

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

Wednesday, 8 February 2023

(10.00 am)

(Proceedings delayed)

(10.45 am)

LORD BRACADALE: Good morning, Mrs Rashid. You're going to be asked questions by Ms Grahame, who you've met. If you want a break at any time, you can let me know.

MRS SAEEDA RASHID (sworn)

LORD BRACADALE: Ms Grahame.

MS GRAHAME: Thank you.

Questions from MS GRAHAME

MS GRAHAME: Good morning, Mrs Rashid.

A. Morning.

Q. I'm going to be asking you some questions, and I just want to ask you, first of all, if you would mind telling us your full name?

A. Saeeda Rashid.

Q. Thank you. What age are you?

A. I'm 39.

Q. Now, we have all your contact details already in the Inquiry, so I don't need you to say those out loud.

You're the sister of Saeed, is that correct?

A. Zahid?

Q. Zahid, sorry.

A. Yes.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. You'll see that blue folder, in front of you. Please do
2 feel free to open it up. You have very kindly given us
3 an Inquiry statement and you signed it yesterday on all
4 the pages, didn't you?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you see in that folder there should be a hard copy of
7 that statement, that you'll have had a chance to look at
8 and revise or change as you wished; is that the copy
9 that you see in front of you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Thank you. So, you feel free at any time today when I'm
12 going through the questions to look at that copy. If
13 I'm referring to a particular paragraph it will also
14 come up on the screen in front of you, but you might
15 prefer to look at the hard copy.

16 I'm going to take you through it, just page by page,
17 and we'll go through it slowly. All right?

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. We'll bring that up on the screen, please, your Inquiry
20 statement, SBPI 00260, and you will see on the front
21 page it says your name, Mrs Rashid; do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And it was taken by the Inquiry team on Friday
24 13 January this year, and then if we look at the very
25 last page, and you can look at your copy, on the very

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 last page we will see that you signed it 7 February at
2 3.56, and you've signed every single page of that
3 Inquiry statement.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And that was by a system called DocuSign. And you'll
6 have to say "Yes" unfortunately.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. The microphone is quite sophisticated and it will pick
9 up, even if you speak quite quietly.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 So, can you see the last paragraph there,
13 paragraph 44, and I'll read this out. It says:

14 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
15 statement are true. I understand that this statement
16 may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry, and be
17 published on the Inquiry's website."

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that was your understanding when you signed it, was
21 it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And have you done your best in your statement to be as
24 truthful and as accurate as you possibly can?

25 A. Yes.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. Thank you. I'd like to begin by asking you some
2 questions about 3 May 2015, so let's start at
3 paragraph 2 of your Inquiry statement, which is on
4 page 1.

5 And you will see that on the screen some of the
6 personal details have been blacked out, so they're not
7 visible to everybody, but your copy -- the details you
8 gave us are completely visible to you on the hard copy.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So if you want to mention people's names, feel free to
11 do so, that's completely up to you.

12 Let's look at paragraph 2, and you were staying, on
13 the morning of Sunday 3 May, you were staying at your
14 Mum's house; is that correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And who was there with you that day, do you remember?

17 A. My mum, my disabled brother, Abid, my son, Rayyan who is
18 one and a half, and my daughter Safa, who was about
19 two months at the time.

20 Q. Thank you. And I understand that you had a baby not
21 long prior to that.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Do you want to tell us how old your baby was?

24 A. That was my two month old baby, Safa, she had a hernia
25 operation.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. Right. Were you looking after her?

2 A. I was looking after her, yes.

3 Q. And was your mum looking after both of you at that time?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And I think you were recovering from the birth at that

6 time?

7 A. Yes, I had an emergency C-section.

8 Q. Right. You've told us about your brother, Abid.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Tell us about your brother.

11 A. He's disabled, as in he's paralysed, he's in

12 a wheelchair. He needs full care and my mum looks after

13 him all the time. He was a war veteran, he was injured

14 in the -- Baghdad whilst on duty. I'm sorry. (Pause).

15 Q. Am I right in thinking that you've got other brothers as

16 well?

17 A. I do, yes.

18 Q. What are their names?

19 A. My oldest brother is Sajid and my twin brother is Zahid.

20 Q. He's your twin brother?

21 A. He's my twin brother, yes.

22 Q. But they weren't at the house first in the morning?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Thank you. I'd like to ask you about what was happening

25 at about 8 o'clock in the morning, and we'll come back

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 to your family in a moment. So you say in paragraph 2,
2 if you can look at that, you will see:

3 "So maybe before 0800. But I can't remember exact
4 time."

5 You mention other people being in the house. You
6 saw two police officers in uniform walking about outside
7 the house. Tell us what they were doing.

8 A. There was -- what it looked like to me they were
9 scanning the house, as in they were looking around, up
10 and down, while they were walking towards the door.

11 Q. Were they -- when you say they were walking towards the
12 door, can you describe where they were in the property?

13 A. This was at the back of the house, towards the kitchen,
14 which is the back entrance to the house.

15 Q. And you mention that they were in the back garden.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And they were heading towards the back door, you said.

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. Right. How many officers were there?

20 A. At that time there were two officers.

21 Q. And tell us what happened at that stage.

22 A. They came and they had knocked on the door and they had
23 asked about my brother Zahid and if he was home.

24 Q. Who answered the door?

25 A. I did.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. What did you say?
- 2 A. I told them that he wasn't home, that I hadn't seen him.
- 3 Q. Right. At that time, what explanation did the police
4 officers give you for looking for your brother?
- 5 A. I don't remember.
- 6 Q. And what did they do after you told them Zahid wasn't
7 there?
- 8 A. They left.
- 9 Q. Okay. Did you see where they went?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. No. If we can move on to another paragraph, please, if
12 we could look at number 4, and you say there:
- 13 "Around an hour's time, lots of officers came to the
14 house."
- 15 Can I ask, when you say "Around an hour's time", is
16 that after about an hour, you mean, or was it a shorter
17 period than that?
- 18 A. I can't remember the exact time. It must have been
19 about an hour, or maybe more than an hour, I'm not quite
20 sure.
- 21 Q. Right. And when you say "Lots of officers came to the
22 house", do you remember how many officers?
- 23 A. I couldn't count how many there were, there were just
24 a lot.
- 25 Q. Did you see any cars, police cars?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 A. Not from where I was standing when I saw them.
- 2 Q. Right. Where were you standing?
- 3 A. I was slightly in the sitting room and in the kitchen.
- 4 The sitting room is right next to the kitchen, so you
- 5 could see outside the window.
- 6 Q. Did you say a moment ago that's at the back of the
- 7 house?
- 8 A. That's at the back of the house, yes.
- 9 Q. Thank you.
- 10 And what happened when you saw them that second
- 11 time?
- 12 A. The second time, there was an officer that wasn't
- 13 wearing a uniform, banging on the door, and that's when
- 14 I had opened it. I was quite frightened, scared,
- 15 I didn't know what was happening.
- 16 Q. You've said it was a non-uniformed officer.
- 17 A. That's right.
- 18 Q. And he was banging on the door. Could you describe that
- 19 officer, please.
- 20 A. He was quite tall, broad, I think some sort of facial
- 21 hair.
- 22 Q. How tall was he?
- 23 A. I don't know, taller than me, he must have been maybe
- 24 about six foot, I'm not sure.
- 25 Q. What height are you?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. I'm five foot three.

2 Q. And you've just said he had facial hair.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Can you describe that for me?

5 A. I can't remember, it was that long ago.

6 Q. Right. Who was he with?

7 A. He was with officers that were in uniforms.

8 Q. How many?

9 A. I don't remember how many there were.

10 Q. Who answered the door?

11 A. I did.

12 Q. What did you say?

13 A. I can't remember what I said. I know I was actually

14 quite scared and intimidated by the whole situation at

15 the time, frightened. I opened the door and he said

16 that we needed to vacate the house.

17 Q. Do you remember what words he used?

18 A. NErm ... not maybe in exact order, but that we -- that

19 he was there for an investigation and they were looking

20 for evidence and they had to search the house.

21 Q. Right. You've mentioned today and in your statement at

22 paragraph 4, about four lines down from the top that:

23 "...he told me we needed to vacate the property for

24 an investigation".

25 A. That's right.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. What explanation was given to you about why you needed
2 to vacate the property?
- 3 A. No explanation.
- 4 Q. What was your response when he told you this?
- 5 A. I asked for a warrant.
- 6 Q. What was his reply?
- 7 A. He didn't have one.
- 8 Q. Did he explain to you what his authority was for asking
9 you to get out of the house?
- 10 A. No. That -- they just said that they had to search our
11 house.
- 12 Q. You've said in your statement, a few more lines down,
13 around halfway down here:
- 14 "He was very pushy, abrupt and quite rude. I felt
15 really intimidated by him. I was frightened and scared
16 and didn't know what to do."
- 17 When you say he was "very pushy", what do you mean?
- 18 A. (Pause). He was just forceful.
- 19 Q. In what way?
- 20 A. In a way that we didn't -- he didn't give me a chance to
21 think about anything.
- 22 Q. What was his -- describe for me his body language, or
23 his demeanour.
- 24 A. I can't remember.
- 25 Q. And you've said he was quite rude.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Can you explain a little bit more about his manner.

3 A. He wasn't very pleasant.

4 Q. How was he not very pleasant?

5 A. (Pause). I just felt scared and intimidated by him.

6 Q. What was his tone of voice like?

7 A. Aggressive, quite loud, a bit frightening.

8 Q. And you say in your statement:

9 "I remember closing the door and he went away..."

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. "I could see him walking round to the front of the

12 house, then he came back and there were more of them

13 [and] he knocked again."

14 Which door did he knock on this time?

15 A. The back door again.

16 Q. All right. So he came back to the back door?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you've said:

19 "I opened the door. He was with another man in

20 a suit, who looked younger."

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you remember the younger man in a suit? Describe

23 him for me, please.

24 A. He was quite skinny, a lot shorter. I can't remember if

25 he had any facial hair or anything like that. I don't

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 recall of that, I just remember he was quite young.

2 Q. Okay. You say in your statement:

3 "They said they didn't need a warrant, and that we
4 had to vacate the house now. They said we didn't have
5 a choice, and had to let them in because this was
6 a crime scene and they need to seal the house and they
7 had to search the house."

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Was this the first time that they'd mentioned that your
10 house was a crime scene?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was any explanation given to you about why your house
13 was being treated as a crime scene?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And you've said there "They said we didn't have
16 a choice".

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did they explain why you didn't have a choice?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And you've said "They need to seal the house and they
21 had to search the house". Again, was there any
22 explanation given to you about why they needed to do
23 these things?

24 A. No.

25 Q. After that was said, did you feel you had a choice?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. How confident are you in your recollection about these
3 events, Mrs Rashid?
- 4 A. It's not something that I can forget, of how they made
5 me feel, my family feel.
- 6 Q. After the man had said these things to you, the officer,
7 what did you do at that stage? Will we look at the next
8 paragraph, Mrs Rashid?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Paragraph 5, and you will see there that you say:
11 "I told them that we couldn't do that, and that
12 I had to speak to my dad as I have a disabled brother.
13 I explained to them that [he] can't walk, he needs
14 support to move around and get into a vehicle and told
15 them that I couldn't do that on my own because I was
16 looking after my children and ... was not strong enough
17 to do that."
- 18 Can you tell us a little bit more about this, what
19 explanation you gave to the police officers?
- 20 A. That's exactly what I told them.
- 21 Q. Right. And is it correct that your brother has -- is
22 this Abid?
- 23 A. This is Abid, yes.
- 24 Q. And you said he has difficulty walking, he is in a
25 wheelchair.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 A. He is paralysed.
- 2 Q. And you say that he needs support to move around. Even
3 in the wheelchair. How does he get around?
- 4 A. My mum moves him around.
- 5 Q. Right. Is he able to move his wheelchair independently?
- 6 A. No, not -- I would say some -- he tries to, but he
7 can't.
- 8 Q. Right. And describe the difficulties he has getting
9 into a vehicle, for example.
- 10 A. He needs support, it's not something that a woman can
11 do, it's not something that he can do on his own. He
12 needs somebody there with him to put him into a vehicle.
- 13 Q. When you say "It's not something a woman can do", can
14 you explain to the Chair why?
- 15 A. Well, myself, I had an operation, so it's not something
16 that I can take that, I didn't have the strength to do
17 it. He's a man. Do you know, a man can only be handled
18 by a man or his carers.
- 19 Q. Yes, and presumably had you been given certain advice by
20 the hospital after your caesarean section?
- 21 A. Not to lift anything heavy, yes.
- 22 Q. Right, and were you observing that advice?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. You said there you told the police you couldn't do it on
25 your own and you were also looking after your children.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you've told us already about your baby and your
3 young children.

4 Let's look at the next paragraph. I'm interested in
5 what the response from the police was when you told them
6 that this wasn't something you could do yourself. Do
7 you remember or can you help us understand what their
8 response was?

9 A. I felt like they didn't care.

10 Q. Why do you say that?

11 A. (Pause).

12 Q. Well, you've said there in paragraph 6:

13 "... I remember when I said I had to contact my
14 dad ..."

15 And was that something you thought might help, if
16 you could speak to your dad?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Yes. Does your dad help with Abid?

19 A. Yes, he is his full-time carer.

20 Q. Where was your dad at that time?

21 A. I think he was at the shop, his business.

22 Q. We might hear that your dad works in a shop.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And you say there that:

25 "They said ..."

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Is that the police said?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. "... they couldn't allow anyone into the house."
- 4 A. That's right.
- 5 Q. Which of the officers said that to you?
- 6 A. The two officers that weren't in their uniform, they
- 7 were wearing suits.
- 8 Q. The two who had come to the door?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And was it one of them that spoke or were they both
- 11 speaking?
- 12 A. I can't remember if both of them were speaking at the
- 13 time or if it was just one.
- 14 Q. Right. And you have said that "I told them that
- 15 I couldn't drive", and is that correct, Mrs Rashid,
- 16 you're not able to drive, yourself? At that time, on 3
- 17 May.
- 18 A. No, I told them I couldn't drive my brother, Abid, but
- 19 I was able to drive, but it was very difficult driving.
- 20 Q. Had you been given advice after your caesarean section
- 21 about driving?
- 22 A. To be careful, not to do long distance.
- 23 Q. Right, and tell us about your mum, how able is your mum?
- 24 A. What do you mean by "able"?
- 25 Q. Well, would she be able to help Abid?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. No. No. She's quite old, so it's not something that
2 she can manage on her own.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 If we look at paragraph 7, and you'll have a copy of
5 the statement in your folder which isn't blanked out, so
6 you've told the police some of the difficulties that you
7 would have, you've told them you'd like to contact your
8 dad, and I think in paragraph 7 you say:

9 "I told them I needed to phone my brother, but they
10 told me I couldn't contact anyone."

11 What assistance did the police offer you once you
12 told them of the difficulties you would have?

13 A. Nothing.

14 Q. Did they suggest any other officers could help?

15 A. No. I was made to feel that we had to do everything on
16 our own.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. Without any help.

19 Q. And in paragraph 7 you've said:

20 "I said they had to allow me to contact somebody.
21 I can't remember. If they had come in or were still
22 standing outside when I made a call to my dad maybe
23 about 9 [in the morning]. I can't remember the exact
24 time."

25 So you said the police told you you couldn't contact

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 anyone, but you did phone your dad.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And tell us about the call with your dad.
- 4 A. I told him that there was officers that have come to our
- 5 house and they are wanting to search our house, and
- 6 they're telling us to vacate it, and that I needed help
- 7 with Abid.
- 8 Q. When you were making that call to your dad, where were
- 9 you?
- 10 A. I can't remember where I was at the time. I think I was
- 11 maybe in the kitchen or the sitting room.
- 12 Q. What happened when you were on the phone to your dad?
- 13 A. Nothing at the time, I just made that call.
- 14 Q. Right. And after you called your dad, tell us, what did
- 15 your dad say, what was his response?
- 16 A. He asked why they were there and I told him I didn't
- 17 know.
- 18 Q. What did he say about coming to give help to Abid?
- 19 A. I can't remember what he said, but he said he would come
- 20 to the house.
- 21 Q. How was your mum reacting to the police arriving in the
- 22 house?
- 23 A. Terrified, scared, kind of brought back memories to her
- 24 from a previous event that she had gone through with the
- 25 police.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. And how was Abid reacting to this?
- 2 A. I would say he was the same. Obviously, for him it was
3 like his day was being interrupted.
- 4 Q. Can I look at paragraph 9, please. You say:
- 5 "The tall officer forced himself into the house. He
6 walked into the house, pushing me towards the sitting
7 room because as he walked towards me I had to walk
8 backwards. He came through the kitchen and stood in the
9 sitting room. I was panicked at this stage, I was
10 worried about the safety of my children, my disabled
11 brother and my elderly mum."
- 12 And then you were suffering at that time as well
13 yourself.
- 14 A. That's right.
- 15 Q. You've used the words there that "The tall officer
16 forced himself into the house" and you've said "Pushing
17 me towards the sitting room". Could you give us
18 a little bit more detail about what you mean?
- 19 A. He barged in.
- 20 Q. Did he touch you?
- 21 A. No, because I was walking backwards at the time.
- 22 Q. If you hadn't been walking backwards, would he have been
23 able to get past you?
- 24 A. No. The space was quite tight, coming from the kitchen
25 to the sitting room, when this happened.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. When he --
- 2 A. And because he was quite broad.
- 3 Q. Right. When he barged in, where was your mum?
- 4 A. I'm not sure, but I think she may have been in the
- 5 sitting room at the time.
- 6 Q. Where was Abid at the time?
- 7 A. He was there as well.
- 8 Q. With your mum in the sitting room, or --
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Looking at paragraph 10:
- 11 "He said I couldn't contact anybody. I remember
- 12 arguing with him, saying he has to allow me to phone my
- 13 brother and dad at least to help me because I couldn't
- 14 do anything on my own nor could my elderly mum."
- 15 I think you mention carers there. You've mentioned
- 16 carers already a moment ago. Does Abid have carers who
- 17 come into the house?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. How many times a day do they come in?
- 20 A. Probably about three times a day.
- 21 Q. Do they come in at roughly the same time every day?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Is that seven days a week?
- 24 A. Seven days a week, yes.
- 25 Q. And you've said there that you thought the carers had

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 been in to dress him already that morning.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do they come in early in the morning usually?

4 A. Quite early in the morning, yes.

5 Q. And is that for the purpose of dressing him?

6 A. For dressing him, showering him, getting him ready for
7 breakfast.

8 Q. Right. So had they been and gone by that time that
9 morning?

10 A. I think they had been, yes.

11 Q. Did the carers need to help Abid get dressed and
12 showered?

13 A. It's not something he could do on his own, yes.

14 Q. Could we look at paragraph 11 now, please.

15 "I kept asking what this was about but [they] said
16 they couldn't disclose anything. The other officer came
17 in and said they were looking for evidence. I asked
18 what evidence. They didn't say anything just that they
19 were carrying out an investigation and looking for
20 evidence and this was a crime scene."

21 And this is the point where they all start coming
22 in.

23 What information, if any, during that day were you
24 given about the reason for the investigation that they
25 were doing?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 A. There was no reason given.
- 2 Q. And what information were you given about it being
3 a crime scene?
- 4 A. Nothing.
- 5 Q. In paragraph 12, you mention that you had a mobile phone
6 that was upstairs:
- 7 "[You] thought [you] could use it but the police
8 officer kept warning me to not make any outgoing calls."
9 And you said you needed to gather your belongings.
10 Tell us about the situation with your mobile phone.
- 11 A. It was upstairs in my mum's room where my children were.
- 12 Q. And did you go upstairs at some point to get your mobile
13 phone?
- 14 A. Yes, when I told the officer I needed to gather my
15 belongings.
- 16 Q. Right. And tell us, which phone did you use to phone
17 your dad?
- 18 A. That would have been my mum's house phone at the time,
19 which was downstairs.
- 20 Q. Right, and which phone did you use to phone your
21 brother?
- 22 A. I can't remember calling him or if he had called me, but
23 it was my mobile phone.
- 24 Q. Right. And then in this paragraph you've mentioned that
25 you were needing to gather your belongings. Could you

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 tell us what you wanted to collect, what belongings you
2 wanted to take?

3 A. Clothes, my children's -- my children's clothes, their
4 nappies, everything that a child requires. The med --
5 well, trying to get their medication, basically
6 toiletries, everything, because I didn't know how long
7 we were going to be outside the house for.

8 Q. What information were you given about how long this
9 process would take?

10 A. We weren't told.

11 Q. When you've mentioned medication, whose medication was
12 it that you needed to collect?

13 A. My own and Safa's as well.

14 Q. Your daughter --

15 A. My daughter Safa who is two months, yes. And her
16 bandages, she had a dressing on for after an operation.
17 They had chickenpox, so I had to make sure that they had
18 their -- the creams for that as well.

19 Q. What about your mum, did she have any belongings that
20 she wanted to collect?

21 A. Yeah, she had, again it was her medication, her clothes,
22 anything else that she wanted to take. Again, we didn't
23 know how long we were going to be out of the house for,
24 so I was just trying to just take anything that we would
25 need for the full day.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. Tell us what you would have needed to collect for Abid.
- 2 A. Abid -- was quite difficult to collect because
- 3 everything that we have is in the house, it's not
- 4 something that we could remove from the house. So the
- 5 only thing that we could take of his would be his
- 6 clothes and things that he needed to use to go to the
- 7 toilet.
- 8 Q. What sort of things had to be left behind?
- 9 A. His equipment.
- 10 Q. Could you tell us about his equipment?
- 11 A. It's like a machine that like lifts him out of his --
- 12 out of his chair onto his bed.
- 13 Q. Like a hoist?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. That had to be left behind?
- 16 A. That had to be left behind, yes.
- 17 Q. What about his bed, does he have any --
- 18 A. He has a special bed that's made for him.
- 19 Q. And what is it about his bed that's different from
- 20 an ordinary bed?
- 21 A. It's almost like a hospital bed, so it's -- it folds to
- 22 a certain position that he's -- that he sleeps, and that
- 23 he can rest in.
- 24 Q. Right, and are there handrails or --
- 25 A. There's handrails, there's buttons on the side of the

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 bed, so it's all adjusted according to his needs.
- 2 Q. How would Abid get on if he was just sleeping in
3 a normal bed?
- 4 A. He wouldn't cope.
- 5 Q. Right. Did you remember to pack everything that you
6 needed?
- 7 A. No. We were rushed.
- 8 Q. How much time did you have?
- 9 A. I can't remember how long we had, I just remember we
10 were just being pushed, being forced and we were in
11 a panic mode.
- 12 Q. What sort of things were left behind?
- 13 A. I was nursing my baby at the time so I had left my pumps
14 behind, my expressed milk, and I think I had -- I can't
15 remember what else I had forgotten, it was some
16 medication, my mum didn't manage to take all her
17 medication, because I didn't know how long we were going
18 to be out of the house for.
- 19 Q. When you realised you had left things in the house, what
20 arrangements could you make to get back in to get
21 things?
- 22 A. We weren't allowed to go back inside.
- 23 Q. Who said you weren't allowed to go back?
- 24 A. The officer did.
- 25 Q. Which officer?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. The ones in the uniform, they both did.

2 Q. The uniformed officers?

3 A. Yes, the un-uniformed officers.

4 Q. Oh, sorry, un-uniformed.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Are these the ones that you'd spoken about earlier?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you explain -- what explanation did you give them

9 about the medication, breast pumps, expressed milk?

10 A. They didn't care, they just said we weren't allowed back

11 in the house and we weren't allowed to touch anything.

12 Q. Right. Did you tell them that you needed --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- things? Did you tell them what things you needed?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did they offer to go and get things for you?

17 A. Nothing.

18 Can I take a little break?

19 LORD BRACADALE: Yes. We'll have a break at this point.

20 (11.23 am)

21 (A short break)

22 (11.56 am)

23 LORD BRACADALE: Yes, Ms Grahame.

24 MS GRAHAME: Thank you.

25 Mrs Rashid, I think I'll have a look now, if I may,

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 at paragraphs 13 and 14.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You'll see those in your hard copy in the folder. So if
4 you could just have a look at those, and just a couple
5 of things I want to ask you about these paragraphs.

6 You've said that:

7 "At this point there were police officers upstairs,
8 looking into each room. They wouldn't let me see what
9 they were doing."

10 Then you mention in paragraph 14:

11 "They had gloves on, so I knew they were looking for
12 something."

13 Can you tell the Chair a little bit more about what
14 was going on upstairs?

15 A. I'm actually not so sure myself. All I know that they
16 were looking in each room, the bedrooms that are
17 upstairs of our house.

18 Q. And that's where your children were?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did they explain to you at all why they were wearing
21 gloves?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Was anyone wearing white suits?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Let's move on to paragraph 15. You say there:

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 "There were lots of them but they were not all
2 inside yet."

3 And you talk in this paragraph about calling your
4 brother, do you remember --

5 A. I can't remember that -- if I had called him or if he
6 had called me, but yes, I spoke to him.

7 Q. And I think he:

8 "... asked if they had a warrant. I told them no
9 and he said the police can't come in the house without
10 a warrant and consent. I told him they had forced their
11 way in and are looking around, I was still on the phone
12 with [him] when the tall police officer grabbed my phone
13 and disconnected it."

14 Could you tell us what happened?

15 A. I was in the middle of having a conversation with him,
16 and I think he came up behind me and he just took my
17 phone off of me and cut the call, so I couldn't finish
18 off what I was saying, telling my brother.

19 Q. What did he say to you, the police officer?

20 A. Nothing, that I couldn't contact anyone.

21 Q. And when you say, "The tall police officer", is this
22 a reference to the one you've described to us earlier?

23 A. Yes, that's right.

24 Q. The one who was at the door?

25 A. Yes.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. What did you do?

2 A. I didn't know what to do, I was terrified.

3 Q. Right. Then you say in paragraph 16, if we look at
4 that:

5 "The officer looked at it to see who I was phoning
6 when it was disconnected. The tall officer listened to
7 the whole call before grabbing of it off me."

8 What do you mean by that?

9 A. He was hovering around me, so he had -- he had heard me
10 talking.

11 Q. Were you aware that he was in your vicinity when you
12 were on the phone?

13 A. He was around me, as in he was watching every movement
14 of me, and what I was doing.

15 Q. Where were you when you were making that call?

16 A. I think I was -- I can't remember if I was in my mum's
17 room at the time or if I was in the hallway.

18 Q. Where was he when you were making the call?

19 A. Around me, he was just watching everything that I was
20 doing.

21 Q. Right. Then you say:

22 "He then started to scroll through my phone.
23 I asked for my phone back. I had to repeat this 3 or 4
24 times before he gave it back [to me]."

25 Did he ultimately give you your phone back?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. After I practically begged him for it.

2 Q. Right. And then you say:

3 "At this point I felt like he was treating me like
4 a criminal who had something to hide."

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. Is that how you were feeling?

7 A. That is exactly how he made me feel.

8 Q. And then you say, at paragraph 17:

9 "I can't recall if I spoke to anyone else on the
10 phone other than my dad and brother. I think I tried to
11 call Zahid, but can't remember if I spoke to him."

12 After the police officer had taken your phone off
13 you, did you try to make any other calls?

14 A. I was too scared to.

15 Q. And then paragraph 18, let's look at that paragraph now,
16 it's on the next page. You say here:

17 "They wouldn't let us touch anything. I told the
18 police I needed to gather some belongings. My [baby]
19 was in my mum's room. I had to get changed and
20 clothe ..."

21 There seems to be a D missing there from "clothed":

22 "... and asked the officer to let me have some
23 privacy."

24 Tell us about this, they wouldn't let you touch
25 anything and you had to ask for some privacy?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. I wasn't allowed to go into any rooms, I wasn't allowed
2 to touch anything apart from my own belongings that were
3 in the room at the time --

4 Q. Right.

5 A. -- where my children were.

6 Q. How was it the police stopped you from touching things?

7 A. They just said I couldn't, I couldn't go or touch
8 anything, that was it.

9 Q. Right. And you've said:

10 "... [you] asked the officer to let me have some
11 privacy."

12 Explain what that was about?

13 A. I was in my pyjamas, so I wanted to change, because
14 I didn't want to leave the house with my pyjamas on, and
15 I was -- I'm -- I wear hijab, so I didn't want him to be
16 there, so I needed some privacy, privacy to change my
17 clothes and get my children ready.

18 Q. Was the officer willing to give you some privacy?

19 A. He did at that point, yes.

20 Q. And were you able to change in one of the rooms in
21 private?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What did the officer do when you were left in the room
24 in private to get changed?

25 A. He stood outside the room.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. Did he ask you if that was okay; did he ask for your
2 permission to do that?

3 A. To stand outside the room? He didn't ask for my
4 permission, I had to ask him.

5 Q. How did you feel having an officer standing outside your
6 room?

7 A. Terrified, scared.

8 Q. And it was a male police officer?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was there a female police officer --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- present that you were aware of?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Let's look at paragraph 20 now. You talk about when you
15 were upstairs your dad arrived, because you could hear
16 him arguing. Tell us what happened when your dad
17 arrived.

18 A. I just heard him arguing outside with the officers to
19 allow him to come inside, and they kept saying that he
20 wasn't allowed inside.

21 Q. Were you able to hear that from upstairs?

22 A. I could hear that, because where my mum's room is is
23 above the sitting room and it's to the back of the
24 garden where the officers were, and we normally use that
25 as a main entrance to come into the house.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. So would your dad have used the back door to enter the
2 house?

3 A. Yes, yeah.

4 Q. If we look at paragraph 22, you then say that you were
5 downstairs:

6 "I kept telling them we couldn't leave until either
7 my brother came in ... or we came to some sort of
8 arrangement."

9 What sort of arrangement are you talking about
10 there? So you've talked about being downstairs.

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. And you kept telling them you couldn't leave until
13 either your brother came in and took your other brother
14 out or --

15 A. Because it's not something I could do myself, only they
16 were able to handle my brother Abid.

17 Q. So did your dad and your other brother arrive together
18 or at round about the same time?

19 A. No, I think my dad arrived first and then my older
20 brother arrived afterwards.

21 Q. How long was your dad kept out of the house?

22 A. For quite some time.

23 Q. Do you have any recollection?

24 A. For how long, no, I was too busy trying to get my kids
25 ready, myself ready, I was panicking.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. You say in paragraph 22:
- 2 "They wouldn't budge and were quite rude, abrupt and
- 3 intimidating."
- 4 Is that how you felt that day?
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. "I remember saying we didn't have anywhere to go, and
- 7 asking if they could search the house whilst we stayed
- 8 in one room."
- 9 Was that something that you suggested?
- 10 A. That is something that I suggested, yes, because I was
- 11 worried about the safety of my brother and --
- 12 Q. Is that Abid?
- 13 A. Abid, and where he was going to go. Everything that we
- 14 needed was in that house, it's catered for him. He
- 15 can't cope going anywhere else, that's why I asked if we
- 16 could just stay in one room while they searched the rest
- 17 of the house.
- 18 Q. What was the response to that?
- 19 A. They didn't care, and they said that we have to arrange
- 20 our own accommodation, or go to a family member's house.
- 21 Q. Right. And as well as Abid's situation, how would it
- 22 have helped you and your family to remain within the
- 23 house, maybe within one room of the house?
- 24 A. The fact that we were still in our surroundings and he's
- 25 still in his surroundings.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. Thank you.

2 If we have a look now, please, at paragraph 23, the
3 next paragraph, you've said:

4 "[The police] said we couldn't do that, and whether
5 we went to a hotel or a relative's house was up to us."

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. "They said they didn't know how long it would take.

8 I remember asking what they were looking for and them
9 saying they couldn't disclose that. They continued
10 telling us we had to leave or they would force us out.
11 They said they would have no choice but to remove us
12 from the house."

13 When you say, "They would force us out", did they
14 explain what they would do?

15 A. They would basically just tell us, move us out of the
16 house forcefully.

17 Q. What was your view at that time about the suggestion
18 that you go to a hotel or a relative's house?

19 A. Again, I explained to the police officer that going to
20 a hotel or a relative's house is not -- it's not -- we
21 can't handle Abid there, he needs his surroundings, he
22 needs -- everything that he needs is in that house. He
23 can't cope being anywhere else.

24 Q. You explained that to the police?

25 A. Yes.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. Again, did that make any difference?

2 A. It didn't, no. They didn't care. They didn't have any
3 compassion, didn't care how he was, they didn't care how
4 I was, my mum, they just didn't care about the whole
5 situation of how we were going to manage being outside
6 that house.

7 Q. And looking at the next paragraph, 24, you say you:

8 "... can't recall having had breakfast or anything
9 to eat."

10 Was there any arrangements made with the police
11 about making sure everyone had had breakfast?

12 A. Nothing at all.

13 Q. Or any refreshments?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Now, you've been very careful to say that you don't
16 remember exact timings of things already today. Is it
17 possible that this was all happening slightly later in
18 the day?

19 A. I don't recall, I just remember it was some time in the
20 morning.

21 Q. That's your best recollection?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 In paragraph 24, you mention in the first sort of
25 line:

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 "They were just trying to get us out as fast as
2 possible."

3 Was that your impression on the day, that --

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. Was there any accommodation made to give you a little
6 bit more time?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Then in the same paragraph I think you say:

9 "My dad eventually came inside~..."

10 And I think he took Abid out of the house in his
11 wheelchair?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. And that you left through the kitchen door with your
14 belongings and your children. And what did your mum do?

15 A. My mum went with Abid. She went with Abid and she went
16 with my brother -- my older brother, Sajid, he took them
17 away, so she went along with Abid.

18 Q. You say at the end:

19 "... I put the stuff in my car and while I was still
20 parked the police searched my car."

21 A. They did.

22 Q. Tell us what happened.

23 A. They looked in my ... (Pause).

24 They looked in my boot. They looked at the back of
25 the car.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. Was there any explanation given to you?

2 A. No. I was made to feel like a criminal, at this point,
3 like I had something to hide.

4 Q. Then I think at paragraph 25, you maybe touched on this
5 earlier today, you explain that you'd forgotten some of
6 the things, so if you're looking at the hard copy you
7 will see that's on the next page. So you:

8 "... forgot some of ... things and [you weren't]
9 allowed back in to the house."

10 And I think you told us earlier about asking for
11 those things?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Can I ask you about paragraphs 26 and 27, please.

14 You've talked about there being officers outside the
15 house as well as inside, and you saw Zahid sitting in
16 another car. Is that your other brother?

17 A. That's my twin brother.

18 Q. Your twin brother. And it wasn't a police car, and you
19 don't remember what time of day this was?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Is it possible that that could have been later in the
22 afternoon, or ...? You've mentioned there:

23 "... morning or if this was at night."

24 A. Because that's the only two times that we were there at
25 the house. We weren't there in the afternoon.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. Right. So you were there in the morning, when the
2 police first arrived?
- 3 A. That's right.
- 4 Q. And then you returned in the evening later?
- 5 A. Late in the evening.
- 6 Q. So you can't remember which occasion you saw your
7 brother, your twin brother?
- 8 A. I just remember seeing him, but I just don't recall what
9 time it was. That memory's a bit vague.
- 10 Q. That's absolutely fine. But on the occasion, whenever
11 it was, that you saw your twin brother, you say in
12 paragraph 27:
- 13 "... my brother or dad went over to the car Zahid
14 was in ..."
- 15 That's your other brother went over with your dad?
- 16 A. My older brother, yes.
- 17 Q. Your older brother:
- 18 "... but the police wouldn't let them talk to him.
19 It was really scary and confusing. They were not clear
20 about why they were raiding our house."
- 21 A. That's right.
- 22 Q. When you say, "The police wouldn't let them", your older
23 brother and your dad, talk to your twin brother, tell us
24 what was happening when that was going on.
- 25 A. I was sitting at my car -- in my car at the time.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 I just remember Zahid just sitting in the car and they
2 weren't allowed to speak to him, so he was kept in the
3 car.

4 Q. And paragraph 28 says:

5 "It felt like they were trying to look for something
6 in the house. Nothing made sense as to why we were
7 removed from our house. We were made to feel like
8 criminals with no rights, we were treated like
9 second-class citizens. We felt vulnerable and
10 victimised."

11 Looking back now, you've described how you felt that
12 day, what long-term impact has this had on you,
13 Mrs Rashid?

14 A. The fact that we're not safe around the police anymore.

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. The fact that, never mind being out in the streets, as
17 you can see I'm a Muslim wearing a hijab, I don't feel
18 safe as it is, we don't feel safe in our own homes
19 anymore.

20 Q. Can I move on and ask you about the remainder of your
21 statement?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So let's look now at paragraphs 29 and 30, please. And
24 29 you say you asked officers how long you'd be out of
25 the house for, and you talk about your mum needing her

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 things and her medication, and I think your brother
2 needed his equipment. You've told us about that
3 earlier.
- 4 A. That's right.
- 5 Q. And you say there:
6 "... he also has his carers who come at set times."
7 Why was that a concern?
- 8 A. Because nobody else could handle him, and that is their
9 routine, that's his routine, that's his set routine
10 every day.
- 11 Q. Were you concerned if Abid left the house that would be
12 disrupted?
- 13 A. It would have disrupted his routine, yes.
- 14 Q. Can you tell us, if Abid's routine is disrupted, what
15 effect that has on him?
- 16 A. His mental health, his physical health. He doesn't
17 like -- first of all, he doesn't like being moved away
18 from his comfort zone. Everything that he needs is
19 there, so it cannot -- he cannot be handled anywhere
20 else.
- 21 Q. When Abid was out of the house that day, did you spend
22 time with him; do you know how he was during that day?
- 23 A. He struggled.
- 24 Q. In what way, can you help us?
- 25 A. He was sitting in his chair practically the whole day,

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 he didn't have the facilities that he needed, he didn't
2 have his bathroom, his toilet that he could use
3 comfortably.

4 Q. What effect does it have if he has to sit in his chair
5 all day?

6 A. He normally takes a little bit of rest from his chair,
7 he gets some exercise done, with the help of my dad,
8 stretching, and sometimes maybe sitting on a couch or
9 his special chair that's actually made for him.

10 Q. Where was the special chair?

11 A. In his bedroom.

12 Q. Right, back at home?

13 A. Back at home, yeah.

14 Q. We were going to look at -- so I'll move on from here.

15 Did the police say anything about when Abid would be
16 able to get back into the house?

17 A. They never said anything about anyone.

18 Q. Did the police ever ask about whether he would need any
19 additional support in order to stay away from the house?

20 A. Nothing was mentioned.

21 Q. If you were planning to have Abid out of the house for
22 any length of time, what sort of arrangements would
23 typically have to be made?

24 A. My dad and my brother would have to be there, and it's
25 normally -- if it is, it's normally like a really short

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 period of time. He doesn't like being moved. He just
2 doesn't like being moved at all. Normally anything that
3 would happen on any occasion, it's always in my mum's
4 house, because that's his comfort zone.

5 Q. Well, you say a really short period of time, could you
6 help us understand what you mean?

7 A. Probably about maybe half an hour, an hour.

8 Q. How often is Abid out of the house, out of his
9 comfort --

10 A. Not -- not a lot. In fact, I've never -- I've hardly
11 ever seen him out of the house.

12 Q. Does he attend medical appointments?

13 A. With my dad, yes, he would.

14 Q. Apart from medical appointments, how often would he be
15 out of the house?

16 A. Never.

17 Q. When Abid was out of the house that day, what happened
18 with his carers? You've described to us they came in
19 three times a day. You've said in the morning and at
20 night and there would be an appointment during the day.
21 What happened to that appointment?

22 A. With the carers?

23 Q. Did the carers come to the house?

24 A. I can't recall if they had come and just left.

25 Q. Okay.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Can I look at paragraphs 31 32 and 33, please. We
2 might not get them -- oh, we will. So you've told us
3 here about staying out of the house for the rest of the
4 day:

5 "We stayed there for the rest of the day. We were
6 at my brother's house until after nine or ten at night."

7 So was that the remainder of the day you remained at
8 your older brother's; is that right?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. You talk in paragraph 32 about everything you needed was
11 at your mum's and you forgot to take things. Can you
12 tell us the sort of things you forgot? I think you
13 mentioned it earlier.

14 A. I was nursing my daughter at the time so I had forgotten
15 my breast pumps, because she was quite difficult to feed
16 at the time, because of her condition. I forgot her
17 creams, her bandages, my own medication.

18 Q. Right. Then in paragraph 34 you say:

19 "At this point news of Shek had spread all over
20 town."

21 Was this during the course of that day?

22 A. That was during the course of the time that we were at
23 my brother's house.

24 Q. And you say there:

25 "We could not understand why our house was a crime

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 scene, what evidence were they looking for and why we
2 were being treated as criminals."

3 Why was that something you struggled to understand?

4 A. What did Shek's death have to do with our house? Why
5 were we being thrown out of our house? What were they
6 looking for in our house? What were they searching for
7 that could possibly have to do with Shek's death?

8 Q. We've not heard any evidence in this Inquiry that would
9 indicate that Shek had been in your house that day. Was
10 there anything you were aware of that would connect him
11 to your house?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Can we look at paragraphs 35 and 36. You talk about
14 going back to the house, and you say that when you got
15 back, you waited outside for nearly an hour and there
16 were police officers there at that time and that might
17 have been when you saw your twin brother in the car.
18 Was an explanation given to you as to why you had to
19 wait nearly an hour?

20 A. They were still inside the house.

21 Q. The police were?

22 A. They were still inside the house, yes.

23 Q. Did they explain what they were doing in the house?

24 A. They were still searching.

25 Q. Right. What did your dad do at that time?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. He was arguing with the police officers to allow us back
2 in our own accommodation.

3 Q. And when you were waiting, where was Abid?

4 A. Abid was still sitting in the car.

5 Q. Right. Then you finally got back into the house that
6 evening?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. How were you feeling at that time?

9 A. We were made to feel like criminals, that we had
10 something to hide.

11 Q. Can I ask if we can look at the next paragraph, please.
12 Now, I think we can only see part of this. I'd like to
13 see -- it covers two pages, and I think it may be easier
14 for you if you look at your hard copy. So look at the
15 paper copy that you have in front of you, of
16 paragraph 37, which is at the bottom of page 7.

17 Here I think you tell us a little -- I said earlier
18 I'd come back to your brother Abid, and I think there's
19 things that you think might help the Chair understand
20 about Abid.

21 You mentioned earlier that he'd been in the army.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Do you want to tell us a little bit more about that?

24 A. He was about 18 when he had joined the army, he was
25 a paratrooper, Regiment 1, and he was injured while

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 serving this country. He was in Baghdad at the time and
2 he suffered lifelong injuries, so basically he was
3 paralysed from the neck down.

4 Q. And you say in this paragraph that this is a lifelong
5 disability?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. You also mentioned that understandably he has mental
8 health difficulties as well?

9 A. He was brain damaged.

10 Q. Right. And that's something that your family are
11 dealing with in caring for him?

12 A. Yes. We've been caring for him for a very long time,
13 ever since his accident happened.

14 Q. And I think at the end of that paragraph, if you look at
15 that paragraph, you say it happened in around 2002/2003?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. And the consequences have been severe for Abid?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 Can I ask you about paragraph 38, please, and you
21 say:

22 "There was no compassion for him ..."

23 Is that Abid that you're talking about?

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. "... He deserved better treatment, and we deserved

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 better treatment. Instead, we were all treated like we
2 did something wrong, like we were criminals. I hate to
3 think what would have happened if I wasn't there because
4 my poor mother doesn't speak English ..."

5 And no doubt you're talking there about your brother
6 Abid?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Does he have difficulty communicating?

9 A. He does, yes.

10 Q. Now, your English is obviously excellent. Tell us about
11 your mother's English?

12 A. Mum doesn't speak English.

13 Q. So if your mum has to come into contact with anyone who
14 only speaks English, who translates for her?

15 A. If I'm there, then I would. Or she tries to use hand
16 gestures to try and speak English. It's not very clear.

17 Q. On that day, 3 May, how did the police communicate with
18 your mother?

19 A. They didn't. I had to translate everything to her. She
20 just knew something was going on and she was scared.

21 Q. On that day, were any questions asked by any of the
22 officers about what language your mother spoke?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Was any offer made to bring in an interpreter?

25 A. Nothing.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. Did they offer to use a telephone interpreting service?

2 A. Nothing at all.

3 Q. Looking back now, how do you feel about the way that you
4 and your family were treated that day?

5 A. Like second class citizens.

6 Q. Could you help the Chair with something, Mrs Rashid:
7 could you think back to that day and tell us how that
8 whole experience could have been improved by the police?

9 A. If they treated us with a bit of respect.

10 Q. What would you have found to have been of benefit, to
11 make the situation better?

12 A. If they hadn't removed us from our own home.

13 Q. And if it was necessary for the police to do that on
14 that day, what could they have done to make the
15 situation better for you and your family?

16 A. Not to make us feel threatened, unsafe.

17 Q. Right. Is there a way they could have done that?

18 A. I'm not sure.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 Then in paragraph 39 you say you've had no further
21 contact with the police since that day and, as
22 I understand it, certainly the Inquiry doesn't have any
23 statement that was taken by PIRC from you, the Police
24 Investigations & Review Commissioner. Did they ever
25 come to you and ask you to give a statement?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. So is the first involvement since 3 May 2015 really when
3 the Inquiry got in touch with you?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Was that the first time you were asked to give
6 a statement about these events?
- 7 A. This was the first time I was asked to give a statement.
- 8 Q. That was from the Inquiry?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Thank you. Then I think in paragraph 40 you describe
11 you remembering the police officers were so rude, "They
12 were intimidating and aggressive", and that you were
13 crying and you didn't know what to do because you were
14 scared and terrified, and you talk about your children
15 being distressed. Was it apparent that you were crying
16 and upset and your children were distressed? Would the
17 police have realised that?
- 18 A. I don't think they really cared how I was feeling.
- 19 Q. Then you say you came to your mother's house to rest,
20 and you've told us about your surgery after the baby:
21 "... and instead found myself in a traumatic
22 nightmare experience that was uncalled for."
- 23 Did you feel the whole experience was uncalled for?
- 24 A. It was.
- 25 Q. Then at the end you say at paragraph 41 you didn't want

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 to move your baby around, she was very unsettled, and
2 the police were checking everything, it was really
3 distressing. Tell us how your -- what impact it had on
4 your baby?

5 A. Well, she was just recovering from a hernia operation,
6 so moving her about out of -- again, I had everything at
7 my mum's house, I didn't have anywhere else, so
8 I couldn't really move her about too much. She had
9 stitches, so I didn't want her to -- like I couldn't
10 keep her in a chair or I couldn't keep her anywhere
11 else. She was crying quite a lot.

12 Q. Then at paragraph 42 you say:

13 "They were uncaring and I felt almost like we were
14 being treated differently because we were Pakistani and
15 Muslims."

16 When you say that, in your Inquiry statement, can
17 you tell us, what was it about what the officers did or
18 said that made you feel this way?

19 A. The fact that we're Muslims, I wear a hijab, we were
20 quite vulnerable at the time. Had that been anyone
21 else, they would have been treated differently.

22 Q. How do you think they would have treated you
23 differently? In what way would they have treated you
24 differently, do you think?

25 A. (Pause). By caring about our situation, being a bit

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 more compassionate towards us, about my brother's
2 situation, understanding what we were going through.
3 But they didn't--, didn't care about anything at all.

4 Q. There's two things I'd like to ask you about, and then
5 that's me completely finished. The first is: we're in
6 the process, as you know, as an Inquiry, of gathering in
7 statements, and that's not something we can do
8 overnight, so we're still waiting, we're going to get
9 Inquiry statements from some of the officers who were in
10 the house that day. Obviously we don't -- you haven't
11 been able to tell us names or details, but that's
12 something we're going to do.

13 I do know that one officer was there and I'd like to
14 just mention what briefly he says.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Now, this is PIRC 00145, and I don't need to have that
17 on the screen at this stage, but it's a statement from
18 an officer called DC Kevin Petrie, and he talks about
19 clearing the property and securing it, and it was:

20 "This proved particularly problematic due to there
21 being small children and a disabled man within."

22 So that's your house. And he mentions:

23 "... going back to Levenmouth police station, where
24 we had to make several phone calls to family members [of
25 your dad] around the care of the disabled man and we

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 also had to contact the social work regarding this."

2 I just wondered if you were aware at all of any
3 contact being made with the social work department that
4 day?

5 A. I don't know.

6 Q. You don't know. Were you contacted by the police about
7 anything to do with that?

8 A. Myself, no.

9 Q. Thank you.

10 Now, there was something you mentioned earlier in
11 your evidence, and I don't need to take details from
12 you.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. I just want to ask you a couple of things, if you can
15 confirm them.

16 When you were speaking earlier, you might remember
17 I asked you how your mum reacted that day, and one of
18 the things that you said was:

19 "It kind of brought back memories to her from
20 a previous event she'd gone through with the police."

21 Now, I don't need any details, but can I just
22 confirm with you: that had nothing whatsoever to do with
23 Sheku Bayoh; is that correct? That was not a --

24 A. No.

25 Q. There was no connection with Mr Bayoh?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. No.

2 Q. And your mum's involvement would have only been in
3 connection as a potential witness for the police to
4 speak to, that was the only reason that your mum would
5 have been involved with the police previously? So you
6 said that it brought back memories for your mum, but her
7 involvement would only have been as a possible witness?

8 A. That's right, yeah.

9 Q. There's no suggestion, I want to make it clear, there's
10 no suggestion of any criminality on the part of your
11 mum, that she would have been involved with the police
12 before.

13 A. That's right, yeah.

14 Q. And that there was never any criminal charges brought
15 against your mum or people in your family because of
16 that previous event?

17 A. That's right, yeah.

18 Q. I just wanted to make that absolutely clear, thank you
19 for confirming.

20 Could you give me one moment?

21 A. Sure.

22 (Pause)

23 Q. I've been asked to just confirm one other thing, sorry.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. You talked about the police looking in the boot of your

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 car; was the boot already open when they looked in?

2 A. I can't remember.

3 Q. Right. Did the police, when they looked in your car,
4 did they touch anything?

5 A. I can't recall.

6 MS GRAHAME: All right. Thank you very much. I've got no
7 further questions at the moment.

8 LORD BRACADALE: Are there any Rule 9 applications? No.

9 Well, Mrs Rashid, thank you very much for coming to
10 give evidence to the Inquiry. I'm going to adjourn now
11 and you'll be free to go.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 I'm going to stop for a slightly early lunch, so
14 we'll sit again at five to 2.

15 (12.38 pm)

16 (The short adjournment)

17 (1.55 pm)

18 (Proceedings delayed)

19 (2.05 pm)

20 LORD BRACADALE: Good afternoon, Mr Ahmed. Can you see and
21 hear me all right? (Pause). Mr Ahmed?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

23 LORD BRACADALE: You can see me?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes. No, I can't see you now.

25 LORD BRACADALE: But you can hear me?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can hear you, sir.

2 LORD BRACADALE: Right. Can you see me now?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can see you, sir.

4 LORD BRACADALE: Right, thank you, that's in order.

5 MR SAEED AHMED (sworn)

6 (Evidence given via videolink)

7 LORD BRACADALE: You're now going to be asked questions by

8 Ms Grahame.

9 Ms Grahame.

10 MS GRAHAME: Thank you.

11 Questions from MS GRAHAME

12 MS GRAHAME: Good afternoon, Mr Ahmed.

13 A. Good afternoon, ma'am.

14 Q. Can I ask you to tell us your name, please?

15 A. My name is Saeed Ahmed.

16 Q. Thank you. What age are you, Mr Ahmed?

17 A. I'm 70.

18 Q. And I understand that you own and work in a shop?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. And you are the father of Mrs Rashid, who we've just

21 heard from this morning?

22 A. Saeeda Rashid, yes.

23 Q. And you have sons, one of whom is Zahid?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Thank you.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 You have given a statement to this Inquiry, and
2 I understand that you may have a copy of that in front
3 of you now. Do you?

4 A. Yes, I do have.

5 Q. Are you able to see it? And you can refer to it,
6 because I'm going to ask you some questions about it.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Lovely. Now, I may also be referring to one or two
9 other documents, and we'll deal with that when we come
10 to it, but if you keep your statement in front of you,
11 I think that will be a big help.

12 A. Okay. I'll do that.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 Now, first of all, you gave a statement a while ago
15 to the PIRC, Police Investigations & Review
16 Commissioner?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That was on 24 August 2015, at 3.15. Do you remember
19 that?

20 A. Yes, I do remember.

21 Q. You may also have been given a paper copy of that
22 statement.

23 A. Yes, I got a copy in this one, in this folder, yes.

24 Q. When you gave PIRC your statement in 2015, were you
25 doing your best to tell them the truth and to be

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 accurate, insofar as you could?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. So if there are any differences, for example, in
4 relation to timing, the time that things happened --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- should the Chair prefer your version from 2015, when
7 you gave your statement to PIRC?
- 8 A. Yes, I think it's better if you -- I prefer the '15
9 ones.
- 10 Q. We've heard from quite a few witnesses who say their
11 memory in 2015 was probably a bit better than than it is
12 now. Is that the same for you?
- 13 A. Yes. Yeah, it was fresh at that time, because it hadn't
14 happened long ago, so it was current.
- 15 Q. Thank you. Well, let's turn to your Inquiry statement,
16 and this is SBPI 00249. I think you gave this to the
17 Inquiry on 8 December last year. Do you see that on the
18 front page? Just at the top, it says:
19 "Witness statement, Mr Saeed Ahmed."?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Thank you.
- 22 Then it's 12 pages, and you've signed it on every
23 page, haven't you?
- 24 A. Are you referring to the statement I've given just now?
- 25 Q. Yes, I am. The Inquiry statement that you gave to us.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. That's on 8 December 2022.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You should see your signature at the bottom of every
5 page.

6 A. Yes, I've seen the statement with my signatures on, yes.

7 Q. Thank you. On the last page, which I think is page 12,
8 it was signed on 25 January.

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. And you'll see the last paragraph of your statement,
11 I'll just read that out, it says:

12 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
13 statement are true. I understand that this statement
14 may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry, and be
15 published on the Inquiry's website."

16 Do you understand that your statement will be
17 published on our website, and is that paragraph correct?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 So again, you've done your best with the Inquiry to
21 tell the truth and be as accurate as you possibly can?

22 A. Yes, madam.

23 Q. Thank you. Can I ask you some questions about Sunday
24 3 May? Now, in your Inquiry statement you begin telling
25 us about this in paragraph 2, and please feel free to

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 have a look through paragraph 2 now if you wish to do
2 so.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You talk about getting a phone call from your
5 daughter --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- Mrs Rashid. And you've said in your Inquiry
8 statement you thought it was maybe after 9, or maybe
9 half past 9.
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. Now, without taking you to the document, although you've
12 got it from front of you, your statement that you gave
13 to PIRC might suggest that the call from your daughter
14 was closer to 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Thinking back
15 now, do you remember --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- when she called you?
- 18 A. See, if I think back, see, at that time my shop opening
19 was a different time, I didn't realise that because it
20 was seven years ago, see. I just say 9 o'clock, usually
21 I used to open at 9 o'clock and do the deliveries, and
22 I think I got a phone call maybe 12, half 12.
- 23 Q. Right.
- 24 A. But not at 9 o'clock.
- 25 Q. Right.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 A. Or near 9 o'clock.
- 2 Q. So maybe your Inquiry statement isn't quite correct on
3 the timing; is that fair to say?
4
- 5 A. Exactly. It's because the length of time, see, I didn't
6 keep anything in my mind at all, that's why I really
7 don't remember properly that -- what happened at that
8 time and what times, the timings may be wrong, yes.
9
- 10 Q. Well, thank you. Thank you for clarifying that.
11 Can I ask you to please tell us about the call from
12 your daughter?
- 13 A. The call I received from my daughter -- Saeeda, I call
14 her -- she said, "Dad, the police are here and they're
15 asking us to empty the house right now, and we ask them,
16 'Why are they not telling us?' They just said you have
17 to empty the house because it's a crime scene". I asked
18 her, "Didn't you ask what the crime scene is?" She
19 said, "No, they're not telling us, they just said we
20 have to seal the house and we have to get out right
21 now".
- 22 Q. Who was in the house that morning or that day?
- 23 A. Yes, madam?
- 24 Q. Who was in the house that day?
- 25 A. Well, it was my daughter with her children, my wife, and

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 my son, who is paralysed, Mohammed Abid. These are the
2 only ones I know. I don't know anybody else.
- 3 Q. We've heard of -- your daughter has told us about Abid,
4 and he has --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- some mobility issues, as I understand?
- 7 A. That's right. He's injured, see, he's in the chair and
8 he can't move by himself.
- 9 Q. Your daughter told us that you're his carer; is that
10 correct?
- 11 A. Yes, that's right.
- 12 Q. What type of help do you have to give Abid?
- 13 A. Well, I give him food, toilet needs, moving around
14 inside and outside, because he -- at that time he
15 couldn't move much. I still -- I am his carer and
16 I give him all the help that he needs, like exercise,
17 physios, so to keep him mobilised as much as he can.
- 18 Q. Thank you. You've mentioned that you help him move
19 inside and outside?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. How often does Abid, or certainly in 2015, how often
22 would Abid leave the house?
- 23 A. Sorry, say again that?
- 24 Q. So thinking back to 2015 --
- 25 A. Yes.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. -- how often would Abid leave the house at that time?
- 2 A. Well, he never leave the house, only with me, apart from
3 me he don't go with anybody else.
- 4 Q. Thank you.
- 5 A. And actually even at that time I used to take him
6 outside in the garden, daily basis, two or three hours,
7 and that's all he was going out. And for prayers as
8 well, on Friday, every Friday I used to take him for the
9 prayers at the mosque in Glenrothes. But he don't go
10 out with anybody else, apart from myself.
- 11 Q. Your daughter told us that he may occasionally see
12 a doctor or go to medical appointments.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Would he also go out for that?
- 15 A. Yes, he used to, and I used to take him, if it was
16 needed.
- 17 Q. Thank you. Did your daughter give you any more
18 information on the telephone about what was happening at
19 that time in the house?
- 20 A. No, she didn't told me anything apart from what I told
21 you already, she said the detectives, "The police is
22 here and they're asking us to leave", nothing else, and
23 "They're not listening".
- 24 Q. What did your daughter say about it being a crime scene?
- 25 A. She just said, "They said it is a crime scene", and

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 I kept asking her, "Didn't you ask what the crime scene
2 is?" I don't know what's the crime scene, what crime is
3 being done? And she said, "No, they're not telling us,
4 I keep asking but they're not telling us".

5 Q. What did you decide to do at that stage?

6 A. Then I told her, "Okay, I'll come around and see them
7 myself".

8 Q. Without asking you to look at this, the Inquiry has
9 a document called a scene entry log that suggests that
10 you arrived at the house about 2 o'clock in the
11 afternoon. Do you remember that?

12 A. No, I don't think it was about 2 o'clock, it was soon
13 after the phone call, maybe 1 o'clock, but I don't think
14 it was 2 o'clock.

15 Q. All right, thank you.

16 A. It could be, but I don't think so, because after the
17 phone call, soon after that I locked the shop and went
18 away, because my daughter was crying, see.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 When you got to the house, tell us what happened.

21 A. Well, when I got into the house, I went in the back
22 door, and as I remember now, see, there was a lady
23 constable outside.

24 Q. There was a lady constable outside, did you say?

25 A. Outside, outside the back door.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Q. Right. What did you do --
- 2 A. And I asked her -- and I asked her, "I need to get in",
3 she said, "No, you can't go in". And I told her that
4 I am carer for my son, and that's my wife inside and my
5 daughter inside and my grandchild inside, I have to go
6 in. But she said, "No, you can't go in", then she said,
7 "Okay, I ask", then she asked from inside, but I don't
8 know who was inside, see. And then she came back with
9 the, I think it was a gentleman, he came and he said,
10 "You can't come". I told him, "No, I can, I wanted to
11 come, see, because my son, he's paralysed and he can't
12 move and he may be needing help, so you have to let me
13 in, because I'm his carer as well, see".
- 14 Q. And you --
- 15 A. After declining, you know, then he went inside and
16 talked to somebody and he came back, then after a few
17 more arguments he let me get in.
- 18 Q. Can I take you through that again a little bit more
19 slowly, do you mind? You've mentioned that the female
20 officer went in and you talk about a gentleman. Can you
21 tell us who that was?
- 22 A. See, I couldn't see from outside. When I went inside --
23 he comes to the door, then I knew it was a gentleman, in
24 plain clothes.
- 25 Q. A plain clothes, was he a plain clothes police officer?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 A. Well, I believe that he was a police officer.
- 2 Q. Thank you.
- 3 What explanation was given to you at that time about
4 why you weren't allowed into the house?
- 5 A. He was saying the same thing, he said, "It is a crime
6 scene", I said, "Why, what is the crime? What was the
7 crime scene? I don't know". He said, "We can't tell
8 you what it is, but you can't come, because we have to
9 seal the building", I said, "What do you want to seal
10 the building for? If you want to see something, you can
11 see, if you let me come in first".
- 12 Q. What did he say when you said, "Let me come in first"?
- 13 A. First, he was declining, see, then he said, "Okay, you
14 can come". I told him I need to -- if we have to get
15 out, then we have to -- I have to get my son ready, his
16 things, because he can't move without me, my wife can't
17 do it, I have to help. He said, "Okay, then you can
18 come", then I went inside.
- 19 Q. Can I ask you: why would your wife not be able to do
20 that?
- 21 A. Because my son is quite a heavy person, see, and he
22 can't move himself, he can't stand, he can't do even the
23 chair, you know, he's got a difficulty to move his own
24 chair, where he was sitting in. My wife is also old and
25 she's not strong enough to move him around.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. Thank you.

2 Can we look at paragraph 3 of your Inquiry
3 statement. Do you have that in front of you?

4 A. 3?

5 Q. Paragraph 3.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I'm interested in something you say here at line 3. You
8 say:

9 "Once I knock on the door, the policeman came out."

10 Why was it you knocked on the door of your own
11 house?

12 A. Well, as I said in this statement, yes, I thought it
13 was, but then I realised when I was looking at the other
14 statement, you know, that I gave earlier on in '15, it
15 was actually the woman, uniformed woman outside the
16 door.

17 Q. Right. Then you say in paragraph 3 you got the names of
18 a couple of the officers who were there. We've heard
19 from --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- your daughter that there were a number of police
22 officers in the house that day. Do you remember how
23 many police officers were there?

24 A. No, I just saw two.

25 Q. Right. And are those the two that you've given us the

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 names of?

2 A. Yes. Because I got their numbers, see.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 Then I think you've dealt with the next paragraph.

5 Can we look at paragraph 4, please?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You've given us some information about it. If you look
8 at your paragraph 4, you'll see more of it, and you
9 explain that you told the police:

10 "I asked, 'Why can't I come in? My disabled son, my
11 wife, my daughter, my grandchildren are there and you're
12 just asking them to come out. Why can't I come in? I'm
13 a carer for my son. He's disabled'."

14 Is that what you told the police that day?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Right. And then you go on to say:

17 "My son needs support all the times, for toilet and
18 so on. My wife, she can't manage on her own, and my
19 daughter, she was busy because they were asking her to
20 pack up. She couldn't help, she is very skinny and my
21 son is quite heavy."

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. "I said, 'I am supposed to be here. You've just come,
24 for what reason? I don't know'. They said 'Oh, we're
25 not obliged to tell you, just you can't come in'."

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Who was it that said that?
- 2 A. The detective, you know, the plain clothes ones.
- 3 Q. And of the plain clothes police officers, what did the
- 4 officer look like that said "We're not obliged to tell
- 5 you, just you can't come in"?
- 6 A. I can't describe now, see, it's long ago. They're just
- 7 normal, in the suits.
- 8 Q. What height are you, Mr Ahmed?
- 9 A. I'm 5'11.
- 10 Q. In comparison to your height, was this gentleman, this
- 11 officer, taller or shorter?
- 12 A. We can say a wee bit shorter than me.
- 13 Q. Right. Do you have any recollection now of the colour
- 14 of his hair?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. No?
- 17 A. I can't describe, it's just too long, it's not possible
- 18 for me to tell now.
- 19 Q. All right. Then you say, towards the bottom of that
- 20 page that we have here:
- 21 "... 'If you don't let me in, then I'll have to
- 22 phone somebody, either the Glenrothes or Kirkcaldy
- 23 Police Station'."
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. So you said --

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. I did mention, yes.

2 Q. Is that what you said to the police officers, that you
3 would phone someone at another police station?

4 A. Yes, I did say that, yes.

5 Q. Right. Then can we move on to the next part of
6 page 4 -- paragraph 4, which is on the next page:

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

10 Tell us, how long were you standing outside the
11 house before they let you in?

12 A. Maybe about five to ten minutes, say ten minutes.

13 Q. And during that five to ten minutes, was any other
14 explanation given to you about why they were there?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Then can we look at paragraph 5, please?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I'd like to ask you about a part of this. You say then
19 you said:

20 "... 'Where shall we go? Where my family will go,
21 where can I take my son away and my wife and the
22 children and my daughter?' They said, 'That's not our
23 job, but they have to leave, you have to go. Take them
24 away wherever'."

25 Tell me about this part of the conversation you had.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. That happened inside the room, in the sitting room.

2 Because --

3 Q. Right. Who were you talking to?

4 A. -- I said, "Well, you're asking us to leave, empty the

5 building, where we can go? Where my children will go?

6 What about my son?"

7 Q. Who were you talking --

8 A. Because --

9 Q. Sorry, Mr Ahmed. There's a slight delayed reaction, and

10 I sometimes speak too quickly before you've finished.

11 I was going to ask you: who were you talking to when

12 you had this conversation?

13 A. To the gentleman, well, you can say detective.

14 Q. The same one that you had spoken to on the --

15 A. I think most of the time only one was speaking, you see,

16 the other one was there, he was there, but he was quiet.

17 Q. What were your concerns about your family, about moving

18 them out of the house?

19 A. They were really afraid, first of all, they said they

20 don't want to move, go away. My wife said she don't

21 want to go. She was declined to get out from the house

22 until the last minute. I persuaded her. I told her

23 that they keep saying that we have to go, and that's the

24 time, see, when I asked the gentleman, "Look, where we

25 can go at this time? Where I can take them?" He said,

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 "It's not our job, but you have to leave because we have
2 to seal the building".

3 Q. Was any assistance provided to you or offered to you by
4 the police in relation to --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- finding somewhere to go?

7 A. Not at that stage, no.

8 Q. No. Can you tell us about your wife, does she speak
9 English, Mr Ahmed?

10 A. Very little.

11 Q. When the police were in the house, how were they
12 communicating with your wife?

13 A. I don't know, I wasn't there at that time, but they
14 didn't communicate much when I was there.

15 Q. Right. When you were there, who was doing the talking
16 for your family?

17 A. I was doing all the talking.

18 Q. Thank you. Tell us how the members of your family were
19 at that time, how were they reacting?

20 A. Well, at that stage, see, it was only my son, he was
21 acting angrily, with the disabled one, he was -- he
22 carries on saying he don't want to go, he don't want to
23 leave. Because he can't speak properly, because of his
24 injuries, ordinary people don't understand what he is
25 saying, but because I'm quite used to that, so I could

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 understand what he was saying, he was just carrying on
2 repeating the same, "Don't want to go, why should we
3 leave?"

4 Q. What was your daughter's reaction?

5 A. My daughter wasn't there at first stage, see, my
6 daughter came in later on, in the room.

7 Q. We've heard that at one point your daughter was
8 upstairs.

9 A. Yes, she was. She came later on, see, when we -- after
10 talking and then I was talking to my wife, and I told
11 her that they keep insisting we have to go, I don't know
12 what happened, see, and I asked my wife: if you know
13 anything, what happened? She said, "I don't know,
14 I don't know, they're just saying we have to go".

15 Q. Right.

16 We've heard that one of your other sons arrived?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. We've heard from your daughter that her older brother
19 also helps to care for Abid?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How long had you been there when he arrived?

22 A. Maybe you can say it was inside ... maybe ten minutes,
23 ten to 15 minutes, you can say.

24 Q. How did he react to the situation?

25 A. Well, I was inside, see, he was -- I hear when he

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 knocked on the door, I heard the conversation he was
2 having. They were quite loudly, see.

3 Q. Could you hear his conversation?

4 A. I heard that he said he wanted to come in, why can't he
5 come, and he was saying the same, see, because he's also
6 the carer of Abid, he have to come. He said, "My dad is
7 also, I have to come". They said, "No, you can't come
8 because it is a crime scene", and he was asking
9 something about warrant or so on, "What the hell?" And
10 they said, "We are not obliged to tell you anything".

11 Q. How long was it before he was allowed into the house?

12 A. At that stage, I asked him, my son, well, he better
13 come, I'm inside, I'm talking to them, you can stay
14 outside, let me talk. And he agreed.

15 Q. Sorry.

16 A. And stayed outside, I don't know, maybe ... not long,
17 maybe, say, another -- because he was walking around,
18 let's say it was eight, ten minutes.

19 Q. All right. So he remained outside of the house?

20 A. Yes, at that stage. Yes.

21 Q. At that stage. Can I ask you to look, please, at
22 paragraph 8 of your Inquiry statement.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then, sorry, I'll move on to paragraph 9. You talk here
25 about talking to the CID men, and you have in

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 quotations:

2 "... 'Well, if there is any particular part you
3 wanted to look at, okay, but can we stay in the sitting
4 room? We can stay in this room and you can search
5 whatever you like, or you can seal it the other way.
6 That is the only room we'll use, the kitchen and the
7 sitting room and the toilet next to it, and you can do
8 whatever you want to do with the rest of the house'."

9 And:

10 "They said, 'No, we have to seal it and you have to
11 go'."

12 Tell us about this part of the conversation.

13 A. That conversation happened only when I realised that we
14 have to leave the house, and that time I asked them,
15 "Look, if you wanted to search", because they were
16 saying there's going to be a forensic examination or
17 something, so I told them, "Look, if you want to search
18 the house, you can search the house, we can stay in this
19 room -- that was our sitting room -- all the time, and
20 you can do whatever you like with the house, we can use
21 the toilet -- which was next to the sitting room -- and
22 there's a kitchen here to use, we can stay here and you
23 can carry on with your work". And they said "No, we
24 have to seal the building, the whole building, you have
25 to get out. There is nowhere you can stay, we have to

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 seal the building, seal the whole building".
- 2 Q. If you --
- 3 A. Then I have to agree, "Okay, we do that".
- 4 Q. If your family had been allowed to stay in part of the
5 house --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- how would that have helped Abid?
- 8 A. Well, because, as I said, he don't want to -- he didn't
9 want to leave the house. He usually don't go anywhere,
10 see. All he just do is sit down and watch TV, only for
11 exercise, for physio, he usually go out. Otherwise he
12 don't even go out. He just do all the exercise inside,
13 see, in the one room or two rooms. But he could have
14 sat down there and just watched the TV for all the time,
15 we don't know how long they were going to take.
- 16 Q. Was any information given to you about how long this
17 process would take?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. How would it have helped your daughter to have remained
20 within the house?
- 21 A. My daughter, she lives in Glasgow, and she came to stay
22 with the children, there are -- and she had this little
23 baby as well, see, she said, "Where I will go? I have
24 to feed them as well", you know, there were the other
25 children too, and she do the breastfeeding, and she was

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 worried where they can go, then she said, "Okay, I'll
2 see, I may go back to Glasgow before the -- when I get
3 out from here". That's what she told me, probably she
4 will go to Glasgow at that stage.

5 Q. Right.

6 Can I ask you to look at paragraph 12, please, of
7 your Inquiry statement.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If we could move up, please, on to page 5. You say:

10 "Three times they come to look after my son ..."

11 So you're talking about your son's carers, Abid's
12 carers. We've heard from your daughter that they come
13 three times a day; is that correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And they come seven days a week?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you tell us, what time of day do they normally
18 attend?

19 A. They normally come in the morning, half 9 -- no, sorry,
20 not half 9. Half 8 in the morning. Half 8 to half past
21 9. Then they come for his toiletry needs, because after
22 he get the breakfast done, then he usually go for
23 toilets. So at that time usually nobody at home,
24 because I come at work, and he get help from them. The
25 two carers come from quarter to -- normally it's a fixed

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 time, see, quarter to 11 to quarter past 11, depends how
2 long it takes. Then in the evening, when it's bedtime,
3 that is about half 9 to 10 o'clock, and at that time
4 they just make him ready to go to bed. The two carers
5 come at 10.

6 Q. Is it always two carers who come to help Abid?

7 A. Yes, always two carers, because nobody can handle him
8 alone himself, see.

9 Q. And had the carers been that day?

10 A. My wife told me that time, because I asked her, literal
11 as well, the carer was there in the morning, yes. And
12 I think she told me that a carer was there after the
13 breakfast, let's say quarter to 11 or 11 o'clock. They
14 were there, I don't know what happened, whether they
15 came in or not, I don't know, see, because I wasn't told
16 that.

17 Q. Thank you. And was it after that that the police had
18 arrived -- are you aware, or you may not be -- after the
19 carers had left?

20 A. No, I'm not aware of that.

21 Q. You don't know.

22 Can I ask you to look at paragraph 13 of your
23 statement:

24 "I'm asked if the officers attempted at any point to
25 physically remove us from the house. They were forcing

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 us, saying, 'You have to leave right now', but not
2 physically. They were just telling me and they were
3 quite aggressive."
- 4 So they didn't use any physical force?
- 5 A. No, no, they didn't use any physical force at all.
- 6 Q. In what way were they being quite aggressive?
- 7 A. I could see from their face, you know, they were quite
8 angry.
- 9 Q. How did that make you feel?
- 10 A. I don't know, I just, I was getting angry with them as
11 well, see.
- 12 Q. Right. Can I ask you about one thing that's in
13 quotations in this paragraph? You say:
14 "'Okay, well ..."
15 We're talking about the carers here:
16 "... whenever they come, let them come. Don't
17 worry, just send them away'."
- 18 Was that a reference to the carers coming to the
19 house, or what was that about?
- 20 A. Yeah, that was referring to the evening carers,
21 you know, the later on ones, because we don't know -- at
22 that time we didn't know how long we're going to stay
23 out, see. That was the conversation with my wife.
- 24 Q. And that was in connection with the evening visit of the
25 carers --

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. The evening.

2 Q. -- to Abid?

3 A. Yes. Yes.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 Let's look at paragraph 14. So this is after you've
6 left the house, and we understand from your daughter
7 that everybody did leave the house, and you helped with
8 Abid; is that correct?

9 A. My other son was allowed inside after, when we were
10 getting ready to go --

11 Q. And you were both -- were you both able to help Abid get
12 out of the house?

13 A. Yes. Yes.

14 Q. Where did he go that day?

15 A. Then I asked my elder son, Sajid, that it's better if
16 you take him to your house because your house is bigger.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. So they can stay, then, until we sort this out.

19 Q. Was --

20 A. Fortunately.

21 Q. Was Abid in his wheelchair when he left the house?

22 A. Yes, he's always in the wheelchair.

23 Q. Right. And you've said here in paragraph 14 that you
24 phoned:

25 "I phoned at the police station and asked them, 'Is

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 my house empty now? Have you finished your job?' And
2 they said, 'No. Phone us about an hour later or so'."

3 Do you remember how many calls you made to the
4 police that day?

5 A. Well, I made quite a few calls actually, and I think
6 I gave them the number as well of -- my
7 daughter-in-law's number, probably, she was phoning as
8 well, see. I remember, I think the police phoned my
9 daughter-in-law as well about this, going back to the
10 house, but that was later on in the evening.

11 Q. Now, I don't need to show you this, Mr Ahmed, but
12 there's CCTV of you arriving at the Kirkcaldy police
13 office at around 6.30 in the evening. Do you remember
14 actually going to the police station?

15 A. See, I said in my statement I don't remember going to
16 the police station. I think I did went --

17 Q. Right. So --

18 A. -- with somebody, a friend of mine.

19 Q. So you took a friend to the police station, was that in
20 addition to the phone calls that you made?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can I look at paragraph 15 now, please, of your Inquiry
23 statement? You talk about:

24 "Then they phoned me ..."

25 So was that the police phoning you and contacting

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 you?
- 2 A. Yes, they did phone me.
- 3 Q. "... and said, 'Well, we can't manage to do the forensic
4 examination, we can provide you accommodation in a hotel
5 or you can get accommodation yourself and it will be
6 paid or something'. I said, 'No ..."
- 7 A. Yes, they did --
- 8 Q. Sorry, carry on, tell us about this?
- 9 A. Yes, they did mention about accommodation and so on, and
10 I said no.
- 11 Q. Tell us about Abid, had he stayed in a hotel before?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Your daughter gave evidence today and said that he has
14 a special bed in his -- in your house. Is that correct?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Tell us about the bed.
- 17 A. Yes. It's a special bed, you see, it's given by the
18 army, because that's very expensive, and that was for
19 his need at the beginning, see, because he couldn't move
20 at all.
- 21 Q. And the bed was in your house?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. We've heard this morning that your son was in the army
24 when he was injured; is that correct?
- 25 A. That's correct.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. And your daughter also explained that he has other
2 equipment as well in the house. Did that remain --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- in your house?

5 A. Yes, we do have, but it's only -- four wheeler they
6 supply later on, not at the beginning, at the beginning
7 it is only bed, nothing else.

8 Q. So in 2015, was it only the bed or -- your daughter
9 mentioned a hoist that he had, to help?

10 A. No, hoist was supplied by the physios, because I used to
11 take my son for physio at the Cameron Hospital, once or
12 twice a week, and Dr Simone used to see him.

13 Q. So was there a hoist in the house in 2015, on
14 3 May 2015?

15 A. I think it was still there, yes.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. But he wasn't using it at that time.

18 Q. Right.

19 Tell me what difficulties Abid would have had if
20 he'd stayed in a hotel overnight.

21 A. Some movement difficulties, see, he just -- nobody can
22 stay with him all the time, because sometime he can fell
23 off the bed. Even fell off the chair as well. So it's
24 not very easy to lift him and put him back on the bed or
25 on the chair, see, that's why he's supposed to be looked

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 after 24 hours. Especially at that time, he wasn't that
2 well as he is now.

3 Q. So in 2015, how often had Abid been away from the house
4 and stayed overnight anywhere?

5 A. No. None at all.

6 Q. How much time would you have needed to be able to
7 arrange suitable alternative accommodation for Abid?

8 A. What do you mean "suitable accommodation"? See, that
9 was my son's house, that's where he stayed. He just
10 stayed there temporary, that's what he told. I said,
11 "He's not going to stay overnight, he's just going to
12 stay just for a few hours, yes, but not overnight".

13 Q. When Abid was out of the house, what impact did that
14 have on him, when he had to leave the house?

15 A. You mean leave the house to go away or just --

16 Q. When you took him out, and I think you said your other
17 son -- you had Abid go to your other son's house, what
18 impact did that have on him that day?

19 A. He was very angry, see. Apart from that, nothing much,
20 but he said he had difficulty over there in my son's
21 house for the -- for going to the toilet.

22 Q. Did that, was that a problem for Abid that day?

23 A. Yes, it was.

24 Q. How long were you kept out of the house by the police?

25 A. Then we -- well, they came back, you know, with my elder

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 son about -- after I closed the shop, I think it was
2 about maybe after 9, maybe half 9.

3 Q. Could we look at paragraph 17, please. I think you've
4 told us there that you went back to the house, and, "It
5 was just about 9 o'clock, maybe a bit after or before".
6 Who was there with you at that time?

7 A. Well, I was just on my own, but the rest of them, it was
8 my son, Abid, I don't know who else were outside, they
9 were waiting for me. My wife, maybe my son or my
10 daughter-in-law, and at the same time I saw a couple of
11 detectives as well, the policemen, un-uniformed, and
12 Zahid as well, my son, he was standing behind them.

13 Q. Was Mrs Rashid there?

14 A. To tell you the truth, I really don't remember that.

15 Q. You said they were waiting for you. Who was there
16 first; was it your family members who arrived first?

17 A. No, when I went there, they're all there, standing there
18 outside.

19 Q. How long -- do you know how long you waited outside
20 until you were able to get back into the house?

21 A. Well, when I arrived there, we were -- we start talking
22 and I asked, I think I asked my son, "What's happening?"
23 And they said that they were still checking or
24 something, and they will leave soon. We start talking
25 to each other, including the detectives, and I tried to

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 speak with my son Zahid two or three times, and ask him,
2 "What's happened? Why you are with them here?" Or he
3 wanted to come inside, he didn't reply, because the
4 detectives replied instead of him. They said, "No, he's
5 all right, he's not coming in". Where he's going to go?
6 They said they're going to drop him in his house, which
7 is -- well, which was in St Andrews, somewhere. They
8 will give him a lift. I still tried. I still tried two
9 or three times, you know, talk to Zahid, "What's
10 happened?" He didn't spoke anything.

11 Q. I'm going to go back over that again and ask you some
12 questions.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So when you were outside waiting to get back in, how
15 long were you kept waiting?

16 A. It was quite a long conversation we had, maybe 30,
17 40 minutes.

18 Q. How were you feeling at that time, Mr Ahmed?

19 A. I was feeling very angry.

20 Q. Right, and I think you say that --

21 A. And frustrated.

22 Q. You say you were feeling angry.

23 A. And frustrated.

24 Q. And then which son was it who arrived at the house with
25 the detectives?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. I don't know, I just saw them outside, that was Zahid.

2 Q. So you saw Zahid, did you? You've said that --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- in your statement.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say in paragraph 18, and I think you were telling us

7 you were trying to speak to him; is that correct?

8 A. Yes. Yes.

9 Q. Then we will see as we move on to page 7 you say that

10 you tried to speak to Zahid and the detectives didn't

11 let him talk, they said, "No, he's not allowed to talk".

12 Did they give you any explanation why Zahid wasn't

13 allowed to talk to you?

14 A. No, not at all.

15 Q. How did they prevent him from talking to you?

16 A. Because whenever I asked something of Zahid, they speak,

17 see.

18 Q. What would they say? What did they say?

19 A. No, they're just saying, "No, he's just helping us.

20 Don't worry about him, see, he's just helping us, he's

21 helping with enquiries".

22 Q. Was anything done to stop you speaking to Zahid?

23 A. No. No, no. Not stop at all.

24 Q. Now, I think that subsequently you prepared a -- you

25 decided to send in a complaint letter to the police.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. If we look at paragraph 22, you mention there that the
3 police were very rude and:
4 "They weren't answering any of my questions.
5 I think my son was asking them if they had a warrant and
6 so forth."
7 And you asked them to explain:
8 "... 'What happened? Why you want it to be empty?
9 Why is it a crime scene?' They said, 'We're not obliged
10 to tell you. We're not going to tell you. We have to
11 do forensic examination and the building has to be
12 sealed'. That's it, nothing else."
13 A. That's true.
- 14 Q. And you then decided to send a letter in to complain
15 about that; is that correct?
- 16 A. No, I didn't decide it at that stage, see, I mentioned
17 to -- in our meeting at the Islamic Centre, I mentioned
18 to the committee members, see, and chairman decided that
19 the committee should write a letter to the
20 superintendent or head constable about the complaint,
21 what happened.
- 22 Q. Tell the Chair what the organisation is that you spoke
23 to.
- 24 A. It's Fife Islamic Centre, Glenrothes.
- 25 Q. Is that mentioned in paragraph 24?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. Yes, that's right.

2 Q. And we have a copy of a letter, PS03470, which is dated
3 14 May 2015.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Would that be the right time? So you see it's come up
6 on the screen, from the Fife Islamic Centre at Methil,
7 and the date is 14 May 2015; do you see that?

8 A. Yes, I can see that.

9 Q. That was sent to Garry McEwan, Chief Superintendent Fife
10 Divisional Command at Police Headquarters in Glenrothes?

11 A. Yes, that's right.

12 Q. And if we can see the body of that letter, you've
13 written, it's been written:

14 "Dear Mr McEwan ..."

15 And it talks about:

16 "Fife Islamic Centre has for many years worked
17 closely with Fife police to address many issues and
18 concerns of importance to Muslim community. We
19 acknowledge the hard work that Fife police do. However
20 in this instance we believe police did not act
21 responsibly, this incident happened on 3 May and the
22 people living in the house was thrown out of the house
23 (including 7 weeks old baby and a disabled person~...)
24 into the street without any explanation. As this
25 incident has been reported to Islamic Centre's

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Committee, we are seeking a meeting with yourself to
2 safeguard safety of our Muslim community as soon as
3 possible. Thank you very much for your kind attention."

4 Is that the case, Mr Ahmed, that the centre have
5 worked very closely with Fife police or at that time in
6 2015 for many years?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Raising issues and concerns with the Muslim community?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And was it you that had reported the concerns you had to
11 their committee?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. About the events of 3 May?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And they wrote a letter to Garry McEwan about the
16 matter?

17 A. The letter was written from the Islamic Centre, because
18 I am secretary for the centre, so our chairman asked me
19 to write a letter, so I wrote it.

20 Q. So you --

21 A. But at his instruction.

22 Q. So you actually wrote the letter?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. The text of the letter?

25 A. Yes.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. At a later stage you -- obviously I've read out that you
2 were asked to -- you were asking maybe to meet with the
3 police; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And did you subsequently meet with the police?

6 A. Not as we requested, but I received a letter from
7 Mr McEwan, the Islamic Centre, I don't know whether it
8 was Islamic Centre or it was myself, received a letter
9 from the centre, it was saying that our matter had been
10 referred to or being dealt with by the local police at
11 Methil station.

12 Q. Can I ask you please to look at a letter that we have,
13 it's undated, PS03477. It's a letter from
14 Police Scotland, and you will see on the final page it's
15 prepared on behalf of an inspector at Levenmouth police
16 station, Tom Brown. Do you see that?

17 A. No, I don't see it over here.

18 Q. Oh, do you not see it? Can you see it now? It's been
19 moved further up the screen. Well, if you take it from
20 me that this is a letter --

21 A. That's from Levenmouth, yes.

22 Q. -- sent to you from Police Scotland, and if we go up to
23 the top, you will see that it says:

24 "Dear Mr Ahmed.

25 "Complaint about police ...

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 "Thank you for attending at Levenmouth Police
2 Station on Tuesday 26th May 2015 in order to discuss
3 issues which occurred ... on 3rd May ..."

4 So it seems to suggest there that you had attended
5 Levenmouth police station on 26 May. Do you remember
6 that?

7 A. Yes, with the inspector, yes.

8 Q. And the letter goes on to say, to mention 3 May, and
9 that:

10 "At that time the officers were instructed to secure
11 the premises as there was potential forensic evidence
12 within which required to be secured."

13 Can you see that; yes?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Yes. And then it says:

16 "On arrival the premises were occupied by your wife,
17 son and daughter. The police subsequently secured the
18 premises and requested that the occupants found
19 alternative accommodation until the forensic examination
20 was complete."

21 Then if we move on to the next page:

22 "You have raised concerns that the police officers
23 failed to communicate the purpose of their attendance
24 fully to you which resulted in confusion.

25 "Having discussed the matters with you in detail it

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 is clear that there have been shortcomings with regard
2 to the standard of communication between the police and
3 members of your family.

4 "It would appear that the requirement to secure
5 potential forensic evidence has superseded quality of
6 service. This should not have been the case.

7 "Whilst there is a balance to be struck with regard
8 to what information is shared between the police and
9 members of the public with regard to confidentiality,
10 this should have been managed in a fashion so that you
11 understood why you were being asked to vacate the
12 premises."

13 Was that in line with the discussion that you'd had
14 and the meeting you'd had at Levenmouth on Tuesday
15 26 May that year?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How long after that meeting did you receive this letter?

18 A. Oh, I don't remember that.

19 Q. That's fine, and then I think the letter goes on to say,
20 just to complete this:

21 "You have instructed that you do not wish to make
22 an official complaint and wish the matter to be
23 addressed locally."

24 Is that correct, Mr Ahmed?

25 A. Yes.

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Q. And you were happy not to make an official complaint?

2 A. Yes, I was happy at that time, yes.

3 Q. Right:

4 "I consider the point you have raised to be upheld
5 and your perceptions have been brought to the attention
6 of the officers in attendance."

7 So did you understand that your perceptions or the
8 way you saw things that day had been brought to the
9 attention of the officers who had attended your house?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And were you satisfied with that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Thank you. And the Police Scotland said:

14 "May I take this opportunity to thank you for
15 attending and bringing this matter to my attention.

16 "On behalf of P Division Fife please accept my
17 apologies with regard to any unnecessary inconvenience
18 that was caused."

19 A. And I accepted that.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 Can I look back again at your Inquiry statement,
22 Mr Ahmed, and if we could look at paragraph 25, and you
23 talk about going to the police station, and the details,
24 and you've said that you work for the community and you
25 did have a genuine concern, as you say there:

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 "If this is happening with me it can happen with
2 anyone else and what's going to happen then? When they
3 come to me for help, what should I do if I can't help
4 myself?"

5 Do you want to say a little more about that
6 paragraph?

7 A. That was just a concern for the police, see, because
8 they really didn't sort out my problem properly,
9 especially at the house, what happened in the house,
10 when they came. Suppose somebody else come with
11 a similar complaint; what would we do? We work for the
12 community, as a community head, as you can say. If
13 somebody come to me for that problem, and I have to go
14 to the police, either local police or the head office,
15 and if we can't sort out our own problems, how can we
16 sort out other people's problems? There are many
17 problems, see, we've been helping with the police all
18 the time, working closely on all the community issues.
19 That was my concern, see, at that time. That we are not
20 able to help anybody.

21 Q. Is that something you that do, Mr Ahmed, to work with
22 the police and the police work with you --

23 A. Yes --

24 Q. -- to resolve people's -- people in the community, if
25 they have difficulties?

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 A. Yes, we do. We have been working with the police, and
2 on the issue of terrorism as well, and some other
3 problems, the local problems we have raised, they've
4 been helping quite a few times.

5 Q. And is that something that --

6 A. But --

7 Q. -- benefits people in the community, that engagement and
8 that working relationship that you have?

9 A. But that gave bad impression -- goes bad impression to
10 the community, see. If we can't solve our own problem,
11 the committee members, how can we solve other people's
12 problems? Because we're not being listened at the
13 police station.

14 Q. Looking back to the events of 3 May, can you help the
15 Chair: how do you think things could have been done
16 better that day to help you and your family?

17 A. All what I was asking, see, because I didn't know at
18 that time what actually happened. So, they wasn't
19 telling me what happened, why they want us to empty the
20 house. If they'd told me at that time, "Look, this
21 thing happened -- not properly, probably some, somehow
22 -- and we have to demand your premises, we are probably
23 looking for something, forensic examination or whatever,
24 it is very important that we have to leave the house
25 because somebody is involved in that matter".

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

- 1 Later on I learned my son was involved, see. At
2 that point I didn't know anything at all, and they
3 wasn't telling us either.
- 4 Q. If the police had given you more information, would that
5 have helped you and your family?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Looking back now, how do you feel about your experiences
8 on 3 May with the police?
- 9 A. Very bad.
- 10 Q. Has that caused any damage to your feelings about the
11 police or your relationship with the police?
- 12 A. Yeah, that put me off from the police, the way they were
13 behaving, see.
- 14 Q. Your daughter gave evidence today and talked about
15 feeling like a criminal, being made to feel like
16 a second class citizen, and she mentioned in evidence
17 that she thought that may have been because she was
18 a Muslim. What comment, if any, would you have about
19 that?
- 20 A. No, I don't think that, that way at all. Just that
21 wasn't explained, if it was explained properly -- that
22 shouldn't have happened. I don't think it's a racism or
23 because we are Muslim, no, I don't think so.
- 24 Q. Can I ask you something about something from a statement
25 that a police officer who was there that day has

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 mentioned? I don't need to take you to the actual --
2 although I can, PIRC 00145 -- statement. This is from
3 a Detective Constable Petrie, and on page -- this is
4 a statement he gave or an operational statement, which
5 says in it on page 2, paragraphs 1 and 2, you will see
6 at the top he talks about -- no, it's not this page,
7 sorry. 00145, and it's -- can you go back, please.
8 Yes, sorry, carry on, keep going, and go to the next
9 page, please. Right. I think my copy's slightly
10 different.

11 The second paragraph that we see on this page here:

12 "As a result DC Miller and I attended at this
13 property ..."

14 Do you see that paragraph?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And he talks about, he:

17 "... assisted uniformed officers in clearing this
18 property and then securing it. ... This proved
19 particularly problematic due to there being small
20 children and a disabled man within."

21 Do you see that? As I understand it, this is in
22 connection with the events at your house on 3 May 2015.

23 Can we look at the next paragraph, please, and he
24 says that once the work was completed that DC Miller and
25 he returned to Levenmouth police station:

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 "... where we had to make several phone calls to
2 family members of [yourself] around the care of the
3 disabled male, we also had to contact the social work
4 regarding this."

5 Were you aware that day, Mr Ahmed, that the police
6 had gone back to Levenmouth police station and were
7 making calls to the social work department and making
8 calls to members of your family around the care of your
9 son Abid?

10 A. Well, they phoned me, they told me these things, that
11 they ... they will tell the social work, and they were
12 saying that there will be accommodation for us available
13 in the hotel somewhere, and so on, where we can stay
14 overnight. And I told them, "No, because my son do not
15 agree staying overnight anywhere, especially in the
16 hotels, because he never stayed in the hotels". It was
17 regarding that, see, and nothing else. They did make
18 phone calls, maybe, I don't know how many, maybe two,
19 three.

20 Q. Do you remember if the social work were involved at any
21 stage that day?

22 A. I don't know, see, because I wasn't told anything.

23 MS GRAHAME: All right. Thank you.

24 Could you give me a moment, please?

25 (Pause)

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 Mr Ahmed, thank you very much. I don't have any
2 further questions for you.

3 LORD BRACADALE: Are there any Rule 9 applications? No.

4 Mr Ahmed, it's the Chair again. Thank you very much
5 for giving evidence to the Inquiry. That's the end of
6 your evidence, and you'll now be disconnected from the
7 Inquiry. Thank you.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LORD BRACADALE: Ms Grahame, do you wish to say something?

11 Housekeeping

12 MS GRAHAME: Yes, if I may.

13 That is the end of today's evidence. I'm very
14 conscious that you've not yet heard from officers who
15 were at the house and who attended the house. We have
16 not yet approached those officers to provide Inquiry
17 statements at this stage or to comment on the evidence
18 of Mrs Rashid or Mr Ahmed or the contents of their
19 Inquiry statements.

20 As you've heard today, Mrs Rashid's signed statement
21 was only received late yesterday, but the Inquiry will
22 be approaching police officers who attended in the house
23 and will be seeking Inquiry statements from them. Once
24 those Inquiry statements are available, a decision will
25 be taken how best to present their evidence about these

Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

1 events to you, either through the statements or in oral
2 evidence, and that decision will be done in due course
3 once the statements are available to me.

4 LORD BRACADALE: Thank you, that's very helpful.

5 Now the Inquiry will adjourn and sit again at
6 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

7 (3.20 pm)

8 (The hearing adjourned until 10 am
9 on Thursday, 9 February 2023)

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Transcript of the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

	INDEX	
		PAGE
1		
2		
3	MRS SAADIA RASHID (sworn)	1
4		
5	Questions from MS GRAHAME	1
6		
7	MR SAEED AHMED (sworn)	56
8		
9	Questions from MS GRAHAME	56
10		
11	Housekeeping	100
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		