



JUDICIARY OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

**R**  
**-v-**  
**LANE**

**STATEMENT: IPCC INVESTIGATION**

1. Having listened with great care to the evidence in the course of this trial there is one matter that I wish to make some observations about.
2. Shana Grice was murdered by Michael Lane in August 2016. Between February and July 2016 Shana or persons on her behalf made five complaints to the Police about the behaviour of Michael Lane. On the second occasion in March a complaint was made about an alleged assault by Lane upon Shana. When questioned by Police Michael Lane showed them text messages passing between himself and Shana which indicated that he and she were in a sexual relationship. The Police then treated the complaint as being based upon the deliberate supply of false information. Shana was issued with a fixed penalty notice and a fine for wasting police time; in other words she was treated as the wrongdoer and having committed a criminal offence, and Michael Lane was treated as the victim.
3. There was seemingly no appreciation on the part of those investigating that a young woman in a sexual relationship with a man could at one and the same time be vulnerable and at risk of serious harm. The Police jumped to conclusions and Shana was stereotyped.
4. The position adopted by the Police had three potentially serious consequences.
5. First, following this incident the Police treated all further complaints by Shana with scepticism. In particular three further complaints were made over the course of the short period between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The first related to theft of a door key by

Lane which he then used to enter Shana's bedroom to peer at her in her bed at 6.00am in the morning. The second concerned the sending of silent, heavy breathing, calls to Shana, believed to have been from Lane. The third concerned an incident when Lane was seen following Shana. In relation to the use of the stolen key to enter Shana's bedroom Lane received a caution for theft and a low level warning to terminate contact with Shana. In relation to the subsequent complaints Shana was told, in effect, that no further action would be taken. The incidents were classified as low risk. Shana was murdered six weeks later.

6. The second consequence was that when further incidents of stalking occurred Shana did not complain to the Police because she felt that her complaints would not be taken seriously. Evidence was given to this effect during this trial by those close to Shana.
7. The third consequence was that Michael Lane felt that if he continued with his obsessive stalking behaviour it was most unlikely that the Police would do anything to stop him. And he did continue even though he had been warned by Police to keep away from Shana.
8. I would emphasise that my concern lies with the way in which the complaints were handled. Following the murder the investigation and prosecution of this case has, in my view, been conducted by the Police professionally and efficiently.
9. I am aware that the Independent Police Complaints Commission (the IPCC) is investigating and indeed officials from the IPCC have been observing this trial. I am therefore directing that my concerns be brought to the attention of the IPCC so that they can be taken into consideration in the course of that investigation.

The Hon Mr Justice Green

A Presiding Judge of the South Eastern Circuit

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017