

Continuation of Statement of: Donna Taylor

Dean told me they weren't sure why the Coroner had asked about Jack's sexuality and asked me why I was concerned. I asked them if she was trying to find out if Jack was raped. They said the area was known for homeless people, druggies, alcoholics and that particular corner of the park was known for its gay meets. John and Dean said they were park police so to see someone drunk, drugged, homeless or attending a gay meet wasn't unusual. John and Dean never asked me whether I knew of Jack meeting other men. I explained Jack didn't like the dark or the cold and would not have sat there or met anyone. Where he was found was dirty and covered in leaves and I know that Jack would not have sat down there as he was very particular.

Jenny and I had been doing our own investigations at this point and knew there were other boys that had been found in that area. Initially we found out about three other males but one I know is not one of the four; I think he was found in Alfred's Way. I don't think I picked up on the names of the others at this point but I noted similarities in the ages and body types. I asked the officers if they thought there were any similarities and they said no. They stressed again that unfortunately for us, we were going to find it hard to accept that Jack did what he did. They were still working on the theory that it was Jack on CCTV who walked into the park. I asked John and Dean again what was there if they had turned left and this time they told me there were hotels to which I asked if there was CCTV there. John and Dean told me they would pop back in at some point and also call me.

The following week, the Monday or Tuesday I believe, they visited us at my parent's and asked us if we had heard from anybody else which we had not. They said they had done what they could do with the CCTV and now they just needed to wait for the toxicology. At that point we had not been told anything about the toxicology. I wanted to know about the bottle and asked if it could have had GHB in it. They said it could have done but they had not seen a bottle like it before so could not say 100 percent. I told them that GHB was a date rape drug and asked if they were going to look into the fact that Jack could have been attacked. They said no. John said a Sergeant would be getting in touch with me because he felt I wasn't satisfied with the answers they had given me. I didn't understand why they couldn't see where the man with Jack went and why they didn't continuously look through CCTV until they found him. The officers did not stay very long on this occasion.

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At some point I asked John and Dean at what point they decided Jack's death was not suspicious and that he had taken an overdose. They first answered saying it was because of what was found on him. I replied that they didn't find the needle mark, the syringe he supposedly used or the tourniquet themselves. They said they had enough to deem it not suspicious. They also told me they had found blood pooling across Jack's chest and Dean said that was because of how he was sat. To find out afterwards that it was bruising and not pooling blood made me question their searching.

Sergeant Matt Laffan came to my home on the Thursday that same week at 5.45pm. I went through everything with him from what John and Dean had told us, to things I didn't feel made sense and that I wasn't happy with the CCTV. I stressed to him we had been doing a lot of research on the internet at that point. We had the names of the other boys at this time and I knew they had been found in the church area. I told him I was certain something had happened to my brother but that I didn't want him to tell us I was wrong, I wanted evidence I was wrong. When I told him we had been taken to the place Jack was found by John and Dean he seemed quite surprised and asked why they had done that. I told him John and Dean said to us that if Jack had been holding his phone in his hand, someone could have taken it from him because it was that sort of area. I asked why no one would have taken the drugs on Jack if this was true. Matt asked me if I knew a cab service Jack would have used and I gave him these details. I also told him about Jack's last movements on the Friday and Saturday. I had already looked into Jack's movements because I wanted to know if there was someone different there to normal when he went out on the Friday. He said he would go away and look into a number of things but said he was unable to say at that time whether it would change to being suspicious. He was at my house for over two hours in total.

Jack's funeral was on Friday 2 October and I saw PS Matt Leffan again the Sunday afterwards. Matt had asked me to go to Dagenham East police station with him at around lunch time. He picked me up and we went together. He showed me a still photo and I instantly knew it was Jack. However, the image was very poor quality and I was unable to see his face but I still knew it was him. Matt asked me to sign to say I definitely knew it was

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Matt came round again the week before someone was arrested. We had an in depth chat and I stressed to him again about the possibility of Jack turning left instead of into the park, asked why they had not found his phone yet, and brought up the other boys that had been found dead. He told me I was correct and that Jack did turn left. He said he didn't understand the confusion with that because in the footage he had seen, the unknown man was always with Jack. Matt told me Lindsay had gone back to look for more CCTV because of what I had been saying and she had found a clearer image of Jack and the man. She followed the trail and that's how she knew he turned left, not into the park.

I would say I spoke to Matt pretty much every day. During these conversations I would ask him if there was anything back from the phone records and CCTV. Matt said that because Jack's death was not suspicious everything would take longer. At some point I asked Matt which arm the needle mark was found. I wanted to know if he would go and find out about it. He called me and said that when Lindsay came round to see me, as he was on a week's training, she would tell me what they found out. He also said they had another CCTV photo. I told Matt that I understood he had not worked on the cases of the other boys who had died in the area, but that the research I did made me feel the suicide not written by someone in a dark place but sounded like a confession. He said he had never read the suicide note but was confident they would have tested the handwriting. I told Matt he needed to look at whether the note had been tested and he said he couldn't do that as it wasn't a job he had dealt with himself. He told me he would need a reason to do this and I told him to find a reason because something wasn't right.

Lindsay came round to see me at about 3pm on the Friday as Matt was training for a week. She said to me about the other still photo and although it was clearer, I still didn't recognise the man with Jack. It highlighted just how big he was in comparison to Jack. She explained how she had got the image and that they had captured Jack on CCTV as far as the left turn which led towards flats. She also informed me that the needle mark had been found in Jack's right arm and I told her Jack was right handed and that surely he would have used his right hand to inject his left arm. Lindsay and I went to my parent's house to show them and Jenny the new CCTV but they didn't recognise the man. We asked if they could put the image in a newspaper or online and the early part of the following week was when they

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