

Witness Name: SUZANNE LLEWELLYN

Statement No: WITN0079001

Dated: 13 October 2025

THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF SUZANNE ANGELA LLEWELLYN

I, SUZANNE LLEWELLYN, will say as follows: -

INTRODUCTION

1. I am a Director of Legal Services at the Crown Prosecution Service (**CPS**).
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the "**Inquiry**") with the matters set out in the rule 9 request dated 4 August 2025 (the "**Request**").

BACKGROUND

3. I have been asked to set out a summary of my career background and any relevant education and training. I have been employed by the CPS since 1991, initially as a legal trainee, before undertaking the role of Crown Prosecutor, Senior Crown Prosecutor, Crown Advocate and then the full range of legal manager roles, before becoming a Chief Crown Prosecutor in June 2021. In 2021, I was appointed Chief Crown Prosecutor for CPS Wessex. In March 2023, I temporarily left CPS Wessex to lead CPS East Midlands whilst their substantive Chief Crown Prosecutor Janine McKinney was away from the office receiving medical treatment. I led East Midlands between March 2023 and July

2023. My involvement in this matter is limited to the discrete period when the initial charging decision was made i.e. from 13th June 2023, until Janine McKinney returned to the post of Chief Crown Prosecutor in July 2023. My last date in the East Midlands post was on the 30th June 2023.

CHARGING DECISION

4. I was aware of the tragic events of the 13 June 2023, from the immediate reports of the same in the media. As Chief Crown Prosecutor, I wished to ensure that CPS East Midlands had contingencies in place to provide the police with a charging decision and steps in place to ensure that the CPS Area met its commitments in respect of the Victim Code **[WITN0080006]** and Bereaved Family Scheme **[WITN0080005]**. As always in cases of this nature, I also wished to support my team dealing with such a complex and high-profile incident.
5. It became clear that there was a fast-moving criminal investigation. I liaised with my Senior Legal Managers and it was decided that the case should be dealt with by the CPS East Midlands Complex Casework Unit, who were best suited to cases involving complexity and multiple casualties. As would be my usual practice in high profile and serious cases, I asked to be kept informed with the progress of the case and the charging decision.
6. A charging decision was sought by the police under the Threshold Test laid out in The Code for Crown Prosecutors **[WITN0080003]**. This test is used where 'The seriousness or circumstances of the case justify the making of an immediate charging decision, and there must be substantial grounds to object to bail'. I was sighted on the charging decision made by the prosecutor **[CPSE0001032]** and I shared his view that the Threshold Test decision to charge the offences of murder and attempt murder was entirely correct and proportionate at this stage of the investigation.
7. It is of course the duty of the Crown Prosecution Service to retain all cases under continuous review until the case is completed to ensure that the Code

Test continues to be met. I note that the initial charging decision was determined as correct by His Majesty's Crown Prosecution Inspectorate (HMCP) when they reviewed this matter [HMCP0000625].

8. It was brought to my attention by the prosecutor dealing with the case, that he had become aware that the police were using their emergency charging provisions under Section 37A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 ("PACE") to charge the suspect. The prosecutor was surprised about this, as this provision is used where the police anticipate that they will be unable to obtain a charging decision from the CPS before the expiry of the PACE clock (the police are only permitted to hold a suspect without charge for a maximum of 96 hours). The prosecutor had been in liaison with the police and anticipated making a charging decision in advance of that expiry time. Where Section 37A of PACE is used, the police must refer the matter to the CPS to ratify the offence/s charged. I made an enquiry with the Chief Constable in respect of the same and informed her that the CPS would be ensuring that the charging decision was being progressed within the relevant time frames [CPSE0001906]. As a result, whilst the police had used the emergency provisions to charge the offence of murder in respect of Grace O'Malley-Kumar, the CPS duly ratified this charge and authorised the remainder of the charges against the suspect involving the rest of the victims.

POLICE INVESTIGATION

9. I am asked if I had any concerns about the investigation that was carried out by the police. As Chief Crown Prosecutor, it would not be usual for me to be involved in police investigations. My role is to provide legal leadership in the Area. As such, whilst I had an overview of the circumstances of the case, I was not involved in considerations relating to toxicology, for example.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SURVIVORS AND BEREAVED FAMILIES

10. The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (“the Victims’ Code”) [WITN0080006] sets out the services and a minimum standard for these services that must be provided to victims of crime by organisations (of which the CPS is one) in England and Wales. In addition to the rights provided in the Victim’s Code, the CPS offers an enhanced service to bereaved families, as set out in the Bereaved Families Scheme [WITN0080005].
11. The BFS [WITN0080005] provides, amongst other things, that the CPS will offer to meet bereaved families at key stages of the Criminal Justice System process, commencing with an explanation of the charging decision through to supporting bereaved families where cases progress to the Court of Appeal. The purpose of those meetings is to explain the anticipated progress of the case, what is expected to happen at each court hearing and the possible sentences available for the offence(s) charged. The BFS [WITN0080005] sets out the minimum standard of service to be provided, but expressly states that prosecutors should not feel constrained from doing more if it is necessary to do so, having regard to the particular circumstances of the case. Ultimately, we will be guided by the needs of individual families about when they want to meet or if they want to meet at all.
12. I am always very mindful of our service to bereaved families. In this case, I wished to ensure that the families were informed of the charging decisions made by the CPS quickly and to ensure that they were informed of the next steps so far as court proceedings were concerned.
13. Where a suspect is remanded in custody, things move very quickly. The suspect will be produced before the next Magistrates’ Court and very quickly thereafter, at the Crown Court for a Preliminary Hearing. I wanted the family members to be aware of these hearings and aware that if they chose to attend the hearings, a member of CPS staff would be available to meet them. I therefore wrote a letter to each of the bereaved families: Mr and Mrs Webber, Dr Kumar and Dr O’Malley-Kumar, Elaine Newton and Mr Coates’ sons [see for example [CPSE0000002]]. Often family members do wish to attend those court hearings, and my letters were intended to provide the

families with sufficient information to enable them to understand the next steps and for them to be suitably informed. The letters were also intended to provide the families with the contact point at the CPS of the prosecutor dealing with the case, to enable the families to be assured that there would be a prosecutor available to meet with them to discuss the next steps during the proceedings. I ensured that there was a Prosecutor at court to meet with the families, should they wish this at the first hearings at the Magistrates' Court and Crown Court.

14. My letters were passed to the police team for their onward service to the families at the charging stage. This is because the police have officers who are specially trained as "Family Liaison Officers" ("FLOs"). Those officers play a crucial role, both in supporting the families and sharing information between the CPS and the families. The FLOs were in regular contact with the families and it was my expectation that the police would pass on my letters to the families in advance of the first hearing by hand or email or explain the contents by phone call.

15. So far as the content of the letters is concerned, I note that HMCPSP makes an observation that the letters could have been more sensitively phrased, as referenced at paragraph 9.14 of the report [HMCP0000625]. I am deeply sorry if anyone found my letters insensitive. My purpose in writing those letters was only ever to support and reassure the families. I take this responsibility very seriously, particularly given the truly awful situation the families were facing. Whilst I was Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor at West Midlands CPS, I spent some time working with a charity that supported families who had suffered bereavement through homicide and the charity Road Peace that supports families that have suffered bereavement through road traffic collisions. Part of that work, was to gain insight into the information that may best support families following charges of this nature. I wanted to ensure that our letters were framed with the insight from the families supported by these charities. I was very mindful that the feedback I had received included observations that due to trauma, families would often not readily retain all information, and that often they would wake in the

middle of the night when there was no one to ask and want to know about next steps in respect of court proceedings. The overriding feedback was that a factual letter was very important to support families. My letters were always based on the spirit of this feedback and only ever intended to be helpful. Again, I am deeply sorry if anyone found my letters insensitive.

16. In July 2023, Janine McKinney returned to work following a period of leave for medical treatment. From this date, she resumed the role of Chief Crown Prosecutor for the East Midlands Area. I had no further dealings with this case and I am therefore unable to comment upon any questions relating to the partial defence of diminished responsibility in the context of this case, the acceptance of pleas, the supervision of the case generally or the further communications that took place with the bereaved families. I was aware that Dr Blackwood had been retained at an early stage in the event a psychiatrist was needed, but I was not involved in his selection, or the later drafting of instructions to him. I was cited in a press release regarding the CPS decision to charge the defendant in this case with murder and attempt murder - it being usual that the press statement is made by the Chief Crown Prosecutor in high profile media interest cases. I am asked if I experienced any issues with the handling of communications in this case. I can confirm that I did not.

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

Suzanne Llewellyn

Dated: 23 October 2025

INDEX TO FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF SUZANNE LLEWELLYN

	URN	Document description
1	CPSE0001032	Email from Alan Murphy to Suzanne Llewellyn, Andrew Baxter, Samantha Shallow and others, re: Calocane Valdo 31CF0944023 Review Document etc
2	CPSE0001906	Email from Alan Murphy to Samantha Shallow and Sheryl Monk, re: Operation Hendrix
3	CPSE0000002	Letter from Suzanne Llewellyn to Dr Sanjoy re: describing the role of the CPS in the current criminal proceedings
4	WITN0080003	The Code for Crown Prosecutors
5	WITN0080005	Bereaved Families Guidance – CPS Service to the Bereaved Families in Homicide Cases
6	WITN0080006	The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (the Victims' Code)
7	HMCP0000625	Report dated March 2024 compiled by HMCPSI re: An inspection of Crown Prosecution Service actions in the Valdo Calocane case - The events in Nottingham on 13 June 2023