

2008(1)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11T

POLICE



WITNESS STATEMENT

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

URN / / /

Statement of: **PHILIP WILLIAM COWIN**

Age if under 18: **O'18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: **POLICE OFFICER**

This statement (consisting of **FIVE** 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:

Date: 28/8/24

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

I am Inspector 5347 Philip Cowin, currently stationed at Crosby Police Station.

On Monday 29/7/24 at I was on duty and was the sole occupant in a marked police vehicle registration **DPA**. I was stationary on Copy Lane, Netherton, the time was approximately 11:50 hrs.

At this time, I heard via my personal radio a report of a male having stabbed numerous persons in Hart Street, Southport. A number of calls had been made reporting the same incident. As a result I made grade one (emergency) from the Netherton area leaving at approximately 11:52 hrs. The journey took 17 minutes, a distance of 14.3 miles. During this journey I was monitoring the communications from the FCC (Force Control Centre) and made several transmissions myself. These transmissions included ensuring that the Investigations department were aware

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Continuation statement of: Text.Given1 Text.Given2 Text.Surname

of the incident. Due to the information being provided, whilst en route I also declared it a Critical Incident.

On arrival at the scene on Hart Street at approximately 12:09 hrs, I made my way from my police vehicle towards a large group of people who were congregated outside an entrance to a courtyard near to 30 Hart Street, Southport, where there were office buildings within which, I understand now, that a dance event had been taking place.

In addition to the first responders, there was a large number of members of the public and local residents all doing their best to help and provide initial first aid. It was also noticeable that there were a number of people who were clearly in shock. I quickly established and confirmed the information that there had been multiple stabbings involving young female children and adults. I initially saw two young female victims being treated by paramedics on the road and pavement at the entrance to the courtyard.

I recognised the enormity of the situation and that this was a Major Incident. As the most senior police officer present I was the Police Incident Commander. I returned briefly to my police vehicle to collect the distinctive Police Incident Commander tabard to ensure other emergency services could recognise the tabard and communicate with myself. I then began working through the JESIP principles (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme). I am familiar with the JESIP principles having both received regular training and also having attended and applied the principles on a number of previous JESIP incidents.

I worked through the M/ETHANE mnemonic. I can now exhibit as PWC 1 my original notes from

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the incident. It was clear this was a MAJOR incident. Declared by the FIM at 12:15 hrs. The EXACT LOCATION was Hart Street, Southport and the information on TYPE of incident was that a lone offender armed with knife had caused serious injury to multiple children and adults. The HAZARD had been removed as the only offender had been detained, I established this by speaking via point to point with Sergeant 4691 Greg Gillespie, the arresting officer. Sergeant Gillespie informed me that the offender had not disclosed his name or motivation for the attacks. All information suggested there were no other outstanding offenders.

I established what I believed to be the best ACCESS route for ingress and egress from the incident. This was Maple Street via Sussex Road. I communicated this to colleagues and the FCC. I instructed a number of staff to speak to owners of any vehicles to be moved which may cause obstructions to paramedic and ambulance vehicles. In terms of establishing the NUMBER OF CASUALTIES I spoke to various first responders but due to the dynamic situation and the focus being on saving lives it was very difficult to confirm numbers. I did myself witness two young girls surrounded by paramedics who were treating them. One image which represented the enormity of the situation was seeing paramedics carrying out CPR chest compressions on a young girl. This was taking place on the pavement at the entrance to the site where the offence had taken place. I saw further paramedics also working on another young female lying in the road, the girl appeared not to me moving, and my initial thought was that she was in shock. Throughout the incident I liaised initially with the senior paramedic identified by red epaulettes, this was to ensure sufficient EMERGENCY SERVICES, particularly with trauma kits were already on scene.

During the initial management of the incident I was mindful that concerned parents/ carers may

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be arriving at the scene and/or key witnesses to the incident were present. I nominated a factory premises called Flooring UK, on Hart Street which was approximately 50 yards away from the entrance the incident location. This was to be used as an initial reception area. I briefly spoke to the manager within these premises which he agreed for use of his premises. I then started to establish the parameters of the outer cordon and inner cordon and relayed the junctions of the outer cordon to the FCC and requested RPU to assist in putting road closures in place. Several minutes into arriving at the incident I was approached by a Firearms officer where there was a brief discussion to confirm all information suggested there was no further threat from any further suspects.

At approximately 12:25 hrs I was present when the first JESIP meeting took place near to the entrance to the access road leading to the offence location. This I would consider would be the FCP (Forward Command Post.) Due to the nature of the incident the police were the lead organisation. This meeting confirmed that there were multiple casualties and the priority was saving lives of the victim. Through discussions with other emergency services incident commanders, I was confident that there were sufficient first responders (incl paramedics, MFRS officers and Firearms officers) available with trauma kits to treat the multiple victims. It was also agreed that that police staff present, supported by trauma trained MFRS staff, were to complete a search of the length of Hart Street and gardens to ensure there were no undiscovered injured persons. I was informed sometime later by an MFRS officer that this had been completed with no further casualties identified.

As the incident progressed a further JESIP meeting took place where I began to make some notes as to the number of casualties and the ages involved. I became aware that an RVP point

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Continuation statement of: Text.Given1 Text.Given2 Text.Surname

had been nominated at the nearby Moel Cop High School on Moels Cop Road. By this time offers of help with trauma support had been provided by HM Coastguard however from the JESIP meetings it was established that sufficient trauma support was already in place. Support from other police departments were being directed towards the nominated RVP and used to support and backfill the outer and inner cordons. During this process I then liaised with Sergeant 2548 Leah Saghatchi – Moghaddam and discussed scene preservation, static points for cordon officers and commencement of scene logs.

At scene also present was Chief Inspector Budden with whom I liaised with over scene management, resources and staff welfare. At approximately 12:50 hrs I then briefed Chief Inspector Chris Ruane who took over as the Incident Commander, also present was Detective Superintendent Louise Birchall.

I remained at the scene for a further approximate 30 minutes assisting in encouraging people to the outer cordons, in place to protect the integrity of the scene. I then provided an update and handover to Acting Inspector 2774 Deenan Ramaya who had attended to manage the extensive scene and allocate resources to cover the various points. I then returned to Southport Police Station where my attention was focused towards the welfare of the officers and staff that had initially attended the scene and experienced the shock of dealing with multiple casualties and those who had provided support to the parents and carers of the victims. It was clear that all the police officers and staff, whilst performing their roles to the highest standards, were all in shock , including myself. I gathered as many of those officers from Southport that I knew had been present in the initial phases of the incident into the briefing room at Southport Police Station where an initial informal debrief took place. I was aware Chief Inspector Budden had carried out

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a similar debrief for those staff who had made their way back to Crosby Police Station.

Following completion of some initial paperwork I completed my duties at approximately 17:30 hrs.

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MG11 (T)

Statement completed by: Insp Philip Cowin

No: 5347

Contact Telephone Number: 75112

Work Mobile Telephone Number:

Station: Crosby Police Station

Date statement made: 28/08/24

Time statement made: 19:00 hrs

Place statement made: Crosby Police Station.

