

Complete If Req'd	GSC Class:	Reason:
	Handling Conditions:	

MG11

Occurrence Ref:

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9

URN

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Statement of: x0184 DCI Tony HOPKINS

Age if under 18: Over 18 *(if over 18 insert 'over 18')*

Occupation: Police Officer, x0184

This statement (consisting of one 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.

I am the Detective Chief Inspector for the Northamptonshire Police Force Intelligence Bureau.

On Friday 23rd March 2019 I was made aware of a statement that was completed by a member of my team, Amanda Batchelor in which she stated she was unable to find any record that Don HALE was interviewed by Northants officers into a matter involving Cyril SMITH.

Later that evening I was made aware that Don HALE had provided information suggesting he was spoken to by our DS Gallagher.

On Saturday 24th March 2019 I was able to speak to DS Gallagher who confirmed that in 2015 she was deployed in a covert manner to speak with Don HALE. This was not recorded on our intelligence systems as per a decision by the Senior Management in Northants Police at that time, hence, why my own team were not aware of this information.

I have read the BBC News article (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-33688479>) and would agree that is accurate to my understanding of Operation Florence, and what was carried out by our investigators.

I can only state that this response was not made in our original submission (Statement from Amanda Bachelor) as there was no record on our intelligence system, and it was retained in our Cold Case Team who were not contacted at the time to see if they had been involved in this enquiry. Due to changes in Senior Management the knowledge of our involvement had not been picked up on.

Signature:..... **DPA**

Date: 25th March 2019

Signature: **DPA** Signature witnessed by: