

Witness Name: David Sandall

Statement No: WITN0001001

Dated: 09.10.25

THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF TEMPORARY CHIEF CONSTABLE DAVID SANDALL

I, David Sandall, will say:

Introduction

1. My name is David Sandall, and I am the Temporary Chief Constable of Leicestershire Police.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the "inquiry" with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 18th June 2025 (the "request"))

Background

3. I became a Police Constable in Leicestershire Police in 1999 during which time I worked as a 'response officer' responding to 999 calls across the region as well as being a neighbourhood policing officer.

4. I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in July 2002. In that rank, I gained a wealth of experience leading teams including Response, Neighbourhood Policing, Custody and Investigation teams. In November 2005 I commenced a role as a Detective Inspector based in Leicester City and taking force wide on call responsibilities. Following promotion to Detective Inspector I subsequently moved to the role of Head of the Force Special Operations Unit in April 2007.
5. This team was responsible for tackling Serious Organised Crime across our Force region, as well as responsibility for Leicestershire Police's Covert Policing portfolio.
6. I was later seconded to the East Midlands Regional Team in October 2008 where I was engaged in tackling foreign national offending.
7. In 2009, I was promoted to Detective Chief Inspector and became the Force crime lead across the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. During this time I supported the redesign of how policing operated in my area of command and helped to create a streamlined command structure that continued our commitment to victim led policing. This was against a backdrop of several challenges facing policing nationally such as budgetary constraints and an increase in crime reporting.
8. In 2012, I was appointed the Force lead for Safeguarding investigations and worked to improve the response provided to vulnerable people in the community and the investigation of serious crime. In 2015, I was promoted to the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent and became the Head of the Crime

and Intelligence Directorate, leading the Force's response to crime across our policing area.

9. I remained in that role until I was appointed to the role of Assistant Chief Constable in 2019.

10. As Assistant Chief Constable I oversaw the East Midlands Regional Criminal Justice Service and the East Midlands Operations Department and was responsible for leading the Force approach to Crime and Intelligence, Vulnerability, Serious and Organised Crime, and Offender Management.

11. In May 2022, I became the Force's Deputy Chief Constable.

12. Since the retirement of the previous Chief Constable in March 2025, I have been performing the role of Temporary Chief Constable.

13. Throughout the entirety of my policing career I have held the appropriate certifications required for the ranks undertaken. Most noticeably, I was an accredited PIP 3 and PIP 4 Senior Investigating Officer. PIP qualifications are bespoke to law enforcement and are a structured incremental investigative skills development programme. They set out the skills capability to conduct professional investigations at all levels in the Police Service.

14. PIP 3 and 4 are the highest level of accreditation offered by the College of Policing and enabled me to oversee the strategic management of complex investigations. I remain an active Gold Public Order Commander and Strategic

Firearms Commander and I am a nationally accredited Specialist Firearms and Counter Terrorism Commander.

15. Each of these are certified by the College of Policing and enable me to oversee the overall strategic command responsibility for events of this nature.

Events of the 5th May 2023

16. In order to give context to my response to the matters set out in the Request, it may assist if I set out some of the basic details of Leicestershire Police's involvement with Valdo Calocane in May 2023. I do so acknowledging that the actions of three officers are subject to independent investigation by the Independent Office of Police Conduct and, at the conclusion of the investigation, I or my delegate(s) will have roles in deciding whether there ought to be any misconduct proceedings and/or in chairing any misconduct hearing(s). I would be happy to assist the Inquiry with a further statement in due course.

17. At 5.51pm on the 5th May 2023, the Force Control Room received a call on the 999 emergency number. The caller reported that two people had been assaulted at their place of work by a fellow worker.

18. At 5.55pm, PC Taylor and PC Amos-Perkins, who were Response Officers, were assigned to attend the incident. The officers arrived at the scene of the incident at 6.13pm. Initial enquiries suggested that a male named as 'Val

Mendez' (later established to be Valdo Calocane) had assaulted the victims by punching one to the side of the head, before pushing the other to the floor as they tried to intervene. Valdo Calocane had already left the scene by the time the original 999 call had been made. The officers were called to another urgent matter at 7.06pm.

19. After 5th May 2023, the officers undertook some investigative steps in the assault investigation, but by 13th June 2023 when the tragic events in Nottingham took place, the officers had not obtained statements from the victims or made contact with the suspect.

20. Nottinghamshire Police took primacy of the investigation and secured additional statements from the victims, and the Leicestershire investigation was closed due to being superseded by the tragic events that occurred in Nottingham on 13th June 2023.

Police Policies, Procedures and Criteria

21. I have been asked to set out any police policies, procedures and criteria that I consider to be of relevance to the issues raised by Leicestershire Police's investigation into actions committed by Valdo Calocane in May 2023.

22. In order to give context to this response it may assist if I set out the governance arrangements for policies and procedures within Leicestershire Police.

23. Each Policy and Procedure in operation within Leicestershire Police is allocated a policy owner and a department who are responsible for the formulation, review and submission of the relevant policy and/or procedure. It is the responsibility of the policy owner to formulate the contents and work with subject matter experts across the Force to ensure that the contents comply with relevant legislation matters and complies with any relevant codes of practice and endorsed national practice such as that published by the College of Policing.
24. Wherever possible our policies and procedures are aligned directly to the College of Policing's Authorised Professional Practice (APP) documentation to avoid the creation of a local policy and/or procedure that may deviate away from nationally recognised best practice.
25. Where local policies and procedures have been superseded by 'APP' documentation, this is made clear on our local policies/ procedures and a hyper link to the College of Policing documentation is provided.
26. All policies and procedures created within Leicestershire Police are required to be endorsed by a Chief Officer (an officer above the rank of Chief Superintendent) and submitted to the Force Executive Board for final sign off. The membership of this board consists of a range of senior heads of department, all of whom review the document and work collectively to endorse the document prior to its adoption as accepted Force Policy/ Procedure.

27. By reference to the nature of the incident that occurred in May 2023 and the way in which it was reported, I consider that the following policies are likely to be relevant.

Contact Grading & Incident Response Policy and Procedure

28. The Contact Grading and Incident Response Policy and Procedure (LEPF0000034) is a document that all operational Officers and Staff are familiarised with during their time with Leicestershire Police. It sets out our commitment to ensuring that all contact for service, such as 999 and 101 calls, are handled professionally in line with the National Contact Management Strategy.

29. In line with this Policy and Procedure, Leicestershire Police categorise incidents as either an emergency or non-emergency. Emergency responses are allocated one grading level, with non-emergency responses having three grading levels.

30. In accordance with this policy and procedure, the operators in our control room make an initial grading decision based on the circumstances of the incident, the relevant information available at the time and any intelligence that is available to them.

31. Based on this methodology, incidents that are graded as an emergency response require attendance within a target time of 15 minutes. Incidents graded as a non-emergency are designated as either a level 2 priority response (attendance within 120 minutes), a level 3 negotiated response (attendance to be arranged at a scheduled time) and a level 4 where no attendance of Officers is necessary.

32. The procedure sets out a non-exhaustive list of what constitutes an emergency response (level 1) and states the following:

"An emergency response is where it is reported that there is an incident on-going and there is, or is likely to be, a risk of:

- *Danger to life*
- *Use, or immediate threat of use, of violence*
- *Serious injury to a person and/or*
- *Serious damage to property*

33. Upon receipt of a 999 call, the contact handler will create an entry onto our incident management database that summarises the call and the intelligence checks that were undertaken and this information is passed to the officers who are tasked with attending the incident.

34. Following receipt of the 999 call on 5th May 2023 the incident involving Valdo Calocane was assessed by our call handler as being a level 1 emergency incident and 2 response officers were allocated the incident at 5.55pm.

35. The Officers arrived on scene at 6.13pm, 18 minutes from the point of allocation (against a target time of 15 minutes).

Force Investigation Standards Policy and Procedure

36. The Force Investigation Standards Policy and procedure (**LEPF0000095**) is a document that all operational Officers and Staff are familiarised with during their time with Leicestershire Police, as it sets out our expectations and applies to any criminal investigation. The aim of the procedure is straightforward and is stated in the Policy as being:

“To provide the best possible service to victims of crimes. It provides decision making guidance regarding the standards of investigation and scope enquiries that will be considered when a crime is reported to Leicestershire Police” (Page 4, para 5).

37. This Policy and Procedure is introduced to all Officers as part of their initial training and is available at all times through a wide range of means including our intranet policy and procedure library. It is also available via other sources such as the Crime Directorate website ‘quick link,’ and familiarisation with this document forms a key part of the onboarding process for all new Officers.

38. The objective of the Policy and Procedure is summarised as being:

“To inform Leicestershire Police Officers and Staff as to the Investigative Standards required in any criminal investigation” (Page 4, para 8)

39. In line with this Policy and Procedure, when a victim reports a crime to our Force it is recorded on our crime database (NICHE) and all cases must be individually assessed to establish the available lines of enquiry, with a view to ensuring the correct prioritisation of investigations.

40. Officers are reminded to recognise the difference between 'focused' lines of enquiry and 'speculative' lines of enquiry. The procedure states:

"In any investigation it is important to recognise the difference between 'focused' lines of enquiry and 'speculative' lines of enquiry. A focused line of enquiry is one which seems likely to yield useful material because of a fact already known. Examples would include interviewing and statementing a witness who has indicated they saw the crime, or viewing footage on a camera which is known to point at a crime scene. Speculative lines of enquiry relate to enquiries which might yield useful material, but often don't. Examples include knocking doors near to a crime scene to canvass for potential witnesses or searching an area for CCTV cameras in search of potential evidential footage."
(Page 6, para 2)

41. The Policy and Procedure goes on to say

"There is always a potential for speculative enquiries to yield results. However investigators and decision makers should always consider the likelihood of such speculative enquiries coming to fruition..... It is imperative that a proportionate rationale for the scope of an investigation, or its conclusion, be recorded" (Page 6, Para 3)

42. The Policy and Procedure sets out Leicestershire Police's stance that focused lines of enquiry are to be actively pursued as part of our investigative standards due to the likelihood of yielding useful material. This is in line with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 which states that '*where a criminal investigation is conducted all reasonable steps are taken for the purposes of the investigation and, in particular, all reasonable lines of inquiry are pursued*'. (Section 23(1)(a) of the CPIA 1996).

43. To assist Officers and Staff in identifying investigative considerations Appendix A of the Policy and Procedure contains, at points 6 to 14 a number of factors that will support investigating officers' decision making. These are:

- Nature of allegations and determination of any offence committed in law (Point 6)
- Victims' needs and expectations (points 7)
- Availability of witness evidence (Point 8)
- Identity of the suspect (point 9)
- Availability of CCTV evidence (point 10)
- Availability of further digital evidence (point 11)
- Likelihood of forensic material (point 12)
- Potential barriers to further investigation (point 13)
- Public interest, proportionality and seriousness considerations (point 14)

44. Throughout the course of any investigation, an officer also has access to their supervisory Sergeant and it is an expectation of the procedure that supervisors will proactively supervise and drive investigations through regular face to face reviews (**LEPF0000095** Appendix D para 1)

45. In line with Force practice and overarching national direction, once a crime is recorded, there are 5 levels of investigation that help inform the best way of managing the investigation. These are recorded in Appendix B and consist of the following:

- Level 1 – Crimes that after initial triage find no further lines of enquiry and don't require an in-person visit to the victim and usually result in no further action being taken.
- Level 2 – Crimes that have a narrow scope of focused lines of enquiry with the victim playing a significant role in gathering relevant material. These crimes are usually allocated to our crime bureau who oversee the investigation.
- Level 3 – These are considered to be volume crime investigations where there is a proportionate scope of focused enquiries and potential for speculative enquiries to reveal additional evidence. These crimes are allocated to our neighbourhood policing areas for investigation.
- Level 4 – Crimes that require enhanced levels of investigation that are undertaken by our criminal investigation department (CID).
- Level 5 – these are major crime investigations requiring significant resources and are managed by specialist teams or CID.

46. Due to the nature of the report made involving Valdo Calocane in May 2023, and the available lines of enquiry, the investigation into Valdo Calocane was allocated as a volume crime investigation at Level 3. It was therefore allocated to the attending officers for investigation.

47. Appendix E of the Policy and Procedure supports officers with the investigation of volume crime and gives a clear expectation as to what is required for investigations of this nature. It states:

“Where an investigation is directed, it is important that appropriate and proportionate resources are deployed to deliver the best possible service to victims, in the context of the harm that has been caused.”

48. It goes on to list 15 activities that form the crux of the key elements of service for volume crime investigations. These include:

- Attending officers to obtain statements from the victim to help identify the suspect
- Focused scene-based enquiries where there is a clear line of reasoning to carry them out such as a review of CCTV and a search of the local area for discarded items
- Provision of crime prevention advice and support for victims
- Undertake intelligence research to identify trends and generate suspect information

- Securing digital evidence such as CCTV

49. The Appendix goes on to set out 4 guiding principles that all Officers should follow including:

“Where a viable suspect is identified, proactive steps should be taken to deal with the suspect, recover property and gather evidence. Arrest powers should be considered and used if proportionate and necessary but voluntary interview will also be appropriate in some cases” (Principle 3)

“Investigators and their supervisors will ensure proportionate focused lines of enquiry are completed. By exception, some speculative enquiries may be completed where.... assessment dictates.” (Principle 4)

50. In addition to Appendix E, the Policy and Procedure (LEPF0000095) also contains information regarding the expectations Leicestershire Police have regarding our investigators and supervisors. This is contained in Appendix D of the procedure.

51. Appendix D consists of 9 pages of guidance and of particular relevance is the role of Sergeants as supervisors of front-line officers to ensure that proportionate enquiries are undertaken and are actively pursued in a timely manner. It emphasises the need for face to face crime reviews at a minimum of 10 day periods, and states *‘the face-to-face crime reviews will reflect the Sergeants probing of the investigation and any further direction required to bring the investigation to a timely conclusion’* (page 21 – allocation 5).

52. The Policy and Procedure also issues guidance to supervisory Sergeants regarding the management of crime queues allocated to front line officers to ensure that they are not overburdened and to reduce the likelihood of the quality of investigations being impacted. The procedure acknowledges that it is not possible to set a specific rule about how many crimes one officer should investigate. However, Sergeants are expected to consider the capacity of their officers to undertake an effective investigation and adjust accordingly.

53. To support Sergeants with this, the Policy and Procedure sets out a number of considerations to better support and manage front line officers based on the length of their crime queue. There is an expectation that officers with a crime queue of 11 investigations or more should receive additional monitoring and supervision and consideration be given to reducing new workload allocation.

54. The primary focus is to maximise the opportunities an officer has to work on existing crimes and gives an example of ring-fencing officers to ensure they have protected time to do so. Officers with a crime queue in excess of 16 active investigations are not expected to receive any further workload in all but exceptional circumstances. In line with the Policy, Sergeants should, where necessary, consider approaching their Inspector to shield these Officers from additional demands.

55. Sergeants are supported in their role by their Inspector who they can go to for support should demand in their policing area become significant. To support Inspectors with understanding demand, a number of crime performance

dashboards are available through analytical software (Power BI) which displays data in real time. A separate dashboard also exists to measure compliance with the Victims Code of Practice.

56. I note the above due to my earlier reference to the supervisory Sergeant also being one of those currently being the subject of an independent investigation by the IOPC.

Victim Updates

57. On 1st April 2021 a Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales was introduced (VCOP). This provided victims with 12 specific rights. The Force Investigation Standards Policy and Procedure referenced earlier in my statement summarises the expectations of this code of practice in Appendix F and is available to all Officers and Staff.

58. The 12 rights of victims are as follows:

- i. To be able to understand and be understood and includes, where necessary, access to interpretation and translations services
- ii. To have the details of the crime recorded without unjustified delay
- iii. To be provided with information when reporting the crime
- iv. To be referred to services that support victims
- v. To be provided with information about compensation

- vi. To be provided with information about the progress of the investigation
- vii. To make a victim personal statement
- viii. To be given information about the trial process
- ix. To be given information about the outcome of the criminal investigation
- x. To be paid expenses and have any property returned
- xi. To be given information about the offender following conviction
- xii. To make a complaint should their rights not be met.

59. It is the expectation that all Officers will comply with the Victims Code of Practice and front-line supervisors are expected to monitor and promote compliance as enshrined in the policy/procedure.

60. In addition, there are a number of technical tools that allow my investigative heads of department to monitor compliance with VCOP and where necessary take targeted action as outlined earlier in my statement.

Body Worn Video Policy

61. The Body Worn Video Policy, updated and published in June 2023, (LEPF0000096) was formulated by our Force subject matter experts and is designed to enshrine national best practice within our Force as well as promote and ensure legal compliance. From an organisational perspective our rules

regarding the use and retention of body worn video are clear - Section 1.4 of the Policy states:

"All Police Officers and Police Staff must act in accordance with Force Policy and associated procedures of BWV. This policy covers all aspects of the use of BWV equipment by Officers and Staff and the subsequent management of the data obtained."

62. In terms of retention of footage secured by Body Worn Video section 4.2 of the Policy states that all footage is weeded after 31 days unless an officer confirms that the data is required for evidential purposes. The requirement of a 31 day automatic weed date is in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and ensures that the Force does not retain non-evidential material that has no probative value.

Training

63. I have been asked to set out any training that is provided to officers that I consider to be of relevance to the issues raised by Leicestershire Police's investigation into actions committed by Valdo Calocane in May 2023.

64. Given that the 5th May 2023 incident was a report of assault and there was subsequently an investigation into that assault, a variety of different training inputs received by officers are relevant to what was expected of them in the circumstances.

65. Leicestershire Police provides a range of training to operational police officers to enable them to perform their duties. In the context of the events of the 5th May 2023, I have outlined the most relevant training provision below.

Student Officer Training

66. All Student Officer Programmes are licensed by the College of Policing. To ensure that the training provided by Leicestershire Police meets the requirements of national best practice there is a robust assessment process whereby we must provide significant evidence (outlined in INQUIRY URN LEPF0000097) including:

- A curriculum mapping document that demonstrates how the Force intends to meet the national and local learning outcomes
- A selection of finalised lesson plans breaking down how the specific lessons aligns with set learning outcomes
- Proposals for formative and summary assessments throughout the course programme
- Equality Impact Assessments
- A staffing matrix and Assessor Continuous Professional Development logs ensuring that training is delivered by experienced professionals.
- Plans for standardisation and how quality assurance is implemented.

67. Within Leicestershire Police all Student Officer Programmes and additional training are under the purview of our Team Leicestershire Academy. This is a dedicated training facility, consisting of a wide range of experts who work together to create and deliver all aspects of the training. Where necessary external training consultants will also be utilised.

68. Up to the 24th March 2024 the Student Officer Training delivered by our Team Leicestershire Academy lasted approximately 24 weeks. Following a review it has now been refreshed and is delivered in 20 weeks.

69. The training offered to all Student Officers is robust and is designed to ensure that all front-line Officers have the necessary knowledge and skills required to be an effective Officer. Student Officer training is delivered in a variety of ways including classroom-based learning and exposure to role plays whereby they can gain practical experience of utilising the knowledge provided. I exhibit **LEPF0000098** which is the timetable for the training which the Student Officer who was deployed to the incident involving Valdo Calocane in May 2023 underwent.

70. One of the fundamental elements of the training that Student Officers undertake is the ability to utilise core policing systems in order to carry out investigative enquiries. Training during their time in the Academy includes:

- NICHE Crime and Intelligence Database – This is the core system where all crime and intelligence is recorded and enables research into

individuals to take place. The database is regional and agreements are in place that allow collaboration across East Midlands Forces to display crime data from all participating forces during the course of research. Access to this database is only granted once appropriate training has been completed. I exhibit a copy of the relevant lesson plan (**LEPF0000099**) and course content (**LEPF0000100**)

- The Police National Computer (PNC) – This contains the criminal conviction history of offenders across the UK alongside details of recalls to prison and offenders wanted on warrant for detention. The PNC is a restricted system and officers are taught how to access the PNC as part of their NICHE training (this is referenced in **LEPF0000100**). In addition, both officers responding to the incident on 5th May 2023 were fully trained users of the PNC and completed their mandatory training in December 2022 (the Student Officer) and May 2020 (Tutor Constable). The confirmation of the dates of their training to access the Police National Computer are exhibited as **LEPF0000102** and **LEPF0000103**.
- Police Investigation of Assaults, training materials details of which are exhibited as **LEPF0000104** and **LEPF0000105**
- Statement Taking, training materials for which I exhibit as **LEPF0000078**, **LEPF0000086**, **LEPF0000081** respectively alongside accompanying lesson plans which are exhibited as **LEPF0000088**, **LEPF0000089** and **LEPF0000093**, respectively.

71. Throughout the course of Student Officer training, there are a number of dedicated sessions on topics such as the formulation of statements, as well as specialist inputs on the use of intelligence systems which cover the use of systems such as the Police National Database (PND) to support an investigation. PND is a restricted national system and access is available through our dedicated Force Intelligence Bureau who actively support research into suspects. Officers are signposted to these services during the Intelligence Input conducted as part of their training timetable.

72. The training conducted by our Force includes 10 working days devoted to the Professionalising Investigations Programme (PIP) Level 1. The aim of the PIP programme is to ensure that all Officers are trained, skilled and accredited to conduct the highest quality investigations, with PIP level 1 applying to all operational officers. The programme itself is designed by the College of Policing and our Team Leicestershire Academy experts are accredited and licensed to deliver the College's competency-based training. I exhibit to the Inquiry a booklet that is provided to all Officers during their time in the Academy to support their PIP 1 training (LEPF0000094).

73. During the course of an individual's time with the Academy, a Student Contact Log is maintained whereby any concerns regarding any core competencies can be noted and further bespoke action taken if required. The aim of these logs is to support the continual development of our Student Officers and ensure a high

level of competence. This process continues once an Officer is deployed to an operational police station.

Probation

74. Upon completion of the formal training, Officers are then based at a designated Police station whereby they continue their training alongside a Student Development Co-Ordinator for a minimum period of 12 weeks.

75. All Student Development Co-Ordinators undergo mandatory training, and the Tutor Officer in question who received this training, PC Amos-Perkins, did so online over one day due to Covid restrictions at the time. Further training then took place in follow up day sessions. These one-day sessions covered a variety of topics including interviewing and investigation plans.

76. The role of Student Development Co-Ordinators has since been replaced by a tutor programme that involves two days of classroom-based training, and one day observing prospective tutors participating in role plays and other exercises.

77. In addition to being allocated a Student Development Co-ordinator/ Tutor, all Student Officers are considered to be in a probationary period for a minimum of two years, during which time their ability and competence is regularly assessed. Officers who do not meet the required standard can be discharged from service under the Regulation 13 Police Regulations 2003. Throughout the entirety of the two-year probation period, Student Officers will return to the Academy for further training exercises.

78. Throughout a Student Officers deployment to an operational station, there is an expectation that the learning process that began in the Team Leicestershire Academy will continue. It is the role of both the Student Development Co-Ordinator/ Tutor and the supervisory Sergeant to observe, guide and support the Student Officers as they continue their journey in policing. Any concerns identified should also be addressed and fed back to the Academy.

Failings and Lessons Learned

79. I have been asked to set out any identified failings and lessons learned by Leicestershire Police in respect of the investigation into actions committed by Valdo Calocane in May 2023.

80. As set out earlier in this statement, the actions of three Leicestershire Police Officers are the subject of an IOPC independent investigation. As such, it would not be appropriate for there to be any internal investigation within Leicestershire Police. I will not comment on any failings by the three officers as they remain under active investigation given my roles in respect of any misconduct proceedings that result from the investigation, and because I do not have access to all of the investigative materials held by the IOPC. I would be happy to do so at the end of the IOPC's investigation and consequent relevant decision making/ proceedings.

81. Part of the IOPC's function is to identify any organisational learning recommendations. The IOPC usually issues any learning recommendations at the end of an investigation, but it may do so at an earlier stage as required.

82. When the IOPC originally concluded its investigation into the three officers (before re-commencing the investigation on 7th March 2025) it did not issue any learning recommendations to Leicestershire Police. If, at the conclusion of its resumed investigation, the IOPC issues any learning recommendations to Leicestershire Police, I will ensure they are robustly considered.

83. Aside from any formal organisational recommendations from the IOPC, we have ourselves identified areas for organisational improvement based on review of the policies and procedures which were in place in May 2023.

84. These include strengthening our arrangements for supporting Student Officers following their initial classroom based training period and transition into Operational activity. As referenced in paragraph 75 above, this has led to us giving additional training to our Tutor Officers and updating the previous student co-ordinator role.

85. Leicestershire Police remain committed to evolving and improving the service offer we provide to new recruits. Our Team Leicestershire Academy continually reviews our training material in light of national best practice as well as lessons generated from experience obtained during the conduct of front-line policing. The support we offer officers upon leaving the Academy remains based on a 2

year training programme, with Academy support being provided for any challenges student officers may face when deployed.

86. Furthermore, we recognise that there needs to be greater focus and supervisory oversight of Victim Updates and compliance with the Victims Code of Practice. To address this, we have developed a new data tool enabling all supervisors to have immediate, contemporaneous visibility of pending and overdue Victim Updates amongst their teams.

87. The expectation is that supervisors use this new data tool to help them identify upcoming and overdue updates and other areas of non-compliance, and to proactively engage with their team to improve compliance rates and ensure victims are updated in a timely fashion. If an officer fails to comply with the requirements of the Code, their supervisor will identify this and require compliance.

88. In addition, the command team for each policing area use the data tool to look for adherence to the Victim's Code of Practice and this takes place at peak times, such as prior to weekend operational duties, as well as being discussed weekly at local operational management meetings. The tool is also used for strategic oversight of team performance and is examined monthly to ensure continued improvement and is reported to Force performance oversight boards.

89. One area that is being actively pursued is our officers' understanding of access to interpreting services. Leicestershire Police has a dedicated contract with a language service provider that facilitates access to a wide range of interpreting

services in a real-time setting. These services are referenced throughout our Student Officers time in the Academy, but consideration is being given to ensure a continued awareness of these services across our Force.

90. More generally, Leicestershire Police is committed to transformational change, and we continue to enhance our investigative practices. As a Force we have implemented Operation Forefront which is a major force- wide operation to strengthen our service and high standards. One strand of this operation is 'Operation Forefront Detect' which is focused on driving up investigation standards in order to ensure that we continue to bring more offenders to justice.

91. The Operation's primary objectives are to strengthen confidence and skills of all officers and supervisors as well as strengthening our commitment to deliver excellent victim centred investigations. This includes focusing on the role of supervisors to drive up standards as well as leadership around investigation quality.

92. Operation Forefront Detect provides easily accessible tools, training, and guidance to all of my Officers and Staff and a command structure remains in place, chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable to ensure the successful delivery of this operation.

93. Leicestershire Police has implemented a series of measures to ensure that investigative standards in particular remain of the highest quality and my organisation proactively shines a spotlight on those who fall below the

standards we expect. Most recently I have launched a new Assessment and Investigation Unit that both builds on our core policing activities and supports front line policing and investigations but also introduces two new services to my Officers – Scheduled Video Response and Rapid Video Response. Both services allow my Officers to secure reasonable lines of enquiry and engage with victims in a timely manner. In particular, they allow for more efficient demand management by allowing our Force to respond to suitable live incidents via video within minutes and frees up front line officers to pursue the active engagement of offenders and their ability to make proactive rest attempts and other core policing activity.

94. Furthermore, the additional investment of Crime Performance Managers across all policing areas, ensures that we have strengthened levels of supervision and accountability to maintain high standards of service being delivered to victims of crime. In addition, the Team Leicestershire Academy are now licensed to deliver an innovative leadership course that is offered to all tiers of management across the Force, including Sergeants, to ensure that they continue to have the support and skills necessary to be effective leaders.

Details of any unauthorised access and disclosure of the case files relating to

Valdo Calocane

95. I have also been asked to set out any detail of any unauthorised access and disclosure of case files and evidence relating to Valdo Calocane by Leicestershire Police of which I may be aware.

96. I can confirm that an audit of access to Force systems containing information about Valdo Calocane has been undertaken and no instances of unauthorised access have been identified.

Recommendations for consideration by the panel

97. I have also been asked whether there are any recommendations that I consider could help prevent any of the issues that I have identified in respect of this matter.

98. In light of my response to the questions above, I would be happy to identify any failings – and any recommendations that could help prevent such failings beyond the improvements we have already made - at the end of the IOPC's investigation and consequent relevant decision making / proceedings.

Conclusion

99. As set out above, I would be happy to provide another statement to the Inquiry once the IOPC's investigation and the subsequent processes have concluded.

100. Leicestershire Police will assist the Inquiry in any way it can in its important work.

101. I am committed to ensuring that Leicestershire Police captures and robustly considers any learning identified by the Inquiry whether for the Force itself, or the Police Service more widely, to ensure that the events of 13th June 2023 and the circumstances in which they were able to occur are never repeated.

101. I would like to end by offering my deepest condolences to the families of Barnaby Webber, Grace O'Malley-Kumar and Ian Coates, recognising the suffering of Wayne Birkett, Sharon Miller and Marcin Gawronski and acknowledging the impact on so many other people of the terrible events of 13th June 2023.

Statement of Truth

I believe the content of this statement to be true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signed:

GRO-B

Dated:

09/10/25

Index to First Witness Statement of DAVID SANDALL

No.	URN	Document Description
1	LEPF0000034	Policy Document re: Contact Grading & Incident Response Policy and Procedure, Leicestershire Police
2	LEPF0000095	Policy Document, re: Investigation Standards Policy and Procedure, Jonny Starbuck, Leicestershire Police
3	LEPF0000096	Policy re: Body Worn Video Policy (BWV), Paul Crewe, Leicestershire Police
4	LEPF0000097	Policy Document re: Product Licence Schedule, Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP), College of Policing
5	LEPF0000098	Notes by LPPF Re: DC DHEP 3 – 32 Students Timetable To Contact: Confirmed. Dated 21/11/2022-14/04/2023
6	LEPF0000099	Learning and Professional Development Lesson Plan, Team Leicestershire Academy
7	LEPF0000100	NICHE Training Course Content
8	LEPF0000102	Confirmation of PNC Training Courses completed by PC 1965 Taylor
9	LEPF0000103	Confirmation of PNC Training Courses completed by PC 4430 Amos-Perkins
10	LEPF0000104	Team Leicestershire Academy Learning and Professional Development, Lesson Plan on Assaults for Degree Holders Entry Programme & Police Constable Degree Apprenticeships, Leicestershire Police
11	LEPF0000105	Course content for investigating assaults training
12	LEPF0000078	Statement Writing – Investigation Skills Training, 09/11/2022, Leicestershire Police Lesson 1 – Statement taking course content
13	LEPF0000086	Guidance, re: PEACE & Statement Taking (D2), DS Alison King, Mr Chris Wright, DC Alka Mistry and others/ Team Leicestershire Academy
14	LEPF0000081	PEACE Statement Taking (D3), 01/01/1900, Leicestershire Police

15	LEPF0000088	IPLDP PIP 1 Investigation & Interview Course, 06/05/2020 Police and Crime Commissioners of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire
16	LEPF0000089	Team Leicestershire Academy Learning and Professional Development Lesson Plan, 01/11/2022, Leicestershire Police
17	LEPF0000093	Guidance, re: IPLDP PIP 1 Investigation & Interview Course, APPENDIX C Lesson Plan, Lisa Russell, Police and Crime Commissioners of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire
18	LEPF0000094	Guidance, re: PIP Level 1 Investigation & Interview, Leicestershire Police – Investigation Skills Training