



The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

Mr Saeed Ahmed

Taken by [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] on Thursday 08 December 2022

Witness details and background

1. My full name is Saeed Ahmed. My date of birth is in 1952. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am a [REDACTED].

Sunday 03 May 2015

2. I got a phone call from my daughter, Saadia, on the morning of Sunday 03 May, after nine o'clock, maybe half past nine. I was [REDACTED] in Kirkcaldy. [REDACTED]. She phoned me from my house at [REDACTED] Saeed home address [REDACTED]. My wife, one of my sons, [REDACTED], who is disabled, and my grandchildren were there. My daughter was crying. At that time she had a baby, I don't remember but maybe weeks old, a young [REDACTED]. That's why she was crying. She told me that, "The police is here, CID men, and they want us to get out from the house. Empty, right now, and we tried to explain, but they won't listen." I said, "Why is that?" She said, "I don't know. They just said, 'It's a crime scene. You have to go out. Everybody has to leave.'" I told her,

Signature of witness [REDACTED]

“Didn’t you tell them that your brother is disabled, and we can’t take him anywhere?” She said, “Yes, I did, but they’re not listening. They said, ‘No, you have to leave. We have to empty the house. We have to seal the house because it’s a crime scene.’” She asked where she should go with the baby. I said, “Okay, I’ll come round.” I was on my own, [REDACTED] and I think I was back at nine or half nine something, I don’t know. Then I went to [REDACTED], soon after talking to her.

Saeed home address

3. I went on to [REDACTED] Saeed home address . I arrived maybe at ten or half past ten. It would take fifteen or twenty minutes to get there [REDACTED]. Once I knock on the door, the policemen came out. I can see well from their plainclothes they’re detectives, they’re not uniformed policemen. I got their names and numbers, because they wrote it down for me. I have the piece of paper. I don’t know if I wrote it, or they wrote it. I think I wrote it down. DC 939 Kevin Petrie, and DC 601 Gordon Miller. I am asked if I remember what they looked like. I do not.
4. I said, “I need to come in. My daughter just told me that you wanted to clear the house. What do you want?” They said, “No, you can’t come in.” I asked, “Why can’t I come in? My disabled son, my wife, my daughter, my grandchildren are there, and you’re just asking them to come out. Why can’t I come in? I am a carer for my son. He’s disabled.” My son needs support all the times, for toilet and so on. My wife, she can’t manage on her own, and my daughter, she was busy because they were asking her to pack up. She couldn’t help. She is very skinny and my son is quite heavy. I said, “I am supposed to be here. You’ve just come, for what reason? I don’t know.” They said, “Oh, we’re not obliged to tell you, just you can’t come in.” They didn’t say anything about my son’s needs. They just kept repeating that we had to empty the house. I argued. I said, “If you don’t let me in, then I’ll have to phone somebody, either the Glenrothes or Kirkcaldy Police Station.” They

Signature of witness [REDACTED]

consulted probably. Then they went back and phoned somebody, I don't know. I stayed outside, then suddenly they just came out and said, "Okay, you can come in."

5. They started explaining, "This is a crime scene." I said, "What's the crime scene?" They said, "We're not obliged to tell you." I said, "Well, when you're saying crime scene, what crime was committed here?" They just wanted us to get out. I asked, "Where we shall go? Where my family will go? Where can I take my son away, and my wife, and the children, and my daughter?" They said, "That's not our job, but they have to leave; you have to go take them away wherever." We argued for a while, and we were still there and my daughter came. She was upstairs, maybe feeding the baby, then she came down and she started telling me what they said: they have to empty the house and so on, "it's a crime scene."
6. After that, I think maybe a few minutes after, my other son came up, [REDACTED]. He's also a carer for [REDACTED]. He came to the door and the gentleman, the CID man, went to the door and told him he can't come in. He started talking loudly and getting angry and so on. Because he was getting angry they said, "No, you can't come in." I went to the door and I explained myself and said, "Look, just calm down, okay? They don't let you come in, that's okay. I'm in here now. I'm talking to them, and you can stay outside at the door." He said, "All right," and calmed down then. I said, "Okay, you stay at the door."
7. I have been referred to the statement I previously gave to the Police Investigation and Review Commissioner¹. It has been highlighted to me that in that statement I refer to my daughter-in-law attending at [REDACTED] Saeed home address on the afternoon of Sunday 03 May 2015, at around the same time as my son, [REDACTED]. I am asked if I recall her being there at that time. I do not.

¹ PIRC-00386 – Saeed AHMED statement

Signature of witness. [REDACTED]

8. I am asked if I saw the police officers speak to my wife or daughter. My wife don't speak very much. They'd been speaking to my daughter, but before I arrived, not in front of me.

9. I start talking to the CID men. They said, "We don't know anything, right? This is a crime scene, and we have to seal the house." I said, "Well, if there is any particular part you wanted to look at, okay, but can we stay in the sitting room? We can stay in this room and you can search whatever you like, or you can seal it the other way. That is the only room we'll use, the kitchen and the sitting room and the toilet next to it, and you can do whatever you want to do with the rest of the house." They said, "No, we have to seal it, and you have to go." I kept asking them, "Where we can go? Where can I take my disabled son?" They said "We can't tell you that, you just have to leave."

10. We decided to leave the house. Outside, I went to my son and told him that we had to go out, and said, "We'll see you later on, probably." Then I came back, and I asked the police, "Look, because we have to take my son from here and his belongings and so on, I need help. Can you let [REDACTED] come in to just give us a hand?" After a bit of argument, they said, "Okay, let him."

11. We packed up things and my daughter started packing up as well because she's got kids [REDACTED]. I asked her, "What are you going to do?" She said, "Well, probably, I'll have to go back now because I don't know when they are going to let us come in." They just keep ignoring when we asked, "When we can come in?" I kept asking when we can come back. They said, "We don't know. We have to do the forensic examination and once we finish then you can come." I asked, "When?" They said, "Don't know." I asked, "Today?" They said, "Don't know."

12. I asked my eldest son, [REDACTED], to take my wife and my daughter and her children and my disabled son to his house, because he got a bigger house in [REDACTED]. He said, "Okay, I'll take them with me now." I said, "I will get in touch with you. Okay, better just take the things what you need." My

Signature of witness [REDACTED]

son's carers [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Three times they come to look after my son, help with the toilet and other needs and so on. I said, "Okay, well, whenever they come, let them come. Don't worry, just send them away." Then all of us got out. [REDACTED] took my wife and disabled son. My daughter, she got a car because she got a child in there as well, she get into her car. They went with my disabled son to [REDACTED]'s house, and I just came back [REDACTED]. I had been at my house for not less than an hour, maybe a bit more, when we left.

13. I am asked if the officers attempted at any point to physically remove us from the house. They were forcing us, saying, "You have to leave right now," but not physically. They were just telling me, and they were quite aggressive.

After leaving [REDACTED] Saeed home address

14. Later in the afternoon or early evening, I'd say about maybe five o'clock or so, I don't know, I phoned at the police station and asked them, "Is my house empty now? Have you finished your job?" They said, "No. Phone us about an hour later or so." Then I phoned again [REDACTED] at seven o'clock. I told them, "I'm [REDACTED], I have to go home, and the carers are coming for my son, and they usually come about quarter-past or half-past nine to put him into bed and so on." They said "No, they can't come." I said, "Well they're going to come, and they're not going to go to [REDACTED] It's a Sunday. I can't just tell them to go wherever." They said "Okay, just phone us again, then we will tell you if the job is done." I said, "Okay, but make sure, whichever way, the house is empty by nine o'clock. That's enough time, you got a whole day for whatever you wanted to do, because before the carer comes my son will have to be in the house." They said, "Okay, it will be empty before nine o'clock or maybe by eight o'clock." I said, "Okay, that's fine, as long as it's empty."

Signature of witness [REDACTED]

15. Then they phoned me and said, "Well, we can't manage to do the forensic examination. We can provide you accommodation in a hotel or you can get accommodation yourself and it will be paid," or something. I said, "No. I don't know what kind of hotel we have. We never stayed in a hotel. My son never stayed in a hotel. Nor has my wife. We're not going to go into the hotel. You had all day; whatever you wanted to done you have done. You don't tell me what happened. Why is it a crime scene?" I didn't know at all. They didn't mention anything. Then after arguing, they said, "Okay, we will try to finish the job before nine o'clock." I said, "I will be at my door at nine o'clock. If it's not finished, I will get in because my son will be with me and we're not going to stay outside." They said, "Okay, no, no, we will finish, we'll try to finish." I said, "Okay."

16. I am asked if I remember going to Kirkcaldy Police Station that evening. I don't really remember going to the police station. I think I phoned two or three times. If I did go, it could be in the evening, but I don't really remember that. I am told that CCTV footage shows that I attended Kirkcaldy Police Station that evening, but I do not remember doing so.

Returning to Saeed home address

17. I went to the house, I think it was just about nine o'clock, maybe a bit after or before. My son [REDACTED] also came with my wife and my disabled son and I think he was with my daughter as well, the older daughter, [REDACTED]. She was with them, as well. I really don't remember whether it was [REDACTED] or maybe Saadia was still there, or she went back. I don't remember that because it's long ago now. My daughter-in-law, [REDACTED] wife, was there as well.

18. The detectives were there outside on the pavement. There was no police car; they were detectives. They were there and with my son Zahid, who was standing beside them. I don't remember if this was the same two officers from earlier or different officers. I was quite angry, and sometimes when you are angry you don't remember so many things. I tried to speak with Zahid, to ask,

Signature of witness. [REDACTED]

“Where were you? What’s happening?” and so on. The detectives didn’t let him talk, they said, “No, he’s not allowed to talk.” I had some conversations with them, and they still didn't tell me anything. I tried to speak to Zahid two or three times, maybe more, and they just said, “No he's just helping us and nothing to worry about. He's helping the inquiry.” They didn't say anything to me.

19. I asked, “So you’re not going to come in?” They said, “No, he’s not going to come in because we’re going to drop him off.” He lives somewhere in [REDACTED]. I’ve never seen his house anyway. They said they would drop him over there and said he’s not allowed to come in. I kept asking them why; they just said, “You don’t have to worry about him. He’s all right. He’s just helping us; he’s helping police, so we will take care of him. He will go to his house. We will drop him over there.” Probably they were just doing their duties, but that they didn't let Zahid talk to us seems to me a bit weird. I kept asking, “Why you want to take him over there? We will take him over there.” They said, “No, no, no, we will give him lift.” I said, “Okay, fine,” then we just get into the house. There were no officers in the house. Then I saw them take Zahid away and that was it.

After Sunday 03 May 2015

20. After the police had been at my house, I didn’t know what was that for. I learnt later on, maybe second or third day, or maybe next week, because [REDACTED] saw what happened with the African boy, and he told me that this thing happened on Sunday when he was going at work. He asked, “Do you know anything about it?” I said, “No, I don’t know anything about it.” He said, “Saeed, I heard that they took your son away, as well.” I said, “Well, yes, they did.” He said, “Did you ask him?” I said I’d never seen him since. I seen him just a wee bit outside. After that I didn’t see him at all, so I don’t have a chance to talk. That’s when I knew what actually happened: somebody died and how he died and that my son was also involved.

Signature of witness [REDACTED]

21. [REDACTED], I forgot their name now, she told me what was going on from here. She asked me, "Do you know what happened on that? Did you hear on the news?" I said, "I heard a wee bit, but I don't know actually what happened." She said, "I tell you what happened," because she said she was there. They were watching boxing match or something, and this boy's had an argument and so and so and then he storm away. Then he got killed by the police. I said, "I don't know. I don't know anything about it," because I didn't have the story told by anybody. Briefly she told me that. I said, "Okay, I've got nothing to do with them," and I told her what happened with me that day with my son and my family, that we got chucked out and she didn't know that. She said, "Oh yeah. That's strange." I said, "You know, that is strange," but I said I didn't know anything. I said, "There's a possibility Zahid, my son, maybe he's involved, I don't know because I haven't been told." I didn't have a chance to see him because I didn't see him at all. I don't know where he worked. That was basically everything I know about that story, nothing else after that.

Complaint

22. The only thing that concerned me on 03 May 2015 was the police were very rude. They wasn't answering any of my questions. I think my son was asking them if they had a warrant and so forth. I didn't ask them for the warrant. So I just asked them to explain, "What happened? Why you want it to be empty? Why is it a crime scene?" They said, "We're not obliged to tell you. We're not going to tell you. We have to do forensic examination and the building has to be sealed." That's it, nothing else. They weren't saying anything at all. That's annoyed me. At least something should have been explained. Then I would have been okay. We had to leave the house, my daughter was getting very angry, my son was getting angry. He said he's not going. He don't want to go anywhere, because he don't go anywhere at all apart from the house. Since the last 20 years now, he don't stay overnight anywhere, nowhere at all,

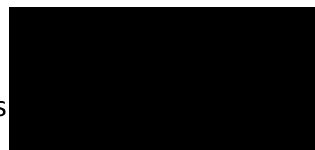
Signature of witness. [REDACTED]

and he don't go out either. He go out only if I take him out, even for appointments, doctors or wherever. He don't go out or stay out at night especially. That's why I was annoyed that time, because they were not saying how long they're going to seal my house. That's why I was getting angry. Even on the phone, I was getting angry. I said I wanted to get into the house by nine o'clock, by whatever means. I said, "If I have to force entry, I have to force entry. You have to get out," because I have no choice, and my son goes crazy because he is mentally ill, so we can't handle him then. That's the only thing that was annoying me.

23. The lack of information is why I wanted to complain. That was the first thing, because I didn't know anything at all what was happening. If somebody come and throw you from your house and says, "Oh, you have to get out." Why should I? We should have been told at least something. That part was annoying me the most, and both police officers were actually talking rudely as well when they were saying no. They were getting angry, the ones in the morning. The evening ones were alright. They were just talking, I think, to my daughter-in-law. I wasn't taking much interest, but they were polite. They were not aggressive or angry. I have nothing against them.

24. I asked the Fife Islamic Centre chairman to make a complaint to the police head office about what happened. I told him all the stories. He said, "That's not right, maybe I write it down." He wrote a letter, which was sent on 14 May 2015. I think we did have a small letter of acknowledgment back saying, "Your complaint had been dealt with" and that's it, nothing else. Or maybe I wrote a letter, I don't know myself. Then I received a phone call from the Levenmouth Police Station, from the Inspector from there. His name is Tom Brown. I didn't know it was him before I arrived at the police station. When we talked, then we thought he knew me and I knew him. We were very friendly actually because we knew each other from quite some time ago. He said he wanted to see me. I said, "Okay, I'll come around."

Signature of witness



.....

25. I went to the police station on 26 May 2015. I don't remember the dates now, but I have the letter that I wrote, that had been written by the Islamic Centre, and the reply. They show the dates. He asked me what happened and how it happened, and I told him all this. This thing doesn't look very good, and I told him, "I don't want to make an official complaint, but I have a genuine concern. I work for the community. I'm a [REDACTED] as well. If this is happening with me it can happen with anybody else, and what's going to happen then? When they come to me for help, what should I do if I can't help myself?"

26. After listening to my story he said, "Well, they should have treated you better. They should have explained to you why they wanted to do that – there was a breakdown of communication. Now I feel sorry myself. Please accept my apologies." I said, "Oh well, that's all right. It's happened, but it should not happen. It can happen to anybody else, and we are not able to help them at all." He said, "Okay, I will write a letter to you," because I said I wanted this in writing.

27. The letter didn't come soon after that. I received the letter quite a bit later, in September I think, about three days after the people from the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner came.

28. I am asked if Inspector Brown said anything during that meeting about what would happen in relation to the officers involved. He did not.

Police Investigations and Review Commissioner

29. I had a visit from the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner on 24 August 2015. Some ladies and a gentleman, they came to my house. They were inquiring. They said they wanted to know, and I told them all this. A lady asked me, "Why didn't you made an official complaint?" I said, "Well, I don't want to make an official complaint against the police. I have good relations with them. I've been [REDACTED] for years. So I have got

Signature of witness.. [REDACTED]

nothing against the police. I don't want to make a complaint." They said, "Oh, you should now." I said, "Well, I don't want to make a complaint at all. I'm just telling you what happened is not right." They said, "Wow," after that and they said "Okay." They asked me if I received any letter from the police after my complaint, and I said no. They said they were going to the police station, Levenmouth Police Station, so they would talk.

30. Probably they talked and soon after, I think the second or third day after they went, I received a letter of apologies from Tom, Mr Brown.

31. I am asked if I was happy with how my complaint was dealt with. The answer is yes, I think it was alright. That's why I didn't make an official complaint. Even when I was asked to do it, I said no.

Relationship with the police

32. Fife Islamic Centre has been working with the police very closely, since [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was the Chief Constable. That's long ago. After that as well even the local police. [REDACTED]; the Chief Superintendent, [REDACTED] was quite a friend of mine. We've been very, very friendly with the police. I never, ever have any complaints. I have one complaint that was long ago that happened in Southall. That time I made an official complaint because the police were very rude to me. An inquiry took place and nothing happened. That's it. They got my interview and so on. "Okay, we are sorry." I said, "Okay, just forget it. I don't want to pursue anymore. That's enough." They came from London. Otherwise I have no concern with the police. We are very friendly.

33. I have nothing against the police. I told the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner people that as well. I have nothing against the police. Maybe they weren't informed enough or whatever. That's what Mr Brown said as well. Sometimes they annoyed me, but I've never seen them after, those two

Signature of witness. [REDACTED]

detectives. I've got nothing against them, but they wasn't telling me. They was annoying me, making me angry. That was that time. After that, finish. I didn't ever thought anything about it after that.

34. If there is any difference between this statement and the statement I gave to the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner in 2015, my earlier statement should be preferred.

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.

January 25, 2023 | 4:20 PM GMT

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

