

The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

Michelle Hutchison

Taken by at Bilston Glen ACR, Edinburgh

on Monday 24 October 2022

Witness details

- 1. My full name is Michelle Hutchison. My date of birth is in 1984. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
- 2. I am an East Overview Communications Officer at Bilston Glen. I have been employed in this position since February 2015.

Career

- 3. I started working for what was then Lothian and Borders in January 2010 as a call handler down in the service centre here at Bilston. I was taking non-emergency and emergency telephone calls from the public. There weren't 101 calls then. I stayed there when we changed to Police Scotland, and the job remained the same.
- 4. A position then came up for a completely new department, which is now East Overview. East Overview didn't exist before. The position was the communications officer. I applied for that and was successful.

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Force Communications Officer

- 5. I am a civilian member of staff. Essentially my main role is to support the Duty Officer, which is the Inspector. They have to be here 24/7. They are responsible for authorising firearms officers, public order etc. So my main role is supporting them.
- 6. Within the East Overview, there are 4 members of staff. There is myself, the Duty Officer, the Police Sergeant and a Police Constable who would fulfil the role of 'RAID'. 'RAID' stands for 'Research And Intelligence Desk' and the officer would perform checks on the police systems, intel systems etc.
- 7. So, as well as supporting the Inspector, I work alongside both the Sergeant and the RAID officer. In our team, between the Communications Officer, RAID and Sergeant we can be inter-operable. We all can, for the main, do each other's jobs.
- 8. Part of my role involves monitoring the mailbox where we get emails from other forces, perhaps looking for us to pass death messages or if they're looking for us to arrest somebody that's been responsible for a crime South of the border. We also get mailbox requests for all ports warnings. For example, where a parent attempts to take a child out of the country and solicitors have put orders in place. We get numerous media enquiries through the mailbox as well. I could not provide an exhaustive list of the items that come into the mailbox, after 7.5 years of working here, there are new things that come in and challenge me every day.
- 9. I am also responsible, along with the 3 other personnel in the room, for keeping an eye on the Overview filter. The Overview filter contains all of the incidents that have had an Overview tag applied to them. When a call comes in, the call handler puts a job onto STORM which is the system we use to record everything. The job is then virtually transferred over to our Control Room and our controllers then would either dispatch straightaway or speak to us in Overview first for further guidance if we need to risk-assess something. The job is given an Overview tag so that it

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automatically appears on our screen. The STORM system will automatically tag an incident for Overview depending on the incident type that is applied on the STORM incident log.

- 10. Cases that would be automatically tagged for Overview would be high-risk missing people, anything involving knives, firearms, concern for suicidal people that may have made off from an address. We also deal with rapes and robberies. Really we deal with anything that has a higher risk element attached to it.
- 11. When monitoring the Overview filter, I would go through the list, constantly making sure we can give the advice we need to give and ensuring background checks are performed where needed. The Inspector is the only one responsible for risk assessing in terms of whether firearms resources would be deployed, but we assist him by providing intelligence from the police systems.
- 12. I have been asked how many incidents per day are tagged for Overview to view. I don't think I could give you a total number per shift, but we can be working with nothing on the filter to, most recently, I think I've seen it up to 40. But 40 doesn't happen very often. I would say we tend to hang around the sort of 10 to 20 incidents at any one time on there. I can't give a number for how many are tagged per day. There are instances when they're tagged for us, we've dealt with them, we take our tag off it and it falls back to the controller in the division. So the incident is then removed from our list, albeit it's still being dealt with somewhere in the Control Room.
- 13. There are a number of administrative functions that I'm also responsible for. I wouldn't be able to provide an exhaustive list as there are so many tasks that make up the administrative side of my job.

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Training

- 14. As a call handler, I completed a 6 week training course which covered everything in terms of crime types, what kind of information we need to be able to help the officers and duty officers assess things. So there is certainly a lot of training there.
- 15. When I moved into the communications role, there was a lot of systems training for the police systems that we use.
- 16. We also used to have opportunity days. These were essentially training days for those not included in the staffing numbers for running the Control Room that day. Sometimes the Overview team of four people would go to Fettes and meet the dogs unit or meet the firearms officers. We'd have an informal discussion about "What do you need from us?", "This is what we need from you", "What service can you provide?". So that we all knew how each other worked. There was no point sending a dog to an incident that was maybe 8 hours old, where it had been raining and there had been a lot of people who had walked all over the scene.
- 17. The opportunity days are informal training. Aside from the IT systems training, there was no actual formal training. There was however lots of inputs and guidance. It was a new department, so we were sort of responsible for building up those guidance documents, moving forward with things that worked.
- 18. Training is an ongoing exercise. We still meet with the firearms officers and dogs unit. It's important to refresh training because you can't rely on something that was discussed years ago.
- 19. Debrief sessions are also used for jobs we have dealt with. So if we deal with an incident where firearms officers are authorised to attend, we would always have a debrief. It gives us the opportunity to discuss any issues that we might have had or the Inspector can raise issues if he might have had any. There's no set time for these to happen.

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20.I did receive Equality and Diversity training in 2010. It was part of the 6 week training programme. I had 2 days completely allocated to Equality and Diversity training in a neutral building. It was run by two officers who I believe had advanced training/knowledge around matters of diversity. I'm not aware of receiving any further training on this subject.

Area Control Room

- 21. In Bilston, there is one very large rectangular room which is separated into 3 different sections by sound boards. The different areas of the room are completely accessible to the different staff working there. Staff are allowed to walk and speak to colleagues in other areas of the room.
- 22. On one side there is the service centre. This is where the call handlers sit and they are answering all of the emergency and non-emergency calls. They are all working remotely, so although this is the East service centre, they're not just taking calls for the East. There are centres in Govan, Motherwell and Dundee. They take calls as well. So the call handlers could be answering calls for Dundee, and Dundee could be taking calls for Edinburgh.
- 23. In the middle of the room, sits the Resolution team. They are a new team and didn't exist back in May 2015. They are officers that deal with crime reports that can be dealt with over the phone, or by diary appointments. They are used if somebody doesn't necessarily need an officer to come to their home address. Pre-2015, the room was just divided into the Control Room and Service Centre. The Control Room section was more spaced out across where the Resolution team now sit.
- 24. On the other side of the room is the Control Room. There is a centre section of desks which contains four supervisors. The supervisors may be Police Sergeants or police staff supervisors. They cover the four pods which cover the four divisions: Lothian and Borders which is the E and J Divisions; Central Police which is the C

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Division and Fife Constabulary which is the P Division. When we talk about pods, it means a group of controllers.

- 25. Each supervisor takes a division and then there are controllers for each area. So there are Fife Controllers; Edinburgh controllers; controllers for J Division which cover West Lothian, Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders; and then controllers for Central or Forth Valley which is Stirling and Falkirk way.
- 26. In terms of the number of controllers to each pod, it is a number between four and eight. Within the pod there may be a controller acting as Incident Support. That controller would be providing the other controllers with support if they needed to go on a break or if they needed to make a phone call. They are all controllers and are interchangeable. They can sit in any chair in the pod.
- 27. I have never been a controller before but I understand that they are responsible for managing one of the airwave channels for their division area. It is possible for a controller to be managing multiple local channels at any one time. If there was a major incident ongoing, then I don't believe they would be able to manage two local channels, and I don't know if they would be expected to either.
- 28. The controllers work remotely in the sense that they are managing geographical areas via the local radio channel from their desk at Bilston Glen. The same controllers tend to sit on the same channel, so of course they build up knowledge over the years of where places are and what's around it. They might also build up relationships with the local officers that they're working with. Most of the controllers have a knowledge of the area that they're working in because they've sat there for such a long time. However, there is an expectation that any controller should be able to sit anywhere and be able to manage the jobs with the mapping system.

East Overview

29. Overview sits completely separate from the Control Room. Bilston is a two level building. Overview is upstairs in a completely different room. I understand that the

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thinking behind this was that because of all of the sensitive information that Overview might have, it should be completely closed down and there are only 4 people working there.

- 30. Whilst separate, the Overview suite and Control Room are located close to one another in the building. If you were to walk from one to the other, it would take less than a minute. From Overview, you travel down a set of stairs and through two doors to the Control Room.
- 31. Overview is always in contact with the Control Room, whether that be by phone or by radio. There are two ways we can communicate by radio, there is our main control panel but there are also handheld radios on our desks as backup. If we needed to speak to somebody face to face, we can walk downstairs, but our communication via phone or radio is instant.
- 32. The personnel in Overview don't leave the room very often. I might nip out to make my lunch or dinner, or nip to the toilet, but on my team we don't often leave the building. If we needed to go away long term, perhaps I needed to go down and speak to a Sergeant downstairs, then I would think to take my handheld radio with me. The Inspector always takes their radio with them, irrespective of why they're leaving Overview. They are not allowed to leave the building whilst on duty.

Call Journey

- 33. A call will be received by the Service Centre call handler, who will determine if the call is a policing matter and should be passed through to a controller in the Control Room. The call may not be received by this Service Centre in Bilston. It may be one of the other service centres. Regardless of where it comes in, they will take the information and create an incident log on STORM.
- 34. I think the service centre also have Aspire, which records all calls coming into their centre. That automatically filters through to create the STORM log, and it's STORM that we work with in the Control Room and in Overview.

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- 35. The call handler will input information about the locus of the incident and the incident type. The incident type is chosen from a list concern for person, firearms incident, missing person, assault. Then there's a short section where the call handler can put in a brief tagline. For missing people, it would be their name and date of birth. For perhaps a disturbance, it would be, "Fight ongoing weapons seen". Just a short tagline, it's character limited. They would also have the name of the informant if they've provided that. If not, it would say 'anonymous'. The informant's address and phone number can be included if they've provided it. There is a textbox where we would hope to get from the caller as much information as possible as to what's happened the location, exactly what has been seen, and what's gone on.
- 36. The Service Centre call handler would initially grade the call, on the basis of the information they receive from the caller and with training they've had for call assessment. I'm a bit rusty on our old gradings because we changed those. I'm not exactly sure when that happened, but they used to be Grade 1-5 and now they are Immediate, Prompt, Other Resolution (which is for the Resolution team), and Standard. 'Standard' is just an information sort of grading.
- 37. The incident is then passed through to the controller who is managing the local airwave channel for that area. Unless there was an unknown location, then the system is set up so that once an address is put in, i.e. Kirkcaldy, the incident transfers to the Kirkcaldy controller. The controller has the opportunity to upgrade or downgrade a call based on any new information they have or upon instruction from someone else i.e. the supervising Sergeant.
- 38. Any incidents tagged for Overview will appear on the filter we have. Some calls are automatically tagged by STORM as soon as they are entitled something. So, for example, a missing person, a robbery, a firearms incident they are automatically tagged for Overview by the system. It doesn't require a human being to remember to tag it, they're auto-tags. They automatically appear on the Overview filter, which the staff in Overview are monitoring 24/7.

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- 39. A disturbance isn't automatically tagged even if it's immediate, and if some way down the line during that call one of the people involved produces a firearm, unless we have already been aware of it, there's no way of us knowing. It would then be for the controller or their supervisor to not only tag Overview, but phone us or share it with us on the radio and alert us to this new piece of information that's come to light during the incident.
- 40. In Overview, although everyone might work differently, I typically flip between the Overview filter and the last 50 jobs. So live time, as they are coming in, the most recent 50 jobs. That way, things like disturbances won't slip through the net. We're looking for calls that aren't automatically tagged to see if there is anything that might have risk that we need to be aware of as well. So we're looking at live time jobs coming in. If you see six jobs coming in to one street, you know there's something going on there and we want to get involved and look at it. Again, a disturbance or an assault isn't automatically tagged for us, but it's something that we would want to look at because you would imagine that there may be some violence or weapons involved.

Call Risk Assessment

- 41. All staff across the Service Centre, Control Room and Overview use a system called CAM (Contact Assessment Model), which is THRIVE. 'THRIVE' stands for 'Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigations, Vulnerabilities and Engagement'. This was not used before 3 May 2015.
- 42. The call handlers will perform the initial risk assessment and they have to assess via THRIVE based on the information they've received from the caller. They don't have any other systems that they can access. For example, where there is an ongoing fight with weapons, there's obviously a threat to others if the weapons are used. The threat that people may be harmed or worse needs an immediate response, and they'll pass it to Control for officers to attend.

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- 43. The Controller will receive the STORM log and they can either agree with their THRIVE assessment or they can disagree for whatever reason. They may have new information or there might be officers already on scene with a duplicate incident and it's all in order, under control, there's no immediacy and they can downgrade it. Where the incident grading is changed, they still have to put it on their THRIVE assessment and they have to give rationale as to why they are doing that.
- 44. So the Controller is performing a risk-assessment based on the initial information received from the STORM log populated by the call handler, as well as other resources such as mapping systems and any officers dispatched to the scene as their eyes on the ground. The STORM system has a map attached to it. The controller will be able to view their incident, as well as any other incidents ongoing in the area. The controller can also see their available resources in the area, for example, response officers, community officers, dog handlers, traffic officers. There are certain filters so it depends on how that specific controller has their system set up. I have mine set up so that I have a filter for all the CCTV cameras and a filter for all police stations.
- 45. I have been asked specifically about the mapping system, whether other resources in the area are visible, i.e. schools, hospitals. This is correct.
- 46. In terms of other systems resources that the controllers have access to, some controllers do have access to the police systems those being 'CHS' which is the 'Criminal History System', 'PNC' which is the 'Police National Computer', and our 'VPD' which is the 'Vulnerable Persons Database'. If it's an ongoing dynamic incident, in Overview we tend to do those checks for the controller, but there's nothing to stop the controller from doing the checks themselves as well.
- 47. In Overview, we do the same except we have access to more systems to build up a bigger intelligence picture. We would look at a job and find out if there is a threat. Is the threat real and live time or has it passed? Is it a threat that's going to happen in the future? If the threat was carried out, what harm would come to somebody?

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Is there an immediate risk of harm or do we have time to carry out further investigations?

Linking Calls

49. If an address has been provided for an incident on the STORM log, there is the option to look up all previous calls to that address. If a person is involved in two separate incidents at two separate addresses, unless there was local knowledge

there's no real way of there being an obvious link. The controller that dealt with the previous call could potentially remember and make a connection between the incidents/. Certainly from looking at addresses, you can see all previous calls to that address and to the street, if need be.

- 50. All streets have beat codes attached to them. There's a large number of beat codes for certain areas. Within Kirkcaldy, there might be a number of beat codes, that cover a few different streets. So there's an ability to search on the beat code as well as just searching on the street name. So even if it was a parallel street, you would be able to see linked incidents within a beat code area.
- 51.I have been asked if a controller would be able to make a link between a call that had come in for the next beat code over. Unless they looked for it or had knowledge of it, there would be no automatic way. They would need to purposely make sure

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they checked every beat code in the area. The mapping system only shows live jobs as well. So if they're looking at the map, they're only seeing the jobs that they have ongoing on the map, not previous jobs that have been closed.

Officer Deployment to Locus

- 52. Whilst I am not a controller, I understand that when they are looking to dispatch officers to a locus, they are checking their mapping system to see who their closest suitable resource is. Divisional officers are booked into the system called SCOPE by the divisional Sergeants, which automatically uploads the officers to the STORM mapping system.
- 53. Officers are booked on and off of the STORM mapping system through SCOPE during their shifts. Officers are identified using their call sign.

 That's what would appear on the STORM map.

 54. Other resources have different lettering after the division letter.

 So, as well as being able to find resources, they can also tell what type of resources they have by their call signs as well.
- 55. Aside from the call sign, the controller will not be aware from the mapping system of any other information about the officers operating under the call signs. I have been asked if controllers can distinguish if an officer is in an 'acting' position or not. There is no way to tell.

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- 56. The officers dispatched to the scene provide those listening to the radio channel from the Control Room and Overview with information as to what's happening on the ground. There was no CCTV available to tap in to for Kirkcaldy. We only have access to CCTV in certain parts of Edinburgh. If we had the CCTV, we would be able to watch the incident and see it unfolding. Therefore we rely on the officers providing feedback at the locus.
- 57. For a knife call, we wouldn't be waiting long for feedback. If there was no feedback from the officers and there was doubt as to whether officers could speak, we have an ability to eavesdrop through their radio. If we have an officer shout up saying a garbled message and we know they're in a struggle or in a fight, there is an option to eavesdrop their radio. Typically the quality of the eavesdrop sound would be poor. But, certainly with a job like this, there wouldn't be much silence left. The Inspector or the controller would be pushing, "Give me an update. What's happening?" They would be making sure that the officers are safe from a welfare perspective.
- 58. The eavesdropping ability would only be used in extreme circumstances. The other way officers can get in touch without having to speak into their radio is by activating their emergency button. It gives the officer radio time and they don't need to keep pressing the button. The officer activates the button by one touch, but then the airwave channel gets the transmissions live time from the officer's radio. The emergency button transmission overrules anything else being broadcast over the channel.
- 59. There is also the option to phone the officer's personal radio and conduct a point to point call. So the officer is speaking into their radio, but we are on the phone to them.
- 60. Even if it's not the officer directly involved, somebody (i.e. another officer) nearby would be giving us updates of what they can see. We're essentially blind to exactly what's happening.

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- 61.I have been asked how long an Inspector in Overview would typically wait for feedback when they know that dispatched officers are imminently arriving at the locus. If they told us they were seconds away, then we would be looking for that update within seconds. Certainly, part of the way I work is I will ask what the officers' expected time of arrival (ETA) is. "What time are you thinking you might arrive on scene?". We'll keep the map on. There can be a delay on the map so we can't be sure that the mapping is 100% correct and that officers have arrived. If the officers have told us they are seconds away from the locus, I'd be looking for an update sooner rather than later.
- 62. After the initial feedback from arriving on scene, we would expect regular feedback from the attending officers, as and when they can. We wouldn't be looking for them to put themselves in any danger just to give the Control Room an update, but we would hope that somebody present would be in a position to communicate.

Incident Command and Control

- 63. When the call is received by the Control Room, it's the controller's responsibility to coordinate the incident, and a lot of them can do that autonomously without any guidance from Sergeants or police staff supervisors. It might be a straightforward incident that they're trained and able to deal with. If there's anything with higher risk attached, they would alert their supervisor, and if that supervisor whether that's a sergeant or civilian supervisor felt it needed escalated, then it would be brought up to Overview. So a general low priority job could be coordinated by the controller.
- 64. For the more serious incidents that have been tagged for Overview, the controller would still be involved in dispatching to the scene. By "dispatching", I mean speaking to officers on the radio, instructing them to attend the locus and then physically attaching their call sign to the job. The controller would be guided by the their Control Room supervisors and the Inspector.

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- 65. It really is only firearms incidents that come up to us where the controllers shouldn't be sending anyone to the incident. They might tell unarmed officers that this incident is ongoing and to stay out the area, or they might be given guidance by our Inspector to have them perhaps standby at a safe rendezvous point in case they need to come forward later on in the incident. It would only really be firearms incidents that come up to Overview to be coordinated.
- 66.I have been asked whether an incident needs to be declared a firearms incident (and this can be incidents that involve weapons that are not guns e.g. knives, machetes) before a tactical plan can be put in place. The controllers are all trained that if a job comes in that mentions a firearm or a potentially lethal weapon, they have to tell the officers on the ground to stay safe, to stay out of the area, and to await further guidance from the Inspector who is reviewing matters from Overview.

Specialist Resources

- 67. The controller can allocate unarmed police officers, so response or community officers. They can also choose to allocate a dog handler themselves. It's not always the case that they would do it. Sometimes their supervisor or Sergeant might do it, sometimes Overview might do it. The controllers can also send traffic officers, road policing officers as well. In terms of public order, they would normally go through either a supervisor or Overview, and they cannot allocate armed officers without that being assessed by the Inspector in Overview.
- 68. It might be that they physically attach the firearms officers to the call, but that always has to be authorised by the Inspector in Overview. This is because the Inspector holds the role as Initial Tactical Firearms Commander (ITFC).
- 69.I have been asked if any other resources could have been considered on the morning of 3 May 2015. If we were dealing with an identical incident now to that

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concerning Mr Bayoh, we would look to a Public Order officer or a negotiator. I don't know what the availability was on that day of public order officers. If there was one on, I would have assumed that it would've been considered. In terms of negotiators, there definitely wouldn't have been one available straightaway. It would've been a case of a call-out at that time on a Sunday morning to somebody called a negotiator coordinator, who then has an on-call list of negotiators that could attend. It is not a quick process unfortunately, and certainly I think it would've been something the divisional Inspector would have been considering. I don't remember from that day unfortunately, if there was any mention of the negotiators either way.

On Duty Inspector

- 70. In 2015 there was only one Inspector. In the last couple of years, we now tend to have two Inspectors on every team. Whether they're on duty at the same time isn't always the case. One might be on annual leave, that's why there are two now.
- 71. I have been asked if in 2015, the Inspector could delegate responsibilities if he has to step away from the Overview suite. For some things, certainly. In terms of their role as ITFC, then no they cannot pass that. If the Inspector is already dealing with a firearms incident and they need assistance with a further incident that has come in, they can contact one of the other Overview suites. We are East Overview so we cover the East. There's also North Overview and West Overview. They have identical set ups to East Overview. If the Inspector needed to pass the ITFC role, they would phone the duty officer at another Overview and would ask them to take control in terms of the firearms incident.
- 72. I have been shown Inspector Steven Stewart's Inquiry statement¹ at paragraph 15.

 I have been asked whether it is typical for the Inspector to leave his desk in Overview and go downstairs to check on the Control Room staff. This is typical, however the Inspector won't typically leave his post for very long. Perhaps for 5-10

¹ SBPI-00084

minutes at most. They might have personnel issues that they need to deal with, with the supervisors or Sergeants. Back in 2015, he would have been the Inspector for both the Control Room and the Service Centre, whereas now there is an Inspector that has charge of the Service Centre.

- 73.I have been asked whether I remember Inspector Stewart being absent from Overview when the incident was first flagged to the Control Room and Overview. I don't remember him not being there initially. I certainly don't remember there being any delay in him dealing with the incident.
- 74.I have been asked whether Inspector Stewart would have likely had his handheld radio with him during his absence from Overview. I don't know if he had his radio with him that morning, but there would have been one available to him. I don't know who made him aware of the incident. If Inspector Stewart didn't have his radio with him, Overview has a telephone system where it's a one-touch dial and we're straight through to the Supervisors downstairs. Bearing in mind if he was in the Control Room, the controller and the supervisor down there are aware of that job coming in as well, so may have told him directly.
- 75.I have been asked whether in Inspector Stewart's temporary absence, if the Overview Sergeant would have been deputised to take control of Overview until he returned. This would not have been the case in relation to making any decision around firearms or a knife incident.

Airwave Transcript

76. I have been referred to a transcript of the Police Scotland airwave for talkgroup 'Kirkcaldy 1'2. I have listened to the airwave audio and I can hear my voice. However the transcript isn't entirely accurate for the transmissions I made.

² PIRC-01399
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77. I have been labelled 'CON2' on the transcript, but I am not a controller. I assume that whoever attached these labels thought I was a second controller. Obviously I was speaking on the Kirkcaldy 1 channel, so it's a fair assumption to have made.

78. At the top of page 5 of the transcript, CON2 is transcribed as saying "Four one one be aware organising an 'A-R-V' as well, stand by". I actually said "From Overview, we are organising an ARV. Standby". I have also viewed the combined audio and video timeline³ and confirm the same amendments apply to my entry at 07:19:23.

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79. It was a Sunday shift. My shift was due to start at 7.00am that morning, but we normally would come in at about 6.20am to take over from the night shift.

80. I just remember it being the start of the shift and we had a number of calls coming in to the Kirkcaldy area about a male with a knife. It was all very fast paced. I knew that we had a number of informants - by informants I mean civilian members of the public — who were calling to tell us about a male with a knife. I was listening to the channel.

81.I remember that I sent a dog handler to the job. I have been shown the incident STORM log⁴ where there is an entry at 07:18:18 from East Overview E01 confirming that SD10 is attending. I remember requesting SD10's attendance at the incident. SD10 was 50 minutes away from the locus. SD10 was stood down and SD18 attended in their place.

82.I have been shown the transcript of the Police Scotland airwave for talkgroup 'Kirkcaldy 1'⁵ at page 19. CON2 says "Overview to Sierra Delta one eight". I was shouting to SD18 who was the dog handler, Gary Wood on INTOP, which is our hailing channel. My intention was to get him to head to the locus. I can see from

³ SBPI-00047

⁴ PS00232

⁵ PIRC-01399

the transcript that Gary Wood immediately responds to confirm he's heading to the locus anyway.

- 83. I have been asked whether I sent the dog handler on the basis of Sergeant Scott Maxwell's airwave communication at 07:17:23. I don't remember it specifically from that day, but in terms of how I work in Overview, that would've been intuition on my part to arrange for the dog handler to attend. For knife incidents with people out in a public place, the dogs are extremely useful at being able to control a subject or, if a subject makes off, tracking a subject. The "subject" being the person with the knife, or indeed if a knife is discarded, tracking down that item.
- 84. At 07:19:19 of the combined audio and video timeline⁶ I can see that Scott Masterton, who was the Kirkcaldy controller, has stated "I believe a dog unit is en route". Scott Masterton would know this since the dog unit resource was attached to the job by this point. There's also a quick reference part, "Units deployed," and it lists everybody that's attached and their status. So, "SD18 dispatched." If he was in attendance, it would say, "At scene." If he was leaving the job, it would say, "Departing." I also believe that the supervisor downstairs in the control room that day was aware that that had been asked by me on INTOP and would have passed that on to Scott as well. All controllers should be listening to the INTOP channel as well as their own allocated channel.
- 85. I'm aware that I asked for the Operational Firearms Commander (OFC) to contact Overview and to speak with Inspector Stewart. The OFC is the firearms commander on the street in possession of guns, and he leads the Armed Vehicle Response team. I can't remember who the OFC was on duty that day.
- 86.At 07:19:23 of the combined audio and video timeline⁷, I can see that I am transcribed as saying "Four one one be aware organising an 'A-R-V' as well, stand by". I have already provided the corrected phrase for this entry. I think at this stage, it was a case of organising the ARV resource and getting the ball rolling. I believe

⁶ SBPI-00047

⁷ SBPI-00047

Inspector Stewart was speaking to the OFC on the phone, so it was the start of whether they were going to be attending. What I mean by "organising" is that we are getting the ball rolling in terms of Inspector Stewart as the ITFC speaking with the OFC to move forward.

87. I remember there being the emergency activations, and I was aware that a female officer had been injured. I was aware of the ambulances being called and Mr Bayoh being taken away from the location.

Post-Incident

- 88.I don't remember much else. I wasn't aware that Mr Bayoh was deceased until much later on in the day. I don't really recall much more about the incident. I was in Overview and still having to deal with the general day jobs coming in, so I was still reviewing other ongoing incidents. By this point, it was being dealt with by division and management.
- 89. I'm asked if I have discussed the incident further since 3 May 2015. Working in Overview, we tend not to discuss incidents afterwards, unless for debriefing purposes. After that day, we were all aware that we'd dealt with something serious, but we tend not to go away and discuss things afterwards so that we don't skew our own memories. I do remember Inspector Stewart having a discussion with us, to let us know that the job was restricted and that we were not to speak about the incident to family and friends. I wouldn't have done this anyway.
- 90. I'm asked if there was a debrief session that took place for the incident concerning Mr Bayoh. I can't remember a specific debrief. Since it is an informal process, typically nothing is recorded.
- 91. This is the first time I have spoken about the incident. I have never been asked by Police Scotland or the PIRC to provide a statement. I became aware that some of my colleagues on my team had been emailed by Operation Tarn to ask if they had any notebooks or written documents that would assist the Inquiry. I was missed off

Signature	 	 	

that email. I stepped forward, given the position I was in and some of the dealing I had with the incident. I wasn't asked for a statement at that stage either.

- 92. Since I have never given a statement, I have nothing to fall back on. Unfortunately my 7.5 year memory is not great and I only wish I could've provided live-time thoughts and feelings as to exactly what happened.
- 93. I have been following the Inquiry hearings by watching the videos on the Inquiry's YouTube channel. I haven't watched all the videos, just the evidence given by Inspector Stewart and retired PC Nicole Short. I have seen some of the other witnesses give evidence, but I can't remember their names. I haven't read any of the documents on the Inquiry's website.
- 94. 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.

November 21, 2022 | 2:53 PM GMT
Date.....Signature of witness....