

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: LAMBERT, COLIN WILLIAM

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18)

Occupation: HOLLYWELL NORTH WALES

This statement (consisting of 7 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.

Signature: C LAMBERT

Date: 06/07/2015

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

I am Colin William LAMBERT and I reside at the address overleaf.

Further to my original statement I would like to add the following:-

I have stated that I first met Martin DIGAN in 2000 when he attended the Parliamentary Offices which at that time were situated at 45 York Street in Heywood, Rochdale. When I met him I was in company with Jim DOBBIN. My title at that time was Parliamentary Administrator and Jim was the Labour MP for Heywood and Middleton. Mr DIGAN handed to us a file of papers and from memory I would estimate that it contained between 10 – 15 pages, it certainly could be described as a "dossier". As stated we occupied premises at 45 York Street, Heywood which was a house and had been a dentists in the past. I Occupied a room upstairs as my office whilst Jim had the ground floor front room as his office. When Jim and I met Clients we usually conducted the interviews downstairs. I remember if Jim or I copied the file but at that time the photocopier was downstairs where the general office was and so it is possible that Jim photocopied the papers. If one of us was talking the other would photocopy anything that needed doing.

As far as I can remember Martin DIGAN took away his original bundle of papers, Jim and I did read some of the papers and as I have previously stated I do recall mention of a health report which I

Signature: C Lambert
2016

Signature witnessed by:

subsequently now believe to be the Phil SHEPHERD report based on the fact that it talked about HIV. At that time we never had the full report but I do recall that Martin DIGANS papers mentioned HIV.

Following our conversation Martin DIGAN left the Office and Jim decided to contact the Police. I know that Jim spoke to a Senior Officer at Greater Manchester Police and as a result of that conversation Detective Superintendent Bob HUNTBACH came to see us. Mr HUNTBACH took away the copies that we had made and as far as I can remember we did not retain a copy at our office. The papers that Martin DIGAN left with us would have been securely locked away and not left on a desk.

It would be approximately 4-5 days later that Mr HUNTBACH informed that he had viewed the papers and as there was nothing new that no further investigation would take place. I am unsure if he returned the papers but they could well have been returned to Jim without my knowledge. If they were returned then either Jim or I would have placed a note on them.

Working within the Office at that time would have been myself, Alex GREY(Deceased) who was a co-ordinator and excellent mathematician and Pat DOBBIN who was not only's Jim's wife but took on the role of personal assistant/secretary and worked in his London Office. Pat would deal with his appointments there and I would do likewise in the local office. Jim and I had a great working relationship and got on really well. The relationship was open and I did not keep anything from Jim and as far as I am aware he did likewise.

I have no knowledge and cannot recall anyone threatening to attend the offices and assault Jim, if this had occurred I would have expected him to tell me because he would have had a duty of care to myself and Alan GODSON who also worked in the parliamentary office on Monday – Thursday inclusive. Also the Office was covered by security cameras and would have captured anyone entering the building. Also at that time Jim had access to a Close Protection Officer from GMP and he did a full survey for us. There was a telephone number and letter on a notice board within the office for liason purposes.

Following Constituency Labour Party meetings it was not uncommon for party members to meet at Veenas Restaurant which is situated in Heywood. This was across the road from the Community Rooms at Heywood Market where the CLP were held. A Labour Party member Farooq AHMED had an interest in the Restaurant. Some members would just have a drink others would have a curry. I have been there

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