

Made on Behalf of:	Defendant
Surname and Initials:	J Beattie
Statement Number:	First
Initials and Number of Exhibits:	JB1-5
Date Statement Made:	30 November 2017

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION**

CLAIM NO: HC-2016-002849

B E T W E E N:

SIR CLIFF RICHARD, OBE

Claimant

AND

(1) THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

(2) THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

Defendants

WITNESS STATEMENT OF JOANNE BEATTIE

I, **Joanne Beattie** care of South Yorkshire Police, Force Headquarters, Carbrook House, 5 Carbrook Hall Road, Sheffield, S9 2EH **will say as follows:**

1. I make this statement on behalf of the Second Defendant. Save where otherwise stated I make this statement from matters within my own knowledge which are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. I currently work for Sheffield Hallam University as a media and public relations manager. Between May 2014 and January 2016 I worked for South Yorkshire Police ("SYP") as a senior media relations officer. Prior to working for SYP I spent about 5 years working for Derbyshire Constabulary as a media relations officer. After leaving university I worked as a reporter for the Barnsley Chronicle for 2 years.
3. Although I started working for SYP in May 2014 shortly after I started I took annual leave because I was getting married and I did not return to work until mid June 2014. My maiden name is Wright and I did not immediately take my married name when I returned to work.
4. In early July 2014 I was called into Carrie Goodwin's office where Carrie briefed me that SYP were conducting an investigation into Sir Cliff

Richard and brief details of the allegation against him. There were no actions for me arising from this briefing.

5. A short time later Carrie briefed me again and explained that a BBC journalist, Dan Johnson, was aware of the investigation into Sir Cliff Richard. I cannot remember if Carrie told me that she was going to meet with Dan Johnson or had already met with him. I was also told that there was going to be a search of Sir Cliff Richard's property but there was an issue with his address so there was going to be a delay before the search took place. Again, there were no actions for me from the briefing, which made sense because it appeared that things were changing in the investigation, but I assumed that there might be in the future due to the BBC's involvement.
6. A few weeks later I was told that the correct address had been identified and I was given some actions to complete ahead of the search. Sir Cliff Richard's property was within Thames Valley Police's ("TVP") area of operation so I was asked to liaise with TVP's media team a few days before the operation to brief them.
7. Prior to contacting the TVP media team I was aware that they had been briefed about the search by their officers. On 12 August 2014 I emailed Michelle Campbell at Thames Valley Police media team to set up a call. We exchanged a few emails as we kept missing each other. These emails are exhibited to this witness statement as "**Exhibit JB1**". Eventually I spoke to someone from the TVP media team and my recollection of the conversation is that we discussed the search warrant, I explained that the BBC were aware of the search and would be at the property and that we would be sending a press officer down. I thought that I had made all of this clear but I am aware that on the day of the search TVP said that they had not been made aware that the BBC would be at the property.
8. Another action that I was asked by Carrie to complete was to prepare a statement which SYP would provide to the media about the search. Carrie told me that Matt Fenwick had agreed to read the statement to the media outside SYP headquarters on the day of the search. The statement I drafted was intended to be bland and did not name Sir Cliff Richard. I recall that Carrie and Matt approved the statement.

9. On 12 August 2014 I emailed Matt Fenwick and Rob Platts, the officer in charge of the investigation, to enquire about whether Rob might be prepared to read the statement at the location of the search warrant. I thought it was important to deal with this issue because once the story was broken by the BBC other media might come down to the location and ask for a comment from SYP. My suggestion was not picked up on and did not go any further. My email to Matt and Rob is exhibited to this statement as **"Exhibit JB2"**

10. The other action I was given was to call Dan Johnson the day before the search warrant was due to be executed to let him know about it. I was told to let him know simply that the search would be taking place the following day and the general location. Shortly before 4.30pm on 13 August 2014 I called Dan Johnson and told him that the search would be carried out the following morning in Berkshire. Dan reacted angrily and I recall that he swore at me or said something like, *"you've screwed me over here."* He then asked me how he would know where the location was and I said to him that he could Google the property and that it was easy to find. He said that he could not get online at the time and so I emailed him a link to an article in the London Evening Standard, which I had found on the internet. This showed the development where Sir Cliff Richard's flat was. This was not something I was told to do it just came out of the conversation with Dan. We exchanged a few emails late that night. He asked me for Lesley Card's number and I gave it to him. He was also asking to confirm some details about the allegations such as the date and the age of the victim. I didn't really engage with him because it was late. He seemed apologetic about the way he had spoken to me before. It hadn't really bothered me though. The emails I exchanged with Dan Johnson on 13 August 2014 are exhibited to this statement as **"Exhibit JB3"**

11. On the day of the search I was at SYP headquarters. I recall sending Dan Johnson a copy of the statement I had prepared. My email to him is exhibited to this witness statement as **"Exhibit JB4"**. After I had sent the statement to Dan Johnson the statement was amended to reflect the fact that the investigation was of one allegation. The original draft had referred to 'allegations'. Matt Fenwick emailed me at 12.44 to ask about this as it

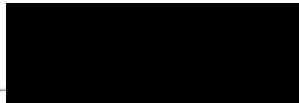
had been raised by Sir Cliff Richard's lawyers. I confirmed that the statement had been amended.

12. I was aware either from speaking to Lesley directly or from Carrie that she had not stayed outside the property as had originally been planned but that she had gone on to the site with the officers. This was because the property was so far from the front gate. When the TVP media team became aware of the media coverage was likely to be bigger than they had expected they decided to send their own press officer to the location. I was emailed by Michelle Campbell who asked to let Lesley know. I don't recall discussing this with Carrie because I thought it was TVP's call to send a press officer. These emails are exhibited to my statement as **"Exhibit JB5"**
13. I recall that Ed Thomas from the BBC came down to record Matt Fenwick reading out the statement I had prepared. Matt also read the statement out for other media later in the day once the BBC had broken the story.
14. After the search I was involved in dealing with the media enquiries about the search and the investigation. I recall speaking to Dan Johnson after the search. Our conversation was professional and I treated him like any other journalist. It was not uncommon to have difficult conversations with journalists and then have to deal with them again.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in the Witness Statement are true.

Signed:



Dated:

30/11/17

Name:

JOANNE BEATTIE