

BROOK HOUSE INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF D687

I, D687 of DPA 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 DPA in what is now known as the Republic of Somaliland. I am a DPA and speak fluent English, which is my first language, as well as some Somali. I was born on DPA I am now almost DPA 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,

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but which I do not remember. This approach was adopted to make the process easier for me, so I can provide the Inquiry with my best evidence. My statement has been carefully read back to me in full and each part confirmed by me.

4. The Inquiry has asked me a lot of questions in my Rule 9 request, referring to many documents. I have tried to answer as many of those questions as I could within my statement but have been unable to read all the documents the Inquiry has referred me to.
5. I was detained under immigration powers from 20 March 2015 until 30 November 2017, a total of 987 days or just over 2 years and 8 months. I spent most of this period at Brook House IRC ("Brook House") where I was detained from 29 October 2015 until 13 May 2017, a total of 563 days or just over 1 year and 6 months. On 13 May 2017, I was moved to IRC The Verne ("The Verne") in Dorset where I remained detained until 30 November 2017 when I was finally released after the Immigration Tribunal granted me bail.
6. I have set out my background below because it is relevant to my experiences of Brook House. It has been difficult to do this, and it has brought back a lot of bad memories which I had tried to forget but which I think is important for the Inquiry to understand. My time at Brook House wasn't bad just because of the mistreatment and abuse I experienced there, but because it forced me to remember and relive all the traumatic events and abuse I have experienced throughout my life. It is this combination which ultimately made me feel helpless and to give up on life at Brook House.

Background

Fleeing Somalia

7. My family fled DPA when I was a young child. I cannot remember exactly how old I was when we fled, but I think I was about 6 years old as it was a few years before I came to the UK. We initially fled to a refugee camp in Mogadishu, before travelling to Ethiopia. My solicitors tell me that my Home Office records suggest that

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I was in Ethiopia as an 8 year old in 1992, when a UK visa application was submitted on my behalf from DPA

8. I do not have any happy memories of Somalia. I recall growing up around bombs and grenades going off regularly, and people fighting each other with guns as though it was normal. I have a vivid memory of seeing a sheep exploding near my house, after a landmine went off.
9. Whilst living in the refugee camp in DPA as a child, I was sexually abused by two members of my extended family. They tried to rape me at gunpoint, but they were interrupted. The two men then threatened me, saying if I told anyone they would kill me. I was scared and ashamed of what happened, so did not tell anyone at the time. This abuse has haunted me my whole life. As I have gotten older, the feeling of shame has stayed with me. As a result, I didn't feel able to talk about it and didn't for most of my life.

Arrival in the UK (10 – 14 years old / 1994 – 1998)

10. I arrived in the UK in 1994, when I was 10 years old, with my mother and siblings. My solicitors tell me the documents show that we initially arrived on a family reunion visa but were then all granted refugee status and indefinite leave to remain here a few years later, in 1997.
11. The other members of my family became British citizens in 1998, when they obtained British passports. I was the only member of my family who didn't obtain a British passport in 1998 because by that stage, I had been taken into the care of Social Services, as I explain below. When in their care as a child, Social Services never applied for my British passport. I had no idea of how significant this was and so never questioned it. Unfortunately, as a result, I never actually became a British citizen in the eyes of the law. Now that I know this, I feel incredibly let down by Social Services. If I had become a British citizen, I would not have been detained and I doubt I would be where I am today.
12. Even though I wasn't born here, I feel as British as anyone who was. I have lived in the UK continuously since 1994. I have family links to the UK going even further

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back. For example, my grandad moved to London from what was formerly British Somaliland – he worked in the Metropolitan Police from around 1942. Since arriving, I have never left the UK – not even for holiday. My British identity is really important to me. It hurts when people try to tell me I'm not British. It's like they are denying who I am, my identity. I don't know what motivates people to say things like that, but it feels racist to me. This happened at Brook House, as I explain further below.

13. When my family arrived in the UK, we settled in [DPA] I started going to school but struggled with the transition from Somalia and ended up getting in lots of fights. Other children didn't understand me when I tried to speak to them for the first few years I was here. I felt like an outsider – a feeling that I thought I had overcome, but which returned to me when I was detained at Brook House.
14. My father didn't escape with us to the UK at first, but I was expecting him to join us as soon as he could. Sadly, that didn't happen. I remember when I was told he had died. It was 1997 and I think I was in Year 7 at school. My brother and I would share a birthday party because our birthdays were only a few days apart in [DPA] I remember coming home for our party, with a few friends from school. When I got there, my sister told me my father had passed away. I was devastated. After this, my older brother assumed the role as head of the family.
15. I was also wetting the bed for a while when I arrived in the UK. This led to my brother ridiculing me and being abusive. He would tie string around my penis to stop me wetting the bed and this hurt a lot. He also began to beat me, sometimes with his hands, sometimes with a belt. This would be especially bad if I did not do very well at school. Eventually the teachers at school noticed the bruising and injuries on my body and reported this to [DPA] Social Services. When it was discovered what my brother was doing, I was taken away from my family and put into foster care in 1998.

Teenager (14-19 years old / 1998 – 2003)

16. I stayed under the care of [DPA] Social Services and lived with a foster carer between the ages of 14 and 18. I was placed with a Trinidadian woman who I didn't get along with. I am now Christian, but I had grown up in a Muslim culture. This meant me and my foster carer's cultures clashed. She was also abusive to me. She

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shouted at me quite a lot and would regularly drink too much alcohol. When she was drinking, she refused to cook meals. She would also throw shoes and wine bottles at me. I felt neglected, unloved and uncared for. I remember running home to my mum in [DPA] at one point. When the police came to my mum's house, they told her if it happened again she would be arrested. When I was about 15, I remember throwing myself out the window at my foster carer's home. I was caught in two minds between running away and trying to end my life – I was that miserable. In the end, I messed up and didn't succeed in doing either. I was found outside by my foster carer's neighbour. I tried to tell them about how I was being abused, but my foster carer rushed me inside. I spent as much time as I could at my friend [Name Irrelevant] house. His dad was an architect and I told him about some of what I was going through with my foster carer. He encouraged me to tell Social Services about it. But when I tried to speak to Social Services about this, they would not listen. So I kept running away. This is when I first started to get into trouble with the police.

17. I first got in trouble with the police when I was 15 years old. By the end of 2003 when I was 19 years old, I already had 6 convictions for some of which I spent time in and out of a Young Offender Institution. I don't want to make excuses for the mistakes I made in the past – I was young and stupid. But I think that my earlier life does help explain some of my behaviour and offending. I know I fell into the wrong crowd of people. I felt like my friends cared about me, unlike everyone else. So I trusted them. If there was a car to steal, I thought I was being the brave one by stealing it for my friends. I felt that my friends were the good people and the people I could rely on and trust. But the reality is they were just using me. It was only as I got older that I realised this and how naïve I had been.
18. Even though this part of my life was disrupted and difficult, I still managed to get 6 GCSEs. I was proud of myself for that. I then moved from [DPA] to [DPA] to live with some extended family between 2003 and 2005. This was good for me, and I got in no trouble with the police while I was there. I went to college to do a GNVQ in business and later in journalism. I had a really good teacher called [Name Irrelevant] at college who I became attached to. She was patient with me and supported me a lot. She told me she thought I had ADHD and dyslexia, something I

had previously been told by another teacher in school. I have still never had this confirmed by a doctor or received any kind of help for it, but I have always assumed my teachers were right. Unfortunately I gave up with college when that teacher left. I also had to move back to DPA where I got a job in McDonalds for a brief period of time, before I was made redundant. I lost the bit of stability that I had started to develop and fell back into making bad mistakes.

Early Adulthood Before Brook House (19 – 31 years old / 2003 – 2015)

19. In the 12 years between 2003 and my arrival at Brook House in 2015, aged 31, I received a further 6 convictions. Throughout this period, my mental health fluctuated. I remember on one occasion, when I was in prison at Wormwood Scrubs, I was very close to hanging myself. I have been at Wormwood Scrubs a few times, so I can't be sure which period it was but I think it might have been around 2009. I was receiving weekly support from a nurse but was still struggling with my mental health. At night, I cut my bedsheet into two and tied the two parts together to make a ligature. The cell had a window with three bars covering it. I tied both ends of the ligature around the window bars, creating a noose. There was a pipe in the cell which I could step off to hang myself. But before I got to that stage, whilst I was still preparing, the night guard found me. He called two senior officers and they came into my cell and talked me down. They told me they would help me and I would see the nurse in the morning. I think this also resulted in me being put on ACCT for the first time.
20. Whilst serving a prison sentence in 2011, I received a notice from the Home Office saying I was liable for deportation. I thought I was British and so didn't understand how I could be deported. As I have explained, I now realise that it is because I never obtained a British passport with the rest of my family in 1998, because I was taken into care by Social Services.
21. In response to the Home Office's letter, I made an asylum claim in October 2011. I was first interviewed by the Home Office about my claim in November 2011. Near the end of my prison sentence, I found out that I was going to be detained under immigration powers. I found this distressing. I am told by my solicitors that my

medical records show that I was being monitored by the prison's Mental Health Team under the ACCT process, due to concerns that I would take my own life.

22. At the conclusion of my prison sentence in March 2012, I was detained under immigration powers. At first, I stayed at the prison. Then I was moved to Colnbrook IRC in April 2012. I was interviewed again by the Home Office about my asylum claim in July 2012. In November 2012, I was told they had agreed not to pursue my deportation because of the circumstances of my case. I was then released from Colnbrook IRC, having been detained under immigration powers for more than 8 months. My solicitors tell me that the Home Office's 2012 decision not to remove me to Somalia was stated to be because there was a real risk that doing so would breach my Article 3 ECHR.
23. When I was released from Colnbrook IRC, I was homeless. I tried to get accommodation from the council, but they said I wasn't high enough on their priority list. I continued to struggle with my mental health and almost took my own life in July 2013. I tried to jump off a bridge in Harrow, but passers-by stopped me. It was late in the evening and I had been sitting on the edge of the bridge in Harrow. The bridge runs over another busy road. I thought that if the jump didn't kill me, I would at least be hit by a vehicle and that would be that. But as I was stood up looking over the edge and about to jump, a young couple stopped and spoke with me. I didn't know them, but it seemed like they were probably on their way home from a night out. They persuaded me that I had something to live for, so I stepped away from the edge. But as I returned to the difficulties of my life which remained unchanged, I started committing more offences and ended up in prison again.
24. This led to a pivotal moment in my life when I was held on remand for [redacted] and [redacted] charges in 2013. Initially I denied the [redacted]. But whilst I was being held on remand, I felt remorse. I realised that I needed to change and really take control of my life. I knew that if I did not stop the cycle I was in, I would just keep going back to prison, getting into trouble and going back to prison until I would wake up one day and be too old. I sat in my cell and thought about what I wanted to do. I wanted to have a career in motor mechanics but I didn't want anything from my past to be hanging over me and so I decided to start with taking full responsibility for my past

crimes. I contacted the police and not only admitted to the crime I was being remanded for but admitted to all of my past crimes going back to 2005. The police took me out from the prison and I showed them all of the places I had previously Sensitive/irrelevant I made a full confession for all of my previous Sensitive/irrelevant going back to 2005 even taking the police to each of the locations. This was my way of showing that I was truly committed to change. I wanted nothing hanging over me and I wanted to commit to starting a new life on release. This was identified by the sentencing judge, who at paragraph 72 of his sentencing remarks stated:

“What you did, having been remanded in custody, was to get in touch with the police. You then confessed to a number of Sensitive/irrelevant dating back to 2005 and the manner of your confession so impressed a detective...that he has prepared to write a letter to me in effect...urging me to accept the truth of what you say, that this is a turning point and you wish to change your life...”.
[HOM000752/3 at para 9]

Immigration Detention: Dover, Brook House & The Verne (March 2015 – November 2017)

25. My steps to turn my life around and help the police resolve unsolved crimes completely backfired, when the Home Office used it to justify detaining me again at the end of my prison sentence on 20 March 2015. So much for my fresh start – the Home Office didn’t want me to have one. They told me they planned on cancelling my refugee status because it was now safe to return me to Somalia. I never believed that and was terrified of being removed to Somalia. I thought if that happened, I would die like my father.
26. I was moved to Dover IRC at the start of April 2015, where I spent almost 8 months in immigration detention before being moved to Brook House in October 2015. During this time, the Home Office cancelled my refugee status on 30 July 2015 and made an order for my deportation on 14 August 2015. I received these decisions together. I immediately lodged an appeal but it was eventually dismissed by the First Tier Tribunal 10 months later on 29 June 2016. I was refused permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal on 9 September 2016. By the time my appeal was dismissed, I had already been detained under immigration powers for almost 18 months. It angered me

that I was detained for all this time, even though the Home Office couldn't remove me. I could have been monitored in the community like I am now, but instead I was locked away in a cell and forgotten about. I don't know why the Home Office decide to detain people indefinitely like this, like they're animals, instead of treating them with respect and dignity. I would understand being detained for a short period of time, for the purposes of removal if that was immediately possible. But there has to be a limit on how long that can be allowed.

27. On 2 March 2017, I submitted further representations about my asylum claim on the basis of my mental health and need for rehabilitation. By this stage, my mental health had gotten really bad in Brook House. These were rejected on 15 March 2017 and I was given no right of appeal. On 11 April 2017, I lodged my own judicial review claim at court, to challenge the Home Office's refusal to treat my further submissions as a fresh claim. I also submitted a further claim to court on 2 May 2017, challenging the lawfulness of my detention. I prepared these claims myself, without access to legal advice or representation. I was able to get new immigration solicitors after moving to The Verne on 13 May 2017. My immigration solicitors then put forward fresh representations on my behalf on 7 June 2017 but on 17 August 2017 these were refused as it was considered they did not amount to a fresh claim.
28. On 3 November 2017 my immigration solicitors made further fresh representations as I had converted from Islam to Christianity whilst in immigration detention. I was baptized on 26 October 2017. I was then released from The Verne on 30 November 2017. I am a practising Christian and attend church regularly at the weekends. Because of my current immigration status, I am unable to work and so also attend church during the week. My conversion puts me at risk on return to Somaliland.
29. It has been over 4 years and 3 months since my new asylum claim was submitted and I am still waiting on a decision from the Home Office. My life has been in limbo this whole time, which coupled with my experiences at Brook House, has had a massive impact on my mental health.

Experiences at Brook House

Arrival at Brook House

30. I arrived at Brook House in the early hours of 29 October 2015. I had come from Dover by car, so it was a long journey. When I arrived, I remember it was dark and sometime in the evening. I wasn't there for long before I was taken to hospital because I was feeling unwell. My solicitors have shown me entries on my medical records [DPG000014/48-49] for 29 October 2015. These show I was unwell when I arrived at Brook House and so was taken to hospital, where I was diagnosed with gastroenteritis.

Induction and Rule 34

31. When I arrived at Brook House, I remember it being around the time shifts end. Staff didn't seem very interested in me or in doing an induction. I don't remember being interviewed by reception staff before going to hospital, or when I arrived back at Brook House later than evening. Although that would have been over 6 years ago, so it's possible I was asked questions.
32. I cannot remember whether I told staff upon arriving at Brook House about my history of poor mental health and attempted suicide. However, I had told staff about this in some of the prisons and immigration removal centres where I had been detained before Brook House. I understand from my solicitors that the Inquiry has copies of a risk assessment form [HOM000741] completed by the Home Office on 28 February 2012, prior to my first detention. This document records "PREVIOUS SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (OASys)". My solicitors have shown me a further Home Office risk assessment dated 20 March 2015 – the first day of my second period of immigration detention [HOM000123]. It asks if there is a history of various types of risks. In a row asking if I had a history of "suicide", the document indicates "yes". It also says, "FNO has felt suicidal and has been very disruptive".
33. My solicitors tell me that my medical records say that I missed my "new arrival appointment" with the GP at Brook House on 2 November 2015. I do not recall having that appointment rescheduled or seeing a doctor when I arrived at Brook

House. However, I do remember asking a doctor for antidepressants because I was struggling with my mental health very soon after arriving at Brook House in 2015. My medical records show my first appointment with a doctor at Brook House was on 4 December 2015. The entry [CJS007107] for that appointment with Dr Jaroslaw Patel doesn't include all the details we discussed, like my mental health or that I was asking for antidepressants – although I think that is clear from what the entry does state:

“History: Claims that has been on antidepressant medication. I reviewed records today, no antidepressants in the system. Plan: needs further discussion , ? [sic] talking therapy.”

34. The Inquiry have asked me whether I attended an induction tour, because my records [CJS000980] suggest I didn't. I don't remember attending an induction tour at Brook House. On the night I arrived, staff pointed out the library and gym to me and I was told their opening times. But this was not a tour, it was just whilst walking me to my cell. It was late at night and staff seemed more interested in going home than showing me around. Over the next few days, I learned from other detained people where everything was in Brook House. If there was an induction tour after me already being at Brook House for a few days, it's likely I didn't attend as it was too late for it to be helpful to me.
35. I think I spent a few days in a cell on B Wing when I first got to Brook House. I was then put in a cell on C Wing where I was held for the majority of my time at Brook House. When C Wing closed so that more beds could be added to each cell, I was moved to A Wing. I remember having the same cell number on both wings, which was cell 204 according to the Inquiry's disclosure.

Physical Environment

36. I remember being confused and scared when I first arrived at Brook House. The physical environment made that worse. Whilst I had been in prison before, I had come to Brook House from Dover IRC. Dover was a big and open space, with lots of fresh air. In comparison, Brook House was just a prison. The outside might look nice, but inside, everything was locked up behind big heavy metal doors – these were very loud

when closed. As I mentioned above, people were on edge constantly – at times, the loud noises caused by these heavy doors banging would be enough to make you snap. If you had never been to prison, you would have thought that's where you were. It being like a prison added to the sense of injustice I felt, as I had already done my time in prison and so this was like being punished twice.

37. The cells I stayed in added to the feeling on imprisonment at Brook House. I spent most of the time in a cell with one other detained person. Fortunately I got along with him, but I know a lot of other people didn't get along with their cell mates which would have been awful given the conditions in which we had to live. The cell was cramped and everything in it was stuck to the floor, or walls – so we couldn't move the beds or table around. There was a toilet in the cell behind a wall, but it wasn't closed off from the rest of the cell. There was no door for the toilet, so you had no privacy except for a little curtain which would attach to either side of the walls in front of the toilet. But even this didn't work most of the time, because it wouldn't stick properly and would fall down. The lack of privacy was bad, but the smell was even worse. The cells didn't have any extraction fans. The only fresh air you got was through the windows. The windows didn't swing open and from memory, they were behind a sort of plastic screen. There was a little handle you could push to open ventilators on the window to let air into your cell, to ventilate it. But the ventilators didn't work in my cells. I remember reporting this to officers who told me maintenance would come down and fix it for me, but they never did. The officers didn't have to live in these conditions, so they didn't care. It definitely wasn't a priority of theirs. Because of the lack of ventilation and how overwhelming the smell would be if one of us used the toilet whilst we were locked up, me and my cell mate had to agree to only use the toilet during association. This meant the cell door was open and this would help with the ventilation. It would also mean we had more privacy, as one of us could leave the cell whilst the other used the toilet.
38. I found Brook House worse than prison. At least in prison there was a structure, classes to improve yourself and prepare you for re-entering society, activities and most importantly, you knew when you were going to be released. You could use that as a target to motivate yourself to improve by then. But in Brook House, no one knew

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if they would be there for a few weeks, months or longer. People missed their loved ones and didn't know when they would be able to see them again on the outside. There was so much uncertainty and this increased the tension. Everyone was on edge, meaning even little things could push someone to snap. This meant there were more conflicts and arguments. Even passive people became more aggressive in Brook House. This didn't mean you weren't scared, but if you didn't appear tough there was a risk you would be targeted for being perceived as weak or vulnerable – by other detained people and by officers. For example, if staff mugged you over and you were polite about it, they'd keep mugging you over. The longer I was detained in this toxic environment, the more aggressive and disruptive I became.

Access to Legal Advice

39. I had immigration solicitors for some of the period I was at Brook House, but not all of it. Even then, my immigration solicitors didn't really seem to know what they were doing. They wrote to the Home Office in October 2016 about their delay in providing me with Section 4 accommodation, but I don't know what happened after that. I was told that they were closed down at some stage in early 2017, when they stopped being able to represent me. After that, Welfare at Brook House gave me some guidance, but I didn't know how to get new solicitors. I can't recall how, but I eventually did get new solicitors – but that wasn't until around the time I moved to The Verne. That is why I ended up having to make my own immigration submissions in March 2017 and submit my own judicial review claims in April and May 2017, as mentioned above. Instead of legal advice, I relied on my own research which I conducted in the IT suite and library, as well as advice from other detained people. Lots of us had been through similar experiences, so this was sometimes helpful. But I really needed legal advice. Maybe if I had that in Brook House, I could have successfully challenged the lawfulness of my detention.
40. Whilst at Brook House, I repeatedly asked the Home Office to release me because I knew they could not remove me within a reasonable time period – I had previously been detained for 8 months in 2012 and had already been detained for 8 months before arriving at Brook House. Sometimes I did this myself and on other occasions, I had help from my immigration solicitors.

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None

41. The first time I requested release from Brook House was on 7 December 2015. This was only shortly after arriving and I wrote to my Home Office caseworker directly. In my letter requesting release, I told the Home Office about some of my childhood abuse. I stated:

“In school and college. Things [went] wrong for me when I was abused by my foster parent[.] I was afraid and [too] lost to tell anyone I thought I won’t be believed. I do not know why this happened to me. Now I know I wasn’t [the] only kid this happened to. I am adult now and I understand things better. I have [been] upset about this for [a] long time, I put my trust in the wrong people...being in detention is affecting me mentally every day that pass...”

42. I do not remember receiving a response to this request. On the 12 April 2016, I again requested that the Home Office release me to my mother’s address. This request was refused on 15 April 2016. My solicitors have shown me my Detention Review [HOM000536] of that date, which says:

“FTT hearing is not scheduled to be heard until 9/6/15 and removals to Somalia are still paused. Whilst I am mindful of his offending history, **D687** has already been detained for 13 months and it is difficult to argue that removal is likely to be within a reasonable period of time. In the light of this, I feel that a release referral is appropriate. We need to attempt to secure a release address however so in the meantime and order to do this I agree that detention should be maintained.”

43. This is the first time I have seen a Detention Review. Whilst I was detained at Brook House, I would receive Monthly Progress Reports from the Home Office. However, they contained very little information and were not helpful. They were just the same each month, with a different date on them. I think they were used just to cover their back, rather than to be helpful. In comparison, I can see that the Detention Review document contains much more information. For example, although they refused to release me in response to my request, the Detention Review shows that they thought I should be released.

44. I remember around this time, I had been asked to provide a release address. I did so, providing my mother's and then brother's address. Both were refused as being unsuitable. I had previously applied for Section 4 accommodation shortly after my initial detention around March 2015 but had never received a response.
45. My solicitors have shown me the next Detention Review which was completed on 12 May 2016 [HOM000661]. This is almost 1 year to the day, before force was used on me on 13 May 2017. In the review, the Home Office say:
- “...the outstanding barriers are an ongoing appeal, which, although we have requested expedition, is expected to take 4-5 months, and a temporary pause of enforced returns to Somalia. Against this background a release referral has been prepared as removal is unlikely to take place within a realistic timescale. Continued detention is authorised for a further 28 days on the basis of ongoing risks while efforts are ongoing to source and (sic) appropriate address for his potential release.”
46. I do not really understand why I was not released at this stage in early 2016. By the time the Home Office had said I should be released on 12 May 2016, I had been detained for over 1 year.

Mid-2016 Onwards

47. Throughout 2016, I became increasingly frustrated by my detention and how I was being treated in Brook House. I started to lose hope and wanted an escape from the reality which was Brook House. I started to use drugs as a means of escaping. I think it was about mid-2016 when I used spice in Brook House for the first time. I was then referred to the Substance Misuse Team, where I saw a man I understand to be called Anton Bole on 28 September 2016. I stopped using drugs at this stage and wanted to get myself clean, but the longer I stayed in detention, the harder this was.
48. On one occasion in 2016 a member of staff used a spoon to serve halal food which had already been used to serve pork. My friend who was a Muslim saw this because he had been working in the servery and so drew up a petition to complain. I was one of the first people to sign it, but most people on our wing did too. It wasn't just

because it was halal food, but because it showed there was cross-contamination in the servery. So people with all kinds of different diets had an interest in the petition. I do not know what happened to the petition because I was not the person collecting signatures, but I was told that it had been forwarded to lawyers by another detained person. I assumed it was also submitted to the managers at Brook House, partly because of how we were being treated by detention officers around that period of time. It seemed to me that everyone who signed the petition later faced reprisals from detention officers. We were moved to separate cells and wings away from each other, officers swore at us and they threatened us with violence.

49. My solicitors have told me about a report in my records [HOM03259/2] which says I was one of the ring leaders in a passive protest which involved 49 detained people and took place in the D Wing courtyard on 23 May 2016. The entry says the protest occurred in the evening and was over “various immigration issues”. I remember getting involved in this protest, but I wasn’t a ringleader as described. I think it took place shortly after I signed the group petition mentioned above. The protest wasn’t just about immigration issues. It was also about the poor conditions in detention – including the food quality – as well as the consistent abuse of detained people by officers. We wouldn’t have protested like that about something small. I remember that the protest went on quite late and was only ended after the Nationals arrived. But even after the protest ended, the issues remained. Nothing changed.
50. As a result of signing the petition and taking part in this protest, I suffered reprisals from detention officers. This included officers verbally abusing me and treating me less well, for example officers would refuse to take me to the library or the gym. That fed into the lack of control I felt in Brook House. Staff used their power to exert control over us so we would stay quiet and not complain. The entry about the protest in my records confirms that I was punished, as it says, “All removed to CSU under DC Rue [sic] 40 over the following days”. I also remember that in the period following the protest, more people than usual started to get released.
51. There was one other protest which I remember, but my involvement in it was accidental. Detained people were not returning to their cells for evening ‘bang up’. My cell mate was accused of planning this, but it was happening across several wings,

not just mine, so they were just blaming him for it when it was really everyone just deciding they were sick of how they were being treated. I remember being on my way back to my cell but the officers locked my cell door before I got there, so I was locked out of my own cell. That's what I mean when I say my involvement was accidental. Following this incident, I was put on E Wing for about half a day before being released back to my wing.

Treatment at Brook House

Previous Statements / Interview

52. I have previously given accounts of my experiences at Brook House in a witness statement for my judicial review claim [HOM002450] and during an interview with the PSU [HOM002453], who investigated allegations I made about my time at Brook House. The PSU found all of my allegations to be unsubstantiated. I wasn't surprised by this, as they were part of the Home Office. It was like they already knew what they were going to say in the report, before they investigated my complaints. My solicitors responded to the PSU's report, highlighting the inconsistencies and errors in their approach to the investigation [DPG000004].
53. The Inquiry has referred me to an email by my solicitors [HOM002451] in which they clarify aspects of my original witness statement. My original witness statement was prepared for my judicial review proceedings against the Home Secretary, not for the purpose of the PSU's investigation. It did not therefore provide all the details of individual incidents which the PSU was investigating, which is why the PSU asked my solicitors for more information which my solicitors then provided. I would also add that some of the details, including descriptions of officers, were provided by me during my interview with the PSU. However, the PSU overlooked that part of my evidence.
54. My PSU interview took place on 8 January 2018. I attended an interview with the PSU investigator. My solicitor was also there. I was very anxious about the interview and couldn't sleep the night before. My medication had run out two days before the meeting, and I had tried to get more from a GP surgery but was told the earliest they could see me is 31 January. I had been out of immigration detention for less than 1.5

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months at the time, so I was still getting used to everything. I found the interview brought up very difficult feelings for me and I found it very difficult to deal with. As a result, my answers to the investigator's questions were a bit all over the place.

55. In summary, I made the following allegations to the PSU:

- a. That Brook House detention officers were verbally and racially abusive towards me.
- b. During an incident in my room when officers were responding to my cell mate being intoxicated, an officer pushed me.
- c. That after signing a petition about food in 2016, I suffered reprisals from officers.
- d. That officers were involved in the supply of drugs to detained people at Brook House.
- e. That incorrect information was provided in a complaint response from G4S on 26 April 2016 about use of the Cultural Kitchen. This false information was passed to detained people by officers and I suffered reprisals as a result.
- f. That the provision of mental health treatment in Brook House was inadequate.
- g. That officers used excessive force when restraining me in the toilet area of the Detention Waiting Area on 13 May 2017, as featured on the BBC Panorama documentary.

56. During the PSU's investigation, I described the officers involved in the abuse I experienced. My solicitors summarised this in an email to the PSU investigator, as:

"The abuse occurred mainly on 'C' wing where 6 or more officers were regularly abusive and used racist language. When 'C' wing closed our client was moved to 'A' wing, as were some of these officers. The level of abuse was worse on C wing than on A wing. The statement gives details of the white male manager called 'Steve' and a female detention officer with black curly hair called 'Maria'. In addition there was a male detention officer with ginger

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hair (our client does not know his name), a black male officer called something like 'Mtundee' who was short and wore glasses (he may have just been on A wing), a black female officer (name unknown). The others who were abusive were white male officers whose names our client does not know."

57. From my descriptions, the PSU identified DCO Marina Mansi, DCO Babatunde Fagbo, DCO Luke-Instone Brewer and DCM Steve Webb. However, they were unable to identify all the officers I described. The PSU also identified the officers involved in using excessive force on me on 13 May 2017. I had also identified Nathan Ring during my PSU interview.

Treatment Generally

58. I had very bad experiences at Brook House. Everybody is supposed to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. No matter where you are from, what religion or ethnic background you have. We're all humans. But at Brook House, I wasn't treated like that. We were treated like animals, less than human. No one deserves that.
59. Officers assumed we were all criminals and that meant we deserved everything that happened to us. But most people at Brook House hadn't committed any crimes. Even for those who had, like me, we had already served our time. Irrespective of someone's past, everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, like any human should be.
60. Staff just didn't care about us and that was obvious. Everything was a box ticking exercise for them. Everything was a "yes" or "no" answer. They never asked the right questions, like "How are you D687", or "How are you feeling?".
61. On an almost daily basis I was verbally abused by detention officers who made racist comments such as "Get out the fucking country." They would boss us around, just to feel powerful. A lot of the officers would also be sarcastic and take the 'mick' out of me. They knew I couldn't do anything about it. They were provoking me to try to get a reaction. If I did react, they would laugh at me. It was humiliating, but it was all so common that it became normalised.

62. I know that some of my records describe incidents where I become verbally abusive to officers. What they never describe is why I would react like that. Officers obviously aren't going to write that they abused detained people to provoke them. But that's what was happening. They would provoke me to get a reaction, then punish me for reacting. The longer I was detained, the more all of this wore me down. It was so bad, that I got to the stage that I had decided I didn't want to go on living. I gave up.
63. Many officers were regularly abusive to me, and to other detained people. I don't remember the officers' names but I could recognise them from photos. Not all officers at Brook House were abusive, but most of the ones I interacted with were. If they were having a bad day, like if something had happened in their personal life, they would be worse. I was treated like an outsider at Brook House. I didn't understand it. My family all pay into the system. My brother works for the NHS. My sister is a teacher. I'm British. But I was treated like I wasn't and like that justified abusing me.
64. The abuse and mental torture that I experienced from G4S and Home Office staff was so bad, I didn't feel like I was living in a democratic society. There was no way this stuff could be allowed to happen in a democracy.
65. In preparing this statement, I have tried to remember individual incidents of abuse or mistreatment by specific staff. However, I have found that difficult for a combination of reasons.
- a. The abuse that I experienced at Brook House was so frequent and so woven into the culture of the centre, it became completely normal. I think that is an issue itself. But as it occurred, I downplayed the significance of many incidents in my head. If I hadn't done this at the time, I would have found being detained at Brook House even more unbearable. However, the consequence is that my memory of specific dates, locations and people is affected.
 - b. I found the whole experience of being detained at Brook House to be traumatic. It broke me and my mental health has never recovered. As I explained in my PSU interview [HOM002453/73], I have sought to forget a lot of what happened to me as a coping mechanism. When I do think about it,

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it makes me very emotional and often leads to a deterioration in my mental health. That is partly because I am still living in the same state of limbo as I was when I first left Brook House, so I remain vulnerable to the Home Office's motives. Dr Galappathie described this about me in his recent report [DPG000006/44-45]:

"201. ...He has also become avoidant and does not like talking about the events that he reports and dislikes being reminded about his past traumatic experiences. He continues to have strong and distressing emotions related to the trauma that he reports, which he has not been able to resolve."

- c. The events I have been asked to recall occurred over the course of 18 months at Brook House, which itself formed only a portion of a longer continuous period of 32 months in immigration detention. As a result, events have started to merge in my memory.
- d. These instances of abuse also occurred between 5-7 years ago. Since then, my experiences have been repeatedly denied by G4S and the Home Office, even though they are now being confirmed in the Inquiry's disclosure. Also, the delay since the events and effects of being constantly doubted and disbelieved have affected my ability to recall specific details with confidence and accuracy.
- e. The Panorama documentary showed officers and healthcare staff falsifying records, not recording incidents of abuse and lying about them. My solicitors tell me that much of the Inquiry's disclosure shows this to have been a theme at Brook House. The lack of documents so I can refer to incidents, or even their possible dates and people involved, adds to the difficulties I have explained above.
- f. Given the above, I think it is understandable that I cannot be more specific than I have been. But also, I have not been shown photos of all the officers at Brook House. I have repeatedly said since 2018 that I think this would prompt my memory. My solicitors have tried to help me identify individuals while

preparing this statement and this has helped me remember some individuals and, as a consequence, some of the incidents involving them.

Verbal and Racist Abuse

66. I remember staff would swear a lot at me and other detained people. Even though they are only words, over time they started to wear me down. Especially when it combines with everything else, like the conditions at Brook House, the uncertainty around my immigration situation and length of detention. I found abusive comments about my British identity especially difficult to hear. I remember an officer saying things like, "You've come to this country and been given opportunities, but you're taking the piss out of it. Fuck off back to your own country. Go back to fucking Somalia. You're not from this country. You're not one of us". I found this humiliating. I felt and feel as British as them, but they're telling me I'm not. Where do I belong then? It made me feel worthless, like I wasn't a human being.
67. Most of the abuse occurred whilst I was held on C Wing. When C Wing got closed for refurbishment, I was moved to A Wing. I can't remember exactly when this was, but I assume there are records which can confirm the dates. Several of the officers who had mainly worked on C Wing were also moved to A Wing and so their abuse of me continued. The PSU investigation into my abuse tried to say that because the officers I described didn't work mainly on my wing, they couldn't have abused me. They completely misunderstood how staff moved around Brook House.
68. It wasn't just a small group of officers from C and A Wing who were abusive. Officers worked across multiple wings, for example if they were short staffed. There were 3 or 4 offices on each Wing each day. But they weren't always the same officers and if there was a first response, officers would come from other wings. There were also officers who didn't work on your wing, but who you would interact with regularly. For example, if you were accessing another wing you would encounter staff on that wing at the entrance and within the wing itself. There are many reasons I would go to another wing, but the most obvious is to access the outdoor space. Each wing had a different courtyard. A Wing courtyard was for cricket, B wing courtyard was for basketball and segregated detained people, C Wing courtyard was for football

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which I used the most and D wing courtyard was for weights and exercise machines. You would also see officers who worked on activities as they had access to the whole centre. You would sometimes see them on the wings if they were short staffed. But you would also see them in the gym, library, courtyards and servery. Callum Tulley is an example of someone who worked on activities and I would see regularly all over the centre. So was DCO Luke Instone-Brewer, who I mention more below.

69. This sort of racist verbal abuse towards me and other detained people happened all the time. But if I complained they could retaliate by destroying my paperwork or move me to another block away from friends, or they could use violence. If I saw officers abusing other detained people, I would stay quiet. To speak up risked putting a target on your back.
70. I tried to brush off the abuse, so as not to give them an excuse to punish me. Like I would just respond with “Oh, fuck you then you knob” and walk away. But I found that the longer I was detained at Brook House, the more angry I became. It was like I was trapped and both the system and officers were ‘taking the mick’ out of me. This made it easier for staff to provoke me.
71. A common example of verbal abuse would have been how officers asked you to do something. It was hardly ever politely. For example, if they were asking you to return to your cell, all they had to say was, “Can you get back into your cell in the next 10 minutes please?”. If that’s how they spoke, I wouldn’t have had a problem with them. But instead, they would say it like, “Get into your fucking cell now, it’s bang up”. It was so unnecessary and, the more you hear it, the more it feels normal.
72. Another example would be how staff tried to refer to us as some sort of “other” group. When going for lunch, some officers would make comments like, “Oh, you’ve come back for lunch? Migrants, fucking hell. You lot never get hungry.” These sorts of comments occurred as part of your daily routine, which would make it feel normal.

DCM Steve Webb

73. A manager called Steve, I think he is DCM Steve Webb, would regularly swear at me, call me “a prick” and tell me to “go back to your own country.”

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74. I remember one time, I think it was maybe around the summer of 2016 when I was still on C Wing. I was feeling low and depressed – I'd been in detention for so long, in Brook House for so long, but nothing was changing. My situation seemed endless. I started to think about ending it myself and got to the stage that I wanted to take my own life. I told an officer on my wing about this and shortly after, Steve Webb came around to my cell and asked me, "what's the problem?". I told him what I had told other staff and he responded, "stop being a prick". I wasn't taken seriously. I found opening up about my emotions at Brook House really difficult and exposing. When I tried it, because that's what everyone tells you to do, this happened. After that, I decided not to share how bad I was feeling again – there was no point. If I did, I was worried that staff would use it as another excuse to abuse me, to take the mick out of me.

DCO Marina Mansi

75. There was also a female officer who was abusive. She was a black woman with short and curly hair. I had thought she was called Maria, but the PSU identified her from my description as DCO Marina Mansi.
76. My solicitors have explained the contents of HOM002565, HOM002645 and HOM002637. I do not believe I had any memorable contact with Maria Rodrigues whilst at Brook House. I believe DCO Marina Mansi is the officer involved in the incident I described. However, her description in her Security Information Report of that incident is wrong and it was one of the reasons why I was subsequently refused bail. It suggests I suddenly burst into a fit of rage because she let my cell mate out for work, but not me. As I have explained above, I would respond and swear at staff – I don't deny that. But I wouldn't do it for no reason. It was always in response to provocation, either explicit verbal provocation or the conduct of officers. Also, I would challenge anyone experiencing that environment for any period of time and still be able to behave reasonably at all times.

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Incident on 5 June 2016

77. My monthly progress reports refer to an occasion in June 2016 when it is said that I was being verbally offensive. However, what isn't recorded is that I swore at the officer only after she had provoked me.
78. I remember DCO Mansi being an officer on my wing. My cell mate worked on E Wing servery and she came to let him out of the cell early, so he could prepare for meal time. But when she closed the cell door, she slammed it. I was constantly on edge because of the toxic environment at Brook House and this noise was almost painful. All the other detained people in the cells next to me could hear my door smash closed. You could feel the vibrations in the air. This was something I had experience of from other officers. Good officers would close your cell door gently, because they understood how bad it could feel on the other side of the door. But bad officers, or those who wanted to provoke a response, would slam your door shut.
79. I didn't respond to DCO Mansi as it happened. There was no point, she was already walking away and I was locked in my cell. But when she returned to let me out at meal time, I challenged her about why she slammed my cell door. Admittedly, I was agitated and probably did swear – but it was in response to her conduct towards me. She created that in me. She also doesn't mention in her report that she responded to me with her own abusive and threatening words, telling me to “to fuck off back to your country.”
80. I understand that the PSU investigator found my complaint about this incident to be unsubstantiated partly because DCO Mansi's Security Information Report was consistent with her interview. However, just because they are consistent, that does not mean they are true. Officers are hardly going to write a confession when they abuse or mistreat detained persons. Also, my interview and complaint were consistent, but the PSU investigator didn't believe me. It's an example of the double standards and culture of disbelief which existed at Brook House amongst G4S, healthcare and Home Office staff.
81. My solicitors have told me that during DCO Mansi's PSU interview [HOM002637], she said one of the reasons why she would never say the racist comments I have said

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she made because she was Sundanese and she could be in the same position. As I explained in my PSU interview and previous statement, this is actually one of the issues I found so frustrating. In my interview [HOM002453/23] I said, “But when I got moved to this place, yeah, like some of the people that work there are foreign. They're foreigners themselves. This is the worst thing about it, yeah? ... And they're treating me like I'm a fourth class citizen like.” These officers who were themselves foreign think that because they came to this country and were given opportunity, everyone else who came to this country was also given opportunity. So if you were now in immigration detention, it was your own fault. But I wasn't like them. I never had that opportunity. Everyone has a different life and background. The officers didn't care about that. They thought we were all the same.

DCO Babatunde Fagbo

82. I described DCO Fagbo to the PSU in the course of their investigation into my allegation of abuse by officers at Brook House. Although I could not recall his precise name at the time, the PSU identified them as DCO Babatunde Fagbo. With my solicitors I have also now been able to identify DCO Fagbo as the person I described to the PSU.
83. I remember DCO Fagbo as he sometimes worked on my wing, but also on other wings which I would sometimes go through. He also came and got you for Home Office appointments to receive your Monthly Progress Reports. He was particularly abusive and racist to me. He was a bully. He was regularly sarcastic and insulting to me, like he was trying to provoke me for a reaction. Sometimes he would do this by making stupid comments or asking things about my immigration circumstances which he knew I wouldn't know and sometimes he was just outright racist. Some of the comments I remember him saying are: “Why are you still here? Your own country is better than being in detention”; “Maybe you should go back to your own country rather than staying here”; “This country don't want you”; and “Why are you begging to be here?”. Throughout, he was saying I wasn't British. He was being sarcastic and if I reacted, he would laugh then go and tell other officers. There were occasions I saw him laugh in the face of detained people who couldn't speak English. He would say to other officers things like, “He can't even speak English, how did he get in the

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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:

- a. My solicitors also showed me an email chain about these officers [CJS0073677]. The initial email is from Stacie Dean to Ben Saunders and Steve Skitt on 25 October 2015, which was only a few days before my arrival at Brook House. The email says:

“This detainee made a complaint to me about his treatment by DCOs Fagbo and Instone Brewer. He claims they have spent the last week goading him, taking it in turn to give warnings, ignoring him and deliberately going to his room to remove items (such a pillow he claims another member of staff gave him??) He claimed that yesterday they came to his room while he was asleep to issue a warning and shouted in his face which was why he "lost it". Don't get me wrong, he is far from the nicest detainee and has a bad history but every time there is an issue on D Wing I always receive complaints about these two in particular. While I was on D Wing yesterday Babs received a call from a female DCO (think it was lisa Strange) who was asking what he had done now to make it all "kick off". Babs was very guarded in front of me but I could tell that the female was making comments which suggested Babs does this a lot and she wasn't impressed. When I spoke with him about his issues with D5100 he told me that there have been lots of problems but when pushed he admitted he hadn't SIR'd it. I told him it limited what action we could take if he didn't report things and low and behold I received 2 very elaborated SIRs this morning from both DCOs backing up their side of the story. Other staff and DCOs also told me that they need splitting up as they are always causing issues and whilst D5100 was far from appropriate they also felt he had been goaded. I do think this needs looking into as much as I would love to trust the staff and their account I simply don't. Hope that doesn't sound too harsh.”

- b. Stacie Dean forwarded the above email to Lee Hanford on 16 June 2016, saying “As discussed earlier, this is just one of a few!!”. Lee Hanford's response was, “Thanks Stacie[.] No such thing as coincidences.....Worth viewing the CCTV with them when conducting the interview to see what they say about it.... I would suggest that you can leave it ‘hanging’ that you will be

viewing the BWC footage”. I don’t understand the reference to “coincidences” here. Does it mean others were also reporting similar things?

- c. My solicitors have also shown me the following extract from a note of a grievance interview for officer Stacie Dean in January 2017 [CJS0073633]:

“SD ...When Medway occurred, it was reported that we monitored C&R but this never got actioned and at the time I raised reports about two members of staff bullying and nothing was done. My take on this is that we are all good that issues are monitored on camera, but the risk is those bullies that do this away from cameras and there are 2 staff that are responsible for this.

JP Can I ask for the names of those staff?

SD Luke Instone-Brewer and Babs Fagbo. I had reported this before and documented this to Steve and Ben (most complained about officers at Brook) complaints from detainees with regards to them antagonising and goading and this raised alarm bells from Medway. Just prior to Lee leaving I was asked to undertake an investigation and Lee was sent an email detailing what had been sent to Ben and Steve but clearly nothing had been done. When Ben returned I was removed from this investigation for Ben to complete and was asked to look at a matter of Luke and his C&R. Ben said he was going to give this investigation to someone else (Jules), but my concerns is that Jules is known to be friendly with other DCMs and officers and staff are concerned about raising issues and that staff sickness was looked into.

JP You believe that the detainees are being wound up so that staff can use C&R on them, There was a matter at a prison where staff were deliberately antagonising prisoners in order to use C&R restraint and they were using it like a competition. Nine staff have just been suspended against a similar matter, would you put anything like that in this?

SD I don't know if this is a game, you get bullies wherever you work, they have recruited new vulnerable DCOs who seem to be joining in with them and

we asked if they could be split up but when I went on over a weekend they were all there together, they may just get a kick out of it.”

- d. The follow up email from Stacie Dean to Jerry Petherick on 5 January 2017 [CJS0073679] says, “In the case of the DCOs we discussed, they are also known to be supplying spice to detainees yet there has not been a single staff search since this information has been known, Steve constantly fobs off decisions.”

91. The issues raised by Stacie Dean are what I also experienced. What I don’t understand is why nothing was done about it. If G4S knew DCO Fagbo and DCO Instone-Brewer were abusing detained people and supplying spice to them, something should have been done about it. Doing nothing was putting detained peoples’ lives at stake.
92. I also had my pillow taken from me in a similar way to that which is explained by Stacie Dean in her email as happened to D5100. It’s been so long that I can’t remember if it was DCO Instone-Brewer or DCO Fagbo – I think it might have been another manager.
93. Another way DCO Instone-Brewer bullied and provoked me and other detained people was through his control of the IT suite. In Brook House, the computers are really slow and so is the internet. This was so frustrating and seemed unnecessary. They also block access to a lot of websites as standard. Often, these were social media websites or other forms of electronic communication – for example, some email providers were blocked whilst others were not. The Inquiry have asked me what I meant on 8 May 2017 when my records [HOM002274] say I “*felt frustrated due to not being able to use IT for emails with solicitor*”. From memory, that is what I was talking about. I was trying to contact solicitors to get help with my case but the email provider I used was blocked on the computers in the IT suite. Staying in contact with people whilst detained at Brook House to be very difficult. The phones we were given weren’t smart phones and the reception at Brook House was awful. All this limited the ways you could contact people – friends, family, solicitors or charities supporting you. For people who didn’t have family in the UK, this was extremely difficult as the internet was the only way they could stay in touch with them. If people were detained

for prolonged periods, this was especially true. Because of all this, some people would use proxies. Proxies were a single-use code you could use to access those websites which are otherwise blocked.

94. Although some websites were blocked as standard, the officers supervising the IT suite could also block individuals from accessing additional websites. From my experience, DCO Instone-Brewer abused this power.
95. In early 2017, my mental health was deteriorating. As explained above, I had lost my immigration solicitors, and there was no sign of my release anytime soon. Without access to professional advice, I tried to research the law surrounding my circumstances. This included law on immigration detention and my asylum claim. The only way I could do this was by using the computers in the IT suite. I did this over the course of weeks, so was in the IT suite when multiple different officers were supervising it. Usually it was fine and I could access the websites I needed for my case. However, when DCO Instone-Brewer was on it was different. Not only were parts of the Government's website blocked from access, like the Home Office's website, meaning I couldn't look at the rules under which I was being detained, but so were websites for the charities who help detained people. I specifically remember trying to access Detention Actions website for guidance about getting help with my case, but it was blocked. It wasn't usually blocked. I had no help from anyone else and now I was being prevented from trying to help myself. I found this all very frustrating and it added to my feeling of helplessness.
96. My solicitors have explained to me that DCO Instone-Brewer submitted three Security Information Reports about me between 21 and 22 April 2017. In those reports, he claims me and another detained person sent him abusive messages and verbally abused him because he shut down the computers on A Wing. When my solicitors read the reports to me, they did not accurately reflect what occurred on those two days. To me, the reports seem to be exaggerated versions of what happened – in that sense, I think they are similar to the elaborate reports Stacie Dean mentions in her email to Ben Saunders, referenced above. The reports also provide no context to my reaction, as I've explained above.

97. On the 21 April 2017 [CJS004667], I probably did swear at DCO Instone-Brewer as I was reacting to my computer being switched off. I believed he was turning off the computers intentionally to provoke a reaction – it was just a continuation of DCO Instone-Brewer’s past behaviour towards me. However, the report exaggerates my conduct to make it sound worse than it was. It also exaggerates how he responded. For example, at no point in my exchanges with DCO Instone-Brewer did he look “distraught and upset about the whole thing”. He would swear at me regularly, as described above, so this was fairly mild behaviour. As for the comments about his family and wishing they had cancer or died, I did not make those – as I think the report makes clear. My brother had recently died of cancer and I had also lost my nan whilst in detention. I would never make those sorts of comments.
98. On the 22 April 2017 [CJS004941, CJS005230], I probably did swear again but I did not throw a can or break a computer keyboard as he suggests. This is another example of him exaggerating and making things up in his report. If I had done what he describes, I would have been put on Rule 40. But I wasn’t.

DCM Nathan Ring

99. I have previously described the verbal abuse DCM Ring subjected me to, which included racist abuse. He was also involved in an incident with me and my cell mate D343 which I have described below. My solicitors showed me part of a clip [KENCOV1035/V2017061400015] for the purposes of confirming the identity of DCO Murphy, mentioned below. In the same clip, I identified DCM Ring [29:02].

Other Detention Officers

100. DCM Ben Shadbolt:
- a. I remember DCO Fagbo and DCO Instone-Brewer were both friends with an officer called Ben. Ben was tall, maybe 6’ 1” or 6’ 2”. He was chubby and probably weighed 15 or 16 stones. He was a white officer with dark hair; I think it was brown and a bit spiky. With my solicitors I have been able to identify the person I described to them as Ben Shadbolt. I would see Shadbolt and Instone-Brewer walking around a lot together, in the corridors or C Wing

courtyard where they would watch us play football. Shadbolt, like Instone-Brewer, would speak to detained people who I knew to be involved in the likes of supplying and using drugs in Brook House. This made me think he was also involved himself.

- b. I remember Shadbolt being sarcastic and abusive to detained people. He'd sit at the door on a wing and make comments like, "oh, you're still here". There is a specific incident I recall because of how he reacted. I think it was during social whilst I was on A Wing. I was queuing up waiting for the pool table to become free. Shadbolt thought a pool ball was missing, but it was just stuck in the table – that happened all the time. He started screaming at everyone, "where the fuck is it? One of you fucking took it, you fucking cunts". There was a detained person next to me and he couldn't speak good English. He looked terrified and intimidated. He left, rather than wait to play pool. I also left as he was intimidating and I didn't want Shadbolt to talk his anger out on me.

101. DCM Steve Dix:

- a. DCM Dix was one of the managers who could be nice to you, or could be abusive. He changes like that. I have described an incident below involving me and my cell mate D343, which I believe DCM Dix was involved in. Alongside that, I recall when I told him I had mental health problems. In response, he started mocking me. He didn't take me or my disclosure seriously, so it was an example of the sort of response which made me feel like no one cared about me. He would also make annoying comments like, "Oh you're still here, not deported yet?", which were clearly intended to wind people up.

102. DCM Graham Purnell:

- a. DCM Purnell was part of the toxic culture at Brook House. He wasn't a good person. He was an example of the passive kind of officer who didn't care about anyone or anything at Brook House. He was only interested in himself.

From memory, he was also one the DCMs who was involved in the incident I have described further below involving me and my cell mate D343.

103. DCM Andrew Lyden:

- a. DCM Lyden was like DCM Purnell. He was abusive and didn't care about you or anyone else. He was also part of the toxic culture amongst staff at Brook House but I was fortunate enough not to have any significant and specific personal interactions with him.

104. DCO Hafeez Akhtar:

- a. DCO Akhtar was a racist. He never took you seriously and I witnessed him being abusive to other detained people all the time. One time, I saw a few people on spice. If people reacted badly to spice, they could die. He was just watching them and laughing, saying things like, 'here's another one'. He didn't take it seriously and he didn't take his role seriously. That was clear from his attitude – he didn't care if people lived and died. My personal interactions with him were limited, but included him swearing at me to get “fucking behind the doors” at ‘bang up’.

105. DCO Derek Murphy:

- a. During my PSU interview, I described an Irish officer who was routinely abusive and racist all the time to me and other detained people. I said in my interview:

“The Irish guy; for example, there's an Irish guy there yeah? There's only one Irish guy that works there, yeah? Now, actually two Irish guys, yeah? One old guy with a bit of a bald head, yeah? He was racist all the time. He would be like “Yeah.” One time my mate was in the block and that, he would be like “Fuck off back off to your country and that. Like why are you lot here fucking like ...do you know what I mean? Why is your mate in the block causing like trouble and that?” And my cell mate only went to the block and that because he refuses to bang up, yeah? Yeah. And he went to the block and that. So after that they let him out like ...I think two days ...one day. Something like that. So

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I went to the block and asked him “When are you going to let my mate out like?” He told me “Fuck off mate. Piss off like. You’re here, why are you coming the block and that asking for your mate and that?” I said to him “Look, if you don’t bring my cell mate back, yeah? I’m not banging up no more. You’re going bring me in here.” That’s exactly what I told him. Yeah?”

- b. I subsequently described to my solicitors that the officer was a white male with a southern Irish accent. He was bald but had a white or grey beard and looked like he was probably in his 50’s. My solicitors subsequently showed me part of a clip [KENCOV1035 / V2017061400015] in which a detained person [D1275] has taken spice and is having a bad reaction. One part of the clip [16:29] shows an officer called Derek Murphy saying, “I’ve no sympathy for him. Absolutely no sympathy for him at all. If he dies, he dies.” I confirm that Derek Murphy is the same Irish officer that I described in my PSU interview as being very racist and abusive. In addition, this clip is an example of exactly what I have been trying to explain about him and other staff at Brook House. They literally did not care whether detained people lived or died and that was reflected in their treatment of us.

Drugs

106. There was widespread taking of drugs in Brook House, particularly spice. Detention officers turned a blind eye towards detained persons taking and dealing in spice. Some detention officers were even supplying the spice, as I mentioned above. Detained persons would give them money and they would bring drugs into Brook House, where detained people would use it or deal it.
107. Spice had a major effect on you. When you smoke it, you don’t know where you are. Whilst it causes an extreme high, the eventual come down is like hitting the floor hard. There are times that I would smoke it and pass out in my cell. It’s worse than crack cocaine. I’ve spoken to people that would say they had tried crack cocaine, heroin and hard drugs like that, but thought spice was the worst of them all. It honestly wasn’t fit for human consumption.

108. I was initially taking spice to escape the horrors of Brook House but I stopped and got clean with the help of RAPT. However, as my mental health deteriorated at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, I started to smoke more and more spice. I just wanted to die. On one occasion, after I had taken too much spice, one detention officer said to me, "If you don't want to live then kill yourself on spice. The less foreign nationals in here the better." I can't remember which officer this was, but I think it was one of the wing officers. Detained persons were regularly over-dosing on spice and detention officers didn't care about this. I referenced a clip above which I was shown, which had D1275 reacting to spice. That was typical. The reactions in that clip of Derek Murphy and Nathan Ring were common amongst G4S and healthcare staff at Brook House. We knew they thought nothing of us. They wore their attitudes openly, as the clips show.
109. I remember making a massive joint, with about a gram of spice in it. I think I was on A Wing at the time. I showed it to my cell mate D343 and told him I'd had enough and that if I do die from smoking it, not to call anyone, so they couldn't bring me back. I told him how I wanted to die in this country, rather than being removed to some other place I didn't know and dying there. I wanted to be buried beside my brother. I even wrote a suicide note to my mum so he could give it to the officers, but D343 took it off me and ripped it up. I didn't die that night, but that's the point which I had gotten to.
110. At the time, I got most of my drugs from D343 because he was my cell mate and was selling drugs in Brook House from our cell. D343 wasn't a drug dealer when he arrived at Brook House. But as his mental health deteriorated and he started to use spice, someone suggested to him he could also sell it and so he did. He would be speaking on the phone on loudspeaker in our cell, arranging his sales. He would then bag up the drugs in our cell and slip it under other cell doors. D343 explained to me the process of getting drugs into Brook House. There were two main ways. The first was through packages in the post. The second was through officers who would smuggle it into the centre and sell it to you, to then sell on to other detained people. It sometimes made D343 a bit of a target. I remember one time when about 8 other detained people ran into our cell and beat him up. They even smashed a kettle around

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his head. The officers all knew what had happened but no one came to see him. D343 had a black eye, so it was noticeable. But I don't think he went to healthcare about this.

111. I remember D343 telling me that he was making about £100 per day, but this could go up to £300-£400 on a good day. Whereas he said some of the officers were making more like £900 per day. DCO Instone-Brewer wasn't the only officer supplying drugs like this. I knew there was an officer on D and E Wings too, but I didn't know who they were. I think once officers heard how much money they could make from it, more of them wanted to get involved. In D343's case, he explained how people would put money in a bank account he had on the outside. He was selling spice for £25 per half gram, so most orders would be £50. If someone wanted to buy drugs, they'd pay for example £50.02. When they came to D343, they would quote how much they paid and D343 knew that correspond to an order and payment he had received. The random number of pennies was meant to be a bit of added security.

Rule 40

112. The Inquiry have asked me about CJS000987 which is a document showing I was placed on Rule 40 on 3 December 2015 for stealing from other detained people. That incident was a misunderstanding involving me accidentally taking another detained person's money card.
113. I remember I went to the gym and put my money card on the table to exercise. When I was leaving, I accidentally picked up another person's money card from the table where I had left mine. There was no other card, so someone must have taken mine as well. I didn't initially realise as the photo of the detained person looked similar to mine and as it had been in my possession for so long, I didn't feel the need to take a closer look at it. I used the card normally as I would my own, by going to shop which is just next to the gym and buying something. I then had an officer come and see me about stealing a card. I told them and the other detained person it was a genuine mistake and explained what had happened. I think they believed me and ultimately, nothing else came of it, apart from being put on Rule 40. I think this affected me for

about 2 weeks, which I was given less privileges and wasn't allowed to do certain activities. It also meant I couldn't apply for work until it cleared off my record.

114. I described my involvement in two protests above, which resulted in me being put in segregation on Rule 40. I think there were other times I was put on Rule 40, for example, because I was using spice.

Complaints and Oversight

Complaints Generally

115. The complaints system at Brook House was a waste of time. I tried to use it but had absolutely no faith in it. I was scared that if I made a formal complaint about an officer, they would find out and I would then suffer reprisals.
116. Even the IMB who were meant to be independent, they just did whatever G4S or the Home Office told them to. It was obvious. If you made a complaint to them, within a few days you would have a response repeating back exactly what officers had said. Their mentality was, if an officer said it, it must be true. They would never make their own findings. There was no point in complaining to them as the outcome was already obvious – whatever G4S said.

Verbal Abuse Complaint

117. The first complaint I put in was a joint complaint I made with a few other detained people. It about verbal abuse we received from officers. I think it was around the start of 2016. The verbal abuse occurred during evening 'bang up' because it was being delayed slightly. The downstairs showers on my wing were cold, so everyone was using the upstairs showers. As it was busier than usual, I hadn't had a shower by the time officers started coming round the wing telling us to get back to our cells for 'bang up'. The officers were getting frustrated by the delay and started shouting at us things like, "Get out the fucking showers, we ain't got time for this – got to go home". The next day, I put in a joint complaint with a few other people. I remember this included a black detained person, an Asian detained person and a Polish detained person. I think the Polish guy was being removed the following week. We all signed

the same complaint form and put it in the complaints box. I never had a response back and when I checked with the others, they said the same thing.

Cultural kitchen Complaint and Breach of Confidentiality

118. On 21 April 2016 I submitted my second complaint at Brook House. It was about the refusal of officers to allow me access to the “cultural kitchen” where detained persons were able to cook their nationality’s food. I only submitted the complaint after trying to resolve it with one of the managers first, but that was unsuccessful. I also raised it verbally with the Home Office officer when I was collecting my Monthly Progress Report that month. With my solicitors I have been able to identify the Home Office officer I raised this issue with as Heenaxi Patel. She responded by saying there was nothing she could do about it – it was outside of her powers. She was often dismissive and had a similar attitude to the other Home Office officer, Vanessa Smith, who I mention below.
119. In response to my complaint, I received a letter dated 26 April 2016 from DCM Carrie Dance-Jones, one of the security managers at Brook House. It said that I had been refused access on three grounds, one of which was that my prison file “contained information regarding a sexual assault.” I did not have any convictions for sex offences and the officers’ and the PSU investigator’s subsequent suggestion that I had been convicted for a sexual assault, was untrue. The Inquiry has a copy of my PNC printout [HOM000376], recording all my convictions up to 13 February 2017. That document confirms I had no convictions for sexual offences. However, following my receipt of the response to my complaint other detained persons began to suggest that I was a sex offender. I was getting called a ‘nonce’ by people which was humiliating. I was shunned by other detained persons, they spat in my food and one of them attacked me whilst I was in the shower and knocked me unconscious.
120. I don’t remember much about that assault or the person who attacked me because they came at me from behind. I remember waking up lying on the floor and going to my cell. I was dizzy when I came around. I was still on C Wing at this stage, so it would have occurred in the C Wing showers. I made my way to my cell. I didn’t see healthcare or tell any member of staff about this because I was worried about

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retaliation. I also didn't think they would care or do anything about it. As I mentioned above, officers assumed we were all criminals and that meant we deserved everything that happened to us. Being accused of something which you didn't do and which the records prove you have never been convicted of is degrading, but when you are (falsely in my case) accused of being a sex offender in a prison or detention centre, then it becomes dangerous. Everyone knows it puts a target on your back. It was a really scary time for me, making me feel even more on edge and unsafe in Brook House.

121. Following the G4S complaint response, I submitted a complaint to the IMB. Within a few days, and as usual, they had responded saying exactly the same as G4S. They had accepted at face value what G4S had said without doing their own investigation.
122. I didn't know who had attacked me, or who had told them that I was a sex offender. As I had not told anyone about the reference to a sexual assault in the letter, I believe that G4S officers told other detained persons that I had a conviction for a sex offence. I asked a detained person who had mentioned it to me who had told him about it and he confirmed my belief. He said that it was one of the wing officers that told him. As mentioned above, the officers working on C Wing at the time had been abusing me routinely. I believed the detained person because I had previously heard about other instances of officers spreading rumours about detained people. For example, I remember something similar had happened to an Asian detained person when a rumour had been spread about him having committed really bad offences. I was very upset about this and very frightened for my safety at Brook House. Again I felt suicidal. My solicitors have told me that the unbroadcast BBC footage disclosed by the Inquiry in transcript form has many examples of officers discussing offences they know or suspect detained people to have committed.
123. Following the IMB's response, I complained verbally to a member of the G4S Senior Management Team I knew to be called Michelle. My solicitors inform me that the person I have described is Michelle Brown. She advised me to obtain a printout of my criminal convictions from my probation officer which I then showed to other detained persons so that they could see that I did not have any convictions for sex offences. I remember calling out in the servery at lunchtime and showing everyone my evidence.

After that I did not have further trouble from other detained persons about being a sex offender but the experience of my formal complaint being mishandled, and my belief, which I still hold, that detention officers leaked false information to detained persons that I was a sex offender, left me feeling even more distrustful of detention officers and I had no faith that my complaints would be properly or fairly dealt with. After I showed Michelle Brown I had no criminal convictions for sex offences, I was allowed to access the Cultural Kitchen a few months later.

124. The PSU investigated this issue as part of my complaints about abuse and mistreatment I experienced at Brook House. In their final report, they stated that I had lied. However, my solicitors explained in my appeal to the PPO [DPG000004/9-10] why the PSU were wrong about that. In short, I was charged with Sensitive/Irrelevant Sensitive/Irrelevant The sexual assault claim was untrue and as evidence emerged before the trial date, that charge against me was dropped. That is why my conviction does not mention sexual assault. In Sensitive/Irrelevant I pleaded guilty to the Sensitive/Irrelevant so received a conviction for them but not the previous charge of sexual assault. The PSU and Brook House staff both made this mistake, but I now understand that the Brook House staff told the PSU investigator about their error.
125. Since then, the Inquiry has also disclosed evidence the PSU investigator obtained but which she did not disclose with her final report. That included the witness statements by DCO Kelly Harris [HOM002642] and DCO Barry Timms [HOM002639] who were both involved in this incident as Security Collators at Brook House. My solicitors have explained that both officers confirmed to the PSU that there was no conviction for sexual assault in my prison file. DCO Timms describes his further review of my prison file and confirming this, before presenting his findings to the Head of Security who then authorised my use of the cultural kitchen. DCO Harris identified the following entry on my DAT records which confirms this:

*** Detainee is allowed to use the cultural kitchen as there was no conviction for sexual assault He is not allowed to work with knives or in the kitchen. This has been authorised by HOSS N Davies. ****

*** By: timmsb on 06/07/16 15:06 ***

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126. The PSU investigator referenced the evidence of DCO Harris and DCO Timms in their report, but ignored their conclusions that I did not have a conviction for sexual assault. She also ignored the Home Office's own records. My solicitors have told me that the Inquiry's disclosure includes my bail summary prepared by the Home Office and dated 1 November 2012. The bail summary is after my conviction in 2010 – the one which the PSU investigator wrongly claimed was for sexual assault. There is a section on the bail summary [HOM005533/2] which asks whether I was a sexual offender. It confirmed that I was not a sex offender and had not been convicted of a sexual offence.
127. Given the evidence available to the PSU investigator, I do not know why they called me a liar and maintained that I had a conviction for sexual assault dating back to 2010. However, I think this showed how the Home Office cannot investigate themselves or their contractors. It isn't independent and so even when the evidence says one thing, they wanted to say something else.

Other

128. I have been asked to review a document [CJS004845] which is security information report, attaching two lists containing people detained at Brook House. The lists were found in a cell where I was sitting with other detained people, but it was not my cell. I have never seen these lists before. I do not understand why any of the information would be useful to a detained person, or why they would have it.

Healthcare

General

129. Whilst at Brook House, I suffered from several physical illnesses for which I had to attend A&E. In addition, I struggled with my mental health which deteriorated significantly when I was at Brook House.
130. From my experiences, healthcare at Brook House just didn't care about detained people they were meant to be caring for. That came across in their attitudes. For them, it was very much a case of getting people seen but not necessarily treated. So not only did it feel like they didn't care, but also like they didn't believe you if you said you

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were unwell. The nurses just wanted to get people moved on. They only deal with the likes of ticking boxes. They didn't care how people actually felt. It seemed like everyone was just covering their own back by filling in a form so they could say they had seen someone, but in reality they would just see you then call "That's it. You go along. Next."

131. One thing I remember very clearly, was how no matter what was wrong with someone, the answer was always to give them two paracetamol. It was ridiculous.

Mental Health

132. My mental health problems started when I was taken into care as a teenager. As I explained above, I was placed in care because I was being physically abused by my brother and my school reported this to Social Services. When I was about 15 years old I threw myself out of the window at the foster carer's home into the garden. I remember trying to hang myself in a prison or Young Offender Institute when I was much younger, maybe around 17 or 18 years old. I also almost hanged myself at HMP Wormwood Scrubs, I think in around 2009. Later in 2013, I almost tried to commit suicide by jumping off a bridge but was stopped by a passer-by.
133. My mental health problems got worse in prison and worse still in immigration detention. When I was at Brook House I was anxious all the time. I was seeing people being beaten up and I was regularly hearing of bad experiences from other detained persons. I had breathing problems, depression and sometimes I was hearing voices. I remember officers stormed my cell in the middle of the night to try and remove me to Somalia. I think this was sometime in between February and May 2017. It was really traumatising. To be woken up by several men storming your cell in the middle of the night, shouting at you when you have no idea what is going on. In the end, I wasn't removed. I went to welfare a few days later to find out why it happened, as I wasn't told about any planned removal. They said the system didn't have any record of me being due to be on a flight. That made me think that the officers did this just to torment me, which it did. I had been developing anxiety and panic attacks by this stage, but after this I found sleeping really difficult for 5 or 6 months. I was in constant fear of being woken up in the middle of the night by officers trying to

remove me or otherwise harm me. I started keeping my light on, which my cell mate had to get used to. I would go to bed fully dressed so if I was pulled out of the cell in the middle of the night, at least I would have clothes on my back. I also started going to sleep with razor blades beside me, or under my pillow. I did this so I could swallow them or self-harm, if someone tried to remove me again. I knew I was never going to go back to Somalia and if the Home Office tried to force it, I would rather die.

134. I began to self-harm whilst in Brook House. I would use razor blades to cut myself in my room. I would cut my wrists and arms, but also in between my toes. I would tell my cell mate D343 when I did this, or he would see me doing it. I would never tell healthcare when I did this and would even hide my scars. As I've said, healthcare were just about ticking boxes. I had seen how they treated myself and others. I didn't trust them to provide me with any real care and I wasn't interested in getting paracetamol. If they could have helped me, they would have already.
135. I had never told my solicitors or doctors about my self-harming with razor blades before we began preparing this statement for the Inquiry. I didn't even tell Dr Galappathie when he assessed me last year, when preparing a report for the Inquiry. I felt too embarrassed about it and ashamed to talk about it – like it showed I was weak. I also just didn't think anyone would get it. Why would someone feel better after cutting themselves? I knew it wouldn't make sense. So I told myself it was just a small detail which they didn't need to know, because they already knew I had tried to hang myself at Brook House as shown in Panorama. The only reason I told them about it this time was because the video footage of me on 25 April 2017 [KENCOV1007 - V2017042500006: Clip 3] has me showing officers the scars and cuts on my arms [09:11]. They asked me what I was showing the officers, which led to me telling them about this.
136. As I mentioned, as my circumstances got worse in mid-2016, I started taking spice to escape all the stress and trauma I was living through on a daily basis. After my brother's death, mentioned below, I started using spice much more. I knew that spice was dangerous and might even kill me, but I had reached the stage where I had given up on living and so I didn't care if I died.

137. Throughout my time at Brook House, I was never prescribed medication such as antidepressants to help with my mental health. I asked for them repeatedly, including at my first doctor appointment at Brook House and around the time of my brother's death. I was just repeatedly told to go to talking therapy, or to come back in a couple of weeks. Even the appointments, the questions being asked were framed wrong. For example, "Why are you like this? You're a fit young man now, why are you doing this?". They just didn't get it, what it was like to be detained. And they were supposed to be looking out for us. That made it more difficult for me to open up about what I had been through in my past and how I was feeling at Brook House, how much I was struggling. I was depressed and losing my mind. I did try to get help again around the beginning of 2017 and was referred to a mental health nurse. I have explained below my fears around this and the difficulties I had around opening up about my trauma, which led me to missing a couple of appointments. But when I did attend, I still wasn't prescribed any antidepressants. I asked for them and never got them at Brook House. But within a few days of being at The Verne, I had been prescribed them.
138. I was assessed by Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Nuwan Galappathie for the purposes of this Inquiry. He prepared a report dated 22 September 2021, which details my history of struggling with my mental health, including during my time at Brook House. As far as I am aware, this was the first psychiatric assessment I have had where the psychiatrist had access to most of my relevant medical records. Dr Galappathie states [DPG000006/40-45]:

"193. In my opinion, **D687** suffers from recurrent depressive disorder, however it is also possible that he may have now developed a psychotic illness such as Bipolar Affective Disorder. The diagnosis of depression would be indicated by his past history of suffering from previous episodes of depression which appear to have started during his early adult life and have been recurrent. It is notable that there are reports that he attempted to hang himself whilst at Feltham prison in 2001. His health records state that on 8 December 2009 he outlined having a history of depression and described symptoms of sleepiness and low self-worth. His condition is likely to have fluctuated in severity at different times but would have been present when detained at

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Exhibits: None

Brook House and during the 2017 suicide attempt on 13 May 2017. **D687**

D687 described suffering from increasing symptoms of depression throughout 2017, following the death of his brother from throat cancer the previous year. In my opinion, his depression is likely to have continued to worsen after the suicide attempt on 13 May 2017. It is notable that on 14 May 2017 he said that he had enough and his sleep pattern was not good and that he wanted to see a mental health nurse and was booked to have a medical appointment to consider treatment with antidepressant medication. In my opinion, he should have been seen by a doctor regarding his mental health on the day of the suicide attempt and that it was a failure in care in delaying commencement of antidepressant medication. It is notable that prior to the suicide attempt on 13 May 2017, he was already noted to be distressed by having received negative news from the Home Office and was tearful when talking about events in Somalia. When seen on 15 April 2017 by Dr Oozeerally for a Rule 35 Report he disclosed his past history of trauma, previous suicide attempt, outlined he was hearing voices and was getting stressed and emotional and had difficulty sleeping and was also observed to be tearful. Dr Oozeerally noted that he was not taking antidepressant medication but remained under the care of the mental health team. In my opinion, this is a clear failure within in his care as it should have been identified that given his past history of self-harm, disclosure about previous trauma and unstable mental state that he should have been prescribed antidepressant medication at that stage and encouraged to take the medication. In my opinion, he would have been at high risk of attempting to commit suicide and Dr Oozeerally should have foreseen that this was a risk that could have been mitigated by the prescription of antidepressant medication and alerting to the officers on the unit to be vigilant to his risk of self-harm and to have a low threshold for initiating an ACDT plan if required. In my opinion, he should have also been referred to the Consultant Psychiatrist for a specialist assessment of his mental health treatment needs given his complex presentation. It is also notable that his health records outline that he was presenting with a range of unusual and bizarre behaviours which are likely to have indicated that he was either suffering from high levels of psychological distress or developing a psychotic

Witness Name:
Statement No:
Exhibits:

D687

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None

illness, which further highlights the need for him to have had an urgent referral for a psychiatric assessment at that stage. In addition, it should have been evident to Dr Oozeerally that he was at risk of harm within detention and the Home Office should have been urgently advised about this and the appropriate form completed and submitted to the Home Office so that they could consider the need to urgently release him from detention given the harmful impact that this would have had on his mental health. These interventions did not take place and it was only several days after his suicide attempt on 13 May 2017 and his increasing symptoms of depression, that he was prescribed antidepressant medication, initially in the form of [Sensitive/Irrelevant] per day by Dr Fowler on 16 May 2017. This was a few days after he arrived at The Verne IRC, following him being transferred there from Brook House IRC. Dr Liebenberg a psychiatrist later added [Sensitive/Irrelevant] (antidepressant medication) which was then prescribed in combination with [Sensitive/Irrelevant] which in my opinion highlights the severity of his depression at that time.

...

195. In my opinion, the diagnosis of depression is supported by his health records which outline that he has a long history of presenting with low mood, depression and incidents of self harm and attempted suicide. His health records outline that he is reported to have attempted to hang himself when at HMP Feltham in 2001. On 8 December 2009 he attempted to strangle himself with a t-shirt. As outlined earlier on 8 December 2009, he had described symptoms of sleepiness and low self-worth and a history of depression. Following the death of his brother from throat cancer he was prescribed antidepressant medication initially in the form of [Sensitive/Irrelevant] 20mg per day by Dr Fowler on 16 May 2017. Dr Liebenberg a psychiatrist later added [Sensitive/Irrelevant] (antidepressant medication) which was then prescribed in combination with [Sensitive/Irrelevant]. He has suffered from a further deterioration in his mental health since his imprisonment at HMP Durham and has developed manic symptoms. He has had a flight of ideas, pressure of speech and presented as paranoid. Dr Chakrabarti noted on 25 February 2021 that he had

persecutory delusions and commenced treatment with [Sensitive/Irrelevant] 5mg (antipsychotic medication). In my opinion, there is therefore a possibility that he may be developing a psychotic illness such as Bipolar Affective Disorder, however this will require further monitoring and evaluation as his symptoms could also be explained by psychomotor agitation due to depression and high levels of psychological distress. If further information becomes available, I would be happy to update my opinion as to whether he suffers from recurrent depressive disorder or Bipolar Affective Disorder.

...

201. In my opinion, [D687] also suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This would be indicated by his past history of experiencing a number of highly traumatic events that would be likely to cause pervasive distress in almost anyone that has experienced them, in particular, his previous reports of experiencing trauma during his childhood whereby he was subjected to physical abuse by his family members who he now suspects were not his biological family and that he was taken from his real parents as a young child. He has reported being taken into foster care and that his foster mother was an alcoholic and also abused him. He also alleges being verbally, racially and physically abused during his detention at Brook House IRC. Clinically, he presented as an individual suffering from severe symptoms of PTSD that have worsened since his recent imprisonment. He has memories of the trauma that he reports that keep entering his mind which he finds distressing. He has also experienced images popping into his mind of the trauma that he reports, consistent with flashbacks which are distressing and intrusive. He has also experienced bad dreams and nightmares which prevent him from sleeping and occur on a daily basis. [D687] has become jumpy and is easily startled by loud sounds or noises. He remains very tense. He has also become avoidant and does not like talking about the events that he reports and dislikes being reminded about his past traumatic experiences. He continues to have strong and distressing emotions related to the trauma that he reports, which he has not been able to resolve. He said that he fears being grabbed and kidnapped and

that he often saw people shooting each other in Somalia. Although [D687] [D687] was experiencing symptoms of PTSD during his detention at Brook House, I would need to further examine his records before I could provide my opinion on whether he likely satisfied the diagnostic criteria for PTSD at that time. Given it is outside the scope of this report ... I will not deal with it further here but am willing to do so in a further report, if required.

202 [D687] has also suffered from a range of anxiety-related symptoms including feeling anxious and worried all the time. He described feeling his heart racing at times and said that he feels anxious when speaking to other people. He has also suffered from shaking and sweating and shouts when distressed. He told me that he also experiences shortness of breath at times when feeling anxious and has had panic attacks.”

Food and Fluid Refusal

139. By October 2016, I had decided to refuse food. I refused food and fluid on several occasions, but this document appears to be the only time staff recorded it. For example, I also refused food and drink around the time of my brother’s death in December 2016 and again around the beginning of 2017, maybe between March and April 2017. When refusing food and fluid, I wouldn’t come down for my breakfast or lunch. On occasions, I might come down for dinner but only eat a tiny bit of it. I was not eating because I wanted to die – I thought this was the easiest way but I struggled to carry through with it. That is why I started using spice more, thinking it would kill me instead. Staff didn’t care. Officers wouldn’t write it down when detained people didn’t eat. I remember one time I didn’t go down, and they came and checked me in my cell. When I started working in server on B Wing I found out how the system worked for food and fluid refusal. If you don’t come down to server to eat, the officers are not supposed to tick you off the list as having eaten. However, on both A and C Wings I saw officers ticking people off, when I knew they hadn’t eaten. One time, I saw an officer tell another officer the detained person was being “a prick” and should be ticked off. I’ve seen a person on my wing not eat for a whole month. Officers wrote it down for a week, then stopped caring and recording it. The person had severe mental health problems and was just neglected.

Witness Name: [D687]
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

Bereavements

140. Whilst detained, I also lost my nan and brother. My nan died September 2015, about a month before I moved to Brook House. However, when my brother died this had a massive impact on me. My brother died of throat cancer in December 2016. He had been ill for a long time and I felt guilty about not being able to see him whilst in immigration detention. When he died, I lost that opportunity forever. Out of all my family members, he helped me the most. He would send me money to top up my phone and stay in contact with me regularly. When I lost him, I also lost all that support he provided me.
141. What made my brother's death worse, was how the Home Office treated me. I applied on 20 December 2016 to be released temporarily so that I could pay my respects to my brother. Although he died in December, his body was held by the coroner for quite a while. As a result, his funeral wasn't until January or February 2017. The Home Office responded to my request saying I needed to prove my brother was dead. It was like they were taking the mick out of me. How was I able to prove my brother was dead when I was detained? I thought the Home Office could check this, as they are part of the Government. But I also asked my mother to provide evidence of my brother's death. When I asked my mother for that, she thought I wasn't being serious and that I was insulting my brother. She hung up on me so I couldn't provide any evidence. As a result, I never got to attend my brother's funeral or pay my respects to him. I was really upset by this, it was hugely distressing. It contributed to my worsening mental health at the beginning of 2017 and was one of the reasons why I started to think more proactively about ending my life at the start of 2017. I remember going to healthcare around this time and asking for antidepressants. I queued up in the line for collecting medication and asked the nurse when she got to me. She just dismissed my request.
142. In January 2017, I had a bail hearing. My mother who had said I could live with her if released didn't show up to the hearing. That was because she was too unwell to attend – she was depressed as a result of my brother's recent death. My family had attended so many bail hearings before for me, each time for no reason as I was refused bail. On

this occasion, bail was refused because my mother did not show up to confirm her offer of residence.

Rule 35

143. My solicitors have explained to me that a Rule 35 report must be prepared by a doctor in immigration detention if they think a detained person's health is being made worse by detention, or they might have suicidal intentions, or be victims of torture.
144. As mentioned above, I have previously told the Home Office about some of the abuse I experienced as a child at the hands of my brother and foster carer. This includes in my letter to them on 7 December 2015 and a witness statement I signed on 25 January 2016, for my immigration proceedings. As far as I am aware, the Home Office ignored my disclosures on both occasions. I also referenced the abuse in my further submissions to the Home Office on 2 March 2017. I also referenced my childhood sexual abuse in those further submissions [HOM000752/3], but felt unable to describe them explicitly for the reasons I have already mentioned.
145. In February 2017, I was feeling desperate. I had been speaking to a visitor from Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group ('GDWG') called Anne since November 2016. Anne had stood as my surety in the bail hearing in January. She offered me emotional support which I really needed. But I struggled to stay in contact with her. Although speaking with Anne was really helpful, it often involved talking about difficult issues which I found difficult to do. I struggled with communicating my emotions and would find it overwhelming at times. So if I wasn't feeling up to it, I sometimes wouldn't go to our in-person appointments. At the beginning of February, GDWG referred me to Samaritans. I think this was because they were concerned about my mental health.
146. My solicitors have explained to me an extract from my medical records [CJS007109] which shows that I was referred for a review by a mental health nurse on 17 February 2017. I missed the first two few appointments scheduled with the mental health nurse. As I explain below, I find talking about my experiences really difficult and retraumatising. I don't usually open up about them and was scared about doing so. I found the thought of it overwhelming and didn't know how to tell a nurse I wanted to end my end life. I didn't have the confidence to follow through with it, at first.

However, I eventually attended my first appointment with them on 7 March 2017. During that appointment, I disclosed to the mental health nurse about my childhood sexual abuse in the refugee camp in Mogadishu. I was scared of disclosing this and how it would make people think of me. I had only recently told my mother and sister about it for the first time, but wasn't able to go into detail with them because they were crying. The mental health nurse was the first non-family member I had ever told about this experience. I told them that I was feeling very stressed and emotional, couldn't sleep and that for the past 3 months I was hearing voices. I even said that I wanted to take my own life, but didn't know how to yet. This isn't recorded in my medical records, which doesn't surprise me. The nurse didn't take it very seriously and I wasn't given any medication, just referred to an 'art and craft class' and a 'victim awareness group'. I did not receive a Rule 35 appointment, or any other appointment to see a doctor. I continued to struggle with my mental health throughout the rest of my detention at Brook House.

147. On 13 April 2017, my medical records say that I went to healthcare with a DCO and Oscar after having been given some negative news from the Home Office, becoming angry and frustrated on the Wing. It resulted in me sustaining what they call a small graze to my arm. I can remember this day and the entry on my records is misleading and incomplete.
148. I remember receiving some sort of negative news from the Home Office, but I can't remember what it was. I was really distressed, depressed and desperate. I wanted to feel better and had previously felt a release as I cut myself. So that's what I started to do in my cell. I can't remember exactly when I started doing this at Brook House, but I had done it before. I didn't tell the staff about it. I wasn't doing it for sympathy or anything like that. I wanted to hurt myself, because it made me feel something. Like a release. I was in my cell alone and used my razor blades to cut my left forearm and wrist. I made a new cut on my wrist, but I frequently cut my left forearm. I had a long cut there, which I would split in half. I would let the top half heal, whilst I cut the bottom half. And vice versa. This meant I always had a fresh spot on my arm to cut if I needed to. The scars from these cuts are still visible on my arms today.

149. I didn't go to the officers on this occasion either. I found out a few days later from a detained person whose cell was a few down from mine, that he was the one who alerted the officers. He had walked past my cell and seen me doing this and the blood dripping from my arm. He had gone to tell the officers. I don't know what he told them, but they came to see me. I think the officers asked me what had happened when they arrived at my cell. I was vague in my response, saying something like "I just got a little cut on my arm". They didn't make any other enquiries and just took me to healthcare. When in healthcare the officers waited outside. I told the nurse I had had enough. But she just smiled, cleaned the wound and ignored me. She didn't ask me any questions whilst I was there. Not what happened or why I was bleeding. It was like she was more interested in seeming helpful to the officers, than to me.
150. Later that day, I attended Welfare who referred me back to healthcare to request a Rule 35 appointment. If Welfare hadn't referred me back to healthcare, and I hadn't followed their advice, I wouldn't have received a Rule 35 appointment. Healthcare didn't care about me. It was clear from how they treated me, even that day. I was in a bad place and so that night, after returning to my cell, I continued cutting myself.
151. On 15 April 2017, I had an appointment with Dr Oozeerally who prepare a Rule 35(3) report [CJS000848] which was sent to the Home Office. My solicitors have shown me that report, which states the following:

"He claims to have been abused when he was 6 years old in Somalia, in Mogadishu. He was abused by family friend. He does not recall details and says he is also reluctant to disclose details known. He remembers that his family and extended family escaped to a camp in Mogadishu. At night two members of his family tried to rape him. They had AK47 and [one] held his hands together whilst the other pulled his trousers down. They were disturbed and nothing else happened. He claims to have never disclosed this. He was not previously known to mental health services. He later disclosed that he almost jumped from a bridge but some friends passing by discouraged him.

He mentions that in the last 3 months, he has started hearing voices and gets very stressed and emotional. He also [has] had difficulty sleeping and is very

concerned about being deported. He appears tearful on presentation. He is not on antidepressants but remains under the care of the mental health team.

No scars or marks relating to the event. Mental health: see above.

He does not have any scars relating to the account but this is consistent with the account. He describes a traumatic event of attempted rape. I am unable to comment on prolonged detention effects or credibility of account.”

152. I do not know why the Rule 35 report says I was previously not known to mental health services, when I had been referred to a mental health nurse by healthcare, and I had disclosed the same information to them on 7 March 2017.
153. The report doesn’t accurately reflect what I told Dr Oozeerally on 15 April 2017. My appointment lasted 20-30 minutes. I showed up wearing my t-shirt, so the fresh scars on my arms from 2 days earlier were visible. I also showed him these and said I would self-harm again, but he didn’t care. I remember he said I was only self-harming because I was in detention. He said he’d seen it so many times. It was like because he saw it a lot with other people, he didn’t believe me or take me seriously. He asked me how I felt, but nothing more specific. It seemed like he already knew what he was going to write. At this stage, I briefly mentioned to him about my childhood sexual abuse, but I didn’t go into as much detail. Definitely not as much detail as I did when I spoke to the nurse on 7 March 2017. I assumed because they were all part of the same department, they would all have access to my records. So he would have known what I had already said, meaning I didn’t need to say it again – which I didn’t want to do. That was because every time I talked about my experiences, it brought them all rushing back to me. It was really difficult and retraumatising. I didn’t want to keep doing that if it wasn’t going to change anything. Given nothing changed after telling the nurse, I thought it would be the same this time. I was right. He didn’t ask me if I felt suicidal, or like self-harming. He didn’t ask me if being detained was making my health deteriorate. It was, clearly. I was normal when I arrived at Brook House, but was now cutting myself and wanted my life to end. It had broken me and I was now going crazy. As the appointment went on, I couldn’t wait for it to end. I remember leaving it feeling worse than when I went in. I also felt a strong sense of regret. Like I

shouldn't have said anything, because it made me feel rubbish and was never going to change anything. I was naïve to think otherwise.

154. I do not recall ever seeing this Rule 35 report when I was detained at Brook House. I also don't remember ever receiving a copy of the Home Office's response. However, I think the nurses at The Verne helped me get a copy when I got there. My solicitors inform me that there is a response by the Home Office dated 26 April 2017 [HOM000013] in which they accept I fit the definition of being a victim of torture and so am an Adult at Risk, with evidence meeting Level 2. Nevertheless, they refused to release me. As part of their reasoning, they say, "Although it is accepted you are an Adult at Risk, the Doctor has not indicated that a period of detention is likely to worsen your symptoms".
155. My solicitors have told me that the Inquiry's medical expert, Dr Hard, has looked at some of my records for the purposes of his initial report. In respect of the Rule 35 report prepared for me on 15 April 2017, Dr Hard states that [INQ000075/94-95 at para 5.181]:

“• In summary, it is of note that although the Home Office case worker considered that the material provided within the Rule 35 (3) report met the Level 2 Adults at Risk threshold, there was no determination by the doctor completing the report that ongoing detention was having a negative impact on D687.

• In my opinion, there was sufficient evidence within the SystmOne records that D687's mental health was deteriorating but this has not been accounted for within the Rule 35(3) report and therefore the Home Office case worker has not been able to take this into consideration. Equally, in the absence of any reference to the impact of ongoing detention on D687 by Dr Oozeerally completing the report, the case worker does not appear to have gone back to the doctor in order to request clarification on this specific point.”

156. Dr Hard also mentions [INQ000075/99 at para 5.196]:

Witness Name:

D687

Statement No:

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Exhibits:

None

“From a medical perspective, it is understandable that following a self-declaration of past traumatic experiences as referred to by D687 and with the expectation that there would be support and understanding by the healthcare team, that to have this rejected by the Home Office would be perceived negatively by the detained person and extinguish any remaining hope of being released from detention.”

157. Dr Hard’s comment above describes how I felt following my appointment with Dr Oozeerally, which was made worse when I was told about the Home Office’s response to my Rule 35 report. I felt like throughout my detention, but especially since disclosing my history of childhood sexual abuse, the Home Office never took it seriously. I think this affected how healthcare responded to me. It was like they were following the Home Office’s lead, even though they are the medical professionals.
158. I understand from my solicitors that Dr Hard has prepared a supplementary report for the Inquiry. It makes some observations about my Rule 35 appointment with Dr Oozeerally on 15 April 2017, including what was said during the appointment [INQ000112/77-82]. I have dealt with that above.

ACDT

159. My solicitors have explained to me that if any member of staff believes a detained person is at risk of suicide or self-harm they must open an ACDT Plan.
160. I have been on ACDT at Brook House and The Verne. Before Brook House, I was also on ACCT which I understand to be the equivalent process for prisons.
161. Whilst at Brook House, I self-harmed on a number of occasions. This included by refusing to eat, cutting my arms with razors and attempting to hang myself as shown in the Panorama documentary. I also told staff on multiple occasions that I was considering taking my own life.
162. On 13 April 2017, I self-harmed by cutting my arms with a razor blade. I have explained this above. I was not put on ACDT. As I have also explained, I had never told my solicitors about my self-harming with razor blades before we began preparing this statement for the Inquiry. The only reason I told them about it this time was

Witness Name: D687
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

because the video footage of me on 25 April 2017 [KENCOV1007 - V2017042500006: Clip 3] has me showing officers the scars and cuts on my arms. They asked me what I was showing the officers, which led to me telling them about this.

163. On 24 April 2017, my medical records have two entries about my attendance at Emotional Health Group therapy [CJS007111; CJS007112]. Those entries are copied below:

Entry 1

“Attended the group for the first time. Dominated the group by venting his frustration at not being released following his prison sentence and at the length of his detention. Stated several times that he had considered suicide and had begun to write a suicide note. Said that outside of the group he appeared carefree because he did not want to appear vulnerable to others. Said that the thought of his Mother’s reaction was the reason he had not yet committed suicide to date but that he was becoming increasingly frustrated at the unfairness of the system. Reported that he used the gym and classes to help maintain his health in the centre. Referred to Oscar 1.”

Entry 2

“Came to group late, this is his first group and he tended to dominate the group expressing his frustration at his situation. Stated that he had suicidal thoughts and had even begun to write a suicide note. Said that the thought of his mother’s reaction kept him from acting on his suicidal thoughts. He also stated that he used the gym and went to activities in the centre in order to help manage himself. He said he came across to other as happy go lucky in the unit because he did not want to appear vulnerable to others. Referred to Oscar 1.

Deborah Alred, Consultant Occupational Therapist”

164. I was not placed on ACDT after the Emotional Health Group therapy and do not recall any officers or healthcare coming to see me, to check how I was doing. Neither was I referred for a Rule 35 assessment.

58

Witness Name: D687
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

165. My solicitors have shown me video footage which Callum Tulley obtained but which did not get shown in the BBC Panorama documentary [KENCOV1007 - V2017042500006: Clip 3]. The footage shows me on 25 April 2017, during an incident where officers and healthcare were attending my cell mate D343 as they suspected he had taken spice. I can be heard in the background of the footage [from about 03:35]. I am then shown speaking with officers [from about 08:10].
166. Initially, I had been trying to explain to the officers and healthcare attending D343 why he had probably taken spice. The following is taken from the Inquiry's transcript of the clip [TRN0000019]:

"I don't know what he's done in there. He's got little ones and that. Fucking British and he's fucking locked up in here. You know man, this is doing my nut bruv, even me. [Inaudible]. The only difference between me and you. [Inaudible] This guy has had enough. He's got three kids, his son and the other day when they came to fucking visit him and that, and they say "daddy when are you fucking going to come home with us" you know what I mean? [inaudible] You lot are going to realize [inaudible] when one of us ends up in a body bag you are going to realize that we're serious man. We're not fucking playing, we're fucking British [inaudible]. We're not fucking mugs and that yeah. I can vouch for this guy I know him from outside yeah, he's my pal. We're fucking British, grew up in the UK. [inaudible]"

"He's had enough bruv. I know what happens with my mate. He's had enough. Whatever he took. [Inaudible] You lot need to let him out bruv, you need to release him bruv, bullshit. [inaudible] You know how long he's been detained? I can understand he's been detained one month, maybe two months, maybe three months to sort out whatever you need to sort out and that. But he's been detained over fucking 18 months. Do you think that's justifiable? I don't think that's justifiable. [inaudible] How long is he supposed to be here mate?"

167. Towards the end of the clip [from about 08:10] I am shown speaking to officers about my own experiences and how I have had enough. I now know that the main officer I

was speaking with was DCM Chris Donnelly, who was also involved in the excessive use of force on me on 13 May 2017. The following extracts are important:

D687: "I'm fucking British. You lot trying to take away my identify that's why I'm pissed off. [inaudible] I'm saying you don't need to speak to us as superiors. You lot. Okay, I'll tell you what's going to happen. You're going to find one of us in a body bag. You're going to take us in a body bag and our bloods is going to be on your watch. And you don't want that, mate, do you? Nobody wants that."

Chris Donnelly: [Inaudible]

D687: "I'm not threatening you or nothing, but I'm telling you, it's headed that way. There's only so far you can push someone into a corner. How long can one take?"

Chris Donnelly: "I know what you are saying."

D687: "You lot need to allow them let us out bruv. You've got superiors here, you need to speak to them. You say the people that you told us to look after, they've had enough. How can it be justified? It can't be justified after all this time."

Chris Donnelly: "I know what you are saying."

D687: "I'm suing the Home Office bruv. If that don't work [inaudible] gonna do that. I'm going to go about it differently. Because I've had enough bruv. It's getting boring now mate. I swear to god, bruv. Look, do you see this? The other day I fucking kicked off, why did I get this mark, because of what you lot are doing to us [inaudible]. My mate [points to D343 room], that's the fucking tip of the iceberg. [Inaudible] The next time you lot come, I guarantee [inaudible] we're going to make history. Brook House the first. I'm telling you, whichever detention we go, I guarantee you, this detention, whichever country, whichever island you take us, wherever on this map you take us, on my mother's life, yeah, I lost my fucking brother since I've been here. I can't pay my respect, my nan the same fucking thing I don't wanna share my

Witness Name:

D687

Statement No:

1

Exhibits:

None

fucking problem with everyone yeah. But what's happening, you lot doing to us, is torture, mentally. We can't take it no more, bruv. The only reason I'm hanging on is for my mum right now. I would have fucking topped myself time ago. [inaudible] Spoke to the Samaritans, the woman said to me look, just do it for your mum. I'm doing it for my mom right now. Bruv how long am I going to fucking do it for my mum? My mum came to Court a bit of time and you lot lying saying you are going to give me a ticket, this and that."

Chris Donnelly: "I'm not giving you a ticket."

D687: "It's not you, the Home Office is lying every time."

Chris Donnelly: "The Home Office?"

D687: "They come to court chatting shit saying yeah, we're going to give him this and that yeah. The same fucking story bruv. It's getting boring bruv. [Inaudible] I've had enough. I swear to God I'm not speaking about this anymore. Fuck it, man. I'm [inaudible]."

168. During the above exchange, I am obviously emotional and frustrated by everything which has happened to me. At one stage, I say, "I'm going to go about it differently. Because I've had enough bruv. It's getting boring now mate. I swear to god, bruv. Look, do you see this? The other day I fucking kicked off, why did I get this mark, because of what you lot are doing to us [inaudible]." I am pointing to my arms when I say this and I can recall it is because I had recently self-harmed by cutting my arms with razor blades. I was showing them the marks from the self-harm and saying that it was because of my ongoing immigration detention, but none of the officers reacted. The marks I was showing them were those which I gave myself on 13 April 2017, as mentioned above. Like I said above, the officers didn't care about us. They didn't even care whether we lived or died. I still have the scars on my arms from the cuts I was showing those officers.

169. My solicitors have shown me a clip [KENCOV1035 / V2017061400015] in which a detained person [D1275] has is taken spice and is having a bad reaction. One part of the clip [16.29] shows an officer called Derek Murphy saying, "I've no sympathy for

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

explain to them by British identity, it just kept coming back to the fact that I didn't have a British passport and so wasn't British.

176. As I explained above, I should have got a British passport when I was child but didn't because I was taken into care by Social Services who then failed to apply for my passport. The fact that I should have got a British passport and they were laughing at me for not having one, that made it all worse. I told them it wasn't funny, but they continued to laugh. They tried to suggest they were only playing with me, like it was a joke. That may be true for them, but the joke was at my expense. Having people laugh in your face and deny your identity, when you're in a constant fear of being deported because of that same fact; it was humiliating and distressing. It was even more degrading the way they did it then said that's not what they were doing. Like they were gaslighting me.
177. Callum asked me about my case and I explained nothing was happening. Two years in detention and I was just sitting there, no progress. I felt forgotten about. I explained that I had given up and that was why I was now smoking spice all the time. As mentioned below, I knew the risks of smoking spice – it could kill me. I was hoping it would. I referred to my depression, how there was no longer any point in trying to improve myself and I'd had enough. I referred to my cell mate D343 wanting to die a few days before and that I was feeling similarly. I said:

“Yeah, he had enough. He wanted to kill himself the other day. ...He wanted to die. He even told he wants to die [inaudible]. I know, I've told you guys this year, one of us in my [inaudible] is going to make history in this place, whether that's him, whether it's me. No matter where we go, even our [inaudible], it does not gonna make no difference. As soon as we've been detained - I even told this to managers. ... One of us is going to carry a body bag from here, and I promise on my mother's life, that is either gonna to be me or my boy. Because, bruv, how could you be detained after all this time, yeah? ... How can it be justified? You can't justify it.”

178. None of this was new. I had been saying it to staff for weeks and had been self-harming. But again, it wasn't taken seriously. I wasn't referred for a Rule 35 report and I wasn't put on ACDT.
179. In each of the instances above, I told G4S or Home Office staff about my suicidal ideation. However, none of them were taken seriously or resulted in me being placed on ACDT. My solicitors have told me about an entry for 4 May 2017 in my Home Office GCID records. It shows both Home Office and G4S staff knew about my suicidal ideation and that I wasn't on ACDT, but did nothing about it [HOM032196]. The entry states:

Home Office:

"I light of previous notes from Officer [redacted] dated 27/4/2017, I Rung the IRC for an update on [D687] case if he is in an ACDT or not.

I spoke to [redacted] deputy Manager, he stated [D687] is not in an ACDT and he is okay detained in his room as normal detainee. They do not have any concern about him.

I ask the officer (deputy manager) to update CID notes with progress of [D687] [D687] he has agreed to do that."

Brook House IRC:

"As requested by caseowner today, I can confirm that [D687] is currently not on [any] kind of self harm observations. There have been no issues with him since he made his statement regarding self harm to [redacted] (Brook House) on the 27th April."

180. On 5 May 2017 an ACDT plan was started because I was feeling suicidal and threatened to take an overdose. I remained on an open ACDT for the remainder of my detention at Brook House. I am not sure who opened the ACDT, but it was a female member of the Substance Misuse Team I told about my intention to take an overdose. According to my solicitors, Broghan Kosla-Rule has stated in an interview with the PSU that she was this person [HOM002504/1].

Witness Name: [D687]
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

181. During this period, I was really stressed and had basically given up on living. On 9 May 2017, my Home Office GCID records include a “Detention Minute” entry. It states:

“During the interview, detainee complained about his length of time here, he has been in detention since 2015. He complains that he is not held here lawfully. He complained that his mental state has deteriorated and that he is going to take his own life if released, he told me he is already on ACDT. I informed G4S staff and updated the ACDT form accordingly with what detainee said during the interview.”

182. I was already on ACDT at this stage, but I was not referred for a Rule 35(2) appointment after telling the Home Office staff that I was going to kill myself.

Use of Force

Generally

183. On several occasions detained persons would tell me that they had been beaten up by detention officers whilst in their cells away from the cameras. One detained person told me he was beaten up by officers in his cell in the middle of the night. He was from Morocco or Algeria, and he showed me the bruises around his ribs when I was with him in his cell smoking spice. This was towards the end of my time at Brook House, within the last few months.

184. Officers regularly used excessive force to control detained persons. On one occasion I saw officers grab a detained person and violently restrain him because he had thrown his breakfast around. That took place in the morning in the servery – I think on C Wing – after one of the other detained persons didn’t want to give him bread. He threw his porridge around and officers responded. The officers told him he’d be placed on report, which he didn’t care about. It made me feel like Brook House was not safe – it was scary. Most people have nothing to lose and are on edge, whilst the officers didn’t care to take care of us. I was scared of officers overreacting and killing me. Another time a detained person was having a panic attack after taking spice and instead of helping him officers violently restrained him.

185. Often I saw detention officers deliberately try to provoke and goad a detained person by swearing at them. Then when the detained person was provoked into swearing back at the officers, the officers would jump on him and violently restrain him or make a negative report to the Home Office about his behaviour.

2016 Incident in Cell

186. There was an incident, I think in the latter half of 2016, when I was verbally and physically abused by officers. It happened in my cell during bang up. As officers were locking people up at the end of the day, me and my cellmate D343 were returning to our cell. The officers were being abusive and shouting things at us like, “get behind the fucking door” and “You fucking immigrants, go back to your country, this country doesn’t want you.” However, that was fairly normal.
187. One of the officers then made a comment to D343 like, “I can’t wait to go home to see my kids tonight”. The tone he used was sarcastic and it was clear to me that he was trying to provoke D343, who had been detained for a prolonged period and in the meantime was unable to see his three children.
188. D343 was intoxicated at the time – from memory, he had drank some hooch, which is homemade alcohol. He became emotional and reacted, refusing to return to our cell. The officers pressed their radio for backup and several managers arrived – I think there were four of them. They were talking about moving him to segregation. The officers were playing good-cop bad-cop with D343, which was unpleasant to watch. They also started doing it with me. One of the officers was telling me to calm D343 down and another was telling me to stay out of it. I was confused. I tried to calm D343 down but one of the officers shouted at me not to interfere. That officer then pushed me very hard backwards into the cell and I fell backwards onto the floor.
189. When I was pushed, I was already in the cell. That meant they could use force on me without it being captured by the CCTV on the Wing landings. Whereas my cell mate was outside the cell and so in sight of the CCTV, which made the officers more hesitant to use force on him. I saw that none of the managers put their cameras on, which worried me.

Witness Name: D687
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

190. When I was pushed back into the cell, I was pushed so hard I fell backwards onto the floor. This hurt my bum, but I was full of adrenaline so I got straight back up. It was more the humiliation and powerlessness that I felt which made it worse. I felt like I was assaulted and I should have defended myself, but I couldn't react physically. I felt really intimidated. There were six of them and the CCTV wouldn't have seen me being pushed, so it would have looked like I just went for them. So all I could do was swear at them. Whilst this happened, D343 was sitting on the floor at the door of the cell with his legs crossed. The officers didn't care about him, or how he felt. They only cared about getting home at the end of their shift.
191. Even though I felt aggrieved by this incident, I just tried to brush it off. There was nothing I could do at the time and nothing I could do afterwards. How could I complain about managers, to managers? Complaints fell on deaf ears at the best of times and this would have been about their own. It would have caused me more grief and wouldn't have worked, so it wasn't worth it.
192. During this incident, I remember D343 became so emotional that he started demanding he be returned to Somalia immediately. He wanted the paperwork he needed to sign to say he would go back voluntarily. Given this meant he wouldn't be able to see his kids, it showed the state that he was in. It was difficult to watch as I had become close with D343 because of our similar upbringings and life experiences.
193. Whilst I can't remember the exact date of the incident, my solicitors have told me that the Inquiry have disclosed D343's Detention Review dated 14 December 2016 [HOM015509] and that it might suggest this incident occurred on or around 30 August 2016. That is because D343 apparently signed a form on that date, saying he would return to Somalia voluntarily. They have told me the Detention Review says:

"On 31 August 2016, an Immigration Request Form from D343 dated 30 August 2016 was received, stating that he wished to return to his country voluntarily. I responded on 6 September 2016, advising that the request could not be considered whilst an Appeal was outstanding, and that he would need to write to the IAC withdrawing the appeal. The Confirmation of Conveyance for this letter was signed and returned on 7 September 2016 advising that he did

not wish to withdraw the appeal and would wait for the hearing on 11 November 2016.”

194. There were a lot of officers present and involved in this incident and they were mostly managers. I think there were four managers in white shirts and two officers in blue shirts. I am not sure of the names of the officers. However, I described above there being two officers with ginger hair. One of them is DCO Luke Instone-Brewer. I cannot remember the other officer’s name, but he was involved in the incident and was the officer who told me to “get behind the fucking door”. He was skinny guy who had some facial hair and his appearance had a bit of a punk look about him. In terms of the managers, DCM Steve Webb was involved. I remember DCM Nathan Ring was also involved – he showed up to the cell door and saying to D343, “go back to your country, you’re wasting our time and I want to go home”. I think the other two managers involved were DCM Steve Dix and DCM Graham Purnell. Although it was a long time ago and so I cannot be sure.

Incident on 13 May 2017 – Panorama

195. On 13 May 2017, whilst I was still under the ACDT plan, I was violently restrained by detention officers whilst attempting to commit suicide. This was secretly filmed and is shown in the Panorama programme. I am the detained person referred to as ‘Paul’ at 34.25 and 38.00 minutes into the programme.

196. This incident was investigated by the Home Office’s PSU who found my complaints unsubstantiated. My solicitors have set out why the PSU’s conclusion was wrong [DPG000004/10-14], but since then the Inquiry has obtained and disclosed undercover footage from Callum Tulley showing a portion of the incident with audio. I have watched that footage and it shows that the officers whose accounts were believed over mine by the PSU, despite being themselves contradictory, lied. My solicitors have informed me that the Inquiry’s use of force expert, Mr Jon Collier, has now also prepared an initial report on the incident which, I am told by my solicitors, also criticises the officers [INQ000111/55-61; 158-159] and found that the force used on me was unnecessary and disproportionate.

197. Watching the footage of this incident was incredibly difficult. It brought me to tears again as all the emotions from that day came flooding back to me. It reminded me very clearly that what I was feeling that day wasn't just a single incident of force being used on me. It was all my trauma and experiences since childhood, which had come to the surface whilst detained at Brook House, merging with my experiences of Brook House. This combination had been getting worse and worse the longer I was in detention, but particularly since my brother's death in 2016. That was the point at which I started to give up hope. I already felt worthless because of how I had been treated at Brook House. As my mental health deteriorated, I then started to give up on life to the extent I wanted to die in a toilet on 13 May 2017.
198. I had already told G4S, Home Office and healthcare staff that this is how I felt and that I wanted to die. On 25 April 2017, only 3 weeks earlier, I had shown officers my arms where I had self-harmed and told them I couldn't take it anymore [KENC0V1007 - V2017042500006: Clip 3]. I said if there was any attempt to remove me, to another country, centre or wherever, I would take my own life and end up in a body bag. The fact that the events of 13 May 2017 occurred, showed that either I wasn't taken seriously, or they didn't care if I died. Probably both.
199. The main reasons why I hadn't tried to kill myself before 13 May 2017, was that I just hadn't had the opportunity to do it yet. Unlike my prison cell in HMP Wormwood Scrubs, there were no points in my cell at Brook House which I could hang myself from. I could have cut my wrists, but I didn't want my cell mate to find me like that. We were friends. I could have done it in the showers, either hanged or cut myself, but again I didn't want to be found by other detained people. I didn't want to leave them with that image of me in their head. I know what it's like to see some really bad things and keep reliving them, even years later. I didn't want to be the cause of that for someone else. But on 13 May 2017, an opportunity came up and I tried to take it.
200. The morning of 13 May 2017 is now a bit fuzzy in my memory, but I remember feeling tricked by the officers who took me to reception. From what I can recall, before lunchtime I was told by an officer to go down stairs because a manager wanted to speak to me. I cooperated and went down stairs to reception where the manager told me I was going to be transferred to another detention centre. I asked why I was

Witness Name:

D687

Statement No:

I

Exhibits:

None

being moved. They said they couldn't tell me why, only that the Home Office wanted me to move. I was told that if I didn't comply they would use force because I had previously refused to move.

201. Two months earlier I had been told I would be moved and I had told them I didn't want to go. That was for a few reasons. My brother had recently died, and the Home Office had refused to let me pay my respects, or to attend his funeral. For them to then try to move me further away from my family, I thought it was taking the mick out of me. I also needed to be close to my family in [DPA]. Whilst I had received very few visits until then, I thought this might change in light of my brother's death. Brook House was in [DPA] where my family lived. I thought if I moved further away, I would never see them. Finally, I wanted to stay at Brook House to receive visits from a lady called Anne of Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group. Anne had visited me at Brook House and called me as well. I found her very supportive, but struggled to stay in touch because of the barriers to communication. I wanted to see more of her, especially as I was struggling at the time. I didn't want to move away to a new centre where I knew no one. I thought it was just another move, meaning I'd be kept in detention even longer. Starting again at another centre, but not being released.
202. On this occasion on 13 May 2017 I asked again where I was going to be moved to and they eventually told me it was to a detention centre in Dorset which was a long way away. I said I didn't want to be moved because it would be further from my family in London and I didn't want to lose the visits from Anne. The officers didn't care about this, I had to move because the Home Office had decided to move me. Because of how long it has been, I can't remember if I was then accompanied back upstairs to pack my bags, or if an officer went and got my stuff from my room themselves. Either way, I was co-operating with all of this.
203. They put me in a waiting room which had a disabled toilet area attached. There was another detained person in there but he was taken away after about 5 minutes. I was then left by myself waiting for what I thought was about half an hour or more. This delay made everything worse as it gave me time to sit and think over all the events in my life which had led to this point. I felt worthless and scared. I didn't know anything about the centre where I was being taken other than it was far away. I had had enough

of it all. I felt I'd been through too much. Nothing was changing; now I was moving again and the cycle would start again. There was no sign of release. Everyone kept pushing me to the edge. But there's only so long people can be pushed to the edge, before they're pushed over it. I wanted to end my life.

204. I went into the toilet area and tried to lock the toilet door. Because it was a toilet for people with disabilities, the lock was one of the ones you have to pull up in a particular way, rather than just turning a key or fob. I thought I had locked it but in fact I hadn't lifted the handle correctly. To this day, I still regret this amateur mistake. When I got into the toilet area, I used my t-shirt to create a sort of noose so I could hang myself. There were no highpoints I could use, so I tied one end of the t-shirt around my neck and attached the other end to the support rail to the side of the toilet.
205. At this stage, I had decided what to do and was preparing to do it. I said prayers to prepare myself but just before I started to hang myself, an officer came into the toilet area. My solicitors think that officer was Jonathan Martin, who had been on reception. I can't remember exactly what was said as the adrenaline and overwhelming emotion I was feeling was too much. But I think the officer then called for help, at which stage Callum Tulley showed up. He then quickly ran off, I think to get more officers.
206. As all of the officers arrived, I was distressed and trying to keep them away from me, so I could still end my life. I cannot remember the names of all the officers involved, but my solicitors have told me they include: DD Dan Haughton; DCM Chris Donnelly; DCM Shane Farrell; DCO Jonathan Martin; and DCO Callum Tulley. I understand DCO Darren Bulled was also there at some stage, but was not involved in the use of force on me.
207. I remember DCM Donnelly and DCM Farrell from A Wing and had interactions with them both in the weeks leading up to the 13 May 2017. In particular, I had told DCM Donnelly on 25 April 2017 about my self-harm suicidal thoughts.
208. I cannot remember the exact things that I was saying when the officers showed up, but a lot of it is recorded in Callum Tulley's unbroadcast footage [V2017051300011], at least from the point he arrives. I have summarised some of those extracts:

Witness Name: D687
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

- a. I say that the only way I'm leaving Brook House is in a body bag. If officers come near me, I'll let myself go and hang myself. I had been holding on for my mum, but I can't do it anymore. I've had enough and don't want to continue living. I've finally tried to open up and talk to people and as soon as I did that, they want to move me to the other side of the country. I've been in detention for over 2 years, having been moved away from my community and alienated. I don't get any visitors in Brook House, except for GDWG, so definitely won't get any in Dorset. I've been trying to keep myself to myself, to deal with my situation. Then I tried to talk to people to say what was going on. But it all fell on deaf ears.
- b. I say that killing myself was my last resort, but no one wants to take me seriously and so I have no other option. I want to die and I want to be buried next to my brother, here in the UK.
- c. I reference some of the issues I've had in detention, many of which are included in this statement. I was getting mugged off by people, including officers. The Home Office wouldn't let me pay my respects to my nan or brother after they died. No one is hearing me and my letters go in the bin (referring to complaints and requests which I submitted but didn't receive a response to). My identity has been taken away from me. I feel as British as anyone else, but get treated awfully. Ultimately, I was normal when I came into detention, but the Government have just caused my mental health to deteriorate to the extent that I've gone nuts.

209. The officers made efforts to talk to me, but none of them got it. None of them get what it's like to be detained the way I was and to be treated as badly as me and others were. Whilst some of officers appeared calm, DCM Chris Donnelly made a comment to me – he said if I let myself go, "Then we'll wait for a minute until you pass out and then we'll cut you down". I remember that. It added to my feeling of worthlessness.

210. After what felt like only a few minutes, the manager in a red top who I now know to be called DD Dan Haughton, approached me to offer to light my cigarette. I accepted the offer of a light but I didn't want him to come near me, I could use a lighter myself.

Witness Name: D687
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

As he got closer, he lunged for my neck. Then all the officers instantly charged at me and got involved.

211. The officers pushed me face down to the ground. I couldn't tell which officer did what to me, but my solicitors have explained to me what officers were involved with restraining the different parts of my body.

- a. Someone grabbed my neck and I couldn't breathe. I believe this was Dan Haughton. He was trying to take the ligature from around my neck, but this wasn't simple. He initially got it off the railing, but it was still around my neck and as it tightened, I stopped being able to breathe. He eventually removed it from my neck, but by that stage I had him and four fully grown men holding me down on the ground with their body weight on me. So I still couldn't breathe.
- b. Someone grabbed my fingers and twisted them, placing them behind my back. My chest and face were compressed against the floor and I couldn't breathe properly. It was frightening. I'm put in handcuffs, at which point the footage shows me saying, "get off my fucking arm...look, I'm on the 'cuff" Get off". I say that because I had already been restrained and was calm. I didn't understand why they were still on top of me and prolonging the incident, during which I was in pain and struggling to breathe.
- c. It's at this point that I then feel someone putting what felt like all their body weight through my arm, which is behind my back. I think this is what I shout out about. The footage shows I shout out, "stop fucking resting on my arm...you[r] breaking my fucking arm bruv". My solicitors have explained that DCM Shane Farrell said in his PSU interview [HOM002655/2] that he was the one to put me in an "inverted wrist hold" and this involves the application of pain. But he also said in his interview I didn't shout out in pain. That's not true, as is proven by the footage. It felt like someone was sitting on my arm and back with all their weight. The pain was really intense and completely unnecessary. As I say, I had already been restrained and was in handcuffs. I think it was done just to cause me pain.

- d. In the process of all of this, I felt a very hard thump to the side of my ribs. I do not know who this might have been as I was face down during the incident.
- e. At one stage, my face is right below the toilet bowl being rubbed across the toilet floor. It was disgusting, humiliating and added to my overall distress during the situation. I can be heard in the footage saying, “My head's in the fucking toilet are you fucking taking the piss?”
212. Officers were wearing body cameras but I don't know whether they were turned on. I was told by the PSU investigator that there is no film evidence from the officers' body cameras. That is even though the use of force forms used by DD Haughton to record the incident, say that body cameras were used. My solicitors have told me he was a senior manager and that another senior manager, Michelle Brown, had said he was the “guru” when it came to body cameras [VER000221/A69]. So if it wasn't for Callum Tulley's additional unbroadcast undercover filming, the PSU's view of the incident would have been maintained and no one would have believed me about the incident.
213. I was taken into reception where I was sat on a chair with my hands handcuffed behind my back. I was seen by a female nurse while sitting in reception, still handcuffed and surrounded by officers. I understand the nurse who saw me was called Emily Parr. She was accompanied by another nurse who I recognised but whose name I do not know. I had previous dealings with both nurses which were not positive and so I had little faith in them when they showed up. Neither of the nurses seemed to have much interest in me. They didn't ask about what had happened or about any injuries I might have sustained. They definitely didn't give me a full assessment. It's been so long that I can't exactly remember the conversation, but I got frustrated with the nurses' lack of care and help, so I think I told them to “go away” in the end. I don't think I told the nurses about my bruised ribs whilst at Brook House. My body was full of adrenaline at the time, so the pain wasn't as noticeable to begin with. Maybe if they gave me a full assessment, I would have noticed the pain sooner. But it wasn't until about 1 hour into the drive to The Verne, after the adrenaline had all worn off, when I felt the pain in my ribs get bad – I told the escort officers at the time.

Witness Name: D687
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

214. About 5 or 10 minutes later I was strip searched and then put on a van. I walked on. I didn't refuse to co-operate. I was driven to the The Verne. I remember the escort officers being much nicer to me than the officers at Brook House. They spoke to me with respect, like I was a person. They helped me calm down and it was their better treatment of me that persuaded me to cooperate with them and transfer to The Verne.
215. When I got to The Verne I was seen by a nurse and I told her what had happened to me, how I had been injured, that I was in a huge amount of pain to my chest and couldn't breathe properly. She arranged for me to be seen in A&E at the local hospital. I was examined by a doctor at the hospital who told me that my ribs weren't broken but that I was badly bruised [DPG000014/61-62]. Back at The Verne I was given pain killers. My ribs were very sore and it hurt to breathe, laugh and cough for about 2-3 weeks. I also had bruises to my neck where I had tried to strangle myself – my solicitors tell me these were the only marks noted down by healthcare at Brook House. They wouldn't have seen the marks on my ribs because they didn't ask me to show them.
216. At The Verne I was seen further by health care. They paid a lot more attention to me than health care staff at Brook House. I sat down with a psychiatrist and a nurse for about an hour and they found out what I needed. I was diagnosed as having depression. I was put on anti-depressants (**Sensitive/Irrelevant**) which was later increased to 30mg/day and then replaced by **Sensitive/Irrelevant**) and I was seen regularly by counsellors and a psychiatrist of the Mental Health Team. The medication started to work and my health improved. I continued to feel very anxious and depressed but I did get better health care at The Verne than at Brook House and I felt better.
217. The detention staff at The Verne were also better. The Governor came to meet me soon after I arrived at The Verne. He told me that staff were going to treat me with respect and that he didn't want me to die. He said that in return he expected respect from me. The staff were much calmer and treated the detained persons with more dignity and respect. They took the time to get to know detained persons and I felt more respected and treated as a human being. The Verne was still difficult and I struggled with my mental health and the fact that I had been detained for so long –

Witness Name: **D687**
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

this all contributed towards my behaviour there, which was not perfect. But the overall support was much better and so it was more adequate than Brook House.

Impact of Detention

218. I'll never forget the experiences I had at Brook House. They will stay with me for the rest of my life. I was treated like an animal. Something less than human. It's left an impact on me and on my mental health which I don't think I'll ever get over. When I entered Brook House, I felt relatively normal. When I left it, I felt broken, hopeless and mad. Staff set out to make me feel worthless. They succeeded. I still feel worthless a lot of the time. I often feel like I have nothing to live for. But Brook House didn't just affect me, it affected my family and has strained the relationships I have with them.
219. The impact of Brook House has been made worse by the circumstances which I've been forced to live, since being released. I transferred out of Brook House on 13 May 2017 and was released from immigration detention at The Verne on 29 November 2017. But it's 4.5 years later and I still feel like I'm being detained; I still feel like I'm trapped by the system. Part of that has resulted from the delay by the Home Office to process my asylum claim. It was submitted on 3 November 2017 and I'm still waiting on a decision. In the meantime, I live in limbo.
220. Although I'm currently living with my family, when I was initially released from immigration detention I was sent to [DPA] to live in Section 4 accommodation. I had never lived in [DPA] and hated it there. Not only did I suffer racial abuse, but I was assaulted as well. I had no family, friends or contacts there. My whole support bubble was in [DPA] where I grew up. I was so lonely and isolated. I remember getting there and being told that I wasn't allowed to leave the accommodation for more than 2 days at a time – which meant I couldn't visit my friends and family, even if I could afford to do so, which I couldn't.
221. The Home Office imposed several conditions on my immigration bail, which I had to comply with or risk being re-detained – which was a constant fear of mine. I was made to report to the Home Office weekly, which involved a long commute from [DPA] to [DPA] reporting centre. The Home Office also said I wasn't

Witness Name: [D687]
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None

allowed to work or study. I couldn't access mainstream benefits. The only financial support I received from was given was £35 the Home Office gave me each week to stop me from being destitute – that's £5 per day for breakfast, lunch, dinner, travel and anything else I wanted to do with my life. It was awful. After everything that I have been through, being detained over 2 years and 8 months, they did this to me. I wanted to regain my dignity and control of my life. Instead, I was told where I had to live, when I had to be there and what special rules I had to follow while I was there. Not so different to detention. It was like they were setting me up to fail. All of this could be resolved if they just made a decision on my asylum claim.

222. Even though it's been really difficult, thankfully my visitor from the Verne Visitors' Group has stayed very close with me since I was released. We still speak regularly. I call her my second mum. If it wasn't for her, I'm not sure how I could have coped over the last few years, especially whilst I was in DPA

223. When I was living in DPA, my mental health kept deteriorating. I was losing it. I ended up having a mental health episode and it resulted in me being arrested. I spent 8 months held on remand. By the time my case was heard, I was told if I pleaded guilty I'd be released straight away for the time I'd already served. I did that, but then the Home Office decided they were going to keep me detained under immigration powers. This was even though the Inquiry hearings were about to start. By this stage, my mental health was desperately bad and I had been experiencing severe hallucinations. My solicitors helped me bring a judicial review claim for unlawful detention, which was successful in getting me released from immigration detention in time for the Inquiry's hearings. I was detained under immigration powers for almost 2 months.

224. As I've explained above, I have now been diagnosed with Recurrent Depressive Disorder and PTSD. I am also suspected as having developed Bipolar Affective Disorder. I live with this every day. I take medication and it helps, but I still have good and bad days. I think that's the nature of my mental illness. On the bad days, I think about ending my life. But on the good days, I am hopeful that maybe my life will take an upward turn this year. I have been referred to the Community Mental Health Team but am still waiting on an assessment. In the meantime, I have recently

started speaking with a psychologist weekly. That was arranged by Hestia, and I'm really grateful to them for all the support they've given me during this Inquiry process.

225. I don't want these things to happen to others. Lessons should be learnt. Detained persons should be treated with dignity and respect.
226. I also want to say this. Following my release and following the Panorama documentary airing in September 2017, I took part in the PSU's investigation. It was a pointless and insulting exercise which felt like a cover up. I also brought a judicial review claim challenging the Home Secretary's attempts not to hold this public inquiry into the abuse and mistreatment of me and other detained people. It seemed like the Home Office made every effort they could to delay the process, to make it more difficult for it to work or for people to remember things. However, I have been pleased to see the progress the Inquiry has made over the last year and especially at the hearings in November and December 2021. I'm now hopeful that the Inquiry can hold those who perpetrated wrongdoing accountable and get to the bottom of the systemic problems which affected Brook House, but also many other immigration detention centres. My hope is that lessons can be learned – they must be – to prevent anything like this happening to anyone else.

Statement of Truth	
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.	
I am content for this witness statement to form part of the evidence before the Brook House Inquiry and to be published on the Inquiry's website.	
Name	D687
Signature	Signature b 16, 2022 16:29 GMT
Date	16 February 2022

Witness Name: **D687**
Statement No: 1
Exhibits: None