

Witness Name: Gregor McGill
Statement No.: 2
Dated: 21.05.20

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Gregor McGill

I, Gregor McGill, will say as follows:-

1. I provide this statement on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service ('CPS') in response to a further rule 9 request, received on 23 April 2020. This is my second statement concerning the investigation into allegations of sexual abuse linked to children in the care of Lambeth Council. This statement deals with allegations relating to Angell Road Children's Home.
2. I have been asked to provide details in respect of investigations into:
 - Michael John Carroll – Operation Care 1998/9,
 - LA-F4 – Operation Bell 1992, and
 - Steven Forrest - 1996.
3. In my first statement I provided details about the CPS' file retention policy. For the purpose of clarity I reiterate that all Crown Court case files are retained for three years following the final court date or the length of the sentence if that would result in a longer period. As a result, despite searches being conducted upon our archives¹, we have been unable to identify the CPS case files for the above investigations. It is most likely that the CPS file will have been destroyed some time ago when the file retention period was met.

Michael Carroll

4. In order to assist the Inquiry has provided me with the following documents:
 - OHY006611 – Carroll committal file in Op Care (1998) - 74 pages
 - OHY006612 – Merseyside Police Report re Carroll (2002)
 - MPS000341 – statement of DS Robert Randall dated 27/01/03.

Operation Care

5. I understand that Operation Care was a Merseyside Police investigation, which commenced in 1993, into child sexual abuse at St Edmunds Orphanage in Merseyside. I understand that Carroll was prosecuted for offences relating to the Orphanage and also for allegations of abuse arising from Angell Road Children's Home in Lambeth in 1998/1999.

¹ Searches were undertaken using the following keywords: Michael Carrol, Steven Forrest, LA-F4, Lambeth Care homes, Lambeth Childrens homes, Operation Care, Operation Bell, Operation Middleton, Operation Trawler, Angell Road.

6. From the police records I can see that the reviewing lawyer, D Walsh (CPS Prosecution Team Leader) provided a number of charging advices over the course or a few months relating to Carroll. On 9 June 1998 she advised 30 charges against Carroll of buggery/attempted buggery and indecent assault allegedly committed against 6 children between 1963 and 1973 at St Edmund's Orphanage. A second advice was provided on 10 June 1998 which advised a further 4 charges of buggery and child ill treatment committed between 1974 and 1976 at St Edmund's Orphanage. (see p.63 and p.75 onwards **OHY000612**). On 30 September 1998, she provided a third advice proposing charges of indecent assault contrary to sections 14 and 15 Sexual Offences Act 1956 in respect of allegations made by LA-A181, LA-A109 and LA-A184. These allegations related to abuse at Lambeth. An outline of the allegations can be seen on pages 3-7 of **OHY000611**.
7. In summary, LA-A181 and his brother LA-A109 were accommodated in the care of Lambeth social services following their mother's death. In 1979 they were placed at Highland Road children's home where Carroll was the deputy in charge. The sexual abuse began at Highland Road. LA-A181 reported that Carroll had masturbated him, performed oral sex on him and digitally penetrated his anus and LA-A109 described three occasions when Carroll masturbated him.
8. In 1982 Carroll moved to work at Angell Road as the officer in charge. LA-A181 and LA-A109 unofficially moved to Angell Road with him and stayed in his flat, sometimes staying over at Angell Road during which time they were abused in the same way they had been at Highland Road. LA-A184 described an incident where Carroll inserted an object into her vagina whilst at the same time, masturbating himself.
9. I understand that Carroll was charged and subsequently committed for trial at Liverpool Crown Court. The police file suggests that ultimately a 76 count indictment was before the court (**OHY006612** page 20-47). The indictment captured offending against 13 children between 1966 and 1981.
10. Counts 1-62 concerned offences related to sexual abuse on children in Carroll's care at St Edmund's Orphanage in Liverpool. Counts 63 -76 concerned offences of indecent assault committed against LA-A181, LA-A109 and LA-A184 who were children in care of Lambeth.
 - counts 63-70 covered offences of indecent assault committed between 1980-1986 against LA-A181 when he was aged between 10 and 16;
 - counts 71-75 covered offences of indecent assault committed against LA-A109 between 1980 and 1982 when he was aged 12/13 and
 - count 76 related to an offence of indecent assault committed against LA-A184 in 1980/81 when she was aged 16/17. This was the only count which related to this complainant.
11. It would appear that on 5 April 1999 Carroll changed his plea in respect of 34 counts on the indictment, entering guilty pleas in respect of those matters. All other charges, where a not guilty plea had been entered, were marked to lie on file. As I understand it, the pleas that were entered captured offending against 12 of the boys, only LA-A184 did not have a conviction recorded against her allegation.
12. A criminal charge is allowed to 'lie on file' if the Judge agrees that there is enough evidence for a case to proceed, but that it would not be in the public interest, usually because the defendant has admitted other, often more serious charges, and the sentencing Judge considers that his sentencing powers are sufficient. No admission to the charges is made by the defendant, and no verdict is recorded against them. There