

## BROOK HOUSE INQUIRY

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### FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF D687

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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

him. Absolutely no sympathy for him at all. If he dies, he dies.” This is an example of exactly what I have been trying to explain over the last 5 years.

170. I wasn't put on ACDT on 25 April 2017, following this incident or the disclosures that I made. Neither was I referred for a Rule 35 assessment. My solicitors inform me that they have not come across any reference to this incident or my self-harm disclosure in any of my Home Office or detention records. It seems like if it wasn't for Callum Tulley's undercover recording, no one would have believed that this happened and there would be no record of it.

171. On 27 April 2017, my Home Office GCID records include the following entry made by Home Office Enforcement Officer, Vanessa Smith [HOM000115/7]:

“Detainee has been seen today.

He has been served with IS151F and Rule 35 response.

COC has been faxed to the caseworker.

Detainee has stated that he will not return to Somalia. He will only go back to Somalia in a body bag. He was staying strong for his mum as he lost his brother few months ago. He can't take it anymore as he is mentally stressed being in detention so long. He has started to write a suicide note. He is going to give it a week and if things stay the same he will do something. He then stated he is not going to be coming for his paperwork.

G4S officers and Immigration Managers warned of his intentions.”

172. My solicitors have referred me to Vanessa Smith's PSU statement [HOM032579] in which she is asked why she did not open an ACDT. Her response was, “I didn't open an ACDT as I managed to calm him down by explaining the procedures of Immigration but informed that Managers to make them aware, the G4S managers spoke to him and didn't feel it was necessary at that time.” I do not remember feeling calm after my conversation with Vanessa Smith, as she suggests. I had told her that I asked for help but no one wanted to help me, not the nurses, not the officers. So I would just die at Brook House. I told her it would be the last Monthly Progress Report

she would give me as I'd be dead in the next month. She just told me what their rules are, that I'd be going on a flight once I had a ticket. Her concern was serving the paperwork, she wasn't interested in whether I lived or died and that came across in her dismissive attitude. She didn't even tell me what I wanted to hear for the sake of encouragement, just what she had been told to tell me – here is your Monthly Progress Report, lump it. She made me more pissed off, more angry as I was walking out. She made it worse. She said things like, “I'm just a messenger – been told to pass it on to you; whatever it is, you'll need to lump it and deal with it, there's nothing I can do”; “I'm not here to help you, I'm just here to serve you with this”; and “I'm not your caseworker, so can't help you”. But you never see your caseworker and the person giving you your report can't answer any of your questions. She didn't say anything encouraging, about appeals or things changing. She wasn't there to help me. Part of her job was not to give me hope, so I'd give up and sign papers to go somewhere where I'd die. I thought I'd rather die quickly here than being removed and dying slowly in another country I don't know.

173. Again, I was not put on ACDT after telling Home Office staff Vanessa Smith that I was considering killing myself. Neither was I referred to the doctor for a Rule 35 appointment. I continued to have no access to medication for my mental health. By this stage, I had now tried opening up and talking to officers, nurses, a doctor and the Home Office. I had also tried to use the complaints system, including by complaining to the IMB. None of it was listened to. I was ignored. So I knew there was no point in me even trying to ask for help. I had given up.
174. My solicitors have read a transcript to me [V2017050400021] which is of an interaction I had with DCOs Daniel Lake and Callum Tulley on around 4 May 2017. This was a day before I was put on ACDT for saying that I was going to overdose. I understand the video footage of this incident was to be disclosed, but was not ready for me to review by the time I was preparing this statement. I remember the incident, but it is difficult to recall exactly what happened without viewing the footage.
175. During that interaction, both officers laugh at me repeatedly for calling myself British. They are laughing in my face as I try to explain why I feel as British as anyone, even though I was born abroad and don't have a passport. For them, despite my efforts to

Witness Name: D687  
Statement No: 1  
Exhibits: None