

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

WITNESS STATEMENT

12597

Agency Ref : S151
PF Ref :



Surname : ROBSON Other or previous surname :

Forenames : Colin DoB [REDACTED] 1980 Age : 35

Occupation : Police Officer Other Occupation : DI 980919

Police Station : Years Service :

Disclosable address :

Post Code:

This statement was taken :

Date and time : 4th of May 2015 13.30

By :
Place : Kirkcaldy

In the presence of :

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 a 35 years old and have completed 16 years police service.

I am currently a Detective Inspector based within the Pro-Active Investigations Unit, P Division, Glenrothes.

Between Thursday 30th April 2015 to Wednesday 6th May 2015 I was rostered to undertake the role of Duty Senior Investigating Officer for the Division.

About 0600hrs on Saturday 2nd May 2015 I commenced duty at Kirkcaldy Police Station.

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About 0715hrs, same date I was made aware via personal airwave radio that call had been received from a member of the public who was near to Hendry Road, Kirkcaldy to the effect that a black male was walking along on road in possession of a knife and was attempting to stop vehicles.

I was then aware of uniformed units being dispatched from the muster and leaving the Police Station.

Within a short space of time the control room updated the officers attending that there had been a number of other calls received from members of the public reporting the similar circumstances with locations given as Templehall Avenue, Hendry Road and Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy which I was aware were all in close proximity to each other.

Given these circumstances DS Davidson and DC Connell, Kirkcaldy CID attended to support their colleagues.

At this time I was also aware of officers updating the control to the effect that they were approaching the area of locus.

The control room asked for an update on arrival and also to carry out a risk assessment in order to establish the nature of the incident to determine the required response.

At around this time which I would estimate would be around 0720hrs, same date I was aware that an officer had activated their emergency button on their airwave radio and there was sounds of a disturbance in the background. There was the sound of officers shouting most of which was incomprehensible but I was able to decipher that an officer had been injured.

Given the initial information regarding a knife and that an officer had been injured I decided to make my way to locus.

Whilst enroute I was aware that DS Davidson had arrived at locus and she thereafter provided an update stating that the attending officers had been involved in a physical altercation with the male during which time he had assaulted PC Short and was now in the process of being restrained by other officers and there was a suggestion that CS Spray had been deployed to assist with this.

Given the risk concerning the knife mentioned, clarity was requested regarding this and it was updated that the male had been in possession of the knife but was no longer and that it hadn't been used to assault PC Short or other officers.

I arrived at locus shortly thereafter having travelled the short distance of approximately 1-2 miles in an unmarked police vehicle, grey Vauxhall Astra motor Car Reg No [REDACTED] and approached from Hendry Road stopping at its roundabout junction with Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy where I observed officers on the south footpath. At this time I was wearing plain clothes which consisted of a green waterproof jacket and blue jeans.

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There were approximately 6 officers around a black male who was handcuffed to the rear and had leg restraints applied. I was not aware of all officers but did identify that PC Alan Paton, PC Craig Walker and PC Alan Smith were present. I was a short distance away at that time but at that time the officers appeared to have control of the male who had been placed on his side.

There were also other officers present who were assisting with traffic control as the presence of Police Vehicles had prevented other vehicles travelling along Hayfield Road.

I thereafter contacted DS Davidson with regards to the involvement of the knife and an update regarding the assault on PC Short.

I was informed that the male was no longer in possession of the knife and information from the officers suggested that it was in the area of the north side of the road on a grass area. DC Connell was then instructed to look for this item.

PC Short had been placed in a police vehicle by DS Davidson and she was complaining of a sore head having been struck by the male. She did not have an overt injury but given the nature required medical assessment.

I thereafter decided that given that all officers were engaged with the male and containment of the area I moved my police vehicle onto Hayfield Road and placed PC Short in the vehicle with a view to transporting her the short distance to hospital.

At that time I was made aware that the male was unconscious but was breathing and an ambulance had been requested.

DC Connell thereafter contacted me and informed me that he had located the knife on a grass area on the north side of Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy.

Owing to the risk that this posed with members of the public being in the immediate vicinity and the potential evidential value I instructed DC Connell and DS Davidson to record the position of the knife and take possession of same. The inclement weather conditions were also a factor in this decision with regards to securing best evidence. I also noted at least 3 police batons on the roadway near to the male and the officers and instructed that these be recorded and recovered by DC Connell and DS Davidson from a public safety perspective.

I then conveyed PC Short to Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy and placed her in the care of medical staff. During the journey which would have lasted approximately 2 minutes. PC Short recalled being on the ground and seeing the males foot coming towards her head.

I then made my way back in the direction of locus (Hayfield Road) and was aware of radio traffic which confirmed that the male had appeared to have stopped breathing. police officers had commenced CPR and there was a request on the ETA of the ambulance which at that time was 4 minutes.

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On my arrival back at locus and owing to the circumstances I arranged for DS Davidson to initiate locus protection measures with the use of barrier tape and police vehicles. The parameters were the same as the initial traffic management plan with Hendry Road at its junction with Hayfield Road being taped off and Hayfield Road at its junction with the west end of Poplar Crescent, Kirkcaldy.

I was then aware of the ambulance attending having approached west along Hayfield Road.

Whilst dealing with the male I was aware that DS Davidson had arranged for DC Connell to accompany the male in the ambulance to assist the medical staff with CPR, to provide updates on his condition and attempt to establish his identity.

With locus protection measures in place and the male being conveyed to Hospital the Duty Sergeant Scott Maxwell who was present at the location was tasked to ensure the welfare of the remaining officers, establish if they required medical attention and to have them conveyed back to Kirkcaldy Police Station.

With the information to hand at that time I contacted the on call Detective Superintendent Pat Campbell to provide the relevant update.

I thereafter returned to Kirkcaldy Police Station where the update at that time was that medical staff were still working on the male. He also didn't appear to have any identification on him but I was told that a gold coloured mobile phone was found in close proximity to him at locus.

About 0840hrs, same date I was made aware of a call that had been received to Police Scotland from a Collette Bell, [redacted] Arran Crescent, Kirkcaldy who had concerns for the whereabouts of her partner, Sheku Bayo (b.30/09/1983). She had returned home a short time earlier to find her back door open, signs of a disturbance in the house. She had also been contacted by one of his friends (Zahid Saeed) and told that Bayo had assaulted him.

Officers were thereafter dispatched to speak with Bell given the circumstances and that the description was similar to that of the deceased.

A short time later I was informed that at 0904hrs, same date staff at the Hospital pronounced life extinct.

In view of this information I instructed that DC Connell protect the now deceased as a locus. I was made aware that there had been medical intervention that included the deceased clothing being cut from him. He had also been moved the short distance from the resus room to a side room as this room was required for further emergencies.

I went on to provide Detective Superintendent Campbell and Chief Superintendent McEwan with this update.

About 0910hrs, same date Chief Superintendent McEwan asked me to record that he had now declared the situation a critical incident.

I then received an update from the police officers with Bell (DC Clayton/Parker) that the circumstances suggested that the deceased was Sheku Bayo and they also confirmed that he owned a gold coloured mobile phone similar to that found next to the deceased at locus.

I arranged for officers to convey Bell to Kirkcaldy Police Station in order to obtain further information and given the disturbance within her home which I was told was confined to the kitchen area and consisted of drawers being open and fridge magnets knocked off on to the floor. Locus protection measures were subsequently put in place.

[REDACTED] a social media site provided a more recent picture.

DS Davidson has thereafter attended at the Victoria Hospital and along with DC Connell compared the recent image with the deceased and confirmed his identity.

About 1045hrs, same date and having attended at Kirkcaldy Police Station, Collette Bell was informed that although formal identification was still required the male person who was deceased appeared to be her partner. During this time she provided details of the deceased's sister, Kadi Johnson who was his next of kin but claimed to have little or no contact with her.

About 1100hrs, same date I was contacted by PC Amanda Givan who had attended in her capacity as Police Federation representative to provide the officers involved with the required assistance and support.

I was then informed by Detective Superintendent Campbell that it had been decided that officers from the Major Incident Investigation Team would be attending to conduct enquiries into the incident to provide impartiality.

The Police Investigations & Review Commissioner had also been informed and were attending to provide oversight of the investigation.

About 1130hrs, same date I attended a gold group meeting chaired by ACC Nicholson.

There was an agreed agenda covering various aspects of the investigation during which I provided a briefing as a form of factual update based on the information provided within this statement.

I also recorded notes from this meeting as per the agenda and I later typed these up into a word document and forwarded to PS Warrender who had been appointed as the minute taker for any future meeting.

About 1410hrs, same date I attended a briefing with officers from the PIRC including Keith Harrower during which time I relayed the same information as a form of update.

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At this time it was decided that officers from P Division would not be involved in the live enquiry.

Given this direction I then spent the remainder of the day populating and updating the action book regarding the tasks that I had allocated and from the information given to police at the material time.

About 1220hrs on Monday 4th May 2015 I provided DS More with the completed action book, associated statements and documents for which an itinerary was attached and signed.

I took no further part in this enquiry.

Signed :

(Witness)

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CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL - NOT TO BE DISCLOSED

Surname : ROBSON Forenames: Colin
Alias/known as :

Place of birth : Age : over 18

Home address : Telephone :

Post code :

Business address : Telephone :

Post Code :

Mobile :
Email :
Fax/Pager :
Other :

Dates when unavailable in next 12 months :

Other Confidential Material :

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