

Witness Name: MATTHEW GELL

Statement No: **WITN0026001**

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

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### FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF PC MATTHEW GELL

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I, MATTHEW GELL, will say as follows: -

1. My name is Matthew Gell.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the “**Inquiry**”) with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (the “**Request**”).
3. In making this statement, I have refreshed my memory by reading the Incident Log for Incident 0756\_28012022 (**URN: NGPF0000102**).

#### My Background

4. After leaving school, I worked part time as a Sales Assistant at John Lewis from the age of 16. I joined Carphone Warehouse at the age of 18 as a Sales Consultant where my main responsibilities were selling mobile phone and pay monthly contracts along with insurance products. I began to take on additional responsibilities and began doing audits and taking on management responsibilities such as opening the store, audits and cashing up.

5. I joined Nottinghamshire Police in 2011 as a Special Constable. I underwent approximately 12 weeks of training and then spent 6 months with a Tutor Constable on the Neighbourhood Policing Team at Oxclose Lane Police Station, Nottingham.
6. After taking a short career break, due to increased demand, additional responsibilities and overtime in my full-time job as a Sales Consultant at Carphone Warehouse which meant I was unable to provide the required commitment to the Special Constabulary, I joined Nottinghamshire Police as a Regular officer in 2015. I underwent full training and joined the Response policing team at Radford Road Police Station.
7. I have spent time as a Temporary Sergeant.
8. I am Taser trained. I am now qualified as a Police and Public Safety Trainer and have a Training Essentials Programme Level 3 equivalent teaching qualification; this is a police qualification and is not recognised externally. I did not have this qualification at the time of my attendance at the incident in question. I am also now qualified as Level 2 Fitness Instructor, again I did not have this qualification at the time of the incident in question.
9. Prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022, I was involved in one other incident related to Valdo Calocane. This was on 24 May 2020. I was called to a report that a man had been banging on a student's door in a residential student complex and the student within the room jumped from a height, through fear of someone breaking in, causing some significant injuries. I believe Calocane was arrested. I was not involved in the arrest or the investigation of the matter. My involvement was very limited regarding this incident; I was at Queens Medical Centre

Nottingham for another incident (I cannot remember what this was) and I was aware that my colleague PC 2964 Houghton had been asked to attend the Queens Medical Centre to obtain an injury update for the female student that had jumped from height and was being treated for her injuries at Queens Medical Centre. I offered to obtain that update for him to save him making the trip to the hospital and obtained the injury update which I then emailed to him using internal police email. I have searched for but no longer have a copy of the email. I have attempted to contact PC Houghton to see if he still has a copy of the message but he is currently absent from duty because of sickness.

#### Events of the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

10. My recollection of this incident is that I was tasked by the Force Control Room to attend with Paramedics and Mental Health Professionals as a Taser resource in order to assist them in effecting Calocane's detention under a Section 135 Mental Health Act 1983 Warrant at his address in a student residence.
11. I was required to attend as a Taser resource as I was told by the dispatcher that Calocane had previously assaulted an officer and therefore had a warning marker for violence on the Police National Computer.
12. I attended the property, which by reference to the Incident Log was Flat 15, Madison Court, Derwent Way, Nottingham, with my colleague PC Russell-Taylor. The property was a multi occupancy student residence and Calocane's flat was up a flight, or two, of stairs.
13. We went up to the flat in company with a Mental Health Professional and two paramedics. I do not know the name of the Mental Health Professional or EMAS paramedics that attended. I did not document their details on the Incident Log.

14. I knocked on the door. I cannot remember if it was Calocane or one of his housemates that answered the door but I remember I spoke with Calocane at the front door and informed him that there was a warrant. I cannot recall if I explained the type of warrant. From memory, I explained that he was required to be assessed by the mental health professional. Calocane said very little but he agreed to go with us. I spoke with the paramedics and they confirmed they were happy for Calocane to be left with them as he had not posed any threat of violence.
15. My colleague and I then left. The Incident Log was updated at 21:40 hours with my collar number 3851 (**URN: NGPF0000102**). I can only assume this is the time that I left. I cannot remember what time I left the incident from memory and the Incident Log does not make it particularly clear. I can remember that I was not at the incident for a long period of time; I would say a maximum of 20 minutes.
16. I cannot remember if my colleague or I updated the Incident Log and the incident was closed down.
17. On reflection, this was a routine incident with no remarkable features. My recollection was that Calocane co-operated with police and with the medical staff and walked out to the waiting ambulance. I liaised directly with medical staff but there did not seem to be any justification or requirement to notify any other organisations or individuals.
18. I note that there is no finalisation message on the Incident Log for 0756\_28012022 (**URN: NGPF0000102**). Either my colleague or I would have

- updated the Force Control Room by radio but the incident appears to have been closed down without any message being entered.
19. I have been asked about my knowledge of any issues concerning Valdo Calocane's mental health. My response is that my knowledge was confined to fact that a warrant had been issued for him under section 135 MHA.
  20. I have been asked whether details of the attendance and/or decisions or actions taken were communicated to: (1) Health, social services or multi-agency organisations; (2) Valdo Calocane's family; (3) Nottingham University; (4) others who might be affected by Valdo Calocane's actions. My response is that I communicated directly with East Midlands Ambulance Service and the mental health professional on scene. I am not aware of the information being shared by the police with any other agencies or Calocane's family. There is no mention on the Incident Log 0756\_28012022 that information was shared with Calocane's family or any other agencies (**URN: NGPF0000102**).
  21. I have been asked if there were any barriers to the sharing of information with any of the above, or any other relevant individual, body or organisation. My response is that there were no barriers.
  22. I have been asked whether there were any outstanding criminal matters at the time of your involvement in this matter. My response is that I cannot recall any outstanding criminal matters at the time of my involvement and having reviewed Incident Log 0756\_28012022 (**URN: NGPF0000102**), I confirm that there were no outstanding criminal matters at the time of my involvement.
  23. I have been asked if I had any involvement in any assessment of Valdo Calocane, what procedures were in place as to assessment of medical and

mental health issues and drug testing, and provision of appropriate medical support. My answer is that I was not involved in the assessment of Calocane following the execution of this Section 135 MHA warrant. I attended the incident to assist EMAS Paramedics and the mental health professional. However, they were satisfied that police attendance was not required to conduct the full assessment and I left prior to any assessment taking place.

24. I have been asked to set out the relevant policies, procedures and criteria which I consider governed my role in relation to this incident and set out the ways in which I consider these were or were not met. My response is that I consider my role was governed by the powers given to me under the Mental Health Act (Section 135) and also my general powers to use force under Common Law or Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967. I also had in mind the Nottinghamshire Police Taser Standard Operating Procedures (**URN: NGPF0006106**). I did not need to use any force, as I was content with Calocane's presentation that he could be managed without force. Likewise, the paramedics and mental health professionals were content and so did not require the police to remain on scene.
25. I have been asked to set out any concerns that I have in respect of the police's actions in relation to this matter. My response is that I have no concerns about the police's actions.
26. I have been asked to set out any concerns that I have in respect of the recording of this matter. My response is that I have concerns about the recording on the Safe Incident Log. I have reviewed the Incident Log and it does not clearly show the officers that attended, the time of attendance and the time that I left the

- incident. There are also no closing remarks on the incident to state how it was resolved or what my attendance entailed.
27. I have been asked if, looking back, I consider there are additional actions that I or others could have taken in respect of the incident. My response is that, at the time, there was no policy or procedure in place, as far as I was aware, to mandate the recording of this incident on NICHE (Crime and Intelligence Recording System) but, on reflection, it could have been recorded to build a more complete intelligence picture around Calocane as well as to document the actions taken by officers, store a copy of the warrant and record any details of mental health professionals or paramedics on scene.
28. I have been asked if I consider there are any structural issues (regarding police policies, procedures, methodology, training etc.) which contributed to any issues I have identified. My response is, as above, it would be better to require the recording of such incidents, which would not require additional training but merely a change in policy / procedure to mandate the recording of these incidents on Niche, supported by messaging to create awareness.
29. I have been asked if there any recommendations that I consider could help prevent any of the issues that I have identified in respect of this matter. My response is that I would recommend implementing a change in policy / procedure to mandate attendance at section 135 MHA warrants being recorded on Niche, with a requirement to obtain a copy of the warrant and attach this to the occurrence logs along with recording the actions of attending officers and details of any mental health professionals or paramedics on scene. I would also recommend a clear information sharing agreement between the police and the

medical authorities in relation to mental health assessments of students / employees so that it is clear who is responsible for the sharing of such information and what information can be shared.

30. I have been asked by the Inquiry whether in respect of my disciplinary hearing, (1) the date may have been brought forward from March 2024; (2) that the hearing took place on the same date as VC's sentencing hearing; and (3) that there may have been issues in respect of public access to the hearing room and/or notification of the hearing to the affected families and to what, if any, extent I am aware of those issues and what I understand the reasons to be. My response is that I was only ever notified of one hearing date, which was the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024. I was not given a reason for the choice of date; I was simply told to attend on that date. Members of the media initially came in to the hearing room with me but the public were given access to a room away from the hearing room to watch on a live link. I understand some members of the public raised concerns with this and the media were required to join the members of the public. I had absolutely no involvement in any decision making in relation to notifying the affected families. I specifically requested that the hearing was held publicly as I was not trying to hide my actions and I take full responsibility for my actions.
31. I have read paragraphs 91 to 110 of the Statement of Superintendent Craner (**WITN0044001**) in relation to the issue of my accessing information about the attacks of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 without a policing purpose. I agree with the statement of facts set out in that statement.

32. I take full accountability for my actions and have always accepted full responsibility for them. I acknowledge and fully accept my actions fell below the standards expected from not only the police internally and externally the wider public but also myself. I requested that my misconduct hearing was held in public and have never tried to hide from my actions.
33. I accept that an apology now has less meaning, but it was always my intention to try to speak with the involved families or, at the very least, provide some form of personal apology however I was advised against this at the time of my hearing. I was offered the opportunity for the media team to write a statement on my behalf to be shared with the bereaved families, but my understanding was that this would be scripted and would not convey my truly personal apology.
34. I wholeheartedly apologise to the families of Barney, Grace and Ian for my actions and the subsequent distress this has caused for them. I take full responsibility for the distress caused to everyone involved. There are no excuses for my actions and I do not intend to try and justify my behaviour in any way other than to accept it fell well below the standards set for me by the organisation and expected of me by the public.

### **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: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Index to First Witness Statement of MATTHEW GELL**

No.	URN	Document Description
1	NGPF0000102	Report, dated 28/01/2022, compiled by Nottinghamshire Police. Re: Incident report
2	NGPF0006106	Policy Document. Re: Taser Standard Operating Procedure, NPF
3	WITN0044001	Statement of Superintendent Craner