

DECLARATION

Statement of : **Mr Paul Baker .**

Age: **_Over 18.** Occupation: **Audio Forensic Expert & Senior Audio Engineer.**

This Statement (consisting of ...**Two....pages**) 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. I confirm that I have made clear which facts and matters referred to in this report are within my own knowledge and which are not. Those that are within my own knowledge I confirm to be true. The opinions I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinions on the matters to which they refer.

Signed:

SIGNATURE

Dated the 21st Day of August 2025

I am a qualified audio engineer and audio forensic specialist with over 35 years of professional experience in the audio and voice industry. I have more than 18 years of experience in independently assisting courts, prosecution, defence solicitors, established companies, businesses and corporate organisations worldwide in the field of audio forensics on approximately 550 case files. I hold City & Guilds distinctions in Engineering and gained my AAC certified accreditation of audio engineering in 1986 in Melbourne Australia.

I am also a partner at Audio Forensic Services. Audio Forensic Services provides expert services in the areas of audio forensics, voice forensics and audio analysis services. We offer an impartial, independent and specialised service to both defence and Prosecution clients in criminal cases in addition to commercial clients. Audio Forensic Services adheres to a strict non-disclosure policy in all of its case files and carries out all work in compliance with the ACPO guidelines and the data protection act 2018. I & Audio Forensic Services are registered with The NCA and regulated by The Forensic Science Regulator secretariat (Home office). All work conducted complies with the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021.

Case file: SOUTHPORT PUBLIC ENQUIRY OFFICE

I can confirm the following was requested, "To clean and enhance the male dialogue spoken on the following audio recording from 2 seconds into the recording where possible:

Audio Recording title: MERP005019_RING.mp4

The said evidential audio material was placed in an encrypted file on the AFS secure storage drive of which I only have access to.

I can also confirm that no other third party had access to the recordings during this said period.

Through the use of Sony Soundforge Pro, IZotope RX advanced and DC Forensics software, I applied audio noise dialogue filtering to the said recording for dialogue enhancement purposes only. I have enhanced the male background dialogue to it's best potential and my sole purpose is to independently present an enhanced recording that has the best intelligible conversation/or utterances possible.

I therefore exhibit a copy of one enhanced recording and one enhanced section sample of the recording taken from the timeline; **00:00:02.037 to 00:00:04.074**

1. MERP005019_Enhanced.wav

2. MERP005019_RING_Enhanced Sample.wav

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

1. I can confirm that the audio on the above mentioned enhanced recording has been enhanced to assist audibility levels only. I will state at no stage has the enhanced audio recordings been re-arranged by myself or any staff member at Audio Forensic Services. No dialogue from the original stated recording has been re-arranged. I confirm that the services and work I provided on this case file have been conducted within the ACPO guidelines on an independent, impartial and neutral basis. I confirm

that all storage and transportation of the evidential material has been conducted in a secure manner so as to not subject the evidential material to any malpractice or breach in data protection.

2. I confirm that I have carried out this work independently, objectively and impartially and the results I have clearly indicated in this report are of scientific evidence and my own professional opinion. In legal/criminal cases I undertake work for both prosecution and defence. I have been consulted as an independent expert in approximately 550 case files in the UK, Ireland, Europe and Asia Pacific regions with court attendance in both the UK and international case files.

3. I confirm that insofar as the facts stated in my report and transcript are within my own knowledge I have made clear which they are and I believe them to be true, and that the opinions I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinion.

4. I understand that my duty is to assist the court by giving independent assistance by way of objective, unbiased opinion on matters within my expertise, both in preparing reports and giving oral evidence. I understand that this duty overrides any obligation to the party by whom I am engaged or the person who has paid or is liable to pay me. I confirm that I have complied with and will continue to comply with that duty.

5. I confirm that the contents of this report are true to the best of my knowledge 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.

Signed:

SIGNATURE

Dated the 21st Day of August 2025