

Witness Name: Ryan Edwards
Statement No.:
Exhibits:
Dated: 16 October 2021

IN THE EAST LONDON CORONER'S COURT

**IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUESTS INTO THE DEATHS OF ANTHONY WALGATE,
GABRIEL KOVARI, DANIEL WHITWORTH AND JACK TAYLOR**

WITNESS STATEMENT OF Ryan Edwards

I, Ryan Edwards, will say as follows:

1. In response to PS Carroll Weeden's witness statement (MPS001132) and her involvement in an MPS hate crime initiative in Barking and Dagenham in the period of 2013- 2014 it is clear that she has a great amount of knowledge and empathy towards the LGBT+ community as evident in her Hate Crime Outreach Victim Initiative that I had the pleasure to read as presented to me for the first time in this inquest (MPS001141). It is however telling that they had to bring PS Weeden in, as an external resource to Barking and Dagenham police in order to provide this initiative, despite what I was always told was sufficient resourcing of LGBT+ liaison officers which I always challenged. It is equally insightful that in MPS001147 PS Carroll Weeden highlights that nothing locally had been provided for the LGBT+ community since the Breaking the Silence report in 2003 – this is woefully lacking and shows the attitude the local police have towards the local LGBT+ community. It was only when having exhausted all official avenues as chair of the local LGBT network, I had to effectively shame the local police into action with my article in the Barking and Dagenham Post (INQ00013). Despite Det Sergeant Eugene McCarthy consistently telling me that they had sufficient LGBT+ liaison officer resource PS Carroll Weeden confirms in paragraph 18 (MPS001132) that it was a completely voluntary resource in Barking and Dagenham (unlike some other areas of the Met)