

THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INDEPENDENT REVIEW

**Possible corruption and the role of undercover
policing in the Stephen Lawrence case**

Volume Two

*Return to an Address of the Honourable the House of Commons
dated 6 March 2014
for*

THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INDEPENDENT REVIEW
**Possible corruption and the role of undercover policing
in the Stephen Lawrence case**

Volume Two

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Appendix I: Ministerial Statement and original terms of reference (July 2012)

E.R

Wednesday 11th July 2012

HOME OFFICE

Stephen Lawrence: QC-Led Review

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): In response to an Urgent Question by the hon Member for Eltham (Clive Efford) on 24 April, my hon Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire) made a statement on my behalf about the continuing allegations that have appeared in the media over recent months of police corruption in the original investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. As my Hon Friend said at that time, allegations of police corruption must always be taken seriously. It is essential we ensure that the actions and behaviour of corrupt police officers do not undermine public confidence in the police's ability to respond to, investigate and fight crime. I undertook to keep the House updated.

On 31 May, the Home Office announced that I had decided to call for an independent, QC review of the work the Metropolitan Police Service has undertaken into allegations of corruption in the original investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

I have asked Mark Ellison QC to carry out this review and he has agreed. Mr Ellison was the lead prosecutor in the successful prosecutions of Gary Dobson and David Norris for the murder of Stephen Lawrence. He will be supported by Alison Morgan, the junior counsel from the prosecution of Gary Dobson and David Norris.

The review team has agreed Terms of Reference with the Lawrence family and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House. The Review will begin in July 2012 and will aim to complete its findings by July 2013. The team will report to me and I intend to publish the Review's report.

The review will address the following questions: -

- Is there evidence providing reasonable grounds for suspecting that any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence acted corruptly?
- Are there any further lines of investigation connected to the issue of possible corrupt activity by any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence?
- Was the McPherson Inquiry provided with all relevant material connected to the issue of possible corrupt activity by any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence? If not, what impact might that have had on the Inquiry?

The review team is calling for evidence to be submitted to the review for consideration alongside the significant amount of material made available by the Metropolitan Police Service. Evidence should be sent to SLMEQC@qebhw.co.uk or by post to Stephen Lawrence Review, PO Box 70744, London, EC4P 4DT.

I am grateful to the Commissioner for the support he has offered to the review. I know that the Metropolitan Police Service will cooperate fully with the review team.

Review by Mark Ellison QC of allegations that the investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence was affected by police corruption

Terms of reference

The purpose of this review is to carry out an independent examination of the questions addressed in a recent review by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) following the allegations of corruption that have appeared in the media concerning officers connected to the initial police investigation. The work carried out by the MPS was published on 31 May 2012.¹

The review will address the following questions:

1. Is there evidence providing reasonable grounds for suspecting that any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence acted corruptly?
2. Are there any further lines of inquiry meriting investigation connected to the issue of possible corrupt activity by any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence?
3. Was the McPherson Inquiry provided with all relevant material connected to the issue of possible corrupt activity by any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence?

The review will be carried out by Mark Ellison QC. [He will be supported by NAME and NAME.] The review will begin on [DATE] and should aim to complete its findings by [JUNE 2013].

In carrying out this review, Mark Ellison QC and his team will:

- Have access to all files held by the MPS relating to the investigations into the murder of Stephen Lawrence;
- Have access to any files the review team considers necessary to carry out their review;
- Be able to speak to any serving police officers they wish;
- Provide bi-monthly updates as to progress to Mr Lawrence and his solicitor;
- Take account of any representations made by or on behalf of Mr Lawrence;
- Provide bi-monthly updates as to progress to Mrs Lawrence and her solicitor;
- Take account of any representations made by or on behalf of Mrs Lawrence;
- Provide bi-monthly updates to the Home Secretary;
- Submit a report to the Home Secretary which makes recommendations for further action, including whether any evidence should be passed to the DPP

¹ <http://content.met.police.uk/News/MPS-publishes-report-in-to-corruption-allegations-and-the-Stephen-Lawrence-Inquiry/1400008923135/1257246745756>

Appendix 2: Revised terms of reference (July 2013)

Review by Mark Ellison QC of allegations that the investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence was affected by police corruption

Terms of reference – revised July 2013

The purpose of this Review is to carry out an independent examination of the questions addressed in a recent review by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) following the allegations of corruption that have appeared in the media concerning officers connected to the initial police investigation (the work carried out by the MPS was published on 31 May 2012); and to establish the extent of involvement of undercover police operations in the case and whether details of these were withheld from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry.

The Review will now need to address the following questions:

1. Is there evidence providing reasonable grounds for suspecting that any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence acted corruptly?
2. Are there any further lines of investigation connected to the issue of possible corrupt activity by any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence?
3. Was the Macpherson Inquiry provided with all relevant material connected to the issue of possible corrupt activity by any officer associated with the initial investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence? If not, what impact might that have had on the Inquiry?
4. What was the role of undercover policing in the Lawrence case, who ordered it and why? Was information on the involvement of undercover police withheld from the Macpherson Inquiry, and if it had been made available what impact might that have had on the Inquiry?
5. What was the extent of intelligence or surveillance activity ordered or carried out by police forces nationally in respect of the Macpherson Inquiry, Stephen Lawrence's family or any others connected with the Inquiry or the family?
6. What was the extent, purpose and authorisation for any surveillance of Duwayne Brooks and his solicitor?

The Review will be carried out by Mark Ellison QC and he will be supported by Alison Morgan. The Review began in July 2012 and will aim to provide a report on key findings by December 2013.

In carrying out this work, the Review team will:

- Have access to all files held by the MPS relating to the investigations into the murder of Stephen Lawrence;
- Have access to any files the Review team considers necessary to carry out their review, eg those held by other police forces, the IPCC and the Home Office;
- Be able to speak to anyone, including serving police officers, they wish;

- Work closely with those responsible for Operation Herne investigating the operations and activities of undercover officers in the Special Demonstration Squad;
- Provide bi-monthly updates as to progress to Mr Lawrence and his solicitor;
- Take account of any representations made by or on behalf of Mr Lawrence;
- Provide bi-monthly updates as to progress to Mrs Lawrence and her solicitor;
- Take account of any representations made by or on behalf of Mrs Lawrence;
- Provide bi-monthly updates to the Home Secretary.

Reporting

The Review team will submit a report to the Home Secretary by 31 December 2013 setting out its conclusions, including whether the Review:

- i) has identified information that should lead to further action arising from the review, including whether any evidence should be passed to the DPP;
- ii) has been able to uncover all material evidence relating to the issues covered by the Terms of Reference and, if not, whether a public inquiry would have a greater chance of doing so.

Appendix 3: Brief history of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

Brief history of the Inquiry

Background

On 24 June 1997, the Home Secretary (the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP) met with Mr & Mrs Lawrence to discuss their application, made via their solicitor Mr Imran Khan, for a judicial inquiry into the death of their son, Stephen. They were accompanied by Mr Khan and Michael Mansfield QC, Bernie Grant MP, John Austin-Walker MP and supporters of the Lawrence family. Mr Straw and his Ministers had been considering for some weeks their concern about this matter.

2. After that meeting, a news release in these terms was issued by Mr Straw:

"I am glad to have been able to meet Mr & Mrs Lawrence today and have been deeply moved listening to the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of their son, Stephen.

Whilst in opposition I met Mrs Lawrence and was impressed by her determination and courage in such difficult circumstances. This meeting was my first opportunity to meet Mr & Mrs Lawrence in my capacity as Home Secretary and another chance for me to discuss with them the distressing details of their son's case. We have also had the chance to discuss broader issues, including racially motivated crime and the relationship between the police and ethnic minority communities.

It is not an option to let this matter rest.

I recognise that a strong case has been made by Mrs Lawrence for some form of an inquiry and I am actively considering what she put to me.

I will also carefully consider the other issues that were raised during our meeting and reflect on the best way to address the widespread concern resulting from this case.

I hope to make an announcement soon."

Appointment

3. On 31 July 1997, the Home Secretary gave written answers to Parliamentary Questions from Clive Efford MP and John Austin-Walker MP, saying that he had decided to establish an inquiry under section 49 of the Police Act 1996. The terms of reference of the inquiry were to be:

"To inquire into the matters arising from the death of Stephen Lawrence on 22 April 1993 to date, in order particularly to identify the lessons to be learned for the investigation and prosecution of racially motivated crimes."

4. Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, formerly a High Court Judge, was appointed to conduct the inquiry, being supported as Advisers by Mr Tom Cook, formerly Deputy Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police; Dr Richard Stone, Chairman, Jewish Council for Racial Equality; and the Rt Revd Dr John Sentamu, the Bishop for Stepney.

First steps

5. Stephen Wells and Alison Foulds from the Home Office's Operational Policing Policy Unit were appointed Secretary and Assistant Secretary in August 1997; and Peter Whitehurst, from the Treasury Solicitor's Department, was appointed Solicitor to the Inquiry in the same month. Linda Dann joined as the Assistant Solicitor in November; with Janet Crowl and Gerry Ranson, as the Personal Secretary and Documents Officer respectively in the Secretariat, arriving in December. Jayne Wiltshire, Personal Secretary, joined the Treasury Solicitors team also in December. Mike Booker acted as Inquiry Press Officer from February to December 1998. Maureen Puttnam joined as a Personal Secretary in December 1998.

6. The Attorney General instructed David Penry-Davey QC as Counsel to the Inquiry, with Anesta Weekes as second counsel. Unfortunately, the Inquiry very quickly was denied the services of Mr Penry-Davey upon his appointment to the High Court Bench: Edmund Lawson QC was appointed as successor in November 1997. John Gibson joined as junior Counsel in December.

7. Separate, short and informal meetings with Mr & Mrs Lawrence, and their Counsel and Solicitor; and with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority; the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police; the Director of Public Prosecutions; and officials from the Commission for Racial Equality, were held very soon after the Inquiry was formed. These were the obvious initial main parties to the Inquiry; and the purpose behind the meetings was for them and the Inquiry to discuss any immediate problems and concerns.

Background reading

8. Ahead of, during, and after the formal proceedings of the Inquiry, a number of sources of background information - reports and other publications, videos, press articles - were seen and read by the Chairman, Advisers and support staff. A bibliography is given in Appendix 18.

Accommodation and services

9. In accordance with convention, the Inquiry quickly sought to establish itself locally, in premises within the London Borough of Greenwich. Unfortunately, given the nature of the Inquiry and its need for sufficient space, privacy and security, appropriate premises could not be found in the Borough, although a number of alternatives were examined. Premises were ultimately found in Hannibal House in the Elephant & Castle area of Southwark, South East London, and these were converted to the Inquiry's requirements. The search for accommodation was an arduous one, and the Inquiry expresses its thanks, in particular, to the London Borough of Greenwich; ISD7 Branch of the Department of Health; and the Buildings and Estate Management Unit in the Home Office for their help, the latter also for their management of the necessary building works. The Inquiry moved to Hannibal House on 1 December 1997.

10. It soon became clear that the volume of papers likely to come before the Inquiry would be vast, and could only properly be managed, both in terms of their use as a resource and an archive as well as their handling during hearings, by use of sophisticated information technology. Other Inquiries were visited - including the North Wales Child Abuse and the Ashworth Special Hospital tribunals - to discern an appropriate solution. With the help of the Home Office Central Information Systems Unit, a specification was devised. Contractors were invited to submit competitive tenders for meeting this requirement, Sellers Imago being successful. The Inquiry therefore was able to operate without recourse to masses of paper copies of documentary evidence: instead, as is increasingly customary in public inquiries, material was scanned into the system (by Legal Technologies Limited), and then called up (by Grace Vaughan, from Sellers Imago) and viewed, on screens, in the Inquiry chamber. As evidence was given, a contemporaneous note of the proceedings was prepared and shown on screen. This service was also provided by Sellers Imago, a contract being awarded after competitive tendering.

11. Copies of the transcript were available for consultation in Hannibal House. A copy was also sent each day to the public library closest to Hannibal House, and to the central library of the London Borough of Greenwich.

The site of the murder

12. The Chairman, Mr Cook, Secretary and Assistant Secretary, and Solicitor visited the site of Stephen Lawrence's murder, on 7 October 1997. Counsel, junior Counsel and Secretary returned to the site the next day. A night-hours visit by the junior Counsel, and Secretary and Assistant Secretary was made to the site and surrounding locality on 3 November. Mr Cook and the Assistant Secretary visited the site again during November. The Secretary and Dr Sentamu made a night hours visit on 1 December.

13. Other visits to the site by Inquiry staff took place. The Secretary attended vigils held at the place where Stephen died, led by Dr Sentamu on 15 March and 22 April 1998.

Immunity

14. The Attorney General authorised the Chairman to give the following undertaking in respect of immunity:

"In respect of any person who provides evidence to this Inquiry, that no evidence he or she may give before the Inquiry, whether orally or by written statement, nor any written statement made preparatory to giving evidence nor any documents produced by that person to the Inquiry, will be used in evidence against him or her in any criminal proceedings, except in proceedings where he or she is charged with having given false evidence in the course of this Inquiry or having conspired with or procured others so to do."

15. A similar immunity in respect of disciplinary matters was provided by the Police Complaints Authority and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Preliminary hearing

16. The Chairman held a preliminary public hearing at Woolwich Public Hall, Market Street, Woolwich on 8 October 1997. At this meeting, the Chairman dealt with some procedural aspects of the Inquiry, and invited applications from parties to be legally represented. Extracts from the transcript of the hearing are at Appendix 3.

17. This hearing was advertised by Public Notice in newspapers circulating in the locality, in the London Borough of Greenwich's own newspaper, and in four newspapers printed by the ethnic minority press. The principal parties to the case and the Greenwich Council for Racial Equality were given separate notice of the hearing. The print media were allowed to be present throughout, but the broadcast media were not permitted to film the proceedings.

18. Further preliminary hearings were held at Hannibal House, with limited attendance. These were, for instance, to explore formally matters of public interest immunity relating to documents in the hands of the Metropolitan Police.

Report from the Police Complaints Authority into Mr & Mrs Lawrence's complaints against the Metropolitan Police Service

19. A report under section 97(2) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was presented to the Home Secretary by the Police Complaints Authority, and this was placed before Parliament on 15 December 1997. It is reproduced at Appendix 2. After some necessary deletions, the report by the Investigating Officer, and the supporting evidence, was in due course made available, without precedent, to the parties to the Inquiry.

Collection of evidence

20. The represented parties to the Inquiry were required by section 250 of the Local Government Act 1972 to provide documents to the Inquiry. The first major batch of documents was received by the Inquiry on 9 October 1997, from the Metropolitan Police Service. All evidence was placed in secure storage in Hannibal House, while agreement to share individual batches of documents with the other represented parties was obtained. In some cases, particularly so as to protect the identities of witnesses and informants, or so as not to hinder the continuing police investigation into the case, steps were taken to "redact", that is to say, censor, relevant content in documents.

21. During February 1998, the Inquiry produced a schedule of issues emerging from the evidence, and this was shared and agreed with the represented parties to the Inquiry. Documents were entered onto several CD ROMs, so that the evidence could be viewed by the parties, with viewing software, away from Hannibal House. In all, about 100,000 pages of evidence were received by the Inquiry.

22. At this time, advertisements were placed in local newspapers, calling for witnesses to Stephen's murder, or those who had other evidence, to come forward to the Inquiry.

The Media

23. Representatives of the media were invited to meet the Chairman, and view the Inquiry's facilities, in February 1998. They were also invited to photograph the Chairman visiting the site of Stephen's murder, shortly before the public hearings began.

Part 1 Hearings

24. A number of adjournments were agreed by the Chairman, so that the first formal public hearing of the Inquiry did not take place until 16 March 1998. On that day, the Chairman agreed to a further application for an adjournment on behalf of Mr & Mrs Lawrence, so that they might consult the Home Secretary about the contents of a critical article which had appeared in the Observer newspaper the day before. Having being reassured by the Home Secretary, Mr & Mrs Lawrence were present when the Inquiry reopened on 24 March. The relevant extracts from the transcripts of the hearings are at Appendices 4 and 5.

25. A full list of the witnesses who gave evidence at the Inquiry is given at Appendix 14. All witnesses were given advance notice of the issues proposed to be raised with them: these notices are known colloquially as "Salmon" letters.

26. Hearings were conducted formally. The Inquiry had powers to call for witnesses to attend, under section 250 of the Local Government Act 1972. Witnesses were sworn, and Counsel for the Inquiry examined each witness, relevant cross examination from each party following. Witnesses were also required to answer questions from the Chairman and his Advisers.

27. Notices announcing the opening of the Inquiry were placed in local, minority and national newspapers. The public and the media were given free and open access to the Inquiry. There was no recording or broadcasting of the Inquiry. Proceedings were relayed by closed circuit television to an assembly and waiting area in Hannibal House, so that those unable to gain a seat in the Chamber could nevertheless witness proceedings; and so that those who found themselves distressed by the proceedings could nevertheless also share in the work of the Inquiry. Closed circuit television monitors were also provided in a press room; and basic fax, telephone and photocopying facilities were provided for the public and for the media.

28. Civilian security staff acted as receptionists and as general supervisors of the Inquiry floor, but the day to day supervision of the Inquiry Chamber was undertaken by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary. Information packs for the media and for the general public were provided. Private rooms were provided for the parties to the Inquiry.

29. Enhanced safety measures were put in place on 29 and 30 June, and on 1 October. On those days proceedings were also broadcast by video link to overflow accommodation in the Elephant & Castle shopping centre.

30. Closing submissions to Part 1 of the Inquiry were made in September 1998, followed almost immediately by oral submissions to Part 2 of the Inquiry.

Hearings "in chambers"

31. From time to time, the Chairman of the Inquiry was required to rule on applications which needed to be made, in the interests of avoiding prejudice or maintaining the safety of individuals, in private. On such occasions, the public and media were invited back into the Inquiry Chamber to hear the Chairman's rulings.

The 5 “Suspects”

32. Once the decision had been taken to call as witnesses the five men previously charged with Stephen’s murder, a hearing in chambers took place on 14 May 1998. This was to discuss the range of questions to be put, and the procedure to be adopted for their examination and cross-examination. In the light of that, a notice of leave to apply for judicial review of the Inquiry’s decision to call the men was made.

33. The application was heard before Mr Justice Laws on 12 June. He held that the draft questions proposed to be put to the men could raise matters outside of the proper terms of remit of the Inquiry, and the application was granted. The substantive hearing was held before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Hooper on 18 June. It was held that the five men could not properly be asked questions as to their guilt or innocence; but reaffirmed the Chairman’s discretion, other than that, to allow questions to be put to them.

34. The five men gave evidence on 29 and 30 June. Proceedings were disrupted on 29 June, but evidence was resumed once order had been restored.

35. A video showing extracts from recordings made by a video/audio surveillance probe of Gary Dobson’s premises had been shown on 15 June. The transcript of that video is at Appendix 10.

Part 2 Hearings

36. In May 1998, the Secretary wrote to a range of organisation and individuals, inviting written submissions about their concerns in respect of racially motivated crime, and ideas for the future handling of such cases. Advertisements were also placed in a range of newspapers. A total of 148 submissions was received, as listed in Appendix 17.

37. So that its terms of reference might be met in full, the Inquiry undertook to take oral evidence in Hannibal House from those organisations best placed to implement any recommendations which the Inquiry might ultimately put forward. These hearings took place in late September and early October 1998, and a full list of those making such submissions is given in Appendix 16.

38. In order to test the temperature of opinion outside South East London, meetings in public were also held at six locations away from the Elephant & Castle. These were held in Ealing and Tower Hamlets in West and East London respectively; and in Manchester, Bradford, Bristol and Birmingham. The dates of these meetings are also given in Appendix 16, together with a full list of those appearing before the Inquiry on those days.

39. During this period the Press Officer issued newsletters to interested parties so that they could keep abreast of the work of the Inquiry.

Provisional criticism by the Inquiry

40. In accordance with principles of completeness, those individuals who were likely to face criticism by the Inquiry were, in December 1998, given advanced notice of the substance of those criticisms. This process, known colloquially as “Maxwellisation”, invited witnesses to respond to the criticisms proposed to be made, and to provide any further representations about the proposed criticism. Those responses were considered by the Inquiry during January 1999, and have been reflected in the Inquiry’s Report.

Cost of the Inquiry

41. The final cost of the Inquiry was not certain at the time of printing this Report, but is likely to be in excess of £3m.

42. The Chairman recommended to the Home Secretary that the Metropolitan Police Service should, in accordance with section 49(5) of the Police Act 1996, meet the full costs of setting up and establishing the Inquiry, together with all those costs which directly accrued from Part 1 of the Inquiry. The costs of Part 2 of the Inquiry, establishing the future handling of cases of racially motivated crime, should, the Chairman believes, be met by the Home Office as the findings were of more general application.

Appendix 4: Statements to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry of Mrs Doreen Lawrence, Mr Neville Lawrence and Mr Duwayne Brooks

STATEMENT OF DOREEN LAWRENCE - 8th March 1998

[As provided to the Inquiry; read to the Inquiry on 25th March 1998].

My name is Doreen Lawrence. I was born on 24th October 1952 in Clarendon, Jamaica. I have two brothers and a sister. I am the eldest of the four of us. We were all born in the UK.

I lived with my mother in Jamaica and in 1954 she came to England leaving me with my grandmother until her death. I came to the United Kingdom in 1962 at the age of 9 years old on my own because my mother had sent for me. I lived then with my mother and stepfather in Brockley, South-East London. My mother had remarried before I arrived in England. My father had also remarried and now lived in North London. When I arrived in London I found it very frightening. The houses were close together and smoke would come out of the chimneys and all was generally dark and gloomy. I attended the John Stainer Primary School and then the Christopher Marlowe Secondary School in New Cross.

I obtained CSEs and when I left school I got a job as a bank clerk for NatWest Bank. I worked there for 4 years and left when I had Stephen. At that time I only had CSE qualifications but in the last five years I have gained a BA in Humanities and I am now doing an MSC in therapeutic counselling.

I met my husband Neville in early 1970, I was living in Greenwich with my other at the time. Neville and myself got married in 1972 in Lewisham Registry Office and went to live in Brockley. Later we moved to a flat in Plumstead and that is where Stephen was born on 13th September 1974.

I personally have never had any racism directed at me. There was always something I felt on the outskirts but nobody ever directly approached me and was racist towards me. I went to a racially mixed all girls school and I do not remember any. I don't have any close white friends from my school days, but I do have five black school friends who I am still very close to.

I didn't go into further education because in those days where black children were concerned you weren't really encouraged at school. I remember clearly when it was time to leave school - I can't remember exactly what I said I wanted, but I think I told them I wanted to go into banking or something like that and the teacher said, no, you must go and do that and the teacher said, like working in a factory. Being the eldest of four from a West Indian background I was given much more responsibilities than other children. I looked after my younger brothers and sisters and that prevented me from studying in a way I wanted to. I did know, however, that doing something with my hands was clearly not something that I wanted to do.

I went on then and looked for my own job, I just applied for things through the papers. I had quite a few interviews, all in banking, and I went to NatWest Bank. About three of us from school went and worked at the same bank. I did the normal entrance tests and I passed that and worked there for four years.

I remained in contact with my brothers and sisters throughout this period, we were all relatively close. We did have problems as youngsters, of course, as teenagers growing up, rows with your mother and that sort of thing, that went on for a while. At times there was the odd major thing and we lost touch but we all got back together again afterwards.

When Stephen was born there were no major problems with him as a child. He was a good child and he was very happy. His early years were not problematic. He always knew, though, when things

weren't right with him. You always felt that. Right up to primary school I can. You always felt that. Right up to primary school I can recall that Stephen was very bright. He knew what he wanted from a young age. He learned very quickly before he started school. He could write his name and he always picked up things quickly. He knew his alphabet as well. He could count and he recognised a few words. He was the type of child that whatever you taught him he always wanted to go one further but colouring and drawing was his special thing.

Stephen went to Cyril Henry Nursery in Woolwich on part-time basis and then later on to Eglington Primary School. I didn't work until Stephen was 18 months old. I didn't have a full-time job even then. Neville at that stage was learning his trade as a plasterer but by the time Stephen was born he was into retail, selling leather and things and after that he moved into the building trade.

At Stephen's primary school he was very happy, he got on well and he was well liked by the teachers. Every day each child would have a set of things they would do when they first came in. She would write letters and he had to go over them with a paintbrush and I think that helped him to develop his handwriting. He left primary school to go to Blackheath Bluecoat. We wanted him to go to Thomas Moore Catholic School but because we weren't practising Catholics we couldn't get him into there. I felt that this was a good school on academic achievements but because he wasn't accepted on religious grounds we had to start looking at other schools. I was impressed with Blackheath Bluecoat because I saw how the children were actually working. When you turned up at the school it looked very hard working and I was impressed, so we decided to send him there.

Stephen coped well at school. He had no problems academically at all. He did his GCEs but Stephen didn't really work as well as he could. I think because he was very bright it went a bit to his head and had he studied harder I think he would have got a much higher grade. However, having said that he did pass all of his GCEs. I certainly don't remember Stephen ever complaining about Blackheath Bluecoat. I know that sometimes he had felt that the Head Teacher was unjust in some of his ways. For example, quite a lot of black children were excluded from the school, but he personally never really encountered anything. His only brush with racism was back in primary school when he was quite young. There was a boy who lived up the road from us. They used to be friends. So I can't remember what started this off, but I do remember being called into school because apparently he had been getting into fights with this boy and, when I asked him about it, he told me that the boy had called him racist names. I'm not sure what the exact names were, but he would hear it and so would his friends. I think at the time he was one of the few black children in the class, so the majority of his friends were white, and they would tell him what this boy had been saying about him. So he had the support of his white friends against this boy and they used to get into fights. When I went into the school, I told the Head that if the child was being racist to him, then Stephen was justified in sticking up for himself. That was the end of it and it didn't go any further because I think the Head recognised that Stephen was not the kind of child to be in fights and that it was only because of this incident. I would say that Stephen was aware of the racism however.

Stephen was also into sport. During Sports Days he always came top. He got a certificate, which is a Five Star, the highest award Blackheath Bluecoat awarded to anybody, he had a couple of those. He also ran for Cambridge Harriers. Initially he used to go to Sutcliffe Park, which is another athletics club, but there he was always experiencing some difficulty with the trainers. It was as if they had a sort of favouritism within that club and they saw him as being very young and, even though Stephen wanted to get on, I felt they were holding him back a bit.

Stephen's main interests were sport and education. He saw himself going into architecture as a profession, however. When he was about 7, or even before, he would set himself goals. I remember before his 6th birthday he said he wanted a watch for his sixth birthday and I said: "Only if you can tell the time", and he said: "When I am six, I will be able to tell the time", and of course he got his

watch because he could tell the time by then. When it came to drawing and things, he was always doing that, he would do birthday cards, Christmas cards, and he would always make his own cards as a child and Mother's Day cards for me, and he was always into the Arts.

Racism isn't something that we dwelled on, I think and, looking back at things, Stephen actually protected me from a lot of things that were happening to him. He never told me everything. Occasionally he would mention the same boy that he had the original incident with, even though, when they left primary school and were on secondary school, this boy used to go to Eaglesfield, which is at the top of the road from where we lived. They were at different schools, but when they were coming home, because of the bus stop that the child would take home, they would meet each other, and I think that the child thought that maybe, as Stephen didn't have anybody around him on the way home, he could start on him; but no matter where he was, Stephen would never tolerate anything like that from him.

In secondary school Stephen didn't go around in a group. He had a close circle of friends. I remember by the time he was a sixth former though, you would only see him with one person, who was Elvin. Elvin was his best friend. Elvin was an arty person and, because he did a lot of work in art and they both had a flair for it, they would spend a lot of their time together. Elvin wasn't interested in sports however, so they never went training together but Elvin would come to our house. They went to Woolwich College together and spent time together, as they had done at school: they had been to the same secondary school.

Stephen also started Cubs at the age of eight. The church that we belonged to had their own little group and, because we were members of the church Stephen got involved in that. So he started off as a Cub and moved up to be a Scout. He was in the Scouts until he was in secondary school at about 13 or 14. In terms of activity, they had the Sports Day and, of course, Stephen loved to run. We have lots of his certificates at home. He had won all sorts of things. They would also put on shows and Christmas plays. It was a big thing for him being in the Scouts. I remember in one particular play in which he played Rupert the Bear, and dressed up in a costume with a white face and stripy trousers, he really enjoyed that. It was something that he enjoyed initially but, obviously, began to outgrow. They used to meet once a week, all the Scouts, and play games together and things; and because it was something to do with the church, they would have a parade one Sunday in the month as well. Stephen used to ask if he could carry the flag, which he really enjoyed. There was the Union Jack, St George's and other Guides and Scouts and Brownies and the different organisations would meet together on this day, so you had all the different flags.

Stephen had his black identity, and I would say he called himself a Jamaican. He went to Jamaica when he was four. He spent his first birthday out there, but he would never remember that. When he was four we went again and he was old enough to remember. He enjoyed his time out there, and it was something that he always said that he would like to do again.

He met Duwayne at secondary school because when he started they were in the same class. His relationship with Stephen only developed, I think, because Duwayne knew my brother and Duwayne's mother and my brother were friends; and I think that that is the way that Duwayne fits in. I felt that Duwayne - I'm not sure if it was about his own insecurity, but it often came across to me that Duwayne needed Stephen more than Stephen needed him. Stephen was an outgoing person: he would make friends easily and he had a lot of friends; he was extremely popular.

Stephen did work experience from school with an architect's firm for two weeks. He did this in November when he was doing his final year of GCEs. I am not sure what year it was, but I think it was 1991 and then the final year of GCEs. This placement we sought ourselves for him because what

the school do is that they send a letter home telling you that the time is coming up, and that the school can provide something, but if you know anybody, you can accept that place.

Neville worked with someone who was a surveyor, or an engineer, and he introduced us to Arthur Timothy. Neville took Stephen along to meet him, this Arthur Timothy, and I think that, once he and Stephen met, they liked each other. They got on well and he was offered a place. It was at Tower Bridge, and Stephen went there for two weeks. It wasn't a big office. It was quite a small place, so Stephen was left on his own for quite a while, especially when Mr Timothy had to go out to meet clients, Stephen was left in charge to answer the phones and take messages and all sorts of things. I presume that in that space of time it was shown that he could have the responsibility of doing that sort of thing and he was given the chance. When Stephen came home he would talk about it a lot and show us the work that he had produced. I was very impressed with it, I remember, because I used to talk to my colleagues about it and I thought it looked very professional. One of the designs he did was used on a building in Deptford. It is easily recognisable from his drawings, the shape of the windows and everything Stephen did. This building is on Deptford Broadway. The architect who did the design for this, that Stephen was working for, copied Stephen's drawing; and you can see that. Stephen was very proud of this.

In 1993 Stephen was doing his A-levels in English Language and Literature at Woolwich College. That took up two days of his week; and he was at Blackheath Bluecoat doing A-level Designer Technology and re-sitting his GCE Physics, so he was studying, effectively, full-time. Stephen also worked at the Fun Junction which is a play centre where you take kids for an hour or so. He did that for a while on a part-time basis just at the weekends. The money he earned helped to support him for school, or whatever outside activities he wanted to do. When that closed down he went to work at the McDonald's in Old Kent Road; and he was doing that right up until he died, really.

Stephen always wanted to be an architect, as I have said. He had set this for his goal, and, hence, the A-level subjects that he chose reflected what he felt were necessary to do architecture. He was to go to college and then to university, but we hadn't got to the start of looking at what university he was going to.

Stephen was a healthy boy: he never had anything wrong with him. He had a slight touch of asthma when he was running, but nothing really major.

Stuart, Stephen's brother and Stephen got on well. Well, usually well until they fell out from time to time, as children do, especially when Georgina was little: having a baby sister was really something. When you look at the pictures of them when they were small, Stephen used to push Stuart out; Georgina was his baby sister. Stuart and Stephen got on because they shared a room. Parents really don't know half of what goes on between youngsters when they fall out. I am not sure exactly why they would fall out, but it wouldn't be for a long time. They had one fairly really long period, but that had started building up again just before Stephen had died.

As to music, Stephen mainly liked women singers, but he was also into Pop and Reggae and Hip-Hop.

From the time that I left school and I went to the NatWest Bank and worked there and had Stephen, I was doing temporary, part-time jobs. So I was working temporarily, or not for very long periods, while Stephen was growing up. I worked at Goldsmith's Bookshop; I was a care assistant; I did office cleaning and, up until 1981, those were the sort of jobs I did. I then started working in schools, because they fitted in well with the children's holidays. I was a Guide, where you take children from one school to another if they have special needs; and I did that up until 1982 when I had Georgina and stopped when she was about three. That would take me to 1985, because she was born in 1982.

I was then working at the school where Stuart and Stephen attended, Eglington Primary School as a lunchtime supervisor. I did that for about six months, and by 1986, I started working full-time as a "special needs helper" with the school, and stayed there for a couple of years. After that I went back into education.

I did an Access course because I didn't have any A-levels to go to university. I went back to university because, when I was working at the schools, I was doing a lot of work with the teachers. They encouraged me, told me that I was wasted there and that I had the ability to do a lot more, and asked me why I didn't. One of the teachers got the prospectus for me and told me what courses to attend. At this point we were living at Llanover Road, and that's where we were living when Stephen was killed.

The area we were living in was quite tense, but I think, because of the person I am, I didn't really take any notice. As long as it wasn't interfering with me or my children, there was nothing major happening.

I know that Stephen had incidents with other children around the area when playing. I can remember one time that a boy spat in his face, and how angry I was, and I challenged the mother over it. He was about nine and he used to ride his bike around the back of our house; and it was in this play area that the incident happened.

When we moved to Llanover Road we started going to the Methodist Church where Stephen was baptised and most of his childhood was spent. Stephen went to church regularly. He was part of the junior church and, in those days, there was a lot of activities for youngsters within the church which he took part in. He took his religion quite seriously. At one point he said that he wanted to be confirmed, but it is quite a big step and, at the time, I felt that he was too young and that he should wait a bit because it wasn't something that you should go into lightly. I wanted him to think about it.

As teenagers do, however, they grow out of the church because the church doesn't really have that much to offer them; and a lot of people who used to be youth leaders had left Trinity Church, so they lost that leadership that the church used to have. We used to go to church in Burrage Road on a weekly basis. Stuart and Georgina went as well. Children tend to go and continue up to about their early teens, but then by the time they are 14 or 15, that is when they start to trail off.

By 1993 I was at college doing my first degree in Humanities. In April 1993 I went on a field trip. I was a first year then, and that is something that you do on our course in the university. We had gone to Birmingham for two days. I left on the Tuesday morning and we travelled down and came back for the Thursday night. The last time I saw Stephen alive was on the Tuesday morning. I was leaving early because I had to be at Woolwich by 8.30am and he came down for breakfast. You just don't think about it at the time. If you knew that it was the last time you were going to see somebody, the things that you would say to them and all that. I told him I was going to be away for a couple of days, that I would ring him that night to tell him if there was a telephone number of anyway that he could get in contact with me and that was it. I just said that I would see him when I got back. I did the things that you usually do when you go out. You say where you are going, how long you are going to be away for and I will ring you. When I rang on the Tuesday night Stephen wasn't home yet, so I didn't speak to him. I arrived back in London on the Thursday night at about 9 o'clock. Neville picked me up and we went back to the house. Stuart was awake and Neville said that Stephen wasn't home yet and Georgina was asleep. It wasn't unusual that Stephen wasn't home. He had to be home between 10.00 and 10.30. I said that because I felt that, being at school and studying, it is quite a reasonable time; but then again, Stephen was 18, so even though we said that, if he didn't get home by then, there is not a lot you can do because of his age.

We had set that time a long time ago and it hadn't really changed over the years. We had been quite strict on being home on time in the beginning, but after the influence of Duwayne, it was different. Duwayne was allowed to come and go as he pleased, and it didn't really matter what time he got home.

I remember, Stephen was 14 when we first had this argument. It was 10.30 and then it was 10.00, because at times he wasn't coming in for 10.30, and the argument to me always was: "Duwayne doesn't have to be home", until whatever time it was, "so why do I have to be home, because it isn't really that late?" And I told him straight: "What Duwayne and his parents do is up to them, but you are our child, and I expect you to be in because you have school the next day." He found that Duwayne had the freedom to come and go as he wanted and, I suppose, that he wanted the same.

On the Thursday, I arrived home at about 9 o'clock. I got indoors and Stuart was awake, so I went up to see him. I talked to him about what he had been doing while I had been away. I went in to see Georgina who was asleep. I had a bath and we had something to eat. We sat and watched ITV news, because it was 10 o'clock, followed by the local news. At that time I was thinking: "I wish that Stephen would hurry up and come home, because I was really tired and I wanted to go to bed, and I didn't want to go to bed until I knew that he was home. I watched the news, and then the local news and, just as that finished, I remember getting up to go to the bathroom and the door knocked, and I thought: "Okay, Stephen is home." I could hear voices downstairs and I heard Stephen's name mentioned, so I went down.

As I got to the front door I couldn't see who was at the door, because I couldn't see past Neville who was in the way. I moved Neville aside and I saw the family from around the back, Joey Shepherd and his father and brother. He had come to tell us how Stephen had been attacked. He didn't know how seriously Stephen had been hurt. All he said was it was at the bus stop and the Welcome Inn pub. That is all he said. Then the father said to get some information perhaps it would be best to phone the police and see what they could tell us. They were at the door for just a short time. So I went inside and dialled 999, because I didn't know the local police station number. What they told me over the phone was, "It is news to us, we don't know of any sort of incident." I said to the operator that I had just been told that my son had been involved in an accident down the road and I wanted to know if they could tell me anything about it. I gave them the name of the road and the pub and all of that and they said it was news to them. They hadn't heard of any incident and they couldn't give me any information.

We decided to leave. I wasn't dressed, but I suppose just the thought of something having happened to Stephen, I just put on my overcoat and I went out. I remember Stuart coming downstairs. He brought my trainers and things for me and he had his coat on and he said he was coming too and I said he couldn't because Georgina would be in the house by herself so he had to stay and we left straight away. We stopped by the traffic lights at the top of Shooters Hill Road. Neville was driving and at that time of night there is hardly any traffic. We went over the lights, past the pub and the bus stop. The bus stop is further down there on the left hand side. We passed there. There is a road, I'm not sure of its name, but I think it is the first turning on the left after the bus stop. We got as far as there but we still couldn't see anything.

At that time we looked down the road and on Friday night just gone when I was driving down, I noticed that you can see all the way down to Well Hall roundabout. You can't see the roundabout itself but if there were blue lights flashing or anything happening you would be able to see it. We didn't notice anything. We couldn't see anything on the Thursday night. We went right as far as that road but we couldn't see anything. We turned around and I said to Neville, "They must have gone to the hospital" because Brook Hospital is not far away. I thought, "Well, that is where they will have gone". I don't

remember if we physically looked down the road, but I think we probably would have done because it is straight in front of you and you would be able to see it. We saw no lights or anything.

We turned around and we just thought. "Well, probably they had gone to the hospital under their own steam. We didn't think anything serious had happened because we couldn't see any evidence of it. I thought that Stephen was hurt but I didn't think anything as serious as it was.

I know that for a long time beforehand I used to talk to Stephen about the dangers of being out and the dangers of the police as well because of stories that you hear that used to frighten me. The stories that you would hear would be about walking on the street on your own with your friends or whatever and the police would stop you and bundle you into the back of the van and beat up the kids. That is the story that would be going around, especially with black children.

I would tell Stephen that when he was walking down the road he should do so with the traffic going into the opposite direction so he could see when cars were coming and if there was any traffic and then there was more chance of getting away. That is the sort of thing I would tell him. I would also tell him if he was travelling on a train never ever sit in the carriage by himself and to sit in an open carriage. Stephen's attitude towards the police was always: "Well, if I'm not doing anything wrong how could they do that to me?" I used to say to him from what I am hearing you don't have to be doing anything. I didn't trust the police, I never have done and I certainly don't now. Stephen didn't have that mistrust, however, because as far as he was concerned if he wasn't doing anything wrong he had nothing to worry about. That was his attitude. He had never been in any sort of trouble. He had never been in any sort of trouble with the police. He had never been arrested or even spoken to the police. He never had any dealings with them at all. I don't think that Stephen would know what to do if he had because he had never had anything to do with them.

Because of how we lived as a family we got on with people. Our immediate next door neighbour were a white family and we got on with them very well. The children were the same age as my children. We lived in each other's houses and we had no problems.

By 1993 there had been three murders in our area. I wasn't aware of them all. I was aware, of course, of the Roland Adams one because Stephen knew Roland and that was a big thing for him. They were having a march or something and he wanted to be there. I was very worried for him because Thamesmead is an area you always hear about with racism connected to it, it is always happening down there. I remember saying to him: "I don't want you to go" because he would be a stranger to the area and a strange face and if anything happened they would pick him up quite easily. He had a strong conviction where that was concerned because it was his friend and he told me "no" and in fact he actually went. I felt really frightened that Roland had been killed for no reason but I presume at the same time you hear it, and until it happens to you it doesn't really sink in. The fear has always been there.

I have always been worried for Stephen. Always him more so, because Stephen was a very independent person and he liked going out. He went out with his friends up Central London and he knew a lot of places. I wouldn't say that he was exactly inquisitive, but he wanted to know what his surroundings were like.

Going back to that night we turned to go to Brook Hospital. We drove to the hospital. When we got there I won't swear that I noticed the police car there, perhaps I did, but I can't really remember. All that was on my mind was Stephen. Neville dropped me outside the ambulance entrance, Accident & Emergency Department. I remember walking - because the hospital is somewhere that I have been several times, it is a hospital that I know - I walked through the doors and I turned right.

Because the ambulance entrance is much further than the Casualty Department it is that bit further to walk. I turned right and I walked down to the Casualty place and I think there were just one or two people sitting there, nobody that I knew, because all I was looking for was Stephen. When I first came through the door I could see a black boy standing in front of me and I saw a police officer next to them standing there. I didn't recognise the black boy, but now I know it was Duwayne. At the time all I was looking for was Stephen, so I wouldn't have noticed. I would have passed anybody by. I didn't have to pass them to go to the Casualty Department, though, because they were further down. I walked down and I looked in the waiting area but I couldn't see Stephen.

I was turning around to go back through the front door again when Neville came walking in. I was going to tell Neville that Stephen was not there, I had decided in my mind that he was not there. I didn't see any medical people about, or anyone. All I was looking for was Stephen. I didn't go to the enquiries counter, I didn't even notice whether there was one or not.

When Neville walked in he recognised Duwayne straight away. He walked up to Duwayne and said something to him and it was then that I recognised him. I went over to Duwayne and asked him what happened and where Stephen was. At that point some people from the medical team came out. There was a man, someone in green, I think. The medical team came out with him. I'm not really certain, I think they came out of the examining rooms opposite where Duwayne was standing and walked over to Duwayne and I think the man in green asked what they hit him with. I'm not certain if the iron bar was mentioned by Duwayne, but I can remember hearing about an iron bar. That was what they asked him about.

I started asking them questions like: "Where is Stephen? Can we see him?" They said they were working on him. I must have asked three or four times if we could see him and they kept saying they were working on him. We were shown into a room, a family waiting room or something and I remember not sitting down. I was quite anxious and that was when I went off to phone my sister. In the room at the time it was just me and Neville. I don't think Duwayne came into the room at the point. I know eventually he came in but not at first.

Neville and I didn't speak to each other much. I said to them that I couldn't just sit there so I went and got some change to phone my sister. That was the only phone call I made. I told her that we were at the hospital and that Stephen had been attacked. I couldn't tell her anything because I didn't know anything and she said that she would come down. By the time I put the phone down and went back to the room Neville had gone to phone his cousin so I stayed in the room on my own.

When Neville came back I think Duwayne was shown in then. I remember when he sat down. I asked him what was happening and what was going on. He was very confused and didn't make any sense. He said that they had been coming from my brother's place and that it was not long after that, but I couldn't make any sense of anything else. Half the time he wasn't talking anyway. He was just extremely anxious. He couldn't sit still. He wasn't with a police officer in the room. The police didn't come into the room. the police officer that was near Duwayne as we came in was standing outside. He was a uniformed man, but I'm not sure of any of his features. I couldn't tell you if he was dark or blonde or anything but he was about the same height as Duwayne and of medium build.

Neville, Duwayne and I stayed in the room but we weren't there for very long. I think it was about 5 or 10 minutes, it didn't seem that long. At that stage I thought Stephen was seriously hurt, but not fatally. When I spoke to my sister all I could tell her was that Stephen had been attacked and we were at the hospital. I didn't know anything more. I didn't know how serious hurt he was because I hadn't seen him and nobody had told us anything about him, nobody had said what had happened to him. As for being stabbed, that's the last thing I expected. I never expected that.

We were waiting still in the family room and two people came in, one was a ginger haired woman. She was a staff nurse and I presume the doctor, was also a woman. They said that Stephen was dead. I looked at them as if to say: "How do you mean he's dead? He can't be dead." I don't remember what I did then. I can't remember whether I cried out or anything. That was it.

I was sitting at the time when we were told and asked if we could see him. I didn't believe that he was dead and I was saying: "No, he is not dead. He is not dead. He can't be." I don't remember how Neville reacted. I remember Duwayne because he was sitting next to me. He let out a cry. While we were sitting there the wall was next to us. There were three seats and they were flush to the wall. Duwayne was on the end by the door. Neville was in the corner. Duwayne was by the entrance and he was literally climbing the walls when he heard that Stephen had died. Nobody did anything to comfort him and not long after that the police took him away. I don't remember him going to see Stephen with us at all. We were told Stephen was dead and we asked to see him. The doctor said we had to wait because they were preparing him or something. By that time my sister had arrived with her husband. We told them that Stephen had died while we were in the family room. We all sat there for a while. A few other members of the family arrived. At the time I didn't know, but my sister had phoned my brother and nephew. I remember my brother turning up so there was myself, Neville, my sister, her husband and my brother. They were the only ones that were there when we went to see Stephen. There were no police officers.

The next thing I remember was us seeing Stephen. We were shown into the room where he was, the examination room, Neville, myself, my sister and her husband. The nurse took us in and I'm sure she had her arms round me and my sister was on the other side. I don't remember anyone else being in the room. When we got in we saw Stephen lying there. He looked as though he was just sleeping. He was covered from his neck downwards and I didn't move the covers. I just kissed him and more or less cuddled him. I remember the cut on his chin but I didn't take the cover off him. We stood there for a while and then went back into the family room and that's when the other family members arrived. After we had seen Stephen, my nephew came and his sister and both my brothers arrived at the same time. We were in the family room but there was nobody from Neville's side of the family there.

Even at this point it hadn't hit me what had happened. I was completely numb. I don't remember thinking anything. I suppose eventually what came to me was the fact that Stuart and Georgina were at home. Neville drove us home, just the two of us in the car. My sister couldn't follow because they had left their children on their own. We got home by about midnight because I remember checking the time. It was either midnight or just before. Stuart was still awake and I told him. I told him that Stephen had died, what else can you say? Stuart just cried and cried. Georgina was asleep and I suppose it was at that stage that I took the decision not to wake her.

That night Neville's cousin arrived with her husband at the house. I'm not sure what time it was but Duwayne's mother also came to the house with a friend who I don't know but I had seen around. Neville opened the door because I was frightened of ever opening the door again. They came upstairs into the living room and she said that she had been to see Duwayne at the police station and the only thing that stuck in my mind was that she said she was glad it wasn't Duwayne and that was it.

The other person who was with her said that she had a son and that Stephen knew her son. She knew us but she wasn't someone I had much contact with. I don't know why Duwayne's mum came around. She would have had our address from a friend. I presume she came around in sympathy but at the time it didn't come across as that.

Eventually, I went to bed. I didn't sleep. I just lay there. I couldn't sleep. Nothing else happened that night.

The next morning when Georgina woke up Neville was on the phone. I'm not sure who he was talking to but various people, telling them what had happened to Stephen because I didn't want to speak to anyone. Georgina woke up as usual, I didn't want to wake her. She could hear voices talking and she came into the living room and looked at me and said: "Mum, what's wrong?" She could hear Neville downstairs talking and she went down. She probably heard the conversation over the phone, she just went mad. She started screaming and screaming and ran up the stairs to me. I held her and she kept repeating: "It is not true. It is not true. Where is Stephen?" So I told her. It was really strange behaviour. It was as if she had taken it in but not really taken it in. This was about 7 o'clock in the morning.

Georgina had an alarm in her room so she would wake up with the boys getting up in the morning. The routine was that Stephen would be up first: he went in the bathroom first, followed by Stuart and because she was the youngest and because her school was local and she didn't have to be up until much later, her routine was always that she was the last one in the bathroom. Georgina and Stuart then went off to School. I told them about staying at home but they said they weren't staying at home. I phoned a friend of mine to tell her what had happened and she phoned some friends and by 8 o'clock they came to the house. In fact three of them arrived. They arrived and Georgina and Stuart were saying they wanted to go to school and I was trying to persuade them not to go. They said they wanted to go so my friends said they would walk them to school and let the school know what had happened. One friend with Stuart and the other two went with Georgina. Georgina was due to go off on a school trip for a week on the Monday but, of course, I didn't want to let her out of my sight so I just said: "You are not going", and she said "I want to go". At this time we let the school know what was happening and they said they would keep an eye on her and if she wanted to come home at any point they would bring her home. She was only 10 at this time and Stuart had just had his 16th birthday.

"The rest of the Friday people started coming to the house. After 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock the police came. I don't know who from the police arrived but somebody did. We didn't inform anybody that we didn't want to be disturbed by the police on the Thursday night and no police officers spoke to us on the Thursday night. The first contact we had with the police or knew of the police officers' involvement was the Friday morning after about 9 am. I would never have said that I didn't want to be contacted by the police. Something like that of course you want to know what happened, and you want to know straight away what would happen. I wanted to know. If the police had arrived in the middle of the night to speak to us we would have been happy to speak to them. We would never have turned anybody away. No officer spoke to us at the hospital. I didn't see any as we left the hospital.

On the Friday whoever opened the door told us the police were there. I don't remember speaking to them on the Friday morning. I can't remember what was said. I know that they came in the morning because it sticks in my mind but I don't know any of the conversation.

I remember Palma Black from the ARA being at our place. She was introduced to us but how she got to our place I don't know. Nobody from our family would have contacted her. I understand that Ros Howells was contacted, I presume by the police or hospital because she is a member of the Greenwich Race Unit. She may have contacted ARA, although not directly. I think she would have spoken to Vicki Morse, who is a counsellor in Greenwich, and I understand now that Vicki Morse is an ARA member. I didn't speak to Palma Black directly when she was at our house. I was just aware she was there. I had no real feelings towards her being there or not.

On the Friday I was still not aware of how Stephen had been attacked and murdered. All I knew is that he had been stabbed. I would have thought I was informed by the hospital. I was not told that he was stabbed as far as I can recall but that was my understanding.

By the Friday I knew that the murder had been racist, I think that had come from Duwayne's mother but I am not sure how I knew that. At the time I didn't think about it. Neville was going to a press conference. I think when the officers came to the house in the morning, it was because they wanted a press conference to be held, and he was the one doing it because I didn't feel that I could do anything like that, so he was the one who went along. I saw the press conference on the television. I can't remember much more about the Friday except that there were a lot of people in the house. Most of them friends and relatives.

On the Saturday I remember we got up and we were going to see Stephen. I think that was arranged on the Friday, probably because we asked to see him when the police came. I don't remember being told that it wasn't possible. I don't remember being told that. On the Saturday I remember a woman officer, not in uniform, a Linda Holden came, she was one of the liaison officers. I remember her coming to the house and we travelled in the car with her, both Neville and myself and a friend. I remember that also part of the group were my sister and her husband and some other members of the family came along. We travelled with DC Holden and I found out that the driver was an off-duty policeman, the driver who had stopped Duwayne on the night of Stephen's death.

We drove down to Greenwich mortuary, which is off the Greenwich High Road. We were in a room with quite a few glass panels. We were on the opposite side of the glass panel and we could see through that as they brought his body in. They brought him to the window and I must have asked because I wanted to touch them. At first the Coroner's office or the police said no we couldn't. I think I wanted to see the wounds and everything because someone else had told us that they had arrived later at the hospital and they had been in to see them and that he had pin pricks on his arm. I didn't know what this was suggesting - all over his arm - but this concerned me because I wanted to know what had been done to him. I didn't tell them why I wanted to see them but eventually they allowed only Neville and myself in. Neville asked then if his friend could come in because we wanted things explained to us and his friend knew about medical things, he had worked in hospitals and we trusted him. We wanted them to tell us and hoped he could explain what these pin pricks were because we didn't trust anyone else to tell us the truth.

We were allowed to go behind the glass panel and saw Stephen who was on a trolley covered. I took the covers off to look at him. By then they had carried out a post-mortem on him because you would see the wounds going right down the middle of his chest. That's when I noticed the stab wounds. I checked for little pin pricks. There were loads of marks on his arm but Neville's friend wasn't sure what they were. It may have been treatment he had at the hospital and if it was maybe they did quite a few and they couldn't find a vein. We never really found out what it was. As well as that, we wanted to see the head wounds. He had a bruise on his face to one side of his cheek, probably from when he fell. I think we were there for about 40-45 minutes.

Then we went and drove via the spot where he died; not where he was stabbed but where he died. I don't remember if we asked for that, or if the police officers suggested it, but we went via that way. We were told that he died by a spot near the tree, and we were pointed up from there to where he was attacked at the junction of Dickson Road. At that point I couldn't believe that he had managed to run so far with the wounds that he had.

The Saturday is the first recollection that I have of DC Holden. I don't think it was every made clear what her role was. Later it became clear that she was supposed to be there in a supporting role. We saw her several times on the Saturday, but as far as I'm concerned, once they had left the house, they didn't come back. They dropped us off and I could swear they didn't come back to the house. I remember it wasn't long, and Palma was at the house. If she was there when we left, I'm not sure. She was just sitting there with, I think, a Carl Booth from the ARA, but I'm not certain if he had been there

in the morning. Members of our family and friends were taking all the phone calls. I didn't take any calls. We had a book, but I cannot remember when that came in. It was my friend's idea to make a note of everybody who called, because she must have noticed how many calls we were getting, and inquiries. We just wanted to keep a record of people who were calling, as well as people knocking on the door; not members of the family, but people who we didn't know, who were coming.

On Saturday the Anti-Nazi League came to the house and the Black Panthers; the ANL arrived with some money that they had collected. I think I met them directly. I thought it was a surprise that they had gone out to collect money because they had heard that Stephen had died, and they were out there and, I presume, in the area of Eltham. I thought it was really strange that people that we didn't even know were giving us money. When the Black Panthers came I found it really frightening. They were dressed in hoods with dark glasses. I think I opened the door when they knocked and was shocked seeing these people from wherever and I think I went inside and sent Neville to the door to talk to them. While Neville was at the door talking to them Palma said to me that we did not want to get involved with them as they are dangerous. They had attacked her in the car park, which frightened me even more. I couldn't really understand why they had come. Palma Black was there every day.

On the Saturday my mother came down, which was also a traumatic thing, having to explain to her about her grandson.

On the Sunday we went to church in the morning. The people at the church knew what had happened because on Friday members of the church had come to see us. The news must have spread quite quickly and quite wide. I felt that I needed to go to church. They say that in times of trouble you turn to whatever you feel comfortable with, and I felt comfortable and I wanted to go, so we all as a family went. Neville, who doesn't often go to church, also came. My mother also came with Stuart and Georgina. When we came back from church, I remember a lot of people were around and hardly anywhere could I be on my own. There just wasn't any room. I remember David Cruise. He used to be the Minister of Trinity Church and he had known Stephen since he was six or seven. I spoke to him on the Sunday because somebody from the church would have contacted him. We went to the boys' bedroom to talk, because at the time every other room in the house was occupied. I remember the police being there, and I think we spoke to them in our bedroom. I remember a letter arrived and David read a letter from the Taffes, who were the couple who were at the scene when Stephen collapsed. He read the letter to us. It was really comforting, I felt, to know that somebody was with him because I think my question was, and still is: did he know that he was dying? And who did he ask for? And how was he? And was he frightened? Those are all the things that I want to know. In some ways the letter had said that he was calm and at peace, so it was reassuring to some degree to know that he hadn't been frightened.

Nothing else stands out in particular of that Sunday. I do remember a man, who was supposed to have been some security man, came. He was frightening as well. He was part of the ARA people with Palma and Marc Wadsworth.

My relationship with Palma and Marc was that I didn't know them or anything about them. They were trying to reassure me that they were there to support. I remember seeing Palma forever using the phone, and I pointed out to her it was our phone bill. She said not to worry about anything; that they would help us through everything.

On the Monday morning Georgina went off for a week, and I think my sister went with her to the school trip and Stuart went to school. From then on someone always went with them to school, even Stuart. Carl Booth would walk Stuart to school because it is walking distance. Practical support was being provided by the ARA. Nothing further stands out about the Monday.

On Tuesday, I can't remember anything specific. I remember that in between all the times, the police were there on a regular basis, more or less every day. They would have been Holden and Bevan. They never actually told us what their role was. We were never given any up-to-date stuff; we didn't know what was happening with the investigation or even if there was one. The only thing I could gather from them being there was that they wanted information: they wanted information about Stephen. They used to ask us about his friends and whether he was in a gang. They asked us about gloves that they found and a cap that was in his bag or something. All that was coming across all the time was: "Who are the people in your house; and what are their names; and what are they to do with Stephen?" We were never given any information. We were never told that they were there and that we could go to them if we wanted to know about the investigation. Linda Holden left her mobile number with Neville.

I remember that Imran Khan was representing our interests. I was first aware of this on the Sunday. I didn't think it was unusual. Mind you, it is difficult to say what is unusual or usual; you don't really know what the norm is; you don't know what procedures are to follow. But I was just really glad that there was somebody there who could find out on our behalf what was going on. We were just not being given any information. The police did not come to us and say: "Your son has died. This is how he died. This is what happened. This is how it happened." We don't know the full story about how he died and we weren't being told that his death was being investigated. At least I was never told that.

The first time we started to get an idea that information was coming to the house, surrounding names and details of the murder, was during the first week. I can't remember the exact day. I haven't actually spoken to anyone directly regarding this. It was through somebody. I understood that people were saying that they knew who had committed the murder, and that they had information and that they felt that they needed to come and tell us. This information was all kept in the book. I don't know when the book started, but it was from the time when people started telephoning to give information; calls came in and we kept a note of the messages. As far as I can remember, information being passed to the house was passed to Imran Khan, who in turn passed it on to the police. As days went by we were never made aware of anything that was happening. That was the most frustrating thing. We asked the officers that come to the house, and we found that at one point, a week or so later, Bevan said to us, in a very sarcastic way, that we should go to the incident room and see how hard they were working on the case. I said I didn't want to hear that; I didn't want to see the Incident Room; that wasn't going to tell me anything: I just wanted to know exactly what was going on: who had been caught; had anybody been caught; had any suspects been arrested? They must have an idea of who they were, because I was getting all of this information that the boys were known to the police. This information was coming to my house that these boys were well known in the area; that the police knew they had knives; that they always clean the knives in the front room; and that police have seen them; and that this was something that the police were aware of. I felt that the police were not doing anything and they were too busy investigating Stephen.

Eventually, we heard a rumour that the police were at Duwayne's place all the time as well, questioning him and anybody who visited him because he was living on his own. They wanted to know who the visitors were, and all their names, and why they had come, and all of that sort of thing. During that week I didn't have any contact with Duwayne. I heard rumours that he was on his own and I was worried about him because of that. I remember somebody saying that they knew him or his mother well; and I suggested that that person talk to his mother to take him away. I felt that the police were having too much access to him and he had nobody to support him. They would must turn up at his place and I didn't think it was right. He had been through such a lot. He was on his own and he needed adult support. My concern was that he was really vulnerable.

I remember going to a press conference at Woolwich Town Hall, arranged by Marc Wadsworth from the ARA. I think this was before Georgina's birthday on the 30th April. Holden came to the house on

the afternoon of that day, which was the time that she usually came. I can't remember what the discussion was about, but we were asked as parents to send a letter to Georgina to keep in contact while she was away. It suddenly dawned on me that it was her birthday. Usually presents and cards are bought in advance, so I must have bought her card but not a present when Stephen died; and I remember saying that I hadn't got to post her birthday card as I had wished and, even though she was returning on that day, I wanted to do that. Linda Holden offered to take it down for me and post it. That surprised me because that was the last thing I expected. I thought it was good of her. I read somewhere that I didn't thank her for that. To me this is out of character, and there is no way I would have been so rude and arrogant about the whole thing, and at this time I still trusted her.

The first time I went out after Stephen's death was on the 30th April. I went to the shops in Woolwich. There is a car park above the Sainsbury's and that was the first time I drove and went out. I went out with my sisters, my two sisters and my cousin. The four of us travelled in the car. We drove into Woolwich. I looked for somewhere to park, and I was going up to the next level and I could see a space but you needed to get round and round to get up to it. As I drove up and on to the next level, there was a woman and her daughter pushing a trolley, and I saw them and I stopped. They stopped. I thought they would move on. They started to move. We went back and forwards, and I suddenly said: "What are you doing?" I said: "What are you doing", in the car to myself so she wouldn't have heard it, but I think she saw my gesture which was. I remember she made a remark. I can't remember what it was, but it was definitely racist and everybody in the car just got angry because of what had happened to Stephen. They were saying: "Let us out", and was trying to park the car. All three of them were asking to be let out to challenge her. I went down to the parked car and they got out and they ran down to her. I was not in earshot of any of the stuff and I didn't see any of the things that went on, but I was told later that my sister had said to her: "It was one of you bastards that killed my nephew", and her reply was: "If he hadn't been here, he would still be alive", meaning if he wasn't in this country, he would still be alive. What do you say? What could you say? Before they approached her the white woman had got a brick. She had got a brick from the boot of her car. She was holding the brick and it was like: "If you come anywhere near me, this is what you will get." All they could do was take the woman's registration, which they did. They came back and told me about it, and they told Imran Khan the details and he reported it to the police. My sister and me and the others made statements on that night, or a few days later, but as far as I know nothing had happened with this incident. Weeks later we were told at Greenwich Race Office, where there was a meeting with the police, some sort of community meeting - I think it was Philpot who told us that no action would be taken, because we had to understand that at this time the white woman had had a bereavement. So that was the end of it.

By the end of the first week there was disappointment with the liaison officers. Their attitude when they came to the house was just checking up to see who was there, anyone who was of interest because they were more concerned with the people in the house than they were with us. They would see us and in fact I have read, that they claimed they could not get any access to us. It is complete rubbish. Whenever they came down they would see us. They were shown into the living room and it was just us in the living room with nobody else. There were no organisations. We would make room to see them. My sister may have been there, but certainly no organisations. Each time they came they were shown up to wherever we were and they would ask questions about Stephen. The problem with liaison officers is that they were only interested in the people who were in the house. The people in our house were all black. The people who killed my son were white. Why should they be interested in the people who were in the house? It has been suggested that they were looking to build up a picture of Stephen, but that is not what I would say. What I would say is they were gathering information of interest about the people in the house, and that as black people in the house, there must have been something criminal or whatever. If they were trying to build up a picture of Stephen, it was simply to see if he was in any sort of mischief. They never asked us any questions about Stephen, about him as a young child. There was nothing genuine that they asked. There was none of that.

Their attitude towards the family as a whole was patronising. Once incident sticks out in my mind, which was with Bevan. He was in the living room one day, and I think I must have been in my usual mode of asking: "What is happening? What is going on?", and how we have not been given any information and: "Has anybody been caught?" He started going on again about how hard they were working and he didn't know if we would understand, that the procedure is not what we think it is: they have to ask questions and do this and that. We said that we had been passing on information and we wanted to know what was being done about that information. We were told to speak to someone else as they couldn't give us that information. The whole thing, how they were talking: I don't know, I can't say that, if it was a black police officer, it would have been better. I mean, how many black police officers do you know anyway? How many black police officers do you see within the force? So I don't know who they would use for a family like ours. Perhaps it would have been different. That is something that we will never know. I do think, though, that the liaison officers did not understand us. I would say that they came with a preconceived idea of what black families are like, so they had that notion in their heads to start off with. They came with the idea that we wouldn't ask questions and that we would just accept what we were told; and the fact that we were asking questions and that we wanted to know everything, is something they didn't anticipate would happen.

We were only asking questions like: "From the information we had given them, was it useful? Were any of the names of any use? What happened? Where they able to go around to the houses? Are these people really known by the police?" I wanted to know, if the police officers knew these boys, were they actually capable of doing what was alleged they had done to Stephen? I had the feeling that, if people in the community knew what was going on and who was responsible and were trying to tell us, that the police should arrest them. What was said was that the police knew of them cleaning their knives and thing, and all the other attacks and all the intimidation in the area. I would have assumed that, during that first night, if they knew all that, they would have arrested somebody. In days that followed, information kept coming to us before, we had information, we knew no names; we knew nothing about the area, nothing about the boys, nothing at all. I knew nothing. Once the information started coming in through the questions, it was the question following: "Why has no one been arrested?" It started dawning on me that, if it had been the other way around that night, somebody would have been arrested, regardless of whether they had done it or not. We were never asked by any of the organisations supporting us to ask the police for information, or that they wanted to be present when the police spoke to me and, anyway, being the person that I am, I would never have allowed that to happen.

Within the first few weeks we then heard that the boys were now hanging around out house. I heard from a relative. She was one of the people last to have left the house on that particular night. It had gone midnight, and when she reached home, she rang me. She said that when she left the house she had seen some boys coming from different entrances to our road. There were several entrances to our road. She didn't say which entrance exactly but, as she came out of the door and walked to her car, she was aware of two boys turning the corner and coming towards her. She then saw another two boys from another corner walking towards her. She got frightened then and then she ran to her car and shut the door. She said she drove a little way and looked in the mirror and saw that the four boys were standing together across from our house just starting at our house. After that she stopped at Shooters Hill Police Station and she told them what she saw. They said that they were unaware of any murder having taken place in the area. She went home and she rang us. She spoke to Neville. We then spoke to Imran Khan to tell him. No police cars were sent that I was aware of. I was later told that a car was sent. Nobody knocked on our door or said anything to us. That incident really frightened me. How did they know where we lived? Then earlier on during the week I think our address was in the papers.

There was another incident where our tyres were slashed, that was done during the night. I know it was a Sunday but I am not sure of the date. We had started to go away at weekends because it was the only break we were getting from people being at the house. We would spend the weekend with Neville's cousin's. We came back on the Sunday night and they had slashed our car. That was reported to the police but they never took a statement about any of that stuff that has happened.

Our concerns were such that we then started making inquiries to move from that address. I made enquiries with Greenwich Council. I remember we were having weekly meetings with the police so this was after 6th May and I remember telling the Police about the boys watching our house and Illsley's remarks were: "What boys? What house?" as though we wanted to brush it aside. As far as he was concerned it was nothing serious and we were just being paranoid. It was as if to say we were being stupid, not paranoid, but stupid.

There was a press conference at Woolwich Town Hall which I think was being organised by Palma and Marc. I remember being asked to attend by them, so Neville and I attended. My sister may have been there and Roz, I think. I know that Imran was. This was done to highlight the fact that time was passing, nobody was arrested and nothing seemed to be taking place. It was just a request for information. We didn't ask for this to be arranged.

There was then an invitation to meet President Mandela. We went because we saw him as a way of highlighting the fact that the British government and the people in power here were not interested, and that nobody had come to visit us except for the local MP, Peter Bottomley. I remember saying to him during the week of the murder: "Does the Prime Minister know about my son?" He said, "Well, I don't think so." I said: "Why not?" and he couldn't answer. Nobody was showing an interest that a young man had been killed and that the papers, even though they ran the story, there was nothing on the Friday, but they ran the story on the Saturday. Then you had the London bombing and that was it, no more mention of Stephen.

When we went to meet Mr Mandela we talked about Stephen being killed and that the Government, the people, the police weren't doing anything, his killers weren't being brought to justice. We felt, perhaps, I suppose we were a bit naive at the time, thinking that perhaps this meeting with any official on our behalf we may be able to bring that up. He went on to say about black life being cheap in South Africa and that how he thought it was different in this country. He didn't realise it was still the same as what was happening there. He was quite concerned that this had happened. Nobody showed any interest in that.

As a result of that meeting the following day they arrested somebody. We weren't told who was arrested but we were informed that two boys had been arrested. I remember when the first arrest was made we weren't told as a family, we were told it by the media. When the second arrest was made because we complained that the last time we had been the last to hear and we had to hear about it just like everybody else on the news, on the next arrest Bevan phoned to tell us that two more boys would be arrested but to keep it quiet. Within half an hour of being told that it was on the news.

Another incident a week after the incident the GACARA, Greenwich Action for Racial Equality organised the candlelit vigil. I heard about that from Palma, I think, probably. The information was coming through them that GACARA was doing something with the schools. I remember a big fuss was being made that the family had not been consulted and they had done this thing off their own back. At the time I wasn't concerned that we were not informed, I hadn't given it any thought. This was before things like this started to happen regularly. I was aware that Imran had been asked to write to organisations to say: "Please consult the family before they do anything."

I was never approached by any organisation directly to support but I was aware of GACARA and different groups. Because we were not personally taking calls we were told a lot of stuff that was happening. I knew from a lot of other people who were there. If anyone from GACARA came to the house - I couldn't say specifically who, I don't remember meeting anyone or any letter or any phone call from GACARA that I took - I never took any calls but I was always told or it would be in the message book.

There were then our regular meetings with Philpot. I went to those meetings with members of the family. Our first meeting with them, which I can recall was on 6th May, because it was after we met Mandela, so I remember it was the very first meeting. Before the meeting with the police I remember being concerned that although they had all the information that had been sent from us, from my own mind I decided to write down the names, so I got the book, I wrote all the names on a piece of paper and I took it with me. I remember walking into the room where Philpot and Illsley were. I handed the paper to Illsley. I don't know why I handed it to him. I sat on the chair. My sister was there, Imran Khan and Neville. I don't know if Ros was there but I remember sitting very quiet listening to what was happening around me and watching Illsley, having given him the paper, to see what he was doing. That's when I saw him fold the paper up so small and I think on that meeting - I don't think I said anything because it was too much of a shock. He rolled the piece of paper up in a ball in his hand. I was so shocked by what I saw.

He didn't tell us anything. He wasn't giving any information away. He wasn't telling us how far he had got with the investigation or what was happening or who they suspected of doing the murder. Meeting were taking place with him and not the liaison officers because we were getting fed up with them. They weren't telling us anything or giving us any information. They were not saying what was happening with the information we passed on. We told nothing about what was going on. The decision not to use the liaison officers came much later. When we had the first meeting they were still coming to the house. No one told us that we should not use them. Perhaps in the first week I wasn't being very coherent or taking an active part in what was happening. As the week progressed I was getting more and more angry because nothing was happening. We were not told anything. Nobody was being arrested and it just dawned on me at the time that they had no intention of doing anything about Stephen's murder and that's when I started taking an active role at the meetings with Philpot. Ros and Carl were there, I think because they were members of the community and because Ros is a worker from the Greenwich Racial Equality Unit. They would have come possibly on Neville's invitation but it would have been discussed beforehand. I don't remember saying I wanted them to be there or inviting them but Neville may have asked them to come.

When I eventually found out that someone had been charged with the murder it was like a relief. At long last something is going to happen, someone has been arrested in connection with the murder. What followed was "If any of the names had been given, was it one of those boys who was going to be charged?" I didn't attend the Magistrates' Court when they were being produced, either we didn't know about it or we weren't asked to go. Then there as the question of the release of Stephen's body. At one point they said that they didn't want to release his body until his killers had been caught. We were told in a police meeting that the suspects, all had rights to their own post-mortem being done. When the first lot was arrested, a post-mortem was done and when the second lot were arrested there was a rumour but nobody could decide whether it was going to happen. We were told after the second post-mortem that his body would be released so we could start making funeral arrangements.

These arrangements were that he would be buried in Jamaica because if he had been buried here it would have been on Cemetery Lane, Charlton where he used to walk. That was the route to Elvin's house. Even late at night I used to ask him if he was frightened but he would never let on that he was. It was discussed where we would bury him and Jamaica came up. I made enquiries and then it was, where in Jamaica? Some of the names I was not comfortable with and I think someone said that they

bury people on top of each other and I didn't want that. There was a plot of land, though that belonged to myself and my aunt and I remember ringing my aunt in Florida and saying: "Could we bury him there?" My grandmother is already buried there so there was no objection to that. We said okay, so my sister made most of the arrangements for Jamaica.

Near to the time when his body should have been released there was a question mark that it might not because the second lot might want to do their own post-mortem. They couldn't decide whether they were going to or not. The date was drawing near, it was 12th or 18th June. A memorial service was held in the Trinity Church and I had a lot to do with that organisation. I decided what I wanted. This was held because he went to that church and to give the people the opportunity, members of the family and people who couldn't attend the funeral in Jamaica to attend some service.

I went to Jamaica in the knowledge that people had been charged with the murder. The British Embassy in Jamaica was very strange considering that nobody in this country was interested in Stephen's death but the High Commissioner, he attended Stephen's funeral. One of his officers met us on the plane, but they had (which was really funny) no jurisdiction so they had to queue with everybody else and it took forever to get out. We had to get through Customs and everything. They came around to the house where we were staying. I think Neville went on his own to the Embassy and when he asked if he could attend the funeral, which he did, he made several contacts while we were there and we were invited to their place for tea. At the time his wife was out of the country, but Derek Milton invited us to the house and even let the children go swimming. They had a pool. I understand that he had found out from Paul Boateng about Stephen. I remember him saying that he would contact them to make things easier for us. It didn't because they didn't have any jurisdiction but they did what they could for us. No government authority from this country contacted us as far as I know.

It was at some point towards the end of July, a Thursday, that we found out that charges had been dropped. I was shocked because this was a phone call. I don't know if Imran Khan or my sister made the call. I think it was Imran Khan and I spoke to him. I was angry and I was shocked and I wanted to know what the hell was going on. Why were the charges being dropped? We had no idea they were dropping charges or why. When we returned to the UK it was to the story of them releasing the boys.

Neville didn't want to stay at our house so we never went back to our house at Llanover Road. It was all to do with the fear of what had happened and all the stuff with the car, the boys and they knew where we lived and what we looked like. They could identify us but we couldn't identify them. So personally I always felt like a target. We stayed at Neville's cousins for several weeks and then we stayed with Ros.

Greenwich didn't do anything to help us by re-housing us. We went to meet with the Assistant Housing Director Cedric Boston. He came before we left for Jamaica in June and the proposal was that they could swap our house or because we had bought our house it was no longer a council house and he was going to look into whether the council could set up an exchange or something for the same value. We didn't find any alternative accommodation when we came back. There were rumours, apparently, that we were not coming back to this country, that we had heard on our return so there was no point in looking for anywhere for us to live. That thought hadn't crossed our minds. I was doing my degree and my children were at school. There was nothing in the story that we weren't coming back. How could we not come back? There were thoughts that we may eventually move out to live but nothing that we were not coming back straight after we buried Stephen, nothing had ever been said like that to anybody. By then our attitude towards the country had changed but there is no way that I would have upped and walked out with my children in school. Practically you can't do that and no sane person would do that. It is never a question.

Nothing much happened in relation to the case in that year 1993, that was when the first inquest happened in December. There were lots of things going around about information coming forward and the police not acting on the information. I think that is what is being said all along, that information we were giving was not being acted upon. There was a rumour that information was coming up and had only been recently received by the police so they didn't have time to investigate it. We arrived at the inquest with that and it was brought out even more that the police would not have had time to have investigated the new information as it came through that evening. At first they denied having received new information.

By this time we had met with Michael Mansfield because we were concerned that the case had been dropped and nothing had happened so the possibility of a private prosecution was discussed. I was not introduced to any of the police officers and I felt that they were obstructive to the inquest which was adjourned.

Information had allegedly come to Greenwich about the murder, they and we thought the police would apply to get the Inquest adjourned to investigate further information. The police did nothing to assist us and they wanted it to go ahead. Mr Mansfield had to argue hard for it to be adjourned. I felt that the police deliberately did this to try and stop us proceeding with the private prosecution. At this stage we became extremely concerned and we asked for a meeting with Commissioner Condon.

The first time I met Weedon was after we had met the Commissioner. He said how sorry he was about what had happened and how hard they had been working. I pointed out to him that the newspapers said he had spoken to the family when I knew nothing about him or of his existence. I asked him why he spent most of his time doing newspaper interviews and not introducing himself to the family when he had the opportunity but he didn't. He said that it was because there was a lot of activity at the inquest and it was not the right time to introduce himself to us. I felt he should have introduced himself from the time he was put in charge of the case. That would have been the "right" time to have met with us.

The police were not interested in keeping us informed about the investigation. We were simply regarded as irritants. We were never formally told that Illsley had taken over liaison. We never knew who was in charge. As for Weedon we read in the papers that he had been congratulated by us on how well he was doing, before that we didn't know he existed. We didn't actually meet the man until a year later. DAC Osland, we also read about in the papers. He said that if we persisted in accusing the officers of being racist he would recommend that they could sue us. I now see in briefing notes that in July 1993 he said that he was "fed up to the back teeth with the Lawrence family."

When we started our series of meetings with senior officers things did not get much better. I have seen references to our "thirst" for information which I frankly find offensive. This was after all the murder of our son. It was also claimed that the police found dealing with our solicitor a hindrance. Basically we were seen as gullible simpletons. This is best shown by Illsley's comment that I had obviously been primed to ask question. Presumably there is no possibility of me being an intelligent black woman with thoughts of her own who is able to ask questions for herself. We were patronised and fobbed off. As the meetings went on I got more and more angry. I thought the purpose of the meetings was to give us progress reports. But what actually happened was they would effectively say, "Stop questioning us, we are doing everything. That simply wasn't true and it led me to believe then and now they were protecting the suspects. In September 1993 we hoped to get some feedback from the Barker review. We met with him too, he said he couldn't give us a copy of the report but he promised we'd meet again so that he could tell us what he had found out. That was the first and last time we ever saw him.

The second investigation started with meeting Commissioner Condon in April 1994. We discussed the Barker review and it was the first time we met Ian Johnstone. This led to another meeting with Nove and Weedon. I thought the second investigation would have highlighted what had gone on the first time around - what did and did not happen. I expected it to produce enough evidence to charge the boys.

Commander Nove, tried to come across as someone who cared. He gave his personal assurance that he would do everything he could in order to catch the people who were responsible for Stephen's murder, although a year had elapsed and there may be little in the way of evidence, he would do the best they could. I did not believe him 100% but I wanted something to happen. I was getting more information from those officers. Although they were still cautious about the information, they would give us. Eventually we were told about them "taking out a key player", but we were never informed who this was. We were given an idea of what was happening. I don't think we were told in detail about the surveillance that was happening. We did not want all the details, just were the names we gave useful? Yes or no. Even though I was uncertain I had very high hopes of a new squad. My question though was why were they suddenly running round being so helpful - who were they trying to protect and what lay behind it. My concern was the rumours that the first investigation had all gone bad because there was some link between the police and the Defendants. These rumours were everywhere. I therefore thought that a special squad set up from outside the area would be impartial and able to get to the truth. I now feel that I was deceived again. I felt that the second team wanted us to believe that they would get to the bottom of what went on and with their help we would get a conviction. When I think of the hours that our legal team spent down at Shooters Hill and for what? It bore no fruit. What concerns me is that the number of the officers - senior officers - who have been involved - years of experience and at the end of the day we never got further than square one.

There was also little regard for our safety. Even if you ignore all the information coming in, the history of stabbings in the area made these boys known to the police. If they were black, they would have been arrested straightaway just in case, especially if they were known to the police as local troublemakers.

For the majority of this case the boys knew our whereabouts and what we looked like and we didn't know them. I told the police on several occasions how frightened we were and about several incidents, it was not taken seriously. There was the incident with the brick I mentioned before. Our tyres were slashed twice. Some boys were hanging around our house as I mentioned before and we also got threatening letters. There was never any investigation.

When I mentioned these things to Illsley he said "What boys?", "What house?" and when I explained he made a brushing aside gesture with his hand and said, "Oh them, they're just thugs", as if we were over-dramatising things. On one occasion I was at a bus stop and two boys started spitting towards me. They looked at me hard. It was clear that they recognised me. They stared at me and I stared back. I got onto the bus and suddenly became very frightened. I thought they knew me, they would know where I got off the bus, where I lived and I was in danger. It was incidents like this that I kept relating to Illsley and all the time they were thinking the boys needed protecting from us.

When I look back now I feel we were misled in those meetings. We were told there was a wall of silence. We couldn't understand this because people were constantly visiting and phoning our own home giving names and information. All of this at least once, often twice a week was passed to the police. We now also know that the police received a vast amount of information, not only from the public but several police officers via their informants.

I can't believe that if these matters had been investigated properly they couldn't have helped the Inquiry. We asked Illsley whether there could be any connection between the other stabbings and Stephen's killing. He categorically stated no and that they had looked at that. Now we see about a red car that was travelling up and down the scene that had two known racists in it one of whom was connected to the murder of Rolan Adams. The plethora of information about these boys who was in the area, they were known to the police because of the other stabbings that they had committed.

We were still kept in the dark about some things in the second investigation. The police would not tell us exactly what was happening but we heard rumours that things had gone wrong during the first investigation. I think there was some cover up about what was going on.

It was then decided that the Crown Prosecution Service would not take matters further. I felt that we had no choice but take a private prosecution. I don't believe they would have been acquitted if we could have presented everything to the jury.

I believe that the decision we made at the time was the right one because if we had waited we would have had less chance, so the decision was right. The forensic that they should have found, we found. The forensic that matched the fibres from Dobson's jumper we found ourselves. It cost us £10,000 from the Campaign Fund to get an expert. Money that people had sent into us. I feel that we had to do most of the investigative work ourselves.

I think, looking back at the private prosecution, we were led to believe that we would get a just outcome. We had passed the hurdle of the committal and it was clear that these boys were the ones who had murdered Stephen - we weren't being vindictive. I believe after what we saw and heard that the Magistrates' decision was the right one. Had we been able to present the same facts to the jurors the outcome would have been different.

The committal was the first time I heard the evidence. It was difficult to hear everything, it was still too shocking and disturbing. At the time of committal however we felt extremely optimistic. I had a false sense of security about the private prosecution, looking back on it, because I felt that for the first time the police were working with us not against us. I felt the officers from the second team were really committed and had laid a foundation to show their commitment and that we could actually achieve something. At the committal the boys whole attitude was extremely arrogant. They felt really strong and secure about themselves. They never once looked worried. They had a sort of "come and get me if you dare" attitude. On one occasion two of them were seen to make cut throat gestures while looking in our direction. It also shocked me to see how much people were prepared to lie for them. Gary Dobson's girlfriend's mother was called and the Magistrate actually put her in the cells for contempt because she refused to say anything. She wouldn't confirm her earlier statements to the police and she almost ended up spending Christmas there.

After the committal my feelings were of hope. I felt that we were at long last getting somewhere. We were going to achieve what had been denied to us for so long. On the first day at the Old Bailey I was extremely optimistic but from the minute the Judge opened his mouth my hopes were dashed. It was clear from the outset that he had come the intention of not letting the matter proceed any further. We'd been warned that the State was against us and it wasn't in the interest of anybody to let private prosecutions by black families succeed because it would set a precedent. It was clear that this was not a man who would allow us to present to the Court the full story and let the jury decide. He made a ruling from the outset that the jury could not hear from Dwayne, the most important witness. The Defence with the Judge's resistance set about discrediting Dwayne completely. The whole mood was set for me by the almighty fuss that the Defence made out of people around the Court wearing Stephen Lawrence ribbons. They spent some time arguing for a ruling that people around the Court couldn't wear ribbons which of course the Judge acceded to. This was the sensitivity with which the private prosecution was received and these were the issues with which Judge Curtis chose to concern himself. In my opinion, however, it was clear from the expressions of the jury that they wanted to do their job and they obviously felt cheated when the Judge instructed them to return a verdict of not guilty. When he told them that there was no other alternative they actually went out to consider and then came back in. They didn't want to do it.

When it became clear that the Judge wouldn't let us go any further, I collapsed at Court. I just couldn't cope with anymore and I had to be carried out. I wasn't even there for the last day. I didn't want to hear one more word the man said. I just couldn't face it. I could not believe it. From the first day in Court I could sense that things were going wrong from the time the Judge sat down. It was as though we were just pawns, being played, we had no say. We had no part of it, we had nothing to do with what was being directed. We were just being swept along. It was like watching a play where someone is behind the screen being a puppet and someone pulling the strings. You think you are in charge yet you are not. You are led to believe that you have a say. I think after the committal I thought we were getting somewhere and we are going to prove that this is what the CPS should have done and achieve what they should. After the collapse at the Old Bailey I realised there was no way that the State would have allowed us to have done that, because that would have been a slap in the face for the Government and the Crown Prosecution Service. What was coming across for me at the time was - "Who do we think we are - some black family telling them that their justice system stinks."

Looking back I believe I was naive to hope that we would have got somewhere with the prosecution.

Then there was the inquest in February 1997. Again we heard more evidence we had not heard before. I stayed in Court and heard a lot more than I did at the committal. A lot more was brought to my attention than before. I was given a greater sense of what went on with the police and the information that was coming from them at the inquest. That was the first time I found out how Stephen really died. The coroner said he bled to death. He would have bled at the scene heavily and running made it worse. It was the first time that I knew there was an issue about First Aid and realised that nobody had put Stephen in the recovery position. No First Aid was given by any police officers present at the scene.

I realise that they did not touch him. My only thought was it must be because he was black. When someone is injured you expect the police to investigate where the injuries are. I did say at the inquest that they probably could not have saved his life. I am not saying that if they had done the first aid he would have lived. What I am saying is that they did not even look. They did not see his wounds, they had no idea how seriously injured he was - they knew nothing. I thought that the police had put Stephen in the recovery position but they did not even touch him. The off-duty policeman I understand used a blanket from his car to cover him. Police officers are aware of First Aid - it is basic training as they are sometimes the first on the scene of an accident.

When DCI John Carnt said there were no problems with the first investigation I was shocked. I felt it must be some sort of conspiracy happening. After so many years of listening to rumours that the first officers messed up. The fact that he stood there and blatantly lied, saying as far as he was concerned the investigation was fine and the only drawback was the relationship with the family. I could not believe it - then again he is a policeman. The discussions with and investigations of the second team showed that the first team missed so many things that they could have picked up on. They knew, we knew and now the Kent Report shows it. That is when I put in the complaint. Before that everything was kept closed and guarded and if they could have kept it that way they would have continued to do so. It's taken me 4 years to read in the PCA report that a man walked into the police station to try to give information within 24 hours of the murder and it's taken me 5 years to discover that James Grant's real name was known to senior investigating officers all along.

The Coroner was extremely supportive to us as bereaved parents from the start. It also came across that the jury were affected by what they were hearing. This of course was the first time that the story had been heard in open court. They wanted to make a statement of support to us but obviously they weren't allowed to. It was empowering however to see that members of the public hearing the evidence coming out for the first time were as shocked as we were. I was also extremely touched by the support of the Coroner. I collapsed at Court towards the end and he looked after me and took me

into his room and gave me a cup of tea. Even in the public hearings he dealt with the whole procedure in an extremely sensitive way I felt. On the last day after John Carnt had given his evidence the day before Ian Johnson came down, I obviously didn't appreciate his presence at that stage. I was still feeling very let down and I felt that he'd just come to support his officers and pacify me. I was actually quite offended.

I believe the Kent (Police Complaints Authority) Report "has not got to the bottom of what went on. It's scratched the surface." At the beginning it was saying that the police officers were not racist in their attitude and behaviour towards the case, but clearly by the end of it their actions show there has to be some reason. If it was not racism what was it? Incompetence? Corruption? That only goes some way to explain. We are told that these officers have years of experience at investigating murder so this was not new to them. What went wrong? Something did. Their attitude tells me it was racism. Police have a pre-conceived idea of what black people are like, and their behaviour demonstrates this yet again. According to my understanding the only regular dealings police have with black families is when they are criminals. So, coming across a black family who have no criminal background is new to them - an alien concept. It was like you have to be a criminal if you are black. When the PCA asked the question to all officers "Are you racist?" did you really expect them to say yes? One white person cannot ask another white person if they are racist. How would they know? There is overt racism when people are blatantly racist in your face and then the other covert racism, and how do you prove it?

Racism is institutionalised. From what I have read in the PCA report it's like "How dare you think I am racist." Well I say - how dare I think you are not, because nothing in your actions has proven to me that you are not, and I see no other explanation for your attitude and behaviour.

I believe because the police spent so much time investigating my family and Stephen they came to the conclusion that we were not criminals and so they had no case. They were trying to prove that Stephen was involved in something and was not attacked just for being black. They spent their time asking people in our house who they were. There was a candlelit vigil - I was only there for half an hour and it was recorded. I am sure it was the police who recorded it and there was a young man there who knew of Stephen - his connection was that his parents were friends of my sister so he would have seen Stephen, but not visited our house or vice versa. He would meet Stephen occasionally. This black young man was very tall so he stood out from the crowd. He was tracked down because he was shouting "racist murderers". He was visited by the police to find out his relationship with Stephen and the family. If the police could do that by picking someone out of a crowd and tracing them to their address - they could have found Stephen's killers.

What I want from this Inquiry is to show the police's behaviour and their inaction. Through their negligence these people have been allowed to walk free, and through the legal system three of the boys can never be brought to justice. I believe the police had a hand in the whole thing.

If I could, I would change every single police officer in the country and get a black person in charge of investigations. I would like to get someone who is truly black and not token black. There is a difference. Somebody who knows and can relate to the issues. I do not expect an officer who is black to brush everything aside and not act in the proper way but to uphold law and order for everyone. I am asking for someone who is impartial and will treat people as individuals and equals.

With hindsight you need groups like ARA to point out issues to you because someone like myself was not aware that this sort of thing was happening on a daily basis. We did not continue with their support because we felt they had an agenda. They said they were there for the family but they were there to highlight ARA and they weren't taking the family's feelings into consideration. They saw this as something to push themselves forward and to make themselves better known.

One thing I resent very strongly is the constant allegation that our solicitor somehow stop them doing their job. How could he?

Weedon says that there were more solicitors for witnesses in this case than there were for defendants. It is not surprising; the police upset Dwayne, they upset us, they upset Jo Shepherd, they upset us all. We certainly felt that we needed a solicitor to support us.

They say they were unfamiliar with the solicitor representing a family. They are supposed to deal with solicitors on a daily basis, I don't understand the hostility. It was obviously necessary for us to have a solicitor, to act as a buffer between us and the people who were dealing with us so insensitively in our time of grief.

I believe it was right to have a solicitor representing us. In hindsight it was a good thing that we did it when we did. People need that, especially if you have never had dealings with the police before. You do not always understand how the law works. It was a great help because we had no idea. We needed some background knowledge on the sort of police procedure. We needed to know how the police investigation worked. We were not getting any of this information from the family liaison officers. No black person can ever trust the police. This idea is not pre-conceived. Its based on experience and people I know who have had bad experiences with the police.

They don't seem to understand, we are not accustomed to visiting police stations, we are not accustomed to dealing with the police and we have no reason to trust them. They say that we were their "first and prime consideration" but, for example, they wouldn't set out minds at ease by letting Imran Khan come to the Incident Room with us and then they complained that they invited us to the Incident Room and we declined. We didn't want to go into a police station on our own.

At the meetings I always felt that Philpott wanted to be helpful, it seemed as if he wanted to give us more information but that Illsley was preventing him. It was just a feeling but at the meetings he would often look over to Illsley before he answered and then sometimes stop saying something. Illsley believed that we were primed beforehand that we were told what sort of questions to ask and how to ask them. There was one incident that has stuck out in my mind when I was asking about the boys in prison. I was asking why couldn't they not put a bug in with them in the room to listen to what was being said, because if they would not talk to the police they would talk to individuals, and Illsley said "We do not do things like this - no way" and I could remember that he was very angry because he assumed I was told to ask that question. There were many incidents like this where they patronised me - as if I cannot think for myself. It was a constant argument with him. He would never give a straight answer to my questions. I was getting frustrated because I was asking simple questions and if they had ever said, "This is what's happening, we have arrested so and so, it was as a result of the names you gave us, this where we are at and we are moving from here to there." I would have been satisfied. That was all I was asking for. What I'd like to know is what were the police looking for? What else did they want before they could effect an arrest? The information that I was getting, instead of passing it on to the police I should have gone and made a citizen's arrest myself. Then there would have been no need to waste time and taxpayer's money now on an Inquiry because the guilty would be behind bars. My hope now is that people will come forward to the Inquiry and give evidence. When I hear now that there wasn't in fact a wall of silence as we were told by the police, I realise how brave the people of Eltham actually were. It seems that people who were themselves at risk in the early days had made themselves vulnerable by coming forward and giving information were not rewarded by the boys being captured. I am now not surprised that no more witnesses would come forward at that time. After all, the boys were still on the street. Witness K's father actually complained about Davidson "harassing" his son. This is what was happening. You raise people's profile in the community and you

still leave the boys on the street. This is exactly what happened with Joey Shepherd. He really wanted to help but they shouted his name out at the identity parade, made him public property and left him vulnerable. Basically the people who did go and give information to the police at the beginning of this Inquiry were rewarded by the police's inaction. In practice we all make mistakes but we pick ourselves up and sort things out and try harder. In this case there's been nothing but mistakes. Every officer who has come in has made matters worse. When you list the catalogue of errors you have to ask yourselves whether there possibly can be so many mistakes or whether they must be deliberate acts. By keeping us occupied they kept the black community quiet, it gave us a false sense of security and it made black people feel that justice could be achieved. We now know after the Kent Inquiry just how much had gone wrong and how much should have been done that wasn't and we are discovering more everyday.

I would like Stephen Lawrence to be remembered as a young man who had a future. He was well loved and had he been given the chance to survive, maybe he would have been the one to bridge the gap between black and white because he didn't distinguish between black and white. He saw people as people.

Statement of Neville Lawrence

7 March 1998

My name is Neville Lawrence. I am the father of Stephen Lawrence.

I was born on 13 March 1942 in Kingston, Jamaica and I came to England in August 1960 at the age of 18.

Most of my relatives are still in Jamaica. The relatives I have in this country are one sister and several cousins. My mother's name was Hilda Truwe, my father's name was Adrian Lawrence. We gave Stephen my father's middle name.

I have a sister, Jean Lawrence and one brother, Norman Rose, who is now living in Atlanta. I am the eldest of the three children and am the one who would do everything regarding the looking after my mother. My brother and sister left everything to me to deal with.

My mother used to run a restaurant inside the Daily Gleaner, in the early days. My father was a leather turner. He worked in a factory down in Kingston, a place called Three Miles for quite a long time. My mother died in 1989 after losing one of her legs because she had diabetes. My father is still alive and living in Kingston, Jamaica.

When I came to the UK I stayed with my aunt and uncle in law, who emigrated to England in the early 50's. My aunt did not have any children and I was more or less looked upon as her son. My sister came over before me. My aunt was instrumental in raising me and my sister. It is something, that is widely done in Jamaica where the old families are responsible for bringing up a child.

Neville

WIT 0003 0200

When I first came here I lived in Kentish Town which at the time was notorious for Teddy boys and things like that. I was available to work as an upholsterer because I had left school and done my apprenticeship and was therefore qualified. Unfortunately I was not able to get a job. I believe that this was because of racism. The racism that we experienced then was not as bad as that we now experience. In those days it was mostly verbal, not physical. The violence is much worse nowadays.

London was not what I expected it to be. From what I read and heard it was the mother country and the streets were paved with gold. It was completely different to what I expected. It was not as advanced as I thought it would be. Maybe some people won't agree with me but it was not as advanced as Jamaica.

In the early days we did not have much contact with the white population. Because there were not a lot of black people around we tended to stick to ourselves. We entertained ourselves and went to each others house for dinner. Generally the only contact we had with the white population was at work

I experienced racism when I first arrived here but I did not recognise it as such at the time. People used to make jokes about us in a way that you did not realise it was actually being racist. They used to call us "coons" and the like but then you thought it was just like a nickname.

There is one incident in particular that sticks out in my mind. Just after I came here, I went to the job centre although I was a fully qualified upholsterer they classed me as an improver. The morning when I was supposed to start work the people who

had offered this job then realised that I was black and then all of a sudden the job disappeared. I was aware of racism back then. But, I thought to myself that this was not my country so I had to put up with certain things.

Most of my friends I met in England just after I arrived. Thirty years on we are still friends and they are just like family. My best friend is a man called Winston Shaw who was also my best man. He moved to the United States in mid seventies. Most of the time I have lived in London. I have friends who live in Birmingham, Manchester and places like that.

Because I could not get a job as an upholsterer I went to work for the Borough Council in a factory. While I was there I thought I should not be doing this kind of job so I started to go to Woodberry Down School in Manor House, North London during the evenings. I studied tool-making. We had to do a three year City & Guilds course in order to go on and do the actual job which I passed. When it came to getting a job, all the other white students got places in factories but I did not. I had wasted three years studying. I then went into furniture making. I think I stayed there for about a year and then moved on to work with a friend who had a suede and leather factory. I spent nine years tailoring at the factory.

When the work got scarce we started looking for work in the newspaper. There were lots of jobs giving work out to people who sewed at home so I used to go and pick up the work from the factory and sew it at Aspinal Road, where I lived before I got married. I then got to know Doreen's mother who was also a machinist but she only did dresses and things. While I was looking for a job for myself I used to look for work for her as well and I used to collect her work and take it to her. By meeting Doreen's mother I eventually met Doreen.

WIT 0003 0202

I married Doreen on 4th November 1972 in Lewisham Registry Office. Just after we got married the employment situation changed. At that time the work was scarce so I started to do painting and decorating which I had learnt in Jamaica. I started to work with two plasterers. I got a job at a plastering firm and decided that I should learn to plaster. I have been doing plastering and decorating for the last twenty years.

When we first got married we lived in Aspinall Road, Brockley for about a year. We later moved to Lindus Road. We joined a company with about fifteen people. Each person would give £1,000.00 towards setting up the company. We purchased a house in Nunhead with a shop underneath and a flat above. We proceeded to do the place up and rented out the bottom which was an off-licence.

Eventually we bought our second house in Whitworth Road, Plumstead where we lived for a couple of years. Stephen was born on September 13th 1974 at Greenwich District Hospital. I was present for the birth. It was frightening I did not think I could manage to stay there while this was happening but I'm pleased I did.

There were no problems with Stephen as a child. He was a very good baby in the sense that he did not really sleep through the day. I think he woke up once at night. Stephen went to the nursery at Woolwich Common and from there he went to the primary school on Whitworth Road. He went to Blackheath Blue Coats Secondary School where he did his GCSE exams. On obtaining his GCSE's Stephen went on to do A levels at the sixth form college.

Stephen was very talented at school. I remember we went to see the Head of his House before he went to school and there were so many good reports about him. We

used to go to all his open evenings to make sure that he did not fall behind. His favourite subject was art. One of the things we discovered was that he wanted to be an architect so he was very good at drawing.

Stephen also wanted to run. I used to take him to a group near Schofields Park. He joined a club and used to go twice a week. We used to go and take him to meetings all over the country. When the London Marathon started, there was a mini marathon which Stephen took part in and did very well. I think he came 16th out of several hundred.

Stephen did work experience with Arthur Timothy who is a well known black architect. We soon realise how gifted Stephen was because at the end of two weeks Arthur Timothy told us that Stephen was so good at his work and so punctual that he had been allowed to stay at his office in charge. Normally work experience students do not get paid and yet Arthur Timothy paid Stephen for the two weeks that he was there and asked him to return to work for him once he had finished his training.

We have two other children, Stuart and Georgina. Stuart is two years younger than Stephen and Georgina is about five years younger. Stuart was also born at Greenwich District Hospital. Again I was present.

When Georgina was born we were living at Llanover Road in Woolwich. Georgina was also born at Greenwich District Hospital. I was not present for her birth because Georgina was not born on the day we expected. Doreen had gone for a check up and then something happened and they had to rush her into emergency. I received the news work whilst I was still at work. By the time I got to the hospital,

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Doreen had already given birth to Georgina.

Stephen got on with Georgina and Stuart in the way I got on with my sister and brother. He was the eldest one and he saw himself as somebody who had to look after them. Stuart was sickly at the time, he had eczema and asthma and a lot of time was spent going backwards and forwards to the hospital. There were occasions when Stuart was so bad he had to stay in the hospital for about three or four days at a time. Stephen would always be there with us to make sure that Stuart was alright. He was really concerned about both the kids.

Stephen has never been in trouble. We brought our children up to respect the law.. As far as I know Stephen had never even spoken to a policeman.

One of Stephen's best friends was Elvin Odoru. He and Stephen used to go everywhere together. When I did not see Stephen, as Elvin's stepfather once told me when he came to our house, Stephen would be at his house. There were other friends, as he was very popular, but the one I saw most of all was Elvin. Stephen had friends of all races. We brought Stephen up in the belief that you did not see colour as a problem. I do not see colour as a problem because that is the way we are brought up in Jamaica.

Another of Stephen's friends' was Duwayne. Doreen and I met Duwayne at a christening party just before Stephen started at Blackheath Blue Coats. In the early days I used to work 14 hours a day so I used to leave at 6.00 am and never got back until 9.00 pm/10.00 pm so if Duwayne used to come to the house I never saw him.

My mother was a Seventh Day Adventist. I used to go to a Catholic School so from

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an early stage religion has been part of my life. The children attended Trinity Church in Woolwich from an early age. Stephen was christened there. He was also blessed at a Seventh Day Adventist Church. We would go to church every Sunday.

Stephen was in the cubs and later the scouts. He was involved in numerous activities. They would regularly put on shows in the evening and take part in other charitable events.

Stephen has never said anything to me about having problems concerning race so as far as I know he didn't have any.

In the early 1990's there were several murders of black people in our area. Although I heard about them I did not know the details. It had never occurred to me that the area was unsafe for black people to live in. I had not thought that racism was so bad in the area.

The week of Thursday April 22nd 1993 Stephen was at home because his mother had gone away on a field trip to Birmingham as she was studying to be a teacher. I was unemployed at the time so I was at home. I lost my job around 1989 when the building trade started to have problems. I was taking evening classes in glass staining and during the daytime I was home and was in charge of looking after the children on those occasions that Doreen was away. I made dinner and made sure that the children went to school on time, came back on time and didn't go to bed late.

On the morning of Thursday April 22 1993 I sent Georgina and Stuart to school. Stephen normally left a bit later. He came downstairs and had some tea. He went

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back to get his stuff, came into our bedroom overlooking the road and said "Seeya later". I said to him "Don't go anywhere because your mum's coming home later". He asked me if I was okay and I said yes. He went down and returned upstairs and said "Are you sure you're alright dad?" and I said "Yes". Because I was not working, I was not feeling all that good about myself.

I watched Stephen go down the road with his rucksack over his back. That is the last time I saw him alive. I made dinner in the afternoon for all of us. Stuart and I were waiting thinking that Stephen was coming home at about 3.30 pm/4.00 pm. At 4.30 pm when he did not turn up we had dinner and I put his in the oven with his mother's. We waited for him thinking he was going to come. I did not worry though because I assumed he was at Elvin's house.

At about 9.30 pm I went to collect Doreen from Woolwich because the coach was dropping her off there. She had her dinner and sat down to watch the news with us. Stephen had still not returned. Just after 10.30 pm there was a ring at the doorbell I thought it was Stephen. I went downstairs and opened the door. It was Joey Shepherd, his father and brother. Joey told me that he had seen Stephen being attacked down the road at a bus stop by the Welcome Inn pub by about six white youths. When he said that Stephen had been attacked Doreen came downstairs. Joey's father said that we should ring the police and find out what was happening. Doreen called the police who told her that they knew nothing about the incident.

We decided to go down to the spot that Joey said he had seen Stephen. We got into the car and I drove. We could not see anything happening when we got there. We drove down as far as the Welcome Inn pub just beyond the bus stop to the next turning on the left and we looked straight down the road. We could see straight

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down the road to the roundabout at Wellhall Road because it is a wide long straight road. We couldn't see any flashing lights. We were looking to see if there were police or ambulance vehicles about. We saw no lights. We saw no indication that anything was happening there so we decided to go to the hospital just to make sure. I still did not believe it had anything to do with Stephen.

We drove to the Brook Hospital which was a few minutes away. When we got there we did not see any activity that indicated that something bad had happened. We went to the Accident and Emergency Department where there was a police car parked outside. There was a policeman sitting outside in the car with the door open and another officer standing at the hospital entrance. We walked towards the reception area to see if we could see Stephen. We did not see him sitting anywhere. We looked to the waiting area and there was no Stephen so we started to look in the cubicles but he was not there either. We turned round to go back out and on the way I saw Duwayne on his own on the right hand side standing against a wall. At this point I realised that Stephen was there. I went up to Duwayne and was about to say "What happened to Stephen?".

Before I could say anything to him a man dressed in a green overall came up to Duwayne and asked him something like "What did he hit him with?". Before we could talk to Duwayne the nurse and doctor came over and we started to talk to them. We asked if Stephen was there they said yes. We then asked if we could see him but they said 'no'. We asked why and were told that he was being worked on. I do not recall if it was the doctor or nurse that spoke to us but they were both women.

We were told to go and wait in a nearby room. Doreen and I sat down but Duwayne

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did not. He just stood next to the door. You could see that he was distressed. We thought maybe Stephen had been stabbed in his arm or he had cut his hand or something. I was just praying that he was not dead. I thought it was just a fight in which he got cut badly but at no time did I think he was dead.

I don't remember if we talked to each other, we just sat there. All sorts of thoughts were going through my mind. I don't remember how long we were sitting there but it could have been about half an hour. Both the doctor and the nurse came in together. As I watched them coming towards us it reminded me of the hospital TV programmes you watch. As they were walking I was thinking "Are they coming to tell me that Stephen is dead". That is what was running through my mind because it was taking so long for them to come back. I started to think all kinds of things.

They came in the door. I do not remember if I stood up. I don't even remember the exact words they used but I do remember they said that Stephen was dead and we could phone our relatives or something like that.

It still did not hit me. When they said Stephen was dead Duwayne went wild. I just sat there. I was numb. Duwayne was acting as though he wanted to climb the walls. I could not take it in.

We were told we could phone our relatives so Doreen phoned her sister. I went and rang my cousin Sonia in Marylebone. I told her that we were at the hospital and there had been an accident or something and that Stephen was dead. She went crazy on the phone and said she was coming down. Some time later Doreen's sister Cheryl and her husband came. We were asked to give the hospital staff some time to clean Stephen up before we could see him.

I cannot remember if Cheryl went in to see Stephen with us but I am sure she did not go in on her own. We may have already been in there, just me and Doreen alone at first. We went into a separate room not far from where we had been sitting to see Stephen. He was lying there as if he was sleeping. I cannot remember if he was covered.

I was just looking and thinking that he was not really dead and that he was lying there asleep. I know that I left the hospital that night and drove home but I cannot remember driving home.

Nobody actually told us what had happened to Stephen. Nobody. None of the policemen at the hospital spoke to us. When we got through that door, nobody stopped us to ask us who we were, if we were the parents of Stephen or what. No policeman stopped and said anything to us. I am sure I would have remembered if they did. We were at the hospital for just over an hour. Stuart and Georgina were at home asleep. I started to worry about them being there on their own because of what had just happened to Stephen so we did not stay very long.

I do not remember if Duwayne was there when we saw Stephen and I do not know if he saw Stephen. I did not speak to Duwayne. I drove back home. I can remember Cheryl, Michael and Millie being at the hospital. I do not remember anybody else being there. Doreen went to bed but I did not. Georgina and Stuart were still sleeping.

I do not remember telling Stuart and Georgina. I do not know who told them. The first person I rang the next morning was Elvin. There is no way would I have

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thought that Dwayne would have been with Stephen. I would have thought that it was Elvin. It then became clear to me later on that Elvin had to go somewhere that evening and that is why he was not with Stephen. Sometimes when I used to pick up Georgina from school it would be Stephen and Elvin I would see going off for the evening. If Elvin had been available that night Stephen would have been with him.

The next day is very cloudy. We still did not know how Stephen had been killed. All we knew was that he had been attacked as we had been informed by Joey Shepherd. After I had rung Elvyn I spoke to a councillor in Stoke Newington. I then spoke to Clara and asked her to phone Doreen's school friends and let them know what had happened. Clara arrived at the house and took charge of the day to day running of the house.

I was expecting to see something about Stephen's murder in the papers on Friday morning. When I looked in the papers there was nothing so I rang up a reporter friend whom I had done some work for earlier on and told him what had happened. I asked him questions about notices going up in a press room or somewhere where journalists go to look for a story. I asked him if he had seen anything about a young black boy being killed in Eltham the night before and he said 'no'. He said he had stopped writing but was still working for the paper and that he would come down and do my story which he did. The next reporter was a person from The Voice. My cousin rang The Voice and told them what was happening. The reporter came down and did an interview. The first news report about Stephen's death came out in the Independent on the Saturday morning.

At the Press Conference the police said that they were going to appeal for witnesses to come forward. They still had not told us what had happened to Stephen. I met with the person who was in charge of the investigation on the evening of the Press Conference, Mr Crampton. He said to me that he would not be on the case for very long because he was going to do another case on the Monday and that somebody else was going to take over from him. I was told to appeal for anybody who had seen or heard anything to come forward and give evidence so that they could catch the killers.

We were introduced to the two liaison officers DS Bevan and DC Holden on the Friday before the Press Conference. They informed me that they would be keeping us up to date about what was happening on a day to day basis. I had met PC Fisher earlier that day. I understood their role to be to let us know what was happening with the case everyday, what kind of leads they had or what was happening generally but without giving anything away. To let us know how many people they had questioned although not anything specific that would jeopardise the case. They said they would keep us informed us by coming round or telephoning us. They asked us if we wanted counselling but we said 'no' because we had people from the church, like the Minister of the Church, so we were not on our own.

There were Social Services people around and anti- racist groups were there to support us, the Anti Racist Alliance (ARA), another guy ,Karl Booth, and later on people from the Panther UK also came. I did not see them on the Friday but they came back on the Saturday after having done a collection. As far as I know the various groups at our house were there because news had spread about the incident and because there was another incident in our area before where a black boy had been murdered. I was in no position to ask these people to leave because if what I

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was hearing was true, we needed people to help us handle the situation. They said they would do various things for us and because of the state we were in we did not know what to do.

I was clear by Friday that Stephen was murdered because he was black. When we were at the Press Conference people were saying that it was a racist murder and one of the people from the TV station made a comment that Stephen had been in the wrong place at the wrong time. I do not know where the information came from. The media coverage gradually lessened. I was angry because I thought that for anyone to see that and to get sense of it, it had to run the whole length so I started to think that I should talk to one of my friends in the media who was a Director for a news company.

On the Saturday I do not recall speaking to a lawyer. I am told that I went to church that day but I do not recall. I remember meeting Imran Khan on the Sunday. Various people that were telling us we had to make a decision as to how to deal with the situation. Mark Wadsworth and Palma Black who were from ARA, and others were telling us that we needed a bodyguard in case our house was attacked and to make sure that the other two children were not attacked when they were going to school.

What these people were saying was making me even more frightened because I was not expecting anything like this. I was very worried. I accepted the invitation of support because I felt we needed the support. I could see that the police weren't being supportive in any real sense. When the liaison officers arrived that Sunday they started questioning us about the amount of people in the house and the purpose of them being there. Holden asked me why all these people were there so I told her

that it was my house and I was entitled to invite anyone I wanted. She told Clara that I was mad.

Holden made a remark about woolen gloves and a hat being found. I do not remember if she said they found them in Stephen's bag but it was clear that she was implying that Stephen was a cat burglar. I said that lots of people carry woolen gloves and a hat. I was very upset that she implying that Stephen was a criminal.

I lost sense of the days that followed on from the Sunday. I just kind of got up in the mornings not knowing what day it was. As the days went by I was just getting more worried seeing that nobody was being arrested. The liaison officers would come regularly. I don't remember if it was every day that they came. I did not look forward to their visits because as far as I was concerned they were not telling me anything. I remember at some stage they mentioned something about an identification parade. I think we had some kind of argument about going to see Stephen's body at Greenwich mortuary. The liaison officers were saying that we could not see Stephen's body. Rickie Morse, a counsellor was at our house and was instrumental in setting up the viewing of seeing Stephen on the Saturday 24th April 1993.

As far as I can remember it was Doreen, myself, Cheryl and possibly Michael who went to see Stephen at the mortuary. The thing that sticks in my mind was that they were saying that only Doreen and myself were allowed behind the screen at the mortuary because it was a glass screen and that the rest of the family would have to stay outside the screen and look through the glass. We were all very distressed and crying. I turned round and saw PC Fisher standing right behind me. I told him that this was a private matter and that he should not be there and should be standing

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so close and that we wanted some privacy. After that they let us inside to where Stephen was. I cannot remember if he was fully covered to the neck or but they did show us where the wounds were, the one that was coming down from the top of his collar bone to just below his chin, I think they described that the knife had gone in straight through his lungs and it had gone through his muscle and through to the other side and touched his heart.

My feelings at that point were that I was looking at my son lying there and thinking what butchers could have done something like this to a human being. I could not believe what I was seeing. I was hoping that the police would catch Stephen's murderers quickly because one of the mortuary attendants said that they might not release Stephen's body for burial until somebody had been caught. I became concerned about Stephen lying in this place because I was told they had to freeze him and for them to do a post mortem they had to take him out and unfreeze him and then put him back. I had been told that any persons arrested for Stephen's murder would have the right to conduct their own examination of Stephen's body. I was thinking that if there were five or six people involved in this murder they would have to take him out five or six different times and I was not looking forward to that at all.

At some point during the week following the murder, a woman came to our house with information. I was upstairs at the time and could not therefore see the woman. Someone in the house answered the door and spoke to her. She said that there had been people in her house on the night of the murder who had washed blood off themselves. She gave the names of the Acourts', Norris and Knight. We then passed these details on to Mr Khan because we felt it was better for him to with with the police. We thought as Mr Khan was the solicitor representing us, he should be the

one to contact the police.

After that we were given a mobile number of Linda Holden in case we needed to contact her if we felt threatened or had information. There was one occasion, late at night, where I was walking around the house looking out of the front and back windows. We didn't have a fence or gate. I could not see everything in the road. When Millie left our house that night she noticed that there were two boys coming towards her so she rushed to her car. She looked towards our house and saw a van with another two boys standing behind it. She went to the local police station to tell them what she had seen. She was told by the officer on the desk that they knew nothing about our family. When she got home Millie rang us to let us know what had happened. She said we should call the liaison officers and let them know. It was around midnight. We then rang Linda Holden on her mobile phone. She said she would ring the station and tell them to send someone. I recall standing by the window for a while but no police officer arrived. I rang the station and they said they did not know anything about this incident.

Later on a police officer arrived. I spoke to him. He said he would drive around and look for the boys. He also said he would be keeping an eye out and would make more frequent visits.

There were other incidents where our car tyres were slashed. On another occasion someone stabbed a screw driver in to our car tyre. That happened on a day we were doing a piece for the BBC. They BBC filmed this. Somebody called the police and as I recall two officers came. I said that it was clear we were being targeted but they said this was not so and that it was probably just a nail or something that we had driven over.

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This latest incident made us feel even more threatened. We wanted to move away from the area as we were very concerned about our children's safety. It was clear that not only were police not going to protect us but they didn't believe that we were any danger. We approached the Council to see if they would re-house us, even temporarily but they said that they could not since we were not council tenants. Dorothy Thomas from the Housing section came to see us about alternative accommodation. Palma Black and her team from ARA were at our place more or less everyday from early in the morning till late at night. She treated our house as though it was her office.

Someone suggested that we might receive obscene phone calls so Clara and other family members screened our calls. Our post was vetted by our neighbours who were concerned for us. ARA were also taking calls. They were also meant to keep records of all the calls, I do not know if they did or not. It was because of this that some people, like the workers at GACARA may not have been able to contact us.

At no stage were we advised by anyone not to trust the police. It was clear to me from the outset that the police had no real interest in catching Stephen's murderers and for this reason we did not have much confidence in them. In other murder cases you often see the police stopping traffic and asking drivers if they have seen anything. Usually just after a murder there are lots of police vehicles at the scene and lots of activity. We saw none when we first went to look for Stephen.

I remember there was a march organised by GACARA of local schoolchildren to the spot where Stephen was murdered. Nobody approached us before doing that, it was just done. Letters were sent to organisations by Mr Khan because they were

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speaking to the press without contacting us first and we did not want the situation to get out of hand. The letter said that no statements should be made nor should anything be done unless they have spoken to us. This was suggested by myself and Doreen and had nothing to do with the ARA. I wanted to meet with the organisations who were supporting us so we could talk to them and discuss how things could best proceed.

We began to experience difficulties in getting contact with Holden and Bevan. Both their mobile phones always seemed to be turned off. This coupled with the comment about Stephens hat and gloves caused me to feel that they were not sympathetic. The way they spoke to us made us feel as though they regarded us as a nuisance. I felt as though they resented us wanting to know what was happening with the investigation. I decided that I no longer wanted either Holden or Bevan to come to our house. I rang up CSU Philpot and told him not to send them to my house because they were not doing what they were supposed to do. A suggestion was made that we should then come to the station at Plumstead on a weekly basis and they would give us any information or tell us what was happening there. We were told that we could not come if we were going to bring Mr Khan. I then said if Mr Khan was not coming then neither were we. We had no previous experience of dealing with the police. I think that they did not want someone to attend with us who would know whether or not they were really investigating Stephen's murder properly. I think that they wanted to try and pull the wool over our eyes. In the end even with a solicitor they still failed to properly investigate our sons murder.

Eventually it was agreed that we could take Mr Khan and any family member that wanted to come to the police station once a week. Karl from the ARA came to the meeting at one stage but not at our invitation.

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The meetings with Philpot were not very constructive because the questions we were putting to them were not being answered. I kept asking about forensics. Millie had told us that when she had driven to the area where Stephen had been murdered was not cordoned off. One of the investigating officers attempted to reassure me that they were looking at the forensic angle. I kept asking about this every time we met and always given the same answer. The only time I was told that there was no forensic evidence was a week before the people who were arrested were to go to court. I believe that if the police had properly cordoned off the area they would have found some forensic evidence.

Whenever we had a meeting with the police I was anxious to know what progress they had made and if we had a good chance of winning this case. They hardly ever told us anything. On one occasion Doreen had written the names of Stephen's murderers on a piece of paper because we had been given information that they were responsible. She wrote the names down and gave them to a senior officer. He then proceeded to fold this paper up in his hand like a ball as if he were going to throw it away. All of the suggestions that we made about trying to get these people quickly were treated as if we were trying to interfere. I asked them that after Stephen's body was released to me and my family to bury him were they allowed to go back and dig it up if they felt like it. They said 'yes'.

We were beginning to feel that the killers of my sons had more rights than we had. We heard that killers were being protected and being moved and all these kind of things and that was worrying. At one stage I heard a rumour that the police had moved the families of the boys responsible for Stephen's murder. We were thinking that those families were not under any kind of threat from us yet they were being

protected and moved whilst we were in a house where we felt threatened and not moved to anywhere.

The first time that we became aware that someone had been arrested for the murder was when we heard it on the TV or radio. We did not hear it from the police. We heard it from the media and it was a surprise. We thought, that because we were going to the police station, we would have been the first to hear and then maybe after you would have seen it on the news.

We were approached by a member of one of the organisations to see if we would be interested in meeting President Mandela while he was in the UK. We said yes but never thought we would ever meet anybody like him because seeing that he had nothing to do with the government in this country we did not think he would be interested in meeting us. This was something to do with Britain and not South Africa. When it was finalised that we were going to meet this man we were pleased because at least somebody was going to listen to what we had to say. I was surprised to see that he was really interested and wanted to spend twenty minutes with us listening to our grievances about the way in which we were being treated by the police. The government did not make a statement about the death of our son, we did not get a message from the Queen or anything like that. President Mandela made a statement about the lives of black people in South Africa being cheap. The media and everyone was there the morning that we met him and straight after that, the following morning all of a sudden these guys were arrested.

That suggested to me that the government of this country did not care about me and my family unless the media was present or our outcry came from certain sections of the community or someone as powerful as Mandela. That was a bad thing. It

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showed me that all along the police knew who the people were but were not prepared to take any action unless somebody of some kind of substance said something in public that would be noticed by the world. That was our feelings. This meeting took place with Mandela in Central London in a hotel. I will always remember it. Not long before Mandela was released I had listened to a friend of his, a lawyer or someone who explained what kind of person he was and seeing that this man was inside prison for twenty odd years. I just wanted to see what kind of a person he was, if there was any kind of bitterness after being locked up for twenty odd years. All that I heard and all that this woman described about this man was true because he sat there and he listened to us talk and didn't interrupt us at any stage. He let us explain to him our feelings of losing our son and he sympathised in such a way that I felt really good after leaving.

I don't remember if our weekly meetings with the police continued after people had been arrested and charged. I felt that we would get to the bottom of this quickly after the arrest. I was hoping that the first two people who were arrested would then talk and name the other three, four or five or how many there were and then they would be arrested. But, not long after they were arrested, they were released.

I remember the relief we felt when the first two were arrested. When the second post mortem took place I said to myself that we might get Stephen's body so then we could bury him. A few weeks later they said to us we could take his body but then said no so we had to get in touch with Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, and explain to him what was happening. I don't remember if a third person was arrested but a third post mortem was carried out and then Sir Montague Levine said to release the body to the family, which they did.

We had fears about burying Stephen here because of the situation surrounding his death and also the fact that it was explained to us that they were going to be able to go and dig his body after he was buried. I did not fancy the idea of my son's body being dug up after he was buried. I remember watching films where after a long period of time when somebody was dead and buried they would go and dig them up. I did not wish that to happen to my son so the family sat down just before we knew we were going to have his body and came to the conclusion that the best thing to do was to take him home to Jamaica. We had a memorial service in June 1993 and after that, towards the end of the month we flew out to Jamaica with the body. We buried Stephen a week or so later. We wanted to bury him on 4th July 1993 so we could remember American Independence but I think we had to bury him on 3rd July 1993. He is buried on a piece of land which belongs to Doreen and her cousin. Stephen's grandmother is also buried on that piece of land so he is lying beside his grandmother in Clarendon in Jamaica.

Most of my family are still in Jamaica. When they heard what was happening they felt a bit cut off because it is nearly 5000 miles away. I think they were pleased in a way that we had brought his body over so that they could take part in at least the burial. I feel that he is home, and I can be assured that nobody is going to violate his grave.

After we were in Jamaica for a while, two or three days before we left to come back, we heard that the charges against these people had been dropped. Also, in the same week we heard that somebody else had been killed.. Joy Gardiner had been killed by the police. We were in constant touch with the UK Embassy in Jamaica. When we got to Jamaica with Stephen's body, one of the people from the Embassy came to meet the plane and to explain to us that they were not involved, that they

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had no power in Jamaica but for phone calls and things relating to the UK that we needed to do we could go to the Embassy and do it from there which I used to do.

We arrived back to the news that the charges had been dropped.. I felt, at least when these people had been arrested, that we were getting somewhere. To be told that the charges had been dropped and this had been decided whilst we were out of the country was a devastating blow to us. At least they could have waited until we had come back and try to explain to us the situation before they did it.

I think we stopped going to see the police then. Since the charges had been dropped I doubted that the investigation was on full scale and I think the police were saying that they would have a few people working on the case to see if anything came up. I think we stopped seeing them on a weekly basis to try and come to terms with the fact that these people had killed our son and were going to get away with it.

The inquest was in December 1993. By this time we had discussed the case with our solicitors had decided we would consider taking out a private prosecution ourselves. Later on down the road, just before the inquest there was a witness who had come forward who the police had been informed of. On the morning of the inquest the police were asked if they had investigated this new evidence. I am almost certain that they said yes but it then turned out that they had not. Because of this the inquest was adjourned. We decided that we would make sure that if they tried to do an inquest we would stop it and we would serve papers to ensure that we could bring our own private prosecution.

By this time we had moved from Llanover Road to 15 Rayton Road, Charlton. On Stephen's birthday we held a candle lit vigil at the spot where the incident

happened and then marched from the spot to the estate and back round to the spot in a 3 ½ mile circle. After that we did a linking of hands on a Sunday linking from the spot where Stephen fell to the spot where Rohit Duggal died. That was well organised.

After we left the house where we used to live a meeting was set up with Barker. He had been chosen to look at the way the case was done and what was happening to see if he could come up with a different angle that might lead to the case being reopened. We met with him for about 4 ½ hours or so at the house and we went through the whole case, our fears and everything. We asked him if we would see his report. He said no we could not but he would let us know happened. We never heard from him again. We never met him again so we do not know what he reported.

After the inquest we were coming up to the first anniversary of Stephen's death. There was a meeting with Mr Etherington of the Crown Prosecution Service. I remember he said that there was not enough evidence to take the case any further. Following that there was a meeting with Sir Paul Condon. I do not remember what was said at the meeting.

After that Commander Nove came onto the scene. He said he would be doing things differently. We used to meet with him at Plumstead police station. It seemed to me that Commander Nove was a little bit ashamed of what had happened during the initial investigation. I felt more comfortable with Commander Nove than I had with

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Weedon.

At the time I felt that the second investigation was conducted in a way that increased the chances of there being a prosecution. Commander Nove did not tell us exactly what he was doing but he used to tell us some things. We now know that surveillance was being used on the suspects and police were trying to see if they could get an informant to provide information. I had more confidence in Commander Nove because he treated us differently from Weedon who was hostile to us. Weedon treated us as though we were trying to get information and give it to somebody else.

It was clear to me that the police saw us as a threat. I do not know why. I have seen documentation where the police accused the family of Roland Adams of being "hostile and unco-operative". It is clear to me that the police come in with the idea that the family of black victims are violent criminals who are not to be trusted. I feel as though Bevan and Holden came in with the same attitude.

The police were saying that it was not normal for a family to be kept informed. In my view the family should be kept informed throughout. The family has just lost somebody. They want to be reassured that the job that the police are supposed to be doing is being done the right way. Given that the police failed to properly investigate my son's murder I am not surprised that they did not want us kept informed. It is clear to me that only now is the truth beginning to come out.

We had already decided that if the police and the Crown Prosecution Service were not going to do anything we would consider bringing a private prosecution. Commander Nove introduced a new Commander who was going to take over.

Commander Griffiths, and the same policeman that is still here now, John Carnt.

I felt that the Private Prosecution was the only way left open to us to put Stephen's killers behind bars. I hoped that Stephen's killers would be exposed by bringing them into the public eye, even if we failed to get a conviction against them.

When the decision was made to privately prosecute I was frightened. I knew that we were entering into something that was going to be difficult. There would be lots of people who wanted the prosecution to fail. I had confidence in everybody who was on board that they would do their best. When the summonses were issued I realised that I was going to see my son's murderers for the first time. When I saw these people I knew that it was them. I just knew it was them.

The committal proceedings were one of the most frightening periods of my life. I had been advised that if we did not get past committal then that was it. So that was the most crucial stage for me. When the committal took place it was the first time that I heard the details of what happened on the night. This was three years later. I had always thought that this incident happened at the bus stop until we saw the photographs showing that it happened in the middle of Dixon Road. At Court a description was given of how these people surrounded Stephen. The part that got to me was the way that Stephen shouted out. I could just feel a pain. I felt the pain myself and I could not stand it. I collapsed at court and was rushed to hospital.

Once the committal proceedings were over I felt relieved and relaxed because I thought we had gone through the hardest part of this thing. At the Old Bailey we were going to have twelve people who were going to decide whether or not these people were guilty. We had a good chance.

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Before the beginning of the Old Bailey trial, I was worried because we had heard a rumour about the judge who would be in charge of this case. We had heard bad things but I was hoping that because of the publicity around the case he would not do anything to jeopardise the trial. The morning of the trial, as usual before we went in to the court, Michael and myself had a run through of certain things.

On the final day we were breaking for lunch when Michael said to me that we were in trouble. From then on we knew that we were not going to get what we wanted. After the trial collapsed I felt that I did not want to be anywhere around this part of the world. I could not believe what I had just heard and seen. I had initially been concerned that we had got an all white jury. When the jury were told to bring in a not guilty verdict I saw the look on their faces of disbelief. It seemed to me that they could not believe that the judge was actually telling them to do this. I could not believe what I was hearing. I just sat there and I froze. I would describe that day as one of the worst of my life when I saw those guys get up and walk out of there. You could see disappointment, the anguish on everyone's face. There was no doubt in my mind that it was these people and I still do not doubt it. If I had to make this decision again, I would do the same again because we had no alternative. I could not live with myself if I had not done anything and sat back. At least I can say to myself that we have exposed these people to the public.

After the trial collapsed I felt that I could not remain in this part of the world. While I was in Jamaica trying to recover from the collapse of the case I felt that there was no way we were going to get any kind of justice. I was able to look back on all that had gone on over the past three years. I knew that the inquest would be coming up soon and I could not stand the thought of sitting in court and seeing these people who were accused of the murder of my son walk away a second time. I decided that

there was no way I could face the inquest. It was not until after I heard that the government had changed that I thought there might be a chance of getting something more positive from the new government. I came back just in time to meet with the new Home Secretary and later on he agreed to set up the public inquiry after listening to some of our concerns. I have been shocked at some of the things we have heard during the progress of the inquiry. We suspected that much had gone wrong but it is clear that it is much worse than we could ever have imagined.

We have exposed some of the things that the police get up to behind the scenes. They make it clear that the investigation of racist murders or attacks are not important and often treat the victims or relatives worse than the suspects. I don't know - it's frightening.

I feel that the Metropolitan Police should be ashamed that they allow members of their force to behave in such a way which. They should find ways of stopping this from happening. If there had been a black policeman in charge of the investigation with powers to do what he wanted, I feel the outcome may have been different. However, if there is a black policeman in charge of the investigation with no power to do what he wants then it will make no difference. If there are black liaison officers, maybe they would see the family in a different light.

I would say that both racism and corruption played a part in this investigation. Racism I think, because the police always see a black person as a criminal - even when they have not committed a crime and are victims. As to corruption, I think that some of the police officers investigating my son's death were connected to the murderers in some way or the other. We kept hearing all sorts of rumours. Nobody can tell me different because I have always had the feeling that this case has not

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been dealt with in the right and proper way despite all the publicity. The PCA report confirms much of what I was thinking. One example concerns the delay that occurred in arresting the suspects. They could have been arrested in three days and if they had been we would have had a better result because they would not have had enough time to get rid of certain items of evidence. Fifteen days gave them ample time to get rid of. Why give them so much time ?

I really believed in the officers who reinvestigated Stephen's murder because I thought that we were working closely with them and we were told that they were doing only our case and they were answerable to us in a way.

I feel that because they are all policemen once they realised that the first lot of officers had screwed up, they tried to make sure that we did not find out and were covering their tracks. That is wrong because we had put our confidence in them. In one sense I feel even more let down by the second team of police officers than the initial investigation team.

At the Inquest John Carrit suggested that there were no problems with the first investigation apart from communication with the family. He reached this view having read all the documentation in the case. Does he mean that he would have investigated in the same way? I feel that officers who act like this are even worse than the criminals who killed my son because they are meant to be protecting the community from things like this happening. It is their job and they take money for it. They did not do it properly. Instead of doing it they tried to make sure that we did not find out who did it. They were covering up for the failings of their colleagues.

WIT 0003 0229

One of the things that I hope will come out of the inquiry is for everyone to see that the things we have been saying the past five years are true. I hope that this can be a step towards ensuring that when another tragedy is suffered by the black community, the police act responsibly and investigate the crime properly. When a policeman puts his uniform on he should forget all his prejudices. If he cannot do that then he should not be doing the job because that means that one part of the population is not protected from the likes of those who murdered Stephen.

Neville

31

WIT 0003 0117

Statement of Duwayne Brooks

1. Stephen Lawrence was one of my best friends. We met on our first day at secondary school - the Blackheath Bluecoats Church of England School. We were both about 11 years old.
2. Both Steve and I were 18 in 1993 when Steve was murdered.
3. In 1993 Steve was at school and I was at college. We saw each other regularly. We usually met either at my house or his uncle, Martin and wife Millie's house. On April 22 1993 we were together at Martin and Millie's house.
4. In the evening we were hurrying to get back, as Steve wanted to get home as soon as possible. We were just looking for a bus on Well Hall Road. We were attacked by a group of white boys, one of whom shouted "what what nigger".
5. I can't bear to go into the details of it at this stage. So I will recount what happened after the murder.

The scene of the murder

6. As we were running from the attack, Steve fell to the floor opposite the junction to Downham Road. I stopped on the

pavement. I went back and I bent down and looked at him. He was lying by a tree. He was still breathing. I saw his blood running down the floor. He could not speak. I saw his blood running away.

7. I ran across the road to the phone box and dialled 999. I asked for an ambulance. I left the phone hanging to run round the corner to see if the boys were coming back up the road.
8. I saw a white couple. I have since been told they are called Taaffes. They were walking down the road towards the phone box from Shooters Hill. So I ran and asked for their help. They just ignored me. They looked at me and sort of shimmied away, and walked on.
9. I have recently been shown Connor Taaffe's statement. I see he thought that we might be going to rob them. This fits with my recollection of how they behaved towards me when I first approached them.
10. I ran back to the phone box and picked up the receiver and spoke. I told the lady, who said something like I am still here what happened? We had an exchange about where I was. I knew where I was but I looked at a printed card in the phone box. It was wrong, I think it said the post code was SE26. I got confused and frustrated, I don't know whether she could hear me properly. I was shouting.

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11. I can't remember if she asked me for a phone number. I cannot remember exactly what I told her about what happened.
12. I slammed the phone down on the shelf and left.
13. I am told it is said that I kicked the box. I don't recall this but it is possible given how frustrated I was. I was frustrated then because there was no help.
14. I ran out into the road and tried to stop some cars. I was waving my arms around. Cars passed me by. No-one stopped. A white Peugeot 205 slowed down, nearly skidded and nearly knocked me over. It was a white man who was in it. He stopped, looked at me and drove around me.
15. I am now not sure the order in which my trying to stop cars, phoning the ambulance and trying to get the Taaffes to help took place in.
16. A car stopped by Steve. I know now the driver was an off-duty police officer, Mr Geddis, who was with his wife Angela Geddis. He asked what happened and if I had called an ambulance and I told him we had been attacked. I said I tried to call the ambulance.
17. I said we had been attacked, and that an iron bar was used and that it was by white boys.

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18. I was using the f- word, but not at him, in my speech. I don't use other kinds of swear words and didn't on that night.
19. He went into the phone box.
20. I waited with Steve and the Taaffes and Angela Geddis by the side of the road. At first one of them knelt by him, not holding him.
21. I was pacing up and down, up and down. I was crying. I was desperate for the ambulance. It was taking too long. I was frightened by the amount of blood Steve was losing. I saw his life fading away. I didn't know what to do to help him, I was frightened I would do something wrong.
22. Angela Geddis went and crouched down by Steve. I asked if Steve was breathing, She said yes. I kept asking.
23. The Taaffes may have prayed. Mr Taaffe may have told me that Steve was lying in the right position. It is possible that I told one of them that my name was Duwayne and that Steve was my friend. I can't remember.
24. Mr Geddis came back to us.
25. At some point either a woman or a man came and put a blanket on Steve.

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26. Uniformed officers arrived later. They arrived before the ambulance.
27. A uniformed officer who I have since been told is called WPC Bethel came up and asked me who has done this. I said a group of six white boys. I then said where is the f-ing ambulance I didn't call the police. She said they were on their way. I said I'd called them about 15 minutes ago.
28. She said "what has happened?" I was saying where is the ambulance. That's what I wanted to know.
29. I told her we were attacked, but I had got away. She asked me where the boys went and I pointed out the road that they had gone down.
30. When I pointed to her where they had run, she did nothing. She did not make any use of the information. She did not do anything about it like tell the other officer there or anyone on her radio. She didn't ask what the name of the road was.
31. She asked me more than once where they had gone. The second time she asked I said something like "I f-ing told you where they went, are you deaf? Why don't you go and look for them". It was like she didn't believe me. She just kept saying calm down, which made me more frustrated her saying that and doing nothing for Steve.

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32. She asked what they looked like and I said they were a group of white boys.
33. She asked how did we get here? I didn't answer that question.
34. She asked me our names and addresses and I gave them to her.
35. A male uniformed officer came up at one point.
36. She asked questions like who are they to you, what are their names, where do they live? I said I didn't know the boys. She said your friend is lying there and you say you don't know who those boys are!
37. She said, so how did it start, did they chase you for nothing? I said one of them shouted "what what nigger" She and other officers kept asking me what happened and if I was sure of what I was saying.
38. She asked if I had any weapons on me.
39. She was treating me like she was suspicious of me, not like she wanted to help.
40. When she asked me stupid questions I kept saying where is the ambulance, I didn't call for you. I wanted them to get

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him to hospital, and there they were talking rubbish in my ears and walking up and down doing nothing. I knew the hospital was only two minutes up the road. I became increasingly frustrated and loud and agitated.

41. I asked her and other officers more than once why couldn't they put Steve in the car and drive him to hospital. They said that they couldn't do that. They never gave a reason they just said I should calm down and "be sensible about it for your friend's sake". How could they say to me "calm down!" when they weren't doing anything about the situation?.

42. I got the impression that the police were repulsed by the blood that was there or on the whole they just didn't want to help. They should have known what to do. However horrible they found the blood it was their job to do something to help him. They did not do anything useful.

43. While I was talking to WPC Bethel I was walking up and down, pacing out of frustration and helplessness, and looking for the ambulance. She kept saying stand still, but I didn't.

44. I didn't answer those of her questions which I thought were stupid. I only answered her sensible questions. A sensible question she didn't ask would have been: "shall I drive you in the direction where they ran?"

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45. If she had asked for more detail of the boys' descriptions or what they were wearing I would have told her. Those would have been sensible questions.

46. I have been told that she said that I said I did not witness the assault. This is not true.

47. She did not ask if I was all right or if I had been attacked.

48. She did not take notes.

49. Those by Steve were near enough so they would have heard me when I was shouting, I shouted when I was saying why can't you put him in the car, but they wouldn't have heard her questions.

50. She wandered off at some stage and came back. I didn't see her go to Steve at all but she could have done and I didn't notice. Another uniformed woman police officer came up at one point and joined in the questioning. I have been told she is called WPC Smith.

51. I heard something come over the radio saying the ambulance is at Well Hall roundabout - can't you see it? It wasn't her radio. I couldn't see the ambulance.

52. I started going frantic saying where is the ambulance? As

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- the ambulance didn't come and she was asking stupid questions I got more and more wound up. I could feel the ambulance was going to be too late.
53. Various officers came and told me to calm down for my friend's sake. I again asked some of them to take Steve to the hospital but they wouldn't.
54. I overheard on the radio that the ambulance was coming from Shooter's Hill. Then a male police officer went off to go and get it. This may have been PC Gleason.
55. One uniformed officer went up to Steve and shined a torch in his face, "I said why are you doing that?" He said " It is supposed to be good for you" He carried on doing it. He was kneeling down. I walked off. I didn't know whether to believe him or not.
56. One male uniformed officer was different from the others. He asked me if I was injured in any way and if I needed to sit down. I said no I was fine. I cannot describe what he looked like. I have been asked if he had grey hair or a grey moustache. He didn't.
57. Apart from this one officer no-one asked me if I was injured. No-one asked me if I had been attacked. No -one asked me if I was all right.

58. None of the uniformed officers were doing anything for Steve. They should have known what to do. They should have done something for Steve. No-one appeared to be doing anything with the information I gave them about the attackers. They just stood there doing nothing. No-one went down Dickson Road after the boys.
59. None of the officers asked me if I would recognise any of the boys again. I obviously would have said yes if they had asked. I note PC Gleason says that I didn't give enough information to make a street id. This is unfair. I gave them the information that they asked for and I could have recognised the boys if they took me around.
60. I note PC Gleason says I was "virtually uncontrollable." What did they need to control me for? They should have taken control of the situation and organised help for Steve and chasing the boys. I have been told that other officers said I was "hysterical". I was very upset and frustrated but I was not out of control or hysterical. I was perfectly capable of answering sensible questions and giving information as I did do.
61. The first time anyone made any use of that information that I gave them was when different police arrived - a police carrier came down the hill and parked near us. An officer went to the passenger side and pointed in the direction of Dickson road. It left in that direction almost straight

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- away. I saw no-one get out. I didn't see where it actually went to.
62. This was sometime after the first uniformed police arrived. It seemed like ages - it may have been about 10 minutes - but I don't know how long exactly.
63. Then another police carrier came the other way, turned round, stopped and went off.
64. I was very upset. I was wound up by the officers. I was very angry at the boys and increasingly at the officers and because the ambulance was not coming.
65. The ambulance arrived. Mr Salih says it takes 6 minutes to get there from Greenwich District Hospital and I think that is just about right.
66. Mr Mann, the other ambulance man, put a plastic thing in Steve's mouth - the thing you are meant to carry to save people's lives.
67. They carried Steve to the ambulance on a stretcher. His unopened ginger beer can fell from him onto the floor. I picked it up. I took it home and kept it in my room, until one day it exploded.
68. I tried to get into the ambulance with Steve but police

officers would not let me. They said there was no space. I really wanted to be in the ambulance with Steve. I wanted to be with him. I wanted to see what was happening.

69. When they wouldn't let me I thought, well the hospital is only two minutes up the road, and agreed to go in a police car.

70. I don't remember much about the journey except that I told the driver to hurry up. I am told that WPC Joanne Smith says she drove me to the hospital. I am told she said I called the police "pigs" and used the word "c--t". I did not. I don't use those words.

The hospital

71. When I got to the hospital I walked behind the stretcher. Steve went into a different room. One of the nurses asked me to go with her, but I said it's ok and walked off. I went into a waiting room. I sat, and then I walked around.

72. A policeman came up, and said that he wanted to talk to me, to help my friend.

73. I was most probably shouting and walking off. He told me his name. I now know it's PC Gleason. He said he needed to take a statement of what happened. I don't know what I said. I lent on the reception counter. I kept walking

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- off. It took a long time. I kept stopping. He kept saying I need a statement, I need a statement.
74. He kept asking me whether it was true that the boys said "what what nigger?"
75. He took notes in his book. I didn't read the notebook. I don't remember signing it, but that is my signature on his notebook.
76. Some of Steve's family arrived.
77. I was told that Steve was dead when I was in an office. I don't want to talk about it.
78. I was taken to see his body. I don't want to talk about it.
79. At the hospital nobody enquired if I was all right or if I had been attacked. I was offered no comfort.
80. A policeman said that I couldn't leave. He said I had to go to the police station to make a statement. He said you can either wait here or go and sit in the police car until you are taken to the station so that "we won't lose you".
81. I didn't want to be in the hospital so I chose the police car option.

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82. I wanted to leave and go home. I felt I couldn't. I felt if I left the police would have stopped me and arrested me.

83. The police man walked me to the car. It was parked in front of the hospital where the ambulances were. He asked me to wait until I was taken to the police station. I said ok and sat in the car on my own.

84. It felt like I was in the police car in the car park for half an hour or an hour.

Plumstead Police Station

85. I was then driven to Plumstead Police Station. I can't remember who took me or what was said on the way.

86. When we got to the police station the car went round the back and parked in the car park. I was taken in the back entrance of the station.

87. As far as I can remember I was taken up some stairs and into a room.

88. I remember sitting in a room and being calm.

89. I now know that in their statements the police said I broke a window in the front office. I didn't, I wasn't even in

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the front office. It just shows that they were treating me like a criminal and not like a victim.

90. I was waiting in a room opposite a big room. I can remember being in the room for what felt like ages.

91. Most of the time I was sat there on my own. An officer was in there standing up. He told me he had to stay in the room to look after me. I took it he meant to stop me wandering off or doing wrong.

92. He chatted with me. He was waiting for a senior officer to come. I think it may have been for an area commander but that may be wrong. He was filling in time.

93. He asked me if I wanted tea. I don't drink tea so I said no thank you. He asked me if I was all right. I said yeah.

94. Nobody asked me whether I wanted to be at the station or whether I would prefer to go home. Nobody asked me where I would like to have my statement taken.

95. Before my statement was taken a senior officer talked to me briefly about what had happened. The senior officer I saw was a small man. I can't remember much of the conversation except I told him that we had been attacked by a group of white boys one of whom said "what what nigger".

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96. The officer who took the statement from me was DC Cooper.
97. Before and perhaps during the statement taking, someone came in and asked me to go with them to see how the investigation was taking place, and took me into the big room. This happened about twice. A number of officers said that I was important to this investigation and that was why I had to tell the truth.
98. They kept saying are you sure they said "what what nigger"? I remember someone, maybe the same senior officer, saying you know what this means if you are telling the truth , are you sure they said "what what nigger?" I said I am telling the truth. He said "you mean you have done nothing to provoke this in any way?" I said "no, we were just waiting for a bus".
99. I thought either they thought I was lying or they wanted to do a Jedi mind trick on me so that I would lie and say that it didn't happen. I thought that because they kept on at me. It was mainly the senior officer. I wanted to start shouting and calling them idiots but I couldn't, I was just too tired. It was this senior officer that they were waiting for before DC Cooper took my statement.
100. Both DC Cooper and the senior officer were suspicious of my account of how we were attacked.

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101. I can't remember the names of the officers who I met in the
in the big room.

102. I was keen to make a statement. I was keen to get it over
and done with. I don't know what time we started doing
the statement but I do remember getting home about 7 am.

103. DC Cooper asked me whether I wanted anyone with me. He
was the only police officer to ask that. As it would have
delayed everything to fetch someone I said I didn't, I
just wanted to get it over and done with.

104. I wished I'd gone home from the hospital and slept and come
back the next day. DC Cooper said if you want to go you
can go, but I said no now I am here I want to get it over
with. When he said that it was the first time I realise
that I had had a choice about going home.

105. DC Cooper did not give me an idea of long how it would take
to give the statement.

106. DC Cooper said ok lets start from the beginning. He asked
me questions and I answered them. He was writing down my
answers.

107. While I was answering the questions and giving my statement
an officer told me that my mum was at the police station.
I thought giving the statement would be over soon so at

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first I said I would finish it and then see her. But it took so long I asked to see her. They took me to a different room and she was brought in with Everton. I told my mum what had happened. What I said upset her. She said: " it's a racist murder". An officer told her to calm down. He said we don't know that yet, we are trying to establish the facts. I knew I knew the facts and that I had told them to the officers. I wanted to say something. I couldn't because I would have started crying.

108. I went back to making my statement.

109. While he was taking my statement DC Cooper asked the size of my foot and then said we need to take your trainers from you to take a foot print. I gave him my trainers. I was thinking what do you want them for? I haven't committed any burglaries, but I didn't say anything because I didn't want to make the suspicions of me worse.

110. There is nothing in my statement about the colour of the attacker's hair. I was telling DC Cooper everything I could. If he had asked me the colour I would have told him, just as I told PC Gleason.

111. At the end DC Cooper asked me to read my statement and sign it. I was so tired. I just scanned it and signed it.

112. At no stage did any officer ask me whether any of the

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white boys attacked me or touched me, or did they ask me for any of my clothes except to take the print off my trainers as I have mentioned. Noone asked me more than is set out in the Section 9 statement that DC Cooper took that night.

113. I remember an officer driving me home. I got there about 7am.

114. I spent the days after playing my Nintendo at home. This was a hostel. It was a half way house to getting a flat from a housing association. There were about six of us each with our own room kitchen and bathroom.

115. I note that the AMIP meeting of 25 4 93 says that I was not in the hostel. I was. The police came round and asked if I was ok after a couple of days. The police offered me protection. I think that it may have been DS Bevan who asked me. He did not tell me why I might need it, so I said no.

116. DS Bevan told me that he was my liaison officer. He said he was on the investigation. He said I should ask him for things I needed.

117. At no stage did he or any other officer ask me if I had been attacked nor did he refer me to victim support or

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offer me counselling nor did he advise me about the CICB.

118. At no stage did he or any officer consult me about whether I wished to press charges for the attack on me. They didn't treat me as a victim of crime.

119. At no stage did he or any officer advise me who to speak to or who not to speak to about what I had experienced and seen.

120. They didn't say keep it quiet or tell the world, to see if anyone recognised my description of the attackers.

121. Eventually they themselves advertised part of my description of one of the attackers.

122. At the time DS Bevan seemed to treat me more seriously than the other officers did, so I trusted him a bit more than I did the other police.

123. I saw DS Bevan on a number of occasions. I am concerned that they have become a jumble in my mind, so I would like to see his records of them before I make a detailed statement about them.

124. Some time soon after the murder I heard that fascists had been looking for me at the school that Steve and I went to.

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I had heard that headmaster told the school assembly that I had been with Steve that night. I heard the fascists had looked for other black students at other schools. That made me frightened.

125. I told the police and they did nothing. I became frightened that the murderers would come and find me. John Bevan told me that some of the other witnesses were under protection.

I wanted the police to find the people who were looking for me and to find the murderers.

126. I can't remember if I asked then for protection then. I was confused and frightened. I was frightened that the murderers would get me but I was frightened of the police. It was unbelievable that they had not arrested anyone. I didn't trust their investigation.

127. I cannot recall the detail or order of all the meetings with the officers. They told me that there were other witnesses, I asked them questions about them but they didn't tell me anything.

128. I remember that they had not located the woman getting on the bus and I told one of the officers that I thought she was French as I heard her speak when she got on the bus.

129. Arrangements were made by police for me to do an artist's sketch at my home. I did it on 6 May 1993. I thought it

was a good likeness but I couldn't fix the eyes

130. I was not referred to my earlier statement on this day, I just had to think back and answer the questions. Nor was I referred to PC Gleason's notebook when I was giving my section 9 statement to DC Cooper.

131. I later did a computer sketch at Peckham Police Station. That was accurate too. I am told DS Bevan says that I played pool with him afterwards, this is correct. He also said I had tea, this isn't right. I don't drink tea.

132. I had a lot more contact with the police, including three identification parades that I would like to deal with in the second part of my statement.

Demonstration, 8 May 1993 and Croydon Prosecution

133. On 8 May I went to a large anti - racist demonstration outside the British National Party headquarters in Welling. I went to protest against Steve's murder and the way the police were handling it.

134. In October 1993 I was arrested and charged with offenses arising out of the demonstration of the previous May. They waited 5 months to prosecute me. They waited until after the Crown Prosecution Service had decided to drop the prosecution against the killers. It was devastating. I

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had no convictions at the time of the murder. It felt like the police and prosecutors decided to get at me to ruin my reputation - and the chance of any future prosecution of the murderers.

135. But the Judge at Croydon Crown Court wasn't having any of it. In December 1994 he stopped the prosecution saying that it was an abuse of the process of the Court.

136. In April 1994 I had been diagnosed as suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

137. I'd like to pause this part of my evidence now with something about police protection.

Police Protection

138. I was frightened for my life, I had heard that other witnesses had been given protection. I was most scared when the case came into the media and there were Court hearings. I would like to say how unsafe I felt, and sometimes still feel. For now I can just recount the protection during the hearings.

139. I was not given any police protection during the Magistrates Court hearing, but I was during the Old Bailey hearing.

140. During that hearing I stayed at 4 different hotels. They were not very nice. It was with different officers each time, except one set of officers may have stayed two nights. On one occasion one of the officers who had arrested me for the demonstration, I think it was DC Dougall, was there.

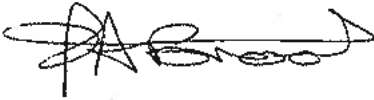
141. On another night I was taken to an Eltham hotel. The police didn't explain why they chose Eltham. It was the worst area of London they could have chosen. It felt like they took me to Eltham to break my spirit. I didn't sleep that night, because I was frightened to be in my room. I spent the night downstairs watching television, scared. The next day, weak and tired, I had to give my evidence in Court.

142. I think of Steve every day. I am sad for his other friends and his family. I'm sad confused and pissed about this system where racists attack and go free, but innocent victims like Steve and I are treated as criminals; where at the scene of a murder the police let Steve die on the street without helping him, and at the outset ignored me when I pointed out where the killers had run to and refused to believe me that it was a racist attack.

143. Steve and I were young black men. Racist thugs killed Steve and shattered my life. Ignorant racism in Mr Condon's police force rubbished our chances of convicting

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the killers.

Signed: 

Dated 6 April 1998