

1 Friday, 13 October 2017
 2 (10.30 am)
 3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, Mr Altman.
 4 MR ALTMAN: Good morning. Chair. Can I just remind
 5 everybody, as is obvious, but as was indicated, I think,
 6 at the last preliminary hearing, Professor Sir
 7 Malcolm Evans has a commitment abroad, and that's why he
 8 is not here, but he has undertaken to read the
 9 transcript and the materials of the evidence today in
 10 order to catch up in time for Monday.
 11 Chair, the first witness for this morning is
 12 Allan Buckley, who is sitting in the witness box. Thank
 13 you very much.
 14 MR ALLAN LAWRENCE BUCKLEY (sworn)
 15 Examination by MR ALTMAN
 16 MR ALTMAN: Can you confirm, please, that you are Allan
 17 Lawrence Buckley.
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Now Mr Buckley, I want to ask you some questions about
 20 your time with the Rochdale Borough Council, and in
 21 particular the roles which you had in the
 22 Social Services Department.
 23 Going back a little in time before I do that, can
 24 you tell us about your education and how you came to be
 25 working for Rochdale Council?

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1 **A. Yes. I joined Manchester Social Services Department as**
 2 **a childcare officer in 1966 and transferred to Rochdale**
 3 **in 1967.**
 4 Q. Had you been to university?
 5 **A. Yes, I did a degree in social administration at**
 6 **Hull University and then subsequently trained as**
 7 **a psychiatric social worker at the University of Leeds.**
 8 Q. Was that while you were being employed?
 9 **A. Yes, I was seconded by Rochdale Children's Department to**
 10 **do my professional training.**
 11 Q. You described yourself, when you were first employed by
 12 Rochdale, as a childcare officer?
 13 **A. Correct.**
 14 Q. Is that or was that a term of art? Was it a social
 15 worker by another name?
 16 **A. It was in the days when there were three separate arms**
 17 **of what were Social Services Departments. So there were**
 18 **Children's Departments. Mental health services were**
 19 **under the aegis of the local Public Health Departments**
 20 **and there were separate what we called Welfare**
 21 **Departments for older people and people with**
 22 **disabilities. A completely different arrangement,**
 23 **really.**
 24 Q. So a childcare officer was within the third or one of
 25 the three arms of social services?

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1 **A. Indeed, yes.**
 2 Q. As the term suggests, dealing with children. Was it
 3 just an arm of social work, but it was a label depicting
 4 the fact that you worked within childcare?
 5 **A. Yes, it was essentially a Social Work Department that**
 6 **they established in 1948, I think, is my recollection.**
 7 Q. At that time, was Lyndon Price the children's officer?
 8 **A. Yes, he was, yes.**
 9 Q. So he was, I think we have been told before,
 10 a children's officer as distinct from a childcare
 11 officer, was slightly higher ranking?
 12 **A. He was the head of department.**
 13 Q. Then in 1971, he became the first Director of Children's
 14 Services in Rochdale; is that right?
 15 **A. He became the first Director of Social Services.**
 16 Q. Not children's services?
 17 **A. No.**
 18 Q. Social services. You are quite right.
 19 **A. Social services.**
 20 Q. Have you got your statement in front of you?
 21 **A. I have, yes.**
 22 Q. Please refresh your memory from it at any time if you
 23 wish. You made it on 3 December 2014. Can you confirm,
 24 but I am sure you don't need your statement to do so,
 25 that in 1971 you, yourself, were appointed a senior

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1 social worker?
 2 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 3 Q. At Dunstrille?
 4 **A. Dunsterville.**
 5 Q. Dunsterville?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Where is Dunsterville?
 8 **A. It was an office on Manchester Road in Rochdale, which**
 9 **was set up when Social Services Department -- when the**
 10 **Social Services Department was established.**
 11 Q. Your statement was obviously mistyped, not by you, but
 12 by whomever took it, because it reads "Dunstrille", but
 13 it is Dunsterville?
 14 **A. Dunsterville, yes.**
 15 Q. In 1974, did you become an area manager?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. For which district or area?
 18 **A. That was for the central area of Rochdale.**
 19 Q. Between 1974 and 1980, were you a manager?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Within the same department or area?
 22 **A. I transferred briefly to the Heywood area team.**
 23 Q. Heywood?
 24 **A. Heywood area team, in about 1983, I think.**
 25 Q. Heywood, again, what's that? Is that a distinct area of

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1 Rochdale?
 2 **A. It was, yes. Yes.**
 3 Q. Then in 1987, you became Deputy Director of Social
 4 Services?
 5 **A. That's right, yes.**
 6 Q. As well as chair of the Rochdale area child protection
 7 committee?
 8 **A. That's right.**
 9 Q. Then around 1992, as a result of a restructure, you
 10 became Assistant Director for Adults?
 11 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 12 Q. Does that mean you moved away from childcare or
 13 social services generally, or just moved into adults?
 14 **A. I actually carried out the restructure in the**
 15 **department. It was my -- I was the lead officer**
 16 **responsible for that. At the time, there was a move**
 17 **increasingly towards greater specialisation, so we**
 18 **decided to restructure the department into two**
 19 **functional units: children's; adults, and to delete the**
 20 **deputy post which I held. So I then opted to move as**
 21 **a Senior Assistant Director into responsibility for**
 22 **adult services and therefore, yeah, I didn't have any**
 23 **direct responsibility for childcare services other than**
 24 **that, as the deputy, I would be involved in matters of**
 25 **that kind in the director's absence.**

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1 Q. You finally retired in 1999?
 2 **A. That's correct.**
 3 Q. Against that background, Mr Buckley, let me come to some
 4 questions, please. First of all, Cyril Smith, if I may.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. In your witness statement, you will remember -- I am not
 7 going to point out the paragraph, unless you would like
 8 me to -- you said that you had heard rumours about him,
 9 even before you started working for the council; is that
 10 right?
 11 **A. That's correct, yes. They were -- I was involved with**
 12 **the Labour Party, and the rumours were around**
 13 **Labour Party circles.**
 14 Q. What were the nature --
 15 **A. Well --**
 16 Q. What was the nature of the rumours?
 17 **A. It was that Cyril's been involved in inappropriate**
 18 **activity with small boys. I at the time, and this was**
 19 **before I had actually gone into the social work**
 20 **profession, took this to be, you know, political gossip.**
 21 Q. Political rumour mongering is what you thought it might
 22 be?
 23 **A. Indeed, yes.**
 24 Q. So "acting inappropriately with boys". Sexual?
 25 **A. That was the impression that I gained.**

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1 Q. I think you have given a hint, but was it simply in
 2 those political circles you were hearing rumours, or
 3 elsewhere?
 4 **A. That was the only place I ever heard it. I certainly**
 5 **never heard it within the Children's Department.**
 6 Q. That was my next question, because once you started
 7 working for the council in the Children's Department,
 8 not a word at all about that kind of thing?
 9 **A. No.**
 10 Q. Never heard anybody suggest gossip, rumour that
 11 Cyril Smith was doing what you had heard in Labour
 12 circles he was alleged to be doing?
 13 **A. No.**
 14 Q. Was there ever a time when you were working for the
 15 council that you heard anything at all about Cyril Smith
 16 in that particular regard?
 17 **A. The only thing that I did hear, and I've mentioned in my**
 18 **statement, there's an article appeared in a newspaper**
 19 **called Rochdale Alternative Press. I think it would be**
 20 **just before the 1979 general election.**
 21 Q. You are right about that.
 22 **A. The article contained affidavits from young people who'd**
 23 **been at the Cambridge House Hostel. That was the only**
 24 **time that I saw any of that material or any of**
 25 **the rumours verified, if you like.**

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1 Q. So rumours before you worked for the council?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Rochdale Alternative Paper, as I was told yesterday,
 4 rather than "Press", is what it was called, but you are
 5 certainly right, the article appeared in May 1979,
 6 a double-page expose on Cyril Smith, which we heard all
 7 about yesterday. What about the police investigation
 8 that we all know took place by Lancashire Constabulary
 9 in 1969 to 1970? You were clearly working at that point
 10 for the council. Did you personally know about that
 11 investigation?
 12 **A. No.**
 13 Q. Did anybody talk to you about that investigation?
 14 **A. No.**
 15 Q. Lyndon Price. Did you work closely with him?
 16 **A. I did, when he was children's officer particularly.**
 17 **Obviously, when he became director, we were a bigger**
 18 **department, my dealings with Lyndon became less and**
 19 **I worked to Gordon Littlemore as a deputy director.**
 20 Q. In 1965, you weren't working at the council yet.
 21 I think you told us 1966.
 22 **A. Indeed. I began work in 1966, yes.**
 23 Q. Did Lyndon Price ever say anything to you about the
 24 Lancashire investigation?
 25 **A. No.**

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1 Q. Did he ever tell you anything about any approach he had
 2 made to the chief constable before you arrived at the
 3 council, about an approach he'd made to the former chief
 4 constable, Patrick Ross, in 1965? Did he ever mention
 5 that to you?
 6 **A. No.**
 7 Q. As a person, Lyndon Price, how did you regard him?
 8 **A. He was a very charismatic leader. He was ahead of his**
 9 **time. At the time -- one of the reasons I went to**
 10 **Rochdale was that he'd set up a system of family --**
 11 **I can't remember the title now, but they weren't**
 12 **childcare officers. Childcare officers had a statutory**
 13 **role. He'd established an arm of the department to do**
 14 **preventive work with families, so getting ahead of**
 15 **things. The sort of thing now that comes under the**
 16 **heading of early intervention. So he was very much**
 17 **ahead of his time. He was politically very astute. He**
 18 **was able to build up the department's resources, both**
 19 **Children's and Social Services Departments' resources**
 20 **because he had a very high profile with the council, he**
 21 **was very highly respected.**
 22 Q. So that we are clear, Mr Buckley -- this is no criticism
 23 of you; we are just trying to assess, because you are
 24 one of the few witnesses, if not the only one, who we
 25 can ask about that early period.

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1 **A. Indeed, yes.**
 2 Q. Did he ever mention Cyril Smith to you, or any concerns
 3 he might have had about Cyril Smith?
 4 **A. No. No.**
 5 Q. Did anyone ever mention Cambridge House Hostel to you?
 6 **A. The name Cambridge House was mentioned. I think it had**
 7 **closed shortly before I went. But only as a place -- as**
 8 **a working boys' hostel that we had in Rochdale.**
 9 Q. But nobody ever mentioned anything to you about the
 10 hostel. You are right it closed before you joined the
 11 council, the year before, but did anybody ever mention
 12 to you anything that they had heard or any allegations
 13 arising out of the hostel and links between those
 14 allegations and Cyril Smith?
 15 **A. No.**
 16 Q. You mentioned to us the Rochdale Alternative Paper
 17 article, May 1979. So we are fast forwarding by
 18 a number of years. What was the reaction to the content
 19 of that article within the council when you were there?
 20 **A. I don't recall any reaction. I don't recall discussing**
 21 **it with anybody in any detail at a professional level.**
 22 Q. Nobody said, "We, as a council, need to look into this"?
 23 **A. No. Not to me, anyway.**
 24 Q. Was it widely talked about or not talked about at all?
 25 **A. I can't recall, to be honest. I guess there would have**

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1 **been discussion between staff, but certainly, at**
 2 **a managerial level, I was never involved in any**
 3 **discussions about what action might be taken as a result**
 4 **of that.**
 5 Q. Do you know whether anyone considered seeking the
 6 affidavits which RAP said they had which enabled them to
 7 write the article that they did?
 8 **A. No.**
 9 Q. Did anybody consider that?
 10 **A. No.**
 11 Q. Or undertake any investigations into the allegations at
 12 all?
 13 **A. No.**
 14 Q. Was there any concern that you recall being expressed
 15 about how deeply entrenched Cyril Smith was in council
 16 services and activities relating to children in light of
 17 that article?
 18 **A. No.**
 19 Q. Let me now turn, then, please, Mr Buckley, to your
 20 contact with Cyril Smith when you were an officer in the
 21 Social Services Department. Is it putting it too highly
 22 if I were to ask you whether you had a number of run-ins
 23 with him?
 24 **A. No, it wouldn't. Initially, when I was a childcare**
 25 **officer, relationships were good.**

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1 Q. You mean with him?
 2 **A. With him, indeed. Could I go on to something that's not**
 3 **in the statement, but helpful?**
 4 Q. Tell us what you wish, Mr Buckley.
 5 **A. He was actually -- this has occurred to me**
 6 **subsequently -- rather paradoxically -- well, perhaps it**
 7 **makes sense now -- involved in a lot of developments at**
 8 **children's services. He set up an organisation called**
 9 **Rochdale Childer -- "childer" being a local word for**
 10 **"children" -- to raise money for disadvantaged children,**
 11 **and he had a very good relationship with the staff at**
 12 **William Street Convent, which was a Roman Catholic**
 13 **voluntary social work organisation. So in those**
 14 **capacities, when I was a childcare officer, I would meet**
 15 **with him about those sorts of developments.**
 16 **Subsequently, when I became an area manager, in the**
 17 **role of an MP, quite appropriately, he would write**
 18 **letters of concern on behalf of constituents, but there**
 19 **were occasions -- one occasion in particular I have**
 20 **talked about in my statement -- where I felt that the**
 21 **involvement went beyond an appropriate level for an MP.**
 22 Q. Let's just look at those. What was that particular
 23 incident that concerned you and what was it about his
 24 involvement that went beyond his position as an MP?
 25 **A. Well, in June 1983, I had to authorise an application**

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1 **for an emergency -- what is now an emergency protection**
2 **order, in those days, it was a place of safety order,**
3 **concerning a child who had to be removed shortly**
4 **following his birth -- or her birth. I can't remember**
5 **the sex of the child. It is never an easy decision to**
6 **take.**
7 **Cyril was approached by a member of staff at**
8 **Birch Hill Hospital about their concerns about this, and**
9 **he effectively was saying to me, "You know, you should**
10 **not be taking this decision".**
11 Q. When you say "he was saying to me, 'You shouldn't be
12 taking this decision'", was that something he did in
13 formal correspondence with you or was this face to face?
14 **A. I can't recall whether we had -- I think we did have**
15 **a letter from him. But certainly I had a conversation**
16 **with him about it as well. He did contact me about it.**
17 **He spoke to me on the telephone.**
18 Q. Just to make sure we all understand, what was his
19 interest?
20 **A. Well, his interest ostensibly was as an MP. He felt we**
21 **were taking inappropriate action, and he saw it as his**
22 **job to say that we shouldn't be taking that action.**
23 Q. In your professional judgment, was it inappropriate of
24 him to be interfering?
25 **A. I think it was appropriate for him to represent his**

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1 **constituents' interests. It is inappropriate for him to**
2 **attempt to undermine a necessary professional process**
3 **which is being carried out for the protection of**
4 **a child.**
5 Q. Did it matter, do you think, or did it affect anything
6 or make it perhaps even more inappropriate, in the sense
7 that you have just described, that he was the local MP,
8 or was that just a neutral matter?
9 **A. I don't think -- I was very accustomed to dealing with**
10 **MPs in my role as an area officer, and more so as**
11 **a Deputy Director of Social Services. That's an**
12 **appropriate thing to happen, you know, in terms of**
13 **the responsibilities MPs have got and the**
14 **responsibilities and the duties that local authority**
15 **officers have.**
16 Q. For example, can it be seen, his behaviour, at that
17 point in what was ultimately an operational matter for
18 your department --
19 **A. Indeed, yes.**
20 Q. -- against the background that not only was he at this
21 point the local sitting MP, but against the background
22 where he was such a big, prominent figure in local
23 politics as well?
24 **A. Yes.**
25 Q. That was 1983. In 1987, you were appointed as Deputy

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1 Director of Social Services?
2 **A. Correct, yes.**
3 Q. Cyril Smith was still the MP?
4 **A. He was.**
5 Q. Did he have anything to say about your appointment?
6 **A. Yes, he did. He said that it was inappropriate. He was**
7 **essentially saying it was -- I was a political**
8 **appointment. I was appointed by the Labour Group.**
9 Q. Yes.
10 **A. He was going back to my previous involvement many years**
11 **previously as an active member of the Labour Party.**
12 Q. How did he interfere? How did he go about that
13 interference?
14 **A. Well, he made it public, and I think I made the front**
15 **page of the Rochdale Observer, putting Neil Kinnock on**
16 **the back page, as it happens, at the time on a visit to**
17 **Rochdale.**
18 Q. How did you find Smith as a person to deal with, in
19 a few words?
20 **A. Overbearing, bullying.**
21 Q. Did he apply pressure on you to reconsider or to
22 consider your position in accepting this appointment?
23 **A. No, no, I had limited involvement with him after that,**
24 **but I do recall him saying in a -- it was at the**
25 **Bateman Centre in Rochdale, it was a conference centre**

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1 **at Birch Hill Hospital. He was there at the beginning**
2 **of some function and he said, "I don't think you're fit**
3 **to do the job, Allan, and I never will".**
4 Q. To your face?
5 **A. To my face.**
6 Q. Did that hark back to the decision that you disagreed
7 about back in 1983 or was it simply political, do you
8 think?
9 **A. Well, I don't know. Yes, I couldn't speculate on that.**
10 **I think Cyril just liked to have his way. He liked**
11 **to --**
12 Q. Make sure everybody knew --
13 **A. -- be in control.**
14 Q. -- who was boss?
15 **A. Indeed.**
16 Q. Did he bully other officers in respect of operational
17 matters, or was it just you?
18 **A. Not that I'm aware of, but I wouldn't be surprised if**
19 **that had happened.**
20 Q. You made a distinction in your statement about
21 inappropriate interference in departmental matters
22 between Smith, on the one hand, and the then leader of
23 the council, Richard Farnell.
24 **A. Yes.**
25 Q. The distinction you made was that Cyril Smith interfered

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1 on a sort of granular level, in the cases of
 2 individuals, whereas Farnell was perhaps more to the
 3 sort of generalised approach to his interference,
 4 perhaps politically.
 5 How else, if you are able to, or what other examples
 6 can you give us of how Smith interfered on that sort of
 7 granular level?
 8 **A. I can only recall that example, but it was -- you know,**
 9 **he was very active in terms of -- you know, his interest**
 10 **in matters.**
 11 Q. How was he perceived generally by council officers?
 12 **A. Sorry, I'm hesitating. He was a fixture around the**
 13 **place. He was part of the furniture. He was a big**
 14 **character.**
 15 Q. Were people fearful of him or intimidated by him?
 16 **A. Well, partly that, and then I think partly, you know,**
 17 **people would laugh it off because that's Cyril, in the**
 18 **way that people will say that about certain prominent**
 19 **political figures, "Well, that's Cyril. That's how he**
 20 **is".**
 21 Q. Did people bow to pressure from him?
 22 **A. Not that I'm aware of. I didn't.**
 23 Q. Can we move on, please, to another topic which you deal
 24 with in your statement, the Middleton ritual abuse case.
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. You remembered a point in 1990 when Ian Davey, who
 2 was -- was he then the Director or the Deputy Director
 3 or Assistant Director of Social Services?
 4 **A. He was Assistant Director Operations, and he worked to**
 5 **me, I was his manager.**
 6 Q. Did he approach you about that, the Middleton matter,
 7 during 1990?
 8 **A. He did. Gordon Littlemore was on leave.**
 9 Q. Gordon Littlemore --
 10 **A. I'm sorry.**
 11 Q. No, no. You mentioned a name. I know who he is. You
 12 know who he is. But other people may not?
 13 **A. My apologies, Gordon Littlemore was the Director of**
 14 **Social Services.**
 15 Q. He was the director at the time, Gordon Littlemore. You
 16 were telling us -- did you say he was on holiday?
 17 **A. He was on leave. Ian came to see me and brief me about**
 18 **the action that was being taken in relation to these**
 19 **cases. At the time, the chief executive was unaware of**
 20 **it. It was being dealt with on a very strict "need to**
 21 **know" basis.**
 22 Q. Was the chief executive John Pierce?
 23 **A. John Pierce.**
 24 Q. This is the Middleton ritual abuse case?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Ian Davey was, as you say, Assistant Director of
 2 Operations at the time. Did Mr Davey tell you that
 3 John Pierce, the chief executive, was unaware of it?
 4 **A. That was my understanding, yes.**
 5 Q. Did you in turn brief John Pierce?
 6 **A. I then briefed John on the information that Ian had**
 7 **given to me, yes.**
 8 Q. Is there any significance to be read in the fact that
 9 before you briefed John Pierce, John Pierce was unaware
 10 of what was going on around those cases?
 11 **A. Well, my recollection is that there was a press embargo**
 12 **that had been imposed and the thing was being dealt**
 13 **with -- the matter had been dealt with under conditions**
 14 **of extreme secrecy.**
 15 Q. Who had imposed the press embargo?
 16 **A. That, I don't know.**
 17 Q. Someone in the council, presumably?
 18 **A. Somebody certainly, yes. That was subsequently**
 19 **overturned. I think it was as a result of that that Ian**
 20 **thought that he'd better brief me and in turn brief the**
 21 **chief executive.**
 22 Q. Had there been, to your knowledge, a culture of keeping
 23 quiet when things were going wrong?
 24 **A. No, this was the only occasion when I recall this**
 25 **happening.**

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1 Q. Did you have anything to do with those cases afterwards?
 2 **A. No. Basically, what happened was that the director and**
 3 **Ian Davey and other staff became increasingly involved**
 4 **with the management of the court case. I became more**
 5 **responsible for running the department on a day-to-day**
 6 **basis. There was a very high level of media interest as**
 7 **well that was taking people's time up.**
 8 Q. So while they were diverted dealing with all of that,
 9 you were running the shop?
 10 **A. Effectively, yes.**
 11 Q. As we all know, the council was the subject of severe
 12 criticism by the court in that case. The judgment, you
 13 may remember, I think, was 1 January of the next year,
 14 1991?
 15 **A. I know it was early 1991, yes.**
 16 Q. That led to the resignation of Gordon Littlemore?
 17 **A. That's right, yes.**
 18 Q. At the time, you were, as you have said -- was your
 19 official title acting director at that point?
 20 **A. Only very briefly, simply because the director had gone.**
 21 Q. But did you both, you and Ian Davey, apply for
 22 Gordon Littlemore's post?
 23 **A. Well, we were invited to apply.**
 24 Q. And did you?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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<p>1 Q. And he did?</p> <p>2 A. Well, we were invited to be interviewed, I'm sorry,</p> <p>3 there was no application process.</p> <p>4 Q. There was no application process?</p> <p>5 A. No, no. No.</p> <p>6 Q. But both of you were interviewed?</p> <p>7 A. Indeed, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And he got the job?</p> <p>9 A. Indeed, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. From your observations, and we can only go on your</p> <p>11 observations at the time, did what happened in Middleton</p> <p>12 impact at all on Ian Davey, the way he approached</p> <p>13 children's cases?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. In what way?</p> <p>16 A. I think he felt he had to have much more responsibility,</p> <p>17 personal responsibility, for them, much more oversight</p> <p>18 of them.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes.</p> <p>20 A. I think he was very concerned about the political</p> <p>21 context.</p> <p>22 Q. Does that mean he was concerned about what councillors</p> <p>23 might want?</p> <p>24 A. He was very aware of the fact that councillors had been</p> <p>25 affected by the criticism, and some councillors in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you ever see any reports about Knowl View by</p> <p>3 a Phil Shepherd from March 1991 or a Valerie Mellor</p> <p>4 from February 1992?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you ever attend any meetings on topics of sexual</p> <p>7 activity by boys at Knowl View School?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Have you seen them since, those reports, Shepherd and</p> <p>10 Mellor?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. The reports go into some detail. Shepherd, who was</p> <p>13 brought in to give training on HIV and AIDS at Knowl</p> <p>14 View School, but it gave an opportunity which rather</p> <p>15 diverted the process to staff at the school to inform</p> <p>16 Mr Shepherd about all the goings on, which included</p> <p>17 exploitation of the toilets, child-on-child abuse and</p> <p>18 that sort of thing, and Valerie Mellor was much later</p> <p>19 brought in to assist the Director of Education on those</p> <p>20 topics to find out what exactly had been going on, the</p> <p>21 history of sexualised behaviour between boys at the</p> <p>22 school, and to advise and recommend as to the resolution</p> <p>23 of the problem. That's just a short summary of what</p> <p>24 they provide.</p> <p>25 Given that you were a senior man within the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 particular were very unhappy about the child protection</p> <p>2 process in general.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you think the effect of that, not just Middleton,</p> <p>4 but also Ian Davey's approach, led to over-caution</p> <p>5 afterwards?</p> <p>6 A. That was my impression at the time.</p> <p>7 Q. Can I move on to another topic, please: child</p> <p>8 exploitation, Mr Buckley. There is evidence in this</p> <p>9 investigation, which I am sure you will appreciate,</p> <p>10 which suggests that the exploitation of children, sexual</p> <p>11 exploitation of children, was taking place in public</p> <p>12 toilets in Rochdale, Smith Street toilets, which you may</p> <p>13 well recall, that that was well known. Was that</p> <p>14 something you were ever aware of, up to the point at</p> <p>15 which you retired, in the early '90s/late '80s?</p> <p>16 A. I'm sorry, I'm hesitating. I don't remember that.</p> <p>17 Q. To be fair, you don't mention it at all in the</p> <p>18 statement.</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. It doesn't ring any bells?</p> <p>21 A. It doesn't ring any bells, I'm sorry.</p> <p>22 Q. Were you ever told anything about pupils -- in</p> <p>23 particular, pupils who attended Knowl View School -- and</p> <p>24 their involvement in sexual activity in those toilets in</p> <p>25 particular?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 department and that you were still working within the</p> <p>2 department in 1991 and 1992, do you think you ought to</p> <p>3 have known about those reports or have seen them?</p> <p>4 A. I would have expected to be.</p> <p>5 Q. Can you think of any reason why you weren't even told</p> <p>6 about them?</p> <p>7 A. No, only that, you know, they were clearly being -- or</p> <p>8 it seems they were being dealt with on a strict "need to</p> <p>9 know" basis again.</p> <p>10 Q. So the press embargo in relation to Middleton which you</p> <p>11 say was eventually lifted, it looks as if, if this is</p> <p>12 right and that you weren't shown these reports, which we</p> <p>13 accept -- it rather suggests that secrecy had come to be</p> <p>14 part of the culture of the council at that point?</p> <p>15 A. Well, either that or, you know, Ian felt that there was</p> <p>16 a need for me not to be involved in those matters,</p> <p>17 because I was dealing with other things. I don't know</p> <p>18 at the time who was directly responsible for children's</p> <p>19 services, because that was, to my recollection, prior to</p> <p>20 the appointment of Jane Held as Assistant Director for</p> <p>21 Children, so that makes it even more surprising to me</p> <p>22 that I would not have been consulted because I did have</p> <p>23 obviously some considerable operational experience of</p> <p>24 child protection matters, and I was the deputy director.</p> <p>25 Q. So that we get an impression, did you all work close by</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

1 each other, physically, within offices?
 2 **A. My office was next door to Ian Davey's.**
 3 Q. Did social services -- were these in the municipal
 4 offices?
 5 **A. We were in a tower block in the centre of Rochdale.**
 6 Q. People sometimes refer to the municipal offices. Is
 7 that them?
 8 **A. That's the one, yes.**
 9 Q. That's the one?
 10 **A. We were in a -- the senior managers were in their own**
 11 **offices. Then there was an open-plan office outside**
 12 **that for the rest of the social services staff.**
 13 Q. So we get the impression, did social services have
 14 a floor or something like that?
 15 **A. We had a floor of our own, yes.**
 16 Q. So if you wanted to tell someone something, you didn't
 17 have to go very far?
 18 **A. No, no, you'd just walk across the passageway between**
 19 **the two offices.**
 20 Q. I would like to ask you about a particular document,
 21 which I think you may have seen. But if not, it is
 22 RHC001236, please, and that's going to go up on the
 23 screen.
 24 I'm not suggesting for a moment that you had any
 25 direct dealings with this, but I just want your help on

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1 it, really. Is it up on your screen?
 2 **A. Yes, it is.**
 3 Q. You will see it is a memorandum from the Acting Director
 4 of Social Services -- this is Ian Davey's document -- to
 5 the Director of Education, who was Diana Cavanagh at the
 6 time. It is dated 30 May 1991, "Confidential. Knowl
 7 View School". Have you ever seen this before, do you
 8 think?
 9 **A. No.**
 10 Q. Let's see if you can help us. What Mr Davey is doing is
 11 writing to her, saying:
 12 "As you know, we met with the chief executive and
 13 deputy town clerk on 17 May, regarding Knowl View
 14 School. We discussed the concerns of the school and the
 15 chronology of events since the meeting which took place
 16 in early March.
 17 "I shared with you and with Mr Pierce and
 18 Mr Shipp ..."
 19 Presumably you knew who Mr Shipp was?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. "... my understanding regarding the allegations, which
 22 was that they do not come within the child abuse
 23 guidelines and procedures definition of sexual abuse
 24 between children.
 25 "In view of the nature of the concerns and the need

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1 to resolve the matter speedily, I agreed to look further
 2 into the concerns which the school has raised, to
 3 consider these in detail and to let you have a formal
 4 response as to whether they do in fact come within the
 5 definition of sexual abuse between children.
 6 "I met yesterday, 29 May, with Freema Taylor ..."
 7 Is that a name that means something to you?
 8 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**
 9 Q. "... area manager, Heywood (who is taking on additional
 10 responsibilities as far as child protection work is
 11 concerned) and with Annie Dodd, senior social worker
 12 from the Middleton area office. I considered in detail
 13 the concerns regarding three boys referred by the school
 14 following the meeting on 11 April 1991."
 15 Then he goes through the detail in relation to one
 16 boy, aged 13, involved in oral sex:
 17 "Forced to have oral sex and observed oral sex
 18 between [other boys]. These concerns have been followed
 19 up by Manchester Social Services Department, who have
 20 responsibility for [him] and I understand that they do
 21 not intend to proceed any further following the
 22 interview which has taken place with him."
 23 Then the second boy, aged 14:
 24 "The concerns are that [he] was involved in oral sex
 25 with [another] and observed oral sex between [two other

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1 boys]. The view is that, if anything, [this boy] was
 2 a perpetrator rather than a victim in these activities
 3 and that this does not fit the guidelines on sexual
 4 abuse between children."
 5 Then to the next page, please, another boy aged 15,
 6 now left the school:
 7 "The concerns are that he was involved in oral sex
 8 with [two other boys] ... it would appear that [this
 9 boy] was a willing partner in these activities and that,
 10 as the oldest boy amongst the group, he was quite able
 11 to deal with any unwelcome advances. Therefore, the
 12 definition of sexual abuse between children as outlined
 13 in the procedures does not apply in this case.
 14 "In summary, therefore, as regards the three boys
 15 who it was originally anticipated that we would be
 16 following up with interviews, this has been completed in
 17 one case ..."
 18 That was the Manchester boy:
 19 "... and in the other two instances, the concerns do
 20 not fit the sexual abuse between children definition in
 21 the child abuse guidelines and procedures."
 22 Did you know about that decision?
 23 **A. No.**
 24 Q. Now you do, and it may be an unfair question because
 25 perhaps it is a question of what guidelines they

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<p>1 followed and why they came to those views, but is there 2 anything that stands out from what I have just read to 3 you which would trouble you? 4 A. I don't recall what the guidelines were at the time. 5 I have to say, on seeing that, my view would be that the 6 question of the guidelines, given the content of that, 7 is probably academic. I think you would be looking at 8 what else you might do to investigate this. 9 Q. Such as interview boys? 10 A. Well, there is that, yes, obviously, and what advice you 11 might get about how you -- you know, how you follow this 12 through. I mean, Val Mellor, who I knew, had obviously 13 provided -- or at some point provided input, but there 14 were other -- we did have an NSPCC unit in Rochdale at 15 the time, and we set up in Swinton, in 16 Greater Manchester, with other Greater Manchester 17 authorities, a unit specifically to look at the sexual 18 abuse of children. 19 Q. That may bring me rather neatly to another document with 20 which you were involved, a document headed "Management 21 of child protection system", which I think you may have 22 written in November 1990. Let's bring it up on screen 23 and see if it is anything that you recall. It is 24 GMP000794. Have a look at that for a moment at page 7, 25 please. Does that look familiar to you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 Q. Is it retrospective or prospective? 2 A. It would make more sense if it was -- 3 Q. The next year? 4 A. I obviously missed that one. 5 Q. Don't worry. If it was the next year, then its 6 commencement predated the memorandum we just looked at 7 by 30 days. 8 A. Mmm. 9 Q. Or 29, perhaps, to be precise. Then the report goes 10 through a number of perhaps formal matters. At the top 11 of page 8, so the next page, please, you have got 12 point 3: 13 "The management of the child protection system in 14 Rochdale 1974-1989." 15 Including 3.3 and 3.4, material about the NSPCC, and 16 then point 4, "'Working Together' and child protection 17 in Rochdale". There had been a social services 18 inspection around this time, just before this time. Do 19 you remember that? 20 A. I don't, I'm sorry. 21 Q. They were critical -- if "critical" isn't putting it too 22 highly -- that Rochdale Social Services were relying 23 upon guidelines from pre "Working Together", which came 24 into being in 1998. Do you remember that? 25 A. I remember "Working Together".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 A. It does, yes. 2 Q. Let's just read it. At the top right, it is a report of 3 Allan Buckley, 12 November 1990, and therefore it 4 predates the Davey memorandum we were just looking at by 5 about six or seven months. Of course it comes after the 6 Middleton scandal but before the judgment on 1 January 7 the next year. It reads this way: 8 "It is considered that the committee are likely to 9 exclude the public [which is a sort of standard at the 10 top of this sort of management document] ..." 11 We don't need to read the second paragraph: 12 "Purpose of report. 13 "To inform committee of the agreement reached 14 between the officers of the Social Services Department 15 and the National Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to 16 Children that the Social Services Department should 17 assume responsibility for the management of 18 the multi-disciplinary child protection system in 19 Rochdale. 20 "Recommendations. 21 That committee approves the assumption of 22 responsibility by the Social Services Department as from 23 1 May 1990 ..." 24 Did it mean 1 May 1990 or 1991, do you think? 25 A. Probably 1990.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 Q. Clearly you make mention of it here. You have point 4: 2 "'Working Together' and child protection in 3 Rochdale." 4 At (iii) on the next page, page 9, a significant 5 factor in the increase in volume of work has been an 6 increase in the different types of abuse revealed to the 7 child protection agencies, notably sexual abuse." 8 So there is a hint of what was going on there. 9 At the top of page 10, the next page, the header is, 10 at point 5, "Financial implications", and the next page, 11 the conclusion at the top, page 11: 12 "Conclusion and relationships between the local 13 authority and the NSPCC." 14 It is signed off by Gordon Littlemore, who appears 15 to date it 2 November 1990, although the top of 16 the report is dated as the 12th. Are those your 17 initials, "ALB" at the bottom? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Was this written by you before the director at the time? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Clearly, it was before Gordon Littlemore resigned. He 22 didn't resign until after the criticism in the judgment, 23 presumably, the following year? 24 A. He did, that's right. 25 Q. I have gone through that rather quickly, but is this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

1 what you were talking about, that this was -- this new
 2 unit that was being set up under the auspices of
 3 the NSPCC, or not?
 4 **A. The NSPCC had come into Rochdale -- I'm trying to**
 5 **remember now -- sometime in the late '80s and had taken**
 6 **on effectively the management of the child protection**
 7 **system. I remember at the time as an area manager**
 8 **I wasn't -- I wasn't entirely happy about that decision.**
 9 **It took a lot of our responsibilities away, which I felt**
 10 **we would have continued to have. It split**
 11 **responsibility, if you like, in a way I didn't think was**
 12 **helpful. However, the NSPCC were valuable in terms of**
 13 **bringing expertise to the system, and I think the**
 14 **origins of that report were that we'd come to the**
 15 **conclusion that, really, we should take responsibility**
 16 **for the child protection system as the local authority**
 17 **in the appropriate way.**
 18 **But the NSPCC unit, as I recall, continued in**
 19 **Rochdale for some time after that on an advisory basis.**
 20 Q. I brought this to your attention because just before
 21 I did you were talking about a special unit being set
 22 up. Did you name a place in Swinton?
 23 **A. Swinton, Greater Manchester, yes.**
 24 Q. How does that figure with all of this?
 25 **A. That had been set up before I was appointed deputy**

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1 **director, but Rochdale had a lead role in that. It was**
 2 **a shared initiative by all the Greater Manchester**
 3 **authorities, and it was to bring expertise about child**
 4 **sexual abuse into the area.**
 5 **I have to say, the concern I mentioned there about**
 6 **the increase in referrals and activity concerning child**
 7 **sexual abuse does concern child sexual abuse in**
 8 **a domestic context.**
 9 Q. Right.
 10 **A. Certainly when I was area manager in Heywood, we'd begun**
 11 **to develop a lot more work in that area, become more**
 12 **conscious of its incidence and the need to deal with it**
 13 **I think more appropriately than we'd been dealing with**
 14 **it in the past.**
 15 Q. Was it limited to familial child sexual abuse or not?
 16 **A. The emphasis was largely on that, yes. I think the**
 17 **question of institutional abuse, my recollection at the**
 18 **time, wasn't as -- it wasn't as prominent as it is now.**
 19 Q. But when we come back to the memorandum from Mr Davey,
 20 do you stand by what you have told us, that there were
 21 ways of dealing with these issues which were confronting
 22 the council at the time?
 23 **A. I'm saying this with hindsight, obviously.**
 24 Q. Of course.
 25 **A. But I think, had I been involved in the discussion, and**

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1 **knowing -- Freema and I worked very closely together**
 2 **over a number of years. I am surprised to see that**
 3 **approach being taken by her, because she was, if I could**
 4 **put it this way, very interventionist when it came to**
 5 **questions of child protection, that there might be**
 6 **another way of dealing with this in terms of**
 7 **investigating just what was going on and what might be**
 8 **done to resolve the matter.**
 9 Q. This may be an unfair question, and it may well be
 10 a question for Mr Davey, but in this memorandum, do you
 11 see, perhaps, between the lines, the overcaution that
 12 you think might have been present, or is this as
 13 a result of -- bearing in mind the judgment from the
 14 High Court had been about five months previously, do you
 15 sense that from this memorandum?
 16 **A. Not from that memorandum. I have to say, it looks to me**
 17 **as though there's just a strict interpretation of the**
 18 **child protection guidelines at the time. It could be**
 19 **that -- I'd be speculating if I were to say there was**
 20 **any other motive there.**
 21 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Buckley. Just a few other
 22 questions, then.
 23 Let me ask you a few things about Richard Farnell.
 24 He was, is this right, leader of the council between
 25 1986 and 1992 while you were working there?

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1 **A. That's right, yes.**
 2 Q. What were relations like between him and the
 3 Social Services Department?
 4 **A. Well, I think he was -- he was a very able council**
 5 **leader. He had a lot of ideas about developing council**
 6 **services in a more responsive way to the public. He**
 7 **pressed that in a very uncompromising way, and I think**
 8 **some of that was appropriate, in the sense that the**
 9 **culture needed to change. Some of it was inappropriate,**
 10 **in the sense that, you know, his behaviour towards**
 11 **senior council officials was very often, frankly,**
 12 **disrespectful -- I don't say that personally, myself,**
 13 **but of other people.**
 14 Q. But from your observations?
 15 **A. Yes, indeed.**
 16 Q. Did he involve himself in operational matters?
 17 **A. No, but he didn't take advice on the implications of**
 18 **certain council decisions or decisions that were being**
 19 **taken politically in terms of their implications for, in**
 20 **our case, the functions of the Social Services Division.**
 21 Q. Did his relationship with the department impact on how
 22 it operated?
 23 **A. To the extent that we became involved in a restructuring**
 24 **exercise which I personally felt was detrimental to the**
 25 **department's professional standards.**

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1 MR ALTMAN: I think that's all I have for you, Mr Buckley.
 2 It may be that the chair and the panel have some
 3 questions.
 4 Questions from THE PANEL
 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman. I have one question for
 6 you, Mr Buckley.
 7 Returning to the issue of your opinion that
 8 Ian Davey became overcautious, I would like to
 9 understand a little more about how that manifested
 10 itself. For example, did you think that children were
 11 left in situations of risk as a consequence, perhaps,
 12 or, on the other hand, is it possible that they were
 13 received into care precipitately, or was it something
 14 else in the way it manifested itself?
 15 **A. It was, I think, in terms of wishing to have full**
 16 **knowledge and control over what was happening on child**
 17 **protection matters. I don't think there was -- I think,**
 18 **if anything, there was more caution in terms of**
 19 **intervening as a result of what had happened in**
 20 **Middleton and making sure that those mistakes weren't**
 21 **made again.**
 22 THE CHAIR: Was it your opinion, in that case, that there
 23 was more caution that possibly left children in
 24 situations of risk when they should have been protected
 25 by the authorities?

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1 **A. I couldn't say with certainty that that happened in any**
 2 **individual case. But certainly I felt there was**
 3 **a greater atmosphere of caution. That was my**
 4 **impression. I hope that's helpful.**
 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
 6 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much for coming, Mr Buckley.
 7 Thank you.
 8 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Buckley.
 9 (The witness withdrew)
 10 MR ALTMAN: Chair, there is one more witness today. There
 11 won't be any reading. You will see that Mr Henderson is
 12 not here today. There is one more witness, who, with
 13 a fair wind, would be finished by around lunchtime,
 14 I think. I wondered -- I know it is early, but it might
 15 be wise to have your break now and then we can resume
 16 with the officer, Detective Chief Inspector Sarah Jones,
 17 in one go.
 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman. We will return at
 19 11.40 am.
 20 (11.25 am)
 21 (A short break)
 22 (11.44 am)
 23 MS SARAH JONES (sworn)
 24
 25

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1 Examination by MR ALTMAN
 2 MR ALTMAN: Tell us who you are, please.
 3 **A. I'm Detective Chief Inspector Sarah Jones of the Greater**
 4 **Manchester Police.**
 5 Q. Thank you. Can you confirm that you were the senior
 6 investigating officer or the senior senior investigating
 7 officer on Operation Jaguar from 28 April 2014; is that
 8 right?
 9 **A. Yes, I am the senior investigating officer.**
 10 Q. Now, you have made a lengthy statement to the inquiry,
 11 for which we are grateful, which I am going to take you
 12 through, and I will help you with the relevant paragraph
 13 numbers so that neither of us gets lost. Can we go
 14 straight away, please, to your paragraph 6 and first of
 15 all explain what Operation Jaguar is?
 16 **A. Operation Jaguar is an investigation, and it was in two**
 17 **parts, so the first part was an investigation into the**
 18 **criminal allegations made by students and pupils who had**
 19 **been at Knowl View School through its period of opening.**
 20 **The second part of the investigation related to**
 21 **allegations made against the now deceased Member of**
 22 **Parliament Sir Cyril Smith.**
 23 Q. So two parts?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Allegations of physical and sexual abuse made by former

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1 pupils of Knowl View. That's part 1?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Part 2, allegations of abuse made against Cyril Smith?
 4 **A. Yes --**
 5 Q. The terms of reference, please, in your paragraph 7,
 6 help us with what they were?
 7 **A. The terms of reference, so that's something agreed with**
 8 **my senior officer who directs an investigation**
 9 **commences, and those were, "To investigate allegations**
 10 **of" --**
 11 Q. Sorry, Ms Jones, because you are looking down --
 12 **A. Sorry, I will move over this way.**
 13 Q. Unless the other microphone can be put on as well,
 14 I don't know. If you switch that on, so we get you both
 15 sides?
 16 **A. Is that better?**
 17 Q. Yes.
 18 **A. "To investigate allegations of abuse, both physical and**
 19 **sexual, made to the Greater Manchester Police by**
 20 **a number of people resident at Knowl View Residential**
 21 **Home following publicity surrounding Operation Yewtree**
 22 **and abuse allegedly committed by Cyril Smith. Also to**
 23 **document allegations of abuse made against the late**
 24 **Cyril Smith committed under the current boundaries of**
 25 **Greater Manchester."**

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1 Q. So those are the terms of reference. You introduced
 2 Operation Jaguar in the past tense. Has it concluded?
 3 **A. No. The vast majority of the allegations have now been**
 4 **dealt with. However, an investigation like this never**
 5 **really concludes, so --**
 6 Q. So it remains open?
 7 **A. Yes. So if we receive -- and we have received further**
 8 **allegations very recently, we will continue to**
 9 **investigate those.**
 10 Q. Very well. While we are thinking of the second part,
 11 but we will come back to it, but the second part of
 12 the investigation, can you go to your paragraph 70 which
 13 is our page 23, but I don't think you have paginated
 14 your statement. As regards the investigation into
 15 Cyril Smith, did that include taking evidential accounts
 16 from each witness, despite him being dead?
 17 **A. Yes, that was a policy decision that I made.**
 18 Q. Is Operation Jaguar, or has Operation Jaguar, run in
 19 conjunction with Operation Clifton?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Explain to us what Clifton is, please?
 22 **A. Clifton is an investigation run by a separate senior**
 23 **investigating officer, and my understanding of it --**
 24 **I have outlined its terms of reference here. My**
 25 **understanding of it was that it was an investigation**

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1 **into allegations of a coverup that had surfaced in**
 2 **relation to Rochdale Council and other areas potentially**
 3 **within policing as well.**
 4 Q. So it was an internal Greater Manchester Police
 5 investigation whether there was any coverup either by
 6 the police or by the council?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. The inquiry hasn't yet heard any evidence about
 9 Operation Clifton. There will be some evidence about it
 10 later. What about Operation Cleopatra, to which you
 11 refer in your statement, your paragraph 60?
 12 **A. So Operation Cleopatra predated Operation Jaguar, and it**
 13 **was a much bigger and more wide-ranging investigation**
 14 **into allegations of non-recent sexual abuse within care**
 15 **homes which had started in 1997, as I understand it, as**
 16 **a result of allegations initially made in North Wales**
 17 **that then passed through, effectively, the rest of**
 18 **the country, but certainly into Greater Manchester. And**
 19 **that continued. But it also had a bearing on Knowl View**
 20 **because an element of Operation Cleopatra investigated**
 21 **a teacher at Knowl View and there were subsequent**
 22 **convictions from that.**
 23 Q. It commenced in 1997. From 2000, all allegations of
 24 sexual and physical abuse in residential care homes in
 25 Greater Manchester were involved. But Knowl View had

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1 a relatively minor role within Cleopatra?
 2 **A. Yes, it did.**
 3 Q. In paragraph 4 of your statement, you say that this
 4 statement has been drafted so as to provide a gist of
 5 the allegations made in the course of Operation Jaguar,
 6 but it is not intended to be a detailed narrative of
 7 the allegations. Is that what you have done?
 8 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 9 Q. Or sought to do?
 10 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 11 Q. So that we understand what's going to happen as we go
 12 through, have you referred to complainants by letter and
 13 number, different ciphering from the ciphers which have
 14 been used by the inquiry, and you have been expressly
 15 asked to do that?
 16 **A. Yes, I was asked to do that, yes.**
 17 Q. As another layer of confidentiality?
 18 **A. Yes, I was asked to do that by the inquiry:**
 19 Q. Before we embark on looking at a select few of
 20 the gisted allegations and, indeed, an overview of what
 21 you did, first of all by reference to your paragraph 63,
 22 at an early stage of your investigation, Jaguar, were
 23 you briefed in respect of what's called trawling?
 24 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 25 Q. What were you briefed to do or not to do?

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1 **A. Within non-recent large-scale CSE enquiries --**
 2 Q. "CSE"?
 3 **A. Child sexual abuse, apologies, enquiries, "trawling" is**
 4 **a term that has been known for quite some time. It is**
 5 **a colloquial term but effectively means approaching**
 6 **people who you have no evidence or intelligence have**
 7 **been the victims of abuse. I would suggest it also**
 8 **relates to naming suspects publicly to attempt to gain**
 9 **people coming forward who, again, aren't within the**
 10 **remit already of your investigation.**
 11 **So I was advised that in previous prosecutions**
 12 **particularly, but also in previous high-profile cases,**
 13 **trawling had caused significant issues because of its**
 14 **nature, not only in terms of approaching people who have**
 15 **chosen not to come forward and speak to the police, but**
 16 **also because it can be inferred by the defence that the**
 17 **police are putting words into people's mouths and**
 18 **proactively seeking people who ultimately have decided**
 19 **that they don't choose to come forward.**
 20 **So I was advised against it. However, as with every**
 21 **investigation, the decision is ultimately that of**
 22 **the SIO. So I considered really carefully whether**
 23 **I would engage in any trawling, but Jaguar was quite**
 24 **unique in the information that was available to it. So**
 25 **in usual historic cases, we obviously have a close**

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1 relationship with local authorities, who hold the
 2 information that we wish to gather, and the usual
 3 process by which we would access that is we would
 4 provide them with names of people relevant, either
 5 suspects or victims in an investigation, and they would
 6 provide us with information they deemed to be relevant.
 7 In this case, that didn't happen. So what we
 8 actually had access to, as the police, unusually, was
 9 all information, which drew out an awful lot of
 10 documentation where people were potentially named as
 11 victims, potentially named as involved in -- as being
 12 victims. So that meant my approach was much more wide
 13 ranging and I was able to go to people on an
 14 intelligence-led basis.
 15 Now, I have to say that, even doing that, when
 16 people choose not to come forward to the police, going
 17 and approaching individuals, and effectively
 18 cold-calling them, you know, it really shouldn't be
 19 underestimated the effect that we have on people when
 20 doing that. But what it did mean was, ultimately,
 21 Jaguar, in addition to that and the publicity that it
 22 drew because of the involvement of Cyril Smith, had
 23 a large -- a breadth of people who we were able to
 24 approach or who chose to approach us.
 25 So initial guidance around trawling is that you

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1 would do either 10 per cent of the number of people who
 2 were at the residential home or 50, whichever number is
 3 the least, and Jaguar saw in excess of 50 ex-students,
 4 and taken together with Cleopatra, I would suggest that
 5 the police had probably approached nearing 100, if not
 6 more, people who had been resident at Knowl View School.
 7 So the decision I took was constantly reviewed. It
 8 is really important that we are as broad as possible
 9 with the investigations that we conduct. But I was
 10 satisfied that Jaguar had a sufficiently broad victim
 11 base to allow us to be confident that we'd established
 12 as much evidence as possible.
 13 Q. When you think about trawling, does the effect of
 14 publicity mitigate any criticism that might arise by
 15 virtue of a trawl?
 16 A. Yes, it absolutely does. I mean, we made the decision.
 17 We didn't name -- and, actually, the College of Policing
 18 is very clear that now -- it wasn't available at this
 19 time, but now there is guidance around trawling, which
 20 is that enquiries should be intelligence led or led by
 21 evidence. So they are very clear in that guidance now.
 22 That wasn't available at the time. But we had national
 23 and local publicity, both on television and in the print
 24 media, which we benefited from, albeit we chose not
 25 to -- other than Cyril Smith, whose name was already

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1 clearly out there, we chose not to name any of our
 2 suspects.
 3 Q. So people were traced --
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. -- having been identified and approached? In that
 6 particular regard, did you have available to you the
 7 appendix to what we know to be the Mellor Report --
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. -- which --
 10 A. And we did use that.
 11 Q. Which set out, I think, in initials, although it may
 12 have been redacted since, but in initials a series of
 13 facts and a series of allegations in relation to former
 14 residents of Knowl View which, as you say, you were able
 15 to use?
 16 A. Yes, we did use that.
 17 Q. Additionally, were you provided with -- this is your
 18 paragraph 66 -- a list of 45 former pupils by
 19 a particular former resident?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Whom you cipher as P10 --
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. -- for the purposes of the record? Thirteen of whom
 24 that individual thought might have been abused, although
 25 he never claimed to witness it.

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1 A. That's correct.
 2 Q. Is that right? What approach was taken to that list?
 3 A. I made the decision that we would approach all of those,
 4 or attempt to seek -- attempt to identify and locate all
 5 of those people and try and speak to them.
 6 Q. What about individuals who had already made allegations
 7 in the past to Cleopatra?
 8 A. Where there's already been a police investigation,
 9 obviously there were some challenges to whether we would
 10 revisit that in its entirety, and the decision was taken
 11 in discussions with the Gold Group that we wouldn't seek
 12 to reinvestigate the entirety of Cleopatra. It had some
 13 successful prosecutions and convictions, but there were
 14 some policy decisions taken at that time, particularly
 15 in relation to peer-on-peer abuse, whereby Cleopatra did
 16 not investigate those. So albeit people had come
 17 forward to make allegations in respect of other children
 18 who had abused them, Cleopatra had a policy in place at
 19 the time not to investigate those.
 20 Q. Did that leave the way open for Jaguar --
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. -- to go to them?
 23 A. Yes, I felt it was appropriate, so, yes, we
 24 reinvestigated those.
 25 Q. As an overview, if you go to your paragraph 13, I think

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1 we can break it down this way, that, in all,
 2 34 complainants made allegations relating to their time
 3 at Knowl View; is that right?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. A further 18 people were approached, because they had
 6 been named as a possible victim of abuse; is that
 7 correct?
 8 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 9 Q. But no individual amongst that 18 alleged that they had
 10 been the victim of any crime?
 11 **A. No, that's correct.**
 12 Q. In general terms, is it right that where it was
 13 suggested there was other evidence to support an
 14 allegation, you also went after that evidence?
 15 **A. Absolutely.**
 16 Q. Just a few general questions, please, about the nature
 17 of the allegations, as I say, before we look at some of
 18 them. First, is it correct that a number of
 19 the allegations of sexual abuse were made against
 20 Knowl View staff members, male and female?
 21 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 22 Q. Second, a number of allegations were made by former
 23 pupils, as is clear, against other former pupils?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Third, on a number of occasions, when allegations were

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1 put to former pupils, they in turn said that they had
 2 been sexually abused by other pupils?
 3 **A. Yes, that's right.**
 4 Q. And, fourth, other allegations were made against men
 5 said to have exploited boys in Rochdale town centre?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. I think you have already hinted at this, but can you
 8 tell us if this is right, that the allegations you were
 9 dealing with spanned each of the decades during which
 10 Knowl View was open --
 11 **A. Yes, that's right.**
 12 Q. -- from 1969 to 1996?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Also, there are three particular ciphers I am going to
 15 ask your confirmation about in terms of actually naming.
 16 One of them you have actually told us. O1 was
 17 Cyril Smith?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. There are two other particular ciphers you refer to in
 20 the statement. S16. Was that a reference to
 21 David Higgins?
 22 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 23 Q. And O9, was that a reference to Roderick Hilton?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Now, as I say, a selective run through certain of

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1 the specific allegations which were made and how they
 2 were dealt with. Dealing only with the first part of
 3 the investigation, the investigation Operation Jaguar,
 4 as opposed to the allegations made against Smith, to
 5 which I will come towards the end. Starting, if I may,
 6 please, with your paragraph 17.
 7 Here, was this an allegation concerning one pupil,
 8 ciphered in your report as P4?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Who alleged that he had been sexually abused by a number
 11 of pupils while he was at the school, including two in
 12 particular: P38 and P39. Is that correct?
 13 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 14 Q. I think you discovered that one of the former pupils P4
 15 named was deceased?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Of the others whom you -- having identified and traced,
 18 did all deny the offences, albeit one acknowledged that
 19 many of the boys, including him, engaged in sexual
 20 activity at school?
 21 **A. That's correct.**
 22 Q. In that case, the detail having been submitted to the
 23 Crown Prosecution Service in September 2014, did the
 24 CPS, the Crown Prosecution Service, take the decision to
 25 take no further action, based primarily on the principle

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1 of doli incapax, which existed during the period the
 2 offences occurred? Help us, please, what was the
 3 principle -- you deal with it, so this isn't taking you
 4 by surprise --
 5 **A. No.**
 6 Q. -- in your paragraph 17, but the principle was ...?
 7 **A. It was the presumption, which was rebutted only if the
 8 prosecution proved beyond reasonable doubt that -- not
 9 only that the child caused an actus reus with mens rea
 10 but also that he knew that particular act was not only
 11 naughty or mischievous but seriously wrong. So there
 12 had to be a certain state of mind that the child knew
 13 what they were doing was wrong and not just naughty.**
 14 Q. The presumption was that a child aged not less than 10
 15 and less than 14 years -- but less than 14 years was
 16 incapable of committing a crime?
 17 **A. As long as they didn't have the mens rea that what they
 18 were doing was seriously wrong. Under 10, of course,
 19 there could be no crime.**
 20 Q. You use the Latin phrase "actus reus"; that is doing the
 21 act?
 22 **A. Doing the act.**
 23 Q. And "mens rea" is just --
 24 **A. And the state of mind, yes.**
 25 Q. -- the Latin for intention --

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. -- the relevant intention. So subject to proof of the
 3 individual knowing that what he had done was seriously
 4 wrong --
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. -- then age -- for those of a particular age, was, as it
 7 were, a game changer. It meant that no prosecution was
 8 possible?
 9 **A. Absolutely, that's right.**
 10 Q. That rule was changed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
 11 with effect from, I think, the end of September of that
 12 year, 1998?
 13 **A. Yes, that's right.**
 14 Q. But of course it applies retroactively to any offence
 15 where the doli incapax rule applied at that time?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Therefore, even if today you were looking at where the
 18 rule has long gone, but even if today you were looking
 19 to consider a case involving an underage child in
 20 respect of whom you could not prove that --
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. -- he understood that what he had done was seriously
 23 wrong, from years ago, you couldn't prosecute?
 24 **A. No, that's correct.**
 25 Q. Because the rule still applies?

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1 **A. That's right.**
 2 Q. Moving on to your paragraph 19, there's another example
 3 of what you looked at. Did a complainant with the
 4 cipher P6 allege sexual assaults by a teacher as well as
 5 two students?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Two former pupils?
 8 **A. That's right.**
 9 Q. Were the two former pupils the same two --
 10 **A. Yes, they were.**
 11 Q. -- in relation to the first example, P38 and P39?
 12 **A. Yes, they were.**
 13 Q. I think you didn't find any trace of the teacher who had
 14 been named?
 15 **A. No.**
 16 Q. And has never been traced?
 17 **A. No, that's correct.**
 18 Q. But the two pupils were traced and interviewed, and did
 19 one of them admit that he had taken part in the sexual
 20 acts which he said were common at Knowl View at the
 21 time?
 22 **A. Yes, he did.**
 23 Q. Was the nature of the allegation similar to that made by
 24 the other pupil?
 25 **A. It was similar.**

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1 Q. From the perspective of your investigation, was it
 2 significant not only that an alleged pupil or abuser in
 3 this case had accepted being involved in sexual activity
 4 with other children, but also it being something which
 5 a number of other children did? Was that significant?
 6 **A. Yes, it was very significant. I mean, he -- he was very**
 7 **honest in his account to us that this had started when**
 8 **he first arrived at the school and had continued and he**
 9 **believed that that was just what happened.**
 10 Q. Was it the same individual to whom you refer in your
 11 paragraph 19 who said that this was a common occurrence
 12 who was the same one to have said in relation to the
 13 other pupil that many boys at Knowl View were engaged in
 14 that kind of sexual activity?
 15 **A. Yes, my recollection is that he didn't -- in relation to**
 16 **P6, he did recall P6 and was very honest about that, but**
 17 **my recollection is that he didn't recall -- I think it**
 18 **is P4. He didn't recall P4 and hence had denied**
 19 **involvement in that, but had been very honest about what**
 20 **went on at the school.**
 21 Q. But it is the same individual --
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. -- in both instances in effect saying that this was
 24 a culture?
 25 **A. Yes, it was.**

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1 Q. Paragraph 23, please. Another individual, ciphered as
 2 P10 in your statement. Did he make complaints of sexual
 3 abuse by S16, who was David Higgins?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. As well as being made to perform oral sex on two other
 6 pupils?
 7 **A. That's correct.**
 8 Q. When you saw him in person, did he make further
 9 allegations against Cyril Smith?
 10 **A. Yes, he did.**
 11 Q. I think you made arrangements to interview this
 12 individual on a number of occasions, but he found the
 13 process too difficult?
 14 **A. Yes, he really struggled.**
 15 Q. But eventually, you interviewed him in 2014 --
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. -- when he made allegations of sexual assault against
 18 three other pupils, David Higgins, Cyril Smith, as well
 19 as a female teacher?
 20 **A. That's correct.**
 21 Q. I think he also made allegations of physical abuse as
 22 well?
 23 **A. He did.**
 24 Q. Now, Higgins is currently serving a 14-year sentence in
 25 respect of child sexual abuse, albeit unrelated --

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1 **A. That's correct.**
 2 Q. -- to Knowl View, but he is currently serving. But we
 3 know, do we not, that he was previously convicted in
 4 2002, having admitted indecent assault committed whilst
 5 he was a teacher at Knowl View?
 6 **A. That's correct.**
 7 Q. A total of 11 offences with, I think, two left on the
 8 file?
 9 **A. Yes. There were eight offences of gross indecency,**
 10 **three of indecent assault, against three students, three**
 11 **pupils, at Knowl View. Two of these he admitted, one he**
 12 **pleaded not guilty, and that not guilty was allowed to**
 13 **lie on file.**
 14 Q. So how many offences in all, because the information we
 15 have elsewhere is 11 offences, two left on the file?
 16 **A. I don't know about those left on file, I'm afraid.**
 17 **I know that he was convicted of 11.**
 18 Q. Convicted of 11 in relation to two students?
 19 **A. Two students, yes.**
 20 Q. Are you able to confirm one of those students -- I'm
 21 going to use an enquiry cipher -- was RO-B201?
 22 **A. If that's the discussion we had before, Mr Altman, then**
 23 **yes.**
 24 Q. Yes. Is it correct that Higgins, in 2002, was sentenced
 25 to 12 months' imprisonment?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Is it equally correct -- I think you say this -- that
 3 P10 had been interviewed under the auspices of
 4 Operation Cleopatra?
 5 **A. Yes, he had.**
 6 Q. Do we know in relation to which of his allegations he
 7 was interviewed?
 8 **A. He was approached, as he had been -- it was believed he**
 9 **had been a victim of Higgins. Cleopatra was obviously**
 10 **prosecuting Higgins at the time and was seeking other**
 11 **victims to support that prosecution and, consequently,**
 12 **P10 was approached in respect of that, amongst a number**
 13 **of other students.**
 14 Q. Your paragraph 24, still focusing on Higgins. Did two
 15 further pupils make allegations against Higgins as part
 16 of Operation Jaguar?
 17 **A. Yes, they did.**
 18 Q. Was he charged, but did the Crown Prosecution Service
 19 determine that the case should be discontinued, despite
 20 charge?
 21 **A. Yes. He was charged in respect of two of the students,**
 22 **P10 -- I'd have to check this -- and another. The third**
 23 **student, albeit he provided us with evidence prior to**
 24 **charge --**
 25 Q. P11 and 12, I think they were.

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1 **A. Yes, I will just check. So, yes. P11 we had obtained**
 2 **evidence from him, but pre charge he'd felt unable to go**
 3 **ahead with that. So Higgins had been charged in respect**
 4 **of P10 and P12.**
 5 Q. P10 and P12?
 6 **A. Yes. P10 and P12.**
 7 Q. Right.
 8 **A. So he was charged in respect of P10 and P12. Then, for**
 9 **reasons I won't go into, P12 then withdrew from -- only**
 10 **because it may identify him. P12 then withdrew from the**
 11 **prosecution, leaving us with P10, the charges of P10,**
 12 **and the Crown Prosecution Service made the decision --**
 13 Q. The concern there was about potential inconsistencies?
 14 **A. Yes, because he'd already been approached under**
 15 **Cleopatra and had provided an account to a detective in**
 16 **Cleopatra, and unfortunately, that account varied in**
 17 **some details.**
 18 Q. It is one of the challenges that you face?
 19 **A. It is one of the challenges, yes.**
 20 Q. Paragraph 26, then, please. That relates, I think, to
 21 P13.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. He alleged sexual abuse against an unknown teacher?
 24 **A. Correct.**
 25 Q. He was interviewed and said that he was sexually abused

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1 by an unknown teacher and on three occasions that same
 2 unknown member of staff had directed him to take boys to
 3 Roderick Hilton?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Did he say on two occasions he did that and prevented
 6 anything happening, but on the third he left the boy
 7 there?
 8 **A. That's correct.**
 9 Q. He was unable to name the boys and was paid £30, he
 10 said?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Did P13 say that a complaint was made at the time that
 13 he was interviewed by the police, but he didn't mention
 14 the teacher due to threats?
 15 **A. That's correct.**
 16 Q. You say that there was insufficient information to trace
 17 the teacher and P13 didn't wish to support
 18 a prosecution?
 19 **A. No, he was quite adamant about that.**
 20 Q. I think you have since been made aware of a document,
 21 which has been brought to your attention, which relates
 22 to a report from Knowl View confirming the involvement
 23 of that individual in a successful prosecution against
 24 Roderick Hilton for indecency offences --
 25 **A. That's correct.**

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1 Q. -- relating to two individuals, P51 and P52. It is
 2 a document that we have seen. I am not going to put it
 3 up on the screen, but you may remember, chair and panel,
 4 that we saw that, I think, during the course of
 5 the opening statement. It was a document written by the
 6 then headmaster Terence Hopwood relating to the weekend
 7 of 28 and 29 January 1984, and the document itself
 8 I think was dated February 1984 and we know that Hilton
 9 was convicted and sentenced of indecent assault in
 10 relation to this event on one of the boys he interfered
 11 with in March 1984. You have seen that?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. You will remember from the report, which I am also aware
 14 that you have seen, according to the prosecutor the boys
 15 were paid 50p each by Hilton -- the boy, or one of
 16 the boys who was bringing the others to him, was paid
 17 50p to bring the boys to him on the first occasion, and
 18 was it clear from the record that you saw that there had
 19 been an incident with a second boy who had been brought
 20 to Hilton as well?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Do you remember that?
 23 **A. Yes, I believe so.**
 24 Q. But the teacher, just to remind us, who was mentioned as
 25 having been a procurer --

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1 **A. No.**
 2 Q. No trace?
 3 **A. No. He just was unable to provide us with -- no detail**
 4 **whatsoever.**
 5 Q. No name or --
 6 **A. No.**
 7 Q. Paragraph 30. This relates to another individual, P16,
 8 who had been named by another pupil as having been
 9 subject of abuse at Knowl View.
 10 **A. Mmm.**
 11 Q. Is it right P16 didn't wish to make any reports of
 12 physical or sexual abuse?
 13 **A. That's correct.**
 14 Q. He said that he was in a consensual sexual relationship
 15 with Hilton?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Which he described as "experimental"?
 18 **A. Yes, he did.**
 19 Q. So he wouldn't support a prosecution?
 20 **A. No.**
 21 Q. In your professional judgment, did that, just that story
 22 alone, raise a number of issues, not least the fact that
 23 Hilton was able to carry on a relationship with
 24 a schoolboy?
 25 **A. Yes. My recollection is there was a significant**

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1 **difference in age between those two. P16 was young at**
 2 **the time that this happened, and I can't recall Hilton's**
 3 **age but there was a disparity in terms of age which**
 4 **wouldn't usually lend itself -- there is a term of**
 5 **"experimental" within this environment, but that**
 6 **absolutely wouldn't lend itself to that. But he --**
 7 **that's how he chose --**
 8 Q. Hilton was 19 in 1984, he was 25/26 in 1990.
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. But this boy, you're saying, was, whenever the
 11 allegations arise, there was a discrepancy, an age
 12 discrepancy --
 13 **A. Yes, there was.**
 14 Q. -- and an appreciable one, between the two?
 15 **A. I would have to check, Mr Altman, to be very precise**
 16 **about the age, but my recollection is, I think he was**
 17 **certainly under 14 at the time.**
 18 Q. Do you remember what year we are talking about?
 19 **A. No, I'm afraid -- I can certainly get that information.**
 20 Q. Paragraph 38. This was P22, interviewed following
 21 allegations having been made against him by another
 22 pupil.
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. During the course of that interview, did P22 disclose to
 25 you that he had been raped in excess, he said, of 60

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1 occasions by Hilton?
 2 **A. That's correct.**
 3 Q. And had been subject to a physical assault by an unknown
 4 member of staff?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Were P22's allegations subject to detailed review by the
 7 CPS?
 8 **A. They were.**
 9 Q. Paragraph 39. Was P22 regarded as appearing to be
 10 a credible witness, but did the CPS consider that his
 11 allegations required corroboration?
 12 **A. That's correct.**
 13 Q. Not in a technical sense --
 14 **A. No.**
 15 Q. -- but there was no supporting evidence to support the
 16 correctness of his allegations. Is that what they were
 17 saying?
 18 **A. Yes, that's exactly what they were saying.**
 19 Q. Also, I think, what was highlighted is, he had not given
 20 an account when making previous allegations of what he
 21 was telling you?
 22 **A. Yes. I think --**
 23 Q. Is that what it comes to?
 24 **A. I think the CPS felt, because there had been a number of**
 25 **investigations in relation to Hilton through the**

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1 **periods, that it would have -- it wouldn't have been**
 2 **unreasonable that P22 would have raised this at the time**
 3 **of those previous investigations.**
 4 Q. Are they saying that he never came forward or were they
 5 saying that he made other allegations but didn't include
 6 Hilton amongst them?
 7 **A. No, I think they were saying that he never came forward**
 8 **previously.**
 9 Q. Paragraph 44, please. Another individual, P27,
 10 identified as a possible victim from Valerie Mellor's
 11 appendix to her report.
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Spoken to by police in September 2014; is that correct?
 14 **A. That's correct.**
 15 Q. Did he say that he had engaged in sexual activity
 16 instigated by another pupil, but that pupil, was he
 17 seen, the one who is alleged to have instigated it, but
 18 did he deny instigating any sexual activity?
 19 **A. He did.**
 20 Q. Did P27 also say that after leaving Knowl View an
 21 unknown male told him that he could make some money at
 22 the public toilets opposite the bus stop. Are those the
 23 ones at Smith Street, the ones opposite the bus stop?
 24 **A. I'm afraid I couldn't answer that.**
 25 Q. He subsequently made regular visits there?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. But was unable to provide descriptions of any men who
 3 had abused him there. I think a file was sent up to the
 4 CPS. Is that correct?
 5 **A. That's correct.**
 6 Q. But was a decision made that no further action would be
 7 taken because of the rule of doli incapax?
 8 **A. Yes, that related to the allegation against the student.**
 9 **Unfortunately, he could just give us no information**
 10 **about any of the men who abused him for us to take that**
 11 **forward.**
 12 Q. So two different allegations?
 13 **A. Two different.**
 14 Q. One was excluded because of the rule we have discussed;
 15 the other one because of the failure of identification
 16 of a defendant?
 17 **A. Yes, just no detail, no.**
 18 Q. Was it implicit from what P27 was telling you that the
 19 exploitation of him at the public toilets in Rochdale
 20 was going on after Valerie Mellor had reported
 21 in February 1992? Are you able to help us with the
 22 dates that he was making those allegations against
 23 unknown adults?
 24 **A. No -- I will be able to help you, Mr Altman, but I will**
 25 **have to return to the file to get that.**

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1 Q. Maybe that's another one that you can mark up, if you
 2 would, just to let us know. Thank you.
 3 Your paragraph 48. Whilst being interviewed
 4 following allegations being made against him by another
 5 pupil, the one in fact that you have just told us about,
 6 P27, did P31 disclose allegations of sexual abuse by
 7 a male member of staff, S32, and an adult male
 8 unconnected with Knowl View, but this one by the name of
 9 Anthony Whitehead?
 10 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 11 Q. Whilst he was a pupil at Knowl View?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Now, Whitehead, can you confirm, was not a member of
 14 staff at Knowl View?
 15 **A. No, he was not.**
 16 Q. He was totally unconnected with Knowl View?
 17 **A. Yes, he was.**
 18 Q. But he was somebody P31 had met whilst he was at school?
 19 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 20 Q. Can you confirm that this year, 2017, Whitehead was
 21 convicted in respect of those allegations and sentenced
 22 to nine years' imprisonment?
 23 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 24 Q. Was it discovered that Whitehead had a previous
 25 conviction for a similar matter?

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1 **A. He did.**
 2 Q. Was that similar matter admitted in the trial of
 3 Whitehead this year as evidence of bad character?
 4 **A. It was.**
 5 Q. So was this, again, one of those situations where
 6 a query arises how it was that Whitehead was able to
 7 have access to and abuse P31 whilst P31 was a resident
 8 at Knowl View School?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Your paragraph 52, please. Those are all of
 11 the Knowl View allegations, selective allegations,
 12 I wanted to go through, but can I ask you a couple of
 13 other things, please. Paragraph 52. Can you confirm
 14 that in June 2016 the police were contacted by a woman
 15 giving a false name --
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Did he tell you it was a false name or you found out it
 18 was a false name?
 19 **A. I think she told us it was a false name.**
 20 Q. Did she tell you she was the partner of P33?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Whom she described as extremely vulnerable and suffering
 23 post-traumatic stress?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Did she tell you that he was in no way fit to speak to

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1 the police but that he had disclosed that he suffered
 2 abuse at Knowl View, but would not give any detail as to
 3 whether it was physical or sexual?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Did she inform you that he said one individual whom you
 6 ciphered as O11 was involved, and O1, Cyril Smith,
 7 attended the school?
 8 **A. Yes, she did.**
 9 Q. Did she further tell you that he, in other words, the
 10 person on whose behalf she was calling, P33, had
 11 described children committing suicide and having access
 12 to ropes and razor blades and the children had
 13 responsibility for cutting down the bodies and placing
 14 them in body bags?
 15 **A. She did.**
 16 Q. Was any of that ever confirmed?
 17 **A. No.**
 18 Q. No other witness has described anything quite like that?
 19 **A. No, nothing.**
 20 Q. On another matter, while we have it in mind, we do know,
 21 as a matter of public record, that one former pupil did
 22 die from a drugs overdose, I think hours within his
 23 20th birthday.
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Not treated as suicide, I emphasise. Did you know about

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1 that?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Can we then, please, against everything we have gone
 4 through, look at some outcomes from the investigations.
 5 Your paragraph 68, Knowl View outcomes. By June 2015,
 6 following the completion of your investigations, had 15
 7 victims had their cases submitted to the Crown
 8 Prosecution Service for a decision whether to prosecute
 9 or not?
 10 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 11 Q. In 13 cases, did the victim not wish to proceed or not
 12 participate in the investigation?
 13 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 14 Q. Did four of allegations relate to persons who were dead
 15 or could not be identified?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. One allegation, which was an allegation of common
 18 assault, that was time barred?
 19 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 20 Q. Because it can only be tried in the magistrates' court
 21 and therefore has to be instituted within six months?
 22 **A. Six months, yes.**
 23 Q. The prosecution against Higgins was discontinued -- you
 24 have already told us about that -- on the advice of
 25 the CPS for the reasons given.

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. And in respect of Anthony Whitehead, who was not
 3 involved or connected to Knowl View, he was prosecuted,
 4 convicted this year and is serving nine years'
 5 imprisonment?
 6 **A. Correct.**
 7 Q. Those are the outcomes.
 8 Challenges, your paragraphs 54 to 57. You can
 9 probably reel them off automatically, I would have
 10 thought. What are the difficulties?
 11 **A. Well, obviously -- sorry.**
 12 Q. No, no. It occurred to me, for anybody listening,
 13 difficulties/challenges in investigating allegations of
 14 non-recent child sexual abuse?
 15 **A. Yes. Clearly, investigations are built around a number**
 16 **of strands, so they are often forensic, witness**
 17 **evidence, telephony plays a big part for us now in terms**
 18 **of serious investigations.**
 19 Q. By which you mean?
 20 **A. Telephone evidence, so where there's been contact**
 21 **between different people and where they are located or**
 22 **what that contact constitutes. CCTV is a big part of**
 23 **our investigative strategy now, and with non-recent**
 24 **allegations, that is all gone. If it existed at all at**
 25 **the time, it's certainly gone. You know, CCTV,**

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1 **telephony, will be gone within months, in some cases**
 2 **within weeks.**
 3 **So realistically, what we then rely on entirely is**
 4 **the account of the victims and any witnesses that come**
 5 **forward, which can be problematic, in addition because**
 6 **the passage of time can really affect their recollection**
 7 **of what happened. You know, we're talking in some cases**
 8 **here 30-plus years ago, when people are trying to recall**
 9 **the detail of what's happened, and that details needs to**
 10 **be extensive to get us beyond reasonable doubt when we**
 11 **move into a criminal court case.**
 12 Q. We have one example of inconsistent accounts, where
 13 nobody is being critical of the individual but that's
 14 one of the problems of having simply human beings to
 15 rely upon rather than other supportive evidence?
 16 **A. Absolutely. Absolutely. I think it is true to say as**
 17 **well that our criminal courts and our juries have become**
 18 **used to seeing more than simply witnesses stand up in**
 19 **the evidence box as well. The CPS absolutely take that**
 20 **into account when making their decisions and they do**
 21 **consider that and more weight is put upon witness**
 22 **accounts when considering these cases and they are**
 23 **generally -- of course, it is a matter for them -- more**
 24 **forgiving of inconsistencies often in the decisions that**
 25 **they make. What can also cause problems, and I do talk**

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1 about it in my statement, is what is called collusion,
 2 so that often happens where social media and media are
 3 involved and where what we are not able to show is that
 4 a witness stands entirely alone in the account that they
 5 give. So the involvement that I have certainly had with
 6 successful prosecutions previously, witnesses have been
 7 able to stand individually in the witness box and
 8 provide extremely similar accounts, and sometimes that's
 9 accounts of flats that they may be in, it's not
 10 necessarily the act itself, but they may have stood --
 11 been into an offender's flat and observed something in
 12 there that another victim then corroborates when stood
 13 up there, and that's really powerful evidence. But
 14 where that doesn't exist or where there's an inference
 15 that victims have talked to each other, perhaps entirely
 16 innocently, then that allows an opening for the defence
 17 to very legitimately say that stories don't stand alone
 18 in terms of the accounts that have been given.

19 Q. Which is obviously an important feature of cases like
 20 this.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Of course it is a feature in multiple complaints?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. In relation to the same alleged offender. But you can
 25 have that kind of collusion. You can also have

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1 contamination --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- which is slightly different, because it is not
 4 a question, would you agree, of individuals speaking to
 5 each other and picking up information --

6 A. Absolutely.

7 Q. -- which they would have had otherwise, but it is
 8 contamination perhaps from a third party source of
 9 information which perhaps is in the media or
 10 elsewhere --

11 A. Very much so.

12 Q. -- which people pick up on and use perhaps to their
 13 advantage?

14 A. Very much so. I touched on that in respect of trawling
 15 previously. You know, and standing and providing
 16 information to -- through the media, that can then very
 17 much come back later on in any prosecution case where it
 18 can be said that that information was already provided
 19 to the victim.

20 Q. So all of these things are important features, but they
 21 present challenges, real challenges --

22 A. Real challenges.

23 Q. -- not only to police, but to CPS as well --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- in making decisions around cases like these?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. On the other side of the particular coin these days --
 3 it wouldn't have existed not very many years ago, but
 4 these days, the prosecution can rely upon evidence of
 5 bad character if it exists?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Subject to a judge ruling its admissibility?

8 A. Yes, absolutely, which is featured again in -- certainly
 9 in Whitehead's prosecution. That featured very
 10 strongly, the similar fact in terms of what he'd
 11 previously been convicted of was very powerful.

12 Q. Absolutely. And also something I don't think you do
 13 mention, but hearsay?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Which was something that was not often admitted at
 16 common law but now, since the 2003 Criminal Justice Act,
 17 may be admitted --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- in certain circumstances and also it is a powerful
 20 weapon in the armoury of the prosecutor as much as bad
 21 character evidence in appropriate cases?

22 A. Yes, absolutely.

23 Q. So those are the challenges, and a couple of
 24 the weapons, as I call them, which the prosecutor has
 25 these days.

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1 Can we then move to the second part, please, of
 2 Operation Jaguar, which was Cyril Smith. You deal with
 3 it at your paragraphs 70 and 71. As you told us
 4 earlier, you took an account from each witness who
 5 wished to give an account in respect of Smith?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But I think -- have I understood this correctly -- that
 8 you didn't do so where there was a previous
 9 well-documented account?

10 A. Yes. So certain cases, particularly relating to
 11 Cambridge House, there were already evidential
 12 statements in place, as I'm sure the inquiry has heard,
 13 those had moved through the justice system. So in terms
 14 of those specific cases, I made the decision not to
 15 revisit those, but I did revisit all newer cases to
 16 ensure that we had an evidential account available to
 17 us.

18 Q. I'm not going to go through them all in the way that
 19 I did before, but let's see if we can summarise them
 20 this way: did some of the allegations have similarity to
 21 those that were alleged in the course of the original
 22 Lancashire investigation in that they related to
 23 indecent touching, indecent assault?

24 A. Yes, some of them did, yes.

25 Q. Were other accounts of allegations that were serious,

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1 more serious, perhaps, some might say, than touching,
 2 although I am not seeking to trivialise anything that
 3 the complainants say happened to them --
 4 **A. Of course.**
 5 Q. But these were allegations of rape?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. As well as forced oral sex?
 8 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 9 Q. Did some of the accounts involve allegations that staff
 10 at Knowl View had been party to sexual abuse?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. So staff themselves at Knowl View were party to sexual
 13 abuse. Were they investigated?
 14 **A. Yes, they were. Wherever there was somebody else**
 15 **involved who may potentially still be alive, those were**
 16 **subject to a full investigation.**
 17 Q. These were allegations of staff actually bringing
 18 children to Smith?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. Or were part of the abuse themselves. That was limited
 21 to Knowl View -- this isn't Cambridge House, but
 22 Knowl View?
 23 **A. In this -- in Jaguar, there is another school involved,**
 24 **where staff were alleged to be involved, actively**
 25 **involved, in the abuse. In Knowl View, the allegations**

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1 **were primarily that staff had taken boys to Smith.**
 2 Q. Before I forget, where I came to the other accounts of
 3 abuse relating to allegations of rape or forced oral
 4 sex, that included one female as well?
 5 **A. Yes, it did.**
 6 Q. An alleged female victim?
 7 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 8 Q. Of Smith?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Challenges. The same as before?
 11 **A. Yes. Exactly the same as before. And, in addition,**
 12 **Smith being dead, obviously. A big part of any**
 13 **investigation is, of course, interviewing the suspect,**
 14 **providing them with the opportunity to provide alibi**
 15 **evidence or any evidence that we can subsequently**
 16 **investigate, and we didn't have that opportunity here.**
 17 Q. Of course, had he been alive, you would have interviewed
 18 him?
 19 **A. Of course.**
 20 Q. Without question?
 21 **A. Of course.**
 22 Q. Under caution?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. And arrested him, presumably?
 25 **A. Well, not necessarily, because of the necessity for**

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1 **grounds to arrest. So I suspect in this case --**
 2 Q. Do you not think you would have had grounds to arrest
 3 him?
 4 **A. Well, it is not -- unfortunately, the changes in the law**
 5 **mean that we now have to have -- it is not simply -- we**
 6 **don't have to have reasonable cause to suspect. There**
 7 **must be a necessity to arrest. So that necessity may be**
 8 **the securing of immediate evidence available. So in**
 9 **other cases in Jaguar, we have invited people in and**
 10 **under caution questioned them.**
 11 **Of course, if there is a necessity to secure**
 12 **evidence, which may be through the search of a premises,**
 13 **which, actually, that very likely would have been**
 14 **necessary, given the allegations that we have had,**
 15 **particularly around photographs having been taken.**
 16 **So that decision is taken on a case-by-case basis**
 17 **depending -- he would certainly have been interviewed**
 18 **under caution and afforded his rights according to the**
 19 **Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Whether I would have**
 20 **arrested him would have depended upon the reflection of**
 21 **the allegations that were made and whether I had an**
 22 **immediate necessity to secure evidence.**
 23 Q. So you don't rule it out and you don't rule it in?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. You mentioned photographs?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Was there an allegation here that photographs had been
 3 taken --
 4 **A. Yes, there was.**
 5 Q. -- in the course of some of these offences? By Smith,
 6 on behalf of Smith or --
 7 **A. By another.**
 8 Q. But in his presence?
 9 **A. In his presence.**
 10 Q. Of the acts?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Can we then finally look at the outcomes in relation to
 13 part 2, and that's your final paragraph, 94. Were five
 14 files submitted to the CPS concerning living and
 15 identified people said to have offended with Smith?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. So you weren't looking at Smith, but you were looking at
 18 those who were alleged to have been jointly responsible
 19 with Smith, either as principals, presumably, or as
 20 secondary parties?
 21 **A. Correct.**
 22 Q. All of which resulted in no further action?
 23 **A. That's right, yes.**
 24 Q. Can you say why, in a word or two, what the result --
 25 why no further action resulted?

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1 **A. It varied, Mr Altman. It depended on different cases.**
2 **So there was not one case. So I could run you through**
3 **each of the ones, if you felt that was necessary, and**
4 **give you my view of what the rationale was. It of**
5 **course is a decision for the CPS, and it is their**
6 **rationale, but there was no single reason.**
7 Q. There was no single reason?
8 **A. No.**
9 Q. But each case file was looked at --
10 **A. Yes.**
11 Q. -- separately and individually?
12 **A. Individually, yes.**
13 Q. Were you content that the CPS looked at each
14 individually?
15 **A. Yes.**
16 Q. And afforded it the serious which each deserved?
17 **A. Absolutely.**
18 Q. And came to a decision?
19 **A. Yes, I was, yes.**
20 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much, Chief Inspector. Those are
21 all the questions I need to ask. I will ask the chair
22 and the panel if they have any questions of you.
23 Questions from THE PANEL
24 MS SHARPLING: Thank you very much. Just a couple of
25 questions, perhaps of a more general nature from me, if

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1 I may.
2 Does Greater Manchester Police have a local policy
3 or was there a national policy about dealing with
4 situations when the perpetrator has in fact died and
5 therefore no prosecution can therefore take place?
6 **A. I don't think there's any set policy, and I'm pretty**
7 **sure there's not a national policy. In**
8 **Greater Manchester, from Jaguar's perspective, the**
9 **decision was taken that -- I took the decision that**
10 **I wanted to evidentially document Cyril Smith's -- the**
11 **allegations against Cyril Smith so that we -- mainly,**
12 **I knew obviously we wouldn't progress to a prosecution**
13 **but I wanted those victims to feel they had had the**
14 **opportunity to provide a full and evidential account.**
15 **But also that allowed us the opportunity to look through**
16 **that to establish if any further criminal offences had**
17 **occurred. Greater Manchester Police's position in**
18 **respect of Jaguar was that we would investigate those**
19 **people who may still be living. The investigation would**
20 **not be into Smith's offences. So where he offended**
21 **alone, we did not conduct any further investigation into**
22 **those offences, where it was clear that he was on his**
23 **own and there was nobody else who was culpable for**
24 **those.**
25 MS SHARPLING: That's helpful. The second, unrelated,

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1 question: perhaps you could help us with what sort of
2 training police officers get in relation to dealing with
3 these sorts of cases, where the interview of vulnerable
4 witnesses is an inevitable consequence of
5 the investigation?
6 **A. Officers in terms of interviewing victims who are**
7 **vulnerable by definition of section 16/17 are specially**
8 **trained in order to conduct those investigations, so**
9 **that would be where there was a child or where there's**
10 **other vulnerabilities involved or where sexual offences**
11 **have been alleged, and we would conduct those interviews**
12 **to achieve best evidence, which means we would do that**
13 **via a video interview process and our officers are**
14 **specially trained in order to undertake those and no**
15 **officers who aren't specially trained can undertake**
16 **those interviews.**
17 **In terms of specialist training around dealing with**
18 **victims of sexual abuse, our Public Protection Division**
19 **has specially trained officers in terms of those, and**
20 **I understand there is a qualification around that.**
21 **My officers aren't trained as child sexual abuse**
22 **investigators because we work in a major incident team**
23 **which is traditionally a homicide investigation, but**
24 **they're all extremely experienced and we benefited from**
25 **having other resources available to us who could provide**

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1 **us with advice and guidance.**
2 MS SHARPLING: Thank you very much.
3 **A. Thank you.**
4 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much for coming.
5 **A. Thank you.**
6 MR ALTMAN: Thank you for your time.
7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Jones.
8 **A. Thank you, chair.**
9 **(The witness withdrew)**
10 MR ALTMAN: Chair, that, I'm afraid, is all we have today,
11 and I am sure you're devastated. But plenty more next
12 week with witnesses from the council. So a very full
13 week next week.
14 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Thanks to everyone for their
15 attendance this week and their contributions, and we
16 will reconvene on Monday. Thank you.
17 (12.43 pm)
18 (The hearing was adjourned to
19 Monday, 16 October 2017 at 10.30 am)
20
21
22 I N D E X
23
24 MR ALLAN LAWRENCE BUCKLEY (sworn)1
25

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