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Witness Name: Louise Clarke

Statement No: WITN0418001

Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

## THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

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### FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT LOUISE CLARKE

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I, Louise Clarke, will say as follows: -

#### INTRODUCTION

1. I am Superintendent Louise Clarke of Nottinghamshire Police.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the "**Inquiry**") with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (the "**Request**").

#### BACKGROUND

3. I have been asked to set out a summary of my career background, along with any relevant training and education.
4. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree, with Honours, in Business and Leadership.

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5. I joined Nottinghamshire Police on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1999, 27 years' service completed. I began my career as a Police Constable on a response team, then joining CID (Criminal Investigations Department) in 2001, and the Homicide unit in 2003. In 2009 I was promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant, working on Response.
  
  6. In 2014 I was promoted to the rank of Inspector and was the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector (NPI) for Newark and Sherwood for 3 years.
  
  7. In 2017 I was promoted to the rank of Chief Inspector, as the Firearms Incident Manager (FIM) within the Force Control Room (FCR).
  
  8. In 2021 I was promoted to the rank of Superintendent in Human Resources (HR), then moving to Operational Support (OS) Department in 2022, where I remain.
  
  9. My current qualifications in Policing are:
    - Senior Leadership Development Programme. From October 2023 to February 2024. This consisted of modules and inputs on progress leadership style and application within the workplace.
  
    - CADRE Tactical Firearms Commander (TFC). Completed November 2018, qualifying as Cadre TFC. I remain operationally, and occupationally,

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qualified until November 2028 (having re-qualified in 2023).

- Public Order Public Safety silver commander course. Completed June 2023, and refreshed within continual professional development (CPD), remaining qualified as occupationally and operationally competent.
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Silver commander. Completed July 2025. Qualified to operate at Silver commander level for CBRN event.
- Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Safety for Executives and Directors. Completed November 2021. Qualified to strategic level in Health and Safety management.
- Management of Police Pursuits Course. Completed November 2021. Pursuit Manager trained. Skill remains in date until 15<sup>th</sup> October 2027.
- Public Order Public Safety Events module. Completed April 2023. This involves management of events and the role of the Police.

10. I have been asked to provide details of my involvement on 13 June 2023 in respect of the incident involving VC.

11. On the 13th June 2023, I was the on-call PACE Superintendent, covering from 4pm 12th June 2023 until 7am 13th June 2023. All Superintendents

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have a role in covering the on-call PACE Superintendent role and there is a daily rota which denotes the shifts we are allocated to cover as part of the Superintendent function. The PACE Superintendent is on-call for authorities denoted to the rank, such as requests for PACE extensions in custody, or for incidents which are declared as major or critical incidents, etc.

12. During the early hours of 13th June 2023, I was woken by a telephone call from the FIM Chief Inspector (Ch Insp), David Mather. I am aware from reviewing incident log 0065\_13062023 (**URN: NGPF0006136**), that this call was made to me at 04.59am.

13. Ch. Insp Mather asked if he could brief me on an incident and informed me that there had been a stabbing of 2 people on Ilkeston Road Nottingham, both victims believed to be students. He told me that one of them was deceased, and the second was alive, receiving medical attention. I asked him if he had more information on what had happened, and he told me that the initial reports made to the Police were of a possible robbery.

14. I asked whether the identity of the victims had been established, and he reported that he thought they were both students, who originated from the south of England, and he provided me with their names. Ch. Insp Mather added that he had put measures in place for their respective families to be contacted. I enquired about the victims' relationship to each other, and he told me that this had not been established, however checks were being conducted on social media to see if that could be determined.

15. My questions then focused on the offender, and I requested information on the identity and location of the offender. Ch. Insp Mather informed me that

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the offender was currently unknown and their location was unknown; however, a description had been obtained. He informed me that the offender had been described as "a black male, wearing black clothing, in possession of a black bag." He told me that the suspect was reported as leaving the offence location, heading in the direction of the City Centre. I checked that a search for the offender was taking place and was informed that it was.

16. I checked that the crime scene had been secured and that the on-call Detective Inspector (DI) had been informed and was attending. Ch. Insp Mather confirmed that a scene was in place, and that DI Pam Dowson was the on-call DI in attendance, managing the scene. I checked with Ch. Insp Mather that he had sufficient resources for the incident and he said he did.

17. I asked Ch. Insp Mather whether he had made contact with the Nottinghamshire Police media team to prepare a statement for the press, and he confirmed that this was in hand.

18. We then discussed contacting the on-call Gold Commander, which was Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Griffin. Ch. Insp Mather agreed that he would make contact with ACC Griffin as he had all the relevant information available to him.

19. I informed Ch. Insp Mather that I would remain awake and available if he, or ACC Griffin, required anything further from me and confirmed that I would brief the morning Superintendent, which was Superintendent Paul Burrows, as there would be a likely need for further resources such as search teams, and staff to support the developing investigation by the CID/Homicide teams. This would all need to be discussed at the morning Daily Management

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Meeting (DMM) which Superintendent Burrows would be attending.

20. I received no further contact from Ch. Insp Mather, nor from ACC Griffin, that morning and I remained awake and began to work from my laptop. From memory, I called Superintendent Burrows at approximately 7am, which is the usual handover time from night to day shift, and informed him of the incident.

### **Summary of My Involvement**

21. My initial involvement was receiving the above call as PACE Supt. I attended the Gold meetings chaired by ACC Griffin on the 13th June, and on the days that followed, and a Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023. I was also in attendance at two organisational debriefs, as part of a series of debriefs which were coordinated by the OS Department. These were attended in person, and online, via a force wide online debriefing process, which was accessed by a QR code. The debriefs were held on the following dates:

- A first response/firearms debrief, held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 led by Nottinghamshire Police Firearms training team.
- A Counter Terrorism (CT) led debrief on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 that was duly recorded by them.

22. In terms of my attendance at the Gold meetings, I document below the dates of my involvement, along with corresponding actions allocated to me, and

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updates I provided on those.

23. On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023, I attended the Gold meeting and during this I was allocated the following actions;

- Welfare/wellbeing in respect of my area of business – Operational Support.
- To review the timeliness of the response to the first incident reported on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

During the meeting, there was a discussion on resourcing, and I provided an update from an Operational Support and Armed Response perspective. I have reviewed the Gold Group Minutes from that day (URN: **NGPF0007796**) and confirm that this update is detailed within Item 10: Resourcing.

24. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, I attended the Gold Group meeting held that day. I have reviewed the minutes from that meeting (URN: **NGPF0007798**) and under Item 9, I provided an update on 'Engaging and Managing the Welfare of the Workforce.' I also provided an update on my allocated action from the previous day, reviewing the timeliness of the initial response to the first call. This is also documented within minutes. This action was discharged at that point.

25. On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, I attended the Gold Group meeting held that day and no further actions were allocated to me.

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26. On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023, I attended the Gold Group meeting held that day. I provided an update on the welfare of the Resource Management Unit (RMU) Department, which is part of the wider OS Department, and said that no welfare concerns were raised. I was allocated an action to give thought to the different sections involved in the Op Hendrix debrief for discussion with the group. This is documented within the minutes from that day (**URN: NGPF0007802**).

27. On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, I attended the Gold Group Meeting held that day. During that meeting I provided an update on my allocated action from 20<sup>th</sup> June. I have reviewed the Gold Group Minutes 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 (**URN: NGPF0007803**) which documents the update provided by me. The action was discharged.

28. On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023, I attended the Gold Group meeting held, during which the debriefs were discussed, in respect of the future management of welfare within the organisation, under Item 14: Debrief and Learning. I provided an update on this which is documented within the Gold Group Minutes (**URN: NGPF0007805**) from that day.

29. On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024, I attended the Gold Group Meeting held that day, in which I was tasked to update the officers from OS, involved in the incident, of the date of the upcoming court hearing, and to share with them the media footage, prior to its release. These elements were duly completed. (**URN: NGPF0007807**)

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30. From the force-wide debriefs held, I received recommendations which were sent for final sign-off within the Organisational Risk and Learning Board, chaired by ACC Verma.

31. The Learning board provides a structured forum to record, review, and support Nottinghamshire Police in monitoring and dealing with integrity and ethical issues. This ensures that through organisational learning, improvement to public service continues, whilst also supporting colleagues and progressing an inclusive culture.

32. The recommendations received from this are listed as follows:

- I caused a review of the Major Incident training and implemented an updated programme to the force which included the Civil Contingencies Act, and welfare management.
- I ensured M/ETHANE messaging was continually rolled out force-wide, as learning. This has taken place via College learn packages and on divisional training days.
- A review of 'Made Ready' armed status was completed and documented in the APSTRA (Armed Policing Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment).
- Refreshed scene management planning was implemented, again via divisional training days, College Learn programmes and a refreshed action card.

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- Training to senior officers was rolled out via the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) with all senior leaders invited to refresh knowledge on Tactical Coordination Group/Strategic Coordination Group (TCG/SCG) processes.
  - A review of the on-call LRF function was initiated and as a result a 24/7 call out system is now in place for TCG/SCGs via the LRF secretariat.

33. I have been asked to what extent I was involved in advising on the search for the offender (VC) on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and if I wasn't involved, who I consider responsible for that task. I did not advise on the search for the offender. This function should be carried out by the control room staff and officers on the ground, who should co-ordinate at that stage. I had checked during my call with Ch. Insp Mather that this was underway.

34. I have been asked if I have any observations regarding the sufficiency of the search for VC. I am not aware of the details of the search, and can therefore make no comment as to rigour, management, coordination or effectiveness.

35. I have been asked to provide any further information about my involvement in the events of 13 June 2023 which I consider to be of assistance to the Inquiry. My actions were as covered above. The initial conversation on that day, and then my attendance at respective Gold meetings/Debriefs and implementation of actions from the debrief was the extent of my involvement. I have no further information I believe to be of assistance.

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36. I have been asked for my reflections in respect of the Police involvement in the detention, investigation and ultimate prosecution of VC. I have no reflections on the investigation/detention/prosecution of VC as I was not directly involved in those elements.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

23.02.26.

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<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>URN</u></b>	<b><u>Document Description</u></b>
1	NGPF0006136	Safe incident 0065_ 13062023
2	NGPF0007796	Op Hendrix Gold Group Meeting 13062023
3	NGPF0007798	Op Hendrix Gold Group Meeting 14062023
4	NGPF0007802	Op Hendrix Gold Group Meeting 20062023
5	NGPF0007803	Op Hendrix Gold Group Meeting 23062023
6	NGPF0007805	Op Hendrix Gold Group Meeting 19072023
7	NGPF0007807	Op Hendrix Gold Group Meeting 19012024