

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: TAYLOR, JON

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: POLICE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 3 page(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: J TAYLOR Date: 19/11/2015

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

This statement refers to the death of Jack TAYLOR and the actions I undertook during the investigation.

After I received a call from Donna TAYLOR regarding the death of her brother Jack TAYLOR on the 24th September 2015 I attended the family address with PC820KG HOLDER later that day and spoke to the family, Colin TAYLOR (Father), Jeanette TAYLOR (Mother) and Donna TAYLOR (sister) were all at the location.

The Family were very upset that Police hadn't been in touch with them since they received the initial agony message the previous week however they did point out that the coroners officer had been liaising with them. They had a number of questions they put to us regarding the death of Jack, We explained to them how and where we came across Jack on Monday 14th September. The family stressed that even though Jack was found with what looked like drugs they did not believe he had or would ever take drugs. They also did not understand why he would be in Barking or a park area as he hated Barking. It was also pointed out that Jack would mostly travel around by taxis as he did not drive. John told me he was the last person in the household to have seen Jack, he said that Jack had come home from the Dagenham Trades hall after Midnight on Sunday 13th September and woke him up as he was sleeping on the sofa, he said Jack was happy as he had been out with friends for a few drinks but was not drunk. Jack then went up to his bedroom and that was the last time any family member saw him. The family told us Jack currently did not have a girlfriend but had a large

Signature: J TAYLOR  
2010/11

Signature witnessed by:

circle of friends and regularly dated girls. We were also told that they had spoken to Jack's friends and none of them knew where he went after he returned home from the Trades hall that night. I informed the family that I would be in touch the following day and keep them updated to our actions, it was agreed that I would make contact via Donna on her mobile phone

I was aware this day that the Cris report had been screened back to me from PS22KG TANNER asking me to carry out some actions from the Coroner. On Friday 25th September I spoke to my reporting Sergeant PS60KG about these actions and after he liaised with PS TANNER I made contact with the manager of the Dagenham Trade hall, Mark BRENT .

He was aware via contact with the family that Jack had died. He informed me over the phone that Jack left the Trades hall late that night in a taxi alone and that he often used Alphabet Taxis based in Dagenham Heathway . He made me aware that he had CCTV at the premises which showed Jack leaving the venue alone. Mark BRENT told me he lived at the club and would be available to be seen at any time

Myself and PC HOLDER visited Alphabet Taxis later on the afternoon of Friday 25th September and spoke to the controller Steve who gave us further information from which we were able to establish that a phone call to them was made by Jack's mobile phone at 0238hrs (13/08/15) requesting a taxi to take him to Barking train station from his home address. The name they had logged was "James" Donna later explained that the Taxi company often got his name wrong and called him "James" instead of "Jack" we were informed that one of their taxis, a Silver Ford Galaxy VRM DPA driven by a Shamsaddin AHMED picked Jack up at 0243hrs and dropped him off at 0248hrs.

We then attended the home address of the taxi driver and spoke to Mr AHMED's son as his dad was not in, we were unable to make contact with Mr Ahmed on his mobile that day.

PC HOLDER and I then made our way to LBBD CCTV offices in Clock House Avenue, Barking to see if we could trace Jack and the taxi in Station parade.

Whilst PC HOLDER and I viewed the CCTV of Station Parade Barking, at 0248hrs the same time we were given by Steve the taxi controller, we saw a vehicle that matched the description of the Silver Ford Galaxy pull into Station parade and then we saw a male we believed to be Jack alight from the taxi and cross the road, he waited outside a KFC store until he met with a male, they were

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2010/11

Signature witnessed by:

both seen to walk towards the town centre and then turn left into Clock House Avenue. CCTV last shows them both together outside the Barking Learning Centre .

I contacted Donna TAYLOR later that day and updated her of what we saw on CCTV, she confirmed to me that the taxi company always get "Jack's" name wrong and call him "James". I told Donna that she would be contacted later in the day by PS LAFFAN.

She stated that she was really pleased with what we achieved with the enquiries since we met with the family the previous day. We arranged to meet with her on the 28th September in Barking so we could show the family the exact place where Jack was found.

PC HOLDER and I met Donna and her younger sister at Barking train station at 1200hrs on the 28th September and walked her to the spot we found Jack. Donna laid flowers at the scene. She made us aware that Jack's funeral was to take place on Friday 2nd October at Eastbrook End followed by a wake at Dagenham Trades Hall. We spoke further of what we had seen on CCTV and asked her if she would have any idea of the Male was who Jack possibly met with, She said she had no idea. We also asked her if there was a possibility that Jack may have been gay, she immediately dismissed this and said he wasn't. We made her aware that the CCTV was from a distance and due to the time of night we did not have any clear facial footage to confirm for sure if this male was Jack but did explain to her that due to the description of the Taxi, the area and the time the Male who matched the description of Jack alighted we believe there was a good chance the male was Jack. Donna also raised some questions that she asked if we could try and clear up. She was confused about some information that she had been told from the coroner's officer regarding the time of Jack's death and whether drugs were found in his system, she spoke about date rape drugs and whether they would show up in any tests. After we met with Donna, PC HOLDER and I conducted CCTV enquiries in Barking on the route the two males were seen to follow.

A number of locations were identified as having CCTV which was updated onto the cris report. We viewed the CCTV from the Barking Arms which showed us the same two males we had seen from the council CCTV walk past.

PC HOLDER and I continued with CCTV enquiries on the 29th September in Barking Town Centre, I also made contact with the taxi driver on the morning of 13th September, He told me that he couldn't remember the fare as he done hundreds of journeys since then, he also said that he

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