

Witness Statement

Falldershire Constabulary

Statement of: Sandra Ashton

Occupation: Police Constable

This statement 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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated: **Tuesday 11 February 2020**

Signature:  _____

I am a Police Constable in Falldershire Constabulary.

At approximately 10.20am on **11 February 2020** I was on duty in the **Lymmvalle** area of **Chadborough**. At this time I was driving back to the police station in a marked patrol car when I was flagged down by the driver of a Black Saab 9-3 car who got out of his vehicle and approached me at the kerbside.

The male driver (who I now know to be Mr Neale Anderson) explained to me that he was concerned for his father's welfare. He had had a prior arrangement with his father to meet him at 10am to take him to visit his late wife's grave at the crematorium. He stated that he had turned up to the house as planned, only to find his father not answering the door. He also said that the upstairs blinds were not drawn, which was very out of character for his father. He explained that he had tried to gain entry via the rear of the property, but had not been able to do this and so he was concerned. Thinking that this situation might turn out to be a sudden death, I immediately informed the control room.

I then followed the man's Saab 9-3 vehicle to **24 Abigail Crescent in Chadborough**. I parked at the front of the property on the road and Mr Anderson parked on the drive. As we arrived at the house, my colleague PC Quayte joined us, also in a marked patrol car.

I asked Mr Anderson if any of the doors to the property were open, or if his father had left any windows open. Mr Anderson explained that he had already checked the rear of the property and that there was no means of accessing the house as all the doors were locked. At this point PC Quayte and I agreed to break the front door in (using the Common Law powers of preservation of life and property) and access the property.

We entered the house and PC Quayte and I discussed the fact that I would go and make a search of the house while he waited with Mr Anderson at the door. Mr Anderson appeared frustrated by this and requested to accompany me on my search. PC Quayte explained to him that this was not possible because if something untoward had happened to his father, the premises could become a potential crime scene, and this meant that the scene must be preserved. PC Quayte waited with Neale at the doorway to the property for this reason.

The downstairs of the house appeared as normal, although there was some disturbance of items in the pantry in the kitchen. I then proceeded to check the upstairs of the property.

Upon opening the first door on the left (box room) I discovered Leonard Anderson laid on the floor. I did not think the prognosis looked good although as I am not qualified to pronounce life extinct, I immediately radioed an ambulance. I made a check of him but did not wish to move him. I noticed blood on the collar area of Mr Anderson's shirt although I could not see a puncture mark.

As I radioed for an ambulance Mr Anderson called out 'have you found him?'

The room I found Mr Anderson (Snr) in was very sparsely furnished, it appeared to be a room which was very rarely used. There was a small table in the room and on this table was an open tool box, although this was placed well away from Leonard Anderson.

I immediately went downstairs and met PC Quayte and Mr Anderson at the doorway. I explained to both of them that in my opinion the prognosis for the father did not look good.

The ambulance arrived and Leonard Anderson was pronounced dead immediately upon arrival.

Before we left the house Mr Anderson asked me what I thought had happened to his father. I commented that I had observed quite a lot of blood on the collar area of his father's shirt. He appeared surprised by this.

PC Quayte radioed for further resources to attend the scene.

I remained at the premises and guarded the scene until the Patrol Sergeant, in company with PC Jones, attended the scene from the police station.

At that time Leonard's body was put into an ambulance and on the instruction of the Sergeant PC Quayte accompanied the body to the hospital in the ambulance. PC Quayte mentioned to me that Mr Anderson had seemed extremely agitated while waiting with him outside, and had asked several times to be allowed into the property.

In the meantime PC Jones was directed to accompany Mr Anderson (Jr) to the hospital and at the Sergeant's direction I began to cordon off the scene. During this time SOCO officers attended at the premises and began a cursory examination of the outside of the building. At 11.20am I was made aware that the patio doors to the back of the property were not locked (as Mr Anderson had stated) but that in fact they were unlocked.