

Name: Nigel Blackwood

Statement No: WITN0308004

Dated: 19 August 2026

THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF NIGEL BLACKWOOD

I, Nigel Blackwood, will say as follows: -

INTRODUCTION

1. I am the Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at King's College London and a consultant forensic psychiatrist with the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust. I have been a qualified medical practitioner since 1991 and a consultant forensic psychiatrist since 2004. I am approved under Section 12(2) of the Mental Health Act 1983. I have worked as a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist in secure psychiatric hospitals, prisons and (currently) in a community forensic team. Such clinical work takes place alongside my academic (clinical research and postgraduate education) and medicolegal work.

2. This second witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the "Inquiry") with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 5 August 2026 (the "Request"). It should be considered in conjunction with my first Witness statement dated 30th November 2025 and my oral evidence to the Inquiry on 30th March 2026.

BACKGROUND

3. I have been asked to consider new case materials not available to the CPS or to myself at the time of writing my reports for the court in 2023/2024. These consist of a number of notebooks in a holdall bag discovered by Nottinghamshire police on 16 June 2023 at Mr. Calocane's most recent address of 165 Burford Road, Nottingham. I understand that these notebooks were disclosed to the Inquiry on 3 June 2026. The materials therein are largely undated and the precise times of their production unclear: however, the writings and drawings certainly antedate the index offences.

4. I have been provided with the following documents:

NGPF0011501 - copy of VC's sketchbook

NGPF0011502 - copy of part 1 of VC's second Pukka Pad

NGPF0011502T - translation of parts of NGPF0011502

NGPF0011503 - copy of part 2 of VC's second Pukka Pad

NGPF0011503T - translation of parts of NGPF0011503

NGPF0011504 - copy of VC's first Pukka Pad

NGPF0011504T - translation of parts of NGPF0011504

NGPF0011505 - copy of part 1 of VC's Oxford notebook

NGPF0011505T - translation of parts of NGPF0011505

NGPF0011506 - copy of part 2 of VC's Oxford notebook

5. I have been asked to consider these further materials (together with an updated Inquiry Legal Team document [INQY0000003]; Section 3 therein addresses and summarises the notebooks) and to answer 5 groups of related questions. I take these groups of questions in turn.

6. *Considering the notebooks as a whole*

I have been asked to consider whether these new notebook materials would have been of assistance to me in assessing VC, preparing my report and deriving my opinions and conclusions in the matter.

7. Additional materials which help to inform a psychiatric understanding of Mr. Calocane's mental state in the (potentially years) before the index offences are of interest.
8. Had I been aware of the materials, I would have used some of them to help to inform my interviews with Mr. Calocane as detailed below.

9. The notebooks contain evidence of his undergraduate degree work with detailed notes concerning, for example, physics and avionics materials.
10. The notebooks also reveal evidence of the psychotic illness, schizophrenia.
- He details:
- a. Reality distortion symptoms: persecutory delusions (*'In harmony and unisson they prophesised that the one named Valdo must die. Though they were wrong as to the reason, they were right about the need. Valdo must die'*) grandiose delusions (*'I am the tree that guards the key [that link] between heaven and hell'. 'I am a God. Are there many or few? Few, otherwise the meaning of Godhood would be lost. That which almost infinitely superior to men, that which transcends mere human comprehension and experience'*) nihilistic delusions (*'I died at 19.47 on Tuesday'*) somatic hallucinations (*'The AI system that moniters me first came out of the background...the system gave me the sensation of being aroused'*) thought broadcast (*'Nurse Sarah that you saw at the canteen can read your mind'*) and auditory hallucinations (*'Agent Z told the rest 'See I told you he likes to listen'*).
 - b. He gives clear descriptions of his psychotic symptoms at the time of his offending behaviours and during periods of detention
 - i. referring to his first offences of breaking into the flats and his period in custody: *'Remember woman doing the processing and already thinking desktop they had had mind reading software... Had episodes during the whole time but cant remember the order of events...During the first time the episode was about rape and me*

having power to resurrect people by squeezing my arse. The idea was that we all died. He died, she died, even the mistress (possibly a neologism) died. When I choose to die, they wouldn't let me. That is until I went to hell. Next day he began to give me a heart attack which I assented. Taken out of cell to a small holding room/space with transparent door There first notion of someone reading mind. Officer taunting me with hand gestures'.

- ii. At the time of his final (fourth) inpatient detention, dated entries from 29th January and 7th February 2022 describe the influence of AI technologies on reading the mind (*'to read someone's mind, the only thing you need is their fingerprint'*; there is also a 'discussion' with what appears to be a voice about research papers: *'he tells me you won't find them...'*; and how mind-reading may be achieved with a chip or very thin wires). He describes how the AI system *'that monitors me'* began and the commenting voices which it created (*'3 males and 3 females....the gist of the exchange was that my reaction showed or betrayed pervert inclinations...Agent Z told the rest 'see I told you, he likes to listen' This was not the first time I heard them...I also hadn't realised the voice to skull effect'*). He goes on to describe 'agents' (auditory hallucinations) saying *'Valdo, you're talking to the MI6 and we're not leaving until you give us what we want'* and *'Valdo, you are being watched by the FBI'*. The 'agents' also told him that he was talking to the NSA or a military agency or the devil. He concluded that there were a number of British agencies with a technology that could access the mind and

that *'AI agents are used by each to harass the individual'*. Others subject to interference ('David Green, Surrey, 2017') are discussed. He also records paranoid concerns about the safety of his father, perhaps recording what voices are saying to him verbatim: *'if you come to the conclusion that if your father stayed at work they would have to compensate him, and the pains we gave him were so that he would leave the job by himself. And if he is not able to support himself, he only comes back to Portugal. And if we give him a brain haemorrhage, you don't know where this will go...If you take us to court without a lawyer, I will shame you...you don't know the harm we have done to you....someone has to be humiliated'*.

11. More rational thoughts are also evident, with a wide range of materials under his consideration: ancient Rome (military strategy; tribunes); bicycle and vehicle dynamic modelling; to-do lists involving playing the violin and learning Italian; a list of names for a dog; an outline for a short story in which there is a slaughter in a village: *'a young woman observes the slaughter but is granted forgetfulness of the same, the young man is cursed forever to hear the voices and screams of those he butchered'*; notes on the Gospel of Matthew; the film *Watchmen* (in which a group of superheroes investigate the murder of one of their own before uncovering a deadly conspiracy with which they are all connected); fellow patients on Rowan ward; musings about women (*'women only respect a disciplined man'*), love (*'strength and ruthlessness should the foundation on which love is built'*) the nature of power (*'power is obtained and maintained by taking possession of the arms of the state'*); a dream; internet

sales; historical thoughts about the '*wandering black man...who saw extinction flirt with him*'; thoughts about the meaning and functions of sexual intercourse ('*release...procreation...the meaning of sex is sport and pleasure: sport means competition and pleasure means triumph*')

12. There is nothing in these notebook materials which fundamentally changes my understanding of Mr. Calocane, or calls into question the nature of his mental disorder, or the psychotic underpinnings of the index offences.

13. VC's Insight

I have been asked to consider whether VC's note to the effect that "*Either I'm somewhat observant, intuitive, or I've become super paranoid. Which one I'd rather? Paranoid because it can be cured*" demonstrates his insight into his illness; to consider whether I would have utilised this statement in my clinical interview; and to consider whether this would have affected my clinical opinion with respect to his insight into his illness.

14. In further exploring Mr. Calocane's understanding of his illness, and his approach to treatment, I may have used this statement as an example of the various approaches available to him in trying to understand his psychotically altered world: that, for example, his experiences *may* be a result of correct intuitions or observations or, in the alternative, coloured by paranoia deriving from a major mental illness such as schizophrenia. Equally, at the point of writing, he appears to consider that 'paranoia can be cured'. He is potentially actively considering two of the three components of insight: the ability to

relabel abnormal experiences as pathological in nature; the ability to consider that the experiences are impacted by treatment. I note that this text is embedded in college materials and an assignment and its timing (as with the vast majority of the notebook material) is obscure. This material may have been a useful interview entry point, but not an essential one, to both a consideration of his insight into his experiences and illness, and the potential impact of treatment. However, we were able to explore his insight and experience of treatment carefully in the absence of this material (see for example, paragraphs 33 and 88 of my November 2023 report [CPSE0000011]).

15. He is an intelligent man, and has subjected his psychotic experiences to detailed thought and consideration, with his explanatory framework coloured by his training in engineering and internet materials (eg on brain-computer interfaces) which he utilised to support his state surveillance/ interference ideas. There may have been periods in his illness course (particularly when treated in an inpatient setting) when he doubted the veracity of his experiences and could at least briefly consider that he was unwell and in need of treatment (i.e. more insightful). However, in an untreated state in 2022/23, he clearly lost insight into the pathological nature of his experiences, becoming entirely convinced of their truthfulness. One terrible consequence of his explanatory framework was that he considered that the extent of his surveillance could only be retroactively justified by the crimes which state actors or rogue computer programs were coercing him to commit (in the IPT document as referred to in INQY0000003: *The objective of the activity as far*

as the complainant can ascertain is to harass and misinform him, so as to drain him mentally to coerce him to commit criminal activities that retroactively justify the illegal surveillance that the agencies committed").

16. Potential historical 'illegal actions' by VC

I have been asked to consider whether I would have asked VC about the note 'Mea culpa • illegal actions 2013/2014 • defied lockdown' and the potential relevance of the same to my opinions.

17. I would have asked Mr. Calocane about what potential illegal actions from 2013/14 (when he was working as a labourer in GRO-B) he was referring to in this note and explored any potentially guilty thoughts (concerning eg lockdown infractions). I take this as potential evidence of his considering *why* he should be made subject to interference and monitoring by the state (is it because of my past actions?) The note continued (with meaning less secure): 'often one attributes little value to the moral high ground because it can...by anyone'

18. The witness statement obtained from a former flatmate for the Inquiry (which spoke of animal bones in a flat bath in GRO-B in 2015, not securely attributed to Mr. Calocane, WITN0428001) and the 'illegal actions 2013/2014' comment raise the possibility of antisocial behaviours which predated the formal onset of his illness. In the alternative, he may be considering that he is the *focus* of 'illegal actions' dating potentially from 2013/14 (the illegality of the

state monitoring to which he held himself to be subject was later a potent focus of his anger). Either of these explanations may in turn suggest a longer timeline for pre-morbid features of his psychotic disorder than the formal 4 year history of psychiatric involvement suggested. Consistent with this longer timeline, the flatmate statement noted unusual behaviours (screaming in his bedroom, inter-personal abruptness/ rigidity) dating from 2014/15.

19. I considered carefully whether there was evidence of childhood conduct disorder or adult antisociality independent of his psychotic illness in the collateral information available to me, in my interviews and when writing my reports. There was not. His seriously assaultative behaviours all occurred in the context of an untreated or undertreated psychotic illness, deriving understandably from his psychotic experiences and the personality deterioration which may be evident in the context of untreated psychosis.

20. It would have been helpful to attempt to better specify the potential 'illegal actions' to which he refers in interview. However, even if this represented, at its worst, an assault of some nature (it may of course have been a paranoid interpretation of rather unremarkable behaviour), there remains insufficient evidence of life course persistent antisocial behaviours associated with the pathological levels of impulsivity, irritability and aggressivity found in an antisocial personality disorder to merit an additional personality disorder diagnosis.

21. The diagnosis employed after many months of intense scrutiny in a high secure hospital remains that of schizophrenia. No additional diagnosis of a personality disorder (whether antisocial or otherwise) has been made.

22. Specifying the nature of any potential 'illegal actions' would not have fundamentally altered the core diagnosis in the case (schizophrenia), or my approach to the partial defence.

23. VC's note concerning violence

I have been asked to consider whether I would have asked VC about the note 'foredone – destroy, kill' and the potential relevance of the same to my opinions.

24. The notes here begin with the consideration that '*The nth iteration: Valdo has to die*' ('*O Valdo tem que morrer*'). This is the result of '*a prophecy*'. There are some obscure calculations about '*what areas need to be improved*' ('*mental, verbal, math, spatial, cyber, body*'). Later, '*the need for recognition is hazard...your major flaw*'. Following a list of potential names for a dog, the note '*foredone – destroy, kill*'. Shortly thereafter '*all is war, all is competition, you will be graded*'.

25. I would have asked general questions about his interest in military strategy, the Romans, war. I would have asked him about the prophecy that he was to die. I would have sought to understand whether there was a grandiose underpinning to some of these thoughts eg the potential connection between

thinking that he was a God and the prophecy of his death. I would have asked him whether any of such thinking foreshadowed the fatal assaults; whether he sought to be 'recognised' for the same.

26. Discussing these thoughts with him may have provided an even richer understanding of his inner world and his motivations for the index offences. They do not make me doubt that the fatal assaults were conducted under a psychotic imperative, and strongly influenced by the psychotic experiences documented elsewhere in his written notes and in interviews with psychiatrists (both before and after the index offences).

27. VC's notes concerning prior incidents and interactions with the Nottinghamshire Police

I have been asked to consider whether I would have asked VC about these notes, particularly the note entitled 'To do list when interviewing Gail'; whether such notes indicate retained rationality; and whether in turn these notes would have influenced my opinions.

28. VC records a series of questions under the name of Abigail Pinnock and the date 24.5.20. I understand that PC Abigail Pinnock was a Nottinghamshire Police Officer who was briefly involved with the investigation into the 3 September 2021 incident (the assault on the police officer at the point of sectioning and detention for a third inpatient admission to hospital). There is no evidence, other than this reference in the notebook, that she was involved with the 24.5.20 incident. I take these to be thoughts that had been explored/

he wanted to explore with his psychiatrist, his solicitor or the police with respect to the assault charge which obtained.

29. He then records a further series of procedural questions, 'to do list when interviewing Gail'. I understand that these may relate to PC Gail Collins, who interviewed Mr. Calocane on 24 May 2020 (at the time of the flat intrusions). Questions concern his treatment at that time by the police, and are informed by reference to the PACE code of practice.

30. These notes again demonstrate an intelligent man, perhaps after detailed conversations with his solicitor, seeking to establish whether he was appropriately treated and assessed during his periods of detention. He also appears puzzled why, if his behaviour was criminal, he was neither interviewed, nor was the offence further prosecuted or recorded in his PNC. He wonders whether his mental health detention was illegal ('dodgy mental assessment'). He notes a potential complaint route: 'denying the right to information in criminal proceedings'.

31. These considerations are not atypical in intelligent but insightful psychotic individuals seeking to understand and explore the complex interactions between the CJS and the mental health system. In some psychotic individuals, they may develop into querulous complaints against the police or the detaining hospital concerning the legality of particular proceedings or periods of hospital detention.

32. Such querulous concerns certainly do not suggest to me that there was 'a master manipulator' at work, as appeared to be a particular legal concern in my examination at the Inquiry. They are the concerns of an intelligent man with an under- or un-treated psychotic illness. An individual who is psychotic can have 'rational concerns' (if such these are) sitting alongside profoundly psychotic beliefs and experiences as elsewhere demonstrated: such islands of rationality do not argue against the presence of a severe and enduring major mental illness.

33. If in possession of these materials, I would have asked him about any concerns which he had had about the approaches taken by the police to his arrest at the time of the flat intrusions and the assault. However, I cannot envisage how any discussion thereto would have changed my approach to the central matters in the case.

34. I note that he immediately turns in his notes to considering the use of hydrogen fuel to reduce greenhouse emissions: further evidence of rational thoughts in a man with a severe and enduring mental disorder. It is, however, a profound mistake in my view to attempt to consider that the fatal assaults also derived from some similar island(s) of retained rationality, distinct from his severe and repeatedly described and demonstrated psychosis.

Summary

35. In conclusion, the written materials produced by Mr. Calocane, helpfully summarised in the Inquiry Legal Team Document [INQY0000003], demonstrate the extent and impact of Mr. Calocane's untreated psychosis on his thoughts and behaviours in the period before the index offences. I was fully aware of the Zipfile materials (antedating the offences) and the prison writings (postdating the offences) at the time of my reports, and these were important to my ultimate conclusions. The materials that were not available to me at the time of my reports (the IPT complaint as discussed in my oral evidence; the holdall notebooks discussed here) provide further evidence of his psychotic illness, and the psychotic underpinnings of the index offences.

36. He demonstrated some aspects of rational behaviour at the time of the fatal assaults, considered by me in full, and subsequently described by DC Beddoe in his 'capacity' report [NGPF0000474]. A complete defence of insanity was not available to VC: he knew what he was doing and that what he was doing was wrong. However, his inner world was profoundly altered by his psychotic illness, and his assaultative actions were informed by psychotic imperatives. He was suffering from an abnormality of mental functioning. The abnormality of mental functioning substantially impaired his ability to form a rational judgement and to exercise self-control. The abnormality of mental functioning was a significant contributory factor to the index offences. The partial defence of diminished responsibility therefore obtained in my and four other psychiatrists' views.

37. The court critically examined but ultimately agreed with the suggested approach to his sentencing and utilised the safest available sentencing framework to ensure carefully supervised psychiatric treatment designed to minimise his manifest future risks to others. The extant scientific evidence (see for example, Fazel et al, *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 2016) suggests that, were VC ever to be released, such a hospital disposal is associated with significantly reduced reoffending rates on ultimate release into the community in comparison to imprisonment and subsequent release from prison. This finding holds when comparison is made with individuals with violent index offences, with prisoners with longer sentences as comparators, and when rates of violent reoffending are specifically examined. Rates of repeat offending are consistently lower in patients released from hospital in comparison to those released from prison.

38. The new notebook material helps to deepen our understanding of Mr. Calocane's internal world in the years before the index offences. However, nothing in these new materials (or the matters raised in my examination at the Inquiry) changes the approach which I took to the consideration of his illness or the partial defence at the time of the sentencing hearing in January 2024.

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: 19th August 2026

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No.	URN	Document Description
1.	NGPF0011501	Notes, re: Sketchpad drawings
2.	NGPF0011502	Notes by VC, Re: general journal including thoughts on love, war, dying
3.	NGPF0011502T	Notes, Re: VC (translated)
4.	NGPF0011503	Notes by VC, Re: Gospel of St Matthew
5.	NGPF0011503T	Notes by VC, Translated Pages from NGPF0011503
6.	NGPF0011504	Notes by VC, Re: Electricity and magnetism equations, passwords and contact details
7.	NGPF0011504T	Notes by VC, Translated Pages from NGPF0011504
8.	NGPF0011505	Notes by VC, Re: English class and DVND notes
9.	NGPF0011505T	Notes by VC, Translated Pages from NGPF0011505

10.	NGPF0011506	Notes by VC, Re: Personal thoughts including thoughts about sexual dynamics from the male perspective
11.	INQY0000003	Report dated 03/08/2026, compiled by The Nottingham Inquiry, Re: summarising material contained Zip Files and Prison Notes of VC
12.	CPSE0000011	Expert report of Dr Nigel Blackwood, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, re: Valdo Calocane aka Adam Mendes
13.	WITN0428001	First Witness Statement of Tessa Clyde Page-Harries
14.	NGPF0000474	Officer Report, Operation Name: Hendrix- Review of mental capacity of Valdo CALOCANE aka Adam MENDES, 30/11/2023, East Midlands Special Operations Unit