

2.45. In a later statement provided to Operation Middleton, Mr Carlton explained the reason for this questionnaire as follows:

"I had an interest in Angell Road due to John CARROLL. I was aware of the discipline hearing and him getting sacked. Due to my interest and the fact that David POPE was getting hassle from Anna TAPSELL I created a questionnaire which was sent to about twenty ex residents of ANGELL ROAD. The questionnaire asked if they had any concerns whilst they had been in care. No question identified any particular carer. I sent these by post to last known addresses."

2.46. It appears clear from the above that this questionnaire was different from the interview pro-formas sent out by Operation Bell as part of their investigation, and instead was an internal Lambeth document created at the behest of David Pope.

2.47. I do not have copies of the questionnaires sent out and cannot be sure who received the questionnaires. However, a further memo from Jim Carlton to Glenice Lake on 9 November 1992 sought information relating to the following children: LA-A37

LA-B8	LA-B17	LA-A210	LA-B16	Child	Child
Child	LA-A111	LA-A114	LA-A71	LA-A117	LA-A10
Child	Child	and	LA-A251	At least four of these children had attended Angell Road Children's Home	
LA-B17	and	LA-B16	LA-A37 LA-B8 LA-B17		

I cannot be sure that this list of children represents the "ex residents of Angell Road" to whom Mr Pope / Mr Carlton intended to send their internal questionnaire, but it is possible that it does.

2.48. Mr Carlton indicated that he knew of only one person, a woman, who responded to the questionnaire. He believed that this woman spoke to Rubina Scantlebury (the Social Worker who later became involved in CHILE). As I have been unable to find any records of this internal questionnaire, I cannot confirm whether his recollection is accurate.

2.49. I do note that one of the children mentioned in the above list, LA-A210 attended an Operation Bell pro-forma interview with PS John Torpey. PS Torpey's notes of this interview record as follows:

"The only person to whom LA-A210 had any problems with was John Carroll. He was over physical with regards to restraint but not to the extent that it would be the subject of any criminal investigation."¹⁷

¹⁷ DPA Proforma Interview of LA-A210

herself present at the meeting meant that she had not had the opportunity to explore **LA-A29** circumstances herself.

- 3.75. I am concerned by the limited documentation that appears to have been generated by PC Broadbent's investigation. In her short closing report to an unnamed Chief Superintendent, she stated that police and Social Services enquiries into the case had satisfied both that there was no further cause for concern about the "child or family". I assume that this reference to the child is a reference to **LA-A29** (although it could be to the other child who was involved in the sexual acts taking place). It is not at all clear what these "police enquiries" actually involved as there is no documentation to suggest that PC Broadbent made any of her own enquiries into the allegations of abuse e.g. by speaking directly to the children involved and/or the staff at **Sensitive/Irrelevant** **Sensitive/Irrelevant**

Lambeth CPT Investigations re **LA-A29** (1996)

- 3.76. It is clear from the documentation that DS Stuart Turvey did not attend the Lambeth Social Services planning meeting organised in response to **LA-A29** allegations against Steven Forrest in 1996. While DS Turvey did ask that Social Services make him aware of any further information obtained from **LA-A29** and did make attempts to follow up on this with Social Services, no further information was forthcoming. As a result, no further enquiries or investigations were carried out by the MPS with regards other children who had been in the care of Steven Forrest.
- 3.77. In my view, DS Turvey's decision not to attend the planning meeting arranged by Lambeth Social Services was wrong. This failure is compounded by the fact that DS Turvey does not appear to have made any attempt to obtain a copy of the minutes of the meeting, nor does he appear to have tried to speak directly to **LA-A29**. Obtaining those minutes would have given him an opportunity personally to review the discussions that took place at the meeting. Speaking directly to **LA-A29** and taking his account of the abuse before closing the investigation down was a basic investigative step that I would have expected DS Turvey to take.
- 3.78. As a result of this decision not to attend the meeting, and subsequently to rely on Lambeth Social Services' account of what was discussed, the MPS missed an opportunity to provide police input into the decisions made about **LA-A29** care. The MPS also missed an opportunity to identify further individuals who may have been

abused by Forrest, and to consider whether there might be other perpetrators of sexual abuse working with Forrest at Angell Road Children's Home.

3.79. DS Turvey's decision not to attend the planning meeting is particularly concerning because:

- a. DS Turvey was aware of Forrest's death from an AIDS-related illness. Forrest's illness clearly meant that, if he had abused [LA-A29] or any other children in Angell Road, there was a significant risk to the health of those children. In my view, DS Turvey should have considered this risk and the MPS should have been present at the planning meeting so that they could assist in identifying any further possible victims and ensuring appropriate support and medical advice were put in place for them.
- b. DS Turvey had previously dealt with the allegations made against Steven Forrest (among others) by the parents of [LA-A92] and [LA-A91]. In my view, DS Turvey should have drawn the connection between these previous allegations and [LA-A29] allegations. I am also of the view that, given the new information about Forrest's death from an AIDS-related illness, DS Turvey should have made efforts to re-visit with Lambeth Social Services the allegations involving the [Name Redacted] sisters.

Operation Trawler / Middleton Investigations into Steven Forrest (1998 - 2003)

Operation Trawler Initial Investigations

3.80. It is clear that Operation Trawler's initial investigation into [LA-A29] allegations against Steve Forrest led to a breakdown in the relationship between DI Clive Driscoll and officials within Lambeth Social Services. This was unfortunate but DI Driscoll's concerns about the apparent failure of Lambeth to tell [LA-A29] that Forrest had died from AIDS were understandable. These concerns about Lambeth's approach to [LA-A29] case was eventually dealt with by John Barratt in his independent report.

3.81. Focusing on the actual investigations carried out by Operation Trawler, it is my view that they were right to send an officer to speak directly with [LA-A29] about his allegations. The officer sent – DC Bernard Conmy – does not appear to have made full