

## Bayoh Family meeting with Lord Bracadale

18 January 2024

In attendance:

Kadi Johnson

Ade Johnson

Adama Jalloh

Kosna Bayoh

Aamer Anwar

April Meechan

Clare Connolly

Claire Mitchell

Chair

**Inquiry staff**

Sadif Ashraf

Laura Thomson

Gill Surfleet

LB: Few introductory remarks about where we are - when first met with you said in this for the long haul and hoped you would come with – and you have. Grateful for perseverance, Encouraged by the commitment you have to the Inquiry. Want to assure you = remain at heart of Inquiry. Commitment to the Inquiry – commitment to memory of SB and determination we share to get to the truth of 3 May and ensuing times. 75 days of hearings. Published many additional statements on the website. Covered in depth the events of 3 May – detailed examination of officers of police Scotland in the aftermath. Certain officers sat for days answering questions. Medical evidence and cause of SB's death and training. Looking forward programme for rest of this year. Next month – chapter on the PIRC including evidence of investigators and towards end of hearing, Kate Frame. Continue practise of not sitting during Ramadan. April/May – COPFS. Certain evidence on media at that stage. June hearing on race – prep for this hearing going ahead. Rachel Barrett – new junior on race. This hearing will of course take place against background of former CC accepting that PS is institutionally racist. Worthy of note that evidence CC heard at this Inquiry one of the drivers in reaching that conclusion. Profoundly affected by your evidence Kadi. Submissions towards the end of the year. Demanding year.

KJ For me the Inquiry has been a good thing. We have learned a lot about how SB died. Public have learned about how SB died. Taken some burden off us as a family. We felt all the time we had to justify that SB not what media portrayed him to be. Inquiry done a great job there – pleased with way things going. Not easy at all hearing the evidence but know it has to be said and out there. Not easy when hear how loved one treated, how we were treated. Life in general has been hard. For me to be here I have had to forgo a lot of things – [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Grateful to the Inquiry – hope have the energy/courage to see through to the end.

Kosna: Very challenging, draining as a family especially me being in London. I need to represent as an elder sister. We have learnt a lot – another year ahead of us. We know where we are with how SB died. We need to pull together as a family.

Chair: How is your mother?

Kosna: She is ok.

KJ She will come over but it has been extremely hard for her. She has lost her only son. When she used to come it was a happy time but over the years seen a big change in her. [REDACTED]. Scotland is not how she used to visit in the past.

AJ: Thank you. Inquiry has been very very challenging for us. Before the Inquiry we had a lot of questions from community, societies and organisations. We got to the Inquiry where we are able to see some of the facts and I is hard to swallow because some of the issues are first hand, we were involved in, immediate aftermath. It is hard to sit quietly and not react when someone saying something different before the Inquiry. We go home and that is where the explosion happens. WE are suffering twice. Every single day is a reminder of the 3 May – we go through the same thing every day. Asking what could have done differently; why are people saying things? Why are they lying? You eventually through questioning get the answer but why is it that way. Grateful for the team and the way questions asked and put forward. If not for creativity of your team and our team it would not come out.

AJ [REDACTED] – when I am bombarded with a massive amount of disclosure – deadline to get back to the team for you to get back to our team. Difficult for us to meet those deadlines.

AC We have been committed to a thorough approach – relevant materials. Members of the legal teams take statements from the witnesses – extremely time consuming – length of the statements – extraordinary length. New lines and then we have to pursue these. When the statement has been put together – then it goes to witnesses for them to revise and that can take time. Also – there is a safety net if things appear haven't been through.

AA What is coming from the PIRC/Crown [REDACTED] – lied repeatedly to the family. [REDACTED] – particularly difficult for the family to hear an see in disclosure what is being said.

CM Issue for this Inquiry is that it isn't a case of AJ reading a disclosure – he needs to leave the table because of what he feels.

AJ It is particularly difficult because we met with these people.

AC Changes of Inquiry days.

KJ Appreciate Inquiry tries – [REDACTED]. Soon after that got an email. [REDACTED]

AJ [REDACTED]. When you turn down something based on something else – you can't then change your position. Yesterday got an email about sitting on Monday.

AC Think I can say reasonably confident – broadly the timetable will hold. Within the blocks days when things change but I do hope – set out the timetable for the whole of the rest of the evidence.

AJ Kadi [REDACTED] – we wouldn't have an Inquiry without her

AJ In terms of where heading for our life prospect before Sheku's death and now we are in a position we are chasing our own tail [REDACTED]

AC Conscious of the need to do that – brings us on to the next two points. Aware changes of staff and there was an impact and issues re reimbursement. Have these issues been resolved.

KJ We had issues and there was a lot of back and forth. [REDACTED]

AC [REDACTED]. We are working within the constraints of the rules placed upon us.

GS We certainly don't want you to feel like you are justifying yourselves but we do need evidence to justify public accounting. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We have thought what we can do within those rules. I think we have moved forward on that. Discussion end of November – lines of communication open but hoping we are in a better place on that. Reiterate I am always available. [REDACTED].

Tricky line

KJ [REDACTED] SBPI staff has been great with us.

CM Give example – just park and give a ticket at the end of the week – [REDACTED]. Appreciate if lines of comms could stay open.

AC Can I leave it that Gill will work with you. Move to breaks at upcoming sessions. Always willing to allow breaks where necessary but have a very full timetable.

AJ Mainly this session coming up. We might be upset because no other way of reacting. Get up and leave but at the same time we want to hear what they are saying and be able to communicate with our team. If you leave the room while putting yourself together.

AA This is going to be extremely difficult for the family – we can ask for a short adjournment. Advising you that potentially might happen.

AC Proceed on the basis of the normal break in the afternoon/morning – no problem if prefer to watch on the tv from the room.

AA You will know there is a hearing room supervisor – in contact with those at the horseshoe – if that feels appropriate – can request an adjournment.

AJ Witness sitting position – witness cannot be seen. Issue with [REDACTED] sitting where she is.

AC Hopefully a practical solution to that problem can be found.