

Witness Statement

Continuation of Statement of MARK

The briefing was very concise. Each vehicle had a specific role. [redacted] explained the plan. [redacted] had detailed notes and maps that he referred to. The vehicles would leave the school in the early hours of Monday morning and then via separate routes make their way to a rendezvous point. From there the vehicles would drive in convoy to the back gates of Ratcliff one Sour power station, breach security and gain access to various points of the power station where activists would disembark with equipment in an attempt to disrupt the operation of the power station. The convoy was made up of the following teams. First vehicle the orange team was to be a mini bus of people that would gain access to the back gate and then re secure it once the vehicles had all driven through. This team would have access to cutting equipment to deal with any locks that they may encounter. It was clear to me at this point that despite my clear instructions and despite taking as minor role as my persona would allow, it was going to be extremely difficult to avoid entering the power station if this action were to take place. The green team were to be conveyed in the first 7 and half truck. The green team were the climbing team. Their role was to gain access to the chimney by cutting through a door; they would then re secure and hold the door while the climbing team scaled the inside of the chimney via the maintenance ladders.

My role was explained as the driver of the black team. [redacted] was to be my navigator. The black team were the group of people whose task it was to disrupt the conveyor belts of coal. [redacted] showed us a number of lock on devices which were twin lined steel tubes set in to fire extinguisher tubes filled with concrete. These were to be transported in my vehicle.

At about 7.30pm we were all driven by [redacted] in the Bristol hire mini bus along the routes that each vehicle would take to get to the holding point. [redacted] described the routes from notes that he had. He was very specific about how long the route would take and why.

The holding point for the convoy to meet and form up at was a transport café on Clifton Lane by the roundabout of the A52 and A453.

We then drove on to Ratcliffe on Sour power station to look at the turn off on A453 that leads to the back gate. Parked at the back gate we clearly saw a police car parked by a security vehicle. We also saw two further police cars parked on the A453 either side of the power station. These observations gave cause for concern amongst the people on the minibus.

We returned to the Iona school to discuss the situation. [redacted] showed to us some aerial photography of the power station to highlight the different features and where the vehicles were to gain access and subsequently park. They were of exceptional quality. When I asked [redacted] how he got them he said that I do not want to know, but did say that the photographs were a matter of only weeks old. I also saw in the school a large stock of food and water, many new sleeping bags, a collection of climbing equipment which Paul Morozzo asked me to look through and assess when I had the opportunity.

I saw a 7 and half ton truck parked in the car park it was a hire vehicle from B & B hire in Stratford. Inside this vehicle I saw that some cutting equipment including a petrol powered disc saw, bolt cutters, angle grinders, sledge hammers, paper suits and builders helmets and about 4 pieces of metal Harris fencing, the type you often see surrounding building sites.

It was decided collectively that James [redacted] and I would take a taxi to the East Midlands airport on the Sunday morning via the A453 to assess the police activity. I left the school with [redacted].

On Sunday 12th April 2009 at 8.30 am [redacted] and I took a taxi as previously described. There was no police activity. We returned to Iona school for an 11am meeting. We drove to the school in the truck that I had hired. We reported our observations. The fact that there were now no police cars in the vicinity did again raise some concern, however [redacted] did point out that Bristol City had been playing Nottingham Forest the day before and that the police due to the hooligan history of this fixture may have been patrolling routes in and out of Nottingham accordingly.

Signature: Mark

Signature Witnessed by: _____