

**THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY**

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**FIRST STATEMENT OF TRACEY HODGSON**

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I, Tracey Hodgson, WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I make this statement as a Core Participant in the Public Inquiry concerning the actions of Valdo Calocane (“VC”) on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and the impact which this has had upon me and my partner Wayne Birkett (hereafter referred to as “Wayne”). This statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the “Inquiry”) with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (the “Request”).
2. Wayne was seriously injured when VC deliberately drove a van into him. This statement is to help the Inquiry understand the nature and extent of Wayne’s injuries, and the ongoing consequences of that day.
3. I am Wayne’s partner.
4. Unless I indicate otherwise, the facts of the matters contained within this statement are within my own knowledge and are true. Where the facts are not within my own knowledge, they are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

5. The witness statement was prepared on my behalf by my solicitors at Rothera Bray, following discussions via the telephone and via email.

Impact on myself and my family

6. I have been asked to set out the impact the attack had on me. Further to the Victim Impact Statement I made with the police on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (**CPSE0000470**) I would like to reiterate and add the following points to address the impact of the attack on 13 June 2023.

Life before the attack

7. Wayne was a very hard worker and regularly worked long hours as a forklift truck driver with varied shifts. As a result of the serious and life changing injuries suffered by him in the attack, he can no longer do this and has been unable to return to work due to his ongoing injuries and the symptoms caused by them. This leaves him feeling frustrated, worthless and without purpose. I cannot imagine he will ever recover to a point where he will be able to secure and then hold down employment in the future.

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**GRO-B**

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**GRO-B**

**GRO-B**

We did everything together, going out together at the weekends in Arnold and Nottingham, and staying in on Friday nights listening to music, eating, drinking and chatting until the early hours of the morning.

10. Often, we would go out for drinks and have fun together. Wayne was a really sociable person and we loved mingling. This has all been ruined since the attack as Wayne gets overwhelmed by large crowds and loud noises and so prefers to avoid those situations. He will now choose to go to the pub during the quiet hours instead. He avoids crowds where possible and also struggles with bright lights and noise as a result of the brain injury suffered in the attack.
11. Wayne and I would speak most night on the phones, often for a long time prior to the attack. We were happy and enjoyed each other's company. However, after the attack, Wayne was no longer the Wayne that I knew and loved. I have had to learn to love the new Wayne who is very different now.
12. We both lived independently before Wayne's attack but spent a lot of time together. Wayne was very self-sufficient. He loved to cook. He was very house proud and would keep his house clean and tidy. Since the attack, we have chosen to live together as we both quickly recognised that Wayne would be unable to manage living on his own given the extent of his injuries and the impact which these have on him daily. He is reliant on me to do the bulk of the household chores, although he will now sometimes go to the smaller local shops for me to buy a few items. However, he will avoid the large supermarkets due to the noise and crowds, so I have taken to doing online food shops to try and save time with being back at work myself.
13. Before Wayne's attack, I used to really enjoy swimming. It was a big part of my routine. I would go most evenings, after work and often at weekends too. I would visit any of the local city council swimming baths, usually for about an hour at a time. I enjoyed staying fit and the social side of it. Now, I just do not have the time. As soon as I finish work, I go straight home to Wayne as I do not like leaving him on his own. Even going to work is a wrench, and I spend my time worrying if he is okay and will regularly contact him to check in on him during the day.

14. Wayne was a big Leeds United football fan before the attack and used to attend matches with his season ticket, as well as watching them on television. Wayne forgot he was a Leeds supporter after the attack and has only recently started to watch football on television. Wayne could not remember why he supported Leeds, though he has a tattoo of them, and he has only recently started to show passion again for the game.
15. We attended his first live match since the attack on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Wayne was very anxious about it, despite us being there together, so I made sure to support him throughout. Even I felt a little scared after the game, especially when people were coming in and out of the stadium. Once the crowds started leaving, I felt we needed to get going quickly. Wayne found the noise overwhelming and uncomfortable.
16. We stayed over in Leeds the night before and the night of the match, which really helped. It meant that Wayne could de-stress and relax after the journey to Leeds before gearing himself up for the match the next day. Wayne really needed that overnight break time to relax and recover from the anxiety of travelling, and to allow him to prepare for the match the next day. Similarly, he needed the overnight stay after the match, again to de-stress and relax. He was absolutely shattered after the match. Since his brain injury, he tires really quickly, and in situations where he is anxious or nervous, he tires even more quickly than usual.
17. We got there on the Friday night and went for dinner at the hotel restaurant. The atmosphere was nice and friendly. It felt like a proper break and a welcome change from our usual routine. However, it did take substantial planning on my part to make sure everything went smoothly, and I regularly reassured Wayne that he was okay. What would have once been just a simple day out had to become a whole weekend trip, just to make it manageable for him.
18. Wayne used to regularly travel independently on public transport and on foot around the local area. He now struggles with busy public transport, and I will

often have to drive him myself or take taxis. If he does have to go on the bus, he prefers it to be empty or quiet. Travel costs are so much more now.

### Relationship and Home Life

19. Wayne had to move in with me following the attack as he could not live independently due to his physical and mental state post-attack. Thankfully this has worked out, but it was a risk. It has also had an impact on my granddaughter, who lives in the house with us.
20. We try to go out at some point most days, mostly to the shops. We will sometimes go out to the pub for a meal or occasionally to another town for a day out.
21. If we do go to the pub, it is usually in the afternoon. We no longer go out at night, as we find it too crowded and noisy. Wayne struggles to communicate even in the best of circumstances, and it becomes even more difficult when people around us are drunk. I also worry that any troublemakers might target Wayne, not realising that some of his behaviours are due to his brain injury. I would not know how to cope in a situation like that, and it causes me a lot of anxiety.
22. These days, if we have to go into the city centre, we will only go to pubs and restaurants. These will usually be places near Parliament Street, traditional-style pubs, or Wetherspoon type venues. We do not actively avoid Milton Street, as Wayne has no memory of the attack and it does not currently cause him distress or flashbacks. However, I think this could change after we watch the footage of the attack.
23. We do occasionally meet up with my friends. We only ever see those I have already explained the situation to. They know about Wayne's injury and seem comfortable around him. Wayne also seems comfortable around them, which makes things a lot easier for both of us.

24. When we are socialising, Wayne can sometimes struggle to recognise people he knows. He also becomes easily overwhelmed, especially if lots of questions are directed at him. In those moments, he may suddenly say that we are leaving, which can feel a bit awkward or abrupt for others, but it is his way of coping when things become too much.
25. I am conscious that we have now built up a routine that benefits Wayne and that he is comfortable with. He seems to do better with structure and with weekly routines that repeat. I do not really like to leave Wayne at home on his own for fear that he will be lonely and bored or may suffer further injury. However, I have had to come to terms with those fears as I have now gone back to work, albeit I have changed my hours recently so that I have more time with Wayne and can accompany him to medical appointments and so on.
26. Wayne can sometimes be irrational and emotional due to his brain injury. Things I will joke about that Wayne would have found funny, he now takes seriously and becomes offended. He has, on occasions, walked out of the house and down the road. I quickly become concerned for his welfare when this happens, and I will go out and find him. He will often have forgotten why he left in the first place. Sometimes he will leave without his phone and get lost and I will need to search the area for him which is extremely difficult. There have been times when I have nearly had to report him as a missing person to the police. This is incredibly worrying.
27. Due to Wayne's reliance on me since the attack, he has become a lot more demanding and insecure. When my friends have been to visit, he will become frustrated if I talk to them and do not pay him enough attention. If I leave the house, he will call and text me after an hour or so. He can be difficult to manage at times, and it is embarrassing when he makes rude comments to people. This was not his character or behaviour at all before the attack. He was very relaxed.
28. Wayne still has to be prompted to recall what he has done in days previous and relies very heavily on our routine. I will make notes of appointments, medication, and upcoming events so that Wayne can remember.

29. I try to give Wayne a happy life, and have as much fun as possible, but every day is different. It takes time and money to do exciting things, but I would just like to start spending time with Wayne, as a partner again.

#### Work and finance

30. Both mine and Wayne's works have been really supportive since the attack. I did not go back to work for a long time after the attack. I was never rushed to go back, and I have been allowed to reduce my hours so I can still care for Wayne. They are very understanding if I ever need to be flexible with my hours or take a phone call from Wayne whilst working. Wayne's work were also really good with him after the attack. They have said that he would always be welcomed back, though I do not think he will ever be able to work again given the severity of his injuries and how they continue to affect him.
31. Whilst I love my job, and how supportive they have been in reducing my hours, I have to admit that on my days off, it feels like a weight has been lifted and I look forward to when I can retire. On my days off from work, I do not have to worry as much about juggling everything at once or feel like I am constantly rushing home to look after Wayne. The reality is that, outside of work, I have a full load of housework, cooking, and caring responsibilities that never ease.
32. Managing finances has become a significant source of stress for me. Since Wayne's attack, we have opened a joint bank account, and I am responsible for all our finances. It is a big administrative burden on top of everything else I have to juggle. Wayne used to take care of all his bills, now, they all fall to me, and I have received no support or guidance on how to navigate this new responsibility.
33. Gradually, I am helping Wayne to understand his finances again and we have made a sheet with all of our direct debits on so that Wayne can cross them off when they are paid out of our account. Wayne has always been good with money, but I have noticed that, since the attack, he sometimes has the

tendency to suggest things impulsively, things he would not have before like offering to take our friends on holiday and cover the cost. It is like I have to act as the voice of reason now.

34. Things are much more restrictive financially, and I do not feel that same sense of freedom I used to have. **GRO-B**

**GRO-B** But now, I have had to cut that right back. My wages have gone down since reducing my hours, and we only get about 65% of Wayne's original wages through insurance. I now have to be much more careful and live strictly within our means.

35. I am always conscious of the fact that we do not know what is around the corner, so I try to save wherever we can. Even with small things like the food shop, I have changed how I do it completely. I used to just pick up whatever I fancied without thinking too much about the cost. Now, I check what we already have in the cupboards and write a list of only what we need to avoid overspending or buying duplicates.

36. Recently, we had a large water bill and then car bill, things like that just add up and can quickly become overwhelming. It feels like a lot to handle on my own, and it is a stark contrast to how things were when Wayne was able to take care of this side of life or when we could rely on each other to share the load.

37. I have received no support or advice on how to manage both mine and Wayne's finances since the attack.

#### Present

38. Currently, Wayne is able to make himself a bowl of cereal, some toast or a sandwich, **GRO-B** but I will usually prepare more complex meals.

39. I have organised all of Wayne's clothes so that he can easily see what he has to wear, I also sometimes offer him help with getting dressed if his shoulder is hurting that day.

40. Usually, Wayne can only undertake very basic household tasks, such as washing the pots or hanging the washing to dry and ironing. I will carry out all other aspects of running the household. Prior to the attack, Wayne would do all his own housework, so this can be tiring for me, especially because I have to work as well.
41. Since the attack, Wayne has not had a full night's sleep. Often getting up four or five times with leg pain. Walking around the house to try and ease this. This also disturbs my sleep. He will wake up at 4am or 5am most mornings, yet he has not gone to sleep until 11pm or 12am. Wayne also tires very easily due to his brain injury, so with his disturbed sleep, it is a "double whammy" for him and leaves him demotivated, frustrated and exhausted.
42. **GRO-B** so when Wayne wakes up and walks around, I wake up too. I can tell when Wayne is about to get up as he starts kicking his legs a lot. Whilst I do go back to sleep, I struggle to go back to sleep properly, knowing he is up, and worrying that he might hurt himself. His balance is not as good as it was before. The lack of sleep for us both makes the days so tiring, and we are both irritable and exhausted.
43. Whenever Wayne has any appointments, especially if they are not local, I will attend with him and assist with any travel. Appointments can be incredibly challenging. Before an appointment he will repeatedly say he is not going, and it is a struggle to persuade him otherwise. Whilst we are there, he will act silly when questioned and will not answer the questions properly. I often have to intervene. After an appointment, Wayne will go on and on about it. It is very draining for us both.
44. We are hoping to purchase a bungalow together in order to better cater for Wayne's current and potential future needs and worry about what the future holds.

45. Positively, thanks in no small part to the encouragement of his solicitor, Wayne has now joined Headway, a brain injury organisation. This has been really good for him. He is around people who have also suffered brain injuries, and it helps him feel more normal. This gives me hope that he will start to feel better in his new self, and we can continue to have a positive relationship.
46. We do get joy from spending time together. Wayne has started to become more jokey, taking the mick out of me and making funny comments. We have also recently been on holiday to Spain, and even though it had its hard moments, we had a break. Our holiday felt happier and mostly carefree for the first time in a long time. One difficult moment, though, was Wayne's sudden fear of the water, something completely new since the attack, which meant he could not bring himself to go into the sea or enjoy a boat trip, despite my gentle encouragement and efforts to reassure him.
47. Our lives have changed forever. In one single day, our lives and future were destroyed. Wayne was a happy man, always laughing and taking care of me. Now I care for Wayne. He has become very serious and sad. Some days he will still make jokes and enjoy life, but every day is difficult to manage, and I never quite know which Wayne I am going to get.
48. GRO-B  
GRO-B I cannot bear to think of what might have happened if we did not work out. It is a lot of responsibility for me to carry into the future.
49. I feel very lucky that Wayne did not die that morning. Other poor souls were far less fortunate. My heart goes out to the bereaved families. But part of Wayne did die that morning. He is no longer the man I met and fell in love with. I fear he will never return to the Wayne he used to be. I am deeply saddened that Wayne continues to struggle through life, and I so want to make him happy.
50. This attack has caused so much sadness and tragedy for so many people. I feel angry and so let down that the actions of that man affected so many lives.

The aftermath of the attack

51. In respect of the aftermath of the attack, I can confirm that I was not there at the time, and I did not see it happen.
52. At the time of the attack, **GRO-B**  
**GRO-B** We had a close and loving relationship. We did everything together.
53. Every morning, on his way to work, Wayne would send me a message to make sure I was up. I can remember waking up at about 6am on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and I had not received a text message from Wayne, and I found this strange. I texted Wayne jokingly asking where my morning message was and after waiting, I did not receive a reply (**WITN0274002**). I was panicking on the inside as Wayne had never forgotten to text me in the morning but I reassured myself that Wayne would have started work by this point, and that I would hear from him later that day.
54. After getting to work at Nottingham University, a colleague told me that there had been an attack in Radford. I then remember hearing on the news about another incident in the City Centre, I still had not heard from Wayne so I was panicking. I tried to call and text Wayne several times but could not get through.
55. When I did not receive a reply from him, I started to get very worried. I just did not know what to do. I rang A&E at the Queen's Medical Centre ("QMC"), asking if Wayne had been admitted. I told myself I was being stupid, and that the woman on the phone must think I was mad.
56. After hearing how worried I was, the nurse put me on hold to try and find out some information. After she came back to the phone, I was told he was a patient at QMC. My heart dropped and I felt sick. My entire world just fell apart. I was in a state of panic and shock. I immediately left work and got in my car and rushed to the hospital.

57. Everything at that point is a blur. I cannot remember the journey, but I remember getting to the hospital and not being able to find a parking space. I was stressed, scared and in tears. The security staff let me park in a disabled bay because they could see how distressed I was.
58. When I arrived at Intensive Care, I remember seeing lots of police officers. They took me to a family room, and I was expecting them to tell me that Wayne was dead, news that no one should have to hear about their loved one.
59. I was so stressed. I wanted to break down. It was awful knowing he was lying in a hospital bed with police everywhere and not even knowing if he was dying.
60. At the time, I did not have any phone numbers for his son, his ex-wife, Joanne **GRO-B** so I could not even get someone else to find out the information. I messaged his son Jordan on Facebook and asked him to contact me as soon as possible. Jordan thought I was playing a prank because he did not know Wayne and I were together, so he did not respond to me. I then had to message Joanne, asking her to contact me. She did not reply either. Some people's phone numbers I had hold of had changed and so I could not even get through.
61. After a while, the nurses came into the family room. I was told that Wayne had been sedated at the scene and had already had extensive medical treatment at the roadside. He had a brain injury, and at that moment he was still touch and go. I felt physically sick.
62. A registrar in Intensive Care then told me that Wayne had bruising and bleeding over the right side of his head and had a reduced level of consciousness.
63. I was told later on that Wayne had been placed under general anaesthetic and taken for CT scans.

64. I felt scared, sick and panicked. The whole day is a blur, but I do remember the staff telling me that Wayne was on ventilation and the next few days were crucial if he was going to get better.
65. Wayne was on a ventilator when I first saw him. He had bruised eyes, his entire head was swollen, and he was cut all over. The staff could not reassure me that he was not going to die. I felt sick seeing Wayne lying in that hospital bed and I felt so helpless.
66. This was the worst time of my life. I could not believe what had happened and was terrified of what might still happen. I did not know if Wayne would pull through, and if he did, what state he would be in.
67. To this day, I do not discuss the 13<sup>th</sup> June. When my friends bring it up, I politely ask to change the subject. I do not want to think about that day. It still haunts me two years later.

#### Days following the attack

68. In the days following the attack, Wayne remained under general anaesthetic and on a ventilator in Intensive Care for 3 days. I stayed in the hospital almost 24/7 and would only come home to bath and change.
69. After 3 days at around 10am, they attempted to take Wayne off the ventilator. I was with him when they did, and it did not go well as he could not breathe for himself once they took the ventilator off. This was very scary. They tried again at around 3pm in the afternoon. The doctors came back and tried to take him off the ventilator again. This time it worked, and he had an oxygen mask.
70. Wayne kept trying to pull out the tubes, and the staff found him really difficult. I had to physically hold the oxygen mask onto his face. When Wayne started to come back round, I could see he was confused, and he pushed people away. He did not know what was happening to him, where he was, or who I was, which made him frustrated.

71. Wayne woke up at the QMC with no memory. He had no recollection of who I was or who his son or family was. This was devastating for us all. He was completely out of it, confused, and would often just sit and stare at me, not saying a word. Eventually he started to remember my name. The whole thing was emotionally exhausting.
72. Wayne was in the ICU for 10 days. It was truly awful. Once he started to breathe by himself, he was transferred to the High Dependency Unit for further care.
73. It was immediately clear that Wayne was not the same person as he was before the attack. He was like a blank canvas - no personality, stubborn and just difficult to care for. This was not like Wayne at all. Wayne would not let the nurses anywhere near him.
74. For days he still did not know who I was. He would talk absolute rubbish most of the time. Wayne became very childish, throwing food around, putting things in my bag, and rubbing toothpaste all over his legs. This was so strange for Wayne, and I was very worried about the long-term impact.
75. Wayne was quite hostile with the nurses. He would not listen to anyone other than me, so I became his carer in the hospital. He was unable to shower, go to the toilet or feed himself so I had to help with these tasks. I often had to remind him to go to the toilet and prompt him to look after himself.
76. Wayne and I had not long rekindled our relationship, so I had to go from weekends out at the pub, speaking on the phone for two hours a night, and chatting until the early hours of the morning, to being Wayne's carer. It was so difficult. I had to choose to stick with Wayne throughout this awful time.
77. One thing that Wayne did not forget was that he was a smoker. Wayne would insist on going out for a cigarette, but after I had taken him, he would ask to go back out again as he had forgotten that we had already been. When I reminded him that we had been out, he would become frustrated and would shout at me.

Sadly, Wayne's entire personality had changed. This reminded me of looking after someone with dementia, which I had to go through with my own father.

78. One many occasions Wayne would try to leave the ICU as he thought he needed to go to work. He could not get his head around why he was there. Wayne had to be sedated many times so that he would come back.
79. I was so worried for Wayne. I spent all my time in the hospital. I panicked and was just desperate for Wayne to get better. The doctors told me they did not know what the impact of Wayne's brain injury would be, which scared me as Wayne was not the man I knew and loved.
80. On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, Wayne was moved to Linden Lodge at City Hospital, to begin neurological rehabilitation. It was clear that Wayne was suffering from a number of symptoms due to his brain injury, and we desperately hoped that specialist treatment would help him.
81. Wayne tells me now that he cannot remember anything from the QMC, his first memory was waking up in Linden Lodge, not having a clue what had happened to him.
82. Wayne had forgotten even basic functions like making a cup of tea, or getting himself dressed. This was completely out of character, as before the attack Wayne would do everything for himself.
83. When Wayne first left the hospital, he was completely dependent on me, and I had to provide 24-hour care. I had taken time out of my full-time job to care for Wayne. I have only recently returned to work. Prior to the attack, I was quite carefree at work and really enjoyed it. Now I will be clock watching the entire time, counting down until my break so I can call Wayne to make certain that he is okay and to keep him company. It reminds me of caring for my dad, who had dementia. I am constantly worrying.

84. Whilst Wayne was able to re-learn the basic functions, he still needed prompting, reminding and supervising with these tasks. He also needed assistance with washing and dressing as he could not lift his arms above his head without it becoming painful. His mobility was also very poor due to a combination of his fractured pelvis, pain and also dizziness. He needed help for about 2 months after his discharge, and I also had to help him with mobility and climbing the stairs.
85. Wayne has suffered with a number of brain injury symptoms since the attack and continues to experience these. He continues to have difficulties with reading and the duration of his concentration. He will very often read one line and then pass it over to me to read for him. His concentration and memory are now very poor, and he often repeats himself, asking the same questions constantly, and needs things repeating to him. Wayne can sometimes panic when there is too much information. He still struggles to read and remember important information and needs support with most aspects of daily life.
86. When in conversation, Wayne is fairly reliant on me to answer questions for him. He will often not answer unless he is asked directly. Wayne struggles to find the right words in conversation. He finds this embarrassing, so he tries not to engage so he does not feel humiliated.

#### Press and the Media

87. I did not watch any coverage of the attacks on television while Wayne was in hospital. I was completely focused on him and supporting his recovery. I also did not see anything about the attacks on social media, as I was not using it at the time for the same reason. Wayne was my sole priority.
88. We have not had much contact from the press, apart from two women from the BBC who contacted me relatively recently.
89. I understand that Wayne's family were approached by the media following the attacks, particularly with journalists waiting outside his brother's house. I also

understand that Wayne’s home in Newark was surrounded by members of the press. Thankfully, this did not affect us, as they did not know about me or where I lived, so there was never any media presence outside my home. I cannot imagine having to deal with that on top of everything else. Wayne’s brain injury alone was overwhelming, and any added stress would have made his return home even more difficult

90. I have been asked to address the interactions I had with the police following the attack, the table below sets out the interactions I can recall with the police between 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the sentencing hearing on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 and will be referred to throughout this statement as “the Timeline”, where relevant.

Police Contact List

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Collar Number</b>	<b>Role</b>
Rajbinder Johal	Detective Constable	1361	Family Liaison Officer (FLO)
Ben Grayson	Detective Constable	3568	Support to FLO
Edd Norris	Police Constable	530	Tactical Support Officer (TST)
Leigh Sanders	Detective Superintendent		Senior Investigating Officer (SIO)
Adam Cooper	Detective Sergeant	568	Criminal Investigation Department Officer (CID)
Luke Waller	Detective Inspector		Worked closely with Chief Constable
Kate Meynell	Chief Constable		Chief Constable
Steven Cooper	Deputy Chief Constable		Deputy Chief Constable
Robert Griffin	Assistant Chief Constable		Led the overall police response

Timeline of interactions with the police 13/06/2023 to 23/01/2024

<b>Date</b>	<b>Form of contact</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Description</b>
Various dates	Email	DS Cooper	
28/11/2023	Telephone	DS Cooper	I was telephoned by DS Cooper from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and informed that VC was pleading guilty to manslaughter under diminished responsibility and guilty for attempted murder. I did not receive any follow up written correspondence.
14/01/2024	Attendance at St Anns Police Station	DC Johal	I attended the police station to provide a victim impact statement to the police for the sentencing hearing ( <b>CPSE0000470</b> ). Wayne also provided a victim impact statement ( <b>CPSE0000469</b> ).
18/01/2024	In person At home address	DC Johal	DC Johal discussed the criminal proceedings. When DC Johal arrived, we were told that they had the media pack containing CCTV of the attack, which was going to be shown at the hearing. The officer then played the tape for us. Our solicitor was also present during this meeting.

91. In respect of who I was in contact with from the Police, I can confirm that I would receive emails from DC Johal every so often to check in. She was a family liaison officer ("FLO"). I cannot remember the dates of her emails, but I remember them being a handful of times. I also recall DC Grayson accompanying DC Johal on a few occasions.
92. The police sent a lot of emails to Wayne's solicitors as he could not reply to them himself, and I got overwhelmed. I received various emails from Adam Cooper, either direct or through Wayne's solicitors. He was part of the investigation team and was meant to provide updates on the case. We were not given many. We were often told that they could not disclose information whilst the criminal trial was still happening.
93. Luke Waller was an officer who I think worked with the Chief Constable. He would send the letters written by her, addressing things such as meetings and wanting to hear our concerns.
94. In respect of any meetings or conversations I had with the police and the FLO, I can confirm that I cannot recall the exact date, but in one of our first meetings with DC Johal, I was still extremely confused about how this awful event had been allowed to happen. During that meeting, I directly asked DC Johal whether VC was known to the police prior to June 2023, and I was told he was not. I now understand that this was not correct, as it has since become apparent that the police had an existing history with VC.
95. During this meeting I also asked about whether they had taken a toxicology report, which they had not, and I asked about the warrant that had been out for his arrest prior to June 2023. We were not given information about either of these questions. It is incredibly frustrating and upsetting that even when they had been caught out, there was seemingly no accountability, and we stayed left in the dark. We now feel we were being misled. We would like to know who was responsible for this.

96.

# GRO-B

97. As set out and exhibited in the Timeline, on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Wayne and I gave victim impact statements to the police. They wanted to read these out at the upcoming sentencing hearing. It is noteworthy that this was done so close to the sentencing hearing which commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It seemed a rushed process. I described the panic when I discovered Wayne had been involved in an attack, and the complete wreck it has caused to our lives ever since.
98. The Timeline details a meeting with DC Johal on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 where Wayne and I were played CCTV of the attack. We were told we would be shown a media pack, but it was never explained to us that we would be played CCTV of the attack. I did see some of the CCTV, but I left the room before the CCTV got to the part where VC was driving the van. We had never seen the attack fully and did not want to, it was so uncomfortable for us both that we had to look away, and I left the room. I believe the police could have handled this interaction with more care for the fact that this was horrific, traumatising footage of an event Wayne cannot even remember. I believe it set him back. It should have been done in a much more controlled environment, if at all.
99. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, me, Wayne and Wayne's solicitors had a meeting with the Police Commissioner, Caroline Henry. I was able to talk about who Wayne was before the attack, and how this has affected us since. They told us that the police had referred themselves to the Independent Office for Police Conduct ("IOPC") for a review.
100. It seemed that the Commissioner had not been told a lot of the information which we had learnt from press reports and social media. I told the

- Commissioner that VC had been known to the police prior to the attack as we had learnt that he had assaulted an ex-police officer. We had also learnt that he went to a BBQ with a known gang member on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The Commissioner was not aware of either of these things and took a note. We could not believe that the police had not told them this. It was truly shocking.
101. On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024, I attended a meeting with Wayne, our solicitors, and Chief Constable Kate Meynell. During that meeting, I raised my concern that I had previously been told by DC Johal that the police had no prior history with VC, which we had since learned was not true. I felt that this was largely dismissed, and we were simply told that the issue was under investigation. The Chief Constable appeared to place more emphasis on the internal data breach investigation rather than our concerns about how VC had been managed and the broader handling of the case. We were told that the data breach was being investigated, and we would be updated once the investigations progressed. They promised they would get back to us, but they never did.
102. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024 we went to a meeting with the College of Policing to discuss our concerns. Wayne was really concerned about the officers that had been accessing the case and was worried about what information they may have found.
103. In respect of any letter or emails I received from the police, I can confirm that as this was Wayne's case, a lot of letters were addressed to him, but I read them with his permission. Wayne could not concentrate enough to read a full letter. He still cannot do so.
104. On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024, we were sent a letter from the Chief Constable wanting to organise a meeting to discuss our concerns about the police, and how this could be stopped from happening again (**WITN0273002**). This letter said that Nottinghamshire Police had referred themselves to the IOPC for a conduct investigation. We were both pleased that they wanted to talk to us, I had felt that Wayne had been pushed aside throughout this whole thing. Wayne and I

- wanted to voice our concerns and hoped that the police could then make improvements to stop this happening in the future.
105. On 20th February 2024, DC Johal sent a letter to Wayne's email address which was addressed to both of us. It included a letter from VC's brother, Elias Calocane. In it, he expressed his deepest condolences to all those affected by the attacks. He also outlined his family's concerns about the systematic failings by the NHS and police in how VC was dealt with prior to the attack. The letter encouraged us to focus on learning from what had happened to help prevent similar tragedies in the future. While I appreciated the sentiment of his condolences, I felt conflicted reading it. It was difficult to process and, in many ways, only added to our frustration about the failings and the lack of information we had been given. I did not feel it was necessary for us to read what the family believed the failings were, especially without any prior warning about the content of the letter. The lack of preparation or context from DC Johal made the experience feel poorly handled.
106. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, we were sent another letter from the Chief Constable (**NGPF0007232**). She apologised for not keeping Wayne updated about the investigations into the police conduct and not providing information about the hearings. Wayne had always wanted to be involved in the investigation, and the hearings, so to be left with little to no information was very frustrating and deeply upsetting. It was his life that had been ruined and others so needlessly lost. I should not have had to be pleading for this information. The police at times seemed to forget we existed.
107. On the same date, I replied to the above letter by email to officer Luke Waller (**NGPF0007240**). I was so angry as the letter was referring to details that we already knew. I could not believe that the police were so far behind. I explained that we found out about police officers accessing the case on social media, before the police even sent their letter to tell us. The Chief Constable also said in her letter that she was disappointed that we had not responded to her request to meet, which was entirely untrue. Wayne's solicitors had been trying to

- organise a meeting with her. There seemed to be a huge lack of communication within the police, and I was frustrated and distressed that the force seemed to push us to the side. We should not have heard any information on social media before being told by the police themselves.
108. On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Nottinghamshire Police sent us an open letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner, expressing their support for a public inquiry into the events leading up to and following the attack by VC (**WITN0273003**). It was encouraging to see them publicly recognise the need for further accountability.
109. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024, we were sent an update about the misconduct of a front counter staff member in the police. We were told that she was fired from her job following a misconduct hearing and was not allowed to work for the police again (**NGPF0004304**).
110. On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024, we were sent another letter from the Deputy Chief Constable of the College of Policing (**WITN0273004**). This was following a meeting that we had in person on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024. We were told that the comments and concerns that we had raised were being considered, and the College were going to address these in their review.
111. In respect of any contact I had with the Senior Investigating Office, I can confirm that, I had no contact with the Senior Investigating Officer. I only remember contact with DC Johal, the FLO.
112. In respect of the information I was provided by the police about the attacks, and their interactions with VC, I can confirm that Wayne was visited by DC Johal on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to be told about the CCTV footage, but other than that we did not get any information about the events of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023, about previous interactions with VC in the past or the criminal proceedings.

113. I am deeply concerned that on an initial visit with DC Johal, she told us that there were no previous interactions with VC. I now know that this was not accurate. Being given incorrect information at such an early stage has made it very difficult to trust what we have been told since. It has left us feeling misled and unsure about whether we are being given the full picture.
114. I was never directly informed about the details of the attacks, nor given any background information regarding what had happened. To be honest, I initially thought that Wayne had been accidentally hit by a car, perhaps as the driver was trying to escape the police. It was not until a couple of days later, when I was sitting at the hospital, that a member of the hospital staff sat me down and explained the true nature of the event. They told me that Wayne had been the victim of a targeted attack. Up until that point, I had no idea. Since I had not been watching the news or reading anything on social media, as I was always at the hospital with Wayne, I had not fully understood that his injuries were the result of an attack, the same attack that had tragically taken the lives of three people and seriously injured two others.
115. I was horrified when I realised the truth. It made me sick to my stomach, and my heart went out to the families of the victims who had been murdered. I simply could not process it at first.
116. In respect of whether I believe the information provided to be by the police was accurate and adequate, I can confirm that as explained earlier, most of the communication with the police was directed to me because of Wayne's injury, and I had several interactions, mainly with DC Johal. While some of the limited information we received, such as basic procedural updates, may have been accurate, I do not believe the information provided the full picture. For example, I was told in an early meeting that VC was not previously known to the police, which I now know was not correct. At no point was I clearly informed about the nature of the attacks or the background to what had happened to Wayne. I initially believed he had been hit accidentally by a car fleeing police, and it was only a few days later, through a conversation with a member of hospital staff, that I learned Wayne had been the victim of a targeted attack linked to a wider,

fatal incident. Not being told the truth clearly from the start, or being left to piece it together myself, has made it extremely difficult to trust what we have been told since. It also made it harder for me to support Wayne and to begin to come to terms with what had happened.

117. I have been asked to set out whether I had, or raised, any concerns about the police, I can confirm that I have not submitted a formal complaint to the police, but I have been open with my solicitor about my serious concerns. In particular, I am deeply troubled by the lack of transparency around VC's history with the police. As explained, I was initially told there had been no previous contact with him, but I now know that was not the case. This raises serious questions about what was known, when it was known, and how that information was handled. It has left me feeling that crucial details were withheld from us. I cannot understand how someone with that background was not being properly monitored, and how he was able to go on to commit such horrific acts. It is extremely difficult to process that this may have been preventable, and I believe these are matters that deserve proper scrutiny and answers.
118. These concerns were raised during a meeting with Police Commissioner Caroline Henry on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, which Wayne, my solicitor, and I attended, as well as in a subsequent meeting with Chief Constable Kate Meynell on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
119. During the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, I explicitly expressed our dissatisfaction with how VC's history with the police had been handled and disclosed. We were repeatedly told that the matter was under investigation, but at no point did we receive a clear or satisfactory explanation. There was never any follow-up, and no additional information was provided to us afterwards. It always felt like the response was simply, "we'll tell you when we know," but we were never actually told anything.
120. The same concerns were raised again in the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the Chief Commissioner appeared dismissive, reiterating that the issues were under investigation without providing further detail. The focus seemed to shift

towards the internal police investigation into misconduct related to the data breach, rather than addressing our concerns about VC's history or the overall investigation. We were also informed that any complaints related to the Crown Prosecution Service ("CPS") fell outside the Commissioner's jurisdiction and could not be addressed. Again, nothing concrete ever came from that meeting. It felt as though we were simply being brushed off, we were offered cups of tea and polite conversation but ultimately given no real answers or outcomes. It left us feeling that the meetings were more about appearances than actually addressing our concerns.

121. In respect of how the police could have done better in their interactions with me, I can confirm that I had mixed experiences with DC Johal. At times, I found her helpful and supportive, she could be fantastic, but too often, she let us down. Communication was inconsistent, and she would frequently pass on important information at the very last minute. On one occasion (I cannot remember the exact date), something significant was about to be reported in the news, and we only found out about it through the press, not from her. When she called, she said she had been meaning to tell us but had not got around to it yet. That only added to our frustration and left us feeling blindsided and unprepared.
122. DC Johal did support Wayne well at court, and we were grateful for that at the time. However, after the sentencing hearing, it felt like we were suddenly dropped with no proper follow up or ongoing support. We knew the regular contact would not continue as it had before, but we had hoped that every now and then we might receive a text or message just to check in. We got nothing so it felt like we were just left to get on with things on our own.
123. The experience of attending court was also extremely difficult for Wayne. He was never warned that he would hear graphic details about the attack on the students during the sentencing. He was also seated very close to VC's barrister and the victims' families, which was incredibly distressing for him. A proper heads up and more thoughtful arrangements would have made a huge difference to how prepared and emotionally safe he felt.

124. I also found the process of completing our Victim Impact Statements was poorly handled. It was arranged at the last minute, and both Wayne and I found it stressful. We were asked to go to the police station to do it, which was difficult given everything Wayne was already coping with. More notice, support, and sensitivity in the way this was managed would have made a real difference.
125. In respect of any reflections I have had on my experience with the police, I believe my experience with the police was a mix of moments of support overshadowed by inconsistent communication and a lack of transparency, which made an already difficult situation even harder to navigate.
126. I have been asked to set out my interactions with the CPS between 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the sentencing hearing on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024. In respect of any meetings or conversations I had with the CPS, I attended the sentencing hearing on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 for three days to support Wayne, but the hearing was stressful and chaotic.
127. The whole court room was packed full. We were sat so close to VC's barrister, having to listen to him explain what VC had done to Wayne and all the other victims that day. Hearing the way his barrister described the attack, and then defended it was emotional, upsetting and intimidating.
128. If you wanted to leave the court room, you would have to walk past VC. I did not want to go near him or look at him, and I was forced to. This was very distressing, and I cannot believe the CPS did not take this into consideration for everyone at the sentencing hearing.
129. After arriving at the hearing, we were told that the event was going to be live streamed by Sky News. There was no time to process this information. I felt that this was something we should have been warned about. It all felt as though we were a second thought.

130. We were not provided with a breakout room at the court building. Knowing how overwhelmed Wayne gets, this should have been provided. Wayne loses concentration, gets headaches and will get stressed by a huge amount of information. I was disappointed that Wayne had not been classed as vulnerable and given a place to go.

131. After the sentence had been given, I wanted to ask questions on Wayne's behalf. We were told that we would have to wait an hour to ask any questions. After such a stressful day, we did not want to stay any longer than we had to, but it did not seem as though they had time for us. Once, the prosecutor found time to speak with us, the sentencing was quickly explained, and then the prosecutor left the room.

132.

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133. Wayne and I were told that the Defendant had entered into a plea agreement. We unfortunately were not provided with much more detail than that. Little detail or explanation was given.

134. We were never provided with a written copy of the sentencing remarks by the CPS.

135. The only other update we received from the CPS was about the appeal against the sentence and the date it would take place. Our solicitor attended the appeal hearing and provided us with updates, as we were never directly informed by the CPS and had to rely entirely on our solicitor for information.

136. The CPS lacked clear communication throughout the entire process. We felt as though the sentencing hearing was a process we were excluded from, and it was not treated with the care Wayne needed.

137. In respect of any letters or emails I received from the CPS, I can confirm that Wayne was sent a letter following the hearing with details of the Victim Contact Scheme (**WITN0273005**). Wayne signed up for annual updates regarding VC. The CPS have provided the first annual update this year, confirming the Defendant remains in a secure hospital (**WITN0273006**).
138. Other than one call with a CID officer, detailed above in the Timeline, I cannot recall speaking to anybody else other than DC Johal.
139. In respect of whether the criminal prosecution process was explained to me in a clear and accessible way, and what to expect in the future, I can confirm that after the sentencing, we waited for someone to come in to talk us through what had happened. The prosecutor entered and explained what the sentencing meant and made a comment that he was going to spend his life in hospital, but the rest of our questions remained unanswered. This was not what the sentencing judge had in fact said, when he had referred to VC "very probably" being detained in a high security hospital for the rest of his life. The barrister seemed busy and wanted to leave. We were not told what would happen next. It had felt like such a big build up and to leave still feeling confused was very disappointing.
140. The CPS explained nothing to us during the process, and we only really got updates via DC Johal. If Wayne and his solicitor had not asked to have the meeting at the end of the hearing, it is unlikely it would have happened.
141. I have been asked to set out whether the CPS explained that basis of the charging and plea decisions, and whether this was given in a clear and understandable way. I can confirm that before the plea hearing in November 2023, I received a phone call from the CID officer, Adam Cooper. He told me that VC was pleading guilty to manslaughter under diminished responsibility, and guilty for the attempted murder of Wayne and the other survivors. It was explained that VC had paranoid schizophrenia and was having a psychotic episode. I explained this to Wayne. He had a huge difficulty understanding that

- this man had attempted to murder him. Wayne found the plea difficult to understand, as did I, but we were not given any further explanation.
142. In respect of whether I think the information from the CPS was adequate and accurate, I can confirm that I do not feel that the charging, plea deal, or prosecution process was clearly explained to me or Wayne. We were left with many unanswered questions throughout the process that I believe should have been addressed. Important details about the decisions made, such as why certain charges were pursued or dropped, the reasoning behind the plea agreement, and what to expect during prosecution, were not communicated in a way that we could fully understand. This lack of clear explanation left us feeling confused and uncertain about the progress of the case and the legal steps being taken. Greater transparency and clearer communication from the CPS would have helped us feel more supported and better able to navigate an already difficult situation.
143. I have been asked to set out whether I had any concerns or complaints that I raised with the CPS about their conduct, I can confirm that I have not raised any formal concerns or complains with the CPS about how they treated me and Wayne through the proceedings.
144. In respect of what response I had from the CPS to my concerns or complaints, I can confirm that as I did not make any formal complaints to the CPS, so there was no response to assess. However, Wayne and I did raise concerns about the CPS, particularly regarding sentencing and potential data breaches, during meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
145. At both meetings we were told that the CPS operates independently from the police and that any related investigations are managed separately. We were also informed that there was an ongoing review or possible appeal concerning VC's sentencing.

146. As I have not approached the CPS directly with these concerns, I have not received any specific feedback or clear responses from them. As such, I cannot judge whether the CPS's response has been sufficient.
147. In respect of whether the CPS could have done better in their interactions, I can confirm that from my experience, the CPS's contact with me and Wayne was very limited. Apart from brief updates around key events such as the sentencing hearing, we received little information directly from them. Most of what we knew came through our solicitor or DC Johal. Given the gravity of the case, I believe the CPS could have done much more to provide regular and clear updates to help us understand the progress of the case.
148. We met the main prosecuting barrister only once, after the sentencing, and that meeting lasted no more than ten minutes. It took place in the holding room. They quickly ran through the different sentencing options and tried to explain what had been decided, but the explanation felt rushed and there was no follow up. We were left with a lot of unanswered questions. I was extremely disappointed with the outcome of the sentence. The hybrid order, where VC would have gone to both hospital and prison, felt like a more appropriate outcome to me. We were never told by the prosecuting barrister how a hybrid order would work, or why the defence barrister was able to secure a hospital order instead. There was no detailed explanation at any stage, either before or after sentencing.
149. To this day, I still feel we have not had a clear explanation of the differences between a hospital order and a hybrid order. I now understand that if VC had been given a hybrid order, any decision about his release would have gone to the Parole Board. In contrast, under a hospital order, release decisions involve the Secretary of State as well as medical professionals. This was never explained to us at the time. If it had been, it might have helped us better understand why a hospital order was given and made the sentence a little easier to accept.

150. We also were not clearly told how or when the case moved from trial to sentencing. That shift just happened, without proper communication. Wayne, for example, had no idea about the gravity of the attack on the students and was shocked to hear this on the day of sentence. Overall, the lack of clear, consistent communication from the CPS made an already difficult process even harder to navigate.
151. I have been asked to set out any reflections I have had on my experiences with the CPS, in this respect although we had some contact with the CPS, particularly around the sentencing hearing, overall, my experience was disappointing and left me feeling unsupported and uncertain throughout the process.
152. I have been asked to set out whether I had any interactions with the HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (“HMCPSI”), I can confirm that as far as I am aware, I have not had any contact or interaction with HMCPSI. I have looked through the paperwork I hold in preparation for the Inquiry and have not found anything relating to them.
153. I do not recall having any direct interactions with HMCPSI.
154. I have been asked to set out any thoughts, reflections or concerns about the police’s response on the night of the attacks. In this respect, I can confirm that I remain deeply concerned about the police’s response in the early hours of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023. From what I understand, VC was able to move around the city for a significant period of time after carrying out three fatal stabbings, still armed and dangerous, without being located or stopped. I find it hard to understand how someone responsible for such horrific violence was able to remain at large for so long, particularly in a city with so much CCTV coverage, and when the police knew what he looked like and which direction he had left the scene of the original stabbings from.

155. I have been told, following a review of some disclosure documents, that Wayne was struck at around 5:23am. The police reportedly did not arrive at the scene until several minutes later. Given that there was an armed suspect still at large, I would have expected officers to be deployed throughout the city and able to respond much more quickly. It leaves me with serious questions about how the response was coordinated, and whether more could have been done to prevent further harm.
156. In respect of any thoughts, reflections and concerns about the police investigation, I can confirm that I also have serious concerns about the police investigation, particularly around what was known about VC before the attacks. I now understand that he had a known history with the police, including a previous incident of violence and that there was even a warrant out for his arrest. This is extremely troubling. I cannot understand how someone with that background, and who had known mental health concerns, was not being properly monitored or detained, especially given the nature of the concerns, and despite a warrant being out for his arrest. The fact that he was still able to move freely in the community and go on to commit such brutal and devastating attacks, is something I find deeply distressing. It has made me question the decisions made by the police in the lead-up to June 2023 and whether more could and should have been done to protect the public, including Wayne.
157. I understand that the IOPC is carrying out further investigations into the police review, and that this is an ongoing investigation we are awaiting updates on.
158. I have been asked to set out what I was told about the unauthorised access of data by the police, HM Court and Tribunal Service (“HMCTS”), HM Prison Service (“HMPS”), the Probation Service, and other bodies. I can confirm that in a letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, we were told in detail about the investigation into the data breaches within the police (**NGPF000732**). The letter told us that 11 officers had accessed information about the case without a reason to do so. One Special Constable had watched body cam footage of the first stabbings, and he was dismissed. PC Gell had sent an inappropriate

- message on WhatsApp to other officers and his family. A third front counter staff member accessed evidence. They all had interventions.
159. As Wayne still struggles with concentration since the attack, I help with reading letters and emails for him. On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024, we received a letter from the Nottinghamshire Police Constable (**NGPF0007271**). The letter told us that there had been a data breach within the team. The officer was going to face a conduct hearing after reading information about the case.
  160. We were provided with an update on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024 from the Deputy Chief Constable. Wayne and I were made aware that the officer had been fired and was never allowed to work for the police again (**NGPF0004304**).
  161. On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024, we were sent a letter from the Southeast Regional Organised Crime Unit ("SROCU"). Mark O'Brien was the Senior Investigating Officer (**WITN0273007**). We were told again that people had looked at the case file. They all worked for the Prison and Probation Service and the Tribunal Service. The Mr O'Brien was not sure if they were working together. They could not give any further information about it, as the investigation was ongoing.
  162. Wayne and I met with the police on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to discuss the data breaches. We told the police that we wanted as much information as possible as their letter had raised a lot of questions. Nottingham Police had not seemed to have done anything at all, but we were told that the Southeast Regional Organised Crime Unit would be looking into it.
  163. Wayne was really worried about what data had been found about him in particular. I think he was most stressed that someone would spread the CCTV on social media, but we were told that the data accessed was the general file and not about anyone in particular. They were looking into whether these individuals were working together, and the reason why they accessed the information, I do not know if they ever found out as we have not been told. The Organised Crime Unit was going to look into whether there was a link. We were irritated that we did not get told this information by the police themselves, and

instead by a letter from the organised crime unit that I only came across by chance in my emails.

164. On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Wayne and I received a letter from the SROCU (**WITN0273008**). Mark O'Brien confirmed that their investigation was entirely separate from any Nottinghamshire Police inquiries and that the data breaches were discovered during a routine internal audit of the DCS system in January 2024. We were told that SROCU had been notified of the breach on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. No further information was provided as the investigation was still ongoing.
  
165. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, we received an update from Thames Valley Police about the ongoing investigation into unauthorised data access (**WITN0273009**). The email stated that their investigation team was conducting a detailed review of material supplied by the HMCTS Counter Fraud and Investigation team to assess whether certain employees' access was lawful. The review was said to be more extensive than the initial assessment and involved coordination with the CPS. We were informed the investigation was ongoing and that we would be kept regularly updated.
  
166. Further updates from Thames Valley Police included the following emails:
  - **20<sup>th</sup> February 2025** - Andrew Hobden confirmed the investigation team had completed their review of the HMCTS material and had identified five individuals to interview under caution within 4–6 weeks. He explained a case conference was scheduled for early March to discuss the matter and that they would update us accordingly (**WITN0273010**).
  - **30<sup>th</sup> May 2025** - An email from Andrew Hobden confirmed that the investigation team had interviewed the sixth person under caution, seized their mobile phone for examination, and planned to review the findings accordingly (**WITN0273011**).

- **11<sup>th</sup> August 2025** - Andrew Hobden emailed to confirm that the investigation team had submitted the full file of evidence to the CPS for further investigation and were awaiting their response (**WITN0273012**).
  - **19<sup>th</sup> September 2025** - The last email received from Andrew Hobden stated that the matter was still under review by the CPS. He explained that monthly updates would cease and that further information would only be provided to me and Wayne if there were significant developments or when the CPS made contact (**WITN0273013**).
167. The second data breach happened on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025. We were told that a doctor within the Nottingham University Trust had been looking into the medical records of the deceased individuals (**WITN0273014**). We were told they were widening the investigation to include any inappropriate access of Wayne's medical records. Wayne was devastated by this news. It seemed beyond all comprehension. We both felt sickened that people in a position of trust should behave in this way.
168. This investigation is still ongoing.
169. In respect of whether I consider that information provided to me by the public bodies about this unauthorised access of data was accurate and adequate, I can confirm that I do not feel that the information we received from the police in relation to possible unauthorised access or disclosure of data was adequate. While we were told there had been an outcome, we were never clearly told whether any CCTV footage of Wayne had been shared or accessed inappropriately. That uncertainty still causes me and Wayne concern, as we do not know if any footage of Wayne was circulated or seen by people who should not have had access to it. It continues to be a source of worry for us.
170. In relation to the NHS breach, we are still waiting on a full outcome, so I am not yet in a position to properly assess the accuracy or adequacy of the information provided.

171. I have been asked to set out any concerns I raised or complaints I made about the unauthorised access of data, and any response received. I can confirm that I have not submitted any formal complaints about the unauthorised access or disclosure of data. However, I did raise concerns through my solicitor, including during meetings with the Police Commissioners on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. While I was told that investigations into these breaches were ongoing, I have not received any detailed explanations about what happened or who was affected. The lack of clear information has made it difficult to understand the full extent of the issue or to feel reassured that it is being properly addressed. Because of this lack of clarity, I cannot say whether any concerns have been properly recognised or dealt with, and I remain unsure about whether appropriate action has been taken.
172. I have been asked to set out any concerns I have or raised to any other person or organisation. I can confirm that no, I have not raised any concerns or made complaints to any other organisations or persons.
173. I have been asked to set out what recommendations I think the Chair of this Inquiry should make to ensure lessons are learned and to prevent similar attacks. In this respect, I can confirm that I have seen Wayne's statement. I agree with all he has said.
174. I would like to add that I believe there should be a recommendation made about how sentencing works in cases like this. It does not seem right that someone who has committed such brutal crimes can avoid prison completely and be held in a hospital instead. In my view, prison should be the default, and hospital treatment should only be used where absolutely necessary
175. I have been asked to set out what recommendations the Chair should make in relation to the support provided to the families of victims of crime, and how such families are treated by public bodies. In this respect, I can confirm that I believe there are a number of important recommendations that should be made in relation to how families of victims are supported and treated by public bodies. One of the most difficult things was how often we found out key information at

- court on the day of sentencing. It felt like we were constantly being left behind in the process. All the relevant information about the case and the background of VC should have been gathered and shared with families before sentencing, not after. The way information was handled caused added distress at an already painful time.
176. I also feel very strongly that families should not have had to fight so hard to get this Inquiry in the first place. If it were not for the fact that some of the families had the resources and knowledge to push for it and were able to confidently and clearly express their views in the wider press, it may never have happened. People like Wayne and me, normal, working-class people, would never have been able to get this far on our own. Neither would we have had the confidence to express ourselves so forcibly and well, and to ensure that the attacks were kept in the public arena. That should not be the case. Every family affected by serious crime should be entitled to support and to answers, regardless of their background or means.
177. I also think more thought and support should be given to families when attending events such as vigils or memorials. It was incredibly emotional and heartbreaking to be there alongside the families who had lost loved ones. At times, it felt awkward and uncomfortable. It almost made me feel guilty that Wayne had survived when others had not, and I did not know whether to stand back, or go over and offer my condolences. It was very hard to know what the right thing to do was. More support could be offered to help families navigate those moments, perhaps by gently introducing families to one another beforehand or having someone present to guide those interactions in a sensitive way.
178. I have been asked to set out what recommendations I think the Chair should make in relation to unauthorised access to disclosure of data. I can confirm that I recommend that stricter controls and clearer protocols be put in place to prevent unauthorised access or disclosure of sensitive data. Families should be promptly informed if any data breaches occur, with full transparency about what happened and what is being done to address it.

**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 in the truth.

Signed..... **GRO-B** .....

**Tracey Hodgson**

Dated...10/12/2025...| 7:28PM GMT.....

## THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

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### INDEX TO FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF TRACEY HODGSON

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<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Inquiry URN</b>	<b>Document Description</b>
<b>1</b>	CPSE0000470	Tracey Hodgson Victim Impact Statement Dated 14.01.2024
<b>2</b>	WITN0274002	Text between Tracey and Wayne sent on 13.06.2023
<b>3</b>	CPSE0000469	Wayne Birkett Victim Impact Statement dated 14.01.2024
<b>4</b>	WITN0273002	Letter from CC Kate Meynell requesting a meeting dated 30.01.2024
<b>5</b>	NGPF0007232	Letter from CC Kate Meynell re Meeting and data breach dated 22.02.2024
<b>6</b>	NGPF0007240	Email response to CC Meynell from Tracey Hodgson
<b>7</b>	WITN0273003	Open Letter from Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Dated 26.03.2024
<b>8</b>	NGPF0004304	Letter from DCC Steven Cooper re data breach dated 05.04.2024
<b>9</b>	WITN0273004	Letter from College of Policing dated 11.04.2024
<b>10</b>	WITN0273005	Letter from Ministry of Justice re Victim Contact Scheme dated 23.02.2024
<b>11</b>	WITN0273006	Letter from Ministry of Justice providing annual update dated 18.03.2025
<b>12</b>	NGPF0007271	Letter from CC Kate Meynell re data breach update dated 07.03.2024
<b>13</b>	WITN0273007	Letter from Southeast Regional Organise Crime Unit re data breach dated 19.12.2024

<b>14</b>	WITN0273008	Letter from South East Regional and Organised Crime Unit Dated 17.01.2025
<b>15</b>	WITN0273009	Email from Thames Valley Police dated 20.01.2025
<b>16</b>	WITN0273010	Email from Thames Valley Police dated 20.02.2025
<b>17</b>	WITN0273011	Email from Thames Valley Police dated 30.05.2025
<b>18</b>	WITN0273012	Email from Thames Valley Police dated 11.08.2025
<b>19</b>	WITN0273013	Email from Thames Valley Police dated 19.09.2025
<b>20</b>	WITN0273014	Letter from NHS re data breach dated 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025