

were investigating some children's homes but that "*Carroll specifically was not under investigation.*"<sup>14</sup>

- 2.41. As mentioned above, Councillor Anna Tapsell and David Pope were engaged in correspondence relating to Carroll in September 1992 (i.e. around the same time that Operation Bell was progressing). Some months earlier, in May 1992, Mr Pope had agreed to look into the circumstances of the disciplinary proceedings against Carroll in 1986 as a result of Ms Tapsell's concerns. By September 1992, however, this review had not been completed.
- 2.42. By a letter dated 15 September 1992, Ms Tapsell chased Mr Pope for an update on his review.<sup>15</sup> She noted that throughout his time in Lambeth, Carroll "*had children in our care to stay with him at his home and on holidays despite the fact that he was warned not to do so.*" As mentioned above, Mr Pope responded to Ms Tapsell on 28 September 1992, stating that he had discussed the case with senior MPS officers and that they agreed with the Council's approach. He did not specify exactly who he had spoken to, but the context of the letter suggests it was DI Iain Gordon (who was the head of Lambeth CPT and was not involved in Operation Bell).
- 2.43. Ms Tapsell was unhappy with this response, as it did not "*address the issue that causes me the greatest concern - that children may have suffered harm whilst in the care of Lambeth.*" On 30 September 1992, she wrote to David Lambert in the Social Services Inspectorate to make him aware of her concerns.
- 2.44. In November 1992, David Pope appears to have asked his colleague, James (Jim) Carlton, the Principal Officer for Children & Families, to create a questionnaire to be sent to ex-residents of Angell Road. In a memo to Mr Carlton on 9 November 1992, Mr Pope stated as follows:

"YOU WILL BE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR THIS MATTER TO BE IMMEDIATELY PROGRESSED IN VIEW OF RECENT CORRESPONDENCE AND THE INEVITABLE MEETING FOR DSS IN LATE NOVEMBER TO EXPLAIN ACTION (OR LACK OF IT BY DSS). IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO ME IF THE LIST OF IDENTIFIED CHILDREN HAD BEEN SENT THE VERY SIMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE BY LATE NOVEMBER WHICH ALLOWED FOR THEM TO RESPOND AND AGREE TO AN INFORMAL MEETING. PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO HELP IN THIS TIMESCALE."<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> DPA Message M154, 12 November 1992.

<sup>15</sup> DPA Op Bell D100 - Docs from Tapsell re Discharge of John Carroll.

<sup>16</sup> DPA MEMO FRM CARLTON TO LAKE CHILD ENQ.

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."<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> DPA Proforma Interview of LA-A210