these issues.

30. A complaint about me would go on my personal record. If this was reported to guy's supervisor then it would go on the personal record. It depends on what's happened at the other end. If this had been reported to this guy's supervisors, that's not something I would have access to and it's not something I would get told either.

Signature of witness..... 

31. 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.

August 15, 2022 | 8:29 AM BST
Date.....Signature of witness... 