

***** Press statement *****

I thank my legal team – my solicitor Graham Brown, my Counsel Andrew Willins and Tony Scrivener QC and my former solicitor, Chris Eyre, sadly no longer in practise, without whose help and support this day may never have come.

I particularly thank Dr. Norman Taylor MBE, Gordon Hay, and their team at Northumbria Police. Theirs was a truly exceptional investigation – thorough, impartial, a credit to policing. They and others like them who remain true to their oath “to uphold the law without fear or favour” are the reason why the British police service is respected around the world.

I would like to tell my closest friends and family, they know who they are and my ex-wife, all of whom never doubted my integrity, that I would not have been able to retain my sanity nor would I have survived to see this day had it not been for their unswerving support over so many years. “Thank you” just seems so inadequate for years of unswerving faith and loyalty, Thank you, all of you.

I take full responsibility for what I am about to say regarding Stephen Bakewell, John Russell Daghish, Martin Eggermont and Stuart Hopson; these four between them sought deliberately and systematically to destroy the remainder of my life, succeeded in destroying the last thirteen years of it and caused unimaginable damage to my family and me. The Crown accepted in court today that: Bakewell and Hopson lied on oath at my trial; that the Court was misled by Bakewell and Daghish; that all four of them conspired together to conceal material evidence in order to ensure that I was unlawfully convicted. Bakewell, in particular, has much to answer for: he has since admitted disciplinary charges relating to his neglect of duty and his destruction of evidence which would have proved my innocence.

They have disgraced the uniform they wore and dishonoured the police service and the oath they took. Furthermore, BAKEWELLS brother in law, Superintendent Jeffrey EVANS, retired, was found by a Tribunal to have lied on oath. He is no better.

My life has been in limbo for thirteen long and painful years. I will now pick up the pieces of what's left and try to build a better future, especially for my children who have only had a part time father for far too long.

A new management team is now in charge of policing in Cleveland.

I know that they have done much to distance themselves from the problems of old and that they have introduced equality and diversity codes. The Police Service is a better place for it. I know that I have their full support and look forward to re-joining the Service to which I first gave my loyalty in 1984: I am very grateful to the Chief Constable and his team for their support.”

Sultan Alam.