

<p>1 Wednesday, 21 October 2020 2 (10.30 am) 3 IN OPEN SESSION 4 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Day 8 of 5 this public hearing. Ms Carey? 6 MS CAREY: Good morning, chair. Chair, before we start with 7 the first witness, the evidence today is going to 8 examine the institutional response into a police 9 operation called Operation Magnolia. There are two live 10 witnesses planned for today -- Mr Wynne, who I hope to 11 call very shortly; and a Mr Yates. Chair, this morning, 12 the inquiry was informed that overnight Mr Yates has 13 been taken unwell. Following further enquiries this 14 morning, we have been told that he is unfit to give 15 evidence today, and so arrangements are being made to 16 reschedule this witness for next Wednesday, which is 17 Wednesday, 28 October, when we hope and anticipate that 18 Mr Yates will be fit and we will be able to hear his 19 evidence. 20 Chair, in order to fit all of the witnesses in who 21 are currently scheduled for next Wednesday, I was 22 wondering respectfully if we could ask you to consider 23 starting the public hearing that day at 10.00 am that 24 morning? 25 THE CHAIR: Yes, we will do that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 MS CAREY: I'm very grateful. Chair, I'm going to ask now 2 that Mr Wynne is sworn. 3 MR JAMES SIDNEY WYNNE (affirmed) 4 Examination by MS CAREY 5 MS CAREY: Mr Wynne, good morning. Your full name, please? 6 <b>A. James Sidney Wynne.</b> 7 Q. I hope you have in front of you a folder containing your 8 witness statement and a number of documents you may be 9 referred to this morning. Can we start, please, with 10 just a little bit of background about your career. 11 I think, is this right, you joined Leicestershire Police 12 in January 1974? 13 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b> 14 Q. By 1984, you were a sergeant; is that right? 15 <b>A. Yes, I was, yes.</b> 16 Q. In 1996, you were appointed to the major crime team. 17 Just help us, and it is probably obvious from the name, 18 but what does the major crime team work involve? 19 <b>A. The major crime team consisted of 30 officers -- that's 20 five detective sergeants and the remaining DCs -- and 21 were responsible to deal with murders, more lately 22 called homicides, across the entire county, and any 23 other incident deemed a major incident.</b> 24 Q. You were on the major crime team, then, I think, until 25 you retired in 2004; is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>
<p>1 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b> 2 Q. Can I take you back some years, please, Mr Wynne, to 3 your first posting in 1974. I think you said in your 4 statement that was to Braunstone Police Station? 5 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b> 6 Q. Whilst you were there, did the area covered by that 7 station include, I think, two children's homes? 8 <b>A. It did, yes.</b> 9 Q. Did you, during the course of your posting to Braunstone 10 Police Station, ever come into contact with some of 11 the children from those children's homes? 12 <b>A. Frequently.</b> 13 Q. Give us an example of the sort of circumstances in which 14 you would encounter the children? 15 <b>A. Children from children's homes frequently went missing, 16 and they'd be reported to us as missing from home. We'd 17 be tasked, if their home addresses -- if their family 18 addresses were within our area, we would visit them. If 19 they weren't, then enquiries would be set up in the home 20 area where their parents or relatives lived, in order to 21 try and trace them, recover them and safely get them 22 back to the children's home.</b> 23 Q. I think you also said occasionally you might go to the 24 children's home and have a chat with staff and children 25 and a cup of tea and matters of that nature?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Again, frequent visit is part of what was perceived as 2 beat duties in those days. It also helped to know the 3 kids before you had to go and look for them. They 4 weren't afraid of us.</b> 5 Q. How long were you at the Braunstone Police Station for? 6 <b>A. Three years.</b> 7 Q. Over the course of that three years, how frequently 8 would children go missing or run away? 9 <b>A. Almost daily. Some would be more prevalent during 10 a period of problems they were going through, and then 11 they'd calm down again and then start up again. It was 12 a common feature of daily policing in those days.</b> 13 Q. When you returned a child back to the children's home, 14 did you ever sort of ask them, "Why are you running 15 away?" 16 <b>A. I don't recall doing so. They probably weren't 17 frightened of sharing information with us that they 18 weren't happy there. I suppose a lot of them didn't 19 like the discipline.</b> 20 Q. Did you ever receive allegations that the children were 21 being physically abused? 22 <b>A. No.</b> 23 Q. Did you ever receive any allegations from the children 24 that they were being sexually abused? 25 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 Q. If, back in 1974 to 1977, a child had said to you, "I am 2 being sexually abused", what would you have done about 3 it? 4 <b>A. I would have gone to the CID office in my police station 5 and told them about it.</b> 6 Q. Moving forward, by the time you were appointed to 7 Operation Magnolia, which I think was early 2000, you 8 would have been a detective sergeant; is that right? 9 <b>A. Yes, yes.</b> 10 Q. Operation Magnolia, as it became called, was run out of 11 Market Harborough Police Station? 12 <b>A. It was, yes.</b> 13 Q. Just in general terms, what was Operation Magnolia set 14 up to investigate? 15 <b>A. Initially, we were tasked with tracing and interviewing 16 12 previous residents of Ratcliffe Road Children's Home 17 as a precursor to making a decision as to whether to 18 widen the operation to any number of other children that 19 may have been through that particular home. So it was 20 a fact-finding mission, in the first place, to see what 21 level of offending there may have been.</b> 22 Q. I think it was to investigate whether there was physical 23 and/or sexual abuse? 24 <b>A. Yes.</b> 25 Q. We may look at the parameters in a little more detail in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 a moment, but it might help everyone to understand the 2 structure of the investigative team, and to help you, 3 can I call up, please, on screen IPC002784. Mr Wynne, 4 it is behind your tab 1, if you want to look at it in 5 your bundle, but it might be just as easy to look at it 6 on your screen. Can we go to pages _005 and _006, 7 please. A few basics, if you can help us, please, 8 Mr Wynne. These are policy records from a policy book 9 that related to Operation Magnolia. Just help us, 10 firstly, with the policy book. Who is in charge of 11 the policy book? 12 <b>A. The policy book is the responsibility of the SIO, senior 13 investigating officer.</b> 14 Q. In this case, we can see that, on 9 February, policy 3, 15 so a very early policy in the operation, here is the 16 management structure and there we can see Detective 17 Superintendent Thomas, who is Graham Thomas, is the SIO? 18 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b> 19 Q. I think, through you, we can confirm that he has now 20 died, and so we won't be hearing any evidence from 21 Mr Thomas? 22 <b>A. Yes.</b> 23 Q. Then under him are various members of staff -- Detective 24 Inspector Keenan, Detective Inspector Davies, 25 DS Pattani, there's you, DS Wynne. What does "SMCT"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>
<p>1 stand for? 2 <b>A. South area major crime team.</b> 3 Q. You are described as an enquiry team supervisor. What 4 does that mean? 5 <b>A. I look after the team that do all the external 6 enquiries.</b> 7 Q. Are you basically in charge of the officers going out 8 and taking statements, looking for files? 9 <b>A. Yes.</b> 10 Q. Then on to policy 4, a number of other officers helping 11 out, including DC Baraclough, DC Nixon. Maud Hill, in 12 charge of HOLMES -- that's the database, is that right, 13 that was used to record the tasks? 14 <b>A. That's correct.</b> 15 Q. Also a PC Perkiss and someone called Carole Scott 16 dealing with admin. So that's, at the start of 17 the operation, a rough idea of the names of the people, 18 the ranks of the people and their sort of 19 responsibilities generally? 20 <b>A. Yes.</b> 21 Q. Within your role, I think you said in your statement 22 that you were to take part in the investigation, 23 supervise and assist your team where necessary? 24 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b> 25 Q. Were you also responsible for going out and speaking to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 witnesses, taking statements? 2 <b>A. Absolutely, yes.</b> 3 Q. If there was a shortage in one of the other areas or 4 someone was sick for one day, would you step into the 5 breach and try to take on their responsibilities? 6 <b>A. In terms of the investigation team, yes.</b> 7 Q. Yes. 8 <b>A. I think, as time goes on, you will see that when the 9 interviews that we had with the various witnesses had to 10 be transcribed, it could take an officer up to a week to 11 do that, so they would be out of the game for a bit, so 12 I would partner up with their partner, and so on. It 13 was a very flexible working arrangement.</b> 14 Q. If two officers were tasked to go and speak to 15 a witness, they are interviewed for an hour, at some 16 point that interview has to be typed up. Back in 2000, 17 that was typed up by a member of the police, not admin? 18 <b>A. I say "transcribed". It wasn't typed up. It was 19 handwritten into an officer's workbook and then, from 20 there, the witness statement would be prepared.</b> 21 Q. So an officer would literally sit there, listen to the 22 tape, write down the key points and, from that, turn 23 that into a witness statement that the witness then 24 signed? 25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

1 Q. Understood. Mention is made of what are called  
 2 abstractions.  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. What are abstractions?  
 5 A. These would be when, for example, over a weekend, there  
 6 had been another murder or an incident deemed a major  
 7 incident and resources were required to go and deal with  
 8 that. My team -- part of my team or the whole of my  
 9 team -- could have been called upon to go and assist  
 10 with that other enquiry for a few days, a week, a couple  
 11 of weeks, maybe even a couple of months.  
 12 Q. Over the course of Operation Magnolia, which started in  
 13 the start of 2000 and finished early-ish 2002, so over  
 14 that two-year period, can you help us with how many  
 15 times you were abstracted?  
 16 A. Without seeing any workbooks, I can't say. It may have  
 17 been every couple of months, it may sometimes have been  
 18 every couple of weeks.  
 19 Q. It could be a number of officers that were abstracted?  
 20 A. Yes. Early on in the enquiry, we lost Alex Nixon long  
 21 term to another major enquiry. He had a specialism in  
 22 a particular role, and he was called upon to do that.  
 23 Q. So you were one down there.  
 24 A. One down.  
 25 Q. What impact did the abstractions have on

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1 IPC002784\_010. We can see the date there, the 14th, so  
 2 Valentine's Day 2000. Policy 7 -- again, a fairly early  
 3 policy -- entitled "Confidentiality":  
 4 "Team briefed as to need for this operation to  
 5 maintain a degree of confidentiality. The only  
 6 information it will be necessary to disclose will be  
 7 that it is an investigation into historic child abuse  
 8 allegation at The Holt and Ratcliffe Road Children's  
 9 Homes. No names of 'suspects' should be disclosed."  
 10 Can you help us: why was there a need for a degree  
 11 of confidentiality in relation to Operation Magnolia?  
 12 A. Because of the nature of the people that we were  
 13 investigating: they either were current members of staff  
 14 at children's homes or in the Social Services or past  
 15 members of staff. In some cases, there would still  
 16 be -- if they were current employees of the local  
 17 authority, there may well be safeguarding issues with  
 18 regard to what they were doing at that particular time.  
 19 It was with respect to them that that confidentiality  
 20 was maintained within the HOLMES team and the major  
 21 enquiries team, ie, within the operation.  
 22 Q. Is that an unusual policy to have in an operation of  
 23 this size?  
 24 A. No. I mean, the last thing you want is talk about  
 25 anything in relation to any major enquiry going on in

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1 Operation Magnolia?  
 2 A. For the most part, it meant that it stood still while we  
 3 were away, with the exception being DC Smith, who wasn't  
 4 part of the major crime team, he would still be there,  
 5 so he'd soldier on alone with what enquiries he could  
 6 carry out. I think it was a constant struggle for  
 7 Mr Thomas to try to keep the resource levels high enough  
 8 to keep the investigation ticking over.  
 9 Q. Can you help us, in Mr Thomas's absence, if there is  
 10 a concern that an operation is understaffed or there's  
 11 too many abstractions, which means the operation is not  
 12 being progressed, is it the SIO that asks more senior  
 13 officers for additional resources?  
 14 A. Absolutely, yes. You will see that evidenced throughout  
 15 the inquiry. As the office manager changes frequently,  
 16 the areas want their people back. For example, I think  
 17 Sanj Pattani was one of the early office managers, his  
 18 area wanted him back, so we ended up with another one  
 19 from another area. It was a constant struggle, really,  
 20 to maintain the staffing requirements.  
 21 Q. In general terms, Mr Wynne, do you think, looking back  
 22 now, that Operation Magnolia was under-resourced?  
 23 A. On reflection, it probably was, yes.  
 24 Q. I'd like to just ask you about a couple more of  
 25 the policy documents, please. Can we show on screen

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1 the canteen and another officer or member of staff who  
 2 is not related to the enquiry talking to a member of  
 3 the press.  
 4 Q. If I say this, effectively, was a reminder for everyone  
 5 to keep their own counsel, that's effectively what that  
 6 policy was aimed at?  
 7 A. That's as sinister as it gets.  
 8 Q. In your experience, not unusual for a police  
 9 investigation?  
 10 A. No. No. The same goes for the security of  
 11 the documentation.  
 12 Q. Now, the parameters of Operation Magnolia themselves are  
 13 in also IPC002784, starting at page \_016. 16 February,  
 14 there we are, "Parameters of the enquiry":  
 15 "To investigate whether there is any evidence of  
 16 physical and/or sexual abuse of children at The Holt and  
 17 Ratcliffe Road Children's Homes during the periods of  
 18 time that [a child] resided there, ie, between  
 19 [a certain date] 1986 and 1987. These parameters will  
 20 be reviewed and discussed with the ACC/O ..."  
 21 Who is that, please?  
 22 A. Assistant chief constable (operations).  
 23 Q. Do you know who that was in February 2000?  
 24 A. I don't, know.  
 25 Q. "... discussed with ACC/O as more information comes to

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<p>1 light as a result of continuing enquiries."                  2 That is what you were tasked to go and investigate.                  3 I think, in fact, are you aware, Mr Wynne that, in due                  4 course the parameters were widened, and if, within the                  5 same URN, we could look at page_040, by 12 April, so                  6 a couple of months later, policy 36 now, these                  7 parameters had been agreed by ACC/O, Social Services and                  8 the legal reps. It had been widened now to a ten-year                  9 investigation, still into the same two homes:                  10 "All allegations of physical and sexual abuse to be                  11 disclosed to Social Services where staff are named."                  12 Was that to enable Social Services to carry out any                  13 safeguarding functions?                  14 <b>A. Absolutely. And any suspensions, should they be</b>                  15 <b>necessary.</b>                  16 Q. Whilst the investigation was continuing, yes:                  17 "All allegations of sexual abuse will be                  18 investigated. CPS advice will be sought in respect of                  19 the various degrees of physical abuse.                  20 "Any disclosures falling out of the above parameters                  21 will be individually assessed."                  22 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  23 Q. Just help us: where we have a policy and then it gets                  24 widened, how is this information disseminated to the                  25 rest of the team?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Any changes, major changes, to policy will have been</b>                  2 <b>disseminated during the course of the normal weekly or</b>                  3 <b>fortnightly team briefings, where we all come together</b>                  4 <b>and discuss updates, and so on.</b>                  5 Q. So no-one is under any illusions about what they should                  6 be investigating, what is within the scope of                  7 the investigation and what is out of the scope. Now,                  8 help me: if there is an allegation that falls out of                  9 the scope, what were you told to do with that                  10 allegation?                  11 <b>A. Anything that did fall out of the scope went straight to</b>                  12 <b>the deputy SIO, or the SIO, and they made the decision</b>                  13 <b>as to what to do with it.</b>                  14 Q. I think you said in your witness statement that there                  15 were quite tightly-set parameters --                  16 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  17 Q. -- for Operation Magnolia, and there is reference to                  18 them being tightly set to avoid what's called mission                  19 creep?                  20 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  21 Q. What did you mean by that?                  22 <b>A. I started using that word after I left the police force</b>                  23 <b>and started project managing, but, basically, it means</b>                  24 <b>just to stay on focus, stay on point, within what you</b>                  25 <b>do. With the children -- the adults that were children</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>
<p>1 <b>in children's homes in the time, they went to many</b>                  2 <b>different children's homes, not only within this county,</b>                  3 <b>but elsewhere. So it would be very easy to start</b>                  4 <b>drifting off into different directions and clouding the</b>                  5 <b>issues that we were looking to investigate.</b>                  6 Q. But if, during the course of investigation, a child                  7 said, for example -- who had been a resident at either                  8 The Holt or Ratcliffe -- "I was raped at a home in                  9 London", let's say, that's surely not something that you                  10 can ignore?                  11 <b>A. Oh, absolutely not, no. No, no.</b>                  12 Q. What was it intended you should do if an allegation                  13 cropped up that related to a different geographical area                  14 or different policing area?                  15 <b>A. We were never instructed as to what to do should</b>                  16 <b>something come up, because it would have been</b>                  17 <b>commonsense that, as the allegations arose into people</b>                  18 <b>outside of the home during the course of</b>                  19 <b>the investigation, we simply referred them back to the</b>                  20 <b>deputy SIO or the SIO as to their decision and</b>                  21 <b>instructions as to what to do to take it forward, or</b>                  22 <b>not. It may well have been the case that it would have</b>                  23 <b>been more suitable to transfer that part of it out to</b>                  24 <b>another department or another police force.</b>                  25 Q. You, I think, told us that the initial phase of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>	<p>1 the operation was to trace and interview 12, I think,                  2 former residents of those homes?                  3 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  4 Q. Can I ask for your assistance, please, by going through                  5 a document at IPC001290, which is an action. I'm going                  6 to ask you a few questions about that. Now, Mr Wynne,                  7 some basics, before we go to the detail. What is an                  8 action?                  9 <b>A. An action is an instruction or a requirement to do</b>                  10 <b>something that's generated as part of the enquiry</b>                  11 <b>through the HOLMES system. It's a straightforward, "Do</b>                  12 <b>this, do that" or "Show this, show that". The date that</b>                  13 <b>it's issued, the reason that it's issued, where it's</b>                  14 <b>originated from are all on the document.</b>                  15 Q. Let's have a look at this document, so that we can                  16 understand how it works. This is action number 12. The                  17 title is to trace and locate JA-A19, who was a resident                  18 at Ratcliffe Road. The text says he was resident there                  19 whilst another child was there. The task is to obtain                  20 background/intelligence/current status. Is that                  21 basically to find out a little bit more about him?                  22 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  23 Q. Try to find out where he lives and to see if he wants to                  24 speak to the police?                  25 <b>A. Yes, and, indeed, falls into the parameters within the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 <b>time range.</b></p> <p>2 Q. The third row down says:</p> <p>3 "Originating details: 28 February 2000" -- is that?</p> <p>4 <b>A. "280200", 28 February 2000, yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. What does that mean, that's when the action originated?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. So on 28 February, someone decided that A19 should be</p> <p>8 traced and located?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. "Op 199": what is that?</p> <p>11 <b>A. That would be the person within the HOLMES team. They</b></p> <p>12 <b>are identified by the number 199.</b></p> <p>13 Q. So that's the person who has written in to HOLMES, "This</p> <p>14 should go and be done"?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Well, in the early days, this was run on a paper system.</b></p> <p>16 <b>It ran in the same way, in the same processes, as the</b></p> <p>17 <b>HOLMES database. But because it was the -- the initial</b></p> <p>18 <b>enquiry to see whether the operation had legs or not was</b></p> <p>19 <b>put onto paper, because there were only 12 residents.</b></p> <p>20 <b>So it would be a very small amount of paperwork</b></p> <p>21 <b>generated. This was later transposed onto the HOLMES</b></p> <p>22 <b>system, so this is like a backdated version of the paper</b></p> <p>23 <b>one.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Can we take it that, by 28 February, whether it was in</p> <p>25 paper, or whatever, at that stage, a decision had been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 made to go and trace and locate A19?</p> <p>2 <b>A. A19 was one of the original 12.</b></p> <p>3 Q. "Linked actions", the next box down, what are they?</p> <p>4 <b>A. That would be another action linked with the same</b></p> <p>5 <b>nominal. At this stage -- I don't know whether he's</b></p> <p>6 <b>actually attributed a nominal, with it being DPAed, so</b></p> <p>7 <b>I can't say.</b></p> <p>8 Q. A nominal is just a name given on HOLMES to a person to</p> <p>9 distinguish them from an address or a vehicle or</p> <p>10 something of that nature?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. There may be then a linked task related to A19. Is that</p> <p>13 what that means?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So here it is, someone has been told to go and trace and</p> <p>16 locate A19. Down to the "Result" box, please.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. "Resulted. 8 May 2000". Is "1141" a time or a person</p> <p>19 or what is "1141"?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes, it probably will be the time, yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. "Changed to file". What does the "Resulted" section</p> <p>22 tell us?</p> <p>23 <b>A. The "Resulted" section tells you that, on 11 April --</b></p> <p>24 <b>me --</b></p> <p>25 Q. Traced A19?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Traced A19 to a DPA address and various personal details</b></p> <p>2 <b>there. The full tape-recorded interview had taken place</b></p> <p>3 <b>and a statement was made and signed and submitted,</b></p> <p>4 <b>including a copy of a document relating to the</b></p> <p>5 <b>particular individual.</b></p> <p>6 Q. The document, is that the "XREF"?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Cross-reference, it probably is.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Pausing there, Mr Wynne. It is telling us that, on</p> <p>9 11 April, you performed this task. 8 May, is that the</p> <p>10 date it is inputted into HOLMES?</p> <p>11 <b>A. 8 May would have been probably the date that -- I can't</b></p> <p>12 <b>remember. It depends on when the statement was signed,</b></p> <p>13 <b>because it wouldn't have been submitted before the</b></p> <p>14 <b>statement was signed. So I know it was sometime</b></p> <p>15 <b>in March that we spent four hours interviewing this</b></p> <p>16 <b>person, which resulted in four tapes to transcribe. So</b></p> <p>17 <b>that would have taken some time to transcribe and then</b></p> <p>18 <b>turn into a statement and then go back and see the</b></p> <p>19 <b>individual to get the statement signed.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Just pause there, because I just want to make sure that</p> <p>21 everyone can follow this. We know that you interviewed</p> <p>22 A19 on 8 March on four tapes.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b></p> <p>24 Q. As you have told us, then, you have got to transcribe</p> <p>25 those and write them up into your notebook?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. That would then be turned into a statement?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. The statement is dated 10 April 2000?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Obviously, you go then to see A19. A19 confirms what's</p> <p>7 in the statement is accurate. He signs the statement.</p> <p>8 The statement needs to be brought back so that the</p> <p>9 police have got a copy of it.</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Presumably, that's got to be then recorded on the HOLMES</p> <p>12 database?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. So what I'm trying to understand is, can we tell from</p> <p>15 this document when HOLMES recorded that it had got the</p> <p>16 document and it was logged on the database?</p> <p>17 <b>A. That would be -- it would be necessary to look at the</b></p> <p>18 <b>database to see at what point the statement was typed.</b></p> <p>19 Q. So all we can say from this is, there was the action to</p> <p>20 go and trace and locate A19. The result is that it's</p> <p>21 been done. This is saying that it was done on 11 April,</p> <p>22 although we know from other documentation, in fact, you</p> <p>23 took the statement from him on 10 April.</p> <p>24 <b>A. So I've submitted this as complete the following day.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Then, at some point later on, the office managers</b>  2 <b>resulted the action to be filed.</b>  3 Q. Which means that action is done?  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>  5 Q. And there is no need for any action to be taken. So if,  6 for example, it hadn't been filed, as I understand it,  7 someone could say to an SIO, "Look, this action has been  8 pending for three weeks. Nothing has been done?"  9 <b>A. Mmm-hmm.</b>  10 Q. "Mr Thomas, could you go and have a word with the  11 officer and give him a bit of a hurry-up"?  12 <b>A. That's part of the manager's role in managing the queue</b>  13 <b>in terms of how many actions are outstanding, how many</b>  14 <b>are pending, how many should be completed ready to be</b>  15 <b>written off or filed.</b>  16 Q. Just help us in general terms -- we can take that  17 document down now, thank you -- over the course of an  18 operation the size of Operation Magnolia, how many  19 actions might there be in a two-year operation?  20 <b>A. Oh, thousands. Thousands, yes.</b>  21 Q. Generating statements, exhibits, files, photographs --  22 <b>A. Yes.</b>  23 Q. -- you name it?  24 <b>A. Absolutely everything, yes.</b>  25 Q. All of which then has to be recorded on HOLMES?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Mmm-hmm.</b>  2 Q. And which, of itself, might generate further enquiries?  3 <b>A. Absolutely, yes.</b>  4 Q. Let's take a simple example: if you go and trace A19  5 there and A19 says, "I told my mum or my dad about the  6 abuse", there might be an action then to go and speak to  7 A19's mum or dad?  8 <b>A. They'd become nominals in their own right, as they have</b>  9 <b>been named, and they'd be linked to A19's page.</b>  10 Q. So it's effectively -- it should be a paper trail of  11 what was asked to be done and what was the result of  12 those requests?  13 <b>A. Yes.</b>  14 Q. If there are new requests generated, you can track that  15 through as well?  16 <b>A. Yes.</b>  17 Q. Just before we move to a closed session, can I just deal  18 with some of the generalities of Operation Magnolia with  19 you. I think you can confirm, Mr Wynne, that during the  20 course of Operation Magnolia, two complainants made  21 statements to the police alleging that, in addition to  22 abuse they'd suffered in the children's homes, they had  23 been sexually abused by Lord Janner. Are you aware of  24 that?  25 <b>A. I'm aware of one of them, and I think I said in my</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>
<p>1 <b>interview with the IOPC I couldn't remember the other</b>  2 <b>one at all.</b>  3 Q. One of them was JA-A19?  4 <b>A. Mmm-hmm.</b>  5 Q. We will come on to consider him. The other one, if it  6 helps you, was JA-A6?  7 <b>A. Yes.</b>  8 Q. Is it right that the allegations made against care home  9 staff, or children's home staff, were put into one  10 statement, and the allegations against Lord Janner were  11 put into a separate statement?  12 <b>A. That did happen. Not necessarily as a result of</b>  13 <b>a policy. The reason it happened with JA-A19 was simply</b>  14 <b>logistics, in the first instance, because we spent four</b>  15 <b>hours interviewing him, he'd grown tired, restless. At</b>  16 <b>the end of four hours, we decided he'd had enough, and</b>  17 <b>we turned the tapes off. After that point, a disclosure</b>  18 <b>was made to us. I have no record of what that</b>  19 <b>disclosure was without my rough notebook to hand.</b>  20 <b>Arrangements were made to go and see him within a couple</b>  21 <b>of weeks.</b>  22 Q. Pausing there, after the four rounds of interview tapes,  23 you say a disclosure was made -- a disclosure about  24 Lord Janner; is that right?  25 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>	<p>1 Q. Then arrangements were made to go back and to  2 reinterview him about what he had to say about  3 Lord Janner?  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>  5 Q. When you went back to interview him, which I think was  6 on 20 March -- so the first round was 8 March; within  7 a couple of weeks you'd gone back, on the 20th, to  8 interview him about Lord Janner?  9 <b>A. Mmm.</b>  10 Q. The Lord Janner allegations were put into a separate  11 statement?  12 <b>A. Yes. Those allegations were subjective, separate, taped</b>  13 <b>interview recordings and subject to the separate</b>  14 <b>statement, yes.</b>  15 Q. Can I ask you this: had A19, in the 8 March interviews,  16 also mentioned Lord Janner, are you saying that the care  17 home staff allegations and the Lord Janner allegations  18 would all be in one statement?  19 <b>A. I don't know, to be honest. I would have sought some</b>  20 <b>advice on that. As it happened, it didn't turn out that</b>  21 <b>way. It wasn't something we had to deal with.</b>  22 Q. It is just that we have seen the parameters, which were  23 in relation to investigating allegations arising out of  24 care home -- I should say against children's home staff.  25 I just was wondering if there was any instruction to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

1 keep the allegations separate?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. No instruction that you --

4 **A. No specific instruction to keep them separate, but, as**

5 **we said -- we spoke earlier about allegations made**

6 **outside of them, those parameters, it would make sense**

7 **to have that evidence separate and available to whoever**

8 **may end up dealing with it.**

9 Q. But if I understand you right, in A19's case, it just

10 happened to fall that way because he was interviewed on

11 two separate occasions?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Right. Once the allegations had been made against

14 Lord Janner by JA-A19, and I hope you will forgive me if

15 I just call him A19, hereafter -- it's less

16 convoluted -- did you inform the SIO Thomas about the

17 allegations against Greville Janner?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. How did you do that?

20 **A. I can't remember. I would have --**

21 Q. Would you have rung him up, or ...?

22 **A. I don't know if we had mobile phones or what sort of**

23 **mobile phones in those days, to be honest. We'd have**

24 **certainly gone back -- it depends what time we finished**

25 **interviewing, as to whether we'd go back to Harborough**

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1 the course of Operation Magnolia, Lord Janner was not

2 interviewed about these allegations; is that right?

3 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

4 Q. Nor was he arrested?

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. Or any attempt to have a voluntary interview and invite

7 him to the police station to see if he wanted to answer

8 questions?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. Whose decision was it to not interview him, not arrest

11 him?

12 **A. I believe -- I can refer you back to the policy on**

13 **that -- that any intervention policy would be risk**

14 **assessed by the CPS, having first had sight of all the**

15 **evidence.**

16 Q. Hold on. Decision to arrest and interview. Are you

17 saying that's a CPS decision or --

18 **A. No, it's in conjunction with the CPS.**

19 Q. Just give me one moment, please. Can I just call up on

20 screen IPC002784\_029 and then possibly page\_034. There

21 is policy 25. If possible, Mr Hyde, could we put up

22 page\_034 as well.

23 Mr Wynne, 21 March, just looking at the policy on

24 the left-hand side of the page, there was a meeting with

25 the CPS. They are going to be informed that Op Magnolia

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1 **to finish the day. But, either way, I'd have made every**

2 **effort to let Mr Thomas know on the day.**

3 Q. If you didn't see him that day or couldn't speak to him

4 that day, presumably it would have been the next day?

5 **A. The next morning, yes.**

6 Q. Do you have any independent recollection of speaking to

7 Mr Thomas and saying, "There's been allegations against

8 Greville Janner"?

9 **A. Not independent, but I certainly would have made them.**

10 Q. Do you recall what he did when you told him about those

11 allegations?

12 **A. No, I don't remember.**

13 Q. Do you have any views about what he should have done or

14 who he should have told about?

15 **A. My assumption would be that he'd be telling the ACC (O),**

16 **as per the policy, as to what should be done with that.**

17 Q. When you say "the policy", do you mean the one we have

18 looked at, policy 36?

19 **A. The one we looked at earlier, yes.**

20 Q. That said that any other disclosures outside the

21 parameters would be individually assessed. That's

22 policy 36. Okay.

23 So A19 has made allegations. You've got less, or

24 little, recollection about A6's allegations against

25 Lord Janner. I think it's right, Mr Wynne, that during

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1 is at an early stage. You are going to seek their

2 advice on possible parameters and guidelines, seek their

3 advice on dealing with the named suspects and to invite

4 a CPS rep to become a member of the inter-agency

5 investigation management team. What is that?

6 **A. That was arrangements with the local authority,**

7 **Social Services and the county council. I had very,**

8 **very little to do with any of that side of**

9 **the investigation.**

10 Q. So early on, there is obviously going to be liaison and

11 advice sought from the CPS. Then if one looks at

12 policy 30, which is called "Arrest policy":

13 "On completion of the evidence-gathering phase of

14 the investigation, the CPS will examine the evidence

15 before any arrests are contemplated."

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. "Reason: to advise on whether the quality/nature of

18 evidence gives appropriate grounds to consider future

19 proceedings against suspects."

20 In relation to Lord Janner, do you think, as

21 a result of policy 30, the decision to arrest and/or

22 interview him would be taken in conjunction with the

23 CPS?

24 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

25 Q. Are you ever aware of any policy decision about

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1 Lord Janner himself?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. So no policy record that says, "We are going to arrest

4 him" or "We are not going to arrest him" and gives the

5 reasons for that?

6 **A. Bearing in mind I wasn't party to what was written in**

7 **the policy document in those, but I would have expected**

8 **to find something along those lines.**

9 Q. Did you ever have any discussion with Mr Thomas, the

10 SIO, about, "Oh, do you think we should think about

11 asking Mr Janner in for interview?"

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. Why not?

14 **A. Because the interview -- sorry, the investigation was --**

15 **it never reached a stage where we would have been --**

16 **where it would have been appropriate.**

17 Q. Wouldn't have been appropriate to what, to interview

18 him?

19 **A. Yes, ie, we weren't in possession of all the information**

20 **required. For example, we hadn't identified secondary**

21 **disclosures; we hadn't identified the premises; we'd**

22 **made efforts -- we hadn't identified other people that**

23 **may have been at particular premises at particular**

24 **times, and so on.**

25 Q. So there was -- if I understand you correctly, there's

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1 or Lord Janner or both?

2 **A. Both, in my view.**

3 Q. This is your opinion that you are relaying to us, but

4 are you able to give us any indication of what

5 SIO Thomas thought about the allegations against

6 Lord Janner?

7 **A. Mr Thomas was present at the meeting with the CPS in**

8 **late November.**

9 Q. 2001, yes.

10 **A. We discussed all of the evidence against all of**

11 **the children -- the care home suspects and all of**

12 **the victims and witnesses. Sadly, the notes which cover**

13 **that meeting are sparse. It doesn't look as though --**

14 **and the meeting would have taken probably a whole**

15 **morning, with a lot of documentation to refer to --**

16 **statements, actions, documents, and so on, with a room**

17 **fairly full of individuals giving appraisals of their**

18 **parts of the investigation and the outcomes, and so on.**

19 **Unfortunately, the notes don't really convey the**

20 **depth of that meeting.**

21 Q. All right. We may look at those later on in your

22 evidence. Just thinking about that meeting on

23 28 November 2001 with the CPS, the CPS were being asked,

24 as I understand it, to advise on what charges, if any,

25 should be brought against the care home, or the

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1 an absence of additional information that might support

2 A19's account, but, nonetheless, A19 has given

3 a statement in which he says he was sexually abused by

4 Lord Janner. Why was that, of itself, not enough to go

5 and ask Lord Janner to come in for interview?

6 **A. Because it -- it simply wouldn't have been. It would be**

7 **like me asking:**

8 **"Excuse me, sir, this person says that you have**

9 **sexually abused him.**

10 **"Well, I'm sorry, that's not the case. Where was**

11 **it?**

12 **"Well, I don't know. We haven't identified the**

13 **premises.**

14 **"How did it happen?**

15 **"Well, I don't know. We haven't identified this.**

16 **"Is there any medical records?**

17 **"I don't know. We haven't investigated that."**

18 **It never reached that level of having investigative**

19 **completeness.**

20 Q. Why did it not, then, reach that level?

21 **A. I think we got to the point where the witness's**

22 **allegations were largely discounted because of his**

23 **credibility.**

24 Q. So there were concerns about A19's credibility -- in

25 relation to the allegations against the care home staff

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1 children's home, staff; is that right?

2 **A. Mmm-hmm.**

3 Q. Did you prepare a file for the CPS, or something of that

4 nature?

5 **A. Personally, no.**

6 Q. Are you aware if there was a file prepared for the CPS?

7 **A. I expect that there would have been a file.**

8 Q. But not by you?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. At that meeting on 28 November, were the allegations

11 made against Lord Janner discussed at all, or even

12 brought up?

13 **A. I'm sure they would have been. I wouldn't say that they**

14 **were hidden in any way.**

15 Q. That's not quite the question that I asked, Mr Wynne.

16 Do you recall sitting around the table and saying, "Oh,

17 by the way, A19 has made allegations against

18 Greville Janner"?

19 **A. I could say "Yes, I do". I could say, "No, I don't".**

20 **But, either way, it's not reflected in the notes.**

21 Q. I just want to understand your recollection before we

22 look at what the notes do or don't say. Do you remember

23 now, at that meeting, Greville Janner and the

24 allegations against him being brought up?

25 **A. I don't.**

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1 Q. You don't recall one way or the other?  
 2 **A. No.**  
 3 Q. Do you accept that, on the basis of the documentation  
 4 available to the CPS, the CPS weren't informed about  
 5 JA-A19 and A6's allegations?  
 6 **A. No, I don't accept that.**  
 7 Q. Do you agree, though, that there were no charges brought  
 8 against Lord Janner in respect of A19 and A6's  
 9 allegations?  
 10 **A. Yes, I agree with that.**  
 11 Q. Perhaps just before we either take our break or  
 12 certainly transition into the closed session, in general  
 13 terms, do you think that the police investigated the  
 14 Janner allegations properly during the course of  
 15 Operation Magnolia?  
 16 **A. I believe we investigated them as fully as we could.**  
 17 MS CAREY: Chair, they are all the questions I wanted to ask  
 18 in the open session. It's coming up to 11.15 am.  
 19 I don't know whether you want to transition now into  
 20 closed and we will carry on until 11.30 am, or perhaps  
 21 take a slightly earlier mid-morning break?  
 22 THE CHAIR: We can take a break now.  
 23 MS CAREY: Thank you very much, chair.  
 24 (11.15 am)  
 25 (A short break)

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1 I had to perform other roles. At one point, I remember  
 2 that I was performing three full-time roles -- I was  
 3 deputy SIO, statement receiver and action allocator.  
 4 I had to cover all three roles for several weeks.  
 5 "One aspect of my role which I found particularly  
 6 challenging was that I had to keep a running log of  
 7 persons against whom allegations of abuse had been made,  
 8 the nature of those allegations -- in particular, the  
 9 level of seriousness of any allegations of sexual  
 10 abuse -- and their current employment status. Such  
 11 a log became necessary because both Leicestershire  
 12 County Council and Leicester City Council undertook  
 13 a rolling programme of risk assessment with regard to  
 14 any persons suspected of abuse who were currently  
 15 working with vulnerable children or adults. In several  
 16 cases, the outcome of this risk assessment process was  
 17 suspension of the individual concerned. It was  
 18 incumbent upon me to provide accurate and timely  
 19 information about allegations to partner agencies as the  
 20 enquiry progressed."  
 21 Mr Keenan described the decisions to separate  
 22 allegations of abuse which took place in two children's  
 23 homes and allegations relating to abuse suffered at any  
 24 other location or during any other time period and the  
 25 decision to have two separate statements as "sensible".

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1 (11.30 am)  
 2 (The hearing went into closed session)  
 3 (2.40 pm)  
 4 IN OPEN SESSION  
 5 Summary of statement of MR RICHARD KEENAN (read)  
 6 MR MERTENS: Chair, thank you. This is a summary of  
 7 evidence of Richard Keenan taken from a statement to the  
 8 inquiry dated 3 June 2020, document reference INQ005749.  
 9 Mr Keenan joined the Metropolitan Police in 1988 and  
 10 transferred to Leicestershire Police in 1994. He  
 11 retired from Leicestershire Police in 2013. He did not  
 12 work as a detective constable or detective sergeant in  
 13 the mainstream CID office. He had 12 years' service  
 14 when he was appointed to Operation Magnolia and  
 15 described his duties as a "steep learning curve".  
 16 Mr Keenan said the following:  
 17 "As deputy SIO, I was required to supervise the  
 18 day-to-day running of both the investigative team and  
 19 the HOLMES team. Throughout Operation Magnolia, there  
 20 were great demands placed upon the available number of  
 21 suitably trained officers because of the number of  
 22 serious enquiries facing Leicestershire Constabulary  
 23 during that period. This meant that we often struggled  
 24 to find suitably qualified officers to occupy various  
 25 roles within the enquiry team. On several occasions

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1 Mr Keenan said:  
 2 "I have been asked to comment on the decision not to  
 3 refer the allegations made against Greville Janner to  
 4 the CPS in any formal meeting. I was not involved in  
 5 the discussion surrounding this decision. I am not  
 6 aware at this point in time whether or not  
 7 Superintendent Thomas maintained a separate sensitive  
 8 policy for Operation Magnolia. If he did, at no point  
 9 did I have sight of it. I am unable to provide an  
 10 explanation about the lack of recorded policy concerning  
 11 the handling of allegations against Greville Janner.  
 12 "I believe I was aware during the time I was deputy  
 13 SIO that statement S4C was not immediately entered into  
 14 the HOLMES system. I believe this was because it was  
 15 a statement that contained allegations outside of  
 16 the Operation Magnolia investigation parameters. I also  
 17 note that it is said that S4C was an unsigned statement.  
 18 It is therefore also possible that the statement did not  
 19 get put into the HOLMES system as it was not a finalised  
 20 statement. This may have appeared strange to me at the  
 21 time, but my lack of experience with major enquiries  
 22 meant that I was not in a position to recognise this as  
 23 a deviation from the norm. I believe that I made SIO  
 24 Graham Thomas aware of this statement when it came to my  
 25 attention.

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<p>1 "It was my expectation that the allegations 2 containing Greville Janner would be referred by 3 Superintendent Thomas to whichever ACC had 4 responsibility for the conduct of criminal 5 investigations in Leicestershire Constabulary at that 6 time. Assistant ACC Creedon was in this position for 7 a significant period of time during Operation Magnolia, 8 but apart from one meeting, I was not party to the 9 discussions at this level. 10 "From the material in the IOPC Op Nori report, 11 I note that none of the officers senior in rank to 12 Superintendent Thomas can recall ever having been made 13 aware that allegations had been made against 14 Greville Janner. I find it inconceivable that 15 SIO Thomas would not have consulted with his peers and 16 senior officers as to how he should progress 17 investigations that would undoubtedly be subject to 18 intense press and public scrutiny. I am not aware, 19 however, of which senior officers he consulted and, as 20 I stated to the IOPC, I was only ever present at one 21 such meeting, which was held between Superintendent 22 Thomas and assistant ACC Creedon, and cannot remember 23 whether Janner was discussed. 24 "I have no reason to disagree with the statement of 25 retired Inspector Yates that he brought my attention to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 the fact that Janner had been mentioned in a victim 2 statement. As part of my regular briefing of 3 Superintendent Thomas, I would have quite naturally 4 brought this to his attention. I would most likely have 5 done this at the weekly meeting held on a Monday 6 morning. I cannot recall any specific comment to 7 Inspector Yates that statements concerning Janner were 8 in 'a bottom drawer'. 9 "The vast majority of officers were totally 10 committed to conducting a rigorous but objective search 11 for the truth. They found the allegations disturbing 12 and were baffled as to how such systemic abuse could 13 have taken place. The investigative team consisted of 14 officers with a considerable length of service. They 15 recognised several of the victims spoken to in 16 Operation Magnolia as children whom they had picked up 17 as missing persons and returned to the homes where they 18 were being abused. There were, unfortunately, one or 19 two exceptions. One inspector in particular was removed 20 from the enquiry because of the disparaging comments he 21 made about the former residents. There was also 22 a detective sergeant who joined the enquiry towards its 23 latter stages. He resented being assigned to the 24 enquiry in the first place and could not understand why 25 so much resource had been assigned to investigate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>
<p>1 complaints made by people with significant criminal 2 records. 3 "I have read Sarah Cox's statement. I was not aware 4 of these disparaging comments at the time, and, had 5 I been made aware of them, I would have dealt with them 6 in an appropriate manner. As I have said, the majority 7 of the team were heavily committed to conducting 8 a thorough and detailed enquiry. Like myself, they were 9 dumbfounded by the decision of the CPS not to prosecute 10 any of the offenders." 11 Chair, of course, pausing there, that is a reference 12 to the care home staff. Returning to the statement: 13 "I found senior investigating officer Detective 14 Superintendent Graham Thomas to be a very committed and 15 careful individual. At that time, the major enquiries 16 department of Leicestershire Constabulary benefited from 17 the presence of several very experienced officers. 18 These included Detective Chief Superintendent 19 Mick Creedon and others. By comparison to these 20 officers, Superintendent Thomas could be said to be the 21 least experienced. My impression of him was somebody 22 who acted in a considered and deliberate manner and 23 ensured that he had the best possible advice available 24 to hand before he made any major policy decisions. At 25 no point in the enquiry did I feel that he regarded the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>	<p>1 investigation as anything other than a search for the 2 truth about serious allegations of sexual and physical 3 abuse committed over a significant period of time. 4 Halfway through the investigation he was also assigned 5 to a murder investigation which, understandably, 6 occupied a large proportion of his time and attention. 7 This is evident from the significant decrease in policy 8 decisions in the Operation Magnolia policy log once he 9 was working on the murder investigation. 10 "We sought CPS advice as to best practice to be 11 followed in such enquiries at the earliest opportunity. 12 At the start of the operation, Mr Rock outlined the 13 approach he would take to the evidence we obtained. 14 To summarise, he accepted that many of our potential 15 victims would have significant criminal records, 16 significant drugs and alcohol issues, and associated 17 mental health conditions. He assured us that he would 18 look at the picture described of the conduct of staff at 19 the two homes taken as a whole and that the factors 20 outlined above would not necessarily constitute an 21 obstacle towards an eventual prosecution. 22 "I remained with the enquiry until all the suspects 23 had been interviewed. By this point, we had what seemed 24 to me to be a coherent narrative describing an 25 aggressive and abusive regime which persisted throughout</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

1 the life of the care home. In addition to both minor  
 2 and serious physical assaults, there were allegations of  
 3 sexual abuse by members of staff which, although not  
 4 individually corroborated, also painted a consistent  
 5 picture of potential offending. I was therefore very  
 6 surprised when Mr Rock reversed his previous position  
 7 and began to deconstruct the evidence we had obtained on  
 8 an individual, person-by-person,  
 9 allegation-by-allegation basis. I could understand that  
 10 some of the assaults alleged were relatively minor in  
 11 substance and, as such, would have been judged to have  
 12 been 'out of time' for prosecution. This still left  
 13 some serious allegations of physical and sexual abuse  
 14 which I believed could still result in the prosecution  
 15 of several of the former members of staff. I left the  
 16 enquiry before these decisions had been made and was  
 17 totally surprised to be informed by Superintendent  
 18 Thomas that no individuals were to be prosecuted as  
 19 a result of the enquiries conducted during  
 20 Operation Magnolia.  
 21 "At this distance in time, I cannot remember whether  
 22 Greville Janner was mentioned as a potential suspect at  
 23 the meeting with Roger Rock on 28 November 2001. I do  
 24 not believe that the 'discrediting' of victims JA-A19  
 25 and JA-A6 was intended to impact upon any allegations

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1 supervision by Social Services. Several individuals who  
 2 had been involved in the Beck enquiry as more junior  
 3 officers and managers had risen to positions of senior  
 4 management and oversight in all three public bodies.  
 5 There was potential personal and organisational  
 6 embarrassment if it had emerged that opportunities to  
 7 prevent a further eight to ten years of child abuse had  
 8 been missed.  
 9 "At the time the abuse occurred, Ratcliffe Road was  
 10 under the supervision of Leicestershire County Council.  
 11 Leicester City gained independent status in 1997 so that  
 12 we dealt with the Social Services directorates of both  
 13 the city and county. It was noticeable that Leicester  
 14 City Social Services were more responsive to requests  
 15 for assistance throughout the enquiry. This was in  
 16 marked contrast to Leicestershire county council, who  
 17 rarely responded without running each request past their  
 18 legal services department. Indeed, the lack of response  
 19 became so noticeable that the issue had to be taken up  
 20 at executive level as it was holding up the enquiry. It  
 21 was my impression that the CPS decision not to prosecute  
 22 any of the suspects was a relief to a number of  
 23 individuals and to the organisations as a whole.  
 24 "I do not feel that there was any organised or  
 25 systematic conspiracy to protect Greville Janner.

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1 made against Greville Janner because it would appear at  
 2 this time the existence of such allegations had not been  
 3 disclosed to the CPS. During this meeting, Mr Rock  
 4 discredited allegations made by a number of victims  
 5 which was something that took me by surprise. I would  
 6 take issue with one of the criteria which he used to  
 7 discredit witnesses. Mr Rock took the view that if  
 8 former residents disclosed instances of abuse which they  
 9 had not mentioned during the Beck enquiry or the  
 10 Kirkwood Inquiry, then these were to be dismissed  
 11 because they had had ample opportunity to mention these  
 12 some years before. This flies in the face of  
 13 the acknowledgement that it can take a lifetime for  
 14 victims of abuse to fully disclose the abuse they have  
 15 suffered.  
 16 "It is my opinion that the systematic physical and  
 17 sexual abuse of children at Ratcliffe Road Children's  
 18 Home uncovered by Operation Magnolia became a source of  
 19 potential embarrassment to a number of public bodies,  
 20 not least the CPS itself. This was because the abuse at  
 21 Ratcliffe Road was a seamless continuation of the abuse  
 22 initiated by Frank Beck during his time as head of  
 23 the home. As such, there was the possibility that it  
 24 could have been uncovered at the time by either further  
 25 police investigation or by stringent management

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1 I did, however, sense a hesitancy to proceed against  
 2 such a high-profile individual solely on the evidence we  
 3 had to hand during Operation Magnolia.  
 4 "I have been asked to comment whether or not  
 5 Operation Magnolia enabled adequate and proper police  
 6 investigations into allegations of child sexual abuse  
 7 concerning Greville Janner. I think it is clear that in  
 8 a post-Savile world, there would have been less  
 9 hesitancy in progressing these allegations. Taken in  
 10 the context of child abuse investigations at the time,  
 11 a more cautious approach would not seem so inadequate."  
 12 Chair, that concludes the read evidence of Mr Keenan  
 13 and, indeed, our evidence for today.  
 14 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr Mertens. We will  
 15 reconvene tomorrow. Thank you.  
 16 MR MERTENS: Thank you very much.  
 17 (2.57 pm)  
 18 (The hearing was adjourned to  
 19 Thursday, 22 October 2020 at 10.15 am)  
 20  
 21  
 22 I N D E X  
 23  
 24 MR JAMES SIDNEY WYNNE (affirmed) .....2  
 25 Examination by MS CAREY .....2

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<p>1 KEENAN (read)</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>Page 45</p>	

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