

WITNESS STATEMENT
DISCLOSABLE INFORMATION

**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

PROVENANCE

Statement of Ruaraidh Nicolson Name: _____ Age: 54

Time: 1400

Date: 21/6/2005

Place: Scottish Crime Campus

By: Details of officer noting statement _____

Other person(s) present: Name - state relationship if not a police officer _____

Time and date statement compiled if different from above _____

Source: Notebook/Statement Form/Operational Statement/Log/other _____

Authentication: Signed/ Refused /Read over/Tape/Video/Verified by officer _____

STATEMENT*

I am 54 years of age and I have completed 32 years Police Service.

I am the Assistant Chief Constable within Police Scotland responsible for delivery on the Organised Crime, Counter Terrorism and Safes Communities strategies.

On 3 May 2015 I was discharging on-call duties with strategic responsibility and oversight of all incidents and events across Scotland.

About 0730 hours that day I received a telephone call from Chief Superintendent Gerry McEwan informing me that Police officers in Kirkcaldy had attended an incident whereby it had been reported by members of the public that a male was in the street chasing cars and brandishing a knife. He informed me that a police officer had.

Witness Signature: _____

been injured and that CS Spray and batons had been deployed in an effort to restrain the male.

He further informed me that the male was in cardiac arrest and that first aid was being administered.

I reassured myself that there were sufficient resources available to effectively manage the situation.

About 0915 hours on 3 May 2015 I was recontacted by Chief Superintendent McEwan and informed that the male had now died and that he had declared a critical incident at 0910 hours.

Having concluded other on-call duties I attended at Kirkcaldy Police office where I convened a series of Gold Group meetings which were minuted.

My immediate considerations were to ensure that the Crown office and Procurator Fiscal's office had been informed and that they in turn were considering the deployment of the Police investigation and Review Commission to carry out an independent investigation into the circumstances.

I was assured that contact had already been made with Mr David Green from the PF Fatalities Unit and that he had in turn instructed the PIRC.

My further considerations were:
1) To ensure the Police Service provided

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an effective and professional response to the incident at all stages.

- 2) To provide support, reassurance and timely information to the family, other persons involved in the incident and to our own staff-
- 3) To provide reassurance to the community and public acknowledging the impact the incident may have had
- 4) To return the community to normality as soon as reasonably practicable at the conclusion of the incident
- 5) To ensure early notification to PIRC to enable a transparent and robust independent investigation into the death of Sheku Bayoh

The main agenda items on the Gold Group meetings were

Factual update

Investigative process

Review of policy / decision by

Family concerns

Community issues

Community impact assessment

Staff welfare

Resources

Disclosure issues

Media Strategy / Communications Plan

Resilience in Command.

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Any other Business.

Details of the Gold Group Meetings are contained within

Document No Gold Group meeting 1130 hrs 3/5/15

Document No Gold Group meeting 1440 hrs 3/5/15

which was joined by members of PIRC specifically the lead investigator Mr Keith Harrower.

It was agreed that Det Supt Campbell would have detailed discussion with Mr Harrower about allocation of duties and in terms of a transition to full PIRC investigation.

I held further Gold Group meetings on 4 May 2015 details of which are contained within.

Document No Gold Group meeting 1230 hrs 4/5/15

and on 6 May 2015 details of which are contained within

Document No Gold Group meeting 1100 hrs 6/5/15.

The investigation by this time was being fully managed by the PIRC with local considerations being around community reassurance.

I was content that this was being effectively managed locally and my involvement thereafter considered.