

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: WAUMSLEY, RICKY

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: MANUFACTURING TECHNICIAN

This statement (consisting of 4 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: R WAUMSLEY

Date: 07/10/2014

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

I am the above named person and I reside at an address known to police. I have lived here for around 3 years and I did live here with my partner, Daniel WHITWORTH. This statement is what I know about Daniel's life since I have known him.

Daniel and I met in August 2010. We started talking on social media site which I think was 'Lads Lads' which is a site where gay people can chat and meet up. Daniel was on holiday in Margate with his mum, I lived in Margate at the time. We decided to meet up. We seemed to get on well and met on two occasions. Daniel then went back home to Gravesend. Daniel was working in Northfleet as a chef at the time. When he went back he was working that evening, after work I text him and we agreed to meet up. For the next three (3) to four (4) weeks I came up to Northfleet to see him every weekend. From October 2010 Daniel started to come down to Margate every weekend and during the week I might go and see him once.

In September 2011 Daniel moved into [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Gravesend and I moved in with him. Daniel was a nice person; he would do anything for me. He was cheerful and enjoyed cooking. Daniel was a sensitive person and could be easily upset at times. He was very good at hiding his emotions. Daniel did have a bit of a dark side and earlier in our relationship was violent to me on a few occasions but he got professional help for this and over the last couple of years, things have been fine between us.

Daniel's main passion is cooking so spent a lot of time practicing at home. He also liked walking, cycling and playing computer games. When I first met Daniel I thought he did drink a lot and was

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concerned about this, but in the recent years he would drink mainly at weekends socially. He was very passionate about his job so would not drink during the week.

We used to go out mainly on our own and would either go to Gravesend or Soho. We did go out sometimes with Katie IMPEY who was his only friend that I knew about. Occasionally we would go out with his work mates or he would go out on his own with them. He used to mainly drink beer, Vodka or shots. He met Katie through work. The only other friend I know was a girl called Sam WELSCH who he knew from where he lived when he was younger. They used to text but did not have much contact.

With regards to Daniel's family, Daniel got on well with his dad, Adam and had regular contact. Every now and again we would meet up and go for dinner. Amanda is Adam's partner. Daniel liked Amanda and got on well with her but they had only known each other a couple of years. Daniel's mum, Penny JONES passed away in February this year, due to Penny's problems with her mental health. Daniel had an on-off relationship with his mum. She did phone and text him all the time. During the last few months of her life Daniel had spent more time with her and they were closer. Daniel's Nan, Barbara WHITWORTH was the other person that Daniel was close to. We used to go and see her every couple of weeks, and we used to look after her and make sure she is okay. Due to the problems with his mum, Daniel was not very close to her side of the family.

The last few months of Daniel's life were quite normal. He had recently been told he was moving to a new restaurant and was excited about this. We did not have any money issues, there was a slight problem with a mix up with his wages but that was being sorted. He had recently been given some money from his mum passing and we were saving this to put a deposit down on a house.

I did not think that Daniel was any different in the last few months and if he did have any worries or problems, he hid this very well. As far as I am aware, Daniel did not use drugs at all. The only time he touched drugs was in Amsterdam where we both tried a joint.

We have a joint bank account together and I check this and no money was taken between 18th to 20th September during when he went missing. Daniel also had an e-Isa, a statement came through the other day and there were no transactions made over the 18th to 20th September. There was one transaction of £30 on 9th September which I found strange.

With regards to Daniel's criminal history, the only times I remember is in 2011; he got drunk at a party, passed out and was taken to hospital. He then punched a Security Guard at the hospital and was

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arrested and charged for this and received a Community Order. The only other time he was in trouble was when he assaulted me.

Daniel was on Facebook and Twitter; they are the only social media I know him to have.

During July and August I went out several times with work and on a couple of occasions I stayed with a colleague. The last time I went out was the 22 August and this was one of the nights I stayed away.

Daniel told me he was getting some beers that night.

On 27 August, Daniel had left for work as normal and we were texting until about (0630) hours. I do not get signal at work so we were facebooking each other until around 0730 hours. From my texts it seems that I had a busy day. I do not have any more messages from him that day so I am pretty certain he would have been at home when I got home at around 1645 hours.

I did not have any suspicions that Daniel was using any other social media sites while he was alive but when he died I looked at his apps on his Microsoft account and there was an app called KIK messenger. His profile name on this is Dannyboy5902 and the photograph on his profile is recent.

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