



## The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

### Witness Statement

**Saadia Rashid**

Taken via Microsoft Teams by [REDACTED] on Friday 13 January 2023

#### Witness details and background

1. My name is Saadia Rashid. My date of birth is in 1983. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. I am an [REDACTED] and have been for the last 12 years.

#### Morning of Sunday 03 May 2015

2. My [REDACTED] so I was visiting my mum that week and staying over with [REDACTED] and my [REDACTED], at my parents' house at Saeed home address [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] then. I remember that morning I woke up and was in the kitchen, making milk or something, quite early. It was before the carers arrived for my brother, [REDACTED], but I am not certain. So maybe before 0800. But I can't remember exact time. [REDACTED] and my mum, [REDACTED], were in the house too. I saw two police officers in uniform walking about outside the house. They were in the back garden and looking at the house, scanning it. I found it odd. One was a female officer.

Signature of witness.....

DocuSigned by: [REDACTED]

3. The police came to the door asking for my brother, Zahid. I told them he wasn't at home. I asked what it was about but they didn't say anything. They just said it was fine. They asked what time he would be home. I hadn't seen him all night and didn't know where he was. They went away. I think my mum was maybe in the bathroom at that point and [REDACTED] was still in bed but I'm not sure.
  
4. Around an hour's time lots of officers came to the house. I couldn't count how many. A man in a suit was banging on the back door. He was quite tall and broad, maybe in his forties. I think he had a moustache or some kind of facial hair. I opened the door and he told me we needed to vacate the property for an investigation. Lots of other officers were standing in the garden. They seemed to be waiting for the go ahead to come in as they were already in the garden at that point. The officer in the suit said they didn't need to disclose any information, and that we needed to vacate the house. I told him we wouldn't unless they had a warrant. He was very pushy, abrupt and quite rude. I felt really intimidated by him. I was frightened and scared and didn't know what to do. I can't remember what else I said to him. I remember closing the door and he went away and I could see him walking round to the front of the house, then he came back and there were more of them. He knocked again. I opened the door. He was with another man in a suit, who looked younger. They said they didn't need a warrant, and that we had to vacate the house now. They said we didn't have a choice and had to let them in because this was a crime scene and they need to seal the house and they had to search the house .
  
5. I told them that we couldn't do that, and that I had to speak to my dad as I have a disabled brother. I explained to them that [REDACTED] can't walk, he needs support to move around and get into a vehicle and told them that I couldn't do that on my own because I was looking after my children and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and was not strong enough to do that.

Signature of witness.....

DocuSigned by:

6. I can't remember what they said, but I remember when I said I had to contact my dad they said they couldn't allow anyone into the house. I told them that I couldn't drive [REDACTED] or my mum in my car because I had my [REDACTED], my [REDACTED] and very little space.
7. I was also [REDACTED] and my [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I told them I needed to phone my brother, but they told me I couldn't contact anyone. I said they had to allow me to contact somebody. I can't remember if they had come in or were still standing outside when I made a call to my dad maybe around 9.00 AM, I can't remember the exact time.
8. I told him the police were here for some kind of investigation and were telling us to leave the house right now. I told dad please come home right now to help [REDACTED].
9. The tall officer forced himself into the house. He walked into the house, pushing me towards the sitting room because as he walked towards me I had to walk backwards. He came through the kitchen and stood in the sitting room. I was panicked at this stage, I was worried about the safety of my children, my disabled brother and my elderly mum. I was suffering from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which added to this fear.
10. He said I couldn't contact anybody. I remember arguing with him, saying he has to allow me to phone my brother and dad at least to help me because I couldn't do anything on my own nor could my elderly mum. By then I think [REDACTED] carers had already been and had dressed him.
11. I kept asking what this was about but he said they couldn't disclose anything. The other officer came in and said they were looking for evidence. I asked what evidence. They didn't say anything just that they were carrying out an

DocuSigned by:

Signature of witness.....

investigation and looking for evidence and this was a crime scene. At that point they all started coming in.

12. My mobile phone was upstairs so I thought I could use that but the police officer kept warning me to not make any outgoing calls. I said I needed to gather my belongings, and so did my mum and I kept reminding him I have to phone my dad or my older brother to help with [REDACTED].
13. [REDACTED] is in a wheelchair and can't do anything, so he needed to be wheeled out. I couldn't get him in the car: my dad and brother had to do that. At this point there were police officers upstairs, looking into each room. They wouldn't let me see what they were doing.
14. They had gloves on, so I knew they were looking for something. I don't know what they were searching in the rooms but they were definitely looking in all the rooms. I wasn't aware of them taking anything from the house.
15. There were lots of them, but they were not all inside yet. While I was trying to gather my belongings I can't remember if I called [REDACTED] or if he called me but we spoke and I told him the police were in the house and [REDACTED] asked if they had a warrant. I told him no and he said the police can't come in the house without a warrant and consent. I told him they have forced their way in and are looking around, I was still on the phone with [REDACTED] when the tall police officer grabbed my phone and disconnected it.
16. The officer looked at it to see who I was phoning when it was disconnected. The tall officer listened to the whole call before grabbing it of me. He then started to scroll through my phone. I asked for my phone back. I had to repeat this 3 or 4 times before he gave it back. At this point I felt like he was treating me like a criminal who had something to hide.
17. I can't recall if I spoke to anyone else on the phone other than my dad and brother. I think I tried to call Zahid but can't remember if I spoke to him.

Signature of witness.....

DocuSigned by:

18. They wouldn't let us touch anything. I told the police I needed to gather some belongings. My [REDACTED] was in my mum's room. I had to get changed and clothe my children and asked the officer to let me have some privacy.

19. The officer stood outside and once I got changed he then watched my every movement while I was gathering everything. He then looked in my bag. I was really frightened and intimidated, and so was my mum. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] They tried to rush us out of the house. I think my mum forgot something.

20. While I was upstairs, my dad had arrived because I heard my dad arguing with police officers who were not letting him inside the house. I can't remember what time this was. I went downstairs after gathering my stuff. I think [REDACTED] wasn't ready at the time.

21. My brother [REDACTED] was outside the back of our house with my sister-in-law, [REDACTED], and they were also arguing with officers who wouldn't let them inside the house. They were outside for quite a while.

22. Me, my mum and [REDACTED] were downstairs. I kept telling them we couldn't leave until either my brother came in and took [REDACTED] out or we came to some sort of arrangement. They wouldn't budge and were quite rude, abrupt and intimidating. I remember saying we didn't have anywhere to go, and asking if they could search the house whilst we stayed in one room.

23. They said we couldn't do that, and whether we went to a hotel or a relative's house was up to us. They said they didn't know how long it would take. I remember asking what they were looking for and them saying they couldn't disclose that. They continued telling us we had to leave or they would force us out. They said they would have no choice but to remove us from the house.

Signature of witness.....

DocuSigned by:

24. I can't recall having had breakfast or anything to eat. They were just trying to get us out as fast as possible. Officers were already in the house and looking in all the rooms. My dad eventually came inside and wheeled [REDACTED] out through the front door I left through the kitchen door with my belongings and my children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I put the stuff in my car and while I was still parked the police searched my car.
25. I forgot some of [REDACTED] things and wasn't allowed back in to the house. I think they had sealed the house off. That must have been about 10.00 AM or 11.00 AM.
26. There were lots of officers outside as well as inside. [REDACTED] took Mum and [REDACTED] to his car. I remember being in my car and seeing Zahid sitting in another car. It was not a police car; it was a small car. I do not remember if this is a memory from the morning or if this was at night.
27. I'm not sure what time this happened but my brother or dad went over to the car Zahid was in, but the police wouldn't let them talk to him. It was really scary and confusing. They were not clear about why they were raiding our house.
28. It felt like they were trying to look for something in the house. Nothing made sense as to why we were removed from our house. We were made to feel like criminals with no rights, we were treated like second-class citizens. We felt vulnerable and victimised.
29. I asked officers how long we would be out of the house for. My mum and [REDACTED] needed their things as well, things like medication. [REDACTED] needed all his equipment that can't just be moved anywhere, he has a special bed, he also has his carers who come at set times.
30. The police didn't give any indication, they just said they didn't know how long it would be and once they were finished someone would be in touch.

Signature of witness.....

DocuSigned by:

31. We went to [redacted] house in [redacted], clueless about what was happening and what investigation was being carried out at our house. We stayed there for the rest of the day. We were at my brother's house until after nine or ten at night. I wasn't supposed to move [redacted] around a lot because [redacted].

32. Everything I needed was at mum's and I forgot things like my [redacted] [redacted] creams and bandages, my own [redacted]. I had no time to think. I was in a state of panic and felt like we were being chased out of our house.

33. It was all rushed and nobody knew what was happening and they wouldn't tell us when we could return home.

34. At this point news of Shek had spread all over town. The news was that Shek died but we could not understand why our house was a crime scene, what evidence were they looking for and why we were being treated like criminals.

35. I think somebody contacted us or maybe my dad spoke to my brother. My brother said it was okay to go home. [redacted] drove mum and [redacted] home. [redacted] and [redacted] came back to the house with me.

36. I remember going back to our house at [redacted] Saeed home address and waiting outside for nearly an hour. There were police officers there at that time. It might have been then that I saw Zahid in the car. I can't remember if that was at night or in the morning. My dad argued with a police officer to let us back inside the house and explained again that [redacted] needs his bed and facilities and that he could not stay anywhere else.

37. My brother [redacted] is a [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] and suffered

DocuSigned by:

Signature of witness.....





44. 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.

February 7, 2023 | 3:56 PM GMT  
Date.....Signature of witness.....

DocuSigned by:

