

EPILOGUE

BYSTANDER 1: Everyone has the right to feel safe and supported on Britain's public transport system, including women and girls which is why this work has been one of our key priorities over the last year.

BYSTANDER 2: The train was pretty empty and this man decided to come and sit directly next to me at a four-person table. I felt so unsafe.

GASKILL: This was an incredibly tragic case that attracted a huge media and social media interest, placing our policing response and the victim's family into the spotlight. That media demand was at times overwhelming, and with the benefit of hindsight, there are undoubtedly things we would do differently in the future. Indeed, we have already started to do so.

BYSTANDER 3: It was busy when I got on, but the train emptied out and eventually it was myself and a group of young lads. Two men then got on the train. One sat next to me, the other sat opposite me. In retrospect, I should have just got up and moved. I felt intimidated but I just sat there, looking at my phone.

BYSTANDER 4: Tackling violence remains our top operational priority, including crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls, such as domestic abuse and sexual violence.

BYSTANDER 2: I was minding my own business, I had my earphones in, I was texting a friend. He was shuffling closer to me. I was pretty much up against the window.

BYSTANDER 1: During our research, women and girls told us they shoulder significant responsibility for adapting their own behaviour to try to 'be' and 'feel' safe on public transport. They are often in a constant state of vigilance, particularly at night time, and as a result end up changing their plans - only travelling at certain points of the day or not using public transport altogether.

BYSTANDER 3: When I got to my stop, they were touching me, telling me I wasn't getting off the train, barring my way. I had to push past them, then they followed me to the doors.

BYSTANDER 4: Male violence against women and girls has a profound and long-lasting impact on those directly affected, shattering the lives of victims, their families and those closest to them. Such violence also affects local communities and impacts how safe people feel where they live, and how confident they are in their local police service.

BYSTANDER 2: I know when something is unsafe or wrong, but I didn't feel confident enough to say 'can I get out?' or 'can you move, or back off?'

GASKILL: I am disappointed that our staff didn't feel that they had the support from us that they needed. We were working hard behind the scenes, but that isn't good enough and we have learned from this. As noted in the review, the operational oversight and grip on the investigation and search was evident and beneficial, but there are some areas where we could have done better. We know this and I am committed to ensuring that we adopt this learning immediately.

BYSTANDER 2: With him moving closer, the alarm bells in my head were going off. Another couple were sat on the other side of the train who saw I was uncomfortable, but didn't say anything.

BYSTANDER 4: We will not stop in our mission to tackle violence perpetrated by men against women and girls, and to give our public the confidence they need to trust that we'll always uphold the highest professional standards in policing.

BYSTANDER 3: I was so concerned. If it wasn't for this group of lads who had heard me telling them to let me get off...I am just so grateful they came and rescued me. If they had got off with me at my stop, I don't know what would have happened.

BYSTANDER 1: This is simply not acceptable in the 21st century. We will now work with transport operators and stakeholders to carefully consider these recommendations and how we can implement them quickly and effectively, to ensure our transport network is safer and more secure for all who use it.

BYSTANDER 4: Our officers are ready to serve, day in and day out, and choose to risk their own lives to save and protect others. Where violence does occur, we will be relentless in our mission to bring offenders to justice, and to give the victims the care and support they need and deserve.

GASKILL: Everything we did during the investigation and search was in the hope we could find her alive and well, and to bring her home to her family, who remained at the heart of everything we did. Sadly, that was not the outcome, and our thoughts are with them as they continue to grieve.

Source Material

- **Emma and Amanda's Story** (*Interview from BBC Radio Scotland*)
- **Women and girls' safety on public transport** (*Statement by Jenny Gilruth, Minister for Transport Scotland*)
- **Metropolitan Police Service - Violence Against Women and Girls** (*Introduction from Commissioner, Cressida Dick*)
- **Lancashire Police statement on publication of independent report into Nicola Bulley case** (*Statement by Deputy Chief Constable Sacha Hatchett*)