

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Number: Y1

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(SDN, ROTI, Contemporaneous Notes, Full Transcript)

Person interviewed: **NOBLE, ROBERT**
 Place of interview: Belgravia Police Station - Interview Room
 Date of interview: 01/02/2003
 Time commenced: 2.00pm Time concluded: 2.11pm
 Duration of interview: 11 Minutes Tape reference nos. (→)
 Interviewing Officer(s): DS DEVLIN, DS DICKINSON
 Other persons present: Appropriate Adult

Police Exhibit No: Number of Pages: 10

Signature of interviewing officer producing exhibit

Tape counter times(→)	Person speaking	Text
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DS DEVLIN All right bob this interview is being tape recorded, as you know my name is Peter DEVLIN, I'm a Detective Sergeant, I'm attached to the Serious Crime Group, Hendon. My colleague here is...

DS DICKINSON Debbie DICKINSON, I'm also a Detective Sergeant and I'm attached to the Serious Group at Hendon.

DS DEVLIN Can you give your full name and date of birth please?

NOBLE Robert John James David NOBLE, 24th August 1974.

DS DEVLIN And there is an appropriate adult present.

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App Adult Ayse ERGAN.

DS DEVLIN There is no other person present before we even start this, I got to remind you you have a right to free and independent legal advice, you can speak to a solicitor in private at any time of day or night, this legal advice is free. You can speak to a solicitor in person, if you don't want to speak to a solicitor in person you can speak to them on the telephone. If you do want legal advice at anytime the interview can be delayed, stopped, whatever, unless certain exceptions apply. In your case those exceptions don't apply, if you want a solicitor at any time ask for one and you've got one okay. Do you want to speak to one?

NOBLE No.

DS DEVLIN That's what I've got to tell you, but I'm going to go a little bit further in this case because last night a solicitor was called on your behalf, was that because you wanted one then.

NOBLE I never asked for one, I said that straight from when I handed myself in I didn't want a solicitor.

DS DEVLIN Do you know how a solicitor came to be called?

NOBLE No idea.

DS DEVLIN Okay.

NOBLE They asked us if I wanted one and I said no.

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- DS DEVLIN Right, do you know why it's been necessary to...for us to have an appropriate adult?
- NOBLE Because doctor said that...because I use to see like psychiatrist when I was younger, so the doctor said like I had to have an appropriate adult.
- DS DEVLIN And when was that, when did that happen?
- NOBLE What?
- DS DEVLIN That you had a psychiatrist.
- NOBLE I was about 14, 14/15, there was like family problems at home.
- DS DEVLIN And how old are you now?
- NOBLE 28, I don't think I need one.
- DS DEVLIN Okay, is there any particular reason that you don't want a solicitor?
- NOBLE What good's a solicitor, I'm guilty.
- DS DEVLIN Okay, right as for the appropriate adult, as you know I have to say to you that you're not expected to act simply as an observer, and the purposes of your presence are first to advise Bob here, and to observe whether or not this interview has been conducted fairly, and secondly to facilitate communication of the person being interviewed, obviously we're communicating fine now. The date as

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Debbie whispers is the 1st February 2003, the time by my watch is 2pm, as I said the interview is being tape recorded, it's important that everything we say here may be given in evidence at court okay. When we get to the end of the interview I will give you a notice which explains what happens to the tapes. The most important part is a caution, that's you don't have to say anything okay, you understand that, you don't have to say anything. Except if you're going to nod your head, you've got to say yes...

NOBLE Yes.

DS DEVLIN Because the tape doesn't pick it up okay, but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court you understand.

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DEVLIN And again anything you do say may be given in evidence.

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DEVLIN Right what I should be doing now is putting to you what you said to people in the meantime, any significant statement, any significant silence but in this case I know that since ten to seven last night, when you walked into Brighton Police Station, you've been trying to tell people what happened.

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DEVLIN But because of the whole legal position it's now 2pm the next day and you have not been able to talk to anybody

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properly, everytime you do speak we say “Shut up we can’t talk about it.” Yeah is that right?

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DEVLIN So what I’m going to do here and all I’m going to do in this interview is let you tell us what happened okay. If you start probably from how you came to be in the Rama Hotel and then take us through what happened.

NOBLE It was the street team C.A.T worker. She put us into bed and breakfast there, I was like sleeping rough, I’d only been there a couple of days, that’s it.

DS DEVLIN And what happened on the night the woman was killed.

NOBLE I was like dossing about down Victoria and that, left the station I was on the way back and like walking down the road and I’d seen her, I see like this lad approaching her as well but he looked a bit iffy, I thought well something may happen so I walked over, I don’t know ...it was like to see if she was okay, lad he was asking for food shop, kebab shops and that, so like she didn’t know so I said you’re best bet is to go Victoria and he’s walked off and like, and like she said “Oh thanks for that” she thanked us. She said was this the right way to the coach station, I said, “Yeah it’s just down there”, I goes, “Do you want us to carry your bag”, she said “Yeah if you don’t mind.” So I’ve carried her bag, walked round the station with her, she’s been like trying to find the bus to Luton, she was going to Luton. Seen one of the Inspectors, he sent us you have to go across the road, your bus is over there. I went and sat there, three quarters of an

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hour, no buses came, there was a few other people sat there as well, like she asked if I minded waiting, I goes, "No I don't mind." So went to look round at the back of the bus stop and there was actually a notice there saying that buses were cancelled, due to the snow. So I said if you want you can come back to mine I'm just round the corner, and she said "Yes." So I went back round to mine. Talking on the way there, talking when we got there, one thing led to another, and I strangled her.

DS DEVLIN Then what happened next?

NOBLE Panicked, literally took what money she had, packed my bag and I left, just panicked, just got on a bus and went to Brighton.

DS DEVLIN And then what?

NOBLE Just walking round Brighton yesterday, stopped and I've had a couple of pints, walking round and walking round, just doing my head in. Phoned my gran's house, spoke to my cousin, told her to pass the message onto nan, told her what I'd done, I said I just got to hand myself in, I just couldn't live with it. And then went to that police station, last night, that's it.

DS DEVLIN Okay, it was a very short account and I said that I didn't want to ask you any questions but there's just a few questions that need to be asked on such a short account, such as can you describe the girl to me.

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NOBLE She's American, she had a red tint in her hair, like dark hair and red tinting I think, she's a little bit shorter than me and slim build.

DS DEVLIN What did you call her?

NOBLE Amanda.

DS DEVLIN And why did you call her that?

NOBLE Because she said that's what he name was.

DS DEVLIN Did she tell you anything else about her name?

NOBLE No...well when I done what I done, I went through her purse and she had like an ATM card, I handed that at the police station I see her second name was McDONALD, I think it was McDONALD, but I remember the first name because she told us that when we first met, that's it. We just got talking about where she is from back in America and that.

DS DEVLIN Did she say where?

NOBLE Los Angeles...California, Los Angeles, she's over here, she's supposed to be meeting a friend at Luton Airport yesterday, yesterday morning at 10 o'clock and they were going Amsterdam.

DS DEVLIN Did she say who the friend was?

NOBLE She never said.

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DS DEVLIN Now you say you strangled her, I know it's a difficult thing to talk about but can you talk us through how that happened?

NOBLE I strangled her.

DS DEVLIN How?

NOBLE From behind and I used my scarf.

DS DEVLIN Scarf, your scarf?

NOBLE My scarf, it was lying next to the bed.

DS DEVLIN Can you describe that scarf to me?

NOBLE It's a sort of checked brown pattern.

DS DEVLIN What kind of material?

NOBLE Cotton, frilled edges.

DS DEVLIN How was she dressed?

NOBLE She was wearing light blue jeans, trainers, red jumper, scarf, a brown jacket with like white fluffy bits round the sleeves.

DS DEVLIN How was she dressed when you left?

NOBLE She was naked when I left.

DS DEVLIN Can you describe what position she was in?

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- NOBLE Flat on the bed, I covered her up.
- DS DEVLIN What did you cover her with.
- NOBLE The quilt/blanket.
- DS DEVLIN Her scarf, can you describe her scarf to me?
- NOBLE Woolly scarf, she had it as a scarf at one point, but when we sat at the bus stop she took it off, like she opened it up sort of thing, like she put it over like a hood, can't remember what colour it was, dark colour.
- DS DEVLIN Can you remember where that was when you left?
- NOBLE Couldn't tell you.
- DS DEVLIN As I say this is meant to be a first account and I don't want to go into a lot of detail just now, I'm only going to ask you one more question at this stage, and I will talk to you later. The question is the obvious one, why did it happen?
- NOBLE I don't know, I really don't know, it's like not the sort of thing I've ever...well I've always thought about things like that you know what would it be like you know, but I don't know, I really don't know it just happened.
- DS DEVLIN Okay, is there anything you want to ask us at this time?
- NOBLE I can't think.

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DS DEVLIN We'll stop the interview here now then, we'll go away, we'll bring ourselves up to date with the investigation that's been going on since yesterday, when we came down to Brighton and we'll come back and we'll talk to you and we'll be asking you some pretty pertinent questions, I hope we will and we're going to have to go into some details to what happened, understand that: What I want you to do is sit and think about it, trying to replay it in your mind whilst you're waiting. It might be hard for you I don't know, but I want you to think about the detail of what happened and that's what I want to do, I want to take you through that okay.

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DEVLIN We're going to end the interview now at by my watch it's just 2.11pm.

END OF INTERVIEW