

Witness Name: ASHLEY SMITH

Statement No: WITN0018001

Dated: **05/10/2025**

THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF PC ASHLEY SMITH

I, ASHLEY SMITH, will say as follows: -

1. My name is Ashley Smith.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the “**Inquiry**”) with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 27th June 2025 (the “**Request**”).
3. In making this statement, I have refreshed my memory by reading the Incident Log 0730_24052020 (**URN: NGPF0000081**), the Occurrence Log (**URN: NGPF0000082**), my MG11 statement (**URN: NGPF0000085**), my Pocket Book Entry (**URN: NGPF0005701**) and the Custody Record for Calocane (**URN: NGPF0000095**). I have no independent recollection, because it was so long ago.

My Background

4. My name is Ashley Smith. I joined Nottinghamshire Police in September 2017 at the age of 28 years.

5. After leaving school, I worked in a number of jobs. I worked in the retail, sales, IT support and the security industry sectors. In the four years prior to joining the Force I worked as a security guard at the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham for four years where I spent the majority of my time assisting nurses and doctors in safeguarding mental health patients. This would include carrying out constant observations ensuring they were not causing harm to themselves or others and stopping them from leaving the premises if they were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.
6. Since joining Nottinghamshire Police, I received mental health awareness inputs in training school and I have since completed mental health online training packages via NCALT. NCALT stands for National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies which has now been renamed as College Learn. It is an online website containing various training packages used for delivering learning and development content for the police service. It includes e-learning modules, resources for professional development and materials to support policing roles. One of the training packages I completed on College Learn that is relevant to mental health is called 'Mental Health and Learning Disability Awareness.' I completed this training package on 15th of October 2017.
7. Prior to 24th May 2020, to the best of my knowledge and belief, I had no knowledge of, or interactions with, Valdo Calocane, by that or any other name.

Events of 24th May 2020

8. On 24th May 2020, I was a Response Officer based at Radford Road Police Station, Nottingham.

9. A Response officer is a front line police officer who responds to emergency and non-emergency calls from the public. Response officers respond to a number of incidents such as serious crime, public order situations, road traffic collisions, anti-social behaviour and suspicious incidents. They will also carry a workload of investigations from the incidents they have attended.
10. At 8.35pm, by reference to my witness statement dated the 25th May 2020 (**URN: NGPF0000085**), while on patrol in the Radford area of Nottingham, I received a message from the Force Control Room via my police handheld radio that a female had jumped from a first floor window at Brook Court, Player Street, Nottingham as a male was trying to get inside. I was told this by the control room operator.
11. On that evening, my call sign was RR240.
12. According to the Incident Log (**URN: NGPF0000081**), I was told that the caller did not know who the male was that was banging on the door and the man was still at the location. The description of the male was: black male wearing a blue t-shirt and grey tracksuit.
13. I drove to the address and when I arrived at 8.40pm, I saw a man who I later found out to be Valdo Calocane standing in the car park of Brook Court speaking with another police officer who had arrived before myself. I cannot remember who the police officer was due to the number of years which have passed since attending this incident.
14. The man being spoken to matched the description passed to me by the Control Room.

15. I approached Calocane in order to assist my colleague with this potential offender and to find out more information about the incident. When I approached, he was talking to my colleague, but once he was asked about what had happened, he stopped talking and ignored questions put to him.
16. After speaking with other police officers at the scene who had spoken with the victim and then with my then supervisor, Sergeant 2274 Johnson I felt I had enough information to form a belief that Calocane was the male that the victim had reported was trying to get into her address.
17. I was told by other officers who had spoken to the victim that Calocane had kicked at the flat door a number of times, causing damage to the victim's door lock.
18. At approximately 9.14pm, according to my MG 11 witness statement (**URN: NGPF0000085**), I arrested Calocane for an offence of criminal damage. I said to him: "I am arresting you on suspicion of Criminal Damage that you have caused to the female's door by kicking at it. The necessity for your arrest is to prevent further damage and to prevent physical injury to other persons."
19. Again by reference to my witness statement (**URN: NGPF0000085**), after arresting Calocane, I cautioned him in the following terms:" You do not have to say anything. But it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence."
20. After I cautioned him, Calocane did not reply.
21. Having arrested Calocane, I then handcuffed him to the rear and put him in the back of my police vehicle. I drove him to the Bridewell Custody Suite in

- Nottingham. Although I cannot recall, I must assume I was accompanied by another officer, as it would be normal practice.
22. I drove Calocane to the Bridewell Custody Suite where I presented him to the Custody Officer. I note that there is a reference to PC Lane being the arresting officer but that is not correct, according to my statement (**URN: NGPF0000085**).
 23. I had no further involvement with Calocane after that other than to write my witness statement.
 24. I have been asked what was my knowledge of any issues concerning Valdo Calocane's mental health. My answer is that I was not aware of any issues concerning Valdo Calocane's mental health as it was the first time I had encountered him. I am aware from the Incident Log (**URN: NGPF0000081**) that another police colleague was speaking with the mental health triage officers for Nottinghamshire Police but I was not party to the conversation and I had no knowledge of any mental health issues in relation to Calocane.
 25. I have been asked whether any details of the attendance and/or decisions or actions taken communicated to: (1) Health, social services or multi-agency organisations; (2) Valdo Calocane's family; (3) Nottingham University; (4) others who might be affected by Valdo Calocane's actions. My answer is I am not aware, as I did not have anything to do with the investigation.
 26. I have been asked if there were any barriers to the sharing of the information with any of the above. My response is that I am not aware of any but I was not involved in any subsequent investigation.

27. I have been asked if there were any outstanding criminal matters at the time of my involvement in this matter. My response is that I was not made aware of any by the Force Control Room, or at the scene.
28. I have been asked if I had any involvement in any assessment of Valdo Calocane, what procedures were in place as to assessment of medical and mental health issues and drug testing, and provision of appropriate medical support. My answer is that I was not involved in any assessments or testing. No assessment of Calocane's mental health took place in my presence.
29. I have been asked to set out the relevant policies, procedures and criteria which I consider governed my role in relation to this incident and set out the ways in which I consider these were or were not met. I arrested Calocane for the offence of Criminal Damage Section under section 1(1) Criminal Damage Act 1971, in accordance with section 24 of PACE. There were no particular policies or procedures which governed my role.
30. I have been asked to set out any concerns that I have in respect of the police's actions in relation to this matter. My response is, from my involvement in the matter, I have no concerns.
31. I have been asked to set out any concerns that I have in respect of the recording of this matter. My response is that, at the time I dealt with Calocane and from what I knew, an offence of Criminal Damage was appropriate. I have no concerns.
32. I have been asked if, looking back, I consider there are additional actions that I or others could have taken in respect of the incident. My response is that,

based on the extent of my involvement, there no further actions which could have been taken.

33. I have been asked if I consider that there are any structural issues (regarding police policies, procedures, methodology, training etc.) which contributed to any issues I have identified. My response is that I have not identified any issues.

34. I have been asked if there are any recommendations that I consider could help prevent any of the issues that I have identified in respect of this matter. My response is that I have not identified any issues and I have no wider recommendations to make.

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: 05/10/2025

Index to First Witness Statement of ASHLEY SMITH

No.	URN	Document Description
1	NGPF0000081	Incident details, dated 24/05/2020, Nottinghamshire Police
2	NGPF0000082	Occurrence Details, dated 29/08/2023, Nottinghamshire Police
3	NGPF0000085	Witness Statement of Ashley Smith, Nottinghamshire Police dated 25/05/2020
4	NGPF0005701	PC SMITH 3974 PNB
5	NGPF0000095	Custody Record of Valdo Calocane, dated 24/05/2020, Nottinghamshire Police Force