

**The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry**

**Witness Statement**

**PS Eric Anderson**

**Taken by [REDACTED] by MS Teams  
on 30 August 2022**

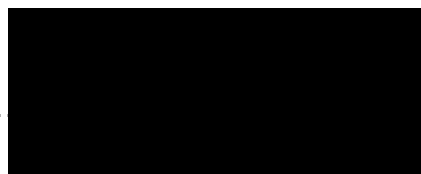
**Witness Details**


1. My full name is Eric Anderson. My date of birth is in 1974. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I'm a Police Sergeant. I have 26 years' service. I have been a Sergeant since 2004. I have been a Custody Sergeant since 2012. I am based at Kirkcaldy Police Station.
3. I joined Fife Constabulary in 1996. I've been at Kirkcaldy Police Station since 2014. Previously I was at Glenrothes Police Station until it closed and I was redeployed. I was in Glenrothes since March 2012. I've always been a police officer in Fife but have done some duties outside Fife.

**PIRC Statement**

4. I have read my previous statement to PIRC ([REDACTED]). I don't remember giving a statement to PIRC. I can't remember having to give a statement or issuing a statement through normal channels. I have been told about the

Signature of witness.....



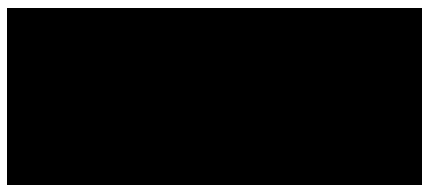
name, date and place of the statement. I very vaguely remember that now. I remember people coming to take statements, but I may be getting my wires crossed with another enquiry. I have been shown a handwritten statement  and confirm my signature is at the bottom of each of the pages. If I was interviewed by PIRC I would tell them the truth.

5. I remember 3 May 2015 now because of everything that fell out. There was a big impact on the team, officers, certain colleagues. It's frequently mentioned in public among people who are brought into custody quite frequently. It's very vivid in that regard. I would undoubtedly remember more at the time of the statement because it's 3 months later. Given we're now 7 years down the line I may not remember some things. The statement I gave would be my best recollection of the day when I was on duty.

### **3 May 2015**

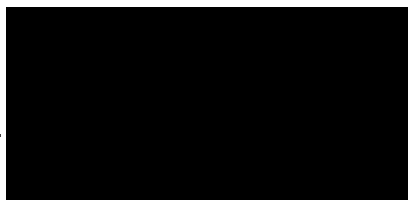
6. I've seen bits and pieces of the Inquiry. I've not sat and watched any of the live feeds. I've seen things that have made the headline news. I've seen officers I know and recognise who have been called to give evidence. Craig Walker, Alan Smith, Ash Tomlinson, Nicole Short, Daniel Gibson. Beyond that I don't recall too many others. I haven't seen any of PC Brian Geddes' evidence. I heard he gave evidence but I've not seen it or heard what he said.
7. On 3 May 2015 I can't recall the Custody Inspector on duty. I can't recall if we had a Force Custody Inspector. It's changed over the years. I can't recall who the Inspector was that day. Whether it was a local Inspector or nationally as it is now. Mark Logue was a Custody Inspector for Fife Division. Being a weekend I'm not sure if he was on duty that day. I can't pinpoint who would be my line manager. We now have a National Custody Inspector, referred to as a Force Custody Inspector. I don't know when that system came into place.

Signature of witness.....



8. I know Brian Geddes. I don't work with him now. I think he's in a role in Glenrothes. He's trained in custody duties and occasionally comes to cover custody roles. I've not worked with Brian in a custody capacity for some time. Can't recall last time I worked with him. He's been in my shift, I lined managed him. Before I moved to custody in 2012, he's been on shift with me. I've not worked with him recently in any other capacity. I've not been in touch with him personally. He's not a friend in that regard.
  
9. The incident on Hayfield Road – I recall it was not long after we started the shift. We do the briefing, handover, with the outgoing night shift. Supervisor shift and checks, care and welfare, clap eyes on them. Check for issues. It was some point after that, after 7am, message was passed, can't remember who passed the message about Hayfield Road.
  
10. I can't recall details of any conversations about the incident with Brian. I was aware there was an ongoing incident. Everybody was going to attend that. I can't remember details of conversations about it, particularly with Brian. I've not recollection of any conversations with Brian that day.
  
11. I remember Scott Maxwell was the Sergeant on shift that day. I don't know if I spoke with Sergeant Maxwell, if I did it might've been by telephone. I don't remember any direct conversation but I remember passing him at one point. Now having read the statement that I provided to PIRC, I clearly did speak with T/PS Maxwell after he had returned to the station from the incident, although I do not recall the content of this conversation. The discussion would have been in relation to the incident that Officers had attended.
  
12. I know Gary McEwan, he was Chief Super I think at the time. I don't know where he'd be. I know him, I've seen him many times. I don't remember seeing him that morning.

Signature of witness.....



13. I've been asked if I remember about a police radio. It's not ringing any bells at this time. I'm speculating that someone might've needed a radio. There's something at the back of my mind that says somebody needed a radio.

14. I have been asked if I remember any talk about terrorism. I can't say I remember any conversations as such. The only thing I knew at the time was that there was a black male that was carrying a knife. His name hadn't been passed. It was mentioned he was black. There was no mention of religion that I recall. I'm pretty sure I had no conversations in relation to that at all. I don't recall any mention of anyone else's race. I don't recall any comments from other officers about anyone's race at that time.

15. I don't remember the individual. I recall we had a prisoner under constant observations in the obs cell. I couldn't remember. I remember it was a live ongoing case in relation to a serious incident. I think officers from elsewhere came in to assist with those duties. Other than that I don't recall who was in custody that day. I don't remember if any of the custodies weren't white.

16. In daybook there is a note of all the custodies in that morning. One woman was [REDACTED]. An interpreter was required for her. [REDACTED] was in cell number 10. I can't say definitely that he was a male, but that would appear to be a male name to me.

17. The only thing I've got in my daybook about PC Geddes is that I had him and PC Lamb on duty that day. They were my custody staff. There was nothing whatsoever in my daybook about conversations I had with other officers about the incident at Hayfield Road.

### **Kirkcaldy Police Station CCTV**

18. I have been shown CCTV footage of Kirkcaldy Police Station of Camera 12 (PS00196) at 08:27:17. These are the custody cells. I don't know who's

Signature of witness.....

[REDACTED]

seated. That could be PC Lamb at door number 10, the door to the right of the observation cell. I can't hear what has been said by the officer who's seated. I have been told the PIRC transcript of the CCTV and PC Geddes recollection from his evidence to the Inquiry is that "ISIS staying in the station" was said. I don't think I was present here at that time and I don't remember that.

19. I have been shown CCTV footage of Kirkcaldy Police Station of Camera 12 ( ) at 08:28:07. I can't see who is in the video. I heard something about the radio. That might've been Scott Maxwell. The tone of the voice. I think he was asking Brian for his radio if I heard correctly.

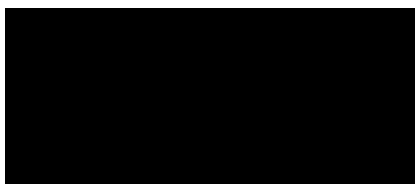
20. I have been shown Camera 15 at 08:02:10. I can't identify the person from there. We're looking at the second charge bar. It's also got the doors that allow the main access to the custody suite. There's a terminal where we can book people into custody if required. The door on the right takes you to the main office in Kirkcaldy. The door at the top of the screen takes to the back yard, the secure custody yard. This is not where the police vehicles are kept but if people are coming into custody. There's no door to custody on the left of the camera, it's an open corridor to the cells.

21. I have been shown Camera 15 at 08:27:25. That's myself and that looks like Scott Maxwell behind me.

22. I have been shown Camera 15 at 08:28:07. From right to left it's myself, Maxwell, and that looks very much like PC Brian Geddes at the back. It looks like we're leaving the custody and presumably going back to the front office at Kirkcaldy.

23. There's no standard conversations that I had where I can recall discussing the case or anything else. It's not to say I wouldn't have done. We would be discussing it because there may be victims or a potential custody. The

Signature of witness.....

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

mention of ISIS, certainly not. I can't see any reason why he would have told me about that.

24. I have been shown Camera 15 at 08:28:51. That's PC Geddes again. I think he's letting in staff from an agency who carry out prisoner transfers on behalf of Border Agency. They're wearing civilian clothes, so not police officers. We've opened the shutter and they've come through. There's papers that have to be done, an immigration case we tend to hold them until an agency comes and takes them somewhere. They normally take them from a police custody facility. I would imagine they would come through to the front office where I'd been, I assume I would have clapped eyes on them. I doesn't have to be me who meets them.

25. I have been shown Camera 15 at 08:29:06. The civilian staff go through the door. At 08:34:21 PC Geddes is walking right to left. He's going back towards the cells. At 08:34:58 is PC Geddes again. He's gone through the door towards the front again. At 08:36:12 PC Geddes is taking the staff who arrived earlier to the door to leave the building the way they came in.

26. Having seen the CCTV I have no recollection of what I discussed with PC Geddes at that time.

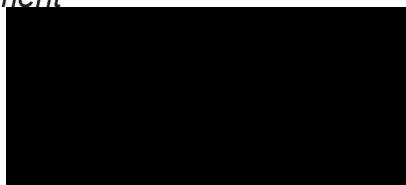
**PC Brian Geddes' account**

27. I have been told that PC Brian Geddes' wrote the following in an email sent to the Inquiry:-

*On leaving the hearing and over the weekend, this caused me some issue as I recalled that I did in fact raise the issue with my line manager.*

*I informed the Custody Sergeant who subsequently informed the Custody Inspector of the officer's comment*

Signature of witness.....



*I was informed that the officer's own Sergeant was to then be contacted and made aware of the officer's comment, BSU were to be contacted and requested that the officer was not to be re-deployed in Fife in the future.*

*I received no update from the Custody Sergeant regarding this information and as to when this was carried out.*

28. I have been told PC Brian Geddes stated to the Inquiry in his supplementary statement (SBPI-00154 at paras 9-12, 19):-

*9. I spoke to the Sergeant in the office. On the floorplan of Kirkcaldy Police Station ( [REDACTED] ) this is marked "Enquiry Office".*

*10. I can't remember what I said exact word for word, but I just pointed out to him that the guy's made this comment about ISIS being in the building. I just made him aware that the boy's made this comment.*

*11. The Sergeant wasn't very impressed he's made this comment. Straightaway he's mentioned that he's going to be contacting the Inspector. The Inspector was PI Logue or Logie.*

*12. He was going to be making the Inspector aware and saying we want to deal with this because we're not happy that someone's come into the station and making these kind of comments after what had just occurred that day.*

*13. We weren't happy because it was the day Mr Sheku Bayoh had passed away after the incident. Particularly because at that point we're dealing with Mr Bayoh's death and we didn't know at that time if there was any terrorism elements or anything linked to that. There was still a lot of speculation ongoing because, as an office, we weren't fully aware of the circumstances*

Signature of witness.....

[REDACTED]

*that went on out on the street, so whether it had been a terrorist incident or not.*

...

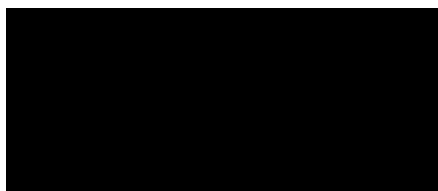
*19. I don't know who the Edinburgh Sergeant would be. I don't know if it would be the Sergeant or the Inspector who would be the one contacting them. PS Anderson said that the officer wouldn't be coming to Fife again. I don't know whose decision that would be.*

29. That doesn't ring any bells with me. I'm a bit perplexed by some of the comments made there by PC Geddes. I cannot recall PC Geddes raising that with me, on that day on the time or subsequently. It's not to say he couldn't've have said something but the inference from what he's saying is that he sounds like he's quite appalled by making a standpoint from it. I think if that were the case, I would remember that, and the fact that I don't remember, I can only suggest that that conversation didn't take place or didn't take place in the terms that Brian's making out.

30. I don't remember telling the Custody Inspector. If the Custody Inspector was Mark Logue I'm almost certain he wouldn't be on duty on Sunday morning. Unless there's an email that proves otherwise. I've no recollection. I would contact him by email. Virtually all communication by Inspector Logue would be by email. Perhaps that was his management style. If I knew he wasn't on duty, I would send him an email to highlight a point or bring up an issue.

31. I don't remember about officers not be redeployed in future. It's not for me to decide. I don't think I would come out with a comment like that. The decision normally would fall to RDU. They're the ones who allocate staff. If there are reasons why an officer can't be deployed, that's something they would have knowledge of. It would be flagged on an individual's record that they shouldn't be deployed, in line with local area management, but not decided by myself. It's not my job now nor was it at the time.

Signature of witness.....





32. I've not heard of ISIS staying in the station. I don't know what he means by that either. I've never heard it before and don't know what it means.

33. Generally speaking if there's an incident ongoing there will be staff and officers looking for updates. The first part I would agree with, there was a dearth of information and who was involved, we weren't getting information fed back. There was obviously speculation and rumours and stuff coming through. The terrorism side is separate. It wasn't at the forefront that it was a terrorism incident. From my perspective it didn't appear as a terrorism incident that occurred in Kirkcaldy that morning. I can't remember the exact timescale of other terrorism events like the Lee Rigby murder in London or Paris terrorist attacks, and whether people were trying to draw similarities, that's my speculation. I don't think there was information that came back that said this was a terrorist incident. It can only come down to individual's own information. They were drawing their own conclusion from it.

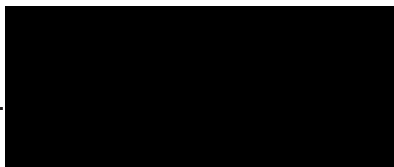
34. The evidence I've provided is from my best recollection. I've seen Scott Maxwell on the CCTV but I didn't recall that I had done. There may be other things that I had done that I don't remember. I've not withheld any information today.

**Internal complaints procedure**

35. I have been asked what I would do if an officer came to me to report a racist comment by another officer. I would find out what had been said, what was the specifics, what was the context. I'd look to speak to the other officer to find out what was said. If it was down to interpretation then I'd speak to them. I would need to report to my line manager (at Inspector level) and for onward report to professional standards if conduct was deemed to be a criminal act.

36. My duty is not to investigate other officers, but if there was an allegation then I'd been keen to find out if I'm getting the full picture. I'd find out if there was

Signature of witness.....



CCTV evidence that we could review. It may be something we're not comfortable with in that environment. I'd notify their line manager. I'd notify the local Inspector to have that progressed. It could be dealt with by a warning or a complaint via professional standards.

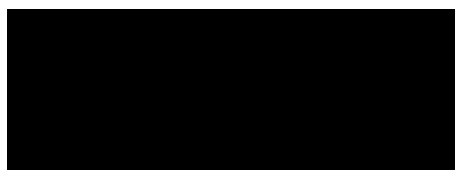
37. This is not necessarily something that would go into my notebook or daybook. It's primarily custody details, names, dates of birth, reasons for coming into custody, other agencies involved, other individuals. My notifications via a local Inspector or to Inspector Logue is where I would record my concerns.

38. There are complaints against police SOPs, policies and guidance in relation to who deals with complaints and how we deal with them. There are escalations, something locally informally, or something that goes on record, or something that warrants further investigation and reported to Procurator Fiscals etc. I don't know the names of the SOPs off the top of my head but there will be one for complaints. The intranet has relevant SOPs as and when required.

39. The nature of the job and in the sphere we're operating within there's often conflict between individual officers about how something's dealt with or not dealt with and actions taken or not taken. It's commonplace with individuals taking decisions. They make a complaint or tell me they're not happy. It can be police staff working with PCSOs. Complaints do happen but most things can be resolved by speaking amicably and trying to achieve a compromise or resolution where both parties are happy.

40. I have been asked if I have ever dealt with a complaint regarding another officer relating to race. I don't think I have, I don't recall having to deal with anything where race has been a factor in terms of clash of opinions or potential criminal act. I've not witnessed any racism in Kirkcaldy Police Station.

Signature of witness.....



41. Sometimes there are racist comments made to individuals during the booking process of custodies at the Police Station. Some arrested persons can make racist comments to officers about their nationality or their ethnicity, for example a Scottish custody might focus in on an English officer and use offensive language towards them based on their nationality. I do not have exact figures for the frequency of such events but it can occur several times a month. This behaviour can come to the fore when individuals are intoxicated through drink and/or drugs.

42. There tends to be more than nationality rather than skin colour or race. There are people who say things about Muslims perhaps being associated with being terrorists, that sort of comment is being made by drunk custodies in the custody suite. It may have happened to an officer but more common for accused to be arrested and we witness them making comments against Muslim shopkeepers or taxi drivers.

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.

October 14, 2022 | 5:20 AM BST

Date.....Signature of witness.....

