

<p>1 Tuesday, 10 October 2017 2 (10.30 am) 3 Housekeeping 4 MR ALTMAN: Good morning, chair and panel members. There 5 are two housekeeping matters which I need to raise 6 before we begin hearing opening statements from core 7 participants' representatives. First of all, in terms 8 of the witness orders, when we get to call evidence 9 later, we are going to begin with the evidence of A1 10 before we move to hear from Gail Hopper, the first part 11 of the evidence she will be giving to the inquiry. 12 Secondly, this: it was brought to the inquiry's 13 attention last night that the index of documents which 14 was posted on the inquiry's website following 15 yesterday's hearing, those being the documents which 16 I put up on the screen during the course of my opening 17 statement, referred by name to an individual who has 18 a cipher in this investigation, albeit he is not a core 19 participant. 20 As soon as this was brought to the inquiry's 21 attention, the index document was removed from the 22 website. There is information to suggest, although it 23 has not been confirmed, that the individual whose name 24 was mentioned has passed away. If that is correct, then 25 of course there would be no need for a restriction order</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 been seeking justice for up to five and a half decades, 2 and so we very much welcome the investigation that is 3 under way now, but there are many more names of children 4 recorded in the mass of disclosed documents by this 5 inquiry which give, nonetheless, only a partial view of 6 the scale of child sexual abuse in Rochdale from 1960 to 7 1994. 8 Those witness accounts corroborate the accounts of 9 our clients, so when our clients are testifying about 10 the suffering they endured, please watch for those other 11 children in the shadows. 12 That mass of disclosure itself shows that this 13 investigation has already served a valuable purpose. 14 Mr Altman QC yesterday set out a very detailed and 15 extremely helpful review of what the record shows 16 happened to children in Rochdale. It made difficult 17 listening, even for those of us who have been reading 18 thousands of pages. 19 I want to give the chair and panel, in this opening 20 statement, the perspective of the complainant core 21 participants on what they hope this hearing and your 22 report will achieve. 23 Of the eight core participants whom we represent, 24 seven of the eight say that they were abused by 25 Cyril Smith: three of them at Cambridge House; four at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 to protect the name from my further publication by any 2 person who saw the name on that index. But we would 3 invite you to make the restriction order now to prevent 4 any publication of the name whilst we go through the 5 process of confirming whether he has, in fact, passed 6 away. 7 To be clear, for present purposes, although this can 8 be reduced to writing later, the restriction order 9 covers the name mentioned in the first row of the index, 10 and apparently it was from the morning session when it 11 was published on the website. So it is the first row of 12 the index and taken from the morning session. So if 13 perhaps you would simply approve, in those terms, the 14 restriction order for now, and, as I say, it will be 15 reduced to writing later. 16 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman. Yes, I will make that 17 restriction order in the terms you have described. 18 MR ALTMAN: Very kind. I am going to sit down now, and 19 I think we are first to hear from Ms Hoyano on behalf of 20 the complainant core participants. 21 Opening submissions by MS HOYANO 22 MS HOYANO: Good morning, chair, Professor Sir 23 Malcolm Evans, Ms Sharpling and Mr Frank. 24 Mr Scorer, beside me, and I have the honour of 25 representing eight courageous and tenacious men who have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 Knowl View. Of those at Knowl View, two were also 2 sexually abused by other abusers, including by two staff 3 members and by persons who gained access to the school, 4 sometimes in the company of Cyril Smith. The remaining 5 core participant, whilst a young child residing at 6 Knowl View, was abused by many paedophiles outside the 7 school. 8 All five at Knowl View were also physically and 9 emotionally abused by staff members, so parenthetically 10 we agree with Mr Altman that the investigation, whilst 11 instigated due to the controversy about Cyril Smith, 12 must range over a much wider territory about what was 13 going on in the Rochdale Borough. 14 Our clients want to know how all this could happen 15 and why, when suspicions and then solid information came 16 to light, nothing was done about it until now, in 2017. 17 The story starts at Cambridge House, because if the 18 sexual abuse perpetrated by Cyril Smith there had been 19 dealt with effectively, his political career would have 20 been over. He would never have become a governor of 21 Knowl View, and, indeed, it is possible that Knowl View 22 would never have been set up in the way it was because 23 he was one of the prime movers behind the initiative. 24 Therefore, legions of children would not have been 25 abused after 1964.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 So the questions our clients have regarding 2 Cambridge House are as follows: first, how could 3 Cyril Smith have come to dominate the council, the 4 Children's Committee of the council with responsibility 5 for children in care, and social workers, such that he 6 could set up and run Cambridge House as his private 7 fiefdom, free from any outside scrutiny and could treat 8 the boys as his chattels for his private, perverted 9 amusement, controlling their lives like a puppet master? 10 Question 2: how did it come about that the 11 Cambridge House wardens who were charged with caring for 12 these boys would arrange for Cyril Smith to conduct 13 bogus and sexually abusive medical examinations in 14 private, when they knew he had no qualifications 15 whatsoever? Why did they obey his orders not to call 16 a doctor for a sick child until he showed up first to 17 conduct his own abusive physical examination? 18 In the case of one of our clients, that endangered 19 his life because the delay, whilst they waited for 20 Cyril Smith to come and poke his abdomen, meant that he 21 suffered peritonitis from a burst appendix. 22 Why did the wardens allow Cyril Smith to take entire 23 responsibility for discipline, administering corporal 24 punishment with a strong sexual element. 25 Question 3: the records and witness statements</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 boy, as soon as he left Cambridge House, courageously 2 showed up at the police station to show his injuries and 3 ask for help? At the age of 11, he went there on his 4 own. He then, when he found out who the big man was, 5 Cyril Smith, returned at age 13 to complain again. 6 Nothing happened. 7 We see here the first whiffs of a coverup. If this 8 boy's complaints had been taken seriously, it is very 9 likely that Cyril Smith would have been prevented from 10 accessing Cambridge House again. But instead, in 1966, 11 we see that Cyril Smith became Mayor of Rochdale and was 12 awarded an MBE; ironically, in retrospect, for his 13 services to youth. 14 Now, the questions we have about the 1969 to 1970 15 Lancashire Police investigation and the decision not to 16 prosecute by the CPS are as follows. What we see is 17 that finally, in 1969, the Lancashire Police learned of 18 Cyril Smith's abusive activities from one young man whom 19 they were interviewing in connection with offences he 20 was suspected of committing, and at last the persistent 21 rumours about Cyril Smith in Rochdale being too 22 interested in young boys received serious attention from 23 the authorities. 24 Lancashire Police launched a police investigation 25 which we say was exemplary. It was thorough, it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 indicate that complaints against Cyril Smith of child 2 abuse were made in 1960, 1964, 1965 and 1966. Why were 3 these complaints not acted upon by social workers and by 4 police? If any of those complaints had been acted upon 5 effectively, it is likely that Cyril Smith would have 6 been prevented from continuing his career as a child 7 sexual abuser. 8 Question 4: why did the wardens allow Cyril Smith to 9 beat up a grief-stricken 11-year-old boy who had been 10 brought into Cambridge House in emergency care because 11 his grandmother had died two days earlier and his mother 12 had been taken into a mental healthcare facility the day 13 before? Why did the warden stand by when Cyril Smith 14 assaulted this child so badly that he required hospital 15 treatment for two broken teeth and laceration to the 16 head which required two stitches? Why did the care 17 worker from Cambridge House who took him to hospital 18 instruct this boy to lie about how the injury had 19 occurred and then the care worker himself took over and 20 lied to the hospital staff? Why did the social worker 21 to whom this child immediately complained assert that 22 there was "no big man" at Cambridge House, therefore he 23 could not be telling the truth? Why did the Bolton 24 Borough Police, which was at that time not within 25 Lancashire Police jurisdiction, fail to act when this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 fearless, in the face of threats, intimidation and 2 obstruction by Cyril Smith and his political allies, 3 including from the leader of the local Liberal Party. 4 The police investigation was transferred to very 5 senior police officers, given this intimidation and 6 obstruction, and their work was characterised by an 7 enlightened understanding of the dynamics of 8 the power/vulnerability imbalance which silences 9 victims. 10 We say that this investigation was exemplary not 11 only by the standards of 1970, but also by the standards 12 of 2017. Those senior officers made a very strong 13 recommendation to the Director of Public Prosecutions, 14 Sir Norman Skelhorn, that Cyril Smith be charged with 15 sexual offences against eight young men whilst they were 16 boys. 17 Now, the police submitted an 88-page dossier, and, 18 as Mr Altman said yesterday, very swiftly the DPP, in 19 a perfunctory letter, refused to prosecute, completely 20 disregarding the detailed analysis of the evidence by 21 the Lancashire Police. 22 Now, we say that this decision, on its face, was 23 fundamentally flawed. The DPP, oddly, did not 24 understand the law of corroboration. He makes no 25 reference to the longstanding doctrine of similar fact</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 evidence, which had obvious potential application. The 2 DPP completely disregarded the plausible reasons for the 3 delay in reporting noted by the police, including that 4 the boys were terrified of Cyril Smith, known as 5 "Mr Rochdale", and did not feel they could come forward 6 until they had grown up. And the DPP considered that 7 the complainants lacked credibility because of what he 8 termed "their character", which rendered their evidence 9 suspect.</p> <p>10 This completely disregards the fact that the police 11 had ruled out collusion. Even Smith himself, in his 12 interview in January, had not claimed there was 13 a conspiracy. And that the complaints dated from 1961 14 through to 1967 with two complainants who had not been 15 at Cambridge House. Moreover, most of the boys did not 16 have any police record at all. So he basically 17 blackened the reputations of the complainants.</p> <p>18 Now, in terms of the subsequent investigations, we 19 say that the Lancashire Police were courageous in trying 20 to restart the investigations against Cyril Smith in 21 1998 and 1999, at a time when Cyril Smith was supposedly 22 the most popular politician in England. But, once 23 again, they were thwarted by the CPS in two decisions 24 which we say again were fundamentally flawed in their 25 understanding and application of the law. That is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 gone to the DPP? Now, remember that his visit to the 2 police station in January, which he agreed was a fishing 3 expedition, was -- one of the questions he said was, 4 "Will the police file go to the DPP?" Now, certainly 5 the police seem to have been extremely unhappy at the 6 DPP's decision, one senior officer going so far as to 7 complain directly to MI5 in 1974 about an apparent 8 coverup. And the issue of coverup becomes obvious in 9 1979 when we look at that MI5 file.</p> <p>10 So the questions we have, number 8: why would 11 Sir Thomas Hetherington, the successor to the DPP who 12 had made the original decision, decide he should lie to 13 journalists, stating that the police had not submitted 14 a prosecution file in 1970, recommending that Smith be 15 prosecuted? Why would the DPP place great pressure on 16 the Chief Constable of the Lancashire Police to say 17 nothing about having submitted that file? And perhaps 18 most perplexing of all, why would the DPP contact MI5 19 about this at all? Why was an apparent South African 20 connection suspected?</p> <p>21 There is also a reference in the covering letter to 22 another child sexual abuse investigation into 23 Cyril Smith by the Metropolitan Police Service in the 24 mid 1970s. Again, why would MI5 hold that information? 25 Why was MI5 involved at all? We say that this dossier</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 notwithstanding that a Senior Crown Advocate in 2012 2 again concluded that those decisions could not be 3 faulted in the law.</p> <p>4 These were the last opportunities to prosecute 5 Cyril Smith before he died in 2010. So our questions 6 for the Rochdale and, if appropriate, the Westminster 7 inquiries are, question 5: how many investigations were 8 conducted into alleged wrongdoing by Cyril Smith in the 9 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and perhaps even later? The 10 records disclosed suggest that there were at least 11 several.</p> <p>12 Question 6: how did Cyril Smith manage to escape 13 prosecution so many times throughout his lifetime? Was 14 he protected by powerful political forces?</p> <p>15 For example, question 7: was political influence and 16 pressure brought to bear upon the DPP from local and 17 national politicians and members of the Liberal Party 18 from 1969 to 1970? The police investigation was 19 awkwardly timed for the Liberals, given that Smith was 20 campaigning for the Liberal nomination for parliament in 21 Rochdale, and the Liberal leader, Jeremy Thorpe, and 22 David Steel, were very anxious that Cyril Smith stand in 23 the cause of the Liberals.</p> <p>24 What gave Cyril Smith the confidence to stand for 25 selection on March 2 before the police file had even</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 from MI5 raises the spectre of collusion.</p> <p>2 My learned friend has noted that the recommendation 3 and consideration for the knighthood raises many 4 questions. I would simply note here how galling and 5 distressing it was to Cyril Smith's victims to see his 6 unstoppable rise to the highest echelons of public life 7 whilst they continued to suffer the consequences of his 8 actions.</p> <p>9 I can deal with Knowl View much more briefly, if 10 I may. So far as we know, there never was any 11 investigation of Cyril Smith in relation to Knowl View 12 during his lifetime, but we would note that, emboldened 13 by the assurances he would not be prosecuted, the 14 seriousness of his abuse escalated from groping of 15 genitals to fellatio and penetrative sex.</p> <p>16 Our questions about Knowl View, question 10: how 17 could a school for children with statemented Special 18 Educational Needs end up failing to educate them at all, 19 leaving them to their own devices and without effective 20 supervision and with significant educational 21 disadvantages to carry forward in life?</p> <p>22 Question 11: how could a residential school with 23 pupils who were in the care of the local authority 24 become so chaotic that the children could be sexually 25 abused in the manifold ways and by the great many people</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 outlined by Mr Altman yesterday, including inside the 2 school, by school staff and by paedophiles operating in 3 the town of Rochdale. 4 Question 12: why were the two boys amongst our 5 clients who complained to teachers about Cyril Smith's 6 sexual abuse within the school beaten by the head 7 teacher as punishment? That's Mr John Turner. He told 8 one boy that complaining would ruin Smith's career, and 9 the other boy was told that complaining would damage the 10 reputation of the school. 11 Question 13: how could the school be allowed to 12 continue to employ a staff member who had been convicted 13 of indecently exposing himself to children from another 14 school whilst he was supervising Knowl View pupils at 15 the local swimming baths, and, indeed, that staff member 16 actually was -- we can see from the records -- paid for 17 night duty, so he was supervising these children at 18 night in the dormitories. 19 Question 14: how could a school foster and tolerate 20 such a chaotic environment that peer-on-peer physical 21 and sexual abuse was a normal occurrence? 22 And, finally, question 15: where was the local 23 authority in this extended saga of childhood tragedy? 24 As Mr Altman noted, the documents suggest that 25 Knowl View for much of its history was a problem to be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 10 years previously he had been abused at the hands of 2 Cyril Smith. In explaining what had happened to him, 3 the man referred to another boy who he said had also 4 been abused by Cyril Smith. 5 In response, Lancashire Police Force started an 6 investigation into Cyril Smith. The other boy, by then 7 an adult, was traced. He was interviewed. He in turn 8 identified other potential victims of abuse at the hands 9 of Cyril Smith. Where possible, these people were 10 traced and, if willing to engage in the investigative 11 process, were interviewed. A number of those 12 interviewed said that the abuse they had suffered had 13 taken place at Cambridge House Boys' Hostel. This led 14 to those involved in running Cambridge House being 15 interviewed. In addition, other potential witnesses 16 were interviewed, including the parents of a boy who 17 complained that he'd been abused in his own home. 18 After three months, the decision was taken that the 19 evidence that had been obtained warranted the 20 investigation being transferred to a task force made up 21 of Lancashire's most experienced police officers. 22 Thereafter, further lines of enquiry were followed, 23 further potential victims interviewed, additional 24 statements taken from witnesses and victims. 25 At the end of the process, Cyril Smith was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 ignored by social services, the Department of Education 2 who kept tossing the hot potato between themselves, and 3 by the most senior elected politicians in Rochdale 4 Council, with critical reports such as those by 5 Phil Shepherd and Valerie Mellor apparently being 6 withheld from the Policy Committee, which is now known 7 as the Cabinet of the Council. 8 This insouciance was in the face of strenuous 9 efforts, we have already heard, of two head teachers, 10 a few other Knowl View staff members, and some council 11 officers to address the problems and to safeguard the 12 children. 13 Madam chair, those are the overarching questions we 14 hope that the next three weeks of hearings will 15 illuminate for our clients, for other children who lived 16 at Cambridge House and Knowl View, and for the public. 17 Thank you. 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Hoyano. We turn now to Mr Payne. 19 Opening submissions by MR PAYNE 20 MR PAYNE: Chair, I represent Lancashire Police force. In 21 1969, almost 50 years ago, Lancashire Police Force took 22 over responsibility from Rochdale Borough Police Force 23 for policing Rochdale. Towards the end of that year, 24 a man arrested for indecent assault was interviewed. He 25 sought to mitigate his actions by claiming that some</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 interviewed. As we have heard, he declined to respond 2 to the allegations made by those who claimed he'd abused 3 them. 4 The investigation culminated in a report drafted by 5 the superintendent in charge of the task force. This 6 was submitted, as we have heard, to the DPP 7 in March 1970. The report, which ran to 14 pages, 8 summarised the evidence obtained during the 9 investigation. It analysed the weaknesses and strengths 10 of the case for the prosecution. The conclusion of 11 the report was emphatic. Given some of the allegations 12 that have since been made in relation to Lancashire's 13 investigation, you will forgive me, chair, if I read out 14 the conclusion again: 15 "It seems impossible to excuse Cyril Smith's conduct 16 over a considerable period of time. Whilst sheltering 17 beneath the veneer of respectability, he used his unique 18 position to indulge in a sordid series of indecent 19 episodes with young boys towards whom he had a special 20 responsibility. Prima facie, he appears guilty of 21 numerous offences of indecent assault. 22 In 1974, some four years later, responsibility for 23 policing Rochdale passed to Greater Manchester Police. 24 Notwithstanding this, Lancashire Police subsequently 25 undertook two further reviews into their investigation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 into Cyril Smith. The first was in 2012. It took place 2 as a part of a wider review that Lancashire Police set 3 up in response to allegations of abuse made against 4 Jimmy Savile, and the matters that arose in the context 5 of the North Wales child abuse investigation. This 6 broad review was codenamed Operation Acura and, in 7 relation to the 1969/1970 investigation into the 8 allegations made against Cyril Smith, it concluded that 9 a full and proper investigation had taken place.</p> <p>10 The second was in 2014. This was triggered by 11 a number of allegations made in the book written by 12 Simon Danczuk, "Smile for the Camera: The Double Life of 13 Cyril Smith". Due to the nature of allegations made in 14 this book, for example, that there may have been an 15 improper interference with the 1969/1970 investigation, 16 this investigation was carried out by the Professional 17 Standards Branch. The investigators, noting in 18 particular the damning indictment of Cyril Smith's 19 conduct in the report submitted to the DPP, included 20 that there was no basis for questioning the integrity of 21 the 1969/1970 investigation.</p> <p>22 At all times in these investigations, 23 Lancashire Police have sought to engage with those who 24 claim to have been abused, to treat them with dignity 25 and to carry out a robust investigation into the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 investigation of abuse, including whether there was 2 inappropriate interference in law enforcement 3 investigations and/or prosecutorial decisions in 4 relation to the abuse.</p> <p>5 The CPS was born in 1986. The creation of an 6 independent prosecuting authority came as a result of 7 the Royal Commission Report, a White Paper, and in 1985 8 the Act of Parliament that created the Service in the 9 next year.</p> <p>10 Although it was not always precisely described in 11 this way, the CPS has responsibility for advising the 12 police and other law enforcement agencies on cases for 13 possible criminal prosecution; reviewing the evidence 14 submitted to them; determining any charges; and 15 preparing the cases for court and presenting them with 16 in-house lawyers or independent counsel.</p> <p>17 It was within the exercise of its statutory duty 18 that in 1998 and 1999 the CPS was first asked to 19 consider the evidence of sexual abuse of children by 20 Cyril Smith at Cambridge House. It was, therefore, the 21 legislative arrangement at work whereby the police 22 investigating these allegations referred evidence to the 23 CPS and its independent lawyers applied then the formal 24 test central to what is known as the Code for Crown 25 Prosecutors in order to decide whether to launch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 allegations made against Cyril Smith. 2 The inquiry can rest assured that Lancashire Police 3 will continue to provide all the help it can in 4 investigating the events surrounding Cyril Smith and 5 Cambridge House.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Payne. 7 Opening submissions by MR BROWN 8 MR BROWN: Chair, panel members, on behalf of the Crown 9 Prosecution Service, in this opening statement we will 10 seek to assist the inquiry in putting the evidence you 11 will hear, touching on the role of the CPS, into its 12 full legal and chronological context. I shan't, of 13 course, rehearse the evidence itself in any detail at 14 all. You will be hearing it soon. However, it may be 15 important to set that evidence into its appropriate 16 framework so that it can more easily and quickly be 17 analysed when turning to the two key questions you have 18 posed so far as the Crown Prosecution Service is 19 concerned.</p> <p>20 Those two questions, in summary, are that you are to 21 examine the extent to which prosecuting authorities were 22 aware of allegations of sexual abuse of children at 23 Cambridge House, or Knowl View, and failed to take 24 appropriate steps in response to it, and then this: did 25 any public authority hinder or prevent the effective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 a prosecution. 2 With that background in mind, and in particular the 3 dates, the CPS, as part of its responsibilities to this 4 inquiry, has also been asked to look at the events in 5 fact occurring some 16 years before its creation, to 6 decisions and actions of the then Director of Public 7 Prosecutions in 1970. We have sought to assist but 8 necessarily have been restricted in reality to an 9 examination of the law and practice in those earlier 10 years as best can be gleaned from the contemporaneous 11 law reports and legislation and therefore to provide 12 what is, in reality, a 2017 objective legal commentary 13 upon a decision made in 1970.</p> <p>14 I shall also briefly turn in a few minutes to the 15 question of the then 1979 DPP's announcement.</p> <p>16 The position is different in respect of the direct 17 role of the CPS that it had in Operation Cleopatra in 18 1998, 1999, through to 2002, when evidence was referred 19 to the service which by then was of course in existence. 20 Here the lawyers applied the statutory test and some 21 allegations considered in 1998/1999 were not prosecuted, 22 as I will explain.</p> <p>23 The contemporaneous decision and the reasons for it 24 are available today.</p> <p>25 The tests applied by those independent lawyers has</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 in fact changed in detail only since 1986 and comprises 2 a two-stage process. The first is a requirement of 3 evidential sufficiency: is there sufficient evidence to 4 provide a realistic prospect of a conviction? This is 5 an objective test based on the lawyers' dispassionate 6 assessment of the evidence. 7 If the case doesn't pass that evidential stage, then 8 the public interest, the second test, does not arise. 9 Once the evidence passes the first evidential stage, but 10 only then, the second stage involves consideration of 11 public interest factors for and against a prosecution. 12 A prosecution will usually take place unless the 13 prosecutor is sure that the public interest factors 14 tending against a prosecution outweigh those tending in 15 favour. 16 At this stage, the lawyer will look at, amongst 17 other matters, the harm caused to the victim, his or her 18 circumstances, for example, vulnerability, and the 19 suspect's level of culpability. 20 The evidence shows that the lawyer concerned applied 21 that two-stage test and, exercising his professional 22 judgment, concluded that either the evidential or the 23 public interest test was not met. The CPS is acutely 24 aware that some of those decisions, particularly in 1998 25 and 1999, were and remain very concerning to those who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 but it may be more complex. 2 Equally, the reviewing lawyer must make an 3 assessment of whether the evidence and information will 4 be admissible in law at the trial, and that, therefore, 5 is a further assessment. These are all examples of 6 the considerations that have to be weighed up, but the 7 application and interpretation of the law is not 8 a science, albeit that applying the law is assisted by 9 guidance and policies in place. These are objective 10 assessments, as spelt out in the code and the policies 11 and guidance, and not based on subjective matters, such 12 as myths, stereotypes or preconceptions that might lead 13 to misconceived assumptions. 14 Any objective assessment does not, however, involve 15 an assessment of one piece of information or evidence in 16 isolation because it is recognised that a jury at trial 17 will look at the whole evidential picture. 18 The CPS as an organisation has always sought to 19 support lawyers by devising and publishing a framework 20 within which such charging decisions should be made. 21 The foundation is the Code for Crown Prosecutors, but 22 also, over time, guidance has been developed into 23 a significant body of work which you may conclude 24 demonstrates that the CPS has evolved just as the wider 25 public has learnt and has addressed issues surrounding</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 are now complainant core participants and to others who 2 are affected by the decisions. As a result, and to 3 assist the inquiry and those participating in it, the 4 CPS has undertaken a close review of the evidence files 5 and the advices and opinions provided by the CPS lawyers 6 at the time, and the CPS has, of course, released into 7 the public domain the contents of those advices which 8 otherwise normally would attract privilege. 9 The Director of Legal Services for the CPS, 10 Gregor McGill, has provided an overarching witness 11 statement to the inquiry which sets out, amongst other 12 matters, the details of the review. However, the 13 following is clear: since its inception in 1986, the CPS 14 has employed teams of independent lawyers who are 15 required to make what are balanced and sometimes 16 factually and legally complex charging decisions. Each 17 lawyer will make a judgment, bringing to bear his or her 18 own individual and independent assessment, seeking to 19 apply the law as it was at the time to the whole 20 evidential picture presented to them. 21 In the end, it is an individual but professional and 22 independent judgment, guided by guidance and policies in 23 place at that time. Each stage comprises a judgment, 24 most obviously, for example, upon the assessment of 25 the strength of the evidence. It might be an easy task,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 sexual and child sexual abuse cases. By way of example 2 only, the CPS guideline on prosecuting cases of child 3 sexual abuse was developed following a period of 4 consultation with all stakeholders. 5 And so it was, having considered the advice of 6 the CPS lawyers in connection with this strand of 7 the inquiry, in particular those in 1998 and 1999, and 8 then having considered the views of those who have 9 sought to look back at the decisions today, you may 10 conclude that, while other lawyers may have interpreted 11 differently the law prevailing at time, their 12 conclusions cannot, even in hindsight, be described as 13 unreasonable. I refer, of course, importantly, to the 14 1998/1999 decisions, not those that came before. 15 Importantly, and it will be for the inquiry to 16 judge, the evidence reveals no suggestion that any CPS 17 lawyer considering an allegation of abuse arising out of 18 Cambridge House and/or Knowl View was improperly 19 influenced, or at all, in coming to the judgment he did. 20 Assessments and decisions made by those independent 21 CPS lawyers were just that: independent assessments, in 22 good faith and not influenced directly or indirectly by 23 any inappropriate internal or external interference. 24 Can I then touch on the 1970 decision of the DPP? 25 It will have become clear, therefore, that the CPS did</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

1 not exist in 1970 when the then DPP made his decision in
2 respect of the evidence against Cyril Smith. It was
3 another 16 years before the independent prosecuting
4 authority was born.
5 This inquiry, however, quite properly, has asked the
6 CPS to assist by looking at the material available from
7 1970 to provide comment on the DPP's decision at that
8 time. In a sense, the CPS is in a position little
9 different from anybody else, except that we can examine
10 what the law and practice was at that time and then, in
11 that light, today pass comment upon it.
12 To an extent, it does involve a degree of
13 speculation. The charging regime then in 1970 was
14 wholly different from that of today and from that in
15 place in 1998/1999 when the service was first asked to
16 examine and make a judgment. That gap of 28 years, from
17 1970 to 1998, in fact, as Mr Altman said, became
18 critical to the decision in 1998. The evidence
19 demonstrates that the regime and the legal landscape was
20 quite different, and so it is that the CPS today can
21 perhaps make comment only on whether the DPP's 1970
22 decision was arguably right or wrong, reasonable or
23 otherwise, looking back on it and seeking, as best we
24 can, to comment on the law and practice as it stood in
25 1970.

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1 You will be hearing from Mr McGill, the present
2 Director of Legal Services at the CPS, and he has caused
3 research to be carried out that has looked back at the
4 legal landscape in 1970, and in some respects it has had
5 surprising results.
6 Importantly, though, Mr McGill cannot comment on
7 whether the DPP, in 1970, was influenced in his decision
8 not to prosecute Smith by any outside element,
9 legitimate or otherwise.
10 By way of example only, it has not been possible to
11 confirm today whether he, the DPP, was then assisted in
12 his decision and judgment or advised by independent
13 counsel. We just don't know.
14 The results of that research lead us to the
15 conclusion that there was certainly a markedly different
16 legal landscape 47 years ago, in 1970; also to that in
17 1998; and to that today. The extent to which this
18 affected the judgment and advice of the then DPP in 1970
19 will be a matter for the inquiry.
20 The stark legal difference is in respect of
21 the rules concerning corroboration. In short, the rules
22 governing what was then a need for independent support
23 of the complainant's evidence and, as the documents
24 reveal, in a letter from the DPP in 1970 informing the
25 police that he was declining to prosecute Smith, he

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1 said, amongst other things, that, "The allegations would
2 also be, in my view, completely without corroboration".
3 Today, in 2017, it is perhaps surprising to the
4 objective and informed observer to hear that in 1970,
5 and for many years before that and for 15 years
6 thereafter, there was a statutory requirement for
7 corroboration, for example, of the unsworn evidence of
8 children, and the practice for the sworn evidence of
9 children. By statute, there could be no conviction
10 unless that child's evidence was corroborated; that is,
11 supported in some independent and material way. That
12 was the law.
13 Of direct relevance to the inquiry were the common
14 law rules then in place. A jury had to be warned by the
15 judge in every case of, for example, a charge of
16 indecent assault or rape of a boy, girl or adult of
17 the dangers of convicting on the basis of evidence from
18 the victim that was uncorroborated, even if, for
19 example, the only issue was that of the identity of
20 the person alleged to have committed the offence or even
21 the age of the victim.
22 The common law in this respect was of such force
23 that a failure by the trial judge to give that warning
24 was fatal to any conviction on appeal, and convictions
25 were quashed in such circumstances.

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1 The reason for this law, taken from a 1969 Court of
2 Appeal judgment, so one year before the DPP made his
3 decision, is the following:
4 "Experience has shown that female complainants have
5 told false stories for various reasons, and sometimes
6 for no reason at all. If a proper warning has been
7 given, a jury may convict on the complainant's
8 uncorroborated evidence, if they have no doubt that she
9 is speaking the truth."
10 The law in fact applied no differently as between
11 male and female complainants. So that is why there are
12 some surprising results from the research into that
13 period, and it is perhaps surprising today, in 2017,
14 that such a rule of law existed at all. Equally
15 surprising is the fact that the requirement for
16 corroboration and the warnings against acting in its
17 absence was not abolished until 1995, 25 years after the
18 DPP's decision.
19 So it follows that what could amount to
20 corroboration was therefore an important legal
21 consideration. Here, the law was less straightforward
22 and, to a degree, conflicting. Mr McGill's statement
23 provides the details.
24 However, the DPP, Sir Norman Skelhorn, in 1970, had
25 a number of complainants independently speaking of

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<p>1 a very similar indecent behaviour by Smith upon them. 2 It is right that some legal guidance at the time 3 positively declared that such evidence did not provide 4 support for another complainant and suggested that there 5 should, in those circumstances, be separate trials. 6 Having said that, there was sufficient case law at the 7 time to suggest that such evidence, if independent of 8 the evidence that legally needed support, could amount 9 to the necessary corroboration where, for example, the 10 intent of the offender was at issue or to rebut 11 a defence of innocent association. 12 Mr McGill comments that, whilst acknowledging that 13 the position in law was not straightforward at that 14 time, had the DPP in 1970 considered the overall 15 evidential picture carefully, including Smith's arguably 16 unsatisfactory claims of innocent association, and in 17 the light of the precise reasoning, as set down by the 18 Court of Appeal, it is perhaps difficult to see how he 19 would have come to any other conclusion but that there 20 was, indeed, corroboration of the complainant's 21 accounts; that is, one supporting the other. Or at 22 least a good arguable case that that was the position. 23 As it happens, the position in law was made clearer 24 in this respect by the House of Lords in 1973, not long 25 after the DPP's decision.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 of some complainants as more neutral factors and not in 2 themselves decisive. This, however, is very much 3 a judgment made today, in 2017, looking back upon 4 a different landscape. 5 We repeat: the CPS can only comment on the position 6 in law as it was in 1970, many years before the CPS came 7 into existence. Mr McGill's statement goes into more 8 detail than I do now, of course. However, we criticise 9 some elements -- some elements -- of the legal ratio 10 that lay behind the DPP's decision, although recognising 11 that the true state of the law as it was applied in the 12 criminal courts, even then, was perhaps not 13 straightforward and not closed to debate and legal 14 argument. 15 1979, briefly, and the then DPP's comments, again, 16 years before, many years before, the inception of 17 the CPS. Mr McGill cannot comment on those 18 pronouncements in 1979 or in reality have any greater 19 input than anybody else with the same information, and 20 he won't do so. 21 Can I then go to 1998 and 1999? It was 28 years 22 after the first DPP's decision that in May 1998 the CPS 23 was first asked to advise whether charges should be 24 brought against Smith. By now, the CPS had been brought 25 into existence as the independent prosecuting authority</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 However, the uncorroborated, in inverted commas, 2 nature, as the DPP found, of the complainants in 1970 3 was just one element of the reasoning of the director 4 then. He also commented, as you have heard, that the 5 allegations were, I quote, "somewhat stale", and again 6 I quote, "Further, the characters of some of these young 7 men would be likely to render their evidence suspect". 8 The legal research has revealed that the question of 9 delay -- I take that from the word "stale" of the DPP's 10 comments -- in reporting allegations to the police or 11 otherwise was given more weight in the period of 12 the 1970s than it would have been in more recent times. 13 Today, the approach of the courts and the prosecuting 14 authorities is quite different, as you will hear. 15 Equally, the character of a complainant was also 16 thought then to be more significant. Again, today, this 17 issue is better understood and is put into its proper 18 context when considering cases, particularly of sexual 19 abuse, when the allegation, for example, is that of an 20 older person taking advantage of a vulnerable and/or 21 young person under his control. 22 However, it is perhaps reasonable to suppose that 23 the DPP then in 1970, had he concluded that the 24 complainants were indeed corroborated, would and should 25 then have seen the delay in reporting and the character</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 and, to a degree, the legal landscape had also changed. 2 Importantly, as you will have heard, the rules requiring 3 caution before convicting without legal corroboration 4 had been abolished. 5 The advice minute was drafted in 1998 by the Branch 6 Crown Prosecutor, a lawyer, having undertaken the review 7 of the evidential case. That material examined by the 8 lawyer was little different, if different at all, to 9 that examined by the DPP in 1970. However, 28 years had 10 gone by. 11 It is clear that the lawyer applied the Code for 12 Crown Prosecutors and the two-stage test within it: the 13 evidential test and the public interest test. 14 The evidential test involved a judgment, as I have 15 said, upon that evidence, and it is plain that he found 16 the evidence of the complainants credible and reliable 17 and said so, and he was also clear that, in his view, 18 one complainant would lend evidential support to the 19 others, and vice versa, hence enhancing the overall 20 evidential strength of the case. 21 He used the word "corroboration", but it is plain 22 that he did so in the evidential sense, connoting 23 support, and not as any kind of legal necessity without 24 which convictions couldn't or might not flow. 25 The record from the time shows that he specifically</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 disappplied the myths, stereotypes and preconceptions 2 that may have played a part in assessments in the past, 3 the evidence shows. The documents also reveal that he 4 recognised, rightly, that there may be perfectly 5 understandable reasons for delayed complaint by 6 a victim. Indeed, he commented that there had by then 7 been a marked change of attitude towards cases, such as 8 the one he was then examining, one that he believed and 9 said did involve an older and influential person taking 10 advantage of his position of authority to commit 11 offences on what the lawyer described as "a wholesale 12 basis". 13 Having then come to a clear view as to the 14 reliability of the complainants, having set out his 15 understanding of the complainants' personal 16 circumstances then in 1998, having concluded, therefore, 17 that the evidential test was satisfied and concluding 18 that, but for the effect of 1970, and the decision made 19 then, he would have recommended charges against Smith, 20 he nevertheless felt constrained to advise that, in his 21 judgment, any prosecution would flounder as a result of 22 an argument known as abuse of process. This was and is 23 a power vested in a Crown Court judge exceptionally to 24 stop the prosecution of a criminal case if she or he is 25 satisfied that to allow it to continue would amount to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 An alternative course would have been to allow the 2 court to make a judgment, the court having heard and 3 weighed up all the competing arguments. 4 It is, of course, impossible today to seek to 5 predict with any certainty how a court would in fact 6 have decided then in 1998. 7 That decision, therefore, in 1998 and the reasons 8 for it flowed into his decision the next year, in 1999, 9 when he was provided with evidence from two additional 10 complainants: one who recounted similar abuse at the 11 hands of Smith; and one who spoke of an inappropriate 12 approach by Smith. And the lawyer made a judgment: 13 first, on the weight that could be attached to the 14 first, and correctly concluded that the complaint 15 provided by the second man did not in fact amount to 16 a criminal offence. 17 The first decision, as to the weight that should be 18 attached to the evidence, individually considered, was 19 not outside, we submit, the discretion of a Crown 20 Prosecutor reasonably exercised, but arguably what the 21 Branch Crown Prosecutor did not do -- arguably -- was to 22 appreciate the part that the first complainant could 23 have played in an overall case. However, as a result of 24 the reason for his earlier decision not to prosecute, 25 that it was likely an abuse of the process, one would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 an abuse of the process of the court. 2 The argument was recognised in law then, and now, as 3 available to defendants. They are not frequently 4 deployed, albeit it is right to say that they were more 5 prevalent in the 1990s than they are today. They are 6 also today less often successful than they were then. 7 The lawyer concluded in 1998 that a judge would 8 likely be bound to stop the case as an abuse of 9 the process, and this view was based on the fact that 10 Smith had been told in 1970, 28 years before, that he 11 would not be prosecuted; that that decision had gained 12 increased permanence as a result of the intervening 13 28 years; that nothing had changed in the intervening 14 period. 15 It was also on the basis that he concluded that the 16 charges should not be brought, as to do so would likely 17 result in a judge stopping the case as an abuse of 18 the process of the court. 19 We today are bound to acknowledge that to take that 20 decision away, so to speak, from a judge, in reality to 21 pre-empt the arguments and the decision and not to allow 22 the court to test the arguments and to make that 23 judgment, is not a course that all Crown Prosecutors 24 would have taken, even in 1998. It is an exceptional 25 jurisdiction, after all.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 perhaps not have expected him to do so. In addition, it 2 should also be pointed out that, arguably, he did not 3 fully appreciate that the evidence of the second 1999 4 complainant would likely have remained admissible in the 5 trial of the other complainants, despite it not 6 amounting to a criminal offence or an attempt in itself. 7 However, ultimately, this view also has no effect on the 8 reason for his decision not to prosecute the overall 9 case, as I have set out. 10 Having said all of that, there is no evidence that 11 the lawyer in question acted in any way in bad faith or 12 in any way other than applying his judgment to the 13 material he saw. In his advice, it is clear that he 14 accepted the accounts given by the complainants. It is 15 also clear that he had discussed his conclusions with 16 his senior, the acting Chief Crown Prosecutor, North 17 West, and had informed the CPS headquarters that he was 18 providing the advice. 19 It is also of note, perhaps that, he could never 20 have expected in 1998 or 1999 that the very unusual step 21 of his advice being published would be taken many years 22 later, as it has now in 2017, and, importantly, there is 23 no evidence of any interference, inappropriate or 24 otherwise, in his prosecutorial decision and his 25 assessment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

1 2012, then, very briefly. Smith died in 2010. In
2 2012, the CPS reviewed the decision that had been made
3 by the Crown Prosecutor in 1998/1999. We have already
4 commented here today, in 2017, on some aspects of that
5 judgment, and it follows from what I have said that the
6 2012 review may, arguably, have given that 1998/1999
7 decision too clean a bill of health overall.
8 Mr McGill will, if necessary, express his 2017 views
9 on the validity of the 1998/1999 judgment. But it
10 follows from what I have said that the description in
11 2012 that the 1998/1999 advice on the law as it stood
12 then could not be faulted is not one that all lawyers
13 would agree with today. But that was a judgment, just
14 as it is today.
15 That said, the effect of the differences of opinion
16 and of the review of the Senior Crown Advocate in 2012
17 does not alter the fact that in 1998 the evidence was
18 regarded as credible.
19 In fact, less important to your immediate terms of
20 reference, chair, in respect of institutional
21 interference in decision making is whether the same
22 decisions made then would be made today. I refer to
23 1998/1999; before then, of course, is more difficult.
24 This element will be important, of course, to the
25 lessons to be learned and whether institutions are

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1 properly equipped today to exclude any errors or worse
2 of the sort made in the past, but the evidence strongly
3 tends to suggest that when the CPS was given the
4 opportunity to make the judgment it did in 1998/1999, in
5 accordance with its role as an independent prosecuting
6 authority, it was not affected directly or indirectly by
7 any inappropriate interference or at all.
8 As you will hear, the service has continued to
9 develop a better understanding, just as society has,
10 and, together with an increased level of training for
11 the lawyers specialising in this work, it has adapted.
12 This is evidenced by the policies and guidance published
13 today which in turn are educated by public consultation.
14 These details have been provided to the inquiry and to
15 all core participants and go back to the beginning of
16 the CPS in 1986, and this will allow the inquiry to
17 perhaps see how the policies and guidance are developed
18 and evolve. By way of particular example only, there is
19 today a victim's right to review a significant step
20 allowing further independent consideration and review of
21 decisions, for example, not to charge. There is also
22 guidance such as safeguarding children as victims and
23 witnesses, and a number of editions of the guidelines on
24 prosecuting cases of child sexual abuse, many of which
25 predate the announcement of this inquiry.

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1 So it is in that general context, chair, that you
2 will be judging the evidence put before you as it
3 touches on the CPS. Particularly important, of course,
4 is the chronology and the landscape then in 1998.
5 I hope this introduction has therefore been of some
6 help. Thank you, chair.
7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Brown. In view of the time,
8 I think we will take a break now and return at 11.55 am
9 to hear the remaining opening statements.
10 (11.40 am)
11 (A short break)
12 (11.57 am)
13 Opening submissions by MS STUDD
14 MS STUDD: Madam chair and panel members. The Greater
15 Manchester Police welcomes the commencement of these
16 public hearings. It has been a proactive force in the
17 investigation of the allegations of sexual abuse which
18 will be examined in this module of your inquiry. That
19 said, the Greater Manchester Police fully appreciates
20 the stress and anxiety that these hearings may cause to
21 the victims and survivors, those who have core
22 participant status and of course those who do not, and
23 will use its best endeavours not to exacerbate any of
24 those emotions.
25 After 1974, the Greater Manchester Police became

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1 responsible for the Borough of Rochdale, and over the
2 course of time, since 1974, has undertaken four
3 inquiries relating to allegations of systemic sexual
4 abuse in and around Rochdale.
5 Without pre-empting the oral evidence that will be
6 provided in these public hearings, I want to just
7 briefly set them out and explain very briefly what they
8 encompassed.
9 The first in time was Operation Cleopatra. This is
10 the 1998 investigation referred to by Ms Hoyano earlier.
11 It was, in fact, a Greater Manchester Police
12 investigation. It commenced in April 1997 and concerned
13 allegations of sexual abuse against RO-F4, which were
14 alleged to have taken place at the Rosehill Assessment
15 Centre.
16 The inquiry was widened in January 1998 to include
17 allegations of historic sexual abuse in children's homes
18 in Greater Manchester, and in August 1998 became
19 Operation Cleopatra. At that point, it became a major
20 joint inquiry with Rochdale Social Services and
21 Detective Superintendent Roberts was appointed to be the
22 senior investigating officer.
23 The second investigation was Operation European,
24 which commenced on 21 February 2000, and focused on the
25 conduct of Harry Wild, in particular with reference to

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<p>1 whether he may have sexually abused young, vulnerable 2 boys as a result of his role as a member of the board of 3 visitors at Buckley Hall Prison. 4 The senior investigating officer for that 5 investigation was Detective Superintendent Huntbach. 6 Cyril Smith, as you have already heard, died in 7 2010. Operation Jaguar commenced in November 2012, when 8 Detective Chief Superintendent Jackson was appointed 9 senior investigating officer tasked to investigate 10 allegations of abuse, both physical and sexual, made to 11 the Greater Manchester Police by a number of individuals 12 who had been resident at Knowl View School. 13 It had a particular focus on abuse allegedly 14 committed by Cyril Smith and was also tasked to document 15 allegations of abuse by Cyril Smith committed within the 16 current boundaries of the Greater Manchester Police 17 area. 18 Chief Inspector Sarah Jones will come to give 19 evidence in relation to that investigation. 20 That investigation ran separately but in conjunction 21 with Operation Clifton, which sought to investigate 22 claims of coverup by the Greater Manchester Police and 23 Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to 24 allegations of child abuse at Knowl View School. The 25 senior investigating officer in relation to that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 investigations to take place. 2 We anticipate that all concerned in this inquiry 3 will have some regard for the standards and attitudes of 4 the day and that some allowance will be made where there 5 is an obvious discrepancy between the language used 6 contemporaneously and what would be deemed appropriate 7 currently. 8 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Studd. Mr Ford? 9 Opening submissions by MR FORD 10 MR FORD: Chair, panel members, as you know, I appear on 11 behalf of Rochdale Borough Council. Chair, on 12 16 September of this year, Mr Steve Rumbelow, who is 13 currently the chief executive of the council, made this 14 public apology: 15 "The events that took place at Cambridge House and 16 Knowl View and at other establishments in Rochdale have 17 cast a long shadow over the town for many years and have 18 undoubtedly caused pain to many people. The council 19 acknowledges that there were significant failings, both 20 in the way that Knowl View School was managed and in the 21 council's response to concerns about sexual abuse within 22 and outside the school. That was, frankly, 23 unforgivable. On behalf of Rochdale Borough Council, 24 I would like to apologise sincerely to anyone who was 25 failed by the council during those years. We cannot</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 investigation was Peter Marsh. 2 I want just to touch on the issue of disclosure. As 3 the force responsible for these four investigations, 4 Greater Manchester Police has provided the inquiry with 5 a considerable amount of documentary material and 6 exhibits and will continue to support and assist the 7 inquiry team in the course of these hearings as and when 8 required. But we consider it is important for all 9 concerned to be aware that the inquiry has been provided 10 with lists of documents and exhibits, as requested by 11 them, and held by the Greater Manchester Police, and 12 that particular documents and exhibits requested have 13 been provided both in hard copy or electronically. 14 In the course of these public hearings, we are 15 intending to be vigilant, and in the event that we 16 become aware of relevant additional material which the 17 inquiry team has not yet requested, we will seek to 18 bring it to their attention at the first available 19 opportunity for them to consider whether the material is 20 relevant to this module of the inquiry or not. 21 Finally, this, madam: the Greater Manchester Police 22 are conscious that the inquiry will examine matters that 23 concern events a considerable time ago and that some of 24 the language used on documents might not be the language 25 that investigating officers would use today were similar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 turn the clock back, but as the current chief executive 2 of the council, working with the Director of Children's 3 Services and partner agencies such as the police, and 4 through the Rochdale Safeguarding Children's Board, 5 I can make sure that we continue to do our level best to 6 safeguard our children and young people now and in the 7 future. The council is doing everything it can to 8 support and work with the Independent Inquiry into Child 9 Sexual Abuse in its task, and I hope that it can help us 10 fully understand what happened in Rochdale all those 11 years ago." 12 Chair, as that apology makes clear, the council 13 accepts that there were failings in the way that it 14 managed Knowl View and in the way in which it responded 15 to concerns about sexual abuse both within and outside 16 the premises. 17 I make it absolutely clear on behalf of the council 18 that it is accepted that some children resident at 19 Knowl View suffered sexual abuse. They suffered sexual 20 abuse within the premises and there is, as you have 21 already been told, ample evidence that children resident 22 at Knowl View suffered sexual exploitation away from 23 Knowl View premises, notably, at Smith Street toilets in 24 Rochdale. 25 It is also accepted that mistakes were made. I will</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

1 not, in this opening, enumerate the failings that
2 Rochdale accepts, but I will do so in our closing
3 submissions. Suffice it to say, at this stage, that it
4 is not the position adopted by the council that failing
5 to prevent children engaging in abusive sexual activity
6 with other children at the school or to prevent children
7 engaging in sexual activity with adults for payment
8 outside the school can be excused on the basis that
9 their behaviour was consensual or voluntary. It was
10 not. It was wrong. And steps should have been taken to
11 prevent it.

12 The same obviously applies to abuse suffered by
13 children on Knowl View premises at the hands of
14 Rodney Hilton, the local sex offender who was able to
15 gain access to Knowl View on more than one occasion, and
16 was subsequently convicted in respect of his actions
17 there.

18 I also make it clear on behalf of the council that
19 the apology extends to young people who were resident at
20 Cambridge House. As the panel knows, Cambridge House
21 was not operated by the council but some young people
22 who were in the council's care were placed there. The
23 council wishes to make it clear that it accepts that
24 young people placed at Cambridge House suffered sexual
25 abuse and that they were sexually abused by Cyril Smith.

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1 Cyril Smith was at that time -- that is, between 1962
2 and 1965, when Cambridge House operated --
3 a Rochdale councillor, and he was the honorary
4 secretary, as you have heard, of the Rochdale Hostel for
5 Boys Association, which was the body that ran
6 Cambridge House.

7 Finally, the council accepts that children placed at
8 other council-run children's homes suffered sexual abuse
9 and the council's apology extends to those victims and
10 survivors as well. The inquiry will hear that some
11 individuals employed by the council to work in
12 children's homes were convicted of sexual offences
13 against children in the relevant period, and the council
14 sincerely apologises to anybody who was the victim of
15 sexual abuse whilst in the council's care.

16 May I turn to the question of findings of fact,
17 a subject we know has caused, or has perhaps caused,
18 difficulty in other strands of the inquiry's work,
19 albeit they didn't arise in the first series of hearings
20 that have taken place.

21 The council has given careful thought to the
22 approach it should take in these hearings to the
23 question of whether findings should be made in respect
24 of particular allegations of sexual abuse. The
25 inquiry's position, or counsel to the inquiry's

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1 position, as we understand it, is that, in many
2 instances, it will not be necessary to make findings of
3 fact in order for the panel to fulfil the scope of its
4 remit in this investigation, and you may recall that in
5 the penultimate preliminary hearing, counsel to the
6 inquiry put in quite a lengthy note in which this point
7 was dealt with, and it was said it is not necessary, for
8 example, for the panel to determine precisely the abuse
9 committed by Rodney Hilton in order to identify that he
10 shouldn't have had access, and who should have prevented
11 it, and so on, and similarly, it wasn't necessary for
12 particular factual findings to be made about abuse in
13 Smith Street toilets in order for the panel to do its
14 work of identifying how that ought to have been
15 prevented.

16 We entirely agree with those comments. However, the
17 note prepared by counsel to the inquiry prior to that
18 hearing leaves open the possibility that counsel to the
19 inquiry or other core participants might invite the
20 panel to make findings of fact in respect of specific
21 assaults where such findings are thought to be relevant.
22 The council, again, does not complain about that, but it
23 is concerned about the point at which the decision is to
24 be made as to whether findings will be asked for, and
25 that is, to quote the note, "once all the evidence

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1 relevant to that determination has been given".

2 So that presents the council with a difficulty
3 because, as the panel may not be surprised to know,
4 there are ongoing civil claims in the background made
5 against the council by former Knowl View residents, some
6 of whom are core participant victims and survivors in
7 this inquiry, and those claims are presently essentially
8 on hold pending the conclusion of this investigation.

9 So, as I say, the council has thought carefully
10 about what its stance should be. On the one hand, the
11 council is acutely aware that a number of the core
12 participant victims and survivors are in failing health
13 and that having their accounts challenged in these
14 proceedings may further add to that trauma.

15 Secondly, they are aware that by applying to put
16 questions to the victims, they may end up having to
17 relive their experiences twice, both here and in
18 subsequent civil claims.

19 Thirdly, and in particular, the council is reluctant
20 to seek to challenge the accounts of victims and
21 survivors in circumstances where it may prove to have
22 been unnecessary because at the end of this hearing
23 nobody asks the panel to make findings of fact.

24 On the other hand, if allegations go unchallenged in
25 this inquiry and the panel is asked to make findings of

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<p>1 fact and does so, then the interests of the council and 2 their insurers in the civil proceedings could be 3 unfairly prejudiced. We have, as I say, thought 4 carefully about these matters, weighed them up and have 5 come to the decision that there will be no application 6 to put questions to victims. 7 In due course, that is to say in closing 8 submissions, we will make the point, submit, that it is 9 neither necessary nor appropriate for the panel to make 10 such findings, but for present purposes, we make it 11 clear that the council does not seek to challenge any 12 account of abuse given by any core participant in this 13 hearing, not because their accounts are accepted in 14 every detail but because the council does not consider 15 it necessary or appropriate to do so in this forum. 16 Two more points. The first is this: part of 17 the remit of the investigation is for the inquiry to 18 make recommendations to improve child protection and 19 safeguarding in England and Wales in the future. Since 20 the events that this investigation is concerned with 21 took place, child protection has improved immeasurably 22 in Rochdale. Lessons have already been learnt from the 23 past. The council now operates a modern and robust 24 child protection procedure which stands up to scrutiny. 25 The council considers that the inquiry would be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 the Rochdale investigation, and this department 2 currently has responsibility for child safeguarding 3 legislation and is also responsible for policies at 4 national level relating to child sexual abuse. 5 Before 2003, as the panel knows, those 6 responsibilities were held by the Department of Health, 7 and the two departments have liaised closely in order to 8 provide the inquiry with the information that it has 9 sought. 10 The Department for Education is, and throughout the 11 period covered by this investigation was, responsible at 12 national level for legislation and policy relating to 13 education. The Secretary of State's principal role at 14 this stage of the Rochdale investigation is to assist 15 the inquiry by providing evidence of the national policy 16 and legislative framework against which the events being 17 investigated took place, and we will of course 18 throughout the investigation be ready to provide any 19 further assistance that we can. Thank you, madam. 20 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms McGahey. 21 We will now have a brief pause, Mr Altman -- 22 MR ALTMAN: Yes. 23 THE CHAIR: -- while the hearing room is prepared for the 24 first witness? 25 MR ALTMAN: Yes. The first witness, as I said earlier, is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 assisted in the task of making recommendations to 2 receive some evidence from Rochdale about current 3 practice and our proposal is that we will provide that 4 evidence in the near future with closing submissions, if 5 not before. 6 Finally, this: the council welcomes the opportunity 7 to take part in this inquiry, to assist the inquiry in 8 its task of addressing these issues. Council has 9 cooperated fully with the inquiry, it has devoted 10 considerable resources to producing the corporate 11 statement and to marshalling the mass of documentation 12 that has been generated over many years. It will 13 continue to assist and support the inquiry and the 14 inquiry team in any way it can. It recognises the 15 importance of the inquiry's work to victims and 16 survivors both generally and in particular in relation 17 to this investigation. It is committed to continuing to 18 learn lessons from the past and participating fully in 19 any process which will help child protection in the 20 future. 21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Ford. Finally, Ms McGahey? 22 Opening submissions by MS MCGAHEY 23 MS MCGAHEY: Madam, I represent the Secretary of State for 24 Education. The Department for Education is the only 25 central government department which is represented in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 going to be an anonymous witness, for which purpose I am 2 going to ask the usher to clear the public gallery, if 3 she would. I think we can all remain in our positions 4 for the witness to come into the hearing room, and then 5 we can begin. 6 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 7 WITNESS A1 (sworn) 8 Examination by MR ALTMAN 9 MR ALTMAN: For the purposes of these proceedings, I am 10 going to refer to you as A1, and that is how you are 11 going to be known. All right? 12 A. Okay. Thank you. 13 Q. Do you have a cup with some water in there? 14 A. Yes, I have, yes. 15 Q. Can you confirm, please, that you were brought up, 16 I think, in a foster family; is that correct? 17 A. Yes, I have -- I was, yes. 18 Q. What was the year of your birth? I don't want the full 19 date. Just the year of your birth -- 20 A. [redacted] 21 Q. No, just the year of your birth. 22 A. 1948. 23 Q. Insofar as the family in which you were brought up, were 24 you formally adopted or not? 25 A. No, fostered, but I was with them from about two and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

1 **a half years of age.**
 2 Q. Was that in Lancashire?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Simply looking at a statement you made this year
 5 in March, you said that you were well looked after?
 6 **A. That's correct.**
 7 Q. You were brought up well? You didn't want for anything?
 8 **A. That's correct.**
 9 Q. While you were within this foster family, did you attend
 10 the local schools?
 11 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**
 12 Q. You took your 11 plus?
 13 **A. Yes, but failed it.**
 14 Q. But failed it. You ended up at the local high school
 15 rather than the grammar?
 16 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**
 17 Q. I think I'm right in saying that in 1965, when you were
 18 16, your foster father died?
 19 **A. That's correct.**
 20 Q. Obviously, a shocking event for you?
 21 **A. It was a shocking event, yes.**
 22 Q. Was it at that point that your foster mother sat you
 23 down and informed you that you were in fact living
 24 within a foster family?
 25 **A. Yes. It was a very distressing time. I rebelled.**

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1 Q. It was a shocking thing to learn?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. And in the result, you rebelled, which is what you were
 4 telling --
 5 **A. That's correct, yes. Yes.**
 6 Q. Obviously, social services were aware of the family
 7 because you were within a foster family?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. What was the name of the welfare officer?
 10 **A. Mr Evans.**
 11 Q. Was Mr Evans someone who visited the family home from
 12 time to time?
 13 **A. Yes, he did, yes. From Lancashire County Council,**
 14 **I think.**
 15 Q. At the time he visited, did you think that had anything
 16 to do with you?
 17 **A. No. I just took it he was like a friend coming now and**
 18 **again.**
 19 Q. Presumably, it was after you learned that you had been
 20 fostered and things began to fall into place,
 21 presumably?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. I think you remembered after your father's death, at the
 24 time you were rebelling, Mr Evans, the man from the
 25 social services, saying something along the lines that

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1 you needed to buck your ideas up.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Do you remember that?
 4 **A. Yes, I do.**
 5 Q. Did he threaten you with returning you to local
 6 authority care?
 7 **A. No, not -- yeah, I suppose he did, yes.**
 8 Q. I'm simply taking -- you didn't use the word "threaten",
 9 that was my word. What you said in your statement is:
 10 "I recall him saying I needed to buck up my ideas or
 11 I'd be returned to local authority care."
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Some might take that as a threat?
 14 **A. Yes, okay.**
 15 Q. In fact, in the next paragraph, that's exactly the word
 16 you do use:
 17 "This threat had the reverse effect."
 18 **A. That's right.**
 19 Q. "It made matters worse."
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. How did it make matters worse?
 22 **A. Just the thought of being -- not knowing that I had real**
 23 **parents but, like, in limbo, like, what you thought was**
 24 **real was not real. I blame myself for what I said to my**
 25 **mother and family probably, because I did rebel. I used**

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1 **to go to church twice a week -- twice on Sunday. They**
 2 **all went to the family on Sunday night, an evening**
 3 **thing. I rebelled because -- I don't know -- the**
 4 **feeling of not being -- the bond was broken, and I were**
 5 **pretty bitter about it, and I was really bad with my**
 6 **mother, calling her -- saying she's not my real mother**
 7 **and staying out late and arguing.**
 8 Q. Yes.
 9 **A. Being out of character.**
 10 Q. You left school; is that right?
 11 **A. That's correct.**
 12 Q. You reckoned when you had turned 15. Did you get a job
 13 as a motor mechanic?
 14 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**
 15 Q. Was it an apprenticeship?
 16 **A. Yes, it was. I was indentured, yes.**
 17 Q. Was this, so we can get our dates right, because you
 18 told us in 1965 your foster father died and you were 16,
 19 so had you left school and got this job a year before
 20 your father had died?
 21 **A. No. I got the job in '64 because I was born on**
 22 **[redacted]. My father died in [redacted] '65. So I'd**
 23 **started the job -- so I'd signed on at a [redacted]**
 24 **college for the -- and started the apprenticeship at the**
 25 **garage.**

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1 Q. Did you enjoy the job?
 2 **A. Yes, I loved it, yes. Well, I only did it for a couple**
 3 **of weeks.**
 4 Q. That's because I think you had a row, is that right,
 5 with your mother?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. You found yourself being sent to Cambridge House?
 8 **A. I felt I – I was falling out with, I think, everybody.**
 9 **I wasn't falling out lawfully, I weren't doing anything**
 10 **wrong in that sense, but just falling out -- all out of**
 11 **character, and I was really bad, and yet, what happened**
 12 **was, I was at work, the guidance officer, Mr Evans, come**
 13 **to me -- it was like a window that overlooked the**
 14 **working area -- and I thought, "I know that face", and**
 15 **sure it was -- sure enough, it was Mr Evans. I was**
 16 **called up to the office and the man -- Roy -- it was**
 17 **"Roy's", because it was called "Roy's Garage" -- he sat**
 18 **down beside me, Mr Evans, and he said, "Look, this**
 19 **family don't want you back at their house, [A1]. I'm**
 20 **taking you away, back into care".**
 21 Q. Is that what he did? I'm just going to help. You
 22 probably have a very good memory of it, but what you
 23 told those who took the statement from you was:
 24 "He came over and told me to leave everything where
 25 it was. He told me to get in the car."

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1 You were wearing your overalls?
 2 **A. That's right, yes.**
 3 Q. "I had no jacket. He said that he'd collected some
 4 clothes for me from home. He said that I wasn't going
 5 back to the family that day, but instead I'd be going to
 6 a children's home in Rochdale."
 7 **A. That's right, yes.**
 8 Q. "They don't want you back there"?
 9 **A. That's right, yes, something along them lines, yes.**
 10 Q. Had you ever been to Rochdale?
 11 **A. I'd never been to Rochdale. I didn't even know where it**
 12 **was, no.**
 13 Q. How did that make you feel, in a word or two?
 14 **A. How did that make me ...?**
 15 Q. Feel. In a word or two, what I have just reminded you
 16 about what you said in this witness statement?
 17 **A. I didn't know where I was going, I was upset. It was --**
 18 **everything was happening so fast. One minute, I'm --**
 19 **I've got a family, I've got a job. The next minute, I'm**
 20 **plucked and just taken away to another authority.**
 21 Q. Before I forget to ask you, in the result, here you'd
 22 had an apprenticeship which you loved --
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. -- as a motor mechanic. That was close to where you
 25 lived. Now you were being taken off to Rochdale. Was

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1 that the end of that apprenticeship?
 2 **A. Yes, it was, yes.**
 3 Q. Mr Evans took you in the car to Cambridge House; is that
 4 right?
 5 **A. That's right, yes.**
 6 Q. Dropped you off, and you recalled he spoke to the
 7 manager and his wife?
 8 **A. Correct, yes.**
 9 Q. Do you remember their names or at least their last name?
 10 **A. Mr and Mrs Saille.**
 11 Q. Saille, I think we know the spelling to be S-A-I-L-L-E.
 12 They were the wardens, I think, husband and wife?
 13 **A. That's right, yes.**
 14 Q. Were you introduced to them?
 15 **A. Yes. Yes.**
 16 Q. As for Mr Evans, did he say goodbye or just turn
 17 around --
 18 **A. No. Mr and Mrs Saille came. I had to go and sit in the**
 19 **lounge, and Mr Evans carried on speaking to -- went to**
 20 **speak to the wardens, and then Mrs Saille came back into**
 21 **the lounge. Mr Evans had gone. Not even a goodbye.**
 22 Q. As for Mr and Mrs Saille, when you met them, did they
 23 appear to be nice people or not?
 24 **A. They appeared okay, yes.**
 25 Q. Presumably, at this point, you were upset?

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1 **A. At this point, all I was thinking about is getting home,**
 2 **really. When I say "home", I mean going back to**
 3 **Prescot.**
 4 Q. Which is where you lived, where the family lived?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Now tell us a little, because we don't know much about
 7 it, but Cambridge House itself, a big detached house?
 8 **A. Yes, a detached house, yes.**
 9 Q. An old, what, Victorian building?
 10 **A. Yeah, I'd say that, yes. A big sort of -- two big bed**
 11 **wings at the front and you've got the side and the front**
 12 **doors on the side, the Sailles lived in the lounge,**
 13 **their area --**
 14 Q. Let me just stop you there for a moment, because we are
 15 just trying to take in what you are telling us.
 16 Mr and Mrs Saille, they lived in one of the front rooms,
 17 did they?
 18 **A. That's correct.**
 19 Q. That's a room that they had to themselves or a little
 20 bedsit or whatever?
 21 **A. No, it was a lounge, a big lounge.**
 22 Q. That was their bedroom, was it?
 23 **A. No, I don't think so. I think they had a separate room**
 24 **somewhere else. I don't know.**
 25 Q. How many floors did Cambridge House have?

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1 **A. There were -- I call it two and a half floors, really.**
 2 **There was the first floor, which was our dormitory room**
 3 **areas, which -- people who were in care were there. The**
 4 **next floor was for what we called Scottish lads. They**
 5 **were apprentices from Scotland.**
 6 Q. So there was a whole load of Scottish lads who had been
 7 brought down, were living in Cambridge House, they were
 8 working boys, were they?
 9 **A. Working boys, yes.**
 10 Q. Where were they working?
 11 **A. They were working at places in Rochdale called -- all**
 12 **the engineering places, called Bridges, Holroyds,**
 13 **Farrells and --**
 14 Q. It doesn't matter. Who had brought them down to
 15 Rochdale to work in these engineering shops?
 16 **A. I don't know.**
 17 Q. How many of them were there, do you reckon?
 18 **A. I reckon there were probably about --**
 19 Q. Roughly.
 20 **A. -- six to eight.**
 21 Q. So you were talking about the dormitory. Did you sleep
 22 in the dormitory?
 23 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**
 24 Q. With how many other boys?
 25 **A. Probably five.**

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1 Q. Now, if I have got it right, you were about 16, just
 2 turned, around this time?
 3 **A. Yes, I was, yes, but I were on the small side.**
 4 Q. You were a small boy, but 16?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Help us with -- you say there were about eight boys,
 7 I think, in the dormitory with you. What were their age
 8 ranges? Were they the same age as you or younger or
 9 older or what?
 10 **A. In the first couple of days, I didn't really notice what**
 11 **were going on around there. I'd say between 14 and 16,**
 12 **I think. Maybe one or two older. I don't know.**
 13 Q. Do you remember I asked you a moment or two ago about
 14 the Scottish lads. Can I just read to you something you
 15 said in the witness statement which you made this year.
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. "Inside Cambridge House, there was the top floor for the
 18 18-year-old apprentice engineers from Scotland, which
 19 Cyril Smith had set up as a working hostel."
 20 You weren't making a link between Cyril Smith and
 21 the Scottish lads, it was just you knew that Cyril Smith
 22 had set up Cambridge House. Is that what you were
 23 saying?
 24 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 25 Q. I want to ask you about something specific that you

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1 remembered happening to you on your second day at
 2 Cambridge House. I am going to ask you, because I know
 3 you want to tell us what happened, which of course is
 4 your choice, but you think it was probably the second
 5 day at Cambridge House. Do you remember being told that
 6 you had to have a bath and put on some clean clothes?
 7 **A. Yes, I do, yes.**
 8 Q. Were you told that you were going to have a medical
 9 examination that evening?
 10 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**
 11 Q. First question: who was it who told you that?
 12 **A. Mrs -- either Mr or Mrs Saille, and that was to be in --**
 13 **to go to the quiet room, yes.**
 14 Q. We will come to the quiet room in a moment.
 15 **A. Okay.**
 16 Q. Whichever of the two it was, whether Mr or Mrs Saille,
 17 did he or she, as the case may be, tell you that you
 18 were going to see an important gentleman? Again, I'm
 19 taking this from what you have said.
 20 **A. All I knew is I was going to meet the gentleman and**
 21 **I was going to, I think, have a medical.**
 22 Q. You had your bath and put on your clean clothes, and you
 23 were told to go to the quiet room. Now, where was the
 24 quiet room?
 25 **A. As you walked through the door --**

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1 Q. The front door?
 2 **A. The front door. The left-hand side is the lounge. On**
 3 **the right-hand side is the quiet room.**
 4 Q. In this quiet room -- just describe it for us, because
 5 you won't be the only one to tell us about it. What was
 6 in there?
 7 **A. Plenty of books.**
 8 Q. Books?
 9 **A. Books.**
 10 Q. What, in shelves?
 11 **A. In various shelves, yes, and pamphlets. It was like**
 12 **a best room.**
 13 Q. Like a ...?
 14 **A. A best room, a best room of a house. It had chairs in.**
 15 Q. What, sofas, that sort of thing?
 16 **A. There was, like, two armchairs and loads of, like,**
 17 **wooden chairs.**
 18 Q. Dining chairs?
 19 **A. Like dining chairs, yes, and a table.**
 20 Q. A dining table, or --
 21 **A. Yes. Similar to that. But I think it was more like --**
 22 **maybe for, like, a library to go and read or, if you**
 23 **wanted to see someone from a family, you went and sat in**
 24 **there.**
 25 Q. The quiet room. Who called it the quiet room?

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1 **A. I don't know.**
2 Q. When you went into that room that evening, I think you
3 were telling us it was an evening, did -- and you called
4 the person the manager of Cambridge House, come in and
5 introduce you to a man who turned out to be Cyril Smith?
6 **A. Yes.**
7 Q. Now, the manager, the person who introduced you, was
8 that, again, one of the Sailles?
9 **A. Yes, it was, yes.**
10 Q. Did, whether it was Mr or Mrs Saille, explain to
11 Cyril Smith that you had been brought to Cambridge House
12 by Mr Evans of social services? I'm taking this from
13 what you have said?
14 **A. I think so, yes.**
15 Q. I'm simply taking this from what you have said. What
16 did you understand that Smith was? You were having
17 a medical examination. What did you think Smith was?
18 **A. I don't know.**
19 Q. Did you think he was medically trained, a doctor?
20 **A. All I know is what he did to me, which were really -- he**
21 **asked me where I came from, and I explained to him where**
22 **I come from. He'd just been asking, and, "I came here**
23 **with Mr Evans", and that, asking me questions, and then**
24 **he says, "I just want to check you to see if you've got**
25 **any nits or any -- you know, that you have washed**

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1 yourself properly", or something like along them lines,
2 or what do you call -- "or check your feet". So he
3 said, "I want to you to take your pants off", so I took
4 my pants off, my underpants, and my T-shirt, and I stood
5 there with no clothes on. He asked me to face the wall.
6 I outstretched my arms and then -- and then he
7 started -- he started running his hands through my hair,
8 and sort of doing all that -- he then started stroking
9 me down the back of my head and along my arms, and then
10 he started coming down the side of my body like that
11 (indicating).
12 Q. You're describing him rubbing the side of your body.
13 **A. It seems ages until he gets to there, and then he asked**
14 **me to open my legs, so I opened my legs and he goes all**
15 **the way down and then he says to me, "Can you bend**
16 **over?", and I bend over and he brings the hands back up**
17 **the inside of my thighs and then he sort of, like, gets**
18 **hold of my testicles and my penis and just asked me to**
19 **cough, just giving them a little squeeze, and he brought**
20 **his hand up a bit slower then, up and down. I had to**
21 **lift me legs up so he could see the soles of my feet,**
22 **each leg, my left leg, all my right leg, and then he**
23 **brought his hands back up again. By this time, because**
24 **it's so -- he were doing it so sensually, I was**
25 **aroused -- I'm sorry, but ... I think he could see**

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1 **I were getting upset and he asked me to turn around.**
2 **I turned around. I was quite aroused. The only thing**
3 **that were on my mind, really, was to get back to**
4 **Prescot. I really weren't in a good place to start**
5 **with, because I'd come from -- my home was in Prescot**
6 **and I'm in a different place and it's so hard -- anyway,**
7 **as I turned around, he could see I was upset and he just**
8 **told me to get changed and he said, "I'll speak to you**
9 **in a day or two", and I went and sat in the lounge.**
10 **I don't know. I don't know where I were with that.**
11 **I think it took me, I don't know, I think I just went**
12 **outside for some fresh air. I was in a different place.**
13 Q. I think, in fact, did you run away?
14 **A. The following day -- one of the lads who was there,**
15 **I got friendly with. He lent me a proper shirt, like**
16 **a jacket to work in, like a denim jacket. I had**
17 **a little bit of money from when I was at the garage.**
18 **I ran away. I didn't run away. I went back home.**
19 Q. Yes.
20 **A. I weren't running away from anything. I wanted to go**
21 **back home.**
22 Q. Of course. I'm going to, if you don't mind, take this
23 a little shortly.
24 I think you found your way to the family home.
25 No-one was in. You recalled going to a friend's house.

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1 To cut it a bit short, I think you were returned to
2 Cambridge House, were you? The police were called and
3 somebody came from Cambridge House to pick you up?
4 **A. Yes, I think so, yes.**
5 Q. The next day, in the evening, were you told again that
6 Cyril Smith was in the library?
7 **A. When I got brought back to Cambridge House, same thing,**
8 **I had to go and have a wash because that's what I had to**
9 **do, so I went and had a bath again, and I came down and**
10 **he said, "I'll take you in to see Cyril Smith" --**
11 **whether or not he called him Cyril Smith, I thought he**
12 **was a doctor. I think that the line went, "You caused**
13 **me some trouble, you lad", but he weren't, like, talking**
14 **nice, he was shouting at me, you know, and he said, "I'm**
15 **going to have to ask you to take your clothes off again**
16 **because I need to check you for your -- we don't know**
17 **where you've been", and that's when we had a row and**
18 **I said, "You're not touching me". I said, "If you touch**
19 **me, I'm going out into the street and I'm going to yell**
20 **what you're doing to me".**
21 Q. So nothing happened on that occasion?
22 **A. Nothing happened on that occasion. We just had a big**
23 **row.**
24 Q. I think you went to speak to the --
25 **A. Housekeeper.**

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1 Q. -- housekeeper, yes. Was this Mrs Saille or somebody
 2 else?
 3 **A. I think it was the lady in the -- the housekeeper was**
 4 **the lady who used to help Mrs Saille.**
 5 Q. A cook?
 6 **A. Yes. She's the lady that told me and said, "Best thing**
 7 **[A1], is, around about 9 o'clock, keep away from -- make**
 8 **yourself scarce, because at 9 o'clock he usually comes**
 9 **after his meetings".**
 10 MR ALTMAN: Can I ask you to stop there? Chair, I am going
 11 to ask for the proceedings to pause for a moment, for
 12 the feed to be cut. Just stop there for a moment, if
 13 you would, please.
 14 Can I just say something to you? Please say
 15 nothing, but if you just listen to what I have to say.
 16 The reason I stopped you is because -- and it is not
 17 your fault, it is very difficult -- but you keep on
 18 referring to your first name, and we are trying to avoid
 19 that because you have anonymity. So can you try not to
 20 mention your name at all? Will you do that for me?
 21 **A. Okay, sorry.**
 22 Q. No, no, don't be sorry, there's nothing to apologise
 23 for, but that's why I stopped it. So don't refer to
 24 your name at all. We don't need your name.
 25 **A. Okay.**

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1 Q. Back to the housekeeper. Did she tell you -- do you
 2 remember this? -- that Smith would often come to the
 3 home in the evenings, usually between 8 and 10, after
 4 his council meetings?
 5 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 6 Q. Did she advise you to make yourself scarce at those
 7 times, to avoid what had happened to you before?
 8 **A. Yes, exactly, yes.**
 9 Q. From what you saw, did Cyril Smith come to
 10 Cambridge House regularly?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Did he have a set of keys?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Did you find him telling you what to do and what not to
 15 do?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Did he get you work, a job?
 18 **A. He did get me some work. I had a job, an Education job.**
 19 **I lost that. When I came to Cambridge House, I think**
 20 **the remit was that Cyril found jobs for people who came**
 21 **into the hostel and they would pay a proportion of their**
 22 **wages towards their upkeep and the rest would be paid by**
 23 **the -- either Lancashire County Council or Rochdale**
 24 **Education. So, yeah --**
 25 Q. He got you a job at a ropemakers?

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1 **A. At Taylor's Ropemakers.**
 2 Q. How did that compare to being a motor mechanic?
 3 **A. A different world.**
 4 Q. Did you like it?
 5 **A. No, I didn't, no. I left after about five days,**
 6 **I think.**
 7 Q. Do you recall that you and another boy from
 8 Cambridge House were asked to go to Germany as part of
 9 the twinning arrangements between Bielefeld and
 10 Rochdale?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. An exchange?
 13 **A. An exchange, yes. Rochdale Education was partly run by**
 14 **a person called Mr Noble, who was in charge of**
 15 **the school-type side of it. There was me and another --**
 16 **I can't remember what he was called. I can't remember.**
 17 Q. I think you were gone for two weeks?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. When you came back, did you discover Cambridge House was
 20 closing down?
 21 **A. We found out it was going to be closed down, yes.**
 22 Q. That was around, as you recalled it, November 1965?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. Where did you go from there?
 25 **A. I was then -- I met somebody from -- I presume he was**

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1 **from Rochdale Social Services or Education. I were**
 2 **fostered to a family called the Bakers.**
 3 Q. These people, were they friendly with Cyril Smith?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Did you discover that Smith would occasionally call
 6 around to make sure all was well with you?
 7 **A. Yes, I did. But I also -- even though the Bakers were**
 8 **friendly with Smith, I do feel they -- at some point,**
 9 **they were also sort of looking after my interests as**
 10 **well.**
 11 Q. I think when you turned 18, you left?
 12 **A. I left before I was 18, yes.**
 13 Q. Then you started to settle down in life?
 14 **A. I left -- I didn't want to stay there until I was 18,**
 15 **but because I was underage, I had to stay there. I went**
 16 **and lived with my best mate.**
 17 Q. Did you find yourself socialising with nice people?
 18 **A. I played cricket and football.**
 19 Q. Heavily involved in sport, yes?
 20 **A. In my school, when I was there.**
 21 Q. I don't want the name, but you married in 1969; is that
 22 right?
 23 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 24 Q. As far as your wedding is concerned, can I just ask you
 25 this: did it turn out, unbeknown to you, that Smith had

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1 been invited to the wedding because your other half,
 2 your future wife, her family knew Cyril Smith? No
 3 names. Just yes or no, as the case may be?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 MR ALTMAN: I'm reminded that I need to ask for
 6 a restriction order in relation to the earlier
 7 interruption.
 8 THE CHAIR: Yes, I will make that order, Mr Altman.
 9 MR ALTMAN: Did Smith turn up at the wedding?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. Did that make you angry?
 12 **A. Yes. But I couldn't say anything.**
 13 Q. No. In fact, did Smith help you and your wife get your
 14 first marital home?
 15 **A. If he did, then I didn't know about it. It must have**
 16 **been done through the parents.**
 17 Q. I'm simply reading what you said:
 18 "Smith helped us to get a marital home in Rochdale."
 19 **A. It was a council house.**
 20 Q. Do you remember this: in 1969, or early 1970, a police
 21 officer from Rochdale came to the house and asked you if
 22 you would be willing to make a statement? Do you
 23 remember that?
 24 **A. Yes, I do.**
 25 Q. Did you do so?

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1 **A. Two policemen came to the house. My wife answered the**
 2 **door and brought them into the living room. They**
 3 **introduced themselves and they said, "We would like to**
 4 **ask you a few questions about where you lived at**
 5 **Cambridge House", and would I be happy to answer them**
 6 **questions.**
 7 Q. I think you did?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. They invited you along to the police station the next
 10 day, where you made a formal witness statement; is that
 11 right?
 12 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 13 Q. You said you would be happy to go to court to give
 14 evidence?
 15 **A. The policemen were very good. They explained the**
 16 **details, you know, about going to court and giving**
 17 **evidence against --**
 18 Q. This was about Cyril Smith, wasn't it?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. As a result of that, did you end up telling your wife
 21 and your inlaws about what had happened?
 22 **A. Yes. That didn't go down too well. They couldn't**
 23 **believe it, because they were obviously supporters of**
 24 **Cyril Smith. Obviously, their daughter's married to me.**
 25 **I had to explain to them that I'd been interfered with,**

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1 **or abused, or whatever you want to call it, and I'm**
 2 **willing to make a public statement to the police, you**
 3 **know. Yes.**
 4 Q. But Cyril Smith came to know because -- can you confirm
 5 that he turned up with another boy at your home?
 6 **A. Sometime in early 1970, I think, there was a knock again**
 7 **on the door and my wife answered it. It was Cyril and**
 8 **a lad from the home, that used to be at the home, and**
 9 **she showed them into the room and Cyril came in, I was**
 10 **a bit, you know, because he's confronting me now**
 11 **head-on, and he came in and said, "Has the police**
 12 **been" -- he didn't speak to me nicely, he just said it**
 13 **in a really sort of -- he was 6' 4", and he's about that**
 14 **wide (indicating), and he's about that -- that way**
 15 **(indicating), he's big. The words that came, "Has**
 16 **anybody been to see you, like the police?" and I said,**
 17 **"Yes". "Have you said anything to them?" I said,**
 18 **"Yes". He said, "Have you made a statement?" I said,**
 19 **"Yes, I made a full statement about what happened to me**
 20 **in them first couple of nights when I was at**
 21 **Cambridge House". I said, "That were it. I just told**
 22 **him that, "I thought you, at the time -- because**
 23 **I didn't know who you were, I thought you were a doctor,**
 24 **so I'd been misled in that way", you know?**
 25 Q. What was he asking you to do, as far as your statement

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1 was concerned?
 2 **A. The person he was with, he was called Kevin. He said --**
 3 **no, no. "All the things that Cyril's done, you should**
 4 **be careful what you say", or something along them lines,**
 5 **and Cyril then asked me, would I be prepared to rescind**
 6 **my statement. He says, "It's going to cause me a lot of**
 7 **problems", and I said, "No". I said, "What happened to**
 8 **me is the truth. I told it how it was, and that's it",**
 9 **you know, and that's when they were going on about, "We**
 10 **have done this favour, we sent you to Germany and all**
 11 **that, the twin town", and I said, "You haven't done**
 12 **anything for me, really. I have never asked you",**
 13 **I said.**
 14 Q. Can I ask you this: did a number of years then pass
 15 where nothing had happened, you obviously came to know
 16 that Smith became a Member of Parliament. Yes?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. And a national figure with a big public profile; yes?
 19 **A. Yes. I were really more concerned, you know, with my**
 20 **life and my wife and my -- the life I were leading now.**
 21 Q. In 1979, do you remember out of blue being approached by
 22 somebody called David Bartlett from the Rochdale
 23 Alternative Press?
 24 **A. Yes, I do. He came with a friend called -- another**
 25 **person called Mr Walker, I think.**

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1 Q. Yes. Did he -- I'm going to take this shortly, because
 2 we know the story about this. But did Mr Bartlett
 3 arrange for you to go to some solicitors to swear an
 4 affidavit --
 5 **A. Correct.**
 6 Q. -- which set out, in short, what had happened to you?
 7 **A. That's right, yes. I did that for the purpose of -- to**
 8 **safeguard my family, so my children wouldn't be -- when**
 9 **they grew up, they wouldn't be singled out, knowing that**
 10 **their dad had been interfered with and it wouldn't be**
 11 **nice for them and it wouldn't be nice for my family.**
 12 Q. Did you know that RAP, the Rochdale Alternative Press,
 13 published an article in May 1979?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Did you see the article? I think you heard nothing more
 16 until what you estimated to be the early 1980s, when you
 17 were contacted, you thought, by the Daily Mirror, who
 18 wanted to run a story?
 19 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 20 Q. Did you have a meeting with somebody from the
 21 Daily Mirror?
 22 **A. Yes, we did, yes.**
 23 Q. But as a result of the meeting, I think you didn't take
 24 to the journalist, you decided not to --
 25 **A. That's correct, yes.**

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1 Q. Can I ask you now about the late 1990s, so moving on
 2 a decade or so. Do you remember seeing some publicity
 3 about a police operation that was taking place, in
 4 essence, in South Wales? You may not have known the
 5 operation name, but it was "Goldfinch"?
 6 **A. That's right, yes.**
 7 Q. About abuse in residential homes?
 8 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 9 Q. As a result of that, did you make contact with
 10 South Wales Police?
 11 **A. I did, yes.**
 12 Q. And --
 13 **A. The idea being that I -- the idea of the contact was**
 14 **that I had never really gotten even a reply from anybody**
 15 **to let me know how or what was happening with the**
 16 **inquiry with Cambridge House.**
 17 Q. Absolutely. You may not know the date, but I think, on
 18 21 October 1998, you were interviewed by Sergeant
 19 Vincent Hill?
 20 **A. I think so, yes. I don't know his name.**
 21 Q. Part of the Operation Cleopatra team?
 22 **A. Cleopatra, yes.**
 23 Q. Did you tell him, in effect, what you have told us?
 24 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**
 25 Q. Did you hear anything more after that?

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1 **A. Not for the 1989 one, no.**
 2 Q. So you complained at Cambridge House?
 3 **A. I did, yes.**
 4 Q. You complained when you were interviewed by the police
 5 at Rochdale?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. You complained to RAP?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Then you contacted the South Wales Police, who put you
 10 on to Greater Manchester Police via Operation Cleopatra?
 11 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 12 Q. Can I just ask you this, I think finally. We know that
 13 Smith died in 2010. In 2012, did you see some publicity
 14 and you went off to a firm of solicitors and did they
 15 advise you about a possible legal claim against Rochdale
 16 Borough Council?
 17 **A. Correct.**
 18 Q. I think we can take it shortly. Because Cambridge House
 19 was not, in effect, run by Rochdale Borough Council,
 20 there was no claim that you had? That's the effect
 21 of --
 22 **A. That's effect of -- yes.**
 23 MR ALTMAN: Those are all the questions I am going to ask
 24 you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Those are all
 25 the questions I have. Thank you. Thank you for coming.

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1 **A. Thank you.**
 2 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman. Thank you to the witness
 3 on behalf of the panel. We very much appreciate your
 4 attendance today.
 5 **A. Okay.**
 6 **(The witness withdrew)**
 7 MR ALTMAN: This afternoon, Gail Hopper.
 8 THE CHAIR: Yes. We will take the lunchbreak now and return
 9 at 2.05 pm.
 10 MR ALTMAN: Thank you.
 11 (1.07 pm)
 12 **(The short adjournment)**
 13 (2.08 pm)
 14 MR ALTMAN: Chair, the witness for this afternoon is
 15 Gail Hopper.
 16 MS GAIL HOPPER (sworn)
 17 Examination by MR ALTMAN
 18 MR ALTMAN: Can you state your full name, please.
 19 **A. Yes, my name is Gail Hopper.**
 20 Q. Mrs or Ms; what do you prefer?
 21 **A. I don't mind.**
 22 Q. Ms Hopper, you have made two statements, I think: one in
 23 2016, on 24 May?
 24 **A. That's correct.**
 25 Q. Which dealt, effectively, with storage and retrieval of

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1 material, which I am going to ask you a little about?
 2 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 3 Q. But you made, more recently, a much larger statement,
 4 for which I have to say we are grateful, of 130 pages in
 5 length, to which you exhibited I think over
 6 500 exhibits?
 7 **A. 556, I think.**
 8 Q. To be precise. You will be relieved to know that I am
 9 not going to ask you about all of it -- far from it --
 10 but of course it is available to the chair and the
 11 panel, and the inquiry generally, but clearly a great
 12 deal of work has gone into it, and I assume you had help
 13 from a team of others?
 14 **A. I did. I did.**
 15 Q. It must have taken a very long time?
 16 **A. It took a very long time; that's correct.**
 17 Q. Apart from questions about the storage and retrieval of
 18 information, as a general backdrop, I am only going to
 19 ask today about your background following that, or
 20 perhaps I will start with that, and then just section 4,
 21 to deal with Cambridge House, because you understand
 22 that we are going to ask you to give evidence on two
 23 other occasions?
 24 **A. That's correct.**
 25 Q. Once this week and later in the course of the hearing.

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1 First of all, what is your position with
 2 Rochdale Council presently?
 3 **A. I am the Director of Children's Services.**
 4 Q. What is your general background?
 5 **A. My general background is in social work, and I started**
 6 **that work in 1979 in residential childcare and then**
 7 **moved on to work in social work, and particularly in**
 8 **child protection.**
 9 Q. I think you qualified as a social worker in 1983?
 10 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 11 Q. Simply picking up -- do you have your statement in front
 12 of you?
 13 **A. I do, yes.**
 14 Q. Do feel free to refer to it at any time. I am looking
 15 at the larger statement, of 31 July this year.
 16 Paragraph 1.2, you were employed by the Department of
 17 Health in 2001 for four years as an inspector in the
 18 Social Services Inspectorate; is that right?
 19 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 20 Q. Before becoming an assistant director for children's
 21 social care in County Durham, that being in 2005, a post
 22 you held for eight years?
 23 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 24 Q. Which included, you say, a wide range of
 25 responsibilities, including 11 children's homes, as well

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1 as a 40-bed secure facility, which was rebuilt during
 2 the course of your tenure?
 3 **A. That's right.**
 4 Q. For the last nine years, I think this is, you have been,
 5 or had been, involved in -- which is part and parcel of
 6 what you do as director of children's services --
 7 national policy?
 8 **A. That's right.**
 9 Q. Clearly, you weren't involved in any of the events in
 10 Rochdale during the relevant time period?
 11 **A. No.**
 12 Q. Looking at the whole period from 1960 through to 1996,
 13 when Knowl View closed?
 14 **A. Closed formally, that's right.**
 15 Q. Can we then deal, against that background, please, with
 16 the first statement that you made, which, as I have said
 17 already, deals with your explanation of the storage and
 18 retrieval policies which applied. Was that just in
 19 relation to Knowl View, or does it cover as much as you
 20 have been able to find in relation to the period
 21 covering Cambridge House, acknowledging that
 22 Rochdale Council, as we will call it for short, wasn't
 23 directly responsible for Cambridge House?
 24 **A. That's correct. What information was possible to find**
 25 **in relation to Cambridge House is largely from very**

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1 **historical committee reports from the 1960s and from**
 2 **three social care records for young people who were**
 3 **placed at Cambridge House. But obviously the much more**
 4 **significant amount of data, the 33 boxes of data,**
 5 **related to Knowl View.**
 6 Q. I don't want to belabour it, because I think we could
 7 quite happily get bogged down in storage and retrieval,
 8 and we don't want to, but can you confirm -- I'm looking
 9 at your paragraph 4 of the 2016 statement, where you
 10 explain the policies which applied to Knowl View from
 11 its opening -- that you go through all of
 12 the milestones, and we will come back to them when we
 13 deal with Knowl View, for the setting up and
 14 establishment of Knowl View.
 15 But looking at your paragraph 7, has it been
 16 possible -- was it possible -- to discover any written
 17 information on storage and retrieval policies within the
 18 school, Knowl View, or the Education Department?
 19 **A. I'm afraid it wasn't, because I think the processes for**
 20 **storage and retention schedules that were in place were**
 21 **simply not possible to find. We found some schedules in**
 22 **relation to the Education Department and Special**
 23 **Educational Needs Service that would have related to**
 24 **some of the pupils at Knowl View, but for the school**
 25 **itself, it wasn't possible to find any more processes or**

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<p>1 information about processes than that which was provided 2 at the time of that statement. 3 Q. I think what you say -- sorry to cut across you -- is 4 the council didn't have a corporate retention schedule 5 until 2012; is that right? 6 A. It didn't, that's right. That's right. 7 Q. Although you say some individual services did have 8 retention schedules in place before that. 9 Insofar as you were able to discover -- your 10 paragraph 8 -- in relation to pupil records, and I think 11 you touched on this, did the school manage its own 12 admissions and, therefore, have its own records? 13 A. It did, yes. 14 Q. Overseen by the head teacher and the governing body? 15 A. That's correct. 16 Q. But they were not processed, you say, via the Special 17 Educational Needs team at the council? 18 A. No, they weren't, and I think it was felt that when 19 young people moved on from Knowl View, particularly if 20 they came from other local authorities, their records 21 would have gone with them. 22 Q. Which is what you say. Paragraph 9. As far as the 23 council's SEN, Special Educational Needs, team is 24 concerned, you say they held a card index on all pupils. 25 That still exists; is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 a unitary local authority. Does that mean it stood 2 alone, in effect? 3 A. Yes. Yes, it does. 4 Q. Did you discover that that document, the November 1997 5 Lancashire document, set out a retention period of 6 50 years -- 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. -- for files of children who had been in care or 9 accommodated, and seven years after the last contact for 10 all other childcare records? 11 A. That's correct, but that was simply for the 12 social services element, yes. 13 Q. Yes. You go on to say: 14 "Because most of the Knowl View pupils were not in 15 the care of the local authority, any Rochdale 16 Social Services records that existed for any of them 17 would have been destroyed seven years after the last 18 contact in line with that procedure." 19 A. That's correct, yes. 20 Q. Was any record made of what was destroyed, when it was 21 destroyed or why? 22 A. I'm afraid not, and I think that's what gives more of 23 the difficulty, that we don't know what existed, so it's 24 difficult to know what was also destroyed at the time. 25 Q. At paragraph 11, do you provide information about staff</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 A. That's correct, yes. We found that. 2 Q. But any SEN files relating to individual young people 3 would have been destroyed, in line with what you call 4 the common practice, retention and destruction procedure 5 in place at the time? 6 A. That is correct, yes. 7 Q. That was that all records and files were destroyed 8 within six years after the pupil left school, and that 9 would normally be by the age of 16? 10 A. It was six years after that, so it would normally be 11 around the 21st birthday. I think, as I also go on to 12 say, that retention period seemed to have been built on 13 the same processes that happened in the council's audit 14 arrangements at the time. 15 Q. So in terms of children, files would be routinely 16 destroyed around the time of that former pupil's 21st 17 birthday. That's what it comes to? 18 A. That's correct. 19 Q. I think you also looked, insofar as you were able, to 20 see what Lancashire Children's Department had by way of 21 policy, and I think you found the earliest record of 22 social services' retention and destruction policy was 23 dated November 1997? 24 A. That's correct. 25 Q. By that time, Rochdale had become what you call</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 records? 2 A. That's correct, yes. 3 Q. As opposed to children's records. You say in relation 4 to staff records: 5 "Until 1979, it appears that care for pupils at 6 Knowl View was provided by the teaching staff." 7 A. That's correct. 8 Q. That's what you discovered. In terms of 9 documentation -- I don't want to go through all of that 10 paragraph, but it is there to be read, if needs be -- 11 you found that material was moved to a primary school, 12 Hill Top, where all education service records were 13 stored. After six years, files were removed and placed 14 in a secure skip to be sent for destruction? 15 A. My understanding was that that was a former primary 16 school, so it was a primary school that had closed. 17 Q. And used for storage? 18 A. It was used for storage for a period, yes. 19 Q. In 2008, any remaining personnel files were moved from 20 that storage facility, for want of a better term, at 21 Hill Top, a former primary school, to external storage 22 at place called Harrow Green? 23 A. That's correct, yes. 24 Q. At your paragraph 12, you then give a full explanation 25 as to what efforts have been made to retrieve records of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 Knowl View School. You say the admissions records for 2 Knowl View have survived, and they have been provided to 3 the inquiry? 4 A. That's correct. 5 Q. There are record cards relating to some of 6 the individual pupils who attended, some of which you 7 said would be provided to the inquiry in relation to 8 special needs records of pupils who attended the school 9 in 1990 and 1991. You say, since 2012, there have been 10 a series of searches conducted across all records held 11 by Rochdale Council in relation to the school, and 12 initial searches for information revealed, you say, 13 33 boxes, which I think you have already made mention 14 of, of files held by the Education Service in respect of 15 the school; is that right? 16 A. That's correct. 17 Q. I'm not going to trouble anyone with paragraph 14, but 18 at paragraph 15, do you then deal with an electronic 19 system? Is that staff records only? 20 A. Staff, HR. 21 Q. From the HR department? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. So searches were made -- 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. -- and have been carried out throughout 2014, 2015 and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 2016, additional files relating to Knowl View, as well 2 as other files relevant to the police investigations, 3 were retrieved from council archives, and did they 4 include education files, pupil records, children's and 5 adults' social care files, legal files, committee 6 records, personnel records? 7 A. That's correct, yes. 8 Q. The results of those searches were recorded separately, 9 and any files located were not added to the 34 boxes, as 10 they were by now. 11 Then at 21, you give an explanation as to why 12 records are missing. I don't want to belabour it, 13 because, as I said, we could spend an awful lot of time 14 on this, but it actually doesn't get us anywhere, but 15 are you able to summarise, in a couple of sentences, 16 what the results of posing that question are? 17 A. Yes. I think that during that period, there wasn't 18 a statutory requirement to keep school records, and we 19 suspect that some of the records were kept more 20 carefully than others, and I think a lot of the records 21 that we do have were the ones that were removed from the 22 head teacher's office at the time that the school 23 closed, and that will make up a lot of the 33 boxes. 24 Q. Did you discover along the way -- I'm looking at your 25 paragraph 25, and this is something that comes up,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 2016 in response to a specific request from Greater 2 Manchester Police? 3 A. That's correct. It was much easier to do that if you 4 had a name. That was the restriction. 5 Q. I'm presuming you had, what, key search terms and that 6 sort of thing to work with? 7 A. That's right. 8 Q. The results of those searches were recorded separately, 9 but they were not added, you say, to the 34 boxes? 10 A. Because the number of boxes had increased by that stage. 11 Q. So 33 had become 34? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Sometime in early 2014 -- paragraph 16 -- one of 14 the officers from the Governance and Committee Services, 15 a chap by the name of Garroway, completed 16 a comprehensive search of committee minutes from 1962 to 17 1996? 18 A. That's correct, yes. 19 Q. And documented all Knowl View references? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. He also searched all minutes from 1996 to 2000, during 22 which time no references to Knowl View were identified? 23 A. That's also correct, yes. 24 Q. Then paragraph 17: as a result of additional requests 25 from Greater Manchester Police throughout 2014, 2015 and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 I think, if my memory serves me, during the course of 2 the Garnham Review -- that some boxes of records were 3 kept in Rochdale Town Hall basement? 4 A. They were. 5 Q. During the summer of 2004, was a fire improvement notice 6 served on the town hall because the archived material in 7 the basement was regarded as a fire hazard? 8 A. That's correct. That's correct. 9 Q. So did you discover that a lot of paper-based 10 information was deliberately destroyed at that point? 11 A. That is my understanding, yes. 12 Q. But no-one knows whether any information relating to 13 Knowl View was included? 14 A. That's also correct. 15 Q. Some of the Knowl View information -- so there must have 16 been some -- transferred to a professional development 17 centre, Mossfield? 18 A. I think the professional development centre was 19 Highfield. 20 Q. It says "Mossfield" in your statement, in paragraph 25. 21 A. Oh, sorry, you're correct. That's the place where there 22 was a flood, yes. 23 Q. Was there that where there was a flood, or was it in the 24 basement there was a flood? 25 A. There was a flood at Mossfield in 2004.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

1 Q. So nothing to do with the Rochdale Town Hall. The flood
 2 was at the professional development centre?
 3 **A. It was.**
 4 Q. So the flood happened when the stuff was moved out
 5 because of the fire hazard, it met with a flood --
 6 **A. That's right.**
 7 Q. -- in the professional development centre?
 8 **A. It went from one extreme to another, I'm afraid.**
 9 Q. That was that same year, 2004. So there is a flood at
 10 Mossfield which resulted in information stored in the
 11 archives there being irretrievably lost and destroyed --
 12 **A. Mmm-hmm.**
 13 Q. -- in the result?
 14 **A. Some of it was, some of it was retrieved, but I think**
 15 **that explains why some of it was in a very poor state.**
 16 Q. The rest of the information you say was boxed up and
 17 transferred to the building of a former -- another
 18 primary school --
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. -- presumably being used as a storage house, warehouse?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. In terms of the staff files, which we had left behind at
 23 your paragraph 11, which had gone off to Harrow Green,
 24 your paragraph 27, in November/December 2012, following
 25 the first letter of claim received from former

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1 Knowl View pupils, were the boxes moved from
 2 Harrow Green to an office in the municipal offices?
 3 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 4 Q. So that's a bit of a canter through that statement.
 5 Therefore, against that, please, can we come to your
 6 main statement and pick up, in a sense, where we left
 7 off.
 8 Can we go, first of all, to your paragraph 1.4. Was
 9 the statement -- you have made it clear, but let's just
 10 drive the point home. Was that 130-page statement
 11 compiled on documentation now available to the council,
 12 all of which has been reviewed as a result of
 13 the request from this inquiry?
 14 **A. It has, that's correct.**
 15 Q. In your section 2, you point out limitations which you
 16 are keen to point out. You say that you reviewed
 17 87,000 pages of documents in order to compile the
 18 statement, and the contents of the statement are based
 19 almost entirely on what the remaining documentation
 20 tells one about events which took place between 1960 and
 21 1996?
 22 **A. That's correct.**
 23 Q. So it is important to bear in mind that, due to the
 24 passage of time and lack of documentation from certain
 25 periods, there remains a degree of uncertainty about

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1 some of the issues of concern?
 2 **A. That's correct. I think we are concerned that there may**
 3 **still be gaps.**
 4 Q. At your paragraph 2.9, just as a point of interest, you
 5 set out the different name changes of the borough?
 6 **A. That's correct.**
 7 Q. It was originally the County Borough of Rochdale; is
 8 that right?
 9 **A. It was, as part of Lancashire County Council.**
 10 Q. In 1974, Rochdale became a metropolitan borough council?
 11 **A. That's true.**
 12 Q. Following local governance reorganisation brought about
 13 by the implementation of the Local Government Act 1972?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. In around 2013, the council began using the name
 16 Rochdale Borough Council?
 17 **A. That's correct.**
 18 Q. Although it was still Rochdale Metropolitan Borough
 19 Council; is that right?
 20 **A. For legal purposes.**
 21 Q. For legal purposes. But you refer to it throughout as
 22 Rochdale Council, for ease of reference?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. That's all of the background I am going to go to for
 25 your statement. Please can we go to section 4 on your

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1 page 11. Ms Hopper, so we are clear, before I ask you
 2 anything, your statement has been redacted in certain
 3 ways, to remove certain sections and certain names.
 4 I don't know if you have had the redacted copy or you
 5 have the unredacted copy in front of you?
 6 **A. I have the redacted copy in front of me.**
 7 Q. To avoid any accidents, I will not be asking you for
 8 names of individuals, but if I do, I will make clear
 9 that I am asking. Thank you.
 10 Looking at your 4.2, we are focusing now on
 11 Cambridge House and how some children came to be placed
 12 there. You begin, at your 4.2, with the Rochdale Hostel
 13 for Boys Association. Now, was that a voluntary
 14 organisation that was formed in 1960?
 15 **A. It was, and just for clarity, it was a hostel that**
 16 **wasn't opened or run or managed by the council.**
 17 Q. You have put in brackets in your paragraph 4.2
 18 "Cambridge House". Was it always called Cambridge House
 19 or was it --
 20 **A. To my knowledge, it was.**
 21 Q. So Cambridge House has always existed, and even when we
 22 are dealing with Cambridge House which is one of
 23 the subjects of this inquiry, it was the same
 24 establishment, in effect, by the same name?
 25 **A. I'm only aware of its existence as Cambridge House, as**

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<p>1 it was operated by the voluntary organisation that we 2 refer to. 3 Q. You say the only records that Rochdale Council held in 4 relation to Cambridge House are committee minutes from 5 the 1960s? 6 A. That's correct, yes. 7 Q. From those minutes, it was clear that the premises were 8 leased to Rochdale Hostel for Boys Association by 9 Rochdale Council? 10 A. It was. 11 Q. Does that mean Rochdale Council owns the premises? 12 A. They did own the premises, and they agreed a fee to 13 lease the building with an agreement for the Association 14 to buy the building at a later point if they wished to, 15 but it didn't actually happen. 16 Q. They also provided funding in the shape of a grant or 17 grants; is that right? 18 A. They did, from 1962. 19 Q. From the outset, was the main link between the council 20 and Cambridge House Cyril Smith? 21 A. It was. 22 Q. At that time, he was a councillor? 23 A. Cyril Smith was a councillor at that stage, yes. 24 Q. Did he chair, again at that time, Rochdale Council's 25 Youth Committee?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 A. It was. 2 Q. Lots of committees with lots of names, lots of 3 subcommittees? 4 A. That's right. 5 Q. On 8 February 1962, did the council's 6 Children's Committee consider a request from Smith on 7 behalf of the association requesting a grant towards the 8 upkeep of the hostel? 9 A. It was, and they agreed a grant of £150 for the 10 financial year. 11 Q. That financial year was 1962/1963? 12 A. It was. 13 Q. You have quoted in your statement at paragraph 4.8 14 "towards the upkeep of the Rochdale Hostel for Boys"? 15 A. Yes, that's correct. 16 Q. Did it open in February 1962? 17 A. It did. 18 Q. Later that same year, on 19 November 1962, did the 19 council's Welfare Committee consider a further letter 20 from Smith in relation to the lease on Cambridge House? 21 A. That's correct, they did. 22 Q. Did the Welfare Committee resolve to extend the lease of 23 the premises to Cambridge House for three years from 24 1 October 1963 with an option to purchase the premises 25 for £2,000?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 A. He did. 2 Q. Was he also the honorary secretary of the association? 3 A. He was, that's correct. 4 Q. There were fellow officers on the committee of 5 the association -- Mr Harding, who was a senior 6 probation officer, and the treasurer was 7 a Mr Albert Potter, who happened to be the manager of 8 the local TSB? 9 A. That's correct. 10 Q. There were other people who were on the committee of 11 the Rochdale Hostel for Boys; is that correct? 12 A. That's correct, yes. 13 Q. Did it appear from what you were able to research, or 14 your team, that Smith and Harding and Potter were the 15 three main active members of the committee, although 16 there were other members? 17 A. That's correct, yes. Yes. 18 Q. Looking at your paragraph 4.7, was the first reference 19 to Cambridge House in Rochdale Council committee minutes 20 on 20 June 1960, when the council's Welfare Services 21 Committee considered a letter from Smith seeking 22 accommodation for a working boys' hostel? 23 A. That's correct, yes. 24 Q. As a result of that, was the matter referred to the 25 works and furnishing subcommittee?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 A. That's right, yes. 2 Q. Terminate the lease in September 1965 or renew the lease 3 from September 1966? 4 A. That's correct. 5 Q. Did you discover from what limited information there was 6 still held by the council that most of the boys who 7 lived at Cambridge House worked in the local 8 manufacturing industry? 9 A. They did, yes. That's my understanding. 10 Q. And you borrowed, as it were, information you had read 11 from the Garnham transcript of the interview with 12 Lyndon Price? 13 A. That's right. 14 Q. References how some of the boys were brought down from 15 the Glasgow area of Scotland and how quite a number of 16 the boys at Cambridge House worked for Cyril Smith's 17 companies, Smith Springs? 18 A. That's right, yes. 19 Q. Which was in Flannel Street? 20 A. Flannel Street, yes. 21 Q. Is there still a factory there or -- 22 A. Not to my knowledge. I think it's long gone. 23 Q. Did you discover from the council's Children's 24 Department files that there were some young men who were 25 placed at Cambridge House who were in the care of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 council and who had reached school leaving age, which at 2 that time was 15? 3 A. Yes. We found three files, but we believed there were 4 probably five boys altogether during the period that 5 Cambridge House was open. 6 Q. So five throughout the period it was open? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. In the care of council? 9 A. We believe so. 10 Q. As a matter of record, you note that it was on 11 1 September 1972 that the school leaving age was raised 12 from 15 to 16? 13 A. That's correct. 14 Q. Now, the application process for a boy to be admitted to 15 the school is a focal point of attention in the course 16 of this investigation. What was the application process 17 for men in the care, young men in the care, of 18 the council? 19 A. The information that we have discovered suggest that is 20 it was through a letter from the childcare officer to 21 Cyril Smith as the honorary secretary of 22 the organisation. 23 Q. We looked at a couple of these yesterday, but I wonder 24 if, just for the witness's benefit as well, we can put 25 one of these up on screen. I think it is RHC002517?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 also that you will see to his clothing. 2 "Yours faithfully." 3 That was clearly from Cyril Smith, although his 4 signature has been redacted out. So that's the kind of 5 thing -- 6 A. That's correct. 7 Q. -- that you are talking about? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. We see a similar series of letters, perhaps, which we 10 don't have to go to, in November 1963 in respect of 11 another boy -- is that correct? -- 12 A. Yes, that's the letter from Mr Hurley, yes. 13 Q. -- responding to questions posed, and Cyril Smith 14 agreeing to a place "subject to your confirming the 15 normal economic cost"? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Can you explain, Ms Hopper, from everything you have 18 seen why it would be that Cyril Smith had such a direct 19 link between the hostel and the council? In other 20 words, why were childcare officers or children's 21 officers going to Smith who was a councillor and he was 22 instrumental in setting up the hostel, but that's all he 23 was. Could you see any special reason for that taking 24 place? 25 A. I don't see a special reason particularly, though my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 A. Yes, that's it. 2 Q. It was a document we saw in the course of the opening 3 statement yesterday, but it is dated 16 July 1962. At 4 the foot of the page, we see it is from the childcare 5 officer to "Dear Councillor Smith". It sets out some 6 personal details about the character of the individual 7 for whom the application is being made. 8 Then, if we are able to go to the next page, page 2 9 of RHC002517, we will see the response from Smith in his 10 handwriting dated 17 July: 11 "Thank you for your letter of July 16. I have to 12 inform you that subject to your first finding [the boy] 13 employment, we are prepared to offer him accommodation 14 at Cambridge House at the standard weekly charge of £4." 15 Who was going to foot that cost? 16 A. The local authority. 17 Q. "It would be appreciated if he could be brought in as 18 early as possible to allow him to settle in before 19 the August holidays, and because we are absolutely 20 stretched by this admission and hence may have to refuse 21 cases prior to his admission. 22 "Perhaps you would, when convenient, contact me to 23 arrange a suitable date and also confirm in writing your 24 acceptance of terms and necessary financial details of 25 what is to be allowed to [him] from his wages. I assume</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 understanding of how the process happened was that any 2 applications were considered by the committee, and the 3 committee was made up of Smith, Harding and Potter. 4 Q. Let me put it another way: have you seen in the course 5 of the albeit limited material in relation to 6 Cambridge House any similar letters going to Mr Harding 7 or Mr Potter? 8 A. I have certainly not seen any, no. 9 Q. A query -- maybe you can't answer it, maybe you can -- 10 both of the letters, to my recollection, without going 11 back over them, ask questions, and one, I think 12 the November letter in relation to another boy, which we 13 saw during the course of the opening yesterday, asked 14 about bedwetting, in relation to a 17-year-old boy who 15 was born in 1946. Was that normal or unusual? 16 A. I don't know, because I wasn't practising in the '60s. 17 Q. No, I know you weren't, but whether from anything you 18 have seen or understood? 19 A. Certainly I began practising in 1979, and that wouldn't 20 have been normal practice then. But that's probably as 21 helpful as I can be: 22 Q. Looking at your paragraph 4.15, you then go on to say 23 that Smith was in a position, via the Council Cases 24 Subcommittee, to suggest which boys should be considered 25 for placement at Cambridge House. So what are you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

1 saying there, that he had a particular position of power
 2 or responsibility to choose who was in and who was not?
 3 **A. I would say that the information of the time suggested**
 4 **that it was the Children's Committee that considered**
 5 **what happened to children, which obviously doesn't**
 6 **reflect current practice. But as someone who had access**
 7 **to that committee, and as someone who had an interest**
 8 **from Cambridge House, then he had access to information.**
 9 Q. But did he have, are you saying, individual power to
 10 choose who would be admitted and who would not be, or
 11 are you saying that inevitably he had to take that to
 12 a committee?
 13 **A. The information that is available suggested that he did**
 14 **wield some power.**
 15 Q. I think you found, looking at your paragraph 4.16, that
 16 he did attend, Smith, the Cases Subcommittee which
 17 appeared to make decisions about where children were
 18 placed?
 19 **A. That's correct.**
 20 Q. But you discovered -- 4.17 -- the council minute book
 21 for '62 to '63 showed that Smith was not a member of
 22 the Cases Subcommittee at this time, but the minute book
 23 did state that other interested members may attend if
 24 they wished?
 25 **A. That's correct.**

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1 Q. So if he attended, one assumes he was an interested
 2 member?
 3 **A. That's correct, and the information suggested that he**
 4 **attended and indeed contributed suggestions about what**
 5 **should happen to children.**
 6 Q. Can I just ask you about your paragraph 4.22, where you
 7 really encapsulate I think what you had discovered, in
 8 particular in the July 1962 letters in relation to one
 9 boy and the November 1963 ones in relation to the other.
 10 Did you say this, Ms Hopper:
 11 "It also appears that Cyril Smith not only exercised
 12 significant control over which boys were considered for
 13 and placed at Cambridge House, but also some influence
 14 over the timeframe within which boys were placed."
 15 **A. That's correct. That's correct, I do.**
 16 Q. So did that encapsulate, as it were, your view,
 17 objective view, of what you had seen?
 18 **A. Yes. I think, as I go on to say, the childcare officer,**
 19 **Mrs Stansfield, was hoping that the young man may settle**
 20 **down again in his foster home, but the message that came**
 21 **back to her in the letter was, "Actually, we would like**
 22 **him as soon as possible".**
 23 Q. While we have all of this in mind, Cyril Smith's direct
 24 involvement in placing children, the timeframe within
 25 which they were admitted and direct contact with the

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1 childcare officer or the children's officers, or vice
 2 versa, perhaps, more accurately, looking at the converse
 3 position, are you able to say why, in that period of
 4 time, social workers approached him to place children in
 5 care in Cambridge House rather than approach the
 6 Cambridge House Hostel directly?
 7 **A. My understanding is, as I suggested earlier, that the**
 8 **application process appeared to be through the**
 9 **committee, and he was the secretary of that committee.**
 10 Q. So that, as far as you can say after all of these years,
 11 appears to explain why he took such an active role?
 12 **A. From the limited information that we have, yes.**
 13 Q. Although, within that role, he had a significant amount
 14 of power?
 15 **A. That's correct.**
 16 Q. You demonstrate the point you have just made at your
 17 4.22 at your paragraph 4.23 by saying this is
 18 demonstrated in a case note of 18 July 1962 regarding
 19 A79, who is the boy who was under consideration
 20 in July 1962 --
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. -- which highlights that the childcare officer's
 23 preference was for A79 to be admitted to Cambridge House
 24 in several weeks' time, having given him the opportunity
 25 to decide against coming to Rochdale, if possible?

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1 **A. Right.**
 2 Q. The childcare officer stated that if he, A79, settled
 3 down again in the foster home, that would be the better
 4 place for him, really, and did you record that the case
 5 note said or stated:
 6 "Unfortunately, he, Cyril Smith, asked for him to be
 7 admitted almost immediately because of the August
 8 holidays coming fairly soon", and that's what we looked
 9 at?
 10 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 11 Q. That's a demonstration of the timeframe --
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. -- being imposed on the childcare officer as well as
 14 the boy to make up his mind what he wanted.
 15 While I have got it in mind, and it may be just me,
 16 and perhaps others know the answer, what was the
 17 difference between a childcare officer in one letter and
 18 a children's officer in the other, if any?
 19 **A. My understanding is that the children's officer was the**
 20 **more senior role and the childcare officer might have**
 21 **been more similar to what we would now describe as**
 22 **a social worker.**
 23 Q. In the case of A79, which we were looking at,
 24 the July '62 exchange of letters, your paragraph 4.25,
 25 did the case file show that he was admitted to

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1 Cambridge House on 6 August 1962 --

2 **A. That is correct, yes.**

3 Q. -- which was, as you pointed out, just over a month from

4 when Smith first suggested it, at the Cases

5 Subcommittee, that he be considered for a placement?

6 Can I move on to your paragraph 4.30. Once placed

7 or located at Cambridge House, did the case files

8 indicate a variable level of contact from the Children's

9 Department with the men in the care of the council or

10 not? In other words, what was the level of -- once they

11 were in, these children in care of the council, were

12 they forgotten about or were visits made?

13 **A. No, certainly not. I think the reference from**

14 **Lyndon Price in his statement was that he didn't think**

15 **that there were visits, but certainly, for two of**

16 **the young men, there were nine visits over two years.**

17 **He thought they should be visited every three months.**

18 Q. What were the visits? How regular?

19 **A. There were nine visits over two years, so they were**

20 **roughly -- just more frequent than three monthly. The**

21 **third young man, who had only been there for I think**

22 **three months before Cambridge House closed, he'd had one**

23 **visit. So it seemed to be in keeping with the**

24 **expectations of the time.**

25 Q. What level or what part of the department where

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1 Rochdale Council were visiting, who was visiting?

2 **A. They would be the childcare officers.**

3 Q. You have noted at your 4.31, in the case of A69, who

4 I think was the boy who was admitted as a result of

5 the November letters in 1963, there was a record of

6 a Mr Baker, the deputy children's officer, visiting him

7 on 21 January 1964, and the file record was this:

8 "Visited Cambridge House this afternoon. Saw all

9 three boys who were in care. They were all in the

10 television room and seemed very happy."

11 **A. That's correct. That's the record.**

12 Q. You felt that "they were all in the television room",

13 referred to A79 as well as A69 and another boy?

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

15 Q. So the two that we have looked at or focused upon, the

16 one admitted as a result of the exchange in July 1962

17 and the one admitted as a result of the exchange of

18 letters in November 1963?

19 **A. That's correct, yes.**

20 Q. Lyndon Price. We are going to have aspects of his

21 statements read to the inquiry this afternoon. But

22 Lyndon Price, in his 2014 interview during the course of

23 the Garnham Review, recalled that when he arrived in

24 Rochdale in March 1965 to become the children's officer,

25 there was no proper record of who was in care and where

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1 children were placed.

2 **A. That's my understanding, yes.**

3 Q. Do you agree with that, so far as you have been able to

4 discover?

5 **A. It doesn't fit with the evidence that's been found that**

6 **actually provides a record of some of the visits to the**

7 **boys who were in Cambridge House.**

8 Q. He is not so much saying who visited. What he is saying

9 is there was no proper record of who was in care and

10 where children were placed. That's a different --

11 **A. That may be possible. I'm not able to say whether that**

12 **is correct or not.**

13 Q. He also suggested there was no childcare officer

14 responsible for visiting the young men in care placed at

15 Cambridge House until someone by the name of James Gavin

16 was appointed in November 1965?

17 **A. That doesn't fit with the records that we have.**

18 Q. It doesn't fit because of what you told us in your

19 paragraph 4.31 about Mr Baker?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. At 4.34, you said, "We do know that in 1965 there were

22 four boys in the care of Rochdale Council based at

23 Cambridge House: A69, A79, B357 and A49". Yes?

24 **A. That's correct, yes.**

25 Q. You said a little before to me that there were five.

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1 Who was the fifth? Don't name him?

2 **A. I think there were five over a period.**

3 Q. Five over a period, all right.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. But you found a file note from Cyril Smith to

6 Lyndon Price on 22 September 1965 referring to A65, A69,

7 B357 and A49:

8 "All four lads are progressing well and there is no

9 cause for concern in any of them."

10 Yes?

11 **A. Which suggests that they were all there at the same**

12 **time, yes.**

13 Q. All there, but also suggests it was a letter from

14 Cyril Smith to Lyndon Price?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. So it was Cyril Smith representing that everything was

17 fine and dandy?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Moving on to the next paragraph, 4.35, you said there

20 was no further reference to Cambridge House in

21 Rochdale Council minutes until 4 February 1965 when the

22 Children's Committee considered a letter submitted from

23 the secretary of the association requesting an increase

24 in the annual donation to the Rochdale Hostel for Boys

25 Association. What was the result of that?

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1 **A. The Children's Committee resolved to invite**
 2 **representatives from the association to address their**
 3 **next meeting.**
 4 Q. Does that suggest that there was reticence about the
 5 application?
 6 **A. Possibly. It's difficult to say because of the next**
 7 **meeting.**
 8 Q. You say:
 9 "The following month, on 18 March, the
 10 Children's Committee meet with the three officers of
 11 the association ..."
 12 That was Smith, Harding and Potter?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. "... and agreed to increase the grant to £300."
 15 Is that right?
 16 **A. That was a 100 per cent increase, as I understand it.**
 17 Q. Of course, we, I suppose, think about £300 in today's
 18 terms. I'm not going to ask you for what the value of
 19 £300 was in 1965, but it was a darn sight more than it
 20 is today, in real terms?
 21 **A. I will take your word for it.**
 22 Q. I'm not sure if I should take that as an insult.
 23 **A. Please don't.**
 24 Q. They also agreed to pay for boys in the care of
 25 Rochdale Council placed at Cambridge House at the same

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1 rate as charged to other councils. It was also recorded
 2 that a further grant might be considered in six months'
 3 time?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Just so we can understand what's going on there, where
 6 at 4.35 the secretary of the association sought the
 7 increase, who was the secretary?
 8 **A. Cyril Smith.**
 9 Q. In paragraph 4.36, the Children's Committee met with the
 10 three officers.
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Was Smith himself a member of the Children's Committee
 13 at that time, or was he simply one of the three officers
 14 who turned up at the meeting to make the application to
 15 the Children's Committee?
 16 **A. I don't believe he was. I think he turned up in the**
 17 **capacity you have just suggested.**
 18 Q. Purely in that capacity?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. In other words, he wasn't making an application to
 21 himself?
 22 **A. I don't think so.**
 23 Q. Six months later, on 16 September, the
 24 Children's Committee deferred consideration of a further
 25 grant, and then, on 12 November 1965, did the

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1 Children's Committee meet again with the officers from
 2 the Hostel for Boys Association -- Smith, Harding and
 3 Potter, the same three -- to consider the further
 4 request for assistance, "in view of their staffing
 5 problems"?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. What were the staffing problems, do you know?
 8 **A. I'm afraid I don't know the answer to that.**
 9 Q. Perhaps it might speak for itself, but the result was
 10 the Children's Committee resolved that they were not
 11 prepared to assume responsibility for the running of
 12 Cambridge House and would make no offer of increased
 13 financial assistance to Cambridge House?
 14 **A. That's correct.**
 15 Q. Do you get any sense from having looked at the minutes
 16 what was really going on there? Was it as simple as the
 17 fact that, "We are not prepared to give you
 18 a 100 per cent increase", as you have said it was, "and
 19 we are not going to take it over from you, and that's
 20 going to be the end of that"?
 21 **A. There was very limited information in the minutes, and**
 22 **I think it is possible to form a number of views from**
 23 **that, because it seemed as if the change in heart had**
 24 **come quite quickly after the earlier agreement to**
 25 **increase the grant. It is difficult to know.**

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1 Q. It is difficult to know because, as you say, the
 2 information is very limited?
 3 **A. It is.**
 4 Q. But we don't get much insight into what was really
 5 happening, but it all happened fairly quickly?
 6 **A. It did.**
 7 Q. But on the face of it, the association, of which Smith
 8 was one of the three guiding lights, wanted to keep
 9 Cambridge House going?
 10 **A. It would appear so.**
 11 Q. But the resistance came from the council, financial
 12 resistance?
 13 **A. I think on the basis that the council appeared unwilling**
 14 **to either add more financial support through a grant,**
 15 **but also refused to take over the operation of it as**
 16 **well.**
 17 Q. Over the page, 4.39, did you find the next entry in
 18 relation to Cambridge House was on 18 November of that
 19 year, when the Children's Committee considered a letter
 20 from the secretary of Cambridge House -- again, Smith --
 21 to say that the hostel would close on 30 November and
 22 seeking a grant of £25 furniture for a boy who was due
 23 to move into a flat?
 24 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 25 Q. The grant was approved?

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1 **A. It was.**
 2 Q. The £25. And 30 November was in fact when it closed?
 3 **A. It was.**
 4 Q. So that, I think, is about as much as you have been able
 5 to glean from the material that you have?
 6 **A. That's the case.**
 7 Q. Can I see if I can ask you some general questions --
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. -- and see how we go?
 10 **A. Yes, if I can help you with them, yes, I will.**
 11 Q. Do you have any understanding at all of the type of
 12 vulnerabilities some or all of the boys may have had who
 13 were in the care of the council and admitted to
 14 Cambridge House?
 15 **A. I think, as I have already indicated, there isn't a lot**
 16 **of information that's provided other than the three sets**
 17 **of social care records which, in the 1960s, are**
 18 **obviously more limited than they would be now, but they**
 19 **do indicate that young people had come from backgrounds**
 20 **that we would probably now describe as being abusive**
 21 **backgrounds. It refers to children having very unhappy**
 22 **childhoods. And certainly there's information that**
 23 **suggested some of those young people -- the three who**
 24 **were in care had had a number of different placements in**
 25 **foster homes and children's homes, living with extended**

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1 **family members, prior to going to Cambridge House.**
 2 **Obviously, it is not possible to make any comment**
 3 **about the other young people, who weren't in care, who**
 4 **were at Cambridge House --**
 5 Q. I'm not asking that. I'm simply asking if you are able
 6 to help us, and probably that's as much as you can help,
 7 with those who were in care?
 8 **A. And I think that the information has come from the**
 9 **records that I have already described.**
 10 Q. Next, what, if anything, have you been able to discover
 11 as to whether the officers or councillors of the council
 12 knew at that time of Smith's alleged offending at or
 13 related to Cambridge House?
 14 **A. From the information that's been provided by**
 15 **Lyndon Price clearly in 1965 he received information**
 16 **from Mr Gavin, who was a new member of staff, a new**
 17 **childcare officer, at the time, and he then refers to**
 18 **sharing that with the local chief constable.**
 19 Q. Chief constable.
 20 **A. Yes. There is information to suggest that in 1970 other**
 21 **people were aware of that. There was a head teacher.**
 22 **I do have another name.**
 23 Q. If this is something in your statement, do point it out,
 24 please, unless you have it somewhere else?
 25 **A. Yes, I think it is in my paragraph 5.43. At that time,**

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1 **the council received a copy of the -- sorry, in 2012,**
 2 **the council received a copy of the Lancashire Police**
 3 **1969 investigation, and at that point there were**
 4 **statements from Lyndon Price, from James Gavin and from**
 5 **Ronald Watson, who was the head teacher at High Birch**
 6 **School. So they were clearly aware of what had**
 7 **happened.**
 8 Q. You said paragraph 5.43.
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. I can't see that there is a 5.43. Do you mean another
 11 paragraph?
 12 MR FORD: Can I assist with this? We only recently noticed
 13 this and apologise. The statement numbering goes awry.
 14 If one goes to section 5, it runs through to
 15 section 5.43 on the foot of internal page 20, but then
 16 begins again at 5.37.
 17 MR ALTMAN: I see. It is all right. I have it. It is on
 18 page 20. I see.
 19 So you were looking at the civil claims?
 20 **A. Yes. I believe from that as well there was reference to**
 21 **the mayor being aware, that was someone called**
 22 **Harry Halstead. So if we go back to 1970, there seemed**
 23 **to be people who did have some information.**
 24 Q. But we have to go to 1970 to see that?
 25 **A. That's right.**

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1 Q. Apart from, of course, Lyndon Price being told in 1965,
 2 I think it was, by James Gavin in relation to something
 3 he'd been told by a particular boy --
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. -- it doesn't look like it was, well, particularly
 6 well-known information in the mid '60s, but it gathered
 7 a little traction come 1970; is that fair?
 8 **A. That's my understanding, yes.**
 9 Q. When we think about 1969 and 1970, so the
 10 Lancashire Police investigation, which obviously we know
 11 about, did you discover anything to indicate that the
 12 officers or councillors of the council knew, at the time
 13 of the Lancashire Police investigation, what was going
 14 on, or was that kept completely separate from the
 15 officers and councillors of the council, do you think?
 16 **A. I'd find it difficult to answer that, other than knowing**
 17 **these particular officers and councillors knew about it.**
 18 **I have no idea whether that was more widely known at**
 19 **all.**
 20 Q. I am going to use you as a vehicle.
 21 **A. Okay.**
 22 Q. I hope you don't mind. I am going to ask for a document
 23 to go up on our screen. It is RHC002422. It is
 24 a document that I mentioned yesterday. I don't know if
 25 you were here yesterday.

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<p>1 A. Oh, yes. Yes. 2 Q. It is a list of committees that Smith was on from the 3 early '60s to the early '70s. This is a 14-page 4 document. Have you ever seen this? 5 A. Oh, I have, yes. Yes. 6 Q. You sounded rather astonished in saying that. Did you 7 find this list of the committees that Cyril Smith had 8 been on fairly remarkable? 9 A. I did. 10 Q. Because ...? 11 A. I think -- it's difficult to understand that if someone 12 pretends -- and I think we have tried to break it down 13 into committees and subcommittees, how someone who 14 apparently also ran a business and had such a prominent 15 role during the early part of the '60s could fit in all 16 of those committees. It certainly sounded like a very 17 wide range of interests. 18 Q. Can we look at some together. I promise I'm not going 19 to read out every single one. On the first page, 1960 20 to 1961, under point 3, the Education Committee. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Do we take it that the list under the 23 Education Committee are other committees or 24 subcommittees of the Education Committee? 25 A. I would imagine they were subcommittees of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 A. I'm not sure. 2 Q. Who compiled this list, do you know? 3 A. My colleagues who worked in the Democratic Services, as 4 they are now, went back through all of the previous 5 committee records and information. Because at the start 6 of each municipal year, there would be a record of 7 the membership of all committees. 8 Q. I see. We will bear that in mind. But let's just, as 9 it were, scroll through. The next head is the next 10 year, 1961 to '62. We can see some of the same if not 11 the identical committees appearing, under the 12 Education Committee, youth employment, youth advisory, 13 the representatives of educational and approved youth 14 organisations and other bodies, the Management Committee 15 of the Broadwater Youth Club. '62 to '63, we have to go 16 to page 3, under point 4, the Education Committee, same 17 as before? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. As well as the other main committees. 20 1963-64, under the Education Committee at point 3 on 21 page 4, same again, including, at point 4, a new 22 appearance, I think, of the Baths, Parks and Cemeteries 23 Committee, but the others reappear. 24 In 1964-65, if we turn the page or scroll down to 25 page 5, the Education Committee again, and the same</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 the Education Committee. 2 Q. It may not matter overly much, but they include, in 3 1960/61, the Youth Employment Committee, the Youth 4 Advisory Committee, representatives of educational and 5 approved youth organisations and other bodies, the 6 management committee of the Broadwater Youth Club and so 7 on, not to mention welfare services, passenger 8 transport, general purposes, finance, the 9 Establishment Committee and any number of subcommittees 10 thereunder? 11 A. I would imagine that the Education Committee, General 12 Purposes Committee, Finance Committee and 13 Establishment Committee might have all been separate 14 committees in their own rights. Some of them that sat 15 beneath them I imagine were subcommittees. Then I would 16 imagine, as you get to the bottom of those lists, there 17 were maybe interests in their own right. For instance, 18 the Broadwater Youth Association I don't expect was 19 a subcommittee. But there were certainly a lot. 20 Q. It styles itself as a youth club. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. But clearly, I assume, to be there under the 23 Education Committee, it must have been under the 24 auspices of the Education Committee to appear in this 25 list, presumably?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 subcommittees or clubs. 2 Then 1965-66, Deputy Mayor of Rochdale Borough, 3 becomes Mayor in 1966/67. Again, Education Committee, 4 and at the top of page 6 are the same subcommittees and 5 clubs. 6 1966-67, appointed, as we just noted, the position 7 of Mayor of Rochdale Borough, as well as waterworks, 8 fire brigade and licensing, baths, highways, libraries, 9 passenger and health. 10 Over to page 7, estates, passenger transport and now 11 the Children's Committee. I think that's the first 12 appearance of that. 13 Did some of these committees come automatically with 14 the mayoralty or would he have to have been elected onto 15 them? 16 A. I don't know the answer to that, I'm afraid. 17 Q. Certainly the Children's Committee in the year that he 18 became Mayor, '66/67. Education Committee, we see 19 committee chair at this stage. The list, will you 20 agree, Education Committee, point 12, has lengthened 21 over what it was before? 22 A. It certainly has, yes. 23 Q. Including youth employment, advisory, representatives of 24 educational and approved youth organisations as before, 25 Broadwater Youth Club, but also Further Education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 Subcommittee, Special Services Subcommittee, Special 2 Subcommittee Reorganisation of Secondary Education, 3 Teachers Subcommittee, youth and community services, 4 Managing Body of County Primary Schools, Managing 5 Committee of the Broadwater Youth Club, Rochdale and 6 District Playing Fields Association, which we do see 7 before, Rochdale Old Grammar School Foundation, and on 8 and on and on it goes. 9 Then page 8, 1967 to 1968. Again, still committee 10 chair of the Education Committee at point 3, and 11 a number of the old favourites of the youth and other 12 subcommittees. 13 On page 9, from 1968-69, the Children's Committee, 14 Family Services and Cases Subcommittee. What's the 15 Family Service and Cases Subcommittee? Do you know? 16 A. I'm afraid I don't know. 17 Q. They all have grand names, but any idea what this one 18 did? 19 A. If we look back to the time in the '60s, there seemed to 20 be a much greater direct involvement of councillors in 21 decisions about what happened to children, and I suppose 22 I'm wondering whether that was a similar kind of process 23 where work with families, for instance, possibly cases 24 that were in the courts, it might have related to that, 25 but I'm afraid I'm guessing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 that I will want to go through, and it will take longer 2 than we have taken this afternoon. 3 A. Okay. 4 Q. But for now, we are going to have some reading. 5 I completely forgot, Ms Hoyano has a few questions. 6 MS HOYANO: Chair, would you prefer to take a break now? 7 I will only be a few minutes? 8 THE CHAIR: Yes, I think we will take a break just now, 9 thank you, and we will return just after 3.30 pm. 10 (3.20 pm) 11 (A short break) 12 (3.35 pm) 13 MR ALTMAN: Chair, I was reminded that I had agreed through 14 you to ask certain questions that Ms Hoyano had wanted 15 asked before she asked a few of her own. I had planned 16 to leave mine at the end of part 2, but because they are 17 principally Cambridge House-based, it makes more sense 18 for me to ask them now because we have a bit of time. 19 Would you allow me to ask a few more questions of 20 Ms Hopper and, if she doesn't mind, I will. These are 21 asked by, but through me, the complainant core 22 participants. 23 First of all, Ms Hopper, focusing still on 24 Cambridge House and what we have been dealing with this 25 afternoon, was there any evidence that you found to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 Q. But there he is, still committee chair of 2 the Education Committee and the subcommittees and clubs. 3 Page 10. 1969-70, Children's Committee, Family 4 Services and Cases Subcommittee, Education Committee, 5 still committee chair. And the long list of 6 subcommittees and clubs and other associations. 7 Then at the foot of 11, 1970-71, Children's 8 Committee again. Page 12, Education Committee, still 9 committee chair, as well as all the other committees 10 which are listed. 11 Page 13, 1971-72, Children's Committee appears to 12 have gone, but he's still committee chair of 13 the Education Committee and there is still an 14 appreciable list of subcommittees, associations and 15 clubs under that list. 16 Page 14, mercifully the last, 1972-73, 17 Education Committee, perhaps no longer chair, but he is 18 also now of Governors of Knowl View School as well as 19 Governors of Secondary Schools. Is that right? 20 A. That's correct: 21 Q. That's all I have got to ask you, I think, Ms Hopper at 22 this stage. Would you forgive me just a moment? 23 Thank you very much, Ms Hopper. Obviously, we will 24 revert to you, I think later this week, on Knowl View, 25 when there will be a number of sections of your report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 suggest that the council's Children's Committee carried 2 out any form of risk assessment or indeed any form of 3 check before it provided funding for Cambridge House? 4 A. There isn't any information that has been found that 5 would suggest that, though I would have to say that my 6 understanding is that risk assessment, as we now know 7 it, would not be something that would have been 8 understood in the same way in the 1960s. 9 Q. Secondly, is there any evidence to suggest that the 10 Children's Committee carried out any form of risk 11 assessment, and I bear in mind what you have just said, 12 but I will ask it nonetheless, or indeed any form of 13 check before it placed children in care at 14 Cambridge House? 15 A. There isn't any information that we have found that 16 would suggest that. My understanding is that, at that 17 time, there wasn't even evidence nationally that 18 assessments of very small children were carried out. 19 I'm aware that the young people placed at 20 Cambridge House were 15-plus. So our understanding is 21 that there wasn't a process in Rochdale or more broadly 22 at that time. 23 Q. If you look at your statement at page 20, and this is 24 your first set of paragraphs, which are numbered 5.39 to 25 5.42, I think we are going to hear some of this when it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

1 is read to the panel shortly, but there you deal with
 2 Lyndon Price's interview with the Garnham Review, where
 3 he said he didn't feel confident reporting the
 4 allegation made by A49 to anyone but the Borough Chief
 5 Constable Patrick Ross and that he was concerned for
 6 fear that Cyril Smith would hear about it and might lead
 7 to what Price referred to as battening down the hatches.
 8 Against that backdrop, following this, you say,
 9 Lyndon Price made the decision -- this is what I think
 10 he says himself -- to remove all of the children under
 11 the care of the council from Cambridge House and you say
 12 records held by the council indicate that that indeed
 13 happened; is that right?
 14 **A. It's certainly correct that the young people were moved.**
 15 Q. And that Lyndon Price explained making the decision to
 16 remove the boys from Cambridge House as a result of his
 17 worries about Smith still being involved with the
 18 hostel? So this was a direct result of what he had been
 19 told and passed on to Patrick Ross for information. So
 20 the question arises out of that background which I'm
 21 asked to ask you: is there any evidence to suggest the
 22 Children's Committee were aware that Lyndon Price had
 23 decided in 1965 to remove children in care from
 24 Cambridge House?
 25 **A. I don't know the answer to that. I think the only**

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1 **information we have suggested that Cambridge House was**
 2 **closing in November and the young people would need to**
 3 **have been moved on. I think -- I don't have any other**
 4 **evidence, other than what Lyndon Price said, as to the**
 5 **reasons for that.**
 6 Q. Following on from that, and perhaps the answer is clear,
 7 but I will ask it anyway, was there any information to
 8 suggest that the closure of Cambridge House had anything
 9 to do with Lyndon Price's decision to remove boys who
 10 were in care to the council?
 11 **A. We don't know the answer to that, I'm sorry. We can**
 12 **certainly presume that it was no longer financially**
 13 **viable because we do have the information --**
 14 Q. The question is, did the council's financial support,
 15 such as it was, to Cambridge House for those who were in
 16 its care, once they were withdrawn from Cambridge House,
 17 was there anything to suggest it was that financial
 18 withdrawal that may have made Cambridge House less
 19 viable than it had been?
 20 **A. Not to my knowledge. My understanding is that at the**
 21 **time that additional funding was requested, there were**
 22 **only four residents anyway.**
 23 Q. Right.
 24 **A. So that must have had an impact on financial viability.**
 25 **If the council was refusing to give additional funding,**

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1 **and the setting therefore closed, it's possible that it**
 2 **was that reason. Equally, Lyndon Price says that it was**
 3 **because of the decision he made. I'm afraid I don't**
 4 **know which was the greater weight.**
 5 Q. The four residents there were at the time the
 6 application for money, more funding, was being made,
 7 were they, can we assume, boys who were not in the care
 8 of Rochdale Council?
 9 **A. My understanding was at least one of them was.**
 10 MR ALTMAN: One of them, at least.
 11 I think that probably covers everything Ms Hoyano
 12 asked us to deal with and now she has a few questions,
 13 I think.
 14 Examination by MS HOYANO
 15 MS HOYANO: Ms Hopper, I will only detain you a brief time.
 16 I would stress my questions are against the background
 17 of the very limited documentation you have from 55 years
 18 ago, so there is no implied criticism at all if the
 19 records are not available to assist you in answering my
 20 questions.
 21 Are you able to tell whether it was envisaged from
 22 the founding of Cambridge House that children in care
 23 would be placed there?
 24 **A. It was clear that the council wasn't involved in the**
 25 **foundation of Cambridge House. It was requested that**

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1 **the council provide a building, but other than that,**
 2 **there isn't any information that would suggest that the**
 3 **council had any wider role. From the point at which the**
 4 **decision to build -- sorry, to open a setting in 1960,**
 5 **it was more than two years before a young person who was**
 6 **in the care of the council was placed there. So I can't**
 7 **see any direct connection that would say, "We are**
 8 **opening this setting because there are young people in**
 9 **care who need it". Certainly no information to suggest**
 10 **that at all.**
 11 Q. We have already addressed the question of children in
 12 care being placed at Cambridge House, but I'm wondering
 13 about other children, children not in care, who were
 14 underage young people residing in Cambridge House. Does
 15 the council accept that it had a responsibility to
 16 safeguard those children under the Children Act 1948 and
 17 the Children and Young Persons Act 1963?
 18 **A. The council would have a responsibility if it became**
 19 **aware -- if they were alerted to a child or a young**
 20 **person either being physically harmed or having been**
 21 **deserted or being orphaned if they were under 17. But**
 22 **it would need to be advised that there was such a young**
 23 **person in order to have that responsibility, and in such**
 24 **a case, I think that the 1948 Act in particular suggests**
 25 **that the intervention of the local authority would be**

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1 necessary in the interests of the welfare of the child.
 2 Obviously that's the expectation.
 3 So I think it would depend on what information and
 4 what concern was known about the young person for the
 5 local authority to have that responsibility.
 6 Q. Just turning to the setup of Cambridge House, did the
 7 council have any role in the appointment or the vetting
 8 of the wardens who were responsible for the day-to-day
 9 management of the house?
 10 A. No, because Cambridge House was being set up by
 11 a separate organisation, so the council wouldn't have
 12 any responsibility in that respect, but I'd also have to
 13 say that the vetting responsibilities nationally didn't
 14 come in until 2002, with the development of the Criminal
 15 Records Bureau. So I think it is important to see
 16 Rochdale in the context, and of course Cambridge House,
 17 of what else was happening in the country at the time.
 18 Q. It would be for the committee to appoint the wardens?
 19 A. Yes, certainly.
 20 Q. Did the council have any expectation about the
 21 maintenance of discipline at Cambridge House and who
 22 would be responsible for that?
 23 A. The decisions about discipline would rest with the
 24 people who ran the organisation. That would be their
 25 decision.

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1 Q. I'm sure you're aware of the form of corporal punishment
 2 which was administered by Cyril Smith.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. I understand that the council had a policy that corporal
 5 punishment could not be administered to children in care
 6 in children's homes run by the council. Do you have any
 7 information as to why the council didn't impose that
 8 policy on Cambridge House in respect of the children in
 9 care there?
 10 A. I'm afraid I don't, I'm sorry.
 11 Q. Given your very long experience as a social worker, are
 12 you able to assist us as to whether the mode of corporal
 13 punishment administered by Cyril Smith was acceptable by
 14 the standards of the 1960s?
 15 A. I'd have to say that professionally I don't know what
 16 the standards were in the 1960s, but I would be very
 17 surprised if at any time it was considered acceptable to
 18 remove a child's clothing in order to administer any
 19 form of discipline. So that would surprise me. But I'd
 20 have to say that that predates my professional
 21 experience.
 22 Q. So far as you have been able to ascertain, is it the
 23 case that the hostel did make arrangements with the
 24 local medical practice to provide for the healthcare of
 25 the residents of Cambridge House?

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1 A. That is my understanding. We certainly have found the
 2 names of two doctors who provided medical assistance to
 3 those young people who needed it, yes.
 4 Q. Finally, is it possible for you to say why it might be
 5 thought appropriate to administer medical examinations
 6 on admission of each resident of Cambridge House?
 7 A. I would be referring to my own experience, and certainly
 8 from the early 1980s as a recipient of children into
 9 a children's home. There was a requirement to ensure
 10 that children were free from infection, and the
 11 documentation was then known as "Freedom from infection
 12 documents", and that was simply because children were
 13 living together in a setting where it might be possible
 14 for any diseases to be transferred from one child to
 15 another.
 16 If we look at the 1960s, issues such as TB were
 17 quite prevalent. So it was not unusual, or 15 years
 18 later, for settings to be still considering the need to
 19 ensure that children were well, especially if you think
 20 of children whose needs might have been neglected before
 21 they came into care. So that part doesn't surprise me
 22 at all, that they would want to check on the health of
 23 a child or a young person coming into a setting at that
 24 time. And certainly it continued for many years
 25 afterwards.

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1 Q. You would expect that assessment to be carried out by
 2 a medically qualified practitioner?
 3 A. Absolutely. Absolutely, yes. Yes.
 4 MS HOYANO: Thank you. Those are all my questions at this
 5 time.
 6 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much, Ms Hopper. That's all for
 7 you.
 8 A. Thank you.
 9 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
 10 (The witness withdrew)
 11 Statement of MR LYNDON PRICE (read)
 12 MR HENDERSON: Chair and panel, I am now going to read into
 13 evidence excerpts from various accounts given over the
 14 years by Lyndon Price who, as you have heard, was first
 15 of all senior children's officer and then Director of
 16 Social Services at Rochdale Borough Council from the
 17 1960s through to the early 1980s.
 18 The first account, if we could bring it up on the
 19 screen, is RHC000104. This is the account that Mr Price
 20 made in 1970, as part of the Lancashire Police
 21 investigation, which again, chair, you have heard much
 22 about already.
 23 You will see it is dated 20 January 1970 and reads
 24 as follows:
 25 "I am employed by Rochdale County Borough Council as

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1 their senior children's officer. I have been so
 2 employed since March 1965.
 3 "Near the end of 1965, Mr James Gavin, a childcare
 4 officer in my department, informed me that he had
 5 received information from A49, a 16-year-old boy who was
 6 under the care of our authority and supervised by
 7 Mr Gavin. This boy had told him that Mr Cyril Smith,
 8 a councillor of the borough and chairman of the Hostel
 9 for Boys Association, had asked him to remove his
 10 trousers and he had then spanked him on his bare
 11 buttocks. This was punishment for some wrong done by
 12 the boy but I am unable to say what this was.
 13 "This had come to light during conversation with the
 14 boy and not in the form of a complaint. Mr Gavin was
 15 seeking my advice as head of the department.
 16 "A few days later, I saw A49 in my office. He had
 17 come at my request. He then repeated, in substance, the
 18 statement which Mr Gavin had made to me. The boy was
 19 not complaining.
 20 "I was worried by the episode and after serious
 21 consideration I contacted Mr Ross, the Chief Constable
 22 of the Borough Police. This would be several weeks
 23 later, and I think it was outside the front of the town
 24 hall following a chief officers' meeting. The meeting
 25 was not by appointment. I had decided that I would

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1 speak to Mr Ross when next I saw him. I acquainted
 2 Mr Ross with the facts as reported to me. I knew
 3 Mr Ross personally and I informed him of my worries on
 4 this matter. I told Mr Ross purely for his information,
 5 because I didn't feel that this incident was such that
 6 warranted complaint or investigation, but I did think
 7 that he may have been in possession of other
 8 information.
 9 "During the time that A49 had been in care, I had
 10 found him to be a difficult boy, who didn't respond to
 11 discipline. He had been placed in our care as being
 12 beyond parental control. He was plausible but sometimes
 13 untruthful.
 14 "At this time, Mr Smith was taking an active part in
 15 the running of the hostel, due to staff problems,
 16 et cetera, including matters of discipline.
 17 "This was a difficult situation for me, insofar as
 18 Mr Smith was a member of the town council which employed
 19 me."
 20 That was Mr Price's original statement in 1970.
 21 I am now going to look at the statement he made to the
 22 review carried out by Neil Garnham QC as he then was,
 23 now Mr Justice Garnham, which, again, chair and panel,
 24 you have heard much about. This is RHC000208. This
 25 statement that he gave gives a little bit more

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1 information about what was going on in his mind at the
 2 time. If we can turn over to the second page and bring
 3 up the second paragraph. Mr Price deals here in
 4 a little more detail about the interview he had with
 5 A49:
 6 "But I can remember being shocked and troubled by
 7 what the boy had told me and I wondered whether a sexual
 8 element was involved, having regard to the circumstances
 9 relating to Smith's use of corporal punishment of this
 10 nature. The line between his administering corporal
 11 punishment and sexual abuse and gratification could be
 12 a thin one, I thought."
 13 We continue with the rest of it:
 14 "So what should I do? In those days, it was not
 15 unusual for corporal punishment to be used -- it
 16 occurred in schools and residential homes -- but of
 17 course not in the Cyril Smith mode! It was certainly
 18 irregular and uncommon for the secretary to a management
 19 committee to be in charge of punishment. Normally
 20 discipline is the responsibility of the head of home.
 21 So what to do?
 22 "I didn't seek to discuss the matter with any member
 23 of my committee or staff, nor did I think it wise to
 24 interview the head of Cambridge House or his staff,
 25 realising that Cyril Smith was a very powerful and

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1 popular figure in Rochdale -- both in the council and
 2 the wider community. Had I attempted to do so, there
 3 was every chance that word would have got back to Smith
 4 himself as he had 'listening posts' and friends in 'high
 5 places' in all services and activities in the town. For
 6 the same reason, I committed nothing about the
 7 allegations to the written record. So a day or so,
 8 after receiving the allegations, I made up my mind to
 9 contact Patrick Ross, the Chief Constable of
 10 the Borough, and went to see him at police HQ the
 11 following week. I apprised him of what I had been told
 12 and he said that he would make further enquiries.
 13 "I received no police feedback, so some weeks
 14 later -- two or three weeks, I think -- as I was leaving
 15 a chief officers' meeting at the town hall, I saw
 16 Mr Ross and asked him what progress was being made with
 17 his investigations. He replied that it had been decided
 18 to take no further action. I was rather surprised but
 19 unfortunately did not ask for the reasons. I had the
 20 greatest respect for Patrick Ross and knew him to be
 21 a man of the utmost integrity and professionalism; 'as
 22 straight as a die'. Had he in his enquiries been unable
 23 to obtain hard evidence of the practice of sexual abuse
 24 by Smith at Cambridge House and concluded that the case
 25 against him was weak?

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<p>1 "At that time, as a society, our knowledge, 2 understanding and experience of child abuse was quite 3 limited and we did not fully recognise the importance of 4 listening to children. Did Smith's use of corporal 5 punishment alone constitute a criminal offence? 6 "So perhaps Patrick Ross had gone to see Smith and 7 told him that this behaviour must stop forthwith, 8 issuing him with a 'yellow card'. Of course because of 9 Smith's 'hero status' I realised that for any court 10 proceedings to succeed the police would need to have 11 a 'cast iron' case against him -- such a popular and 12 powerful figure who had contributed greatly to public 13 life in Rochdale -- raising thousands of pounds for many 14 local good causes, who had founded local charities and 15 voluntary organisations, providing care and support to 16 the poor and disadvantaged, whether they be children, 17 elderly or handicapped people. He was indeed held in 18 the highest esteem for his tireless work to the 19 community and in promoting Rochdale. So could it be in 20 this context that the boys at Cambridge House, coming, 21 as some did, from troubled backgrounds, would not be 22 considered to be credible witnesses? It was certainly 23 a case that one couldn't afford to lose. Years later, 24 on reflection, I wonder whether someone had 'leaned' on 25 Patrick Ross -- one of Smith's influential friends in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 Cyril Smith was secretary. 2 "Some of the resident boys worked as apprentices at 3 Smiths Springs, a local company of which Smith was 4 managing director. I think he had brought some of 5 the boys down from Scotland -- from near the Glasgow 6 area. 7 "Not being a Rochdale County Borough Council 8 establishment, Cambridge House was not included on the 9 Children's Committee's homes visiting subcommittee 10 rota." 11 He explains there is no direct involvement by that 12 committee. Then he concludes just the paragraph below: 13 "I think Rochdale County Borough Council acting 14 through its Children's Department had placed a small 15 number of boys in its care at Cambridge House from the 16 time it opened in 1962. When I received the first 17 intimation of Cyril Smith's 'irregular punishments' of 18 resident boys in late October 1965, I think there may 19 have been three or four boys at the hostel who were in 20 council care. They had all been removed by the end 21 of November 1965." 22 The third account we are just going to read a couple 23 of excerpts from is the interview that Mr Price had with 24 Neil Garnham QC, as he then was, in June 2014. This is 25 found at RHC000237. If we could go first to internal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 high places? 2 "So what could I do now that the police were not 3 proceeding? Again, I did not discuss with anyone, lest 4 Smith would learn of it and institute court proceedings 5 against me for defamation of character assassination. 6 But I was still unhappy with boys continuing to live at 7 Cambridge House whilst Smith was to be involved with the 8 running of the hostel in light of what I knew about him. 9 Fortunately, A49 left before the end of November and 10 I was greatly relieved when the hostel actually closed 11 at the end of 1965. It re-opened soon afterwards under 12 the management of the Boys' and Girls' Welfare 13 Society -- a reputable children's welfare organisation 14 with its headquarters in Manchester. So the boys were 15 no longer at risk I felt." 16 He explains he received no further allegations about 17 Smith. If we turn over the page to page 4, under the 18 heading "A footnote concerning Cambridge House", he 19 confirms some of the information that we have just heard 20 from Ms Hopper: 21 "Cambridge House was a private independent hostel 22 for about 15/20 older boys and young workers, not 23 a local authority establishment. 24 "It had been set up in 1962 by Cyril Smith and other 25 trustees. It had its own management committee of which</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 page 17, just about -- sorry, if we go up one page. 2 Sorry, I think it is page 17. It is internal page 17, 3 so if you go down two pages. Just zoom in on the middle 4 of the page. We read this, describing Mr Price's 5 feelings after having the interview with A49: 6 "LP: After it, I think I lost two nights' sleep. 7 Wondering what I should do. And then I made up my mind, 8 no more than two days later, that my responsibility was 9 for the well-being of boys, irrespective of who 10 Cyril Smith was. There was a joke, you know, in 11 Rochdale, God is going about, thinking he is 12 Cyril Smith. 13 "LW: I haven't heard that one yet [says the 14 questioner]. 15 "LP: Irrespective of the man and all his powerful 16 circumstances, my duty was to the boys and so I made up 17 my mind to go and see Patrick Ross, the Borough 18 Chief Constable. 19 "LW: Did you think about seeing anyone else? 20 "LP: No, I daren't? I thought that, had I gone to 21 discuss it with any member of staff, if I had gone up to 22 the home and discussed it with any of the boys, any of 23 the staff, any of the officers in charge, if I had gone 24 to my committee, even if I had gone to the chairman, it 25 could have easily, it would have got back to Smith.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 There would be a battering down of the hatches. He was 2 a past master at that was Smith, covering trails ..." 3 We then go on a few pages to page 23 and just down 4 the bottom of this page, chair, we see that Mr Price 5 raised some questions about that first statement we read 6 from 1970. The question is asked: 7 "LW: And this police statement that you have 8 brought with you today. 9 "LP: Yes. 10 "LW: You said you don't have a clear recollection 11 of making it; is that correct? 12 "LP: No, but can I say something about it? 13 "LW: Of course you can. 14 "LP: Well, I can't remember, I certainly didn't 15 write it, if I signed it, I cannot remember. 16 "LW: Does yours show a date here? 17 "LP: No, but it shows a date down there. 18 "LW: I know, I'm just wondering if it was typed and 19 signed on my behalf." 20 Over the page, and at the top of the page there: 21 "LP: So, now, in the last paragraph on the first 22 page of the statement. 23 "LW: Yes. 24 "LP: It says I was worried, I was very worried, and 25 by appointment went to see Patrick Ross in his office at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 you go to the police and report something and say, look, 2 it is only for your information, not for anybody else's. 3 But that is what they're saying I said. I can't 4 understand that." 5 Then if you look down, he raises the question about 6 another problem. He's asked: 7 "LP: Yes, then it says that, further down it says 8 that A49 was a difficult boy who didn't respond to 9 discipline and he was plausible and untruthful, but 10 I hardly knew him, I had only met him on one occasion." 11 Stay on page 23, please. At the bottom of page 23, 12 I'm sorry. He is asked: 13 "LP: Yes, then it says that, further down it says 14 that A49 was a difficult boy who didn't respond to 15 discipline and he was plausible and untruthful, but 16 I hardly knew him, I had only met him on one occasion. 17 "LW: On which occasion? 18 "LP: When I interviewed him. 19 "LW: And that was the first time? 20 "LP: Yes, it was the first time I had seen him in 21 person." 22 Finally, over the page, at page 25, at the top of 23 the page, it is pointed out to him that the statement is 24 closer in time than he is now speaking in 2014: 25 "NG: Does it surprise you that you have got that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 the town hall, no more than a week after seeing A49, not 2 several weeks later. 3 "LW: This is what I was going to ask you, maybe if 4 I ask you some more questions about the statement and 5 then if there is anything else left. 6 "LP: Yes, okay. 7 "LW: You want to discuss. So in your statement it 8 says that you were worried by the episode. 9 "LP: Yes. 10 "LW: And that you contacted Patrick. 11 "LP: Of course. 12 "LW: Several weeks later. 13 "LP: Yes, within a week later. 14 "LW: And you also say in the statement that it 15 wasn't by appointment. 16 "LP: No, it was by appointment. 17 "LW: It was outside the town hall. 18 "LP: No, two, possibly three weeks later I saw 19 Patrick Ross outside the town hall, when he told me that 20 there would be no action taken, that bit is missing. 21 You see, no action would be taken and then another part 22 I have gone to him and asked, it sounds crazy now, 23 I have gone to him, can I tell you in confidence that 24 I think a crime has been committed but I don't want to 25 you to take it any further. That is ludicrous, how can</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 bit wrong about [him] being a difficult boy? 2 "LP: I might have mentioned that he was in care 3 because he was beyond control, I don't know whether it 4 has come over in that way." 5 Then he is asked: 6 "LW: You also say in the statement that it was 7 a difficult situation for you because of ..." 8 And then he interrupts: 9 "LP: I can't remember saying that in the interview. 10 "LW: But you have said it was difficult. 11 "LP: Yes. 12 "LW: For you to continue to work with Mr Smith and 13 to rely on him. 14 "LP: Yes." 15 The final excerpt from this interview is on page 29. 16 The top half of this page, we can see Mr Price was asked 17 about another issue of interest to this investigation, 18 exploitation in the Smith Street toilets, and of course 19 he was in post during the 1970s. He is asked: 20 "LW: And in the 1970s ... were you aware of issues 21 with young boys selling themselves for sex? 22 "LP: No, no. Where, where? 23 "LW: Well, one of the places is Smith Street 24 toilets. 25 "LP: What toilet?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 "LW: Smith toilet. 2 "LP: No, no, no." 3 He goes on to clarify that he doesn't know anything 4 about that. 5 Finally, we are going to read a few excerpts from 6 the police statement given by Mr Price in 2014. There 7 are two -- I don't ask you to bring these up on the 8 screen. It is just one page, firstly, from 9 12 November 2014. Mr Price gave this statement, which 10 again fills in a little bit more detail about his 11 earlier account: 12 "In September 1965, a man named James Gavin came for 13 interview and was appointed childcare officer. Mr Gavin 14 went to live at Cambridge House Hostel temporarily until 15 he found a permanent address. Around the third week 16 of October Mr Gavin came to see me in my office. He 17 said that a lad at the hostel, A49, had told him in the 18 dining room that he'd come home the worse for wear from 19 Manchester and, because of this, Cyril Smith had taken 20 him into a room, told him to take down his trousers and 21 underpants and smacked him on the bottom with his hand. 22 I can't remember if he told him to bend over his knee or 23 not. A49 didn't want to complain as he saw it as 24 a punishment for what he had done. A49 had told him 25 other boys were also being punished like this but they</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 I tried to think what was in the best interests of A49 2 and the other boys. I deliberated for a few days. 3 I didn't consult anyone else. I then decided to speak 4 with the Chief Constable of Rochdale County Borough 5 Police, Patrick Ross. I knew Mr Ross as we both 6 attended the same church. I made an appointment to see 7 him at his office in Rochdale Town Hall, I think the 8 following week. I told him a boy who was in care had 9 come to see me as a result of a staff member and it 10 concerned the method of punishment Cyril had used for an 11 alleged misdemeanour and Cyril administering corporal 12 punishment on his bare bottom. It was not uncommon for 13 this punishment to be used on other boys at 14 Cambridge House. I told him the boy didn't want to 15 complain and I had no other information of a sexual 16 nature. Mr Ross listened. He did not write anything 17 down. I was there about 15 minutes. He said something 18 like, "I'll look into it". When I left his office, 19 I was a little bit frightened that Cyril might find out. 20 A short time later, I know it was a Sunday in November, 21 possibly the 14th or 21st, I was at home with my wife 22 and our three children. It was about 2 pm. There was 23 a knock on the door. It was Cyril Smith. He had never 24 been to my house before. I invited him in and we went 25 into the sitting room. Cyril was very disturbed and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 didn't know what they had done to deserve the 2 punishment. When James Gavin told me this, I didn't 3 make any notes or tell anyone what had been said. This 4 was because I didn't want anything getting back to 5 Cyril Smith. He knew everything that was going on and 6 I didn't want to jeopardise any enquiry. 7 "At this time, Cyril Smith was secretary to the 8 management committee at Cambridge House which was 9 a private and independent establishment and the council 10 had no input. Cyril was also councillor for Rochdale 11 and served on several committees. He was a very 12 powerful man. I told James Gavin that I would like to 13 see A49 to confirm what he told him. A few days later, 14 he brought A49 to see me. It was after work and I saw 15 him by himself. He would have been about 15 years old 16 at the time. He told me largely what Mr Gavin had told 17 me, that Cyril Smith had beat him on his bottom for 18 coming home the worse for wear. I think I asked him if 19 it was over his clothing and he said no. He didn't seem 20 very upset by it and I didn't want to complain. But 21 when I look back now, I wish I had asked him if Cyril 22 had done anything else to him of a sexual nature. 23 I regret not doing this. I thanked A49 for coming to 24 see me and I think I told James Gavin I'd have to think 25 about what to do next. For the next couple of days,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 agitated, his voice was breaking, and rubbing his hands. 2 He appeared very upset. I had never seen him like that. 3 Cyril said he was upset because there were accusations 4 flying around town about his method of discipline at 5 Cambridge House and that someone had even been to the 6 police. He said there was no truth in the rumours and 7 he was telling me this because the police might come and 8 see me. I felt very uncomfortable. I was certain he 9 knew something that brought him to my house. He was at 10 my house a couple of hours going over the same things. 11 As he got up to go, he noticed some music on the piano. 12 He asked what the music was. My wife said she'd been 13 practising the hymns for Sunday School assembly. He 14 said words to the effect of, you will be well advised to 15 say a prayer for me. About a week later, I saw 16 Patrick Ross. We had been to the chief officers' 17 meeting at the town hall, which was held regularly on 18 Thursday mornings. I followed him on the steps. 19 I asked him if there were any developments on the matter 20 we discussed and he said it's been decided there will be 21 no further action taken. It was a brief meeting and he 22 didn't elaborate. I was unhappy with that decision. 23 The boys who were in Rochdale's care who were placed at 24 Cambridge House were removed shortly after I had to sign 25 for their removal. I don't think I contacted any of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 the other authorities who had children at the home. 2 I was concerned it would get back to Cyril. I did not 3 speak to James Gavin about it. I think I was a bit 4 relieved when Patrick Ross told me there would be no 5 comeback on me. Cambridge House closed in December that 6 year. I was appointed Director of Social Services on 7 1 April 1971. I had very little contact with 8 Cyril Smith. No further complaints about him. With 9 regards to Knowl View School, it came under the 10 Education Department remit, so I had nothing to do with 11 it. I wasn't made aware of any complaints from 12 residents at Knowl View." 13 He then made one final statement, on 14 26 February 2015: 15 "Further to the previous statement I made, I have 16 been asked to speak to the police about a quote I made 17 in the book 'Smile for the camera'. I did say that 18 I wondered if Patrick Ross had been leant on. At that 19 time, I didn't think that. It is only afterwards when 20 I think about it, it is a hunch. I knew Cyril Smith had 21 some very influential friends who could put pressure on 22 him. On that day I spoke to Mr Ross on the town hall 23 steps, he hasn't his usual self with me. It could have 24 been he was rushing off to another meeting, but he 25 didn't have much time for me, which was unusual for him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 participants. Can I do it first thing in the morning, 2 please? 3 THE CHAIR: Yes, that's fine. Thank you, Mr Altman. 4 MR ALTMAN: That's it for today. 5 THE CHAIR: If there is nothing else, we will close the 6 hearing for today. Thank you very much. 7 (4.13 pm) 8 (The hearing was adjourned to 9 Wednesday, 11 October 2017 at 10.30 am) 10 11 I N D E X 12 13 Housekeeping1 14 15 Opening submissions by MS HOYANO2 16 17 Opening submissions by MR PAYNE14 18 19 Opening submissions by MR BROWN18 20 21 Opening submissions by MS STUDD39 22 23 Opening submissions by MR FORD43 24 25 Opening submissions by MS MCGAHEY50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 Mr Ross was a very honest man, so when he said on the 2 steps, I wondered if he had been told what to do. 3 Again, that's just my opinion. I have no evidence to 4 back it up. 5 "On 10 April 2014, I was visited at home by 6 Alan Collins, a solicitor from Slater & Gordon, the firm 7 representing victims of Rochdale and Cambridge House. 8 In the course of our conversation I talked about 9 Patrick Ross and I thought he had been leant on. Alan 10 made some comments. I can't exactly remember what he 11 said, but the inference I got was that Patrick Ross 12 wanted to do something about Cyril Smith at the time and 13 prosecute him. Going back to Patrick Ross, I have been 14 thinking about. When I told him there had been no 15 sexual allegations, that was the first time I had 16 approached him about Cyril. I wondered if he'd gone and 17 warned Cyril. I don't know if he did or not. It is 18 just, knowing Patrick Ross's character, I don't think he 19 would have done nothing." 20 That's all the excerpts we are going to read from 21 Mr Price. 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Henderson. 23 MR ALTMAN: Chair, I know that there is something you would 24 like me to say about applications which are made for 25 rule 10 on the asking of questions on behalf of core</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 2 WITNESS A1 (sworn)52 3 4 Examination by MR ALTMAN52 5 6 MS GAIL HOPPER (sworn)80 7 8 Examination by MR ALTMAN80 9 10 Examination by MS HOYANO131 11 12 Statement of MR LYNDON PRICE (read)136 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

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