
WITNESS STATEMENT OF **D313**

I, **D313** **DPA**, currently residing at **DPA**, make this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006. I declare that the contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I wish to state as follows:

1. My name is **D313**. I am not known by any other names. I make this statement as a witness in the Inquiry into Brook House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC).
2. I am a national of Morocco and I am a Sensitive/irrelevant I was detained at Brook House IRC between 30 May 2017 and 28 June 2017 when I was released on bail [Tab 5 in Annex 1, pages 54 – 57].
3. This was not my first time in immigration detention, nor was it my last. I have been detained at various detention centres including at Heathrow IRCs.
4. I was granted 30 months leave to remain on 21 June 2021 after my appeal against the decision to refuse to revoke my deportation order was allowed on an Article 3 basis.[TAB 2 in Annex 1, pages 3-33]
5. I suffered from drug addiction from the age of DPA years old. In consequence of these problems, I have spent time in prison. I stopped using when I was released from immigration detention in 2019. I have not misused drugs since this date.
6. I no longer have weekly drug tests but when I did, I tested clean. I continue to take Sensitive/irrelevant which helps me to remain drug-free. Since I stopped taking drugs, my life has completely changed for the better. I am fortunate to have been given another chance in life.

60. I remember when I was assaulted by Officer Sayers on 15 June 2017 whilst I was detained at Brook House IRC [see TRN000093, KENCOV1036, V2017061500019 clip 3 for discussion of this incident]. I knew Officer Sayers as a big man who was very aggressive towards the detainees. I was aware of his reputation even before he assaulted me. He was very recognisable and he seemed to think that he was very hard. You couldn't ask him to do anything. I remember seeing detainees asking him for supplies like mops but he said no because he couldn't be bothered.
61. I remember seeing one incident where Officer Sayers used force towards someone. I think the detainee was Romanian and didn't speak English. I think he had mental health issues. The detainee said something and Officer Sayers grabbed him and put him on the floor and put his knee on his back. Then the bell went and lots of officers arrived to put handcuffs on the detainee and take him away. The detainee was screaming and crying.
62. One of my cells was next to the block [it may have been D1] so I saw this happening.
63. I am very slight and found Officer Sayers extremely intimidating.
64. I am aware from the disclosure that I had a spice attack on this date. [CJS001201_0008]
“Medical response to Dove wing garden and the library where three detainees _____ appeared to be under the influence of spice D313 and D2178 were relocated onto Eden Wing for medical observations...”
65. However, I remember that I had recovered from the immediate, serious effects of spice by the time that I was assaulted. I think I was suffering badly for approximately forty-five minutes and then I went back to my cell. By the time of the incident, I was coming down back to the normal.
66. After the attack, I was taken back to my cell by DCO Sayers. I think there may have been other guards there but I don't remember. I am not sure how long it was before I was assaulted

by DCO Sayers but I do not think that it was very long. I was just recovering from the spice attack, as explained above.

67. I dispute that I assaulted DCO Sayers. I do not know what provoked the attack. I think he was just angry at something I did not like me. He gave me a full punch to the face. (I am aware that the disclosure refers to it as a slap but that is not what happened)
68. It was extremely painful and I was knocked completely over. Officers Sayers then picked me up by my face and threw me back on the bed. There was nothing that I could do to stop him hurting me. He was so much bigger and more powerful than me.
69. I remember that when Officer Sayers assaulted me, there was at least one other officer with him. Nobody offered me any help and support afterwards.
70. After he attacked me I just sat there on the bed and cried. I wondered why he had done this to me but there didn't appear to be any explanation except for that he had wanted to hurt me and felt able to abuse me in this way without any negative consequences. I remember self-harming and thinking about what had happened to me and how unfair it was.
71. I was in a lot of pain afterwards in my cheek. It was red and bruised. My mental health suffered for some time afterwards. I still think about this incident. I remember that my family came to visit me when I still had marks from this assault. I didn't want to tell them what happened. They were already suffering because I was in detention and I didn't want them to suffer more.
72. I understand that Officer Sayers was investigated for his assault upon me after footage from the BBC showed what he had done to me. The Investigation Report [HOM001585_0006] states:

“On the 15th of June you picked up detainee who was on E wing, after an earlier 'spice attack'. You lifted him and put him into his room, later stating that you 'accidentally' used the detainees face to get up off the bed. According to a

DCO Sayers failed to alert a medical practitioner to assess D313 following the use of force placing the detainee at risk and contrary to national operating procedures. D313 was seen by Nurse John Owiti (Agency) some 45 minutes later as a result of the original 'spice' attack.

There is insufficient evidence to support the allegations of assault on detainee D313 made by the BBC against DCO Sayers. However, there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that DCO Sayers employed an unapproved use of force upon D313 and lied when he stated that he was alone during this incident.”

74. I think that DCO Sayers and the other Officers attempted to cover up what happened to me. It is clear from the investigation report that the officers stuck together and tried to help each other out. They thought that they would get away with it because most detainees couldn't speak up/out for themselves.
75. I can see from this report that they did not report the incident [HOM001585_0004] and didn't ask for me to get medical care [HOM001585_0004, _0010]. This shows that they didn't want anyone to find out what happened. If they hadn't done anything wrong, they wouldn't have tried to cover it up.
76. I am really upset by the outcome. I note that they have found that DCO Sayers lied about what happened [HOM001585_0011]. I am not sure why they then believed anything that he had to say about this.
77. You can see how big he is and how small I am. I am not sure why anyone would believe that I tried to assault him.