

Good morning.

My name is Derrick Emmanuel Lynch, also known as John Canoe. I am a Black person and an ic3 Black defendant. I am presently unrepresented.

I have attended today in compliance with the written notice dated 16th September 2026. Yesterday I sent the Court a detailed written record and request for clarification. I ask that document and this statement are retained with the court record.

My purpose today, before any plea is taken from me, is to obtain clarity about the matters I have raised which affect my effective participation and my ability to make an informed decision about my plea. I am not refusing to participate and I am not refusing to enter a plea.

SECTION ONE — POSITION BEFORE PLEA

I respectfully ask the Court to treat my request for clarification **not** as a refusal to plead. I am asking the Court first to determine whether arraignment can reasonably be deferred until the pre-plea matters I have identified have been addressed.

I did not deliberately fail or refuse to attend the hearing on 16th September 2026. I did not receive clear written notification or the hearing documents before that hearing. My legal observer, Mr George T. Nomen, attended, spoke in court and telephoned me. He later reported that the Court acknowledged an error. I was not present in the courtroom and therefore require the official record rather than relying upon a second-hand account.

Before entering a plea, I ask the Court to clarify what happened concerning my absence: whether a warrant, arrest, failure to surrender, breach of bail or other adverse consequence was raised or considered; what decisions were made; how my absence is formally recorded; whether it will be relied

upon adversely; and what orders or directions were made in my absence.

I am still waiting for the transcript of 26th August 2026 and I require the official record of 16th September 2026. I ask the Court to confirm the present position of those records and whether the original audio recordings exist and can be obtained or listened to.

At the hearing on 26th August 2026 the Judge recommended that I seek legal representation and gave me a list of six local solicitors. I acted on that recommendation. As at 23rd September 2026 I had received only one substantive response from those firms. Needham Poulier Solicitors Ltd said that it did not have capacity to take on new matters. I have not obtained representation and remain unrepresented.

I ask the Court to record that I have attempted to obtain representation and that my present unrepresented position should not be inaccurately characterised as a simple refusal to seek representation.

There is also an unresolved **police** evidence-portal issue. Before I make a plea decision, I ask the Court to take account of my request for confirmation of what evidence I submitted, the document-level audit trail and receipts, and the unresolved question of access to the evidence portal.

SECTION TWO — SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS BEFORE PLEA

I am a Black person. I am specifically concerned to establish what safeguards exist against **anti-Black racism and Institutional Racism in the decision-making processes** relevant to my case.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am making no allegations, no accusations, no assertions concerning anybody's motive, no assumptions and no conclusions concerning misconduct or discrimination. I am asking safeguarding questions before I am required to make the legally significant decision of entering a plea.

Before I am required to enter a plea, I ask the Court to identify the legal framework and the Court's jurisdiction relevant to requiring that plea, and to identify the specific safeguards against **anti-Black racism and Institutional Racism in the decision-making processes** affecting me.

I ask the Court to identify where those safeguards are recorded; how they operate in practice; who is responsible for applying them; what monitoring or review exists; and what procedure is available if a safeguard is engaged, challenged or fails.

If the Court relies upon ordinary safeguards, I ask that they be identified specifically and that the Court explain how they address **anti-Black racism and Institutional Racism**. General equality, diversity and inclusion material does not by itself answer my specific safeguarding question.

I am not asking the Court to assume that racism has occurred. I am asking what safeguards exist against it and how those safeguards apply before I am required to make a decision affecting my legal rights.

SECTION THREE — IF THE COURT PROPOSES TO TAKE A PLEA TODAY

My plea position must be absolutely clear. I am not saying that I will never enter a plea. I am not refusing to enter a plea. I am asking the Court to address and determine my pre-plea requests before requiring me to enter one.

I do not ask the Court to record that I have personally pleaded guilty or not guilty when I have not personally entered such a plea.

If the Court determines that arraignment must proceed today despite the matters I have raised, I respectfully ask the Court, before putting me in the position of answering guilty or not guilty, to state clearly on the record:

1. whether my request that arraignment be deferred has been granted or refused;
2. if refused, the reasons for refusing it;

3. the legal and procedural basis upon which the Court says arraignment should proceed today;

4. whether the Court considers that my present lack of representation, the outstanding official records and transcripts, the 16th September issues, the police evidence-record issues and my safeguarding concerns prevent or do not prevent arraignment, and why;

5. whether the Court considers that I am able to participate effectively and make an informed plea decision in the present circumstances;

6. what the Court says the legal consequence will be if I do not personally answer guilty or not guilty when arraigned; and

7. that my request for these matters to be addressed is not inaccurately recorded as a refusal to participate.

If the Court decides that none of the matters I have raised provides a legal or procedural basis for postponing arraignment, I ask the Court to state that clearly, together with its reasons, before asking me for my plea.

CLOSING

Thank you. I ask that this statement and my detailed written submission of 23rd September 2026 are retained with the court record. If I have misunderstood any factual or procedural matter, I expressly invite the Court to correct me and identify the correct position clearly.

My attendance today does not abandon or waive my requests concerning the official records, transcripts, recordings, representation, police evidence records, safeguarding against **anti-Black racism and Institutional Racism**, effective participation, or any procedural objection or complaint that may require consideration after the relevant evidence is available.