

<p>1 Thursday, 9 July 2020</p> <p>2 (10.30 am)</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Day 9 of</p> <p>4 this public hearing. Ms Langdale?</p> <p>5 MS LANGDALE: Chair, may I call the first witness. Can</p> <p>6 Ms Smith kindly swear in Lord Ouseley.</p> <p>7 LORD HERMAN OUSELEY (affirmed)</p> <p>8 Examination by MS LANGDALE</p> <p>9 MS LANGDALE: Can you give us your name, please?</p> <p>10 A. Herman Ouseley.</p> <p>11 Q. Lord Ouseley, you have prepared a statement dated</p> <p>12 3 March 2020 for the inquiry. Can you confirm whether</p> <p>13 the contents are true and accurate, as far as you're</p> <p>14 concerned?</p> <p>15 A. As far as I'm concerned, they're accurate.</p> <p>16 Q. Can I ask you to confirm various roles you had in</p> <p>17 respect of Lambeth Council. Firstly, within Lambeth</p> <p>18 between 1979 and 1981, you were head of a race relations</p> <p>19 unit?</p> <p>20 A. Well, I worked for Lambeth before that, but, yes, that's</p> <p>21 a correct date.</p> <p>22 Q. When were you working with Lambeth before that?</p> <p>23 A. I worked for Lambeth within town planning administration</p> <p>24 in 1966, through to 1969, when I then moved into</p> <p>25 Social Services and was a manager for old people's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 homes, all the adult services, and that was the period</p> <p>2 you just quoted, '70 to '73.</p> <p>3 I then left and did community work in the borough,</p> <p>4 staying with Lambeth on a secondment, and then</p> <p>5 I reverted back into the council in 1979 as a race</p> <p>6 relations advisor.</p> <p>7 Q. Between 1984 and 1986, you were assistant chief</p> <p>8 executive officer?</p> <p>9 A. Correct.</p> <p>10 Q. Between 1990 and 1993, chief executive?</p> <p>11 A. Correct.</p> <p>12 Q. You were, between 1981 and 1984, to be head of</p> <p>13 the Greater London Council's Ethnic Minorities Unit?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Can we then speak, firstly, about your time as assistant</p> <p>16 chief executive, between 1984 and 1986. I think it is</p> <p>17 the case, at that time, the chief executive was a man</p> <p>18 called Arthur George?</p> <p>19 A. I knew him as John George.</p> <p>20 Q. Robin Osmond, Director of Social Services?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Janet Boateng, chair of Children's Committee,</p> <p>23 Social Services Committee?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. And Ted Knight, leader of the council?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. You were assisting the chief executive. What was the</p> <p>3 role of the chief executive, in terms of ensuring</p> <p>4 council policy developments were carried out? Was that</p> <p>5 part of the chief executive role?</p> <p>6 A. I'm not altogether certain what the chief executive's</p> <p>7 role was to confirm that statement you just made,</p> <p>8 because, although I was assistant chief executive,</p> <p>9 I really worked closely to the chief executive, and</p> <p>10 I wasn't part of the corporate structure which he was</p> <p>11 head of.</p> <p>12 Q. This inquiry has heard about childcare policies from</p> <p>13 1981 and 1982 surrounding the fact that no child in the</p> <p>14 care of Lambeth should spend a major part of childhood</p> <p>15 in local authority care, speaking of targets of children</p> <p>16 under the age of 10 should not be in care for more than</p> <p>17 two years. Those kinds of policies, if they were the</p> <p>18 chief executive's responsibility to drive forward, you</p> <p>19 weren't aware of that, as the assistant chief executive;</p> <p>20 is that the position?</p> <p>21 A. I wasn't involved in that, but I'm not saying that the</p> <p>22 chief executive didn't have a role to take that forward.</p> <p>23 But I wasn't aware that he was doing that.</p> <p>24 Q. The death of Tyra Henry, of course, arose during this</p> <p>25 period, on 1 September 1984. Can you remember, as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>	<p>1 assistant chief executive, the impact of that upon the</p> <p>2 council, or upon the chief executive, in particular, in</p> <p>3 his role?</p> <p>4 A. Once again, not -- I wasn't aware of the impact on the</p> <p>5 chief executive, but I was aware of it as an issue</p> <p>6 within the council and the council's reputation, and</p> <p>7 that's as far as my involvement went. I had no direct</p> <p>8 other involvement in it.</p> <p>9 Q. You say "reputation". Was that a matter of reputation,</p> <p>10 or was it a matter of child protection concern?</p> <p>11 A. Well, it fitted into the whole pattern of how the</p> <p>12 council was, I think, perceived by a lot of people; that</p> <p>13 it was an issue that almost people associated with the</p> <p>14 council as something in which responsibility is held by</p> <p>15 the council but it has gone wrong, and that's the way</p> <p>16 I viewed that, and we were all part of that. Whether</p> <p>17 you were directly involved or not, you had the feelings</p> <p>18 that you were part of an organisation which is</p> <p>19 associated with something really bad, and that's --</p> <p>20 I think that affected most people.</p> <p>21 Q. What about the sense of individual responsibility within</p> <p>22 that? If it was a failing organisation, the chief</p> <p>23 executive and your role at that time, did you, in</p> <p>24 combination, think about your part within that structure</p> <p>25 of the council, or was it a question of this organic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

1 whole being under evaluation?

2 **A. I think, to some extent, many people would have felt**

3 **a sense of personal involvement. Certainly I did. But**

4 **you don't see it in the context of what you are doing**

5 **within the council yourself, because it is someone**

6 **else's responsibility. Sitting where I was sitting, it**

7 **had an impact because people around me that I worked**

8 **with were concerned about issues like that.**

9 Q. You say you didn't individually feel a sense of

10 responsibility in any way?

11 **A. Because you had no direct connection with the processes**

12 **that would have been involved and with those people who**

13 **had direct responsibilities in that area.**

14 Q. We know, in December 1985, a parent of a child at

15 Ivy House reported a child sexual abuse allegation and

16 various investigations took place, and Robin Osmond was

17 involved at that time in steering those investigations.

18 Was that something you were aware of at the time, as

19 assistant chief executive, those allegations being made

20 and investigations and disciplinary proceedings, or not?

21 **A. Not specifically at all, although you may have picked up**

22 **things in the news, the local news.**

23 Q. We also know it was April 1986 that the director of

24 Croydon Social Services informed the director of Lambeth

25 that Michael Carroll had a conviction for indecent

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1 **with community organisations essentially and**

2 **coordinating that along with equality activities, and**

3 **that essentially kept me more outside of the mainstream**

4 **of the management of the organisation, but managing**

5 **those functions that related to community organisations**

6 **who were supporting the council in providing a range of**

7 **services to meet different needs.**

8 Q. We know, as you said earlier, you came back in 1990 to

9 1993. At that point, David Pope was the Director of

10 Social Services?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. There was a period when you were chief executive when

13 Joan Twelves was leader and then replaced by

14 Stephen Whaley as leader of the council?

15 **A. Correct.**

16 Q. And your chair of Children's Committee was

17 a Councillor Nicholas?

18 **A. Correct.**

19 Q. Can we look at a job description. I want to see if it

20 corresponds with what your understanding of the job was.

21 It is not a dated document. Mr Hyde, if we could please

22 have LAM005281_001-002 next to each other, thank you.

23 This is a job description for chief executive,

24 Lord Ouseley, and I would like you to have a look at

25 this. Does that accord, if you scan your eye across the

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1 assault on a male under 16 years of age. Going back to

2 1986, was that a matter that was spoken about by the

3 chief executive, yourself and others at the time, or

4 not?

5 **A. Certainly not myself.**

6 Q. Did you know about that? Did you know that somebody was

7 working in a Lambeth children's home at that time with

8 a schedule 1 conviction?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. You set out in your statement that this period, when you

11 were assistant chief executive, was a period of endless,

12 overt, high-profile political activity. Tell us more

13 about that. You set out at paragraph 10 how it was and

14 how you were keen to move on after only 18 months. Why?

15 **A. Well, I think the situation in Lambeth was one in which**

16 **there was always high-profile political activity during**

17 **my involvement with the council; not so much in my**

18 **earlier years during the '60s, when I was involved in**

19 **working certainly in Social Services and looking after**

20 **the adult homes, but the period late '70s running**

21 **through the '80s, that was the case. I think that that**

22 **was well -- in reputational terms, that was well-known**

23 **within Lambeth, but across the whole of the local**

24 **government, and, indeed, nationally.**

25 **My work involved community development and working**

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1 document -- I know you will have seen this before -- and

2 particularly paragraph 8:

3 "The chief executive has an overriding duty to

4 ensure that the policies of the council are carried out,

5 and that management arrangements are made to ensure the

6 delivery of this objective."

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Was that your understanding of the role of a chief

9 executive in that period in the early '90s?

10 **A. It certainly was.**

11 Q. That can go down now. Thank you, Mr Hyde. In terms of

12 childcare policies, then, what was your understanding

13 and knowledge of those, if it was part of your task to

14 ensure delivery of those policies?

15 **A. Well, in the job description, you would also note that**

16 **all responsibilities for the day-to-day activities of**

17 **running a directorate and providing the services remains**

18 **the responsibility of the director or head of service.**

19 **It also mentions that the chief executive must be**

20 **provided with the resources and able to fulfil and**

21 **undertake all responsibilities. They exist within the**

22 **same job description that you put on the screen.**

23 **Quite frankly, those resources ensure that all that**

24 **overarching responsibility was achieved was not there,**

25 **and, secondly, the responsibility for delivering the**

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<p>1 childcare/child protection services remained, on 2 a day-to-day basis, as part of the remit of the Director 3 of Social Services. 4 My role was to provide support and guidance to 5 assist the director, which I did, but also to be 6 involved in critically overseeing those things that were 7 matters of serious concern to the council and ensuring 8 that responses were being made by the director in line 9 with the requirements of the members of the council who 10 he always reported to through his committee and 11 subcommittees. 12 Q. Just dealing with resources firstly, we know that, in 13 1993, the SSI report says that the gross spending on 14 children's service for Lambeth was the highest in 15 London. So they had money to spend. I appreciate what 16 you are saying about earlier on and the various 17 financial restrictions. But money was being spent. It 18 was the highest in London. So in terms of delivery to 19 children, the answer that there wasn't enough money and 20 it was difficult doesn't really cut it, does it? 21 A. We are talking about two different things here. I'm not 22 arguing that resources weren't available in 23 Social Services terms for the work that the department 24 had to be undertaking to meet the needs and the 25 requirements, the statutory requirements, of providing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 services for children, or indeed other needs groups 2 within that department. What I'm saying is, in the 3 description of the -- the job description of the chief 4 executive, it said the chief executive will be provided 5 with resources to undertake the responsibilities that 6 were accorded to him. 7 Now, the point that I'm making -- I was making about 8 resources is, those resources were not there. If you 9 look at the range of specific responsibilities in the 10 corporate setting of the council that I had to 11 undertake, the resources were not there, and that I can 12 go through in more detail later on. But in the context 13 of what you were -- the point I made, I wasn't saying 14 that the resources were inadequate in Social Services 15 terms, just in the corporate setting. 16 Q. In paragraph 13 of your statement, Lord Ouseley, you 17 say: 18 "My early meetings with leading elected members and 19 chief officers led me to hold the view that many 20 directors and their respective chairs of their 21 committees held close and almost impregnable 22 relationships which determined how they conducted 23 business within their areas of responsibility and how 24 they accounted for their performance. Some directorates 25 came across as well run and others less so."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>
<p>1 Focusing, if I may, on Social Services, how did that 2 come across to you at the time -- well run or less so? 3 A. My initial impression was that the department was 4 reasonably well led. I didn't have the detailed 5 information about all the range of serious concerns that 6 existed, but initially I thought that the chair and the 7 director had a close relationship in which the director 8 was accounting to the chair, and through the chair to 9 committees, the elected members who make the decisions, 10 about matters of concern and also the delivery of 11 the services and meeting the obligations placed on the 12 council for child protection and childcare. 13 Q. Whom did you rely on to bring concerns within the 14 department to you, as the chief executive? 15 A. Well, I had concerns, as chief executive, across 16 11 directorates, as well as -- including the corporate 17 services, and concerns would come from backbench 18 members, leading members, chairs of committees, and 19 members of the public, the recipients of services, and 20 so, if there were concerns that people felt were not 21 being dealt with through the normal processes within 22 a directorate or elsewhere, they would come my way and 23 then be channelled back out and responded to in the 24 fullness of time. 25 Q. Were child protection concerns brought to your direct</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>	<p>1 attention by any of those sources in the period between 2 1990 and 1993? 3 A. Yes, it happened on occasions, particularly involving 4 councillors who had concerns themselves. But no other 5 sources. 6 Q. I will come on to that. We have got correspondence 7 between you and Councillor Whelan, and we will deal with 8 that shortly. 9 In terms of reports, did you see at any point the 10 Robert Morton report -- there are a number of reports 11 that he wrote and the inquiry has examined -- and he is 12 flagging up real concerns around residential care and 13 describes the situation as "dangerous" in one of those 14 reports. Did you see those reports? 15 A. At the time of those reports, no. I have seen them 16 subsequently now, but I hadn't -- I did not see those 17 reports -- 18 Q. When did you first see those? When they were sent to 19 you by this inquiry? 20 A. Indeed. 21 Q. So they didn't come to your attention as the chief 22 executive at the time? 23 A. No. 24 Q. What about the Zephyrine Report, the inquiry into 25 Southvale Assessment Centre? Did you see that at the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

1 time?
 2 **A. No.**
 3 Q. One document or issue you seem to have been made aware
 4 of through a press report is the SSI report into the
 5 management of child protection cases in London boroughs
 6 in 1990. If I can ask to be placed on the screen,
 7 please, Mr Hyde, a memo LAM014041. Please could we have
 8 pages 1 and 2, _001 and _002. Again, Lord Ouseley,
 9 I know you have had a chance to look at this more
 10 recently. We will see shortly on the screen,
 11 30 January 1991, Mr Verley Chambers sending you this
 12 correspondence arising, it appears, from a memo where
 13 you had obviously seen something in the press and were
 14 asking what it was about, and we see the response to
 15 you -- so you sought out information after looking at
 16 a press article, and then you get this back, and we see
 17 it says:
 18 "Your memo referred to the publicity given to the
 19 above report which was the result of the Department of
 20 Health returns on child protection for September 1990
 21 from London Boroughs. The report drew attention to the
 22 number of unallocated child protection cases in each
 23 borough and commented on the relationship with the
 24 number of social workers in post. The conclusion was
 25 that both Lambeth and Haringey should have taken

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1 **aware, other than there were continuing problems in the**
 2 **department, which was often raised within the corporate**
 3 **context and our management teams.**
 4 Q. We see, if we can have on the screen, please,
 5 LAM014117_005, this is an extract from an SSI report
 6 in April 1992 "Protecting and Looking After Children and
 7 Management Arrangements for Childcare Cases in London".
 8 We see, Lord Ouseley, at 1.18:
 9 "The large numbers of unallocated childcare cases in
 10 London leave many of the most vulnerable children and
 11 young people without appropriate protection or plans to
 12 ensure that their needs are being identified and met."
 13 So we see that situation worsens, if anything, but
 14 that's not something that you would have been aware of
 15 at the time?
 16 **A. I think, in general terms, I was; not the specificity of**
 17 **the range -- of the extent of which this problem existed**
 18 **in parts of London, including in Lambeth. But, once**
 19 **again, the issue of the problems being faced by**
 20 **childcare and child protection within Lambeth were**
 21 **matters that came up incidentally in most cases at our**
 22 **management team meeting and presented by the Director of**
 23 **Social Services, who would talk about the actions they**
 24 **were taking and the progress, or no progress, that they**
 25 **were making.**

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1 management action to reduce the number of unallocated
 2 child protection cases ... the reference was very
 3 serious and proved resistant to early and substantial
 4 improvement."
 5 We see there "action taken" and we see an
 6 eight-point action taken. When you received that
 7 suggestion of "action taken", what would you do or what
 8 did you do with that as chief executive: accept that
 9 action was taken or follow up a plan to see if it had
 10 been taken?
 11 **A. I had no follow-up plan. The follow-up on that, bearing**
 12 **in mind that action taken was action also placed before**
 13 **the chair of the Social Services Committee in line with**
 14 **the reporting arrangements that the director would have**
 15 **with the chair, would be where the follow-up would be**
 16 **monitored with regard to progress because there was**
 17 **a pattern and an expectation that where, in fact,**
 18 **matters were identified as problems, there would be an**
 19 **action plan and a response from the directorate which**
 20 **would be monitored through by the director in reporting**
 21 **back to committees.**
 22 Q. Thank you. That can go down from the screen, Mr Hyde.
 23 Did you know at the time whether that situation got
 24 worse or better in 1992 and moving forwards?
 25 **A. I can't recollect any follow-through that made me better**

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1 Q. If we can take that down, please, Mr Hyde. Can we have
 2 on the screen LAM014126_001, but, in fact, just put _003
 3 on the screen, please, Mr Hyde. Lord Ouseley, I have
 4 asked for a document to be put up which is David Pope's
 5 letter to David Lambert, the assistant chief inspector
 6 of the Social Services Inspectorate. It is
 7 dated August 1992, and Mr Pope explains from his
 8 perspective the position of Lambeth by way of reference
 9 to unallocated cases.
 10 If we can have LAM014126_003 on the screen,
 11 paragraph 2, the large paragraph in the middle, this is
 12 where the Director of Social Services, Lord Ouseley,
 13 seeks to clarify what "unallocated" means. We see that
 14 he says there:
 15 "Perhaps at this point it is worth clarifying that
 16 'unallocated' does not mean that no work, contact or
 17 action is taken on these cases. Paragraph 6 of your
 18 report identifies the range of actions taken by boroughs
 19 to provide some monitoring of the unallocated cases.
 20 This authority has an operational policy in which team
 21 leaders, area managers and other senior managers are
 22 actively involved and have special responsibilities to
 23 ensure monitoring is ongoing through surveillance by
 24 other agencies, visits or other creative and innovative
 25 communication networks. Reviews are undertaken through

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1 the normal inter-agency procedures", et cetera,
 2 et cetera.
 3 Would you have seen that report or letter?
 4 **A. No. Not until I saw it in your bundles.**
 5 Q. It looks as though Mr Pope is suggesting that
 6 information is routinely collected on a number of
 7 unallocated cases and is available to managers with
 8 operational and policy responsibilities and being
 9 reported to each Social Services over the last four
 10 years. When you say it was for the directorate to
 11 respond to, is that the kind of response you were
 12 expecting and getting from a Director of Social Services
 13 at the time, in terms of how this situation was being
 14 dealt with?
 15 **A. Well, as I have said, I haven't seen that. I did not**
 16 **see regular reports of that kind. We had updates on**
 17 **activities being undertaken by the department to address**
 18 **some of the problems that had been identified either**
 19 **through a variety of reports or reviews within the**
 20 **department itself.**
 21 Q. Mr Hyde, may that document be taken off the screen.
 22 Chair, can I ask that the whole document is uploaded,
 23 the whole letter, at the conclusion of today.
 24 Lord Ouseley, around the same time, this is 1992, we
 25 know Councillor Whelan spoke with the police -- she gave

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1 First of all, why would you be satisfied that he
 2 would be able to provide full explanations on anything
 3 that a councillor had seen fit to speak to the police
 4 about?
 5 **A. I had a discussion with Councillor Whelan before I wrote**
 6 **that letter. She contacted me, we spoke about it,**
 7 **I recorded those points that she had concerns about,**
 8 **I then discussed those matters straight away with the**
 9 **Director of Social Services. We went through those**
 10 **matters. I was satisfied that he would be able to**
 11 **provide the answers that she was seeking. However, my**
 12 **real concern was her coming direct to me and not having**
 13 **the confidence or the trust in the Director of**
 14 **Social Services, and therefore asked her to go back to**
 15 **him with these matters to get a full explanation,**
 16 **because she was entitled to ask those questions and to**
 17 **get a full explanation, and I was making the point that**
 18 **I was convinced and satisfied that he would be able to**
 19 **provide that.**
 20 **Now, if he couldn't, then we'd have to deal with**
 21 **that in a different way.**
 22 Q. Can those documents go down, please, Mr Hyde, and
 23 a different letter, which is LAM009897_001-002, please.
 24 This is a further piece of correspondence from you,
 25 Lord Ouseley, 30 September 1992, and you say that the

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1 evidence yesterday -- about concerns around Southvale
 2 Children's Homes. Again, I know you have seen this
 3 correspondence recently. Can we go through this,
 4 please. Mr Hyde, if we can start with two letters next
 5 to one another. The first is LAM009896_001, and next to
 6 it LAM009895_001.
 7 We see, Lord Ouseley -- there is one of the letters.
 8 The second one is LAM009895_001. I see it has got the
 9 same reference. It is a letter dated 25 September 1992,
 10 Mr Hyde, and it could -- it shouldn't have _001. Thank
 11 you. Spot on.
 12 So we see, Lord Ouseley, that you have written to
 13 Councillor Whelan on September 1992 when you became
 14 aware that she had spoken to the Metropolitan Police
 15 making four points, and you set out there the four
 16 points that she had made to the police. You raised
 17 those matters with the directors (interference) who
 18 report, "He is naturally surprised the matters were not
 19 brought to his attention so he could adequately respond
 20 to them".
 21 You say:
 22 "I am satisfied that Mr Pope would be able to
 23 provide you with full explanations on any of these
 24 matters and would ask that you provide him with the same
 25 information that you have passed on to the police."

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1 tone of Councillor Whelan is not helpful to conducive
 2 relations. You continue to hurl innuendo about
 3 mismanagement in the Social Services directorate without
 4 any precision. At paragraph 1, you say:
 5 "It is imperative that ... serious allegations
 6 against management in Social Services are made explicit.
 7 If management are alleged to know about abuse, who are
 8 the managers and what are they supposed to know about?"
 9 You refer to the arrest, et cetera, and you say at
 10 the end of the second page:
 11 "In conclusion, I would stress that we cannot go on
 12 with such a ridiculous relationship between you and
 13 DSS."
 14 Firstly, she had every right -- not only right, it
 15 is important that people go to the police with concerns
 16 surrounding criminal offences being committed or
 17 potentially being committed, isn't it?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Do you think, looking at this letter, in hindsight, it
 20 looks as though you are criticising a councillor's
 21 decision to go to the police in these circumstances?
 22 **A. It's made quite clear in the second paragraph, "Of**
 23 **course it is right for you to place matters before the**
 24 **police if you consider it necessary". That is not, in**
 25 **fact, saying you shouldn't do that. She has every right**

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1 **to do that, and I accept that. That is not what I'm**
 2 **saying.**
 3 Q. Then you see --
 4 **A. I was concerned about the relationship between someone**
 5 **who has a genuine interest as an elected member of**
 6 **the council, the lead officer on one of the Opposition**
 7 **parties, on Social Services matters and children in care**
 8 **who is very concerned about serious matters before her**
 9 **that she should take the action she considers necessary,**
 10 **but the director has this responsibility. He is the**
 11 **person I have got to go back to if she comes to me to**
 12 **get answers to those questions to give to her, when in**
 13 **fact the relationship, as she says in her letter, she's**
 14 **always had good relationships, she goes to the director,**
 15 **why, on this occasion, she is saying that she won't go**
 16 **to the director, she's coming to me, I'm the post box,**
 17 **in fact, you know. She comes to me, I go to him, I get**
 18 **the answers, I then transmit it back and she would have**
 19 **got those answers much quicker or, if she couldn't, then**
 20 **we would have to take action, we'd have to follow**
 21 **a different course. Because if she was not getting**
 22 **explanations and the information she needed to undertake**
 23 **her responsibilities as a politician, then clearly we**
 24 **would have to do something about that. But we weren't**
 25 **at that point.**

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1 **removing those people from their posts, which wasn't**
 2 **that simple, then you have to give as much support to**
 3 **those individuals that they were doing their best, even**
 4 **in a context where you may not have 100 per cent**
 5 **confidence that everything will be done that needs to be**
 6 **done.**
 7 Q. This correspondence was raising concerns around children
 8 at risk of sexual abuse, wasn't it -- very serious,
 9 grave concerns?
 10 **A. It was.**
 11 Q. So what has the reputation or the relationship with
 12 a councillor and Director of Social Services -- why is
 13 that the prevailing theme that you take away from the
 14 correspondence, as opposed to, "This is what's being
 15 suggested. What is happening in our homes? What do we
 16 need to do to find out what's happening in the homes?"
 17 **A. Well, those answers were given straight away on the four**
 18 **points that were made. What I'm saying is that, if**
 19 **a leading member of the Social Services Committee,**
 20 **someone who is very committed on the subject, is not**
 21 **prepared to go to the Director of Social Services and**
 22 **get the answers, and she says that she has a good**
 23 **relationship, it does suggest to me that there must be**
 24 **a breakdown in the relationship. I needed to establish**
 25 **that, because, clearly, the answers were being provided**

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1 Q. What would you have had to do about it? Are you
 2 suggesting she should have done that before she went to
 3 the police and it should have been Mr Pope's --
 4 **A. This is not a question of her not going to the police.**
 5 **She could have gone to the police at any time. I'm not**
 6 **querying that. I'm saying that she's then come to me**
 7 **rather than the director. It suggests she had no trust**
 8 **and confidence in the director.**
 9 Q. And you did at this point?
 10 **A. Sorry?**
 11 Q. You did have trust and confidence in the director?
 12 **A. Well, I have to have some trust and confidence in him**
 13 **unless information is placed before me that suggests**
 14 **that he is someone who can no longer be trusted.**
 15 Q. Did the information that you had seen within that
 16 correspondence raise questions for you about the trust
 17 that could be placed in the directorate?
 18 **A. It does all the time. Every time you hear of something**
 19 **that represents a failure, and many failures there were**
 20 **in terms of the range of things that had to be addressed**
 21 **and put right suggested you should not, but you also**
 22 **have to -- as someone who is responsible for all those**
 23 **heads of service, how much you are able to support them**
 24 **by understanding the context and the pressures in which**
 25 **they are working. Unless I am able to do something like**

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1 **to her that she was asking for.**
 2 Q. Let's have a look at her letter, LAM009891_001-002 next
 3 to each other, please, Mr Hyde. This is her response to
 4 you, as to why she couldn't go, and didn't go, to the
 5 Director of Social Services. There were a number of
 6 reasons. We see on page 1 she sets out, firstly, the
 7 nature of the allegations were of a criminal nature.
 8 Secondly, the person taking the allegations had
 9 specifically asked that they be taken outside the
 10 directorate, which that person felt had not dealt
 11 properly with information. Thirdly, in order to protect
 12 that person, for their identity to remain secret,
 13 "I could not go to the director or anyone else inside
 14 the directorate.
 15 "Fourthly, it was strongly indicated to me by the
 16 police that it would not be helpful to the police
 17 investigation ... if I were to do so."
 18 Very compelling reasons for not going to the
 19 director, weren't they?
 20 **A. Yes, they appear to be.**
 21 Q. More importantly, the fact that she was an Opposition
 22 councillor, do you think, at the time, either you or
 23 others viewed that as somebody with a different
 24 political perspective making points, and that detracted
 25 from the serious gravity of the situation for the

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<p>1 children on whose behalf she was writing this 2 correspondence? 3 A. That is a question that's very difficult to answer about 4 how that is viewed. Certainly by myself, it wasn't, 5 because she had every entitlement, once she had 6 information, to pursue the actions that she sought to 7 pursue -- firstly, to report matters to the police; 8 secondly, to address them in the way in which she 9 brought to my attention, but that could also have been 10 addressed in her having done what she did to make that 11 information known to the Director of Social Services 12 with a copy to me and also get the answers to the 13 questions that she was seeking, which, in effect, she 14 got through the responses that I made to her which came 15 directly from discussions that I had with the director 16 and the draft that he sent me back which became the 17 response that I made to her. 18 Q. That can go down now, Mr Hyde. In brief, Lord Ouseley, 19 I'm going to suggest that that correspondence was 20 defensive from your perspective and didn't allow focus 21 on the real issues of concern that were being 22 highlighted there; would you agree with that or not, 23 looking back? 24 A. The real issues of concern were going to be dealt with 25 because they were already being dealt with in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 context that it led to Richard Clough's investigation. 2 I was very clear in my mind that these were serious 3 issues that had to be addressed, and addressed 4 independently. 5 Q. Can we go, please, to a document LAM014517_001. This is 6 a memo from you to David Pope. We see there a report 7 went to Social Services Committee. You only saw it on 8 6 November, which was very shortly before it went to 9 Social Services Committee. You have been embarrassed by 10 questions "asked of me in this respect. When did I know 11 of further overspending ... was it considered by CMT 12 before being reported ...", et cetera, et cetera. 13 Was it the case that you did not always feel 14 informed by David Pope of the situation on the ground? 15 A. I think there were occasions, and this is part of 16 a culture that's reflected in other directorates as 17 well, because the pressure on finance, on legal, 18 information systems, there were a whole range of areas 19 where you couldn't grasp the full extent of information 20 that was being circulating, but not picking up on all 21 the priority areas, and with regard to this specific 22 area, it was, because the whole question of overspending 23 within directorates and the financial situation that we 24 were in and trying to manage and deal with is one that 25 you really had to be informed by directors of where</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>
<p>1 situations like this were occurring and how it was being 2 addressed, and I had no idea that this was happening. 3 Now, I'm not saying this was a widespread factor 4 only in the Social Services directorate, but it 5 certainly was one of concern to me when it happened and 6 I had words with the director about. 7 Q. Can that document be taken down, please, Mr Hyde. 8 In your statement, Lord Ouseley, at paragraph 14, 9 you speak of an occasion where you were dealing with 10 corruption, and you speak of the protectionism that was 11 driven by some directorates and interests. Can you 12 expand on the example that you give us there about 13 a particular director's performance and a conversation 14 that the leader had with you? Do you want your 15 statement to remind you, or do you know what I'm asking? 16 A. I know the situation well. It was one of major concern 17 to me. It was a time at which I was looking to push 18 through the second phase of reorganising the centre of 19 the council, which concerns those areas that we were 20 failing in that were affecting places like 21 Social Service centre delivery directorates in finance, 22 in legal, in information systems, in the whole 23 democratic process of reporting up to the committees, 24 and the key areas of delivery were obviously in 25 Social Services, obviously we'd introduced a new --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>	<p>1 taken on education following the demise of the Inner 2 London Education Authority, and there was housing. And 3 housing, for me, was an even bigger concern than 4 Social Services -- not that I'm in any way suggesting 5 that the issues that we are now considering are less 6 important, they're not, but it was a much more visible 7 problem in terms of the borough and what you could see, 8 as opposed to children in children's homes being 9 neglected or being abused. Every day, as you walked to 10 the town hall, you would see long queues outside the 11 housing office and the problems were monumental. 12 Now, part of my first phase reorganisation in 1991 13 took us so far, but not further. I couldn't get beyond 14 that with budgetary and other considerations. The 15 second phase was to try to deal, in a trouble-shooting 16 way, with some of these serious problems that had never 17 realistically been addressed. 18 The problem I had, which you're now alluding to, 19 related to work I was doing over a period of time 20 looking at how we dealt with the DLOs, the direct labour 21 organisations, service organisations, and the split that 22 was necessary for client and contractors in which there 23 were all sorts of corrupt practices going on that were 24 unlawful and that section 5 report. 25 When I had grave concerns about four directors, and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

1 I felt I couldn't make any progress whatsoever, I went
 2 to the leader of the council and said, "I have to get
 3 rid of some directors because I cannot move forward".
 4 Within minutes of going back to my office, having had
 5 this discussion with the leader, we didn't conclude
 6 anything. I then had a telephone call from the chair of
 7 one of the committees representing one of the directors
 8 I was referring to, telling me that under no
 9 circumstances -- under no circumstances -- his director
 10 would be leaving, and if I think that's what I'm going
 11 to get up to, I've got something else coming.
 12 That was the frustration I had that made me realise
 13 I couldn't go on any further.
 14 Q. Do you mean go on further with the particular project
 15 you were working on within housing or generally working
 16 within Lambeth?
 17 A. Well, it wasn't just housing. It was housing, it was
 18 finance, it was legal. There were several. But that's
 19 really where I'd identified four directors, but there
 20 were three I felt needed to be removed. I couldn't make
 21 any progress if these people were not being removed.
 22 Ultimately, it took me a long time, but it was all
 23 revealed later on, which you saw in my concluding
 24 comments in my statement, in 1997.
 25 Q. We will come on to your concluding remarks in a moment.

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1 a specific childcare issue appeared, particularly in the
 2 media.
 3 Q. You refer to members having close relationships with
 4 journalists and often information was shared for
 5 political purposes, you say, prior to other members
 6 being appropriately informed. Do you mean shared with
 7 the press, and there were stories about what was
 8 happening?
 9 A. Yes, I think that's undoubtedly what used to happen all
 10 the time, and I found that that worked against the best
 11 interests of driving the council forward. So what
 12 I would say is that when something appeared in the press
 13 that didn't give a full story, people within the
 14 administration clammed up, and it made it harder for
 15 them to open up in providing information in case that
 16 information found its way into the public domain.
 17 Now, I'm not saying that it shouldn't be there, but
 18 it is how it gets there.
 19 Q. I want now to examine your concluding concerns, please,
 20 Lord Ouseley, at paragraph 34.
 21 You say most of your time during the first 30 months
 22 of your 36-month contract of employment was spent
 23 investigating allegations of corruption, the ones that
 24 you have spoken of. You say:
 25 "During this period, there were inexplicable

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1 Can I just ask you about member involvement, please.
 2 When you say at paragraphs 20, 21 and 22, you speak of
 3 the political concerns and the political environment
 4 being a very competitive one to get your voice heard, do
 5 you think the essential social care principles got lost
 6 in this level of competitive exchange between members?
 7 A. I would say that, if you look at it in the broadest
 8 context, yes, but if you are looking at it within
 9 a Social Services context, I would say that, in my view,
 10 the members of the Social Services Committee and
 11 subcommittees would have had a specific concern about
 12 that as a priority for themselves in addressing matters
 13 with the director and his staff.
 14 Q. So you felt they were able to come together and discuss
 15 some key issues without that?
 16 A. I think there were sufficient members who were -- if you
 17 take, for instance, Councillor Whelan. She was very
 18 tenacious and dogged in pursuing matters of concern, and
 19 these were serious matters of concern, and I think there
 20 were others who would have been doing likewise. So
 21 I wouldn't say, if you take the council as a whole,
 22 things would have been lost, because there were so many
 23 issues in Lambeth, in the politics of Lambeth as well as
 24 in the local authority environment of Lambeth, that were
 25 always dominant and more dominant except where

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1 shenanigans occurring."
 2 Can you tell us what was occurring to you and what
 3 was happening at your home?
 4 A. Well, there were two specific things. One, every time
 5 we got close to evidence, the evidence vanished.
 6 Secondly, whenever we reported matters to the police,
 7 the police itself said, "Well, you need to bring the
 8 evidence to us because there is so much white collar
 9 crime that we are investigating".
 10 Q. You were investigating fraud and they wanted paper
 11 trails of fraud?
 12 A. Yes, they wanted us to provide the evidence. We were
 13 working hard to find evidence. I was dealing with
 14 process, and the processes that I changed was to
 15 separate out the client and contractor relationships we
 16 had within several areas within the organisation, many
 17 of which got worse and were better exposed after I had
 18 left. But, at that point, many of the meetings I had
 19 with my colleagues who were working on the gathering of
 20 evidence and following trails, when we finished those
 21 meetings, very quickly I'd have a journalist from the
 22 local newspaper coming on to me and asking me questions,
 23 to which he had answers because he had information fed
 24 to him about what was going on in the meetings.
 25 It was bizarre to me. It was worrying. It was

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1 **troubling. I couldn't explain it. No-one would say**
 2 **that they'd spoken to the media. Yet it was revealed in**
 3 **1997 that my office was bugged, my home was bugged.**
 4 **I was getting calls in the middle of the night. During**
 5 **the period of investigation, I had all four of my tyres**
 6 **slashed in one go. I had my windscreen smashed. There**
 7 **were all sorts of things going on.**
 8 Q. When you say revealed in May 1997, you say "revealed on
 9 9 May 1997, four years after I had left Lambeth, in an
 10 article published in the Evening Standard was an account
 11 of how the director of Lambeth Council's legal service
 12 had, without authority, instructed a leading firm of
 13 private detectives which traced the calls of
 14 Sir Herman Ouseley and his family."
 15 You saw that in a press article. You don't know who
 16 or whether that was authorised. But you saw that. You
 17 saw a reference to that. Is that right?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Either way, from what you are saying, you are describing
 20 at the time that you had your car tyres slashed, your
 21 windscreen smashed and you were getting phone calls in
 22 the middle of the night?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. How intimidating was all that at the time for you?
 25 **A. Well, it was intimidating in the sense that it was**

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1 **all they ever said was, you know, "Change your phone**
 2 **number". So I didn't pursue any of that.**
 3 **And even on the issues I've just mentioned about**
 4 **what happened in Lambeth and Lambeth having suspended**
 5 **the Director of Legal Services, and then, two years**
 6 **later, couldn't dismiss him but settled with him to go,**
 7 **two years suspended on full pay, I never heard a single**
 8 **word from the council saying, "This is what happened.**
 9 **We are sorry it happened". But I have never pursued it.**
 10 **I turned my back and moved on when I left.**
 11 Q. You moved on, as we said earlier, and moved on to a role
 12 as head of the Greater London Council's Ethnic Minority
 13 Unit. In terms of the work this inquiry is concerned
 14 with -- child protection, children at risk, what's
 15 happened around sexual abuse in children's homes of
 16 the children in care -- was there anything in your work
 17 as head of that unit which impacted on the lives of
 18 children in particular in care? Anything you want to
 19 draw to the chair and panel's attention?
 20 **A. Well, no more so -- the Greater London Council had no**
 21 **direct involvement in childcare. The way in which we**
 22 **assisted in the processes that would have linked to**
 23 **responsibilities of Social Services directorates across**
 24 **London would have been support services provided through**
 25 **grants, and obviously the extra housing provision that**

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1 **happening and it was happening for a reason. I was no**
 2 **more intimidated other than (a) I had to protect my**
 3 **family, as I always do, but, secondly, being harassed**
 4 **and abused as a black official working in an**
 5 **organisation trying to change things was not new to me.**
 6 **I had gone through all of this when I became race**
 7 **relations advisor, because extreme organisations**
 8 **targeted me.**
 9 **In one situation, I was told by a member of an**
 10 **extreme right-wing organisation, "Your home number is on**
 11 **every -- on the walls of every public convenience in**
 12 **Lambeth", and that's how I understood -- got to**
 13 **understand how many people were phoning me up.**
 14 **So it wasn't intimidating in the sense that it was**
 15 **new and I was frightened. I had gone through that**
 16 **process, and it happened before. But I wasn't -- I'm**
 17 **not seeking to use that as an issue in my defence -- it**
 18 **is not a question of defence; it was a reality for me,**
 19 **but it was no worse than I'd had before.**
 20 Q. That was happening, you say, to be clear, in the period
 21 you were chief executive. This happened between 1990
 22 and 1992. Did you report that to the police at the time
 23 or did you just deal with that?
 24 **A. I reported to the police, not that specific incident --**
 25 **those specific incidents, but on prior occasions, and**

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1 **the Greater London Council had, because housing was one**
 2 **of the pressure points that led to children being taken**
 3 **into care.**
 4 **Also, the Inner London Education Committee**
 5 **Authority, although it operated as a single legal**
 6 **entity, it was a subcommittee or a committee of**
 7 **the Greater London Council, and, clearly, resources**
 8 **channelled through organisations to support children,**
 9 **voluntary organisations in particular, was one of**
 10 **the subsets, and certainly the work that we were doing**
 11 **through the Ethnic Minorities Committee was working with**
 12 **local communities, local families, and looking at how we**
 13 **can support, through grants, voluntary organisations who**
 14 **were helping families and children, particularly those**
 15 **who were vulnerable.**
 16 MS LANGDALE: Thank you, Lord Ouseley. I have no further
 17 questions. I don't know if the chair or panel have. If
 18 you wait there, you will see.
 19 **A. Thank you.**
 20 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Lord Ouseley. I think we will have
 21 some questions for you, but I will begin.
 22 Questions from THE PANEL
 23 THE CHAIR: What you have described on the behaviour of
 24 the threats and intimidation, where people attempted to
 25 impose, and did impose, on you, who do you believe was

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1 behind that? Who actually were the people who were
 2 doing it?
 3 **A. It's very difficult -- I wouldn't want to -- I certainly**
 4 **wouldn't name anyone, and I have no evidence to suggest**
 5 **that I could, but it was an entanglement that -- I think**
 6 **in the Appleby Report it shows how far back the**
 7 **culture -- there was a complex one, involving people who**
 8 **would have been employees, people who were members of**
 9 **trade unions. I mean, one example, let me give you one**
 10 **example. When, in 1979, I became race relations**
 11 **advisor, one of my tasks was to go to the -- across all**
 12 **the different directorates, the Director of Construction**
 13 **Services, about why all the building sites had no black**
 14 **employees whatsoever. I was told by the director,**
 15 **"Well, you need to talk to the people who recruit**
 16 **onsite, because it's not the white collar side, it's the**
 17 **blue collar side". Everyone would pass you somewhere**
 18 **else.**
 19 **I duly went to meet with them and was asked to meet**
 20 **with the leader of the trade unions of the construction**
 21 **services, and I then, with a colleague of mine, met with**
 22 **29 stewards who operated on the building sites. The**
 23 **first thing that the convener said to me in this meeting**
 24 **with 29 other conveners was, "If you think, on a Monday**
 25 **morning, you're going to bring a truckload of niggers**

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1 chairman -- chief executive, and also when I was
 2 assistant chief executive, is that I think the
 3 relationship between councillors and members is one in
 4 which many of the local councillors believed that they
 5 had an affinity with the lower ranks of employees, and
 6 their chief officers were people who had their own
 7 vested interests and I think that often affected how
 8 they saw us.
 9 There was a lack of trust and a lot of suspicion
 10 about each other, and so there were all sorts of forces
 11 working in contradictory ways that made coherence very
 12 difficult, and it would be difficult for me, I think, to
 13 try to pinpoint exactly where to attribute blame. But
 14 these things happened, and it wouldn't have only
 15 happened to me.
 16 THE CHAIR: I understand your point about the difficulty of
 17 attributing blame, but you must have some sense of who,
 18 ultimately, could have done something about this, since
 19 it appears your attempts were rendered ineffective
 20 because of what you were dealing with?
 21 **A. Well, I identified, in terms of my own responsibilities,**
 22 **people who were at the top of the organisation, part of**
 23 **my corporate management team who, I felt, work was**
 24 **disruptive and also working against the interests of**
 25 **the council and what I was trying to do. I was**

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1 **and tell us to take them on, you've got something else**
 2 **coming", and that was the greeting. That was my first**
 3 **greeting. I was introduced and told that. Now,**
 4 **I didn't walk away, I kept on and we pressed. We had**
 5 **further meetings and we moved on. What I'm trying to**
 6 **say is, it is a very complex web of people who have**
 7 **vested interests that they seek to protect if they think**
 8 **someone is trying to move things in a different**
 9 **direction.**
 10 THE CHAIR: Did you confront the leader of the council with
 11 this? Did you have open discussions with him and say
 12 how outrageous this behaviour was?
 13 **A. Yes and no. I mentioned these things but only in the**
 14 **context that he could sense my frustration, but,**
 15 **equally, I could sense his own frustration. I didn't**
 16 **take it any further because I had enough to cope with**
 17 **and I wanted to deal with that.**
 18 THE CHAIR: You mean the leader was a figurehead in this
 19 case, was he? Did he have any control or power which
 20 you would expect over the group?
 21 **A. It's very difficult to say. I think the leader would**
 22 **have his own pressures to cope with, and I was certain**
 23 **of that. There are very powerful people who operate**
 24 **behind the scenes. I think, with a lot of politicians**
 25 **working in local politics at the time when I was**

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1 **immediately informed that if I go down that route, I've**
 2 **got no chance of removing these people. And I felt,**
 3 **I can't go any further with what I'm trying to do if**
 4 **I have these blockages in my way, and that was my**
 5 **reality.**
 6 THE CHAIR: You're describing an organisation whose primary
 7 purpose appeared to be potentially criminal and corrupt.
 8 **A. Well, those elements were there, as described by**
 9 **Elizabeth Appleby in her report.**
 10 THE CHAIR: To repeat counsel's question, was that also the
 11 case in the Department of Social Services?
 12 **A. I had a healthier respect for those more arm's length**
 13 **for what I think was happening in Social Services.**
 14 **I think Social Services was full of decent people. But,**
 15 **unfortunately, they had deep-seated problems in terms of**
 16 **unqualified staff, not the right competence, sometimes**
 17 **probably not the right leadership. There were**
 18 **systems -- deficiencies in terms of data, information,**
 19 **recording, compliance with processes; there were a lot**
 20 **of things wrong, but I think where serious incidents**
 21 **occurred in homes, that was really serious problems**
 22 **quite different from organised, I think, issues that I'm**
 23 **talking about in the centre of the organisation where**
 24 **I think most people saw power. I think it was people**
 25 **who were exploiting children in Social Services at**

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1 a level that was quite different, but obviously just as
 2 serious as any other issues that I was dealing with.
 3 THE CHAIR: Did you perceive failures of leadership of
 4 Mr Pope?
 5 **A. I think, ultimately, you can look back and say, yes, at**
 6 **the time, I regarded -- I saw David Pope in the context**
 7 **of, alongside other directors, as someone who I could**
 8 **trust more than others, and whilst I think there were**
 9 **pressures on him which led to failures, there were**
 10 **pressures on me, I would say, that led to failures as**
 11 **well.**
 12 **So there was a sort of an affinity, but I clearly**
 13 **felt that the Social Services directorate was a much**
 14 **more caring one with more decent people than the one in**
 15 **housing, for instance.**
 16 THE CHAIR: So, looking back, whose job was it to sort this
 17 out, to get it -- to shift the organisation?
 18 **A. Well, in pure childcare/child protection terms, it was**
 19 **the Director of Social Services, along with the**
 20 **Social Services Committee and the subcommittees. In the**
 21 **broader terms of the management directorate, there was**
 22 **corporate failures relating to finance and finance**
 23 **management and finance administration. The legal input,**
 24 **the things which were happening and not happening, the**
 25 **delays that they were getting with legal advice, the**

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1 knew well and related well to, and I think the -- in all
 2 organisations, I think it's important to have good
 3 relationships between those who run the organisations
 4 and its staff representatives of the organisations, but
 5 clearly, with the politics of Lambeth evolving over
 6 a period from the late '70s in the way that it did
 7 through to the period of this investigation, so up to
 8 the end of the '90s, there were very close relationships
 9 because many of those members projected themselves as
 10 representing the interests of the staff and the
 11 interests of people within the society who elected them
 12 that they felt overrode any other concerns at different
 13 times.
 14 MS SHARPLING: Did that make it difficult, for example, to
 15 have disciplinary proceedings or removing people who
 16 were not up to the job?
 17 **A. It shouldn't have done, and there were other areas in**
 18 **which that happened, but clearly I have already**
 19 **indicated the problems I had of removing people because**
 20 **of strong interests -- I wouldn't say these are trade**
 21 **union interests for those people at the top, but the**
 22 **vested interests of the relationships that members had**
 23 **with certain people, chairs and their directors. And if**
 24 **those relationships existed, then it worked against the**
 25 **fluency in which processes should enable you to deal**

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1 **organisational systems in information technology, data**
 2 **provision. There were many defects that were the**
 3 **responsibilities of others that fed to the problems that**
 4 **Social Services faced.**
 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Lord Ouseley. I will ask my
 6 colleagues if they have questions. Ms Sharpling?
 7 MS SHARPLING: Thank you, chair. Can I deal with a general
 8 issue, Lord Ouseley, about the relationship between the
 9 council and the police. Was there a good working
 10 relationship at the time? I'm not concerned so much
 11 with the specific investigations concerning corruption,
 12 but more generally, such as community safety or missing
 13 children and matters of that sort?
 14 **A. My understanding is that the relationship was a good**
 15 **one, that there were regular meetings between the Social**
 16 **Services directorate and the responsible police officers**
 17 **that they dealt with.**
 18 MS SHARPLING: Just moving on, can you describe the
 19 relationship between officials and trade unions and
 20 elected members and trade unions during your tenure?
 21 **A. I think there were close relationships between several**
 22 **members and different trade unions and trade union**
 23 **leaders. It is one in which, I think, those members**
 24 **themselves would have vested interests which enabled**
 25 **them to get access to information from people that they**

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1 **satisfactorily and properly and fairly with incidents of**
 2 **discipline that have to be applied.**
 3 MS SHARPLING: The last question from me: you have evinced
 4 some surprise over the financial challenges that the
 5 Social Services department had. Did you not have any
 6 performance or audit information for your own use which
 7 identified these issues a little earlier?
 8 **A. Not as early as it should. You see, we had our own**
 9 **internal auditor and it was always reflected to me from**
 10 **the centre of the organisation as a very powerful unit**
 11 **within the council keeping tabs on things in financial**
 12 **terms which were happening and should be happening or**
 13 **weren't happening. Clearly, ultimately, it turned out**
 14 **that it wasn't as strong as it should be, as identified**
 15 **in later reports from the Audit Commission, the district**
 16 **auditor. I always felt confident, wrongly, because**
 17 **I was very fearful of the internal auditor myself,**
 18 **because I've always regarded financial propriety as one**
 19 **of my highest priorities, and, clearly, I put my trust**
 20 **in internal audit in identifying these issues quicker**
 21 **than they did, and that was wrong.**
 22 MS SHARPLING: Sorry, I said that was my last question,
 23 Lord Ouseley. It is not quite. Forgive me. One
 24 further question. You talked in your statement, and
 25 indeed in evidence, about the impregnable relationship

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<p>1 between your directors and the chairs of the various 2 relevant committees. Was that something you would say 3 of Mr Pope and his relationship with the chair of 4 the Social Services Committee? 5 A. I think they must have had a good relationship. 6 I wouldn't see it as impregnable. But chairs often 7 would be more defensive of their directors. There were 8 others, of which Social Services weren't one, that 9 I identified as problematic, that relationship. Now, 10 I didn't seek to break that relationship in any way or 11 challenge it, simply because I think you've got to have 12 a good relationship, as I tried to explain in the 13 context of Councillor Whelan, although she wasn't 14 a chair, I felt she needed to have a good relationship 15 with the director because she is genuinely concerned 16 about serious matters reported to her which appear not 17 to have been dealt with. And so, for me, trust and 18 confidence was a very important part of what we were 19 trying to establish and develop in relationships, but 20 not to the extent where the bonds that existed were ones 21 that could stop you doing anything as an independent 22 chief executive working in the centre of 23 the organisation in trying to get things to change. 24 That's really where I had a problem. 25 MS SHARPLING: I see. Thank you, Lord Ouseley.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank? 2 MR FRANK: Yes, please. Lord Ouseley, I am going to ask you 3 if you can help us because, on a slightly different tack 4 now, not just what happened in the past but if you can 5 help us as to what is going on now and what we might do 6 to help things to be better in the future. The reason 7 I'm asking this is because we heard evidence yesterday 8 from a witness who gave us the impression that she 9 thought that the ability of children to get their voices 10 heard in Lambeth was not much better today than it was 11 at the time when all these unfortunate events were going 12 on. 13 I know that you have a long experience in relation 14 to various relations matters, and are aware of 15 the issues relating to equality of opportunity to make 16 one's voice heard. I'm just wondering this, you see: 17 the legislative framework in which children in care are 18 looked after is actually rather different from that from 19 any other child in the country, in this way, that the 20 Children Act 1989 provides a lot of opportunities for 21 children generally, if they have a complaint, to make 22 their complaint. If it can't be dealt with in any other 23 way, to go to a court to get it dealt with. However, 24 section 9 of the Children Act 1989 specifically prevents 25 children in care from doing that, they are prevented</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>
<p>1 from doing it. Some people have said that that, in 2 effect, makes them second-class citizens because they 3 don't have the same rights as any other child. 4 I just wonder, do you think, as a matter of 5 principle, bearing in mind what you know about 6 equalities legislation, that it is perhaps time to 7 relook at that and see whether children in care should 8 be given the same rights as any other child to make 9 their case in a court if they can't get a local 10 authority or any other responsible body to assist them? 11 I just wonder, as a matter of principle, if you can help 12 us on that. 13 A. It is just a view, it is not coming from, I would say, 14 a well-informed base. But I certainly think there 15 should be advocates available for young people, children 16 in care, to be able to articulate their own individual 17 concerns and available to them quite independently to 18 enable those things to be part of the process of 19 consideration in making the best decisions in their best 20 interests. 21 MR FRANK: Of course, to gain access to an advocate may 22 require, for example, access to legal advice, perhaps 23 even legal aid, to do it, so it is not as simple as 24 saying, "Here is an advocate"; there actually has to be 25 a way of getting that advocacy voice available to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>	<p>1 child. 2 A. Yes. 3 MR FRANK: Perhaps removing the restriction, the statutory 4 restriction, in section 9 might help that process? 5 A. I think that's the only way. You have to have some 6 statutory recognition that if there is a clear belief 7 that children who are in care are almost second-class 8 citizens, in that they have no right of expressing 9 themselves, that that right should have provided to them 10 so that it can be, with advocacy, expressed in a way 11 that reflects their feelings, their experiences, their 12 worries and concerns, in a manner that then can be 13 addressed by those who make decisions, and continue to 14 make decisions, which may have an adverse impact 15 continuing on the lives of those children. 16 MR FRANK: Thank you very much. I have nothing else. 17 THE CHAIR: Sir Malcolm? 18 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you. Just one or two brief 19 questions building on what's gone before, if I may. 20 Just for the sake of complete clarity, you mentioned 21 that there were heads of four directorates that you were 22 hoping to see removed from office. You named three of 23 them. Who was the fourth? 24 A. Who were the three that I named? 25 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Housing, legal and finance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

1 **A. Yes. Well, I'm not sure that -- the other one was a bit**
 2 **more controversial.**
 3 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Let me simply ask, was it
 4 Social Services?
 5 **A. No, it wasn't.**
 6 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: It wasn't. Okay. You mentioned
 7 types of relationships and you imply that there were
 8 some -- and I fully understand that a good relationship
 9 is vital for any good working relationship. But you
 10 implied that some seemed to be, shall we say, verged on
 11 the improper as opposed to the proper, in terms of
 12 the nature of the relationships. What sort of types of
 13 relationships were you talking about that were giving
 14 rise to you having some concerns?
 15 **A. Well, the example I gave about the chair of**
 16 **the particular directorate who were one of the four --**
 17 **now, the reason -- there were four that I was genuinely**
 18 **concerned, but I knew that the one I didn't name I had**
 19 **no chance, because this person, I felt, had**
 20 **impregnability. He believed he could have been the**
 21 **chief executive and probably that's one of the reasons**
 22 **why (interference).**
 23 **But the one who came back to me was the chair of**
 24 **the housing committee, and he was able to say, "There is**
 25 **no way you're going to get rid of my director". Now,**

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1 **Lambeth to lead on, would they give up what they had to**
 2 **take on such a challenge if they knew the political**
 3 **environment and the reputation that existed about**
 4 **Lambeth Council, would they have wanted to come there.**
 5 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: I wasn't so much thinking about
 6 your ability to attract someone into the role but your
 7 ability to create the vacancy.
 8 **A. Well, part of my second phase reorganisation was to**
 9 **bring in more independent specialists as part of**
 10 **troubleshooting to really get to the heart of**
 11 **the problems we were facing in areas of housing and**
 12 **Social Services, as well as in the centre of**
 13 **the organisation, because that's really what we had**
 14 **a problem -- we knew we had problems, we had**
 15 **prescriptions in action plans and targets to be**
 16 **achieved, which were rarely ever achieved, and that was**
 17 **as much a part of the problem within Social Services**
 18 **because there were reports, after reports, after reports**
 19 **identifying the range of problems, each had responses**
 20 **which were reasonable, actions which were being taken,**
 21 **knowing some of the deficiencies and some of the depth**
 22 **in which we had to go to solve some of these problems,**
 23 **and yet you'd have another follow-on report saying, "Not**
 24 **achieved, not everything has been achieved". But always**
 25 **it was caveated with, "The organisation has responded**

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1 **you cannot have a situation in which you're seeking to**
 2 **make progress in a service which -- as important as**
 3 **Social Services, and the two are very closely related in**
 4 **terms of families, housing, care -- both statutory care**
 5 **as well as, you know, the family environment unit.**
 6 **Quite frankly, the problems were colossal in housing, as**
 7 **it ultimately proved to be reflected in the**
 8 **Appleby Inquiry report, which focused not so much on**
 9 **Social Services, which I think was unfortunate, but on**
 10 **the centre of the organisation, which is really where**
 11 **I dwelt most of my time there, where the substantial**
 12 **failures were. If you are not going to remove the**
 13 **obstacles, which is part of that tight relationship with**
 14 **some people who were being protected to this day, and**
 15 **must have been part of the network that actually bugged**
 16 **my office and bugged me in order to undermine me,**
 17 **clearly means that you've got relationships that are**
 18 **absolutely ridiculous and might as well not be there**
 19 **because you can't make progress.**
 20 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Final question: had you wished to
 21 have a new Director of Social Services, do you think you
 22 would have been able to have?
 23 **A. I think part of the problem we had at that time was,**
 24 **people who were accomplished and achievers, particularly**
 25 **with the range of experiences that you wanted to come to**

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1 **positively and well intentioned, but still not achieved**
 2 **it", and that's really where the failure came for me,**
 3 **that I couldn't move to that stage where we could put**
 4 **people in and solve those problems on behalf of, which**
 5 **meant, in some ways, you would be, on the one hand,**
 6 **providing support to the director to deal with those,**
 7 **and if the director himself, or herself, were**
 8 **obstructive, then they would have to be moved out of**
 9 **the way because it was within their interests, the**
 10 **councillor's interests, and the client's interests, to**
 11 **resolve those problems.**
 12 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Sure. My final point, then: so at
 13 the time you left your position, did you still have
 14 confidence in the director to be your agent, the agent
 15 of change?
 16 **A. The Director of Social Services?**
 17 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Yes.
 18 **A. Well, I can't say that I did, but I'm not saying that**
 19 **I had lost all confidence in the director. I still saw**
 20 **him as someone, if he had the right support in terms of**
 21 **what I was trying to bring in, if you could bring in the**
 22 **help, which ultimately -- what the Appleby Report did**
 23 **was pointed to the fact that an incoming chief**
 24 **executive -- and by then it was 1995 when she reported,**
 25 **and by then Heather Rabbatts was on the point of coming**

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1 **into the council and she clearly had a brief to say to**
 2 **the council, "I need to have the resources which my**
 3 **previous incumbent didn't have to do exactly what now**
 4 **needs to be done if I'm going to do this job, if I'm**
 5 **going to come here and be successful". It didn't mean,**
 6 **"I've got to get rid of him and him", it meant, "I have**
 7 **to solve those problems. They may have to go". The**
 8 **point is, we have to solve the problems. We can't just**
 9 **keep having inquiry reports that tell us there's**
 10 **a problem, have the responses which are reasonable and**
 11 **an action plan, and then still be in the same position.**
 12 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you very much, indeed.
 13 THE CHAIR: We have no further questions. Thank you very
 14 much, Lord Ouseley.
 15 (The witness withdrew)
 16 THE CHAIR: Ms Langdale, we will now take our morning break
 17 and return at 12.05 pm.
 18 MS LANGDALE: Thank you.
 19 (11.47 am)
 20 (A short break)
 21 (12.05 pm)
 22 THE CHAIR: Ms Langdale?
 23 MS LANGDALE: May I ask that the next witness is sworn.
 24 DR DAVID STAPLES (sworn)
 25

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1 INQ005602 to be placed on the screen, that's a two-page
 2 leaflet, with a cover page and next to it introduction
 3 and summary. We see there, Dr Staples, that's a 1988
 4 document published by the United Grand Lodge of England,
 5 and that purports to set out what is Freemasonry.
 6 Perhaps we can focus on page 2, the wording, and make
 7 that page larger for these purposes.
 8 It is set out there the respect for the law that's
 9 demanded of its members, and it also sets out under
 10 "Principles":
 11 "The principles of Freemasonry do not in any way
 12 conflict with members' duties as citizens, whether at
 13 work or at home or in public life but ... should
 14 strengthen them in fulfilling their public and private
 15 responsibilities."
 16 Arising from that, do you think there is any
 17 conflict between a public duty and a Freemasonry
 18 obligation?
 19 **A. No.**
 20 Q. It refers there to disclosure of membership. Tell us,
 21 over time, has it been permissible, from your society's
 22 perspective, to disclose membership of Freemasons where
 23 asked?
 24 **A. It certainly is. An informal poll that we conducted on**
 25 **Facebook suggested that 80 per cent of Freemasons are**

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1 Examination by MS LANGDALE
 2 MS LANGDALE: Can you give us your name, please, and the
 3 capacity in which you provide a statement to the
 4 inquiry?
 5 **A. I am Dr David Staples and I am the chief executive and**
 6 **grand secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England,**
 7 **which is the governing body for regular Freemasonry in**
 8 **England and Wales.**
 9 Q. You have provided, Dr Staples, a statement dated
 10 17 May 2020. Subject to a document reference which you
 11 have amended for us yesterday at paragraph 47, can you
 12 confirm the statement that people have of that date is
 13 true and accurate, as far as you're concerned?
 14 **A. I can and I do.**
 15 Q. We have asked you, Dr Staples, to let us know the
 16 purpose of Freemasonry. Can you just summarise for us
 17 what's the role and purpose of Freemasonry?
 18 **A. Freemasonry is a membership organisation and it has two**
 19 **main purposes. Firstly, to improve its members as**
 20 **individuals, and, secondly, to improve society and help**
 21 **society.**
 22 **It is over three centuries old, and it is known for**
 23 **its works of charity and its meetings which occur up and**
 24 **down the country and, indeed, across the world.**
 25 Q. We have, if I can ask, Mr Hyde, please, for the leaflet

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1 **very happy to disclose their membership and are, indeed,**
 2 **proud to be Freemasons. However, 20 per cent prefer to**
 3 **keep that private. The United Grand Lodge of England's**
 4 **position is that it is a matter for the individual to**
 5 **decide whether they wish to disclose their membership or**
 6 **not.**
 7 Q. I suppose, though, when we look at what you have written
 8 there under "Secrecy", "Freemasonry is not a secret
 9 society". For the organisation as a whole, if
 10 100 per cent of your members were to disclose
 11 membership, that would help, perhaps, in some ways, to
 12 dispel the concept that it is a secret society, do you
 13 think?
 14 **A. I think it absolutely would and I very much look forward**
 15 **to the day where that is possible. But, unfortunately,**
 16 **it is a sad fact that there exists prejudice against**
 17 **Freemasons and individuals will be best placed to**
 18 **understand whether they are subject to that or not in**
 19 **their own personal circumstances.**
 20 Q. Have you looked at, as an organisation, why or where
 21 that prejudice arises?
 22 **A. Well, I can give you a personal example, if you like,**
 23 **just --**
 24 Q. I'm not asking for personal examples, unless you choose.
 25 I'm thinking more as an institution. Have you gathered

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<p>1 material that sets out why, for example, people may 2 genuinely fear prejudice as opposed to a perception of 3 it? If you agree, in principle, it would be better if 4 everybody disclosed membership, what's the 5 organisational knowledge around that issue? 6 A. I think it is well known that there are sections of 7 society that do not like Freemasons, so, for example, 8 the Catholic Church does not like Freemasonry and the 9 evangelical wing of the Church of England does not like 10 Freemasonry. I was chairman of the Centre for Theology 11 and Community for ten years and, on appointment as chief 12 executive of the Freemasons, I was asked to step down 13 from that chairmanship on the basis that it did not sit 14 well with those partner organisations. So there are 15 elements of society which hold views about Freemasonry, 16 which I consider to be wholly wrong, but which 17 individual members may be disadvantaged by. 18 Q. In terms of the structure of the Freemasons, you set out 19 for us in your statement -- if you can just summarise it 20 briefly -- the organisation at distinct levels: 21 national, regionally and locally. Can you briefly tell 22 us how that works? 23 A. Yes. The Grand Lodge sets the rules for the 24 organisation as laid out in the Book of Constitutions. 25 The United Grand Lodge of England is divided into</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 48 separate provinces which roughly accord with county 2 boundaries. That is sort of the next level down. 3 Then units are lodges, which may consist of between 4 20 or 30 individuals. They, again, are subject to the 5 rules of both their by-laws, the provincial by-laws and 6 the laws of the Grand Lodge. 7 Q. Is it the case that Grand Lodge has any control over the 8 activities of individual lodges, or not really, in the 9 way that you describe? 10 A. Not really. Control is laid down in the Book of 11 Constitutions, and so, in the sense that it sets the 12 rules by which the organisation works, in terms of its 13 administration, in terms of ensuring that data is held 14 securely, ensuring the sorts of things that a membership 15 organisation is required to do, it has responsibility 16 overarching for those elements. But in terms of control 17 of a lodge and what that lodge does, no. A lodge is its 18 own individual unit. 19 Q. In terms of membership and applications, you tell us 20 that individuals complete a registration form containing 21 particulars and a number of declarations, and an 22 individual must be proposed and seconded for membership 23 and a ballot taken in any lodge. In terms of 24 the registration form, I suppose you're relying on 25 self-disclosure and declaration in a number of ways,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>
<p>1 aren't you? 2 A. That's right. The form is filled in by the applicant, 3 and then a statement is written by the proposer and the 4 seconder, but we have a number of people who apply to 5 join now through the internet or even by walking into 6 their local Masonic halls. Yes, we do indeed rely on 7 what they tell us on that form. 8 Q. I suppose, in days gone by, and even now, it is possible 9 for people to give you a false name or have references 10 in support that you wouldn't have your own independent 11 way of checking -- perhaps social media has made that 12 a bit easier than it has been in the past. But it is 13 still a possibility, isn't it, that people could apply 14 using different names? 15 A. It is possible, yes. But I think it's quite unlikely. 16 Q. Likewise, if an applicant has a criminal offence, you 17 have to rely on them, whether they have been convicted 18 of a criminal offence, to tell you about that. You 19 wouldn't have your own way of checking that? 20 A. That's right. Certainly, when they are applying, they 21 have to declare that they have not. 22 Q. In terms of age, what's the age requirement? 23 A. It's normal for a Freemason to be over the age of 21. 24 However, there are dispensations which are allowed to 25 bring the age down to 18, and some university lodges</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>	<p>1 have -- hold dispensations which allow them to initiate 2 18-year-olds and above. 3 Q. When you gave the purpose of Freemasonry at the outset 4 and spoke of charitable objectives, you also spoke of 5 the development of the individual member or Freemason. 6 Could that suggest to someone listening that there's 7 a self-interest element there, too, about connections 8 that might be made and how someone might advance their 9 career or prospects via membership of this organisation? 10 A. Most lodges meet for maybe two hours a month, four 11 months a year, so in terms of the amount of time that 12 Freemasons actually spend in each other's company in 13 lodge meetings, you're talking about perhaps 16 to 14 a maximum of 30 or 40 hours a year. 15 It would be an extremely inefficient way of doing 16 that. The sorts of improvement that you get are in 17 terms of self-confidence, in the ability to speak in 18 public, in making lifelong friendships, and those sorts 19 of things. It's not something where networking is 20 really permitted. In fact, it's actively frowned upon 21 in a business sense. 22 Q. What about politics? Is politics ever discussed, or 23 not? 24 A. No. It's an absolute rule of Freemasonry that politics 25 and religion are never discussed. Freemasonry is more</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

1 **about bringing together people of different backgrounds**
 2 **rather than focusing on those things which may separate**
 3 **them.**
 4 Q. Paragraph 29. You talk about Masonic lodges and
 5 chapters in Lambeth because we asked you, of course,
 6 about the history of lodges or chapters in Lambeth. At
 7 paragraph 29 you say:
 8 "Lambeth Borough Council Lodge was consecrated in
 9 1902."
 10 At that point you say -- well, say why you think at
 11 that point there may have been a connection with
 12 Lambeth Council, back in 1902?
 13 **A. So one of the names on the lodge's petition is I think**
 14 **prefixed by the word "Alderman", which suggests that**
 15 **there was a council connection there.**
 16 Q. Then in 1963, Lambeth Borough Council Chapter was
 17 consecrated and you looked at the petition for that
 18 chapter. Did you find any link with the council in that
 19 chapter?
 20 **A. No, we did not, other than the name of the chapter.**
 21 Q. Then you looked at subsequent petitions for those LBC
 22 lodge and chapter, where they met, et cetera. Can you
 23 summarise for us whether there was, in any of those
 24 researches detailed there, a link with Lambeth town hall
 25 or town hall?

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1 **change occupations.**
 2 Q. You refer in your statement, as we asked you about, to
 3 the Harris Report, where it is noted:
 4 "Some witnesses alleged there could be a connection
 5 between the social friendship network and the
 6 Freemasons."
 7 Also, of course, this was something that
 8 Elizabeth Appleby QC was also investigating in relation
 9 to Lambeth. Can I go through some correspondence that
 10 has been unearthed in that context that we can just go
 11 through on the screen, Dr Staples. I know you have seen
 12 it before. Mr Hyde, the first document is INQ005605.
 13 It looks as though there was communication between
 14 Elizabeth Appleby QC and the commander grand secretary
 15 of the Freemasons at that time with the Freemasons
 16 suggesting:
 17 "If we can help with the inquiry in any way, please
 18 let me know."
 19 The next document, INQ002347, juxtaposed, please,
 20 with INQ005612, if they can both be enlarged. We see,
 21 again, from the grand secretary, a letter to the chief
 22 executive of the council, and saying, in the second
 23 paragraph:
 24 "I have already established that there are no
 25 Lambeth contractors, councillors or council employees

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1 **A. No, there wasn't.**
 2 Q. Just tell us the process by which you arrived at that?
 3 We see the detail there, but how were you able to
 4 reflect upon that when asked by the inquiry and to look
 5 through the roots of where it met and --
 6 **A. So Masonic lodges are not allowed to just meet wherever**
 7 **they fancy. The meeting places are usually approved by**
 8 **either the province or Grand Lodge, and the meeting**
 9 **places are also recorded, both in the minute books of**
 10 **the lodge meetings each time the meeting happens and**
 11 **also in the Masonic yearbook, as to where a lodge meets,**
 12 **and so we are, with precision, able to say exactly where**
 13 **lodges and chapters met, and have met, throughout**
 14 **history.**
 15 Q. I suppose the difficulty with that question and your
 16 research is to look for connections with council
 17 requires people, one, to enter where they worked at the
 18 time and to say the council, and, two, for those records
 19 to survive when you're looking for this kind of
 20 information?
 21 **A. Yes, I think that's right. We have always collected --**
 22 **or not always, but we have collected occupation details**
 23 **when people first join a lodge or a chapter on their**
 24 **application form, but we don't require people to keep**
 25 **that information up to date when they change jobs or**

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1 who are members of the Lambeth Borough Council Lodge."
 2 That looks as though efforts were made to see if
 3 that was the case, but, as we have discussed, you would
 4 be relying on self-declaration to do that at that time,
 5 wouldn't you?
 6 **A. We also relied on conversations with the then secretary**
 7 **of the lodge, by Commander Higham, and my staff have**
 8 **spoken to him. In order to become a secretary of**
 9 **a lodge, most people have been members of that lodge for**
 10 **many, many years and with perhaps only 20 or 30 members,**
 11 **you would expect them to know the other members of that**
 12 **lodge well, and so the secretary was asked specifically,**
 13 **I believe, by Commander Higham whether any members were**
 14 **connected to the council, and he was quite clear that**
 15 **they were not.**
 16 **It's entirely possible, of course, that he may not**
 17 **have realised that some of them may, or may not, have**
 18 **been contractors, because that may have been outside the**
 19 **level of his knowledge, but we can certainly say with**
 20 **certainty -- not just by relying on self-declaration,**
 21 **but by relying on the memory of people who were there at**
 22 **the time -- that they were not.**
 23 Q. Indeed, if we take those documents down we will see the
 24 one you may be referring to, Dr Staples: INQ005607,
 25 please, Mr Hyde. If those two go down (interference):

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<p>1 "I cannot accede to your request about membership or 2 past membership of the Lambeth Borough Council Lodge and 3 Chapter. Information in our membership lists is private 4 and may not be passed to third parties without leave of 5 the person named."</p> <p>6 That can be taken down, please, Mr Hyde. Can we 7 have another document on the screen: INQ002341. We see 8 with that document, if that could be enlarged, this was 9 a memo from the chief executive, dated July 1993, 10 requesting declarations from council members about 11 whether they were a Freemason or not, et cetera.</p> <p>12 In terms of your organisation, there was no issue in 13 people being honest about that if they were asked to 14 fill it in, or any problems from your organisation's 15 perspective?</p> <p>16 A. It's -- our organisation's position is that it is 17 a matter for the individual to decide whether they wish 18 to disclose their membership of Freemasonry or not.</p> <p>19 Q. That can go down now, thank you, Mr Hyde.</p> <p>20 We asked you, in the context of this inquiry, as you 21 set out at paragraphs 60 and 61 -- we gave you 22 a significant list of names and asked you to search your 23 databases to see if there were any matches of any names. 24 It is the case, without a date of birth, that was 25 a really bit of a non-starter, wasn't it, from your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 perspective?</p> <p>2 A. We have nearly 200,000 members, and certainly, when the 3 lists were given to us for surnames, some surnames 4 turned up over 2,000 matches. However, we asked the 5 inquiry for further details, including date of birth and 6 occupation, and we were then able to cross-reference 7 a number of different sources to see whether the persons 8 of interest supplied by the inquiry were, indeed, 9 Freemasons or not.</p> <p>10 Q. You then had some dates of birth but, again, this was 11 a pretty inexact process, wasn't it? We can't, in 12 effect, get a list of names and who was or was not 13 a Freemason. That's ultimately where we arrive at? I'm 14 not criticising, necessarily, the endeavours to do that, 15 but the reality is, with a name and date of birth, it is 16 very difficult for you to trace at this time?</p> <p>17 A. I think it would be difficult with absolute certainty to 18 say that somebody was or was not.</p> <p>19 Q. Indeed -- in fact, I think one name came back --</p> <p>20 A. I would say there were -- I think there was one person 21 of interest who did appear to be a Freemason --</p> <p>22 Q. Yes, you were able to actively confirm one case but, in 23 the main, to not confirm. We shouldn't take it that 24 they were not a member but you are not able to say that 25 they were a member?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>
<p>1 A. That's right.</p> <p>2 Q. We know that somebody who was arrested in 1974 for child 3 sexual offences during his initial arrest produced 4 a Masonic handbook in an attempt to influence the 5 officer arresting him. The officer records, "He was 6 wasting his time as none of us were Freemasons". The 7 officer records that. This is in the '70s. Was 8 a Freemason handbook, as far as you're aware, available 9 then, or now, to Freemasons who might seek to indicate 10 to others, in a hope to influence them, that they are 11 Freemasons?</p> <p>12 A. Well, every Freemason is given a copy of the Book of 13 Constitutions when they join, where it sets out very 14 clear guidance as to how they are expected to behave. 15 You agree to be a good man and true and strictly obey 16 the moral law and you are cheerfully to conform to the 17 laws of the country in which you reside, being the first 18 two things written in that book.</p> <p>19 So then, as now, that sort of behaviour is 20 absolutely disgraceful, if it happened, and would not be 21 tolerated in any way by this organisation.</p> <p>22 Q. So that would be a subversive act and not something that 23 was actively promoted within Freemasonry, ie, looking 24 out for your own or brothers in a lodge?</p> <p>25 A. It would absolutely not and I would say from my personal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>	<p>1 experience of 22 years of membership that I have never 2 known that to happen.</p> <p>3 Q. You do in your statement speak at paragraph 46 about 4 modern conspiracy theories that surround the Freemasons. 5 You say: 6 "Misinformation continues to feature in modern 7 conspiracy theories." 8 What is it -- again, extrapolating from what you are 9 saying at paragraph 46, why do you think, as an 10 organisation, it is targeted, really, for this kind of 11 perception?</p> <p>12 A. I think we have been quiet for too long about what 13 happens within our meetings. We have not been as open 14 and transparent as we should have been for a number of 15 decades in the past, and certainly my appointment, as 16 chief executive, has been to focus on two things: 17 firstly, to modernise the administration and how we run 18 the membership organisation; but, secondly, to help the 19 public understand what Freemasonry is, what we do and 20 who we are, and I think that, in the past, by not doing 21 that, and perhaps lagging behind a number of other 22 organisations who were doing that, the gap of 23 understanding allowed people to fill that gap with sort 24 of some of the more fanciful suggestions as to what 25 happens.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 Q. Are your constitutions and rules freely available on the 2 internet, for example? You say in this --</p> <p>3 A. Yes, they are. So the Book of Constitutions is 4 available as a public document and has been for a number 5 of decades, and it's also available in PDF format on the 6 internet.</p> <p>7 Q. You say in the 1988 leaflet: 8 "No secret about aims and principles." 9 But it also says at that point: 10 "The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with 11 traditional modes of recognition, its ceremonies are 12 private." 13 What does that mean, "its ceremonies are private"? 14 Does that communicate something? What would be private 15 about ceremonial matters?</p> <p>16 A. I think now we are very happy to talk about what happens 17 in the ceremonies and what they mean, and I would be 18 happy to do that if you would like me to.</p> <p>19 Q. No, I just want to know how transparent you are about 20 them. So if you could just help with, when you say 21 you're happier to talk about them, where do they appear?</p> <p>22 A. Well, the vast majority of time spent in a lodge meeting 23 is spent on three particular ceremonies, called degrees. 24 They are, if you like, little moral plays and they teach 25 fundamental moral truth to our members. The first</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 degree is concerned with equality. It teaches that 2 everybody comes into the world equal. Some people do 3 better than others. But it is the duty of those people 4 who have done better than others to look after those 5 less fortunate.</p> <p>6 The second degree teaches the importance of 7 improving yourself through education.</p> <p>8 The third degree teaches you that you're mortal, you 9 have one life and you should use it for the right things 10 and be remembered for the right reasons.</p> <p>11 In the past, we have not gone into any level of 12 detail about what we do within the meetings, but about 13 90 to 95 per cent is spent on those plays, which take 14 perhaps an hour/an hour and a half each, where the 15 candidate is led around the lodge room and various 16 things happen to impart those moral beliefs.</p> <p>17 So we do keep them private, in that we don't go into 18 terribly much more detail than that, because we don't 19 want to spoil it for people who may wish to join. It is 20 an interesting and a fun experience and we don't want to 21 simply sort of televise it and show everybody what 22 happens beforehand.</p> <p>23 But if you really want to find out the details, it's 24 on Google, you can buy the books off them and you can 25 find out for yourself.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>
<p>1 Q. Can I just explore with you any other links that there 2 might be between Freemasonry or any other organisation. 3 This inquiry has a statement from a man whose father was 4 a superintendent in charge of Shirley Oaks between 1965 5 and 1975, and whose father was heavily involved with 6 what was then known as the Shirley and Addiscombe Round 7 Table. 8 In relation to the Shirley and Addiscombe Round 9 Table, can you say whether, to your knowledge, it may 10 have had links to Freemasons in the same location or at 11 that time?</p> <p>12 A. I have no knowledge of that. There are no formal links 13 between the Round Table and Freemasonry, to my 14 knowledge.</p> <p>15 Q. Are there any formal links between Freemasonry and any 16 other society of that ilk, if I can use that expression?</p> <p>17 A. We talk -- you know, there are sort of links to the 18 other Grand Lodges, so the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the 19 Grand Lodge of Ireland. There's links to the Lady 20 Grand Lodges in England, but these are sort of as one 21 business may sort of have links to another business. 22 There's not -- you know, there's no sort of formal 23 arrangements between them.</p> <p>24 Q. Also, on the question of those who are members of the 25 Freemasons, it could be perfectly possible, couldn't it,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>	<p>1 for a group of individuals, for their own immoral or 2 illegal purposes, who have connected via the Freemasons, 3 to meet elsewhere and do as they see fit elsewhere?</p> <p>4 A. It would and it could, but were any of those illegal or 5 immoral things to become known, they would immediately 6 trigger our Masonic disciplinary processes.</p> <p>7 Q. Are people expelled from the Freemasons?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, they are. So any individual who commits a crime, 9 is found guilty and has a custodial sentence is subject 10 to either admonition, suspension or expulsion, and 11 certainly, for crimes which carry a custodial sentence, 12 I would expect them to be expelled.</p> <p>13 Q. If somebody was accused of a sexual offence against 14 a child but acquitted in a criminal court, what would be 15 the position then?</p> <p>16 A. Well, we are not --</p> <p>17 Q. Please don't refer to any case if you have a particular 18 case of that ilk. I'm just asking about the principle.</p> <p>19 A. We are not an investigatory body, and so we would not, 20 in and off our own bat, start to investigate substantive 21 facts surrounding any case. We rely on the appropriate 22 authorities, in terms of the police and the courts to do 23 that. So if somebody was found not guilty, then there 24 would be no disciplinary point of view from the 25 Freemasons, unless they were found guilty of something</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 else or there was other mitigating circumstances.</p> <p>2 Q. So you would rely on the criminal standard of proof and</p> <p>3 the jury saying someone was guilty, and you wouldn't</p> <p>4 investigate for yourself to a lesser standard of proof,</p> <p>5 for example? That wouldn't be within your remit because</p> <p>6 you're not investigative?</p> <p>7 A. No, we wouldn't second-guess the judicial process or the</p> <p>8 police, no. We would rely on them to do their roles.</p> <p>9 MS LANGDALE: I have no further questions, chair. Thank</p> <p>10 you, Dr Staples.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms Sharpling, do you have any</p> <p>12 questions?</p> <p>13 MS SHARPLING: No, thank you, chair.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank?</p> <p>15 MR FRANK: No, thank you.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: Sir Malcolm?</p> <p>17 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: No, thank you, chair.</p> <p>18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr Staples, for your evidence.</p> <p>19 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>20 MS LANGDALE: Chair, I was hoping in the remaining ten</p> <p>21 minutes before we stop at 12.45 pm that Ms Kennedy might</p> <p>22 read in a statement of evidence that we would like to</p> <p>23 adduce, and then we will be back at the original</p> <p>24 timetable of 12.45 pm.</p> <p>25 THE CHAIR: Yes, please go ahead.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 MS KENNEDY: Thank you, chair. Just a matter of</p> <p>2 housekeeping first. Yesterday in evidence,</p> <p>3 Dame Heather Rabbatts referred to a detailed action plan</p> <p>4 dated 6 October 1999. I would just like to request that</p> <p>5 that document now be put into evidence. Its reference</p> <p>6 is LAM014986.</p> <p>7 Statement of MR JON ROGERS (read)</p> <p>8 MS KENNEDY: I am going to read the statement of Jon Rogers.</p> <p>9 For the transcript, the URN is INQ005769.</p> <p>10 Jon Rogers was branch secretary of the Lambeth</p> <p>11 branch of UNISON at the time the Barratt Reports were</p> <p>12 written:</p> <p>13 "I am making this statement in the hope that it may</p> <p>14 assist the inquiry. I have had limited involvement in</p> <p>15 matters pertaining to the inquiry and, in order to make</p> <p>16 this statement, I am having to do my best to recollect</p> <p>17 events of between 21 and 27 years ago, without the</p> <p>18 benefit of being able to consult contemporaneous files</p> <p>19 or documents.</p> <p>20 "This statement is therefore made to the best of my</p> <p>21 recollection on that basis.</p> <p>22 "By January 2017, I had spent the great majority of</p> <p>23 my working time for more than a quarter of a century</p> <p>24 working for the trade union. I was also in my 14th year</p> <p>25 as a member of the National Executive Council of UNISON,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>
<p>1 to which I did not seek re-election that year. I felt</p> <p>2 that it was the right time for me and for UNISON for me</p> <p>3 to move on from these roles.</p> <p>4 "I returned to work as health and safety advisor for</p> <p>5 Lambeth. For the sake of completeness, I will add that</p> <p>6 when the number of health and safety advisor posts was</p> <p>7 reduced as part of a reorganisation in 2018, I was</p> <p>8 appointed to my final position as a human resources</p> <p>9 business partner from which I was made redundant on</p> <p>10 31 December 2019.</p> <p>11 "As branch secretary of UNISON, I was the most</p> <p>12 senior UNISON official in Lambeth Council, responsible</p> <p>13 for representing members of the trade union within the</p> <p>14 union and ensuring compliance with the rules of</p> <p>15 the union.</p> <p>16 "I led on negotiation and consultation with the</p> <p>17 council and with other employers such as</p> <p>18 Lambeth College. I also advised and assisted other</p> <p>19 union representatives in carrying out their roles,</p> <p>20 including the representation of individual members and</p> <p>21 I, myself, would sometimes take on individual case work.</p> <p>22 "I did not personally handle most individual</p> <p>23 casework in Lambeth Council, as we had a network of shop</p> <p>24 stewards and conveners. Members seeking assistance</p> <p>25 would be referred to their local shop steward. If there</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>	<p>1 was not a shop steward in a section or if the shop</p> <p>2 steward was unable to deal with an issue, they would</p> <p>3 then be referred to their convener. Conveners are</p> <p>4 senior shop stewards covering an entire department.</p> <p>5 I would only become involved as a representative where</p> <p>6 these more normal arrangements did not operate for some</p> <p>7 reason or, for example, because a case was particularly</p> <p>8 complex or contentious.</p> <p>9 "My view of the role of a trade union representative</p> <p>10 when negotiating on behalf of group members is to secure</p> <p>11 the best outcome for any individual set of circumstances</p> <p>12 for the interests of the members. When representing an</p> <p>13 individual, it is my view that a trade representative</p> <p>14 owes an individual duty of confidentiality and a duty of</p> <p>15 care to give that individual the best advice they can</p> <p>16 give in order to protect the interests of</p> <p>17 the individual.</p> <p>18 "In response to the request to prepare this</p> <p>19 statement, I have cast my mind back over the past</p> <p>20 30 years. I am not able to refer to many</p> <p>21 contemporaneous documents in making this statement</p> <p>22 because I do not generally have access to such</p> <p>23 documents.</p> <p>24 "Papers referring to casework where the trade union</p> <p>25 represents an individual member are generally destroyed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 seven years or so after the conclusion of the case. All 2 I can do is offer my best recollection, assisted by any 3 documents which I do still have and do exist and to 4 which I have access. 5 "To the best of my recollection, I have not, myself, 6 represented or advised any individual trade union member 7 in connection with allegations of child sexual abuse 8 against them. Therefore, the evidence which I can offer 9 that may be of value to the inquiry relates to the 10 culture of the organisation and to the interaction of 11 the trade union with previous investigations. 12 "In the early 1990s, Lambeth Council was widely, and 13 not incorrectly, perceived as a dysfunctional 14 organisation. Corporate control over the various 15 departments was weak and each directorate operated very 16 much as its own organisation in terms of its day-to-day 17 operations. 18 "My recollection of the time was that some very 19 obvious infighting was going on at the top of 20 the organisation. I recollect that a report from the 21 chief executive gave rise to considerable concern on the 22 part of all trade unions and that the council would 23 respond by privatising the then direct labour 24 organisations. 25 "We also anticipated the possibility of an attempt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 to scapegoat individuals for organisational failings. 2 As NALGO branch secretary, I foresaw the likelihood that 3 we might be called upon to defend individuals who could 4 face criticism as a result of the report. 5 "Around the same time, although I do not recall 6 exactly when, NALGO was approached by the council about 7 the investigation to be undertaken by Richard Clough 8 into the case of John Carroll. I know that Mr Clough 9 was appointed to undertake this investigation by the 10 council in February 1993. I recollect that myself and 11 Jackie Lewis, the NALGO convener for the directorate of 12 Social Services, met with Mr Clough at a hotel at 13 Victoria Station, a meeting to which Mr Clough refers at 14 paragraph 12 of the Clough Report. 15 "It is now more than 20 years since this meeting 16 took place, and I do not remember the details, but 17 I recollect that we had a constructive meeting. Our 18 approach to such an investigation was to try to provide 19 reassurance to individuals giving evidence in order to 20 ensure that they would be as forthcoming as possible so 21 that there was the greatest likelihood of a positive 22 outcome for the investigation. 23 "Mr Clough was on the same page as we were about 24 this, and gave all those who saw him an assurance that 25 he would not reveal to the council who gave evidence and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>
<p>1 that, where appropriate, evidence would be 2 non-attributable, as set out in paragraph 10 of his 3 report. 4 "I know that Mr Clough's investigation proceeded, 5 including with the attendance of union representatives 6 accompanying witnesses. After all this time, I cannot 7 recollect whether I, myself, accompanied anyone to give 8 evidence to Mr Clough. 9 "I want to explain that NALGO's approach to such an 10 investigation in 1993 was not intended to preclude 11 individuals facing criticism or disciplinary action 12 where this was warranted. Rather, we wanted to ensure 13 that individuals would co-operate fully with important 14 investigations without fear that what they themselves 15 said in that setting would later be used against them by 16 their employer. 17 "We pursued this approach because we thought it was 18 in the best interests of the union members we 19 represented, but we also believed that this approach 20 would make it most likely that an investigation would 21 get to the truth of the matters before it and therefore 22 be able to make informed recommendations for the future. 23 "With neither a chief executive nor a deputy, 24 I recall that the council advertised to its existing 25 senior managers, I believe, an opportunity to act up as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>	<p>1 an interim chief executive for a period of six months. 2 From what I was told, and observed at the time, 3 I believe that Henry Gilby, Director of Environmental 4 Services, was the only candidate and, when he was 5 offered the post, he made it a condition of acceptance 6 that he should only have the job for 18 months, rather 7 than the six months which had been offered. 8 "Also, whilst Mr Clough was carrying out his 9 investigation into John Carroll, we began to deal with 10 a large number of disciplinary cases involving council 11 employees who were working whilst claiming and receiving 12 benefits to which they were not entitled. 13 "There was certainly a very large number of such 14 cases which arose at that time, I believe because it had 15 become technically more feasible to cross-reference 16 lists of benefits claimants with lists of council 17 employees. 18 "Because these benefit fraud cases were new and 19 because in each case dismissal was a very real 20 possibility, not to say strong likelihood, I myself as 21 branch secretary, together with some other more senior 22 and experienced union representatives, took these cases 23 on, and this took up a great deal of my time throughout 24 1993. 25 "Again, I mention this because it was an important</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 part of the context within us working at the time.</p> <p>2 "A female UNISON member had been encouraged to</p> <p>3 approach our branch by the head of human resources in</p> <p>4 housing, Bill Brown, who had confided in Michelle his</p> <p>5 concern that his line manager, the senior assistant</p> <p>6 director of housing, was interfering in an investigation</p> <p>7 into allegations because of personal friendship with the</p> <p>8 manager against whom the allegations had been made.</p> <p>9 Michelle had spoken with Henry Gilby about this matter</p> <p>10 in my absence and on my return to work I asked to see</p> <p>11 Mr Gilby and insisted that the senior assistant director</p> <p>12 of housing should be suspended. This was done, setting</p> <p>13 in train events which would go on to lead to the report</p> <p>14 now known as the Harris Report.</p> <p>15 "Because of the range of other issues with which</p> <p>16 I was dealing, I do not recall when I became aware that</p> <p>17 Mr Clough had finished his work and produced a report.</p> <p>18 Although I do not think that the report was published,</p> <p>19 I believe that a copy was made available to the trade</p> <p>20 unions or that we were offered a briefing on its</p> <p>21 contents at some point.</p> <p>22 "Jackie Lewis, who was still UNISON convener of</p> <p>23 Social Services, copied me into an email to the then</p> <p>24 Executive Director of Social Services, Celia Pyke-Lees,</p> <p>25 on 25 January 1999, arising from previous correspondence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 and discussions between UNISON and the council</p> <p>2 concerning an inquiry to be undertaken by John Barratt.</p> <p>3 In this email, Jackie explained the basis of</p> <p>4 the concerns of the trade union as follows: one of</p> <p>5 the main concerns regarding any inquiry such as this is</p> <p>6 that the work of the investigation may cut across normal</p> <p>7 council procedures and that it may be an exercise aimed</p> <p>8 at finding people to blame rather than being a fair and</p> <p>9 objective review aimed at establishing the facts and</p> <p>10 identifying any lessons for the department. Inevitably,</p> <p>11 such concerns are exacerbated when an inquiry and the</p> <p>12 issues under investigation are the subject of</p> <p>13 significant media interest and comment, as has already</p> <p>14 occurred and will continue to occur in this case.</p> <p>15 "This item of correspondence, which I have been</p> <p>16 fortunate enough to find in preparing this statement,</p> <p>17 will have been one part of a body of correspondence</p> <p>18 concerning the Barratt Inquiry at that time.</p> <p>19 "21 years after the event, I cannot recall the</p> <p>20 detail of such correspondence, although I have been able</p> <p>21 to trace emails which confirm that a meeting was held</p> <p>22 between John Barratt, Jackie Lewis and myself on</p> <p>23 10 March 1999 and that Jackie Lewis wrote to</p> <p>24 John Barratt on 29 March setting out UNISON's</p> <p>25 understanding following that meeting of how phase 1 of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>
<p>1 this investigation would be conducted.</p> <p>2 "I regret that neither Jackie nor myself can trace</p> <p>3 this letter.</p> <p>4 "The inquiry has specifically asked me to comment</p> <p>5 upon correspondence from June 1999 ..."</p> <p>6 For the transcript, the URNs of those documents are</p> <p>7 LAM018236 and LAM015167:</p> <p>8 "... copies of which were provided to me and have</p> <p>9 therefore jogged my memory. With this aid to</p> <p>10 recollection, I now remember that in or about</p> <p>11 early June 1999, Mr Barratt issued an interim report to</p> <p>12 the chief executive, Heather Rabbatts, and that at about</p> <p>13 the same time the council suspended from duty a senior</p> <p>14 manager who was a UNISON member, Miss Pennie, the</p> <p>15 Assistant Director for Children and Families, who is</p> <p>16 named in the final Barratt Report.</p> <p>17 "In preparing this statement, I have been fortunate</p> <p>18 to find a statement which I drafted in 2001 at the</p> <p>19 request of Miss Pennie. This helps me to recollect that</p> <p>20 I first became involved in Miss Pennie's case around the</p> <p>21 time of her suspension. I attended a meeting with</p> <p>22 Celia Pyke-Lees and Ged Curran at which it was suggested</p> <p>23 to Miss Pennie she might like to undertake unspecified</p> <p>24 project work for six months and then resign. This was</p> <p>25 on the basis of also unspecified criticisms we were told</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>	<p>1 had been voiced by John Barratt to Heather Rabbatts.</p> <p>2 "Miss Pennie did not accept this offer and was</p> <p>3 suspended. During the period of her suspension, she</p> <p>4 continued to assist Mr Barratt with his investigation,</p> <p>5 as she had before her suspension. Jackie Lewis, UNISON</p> <p>6 Social Services convener, assisted Penny with this.</p> <p>7 I believe there was also press coverage of the interim</p> <p>8 report and possibly of the suspension and that it was</p> <p>9 reported to me by the Social Services convener,</p> <p>10 Jackie Lewis, that there was a considerable anger</p> <p>11 amongst our members in Social Services who felt the</p> <p>12 individual concerned was being scapegoated. I therefore</p> <p>13 wrote to Mr Barratt on 11 June to express UNISON's</p> <p>14 concern that the council was using his interim report in</p> <p>15 this way, although he, himself, had not attributed</p> <p>16 individual blame in that interim report. I requested an</p> <p>17 urgent meeting with Mr Barratt and indicated that UNISON</p> <p>18 would advise our members not to involve themselves</p> <p>19 further with this investigation for the time being.</p> <p>20 "I communicated that advice to UNISON members in</p> <p>21 a letter cosigned by Jackie Lewis, the Social Services</p> <p>22 convener, on the same day. Jackie and I explained in</p> <p>23 that letter the basis of our concern, that the council</p> <p>24 appeared to be scapegoating an individual. We also</p> <p>25 emphasised that the Barratt Inquiry was quite separate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 from the contemporaneous police investigation, 2 Operation Middleton, and that we continued to encourage 3 our members to co-operate with the police investigation. 4 "Mr Barratt replied to my letter and clearly also to 5 another piece of correspondence which I do not recall in 6 a letter dated 16 June. He made clear that our advice 7 to our members would have little practical impact as he 8 concluded the fact-finding part of his investigation. 9 "He did offer to meet but also made clear that if he 10 felt UNISON had obstructed his investigation in any way, 11 he would make this clear in his published final report. 12 "I do not now remember if I was present at any 13 further meeting with John Barratt or whether we ever 14 revised the advice issued to UNISON members in 15 Social Services on 11 June. However, I do know that in 16 Mr Barratt's forthright final report issued 17 in October 2000, he did not make any criticism of 18 UNISON. 19 "In fact, the only reference to trade unions was his 20 assessment at paragraph 2.37.3 the proper intermediate 21 managerial freedom was devalued by political decision 22 makers in the 1980s, including too close a relationship 23 between them and the trade unions. Mr Barratt made no 24 criticism in his report of the advice which myself and 25 Jackie Lewis issued to UNISON members in the directorate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 of Social Services on 11 June 1999 and, looking back 2 after 21 years, I do not think we were wrong. 3 "The inquiry has asked me, in requesting this 4 statement, how I balanced the interests of children in 5 care and their protection against the rights of 6 individual UNISON members when giving that advice. 7 I think that this question is misconceived. First, as 8 a UNISON representative, it was my responsibility to 9 give advice to UNISON members to protect their 10 interests. It would not have been appropriate for me to 11 have taken it upon myself to undertake the balancing 12 exercise which is implied by the question. Secondly, 13 however, given the timing of the issuing of the advice 14 subsequent to the interim report, the advice which we 15 gave did not impact upon Mr Barratt's inquiry. Thirdly 16 and critically, we made it clear that we were positively 17 encouraging our members to co-operate with 18 Operation Middleton. I do not recollect having any 19 direct dealings with Operation Middleton. I was aware 20 of the related Children's Homes in Lambeth Enquiry, 21 which had been set up towards the end of 1999, largely 22 because I think UNISON was consulted about the 23 arrangements to second staff to work on the inquiry at 24 the outset. From time to time over the following years, 25 I would hear about a successful prosecution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>
<p>1 "This concludes, to the best of my recollection, the 2 evidence which I can usefully offer to the inquiry." 3 Chair, could I ask that the documents that 4 I referred to when reading that statement be adduced as 5 evidence and be uploaded. 6 Chair, that concludes the reading. Can I invite you 7 to take lunch? 8 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Kennedy. I will adduce the 9 material you have read and we will return at 1.45 pm. 10 MS KENNEDY: Thank you. 11 (12.50 pm) 12 (The short adjournment) 13 (1.45 pm) 14 MS DOBBIN: Chair, may I call the next witness, please, 15 Dr Nigel Goldie. 16 DR NIGEL GOLDIE (affirmed) 17 Examination by MS DOBBIN 18 MS DOBBIN: Dr Goldie, I think that you made two statements, 19 both of which are dated 28 May 2020? 20 A. That's right, yes. 21 Q. Do you have both of those statements in front of you? 22 A. I have access to them, yes. 23 Q. Are both of those statements true, to the best of your 24 knowledge and belief? 25 A. Yes, they are, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>	<p>1 Q. Dr Goldie, I want to ask you a bit about yourself before 2 I move on to events in 1998. I think you joined 3 Lambeth Council in 1990? 4 A. That's right, yes. 5 Q. You had a number of roles between 1990 and 1996? 6 A. That's correct, yes. 7 Q. In 1990, you were head of corporate planning and 8 inspectorate? 9 A. Yes, that's right, yes. 10 Q. In January 1993, there was a reorganisation, and you 11 became responsible for management of a number of 12 functions, including IT and health liaison? 13 A. That's right, yes. 14 Q. In 1995 and 1996, you were involved heavily in IT 15 management? 16 A. Not particularly, I would have said. I mean, also, just 17 to correct it, I'd also acquired responsibility, 18 in 1992, of the training and staff development function, 19 team unit, as it were, and I also became responsible for 20 what was the corporate support function, which was 21 a number of disparate kind of functions around the 22 organisation. So I suppose, in a way, having come in 23 with a non-service delivery brief, I ended up becoming 24 the person who picked up a variety of other corporate 25 functions as they, for whatever reason, reorganisations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 and so on, these were needing a new home or for someone 2 to look after or take care of. 3 Another, for example, was the community and 4 voluntary sector grants function, so I had quite a broad 5 range of functions to do in that period up to 1995/96. 6 Those carried up right to the end as well, most of them. 7 Q. In 1996, you were made the assistant director of 8 corporate strategy and quality; is that correct? 9 A. That's right, yes. 10 Q. One of the things for which you became responsible at 11 that time was the Lambeth child protection team; is that 12 right? 13 A. That's right. Yes, there was an existing team, but it 14 was spread around in a rather disparate way within the 15 area office functions and, therefore, did not have 16 a distinct managerial line of authority that was 17 separate from that of the children and family services. 18 Q. So was it given a different line of management in order 19 to ensure its independence from the decision making in 20 field offices? 21 A. Yes, yes. 22 Q. Did you have any background in child protection when you 23 became the manager of the child protection team? 24 A. No, I had no -- because I'm not a social worker, I never 25 have been a social worker, I became -- as I might have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 said in my statement, my background was an academic 2 background, and so my knowledge was not that of 3 a practising social worker. However, just to say, in 4 amongst those range of functions I have just referred 5 to, there were various points where I was actually 6 getting to understand or learn something of the child 7 protection function within the authority, because, for 8 example, the Child Protection Register came under my 9 remit through a mixture of the planning unit and the 10 central records unit. 11 The training function was critical at certain points 12 providing -- one thing the SSI criticised was Lambeth 13 not doing enough to train its staff in child protection, 14 so it was running child protection courses. So I had 15 discussions and involvement with those kind of 16 developments. 17 But all of this was done on the periphery, rather 18 than actually being a deliverer of the service to 19 children. 20 Q. Why did Lambeth choose someone who didn't have expertise 21 in child protection to lead the child protection team? 22 A. Well, I think the problem that arose, and it was kind of 23 circumstantial in some ways, because in 1995/96 -- 24 David Pope had left the organisation in 1995. 25 Graham Gatehouse was appointed as an interim director</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>
<p>1 and he was there -- in fact, he overlapped with 2 Celia Pyke-Lees joining in May -- May/June, she came, 3 but he stayed on for a bit longer for various reasons. 4 He came with a very clear view that there needed to be 5 a separation of function from child protection from the 6 service delivery divisions, and because we were thrust 7 into this financial crisis in that autumn, which was 8 alluded to before by Heather Rabbatts and others, there 9 was a major reorganisation took place which led to my 10 acquiring this new function. 11 I think the problem was, there had been a kind of 12 senior manager, Jim Carlton, who had been managing child 13 protection, the function, the team, the unit, whatever 14 you want to call it, that was there beforehand, and he'd 15 left. He was one of the first people to go in what was 16 quite a major clear-out of both senior managers, other 17 assistant directors, other senior managers, in the 18 period of January/February/March 1996. 19 Therefore, I think there was -- I mean, I'd have to 20 go back and find out why Graham Gatehouse thought 21 I should do it, but I think I was someone who had -- you 22 know, I'd been managing a range of functions, and this 23 was at a high level. It was management with the experts 24 beneath me. I wasn't -- so I felt confident about -- in 25 the light of having some very good people working in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>	<p>1 that unit, that they would be able to advise me and 2 access the source of professional knowledge, because 3 they were the ones who were dealing at the front-line 4 with chairing cases -- planning meetings and so on and 5 so forth. That was something that was not for me to do. 6 Q. So they could draw on your professional knowledge, but 7 not on any particular professional knowledge that you 8 had of child protection? 9 A. No, because, I have to be honest, I didn't have it. But 10 I had -- I suppose I had the awareness of the 11 managerial -- what was required managerially to enable 12 it to function in the way that it should do. 13 Q. Was it anticipated that you would get involved in 14 operational decision making in child protection cases? 15 A. Insofar as there were some difficult, at times, cases 16 coming up, and insofar as it was important that I should 17 know what they were doing, and sometimes these were 18 difficult, because, once there are allegations of 19 clearly -- or concerns about sexual abuse, not, as it 20 happened then, in our own homes, because Lambeth homes 21 were closed, but by then a lot of Lambeth children were 22 being looked after in a number of other private and 23 voluntary sector homes all around the country, to 24 a large extent. Many of them in the south-east, but 25 a lot were further afield. That was an issue that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

1 increasingly became a matter of concern, was how to
 2 respond to the -- any allegations or concerns about the
 3 well-being of children in those homes.
 4 In fact, I was thrown very much in the deep end
 5 early on when there was an issue -- there had been
 6 a television programme that exposed the physical abuse
 7 of a child in a house called Frontier House, and it led
 8 to a concern -- well, demanded by the members that the
 9 Social Services Committee -- that this be investigated.
 10 Initially, one was done by Jim Carlton, who was the
 11 outgoing manager, and then he left and then there was
 12 the issue of how to take that forward to complete it,
 13 and I actually did that. I stepped in and did that
 14 particular -- which led me, interestingly enough, to
 15 become very aware of many of those problems which
 16 were -- it became apparent by having to go and look
 17 through the files, having to understand what had
 18 happened that had got this child into this placement,
 19 and the realisation that there was a disjuncture between
 20 what was happening in terms of a child going to stay in
 21 a home and the residual service that it should have been
 22 getting from the Social Services carrying on with their
 23 responsibility.
 24 Q. Dr Goldie, I am going to stop you there because I do
 25 want to move on to events in 1998 that you were involved

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1 investigate, in terms of the history of what had
 2 happened, but also this linked it to John Carroll and
 3 Angell Road. So the two came together, but it was --
 4 Q. All right. Dr Goldie, I'm going to, in fact, take you
 5 through that by reference to the Barratt Report, so that
 6 we can examine how all of those threads came together
 7 and put the events about which you're familiar in
 8 context.
 9 Mr Hyde, could I bring up, please, document
 10 LAM000022_026. Could I enlarge the middle paragraph,
 11 4.13. Just picking up the narrative, Dr Goldie, I know
 12 that these are events before your time, but it is going
 13 to put the rest of the report in context. This part of
 14 the Barratt Report refers to 1992 and the
 15 officer-in-charge replaced John Carroll coming to work
 16 at Angell Road and she had been told to be alert to any
 17 disclosure by A29 that he had been sexually abused.
 18 This wasn't arising out of any concern about
 19 Steven Forrest, but in relation to another former
 20 residential worker there.
 21 We see further on in that paragraph that the
 22 officer-in-charge became convinced that the child had
 23 been sexually abused.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. I'm going to go on, then, if I can, Mr Hyde, to page 28.

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1 in. I want to ask you, please, if I can, about
 2 Operation Care. Operation Care was a Merseyside
 3 investigation, wasn't it, into John Carroll?
 4 A. Well, it was a bigger -- it was bigger than
 5 John Carroll. It was covering a lot of homes in the
 6 north-west, but John Carroll came to light and his
 7 connection to Lambeth was -- you know, that's what
 8 Operation Care discovered, yes, that he'd been at
 9 Angell Road.
 10 Q. So it was Merseyside Police who first detected that he
 11 had been sexually abusing children and followed the
 12 investigation, as it were, from the Liverpool area down
 13 to Lambeth; is that right?
 14 A. That is right, yes.
 15 Q. That's how you became involved, because you were told
 16 that there was an investigation into someone whom
 17 Lambeth had formerly employed?
 18 A. Well, it was more than that, because Operation Care --
 19 I think the thing that triggered their contact with us
 20 was actually their -- in discovering -- because they had
 21 heard through a child who had come to be in one of the
 22 homes they were investigating that that child knew of
 23 this -- the issue of the abuse committed by
 24 Steven Forrest, and Operation Care came down to tell us
 25 that there was a problem there that we needed to

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1 Again, the final paragraph, please. This is just for
 2 the purposes of context, again, that the child was moved
 3 from Angell Road in September 1992.
 4 If we can then move on, please, Mr Hyde, to page 45
 5 of the report, and to 6.3.1, please. This is the
 6 disclosure by A29 that he had been abused, and we see
 7 that the social worker in Lambeth was telephoned, and
 8 the area manager, I think, was told. Yes. So that
 9 information was confirmed in writing in February 1996.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. I think these are events with which you're familiar,
 12 Dr Goldie. So this was a child about whom there were
 13 concerns in 1992, and he made this disclosure
 14 in January 1996; correct?
 15 A. That's right. I'm familiar, because of reading the
 16 Barratt Report, in that instance, or I got to learn of
 17 it later on, but at that point of time, in 1996, I was
 18 not, at that point, responsible for the child protection
 19 team. I didn't assume full responsibility until 1 April
 20 of that year. So those early -- the early dealings with
 21 that were done by the previous manager for child
 22 protection, Jim Carlton, who took part in the first two
 23 review meetings, I think, of that --
 24 Q. All right. Thank you, Dr Goldie. On the same page --
 25 we don't need to bring it up, Mr Hyde, but it was known

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1 at the time by the social worker of that child that
 2 Steven Forrest had, in fact, died of an AIDS-related
 3 illness?
 4 **A. That's right, yes.**
 5 Q. If we go on, then, please, Mr Hyde, to page 55,
 6 paragraph 6.8.8 at the bottom, please, this is
 7 a reference -- I think the first reference to you in the
 8 report, Dr Goldie. The report thus far has traced what
 9 happened after the disclosure and AD1 -- is that
 10 assistant director 1? --
 11 **A. Yes, yes.**
 12 Q. -- said that she wasn't surprised that she wasn't being
 13 involved in whatever was being done by the child
 14 protection specialist after someone else's departure:
 15 "It was usual in Lambeth for these matters to be
 16 dealt with confidentially and she did not expect to be
 17 involved. AD1 had a huge task to cope with the
 18 consequences of reorganisation and did not have line
 19 management responsibility for the specialist child
 20 protection work which was clearly involved. She
 21 understood that DSS1 and AD2 would take up the 'wider
 22 issues'.
 23 Then reference to you:
 24 "Nor did AD2 know about the case. His background
 25 was not child protection work, and he was not the senior

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1 **A. She was -- that was part of the moving of child**
 2 **protection officers together to being one single team**
 3 **with their own office space, their own admin support,**
 4 **their own systems, which had not existed before, and**
 5 **Pam Rowe had that responsibility. So that was in**
 6 **process, in effect, for five months in that period.**
 7 Q. What it says is five months had elapsed since, that
 8 would be Mr Carlton, had left Lambeth and when the two
 9 divisions had last worked co-operatively on this
 10 important case. When we are talking about two
 11 divisions, Dr Goldie, that's child protection -- is that
 12 right?
 13 **A. It is a bit ambiguous. I think John Barratt is**
 14 **referring to the fact that there had been this initial**
 15 **involvement of the child protection specialists, and**
 16 **then they were, in effect, excluded. They were not**
 17 **included in the subsequent meetings. And that was one**
 18 **of his major concerns, was precisely that the people**
 19 **with the specialist expertise were not being called upon**
 20 **by, in effect, AD2, who was the assistant director**
 21 **responsible for children and families, in other words,**
 22 **Pennie Pennie, who was the person responsible for that.**
 23 Q. I want to cut through this. When it is talking about
 24 two divisions, does that mean children and families and
 25 child protection, on the other hand?

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1 child protection specialist at an operational level; is
 2 that correct?
 3 **A. That was the case. I mean, I think what is missing**
 4 **there, if I have got this right, is that there was some**
 5 **reference to the child protection -- it depends on what**
 6 **data this is from, actually. It is a bit tricky to be**
 7 **precise. But what began to happen was a concern by the**
 8 **child protection specialist, who had heard about this**
 9 **case, because of -- through the connections with the**
 10 **social workers involved, and they were expressing**
 11 **concern that the right things were not being done.**
 12 Q. Yes.
 13 **A. So there was a response, but it was -- yeah, I believe**
 14 **(inaudible).**
 15 Q. I'm going to move on, if I can, please, to page 74.
 16 7.3.14. Can you just help me, Dr Goldie, MCP & QA1.
 17 What position is that referring to, please?
 18 **A. It stands for manager child protection and quality**
 19 **assurance. One relates to the man who I have been**
 20 **referring to, Jim Carlton, who had then left, and that's**
 21 **what is being referred to there, and then, when the same**
 22 **acronym, the MCP & QA2 appears, that relates to Pam Rowe**
 23 **who, at that point, was -- took over that**
 24 **responsibility.**
 25 Q. Right.

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1 **A. I think the two divisions would relate to the division**
 2 **that Pennie Pennie was responsible for, that was what**
 3 **was then the children and families -- prior to 1996,**
 4 **there had been two separate children and family**
 5 **divisions: one relating to the area social work staff**
 6 **and the other relating to the resources they used. The**
 7 **children's homes, day centres and other things.**
 8 **Following -- from the beginning -- well, a little bit**
 9 **into 1996, there was a single children and family**
 10 **division and then there was, on the other hand, my**
 11 **division that related to these other corporate functions**
 12 **I have talked about and child protection, and an adults**
 13 **division and so on. So that's how the structure was**
 14 **working then, if that's clear.**
 15 Q. So it is a reference to children and families, on the
 16 one hand --
 17 **A. So by then, it is one division rather than what had been**
 18 **two beforehand.**
 19 Q. It goes on to say:
 20 "It must have been obvious to senior members, DSS2,
 21 AD1 and AD2 that strong criticism was being made by
 22 specialist advisors of A29's disclosure. So far as
 23 I can tell, at no time was there a focused discussion by
 24 these three senior managers about A29's case, based upon
 25 consideration of the available records and operational

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1 briefings that could have resolved the criticism, until
 2 the Merseyside Police intervened in 1998."
 3 So the reference to the Merseyside Police
 4 intervention in 1998 is a reference to Operation Care,
 5 is it not?
 6 **A. That's right, yes.**
 7 Q. When you said that Operation Care was bringing this
 8 matter to the attention of Lambeth, it was a matter that
 9 Lambeth was already well aware of and had been for two
 10 years?
 11 **A. Well, it had been aware of it, yes, in 1996, and, as**
 12 **John Barratt is saying there, it, in effect, disappeared**
 13 **from view. There was -- a number of actions were taken**
 14 **in relation to the child in question, LA-A29, but these**
 15 **were being done entirely from within the children and**
 16 **family division, and at no point were the specialist**
 17 **child protection staff -- and, indeed, the fact that**
 18 **there was a team operating within Lambeth that dealt**
 19 **with -- that had specialised in HIV/AIDS, which could**
 20 **have played a very valid role in understanding what to**
 21 **do about the particular circumstances.**
 22 Q. Mr Hyde, can we go to the next page, please, it's 82.
 23 Again, it is 7.8.1. The meeting between DSS2, AD1 and
 24 AD2 on, "28 October 1996 marked the end of any attempt
 25 by Lambeth to respond appropriately to LA-A29's

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1 **Pam Rowe, from Libby Blake, who was the senior child**
 2 **protection officer. They were concerned because they**
 3 **knew -- they had an earlier involvement that then they**
 4 **were excluded from, in effect, and their concerns**
 5 **remained, and John Barratt actually documents the way in**
 6 **which there was issues being raised about, well, had the**
 7 **insurance implications been considered about this**
 8 **particular case, all sorts of things, and there is**
 9 **a trail that can be identified through the**
 10 **Barratt Report identifying those forms of communication**
 11 **done, and it came to a head earlier on in August when**
 12 **the -- I asked between them, Pam and Libby, to set out**
 13 **their concerns clearly to me, and I believe in the**
 14 **documents I have there are examples of two memos but**
 15 **there's also a third memo, which I think is a bit more**
 16 **informative in some ways, because it brought those**
 17 **together. It has some sort of important piece of**
 18 **writing on the top of it, which was that I was very**
 19 **concerned to get these issues in front of the director**
 20 **at the time because what was clear was that just trying**
 21 **to approach or deal with the assistant director for**
 22 **children and families was going nowhere, it was always**
 23 **being sidelined, knocked aside. So I used this -- I had**
 24 **this detailed memorandum set out which I made sure went**
 25 **to the director and the copy that I have, and I'm not**

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1 disclosure until the intervention of
 2 the Merseyside Police in 1998. The wider issues raised
 3 by that disclosure lay untouched and there was no
 4 activity to follow them up. Nor was there any further
 5 surprise or concern expressed at the inactivity.
 6 Despite all the indignation and effort, despite all the
 7 skill and sound advice which was available, nothing was
 8 achieved for LA-A29 either. The care of LA-A29
 9 continued, with no influential reference being made to
 10 his disclosure, or to the expert psychiatric advice.
 11 For example, a case review note of 30 August 1997
 12 included, as its only reference: '(g) ... LA-A29
 13 disclosed that he had previously been abused by a staff
 14 member whilst at the Angell Road Children's Home ...
 15 this disclosure was dealt with under the local authority
 16 procedures ...'.
 17 Again, an undertaking to a new carer stated, "He is
 18 in good health. The disclosure has been dealt with
 19 according to the department's inaccurate formal record".
 20 **A. That is what John Barratt set out and that is what is**
 21 **the case. I think what you have jumped over here, in**
 22 **jumping over the time periods, is that there were**
 23 **concerns that were being raised by the child protection**
 24 **staff in the early -- in that intervening period and**
 25 **these came to me in a number of ways. I got memos from**

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1 **sure -- it has a reference number, I think, but just to**
 2 **say that, across the top of it, it actually said,**
 3 **"Please copy to Celia Pyke-Lees and return" with a date**
 4 **on it and my admin helper did that and she put a note**
 5 **saying "Sent".**
 6 **Now, I mention this because this is critical in**
 7 **John Barratt's account because it showed that there was**
 8 **a focused attempt to get the attention of the director**
 9 **at the time to -- this was -- there's something going**
 10 **on, but it's not being addressed. It was unfortunate it**
 11 **was in August and there was -- Celia, apparently, was on**
 12 **leave, and I think Pennie Pennie was on leave, I might**
 13 **have been on leave as well. So it drifted a little bit**
 14 **but I picked it up again in September by sending**
 15 **reminders to Celia Pyke-Lees saying, "What's happening**
 16 **about this meeting we need to have?" And then it was**
 17 **a process of, again, trying to fix a time to get us all**
 18 **together.**
 19 **It was a challenge, because, to be frank,**
 20 **Pennie Pennie was rather elusive, and she had**
 21 **a reputation for that, and it was difficult to pin it**
 22 **down to get her there.**
 23 **Anyway, eventually, the meeting was held, and that**
 24 **was the one which is being referred to there in October,**
 25 **and, in a way, as I recollect it, it was -- the**

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<p>1 discussion was one within which there was a side of</p> <p>2 recognition by Pennie Pennie that there was a need to do</p> <p>3 things differently in terms of the relationship and the</p> <p>4 involvement of the child protection officers, but it</p> <p>5 didn't really develop from that. I mean, it was a bit</p> <p>6 inconclusive, in a sense. You know.</p> <p>7 That matter -- again, these things come up again</p> <p>8 a bit further on because of the fact that the issues got</p> <p>9 raised again by the intervention of Operation Care.</p> <p>10 Q. I'm just going to pick up the chronology again so that</p> <p>11 the panel can see how this develops. So if we can go,</p> <p>12 please, Mr Hyde, to page 86. It is the last paragraph,</p> <p>13 please, Mr Hyde. Again, we see reference there to</p> <p>14 Lambeth child protection officers, in conjunction with</p> <p>15 the police -- this is the Metropolitan Police -- "began</p> <p>16 to investigate the history of children who had been in</p> <p>17 Angell Road ... This, of course, included LA-A29 and</p> <p>18 enabled his disclosure to be brought to attention once</p> <p>19 more. The intervention of Merseyside Police brought</p> <p>20 about a full departmental response to LA-A29's</p> <p>21 disclosure, otherwise it would have been completely</p> <p>22 overlooked."</p> <p>23 Can we then go, please, to page 7, and that's 8.5.3,</p> <p>24 please. This part of the report is documenting, then,</p> <p>25 the involvement of the child protection unit, and we see</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 there that the social worker wasn't able to warn this</p> <p>2 child's family that she and the police officer would be</p> <p>3 coming. They weren't able to discuss the case history</p> <p>4 at length on the journey there. She said:</p> <p>5 "My information was limited to LA-A29 having made an</p> <p>6 allegation of abuse by a carer in the Lambeth children's</p> <p>7 home, Angell Road."</p> <p>8 And so it goes on:</p> <p>9 "My awareness of the case was that they were now</p> <p>10 wishing to look further into what had happened at the</p> <p>11 home."</p> <p>12 She goes on to explain -- Mr Hyde, if we can bring</p> <p>13 up the paragraphs underneath that, I'm not going to read</p> <p>14 them all out, but it also refers to a visit by a police</p> <p>15 officer -- sorry, the police officer's actions, so it</p> <p>16 seems from that that the police officer went to speak to</p> <p>17 the child; is that right?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, that's right.</p> <p>19 Q. If we could go over the page, Mr Hyde, Mr Barratt was</p> <p>20 critical of that approach. Sorry, it is 8.5.6.</p> <p>21 Critical for the reasons that the police officer,</p> <p>22 without warning, had taken the child to speak in his</p> <p>23 bedroom.</p> <p>24 As I understand the position, Dr Goldie, that</p> <p>25 interview was carried out by a social worker, not</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>
<p>1 someone for whom you were responsible?</p> <p>2 A. I can't say who the social worker was in this instance.</p> <p>3 It sounds as if they were someone from within -- with an</p> <p>4 ongoing responsibility for the child in question, in</p> <p>5 other words, from within the children and family</p> <p>6 division. But I do think it is important here, just,</p> <p>7 again, to set in context that what you're quoting here</p> <p>8 is actually -- touches on another matter which I'm not</p> <p>9 sure you're going to come back to later, but it is about</p> <p>10 the relations with the child protection -- the police's</p> <p>11 child protection team and some of the concerns raised by</p> <p>12 the inspector who was running it, Clive Driscoll, where</p> <p>13 he, in a note, which might have been discussed --</p> <p>14 concerning the joint working between ourselves, he --</p> <p>15 the problem was that he was complaining about what he</p> <p>16 felt was lack of co-operation from Social Services, and</p> <p>17 it was a policeman from the Lambeth child protection</p> <p>18 team who was involved in this interview, and the</p> <p>19 significance of that is that Barratt was very critical</p> <p>20 of it. His criticism touches on many of the things</p> <p>21 which were, in a sense, a concern that was emerging</p> <p>22 about the ways in which the police team and the child</p> <p>23 protection team were able to work together, and indeed</p> <p>24 the interesting thing is that the disclosure that</p> <p>25 subsequently was arrived at from the child in question</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>	<p>1 which had not been formally recorded by the authority</p> <p>2 was taken by a policeman from Merseyside Police.</p> <p>3 Now -- because they had a continuing involvement in</p> <p>4 the issues to do with disclosure arising from within</p> <p>5 ex-residents of Angell Road, and that was done in a way</p> <p>6 that was with a member of the Lambeth child protection</p> <p>7 team in attendance as well, and actually gained the</p> <p>8 confidence of the child to make the disclosure.</p> <p>9 So there's a bit of a -- there's a complicated</p> <p>10 subtext in all of this.</p> <p>11 Q. Dr Goldie, I took you to that passage for precisely that</p> <p>12 reason, because I am going to come on to examine the</p> <p>13 tensions in due course.</p> <p>14 A. Okay.</p> <p>15 Q. That passage will give the panel an understanding as to</p> <p>16 relations.</p> <p>17 Finally this, Dr Goldie. I know that you would want</p> <p>18 me to take you to the next part of Barratt's report.</p> <p>19 Mr Hyde, that is LAM000021_084, paragraph A3.19.5. It</p> <p>20 is at the bottom. This was Mr Barratt's second report,</p> <p>21 Dr Goldie, and referring to you, he said that you and</p> <p>22 your subordinates -- I assume that's a reference to</p> <p>23 child protection officers -- took repeated action to</p> <p>24 enable a child protection process to be reinstated from</p> <p>25 the time they were first aware of the disclosure, and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

1 that this twice included referring their concerns to the
 2 executive director. Is that right?
 3 **A. That's right, yes.**
 4 Q. Dr Goldie, that introduces Operation Care into these
 5 events. Operation Care was undertaking investigations
 6 in Lambeth and there needed to be some liaison with
 7 Operation Care; is that right?
 8 **A. That's right, yes. Yes.**
 9 Q. There was liaison on the part of Lambeth Council; is
 10 that right?
 11 **A. Well, it was done through Social Services, yes. We were**
 12 **the point of contact with them.**
 13 Q. On your part, was Lambeth represented by you and the
 14 child protection officer?
 15 **A. We didn't formalise it into a lead on the relationship**
 16 **with Care because the communications would always come**
 17 **to me anyway, and then the matters were handled by one**
 18 **of the other child protection officers. I mean, for**
 19 **example, one of them went up and had a visit to**
 20 **Merseyside to discover their methods of working and**
 21 **things of that nature, so it was a kind of shared**
 22 **activity.**
 23 Q. So you were a part of the liaison with Operation Care?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. On the part of the MPS, was that liaison led by the then

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1 Q. Ms Blake was the senior child protection officer in
 2 Lambeth, wasn't she?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Had she ever suggested to you, or conveyed information
 5 to you, about politicians in Lambeth visiting children's
 6 homes?
 7 **A. No, because there hadn't been a reason to get into**
 8 **a conversation about that.**
 9 Q. Or had she ever informed you, for example, about
 10 concerns that children from Lambeth homes were being
 11 sold into the sex industry?
 12 **A. No, no.**
 13 Q. If Ms Blake, as the senior child protection officer in
 14 Lambeth, had had that sort of information, what would
 15 you have expected her to do with it?
 16 **A. If it was something that was there as a matter of**
 17 **concern, I would have expected her to tell me about it.**
 18 Q. Thank you. As I understand it, you had a series of
 19 meetings with DI Driscoll; is that right?
 20 **A. That's right. They became almost a regular Friday**
 21 **afternoon -- it was a regular Friday afternoon meeting**
 22 **of the Trawler team, which involved the police staff and**
 23 **then the Social Services child protection officers**
 24 **involved in this particular operation. I think**
 25 **I attended most of the meetings, not necessarily all of**

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1 Detective Inspector Driscoll?
 2 **A. That's right, yes.**
 3 Q. Was his investigation named Operation Trawler?
 4 **A. Well, he came up with the term for this. He gave the**
 5 **operation the name of "Trawler", and we accepted it, and**
 6 **that was what it became, in effect. So that -- what**
 7 **that marked out was the fact there was a separate --**
 8 **Lambeth parked this inquiry which was distinct from that**
 9 **of Operation Care, and that's why it was given**
 10 **a different title and a somewhat different focus. The**
 11 **focus was to look beyond the matters in Angell Road to**
 12 **look at other children's homes and the realisation that**
 13 **there was possibly a movement of staff -- potentially**
 14 **abusers, or might have been abusers, between homes and**
 15 **indeed to try to track whether there were allegations of**
 16 **abuse coming from certain children or certain locations**
 17 **and issues of concern and to begin a process of doing an**
 18 **amassing of intelligence, in a way, to begin with, about**
 19 **what had been going on in these homes, which had closed**
 20 **obviously some time previously. So there was a big**
 21 **problem with records and all sorts of other stuff.**
 22 Q. Can I ask you this: in or around June or July 1998, when
 23 I understand this liaison started -- is that about
 24 right?
 25 **A. It is about right, yes.**

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1 **them, but I was there very frequently, certainly.**
 2 Q. Were some of those meetings also attended by
 3 a representative of the Social Services Inspectorate as
 4 well?
 5 **A. Yes, from quite early on, because we clearly had to tell**
 6 **the SSI about what had been disclosed regarding the**
 7 **abuse committed by Steven Forrest again, and this**
 8 **realised the re-opening of that particular enquiry, and**
 9 **so there was -- Paul Clark from the SSI, he came,**
 10 **I should think, about once a month to the meetings, he**
 11 **wasn't there at every one, but he came about once**
 12 **a month.**
 13 Q. I want to ask you about a meeting that you say he was
 14 at, and I'm looking at paragraph 25 of your first
 15 statement, Dr Goldie. You said that Paul Clark was at
 16 a meeting -- you say "Paul Clark was present at the
 17 meeting where DI Driscoll first spoke about this", and
 18 you're referring there to a politician visiting
 19 Angell Road. You said:
 20 "After the meeting I asked Mr Clark what he was
 21 going to do about it and he said he would speak to
 22 Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State."
 23 **A. That's right, yes.**
 24 Q. You go on to say the next thing that happened was, in
 25 late August, Michael John Carroll's defence lawyer said

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<p>1 that he would present a unique defence on his behalf? 2 A. That's right, yes. 3 Q. You seem to be suggesting in that statement that the 4 meeting where DI Driscoll first spoke about politicians 5 was sometime before August 1998? 6 A. When he first spoke about it, it could well have been 7 in July. It was not long after the process had begun 8 that he intimated that he had concerns about some 9 politicians, amongst other things, yes. 10 Q. I wonder if I could ask you to go to your interview that 11 you had with the police in 2014 about that. That's 12 MPS004566_014. I'm just going to give you the context, 13 Dr Goldie. If we look at page 14, it says, "But", and 14 then this was proving a bit sort of tetchy in some 15 ways -- do you see that? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Then we move on to the next page, page 9, please, 18 Mr Hyde -- it may be that it has "page 17", Mr Hyde, at 19 the bottom of yours. Sorry, Dr Goldie. I hope that 20 makes sense. Are you looking at page 8? Now we are 21 looking at page 9 at the top. You say this: 22 "And we had this awayday, it was in a pub in Dulwich 23 somewhere, I remember it clearly. And there was 24 Paul Clark, who was a senior officer within the 25 Social Services Inspectorate, who had been assigned to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 this inquiry because of the business about 2 Steven Forrest ..." 3 And you refer to it being in the national press and 4 the SSI seeing that as a reason to keep a close eye on 5 it. 6 Then if we drop down a couple of paragraphs: 7 "And we were having this meeting and it was a kind 8 of an informal one ..." 9 If we drop down to the final paragraph, you say: 10 "... he mentioned the names of some politicians." 11 Then if we go down, there's another politician 12 mentioned as well. 13 If we could go on to page 21, Dr Goldie -- do you 14 have that interview in front of you? 15 A. I have, yes, I have it in front of me. 16 Q. I'm just going to skip page 10, but you can have a look 17 at it. There's no need for me to bring it up on screen. 18 A. Okay. 19 Q. I'm just going to go over to page 11 where you say 20 again: 21 "Yes, this is an awayday, a meeting. I had a quiet 22 word with Paul Clark and I said, you know, what do we do 23 about this? Because I hadn't previously heard there's 24 been a list. It's never been mentioned." 25 Then if I drop down again, please, Mr Hyde, to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>
<p>1 middle paragraph, then we see there the reference: 2 "At this point in time, I do not think he was, but 3 he was certainly, and Paul Clark said, 'Well, I'll have 4 a word with Frank Dobson', who was the Minister of 5 Health at the time." 6 Thank you, Mr Hyde. I think that's all I need of 7 that. Dr Goldie, that awayday was in November 1998, 8 wasn't it? 9 A. I think on November 5, as it happens, yes. 10 Q. When you were interviewed back in 2014, you seem to have 11 a clear memory that these events happened at the awayday 12 in the November? 13 A. Yes. Yes, that's right, yes. 14 Q. Was the meeting at which politicians' names were first 15 mentioned November 1998? 16 A. It's a different -- sorry, we need to be clear here, and 17 just to recap, I remember very clearly that Paul Clark 18 had spoken -- I had spoken with him -- the first time 19 after Clive had mentioned the name of politicians, 20 I spoke to Paul Clark about it, and it was in the office 21 building in Clapham High Street, the Social Services 22 offices, and we'd been in a room and I remember we were 23 outside in the corridor after the meeting and I raised 24 the issue then with him about "What do we do about 25 this?", because of the significance of what this meant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>	<p>1 in terms of national politics, whatever, and he then 2 said he would talk to Frank Dobson. And then time went 3 by and, in fact, for whatever reason -- I can't remember 4 now why I hadn't gone back to him and said, "What's 5 going on? Have you heard back from Frank Dobson or your 6 superiors?", because, when Clive mentioned it again -- 7 and maybe this reflected the times and Paul was around, 8 I can't remember for certain, it was at this meeting on 9 5 November, it was in this pub, and we had had an 10 awayday. It was in a room up above the pub. It wasn't 11 in the drinking part of the pub. 12 We -- he mentioned it again, and I then thought, 13 well, this needs to be addressed again, because 14 I haven't heard, so I spoke to Paul Clark a second time 15 and that's when he said he would also -- he would do it. 16 Now, I don't remember whether I had a conversation 17 saying, "Why didn't you do it beforehand?"; I just took 18 it that things in organisations can't always happen 19 straight away. That was on the 5th. 20 But the critical meeting, which was the one that led 21 to -- 22 Q. Dr Goldie, I'm just going to stop you there. In this 23 interview in 2014, there is no mention whatsoever of you 24 having spoken to Paul Clark on a prior occasion to the 25 meeting in the pub, is there?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

1 **A. I thought I had done. The point is, in my briefing**
 2 **I provided to Heather Rabbatts on 1 September --**
 3 Q. I'm going to come to that. I'm just focusing on your
 4 interview.
 5 **A. Yes. Can I make a comment, observation? I'm seeing**
 6 **this interview for the first time again today, so I'm**
 7 **not very familiar with recollecting exactly what**
 8 **happened at that interview. Having done a number of**
 9 **these interviews at different times, I am aware that**
 10 **clearly there are some moments when the interview -- the**
 11 **detail is not always exactly the same from one interview**
 12 **to the next. But I'm absolutely clear that I had two**
 13 **occasions when I'd had a conversation with Paul Clark**
 14 **about this matter. The first was, I think, sometime**
 15 **in July/August time, because that led to my including**
 16 **reference to this in my briefing to Heather Rabbatts**
 17 **in September, and then, again, it came up at this event**
 18 **in November, and I addressed it with him again the**
 19 **second time.**
 20 **So I'm quite sure in my own mind that I had those**
 21 **conversations with him.**
 22 Q. Is it not more likely that your recollection of events
 23 in 2014 was clearer than your memory now about these
 24 events?
 25 **A. Well, not necessarily, I don't think. I think, with**

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1 **original document I provided, which actually I'd typed**
 2 **myself, so I know -- because I do a lot of my own**
 3 **typing. That was dated 1 September in, obviously, 1998,**
 4 **so this is a reproduction of it that the inquiry has had**
 5 **done.**
 6 Q. Did you reproduce it?
 7 **A. No, I didn't, no. No, it is -- I don't know where this**
 8 **one has come from. It's come from within the inquiry.**
 9 **The point is, the text is -- I think the text is**
 10 **absolutely right. It has just been, for whatever**
 11 **reason, retyped. I don't know why.**
 12 Q. This is not an inquiry document. It's got your witness
 13 name, your statement number, exhibit 19, dated
 14 17 October 2018?
 15 **A. Yes, but all I'm saying is, it's not the original**
 16 **document, that's all. But the relevant point, I think,**
 17 **is where I -- it is on the second page, the next page to**
 18 **that.**
 19 Q. I'm just going to stick, if I may, to the first page.
 20 This is a briefing to the chief executive, and it refers
 21 to the arrest of John Carroll and his pending charges.
 22 We see, if we look at the penultimate paragraph, please,
 23 Mr Hyde, reference to the committal hearing being
 24 scheduled for 14 September, so that gives us some idea
 25 as to the date of this document.

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1 **having to recollect as many people as I have had to and**
 2 **events from a long time ago, sometimes it is when you**
 3 **have begun to think more about them and you bring**
 4 **together bits of information that you have about things**
 5 **that you get a clearer memory than you did at the**
 6 **very -- at the very first interview you have, suddenly**
 7 **you're being asked about things that you haven't thought**
 8 **about for 20 years. If you're asked about it several**
 9 **times, you begin to recollect more of the detail of what**
 10 **had happened in the past, and that's what I think has**
 11 **happened for myself, certainly.**
 12 Q. I'm just going by the interview. So there was an
 13 awayday meeting. You said that you had a quiet word
 14 with Paul Clark. You said that you hadn't previously
 15 heard that there'd been a list, and you refer there to
 16 him saying that he would have a word with Frank Dobson.
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. I think you were suggesting that your memo to the chief
 19 executive would shed light on that meeting; is that
 20 right?
 21 **A. That's right, yes. Yes.**
 22 Q. Can we go to that, please, Mr Hyde. It is NGD000011.
 23 Is that the briefing that you are talking about?
 24 **A. Well, it's been -- the strange thing is, it's a briefing**
 25 **that -- it's been retyped at some point. It's not the**

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1 Then if we can turn over to the next page, please,
 2 Mr Hyde, you refer, first of all, at paragraph 4:
 3 "The John Carroll issues go wider than abuses with
 4 Angell and Highland Roads, for his name has been linked
 5 to the 'housing porn ring' and the ... ritual abuse
 6 involving children ... the police have decided to
 7 re-open these cases along with that of the murder of
 8 Bulic Forsythe. At present these are being led by
 9 DCI Driscoll (Lambeth child protection team) ..."
 10 Dr Goldie, where did you get that information from?
 11 **A. From DCI Driscoll. That's where that information came**
 12 **from. That's why I've given him as saying he was**
 13 **leading these matters. He had introduced into the**
 14 **discussions of Trawler the fact that he believed there**
 15 **were wider issues to be investigated including other**
 16 **things not mentioned there, which I won't refer to, but**
 17 **there were a number of things that he saw to be**
 18 **unresolved matters. He'd previously been based in**
 19 **Brixton, and he believed there were things that had**
 20 **never been properly investigated.**
 21 Q. If we go to the next paragraph, please, Mr Hyde, it
 22 says:
 23 "The housing porn ring implicated a wide range of
 24 senior and other officers within the council, as well as
 25 local police and local politicians. There are still

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1 officers within the council with links to those directly
 2 implicated in the alleged activities."
 3 Again, Dr Goldie, where did you get that information
 4 from?
 5 **A. Well, the reference to the housing porn ring is the**
 6 **Harris Report, which I think you have already had**
 7 **reference to in other parts of the investigation. So**
 8 **that's where that came from, and I think that's where**
 9 **Clive Driscoll had got his information from.**
 10 Q. I'm just going to stop you there. I want to be clear
 11 about this. Is that information based on what you got
 12 from the Harris Report or what you got from DI Driscoll?
 13 **A. I would say this has mainly come from DI Driscoll,**
 14 **I would say, the statement there, but I think he most**
 15 **likely was informed by the Harris Report. That's what**
 16 **I'm saying.**
 17 Q. Then finally, if we could go to the next main paragraph
 18 down, the three lines:
 19 "The SSI are well briefed on these matters and
 20 Paul Clark will be doing a briefing for Frank Dobson
 21 directly, given the sensitivities over the LA-F41
 22 connection with Lambeth. He is also aware of the close
 23 relationship ..."
 24 And I'm not going to read out those names. That
 25 document can come down, please, Mr Hyde.

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1 presumably know more about it. That's all I would --
 2 because the significance of that timing was the thing to
 3 do with the case -- the hearing coming up in Liverpool.
 4 As it's mentioned, like, in two weeks ahead of that
 5 date, because we were being told by Merseyside Police
 6 that they thought that Carroll was possibly -- as part
 7 of his defence might well be going to be mentioning
 8 names of people whom he had knowledge of, and so I felt
 9 I needed just to alert the chief executive that we
 10 didn't yet know but there was a development happening
 11 that could have implications. And she needed to know
 12 about it. But without -- it was left like that.
 13 I mean, I felt I said as much as was appropriate, and
 14 she didn't enquire further at the time, so that's how it
 15 was left at that moment.
 16 Q. I'm going to move on, please. Retired DI Driscoll has
 17 suggested that Lambeth officers pressurised him to name
 18 high-profile people in the course of Operation Trawler
 19 at meetings. Is that something that you recollect or
 20 were involved in?
 21 **A. I don't recollect that at all. In terms of my own**
 22 **experience, and I can only speak about my own experience**
 23 **here, he does claim that he had had dealings with the**
 24 **borough solicitor and I'm not sure who else, but**
 25 **I cannot answer that. I don't know. That's in his**

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1 The Lambeth connection. Was that a reference to
 2 LA-F41's wife having been involved as a councillor in
 3 Lambeth?
 4 **A. Yes. Yes. That is that recognition that there was,**
 5 **yes, a Lambeth -- yes. I deliberately avoided naming**
 6 **LA-F41 in that briefing.**
 7 Q. Where is the information in this briefing that
 8 demonstrates knowledge at this point in time of, for
 9 example, the list of politicians who were being linked
 10 to Angell Road?
 11 **A. I don't think that briefing gave it, because it was --**
 12 **I was concerned -- I felt there was still -- these were**
 13 **names that were being mentioned. I didn't see a reason**
 14 **to start retelling them until I'd got some clearer**
 15 **indication that there was some basis for doing that.**
 16 Q. Dr Goldie, I had understood that this document would
 17 demonstrate that by September, or before September 14,
 18 you had knowledge of the various politicians' names that
 19 were being linked to Angell Road?
 20 **A. No, I thought -- I drew your attention to this because**
 21 **it was a way to demonstrate that I'd spoken to**
 22 **Paul Clark before November 5. I mean, I make reference**
 23 **to him there to show that I had already been in**
 24 **conversation with him and I'd been led to believe that**
 25 **the SSI -- by then, senior people in the SSI -- would**

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1 **experience. But I certainly didn't.**
 2 Q. When he mentioned these names, did he appear to be doing
 3 so under pressure or was that something he mentioned to
 4 you at the time?
 5 **A. No. The times he mentioned them when I was in the**
 6 **hearing of it, it was done somewhat spontaneously by**
 7 **himself to illustrate lines of enquiry that he wanted to**
 8 **pursue, and it was not, as far as I -- I could be**
 9 **absolutely certain, it was not from external pressure to**
 10 **do that.**
 11 MS DOBBIN: Chair, I note the time. There is still a bit
 12 further to go with this witness.
 13 THE CHAIR: In that case, we will take our break now and
 14 return at 3.05 pm. Thank you.
 15 MS DOBBIN: Thank you. If I could just remind the witness
 16 not to discuss his evidence over the break.
 17 **A. That's fine, yes.**
 18 **(2.47 pm)**
 19 **(A short break)**
 20 **(3.15 pm)**
 21 MS DOBBIN: Dr Goldie, I just wanted to go back to something
 22 I asked you about, or a document that we saw just before
 23 the break, and it was a document -- you might remember.
 24 I'm not going to bring it up on screen again, but it
 25 referred to the relationship between two people. It was

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1 the memo to the chief executive.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. What was that based on, if I can put it in that way,
 4 that information in the memo?
 5 **A. It was based on certain matters that had been commented**
 6 **upon by other staff I'd encountered in the**
 7 **Social Services department, and I don't think it had any**
 8 **reference from Clive Driscoll and police at all. I'm**
 9 **not sure, but I think it was primarily some concerns**
 10 **that -- it might have -- he might have made**
 11 **a reference -- I can't remember now, but there were some**
 12 **concerns which had arisen in part to do with the ways in**
 13 **which the organisation in question had responded to the**
 14 **Clough Report.**
 15 Q. Sorry, that relationship, was it based on rumour then?
 16 I'm talking about the relationship between --
 17 **A. Yes. All I can say is, it was -- I have to say, it was**
 18 **hearsay and things spoken about, but given there were --**
 19 **I felt the potential for some -- the issue getting**
 20 **a wider circulation, I would just make reference of it**
 21 **to the chief executive, just so that she had had an**
 22 **awareness of this. She didn't pursue it, I didn't**
 23 **pursue it. It is there, it is on the record, because it**
 24 **is written, so it can't be taken -- but I would simply**
 25 **say I don't think it went any further in anyone's**

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1 there to a meeting that took place with Paul Clark. You
 2 were also in attendance, Pam Rowe, Colin Leeman and
 3 Robin McDermott from Merseyside Police. So that would
 4 appear to have been a meeting between a number of
 5 the different departments in these investigations?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. If we drop down to the penultimate paragraph, please, we
 8 see reference to 8 September 1998, a meeting between the
 9 Director of Social Services, yourself again,
 10 Libby Blake, Superintendent Randall and DI Driscoll;
 11 yes?
 12 **A. Yes, that's right.**
 13 Q. So I think, when you were mentioning that there was
 14 a meeting in 1998 at which Paul Clark was in attendance,
 15 is that the meeting that you were referring to? Sorry,
 16 I apologise. It is the meeting you have already been
 17 to --
 18 **A. The one in August? August 28 --**
 19 Q. 28 August 1998.
 20 **A. Well, we had met previously to that, so I can't be**
 21 **certain whether it was that meeting again. I mean, that**
 22 **meeting was very close to what I have on the record as**
 23 **having had with the chief executive on 1 September, so**
 24 **I think my meetings I'm referring to relating to**
 25 **Paul Clark would go back in time to an earlier one.**

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1 **investigative process. It was not something that was --**
 2 **like a lot of these things -- it was a briefing note.**
 3 **It was about trying to give someone an awareness of**
 4 **the context in which something was happening.**
 5 Q. Dr Goldie, I am going to bring you to a document that
 6 I think might help establish some of the dates, so that
 7 we can be clear about when certain meetings happened,
 8 because they're set out at LAM009435_001. This is
 9 a document that the then DI Driscoll sent, as
 10 I understand it, to Lambeth Council; is that right?
 11 **A. That's right, yes.**
 12 Q. If we look at it, if we go to the first entry, on
 13 Monday, the 26th, he contacted Paul Clark of
 14 the Social Services Inspectorate to raise concerns about
 15 working practices.
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Then if we drop to the next paragraph,
 18 please, June 1998. The Metropolitan Police Service were
 19 requested to assist Operation Care, and reference there
 20 to several meetings. So I think that accords with your
 21 memory --
 22 **A. That's right, yes.**
 23 Q. -- of when co-operation started?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Then, if we drop down to 28 August, we see reference

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1 Q. Coming back to your evidence, you have memory of two
 2 meetings, and it was at -- as I understand it, where
 3 politicians' names were mentioned --
 4 **A. Yes, that's right.**
 5 Q. -- one of those was certainly before September --
 6 **A. Absolutely. The point is, we had meetings and the names**
 7 **were not mentioned because we were dealing with other**
 8 **matters. It didn't come up every meeting at all.**
 9 Q. All right. I think that at least helps us with
 10 a framework of when different meetings might have
 11 happened.
 12 Dr Goldie, if we could just go over the page, I also
 13 wanted to ask you about this document in terms of
 14 the breakdown in relationships that it may or may not
 15 evidence between Lambeth and the police at this point in
 16 time.
 17 If we go, please, to "previous decisions", so this
 18 is DI Driscoll suggesting that previous decisions were
 19 constantly under attack:
 20 "... the investigation to investigate Angell Road
 21 and Highland Road was questioned."
 22 And you suggest an attempt was made to steer place
 23 away from those homes. If we go to the next paragraph,
 24 please, Mr Hyde, he says:
 25 "Libby Blake explained that the investigation of

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1 these homes would cause embarrassment to social workers
 2 currently in employment."
 3 Then to the next paragraph, please. He is saying
 4 there the case of A29 raised concern, as he was aware
 5 that Libby Blake and others had had a meeting with
 6 Operation Care at which a full disclosure had been made.
 7 That goes back, I think, Dr Goldie, to the point you
 8 made previously that it was Operation Care officers who
 9 had obtained the full detail?
 10 **A. Sorry, yes.**
 11 Q. So we see reference to that?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. But it would appear that DI Driscoll was raising that as
 14 a concern in terms of his working relationship with
 15 Lambeth?
 16 **A. Well, yes. I think across those three quotations**
 17 **a number of different things are being raised, and**
 18 **I would assert very clearly that, as far as I was aware**
 19 **in terms of the meetings that I had with him and the**
 20 **ones that were the more -- like I say, the formalised**
 21 **Trawler meetings, that there was no question -- there**
 22 **was no challenging or attempts to move the police away**
 23 **from Highland Road and Angell Road. Whether or not**
 24 **Clive Driscoll had comments made to him in other ways**
 25 **about that, I don't know, he may speak on that, I can't**

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1 **really, about people who had been involved with certain**
 2 **cases, who had worked in certain homes, and it was so**
 3 **critical that we managed to do it discreetly, in a way**
 4 **that didn't alert staff who might have had reason to**
 5 **interfere with the process. Records could disappear,**
 6 **and whatever else, we weren't (inaudible) about, it was**
 7 **one of the tricky issues.**
 8 **That meant, in some ways, having -- whether the**
 9 **embarrassment that she's referring to came out of that**
 10 **process, I don't know, because I wouldn't be -- I wasn't**
 11 **personally connected to any of those staff who were**
 12 **demonstrating embarrassment, so I don't know.**
 13 Q. Dr Goldie, I'm not going to run through all of this
 14 document, but I think it is right to say Mr Driscoll
 15 raises a number of concerns, for example, about
 16 documents being removed from files. He also talks
 17 about, over the page, demands being made that were
 18 unrealistic. I'm not going to go through everything,
 19 but he then goes on to say:
 20 "I explained to the meeting that I felt the Working
 21 Together had broken down at both this operational level
 22 and normal day-to-day level, but we didn't have time to
 23 discuss it."
 24 So he's talking about one meeting. If we just bring
 25 up, please, Mr Hyde, LAM009435_004, he says:

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1 **answer that. But formally, that wasn't the case.**
 2 **I think the issue about embarrassment, well, that,**
 3 **again -- Libby Blake -- I have often puzzled about this**
 4 **because it was -- there was -- I mean, part of**
 5 **the issues that developed in the working relationship**
 6 **was between Libby Blake in particular and**
 7 **Clive Driscoll, and differences of view about a process**
 8 **and a procedure and a way -- especially approaching and**
 9 **interviewing and engaging with survivors of abuse, or**
 10 **potential survivors, and so on.**
 11 **It was becoming a bit kind of dysfunctional in the**
 12 **working arrangements, and, in fact, a bit later on --**
 13 **maybe you will come to that -- I actually suggested to**
 14 **Libby that she stand aside for a number -- for a time --**
 15 **this is towards the end of October -- so that there**
 16 **could be a proper -- so that I could investigate and**
 17 **understand better what the problems were within that**
 18 **working relationship. That's where there was**
 19 **subsequently a meeting with Superintendent Randall, and**
 20 **so on, who got involved, and then things all kind of**
 21 **fell apart in November. So it never had to be properly**
 22 **bottomed out, as it were.**
 23 **But certainly -- I think the issue -- if I can just**
 24 **say, one of the tricky issues was that we were having to**
 25 **begin to gather together information and intelligence,**

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1 "My main concerns:
 2 "Decisions are being overturned without
 3 consultation;
 4 "Files are being tampered with;
 5 "An attempt is being made to control a criminal
 6 investigation and change the agreement from 08.09.98;
 7 "Information is being passed via unauthorised
 8 channels;
 9 "Meetings relating to 'Operation Care' are taking
 10 place without the knowledge of the CPT ..."
 11 It would appear from that, Dr Goldie, that by this
 12 stage, which is before November 1998, that relations
 13 between DI Driscoll and Lambeth had become very
 14 strained?
 15 **A. It looks that way when you see that -- those concerns**
 16 **spelt out in there as they are. As you might be aware,**
 17 **in my second witness statement, I went through -- I had**
 18 **been asked questions on this. I went through that in**
 19 **some detail and I answered, almost paragraph by**
 20 **paragraph, what I thought were the reasons behind what**
 21 **DI Driscoll was raising, and my response on that.**
 22 **Yes, there were operational differences, and don't**
 23 **forget, this operation had come about quite suddenly.**
 24 **It had been done in a way that arose in some ways, in**
 25 **a sense, unexpectedly, but we were working through the**

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1 issues and, indeed, that meeting of November 5, that
 2 Clive Driscoll refers to there, was seen to be an
 3 awayday to precisely address those issues. So it wasn't
 4 that everything had broken down and there was acrimony
 5 and a lack of co-operative working; it was that there
 6 were tensions, and real tensions, given the nature of
 7 the kind of process that two different, very different,
 8 organisations, different ways of working, different
 9 hierarchies, different ways of decision making, were
 10 trying to find a way of common working.

11 This is interesting because this is at the interface
 12 of what Working Together is actually all about, and it
 13 is, how do you resolve these processes? You know, all
 14 I can say is that, with more time, this might well have
 15 been resolved and not be a cause of being set out like
 16 this, but, you know, they were real, some of them. I'm
 17 not doubting that, you know.

18 Q. I just wonder if it is more serious than that, given
 19 that he was saying "I felt that Working Together had
 20 broken down"?

21 A. I would dispute that. I don't think it had broken down.
 22 I think -- we had, I think, a very useful meeting only
 23 a matter of some days later, the November 5 one, an
 24 awayday, which was very supportive and there was open
 25 exchange of views on things. So I think that -- I would

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1 social workers who were not part of the immediate team
 2 in Lambeth?

3 A. No, no, that is not the case. I tried to explain this
 4 before and set it out. There are two different things
 5 here. There is the meeting on November 5, which was an
 6 awayday meeting for the members of the Trawler team, in
 7 its broadest sense, including Paul Clark and so on. And
 8 that was quite separate and that was a private meeting
 9 in a private room, whatever.

10 The second meeting is one that I have identified as
 11 having occurred on November 17, and I can be very
 12 precise about that because that coincided with this
 13 press flurry of activity, which was headlines in the
 14 Daily Express and Evening Standard and one or two other
 15 newspapers picking it up, concerning the issues to do
 16 with Steven Forrest.

17 That coincided with what was a previously arranged
 18 meeting that was held in order to bring together some
 19 social workers from outside of Trawler, they were social
 20 workers who were working the area offices, and the
 21 reason to engage with them was that we realised that
 22 having interviews with people, many of whom would be
 23 adult and obviously of a certain age, given the time
 24 lapse of them being living in the homes, that we should
 25 be also able to offer them some kind of counselling

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1 want to actually get that spelt out more directly, what
 2 the breakdown was about. I don't think it was as
 3 profound as is being suggested.

4 Q. Was Libby Blake the subject of a management
 5 investigation because of what DI Driscoll had said?

6 A. No. It didn't become a management investigation.
 7 I decided that she should stand aside because of
 8 the tension that was there, and I asked -- there's
 9 a further letter, I think it is somewhere in there, from
 10 Clive Driscoll where he starts by saying, "In response
 11 to your request for me to outline my concerns", or
 12 something to that effect, that I was asking him to
 13 formalise more clearly what it was his concerns were
 14 about, because he had produced the document you have
 15 just shown, but I was not entirely happy with the way
 16 that was -- the things -- I didn't find that provided
 17 sufficient basis for pursuing the matter with
 18 Libby Blake and I wanted something more precise from
 19 him.

20 Q. Can we just go, then, to the meeting on 5 November.
 21 What you have explained in your statement was, at that
 22 meeting, DI Driscoll again mentioned the names of some
 23 politicians --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- is that right? This was at a meeting of people or

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1 support as well as them engaging in disclosure and so
 2 on.

3 So we were looking to find a group of social workers
 4 who had the right skills, aptitudes, whatever, to join
 5 with Trawler not for the investigation at all. They
 6 wouldn't need to know anything about, necessarily, what
 7 was behind it. But simply to provide support to the
 8 person -- the people concerned.

9 It was in that meeting -- and Clive had been --
 10 they -- as I recall, there was a meeting of the Trawler
 11 team and it was -- the social workers joined us later in
 12 the afternoon for this session just with them about
 13 these matters. It was during that that Clive suddenly
 14 started speaking in a very open way about the
 15 allegations he had about -- concerning politicians, and
 16 so on, and that's what really alarmed me, because we had
 17 these press reporters more or less outside looking for
 18 a news story, and in a somewhat leaky organisation like
 19 Lambeth was in these matters, you couldn't know whether
 20 or not they were going to pick up from one of these
 21 social workers. So that was my concern.

22 Q. I think you said at paragraph 34 that your concern was
 23 that he was endangering Operation Trawler and could
 24 engender further bad press?

25 A. That was my concern, yes, yes.

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1 Q. As a result of that, did you report that concern to the
 2 chief executive of Lambeth?
 3 A. Well, I did. After the meeting ended, I went more or
 4 less straight away to speak – I was very concerned
 5 about this, and I went to speak with my immediate
 6 manager, Celia Pyke-Lees, the Director of
 7 Social Services, and just said, "Look, this is
 8 happening. I think Heather Rabbatts needs to know about
 9 this", and she agreed, and I phoned across to the town
 10 hall and made an arrangement to go over and speak to
 11 Heather Rabbatts -- it was late afternoon by then, 4.30
 12 or something, whatever.
 13 And that's what I, in fact, did. That's when I had
 14 the meeting with her about that.
 15 Q. What happened at the meeting, Dr Goldie?
 16 A. Well, as I recall, I outlined to her some of
 17 the concerns -- well, I explained what had triggered the
 18 meeting, clearly, this information coming out, and also
 19 it clearly meant saying to her very directly who LA41
 20 was, because of the significance of having such
 21 a person's name in this context, and then some -- and
 22 maybe -- I must have also said, I think, one or two
 23 other things relating to the running of Trawler, but
 24 concerns that were there about how it was going.
 25 I was just expressing -- and her response was to

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1 picked up the phone to find it was someone from
 2 Scotland Yard. I don't think he introduced himself. He
 3 might well have done, but I don't think he did. But he
 4 just said that he was, you know, obviously a police
 5 officer, he needed to speak to me, he wanted the meeting
 6 to take place away from the council offices, and that --
 7 you know, to -- well, we fixed up the -- I suggested
 8 a small cafe not far away, around the sort of side
 9 street, where we could meet, and that's where the
 10 meeting took place, and I went around there and met him
 11 in this cafe and he was accompanied by another
 12 policeman. I don't recall the names of the other police
 13 who were there -- police person who was there.
 14 At this meeting, he started asking me almost
 15 straight away, "What was it that Clive had been saying?"
 16 He wanted to know what DI Driscoll had been saying.
 17 I told him the essence of what it was that he talked
 18 about, and he kept pressing me about, "Well, what was
 19 the basis for this, did you have any evidence?", and
 20 I was saying, "No, this is what's come to me from
 21 Clive's -- what he has alleged", and, anyway, if
 22 a senior police person is making an allegation or
 23 expressing there's some cause for concern, you tend to
 24 think there may be something behind it. You aren't
 25 necessarily probing with them what the basis was.

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1 say, "Well, I will speak to my contacts in
 2 Scotland Yard", and she very directly picked up the
 3 phone and dialled through and, again, to speak to
 4 someone, as if she got straight through to whoever it
 5 was, and I thought at that point, "Well, I should leave
 6 the room". It wasn't appropriate for me to hang around.
 7 So I left. So I don't know what happened subsequently.
 8 Q. Yes.
 9 A. So that was not a very long meeting, but it was -- yes.
 10 Q. After that, did you have a meeting then with a police
 11 officer, Superintendent Gargini?
 12 A. Well, yes. In things I have said in witness statements,
 13 I have assumed it was -- the meeting took place -- the
 14 date in question, the 17th, was a Tuesday, November 17
 15 was a Tuesday. I thought he contacted me on the
 16 Thursday. Well, I notice in the recent witness
 17 statement that he has produced that he puts the date
 18 down as the 18th. So it was the very next day, at 2.30
 19 in the afternoon.
 20 So various decisions were being taken very fast
 21 within the Scotland Yard as to how to react to this
 22 because he then contacted me to have a meeting with him.
 23 Q. Can you explain what happened in your meeting with
 24 Superintendent Gargini?
 25 A. I think it is important just to say, I essentially

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1 And it was -- and this bit of other conversation
 2 took place at around Operation Trawler and what it was
 3 doing, I think, but essentially I was then told, "Well,
 4 don't speak to any of them about it and we will get back
 5 to you", and what happened after that was, I got a phone
 6 call over the weekend from -- I think it was
 7 Superintendent Gargini, it might have been one of
 8 the other -- someone else, but certainly someone phoned
 9 me enquiring about some matter of detail about what I'd
 10 said, and it was -- and then, subsequently, I got phoned
 11 again on -- and a meeting was arranged and I believe it
 12 was on Tuesday the following week. So, again, quite
 13 close together.
 14 We met in the same place. This time,
 15 Superintendent Gargini had a different police person,
 16 man, accompanying him, and he then -- as I recollect
 17 very clearly, what he told me was that they had looked
 18 into the allegations that Clive Driscoll was making and
 19 they had not found anything to support them, but because
 20 of the concerns being raised about his actions and his
 21 kind of behaviour, that they would be -- he would be
 22 suspended and disciplined. I remember that very
 23 clearly, that this is what was being told, that there
 24 were sanctions being applied.
 25 I was very shocked at that comment because I hadn't

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1 thought it would lead to something of that nature. It
 2 didn't seem, to my mind, to have warranted that kind of
 3 dramatic response. So I was very kind of a bit shaken
 4 by that. And possibly more so when I got what
 5 I describe as being a feeling of a rather sort of heavy
 6 warning that I -- I was directly told I shouldn't speak
 7 to anyone about it and I should forget about it. That
 8 is what I very clearly remember being told, and it came
 9 across -- there was no physical direct threat, it wasn't
 10 that, but there was a threat -- it was the way it was
 11 said, was as if to say, "You just don't do this sort of
 12 thing", warning me, more or less, not to speak about it.
 13 I thought, well, that is very -- a bit alarming, as
 14 it were. Anyway, it was left like that, and I went back
 15 to the office building, and so on. I think it is worth
 16 just saying, because I -- in a sense, I didn't really
 17 speak about it to anyone very much. I chose not to.
 18 Not that I -- and it stayed with -- but it stayed with
 19 me, and this feeling that something had happened that
 20 seemed to be, in a way, unwarranted, but also -- as if
 21 something was not being followed through, as if
 22 a decision had been taken that, "We're going to put the
 23 lid on this", and I think it was possibly the fact --
 24 roll ahead a number of years, 2013, I think it was, when
 25 I was approached by Tom Pettifor, a journalist, and he

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1 that DI Driscoll has linked a number of senior political
 2 figures without foundation."
 3 Then going down a bit further on:
 4 "Dr Goldie asserted that DI Driscoll failed to
 5 understand the impact and the implication of repeating
 6 the names in a structured meeting."
 7 Do you recollect discussing that?
 8 **A. Well, yes, I mean, what he's saying there more or less**
 9 **reflects what I have just been saying myself. Maybe**
 10 **he -- he had the benefit, indeed, of making some notes**
 11 **afterwards which he had in a notebook, which I didn't**
 12 **have, so -- and I notice from his earlier statements he**
 13 **wasn't saying that, he almost was saying he hadn't had**
 14 **the meetings. It's come back to him and he's had the**
 15 **benefit of having access to old notebooks and record**
 16 **things to provide more detail than I have been able to**
 17 **provide, and that's -- he does raise the issue that's**
 18 **there about a leak to the press, and I -- I now, when**
 19 **I think about it, recognise, yes, there was something**
 20 **going on, there had been something going on, but I must**
 21 **admit I hadn't previously mentioned it in my witness**
 22 **statements because I hadn't recollected that, and he**
 23 **also says that I -- there'd been a breakdown in the**
 24 **working relationship.**
 25 Now, we know we have just been talking about that,

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1 had been talking with Clive Driscoll and heard about the
 2 other side of the story, and he wanted to know what had
 3 happened.
 4 And I thought, well, maybe this is the time to
 5 actually speak openly about it, because I hadn't had
 6 occasion -- I wouldn't have known where to have gone
 7 necessarily to have reported this.
 8 Q. I just want to stop you there, if I may, Dr Goldie.
 9 Have you seen the note that the now retired
 10 Superintendent Gargini has set out in his witness
 11 statement of a meeting with you?
 12 **A. Yes, I saw it -- this is the very recently produced**
 13 **witness statement, is it?**
 14 Q. It's his witness statement to the inquiry, where he
 15 talks about having a meeting with you, and where
 16 a number of things were discussed. First of all, a leak
 17 to a newspaper of confidential and sensitive information
 18 and concern about where that might have come from, and
 19 then, as regards DI Driscoll, he said:
 20 "Dr Goldie referred to highly sensitive and
 21 inappropriate remarks made by DI Driscoll in structured
 22 meetings. He was particularly concerned about the
 23 disclosure of unsubstantiated rumour in relation to
 24 prominent politicians in the presence of junior members
 25 of the Social Services department. Dr Goldie alleges

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1 **so clearly there was something there, and it's more than**
 2 **likely I also did talk about that with him as well. If**
 3 **I was being asked about it, or whatever else, I would**
 4 **have spoken about it. So, in a sense, there is a degree**
 5 **of agreement between us, I think, about what happened in**
 6 **those meetings.**
 7 Q. Were you surprised, then, that Mr Driscoll was removed,
 8 you having expressed quite serious concerns about his
 9 conduct in the meeting?
 10 **A. I guess this reflects again a different response to the**
 11 **different types of organisations. I mean, I have not**
 12 **worked in the police, I have had very little to do with**
 13 **them. So it seemed a very drastic response to something**
 14 **which -- I have mentioned in one of my witness**
 15 **statements somewhere that, on reflecting about that,**
 16 **I thought, well, if I just managed to have a quiet word**
 17 **with him about it and said, "This is hazardous for us",**
 18 **it might have been smoothed over.**
 19 I think because the working relationship was a bit
 20 tense, there wasn't that kind of relationship with him
 21 to say, "You've gone over the top here. This is
 22 something that shouldn't be happening", but -- so to
 23 find this response that was more or less saying, "We are
 24 going to suspend and discipline", seemed to be -- I was
 25 surprised about it. That's what I'm saying. It was not

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1 **what I thought would have arisen from that.**
 2 Q. Even though, in your words, you were worried that he was
 3 endangering Operation Trawler?
 4 **A. Yes, potentially, if that -- if that information was**
 5 **released into the public domain at that moment in time,**
 6 **it would not have been something we would have welcomed,**
 7 **because it was -- you know, it was not going to help the**
 8 **operation to proceed. But it didn't materialise, so it**
 9 **was not -- it didn't -- you know, other things led to**
 10 **its -- the changes which took place.**
 11 MS DOBBIN: Dr Goldie, I am going to stop you there and see
 12 if the chair has any questions for you?
 13 THE CHAIR: Thank you. I have no questions. Ms Sharpling?
 14 Questions from THE PANEL
 15 MS SHARPLING: Yes, just one, if I may, chair.
 16 Dr Goldie, I just need to be absolutely clear about
 17 something, and that is the character of the relationship
 18 between your department and the police. Did anybody
 19 ever say to you or were you present at a meeting where
 20 words were exchanged to the effect that the police ought
 21 to be diverted from their investigations, as set out by
 22 them, in terms of where they should investigate and whom
 23 they should investigate?
 24 **A. Absolutely not, no. No.**
 25 MS SHARPLING: Thank you. My second question: you referred

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1 difficulty in sharing the investigation with social
 2 workers who may have wanted to be involved in the
 3 interviewing of victims?
 4 **A. I didn't come across that. I didn't hear about that.**
 5 MS SHARPLING: Fine. Thank you, Dr Goldie.
 6 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank?
 7 MR FRANK: No, thank you.
 8 THE CHAIR: Sir Malcolm?
 9 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: No, thank you.
 10 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Dr Goldie.
 11 (The witness withdrew)
 12 MS DOBBIN: Chair, we have one more witness this afternoon
 13 who ought to be quite a short witness.
 14 THE CHAIR: Can you be precise? How short?
 15 MS DOBBIN: I think she will be about 20 minutes.
 16 THE CHAIR: Well, proceed, then, thank you.
 17 MS DOBBIN: Can I call the next witness, please, and that's
 18 Ms Delahunty.
 19 MS GILLIAN DELAHUNTY (affirmed)
 20 Examination by MS DOBBIN
 21 MS DOBBIN: Ms Delahunty, I think you have two witness
 22 statements. The first of them is a statement of
 23 1 August 2018; is that right?
 24 **A. Yes. The one to the police?**
 25 Q. Yes. Are the contents of that witness statement true,

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1 to operational differences which could be resolved. I'm
 2 summing up your evidence. Could you characterise what
 3 those operational concerns were with the police?
 4 **A. I think some of it was about the nature of the process**
 5 **or procedures of approaching potential victims, and**
 6 **I think the -- there is obviously very different**
 7 **traditions between a social work one as opposed to**
 8 **a policing one. Now, clearly, working with children --**
 9 **and there had been a lot of development and**
 10 **Working Together had been a matter of increasing joint**
 11 **working between the police and Social Services, and**
 12 **I think, indeed, arguably, what happened subsequently**
 13 **with CHILE and Middleton was they overcame some of those**
 14 **problems which were present at the time when Trawler was**
 15 **there about how information was exchanged, how processes**
 16 **were undertaken, how things were recorded, all of those**
 17 **things with -- which between two different organisations**
 18 **can be problematic until you really develop a kind of**
 19 **proper trust and a way of working which enables you to**
 20 **be able to work in the sense you're working -- you know,**
 21 **sharing confidential information, you're doing things**
 22 **which are complicated.**
 23 **So I think that's where there was a difference. It**
 24 **was different kind of ways of working and traditions.**
 25 MS SHARPLING: Can I be very precise: was there any

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1 to the best of your knowledge and belief?
 2 **A. They are.**
 3 Q. I think you also made a statement to the inquiry dated
 4 7 June 2020?
 5 **A. That's correct.**
 6 Q. Are the contents of that statement true, to the best of
 7 your knowledge and belief?
 8 **A. They are.**
 9 Q. Ms Delahunty, you, I think, started to work in Lambeth
 10 in 1974?
 11 **A. Yes, the first time, yes.**
 12 Q. You left in 1976?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Then you went to work in King's Hospital between 1979
 15 and 1980?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. You then came back to work in Lambeth between 1980 and
 18 1991, in the training unit; is that right?
 19 **A. That's right.**
 20 Q. Except for a short period in 1989?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Your role there was that you were a supervisor for
 23 people who were undertaking the certificate of
 24 Social Services?
 25 **A. That's right.**

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1 Q. I think, in 1990 to 1991, you were a senior training
 2 officer for residential childcare?
 3 **A. That's right.**
 4 Q. Was that until the training unit in Lambeth was shut
 5 down?
 6 **A. Well, they were making enormous cuts with a view to**
 7 **shutting down, yes.**
 8 Q. I wanted to ask you about a dissertation that you
 9 submitted to the Polytechnic of East London in May 1992.
 10 Mr Hyde, could I bring that up, please. It is
 11 MPS002923_188. Ms Delahunty, your dissertation covered
 12 a number of areas, but one of the things that you
 13 researched was the deaths of children in Lambeth's care
 14 over a 20-year period; is that right?
 15 **A. Yes. The dissertation was on childcare in Lambeth from**
 16 **1970 to 1990, and this was one of the records that**
 17 **I received from the Social Services research and**
 18 **planning department at that time, one of a collection of**
 19 **records.**
 20 Q. When you looked at those records -- I will come to how
 21 you came to arrive at those figures in a moment -- you
 22 found, on the figures available to you, that there were
 23 48 deaths in care over that 20-year period?
 24 **A. That's right.**
 25 Q. Could you explain to us how you were able to arrive at

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1 across areas, does that mean social work areas within
 2 Lambeth?
 3 **A. Yes. They would have been collected administratively.**
 4 **I can remember, you know, admin coming around and**
 5 **checking some numbers with me when I was working in an**
 6 **area, and then they would have gone, presumably, through**
 7 **the principal admin officer and, you know, to the**
 8 **director but also to -- well, presumably via research**
 9 **and planning, who kept, you know, brought together all**
 10 **the various records that the Department of Health wanted**
 11 **at that time.**
 12 Q. Were you in any position to judge the reliability of
 13 the figures that you had been provided by Lambeth?
 14 **A. Well, I had no reason to consider records from research**
 15 **and planning, you know, that I'd received as being**
 16 **anything other than reliable, but I had no way of**
 17 **cross-checking that.**
 18 Q. You had, by 1992, spent quite a long time working within
 19 Lambeth. Had it ever come to your attention that the
 20 level of deaths of children in care was quite as high as
 21 this?
 22 **A. No. Children in care would -- I mean, that would be**
 23 **children in care all deaths, so they wouldn't**
 24 **necessarily be in residential care, some could have been**
 25 **living at home or elsewhere, but, no, because I don't**

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1 those figures?
 2 **A. Statistics were required to be kept by local authorities**
 3 **and sent to the Department of Health on a range of**
 4 **things, including admissions to childcare and reasons**
 5 **for discharge, and they had a set of codes for each of**
 6 **the reasons for discharge, and one of the set of reasons**
 7 **for discharge was -- included deaths of children in**
 8 **care, and I collated those into this 20-year table and,**
 9 **you know, those were the figures that it came to. I'm**
 10 **sure I would have double-checked them, because,**
 11 **particularly for the years '74 and '75, they did appear,**
 12 **you know, and do appear, particularly high. But**
 13 **unfortunately I no longer have the background papers.**
 14 Q. Just to understand what you were actually looking at
 15 whenever you wrote your dissertation in 1992, were you
 16 looking at all of the returns that Lambeth had prepared
 17 to send to the Department of Health?
 18 **A. Well, the returns would have gone through stages and**
 19 **then gone -- I think research and planning had, you**
 20 **know, collated them across all the areas because each**
 21 **area would have sent their own in and then they'd have**
 22 **made them borough-wide, and sent them, yes, to the**
 23 **department of -- well, presumably also to the**
 24 **directorate but also the Department of Health.**
 25 Q. When you talk about those figures being collated from

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1 **recall any of the inquiries, really -- well, very few,**
 2 **anyway, inquiries in relation to deaths of children in**
 3 **care, and -- well, either then or since, really. Not**
 4 **actually, you know, in children's homes in care, apart**
 5 **from, you know -- I don't know. I don't recall any --**
 6 **certainly in-depth inquiries like the Tyra Henry or the**
 7 **other ones that happened while they were at home.**
 8 Q. I think it is right that you provided a copy of your
 9 dissertation to the Director of Social Services?
 10 **A. I did.**
 11 Q. Did you ever hear anything back about it?
 12 **A. No.**
 13 Q. From Lambeth?
 14 **A. Not from him. I did from Raymond Stevenson, from the**
 15 **Shirley Oaks Survivors Association, when they had passed**
 16 **it to him among their documents.**
 17 Q. I was just interested in whether or not anyone from
 18 Lambeth had contacted you about these figures --
 19 **A. No.**
 20 Q. -- or wanted to explore them with you or anything like
 21 that?
 22 **A. No.**
 23 Q. I'm going to move on, if I may, to another subject,
 24 please, Ms Delahunty. One of the people whom you
 25 supervised, and I think that this was in 1980 or 1981 --

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1 A. '81 to '82, yes.
 2 Q. -- was a Ms Theresa Johnson?
 3 A. That's right.
 4 Q. She was placed at Angell Road, is that right, for maybe
 5 three or four months?
 6 A. Yes, I arranged the placement for her because, within
 7 the CSS course, we arranged a period of placement,
 8 practice placement.
 9 Q. In your statement, you describe that you went with her
 10 to Angell Road and had a conversation with
 11 John Carroll --
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Is that right?
 14 A. Yes. That was to set up the placement and, you know,
 15 discuss what was needed in it.
 16 Q. Can you recollect what he told you about the Angell Road
 17 Home and the work that it would be doing in the future?
 18 A. Well, yes, because I was quite horrified at the time.
 19 He told me that it was -- there was a children's home
 20 review in process, and he told me then that Angell Road
 21 was going to be the specialist home for child sex abuse,
 22 and I was surprised because, at that stage, I knew that
 23 the consultation hadn't finished because, you know,
 24 I was about to respond to it and I knew the date of it,
 25 and also because, frankly, the way he presented to me,

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1 Q. That was 1990. Is this a prior (overspeaking) before
 2 1990?
 3 A. Yes. I am finding that strange, how long it took to
 4 actually become that. But, you know, it was definitely
 5 when I took Theresa, you know, to the introductory visit
 6 at Angell Road that this was said. So I'm not quite
 7 sure, you know, at which stage -- you know, whether that
 8 review wasn't actually completed until then, I'm not
 9 sure, because I actually -- I'm not sure why there's
 10 that time gap.
 11 Q. Would you have known, from going in and out of
 12 Angell Road over the years, after 1980, if it was doing
 13 that specialist sort of work?
 14 A. I don't think it was at that stage, while -- because
 15 I was particularly going in and out while Theresa was on
 16 placement, although later, again, during that last year
 17 when I was training officer, but at that stage I was
 18 going specifically about the training needs and
 19 opportunities. So I wasn't aware of it having become
 20 so, but I was aware that it had been agreed to become
 21 so.
 22 Q. I think you say in your statement that you reported this
 23 to your manager; is that right?
 24 A. Yes, because -- yes. Also, I still did, you know, send
 25 in a document -- a document of consultation, but, as

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1 and the whole place presented to me, and his deputy
 2 (inaudible) it didn't at all feel to me like any child
 3 who had been abused in that way would feel at ease, and
 4 also I wasn't -- as far as I was aware, he had no
 5 special knowledge. But, particularly, how could he know
 6 this answer -- how could he know that this home was
 7 going to be used in that way before the consultation had
 8 even been completed? As I say, I said to him that
 9 I understand -- you know, I know it's not been
 10 completed, and he said, "Well, you know, Don Thomas has
 11 told me ..." and he was obviously friends with
 12 Don Thomas, and of course, even though it still had all
 13 the stages of going to go of completing the consultation
 14 and then up through the directorate and to the
 15 committee, it still happened, because, of course,
 16 Don Thomas, as head of the children's homes, was the
 17 person who was producing the report which would then
 18 have gone up via the AD and signed by the director to
 19 the Social Services Committee and, as I say, so it did
 20 become the designated home.
 21 Q. The inquiry has seen a report to the Social Services
 22 Committee from 1990 about future planning for children's
 23 homes, and that describes Angell Road becoming
 24 a specialist home.
 25 A. Yes.

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1 I say, I don't think any of those would have gone beyond
 2 Don Thomas.
 3 Q. What was the reaction of your line manager when you
 4 reported your concern about this?
 5 A. Well, I'd say it was his normal reaction of shrug of
 6 the shoulders, really. It must have been -- yes, it
 7 must have been earlier, a lot earlier, because he'd gone
 8 by then, by '91 he'd gone. You know, he went in '89.
 9 Q. I think we are talking about F46; is that right?
 10 A. The training manager?
 11 Q. Yes.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. So F46 had gone by 1989, did you say?
 14 A. Yes. He left very suddenly while I was on maternity
 15 leave, and I returned in November '89.
 16 Q. Do you think that this discussion about the designation
 17 of Angell Road happened sometime before then?
 18 A. Oh, definitely.
 19 Q. In terms of his leaving Lambeth Council's employ, is it
 20 right that Ms Johnson told you that he had been found
 21 with pornography?
 22 A. Who told me?
 23 Q. Did Ms Johnson tell you that?
 24 A. No, no. This was, you know, colleagues at the training
 25 unit, because they had found -- opened one of

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1 the drawers in his -- a locked drawer in his filing
 2 cabinet and found all these pornographic photos of
 3 children, and he instantly left and he seemed to have
 4 left without any kind of -- I don't think he was
 5 suspended or sacked or anything, as far as I know, and
 6 I don't think it ever went to court. But what Theresa
 7 told me later was that, well, it must have gone to the
 8 police because they had asked her to look at various
 9 photos to see whether she recognised any of the children
 10 as, you know, known to her at children's homes, and she
 11 told me that she had recognised a few, but -- as far as
 12 I'm aware, there's never, ever been any charge in that.
 13 But what was clear, beginning to become clear,
 14 wasn't only the collusion, but that there was a network,
 15 a paedophile network, going on, although I have only
 16 really taken that on board more recently, since the SOSA
 17 report and so on.
 18 Q. So that belief on your part is based on what you have
 19 read since and looking back on events during your
 20 employment?
 21 A. Well, certainly we realised there was collusion, and you
 22 don't have photos and things, you know, working on your
 23 own. You know, that in itself, the pornography side of
 24 things, is clearly not just an individual, but, you
 25 know, in cahoots with others, and, as far as managers

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Was that in 1981 or was that some time later,
 3 Ms Delahunty?
 4 A. No, that was some time later.
 5 Q. Do you know approximately when that was, Ms Delahunty?
 6 A. No, but I have a feeling that it would have been by
 7 '86/'87, because I think the couple had moved out of
 8 the borough at that point, whereas, up until then, they
 9 lived, really, in the area.
 10 MS DOBBIN: Ms Delahunty, I'm going to ask the chair if she
 11 has any questions for you.
 12 THE CHAIR: No, I have no questions, Ms Delahunty.
 13 Ms Sharpling?
 14 MS SHARPLING: No, thank you, chair.
 15 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank?
 16 MR FRANK: No, thank you.
 17 THE CHAIR: Sir Malcolm?
 18 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: No, thank you.
 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Ms Delahunty.
 20 A. Thank you.
 21 (The witness withdrew)
 22 MS DOBBIN: Chair, that completes the evidence for today:
 23 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will reconvene tomorrow. Thank
 24 you.
 25 (4.11 pm)

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1 were concerned, they tended to feel that they were in
 2 cahoots, shall I say, in one way or another, several of
 3 time, just like John Carroll and Don Thomas, and that it
 4 was wider than that.
 5 Q. This knowledge that you have got about the photographs
 6 being found, is that what was conveyed to you by other
 7 people within your office?
 8 A. Yes, certainly, but they had, you know, seen them and,
 9 yes, they could definitely confirm that.
 10 Q. Was this not taken up with the senior management in
 11 Lambeth at the time?
 12 A. Oh, certainly. I mean, certainly, yes, that was taken
 13 up with the senior management, and the police, and the
 14 photos were given to the police.
 15 Q. Is that something that you know about or something that
 16 you were told by others?
 17 A. Well, as I say, I wasn't in there at the time, but I was
 18 told by colleagues, and certainly he disappeared. There
 19 was no other reason ever given for why this manager had
 20 disappeared very suddenly, and the -- looking -- being
 21 shown the photos, certainly, by then, Theresa was
 22 a children's homes officer, so that was the role in
 23 which they were shown to her by the police.
 24 Q. I think you also say in your statement that Ms Johnson
 25 told you about a politician, F41, visiting Angell Road.

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1 (The hearing was adjourned to
 2 Friday, 10 July 2020 at 10.30 am)
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