

**MS897 Scarman Inquiry into the Brixton Riots**

**1981**

A copy of the written submissions made public in phase two of the inquiry and of the transcripts of the public hearings held before Lord Scarman were deposited in the University of London Library for public examination in November 1981. The papers comprise of transcripts from the public hearings on the examination of the events and their immediate causes and written submissions on the underlying social conditions which may have contributed to communal tensions.

Throughout the hearing Mr Robin Auld, Q.C., Mr John Laws and Mr Lincoln Crawford were instructed by the Treasury Solicitor. Mr Hugh Simmonds (Messrs. Wedlake, Bell) appeared for the Railton Road Youth and Community Centre of the Methodist Church. Mr Wilton Hill, Q.C., and Mr Berry Ryan, instructed by Messrs. Sylvester Small and Co., appeared for the Melting Pot Foundation, the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association and the Brixton Domino Club. Mr John Hazan, Q.C., and Mr Laurence Marshall, instructed by the Metropolitan Police Solicitor's Department, appeared for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and his officers.

Mr Aubrey Rose (Messrs. Osmond, Gaunt and Rose) appeared for the Council for Community Relations in Lambeth. Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, Q.C., and Mr Richard Drabble, instructed by Messrs. D.J. Freeman & Co., appeared for Concern. Mr Christopher Whybrow, instructed by Mr A.J. George, appeared for Lambeth Borough Council.

5 boxes

**MS897/1 Preliminary hearing reports**

**1981 May  
14-July 10**

**MS897/1/1 Preliminary hearing**

**1981 May  
14**

Introduction by Lord Scarman, arrangements for submitting evidence to the Inquiry, costs, applications for representation, structure and timescale of the Inquiry.

21

1 items

**MS897/2 Transcripts of public hearings**

**1981 May  
14-July 10**

**MS897/2/1 First day of public hearing**

**15th June  
1981**

Opening Address given by Robin Auld; witnesses examined were Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Lambeth District Leslie Walker and Courtney Laws, Director and Clerk to the Trustees of the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association; issues include discussion of SWAMP 81, stop and search tactics of the police, and general community relations.

88 pages  
1 binder

**MS897/2/2 Second day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
16**

Courtney Laws recalled; witnesses examined were Chief Superintendent William Glenmore Phillips, Divisional Commander of the Southern Division of the British Transport Police, Brian Williams, Deputy Assistant Chief Officer in the London Fire Brigade and Caroline Tisdall, local writer, journalist and contributor to the Guardian Newspaper; issues include discussion of allegations of 'aggressive policing', looting from local shops and attacks made on the fire brigade.

79 pages

1 binder

**MS897/2/3 Third day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
17**

Caroline Tisdall recalled; District Detective Chief Superintendent Jeremy John Plowman also examined. Issues include discussion of the increase in crime levels in Brixton between 1971 and 1981 and the day to day operation of SWAMP 81'.

102 pages  
1 binder

**MS897/2/4 Fourth day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
18**

Detective Chief Superintendent Jeremy John Plowman recalled; witnesses examined were John Edward Moss, Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer for the London Ambulance Service, John Robert Clare, Community Affairs and Education Correspondent with the BBC and Stewart Lansley, economist employed by the London Housing Aid Centre and Councillor for the London Borough of Camden in its Ferndale Ward.

Issues include discussion of alleged hostility towards ambulance personnel, reports of police carrying unauthorised weapons and concerns raised by Lambeth councillors regarding policing of the Brixton area.

**MS897/2/5 Fifth day of public hearing**

**1981**

Witnesses examined were Rene Sylvanus Webb, Director of the Melting Pot Foundation, Police Constable Robin John Timperley and Police Inspector Peter Harry Scotchford; issues include discussion of whether the disturbances were planned or spontaneous, breakdown of the Police Community Liaison Committee, lack of trust in the police complaints procedures and training of young police officers.

105

1 binder

**MS897/2/6 Sixth day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
22**

Witnesses examined were Edward Robert Knight, Leader of the Council of the London Borough of Lambeth, Police Constable John Anthony Brown and Police Constable Stephen Peter Margiotta; issues included discussion of relations between the police, council and local community.

109

1 binder

**MS897/2/7 Seventh day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
23**

Inspector Peter Harry Scotchford and Police Constable Stephen Peter Margiotta recalled; Police Constable Simon Timothy Lock examined; issues included discussion of training procedures for new police constables, deployment of police dogs and use of iron bars as weapons during the disturbances.

109

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**MS897/2/8 Eight day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
24**

Police Constable Simon Timothy Lock recalled; Commander Leonard Adams examined; issues included discussion of SWAMP 81' and Special Patrol Group saturation policing

109

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**MS897/2/9 Ninth day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
25**

Commander Leonard Adams recalled; witnesses examined were Anthony Morgan, local service engineer, Commander Brian Kenneth Fairbairn and Rev Dennis Peterson; issues include discussion of multi-racial community policing and the rise of extremist organisations and political groups in Brixton.

104  
1 binder

**MS897/2/10 Tenth day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
26**

Commander Brian Fairbairn recalled; discussion of SWAMP 81' and 'stop and search' tactics.

40  
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**MS897/2/11 Eleventh day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
29**

Commander Brian Fairbairn recalled; discussion of community relations and policing.

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**MS897/2/12 Twelfth day of public hearing**

**1981 June  
30**

Commander Brian Fairbairn recalled; witnesses examined were Ivan Samuel Madray, youth leader of the Railton Road Community Centre and Graham Richard Kent, Minister of the Methodist Church; issues include discussion of a meeting between police and community leaders held during the disturbances.

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**MS897/2/13 Thirteenth day of public hearing**

**1981 July 1**

Rev Graham Richard Kent recalled; community relations discussed.

30  
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**MS897/2/14 Fourteenth day of public hearing**

**1981 July 2**

Witnesses examined were Chief Superintendent Ronald Boyling and Police Constable Roger Stephen Fuller; issues include detailed discussion of events during the disturbances and deployment of police officers and dogs.

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**MS897/2/15 Fifteenth day of public hearing**

**1981 July 3**

Police Constable Roger Stephen Fuller recalled; witnesses examined were Chief Superintendent John Peter Robinson, Police Constable Michael Patrick Bullen, Lloyd Augustus Leon, manager of the Atlantic pub, Brixton, Marion Elsie Fudger, Brixton resident and Rev Robert William Hampden Nind; issues include discussion of damage done to buildings and social relationships between police and local community.

109

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**MS897/2/16 Sixteenth day of public hearing**

**1981 July 6**

Reverend Robert William Hampden Nind recalled; witnesses examined were Howard Lindo, Printer, Phillip Roy Costello, Ambulanceman, David Hoffman, Photographer, William Henry Hall, Brixton resident and James George Ellis, Caterer; issues include discussion of use of petrol bombs, police tactics, 'institutional racism' and claims that plain clothes officers carried unauthorised weapons.

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**MS897/2/17 Seventeenth day of public hearing**

**1981 July 7**

Witnesses examined were Stephen James Smith, student, Derek Donald Currie, contractor, David William Brettle, clerical officer, Henry Young Chin, shopkeeper and Chief Superintendent Robert Michael Sillence; issues include discussion of damage to property, making of petrol bombs, allegations of police brutality and activities of the Special Police Group.

90

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**MS897/2/18 Eighteenth day of public hearing**

**1981 July 8**

Witnesses examined were Martin Philip Girdler, Brixton resident, Police Constable Robert Jones, Police Constable Richard George Garrett and Superintendent Finlay Maclennan; issues include discussion of SWAMP 81' and community relations.

89

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**MS897/2/19 Nineteenth day of public hearing**

**1981 July 9**

Superintendent Finlay MacLennan recalled; witnesses examined were John Denis Fraser, politician, and William Jackson, Brixton resident; issues include discussion of the police complaints procedures and difficulties recruiting black police officers.

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**MS897/2/20 Twentieth day of public hearing**

**1981 July  
10**

Chief Superintendent Robert Michael Sillence recalled; also examined was Commander Michael Ferguson, Community Relations Branch at New Scotland Yard; issues include discussion of Special Police Group activities and general community relations.

58

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**MS897/2/21 Transcripts**

**1981  
September  
2**

Wilfred Gibson, Metropolitan Police Commissioner examined; Issues include discussion of police complaints procedure and use of 'Stop and Search' techniques.

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**MS897/2/22 Transcripts**

**1981  
September  
3**

Commissioner Wilfred Gibson recalled; issues include discussion of possible causes of the disturbances, community policing and

95  
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**MS897/2/23 Transcripts**

**1981  
September  
4**

Commissioner Wilfred Gibson recalled; Deputy Assistant Commissioner Geoffrey James Dear examined; issues include discussion of police complaints procedure, advantages of the 'Home Beat' system, recruitment of ethnic minority officers. 'positive discrimination',

99  
1 binder

**MS897/2/24 Transcripts**

**1981  
September  
7**

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Geoffrey Dear recalled; witnesses examined were David Lane, Chairman for the Commission for Racial Equality, George Greaves, Council for Community Relations, Jah Bones, Chairman of the Rastafari Universal Zion and Dr Crispin Cross, member of the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association; issues include discussion of training of recruits, Notting Hill Carnival, breakdown in relations between Council for Community Relations and Police, 'Institutional Racism' and the Rastafarian movement in Britain,

78

1 binder

**MS897/2/25 Transcripts**

**1981  
September  
8**

Owen Sylvestre, Executive Director of the Melting Pot Foundation and John J Figueroa, Brixton Domino and Social Club examined; issues discussed include the 'generation gap' between West Indian parents and children, education, mistrust of the police and levels of unemployment.

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**MS897/2/26 Transcripts**

**1981  
September  
9**

Closing speeches; issues include discussion of SWAMP '81,'excessively heavy' police presence during disturbances, use of petrol bombs, 'alleged misconduct' of the police and deployment of the Special Patrol Group in Brixton.

95

1 binder

**MS897/3 Submissions files**

**1981**

**MS897/3/1 Submission file 1**

**1981**

Contains submission from:  
DHSS [Department of Health and Social Security]  
Department of Employment  
Manpower Services Commission  
Department of the Environment

5 items

**MS897/3/1/1 Police submission: Includes photocopies of 'A**

**Programme for Secondary Schools; Living in a Law abiding society', 'Schools Involvement Programme; Primary Schools; Notes for Guidance', Written submission by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Appendices and corrigendum.**

**MS897/3/1/2 DHSS [Department of Health and Social Security] submission: Photocopy of 'Memorandum by the Department of Health and Social Security'**

**MS897/3/1/3 Department of Employment submission: Photocopy of 'Memorandum by the Department of Employment'**

**MS897/3/1/4 Manpower Services Commission submission: Photocopies of 'Note by the Manpower Services Commission' and 'London Labour Market Review 1980/81'**

**MS897/3/1/5 Department of the Environment: Photocopy of 'Paper by the Department of the Environment'**

**MS897/3/2 Submission file 2**

**1981**

Contains submissions from:  
Home Office  
Department of Education and Science  
London Borough of Lambeth  
Association of Chief Police Officers  
Professor Nicholas Deakin - University of  
Birmingham  
John Rex and Malcolm Cross - Research Unit on  
Ethnic Relations  
The Brixton Society  
ILEA [Inner London Education Authority]  
Commission for Racial Equality  
Inigo Bing and Others  
The Bishop of Kingston  
Astel Parkinson - youth worker  
John Brown - Shades of Grey, Functions of  
Communities in Police Strategy  
Area Youth Committee for Lambeth

14 items

**MS897/3/2/1 Home Office submission: Photocopy of  
'Memorandum by the Home Office'**

**MS897/3/2/2 Department of Education and Science  
submission: Photocopy of 'Memorandum by the  
Department of Education and Science'**

**MS897/3/2/3 London Borough of Lambeth submission:  
Photocopy of 'Proof of evidence submitted by  
the Council of the London Borough of Lambeth'**

**MS897/3/2/4 Association of Chief Police Officers  
submission: Photocopy of 'Evidence of the  
Association of Chief Police Officers'**

**MS897/3/2/5 Professor Nicholas Deakin - University of Birmingham submission: Photocopy of 'Evidence on issues arising from the second part of the Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/2/6 John Rex and Malcolm Cross - Research Unit on Ethnic Relations submission: Photocopies of 'Racial Conflict in the Inner City' by John Rex and 'Black Unemployment and Urban Conflict' by Malcom Cross**

**MS897/3/2/7 The Brixton Society submission: Photocopy of 'Evidence for the Brixton Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/2/8 ILEA [Inner London Education Authority] submission: Photocopy of 'Evidence on the Background to the Brixton Disturbances'**

**MS897/3/2/9 Commission for Racial Equality submission: Photocopy of 'Submission under part II of Lord Scarman's inquiry'**

**MS897/3/2/10 Inigo Bing and Others [ Barristers and Magistrates] submission: Photocopy of 'Inquiry into Disturbances at Brixton; evidence for part II**

**MS897/3/2/11 The Bishop of Kingston submission: Photocopy of 'Submission to Lord Scarman Brixton Inquiry Part II'**

**MS897/3/2/12 Astel Parkinson [Brixton Youth Leader] submission: Photocopy of statement**

**MS897/3/2/13 John Brown - Shades of Grey, Functions of Communities in Police Strategy submission: Photocopy of 'A Report of Police-West Indian relations in Handsworth'**

**MS897/3/2/14 Area Youth Committee for Lambeth submission: Photocopy of 'The Disturbances in Brixton; A Report to the Scarman Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/3 Submission file 3**

**1981**

Contains submissions from:  
Inner London Probation and After-Care Service  
Lambeth Institute [Adult Education]  
London Borough of Lewisham  
National Union of Teachers

Holland & Madray - Railton Road Youth Centre  
Sports Council  
West Indian Standing Conference  
Methodist Church Division of Social Responsibility  
London Voluntary Services Council  
Charles Wegg Prosser - [Involved with community  
relations]  
Metropolitan Housing Trust Limited  
John Tilley MP  
Melting Pot Foundation  
Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association  
Vernon James Henry Cocking - Sunday School  
Superintendent  
Mrs Kyriacou - Lambeth resident  
Mary Scott - Retired Headteacher  
Peter Timms - Governor of Maidstone Prison  
Caribbean House Group  
Ronald Gregory - Chief Constable, West Yorkshire  
B. Weigh - Chief Constable, Avon & Somerset  
Police Federation  
Birmingham Community Relations Council  
Council for Community Relations In Lambeth

24 items

**MS897/3/3/1 Inner London Probation and After-Care Service  
submission: Photocopy of 'Inquiry into the  
Brixton disturbances'**

**MS897/3/3/2 Lambeth Institute submission: Photocopy of  
'Inquiry into the Brixton disturbances'**

**MS897/3/3/3 London Borough of Lewisham submission:  
Photocopy of 'Scarman Inquiry (Part II) Brixton  
1981'**

**MS897/3/3/4 National Union of Teachers submission:  
Photocopy of 'Evidence to the Scarman Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/3/5 Holland & Madray - Railton Road Youth Centre  
submission: Photocopy of 'Proof of evidence'**

**MS897/3/3/6 Sports Council submission: Photocopy of  
'Evidence for Part II'**

**MS897/3/3/7 West Indian Standing Conference submission:  
Photocopy of 'Re: Phase II'**

**MS897/3/3/8 Methodist Church Division of Social  
Responsibility submission: Photocopy of  
'Inquiry into the Brixton disturbances'**

**MS897/3/3/9 London Voluntary Services Council  
submission: Photocopy of 'Written Evidence'**

**MS897/3/3/10 Charles Wegg-Prosser submission: Photocopy  
of 'Evidence to Lord Scarman's Enquiry'**



**MS897/3/3/11 Metropolitan Housing Trust Limited  
submission: Photocopy of 'Evidence to Brixton  
Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/3/12 John Tilley MP submission: Photocopy of  
'Submission to Lord Scarman's Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/3/13 The Melting Pot Foundation submission:  
Photocopy of 'Written Submission of Evidence'**

**MS897/3/3/14 Brixton Neighbourhood Community  
Association submission: Photocopy of  
'Statement for Submission'**

**MS897/3/3/15 Vernon James Henry Cocking submission:  
Photocopy of 'Submission under Phase II of  
the Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/3/16 Mrs Kyriacou submission: Photocopy of  
evidence**

**MS897/3/3/17 Miss Scott submission: Photocopy of evidence**

**MS897/3/3/18 Peter Timms submission: Photocopy of  
'Submission by Mr Peter Timms to the Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/3/19 Caribbean House Group submission:  
Photocopy of 'Evidence presented to Lord  
Justice Scarman'**

**MS897/3/3/20 Ronald Gregory - Chief Constable, West  
Yorkshire submission: Photocopy of statement**

**MS897/3/3/21 B. Weigh - Chief Constable, Avon and  
Somerset submission: Photocopy of 'Report to  
the Local Inquiry conducted by Lord Scarman'**

**MS897/3/3/22 Police Federation submission: Photocopy of  
'Statement to the Scarman Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/3/23 Birmingham Community Relations Council  
submission: Photocopy of 'Submission by the  
Birmingham Community Relations Council'**

**MS897/3/3/24 Council for Community Relations in Lambeth:  
Photocopy of 'Statement of evidence  
submitted'**

**MS897/3/4 Submission file 4 1981**

Contains submissions from:  
Concern  
Brixton Domino and Social Club  
T.U.C. [Trades Union Congress]  
West Midlands County Council  
John Fraser MP  
National Council for Civil Liberties  
Police Superintendents Association  
The Eye of the Storm, Caribbean House Group  
Tom Hastie - Retired Teacher  
Runnymede Trust  
West Midlands Police  
Professor Deakin - University of Birmingham  
Lambeth Borough Council

13 items

**MS897/3/4/1 Concern submission: Includes photocopies of  
'Written Submission' and 'Statement of  
Professor Terence Morris'**

**MS897/3/4/2 Brixton Domino and Social Club submission:  
Includes photocopies of 'Written Submission of  
Evidence' and list of publications of John J  
Figueroa**

**MS897/3/4/3 Trades Unions Congress submission:  
Photocopy of 'Regenerating our Inner Cities: A  
TUC policy statement'**

**MS897/3/4/4 County Council of the West Midlands  
submission: Photocopy of 'Submission to Lord  
Scarman's Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/4/5 John Fraser MP submission: Photocopy of  
'Evidence and Observations'**

**MS897/3/4/6 National Council for Civil Liberties submission:  
Photocopy of 'Civil Disorder and Civil Liberties'**

**MS897/3/4/7 Police superintendents Association  
submission: Photocopy of 'Inquiry into the  
Brixton Disturbances'**

**MS897/3/4/8 The Eye of the Storm, Caribbean House Group:  
Photocopy of 'A Society on Trial'**

**MS897/3/4/9 Tom Hastie submission: Photocopy of evidence**

**MS897/3/4/10 The Runnymede Trust submission:  
Photocopy of 'Submission to the Inquiry'**

**MS897/3/4/11 West Midlands Police submission: Photocopy  
of 'Enquiry into the Brixton Disturbances'**

**MS897/3/4/12 Professor Deakin, University of Birmingham  
submission: Photocopy of 'Supplementary  
Evidence'**

**MS897/3/4/13 Lambeth Borough Council submission:  
Photocopies of 'A note of amendments and  
additions to the Council's submission' and 'A  
note about the Railton Housing Action Area'**

**MS897/3/5 Submissions file 5**

**1981**

Contains submissions from:  
Cecil Perry - Minister of Religion  
John C. Alderson - Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall  
Melting Pot Foundation (additional)  
Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association (additional)  
Rastafarian Collective  
Geoffrey James Dear - Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police  
ILEA [Inner London Education Authority] (additional)  
Jah Bones - Policy witness for the Melting Pot Foundation  
Owen Sylvestre - Policy witness for the Melting Pot Foundation  
Concern (2 additional submissions)