

BROOK HOUSE INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF D687

I, D687 of DPA I will say as follows:

Introduction

1. I am providing this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006. The facts stated within this statement are within my own knowledge and belief save where otherwise stated.
2. I am from the city of Hargeisa in what is now known as the Republic of Somaliland. I am a Christian and speak fluent English, which is my first language, as well as some Somali. I was born on DPA I am now almost 38 years old and have lived in the UK continuously since 1994, when I arrived with my family as a 10 year old.
3. This witness statement has been prepared by my solicitors, Deighton Pierce Glynn. My mental health is currently very bad. My solicitors have provided to the Inquiry a copy of an expert report by Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Nuwan Galappathie, dated 22 September 2021 [DPG000006]. Following his assessment of me, Dr Galappathie diagnosed that I have Recurrent Depressive Disorder and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder ('PTSD'). He thinks I may also have developed a psychotic illness such as Bipolar Affective Disorder. I have struggled with the process of preparing this statement which included attending meetings with my solicitors and answering questions about an extremely traumatic period of my life. During these meetings I have become very emotional. It makes me think about ending my own life again. Given my difficulties, in helping me to prepare my statement my solicitors have relied not only on our meetings, but also on previous accounts I have given. As they have been representing me for over 4 years, I have already told them a lot about my experiences. They have also reminded me of dates which are clear from my records,

Witness Name: D687
Statement No: I
Exhibits: None

country”. Even if this wasn’t in the face of the specific detained person, other detained people would hear it. That sort of thing grates you.

DCO Luke Instone-Brewer

84. In my PSU interview I described an officer who I knew as “Ginge” or “Ginger” because of the colour of his hair. There were two male officers who had ginger hair. One of them was okay but I cannot recall his name. The other was really really abusive to me and other detained people. The PSU investigator identified the person I described as “Ginger” to be DCO Luke Instone-Brewer. With my solicitors I have also now been able to identify DCO Instone-Brewer as the person I described to the PSU.
85. DCO Instone-Brewer was an activities officer and so had access to and worked all over Brook House, including in the library. I came across him in the library a lot, as that is where the computers were located and where you had to collect the football from, for using in the courtyard. I sometimes used the computers to research the law as I believed I was being unlawfully detained – I eventually went on to bring two of my own claims as mentioned above.
86. My experiences of DCO Instone-Brewer were that he was a racist abusive bully. He was cocky and very similar to DCO Fagbo, in the sense that he would be verbally abusive towards detained people and try to provoke us into reacting. It was like he would make it his personal agenda to make everyone’s life difficult. They appeared to be close. You would sometimes see them hanging around together in the C or D Wing courtyards watching football. They would also both laugh at people who had taken spice. I found that particularly twisted. I knew DCO Instone-Brewer was involved in supplying drugs at Brook House. He was totally corrupt.
87. In terms of his abuse and provocation, this often took the form of verbal abuse or comments. For example, he is one of the officers who would say, “Why don’t you go back to your own country?”. He would also refer to me as a “criminal”, as if that somehow justified my mistreatment and being in detention. He sometimes did bang up on my wing and I recall him being unnecessarily rude and abusive during the

process. Instead of asking politely for us to return to our cells, he would shout, “Get behind the fucking door”.

88. As for his involvement in supplying drugs, I know this because another detained person who I knew was dealing drugs within Brook House, told me. I don’t remember the detained person’s name, but he was a black man in his 40’s or 50’s. I remember chatting with him in the D Wing courtyard (which is next to the library) and asking how he was bringing the drugs in. He told me he had an officer doing that bit for him. When I asked which officer, he pointed out “Ginge” and said he was selling it to him. As I have said, I now know “Ginge” is called DCO Instone-Brewer.
89. My cell mate, D343, was also selling drugs in Brook House and separately told me that Ginge was bringing it in. D343 was friends with the detained person I mention above, who he was also getting his drugs from. So DCO Instone-Brewer would give that detained person drugs, he’d sell it on to my cell mate, who would then sell it on to other detained people. D343 had a different view of DCO Instone-Brewer and got along well with him, like they were cool with each other. He explained to me that it wasn’t just drugs, Ginge could bring in anything for £500 if it was a certain size and weight. These were called a “parcel”. It could be drugs, a weapon or other sort of contraband. Basically, you would contact someone on the outside to arrange for a parcel to be made up for you. You could get them to wrap it in a certain way so you would know if it had been opened or tampered with. You would then get someone on the outside to transfer Ginge the money into a bank account. Once he had that, you would give him pick-up instructions. Ginge would then collect the parcel and bring it into work with him, to give to whoever ordered it. I don’t know if DCO Instone-Brewer ever looked in the parcels, but he knew what he was doing. You don’t collect a parcel from a drug dealer and think it’s something else, other than drugs.
90. My solicitors have explained to me that some of the Inquiry’s disclosure, shows that senior staff at Brook House were aware that DCO Instone-Brewer and DCO Fagbo acting in the way I describe, towards detained people. I have extracted some of this below, because I want to say that this was also my experience of them: