

Name: Kenneth Ryan Cromwell
Statement No: WITN0436001
Dated: 13th April 2026

THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF KENNETH RYAN CROMWELL

I, **Kenneth Ryan Cromwell** of Nottingham City Council, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG **will say** as follows:

1. I am the Integrated CCTV Control Room Manager employed by Nottingham City Council.
2. Where the content of this witness statement is within my personal knowledge it is true. Where it is outside my personal knowledge and derived from other sources, it is true to the best of my information and belief.

Introduction

3. I began work for G4S Security Services in 2012 as a CCTV Operator. I was based at the Nottingham CCTV Control Centre, known as “The Woodlands”, which at the time was run by G4S Security Services on behalf of Nottingham City Council (“the Council”). My employment with the Council began in April 2018 when the CCTV control room was taken back in house. Previously I had worked as a CCTV Volunteer with Nottinghamshire Police, based at the Mansfield Civic Centre CCTV Control Room run by Mansfield District Council. There I assisted the police in looking at CCTV incidents via playback.
4. The role of the CCTV Operator is to monitor feeds on screens. I was promoted to the management role in May 2018. The current job title is as above.

5. In summary, my role involves overseeing the day-to-day operation of the Public Space CCTV operations across the council's wards. I am based at the Nottingham Control Centre. This is where the screens are and where staff sit looking at them. There are 28 full time CCTV operators. They work on a four-on, four-off shift pattern with 12-hour shifts. The operators are sitting and watching CCTV footage for 12 hours with 1-hour breaks. We also monitor the multistorey car parks, and we are also an accredited alarm receiving centre site for life threatening alarms such as fire activations, panic alarms and intruder activations from various customer sites.
6. The Control Room is divided into multiple CCTV areas: -
 - a. Police Talk Groups 4 and 5 cover the north of Nottingham wards and out of city wards that surround Nottingham.
 - b. Police Talk Groups 6 and 7 cover the south of the city and city centre, which also includes the Radford ward. I do not have the full mapping detail of each talk group as this is a Nottinghamshire Police process, and not within Nottingham City Council.
7. I need to ensure that the CCTV media desk is running smoothly, both internally and externally. I need to make sure that we deal with liaison with outside agencies lawfully and properly.
8. Our biggest external working partner is Nottinghamshire Police. We work with them almost every day. We also meet regularly with the Police to discuss concerns and feedback from residents. Often this relates to whether we need additional cameras in the city. There is a debate that sits behind this as to what is more effective - CCTV or regular Police patrols.

The CCTV Work

9. Public space CCTV monitoring is governed by British Standard 7958. The latest version of this is dated 2015.
10. Local authorities who operate CCTV networks are required to follow this. In particular, BS7958 deals with practices for operating CCTV systems, including

how to receive, store, review and analyse the data effectively. It is important to these regulations that high standards are maintained, given the potential uses and dangers of CCTV systems.

11. I understand our operations are audited by the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (“SSAIB”) – who review our CCTV security system and we are also audited by the National Security Inspectorate (“NSI”) for our Alarm Inspection Board.
12. It is important that CCTV footage is handled securely and appropriately. It involves the capture of images of the public and therefore we have data handling policies in place between us and the Police. If they require information from us, they send a G530 form using an internal email, which is an internal police CCTV ‘request to view’ form [WITN0436002]. Once completed, this permits an authorised police officer to receive any CCTV footage or data relevant to the investigation. When that arrives, the CCTV team review it and delegate it to a team member to extract the CCTV. This creates an audit trail.
13. Once the footage has been isolated, we await a NICE link from the police, and we download the footage to them. We are able to release the footage to the Police as soon as we receive the paperwork. We can also copy it to hard disc for them.
14. These procedures are important because they create a proper chain of evidence and ensure that the public’s privacy and data rights are maintained.
15. When we release CCTV footage, we will do a formal release, and the operator provides a witness statement to describe what they have done. We know the Police well and have a good working relationship with them.
16. There is a further aspect of public protection I should highlight. All the CCTV operators are vetted and trained for their jobs. We do not allow people into the Woodlands Centre until they have been identified and signed in. Clearly, that is a formality if police officers attend.

13 June 2023

17. I was not on duty overnight. I arrived at Woodlands at 9:15am. I checked my work emails at home and I called the CCTV Control Room to learn about the news of what had happened.
18. I am informed that VC was arrested at 05:34 hours. I can assist on events after this.
19. There were four staff on duty overnight on 12/13 June 2023. Two of them were involved in these events – Jayne Harvey and Anton Wilde. The remaining operatives would not have been involved because of the need to keep monitoring CCTV and car parking operations elsewhere in the city. When a major incident takes place, the need to monitor the rest of the city still remains. Jayne was the operator overseeing the City and Radford Desk and Anton was on the alarm receiving desk as the acting shift supervisor on the night shift. That is why Jayne and Anton were involved, rather than all four.
20. When I arrived at work, I saw that officers from the police's Criminal Investigation Department ("CID") were there, perhaps two or three of them. Clearly, I knew why they were there and offered to assist them straight away.
21. The police needed a working area, so we allocated the staff kitchen for them to set up a control room. The kitchen area was ideal as it was the closest room to access the CCTV equipment and ensures the officers have access to facilities for making food and drinks. Regardless of the time of day, we would have made space available if the police had requested access.
22. The police were anxious to track all of VC's movements through the public space cameras. This started with the killings on Ilkeston Road, the killing on Magdala Road and then events on Parliament Street. Despite what is seen in popular fiction, it is not normally possible to track the movements of individuals across the city using CCTV. The reason for this is that we do not have a CCTV camera on every street corner. This means that we had to do

our best to track the route, but there would be gaps. The police told us that they were looking for private CCTV from shops and businesses and also from homes and doorbells.

23. There are no public space CCTV cameras on Magdala Road in Mapperley, where the second attack took place. The closest camera is a traffic camera which looks towards the junction between Mansfield Road and Hucknall Road at all times.
24. Later in the day some anti-terrorist police turned up and we assisted them also.
25. I do not recall any hold ups in releasing the material to the police. When footage has been identified, we can download it to a hard drive for them.

The Radford Cameras

26. The Council's CCTV system has been installed and upgraded over many years. However, the cameras in the Radford area (where VC first offences took place and where he was subsequently arrested) are based on analogue control systems. This means that we control them through Public Switched Telephone Network ("PSTN") BT links. They had not been upgraded to more modern digital IP (internet protocol) links. In simple terms, we were controlling them through old style internet lines, rather than a more modern set of internet links.
27. The operatives have a joystick on their desk which is used to move the cameras and to pan them around. With the digital links, this is instantaneous. The camera moves as soon as the joystick is moved.
28. The analogue links are slower and more glitchy. It is possible to move the cameras around, and they are perfectly operable, but there will be a lag between moving the joystick and the camera moving only on some CCTV cameras.
29. Whilst the cameras on analogue links do not move particularly well, they do function properly. They will also do what we call a "Preset tour" every 60 to

- 90 seconds. This means that they will pan around and take a general view. The cameras are not designed to be pointing in a single direction constantly.
30. Returning to 13 June, I do not believe that any police officers attended the control room whilst the hunt for VC was ongoing. I am informed that the first killings occurred at around 04:00 and he was arrested at 05:34.
 31. The Woodlands control centre is a 24/7 control room and the Council is always able and willing to assist police officers in their investigations, no matter the time. The police have our contact details to inform us if they are attending the control room and can also use the police radio to communicate with the control room to request access. If officers arrive on site, the staff will check their warrant card before allowing access to the building.
 32. The control room has access to various police Talk Groups. As a result, the police can communicate to us what they want the operatives to look for. As I was not present, all I can say is that communication must have taken place and that the operatives will have been using CCTV to look for VC.
 33. I was later told that some of the early police traffic was extremely distressing because matters involving CPR to one of the victims was heard over the Talk Group by our operatives.
 34. One aspect of the search for VC is that the police needed to contact us to control the cameras. The police themselves do not have direct control of our cameras, although they do see the live feeds from four of them. The live feeds are placed onto what is called a 'FollowMe' server by the CCTV Operator and the Live footage will then appear on the police control room screen at Sherwood Lodge control room (within police headquarters). On that basis, the police would have needed our assistance to undertake the CCTV search for VC.
 35. Whilst a police investigation is ongoing, CCTV staff would be proactively searching through the CCTV cameras but also reacting to information when police inform CCTV staff of any new incident updates.

Recommendations

36. CCTV camera technology has advanced very rapidly since the early days of the council's CCTV. There is clearly an advantage to upgrading on to digital communication (IP) lines.
37. There is also the question of the network extent. This is a difficult issue in that putting CCTV cameras on every single street corner in Nottingham would be a highly controversial matter. Generally, we have placed the CCTV cameras where we feel they are needed and where there has been local desire for them.

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

Print name: Kenneth Cromwell

Dated: 13th April 2026

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No	Inquiry URN	Document Description
1	WITN0436002	Blank request to external organisation for the disclosure of personal data to the Police