

## THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

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### WITNESS STATEMENT OF AMISSÃO CALOCANE

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1. I make this statement in response to a Rule 9 request sent to my solicitor on 2 September 2025.
2. This statement is based on my knowledge and beliefs. 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 would like to say I am so sorry for what happened. I hope this Inquiry can help to stop tragedies like this happening again.
4. I am the father of Valdo Calocane. Valdo and I had a good relationship. Valdo was a quiet child but he was always kind and never caused any problems. As a family, we were all close and got along well; we were just a normal family.
5. In 1995, I was already working in Portugal and Valdo and my wife joined me from Guinea-Bissau, when he was three. While we lived in Portugal, we had our other two children. During this time, I worked in construction, working on various building sites. In 2006, one of the companies I worked for brought me to Wales. Initially, I spent three months working here and then I returned to Portugal.
6. In February 2007, I came back to Wales again to work for a different construction company. I initially came by myself. Six months later, when it became clear that my work would continue, my family came to join me. At that point, Valdo was 16 years old. The move was a big change for all of us. We also struggled with the language barrier, as we didn't speak English at first.

7. Valdo was a well-behaved child. There were occasions, as with any family, when we would have arguments. Particularly when he was a teenager, Valdo told us that he had decided that he didn't want to go to church anymore. We are a Christian family, and we would always go to church together every Sunday so it was important to us. My wife and I told Valdo we wanted him to come with us to church but he did not want to and ultimately we didn't want to pressure him as we knew he was growing up and wanted to be independent.
8. When Valdo was 19 and studying for his A-Levels, he said that he wanted to move out of the house. He moved into a house share and would work at night while he was studying. Although he had moved out, he would usually come back home on the weekends to see us and we always kept in contact with him.
9. After leaving Wales, I believe Valdo told us he was going to move to Liverpool for a job. However, when he came home for Christmas, we learned that he had moved to Birmingham. He stayed there and completed a University Access Course. As far as I remember, I didn't find out about this until he had successfully completed the course – Valdo was a proud person and didn't like to tell people what he was doing until it was finished. He then moved to Nottingham for university.
10. When the pandemic happened and the country went into lockdown, we suggested to Valdo that he should come home as we didn't want him to be alone during such a tough time. However, he wanted to stay in Nottingham and focus on his studies.
11. I have been asked whether I was worried about Valdo being influenced by another person or group. This never worried me. It would have been difficult for someone to have any influence on Valdo because he is an independent person and it was difficult to force him into something.
12. I have also been asked whether I am aware of Valdo having any significant relationships with women. I am not aware of any such relationships.

13. I have also been asked whether I was ever aware of Valdo taking recreational drugs or drugs that he was not prescribed. I was never aware of Valdo taking any drugs.
14. I have been asked if prior to the events of 13 June 2023, Valdo had shown any affinity for knives or other weapons. Valdo had never shown any interest in knives or other weapons.

### **Valdo's mental health and his first admission to hospital**

15. I first started to worry about Valdo's mental health when he was at university in 2020. I would talk to Valdo on the phone and sometimes he seemed a bit stressed. I was worried about the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact it was having on him, as he was totally isolated.
16. At the time, I didn't think this was part of a bigger mental health issue. Valdo would say he had difficulties sleeping but that was due to him spending a lot of time in the library late in the evening. He kept saying that he had tasks he needed to finish and study for. Because Valdo was studying, I thought his issues were probably because of stress from university or that maybe he was feeling down because he was overworked. I would tell him to try and sleep more because I could see it was affecting him.
17. I realised that Valdo's symptoms were part of a bigger problem and something more serious when we learnt that Valdo had been arrested in May 2020. On 24 May 2020, my wife told me that Valdo had been arrested but I don't remember the specifics of what led to his arrest. As soon as we found out, we rushed to Nottingham. Valdo was being held by the police and then we found out that he was going to be detained under the Mental Health Act.
18. Throughout the period May 2020 onwards, my wife was the main family contact for mental health services and she was the person who got updates and had all the contact with professionals. We had agreed she would do this as she spoke

better English than me so communication was easier for her. She also worked as a nurse so at least had some understanding of how to speak to professionals, which was totally new for me. As my wife was the main contact, all of the information I had about Valdo's mental health was communicated to me by her. I went to a few meetings at the hospital with my wife but she was the main point of contact.

19. I do not have a very good memory of all of the specific details of what happened between Valdo becoming unwell in May 2020 and June 2023.
20. After Valdo was admitted to hospital the first time, I do remember that he was assessed and the doctor said he had experienced first episode psychosis. However, no one seemed to know what kind of illness Valdo had or what that meant for him. I do not remember how many meetings I attended with Valdo's doctors or what was discussed in detail.
21. I have seen a copy of the note of a meeting that I attended on 5 June 2020 [NHFT0000168] with my wife, my daughter, Valdo and Dr Seedat. I think that it was at this meeting that Dr Seedat explained that he thought Valdo was suffering with a first episode of psychosis and he needed treatment. From looking at the record, I can remember that in the meeting, Dr Seedat asked if there were any past mental health issues in the family. I mentioned that I had heard that my father had had mental health problems in the past. Growing up, I didn't see this myself until I was 15 years old and my dad had some problems for one or two months before he seemed to get better again.
22. While Valdo was in hospital, I did visit but I cannot remember how many times. I would visit with my wife but I cannot remember if she visited Valdo by herself as well. During the visit, we would sit with Valdo and speak to him but he seemed different. We didn't know what exactly was wrong, but he wasn't the Valdo we knew – he seemed to be different to me, both on the inside and the outside. When we went to the hospital, Celeste would ask the doctor about Valdo's

condition. I remember her telling me that the doctor advised her that they were still assessing Valdo and it was too early to diagnose him.

### **Valdo's second, third and fourth admissions to hospital**

23. As I have said, I do not have a clear memory of each of Valdo's admissions to hospital and what happened during these.
24. My memory of Valdo's diagnosis is that he had psychosis but that the doctors were not willing to say anything more than this.
25. By the time it got to 2022, I believed that Valdo was taking his medication as he would say he was when I asked him. It was hard for us as a family because Valdo was so far away from us and it was difficult to see how he really was. We only knew how he was from how he sounded over the phone and he seemed to be okay.

### **My contact with Valdo when he was in the community**

26. When Valdo was in the community and not in hospital, I would speak to him over the phone. I can't remember exactly how often we would speak but I think it was likely once or twice a week. Our calls would usually be quite short, lasting about 15 minutes. We would often speak when I had finished work for the day or if I was at home on my break. I would check in on him, asking how he was feeling and if he was okay. As part of my checking in, I often asked Valdo if he was taking his medication and Valdo would say he was. As Valdo's father, I was often worried about him, like any parent worries for their child, especially when they are so far away from you.
27. After Valdo graduated in July 2022, I am aware that Elias and Celeste thought he was in Coventry. I do not remember if I knew this.
28. From September 2022 until June 2023, Valdo and I would talk over the phone. At first, we were speaking about once or twice a week. Towards the end of 2022,

this went down to once or twice a month. I don't remember exactly what we spoke about in all of our conversations. We only spoke over the phone and didn't text each other. Valdo was also still speaking to my wife during this time. I don't believe he was speaking as often to his brother between 2022 and 2023.

29. Valdo talked to me a lot about people and the government monitoring him. He would tell me to be careful about people calling and that he thought people were listening in as he could hear their voices. I told him no one was listening in to us. I knew that there was something wrong with Valdo but I didn't know what his diagnosis was other than psychosis. I knew he was under the care of mental health services and I trusted they knew what they were doing.
30. I was not aware that there was a warrant issued for Valdo's arrest in September 2022.
31. I was not aware that Valdo had assaulted two of his colleagues at a warehouse in May 2023.
32. By 2023, I thought that Valdo was starting to get a bit better. When I spoke to him, he seemed to sound better and not like he did in 2020 when he first became unwell. As a result, I thought that there may have been some progress.

### **Events on 12 and 13 June 2023**

33. On 12 June 2023 at 10:52pm, I received a call from Valdo. At that point, I had finished work and had just arrived home. When we spoke, I asked Valdo how he was and he said that he was okay.
34. At the end of our conversation, he said that my wife and I shouldn't worry about him. He said that, if he went to hospital again, we shouldn't worry about visiting him as it would cost us money to drive to see him. I told him that that it didn't matter and we would want to make sure he was okay. I said that I was his father and I would always go and see him whatever the costs. I am aware of a police log from Nottingham Police [NGPF0001682] which states that in this call Valdo

had told me to tell Celeste not to contact him anymore. I can't now remember him saying that but I accept that this is what was recorded at the time. What Valdo said didn't seem to be unusual as he would often say things about us not worrying about him and try to be reassuring.

35. Our conversation on 12 June 2023 wasn't any different to conversations we had had before, so I wasn't particularly worried about him. I don't remember if he talked about the government in that conversation.
36. I don't remember how long our conversation lasted but it would have been a short call because I had just finished work and was tired. I told Valdo that I would talk to him in the morning as I needed to sleep. I didn't ask Valdo where he was during our call and Valdo didn't say anything about where he was.
37. I didn't speak to Valdo on 13 June 2023. I was working an extra shift at work that morning, so I left the house at 6:30am.
38. I came back home between around 2:45pm and 3:00pm and my wife and my daughter were at home. When they saw me, they asked if I had heard anything about Valdo. I said I hadn't and that is when they showed me the news on TV and told me what had happened in Nottingham. At first, I couldn't believe it was true.
39. It took me a long time to accept the reality of what happened – it wasn't until I saw the videos of Valdo that I realised what he had done.

### **After 13 June 2023**

40. After the attacks, we met with police on 14 June 2023 and we were asked questions about our history and moving to Wales.
41. After that meeting, our local police in Wales attended our home to give us some advice of how to stay safe and installed some cameras around the house. I cannot recall having any further contact with the police after this.

42. We didn't hear from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust until they contacted Celeste in February 2024. It is hard for me to remember but I think some people from the Trust came to our home. I cannot recall having further contact with the Trust after this.

### **My concerns about Valdo's care**

43. After the first incident with Valdo in May 2020, we thought he would be assessed, properly treated and things would get better. He was under the care of mental health services between 2020 and 2023 but throughout his care, no one ever took the time to properly treat him and assess what kind of illness he had. They only ever kept him in hospital for short amounts of time, but that wasn't enough time for him to get the proper treatment. These were missed opportunities for Valdo when he should have been admitted for longer periods of time.
44. When he was discharged from hospital, there did not seem to be proper follow up with Valdo. At first, I think he had nurses and carers attending his home once or twice a week but that decreased over time.
45. As a family, we were not fully involved in and informed about Valdo's care. When Valdo was discharged back to his GP in September 2022, we were not told.
46. If Valdo had received the treatment he needed, it could have stopped what happened. It is important that this Inquiry tries to find out what mistakes have been made and that people learn from them. We need to do better to prevent other tragic incidents like this happening again. If lessons are not learnt from this, the same failures could continue to happen and nothing would change.

### **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

Name: Amissão Calocane

Statement no.: WITN0086001

Date: 12 December 2025

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:

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<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>URN</u></b>	<b><u>Document Description</u></b>	<b><u>Control Number</u></b>
1	NHFT0000168	Medical Records of VC from 24/05/2020 to 14/06/2023, Various NHFT Staff/Teams, re: Patient Record Summary	
2	NGPF0001682	Action Record and Log Print, Re: TST Amissao Calocane, Father of Suspect dated 08/02/2024, Nottinghamshire Police	