

Witness Statement

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of: Ricky Waumsley

Age if under 18: Over 18 Occupation: SENIOR MANUFACTURING TECHNICIAN.

This statement (consisting ofpage(s) 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.

Signature: Signature Date: 28 APRIL 2017

Tick if witness evidence is recorded Confirm Witness Details Form has been completed

I am providing this statement to the IPCC in relation to their investigation into the Metropolitan Police Services' (MPS) response to the deaths of four males in Barking between June 2014 and September 2015. I am the partner of Daniel Whitworth, the third victim of Stephen Port.

On the afternoon of 20 September 2014 I was at a colleague's house in Gillingham, Kent, when I received a call from Mandy Pearson, Daniel's step-mother, asking where I was. She told me to stay where I was and that police would be coming to my colleague's address to see me. She did not tell me anything over the phone. I waited approximately 30 minutes before two Kent police officers arrived and told me that Daniel had died by hanging himself in a churchyard in Barking. I broke down and cried. I felt confused and shocked and did not understand why he would hang himself. In the weeks prior to his death he had not shown any behaviours that I found to be of concern. I knew Daniel had gone to Barking because I had reported him missing to Kent police around 3 or 4pm on the afternoon of 19 September 2014 and about two or three hours later they came round to take a statement and search the house for him. Around 11am on 20 September they phoned to say Daniel's colleagues had informed them he was in Barking to meet friends and it was that afternoon the two Kent officers visited me to inform me of Daniel's death. I cannot remember the names of these officers but one was male and one was female. I did not feel they were very sympathetic, they delivered the message quite bluntly and then left having only stayed a couple of

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At one point I was emailed the last part of the letter by Mandy who had been sent it by DC Slaymaker to clarify whether it was Daniel's handwriting or not. I cannot remember at what point in time this was but it was a really poorly scanned copy which just said Daniel P W. I looked at it and I couldn't confirm 100% whether it was his handwriting and I told Mandy and the police that I didn't know. I asked to see more of the letter to assist me with this task but DC Slaymaker said they could not give him the letter. The officers never asked me about the letter or the handwriting again.

For the first one or two months after Daniel's death I felt the police were doing a good job until October when my opinion changed and I no longer thought this. It was when I went to Barking about a month later to see where Daniel was found that I started to feel this way. I had asked DC Slaymaker if I could do this the first time he came round to see me. I went with Adam, Daniel's father, Mandy and my sister where we met DC Slaymaker, another officer called Jackie and the police officer with grey hair I mentioned above. I was looking around the area and asked the officers whether they were looking into any CCTV. Jackie told me they were not because there is no CCTV in the area. Later on Jackie and DC Slaymaker took Adam and Mandy off somewhere, I am not sure where, and I was not invited along. I asked what they were going to be speaking about just before they went but DC Slaymaker said they couldn't tell me at that moment which really pissed me off and made me feel pushed out by the police. This was the first time I had felt that way. I walked off because I felt so angry and my sister chased after me. I calmed down and then stayed with the grey haired police officer. We were walking around the grounds waiting for them to finish and he was trying to talk to me about every day things such as my work and what my sister does, things like that. There was not a lot of conversation to do with Daniel but every time I tried to talk about it he would try and change the subject a bit. For example, I was asking why Daniel had been in Barking and the officer would reply saying they didn't know yet and then change the subject. This happened a couple of times so I gave up in the end and realised he wasn't going to tell me anything this time.

When Mandy, Adam, DC Slaymaker and Jackie came back after about an hour we left very soon after. We had been in Barking for about a couple of hours. I was driving Mandy and Adam home and she did not say anything to me during the journey because she did not

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want me to get upset. I didn't push for her to tell me. It was only when we got home that Mandy told me what was in the letter. She had jotted down notes, she was not allowed to write it out word for word, but it was just so she could remember what was in the letter. I didn't see the letter until 9 months later when the inquest happened.

The next contact I had with Police was when I arranged to meet them in Romford to go to the hospital mortuary to see Daniel's body. I think this was a week or two after I had gone to Barking to see where Daniel was found. I arranged this meeting over the phone with DC Slaymaker. Adam, Mandy and I met DC Slaymaker and Jackie at the hospital and all I can remember from that time is seeing Daniel. I recall them both being very sympathetic and there was nothing that concerned me but they did not give me any new information. I asked them what they were doing and whether they were getting anywhere with their enquiries but they responded saying they had no further information at that moment. I believed this reason. I think this was the last time I saw DC Slaymaker and Jackie until the inquest.

After Daniel's funeral I began asking who the person Daniel had written in his note not to blame was. I had always felt this third person was somehow involved since I first saw the letter and I wanted to ask who this was and whether police were trying to track him down. I thought it could be a drug dealer who might have supplied Daniel with GHB. The letter made it sound like Daniel at been at a mate's house and then Gabriel was unconscious and couldn't breathe and I was almost confused about how the letter said one thing and then where he was found was in a completely different place. I asked police about this but they had no answers to that. I also asked about the dates as Gabriel had been found on 28 August 2014 so I thought that if all that had happened between him and Daniel, it would have had to be on 27 or 28 August. I told the police that I could not place Daniel in Barking on 27 or 28 August but they weren't interested. Daniel and I would always communicate quite a lot if we were away from each other and I checked my messages to find that there was nothing from Daniel in that time that suggested he was away from home or away from me. I told DC Slaymaker about this during telephone conversations but I don't think he took it on board. This was during the period I found out about the note and Christmas time. As far as I can remember they said that the letter says he did, he killed Gabriel, it so he must have done it. They seemed to take it at face value. I got this impression because they

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weren't doing anything else. I think it was in Barking when I heard either DC Slaymaker or Jackie said that we would probably never really know what happened in terms of where Daniel had been up until his death. I felt a bit let down by the police. It was like they weren't interested in doing too much into the investigation and were just doing the bare minimum they had to do.

I could never get hold of DC Slaymaker. I left messages but he never got back to me. I would call DC Slaymaker once a week and I might get one back once a month. From what I can remember, all contact stopped after Christmas and I don't think I ever spoke to them again until the inquest. I kind of gave up and I didn't know where to turn or who else to talk to. They're the police, they're the most authoritative kind of people in the country and I thought they must have done what they could.

I attended the inquest in June or July 2015 but did not give evidence. Whilst there I spoke to DC Slaymaker and Jackie but I cannot remember if the third officer was there or not. Before going into the inquest I was shown Daniel's letter for the first time. I knew about the letter at this point but had not physically seen it. When I saw it in front of me I had a feeling that something did not look right with that letter and it seemed really impersonal. There were no references to any family members and I still was not 100% whether it was Daniel's handwriting. That was when I felt something wasn't right about it but I didn't say anything to them about it because they were so useless and didn't really do much. I didn't know where to turn or who to talk to about it. There was another officer, I think he was head of the team, who gave evidence as the Coroner asked questions. It was explained within the inquest the things that had been investigated and the things that had not. As the inquest went along, things came out that the police had never told us before. For example, there was a bed sheet Daniel was found on or had wrapped around him that they did not do DNA tests on, they did not do DNA testing on the bottle he was found with, did not analyse the handwriting on the note, and that bruising had been found under his chest which suggested manual handling but they didn't look into this any further. This was the first time I found out the note had not been analysed when I had been told by DC Slaymaker that it would be looked at, although he never said how. At this point I was really angry with the police and I told them outside that they didn't do their fucking job properly. I got really upset and just

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When I was dealing with Barking and Dagenham Police following Daniel's death, I told DC Slaymaker what Daniel was like as a person and what our relationship was like in a statement. He asked me these questions and wrote them down in a statement before I signed it. The only concern I had about Daniel prior to his death was I felt a little concerned that he was seeing someone else behind my back but I didn't know it was anyone from Barking, I thought it was someone I'd seen him messaging on Facebook. Unfortunately I never confronted him about this but I did tell the police as they asked if I had had any concerns about him. They also asked me if Daniel took drugs and drank alcohol and I explained to them that as far as I was aware, he had only smoked one joint in Amsterdam and enjoyed drinking socially. I have never heard of GHB before Daniel died and as far as I was aware he had never done any sort of drugs except for that one joint.

When Mandy was read the letter by police she asked them what G was and one of the officers, I believe it was Jackie, told her to ask me because "he should know." I don't know if that was because I am gay and it's associated with the gay scene. I didn't understand how they could just brush her question off and say that a typical gay person would know about drugs like that. I believe the police made too many assumptions from the content of the letter and not just because Daniel was gay. I think they must have looked at the letter and taken it at face value and thought that was job done.

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