

Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Conduct & Procedure Hearing – 12-13 June 2025

Note by Raju Bhatt, Assessor

My contribution at the Chair's meeting with the family of Sheku Bayoh on 21 November 2022 has been the subject of some comment in the submissions on behalf of some core participants.

In particular, much has been made of my remarks which are recorded in the minutes as follows: *"What we can do is support you – don't have the magic wand to change the world but what we can is try to help achieve what you want."*

I would draw attention to the context of my remarks and, in particular, the preceding contributions on behalf of the family as recorded in the minutes, especially Ade Johnson's contribution explaining the family's objective in relation to the inquiry: *"All asking for is to get to the truth."*

That is the objective which is the obvious subject matter of the remarks attributed to me and recorded in the minutes as quoted above.

Such a reading is also entirely consistent with the concluding words attributed to me in the minutes: *"Process is stressful. Hearing will have been very draining. In order to get to the bottom – this is the process we have."*

In order to avoid any doubt, and for the sake of completeness, I can confirm that the family's stated objective of getting to the truth of what happened to Sheku Bayoh was precisely what I had in mind when I said to them that the inquiry could support them and try to help them achieve what they wanted, i.e. the truth.

I should add that I reject any suggestion of apparent or actual bias on my part in the performance of my role as an assessor in the inquiry: at all times, I have sought to conduct myself with an open mind, and my sole motivation has been to help the inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference in the hope of preventing future deaths in the circumstances that Sheku Bayoh came by his death.

Raju Bhatt

29 May 2025