

## **TVP 3**

### ***The Position of the Body When Found***

1. Much has been made of the apparent movement of the body. Some theorists in particular have highlighted different people's description of the body and then used these differences as fact to imply the body had been moved not once but twice.
2. In actual fact only one person in their initial account, Louise Holmes, describes the body as being in any other position other than flat on its back. Her search colleague, Paul Chapman's description of the position changed between his police statement and his oral evidence at the Inquiry.
3. A photograph was taken by the first search officers on the scene prior to the ambulance crew attaching the electrodes to the chest of Dr Kelly. The only people who had seen the body prior to this photograph being taken were Louise Holmes, Paul Chapman and De Coe.

#### **Comparison of the Accounts of Those First at Scene**

**Louise HOLMES**

Search Volunteer

##### **Police Statement**

Not timed

I saw the body of a male person. I did not go any closer than 4 feet from the body.

I saw a significant amount of blood, which was located on the left arm of this person and on his trousers. I saw that this person was *slumped against the base of the tree with his head and shoulders resting on the trunk*, his legs were stretched out straight in front of him. I thought that the left arm had been cut off because of its position and angle that I had seen it resting at. The left arm was laid out to the left of his body, it seemed to be bent backwards at a funny angle. I did not touch the body, however it is possible that my dog 'Brock' may have moved the body when it was found. The right arm of the person was positioned by the right side of the body.

##### **Hutton Inquiry Evidence**

Q. What did you see?

A. I could see a body slumped against the bottom of a tree, so I turned around and shouted to Paul to ring Control and tell them that we had found something and then went closer to just see whether there was any first aid that

I needed to administer.

Q. And how close up to the body did you go?

A. Within sort of a few feet of the body.

Q. And did you notice anything about the position of the body?

A. He was at the base of the tree with almost his head and his shoulders just slumped back against the tree.

Q. And what about his legs and arms? Where were they?

A. His legs were straight in front of him. His right arm was to the side of him. His left arm had a lot of blood on it and was bent back in a funny position.  
Q. Did you see any blood anywhere else?  
A. Just on the left arm and the left side

**Paul CHAPMAN**      Search Volunteer  
**Police Statement**

09.15am  
He was lying on his back with his feet towards me with blood covering his left arm. He was flat on the ground. He was found about 30 meters into the centre of the wood. I did not see any further details as I was too far away.

**Hutton Inquiry Evidence**

Q.        And        what        was        that?  
A. The body of a gentleman sitting up against a tree.  
Q. And can you recall what he was wearing?  
A. All I could see from the distance I got was he was wearing a dark jacket and light coloured shirt.....  
Q. Could you see anything at all?  
A. He was sitting with his back up against a tree and there was an obvious injury to his left arm.  
Q. An obvious injury to his left arm. What was that injury?  
A. In as far as it was all covered in blood.

**Dc COE**                      First Officer on Scene  
**Police Statement**

09.40am  
Mr Paul Chapman a volunteer search person, I went to Harrow Down Hill, Longworth where a Mr Chapman took me into a wooded area for about approximately 75 yards where I was shown the body of a male person who *was lying on his back*. I could see that his left wrist had blood on it. Close to the wrist was a small knife similar to a pruning knife together with a wrist watch.

**Hutton Inquiry Evidence**

Q. And how was the body positioned?  
A. It was laying on its back -- the body was laying on its back by a large tree, the head towards the trunk of the tree.

**Vanessa HUNT**

Paramedic

**Police Statement**

09.55am (at scene)

This body was male, white, with a beard. He was *on his back feet towards me*, fully clothed.....

The body position was as follows; *on his back, head turned to the left, left arm layed at the left with right arm bent at the elbow, with the palm onto the right side of his chest. Both legs were outstretched.*

**Hutton Inquiry Evidence**

Q. And when you got into the wooded area, what did you see?

A. There was a male on his back, feet towards us.

Q. Yes.

A. And no obvious signs of life.

**David BARTLETT**

Paramedic

**Police Statement**

09.55am (at scene)

to a male body *lying on his back* on the ground

His left arm was placed out to his left palm up and I saw what appeared to be congealed blood on the left wrist. His right arm was bent up across his chest. On the ground next to the left arm I saw a watch and an open penknife and an empty water bottle.

**Hutton Inquiry Evidence**

Q. What did you then come across?

A. They led us up to where the body was laid, feet facing us, laid on its back, left arm out to one side (indicates) and the right arm across the chest.

Q. What about the hands? Did you notice anything about the position of the hands?

A. It was slightly wrist up, more wrist up than down.

Q. What about the right arm?

A. That was across the chest, palm down.

**Pc FRANKLIN**

Police Search Advisor

**Police Statement**

10.07am

I attended the scene and confirmed that the body could be that of the missing person. Paramedics with us pronounced life extinct of this male at 1007 hours the same day. All persons left the scene and PC SAWYER and I noted that the deceased had an apparent cut to his left arm, his wristwatch and a knife were lying close to the left arm, also at the scene was a bottle of water.

**Hutton Inquiry Evidence**

A. We walked between 50 and 70 metres into the wood up a slight gradient, and in a clearing at the base of a tree was the body of a white male.

Q. Do you recall what was being worn?

A. I believe he had a blue jacket on, a white coloured shirt and blue denim jeans.

Q. And what was his position?

A. He was lying on his back with his right hand to his side and his left hand was sort of inverted with the palm facing down (Indicates), facing up on his back.

**Pc SAWYER**

Police Search Advisor

**Police Statement**

10.07am

I saw the body of a male person with a white beard, jeans and a light striped shirt with injuries to his left wrist.

**Hutton Inquiry Evidence**

As we crested the slight rise, I saw the body lying at the base of a tree.

Q. Before the paramedics approached Dr Kelly's body, can you remember what position it was in?

A. Lying on its back with its head at the base of a tree, a large tree. The head was tilted to the left. The right arm was by the side. The left arm was palm down. There was a large amount of blood on the back of the left arm. There was a watch and a curved knife by that wrist.

**Nick HUNT**

Pathologist

**Police Statement**

12.35pm

The body was that of a middle-aged, Caucasian man appearing the stated age. He was *lying on his back with his head towards his left shoulder*. His left, upper arm was in a line with the shoulder, with his elbow flexed, and his left hand pointing down towards his feet. His right upper arm lay at his side with the right elbow flexed and the right fist clenched over the right chest area. His legs were extended out before him with the left hip externally rotated. The right hip was slightly internally rotated.

**Hutton Inquiry Evidence**

He was lying on his back fully clothed with his boots on. His left arm was towards his side and his right arm was over his chest area.

**MR KNOX:** Could you describe the position of the body at the scene?

**A.** Yes, certainly. He was laying on his back near a tree. The left arm was extended out from the body slightly, closer to shoulder level, his right arm was laying across his chest area and his legs were extended out straight in front of him.

**Q.** I take it from what you just said he was laying on his back?

**A.** He was, yes.

## COMMENT

- i. The position of the body is consistently described by those who saw it in situ as ***"lying on his back"***. The initial exception to this was Louise HOLMES.
- ii. During his evidence to the Hutton Inquiry, her search partner, Paul Chapman, changes the description from ***"he was flat on the ground"*** which he gave in his police statement and says, ***"He was sitting with his back up against a tree"***.
- iii. Louise HOLMES also repeats the fact that the head and shoulder appeared to be resting against the tree in her oral evidence.
- iv. As previously stated in this report, it is well known that witnesses to the same event often provide markedly different descriptions. In this case the allegation implies that Dc Coe moved the body from a sitting position as initially described by one of the searchers to a laying position as described by the ambulance crew and everyone else.
- v. The evidence of the scientists do not support this (ie flow direction of the vomit on his face as can be seen on the photographs).
- vi. Dr Hunt reports, ***"There is no evidence from the post mortem or my observations at the scene to indicate that the deceased had been dragged or otherwise transported to the location at which his body was found"***.
- vii. Roy Green's scene visit assists further; ***"In my opinion the deceased appeared to have received his injuries where he was found.....No large downward drips of blood were seen on the lower clothing of the deceased, there did not appear to be blood on the soles of the boots and there were no obvious areas of blood staining on the ground beneath the body. This all tends to support the observation that Dr Kelly received his injuries where he was found."***
- viii. If Dc Coe had, for whatever reason, decided to slide the body down into a laying position I suspect the Barbour jacket in particular would have been extremely difficult to arrange in to the position in the photographs.
- ix. Finally, common sense must find its place in this investigation. What possible purpose, in furtherance of any conspiracy theories, would Dc Coe have in moving the body, particularly after it had already been found by civilian searchers?