

Party: GMP
Witness: Alan BOARDMAN
Number: First Statement
Exhibit: -
Date: 5 February, 2002

IN THE MATTER OF
THE SHIPMAN INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ALAN BOARDMAN

- 1 I am retired Detective Chief Superintendent Alan Boardman, formerly of the Greater Manchester Police. In February 2000 I was the head of the Investigative Support Branch
- 2 In early February 2000 following the conviction of Harold Frederick Shipman and with the knowledge that a Government ordered inquiry had been announced, Assistant Chief Constable Crime Operations, Vincent Sweeney, called a meeting between the Senior Investigating Officer, Detective Chief Superintendent (then Detective Superintendent) Postles, and myself to discuss the forthcoming Government Inquiry.
- 3 Following the meeting ACC Sweeney produced a set of instructions which he forwarded to me for implementation.
- 4 On Monday 21st February 2000, I directed Detective Superintendent Peter Ellis (now retired), on behalf Mr. Sweeney, to prepare a written narrative of the initial police investigation into the allegations made against Harold Shipman. I emphasised that his task was not an enquiry into the initial investigation, but a collation of facts in 'story book' format to inform any future Inquiry members.
- 5 I agreed with Detective Superintendent Ellis that only police officers would be interviewed to assist in preparing the narrative.
- 6 At 08.50 hours on Tuesday 4th April 2000, I accompanied Detective Superintendent Ellis when he interviewed Chief Superintendent David Sykes, the 'G' Ashton under Lyne Divisional Commander, who had instigated the initial enquiry. My sole reason

for accompanying him on this occasion was that Mr Sykes was of Senior rank to Superintendent Ellis and protocol demanded that an officer of at least equal rank to the officer interviewed should be present.

7 When Detective Superintendent Ellis completed his report, he forwarded it to me and I checked it for compliance with Mr Sweeney's original instruction, prior to forwarding it to Mr Sweeney for his information and action as appropriate.

8 This witness statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

9 I have no objections to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence of the Inquiry. I would be pleased to give oral evidence to the Inquiry if requested to do so.

Signed A. Boardman

Name Alan Boardman

Date 5 February 2002