

<p>1 Wednesday, 8 July 2020</p> <p>2 (10.30 am)</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Day 8 of</p> <p>4 this public hearing.</p> <p>5 Ms Dobbin?</p> <p>6 MS DOBBIN: Thank you. Chair, may I call the first witness</p> <p>7 for today, please, Mr David Pope.</p> <p>8 MR DAVID POPE (affirmed)</p> <p>9 Examination by MS DOBBIN</p> <p>10 MS DOBBIN: Mr Pope, you ought to have a statement in front</p> <p>11 of you which you made to the inquiry and which is dated</p> <p>12 11 March 2020.</p> <p>13 A. I have.</p> <p>14 Q. Are the contents of that statement true, to the best of</p> <p>15 your knowledge and belief?</p> <p>16 A. They are.</p> <p>17 Q. Mr Pope, I'm just going to establish some of your</p> <p>18 background before I take you through some other</p> <p>19 questions. I think it's right that, between 1965 and</p> <p>20 1969, you were a psychiatric nurse?</p> <p>21 A. That's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. You became a mental welfare officer in Poole or</p> <p>23 Dorset Council between 1970 and 1972?</p> <p>24 A. '69 to '72, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. I think it was during this time that you obtained</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 a qualification in social work; is that correct?</p> <p>2 A. I did.</p> <p>3 Q. What qualification was that?</p> <p>4 A. The CQSW, the Certificate of Qualification of Social</p> <p>5 Work.</p> <p>6 Q. After that, between 1972 and 1975, did you work for</p> <p>7 Sutton Council?</p> <p>8 A. I did.</p> <p>9 Q. Were you made a team leader during that time?</p> <p>10 A. I was.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you join Lambeth Council in 1975?</p> <p>12 A. I did.</p> <p>13 Q. You worked there for 20 years?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Becoming an Assistant Director in Personnel Services in</p> <p>16 1983?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. In early 1988, you were made the Director of</p> <p>19 Social Services; is that right?</p> <p>20 A. That's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. Mr Pope, before I take you through your evidence,</p> <p>22 I understand that there is something that you would like</p> <p>23 to say; is that right?</p> <p>24 A. Thank you very much. I would, yes. I am aware that</p> <p>25 Lambeth Council has made a corporate apology to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>
<p>1 children who were in their care. As a former Director</p> <p>2 of Social Services, I wish to add my personal apologies</p> <p>3 and regret to those who we failed to provide a safe and</p> <p>4 caring environment and childhood, which they had a right</p> <p>5 to. Thank you.</p> <p>6 Q. Mr Pope, I'm going to start by asking you about events</p> <p>7 that took place when you were an assistant director in</p> <p>8 1986, and that was the decision to retain</p> <p>9 Mr John Carroll. Can I ask, please, Mr Hyde, that we go</p> <p>10 to LAM001516_001. Could we enlarge that a little,</p> <p>11 please. We can see, can't we, Mr Pope, that these are</p> <p>12 notes of a disciplinary meeting in respect of</p> <p>13 Mr John Carroll that was held on 19 May 1986?</p> <p>14 A. Correct.</p> <p>15 Q. You were the chair of that meeting and you were sitting</p> <p>16 with a Mr Wynford Jones; is that right? He was</p> <p>17 a personnel officer in Lambeth?</p> <p>18 A. He was then the head of human resources, yes, our senior</p> <p>19 personnel officer.</p> <p>20 Q. The person who was presenting the management case was</p> <p>21 a Mr Thomas, who was the senior children's homes officer</p> <p>22 for Lambeth?</p> <p>23 A. That's correct.</p> <p>24 Q. Mr Carroll appeared, and he was represented by</p> <p>25 a Mrs Irene O'Brien?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. Yes, the trade union representative.</p> <p>2 Q. First of all, was Mr Carroll someone whom you knew at</p> <p>3 this stage in 1986?</p> <p>4 A. I had met him once when I was chairing another</p> <p>5 disciplinary hearing and he was the presenting manager</p> <p>6 and he was disciplining one of his, I think, night staff</p> <p>7 who had a history of absenteeism and late timekeeping.</p> <p>8 Q. Beyond that, did you have any other association with</p> <p>9 him?</p> <p>10 A. I had never met him before that.</p> <p>11 Q. Had you ever visited the Angell Road Home?</p> <p>12 A. Every year, I sat down with my secretary when I was</p> <p>13 director and developed a programme of visits to all our</p> <p>14 establishments, and there were probably between 80 –</p> <p>15 80 to 100, maybe. All the adults and children's</p> <p>16 establishments, day, residential, the offices, the</p> <p>17 hospitals, to meet staff and to meet users. Every year,</p> <p>18 because of just pressure of work, demands, urgent things</p> <p>19 that had to be done, that got squeezed to the margins,</p> <p>20 so the reality is that I did nowhere near the amount of</p> <p>21 visiting that I would wish to have done, and I can't now</p> <p>22 remember which establishments I visited or how often,</p> <p>23 because, obviously, it is quite a long time ago, but</p> <p>24 I do know that I visited some, because I remember going</p> <p>25 with the assistant director or the adult homes manager</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 or the children's homes manager to some establishments,</p> <p>2 but how many and which ones they were, I can no longer</p> <p>3 remember.</p> <p>4 Q. Mr Pope, I'm going to come back to the issue of visiting</p> <p>5 homes when you became director. I'm just going to focus</p> <p>6 at the moment on Angell Road and Mr Carroll.</p> <p>7 At the time of this misconduct hearing, had you read</p> <p>8 or asked for Mr Carroll's personnel file?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. Why would you not ask to see that or consider it, if</p> <p>11 you're conducting a misconduct hearing in respect of</p> <p>12 a member of staff?</p> <p>13 A. I don't believe that's normal practice, that you would</p> <p>14 read a member of staff's personnel file. You normally</p> <p>15 had access through a personnel officer, but my memory</p> <p>16 is, it was not routine at all, or I've never experienced</p> <p>17 that, reading a personnel file.</p> <p>18 Q. So would you be dependent on the officer presenting the</p> <p>19 management case --</p> <p>20 A. That's right.</p> <p>21 Q. -- to bring to your attention anything that was relevant</p> <p>22 in that file?</p> <p>23 A. That's correct.</p> <p>24 Q. I'm just going to ask, Mr Hyde, if we could just go</p> <p>25 further down the page that was on the screen, page 1 of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 that exhibit, we can see the charge that Mr Carroll was</p> <p>2 facing, that a letter had been received from the London</p> <p>3 Borough of Croydon informing Lambeth that there was</p> <p>4 a Magistrate's Court conviction in respect of Mr Carroll</p> <p>5 and that he'd been sentenced to two years probation for</p> <p>6 an indecent assault on an individual under 16 years of</p> <p>7 age. Correct?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. If we look down, we can see that a disciplinary panel</p> <p>10 was convened and that the charges were these -- it is on</p> <p>11 the next page, please, Mr Hyde: that Mr Carroll had</p> <p>12 failed to disclose the information under the provisions</p> <p>13 of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act when he applied</p> <p>14 to Lambeth in 1978; and the second charge being that, as</p> <p>15 an officer-in-charge, he had seriously undermined the</p> <p>16 trust placed in him by the authority?</p> <p>17 A. That's correct.</p> <p>18 Q. We can see, can't we, that Mr Carroll had stated that he</p> <p>19 denied the charges, and that he was going to give the</p> <p>20 reasons for that in the course of his case; is that</p> <p>21 correct?</p> <p>22 A. Correct.</p> <p>23 Q. If we go on down, we can see that Mr Thomas presented</p> <p>24 the management case and that he had informed the panel</p> <p>25 that Mr Carroll was the officer-in-charge of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>
<p>1 a multi-purpose children's home. We can see at the</p> <p>2 bottom that the basis of the management case was that he</p> <p>3 had failed to report the conviction?</p> <p>4 A. Correct.</p> <p>5 Q. If we go over the page -- we don't need to dwell on this</p> <p>6 too long -- that's page 3, the first two paragraphs deal</p> <p>7 with how this came to light and how Mr Thomas was aware</p> <p>8 of it, and then, if we look at the bottom paragraph,</p> <p>9 please, we see the way management put the case, that</p> <p>10 they considered that Mr Carroll had contravened policy</p> <p>11 in not declaring his conviction, and that it was</p> <p>12 management's case that, as the incident took place</p> <p>13 20 years ago, the issue was the failure to disclose the</p> <p>14 information rather than the charge itself?</p> <p>15 A. I see that, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. If we go over the page, Mr Thomas went on that, by not</p> <p>17 declaring the conviction, the application would not</p> <p>18 necessarily have precluded Mr Carroll from being</p> <p>19 selected for the posts, but that the council would have</p> <p>20 had the benefit of the information in terms of giving</p> <p>21 consideration to it at shortlisting and interviewing</p> <p>22 stages. Do you see that?</p> <p>23 A. I do.</p> <p>24 Q. Then if we go on to the third paragraph, you asked</p> <p>25 Mr Thomas if he had checked further as to the nature of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 the offence, in other words, did Mr Thomas know anything</p> <p>2 more about it, and I think the answer to that was that</p> <p>3 he didn't?</p> <p>4 A. That's correct.</p> <p>5 Q. Just pausing there, if we can, were you concerned,</p> <p>6 Mr Pope, at the way that this case was being presented</p> <p>7 on behalf of Lambeth's management?</p> <p>8 A. It's a long -- obviously 34 years ago. I was concerned</p> <p>9 that they certainly had not done -- appeared to have</p> <p>10 done any preparation before coming before the panel, in</p> <p>11 terms of further information, as I said, about the</p> <p>12 offence, because, obviously, Mr Carroll stating that he</p> <p>13 was not guilty to the charges meant there was going to</p> <p>14 have to be some investigation. I would have expected</p> <p>15 them to have come forward with a bit more information</p> <p>16 for the panel to work on than they did.</p> <p>17 Q. First of all, weeks had passed since the letter had come</p> <p>18 from Croydon, and it seems that no-one had attempted to</p> <p>19 find out anything more about his conviction; correct?</p> <p>20 A. Correct.</p> <p>21 Q. Second, the starting position of the management case was</p> <p>22 that this conviction wouldn't necessarily have precluded</p> <p>23 Mr Carroll from taking up his post?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. Wouldn't you have expected management to have been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

1 emphasising the serious breach of trust that this
 2 actually was?
 3 **A. That would be the normal -- that's what management**
 4 **normally do, yes.**
 5 Q. Yes. It wasn't being done here, was it?
 6 **A. Not in any -- not -- as you say, not at the level you**
 7 **would expect, no.**
 8 Q. You might expect, here, management to be stressing,
 9 particularly in the field of childcare, that the failure
 10 to declare this conviction was really serious?
 11 **A. Indeed.**
 12 Q. But it appears to be the other way?
 13 **A. I agree.**
 14 Q. That it was being minimised. Were you alert to that at
 15 the time?
 16 **A. I think we were -- we were concerned that the case was**
 17 **being presented as if -- almost in a way it was just**
 18 **going to be dealt with without any further information**
 19 **being gathered or without any real scrutiny. I mean, he**
 20 **hadn't been suspended from duty when the offence came**
 21 **up, and it did appear that management were not pursuing**
 22 **a particularly strident line, yes.**
 23 Q. The officer who presented this case was dismissed from
 24 Lambeth's employ the following year, wasn't he?
 25 **A. The following year, yes, probably, that's correct, yes.**

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1 been compromised by the children's homes officer because
 2 he had links to people in Ivy House who were involved in
 3 the same fraud?
 4 **A. That's right.**
 5 Q. Do you recollect that?
 6 **A. Yes, I do recognise that now, yes.**
 7 Q. At the time of Mr Carroll's misconduct hearing, was the
 8 children's homes officer under suspicion?
 9 **A. Not to my knowledge, no.**
 10 Q. Did his conduct at this hearing make you suspicious
 11 about what his motives were in dealing with it in such
 12 a perfunctory way?
 13 **A. No, I don't remember thinking like that. I just thought**
 14 **that the fact that he hadn't been suspended and the fact**
 15 **that it wasn't -- they weren't putting a very hard line**
 16 **was just something that I was aware of. I didn't link**
 17 **them together in any way, no.**
 18 Q. I'm going to move on, please, Mr Hyde, to the next page
 19 of this exhibit, page 5. We can see that you asked
 20 Mr Carroll to present his case. It wasn't presented by
 21 anyone else, it would appear. He spoke for himself.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. You can see what he said about it. He said that it
 24 happened 20 years ago. He asked you to take into
 25 account the circumstances around the incident. He told

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1 Q. He was dismissed in respect of allegations of fraud?
 2 **A. That's correct.**
 3 Q. Did that relate to the provision of food by
 4 Marks & Spencers to children's homes?
 5 **A. Yes, that's right.**
 6 Q. So Marks & Spencers were donating food to children's
 7 homes?
 8 **A. Yes. It was food that was coming up to its sell-by**
 9 **date, and my understanding was that children's homes had**
 10 **an arrangement that Marks & Spencers would provide that**
 11 **food basically instead of throwing it away, yes.**
 12 Q. The senior children's home officer was essentially
 13 creaming off that food, wasn't he?
 14 **A. That's absolutely right, yes.**
 15 Q. And other members of staff at children's homes?
 16 **A. I think -- I can't quite remember the details, but**
 17 **somewhere in this mass of papers, there was an issue**
 18 **about two other officers. It wasn't my service area,**
 19 **but, I mean, my understanding was, from reading the**
 20 **documents, there was him and two others, I think.**
 21 Q. I think that, in 1987, you attended a meeting with the
 22 Social Services Inspectorate about Ivy House?
 23 **A. That's right, yes.**
 24 Q. Concerns were raised with the Social Services
 25 Inspectorate that the investigation into Ivy House had

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1 you he was 17 years old, when he was in a children's
 2 home. He was in the bedroom of a children's home which
 3 he and a group of boys were using for changing rooms for
 4 a football match. He stated that they were larking
 5 around and grabbing each other's testicles. And, as
 6 a result of the incident, one particular boy's mother
 7 pursued an indecent charge against Mr Carroll, and the
 8 police questioned him about sexual assaults on the boy,
 9 and Mr Carroll went on to say something about that
 10 charge, which I won't go into.
 11 But if we could go over the page, please, Mr Hyde,
 12 he sought to explain why he hadn't declared his
 13 conviction. Do you see at paragraph 1? He said he
 14 didn't disclose it because he had worked previously in
 15 a Social Services setting, and then he said this: in
 16 completing his application form for the London Borough
 17 of Croydon to foster a child, he did so quite innocently
 18 and properly, and it was at that time that the
 19 information came to light.
 20 So he's referring there, isn't he, Mr Pope, to how
 21 this conviction came about. You came to know about it
 22 because he had applied to Croydon to foster a child, and
 23 it was Croydon who had discovered his conviction?
 24 **A. That's right. My understanding was that the London**
 25 **Borough of Croydon informed Robin Osmond that they had**

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1 **picked up this offence when he made an application to**
 2 **foster, yes.**
 3 Q. Had he also failed to declare that conviction to
 4 Croydon?
 5 **A. I can't remember. I can't recall that.**
 6 Q. If you look at the words that he uses there, that in his
 7 application form he "did so quite innocently"?
 8 **A. I don't think, when we -- I don't think at the panel we**
 9 **asked that question. We took it that they had --**
 10 **I think -- my understanding, thinking back 34 years, is**
 11 **that I think my understanding was that he didn't declare**
 12 **it to Croydon. They picked it up. That's what**
 13 **I believe I understand. But I'm not 100 per cent sure.**
 14 Q. I think you are right about that, Mr Pope. Mr Hyde,
 15 could we go to WAN000001_111. We can see from the top
 16 of that letter that it's from the London Borough of
 17 Croydon, and it was to Mr and Mrs Carroll.
 18 If we read down, if we can, Mr Hyde, they were
 19 setting out the reasons why they were turning down the
 20 fostering application. This letter is dated
 21 5 February 1986.
 22 So the first reason was that the standards applied
 23 in employing staff in residential childcare, which
 24 should apply equally to family placement, precluded
 25 registration; concern, number two, that the earlier

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1 Mr Carroll had done, isn't it: misleading another local
 2 authority at the time?
 3 **A. Yes, I have to agree with that, but I'm not sure that we**
 4 **picked that up. I think we were dealing with the**
 5 **Lambeth -- the situation, so I'm not sure we paid**
 6 **sufficient attention to that. But it was a long time**
 7 **ago and I may not remember all the detail, but I don't**
 8 **recall that as being something that we considered in the**
 9 **way that it's now being put, no.**
 10 Q. If I could go back to LAM001516_006. Thank you,
 11 Mr Hyde. So that's the same page.
 12 If we go down to the final paragraph, we can see
 13 that you asked whether the horseplay that Mr Carroll
 14 described was the first time that this sort of incident
 15 had happened. Where did "horseplay" come from, Mr Pope?
 16 Was that your language?
 17 **A. I don't know. I don't know. It's so long ago I just**
 18 **can't recollect it.**
 19 Q. I will come back to that term when we see it appear
 20 again. I just want to go over, if I can, then, to
 21 page 7.
 22 If we look at the middle paragraph, you asked him
 23 why he hadn't disclosed his conviction, and he described
 24 it as a confrontation with the police, which was painful
 25 to him. He said he'd pushed the memory away and said

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1 conviction had not been shared prior to obtaining
 2 references, and that the local authority's
 3 responsibilities in placing a child in trust in a family
 4 setting precluded the nature of risk in this case.
 5 The panel were mindful of the fact that the offence
 6 occurred a very long time ago; nonetheless, emphasis was
 7 placed on the fact that the conviction would never
 8 become spent as far as the employment of the childcare
 9 officer is concerned under the Rehabilitation of
 10 Offenders Act. So that was their rationale for --
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Thank you, Mr Hyde. Wasn't it important to Lambeth that
 13 Mr Carroll had also misled Croydon when he made the
 14 application to foster in Croydon?
 15 **A. I don't think that was put by the management side for us**
 16 **to consider, no. I don't remember that being put.**
 17 Q. Did it need to be put by the management for you to
 18 understand that this was a further and recent example of
 19 Mr Carroll misleading another local authority when it
 20 came to the fostering of a child?
 21 **A. I understand that point. I just don't -- I can't recall**
 22 **now how that issue was considered by us. It's so long**
 23 **ago. I don't believe -- I can't remember, but I don't**
 24 **believe we had discussions about that, no.**
 25 Q. But that's also a really serious aspect of what

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1 that he had not knowingly hid the information from
 2 Lambeth.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. That just wasn't right, was it? I mean, he wasn't
 5 claiming that he had forgotten about this conviction,
 6 was he?
 7 **A. No. No.**
 8 Q. I'm going to go on, if I can, to the next page, to
 9 page 8, please, Mr Hyde, and to the bottom paragraph
 10 again.
 11 We see at the very end you asked the parties to sum
 12 up. Mr Thomas summed up in rather the same way. Then
 13 you asked if there had been any reason to question
 14 Mr Carroll's behaviour, and Mr Thomas said -- and we see
 15 this over the page at page 9 -- that there was none
 16 whatsoever, no reason whatsoever. Do you see that?
 17 **A. I do.**
 18 Q. That wasn't right, was it, Mr Pope?
 19 **A. No, it wasn't.**
 20 Q. Did you know at the time that there had been a complaint
 21 about Mr Carroll in 1984?
 22 **A. No, we didn't.**
 23 Q. I wonder if we can just go, please, Mr Hyde, to
 24 LAM000020_030. This was the letter that had prompted an
 25 audit investigation of Mr Carroll. Are you familiar

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1 with that letter, Mr Pope?
 2 **A. I have received that in my bundle, yes, thank you.**
 3 Q. We can see that it's an anonymous letter. I'm not going
 4 to go through the whole thing, but it referred to
 5 Mr Carroll being a dictator, an autocrat, more suited to
 6 bringing up boys in the army than caring for young
 7 children.
 8 The middle paragraph sets out concerns about how he
 9 regarded everything as his own, and used the example of
 10 a minibus as something that he didn't let staff use to
 11 bring children to school, meaning that they had to get
 12 children to and from school on public transport.
 13 It referred to him treating staff like dirt beneath
 14 his feet. Do you see that in the final paragraph? We
 15 also see about staff having to do jobs or to cook for
 16 a family whose children were no longer in care -- are no
 17 longer in the care of Mr Carroll.
 18 That letter, of itself, obviously gives rise to
 19 serious concerns, doesn't it, about how Mr Carroll was
 20 running the Angell Road Home?
 21 **A. Absolutely.**
 22 Q. Coupled with the information that you had about his
 23 conviction, some of the things referred to in that
 24 letter take on a new meaning, don't they?
 25 **A. They do.**

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1 **A. Yes, I think it would be. Yes, I think it would be.**
 2 Q. If we go to LAM001516_009, Mr Hyde, we can see that
 3 in May 1986 you decided that the first charge was
 4 proven, but as regards the second charge, you wanted to
 5 find out more about the convictions; is that right?
 6 **A. That's correct.**
 7 Q. We see then that the matter gets adjourned. If I can
 8 go, please, to document LAM001519_005, please. This was
 9 a resumed hearing on 20 July 1986. You were present
 10 again. Mr Wynford Jones was sick.
 11 **A. Right.**
 12 Q. There was someone from NALGO, Mrs O'Brien and
 13 Mr Carroll. If we can just go, please, to the middle
 14 paragraph -- sorry, slightly further down, please,
 15 Mr Hyde. Yes, thank you. We can see that the
 16 information that you received threw a different light on
 17 things?
 18 **A. Correct.**
 19 Q. You regarded the information that you received as having
 20 differed slightly or significantly?
 21 **A. Yes, it could be significant. Yes, it was significant,**
 22 **yes.**
 23 Q. I'm really asking you what's written there. Do you
 24 know, is that "differ significantly" from what JC said?
 25 **A. No, it says "differs slightly".**

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1 Q. You would have been concerned about the idea of him
 2 being autocratic and dictatorial in his running of
 3 the home, wouldn't you?
 4 **A. We would, yes.**
 5 Q. Can you help us understand why you didn't know about
 6 that letter?
 7 **A. Well, my understanding was that letter was given to**
 8 **Richard Clough when he was doing his inquiry in 1992.**
 9 **I'm not sure who gave it to him, but it was found**
 10 **somewhere, and that was the first time I think that it**
 11 **was known to exist. It was certainly not, as you said,**
 12 **something that was made -- given to the panel to**
 13 **consider. But it had, as I understand it from reading**
 14 **the documents, been something that had been dealt with**
 15 **by the children's homes management team, and I think the**
 16 **assistant director -- I may be not quite correct in**
 17 **that, but it had certainly come to the attention of**
 18 **senior management and management in the children's homes**
 19 **division prior to disciplinary, yes.**
 20 Q. It might seem surprising that it could be made available
 21 to Mr Clough in 1992, but not made available to you in
 22 1986?
 23 **A. I agree. I agree.**
 24 Q. Is that the sort of letter that you would expect to find
 25 in someone's personnel file?

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1 Q. Can we have a look, then, please -- sorry, it is the
 2 panel's tab 28. This is LAM001506.
 3 Mr Pope, I will bring you back to that, if needs be,
 4 but the first document was the certificate of
 5 conviction -- oh, we have it here. Thank you. If you
 6 could just enlarge that, please. That confirmed that
 7 Mr Carroll had been convicted of an indecent assault on
 8 a boy who was 12?
 9 **A. Correct.**
 10 Q. The dates confirm to you that he wasn't 17 at the time,
 11 but he was 18; is that right?
 12 **A. That's correct.**
 13 Q. If we go to the next document, please, Mr Hyde, that's
 14 LAM001508. Probably the most important paragraph of
 15 this is the final paragraph. This was disclosure from
 16 Merseyside Police, and they set out that the offence was
 17 that the recorded method is that Carroll, as an
 18 ex-inmate of [redacted], visited the home and, during
 19 his visit, went to see his old house. He entered the
 20 bedroom of a 12-year-old boy, tickled him and then
 21 pulled down his pyjamas and played with his penis?
 22 **A. Correct.**
 23 Q. Thank you, Mr Hyde. Mr Carroll had misled you in the
 24 first hearing, hadn't he, before you had said that you
 25 were going to get further information about this

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1 offence?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. He had represented that he was 17, that he was in care
 4 and that this incident had taken place in the context of
 5 larking about?
 6 **A. Correct.**
 7 Q. That just wasn't true, was it?
 8 **A. No.**
 9 Q. Can we go back, please, Mr Hyde, to LAM001519_007. This
 10 was the reconvened hearing on 18 August. Do you see
 11 that, Mr Pope?
 12 **A. I can.**
 13 Q. This was the final hearing. If we go to page 8 of that
 14 exhibit, we see again at the bottom it appears to be
 15 being suggested again that this happened when Mr Carroll
 16 was 17 years, in care, fooling around, that it happened
 17 in the context of boys grabbing each other's testicles.
 18 Was that what was being put again on 18 August?
 19 **A. Yes. He disputed that he had played with the boy's**
 20 **penis. He said they were grabbing testicles. So, yes,**
 21 **he did dispute what the charge sheet actually said.**
 22 **That's my memory of it, yes.**
 23 Q. Was he also disputing what age he was and whether he was
 24 in care?
 25 **A. I'm sorry?**

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1 **understand those distinctions. But I think at the time,**
 2 **no, I don't think we registered that.**
 3 Q. Mr Pope, I'm not sure that I follow that. Because, at
 4 the time, he said he was 17, he was in care, he had
 5 tickled this boy -- he had, you know, felt this boy's
 6 testicles.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. That wasn't true, as the police records demonstrated to
 9 you at the time. He was 18.
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. He wasn't in care.
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. He touched the boy in a different way.
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. All of this was clear to you at the time?
 16 **A. I think -- well, at the time -- in our understanding at**
 17 **the time -- it was a long, long time ago, and the**
 18 **detailed thinking process has obviously got lost in**
 19 **time. But at the time, when I walked away from it, in**
 20 **my head I had that he was 17 and a half, he was either**
 21 **just leaving care or had just left care, and his**
 22 **explanation was that he had grabbed this boy's**
 23 **testicles. So that's what my -- but, from memory,**
 24 **I believe that's what was my thinking.**
 25 **The trouble is, it's been investigated and discussed**

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1 Q. Was he also disputing what age he was?
 2 **A. No. In fact, mistakenly, when he said right at the**
 3 **beginning that he was -- I think he said 17 and a half,**
 4 **I don't think either of us on the panel worked out that**
 5 **he was just 18. It was -- I think we'd always seen him**
 6 **being 17. But I have to say, if he'd have been 17 or**
 7 **18, I know there's a legal definition in that,**
 8 **I understand that now, in retrospect, but at the time,**
 9 **we saw him around that age. I don't -- he said what he**
 10 **said and we didn't register that there was any**
 11 **differentiation between what he said and what was**
 12 **actually the fact. So we just accepted that he was,**
 13 **I think, close between 17 or 18. But in my head for**
 14 **a long time, when I talked about it, I thought he was 17**
 15 **and a half. That's what stuck in my head, yes.**
 16 Q. Mr Pope, isn't the issue the way he was seeking to
 17 characterise this offence, that he was a child in care,
 18 as distinct from an adult who had gone back to this home
 19 and sexually abused a child? Isn't that the issue?
 20 **A. In retrospect, because this has been looked at, as you**
 21 **know, on a number of occasions, in retrospect, yes, of**
 22 **course, I see that now. At the time, it wasn't crystal**
 23 **clear at the time when we were dealing with it, as**
 24 **obviously I know it to be now, because, you know, it's**
 25 **been investigated and it's been discussed, so now I do**

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1 **so often, I get confused about what -- about the reality**
 2 **of what it was. But at the time, that's what we dealt**
 3 **with.**
 4 Q. Did you give greater weight to his account than you did
 5 to the objective evidence of what he had done?
 6 **A. Yes, there is no doubt about that, because it's crystal**
 7 **clear we did, but what we did was, we talked -- we got**
 8 **information from the nuns and the staff who were looking**
 9 **after him to see if this behaviour that he was**
 10 **describing was something that was taking place in the**
 11 **home, and they confirmed it was. So, ultimately, yes,**
 12 **we did. We took his explanation of it, rather than what**
 13 **the charge said, yes.**
 14 Q. I'm going to come back to that. I'm going to look at
 15 one of the references with you. I just want to ask you
 16 about this first: did you tell Mr Osmond that you had
 17 received legal advice to the effect that, because
 18 Mr Carroll was 17 at the time of the offence, there
 19 really wasn't anything that could be done in terms of
 20 dismissing him?
 21 **A. No. Never. We never took legal advice ever, no.**
 22 Q. I think you took legal advice much later, in 1993, about
 23 the legality of this decision. Do you recollect that?
 24 **A. No. That was, I think, when I asked our lawyers to**
 25 **provide me with some legal information when I was doing**

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<p>1 the report -- my response to the Clough Report.</p> <p>2 Q. I will come back to that, if needs be. I am just going</p> <p>3 to stay on events at the time.</p> <p>4 Mr Hyde, can we go to WAN000001_144. This is one of</p> <p>5 the references that you received, isn't it?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. The people who provided these references were the people</p> <p>8 who had provided references at the time of Mr Carroll's</p> <p>9 employment at Lambeth in 1978, weren't they?</p> <p>10 A. I'm not sure we knew that when we were in the</p> <p>11 disciplinary panel, no. I think we were given these as</p> <p>12 people who had worked -- had looked after him. But I'm</p> <p>13 not aware, from memory, whether -- I don't think we knew</p> <p>14 that these were people who'd also given him references.</p> <p>15 I can't remember that.</p> <p>16 Q. We can go to the Clough Report on that. Let's just</p> <p>17 focus on this. This was someone who knew that</p> <p>18 Mr Carroll had come before the court, it sets out that</p> <p>19 a boy who didn't want to be there, didn't want to be</p> <p>20 anywhere other than with his mother, was the victim, and</p> <p>21 says:</p> <p>22 "On the night of his arrival, there were more or</p> <p>23 less the usual boyish pranks in the dormitory. The boy</p> <p>24 in question thought they were directed against him.</p> <p>25 They were not. However, he had a long tale of woe for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 his mother. She went to the police, who had to take</p> <p>2 notice. John was the oldest boy there at the time and</p> <p>3 he had to take responsibility for something which was</p> <p>4 quite harmless, which should have been dealt with on the</p> <p>5 spot. John had to go before the magistrate and he was</p> <p>6 put on probation for two years, one of which was later</p> <p>7 dispensed."</p> <p>8 A. Yes, I see that.</p> <p>9 Q. Weren't you concerned, when you read that, that this</p> <p>10 referee was also minimising what Mr Carroll had done?</p> <p>11 A. Again, it's 34 years ago, and I'm struggling to remember</p> <p>12 what my thoughts were. It's difficult to answer that,</p> <p>13 whether he was -- I don't -- it's just difficult to say</p> <p>14 what we made of it after such a long time, but I think</p> <p>15 what we were -- from my memory, what we were saying --</p> <p>16 what we were thinking, and it's very confused,</p> <p>17 obviously, was that he was confirming that the events</p> <p>18 described by John Carroll were not unusual. That's what</p> <p>19 I think I took from that. But, you know, it's 34 years</p> <p>20 ago. It's very, very difficult to kind of think about</p> <p>21 the detail.</p> <p>22 Q. So you didn't think, this referee is also characterising</p> <p>23 this as pranks. He's also characterising Carroll as</p> <p>24 a boy. He's also making this sound like it took place</p> <p>25 in the context of boys messing around?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>
<p>1 A. No, I agree with that.</p> <p>2 Q. That doesn't correspond to the information that</p> <p>3 Merseyside Police have provided?</p> <p>4 A. No. No, I agree.</p> <p>5 Q. Can I just clear up this point about these referees.</p> <p>6 Mr Hyde, can I ask you, please, to go to LAM000020.</p> <p>7 It's the Clough Report. It is page 35. If we could</p> <p>8 just enlarge paragraph 144, this is in respect of your</p> <p>9 hearing:</p> <p>10 "Former referees, one of whom was a former employer,</p> <p>11 in written communications with Lambeth expressed their</p> <p>12 extreme disquiet that John Carroll is still being made</p> <p>13 to answer for a charge that happened 20 years earlier."</p> <p>14 In other words, the people whom your panel had gone</p> <p>15 to were the people who had formerly provided references</p> <p>16 for John Carroll?</p> <p>17 A. Right. But this report, the Clough Report, was seven</p> <p>18 years after the disciplinary.</p> <p>19 So when we had these responses from the staff who</p> <p>20 were looking after John Carroll when he was a boy, at</p> <p>21 the panel we had -- we didn't know that they were also</p> <p>22 the referees at some stage. That wasn't something we</p> <p>23 knew.</p> <p>24 Q. Are you sure, Mr Pope, about that?</p> <p>25 A. I think I'm sure, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>	<p>1 Q. Because that's also really important information.</p> <p>2 I think, for obvious reasons, anyone who had formerly</p> <p>3 provided a reference for John Carroll and failed to</p> <p>4 declare his conviction, one, ought to have declared it,</p> <p>5 and, two, had a vested interest in also minimising the</p> <p>6 offence?</p> <p>7 A. I think what I'm saying is, at the panel, when we asked</p> <p>8 management to get information from former staff,</p> <p>9 et cetera, we weren't -- we may not have asked, but we</p> <p>10 weren't made aware that they were the same people who</p> <p>11 provided references. I cannot -- that, I think, was</p> <p>12 only made available later. I don't think it was</p> <p>13 a matter that we were aware of when we were in the</p> <p>14 disciplinary panel.</p> <p>15 Q. I'm going to move on, please, Mr Pope, to the letter</p> <p>16 that you sent Mr Carroll pursuant to your decision on</p> <p>17 18 August to keep him on. Mr Hyde, can we go to</p> <p>18 WAN000001_123. This is the letter that was sent to</p> <p>19 Mr Carroll. We can see it is dated 27 August 1986?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. If we go to the final paragraph on that page:</p> <p>22 "The disciplinary panel acting on behalf of</p> <p>23 the authority has the responsibility to ensure that any</p> <p>24 identified risk of abuse to the children in our care</p> <p>25 from our own staff is eliminated."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 If we go over the page, please, Mr Hyde, and that's</p> <p>2 page 124, you say:</p> <p>3 "We have taken into account the mitigating factors</p> <p>4 that the offence occurred 20 years ago, when you were</p> <p>5 a young man. The conviction on which we have now</p> <p>6 received documentary corroboration supports the evidence</p> <p>7 submitted by yourself to the panel. Further, we have</p> <p>8 viewed your criminal offence in the context of your age</p> <p>9 at that time and the fact that you were in care and the</p> <p>10 detailed circumstances of that offence. Additionally,</p> <p>11 there is no evidence of any other offences or incidents</p> <p>12 of a similar nature, or managerial concern regarding</p> <p>13 your conduct and relationships with children placed in</p> <p>14 our care during your eight years of service with this</p> <p>15 authority."</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. We can see that that's the letter that Mr Wynford Jones</p> <p>18 sent on behalf of the panel?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. A number of questions arising out of that, please,</p> <p>21 Mr Pope. When you said that the documentary evidence</p> <p>22 corroborated Mr Carroll's account, were you referring to</p> <p>23 the referees who had provided evidence?</p> <p>24 A. I was referring -- well, we were referring to -- I think</p> <p>25 we got documents -- got documentary corroboration from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 some of the nuns who were looking after him. I think</p> <p>2 there were three or four documents, three, four or five</p> <p>3 documents, and --</p> <p>4 Q. Referees (interference)?</p> <p>5 A. Three.</p> <p>6 Q. I'm referring to them as referees, so people who spoke</p> <p>7 to the incident at the time. Is that what you based</p> <p>8 your decision on?</p> <p>9 A. Not the decision, but we -- in examining and considering</p> <p>10 the corroborating evidence, that was part of the reason</p> <p>11 we made the decision, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. But not the record of the conviction from</p> <p>13 Merseyside Police, which did not corroborate the account</p> <p>14 that you had been given?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>16 Q. The bit that reads "your age at the time and the fact</p> <p>17 that you were in care", were you borrowing from what</p> <p>18 Mr Carroll had said? In other words, were you adopting</p> <p>19 that he had been in care at the time of the offence?</p> <p>20 A. Again, it's the difficulty of trying to recall detailed</p> <p>21 discussions or thoughts of 34 years ago. I think there</p> <p>22 was, in our minds, that he was 17 or 18 and either was</p> <p>23 in care or just leaving care. Mr Jones has obviously</p> <p>24 used that information there. But it's -- at the time,</p> <p>25 I think -- I can't recall whether we discussed -- well,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>
<p>1 we didn't, I'm sure, discuss and determine the exact</p> <p>2 date, because I came away from it still believing he was</p> <p>3 17 and a half and either in care or just leaving care.</p> <p>4 So there was -- yes, we didn't -- we didn't -- we didn't</p> <p>5 determine that accurately at the time.</p> <p>6 Q. You go on to say there's no evidence of any other</p> <p>7 offences or incidents of a similar nature --</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. -- or managerial concern.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. How were you in a position to say that?</p> <p>12 A. We asked the presenting managers if there had ever been</p> <p>13 any evidence of any concerns about his behaviour or</p> <p>14 managerial concerns about anything that they needed to</p> <p>15 bring to our attention, and they said absolutely not.</p> <p>16 Q. How could you have any confidence in what they told</p> <p>17 you -- and, in fact, it is only one person, isn't it?</p> <p>18 How could you have any confidence in what Mr Thomas told</p> <p>19 you about this, given the way the case was being</p> <p>20 presented in the first instance?</p> <p>21 A. Because he was the presenting manager. That was his job</p> <p>22 to do that.</p> <p>23 Q. But you knew he hadn't even bothered when he came to</p> <p>24 present the case to find out anything about this</p> <p>25 offence?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, but that was what we had. That's what we had. We</p> <p>2 had a presenting manager and we asked him, was there any</p> <p>3 concerns whatsoever about Mr Carroll's behaviour in</p> <p>4 relation to his work in the years he'd been with us, and</p> <p>5 he replied no.</p> <p>6 Q. That was good enough for the panel?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 MS DOBBIN: Mr Pope, I note the time. It is 11.30 am. I am</p> <p>9 going to ask the chair if that is a suitable moment for</p> <p>10 a break.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Dobbin. Yes, we will return at</p> <p>12 11.45 am.</p> <p>13 MS DOBBIN: I think I just need to remind the witness not to</p> <p>14 discuss his evidence over the break.</p> <p>15 A. Thank you.</p> <p>16 (11.28 am)</p> <p>17 (A short break)</p> <p>18 (11.45 am)</p> <p>19 MS DOBBIN: Mr Pope, there were ample grounds upon which you</p> <p>20 could have dismissed Mr Carroll; correct?</p> <p>21 A. Correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Why didn't you?</p> <p>23 A. A number of reasons, I think. We looked at the</p> <p>24 information we had before us. The explanation he gave</p> <p>25 about the offence, we took that and had it confirmed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 that that kind of behaviour was very common in the 2 children's home at the time. I think -- that's the 3 problem, looking back now, of course, he should have 4 been dismissed and we made a mistake, but at the time we 5 felt, on balance, that he was not a risk to children, 6 there had been no incidents of any concern made known to 7 us at his time in Lambeth, and at that time, of course, 8 we did not know of any offences or anything other than 9 this offence when he was 18, and we gave it 10 consideration as to whether we believed there was 11 anything of concern that made us believe he would be 12 a risk to children, and we took the view that he wasn't. 13 Now, that obviously is an incorrect view, and 14 I regretted that decision when we found out, four years 15 later, that he was not an honest man, but, at the time, 16 we took a decision which we believed in good faith was 17 the right decision. 18 Q. I'm not going to go over all of the ground that I've 19 already put to you, Mr Pope, but just picking up on one 20 thing: this idea that what he did was commonplace, it 21 was not commonplace for people to have convictions for 22 indecent assault in that context, was it? 23 A. Sorry, I may have put it inappropriately. It was 24 commonplace in the home, that behaviour was commonplace. 25 That's what I think I said.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 Q. Yes, and you would have known that it was not 2 commonplace for people to have convictions for indecent 3 assault? 4 A. That's correct. 5 Q. You said in your letter to Mr Carroll that it was your 6 responsibility to eliminate risk to children. Did the 7 panel eliminate the risk he posed to children? 8 A. No. 9 Q. You didn't move him from the home, did you? 10 A. No. 11 Q. You didn't ask that any particular vigilance be 12 exercised in respect of him, did you? 13 A. No. 14 Q. You didn't ask that checks be made on the children whom 15 he was caring for -- 16 A. No. 17 Q. -- to see if there were concerns? 18 A. No. 19 Q. And, if anything, Mr Pope, did Lambeth enlarge the risk 20 Mr Carroll posed by making Angell Road a specialist 21 place for children who had been abused to live? 22 A. Well, at the time, between the disciplinary and the 23 report -- Robert Morton and Ainsley Forbes' report on 24 the reorganisation of children's homes, there was, 25 again, no information which changed the view the panel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>
<p>1 had taken that he was not a risk to children. So they 2 were basing it on their knowledge of him working in 3 Lambeth and the skills he had, I assume, and it was not 4 a question of taking into account, as I understand it, 5 the offence and the disciplinary process that he'd been 6 through. It was -- my understanding was that it was 7 based on the skills and expertise that had been 8 developed and their belief that that was the best 9 service that could be provided. 10 Q. Can we just look at some of the underlying material 11 about this. Mr Hyde, this is INQ002069_002. We see, 12 Mr Pope, that this is a report to the Social Services 13 Committee of 30 January 1990. It is a report by you, 14 and it is about the change of functions for Lambeth 15 children's homes. Do you recognise that report? 16 A. I do. 17 Q. Could we go over the page, please, Mr Hyde, to page 3, 18 to paragraph 1.3. What you say in the second line is: 19 "First, there are various changes in the needs and 20 circumstances of the children. Development in child 21 protection indicate a need for a specialist home for 22 this field of work." 23 Correct? 24 A. Correct. 25 Q. We see, don't we, at page 15, please, of that document,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>	<p>1 Mr Hyde, at the top, the first paragraph, that that home 2 was Angell Road? 3 A. Correct. 4 Q. Just to be clear, what it says is: 5 "This home will specialise in working with children 6 who have suffered abuse, and emotionally damaged young 7 people requiring 'longer term work' with a view to 8 returning to the family or a substitute family 9 placement, dependent on individual case plans. This 10 provision will not provide indefinite residential care. 11 The staffing complement will need to be increased and 12 specialist training provided to enable the staff to 13 carry out this task." 14 Why was the home selected to provide this specialist 15 care to abused children, a home that was being run by 16 a convicted child abuser? 17 A. This report was obviously drafted by Ainsley Forbes and 18 Robert Morton and, therefore, they took the view, when 19 they wrote the report, that that was the best use of 20 the home and the resources they had. I mean, I don't 21 recall detailed discussions surrounding it. That would 22 have been held within the children's homes management 23 team, and then submitted to me for submission to the 24 Social Services Committee. 25 I want to make one point here, which I have just</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

1 realised. This date, January '90 -- no, sorry, I'm
 2 confused. Is it January '90? Sorry, I've got my
 3 dates --
 4 Q. It is 7 February 1990 for the Children's Subcommittee,
 5 and 30 January 1990 for the Social Services Committee.
 6 It was a report prepared for two committees?
 7 **A. Yes, the Children's Homes Subcommittee I think first,**
 8 **wasn't it, and then Social Services Committee**
 9 **afterwards, yes. But that was a report they drafted**
 10 **based on their experience of working in the children's**
 11 **home division, and I don't know how much personal**
 12 **involvement I had in it, but obviously they would have**
 13 **taken me through it.**
 14 Q. It is a report in your name, Mr Pope.
 15 **A. Yes, all reports went in my name.**
 16 Q. It says "Report by the Director of Social Services"?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. You knew that John Carroll had been convicted of
 19 child abuse?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. You were in a position to stop this home being used as
 22 a specialist provision for abused children?
 23 **A. Yes, but at that time, my view was that he was not**
 24 **a risk to children. Now, that obviously was the wrong**
 25 **view, but that's the view that I had after the**

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1 Q. Was it because Angell Road was carrying out direct work
 2 with children?
 3 **A. The detail, obviously, was what -- was in the report**
 4 **which they wrote. Unless I could refer to something,**
 5 **I imagine that's what they were deliberating and**
 6 **deciding upon when they were drafting the report, yes.**
 7 Q. That's something that you would have known about,
 8 though?
 9 **A. I don't think I did know that, no. I mean, you know, as**
 10 **a director, you don't know all the details, obviously,**
 11 **of a massive department, what's going on in every part**
 12 **of the organisation. That's what Robert Morton and**
 13 **Ainsley Forbes, that was their responsibility, to know**
 14 **what was going on and what was best. My position, as**
 15 **director, was basically to test out with them all sorts**
 16 **of things, but I wouldn't necessarily know the exact**
 17 **detail of what was happening right across the**
 18 **department. That's what you have management lines for,**
 19 **to deal with those matters. So I don't think I did know**
 20 **about individual homes, what they were particularly good**
 21 **at doing or were doing at the time, no.**
 22 Q. So when you saw this report and you saw this is the home
 23 run by John Carroll, you didn't think, "I'd better look
 24 at why they're selecting this home for abused children"?
 25 **A. I cannot recall doing that, no.**

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1 **disciplinary, that he was not a risk to children. If**
 2 **I'd have thought he was a risk to children, I would have**
 3 **dismissed him. But -- so I didn't -- I don't recall**
 4 **looking at this report in 1990 and tying those two**
 5 **things together. I don't recall it because it's so long**
 6 **ago. But even if I -- if it had registered, I would**
 7 **still not have thought that wasn't appropriate, because**
 8 **I did not believe at the time that he was a risk to**
 9 **children. Otherwise, he wouldn't be there in the first**
 10 **place.**
 11 Q. Is this still on the basis of what Mr Thomas had said to
 12 you in the misconduct hearing, that there wasn't
 13 anything known about Mr Carroll?
 14 **A. Yes, well --**
 15 Q. You hadn't carried out any fresh assessment or made
 16 checks, had you, in the interim?
 17 **A. No.**
 18 Q. You hadn't spoken to children in that home?
 19 **A. No, not that I recall.**
 20 Q. (Overspeaking) before. Why Angell Road, Mr Pope? Why
 21 was it being chosen and singled out to provide for
 22 abused children?
 23 **A. Well, I can only go on what the report says. My**
 24 **understanding was that they considered that that was the**
 25 **best place for that service.**

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1 Q. Did the people involved in putting forward these
 2 proposals know that Carroll had a conviction for
 3 child abuse?
 4 **A. My understanding was they did, yes, because we had had**
 5 **discussions when he was involved in the issue of the --**
 6 **I think it was an application to Wandsworth for**
 7 **a fostering -- I'd had discussions with the assistant**
 8 **directors and, in fact, written to them once, just**
 9 **confirming that they were aware of his conviction and**
 10 **what it was about, yes.**
 11 Q. So all of senior management were party to this --
 12 **A. I would not say that, no.**
 13 Q. The authors of this report were certainly party to the
 14 decision to make Angell Road a specialist home for
 15 abused children, in the knowledge John Carroll was --
 16 **A. That was my assumption, but I couldn't be sure about**
 17 **that.**
 18 Q. By doing this, by making Angell Road a specialist home,
 19 Lambeth was putting children who were particularly
 20 vulnerable in the path of Mr Carroll, weren't they?
 21 **A. That was the effect of it, yes. But, again, we go back**
 22 **to what the position -- what we believed at the time.**
 23 **We obviously didn't believe that at the time. We now**
 24 **know, because of his convictions, that he -- that is the**
 25 **effect of what that decision was, yes.**

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1 Q. Did you really not think at the time about the potential
 2 risks of putting abused children in the care of
 3 Mr Carroll and what that would entail?
 4 **A. No, at the time, certainly as far as I was concerned,**
 5 **I had satisfied myself that he was not a risk to**
 6 **children, and presumably that is the situation as well**
 7 **that other managers also took.**
 8 Q. I'm going to move on, please, Mr Pope, to the fostering
 9 application that you mentioned. We know from the events
 10 that we have looked at that Croydon Council said no to
 11 the Carrolls as foster parents. You gave Mr Carroll
 12 a final written warning and, within a number of months,
 13 he was applying to become a foster parent to children in
 14 Lambeth's care; correct?
 15 **A. Correct.**
 16 Q. Ms Rogers, who was the social worker at the time,
 17 approached you about giving a reference for the purposes
 18 of that application; do you recollect that?
 19 **A. No.**
 20 Q. Do you recollect discussing with her the nature of
 21 the offence?
 22 **A. I can't recall it, no.**
 23 Q. Presumably, Mr Pope, you thought that it was fine for
 24 the Carrolls to become foster parents?
 25 **A. I can't recall it, but because my belief was he was not**

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1 in the position that Mr Carroll was looking after
 2 children in your children's home, you having made the
 3 decision that he could be an officer-in-charge.
 4 **A. Yes, but that would be -- I don't know whether that puts**
 5 **me in difficulty. It would just simply be the fact that**
 6 **two authorities took a different view.**
 7 Q. Did Lambeth shop around to find a local authority who
 8 might be willing to approve the Carrolls as foster
 9 parents?
 10 **A. I have no knowledge of that. I wasn't involved in any**
 11 **of that.**
 12 Q. Was there an approach to Southwark Council, whether
 13 formal or informal, to approve the Carrolls as foster
 14 parents?
 15 **A. I have no knowledge of that. Not to my knowledge.**
 16 Q. Mr Walsh, who gave evidence yesterday from Southwark,
 17 said that he attended a meeting and that he thought one
 18 of the officers who attended was the person who had
 19 decided to keep Mr Carroll on. Was that you who
 20 attended the meeting?
 21 **A. I have no knowledge of attending a meeting with Mr Walsh**
 22 **or anybody from Southwark on an application for the**
 23 **Carrolls, none at all.**
 24 Q. Did you ever attend any meetings with Southwark, with
 25 Janet Boateng?

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1 **a danger to the children, he was not a risk to children,**
 2 **logically, yes, I wouldn't necessarily -- if I believed**
 3 **it was okay for him to work with children in Lambeth,**
 4 **yes, that must flow, yes.**
 5 Q. You must have hoped, then, that Wandsworth would say yes
 6 to the application because it would put you in an
 7 incredibly awkward position if they said no on the basis
 8 of the conviction?
 9 **A. I can't recall Val Rogers talking to me, but -- so**
 10 **I don't know, I can't recall that. But if that took**
 11 **place and I gave her the information, I don't know**
 12 **whether I had a particular view whether it went ahead --**
 13 **sorry, whether the application ought to go ahead or not.**
 14 **I don't recall it.**
 15 Q. I wasn't really referring to her. I was just referring
 16 generally, Mr Pope, that you must have hoped that the
 17 application wouldn't be stopped on the basis of
 18 the conviction because that would leave Lambeth in
 19 a really awkward position?
 20 **A. I'm not sure about that. If the decision was taken not**
 21 **to go ahead, I don't know why that would put Lambeth in**
 22 **a difficult situation.**
 23 Q. If it was based on the conviction, it would mean that
 24 one local authority thought that the Carrolls were not
 25 suitable people to be foster parents and would leave you

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1 **A. I have no knowledge of any meeting with Janet Boateng**
 2 **with Southwark, no.**
 3 Q. We will come back to the fostering application, but for
 4 the moment, I am just going to take events as they
 5 unfolded. There were concerns about John Carroll raised
 6 by councillors, including Mrs Anna Tapsell, in 1991 and
 7 1992, weren't there?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Those concerns came about because the then
 10 Councillor Tapsell had been asked to chair the appeal
 11 from John Carroll's dismissal for fraud?
 12 **A. Correct.**
 13 Q. You had a meeting with the Social Services Inspectorate
 14 about that. Do you recollect that?
 15 **A. No.**
 16 Q. I'm just going to ask if we can turn up the minutes of
 17 that. Mr Hyde, that's CQC000298_003. I'm just going to
 18 put this in context, Mr Pope. This is a memo which was
 19 internal to the Social Services Inspectorate, and we can
 20 see it is October 1992. So we have jumped ahead in the
 21 chronology. We can see from paragraph 2 that the minute
 22 was concerned with a letter that Councillor Tapsell had
 23 written to the SSI. If we go to paragraph 3, the SSI
 24 said that the nub of the issue was, what's Lambeth doing
 25 to enquire further into the possibility of abuse which

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<p>1 came to light in the paperwork supporting the 2 disciplinary action against John Carroll which led to 3 his dismissal? 4 At 4, this is the SSI: 5 "The way I would think about this is that this 6 information is 'possible evidence of child abuse'. 7 The SSI refer there to Working Together, so 8 foreseeing the possibility of a joint meeting or 9 investigation. If we go down to paragraph 6, the author 10 referred to there being a need to interview other 11 children who had been in John Carroll's care. If we 12 could go over the page, please, Mr Hyde, at paragraph 7, 13 the SSI are raising the possibility of undiscovered 14 abuse taking place in children's homes, and then at 15 paragraph 8, referred to the danger of the right steps 16 not being taken by Lambeth because of earlier 17 incompetency, so, in other words, the decision to keep 18 Mr Carroll on. 19 Then, finally, at paragraph 12, the SSI had made 20 a check as to whether or not Mr Carroll's name was on 21 the consultancy list. It didn't appear to be. And the 22 point the SSI was making there was that the earlier 23 conviction, coupled with the conditions that were found 24 in the home, and given the nature of the misconduct 25 offence for which he had been dismissed, meant that he</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 ought to have been on the consultancy list. Do you see 2 that? 3 A. I do. 4 Q. This is to set in context the meeting that you had with 5 the SSI, and if we could go to that, please, Mr Hyde, it 6 is the next page, page 5. We can see from the top that 7 you attended with Mr Forbes and Ms Adams, the personnel 8 manager, and there were representatives of the SSI at 9 the meeting as well. 10 If we look at paragraph 2.2, you described him as 11 a powerful figure on the residential care scene and, if 12 we follow it down, as having strong networks seen as 13 positive in the borough. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. First of all, why was he a powerful figure on the 16 residential care scene? 17 A. I assume that I was told that that was the case, that he 18 was seen as somebody who had a lot of skills and a good 19 reputation, and somebody who was well known to the 20 social workers in the area. 21 Q. What did the reference to "strong networks" mean? 22 A. I assume that was his work with other agencies and the 23 work he was doing in his home. But, I mean, this, 24 again, was a long time ago, and I don't know whether 25 I've actually seen this document before, so I'm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>
<p>1 struggling to answer the question in detail, because 2 I have not had a chance to think about it. But 3 I imagine that that's what it meant. 4 Q. Were you aware of his having links to any voluntary 5 organisations or charitable organisations? 6 A. No. 7 Q. If we go to paragraph 2.3 -- same document, Mr Hyde, and 8 same page -- we see again a repetition of Mr Carroll's 9 explanation for the offence? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Reference to "horseplay"? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Then if we go to the next paragraph, paragraph 2.4, it 14 says this: 15 "The management case was not very thorough. 16 Carroll's story had been accepted 'carte blanche'. 17 There had been no further cause for concern. The 18 hearing was delayed for some while so that information 19 could be obtained from police and probation. This 20 confirmed that the indecency was masturbation." 21 We go on over the page that Carroll had been just 18 22 and had already left care at the time: 23 "They had not seen the episode as serious but normal 24 experimentation between two teenagers -- the other boy 25 was 13 but his mother had complained directly to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>	<p>1 police. 2 "The panel interpreted the event as 'horseplay' 3 though the charge was upheld. The decision was to give 4 a final written warning ..." 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. When you were referring to the management case not being 7 very thorough and Carroll's story having been accepted 8 carte blanche, what was it that you were referring to? 9 A. Sorry, I didn't write this document, did I? 10 Q. It's minutes of a meeting that you had with the 11 Social Services Inspectorate that you're at, and you 12 appear to be conveying these events? 13 A. Sorry, could you just ask me the question again? I've 14 lost the thread. 15 Q. When we looked at paragraph 2.4 it said the management 16 case was not very thorough, Carroll's story had been 17 accepted carte blanche, there had been no further cause 18 for concern. Then it goes on to say the hearing was 19 delayed? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Then we see over the page that the panel interpreted the 22 event as horseplay. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. That document would appear to suggest that you were well 25 aware of the shortcomings of the misconduct process that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

1 had happened in 1986?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. And that it was your panel's interpretation of the event
 4 as horseplay. We see that at paragraph 2.5?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Is that right, it was your interpretation?
 7 **A. Yes. Our interpretation at the panel was that it was**
 8 **boys larking about, messing about, horseplay, yes, that**
 9 **is correct. We did not see it as motivated by sexual**
 10 **abuse, yes.**
 11 Q. While we are on that page, please, Mr Hyde, at 2.8, in
 12 terms of how Carroll came to leave Lambeth, it was found
 13 that he had a severely overspent budget in 1990, and
 14 then, in 1991, a full audit was carried out. It was
 15 found that he had been buying cigarettes and alcohol to
 16 the tune of hundreds of pounds?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. You say there that the police declined to investigate
 19 the matter, consistent with Lambeth local practice
 20 involving theft against an employer. There is also
 21 reference to another organisation there. That can come
 22 down, please, Mr Hyde. Can I ask you about that,
 23 Mr Pope. The Clough Report found that this matter had
 24 not been referred to the police. Do you recollect that?
 25 **A. Yes. I might need to refer to it. My understanding is**

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1 Then it goes on to say:
 2 "This work was to be [done] ... About 3 dozen
 3 children had been identified and had been traced.
 4 However, plans to undertake the work had been superseded
 5 by the Gibelli and Southvale investigations."
 6 **A. I'm struggling because I cannot recall this. I'm not**
 7 **sure I've had this document in my bundle, so I'm**
 8 **struggling to give a considered answer. But obviously**
 9 **it's there. I can't question it, yes.**
 10 Q. The issue appears to be this, Mr Pope: it seemed to be
 11 recognised on the part of Lambeth that there were some
 12 three dozen children who had been in Angell Road and
 13 that there was a need for some sort of investigation
 14 after Mr Carroll was dismissed.
 15 **A. Right.**
 16 Q. Do you see that in the paragraph? But what was being
 17 contemplated was some sort of questionnaire?
 18 **A. I cannot recall it. I just cannot recall that at all.**
 19 Q. And that even the questionnaire was shelved. That's
 20 what that paragraph says?
 21 **A. Yes. I just can't recall it.**
 22 Q. You don't have any recollection --
 23 **A. No.**
 24 Q. -- of any sort of investigation into Angell Road after
 25 Mr Carroll was dismissed?

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1 **that matters to do -- where audit had carried out the**
 2 **fraud, they would discuss it and take a decision about**
 3 **whether to refer that matter to the police, yes.**
 4 Q. You said to the SSI that the police declined to
 5 investigate. Mr Clough found that it hadn't been
 6 referred to the police at all.
 7 **A. I'm struggling because I wasn't involved, obviously, in**
 8 **matters between audit and the police and the staff, so**
 9 **maybe that's just the fact that I personally wasn't**
 10 **involved. I can't answer that.**
 11 Q. I'm going to move on. I want to focus on what this
 12 document tells us about children. If we go over the
 13 page, please, Mr Hyde, to 2.11, what we can see here is
 14 that Councillor Tapsell wanted an inquiry into what
 15 might have happened at Angell Road, and DSS -- so that's
 16 a reference to your department's view -- was that the
 17 only solid evidence against Carroll was of dishonesty
 18 and that it did not justify an investigation into
 19 possible sexual abuse under local procedures.
 20 Then a bit further down:
 21 "Eventually, a compromise had been struck that the
 22 department under the cover of a research project into
 23 the experience of Lambeth children in care would issue
 24 a questionnaire about their time in care on the pretext
 25 of developing the complaints procedure."

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1 **A. Only that after the Clough Inquiry -- yes, it was after**
 2 **the Clough Inquiry, Councillor Tapsell and I agreed to**
 3 **fund a piece of work by an independent childcare agency,**
 4 **which was undertaken by the principal officer of**
 5 **children and families, and he worked with the agency --**
 6 **my understanding is they wrote to the children who had**
 7 **been in Angell Road, and that's maybe what that refers**
 8 **to. But, again, after about 18-months, we had not**
 9 **received any responses. But that was certainly**
 10 **something that Councillor Tapsell and I agreed on, but**
 11 **my belief was that was after the Clough Report had come**
 12 **out, yeah.**
 13 Q. I'm going to ask if we can go to the next document,
 14 please, Mr Hyde. This is LAM028444_001. This is a memo
 15 from the Children's Home in Lambeth Enquiry, and it
 16 refers to an ex-assistant director, Ms Medhurst, and
 17 about an investigation and disciplinary process that
 18 took place in 1989 in respect of F4. Do you recollect,
 19 Mr Pope, that in 1989, there were serious issues about
 20 a particular member of staff in Angell Road?
 21 **A. As I said in my witness statement, I do not recall this**
 22 **conversation at all.**
 23 Q. What this memo reflects is that Ms Medhurst spoke to you
 24 about her investigation into F4 and the concern that she
 25 had about the role that John Carroll was playing in the

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<p>1 investigation of him?</p> <p>2 A. I understand that, yes. I just do not recall this</p> <p>3 conversation.</p> <p>4 Q. Would you have been informed whenever there were serious</p> <p>5 concerns or allegations about staff in children's homes?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, probably through the line, but, yes, I would have</p> <p>7 hoped I would be informed, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. So if there were investigations into Angell Road, ought</p> <p>9 we then to proceed on the basis that you would have</p> <p>10 known about them?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, but I'm not aware of any investigation into</p> <p>12 Angell Road in the timescale '89. I don't recall this</p> <p>13 investigation at all, and I'm not aware that there were</p> <p>14 serious concerns in 1989 that were being investigated in</p> <p>15 Angell Road.</p> <p>16 Q. The concern that this memo goes to is the idea of</p> <p>17 Mr Carroll as someone who was also involved in</p> <p>18 investigating allegations of abuse made against people</p> <p>19 who worked in Angell Road?</p> <p>20 A. I'm sorry, you've lost me. Can you just repeat that?</p> <p>21 Q. The concern that this memo goes to is not just that</p> <p>22 John Carroll himself posed a risk to children; it also</p> <p>23 goes to the risk involved in him being responsible for</p> <p>24 investigating other members of staff accused of sexual</p> <p>25 abuse?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 A. Right.</p> <p>2 Q. Was that something that you thought about whenever you</p> <p>3 decided to retain John Carroll?</p> <p>4 A. No. No, not -- not in a disciplinary, no. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you think about the risks that he might recruit</p> <p>6 other people who were involved in child abuse?</p> <p>7 A. No, because, when we concluded the panel, I was</p> <p>8 satisfied, the panel was satisfied, that he was not</p> <p>9 a risk to children, and I think we're going back</p> <p>10 34 years. Of course we knew that children were subject</p> <p>11 to child sexual abuse, but I don't think, at that stage,</p> <p>12 nationally, professionally we understood the way that</p> <p>13 paedophiles operated. We didn't know -- I don't think,</p> <p>14 at that time, we'd had much training, understanding.</p> <p>15 I think we saw situations of sexual abuse as isolated</p> <p>16 incidents. I don't think we had any idea about</p> <p>17 networks. So, no, I don't think the panel -- I don't</p> <p>18 remember giving any consideration to that because it was</p> <p>19 not a knowledge that we'd yet gained.</p> <p>20 Q. Were you aware of concerns about children in the</p> <p>21 Angell Road Home in 1991 or 1992?</p> <p>22 A. I can't recall. I'm not aware -- I can't recall, no.</p> <p>23 Q. I'm asking you if you were aware of concerns that arose</p> <p>24 after John Carroll had left about children who had been</p> <p>25 in his care in Angell Road?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>
<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. I'm going to go back to the Clough Report, if I can.</p> <p>3 The fostering application. Mr Pope, you will recollect</p> <p>4 that one of the issues that Clough dealt with was</p> <p>5 whether a Lambeth official had inappropriately asked</p> <p>6 Wandsworth to overlook the conviction. Do you recollect</p> <p>7 that?</p> <p>8 A. I do.</p> <p>9 Q. Can we go to document WAN000001_058. The key passage is</p> <p>10 14 March 1988. This was the record made by the</p> <p>11 Wandsworth social worker, Mr Pope?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. We see that she records this, that she had a brief</p> <p>14 discussion with Alison Barraball, the principal</p> <p>15 officer -- that's the principal officer at Wandsworth --</p> <p>16 who had had discussions with Brenda Jones, principal</p> <p>17 officer in Lambeth Adoption and Fostering Unit, "as to</p> <p>18 the complications of the case and which panel the report</p> <p>19 should be submitted to. It has been suggested and</p> <p>20 agreed in joint discussion between Brenda Jones and</p> <p>21 Jack Smith, chair of Lambeth Adoption and Fostering</p> <p>22 Panel, that my report state against police reference</p> <p>23 'satisfactory' and Jack Smith will take personal</p> <p>24 responsibility for dealing with the matter at his panel.</p> <p>25 I suggested to Alison that I would have further</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>	<p>1 discussion with Mary Griffith-Jones in supervision,</p> <p>2 given my concerns and reservations about the couple's</p> <p>3 application."</p> <p>4 We see in the final paragraph she says this:</p> <p>5 "Discussed the case in supervision with</p> <p>6 Mary Griffith-Jones. Expressed my concern about the</p> <p>7 case in general, in particular Mr Carroll's denial of</p> <p>8 the incident, and the direction given by Lambeth</p> <p>9 personnel in dealing with the police reference matter,</p> <p>10 which I found unprofessional and irresponsible, given</p> <p>11 our responsibilities towards children in care as their</p> <p>12 guardians. I have stated I would not be prepared to</p> <p>13 collude with such disgraceful professional practice.</p> <p>14 Mary Griffith-Jones agreed to take the matter up with</p> <p>15 Alison further."</p> <p>16 Do you agree, Mr Pope, that if Mr Smith had made</p> <p>17 that approach to Wandsworth, that it was suggesting to</p> <p>18 Wandsworth that they make a misleading entry when it</p> <p>19 came to Mr Carroll's police reference?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And do you also agree that it would have been, as the</p> <p>22 social worker put it, "disgraceful professional</p> <p>23 practice"?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Before I leave this document, can I go to page 36 of it,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

1 please, Mr Hyde. Again, this is the social worker's
 2 closing paragraph, and she said this:
 3 "Since our panel's decision, I am given to
 4 understand from the children's social worker Jo Hughes
 5 that the children continue to spend weekends and
 6 holidays with this couple. This, I feel, suggests that
 7 is my professional role and assessment has counted for
 8 nothing in terms of my statutory responsibilities in the
 9 protecting of children. It further makes a nonsense of
 10 the whole process of assessment of suitable prospective
 11 adopters and/or foster parents, given that such a breach
 12 of procedures and statute can still blatantly be abused
 13 through a professional network system, whose main
 14 responsibilities and accountability are to the overall
 15 welfare and protection of children."
 16 What she was referring to, Mr Pope, was that,
 17 despite Wandsworth's view that the Carrolls were not
 18 appropriate people to be foster parents, that Lambeth
 19 had allowed the children to effectively live with or
 20 stay with the Carrolls for long periods of time as their
 21 social uncle and aunt, and she's right about that, isn't
 22 she?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. You were part of the decision in September 1988 to
 25 formalise the relationship between the Carrolls and

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1 **A. Well, I can't say, but, yes, I mean, I'm sure it's**
 2 **there, yes. Sorry, I was just saying, so the meeting --**
 3 **I think probably the only intervention I had at that**
 4 **time was basically to try and find a way of -- and it**
 5 **was a compromise -- managing the situation where,**
 6 **basically, the boys' determination to live with them was**
 7 **not being properly managed, and so my understanding was**
 8 **what we wanted was a way of managing the situation in**
 9 **some contractual way so that everybody understood the**
 10 **amount of time that they could spend with the Carrolls,**
 11 **because it appeared, as I understood it, to the**
 12 **professionals that almost whatever we did, it was going**
 13 **to be extremely difficult not for these lads to spend**
 14 **some time with the Carrolls. That's my understanding of**
 15 **what that meeting was about, just trying -- I think**
 16 **I was asked to chair a meeting where people -- the two**
 17 **divisions were trying to work out a way of moving**
 18 **forward.**
 19 Q. Those children didn't know that John Carroll had
 20 a conviction for child abuse, did they?
 21 **A. No, I'm sure they didn't.**
 22 Q. Their determination to stay with the Carroll was neither
 23 here nor there. Lambeth was responsible for those
 24 children, wasn't it?
 25 **A. Yes. But --**

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1 these children?
 2 **A. Yes, I know what you're referring to. It's not here,**
 3 **but I think --**
 4 Q. We can turn up a document, but it is right, isn't it,
 5 that you were party to the formalisation of
 6 the relationship between the Carrolls and the children?
 7 **A. Yes, but what -- I mean, I wasn't obviously involved, as**
 8 **director, in the day-to-day activity that the management**
 9 **staff in both children's homes and community services**
 10 **were involved in. They were dealing with a difficult**
 11 **situation where, as you know, the boys were determined**
 12 **that they were going to be with the Carrolls and they'd**
 13 **got the Children's Legal Centre and solicitors, their**
 14 **own family, the school putting pressure on Lambeth to**
 15 **agree the placement, and we were in a situation,**
 16 **obviously, where we were waiting -- as I understand it,**
 17 **I wasn't involved personally -- for Wandsworth to give**
 18 **their decision, which took an inordinate amount of time,**
 19 **for all sorts of reasons, I'm sure.**
 20 **So what we were doing in Lambeth --**
 21 Q. Can I just stop you there, Mr Pope. It took an
 22 inordinate amount of time because Wandsworth needed the
 23 permission of the Carrolls to tell Lambeth that they had
 24 refused the application. Do you recollect that? It's
 25 in the Clough Report.

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1 Q. And ...?
 2 **A. Sorry.**
 3 Q. The third point, Mr Pope, is, you also employed the
 4 Carrolls, so you were perfectly well placed to lay down
 5 the law to the Carrolls about the amount of contact that
 6 they were to have with these children?
 7 **A. Indeed, yes. I agree with that.**
 8 Q. But that didn't happen?
 9 **A. No, it didn't.**
 10 Q. They were essentially allowed to go and live with the
 11 Carrolls?
 12 **A. Yes. If I could -- yes, that is so. That is something**
 13 **that the operational managers -- well, collectively,**
 14 **we -- the compromise we were trying to work didn't**
 15 **address some of the issues, as you say, that should have**
 16 **been addressed.**
 17 Q. I'm going to move on, because I just want to close this
 18 circle, if I can. Can we bring up the Clough Report,
 19 please, Mr Hyde, that's LAM000020_052. The panel have
 20 seen this already. This is paragraph 205 of Mr Clough's
 21 report. He's referring there to Brenda Jones who is
 22 alleged to have made the call at the request of
 23 the chair of the fostering panel and cannot remember
 24 making the call. The chair of the fostering panel, in
 25 other words, Mr Jack Smith, "admits to asking for the

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<p>1 call to be made and there is a clear record on file 2 within Wandsworth of the call being received. The 3 fostering officer ..." 4 That's the female we have referred to: 5 "... accepts that the call must have been made 6 because the others involved would have no reason to say 7 that it had if it had not." 8 Mr Pope, that appears to suggest that Mr Smith made 9 an admission to Mr Clough that that call had taken 10 place? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Can we go on, please, to paragraph 211. It must be over 13 the page, Mr Hyde. Sorry, it must be one more page. 14 Again: 15 "The principal officer [Jack Smith] who chaired the 16 foster panel in Lambeth seemingly also provided 17 a written note supporting the application of Mr & Mrs C 18 to foster the children concerned. The inquiry did not 19 have sight of this note, although the principal officer 20 concerned confirmed its existence in written 21 correspondence with the Director of Social Services some 22 years later." 23 Can I ask you about that, Mr Pope: did Mr Smith 24 confirm that he had provided that note? 25 A. I've got no evidence that that was the case. As I'm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 sure you're aware, he said to the Clough Report that he 2 had provided a written note to support the application, 3 but he didn't. When the internal investigation 4 continued after the Clough Report, everybody who was 5 interviewed said, no, that he never submitted a written 6 note supporting the application. All the staff in 7 Wandsworth said, no, that never happened. So I don't 8 quite understand why -- presumably he made a mistake -- 9 well, he thought he had, but he hadn't, and, therefore, 10 I had no record of him confirming it to me some years 11 later. I can only assume, if he did write to me, and 12 I cannot recall it, that was only presumably in order to 13 collate documents for the Clough Report. Otherwise, it 14 doesn't make sense. 15 Q. Mr Hyde, can we go to LAM026926_003. Can we go to the 16 final paragraph of that. This is an inventory for 17 documents that were found in the office of 18 Miss Pennie Pennie. The first thing that's mentioned in 19 that paragraph is a letter to Jack Smith from you 20 regarding the application to foster: 21 "Asks a series of questions, including provision of 22 a reference for application. Attached are the answers 23 provided by Jack Smith, including a statement that he 24 did provide a reference." 25 A. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>
<p>1 Q. Which would accord with the Clough Report? 2 A. Indeed. Indeed. But when Verley Chambers did the 3 management investigation after the Clough Report, nobody 4 in Wandsworth, or anywhere else, said that he had 5 provided one. 6 MS DOBBIN: Can that be taken down, please. Thank you, 7 Mr Hyde. 8 Chair, I note the time. There is still some more 9 documents to be put to this witness. Are you content to 10 carry on? 11 THE CHAIR: How long will it take, Ms Dobbin? 12 MS DOBBIN: About ten minutes. 13 THE CHAIR: Proceed. Thank you. 14 MS DOBBIN: Can we please go to INQ002206_010. We can see 15 that that is to the chair of the Social Services 16 Committee and it is a document from you, Mr Pope. 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. This is the independent investigation that Lambeth 19 carried out after the Clough Report? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Enquiring into the same things that the Clough Report 22 had considered; correct? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Can you just help us with why Lambeth was having its own 25 investigation, having gone to the trouble of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>	<p>1 commissioning an independent investigation? 2 A. Because, when these matters were raised, I think by 3 Councillor Tapsell, I may be wrong, but they were 4 certainly raised before it was decided to have this 5 external independent enquiry. I think there was some 6 debate at that stage with the SSL, and it was agreed 7 that the internal investigation would be halted and that 8 it would proceed after the Clough Report and, when the 9 Clough Report went to committee, one of their 10 recommendations was that the internal investigation 11 should carry on and conclude with these two matters. 12 Q. So Lambeth didn't see anything wrong or undermining of 13 the Clough Report in having its own investigation into 14 the same matters; is that right? 15 A. Yes, yeah. 16 Q. Can we please go to page 3 of that document, Mr Hyde. 17 We see at the bottom of that page, paragraph 1.11, this 18 refers to Mr Smith: 19 "Jack Smith stated that, as chair of the panel ..." 20 He's talking about the phone call: 21 "... on occasions discussed difficult cases with 22 Brenda Jones and had discussed the Carrolls' case 23 regarding the complications and the schedule 1 offence. 24 However, he could not recall having a discussion with 25 Brenda Jones in which any reference was made to adding</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

1 the statement 'satisfactory' against the police
 2 reference. He was aware of the conviction and believed
 3 at the time that the schedule 1 offence would bar
 4 Mr Carroll from fostering."
 5 Can you help us with how it was possible that
 6 Mr Smith was saying something completely different in
 7 the internal report than he had said to Mr Clough about
 8 this telephone call?
 9 **A. Well, it is, I accept, that there were differences.**
 10 **I mean, the first obviously we talked about when he said**
 11 **he issued a letter in support. Well, the evidence**
 12 **suggests that he didn't. I think that was confirmed by**
 13 **everybody in Wandsworth, that nothing was received from**
 14 **Jack Smith supporting the application. And this was the**
 15 **second matter, and it is complicated, and I couldn't**
 16 **recall the detail of the internal investigation when**
 17 **I received it in my witness bundle in February.**
 18 **I couldn't recall the details of the actual report,**
 19 **27 years ago, or whatever, and I went through it for my**
 20 **witness statement to try to understand it myself. It is**
 21 **quite difficult, because it's about AB's recollection of**
 22 **the telephone call that BJ sent. I will probably get it**
 23 **wrong now, but BJ said she couldn't remember anything**
 24 **about the telephone call except AB's memory of what**
 25 **happened.**

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1 **part of the statement which it is alleged and JS took**
 2 **a personal view."**
 3 **Now, Alison Barraball says she didn't take that**
 4 **seriously, it was just a discussion between her and BJ.**
 5 **BJ couldn't recall the conversation at all. Jack Smith**
 6 **says he didn't -- he couldn't recall the conversation in**
 7 **which that came up. And AB says she didn't take it**
 8 **seriously. It was never, ever discussed again. And the**
 9 **item which you showed earlier came from the social**
 10 **worker's written record. AB said that she didn't take**
 11 **it seriously. So that -- I mean, it is quite**
 12 **complicated, and I have struggled with it on my own to**
 13 **try and make sense of it. There was a difference, but**
 14 **it wasn't helped by the fact that nobody could seem to**
 15 **remember what they'd said.**
 16 Q. I have suggested to you, Mr Pope, that it was quite
 17 simple, that Mr Smith said one thing to Mr Clough and
 18 another thing to you. I'm going to move on. Can we
 19 bring up, please, WAN000001_071. This is the letter
 20 that Wandsworth wrote to you, having seen a memo which
 21 explained to them in outline what your findings were
 22 going to be in the internal investigation?
 23 **A. Yes. Oh, that's (interference), yes.**
 24 Q. Did they?
 25 **A. Sorry?**

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1 Q. It doesn't really have anything to do with anybody
 2 else's memory. Mr Smith admitted asking for the call to
 3 be made to Mr Clough and he was sent something
 4 completely different when it came to --
 5 **A. I agree, yes, there was a difference, yes, I agree with**
 6 **that.**
 7 Q. Did you get to the bottom of how there could possibly be
 8 such a difference in terms of asking Mr Smith, "Why did
 9 you tell Mr Clough that and you're telling Lambeth
 10 something completely different?"
 11 **A. In relation to the statement about marking it**
 12 **"satisfactory"?**
 13 Q. Yes, this (overspeaking) --
 14 **A. I agree. Again, I was probably referring to the**
 15 **internal investigation report. I think, if I can,**
 16 **I just have to refer to it. I was totally confused when**
 17 **I was reading it in February, and it said -- sorry, I'll**
 18 **just read it. Every time I read it, it confuses me. It**
 19 **says:**
 20 **"AB of Wandsworth recalled having a telephone call**
 21 **from BJ of Lambeth to say she had just been with JS,**
 22 **they had been brainstorming to see if they could deal**
 23 **with the case in a diplomatic manner and one of them had**
 24 **wondered whether 'satisfactory' could be put against the**
 25 **police item in the report. She could not recall that**

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1 Q. They didn't agree with you. They have said:
 2 "Having seen the above report ..."
 3 That was the update report:
 4 "... we would like to make the following points, as
 5 we feel the report does not totally reflect the concerns
 6 which we expressed in our meeting with Verley Chambers."
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. (b):
 9 "Our understanding is that the Lambeth team manager
 10 contacted the Principal Officer (Fostering) Wandsworth
 11 following a conversation with the Principal Officer
 12 (Social Work) Lambeth. The essence of that conversation
 13 was the suggestion that the police reference regarding
 14 Mr and Mrs C should not be communicated to the Lambeth
 15 panel and that the implications of the police reference
 16 would be dealt with by the chair ..."
 17 Point (d):
 18 "The Principal Officer (Fostering) Wandsworth may
 19 not have seen the record of the social worker's view on
 20 file but she was well aware of the views of the team
 21 manager and the social worker in Wandsworth concerning
 22 the suggestion made by the Lambeth staff."
 23 And then (f):
 24 "The investigation may have concluded that there was
 25 no evidence of improper motives by the Lambeth officer.

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1 However, as the workers in Wandsworth who were involved
 2 in this case, we wish to place on record our view that
 3 an improper and unprofessional suggestion was made to
 4 the Principal Officer (Fostering) Wandsworth. We are
 5 clear that this suggestion came from the Principal
 6 Officer (Social Work), and the team leader acted as
 7 a messenger in communicating this.
 8 "In our view, this was contrary to good childcare
 9 practice, in particular in relation to the role of
 10 Social Services staff ..."
 11 They were clearly communicating, Mr Pope, that they
 12 disagreed with your exoneration of Mr Smith?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. That was before, as I understand it, that report went to
 15 the Social Services Committee?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. You didn't convey that they didn't agree with you, did
 18 you?
 19 **A. No, I don't think so.**
 20 Q. Mr Pope, were you going out on a limb to protect
 21 Mr Smith?
 22 **A. No. I was acting on the information that was provided**
 23 **by the internal report, which they had -- they had**
 24 **a view, but it wasn't supported by the evidence that was**
 25 **in the internal investigation. That's why I wrote to**

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1 Social Services report in 1991, there were reports in
 2 1992 about the level of unallocated cases in Lambeth,
 3 reports about the level of unqualified social workers
 4 and the absence of basic training for them, there was
 5 the Social Services Inspectorate report in 1993. These
 6 are just some of them.
 7 In the time that you were Director of
 8 Social Services in Lambeth, do you think that the lives
 9 of children who were in Lambeth's care got better or did
 10 things get worse for them?
 11 **A. Well, that's a very difficult question -- that's a very,**
 12 **very large question. I think, because of all the**
 13 **challenges we were facing, all the financial crises we**
 14 **were facing, all the difficulties we were facing in**
 15 **recruiting staff, the high vacancy rates, I mean, just**
 16 **the turmoil of trying to manage a department and**
 17 **a council which I think Appleby talks about being in**
 18 **total turmoil, even though, I have to say, we had a lot**
 19 **of very determined, hard-working, committed staff, we**
 20 **failed to provide a high-quality service. There is no**
 21 **doubt about that. And we failed many children.**
 22 **All I can say is that I always believed that we were**
 23 **doing our best in a very, very difficult situation to**
 24 **try and make things better. I don't think we achieved**
 25 **as much as we would wish to have done.**

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1 **them. They may have strongly held that view, but it**
 2 **wasn't supported by what AB said, their boss, and BJ,**
 3 **who was the -- they're the only two who had that**
 4 **communication. So I wasn't going out on a limb to**
 5 **exonerate anybody. I was merely reflecting what**
 6 **Verley Chambers and the personnel officer had written in**
 7 **their report.**
 8 Q. Mr Pope, I'm going to leave that because time is
 9 pressing. I just want to ask you a general question.
 10 I am going to ask that your statement be adduced in
 11 evidence, because I know that there are a number of
 12 points that you would want to make that are set out in
 13 that statement. But I want to ask you this: in 1988,
 14 the officer who was in charge of children's homes --
 15 that's Robert Morton -- wrote a report setting out his
 16 deep-seated and urgent concerns about childcare practice
 17 in Lambeth, and in particular about children being
 18 placed in care when there weren't any grounds for them
 19 to be placed in care. Do you recollect that?
 20 **A. I recollect the report, yes.**
 21 Q. After that report -- that coincided with you becoming
 22 the Director of Social Services?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. There were numerous other reports, Mr Pope. I'm not
 25 going to go into all of them, but there was the

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1 MS DOBBIN: Thank you. Chair, do you have any questions for
 2 Mr Pope?
 3 THE CHAIR: Yes, I think there may be several. I will begin
 4 by making a general statement to Mr Pope.
 5 Questions from THE PANEL
 6 THE CHAIR: I'm struggling to understand the support of
 7 Michael Carroll, both in the disclosure and the foster
 8 care application, which the department appeared to
 9 provide. It appears as if one wrong decision was
 10 compounded by a second one. Have you any explanation
 11 for this?
 12 **A. One wrong decision ...?**
 13 THE CHAIR: Was compounded by making a second one with the
 14 foster care, support for the foster care application.
 15 **A. Yes, I agree with that, yes.**
 16 THE CHAIR: What's your explanation for it?
 17 **A. Well, we made the first wrong decision in good faith.**
 18 **The second decision -- well, the second decision, to**
 19 **allow him to make a foster care application, was taken,**
 20 **you know, between staff lower down. It wasn't until it**
 21 **was well advanced, I think, that -- it didn't, I don't**
 22 **think, came to my attention until, I don't know,**
 23 **sometime in the middle of '88, I can't remember now,**
 24 **when -- because, obviously, I'd moved into the**
 25 **director's job. We had -- I think at the time there was**

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1 **only Josephine Kwhali and myself. I think things were**
 2 **happening which -- because we only had the two of us in**
 3 **post. But whether we could have stopped him making an**
 4 **application, I don't know. We could have taken action,**
 5 **but I don't think anybody in senior management knew that**
 6 **the application was proceeding.**
 7 THE CHAIR: I see. Did anyone other than those directly
 8 involved in the discipline in the first instance, did
 9 anyone talk to you about the disciplinary hearing, other
 10 than your director, before or during or after the
 11 disciplinary process, in any kind of attempt to
 12 influence the outcome?
 13 **A. No. No.**
 14 THE CHAIR: So no staff member and no elected member and no
 15 member of the public ever discussed the disciplinary
 16 hearing with you?
 17 **A. Not that I'm aware of, no. No.**
 18 THE CHAIR: Do you think --
 19 **A. I cannot recall anybody talking to me about the**
 20 **disciplinary hearing, no.**
 21 THE CHAIR: I see. You did have a senior personnel officer
 22 with you --
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 THE CHAIR: -- who presumably had dealt previously, if you
 25 hadn't yourself, with the issue of falsified statements

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1 disclose the conviction. I'm just wondering, with
 2 a panel with so much experience, you could have taken
 3 the view that Mr Carroll failed to disclose that
 4 conviction because he thought, ie, Mr Carroll thought,
 5 it would be a fatal impediment to getting the job. Do
 6 you agree?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 MS SHARPLING: Why was that not considered at the time?
 9 **A. At the time of the disciplinary?**
 10 MS SHARPLING: Yes.
 11 **A. I think the -- I don't know. I can't recall it.**
 12 **I think we assumed, although he said he kind of had**
 13 **forgotten about it, I think we probably thought, "Well,**
 14 **you didn't say it because you probably wouldn't have**
 15 **gotten the job". I think I accept that, yes.**
 16 MS SHARPLING: That would have been an untruthful comment,
 17 wouldn't it, on his application? The failure to
 18 disclose was untruthful?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 MS SHARPLING: That still didn't influence the final
 21 decision?
 22 **A. No.**
 23 MS SHARPLING: I see. Thank you.
 24 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank?
 25 MR FRANK: No, thank you.

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1 or failure to disclose convictions? It must have
 2 occurred in Lambeth. It may well have occurred --
 3 **A. Yes, I imagine so, yes. I imagine so.**
 4 THE CHAIR: Did they offer no guidance as to what would be
 5 a consistent and appropriate response?
 6 **A. Not that I recall.**
 7 THE CHAIR: That is their function in these circumstances.
 8 **A. Yes, but we knew that we had -- we knew we had, in**
 9 **our -- awareness of it, would be dismissal, yes. But**
 10 **I can't recall him giving any specific advice on that**
 11 **matter, no.**
 12 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms Sharpling?
 13 MS SHARPLING: Thank you, chair. A couple of questions for
 14 Mr Pope. Firstly, we have heard a little evidence about
 15 how Mr Carroll was thought to be well connected with
 16 a network of people to whom he could consult, no doubt,
 17 and also he was a powerful person within the council in
 18 relation to children's homes. Did Mr Carroll make much
 19 of this during his mitigation in the disciplinary
 20 hearing?
 21 **A. No, I don't think that was mentioned, no.**
 22 MS SHARPLING: Did the panel know it?
 23 **A. No. I mean -- no, not at all, no.**
 24 MS SHARPLING: My next question relates to Mr Carroll's
 25 application for work with Lambeth, where he failed to

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1 THE CHAIR: Sir Malcolm?
 2 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Again, just a couple of quick
 3 questions, if I may, on both the two things we have been
 4 focusing on.
 5 First of all, going back to the disciplinary panel,
 6 you said several times that you felt that the management
 7 presentation was attempting to minimise the problem.
 8 Was this normal? Did this strike you as a regular
 9 occurrence, this downplaying of the seriousness of such
 10 issues?
 11 **A. I don't think I had enough experience of disciplinaries**
 12 **to really make that comment. I don't know. It's**
 13 **difficult. I think I maybe chaired a couple before,**
 14 **so -- I don't think so, but I can't -- I really can't**
 15 **answer that.**
 16 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Were you surprised to be asked to
 17 chair this disciplinary, if you had not done many
 18 before?
 19 **A. I don't know. Was I surprised? Not surprised. I don't**
 20 **think any manager welcomed disciplinaries because they**
 21 **were -- they took up a lot of time, but that was,**
 22 **I think, at the time, the only feeling, "Oh, just**
 23 **another piece of work". I don't think I gave --**
 24 **I thought any more than that, really.**
 25 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: A final question on this --

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1 **A. It is 34 years ago, but that's my kind of memory at the**
 2 **time. I didn't welcome it because it just meant more**
 3 **work.**
 4 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Then there was a time when some
 5 further information was received. When you received
 6 that, was the view from the management team influenced
 7 or changed, notably changed, in the tenor in which it
 8 was being re-presented to you when the additional
 9 information came to light, or was it still attempting to
 10 minimise the problem, to use your phrase?
 11 **A. I can't recall that kind of nuance. It was so long ago.**
 12 **I can't recall it. Sorry.**
 13 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: The last question from me relates
 14 to the fostering application, and building on some
 15 comments my colleagues have made. You mentioned several
 16 times that one was getting involved, there was a need
 17 for a compromise, there was something to be solved in
 18 the problem. Why was there was need for a compromise or
 19 seeming as a problem that needed solving somehow?
 20 **A. Compromise in ...?**
 21 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: In terms of -- I think it is the
 22 word you use when talking about how the problem,
 23 whatever the problem with the fostering application was,
 24 it was an application. Why was this one considered
 25 a problem and why were there issues within it that

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1 **because -- yes, it probably was, because I don't think**
 2 **many Lambeth employees were applying to foster through**
 3 **that process, and obviously we had the whole issue of**
 4 **the fact that Mr Carroll had been disciplined. It was**
 5 **unique, I would say, yes.**
 6 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you.
 7 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We have no further questions. Thank
 8 you, Mr Pope.
 9 (The witness withdrew)
 10 THE CHAIR: We will return at 2.10 pm.
 11 (1.07 pm)
 12 (The short adjournment)
 13 (2.10 pm)
 14 THE CHAIR: Ms Langdale?
 15 MS LANGDALE: Chair, may I call, please, Ms Whelan.
 16 MS CLARE ROBINA WHELAN (sworn)
 17 Examination by MS LANGDALE
 18 MS LANGDALE: Can you give us your name, please?
 19 **A. My name is Clare Robina Whelan.**
 20 Q. Ms Whelan, did you prepare for the inquiry a statement
 21 dated 13 April 2020?
 22 **A. I did.**
 23 Q. Can you confirm for us, please, that the contents are
 24 true and accurate, as far as you're concerned?
 25 **A. I can.**

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1 appeared to need resolving through some compromise or
 2 another?
 3 **A. I used the word "compromise" in relation to dealing with**
 4 **the children who -- children who were -- the two lads**
 5 **who wanted to be with the Carrolls, not to do with the**
 6 **application, but the way we were managing the children,**
 7 **because they wanted one thing and we weren't prepared to**
 8 **grant it. They wanted just to go and live with the**
 9 **Carrolls, and we weren't going to grant that. So the**
 10 **compromise was trying to work out a way of getting**
 11 **a contract agreed which would limit -- you know, limit**
 12 **the contract to a reasonable level. So that was the**
 13 **compromise. It was not about the application.**
 14 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Finally, and it is probably going
 15 in the same direction, you mentioned that in that
 16 context a number of people were "putting pressure on
 17 Lambeth" to try to resolve this in a given direction.
 18 Was this usual?
 19 **A. I think -- I don't -- I mean, it is a long time since**
 20 **I've been involved in individual cases, so I don't think**
 21 **so. I think we were in an unusual situation.**
 22 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: So this was perceived throughout as
 23 an unusual case?
 24 **A. I would think so, yes. I mean, again, I wasn't involved**
 25 **in the day-to-day activity, but I -- it probably was,**

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1 Q. You tell us in that statement that you were elected to
 2 represent Thurlow Park ward between May 1990
 3 and May 2014?
 4 **A. Correct.**
 5 Q. You served on Social Services Committee and led on
 6 Social Services for the Conservative opposition between
 7 1990 and 1994?
 8 **A. Correct.**
 9 Q. In 1994, we know Lambeth returned a hung council and you
 10 were the Conservative spokesperson for the life of
 11 the hung council from 1994/1995 onwards, until 1998?
 12 **A. With the -- apologies.**
 13 Q. Go on, with the exception of when?
 14 **A. I think it was '95 and '96 or thereabouts, when**
 15 **a different councillor took that role.**
 16 Q. You were Mayor of Lambeth between 2000 and 2001?
 17 **A. Correct.**
 18 Q. Can you tell us, please, what led you to wishing to
 19 become a councillor? What was your motivation back in
 20 1990?
 21 **A. Well, I was asked by various people if I would stand as**
 22 **a councillor. I was actually quite reluctant to do**
 23 **that. I had become involved in local politics because**
 24 **I was worried about what was going on in Lambeth, but**
 25 **didn't particularly want to put my name forward. The**

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1 **thing that changed that and made me agree ultimately to**
 2 **stand was that I went to look at one of Lambeth's**
 3 **adults' homes, homes for adults, and I was quite upset**
 4 **and appalled by what I saw and tried to find out who was**
 5 **responsible and, in the end, decided that I probably**
 6 **ought to put my name forward and then maybe help to do**
 7 **something about those things.**
 8 Q. It was an unpaid role, wasn't it, back in those days?
 9 **A. Yes, although I can't remember precisely, but there was**
 10 **a system of attendance allowances, so if people attended**
 11 **a meeting, you got a sum of money to cover it. I can't,**
 12 **at the moment, remember how much it was, but it was --**
 13 **it certainly was nothing like a paid job.**
 14 Q. Did you have another job, a daytime job?
 15 **A. I did have a daytime job, yes.**
 16 Q. In terms of the position, do you know when it became
 17 a paid role or if it is a paid role in Lambeth, to be
 18 a councillor now?
 19 **A. I can't remember precisely when it -- the system of**
 20 **allowances started, but it has been going for some**
 21 **years, where there was a basic councillor allowance and,**
 22 **if you had a special responsibility, you'd get a special**
 23 **responsibility allowance. It's a strange thing. It's**
 24 **taxed as though it is an income, but it's not**
 25 **pensionable and in other respects isn't treated as an**

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1 side, if you would, Mr Hyde. The first is
 2 CWH000032_003. And, next to that, another press report,
 3 CWH000032_005.
 4 What I'm asking to go on the screen, Ms Whelan, are
 5 two press articles from the South London Press. One is
 6 on 27 March, on the left, if we can enlarge that, and
 7 the next, on the right, is one on 31 March 1992. This
 8 is around one of our case study homes and proposals to
 9 close that home. If we look at the article on the left,
 10 we see in the bottom paragraph reference to "The council
 11 does not seem to have any clear idea of what is going to
 12 happen to them" -- "them" being the children:
 13 "There really is nowhere for them to go apart from
 14 foster carers or into private and voluntary homes in
 15 which we do not know what happens. They certainly will
 16 not get the standard of care they are getting at
 17 Southvale. Staff claim the unit has developed into
 18 a culturally important specialist unit ...", et cetera,
 19 et cetera.
 20 We see in the last paragraph:
 21 "Tory Social Services spokesperson Clare Whelan
 22 said, 'I want to know exactly what is going to happen to
 23 the children'.
 24 So you're very clearly saying to the press at that
 25 time, putting the children there in the centre, you want

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1 **income, but it is an allowance.**
 2 Q. You said a moment ago you weren't sure about the
 3 politics. I want to just explore with you how political
 4 a role being a councillor was and became, and whether
 5 and insofar as that impacted on focusing on the business
 6 and the real interests that you had in children and
 7 children's homes?
 8 **A. When I got on the council, it was a highly political**
 9 **council, so politics came into it to a large extent. It**
 10 **was the council that was well known as being -- it was**
 11 **often classified as sort of the loony left with some**
 12 **highly ideological people on it. Clearly, there is**
 13 **a political element to it. But I would like to say, and**
 14 **knowing my background, I can see why people might have**
 15 **difficulty believing this, but the question of children**
 16 **and children in homes for me went way beyond the**
 17 **question of politics. I had two young children myself,**
 18 **and, as I began to understand something about the**
 19 **children's services and the children's homes, that was**
 20 **my main driver.**
 21 Q. We are going to go through, Ms Whelan, various
 22 correspondence and things that you did to alert others
 23 about the children's home. But just for a moment
 24 staying on the point of politics, can I ask Mr Hyde,
 25 please, to put onto the screen two documents side by

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1 to know what's happening to their plans; do you agree?
 2 **A. I agree with that, yes.**
 3 Q. If we look at the next article, which is just four days
 4 later, in the South London Press, the tone of that is
 5 a bit different, isn't it? If you can enlarge that,
 6 please, Mr Hyde, I would be grateful. Thank you very
 7 much. If you look at that article, it's very much
 8 a juxtaposition of Councillor Nicholas and yourself. It
 9 refers within it, if we look at the bottom of the first
 10 paragraph, "When we informed Tory Social Services
 11 spokesperson Councillor Clare Whelan, she called for
 12 Councillor Nicholas's resignation. 'His position is
 13 untenable. He has given us the wrong information'.",
 14 et cetera, et cetera. The calls for resignation,
 15 et cetera. It becomes very much a discussion between
 16 you and Councillor Nicholas on who should be in office.
 17 So the same topic is dealt with quite differently in
 18 that article. Would you agree?
 19 **A. I would agree with that, yes.**
 20 Q. So my question, and it was one example, because there is
 21 a lot in the South London Press at various times -- that
 22 can go down now, thank you very much, Mr Hyde.
 23 How does that happen? How do we get to that kind of
 24 ping pong, I'm going to call it, between councillors
 25 about that kind of issue, who should resign and what's

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1 been said, as opposed to the first article where you are
 2 talking about the children, what's going to happen to
 3 them?
 4 **A. I guess the way the article was written was a matter for**
 5 **the journalist in the South London Press, but, yes,**
 6 **I did think that there were some serious errors of**
 7 **judgment amongst leading politicians and that I wanted**
 8 **somebody else -- or people to be there who seemed to put**
 9 **the children and -- in whom one could have more trust,**
 10 **first, there instead. I mean, I did talk to the press**
 11 **quite a lot and they talked to me quite a lot, and**
 12 **I thought that was helpful, often, in trying to put**
 13 **a spotlight on some of the things that I saw going on in**
 14 **children's homes, and so, you know, it was a political**
 15 **environment. It's not unusual in politics to want to**
 16 **see leading people replaced if you don't think they're**
 17 **doing a good job or you can't trust what they say**
 18 **altogether.**
 19 Q. Did you think it sometimes diverted from the key issue,
 20 which was to talk about the position for the children,
 21 what was happening to them, where, surely, there should
 22 have been common interests across party lines about
 23 keeping children safe and promoting their welfare?
 24 **A. There should have been more of that than there was, and**
 25 **I think that I could point to lots of instances where we**

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1 and panel and everyone who has been watching has seen
 2 those reports and what he said. You took the time, it
 3 would appear, to meet and talk with Mr Morton and follow
 4 through or learn from him what he was saying.
 5 **A. Yes. Well, I think that report, I think, is a different**
 6 **one a bit later to one that's quite often been referred**
 7 **to in the inquiry. It was the last report he wrote**
 8 **before he left. But it does highlight not just things**
 9 **that weren't in a good state in Lambeth children's**
 10 **services, but they hadn't been for some considerable**
 11 **time and his frustration, I think, that it was unlikely**
 12 **that things could be turned around with the speed that**
 13 **needed to happen.**
 14 Q. We know he used the word "dangerous", it was a dangerous
 15 position, the way it was for children in Lambeth
 16 Children's Homes?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Did he repeat that to you? Did he emphasise that to
 19 you, that such was his level of concern?
 20 **A. I don't remember the conversation specifically, but**
 21 **I think that if I'd had any inkling that he hadn't meant**
 22 **what he said in that report, I wouldn't have done the**
 23 **things that I did.**
 24 Q. We see, if we can upload, please, Mr Hyde,
 25 CWH000038_003. What we are going to put on the screen,

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1 **tried very much to do cross-party working and certainly,**
 2 **in later years, that became easier, with better**
 3 **relationships with Opposition council members. But in**
 4 **those early years, actually, it was really, really**
 5 **difficult to do, partly because I was there as**
 6 **a Conservative councillor, it was a very left-wing**
 7 **council, and there were a lot of people who were**
 8 **inclined to think that everything I said and my entire**
 9 **interest was political, and I think partly because that**
 10 **was the way they thought too. But I was a politician**
 11 **and I would say political things, but that didn't take**
 12 **away from the fact that the children were what I was**
 13 **interested in.**
 14 Q. You say, I think, later in your statement that you were
 15 very frustrated by people ready to talk you down, if you
 16 like, as coming from a different political perspective,
 17 as opposed to being really concerned about the subject
 18 matter?
 19 **A. That's true.**
 20 Q. Let's turn, then, to the essence of what we are
 21 concerned about, which is the children and knowledge
 22 around children's treatment in Lambeth. At paragraph 10
 23 you set out how you remember very clearly
 24 Robert Morton's report and, when he was leaving the
 25 council, his concerns about children's homes. The chair

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1 Ms Whelan, is an email or a memo you send to Councillor
 2 Stephen Whaley.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. You tell Councillor Whaley you are becoming increasingly
 5 concerned about the current situation in many of
 6 Lambeth's children's homes. We see in the second
 7 paragraph you say:
 8 "I know that you share many of these concerns and
 9 I would urge you, in the interests of Lambeth's
 10 children, to conduct an immediate inquiry into the
 11 allegations made in Robert Morton's report. I have no
 12 wish to waste officers' time in yet another
 13 paper-pushing exercise but feel the situation is so
 14 serious that immediate steps must be taken not only to
 15 prevent 'serious incidents' but to rapidly improve the
 16 overall quality of care and planning. It would seem
 17 that all the 'reviewing' and 'reassessing' to date has
 18 not achieved that."
 19 We see there you acknowledge that he has many of
 20 the same concerns -- thank you, that can go down,
 21 Mr Hyde. Is that what you are talking about,
 22 cross-party recognition at this point that these were
 23 concerns?
 24 **A. Yes. I mean, I did, as well as the formal committees**
 25 **meetings, try to build relationships or have one-to-one**

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<p>1 conversations, and I had obviously had a conversation 2 with Stephen Whaley in which he had agreed that some of 3 those concerns were valid. Again, I don't recall the 4 conversation, but I do know that I tried to talk to 5 people and approach things in different ways. 6 Q. You also put together a report, didn't you? You 7 compiled a report. I'm not going to ask for that to go 8 on the screen. It was a lengthy report, where you put 9 in Robert Morton's reports, various comments, and was 10 that the report that eventually you sent to the SSI, the 11 Social Services Inspectorate, or was that something 12 different? 13 A. I think I sent them the same report that I sent to the 14 Secretary of State -- the Minister of State. 15 Q. Before you attached in full Mr Morton's report, you made 16 various comments or highlights yourself on a couple of 17 pages. One of the things you refer to, if I can just 18 ask you about this, is you, under "Fostering and 19 adoption", referred to the fact, "It is clearly 20 preferable to place children with families of 21 a culturally similar background". You went on to say: 22 "However, in Lambeth, race issues appear to take 23 priority over the best interests of the child. For 24 example, the refusal to place a child of mixed parentage 25 where one parent was white with a white family may deny</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 that child a chance of a family which is in all other 2 respects ideal." 3 You commented: 4 "This seems to have the effect of depriving many 5 from the black or other ethnic minorities finding 6 families and condemns many of them to longer spells in 7 institutions because of the shortage of exact matched 8 parents. Ironically, these institutions may be in an 9 all-white community outside of London, making 10 communications with family, friends and social workers 11 extremely difficult. This cannot be in the best 12 interests of the child." 13 What evidence did you have to substantiate or to say 14 that? Do you remember now? Or was that impression? 15 A. I think there was a same-race placement policy that 16 emphasised that children should be placed with foster 17 parents who have the same cultural background, which 18 actually is an aspiration that I would entirely support 19 and is the ideal situation. But it seemed that -- 20 I don't quite remember why I knew this, but I'm fairly 21 sure I did know -- there were children for whom exact 22 match placements couldn't be found and, therefore, there 23 was a refusal to place them with a foster family that 24 had a different parentage. 25 On the question of placing children outside the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>
<p>1 borough, I can't remember if I included it in that 2 report, but I certainly had lists of homes where 3 children were placed miles away from Lambeth, many of 4 them that, in fact, hadn't been inspected by Lambeth. 5 I think Robert Morton refers to that in his report 6 saying, of the homes he'd seen that Lambeth used, he 7 wouldn't himself have used more than two out of ten 8 I think was what he said. 9 Q. That's right: 10 "Given the choice, I would probably only use two of 11 the ten homes I visited." 12 A. Correct. 13 Q. Let me ask you about Southvale Children's Home. This is 14 paragraph 16 of your statement, if it helps centre you 15 in that way. Southvale Children's Home you put a report 16 together about and you had received information from 17 a member of staff at the home about care of children 18 there; is that right? Was this conversation with that 19 member of staff after the Zephyrine Inquiry or before? 20 A. I can't remember the dates of the Zephyrine Inquiry. 21 I think it was probably after, but I wouldn't absolutely 22 swear to that. I think it probably -- 23 Q. It looks as though you were discussing the lack of 24 leadership and management, the unhappy atmosphere, 25 allegations of physical abuse by staff, older children</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>	<p>1 at the children's home fighting and bullying younger 2 children and lack of support for staff dealing with this 3 situation from field social workers and management. 4 Would you have got that from the report as well as the 5 person you were speaking with? 6 A. I would have got it certainly from the person I was 7 speaking with and I think he gave me various other 8 documents about disciplinary actions and things. It may 9 well have been that other people were talking to me 10 around that time about that home and what was going on. 11 I just -- I don't recollect at this point, but quite 12 a lot of what I said was based on documentary evidence 13 as well as hearsay, I think, in that regard. I didn't 14 honestly know for sure all the details, but I did know 15 it was a really -- it felt like, and was, a really 16 unhappy place for staff and, more importantly, children. 17 Q. Were you approachable, then, as a councillor? It sounds 18 as though people were able to come to you with concerns 19 they had. Was that the position? 20 A. Yes. Well, every Saturday I used to have an advice 21 surgery where people could come along and see me and 22 talk about anything they wanted to talk about or I would 23 meet people outside. I know it was one of the things 24 I liked to do, was to be accessible. 25 Q. You also had a GP or someone you knew who alerted you to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

1 concerns they might have about children in Southvale; is
 2 that right?
 3 **A. Yes, it was my own doctor. I do remember that that was**
 4 **an appointment I had with him personally, and he raised**
 5 **these -- his concerns at that time.**
 6 Q. About how children were being treated?
 7 **A. Yes. I mean, I really wish I could remember the**
 8 **absolute substance of the conversation. I can't.**
 9 **I know it was partly about medication, and I recall that**
 10 **he was strongly hinting that I should focus some energy**
 11 **there, but I don't remember the precise detail of it.**
 12 Q. You did, by the looks of it, speak to various people,
 13 and you said you had strong feelings that things were
 14 not right and someone needed to look into it; is that
 15 the position?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. To be clear, when you had feelings that it wasn't right,
 18 at that point were you worried whether children were
 19 being sexual abused, or what?
 20 **A. I think my main concerns were around general sort of**
 21 **neglect and poor care of children and giving children**
 22 **poor life chances. I can't remember at that point**
 23 **whether I'd had any -- I don't think I'd had any**
 24 **indication about sexual abuse, or I probably would have**
 25 **put -- well, I would have put it in the report. I mean,**

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1 every confidence they would do everything possible to
 2 bring those involved to justice. We know, at this
 3 stage, it is investigation into Leslie Paul at Southvale
 4 for allegations of child sexual abuse, and you then say
 5 at paragraph 3:
 6 "I have been gravely concerned for a number of years
 7 about Lambeth's council-run homes. Whatever the outcome
 8 of the criminal investigation, I would urge you, through
 9 the SSI, to undertake a thorough investigation of
 10 the children's homes."
 11 If we can have, just to follow up that
 12 correspondence, please, Mr Hyde, CWH000061_002
 13 juxtaposed with CWH000061_003. If we look there, can we
 14 see you refer -- you are being sent a letter by Tim Yeo
 15 in November to say:
 16 "Joint investigation is likely to continue for a few
 17 more weeks. There are still a number of young people
 18 and staff to be interviewed. It would not be
 19 appropriate for the Social Services Inspectorate or
 20 myself to intervene while investigations are in
 21 progress."
 22 But letting you know that they will consider what
 23 further action needs to happen after the investigation.
 24 Then December 1992, you follow up and say you'd be
 25 grateful to know the areas which any inquiry will cover.

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1 **I just -- I genuinely don't remember precisely the**
 2 **sequence of knowing or worrying about things.**
 3 Q. Let's have a look at how you communicated with the SSI.
 4 If we can have, please, Mr Hyde, CWH000005_003. This is
 5 a document dated 11 January 1991, and it looks as though
 6 you and Sir William Shelton have met Virginia Bottomley
 7 and David Lambert the week before and you set out there:
 8 "It is clear you already have a deep understanding
 9 of the problems in Lambeth. I was most impressed by
 10 your informed analysis and encouraged by the
 11 determination of both yourself and the Social Services
 12 Inspectorate to see what practical steps can be taken to
 13 ensure that local authorities do provide proper care."
 14 Pursuant to that meeting that you had, what did you
 15 think that the SSI would do to ensure practical
 16 assistance or improvement?
 17 **A. I don't know that I knew precisely, but I did know that**
 18 **they had a remit to inspect and look at what was**
 19 **happening in local authorities' childcare, so I guess**
 20 **I hoped they would do whatever it was in their power to**
 21 **do.**
 22 Q. CWH000061_001. This is a letter from you
 23 in October 1992 to The Right Honourable
 24 Virginia Bottomley. You point out, by that date, you'd
 25 been assisting the police with their enquiries and had

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1 If those documents can go down, please, Mr Hyde, and can
 2 we have CWH000061_004. So those two can go. There we
 3 have it.
 4 We see there a letter to you from Tim Yeo saying:
 5 "As you will have learnt, this will be conducted
 6 through two separate pieces of work. There will be an
 7 enquiry by a person independent of Lambeth Council to
 8 look into the circumstances of the employment of
 9 Mr John Carroll as the officer-in-charge ..."
 10 We know that's the subsequently named Clough Report.
 11 Then he says:
 12 "There will also be an inspection of Lambeth's
 13 residential childcare services by the Social Services
 14 Inspectorate. I am pleased to note that you welcome
 15 these initiatives."
 16 When you received that, did you think the inspection
 17 was going to be limited to three homes?
 18 **A. I don't think I would have made that assumption, no.**
 19 Q. You might have thought it was going to be all of
 20 the homes or looking at residential services overall?
 21 **A. I guess so, yes. I don't recall having an opinion on**
 22 **what it would cover, but I was pleased at the assurance**
 23 **that there would be some investigation into Lambeth**
 24 **Children's Homes.**
 25 Q. You, at that time, had spoken to the police yourself in

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<p>1 relation to that investigation into Leslie Paul. We 2 have -- and I don't need it to go onto the screen; I can 3 tell you -- the briefing sheet for what we know as 4 Operation Bell. There is a reference there -- I know 5 you have a copy of that -- the police record is saying: 6 "The investigation is sensitive due to a number of 7 factors: nature of offences; occupation of suspects; 8 allegations of a coverup; political intentions of those 9 concerned in providing information." 10 You had obviously provided information to the 11 police. Does that resonate with you at all, political 12 intentions of those concerned in providing information? 13 A. I guess I can see why, if you have a politician coming 14 to you with information, you might wonder why they want 15 to do it, yes. I can see that. I can see why it is 16 there. But I would hope that I haven't given any cause 17 to think I was there for anything other than the right 18 reasons. 19 Q. Also, in terms of suggestions of a three-year coverup or 20 coverup of child sexual abuse, what was then and is in 21 your mind now about suggestions around a coverup of 22 child sexual abuse? What's your thinking about that? 23 A. I assume, I have looked at this bit of paper today, that 24 it did relate to the fact that John Carroll had 25 a schedule 1 conviction and that hadn't really been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 acknowledged or talked about, and there may have been 2 other things. I don't remember that particular meeting 3 so I don't remember the detail of what I provided to the 4 police or -- and don't remember quite a lot of the names 5 in there. I remember some of them. 6 Q. You were concerned that John Carroll was allowed to 7 retain his position and his job, weren't you? Is that 8 what you mean? Why was he allowed to do that? 9 A. I absolutely was concerned. I could not believe -- 10 I still can't believe -- that anyone who had 11 a conviction for a sexual offence was allowed to 12 consider fostering children, and particularly to run 13 a children's home. It just seemed to me unbelievable. 14 Q. Were you aware of his fostering applications to Croydon 15 and Wandsworth? Or when were you aware of those? 16 A. Again, I don't recall when I was aware, but certainly 17 those applications were brought to my attention. 18 Certainly one of the social workers involved told me of 19 her concerns that there was a fostering application. 20 Q. So at the time, you were aware of the application being 21 made to Wandsworth, were you? 22 A. I don't remember which of the applications -- I don't 23 recall the detail, but I did know fairly early on that 24 John Carroll had been running a children's home and that 25 he had been trying to foster children.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>
<p>1 Q. Did you hear anything at the time of any application to 2 Southwark or not? 3 A. Not that I can recall. 4 Q. Let me ask you now about visits, please. It is 5 paragraph 42 of your statement when you talk about 6 councillor visits. We know around the time of 7 the Norbert McCooty case, you were concerned that he had 8 not been placed in secure accommodation and you wanted 9 to visit Stockwell Park Children's Home, didn't you? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Can I ask if we can have on the screen, please, 12 CWH000028_003. This should be, Ms Whelan, a logbook 13 entry at Stockwell Park. If we can go to the top 14 section, do we see there a record that you took from the 15 logbook at Stockwell Park, and can you tell the chair 16 and panel, please, about how you were received when you 17 visited the home and what happened subsequently? 18 A. Well, I was denied entry to the home. I mean, it was an 19 unusual visit, if it is the one I remember, where I had 20 been led to believe that something in logbooks might -- 21 some information in logbooks might go missing. But that 22 instruction was contrary to my belief that councillors 23 should have had the right of access to children's homes 24 and to look at logbooks. 25 Q. You followed that up -- if we take that down, can we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>	<p>1 have CWH000024_007 -- with a letter to the chief 2 executive, Herman Ouseley, and then you received this 3 a few days letter, 30 September 1991, from 4 Ainsley Forbes, notifying you the logbooks relating to 5 Stockwell Park for the period July 1990 to 1991 have 6 been located and are now available for your examination? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. You got a formal follow-up to discussion between you and 9 the assistant director in May 1993, if we can take that 10 document down, please, Mr Hyde, and put up instead 11 CWH000024_009. Do we see here that addressed to you is 12 a letter assuring you officers are clearly members of 13 the Social Services Committee and do have a right of 14 access to records held in each unit relating to children 15 accommodated by the department. So it looks as though, 16 through that period, there was discussion between you 17 and officers within the council of how you should be 18 executing your rights as a councillor under the 19 Children's Home Regulations to visit homes, prepare 20 reports on homes and execute your role; is that right? 21 A. That is right, yes. I was concerned that, even though 22 there was some written and lip service encouragement of 23 visits to children's homes, the fact was that they were 24 being discouraged or prevented, it felt to me. 25 Q. The document can go down, thank you. Indeed, in 1992,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

1 you say, if you go to paragraph 56 of your statement,
 2 that at some point thereafter, in between when that
 3 discussion is going on, in May 1992, Ainsley Forbes
 4 stated that the system of allocations of children's
 5 homes for visiting would be based on an unalterable rota
 6 of homes. Was that suggested?
 7 **A. It was suggested, yes.**
 8 Q. Did that happen? What was the response of councillors
 9 to that?
 10 **A. I was concerned that there would be an unalterable rota**
 11 **and officers would therefore have control over which**
 12 **homes were visited and when. I think, given my concerns**
 13 **about children's homes and what was going on in them,**
 14 **I felt it was important that I should have the right to**
 15 **go to children's homes unannounced acknowledged.**
 16 Q. Did you get pushback in relation to that right or
 17 expectation as a councillor, or was that formally
 18 recognised pursuant to that rota being produced?
 19 **A. I think it was ultimately recognised that it was**
 20 **possible to do that. I think I got some legal advice**
 21 **that -- because there was some correspondence from**
 22 **various officers, I think, suggesting that members**
 23 **didn't have a right to visit homes when they chose to,**
 24 **so I think I got some legal advice and the chapter and**
 25 **verse on that, so that I was sure that could happen.**

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1 **A. I genuinely don't recall. But, yes, I would have**
 2 **thought possibly around that -- I don't know. I don't**
 3 **know.**
 4 Q. Did you see a draft of the final report?
 5 **A. I don't think I ever saw that -- I don't recall seeing**
 6 **that, ever, in a formal committee report, but I think**
 7 **I was passed some information, possibly by a previous**
 8 **councillor or somebody else I was talking to.**
 9 Q. I don't know if we are speaking about the same report.
 10 We know there was a first investigation, a second
 11 management investigation, disciplinary hearings and then
 12 a separate report that was looking at the processes for
 13 investigating child sexual abuse. Did you see that
 14 report?
 15 **A. A wider one than just Ivy House, but, yes, I possibly**
 16 **did.**
 17 Q. What we might do, Ms Whelan, is have that report sent to
 18 you so you can see if that's something you have received
 19 before or have knowledge of. The inquiry can do that
 20 pursuant to your evidence to see if that report saw the
 21 light of day at the time, as it were?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Moving on to Monkton Street Home for children with
 24 learning difficulties, you visited Monkton Street Home,
 25 you tell us at paragraph 66, and you were concerned

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1 **I could also see why it might be a good idea to have**
 2 **a rota to make sure every home is visited over a period**
 3 **of time, but I think the point that I was upset about**
 4 **was it seemed as though officers were trying to control**
 5 **precisely which homes and when.**
 6 Q. Did you feel that at the end of you taking the steps you
 7 did and getting legal advice, you had got that on the
 8 level footing that was required by law and as you were
 9 entitled to do, to visit a particular home if you felt
 10 the need to?
 11 **A. I felt that had been acknowledged, yes.**
 12 Q. Paragraph 65 of your statement, please. You talk about
 13 Monkton Street. Before we move to Monkton Street Home,
 14 can I just formally ask you, we know that there was
 15 a special panel report produced in relation to an
 16 allegation investigated at Ivy House where there was
 17 a Mr Theaker, Ms Jarvis and Mr Palayiwa who chaired that
 18 particular panel. Did you ever see that Special Review
 19 Panel report in your capacity on the Social Services
 20 Committee, or did you never see that?
 21 **A. I think I did see it, but I don't think it was in my**
 22 **official capacity. I think it is because somebody else**
 23 **had passed it to me for information.**
 24 Q. When do you think that was passed to you for
 25 information, around the time or subsequently?

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1 about shortage of staffing, reliance on agency staff and
 2 vacancies in key management roles, similar to issues at
 3 Stockwell Park and Southvale; is that right?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Again, I think you wrote to Virginia Bottomley, did you,
 6 and you got a response. Can you tell us the response at
 7 paragraph 67?
 8 **A. Yes, in which she mentioned shortage of skilled and**
 9 **experienced staff across London.**
 10 Q. You also tell us at paragraph 71, Angell Road -- you
 11 visited Angell Road, didn't you?
 12 **A. I did.**
 13 Q. Tell us what you observed. You set it out at 73 and 74,
 14 but please tell us what you saw visiting there?
 15 **A. I refer to an incident where I was shown around the**
 16 **home, and we got to one particular room and the member**
 17 **of staff showing me around that home went kind of quite**
 18 **quiet, and then told me that grownup people had crawled**
 19 **around that room in nappies, and I do remember --**
 20 **I don't remember a lot of things, but I do remember**
 21 **this, because it seemed so bizarre, and I said, "You**
 22 **mean children", and she said, "No, grownup people", or**
 23 **said something -- I don't remember the precise words,**
 24 **but something to that effect. Then she picked up two**
 25 **anatomical dolls and put them together in a sexual act,**

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1 **and then she, I think, looked quite sort of scared or**
 2 **frightened, and we continued the tour of the home.**
 3 Q. So this was a member of staff, a member of staff at the
 4 home?
 5 **A. Correct, yes.**
 6 Q. Was she communicating to you very clearly her deep
 7 discomfort with that, or what?
 8 **A. She was clearly uncomfortable when she was doing it.**
 9 **I mean, it seemed to me a completely bizarre incident,**
 10 **and it was troubling, yes, worrying, yes, I mean,**
 11 **I didn't really know how to interpret it, but I did**
 12 **interpret it as trying to communicate a concern.**
 13 Q. What did you do with that particular concern, that
 14 adults were in nappies and using anatomically correct
 15 dolls in the way described?
 16 **A. I guess I will have reported it to somebody. I don't --**
 17 **again, I don't remember precisely, but I will have at**
 18 **some point given it -- if I was talking to the police**
 19 **about Angell Road, I would certainly have mentioned**
 20 **that. I can't recall if I put it -- I put in a lot of**
 21 **members' enquiries about my concerns about homes.**
 22 **I don't know whether I put that into one of those or**
 23 **not.**
 24 Q. We haven't seen that reference in many places, and
 25 indeed it is difficult to see where else. But as far as

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1 **quite a culture of denial that there were issues, and**
 2 **I think we certainly felt it was helpful that it was**
 3 **somebody other than me and one or two other people**
 4 **saying that things were badly wrong.**
 5 Q. You mention, at paragraph 126, the training that you
 6 had, or, rather, didn't have. When you were first
 7 elected in Lambeth, you say you were put on a minibus
 8 for a cursory tour of the borough and Joan Twelves, who
 9 was the Labour leader of the Council, gave a speech
 10 saying, "The only thing we really needed to know was
 11 which bits of paper to throw away". Was that the effect
 12 of -- was that something that was said at time?
 13 **A. That was certainly something that was said at the**
 14 **time -- actually, not entirely bad advice, because,**
 15 **every night, the council courier used to come around**
 16 **with stacks and stacks of paperwork, and one of**
 17 **the things you did have to know was where to find the**
 18 **crucial bits in amongst it. But there was very little**
 19 **training to councillors. I have subsequently seen that**
 20 **in Pat White's report there is a page that does set out**
 21 **some of the training that was apparently given for new**
 22 **councillors, but I don't think -- it wasn't very**
 23 **in-depth.**
 24 Q. Is that something that would be different now?
 25 **A. Oh, I would think so, yes. Many -- well, in Lambeth**

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1 you're concerned at the time, that's something you would
 2 have mentioned?
 3 **A. Well, I would have thought so. I mean, it was so**
 4 **troubling, yes. In my statement, I have put my**
 5 **statement together on the basis of bits of paper and**
 6 **evidence I have found, and I don't think I have found or**
 7 **discovered anything that said I definitely did that, but**
 8 **I don't think I would have kept it to myself.**
 9 Q. We have seen Angell Road referred to as a place where
 10 direct work might be undertaken with children who have
 11 experienced sexual abuse. Were you ever aware of that
 12 suggestion or proposal for the use of Angell Road?
 13 **A. I think I knew that was one of its functions, yes.**
 14 Q. You set out, and we don't have time now, in your
 15 statement the various SSI report findings -- the 1993
 16 report you found horrified, but you weren't surprised by
 17 the findings; is that right?
 18 **A. That is right, yes.**
 19 Q. Did you feel that assistance from the SSI was assisting
 20 on the ground, as it were, for Lambeth in terms of
 21 dealing and managing their homes?
 22 **A. I think what I thought was, it was helpful in putting**
 23 **a spotlight on what was going wrong in Lambeth homes and**
 24 **hoping -- hopefully concentrating people's minds on**
 25 **doing something about it. I mean, there seemed to be**

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1 **certainly it got better, and it broadly was better**
 2 **training for councillors these days.**
 3 Q. Paragraph 164. The foster care check issue remained,
 4 didn't it, a troubling issue for some time?
 5 **A. Yes. Despite reassurances that police checks had been**
 6 **carried out, it emerged probably, I think, around 1999,**
 7 **that, in fact, that wasn't the case at all, and that was**
 8 **indeed very, very troubling.**
 9 Q. Finally, paragraphs 176 and 177. You were asked, as
 10 everyone has been asked, to address issues as you may
 11 have seen them around intimidation, secret societies,
 12 Freemasons, things of concern generally within Lambeth.
 13 Dealing first, if I may, with the Freemasons or secret
 14 societies, were you ever concerned that there were
 15 networks of Freemasons working in any way against the
 16 interests of children or the council together?
 17 **A. I don't actually ever recall any mention of Freemasons**
 18 **as a particular issue. Unions, yes, but not Freemasons.**
 19 Q. What would you say about unions, then? You refer to the
 20 position of the unions. How did you perceive the unions
 21 at the time in relation to your role?
 22 **A. Well, I mean, the unions were very strong and very**
 23 **militant and seemed to have a disproportionate sway on**
 24 **the workings of the council. I mean, I certainly**
 25 **remember being quite intimidated by them personally, but**

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1 they were also allowed in sometimes to closed sessions
 2 when we were discussing Social Services matters. I've
 3 got one leaflet somewhere, I think, that suggests that
 4 if anybody believes something I say, then they're kind
 5 of working against the interests of staff. More
 6 generally, I think that -- well, I think Barratt
 7 probably spells it out, that they did get in the way of
 8 sorting out many of the staffing issues and disciplinary
 9 matters and changing practice, and I think that was
 10 a cause of quite a few of the problems.

11 Q. In terms of whether you ever felt intimidated in your
 12 own space or your home, you tell us there was a time
 13 when you received calls in your home. What was that
 14 about?

15 A. I don't know. I mean, there were calls -- I don't
 16 think -- I remember most about them sort of silences,
 17 and a few words. I don't remember the precise words.
 18 I mean, it was quite scary, to be honest, but --

19 Q. You say:

20 "At times I was having threatening, anonymous calls
 21 to my home."

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And your mother "reminded me recently, I told her one
 24 night to lock the door and let no-one in when I went out
 25 in the evening to look at children's homes". So you

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1 Mrs Anna Tapsell.
 2 MRS ELIZABETH ANNE TAPSELL (affirmed)
 3 Examination by MS DOBBIN

4 MS DOBBIN: Mrs Tapsell, can I ask you to give your full
 5 name to the panel, please.

6 A. Yes, it is actually Mrs Elizabeth Anne Tapsell, but
 7 I have always been called "Anna".

8 Q. Mrs Tapsell, you should have two statements in front of
 9 you.

10 A. You will have to speak up a little bit, please.

11 Q. I will. I'm glad you have reminded me, thank you. Have
 12 you got two statements in front of you? The first one
 13 being a statement of 28 September 2017?

14 A. Yes. I didn't have them, so I have read them online
 15 since I was asked, just this morning during the earlier
 16 hearing.

17 Q. Mrs Tapsell, are you satisfied that that statement is
 18 true, to the best of your knowledge and belief?

19 A. If it is the one -- the statement given to Operation --
 20 the Merseyside operation, yes, I am.

21 Q. I was actually asking you about the statements that you
 22 made for the purposes of the inquiry?

23 A. Oh, right. I've got that in front of me, yes. Sorry,
 24 I thought you were referring to the things you asked me
 25 to look at this morning.

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1 felt sufficiently worried to say that?

2 A. Yes. Yes, I mean, I do recall feeling quite scared
 3 fairly often, really, particularly, you know, when
 4 raising matters about children's homes. I don't know
 5 who was making those threats, but I can see that there
 6 may well have been people who were interested in my not
 7 saying anything.

8 MS LANGDALE: Thank you. I have no further questions,
 9 Ms Whelan. I don't know if the chair and panel have.

10 A. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms Sharpling, do you have any
 12 questions?

13 MS SHARPLING: No, thank you, chair.

14 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank?

15 MR FRANK: No, thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: And Sir Malcolm?

17 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: No, thank you, chair.

18 THE CHAIR: No, we have no questions. Thank you very much.

19 A. Thank you.

20 (The witness withdrew)

21 MS LANGDALE: Chair, may I suggest 3.10 pm to resume?

22 THE CHAIR: Yes, of course, thank you.

23 (2.53 pm)

24 (A short break)

25 MS DOBBIN: Chair, can I call the next witness, please,

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1 Q. I'll come to that in due course.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. I just wanted to ask you, first of all, about your
 4 inquiry statement. You should have one in front of you,
 5 then, signed 28 September 2017?

6 A. Yes, indeed.

7 Q. Are you content that that statement is true?

8 A. Yes, I am.

9 Q. I think you then made a second statement to the inquiry,
 10 and that one is dated 11 February 2020?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Are you also satisfied that that statement is true, to
 13 the best of your knowledge and belief?

14 A. Yes, I am.

15 Q. I'm just going to ask you a bit about your background,
 16 if I may, in Lambeth Council. I think you worked as
 17 a home care organiser between 1978 and 1989; is that
 18 right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. During that period, were you also chair of the trade
 21 union NALGO?

22 A. During a part of that time, yes. I was always a trade
 23 unionist and a shop steward, but I was elected as the
 24 chairperson of Lambeth NALGO just before about 1984,
 25 I should say.

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1 Q. I have a note that it is 1981 to 1987; does that sound
 2 right?
 3 **A. It could be, yes. I can't really remember when I was**
 4 **elected. It was when the leader of the council was**
 5 **cutting the home care service, I think.**
 6 Q. I think it is right that you medically retired as an
 7 employee from Lambeth Council in 1988?
 8 **A. Yes. I had become very ill and had to go.**
 9 Q. After that, between 1990 and 1998, you were a councillor
 10 within Lambeth?
 11 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 12 Q. You might need to help me with this: were you a Labour
 13 Councillor until 1994?
 14 **A. I was a Labour Councillor until the budget making of --**
 15 **I suppose it would have been in May 1997, when the**
 16 **budget was made, when I resigned from my group, my**
 17 **Labour group, and set an alternative budget with two**
 18 **other councillors, and I was then expelled from the**
 19 **Labour Party, of course.**
 20 Q. I think you remained there as an independent councillor
 21 until the following --
 22 **A. Until the end of the budget making and the election,**
 23 **when I lost my seat, yes.**
 24 Q. Important to this inquiry, you were chair of
 25 the Social Services Committee from 1993?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. I wonder if you can help me with this: the inquiry has
 3 seen information about the industrial action that took
 4 place in the 1980s that was taken by care workers who
 5 worked in residential care in Lambeth?
 6 **A. That's right.**
 7 Q. Do you remember that industrial action taking place?
 8 **A. Very well, yes.**
 9 Q. What impact did it have on children's homes in Lambeth?
 10 **A. I believe now, from what I know now, that some children**
 11 **had to be placed in alternative placements because there**
 12 **were not enough staff to care for them. But, as**
 13 **I remember, because I was involved as a trade union**
 14 **official with the management in making sure that the**
 15 **services of the council throughout the council were able**
 16 **to function, particularly those in Social Services.**
 17 **I don't remember very specifically dealing with the**
 18 **arrangements for the children. That would have been**
 19 **another convener who would have done that, together with**
 20 **the management.**
 21 **It was a strange strike, because I think the union**
 22 **worked very hard with management to make sure things**
 23 **were covered.**
 24 Q. I'm asking you about it for the reason that you have
 25 identified, because we have seen evidence and

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1 **A. From 1993, yes. Before that, I was chair of planning**
 2 **and then chair of environmental services when planning**
 3 **was merged with environmental services.**
 4 Q. Can you just help me with how long you were the chair of
 5 the Social Services Committee for?
 6 **A. I think it was until -- I'm not completely sure, but**
 7 **1996, when I resigned as chair of Social Services**
 8 **Committee, following an accusation that I had altered my**
 9 **disabled badge.**
 10 Q. I don't think we need to go into that.
 11 **A. No, no, but that's what led me to resign as chair of**
 12 **Social Services Committee.**
 13 Q. I think, in 1994, you were also the leader of the Labour
 14 Group and joint leader of the Council?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Is that right?
 17 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 18 Q. I think you were joint leader because the local
 19 elections had delivered a hung council?
 20 **A. That's right.**
 21 Q. Was that a tripartite arrangement?
 22 **A. You could call it that, yes.**
 23 Q. Mrs Tapsell, I just want to ask you, before we go to
 24 events that you will be very familiar with, a bit about
 25 being an employee, first, within Lambeth?

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1 information that children were sent to quite distant
 2 places during this period.
 3 **A. Yes, and I haven't seen that, so it hasn't been**
 4 **disclosed to me, as far as I'm aware.**
 5 Q. That wasn't something that you were aware of at the
 6 time?
 7 **A. No. I was aware of the children being brought to the**
 8 **town hall, which I mention in one of my statements, as**
 9 **a sort of protest, brought to meet with the then chair**
 10 **of Social Services, which I thought was a very**
 11 **unprofessional piece of work. Yes, not good.**
 12 Q. I'm going to move on to another thing that you mention
 13 in your statement, the issue of corruption in the
 14 council?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. I wanted, if I may, to just home in on how that might
 17 have affected children's homes. You mention in your
 18 statement a fraud connected to the provision of food
 19 from Marks & Spencers?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Could you tell us a bit more about that fraud and what
 22 it involved?
 23 **A. Yes. It was organised by somebody in the headquarters**
 24 **of Social Services. It wasn't organised by**
 25 **John Carroll, which I believe is an assertion that's**

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1 been made. He certainly benefited from it. The
 2 position was, it was a means of coercing new workers
 3 into the residential establishments so that they did
 4 something because they were persuaded that was the norm,
 5 and then found themselves caught in an illegal act.
 6 The parcels would arrive at the homes, and they
 7 would be shared out perhaps on a monthly basis, and of
 8 course, if you were new, and you said, "No, thanks.
 9 I don't need that", you would be persuaded that this was
 10 the normal thing and everybody had it because the
 11 children had plenty and it was just extra and
 12 Marks & Spencers knew. It was like a gift. And if you
 13 took it, you were compromised, of course.
 14 Q. I will come back to people being compromised.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. Can I just ask, though, was this something that occurred
 17 during the period that you were employed by Lambeth, so
 18 before you became a councillor, in other words?
 19 A. I think it was probably something that I learnt about
 20 while I was a union official. I found my time -- my
 21 time as a home care organiser, I would get on with my
 22 work and I had a large workforce to manage, and it was
 23 very enjoyable, and I didn't know those things then.
 24 When I became a union activist and officer, not
 25 on -- whilst I was still working as well, union people

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1 found out about later?
 2 A. I think I was probably told, and I would have remembered
 3 it and documented it over the years, as part of what was
 4 happening, because I was concerned to find that people
 5 had not spoken up, including councillors, because they
 6 had done something that they were then threatened about.
 7 So councillors, for example, members of the direct
 8 labour force, would offer to help mend a roof, you know,
 9 "I see you've got missing slates off your roof. Can we
 10 offer to do that for you?". I was asked wouldn't I like
 11 my front drive sorting and putting right. And if you
 12 thought -- you thought that might be something you could
 13 say yes to because you weren't being paid, maybe it was
 14 a favour, you'd say yes, and then you're caught in that.
 15 So all the time, that sort of thing went on, because
 16 that was the nature of the corruption around and in the
 17 direct labour service and how it impinged upon housing
 18 and other central services, yes.
 19 Q. Mrs Tapsell, in your experience, was that sort of
 20 corruption widespread in Lambeth or was it confined to
 21 those directorates that were involved with the provision
 22 of direct labour?
 23 A. No, I would say that it spread into trying to control
 24 people who might use their power or trying to involve
 25 people who had some possibility of stopping this or

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1 told me things, so workers told me things, and that is
 2 why I was able to absorb a lot of information that
 3 I wouldn't otherwise have come across.
 4 Q. The inquiry understands that this fraud was detected in
 5 and around 1987. Does that accord with your memory
 6 of --
 7 A. I don't remember it ever being discovered.
 8 Q. In that we certainly know that someone was dismissed for
 9 fraud-related --
 10 A. Oh, I probably wouldn't have known that because he
 11 wasn't in my -- I worked in an area Social Services
 12 office, and I believe he worked somewhere more
 13 centrally.
 14 Q. In terms of your knowledge about Mr Carroll being
 15 involved in this fraud, where does that knowledge come
 16 from?
 17 A. I would have been told, not at the time, probably, but
 18 certainly in the years -- I mean, remember, I was
 19 20 years involved with Lambeth, in the council, and
 20 people told me things. So I would have been told, and
 21 it made sort of sense. Possibly I was told around the
 22 time he might have been dismissed, but I don't think
 23 I ever knew specifically about his dismissal.
 24 Q. Do you think you knew about the Marks & Spencers fraud
 25 more generally at the time, or was that something you

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1 talking about it or talking to the press, or whatever it
 2 was. But it's difficult to know exactly how widespread
 3 it was, but it was inherent. I mean, it was, by then,
 4 a part of the life of the council.
 5 Q. Does it correspond with the picture that was painted in
 6 the Appleby Report in 1995?
 7 A. No, not at all. The Appleby Report didn't tell any of
 8 us anything we didn't know. It talked about chaos. It
 9 didn't spell out what that chaos was. It didn't analyse
 10 anything of that. It was, I am sure, an enormous relief
 11 to everybody who had something to fear and I was angry
 12 about it because I was hopeful that she would expose the
 13 corruption not only in the direct labour force, and
 14 housing and so on, but also that she would take notice
 15 of what she'd been told about the child abuse and the
 16 corruption in Social Services. But she didn't.
 17 Q. I just want to take it in stages, Mrs Tapsell. I didn't
 18 mean to rush you. I just wanted, when you picked up on
 19 that, to see what your views were about the
 20 Appleby Report.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. The other thing, if I can ask you, then, just moving on
 23 to your decision to become a councillor, did your
 24 experiences in the workforce in Lambeth inform your
 25 decision to be a councillor?

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1 **A. Yes.**
2 Q. In what way, if I may ask?
3 **A. Well, I always was a political person and involved in**
4 **the Labour Party, in particular, and had stood for**
5 **Parliament. I wasn't politically ambitious, I was more**
6 **an accidental candidate for Parliament because they**
7 **hadn't selected anybody and had to do so in a rush. But**
8 **I was terrifically interested in local government and**
9 **what local government could achieve, and I wanted to**
10 **make real improvements in housing and planning and all**
11 **those areas in particular, because those were areas**
12 **where my husband had worked, and he shared a lot of his**
13 **experience with me. He was a director of planning in**
14 **Wandsworth when it was a Labour Council.**
15 Q. I will come on to how your interests developed. I just
16 wanted to ask you about how the committee system
17 actually operated, and it's something that you describe
18 at paragraph 2 of your second statement. You describe
19 in that paragraph that it was designed to be conducted
20 in public, which meant that if policy and practice was
21 being developed, if it was contentious, it was discussed
22 within political groups.
23 **A. Yes.**
24 Q. What you say is:
25 "The various factions within the committee would

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1 convoluted, because committees didn't meet every day,
2 and there would be meetings going on between councillors
3 and their officers and between officers and their chief
4 executive, and so on, the whole time. I think there
5 were probably too many meetings, but, apart from that,
6 it didn't seem to be complex because it was all so
7 enormous.
8 Q. Maybe your word for it, "orchestrated", is better.
9 **A. Right.**
10 Q. I suppose what I mean is, it doesn't look very
11 transparent?
12 **A. I see.**
13 Q. About the machinations going on in the background, it
14 was really that that I wanted to ask you about.
15 **A. Yes, it would depend on the issue. The full council, of**
16 **course, wasn't orchestrated in the same way. But,**
17 **remember, if you were, in particular, chairing**
18 **a committee, you actually had to be able to chair it.**
19 **So you had to have some idea, as I'm sure your panel**
20 **does now, of what is going to come up and how you might**
21 **possibly want to see your officers present it.**
22 **I don't know of any public meetings where those kind**
23 **of discussions don't go on so that you can actually**
24 **deliver a meeting that is business-like and also is open**
25 **to the public. We had masses of people who used to**

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1 privately discuss matters and come up with the party
2 line."
3 There would then be what you called a call-over
4 before the committee in which the whole committee would
5 sit, although not in public, and you say:
6 "The various factions would have agreed as to what
7 each wished to say at the public meeting."
8 You say:
9 "The meetings were quite orchestrated.
10 Subcommittees and our urgent proceedings were not, as
11 I recall, necessarily open to the public and were not
12 usually, in any case, advertised."
13 So I think you were distinguishing in that paragraph
14 by two different types of committee meeting; is that
15 right?
16 **A. Yes. I mean, I think probably some of**
17 **the subcommittees -- I think all the committees that**
18 **were formal committees were probably advertised, but**
19 **they weren't all always open to the public and there was**
20 **often a part 2 in committees where the public had to**
21 **leave.**
22 Q. In terms of the process that you describe, to anyone not
23 familiar with local politics, it sounds like a very
24 convoluted way of doing business?
25 **A. I don't think it's -- I don't think it seemed that**

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1 sometimes come to demonstrate at our meetings, and you
2 had to be able to handle that as well, particularly
3 during periods where there were cuts, the public would
4 come in and the unions and the users of the service, and
5 make a really -- make it very difficult indeed. I've
6 experienced that, too, but that was part of local
7 government life, certainly at that time, and you had to
8 cope with it. But you did have to have a pretty good
9 idea of what, for example, your opponents wanted to say,
10 and you had a duty to let them say it.
11 Q. I understand. In terms of the factionalised nature of
12 politics in Lambeth, in your experience, did that get in
13 the way of developing policies, particularly around
14 childcare and child protection?
15 **A. If I'm to give an honest answer, I think that trying to**
16 **manage the children's services from a block of offices**
17 **or a council chamber is not really the right place to do**
18 **that. I mean, we talk about the voice of the child.**
19 **The voice of the child certainly was not heard at those**
20 **meetings, and I don't think it was heard in the**
21 **officers' buildings either and it wouldn't have been**
22 **heard, and it isn't heard now either, and that's**
23 **something about where children sit in the system and**
24 **where the decision-makers and the administrators sit in**
25 **the system, and there is something still very wrong with**

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1 **that.**
 2 Q. From the perspective of a councillor at the time, is
 3 that because councillors were too remote from what was
 4 actually going on or the reality of what life was like
 5 for children in Lambeth's care?
 6 **A. No, because certainly I think in all the political**
 7 **groups we were pretty ordinary people. There were one**
 8 **or two who might have very high ambitions -- there have**
 9 **been in Lambeth Council; as you probably know, it's**
 10 **a very good place for ambitious -- and there is nothing**
 11 **wrong with that ambition -- politicians to cut their**
 12 **teeth. But we were all basically local people who lived**
 13 **there. You had to live there to be a councillor. So we**
 14 **were more likely to meet people who had lost their**
 15 **children, who had worked in a children's home in our**
 16 **ordinary everyday lives than the officers, who very**
 17 **seldom did live locally. It is like the police, they**
 18 **don't live locally either, unless they are in police**
 19 **digs.**
 20 **So I think we were closer, or more likely to**
 21 **understand what was happening, or to understand people**
 22 **who worked in those places, because they could be our**
 23 **next-door neighbour. But the system and the structure**
 24 **of local government, certainly at that time, was not**
 25 **geared, and it certainly isn't now, to hearing the voice**

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1 **questions, you always attended your committee, and you**
 2 **would attend any training that was available to you, and**
 3 **that was available to those of us who came on certainly**
 4 **in 1990. But it was mainly about budgets.**
 5 **I suppose that became the preoccupation also for**
 6 **councillors as time went on and Mrs Thatcher cut the**
 7 **services and cut the powers of local government. You**
 8 **were in a more fraught state trying to just manage.**
 9 Q. I don't need to go to specific examples about it, but in
 10 the time that you were a councillor, particularly when
 11 you were on the Social Services Committee, did you have
 12 instances then of you uncovering things that had not
 13 been brought to your attention?
 14 **A. Oh, of course, yes.**
 15 Q. Was that because there was a culture of trying to keep
 16 difficult information away from councillors, or was it
 17 simply that the machinery wasn't there for sharing?
 18 **A. Oh, no, I'm certain that what you could call loosely as**
 19 **the corruption was designed to keep that sort of**
 20 **information away from councillors.**
 21 Q. In terms of if things went wrong in a children's home
 22 where there were allegations, for example, were those
 23 the sorts of things that would be brought to your
 24 attention?
 25 **A. They were usually brought to my attention by the unions,**

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1 **of the child.**
 2 Q. Just again focusing on the time, why wasn't it geared,
 3 why weren't councillors hearing the voice of the child?
 4 **A. Because of the structure of national government and**
 5 **because of the structures that had been inherited over**
 6 **many, many years. I mean, I used to work for the London**
 7 **County Council. I actually felt closer to the**
 8 **decision-makers, even though I was at a very humble**
 9 **level, than I did later on working for Lambeth Council.**
 10 **I can't really explain why that was, because you'd**
 11 **think that would be more bureaucratic, but actually it**
 12 **wasn't. You could have access to County Hall, you would**
 13 **be called for your assessment to County Hall, and you**
 14 **did not have so much power -- or you did not feel that**
 15 **those people were so removed from you, strangely enough,**
 16 **but I have never analysed that fully to myself, so I'm**
 17 **trying to think, but I know it's worse now.**
 18 Q. Again, just following through on what it was like at the
 19 time, was it for want of information about what was
 20 happening to children in Lambeth's care, or did you feel
 21 that you were well informed about --
 22 **A. Oh, no, we were not well informed, no. You had to seek**
 23 **your answer if you really wanted to find it. Otherwise,**
 24 **you felt -- you would probably feel that you were doing**
 25 **a good job, you read your reports, you asked sensible**

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1 **not by the officers.**
 2 Q. Again, I'm just coming back to councillors' involvement
 3 in the lives of children in care. Can I ask you about
 4 visits to children's homes.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Are you someone who undertook visits to children's
 7 homes?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Was that something, as chairperson of
 10 the Social Services Committee, that you tried to
 11 promote?
 12 **A. Yes, with great difficulty, because it occurred to me --**
 13 **and I think David Pope understood this -- that none of**
 14 **us should be visiting children's homes unless we had**
 15 **been -- our background had been checked and we'd had**
 16 **police checks. Councillors can be paedophiles too, and**
 17 **indeed some were. So it was important that those checks**
 18 **were made and, in the meantime, David Pope and I agreed**
 19 **that we should meet in pairs -- we should go in pairs,**
 20 **which at least offered the children some protection.**
 21 **Prior to that, you could apparently go how you wished,**
 22 **when you wished, and that, in my view, could be**
 23 **dangerous.**
 24 Q. In terms of arranging that, making sure that councillors
 25 went to visit children's homes in pairs, did that

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1 happen?

2 **A. No. I think both Clare Whelan and myself went off and**

3 **did it on our own. Because, often, it wasn't possible**

4 **for other councillors to do it because they were**

5 **working. I wasn't working, so I was able to do it**

6 **during the day. And I did, even though no police check**

7 **emerged for any of us, I don't think. That was another**

8 **peculiar thing that couldn't be got right, for reasons**

9 **I don't understand. But some councillors did, I think,**

10 **go in pairs during that time. But it was difficult.**

11 Q. So you were aware, as chair of the Social Services

12 Committee, that councillors weren't meeting their

13 responsibilities in terms of --

14 **A. Yes. Yes, indeed. But it's very easy to write a report**

15 **from the centre of London and tell them that this is**

16 **what they should do. It's a little difficult to make**

17 **a good visit to a children's home if you're working**

18 **through the day and you're not home until 7.00 o'clock**

19 **in the evening. You could go at weekends, of course.**

20 **And it could be arranged that enough of you were able to**

21 **go and could go and you should be police checked. That**

22 **was my concern, and there were letters that I have**

23 **disclosed to the inquiry, where I'm in correspondence**

24 **with David, where the department couldn't even make**

25 **those arrangements without them all going wrong.**

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1 fraud?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. I really want to ask you a few background things about

4 that first. When you were given those appeal papers,

5 did it have any information about his having a final

6 warning in respect of his conviction for --

7 **A. Certainly not, no.**

8 Q. Did anyone in Lambeth volunteer that information to you,

9 as part of your role as chair of this appeal?

10 **A. I was not -- I was going to chair the appeal. No, they**

11 **certainly did not.**

12 Q. Was that information that you got from Social Services

13 staff at Wandsworth?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. In the file that you got, was there a copy of the letter

16 from 1984 setting out prior concerns about Carroll's

17 running of the Angell Road Home?

18 **A. In the appeal papers, you mean? I haven't seen the**

19 **appeal papers for nearly 30 years, so it's a little bit**

20 **difficult to remember whether there was or not.**

21 Q. Do you recollect whether or not you had any access to

22 his personnel file, as someone who was going to chair

23 this appeal?

24 **A. No, I didn't.**

25 Q. You set out in your statement that what you saw in the

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1 Q. Is that the correspondence about the police checks --

2 **A. Yes, and the need to get the rota or the -- get the**

3 **visits done, as we had been instructed, rightly, to do,**

4 **but we -- I felt we must be police checked, so the**

5 **department started to put that into the process, and**

6 **then we got the wrong forms, then we got a different lot**

7 **of forms, then it couldn't happen because something else**

8 **had happened, and, finally, I think I, for one, gave up**

9 **and just went and visited.**

10 Q. Mrs Tapsell, I'm going to move on to another topic now,

11 if I may.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Your involvement in John Carroll's appeal against his

14 dismissal.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. I think it is right that, for the first three years of

17 your being a councillor, you were chair of the planning

18 committee; is that correct?

19 **A. And environmental services, when it became -- the two**

20 **committees merged, and it was a very big committee, very**

21 **big organisation, and I chaired that, yes.**

22 Q. It was in that capacity that you were asked to chair the

23 appeal that John Carroll had; is that right?

24 **A. Indeed, yes.**

25 Q. That was against his dismissal for the allegations of

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1 appeal papers was sufficient to make you very anxious

2 about John Carroll's history in Lambeth?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Is that right?

5 **A. Absolutely right.**

6 Q. I think we can pick this up in contemporaneous

7 documentation. Mr Hyde, this is at INQ002209?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Can you enlarge that, please, Mr Hyde?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. This is the letter that you sent to the Social Services

12 Inspectorate --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- in September 1992. What you set out is that you have

15 been in contact with David Pope about Carroll, and you

16 said that you found Mr Pope's response to you

17 unsatisfactory, in that it didn't address the issue that

18 caused you the greatest concern, which is that children

19 may have suffered harm whilst in the care of Lambeth.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You then set out -- I'm not going to go through all of

22 this, but on the rest of that page, you set out a bit

23 about his history working in Lambeth, and you'd

24 obviously found out about the application to Croydon.

25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Over the page, please, Mr Hyde. You set out -- this is
 2 the third paragraph from the bottom, Mr Hyde -- that you
 3 had met with the director and the chair of
 4 Social Services -- so this is before you were the
 5 chair -- about these matters, and the director explained
 6 that the disciplinary panel had gone to considerable
 7 lengths in 1986 to establish the nature of the offence
 8 that led to the conviction, and then you pointed out in
 9 the paragraph below that what had been outlined to you
 10 was very much what Mr Carroll had maintained, and then
 11 you go on to describe what, in fact, he had been
 12 convicted of.
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Where did you get the information about what he had been
 15 convicted of?
 16 **A. I wrote to the court in Liverpool, I think it was.**
 17 Q. Why did you do that, Mrs Tapsell, rather than ask
 18 David Pope, for example, for information about it?
 19 **A. Well, I think I did query whether -- when I was told**
 20 **what I was told, which minimised his offence and wasn't**
 21 **accurate, I thought it unlikely that somebody would have**
 22 **received a conviction if it had not been more serious.**
 23 **If it was just larking about in the showers, I doubt**
 24 **whether it would have got to court. But he certainly**
 25 **wouldn't have received a serious conviction. As it was,**

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1 **money that was clearly meant for the children. He took**
 2 **them on outings without any authority. It was an**
 3 **absolutely shocking situation. And that he felt so free**
 4 **to do these things, all without authority, all**
 5 **apparently without anybody taking any notice of what he**
 6 **was doing, and also because I was -- I think I was more**
 7 **aware of the nature of paedophiles than some people**
 8 **seemed to have been, but I immediately did conclude that**
 9 **the possibility -- and I thought it was a strong**
 10 **possibility -- was that he was, or could be,**
 11 **a paedophile. I was quite worldly at the time, and**
 12 **other people don't seem to have been.**
 13 Q. What you refer to being of concern was the fact that you
 14 saw that he had been having children from the home to
 15 stay over at his home --
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. -- often overnight and sometimes for several days?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. But that hadn't formed any part of the management case
 20 against him?
 21 **A. No action had been taken over what seemed to be quite**
 22 **a long time, and even the fact that this report resulted**
 23 **from an audit investigation, I couldn't understand why**
 24 **audit could find these things and that the council**
 25 **itself could not have taken any action. I mean, audit**

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1 **in those days, even being placed on probation and going**
 2 **to court would have been thought very scandalous. So**
 3 **I didn't believe them.**
 4 Q. So you found out that information. If we go over the
 5 page, please, Mr Hyde, what you say -- I'm going to go
 6 straight to this. In the second paragraph, you talk
 7 about Mr Carroll being retained, and you say that that
 8 could be put down to misjudgment and concerned
 9 colleagues, but then you say that what changed in your
 10 view was the basis upon which he had been dismissed from
 11 service in 1991.
 12 If we drop down a couple of paragraphs, you say --
 13 this is in respect of the appeal papers, Mrs Tapsell?
 14 **A. Sorry, I can't quite hear you.**
 15 Q. I'm sorry. I'm just going to ask that the next
 16 paragraph is enlarged. You were describing what you saw
 17 in the appeal papers that made you concerned.
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Can you just explain why it was that the appeal made you
 20 worried about the welfare and the protection of children
 21 in the home?
 22 **A. Well, it indicated to me that this was a man who was**
 23 **living in a children's home who was behaving as if he**
 24 **lived in a rather well-off house miles away from**
 25 **children. I mean, he did what he pleased. He spent**

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1 **was audit. You couldn't ignore it and just say, "This**
 2 **is unfortunate. We'd better get rid of him now".**
 3 **I mean, none of it made any sense to me, that this was**
 4 **an internal investigation but with an impact --**
 5 **a contribution, a significant contribution, from audit**
 6 **and that all that was happening was that he was going to**
 7 **be probably dismissed.**
 8 Q. The reason that you had gone to the SSI, as I understand
 9 it, was that you were concerned that there needed to be
 10 an investigation into children and that that wasn't
 11 happening; is that right?
 12 **A. Yes, absolutely. I discussed how we could now make --**
 13 **urgently make sure that the children hadn't been harmed,**
 14 **how that could be done, and I didn't get anywhere with**
 15 **that. That discussion wasn't progressed. You know, I'd**
 16 **spoken to the leader of the council, I'd spoken to the**
 17 **chief executive, I'd spoken to the chair of**
 18 **Social Services, I'd spoken to everybody who I thought**
 19 **would want to take action, and they manifestly did not.**
 20 **So I felt I -- so I rang the Social Services**
 21 **Inspectorate first of all, and later on, when they**
 22 **didn't seem to be all that interested, I wrote to them.**
 23 Q. I think, after that, then, you not having gotten very
 24 far with the Social Services Inspectorate, took your
 25 story to the press?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. And that was what pre-empted some action?
 3 **A. Yes, and I think -- I didn't know at the time, but**
 4 **I think Clare Whelan also went to the press.**
 5 Q. The result of that was the Clough Report?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Which didn't investigate?
 8 **A. No.**
 9 Q. Mr Pope suggested today that after the Clough Report
 10 there was some other form of investigation that you were
 11 aware of?
 12 **A. No. When I was becoming so frustrated by the lack of**
 13 **action from the director on the need to check on the**
 14 **children, I went to Henry Gilby, who was then the chief**
 15 **executive, and I believe that he instructed**
 16 **David Pope -- this was before Clough started -- to begin**
 17 **that investigation. Henry Gilby then -- this is in the**
 18 **disclosed documents -- stopped that investigation**
 19 **because of the Clough Report. Then, when the**
 20 **Clough Report was over, it was Henry Gilby who then**
 21 **instructed David Pope to complete it, which he did in**
 22 **a rather odd way, but, yes, he did.**
 23 Q. We may be at cross-purposes, Mrs Tapsell.
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. I think Mr Pope was suggesting that there was some sort

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1 Q. That would require them to know about the Clough
 2 investigation in the first place?
 3 **A. Indeed, yes. And I can't remember how we discussed**
 4 **that, but I think we were made aware of that, and also**
 5 **the fact that Clough should not sit anywhere in the town**
 6 **hall.**
 7 Q. I'm just going to move on, whilst we are on the subject
 8 of Mr Carroll, about the application to Southwark.
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. You say, I think it is at paragraph 40 of your first
 11 statement, that you recently learned that Carroll made
 12 an application to foster children, and I think you say
 13 in here to Southwark. I really want to ask about your
 14 use of "recently". Is that something that you have only
 15 learned?
 16 **A. I certainly learned it probably at the time this**
 17 **investigation -- your investigation was announced, which**
 18 **is now four years or so ago.**
 19 Q. So that's not information that you heard during your
 20 time as a Lambeth employee or as a Lambeth councillor?
 21 **A. No.**
 22 Q. You said in your statement that you had spoken to
 23 Tony Goss --
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. -- about the application?

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1 of investigation involving children after the
 2 Clough Report. So not a misconduct investigation, some
 3 sort of checking on children.
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. I wondered if you knew about that?
 6 **A. It didn't happen at all because David Pope wrote and**
 7 **told me, and this is in the disclosure, that he did not**
 8 **have the resources to do this.**
 9 Q. So that issue was left unchecked?
 10 **A. It certainly wasn't left. I would have discussed that**
 11 **with Henry Gilby.**
 12 Q. But in terms of any sort of investigation prompted
 13 within the council at that time --
 14 **A. Then we were into the Clough Report and I was hopeful**
 15 **that Clough was going to -- that young people or adults,**
 16 **even, would go to Clough and disclose either their**
 17 **suspensions about abuse or actually being abused, and, in**
 18 **fact, the committee had agreed a sum of money to**
 19 **actually be made available for during the Clough Report**
 20 **of a charity to actually be able to offer people support**
 21 **if they were going to go to Clough and disclose**
 22 **something.**
 23 Q. That would require them to know about Clough, in the
 24 first place.
 25 **A. Sorry?**

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. I think that you said that he doesn't recall the meeting
 3 at Southwark?
 4 **A. He recalls a meeting at Southwark which did not**
 5 **completely coincide with what I had been told the**
 6 **meeting was about. He remembered a meeting, and he was,**
 7 **I think, quite frail when I spoke to him, which was on**
 8 **the phone. He no longer lived in London. He remembered**
 9 **a meeting about a boy who was going to attend**
 10 **a magistrate's court very soon after the meeting,**
 11 **perhaps the next day, which had ended in a huge row with**
 12 **Janet Boateng, and so I think now he is remembering both**
 13 **in his statements, or both issues, but in one meeting.**
 14 Q. I'm not going to press you on that anymore. I just want
 15 to take you to another concern that you set out in your
 16 statement. It is the concern that you have that
 17 allegations about the production of pornography within
 18 the council haven't been adequately resolved. I just
 19 wanted to ask you, if I may, Mrs Tapsell, why those
 20 concerns continue to endure with you, and I wonder if
 21 I can just run through some of the things that I think
 22 you're saying lead you to continue to be concerned to
 23 this day.
 24 **A. Of course.**
 25 Q. I think the first thing is that you're concerned that

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1 the allegations that were made by LAG1 -- I'm going to
 2 use the cipher -- in Operation Pragada have not been
 3 adequately investigated; is that right?
 4 **A. Correct. That's absolutely right.**
 5 Q. I think that the second thing was your concern that the
 6 allegations set out in the Harris Report about the
 7 council employee receiving correspondence about the
 8 production of pornography had not been adequately
 9 investigated?
 10 **A. It was more than one reference. In the documents that**
 11 **I sent you, IICSA has underlined discussions within the**
 12 **Harris Report which talk about named people having**
 13 **a predilection for videos of bestiality and child porn,**
 14 **and there are several references to that, so it isn't**
 15 **just one part of the Harris Report, it is a thread that**
 16 **goes through.**
 17 Q. I was going to say that --
 18 **A. Sorry.**
 19 Q. No, I was just separating out issues of child
 20 pornography from adult pornography?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. But your concern that the Harris Report in general had
 23 not been adequately investigated. I think the other
 24 element of that is you were concerned that any link
 25 between Les Paul and the allegations in the

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1 who attended those parties?
 2 **A. I have no evidence of that, but I might have told him**
 3 **names that had been given to me, yes.**
 4 Q. Passing on information that you had?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. I understand. Moving on to LA-F41, I think you say in
 7 your second statement at paragraph 48 that the only
 8 evidence that you were aware of that he had visited the
 9 Angell Road Home was information that you got through
 10 Ms Johnson; is that correct?
 11 **A. Yes, because she made a statement to Middleton -- CHILE,**
 12 **which was heavily redacted, but it was something that**
 13 **talked about F41 being there, yes. I (inaudible) that**
 14 **statement.**
 15 Q. Is that a statement that you have read or seen?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Was that at the time or is that more recently?
 18 **A. It would have been later, because I think Middleton**
 19 **had -- or CHILE had just started, and this was later,**
 20 **when Theresa was very ill, just before she died.**
 21 Q. I know that an issue of concern, and I am just going to
 22 touch upon this very briefly, Mrs Tapsell, is the issue
 23 of children going missing from care in Lambeth.
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. That was a particular concern of yours and you raised

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1 Harris Report had not been adequately investigated
 2 either?
 3 **A. Absolutely. Although somebody starts in the**
 4 **Harris Report to talk about Les, he quickly changes his**
 5 **mind, I think. But, yes, absolutely, they have never**
 6 **been joined together.**
 7 Q. I think it is just understanding why those concerns were
 8 raised?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 MS DOBBIN: Chair, I think I'm going to have to ask you, if
 11 I can, for a few more minutes.
 12 THE CHAIR: Yes, but we must finish at 4.15 pm.
 13 MS DOBBIN: Thank you, chair.
 14 Mrs Tapsell, I am going to move on to a different
 15 subject, if I may. Operation Trawler. Did you tell
 16 Mr Driscoll information about cleaners who worked in
 17 Angell Road who had been dismissed because of concerns
 18 about child abuse?
 19 **A. I don't remember doing so.**
 20 Q. Did you tell him about information or a concern that you
 21 had about a fraud being perpetrated through the
 22 placement of children at homes outside Lambeth?
 23 **A. I might have, because it is something that concerned me.**
 24 Q. In terms of adult parties at Angell Road, did you
 25 provide Mr Driscoll with the names of any individuals

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1 the memo with David Pope about it in 1993?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Is that right?
 4 **A. I tried very hard to find out what happened to children**
 5 **who ran away from our children's homes, and I tried**
 6 **sitting through the night with the person who took those**
 7 **calls from children's homes, and tried to get some**
 8 **interest, both from the police and from David Pope,**
 9 **about what was happening to those children and what**
 10 **happened if they weren't found.**
 11 **I think I would relate that to Operation Circus and**
 12 **what then happened, and I believed -- I came to believe,**
 13 **after some years of trying to work it out, that some of**
 14 **those children would have probably been parked in our**
 15 **children's homes, particularly Southvale, pending their**
 16 **use for paedophiles, and it concerns me now, with all**
 17 **the disclosures that you are still sending to us, that**
 18 **there were children whose history was apparently not**
 19 **recorded, children who didn't know how old they were,**
 20 **even though they were of school age, children who simply**
 21 **went missing, whether that was to Wales or other places,**
 22 **or within Southvale. There was no record of them. Even**
 23 **allowing for the fact that the administration of**
 24 **Social Services wasn't very adequate, there is no**
 25 **explanation that I have been able to find, save for the**

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1 **fact they had been taken there unofficially to**
 2 **children's homes, just as I think some staff were people**
 3 **who'd been brought in without being properly recruited.**
 4 Q. So do you mean that children in care were admitted to
 5 certain homes without proper records being kept of them?
 6 **A. Particularly Southvale, yes, because it was a very large**
 7 **place. You didn't have to go out to school. There are**
 8 **no mentions of any school -- of records from any school,**
 9 **as far as I can see, in any of the disclosures that I've**
 10 **received so far. You'd think there would be reports**
 11 **from schools. But the children in Southvale went to**
 12 **school at Southvale, as they did in Shirley Oaks, they**
 13 **went to school in Shirley Oaks. So they could disappear**
 14 **off the radar, just as children do now.**
 15 Q. I just want to turn to the last issue that I have for
 16 you, which was the visit that was made to you by
 17 Superintendent Gargini and Helen Kenward in respect of
 18 Operation Middleton. I am going to ask if it can be
 19 adduced into evidence the record of that meeting, which
 20 is INQ002089. I think what you have said about this
 21 meeting, Mrs Tapsell, was that you felt that it was
 22 a meeting to close you down from investigating any
 23 further the issues that were of concern to you by that
 24 point in time.
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 **Ms Kenward, who was also very quiet, and myself, and**
 2 **Richard Gargini. I don't remember another person, but**
 3 **I do remember reading in the disclosures that**
 4 **Richard Gargini says he didn't think any notes were**
 5 **made.**
 6 Q. Are you suggesting, Mrs Tapsell, that these notes might
 7 have been made up of the meeting?
 8 **A. I think they might have been written by somebody**
 9 **sometime afterwards. The notes that were left for me**
 10 **was at the time, again, when one of the legal officers**
 11 **in Lambeth told me that something had been left in**
 12 **a solicitor's office, and I went to the solicitor's**
 13 **office and collected it. But this was years later.**
 14 MS DOBBIN: I'm going to check and see whether or not the
 15 panel have any questions for you.
 16 THE CHAIR: No, thank you. I have no questions.
 17 Ms Sharpling?
 18 MS SHARPLING: No, thank you, chair.
 19 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank?
 20 Questions from THE PANEL
 21 MR FRANK: Just one question, please. Are you aware whether
 22 any of the Lambeth councillors, during any time that you
 23 are concerned about, were members of the Paedophile
 24 Information Exchange?
 25 **A. I have since been told by one in recent years that she**

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1 Q. We have provided you with a note of that meeting.
 2 **A. I found it very difficult to read, I'm afraid.**
 3 Q. It is very difficult to read. It helpfully tells us it
 4 is a meeting that went on for over two hours and that
 5 you discussed a range of things with Mr Gargini and
 6 Ms Kenward that were still of concern to you. Do you
 7 recollect that?
 8 **A. I remember the meeting, though not in great detail, but**
 9 **I do not recognise the notes because I wasn't given**
 10 **them, and I don't know who "AS" is, who was apparently**
 11 **in the room, and there was only Ms Kenward and**
 12 **Richard Gargini there. There was nobody else. But**
 13 **there appears to be at least three of us there. So I --**
 14 **apart from the fact that it's almost illegible, and**
 15 **I think the only time I saw anything like that which**
 16 **wasn't in the same handwriting was when I learnt that**
 17 **something had been left for me in a solicitor's office,**
 18 **and it was a handwritten note of that meeting, but it's**
 19 **not the same one.**
 20 Q. The now retired Superintendent Gargini in his witness
 21 statement says that he thinks that there was a Ms Munro
 22 also in attendance at the meeting?
 23 **A. I don't remember such a person.**
 24 Q. There isn't any --
 25 **A. She might have been very, very quiet, but I remember**

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1 **was, a woman, yes.**
 2 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank, is that all?
 3 MR FRANK: Yes, thank you, forgive me.
 4 THE CHAIR: Sir Malcolm?
 5 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Not from me, thank you.
 6 THE CHAIR: We have no further questions, Mrs Tapsell.
 7 Thank you very much.
 8 **A. Thank you, chair.**
 9 **(The witness withdrew)**
 10 MS DOBBIN: Chair, that concludes today's business.
 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will reconvene tomorrow. Thank
 12 you.
 13 (4.13 pm)
 14 (The hearing was adjourned to
 15 Thursday, 9 July 2020 at 10.30 am)
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