

Continuation of Statement of: China Dunning .....

We wanted to tell them bits of information. Ellie had received a message on one occasion from Anthony's phone that had been pending. We thought his phone had been turned on for that to come through, and thought that we needed to tell the police. There was nothing more that really came of that. I think I told this to Slaymaker or O'Donnell. Possibly Ellie would have as well.

Often they didn't get back. It's hard to know what information we found out from them or Anthony's parents. I would say there were dozens and dozens of phone calls. We'd also call the general Barking and Dagenham station as we could never get through to O'Donnell and Slaymaker. I remember we asked whether they were part time police on one occasion.

I remember repeatedly questioning the police about GHB and asked about CCTV. I don't really remember getting an answer about it. I remember them saying we have CCTV from the station, but nothing else.

On another occasion I remember Anthony's Dad had received some messages. Anthony was friendly with a psychic guy he met on Grindr. He was an agony aunt type who Anthony had never met in person. They spoke every couple of weeks. After Anthony died I thought I'd call him in a moment of desperation. I then realised another of Anthony's friend had called him and he tried to make out he knew about Anthony's death. I told Anthony's dad and he wanted his number. Anthony's dad spoke to him and I think he saved Anthony's Dad's number. His dad received abusive messages from someone pretending to be an ex-boyfriend. He took this to the police and they didn't really look into it. I told the police I think it could be this guy. Again I think this was to Slaymaker or O'Donnell. I felt it was important information. Anthony's dad had contacted them, and I did, but they still didn't think they should trace the phone number and see who it was.

The next time we saw the police in person was at the trial. Arriving at court Port was there opposite us. O'Donnell asked us who we were and said OK when we told him. We asked if we could speak to him when there was a break as we had concerns. It seemed they had

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just taken what Port said as right. Port had indicated Anthony had taken the drugs himself. I remember I asked to have the laptop and phone records checked and said to him you'll be able to see. O'Donnell said it was a very expensive procedure. That they weren't willing to do that. We asked whether they checked if Port went to work. We said this guy is dodgy as fuck. He's done something to Anthony. O'Donnell said we can all have our assumptions but there were 2 people there that night and one is dead. You need to let it go, you're not going to find out. I was a bit shocked at the attitude, as to how they solve crimes and also that they thought it was too expensive to go through the laptop. It was like saying the death of your friend is not worth investigating.

O'Donnell also said Port was known to the police, that he didn't have a criminal record but was known. I didn't know why he was known to police. Now I assume they were called out to his flat due to the drug fuelled arguments with his boyfriend, or the incident at the station. They obviously didn't think that information was strong enough to push forwards and look into the laptops or phones. It was essentially like - case closed, it's done now. I didn't feel they had a poor attitude towards us. They weren't rude or judgemental. We were dissatisfied that things weren't being looked into. It's afterwards you realise how bad it was. At the time you think they're people who we are supposed to trust.

I don't think I had any further contact with the police. I heard about the other victims after Anthony's mum or dad contacted me and sent me the CCTV picture and said this is him isn't it – he's done more. When I found out Port had been arrested I was on my way out and it was in the evening. I assume they told Anthony's mum after he had been arrested, and she then told me. I later found out they had known it was him didn't arrest him until the next morning.

It was dealing with Atkinson from the other police team afterwards that we realised how poor the communication with Barking and Dagenham was. Later down the line I asked Atkinson why no CCTV was taken from around Port's house. It was clear opportunities were missed.

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