



**The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry**

**Witness Statement**

**Alistair Lewis**

**Taken by [REDACTED]**

**on MS Teams**

**On 25 October 2022**

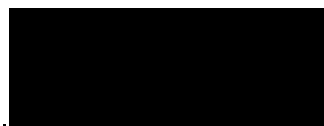
**Witness Details**

1. My name is Alistair Lewis. I was born in 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I am currently a deputy senior investigator with the Police Investigations Review Commissioner (PIRC). I am in charge of a team of four investigators. I'm also a family liaison coordinator, so I'm responsible for deploying and the care and welfare of our current team of family liaison officers (FLOs). I have worked for PIRC since March 2013, I was initially employed as an Investigator. I was a family liaison officer and family liaison coordinator at that time. I became a deputy senior investigator in April 2018.

**Previous statements**

3. I have had sight of the my statement dated 9 July 2015 (PIRC-00341). The statement was given to the best of my memory at the time and I did my best to be truthful and accurate in what I said. I've read over this PIRC statement and confirm the content is correct. I'm asked if there was any discrepancy between this statement and my PIRC statement, which statement I would

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prefer. I don't feel that I can choose between the statements. If there is a discrepancy I would like you to come back to me and ask me about any discrepancies so that I can try my best to clarify any discrepancies.

4. It's noted that my statement was drafted around two months after the incident took place. I have been asked what sources I used to draft my statement. When you get deployed as a family liaison officer, you use a family liaison officer log, and that's where the majority of the information came from in relation to my statement. So, you take notes in relation to all contact with the family, even if there was no response, that phone call, you would still record that, text messages, emails, any actions from the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO). We also had a system called Clue 2 at the time, which was an IT management system. We entered information regarding seizing productions or any other kind of actions on that. So it would be a combination of that, and the majority of it would be from my FLO log to compile the statement in relation to my involvement at that time. I kept a notebook at the time of the investigation, but did not make daily notes other than if I had an appointment to obtain a witness statement. I did not maintain a daybook.

### **Career Summary**

5. I have been asked to summarise my career history before I started with PIRC. I joined Strathclyde Police in 1979 as a cadet. In October 1980, I was appointed as a constable in the South Lanarkshire area. Then in 1991, I transferred to what was then the traffic department, now known as road policing. I was there for about ten years and got promoted in around 2000 or 2001 to sergeant. I got promoted out of the department back to division at Bellshill; and then about 18 months later, I was transferred back into the traffic department. By that time it was the road policing department, and spent the rest of my service in road policing, finishing up at Glasgow. So, majority of my time has been out in south Lanarkshire, north Lanarkshire area, but finished up in working in Glasgow. I trained as a senior investigating officer for investigating road deaths. I also trained as a family liaison officer, also I trained as a family liaison coordinator, and I undertook a lengthy list of

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courses within road policing in relation to driving and specialist driving and escort duties and motorcycling etc. In October 2010 I retired after 30 years' service. After that, I had a job with a security firm, with a former colleague, [REDACTED]. I then applied to work with PIRC, was successful, and am now approaching ten years now with PIRC.

**Family liaison training**

6. I have been asked what family liaison training I have undertaken. I undertook the FLO training with legacy Strathclyde Police as a family liaison officer, and also as a family liaison coordinator. In approximately 2016, I did further family liaison training with PIRC. I went to Dublin with another two members of PIRC staff, John Clerkin and John Ferguson, and that was a family liaison coordinators course lasting 5 days; and that was jointly run by the GSOC, PONI, and Garda. So, albeit I was trained in a previous employment, essentially it was refresher training for me in Dublin, but it was still a good course. Police Scotland run seminars in relation to family liaison, we attend those, and that's part of our professional development. It's all about case studies and how to improve services and any kind of learning outcomes from some major cases you maybe see in the news, and you hear more detail about it and how it impacted on the family and how to deal with these sorts of things and any learning outcomes. So, I couldn't tell you the dates for those sort of seminars, but they're a regular occurrence, we'd be up at the training college at Tulliallan to get these kind of inputs. In 2017, I put in place a family liaison officers course for our own staff, and we invited GSOC and PONI to send staff over to us at our offices. I played a part in the training for that. We also had an in-service or an in-training day with a qualified FLO coordinator instructor just about learning outcomes. Additionally, on a regular basis, at least twice a year, sometimes three times a year, we would meet as a team to discuss any learning outcomes from any particular deployment we've had within PIRC and pass on knowledge and experience to those less experienced in the role. The only downside from that is, as with everything else, COVID impacted on how often we could do that, but it's still there. Part

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of my role as family liaison coordinator is that the FLOs should come to me and say, "I've got an issue about X, Y, and Z" and I will look at it and feed it back into the management as to "Are we doing it right?" or "Can we learn from this?" So, I think it's fair to say that any kind of FLO training is a living document. You always learn something from any deployment, whether it's mine or anybody else's deployments, I would suggest training is ongoing all the time.

7. I have been asked how many years' experience I have as a family liaison officer. I've got 20/21 years' experience of being a family liaison officer, and probably just round about the same I've been a family liaison coordinator. With PIRC, I've been a FLO and family liaison coordinator for the last ten years and prior to that approximately ten/eleven years as a FLO and family liaison coordinator with the police.
8. I have been asked if I have received training on racial awareness, or equality and diversity either with PIRC or Police Scotland. Within Police Scotland, even as a police officer and as management, it was at least annual, whether it be a one-day awareness or a couple of days. We also we got that training for equality, diversity, and inclusion within PIRC annually. Additionally, we have online training, which includes lifting and handling, fire wardens and driver's awareness etc. It also includes unconscious bias and equality. It probably works out probably every six months, we're getting some sort of training in relation to that.
9. I have been asked about the training for family liaison officers and how often training takes place. In PIRC, you do the five-day course and then it's very much on the job training. A FLO has to show an interest and the qualities of being a family liaison officer and have an ability to do it. Part of this is being able to speak to the families in a professional manner. As the Family Liaison Coordinator, I made a point of always trying to, for death investigations, deploy two FLOs, especially if one is less experienced. That less-experienced FLO will have an experienced FLO as a mentor who will shadow,

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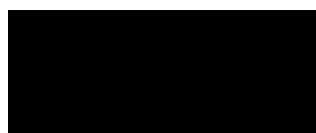


which I did, both as an investigator and as the deputy senior investigator. If deploying FLOs, then you would get them to sit down, discuss the situation, the investigation, and how to move forward. Again as family liaison coordinator, it's my job to select these deployments. So if it's something that's quite intense or will require somebody with a lot of experience, it's my job to identify that person; but, at the same time, I have to bring on those less experienced family liaison officers to get them up to speed, because the day will come when all these experienced FLOs will retire, resign, move on. So it's trying to balance making sure the less experienced FLOs get experience and deployments and deal with it to the extent of I can then take a step back and say, "Right, you now have lead on this, and you are the experienced FLO, and you will now pass on your experience to somebody less experienced." We also have sessions at least twice a year, where we sit down to look at any training issues or any issues that we think everybody else needs to know about for example, where a deceased person has to be repatriated to another country, how does that work? Because not everybody knows how to handle that process, and how to help the family get through that process. So, yes, we do training on awareness throughout the year, but the vast majority of it is on-the-job training experience, and that is the only way you will get real experience. It's my job to manage that and make sure people are getting the experience, but at the same time making sure the experienced FLOs are still maintaining their skills.

**PIRC Briefing on 4 May**

10. I have been asked if I have any recollection of what I was told on 4 May at PIRC office, Hamilton, when DSI Harrower provided a briefing outlining the circumstances of police contact resulting in the death of Sheku Bayoh. Not specifically. I knew that, although Keith had been out over the weekend, it was DSI William Little (as he was at that time), was going to have lead investigation on it, and John Clerkin would be with myself. We then had a meeting after that to discuss the way forward as what was expected of us, and the background details that the organisation want to obtain from investigation.

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11. I have been referred to my Family Liaison Log – Log No. 1 (PIRC-04150). Page 1 and 2 states *“As police officers attended Hayfield Rd they observed the male in possession of a knife approaching them. Police officers drew police batons and CS/pava spray.”* The description of Sheku being seen to have the knife at the time he was approached by the police officers is inaccurate albeit we didn’t know at the time. I have been asked where this information came from. In terms of my normal practice, there was normally a briefing paper whether it be from Police Scotland or if we had a briefing paper from the on call Deputy Senior Investigator, it usually came from there. Keith Harrower provided a briefing paper for reference in this case (PIRC-03694). I always had a summary at the start of my log, so that if I needed to refer to it, I would always have something in my log without having to go dig into IT or find the document elsewhere. It’s something that I could refer to as a quick reference to refresh my memory of anything that’d happened. If any information in the log summary is later found to be inaccurate, it’s not my usual practice to amend the summary.

**Deployment of PIRC FLOs**

12. In the deployment of FLOs for the death of Sheku Bayoh, I was deployed as the more experienced FLO and John Clerkin was the less experienced FLO in that scenario. So I was, if you like, lead FLO in the investigation, and John was my backup. If I went on holiday or I went sick, that was one of the reasons you tried to deploy two FLOs is that albeit I had lead if I went off on annual leave or on sick leave, John was with me all the time and had good knowledge of it, and he could cover while I was off. Then, when I came back from annual leave or sick leave, I would take over. But part of that deployment is that you make the family aware that you’re taking annual leave or going on holiday so that they know that you’re going away. In fact, I think three weeks after I was deployed, I did actually go on holiday for about a week and made the family aware. I said, any issues, they could contact John – if not, I would make contact with them when I came back the week after.

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13. As a FLO, you're basically trying to make contact with the family to set contact parameters. In this particular investigation, it was my intention to advise the family that, albeit we normally work Monday to Friday, eight to four, because I was deployed as a family liaison officer – the family would be able to contact me by mobile phone from 8.00 in the morning until 10.00 at night. I switch my phone off at 10.00 at night but during that time period, they could make contact with me. I would explain that I couldn't guarantee that I'd answer the phone at say 8.45 at night. However, if they did phone to leave a voicemail. If it was something that I could deal with right there and then, I would phone them back and deal with it. If it was something I couldn't deal with and I had to either get more information, I would deal with it as soon as possible. My memory is that I did speak with Ade Johnson and advise him of that. So you're setting these parameters very early on as to my availability. Some families are quite happy with that, others don't want that level of contact and they'll come back and say, for example, "Just phone me once a week, and give me an update", or I've had the situation where a family have said, "I don't want to hear anything about it until you've completed your investigation." The other side of that coin is that you agree to that, and you record it, and then the next day you'll get a phone call from the family, and then the next day you'll get a phone call, and you have to manage that contact. You have to listen to what they're saying. So that was the parameters.

### **Post Mortem Arrangements**

14. Page 3 of Family Liaison Log – Log No. 1 states *"DSI Harrower spoke to the family 3.5.15 advised family SPOC Ade Johnson regarding the need for a PM. This was refused regarding formal identification as mother was traveling from England with family elders."* I've been asked what I can recall about what exactly the family said in relation to the post-mortem. My understanding is that Crown had decided that the post-mortem was going ahead. I was present when Keith was having a telephone conversation with the family so I was only hearing one

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side of the conversation. However, my understanding is that the family were refusing to do a formal identification prior to the post-mortem. Regardless of that the Crown had instructed that the post-mortem was going ahead on that day; i.e the Monday, 4 May. I remember Keith explained that we needed two members of the family or two people who could do formal identification; it didn't have to be Sheku's mother. Despite that I understand we were told "We're refusing to attend for formal identification." At a later point, the family did want to see the body of Sheku, and we rearranged that after the post-mortem.

15. I have been asked if I was aware whether the request by the family was in relation to delaying the post mortem rather than refusing to allow it to go ahead. No, I was not aware. I have been asked who made the decision as to the date on which the post-mortem was taking place. It was the Crown who decided this. I have been asked if the Crown was pushing for the post-mortem) to take place as soon as possible. I don't know if the Crown was pushing for it as such; however, I think Dave Green was head of the Scottish Fatalities Investigation Unit (SFIU) at the time, and he'd said the post-mortem was going ahead on that day. That was what I was informed, that the post-mortem was going ahead.

16. I have been asked who makes the decision as to the timing of the post mortem. It's the Crown that decides the timing in consultation with pathologists. In circumstances where there is some sensitivity around the date, for example on one occasion the post mortem was scheduled to take place on the deceased's birthday. We would highlight that just make sure the Crown and the pathologist is aware of the issue, because the last thing you want is a post-mortem occurring on what would have been the deceased's birthday. We make Crown aware, but it's Crown's decision as to when and where the post-mortem is going to take place.

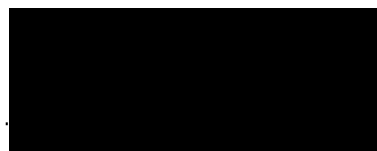
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17. I have been asked that if, if the family made a request to delay a post mortem whether the PIRC would ordinarily feed that back to Crown Office. Yes, we would. But there was nothing said to me as a FLO, querying if it could be delayed until a specific date. I'd have fed that back into the process, but my information was that Crown, specifically Dave Greene, who was head of SFIU at the time, made the decision that the post-mortem was going ahead on the Monday. That's all I was told about it.
18. In the Family Liaison Log – Log No. 1 at page 14, I record an entry at 1748 on 4.5.15: *“Advised Aamer Anwar of result of PM – unascertained death subject to toxicology and brain tissue exam. Asked who the pathologist had been. Unaware at that time. [...] Also asked if he could obtain GP details for the PIRC to obtain medical records of Sheku for Pathologist.”* I am unable to explain why the GP records were not available for the post mortem.
19. In the same log at page 26 there's an entry at 1420 on 5.5.15 which states *“Phone call from Aamer. He has spoken with Lord Advocate who stated post-mortem will be put on hold. Reminded of phone call and entry on page 14. Further reminded that the family refused to do formal identification and the Crown had directed the PM would go ahead 4.5.15.. Stated he was with the family, and he was unaware of the post-mortem. Reminded of entry at page 14.”*: That's one of the reasons you may take a FLO log is that it's not uncommon with solicitors and family members, particularly in the circumstances to think “You never told me that”, and you have to refer back and remind them of a conversation. It doesn't matter who it is, what their background is, where they come from, or their race or religion: their world has been destroyed, and they are having to cope with that, and you're having to manage their distress, anger and their emotions together with all the questions. So, similarly I did have to remind them that we'd had the conversation and about the post-mortem and that they were advised it was going ahead.

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20. In the same log there is a further entry at page 27 at 15.15 hrs on 5.5.15, which is a telephone call from Aamer Anwar: *“Family now wish to view the body. Is it viewable? Will be instructing their own pathologist. States Lord Advocate is astonished PM went ahead Aamer states mother of Sheku had told Police Scotland she wished to view the body before the PM. AT that time she was travelling up from England.”* We were told that the Lord Advocate, was astonished that the post-mortem was going ahead; however, it was a Crown decision by David Green the previous day. In terms of the request by the family to view the body, we facilitated that the following day.

### **Deployment of Police Scotland Family Liaison Officers**

21. I have been asked if I was aware of what had happened in terms of deployment of Police Scotland FLOs. Initially I was told that Police Scotland were deploying FLOs and then they were stood down. Chief Superintendent Garry McEwan stood them down. He was going to speak to the family in relation to the circumstances. What would normally happen is that, if Police Scotland have deployed FLOs, which they don't always do in relation to our investigations, but if they do or even if they have a contact officer and not a FLO, our FLOs or myself or the DSI will speak to the FLOs to find out what sort of contact they've had, any issues, all this is a care and welfare we have to look at as well, any potential threats to staff, etc., their safety, and discuss anything that they've discussed with the family. Then, we would have an introduction from them, and then we would take over in relation to that. So had FLOs been deployed and had spoken to family, I would have then sat down with them prior to speaking to the family. However, my recollection is that there were Police FLOs had been called out, but were later stood down by Police Scotland.

22. I have been asked if I had a handover from anybody in Police Scotland who had had contact with family. No. I spoke to the two police officers who advised the family of Sheku Bayoh's death, which I understand was a

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prepared message given to the officers to deliver. There was no handover from any FLOs to me. It was basically John Clerkin and me, going to see the family later on that night i.e on 4 May.

23. I have been asked if Garry McEwan provided me with an update. No. My only contact with Garry McEwan was when we were in Kirkcaldy police office on 4 May. He realised I was from PIRC, and he asked me to sit in on a meeting which was chaired by the ACC Ruaraidh Nicholson. This was a Gold Group meeting that took place at approximately 1600 hours. I was ask to sit in for PIRC because Billy Little was involved in another meeting at that time with the then superintendent, Pat Campbell. My contact with him was that I was invited into the meeting, and he explained to me that the family were not happy with the PIRC. I asked him why and he said "Well, they're not happy with the response you've given". Just shortly before that, I had just spoken to Ade Johnson. He had agreed to meet myself and John Clerkin, at 1830 hours that night. I said, "Well, I can't understand that because I've just had a positive telephone call with Ade Johnson, and when I suggested it would be good for us to meet him and introduce ourselves, he thought that was a good idea." So, he couldn't explain on that or elaborate on that.

24. I have been asked whether Chief Superintendent McEwan explained why the family were unhappy or advised when this was communicated to him. No, no further detail was given. When we spoke to Ade, no complaint was made to me and he was in agreement to meet with me at the time. Whilst there was a lot of people in the house, we managed to speak to him alone just as we left the house. Again, I felt we left on a positive footing. He listened to what I had to say, and he understood what we had to do. He and the family had certain requests which I took as a priority to get back to feedback to Billy Little and to Police Scotland.

25. The requests Ade made were in relation to Collette, and Sheku's baby son. Sheku's house was secured by Police Scotland at the time, and they were wanting to access the house to get the baby's clothing and other items

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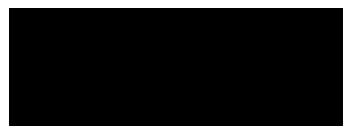
needed for a small baby, which I saw as a priority for them and understood exactly what they wanted. So, rather than delay the process, I took the opportunity to get back to the police office and explain to Billy the circumstances, and query if we could we facilitate it i.e., was Police Scotland finished with what they were doing at the house?

26. I have been asked about a meeting I had with DCs Andy Mitchell and Wayne Parker. In my statement I say *“Meeting with the above officers who were the first to attend and speak with the family after the incident with Police Scotland. Both have submitted full statements. They made contact and advised family of the death and that it was a critical incident to be investigated.”* Yes, this is my recollection of what was said. They did give more detail than that. I think the detail was in their statements. They showed me their notebooks at the time of what they’d written down because they were given a prepared statement to read over verbatim to the family. As a result, that statement thereafter caused issues and complaints from the family about varying reports of the events. Both officers had recorded it in their notebooks. I remember them referring to the notebooks when they were talking to us.

27. I have been asked whether the officers were able to provide any explanation regarding the family’s complaint that they had been given three different accounts of the death. I remember the officers showing or referring to their prepared statement in their notebooks. No, I can’t recall besides the prepared message what was said to the family, other than that it was a critical incident. Certainly their statements record that the various accounts that the family said they were told were put to the officers. The officers denied that they gave these versions of events.

28. I have been asked whether I have any view on whether the officers sent to give the death message were adequately prepared or adequately trained for that task. It’s not for me to comment on that. I know they weren’t family liaison

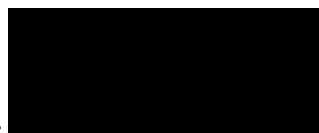
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officers, and it is a skill in how you deliver a message of that kind to a family. I'm often asked the question, "How do you know what to say?" You don't know what to say really. You can only prepare as much as you possibly can and make sure you've got the right details, obviously the correct details of the deceased and making sure as much as you possibly can that you're actually knocking on the correct door to deliver any information, and it is a skill. My experience of early days within the police was that some people were good at it and others weren't. Whether it was a good thing or a bad thing, I don't know, but very early on in my police service I was identified as an officer who had the ability to deliver that kind of information to a family in a professional manner, and basically having all the details to hand. If I was one of those officers, personally, I would like as much information as possible. Would I have pre-prepared with a verbatim statement? It's something I've never done ever in 20 years; I've had all the information, and I've delivered the correct information over those 20 years without any issues. So, it's up to those officers to comment as to whether or not they felt they were properly prepared or not.

29. In terms of my visit to the Bayoh family, my statement doesn't cover this visit. My former colleague, John Clerkin's statement (PIRC-00359) records, at page 2: *"At approximately 1830 hours Investigator Alistair Lewis and I attended the home address of Mr Adi Johnson. This meeting was for the purpose of introducing ourselves to the family of Sheku Bayoh, to explain the role of a FLO and PIRC. The visit was also for the purpose of establishing details regarding a list of clothing required by Ms Collette Bell to be taken from Collette Bell's address at Arran Crescent."* That is accurate. It was our initial contact. Even to this day, a lot of people do not know who PIRC are. We invariably deploy FLOs to death following police contact or death in custody. We will deploy a FLO because the vast majority of people still do not know what our role is. But purely it is an introduction; what are their concerns? I.e., they wanted clothes for Collette's son, etc., so could be facilitate that? Yes, we could. We could take that back to Billy Little and to Police Scotland to address that, and was a priority. So we're not going to go into the whole process of an investigation at initial contact; it's purely an

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introduction, and hopefully to set out parameters. I knew, obviously, in the background, there was a contact with Aamer Anwar. So I knew that that was ongoing. I've liaised with families who have had solicitors involved for more than 20 years, so that didn't cause me any concern at all. We're often asked, "Should I consult a solicitor?" I normally advise that it's not for me to give guidance on that, that's a decision for the individual. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. It's entirely up to them.

30. I have been referred to an entry in the log for this visit (PIRC-04150). It's the family liaison log 1. The contact date and time is 6.30 on 4 May: "*A home visit as requested by Ade Johnstone. Initially this visit was as an introduction to Ade and to obtain a list of clothing required by the partner, Collette, as the house still secured by Police Scotland. Myself and John Clerkin then subjected to intense questioning by a large contingent of the family, occasionally hostile and frustrated about what Police Scotland had done or told the family differed from that of the PIRC.*" I have been asked if I remember anything more about the family's concerns or questions. It doesn't matter what family you're dealing with, they have lost a loved one under traumatic circumstances; so it for us to manage that, and if that means, we need to take the hostility as a position of authority within society, then that goes with the role. You have to listen to what they're saying and understand what they're trying to say and try to, if possible, to remedy it. So, yes, it was intense, hostile in the sense of probably more frustration than anything else as it was quite clear that their concerns were around that they had been given different versions of events regarding Sheku's death. It was my job to establish just exactly how that had come about, and that was all part of the investigation. How did that come about? How were they told that, and why were they told that? So that formed very much part of the investigation. It's not unusual for PIRC to investigate what has been said to a family as part of the investigation. I think there was family and friends that were there, and they've all got questions. If I answered a question with one member of the family, I would get another question from the other: "The police are saying this, and you're saying that." That's the information I had to take back to Billy Little was

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the questions the family and friends were asking. The big thing was to get access back to the house for Collette, which was still secured by Police Scotland at that time.

31. I have been asked why in my log I have not noted exactly how the accounts differed between Police Scotland and PIRC. I think it was decided that, because of the circumstances and the different accounts, I had to investigate what exactly has Police Scotland said to the family and establish that first. One of these things that you have to say to families, "You will ask me questions and I will not always have the answer. I will have to go back to the Inquiry team or to Police Scotland to establish more information." Likewise, as part of an investigation, sometimes a family will ask a question, and you can't answer it because you need to protect the integrity of the investigation because we're reporting to the Crown Office. So, we must make sure that, where we are conducting an investigation, that no information gets out into the public domain which could compromise the integrity of the investigation. So, it's managing their expectations and managing the investigation, at the same time keeping them informed as to how we are progressing with the investigation. So, yes, the family had lots of questions that we couldn't answer. "The police said this, you're saying that." So, I need to go back and establish that. That's the whole point of then speaking to family, and getting their statement, and establishing just exactly what they recollect as to what they were told and putting that back into the investigation.

32. I have been asked if I remember John Clerkin and I visiting Collette Bell's address at Arran Crescent to provide the keys of the property to Mr Ade Johnston.. Yes, I think he used his phone to record footage of the interior of the house, which was fine. I told them that some knives had been removed by Police Scotland and some prescribed drugs within the house.

33. I have been asked on if the purpose of this meeting was to allow Collette to be able to re-enter the property. What happened there was, Ade took phone footage of the interior of the house, and then we stepped outside, and we

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locked the front door and that was it. I think I did ask the question, "What about clothing for the child and Collette?" He said, "Oh, we'll sort that at a later time." So, he didn't take anything out the house for the child or for Collette. My priority was that they wanted the house back, and it was to get the house back as soon as possible. So through discussion with Billy Little and Patrick Campbell, we managed to get the house released from Police Scotland and hand the keys back. So, it was later than we anticipated, but we did get it back.

34. I have been asked if I had any understanding about what the legal basis was for Police Scotland having Collette's house as a crime scene. Police Scotland were investigating the matters that took place prior to Sheku's interactions with the police at Hayfield Road. These investigations were ongoing while we were carrying out investigations at Hayfield Road and the hospital. had already started that as well, so as part of the investigation, they had gone to the house. The circumstances of them actually securing the house - I don't have any knowledge about that.

35. I have been asked what I recall about the family viewing the body and whether any concerns being expressed by the family. The family viewed the body through a large glass window, and Sheku was lying in the room the other side of the glass. I remember them asking us something about Sheku's eye, and there was no injury to his eye I don't think. I think it was Ade and Kadi, and there was another male there who refused to identify himself, basically wouldn't make any contact with us, any eye contact with us at all. Ade and Kadi attended at the mortuary; however, they did not view the body of Sheku. It was this male who then wanted to view the body. I don't know where the information had come from, but they asked about an eye injury, and I said, "No, there's no such injury."

36. I have been asked if I remember any comments suggesting there would be repercussions for Sheku's death. There was. It says brother-in-law. I don't remember him identifying himself as their brother-in-law, but there was

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certainly a male – if it was him – who viewed Sheku-- did mention something. I can't remember his exact words. I can't be sure but the words "you will be avenged" springs to mind, but I didn't record that, and I'm not hundred percent certain of that, but words to that effect.

37. I have been asked from the handwriting if it was me who submitted an incident message dated 6 may time 10;30. That's intelligence, so it's recorded within Major Incident. So, yes, I submitted that. It states *"During family viewing of the body at the above time and date, a brother-in-law of the deceased made the following comments: 'There will be justice. There will be violence. We will get those responsible.' This was repeated several times.' The comments were overheard by PIRC investigators during the viewing. Details of this male would not be provided."* When I say details of this male would not be provided – I mean that the individual was unwilling to confirm his name to me.

38. I am being given information from the police minutes of a meeting where a DI Wilson confirms that when PIRC were interviewing Zahid Saeed on 1700 hours on 7 May he commented that family members had made comments that: *"... on viewing the body, the deceased was severely bruised and almost unrecognisable. He also stated that PIRC didn't realise that they were dealing with a Black man murdered by the police."*

39. I am being asked if I have any memory of that information coming to me and also whether the family made any comments at the viewing? They asked about the eye, but there was no comments about any injuries or anything like that, or him being unrecognisable; there was nothing like that at all. The only thing was about Sheku's eye. I remember being asked the question. My first reaction, to myself was, "Have I missed something?" because before we go and before we let the family see any deceased, we will view the body ourselves because you do sometimes have to prepare families for injuries. There are a lot of times that they do, but sometimes families can only identify their loved one by jewellery, etc., because of the horrific injuries that that

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person has sustained. So, you do view the body to make sure that, best case scenario, you can prepare the family. So, again, my initial reaction was "Have I missed something when we viewed the body prior to the family?" Basically, I had to go back and check; however, I hadn't missed anything. We obviously confirmed it hadn't happened, but there was no mention of him being unrecognisable or any other injuries at all in relation to any kind of viewing.

40. I have been asked if I felt that there was anything about Sheku's body that I felt the family had to be prepared to when arriving at the viewing. no, there was nothing other than that, obviously they knew that post-mortem had taken place. If for some reason, had Sheku lost his eye, that would've been relayed to the family even before going to a post-mortem because the post-mortem would have identified that. So, anything like that would have been fed back to ourselves, and we would have informed the family and prepared them for that sort of thing. Again, from that point of view, if that such an injury was so horrific, it would've been a side-on view. We'd have prepared them that one side of the face has been covered because of this eye injury. I would never let a family walk into a post-mortem and see some sort of injury that they weren't aware of. It would be remiss, is a polite way of putting it,

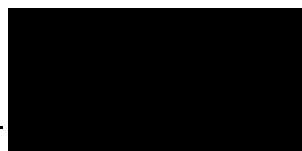
41. I am being asked about a meeting attended at the office of Aamer Anwar that happened on 6 May after the viewing of the body. Where Ade Johnston plus four family members were present. At that meeting it was myself and William Little and John McSporran. There were questions put to the PIRC. There's nothing there about the viewing of the body as such. We were discussing the result of the post-mortem, that it's unascertained subject to toxicology and brain tissue examination and speaking about the importance of taking statements. I have been asked if I remember anything in that meeting in which they expressed surprise or disquiet about viewing of the body at that time. No, there was nothing. I don't remember anything like that. If there'd been any comment about that, I'd have put that in the logs. In that particular scenario, whilst I was there as the family liaison officer, it was Billy Little and John

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McSporran who were doing the main discussions. My role was there to be there for the family, but I don't remember anything of any disquiet in relation to the viewing of Sheku earlier that day.

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42. I have been asked whether anyone took notes of the meeting. At that time, Aamer Anwar's office was small for the amount of people who were in there. I was standing throughout. There wasn't room for John Clerkin to attend, so I think it was either Billy or John who made the decision that John, Billy, and myself would go in from PIRC. Taking notes of the meeting wasn't really possible because it was so tight and so cramped. This was a first real meeting with the family and Aamer Anwar so it involved explaining the role of the PIRC, and what we've got to do, etc. Prior to the family coming in, we'd had a lengthy discussion with Aamer, and he'd said that he told the family they need to be prepared for the long haul, and it's going to be a long investigation. So, there was an understanding of just of how much work had to be done in relation to the investigation. It was reiterating that to the family in general terms as to what we'd need to do – get statements; look at CCTV; interview witnesses, etc. Further, that there was no detail of how that was going to pan out because you can speak to one witness and then suddenly realise you have to go back and speak to a witness you've already spoken to. So it was explaining this and trying to keep the general terms of the parameters of how we move forward, and the parameters of the contact with the family. Aamer Anwar had had been established as the family's point of contact. I was the FLO for the family, and we would liaise with each other in relation to moving forward with interviewing witnesses, getting statements, getting more information. It was a lengthy meeting, but I think it was a productive meeting. I felt, personally, that it was a positive outcome of moving forward and keeping the family up to date.

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

January 23, 2023 | 11:33 AM GMT  
Date Signed..... Signature of Witness.....

