

LGC Classification: RESTRICTED

Statement of Denise Stanworth

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Lab. Ref. LGC-14274854

PCRN: 5115490/14, SSRN: 2014/24269, URN: 14KG9110135536

## Witness Statement

*(Criminal Procedure Rules 2014, r. 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)*

<b>Statement of</b>	Denise STANWORTH BSc (Hons)
<b>Age</b>	Over 18
<b>Occupation</b>	Forensic Scientist

*with*

LGC Forensics (a division of LGC limited)  
Culham Science Centre, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 3ED

*This statement, consisting of 7 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.*

*Dated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 2014*

Signature... **Signature** .....

### Qualifications and Experience

I am a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in physiology and biochemistry. I was employed for over 16 years by the Home Office Forensic Science Service as a forensic scientist specialising in the analysis of body fluids and other materials for the presence of alcohol, drugs and poisons. The analyses were commissioned mainly by police forces and H M Coroners. While in the Forensic Science Service I was designated an Authorised Analyst under the provisions of Section 16 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988. Since September 1998 I have been employed by Forensic Alliance Limited, now LGC Forensics, in a similar capacity.

### Case Reference Numbers:

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**Information**

I understand that at 11:20 hours on 20 September 2014, police attended the graveyard of St Margaret's Church, North Street, Barking, where they found Daniel Whitworth slumped against the back wall of the graveyard.

Mr Whitworth was cold to the touch and attending paramedics confirmed death at 11:45 hours.

I have also been informed that a small brown bottle containing liquid was found in the pocket of Mr Whitworth's jeans together with a bottle of 'Tesco cola' in between his legs. There was a note in the victim's hand implying that he had taken the drug 'G' with sleeping tablets.

**Receipt of Items**

On 29 September 2014 the following sealed items, amongst others, were received at LGC Forensics from the Metropolitan Police Service:

Taken from Daniel Whitworth at a post-mortem examination on 23/09/14

BS/22	(Bag no. MP5B20494751)	Urine preserve (sic)
BS/23	(Bag no. MP5A20138932)	Blood preserved
BS/25	(Bag no. MP5C36759612)	Stomach contents
BS/26	(Bag no. MP5A14656622)	Vitreous humour

**Request**

I have been asked to analyse the samples submitted for the presence of alcohol and drugs including commonly abused drugs and medication, in order to determine if any such substances could have contributed to Mr Whitworth's death.

**Use of Assistants**

In undertaking the work connected with this case, I was assisted by other trained members of staff. Their involvement is described in the accompanying examination record to which I have assigned the item number DS/1, and I have taken their contributions into account when preparing this statement. A full record of this work is available at the laboratory.

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**Nature of Examination**

The blood was screened for the following commonly abused drugs and groups of drugs: amphetamine and related drugs; common benzodiazepines (the group of drugs that includes diazepam and temazepam); benzoylecgonine (the metabolite of cocaine); buprenorphine; cannabinoids (the active constituents of cannabis and cannabis resin); methadone; opiate drugs such as morphine and codeine and for chemically basic drugs including antidepressants, common antihistamines such as chlorphenamine, certain antipsychotic drugs, centrally acting painkillers such as tramadol, fentanyl and ketamine, certain hypnotic drugs such as zolpidem and zopiclone, methylamphetamine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (MDMA, "Ecstasy"), piperazines, mephedrone and methylone, amongst a wide range of other drugs.

The blood and urine were analysed for alcohol and specifically for gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB). The blood was then analysed more specifically for diphenhydramine and mephedrone, together with a range of amphetamine-related substances. No further analysis was carried out on the blood and urine.

The gastric contents consisted of a small quantity of a dark brown liquid with some solid material that had the appearance of food particles. The item was not examined further.

The vitreous humour was not examined.

**Results**

The following substances were detected at the concentrations stated:

Blood

Alcohol	low concentration detected (less than 10 milligrams per 100 millilitres)
GHB	254 milligrams per litre
Mephedrone	0.17 milligrams per litre
Diphenhydramine	0.090 milligrams per litre
Caffeine	detected
Nicotine	detected

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Urine

Alcohol	18 milligrams per 100 millilitres
GHB	detected (greater than 800 milligrams per litre)

None of the other substances listed under Nature of Examination were detected in the blood.

**Comment**

These comments are based on the reading and interpretation of scientific and medical literature, and should be viewed as general comments only, as I am unable to determine precisely how alcohol or drugs will affect a particular individual at a given time. In addition, it is not possible to determine from analytical measurements on single samples precisely when drugs or alcohol were taken, nor the exact amount taken. The comments are based on the information provided and I may have to revise my comments if any of the information should change.

In the comments that follow I have assumed that the concentration of drugs detected in the blood represents the situation at the time of death. However, due to post-mortem redistribution of the drugs after death this may not necessarily be so. The effects of post-mortem redistribution are usually minimised by taking the blood sample from an isolated peripheral blood vessel such as the femoral vein.

Alcohol

The concentration of alcohol detected in Mr Whitworth's blood and urine is very low and could be the residue of alcohol consumed some considerable time before death. Such a concentration would not have been exerting a significant effect at the time of death.

Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB)

GHB is an anaesthetic drug with primarily sedative properties originally developed as a premedication prior to surgery. It gained popularity in the 1980's among body builders for its ability to stimulate muscle development. It has recently gained popularity as a recreational drug particularly on the dance and club scene and has also been implicated in 'date-rape' incidents.

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