

<p>1 Friday, 20 October 2017 2 (10.30 am) 3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, Mr Altman. 4 MR ALTMAN: Good morning, chair. The one and only witness 5 for today is Diana Cavanagh, who is sitting in the 6 witness box, ready to be sworn or affirmed. 7 MS DIANA LESLEY CAVANAGH (affirmed) 8 Examination by MR ALTMAN 9 MR ALTMAN: Mrs Cavanagh, give us your full name, if you 10 would, please. 11 <b>A. Diana Lesley Cavanagh.</b> 12 Q. Mrs Cavanagh, first of all, please, I would like to ask 13 you about your professional background. What is your 14 background in? 15 <b>A. My background is in teaching, and then educational 16 administration.</b> 17 Q. In the early 1980s, in particular in 1983, were you 18 working in Derbyshire? 19 <b>A. Yes, I moved to Derbyshire as a professional assistant 20 and worked on the implementation of the '81 Act.</b> 21 Q. Then when did you start at Rochdale? 22 <b>A. January '85.</b> 23 Q. As what? 24 <b>A. As Assistant Education Officer for Reorganisation and 25 Curriculum.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b> 2 Q. Help us with this: in the periods you have just 3 mentioned, did you have any prior experience, in 4 particular before becoming Acting Chief Education 5 Officer in September 1990, of special needs schools? 6 <b>A. Not after Derbyshire, where I spent a year on the 7 implementation of the Act.</b> 8 Q. So are you saying in Derbyshire you did have some 9 experience of that because of the work you did on the 10 implementation of the Act? 11 <b>A. Yes.</b> 12 Q. What kind of experience was that? 13 <b>A. It was partly to do with discussion of reorganisation of 14 special education and public meetings about that and the 15 establishment of particular units that would focus on 16 children with particular needs.</b> 17 Q. Now, in the period 1990 to 1991, was there a chief 18 adviser by the name of Cliff Bentley? 19 <b>A. There was.</b> 20 Q. Did you know him? 21 <b>A. Yes. He was there when I went to Rochdale.</b> 22 Q. Did you work with him? 23 <b>A. Indeed.</b> 24 Q. Who took over his position? 25 <b>A. Selwyn Hodge.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 Q. Am I right in thinking that in 1989 you were promoted to 2 Chief Assistant Education Officer? 3 <b>A. I was, yes.</b> 4 Q. Then in September 1990, you were promoted? 5 <b>A. Yes. Mr Naylor retired.</b> 6 Q. Naylor, Alan Naylor? 7 <b>A. Neville Naylor.</b> 8 Q. Neville? 9 <b>A. Yes.</b> 10 Q. Right. 11 <b>A. He retired, and all the assistant directors were 12 interviewed for the post of Acting Chief Education 13 Officer, and I was appointed.</b> 14 Q. So that was September 1990? 15 <b>A. It was.</b> 16 Q. Do you know the date offhand? 17 <b>A. Maybe the 12th.</b> 18 Q. When did you become Director of Education? 19 <b>A. The post went to national advert, and I think I was 20 appointed in February. It was '91 anyway.</b> 21 Q. When did you leave Rochdale? 22 <b>A. May 1996. Wait a minute -- yes, '96.</b> 23 Q. Did you go to Bradford? 24 <b>A. I went to Bradford, yes.</b> 25 Q. To be Director of Education there?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know offhand when that was? 2 <b>A. Might have been '92. I'm not certain.</b> 3 Q. We certainly know, and we will come to it, you 4 commissioned a report from Selwyn Hodge -- 5 <b>A. In '92.</b> 6 Q. -- in about May 1992, when he was chief adviser at that 7 point. 8 <b>A. Mmm-hmm.</b> 9 Q. In your mind, did he become chief adviser around that 10 time or well before that time? 11 <b>A. From memory, around that time.</b> 12 Q. Adele Bebb is a name we have seen reference to. Who was 13 she? 14 <b>A. She was appointed from external advert, and she was 15 assistant director. She had responsibility for staffing 16 and for what we call business units.</b> 17 Q. Are you saying she came in from outside of Rochdale? 18 <b>A. Yes.</b> 19 Q. When did she first start working for Rochdale? 20 <b>A. I think that was '92.</b> 21 Q. At the time, John Pierce, he was the chief executive? 22 <b>A. He was.</b> 23 Q. Newly appointed around '91; am I right? 24 <b>A. Well, I'm not -- I'm confused, because in one of 25 the documents it said he was there from 1986, and</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

1 **I thought he was appointed chief executive before**  
 2 **I became Acting Chief Education Officer.**  
 3 Q. So you think he was chief executive  
 4 before September 1990?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. You think, whatever role, he had worked for the council  
 7 long before that?  
 8 **A. I understand so. He was a planner.**  
 9 Q. He was a planner?  
 10 **A. Mmm.**  
 11 Q. Brian Williams is a name we have seen mention of. Was  
 12 he an assistant education officer --  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. -- at the time you were in post as acting and then  
 15 director, with a focus on special needs?  
 16 **A. Yes, that was his title, and he was there before I went**  
 17 **to Rochdale.**  
 18 Q. Was he to be replaced by Liz Dobie?  
 19 **A. He was.**  
 20 Q. Who, as we know, assisted Dr Hodge --  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. -- in May 1992 and afterwards in the investigation you  
 23 commissioned for him to perform?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. Once you came in post as Acting Chief Education Officer

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1 in September 1990, was yours a close relationship with  
 2 Brian Williams?  
 3 **A. Yes, because I had been an assistant education officer**  
 4 **alongside him, if you like, within the schools branch.**  
 5 Q. So presumably you worked quite closely with him?  
 6 **A. I would say his area was distinct from mine because**  
 7 **I was there for reorganisation, which was every other**  
 8 **school except the special schools.**  
 9 Q. By which you mean? What do you mean, "which was every  
 10 other school apart from special schools"?  
 11 **A. Well, reorganisation encompassed the Roman Catholic**  
 12 **schools, that was done separately, and then the county**  
 13 **and Church of England schools, which were done as**  
 14 **a whole. I won't say I closed every school in Rochdale,**  
 15 **but it was not far off, and opened new ones.**  
 16 Q. And the reason for that, in a sentence or two?  
 17 **A. Because Rochdale had had a three-tier system with middle**  
 18 **schools, and they wanted to move to a two-tier system**  
 19 **and a tertiary college.**  
 20 Q. Was that something that had trickled down from the  
 21 elected representatives?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. It was your job to implement it?  
 24 **A. Yes, to get the plans to the Secretary of State, get**  
 25 **them approved and then to implement.**

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1 Q. Marilyn Simpson: she was special needs adviser?  
 2 **A. Yes. All the advisers were general advisers, but she**  
 3 **had special responsibility in that area.**  
 4 Q. Where were your offices while you were acting head and  
 5 then director in February '91?  
 6 **A. In the municipal offices. I can't remember if it was**  
 7 **the 8th floor or the 7th. We occupied both floors.**  
 8 Q. So two floors for education?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Below or above social services?  
 11 **A. I believe they were on the 10th floor.**  
 12 Q. Yes, they were. So your memory is below?  
 13 **A. Mmm.**  
 14 Q. A floor or two, perhaps?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. Let me ask you, please, about the incident that we are  
 17 all familiar with that took place in September 1990,  
 18 which was around the time that you became Acting Chief  
 19 Education Officer. Of course, that was a promotion.  
 20 You had been chief assistant education officer since  
 21 1989, we remind ourselves; is that right?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. So you had been in a senior post at least from 1989, the  
 24 year before?  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. I am going to invite you now to look first at a number  
 2 of documents, please, Mrs Cavanagh, RHC001233 at page 1.  
 3 It will come up on the screen for you to your right.  
 4 **A. Do you have the letter reference here?**  
 5 Q. When you say the letter reference --  
 6 **A. Oh, yes, right, I can see it.**  
 7 Q. You will see it on the screen.  
 8 **A. I can see it.**  
 9 Q. If you have the documents of your own, if you can find  
 10 it in your file, please do. But I think we will get  
 11 along much more quickly if you rely on the screen  
 12 version.  
 13 **A. I can see it.**  
 14 Q. You will see that this is a document headed "Serious  
 15 incident at Knowl View School". If we went to the third  
 16 page at the top, you will see that there is a date  
 17 "Outline of the incident as known 24.10.90". If we go  
 18 to the next page, page 4, although I imagine, if we took  
 19 away the Data Protection Act label, we would probably  
 20 find your name underneath it --  
 21 **A. You would.**  
 22 Q. -- "Acting Chief Education Officer 24.10.90". So this  
 23 is your document?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. Is the document, the last two pages of which I am

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<p>1 looking at, headed "Outline of the incident as known"?</p> <p>2 Is that all part of the same document, the serious</p> <p>3 incident document that, we saw on page 1?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes, the outline would have come from Brian Williams.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right. So can we take it that the document we have now</p> <p>6 got up on screen, headed "Serious incident at Knowl View</p> <p>7 School" was created by you on or after 24 October?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. If the outline came from Brian Williams, I don't know if</p> <p>10 you are telling us that was Brian Williams' document</p> <p>11 which you appended to your document, or did you simply</p> <p>12 create it from something Brian Williams had given you?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I think the outline of the incident was from</b></p> <p>14 <b>Brian Williams and the main body of the report he would</b></p> <p>15 <b>have advised me on, if you like, and I wrote it.</b></p> <p>16 Q. You wrote it based on the assistance you got from him,</p> <p>17 so we can take it the document we are now looking at was</p> <p>18 printed on or after 24 October?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Can we just go through it together, please, if we can.</p> <p>21 Because, of course, just getting our bearings for</p> <p>22 a moment, if what you tell us is accurate, that you took</p> <p>23 over as Acting Chief Education Officer on 12 September,</p> <p>24 then you came into that post on the second night of</p> <p>25 the two nights in which Roderick Hilton entered Knowl</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 of the governors ... with his agreement [you] requested</p> <p>2 the chief adviser and the AEO ..." who was Mr Williams,</p> <p>3 I think?</p> <p>4 <b>A. That's right.</b></p> <p>5 Q. "... to hold further meetings with staff ..."</p> <p>6 So that's you requesting Cliff Bentley and</p> <p>7 Brian Williams:</p> <p>8 "... for the purpose of:</p> <p>9 "(a) establishing the facts of the incident.</p> <p>10 "(b) establishing what actions had been taken to</p> <p>11 deal with the incident.</p> <p>12 "(c) establishing what procedures were in place</p> <p>13 which would prevent a recurrence of such an incident."</p> <p>14 Before I just ask you a few questions, please,</p> <p>15 arising out of that, if we go back up to paragraph 3 on</p> <p>16 this page, do you see where it says:</p> <p>17 "On the same day, the police interviewed those</p> <p>18 involved in the incidents."</p> <p>19 What did you understand by "those involved"?</p> <p>20 Obviously, Mrs Cavanagh, you are well aware that if it</p> <p>21 involves the boys, I'm not interested in any names.</p> <p>22 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Perhaps let me put a direct question: "Those involved",</p> <p>24 did that mean members of staff, did it mean boys who</p> <p>25 were understood to have been involved in the incident or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 View School?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I think so.</b></p> <p>3 Q. So it coincided with that incident?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Let's just look then at our page 1 of RHC001233:</p> <p>6 "On Friday, 21 September 1990, the acting deputy</p> <p>7 head, Mr Hutchinson, contacted Mr Williams ... to report</p> <p>8 a serious incident at the school. Mr Williams visited</p> <p>9 the school the same day to hear an outline of</p> <p>10 the incident (as far as the facts were then known) and</p> <p>11 arranged for further meetings to take place with</p> <p>12 appropriate staff at the school on the following Monday</p> <p>13 (24.9.90). He also urged that the parents of the pupils</p> <p>14 involved should be contacted forthwith.</p> <p>15 "On Monday 24 September, meetings were held at the</p> <p>16 school as follows ..."</p> <p>17 Then there are lists of individuals with whom</p> <p>18 interviews were held. Paragraph 3:</p> <p>19 "On the same day, the police interviewed those</p> <p>20 involved in the incidents. Efforts to contact the</p> <p>21 parents in advance of the interviews had proved</p> <p>22 unsuccessful but they were informed that evening."</p> <p>23 Then, under paragraph 5:</p> <p>24 "In light of the information provided at these</p> <p>25 meetings, [you] discussed the situation with the chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 all of them? Do you remember now?</p> <p>2 <b>A. It meant the boys. I'm not aware that members of staff</b></p> <p>3 <b>were interviewed as a formal interview, if you like.</b></p> <p>4 <b>But the idea was that the boys who had been named as</b></p> <p>5 <b>being involved should be interviewed.</b></p> <p>6 Q. This is interviewed by the police?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. As far as you were concerned. Did you think that</p> <p>9 happened?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Have you ever seen any documentary record of police</p> <p>12 interviews of any of the boys involved?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I've not seen the police record, but I had a report back</b></p> <p>14 <b>from Brian Williams and Marilyn, because there was some</b></p> <p>15 <b>dispute about the parents being present.</b></p> <p>16 Q. I think I'm safe in saying that the inquiry has never</p> <p>17 seen any police interviews of the boys at all?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Right.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Whether that means they never happened or they did and</p> <p>20 the record has never been discovered, perhaps, is</p> <p>21 another matter. But you, for your part, never saw any</p> <p>22 police interviews of any boys?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>24 Q. What about from the council's point of view? Were you</p> <p>25 minded to conduct any interviews of the boys concerned,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

1 or was that because you felt the police were going to do  
 2 it, that that was something that you should stay away  
 3 from?  
 4 **A. The September 1990 incident was seen as an incident**  
 5 **provoked by an intruder.**  
 6 Q. Yes.  
 7 **A. It was therefore potentially a criminal offence, and**  
 8 **that was the role of the police.**  
 9 Q. So the answer to my question, Mrs Cavanagh, is that you  
 10 did not feel that it was appropriate for any of your  
 11 officers within the Education Department to take on the  
 12 interview of any of the boys involved? Is that what we  
 13 should understand?  
 14 **A. Not a formal interview. Because the school would carry**  
 15 **out its own interviews, and had done so.**  
 16 Q. Of the boys?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. If we look on the second page of the document:  
 19 "Mr Williams arranged a timetable of meetings at the  
 20 school on ... 11 and 12 October 1990. The timetable is  
 21 given on the attached sheet ..."  
 22 Paragraph 8:  
 23 "A further discussion was held with the chair of  
 24 governors on some of the issues arising from the  
 25 meetings and it was agreed that the full governing body

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1 should be informed immediately about the events from  
 2 11 September to 12th October."  
 3 So if the dates are accurate, you were suggesting  
 4 the governing body should be told of everything that had  
 5 happened from the first night --  
 6 **A. That's correct.**  
 7 Q. -- up to the second date provided for interviews of what  
 8 were staff members; is that right?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. You intended it to be a four-week period that governors  
 11 should be informed about?  
 12 **A. Yes, of what had happened.**  
 13 Q. Paragraph 9:  
 14 "It was hoped that this could be taken as an urgent  
 15 additional item at the ordinary governors' meeting  
 16 on October 17."  
 17 Just so we understand, to the extent that that any  
 18 boys -- presumably you understood by now that on the  
 19 second night at least one boy was sexually assaulted by  
 20 Hilton?  
 21 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 22 Q. We don't see any reference to the welfare of the boys.  
 23 Who was welfare a matter for? In other words, if any  
 24 boys needed any counselling or any other psychological  
 25 or psychiatric form of assistance or any other

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1 therapeutic assistance, who in your mind, given the  
 2 absence of any reference to welfare in this document,  
 3 would that have been a matter for?  
 4 **A. For the educational psychological service, who allotted**  
 5 **time to the school.**  
 6 Q. Who was the head of it at that time?  
 7 **A. At that time, Richard Flammer.**  
 8 Q. Did that fall within the role of the Education  
 9 Department or was that social services or did it come  
 10 under its own head?  
 11 **A. It was part of the Education Department.**  
 12 Q. So are you saying that around this time Mr Flammer had  
 13 been invited to go into the school to advise on or  
 14 perform any therapy if needed? Was that your  
 15 understanding?  
 16 **A. It was my understanding, and I also understood he had**  
 17 **half a day a week for Knowl View as their head psych, if**  
 18 **you like.**  
 19 Q. What, as part of the routine?  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. As a result of the Hilton incident, who had instigated  
 22 Flammer going in to see if any of the boys required any  
 23 welfare checks?  
 24 **A. I don't know that I did it directly, but I would assume**  
 25 **it was Brian Williams or the adviser.**

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1 Q. Now I would like, please, to go to another document to  
 2 ask you about it, RHC002015. You will see it come up on  
 3 screen, Mrs Cavanagh. These are meetings of  
 4 the governors held at Knowl View on Wednesday,  
 5 17 October. Do you remember a reference in the last  
 6 document we looked at saying that you had hoped that  
 7 what had happened would become an additional item on the  
 8 governors' agenda for that meeting?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Were you present there at the meeting?  
 11 **A. No. No, I wasn't.**  
 12 Q. Do you recognise the handwriting?  
 13 **A. Brian Williams'. He was clerk to governors.**  
 14 Q. He was clerk to governors, in any event?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. But wearing his other hat, presumably, his presence  
 17 assisted?  
 18 **A. Well, it would do, because he was knowledgeable.**  
 19 Q. So we have the minutes here. Were you aware of  
 20 the outcome of the minutes on 17 October? Do you want  
 21 me to go through and see if it rings a bell with you?  
 22 **A. It would be helpful because I haven't had this in mind.**  
 23 Q. Forgive me. Let's go through it together. Towards the  
 24 bottom of the first page, we see "Adjournment" at  
 25 point 4?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. "The governors were requested to consider a special item  
 3 for which the chief adviser was present."  
 4 So that would be Bentley or Williams?  
 5 **A. Bentley. Cliff Bentley.**  
 6 Q. We can see, actually, if I look a little more closely,  
 7 his name at the top in attendance under the list of  
 8 those present in attendance, "C Bentley" and beneath him  
 9 "B Williams". So back to the bottom:  
 10 "Mr Andrews requested an adjournment of  
 11 the meeting ..."  
 12 Who is Mr Andrews?  
 13 **A. Brett Andrews, who was the acting head.**  
 14 Q. So he was the acting head. He requested an adjournment  
 15 of the meeting, "and it was" presumably adjourned:  
 16 "Resolved: that the meeting be adjourned for one  
 17 hour."  
 18 Then:  
 19 "Discussion of an extra agenda item.  
 20 "5. After the adjournment, governors were again  
 21 requested to ..."  
 22 I'm not sure if we miss a line, but something reads:  
 23 "... accepted an additional agenda item to which  
 24 Mr Bentley would speak. A formal proposal that the  
 25 chief adviser be invited to speak was rejected. [1 vote

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1 for, 3 votes against].  
 2 "Mr Bentley withdrew at this point.  
 3 "Mrs Lyons [one of the governors] from the chair  
 4 strongly urged the governors to hear a statement from  
 5 Mr Williams at the earliest opportunity. After further  
 6 discussion, it was:  
 7 "Resolved: that the meeting keep to the agenda as  
 8 published and that a special general meeting be held for  
 9 any other item."  
 10 So it seems that the governors' meeting declined,  
 11 perhaps is a nice way of putting it, to hear the special  
 12 item during the course of that meeting?  
 13 **A. That's right, they refused, although I had spoken to**  
 14 **both Matt Ingoe and Joan Lyons before the meeting and as**  
 15 **chair and vice they had accepted the item.**  
 16 Q. So Matthew or Matt Ingoe, he was the chair, Mrs Lyons  
 17 was the vice chair of the board of governors. As far as  
 18 you're concerned, they had accepted it. But it looks  
 19 like they were voted down?  
 20 **A. Exactly.**  
 21 Q. Can you explain from your position -- maybe you can't  
 22 explain it -- that decision to refuse to take what had  
 23 happened as a special item on that occasion?  
 24 **A. I interpreted it that the governors were feeling**  
 25 **defensive, that they felt the LEA was not supportive of**

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1 **them but was critical.**  
 2 Q. You are the LEA?  
 3 **A. Yes, I'm the adviser. And they were unhappy about that.**  
 4 Q. In fact, we don't have to go to it, but in your witness  
 5 statement -- you made several witness statements to the  
 6 police in recent years, but in a statement you made on  
 7 19 May 2015, do you remember you saying that they viewed  
 8 it as an attack?  
 9 **A. Yes. That was my interpretation.**  
 10 Q. In fact, and, again, we are going to look at this a bit  
 11 later, but just to save a little time, so that I don't  
 12 overdo taking you to documents, we will come to some  
 13 minutes of the next year, 4 June 1991, when you  
 14 described the board of governors being defensive?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. It comes to the same thing?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. What did they have to be defensive about? Was it just  
 19 about this issue or was this a cultural problem?  
 20 **A. I'm speculating because being on a governing body is**  
 21 **quite a responsibility. This was a very small governing**  
 22 **body and they felt, I think, that the authority had**  
 23 **neglected Knowl View and there had been several**  
 24 **occasions when the authority as a whole, not just the**  
 25 **LEA, had considered closing it. So therefore I think**

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1 **the defensiveness came from that.**  
 2 Q. Were you prepared to agree with them at that point?  
 3 **A. Well, it was under consideration for closure.**  
 4 Q. It?  
 5 **A. It was under consideration for closure.**  
 6 Q. Wasn't?  
 7 **A. Was.**  
 8 Q. You mean this incident alone?  
 9 **A. Not because of the incident, but because of financial**  
 10 **matters.**  
 11 Q. So resources were already, at that point, an issue as  
 12 far as Knowl View is concerned?  
 13 **A. Yes -- well, as far as the department was concerned.**  
 14 Q. As you come in, at the very time this is all going on,  
 15 into the acting role, what was your view? Was  
 16 Knowl View a school that was in its death throes or was  
 17 it liable to be saved by Diana Cavanagh?  
 18 **A. My ignorance of Knowl View, in retrospect, was profound.**  
 19 **So I didn't have a view about the school. All I saw on**  
 20 **the cuts prepared by Mr Naylor beforehand was that if**  
 21 **they were closed, it would save a certain amount of**  
 22 **money. So that was my only information, if you like.**  
 23 Q. So you're saying at that point you had too little  
 24 information to have a view of your own?  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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<p>1 Q. Now, the staff interviews arising out of the Hilton 2 incident which took place on 11 and 12 October 1990 we 3 can find -- I will ask you to look at it, please, 4 GMP000388 at page 3. There was a questionnaire, 5 a pro forma questionnaire that was set out for staff 6 members: 7 "1. What do you personally know of the events ... 8 "2. What is there in your experience of 9 the management practice of the school that would prevent 10 a recurrence? 11 "3. What is there in your experience of 12 the administrative procedures of the school that would 13 prevent [it]? 14 "4. What is there of the supervisory programme of 15 the school that would prevention a recurrence? 16 "What is there in your curricular practice that 17 would prevent [it]? 18 "What is there in your pastoral guidance that would 19 prevent [it]? 20 "What is there in your supervisory role that would 21 prevent [it]? 22 "Have you anything to add?" 23 We can see the list of the interviewees both for the 24 11th and the 12th. Do you know who devised this 25 pro forma questionnaire?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 "No direct knowledge, but has since spoken with RH 2 [Roderick Hilton] whom he'd known for 8 years who 3 confirmed what had happened. RH had previously engaged 4 in sexual activities with Knowl View pupils about 5 7 years ago." 6 First of all, having read all of this, these 7 interviews, they didn't make very happy reading, did 8 they? 9 <b>A. No.</b> 10 Q. Here is Martin Digan referring to an incident which had 11 happened seven years before. Did you appreciate that 12 seven years before, in 1984, Roderick Hilton had 13 indecently assaulted a Knowl View pupil for which he was 14 prosecuted and pleaded guilty? 15 <b>A. No, I didn't appreciate that.</b> 16 Q. Did anybody ever tell you, or is that news to you now as 17 I tell you this? 18 <b>A. It was news to me from the March discussions in '91.</b> 19 Q. So you learned about it then; is that what you are 20 saying? 21 <b>A. Yes, it was focused on then.</b> 22 Q. But certainly by this time, when all of this is going on 23 as a result of the recent events in September 1990, you 24 hadn't heard of the fact that Hilton had been convicted, 25 in effect, of an offence relating to Knowl View seven</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes, Cliff Bentley.</b> 2 Q. In consultation with you or by himself? 3 <b>A. In consultation with Brian Williams.</b> 4 Q. Had you seen these before now? 5 <b>A. I've seen them before now. I probably saw them before</b> 6 <b>the interviews, but I don't remember if I did or not.</b> 7 Q. That should have been my question. 8 <b>A. Oh, sorry.</b> 9 Q. So you certainly saw them or you think you may have seen 10 them before the staff interviews took place? 11 <b>A. I think I might have done.</b> 12 Q. Following within this package, we do have a ream, some 13 of which the chair and panel have seen already, of 14 handwritten notes of interviews with individual staff. 15 Did you see those? 16 <b>A. At the time?</b> 17 Q. At the time. 18 <b>A. Yes.</b> 19 Q. So, for example -- let's see how we go, Mrs Cavanagh, 20 without perhaps going to any of the material directly, 21 unless we have to. I have persuaded myself that we 22 should. Let's go to page 11 within the same reference, 23 just as an example. This is Martin Digan, who was house 24 parent on the Egerton unit at the time. Under the 25 heading "Knowledge of incident":</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 years or so earlier? 2 <b>A. I don't think so.</b> 3 Q. Although, if you had read this, if this was one of 4 the interviews, staff interviews, you read around the 5 time, then what Digan was saying here about Hilton's 6 previous sexual activities towards at least one 7 Knowl View pupil should have jumped out of the page 8 a little, do you think? 9 <b>A. Yes.</b> 10 Q. But, as you sit there now, presumably you can't 11 remember -- or do you remember whether you knew about it 12 before the March 1991 event? 13 <b>A. I don't think I knew that he'd been convicted or the</b> 14 <b>date of the previous incident.</b> 15 Q. If we go, for example, back to page 9 of this same 16 document, please, we have got Brett Andrews, who was the 17 acting head teacher, who says under the first heading 18 "Management practice": 19 "Nothing could have been done to prevent the 20 intruder getting in in this way!" 21 Was that something at the time you agreed with or 22 sympathised with as a view? In other words, "There was 23 nothing that we could have done"? 24 <b>A. No, I didn't sympathise with it, but he outlined some</b> 25 <b>difficulties, and you could see that there could be some</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

1 **improvement in the security.**  
 2 Q. We learned I think only yesterday how easy it was for  
 3 people to get in and for boys to get out?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. That's been a feature of what we have learned about  
 6 Knowl View.  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Was that obvious from what you read about the staff --  
 9 through the staff interviews, that one item that  
 10 required tackling was the security, physical security,  
 11 of the place?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. Did you read -- I think the caretaker who was styled as  
 14 the school keeper, Andrew Found -- does that mean  
 15 anything to you, that name?  
 16 **A. Yes, I recognise the name.**  
 17 Q. If we go to page 35 as an example, when he was asked for  
 18 his knowledge of the incident, at the top, he says:  
 19 "RH appeared at school keeper's house. RH wanted to  
 20 know who had rung the police."  
 21 So it suggests this might have been after the event:  
 22 "RH apparently intoxicated and abuse after AF had  
 23 gone to bed. RH was asked to leave. AF tried to warn  
 24 school by telephone. [Did] get through. AF went over  
 25 to school, spoke to another member of staff. Again

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1 asked RH to leave and he did so. Later RH was found on  
 2 the kitchen roof and police were called."  
 3 So maybe this is the run-up to the event rather than  
 4 the aftermath of the event:  
 5 "RH [Hilton] called 'Rod' -- local man. AF had been  
 6 aware of his problems -- kept him at a distance. Known  
 7 to be vindictive and when intoxicated RH is abusive.  
 8 Did threaten to burn school keeper's house. As  
 9 consequence, asked Education Department to fix security  
 10 light."  
 11 Did you know about that?  
 12 **A. About the security light?**  
 13 Q. Yes.  
 14 **A. No, not in that detail. I mean, as part of the summary**  
 15 **of these, external security was mentioned as requiring**  
 16 **improvement.**  
 17 Q. Do you know who these interviewers were who did the  
 18 interviewing? Was it Mr Bentley and Mr Williams or was  
 19 it someone else?  
 20 **A. No, it was Cliff Bentley and Brian Williams.**  
 21 Q. It was Cliff Bentley and Brian Williams?  
 22 **A. Mmm.**  
 23 Q. Did you speak to Mr Bentley and Mr Williams after the  
 24 staff interviewed about problems that emerged in the  
 25 course of these interviews?

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1 **A. Yes, I think they produced a summary.**  
 2 Q. I'm sorry?  
 3 **A. I think they produced a summary.**  
 4 Q. A summary. Do you remember if you and they resolved any  
 5 plan of action in relation to the school at that point?  
 6 How was it left?  
 7 **A. I'm just trying to think if there was actually a plan of**  
 8 **action that was written down. There was an agreement to**  
 9 **do certain things like informing the governors.**  
 10 Q. Yes.  
 11 **A. And informing the chair of the Education Committee, who**  
 12 **actually knew about the incident anyway, and to alert**  
 13 **services section to the requirements of the security.**  
 14 Q. So is that a distinct recollection you have of the plan  
 15 of action that was taken?  
 16 **A. I can't think of a document that listed them all, but**  
 17 **I think there was one.**  
 18 Q. Let's go back to -- do you remember your document  
 19 "Serious incident at Knowl View School"? Can we go back  
 20 to that. RHC001233, but this time at page 3. This, you  
 21 told us, was Mr Williams' outline --  
 22 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 23 Q. -- which he gave you and which you, in effect, annexed  
 24 to the report that you wrote, which we looked at  
 25 a little earlier.

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1 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 2 Q. It outlines on the 11th and the 12th what happened,  
 3 which we have seen much about, but let's look at  
 4 Thursday, 13 September:  
 5 "The pupil Y [who was at least one of the boys who  
 6 was indecently assaulted] was suspended until  
 7 20 September following a vicious physical assault on  
 8 another pupil. Although Y was taken home, he apparently  
 9 did not stay there. Mr Eaton [who was at the time the  
 10 house parent of the Norden unit] reported some  
 11 suspicions about events on Tuesday and Wednesday. X  
 12 [who is Hilton] was seen on the school site by staff who  
 13 eventually managed to remove him. Although police  
 14 assistance was requested and they arrived in school,  
 15 their response was unhelpful."  
 16 Do you know what that means in relation to the  
 17 police, that they were unhelpful?  
 18 **A. I don't remember this from the time, but from the**  
 19 **documents, the school said that no criminal damage had**  
 20 **been caused and therefore the police said they couldn't**  
 21 **take action.**  
 22 Q. From your understanding, why was the fact that a boy had  
 23 been sexually assaulted being ignored at that point?  
 24 **A. Just on the timetable, I'm not sure that was known at**  
 25 **that point.**

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1 Q. When do you think it was known? Because this is --  
 2 **A. Can you go back to the timetable, please?**  
 3 Q. Forgive me.  
 4 **A. That's fine. It's gone back to the timetable.**  
 5 Q. Because if you look above, to Wednesday, 12 September,  
 6 this being Mr Williams' chronology:  
 7 "X was again admitted to the boys' dormitory [that's  
 8 Hilton] and stayed overnight. The pupil Y states that  
 9 masturbation and oral sex took place. X has apparently  
 10 admitted that to the police."  
 11 If this is a faithful chronology, then by the 13th,  
 12 certainly that was known about, it wasn't just  
 13 a question of a break-in or the possibility of criminal  
 14 damage, but the far more serious matter, of course, was  
 15 the allegation of sexual assault?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. So I'm just wondering, because we know -- of course we  
 18 know as a matter of history that Hilton was prosecuted.  
 19 He was prosecuted for the sexual, or indecent assault,  
 20 as it was called then, and pleaded guilty on  
 21 7 December 1990 and he was sentenced, albeit only to  
 22 probation, on 22 February of the following year.  
 23 Just coming back to their response being unhelpful,  
 24 I appreciate that this is Mr Williams' chronology and it  
 25 may be his comment, but it forms part of your report,

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1 whether you can help us with what that comment meant?  
 2 **A. I don't think I can, because I don't know that the**  
 3 **police said this was not a serious matter. They may**  
 4 **have said it was a serious matter. But I'm relying on**  
 5 **the words there.**  
 6 Q. Now, if we drop our eye down to Friday, 21 September:  
 7 "The pupil Y returned from exclusion and was  
 8 questioned by staff.  
 9 "The LEA was informed of the incident."  
 10 Did you appreciate that the affected pupil was  
 11 interviewed by staff?  
 12 **A. Afterwards. I didn't hear about this until Monday --**  
 13 **the following Monday.**  
 14 Q. So that would be the 24th?  
 15 **A. It was.**  
 16 Q. Which happens to be -- we have to be careful because the  
 17 date at the top is 24 October, but it is a month before  
 18 this document is being written up?  
 19 **A. That's right, yes.**  
 20 Q. But that would have been 24 September.  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. So looking back now, Mrs Cavanagh, you're confident that  
 23 you actually had learned nothing about this until the  
 24 following Monday?  
 25 **A. That's right.**

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1 Q. Did you question why it had taken anybody that long to  
 2 contact you about it?  
 3 **A. Most of the information that Brian Williams took down**  
 4 **was at the end of the previous week, the Thursday and**  
 5 **the Friday. I understand he rang Councillor Moffat but**  
 6 **told me on the Monday.**  
 7 Q. Now, Councillor Moffat, was she the education care at  
 8 that time?  
 9 **A. She was, yes.**  
 10 Q. So she gets told before you?  
 11 **A. Yes. I hadn't realised that, but anyway, she did.**  
 12 Q. Was that acceptable?  
 13 **A. In the circumstances, I think so.**  
 14 Q. Because?  
 15 **A. She probably knew more of the background than I did.**  
 16 Q. To?  
 17 **A. To Knowl View, and whether I was there that weekend or**  
 18 **not, I don't know.**  
 19 Q. If we go to the final page of this report, "Issues for  
 20 discussion", so that we are clear, is this your work or  
 21 was this Mr Williams' work, this page? It has got your  
 22 name at the bottom of it?  
 23 **A. Oh, yes. I would have discussed this both with**  
 24 **Cliff Bentley and with Brian Williams and then written**  
 25 **it.**

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1 Q. Of course, the previous page, we don't need to go back  
 2 it, but it was "Outline of the incident as known"?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. In other words, as at that date, 24 October. But  
 5 "Issues for discussion":  
 6 "Incidents such as the one described are not unknown  
 7 in residential schools."  
 8 Were you suggesting that adult men getting into  
 9 schools overnight and sexually abusing children was not  
 10 unknown? Is that what that meant?  
 11 **A. I had very limited knowledge of residential special**  
 12 **schools, but I don't think that would be unknown**  
 13 **elsewhere.**  
 14 Q. So that was a speculative comment?  
 15 **A. Yes, basically.**  
 16 Q. But then you go on to say:  
 17 "This fact should not lead us to trivialise the  
 18 incident nor to regard existing arrangements and  
 19 procedures with complacency."  
 20 Then the next paragraph is this:  
 21 "Preventing a recurrence of such an incident  
 22 requires a thorough and honest analysis of the factors  
 23 involved. These must include:  
 24 "The response of the police to school requests for  
 25 assistance."

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1 Do you think that dovetails with the comment about  
 2 police assistance being unhelpful?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. "The response of the probationary service and  
 5 magistrates."  
 6 We didn't look at it and we don't need to go back,  
 7 but on 18 September Mr Davies contacted Hilton's  
 8 probation officer to request the magistrate should  
 9 forbid him from entering the school grounds."  
 10 Who was Mr Davies, first of all?  
 11 **A. I think he was head of care.**  
 12 Q. Paul Davies?  
 13 **A. That would be my interpretation.**  
 14 Q. Head of care at the time at the school?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. Whose idea was it, do you remember now, that the  
 17 probation officer, on the assumption that Hilton had one  
 18 at that point, should be requested to apply to the  
 19 magistrates to forbid Hilton from entering the school  
 20 grounds?  
 21 **A. Actually, my memory is that Brian Williams applied for**  
 22 **that through our legal department -- through the**  
 23 **council's legal department.**  
 24 Q. To the magistrates' court?  
 25 **A. Well, to the legal department, first of all, because**

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1 **they would handle it, but that it was refused.**  
 2 Q. Refused by?  
 3 **A. I don't know whether our legal department said it**  
 4 **wouldn't get anywhere or whether it was declined by the**  
 5 **probationary service.**  
 6 Q. It was presumably on the assumption that Hilton was  
 7 still on probation at the time and --  
 8 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 9 Q. I'm just assuming, but I don't know -- what, the idea  
 10 was to have a condition attached to his probation that  
 11 he wouldn't enter the school grounds?  
 12 **A. Yes, forbidden from --**  
 13 Q. A breach of which would put him back before the  
 14 magistrates with whatever consequences applied?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. Still on our page 4:  
 17 "The responsibility of the LEA for the security of  
 18 the premises; for the appointment, training and support  
 19 of appropriate staff; for curriculum policy and advice.  
 20 "The responsibility of the governors for general  
 21 oversight of the running of the school.  
 22 "The responsibility of the head teacher and other  
 23 school staff for the day-to-day management of  
 24 the school, the welfare and safety of the pupils and  
 25 their moral, physical and intellectual development."

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1 So we have there, at least, the final bullet point,  
 2 an acquaintanceship with the ideas of welfare and safety  
 3 of the pupils and their moral, physical and intellectual  
 4 development. Did you have in mind as an issue of  
 5 discussion the sort of things I was asking you about  
 6 earlier, counselling, or was this simply general welfare  
 7 of children at school subject to the responsibility of  
 8 the Education Department?  
 9 **A. More the latter, really, with input from the Education**  
 10 **Department.**  
 11 Q. At the top, where you say, "This fact should not lead us  
 12 to trivialise the incident", a speculative comment,  
 13 perhaps, that it is not unknown for such incidents to  
 14 happen in residential schools, were you concerned that  
 15 it might be trivialised or was anybody trivialising it  
 16 at all to you?  
 17 **A. Well, it seemed to me a very serious incident and that**  
 18 **there was not a lot of mileage in going into "shock,**  
 19 **horror" mode, but it was important to say this was**  
 20 **serious and actually must be tackled. Then the list of**  
 21 **actions here are trying to lay out who is responsible**  
 22 **for what, because that didn't seem to be clear.**  
 23 Q. Can I ask, Mrs Cavanagh, to the extent your memory now  
 24 permits you, were you proceeding on the assumption that  
 25 only one boy had been sexually assaulted at this point?

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1 **A. By the intruder?**  
 2 Q. Yes.  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. Had any information been fed to you about, for example,  
 5 other boys exposing themselves during the course of  
 6 the intrusion by Hilton on the second night?  
 7 **A. Well, I wouldn't like to say it wasn't in the papers.**  
 8 **I don't recall it.**  
 9 Q. There was some information -- maybe you don't recall it  
 10 now -- in fact on the first night Hilton had been let  
 11 in, with certain boys saying that they had exposed  
 12 themselves to him. Do you remember that now?  
 13 **A. I'm afraid I don't.**  
 14 Q. What did you expect the governors to do? One of  
 15 the bullet points, the penultimate one, is the  
 16 responsibility of the governors for general oversight.  
 17 This was about seven days, wasn't it, after they had  
 18 refused to take it as a special item?  
 19 **A. Mmm.**  
 20 Q. What did you expect the governors to do? What was their  
 21 responsibility?  
 22 **A. That they should ensure that the senior management at**  
 23 **the school had in place the procedures and practices**  
 24 **within the school, so they would accept regular reports,**  
 25 **for example, from the head teacher, from the head of**

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1 care, perhaps, to say what was happening and what  
 2 measures were taken, what policies were being brought to  
 3 the governors, the sex education policy, for example,  
 4 that kind of thing.  
 5 Q. Before I move on, Mrs Cavanagh, so we are absolutely  
 6 clear, did you consider making arrangements for accounts  
 7 to be taken from the children so that there was a clear  
 8 picture as to what happened, or was it simply your  
 9 understanding that the police were interviewing those  
 10 involved, as you put it, and that was sufficient for the  
 11 purpose?  
 12 A. No, it would be my understanding that the school would  
 13 talk to the children, the staff would talk to the  
 14 children.  
 15 Q. Was that something you were going to give them complete  
 16 autonomy about, rather than directing that that should  
 17 happen?  
 18 A. That would be the responsibility of the head teacher, to  
 19 ensure that.  
 20 Q. That was September. Let's just consider the general  
 21 position and your knowledge around this period,  
 22 September/October. So not just Hilton, but thinking  
 23 back now, and you will know what I am talking about, I'm  
 24 sure, Mrs Cavanagh, had anyone at this point in time  
 25 mentioned to you that there had been a series of

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1 incidents involving children from the school being  
 2 exploited at Smith Street toilets?  
 3 A. No.  
 4 Q. Mr Williams never mentioned it to you?  
 5 A. No.  
 6 Q. Are you sure about that?  
 7 A. I have no memory at all of anything to do with  
 8 Smith Street toilets until '91.  
 9 Q. So that's when we go into those planning meetings?  
 10 A. Yes, in February/March.  
 11 Q. We will come to that. So that's a specific type of  
 12 sexual abuse because we have been told, for example, by  
 13 Janet Bowyer, who was on the 10th floor of the municipal  
 14 offices, so a couple of floors above the Education  
 15 Department, that she and indeed other staff members were  
 16 able to look down and see boys sitting on the wall of  
 17 the ornamental beds outside the loos there and it was  
 18 pretty obvious what some of them, who were Knowl View  
 19 pupils -- not all, but some -- were doing. Nobody ever  
 20 brought anything like that to your attention?  
 21 A. Not to my attention, no.  
 22 Q. What about another form of child sexual abuse that we  
 23 have been dealing with in the course of this  
 24 investigation: child-on-child abuse within the school;  
 25 did anybody bring that to your attention at this point?

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1 A. Not in the seriousness in which it later emerged.  
 2 Q. Does that suggest that you had an idea or you were  
 3 introduced to the problem around this point when you  
 4 took over as Acting Chief Education Officer?  
 5 A. No, I don't think I really understood that  
 6 until February/March '91. There seemed to be an  
 7 implication that, apart from the incident with the  
 8 intruder, other things were -- horseplay, if you like.  
 9 Q. Whose word was "horseplay"?  
 10 A. That's a word I have just chosen now. It is not a word  
 11 that was in any report, I don't think.  
 12 Q. Well, it is a word that we see in one of the meeting's  
 13 minutes, but that is a word that comes to mind now as to  
 14 how the matter was characterised when you first heard  
 15 about it?  
 16 A. Mmm.  
 17 Q. So that we are clear, are you saying you didn't hear  
 18 a word about child-on-child abuse until February/March  
 19 '91, or did you hear something about it earlier but it  
 20 was then only characterised as "horseplay"?  
 21 A. I have difficulty remembering, but I think it was the  
 22 latter.  
 23 Q. So when we think about September/October 1990, in your  
 24 mind, was that -- albeit it was two nights, but you will  
 25 understand my meaning -- an isolated incident?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. A one-off?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. As for the other matters I have mentioned to you,  
 5 because we know that child sexual exploitation was going  
 6 on and had been going on from early to mid 1989 at  
 7 Smith Street with very young boys from one of the junior  
 8 units at Knowl View and that child-on-child abuse had  
 9 been going on. Do you not think that was something that  
 10 someone should have drawn to your attention?  
 11 A. In retrospect, yes. But it didn't happen.  
 12 Q. Do you think there is any possibility -- and  
 13 I understand that there may be an element of speculation  
 14 to this, but you know the people, and perhaps the  
 15 politics with a small "p", but looking back, do you  
 16 think that staff from the school deliberately didn't  
 17 mention or allow the information to trickle upwards,  
 18 information about children being abused in these other  
 19 ways, or do you think it was just negligent?  
 20 A. Well, if this is speculation, what -- my speculation  
 21 would be that people worked in boxes. The Norden unit  
 22 was in their box, the Egerton unit was in their box, the  
 23 care staff generally were in the box, and these various  
 24 boxes didn't talk to each other.  
 25 Q. These were agendas, perhaps, that we see reference to

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1 later. So there was a lack of collaboration?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. There was a lack of everybody being on the same page.  
 4 They were all on different pages?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. Doing their own thing?  
 7 **A. And they didn't have all-staff meetings where some of it**  
 8 **might have come out.**  
 9 Q. Did you begin to gain any sense of the culture of  
 10 the school in the autumn of 1990, once you'd taken over  
 11 as Acting Chief Education Officer? Did you start to get  
 12 a sense of the culture of it?  
 13 **A. Yes, from Cliff Bentley in particular.**  
 14 Q. What did you understand about the culture of the school?  
 15 **A. That there was very poor communication from all members**  
 16 **of staff.**  
 17 Q. Is that the sort of thing you were just telling us about  
 18 or is this something different?  
 19 **A. No, that was the kind of thing I was just mentioning**  
 20 **then, about boxes.**  
 21 Q. Yes.  
 22 **A. This poor communication led to poor practice. There was**  
 23 **no sharing of practice. And the school tended not to be**  
 24 **outward looking. So it was -- practice wasn't improved**  
 25 **by assistance outside.**

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1 Q. Were you able to make any assessment about the  
 2 management of the school?  
 3 **A. The management of the school -- the individuals were in**  
 4 **a very difficult position because the substantive head**  
 5 **was off sick for a long time.**  
 6 Q. Was that Mr Hopwood?  
 7 **A. Yes. I mean, I never knew him, but he was off sick, and**  
 8 **didn't actually retire for a good while, and therefore**  
 9 **the two others, Ian Ashton and Brett Andrews, were**  
 10 **promoted beyond their expectation, I think.**  
 11 Q. And beyond their --  
 12 **A. And beyond their experience.**  
 13 Q. I was going to ask. Yes.  
 14 **A. Therefore, the management was not efficient, it was**  
 15 **not -- leadership was lacking.**  
 16 Q. Yes, which is something you say when we come  
 17 to June 1992, in effect, you remember catastrophic  
 18 leadership?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Presumably, you had a full understanding of the nature  
 21 and type of vulnerabilities that boys at that school  
 22 had?  
 23 **A. Yes. Not in detail of the boys, but in general terms.**  
 24 **Do you wish me to elaborate?**  
 25 Q. Forgive me?

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1 **A. Do you wish me to elaborate?**  
 2 Q. If you can.  
 3 **A. All the boys in Knowl View would have a statement of**  
 4 **Special Educational Need, so that was**  
 5 **a multi-disciplinary assessment.**  
 6 Q. Was that always the position?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Or did a statement -- was that a requirement after the  
 9 coming into force of a particular Act of Parliament?  
 10 **A. That was the 1981 Education Act.**  
 11 Q. Right. So that would have covered the period of time  
 12 that we are dealing with?  
 13 **A. Just thinking about the ages of the boys.**  
 14 Q. Yes.  
 15 **A. Maybe some of them had gone in before the Act was**  
 16 **implemented.**  
 17 Q. I see. Right.  
 18 **A. But in the main, it would cover the boys, yes.**  
 19 Q. What did the statement of educational needs require?  
 20 **A. It would require consultation, evidence, information**  
 21 **from social services, from any relevant service around**  
 22 **that child.**  
 23 Q. Yes.  
 24 **A. The educational psychological service, the EWOs, and so**  
 25 **on. That would all be recorded. Brian Williams would**

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1 **put that together, come to a view with others where the**  
 2 **child would be placed. The children were all**  
 3 **vulnerable, in other words. You didn't have a statement**  
 4 **of SEN unless you were vulnerable in some way.**  
 5 Q. Are you confident, Mrs Cavanagh, that all of the boys  
 6 who were admitted to Knowl View had such a statement?  
 7 **A. At that time, yes. I think subsequently there was an**  
 8 **element, when Steve Bradshaw was head teacher, of**  
 9 **attempting a placement as an assessment before the**  
 10 **statement was finally written, but in principle, the**  
 11 **statement should be completed before placement.**  
 12 Q. Let's just look briefly at the immediate position  
 13 after October 1990. Can I invite your attention,  
 14 please, to a document which I am going to ask to go up  
 15 on the screen, RHC002011. Let's begin at page 5,  
 16 please.  
 17 You will see that these are minutes of a special  
 18 meeting of the governors of the school held on  
 19 Wednesday, 7 November at 34 Marland Fold. What address  
 20 is that? If it is a residential address, don't give us  
 21 the name of whose home it is, but is that a residential  
 22 address?  
 23 **A. Yes, I think so.**  
 24 Q. Would that be normal, for governors to meet at  
 25 a residential address?

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<p>1 <b>A. No.</b>                  2 Q. Why might this have happened?                  3 <b>A. I think it was because the person involved was not well.</b>                  4 Q. We see Mr Ingoe in the chair, Andrews, the acting head,                  5 was there, and others, who formed the governing body at                  6 that time. In attendance, Superintendent Marshall of                  7 Rochdale Police and Mr Williams.                  8 If we look towards the bottom, please, the last two                  9 paragraphs:                  10 "Mr Andrews indicated that Knowl View was not                  11 a secure unit. It had a number of external doors --                  12 which have lip-latches -- easily opened by pupils from                  13 the inside.                  14 "There was no floodlighting to the rear of                  15 the building. Only the head teacher was now resident on                  16 the premises and accommodation formerly used by                  17 residential staff was now unoccupied, so that the                  18 building was vulnerable to break-ins."                  19 Here we are almost, but not quite, two months after                  20 the Hilton incident. On the next page, please, half way                  21 down -- let's look, first of all, at what                  22 Superintendent Marshall agreed:                  23 "(a) to send the crime prevention officer to the                  24 school to advise on security measures.                  25 "(b) to make his staff aware of the nature of Knowl</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 boundaries?                  2 <b>A. Well, provided the boundaries are clearly defined, yes.</b>                  3 Q. Who would have been responsible for a therapeutic                  4 approach? Whose responsibility was that?                  5 <b>A. Well, the general approach defined there would be for</b>                  6 <b>the head teacher to put to the governors and get</b>                  7 <b>governing body agreement that that was the approach.</b>                  8 Q. If they agreed with the approach, who would actually                  9 provide the therapy?                  10 <b>A. The school.</b>                  11 Q. But from whom? From what source or resource?                  12 <b>A. The staff of the school were appointed as specialist</b>                  13 <b>staff, and they could call on specialist staff from</b>                  14 <b>elsewhere, but the main body of it rests with the</b>                  15 <b>school.</b>                  16 Q. Who pays for it?                  17 <b>A. Pays for?</b>                  18 Q. Who would pay for the therapy? Would it be within                  19 counsel resources and not an added financial burden, or                  20 would you go to private contractors for that sort of                  21 thing --                  22 <b>A. No.</b>                  23 Q. -- outsource?                  24 <b>A. No, the school would have a budget for staff and the</b>                  25 <b>central department, such as the Educational and</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 View School as a residential school for boys with                  2 emotional and behavioural difficulties and                  3 "(c) to seek to ensure prompt responses are made to                  4 calls to the police made by staff at Knowl View."                  5 Then "Response of the governing body", the second                  6 paragraph, responding to one of the governors enquiring                  7 about the views on corrective and therapeutic approaches                  8 held by school staff as revealed in the interviews,                  9 which we looked at briefly before, the interviews of                  10 staff by Mr Bentley and Mr Williams, to which Mr Andrews                  11 responded:                  12 "... in an educational establishment such as                  13 Knowl View there was a need for a therapeutic approach                  14 with clearly defined boundaries for the pupils. He said                  15 that there was no conflict between corrective and                  16 therapeutic approach. When he arrived, he said that                  17 some staff thought it appropriate to drag pupils by the                  18 hair and to throw them against the wall. There was much                  19 less violence now."                  20 Which is particularly comforting. Do you have any                  21 view about that?                  22 <b>A. About which particular --</b>                  23 Q. Well, what Mr Andrews' response was, that in an                  24 educational establishment such as Knowl View there was                  25 a need for a therapeutic approach with clearly defined</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 <b>Psychological Service, would have an allocation, and</b>                  2 <b>they would obviously respond to schools where there were</b>                  3 <b>particular difficulties, but in general, each school</b>                  4 <b>would have an expectation of what call they could make.</b>                  5 Q. What about social services? Where do they feature in                  6 all of this?                  7 <b>A. I think a lot of the boys had social workers and that's</b>                  8 <b>how they fitted in.</b>                  9 Q. That's how they fitted into this?                  10 <b>A. Mmm.</b>                  11 Q. We know some of the boys at Knowl View were also in                  12 care?                  13 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  14 Q. Did you appreciate that?                  15 <b>A. Yes. Only some, though.</b>                  16 Q. Only?                  17 <b>A. Only some.</b>                  18 Q. Let's, please, look at another governors' meeting. It                  19 is the first page of the same reference, RHC002011. You                  20 will see that this was, at the top, 12 November, at the                  21 same address.                  22 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  23 Q. This time you are in attendance. Do you see?                  24 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  25 Q. With Mr Bentley, Ms Simpson and Mr Williams.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Mmm-hmm.</b>                  2 Q. The heading "Serious incident at the school" is borrowed                  3 exactly from the document we saw of yours?                  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  5 Q. Is it likely that they had your document?                  6 <b>A. I think it was written for them, among other groups, but</b>                  7 <b>for them.</b>                  8 Q. Towards the bottom:                  9 "Mrs Cavanagh stated that there were three areas in                  10 which the LEA would undertake action."                  11 When you refer to the LEA, do you mean your                  12 department?                  13 <b>A. Essentially, yes.</b>                  14 Q. "(a) to improve security arrangements to the premises at                  15 Knowl View as soon as possible.                  16 "(b) to advertise and make the appointment of                  17 a permanent head from Easter 1991 or earlier if                  18 possible."                  19 Because of the problems you had with staffing which                  20 you mentioned to us a few moments ago:                  21 "(c) to provide support to the school from the                  22 advisory service."                  23 Who were the advisory service?                  24 <b>A. Cliff Bentley was the chief adviser. It was that group.</b>                  25 Q. So that's what you meant?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 24 October ..."                  2 So it looks like the board of governors has adopted,                  3 if that is not putting it too highly, the five action                  4 points bulleted on the final page of your "Serious                  5 incident at Knowl View" document?                  6 <b>A. Mmm.</b>                  7 Q. When they say "the meeting would address", what does                  8 that mean?                  9 <b>A. They would discuss it, come to a conclusion, come to</b>                  10 <b>a plan of action.</b>                  11 Q. What did they do about it? Do you know offhand what the                  12 governors did? Did they -- they promised to address it.                  13 Maybe I was a little precipitous in saying "adopt". Did                  14 they eventually adopt or agree or did it all come to                  15 nothing?                  16 <b>A. I can't remember the precise details of that, I'm sorry.</b>                  17 Q. All right. Let's see if we --                  18 <b>A. I think it was put on to Mike Poulton when he arrived.</b>                  19 Q. By whom, the governors?                  20 <b>A. Yes. That was nearly Christmas, after all.</b>                  21 Q. So they delegated their responsibility to the new head                  22 or the interim head? Is that a fair --                  23 <b>A. The parts that would fit to the head teacher's role,</b>                  24 <b>yes.</b>                  25 Q. That is a proper and appropriate thing to do?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes. Did you want a comment -- I hesitate to say</b>                  2 <b>this -- on the interim head?</b>                  3 Q. You obviously want to say something, so do tell us.                  4 <b>A. Because the first -- one of the first measures that the</b>                  5 <b>LEA took was to assure the governors that the school was</b>                  6 <b>not going to close, and that to stabilise the situation</b>                  7 <b>we would seek to appoint an interim head while</b>                  8 <b>a permanent head teacher post was advertised.</b>                  9 Q. So that brings in Mr Michael Poulton?                  10 <b>A. That's correct.</b>                  11 Q. Who was effectively seconded from mainstream schooling,                  12 wasn't he?                  13 <b>A. He was seconded from Oulder Hill.</b>                  14 Q. We know Stephen Bradshaw took over with effect from                  15 about 8 April 1991 --                  16 <b>A. That's correct.</b>                  17 Q. -- which fits with what we have just read?                  18 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  19 Q. Can we go to the second page of these minutes, please.                  20 We will see under the header there "Date and time of                  21 the meeting of the governors' subcommittee with school                  22 management team" at (b):                  23 "The meeting would address the five issues for                  24 discussion shown on the final page of the Acting Chief                  25 Education Officer's report headed ... dated</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 <b>A. They couldn't delegate their responsibility, but a lot</b>                  2 <b>of the actions would relate to what the head teacher</b>                  3 <b>would have to do.</b>                  4 Q. So in effect, they can direct what they, as the                  5 governing body, would like the head teacher to do?                  6 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  7 Q. And they can therefore say, "We agree with Mrs Cavanagh                  8 and this is what we would like you to do"?                  9 <b>A. Yes, but then they would monitor it.</b>                  10 Q. I suspect we will have a break shortly, Mrs Cavanagh,                  11 but can I ask you please to look at at least one further                  12 document before we do: RHC002010, page 1. A letter from                  13 you -- if you look at the bottom, "Acting Chief                  14 Education Officer". It is 15 November. So it is three                  15 days after the minutes that we just looked at, and it is                  16 addressed to the Deputy Chief Probation Officer:                  17 "Dear Mr Stafford.                  18 "You will probably be aware of an incident which                  19 took place in early September when ... Hilton gained                  20 access to the dormitory accommodation of ...                  21 "Mr Hilton is believed to have committed an offence                  22 with one of the pupils for which he was charged by the                  23 police."                  24 Certainly by now you knew about that:                  25 "He subsequently appeared at Rochdale Magistrates'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

1 Court on Wednesday, 17 October and I understand that he  
 2 was remanded until 7 December 1990."  
 3 That is the date when he pleaded guilty:  
 4 "The governors of the school are naturally anxious  
 5 to prevent a recurrence of such an incident and have  
 6 consulted with Superintendent Marshall of  
 7 Rochdale Police as to steps to be taken to prevent such  
 8 an intrusion happening again. At a meeting of  
 9 the governors held on Tuesday, 13 November 1990, it was  
 10 reported that the intruder lives locally and that prior  
 11 to the incident he was frequently seen hanging around  
 12 the school premises and as a consequence they have asked  
 13 me to write to you to seek your support in ensuring that  
 14 as far as possible he is kept away from the area of  
 15 the school.  
 16 "I would be grateful for any assistance ..."  
 17 This harks back to one of the action plans which you  
 18 thought had come to very little or nothing through legal  
 19 services. The governors' meeting you there mention is  
 20 Tuesday, 13 September. So if this is accurate, was  
 21 there a meeting, as you recall it, the day after --  
 22 **A. 13 November, I think.**  
 23 Q. Yes, this is the 13th. Do you remember we looked at  
 24 some minutes for Monday, 12 November, which you  
 25 attended, the governors body meeting?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. So it looks as if the governors had another meeting the  
 3 day after. Arising from that, they asked you to write  
 4 this letter?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. From your recollection now, if you are able to, please,  
 7 Mrs Cavanagh, did you get anywhere, as far as you  
 8 recall?  
 9 **A. No. You will see that this was written by**  
 10 **Brian Williams. I'm not saying I didn't see it, but the**  
 11 **convention was that everything was signed in the name of**  
 12 **the director.**  
 13 Q. I see. You say "You will see it was by Brian Williams",  
 14 is that because we have his reference at the top?  
 15 **A. Yes, "Enquiries to Mr B Williams" and the reference is**  
 16 **BW.**  
 17 Q. So "enquiries to" doesn't mean to say this is your  
 18 letter, it suggests it is his letter but signed off, in  
 19 effect, in your name or in your titular role?  
 20 **A. I'm not saying I didn't see it, I'm just saying he would**  
 21 **have written it.**  
 22 Q. Coming back to the question, then, as far as you're  
 23 concerned, did it go anywhere?  
 24 **A. No.**  
 25 MR ALTMAN: I think, with chair's permission, it is a little

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1 past 11.45 am, perhaps we will take our break now.  
 2 THE CHAIR: Yes, thank you.  
 3 (11.49 am)  
 4 (A short break)  
 5 (12.08 pm)  
 6 MR ALTMAN: Mrs Cavanagh, I know there is something you want  
 7 to tell us about Michael Poulton. I am going to come  
 8 back to him in a minute.  
 9 Can we put up on the screen RHC002316, please.  
 10 I don't know if you've seen this, but it is a letter  
 11 from the child and adolescent unit to Rochdale Health  
 12 Authority, Hilary Marsh, dated 14 November. It is  
 13 thanking Ms Marsh for the referral by her of  
 14 a particular boy, in this case known as A12, to the  
 15 child and adolescent unit. "Dr Fraser", somebody I will  
 16 come to shortly:  
 17 "... has asked me to write to let you know that we  
 18 have had a number of referrals for boys at the school  
 19 and are at the moment meeting with the headmaster to  
 20 decide how best we may help them."  
 21 Was that something you were aware of, that the  
 22 school was referring boys at around this time?  
 23 **A. No, not in detail, but I wouldn't necessarily expect to**  
 24 **be in the loop, as it were.**  
 25 Q. Who should, in your department, have been in that

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1 particular loop?  
 2 **A. Hilary Marsh was the AWO and Mansoor Kazi was the**  
 3 **principal.**  
 4 Q. So they would have known?  
 5 **A. Yes, and they might mention it to Brian Williams.**  
 6 Q. Talking of Brian Williams, let's bring up another  
 7 document, then, RHC002384, please. Can we just expand  
 8 the whole document? This is a report on a boy known as  
 9 A10 for the attention of Mr Williams:  
 10 "Whilst A10 has been at Knowl View residential  
 11 school, his progress has been very disjointed.  
 12 Alternating between settled happy times and disruptive,  
 13 aggressive periods when he has absconded.  
 14 "Since September, there has, however, been no  
 15 progress at all. A10 has absconded regularly (about  
 16 twice a week) and has been disruptive and uncooperative  
 17 nearly all the time. This behaviour has been mirrored  
 18 [elsewhere] ..."  
 19 Presumably at a care home, because he was in care  
 20 and spending the weekends at a care home:  
 21 "He absconded from there 14 times in a period of  
 22 less than 3 weeks.  
 23 "Whilst he has been missing from school or [the care  
 24 home] his whereabouts have been largely unknown. He has  
 25 been picked up in Smith Street, public toilets, and

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1 whenever he has returned voluntarily he always has money  
 2 and rarely seems to have been affected by weather  
 3 conditions. Given his past record of paid sexual  
 4 involvement with men, great concern was expressed for  
 5 his safety. This concern is also felt by [the care  
 6 home] from which he has been completely disaffected for  
 7 the past nine months and also by Rochdale Police.  
 8 "All the efforts on the part of Knowl View  
 9 Residential School staff (which have been considerable)  
 10 have been to no avail. He has consistently refused to  
 11 accept any authority here whatsoever. His position  
 12 therefore has become untenable. He has now been  
 13 suspended for a second time and we request that  
 14 a 52-week placement be sought for him as a matter of  
 15 urgency."  
 16 I don't think I need to read the rest, other than  
 17 the last two lines:  
 18 "A24 was extremely relieved."  
 19 That's a member of his own family:  
 20 "A24 was aware of A10's activities. So too were all  
 21 the boys in A10's house unit as A10 has had such  
 22 a draining and demoralising effect on them this term."  
 23 We see the date is 27 November 1990. Did  
 24 Mr Williams bring that to your attention?  
 25 **A. I don't remember that he did. Who is the writer,**

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1 **please?**  
 2 Q. Forgive me?  
 3 **A. Who is the author of the report?**  
 4 Q. I'm not sure we know. It probably comes, but I could be  
 5 speculating myself, from a care record. It looks like  
 6 a kind of social services file. It is certainly  
 7 a report to Mr Williams and it went to Mr Williams,  
 8 given his position, presumably because of the nature of  
 9 the information. Would you agree?  
 10 **A. Yes, and because he would have the child's statement and**  
 11 **would be involved in the review, the annual review.**  
 12 Q. What we see, amongst other things, is information that  
 13 he's been picked up at Smith Street toilets --  
 14 **A. Indeed.**  
 15 Q. -- with the inevitable implication involved in that. He  
 16 always has money, so putting two and two together, rent  
 17 boy activity. Rarely affected by weather conditions,  
 18 which means he's out all hours, presumably, in all  
 19 weather types. And also, and alarmingly, given his past  
 20 record of paid sexual involvement with men, concern  
 21 about his safety. So it is all fairly obvious what this  
 22 boy is up to?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. In 1990, this boy is about 12. Therefore, thinking  
 25 back, did Mr Williams bring any of this to your

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1 attention, including, "One of our boys at Knowl View is  
 2 engaged in rent boy activities" --  
 3 **A. I don't think so.**  
 4 Q. -- "aged 12, at Smith Street and he's got a past record  
 5 of it"?  
 6 **A. No, I don't think so.**  
 7 Q. Why wouldn't he have done?  
 8 **A. I don't know why he wouldn't have.**  
 9 Q. Ought he to have done?  
 10 **A. It would have been helpful to know earlier.**  
 11 Q. If you had known about it earlier, what action might you  
 12 have taken?  
 13 **A. The actions we took in March were in response to my**  
 14 **hearing from Mike Poulton via Cliff Bentley this kind of**  
 15 **information. So we probably would have done what we did**  
 16 **in March.**  
 17 Q. So you would have perhaps advanced the actions that you  
 18 took in March?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Let's move on, then, as you have mentioned Mr Poulton.  
 21 If we can look, please, at another document, RHC001852.  
 22 This is some meeting notes -- again, Mr Williams'  
 23 handwriting?  
 24 **A. It is, yes.**  
 25 Q. At Knowl View. I think it says at the top -- I'm not

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1 sure, "Acting headship"? No, maybe not?  
 2 **A. "Acting heads information", I think.**  
 3 Q. Thank you, "Acting heads information. 17/12/90". We  
 4 see your name, Marilyn Simpson, Mike Poulton,  
 5 K Wilkinson" -- who was K Wilkinson?  
 6 **A. Keith Wilkinson, and I think -- he would have been there**  
 7 **from the services section, so possibly to do with**  
 8 **security.**  
 9 Q. Security. And then Mr Williams. Michael Poulton, he  
 10 was brought in to do what? What was the point? Because  
 11 you had Brett Andrews in post at the time; is that  
 12 right?  
 13 **A. That was correct, yes.**  
 14 Q. What was Mr Poulton's -- what was his raison d'etre,  
 15 being brought into the school on an interim basis?  
 16 **A. One of the first conclusions after the September**  
 17 **incident was that the management of the school needed**  
 18 **strengthening, and Cliff Bentley had a discussion with**  
 19 **the head teacher of Oulder Hill early in October,**  
 20 **I think, asking if Mike Poulton could be released for**  
 21 **a term.**  
 22 **He was the senior deputy at Oulder Hill, which is**  
 23 **a very big school.**  
 24 Q. Is that Oulder Hill?  
 25 **A. Oulder Hill, yes. The head was willing to release him**

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1 **for a term. The governors didn't like the proposition,**  
 2 **but then they came around to it.**  
 3 Q. Was that the governors of Oulder Hill?  
 4 **A. Oh, no, no, the governors of Oulder Hill agreed.**  
 5 Q. Oh, they agreed. So who --  
 6 **A. The governing body of Knowl View initially said they**  
 7 **didn't want that.**  
 8 Q. Because?  
 9 **A. I don't know. I think perhaps they felt that the**  
 10 **authority was imposing someone on them. But then they**  
 11 **came around to it and it was agreed that he would go.**  
 12 Q. Do you see against your initials, "DC", the second entry  
 13 in the minutes, there is a series of bullet points, and  
 14 the fourth bullet point up from the list, so we need to  
 15 scroll down a bit, where it says "Acting DH", is that  
 16 deputy head, acting DH?  
 17 **A. Oh, there, yes.**  
 18 Q. "Thrust into role of acting" --  
 19 **A. Head teacher, yes. That would --**  
 20 Q. Was that a reference to Andrews?  
 21 **A. I think to Brett Andrews.**  
 22 Q. Then beneath that, "Reason for acting head is to  
 23 strengthen management"?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. So was that your view at the time? So bringing in

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1 Mike Poulton was to strengthen, to bolster --  
 2 **A. Yes, until a permanent head could be appointed.**  
 3 Q. I don't want to go through anything like all of this, in  
 4 fact very little, but can we go to the fourth page of  
 5 this note, please. We will find the "MP" third up from  
 6 the bottom:  
 7 "MP."  
 8 So the date of this is 17 December, and Mike Poulton  
 9 is at the meeting. Does that suggest he was then in  
 10 post at Knowl View?  
 11 **A. No, no, he started in the January, but he visited the**  
 12 **school before Christmas.**  
 13 Q. So he made his own assessment of the school?  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. He was at this meeting?  
 16 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 17 Q. By way of preview, presumably, to his posting in  
 18 the January. If we look on page 4, the third entry up  
 19 from the bottom, or the third initials, set of initials  
 20 up from the bottom, "MP":  
 21 "Wants to withdraw boys from all flat/houses not  
 22 being lived in and have this agreed at this meeting."  
 23 What was that about?  
 24 **A. I'm sure I knew at the time, but I don't know. There**  
 25 **was some mention of some parts of the building being**

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1 **empty, so perhaps he was concentrating them, as it were.**  
 2 Q. It rather suggests he wants to withdraw boys from all  
 3 flat or houses not being lived in. Were some of  
 4 the boys actually sleeping in parts of the residential  
 5 accommodation designed for staff --  
 6 **A. I don't know.**  
 7 Q. -- at the school? You don't know?  
 8 **A. No.**  
 9 Q. Now, one of the things you said in the witness statement  
 10 you made on 19 May 2015 -- we don't need to look at it  
 11 unless you need me to help you refresh your memory --  
 12 was that Michael Poulton was not well received. Now,  
 13 was that not well received in advance of his actual  
 14 being posted to the school or while he was at the  
 15 school?  
 16 **A. When he went on an exploratory visit to meet the staff,**  
 17 **and the message came back, whether directly to me or via**  
 18 **Cliff Bentley, I don't know, that they were very**  
 19 **hostile.**  
 20 Q. So "they" being who?  
 21 **A. The staff.**  
 22 Q. Is that teaching or care or both?  
 23 **A. I don't recall whether it was both. But I got the**  
 24 **impression generally.**  
 25 Q. Did you have any understanding what the nature of

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1 the hostility was?  
 2 **A. Only that, again, going back to the feeling that the**  
 3 **authority had neglected the school and was now going to**  
 4 **impose yet another interim arrangement. They'd had**  
 5 **these interim arrangements over the last few years and**  
 6 **it hadn't worked.**  
 7 Q. So you'd had Andrews, you'd had Ashton --  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. You'd had Mr Hopwood off sick?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. Presumably the staff were complaining of a lack of  
 12 meaningful leadership?  
 13 **A. Yes, and yet another temporary arrangement.**  
 14 Q. Could we go to page 5 of these minutes, please. There  
 15 is a "Conclusion" section at the bottom. Do you see  
 16 there is a sentence there just above your initials:  
 17 "Need to develop counselling -- pupils and staff."  
 18 Do you see that?  
 19 **A. Mmm.**  
 20 Q. Do you remember that?  
 21 **A. Not specifically.**  
 22 Q. So if I ask you what it means, can you help us or not?  
 23 **A. No. I mean, I would be interested to know who said it.**  
 24 Q. I'm afraid we get no real help, although it comes under  
 25 "KW" --

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1 **A. No, that's not -- Keith Wilkinson was from buildings.**  
 2 Q. So it wouldn't be him?  
 3 **A. I don't think so.**  
 4 Q. But then we see what you have to say. You agree to an  
 5 additional member of staff. Who was the additional  
 6 member of staff you were talking about?  
 7 **A. Well, I wouldn't know the person but they had a vacancy**  
 8 **and we agreed to fill it.**  
 9 Q. What kind of post would that be, then?  
 10 **A. I'm not sure -- I don't know whether it was teaching or**  
 11 **care. It would have been one of the two.**  
 12 Q. "And agrees to" -- can you read that? It is difficult  
 13 to read.  
 14 **A. "Overstaffing".**  
 15 Q. "... overstaffing, but LEA will make staffing cutbacks  
 16 from Easter."  
 17 Were you saying that, "We are looking forward to  
 18 a resource issue here. We have got budgetary problems  
 19 and staffing is going to reduce from Easter, in any  
 20 event"?  
 21 **A. I don't remember saying it, but that would have probably**  
 22 **been true, because there were so few boys in the school.**  
 23 Q. How many were there at that point? Its capacity was  
 24 about 40, wasn't it?  
 25 **A. I think technically 50, but unlikely that they would**

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1 **a residential one, which it was. It always had been.**  
 2 **So in advertising the permanent headship, we would make**  
 3 **it very plain that that person had to live on site.**  
 4 Q. Presumably that was in the headmaster's house attached  
 5 to the school?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. Just beneath it:  
 8 "BA is on a residential require", perhaps  
 9 requirement:  
 10 "MP will not be required to be in residence."  
 11 So the interim head was not required to be, but the  
 12 permanent post would be?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. "Other staff will continue as now.  
 15 "[Beds have been ordered].  
 16 "Meeting with MS and MP [Marilyn Simpson and  
 17 Mike Poulton] Thursday at 1.30."  
 18 **A. The beds had been ordered. The school had been allowed**  
 19 **to run down. Steve Bradshaw often said we had put no**  
 20 **resources in, but it was not quite true. These were new**  
 21 **beds.**  
 22 Q. So these were new beds. But that was perhaps the limit  
 23 of the actions that were being agreed at this point?  
 24 There is nothing else that appears here of any great  
 25 note; do you agree?

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1 **have fitted in. I think there were 17.**  
 2 Q. "DC will consult with chair."  
 3 Is that education chair?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. That would be still Mary Moffat at this point?  
 6 **A. It would.**  
 7 Q. "Changes of keys and lock."  
 8 Was that the security issue?  
 9 **A. Yes, and "AEO (B)" is AEO (Buildings), Keith Wilkinson.**  
 10 Q. "Will be asked to consult directly with MP. Will be  
 11 done after January"?  
 12 **A. In January.**  
 13 Q. So there was security being attended to. Then over the  
 14 page:  
 15 "MP's intention [something] to be reported to ..."?  
 16 **A. Governing body.**  
 17 Q. What was to be reported to the governing body?  
 18 **A. "Intention" -- well, what he intended to do, I surmise**  
 19 **from that.**  
 20 Q. Then:  
 21 "Clarification on residential requirement."  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. Can you help us with that?  
 24 **A. Well, Brett Andrews, I understand from his statement,**  
 25 **had not accepted that the head teacher post was**

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1 **A. No, I don't think so. Sorry, could you scroll up**  
 2 **a little bit, please?**  
 3 Q. Yes. On that page or the former page?  
 4 **A. No, that page. Yes, what's being said is that**  
 5 **curriculum advice would be through Marilyn Simpson and**  
 6 **practical advice will be through Brian Williams.**  
 7 Q. Those are the last two entries?  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. You may remember that Dr Fraser telephoned you  
 10 in December 1990, just before Christmas that year. Do  
 11 you remember?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. Presumably you knew who Dr Fraser was and what she did?  
 14 **A. I'm not sure that I did, as a matter of fact. My memory**  
 15 **is it came out of the blue and there was no-one else**  
 16 **around at the building, so I can't quite explain that,**  
 17 **and she introduced herself and said she was concerned**  
 18 **about boys being referred.**  
 19 Q. She was concerned about ...?  
 20 **A. About a number of boys who had been referred to her with**  
 21 **very serious problems.**  
 22 Q. As you recall it now, was she asking for you or are you  
 23 saying you happened to pick up the phone or was this  
 24 a call, as you recall it, targeted at you?  
 25 **A. I think I was there and other people weren't. I think**

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1 **my PA wasn't there at the time --**  
 2 Q. Who was your PA?  
 3 **A. -- so I picked it up. I think by then it was**  
 4 **Khelsie Atkins, but it might have been Val, who was --**  
 5 Q. Val?  
 6 **A. I can't remember her second name. She was there when**  
 7 **I was appointed.**  
 8 Q. So there was a Val, we certainly know of a Khelsie. But  
 9 clearly the phone call came through to your office?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. In other words, it wasn't for anyone in education, it  
 12 was the director's office?  
 13 **A. It was the director's office, though probably in the**  
 14 **normal way I wouldn't have picked it up. It would have**  
 15 **been picked up by the PA.**  
 16 Q. But it would have been passed on to you, presumably.  
 17 Do you remember now that the call went further than  
 18 informing you of her concerns -- it wasn't just about  
 19 Hilton, was it?  
 20 **A. It wasn't about Hilton at all, I don't think.**  
 21 Q. What do you think it was about?  
 22 **A. I think she was just saying that she's had a number of**  
 23 **referrals about boys from Knowl View and she was**  
 24 **concerned about them.**  
 25 Q. Was she talking about knowledge of Smith Street and some

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1 child-on-child abuse?  
 2 **A. I don't think it went into that detail.**  
 3 Q. When we come, as we will, to notes of a meeting you  
 4 attended on 8 March 1991, you introduced the meeting by  
 5 reporting to it -- that was the strategy meeting -- that  
 6 she had phoned you before Christmas 1990 and reported  
 7 wider concerns to you?  
 8 **A. Mmm.**  
 9 Q. Do you not think that that must have included the nature  
 10 of some of the referrals that were being made to her  
 11 unit, the child and adolescent unit, that it wasn't just  
 12 a worry about numbers, it was a worry about the  
 13 substance of what was going on?  
 14 **A. I don't think the substance was described. I think she**  
 15 **was simply saying there is a problem because there are**  
 16 **several boys at Knowl View who are disclosing disturbing**  
 17 **matters.**  
 18 Q. Such as?  
 19 **A. Well, I don't think she said "such as".**  
 20 Q. So from your position, you still didn't know about the  
 21 problem at Smith Street, even now, by December 1990?  
 22 **A. No, I don't think so.**  
 23 Q. And the child-on-child abuse was still -- we are still  
 24 in the possibility that all you might have been told at  
 25 some point up to now was it was nothing more than

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1 horseplay, but you didn't understand really the  
 2 substance of it until the March meeting?  
 3 **A. Well, February, really, when Mike Poulton started to**  
 4 **report back.**  
 5 Q. We will see where that fits in with our chronology.  
 6 Whatever is right, in terms of people's  
 7 recollections about what happened in the course of  
 8 a telephone call, what happened after that?  
 9 **A. I can't remember what happened after that, and I can't**  
 10 **imagine that I'd put the phone down without saying,**  
 11 **"Would you contact Brian Williams?", for example. I'm**  
 12 **not sure I said that, but I wouldn't have said, "Oh,**  
 13 **well, thank you and good night and happy Christmas".**  
 14 Q. We are going to come in a moment or two, Mrs Cavanagh,  
 15 to the really pivotal meeting of 4 March and what  
 16 happened afterwards. But apart from what you have just  
 17 told us about what you may or may not have said in that  
 18 phone call, in the course of that phone call,  
 19 between December 1990 and 4 March -- you don't need me  
 20 to tell you -- is three months. In that period of time,  
 21 what was happening?  
 22 **A. In terms of the school?**  
 23 Q. Knowl View, yes. Do you remember?  
 24 **A. Mike Poulton started in his post. Among other things,**  
 25 **he interviewed all the staff with the other senior**

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1 **persons -- all the boys, I think -- and he was feeding**  
 2 **back to Cliff Bentley very disturbing comments.**  
 3 Q. Such as?  
 4 **A. About boys being out of school and engaging in sexual**  
 5 **activities. He might have said Smith Street toilets,**  
 6 **I don't know.**  
 7 Q. This is your February '91 memory, is it?  
 8 **A. Yes, that information was coming through. It was very**  
 9 **disturbing. And hence the discussions at the beginning**  
 10 **of March.**  
 11 Q. Do you remember receiving a letter in the name of  
 12 Dr Fraser which she, as she has told us, drafted  
 13 together with a woman by the name of  
 14 Christine Scarborough, both of whom we have heard from  
 15 this week, because they were effectively exasperated by  
 16 the fact that nothing was happening? Do you remember  
 17 receiving a letter?  
 18 **A. No. I haven't seen one in the bundle and I don't**  
 19 **remember ever receiving one.**  
 20 Q. None of us is able to take comfort from any letter in  
 21 the bundle because we don't have it. They don't have it  
 22 and we don't have it. But both are very clear that the  
 23 letter was sent. But you say you have no recollection  
 24 of it?  
 25 **A. No.**

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1 Q. Nothing like it? If my memory serves me, I think it was  
 2 sent -- they decided to go to the top, in other words,  
 3 you, with this letter. If, for example, a letter was  
 4 sent to "Mrs Diana Cavanagh", let's assume it was by  
 5 now January 1991, by which time you were the director,  
 6 would anybody open it and not bring it to your  
 7 attention?  
 8 **A. It would certainly be opened, and since the convention**  
 9 **was that letters were directed to the chief education**  
 10 **officer, it would then be directed to the appropriate**  
 11 **person. So some of it was patently not for me and would**  
 12 **go elsewhere. It is possible that this went to**  
 13 **Brian Williams, but I am sure he would have brought it**  
 14 **to my attention.**  
 15 Q. Are we dealing, Mrs Cavanagh, with a possible failure of  
 16 recollection or are you telling the chair and panel that  
 17 you definitely did not receive such a letter?  
 18 **A. I don't remember seeing such a letter.**  
 19 Q. When -- and you may remember this -- you were  
 20 interviewed by Neil Garnham -- do you remember your  
 21 interviews in the inquiry which were set up by Rochdale  
 22 itself? You were interviewed by Mr Garnham on  
 23 2 July 2014. You told Mr Garnham that you knew at this  
 24 point, in 2014, that Dr Fraser had also written to the  
 25 department in 1988, so not now. Do you remember

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1 anything about a letter from Dr Fraser to the department  
 2 in 1988?  
 3 **A. I'm sorry, you are going to have to help me with the**  
 4 **document.**  
 5 Q. Absolutely. RHC000246 at page 19. If we look, it is  
 6 the last third:  
 7 "I didn't know her ..."  
 8 I think you must have been talking at that time  
 9 about Dr Fraser. Yes, we see her name at the top.  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. Actually, let's just go to the top of the page, just to  
 12 put this in context. Do you see against the third AH,  
 13 which begins, "That's fine":  
 14 "The other thing I wanted to ask you about was, do  
 15 you remember in late 1990, so it may have been  
 16 around December, sorry. Getting a phone call from  
 17 Dr Alison Fraser", yes.  
 18 "Can you tell us about that?  
 19 "I think it just, I mean this was ..."  
 20 There is something not quite clear:  
 21 "I think to the strategy meeting or earlier than  
 22 that, anyway, there is mention of it at 10."  
 23 Whatever that means:  
 24 "Yes, I am going to get to that.  
 25 "Yes, and she says that she has interviewed a couple

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1 of boys from Knowl View and she was concerned with what  
 2 they were saying about sexual abuse."  
 3 That was your recollection in July 2014?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. "She was concerned about what they were saying in terms  
 6 of sexual abuse. I know, I don't recollect, this was  
 7 from therapy, that was what she was engaged on. I don't  
 8 recollect."  
 9 You were asked by Mr Garnham:  
 10 "She was in a clinical relationship with the boys.  
 11 She was a clinician acting for those."  
 12 I think it is clear, perhaps, the Garnham inquiry at  
 13 that point didn't quite understand who all the  
 14 individuals were. But your answer is:  
 15 "I didn't know her, but I mean, that was her  
 16 position and I don't recollect that she named the boys  
 17 or that she was specific about the allegations, but she  
 18 said that she was concerned and subsequently and I can't  
 19 remember where this was, I didn't know this at the time,  
 20 I didn't know Alison Fraser so I didn't know her from  
 21 Adam, as it were, she had apparently raised concerns  
 22 previously in 1988."  
 23 Do you know where that came from?  
 24 **A. I didn't know of the '88 concerns in 1990. I think that**  
 25 **came at the meetings in March.**

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1 Q. So that you perhaps let me slot one extra piece of  
 2 the jigsaw puzzle into the picture, when Dr Fraser came  
 3 along, one of the tasks she had, which endured for about  
 4 a year, was to go along to Knowl View, which was one of  
 5 two special schools that she went to, one residential,  
 6 one day, to provide advice to the teaching staff, not to  
 7 see individual children, but to provide advice to the  
 8 schools, and in the end the takeup in fact wasn't very  
 9 good at all, and so she felt that it would be a better  
 10 use of her time not going there and she recalls at the  
 11 end of the '80s writing a letter to the Education  
 12 Department saying, "I am no longer going to do this for  
 13 this reason", because, in effect, "I am wasting my  
 14 time". Is that something you might have had in mind?  
 15 **A. Well, I wouldn't have known that at the time.**  
 16 Q. I don't think she ever suggests, so that you are clear,  
 17 that if there was contact in that way with the Education  
 18 Department at the end of the '80s it had anything to do  
 19 with sexual abuse as such. But it was simply to do with  
 20 the fact that going to Knowl View was not profiting her  
 21 time?  
 22 **A. Waste of time, yes.**  
 23 Q. So that is what you say you are able to tell us about  
 24 the letter that both Dr Fraser and Christine Scarborough  
 25 wrote, which brings us to the 4 March meeting.

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1 Let's put up a document, please, which we have seen  
 2 pretty often, which is RHC001617, please at page 10.  
 3 I assume you have seen these minutes, Mrs Cavanagh?  
 4 **A. I have now, yes.**  
 5 Q. But not at the time?  
 6 **A. No, I wouldn't like to say I didn't see them at the**  
 7 **time. I probably did.**  
 8 Q. There is a list of people there: Dr Fraser;  
 9 Janet Bowyer, who was the child protection lead;  
 10 Christine Scarborough, also on the child and adolescent  
 11 unit with Dr Fraser; then Brian Williams, who was in  
 12 your department; and then the other individuals are all  
 13 individuals who worked at the school, care staff and  
 14 such:  
 15 "The meeting was arranged by the Social Services  
 16 Department who were concerned about a number of issues  
 17 involving sexual abuse."  
 18 In the interests of time saving, Mrs Cavanagh, let  
 19 me just summarise very briefly what was fed into the  
 20 meeting, we were told, by the care staff who were  
 21 present as to what had been going on at the school up to  
 22 that point. The first was, in relation to A10 -- do you  
 23 remember I have already shown you the report of  
 24 Mr Williams of the previous November in relation to him?  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Well, this is about him and his activities at the public  
 2 toilets and elsewhere. And then three other boys who  
 3 were engaged in similar activity; all right?  
 4 **A. Mmm.**  
 5 Q. Then the next page, point 2 deals with the Hilton  
 6 incident, in short. And then point 3 deals with a third  
 7 boy, known by this inquiry as A11, who was confused  
 8 about his sexual identity, felt he was gay, had  
 9 requested an HIV test and was in a homosexual  
 10 relationship with a man outside school.  
 11 Were those three matters brought to your attention  
 12 around this time in the detail that they are described  
 13 in this document, do you think?  
 14 **A. Yes. I think the precision of this document was new.**  
 15 Q. Yes.  
 16 **A. But it accorded with what Mike Poulton was feeding back**  
 17 **to the department.**  
 18 Q. When you made the statement to the police in May 2015 --  
 19 can I just remind you of what you said, and of course  
 20 you are welcome to look at this to refresh your memory,  
 21 but you may remember, because you were shown it by the  
 22 police, these minutes. What you said was:  
 23 "I have never seen this document before and I was  
 24 not aware of any incidents at Smith Street public  
 25 toilets. The information was never passed to me and

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1 I feel sure that if Brian Williams had felt there was  
 2 something I needed to do or be aware of, he would have  
 3 informed me."  
 4 If that was an accurate recollection in 2015 of your  
 5 state of mind in 1991, do you think that that was saying  
 6 that even the precision of this detail, as you put it,  
 7 was not brought to your attention even now?  
 8 **A. No, I think I'm saying that in 2015 I didn't remember**  
 9 **it. I can't believe that I didn't see these minutes, is**  
 10 **what I am saying to you now, but when I first saw them,**  
 11 **that was my reaction in 2015.**  
 12 Q. So your immediate reaction a couple of years ago was,  
 13 "Never seen these before"?  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. But now you think, even if your recollection was faulty  
 16 then or is still faulty now, the idea that you would  
 17 never have had this brought to your attention either in  
 18 writing or in some other format is unthinkable?  
 19 **A. Yes, because we had the meeting on 8 March --**  
 20 Q. Yes, four days later.  
 21 **A. -- and it was not least to follow through some of these**  
 22 **things.**  
 23 Q. Say that again?  
 24 **A. Part of the rationale for that meeting was to follow**  
 25 **through some of these concerns.**

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1 Q. Can we go, please, then, while we are thinking about it,  
 2 to the minutes of 8 March. They are the same document  
 3 reference but page 1. I think we are becoming used to  
 4 it, but are these Mr Williams' handwriting?  
 5 **A. It is.**  
 6 Q. We see it is headed "Knowl View meeting. 8 March 1991.  
 7 Planning strategy". Let's just look at the list of  
 8 people there: Janet Bowyer, Mr Williams, Mike Poulton,  
 9 who was actually not only then in place as the interim  
 10 head but soon to be leaving, Sergeant Sterndale and  
 11 Jim Henderson, child protection unit --  
 12 **A. Sorry, did you see he seemed to be "leading" or**  
 13 **"leaving"?**  
 14 Q. Soon to be leaving?  
 15 **A. Soon to be leaving.**  
 16 Q. Sergeant Sterndale and Jim Henderson, they were local  
 17 police, but child protection, we understand, at  
 18 Littleborough. Then Richard Flammer, he was the  
 19 educational psychologist; chief adviser, Cliff Bentley;  
 20 Marilyn Simpson; Mansoor Kazi, the PEWO; Sheila McGough;  
 21 Sharon Collins; Annie Dodds; and we see your name at the  
 22 top right. Do you see it?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. Have you seen these notes before?  
 25 **A. Yes, and I am only puzzled that there's only**

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1 **a handwritten record of this meeting.**  
 2 Q. There is another record.  
 3 **A. But it is not an Education Department record, it is**  
 4 **social services.**  
 5 Q. We will have a look and someone will remind me to show  
 6 you it if I don't. But do you see the initials --  
 7 against your initials "DC":  
 8 "Reported the September incident.  
 9 "No awareness then of wider problem."  
 10 So this is you reporting to the meeting?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. So were you saying that at that time the department had  
 13 no awareness then of a wider problem or you didn't?  
 14 **A. I was saying that I didn't.**  
 15 Q. Then you add:  
 16 "Phone call from Dr Fraser just before Christmas  
 17 suggesting a wider problem."  
 18 That refers back, of course, to the questions I was  
 19 asking you a few minutes ago about what was the nature  
 20 of the call?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. We have looked at what you also said to Neil Garnham  
 23 back in 2014. Then Janet Bowyer feeds into the meeting  
 24 what she told us she fed into the meeting was what was  
 25 reported to her by the staff four days earlier at the

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1 4 March meeting.  
 2 We have been through these notes more than once, and  
 3 in an effort to save your time and perhaps ours, I am  
 4 not going to take you through them, other than I think  
 5 two passages. Page 6, first of all. Right at the  
 6 bottom, we have -- I'm just seeing, because you were  
 7 there, whether you can help us, but right at the bottom  
 8 we have:  
 9 "Other group of boys involved in stranger abuse."  
 10 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 11 Q. What did you understand that to mean? It is not clear  
 12 who said it. Did you understand that to refer to the  
 13 Smith Street situation?  
 14 **A. I think I did then -- not just the Smith Street**  
 15 **situation.**  
 16 Q. Sorry?  
 17 **A. Not just the Smith Street situation.**  
 18 Q. What else did you think?  
 19 **A. Well, Rod Hilton, when he lurked outside the school,**  
 20 **actually enticed some of them outside the school.**  
 21 Q. So it included Rod Hilton?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. It included Smith Street?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. So that we understand, before you went into this meeting

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1 on 8 March, had the enormity of the problem and the  
 2 scale of it been brought home to you?  
 3 **A. No, I don't think so.**  
 4 Q. In other words, you weren't caught cold, is that what  
 5 you are telling us, on the 8 March meeting but you  
 6 already knew what you were dealing with then?  
 7 **A. I think I knew in broad terms but not in such graphic**  
 8 **detail.**  
 9 Q. There is no particular graphic detail in this meeting.  
 10 The graphic detail is in the 4 March minutes. These  
 11 minutes don't reflect graphic detail?  
 12 **A. No, but -- sorry.**  
 13 Q. When do you get the graphic detail?  
 14 **A. Janet Bowyer reported on the 4 March meeting, didn't**  
 15 **she?**  
 16 Q. Well, the care staff fed into the meeting all of that  
 17 detail because that was when Janet Bowyer learned about  
 18 the enormity of it all. But between 4 and 8 March --  
 19 you don't attend the 4 March meeting, you attend the  
 20 8 March meeting, which we have open. I'm just trying to  
 21 understand, because we don't really get so much  
 22 graphical detail in the 8 March minutes of the meeting  
 23 either. Are you saying that somebody told you between  
 24 those two dates, face to face or in some other format,  
 25 about the enormity and the scale of the problem, or are

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1 you just learning as you go along?  
 2 **A. I don't think I had the full detail before the 8 March**  
 3 **meeting, and I do think that Janet Bowyer at the 8 March**  
 4 **meeting gave detail. Although it is not recorded in the**  
 5 **detail there.**  
 6 Q. Well, it doesn't seem to be?  
 7 **A. But when she gave the outline.**  
 8 Q. We have some, to be fair, earlier on, but if my memory  
 9 serves me, what I don't think we get from Janet Bowyer,  
 10 at least if the minutes are faithful --  
 11 **A. Not in the minutes, no.**  
 12 Q. -- is about the Smith Street situation. We do get talk  
 13 about peer-on-peer abuse, we get talk about coercion,  
 14 Mike Poulton also talks about coercive factors coming  
 15 into play in the peer-on-peer abuse, so that was all  
 16 being fed into this meeting of 8 March. On page 6,  
 17 under the line I just read to you:  
 18 "Other group of boys involved in stranger abuse.  
 19 "Has occurred outside school premises -- no  
 20 appropriate means of communication at this time."  
 21 Do you have any understanding of what that meant,  
 22 "no appropriate means of communication at this time"?  
 23 **A. I don't know whether that means appropriate**  
 24 **communication to the school or whether within the**  
 25 **school.**

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1 Q. I would like to go to another document, please --  
 2 **A. Before we leave that --**  
 3 Q. Yes, of course.  
 4 **A. -- I would just like to draw attention to**  
 5 **Cliff Bentley's contribution halfway down.**  
 6 Q. On that same page?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Yes.  
 9 **A. Because the discussion proceeds, and this tends to get**  
 10 **lost, but that was a crucial intervention at the time.**  
 11 **So that he was listing the appropriate elements of an**  
 12 **action plan.**  
 13 Q. Well, it was an action plan, looking at it -- let's just  
 14 look:  
 15 "Need to consider admissions policy.  
 16 "Supervision procedure.  
 17 "Structure and strategy for social activities.  
 18 "Develop curriculum programme.  
 19 "Need to monitor peer group relationship with school  
 20 and deploying the staff."  
 21 Wasn't that an action plan going forward?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. It was looking to rectify problems which had accumulated  
 24 in the past allowing boys to behave in the way they were  
 25 behaving?

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1 **A. Exactly.**  
 2 Q. How are we going to deal with the boys who are already  
 3 there and still subject to these elements of  
 4 peer-on-peer abuse, child sexual exploitation outside  
 5 the school? It is all very well, you see, Mrs Cavanagh,  
 6 Cliff Bentley advising forwards. What was going to be  
 7 done about the boys still there?  
 8 **A. These actions -- apart from admissions policy -- would**  
 9 **relate to the boys who were in the school.**  
 10 Q. Supervision?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. Structure and strategy for social activities; develop  
 13 curriculum programme. So you're saying it is  
 14 a two-pronged thing to deal with boys coming in and boys  
 15 currently there?  
 16 **A. Yes. Well, the admissions policy is for boys coming in,**  
 17 **but the point is that the boys in the school are there**  
 18 **at that point.**  
 19 Q. Yes.  
 20 **A. And these measures relate to how they were treated at**  
 21 **that point. They weren't investigatory measures.**  
 22 Q. No, no.  
 23 **A. They were to stabilise the school then.**  
 24 Q. Can we look at the next page, then. I was going to move  
 25 away, but while we are on it. We see "ZRF" initials at

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1 the top, that's Mr Flammer, I think.  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. Do you see he suggests in the final third of this page  
 4 a two-pronged attack. Can you read that already?:  
 5 "1. Continuing of development started by school not  
 6 [we are told this reads] emphasising on sexual  
 7 activities. To rebuild school as community based on  
 8 trust with child protection system close to hand.  
 9 "2. Take account of resource needs of the school."  
 10 Then there's an intervention by you in relation to  
 11 two groups -- presumably -- well, let's have a look at  
 12 it first and see if you can help us:  
 13 "Second group -- further discussion of police,  
 14 social services, with issues for school to consider.  
 15 "1st group -- counselling must go hand in hand with  
 16 school strategies and Education Department has to take  
 17 certain steps."  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. What were you advising the meeting at that time?  
 20 **A. What Cliff Bentley had outlined as being part of**  
 21 **the school strategy and counselling alongside it**  
 22 **provided by the educational psychological service.**  
 23 Q. What part were police and social services to take or  
 24 were you simply saying, "We are not resolved about that  
 25 now. Let's have a further discussion about it"?

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1 **A. Yes, because there was no outright agreement, if I can**  
 2 **put it that way, at the meeting, but there was a clear**  
 3 **need for police and social services to consider whether**  
 4 **the children should be interviewed.**  
 5 Q. Which children are these? Are these the children  
 6 subject to the Hilton incident or those being exploited  
 7 at Smith Street or those subject to child-on-child abuse  
 8 or all of them?  
 9 **A. All of the children about whom there had been concern in**  
 10 **that specific way.**  
 11 Q. Let's then, before we move on, look at the only other  
 12 document I think we have for 8 March, which is  
 13 RHC001271. It is not clear whether it is complete or  
 14 incomplete, but it is a single typed page. Looking at  
 15 it for a moment, Mrs Cavanagh, where do you think it  
 16 hails from? Was it your office? Looking at the  
 17 typeface, for example?  
 18 **A. I don't know. It doesn't look like the minutes that**  
 19 **would have come from my office.**  
 20 Q. They are not really minutes, they are almost points.  
 21 But it certainly is the same meeting. I think we can  
 22 cross-identify the people present. The date is  
 23 obviously the same. And some of the content is. Let me  
 24 draw your attention to a couple of things. Do you see  
 25 the label for RO-A17 about halfway down on the left-hand

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<p>1 side?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. "School refuser claims". Just below that:</p> <p>4 "Level of sexual abuse way above that which you</p> <p>5 would find in male boarding."</p> <p>6 Do you remember somebody saying that? Was that</p> <p>7 Mr Poulton?</p> <p>8 <b>A. It might have been several people, but I'm sure</b></p> <p>9 <b>Mr Poulton would say it.</b></p> <p>10 Q. And "Coercion and threats involved have become factors."</p> <p>11 I'm confident that that was in fact Mike Poulton?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. One assumes, Mrs Cavanagh, that by now, if it hadn't</p> <p>14 already, the penny was dropping that you had a very</p> <p>15 serious problem with Knowl View?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Can we look at something else in relation to 8 March for</p> <p>18 which I am afraid we have to go to another document,</p> <p>19 GMP000392 at page 31. It is something we have looked at</p> <p>20 before. I don't know if you have. Have you seen this</p> <p>21 document?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I have seen it in the papers.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Good.</p> <p>24 <b>A. But I don't know that I have seen it before.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Can I just invite your attention to page 32. It is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 <b>from different professional perspectives. I think,</b></p> <p>2 <b>therefore, it tended to be rather woolly. Certainly</b></p> <p>3 <b>there were different views within the education</b></p> <p>4 <b>professionals. So I don't know what Janet Bowyer felt</b></p> <p>5 <b>was difficult about it, but I would have said, yes, it</b></p> <p>6 <b>wasn't a straightforward meeting, certainly.</b></p> <p>7 Q. We have seen reference in the documents I showed you</p> <p>8 a little earlier to the level of sexual abuse being way</p> <p>9 above that which you would find in a male boarding or</p> <p>10 male boarding school, but right at the bottom, do you</p> <p>11 see we have got "Mr Bentley and M Simpson", Mr Bentley</p> <p>12 was your chief adviser:</p> <p>13 "... considered that the sexual activity being</p> <p>14 described was normal behaviour in a boys' school."</p> <p>15 So you have divergent views there apparently being</p> <p>16 expressed. Do you remember that being expressed?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Not by them and I am tempted to say are you certain that</b></p> <p>18 <b>there wasn't a "not" in front of "normal"?</b></p> <p>19 Q. It is not my note.</p> <p>20 <b>A. I find that very difficult to accept, that they would</b></p> <p>21 <b>have said it.</b></p> <p>22 Q. It is only fair that Marilyn Simpson, who has gone on</p> <p>23 the record as refuting that she or Mr Bentley would have</p> <p>24 said any such thing, just so you know, and that is as</p> <p>25 a matter of fairness to her and to him. But it is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 a possibility that this was written up by Janet Bowyer</p> <p>2 as a running record of everything that was going on in</p> <p>3 the period of time. But if you look at the last</p> <p>4 entry -- unfortunately the day dates have disappeared</p> <p>5 from the copy we have, but the last entry, "Meeting held</p> <p>6 at school psychological service". Is that where the</p> <p>7 8 March meeting was held?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, I think it was Field House, yes, I think it must</b></p> <p>9 <b>have been there.</b></p> <p>10 Q. That's Field House?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes, it was one of these offsite units.</b></p> <p>12 Q. It is attended by, and although some of the spellings</p> <p>13 are not precise, again it looks very much as if it is</p> <p>14 the same meeting?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes, it does.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Ms Weeks, as she now is, confirmed it was. Do you see</p> <p>17 "Very difficult meeting". Do you remember it being</p> <p>18 a very difficult meeting?</p> <p>19 <b>A. It was a very busy meeting.</b></p> <p>20 Q. A very ...?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Busy meeting.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Busy? What does that mean?</p> <p>23 <b>A. There was a lot of information put on the table. There</b></p> <p>24 <b>were a lot of different views as to the significance of</b></p> <p>25 <b>some of the information. And different people coming</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 a pretty important "not" to leave out of a sentence like</p> <p>2 that?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, it would be outrageous to describe it as "normal".</b></p> <p>4 Q. "Police didn't want to be involved in any</p> <p>5 investigation."</p> <p>6 We have seen and we heard reference when Ms Bowyer</p> <p>7 gave evidence to Jim Henderson's rather "old school", as</p> <p>8 I called it, notions about it. Do you remember</p> <p>9 Mr Henderson piping up during the course of the meeting</p> <p>10 saying not really for them?</p> <p>11 <b>A. He said a couple of things, and I'm going now off</b></p> <p>12 <b>Brian Williams' handwritten record. I think I asked if</b></p> <p>13 <b>the police would respond to something, and he said, "How</b></p> <p>14 <b>often?", or some words like that, by which I think he</b></p> <p>15 <b>meant that they already responded on a very frequent</b></p> <p>16 <b>basis and how many more times was this required.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Which rather suggests he was focusing on Hilton?</p> <p>18 <b>A. That could be right.</b></p> <p>19 Q. If we go to the next page, please, continuing:</p> <p>20 "The police could not see that any action would be</p> <p>21 helpful at this time."</p> <p>22 Then Mr Kazi reminded everyone of the ACPC</p> <p>23 procedures and requirements. Then the note has this:</p> <p>24 "Reached an impasse with education."</p> <p>25 Perhaps let me read on in case it is linked:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

1 "The staff saying that they did not consider the  
 2 behaviour to constitute abuse."  
 3 Reading that, what was the impasse with education?  
 4 **A. Well, I'm puzzled by both those sentences. There were**  
 5 **different views within education, some of whom felt that**  
 6 **this was not all of it completely outrageous and that**  
 7 **other parts were illegal and so on. So there was**  
 8 **a range. I think that's why I said it was rather**  
 9 **woolly. But I don't see that there was an impasse.**  
 10 **I don't quite understand what was expected that didn't**  
 11 **happen.**  
 12 Q. So that we are clear, "Reached an impasse with  
 13 education". If Janet Bowyer was writing this note,  
 14 which she feels is a possibility -- she was  
 15 social services -- child protection lead, and if this  
 16 was her note, it rather suggests that she is reaching an  
 17 impasse with education in relation to that issue, is  
 18 this or is this not abuse?  
 19 **A. Well, I think Mansoor Kazi from the very start was very**  
 20 **clear that it was, so I can't see where the impasse**  
 21 **would be. He was our lead officer on child protection.**  
 22 Q. "Agreed", whatever that means, a single word:  
 23 "No action for police or SSD to take at present.  
 24 "Education Department to collate their information  
 25 and obtain statements from relevant care staff and to

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1 contact other agencies when this is available."  
 2 Does that reflect your recollection of one of  
 3 the outcomes of the meeting?  
 4 **A. We are talking about 8 March?**  
 5 Q. Yes. Apparently so.  
 6 **A. Well, that is not the same as the note that**  
 7 **Brian Williams made.**  
 8 Q. No.  
 9 **A. And it doesn't reflect my recollection either.**  
 10 Q. "Obtaining statements from relevant care staff". Is  
 11 that anything that you recall from that meeting?  
 12 **A. Not specifically. I mean, Mike Poulton had already**  
 13 **interviewed all the staff. He'd already interviewed all**  
 14 **the staff, including the care staff, so I'm not quite**  
 15 **sure who else would be doing it.**  
 16 Q. Mike Poulton had?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. It is lunchtime. Can I just ask you one question before  
 19 it goes away: you said there was a spectrum of views in  
 20 education. Did you mean in your department?  
 21 **A. Yes, across the different -- you know, from**  
 22 **psychological service to the advisers, and so on.**  
 23 Q. Who didn't, in your department, think that some of  
 24 the behaviours you were being told about were abusive?  
 25 **A. I'd be guessing because I don't actually remember.**

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1 Q. Senior people?  
 2 **A. There were only senior people there.**  
 3 Q. Sorry?  
 4 **A. The only people there were senior people.**  
 5 Q. Were you talking about people in this meeting?  
 6 **A. Yes, because that was where the differences of views**  
 7 **were expressed.**  
 8 MR ALTMAN: I will leave that there for now. I may have to  
 9 come back to 8 March for just a couple of things I want  
 10 to ask you about in fact.  
 11 With the chair's permission, we will break now.  
 12 Let's hope that we can start sharp at 2.00 pm, chair,  
 13 because I still have a lot to get through and if we want  
 14 to be able to rise at a decent time this afternoon.  
 15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman.  
 16 (1.05 pm)  
 17 (The short adjournment)  
 18 ( 2.00 pm)  
 19 MR ALTMAN: Ms Cavanagh, thinking about 8 March that we were  
 20 looking at a little earlier, before the break, you said  
 21 in your witness statement of 19 May 2015 that the  
 22 general outcome was that "we arranged a follow-up  
 23 meeting as this meeting was rather general and it was  
 24 clear that plans needed to be made and certain staffing  
 25 issues needed addressing". Is that right?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. You added:  
 3 "There was a clear understanding that  
 4 social services and the police would see if further  
 5 enquiries and interviews should take place. The  
 6 emphasis in the education department was on therapy and  
 7 settling the situation. There was going to be no quick  
 8 fix to these issues and long-term problem solving was  
 9 required."  
 10 Does that accurately reflect your view as it was  
 11 back in March 1991 of the situation?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. The reality was, here we are in March, several months  
 14 after Hilton, many months after sexual exploitation at  
 15 Smith Street was known about, as well as what was going  
 16 on between children at the school. Did you think it was  
 17 a bit of a long and turgid process that was taking place  
 18 here, given the, as I have called it before, enormity  
 19 and scale of the problem?  
 20 **A. It seems longer in retrospect than at the time, because**  
 21 **there was a period in the middle of February, perhaps,**  
 22 **to the middle of March when a lot of information came**  
 23 **together, so it wasn't that I, for a start, had known**  
 24 **all of that information in September. So the September**  
 25 **incident was handled in a particular way and then this**

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1 **came out.**  
 2 Q. Because we have all of these issues still going on, we  
 3 have children at risk; do you agree?  
 4 **A. Yes, mmm.**  
 5 Q. And somebody needed to grapple with the risks that the  
 6 children were posing to each other as well?  
 7 **A. Mmm.**  
 8 Q. Did you think any of that was being addressed at this  
 9 time?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. You did?  
 12 **A. Yes, because the whole purpose of Mike Poulton being**  
 13 **there was to stabilise the school and set certain**  
 14 **procedures in place, which he did.**  
 15 Q. The irony is, Cliff Bentley, who, you observed a little  
 16 earlier, on 8 March was the one to delineate the  
 17 strategy going forward at least and for those boys who  
 18 were still at the school, do you remember saying in your  
 19 19 May statement that he, Cliff Bentley, made a comment  
 20 around that time that there was a lot of talk but not  
 21 much action arising from the 8 March meeting?  
 22 **A. He did, and that was one reason for the follow-up**  
 23 **meeting, that education staff should get together while**  
 24 **police and social services did whatever else, and sort**  
 25 **out who was doing what.**

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1 Q. When was this follow-up meeting?  
 2 **A. I think it was the 15th.**  
 3 Q. Of ...?  
 4 **A. March.**  
 5 Q. I'm not sure we know about a 15 March meeting. Do you  
 6 remember this, though, and we will come to minutes of  
 7 a meeting that was held on 4 June 1991, but I simply  
 8 want to ask you if you remember this, that recorded in  
 9 the note of 4 June -- it may be your note -- of  
 10 the 8 March meeting was that the police felt that they  
 11 should not be involved and that consideration should be  
 12 given to investigating the alleged activities under the  
 13 authority's child protection procedures. Do you  
 14 remember saying that?  
 15 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 16 Q. So by 4 June, or at 4 June, that was your take on one of  
 17 the things which had happened during the course of  
 18 8 March?  
 19 **A. Yes, it was my view of what the police had said and what**  
 20 **Mansoor Kazi in particular had laid emphasis on.**  
 21 Q. So as at 8 March, although there was to be further  
 22 discussion, did you think that there would inevitably  
 23 come a time when the police and social services would  
 24 have to be involved? In other words, it wouldn't just  
 25 be the responsibility of education, but the whole

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1 holistic service and council would have to be involved,  
 2 as well as the police service, in attacking all of  
 3 the multifarious problems that you had going on in and  
 4 around Knowl View?  
 5 **A. I didn't think that there would come a time. I thought**  
 6 **that time had come.**  
 7 Q. You thought the time had come?  
 8 **A. Yes, that was the nature of the first group and the**  
 9 **second group.**  
 10 Q. One of the other things that you said in your  
 11 statement -- again, if you want to look at it at any  
 12 time, please let me know. But what you said of  
 13 the 8 March meeting was:  
 14 "By the end of this meeting ..."  
 15 The reference is to your internal page 5:  
 16 "... I felt things were happening as I expected them  
 17 to."  
 18 Is that how you felt?  
 19 **A. I'm sorry, you have lost me. Is this my statement to**  
 20 **the police or to Garnham?**  
 21 Q. Yes, to the police, in 2015.  
 22 **A. Could I see it?**  
 23 Q. Yes, of course, GMP000111 at page 7. The last four or  
 24 five lines up from the bottom. Do you see in the middle  
 25 of that section:

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1 "By the end of this meeting, I felt things were  
 2 happening as I expected them to. However, sometime  
 3 around 20 March 1991, the police reported back that  
 4 neither they nor social services thought they ought to  
 5 involve themselves in an investigation. I cannot recall  
 6 if this was at the time that Gordon Littlemore  
 7 resigned ..."  
 8 That would have been, as we know, over Middleton:  
 9 "... and Ian Davey took over, but John Pierce was  
 10 certainly involved in this decision."  
 11 Then you go on to tell us about Mary Moffat.  
 12 So in what format was it police reported back that  
 13 neither they nor social services thought they ought to  
 14 involve themselves in an investigation? Because by the  
 15 look of it, it was all being thrown back on education?  
 16 **A. I can't remember the format. I mean, I can remember the**  
 17 **fact.**  
 18 Q. Can you remember who reported back to you?  
 19 **A. No. No, I don't.**  
 20 Q. So what you thought had been decided on 8 March was all  
 21 being undone by the 20th?  
 22 **A. Yes. Wait a minute. No, because that was the police.**  
 23 **The social services at that point, as far as I was**  
 24 **concerned, were still pursuing it.**  
 25 Q. But according to this, according to what you were to say

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1 here, by sometime around 20 March, the police were  
 2 telling you that neither they nor social services were  
 3 going to be involved?  
 4 **A. I'm not sure on the timing of that, whether that was**  
 5 **police and social services. That was what I remembered.**  
 6 Q. Fine. But does that mean there was a time when both  
 7 police -- or it was reported to you by police that both  
 8 they and the social services were not going to be  
 9 involved in any investigation going forward?  
 10 **A. I got direct communication from social services saying**  
 11 **they wouldn't be.**  
 12 Q. Who was that from?  
 13 **A. Ian Davey.**  
 14 Q. Was that at the back end of May? You know the  
 15 memorandum I am talking about?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. Or was this something else?  
 18 **A. It was earlier in May than that.**  
 19 Q. The 17th.  
 20 **A. Then the final memo was later, at the end of May.**  
 21 Q. We will come to that.  
 22 **A. That was social services.**  
 23 Q. We will come to that. Can we look again at a document  
 24 I asked to go up on the screen earlier, which is what  
 25 may be Janet Bowyer's chronology, GMP000392 at page 33,

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1 just to pick up what was going on.  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. We looked at the 8 March entry. We have got, on  
 4 22 March, towards the top, "Mansoor Kazi came up to  
 5 floor 10", so that's being reported clearly by somebody  
 6 within social services?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. "... at 2.30 pm. There had been a further meeting in  
 9 the Education Department earlier this week 18.3.91 when  
 10 a decision was taken that the behaviour in Norden  
 11 unit ..."  
 12 Which is one of the units under the spotlight:  
 13 "... was considered to constitute child-to-child  
 14 sexual abuse."  
 15 What this is limited to, because of the nature of  
 16 the entry, is the senior boys' unit and child-on-child  
 17 abuse, as it says. That decision is attributed to the  
 18 Education Department "earlier this week", on 18 March.  
 19 What can you tell us about that?  
 20 **A. About the actual meeting?**  
 21 Q. About the decision. Do you remember it? I think it is  
 22 the only reference we find to it.  
 23 **A. I'm sorry, I'm not sure what you are asking.**  
 24 Q. What can you tell us about that decision? Let me be  
 25 more specific. Were you part of that decision?

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1 **A. Well, I think so, because -- I didn't know whether I was**  
 2 **at the meeting or not, to be honest, but Mansoor Kazi**  
 3 **was very concerned that this would not be taken through**  
 4 **the child protection procedures and had made that plain.**  
 5 Q. Forgive me, he was concerned that it wouldn't be taken  
 6 through the child -- by whom?  
 7 **A. By social services.**  
 8 Q. By social services?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. So was Mansoor Kazi saying -- clearly, in the 8 March  
 11 meeting, he was reminding everyone of ACPC procedures  
 12 and requirements, as we saw?  
 13 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 14 Q. Are you telling us that the Education Department,  
 15 through him, was going to take the bull by the horns?  
 16 **A. Well, that we would say it should be taken through the**  
 17 **child protection procedures and that would be**  
 18 **social services as the lead.**  
 19 Q. We see the next line:  
 20 "The Education Department are therefore requesting  
 21 protocol interviews in relation to the relevant boys."  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. Then there was a discussion, clearly, about the fact  
 24 that the school was now closed for Easter, and when  
 25 there would be further opportunity for discussion with

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1 staff members.  
 2 Then there is a series of entries in early April  
 3 about Mrs Hawton coming to see Ian Davey, "ID". The  
 4 next day, him showing an area health letter to  
 5 Janet Bowyer, "JB", and then, on 4 April, the same day,  
 6 a meeting with you and Ian Davey following Ms Hawton's  
 7 intervention with an agreement between you to convene  
 8 a further meeting on 11 April. Do you remember that  
 9 sequence?  
 10 **A. Yes, and in fact Councillor Hawton came in to see me as**  
 11 **well.**  
 12 Q. I am going to come back to some of those documents in  
 13 a while, but while we have got the document open, it may  
 14 be convenient just to keep it open. On 9 April, there  
 15 was a meeting at Heywood with Chris Spankie, Annie Dodds  
 16 and Chris Waring where it was agreed that a boy ciphered  
 17 as A17 appeared to be the most appropriate boy to begin  
 18 interviews with. Did you know anything about that?  
 19 **A. I'm not sure whether this was after the meeting with**  
 20 **Steve Bradshaw where he identified children.**  
 21 Q. Let's move on, because we may be able to help you about  
 22 that. Let's just skip over the next entry of 9 April.  
 23 The next one should be 11 April. This is the meeting  
 24 that you, Ian Davey and Janet Bowyer agreed should take  
 25 place. You can see those who were present: Bentley,

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<p>1 Simpson, Flammer, Kazi, Williams, Bradshaw -- which may 2 help with the question you just asked me -- Eaton and 3 Bowyer: 4 "Janet Bowyer explained the situation in relation to 5 protocol interviews and that we needed to identify one 6 or two 'victims' to initiate the process. This was 7 assigned to Stephen Bradshaw and Duncan Eaton. 8 "The investigation was not to be resource ..." 9 And although it reads "united", one witness said -- 10 <b>A. "Limited", I think.</b> 11 Q. -- it should probably read "limited": 12 "... but I did point out that it may be that none of 13 the boys identified may be able or willing to provide 14 information." 15 Mr Bentley wanted all the boys interviewed, but the 16 author of the note explained "neither appropriate nor 17 necessary." 18 And the author pointed out about people not "telling 19 'their story'" outside. Then, on the final page of this 20 document, Mr Bradshaw confirmed that wouldn't happen, 21 and then the boys identified by Mr Bradshaw were 14, 11 22 and 15, but the note reads: 23 "However, these are not considered to be victims. 24 Knowl View to prepare relevant information for SSD." 25 So your department, having come to the conclusion it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 <b>same, I don't think the evidence was present.</b> 2 Q. No, but one way of getting evidence, of course, is by 3 interviewing the boys? 4 <b>A. Of course. That would be the primary route.</b> 5 Q. So from what you are saying, Mrs Cavanagh -- don't 6 please let me put words into your mouth -- but just 7 combining some of your answers, are you agreeing with 8 this proposition, that there was sufficient documentary 9 material, as far as you recall, to suggest that there 10 was sufficient information to warrant interviews taking 11 place? 12 <b>A. Yes.</b> 13 Q. And that there were clear allegations? Of course, 14 allegations only become fact once they are, in one 15 sense, substantiated, but you can't even get to that 16 position without at least gaining the evidence? 17 <b>A. Mmm.</b> 18 Q. So here we are -- I am just going to go backwards, but 19 we will come to some of the letters which have been 20 mentioned here. If we fix our time around 20 March, we 21 have the Shepherd Report. 22 <b>A. Yes.</b> 23 Q. You obviously know what I am talking about when I talk 24 about the Shepherd Report? 25 <b>A. Indeed.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 did, at least insofar as child-on-child abuse is 2 concerned, on 18 March, does it seem to you that things 3 were moving forward as you had wanted at this stage? 4 <b>A. Yes. I mean, my understanding of these three children 5 was that they were just the first step, that it wouldn't 6 exclude interviews with others.</b> 7 Q. Did you understand, "However, these are not considered 8 to be victims"? It may be that you didn't know about 9 this at the time, I don't know, but looking at it now, 10 do you understand that? 11 <b>A. I don't know whether I saw that sentence, but I just 12 completely disagree with the statement, because they 13 were all victims. Those who had been abused previously 14 tended then to abuse.</b> 15 Q. Let's not worry with 15 April. You can see a reference 16 to 16 April, Davey sending a reply to Mrs Hawton's 17 letter -- as I say, we will come to some of this. Then 18 22 April, Janet Bowyer goes to the school, Mr Bradshaw 19 and Duncan Eaton, who was a house parent if not head of 20 care at this point, they provided notes in respect of 21 two boys, but the reference there is "Still no clear 22 allegations". Did you regard it to be the case that by 23 that time there were no clear allegations? 24 <b>A. There was a lot of information written down, but if you 25 are saying was there evidence, which is not quite the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 Q. It came about because Phil Shepherd of Rochdale Health 2 Authority on the AIDS unit was invited into the school 3 to give training to staff on HIV/AIDS. 4 And members of staff took the opportunity of telling 5 Mr Shepherd about what was going on at the school, and 6 we can look for a moment at the report, just to see what 7 the staff members said, just to remind ourselves. 8 RHC001614, please, at page 5. This is the report -- 9 we have seen another iteration of it -- with the header 10 at the top "Rochdale Health Authority". Did you see the 11 italicised part at the bottom of the page? 12 <b>A. Yes.</b> 13 Q. This was the kind of thing that Mr Shepherd was told 14 about when he went to the school on 15 March: 15 "One boy who is homosexual has contact with an adult 16 outside the school. Several of the senior boys indulge 17 in oral sex with one another. Reputedly, five of 18 the junior boys have been or are involved in 'cottaging' 19 in and around public toilets. Men as far as away as 20 Sheffield are believed to be aware of this activity and 21 travel to Rochdale to take part. One 8-year-old is 22 thought to have been involved. The police are aware of 23 the problem. What action has been taken is not known. 24 One 'rent boy' has been removed from the school. The 25 suggestion that he may return soon has angered the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

1 staff. Some boys have been 'forced' to have sex with  
 2 others."  
 3 When you made your witness statement in 2015,  
 4 I think you suggested that the Shepherd Report didn't  
 5 add anything to what you already knew; is that right?  
 6 **A. Yes, in general terms, that what he listed there had**  
 7 **been revealed in the letters of 8 March and some of it**  
 8 **before.**  
 9 Q. Cottaging wasn't obvious, was it?  
 10 **A. No, in fact it wasn't a term I was familiar with at the**  
 11 **time.**  
 12 Q. Or rent boy activity or --  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Looked at, perhaps, a proper way, exploitation of  
 15 children by adult men in public lavatories. But  
 16 whichever way you look at it, I am not sure whether you  
 17 are saying that -- because you did say there was nothing  
 18 new. Are you saying that by the time of  
 19 the Shepherd Report everything that I have just read to  
 20 you was known to you?  
 21 **A. I think so. I think that was all listed in the 8 -- in**  
 22 **the course of 8 March and 4 March, although maybe not in**  
 23 **that language.**  
 24 Q. You were one of the persons to whom the report went.  
 25 You are actually listed. If we look at the last page,

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1 page 10:  
 2 "Copies of the above report sent to:  
 3 "Kath Widdowfield."  
 4 Who was she?  
 5 **A. She was in the Education Department. She was a health**  
 6 **and personal education adviser and she devised, for**  
 7 **example, sex education guidelines for the schools.**  
 8 Q. Mr Poulton, yourself, Dr Bullough, who was the Director  
 9 of Public Health. Is that correct?  
 10 **A. I didn't know him, but, yes, I knew the name.**  
 11 Q. And then "Letterheaded copies sent to:  
 12 "Brian Williams ...  
 13 "Marilyn Simpson."  
 14 Everything we now know, do you agree that this was,  
 15 appears to have been, the first time anyone had actually  
 16 documented the disparate concerns that there were  
 17 together in one place, in effect? It's not really seen  
 18 in anything with anyone combining all of the issues  
 19 which were going on at the school in one place -- in  
 20 a report? We have seen suggestions of this going on in  
 21 various sources, but do you agree it seems to be the  
 22 first report that we have?  
 23 **A. I think it's a summary of what had been reported in**  
 24 **different reports as time went on.**  
 25 Q. What is set out here -- I am sure you will be the first

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1 to agree, Mrs Cavanagh -- presents an alarming picture?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. If one were to read the report through, which we don't  
 4 have to do now, but perhaps just remind ourselves at the  
 5 top of page 6, the next page:  
 6 "This degree of sexual activity, if it is factual,  
 7 points to fundamental problems within the school. Most  
 8 people, not least parents of children at the school,  
 9 would be horrified were these facts to be made known.  
 10 Unless some incisive action is taken soon it is more  
 11 than likely that this activity will become a public  
 12 scandal."  
 13 Do you think that that injected a sense of urgency?  
 14 **A. I think it emphasised a sense of urgency that we had**  
 15 **already felt in March. This is -- he went in on**  
 16 **15 March, which coincides with the other meetings,**  
 17 **although the report is dated the 20th.**  
 18 Q. Sorry, I didn't quite catch that.  
 19 **A. Although the report is dated the 20th. So I think it is**  
 20 **all happening at the same time.**  
 21 Q. Yes.  
 22 **A. I think I said to the police it is a very good report,**  
 23 **it is very clear.**  
 24 Q. I would like to understand this -- perhaps we can put up  
 25 your statement again that we had earlier, GMP000111 at

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1 page 8. Do you see the first paragraph:  
 2 "I have been shown a copy of exhibit MD1, a letter  
 3 addressed to me dated 20 March 1991 with report attached  
 4 from Rochdale Aids unit. I know this is the  
 5 Shepherd Report written by Philip Shepherd."  
 6 You also reference your letter of 5 April back to  
 7 him and we will come to that:  
 8 "There is quite a delay in me responding to  
 9 Mr Shepherd. On the day it arrived at my office I was  
 10 due to go on a period of leave as it was Easter time.  
 11 I dealt with my response when I returned to work."  
 12 Then this is what you say:  
 13 "In my opinion, the Shepherd Report was very useful.  
 14 However, it was obvious to me that at the time  
 15 Mr Shepherd had not been in possession of all the facts  
 16 and recent events at the school and matters that had  
 17 been acknowledged and were being dealt with."  
 18 What did you mean by that? What were you suggesting  
 19 he was not in possession of that you were at that time?  
 20 **A. Well, he seemed to be describing the situation as it had**  
 21 **been. He wasn't looking at the developments like the**  
 22 **appointment of the permanent head teacher, improvements**  
 23 **to the building, the fact that he himself had been**  
 24 **invited in as part of training for staff, teaching and**  
 25 **care staff, that those developments had been started.**

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1 Q. "What he alluded to", you continue, "in his report was  
 2 similar to the matters discussed during my strategy  
 3 meeting on 8 March 1991 and he should have been fully  
 4 briefed. His visit to the school was a direct result of  
 5 the strategy meeting. It was meant to be a training  
 6 session with the care staff but it didn't take place  
 7 because the staff made complaints to him of matters that  
 8 they were not willing to substantiate."  
 9 Were you being ever so slightly critical there of  
 10 the staff who spoke to him?  
 11 **A. I think that some of the staff didn't take the**  
 12 **opportunities they were offered to provide, if you like,**  
 13 **evidence to corroborate some of the allegations.**  
 14 Q. Are you talking --  
 15 **A. But they were passing them on.**  
 16 Q. Are you talking about the time before Shepherd went in  
 17 or at the time Shepherd was there?  
 18 **A. No, before.**  
 19 Q. What do you suggest they ought to have done?  
 20 **A. Well, there were two occasions, one after the September**  
 21 **incident, when they were asked if they wanted to add**  
 22 **anything else, and some people did. And then, when**  
 23 **Mike Poulton interviewed them all in some detail, some**  
 24 **things came out. But they tended to be in general**  
 25 **terms, like Smith Street toilets and so on. So I felt**

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1 **that some of that could have been helpfully -- from the**  
 2 **staff could have been corroborated or more evidence**  
 3 **provided.**  
 4 Q. You continue in the next paragraph:  
 5 "The details they gave were the same that Mr Poulton  
 6 had obtained by interviewing all staff members, yet some  
 7 of them saw fit to repeat these complaints to a stranger  
 8 who had attended to deliver some training."  
 9 So that's the same point, is it?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. The only problem with that, Mrs Cavanagh, it depends  
 12 whether you were aware of it or not, is that the inquiry  
 13 happens to know that a number of matters had already  
 14 been documented, such as information about cottaging,  
 15 and I just wonder whether you knew all about that or  
 16 simply none of that had been brought to your attention?  
 17 I can give you -- I can run through examples, if you  
 18 wish, of what the inquiry has come into possession of,  
 19 but a lot of it is social care records. Would that be  
 20 anything that would be brought to your attention?  
 21 **A. It would be very unusual if it was.**  
 22 Q. But --  
 23 **A. Are you talking about records in social services?**  
 24 Q. Yes. That would be for social services, would it?  
 25 **A. Yes, and they might in the first instance contact**

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1 **Special Education staff. But I don't recall ever seeing**  
 2 **any.**  
 3 Q. Just to give you an idea of the sort of thing I am  
 4 talking about, February 1989, there had been a meeting  
 5 of representatives from police, social services and  
 6 education -- so that's your department, but that  
 7 was February 1989, so you were in the department but you  
 8 weren't acting then, you weren't acting head --  
 9 **A. Mmm.**  
 10 Q. -- to discuss a group of children aged between 10 and 14  
 11 gathering at a shop called Tasty Bite in Rochdale each  
 12 day when they should have been at school. Twelve were  
 13 identified, 12 of the boys, five of whom were in the  
 14 care of Rochdale. Does that ring any bells with you?  
 15 **A. No. I mean, I've seen that now in the record, but**  
 16 **I didn't hear that at the time, or indeed immediately**  
 17 **after.**  
 18 Q. Some of those children -- in fact, three of them -- one  
 19 or two of whom I already made reference to, soon came to  
 20 be identified as children who were being exploited at  
 21 Smith Street. One of those three was seen  
 22 in February 1989, then aged 11, to have had a network of  
 23 friends involved in criminal activities as well as  
 24 sexual activity that was of concern and, because of it,  
 25 it was decided that he ought to be in a residential

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1 school, and on 3 April 1989, that particular boy started  
 2 at Knowl View. By August 1989, he was remanded in care  
 3 and six days later, now aged 12, his case record shows  
 4 that he was involved in rent boy activity. So he's  
 5 a Knowl View pupil, he's within the responsibility of  
 6 your department, he's aged 12 and a care record shows  
 7 he's a rent boy. Now, that's August 1989. I know it is  
 8 a year before you became Acting Chief Education Officer,  
 9 but did none of that filter through?  
 10 **A. No. You may not know this, but did that go to the**  
 11 **school?**  
 12 Q. That record? I doubt it did. It was a social services  
 13 record, a care record.  
 14 **A. Because they would have been the obvious first call.**  
 15 Q. Are you saying it should have done?  
 16 **A. Yes, if they were Knowl View pupils.**  
 17 Q. Then in relation to another boy, around the same time,  
 18 when the first boy I just mentioned had started at  
 19 Knowl View, around the very same time, April 1989, his  
 20 Social Service record, when he was 11, by his social  
 21 worker recorded there was reliable information from  
 22 a police constable that that boy had been involved in  
 23 inappropriate sexual activities at Smith Street, and  
 24 a note of the following day provided further information  
 25 about him, that he had approached a man in Smith Street

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1 toilets asking for 50p, asking if the man wanted to play  
 2 with him. He'd apparently also gone over to the bus  
 3 station, approached the same man asking the same  
 4 question and assuring him it was all right as he'd got  
 5 £5 the week before and could get £5 to £10 any time he  
 6 wanted, and it was precisely because of these concerns  
 7 that that boy was admitted to Knowl View.  
 8 So your department, having statutory responsibility  
 9 for a school, was admitting boys, rent boys, known to  
 10 have been engaged in that kind of activity, being  
 11 exploited in public toilets, and they are admitted to  
 12 a school which not at that time were you Acting Chief  
 13 Education Officer, but you were quite a senior manager  
 14 even in 1989, weren't you?  
 15 **A. Yes, I was responsible for policy and the implementation**  
 16 **of the organisation.**  
 17 Q. I get that. But although this was historical by the  
 18 time you came into the Acting Chief Education Officer  
 19 role in around September 1990, nonetheless was there not  
 20 a problem, a disconnect, as it were, between what  
 21 social services were learning about Knowl View pupils  
 22 and the Education Department who was running it, if this  
 23 kind of information wasn't getting through?  
 24 **A. Well, there's more -- there is a disconnect. But that**  
 25 **isn't the only one, because the head teacher and**

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1 **governing body, but principally the head teacher, would**  
 2 **expect to receive that kind of information because they**  
 3 **run the school. We didn't run the school. But we would**  
 4 **also have expected to receive the information.**  
 5 Q. Yes.  
 6 **A. Then we could see if we could assist. But the big gap**  
 7 **there is for that information not to have gone to the**  
 8 **school, if it did not.**  
 9 Q. One other thing you say, but we don't need to get your  
 10 statement up, is that you were prepared to say that  
 11 Shepherd didn't highlight any further information that  
 12 hadn't been gathered by Mr Poulton and discussed in the  
 13 strategy meeting. I have been through that with you  
 14 already. And you added:  
 15 "I would say that Mr Shepherd's report was accurate  
 16 but the circumstances of how it came about concerned  
 17 me."  
 18 **A. Mmm.**  
 19 Q. Do you stand by that still?  
 20 **A. Yes, I thought it was a useful report, it brought things**  
 21 **together, but that there was a pattern of the staff --**  
 22 **and Mr Shepherd was not the only one to observe it -- of**  
 23 **not picking up a development that might have been**  
 24 **helpful for them.**  
 25 Q. I'm struggling to hear you, Mrs Cavanagh.

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1 **A. Sorry, I will speak up.**  
 2 Q. It is probably me.  
 3 **A. Of staff not picking up a development that was intended**  
 4 **to assist, in other words, training and HIV, sexual**  
 5 **activity, AIDS, which is one thing they had requested,**  
 6 **but then not participating in that but repeating the**  
 7 **allegations that they'd already said. I noticed from**  
 8 **the social services comment that a lady called**  
 9 **Liz Cotton had the same experience.**  
 10 Q. That was in the chronology we looked at which I rather  
 11 skated over, but she'd had some problems with takeup,  
 12 I think. Had that been the problem?  
 13 **A. No, that wasn't the one. I haven't seen the information**  
 14 **before, but a lady called Liz Cotton, who was a trainer,**  
 15 **was invited to offer training at Knowl View.**  
 16 Q. That's right.  
 17 **A. And the same thing happened to her. It wasn't a problem**  
 18 **with not takeup, but they did the same to her as they**  
 19 **had to Phil Shepherd.**  
 20 Q. What, complained?  
 21 **A. Yes, they ignored the training and just reiterated.**  
 22 Q. Forgive me, I misunderstood you. Against that  
 23 background, let's please look at your letter to  
 24 Phil Shepherd for which we need to go to RHC001258 at  
 25 page 2:

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1 "Dear Mr Shepherd.  
 2 "Thank you for your letter of 20 March and the copy  
 3 of the report ..."  
 4 You say you are only getting back to him now because  
 5 you have been away:  
 6 "First of all, might I say that it was valuable to  
 7 have a sight of the report and your conclusions  
 8 following the discussions with the staff at Knowl View  
 9 School. Clearly at the time you were not aware of other  
 10 actions which were taking place (and neither were the  
 11 staff you talked to). The initial incident to which you  
 12 refer in September 1990 was handled by the Education  
 13 Department and the governing body in conjunction with  
 14 the police. At that time, all the staff in the school,  
 15 teaching staff, care staff and auxiliary staff, were  
 16 interviewed by officers of the Education Department.  
 17 There was no indication then of the other activities  
 18 which you refer to in your report."  
 19 Pausing there, that's your referring to the last  
 20 question in that questionnaire I showed you earlier  
 21 which invited anybody being interviewed to add anything?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. Is that what we understand you to be saying?  
 24 **A. That's what I understood, yes.**  
 25 Q. "Information about these activities first came to light

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1 in the spring term and in March a joint meeting was held  
 2 between the police, social services and Education  
 3 Department."  
 4 That's a reference to 8 March meeting?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. Then you talk about subsequent meetings with the newly  
 7 appointed head teacher -- that's Mr Bradshaw, is it?  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. "... head teacher designate and other officers of  
 10 the Education Department and within the social services  
 11 teams. There will shortly be a further joint meeting  
 12 between the police, social services and Education  
 13 Department to consider the strategy ..."  
 14 "A copy of your report was also passed to  
 15 Councillor Hawton in her capacity of chairman of  
 16 Rochdale Health Authority and she has discussed the  
 17 matter both with myself and with the Acting Director of  
 18 Social Services."  
 19 That had happened, we know, because not only did she  
 20 write to you and Mr Davey, but I think you had  
 21 a discussion with her as well; is that right?  
 22 **A. Indeed. She came to see me.**  
 23 Q. Then you continue:  
 24 "In the report many important issues are raised some  
 25 of which have been the subject of discussion already and

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1 others which will be discussed as part of  
 2 the investigation or as part of the programme which the  
 3 new head intends to implement."  
 4 Over the page, please:  
 5 "Given the sensitivity of this situation and the  
 6 fact that appropriate action is being discussed and  
 7 implemented, I would ask you to ensure that your report  
 8 does not receive a wider circulation than that listed on  
 9 the back page and would also request you not to  
 10 undertake any independent action."  
 11 What was that all about?  
 12 **A. Really, what it says, that if this were widely**  
 13 **distributed -- at this point, there were 17 boys in**  
 14 **Knowl View. They would be very readily identified,**  
 15 **especially if it is then indicated also that they were**  
 16 **on Norden unit. They could be easily named in the**  
 17 **press, in the media, anywhere else, and that was not**  
 18 **felt to be helpful. On the contrary, it was felt that**  
 19 **would be very harmful.**  
 20 **The independent action I think means, simply, "Don't**  
 21 **cut across what other people are doing".**  
 22 Q. What were other people doing at this point?  
 23 **A. What I listed on the previous page. They had -- the**  
 24 **newly appointed head was there, he had a strategy of**  
 25 **things to do, social services, we understood, at this**

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1 **point would be looking at interviews with the children**  
 2 **and possibly also the police.**  
 3 Q. While we have 5 April in mind, can we go to the first  
 4 page in that reference, please, to the previous page.  
 5 This is a memorandum from you, it appears, to  
 6 Brian Williams and Marilyn Simpson, dated the same day:  
 7 "I attach a copy of my response to Mr Shepherd,  
 8 which I have discussed with Ian Davey ... I am aware  
 9 that Mr Shepherd has invited both of you to make  
 10 a response but would be grateful if you would not do  
 11 so."  
 12 Why were you forbidding Mr Williams and Ms Simpson  
 13 from commenting on it?  
 14 **A. Two things. One, the copy I received was**  
 15 **Brian Williams' copy. I don't know what happened to the**  
 16 **one that allegedly came to me. I'm sure it did, but**  
 17 **I first saw it when Brian Williams gave me his copy.**  
 18 **Basically, I understood Mr Shepherd to be saying to**  
 19 **Brian and to Marilyn, since he'd written to them, would**  
 20 **they respond. It didn't seem to me helpful to have five**  
 21 **different responses potentially going back to**  
 22 **Mr Shepherd.**  
 23 Q. Was there anything that worried you if they would or did  
 24 they have views that perhaps were divergent to your view  
 25 or you and others within the Education Department which

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1 you didn't want propagated?  
 2 **A. No, I am pretty certain that I would have shown that to**  
 3 **Brian Williams before sending it.**  
 4 Q. You say here:  
 5 "I attach a copy of my response to Mr Shepherd which  
 6 I have discussed with Ian Davey."  
 7 Now, we know you had a meeting with Ian Davey.  
 8 **A. Mmm.**  
 9 Q. Did he provide input into the content of your letter  
 10 back to Shepherd?  
 11 **A. I don't think so.**  
 12 Q. So when you say, "I attach a copy of my response which  
 13 I have discussed with Ian Davey", what had you discussed  
 14 with Ian Davey?  
 15 **A. I think, basically, that the letter -- the report had**  
 16 **arrived and that Councillor Hawton had come to see me.**  
 17 **I was responding to her and that was what I was**  
 18 **intending to say.**  
 19 Q. So the discussion with Ian Davey was what, though? What  
 20 was the topic of discussion with Ian Davey? I'm just  
 21 trying to understand what the chat was about. If it  
 22 wasn't about how you were going to respond to  
 23 Mr Shepherd, then --  
 24 **A. Well, among other things, it would be a courtesy to show**  
 25 **him what I was going to respond, to make sure that it**

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1 **didn't cause him any concern because I was making**  
 2 **a false statement about social services, and to probably**  
 3 **just say, "Here is the Shepherd Report and have you seen**  
 4 **it? And clearly what we need to do is take further**  
 5 **action along the lines that have been agreed".**  
 6 Q. Let me ask you to look at something else for a moment:  
 7 RHC001975, please, at page 1. Do you remember this  
 8 letter? This is from Pam Hawton to you. She was the  
 9 chair of the health authority at the time?  
 10 **A. Yes, I do.**  
 11 Q. "I write to confirm our conversation yesterday ..."  
 12 That's the conversation you have told us about?  
 13 **A. Mmm.**  
 14 Q. Was this a telephone or a face-to-face meeting?  
 15 **A. With Councillor Hawton?**  
 16 Q. Yes.  
 17 **A. Face to face. She came in.**  
 18 Q. "I was very concerned to learn of the difficulties  
 19 within this establishment from one of my officers and  
 20 was interested to know of the steps that you have taken  
 21 in order to sort out these difficulties satisfactorily."  
 22 What was she talking about, "the difficulties within  
 23 this establishment from one of my officers"?  
 24 **A. Phil Shepherd was a health authority officer, not**  
 25 **council.**

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1 Q. So what was the difficulty?  
 2 **A. And "this establishment" obviously is Knowl View.**  
 3 Q. Yes.  
 4 **A. The difficulties are the ones that are listed in his**  
 5 **report.**  
 6 Q. It is just, perhaps, the way it is written rather  
 7 suggested that the officer had caused the difficulties?  
 8 **A. I don't think so.**  
 9 Q. But you have just dissected that sentence in the way  
 10 that you have.  
 11 **A. Mmm.**  
 12 Q. "However, I enclose a copy of a letter I have addressed  
 13 to Ian Davey ... in which I suggest that an independent  
 14 investigation should take place under the statutory  
 15 responsibility of the Social Services Department but  
 16 this should take place in full consultation with  
 17 yourself and your department and senior police  
 18 officers."  
 19 If we go to the next page, we will see the letter  
 20 that she attached:  
 21 "Dear Mr Davey.  
 22 "I write to confirm our conversation yesterday ..."  
 23 And she repeats more or less what she was to say to  
 24 you:  
 25 "Having expressed these concerns to you, I would

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1 urge the department to initiate a thorough investigation  
 2 of the situation there, possibly headed by some person  
 3 of good standing from outside the local authority, which  
 4 could report its findings and make recommendations.  
 5 I feel that this should be done in cooperation with both  
 6 the Education Department ... and senior police  
 7 officers."  
 8 So it is perfectly clear that she wanted an  
 9 investigation, preferably by an independent person, with  
 10 social services to take the lead, but in conjunction  
 11 with you and the police?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. An investigation that she called "thorough"?  
 14 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 15 Q. What became of that thorough investigation?  
 16 **A. Well, eventually, the Val Mellor report.**  
 17 Q. That's going on for almost another year from this date.  
 18 That's not until February 1992, when Val Mellor reports?  
 19 **A. No, no, that was the report. The commissioning of**  
 20 **Val Mellor was in May.**  
 21 Q. It was about June, wasn't it?  
 22 **A. No, that was the first meeting with her.**  
 23 Q. Right.  
 24 **A. But I -- sorry, do you want me to say about this now?**  
 25 Q. What's the "this"? Ms Mellor?

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1 **A. Yes, because I was asked to contact her, which I did.**  
 2 Q. I am going to suggest there were special reasons why  
 3 Valerie Mellor was brought in and it wasn't this; it was  
 4 because social services had refused to act.  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. That's why Valerie Mellor came in?  
 7 **A. Oh, yes, I meant in the long term.**  
 8 Q. But that's down the line, even though it may be just  
 9 a couple of months away or even a month away. But the  
 10 fact is that, in the meantime, as we will see,  
 11 social services were acting in a way that brought them  
 12 to a decision, the 30 May memorandum, which we will come  
 13 to shortly, which really forced your hand, and perhaps  
 14 the town clerk and the chief executive's hand, in  
 15 commissioning Valerie Mellor to come in?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. Can I ask you to look at a document which I think  
 18 everybody may have in hard copy. Its formal URN is  
 19 RHC000092 at page 23. Oh, it can't be brought up. I'm  
 20 sorry about that.  
 21 It is a handwritten memorandum, Mrs Cavanagh, dated  
 22 4 April. I know you have seen this before because the  
 23 police asked you about this memorandum.  
 24 **A. They did.**  
 25 Q. In one of your witness statements, one that you made

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1 in November 2015; all right? We can look at that if you  
 2 want. Whose handwriting is it?  
 3 **A. It's mine.**  
 4 Q. It reads in this way:  
 5 "Discussion with Ian Davey, Janet Bowyer."  
 6 Something appears to be missing but we have the  
 7 name, perhaps, "Can B Williams produce a note of  
 8 the meeting of Field House."  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. That was the 8 March meeting?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. Point 2 -- I think the first was point 1:  
 13 "Meeting to involve Stephen Bradshaw, Cliff Bentley,  
 14 Marilyn Simpson, Mansoor Kazi, Richard Flammer,  
 15 social services, Janet Bowyer, police, social services  
 16 will invite."  
 17 Does it appear that Thursday, April 11 was the  
 18 meeting date or the provisional meeting date at that  
 19 point?  
 20 **A. It does.**  
 21 Q. So what you and Ian Davey and Janet Bowyer had agreed  
 22 was to hold a meeting. The date identified was  
 23 Thursday, April 11, preferably in the afternoon, "Val to  
 24 arrange" -- she was your secretary -- and those people  
 25 were to be invited?

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1 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 2 Q. Is that correct?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. In the middle, underlined, "for strategy". So this was  
 5 to be the strategy meeting, was it, or a big strategy  
 6 meeting?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Then on the top right, "to be informed", presumably of  
 9 that meeting:  
 10 "Chair of governors", who was at the time? Was it  
 11 still Matt Ingoe?  
 12 **A. No, he was succeeded by a person --**  
 13 Q. Somebody else?  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. All right. We don't need to worry about that. "Chair  
 16 of education". Was that Mary Moffat?  
 17 **A. It was.**  
 18 Q. What's the next thing, "[Something] social services..."?  
 19 **A. "Manchester social services". They had a child in the**  
 20 **school.**  
 21 Q. "... and area teams". Then this:  
 22 "Result of meeting", with an arrow facing downwards,  
 23 "Councillor Farnell, Councillor Hawton (health  
 24 authority), Bob Bullough."  
 25 **A. Yes, the health authority refers to Bob Bullough.**

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1 **I know Councillor Hawton was the chair, but she was also**  
 2 **the leader of the Conservative group.**  
 3 Q. Councillor Farnell?  
 4 **A. Was the leader of the Labour group.**  
 5 Q. It may be useful at this point, as I have mentioned it,  
 6 to have a look at your statement that you made on  
 7 4 November 2015, if you would. It is GMP000984. Do you  
 8 see that's a statement that you made, Mrs Cavanagh, on  
 9 4 November 2015. The final third -- first of all,  
 10 halfway down, just before, "I have been shown a copy of  
 11 handwritten notes of a meeting on 4 April" -- do you  
 12 see? Right at the top?  
 13 **A. Oh, right.**  
 14 Q. "I confirm this is my handwriting" --  
 15 **A. Oh, this sheet?**  
 16 Q. This sheet. You then go on to describe what you have  
 17 already described. Then halfway down the magnified  
 18 section we are looking at:  
 19 "I have also written that following that meeting  
 20 Mr Farnell, the leader of the Council, would be informed  
 21 of the result."  
 22 So he was the leader at the time?  
 23 **A. He was.**  
 24 Q. Was that the Labour group?  
 25 **A. It was.**

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1 Q. "To the best of my knowledge, both Councillor Farnell  
 2 and Councillor Hawton would have been provided with  
 3 minutes. At the very least, they would have received  
 4 actions required to be taken."  
 5 One appreciates when one uses terms "would have",  
 6 but my question to you is, did they?  
 7 **A. I don't know.**  
 8 Q. Is it likely?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Why? It may be obvious to you, it may be obvious to  
 11 others, but I am going to ask you, why would it have  
 12 been necessary to have provided not so much  
 13 Councillor Hawton but Councillor Farnell, who was the  
 14 leader of the council at that time?  
 15 **A. Well, on several levels. One, that it was a matter of**  
 16 **concern, not just to the Education Department, because**  
 17 **it involved social services also, and the legal**  
 18 **department; also, because he was also already aware of**  
 19 **some of the difficulties at Knowl View -- do you wish me**  
 20 **to say why that is?**  
 21 Q. If there is a name that you are worried about, don't  
 22 give any names.  
 23 **A. No, it is not a name I'm worried about. We were not**  
 24 **able to appoint either an interim head or a substantive**  
 25 **head at Knowl View without financial authority, and that**

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1 went through Policy Committee.  
 2 Q. Yes.  
 3 **A. At Policy Committee in October or November -- I don't**  
 4 **know when -- an amendment was passed enabling us to do**  
 5 **that. It was an amendment, but the background was**  
 6 **explained to the chair of council as to why we needed**  
 7 **it. So he was already, as it were, in the loop.**  
 8 **I don't mean in the detail, but in knowing that**  
 9 **Knowl View was of concern.**  
 10 Q. Is it likely that the leader of the council, when he is  
 11 being asked to amend his budget, as it were, for the  
 12 school for a particular purpose wouldn't be asking some  
 13 deep and searching questions: why? Why do we need to do  
 14 what you are inviting me to do?  
 15 **A. Indeed.**  
 16 Q. Would he then have been told what the problems were at  
 17 Knowl View?  
 18 **A. He would have been told at that point certainly about**  
 19 **the September incident. As to further matters, I don't**  
 20 **know.**  
 21 Q. Certainly by now, 11 April, there was no doubt in your  
 22 mind about the enormity and scale of what was going on  
 23 at Knowl View. Did you have personal meetings with him?  
 24 **A. No.**  
 25 Q. Who did?

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1 **A. No, I didn't.**  
 2 Q. Who would have done from your department? Would anybody  
 3 or --  
 4 **A. With Councillor Farnell?**  
 5 Q. Yes. What's the chain of communication?  
 6 **A. The chain of communication was with the chair of**  
 7 **education, Councillor Mary Moffat, and the other**  
 8 **education spokespersons, of which Councillor Hawton was**  
 9 **one, Councillor Beasley and Councillor Sargenson.**  
 10 Q. It is perfectly clear that Councillor Hawton must have  
 11 been aware of what was happening because of the nature  
 12 of the letters she wrote to you and Mr Davey. Is it  
 13 clear to you that Mary Moffat must have known what was  
 14 going on as well?  
 15 **A. Yes. She was very, very well briefed.**  
 16 Q. If she was very, very well briefed, do you think she  
 17 would have left the leader of the council exposed by not  
 18 briefing him or leaving him unsighted?  
 19 **A. I'm sure she would have briefed him but I wasn't**  
 20 **present.**  
 21 Q. So she wouldn't have left him unsighted, he would have  
 22 been briefed as well. I'm not suggesting you were  
 23 present, but it is just you helping us, Mrs Cavanagh,  
 24 with the way it works?  
 25 **A. They would have party group meetings, obviously, and**

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1 **discuss things. But also they would have chairs'**  
 2 **meetings with the chair of policy, education, all the**  
 3 **rest of it, and discuss matters of interest.**  
 4 Q. Who was the chair of policy, do you remember?  
 5 **A. Councillor Farnell.**  
 6 Q. We have also heard that Mary Moffat had an office in  
 7 your department, in the Education Department. Is that  
 8 right?  
 9 **A. She did.**  
 10 Q. Close enough to you?  
 11 **A. Yes, as close as you are to me.**  
 12 Q. So if she wanted to discuss anything with you and you  
 13 with her, it's not as if there was any physical  
 14 barrier --  
 15 **A. No, no.**  
 16 Q. We are talking about days before email, I suspect.  
 17 Can I invite you then, against all of that, to look  
 18 at a letter that Ian Davey sent to Councillor Hawton,  
 19 which is our GMP000287 at page 2. There is a sticky  
 20 label on it but the date I think is reliably  
 21 16 April 1991. Mr Davey couldn't explain what the  
 22 sticky note meant, but let's look at his letter:  
 23 "Dear Councillor Hawton.  
 24 "Thank you for your letter of 4 April received on  
 25 the 8th."

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1 That's his reference back to the letter I showed you  
 2 a little earlier that he received and was copied to you  
 3 on the same day:  
 4 "I share your concerns about the situation at  
 5 Knowl View following the report by Mr Shepherd, made  
 6 available to me by Dr Bullough. There had been meetings  
 7 about the concerns identified in the report prior to you  
 8 coming in to see me, involving Gordon Littlemore and  
 9 Mrs Diana Cavanagh, chief education officer. Decisions  
 10 were taken to make a coordinated response to the  
 11 problems at Knowl View. I followed up our discussion by  
 12 arranging an urgent meeting with Mrs Cavanagh on  
 13 4 April. Having reviewed the situation again, in  
 14 particular your concerns, it was decided to continue  
 15 with a concerted approach to the problem involving the  
 16 police, education and social services."  
 17 He encloses a copy of the letter that you sent to  
 18 Shepherd, the one I think we have looked at, the 5 April  
 19 one.  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. "A subsequent meeting was then held at our instigation  
 22 to finalise the details on the way this matter should be  
 23 investigated."  
 24 Presumably that's a reference to the 11 April  
 25 meeting:

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1 "As a result, following" --  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. "As a result, following consultation with staff and with  
 4 the appropriate parents, a number of boys will initially  
 5 be interviewed by police officers and social work staff.  
 6 Obviously much will depend on the outcome of these  
 7 interviews but it may well be that further joint  
 8 investigations will need to be undertaken. This  
 9 approach is being taken in full consultation with the  
 10 newly appointed head teacher."  
 11 Of course that's a reference back to some of  
 12 the entries we saw where three boys had ultimately been  
 13 identified for interview. Do you remember?  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. Although there were question marks about where they  
 16 slotted into the scheme of things, about which you made  
 17 a comment?  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. But there weren't any interviews, were there?  
 20 **A. Manchester Social Services.**  
 21 Q. Only?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. In relation to the boy that they had --  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. -- jurisdiction in relation to?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. But what that does is it brings us to another meeting of  
 3 the following month, because you will remember that  
 4 there was a meeting on 17 May 1991. Does that ring any  
 5 bells with you? Let's have a look at a document.  
 6 I hope it will. I am also going to refer you to --  
 7 I will see how we go -- a statement you made in relation  
 8 to it on 19 May. RHC001236 this is the rather infamous  
 9 by now memorandum dated 30 May by Ian Davey., from him  
 10 to you, copied to John Pierce, chief executive. I just  
 11 want to look at the first line for the minute:  
 12 "As you know ..."  
 13 The first paragraph for the moment:  
 14 "As you know, we met with the chief executive  
 15 [John Pierce] and deputy town clerk [John Shipp]" --  
 16 **A. David Shipp.**  
 17 Q. Forgive me:  
 18 "... on 17 May regarding Knowl View School. We  
 19 discussed the concerns of the school and the chronology  
 20 of events since the meeting which took place in  
 21 early March."  
 22 Pausing there, this being a memorandum to you, the  
 23 "we met" includes you as well?  
 24 **A. It does.**  
 25 Q. So you were involved in the meeting with Pierce and with

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1 Shipp and with Davey on 17 May.  
 2 Can we go to your witness statement, just to remind  
 3 you, the 19 May one, and perhaps then we will have  
 4 a break, with the chair's permission.  
 5 GMP000111 at page 9. Right at the top, I think you  
 6 have the date wrong by about three days because you say  
 7 at the top "On 20 May" but the date of the meeting was  
 8 the 17th?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. "... there was a meeting held with David Shipp ...  
 11 Pierce, Davey and myself.  
 12 "Social services announced that they weren't willing  
 13 to investigate matters discussed at the strategy  
 14 meeting."  
 15 What was the nature of that announcement? Was it at  
 16 this meeting? Is that what you are saying?  
 17 **A. Of the meeting on the 17th. My memory is that they gave**  
 18 **the reasons why they did not want to and indeed would**  
 19 **not run the interviews.**  
 20 Q. Do you remember what those reasons were, why they would  
 21 not and did not?  
 22 **A. Not in detail.**  
 23 Q. We will come to the memorandum and the content of it to  
 24 see if that jogs any memories, but let's read on in your  
 25 statement for a moment:

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1 "The social services and the police would interview  
 2 a few pupils but that would be the extent of their  
 3 enquiry. Subsequently, the chief executive had enquired  
 4 what action was being taken with regard to Knowl View  
 5 School. Mr Shipp, myself and Ian Davey had agreed to  
 6 personally consider what action was being taken and it  
 7 was subsequently decided that the alleged activity did  
 8 not fall within the authorities guidelines on child  
 9 protection. I assume this decision was made by  
 10 Ian Davey, but like me, his boss was John Pierce so  
 11 Ian Davey could not have made this decision  
 12 unilaterally. I did not agree with this decision but it  
 13 wasn't within my power to reverse it. It was then  
 14 important to look for a different strategy."  
 15 So if we can pause there for the moment, a couple of  
 16 things arise from that. First of all, were you saying  
 17 here that Mr Davey had arrived at the 17 May meeting  
 18 with a predetermined decision?  
 19 **A. He'd certainly taken a view.**  
 20 Q. Yes.  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. He told us that at that meeting he was asked to review  
 23 it. Do you remember that?  
 24 **A. I don't, but that might just be my memory.**  
 25 Q. Secondly, the assumption you make is, even if Ian Davey

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1 had come to the view that social services were not going  
 2 to investigate and do no more than interview a few  
 3 pupils with police, John Pierce, being the chief  
 4 executive, Ian Davey couldn't have made that decision by  
 5 himself. Now, is that a chain of command or --  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. Is that your expectation, something you know or  
 8 something that you think is likely to have happened?  
 9 **A. Well, John Pierce was my boss and he was also**  
 10 **Ian Davey's boss. If he had wished to instruct**  
 11 **Ian Davey that his department would run these**  
 12 **interviews, then that is what would have happened.**  
 13 Q. It either suggests that Ian Davey was very persuasive  
 14 about his position or John Pierce was very weak. Do  
 15 either of those two ring any bells or do they chime with  
 16 you or are both propositions wrong?  
 17 **A. I assumed at the time that because social services were**  
 18 **in a particularly difficult position because of**  
 19 **the Langley cases, that both social services and the**  
 20 **chief exec were being very cautious.**  
 21 Q. Langley is the same as Middleton, but just another name?  
 22 **A. The same one, yes.**  
 23 MR ALTMAN: Perhaps we will have our break there and I will  
 24 return to this.  
 25 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will take 15 minutes.

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1 (3.06 pm)  
 2 (A short break)  
 3 (3.21 pm)  
 4 MR ALTMAN: Let's look at the memorandum, please. It should  
 5 be up on the screen. The second paragraph reads,  
 6 remembering it is addressed to you principally:  
 7 "I shared with you and with Mr Pierce and Mr Shipp  
 8 my understanding regarding the allegations, which was  
 9 that they do not come within the child abuse guidelines  
 10 and procedures definition ...  
 11 "In view of the nature of the concerns and the need  
 12 to resolve the matter speedily, I agreed to look further  
 13 into the concerns which the school have raised, to  
 14 consider these in detail and to let you have a formal  
 15 response as to whether they do in fact come within the  
 16 definition ..."  
 17 Do you remember I asked you a little earlier whether  
 18 Davey had been asked to review the decision he'd arrived  
 19 with at the 17 May meeting. It seems to suggest he'd  
 20 agreed to look further into it, and he suggests,  
 21 "I agree to look further into the concerns which the  
 22 school have raised". Is that what is about, as you  
 23 recall it?  
 24 **A. I don't remember that the school raised further concerns**  
 25 **after.**

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1 Q. No, I don't think it is saying that. I think what it is  
 2 suggesting -- but it is your evidence, not mine -- is  
 3 that something had arisen during the course of  
 4 the 17 May meeting that suggested he should have another  
 5 think?  
 6 **A. I don't remember that. The 17 May meeting seemed to be**  
 7 **Ian Davey saying they weren't going to go ahead.**  
 8 Q. Was there any resistance to that, if you can cast your  
 9 mind back to that meeting? Did everybody say, "Fine and  
 10 dandy, Ian, we all understand, go away", or did  
 11 Mr Pierce or Mr Shipp or yourself, did any of you  
 12 challenge him?  
 13 **A. I don't remember whether John Pierce or David Shipp did,**  
 14 **but I expressed my disappointment and dismay that -- if**  
 15 **that was the decision, and I disagreed with it.**  
 16 Q. What was his reaction to your disagreement?  
 17 **A. That it didn't fall within the guidelines.**  
 18 Q. Did you understand at 17 May on what basis Ian Davey had  
 19 come to the view that it didn't fall within the  
 20 guidelines? In other words, where was he getting his  
 21 information from? Was he making a decision off his own  
 22 bat or was he receiving advice? What did you understand  
 23 at 17 May?  
 24 **A. I assumed that he would have discussed it within his**  
 25 **department.**

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1 Q. Did you know with whom he discussed it at that point?  
 2 **A. No, but the people involved were Janet Bowyer and**  
 3 **Freema Taylor and I didn't know who was giving crucial**  
 4 **advice, as it were.**  
 5 Q. In fact, Janet Bowyer wasn't involved at all at this  
 6 point?  
 7 **A. No, she had been at the meetings. That's why I know her**  
 8 **name.**  
 9 Q. She'd certainly been at the meetings.  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. If we read on, here is Ian Davey telling you, "I met  
 12 yesterday, 29 May, with Freema Taylor and with  
 13 Annie Dodd". I'm skipping out the bits in the middle:  
 14 "I considered in detail the concerns regarding three  
 15 boys referred by the school following the meeting on  
 16 11 April 1991 ..."  
 17 These were the three, I think I'm right in saying,  
 18 who were to be interviewed?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. And this is how Ian Davey disposes of them one by one in  
 21 this memorandum. A15, he is the Manchester boy, they  
 22 are dealing with it, they are not taking matters  
 23 further. Boy 2, A14, he is a perpetrator, so he doesn't  
 24 fit. And to the next page, A11, "willing partner in  
 25 these activities ... the oldest boy ... so able to deal

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1 with unwelcome advances". The definition doesn't fit  
 2 for him either:  
 3 "In summary, as regards the three boys who it was  
 4 originally anticipated that we would be following up  
 5 with interviews, this has been completed in one case..."  
 6 That was the Manchester boy:  
 7 "... and in the other two instances the concerns do  
 8 not fit the sexual abuse between children definition in  
 9 the child abuse guidelines and procedures."  
 10 That was that.  
 11 **A. Mmm.**  
 12 Q. So that we are clear, but I think you have made your  
 13 position perfectly clear, did any of this solidify your  
 14 disappointment and dismay, or were you now satisfied  
 15 with Ian Davey's reasoning?  
 16 **A. No, I wasn't satisfied, because it wasn't only ever**  
 17 **meant to be these three children.**  
 18 Q. Meaning?  
 19 **A. Meaning that there were other children who would need to**  
 20 **be interviewed, but these three were just the first**  
 21 **step.**  
 22 Q. It also avoids any reference to everything else that was  
 23 going on?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. Because this memorandum limits itself to peer-on-peer

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1 abuse, but why -- see if you can help us with this --  
 2 was Smith Street forgotten all about and what about,  
 3 although it was in the past, the issues which had arisen  
 4 out of the Hilton incident? What was happening with  
 5 them?  
 6 **A. Well, I'm not sure that the Hilton incident -- no, let**  
 7 **me rephrase that. I don't think the Hilton incident was**  
 8 **forgotten. Some of -- one, maybe, of these children was**  
 9 **involved in that.**  
 10 Q. Yes.  
 11 **A. But certainly the Smith Street toilets, they seemed not**  
 12 **to be mentioned at all.**  
 13 Q. No. But why?  
 14 **A. I surmised at the time that that activity had finished.**  
 15 Q. From?  
 16 **A. Because the police had said --**  
 17 Q. When you say "surmised" --  
 18 **A. Because the police had said that there was no further**  
 19 **activity after they had run surveillance -- I forget**  
 20 **when that was -- and then they said further surveillance**  
 21 **had shown nothing happening.**  
 22 Q. We certainly see reference to that I think later on at  
 23 the time of the commissioning of Valerie Mellor. But  
 24 was that your understanding by this time, that the  
 25 police were saying somewhere along the line that it had

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1 stopped? Was that your understanding?  
 2 **A. Yes, I think so.**  
 3 Q. If we go back to the bottom of the first page we were  
 4 looking at, although you are right that A14 is the boy  
 5 in respect of whom Hilton pleaded guilty and had  
 6 sexually abused on the second night he intruded into the  
 7 school, if you read those three lines, none of it is to  
 8 do with Roderick Hilton at all, it is all to do with  
 9 peer-on-peer abuse?  
 10 **A. That's right.**  
 11 Q. So the fact that he was a victim of Hilton seems to be  
 12 completely coincidental and ignored for the purposes of  
 13 Ian Davey's findings.  
 14 So is the view that you have, Mrs Cavanagh, not only  
 15 was it wrong for Ian Davey to limit himself to the three  
 16 boys and regard that as, as it were, the end of  
 17 the line, in other words, once you could dispense with  
 18 interviews of those three, did you think he was wrong to  
 19 ignore any other boys who had been subject to similar  
 20 abuse within the school setting?  
 21 **A. Yes, I thought it was a misjudgment.**  
 22 Q. Did you think it was a misjudgment for him to have  
 23 ignored Smith Street toilets?  
 24 **A. Yes, because even if that had ceased, the investigative**  
 25 **aspect of it should have continued.**

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1 Q. Although we accept you were not social services, do you  
 2 agree that children abusing other children ought to  
 3 raise alarm bells within an educational establishment  
 4 because of the potential for lasting damage if it is not  
 5 addressed?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. What difference do you think it might have made if  
 8 social services had not taken the view it had, by which  
 9 I mean Ian Davey apparently on the advice of  
 10 Freema Taylor and Annie Dodd, but had sought to  
 11 interview the three boys? What might have changed?  
 12 **A. Assuming that the interviews were skilfully done and the**  
 13 **boys were able to express what had happened to them in**  
 14 **an atmosphere of trust, then that would have encouraged**  
 15 **the other boys to do the same, and they wouldn't have**  
 16 **had to wait all this time to say what had happened to**  
 17 **them.**  
 18 Q. Would there have been a need for Valerie Mellor?  
 19 **A. I think in a different way. There might have been boys**  
 20 **referred to her as individuals on the basis of what they**  
 21 **had experienced.**  
 22 Q. But on the basis of the instructions that she received  
 23 the following month or so from you, for reasons we will  
 24 come to, do you think her terms of reference would have  
 25 been entirely different if social services had done its

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1 job?  
 2 **A. I think they would have been partially different, but**  
 3 **there was -- I will stop there.**  
 4 Q. Let's see how that plays out when we come to  
 5 Valerie Mellor, which I suppose I can do now, because if  
 6 we go back to your witness statement, GMP000111 at  
 7 page 9, where we left it before, we came to that part at  
 8 the end of the first paragraph where you said:  
 9 "I didn't agree with this decision but it wasn't  
 10 within my power to reverse it. It was then important to  
 11 look for a different strategy."  
 12 Let me just ask you a little about that. Was there  
 13 absolutely nothing that you felt you could do?  
 14 **A. Well, I couldn't force Ian Davey to run investigations,**  
 15 **I couldn't force John Pierce to instruct him to.**  
 16 Q. No. Could you have gone to the leader of the council,  
 17 for example, or to Mary Moffat or to Pamela Hawton?  
 18 **A. Well, I'm pretty certain I did talk to Mary Moffat about**  
 19 **it. Councillor Hawton, I can't remember.**  
 20 Q. But are we really saying, just so we understand the  
 21 position, Mrs Cavanagh, that you're a head of  
 22 department, he is a head of department. You are  
 23 convinced he's got it utterly wrong, whether it is  
 24 through overcaution or a technical application of  
 25 the guidelines perhaps doesn't very much matter. But if

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1 you are, as a head of department and the one that has  
 2 responsibility for this school, convinced that he is  
 3 wrong, was there really nothing that you could do about  
 4 it to rectify that incorrect application of the rules?  
 5 **A. You're asking a slightly different question. What I say**  
 6 **there is, it was important to look for a different**  
 7 **strategy --**  
 8 Q. No, I know.  
 9 **A. -- because it seemed to me that this strategy of trying**  
 10 **to force social services to run these interviews was not**  
 11 **going to work.**  
 12 Q. But my question was actually directed at the sentence  
 13 before, that, "I did not agree with this decision but it  
 14 wasn't within my power to reverse it"?  
 15 **A. No, it wasn't.**  
 16 Q. Technically, that's right, but leading on from there,  
 17 was there really nothing that you could do to persuade  
 18 John Pierce to overrule Ian Davey, given what you told  
 19 us earlier, that Ian Davey couldn't make the decision  
 20 unilaterally, it had to involve John Pierce?  
 21 **A. Well, that was my surmise. No, I don't think so.**  
 22 Q. Did you try?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. What did you do?  
 25 **A. I spoke to him.**

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1 Q. To Pierce?  
 2 **A. To John Pierce.**  
 3 Q. And?  
 4 **A. No, that was the decision, so that was it.**  
 5 Q. Did you put that in writing? "Dear John, just to put on  
 6 the record that you and I had a meeting on such and such  
 7 a date where I said the following to you and you  
 8 disagreed"? Is that something you would have done to  
 9 ensure there was an audit trail of the view that you  
 10 had --  
 11 **A. It would have been sensible to do that, perhaps, but**  
 12 **I didn't.**  
 13 Q. If we read on:  
 14 "David Shipp was chief legal officer at this time  
 15 and had previously been involved in the Langley  
 16 child abuse investigation ... a suggestion was made, and  
 17 I do not know by whom, that an investigation must take  
 18 place, but perhaps by an outside agency. David Shipp  
 19 suggested that Valerie Mellor would be a suitable person  
 20 to deal with this. Mrs Mellor at this time was a highly  
 21 qualified consultant child psychologist at Booth Hall  
 22 Hospital."  
 23 A suggestion was made, Mrs Cavanagh, that an outside  
 24 agency should become involved in the thorough  
 25 investigation, and that was by Pamela Hawton?

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1 **A. Mmm.**  
 2 Q. That was on 4 April.  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. Almost two months before Mr Davey had come to his final  
 5 view that social services were not going to take it on,  
 6 and so, at this stage, Valerie Mellor is canvassed as  
 7 a suitable person to come in to deal with the issues,  
 8 and then you say in the statement:  
 9 "This resulted in Mrs Mellor being commissioned by  
 10 David Shipp and myself to conduct an investigation on  
 11 behalf of the leader of the council. David Shipp was  
 12 Director of Legal Services, which was part of Corporate  
 13 Services. This reported to Policy Committee, the chair  
 14 of whom was the leader of the council. At the time,  
 15 that was Richard Farnell."  
 16 **A. Correct.**  
 17 Q. Is that right?  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. When the investigation was being commissioned by --  
 20 Mrs Mellor was being commissioned by you and David Shipp  
 21 on behalf of the leader of the council --  
 22 **A. And the chair of education.**  
 23 Q. Who was Mary Moffat?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. Do we take it that such a commission would not have been

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<p>1 done without the leader knowing, if it is in his name?                  2 <b>A. I can't imagine that it would be.</b>                  3 Q. Right.                  4 <b>A. Not least because there would be financial consequences.</b>                  5 Q. Yes. Mrs Mellor was presumably being paid?                  6 <b>A. Yes, and we didn't pick up the bill.</b>                  7 Q. Who did?                  8 <b>A. I assume it was the corporate services.</b>                  9 Q. At this point, what was the nature of the investigation                  10 it was being envisaged that Mrs Mellor, as a child                  11 psychologist, was going to carry out?                  12 <b>A. It was envisaged she would go into the school, talk to</b>                  13 <b>the children, members of staff and so on, and would</b>                  14 <b>first of all come to a view whether activities were</b>                  15 <b>continuing, if it were harmful, or whether they had</b>                  16 <b>ceased, whether the children were safe because other</b>                  17 <b>measures had been put into place, either physical</b>                  18 <b>security or through proper procedures and reporting at</b>                  19 <b>school level, and then she would advise on what she</b>                  20 <b>found, advise further action.</b>                  21 Q. I have already mentioned once already the 4 June                  22 meeting. Perhaps we can have a look at that. RHC001271                  23 at page 9. This was a meeting held in your room on                  24 4 June in respect of activities among pupils at                  25 Knowl View. We can see who are present. Mrs Mellor was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 had that it was attack on them, going all the way back                  2 to September time?                  3 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  4 Q. The year before. Skipping over a couple of pages, if we                  5 turn to page 11 at the bottom, Mrs Mellor's second entry                  6 there from the top:                  7 "Noted that social services had stated categorically                  8 that the alleged incident fell outside the remit of                  9 the authority's guidelines. She felt that if necessary                  10 the police should conduct their own investigation so as                  11 not to compromise any possible prosecution.                  12 "She proposed that she should conduct preliminary                  13 consultations:                  14 "(i) with staff ... to find out more about the                  15 boys ... and to determine which boys should be                  16 interviewed."                  17 You will note on the right-hand side -- whose                  18 handwriting is that, Mrs Cavanagh, that margin note?                  19 <b>A. I'm not sure, but it might be -- was Dave Edmonds there?</b>                  20 Q. Say again?                  21 <b>A. I don't know.</b>                  22 Q. It's got somebody's initials there.                  23 <b>A. I'm guessing Dave Edmonds. I don't think he was there.</b>                  24 Q. He is not listed as being presented. It looks like DLE,                  25 or is it DLC?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 among them. Does this mean that by 4 June Mrs Mellor                  2 had been instructed?                  3 <b>A. Yes. I think her brief hadn't been finalised at that</b>                  4 <b>point.</b>                  5 Q. Yes.                  6 <b>A. But I'd been asked to contact her and arrange a meeting,</b>                  7 <b>and I did do that.</b>                  8 Q. So is this the first substantive --                  9 <b>A. The first time she came.</b>                  10 Q. -- discussion? Presumably she had an understanding of                  11 what she was being asked to do?                  12 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  13 Q. Or at least to come in and have a chat about what she                  14 could do?                  15 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  16 Q. But here is the meeting. You introduced Mrs Mellor, the                  17 first entry:                  18 "... indicated that her advice had been sought as to                  19 how best to proceed with an enquiry into activities                  20 among pupils at the school."                  21 Mr Bentley intervened and then you said:                  22 "Related meetings held with the governing body of                  23 Knowl View which had revealed some defensiveness on its                  24 part."                  25 That relates back to, do you remember, the view they</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 <b>A. It is not me. It is not my writing.</b>                  2 Q. It is not your initials?                  3 <b>A. No.</b>                  4 Q. Anyway, it doesn't matter. You will see "Amended                  5 25 June 1991". When we come to the minutes of 25 June                  6 we will find that that instruction was amended?                  7 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  8 Q. Because the original read "and to determine the order in                  9 which the boys should be interviewed" but that has been                  10 struck through. So the order in which the boys should                  11 be interviewed has been struck through and now it reads                  12 "to determine which boys should be interviewed":                  13 "(ii) with Dr Alison Fraser on                  14 a consultant-to-consultant basis in confidence.                  15 "(iii) with Inspector Downs of Greater Manchester                  16 Police."                  17 Then this:                  18 "It was suggested that Mrs Mellor's consultancy                  19 should provide an impartial response to the questions.                  20 "1. Is the school providing education appropriate                  21 to the needs of the pupils at Knowl View?                  22 "2. Are staff able to deal with the problems                  23 identified?                  24 "3. What should be provided?"                  25 Answer us this, if you would, please, Mrs Cavanagh:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

1 even on that basis -- Mrs Mellor, of course, was given  
 2 great credit by the High Court judge in the course of  
 3 his judgment in the Middleton judgment, as you may  
 4 recall, but she was a psychologist.  
 5 **A. Mmm.**  
 6 Q. Why was she being asked to address the suitability of  
 7 education?  
 8 **A. I think there it meant education in the whole, including**  
 9 **the care staff, pastoral staff and all the arrangements,**  
 10 **not the curriculum, unless insofar as that was personal**  
 11 **and social education. That is the point that Mr Bentley**  
 12 **is making in the next paragraph.**  
 13 Q. We will look at this. Let's just remind ourselves:  
 14 "Suggested that she should provide an impartial  
 15 response, is the school providing education appropriate  
 16 to, staff able to deal with the problems identified."  
 17 Was that something for her?  
 18 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 19 Q. That wasn't a purely educational issue, not  
 20 a psychological issue, you felt? She is a child  
 21 psychologist. Where does her expertise enable her to  
 22 determine whether staff are able to deal with problems?  
 23 **A. Because she will be talking to them about their**  
 24 **expertise, what they would do in certain circumstances,**  
 25 **would they counsel the boys, how would they handle an**

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1 **incident that they came across, and so on.**  
 2 Q. So all of this, you think, fell squarely within her  
 3 remit as a child psychologist, and you invite me to look  
 4 at the next entry by Mr Bentley, I think:  
 5 "Reminded the meeting of the authority's existing  
 6 expertise as embodied in the persons of the general  
 7 adviser and head teacher who should work together to  
 8 develop the curriculum in order to remediate the  
 9 problems of pupils at Knowl View.  
 10 "He hopes that an external consultant would bridge  
 11 the present with the past in order to confirm that  
 12 present assumptions based on past developments were  
 13 correct."  
 14 If we go to the next page, please, Mr Shipp who was  
 15 present:  
 16 "Recorded the terms of reference for her ... that  
 17 she should visit the school and talk with staff about  
 18 the behaviour of pupils, should consider the need to  
 19 consult with the police and Director of Social Services  
 20 and give advice to the director with regard to any  
 21 future action which should be taken."  
 22 Then she asked if a video recording might be used  
 23 when pupils were interviewed, because at this time  
 24 that's what was going to happen "in case a child  
 25 disclosed information about sexual abuse not previously

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1 revealed -- in order to operate within ... Cleveland."  
 2 Both Mr Bentley and Ms Simpson expressed  
 3 reservations about that proposal?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. Do you remember why?  
 6 **A. I think they felt it would be unnerving for the**  
 7 **children, and in fact Mrs Mellor didn't much insist upon**  
 8 **the point. If she had done, I think we would have said**  
 9 **okay. But that would have then taken the children**  
 10 **presumably out of school for interviews, rather than**  
 11 **being interviewed in the school.**  
 12 Q. Do you agree that those terms of reference, as recorded  
 13 by Mr Shipp -- the one thing that they don't make  
 14 reference to is her finding out what actually had  
 15 happened?  
 16 **A. Yes and no. I didn't want her to undertake the job of**  
 17 **police and social services and to run that kind of**  
 18 **investigation. It didn't seem to me that that was her**  
 19 **job. It didn't seem to me something that we could**  
 20 **provide. We didn't have that kind of expertise.**  
 21 **I wanted her to tell me about the school: was it safe**  
 22 **for the pupils; did they feel well educated, well cared**  
 23 **for; did the sexual activity stop; and what else we**  
 24 **could do to enhance their experience or improve it.**  
 25 **So for me, the emphasis was not on a heavy**

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1 **investigation, if I can put it that way.**  
 2 Q. So it was a soft investigation?  
 3 **A. No, I don't think so. No. I think if she could**  
 4 **establish that the children were safe at that point and**  
 5 **there were procedures which kept them safe, that was**  
 6 **a major step forward. They were in school at that time,**  
 7 **whatever had happened before.**  
 8 Q. It reads on:  
 9 "Mrs Cavanagh confirmed that she would wish  
 10 Mrs Mellor to report back directly to her following  
 11 preliminary enquiries, before enquiries were commenced  
 12 with individual pupils.  
 13 "It was agreed that Mrs Mellor would report her  
 14 findings back to the director and others present on  
 15 Tuesday, 25 June 1991 at 5.00 pm."  
 16 What was your purpose in having her make preliminary  
 17 enquiries before any individual pupils were spoken to?  
 18 **A. Just as a progress report, I think, because she hadn't,**  
 19 **at that point, been in the school. She didn't know**  
 20 **the -- I mean, she knew the context from documents but**  
 21 **she wouldn't know how it was in the school.**  
 22 Q. Can we please then go to the next page within the same  
 23 reference, RHC001271\_013. Then we have the minutes of  
 24 25 June. Do you see those?  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. You were present. We can see who the others are  
 2 present, including Mrs Mellor. We see you inviting  
 3 those present if the notes of the previous meeting were  
 4 acceptable as an accurate record. It is now that  
 5 Mrs Mellor does what was noted against in the margin at  
 6 that part of the 4 June note, she requested an amendment  
 7 to read:  
 8 "She proposed that she should conduct preliminary  
 9 consultations:  
 10 "... with staff at Knowl View to find out more about  
 11 the boys, the nature of their problems, their  
 12 backgrounds and to determine which boys should be  
 13 interviewed, if any."  
 14 And the meeting accepted the notes as amended?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. Is that right?  
 17 **A. And "DLE" is Dave Edmonds, senior head psych.**  
 18 Q. So probably what happened was, although he wasn't at the  
 19 4 June meeting, he was at the 25th, and he amended those  
 20 notes which we have a copy of?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. At the foot of this page, Mrs Mellor reported on her  
 23 enquiries to date:  
 24 "She said that she had spoken by telephone with  
 25 Dr Alison Fraser who was willing to assist the enquiry

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1 but had no additional information to offer.  
 2 "She had also spoken with [Jim] Henderson of  
 3 the Greater Manchester Police to ascertain if there were  
 4 any ongoing police enquiries involving pupils at  
 5 Knowl View but there were said to be none nor were there  
 6 any ongoing concerns about activities related to the  
 7 town centre toilets. Inspector Henderson had promised  
 8 to keep Mrs Mellor informed."  
 9 To the next page at the top:  
 10 "With regard to the activity of pupils at  
 11 Knowl View, it was said that the police had not pursued  
 12 enquiries with individual pupils since they had no  
 13 grounds to suspect criminal activities and because they  
 14 wanted to avoid upsetting pupils."  
 15 In terms of there being no ongoing concerns in  
 16 relation to the toilets at Smith Street, it appears  
 17 everybody accepted that without more. Did anybody  
 18 challenge that or did everybody simply accept what  
 19 Jim Henderson had to tell the meeting?  
 20 **A. I don't recollect that it was challenged.**  
 21 Q. Looking back now, do you think it was reasonable to  
 22 accept the proposition that it had come to a grinding  
 23 halt?  
 24 **A. I think what the police were saying was that they had**  
 25 **observed the situation and not seen anything, so any**

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1 **other information would come from the pupils or from**  
 2 **staff who knew the pupils were absconding.**  
 3 Q. So this was the position as at 25 June. Mr Henderson is  
 4 telling the meeting, nothing more is going on. Did you  
 5 understand that there had been an ongoing police  
 6 operation daily or weekly in relation to Smith Street?  
 7 When did you understand that that police initiative had  
 8 stopped?  
 9 **A. I first heard about the police operation in the papers**  
 10 **I was given, but also in -- I forget which year it was**  
 11 **now, they said there was no further activity and**  
 12 **therefore they stopped.**  
 13 Q. My point is, when Henderson turns up at this meeting and  
 14 said that there were no ongoing concerns about  
 15 activities, did you understand, as at 25 June, that his  
 16 information was contemporaneous?  
 17 **A. That was my understanding, yes.**  
 18 Q. Are you saying that you thought that the police had,  
 19 around this time, still been conducting some  
 20 surveillance operation around the toilets?  
 21 **A. Yes. I mean, I don't have any evidence. I just assumed**  
 22 **that they were keeping the matter under review.**  
 23 Q. Well, it wouldn't be a 24/7 surveillance operation; at  
 24 best, it would be police on the odd occasion, beat  
 25 officers, perhaps, walking past the toilets to see if

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1 anything was happening?  
 2 **A. Well, it was about 100 yards from Rochdale Police**  
 3 **Station, so it wouldn't have been that difficult.**  
 4 Q. No. It was also below the municipal offices?  
 5 **A. Indeed.**  
 6 Q. We happen to know it was still ongoing. There is  
 7 evidence to suggest --  
 8 **A. Is there?**  
 9 Q. -- exploitation was still alive and well, unhappily, and  
 10 still carrying on into 1992.  
 11 **A. Right.**  
 12 MS STUDD: May I just direct Mr Altman to RHC001238\_005.  
 13 I think that will reflect what the position was  
 14 regarding surveillance operations. It is the  
 15 Mellor Report.  
 16 MR ALTMAN: I haven't got that yet, thank you. While  
 17 Ms Studd is pointing that out to us --  
 18 MS STUDD: It just sets out what the contemporaneous  
 19 position was.  
 20 MR ALTMAN: "Information from Rochdale Police during the  
 21 summer of 1991 was that, although surveillance at  
 22 Smith Street toilets was continuing, there was no longer  
 23 any homosexual activity going on there and certainly  
 24 none involving any of the boys from Knowl View School.  
 25 At that time, the police had no intention of pursuing

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1 any line of enquiry involving any of the boys at the  
 2 school, but were very prepared to become involved should  
 3 further information come to light."  
 4 So the police are saying that this is accurate, and  
 5 this is Ms Mellor's report, that Rochdale Police during  
 6 the summer of 1991, surveillance at Smith Street toilets  
 7 was continuing.  
 8 Did you understand, Mrs Cavanagh, what the police  
 9 meant by "surveillance"? Had they mentioned  
 10 a surveillance operation was taking place with officers  
 11 posted in buildings with cameras or officers posted in  
 12 an observation post watching 24 hours a day, 7 days  
 13 a week? What did you understand they were actually  
 14 doing?  
 15 **A. Well, I didn't understand the detail of it but I assumed**  
 16 **it would be something like that.**  
 17 Q. Over what period of time?  
 18 **A. Sorry, I'm just looking at this sentence where it says**  
 19 **it was during the summer of 1991.**  
 20 Q. It says "Information from Rochdale Police during the  
 21 summer of 1991"?  
 22 **A. Thank you.**  
 23 Q. The representation here is that surveillance at  
 24 Smith Street toilets is continuing during the summer of  
 25 1991. Now, surveillance, 24-hour, seven days a week, is

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1 a very expensive police resource. I'm just wondering  
 2 whether you were ever given to believe that the police  
 3 were maintaining, up to and including the summer of  
 4 1991, that kind of level of surveillance at Rochdale  
 5 toilets?  
 6 **A. No. I assumed that they had done, but it had ceased.**  
 7 Q. Let's go back, please, to RHC001271 at page 14. You  
 8 recapitulated at the top of the page that it was  
 9 believed that there were no ongoing activities relating  
 10 to the toilets, and it was not thought that currently  
 11 any children were being picked up for money. On what  
 12 did you base that? Was it simply because of what  
 13 Mrs Mellor fed into the meeting or did you have an  
 14 independent source of information?  
 15 **A. No, that was from what was in the meeting.**  
 16 Q. Then Mrs Mellor intervened, saying she'd also spoken to  
 17 Inspector Downs, who had no knowledge of any incidents  
 18 but he was also willing to assist Mrs Mellor, who said  
 19 that she was optimistic there would be no need for the  
 20 police to be involved. She said she had spent several  
 21 hours discussing the issue with Freema Taylor who had  
 22 passed on documentation which Mrs Mellor had carefully  
 23 studied."  
 24 Pausing there, by that time, Freema Taylor was in  
 25 possession of a huge amount of information which

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1 Mr Bradshaw had collated and sent to her on 17 May which  
 2 coincides, funnily enough, with the date of the meeting  
 3 you had with the chief executive, the deputy town clerk  
 4 and Ian Davey, of a series of allegations and facts of  
 5 who was doing what to whom at the school, and on 28 May,  
 6 so about four weeks before this meeting, Freema Taylor  
 7 had herself summarised some of the position and  
 8 identified some of the boys who were involved in  
 9 a separate document which we have seen.  
 10 So Mrs Mellor here saying she'd spent several hours  
 11 discussing the issue with Freema Taylor, who had passed  
 12 on documentation which Mrs Mellor had carefully studied,  
 13 may be a reference to that, not least because you will  
 14 remember there was an appendix to Mrs Mellor's report?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. Which matches, almost word for word, the material that  
 17 Mr Bradshaw had passed on to Freema Taylor on 17 May,  
 18 who was doing what to whom?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. "Mrs Mellor said she had spent all day Friday 21st and  
 21 some time on Monday 24 June at Knowl View and had spoken  
 22 to most of the staff."  
 23 Then Mrs Mellor continued:  
 24 "... that she had come to some tentative conclusions  
 25 and thought that it would neither be right nor necessary

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1 to interview boys in school because:  
 2 "(1) it was too long after the event.  
 3 "(2) too many changes had occurred.  
 4 "(3) it would be dredging up facts from which the  
 5 boys had moved on.  
 6 "There was no indication that any inappropriate  
 7 sexual behaviour was continuing in the school and she  
 8 thought that interviews with the boys in school might be  
 9 harmful.  
 10 "Mrs Mellor noted that the allegations made by two  
 11 boys currently out of school had not been investigated  
 12 and suggested:  
 13 "-- that these be formally referred to her as  
 14 a medical referral ...  
 15 "-- that anything of a confidential nature regarding  
 16 the families of the boys [presumably] should remain  
 17 confidential."  
 18 I think we will find that she discussed, as we know  
 19 she did, interviewing I think the families of two boys,  
 20 one which cooperated and the other did not?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. What was your view about this?  
 23 **A. I was very surprised.**  
 24 Q. Why were you surprised? What was the nature of your  
 25 surprise?

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1 **A. Well, I could see that it might not be appropriate to**  
 2 **interview all the boys in the school, although there**  
 3 **weren't that many. Some would wonder why on earth they**  
 4 **were being interviewed and you might not want to just**  
 5 **pick out one or two because that would label them, as it**  
 6 **were, but there was a good number of boys who were**  
 7 **listed of whom we had information that they should have**  
 8 **been interviewed.**  
 9 Q. There is another problem here, I suggest, because,  
 10 first, Mrs Mellor was taking as read -- one can have  
 11 a view about this -- what she had heard from the police,  
 12 that there were no ongoing issues at the toilets. But  
 13 looking at what she was saying here, at her points 1, 2  
 14 and 3, she was focusing almost entirely, if not  
 15 entirely, on the Roderick Hilton incident back  
 16 in September 1990, wasn't she? "It was too long after  
 17 the event". This was the sole focus, wasn't it:  
 18 "Too many changes had occurred.  
 19 "It would be dredging up facts from which the boys  
 20 had moved on."  
 21 What else could she have been talking about here?  
 22 **A. I'm surprised you say that because it seems to me she**  
 23 **had all the information from Mike Poulton, from**  
 24 **Phil Shepherd's report, from the meetings we'd had**  
 25 **in March that indicated we were not just talking about**

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1 **the Hilton incident, we were talking about the entire**  
 2 **picture.**  
 3 Q. But it doesn't really sound like it here, does it?  
 4 **A. Well, I haven't read it like you have read it, I have to**  
 5 **say.**  
 6 Q. Well, I am asking for your comment on it because you  
 7 were present, you were a participant in commissioning  
 8 Mrs Mellor's work. Perhaps it is easy to look at things  
 9 with the benefit of hindsight, but I'm just asking for  
 10 your evidence, Mrs Cavanagh, about whether you agree,  
 11 looking at it now, it looks perhaps as if Mrs Mellor was  
 12 focusing too narrowly on one incident rather than the  
 13 whole picture?  
 14 **A. I wouldn't have understood that, at the time, to be the**  
 15 **case. I don't think it necessarily arises from this**  
 16 **description.**  
 17 Q. Do you agree, whatever event she was talking about, it  
 18 was too long after the event, because --  
 19 **A. Well, it wasn't that long after the event because the**  
 20 **events that Mike Poulton reported on were in February,**  
 21 **and --**  
 22 Q. And remind us, Mike Poulton reported on peer-on-peer  
 23 abuse or Smith Street or both?  
 24 **A. Certainly peer/peer abuse.**  
 25 Q. "Too many changes had occurred". What changes do you

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1 think she was talking about?  
 2 **A. Changes that Mike Poulton had led in the school and**  
 3 **Steve Bradshaw was also leading. One or two boys had**  
 4 **been taken out of the school and moved elsewhere, who**  
 5 **had been very difficult for the staff to handle.**  
 6 Q. Then:  
 7 "It would be dredging up facts from which the boys  
 8 had moved on."  
 9 It depends what facts we're talking about, doesn't  
 10 it?  
 11 **A. That would be her view, wouldn't it?**  
 12 Q. Stephen Bradshaw, you may appreciate, gave evidence to  
 13 this hearing yesterday, and amongst other things he said  
 14 that -- bear in mind he was at this meeting -- he felt  
 15 Mrs Mellor's focus was two things: Rodney Hilton, how it  
 16 had occurred and what could be learnt from it; and  
 17 secondly, was there a culture of continuation of sexual  
 18 abuse and coercion? Does that perhaps accord with what  
 19 was really in Mrs Mellor's mind at this point?  
 20 **A. Yes, and I think the second part does underline the**  
 21 **general atmosphere in the school as it was at the time.**  
 22 Q. If we go to the final page of this document at 18,  
 23 please. Halfway down the page, you summed up that it  
 24 was agreed. First, arrangements for Mrs Mellor to  
 25 interview two boys would be set up to take place as soon

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1 as possible, and those were the boys no longer at the  
 2 school?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. Just pausing there, of course by now the three boys  
 5 originally identified for interviews were no longer  
 6 going to be interviewed because of the reasons Davey  
 7 gave in the memorandum of 30 May. Mrs Mellor has come  
 8 to the view that two boys who had left the school should  
 9 be interviewed. What was the thinking behind that?  
 10 **A. No, I think they had absconded, hadn't they?**  
 11 Q. Is that your recollection of what the problem was?  
 12 **A. No, I think I read that.**  
 13 Q. Whether they have absconded or not, I rather thought it  
 14 was boys -- I could be wrong myself -- who had actually  
 15 left the school. Do you remember we saw, and I don't  
 16 want to go back, "Mrs Mellor noted that the allegations  
 17 made by two boys currently out of school had not been  
 18 investigated". Do you think that is what it was about:  
 19 allegations had been made by two boys, they have left  
 20 the school so we had better check what they have to say?  
 21 Are those the two boys?  
 22 **A. No, I think they had absconded. They were out of school**  
 23 **because they were playing truant, if you like, but they**  
 24 **hadn't left the school. That's my understanding.**  
 25 Q. That's your understanding. Be that as it may, because

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1 they might have allegations we haven't heard before, we  
 2 have to investigate them?  
 3 **A. Yes, might have further information. Mmm-hmm.**  
 4 Q. Still on that page, the last page:  
 5 "Mrs Mellor would continue to hold discussions with  
 6 staff at Knowl View and would seek to draw  
 7 conclusions ... to identify where blockages of  
 8 communication had occurred."  
 9 Marilyn Simpson was going to action point 3:  
 10 "Consideration should be given to a review of  
 11 admission procedures."  
 12 I note and I should have said it was  
 13 Stephen Bradshaw who was going to make arrangements for  
 14 Mrs Mellor to interview those two boys:  
 15 "(4) this group should meet again on 1 August in  
 16 [your room].  
 17 "(5) following [that, you] would contact Councillor  
 18 Mary Moffat, Councillor Pam Hawton and Councillor  
 19 Rita Sargenson to give them an update ... "  
 20 As well as the chairman of Knowl View governors who  
 21 would be kept informed.  
 22 You were going to action that? Who was  
 23 Rita Sargenson?  
 24 **A. She was deputy chair of education or chair of school**  
 25 **subcommittee, I'm not sure now.**

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1 Q. Following a further update on 1 August, you were going  
 2 to go to people you have just named?  
 3 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 4 Q. Did you expect that at least one of them would bring to  
 5 the leader's attention what was happening?  
 6 **A. Yes, I expected Mary Moffat would do that.**  
 7 Q. Can I now please ask you about another document. It was  
 8 a letter. It is dated 15 August 1991. RHC002500.  
 9 **A. Can I just say, I'm sorry, the second meeting -- the**  
 10 **first meeting was attended by David Shipp --**  
 11 Q. Yes.  
 12 **A. -- on 4 June. The second meeting on 25 June was**  
 13 **attended by Anne Taylor, who was an assistant solicitor**  
 14 **in his department. So not only did I expect to brief**  
 15 **the education councillors, I expected that they were**  
 16 **there in order to brief corporate services and, by**  
 17 **extension, the chief executive and Councillor Farnell.**  
 18 Q. On your screen now, Mrs Cavanagh, is a letter dated  
 19 15 August 1991. Do you see it refers to A10. This is  
 20 a letter to you from an educational psychologist by the  
 21 name of Mangan. Does that mean anything to you?  
 22 **A. No, I'm afraid not.**  
 23 Q. "The above-named child attended Knowl View  
 24 until December 1990."  
 25 As a matter of history, that is the very time

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1 Dr Fraser is contacting you:  
 2 "After an initial period at the school in which  
 3 progress was made, the situation began to deteriorate.  
 4 He absconded frequently and was involved in activities  
 5 in Rochdale toilets. This troubled period also  
 6 coincided with the [aspects about his background,  
 7 family]. Problems at Knowl View were also compounded by  
 8 the fact that he spent part of his time at the school,  
 9 holiday times were spent at Poplar House. These  
 10 placements were interspersed with visits to home."  
 11 There is further information in the letter about  
 12 what was to happen to him. He was described in the  
 13 letter as under psychologist's advice:  
 14 "Shy, anxious child who has emotional and behaviour  
 15 problems."  
 16 This is one of the boys who was sexually exploited  
 17 at Smith Street toilets. He was, in fact, one of  
 18 the boys -- do you remember I read you that list in  
 19 relation to February and April 1989 and onwards, and  
 20 this was the boy, precisely because of that behaviour,  
 21 who was admitted to the school?  
 22 **A. Mmm.**  
 23 Q. Did you know, does any of this remind you, did you  
 24 actually know about his individual position, this boy?  
 25 **A. Not at the time. If you would look underneath where it**

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1 **says "Metro Rochdale" -- I'm just pointing it out --**  
 2 Q. Can you say that again, please?  
 3 **A. Underneath "Metro Rochdale", I'm pointing it out in case**  
 4 **it is not obvious to you, this is for the attention of**  
 5 **Surinder Biant and would have gone directly to him. I'm**  
 6 **not saying I might have been aware of the content**  
 7 **through some other channel, but I wouldn't necessarily**  
 8 **have seen the letter.**  
 9 Q. Wouldn't or wouldn't necessarily?  
 10 **A. Wouldn't necessarily.**  
 11 Q. Really the question is, did you have the case of this  
 12 boy ever brought to your attention? I know perhaps  
 13 without his name it might be difficult and we are going  
 14 to -- I don't want you to mention his name. Would this  
 15 be something that was likely to have happened, that the  
 16 case of an individual boy would be brought to your  
 17 attention?  
 18 **A. Not normally.**  
 19 Q. Did you ever make any enquiries, if this letter was  
 20 brought to your attention, why what happened to him  
 21 happened? Why he was removed from the school?  
 22 **A. I don't think I saw the letter. It says, "Dear**  
 23 **Mrs Cavanagh.**  
 24 **"Re [this pupil].**  
 25 **"Amendment to statement."**

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1 **This is a statement of Special Educational Need. So**  
 2 **any major amendment has to be proved and recorded, not**  
 3 **by me, by someone who is handling the statements. So**  
 4 **that's where it would go.**  
 5 Q. Now, you next met Mrs Mellor on 12 September of that  
 6 year, RHC001956, page 3. Do you see at the top there,  
 7 Mrs Cavanagh, meeting held at 5 pm on that Thursday? Of  
 8 course by now there was still no report from Mrs Mellor.  
 9 **A. No.**  
 10 Q. Were you expecting something in writing from her?  
 11 **A. We were hoping for it, yes.**  
 12 Q. It is now September. You had instructed her, you told  
 13 us earlier, or you had first spoken to her around May  
 14 time, that was about four months previously?  
 15 **A. The end of May, it would have been.**  
 16 Q. Were you disappointed?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. At the bottom of that page:  
 19 "Mrs Mellor affirmed that indeed some action had  
 20 been taken and the police informed."  
 21 I think that relates to Hilton and his longstanding  
 22 nuisance value:  
 23 "However, it appeared that no prompt or positive  
 24 action had been taken by them. It seemed to be accepted  
 25 that the person concerned (RH) was not seen as external

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1 to the school but very much a part of school life."  
 2 **A. Mmm.**  
 3 Q. In other words, part of the furniture?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. A bit of a worry --  
 6 **A. Very.**  
 7 Q. -- that this is to the day, the calendar day, a year  
 8 after the second night of Hilton's intrusion into the  
 9 school when he sexually abused a boy?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. It is still being regarded as Hilton is part of  
 12 the furniture.  
 13 Then on the top of the next page, please:  
 14 "Mr Bradshaw acknowledged the general feeling (in  
 15 school) that nothing could be done, added to which there  
 16 was a feeling of agency 'sympathy' for [him] rather than  
 17 the school. Concern was expressed about security at the  
 18 school and the possibility of some duplicate keys being  
 19 readily available."  
 20 Did you challenge him about "agency sympathy", his  
 21 remark?  
 22 **A. No, my understanding was that the Probation Service were**  
 23 **sympathetic towards Rod Hilton, more so than to the**  
 24 **school.**  
 25 Q. So "agency sympathy", your take on that was that he was

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1 talking about probation?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. Nothing else? Not social services, not the school, not  
 4 education?  
 5 **A. It didn't seem so at the time.**  
 6 Q. On any showing, it is troubling, isn't it?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. A year after the event and we are reading that Hilton is  
 9 still part and parcel of school life?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. The next meeting was 11 October. RHC001952 at page 2.  
 12 We can see who was present. Mrs Mellor was unable to  
 13 attend. Do we see, Mrs Cavanagh, the first entry, you  
 14 informed those present that she has sent her apologies,  
 15 she was unable to attend. Were you getting anxious by  
 16 this time about how long it was all taking for  
 17 Mrs Mellor to report back?  
 18 **A. Yes. It put us in a difficult position.**  
 19 Q. In what sense?  
 20 **A. Because there was a feeling that something -- there**  
 21 **should be something significant said and that action was**  
 22 **being taken, and we couldn't point to that. Therefore,**  
 23 **it was frustrating for people in the school and**  
 24 **professionals who worked with the school. Also, if she**  
 25 **was going to suggest anything, we needed to know.**

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1 Q. A couple of things arising out of this meeting. First  
 2 of all, under the head "Matters arising", did  
 3 Mr Bradshaw indicate that she had been unable to  
 4 interview one of the pupils and Brett Andrews, but this  
 5 had not held up the completion of her report? Do you  
 6 see that?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Yet her report didn't come until 18 February of  
 9 the following year?  
 10 **A. That's right.**  
 11 Q. Did you confirm that her report would be presented to  
 12 members of the group before general circulation?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Then finally, at the foot of the page, did you circulate  
 15 some other papers, including feedback from Her Majesty's  
 16 Inspectors on their two-day visit to the school, which  
 17 happened to be on 3 and 4 October just gone?  
 18 **A. Mmm.**  
 19 Q. I want with that, then, please, to come to Mrs Mellor's  
 20 report. The only question I have -- I'm afraid,  
 21 Mrs Cavanagh, I'm not going to finish this afternoon,  
 22 and I am not going to invite the chair or the panel to  
 23 sit any later than 4.30 pm, and the only question is --  
 24 I know you have been asked already, fearful that this  
 25 might happen, but I think you can come back on Monday if

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1 we asked you to.  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. But you would prefer not to be here early. Could you be  
 4 here by midday?  
 5 **A. I could be here by 10.30 am, but not by 9.00 am.**  
 6 MR ALTMAN: 10.30 am would be lovely. Because I would like  
 7 to finish you. I suspect I have got, being realistic,  
 8 about 45 minutes to an hour. But there are some other  
 9 features I'm afraid it is important that I have to go  
 10 through with you.  
 11 Chair, I'm in your hands. If you want me to  
 12 continue for another quarter of an hour I can. It has  
 13 been a long week for you. Or we can start again on  
 14 Monday.  
 15 I think we are all in each other's hands at the  
 16 moment?  
 17 THE CHAIR: Another 15 minutes, yes. Well, until 4.30 pm,  
 18 Mr Altman.  
 19 MR ALTMAN: Let's then go -- are you all right for that?  
 20 **A. Yes, that's fine.**  
 21 Q. Can you manage?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. Can we go then to her report, RHC001599, please. You  
 24 see a report with which I am sure you are familiar. She  
 25 says in it she was expressly instructed as follows:

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1 "To visit the school, talk to staff ...  
 2 "To consult with the police and health authority ...  
 3 "To give expert advice to the Director of Education  
 4 on the next steps ..."  
 5 She expresses the confidentiality of the report to  
 6 the Directors of Legal Services and Education and so on.  
 7 Then on the next page she sets out a history of matters.  
 8 The next page, please, page 3. She's gone through the  
 9 meetings that she understood had happened and what had  
 10 happened in them, the people that she had spoken to on  
 11 the third page, and on page 4, the history of sexualised  
 12 behaviour. You will note that in the second paragraph  
 13 she talks about:  
 14 "In 1987 and 1988 there are reports of the boys  
 15 meeting in a copse on the school grounds ..."  
 16 She calls him "Rodney", in fact it is  
 17 Roderick Hilton. But she omitted reference to something  
 18 we know happened in 1984, but I think you told us  
 19 earlier that you had not been, at least initially, aware  
 20 of that either?  
 21 **A. No, that's correct.**  
 22 Q. Two-thirds of the way down that page she gives us  
 23 a statistic:  
 24 "In all, 14 boys, some being residential, some day,  
 25 have been involved in known incidents of sexualised

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1 behaviour either between themselves or with other  
 2 adults, occurring in various places, in school, school  
 3 grounds, Smith Street and at a flat in the Rusholme area  
 4 of Manchester."  
 5 At the foot of the page:  
 6 "... so far as can be ascertained ..."  
 7 I think she is saying there is no longer "any overt  
 8 sexual activity either in school or out of school", so  
 9 she is representing there that Smith Street has gone  
 10 away and the peer-on-peer abuse has gone away. Is that  
 11 the effect of that?  
 12 **A. Well, it says "one of the ringleaders is no longer".**  
 13 Q. Yes, A14. But not the only one.  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. If you go to the top of page 5, which Ms Studd invited  
 16 me to point out to you a little earlier, that's where  
 17 that comes from about the police surveillance in the  
 18 summer of 1991.  
 19 **A. Oh, right.**  
 20 Q. Then she deals with information received from staff --  
 21 I'm not going to go through that. On the next page,  
 22 "Interviews of families" identified as X and Y. I'm not  
 23 going to go through that. On page 7, there is  
 24 information in relation to the caretaker, including  
 25 threats according to the caretaker that Hilton had made

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1 towards him: set fire to his house, threatening him with  
 2 having AIDS, and so on and so forth.  
 3 On the bottom of that page, a series of conclusions,  
 4 and over the page, please, page 8, at paragraph 9 did  
 5 she conclude that there was a high incidence of sexual  
 6 abuse amongst boys prior to their entry to the school?  
 7 Is that a point you made earlier about boys being --  
 8 **A. Some of them were. It wasn't, obviously, all of**  
 9 **the boys, but some certainly.**  
 10 Q. But repeating behaviour?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. She is saying there is a high incidence of it. She  
 13 says:  
 14 "In many instances, full detailed background  
 15 information was not available to care staff."  
 16 **A. That's what was fed back to me, that the care staff had**  
 17 **not received some information that would have been**  
 18 **useful to them. There was a specific example given of**  
 19 **a child who had been in a psychiatric hospital.**  
 20 Q. Absolutely.  
 21 **A. And apparently they didn't even know that.**  
 22 Q. They didn't know. In fact, that was A11, the third of  
 23 the three boys that Ian Davey referred to in that  
 24 memorandum.  
 25 **A. Right.**

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<p>1 Q. At paragraph 11 on the same page:                  2 "The attitude of some members of staff may well have                  3 hindered a proper response to the situation. Some                  4 members of staff had lost confidence in their own                  5 judgment and powers of discrimination. Individual                  6 members' personal views with regard to sexuality might                  7 also have affected their own reactions to incidents."                  8 Two pages on, if we may -- we are almost at the end                  9 of the report -- three-quarters of the way down the                  10 page:                  11 "At the time that the intruder was known to be                  12 lurking around the school premises, it would have been                  13 extremely advantageous if an injunction had been taken                  14 out against that person approaching the school or any of                  15 the boys from the school. It is probably too late from                  16 a legal point of view to take such action now."                  17 Did you have any part to play in considerations of                  18 applications for injunctions?                  19 <b>A. Well, there were two instances: one after the September</b>                  20 <b>incident; and there was another one where Steve Bradshaw</b>                  21 <b>had -- where Rod Hilton had reappeared, I think he had</b>                  22 <b>been released from prison.</b>                  23 Q. That's right.                  24 <b>A. Steve Bradshaw had pressed us but we couldn't get</b>                  25 <b>anywhere.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 advise", in effect. Is that what she's saying?                  2 <b>A. I think she's saying it is not for her to advise on the</b>                  3 <b>curriculum other than personal and social health</b>                  4 <b>education.</b>                  5 Q. Finally, at this point at least, she was talking about                  6 a review in six months' time.                  7 Before we finish for the afternoon, can I ask you                  8 simply this: the report, when it came, it also had an                  9 appendix which I discussed with you earlier. The report                  10 was circulated to various people. Was it circulated to                  11 leading members of the political parties? I am simply                  12 picking this up from what you said in your witness                  13 statement of 19 May. What you said is:                  14 "It was circulated to leading members of                  15 the political parties, relevant LEAs, agencies, police,                  16 Rochdale Health Authority, the chair of governors, heads                  17 of service and Education Departments and HMI."                  18 Now, when you said it was circulated to leading                  19 members of the political parties, who did you have in                  20 mind?                  21 <b>A. Could you pull up page 1, please, of her report?</b>                  22 Q. Of the report?                  23 <b>A. Yes, Val Mellor's report.</b>                  24 Q. Yes.                  25 <b>A. The first section of the report itself. Thank you. The</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 Q. He did go to prison, but in August 1991?                  2 <b>A. Mmm.</b>                  3 Q. I think in your June report you thought it                  4 was October 1990. But in fact he went to prison                  5 in August 1991, I think, for a completely unrelated                  6 incident that had nothing to do with Knowl View, but                  7 also indecency and that sort of thing. Are you saying,                  8 when he emerged from prison after that, he went to                  9 prison for two and a half years, and on the assumption                  10 that he would only have served half of that period he                  11 would have been out during half that period, the two and                  12 a half years, so after about 15 months. Is that what                  13 you have in mind?                  14 <b>A. You have the dates and I don't. What I remember is</b>                  15 <b>Steve Bradshaw sounding the alarm that he was back, that</b>                  16 <b>he was lurking around the school and he wanted an</b>                  17 <b>injunction.</b>                  18 Q. The other thing about Mrs Mellor's report in the                  19 penultimate paragraph is:                  20 "The author is conscious of having no formal                  21 background in education and has avoided making any                  22 recommendations which properly should come within the                  23 province of education officers."                  24 That's a cautionary note by her in effect saying,                  25 "There is a limit to what I have been able to do or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 <b>report was jointly instructed by two directorates: legal</b>                  2 <b>services was within corporate services; and education</b>                  3 <b>obviously is a separate department. The report was</b>                  4 <b>confidential to the directors of those, their properly</b>                  5 <b>delegated officers, and such members of the council as</b>                  6 <b>the chair of the same as advised by the said</b>                  7 <b>directorates. The chair of council was the chair of</b>                  8 <b>Policy Committee, at that time the leader of the Labour</b>                  9 <b>group. Following the election in 1992, it was the</b>                  10 <b>leader of the Liberal Democrats. But that's who the</b>                  11 <b>chair of the council is. So it was his report as much</b>                  12 <b>as Councillor Moffat's.</b>                  13 Q. That was where we started, if you remember rightly,                  14 because when it was discussed, do you remember my                  15 reminding you of what you said in the witness statement,                  16 that it was on behalf of the leader that Valerie Mellor                  17 was going to be commissioned to report?                  18 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  19 Q. In those circumstances do you have any doubt at all that                  20 Councillor Farnell got a copy of it?                  21 <b>A. There is no doubt in my mind.</b>                  22 MR ALTMAN: I am going to move on, but I suspect not now,                  23 but hopefully if we can start as soon as you are here,                  24 at 10.30 am on Monday.                  25 Chair, Mr Henderson, at risk of testing everybody's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

1 patience, asks me -- this doesn't concern you,  
 2 Mrs Cavanagh -- but for good reason has asked me to list  
 3 a few names and a few documents that will be published  
 4 on the website, so if you would indulge me.  
 5 For the record, Donagh McKillop -- these are  
 6 statements -- GMP000200; Tony Morrissey, GMP001025;  
 7 Marilyn Simpson, OHY002455, OHY002456 and GMP000991;  
 8 Liz Dobie, GMP001013; Michael Tuck, GMP001014;  
 9 Helen Woodward, GMP001018; William Lawley, GMP001011;  
 10 David Shipp, GMP001017; and finally John Pierce,  
 11 GMP000087. I'm sure that is very illuminating to you  
 12 all.  
 13 Thank you very much, Mrs Cavanagh. With apologies,  
 14 thank you very much for your time. We will see you  
 15 again on Monday. If there is any problem in you getting  
 16 here, please advise the staff and, if needs be, we can  
 17 start with somebody else, but thank you very much.  
 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mrs Cavanagh, for your attendance  
 19 today.  
 20 **A. Thank you.**  
 21 **(4.30 pm)**  
 22 **(The hearing was adjourned to**  
 23 **Monday, 23 October 2017 at 10.30 am)**  
 24  
 25

1 I N D E X  
 2  
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