

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

B/F
11/10

Memorandum

From Senior Children's Homes Officer
(Mr. N.F. Elliott int.ext. DPA)

To W.S. HOLLIDAY - CHIEF SOLICITOR
Directorate of Admin. and Legal
Services

My Ref: SS/HDC/SCHO/NE/TCZ

Date 23 September 1974

Your Ref:

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Housefather - D. Hosegood

Further to our telephone conversation of Friday, 20 September 1974, I would confirm the following information:-

1. Mrs. Hosegood is employed as Housemother-in-charge of Fir House, 121 Wickham Road. Her husband is engaged on a joint appointment with his wife for which he gives 15 hours a week to the running of the house in return for free emoluments. A breach of discipline calling for the dismissal of either party automatically causes the dismissal of the other party to the joint appointment.
2. Six of the eight children accommodated within Fir House and one other child have made allegations of gross sexual misconduct by the housefather.
3. The Police have interviewed the children concerned and the housefather and it is my understanding that they are referring the case to the Director of Public Prosecution.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Hosegood have agreed to leave the house and live in a self-contained flat on the Wickham Road site at least for the next two weeks pending developments.
5. Mr. Hosegood has contacted his solicitor who is V.C. Odhams of DPA Office Telephone No. DPA
6. The Case is the responsibility of Det. Insp. O'Connor of South Norwood Police Station. Telephone No. DPA
7. It is the belief in this Directorate that the majority of the accusations against the housefather are pure fantasy. The history of the children is that some are given to sexual fantasy and the previous relationship between the housefather in these children also suggests an element of victimisation against him.

8. The involvement of the ...

8. The involvement of the Police has pre-empted any enquiry that we might make and we have not pursued the allegations in depth with the housefather, although some discussion has taken place during which all allegations were categorically denied.
9. I should be grateful if you would:-
 - (a) Attempt to accelerate a decision from the Director of Public Prosecutions.
 - (b) Advise the Police of your standing in this matter.
 - (c) Inform Mr. Hosegood's solicitors of your interest.
10. Should the need arise this Directorate, subject of your advice, would be prepared to prepare a statement on Mr. Hosegood's previous career history in this employment.

DPA

Senior Children's Homes Officer