

Witness Name: Leigh Sanders

Statement No. WITN0359002

Dated: 24/02/2026

## THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

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### SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF LEIGH SANDERS

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I, Leigh Sanders, will say as follows:-

1. This witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the “**Inquiry**”) with the matters set out in the Rule 9 request dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (the “**Request**”).
2. I have been asked to provide a statement in relation to an entry on page 2 of NGPF0003743 which identified that VC received calls at 01:56hrs and 03:51hrs on 13 June 2023 from Bournemouth and Bodmin respectively. I have been asked to set out what attempts, if any, were made to establish the callers and contents of those phone calls and any information received and to set out my reasons for the decision.

### **Response**

3. These matters have, in fact been dealt with in my previous witness statement made in the Inquiry (WITN0359001).

4. The Request is premised on the document NGPF0003743 which was a document prepared by a Counter Terrorism officer setting out an early summary of the raw data extraction from VC's mobile telephone. That report was a fast time analysis of data and the extraction report regarding the exhibit JR / 11, the dual SIM Motorola Moto G (9) handset (IMEI 3555411111909) recovered from VC. The two relevant numbers found inside this handset, namely [VC phone number 7] and [VC phone number 3] were the subject of applications to obtain call data. The relevant raw data was exhibited to my previous statement as NGPF0003008.
5. In my previous witness statement, at page 31, I also exhibited NGPF0003001, which was a review of the timeline extraction report created for VC's mobile telephone by the dedicated telecoms officer (DC Rowbotham). That report included analysis of the raw data.
6. That review established that, at 00.44 hours on 13 June 2023, the mobile telephone was turned off for approximately 40 minutes before being turned back on at 01.24.
7. At 02:50 hours a network message was received from Vodafone regarding SIM swapping.
8. From call data records, the SIM card for [VC phone number 2] was inserted into SIM Slot 2 at 02:50:12 hours for a period of 22 seconds and then at 02:51:22 hours the EE SIM card for telephone number [VC phone number 3] was placed in SIM Slot 2.
9. This SIM card was the one subsequently recovered from inside the handset when seized (see page 742 of NGPF0008789).

10. At 02:51 hours, after re-inserting the SIM card for [VC phone number 3] a number of messages came through regarding missed payments for loans. There is also a missed call notification from telephone number [Bill Monteiro Mobile] which is attributed to Bil Monteiro.

11. At 02:52 hours a search was made in the Google Play Store for 'wjatsapp', which is most likely a typo for 'WhatsApp'. At 02:56 hours a call was received from the number 01202057103 which is associated with WhatsApp and is the verification call that a user receives when installing the App on a device.

12. At 03:51 hours NGPF0003743 indicates that VC received a call from Bodmin from number [GRO-B]. The raw data exhibit from CT when analysed by the enquiry team illustrated that the number [GRO-B] was in fact [GRO-B], an international number listed for U.S, Idaho.

13. The original CT analysts appear to have not recognised the number and removed the + symbol and added a zero, making it appear as if the call originated from a UK number (in fact, there are too many digits for it to have been generated as a call in the UK). This explains why there is no record of the number [GRO-B] on local intelligence systems or ORBIS.

14. At 03:03 hours the device was turned off for approximately 1 hour and 44 minutes before being turned on again at 04:47 hours.

15. When the device was turned back on, a further search was made in the Google Play Store for the app 'WhatsApp'. This again was followed by a verification call from the US number which has again been misinterpreted by the original analyst. By replacing the + with a zero, CT analysts had provided an incorrect number which formed the basis for the mistaken beliefs as to the origin of the calls. In short, there were never any calls received from numbers in either Bournemouth or Bodmin. This is an example of the organic development of an investigation; namely what was believed to be accurate at a particular time, can often change with further investigation and analysis as more information comes to light.

16. It would appear from the analysis that, at some point after being installed at 02:56 hours, WhatsApp was then uninstalled before being re-installed at around 04:47 hours.

17. It would appear that the WhatsApp application was uninstalled / deleted after that time, because there were no WhatsApp messages recovered from the device extraction after its seizure and analysis.

**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: 24/02/2026

**Index to Second Witness Statement of Leigh Sanders**

<b>No.</b>	<b>URN</b>	<b>Document Description</b>
1	NGPF0003743	Letter from DC 2882 Marie-Louise Lewis to SIO Op Hendrix re: Op Hendrix Review of download from JR/11-, Data extraction, JR/11/EXT2
2	WITN0359001	First Witness Statement of Leigh Sanders, Nottinghamshire Police (NGPF)
3	NGPF0003008	Report dated 14/06/2023, compiled by Unknown Author, re: EE Confidential Law Enforcement Agencies Disclosures request report, VC phone number 3
4	NGPF0003001	Operation Hendrix - Review of timeline extraction report for Exhibit JR/11 - 11/06/2023 - 13/06/2023, dated 09/09/2023, EMSOU
5	NGPF0008789	Report dated 06/09/2023 compiled by NGPF re: Summary of VC's GOOGLE_ANDROID_FULL_FILE_SYSTEM Device.