

<p>1 Monday, 16 October 2017 2 (10.30 am) 3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, Mr Altman. Good morning to 4 everyone here, and welcome to Day 6 of this hearing. 5 MR ALTMAN: Chair, as you can see on the screen, the first 6 witness -- can you hear us? -- chair, the first witness 7 this morning is A7, but I'm not sure that the link is 8 working because I'm not sure that they can hear us. 9 Apparently, they are reconnecting. Can the witness 10 please be sworn or affirmed, as the case may be. 11 WITNESS A7 (affirmed) 12 Examination by MR ALTMAN 13 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much. For the purposes of 14 the proceedings this morning, you will be known as A7. 15 All right? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Thank you. As a result of your home life, when you were 18 young, were you sent to Knowl View School in 19 around February 1969? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. How old were you in February 1969? 22 A. Ten. 23 Q. I think, having spent some time at Knowl View, you were 24 transferred from there to another children's home, in 25 around 1973; is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 Q. I think you recalled when you made a statement last 2 month that each dormitory had 12 beds; is that correct? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. And attached to each dormitory there were two private 5 rooms for staff or boys? 6 A. Boys. 7 Q. When you arrived, were you the youngest or one of 8 the youngest? 9 A. I was the youngest. 10 Q. I think you remembered being told that the school could 11 hold 48 pupils; is that right? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. But there were fewer than that when you arrived? 14 A. There was 13 of us. 15 Q. In the dormitory which you occupied when you arrived, 16 were there boys who were obviously, because you were the 17 youngest, older than you? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Far older or just a little older? 20 A. Some four/five years older than me. 21 Q. Again I'm looking at your statement. You say you slept 22 in Nirvana until around 1973, when you were transferred 23 to other homes. But when you went back there for your 24 second stint, which you thought was around 1974, you 25 went into a private bedroom; is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Then you were sent to, I think, yet another home, and 3 then an assessment centre, but after that, did you 4 return to Knowl View once again? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Where you remained until around 1974? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. How old were you when you left? 9 A. Sixteen. 10 Q. Let me ask you a little about Knowl View School when you 11 first arrived. Do you remember that there were 12 dormitories where boys would sleep? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Did they have names that you particularly recalled? 15 A. Bliss, Nirvana, Valhalla and Lilliput. 16 Q. Certainly three of the four names were named after 17 heaven, different names for heaven? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Lilliput, was that for younger boys at that time? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. We know that the dormitories had different names later 22 on. The senior dormitories were Norden and Egerton and 23 the junior dormitories were Bamford and Ashworth. Were 24 you there when they changed the names? 25 A. No. No, I was not.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. That was a private bedroom attached to the dormitory you 3 remembered being called Nirvana? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. When you got there, was the place completely built or 6 was it still in the throes of being built? 7 A. They were still building it. 8 Q. What about classrooms for teaching? Were the classrooms 9 built or were they not yet fully completed? 10 A. No, they wasn't completed. 11 Q. Was there, as you recall it now, a teaching programme? 12 A. No. 13 Q. Because there was no teaching, did that leave you and 14 other boys time in which to fill your time? 15 A. Yes. There was no -- 16 Q. Sorry, there was ...? 17 A. There was no curriculum at all. You just did as you 18 want. 19 Q. And what did you do to fill your time? 20 A. Rambling in the school fields. There was nothing to do. 21 Q. How would you describe such teaching as there was at the 22 time when you were there? 23 A. There was no teaching. 24 Q. Was there a register for classes? 25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

1 Q. I am just looking at what you have said at your
 2 paragraph 26, that the teaching was mostly inadequate or
 3 non-existent. Those are your words?
 4 **A. That's correct.**
 5 Q. There was no register for classes, you went or you
 6 didn't, and the classroom arrangements were "quite
 7 chaotic". Is that how you remembered it?
 8 **A. That's correct.**
 9 Q. But you said that there were occasional snatches of good
 10 teaching.
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. What kind of snatches of good teaching do you remember
 13 there being?
 14 **A. The metalwork teacher, he was good; the art teacher, he**
 15 **was good. But these people did not stay.**
 16 Q. You mean the good people?
 17 **A. They left.**
 18 Q. The good people left?
 19 **A. The good people left straight away.**
 20 Q. I am going to come back to things that happened to you
 21 when you were at Knowl View, but a little more, please,
 22 from you about Knowl View. Was the building a secure
 23 building?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. In other words, could people come and go as they

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1 pleased?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. What about boys? Could they just leave the premises, as
 4 and when they wanted to?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. And the doors, the exits from the school, were they
 7 locked or not locked?
 8 **A. Not locked.**
 9 Q. Cyril Smith, somebody I am going to have to ask you
 10 about: did he come and go as he pleased?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Do you remember whether he had a key to the premises?
 13 **A. Didn't need keys.**
 14 Q. Because the doors were mostly unlocked?
 15 **A. Correct.**
 16 Q. And boys, would they regularly leave school?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. If they wanted to get anywhere of interest, would it be
 19 far for them to go?
 20 **A. Rochdale.**
 21 Q. How far was Rochdale if you were walking it from
 22 Knowl View?
 23 **A. Four or five miles.**
 24 Q. Because of it, did boys occasionally get into trouble in
 25 town?

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1 **A. Yes. Yes.**
 2 Q. What kind of trouble?
 3 **A. Just being mischievous.**
 4 Q. You remembered weekends when you often went on camping
 5 trips or youth hostelling. What was the name of
 6 the teacher who would run those?
 7 **A. David Higgins.**
 8 Q. It is him I want to ask you about, please, now, and we
 9 have named him because we can name him. I think you
 10 recall that he arrived just as Lilliput was being
 11 finished; yes?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. You thought he was put in charge of it, and this was
 14 around 10 to 12 months after you first arrived.
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. What sort of things would David Higgins do, as far as
 17 you were concerned?
 18 **A. He was an outdoor person, would take us camping and**
 19 **youth hostelling. That was it, really.**
 20 Q. My question, and it is my fault, what I really want to
 21 ask you is whether he sexually touched you or assaulted
 22 you?
 23 **A. He was always molesting me.**
 24 Q. What sort of things would he do?
 25 **A. Put his hands in my sleeping bag, putting his hands in**

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1 **my bed, he would watch me shower, tell me how to**
 2 **masturbate in the shower. At the time, I was only**
 3 **ten years old. I didn't know what masturbation was.**
 4 **I just thought I was washing myself.**
 5 Q. When he, for example, put his hand in your sleeping bag,
 6 and that sort of thing, did he touch you?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Touch you in your private area?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Presumably, that sort of thing would happen when you
 11 were on these camping trips?
 12 **A. Not just camping trips. When he was on night watch as**
 13 **well, fire watch.**
 14 Q. What would happen then?
 15 **A. Well, then he'd come into the dormitory then.**
 16 Q. And do what?
 17 **A. To make sure -- he used to say make sure I'm not wetting**
 18 **myself.**
 19 Q. What would he do?
 20 **A. It was just that he'd put his hands in and feel me in my**
 21 **bed, play with me.**
 22 Q. And watching you take showers, was that a regular
 23 occurrence that he would do?
 24 **A. Yes, yes.**
 25 Q. Would he touch you inside the showers as well?

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1 **A. No.**
 2 Q. Did he ever take photographs?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Of what?
 5 **A. Pardon?**
 6 Q. What would he take photos of?
 7 **A. Me, in the shower.**
 8 Q. Naked, presumably?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Would he dry you with a towel when your shower was
 11 finished?
 12 **A. No.**
 13 Q. You remembered that in or around 1971, Higgins left
 14 Knowl View very suddenly. Do you remember that?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Did he do anything to you about a week before he left?
 17 Did he do something to you in his room?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. What do you remember him doing?
 20 **A. I remember him being on top of me, I could feel his**
 21 **dirty, stubbly beard on me face. He was trying to kiss**
 22 **me and then my mind goes blank. All I can remember is**
 23 **running down the corridor. Going too far.**
 24 Q. Do you remember it was a week after that that the police
 25 turned up -- yes? --

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. -- and took him away? Mr Turner was the headmaster at
 3 that time; is that right?
 4 **A. That's right.**
 5 Q. I don't want any names at all, please. Remember that.
 6 You may not know this, but did a rumour go around that
 7 Higgins had raped a boy -- yes or no? Did a rumour go
 8 around that Higgins had raped a boy?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Although a name is given, our cipher for the boy is
 11 B201.
 12 Now I want to ask you, please -- can you hear me?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. I want to ask you now about Cyril Smith. I think you
 15 said a little earlier that, in effect, he was a regular
 16 visitor to the school?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Obviously, he was distinctive, because he was a big man
 19 and he was clearly regarded as being important; is that
 20 right?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. I think you say -- well, in fact you do say -- he was
 23 treated like royalty whenever he visited. Is that your
 24 recollection?
 25 **A. Yes, it is.**

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1 Q. You remember the first time you saw him was on
 2 a Christmas Day at Knowl View, because he came for
 3 Christmas dinner?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. On one occasion, do you remember being called into the
 6 staff room when Cyril Smith was there and he screamed
 7 and shouted at you? Do you remember that?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Do you remember why he screamed and shouted at you?
 10 **A. No idea.**
 11 Q. But you remember crying, because you didn't know what
 12 was going on?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Then did he take you onto his knee?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. As he did so, what did he do? What did he make you do?
 17 **A. He put my hand on his penis.**
 18 Q. He put your hand on his penis?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. Was that outside his trousers or inside his trousers?
 21 **A. Outside.**
 22 Q. Was his penis exposed or was his penis within his
 23 trousers?
 24 **A. Within his trousers.**
 25 Q. You remembered that, as it seemed to you then, that

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1 happened for about 20 seconds. Then a member of staff
 2 by the name of Dunkley came in through the staff room
 3 door. He saw you on Smith's knee and he had a nickname
 4 for you and he asked, "Are you okay, [A7]?" Do you
 5 remember that?
 6 **A. That's right, yes.**
 7 Q. You were able to make a run for it when that staff
 8 member came into the room. The headmaster, Mr Turner,
 9 did he somehow get to know what had happened?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. Had you told him or had somebody else told him?
 12 **A. I'm not sure whether Mr Dunkley told him or not.**
 13 Q. Did you tell him?
 14 **A. I can't remember.**
 15 Q. You can't remember?
 16 **A. I don't think so.**
 17 Q. You don't think so. Whoever it was or however it was
 18 that Mr Turner came to find out about what had happened
 19 with Smith and you on that day, was Mr Turner furious
 20 with you about it?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Is that your recollection?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. Do you remember him accusing of you of trying to do
 25 something?

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1 **A. Trying to say I was ruining the man's career.**
 2 Q. Cyril Smith?
 3 **A. I did not know what "career" meant then. I was only**
 4 **10-year old. I did not know what the word meant.**
 5 Q. How did Mr Turner demonstrate his anger towards you?
 6 Did he punish you?
 7 **A. Yes, he spanked me.**
 8 Q. Where did he spank you?
 9 **A. On the backside.**
 10 Q. Obviously, forgive me, it was my question, but in what
 11 part of the school and who was watching?
 12 **A. In the gymnasium. There were quite a few boys watching.**
 13 Q. Just yes or no: while you were at Knowl View, were you
 14 sexually assaulted by other older boys? I don't want
 15 any names, but other older boys?
 16 **A. Yes. Yes, I was.**
 17 Q. You remembered they could be violent to you and hurt
 18 you; is that right?
 19 **A. Yes. Yes.**
 20 Q. That they would assault you in a group, and that
 21 included masturbating over you; is that right?
 22 **A. Yes. That's right.**
 23 Q. Would that happen just in school or also outside the
 24 school?
 25 **A. Outside the school as well.**

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1 Q. Was there a female teacher also at the school who
 2 sexually abused you in any way, or a housekeeper?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. What did she do?
 5 **A. She taught me how to French kiss and love bites. She**
 6 **used to bath me, buy me new clothes. Give me gifts and**
 7 **things like that.**
 8 Q. Moving on, please, did you receive a visit from Greater
 9 Manchester Police in around the late '90s?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. As a result of that approach by them, did you write
 12 letters to the police?
 13 **A. I can't remember writing the letters. The police wrote**
 14 **to me.**
 15 Q. Yes.
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Did you give them not only some detail about the things
 18 that had happened to you, but did you give them a list
 19 of other boys who you remembered being involved with
 20 Higgins in the way that you had been?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. I think you also telephoned the police, and did they
 23 invite you to go and see them?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Did you see them?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Do you remember if you made a statement to the police
 3 officers that you saw?
 4 **A. I don't remember making the statements. All they wanted**
 5 **to know about was David Higgins. They didn't want to**
 6 **know about anything else.**
 7 Q. Some years later, you saw Simon Danczuk on television
 8 talking about Cyril Smith and abuse at Knowl View in the
 9 '80s and '90s, and as a result, did you phone up
 10 Simon Danczuk in order to tell him what had happened
 11 during your time at the school?
 12 **A. Yes, I did.**
 13 Q. Did you actually go and see him in his office?
 14 **A. Yes, I did.**
 15 Q. Then do you remember in 2014, so only a few years ago
 16 now, being contacted again by the police, who wanted to
 17 ask you about Knowl View and Cyril Smith?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Were you interviewed by them in April of that year, and
 20 then, in June of that year, were you interviewed on
 21 video?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Were you also I think that summer, in 2014, contacted by
 24 the media?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Did you speak to the media?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Can I just ask you this, please, before I conclude my
 4 questioning of you. You are not sure now, just thinking
 5 about what you have told us, whether it was you or that
 6 staff member who informed Mr Turner all of those years
 7 ago about what Cyril Smith had done to you, but
 8 certainly you were punished, however it was that
 9 Mr Turner discovered it. How did that make you feel
 10 about telling anybody else what had happened and what
 11 Cyril Smith had made you do?
 12 **A. It wasn't just the way that I felt. I was also sent for**
 13 **EEGs over in Winwick Hospital and then I was bounced**
 14 **around different places until they let me back into**
 15 **Knowl View School, so it weren't just being verbally,**
 16 **I was sent all over the place.**
 17 Q. Are you saying that was as a result of the information
 18 about what Cyril Smith had done to you?
 19 **A. I don't feel it, I know that's what happened.**
 20 Q. So you feel that you were removed from Knowl View
 21 because of something that wasn't your fault?
 22 **A. Yes, for me making the accusations against him.**
 23 Q. Now, it wasn't until the 1990s, the late 1990s, when the
 24 police approached you, that you told them about
 25 David Higgins. Why was it -- this is absolutely no

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1 criticism, and please don't take it that way -- but what
 2 was it that prevented you in all the years in between,
 3 20/20-plus years, saying anything at all about
 4 David Higgins up to that point in time?
 5 **A. There was no point, really, because nobody would listen**
 6 **to you.**
 7 Q. Or about the housekeeper? Same reason or a different
 8 reason?
 9 **A. Well, it's like now the housekeeper -- the police tell**
 10 **me that this woman never existed. I know -- I know it**
 11 **did. It's absolute rubbish. That woman existed. I've**
 12 **been to her house and everything. She used to take me**
 13 **home with her.**
 14 Q. You were able to name her, weren't you?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much. Those are all the
 17 questions I have for you. You have been very helpful.
 18 I don't know if the chair or panel have any questions
 19 for you.
 20 THE CHAIR: No, we don't. Thank you very much, indeed, to
 21 the witness for your contribution this morning. Thank
 22 you.
 23 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much. That's all I need to ask
 24 you, and you have told us everything that I had wanted
 25 you to. Thank you very much, indeed.

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1 **A. Thank you.**
 2 **(The witness withdrew)**
 3 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much. We can move on. There is
 4 another anonymous witness, chair, but I understand we
 5 are not going to get to him until this afternoon.
 6 So the next witness this morning is going to be
 7 Martin Digan.
 8 MR MARTIN DIGAN (sworn)
 9 Examination by MR ALTMAN
 10 MR ALTMAN: First of all, your name?
 11 **A. Is Martin Digan, sir.**
 12 Q. Mr Digan, first of all, can I ask you to describe your
 13 former occupation?
 14 **A. I was a residential social worker at Knowl View School,**
 15 **sir.**
 16 Q. That was a bit quick.
 17 **A. Sorry.**
 18 Q. The temptation is going to be to rattle through, but if
 19 you do that and I don't understand what you are saying
 20 I am going to ask you to go all the way back again?
 21 **A. No problem, sir. It is just nerves, sir.**
 22 Q. I know you are nervous, but there is no need to be.
 23 Let's just go back. What was your former occupation?
 24 **A. I was a residential social worker at Knowl View School.**
 25 Q. Thank you very much.

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1 **A. In charge of the Egerton House unit.**
 2 Q. Egerton?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Were you qualified?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. What were those qualifications?
 7 **A. Called the CSS, sir.**
 8 Q. CSS stands for?
 9 **A. Certificate in Social Service.**
 10 Q. Did you also have a PRCC, a preliminary certificate in
 11 childcare?
 12 **A. I did, sir.**
 13 Q. Were those qualifications before you started at
 14 Knowl View or while you were there?
 15 **A. The PRCC was undertaken before I started at Knowl View.**
 16 Q. Can you sit a little closer to the microphone?
 17 **A. Certainly. The PRCC was undertaken before I started to**
 18 **work at Knowl View School. I originally worked for**
 19 **Manchester Education Department. The CSS was undertaken**
 20 **whilst working at Knowl View School.**
 21 Q. Do you remember now when it was you started working at
 22 Knowl View?
 23 **A. I think it was '78, sir.**
 24 Q. You told us that you worked on the Egerton unit?
 25 **A. Yes, sir.**

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1 Q. Can you help us with the setup at Knowl View when you
 2 arrived? How many houses or units were there?
 3 **A. Four, sir.**
 4 Q. One was Egerton?
 5 **A. Egerton, Norden were the senior units. Bamford and**
 6 **Ashworth were the junior units. The junior units fed**
 7 **into the older units over a period of time.**
 8 Q. Into the ...?
 9 **A. Into the older units, Norden and Egerton, over a period**
 10 **of time.**
 11 Q. The ages of the boys who occupied the Egerton and Norden
 12 units were, what?
 13 **A. My boys in Egerton were generally 13 to 16.**
 14 Q. And the junior units, Ashworth and Bamford?
 15 **A. Anything from 7 up to 12, depending on the level of**
 16 **maturity of the individual children.**
 17 Q. In a sentence or two, Mr Digan, what kind of social
 18 background did the boys admitted to Knowl View come
 19 from?
 20 **A. Generally, council estates. Not always, sir, but**
 21 **95 per cent.**
 22 Q. What about their personal difficulties?
 23 **A. Mostly, one-parent families. Not always, but mostly,**
 24 **with a mother who couldn't cope either financially or**
 25 **emotionally with the children's behaviour.**

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1 Q. And psychological difficulties?
 2 **A. Many of them, sir.**
 3 Q. What kind? What would we call them today?
 4 **A. I'm not sure what you would call them today, sir.**
 5 **I just found they had an awful lot of energy and nowhere**
 6 **to channel it.**
 7 Q. We know that the school was originally set up for
 8 maladjusted boys. That was the term that was used?
 9 **A. That's right.**
 10 Q. Were they maladjusted, to use that old phrase, and if
 11 so, how?
 12 **A. I'm not sure what "maladjusted" means, sir, to be quite**
 13 **honest. Every single child was different and every**
 14 **single child had different needs. "Maladjusted" is**
 15 **a generic term.**
 16 Q. Let me ask you this: would some of the boys, looking
 17 back, today perhaps be characterised as having ADHD, for
 18 example?
 19 **A. Yes, sir.**
 20 Q. And would some be on what today we understand to be the
 21 autistic spectrum?
 22 **A. Yes, sir. There were definitely boys at Knowl View**
 23 **School with aspects of autism who did not belong at**
 24 **Knowl View School and had been, in my opinion, wrongly**
 25 **assessed by the psychological services. Definitely.**

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1 Q. In terms of their vulnerability, and I know this is
 2 a perhaps terrible generalisation, but were some or all
 3 of the boys, would you regard them as being vulnerable
 4 because of their deficits?
 5 **A. Some were extremely vulnerable. Others made them**
 6 **vulnerable.**
 7 Q. Again, some could cope, some could cope less?
 8 **A. And some enjoyed it.**
 9 Q. And some enjoyed it, yes.
 10 **A. I remember taking a knife off a young man who was fully**
 11 **intent on stabbing another young man because he'd said**
 12 **something wrong to him in a classroom situation, and he**
 13 **did mean it.**
 14 Q. From which boroughs did the school admit boys when you
 15 were there?
 16 **A. At the time I was there --**
 17 Q. Move a little closer. If you can pull the microphone
 18 closer to you so you are more comfortable.
 19 What boroughs did the boys come from?
 20 **A. Oldham, Bolton, Rochdale, Lancashire.**
 21 Q. They were effectively the founding authorities?
 22 **A. That's right.**
 23 Q. Although Rochdale was the providing authority who took
 24 the lead?
 25 **A. That's correct, sir.**

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1 Q. Because the school was in Rochdale?
 2 **A. That's right, sir.**
 3 Q. You told us that you worked on Egerton. Were you on
 4 Egerton the whole time that you were at the school?
 5 **A. Yes, sir. Apart from when I took on, in its dying**
 6 **throes, the head of care position and shared it with**
 7 **Donagh McKillop, who was another social worker.**
 8 Q. When was it you took on the head of care position?
 9 **A. It was in the last few months of its demise.**
 10 Q. The school, you mean?
 11 **A. Yes, sir.**
 12 Q. We know the school closed temporarily on
 13 22 December 1984, it closed finally on 31 August 1996?
 14 **A. Sir, can I make -- sorry.**
 15 Q. Were you there at the bitter end?
 16 **A. I went off -- I was persuaded to go off ill in the**
 17 **November.**
 18 Q. Which year?
 19 **A. I believe it was '94.**
 20 Q. Just before it temporarily closed?
 21 **A. You can call it temporary, sir. It was --**
 22 **Diana Cavanagh -- names. Sorry. The Director of**
 23 **Education was looking for an opportunity to close that**
 24 **school and I gave it to her on the basis that**
 25 **I discovered information --**

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1 Q. We will come to that.
 2 **A. Yes, sir.**
 3 Q. But we know the school closed, whether it was temporary
 4 or not, but it took nearly two years to sort out the
 5 closure. But you say around November 1994 was when you
 6 finished?
 7 **A. There appears to be some confusion about the closure,**
 8 **sir. I finished in the '94. Now, I thought it closed**
 9 **that Christmas.**
 10 Q. It probably did. But in terms of formal closure we
 11 understand it wasn't until --
 12 **A. So it couldn't be allowed to go to LMSS.**
 13 Q. What does that mean?
 14 **A. Local management special schools. It would have --**
 15 **a governing body including -- can I name? --**
 16 Q. Yes?
 17 **A. -- Cyril Smith and Harry Wild was his consort. It would**
 18 **have put them in charge of anything up to 50 boys living**
 19 **there on a residential basis and that would have been**
 20 **a tragedy.**
 21 Q. I'm going to come back to that right at the end. We
 22 will remember that. Let's just carry on for now. But
 23 I promise you I will come back to that later.
 24 We have seen a description of you. I know when
 25 I asked you what your occupation had been, you called

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1 yourself a residential social worker?
 2 **A. Yes, sir.**
 3 Q. But I have also seen reference to house parent?
 4 **A. Yes, sir.**
 5 Q. What did a house parent mean?
 6 **A. It was the same thing, sir. It meant that you had**
 7 **a house -- my house was Egerton and you were parent to**
 8 **the house, and you were responsible for what went on**
 9 **inside that house and for the care of the children in**
 10 **that house.**
 11 Q. Was there one house parent at any given time or more
 12 than one?
 13 **A. I had a partner, a social work partner, sir,**
 14 **Jayne Le Clere, who was absolutely excellent.**
 15 Q. Jayne Le Clere, C-L-E-R-E, I think?
 16 **A. Yes, sir.**
 17 Q. Let's seek your help, because, Mr Digan, clearly you
 18 knew a lot about this school, having been on the inside.
 19 What was the basis upon which children typically resided
 20 at the school? In other words, did they board during
 21 the week, go home at weekends or --
 22 **A. A combination, sir. Some boys had to earn the right.**
 23 Q. "Some boys", I missed that?
 24 **A. Some boys had to earn the right to go home according to**
 25 **their behaviour from Monday to Friday. Others were day**

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1 **pupils, of which there were not many, and others lived**
 2 **there 24/7, except for the school holidays, sir.**
 3 Q. The ones who lived there 24/7, did they live there 24/7
 4 because they were misbehaved or because they had nowhere
 5 else to go?
 6 **A. Basically, because the family unit was so disruptive**
 7 **that you couldn't work with them on their return from**
 8 **home.**
 9 Q. In other words, what, left on a Friday, didn't come back
 10 on a Monday?
 11 **A. Sometimes.**
 12 Q. Also, some of the boys, we understand, who were at
 13 Knowl View were in care?
 14 **A. Yes, sir.**
 15 Q. Did some of the boys go to care homes at the weekend --
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. -- rather than their own homes?
 18 **A. Yes, sir, they were in the minority but that is the**
 19 **case.**
 20 Q. They were subject to two regimes that may not
 21 necessarily have been consistent with each other and
 22 different sets of rules?
 23 **A. That's right. The regime at Knowl View School, sir, was**
 24 **a behaviouristic routine and it was rewards on**
 25 **behaviour.**

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1 Q. What was the nature of the care, the model of care, at
 2 Knowl View when you started?
 3 **A. I'd been there -- I don't know if it was a number of**
 4 **weeks or a couple of months, sir. I get mixed with the**
 5 **passing of time. As a new member of staff, I began to**
 6 **find things out that were a little disturbing, that**
 7 **I didn't believe at first, to be quite honest.**
 8 Q. What sort of things?
 9 **A. It was only some months before I'd started at the school**
 10 **where quite a number of the boys were taking women's**
 11 **clothes off clotheslines and were actually wearing them**
 12 **inside the school and walking around in them. And**
 13 **apparently with the permission of senior staff.**
 14 **I continue to find that bizarre. I never saw that. But**
 15 **I was told about it.**
 16 Q. So these goings on, if they happened, happened before
 17 you arrived but you heard about them once you arrived?
 18 **A. Yes, sir.**
 19 Q. Is that what we understand?
 20 **A. Yes, sir.**
 21 Q. What else? What about the care regime when you arrived?
 22 Were the boys cared for?
 23 **A. The boys were ordered.**
 24 Q. Meaning?
 25 **A. Meaning there was one particular social worker -- can**

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1 **I name?**
 2 Q. Yes.
 3 **A. Carol Fawcett, who was an excellent mother figure to the**
 4 **boys. Apart from that, it was pretty much male**
 5 **dominated and it was a case of, "You will do as you are**
 6 **told".**
 7 Q. How would you describe the nature of the care when you
 8 arrived? Were boys cared for?
 9 **A. I think they were more ordered as to what they would do**
 10 **rather than cared for, sir.**
 11 Q. Looked at another way, if I ask you this question,
 12 I don't know if it is any more capable of answer, but
 13 did Knowl View provide a caring environment for the
 14 boys?
 15 **A. The one person who created a caring environment for the**
 16 **boys, and it took him some time because he didn't start**
 17 **much before I did, sir, was a man called Terry Hopwood.**
 18 Q. He was the headmaster?
 19 **A. Yes, he was, and he was a greatly skilled man. It was**
 20 **his job to care to change the ethos of the care inside**
 21 **the school and he did.**
 22 Q. You arrive in '78. We certainly know that Mr Hopwood
 23 was head by 1984, probably before.
 24 **A. He was in the '70s, sir.**
 25 Q. Was he head when you arrived?

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1 **A. He appointed me, sir.**
 2 Q. So he was definitely the headmaster when you were there?
 3 **A. That's right. Head teacher, sir.**
 4 Q. Are you saying that care improved, the environment of
 5 care --
 6 **A. Most definitely. Most definitely.**
 7 Q. -- during his stewardship?
 8 **A. Absolutely, without a shadow of a doubt. It was when he**
 9 **went off ill in 1988, sir, that things started to fall**
 10 **to pieces.**
 11 Q. Now I want to ask you about events around the time I'm
 12 dealing with now, 1984, the mid '80s. Obviously the
 13 name Roderick Hilton will mean something to you?
 14 **A. It does, sir.**
 15 Q. We will come back to him in years later. But did you
 16 know that in March 1984 Hilton was convicted of indecent
 17 assault in relation to a Knowl View pupil?
 18 **A. No.**
 19 Q. Did you know that at the time?
 20 **A. Can you name the pupil, sir?**
 21 Q. I'm not going to name the pupil, because all I could do
 22 is give you a cipher which would mean nothing to you.
 23 **A. There were many incidents with Rod Hilton, sir, because**
 24 **the local authority never took out an injunction to keep**
 25 **him off the grounds.**

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1 Q. No, we know that. We will come back to the notorious
 2 incidents in September 1990, but I'm going back about
 3 seven years. Do you remember knowing anything about
 4 that in 1984, that he was convicted or did you know that
 5 he had indecently assaulted a boy?
 6 **A. He assaulted many boys at Knowl View School, sir.**
 7 Q. Let's see if there's any assistance I can give you.
 8 Let's look, please, at RHC -- hopefully a document will
 9 come up. It will be redacted in certain respects, but
 10 a document will come up on the screen. RHC000028. If
 11 you want to know what this document is, if we were to go
 12 to the second page just for a moment, at the foot of
 13 the page you will see it was by Mr Hopwood, the
 14 headmaster that you have spoken to us about, and it is
 15 dated 8 February 1984. So you had been there a few
 16 years by then?
 17 **A. I think I know which incident you're talking about, sir.**
 18 **Like I say, sir, there were many.**
 19 Q. Let's just go back to the top of the first page:
 20 "Incidents -- weekend 27/29 January 1984."
 21 And this was strictly confidential but headed "Staff
 22 information":
 23 "As promised, I summarise the events of
 24 27/29 January and also the subsequent actions.
 25 "It appears that B47 and B328 hatched a plot to 'rip

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1 off' (their words) a slow-witted, 18-year-old youth
 2 named Rod Hilton whom they knew to have homosexual
 3 tendencies. They promised Hilton money in return for
 4 sexual favours but claim that they had no intention of
 5 keeping their part of the bargain.
 6 "Unfortunately, they got B329 [another boy] involved
 7 and tricked [him] into actually performing -- albeit
 8 briefly -- an act of gross indecency. Other boys came
 9 to know that easy money was available and [a fourth boy]
 10 B330 was taken by [yet another] A88 to meet with Hilton
 11 for the purpose of obtainable money. Again, gross
 12 indecency occurred between B330 and Hilton.
 13 "At least one other grossly indecent act took place
 14 during the weekend."
 15 So that's really the event which I wanted to bring
 16 to mind. Did you know about that, even if you didn't
 17 know about his conviction arising out of it?
 18 **A. No, I didn't know about his conviction arising out of**
 19 **it. I know, I think, the boys you are talking about.**
 20 Q. Don't name anybody.
 21 **A. I won't, sir. But I don't know of four. I can remember**
 22 **two.**
 23 Q. Does that incident --
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Does it ring a bell?

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1 **A. Yes, it does, sir.**
 2 Q. The impression that we get from you is it was just one
 3 of a number --
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. -- around that time. Even, at that time, involving
 6 Hilton?
 7 **A. Yes, sir. Rod Hilton was continuously on the premises**
 8 **and continuously trying to gain access, and only God**
 9 **knows how many times he did abuse the children at**
 10 **Knowl View, because I don't. As I say, sir, no**
 11 **injunction was ever taken out against him.**
 12 Q. We know that. In this period, in the course of
 13 the 1980s leading up to the 1990s, how were relations
 14 among care staff?
 15 **A. Can you be more specific, sir?**
 16 Q. I'm simply asking you whether people in care -- the care
 17 staff, whether they got on with each other or not,
 18 people in the core of care personnel in the school. Did
 19 they get on or not?
 20 **A. I'm trying to place individual people, sir. I don't**
 21 **remember terribly unhappy times. It is a difficult one**
 22 **to answer because the teaching staff, the educational**
 23 **team, also undertook extraneous duties, and so,**
 24 **therefore, became members of the care team.**
 25 Q. I see. Let me ask you to look at a document, RHC001487

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1 at page 1. You can see at the top they are headed
 2 "8 May 1992. Discussion with Liz Dobie, Selwyn Hodge.
 3 Investigation at Knowl View: update?"
 4 **A. "Rest of staff not included", sir.**
 5 Q. Say again?
 6 **A. On the document it says "Rest of staff not included",**
 7 **the caretaker formed part of the management team.**
 8 Q. I think I'm right in saying this is a note -- there are
 9 others we will come to -- of a discussion that you may
 10 have been involved in?
 11 **A. No, I wasn't, sir. I saw this document when you were**
 12 **good enough to send it to me in a large file.**
 13 Q. You don't think this has got anything to do with you?
 14 **A. I don't remember it, sir.**
 15 Q. I'm not suggesting it is, because it doesn't have,
 16 I think I'm right in saying, your name on it. But help
 17 us, please, if you would, with this: just before halfway
 18 down, whoever is saying this has suggested Norden unit:
 19 "Lack of professionalism and care, despite paper
 20 qualification."
 21 Does that ring any bells?
 22 **A. Only on that document, sir. I know exactly what it**
 23 **pertains to.**
 24 Q. What does it pertain to?
 25 **A. It pertains to a lack of professionalism from the person**

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1 **who ran that unit.**
 2 Q. Who was the person that ran that unit?
 3 **A. Can I name them?**
 4 Q. Yes.
 5 **A. Duncan Eaton.**
 6 Q. Who ended up as the head of care?
 7 **A. Yes, I think that was a deal that was struck by himself**
 8 **and the local authority in order to keep him quiet about**
 9 **what had happened on a night that you are going to refer**
 10 **to later.**
 11 Q. You're talking about the Hilton incident
 12 in September 1990?
 13 **A. I am.**
 14 Q. Forget care staff for now. What about care and teaching
 15 staff over the years? How did the relationship between
 16 care and teaching staff play out?
 17 **A. It didn't develop, sir.**
 18 Q. In what way?
 19 **A. The teaching staff thought that they were above the law.**
 20 **You will read in one of those files there where a child**
 21 **was hit was cricket bat and the teacher didn't think**
 22 **anything twice about it. He thought it was perfectly**
 23 **okay to take such action. I was personally attacked by**
 24 **another member of staff, who was a magistrate working**
 25 **for Rochdale, in the staff room, for defending his --**

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1 **well, for speaking to him about his actions with one of**
 2 **the boys on my unit, who was a particularly vulnerable**
 3 **boy, and the way that he had physically beaten him.**
 4 Q. We can understand that, Mr Digan, physical abuse. But
 5 in terms of the generality of teaching staff on the one
 6 hand, care staff on the other, are you saying the
 7 teaching staff looked down on care staff?
 8 **A. Absolutely.**
 9 Q. Is that what you mean by being above the law or did you
 10 mean something else by that?
 11 **A. I meant that, sir.**
 12 Q. Overall, did you think -- I know it is a general
 13 question, and you were there a long time -- that the
 14 needs of the children were being met?
 15 **A. No, sir.**
 16 Q. At any time?
 17 **A. Yes, I did. During Terry Hopwood's, let me call it,**
 18 **reign, sir -- during Terry Hopwood's time, yes, most**
 19 **definitely, most definitely. He'd forgotten more about**
 20 **childcare than I have ever learned. He was a tremendous**
 21 **man.**
 22 Q. But apart from that, you don't think children's needs
 23 were met in any other period that you were there?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. Do you think the school was equipped to deal with such

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1 needs as it had, not just human resource but other
 2 resources that were available?
 3 **A. Had they appointed the right people, sir, then it could**
 4 **have been equipped, yes.**
 5 Q. What about expertise? Was there the expertise to cater
 6 for children's needs?
 7 **A. No, sir. There were one or two -- I will specify one or**
 8 **two -- excellent teachers at Knowl View, but it was**
 9 **mostly incompetence in the classroom and it was roles**
 10 **fulfilled by people on a part-time basis. You can't**
 11 **form relationships with difficult children on**
 12 **a part-time basis. You can't do it.**
 13 Q. I'm going to ask you to look at another document,
 14 RHC001745 at page 1. You may have seen this, Mr Digan.
 15 I'm not sure if it's a copy of yours. It looks like an
 16 iteration of the report which ended up being the
 17 Hodge/Dobie report from June 1992. It is something
 18 typed at the bottom of this page under the heading "The
 19 style of leadership and management":
 20 "The structure of the school was hierarchical with
 21 a very distinct gap between teaching and care staff, the
 22 latter being considered as less important."
 23 Do you agree or disagree with that?
 24 **A. Agree, sir.**
 25 Q. Then on that page, the second page, at the end of

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1 the first paragraph:
 2 "Practice was based on custom. The objectives of
 3 the school were not clear and practice was
 4 idiosyncratic."
 5 Do you agree or disagree with that?
 6 **A. "The leadership at the time was felt to be adequate".**
 7 Q. No, I'm looking at the last two lines of that paragraph:
 8 "Practice was based upon custom. The objectives of
 9 the school were not clear and practice was
 10 idiosyncratic."
 11 **A. Yes, sir.**
 12 Q. Do you agree with that?
 13 **A. Yes, sir.**
 14 Q. Then one other, under the next header on that page, "The
 15 relationships within the school", the first three lines:
 16 "As indicated in the preceding sections,
 17 relationships between the teaching and care staff did
 18 not appear to complement each other's roles or attempt
 19 any continuity of provision."
 20 Do you agree or disagree?
 21 **A. Yes, I agree, sir.**
 22 Q. I would like then, please, to move on to another topic,
 23 Mr Digan. Ian Ashton. Was he the acting head at some
 24 point?
 25 **A. He was, sir.**

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1 Q. Was it after Terry Hopwood retired through illness?
 2 **A. Yes, Terry Hopwood I think went off in '88, sir. I'm**
 3 **not sure exactly when he retired, but it wasn't long**
 4 **after. He'd been forced into an appointment for a man**
 5 **called -- sorry, can I name him?**
 6 Q. Sorry, who had been forced into an appointment?
 7 **A. Terry Hopwood had been forced into an appointment.**
 8 Q. Of?
 9 **A. Of a deputy head.**
 10 Q. Called?
 11 **A. Brett Andrews.**
 12 Q. We will come to him.
 13 **A. Okay.**
 14 Q. Where did Ian Ashton fit in with all of this?
 15 **A. Ian Ashton took on the acting head role. This is crazy,**
 16 **sir. The deputy head was appointed, Brett Andrews,**
 17 **against the head teacher's will, Mr Hopwood, in his**
 18 **absence.**
 19 Q. Forgive me, you're saying Brett Andrews was taken on
 20 while Mr Hopwood was unwell but still the head?
 21 **A. Ian Ashton was placed head. Brett Andrews was taken on**
 22 **as deputy. Then Brett Andrews took over the role of**
 23 **head. So you can imagine the conflict between your two**
 24 **senior people in the building. It was not good.**
 25 Q. Thank you for explaining that. Can we look at another

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1 document, please, RHC001080.
 2 You will see that this is dated 18 April 1989. If
 3 we look at the end of the document, I think we will
 4 find, if we can go to the bottom of it, please. I think
 5 the next page. Maybe the next. We can see it is
 6 a document by Ian Ashton, the then acting head. Can you
 7 see it?
 8 **A. I can now, yes.**
 9 Q. So it is Ian Ashton who was the acting head. This is
 10 his document. Let's go back to the top on the first
 11 page. It is dated 18 April 1989. So he is the acting
 12 head. So we are clear, who was the head at this point?
 13 Who was actually in control of Knowl View?
 14 **A. I don't think anybody was.**
 15 Q. Who was the titular head?
 16 **A. At that point, I don't know whether it would be Andrews**
 17 **or Ian Ashton, sir, because of the continuous staff room**
 18 **battle between the two of them. Brett Andrews actually**
 19 **cancelled Christmas.**
 20 Q. What this document tells us, if we can look at the title
 21 "Alleged sexual assault by one pupil on another."
 22 "Further to our telephone conversation ..."
 23 This is a letter to the chief education officer.
 24 Was that Mr Williams at the time?
 25 **A. I don't know, sir.**

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1 Q. It is, as we can see under the address, for the
 2 attention of Mr B Williams:
 3 "Further to our telephone conversation, I give below
 4 the details concerning the above alleged sexual
 5 assault."
 6 Then he goes through some detail of what happened on
 7 6 April, 7 April, and if we continue scrolling, please.
 8 Just a moment. If we look at the top, do we see your
 9 name:
 10 "Mr Digan is the group house parent who works with
 11 both boys and is the most likely person to be able to
 12 find the truth."
 13 Then 10 April, more of the chronology is given.
 14 Then under 12 April:
 15 "Mr Digan reported that [the name is redacted]
 16 continued to deny that anything occurred and felt that
 17 it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to get
 18 [a person] to admit anything. He stated that in spite
 19 of [the person's] denials and the lack of evidence, he
 20 was convinced [that's you] that a serious sexual offence
 21 had been committed."
 22 Mr Ashton summarises the position:
 23 "It is likely that at least two incidents occurred:
 24 "1. Round about 15 March, oral intercourse took
 25 place plus attempted anal intercourse, the latter being

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1 avoided only by [the boy's] distress which caused [the
 2 other boy] to go back to his own bed so as to avoid
 3 discovery by others.
 4 "2. Round about 5 April [two or three weeks later,
 5 the boy] again attempted anal intercourse but was
 6 thwarted by another boy waking and going to the toilet.
 7 "During both incidents there was some degree of
 8 coercion ..."
 9 And clearly the victim was frightened of the alleged
 10 abuser. Do you remember this incident?
 11 **A. There was that much of it, sir, no. It comes to mind**
 12 **but without the boys' names, I really can't be accurate**
 13 **with you as I would like to be.**
 14 Q. Then to the question do you remember coming to the view
 15 that a serious sexual assault had taken place?
 16 **A. Many took place, sir.**
 17 Q. So it wouldn't surprise you, in light of this
 18 information, if it is accurate, that you would have come
 19 to the view that a serious sexual assault had taken
 20 place?
 21 **A. Yes, but I would never come to the view that it**
 22 **shouldn't be dealt with, sir, by the appropriate**
 23 **authorities.**
 24 Q. On the face of it, do you agree from what we have just
 25 read, whatever the position in law, that there was no

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1 sense that the alleged victim gave any form of consent
 2 for what he may have succumbed to, it was only through
 3 coercion and fear?
 4 **A. I don't know if there were, sir.**
 5 Q. I'm just looking on the face of what we've just read?
 6 **A. I just -- if I do -- I realise I can't after -- but if**
 7 **I knew the boys' names, I could give you the detail that**
 8 **you require.**
 9 Q. I understand that. We all understand that, Mr Digan.
 10 I don't think it is necessary because, as you say, there
 11 are so many instances, if we got bogged down with every
 12 single one, we would be here a very long time?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. I am just asking for your help if you can give it.
 15 **A. You're welcome to it, sir.**
 16 Q. One other thing is, the paragraph which is in the middle
 17 of the page on the screen, beginning "It is recognised":
 18 "It is recognised that both [boys] require help to
 19 overcome problems generated by these events."
 20 This is Mr Ashton's view:
 21 "I feel it would be best to avoid an overreaction
 22 and to view the incidents within the context of
 23 emotionally disturbed boys experimenting whilst having
 24 problems in making relationships."
 25 Is that something you are prepared to agree with?

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1 **A. No, that's a copout, sir.**
 2 Q. In what way?
 3 **A. In that it meant that you didn't have to bring in**
 4 **outside agencies to deal, professionals -- we were not**
 5 **trained to deal with the sexual abuse of children.**
 6 **Other people were, and they should have been brought in**
 7 **to deal with these incidents in an expert manner.**
 8 Q. If you were at the top, if you at this time had been
 9 able to make the decisions, who do you think you might
 10 have brought in to deal with that?
 11 **A. Psychologists and child protection.**
 12 Q. What about police?
 13 **A. Most definitely. The police -- I don't know if they**
 14 **were in a position or not, sir, I don't know enough**
 15 **about the law, to act on child-on-child sexual abuse.**
 16 Q. All right.
 17 **A. The authorities certainly were.**
 18 Q. From your professional position and with all of
 19 the experience you had with all of those years at
 20 Knowl View, do you think it was an acceptable risk to
 21 keep a boy who was alleged of this type of serious
 22 sexual abuse in that school?
 23 **A. No, and it wasn't appropriate either, sir, to**
 24 **introduce -- I won't give his name, obviously, a young**
 25 **man of approximately 14 to 15 years of age, who was**

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1 **already engaged in an adult sexual relationship --**
 2 Q. We are going to come to him.
 3 **A. -- outside of the school, into a unit where there were**
 4 **other vulnerable children that he could take advantage**
 5 **of. But nevertheless, the child psychologists brought**
 6 **him in.**
 7 Q. I think I know who you are talking about, and we will
 8 come back to that.
 9 Just looking at this as an example of the sort of
 10 things the school had to deal with in the late '80s, in
 11 your view, it was a copout for Mr Ashton to --
 12 **A. Yes, sir.**
 13 Q. -- write, as he did, to be wary of overreaction and
 14 really this is just experimentation by disturbed boys
 15 and who had difficulty making relationships?
 16 **A. I think it's called an easy professional life, sir.**
 17 Q. And, instead, proper professionals should have been
 18 brought in from outside --
 19 **A. Absolutely.**
 20 Q. -- to confront it?
 21 **A. I think the police should have been introduced and it**
 22 **was for the police to decide what the appropriate action**
 23 **should have been.**
 24 Q. But of course, if the police aren't told, they can't be
 25 brought in?

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1 **A. No, they can't.**
 2 Q. So that's an incident of peer-on-peer or child-on-child
 3 abuse. I want to ask you about a different form of
 4 abuse, which I am sure you became aware of, which is
 5 child sexual exploitation in Rochdale itself.
 6 We are looking at it starting, perhaps starting, or
 7 when we first have a record of it, in around early 1989
 8 and onwards, but were you, Mr Digan, aware that children
 9 from the school were being sexually exploited in the
 10 toilets at Rochdale?
 11 **A. No, but I know who was, sir.**
 12 Q. When you say you know who was, do you mean you know who
 13 knew about it?
 14 **A. I know from the Val Mellor report.**
 15 Q. We have the Val Mellor report. We were looking a little
 16 earlier at a document in handwriting of an interview by
 17 Dr Hodge and Liz Dobie on 8 May 1992. I would like to
 18 go back to that, please. RHC001487. I think I'm right
 19 in saying that the exploitation of boys at the
 20 Smith Street toilets were junior boys?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Junior boys from Ashworth unit?
 23 **A. Under the age of 12, sir.**
 24 Q. 7 to 12. If we look on that document, about two-thirds
 25 of the way down, do you see it says, "Ashworth", in

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1 brackets "(junior block involved in the Smith Street
 2 toilets)"?
 3 **A. I do, sir.**
 4 Q. In quotation marks, "Keep quiet". Does that mean
 5 anything to you?
 6 **A. What it means to me, sir, is the staff working in that
 7 unit, and the management, did not want anybody to find
 8 out about that exploitation.**
 9 Q. You say you didn't know about it. When do you think you
 10 first discovered -- of course, we bear in mind you were
 11 working on one of the senior units, Egerton, throughout
 12 the period, and so one assumes you had absolutely
 13 nothing to do with the Ashworth block?
 14 **A. Very little, sir. Or the Bamford block, sir.**
 15 Q. Did there come a time while you were still working at
 16 Knowl View that you discovered what was going on?
 17 **A. When I read the Val Mellor report, sir.**
 18 Q. So that would be in around March 1992?
 19 **A. Yes, to try to explain to you, sir, what happened --
 20 this is with hindsight -- is that the people who worked
 21 or the leaders that worked for the Ashworth unit and the
 22 Norden unit made sure, along with the management, who
 23 would have been responsible, names on there, that this
 24 needed to be encapsulated and it needed to be kept
 25 within a small group of people or people were going to**

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1 **lose their jobs, and that's what they did. Now, what
 2 appalls me, sir, is that somebody of the standing of
 3 Val Mellor would not present that to the police and to
 4 the parents. That's appalling.**
 5 Q. To be fair to her, the police were involved and they did
 6 attend meetings, so they were certainly aware of the
 7 content of her report. It was presented to them.
 8 **A. I wasn't, sir. I attended a staff meeting --**
 9 Q. I know you did.
 10 **A. -- where documents had been removed from that report.**
 11 Q. We will come back to that. Because I am going to ask
 12 you about that. So to be clear, as far as you're
 13 concerned, Mr Digan, it wasn't until Val Mellor's report
 14 was at least published to the staff at a meeting that
 15 took place at the school --
 16 **A. But, sir, it never was published to the staff. That's
 17 my point.**
 18 Q. I know your point is you were only allowed 10 minutes to
 19 read it and the report had to be given back --
 20 **A. Absolutely, sir, and the back pages of the report were
 21 missing.**
 22 Q. Well, there is a part that was missing, but we will come
 23 to that as well.
 24 The next topic I would like to ask you about,
 25 please, before we move on is Roderick Hilton. Chair,

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1 I see the time. It is a little early but that might be
 2 an opportune moment for you to take your break and then
 3 we will return to that when you have had your break?
 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman. Thank you.
 5 **A. Thank you, madam.**
 6 **(11.43 am)**
 7 **(A short break)**
 8 **(12.03 pm)**
 9 MR ALTMAN: Mr Digan, can I ask you, please, to look at
 10 a document which will come up on the screen, RHC001869
 11 at page 8. This is an interview with you which took
 12 place, I think I'm right in saying, in October 1990,
 13 a month after Roderick Hilton entered the school on two
 14 occasions. Do you recognise this document?
 15 **A. I don't, sir, no.**
 16 Q. It is an interview certainly with you. You can see your
 17 name is at the top of it.
 18 **A. I can, sir, yes.**
 19 Q. Under the head right at the top "Knowledge of incident",
 20 you say:
 21 "No direct knowledge -- but had since spoken with
 22 RH..."
 23 That's Roderick Hilton?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. "... whom he'd known for 8 years, who confirmed what had

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1 happened. RH had previously engaged in sexual
 2 activities with Knowl View pupils about 7 years ago."
 3 That ties in with the evidence you gave about the
 4 occurrence in 1984. Do you remember now speaking to
 5 Hilton afterwards?
 6 **A. I spoke to Hilton on many occasions, sir. Usually, it**
 7 **consisted of being threatened by him with HIV.**
 8 Q. But spoke to him, why? Because he tried to come onto
 9 school grounds?
 10 **A. To try to persuade him to get off the school grounds,**
 11 **sir.**
 12 Q. So you spoke to him. Clearly, this interview being
 13 around October 1990, "confirmed what had happened".
 14 Does that mean that he admitted to you that he had
 15 entered the school on one or both of those nights?
 16 **A. No, no.**
 17 Q. What do you think that means "confirmed what had
 18 happened"?
 19 **A. Well, he was that involved with that many different**
 20 **children, you know, you could pick on three of**
 21 **the children -- sorry, four, that you mentioned earlier,**
 22 **sir, and it could have been them. I do know what**
 23 **happened that night. It was explained to me by one of**
 24 **the main victims much later.**
 25 Q. I think I may ask you about that a little later. When

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1 did you first become aware of what we have come to call
 2 the Hilton incident? When did you first become aware of
 3 it, do you think?
 4 **A. We were made aware of it in a short presentation with**
 5 **the Val Mellor report, which, again, sir, had been**
 6 **altered.**
 7 Q. Again, I hope to deal with that later. So this is the
 8 second incident around boys that you are saying you
 9 didn't know until March 1992?
 10 **A. Not the detail of, sir. I'm trying to recall the first**
 11 **one you asked me about which involved four boys who were**
 12 **coerced by Hilton. I think I know two of the names, but**
 13 **I'm not going to mention. I can't recall the other two**
 14 **boys but I know that Mr Hopwood dealt with it with the**
 15 **police.**
 16 Q. Absolutely. I am now asking you about what happened six
 17 or seven years later?
 18 **A. Mmm-hmm.**
 19 Q. Six years later, in 1990?
 20 **A. The best person to ask about that is Mr Eaton.**
 21 Q. We will do. What I am asking you for your help with is,
 22 when you were interviewed here, although I don't think
 23 this document is dated, we think it is
 24 around October 1990 that you and other staff were
 25 questioned, are you saying you didn't realise that this

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1 was all around Hilton having intruded in the school and
 2 sexually assaulted at least one boy the month before?
 3 **A. The rumours were that Hilton had been on site. The**
 4 **rumours were also that he'd been allowed on site by**
 5 **a member of staff, rather than what people currently**
 6 **say, with the boys. According to a young man, who**
 7 **I will tell you about if you ask me, sir, who is now**
 8 **dead, sorry --**
 9 Q. I know who you mean.
 10 **A. He told me in explicit detail in the mid '90s exactly**
 11 **what had occurred on that unit that night.**
 12 Q. The boy you are talking about, is he the young man who
 13 died of a drug overdose on his 20th birthday?
 14 **A. He did, sir.**
 15 Q. We know him as A14. Tell us, what did he tell you?
 16 **A. He told me that Hilton had been allowed in by the**
 17 **caretaker -- do I mention his name or not, sir?**
 18 Q. We know his name.
 19 **A. Okay, by the caretaker, on two occasions, two separate**
 20 **nights. [A14] had his own room on --**
 21 Q. Just pause --
 22 **A. Sorry, sir. I mentioned the name.**
 23 Q. I'm just going to stop the link. We need to cut the
 24 link for a moment. I'm not going to ask you any more
 25 questions. Just pause there.

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1 **A. My apologies.**
 2 Q. Don't worry about it. It happens.
 3 Chair, I am going to ask you pro tem to make
 4 a restriction order in relation to the name that was
 5 just mentioned?
 6 THE CHAIR: Yes, I will make that restriction order,
 7 Mr Altman.
 8 MR ALTMAN: A14.
 9 **A. Yes, sir.**
 10 Q. What did A14 tell you?
 11 **A. He told me, sir, that Hilton was allowed on the premises**
 12 **by the caretaker. You see, at this point, there was an**
 13 **alarm system on the school.**
 14 Q. There was or wasn't?
 15 **A. I think there was an alarm system. It was either put**
 16 **there because of Hilton or it was there already.**
 17 **I think it was already there. Can I say this in court,**
 18 **sir?**
 19 Q. I'm not sure what you are going to say, Mr Digan, so
 20 I can't tell you.
 21 **A. [A14] was anally abused --**
 22 Q. I have to stop there. I think the restriction order
 23 will cover.
 24 **A. You will have to direct me, sir, I'm sorry.**
 25 Q. I can't direct what you say, Mr Digan, but I can ask you

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1 to put names out of your head. A14.
 2 **A. Yes, yes. A14.**
 3 Q. A14 told you what?
 4 **A. A14 told me, sir, he had been anally abused on more than**
 5 **one occasion that night.**
 6 Q. By Hilton?
 7 **A. By Hilton. And other boys had been forced to undertake**
 8 **oral sex with Hilton. One of those boys was**
 9 **[redacted]---**
 10 Q. Right, tell us no more about that.
 11 **A. Okay.**
 12 Q. A14 died, I'm trying to think, when he was 20, so this
 13 would be quite a few years after this. Was this
 14 something A14 told you shortly before he died or while
 15 you were still working at the school or what?
 16 **A. He told me that -- well, he never worked at the school,**
 17 **sir.**
 18 Q. No, I didn't ask that question. I said, while you were
 19 still working at the school, was that when A14 told you
 20 or was it long afterwards?
 21 **A. It was long afterwards, sir. He was on his way to**
 22 **a certain member of staff's house because really he had**
 23 **come to the end of his tether. Excuse me.**
 24 Q. No, you're all right. You have got somebody in the
 25 hearing room, if you need her.

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1 **A. He used to stay seven floors up in a block of flats in**
 2 **the Manchester area and considered flying, and before he**
 3 **decided that he was going to fly, he decided that he was**
 4 **going to finish the score with a member of staff who had**
 5 **both locked him up and allowed his abuse.**
 6 Q. I think I know who you're talking about.
 7 **A. I prevented him doing that.**
 8 Q. Let me ask you something else, still dealing with the
 9 night of the Hilton incident. What were the sleeping
 10 arrangements at Knowl View before the Hilton incident,
 11 if you can help with us that?
 12 **A. Before or during, sir?**
 13 Q. Well, before and during, if it was supposed to be the
 14 same. What were they designed to be?
 15 **A. On that particular night, the head teacher -- he was no**
 16 **longer acting head teacher, he was head teacher -- was**
 17 **supposed to be on a sleeping-in duty.**
 18 Q. That's Brett Andrews?
 19 **A. That's Brett Andrews, sir.**
 20 Q. Now, what did sleeping-in duty mean?
 21 **A. It meant you were responsible for the welfare of**
 22 **the children overnight until the morning staff came on**
 23 **at 7 o'clock.**
 24 Q. The head teacher had a house on school premises?
 25 **A. Yes, he did, sir.**

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1 Q. Where was he supposed to sleep in, in his own house or
 2 somewhere else?
 3 **A. His own house.**
 4 Q. What did it mean in terms of practicality? What was he
 5 supposed to be doing?
 6 **A. His own house, sir, it wasn't detached from the school.**
 7 Q. No, I know.
 8 **A. It was attached to what was called the Bamford unit, the**
 9 **youngest unit in the building, so he would have direct**
 10 **access onto that unit and, therefore, the next junior**
 11 **unit. But another member of staff would sleep across**
 12 **with two senior units in the middle.**
 13 Q. Who would that be that night?
 14 **A. I'm not sure who it was that night, sir. It wasn't me.**
 15 Q. What are you saying Mr Andrews was supposed to have done
 16 but didn't do during that period?
 17 **A. I'm saying that Mr Andrews went home to a house in**
 18 **Yorkshire, derelict on duty, and asked the caretaker to**
 19 **take his place insofar as the supervision of the boys**
 20 **overnight. The caretaker had a detached house on the**
 21 **grounds and that is where he did his sleep-in, nowhere**
 22 **near the care of the children.**
 23 Q. So sleeping in didn't necessarily literally mean
 24 sleeping in the dormitories or between, but it meant,
 25 what, doing rounds?

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1 **A. What it meant, sir, was when it got to, let's say,**
 2 **midnight, you were entitled to go to bed. The bed would**
 3 **be the nearest room to the units that you were to look**
 4 **after. In Mr Andrews' case, it would have been his**
 5 **house which bordered onto the two junior units. He**
 6 **wasn't there.**
 7 Q. Let's forget the junior units because the unit that
 8 Hilton gained access to wasn't your unit, was it, it was
 9 Norden?
 10 **A. Yes, it certainly wasn't my unit, sir. Sir, I stood in**
 11 **front of my boys like a train.**
 12 Q. It was Norden. Who was house parent to Norden at the
 13 time?
 14 **A. Duncan Eaton.**
 15 Q. Who should have been taking care of the Norden unit that
 16 night. Do you know?
 17 **A. I don't know, sir. It is going to be a matter of**
 18 **record. I don't know. With the passing of time, sir,**
 19 **I don't know. I think it should have been Mr Andrews.**
 20 **I'm not sure. Even though he was in charge of**
 21 **the junior units. I don't know if somebody went home**
 22 **sick or if there was somebody between the two senior**
 23 **units. There was obviously nobody between the two**
 24 **senior units, because the incident couldn't possibly**
 25 **have occurred, or incidents, had there been somebody**

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1 **available to the boys. It just couldn't have happened.**
 2 Q. There is a remark that you made during one of
 3 the interviews you had, and I think this is another note
 4 or a note of the interview you had with Dr Hodge and
 5 Liz Dobie, so that would time it at about May 1992.
 6 **A. Mmm-hmm.**
 7 Q. You can look at this if you want, but it is in
 8 somebody's handwriting so it is a little difficult to
 9 read, but let me read to you the note:
 10 "Management observed RH leaving school minibus plus
 11 sleeping bag."
 12 Does that mean anything to you? This is apparently
 13 what you told Hodge and Dobie?
 14 **A. Vaguely it does. The boys told me Hilton had been**
 15 **sleeping in what was at the time, sir, called a club**
 16 **room at the back of the school which had a pool table**
 17 **and table tennis table, a recreational room, and the**
 18 **minibus was always parked outside it. The boys said**
 19 **they'd seen him leaving, with a sleeping bag, the**
 20 **minibus rather than the recreational room, which**
 21 **I believe he also used to sleep in.**
 22 Q. Did you know if anybody had been told about that other
 23 than you? Had it gone higher up?
 24 **A. Sir, I'd always tell senior management. Often,**
 25 **unfortunately, nothing happened.**

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1 Q. You also said to Dr Hodge and Ms Dobie something really
 2 you have told us, that there were incidents all the
 3 time?
 4 **A. Yes, sir.**
 5 Q. Is that your recollection?
 6 **A. The police, the Rochdale Police, were absolutely**
 7 **excellent in their response. They would always come out**
 8 **and they would always remove Hilton from the grounds.**
 9 **If it was twice a night, three times a night, the police**
 10 **always came out and they always moved him but, because**
 11 **there was no injunction, he always came back.**
 12 Q. One of the other things that you were to say during your
 13 interview in October 1990 was that you felt morale was
 14 pretty low. Is that how you felt or how --
 15 **A. On the floor, sir. On the floor. Morale was on the**
 16 **floor, sir.**
 17 Q. But amongst whom -- teachers or care or everybody; what?
 18 **A. Everybody. Everybody.**
 19 Q. Was it just around the time of the Hilton incident or
 20 across the board during the whole period you were there?
 21 **A. It wasn't until after we lost Terry Hopwood, sir. When**
 22 **we lost Terry Hopwood, then the school was lost.**
 23 Q. Did you feel, following what was the Hilton incident,
 24 the detail of which, as I understand you, you didn't
 25 really learn until Mellor, did you feel that care staff

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1 had been fully engaged?
 2 **A. No. Not for a second, sir. There were -- as**
 3 **I understand it, there were enclaves of people who**
 4 **worked in abused units who had to protect themselves**
 5 **professionally or be dismissed.**
 6 Q. Who are you talking about?
 7 **A. I'm talking about people like Duncan Eaton, Steve Cohen,**
 8 **Paul Davies, Kev Dean, Bill Roberts. I'm talking about**
 9 **the staff who worked Ashworth unit and the staff who**
 10 **worked Norden unit. If you look on the Director of**
 11 **Education's report, sir, which I'm sure you have, you**
 12 **will see Diana Cavanagh, the Director of Education, is**
 13 **well aware of what happened on each of those units, but**
 14 **expected everybody to take corporate responsibility.**
 15 **I went on record, I went with Jayne Le Clere, as not**
 16 **being prepared to take corporate responsibility for**
 17 **other people's actions or lack of action in defending**
 18 **their children.**
 19 Q. Were you aware, moving on to the following year, of
 20 a meeting that took place -- I will give you the date,
 21 but nobody would expect you to remember it -- on
 22 4 March 1991? Were you present at a meeting where
 23 Dr Fraser, who was a psychiatrist on the child
 24 adolescent unit, together with a member of her team,
 25 Christine Scarborough, was present? We have the

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1 minutes. Let's put them up so perhaps you can have
 2 a look at what I am looking at. RHC001617 at page 10.
 3 Have a look at that. Look at the attendees on the list.
 4 These are the minutes of the meeting on 4 March 1991.
 5 Do you see your name there?
 6 **A. I do, sir, yes.**
 7 Q. Did you accept, if your name is there, that you were
 8 likely to have been present?
 9 **A. Yes, I have to, sir.**
 10 Q. We see who else was there. Apart from Dr Fraser,
 11 Ms Scarborough, Janet Bowyer. Did you know her, Child
 12 Protection?
 13 **A. Janet Bowyer and me didn't really see eye to eye, sir.**
 14 Q. That wasn't my question. My question was whether you
 15 knew her?
 16 **A. I don't remember her, sir. I remember the name.**
 17 Q. B Williams, Brian Williams, assistant education officer.
 18 Do you remember him?
 19 **A. I remember the name, sir.**
 20 Q. And Duncan Eaton obviously you have mentioned more than
 21 once. Bill Roberts?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. He was the man you mentioned a few minutes ago?
 24 **A. Yes, Ashworth unit.**
 25 Q. Janet Wheeler, team leader. Was she at the school?

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1 **A. Yes, Janet was.**
 2 Q. H Wenlock?
 3 **A. Yes, excellent social worker, sir.**
 4 Q. Hilary or Heather?
 5 **A. Hilda.**
 6 Q. I got it wrong twice, then. Hilda Wenlock, house
 7 parent. She was good, was she?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Then Steve Cohen, who is deceased.
 10 **A. Is he?**
 11 Q. I think I'm right in saying, yes. I'm sorry to have
 12 broken the news to you, but I think he has. I'm right
 13 in saying that. We think so, yes.
 14 **A. Blimey.**
 15 Q. Anyway. What about him, Mr Digan?
 16 **A. I'm trying to be fair to him, sir, especially with what**
 17 **you just said. He was appointed into a position that he**
 18 **just simply wasn't capable of.**
 19 Q. What does PRCCO mean? Was that the certificate you told
 20 us about you had?
 21 **A. No, that's the CSS, sir.**
 22 Q. You also told us about PRCC, didn't you?
 23 **A. Yes, which is --**
 24 Q. Is that perhaps what that means?
 25 **A. I don't know -- Steve's background was that he came from**

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1 **the Jewish Society where he worked, I believe, with**
 2 **children, that's all. It may be relevant to the**
 3 **Jewish Society. I don't know, sir.**
 4 Q. We see what the meeting is about. The meeting was
 5 arranged by social services who were concerned about
 6 a number of issues involving sexual abuse. Three
 7 incidents in particular: one regarding a boy known as
 8 A10; the incident regarding Norden House unit, that's
 9 the Hilton incident; and one regarding A11. That was
 10 the boy that you were telling us about a little earlier.
 11 Do you remember?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. I will ask you a little about him when we come to him.
 14 The first issue was July last year, A10 interviewed by
 15 a detective constable by the name of Goggins with regard
 16 to a sexual incident taking place in Smith Street
 17 toilets, A10 offering services to men and on occasions
 18 going off with them in their cars. In spring this year,
 19 A10 again involved in sexual incident with a man, whose
 20 name is there, who was picked up by police. Then if we
 21 drop to the next paragraph, another boy known as A9 for
 22 the purposes of these proceedings, involved in the
 23 incident in the toilets at Smith Street. A13 also. A12
 24 also involved in the incident in the toilets. These are
 25 all Knowl View boys.

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1 **A. Mmm-hmm.**
 2 Q. So that's all about Smith Street. Unless I am mistaken,
 3 I thought you told us earlier that you didn't know about
 4 Smith Street until March 1992 when you read the
 5 Mellor Report. If this is right, then you knew about it
 6 a year earlier?
 7 **A. Smith Street was kept very, very much between the staff**
 8 **who ran the Ashworth unit and who ran the Norden unit in**
 9 **order to protect their own professional positions.**
 10 Q. If you were at this meeting -- I'm not being critical of
 11 you --
 12 **A. No, I understand that, sir.**
 13 Q. -- Mr Digan, of 4 March 1991, and all of this was said
 14 in your presence, then clearly you must have known of
 15 the Smith Street problem a year before you told us.
 16 **A. No, I'm not aware of this, sir.**
 17 Q. Let's move on. On the next page, point 2, this is about
 18 Hilton:
 19 "In September [1990] ..."
 20 I'm putting in the "1990". It simply
 21 says "September", but it is clearly a reference to
 22 the September before:
 23 "... we had an incident in Norden House unit.
 24 A Rod Hilton was let into the school by the boys on two
 25 separate occasions."

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1 I know what you say, that it wasn't the boys who let
 2 him in:
 3 "On the first night, it appears that a party took
 4 place involving ... theft of food from the kitchen. All
 5 the boys on the unit, A11, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 were
 6 aware of Rod's reputation. The boys were teasing Rod,
 7 no sexual contact was recorded, but on the second night
 8 the boys let him back into the building, most boys were
 9 very tired due to the previous night. Rod was alone
 10 with A14 [the boy we just discussed] for several hours
 11 and a sexual assault took place.
 12 "There are signs to indicate that another boy, A16,
 13 was also assaulted but there is no evidence, only
 14 hearsay and strange behaviour ..."
 15 That was the second incident. I will ask you again,
 16 Mr Digan, if you can recall whether it might have been
 17 a year earlier to what you told us a little earlier you
 18 thought was the position as to when you first discovered
 19 about the Hilton incident?
 20 **A. No, I can't, sir. All I know is, when I collected the**
 21 **information that was evidential, I took it straight to**
 22 **the police. The first place I took it to was back to**
 23 **the local authority and asked them to deal with it and**
 24 **to make sure that the boys that had been involved in**
 25 **these incidents were counselled and had proper**

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1 **psychological treatment. The Director of Education**
 2 **wouldn't even speak to me. That's why I went to the**
 3 **police and it was a Sergeant Sterndale that I gave the**
 4 **information to.**
 5 Q. At Littleborough?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. The third incident in these minutes of 4 March 1991
 8 meeting took place -- the above incident took place in
 9 A11's first week of school. So what is being said here
 10 is that when A11 was in the first week of school at
 11 Knowl View, the Hilton incident just happened to
 12 coincide with that boy's first week?
 13 **A. I don't know who that boy is, sir.**
 14 Q. Just a moment. This may ring a bell:
 15 "A11 has confusion over his sexual identity, saying
 16 he is 'gay' and asking for HIV test as he had
 17 a relationship with a man outside school."
 18 **A. I know exactly who you are talking about.**
 19 Q. No names:
 20 "States that he has had sexual involvement with A15.
 21 This was encouraged by A17 and A20. He has truanted
 22 from school a great deal of the time and a meeting was
 23 arranged to discuss A11's problems and it was decided
 24 that college should be stopped for him and transport
 25 should be arranged to pick him up from home and return

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1 Q. Nobody is asking you to and nobody would expect it. So
 2 that we understand your position, Mr Digan, we saw that
 3 on the minutes of this meeting you were present, among
 4 others. Is your position, "I could have been present
 5 but I have long forgotten it" or "I was definitely not
 6 present"?
 7 **A. I could have been present and long forgotten it, but**
 8 **I don't think I was present, sir. I was very, very,**
 9 **very disliked.**
 10 Q. By?
 11 **A. The Education Department in general, management, because**
 12 **I wouldn't let things go and I wouldn't let anybody**
 13 **touch any of my children. And if somebody did, sir,**
 14 **then I took action about it.**
 15 Q. Give us an example, if you would -- again, no names.
 16 **A. The man who attacked me in the staff room --**
 17 Q. I'm not thinking about physical abuse. Just so we are
 18 clear, are you saying some of your children on Egerton
 19 were ever sexually abused?
 20 **A. I'm saying that they weren't, sir. I'm saying that**
 21 **I knew where they were at all times. They didn't get**
 22 **passes to go wandering around Rochdale, you know, so**
 23 **that you could go and have a coffee in the staff room.**
 24 **I knew exactly where they were at all times.**
 25 Q. What you are actually telling us, Mr Digan, is that the

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1 him home at weekends. He has formed an association with
 2 A14. This seems to be on the basis of A14 protecting
 3 him from other pupils in return for sexual favours.
 4 Whilst A14 is away from school, A11 has formed
 5 a friendship with [yet another person ciphered as] B45."
 6 A11, you wanted to tell us something about him
 7 a little earlier. Do you remember?
 8 **A. Yes, sir. Not A14, A11.**
 9 Q. That's the last one I read, the one who thought he was
 10 gay, had asked for an HIV test and had a relationship
 11 with an adult man outside the school?
 12 **A. That's right. He was assessed by educational**
 13 **psychology -- it may well have been a guy called**
 14 **Richard Flammer -- and was considered suitable for entry**
 15 **into Knowl View School. He was entered onto the Norden**
 16 **unit where Hilton had spent some time and he introduced**
 17 **the other boys to what would be construed as adult**
 18 **homosexual activity.**
 19 Q. Were you telling us before he was one boy who shouldn't
 20 have been there?
 21 **A. Definitely not, no. Not because there was anything**
 22 **naughty about him, sir, or anything like that, just that**
 23 **he was extremely disturbed and needed a different type**
 24 **of care. Sir, with the passing of time, I can't put all**
 25 **these dates together for you.**

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1 behaviour of the boys on a particular unit was --
 2 **A. Two units, sir.**
 3 Q. No, I'm talking about Egerton as against Norden. I'm
 4 comparing the two. But the behaviour of the boys on the
 5 unit was as simple as a question of who took
 6 responsibility for them and the professionalism which
 7 they brought to bear upon their job?
 8 **A. I hope I am, sir, yes.**
 9 Q. Because you're saying, look at what happened with
 10 Norden, yet nothing like that ever happened with any of
 11 my boys?
 12 **A. No, I wouldn't allow it, sir. There are some things**
 13 **that you come across and you have to deal with at the**
 14 **time that you deal with them, but to allow a progression**
 15 **of such abuse on the Norden unit over a long period of**
 16 **time is incompetent.**
 17 Q. The Mellor Report. Can I ask you a few things about
 18 that, please. Let's put it up on the screen.
 19 RHC001599. Are you able to see that, Mr Digan?
 20 **A. I can now, sir, thank you.**
 21 Q. You can see it was dated 18 February 1992. I would like
 22 to go to the third page, please. At the last two lines
 23 of the second paragraph, do you see she says she's had
 24 four meetings at the Department of Education:
 25 "I have visited Knowl View School on several

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1 occasions and I have seen the following people."
 2 Do you see that? Then there is a long list under
 3 the heading "Education authority", "At Knowl View" and
 4 "Others". Under the heading "At Knowl View" she lists
 5 Bradshaw, Eaton, Humphreys and then "All members of care
 6 staff". Do you think you were one of those she spoke
 7 to?
 8 **A. Oh, I spoke to her, sir, yes.**
 9 Q. Do you remember now the conversation that you had with
 10 her?
 11 **A. No, sir, it is too long ago, sir. I'm sure there's**
 12 **a record of it.**
 13 Q. I'm not sure there is. Help us with this, and if your
 14 recollection understandably fails, then do tell us, but
 15 was it a lengthy meeting that you had where you sat down
 16 and told her all of the ills of Knowl View or --
 17 **A. I did tell her the ills of Knowl View, but she dispensed**
 18 **with that meeting pretty quickly.**
 19 Q. What does that mean?
 20 **A. It means that she finished it pretty quickly.**
 21 Q. How long is your impression now?
 22 **A. I don't think it was 10 minutes, sir.**
 23 Q. On the fourth page, do you see the heading right at the
 24 top "History of sexualised behaviour"?
 25 **A. Yes, sir.**

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1 Q. Let's look at it together:
 2 "Since Knowl View was opened in 1971, several
 3 incidents have been logged involving sexual behaviour
 4 with the boys. For example, as long ago as
 5 16 March 1981 an incident is recorded involving
 6 behaviour rather more than experimentation between boys.
 7 There is simply a report of the incident in the log with
 8 no further reporting of what happened about that. This
 9 is not an isolated report."
 10 Then she jumps to 1987 and 1988, so there is no
 11 reference here to what happened in 1984:
 12 "In 1987 and 1988, there are reports of the boys
 13 meeting in a copse on the school grounds with
 14 Rodney Hilton" --
 15 **A. A smoking copse, sir.**
 16 Q. Say again?
 17 **A. A smoking copse, where the boys used to meet to smoke.**
 18 Q. Right:
 19 "... a man who lives opposite to the school and who
 20 has convictions for child sexual assault."
 21 She refers to him as "Rodney"; in fact it is
 22 Roderick:
 23 "In 1988 there are reports of Dr Fraser, child
 24 psychiatrist, expressing concern about sexual behaviour
 25 involving boys attending the school. It also appears

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1 from the logbook that there has at times been quite an
 2 aggressive regime within the school. There appears to
 3 have been a chain of coercion and aggressive behaviour
 4 from staff to the older boys to the younger boys."
 5 You have told us about some of the physical abuse
 6 that took place. She says:
 7 "In order to set the sexualised behaviour into
 8 a context, it is helpful to look at the history of
 9 the leadership of the school."
 10 Then she goes through the history of headmasters,
 11 excluding the present one, Mr Turner Cayman, then
 12 Mr Terry Hopwood, whom you have mentioned more than
 13 once, Mr Digan, who had been the head of the school for
 14 a period of approximately 10 years when, in 1988, he
 15 applied for retirement. Then she deals with some of
 16 the other names with which this inquiry has become
 17 familiar:
 18 "All of those changes have inevitably had an effect
 19 on the organisation and morale within the school."
 20 I take it you agree with that?
 21 **A. Yes, sir.**
 22 Q. "In all, 14 boys, some being residential, some day boys
 23 at Knowl View School, have been involved in known
 24 incidents of sexualised behaviour either between
 25 themselves or with other adults. This sexualised

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1 behaviour has occurred in various places, in school,
 2 within the school grounds outside, at Smith Street
 3 toilets in Rochdale and at a flat in the Rusholme area
 4 of Manchester. There the behaviour has included acts
 5 such as buggery, mutual masturbation and oral sex. On
 6 occasion boys have participated in these acts for
 7 money."
 8 Then she appends to this report a list of specific
 9 allegations and known acts.
 10 **A. Yes. We never saw them at the time, sir.**
 11 Q. I was going to ask you. We are looking at the report.
 12 What I want to ask you -- we can look over the page and
 13 there is a lot more material about, since Mr Bradshaw
 14 took up his position as headmaster, there's been one
 15 incident which he describes as common horse play. And
 16 then information from Rochdale Police during the summer
 17 of 1991 was that, although surveillance of Smith Street
 18 toilets was continuing, there was no longer any
 19 homosexual activity going on there. So she lists, as
 20 she understood it from everything she had been told, her
 21 understanding of the history of sexualised behaviour at
 22 the school.
 23 Now, the circumstances in which you, Mr Digan, came
 24 to read that report, and we touched on it a little
 25 earlier, is it right that in March, and the date may

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1 have been, but you may not know this, 13 March 1992,
 2 perhaps or, if not, the 27th, but one of those two
 3 dates, were you and other staff members --
 4 **A. Instructed, sir.**
 5 Q. Well, instructed to do what, Mr Digan?
 6 **A. Instructed to attend a meeting --**
 7 Q. At the school?
 8 **A. At the school, sir. All the boys were sent home for the**
 9 **weekend. Various councillors, senior councillors,**
 10 **arrived at the school with Val Mellor, with the Director**
 11 **of Education, with the Assistant Director of**
 12 **Education --**
 13 Q. Slow down. Councillors. Was Mary Moffat one of them?
 14 **A. Yes, sir.**
 15 Q. Pamela Hawton?
 16 **A. Yes, sir.**
 17 Q. Mary Moffat chaired the meeting?
 18 **A. Yes, sir.**
 19 Q. Diana Cavanagh, Director of Education?
 20 **A. She also chaired the meeting, sir. I know there can**
 21 **only be one chair, but between them they did it.**
 22 Q. Who else came with her?
 23 **A. Adele Bebb, the assistant director.**
 24 Q. Adele Bebb, she was the assistant director?
 25 **A. There was Margaret Muller(?), head of staffing. It was**

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1 **all the people that ran that section with admin**
 2 **responsibility for the school, sir.**
 3 Q. Were there already available copies of this report for
 4 staff members to read?
 5 **A. They were behind the chair. When everybody was**
 6 **assembled, which included the kitchen staff, ancillary**
 7 **staff, teaching staff, care staff, everybody, when**
 8 **everybody was present, everybody was given a 10-minute**
 9 **reading period of that document.**
 10 Q. And you had to hand the document back afterwards?
 11 **A. Yes, sir, that's right.**
 12 Q. Did you find 10 minutes to read it a satisfactory period
 13 of time?
 14 **A. Sir, I think you would agree with me, having read it,**
 15 **that that is nothing like long enough to read a document**
 16 **like that. It turned out, when I came across the**
 17 **documentation at a later date, that page 7 had been**
 18 **altered, looking like it was to protect the caretaker --**
 19 Q. Pause there. Let's see what you are talking about. We
 20 have what was potentially known as your dossier.
 21 I think we can simplify matters this way. Go to page 7.
 22 You will see it on the screen. I have actually compared
 23 the two, Mr Digan, so I am sure you will trust me to
 24 tell you how it compares now.
 25 **A. Of course, sir.**

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1 Q. If we look under the heading "Caretaker", I think what
 2 we will find, although I think another sentence may have
 3 been added, but if you look from the part which says:
 4 "He was able to give a very detailed history" down
 5 to where it's -- the penultimate line above "He has now
 6 resigned from his post"?
 7 **A. With excellent references, sir.**
 8 Q. I think that chunk was removed from the document which
 9 was handed out to you and other staff; is that correct?
 10 **A. Yes, sir.**
 11 Q. So it was redacted to that limited extent. You were to
 12 discover that when you found the unedited version
 13 amongst other documents in the headmaster's study, which
 14 you copied, and eventually that dossier made its way to
 15 the authorities?
 16 **A. Almost immediately, sir.**
 17 Q. I think there may have been an added line just to cater
 18 for the omission, but that was the -- effectively, the
 19 guts of what had been removed for reasons we will
 20 discover later.
 21 I take it you didn't make any notes while you read
 22 the -- had the 10 minutes to read?
 23 **A. You weren't allowed to, sir. I think more concerning,**
 24 **sir, were the back pages where it starts with alleged**
 25 **incidents and goes on to factual incidents.**

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1 Q. Just to pause there, because in this document -- we can
 2 go to it now. If we go to page 11 on the screen, what
 3 you will find there is a document -- this is the
 4 appendix, which Mrs Mellor mentioned. You will see it
 5 is headed "Appendix 1" at the top right.
 6 **A. Yes, sir.**
 7 Q. Then at the top left "Allegations". Then if we go to
 8 the next page, as copied, we have "Facts continued".
 9 **A. Yes, sir.**
 10 Q. But in fact -- pardon the pun -- I think we will find
 11 this page is out of position, it should be
 12 a continuation page. If we go to the next, we find
 13 another page headed "Facts" which I think should be the
 14 first page.
 15 **A. Okay.**
 16 Q. Then there is a continuation page of a couple of lines
 17 on page 14.
 18 You won't know this, but this document is almost
 19 entirely derivative of something that Mr Bradshaw was
 20 able to produce, who was the then headmaster --
 21 **A. Yes, sir.**
 22 Q. -- on 17 May 1991, and it is a document we have which,
 23 if you compare it, as far as I have, it is almost word
 24 for word identical. So this isn't Mrs Mellor's work,
 25 this is something that she was either given or had

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1 access to that Mr Bradshaw had done in May 1991. So
 2 a series of allegations, in other words, unsubstantiated
 3 allegations --
 4 **A. And facts, sir.**
 5 Q. -- and those which they were able to say were facts?
 6 **A. What it prevented, sir, was the individual social**
 7 **workers working with those children. We were in no**
 8 **position, because those facts were hidden and those**
 9 **allegations were hidden, to bring in the appropriate**
 10 **services in order to look after those children, and**
 11 **that's got to be wrong.**
 12 Q. You're saying that this -- given these allegations and
 13 facts cover a whole period of time, going back several
 14 years, you're talking about these matters should have
 15 been addressed at the time they arose and not many years
 16 afterwards?
 17 **A. Absolutely, and my approach wasn't to go to the press**
 18 **initially, sir, and it wasn't to go anywhere except to**
 19 **the local authority and ask them to track these children**
 20 **as well as treat the ones that were still there and do**
 21 **something with them for what had happened to them. The**
 22 **authority refused to speak to me and that's why we are**
 23 **here where we are today.**
 24 Q. Let's then come to how it was you came into possession
 25 of the unredacted version of the Mellor Report and

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1 indeed other documents which came to be characterised as
 2 your dossier.
 3 I think you say that you had been on sleepover duty
 4 and you went looking for the then headmaster?
 5 **A. No, sir.**
 6 Q. That's what I have taken from a statement you made in
 7 2014. Tell us what happened?
 8 **A. That, sir, I think is when one of the pupils was**
 9 **assaulted on site.**
 10 Q. Yes.
 11 **A. When I -- that was not the same night that I collected**
 12 **this dossier.**
 13 Q. Tell us how it came about that you found these documents
 14 in the headmaster's office?
 15 **A. Part of the sleeping-in duty is to make sure you check**
 16 **the security of the building. We have children sleeping**
 17 **upstairs. The head teacher's door is always locked.**
 18 **Now, the head teacher is expected to live on site. He**
 19 **was not on site. His door was unlocked and it was open**
 20 **and his light was on.**
 21 Q. Who was the headmaster at that time?
 22 **A. John Tyldesley. He had been appointed by Cyril Smith on**
 23 **a retainer. I went into the office, turned the light**
 24 **off. The file was open. The Val Mellor report was**
 25 **there and, yes, I helped myself because I believed**

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1 **that -- and I still believe, sir -- I would have been**
 2 **breaking the 1980 Children's Act by assisting the**
 3 **covering up of the abuse of minors, whether it be**
 4 **physical or whether it be sexual, and I was not willing**
 5 **to do that.**
 6 Q. Can you help us when this was, what year this was?
 7 **A. I think it was '94, sir.**
 8 Q. So you had available to you the documents. What did you
 9 do -- photocopy them?
 10 **A. Yes, sir. I'm not proud of it, sir, but somebody needed**
 11 **to know. There were parents who had not been told of**
 12 **their own children's abuse, who currently today don't**
 13 **know about their own children's abuse.**
 14 Q. Did you deal with them immediately or did you wait
 15 before you did something with them?
 16 **A. I worked through them in order to understand them. I'm**
 17 **not sure how long that took me. Not that long. And**
 18 **then I took them to Khelsie Atkins, who was PA to the**
 19 **Director of Education.**
 20 Q. Diana Cavanagh?
 21 **A. Sorry?**
 22 Q. Diana Cavanagh?
 23 **A. Yes, who explained to me -- not Diana Cavanagh but**
 24 **Khelsie Atkins -- that Diana Cavanagh had no wish to**
 25 **speak to me. I then took them to the police in the form**

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1 **of Sergeant Sterndale and, when the police wouldn't deal**
 2 **with it, I took them to the press.**
 3 Q. Let's just take that in stages. You took them to the
 4 Director of Education, what, physically or phoned up or
 5 what?
 6 **A. I phoned up Khelsie Atkins in order to offer them to**
 7 **her.**
 8 Q. What did you tell her that you had?
 9 **A. I told her I had information on the abuse of children at**
 10 **Knowl View School which had not been made either public**
 11 **or parents had not been made aware to my knowledge and**
 12 **I would like to speak to Diana Cavanagh about getting**
 13 **some attention for those individual children. I was**
 14 **told that, "Diana Cavanagh has no wish to speak to you".**
 15 **Basically, they didn't believe me.**
 16 Q. Did you actually ever have contact from Diana Cavanagh?
 17 **A. To this day, sir, no.**
 18 Q. It may be obvious, but what did you think the materials
 19 that you had found and were able to copy showed?
 20 **A. I think they showed that the local authority were scared**
 21 **of being sued by individual families and children for**
 22 **not informing them of what happened to their child while**
 23 **they were in loco parentis.**
 24 Q. So you drew a blank at the Education Department --
 25 **A. Completely.**

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1 Q. -- with the director. Remind us, where did you go from
 2 there?
 3 **A. I went to the Police Sergeant Sterndale.**
 4 Q. He was in the Child Protection Unit at Littleborough; is
 5 that right?
 6 **A. That's right, sir, he was, yes.**
 7 Q. Did you know him before?
 8 **A. I had met him before. I think he have had been at the**
 9 **school for something, I don't know what it was, but --**
 10 Q. Sorry for me cutting across you, Mr Digan. When you
 11 went to Littleborough Police Station to speak to
 12 Sergeant Sterndale, did you go with anyone else?
 13 **A. Yes, I went with a chap called Martyn Green.**
 14 Q. Of the Rochdale Observer?
 15 **A. That's right, yes, he was, sir.**
 16 Q. How did you come to do that?
 17 **A. He insisted that if the Observer were going to run this**
 18 **information, that he witnessed the information being**
 19 **handed to the police.**
 20 Q. There is a stage before that, then. Did you get in
 21 touch with Martyn Green before you went to the police?
 22 **A. I'm not sure, sir. I remember Sergeant Sterndale**
 23 **bringing the information back and saying "This has all**
 24 **been dealt with". I knew it hadn't been dealt with.**
 25 Q. Martyn Green couldn't have been with you unless you had

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1 contacted him to tell him you were going into the police
 2 with a dossier, could he?
 3 **A. Martyn Green knew I'd been to the police with a dossier.**
 4 **I'm sure he did. Passage of time, but I'm sure he knew**
 5 **I'd been in to the police with the dossier and they'd**
 6 **give it me back, and he decided it deserved to go to**
 7 **print and his editor had. I think they spiked it**
 8 **anyway.**
 9 Q. Lots of things there, Mr Digan. I thought you were
 10 telling us that when you went to see Sergeant Sterndale
 11 at Littleborough Police Station you took Martyn Green
 12 with you?
 13 **A. Yes, sir, he insisted.**
 14 Q. Fine. But that can only have been at your invitation?
 15 **A. Yes, sir.**
 16 Q. So he must have known that you had something in your
 17 hand --
 18 **A. Which he had read, sir.**
 19 Q. So you showed it to him before you went to the police?
 20 **A. No, I don't remember it that way, sir. I remember going**
 21 **to Sergeant Sterndale first. Then, when he wouldn't do**
 22 **anything with it, I then went to Martyn Green at the**
 23 **Rochdale Observer. That's my memory of it.**
 24 Q. Fine, but that means you must at least have told
 25 Martyn Green you had something --

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1 **A. I showed to it him, sir.**
 2 Q. But not the content, not the detail, until afterwards
 3 when the police, you say, did nothing about it?
 4 **A. As the police had done nothing about it, I showed it to**
 5 **somebody I thought might do, sir.**
 6 Q. All I'm trying to establish is how Martyn Green went
 7 into the police station?
 8 **A. Martyn Green insisted that before the Observer would**
 9 **consider printing what they'd read, that he attended the**
 10 **police station with me in order to know that that**
 11 **information had been handed over.**
 12 Q. Fine. But that means that you must have contacted
 13 Martyn Green first?
 14 **A. Yes, sir.**
 15 Q. So Sergeant Sterndale, what, you hand the dossier over
 16 to him?
 17 **A. Mmm-hmm.**
 18 Q. Did you keep a copy for yourself?
 19 **A. Yes, sir.**
 20 Q. So you copied it again?
 21 **A. Yes, sir. I had already been threatened, sir, or, as it**
 22 **happened, I was threatened later -- and I'm glad I did**
 23 **copy it -- by Sir Cyril Smith to a journalist called**
 24 **Louis Jury from the Sunday Independent at a meeting at**
 25 **Rochdale Council. She was present when Sir**

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1 **Cyril Smith -- or Cyril Smith insisted that the police**
 2 **who were present at that meeting raid my premises in**
 3 **order to recover what he considered to be his**
 4 **documentation.**
 5 Q. To be what?
 6 **A. His documentation.**
 7 Q. His documentation?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Knowl View documentation was his documentation?
 10 **A. Yes. Louis Jury, the Sunday Independent, sir.**
 11 Q. Are you saying Sergeant Sterndale took a copy of
 12 the bundle, looked at it but then told you at some
 13 subsequent time the police weren't going to do anything
 14 about it? Is that what you're telling us?
 15 **A. Within a week.**
 16 Q. Did he give an explanation why?
 17 **A. No, sir. Oh, the explanation was, sorry, sir, "This has**
 18 **already been dealt with".**
 19 Q. When it was handed back to you, you gave it to
 20 Martyn Green?
 21 **A. Yes, sir.**
 22 Q. Of the Rochdale Observer. What did he do with the
 23 material?
 24 **A. He followed me to the police station to make sure it was**
 25 **handed back over to the police to see if they would do**

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1 anything about it. I know I had already handed it over
 2 once, sir. I did it twice because the Observer would
 3 not go to print without observing me doing it.
 4 Q. Who did you hand it to the second time?
 5 A. The desk sergeant. It wasn't Sergeant Sterndale, it was
 6 the desk sergeant.
 7 Q. What happened on that occasion?
 8 A. I never saw it again.
 9 Q. Did you get any explanation for what was going on with
 10 it?
 11 A. No, sir.
 12 Q. When you handed it back the second time, how long after
 13 the first time was it you did this?
 14 A. I don't know, sir.
 15 Q. Weeks, months?
 16 A. It wasn't that long. As long as it took the Rochdale
 17 Observer to read it, go through it and make a decision
 18 on it, sir.
 19 Q. We are talking about, what, '94/'95 at this point?
 20 A. Something like that, sir, yes.
 21 Q. Who was the sitting MP at that time? Liz Lynne?
 22 A. I think so, sir, yes.
 23 Q. Did you speak to her?
 24 A. I tried to speak to -- I did speak to her on one
 25 occasion, sir. She arranged to meet me at the town hall

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1 in Rochdale to discuss the subject area, but later
 2 cancelled the appointment. I spoke to her PA,
 3 Debbie Doyle, who has since come out to the public and
 4 has admitted to the public that she was instructed to
 5 destroy the documentation that I'd given her by
 6 Liz Lynne, who had been ordered to by Cyril Smith.
 7 Q. We will hear a little about that. But did you,
 8 therefore, hand a copy of your dossier to Liz Lynne when
 9 she was MP?
 10 A. Never got the opportunity, sir.
 11 Q. What was destroyed?
 12 A. I'm sorry, sir?
 13 Q. Didn't you just tell us that her PA, Deborah Doyle,
 14 unless I misunderstood, was instructed to destroy
 15 something?
 16 A. Yes, sir, the communications I'd had with Debbie Doyle
 17 explaining the circumstances upon which I wanted to give
 18 her this information on what it was about.
 19 Q. So not your dossier --
 20 A. No, sir.
 21 Q. -- but any evidence of communication is what you are
 22 telling us?
 23 A. Yes, sir.
 24 Q. I think the MP in 1997 was a Lorna Fitzsimons?
 25 A. Gave her a full copy, sir.

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1 Q. Of?
 2 A. The dossier.
 3 Q. What became of that?
 4 A. No idea, sir. Never heard anything back. I gave it to
 5 her in the presence of a parent. I've done my best with
 6 this, sir. I don't know what else I could have done
 7 with it.
 8 Q. Then in 1999, between 1999 and 2000, did you meet
 9 Colin Lambert who was the then -- was he the head of
 10 Rochdale Council, the leader of Rochdale Council?
 11 A. He was council member. He became chair of education,
 12 believe it or not. And then went on to become leader of
 13 the council. Colin Lambert and Jim Dobbin in the Labour
 14 HQ at Heywood in Manchester, Greater Manchester, sir --
 15 Q. Let me --
 16 A. He was MP for Heywood, sir. He's since passed on.
 17 Q. Did you see them?
 18 A. Both of them together.
 19 Q. For what purpose?
 20 A. In order to give them a full copy -- it was
 21 Colin Lambert who contacted me; I didn't contact him.
 22 In order to give them a full copy of the dossier. They
 23 said they were going to deal with it.
 24 Q. And what happened?
 25 A. Nothing, sir.

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1 Q. Did they hand the dossier back?
 2 A. I was told at a later date, sir, and I have no evidence
 3 of this for you. I was told at a later date that a deal
 4 had been done between Cyril Smith, Jim Dobbin and
 5 Colin Lambert whereby Cyril Smith would not be -- can
 6 I mention this person's name or not, sir?
 7 Q. Don't mention any names. Just tell us the general
 8 points that you want to make.
 9 A. I was told that the leader of the council in the early
 10 '90s -- I hope that's not too pointed a reference -- had
 11 committed a serious offence against a child in a public
 12 toilet and that Mr Smith would expose that if the
 13 dossier that had anything to do with him was exposed and
 14 a deal had to be done between Labour and between
 15 Cyril Smith's party.
 16 Q. Thank you very much.
 17 A. Further to that, sir, if I may --
 18 Q. I don't know what you are going to say, Mr Digan. What
 19 are you going to say?
 20 A. I have also been informed by an ex-current leader on
 21 the council --
 22 Q. No, I'm going to stop you there.
 23 A. No problem.
 24 Q. Because we are going into perhaps too much of what
 25 I heard from other people.

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1 **A. Okay.**
 2 Q. If there is anything, I can assure you that the inquiry
 3 will have heard about it and we can deal with it another
 4 way.
 5 **A. Okay.**
 6 Q. Was there also someone else that you spoke to in the mid
 7 to late '90s, perhaps, a father of a friend of a son of
 8 yours who was in Greater Manchester Police?
 9 **A. I'm trying to be careful with names here, sir.**
 10 Q. I understand. You don't have to name him.
 11 **A. Yes, there was.**
 12 Q. Did you talk to him about what you had?
 13 **A. I gave him the dossier to read in order to get his legal**
 14 **opinion from a police perspective. His advice was to**
 15 **take it to senior officers.**
 16 Q. I think one loose end is this: Martyn Green, when he
 17 went back to the police station with you the second
 18 time, and witnessed you hand in your dossier, did the
 19 Rochdale Observer publish anything around that time?
 20 **A. Yes, they did, sir, quite a lot.**
 21 Q. About?
 22 **A. About the dossier, yes. There was one thing, sir, that**
 23 **I feel is important to tell you.**
 24 Q. Go on, then.
 25 **A. There is a senior detective -- I won't mention his name,**

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1 **sir -- who worked for Operation Cleopatra in the late**
 2 **'90s. He'd uncovered three further cases of sexual**
 3 **assaults on children.**
 4 Q. At Knowl View?
 5 **A. I don't know, sir. He didn't tell me. But three**
 6 **further cases that I didn't know about. He had been**
 7 **taken off Operation Cleopatra and assigned to other**
 8 **duties and his words to me were, "It's because all roads**
 9 **lead to Westminster". I can give you his name in**
 10 **private, sir, any time you wish.**
 11 Q. I think I know who you mean. I suspect we know who you
 12 mean. Thank you very much. Is that Sergeant
 13 Vincent Hill?
 14 **A. Yes, sir.**
 15 Q. Thank you very much for that. I have a few other
 16 questions to ask you, Mr Digan, and it is going back
 17 a little in time because we diverted because of
 18 the dossier. But I want to go back to 1992 and I would
 19 like to ask you to look at a document, RHC001472 at
 20 page 2. Ignore all the labels below: DPA,
 21 Data Protection Act. It is protecting people's
 22 identities. You will recognise this letter.
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. It went to Mrs Cavanagh. You were one of the signatures
 25 to this letter. I think if we looked at the actual

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1 letter, your signature is top left on it.
 2 **A. Yes, sir.**
 3 Q. "In light of the Val Mellor report, the staff group
 4 within Knowl View School feel that matters arising from
 5 various incidents within the last two years have been
 6 left unresolved.
 7 "At a staff meeting which took place on Friday,
 8 3 April, more information previously unknown to us was
 9 brought to light and discussed and we feel that you need
 10 to be informed of the total unease and lack of
 11 confidence this leaves us with.
 12 "We feel very strongly that there is a need for
 13 a full and immediate enquiry, initiated by us - and not
 14 forced upon us by the press or any adverse media
 15 coverage, which we feel we are bound to get before very
 16 long."
 17 Why the need for this letter in those terms?
 18 **A. We didn't at the time realise the caretaker's**
 19 **involvement with Rod Hilton and the possibility, the**
 20 **strong possibility, that he had allowed a schedule 1**
 21 **offender onto the premises.**
 22 Q. Was that the nub of this? What were the matters -- "the
 23 matters", plural -- left unresolved? What was left
 24 unresolved, do you think, by Val Mellor?
 25 **A. That was basically it, sir, and the fact that we had**

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1 **a 10-minute reading period of a document which could**
 2 **affect all our careers.**
 3 Q. The second paragraph:
 4 "At a staff meeting which took place on Friday,
 5 3 April, more information previously unknown to us was
 6 brought to light ..."
 7 That was, as you'd call it, the realisation that the
 8 caretaker had been directly involved, according to what
 9 you had been told, in allowing Hilton onto the premises?
 10 **A. Sir. Or into the premises, sir.**
 11 Q. Or onto the premises?
 12 **A. Into the premises, sir.**
 13 Q. When you say "into the premises", are you saying school
 14 grounds or actually into Norden unit?
 15 **A. No, into Knowl View.**
 16 Q. Into Knowl View?
 17 **A. Into the school itself.**
 18 Q. Into the school itself?
 19 **A. Yes, whilst the head teacher was absent, without leave.**
 20 Q. You remember more than once I have asked you questions
 21 about the Hodge/Dobie further review which was called.
 22 That was as a result of this, wasn't it?
 23 **A. I don't know, sir. Truly, I don't know, sir.**
 24 Q. It is 7 April 1992. Dr Hodge and Ms Dobie reported
 25 in June 1992 and it was partly Hodge and Dobie and

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1 everything else that allowed Ms Cavanagh to write the
 2 report which you have obviously seen and have told us
 3 about, and perhaps I will come to that at 2.00 pm?
 4 **A. I wasn't aware of Steve Bradshaw's part in that, sir.**
 5 Q. Let's not worry about that for the moment. We will be
 6 hearing from him.
 7 Mr Digan, it is 1.00 pm. The chair and panel break
 8 for lunch and so do the rest of us. Are you all right
 9 to come back at 2 o'clock?
 10 **A. If you would like me to, sir.**
 11 MR ALTMAN: I do. I hope you won't be too much longer after
 12 that. Thank you.
 13 **A. Thank you, sir.**
 14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman. Thank you, Mr Digan.
 15 **A. Thank you, ma'am.**
 16 **(1.00 pm)**
 17 **(The short adjournment)**
 18 **(2.00 pm)**
 19 MR ALTMAN: Mr Digan, before we broke, we were looking at
 20 that letter which you and other members of staff wrote
 21 to Mrs Cavanagh on 7 April 1992.
 22 **A. Yes, sir.**
 23 Q. Complaining of matters which had been left unresolved.
 24 In the result, it appears that that led to the
 25 engagement of Dr Hodge and Liz Dobie who wrote a report

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1 in June 1992.
 2 Dr Hodge, was he then the chief adviser?
 3 **A. I don't ever remember meeting Dr Hodge.**
 4 Q. You don't remember meeting him?
 5 **A. Not at all, sir.**
 6 Q. We certainly have notes of interviews that you had with
 7 him. You accept you were interviewed by him and
 8 Liz Dobie?
 9 **A. If it is on paper, sir, yes. Liz Dobie never liked me**
 10 **much anyway, sir.**
 11 Q. What was that?
 12 **A. Liz Dobie never liked me much anyway.**
 13 Q. Let's see if, by looking at the notes, we can jog your
 14 memory. Can we put up GMP000355, please. Page 3. If
 15 we go to the page before -- I'm sorry if that is
 16 a nuisance for the gentleman who is looking at this --
 17 do you see in the left-hand margin that there are the
 18 initials "SH", Selwyn Hodge?
 19 **A. Mmm-hmm. Yes, sir. I see it, sir, just about --**
 20 Q. I know it is not very easy. On this page -- let's
 21 assume for one moment -- the first page is missing,
 22 which doesn't help much. But on this page, you were
 23 talking about the sleeping-in arrangements which I was
 24 asking you a little about earlier.
 25 **A. Mmm-hmm.**

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1 Q. Do you see underlined is the word "procedures" about
 2 five lines down from the top? It doesn't come across
 3 underlined -- or maybe it is my underlining, actually.
 4 No, it is my underlining. "Procedures: M", presumably
 5 for Martin, "didn't feel", I'm not quite clear what that
 6 word is, but something "laid down, but it was expected
 7 for duty to sleep between" and "cover staff to sleep
 8 in", does that mean anything to you? Accommodation,
 9 short for accommodation?
 10 **A. I'm trying to understand it, sir. "Procedures: M didn't**
 11 **feel" --**
 12 Q. "Ever laid down", perhaps. Didn't feel procedures ever
 13 laid down "but it was expected for duty to sleep
 14 between" --
 15 **A. Yes, sir.**
 16 Q. Possibly "act as cover staff would sleep in
 17 accommodation"?
 18 **A. The sleeping-in rooms, sir, on either side of**
 19 **the building were between both the junior units and**
 20 **between both the senior units.**
 21 Q. Then:
 22 "Normal practice that cover would ensure boys were
 23 asleep then staff member would go to bed."
 24 Does that make sense to you?
 25 **A. Yes, you would go to bed around about midnight, sir,**

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1 **after you'd checked the security of the building.**
 2 Q. "Staff wouldn't normally get up through night."
 3 **A. Not unless there was a problem that was brought to your**
 4 **attention by the boys or the alarms went off.**
 5 Q. "Conversations and events could be heard very easily by
 6 sleeping-in person."
 7 Would that be right?
 8 **A. Sorry, sir.**
 9 Q. The next line down:
 10 "Conversations and events could be heard very easily
 11 by sleeping-in person."
 12 **A. Yes. I don't know how accurate that is, because in**
 13 **order to be able to overhear anything, you'd (a) have to**
 14 **be sneaking up on the boys and going into -- as you**
 15 **walked into the unit, sir, there was what's called**
 16 **the common room area with a television, sink, coffee,**
 17 **tea, and then, through that area, there would then be**
 18 **the sleeping area where there were separate units and**
 19 **two single rooms for the boys to sleep in.**
 20 Q. Then in brackets "Sex activity awareness":
 21 "MD [your initials] -- activities of 'normal' male
 22 sex adolescent but not that of what VM's report stated."
 23 Does that mean anything to you? "VM" is clearly
 24 Valerie Mellor. Does that mean anything to you?
 25 **A. It doesn't at the moment, I'm sorry, sir. I'm being**

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1 very, very open with you. It doesn't.

2 Q. No, it is a long time ago, and it is in someone else's

3 notes.

4 **A. It might well be somebody else's perspective as well,**

5 **sir. I have remembered the order that you asked me**

6 **earlier. I went through it over lunch.**

7 Q. Sorry, say that again.

8 **A. The order that you asked me, on which I presented**

9 **documentation, is as follows: it was initially with the**

10 **local authority. It was then with the police. It was**

11 **then with the Rochdale Observer. It then went back to**

12 **the police.**

13 Q. Thank you very much for that. Let's go on, then,

14 please, to the ninth page in this document.

15 **A. That says it all, sir.**

16 Q. What are you looking at?

17 **A. "Staff meeting to say gov's back-up BA to continue as**

18 **acting head", that was never the case.**

19 Q. I'm slightly struggling myself to see where you are

20 looking at. Is that at the top?

21 **A. The third paragraph, sir.**

22 Q. What are you saying about that on 17 October 1990?

23 **A. I'm saying there was absolutely no confidence in**

24 **Brett Andrews whatsoever, sir.**

25 **I mean, they even went as far, sir, the next**

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1 paragraph, on 21/11/90, to employ Duncan Eaton's wife,

2 who wasn't a qualified teacher, as a teacher. That was

3 the level of management at the school under

4 Brett Andrews and under Ian Ashton.

5 Q. Top of page 12, please. "MD" it says right at the top:

6 "Greatest concern is collective responsibility

7 because parents' knowledge."

8 Does that mean anything to you?

9 **A. It does, sir. It means that letters were sent to**

10 **parents to say that issues of a sexual nature had been**

11 **dealt with and in actual fact they were sent to parents**

12 **who had never -- well, they weren't sent to the parents**

13 **of the children that had been sexually assaulted. They**

14 **were kept back.**

15 Q. So what does "collective responsibility" here mean in

16 that context?

17 **A. Let me see, sir. I think as a staff group we had**

18 **a collective responsibility to make sure that the**

19 **parents were aware of what happened to their children,**

20 **and staff found that easy for me to say because my boys**

21 **weren't abused.**

22 Q. Are you saying parents were or weren't told or didn't

23 you know?

24 **A. I'm saying they weren't told, sir. There were a number**

25 **of parents whose children told them. I'm saying that**

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1 the local authority did not collectively send that

2 letter that they claim to have done to the parents of

3 children that were abused.

4 Q. I see. The next sentence:

5 "Query whether children should be tested for HIV

6 because of events."

7 **A. That's right.**

8 Q. Was that a view you expressed?

9 **A. Yes, I think you have a copy of the AIDS report there,**

10 **sir.**

11 Q. It depends what you mean by that?

12 **A. It is a report completed by Mr Phil Shepherd.**

13 Q. Oh, yes.

14 **A. Names again, sorry.**

15 Q. No, that's fine. Shepherd is fine. That was a report

16 on 20 March 1991.

17 **A. That's right. The shame of it is that Mr Shepherd**

18 **waited 20 years to speak out. That was 20 years where**

19 **the kids had to sit down and worry about whether or not**

20 **they had STDs or HIV.**

21 Q. Shepherd's report did go to people at the time. Did you

22 see it at the time?

23 **A. No. I picked it up in a file that I explained to you**

24 **earlier, sir, and the parents certainly never saw it.**

25 Q. At the foot of this page, it reads:

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1 "MD still feels that spontaneity of events needs to

2 be questioned."

3 Do you know what you meant by that?

4 **A. I think the overreaction on -- sorry, "over" is the**

5 **wrong word. The underreaction in relation to the**

6 **authority not dealing with the issue at the time, sir.**

7 **I think it was all about not being sued, sir, as a local**

8 **authority.**

9 Q. The local authority. Did you ever see the Hodge report

10 itself?

11 **A. I haven't, sir, no.**

12 Q. Never seen it?

13 **A. Not that I remember, sir, no.**

14 Q. Can I ask you something else, please, on a different

15 topic. When you made your statement in October 2014,

16 you recalled an incident which you thought had taken

17 place on 6 September 1994. Insofar as we can date it,

18 it looks as if it was 6 July 1994. We have evidence of

19 this in a log. Again, we are not going to name any

20 names, but do you remember a report from -- about a boy

21 who had woken up in the night screaming, had gone to the

22 canteen --

23 **A. Sir, I will never forget that. Never.**

24 Q. Were you sleeping in that night?

25 **A. Yes, I was, indeed.**

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1 Q. Don't name him.
 2 **A. No.**
 3 Q. Please.
 4 **A. I won't. Sir, he's dead now.**
 5 Q. All right. If that's right, Mr Digan, and I am sure, if
 6 you say so, it is, but let's just err on the side of
 7 caution and not name that boy, as he was. I wonder if
 8 we can just put up a document: GMP000416 at page 3. Do
 9 you see it is dated at the top 6 July 1994 and towards
 10 the bottom it is the last half page:
 11 "11 pm. Disturbance on the alarm system."
 12 It is a bit difficult to read the next --
 13 **A. "Showing 25 on checking".**
 14 Q. What does that mean?
 15 **A. It means that was the number of the unit that the alarm**
 16 **system was displaying there was a problem on, sir.**
 17 Q. What was that unit?
 18 **A. Bamford, the youngest unit in the building.**
 19 Q. So it was that alarm that was sounding:
 20 "On checking and review of building, I found A46
 21 [the cipher] shivering in the ..."
 22 Is it "shivering"?
 23 **A. Yes, "shivering in the dining area".**
 24 Q. "... in the dining area. He had apparently called at
 25 the staff room whilst the staff group were securing the

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1 building."
 2 **A. That's right. That would be me and the person I was**
 3 **sleeping in with. There were always two people sleeping**
 4 **in.**
 5 Q. "A46 explained that someone, a man, had walked past his
 6 bed space and [something] the unit"?
 7 **A. "After further checking the building ..."**
 8 Q. "After further checking the building, no traces of an
 9 intruder could be found and the police were informed
 10 who ..."
 11 **A. "... undertook their own search of the grounds ..."**
 12 Q. "... and speak to A46. No further disturbance followed
 13 for the remainder of the night."
 14 The writing is not yours, is it?
 15 **A. I think it might be, sir. I called the police, sir.**
 16 Q. Did you get a description of the man?
 17 **A. I got a description the following day.**
 18 Q. From the boy?
 19 **A. From three boys.**
 20 Q. Including this boy?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Who, in your judgment, did that description match?
 23 **A. It matched a man called Harry Wild, who were**
 24 **Cyril Smith's escort, sir.**
 25 Q. You called him earlier a "consort", I thought?

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1 **A. Consort, sorry.**
 2 Q. What does that mean in plain terms?
 3 **A. Partner.**
 4 Q. As in sexual partner?
 5 **A. I believe so. Also a cohort.**
 6 Q. Also a ...?
 7 **A. Cohort. There's a governor's report that you hold, sir,**
 8 **where Cyril Smith, having had a period of illness, is**
 9 **invited back onto the governing body by Harry Wild.**
 10 Q. We know that Cyril Smith, for the second time, became
 11 a governor of the school on 20 July 1994 until the end
 12 and we know certainly by the end of October 1992, but
 13 certainly in January 1993, Harry Wild was vice chair --
 14 **A. That's right, sir.**
 15 Q. -- of the governing body and became chairman some time
 16 after that?
 17 **A. That, sir, fits in with the fact that the school was**
 18 **about to go to what I mentioned to you earlier, which is**
 19 **LMSS.**
 20 Q. We wanted to come back to that and what that all meant.
 21 Tell us now, as you have mentioned it. What does that
 22 mean to you?
 23 **A. It meant to me that the school would become under the**
 24 **governor's control. It would come out of LEA control**
 25 **and they had already convened a governor's report, which**

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1 **is there with your documentation, sir, which says that**
 2 **they do not require any Social Service inspection.**
 3 **Therefore, nobody would be watching over the children,**
 4 **apart from the governing body.**
 5 Q. If that had happened and Harry Wild had been chair of
 6 the governors and Cyril Smith had been on the governing
 7 body, what would that have meant for the children?
 8 **A. Tragedy. Sexual tragedy, sir.**
 9 Q. If this was Harry Wild, how would he have gained access?
 10 **A. He would have gained access through -- as I described to**
 11 **you earlier, sir, there was -- the head teacher's house**
 12 **was attached to the youngest unit in the building so**
 13 **that the head could have access, if there was a problem,**
 14 **directly onto the unit. For the life of me, the police**
 15 **did an excellent job when they came out to the building.**
 16 **They checked everywhere. They woke the whole bloody**
 17 **school up. I had to settle them all back down**
 18 **afterwards. But they checked the ins and outs. They**
 19 **couldn't have done a better job than what they did.**
 20 **They couldn't find him. It struck me the next day or**
 21 **the day after, that there's only one place this man**
 22 **could have been, and that was in the head's house, which**
 23 **the police did not have access to.**
 24 Q. By the sound of it, an alarm was tripped?
 25 **A. Yes. So he had to walk onto the unit to trip the alarm,**

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1 **and he'll have walked on the unit from the back door of**
 2 **the head's house. An alarm tripped, went off.**
 3 **I attended.**
 4 Q. So whoever it was -- let's assume for current purposes
 5 it was Harry Wild -- he didn't realise that going onto
 6 the unit would trip an alarm?
 7 **A. Maybe he thought he had the code, sir. I don't know.**
 8 **But the description given by the boys of Harry Wild was**
 9 **that of a tall man -- he was a very intimidating, tall**
 10 **man -- Crombie, black boots, black pants, shirt, tie,**
 11 **very well dressed. They all gave the same description.**
 12 **What he did was put his hands underneath the sheets of**
 13 **at least one boy and that was the boy that was**
 14 **shivering. You know when somebody is distraught and**
 15 **when somebody is not, and this child was absolutely**
 16 **distraught.**
 17 Q. This document we have open here, was this an occurrence
 18 book?
 19 **A. Which book is it, sir?**
 20 Q. The one that we have up on screen. Is this a page from
 21 an occurrence book or an incident book?
 22 **A. I think it's more an occurrence book. Strangely enough,**
 23 **the incidents book went missing.**
 24 Q. We have got a page from it.
 25 **A. Great.**

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1 Q. Is this something that the headmaster would have read
 2 the next day?
 3 **A. Yes. First thing. The headmaster said, "Leave this**
 4 **with me. I will deal with it".**
 5 Q. Who was the headmaster at the time?
 6 **A. I have got this wrong before, sir. I don't know if it**
 7 **was Steve Bradshaw or if it was Jonathan Tyldesley.**
 8 Q. One of the two?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Were you on sleeping-in duty that night?
 11 **A. I was.**
 12 Q. Anybody else?
 13 **A. I think it might have been Hilda Wenlock. I'm not sure.**
 14 Q. Did you hear anything more about this episode?
 15 **A. Never.**
 16 Q. So the police came, they couldn't find the intruder?
 17 **A. The police did a very good job, sir.**
 18 Q. Did you ever say to the police, "That man was
 19 Harry Wild"?
 20 **A. No, I said it to the head teacher who told me to keep my**
 21 **place and he would sort that out.**
 22 Q. Moving on, I would like, please, for you to be shown
 23 a further document. It is a letter, GMP000233, please,
 24 at page 3. You will see it is a letter dated
 25 3 September to Mr Tyldesley, who was styled as the

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1 acting head teacher by then, at the school:
 2 "Dear John, due to the present circumstances that
 3 Knowl View School finds itself in, we, as the social
 4 work team, feel we are left with no other option than to
 5 express our professional concerns regarding the safety
 6 and education of the children from 9.00 to 3.30 pm
 7 (during the school day)."
 8 **A. That's right, sir.**
 9 Q. "This week we have seen two very serious incidents
 10 involving children's safety during the school day. We
 11 do not have those same concerns on the house units where
 12 the routine remains stable and structured.
 13 "We would appreciate your response ..."
 14 Can you see at the bottom you are one of
 15 the signatories to the letter?
 16 **A. Yes, sir.**
 17 Q. What was that all about?
 18 **A. I can't think of the second incident, sir, but the first**
 19 **one surrounded a member of staff -- no name --**
 20 Q. Don't give any names for now. Just tell us --
 21 **A. Okay, a member of the teaching staff who wasn't aware --**
 22 **even though she only had five children in her class, she**
 23 **wasn't aware that one was missing. The police brought**
 24 **him back, having just (inaudible) the house.**
 25 Q. So you had a missing child. The other incident you

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1 can't recall?
 2 **A. I can't, sir, no. It will be written up and it may come**
 3 **back to me, but I can't recall it, sir.**
 4 Q. But both of sufficient gravity for you and others to
 5 write this letter to Mr Tyldesley?
 6 **A. Yes, sir. There was a lot more going on than that, but**
 7 **very early pointers. I mean, how a teacher could miss**
 8 **a child out of five/six.**
 9 Q. How old was the child who was missing?
 10 **A. Under ten.**
 11 Q. Now, we have spoken about Harry Wild. Cyril Smith. You
 12 style him Harry Wild's consort. Did you ever see Smith
 13 at Knowl View?
 14 **A. Many times, sir.**
 15 Q. Over all the years you were there?
 16 **A. I think the latter years, really, from the '90s.**
 17 Q. What times of day would you see him?
 18 **A. It would be governors' meetings, or he popped in to see**
 19 **the head teacher of a morning. He didn't have much to**
 20 **do with me. I really didn't count for very much, so he**
 21 **didn't have great dealings with me. I just wanted him**
 22 **away from my unit. I made it clear to the head teacher**
 23 **that I was not happy with an entourage walking through**
 24 **my unit while my boys were showering after they had**
 25 **completed sporting activities.**

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1 Q. Tell us a little bit about that. Was it Cyril Smith
 2 that you objected to in particular or just the whole
 3 entourage around him?
 4 **A. Cyril Smith in particular, but I also objected to the**
 5 **fact that boys of teenage years could be observed naked**
 6 **in showers by men they did not know.**
 7 Q. Were they open showers?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Was there something else about Cyril Smith that made you
 10 object to him in particular? In other words, had you
 11 heard rumours about him?
 12 **A. I had indeed, sir, yes.**
 13 Q. Rumours in relation to boys at or outside the school or
 14 anything else?
 15 **A. Outside the school, sir. He was -- you'd have to have**
 16 **been in the man's company and you'd have to have been in**
 17 **Harry Wild's company to fully understand the impression**
 18 **that they gave, not only to children but to adults.**
 19 Q. By which you mean?
 20 **A. Intimidating.**
 21 Q. Bullying intimidating or sexually intimidating?
 22 **A. Both.**
 23 Q. These governors' meetings when he would turn up, what
 24 time of day were they?
 25 **A. Usually evening, sir, and it appalled me to see him**

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1 **bouncing 7-year-old kids on his knee.**
 2 Q. Can you say that again?
 3 **A. It appalled me to see him bouncing 7-year-old children**
 4 **on his knee.**
 5 Q. When would he do that?
 6 **A. He'd do that because the head teacher would make sure**
 7 **there was a buffet supplied and a party on mainly the**
 8 **youngest unit in the building which was the Bamford**
 9 **unit.**
 10 Q. Bouncing a 7-year-old child on his knee, would that be
 11 something Cyril Smith would do regularly?
 12 **A. Yes, whenever he got the chance.**
 13 Q. Did anyone, while you were at Knowl View, make any
 14 serious sexual allegations to you about Cyril Smith?
 15 **A. No, sir. I feel he was very much protected.**
 16 Q. By?
 17 **A. Other politicians and to some extent, sadly, I think the**
 18 **police were also forced into a corner in relation to**
 19 **what they could and couldn't do about Cyril Smith's**
 20 **activities.**
 21 Q. What period are you talking about when the police were
 22 put into a corner about what they could and couldn't do?
 23 **A. Right through the '90s, including when Vince Hill said**
 24 **to me that all roads led to Westminster and he was being**
 25 **taken off the case. All that period of time. I think**

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1 **the police's hands were tied, but they should have**
 2 **untied them.**
 3 Q. Did you have any indirect evidence yourself, other than
 4 rumours you'd heard and seeing him bouncing boys on his
 5 lap during periods when he was at the school for
 6 governors' meetings, of him abusing, sexually abusing,
 7 boys?
 8 **A. No, I can't say that I did, sir. I had very strong**
 9 **suspicions, but there is no evidence for those**
 10 **suspicions.**
 11 Q. Can I ask you this -- again, I don't want any names,
 12 please, Mr Digan, and perhaps it is easier if I put it
 13 to you in this way: did you ever meet Colin Lambert?
 14 I know you met him, you told us, in relation to your
 15 dossier with Jim Dobbin in the late '90s. But did you
 16 far more recently meet Colin Lambert in the company of
 17 somebody who had been at the school, A6 -- we are only
 18 going to call him A6 --
 19 **A. Oh --**
 20 Q. Don't name him.
 21 **A. I won't, sir.**
 22 Q. In December 2013, in the presence of the Police and
 23 Crime Commissioner For Greater Manchester?
 24 **A. Yes, I did indeed, sir, and he made certain promises**
 25 **which he never fulfilled.**

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1 Q. Who, the PCC?
 2 **A. No, Colin Lambert.**
 3 Q. What position was Colin Lambert in at that point?
 4 **A. He was leader of the council, Rochdale Council, sir.**
 5 Q. Did we understand you correctly -- this is the last
 6 thing I am going to ask you, Mr Digan -- to be saying
 7 that you didn't see the Phil Shepherd report until 1994
 8 when you found it amongst the other documents in the
 9 headmaster's office?
 10 **A. Yes, sir. I have no recollection of it before, picking**
 11 **it up, I read that file in the head teacher's office,**
 12 **sir.**
 13 Q. When Phil Shepherd came into the school, he came in
 14 ostensibly to give staff training about HIV and AIDS?
 15 **A. Mmm-hmm.**
 16 Q. Were you one of the persons who --
 17 **A. I attended that training session, sir.**
 18 Q. You attended that training. So you were one of
 19 the persons he spoke to among the care staff?
 20 **A. Mmm-hmm.**
 21 Q. Did you appreciate that he wrote a report arising out of
 22 what had come out of that meeting?
 23 **A. Not to my recollection, sir.**
 24 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Digan. That is all
 25 I have to ask Mr Digan. I will invite the chair or the

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1 panel to ask you any questions which they may have for
 2 you.
 3 THE CHAIR: Just one point of information, please, Mr Digan.
 4 **A. Yes, ma'am.**
 5 THE CHAIR: Was there ever any waking, fully waking, night
 6 staff in the school?
 7 **A. Yes, there was, ma'am. They were employed latterly --**
 8 **excuse me -- too late, too little too late, ma'am.**
 9 **There were, ma'am, but only for a number of -- a couple**
 10 **of years, and it was just too little too late.**
 11 THE CHAIR: About '94?
 12 **A. It might have been. I left in '94, ma'am, so I think it**
 13 **was pre '94. But I think it might have -- it might have**
 14 **been '92, ma'am. I wish I could remember for you. But**
 15 **for a very short period of time.**
 16 THE CHAIR: That's fine. Thank you.
 17 MR ALTMAN: Can I ask something arising out of that: were
 18 the waking night staff employed as a result of
 19 Val Mellor's report; do you know?
 20 **A. I don't know how they were appointed, sir. I was just**
 21 **a minion. You know, I wasn't told things like that.**
 22 Q. Let me ask you it another way: was it after you had read
 23 Valerie Mellor's report that you became aware that
 24 waking night staff were now being used in the school?
 25 **A. No, I don't think so, sir, because I didn't read**

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1 **Val Mellor's report in full until '94.**
 2 Q. No, but you did read it at a staff meeting in 1992?
 3 **A. Oh, it was after that point, sir.**
 4 Q. That's all I am asking. It was after that?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much, that helps.
 7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Digan. You have been here a very
 8 long time, so thank you for your tolerance.
 9 **A. No problem. Thank you for your time and thank you to**
 10 **your staff. I appreciate it.**
 11 **(The witness withdrew)**
 12 MR ALTMAN: Chair, the next witness is an anonymous witness,
 13 and I am told it is going to take just a few minutes to
 14 set up the room and for other technical matters to be
 15 attended to. It is early, but can I invite you to take
 16 your break now so that we can have a smooth run at it
 17 after that happens?
 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman. We will return at
 19 2.50 pm.
 20 (2.35 pm)
 21 (A short break)
 22 (2.50 pm)
 23 WITNESS A5 (affirmed)
 24
 25

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1 Examination by MR ALTMAN
 2 MR ALTMAN: Thank you. For the purposes of these
 3 proceedings, you are known as A5, all right? I am not
 4 going to ask you for any names, apart from one or two,
 5 but I will put the names to you.
 6 Can I ask you this, please: did you attend Knowl
 7 View School in Rochdale?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Can you speak up a little more for us than that, please?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. Looking at a statement you made, did you attend that
 12 school in 1987?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. How old were you in 1987?
 15 **A. Twelve, I think, thirteen.**
 16 Q. You describe in your statement the school. You
 17 remembered three names of three dormitories: Egerton,
 18 Norden and Ashworth?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. Do you remember which unit you were on?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Which one?
 23 **A. Egerton.**
 24 Q. You recall that, when you were there, there were maybe
 25 eight boys?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. How did you find Knowl View? Did you like it or dislike
 3 it?
 4 **A. Dislike it.**
 5 Q. Because? What didn't you like about it?
 6 **A. It was a horrible place.**
 7 Q. I think you likened it a bit to a prison?
 8 **A. Worse.**
 9 Q. You remembered -- again, I am taking this from the
 10 statement you made -- it was noisy, people were coming
 11 and going and you felt you had no privacy?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Is that right?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Do you think you learnt anything while you were there?
 16 **A. No.**
 17 Q. You've described the classes as extremely chaotic
 18 because there were a lot of disruptive boys; is that how
 19 you remember it?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. But you remembered having a particular interest in
 22 ornithology, but there was no opportunity to develop
 23 that or any other interest, for that matter?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. You said education was just a mess?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Is that accurate, how you felt?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. What about the evening times at Knowl View School? What
 5 did you do in the evenings?
 6 **A. You were just left to your own devices.**
 7 Q. Were there staff around in the evenings?
 8 **A. No, not really.**
 9 Q. Did that mean you could come and go as you pleased?
 10 **A. Most of the time, yes.**
 11 Q. Did you go offsite? Did you leave the school at
 12 night-time?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. With other boys?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. When you were just aged 12 or 13?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Where did you go?
 19 **A. Rochdale town centre.**
 20 Q. Where, presumably, you would get into trouble from time
 21 to time?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. You talk about drinking alcohol, smoking weed, stealing
 24 from shops, that sort of thing?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. At weekends, did you stay in school or go home?
 2 **A. Went home.**
 3 Q. Every weekend?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. And holidays of course?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. There was one staff member of whom you make special
 8 mention, someone who seemed to care what you got up to
 9 in the evenings. Who was that?
 10 **A. Martin Digan.**
 11 Q. You say he tried to keep an eye on who was coming and
 12 going. Other than him, you said it felt like the school
 13 completely emptied of staff at night?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Is that how it felt, that there were just no staff
 16 around?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. You also said some staff slept in flats in adjoining
 19 buildings, but they were not in the school after
 20 a certain time in the evening. "So basically, most
 21 evenings we all had the run of the building"?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Is that how it was?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. So you could do exactly what you wanted when you wanted

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1 to do it?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. And nobody was supervising or watching what you were
 4 doing, getting up to?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. What about people not so much going out of the school
 7 but coming in, intruders? Do you remember Mr Digan
 8 having anything to do with stopping anybody coming into
 9 the school?
 10 **A. I recall him chasing somebody off one night, yes.**
 11 Q. Do you remember the person's name?
 12 **A. No.**
 13 Q. Does this name ring a bell: Rod or Rodney?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Someone who slept in a tent in a wooded area near the
 16 school?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Now, I have to ask you about some other matters. Were
 19 you sexually abused when you were at the school?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. I know you would rather that I really repeated the words
 22 that you have already stated in your statement to make
 23 it more comfortable for you, and I will do that.
 24 You remembered several incidents, and I am going to
 25 go through them. The first that you recalled was at

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1 night-time you remembered men coming in from outside?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. More than one man, but adult men is what you are talking
 4 about?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. You remembered one night sleeping in the bedroom next to
 7 the fire escape when you woke up and you saw a very big,
 8 fat man sitting on your bed; is that right?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. You say he was no more than a couple of feet away and
 11 there was nothing blocking your view of him. You woke
 12 up realising that this man had, as you put it, "inserted
 13 his finger up my bottom"?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. It was because of that that you awoke; is that right?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Because of what he was doing to you. You tried to pull
 18 away and turned onto your back, which caused him to
 19 desist, in other words, to stop doing what he was doing,
 20 and then did he touch your private parts?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. You managed to pull away from him and told him to get
 23 off?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Then did the fat man say to you, "Where is your friend?"

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1 **A. He did.**
 2 Q. He was looking across to another bed in the dormitory.
 3 You remembered he then got up and left the room, the fat
 4 man?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Clearly, you were shocked -- I imagine that is to say
 7 the least -- by what he had done to you?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. How old were you at this time, do you think?
 10 **A. 12.**
 11 Q. You said you were scared to death and then you went to
 12 hide under another boy's bed and that's where you were
 13 found the next morning, sleeping under another boy's
 14 bed?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. The staff member who found you, who I think was
 17 Mr Digan, asked you why you were there, but I think you
 18 said you were too scared to tell him. Is that how you
 19 felt?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Why were you too scared to tell him? It may be an
 22 obvious question, but let's see what you say?
 23 **A. I don't know.**
 24 Q. Did you understand what had happened to you, do you
 25 think? Did you understand what had actually happened or

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1 were you too young, or were you old enough to
 2 understand?
 3 **A. I don't know.**
 4 Q. You don't know. You saw the big, fat man, you say,
 5 shortly after that, at the school during the day going
 6 up towards the Ashworth dormitory, which was above the
 7 headmaster's office. Then you saw him again in
 8 Rochdale. You were with somebody else who told you that
 9 that was Cyril Smith, the MP for Rochdale; is that
 10 right?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. When you saw him, and whoever you were with told you
 13 that that is Cyril Smith the MP for Rochdale, was that
 14 the same man who had sexually assaulted you?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. After that, you say that there were three other
 17 incidents. The second occurred when you were in bed at
 18 the Egerton dormitory. You said you remembered being
 19 awoken by a male member of staff who pulled you out of
 20 bed and frogmarched you into the office.
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Which office were you talking about?
 23 **A. It wasn't an office, it was a flat.**
 24 Q. Whose flat?
 25 **A. I don't know.**

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1 Q. I'm simply reading the word in the statement, but that
 2 is wrong, it is a flat that you meant. You say there
 3 was a flat which was a room next to the headmaster's
 4 office?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Is that right? Possibly staff accommodation. Did you
 7 say this, and I am simply going to read from what you
 8 said:
 9 "I was then pushed into the bedroom by the male and
 10 saw that Cyril Smith was sitting on the bed. The male
 11 staff member then left the room. At this time there was
 12 nobody else in the room."
 13 Is that correct?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. "Cyril Smith then made me take off my pyjamas. He
 16 started fondling my penis. He masturbated me until
 17 I ejaculated."
 18 Did you say that?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. Did that happen?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Then:
 23 "He took his own trousers down and masturbated
 24 himself."
 25 You say:

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1 "He then forced me to lie facedown on the bed.
 2 I did as instructed. I had no clothes on. He climbed
 3 on top of me. He was enormous and I felt I was being
 4 crushed."
 5 Did you say that?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Is it accurate?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. "He then inserted his penis into my anus", which was
 10 incredibly painful. Is that what happened?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. You then say -- you go into a little more description.
 13 I am not going to go into that. But you say Smith then
 14 kicked you out and told you to go back to your room,
 15 which you did?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. You were asked whether you could describe the man who
 18 took you from your bed into the room and all you could
 19 say is he was a staff member?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Have you thought about who that person was?
 22 **A. I'm not sure who he was.**
 23 Q. Then you come on to deal with a third incident, which
 24 you say was in some ways similar to the previous one,
 25 although on this occasion -- this is my word, not

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1 yours -- Smith didn't rape you, on this occasion, but
 2 you say you were asleep in bed, you were woken up and
 3 taken from your bed to the same room where Smith had
 4 raped you previously. It was the same staff member who
 5 took you on this occasion as the last time?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Then I am going to summarise it, because it is quite
 8 graphic, which is not your fault at all, you are simply
 9 describing what happened, but you are saying that Smith
 10 masturbated you and then himself?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. And then engaged in oral sex on you?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. You refused to do the same to him. Did he then give you
 15 20 cigarettes and throw you out of the room, telling you
 16 to go back to the dormitory?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Is all of that truthful?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. You say that there was one more incident that you
 21 recalled but you couldn't recall when it took place.
 22 You remember lying on your bed on your stomach with
 23 another male having anal sex with you. Do you recall
 24 Cyril Smith on the side of the bed laughing?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Any idea who this other man was?
 2 **A. No.**
 3 Q. You say:
 4 "I think that prior to that happening [you] had been
 5 drinking and [you were] high on cans of ale and cans of
 6 gas."
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Do you mean nitrous oxide?
 9 **A. No.**
 10 Q. What kind of gas?
 11 **A. Lighter fluid.**
 12 Q. When had you had access to alcohol and lighter fluid?
 13 Who had given it to you?
 14 **A. Regularly.**
 15 Q. That was something you had got yourself?
 16 **A. Yes, regularly.**
 17 Q. When you'd gone off school?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Now, I think the first time you spoke to the police
 20 about this was in 2012; is that right?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. You didn't want, you say, to discuss the incidents apart
 23 from the first one and you say that was because you were
 24 just too embarrassed?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. I think there came a point afterwards when you spoke to
 2 a counsellor as well; is that right?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Then you spoke to another police officer in 2014?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Long before 2012, the first time that you spoke to the
 7 police, in all of those years since all of these
 8 incidents happened -- and please understand I am not
 9 criticising you; anything but -- but just explain,
 10 please, what was it that prevented you from going to the
 11 police to tell the police what Cyril Smith had done to
 12 you or been party to those years before and what else
 13 had happened to you? What stopped you from doing that?
 14 **A. I suppose I just blocked it out.**
 15 Q. I think you said you had a few other recollections from
 16 Knowl View. You remember once being in a park in
 17 Rochdale when another lad came up to you and asked you
 18 if you had been to see the "big fat man". Do you
 19 remember this?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. I don't want the name of the boy. Obviously a reference
 22 to Smith, Cyril Smith. Did this boy ask you if Smith
 23 had made you do horrible things, to which you said
 24 "Yes"?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Did the boy tell you not to worry, that he, Smith, made
 2 all of the boys at Knowl View do it, and that was the
 3 end of that particular conversation?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Do you remember that?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Was that while you were still at Knowl View or after you
 8 had left?
 9 **A. I was still there.**
 10 Q. When did you leave? What age were you when you left?
 11 **A. 14.**
 12 Q. So you had been there, what, two years, something like
 13 that?
 14 **A. Slightly less, I think.**
 15 Q. Asking you about something else, not sexual abuse, but
 16 physical abuse, do you ever remember in the night being
 17 taken down to the gym if you were naughty during the
 18 night?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. What would happen?
 21 **A. You were made to stand in the gym naked.**
 22 Q. By whom -- care or teaching staff?
 23 **A. The teacher.**
 24 Q. What level of naughtiness did you have to reach in order
 25 to be taken down to the gym to stand naked in the gym?

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1 **A. Talking.**
 2 Q. How long were you kept in the gym like that?
 3 **A. I don't know. Quite a long time.**
 4 Q. Those are all the questions I have to ask you. I am
 5 just going to ask the chair and the panel if they want
 6 to ask you any questions.
 7 THE CHAIR: No, we have no questions.
 8 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much for coming.
 9 **A. Thank you.**
 10 MR ALTMAN: That's all we need to ask you.
 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. We are grateful for your
 12 attendance today.
 13 (The witness withdrew)
 14 MR ALTMAN: Chair, the final witness for today is
 15 Duncan Eaton.
 16 MR DUNCAN JOHN EATON (sworn)
 17 Examination by MR ALTMAN
 18 MR ALTMAN: Can we have your full name, please?
 19 **A. Duncan John Eaton.**
 20 Q. Mr Eaton, thank you. Mr Eaton, when did you begin
 21 working at Knowl View School?
 22 **A. In 1983.**
 23 Q. What was your position when you began working there?
 24 **A. I was a house parent.**
 25 Q. Am I right in thinking 1983 and you left in 1992?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Do you remember which month?
 3 **A. I think May, and I started with Wigan in June, I think.**
 4 Q. When you say you started with Wigan, you moved on?
 5 **A. Sorry, yes, I went on to become a fieldwork social
 6 worker with Wigan Social Services.**
 7 Q. Did you have qualifications before you began at
 8 Knowl View?
 9 **A. I had an in-service certificate, which was the
 10 standard -- the only one that was available to
 11 residential staff then, which was -- it consisted,
 12 really, of a day a week of study at Didsbury.**
 13 Q. Did you say Didsbury?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. This was during the period when you were working at
 16 Knowl View, do we understand, or before you started --
 17 **A. No, no, I was actually working -- the beginning of my
 18 career was at boys' and girls' welfare, and this course
 19 really was the only one that I think CCTSW at the time
 20 approved of. It was involvement sort of one day a week
 21 and that's what I took with me. I have looked for that
 22 certificate.**
 23 Q. Don't worry.
 24 **A. But I couldn't find it, because I wanted to narrow the
 25 dates, really, for you.**

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1 Q. So we understand, you had that certificate before you
 2 took the job at Knowl View in 1983?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. As a matter of interest generally, in order to work at
 5 Knowl View in the position that you were, house parent
 6 or residential social worker, did you require
 7 qualifications, Mr Eaton?
 8 **A. No.**
 9 Q. What about references? Were references required, do you
 10 remember, back then?
 11 **A. Yes, I think they would have contacted my former
 12 employer. I'm pretty sure that was the right way we did
 13 things.**
 14 Q. While you were at Knowl View, did you study for and
 15 obtain a further qualification?
 16 **A. I did.**
 17 Q. Which was what?
 18 **A. A certificate in Social Service, which was a forerunner
 19 of the CQSW -- well, the CQSW and the CSS were run in
 20 tangent and they became later the Diploma in Social
 21 Work.**
 22 Q. What did they involve while you were working? Did you
 23 have, as it were -- were you released from work for
 24 a part of every week, or ...?
 25 **A. In theory, yes.**

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1 Q. In practice?
 2 **A. In practice, no. You were covering shifts. You managed
 3 to get to college, but you were supposed to have a study
 4 day. Very often, you would miss out on your study day
 5 because you were covering.**
 6 Q. So the college was evening time, was it?
 7 **A. No, college was a full day --**
 8 Q. I see.
 9 **A. -- and occasionally in a few study blocks of a few days,
 10 depending. That was at Stockport.**
 11 Q. Thank you. Help us with this, if you would, I want to
 12 move on to ask you about -- I suppose I ought to ask,
 13 just so we are clear, was that the only other
 14 qualification that you got while you were there or did
 15 you get another qualification?
 16 **A. No, that was the only one, and that was the main one,
 17 and that was the one to have. It was just easier to do
 18 it through the education, a quicker route than sort of
 19 getting in a queue for social services and having a job
 20 there. I went after another person came back.**
 21 Q. I want to ask you, please, about the setup at
 22 Knowl View. We have heard a few things about it. We
 23 understand there were four units?
 24 **A. That's correct.**
 25 Q. We know their names. We know the ages of the boys.

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1 Which unit did you work on?
 2 **A. Norden.**
 3 Q. Was that the only unit you worked on in all the time you
 4 were there?
 5 **A. No, no. That was my main responsibility. That was the**
 6 **unit I was assigned to as a house parent. But in the**
 7 **time at Knowl View, I would have worked on all four at**
 8 **some point, albeit for a shift, but Norden was the main**
 9 **one.**
 10 Q. I see. From your point of view, just your own personal
 11 assessment of the boys who came through your care, did
 12 you regard them as vulnerable, or some of them as
 13 vulnerable boys?
 14 **A. I'd like to think that I did. Perhaps vulnerability and**
 15 **being vulnerable now are different things. Some of**
 16 **these boys I think at the time would have been classed**
 17 **as naughty boys, truants, petty thieves and children**
 18 **with maladjustment. But I think that was a word that**
 19 **everybody -- I could never find anybody in particular**
 20 **who could clarify that. I think in modern parlance it**
 21 **would be emotional behavioural difficulties, special**
 22 **needs, but it was very much mixed.**
 23 Q. And boys from broken homes?
 24 **A. Yes, single parents, low-income families, educational**
 25 **difficulties.**

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1 Q. What was your view of the care that was provided at
 2 Knowl View in the period that you were there? Did it
 3 provide, the school, a caring environment, do you think,
 4 or not, or did it fail?
 5 **A. It was a strict regime based on a reward and behaviour**
 6 **system. An age range of 7 to 16, which wasn't always**
 7 **conducive to a caring environment. I was told quite**
 8 **early on by the first head teacher that --**
 9 Q. By whom?
 10 **A. Terry Hopwood, sorry, he was the head teacher that**
 11 **I went with, and he -- basically, I came up with an idea**
 12 **at one point, which was very much social care, and**
 13 **I think he said something like, "This has always been**
 14 **education. This is a school first", was the term he**
 15 **used; in other words, sort of get back in your box.**
 16 **House parents, really, were quite low level compared**
 17 **to the teaching staff. There was a big gulf between us**
 18 **in terms of pay. There was banter between us, but it**
 19 **was very much a macho environment.**
 20 Q. Tell us this, and I think I was understanding you to say
 21 that you had presented Mr Hopwood, who was the
 22 headmaster at the time, with an idea, a social care
 23 idea, to which his response was, "We are a school, first
 24 and foremost". What was the idea that you presented him
 25 with, do you remember?

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1 **A. It was based on the idea of having more contact with the**
 2 **parents. We had somewhat of -- how can I say? -- well,**
 3 **I just thought it was a farce, really, in some ways,**
 4 **that we had the annual visits to the boys at home, those**
 5 **parents who would allow us to visit, we did that during**
 6 **the six-week holidays. It was a once-a-year thing. You**
 7 **can sum it up by one of my boys, pupils, in my unit**
 8 **saying to me, "When are you coming to" --**
 9 Q. Can I say, Mr Eaton, for the avoidance of doubt, we are
 10 not naming any names?
 11 **A. No, I'll just give you the example that he said, "When**
 12 **are you coming?", and I asked him why, and he said,**
 13 **"I know we're going to get chocolate biscuits then,**
 14 **because my mum spends me to Spar".**
 15 Q. That was an annual event and your idea was, what, "Why
 16 are we doing this annually"?
 17 **A. I wanted to make that a minimum term thing, really.**
 18 Q. To engage with the families?
 19 **A. Yes, and to let them update them on the progress of**
 20 **the pupils in the -- in my unit, et cetera, and engage**
 21 **in that contact with them as well.**
 22 Q. Help us with this, please, Mr Eaton: you have told us
 23 that when you started, as I understood, you became house
 24 parent straight away of Norden. Is that right?
 25 **A. Mmm.**

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1 Q. Did that position continue in that way, apart from the
 2 odd occasion you did shifts on other units, did you
 3 remain house parent on Norden for all of that time that
 4 you were there?
 5 **A. I did, yes, until I became -- the latter year was the**
 6 **head of care's post.**
 7 Q. You remembered -- I simply picked this up from a witness
 8 statement you made in 2015 -- being promoted to head of
 9 care in the last 15 to 18 months of your time?
 10 **A. It was actually shorter than that. It was just --**
 11 **I think I just touched 12 months.**
 12 Q. How did your job change once you became head of care?
 13 **A. It wasn't, perhaps, one of the best decisions I'd ever**
 14 **made. I'd always been happy in my work with children**
 15 **and continued to be happy in social care work after**
 16 **Knowl View, but it was a difficult period.**
 17 **In very simple terms, it was, I think, difficult to**
 18 **be promoted from within.**
 19 Q. Yes.
 20 **A. So former colleagues, and colleagues and that were -- it**
 21 **became a little difficult.**
 22 Q. My question was, how did the job change? You were house
 23 parent. It was clearly a job you enjoyed. You were
 24 promoted in the last year of your employment there
 25 before you moved on to head of care. So did that mean

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1 less engagement with the boys?
 2 **A. Yes, initially -- in effect, it was supposed to be**
 3 **a management-type role. It was never equal to the head**
 4 **teacher or the deputy's role. Again, I refer back to,**
 5 **"We are a school". So the care job, really, was to be**
 6 **over the care staff. By this time, I think we managed**
 7 **to get that changed to residential care staff or --**
 8 Q. Social worker.
 9 **A. I think there was an improving situation, really.**
 10 Q. So head of care would be the equivalent of, what? Did
 11 you say deputy head teacher?
 12 **A. You'd like to think in theory it would be, but it was**
 13 **nowhere near that.**
 14 Q. But it was not, which really brings me on to another
 15 question: what were the relationships like between the
 16 care staff, on the one hand, and teaching staff, on the
 17 other?
 18 **A. They weren't horrendous, but there were always**
 19 **reminders, little comments, made from time to time.**
 20 **House parents were collecting the laundry, for example,**
 21 **from the laundry and taking that up to your unit. Not**
 22 **a very macho appearance carrying socks and underpants**
 23 **and things, but necessary for the boys. So if one of**
 24 **the teachers may have seen you, they may have made**
 25 **a comment to you.**

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1 **Things that during the summer holidays, they had the**
 2 **summer holidays -- in fact, they had 13 weeks' holiday,**
 3 **I think, in total. But during the six-week holidays,**
 4 **they'd ask if perhaps anybody was free to act as a ball**
 5 **boy while they played tennis. It's a windup.**
 6 Q. Does it come to this, Mr Eaton: the care staff felt that
 7 they were looked down upon?
 8 **A. Yes, very much so.**
 9 Q. In terms of when you became head of care, and you have
 10 made the point about that, that you would like to think
 11 it was the equivalence of the deputy head teacher, but
 12 it wasn't, one of the things you said in the witness
 13 statement you made in 2015 was that, when you gained the
 14 position as head of care, "I still felt I had one hand
 15 tied behind my back". What did you mean by that?
 16 **A. That was in reference to it being a school, no matter**
 17 **what. I was trying to work on the idea that maybe we**
 18 **could improve the care staff's position, therefore it**
 19 **would benefit the pupils, it would benefit parents,**
 20 **et cetera, it would improve our status. We weren't**
 21 **asking for more pay, et cetera. We could never get**
 22 **parity with the teachers. But we wanted -- myself and**
 23 **Martin Digan had gone out and done these qualifying**
 24 **courses in social work. We'd both had placements. We'd**
 25 **seen the other side. We'd seen how social services**

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1 **operated, social care. We were isolated in that sense,**
 2 **and we were bringing some of these ideas. We were**
 3 **meeting up with other residential care staff and social**
 4 **workers, just even from local children's homes. We were**
 5 **keen -- or I was keen particularly, and I think Martin**
 6 **was as well, to bring that sort of knowledge and**
 7 **attitude into the school, really.**
 8 Q. Are you saying, by having one hand tied behind your
 9 back, that you were being thwarted?
 10 **A. It slowed the pace of change down, let's say.**
 11 Q. One of the issues between you and teaching staff was how
 12 you were referred to, and this is something I think you
 13 say, that house parents then became known as residential
 14 social workers or --
 15 **A. Residential childcare officers.**
 16 Q. Childcare officers.
 17 **A. But that was a good -- that was positive.**
 18 Q. It was a positive. But was that something that you
 19 insisted on, in other words, or whose idea was that
 20 then?
 21 **A. I think it was the care staff as a whole. I wouldn't**
 22 **claim credit for that. But it was something that**
 23 **I would endorse, really.**
 24 Q. I have asked you about relationships between teaching
 25 and care staff. What about within the core of care

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1 staff? Did people get on, apart from the ordinary
 2 disagreements that we all have with each other as work
 3 colleagues, but generally, did care staff get on with
 4 each other?
 5 **A. Generally, yes. Generally.**
 6 Q. Do you think, Mr Eaton, in general terms, that the needs
 7 of children at Knowl View were being met over the period
 8 you were there?
 9 **A. No.**
 10 Q. Because?
 11 **A. Because we lacked the staffing, the staff training, the**
 12 **knowledge to deal with some difficult young men. The**
 13 **ethos of the school was changing, some of it created by**
 14 **the care staff, myself included, but wanting to be**
 15 **better, improved. But I think in terms of -- we needed**
 16 **that extra help. We needed to be involved with**
 17 **social services, perhaps involved in their training as**
 18 **well; maybe to go on placements in other schools.**
 19 **Knowl View was very insular. Like I said, somewhat**
 20 **a bit of an island.**
 21 Q. Can I move on to another topic, please, Mr Eaton, and
 22 I am going to ask you about certain types of sexual
 23 abuse that did go on at Knowl View. The first I want to
 24 deal with is child sexual exploitation in Smith Street
 25 toilets in Rochdale town centre.

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1 Were you aware that that was going on?
 2 **A. No. I was aware that there had been an incident.**
 3 Q. An incident?
 4 **A. An incident.**
 5 Q. What was the incident? Please remember not to name any
 6 names. What was the incident that you remember?
 7 **A. Just as much as you have just asked me, that's as much**
 8 **as I knew. It involved some junior boys.**
 9 Q. Boys, plural. Doing the best you can, when do you think
 10 it was you first learned about that incident in those
 11 general terms? Which year?
 12 **A. I couldn't --**
 13 Q. I know it is a difficult question.
 14 **A. I think, at the time, it was -- it was within a few**
 15 **months or within a few months of it happening. Maybe in**
 16 **a few weeks. But it was on a need-to-know basis.**
 17 Q. Did you need to know?
 18 **A. No.**
 19 Q. Who did need to know?
 20 **A. I think, in reality, everybody needed to know to protect**
 21 **the other boys in the school. I think we got away with**
 22 **that in that sense.**
 23 Q. Who were the individuals then to whom this information
 24 was kept? Who was privy to it, do you think?
 25 **A. I would say the head, the deputy and the staff who**

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1 **worked on Ashworth unit, I would have thought, it was**
 2 **the unit we are referring to.**
 3 Q. One of the junior units?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Were you aware, for example, of information dated
 6 21 May 1990 -- I am going to come to Roderick Hilton,
 7 and that happened -- certainly two incidents happened,
 8 I am sure you're aware now, in September 1990. So it
 9 was a few months before that. But were you aware of
 10 information of 21 May 1990 that four boys from
 11 Knowl View were involved in masturbating men in the
 12 public toilets?
 13 **A. Is that not the same?**
 14 Q. Well, it is not the only incident, unfortunately,
 15 Mr Eaton, but I am asking you about a specific time and
 16 specific information, which is that all four boys went
 17 into Smith Street toilets, all masturbated one man, not
 18 simultaneously, and another boy masturbated another man
 19 in a separate cubicle. Did you know anything about
 20 that?
 21 **A. I would have said that involved the junior boys.**
 22 Q. You're right about that. But it is not the only
 23 incident. Perhaps it is a little unfair because I am
 24 actually focusing on a date rather than an incident,
 25 because we have lots of instances of this kind of thing

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1 going on. But I am trying to establish whether you
 2 would have known around May time 1990 about the goings
 3 on at Smith Street?
 4 **A. No.**
 5 Q. You don't think so?
 6 **A. No. I would say, in terms of Rod Hilton, that**
 7 **the September incident, which I am sure you will come**
 8 **to --**
 9 Q. I am going to. There is a document, before I do come on
 10 to that, I would like you to look at to see if I can get
 11 your help with it. Do you know what I am talking about
 12 if I ask you about a report that was written by
 13 Dr Selwyn Hodge and Liz Dobie in around June 1992? Does
 14 that mean anything to you?
 15 **A. A little.**
 16 Q. Can I invite you to look, please, at the report, and
 17 let's see how far we can get with it. GMP000373,
 18 page 3. You will see on the screen to your right,
 19 Mr Eaton -- can you see that all right?
 20 **A. Yes, thank you.**
 21 Q. It is a document headed "Confidential: for distribution
 22 only as Director of Education specifies.
 23 "Knowl View Residential School June 1992.
 24 "Report for the Director of Education by
 25 Selwyn Hodge ... and Elizabeth Dobie."

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1 First of all, do you remember ever seeing this
 2 report?
 3 **A. I don't think so.**
 4 Q. It is June 1992, so it is some years on. I want to ask
 5 you about a particular comment they make on page 4?
 6 **A. Can I just ask you, June 1992, that was the year that**
 7 **I left.**
 8 Q. It was the year that you left?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. I want to understand whether you might have been
 11 somebody who was interviewed by them, because they
 12 interviewed a number of members of staff in the lead-up
 13 to writing this report, which may have coincided with
 14 the time you left, to see if you recognise any of
 15 the things that were said?
 16 **A. I may have been interviewed. I remember Selwyn Hodge's**
 17 **name, but I don't recall the other person.**
 18 Q. Let's just have a look at page 4, please. What they did
 19 is, they interviewed staff and the way that they
 20 structured their report was to set out staff comments
 21 and then make certain comments of their own around them.
 22 But I just want to see if you recognise at 1.4 at the
 23 foot of page 4, "Staff comments expressed varying
 24 views", among which was, if you look about four lines
 25 down:

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1 "The Smith Street toilet is a different scenario,
 2 teachers were informed of this at staff meetings via
 3 head teacher and head of care."
 4 You were the head of care. Somebody has reported
 5 the Smith Street toilet is a different scenario,
 6 teachers were informed of this at staff meetings via the
 7 head teacher and the head of care, and if you were the
 8 head of care, Mr Eaton, in the run-up to the writing of
 9 this report, which coincides with the sort of time that
 10 you left the school -- do you remember being at any
 11 staff meeting when you, as head of care, informed other
 12 staff members about the goings on at Smith Street?
 13 **A. No.**
 14 Q. Then let's move on, please, to Roderick Hilton. Were
 15 you aware of Hilton's contact with the school before
 16 1990, so before the September incidents?
 17 **A. Yes, because he was something of a local character.**
 18 Q. Were you aware that -- we have looked at this already
 19 and I am going to resist looking at this with you, if
 20 I can -- that he had indecently assaulted a Knowl View
 21 boy over a weekend at the end of January 1984 and that
 22 Mr Hopwood, the then headmaster, had written a report
 23 about it? Were you aware of that?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. Or that that incident led to Hilton pleading guilty,

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1 I think it was, to an offence of indecent assault and
 2 being placed on probation?
 3 **A. No.**
 4 Q. You weren't aware of any of that?
 5 **A. No.**
 6 Q. But he was a feature?
 7 **A. He was a feature in the local community, he was**
 8 **a feature at the local off-licence. We were very**
 9 **conscious of -- particularly night times or benefit**
 10 **days. We had some information from the shopkeeper, and**
 11 **if he was seen by members of staff, then the word spread**
 12 **that he was at the local shops, because our pupils used**
 13 **that shop, usually particularly the juniors, taken over**
 14 **by a member of staff.**
 15 Q. So, what, the risk was that if boys from the school used
 16 a particular shop which Hilton frequented, there was
 17 a danger that Hilton would approach the boys, and what
 18 was the risk?
 19 **A. I think that very often he was intoxicated or he was --**
 20 **he had some sort of drugs -- usually it was alcohol. He**
 21 **could be seen quite blatantly with a carrier bag or**
 22 **stood with cans that he'd bought. From a senior boys'**
 23 **point of view, it tended to be the boys that were**
 24 **allowed to smoke in the woods within our grounds who**
 25 **were more at risk, perhaps.**

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1 Q. But the real risk wasn't so much of drinking alcohol or
 2 smoking or anything like that, the real risk was
 3 Hilton's attraction to the boys in school, sexual
 4 attraction?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Were you one of those, together with Mr Digan, who would
 7 find yourself having to see Hilton off the grounds?
 8 **A. That happened on at least one occasion, when we found**
 9 **him in the woods.**
 10 Q. Insofar as the Hilton incident is concerned, do you
 11 remember when you discovered the detail of it? Please
 12 don't give us any names if you spoke to any boys, but
 13 when did you discover the detail of it?
 14 **A. I am going to take a belief that there were two**
 15 **incidents on the 10th -- sorry, 11 and**
 16 **12 September 1990. 12 September is my birthday. I had**
 17 **arranged to get some cover and have that night off.**
 18 **I understand the night before -- I had worked the**
 19 **morning shift of that -- that there had also been --**
 20 **Rod Hilton had been let into the school. So it would**
 21 **probably be the 13th when I think staff had discovered**
 22 **that we had some -- well, the boys were a bit lethargic,**
 23 **or whatever, I think; somebody had made a comment on**
 24 **that.**
 25 **I was very disappointed. I thought that they had**

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1 **let me down.**
 2 Q. "They" being? Who had let you down?
 3 **A. The lads in my unit, in Norden unit. Because they'd**
 4 **done it behind my back. They'd acquired a birthday cake**
 5 **for me and a birthday card, and I thought it was a bit**
 6 **two faced and I told them so.**
 7 Q. Why did you feel slighted by the boys? After all, if
 8 the information is correct and they had let Hilton into
 9 Norden on the first night when little had happened, but
 10 they'd had a bit of a party, on the second night
 11 something far more serious had happened, and that was
 12 your birthday, when, according to the allegations, at
 13 least one boy was sexually assaulted by Hilton, another
 14 boy, or boys, may also have been involved in sexual
 15 activity encouraged by Hilton. How had they let you
 16 down?
 17 **A. If I said they were my boys, the sense of ownership of**
 18 **that unit, I think we were always up against it, against**
 19 **the Egerton boys in some ways. They were bigger,**
 20 **perhaps tougher, a bit more aggressive than my guys.**
 21 **I just felt that they had -- they'd just been -- but,**
 22 **there again, they'd been boys in the way that -- in some**
 23 **ways, why they were there. They could be a little bit,**
 24 **you know, devious, naughty, et cetera. I think the**
 25 **sexual abuse side of it, it's very serious, I accept**

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1 **that, but this was based around that incident involving**
 2 **the Norden boys. I'm not aware, prior to that, that**
 3 **there were incidents that involved those lads, and**
 4 **I think that stuck as well. There was banter amongst**
 5 **the two senior units at times. Occasionally, we'd even**
 6 **have pillow fights.**
 7 Q. Don't you think the real position here, Mr Eaton, is
 8 through perhaps naivety, they might have let, if this is
 9 what happened, Hilton onto the unit and Hilton, who was
 10 a known paedophile, and already had one conviction for
 11 sexually abusing a Knowl View pupil, simply taking
 12 advantage? It was a bit like a bee to a honey pot,
 13 wasn't it?
 14 **A. Yes, but I don't think that -- prior to him appearing on**
 15 **the scene, there's an element -- it sounds wrong to use**
 16 **the word "perfect storm", but two boys arrived in that**
 17 **period, one boy, particularly, I think it was just his**
 18 **first week, and those two were significant to the Norden**
 19 **unit and to Knowl View School.**
 20 Q. Without naming him, is one of the boys you are talking
 21 about one who declared that he was having a homosexual
 22 relationship with a man outside school?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. Was confused about his sexuality? Was that the boy you
 25 are talking about?

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1 **A. Yes, I believe that to be RO-A11.**
 2 Q. A11?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. That's the boy you are talking about. Are you saying
 5 that he had perhaps imprinted certain things on the
 6 other boys within Norden that wouldn't have been there
 7 otherwise?
 8 **A. No, because he'd only been there a short time.**
 9 Q. So what are you saying?
 10 **A. But he was -- he blatantly said that he was gay, but he**
 11 **made comments like that very often. It's like the**
 12 **requests for the AIDS test and things like that. These**
 13 **were things where he would gain attention from it.**
 14 Q. What's that got to do with what happened with Hilton?
 15 That's what I'm struggling to understand, Mr Eaton.
 16 What's that got to do with what Hilton did, in
 17 particular on the second night when he was allowed into
 18 the unit and sexually assaulted at least one boy?
 19 What's the impact that A11 has on any of that, apart
 20 from the fact he happened to be there and that was,
 21 I think, his first week at the school?
 22 **A. I'm not sure in terms of what impact. I can only tell**
 23 **you that he shouldn't have been there. We weren't**
 24 **geared up to cope with him. I think we were desperate**
 25 **for help. I know I was.**

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1 Q. You were interviewed, do you remember, in October 1990
 2 about these events on those two nights. One of
 3 the things you said -- I think you repeated it in your
 4 witness statement -- was, Brett Andrews -- was he then
 5 the head or acting head or deputy head? What was he at
 6 the time?
 7 **A. I'm not sure.**
 8 Q. He was a head teacher, whether acting or actual?
 9 **A. Yes, he was a senior member of staff, either deputy or**
 10 **head teacher.**
 11 Q. You made a comment that he should have been a social
 12 worker, he was very laid back, but he got run over by
 13 the staff. Do you remember saying that or making
 14 comments like that?
 15 **A. I do.**
 16 Q. And that insofar as Hilton went, did you say that
 17 Mr Andrews took a different approach to you and
 18 Martin Digan? Do you remember saying at one point he
 19 invited Hilton into the school for refreshments?
 20 **A. He did, and that was to his own house, it wasn't into**
 21 **the main body of the school. I don't want to give that**
 22 **impression.**
 23 Q. No, no.
 24 **A. But I did feel that it was not the way that we were**
 25 **dealing with him.**

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1 Q. Who is the "him"? Hilton?
 2 **A. Hilton, yes.**
 3 Q. And you added, "Andrews was trying to do a bit of social
 4 work with him. He got a very sympathetic audience",
 5 when you were asked that question during an interview
 6 and you said he got, Hilton got, a very sympathetic
 7 audience?
 8 **A. He did.**
 9 Q. Did you feel that Mr Andrews had completely mishandled
 10 Hilton, in other words, that it was Hilton who was
 11 getting the sympathy whereas he should have had anything
 12 but?
 13 **A. Yes. At that time. I think I perhaps revised my views**
 14 **later on in life as my career progressed into social**
 15 **work, but at that point, I was wanting to protect the**
 16 **boys of the school, along with Mr Digan and others.**
 17 Q. What were the sleeping-in arrangements as you recall
 18 them at that time? You, on the second night -- I think
 19 you said you did the morning shift the day before and
 20 this was your birthday, so you got cover for the second
 21 night when the sexual incidents took place?
 22 **A. Yes, I was not a resident of the school at any point,**
 23 **no.**
 24 Q. Who should have been sleeping in that night?
 25 **A. On the Thursday?**

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1 Q. Well, whatever the day was, the 2nd of the 12th.
 2 **A. The 12th, perhaps, but ...**
 3 Q. Yes.
 4 **A. Probably myself, but I'd got permission to have the**
 5 **night and have somebody cover for me.**
 6 Q. Who was to cover for you?
 7 **A. Bill Roberts was going to cover for me. Normally, you**
 8 **would have one of the resident teachers who would cover**
 9 **you as top cover, if you like. I'm not sure whether**
 10 **Steve Cohen may have been the person.**
 11 Q. Whatever the position and whoever it was, you had
 12 arranged cover, and cover there should have been?
 13 **A. Yes, I think there was. I think there were two people**
 14 **sleeping in.**
 15 Q. If there were two people sleeping in, can you understand
 16 how they would have missed what was going on?
 17 **A. Well, basically, you were there to respond in terms of**
 18 **any difficulties or fire, I would imagine, et cetera,**
 19 **but predominantly you would sleep. But it would be in**
 20 **the early hours before you ever slept particularly**
 21 **because you would have had the option, really, from**
 22 **10.30 onwards, I would guess, to go to bed.**
 23 Q. So, what, are you saying unless you are woken up by
 24 a fire alarm --
 25 **A. Or a pupil, the pupils were to go, which -- and it was**

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1 **quite -- it was a thing that they would work out, which**
 2 **staff were sleeping in.**
 3 Q. Meaning who is the weak and who is the strong one?
 4 **A. Yes, in effect. You have this practice, slightly**
 5 **manipulative --**
 6 Q. They would work out who they could play and who they
 7 couldn't?
 8 **A. Correct.**
 9 Q. Could I invite you to look, please, at some notes of an
 10 interview that you had in October 1990, GMP000388,
 11 page 40. Do you remember being interviewed, Mr Eaton,
 12 around this time about what had happened? Do you
 13 remember being interviewed?
 14 **A. Yes, I think we all were.**
 15 Q. Have you seen these notes before?
 16 **A. I have tried to look at them in my allocation of**
 17 **statements, but I found them quite hard to read.**
 18 Q. They are hard to read because it is not your
 19 handwriting. Do you remember who interviewed you?
 20 **A. No. It's not a police interview, I don't think.**
 21 Q. No, it is not. It is internal at Knowl View.
 22 **A. Maybe one of the area -- seniors -- Special Needs**
 23 **advisers or --**
 24 Q. Marilyn Simpson?
 25 **A. Right.**

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1 Q. No, I'm asking you, I'm not telling you.
 2 **A. Oh, sorry.**
 3 Q. I'm just asking you.
 4 **A. Marilyn or Selwyn Hodge or ...**
 5 Q. Well, Selwyn Hodge came later, I think.
 6 **A. Oh.**
 7 Q. Perhaps it doesn't matter very much. Do you see the
 8 first line "Knowledge of incident -- DE [your initials]
 9 familiar with what had happened."
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. Who was Paul Davies?
 12 **A. He was my and Martin's line manager. So he was over**
 13 **both senior units.**
 14 Q. "Paul Davies informed DE on Thursday, 13 September,
 15 night of incident, RH in building at 11 and 12 and not
 16 discovered until week beginning 17 September."
 17 So rather suggesting that the incident wasn't
 18 discovered until the 17th:
 19 "DE not actually involved on Thursday night but was
 20 involved on sleeping-in member of staff on duty Tuesday
 21 night Mr Andrews (knows from boys in Norden)."
 22 Does that rather suggest that's information that you
 23 had got from the boys, that Mr Andrews had been sleeping
 24 in on the first night, Tuesday night?
 25 **A. Yes, because somewhere there's a comment from the boys**

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1 **or something about waiting for Mr Andrews' lights to go**
 2 **out.**
 3 Q. That's right. Then the next line -- it is easier,
 4 perhaps, if I just go through some of the highlights of
 5 what you had to say:
 6 "All boys interviewed by WPCs from Littleborough."
 7 Is that right? All the boys were interviewed by
 8 a woman police constable from Littleborough Police
 9 Station?
 10 **A. I don't know if all the boys were interviewed.**
 11 Q. Any boys?
 12 **A. I think possibly they were, yes. I'm not sure. One of**
 13 **the interviews at least was -- I was with one of**
 14 **the WPCs at one stage in an interview.**
 15 Q. Was this in the school or at a police station?
 16 **A. No, this was in the school.**
 17 Q. Did you see any record that had been made of any of
 18 these interviews?
 19 **A. Not the police ones. I think the WPCs from**
 20 **Littleborough at the time would have been from the**
 21 **Family Support Unit of GMP. They were based at**
 22 **Littleborough.**
 23 Q. If we drop down four lines to the next paragraph:
 24 "Boys said they were sitting in leisure area. DE
 25 queried. Expected them to be in bed by 10.30."

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1 I think, because if we go to the line above which
 2 I missed:
 3 "Previously arranged with RH to whistle him to come
 4 in just [something] to 11 pm."
 5 Sorry, "just after 11 pm":
 6 "Boys said that they were sitting in leisure area.
 7 DE queried -- expected them to be in bed by 10.30. Boys
 8 said they had Mr Andrews' permission to sit up and talk
 9 quietly.
 10 "12 midnight or 1 pm. Mr Andrews told them to keep
 11 quiet. Boys waited for Mr Andrews' lights to go out.
 12 Then had a party -- broke into kitchen -- to DE."
 13 Presumably this is what they told you?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. "RH was believed to be under A14's bed ..."
 16 Then there is something about "stole £9 by getting
 17 through outside window. Took food from Lyons" something
 18 or other?
 19 **A. Lyons is where the governors met. It was a rather large**
 20 **room, totally underused.**
 21 Q. That was in the school, was it?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. "Lyons [something] fridge. Party lasted until 5/6 am.
 24 RH then let out of school. 2 lads felt sorry for RH --
 25 who had told them that he had slept under the tarpaulin

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1 on the patio."
 2 Is that outside the school, the tarpaulin on the
 3 patio?
 4 **A. It is actually underneath what is described as being --**
 5 **what they refer to as the lounge area, is what I would**
 6 **say. They have called it something else earlier on.**
 7 **That lounge area with the window would look down onto**
 8 **this patio area or where the canopy was and that**
 9 **incorporated a leisure room with a woodwork room and**
 10 **a metalwork room.**
 11 Q. So this is inside the school?
 12 **A. No, sorry, that's an adjacent building, but you could**
 13 **easily have access -- for instance, they could open the**
 14 **window and call down to Rod, they could open any of**
 15 **the windows on that side and do similar.**
 16 Q. Then it continues:
 17 "On Wednesday night, lads were tired. Some didn't
 18 want another party. A14 and [two others] went out. A14
 19 said RH was not to be let ..."
 20 I'm afraid the rest of that page has disappeared.
 21 On the next page at the top:
 22 "On Wednesday night, Bill Roberts did DE (birthday
 23 sleeping-in duty -- after Steve Cohen. Boys confirm
 24 that A14 and RH", perhaps.
 25 **A. Sorry, I have just seen my wife's name appear on the top**

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1 **of that.**
 2 Q. I'm looking at page 41. Is that a different page that's
 3 come up? Have you got that, Mr Eaton:
 4 "On Wednesday night, Bill Roberts did DE (birthday)
 5 sleeping-in duty -- after Steve Cohen. Boys confirm
 6 that A14 and ..."
 7 I assume that is "RH", although it looks like "PH":
 8 "Other lads had let RH in. Hidden him under bed.
 9 Stayed in A14's room most of the night."
 10 Did A14 -- do you know the boy I'm talking about
 11 without naming him?
 12 **A. I do.**
 13 Q. Did he have a room to himself?
 14 **A. He did.**
 15 Q. "Stayed in A14's room most of the night. Others knew he
 16 was in. Others kept out of way. Went to bed. Couple
 17 looked into A14's room. Nothing else happened. Rest
 18 related by A14 to DE and to police. Said RH had
 19 interfered sexually. DE then called in police."
 20 That seems to be part of a much longer account that
 21 you were able to give when you were interviewed
 22 in October 1990.
 23 In the witness statement you made in 2015, so just
 24 a couple of years ago, do you remember saying that you
 25 and Martin Digan and somebody called Jayne investigated

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1 the events yourselves and presented your findings to two
 2 social workers from the town?
 3 **A. I do, yes, very much so.**
 4 Q. Did that happen?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Who were the social workers?
 7 **A. I couldn't name them. I know they were from the town**
 8 **head offices. I think they were described as being the**
 9 **child assessment team at the time.**
 10 Q. Child assessment team?
 11 **A. From the child assessment team.**
 12 Q. You don't know who they were or what happened to --
 13 **A. Maybe a male and a female.**
 14 Q. Did you report in writing or verbally?
 15 **A. Yes, very much so, both. We spent three days on that.**
 16 Q. So there is a written report somewhere about your own
 17 investigations of the Hilton incident that went to --
 18 **A. I hope so.**
 19 Q. -- a couple of social workers, but we don't have it,
 20 and --
 21 **A. There are flip charts that we put up in the sleeping-in**
 22 **room. We basically -- as we got the evidence with the**
 23 **interviews, we -- I think you would say nowadays,**
 24 **cross-checked them. Certain people's names came up.**
 25 **I think we did -- or I managed to interview most of**

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1 the lads. By this time, they were starting to get
 2 frightened. Usually with things at the school,
 3 eventually things do come out in the wash, as you might
 4 say, and they were disclosing what had gone on. So we
 5 were writing this up. There was at least half a dozen,
 6 I would say, pieces of flip charts, and I can remember
 7 them being in the head's office, they were in a box, and
 8 the other paperwork which was the original statements
 9 with the children that I'd written were also in that
 10 box.
 11 Q. This was all presented to two social workers. Let's be
 12 clear. Who did they work for?
 13 A. They worked for Rochdale Social Services. Brett was,
 14 how can I say, at a bit of a loss to wonder what to do.
 15 He asked us.
 16 Q. Who was? Brett, did you say?
 17 A. Brett Andrews.
 18 Q. Brett Andrews. So, what, he asked -- commissioned the
 19 report from you and --
 20 A. No, no, no. No, we did this ourselves. In terms of
 21 a report, it could be more classed as unofficial,
 22 about -- so there was no official thing. We took it to
 23 him and said, "Look, this is the scenario of what's
 24 happened, who's been involved", et cetera, and he said,
 25 "Well", something like, "What are we going to do?"

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1 "We've got to get social services involved, Brett".
 2 Q. You worked on this report. I think you said it took you
 3 three days?
 4 A. It did.
 5 Q. How did you find these two social workers within
 6 Social Services Department?
 7 A. How did we find them?
 8 Q. How did you find them? Why did you identify the pair of
 9 them to present --
 10 A. I don't know. They just sent these two social workers.
 11 Q. When you say "They sent", who sent?
 12 A. Social services management, I presume.
 13 Q. Where did you meet them?
 14 A. In the head's office.
 15 Q. At school?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Who else was present?
 18 A. Brett Andrews, Jayne. No, sorry, I think maybe myself
 19 and Martin, maybe not Jayne.
 20 Q. "Jayne" being?
 21 A. Le Clere. I know in my statement it says that -- but
 22 I have since remembered her saying it, and the three
 23 days brought it back to me because I remember us
 24 writing.
 25 Q. Having presented this report in writing, did they take

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1 it away with them?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. What did they say they were going to do with it?
 4 A. Examine it or read it.
 5 Q. How long after the events do you think you presented
 6 this report?
 7 A. Within -- I don't know. I think maybe a week, ten days.
 8 Q. Before or after you were interviewed -- the interviews
 9 we just saw in October 1990? Before then or after then?
 10 A. No, it was in a matter of days. If the incident was
 11 in September, I think we would have had that done by the
 12 end of the month, if not before. We knew it was
 13 serious.
 14 Q. Did you hear anything more?
 15 A. Within maybe a week they came -- somebody came back to
 16 us. I don't know whether it was Brett -- who said
 17 social services say, "I think there's no case to
 18 answer", or something like that. Maybe those were my
 19 words. But we hadn't got anything. It made you bloody
 20 angry, to be honest, excuse me, but we had worked damned
 21 hard on it and we were trying to protect our kids and we
 22 wanted some help.
 23 Q. I know these are your words "no case to answer", but
 24 first of all, what were you seeking? What did you want
 25 from the social services? What was the point to your

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1 report? What were you seeking from them?
 2 A. I think we wanted support for our young people that were
 3 involved. We wanted referrals to agencies, be it
 4 social services, psychological services. I mean, even
 5 sexual counselling or even counselling as a whole. Some
 6 of these lads were frightened. We are in an era of AIDS
 7 being allegedly caught off toilet seats and we had not
 8 been on a course. We didn't know -- the rumours about
 9 Rod were very much, as I put in one statement, about
 10 keeping our hands in our pockets.
 11 Q. He used to threaten that he had AIDS, didn't he, on
 12 occasions? Did you know that?
 13 A. I think he had done, but he wouldn't have threatened
 14 anything really with myself and Mr Digan speaking to him
 15 in the woods. What I want to emphasise, he wasn't
 16 threatened in terms of any physical thing. We just
 17 warned him off the school.
 18 Q. Nobody is suggesting that, Mr Eaton. Coming back to
 19 this report, so they came back, and your sense, from
 20 what they were saying, "no case to answer", we take it
 21 that these are your words and they may be inaccurate,
 22 about the sense of what was being conveyed to you, but
 23 what were they really saying? There is nothing that
 24 social services can do, will do, wants to do? What?
 25 A. I think both. I don't know. Minimalise it, trivialise

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1 **it. Almost say this is an incident that's not involved**
 2 **the police. I'm not sure what their thinking was.**
 3 Q. What happened -- I don't know if you appreciate this --
 4 is, in the end, Hilton was prosecuted in relation to an
 5 indecent assault of A14 and he pleaded guilty on
 6 7 December 1990 to a single offence and he was sentenced
 7 on 22 February 1991, when he was placed on probation.
 8 Did you know any of that?
 9 **A. I didn't know the details, but I knew that he would,**
 10 **I think, have been in a hostel at some point and then he**
 11 **came back.**
 12 Q. One of the things you said -- perhaps we don't need to
 13 look at it, but when you were interviewed -- do you
 14 remember being interviewed by Dr Hodge and Liz Dobie on
 15 13 May 1992? So it would be about the time that you
 16 were leaving Knowl View. Do you remember that they
 17 wrote a report to Diana Cavanagh, the Director of
 18 Education, which came about because of a letter that was
 19 sent by staff on 7 April, so about a month before,
 20 a little more, complaining about matters left unresolved
 21 by Valerie Mellor? Do you remember any of that?
 22 **A. I can't think that there was -- I can't think of**
 23 **a letter.**
 24 Q. All right. We have seen it. I am not going to trouble
 25 you with that, at least for the moment, Mr Eaton.

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1 Do you remember certainly there was an interview of
 2 you on 13 May 1992, and do you remember saying that you
 3 didn't trust Paul Davies, Steve Cohen and Brett Andrews
 4 and you felt that there was a clique and thought the
 5 matters might be hushed up, in other words, the
 6 Rod Hilton matters. Do you remember saying that?
 7 **A. Very much so.**
 8 Q. Why did you say that?
 9 **A. Because that's how I saw things then. I think I was**
 10 **still angry with Brett Andrews over the Rod Hilton**
 11 **thing. I think I took -- I think I went and spoke to**
 12 **Graham Hutchinson about the situation.**
 13 Q. He was who?
 14 **A. He was acting head teacher, I think, at the time.**
 15 **I ended up having a conversation that afternoon with**
 16 **Marilyn Simpson and Graham, I think. I can't remember**
 17 **which order that was in, but I felt as though those**
 18 **three were the management -- Davies, Cohen and**
 19 **Andrews -- and probably Davies and Cohen, more**
 20 **experienced than Brett in terms of dealing with young**
 21 **people, were advising him how to run things.**
 22 Q. Insofar as the boy who was sexually abused, A14, do you
 23 remember him being interviewed by the NSPCC in
 24 about September?
 25 **A. No, I don't, and I read that with some surprise, really.**

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1 Q. Let's have a look at what it was that perhaps you read
 2 with surprise. Have you actually seen the letter from
 3 them? Have you seen the letter?
 4 **A. No.**
 5 Q. Let's have a look at the letter, RHC002337, please?
 6 **A. I was thinking at first maybe that I was involved in**
 7 **that interview, but I don't think I was.**
 8 Q. If we look at the next page, this is headed NSPCC.
 9 Let's scroll down to the next page, please:
 10 "This morning A14 disclosed that he had been the
 11 subject of a sexual assault by a man named
 12 Rodney Hilton, believed to be a schedule 1 offender.
 13 Hilton lives nearby and apparently has been thrown out
 14 of his parents' home following an argument. He has been
 15 sleeping in school, as some of the boys have been
 16 letting him in. Mr Eaton said that he had discussed
 17 this with the police, who said that for as long as the
 18 children were inviting him in, and he was not breaking
 19 in, then there was no action that they could take."
 20 There is only one Mr Eaton, I assume, in the story
 21 of Knowl View. Do you remember having a conversation
 22 like that with the NSPCC about the police action?
 23 **A. I honestly don't remember, but I think I remember the**
 24 **police because I think I tried to speak to the police.**
 25 Q. Let's just read on:

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1 "Today, A14 has said that this man has oral sex with
 2 him. One of Mr Eaton's concerns is that A14 is due to
 3 go home for the weekend and he does not think that
 4 parents will be able to deal with this news
 5 appropriately and indeed A14 has been very anxious that
 6 his parents not be told."
 7 Do you remember that?
 8 **A. I do.**
 9 Q. You felt, did you, that there might be reprisals?
 10 **A. The boy, himself, was concerned about the reaction from**
 11 **his family.**
 12 Q. Yes:
 13 "Mr Eaton said that he has contacted Littleborough
 14 police team and left a message on the answer phone and
 15 spoken to the communications room at Rochdale who wanted
 16 to send a uniformed officer which Mr Eaton did not think
 17 was appropriate in the circumstances.
 18 "I [in other words, the NSPCC officer writing this
 19 report] told Mr Eaton that I agreed and I thought the
 20 matter needed dealing with by specialist police officers
 21 or, if they were not available, then he should contact
 22 CID at Rochdale as stated in the Child Protection
 23 guidelines for them to decide about the most suitable
 24 officer to respond.
 25 "We agreed that he would contact Middleton SSD

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1 [social services] and speak to the duty officer about
 2 a possible SSD involvement in dealing with the matter
 3 and then follow the matter through with the police."
 4 This letter, as we saw, is dated 21 September, so it
 5 is within ten days of the events. Did you contact
 6 Middleton Social Services Department?
 7 **A. I may have done.**
 8 Q. Do you think that relates to the social worker's report
 9 or not?
 10 **A. Possibly.**
 11 Q. Or is that something else?
 12 **A. Possibly, yes. I remember this whole thing, my**
 13 **frustration with it, trying to get somebody to do**
 14 **something, but I don't ever recall seeing this written**
 15 **down, or the letter, before.**
 16 Q. Now I would like to look at -- I see the time.
 17 Chair, the reality is, I am not going to finish this
 18 evening, which is probably bad news for Mr Eaton, but
 19 I haven't got a huge amount of time longer. But
 20 I understand that you are under a bit of time pressure,
 21 or one of your colleagues is, to finish at 4.15 pm.
 22 **A. I'm aware of the difficulties, if it helps, and I have**
 23 **already been approached about tomorrow.**
 24 Q. So you can come back tomorrow morning, if you have to?
 25 THE CHAIR: We are not under any time constraint for 4.15

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1 this afternoon.
 2 MR ALTMAN: Shall we go on and see how far we get, Mr Eaton,
 3 and see if we can finish you? It will be far more
 4 convenient for you.
 5 Can we put up, please, another document, GMP000386
 6 at page 20, please.
 7 Do you see this, Mr Eaton: this is a note of
 8 a meeting held at the school on 24 September, so three
 9 days on from what we were just looking at. This meeting
 10 is at 4.45 in the afternoon. You are present with
 11 Simpson, Williams and Hutchinson. If we look, I think
 12 about halfway down, do you see:
 13 "Mr Eaton stated that A14 had confirmed to
 14 WPC Janet Taylor what had happened, ie that the intruder
 15 had committed sexual acts with him involving
 16 masturbation and oral sex.
 17 "It was stated that the police would have to
 18 interview RH and, if he admitted the offence,
 19 prosecution would follow. If he denied the offence --
 20 the police might have difficulty in bringing a case.
 21 "Mr Eaton said that A14 did not want RH to be
 22 punished but rather to be helped. A14 was said to be
 23 afraid of his father or brother (aged 29) coming after
 24 RH for revenge."
 25 So two things there, that A14 -- you were reporting

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1 that A14 didn't want Hilton punished but helped; is that
 2 right?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. And, secondly, that A14 was afraid of his father or
 5 brother coming after Hilton for revenge. So there are
 6 two things. These were things that you reported to the
 7 meeting.
 8 Can we go to the last entry in that highlighted box:
 9 "Mr Hilton undertook to visit the parents directly
 10 after this meeting to acquaint them with what had
 11 happened."
 12 Did you do that?
 13 **A. I did, with great reluctance, yes.**
 14 Q. Of course. Can we go to another meeting note which
 15 actually precedes this one, RHC001660 at page 3. Let's
 16 go back to the first page. We can see at the top, same
 17 date, but this is 9.30, so it is in the morning. It
 18 precedes the meeting we just looked at. Andrews,
 19 Hutchinson, Simpson, Williams and yourself are part of
 20 the meeting. Then if we go to the third page, was there
 21 a debate between you and, if we look at the first
 22 "Simpson", did you explain you had a good relationship
 23 with the parents who were pleased with A14's place at
 24 Knowl View and, beneath that, Ms Simpson reiterated that
 25 the parents must be informed as soon as possible, and

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1 you agreed that immediately following the police
 2 interviews you would personally inform the parents. Was
 3 there a debate about the precise point at which the
 4 parents should be told?
 5 **A. I believe there was, because I didn't volunteer to do**
 6 **that. I felt as though I'd been coerced. In a nice**
 7 **way, somebody was telling me I had a good relationship.**
 8 **I've got to say, it was probably the hardest thing I'd**
 9 **ever done.**
 10 Q. But by the end of the day, you had agreed to go off and
 11 see them, to tell them what had happened to their son.
 12 Was the idea that that would happen following police
 13 interviews forgotten or had police interviews taken
 14 place by the time you went to see the parent?
 15 **A. I'm not exactly sure, to be honest. I just felt so**
 16 **ill-equipped to go and talk to these parents about what**
 17 **had happened, and then for them to say that their --**
 18 **their son had been abused and yet he didn't want any**
 19 **negatives, really, towards Rod. I really didn't want to**
 20 **do it. But I felt, by the afternoon, that they'd**
 21 **managed to persuade me to go and do it.**
 22 Q. As you said before, Rod Hilton persisted in coming back?
 23 **A. Yes. He was back in the locality and up to his -- well,**
 24 **mainly night games and sitting on the fence and howling**
 25 **and things like that.**

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1 Q. I'd like your help, please, with another boy who we have
 2 ciphered as A11. I am going to ask you to look at
 3 RHC001617 at page 10, please. We are moving on into the
 4 next year. These are minutes of a meeting of 4 March,
 5 which we have already looked at today. If we look at
 6 those in attendance on this date, they include you,
 7 Martin Digan, as well as a Dr Fraser, Janet Bowyer and
 8 Christine Scarborough. Do you remember this meeting
 9 when disclosures were made, in particular three
 10 incidents? If I can summarise them in this way: the
 11 first was in relation to sexual abuse taking place at
 12 Smith Street toilets with Knowl View boys; the next
 13 page, at point 2, relates to the Hilton incident; and
 14 then the third point, something you have already told us
 15 about a little:
 16 "The above incident [the Hilton incident] took place
 17 in A11's first week of school at Knowl View. A11 has
 18 confusion over his sexual identity, saying he is gay,
 19 asking for an HIV test as he had a relationship with
 20 a man outside school. A11 states that he has had sexual
 21 involvement with A15. This was encouraged by A17 and
 22 A20."
 23 Do you remember being present at that meeting,
 24 Mr Eaton?
 25 **A. I think so, yes.**

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1 Q. Were you aware, in respect of A11, that he had
 2 a psychiatric history and had been a psychiatric
 3 inpatient?
 4 **A. No. If I can just explain, we'd got a changing
 5 situation in Knowl View. The boys who used to come over
 6 to -- or were admitted to the senior side of school, you
 7 very much knew them from around school because they had
 8 been juniors, so you would have had contact with them
 9 and you would have sort of got to know them. There
 10 didn't need to be a file passed over. You had their
 11 house parent to talk to as well, their teachers, and
 12 then it was a planned move from junior unit to seniors.
 13 That's usually how most of the things worked.
 14 What we started to get was children coming from
 15 outside who we didn't know. This lad arrived and I just
 16 got told he was coming. I knew nothing about him, and
 17 I think I took it on myself and I spoke to somebody,
 18 maybe in the unit at Prestwich, because, again, I felt
 19 we were out of our depth.**
 20 Q. Now you know, if you didn't know it at the time, that
 21 this boy had a psychiatric history. Is that something
 22 you think it would have been important to know at the
 23 time?
 24 **A. Yes, very much so.**
 25 Q. It was something -- I don't know if you appreciate

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1 this -- that Valerie Mellor reported on in her report
 2 in February 1992. Did you tell her that or did you not
 3 know it at the time?
 4 **A. I think I probably told her the case of that particular
 5 lad coming in the school, but we lacked so much from
 6 psychological service about even the other children who
 7 had come from within Rochdale or Bolton or wherever.
 8 Well, the "need to know" thing was just not there,
 9 really. I think it was information to the head teacher
 10 or maybe deputy. There may have been all sorts of
 11 things about pupil attainment and things which obviously
 12 took precedent. But very little about the care side,
 13 home circumstances, et cetera, of any of the boys. We
 14 were digging trying to find that out. I go back to my
 15 parent contact thing.
 16 My first summer at Knowl View, I was told to dust
 17 off the bed springs, clean cupboards out, et cetera.
 18 I'm not averse to doing that, but I did think six weeks
 19 to do that was rather a long time.**
 20 Q. Can we move on, then. I want to cover, if I can in the
 21 time -- I'm entirely in your hands --
 22 THE CHAIR: Perhaps we could conclude at 4.30 pm?
 23 MR ALTMAN: Let's see how we go. I have the Shepherd Report
 24 and the Mellor Report, just a few questions about each
 25 to ask you. RHC001614 at page 5. The Shepherd Report.

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1 Did you see this report?
 2 **A. No, I don't think I ever did.**
 3 Q. I think you were the person who commissioned, at least,
 4 Mr Shepherd coming into the school to give staff
 5 training on HIV and AIDS?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Because he was a member of the Rochdale Health
 8 Authority. Did you have any involvement in providing
 9 him with some of the information that we know he set
 10 out?
 11 **A. Very much so, along with the two colleagues,
 12 Martin Digan and Jane Le Clere. I think maybe even some
 13 others. By the lunchtime, the training day had changed
 14 into something else.**
 15 Q. If we look at the bottom in italics, this is the guts,
 16 I suppose, of what Phil Shepherd was told:
 17 "One boy who is homosexual has contact with an adult
 18 outside the school. Several of the senior boys indulge
 19 in oral sex with one another. Reputedly five of
 20 the junior boys have been or are involved in 'cottaging'
 21 in and around public toilets. Men as far away as
 22 Sheffield are believed to be aware of this activity and
 23 travel to Rochdale to take part. One 8-year-old is
 24 thought to have been involved. The police are aware of
 25 the problem. What action has been taken is not known.

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1 One 'rent boy' has been removed from the school. The
 2 suggestion that he may return soon has angered the
 3 staff. Some boys have been 'forced' to have sex with
 4 others."
 5 This report, as you will see, the date at the top is
 6 20 March 1991. We know of course about the Hilton
 7 incident because that was foisted on the school and it,
 8 in a sense, happened and it became known about and
 9 people had to confront the issue and people, staff, were
 10 interviewed. But can you explain, Mr Eaton, from your
 11 position -- do we understand you might have been head of
 12 care at this point, 1991, March?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Can you help us understand why, before these
 15 revelations, staff had not reported, or apparently
 16 reported, to anyone in authority the matters which they
 17 were prepared to report to Mr Shepherd when he turned up
 18 at the school for an entirely different purpose? In
 19 other words, peer-on-peer abuse, cottaging at
 20 Smith Street, that sort of thing? Can you understand
 21 why --
 22 **A. These were events that had happened, a combination of**
 23 **things. Some I had more knowledge of than the other.**
 24 **Because of this scenario was really why we went -- or**
 25 **I approached the authority about trying to get some**

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1 **advice with HIV. And Phil Shepherd, really, I think was**
 2 **the first person who listened to us.**
 3 Q. So staff had the information, but he was the first
 4 person you felt you could report it to; is that what you
 5 are saying?
 6 **A. Yes, very much so, yes.**
 7 Q. Your reaction, you said in the witness statement you
 8 made in 2015, to Shepherd was you felt relief?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. But are you saying you didn't see the report or you have
 11 no recollection of seeing the actual report he wrote?
 12 **A. My impression was that he wrote the report and it**
 13 **disappeared.**
 14 Q. Yes.
 15 **A. I don't know. Some of the similarities now between what**
 16 **we tried to do, the information I would say that we gave**
 17 **to social services.**
 18 Q. You said:
 19 "Mr Digan, Jayne and I felt relieved that something
 20 was being done when the report was published, but
 21 I can't remember the reaction of the other staff
 22 members."
 23 Does that suggest that when it was published you
 24 might have seen it? That's what you said in your
 25 statement in 2015?

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1 **A. I may well have seen it. But I can't recall.**
 2 **I remember our reaction was positive that he'd actually**
 3 **done what he -- well, he'd listened to us. That was the**
 4 **key thing. And then he'd gone on and done this report.**
 5 **But my understanding is that that was then hidden or**
 6 **buried somewhere.**
 7 Q. Let's have a quick look, if we may, please, at the
 8 Mellor Report. RHC001599, please, at page 3. If we go,
 9 please, you will see there a list of people that
 10 Mrs Mellor spoke to, and under the heading "At
 11 Knowl View", you were one of them, "D Eaton, head of
 12 care". This is February 1992".
 13 You made a comment in your witness statement in 2015
 14 that Diana Cavanagh, the Director of Education, was
 15 concerned about leaks and threatened staff with the sack
 16 if anything leaked from this. Is that what you recall?
 17 **A. Yes, very much. We were being battered, I think,**
 18 **really, by the local papers.**
 19 Q. When you say "we", do you mean the school or the council
 20 or everyone?
 21 **A. I think the school and the school staff, really. To**
 22 **a degree, the council perhaps, but working at the school**
 23 **you obviously felt it.**
 24 Q. We know that there was a staff meeting at the school
 25 which was chaired by Mary Moffat. Do you remember being

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1 present when the report was distributed amongst care
 2 staff?
 3 **A. Val Mellor's report?**
 4 Q. Yes.
 5 **A. I think it was the one we had to sign for and give back.**
 6 Q. That's right. You had about 10 minutes to read it?
 7 **A. Correct.**
 8 Q. The appendix was not part of the report, which we know
 9 exists, but the appendix, setting out facts and
 10 allegations, was not handed out, but we also know it was
 11 a slightly redacted version of the full version for
 12 other reasons. One of the things you did say is that
 13 you felt it was a powerful report and you were pleased
 14 that she had done it. Is that how you felt: a powerful
 15 report?
 16 **A. It was about as powerful as it got at the time, yes. We**
 17 **were seeking help, advice and support. I'll just go**
 18 **back. So we were listening. We would have been**
 19 **grateful of anybody to help us, really.**
 20 Q. Looking back now, did you feel it was adequate?
 21 **A. No, because I think it probably needed to be a root and**
 22 **branch, if I can use that term, to look at the issues**
 23 **going on. I'm not suggesting it should have been as**
 24 **intense as this panel inquiry, but I felt it -- you're**
 25 **right, we felt it was an edited version.**

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1 Q. It was only discovered to be edited, when it was known
 2 to be edited, by Martin Digan in 1994 and only
 3 a smallish part -- it may have been an important part,
 4 but a smallish part -- was removed for what was
 5 considered to be good reason. But overall, did you
 6 think it was adequate? In other words, had it achieved
 7 what it set out to do?

8 **A. I wasn't sure what it was about to achieve. Val Mellor,**
 9 **as far as I know, came from Booth Hall. She was going**
 10 **to offer counselling, I thought, initially, to some of**
 11 **the pupils and possibly to the staff.**

12 Q. I'm not going to show you it for simply time reasons,
 13 but you will remember the handwritten notes of
 14 13 May 1992, the Hodge/Dobie notes, which was part of
 15 the underlying material that they used to compile their
 16 report in June 1992 to Diana Cavanagh. You said you
 17 felt Valerie Mellor could have gone deeper in the course
 18 of that interview. Do you remember saying that, she
 19 could have gone deeper?

20 **A. Yes, I think referring to the fact that there were**
 21 **perhaps people involved that I've named in statements**
 22 **and things like that, since that -- well, that should**
 23 **have been talked to.**

24 MR ALTMAN: Chair, two or three more questions. About five
 25 minutes. It would be a tragedy if we had Mr Eaton who

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1 has come from far away, if we keep him overnight for the
 2 sake of five minutes.

3 Do you think the same problems persisted after the
 4 Mellor Report? Did things improve or not or did
 5 anything change?

6 **A. I can't think. I have looked at that question and**
 7 **I can't think of a particular positive. I think we**
 8 **still seem to have acting people in various situations**
 9 **without any great leadership. But I couldn't recall**
 10 **specific incidents that that had happened. I think**
 11 **I was disappointed. It had taken so long to get alarms**
 12 **and waking night staff and things like that. The boys**
 13 **that we had coming into the school had changed. Society**
 14 **had changed as well. This wasn't a reform school**
 15 **anymore.**

16 Q. In other words, you should have struck when the iron was
 17 hot?

18 **A. Very much so. I think in these days maybe the school**
 19 **would have been closed, albeit temporary, renamed and**
 20 **reset up with new leadership and staffing quotas and**
 21 **have a proper training budget. It just changed --**
 22 **I mean, the school with the regime that it had was fit**
 23 **for that purpose, but it was becoming an end of it when**
 24 **Terry Hopwood finished. So I'm thinking that those**
 25 **changes should have been accommodated in some sort of**

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1 **management structure or a change for use for the school.**
 2 **When I first went there and I saw the first PE**
 3 **thing, it was like a scene out of "Kes", which was very**
 4 **popular at the time, because social work, we were being**
 5 **trained with that. But, yes, it did. Maybe it ran out**
 6 **of its usefulness for that period of time.**

7 Q. You left in 1992. Was that just career progression or
 8 because you'd had enough?

9 **A. No. Career progression. I wanted to go to fieldwork.**
 10 **I'd been and done the qualifying course. I'd seen there**
 11 **was another life other than Knowl View. I'd gone back**
 12 **after my course because I was held to contract.**
 13 **I didn't particularly want to be there. I did apply for**
 14 **the job with a degree of naivety that maybe I could have**
 15 **effected some change. In fact, myself and Digan applied**
 16 **for it together. We thought that with the people we'd**
 17 **had we could do possibly a better job together, in some**
 18 **ways.**

19 Q. Two other things. First, Cyril Smith. Very briefly.
 20 Did you ever see him around the place?

21 **A. Not at all. Not in nine years.**

22 Q. Finally this, and forgive me for asking, but I am asking
 23 it for a purpose: A14 did write a note about his time at
 24 Knowl View, and one of the complaints he made was about
 25 you locking him up and physical punishment. Was

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1 anything like that anything you ever did?

2 **A. No. Nobody locked anybody up. It wasn't the done thing**
 3 **or the proper thing to do.**

4 Q. Locked him in a room as punishment, I think is what he
 5 said?

6 **A. No. There were punishments, obviously, within the**
 7 **school, but it didn't involve locking somebody in**
 8 **a room.**

9 Q. All right, Mr Eaton. There is one question, if the
 10 chair will allow me, and it may be that the chair and
 11 panel have the odd question in the time we have left,
 12 but finally this: we have heard from Martin Digan today,
 13 and the impression some may have is that there is no
 14 love lost between you and him. Did you fall out at all?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. During the time at Knowl View or since?

17 **A. Yes -- no, over the head of care's job.**

18 Q. It was as simple as that: you got it and he didn't?

19 **A. In a nutshell, yes. I mean, it wasn't the greatest --**
 20 **I think -- I have looked at it many times. We were good**
 21 **friends. We both went for the job with the same**
 22 **reasons. We even had a pint the night before and said,**
 23 **"May the best man win". I could have worked for him.**
 24 **He didn't seem to want to do -- reciprocate it.**

25 MR ALTMAN: Thank you, Mr Eaton, for telling us it from your

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1 point of view.
 2 I am sorry that we have overrun, but, chair and
 3 panel, whether you have any questions for Mr Eaton?
 4 THE CHAIR: No, we don't, Mr Altman. Thank you very much,
 5 and thank you very much, Mr Eaton.
 6 **A. Thank you.**
 7 **(The witness withdrew)**
 8 THE CHAIR: That concludes us for this afternoon.
 9 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much.
 10 (4.37 pm)
 11 (The hearing was adjourned to
 12 Tuesday, 17 October 2017 at 10.30 am)

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