

**RECORD OF INTERVIEW**

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(SDN, ROTI, Contemporaneous Notes, Full Transcript)

Person interviewed: **NOBLE, ROBERT JOHN JAMES**

Place of interview: Belgravia Police Station – Interview Room

Date of interview: 01/02/2003

Time commenced: 5.18pm                      Time concluded: 5.50pm

Duration of interview: 28 Minutes              Tape reference nos. (→) T3119217A

Interviewing Officer(s): DS DEVLIN, DC DICKINSON

Other persons present: Ayse ERGEN – Appropriate Adult

Police Exhibit No:	Number of Pages:	22
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Signature of interviewing officer producing exhibit		
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Tape counter times(→)	Person speaking	Text
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DS DEVLIN	Okay Bob this is the third tape, we've only had a very short break to change the tapes, the time by my watch is now 5.18. For the benefit of the typist whose going to have to type all this up we'll just go through the introductions again.
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NOBLE	All of it.
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DS DEVLIN	I'm Peter DEVLIN.
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DS DICKINSON	Debbie, Debbie DICKINSON.
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NOBLE	Robert John James David NOBLE.
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DS DEVLIN	And...
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App.Adult            The appropriate adult Ayse ERGEN, do you want me to spell it again.

DS DEVLIN            No that's okay thanks. Right now we don't have to go through all of it again, I have to remind you that you can have a solicitor at any time you want, you're shaking your head.

NOBLE                I don't want one.

DS DEVLIN            Okay and I have to caution you again, I don't have to give you a full caution, I just have to tell you that you don't have to say anything, and I have to remind you that anytime you want to stop the interview

NOBLE                Yeah.

DS DEVLIN            You can do so okay. I know you understand it all and we'll just continue as before, just to where we got to. Okay we got to when you were pawning the Gucci watch and we were talking about the pawn shop.

NOBLE                Yeah.

DS DEVLIN            So we can obviously identify the pawn shop to get the watch back. You say it was a fairly posh one.

NOBLE                Yeah it was right in the corner of the street, no sorry from where the cash converter shop was, you walk down, you come to a set of traffic lights, cross over the left hand side it's like three shops down, it's like looks like a posh

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jewellers from the outside, but it's like a pawn shop just for jewellery.

DS DEVLIN And this is in one of the main shopping streets of Brighton.

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DEVLIN Did you see any other shops nearby, any big shops Marks and Spencers.

NOBLE There's a McDonalds across, no right across the road there was a Bank of Scotland a Royal Bank of Scotland, right across the road from it.

DS DEVLIN That should make it easy, and there's a McDonald's nearby.

NOBLE Just round the corner yeah.

DS DEVLIN Well that should make that easy, how much did you pawn it for.

NOBLE He give us a tenner for it.

DS DEVLIN A tenner for a Gucci watch. What did you ask for?

NOBLE I asked him what he'd give us for it.

DS DEVLIN Yeah.

NOBLE And he just had a look at it, got his wee glass out and that and he was like "Ah it's not gold", give us that routine, and I asked "Well how much are you after for it, how much you

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got to give us for it.” And he goes looking at my computer he goes a tenner, I went that will do mate, I just took a tenner for it.

DS DEVLIN            That’s for a pawn or for a sale?

NOBLE                That was for a pawn, he said anything for up to six months you will get it back, he give us a receipt but I just threw the receipt away when I got outside.

DS DEVLIN            Do you know where?

NOBLE                Where, what?

DS DEVLIN            Where you threw it away.

NOBLE                Just on the ground.

DS DEVLIN            Just outside the shop?

NOBLE                Yeah.

DS DEVLIN            Did you give a name?

NOBLE                Yeah he got my full name and that because I showed him old pay slips, have my name on that.

DS DEVLIN            I see you gave your real name?

NOBLE                Yeah.

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- DS DEVLIN Had you made up your mind by that time that you were going to give yourself up?
- NOBLE Yeah I was just about to have a few drinks before I handed myself in to the police station.
- DS DEVLIN Right tell us what happens at the police station?
- NOBLE I just walked in, well sat outside and had a fag first, walked in, told the fella/copper at reception what I'd done, he's like looked a bit shocked, went to detail, he's written it down and that was it, he just told us to go and sit in one of the rooms.
- DS DEVLIN And then we have the big delay, it's takes until now until we talk to you. Okay, right that's a very detailed account, thanks for that, I'm glad you came in and told us. Now the difficult thing in my job that I've got to keep pushing at is why.
- NOBLE If I knew why I'd tell you why, because I just want to get this over and done with you know, but if I knew why I'd tell you why. I just put it down to I thought she had a lot of money, you know I just wanted it, simple as. I just panicked when I asked her for her pin number, and she pulled off because usually she (inaudible) so I thought what do I do, so you know.
- DS DEVLIN Did you actually go out looking for a girl?
- NOBLE No, no, it's like since I've been down, literally all I do is like walk around the streets, chatting with the homeless might

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have a few drinks in the square with them and that, that night I was actually I was just heading back home.

DS DEVLIN Okay, you say you phoned your cousin in Brighton.

NOBLE Phone him from Brighton.

DS DEVLIN What phone did you use?

NOBLE Payphone in one of the main roads, I tried phoning him a few times on a couple of phones but the phone was engaged, so I eventually got through to him, phoned him, told him to just like go and have a word with my mum, pass the message on, just to tell her.

DS DEVLIN What was his reaction?

NOBLE He was he was like shocked, I'd rather him go and tell my mum, rather than the police turn up, she's got a bit of warning you know.

DS DEVLIN That's right.

NOBLE She used it in the past if you're knocking on the door, but never for something like this, I just wanted my cousin to tell her.

DS DEVLIN Yeah obviously we're going to have to go and see your cousin, if you give us his details.

NOBLE It's David LINTON, he stays at 32 Loanwath Road.

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DS DICKINSON Where's that?

NOBLE Loanwath Road, L.O.A.N.W.A.T.H, that's Gretna.

DS DEVLIN His phone number?

NOBLE 01461 337151, my gran might answer because that's where my gran stays as well, so like if she gets on the phone to you, she won't have a clue what you're going on about so I'd rather no one spoke to my gran.

DS DEVLIN We wouldn't do it by phone anyway, your mum's details?

NOBLE Margaret LINTON, 5 Douglas Place, Gretna.

DS DEVLIN Phone number?

NOBLE No phone.

DS DEVLIN Did you speak to anybody else, tell anybody else what happened?

NOBLE Just my cousin that was it.

DS DEVLIN Right, I've got to get back to how the...well why, I know...I want to get back to that thought that was going through your head when you first, when you started thinking about stealing the ATM card.

NOBLE It was just a thought that went through my head, I didn't think I'd do it you know, just having a good crack, a good

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conversation and that, and it was just a thought that went through my head.

DS DEVLIN Yeah, had you considered killing her at that time?

NOBLE I wasn't even thinking that, it was not like anything that was going through my head, it was like as far as I'm concerned like stay there at night, having a crack and all that, if anything happened it happened, if it didn't it didn't, that morning I was going to walk her to the bus stop, but it didn't happen that way.

DS DEVLIN Because obviously when she went unconscious you could have had the card and been off, did you think of that?

NOBLE I didn't think.

DS DEVLIN Was there a sexual aspect to killing her?

NOBLE No, nothing like that, just done it.

DS DEVLIN So if you're in my position you're looking for a motive here, you're saying to yourself why did this guy do this, what's his motive, what's his motivation. What would you say was the main motive for killing that girl?

NOBLE Money that's it, and the fact that I panicked.

DS DEVLIN You panicked but you panicked after.

NOBLE Yeah.

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DS DEVLIN (Inaudible), is there anything you want to ask at this time Debbie.

DS DICKINSON How would you describe yourself normally, what sort of personality have you normally got.

NOBLE Normally okay, speak to people outgoing, I like having a laugh, I like to travel, just an average person.

DS DICKINSON How would you describe your temper would you say your average?

NOBLE It takes us a lot to get riled depending on what's happening, if anybody hits, I hit them back, you know in an argument I'll argue back, but I won't lose my head unless I get really wound up, I wouldn't say I've got a bad temper now, I haven't got like things like that on my record assaults and things like that, apart from that attempted robbery but that was it.

DS DICKINSON You said earlier when you she asked for the pin number, sorry you asked for the pin number and she pulled away, you got really angry, what caused you to get angry?

NOBLE Not really angry, I panicked when she pulled away, I thought, I don't know what I thought that's why I just grabbed her. She started to struggle and scream and that so I tried to keep her quiet so I used the pillow, rolled her back over and kept strangling her.

DS DICKINSON Did she manage to cry out?

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NOBLE She did once or twice, she tried to bite a few times but I was too strong.

DS DICKINSON Did she actually manage to bite you?

NOBLE No she tried but...

DS DICKINSON Whereabouts was she trying to bite?

NOBLE My hands, my arms she was just like trying to bite at anything, she got the option but I just kept on getting her rolled over.

DS DICKINSON You talked about kept on getting her rolled over, how were you holding her down?

NOBLE I was sat on her back.

DS DICKINSON So you had the ....as you described earlier, you had at one stage you had her neck in one hand and the pillow in the other.

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DICKINSON And you were trying to roll her over, is it at this stage you end up sitting on her back?

NOBLE No, well she was already in that position anyways, like she's struggling, trying to roll over and she'd get on the side, and her legs were going everywhere and her arms were going everywhere, but I always had that hand around her neck, like even when she was turning round she's nearly facing us, I'm

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still level like and grabbing the pillow and forcing her head around and grabbing her shoulder, I just wanted to get her facing down?

DS DICKINSON Whereabouts on her neck is your hand?

NOBLE Round the neck.

DS DICKINSON At that stage?

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DICKINSON What the front of the neck, the back of her neck, the sides.

NOBLE She was facing that way, I'm behind her.

DS DICKINSON So she's facing, you're describing...obviously the tape can't see.

NOBLE She's there, she's kneeling on the floor bent over the bed, I'm like knees on the bed, sort of like on her back.

DS DICKINSON You're showing, originally you had...you were showing your hand movement as if they were round the sides of her neck, is that what you're trying to tell me?

NOBLE Yeah, yeah.

DS DICKINSON Right okay, and you're trying to force her in which way at that stage.

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NOBLE I just wanted to keep her down, at that time I was just like, I thought-I don't know what I was thinking, I just ...I was just squeezing and squeezing, there wasn't really thoughts going through my head, I was just squeezing.

DS DICKINSON So you're actually squeezing her neck at this stage?

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DICKINSON And that's just with your hands?

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DICKINSON What happens to the pillow?

NOBLE Well at that time I didn't need it because the face was in the bed under the pillow, as I'm squeezing and pushing down on it, so she couldn't really turn her head.

DS DICKINSON Right.

NOBLE I only took, I don't know ...it seemed like ages, it's probably a couple of minutes and she's passed out, I've just grabbed the scarf, tied it round her neck and just kept pulling on that.

DS DICKINSON Did you have to let go of her on the bed to actually go over and get the scarf?

NOBLE Literally got up, stood up on my feet and grabbed my scarf and put back round her neck.

DS DICKINSON So she's passed out on the bed face down at this stage yeah?

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NOBLE            Yeah.

DS DICKINSON    So you actually get up off her, do you have to walk...I mean obviously not having seen the room you have to forgive me, but do you have to actually walk round this place to get to the scarf?

NOBLE            No, no, no I just stood up and grabbed it.

DS DICKINSON    You could reach it from where you.

NOBLE            The bed's a little bigger than that you know.

DS DICKINSON    Than your diagram.

NOBLE            Yeah.

DS DICKINSON    So then she's obviously lying across the bed as you've said, you've described, what do you do with the scarf when you got to it?

NOBLE            I've put it around her neck and tied it.

DS DICKINSON    Okay, did you have to physically get onto the bed to do that?

NOBLE            I just got back in the same position I was in.

DS DICKINSON    Kneeling back on the bed.

NOBLE            Yeah, well stood up the back of her, wrapped my scarf round and tied it and just kept pulling it, pulling it and like

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holding her head down, I think she was probably already dead but I just kept doing it.

DS DICKINSON Right and she's still face down to the bed at that stage?

NOBLE Yeah, then I've stopped, I put my clothes back on, I just couldn't ....everytime I look round I just couldn't look at her so I grab her, lifted her back onto the bed, put the quilt over her and just dropped the pillow on her face, I never took the scarf off, I left it round her neck.

DS DICKINSON Sorry I missed a bit there, did you say you put your clothes back on or her clothes?

NOBLE My clothes back on.

DS DICKINSON And how did you lay her out on the bed?

NOBLE I just grabbed her from where she was at and just like yanked her up onto the bed and just laid her there, put the quilt over and dropped the pillow onto her face.

DS DICKINSON So is her head now at the what would be the head of the bed where the pillow should normally be.

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DICKINSON And you completely cover her with the quilt?

NOBLE Yeah and the pillow.

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DS DICKINSON Bearing in mind you think she was passed out after you pushed her face into the bed, why did you bother going back and getting the scarf?

NOBLE I don't know, I really don't know.

DS DICKINSON How were you feeling at that time?

NOBLE Just panicking and scared.

DS DICKINSON How did it feel when you were strangling her with your hands and holding her down into the bed?

NOBLE I was just scared at the time.

DS DICKINSON Scared of what?

NOBLE Getting caught, what I was doing, I thought I started it, I thought I've started it now you know, I just couldn't stop.

DS DICKINSON Why not?

NOBLE I don't know I just couldn't, I just kept squeezing.

DS DICKINSON Can you remember what you were thinking at the time?

NOBLE No.

DS DICKINSON Are you still angry about the fact that you thought that she had all this money and the way she'd been going on.

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NOBLE Not angry, angry you know, just like the fact she was like...because I told her earlier my situation what I was like just like I sleep homeless, you know only been down there a couple of weeks and she's like got this, she's going here she's been there, you know just like...I thought well I just wanted money, but I wasn't really thinking that when we were talking, it was going through my head but I thought no I'm not going to do nothing, and like then during sex I've said to her what's your pin number, I just came out and said it and like it just went from there.

DS DICKINSON Obviously during sex you must of thought about asking her about this pin number.

NOBLE That's when I asked her.

DS DICKINSON Which you obviously did.

NOBLE Yeah but I wasn't thinking about asking her, I've just came out with it and asked her, it wasn't something that was going through my head at the time because I was just having enjoyment you know, and I just came out and said it.

DS DICKINSON Had you thought about what you were going to do if she just not said anything, or not told you?

NOBLE No, I just weren't thinking straight you know, I just...

DS DICKINSON When you strangled her on the bed and you said she lost consciousness, did you...what...how did you think she was at that time, did you think she was already dead.

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NOBLE I knew she wasn't because I could still hear her, she was like making noises coming from her throat and that, I don't know I just grabbed my scarf, put it round my neck and pulled.

DS DICKINSON Do you mean her neck?

NOBLE Yeah.

DS DICKINSON Why didn't you leave her at that point?

NOBLE I really don't know.

DS DICKINSON Do you want to ask anything?

DS DEVLIN Yeah I just want to get back to the bit where we spoke about in the first interview and then again on the last tape about the fact that you have thought of this before, the thought of what it would be like to kill somebody?

NOBLE I daresay everybody has had that thought because you read about in the papers every day like somebody has been murdered, here, there or whatever, you think to yourself, what would it actually be like to kill somebody you know. I thought about it loads of time before, like the last sentence that I'd done, I was like in Havering I was like I was on the lifers wing, I got enhanced, I was in there for six months so I got put enhanced, and like some of the lifers used to speak to you, some of them like to tell you what they were in for and that you know, I just felt like how could you do it you know, what does it feel like and that, it's just like something I was curious about, but it wasn't something I went out to go and do and that night it just happened.

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- DS DEVLIN      When you think about killing a person, do you think about killing a woman?
- NOBLE            Just anybody, it's like I've had arguments in the past, like friends and that or in pubs or whatever and I've been so wound up I think I just really want to kill this person.
- DS DEVLIN      Yeah.
- NOBLE            You know, but it's not just like I never thought about women before or children like that you know, it's just like mostly been arguments are people in pubs and things.
- DS DEVLIN      Have you pictured it as to how it would happen?
- NOBLE            Never.
- DS DEVLIN      Pictured yourself strangling somebody?
- NOBLE            That's one thing I thought I could never do, I thought yeah maybe I thought, seen people get shot before, I thought yeah I'd probably shoot somebody you know but I couldn't like stab anyone, didn't think I could strangle anyone, didn't think I could like actually contact with a body, I just didn't think I had it in us, but it's just happened.
- DS DEVLIN      Did you go back to the hotel during the evening round about 9 o'clockish, to get your bag?

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- NOBLE I know I went back in the afternoon to see if there was any messages from my CAT worker, I might have I'm not too sure, I really couldn't tell you.
- DS DEVLIN I'm not sure exactly, what's been said here, I'm always very hesitant to talk about what somebody else has said without having read the statement myself. I know that the receptionist was on in the evening was spoken to, there is a statement from him saying that you come back at some time and you asked if you could bring your girlfriend back.
- NOBLE I know I went back to ask for thingy if my CAT worker had been in contact because I tried to phone her a few times that day, but I ain't got a girlfriend so I never asked that.
- DS DEVLIN What he says is you went back and said can I take my girlfriend back, she's three months pregnant and because of the snow she has nowhere to stay, can you help me out.
- NOBLE No, that was like a mate, Taff because he likes sleeps on the streets and like I wanted to see if I could blagg him to get him in, crash on the floor for the night, I just know him as Taff, hangs about the square a little goatee, wears a red beret, he's got a long ponytail at the back, he was asking if there was any chance he could crash, and I went back to see if there was any messages off my CAT worker, I blagged to the fella.
- DS DEVLIN Yeah but you wouldn't say Taff was pregnant would you?
- NOBLE No but if you looked at him from behind he looks like a lass because he's got blonde hair and when you go to the hotel at

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a night time, you've always got to ring the bell for the fella to come and get you, but if you stood outside I would open the door, the fella goes back to his bed, I'll just open the door and let him back in again you know, a few of the lads do it if they stay in the B & B's, weathers bad you just help your mates out.

DS DEVLIN      What was in your bag when you went out?

NOBLE            Milk.

DS DEVLIN      The second time?

NOBLE            Milk, I normally go to the school 4 or 5 in the morning when the milk's been delivered, just take the milk.

DS DEVLIN      When I say second time when you came back in the evening, where the night clerk remembers this conversation about pregnant girlfriend.

NOBLE            Yeah.

DS DEVLIN      You go to your room and you come down with your bag...

NOBLE            With my bag, that's a blanket, if you go and ask them because they will say there is a blanket missing, I went to the room cos I took it out to give to a few lads in the square, there was a blanket in there and some milk that was it.

DS DEVLIN      You know what I'm getting at...

NOBLE            Yeah.

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DS DEVLIN        Suggesting you were out actively looking to pull a woman.

NOBLE            No, no.

DS DEVLIN        Not necessarily to kill a woman but to pull one.

NOBLE            No, if you find the lad in the square he will confirm it that I did say that I if I could get him in he could crash the night because it was like bad weather, and the lads do it for the lads you know what I mean, if you could get them into the B & B, to get them in, but no I never went out for that.

DS DEVLIN        You say you don't have a girlfriend just now?

NOBLE            No.

DS DEVLIN        When was your last girlfriend?

NOBLE            That was in Plymouth.

DS DEVLIN        How long ago was that?

NOBLE            I've been here now about three weeks, four weeks, seen this girl in Plymouth a couple of weeks, met a couple of girls I was seeing on the side.

DS DEVLIN        You were working in Plymouth.

NOBLE            Yeah barman.

DS DEVLIN        Barman, what pub?

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NOBLE Noah's Ark.

DS DEVLIN Noah's Ark.

NOBLE That's a town pub it's in the town 32A Courtney Street.

DS DEVLIN And your girlfriend there was?

NOBLE Was Julie, Julie...what's her second name, I can't mind the second name now, I was only seeing her for about a week or two, she was like one of our regulars, she use to come in.

DS DICKINSON Regular at the Noah's Ark?

NOBLE Yeah, Julie...

DS DEVLIN We'll probably, I think we'll end this interview now, we'll be having one more interview in which I want to go into your background, I'll end it now, unless you want to ask me anything.

NOBLE I'd rather just get on with it and just finish it.

DS DEVLIN We can't do it that way because we've got to give you a break and we've got to go away, we've got to update with people, who are doing an investigation outside with what's happened and we've got to work out what we want to ask you next. It won't be a long break, half an hour an hour at the most. The time now is by my watch is 5.50pm.

END OF INTERVIEW.