

ARM Scotland

Vigil of Remembrance, 16 June, Kirkcaldy

Friends, neighbours, families, and members of the public — thank you for standing here today. We gather in compassion, in dignity, and in truth. We gather for Henry Nowak, an 18-year-old boy who died after coming into police contact in December 2025. And we also gather to honour five other men whose deaths after police contact in Scotland remain unanswered.

Today is not a protest of anger. Today is a vigil of remembrance — and a public demand for truth. We stand here because silence helps no one, and because families deserve answers, not delays.

Across Scotland, the UK, and every community represented in the comments we received this week, one message is clear: People are shocked. People are grieving. People are asking why. And people are tired of waiting years for answers that never come.

In just five days, over a thousand people viewed our vigil announcement. They wrote: “Horrific.” • “Shocking.” • “Why is this not in the media?” • “Five deaths from one station — what is going on?” • “These men must not be forgotten.” • “This needs broadcasting everywhere.”

These are not political statements. These are human reactions to human loss — and they show the public is paying attention, even when institutions hope they are not.

Concerns About the Nowak Family’s Case

Let us be absolutely clear: Our concerns about the Nowak family’s case do not come from the BBC. They come from what we have lived through here in Scotland — and from the failures we have witnessed with our own eyes.

Only one man — Sheku Bayoh — ever received a public inquiry. None of the white men mentioned who died after police contact were given the same treatment.

And even the one inquiry that was granted, collapsed in credibility: Lord Bracadale resigned; the Scottish Police Federation challenged his impartiality; a judicial review was looming; and then the entire legal team withdrew. This was after £50 million of public money had already been spent. We are still waiting for a Freedom Of Information to confirm the full cost and the further anticipated cost. When that information is released, it will be published on our website for everyone to see.

So yes — we have warranted concerns about whether the Nowak family will receive the truth they deserve. Because we have seen: delays, obstruction, legal manoeuvres, and families left without answers.

We also recognise a common pattern — a pattern that has played out in Scotland and is now playing out in England. Every one of the men who died after police contact in Scotland were smeared. And now we see the same tactic was used against Henry Nowak.

This is not coincidence. This is not isolated. This is a common theme in police-involved deaths across the UK.

A Call to the Nowak Family

To the Nowak family, and to every family seeking truth: You must obtain the Police TETRA communications from the night Henry died.

TETRA is the encrypted police radio system — the earpiece-to-control-room audio, the live transmissions, the real-time instructions, the status updates, the short data messages, and the internal command decisions. This is the only complete, unedited, real-time record of what happened on that field.

And it can be obtained via a Subject Access Request made under Section 15 of the UK GDPR 2018 and the Data Protection Acts.

Without TETRA, you are only seeing the edited version. With TETRA, you see the truth.

The Names

Today we lay a Plaque of Remembrance for Henry and for the five other men whose names Scotland must never forget:

Sheku Bayoh • Marc Hamilton • Stephen “Spike” Campbell • Joseph Sneddon • Scott Hooper

In total, Six lives. Six families. Six unanswered losses.

Their names will not be erased. Their stories will not be buried. Their families will not stand alone.

And so today, we say this with one voice: A plaque for Henry Nowak should stand outside every police station in the United Kingdom — a reminder that every life matters, every death matters, and every unanswered question must be answered.

To everyone who travelled here, to everyone who commented, shared, or spoke out — we extend a big thank you. Your presence is an act of solidarity. Your compassion is an act of resistance. Your voice is part of a growing national call for truth.

Let this vigil be a light in the darkness. Let this plaque be a promise. And let this gathering be a message to every institution in this country:

Scotland does not forget its sons. Scotland does not abandon its families. And Scotland will not stop asking for truth.

May I ask that we close by saying the — Serenity Prayer

*God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change,
the courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference.*

Before we go, we invite everyone here to join us in a moment of unity and reflection. Go in peace, go in unity, and go in solidarity. We leave you with a piece of music for a few moments of reflection.

Thank you.