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Form CJU.11

**STATES OF JERSEY POLICE
WITNESS STATEMENT**

Article 9 Criminal Justice (Evidence and Procedure) (Jersey) Law 1998

MF Ref.

Statement of: Stewart John GULL

Place statement taken:	Rouge Bouillon Police Station	Date: 16/2/12	Time commenced:	Time completed:
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Age if under 18: 0/18 (if over 18, insert 'over 18'). Occupation: Police Officer

"This statement consisting of page(s), each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true."

Signed:**Date:** 16/2/12

In the case of witnesses who produce exhibits which have been created or received in the course of a trade, business or profession or other occupation, i.e. computer printouts or copy bank records, the witness statement MUST contain the following endorsement:

"I am employed as at As such, part of my responsibilities includes making witness statements on behalf of I do so from my own knowledge and experience and from information obtained by me from the business records of . These records may be either paper based or computer based, which have been subsequently printed onto paper.

These records, for the purposes of Article 65 of the Police Procedures and Criminal Evidence (Jersey) Law, 2002, form part of the records related to and were compiled at every stage by staff members acting under a duty in the ordinary course of that every day trade or business from information supplied by persons, whether acting under a duty or not, who had or may reasonably be supposed to have had, personal knowledge of the matters dealt with in the information and they cannot reasonably be expected (having regard to the time which has elapsed since they supplied the information and to all the circumstances) to have any recollection of the matters dealt with in the information supplied."

Signed:**Date:** 16/2/12

Paragraphs must be numbered and each page signed.

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (*Supply witness details on rear*)

1. I am Stewart John GULL, Detective Superintendent, Head of Crime Services for the States of Jersey Police, since July 2010 following my transfer from the Suffolk Constabulary UK. I joined the Police Service in 1981 and have seen the continuous Police Service since that time. I have served in every rank in both Uniform and CID up to and including the rank of Assistant Chief Constable. I have been a Senior Investigating Officer since 1998 having qualified as a Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) at Bramshill between April and May of that year. Since that time I have lead a number and range of major crime enquiries including, kidnap, stranger rape and

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homicide investigations. These include the murder of 6 victims in the same home on the same afternoon in Jersey in August 2011.

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2. As a Senior Investigating Officer for complex, serious and major crime enquiries inevitably brings you into contact with the media. In particular at the start and conclusion of an investigation. The time of contact almost exclusively has included press conferences and subsequent one to one interviews with either media representatives in attendance, at press conferences and or subsequently over the telephone.
3. In December 2006, as the Suffolk Constabulary's Detective Chief Superintendent and Head of Crime Management, I had direct strategic involvement in the investigation subsequently known as Operation Sumac, involving the abduction and murder of five young women. This investigation actually commenced at the end of October 2006, following the report of a missing person enquiry in respect of the first victim and at that early stage I assumed responsibility for appointing a Detective Chief Inspector to lead investigations into the disappearance of that young female. Some two weeks later in mid November 2006, the second victim was also reported missing and I again appointed a second Detective Chief Inspector as a Senior Investigating Officer to lead enquiries into the disappearance of that young female. On 2nd December 2006, the first of the five victims were found murdered. Subsequent victims were found on the 8th and 10th with victims four and five being found on Tuesday 12th December 2006. I appointed individual Senior Investigating Officers for each of the five murder victims and I assumed the strategic role week commencing the 11th December 2006, as Officer in Overall Command or OIOC. A position and term widely recognised by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) as a role and function required to be undertaken in a linked series of major crime enquiries such as this.
4. The media played an important role in this investigation as it does with any major crime enquiry. The media provides for an excellent medium and platform in order to deliver a range of messages to the widest possible audience which commonly include appeals for information, in addition to prevention and reassurance messages.
5. The media strategy for Operation Sumac is included at Appendix A and was drafted by the then corporate communications manager on my behalf as the officer in overall command of the investigation.
6. The goal of the media strategy as with other strategies set as part of the Operation Sumac investigation, was to secure information and or evidence that would lead to the identification, arrest, charge and conviction of the offender or offenders in this case. In addition the media strategy also sought to provide for both reassurance communication and simple preventative measures that members of the community could consider at that particular time and subsequently 48 hours later victims four and five.
7. On the whole the media strategy was deemed to be successful. From the outset of the investigation following the disappearance of the first and second victims, the Suffolk Constabulary adopted a very open and proactive style of media engagement in order to try and trace both young women. This continued despite the not insignificant challenges with the discovery of all five women during a ten day period between 2nd and 12th December 2006. The level of interest shown by not only the local and regional media but also national and international media was unprecedented week commencing 11th December 2006 following the discovery of a previously unreported missing young female who was found murdered on 10th December 2006- and subsequently victims four and five found 48 hours

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later on 12th December. Along with other aspects of the investigation, the media strategy was subsequently subject to independent review at both strategic and tactical level by the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA), which was subsequently published in formal debrief reports. Despite

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the significant challenges faced by the Suffolk Constabulary and myself as the main talking head, we did not seek to deviate from our force policy but through mutual aid we stuck to tried and tested methods and whilst these required significant escalation in terms of resourcing, served both the Constabulary, the community and the media well. In fact at the time and subsequently the Suffolk Constabulary has been praised by the media on the whole in respect of how it managed its external communications strategy.

8. In addition to the role of Officer in Overall Command (OIOC) I was also designated as the talking head for the investigation. Each day between Monday 11th December 2006 and Thursday 21st December 2006, I had significant daily contact with the media. This centred around a regular 11am daily briefing with all members of the media. Followed by questions from the floor and then one to one interviews. These sessions often lasted between two and four hours on a daily basis. In addition there were also one to one organised media interviews throughout the course of the day including key times at breakfast, tea time and late at night.
9. Direction and control of the media with the Police was managed by the corporate communications section via the force press office.
10. As indicated above, the media were briefed daily with the main media briefing starting at 11am and often ran until 13:00-14:00. In addition, further media interviews were conducted at key times throughout the course of each day.
11. Where possible ad hoc enquiries from the media were dealt with through the Press Office.
12. As part of our media liaison response, the press office set up a telephone bureau which was dedicated to dealing with enquiries from the local, national and international media. Each member of staff in the telephone bureau was provided with a set of log sheets, on which they recorded the following details:
 - time of request;
 - name and contact details of journalist;
 - details of request;
 - response to request; and
 - time of response.

The log sheets have not been converted to electronic files but are securely stored at Suffolk Constabulary Headquarters, Martlesham Heath.

These sheets record the bulk of information shared with journalists, along with our press statements issued during the course of the investigation, which I have also submitted to this enquiry.

Of course, I conducted numerous radio/television interviews following press conferences during the investigation. Unfortunately, the majority of these were not recorded due to the absence of multi-channel recording/monitoring equipment in the press office.

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13. Suffolk Constabulary's press office played a crucial role in handling the media, by implementing its major incident media plan. By following this plan, the press team was able to bring in additional communications officers from neighbouring police forces and local authorities to create a team with sufficient staff to deal with the demands of the local, national and international media during the height of the investigation. The plan also governed how the news team structured itself to deliver a media liaison service, which at its height required staffing around the clock.

In terms of briefing the media, I undertook this role – and was the main talking head at press conferences/interview facilities, using statements prepared by the press office.

I believe the media's attitude towards the press office was positive because they quickly brought in resources and created a structure which allowed them to deal effectively with a huge volume of media enquiries – and set up regular media facilities, held at least once a day, which gave reporters frequent interview opportunities with me.

Because queries were being dealt with in a timely manner and we were holding such regular interview opportunities with me, the media were happy to channel all their requests through the press office.

14. I am not aware of any leaks or unauthorised disclosures to the media originating from Suffolk Constabulary.
15. There wasn't any "off the record" briefing, as far as I am aware. When the national and international media were covering the story, I was spending well over five hours every day conducting "on the record" press briefings and interviews. Because this was an extremely fast-moving enquiry, and because we were providing the media with such regular updates on the progress of our investigation, I didn't feel there was any need to engage in "off-the-record" communications.
16. Neither myself or to the best of my knowledge did other individuals involved with this investigation provide the media with off the record briefings.
17. There was not a need to record off the record briefing details as none took place during the course of this investigation to the best of my knowledge.
18. Throughout the course of my service whilst I am familiar with the term off the record briefings with the media, I can not recall an occasion where I have directly felt the need to brief the media within this context. My understanding of the term off the record is just that, it provides for an opportunity to brief the media in respect of matters that are not intended for reporting purposes but simply by way of guidance and direction. In terms of the media's interpretation of off the record briefings, I do accept there maybe circumstances for these type of briefings to be misinterpreted.
19. As no off the record briefing took place to the best of my knowledge throughout the course of Operation Sumac, there was no opportunity to actually test the media in respect of honouring this type of briefing.

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20. During the course of this investigation to the best of my knowledge neither myself or any other individual engaged in the investigation provided information to the media which was provided within a confidential context.
21. In respect of embargoed information provided to the media, my experience has almost exclusively been a positive one and that the media have abided by an embargo request. On only one occasion to the best of my knowledge has an embargo been breached and that has occurred since my time as the Head of Crime Services in the States of Jersey Police.
22. In respect of Operation Sumac, I am aware of one occasion where one particular media outlet did secure quite sensitive audio recorded information from one of only two suspects in respect of this investigation.
23. To the best of my knowledge this was withheld from the public in the interests of justice and public interest.
24. In my capacity as a Senior Investigating Officer, on the whole I would describe my relationship with the media both locally and nationally as a positive one. Inevitably due to different agendas there are occasionally frustrations I'm sure on both parts but from my perspective I have always sought to adopt as far as possible a very open style of media engagement and have sought to encourage the same approach by other Police Officer's working for me and to me.
25. During the course of Operation Sumac and the investigation into the murder of these five young women, I did not establish any favouritism or unbalanced favour or support to any one media organisation as opposed to any other. We were minded of the need to provide, despite the presence of significant national and international media presence, ongoing support to local media organisations and representatives because these were the people that we would have to continue to work with and support, once the high profile nature of the investigation had returned to some form or normality.

In terms of any changes, as the enquiry may be aware, both the Chief Constable of the Suffolk Constabulary at the time of the investigation and as I recall and understand the Attorney General, both had to issue repeated warnings to the media about responsible reporting. There were at times somewhat I considered to be unhelpful, unjustified and unbalanced media reporting which at best was misleading and at worst caused further anxiety and worry within the local community. Due to the level and style of media reporting this was subject to legal challenge pre-trial by the defence team in respect of Steven Wright's ability to secure a fair trial.

In addition to the media strategy for Operation Sumac, I also attach the current Suffolk Constabulary media policy dated 2004 and last reviewed in 2010. In addition I am also providing the enquiry with some forty individual press releases issued between 30th October 2006 and 21st December 2006.

Stewart J Gull QPM
 Detective Superintendent
 Head of Crime Services
 States of Jersey Police

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