

Witness Name: Patricia Orton

Statement No.: 1

Exhibits: 1 - 30

Dated:

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

LAMBETH INVESTIGATION

EXHIBIT [PO] / 15

This is the exhibit marked [PO] / 15 in the witness statement of Patricia Orton dated

RECORDED DELIVERY

CS/M/W/O/00

Mr. and Mrs. J. Carroll

DPA

21 September 1988

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Carroll

LA-B19 and LA-B18

I have just been advised by Jo Hughes, the above-named boys' Social Worker, that at your invitation and without permission from the Area the boys had been staying at your home from the beginning of the Summer School Holidays until 11.9.88 having had to be instructed by Jo on 9.9.88 to return to DPA Childrens Home. This fact gives us the gravest cause for concern for the following reasons:

Firstly, in view of the current situation regarding your application to foster these boys, it is wholly inappropriate that they should be staying with you and, in my view, this is not only obvious but has been discussed with you by Jo Hughes.

Secondly, as an Officer in Charge of a Lambeth Childrens Home I fail to understand how you are apparently unaware that no child in care is allowed to stay away from their placement without such a stay being part of an agreed case-work plan with agreement given by the responsible Area staff.

In view of the above I must insist that should you wish to further invite the LA-B18 & LA-B19 to your home, you must address such a request in writing to me. At present and until a decision is made concerning your Fostering Application I am not prepared to agree to any overnight stays. Also, I will only be willing to consider the question of the boys making a day visit to yourselves at a maximum frequency of one visit per week.

Finally, I must point out that from a professional standpoint I am reluctant at this juncture to agree to the boys visiting you at all. However, in view of the bonding that you have unprofessionally encouraged to develop between yourselves and the boys, in the interests of their emotional welfare I do not feel able to expressly ban all visits.

Yours sincerely

DPA

Patricia Orton
Area Manager

cc: Verley Chambers, AD(CS)
Josie Durrant, AD(CY)
Jack Smith, P(SW)

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

DPA

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll

DPA

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27 September 1988

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Carroll

LA-B19 and LA-B18

Further to my letter of 21.9.88 it has been brought to my attention that its contents did not necessarily make my intention clear that I will only consider requests for the above-named boys to visit you both with the proviso that you will both be at home to jointly supervise them.

I appreciate that you could well be working different shifts which you will further reduce the frequency of any invitations that you may wish to extend to the LA-B18 & LA-B19 boys. However, I have discussed this issue with Verley Chambers, AD(CS) and he is party to this decision.

Yours sincerely

DPA

Patricia Orton
Area Manager

cc: Verley Chambers, AD(CS)
Josie Durrant, AD(CYP)
Jack Hall, PCW

Wynne, OIC

DPA

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