

SHEKU BAYOH INQUIRY

The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry Witness Statement

Pauline Cruikshank

Taken by [REDACTED]

At New Volunteer House,

16 East Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XT.

On 29 October 2024

1. My name is Pauline Cruikshank. I was born in 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My address as at 3 May 2015 was [REDACTED] Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy.
2. [REDACTED] Hayfield Road is an upper flat in a four in a block property. Number [REDACTED] is on the west side of the block. My bedroom was to the front of the house and these windows looked out onto Hayfield Road.
3. I am asked if I remember there being an incident on Hayfield Road on 3 May 2015, and if yes what I can remember about it. Yes, I remember there being an incident, it was early hours. There were blue flashing police lights and that that brought us round, that woke us. By us, I mean myself and my husband.

Signature of Witness .. [REDACTED]

4. The lights were coming into our bedroom and we were in our bed. We looked out the window, and we seen police cars and that further along, and I think we seen a couple of policemen or policewomen, but that was it. We couldn't actually see what was going on. We just seen, like, the cars and the police, and that was that.
5. I am asked if it was the blue flashing lights that woke us that morning. Aye, aye, it was that that woke us.
6. I am asked what I did when I saw the blue flashing lights. We got out of bed and had a look out the window, we were wondering what was going on, but we couldn't see anything and we just went back to our bed.
7. I am asked if I remember seeing any police vehicles in the street and if so where were they. Yes, I remember seeing police cars in the street. I think they were just, at the end of the road towards the roundabout. We could just see them because they were on that side of the road.
8. I am asked if there were any police vehicles parked in the bus stop. I don't think so. To be honest, I can't really remember it. I just remember that's what brought us round was, like, the flashing lights. We didn't hear anything.
9. I am asked if I saw police officers in the street and if I remember whether they were in uniform or whether they were in plain clothes. Yes, I'm sure I did see police officer. I would think they were in uniform if I thought they were policemen.
10. I am asked if I could estimate how many police officers there where. No. I cannot.

Signature of Witness



.....

11. I am asked if I recall if the police officers were standing or kneeling on the ground. They weren't kneeling on the ground anyway. They were just standing.
12. I am asked at the time of 2015 if I went to bed with my window open, or if I would close it at night. The window was, open just a wee bit, just to let air in, yes.
13. I am asked if I can recall hearing any noise in the street at all or any shouting. I don't recall shouting. No. I certainly didn't hear any commotion or anything, no.
14. I am asked when I said I went to the window were me and my husband at the window at the same time or if my husband was somewhere else. No, the two of us at the same time, I think.
15. I am shown a photograph taken by another resident of Hayfield Road on the morning of 3 May 2015 (PIRC-04249). I am asked if this photo jogs any memories. No, because we're further along the street. We can't see that far along the street.
16. I am shown 3 more photos taken of Hayfield Road on 3 May 2015. PIRC-04247, PIRC-04248 and PIRC-03450. I have been asked if these photos jog any memories. No. As I say, we couldn't see that far along. We can't see the roundabout.
17. I am shown a video clip (PIRC-03369) taken by another resident of Hayfield Road on the morning of 3 May 2015. I have been asked if this video jogs any memories. No. In the video I can see the drive outside our house which is just opposite where the bus stop with the police van is.

Signature of Witness



.....

18. I am asked if I have been following the Inquiry at all for example on the television or otherwise followed any of the reporting about it. Not really.
19. We had reporters at the door looking for stories but we didn't see anything, and then we had somebody representing the police as well. They were at the door looking for whatever we'd seen, but we weren't any help because we hadn't seen anything.
20. I am asked if I can recall when the reporters where at the door, whether it was close to when the incident happened or in the weeks following. I would say maybe the next week or so.
21. I am asked if I can remember when the person I have described as representing the police came to the door, whether it was in the week or so following the incident or later than that. The Police arrived a little bit later. I can't remember if it was a man or women who came to the door. But the person did not come into the house we just spoke with him at the door.
22. I am asked if the person took a statement from me at all, or if while we were talking at the door, if he or she wrote anything down. They might've done. I don't recall. But it was funny because when the police came to the door, they said that somebody had said that we'd seen something and described us as somebody with blonde hair and glasses. Well, neither of the two of us wore glasses at that time, and we certainly didn't have blonde hair, so I don't know where they got that from either.
23. It has been explained to me that a police witness described a couple looking out of our window on the morning of 3 May 2015. I have been referred to Nicole Short's statement (PIRC-00254), at page 7 and paragraph 5, which states: *"I did notice an older couple, late 50s, looking out of an upstairs window opposite the bus stop. They looked horrified. The guy had grey hair*

Signature of Witness .

and was horrified, and he had glasses on, she had brown hair." I think that quote is describing [REDACTED] next door, although they weren't that old.

24. I am asked if I remember a member of Mr Bayoh's family coming to the house and speaking to me in particular. It's explained to me that it would have been a black gentleman called Ade Johnson. No, we didn't have any of his family coming to the door. I am told it may have been on the same day as the incident took place. I don't remember talking to him, no.

25. I have been referred to a Request for Review of a Decision not to Prosecute (COPFS-00199) at pages 19 and 20 which states "AJ [i.e Ade Johnson] attended at locus [Hayfield Road] later and took photographs of area which we have. Spoke with residents on street. Believes lady at [REDACTED] Hayfield Road may have heard SB [Sheku Bayoh] saying 'get off me. I can't breath[e]'"'. I have been asked if I have any recollection of sharing that information with anyone or hearing that being said on the morning of 3 May 2015. No, it certainly wasn't me. No, because I didn't hear anything like that.

26. It has been explained to me that if something I heard something like that being said, that it is important information. Yes, I do understand the importance.

27. I am asked if I remember the representatives from the Police Investigations Review Commissioner (PIRC) coming to take statements from me and my husband. Yes, that was who was at the door, the people I said was representing the police.

28. I am told that the PIRC took statements from me and my husband about the incident on 3 May 2015 at Hayfield Road. My statement is recorded as being taken on 24 June 2015 by an investigator, Maurice Rhodes, and a lady called Karen Pattenden. I have been asked if this rings any bells. I couldn't think

Signature of Witness [REDACTED]

whether it was male or female who came to the door, but it could've been both a male and female together.

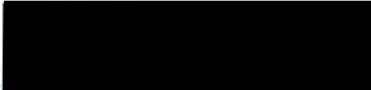
29. I have been referred to my statement and my husband statements to the PIRC. In my husband's PIRC statement (PIRC-00308), at page 2 paragraph 11, he states *"I have been asked to describe myself by the Investigators. I am obviously 56 years of age, 5' 11" in height, grey hair with a full beard which is also grey. I wear glasses just for reading. I am stocky build."* In my PIRC statement (PIRC-00312) at page 1, I give my age as 52 and at page 2, I state *"I would describe myself as 5'8" tall, well-built with short brown hair. I don't wear glasses."* That was our description at the time but it wasn't us. My husband didn't have glasses on. He only wore them for reading or the telly, and obviously we were in our bed before that, so he had no reason to have his glasses on.

30. I have been referred to my PIRC statement (PIRC-00312) at page 1 to 2, where I state:

"About the back of seven, quarter to eight in the morning, that morning it was a Sunday. I was in bed asleep when my husband Callum woke me by speaking to me. He told me that there was police cars, a police van parked outside. I think he also said the road was cordoned off.

He said to me it may have been another accident. We have had a few car crashes in Hayfield Road, and the police normally shut the road if there is one. Callum said nothing more to me regarding the police, and I turned over and went back to sleep.

Investigator Rhodes has informed me that a police officer has alleged that she looked [...] on Hayfield Road [...] where our house is and saw a male and a female in their 50s looking out the window. The police

Signature of Witness . 

officer described the male as having grey hair and wearing glasses and the female to have brown hair.

I can state that this was not me or my husband that she saw. I never got out of bed that morning. Also, my husband may have grey hair, but he does not wear glasses to bed. At no time were we looking out of the window together. We have Venetian blinds, so even if we were at the window, she would not be able to see us."

31. I have been asked to explain why the account given to the PIRC is different to the account that I have provided today. I might not have been at the window with my husband. I could've been up myself, just to have a look out the window. But I don't think the two of us were at the window together. I just heard him saying about the police car. We'd had a couple of accidents in the street. In fact, my car got written off outside the door. But we certainly didn't see anything to do with the incident.

32. I am asked if I was in any way reluctant to tell the PIRC what I knew. No, because I didn't know anything anyway, so there was no reason for me to even think that.

33. I am asked if I think my memory of the incident is better now than it was when I gave my statement to the PIRC. My memory today is not clearer anyway, that's for sure.

34. I am asked if I have if I have spoken to any other witnesses to what happened or if I have ever had a conversation with anyone who lives locally about what happened. Not really. I spoke to [REDACTED] next door when we saw them, but they couldn't see anything either because they're next door to us as well.

35. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that

Signature of Witness ...

[REDACTED]

...

this statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.

Date .. 12-10-24

Signature of Witness

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the witness.

.....