

## **Witness Statement**

**Steven [REDACTED] Hamilton**

**[REDACTED] 1971**

**c/o Police Scotland, Operation Tarn.**

On 19 July 2024, I was contacted and asked a series of written questions on behalf of the Chair to the Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry. The following are my responses to those questions. I will copy the question into my statement for context and provide my answer beneath each question.

1. Please set out the roles you occupied in your policing career from when you joined the police until your retirement.

I have been retired from the police for over 4 year and no longer have access to police systems, such as Scope, which would allow me to accurately outline the roles I occupied during my 30-year career. I therefore must caveat that any dates I provide may not be accurate but have been provided to the best of my recollection.

I joined Fife Constabulary in June 1990 and was stationed at Dunfermline as a Constable. Between 1990 and 1997, I remained based at Dunfermline but also carried out various secondments including with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Operation Dart (Drugs Squad operation).

In 1997, I moved to Kirkcaldy to join the CID as a Detective Constable, where I remained for 3 years. In 2000, I had a brief spell as a Uniformed Constable at Glenrothes before becoming a Temporary Sergeant at Levenmouth and working within the Planning Team for Fife's centralised contact centre (FCC). Between 2001 and 2007, having been promoted to Sergeant, I had various postings as a Sergeant including leading Response Teams at both Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth, Control Room Sergeant at Kirkcaldy, Drugs and volume crime operation Sergeant based at Levenmouth and Community Sergeant at Tayport,

In 2007, I became a Temporary Inspector and then was promoted to Inspector with roles as Community Inspector and Team Inspector at Kirkcaldy until around 2010, when I moved to Fife Constabulary HQ at Glenrothes, with roles in the Professional Standards Department and Strategic Development.

In 2013, when Fife Constabulary merged with the creation of Police Scotland, I became Detective Inspector based at Glenrothes. Around the end of 2014, I initially moved into a role as Temporary Chief Inspector and then was promoted substantively to the role of Area Commander for West Fife, based mainly at Dunfermline.

Around August 2015, I moved into the role of Area Commander for Central Fife, based at Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy. In 2017, I moved to the role of Area Commander for East Fife, based at Levenmouth, Cupar and St. Andrews, from where I retired in June 2020.

I have also held the specialist roles including Search Management, Event Commander and Public Order Commander, with roles and deployments throughout the UK.

As previously stated, the information provided in answer to this question is given to the best of my recollection.

2. Please outline any responsibilities you had arising out of the death of Sheku Bayoh on 3 May 2015 and specifically any responsibilities relating to PC Alan Paton together with an approximate date on which these responsibilities commenced.

In August 2015, I became Area Commander for Central Fife and with that I took over Senior Management responsibilities for all staff under my command. This included staff welfare. With direct reference to the death of Sheku Bayoh, I managed the first and second-line managers tasked with providing welfare support to those officers still based in Central Fife, that attended Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy on 3 May 2015. On occasion, I would also have direct contact with those officers directly affected by Sheku Bayoh's death. Alan Paton was one of those officers. My Senior Manager role in respect of Alan Paton commenced in August 2015 and ended when I moved to Area Commander in East Fife around 2017

3. Please outline your knowledge, if any, of PIRC's attempts to obtain operational statements from the nine officers present at Hayfield Road during the restraint of Sheku Bayoh.

I have no direct knowledge of PIRC's attempts to obtain operational statements from the nine officers present at Hayfield Road during the restraint of Sheku Bayoh. I recall from media reporting that PIRC were supplied officer's statements around one month after 3 May 2015 and therefore prior to me taking up post as Area Commander for Central Fife.

4. PC Alan Paton, in an email dated 14 December 2016, sent you a copy of his statement dated 20 May 2015 about the events of 3 May 2015 and his involvement with Sheku Bayoh. In relation to this, please advise as follows:
  - i. Outline the events and/or discussion which lead to this statement being emailed to you.
  - ii. Outline your understanding of why PC Paton provided you with this statement.
  - iii. Did you respond to PC Paton following this email, whether this was by email or otherwise? If yes, what did you say/write in that response?

- iv. Did you share this email and/or the attached statement with your line manager or anyone else within Police Scotland? If so, please provide the name(s) of any such individual(s) and advise as to the outcome of this. If you did not share this information with anyone, please explain why not.
- v. At any following receipt of the statement, did you advise anyone at PIRC or COPFS about this or provide them with a copy of the statement? If so, please provide the name(s) of any such individual(s) and advise as to the outcome of this. If you did not share this information with anyone, please explain why not.

Given that this question is regarding an email from around 8 years ago, I will do my best to answer the questions posed to the best of my recollection.

Of note, although transferring into the role of Area Commander for Central Fife, I was not briefed on the events nor any investigation into the circumstances of Sheku Bayoh's death or what occurred at Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy on 3 May 2015. I was aware that PIRC had responsibility for investigating the circumstances of Sheku Bayoh's death and therefore understood, Police Scotland was not the investigative body. It was also my understanding (via media reporting) at that time that criminality was being considered by both PIRC and the Crown in respect of the attending officers.

During my time as Area Commander in Central Fife, I would have direct contact with the officers who attended Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy on 3 May 2015, dependent upon their needs. In respect of Alan Paton, I visited him at his home and elsewhere on perhaps 4 or 5 occasions during the period of my responsibilities.

In respect of the email, I have been shown (PS17646 [REDACTED]), I believe this email was as a result of an in-person meeting, I had with Alan Paton (and perhaps his wife [REDACTED]) on or just before 14 December 2016. To the best of my recollection, Alan said something about his experiences of 3 May 2015, in respect of the [REDACTED]. During this conversation, I told Alan that I had not been briefed on the incident and had no direct knowledge of what happened. Thereafter and following the meeting, Alan sent me an unsolicited email containing the statement he had submitted to PIRC some 18 months previously.

I do not recall responding to Alan Paton. I am fairly certain I did not. However, this may be confirmed by examining my emails via Police Scotland. I would be more than happy to answer any further questions if my recollection is not accurate in this regard.

I do not recall sharing the email from Alan Paton and/or his statement with anyone within Police Scotland. I am fairly certain I did not. However, this may be confirmed by examining my emails via Police Scotland. I would be more than happy to answer any further questions if my recollection is not accurate in this regard.

In response to why I did not share Alan Paton's email and/or statement with anyone within Police Scotland. I did not believe there was any purpose to share the email and/or statement. I was aware that officers had supplied their statements to PIRC who were the investigative body and that if PIRC wished to share information with Police Scotland, then there would be a protocol in place for such circumstances.

I do not recall sharing the email from Alan Paton and/or his statement with anyone within PIRC or COPFS. I am certain I did not. However, this may be confirmed by examining my emails via Police Scotland. I would be more than happy to answer any further questions if my recollection is not accurate in this regard.

In response to why I did not share Alan Paton's email and/or statement with anyone within PIRC or COPFS, I did not believe there was any purpose to share the email and/or statement. I was aware that officers had supplied their statements to PIRC who were an investigative body; therefore, would have assumed that PIRC and COPFS were already in possession of Alan Paton's statement.

5. Please state the following in the final paragraph of your statement:- "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."

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.

6. Please sign and date your statement.

Steven [REDACTED] Hamilton

8 August 2024.