

Witness Name: Celeste Calocane

Statement No: WITN0085008

Dated: 05 May 2026

THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF CELESTE CALOCANE

I, Celeste Calocane will say as follows: -

INTRODUCTION

1. I am Valdo Calocane's mother. I make this statement in response to the Inquiry's Rule 9 requested dated 17 April 2026 and further to my previous statement dated 13 November 2025 (WITN0085001).
2. This statement is based on my knowledge and beliefs. I have considered documents in order to prepare this statement, including documents disclosed by the Inquiry. Where any information is not from my own knowledge or belief I make that clear below. I reserve the right to amend this statement when further documents become available.
3. I have heard a lot of evidence over recent weeks as well as reading many documents. This has jogged my memory in relation to a few things which I did not remember at the time of my first statement.
3. On 22 August 2023 I had a conversation with Emily Doherty. I have been asked to set out whether my recollection of that conversation differs in any material way to the note made by Ms Doherty at WITN0391002 and I have addressed

this below. Ms Doherty called me out of the blue. She was the first person from any services that I had spoken to since the attacks and at the time of the conversation, I had neither seen nor spoken to Valdo since the attacks. I can see that at paragraph 5.7 of her report Ms Doherty records that Valdo told her he had spoken to his family whilst he was in custody and at paragraph 6.1 records that Valdo had told HMP Manchester staff that he had spoken to me. This is incorrect – he had not spoken to me, my husband or either of his siblings. We did not speak to him until after he moved to Ashworth Hospital as he remained very psychotic and considered that he was protecting us by not making contact.

4. I was in a state of real distress when Ms Doherty called as I had no idea how Valdo was or what was happening. As far as I can remember, Ms Doherty asked me about Valdo's background and I wanted to give her as much information as I could in a short period of time, so I avoided going into detail about everything and was just trying to get key information to her.
5. I do not remember how long we spoke for but I am aware that Ms Doherty says the conversations lasted around thirty to thirty-five minutes which is probably right.

Move to Portugal

6. In Ms Doherty's report she records that we moved from Africa when Valdo was three-and-a half-years old. She states this differs from the information on file "*which says the family moved when Mr Calocane was aged seven*" (WITN0391002, para 6.4).
7. I do not think there is a conflict in the information that was provided. We moved to Madeira from Africa when Valdo was three and a half, and then we moved from Madeira to Lisbon when Valdo was 7. Both are in Portugal and it is correct that we moved from Africa to Madeira when Valdo was 3 and a half years old and then moved again – from Madeira to Lisbon – when he was 7. We then moved to Wales just before his 16th birthday.

8. At paragraph 8.1 of her report, Ms Doherty states that she understands Valdo attended school in Guinea-Bissau. This is incorrect. He only attended pre-school, since he was 3.5 years old when we left Africa.
9. I have been asked by the Inquiry what Valdo's school and home life was like in Portugal. I would describe it as very normal. He had always been very into football from a very young age and in Madeira, there was a strong culture of children playing outside together and playing football. Madeira is a small island, and back then was far less developed than it is now so it was very safe and there was a strong sense of community. He would regularly go to play at other children's houses, and he would have friends over to play at ours, and as he got older, he would go to the local park, which we could see from our house, to play football with friends.
10. I was not working when we arrived in Madeira so initially, Valdo was at home with me. He then went to pre-school on weekdays when he was 5 years old. In Portugal, you start primary school when you are 5 or 6 years old (depending on when your birthday falls) and in Year 1 which meant Valdo started school when he was 6.
11. We moved to Lisbon when Valdo was 7 years old and in Year 2. We moved there around Christmas and Valdo started school immediately in the January. He was happy in Lisbon. We already had a community in Lisbon of close family and friends, and he did not have any difficulties settling into his new primary school.
12. Although Lisbon was a city and different from Madeira, there was still a good sense of community. Valdo continued to be sociable. We spent a lot of time with family and friends who had children around the same age and we would see them all the time, spending time at each other's houses as well as the kids playing football outside. He also had lots of friends from school as they stayed with each other through from primary school to high school. There was a football

"cage" right behind our apartment block and Valdo and his friends spent most of their time there for hours and hours every day after school and I would regularly have to call Valdo home for his dinner.

13. In Portugal, when you are in year 5 (aged 10), you go to middle school. Valdo went to the same middle school as his friendship group from Primary School so it wasn't a big transition for him.

14. In year 10 (aged 15) in Portugal, you then move to high school for the final three years of education. Again, Valdo moved with his friendship group and he did not have any difficulties in high school. He completed year 10 before we moved to Wales.

15. Valdo did not have any issues at school in Portugal and he enjoyed going. He received good reports and did well academically. He progressed through the school years as expected. In Portugal, if a child does not do well academically, then they are held back a year and cannot move on to the next year. This never happened to Valdo. When he was older, he was sometimes late to school as he slept in, and he could be cheeky in class, messing around with his friends but this was never to the extent that I was called in or concerns were raised with me.

Valdo's schooling in Wales

16. We moved to Wales in August 2007, shortly before Valdo's 16th birthday. He was excited about the move.

17. Valdo went to Sir Thomas Picton school in Wales. He started there in September 2007 (when he also turned 16). Although he was 16 years old, as explained in my first statement, Valdo started in Year 10 (so he was put back two years) as he did not speak any English, beyond what he had learnt from watching films.

18. As set out in my first witness statement, Valdo initially struggled when we moved to Wales as it was a very different culture to Portugal, he did not speak English, and he and his brother were one of very few Black children in the school.
19. Given his lack of English, Valdo received support from a Learning Support Assistant who had been a teacher in Portugal for a number of years and so was able to help Valdo (and his brother) learn English. As far as I remember, this involved Valdo being taken out of lessons most days so he could be taught English and I think this went on for at least 6 months or so in his first year at Sir Thomas Picton. It may have also continued into his second year there but I cannot remember.
20. Valdo was not particularly bothered by being moved back two years as he thought it was a good opportunity for him to learn more.
21. As a result of the language barrier and also being in class with children who were two years younger than him, Valdo struggled to make friends when we moved to Wales. He would still play football with people in the local park but I am not sure if they were from his school or from the other secondary school in the town. He also attended a youth church group once a week from sometime after we arrived until he was nearly 18.
22. He did not bring friends home in the way that he had done when we lived in Portugal and it is right to say that he was a bit isolated socially but I did not have any significant worries about him as he was still socialising a bit through football and he had his siblings. I also recognised that the culture was different compared to Lisbon where there was more of a sense of community, where he had many friends within a few minutes of our house, and where children were out and about playing all the time.
23. At home, Valdo was not isolated. He was very sociable within the family. He joked around and liked chatting with us all. I had a house rule that there would not be any TVs in the bedrooms as I didn't want the kids spending hours in their

rooms watching TV and it was important to be together as a family, including watching TV or films together, which we often did. We would regularly eat together and had a family tradition of Friday night dinner. Valdo was generally helpful around the house – he would do his chores and would also help by collecting his sister from school.

24. Valdo did his GCSEs in the Summer of 2009. I have been asked whether the grades set out in Valdo's UCAS form [UNIN0002292] are consistent with my understanding of what he achieved. I can confirm that they are.
25. I have been asked what Valdo told me about his experiences and grades at school. Valdo was a bit disappointed with his GCSE results as he felt he could have done better because he knew he had the potential to do so.
26. However, Valdo wanted to continue with his education so after completing his GCSEs, he stayed at Sir Thomas Picton School to do A-levels, which he started in September 2009.
27. In her report, Ms Doherty indicates I said to her that Valdo had "*completed his GCSE's and his A-Levels*" [WITN0391002_0005 para 6.5].
28. He completed his AS Levels in or around June 2010. He obtained 3 Grade Cs in English Literature, Psychology and Music. I exhibit at [WITN0085009] a copy of the exam certificates. This is what has been recorded in the UCAS form provided to me by the Inquiry [UNIN0002292].
29. Valdo then continued studying for the second year of sixth form but he left around the time that the final A-Level exams took place in June 2011 and before doing the exams. I had always thought of Valdo having left school with AS-levels but without any A-Levels as he didn't sit his exams. I have exhibited at [WITN0085010] Valdo's A-level exam certificates which show that he was given E grades for each of the A-levels. I presume is because he had completed the AS- levels.

30. I do not recall exactly how I phrased this to Ms Doherty. I think it was just a brief comment. I might have said he studied for his A-Levels or something along those lines. We only discussed this briefly and she did not ask for detailed information about exactly what exams he sat and when, but rather an overview of his education. Ms Doherty did not ask specifically whether Valdo had actually sat the exams at the end of the A-Level or AS-Level course.
31. For completeness, I note that the letter of 12 July 2023 from Dr Ullal, seeking an assessment for admission to hospital, states Valdo “moved to Birmingham to study and achieve A Levels” [NHFT0001214_0003]. I did not pass on that information to Dr Ullal, who I had no contact with.

Bullying

32. During my conversation with Ms Doherty, I referred to Valdo having been bullied. I may well have used the word bullied but I was not referring to a repeated course of conduct or to him having been bullied continuously over an extended period of time. I have set out below the occasions I was referring to.
33. In Madeira, Valdo was the first Black child that many of the other children in the community had met. When he first started pre-school, there was an occasion where kids were calling him names associated with his race. It wasn't for a long period— it was not even a few weeks. Valdo told me about it and I went to the pre-school and talked to them as I knew this was how young children could behave and that it could be addressed if the school intervened. It stopped after that and there were no other issues when Valdo was at either pre-school or school in Madeira.
34. When Valdo moved to middle school, when we were in Lisbon, I recall that there was one incident when he first started of older kids mistreating him. There was a 'tradition' of older kids making fun of newcomers by creating a corridor

which the new kid would walk through and the other kids would slap them or something similar. This happened to Valdo. Valdo's cousin intervened in response to this. This incident was a one-off and Valdo then continued at Middle School for four more years without any difficulties.

35. When we moved to Wales, Valdo occasionally experienced racism. I was aware of one or two times when Valdo was walking home and he was told to "go back to where he came from". As far as I am aware, this did not take place in school, but outside when he was travelling home.
36. I don't think Valdo was bullied in Wales, besides the incidents of racial abuse. He was more of an outsider than someone who was bullied.
37. I am aware that Ms Doherty says in her report that the "bullying carried on for a few years whilst Mr Calocane was at school" (WITN0391002, paragraph 6.4) and "Mr Calocane's mother has reported that throughout his childhood and school years, he was the victim of bullying from others" (WITN0391002, paragraph 16.2). I think this may come from the fact that I was describing a few events across the years and this is how Ms Doherty interpreted it.

Valdo's teenage years

38. In my first statement, I said that we experienced "*the usual issues with Valdo as a teenager in that he didn't like some of our house rules, he would push boundaries which would sometimes lead to arguments but nothing out of the ordinary.*"
39. The kind of things that I was referring to when I said this were behaviours that I would describe as typical for someone in their late teens such as not going to bed on time or when we asked him to. For example, Valdo would often want to stay up late watching TV but we lived in a small house and I went to bed early so the TV would keep me awake but when I asked, Valdo would be reluctant to

go to bed. Another example is that I would often ask the kids, including Valdo, to come to the shops with me and help with the shopping but he didn't want to.

40. Another example was around attending church on Sundays. As a family, we used to go to church every Sunday and this was an important part of our family life. However, as Valdo got a bit older, he didn't want to come with us. We had to get up early on a Sunday morning to go and he would say he didn't want to get out of bed and didn't want to come. This was upsetting for me and my husband as church was important to us and we wanted our children to attend with us. Valdo not wanting to come caused some arguments as we tried to persuade him each Sunday to come. Eventually, we decided it wasn't worth pushing it and Valdo would have to make his own choices on this.

Valdo's move out of the family home

41. As I said in my first statement, Valdo moved out of the family home in 2010 or 2011 when he was still in sixth form and when he would have been 19 years old. He told us he was moving out and there was no big conversation about this as it didn't come as a surprise because he had always said that he wanted to move out on his own when he was 18 or 19 and as he had been working for a while, he was earning enough money to support himself. I just thought he was ready to be independent, which made sense to me.

42. Valdo moved into a house share which was around 10-15 minutes walk away from our house. My understanding is that it was a student house-share with lots of turnover of residents. I visited the house share a few times whilst he lived there and I was never aware of any difficulties he had at the house share.

43. During that time, Valdo worked part-time in the evenings (Monday to Friday) as a cleaner at Pembroke College, where I also worked. He had been working there since from around 2009, whilst he was still at sixth form.

44. He stayed in this job until he left Wales in 2015. He also did some seasonal work at the oil refinery during the shutdown periods, where my husband also worked. The shutdowns usually happened during the summer and when Valdo was working there, he would be working full-time and then would also do the cleaning work in the evening. I am aware that his UCAS form [UNIN0002292] says he worked at the oil refinery from 2012, which sounds about right.
45. Due to working in the evenings as a cleaner, it would have been normal for Valdo to return to his house late at night or in the early hours of the morning. He would have had to use the kitchen at these hours to prepare food after his shift. The work at the refinery would also typically involve early starts when he was working there.
46. I saw Valdo pretty much every day during this period as I saw him during the week at our cleaning job and then he would also come to the family home very frequently including at the weekends.
47. As a family, there was no indication to us that Valdo had any kind of mental health problems during this time. I spent lots of time with him as we were working together and he was also at the family home at the weekends. I felt that he was doing really well in this period. I think he really matured as he started tackling responsibilities and I did not see any issues with his behaviour, either at work or when we spent time together as a family.

Valdo's move to Birmingham

48. I did not provide much detail about Valdo's move to Birmingham in my first statement as I was not asked about this by the Inquiry but I have provided further information below in response to the Inquiry's request.
49. In early 2015 when Valdo would have been 23 years old, he left Wales. He told me that he had found a job in Newcastle and was moving there. I didn't question

him leaving Wales as he had matured and he wanted to do something with his life and there were limited opportunities in our town.

50. I once asked him for his address in Newcastle so I could send him a card or something but he didn't want to give it to me. I respected that decision. He was a 23 year old, independent and as we were in regular contact, I didn't have any concerns about him. Although he did not come home that much, we would speak often on the phone and he was in touch with all of the family.

51. I believe it was when Valdo came home at Christmas 2016 that he told me that he was living in Birmingham, that he had completed an access course and that he was planning to apply to University. He explained to me that he had never in fact moved to Newcastle as his house had fallen through at the last minute and instead he had moved to Birmingham as he didn't want to stay in Wales. In my first statement (paragraph 12), I said that his job had fallen through. This is an error and as far as I can remember, he said his house had fallen through. He told me that he had not told us about this because he wanted to surprise me once he had achieved something and he knew that I would worry that he had just left Wales without a proper plan. He was really proud of himself for getting through the access course and with the results he had achieved. He told me that he had really enjoyed studying and this was why he had decided to apply to University.

52. I never visited Valdo in Birmingham and I did not know his address. I had asked for it but he brushed this off and I respected that as I did not have any concerns about him.

53. In my first statement, at paragraph 12, when describing Valdo's time in Birmingham, I said that there were two Christmases in a row when he did not come home. In response to the evidence from the Inquiry, I have reflected more on that time and I realise that I was wrong and actually it was only one Christmas that Valdo did not come home to Wales. I had thought that he did not come home for Christmas 2015 *and* 2016 but having checked photographs, I

can confirm that it was only Christmas 2015 that he did not come home as he could not get time off work.

Other inaccuracies in Ms Doherty's report

54. There are a few other matters in Ms Doherty's report which are not accurate and which I have not addressed above.

55. Firstly, at paragraphs 6.2 and 9.1 it is recorded that I had said that to my knowledge, Valdo was still living in Nottingham at the time of the offences. This is not correct as at the time I believed Valdo was living in Coventry as explained in my first statement, and as we told the police immediately after the attacks.

56. That same paragraph says that "Mrs Calocane's view is that her son has not been well this last year". I do not think I would have said this as I would have said that Valdo had been unwell for the past three years as that was clearly the case.

Information given to me about the second incident on 24 May 2020

57. My first witness statement refers at paragraph 26 to what I was told about the second incident on 24 May 2020, by the in-patient team during the first admission: "They told me that the person in the flat had been taken to hospital but at the time, they did not tell me that she had jumped from the window". I heard Dr Seedat's oral evidence, which indicated that I was told that the woman had jumped out of the window. On reflection, I may have been told that she jumped out of the window, and may have made a mistake about this. As my first statement says, I was told that she had been taken to hospital. I am confident I was not told how serious her injury was. I had many discussions with the health services in 2020 to 2022 (my solicitor tells me there were around 100 separate contacts), which is now several years ago. This does make it difficult for me to recollect all of the details of exactly what was said on each occasion. However,

I do have a clear recollection of a number of aspects of what I was and was not told.

Sharing the document of messages between Valdo and Elias

58. I am aware that it has been said in questions to witnesses that I (and the family) did not consent to Dr Seedat sharing the document which sets out the messages between Valdo and Elias prior to his first admission to hospital. I am not sure why this is being said but it is not true. I did not suggest at any stage that the messages should not be passed on to Valdo or anyone else. To the contrary, we shared the messages with Dr Seedat to assist the medical team in understanding what was happening with Valdo and we assumed it would be used for that purpose. I did not suggest in my email to Dr Seedat that he should withhold the messages [WITN0163036 and NHFT0017802]. I explained to Miss Thwaites on 26 May 2020 that I was happy for the messages to be passed on [NHFT0000168, p8]. I also outlined some of the messages to the ward round (by phone) on 28 May 2020, which Valdo attended [NHFT0000168, p11].

59. On 11 July 2020, I explained to Mr Jackson my concerns that Valdo's mental state may be deteriorating. I asked, at this point, that Valdo not be made aware that I was asking about his care, because I would lose trust. This was the only time I did so. I did it at that specific point because I spoke to Valdo, and he said to me he didn't want me to be asking the services about him. I think he was very paranoid and I didn't want to make it any worse.

Statement of truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court 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 its truth.

Signed **GRO-B**

Dated: 05/05/2026

Index to Second Witness Statement of Celeste Calocane

<u>No.</u>	<u>URN</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
1.	WITN0391002	Social Circumstances Report - Referral Assessment Report of VC compiled by Emily Doherty dated 22 August 2023
2.	UNIN0002292	UCAS: Old Application Form of VC dated 12 January 2017
3.	WITN0085009	Copy of VC's AS-Level exam certificates
4.	WITN0085010	Copy of VC's A-Level exam certificates
5.	NHFT0001214	Letter from Dr Ullal to Health and Justice Integrated Mental Health Team on 12 July 2023
6.	WITN0163036	Email from Celeste Calocane to Dr Seedat on 28 May 2020
7.	NHFT0017802	Email from Celeste Calocane to Dr Seedat on 28 May 2020
8.	NHFT0000168	Medical Records of VC from 24 May 2020 to 14 June 2023