

Exh Ref GG/6, Transcript of 999 call to Police (Exh ref GG/5)

Record of 999 telephone call from Gary Poland to Police on 29/07/24

Call commences 12:36:56

Call Handler: Merseyside Police Emergency

Poland: Hi there, I'm just ringing up about an incident that's happened probably about an hour ago in erm, urgh, what road, I'm a bit shaken up... Hart Street.

Call Handler:(CH) Right, OK.

Poland: What it was, I'm a taxi driver and I just rang up the err, I just rang up One Call to make sure it was the address I picked him up from, and the lad who's done everything I picked him up from, it's called

CH: Slow down, slow down. What's your name sorry.

Poland: It's Gary Poland

CH: And you're a taxi driver for where?

Poland: It's One Call

CH: Right OK

Poland: I'm just a bit shook up, I just can't believe it. Me heart's going like a don't know what.

CH: (00:47) OK, so what are you reporting? You've picked who up?

Poland: I picked him up, the lad that's done something.

CH: Picked who up? When you say you picked him up.

Poland: Yeh, picked him up. It was a black lad. Urgh

CH: It was a black male

Poland: Yeh

CH: Where did you pick him up?

Poland: Old School Close in Banks, number 10 it is.

CH: OK. Right number 10 Old School Close. And you picked him up, and where did he ask to go to.

Poland: He asked to go to Hart Street, either number 34 or 36, but me mates got a spray shop, which a think is number 36, so I pulled up outside there and he jumped out and I said "you've not paid me mate". So he walks up me mates place. I'm shouting at him "I want me money". He didn't say anything. He didn't say anything whatsoever.

Err, then he walks out of there. Then he walks next door in to some....I don't know what it is, if they do activities there, it used to be a gym. I don't know what it's called, some fitness thing I think.

CH: (01:51) Right, OK, let me get these details. What's your registration?

Poland: I don't know, (inaudible)

CH: Ok. Have you got a badge number or a plate number so I can just put what your...

Poland: Yeh, I have. I can just walk to the front of the house.

CH: No, I mean your taxi licence number or anything to recognise you with?

Poland: Yeh, I can run to the front of me house. You can have it. I'll get it in a minute, it's not something I remember. I'm just in the garden you see.

Background noise can be heard for approx. 10 seconds

Poland: (02:31) Yeh me registration number is DPA

CH: Right, do you have a plate, a badge number, or.. So the company you work for what's that?

Poland: It's One Call

CH: A Driver number?

Poland: Err DPA

CH: That's it. Right, let me get these details on the log. Just hold the line Gary, we'll get all these details on the log. Did he say anything to you in the vehicle?

Poland: (03:11) No. Nothing at all. He seemed very very odd. It seemed like he had it planned, obviously, y' know.

CH: Right, OK. And erm...when he ordered the taxi did he ring up or...

Poland: I haven't got a clue. It just comes up on our screen. It's like an app innit, y' know. So he phoned up for one y' know. It's come up on our screen obviously.

CH: What's your contact number please?

Poland: Off the phone I'm ringing from... if that comes up on your end.

CH: (03:51) So you think you've picked up the male involved, why's that?

Poland: I have picked up the male involved. I know it is because I dropped him off and he went up these stairs, err, urghm..then I heard, well I thought I heard gunshots, about 4 or 5 gunshots. I was pretty sure they were gunshots, then I heard some screaming, and I shot off quick then, I thought I'm not getting shot.

CH: Right, so how do you know he's involved in the incident?

Poland: Well, I just presumed it was him. It might not be, but it doesn't take a genius to work that one out, does it really.

CH: (04:39) Right, OK.. so you're a taxi driver for One Call, are they based in Southport?

Poland: Urm..Liverpool. The biggest firm out innit, One Call. All Liverpool and everywhere.

CH: OK.

Poland: You see then I rang me mate up straightaway, cos he'd been up me mates alleyway. I'm like Julian be careful. I'm like there's someone shooting a gun. I said "I'm just warning you now, be careful".

CH: (05:10) Right, OK, urrm

Poland: And then he told me since, he's told me since, he's still in the road. He reckons there's been about 15 stabbed, 1 killed, all sorts.

CH: Black male who he picked up from ..and it was number..

Poland: Number 10 Old School Close

CH: 10 Old School Close, and that is in Banks. Is that Southport still?

Poland: Not really know. It's classed as Lancashire, Banks.

CH: OK. The male asked to go to, asked to go to Hart Street. Did he say what number?

Poland: Errr, it was 34 or 36

CH: He asked to go to a specified address though, did he?

Poland: Yeh, yeh.

CH: 34 should I put, or is it 36

Poland: It'll be 44 I would have thought. I think me mate is 36. They're sort of next door you see. So with cars being parked up out there I just pulled up on the front, you know what a mean.

CH: Hart Street, Southport. OK. Right, on arrival, tell me what happened in the car, did you speak to him at all.

Poland: I tried to get money off him. He didn't say anything at all. He just got out the car, errr and he walked in to me mates place at first

CH: Hang on...tried to get the fare off him. Let me get this right...off male ... and he didn't answer you or just got out.

Poland (06.42) Didn't answer me didn't say anything. He didn't say anything whatsoever.

CH: And he just got out of the car?

Poland: Yeh, and then I pulled up, up me mates drive then. You know Hart street, Masters? I pulled up there and I said I want me money, and there was a few guys there said "just pay him, just pay the driver" and then he shot off, and then he went out in the other place next door where he's done all the (inaudible)

CH: You've pulled up by your friends.. urrm garage, yeh?

Poland: Yey..yeh

CH: And said I want me money. So what's happened then? What's he do when you said that.

Poland: He didn't say anything. He said nothing whatsoever. He walked up the other drive then, so I followed him

CH: The drive of what number, that one?

Poland: That's 34 I think. I think me mates is 36 and that'll be 34.

CH: He walked up the drive of 34, and what did he do?

Poland: It's like a big drive. Like I say, it must be gym or something. Obviously there was a kids event on or something. There was quite a few in the car park. (Call Handler also speaks)What's that say again.

CH (07:50) Has he gone inside then has he?

Poland: Yeh. I seen him go up some stairs and then I thought he's done a runner. I thought I'll get off now, and then I heard, well what I

thought I heard was gunshots. I could swear I heard gunshots. That's when I shot off then. I heard screaming, loads of screaming and gunshots, and I thought well I'm getting off quick.

CH: OK, so you drove off.

Poland: I drove off then. I thought to myself I go upset him anyway he's gonna come and shoot me obviously. I'm sure, when I rang me mate up he said he doesn't think anyone's been shot. He said there's been about 15 stabs, and one's dead. All kids as well.

CH: Right, OK. So you've driven off, and what's happened then? That's it, you've had no more sighting of him?

Poland:(08:55) I rang me mate up to see what had happened and he said the Police are here, well they're there now, helicopters are all over everywhere. All the roads are shut off round here you know. I was ringing me mate to see if he was safe, you know what I mean. I thought if there's been shooting in there and he goes back to my mates place, because they were saying 'pay the driver, pay him'. I'm thinking y'know.

CH: OK

Poland: I just feel really shaken up, I can't believe it. Of all things that can happen. It's literally round the corner from where I live as well.

CH: Right OK. What's your erm, Gary, what's your registration please.

Poland: I've just given you it haven't I.

CH: You have yeah, DPA, is that correct... and what car have you got?

Poland: It's a Toyota CHR

CH: (10:22) What's your address please

Poland: DPA

CH: And you said he didn't speak to you in the taxi?

Poland: No. No, nothing at all.

CH: Did he have anything with him, did you see anything.

Poland: I didn't but he had err, he had what d'ya call it. Errmm, like a hoody on. So he had a hoody over his head and a mask, a face mask, err covid mask shall we say.

CH: He had a covid mask on, and what colour hoody

Poland: I couldn't say. Maybe a lightish blue one.

CH: Covering his head. He had the hood up, yeh.

Poland: He had the hood up, yeh. I should have thought there was something strange picking someone up in this weather with a bloomin' hood up.

CH: (11:35) Well they all wear them don't they so, y'know. OK is there any other details you can think.

Poland: No. It's just really...I feel really bad now cos I've picked up and dropped him off there, but if I hadn't had another taxi driver would have, you know what I mean.

CH: OK, are you at home now are you?

Poland: Yeh, I can't drive now I'm shaken up.

CH: OK, we'll get someone to call you back, just bear with me.

CH: Right I need you just to confirm the mobile number cos I need to make sure it's correct. WE can't just go off the one you're ringing.

Poland: It's err [DPA]

CH: [DPA]

Poland: Let's go over it again, hold on... [DPA]

CH: Right, just hold the line while I check what I've written on the log.

CH: (14:28) Gary, your friend's garage, was that next door?

Poland: Yeh, Masters. They were (inaudible) as well, cos I said did you hear that, and he said yeh.

CH: Next to number 34, OK

Poland: You see the thing is, that's why I said, I'm sure I heard gunshots, cos I rang my mates and said 'are you alright'. Apparently, he thinks it was just a knife he used, so have I dreamt it, have I heard gunshots or what. I don't know.

CH: He hasn't paid the fare, and you've said to him "I want my money". You've asked male for money. You've asked him for the fare. Did you say how much it was.

Poland: No. It would say what it was on the meter anyway. I don't know. I think it was about £9 something, £10.00.

CH: (15:39) And he's walked up the drive of this play place.

Poland: Yeh. It was obviously planned wasn't it, obviously all planned.

CH: Is it like a play place is it. Is that what you thought it was when he's walked up there?

Poland: Yeh, like a hall you can hire out. I'm not sure. There used to be a gym round there. I think it's something called 'Fitness something'.

CH: He's gone up some steps. Did he go inside?

Poland: What me. I never went inside.

CH: Did he go inside?

Poland: Yeh, he went up these steps.

CH: And that's the last thing you saw of him when he went inside.

Poland: Yeh, and it'll be about. I was just about to drive off then and I heard these gunshots and screaming, proper screaming. I thought 'what's that', and then there was like young people coming down the steps, like running down.

CH: (16:48) And you seen them running down. Young children?

Poland: I think they were young. Probably 6,7,8, not sure. That's when I shot off then. I thought 'I'm not getting shot'.

CH: You've driven off quickly.

Poland: Yeh.

CH: OK Gary I've put that on to the log, all those details. Somebody will be in touch with you. I hope you are OK, an officer will be in touch to speak with you about this alright. Thanks very much, take care, bye bye.

Poland: OK, no probs. OK. Thank you, bye now, bye bye.

Call Ends 12:54:48