



**The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry  
Witness Statement**

**Zahid Saeed**

**Taken by** [REDACTED]

**In person**

**On 25 October 2022**

1. My name is [REDACTED] Zahid Saeed. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1983.  
My address is Saeed home address. [REDACTED].
2. I have previously given a statement to the Inquiry on 22 March 2022<sup>1</sup>. I am asked to pick matters up from where my previous statement finished. I am asked to explain what happened when I spoke to Collette Bell on the morning of 3 May 2015. What actually happened was Martyn Dick picked me up at about seven o'clock, I can't remember the exact time. He took me back to his house at, I think it was at [REDACTED]. At that point, I explained to Martyn what happened. I was concerned about Collette going back to the house because she was meant to be going back to the house in the morning. So I text her instead and she called me straight away and asked, "What's going on? What happened?" and I explained to her on the phone, quite briefly, what happened between me and Sheku – the altercation that we had – and I think she went to the house afterwards, I believe. I went straight back to [REDACTED] Saeed home address

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<sup>1</sup> SBPI 00071

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██████. Martyn dropped me back to ██████████ and I headed straight back home. I think this was about eight o'clock.

3. I am asked whether I phoned the police. I did not. I did not have any reason to call them. I thought everything would be fine, that I would speak to Shek later. I just thought Shek was back inside the house, safe.
4. When I got to my home I spoke to Collette on the phone. She told me the house was a mess, or the kitchen was a mess, the cupboards and drawers were open, which I was quite surprised about because the house was neat and tidy and clean and nothing was damaged, you know. I couldn't even understand why the kitchen was turned upside down. I told Collette to leave the house, go back into the car and call the police. After Collette called the police, she called me. Collette mentioned that there would be officers coming to the house to see me. I wasn't aware of what time that would be. I don't remember getting a phone call from the police or being informed of anything.
5. I do remember the police turning up to the house. Two detectives arrived at the house. There was a tall detective who had a beard and the other one was short and stocky. My mother was in the house as well as my disabled brother and my sister with her ██████████ and ██████████. I am asked what the detectives did when they arrived at the house. They did not enter the house. They asked me to go to the station with them. They did not explain why. They did not mention Shek's name at all but at that point I was assuming it was something to do with Shek. I am asked whether I questioned why I had to go to the station. I did not. I was going to cooperate with them at that time because I was concerned.
6. I told the police I had some injuries and they took me to Victoria Hospital. I was only there for about half an hour to 40 minutes. They drove me to the hospital. The journey is about 15 to 20 minutes. I don't remember if we discussed anything on the journey. I am asked whether I was seen by a

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doctor or nurse on my arrival at hospital. I think it was a doctor at the time. Both officers sat in with me when I was seen by the doctor. I didn't ask why they were sitting in with me but I was thinking to myself "Why are they here? What are they in the room with me at the same time?" I didn't say anything to them or ask them why but I did think it was unusual.

7. I can't remember what the doctor said about my injuries but I do remember feeling like it was rushed. I felt the detectives at that time were rushing the doctor. I do remember when I was waiting in the waiting area they kept going to the reception and asking the receptionist when I would be seen. I am asked if I remember the doctor giving me any prescription medication. No, nothing at all. I felt like I was rushed. There were no scans taken or anything like that. I think she just used her hands to examine me.
8. I am asked whether, after we finished in the hospital, I was taken straight to the police station. Yes, we went straight to the station. I am asked whether I recall, in my previous statement to the PIRC<sup>2</sup>, saying that I was asked to point out Martyn Dick's house to the police. I can recall them asking me to point out Martyn Dick's house.
9. When we arrived at Kirkcaldy police station we arrived through a car park where all the officers park their cars. I think it was next to the church because that was the entrance we went to. At that point when we got to the station, they took me to sort of like a side entrance on the ground floor. I remember walking through the corridor, and I remember looking to the left, where there's a door or sort of like a window and I remember there was more than eight police officers sitting around a table. The room was full of officers in uniform, and I remember them sitting around their table, very quiet and they looked probably, I would say, worried or guilty; they looked unsettled. I am asked if I passed through this room. No. I walked along the corridor and the room the

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<sup>2</sup> PIRC 00034

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officers were in was to the left. They took me to a room probably four or five doors down, and I was sitting in the room until one of the officers came back and he started taking a statement from me.

10. At the point of giving my statement I wasn't aware that anything had happened to Shek. I am asked what the officers were asking me about. They were asking me about Shek's character, his background, his relationships, his religion, if he prayed; questions that were quite irrelevant, which I couldn't understand why they were asking these questions. I am asked whether I pushed back on any of the questions given I thought they were irrelevant. I was pretty cooperative with them. I was speaking to people in authority. I was doing my best to answer their questions. But the questions they were asking me weren't making sense. At that point, I started to question them afterwards, kept asking them about Shek, what's happened. At that point I still had my phone and I can't remember who'd text me but someone sent me a message saying that a black man and a knife. I can't remember the headline. Because I had my phone I was looking on Facebook and social media. I wasn't sure if it was related to Shek because I kept asking about Shek, things like "Is he okay? Is he alive? Has he done something wrong?" I was worried about his well-being. They were saying to me that they needed me to cooperate with them so they could find out what exactly has happened. I kept asking questions about Shek and they kept saying you need to answer the questions, it is an ongoing investigation.

11. I am asked at what point did the police tell me what had happened to Shek. I can't remember the exact time but I do know it was in the afternoon. That's when they told me that Shek was dead because I was asking them at that time about what I could see on social media and I was asking "Was it Shek?" They were not really giving me any answers at that point. I am asked whether they offered any explanation or cause of death at this point. They just said that there was no easy way to tell me but that he was dead. As soon as I

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heard that I said I wanted to go home. I told them several times that I wanted to go home.

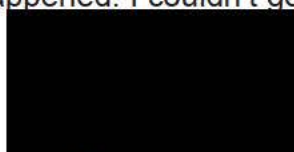
12. I went outside and had a cigarette. In fact, they told me they'd take me home, at around 2.30, I remember. So I was outside having a cigarette, waiting for the two detectives to come back out to take me home, but they came back out and told me I had to go back in again to finish the statement. I am asked if I was alone when I was having the cigarette. One of the detectives was standing with me but he went back in to go and get the other officer to take me home, but then eventually that all changed. They came out and told me to come back in, told me that they wanted to finish off the statement.

13. I am asked how I reacted to them saying they needed to finish the statement. I told them I wasn't in the right frame of mind. I said "I'd like to go home", I kept repeating myself, "I'd like to go home." They were so adamant for me to give the statement which I found quite difficult at that time to give a statement because, emotionally, I wasn't in the right frame of mind. I told them several times that I wasn't in the right frame of mind. I think anybody would like to go home after being given some bad news. They simply said "We need you to cooperate with us so we can find out what happened to Shek."

14. I am asked whether I continued to give the statement at that point. It was kind of difficult because I was really emotional, I was very emotional at that point. I couldn't understand why or what's going on, and they were so precise to get a statement from me. I don't understand why they were so precise to get a statement from me when I wanted to go home.

15. I am asked whether it was ever made clear to me that I could have gone home. No not at all to be honest with you. They didn't allow me to make a phone call or speak to anyone. I did have my own phone. I do remember getting two phone calls from Ade Johnson in the afternoon. During the first call he asked me what had happened. I couldn't get my words out because I

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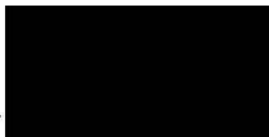
was upset. He called me back a second time and told me they knew what had happened and not to worry and stay strong.

16. I am asked to look at the statement I gave to the PIRC<sup>3</sup>. I am referred to the section in which it says "Officer number two walked me out to the rear car park the same way we had come in – I think this was about 2 p.m. – walked over to a sheltered area where I had a smoke, I thought I was going home at this time. A short time later, officer one came back out to the car park and he said, "I need to take a statement from you." I am asked whether it was my understanding that what I was doing before I had the cigarette was giving a statement or whether the statement only commenced after having the cigarette. I can't really recall.
17. I am asked how much longer after the conversation with Ade that I was giving a statement. It seemed like a long time. I think what happened was when they took me back in, they started writing everything down in the statement about his background, where he's from, religion, if he's a practicing Muslim, his relationship, basically, his character and at that time, I couldn't understand why they were asking about his character, it didn't make sense, the questions they were asking. I still wanted to go home at that point. I didn't think I'd finish off the statement for them, but I do remember getting up and trying to leave. I stood up and started walking towards the fire exit. I walked out of the room. I am asked what my demeanour was at that point. I was sad and emotional. I did not get aggressive and did not show any frustration towards the police officers.
18. I am asked whether both of the detectives were in the room when I went to leave. They were both in the room when taking my statement but at one point the tall detective left the room. He wasn't present at all times. I cannot remember where the tall detective was when I went to leave the room.

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<sup>3</sup> PIRC 00034

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19. I walked out of the room and was in a corridor. I started to walk towards the fire exit. This is not the same exit as the one I came in. It is an exit next to the side entrance to the main door. At that time I think there was maybe between six and ten officers came running behind after me. They literally just appeared from nowhere. The tall detective – who picked me up in the house, he grabbed my arm; it was my left arm. I remember he grabbed it quite firm, and I told him “You need to let go of my arm because, look, I told them I want to go home.” He told me that I’m “not going anywhere.” He pulled me back through the door. At that point, I turned around, told him, “If you don’t take your hand off my arm”, I said “This is an assault” and he said, “We need you to cooperate”, I said “Look, I told you, I’m not in the right frame of mind. I’d like to go home. You have told me my best friend has died.” At that point, I didn’t get aggressive but, I was annoyed, felt like I was being held there.

20. When I went to push the door I think it might have opened a bit because I could see my father outside the station. I got pulled back from the door. The detective still had his hand on my arm. I told him “Let go of my arm” several times and I also told him “I want to go home.” I then heard my name “Zahid Saeed, Zahid Saeed” being called maybe 3 or 4 times. This was in the corridor behind the fire exit. I recognised the person calling my name as Stuart Houston. [REDACTED]

21. He came over and he basically made me feel relaxed and calmed me down. I was very emotional at this point. I was still crying. He took me outside. He said to me, “I need you to cooperate with us.” I was still crying at that point. He said “Your mate Shek, what’s going on”? He turned around, I remember, mentioning one of the officers had been kicked and that they need me to cooperate with them. I asked the sergeant at the time, what happened to Shek? None of this is making sense. I think I was finding it quite difficult to digest at that point. They told me one of the officers got kicked. He took me back to the interview room. Not to the same room, but he took me to another [REDACTED]

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room where I think there were cameras and there was two chairs and table; it was a small room.

22. I am asked how I felt Stuart Houston treated me. I think he was trying to calm me down to be honest. He was being pleasant towards me. I feel like he was trying to help me. I felt out of all the officers he was the most professional.

23. I came back into the station and Stuart Houston showed me to another room. I had told Stuart Houston I wanted to go home but he brought me back to another room in the station. His words when I told him I wanted to go home were "We need you to cooperate so we can find out what happened to your friend."

24. I am asked whether I told Stuart Houston about the tall detective grabbing me by the arm. I think he witnessed it because he was among all the officers that were in the corridor.

25. I am asked how long I continued to give a statement for. I can't remember but I do remember them asking me to give a mouth swab and a fingernail swab or fingerprints as well I think. I remember them taking samples. I can't remember 100 per cent whether it was fingerprints but I remember them doing something with my hands. I am asked whether I asked why they were doing the tests. I think quite probably I did. They said something like to see if I had had contact with Shek.

26. I continued to tell the detectives I wanted to go home. I probably told them I wanted to go home 100 times. I did try to go home, I tried to leave but obviously they ended up keeping me there and they kept coming back and saying, "Oh, we'll take you home in the next hour" or "We'll take you home in the next half an hour," and before you knew it, it was nine/ten o'clock. The only reason they actually took me home is because they wanted my clothes

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and they kept asking for my phone and I remember when I was in the police station, but I refused to give them my phone.


27. I am asked what happened when they completed taking my statement. They didn't really complete it. I don't think they ever did take 100 per cent of the statement. I can't recall to be honest but that is what I thought. I am asked whether the statement was read back to me. I don't think they were able to get that far with it to be honest. All I remember is they put me into this interview room and Stuart Houston spoke to me for about 10/15 minutes and then left; I was sitting in the room alone and the two detectives came back, took me to another room, took my fingernail swab tests, and I think they took me back to another room after that. I can't remember if they continued on with the statement or not, to be honest, I can't recall.

28. I am asked whether I saw someone as part of the medical assessment such as a doctor. I don't recall in detail but I do think I saw a doctor at the police statement. I do remember having a fingernail and mouth swab. It was a long time ago but I do think I saw a doctor.

29. I do remember that when I had the fingernail swab testing there were other officers in the same room with the detectives. I don't recall how many other officers were there, maybe I would say two or three.

30. When I went to the medical examination I passed the canteen, I think it was a canteen, where the officers were all sitting in the same room. I knew something wasn't adding up, the fact that the detectives are investigating, there's a bunch of officers sitting literally two doors down from me so if there is a serious crime why are all the police officers sitting in a room. Surely they should be out there investigating the crime. They weren't talking to one another because there was a small window, and I looked right and they all just turned around and looked in my direction and I was wondering why they were looking in my direction and I didn't know why, but I just had that eerie feeling

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that something had happened or something was wrong, and I just wanted to go home, to be honest, because nobody was explaining to me what had happened or how it had happened or how Shek passed away.

31. I told them: "Look, I'm not in the right frame of mind, and so I'd like to go home" and continuously repeating myself to them: "I'd like to go. I don't think this is the right time or convenient to give a statement." That time, I think I was sitting in the room by myself with two detectives; they left me, came back, and they said to me that they need my clothes, what I was wearing that night. They also said they needed my phone. They were adamant for my phone, kept asking for it. This was probably around 10pm.

32. The same two detectives then drove me to [REDACTED] I am asked about discussion in the car. Yes, they kept asking for my phone during the car journey. I felt like they were actually trying to bully me to give my phone over to them, and also, they were really adamant to keep these interviews on the camera. So the tall one with the beard, he was adamant to take me to the Police Station, first, before he took me to [REDACTED], to give this interview. I told him: "No." Once we got to [REDACTED], his exact words were: "We're going to Levenmouth Police Station to give this interview." I told him: "Look, I told you several times that I don't want to continue on with this." He said "Okay." But on the way to driving to [REDACTED], they did seem a bit pissed off.

33. The same two officers who picked me up were the same officers who took me to [REDACTED], but the way they were driving, I think the way I was being treated, they were being quite aggressive, like I said, pissed off with the fact that I didn't hand my phone over to them and was refusing to give this interview in the wee room. I remember they were driving quite fast in the car. Then when we got to [REDACTED], I remember at the [REDACTED], you turn left to go through towards my mother's house, but if you go straight forward you go to the Levenmouth Police Station. The tall one with the beard, again, he was

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adamant for this interview to happen and I told him: "I refuse point-blank. Look, I'm not giving this interview because I'd like to go home." And the way he turned the car, I remember swinging to the right and I could tell at that point that they were getting a bit agitated or frustrated or they weren't being professional.

34. When we got to [REDACTED], my mother's house was seized off completely; there was tape around the house and there were police vehicles outside; officers were standing in front of the door; there's officers in the back as well, and the tall one again, he took them into the house. In fact, he went into the house first. Then they came out and took me in.
35. I am asked whether I asked for an explanation as to why my house was taped off. I didn't say anything, I think I was a bit shocked and confused, more confused. I didn't understand why my mother's house was taped off.
36. I was asked to show them where my clothes from the night before were and I'm sure they were upstairs in my bedroom, on the bed or on the floor. I didn't see any family members in the house at all. I do think I remember seeing my brother or father outside but I can't remember. I think they did try to talk to me but the detectives were with me the whole time. I think they were trying to get back into the house again. I just didn't understand why my mother's house was seized. I found out later that they never had a warrant when they seized my mother's house. My brother who is disabled, [REDACTED], wheelchair bound and my mother, who is over [REDACTED] and my sister who had had [REDACTED] with a [REDACTED] all got told to leave the house while I was in Kirkcaldy Police Station. I do remember my sister telling me that they asked for my sister's phone as well when they got escorted out.

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37. I am asked what happened when I showed them where the clothes were. I told them I wanted to go home. They asked me where home was. Before we got to my mother's house they kept asking for my mobile phone. I had said I would give them my phone when I got home. I think they assumed my mother's house was home. Once the clothes were bagged they asked again for my phone and I said "Well, this isn't my home, it's my mother's house." They told me, "That was not part of the deal. You told us you would give us your phone over once we take you home." I said: "Well, this is not my home. My home is in [REDACTED]."
38. They then agreed to drive me to [REDACTED]. I remember that drive. They were being really unprofessional and continued to ask me for my phone.
39. I am asked about what happened when we arrived in [REDACTED]. They asked for my phone again. I gave my phone over, but I was annoyed that I had to give my phone over. I still do not know where that phone is now. I got out of the car.
40. I am asked to summarise how I felt I was treated on 3 May 2015 by Police Scotland. I couldn't understand why they were asking inappropriate questions and how they were handling the whole situation and how they handled me and being very unprofessional, and I feel like I was being bullied into giving a statement when I wasn't in the right frame of mind. I wasn't happy with how they'd actually handled the whole case, to be honest. I think how they handled it was very unprofessional and quite rude, especially the tall detective, and I also felt like I was assaulted in the police station as well when he grabbed my arm and was refusing to let go.
41. I am being asked to look at the statement I gave to the PIRC on 8 May 2015<sup>4</sup>. I am asked whether I told the PIRC about the alleged assault because there is

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<sup>4</sup> PIRC 00033

Signature of witness...

[REDACTED]

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no reference to it in the statement. I am sure I told the PIRC what happened. I am 100 per cent sure I told them and I am quite surprised they haven't written that down. I am shown the PIRC statement. I am asked why there is no reference in the statement to the alleged assault. I don't trust the PIRC. They are all ex police officers and, to be honest, they all lie in the same bed. I am asked whether I didn't feel able to raise it. I probably did but I can't recall to be honest.

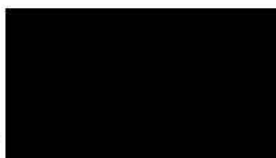
42. I am asked to look at my later statement dated 21 July<sup>5</sup>. That statement is about the alleged assault. I am asked how this came to the attention of the PIRC for them to take a further statement from me. I mentioned it to Aamer Anwar. I also mentioned it to Ade and I think Collette as well. I think Aamer raised this with the PIRC. I am asked whether anything ever came of the statement I gave about the alleged assault. Nothing, nothing at all. I am asked whether I ever got in touch with anyone to complain. Who could I actually go to to complain about the police? I can't go to the police can I? So I felt helpless to be honest. I still do. I don't remember any updates from the PIRC about the alleged assault. All I remember is meeting PIRC probably like two or three times, I would say. They didn't raise it; they didn't mention anything more or discuss anything further. My phone is still missing. I still don't have it back. I mean, how can I trust the PIRC when they're making these false allegations that Collette and I were having an affair. This is coming from the PIRC.

43. I am asked how I feel my complaint has been handled. The complaint hasn't been handled yet so I feel annoyed and angry. I feel helpless and have lost complete faith and trust in the police and the PIRC especially, and these are the people that are meant to protect society and how can we go to them or ask for help when they're making all of these false allegations and they're too busy protecting themselves and one another. As I said before, they all lie in the same bed.

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<sup>5</sup> PIRC 00034

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44. The police also took my car. I can't recall how long it took to get my car back but I didn't have my car for Shek's funeral. Eventually PIRC returned my car.
45. I am asked whether I have any general comments I want to make about the post incident management by the police, the PIRC or the Lord Advocate. I lost complete faith in authority to be honest. Trust in them, how can you trust them? Well, it has taken them over 30 days to get a from the officers, and I feel like they're protecting one another and trying to cover up their own mistakes and didn't follow the correct protocol. I was trying to be helpful and cooperate, and helpful towards the police in the beginning, but that all changed when their behaviour towards me and the questions they were asking. I felt like they weren't following the correct protocol because, like I said, I've been in a similar situation like this before [REDACTED] and I was treated completely different, completely different to the way I was treated this time around and that's how I knew there was something wrong and something had happened.
46. I am asked how I was treated differently. The questions that they were asking and how they were handling and mistreating and how I felt I was dehumanised in the police station the whole time. They didn't really offer me anything and they didn't offer to take me home. I mean, they kept me in a police station for quite a lengthy time, a period without any sort of explanation as to why I was there. They were more concerned about Shek's background than anything else, what he did and where he went and what his beliefs were. I feel like they were covering up their own mistakes. I feel like they weren't following the correct protocol. I felt like they were hiding something to be honest, I felt like they were building a case, it just didn't make sense at all [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I think at that point everything started to ring alarm bells. I mean, If this was a white Caucasian, would they be asking

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the same question? The Liaison Officer was completely different to the ones dealing with Sheks case, their behaviour was different.

47. I am asked whether I think Sheku’s race played a part in the treatment. That is for the Inquiry to decide. I cannot say whether race played a part.

48. I am asked whether anyone ever tried to get in touch with me to discuss what had happened other than, for example, Police Scotland or the PIRC. Peter Watson was actually looking for me I remember that. He handed his card to my father in [REDACTED]. He didn’t give me the card but he did tell me that Peter Watson was looking for me. Alan Paton’s wife also got in touch with me on twitter. I have taken screen shots of what she said. They say:- “Why don’t you return to the inquiry? What are you hiding? What are you scared of? If you are simply telling the truth, ‘I can’t recall’ was all you said. Hmm. Don’t bother replying, I will block you. You are not worth my time.”

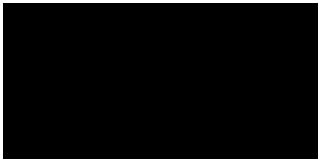
And the one before that was-- the first one was: “What are you scared of? Why don’t you return and give your full and frank account? You are the one hindering the Inquiry not the officers, they have...”

49. I am asked whether I responded in any way to the tweets. I think I did respond to the tweet, but after that I cut off all communications with them.

50. 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.

Signature of witness... [REDACTED] .....

September 11, 2024 | 2:55 PM BST  
Date .....

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