

<p>1 Monday, 23 October 2017 2 (10.30 am) 3 MS DIANA LESLEY CAVANAGH (continued) 4 THE CHAIR: Good morning, Mr Altman. Good Morning, 5 Mrs Cavanagh. 6 Examination by MR ALTMAN 7 MR ALTMAN: Good morning. Thank you very much for coming 8 back. 9 Mrs Cavanagh, on Friday, you will remember I had 10 been asking you about the Mellor Report -- 11 <b>A. Yes.</b> 12 Q. -- and to whom it was disseminated. I think the last 13 thing you told us was that Councillor Farnell you had no 14 doubt in your mind got a copy of it? 15 <b>A. Indeed.</b> 16 Q. Let's move on. Was the report presented at a couple of 17 meetings after that? 18 <b>A. It was. Yes.</b> 19 Q. I think the first was on 13 March. I would like, 20 please, to put up on the screen RHC001665, please. 21 If you have a look at that, can you see, 22 Mrs Cavanagh, it is a meeting held at 3.45 on Friday, 23 the 13th, in your office. Present, including you, of 24 course, Councillor Moffat, Mrs Mellor herself and 25 Councillor Beasley, shown as education spokesperson,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Liberal.</b> 2 Q. Were they Liberal -- 3 <b>A. I'm not sure whether they were Liberal or Liberal</b> 4 <b>Democrats at that point, but that party.</b> 5 Q. Whatever they were. So all of the main parties -- 6 <b>A. Yes.</b> 7 Q. -- education spokespeople, are represented at the party, 8 presumably at your invitation? 9 <b>A. That's correct.</b> 10 Q. So that's that meeting. There was a subsequent meeting 11 which included, I think I'm right in saying, all of 12 the staff; is that correct? 13 <b>A. Yes.</b> 14 Q. The Knowl View staff. That was the 27th, so a couple of 15 weeks later. That is RHC001474, page 1, if that can go 16 up, please. A longer list of attendees. 17 Councillor Moffat there and Councillor Sargenson were 18 present, but they were the only two councillors. 19 First of all, am I right in thinking it was 20 Mary Moffat actually chaired or co-chaired it with you? 21 <b>A. She chaired the meeting.</b> 22 Q. Councillor Sargenson was there? 23 <b>A. Yes.</b> 24 Q. But not Beasley and not Hawton. Any reason? 25 <b>A. None that I remember.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 Mr Bradshaw, Ms Dobie, Mr Flammer, Councillor Hawton 2 also shown as education spokesperson, and then, towards 3 the bottom, Dr Hodge, Councillor Sargenson, Ms Simpson 4 the adviser and Ms Taylor from the legal office. 5 <b>A. Yes.</b> 6 Q. Sargenson also shown as an education spokesperson. This 7 meeting, by the look of it, was for senior people within 8 the Education Department? 9 <b>A. Yes.</b> 10 Q. And the relevant local politicians? 11 <b>A. That's correct.</b> 12 Q. If we remind ourselves, Councillor Moffat, she was the 13 chair of education, she was Labour, was she? 14 <b>A. She was.</b> 15 Q. Councillor Beasley? 16 <b>A. Was also Labour, and she was chair of School</b> 17 <b>Subcommittee.</b> 18 Q. Councillor Hawton, there shown as education 19 spokesperson, which party was she a member of? 20 <b>A. Conservative.</b> 21 Q. She was Tory. Was she still the chair of the Rochdale 22 Health Authority at that point? I know she was the year 23 before. 24 <b>A. To my knowledge, yes.</b> 25 Q. Then Councillor Sargenson, also education; which party?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 Q. But this meeting was principally to present the report 2 to staff at Knowl View? 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. Am I right in saying that the meeting actually was at 5 the school? 6 <b>A. It was.</b> 7 Q. I'm not going to go through those minutes. Were there 8 any other meetings at which the report was presented; do 9 you remember now? 10 <b>A. I don't remember, but I can't believe there weren't.</b> 11 Q. In the witness statement you made, what you said was 12 there was a meeting of governors where the report was 13 presented and you thought that was 1 April. Does that 14 ring any bells? 15 <b>A. Well, not at the moment it doesn't. If I said that,</b> 16 <b>I perhaps had seen the paper.</b> 17 Q. Would it be likely you would have presented the report 18 at a third meeting to the governors? 19 <b>A. Yes.</b> 20 Q. Just thinking about the Mellor Report, something I asked 21 you last week, let's see if we can just remind 22 ourselves, we all know it had an appendix of facts and 23 allegations which were -- 24 <b>A. It did.</b> 25 Q. -- entirely derivative of something that Mr Bradshaw had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

1 done on 17 May the year before?  
 2 **A. Actually, I've learned that. I didn't know that at the**  
 3 **time.**  
 4 Q. No, I'm not suggesting that you did. We know it because  
 5 we have the benefit, perhaps, of looking at the  
 6 documentation and making comparisons.  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Did the staff at the 27 March meeting, the minutes of  
 9 which we have just looked at, have the appendix or was  
 10 the appendix removed from their version?  
 11 **A. I don't think they had the appendix or the comments on**  
 12 **the caretaker. There were the two pieces, they were**  
 13 **taken out.**  
 14 Q. We will come to that in a moment. Any particular  
 15 reason, first of all, why the appendix was removed?  
 16 **A. Mrs Mellor was extremely nervous about dissemination of**  
 17 **that information and the caretaker information.**  
 18 Q. So that included the sensitive information about boys?  
 19 **A. Indeed.**  
 20 Q. In the original appendix, I think they were given  
 21 letters?  
 22 **A. They were.**  
 23 Q. So any of the staff members could have easily worked out  
 24 which boys were being spoken about?  
 25 **A. Indeed.**

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1 Q. And perhaps although staff members had some of  
 2 the information, they may not have had it all?  
 3 **A. That's probably true.**  
 4 Q. So a redacted, if you like, version was provided to the  
 5 staff at the Knowl View meeting. I think you had  
 6 a number of copies of the report made, in hard copy.  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. All were numbered. The staff were allowed to read them.  
 9 They were all returned?  
 10 **A. That's right.**  
 11 Q. The reason for that being?  
 12 **A. Again, going back to the sensitivity of it, and at the**  
 13 **beginning of the report Val Mellor states very clearly**  
 14 **where she expects the dissemination to be and what**  
 15 **consent she would give to parts of it. There had also**  
 16 **been a history of some leaks outside the school, and**  
 17 **that was an anxiety.**  
 18 Q. In amongst the teaching staff, do you remember now who  
 19 did or may have had an unedited copy?  
 20 **A. The head teacher.**  
 21 Q. Who was the head at this moment?  
 22 **A. At this moment when the report came through?**  
 23 Q. Yes.  
 24 **A. It was Stephen Bradshaw.**  
 25 Q. Still Stephen Bradshaw?

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1 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 2 Q. I think you later learned that somebody managed to get  
 3 a copy of that unedited version?  
 4 **A. Yes, I didn't know that until it appeared in a staff**  
 5 **disciplinary which Adele Bebb was involved in and it**  
 6 **then transpired that this had come somehow from the**  
 7 **school.**  
 8 Q. The other thing you have just mentioned is that some  
 9 information was taken out from the report in relation to  
 10 the caretaker; is that correct?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. That was on page 7 of the report. Can we go to  
 13 RHC001599, page 7, please, to remind ourselves. There  
 14 is a section that she wrote on the caretaker, and  
 15 I think I'm right in saying nobody is going to expect  
 16 you to remember precisely now, Mrs Cavanagh, but I have  
 17 done the comparison, and if we look at the passage that  
 18 begins, "He was able to give", halfway down that  
 19 magnified section, "a very detailed history of  
 20 Rodney Hilton", down to about the penultimate line of  
 21 that section, "... a need for outside help. He has now  
 22 resigned from his post". I can look it up if needs be,  
 23 but there could have been a slight amendment of  
 24 the final sentence, but be that as it may, that was the  
 25 section that was now redacted from the report that was

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1 distributed amongst the school staff. What was the  
 2 reason for that?  
 3 **A. Val Mellor felt that it could lead to libel, possibly,**  
 4 **if there were criminal proceedings.**  
 5 Q. So the redacted version, the appendix goes -- that  
 6 section of page 7 goes to school staff?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Mr Bradshaw, the head teacher, was he the only one  
 9 within the school to get the unedited version?  
 10 **A. I think so. I'm not sure I could swear to it, as it**  
 11 **were.**  
 12 Q. On 13 March, the meeting I first invited your attention  
 13 to when the four councillors were present and other  
 14 senior people within education, did they get a redacted  
 15 or unredacted version?  
 16 **A. I think they got an unredacted version.**  
 17 Q. I know you say you haven't particularly remembered  
 18 a presentation of the report to the governors, but if  
 19 there was a governors' meeting, is it likely they would  
 20 have got a redacted or unredacted version?  
 21 **A. I can't remember, and I would only speculate that the**  
 22 **chair of governors had an unredacted version but the**  
 23 **other governors did not.**  
 24 Q. Can we just put up on screen to see if there was yet  
 25 another meeting about all of this, please, RHC001471.

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1 This is a letter from you dated 23 March, so it predates  
 2 the second presentation meeting by a few days. You can  
 3 see it is to the Director of Social Services  
 4 (Probation), Chief Superintendent Houghton, Mr Bradshaw,  
 5 chief adviser, chief executive of the legal section, the  
 6 health authority, Marilyn Simpson, and a principal  
 7 education psychologist as well as EO and Special  
 8 Education:  
 9 "Dear Colleague.  
 10 "I am writing to invite you to a meeting to consider  
 11 the report provided by Mrs V Mellor ...  
 12 "The meeting will take place at 10 am on Thursday,  
 13 9 April ..."  
 14 If there was a governors' presentation, that would  
 15 be the third meeting. Does this look like there was the  
 16 possibility of a fourth meeting?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. The people listed, how would you characterise them as  
 19 a group?  
 20 **A. Well, they were senior officers or officers responsible**  
 21 **for the various services who shared responsibility for**  
 22 **vulnerable children.**  
 23 Q. Have a look, please, at the third page under this  
 24 reference, because we have a distribution list.  
 25 "Distribution", is that distribution of the report or is

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1 it distribution in terms of the addressees to this  
 2 letter?  
 3 **A. I'm not sure, actually. Could you go to the letter?**  
 4 Q. We can go back to the letter, page 1, yes. If you are  
 5 looking for any assistance as to what that is, you won't  
 6 find it.  
 7 **A. Could you just show the body of the letter?**  
 8 Q. Yes, by all means. Read it.  
 9 **A. If you could highlight it, I can't see it, it's too**  
 10 **small. My memory is the report to those people was hand**  
 11 **delivered. I certainly hand delivered a number of them.**  
 12 Q. In advance of the 9 April meeting?  
 13 **A. Yes, so they would have known what the report was.**  
 14 **I walked over to Rochdale Police Station and delivered**  
 15 **it to the chief superintendent, for example.**  
 16 Q. Let's go back but not to the page I originally invited  
 17 you to, but to RHC001471\_004, please. If we can just  
 18 expand the top section for the moment, "Distribution":  
 19 "Director Social Services, Davey".  
 20 Then somebody has handwritten:  
 21 "Janet Bowyer, child protection unit manager",  
 22 perhaps.  
 23 Whose writing is that, do you reckon?  
 24 **A. I think possibly Khelsie.**  
 25 Q. Khelsie was your ...?

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1 **A. Was my PA.**  
 2 Q. Your PA at the time. Then "Probation service, Hanlon;  
 3 Greater Manchester Police", not Houghton but Henderson?  
 4 **A. No, Superintendent Jim Henderson was the superintendent,**  
 5 **John Houghton was the chief superintendent.**  
 6 Q. Does it begin to look as if, perhaps, these are people  
 7 who can come to the meeting or are these the people who  
 8 are going to get the report?  
 9 **A. No, this looks to me as though these are coming to the**  
 10 **meeting. They may have had the report, of course.**  
 11 Q. Then we have Stephen Bradshaw, Selwyn Hodge, Anne Taylor  
 12 and then a cross against her name, Alan Eastwood,  
 13 a cross against him, "no rep", so it looks as if the  
 14 chief executive's legal section were not going to be  
 15 represented at the meeting. Health authority, Dr Niell  
 16 in place of Dr Bullough, and then Christine Scarborough  
 17 in place of Alison Fraser. Is that a correct reading of  
 18 it?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Then Marilyn Simpson, Liz Dobie and Richard Flammer?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. Then you have a receipt from GMP of the letter copied  
 23 below?  
 24 **A. Yes, that's it. Yes.**  
 25 Q. Despite the length of time that it took for Mrs Mellor

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1 to report back, do you agree that there was still  
 2 concern that had not been allayed that she hadn't  
 3 actually got to the truth, especially as regards the  
 4 role which staff had played?  
 5 **A. You mean when the report finally came?**  
 6 Q. Yes.  
 7 **A. Yes, it was helpful in general terms, but it was not**  
 8 **specific enough for any action to be taken with staff.**  
 9 Q. Can we look, please, at RHC001476\_003. I am going to  
 10 show you now three particular letters which raised  
 11 concerns about the Mellor Report. The first was from  
 12 Councillor Hawton, which we have on screen, dated  
 13 16 March '92:  
 14 "Dear Diana, I found the meeting and the report from  
 15 Mrs V Mellor regarding the situation at Knowl View  
 16 School very illuminating and helpful."  
 17 As we saw, she'd been at the meeting three days  
 18 before --  
 19 **A. Indeed.**  
 20 Q. -- the date of this letter:  
 21 "However, certain aspects of the whole business  
 22 still leave me with considerable areas of anxiety.  
 23 I should be glad to know what action is proposed  
 24 regarding the teachers who were unwilling to cooperate  
 25 with Mrs Mellor's investigation. It seems all too

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<p>1 convenient for me to place a large part of the blame for                  2 some of the occurrences which took place on the                  3 caretaker but, it seems to me, that other people must                  4 have been involved.                  5 "As you are aware, from the outset, I was anxious                  6 not to make any part of my concerns about Knowl View                  7 School public both in the interests of the young people                  8 at the school and also the authority but I still retain                  9 a strong feeling of concern about the whole matter. The                  10 fact that all the incidents described took place and the                  11 atmosphere of the school existed as described -- surely                  12 somebody at a more senior level should have been taking                  13 far more action to get Knowl View on an even keel again                  14 well before the time about which the investigation took                  15 place.                  16 "The new head teacher seems to be a sound and                  17 sensible man ..."                  18 Was she talking about Stephen Bradshaw at that                  19 point?                  20 <b>A. Yes, she would be.</b>                  21 Q. "... but it is my strongly held view that it will not be                  22 possible for him to achieve the objective of getting the                  23 whole atmosphere of the school in better shape, without                  24 some action being taken to cull the staff of any teacher                  25 who cannot give wholehearted support to the new regime.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 new people into the school both into teaching posts and                  2 into care or manual posts. Clearly there must be some                  3 balance between losing expertise and gaining a fresh                  4 impetus."                  5 That was your response to that. Then on 7 April,                  6 the staff sent a letter, that the RHC001472 at page 2.                  7 This was from staff members, think the signatures have                  8 been redacted, but there were several of them, we know,                  9 including Martin Digan:                  10 "Dear Mrs Cavanagh.                  11 "In light of the Val Mellor report the staff group                  12 within Knowl View School feel that matters arising from                  13 various incidents within the last two years have been                  14 left unresolved.                  15 "At a staff meeting which took place on Friday, the                  16 3rd of April, more information, previously unknown to                  17 us, was brought to light and discussed and we feel that                  18 you need to be informed of the total unease and lack of                  19 confidence this leaves us with.                  20 "We feel very strongly that there is a need for                  21 a full and immediate inquiry initiated by us -- and not                  22 forced upon us by the press or any adverse media                  23 coverage which we feel we are bound to get before very                  24 long."                  25 Thirdly, a governors' letter of the next day, the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 "I regret to say that I still feel that greater                  2 efforts will be needed to ensure that the ethos at                  3 Knowl View achieves a healthier aspect but I am glad we                  4 have made arrangements to review the situation                  5 in January next year."                  6 Q. If we go within the same reference to page 1, you                  7 respond to her on 27 March, which is the date of                  8 the meeting at the school with the staff, in paragraph 2                  9 acknowledging her concerns:                  10 "... but feel that perhaps it was a misapprehension                  11 because the situation was not fully explained. I know                  12 from Mrs Mellor that she has subsequently spoken to you                  13 about the invitation that was extended to staff and the                  14 fact that most of the staff took it up. As far as I am                  15 aware the only member of staff who did not take the                  16 invitation ... will be leaving the school at Easter."                  17 Then you make a comment in the final paragraph:                  18 "... concerning the caretaker was that he gave his                  19 evidence fairly late in the proceedings and his                  20 statements opened up a rather different line of                  21 enquiry."                  22 But you finished off the letter -- I don't want,                  23 I hope you understand, to go through all of it -- at the                  24 top of the next page:                  25 "I agree completely with you about the need to bring</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 same reference but on the first page, a letter to you                  2 from the chair of the governors:                  3 "Further to the recent special meeting of governors                  4 which you attended."                  5 Does that perhaps give you a clue that there was                  6 a meeting at which the Mellor Report was presented?                  7 <b>A. Indeed.</b>                  8 Q. "I have considered matters further and feel most                  9 strongly that a further enquiry should be undertaken                  10 into the role staff played.                  11 "The investigation should take into account any                  12 dereliction of duties by staff and subsequently                  13 disciplinary action taken."                  14 Also, do you --                  15 <b>A. Was that from the then chair of governors?</b>                  16 Q. I think so, yes.                  17 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  18 Q. I don't have the name there, I'm afraid, because that's                  19 been redacted out.                  20 <b>A. That's okay.</b>                  21 Q. Also, do you agree the chief executive, who was still                  22 John Pierce, was keeping a check on developments and do                  23 you remember he wanted you to set out what action had                  24 been taken and was what contemplated to advise the                  25 leader? Let's have a look and see if this jogs your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

1 memory. If we can go, please, to RHC001484 at page 5,  
 2 you can see:  
 3 "Further to the matter of the enquiry into the  
 4 above-mentioned school ..."  
 5 This is from the chief executive to you of 1 May:  
 6 "... I should be most grateful if you could set out  
 7 for me a statement of what action has been taken and  
 8 what is contemplated to be taken so that I might be in  
 9 a position to advise the leader on these matters as soon  
 10 as possible."  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. The leader was?  
 13 **A. I should need to know the date of the actual election.**  
 14 **Before the election, it was Councillor Farnell and,**  
 15 **afterwards, it was Paul Rowen.**  
 16 Q. Labour was wiped out. John Major I think had called an  
 17 election in April for May, would that be right, and  
 18 there were local elections?  
 19 **A. I don't think the local elections would have been**  
 20 **in April.**  
 21 Q. No, the election was called in April?  
 22 **A. Oh, right. Yes.**  
 23 Q. For May?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. The local elections would have taken place at the same

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1 time, presumably, as the general election?  
 2 **A. Not necessarily, but I think they did.**  
 3 Q. It was around this time. So who the leader was on  
 4 1 May?  
 5 **A. Was probably still Councillor Farnell.**  
 6 Q. But there was clearly a change of administration because  
 7 I think Labour were wiped out, weren't they, in that  
 8 election?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. And Councillor Farnell not only lost the leadership but  
 11 lost his seat?  
 12 **A. Yes, because it seems to me that would be in advance of**  
 13 **John Pierce knowing who the new leader was and preparing**  
 14 **for it.**  
 15 Q. Who became the new leader, just remind us?  
 16 **A. Councillor Paul Rowen.**  
 17 Q. Who was Liberal?  
 18 **A. Liberal.**  
 19 Q. You will remember that letter I showed you from the  
 20 staff of 7 April?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. Where in the letter it spoke about unresolved matters,  
 23 in particular that they had discovered something that  
 24 they hadn't known before. Do you remember that?  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Did you know what that was? What was it that was the  
 2 new information which had, at least in part, initiated  
 3 the need, in the staff's eyes, for the letter that they  
 4 wrote to you?  
 5 **A. No, because I didn't know what they knew beforehand.**  
 6 Q. When Martin Digan gave evidence this time last week, he  
 7 said he hadn't realised or the staff hadn't realised  
 8 what they thought to be the caretaker's involvement and  
 9 the fact that he had possibly let Hilton into the  
 10 school. Did they make that clear to you at the time  
 11 that that was what was upsetting them so much?  
 12 **A. I don't think so.**  
 13 Q. Just if you have a memory of this or --  
 14 **A. No. No, I don't.**  
 15 Q. So here we have Mr Pierce asking you in effect to update  
 16 him, and if we go, please, to RHC001523, that appears to  
 17 be your response, "I'm writing in response to your memo  
 18 of 1 May to update you on the situation at  
 19 Knowl View ..."  
 20 Does that look like it is 8 May at the top right,  
 21 the date of that memorandum of yours?  
 22 **A. Yes, it does.**  
 23 Q. It is slightly difficult to read. It doesn't matter  
 24 very much.  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Then you go through the actions taken. That includes  
 2 the 13 March meeting, the 27 March meeting?  
 3 **A. This wasn't in my bundle so I'm looking at it with some**  
 4 **interest.**  
 5 Q. If you want to read it, please do.  
 6 **A. Yes, please.**  
 7 Q. I will leave the first page up so you can read it.  
 8 Let's read it together:  
 9 "I am writing in response to your memo ...  
 10 "Actions taken.  
 11 "13th March.  
 12 "Mrs Mellor presented her report to the group of LEA  
 13 officers and elected members who have met regularly over  
 14 the last 18 months. The report was accepted without  
 15 hesitation and in its entirety. At my request the head  
 16 teacher and the adviser for Special Education drew up  
 17 a parallel document which gave an account of how far  
 18 Mrs Mellor's recommendations had already been discussed  
 19 or acted upon. I attach a copy of their report to this  
 20 memo.  
 21 "At Mrs Mellor's suggestion a second report was  
 22 provided which deleted some of the references to the  
 23 previous caretaker: we were advised that wide  
 24 distribution of this information might prejudice any  
 25 possible prosecution of the caretaker by the police."

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<p>1 That's what you told us earlier?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. "I would stress at this point that only those officers</p> <p>4 with a close involvement in the situation have retained</p> <p>5 copies of the report: all other staff and elected</p> <p>6 members have returned their copies to me.</p> <p>7 "27 March.</p> <p>8 "A meeting was held at the school of all staff</p> <p>9 (teaching, care and admin/clerical staff but not manual</p> <p>10 staff). Again Mrs Mellor presented her report and there</p> <p>11 was considerable discussion of her findings. Some staff</p> <p>12 expressed the concern that no individuals had been</p> <p>13 identified as being at fault and therefore the whole</p> <p>14 school was to shoulder the responsibility.</p> <p>15 "1st April.</p> <p>16 "Special meeting of the governing body to consider</p> <p>17 the report."</p> <p>18 So there certainly was one:</p> <p>19 "This was attended by myself and Anne Taylor ...</p> <p>20 "Following the meetings above, proposals were made</p> <p>21 to offer further counselling to any parent or ex-pupils</p> <p>22 who might wish to receive it and to provide a 'listening</p> <p>23 ear' to any staff who felt anxious about their</p> <p>24 particular feelings about the incident."</p> <p>25 Pausing there, "the incident", was that focusing on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 the school and the education authority was a major</p> <p>2 difficulty in the situation. Neither the school nor the</p> <p>3 authority had any information regarding the activities</p> <p>4 of pupils outside the school premises until several</p> <p>5 months after the incident in September 1990 and boys</p> <p>6 were still being referred to Knowl View without any</p> <p>7 information arriving either at the school or to the</p> <p>8 education authority about their previous history. In</p> <p>9 some cases it would have been obvious that these boys</p> <p>10 should not have been placed at Knowl View had the</p> <p>11 information been available.</p> <p>12 "These difficulties are now being actively tackled.</p> <p>13 The governing body are very sympathetic to the proposal</p> <p>14 that the chair of the Education Committee should be able</p> <p>15 to attend by right ... and that one of the co-opted</p> <p>16 governors should be a nominee of the Director of Social</p> <p>17 Services. I understand that Jane Held ... would be</p> <p>18 likely to be the nominee ..."</p> <p>19 On 14 April, you met with Chief Superintendent</p> <p>20 Houghton accompanied by Alan Eastwood, the purpose being</p> <p>21 to consider the situation regarding the caretaker. He,</p> <p>22 if we look at the next page, described three possible</p> <p>23 outcomes of investigation into him and he says:</p> <p>24 "I understand that we will eventually receive</p> <p>25 a communication from the police regarding the outcome."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Hilton?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I can't remember if it was, but I can't imagine why</b></p> <p>3 <b>I would put "the incident".</b></p> <p>4 Q. "The governors also urged myself to seek money from the</p> <p>5 capital programme for the remodelling of the dormitories</p> <p>6 into small bedrooms: this is clearly desirable and would</p> <p>7 have helped to prevent the kind of incidents that</p> <p>8 occurred and make supervision more effective.</p> <p>9 "24 March/2 April.</p> <p>10 "Discussions with the chief education officers of</p> <p>11 Manchester and Tameside ..." who, if we read a little</p> <p>12 down, "have also received an invitation to discuss the</p> <p>13 situation with Mrs Mellor and to visit the school ..."</p> <p>14 That's presumably because they had some of their</p> <p>15 children at the school?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes, certainly Manchester had one pupil. I don't think</b></p> <p>17 <b>that Tameside had a pupil at that point, but they did</b></p> <p>18 <b>send pupils.</b></p> <p>19 Q. It says "both of whose authorities currently have pupils</p> <p>20 in the school", so it is likely they did:</p> <p>21 "9 April.</p> <p>22 "Discussion with the professional officers of</p> <p>23 related services ...."</p> <p>24 We saw that:</p> <p>25 "The poor communication between these services and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 Then you go through a series of outstanding issues:</p> <p>2 buildings and equipment. Secondly, under the heading</p> <p>3 "3. Investigation into the role of the staff", you</p> <p>4 point out under that head:</p> <p>5 "At the meeting with staff on 27 March it was</p> <p>6 apparent that some staff were keen to have their names</p> <p>7 'cleared' and by implication have others singled out for</p> <p>8 blame. Since a number of accusations seem to be being</p> <p>9 passed around, I recommended to Councillor Moffat that</p> <p>10 we should hold a final investigation solely on the role</p> <p>11 of the staff in the events of 1990."</p> <p>12 So it is perfectly clear that that is all targeted</p> <p>13 at the Hilton incident, and no other. That was the only</p> <p>14 incident in September 1990?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes, it was the only incident I was aware of.</b></p> <p>16 Q. My point is that this new enquiry that you were being</p> <p>17 persuaded to set up was -- in other words, the staff</p> <p>18 blame game was targeted only at what happened during</p> <p>19 Hilton; not all the other issues which were surrounding</p> <p>20 Knowl View. That's the point I ask you to consider?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, that's how it reads and that's what I have written,</b></p> <p>22 <b>but it wasn't my memory of what was asked.</b></p> <p>23 Q. "This has been discussed with the relevant unions and</p> <p>24 the chief adviser and EO ... with statements from all</p> <p>25 staff next week to establish whether there is any new</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

1 information and, if so, whether it can be substantiated.  
 2 "Staff will be briefed about the arrangements on  
 3 Monday, 11 May ...  
 4 "Review.  
 5 "Mrs Mellor will visit the school again early in  
 6 1993 to assess progress on the recommendations in her  
 7 report."  
 8 Then you deal with training and that's the essential  
 9 effect of that letter.  
 10 In Mrs Mellor's report, you will probably remember  
 11 one of the last things she said before you got to the  
 12 appendix was her review should be in six months?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Originally in the report it was six months, which would  
 15 have taken it to August 1992. Now you were saying early  
 16 in 1993?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. So the months between August and Christmas time  
 19 disappeared. Why did Mrs Mellor not go back into the  
 20 school or with you at the time that she said she was  
 21 going to?  
 22 **A. Well, that was at her initiative, not ours.**  
 23 Q. Say that again?  
 24 **A. That was at her initiative, not ours.**  
 25 Q. Of course. But it was something you could ask or chase

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1 about.  
 2 **A. Mmm.**  
 3 Q. Do you remember chasing her at all? I know you did  
 4 later and there are letters we will look at in the  
 5 spring of 1993, but any reason why there was some drift?  
 6 **A. I may be confusing this with the initial chasing on the**  
 7 **report, but there was illness involved, either of her or**  
 8 **her immediate family.**  
 9 Q. There certainly is mention of illness in later letters  
 10 in May time, 1993. But I'm just wondering if you have  
 11 a specific recollection of why the drift from August to  
 12 early 1993?  
 13 **A. No, I don't.**  
 14 Q. Let's just look at one other letter, please, RHC001480  
 15 at page 1. This is of 5 May and it predates by about  
 16 three days the memorandum we have just gone through  
 17 together which you sent to the chief executive where you  
 18 make reference to this. You will see it is a letter to  
 19 Mr Bradshaw headed "Inquiry":  
 20 "I am writing further to my letter of 15 April 1992  
 21 and our meeting this morning concerning the possibility  
 22 of an inquiry into the role played by staff in events at  
 23 Knowl View in 1990."  
 24 So it is perfectly clear for the second time that we  
 25 are just looking at Hilton here:

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1 "I have now had the opportunity to consult the union  
 2 representatives, the chair of the Education Committee  
 3 and yourself about the nature and purpose of any  
 4 inquiry: I have recommended to Councillor Moffat that an  
 5 enquiry into the role played by staff should be  
 6 conducted by the LEA as part of its response to  
 7 Mrs Mellor's report.  
 8 "The purpose of the inquiry should be to clarify any  
 9 residual areas of concern about the level of care or  
 10 management exercised by teaching and nonteaching staff  
 11 in the months leading to the incident in September 1990.  
 12 There is the possibility that the inquiry may lead to  
 13 disciplinary action and staff should be aware of this."  
 14 Then you set out the arrangements. On the next  
 15 page, please --  
 16 **A. Can I ask you to pause there? What it says is, "in the**  
 17 **months leading up to September 1990".**  
 18 Q. Yes.  
 19 **A. It was generally my understanding that after the Hilton**  
 20 **incident measures had been taken which had prevented**  
 21 **further incidents.**  
 22 Q. Yes. But that, you will accept, I'm sure, Mrs Cavanagh,  
 23 was all about somebody being able to get into the  
 24 premises on two nights, on the second of which at least  
 25 one boy was sexually abused. What none of this was

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1 geared towards is any responsibility by staff for the  
 2 goings on of Knowl View boys outside the school, for  
 3 example, in Smith Street, and it was not geared towards  
 4 tackling any of staff responsibility for the  
 5 peer-on-peer abuse that was going on within the school?  
 6 **A. Well, that is how it reads.**  
 7 Q. That is how it is, do you accept? We have seen three  
 8 times now "September 1990"?  
 9 **A. In that case I accept it.**  
 10 Q. You accept the focus was really on the Hilton incident  
 11 and, as you point out, the months leading up to it. If  
 12 we go to the top of the next page, please:  
 13 "The interviews will be held with individual staff  
 14 and conducted by Mr Hodge ... and Mrs Dobie ..."  
 15 We have called that the Hodge Report or the  
 16 Hodge/Dobie Report, which we have. In the next  
 17 paragraph:  
 18 "This is the third investigation into events at  
 19 Knowl View: it is important that any residual anxieties  
 20 are dealt with so that the school can concentrate on its  
 21 future role in meeting the needs of pupils. I am  
 22 therefore arranging for every member of the teaching,  
 23 care and administrative staff to make a statement, even  
 24 if (for newcomers) this may amount to a 'nil return'. "  
 25 Can I invite your attention to those who were copied

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1 into this letter, ignoring the first name for the  
 2 moment, we have Councillor Moffat, still the education  
 3 chair?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. Pam Hawton, education spokesperson --  
 6 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 7 Q. -- for the Conservatives?  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. And Sargenson for the Liberals?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. As well as a number of others, including several unions,  
 12 by the look of them?  
 13 **A. Yes, I think all the unions.**  
 14 Q. As a matter of interest, just help us now, please,  
 15 Mrs Cavanagh: why -- it may have been obvious to you,  
 16 but I would like to understand, at least evidentially --  
 17 are you copying in those three councillors? Why do they  
 18 need to know what you were doing? This is not  
 19 a criticism, I am simply asking for your help.  
 20 **A. They were actively involved in the reviewing of**  
 21 **the report and they were concerned about the school.**  
 22 **This was to let them know that those concerns which had**  
 23 **been expressed were being taken forward.**  
 24 Q. Can we look very quickly, please, at the Hodge Report,  
 25 which is GMP000373 at page 3 to begin with. At the top

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1 we have got "No 26. DL Edmonds". Does that suggest  
 2 that this had a limited distribution as well?  
 3 **A. Indeed.**  
 4 Q. Obviously you have seen this?  
 5 **A. I have. Excuse me, could I have just a brief break?**  
 6 Q. Of course you can.  
 7 **A. Thanks.**  
 8 Q. How long would you like?  
 9 **A. Two or three minutes.**  
 10 Q. Of course.  
 11 **A. Would that be acceptable?**  
 12 Q. Yes, I'm sure the chair is happy with that.  
 13 Can I ask you to rise to allow the witness to leave?  
 14 Because we will have an early break?  
 15 THE CHAIR: Yes. We will return at 11.25 am.  
 16 (11.10 am)  
 17 (A short break)  
 18 (11.35 am)  
 19 THE CHAIR: Mrs Cavanagh, please indicate if you would like  
 20 any further breaks?  
 21 **A. Thank you.**  
 22 MR ALTMAN: You are all right to continue, are you,  
 23 Mrs Cavanagh?  
 24 **A. I think so, yes.**  
 25 Q. Bear with me, and with a fair wind we will finish

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1 certainly before lunch.  
 2 **A. I'm sorry, I didn't explain myself very well before the**  
 3 **break. The business of the incident September 1990, it**  
 4 **was my understanding that the September 1990 incident**  
 5 **was the culmination of a number of things. I didn't**  
 6 **know until Mike Poulton's statements and Phil Shepherd**  
 7 **and subsequently Val Mellor of all the incidents that**  
 8 **led up to that but that was my understanding of these**  
 9 **incidents leading to that, that it was not just Hilton**  
 10 **breaking in in September 1990.**  
 11 Q. The other incidents you are talking about are the other  
 12 happenings which were highlighted by Phil Shepherd in  
 13 the italicised part of his report?  
 14 **A. Indeed.**  
 15 Q. But it rather suggests in your mind that that had been  
 16 an end of it?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. That September 1990 was the culmination of all the other  
 19 things which had gone before?  
 20 **A. Yes, because nobody provided any information that it was**  
 21 **not in the past.**  
 22 Q. As far as you were concerned, therefore, from this date,  
 23 it's not continuing?  
 24 **A. I had no evidence to say it was.**  
 25 Q. Can we then please look at the Hodge Report just

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1 briefly, GMP000373 at page 10. This is the heading  
 2 "Outcomes", and in the first paragraph:  
 3 "There is a definite need to state that management  
 4 was ultimately responsible for the origination of  
 5 mistakes which led to events occurring. In stating  
 6 this, the responsibility of the LEA has to be noted, in  
 7 that inappropriate appointments were made, at  
 8 a difficult time in a complex set of circumstances.  
 9 This does not seek to pass off the responsibility of  
 10 the LEA. It merely sets it in context and acknowledges,  
 11 with hindsight, that more involvement should have  
 12 occurred in order to monitor the situation. There was  
 13 a lack of general description by the LEA about the  
 14 function of EBD schools."  
 15 You will have read this at the time?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. Did you accept the criticism?  
 18 **A. Yes, I thought it was fair.**  
 19 Q. Hodge, as we understand it, was intending really to draw  
 20 a line under the whole affair; is that right?  
 21 **A. It was intended to draw a line under the historical**  
 22 **aspects, allegations, accusations, and so on, and enable**  
 23 **the school to move on.**  
 24 Q. All of this led to you collating all of the information,  
 25 including what you learned from Hodge, into a report of

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1 your own in June 1992. Do you remember?  
 2 **A. Yes, I think it's in the bundle.**  
 3 Q. It certainly is. We will look at that now, if we may.  
 4 That is RHC001663 at page 1:  
 5 "For distribution only as specified."  
 6 Confidential:  
 7 "Report of the Director of Education on staff  
 8 behaviour in the period September 1989 to October 1990."  
 9 First of all, what was the purpose of this report?  
 10 You had Shepherd, you then had Mellor and now you had  
 11 Hodge. What was your purpose in producing this report?  
 12 **A. Well, disregarding for a moment Shepherd, which was**  
 13 **general, more immediately Val Mellor had produced her**  
 14 **report and it was still general, although the criticisms**  
 15 **were clear, but they were not precise. Following the**  
 16 **letter from the staff, following the letter from**  
 17 **Councillor Hawton and other people who felt it had not**  
 18 **been yet fully -- we had not yet fully looked at who on**  
 19 **the staff was responsible, then this had to be -- the**  
 20 **purpose of this report was to say, if staff of**  
 21 **the school cannot sign up to the new regime and follow**  
 22 **the procedures that Steve Bradshaw was instituting, then**  
 23 **they should consider their futures.**  
 24 Q. The new regime was, what? The new rules and regime that  
 25 Steve Bradshaw was instilling? Is that what you mean by

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1 "the new regime"?  
 2 **A. Yes, his curriculum policies and how people behaved in**  
 3 **the school, the advice to children and so on.**  
 4 Q. If we look at the introduction:  
 5 "This report is provided in response to concerns of  
 6 staff expressed in a letter sent to the director on ..."  
 7 There is a date missing:  
 8 "... April 1992 ... and following the discussion on  
 9 the report of Mrs V Mellor ... on Knowl View School  
 10 in March 1992."  
 11 You saw this very much as an extension of the Mellor  
 12 report, the discussions that followed?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. It was your intention, as you said in paragraph 2, to  
 15 discuss the content of the report with the following:  
 16 the staff of the school; the governing body of  
 17 the school; the education spokespersons, plural. Are  
 18 those the people that we have identified already:  
 19 Sargenson, Beasley, Hawton?  
 20 **A. Yes, but this would have come out after the result of**  
 21 **the election, so then that would be Councillor**  
 22 **Ray Colley.**  
 23 Q. Colley, C-O-L-L-E-Y?  
 24 **A. Yes. But he included, as Councillor Moffat had done,**  
 25 **the other party spokespersons.**

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1 Q. Remind us. Colley was whom?  
 2 **A. Liberal.**  
 3 Q. He was Liberal. That was the ruling party now after the  
 4 election?  
 5 **A. They were the senior partner in the coalition.**  
 6 Q. The coalition with the Tories?  
 7 **A. That's right.**  
 8 Q. Who else would he have included in the distribution?  
 9 **A. I just need to think who. I think Ann Beasley, but I'm**  
 10 **not certain, and certainly Councillor Hawton.**  
 11 Q. Colley obviously, Hawton you're pretty certain of,  
 12 others, you can't help at the moment?  
 13 **A. Yes, I can't remember when Councillor Hawton lost her**  
 14 **seat, but when she did, she was replaced in that group**  
 15 **by Councillor Roy Keane.**  
 16 Q. Chairs of the party groups on the council. Now, this  
 17 is June 1992. Farnell had lost his seat?  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. He was no longer leader so he wasn't the chair of  
 20 the party group?  
 21 **A. No.**  
 22 Q. Paul Rowen was the leader of the council at this  
 23 point --  
 24 **A. He was.**  
 25 Q. -- being Liberal Democrat? Are you saying you intended

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1 to discuss the content of this report with him, amongst  
 2 others?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. Do you remember if you did?  
 5 **A. I don't remember, but if I put I was going to do it,**  
 6 **I assume I did.**  
 7 Q. The teacher union representatives?  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. Then Mrs Mellor herself. I would just like to go  
 10 through with you, if I can, because we have the whole  
 11 document, Mrs Cavanagh, and we have looked at it several  
 12 times, but with your assistance just to go through some  
 13 of the points that you made. First of all, on page 2.  
 14 Do you mind if we try to go through this at a fairly  
 15 good pace so we can try to finish your evidence by  
 16 lunch? Page 2, paragraph 7. If you look about four  
 17 lines down, there is a sentence:  
 18 "Statements from staff reflect a lack of commitment  
 19 to a whole-school approach."  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. What did you mean by "whole-school approach"?  
 22 **A. That every member of staff in the school, principally in**  
 23 **this case the care staff and the teaching staff, would**  
 24 **agree on the school aims and would agree their part**  
 25 **within it. So that they were all moving in the same**

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<p>1 <b>direction, if you like.</b></p> <p>2 Q. So rather than them each having their own agenda, there</p> <p>3 would only be one agenda, which would be the benefit of</p> <p>4 the school?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Then the next paragraph, 8:</p> <p>7 "The attitude of most teaching staff towards</p> <p>8 activities outside lessons reflected that of the acting</p> <p>9 head who, despite the terms of his contract, spent very</p> <p>10 little time on site at weekends and was frequently</p> <p>11 offsite overnight during the week."</p> <p>12 Was that a reference to Brett Andrews?</p> <p>13 <b>A. It was.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Paragraph 10, please, over the page. You talk of</p> <p>15 the culture of many lessons and activities "has been</p> <p>16 described as 'macho'. Sometimes this spilled over into</p> <p>17 violence and aggression, including physical assaults by</p> <p>18 at least one teacher on a pupil."</p> <p>19 So there was violence, physical violence, at the</p> <p>20 school?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Mmm-hmm.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Paragraph 11. Did you note the curriculum offered by</p> <p>23 the teachers was a long way from the national</p> <p>24 curriculum?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 Senior unit aged 15 to 17."</p> <p>2 Then it is not clear. Is that an arrow with</p> <p>3 a question mark?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I think it is a 7 with a question mark.</b></p> <p>5 Q. So it is:</p> <p>6 "7? Pupils from this unit were involved in</p> <p>7 homosexual activity and abuse on the ... premises,</p> <p>8 including on the two recorded occasions when Mr R Hilton</p> <p>9 was allowed into the building by the boys.</p> <p>10 "The abuse took place over an extended period but</p> <p>11 seems to have culminated in September 1990 with the two</p> <p>12 incidents mentioned above.</p> <p>13 "There is no evidence to suggest that boys from this</p> <p>14 unit participated in the homosexual activity at</p> <p>15 Smith Street toilets.</p> <p>16 "Staff who were on night supervision ... appeared:</p> <p>17 "Either not to notice the behaviour of the boys.</p> <p>18 "Or not to communicate their observations."</p> <p>19 So a similar observation to the one you made in</p> <p>20 relation to the Ashworth unit. Paragraph 21, please, on</p> <p>21 page 6:</p> <p>22 "Outside agencies.</p> <p>23 "Information about homosexual activity at the</p> <p>24 Smith Street toilets between boys (some from Knowl View)</p> <p>25 and adult males was known to both police and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 Q. Then paragraph 14(a), dealing with Ashworth, the junior</p> <p>2 unit for ages 11 to 13:</p> <p>3 "Several pupils from this unit were involved in</p> <p>4 homosexual activity at the Smith Street toilets", you</p> <p>5 have here "up to spring 1990". Is that what you</p> <p>6 understood?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. "Information from the police and social services was/was</p> <p>9 not communicated to the school/health authority ..."</p> <p>10 It looks as if you haven't finished the sentence</p> <p>11 with the three dots or perhaps haven't made up your mind</p> <p>12 what the situation was?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes, it is slightly odd. I think in some cases it was</b></p> <p>14 <b>communicated and in others not.</b></p> <p>15 Q. "Those supervising the boys in the evenings appeared</p> <p>16 either not to notice that they were missing or not to</p> <p>17 communicate their observations."</p> <p>18 Then you set out the names of those deployed on the</p> <p>19 unit during the relevant time.</p> <p>20 Really, what you were suggesting here, from your</p> <p>21 point of view, was that the activity at Smith Street had</p> <p>22 ended around the spring of 1990?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Paragraph 17 on the next page:</p> <p>25 "Norden.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 social services. The period of activity seems to have</p> <p>2 ended by the summer of 1990 when police surveillance</p> <p>3 failed to detect any activity at that site."</p> <p>4 Perhaps a little nitpicking. Earlier you said by</p> <p>5 spring 1990. Were you saying the same thing or</p> <p>6 something different, that it ended? Or were you just</p> <p>7 unclear about when it had, whether it was by the spring</p> <p>8 or by the summer of 1990?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I don't know why there's a difference.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Then paragraph 22:</p> <p>11 "There is no record of this information being passed</p> <p>12 to the Education Service, either the education</p> <p>13 psychological service, the school or the department.</p> <p>14 Dr Alison Fraser of the health authority passed</p> <p>15 information concerning boys in her clinic to</p> <p>16 D Edmonds ... in December 1990. This information was</p> <p>17 passed to the interim head at Knowl View School."</p> <p>18 So when you say there is no record of this</p> <p>19 information being passed, what particular information</p> <p>20 were you talking about?</p> <p>21 <b>A. The information in paragraph 21.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember on Friday I reminded you of a report to</p> <p>23 Brian Williams of 27 November 1990 --</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. -- which indicated that boys had been involved in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 cottaging? Do you remember me asking you whether 2 Mr Williams had ever brought that to your attention 3 in November? 4 <b>A. Mmm.</b> 5 Q. Do you know whether he did or he didn't? 6 <b>A. I don't think so, and I think the handwritten reports,</b> 7 <b>which were quite lengthy, were available to me but</b> 8 <b>I can't remember reading all of it.</b> 9 Q. Paragraph 25 on the same page, "Major issues", in bold: 10 "Why did Knowl View staff not report what was 11 happening?" 12 Then you give examples of explanations which have 13 been given: 14 "(a)(i) 'discovering two boys in bed together 15 engaged in sexual activity'. 16 "(ii) finding a used condom in one of 17 the dormitories", which were specific reported 18 incidents: 19 "The report did not lead to any action with the 20 obvious inference that 'it was unimportant'. Indeed, it 21 was a well-known saying among staff that there were 'no 22 problems' on the Norden unit." 23 In other words, things like this were simply 24 overlooked by staff. Is that what you were saying? 25 <b>A. No. What that is referring to is staff within</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 that boys would have clear guidelines and advice?" 2 Also in bold. Then (b): 3 "Boys were also conscious of a considerable level of 4 sexual activity among some staff on the Knowl View 5 premises and this may have inhibited proper discussions 6 between staff and boys." 7 So that makes it perfectly clear that that was the 8 information you had? 9 <b>A. Yes.</b> 10 Q. On the next page, please, at (d): 11 "Whole staff discussion was discouraged. School 12 policy was discussed only by P Davies, S Cohen and 13 B Andrews, who also on occasion included the caretaker, 14 Mr Found, D Eaton and G Hutchinson but excluded other 15 staff. There are two possible explanations: 16 "(i) this 'inner circle' of senior staff did not 17 take the issue of full staff discussion and planning 18 seriously enough. 19 "(ii) they were not capable of thinking through and 20 implementing whole-school policies." 21 Now, the caretaker, just reading it, does it not 22 strike you that the caretaker is involved in discussions 23 relating to school policy? 24 <b>A. Well, it would be strange, other than policy relating to</b> 25 <b>the security of the building and the grounds.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 <b>Knowl View reporting it within Knowl View, and then with</b> 2 <b>the reaction that is quoted there, that there's no</b> 3 <b>action taken within the school.</b> 4 Q. So in this case I think you say one of the cleaners 5 reported. 6 <b>A. Mmm-hmm.</b> 7 Q. But senior people within the school were ignoring the 8 reports that were being made to them? 9 <b>A. It appeared so.</b> 10 Q. Then over the page, at (b) at the top: 11 "Some staff were not on the premises when they were 12 supposed to be on duty." 13 At (e): 14 "Staff on duty were engaged in activities which made 15 it unlikely that they would be alert to what was 16 happening in the dormitories. It has been stated that 17 some of these onsite activities were sexual." 18 In other words, what, teachers engaged in sexual 19 relations while they were supposed to be supervising the 20 boys? 21 <b>A. I understood it was teachers, and it says "staff on</b> 22 <b>duty", so it would have been while they were on duty.</b> 23 Q. Then on 26: 24 "Why did Knowl View staff and governors not approve 25 and implement a sex education policy in the school so</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 Q. So -- 2 <b>A. And, for example, access to the building, that kind of</b> 3 <b>thing.</b> 4 Q. So if those discussions were limited in that way, it is 5 not too strange? 6 <b>A. Mmm.</b> 7 Q. But if Mr Found was being involved in other discussions, 8 that would really not be in his line of duty? 9 <b>A. No, I don't think so, for the curriculum policies, for</b> 10 <b>example.</b> 11 Q. At 27(e), so on the same page: 12 "The issue of whole-staff discussion is symptomatic 13 of a catastrophic failure of leadership and management 14 across the board ..." 15 That was your finding? 16 <b>A. Yes.</b> 17 Q. Your words? 18 <b>A. Yes. A general point: I kept very closely to what</b> 19 <b>Liz Dobie and Selwyn Hodge had provided, but it is my</b> 20 <b>report, so I included it because I recognised that is</b> 21 <b>true.</b> 22 Q. In 28 below: 23 "Why was the information on the culture of 24 the school and the sexual activity of so many boys not 25 presented in the report by the Director of Education to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 the governors on [blank] October 1990?"</p> <p>2 At (a):</p> <p>3 "The incidents in September 1990 concerning</p> <p>4 Mr Hilton's presence on school premises were not</p> <p>5 reported immediately to the LEA. When reported, they</p> <p>6 were presented as isolated incidents."</p> <p>7 I think that's what you told us on Friday?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Then your conclusions on page 10, at 30, under the head</p> <p>10 "Staff behaviour" at (b):</p> <p>11 "There was a catastrophic failure of leadership at</p> <p>12 the school which allowed poor practice and irresponsible</p> <p>13 behaviour to flourish under the guise of different</p> <p>14 philosophies. The various 'acting-up' arrangements did</p> <p>15 not help the situation but neither did they cause it."</p> <p>16 In using the words "different philosophies", whose</p> <p>17 philosophies are you talking about? What kind of</p> <p>18 philosophies?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Under Terry Hopwood I think there was a very strict</b></p> <p>20 <b>regime. I don't mean brutal or coercive, I mean it was</b></p> <p>21 <b>strict. I believe that other staff, for example,</b></p> <p>22 <b>Brett Andrews, felt that a more therapeutic regime was</b></p> <p>23 <b>appropriate.</b></p> <p>24 Q. So those are the philosophies you had in mind in writing</p> <p>25 that sentence?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 remedied.</p> <p>2 "Unless Knowl View establishes itself as a caring</p> <p>3 and highly professional establishment, it will not</p> <p>4 survive."</p> <p>5 So that was your report. I have -- not you, but</p> <p>6 I have -- galloped through it. Those are the views you</p> <p>7 arrived at.</p> <p>8 Can I ask you about something else for the minute?</p> <p>9 It is a press release at RHC001522 at page 4. It is</p> <p>10 a press release which is dated, if we were to look --</p> <p>11 I'm not going to invite you to -- 15 July 1992:</p> <p>12 "Statement for Alan Hart.</p> <p>13 "Reporter on the News of the World.</p> <p>14 "In response to allegations regarding Knowl View</p> <p>15 Special School Rochdale."</p> <p>16 Whose press release was this, do you remember?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Press releases were handled centrally through the chief</b></p> <p>18 <b>executive department.</b></p> <p>19 Q. You clearly knew about it because do you see under the</p> <p>20 heading "The Director of Education for Rochdale,</p> <p>21 Mrs Diana Cavanagh, said:</p> <p>22 "In September 1990 when the Education Department</p> <p>23 were informed of a serious incident of inappropriate</p> <p>24 sexual activity involving boys at Knowl View, a full</p> <p>25 investigation was set up.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 <b>A. They were at least two of them, yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Then, please, on the next page, paragraph 31,</p> <p>3 "Information":</p> <p>4 "There was a calamitous failure by outside agencies</p> <p>5 and the LEA to communicate all appropriate information</p> <p>6 to the head. Given the poor communication within the</p> <p>7 school, this left staff with inadequate information to</p> <p>8 plan. An urgent review of communications is under way</p> <p>9 and the new arrangements must be reported to staff."</p> <p>10 At the foot you summarise the position at</p> <p>11 paragraph 34:</p> <p>12 "The conclusions of this report mirror those of</p> <p>13 previous reports and the observations of HMI who visited</p> <p>14 the school on 3 and 4 October 1991.</p> <p>15 "The issues identified have not changed and I do not</p> <p>16 regard further investigation as necessary. Any member</p> <p>17 of staff who wishes to provide further evidence will be</p> <p>18 invited to present it to the police. Knowl View staff</p> <p>19 should either focus on how they can contribute to the</p> <p>20 well-being of the boys in their care through the</p> <p>21 development of whole-school policies or they should</p> <p>22 acknowledge that they have no intention of doing so and</p> <p>23 leave.</p> <p>24 "Those staff who no longer command the confidence of</p> <p>25 colleagues should consider if and how this can be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 "It is unfortunately true that an intruder was able</p> <p>2 to gain access to the school during the night with the</p> <p>3 help of pupils and to commit sexual offences against one</p> <p>4 or possibly two boys. Parents were immediately</p> <p>5 informed.</p> <p>6 "Full information about the intruder was passed</p> <p>7 immediately to the police and the Prosecution Service;</p> <p>8 he was not prosecuted for that offence.</p> <p>9 In October 1990, he was, however, jailed for a sexual</p> <p>10 offence against a boy (not connected with Knowl View)."</p> <p>11 Did nobody tell you that was wrong?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Which, the date, you mean?</b></p> <p>13 Q. No, all of it, that he was prosecuted. He pleaded</p> <p>14 guilty to the offence on the boy at Knowl View on</p> <p>15 7 December 1990, pleaded guilty to indecent assault. He</p> <p>16 was sentenced on 22 February 1991 to probation, but he</p> <p>17 did come back before the courts at Bolton and he came</p> <p>18 back before the courts at Bolton in August 1991 in</p> <p>19 relation to a series of offences unrelated to Knowl View</p> <p>20 and it looks very much as if, as part of the two and</p> <p>21 a half years' sentence of imprisonment he got, part of</p> <p>22 that sentence was six months' consecutive to two years'</p> <p>23 imprisonment because he was breached in relation to the</p> <p>24 probation order that he got in relation to the boy at</p> <p>25 Knowl View.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

1 **A. Right.**  
 2 Q. My point is --  
 3 **A. I got it wrong.**  
 4 Q. -- it is all completely inaccurate?  
 5 **A. This paragraph is inaccurate, yes.**  
 6 Q. Where did that information come from? Who gave it to  
 7 you?  
 8 **A. Well, it is from within the department.**  
 9 Q. It goes on about the nature of the boys at the school  
 10 and then:  
 11 "In January 1991 other information concerning  
 12 inappropriate sexual acts between the boys was brought  
 13 to the attention of the Education Department ..."  
 14 "Inappropriate sexual acts", was that peer on peer  
 15 or were you talking about the exploitation at  
 16 Smith Street or both?  
 17 **A. I have lost where you are on the page.**  
 18 Q. The sentence that begins "In January 1991"?  
 19 **A. Okay, yes. Yes, could you say the question again?**  
 20 Q. My question is, does "inappropriate sexual acts" mean  
 21 peer-on-peer abuse or the exploitation at Smith Street  
 22 toilets or both?  
 23 **A. It means both -- oh, well, no, not by January 1991.**  
 24 **But -- because this was the time -- January/February was**  
 25 **Mike Poulton was breaking this. So I think not all of**

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1 **that came until March, the whole thing, but it would**  
 2 **mean all of it.**  
 3 Q. Sorry, it would mean -- not all of it?  
 4 **A. I'm sorry, it would mean all of it. Smith Street**  
 5 **toilets, peer on peer and so on.**  
 6 Q. Then the next paragraph:  
 7 "The recommendations have now been put into  
 8 practice. I cannot agree that the report was  
 9 a 'whitewash'.  
 10 Which report were you responding to the allegation  
 11 that it was a whitewash? Was it your report or  
 12 Mrs Mellor's? If you look above:  
 13 ""As a consequence of the concerns, an independent  
 14 child psychologist was asked to conduct an  
 15 investigation ...".  
 16 So it appears as if Mrs Mellor's report was being  
 17 characterised as a whitewash?  
 18 **A. It could only have been her report, can't it? I was**  
 19 **just wondering whether it was Phil Shepherd's report,**  
 20 **but it can't have been, I don't think.**  
 21 Q. I'm not going to read through the rest of it, but was  
 22 this press release in relation to a story that the News  
 23 of the World had put out or was to put out?  
 24 **A. I think the press office had been contacted by**  
 25 **Alan Hart. What I can't remember is whether he'd**

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1 **already done a story on it.**  
 2 Q. You will remember in your June report you made reference  
 3 to an HM Inspectorate report of the school rather than  
 4 the authority. We have this at RHC001897. We can see  
 5 there that this is your letter to Mr Bradshaw of  
 6 8 October 1991?  
 7 **A. No, the other way around.**  
 8 Q. Forgive me, quite right, Mr Bradshaw to you.  
 9 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 10 Q. "Following the visit from the inspectors on Thursday and  
 11 Friday of last week I enclose for your perusal a copy of  
 12 their report and comments."  
 13 I want to try to avoid going through sections of it,  
 14 but do you remember -- if you don't, I can show you the  
 15 sections -- that there were claims of staff absenteeism  
 16 in the Inspectorate's report?  
 17 **A. I can't remember the -- in the absence of having seen**  
 18 **this since October 1991, I can't remember the specifics.**  
 19 Q. Let's look at page 3 and see if we can get through this.  
 20 Just under halfway down the page, do you see it says:  
 21 "The care side is very generously staffed ..."  
 22 The paragraph just below that:  
 23 "The HMIs were amazed at the levels of absenteeism,  
 24 quoting one staff to have 86 working days' absence over  
 25 a period of one year, they were amazed this was

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1 tolerated and thought disciplinary action should be  
 2 taken in these incidences."  
 3 That was one criticism. On the next page, please,  
 4 under the heading "Curriculum" halfway down:  
 5 "There is an urgent need for curriculum development.  
 6 The present curriculum is inadequate, it doesn't support  
 7 classroom teaching. There is no defined curriculum in  
 8 the school, the schemes of work need to be detailed and  
 9 staff working together to implement them."  
 10 Then under "Organisation" on the same page:  
 11 "There is a 7-year-old in the school with no  
 12 immediate peer group and the next youngest boy is  
 13 9.4 years old, this should not be. The class groups  
 14 should be chronologically streamed, not the way they are  
 15 at the moment. A 13-year-old boy should not be in the  
 16 leaver's class."  
 17 On the next page, please, page 5 under "Pupils &  
 18 Support" at the top:  
 19 "Efforts should be made to overcome the mistrust and  
 20 inertia evident among the staff."  
 21 In the last third of the page, that final block of  
 22 paragraphs:  
 23 "There are children still at school who have been  
 24 abused or are abusers. These children should at least  
 25 have some opportunity for counselling."

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1 Then if we drop four or five lines down:  
 2 "The school is coming from a very low base, the  
 3 systems, the staff are a very long way behind."  
 4 Please, over the page to page 6, under "Major  
 5 issues", there are several of them, but they include  
 6 under point 6:  
 7 "Teaching and learning; there is a lack of  
 8 differentiated work, and that is with four children in  
 9 each group. There is a lack of pace in the children's  
 10 work. There is a lack of engagement. They were  
 11 surprised how little the children actually did. There  
 12 is a lack of challenge. Standards of work achieved were  
 13 very low. Standards of behaviour were variable. Verbal  
 14 aggression was often allowed to go on unchecked ...",  
 15 and so on.  
 16 The report, do you agree, Mrs Cavanagh, focused  
 17 mostly on education?  
 18 **A. Mostly, yes.**  
 19 Q. So it was focused on that and not so much the care side  
 20 of things or the welfare of the children, as such?  
 21 **A. Mmm-hmm. Could you go back to page 1, please?**  
 22 Q. Yes. It is actually page 2 of the report?  
 23 **A. Well, the letter.**  
 24 Q. You want the letter? Okay.  
 25 **A. The HMI visited the school and reported to the head**

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1 **teacher, and this is his record of what they said.**  
 2 **I don't doubt it. I'm just saying it was a report to**  
 3 **the head teacher and he kindly shared it with me.**  
 4 Q. Yes. To be fair, on the next page, he calls it  
 5 "feedback from the HMIs on their two-day visit"  
 6 **A. Yes, and I have no doubt it was accurate. I am sure he**  
 7 **would have given an appropriate report.**  
 8 Q. Did part of this feed into your June 1992 report we  
 9 looked at a moment ago? It certainly mentioned it?  
 10 **A. Yes. This would have gone to Marilyn Simpson and**  
 11 **Selwyn Hodge and they would feed it into their report**  
 12 **which came to me.**  
 13 Q. Now can I ask you about this, please, moving away from  
 14 some of the things we have just recently looked at. We  
 15 have seen, by which I mean the inquiry, a number of  
 16 memorandums from Stephen Bradshaw to education seeking  
 17 help or support for improvements in infrastructure or  
 18 training, and he's given evidence, as I am sure you  
 19 appreciate, last week talking about the difficulty he  
 20 had over resources. Do you accept, looking back, if you  
 21 didn't accept it at the time, that the school didn't get  
 22 or really had to battle for resources notwithstanding  
 23 the dire state it was in?  
 24 **A. Yes, I do accept. They were badly under-resourced and**  
 25 **they had a historical backlog, particularly with the**

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1 **building but also perhaps with curriculum resources.**  
 2 **They weren't alone in that in the borough. A lot of**  
 3 **schools also were badly neglected.**  
 4 Q. Sorry, you dropped your voice.  
 5 **A. A lot of schools also were badly neglected in terms of**  
 6 **buildings and the money was not available.**  
 7 Q. Did you agree with something -- a rather perhaps catchy  
 8 phrase -- that Mr Bradshaw used in the course of giving  
 9 his evidence, that special needs had always been the  
 10 poor relation?  
 11 **A. No, I don't think so.**  
 12 Q. He called it the "Cinderella" piece. Do you agree with  
 13 that?  
 14 **A. I think they received less attention because they were**  
 15 **a much smaller sector, and under the Education Reform**  
 16 **Act 1988, the first and primary focus was on primary and**  
 17 **secondary education and there was a lot of attention**  
 18 **focused there. Special schools came on line later on.**  
 19 **But the special schools had much better staff**  
 20 **ratios, teaching and nonteaching staff, and they had**  
 21 **different facilities and they had an adviser who was not**  
 22 **solely a special school adviser, she was a general**  
 23 **adviser as well and had an area, but who did have the**  
 24 **brief to look at their issues.**  
 25 **So, yes, I think they felt on the edge, and probably**

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1 **Knowl View more than most, but I don't think they were**  
 2 **grossly neglected within the constraints at the time.**  
 3 Q. He focused his attention on Knowl View and using much  
 4 the same wording said that he felt that Knowl View was  
 5 a Cinderella service. So not only was special needs, he  
 6 said, a Cinderella piece, effectively ignored, but  
 7 Knowl View itself was a Cinderella service. Is that  
 8 fair, in your view?  
 9 **A. I think, given the way that Knowl View was set up, it**  
 10 **needed more support, and we couldn't or didn't give it.**  
 11 Q. Do you agree also with what he said, that Knowl View --  
 12 and bearing in mind he joined in April 1991 and I think  
 13 he left in 1994, at the back end, I think, around the  
 14 time of closure -- had a culture of contain and  
 15 entertain? Does that accord with your view of  
 16 the school? You did a belt and braces review of  
 17 everything that was going on in that school and we have  
 18 just looked at aspects of it in your June 1992 report.  
 19 Do you think, when you look at all the findings you made  
 20 in that report, that contain and entertain is really all  
 21 that that school did?  
 22 **A. Well, that would have to be a statement about what**  
 23 **happened inside the school.**  
 24 Q. Yes.  
 25 **A. Not what happened from the Education Department.**

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<p>1 Q. No, I agree. But did you get any sense of that from the 2 investigations you read and made? 3 <b>A. Not later on. This was June 1992.</b> 4 Q. Yes. 5 <b>A. And we had a lot of positive feedback about what was 6 happening with Steve Bradshaw as head. So I'm surprised 7 he would accept that description for the whole of his 8 time there.</b> 9 Q. Perhaps he wasn't. But let's assume it wasn't and let's 10 assume that he thought that he was making positive 11 changes, the new regime that you were talking about. 12 Would it have been contain and entertain when he got 13 there? Is that what he would have found? 14 <b>A. That could well have been the case, if that is what he 15 was referring to.</b> 16 Q. Was Mr Bradshaw right in telling us that Knowl View was 17 the only residential school being run by the LEA at that 18 time? 19 <b>A. That's right.</b> 20 Q. He was quite critical. He said that the LEA had no idea 21 how to run it and that you wanted to keep costs down. 22 Is that fair? 23 <b>A. The latter statement was certainly true, and I suspect 24 the first statement was also true as well. He came from 25 a well-resourced residential school and had reasonably</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 "The Acting Borough Solicitor has applied for an 2 injunction against [him] to prevent him from continuing 3 to remain ..." 4 If we can just follow this through, there is 5 a letter of 8 January on page 7 of the same reference: 6 "Dear Ms Bebb. 7 "I refer to your letter [the one we have just looked 8 at] ... 9 "I am informed Mr Hilton has now found accommodation 10 in the Greave area ..." 11 You will know better than all of us here. Where is 12 Greave? You probably don't. 13 <b>A. I don't, but it wasn't Bamford.</b> 14 Q. No. All right: 15 "... and to that extent he should no longer present 16 the problems outlined previously. 17 "I am, however, conscious of your concerns about the 18 possible future presence of this man in the area of your 19 school, having regard to this matter and antecedents. 20 My area officer, Constable Harratt, will continue to 21 monitor the situation and should there be any 22 developments necessitating further action, please don't 23 hesitate to contact me." 24 At the top somebody has written "School informed by 25 telephone of response". Then page 6 under the same</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 <b>high expectations.</b> 2 Q. Roderick Hilton, back to him for a moment. He was 3 sentenced -- do you remember we went through this on 4 Friday -- on 20 August 1991 to two and a half years' 5 imprisonment, 30 months, and on the assumption that he 6 hadn't spent any time on remand, he would have come out 7 at the halfway point, after 15 months, which means he 8 was back out of prison by, let's say, 9 November/December 1992. Do you remember appreciating 10 that he was back on the scene in the run-up to Christmas 11 of that year? 12 <b>A. I remember that he contacted I think Adele Bebb, and -- 13 which she reported to me and there was an attempt made 14 to get an injunction.</b> 15 Q. If we look at RHC001505 at page 8, here is a letter from 16 Adele Bebb to the chief superintendent. It is dated 17 8 December of that year: 18 "I am writing to request your assistance. It has 19 come to my attention that Mr R Hilton has now been 20 released from prison and is again living in Bamford, 21 Rochdale. Indeed he has recently been camping out at 22 land on the rear of Knowl View School. 23 "This obviously causes us grave concerns in respect 24 of the assuring the safety of the pupils ..." 25 In the next paragraph:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 reference, a few days later on 11 January, 2 Stephen Bradshaw to you: 3 "As you are probably aware, we had quite a problem 4 with Rod Hilton at the end of last term. This 5 culminated in him being arrested for a breach of 6 the peace ..." 7 He is talking about the end of 1992: 8 "... after waiting at the end of the drive for 9 children to leave the school. He was also camping on 10 the land at the back of the school. 11 "I spoke to numerous people ..." 12 Next sentence: 13 "It was my understanding that Bill Lawley ..." 14 He was the Borough Solicitor at the time: 15 "... was going to pursue a court injunction to 16 ensure that he wasn't allowed within 100 yards of 17 the school with police powers of arrest. 18 "Hilton has now been housed in the centre of town 19 but still returns to the area to visit. I feel it is 20 imperative that we pursue this injunction as he will be 21 attracted back to the school. It also gives everyone 22 concerned a clear message that his presence will not be 23 tolerated ..." 24 Then page 5 under the same reference, and ten days 25 later, you respond to him, on 21 January:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 "Thank you for your memo.                  2 "You will be aware that I share your concerns and                  3 that representation has been made to Chief                  4 Superintendent Cantrell and to the Acting Borough                  5 Solicitor to take all steps necessary to protect pupils                  6 at Knowl View.                  7 "I understand that Adele Bebb has contacted the                  8 Child Protection Unit, Detective Sergeant Sterndale, and                  9 through them, Mr Hilton's probation officer. Officers                  10 in the Housing and Social Services Departments have also                  11 been contacted to secure accommodation for Mr Hilton                  12 away from the school.                  13 "The Acting Borough Solicitor informs me that at our                  14 request he discussed the position with you and your                  15 chair of governors before Christmas and that it was                  16 agreed that an injunction would not be pursued at that                  17 time because Mr Hilton, having been rehoused, was not                  18 posing any threat. However, should the position change,                  19 you would contact him and the matter of an injunction                  20 would be pursued."                  21 Despite Mr Bradshaw's plea ten days earlier, did it                  22 appear that everybody had agreed because he was no                  23 longer posing a threat that an injunction would be                  24 worthless at that particular point in time but the                  25 position could be reviewed if it changed?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 Solicitor. Head teacher."                  2 What's the next reference?                  3 <b>A. Assistant Director Business Unit, so that's Adele.</b>                  4 Q. On 4 March:                  5 "Outcome -- same as before -- no legal redress                  6 because he was not posing a threat. Police to be                  7 contacted immediately."                  8 Presumably --                  9 <b>A. Well, that was my memory of what had happened.</b>                  10 Q. Thank you for reminding me about the handwritten entry,                  11 but it didn't go away, because if you look at page 3 of                  12 the same reference:                  13 "Dear Adele.                  14 "It seems like I've written this letter numerous                  15 times but I feel you need to be kept abreast of                  16 developments."                  17 This is 7 May:                  18 "Hilton is once again homeless, living in a tent in                  19 Bamford and being attracted to the children at                  20 Knowl View. He stopped two boys going to the shop last                  21 Friday to have a friendly chat.                  22 "Bill Lawley and the police are aware ...                  23 "I know I have asked previously and am aware of                  24 the difficulties in obtaining an injunction on                  25 Mr Hilton. I still feel very uneasy that he is in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes. I'm puzzled by the agreement with the chair of</b>                  2 <b>governors.</b>                  3 Q. Because?                  4 <b>A. My memory was that we had asked the Borough Solicitor to</b>                  5 <b>pursue the injunction and he had attempted but it didn't</b>                  6 <b>go anywhere.</b>                  7 Q. We can go into February, page 4 of the same reference,                  8 1 February 1993, Bradshaw to you. He's received a reply                  9 from Lawley concerning the problems they had in December                  10 recommending the injunction:                  11 "The difficulty now is that Mr Hilton still visits                  12 the area of Bamford and is often seen outside the school                  13 at the bus stop. He will always be attracted to the                  14 school for a number of reasons and I feel it is                  15 unacceptable to wait until he becomes a threat before                  16 taking any positive action."                  17 He wanted to discuss it. Then page 3 of the same                  18 reference --                  19 <b>A. Sorry, could you just focus on the lower part of</b>                  20 <b>the statement?</b>                  21 Q. "I would welcome discussing this problem with the                  22 relevant agencies so that we may be proactive ..."                  23 <b>A. No, the handwritten note. This is Adele Bebb's</b>                  24 <b>handwriting.</b>                  25 Q. So "Meeting with Chief Superintendent Cantrell. Borough</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 neighbourhood and we have to wait for something to                  2 happen before taking action."                  3 Page 2 of the same reference, five days later,                  4 Adele Bebb to Bill Lawley, 12 May:                  5 "I agree with the head teacher that this is                  6 a disaster waiting to happen."                  7 Finally page 1 under the same reference, 20 May of                  8 that year, from the Borough Solicitor back to her:                  9 "Thank you for your memorandum of 12 May.                  10 "What has happened to change the course of action                  11 which was agreed at our meeting with the chief                  12 superintendent and the head teacher at the school?"                  13 Is this Adele Bebb's handwriting?                  14 <b>A. Yes, it is.</b>                  15 Q. "Still do contact police. They are supportive but still                  16 camping half mile or so from school. Just lodging                  17 concerns."                  18 Can you explain why, given the up-and-down nature of                  19 Hilton's presence in the area, no injunction was applied                  20 for in the end?                  21 <b>A. No, I can't explain it. It was inexplicable to me at</b>                  22 <b>the time.</b>                  23 Q. Insofar as the staffing was concerned, did you ever                  24 become alive to an allegation which received quite a bit                  25 of press coverage in summer, perhaps, 1992 or onwards</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>



1 dubbed by the press I think as the "sex in the tent"  
 2 issue?  
 3 **A. I'm sorry, I shouldn't smile.**  
 4 Q. No.  
 5 **A. Yes. I mean, Adele handled the whole thing very well,**  
 6 **but she kept me informed about it.**  
 7 Q. This was an allegation, I think, that while on a trip to  
 8 France with some Knowl View boys, two teachers had  
 9 engaged in sex in a tent?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. During the night. There were criticisms about that. Do  
 12 you think that demonstrated some of the points that you  
 13 had highlighted in that very June?  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. Did you discover the incident yourself very quickly  
 16 after the allegations surfaced or was it some time  
 17 afterwards that you learned about it?  
 18 **A. No, I can't remember the line of reporting, but it came**  
 19 **through to Stephen Bradshaw, I think, and to Adele,**  
 20 **either simultaneously or one after the other.**  
 21 Q. We have a letter in October which I think may relate to  
 22 it, RHC001583 at page 2. It is a letter to Mrs Dobie.  
 23 Can we go to the bottom first just to double-check who  
 24 it is from. It may be the next page. That's not very  
 25 helpful. There are a number of members of staff,

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1 I think. Let's go back to the first page:  
 2 "Dear Ms Dobie.  
 3 "We, the staff group at Knowl View School, are very  
 4 surprised and disappointed that you have not responded  
 5 to the requests put to you at a staff meeting on  
 6 9 October.  
 7 "You will be aware of the points that we asked you  
 8 to clarify on our behalf. You will no doubt also be  
 9 aware of the strong feelings we as a group held and  
 10 indeed still hold with regard to working alongside  
 11 colleagues in whom we have no confidence due to their  
 12 unwillingness to explain their position to us.  
 13 "We feel we have not received the honesty we deserve  
 14 in this matter, either from the department or the two  
 15 members of staff in question."  
 16 Have you ever seen this letter before?  
 17 **A. It doesn't ring any bells at all.**  
 18 Q. Was there, perhaps without trivialising it, a mutiny on  
 19 behalf of the staff in relation to the two staff members  
 20 who were caught up in the "sex in the tent" incident?  
 21 **A. I don't recollect it if there was.**  
 22 Q. That's staff. What about ongoing problems with child  
 23 sexual abuse after Mellor? Did you come to discover  
 24 that in fact the problems had not gone away?  
 25 **A. No.**

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1 Q. And that there were concerns about children at the  
 2 school continuing, even after Mellor, long after -- can  
 3 I give you some examples just to save time to see if any  
 4 of this rings a bell or any of this was brought to your  
 5 attention? I can go to documents if need be, but I'm  
 6 trying to avoid it in the interests of time.  
 7 In May 1993, so at the very time there were concerns  
 8 being voiced in that exchange of correspondence about  
 9 Hilton being back on the scene, so at the very time that  
 10 that was going on, there is a file note from  
 11 Stephen Bradshaw or relating to a message from  
 12 Stephen Bradshaw the previous day, 12 May, of a sexual  
 13 assault by one child masturbating over another. Did  
 14 that ever come to your ears? Did you ever hear about  
 15 that?  
 16 **A. I don't recall it. I wouldn't like to say it didn't.**  
 17 Q. There is a log of 9 June 1994 recording that the police  
 18 had investigated a male at whose flat three pupils from  
 19 Knowl View had spent the night; that the offender was  
 20 noted not to be a schedule 1 offender but child  
 21 protection had had dealings with him for enticing young  
 22 boys into his flat. Did you ever hear about that?  
 23 **A. I don't remember it.**  
 24 Q. The following month, in July, 6 July, an alarm had gone  
 25 off at the school and a child who we know as A46, who

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1 was found in the dining area having tried the staff  
 2 room, reported that a man had walked past his bed.  
 3 Martin Digan, from the description, thought that was  
 4 somebody called Harry Wild. Did you hear about that?  
 5 **A. No, I read about that for the first time in one of these**  
 6 **papers.**  
 7 Q. On 19 July 1994, a staff member disturbed a man inside  
 8 the foyer of the school at 9.30 at night. Did anybody  
 9 ever bring that to your attention?  
 10 **A. No. The same applies as to the last one.**  
 11 Q. Finally, insofar as the records go, I think, on  
 12 10 October 1994, an adult male was spotted at the front  
 13 door of the school at midnight. Did you know about  
 14 that?  
 15 **A. No. To be more precise, I don't remember that I knew.**  
 16 Q. Mrs Mellor, we left her hanging because she owes us  
 17 a follow-up, so let's return to her, please, for which  
 18 I have to go to another file, but in the meantime, can  
 19 you kindly put up on the screen, please, RHC001524.  
 20 This is a letter from you to Mrs Mellor. You see it is  
 21 12 May. There seems to be a lot going on on 12 May.  
 22 This is the third reference to that date that we have:  
 23 "I was sorry to hear that you had not been well. As  
 24 you know, I am rather anxious that we should be able to  
 25 close the chapter of Knowl View and was hoping that your

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1 visit and report might be the means for doing that."  
 2 A lot of water has flowed under the bridge. Her  
 3 report was 18 February 1992. She promised you a review  
 4 six months later, August 1992.  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. We saw you representing earlier that she was going to --  
 7 your update to John Pierce that she was going to review  
 8 in January 1993 or early 1993 and here we are still,  
 9 four or five months later?  
 10 **A. Mmm-hmm.**  
 11 Q. Was it only somewhere along the line that you discovered  
 12 she'd been unwell?  
 13 **A. I think I might have discovered that from her secretary**  
 14 **on ringing up.**  
 15 Q. Did her illness, whatever it was, account for the whole  
 16 period where she had not gone back in?  
 17 **A. I don't know.**  
 18 Q. Clearly, as you say yourself, you wanted this particular  
 19 chapter closed. If we go, please, to RHC001572, that's  
 20 your letter to Mrs Mellor:  
 21 "I am writing to confirm ..."  
 22 This is on 10 June 1993:  
 23 "... our telephone conversation the other day  
 24 concerning your visit to Knowl View School which will  
 25 now be scheduled for 23 and 24 June."

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1 Two days. Was that an agreement, that two days  
 2 would suffice, or was it Mrs Mellor's suggestion or  
 3 yours? Do you remember?  
 4 **A. It was probably agreed with her that she suggested it**  
 5 **and I agreed it.**  
 6 Q. So clearly you felt two days was sufficient?  
 7 **A. It was a follow-up report, not the original research.**  
 8 Q. Were you expecting something in writing?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Then, please, I want to see what she had to say.  
 11 RHC000113 at page 4, please. It calls itself "Notes  
 12 taken from meeting on 28 June 1993 when Mrs Mellor gave  
 13 verbal feedback to Mrs Cavanagh". I don't think we have  
 14 seen one. I don't think there is a follow-up report in  
 15 writing that you ever got.  
 16 **A. No. I don't remember a follow-up report in writing**  
 17 **either.**  
 18 Q. Certainly we have --  
 19 **A. These are notes taken --**  
 20 Q. -- verbal feedback and present were Simpson, Bradshaw,  
 21 Bebb, Dobie, Hodge:  
 22 "Val stated that ..."  
 23 Whose notes are these, do you know?  
 24 **A. I would guess Liz Dobie.**  
 25 Q. "Val stated that:

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1 "She was delighted in the progress the school had  
 2 made since her last visit 18 months ago.  
 3 "There was certainly a contrast with her previous  
 4 visit, she felt that the school was a happier, more  
 5 relaxed, more welcoming place.  
 6 "All the staff, both care staff and teaching, were  
 7 looking to the future, looking critically at themselves  
 8 rather than feeling criticised.  
 9 "There had been major changes in the care  
 10 arrangements, she was delighted to report. The quality  
 11 of work had improved beyond all recognition."  
 12 On it goes. I'm not going to read out every single  
 13 bullet-pointed point that she makes. But if we can go  
 14 to the final page, the penultimate bullet point:  
 15 "The school compared very favourably with similar  
 16 schools and had the potential to become a centre of  
 17 excellence."  
 18 Was that something that struck you as being  
 19 realistic?  
 20 **A. Well, I was surprised.**  
 21 Q. "Mrs Mellor was happy to be associated with the school  
 22 and certainly would be recommending Knowl View School to  
 23 colleagues."  
 24 Did that surprise you? I mean, glowing terms.  
 25 **A. Yes. Sorry, I'm just looking at the handwriting.**

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1 Q. Yes, whose is it? "Taken from notes made by" -- that  
 2 actually looks like Mr Bradshaw, doesn't it, "Taken by  
 3 SWB, AB and ..."?  
 4 **A. Those three people took notes and I think probably**  
 5 **Liz Dobie produced the notes.**  
 6 Q. Perhaps consolidated from all three?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. But glowing terms. Do you think, Mrs Cavanagh, that  
 9 this report was a proper basis upon which to decide that  
 10 the historic and very complex problems at the school had  
 11 been dealt with?  
 12 **A. What it was helpful with -- the answer -- the short**  
 13 **answer is, no. But what it was helpful with, she stated**  
 14 **that she felt that the children were safe and that any**  
 15 **incidents -- it is on the bottom of the first and top of**  
 16 **the second -- would be appropriately handled by the**  
 17 **school, and that was one of my prime concerns. I knew**  
 18 **that there had been progress in organising the care**  
 19 **staff properly, the security of the building and the**  
 20 **curriculum, but I feel that the conclusion is too**  
 21 **uncritical.**  
 22 Q. The final bullet point on the previous page is she was  
 23 confident that deviant behaviour, both in pupils and  
 24 staff, would be very quickly spotted and stopped.  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. And there was no longer the opportunity to allow  
 2 incidents to go undetected, the children seemed to know  
 3 what was expected of them and the staff certainly did.  
 4 So that is what you are referring to?  
 5 **A. Yes. That was a major step forward.**  
 6 Q. Now, I have asked you along the way questions about the  
 7 awareness of the politicians, and you have told us at  
 8 appropriate points what you felt about the leader when  
 9 he was the leader, Farnell, and Rowen when he became  
 10 leader in around May time 1992. But there are certain  
 11 other questions I would like to ask you, please, on the  
 12 topic to see if you can help.  
 13 First, we have heard some evidence that opposition  
 14 members, politicians, in other words, councillors, were  
 15 unable under the Labour administration -- so we are  
 16 talking about Councillor Farnell's time as leader  
 17 between 1986, 1987 and 1992, to raise issues or ask  
 18 questions in committee meetings unless they were on an  
 19 agenda set by the controlling party. In other words,  
 20 that opposition members had no ability to raise issues  
 21 about Knowl View of their own volition.  
 22 From your experience, is that an accurate reflection  
 23 of how councillors operated in that period?  
 24 **A. I can speak most comfortable about the councillors who**  
 25 **were either chairs of the Education Committee or chair**

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1 **of School Subcommittee and so on. In other words, the**  
 2 **names you have seen who were involved in all the**  
 3 **discussions. Both Mary Moffat and Ray Colley made**  
 4 **a point of including all party education spokespersons,**  
 5 **not just in Knowl View, but in other aspects, and it was**  
 6 **seen as an educational concern rather than a political**  
 7 **one.**  
 8 **Of course, when you go to a full public committee**  
 9 **meeting, things are slightly different, but in terms of**  
 10 **handing over the information and so on and discussing**  
 11 **it, having an open discussion with the three parties,**  
 12 **that certainly happened in education.**  
 13 Q. To the extent that evidence has been given that  
 14 opposition councillors -- unless something was on the  
 15 agenda, they weren't entitled -- they had no ability to  
 16 raise issues, is that a fair or unfair observation from  
 17 your experience?  
 18 **A. I would have said that politicians were adept at raising**  
 19 **issues attached to something on the agenda.**  
 20 Q. Did they get answers?  
 21 **A. Well, that would depend on the politician who was being**  
 22 **quizzed.**  
 23 Q. Next, when councillors were elected --  
 24 **A. Sorry, I was referring in the Public Committee at that**  
 25 **point.**

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1 Q. Yes, yes. When councillors were elected, was there an  
 2 induction process whereby their responsibilities were  
 3 explained to them?  
 4 **A. I believe from the chief executive department.**  
 5 Q. How would that work? Do you know?  
 6 **A. I don't know.**  
 7 Q. Did you play any role in the appointment of governors?  
 8 **A. Well, indirectly only, because LEA governors were**  
 9 **appointed by all parties from the council, so they would**  
 10 **be political appointments.**  
 11 Q. Right.  
 12 **A. Parent governors were elected, staff governors were**  
 13 **elected, and then those governors could co-opt**  
 14 **additional governors.**  
 15 Q. I see.  
 16 **A. So any influence we had was indirect.**  
 17 Q. So to the question, did you have any input into the  
 18 approval of individual governors, is that yes, no or not  
 19 at all?  
 20 **A. No, we didn't have. You're talking now about education**  
 21 **officers?**  
 22 Q. Yes, yes.  
 23 **A. No, we wouldn't have.**  
 24 Q. Do you know what criteria were applied to the  
 25 appointment of governors?

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1 **A. That they hadn't been to prison, they were willing to**  
 2 **serve, and that they commanded the confidence of**  
 3 **the nominating body.**  
 4 Q. Did they have to go through a process of scanning, as it  
 5 were, by the police? Did anybody get in touch with the  
 6 police just to check that somebody was of good character  
 7 before they were appointed to a governorship?  
 8 **A. Well, if they did, I wasn't aware of it. The LEA**  
 9 **governors would be appointed at a committee meeting.**  
 10 Q. Cyril Smith. Can I move on to him, please? Can we go  
 11 to GMP000263 at page 3. Do you have it in front of you?  
 12 **A. I do.**  
 13 Q. This is a letter to you dated 2 January 1993 from  
 14 Cyril Smith:  
 15 "I write re Knowl View School. I suppose you know  
 16 that Mr Harry Wild is a good friend of mine. He's  
 17 spoken to me three or four times during December about  
 18 his deep concern and worry for the school, where he is  
 19 now the vice chairman of governors."  
 20 What Smith was inviting you to consider in the next  
 21 paragraph is an enquiry but first he said his view, in  
 22 other words, Wild's:  
 23 "His view is that things are far from satisfactory  
 24 at Knowl View and the wisest course would be to close  
 25 the school and sell the land! I don't know about

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1 that -- but I do know an enquiry is called for, and if  
 2 the LEA doesn't move, the danger is that others will,  
 3 particularly national press, et cetera.  
 4 "I believe an enquiry is called for. I have read  
 5 the confidential papers of the last two years at this  
 6 school."  
 7 First of all, was it a usual matter for you to  
 8 receive letters like this from Cyril Smith?  
 9 **A. No, it wasn't.**  
 10 Q. Was this out of the blue?  
 11 **A. It was.**  
 12 Q. Should confidential papers of the last two years at the  
 13 school have been passed to him?  
 14 **A. No.**  
 15 Q. Did you know who was doing it?  
 16 **A. I assumed at the time it has Harry Wild, if he was the**  
 17 **vice chair of governors.**  
 18 Q. At this time, Cyril Smith was no longer an MP?  
 19 **A. That's correct.**  
 20 Q. He certainly wasn't a governor at this time?  
 21 **A. No.**  
 22 Q. Although Harry Wild was vice chair of governors, as we  
 23 can see from the body of the letter. Did you question  
 24 the fact that he had access to this material?  
 25 **A. Well, I was concerned about it.**

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1 Q. You wrote a letter back, but it looks as if there was an  
 2 intervening meeting. If we go to RHC001567. Do you see  
 3 there is a letter on 27 January from you to him:  
 4 "Thank you for your letter of the 21st ..."  
 5 Which I'm not sure we have:  
 6 "... and thank you also for the time you spent with  
 7 us on the previous day. It was most helpful to have  
 8 your perspective regarding the school and some of  
 9 the ways forward."  
 10 Who was the "us" who met with him on 20 January?  
 11 **A. I'm sorry, I can't remember.**  
 12 Q. What was the meeting about?  
 13 **A. I can remember an occasion when Cyril Smith came in to**  
 14 **see me and wanted me to do something. I can't remember**  
 15 **this meeting and I don't think it was the same one.**  
 16 Q. By this time, had you heard the notorious rumours about  
 17 Cyril Smith?  
 18 **A. No, actually, nor about Harry Wild.**  
 19 Q. Nor about Harry Wild?  
 20 **A. No.**  
 21 Q. Do you know if Cyril Smith visited Knowl View at this  
 22 time or any time?  
 23 **A. I didn't know then. I've seen in the papers**  
 24 **subsequently that he did.**  
 25 Q. Did governors' meetings take place at the school?

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1 **A. Yes, usually.**  
 2 Q. Were you still in post when Smith became a governor  
 3 in July 1994, second time around?  
 4 **A. Yes, I was still in post.**  
 5 Q. Harry Wild, I think you say in one of your witness  
 6 statements, Smith told you had excellent credentials.  
 7 Do you remember Smith telling you that?  
 8 **A. If I said that in my statement, I remembered at the**  
 9 **time.**  
 10 Q. But you had no knowledge of Harry Wild?  
 11 **A. No.**  
 12 Q. Or knowledge of some of the information that was turned  
 13 up by a police investigation into him when he wanted to  
 14 open a foundation in --  
 15 **A. No, I didn't. No, I didn't.**  
 16 Q. Do you remember in the letter to you Smith represented  
 17 Wild's view was that he wanted to close the school and  
 18 sell the land?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Did you ever establish what his interest, or proprietary  
 21 interest, was in doing that?  
 22 **A. I don't know why he came up with that idea.**  
 23 Q. Let's now come to the closure of the school.  
 24 Stephen Bradshaw. Do you remember now -- the school  
 25 I think temporarily closed on 22 December 1994.

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. But it took a couple of years, or almost two years, to  
 3 sort itself out. It didn't finally close until the end  
 4 of August 1996. But what brought about the closure?  
 5 **A. Yes. Perhaps I could clarify the length of that time?**  
 6 Q. Yes.  
 7 **A. Because Stephen Bradshaw left the end of August 1994,**  
 8 **and John Tyldesley, who was the head of another special**  
 9 **school, came in for the autumn term to close it down.**  
 10 Q. Okay.  
 11 **A. By closing, I mean to make sure that someone was in the**  
 12 **building, but that all the boys were placed elsewhere.**  
 13 **So one by one they left, they went somewhere else, and**  
 14 **by the end -- by the end of that term, the school was**  
 15 **empty, as it were. That was the emergency closure.**  
 16 **Then there was a whole process to be gone through**  
 17 **before the DfE would finally agree the closure in 1996.**  
 18 Q. I think Smith was on the working party that recommended  
 19 the closure of the school, and the recommendation was on  
 20 20 October 1994?  
 21 **A. Yes. There were things before that.**  
 22 Q. There was plenty before then?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. Otherwise, we could spend the rest of the day just  
 25 examining what happened at that time.

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. Do you remember if Cyril Smith tried to push for the  
 3 school to remain open or remain open in a different  
 4 guise or under different ownership?  
 5 **A. No, I don't remember that.**  
 6 Q. I would like you to look at a letter, please, GMP000233  
 7 at page 3. You will see it is date 30 September 1994 to  
 8 Mr Tyldesley, by now the acting head teacher.  
 9 Mr Bradshaw went the month before, the previous term, or  
 10 during the summer:  
 11 "Dear John.  
 12 "Due to the present circumstances that Knowl View  
 13 School finds itself in, we, as the social work team,  
 14 feel we are left with no other option than to express  
 15 our professional concerns regarding the safety and  
 16 education of the children from 9 am to 3.30 pm ...  
 17 "This week we have seen two very serious incidents  
 18 involving children's safety during the school day. We  
 19 do not have those same concerns on the house units where  
 20 the routine remains stable and structured.  
 21 "We would appreciate your response ..."  
 22 It is signed, you can see, by the names below,  
 23 including Martin Digan. Did you know what the problems  
 24 were? Did that come to your attention?  
 25 **A. I don't think I have seen this letter before. I don't**

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1 **recollect -- if it refers to incidents, I don't remember**  
 2 **hearing about them.**  
 3 Q. What did precipitate the closure of the school? What  
 4 brought it about? Was it staffing problems, the fact  
 5 that Bradshaw had gone and wasn't going to be easily  
 6 replaced or had the Education Department and the council  
 7 just thrown their hands up and said, "Time to bring an  
 8 end to this"?  
 9 **A. The head of care got a post elsewhere and left.**  
 10 Q. Who was that? Was that Duncan Eaton?  
 11 **A. No. He left before. Macquarie.**  
 12 Q. Right.  
 13 **A. It might have been.**  
 14 Q. Yes.  
 15 **A. He left and then was -- I think someone within the**  
 16 **school was appointed to that. The deputy got a post**  
 17 **elsewhere.**  
 18 Q. The deputy?  
 19 **A. Deputy head.**  
 20 Q. Who was?  
 21 **A. I can't remember his name, I'm sorry. He got a post**  
 22 **elsewhere and Stephen Bradshaw allowed him to leave**  
 23 **before his contract was finished --**  
 24 Q. Yes.  
 25 **A. -- which I was very unhappy about. And then**

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1 **Stephen Bradshaw got a job elsewhere. I felt that the**  
 2 **school was completely vulnerable, that we'd been here**  
 3 **before, it was just exactly the situation that I'd**  
 4 **walked into in September 1990 and all the improvements**  
 5 **would go to waste, the school was not sustainable and**  
 6 **that was my recommendation to the political groups.**  
 7 Q. So the Working Party, in the end, took your  
 8 recommendation, perhaps it was recommended by others,  
 9 but certainly took yours on board by the sound of it?  
 10 **A. The Working Party was later. The report went with four**  
 11 **options to the leadership meeting, councillors.**  
 12 **I forget what the four options were, but one of them was**  
 13 **an emergency closure because the school was not**  
 14 **sustainable, it was in danger, and that was the one they**  
 15 **chose, and therefore that went to council -- to**  
 16 **Education Committee, to council and the Working Party.**  
 17 Q. Thank you so. That was the process. So your  
 18 recommendation came early on, but in the end --  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. -- the result was the one that you recommended?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. Such boys as were still there were placed elsewhere?  
 23 **A. Yes, they were.**  
 24 Q. In the borough or elsewhere?  
 25 **A. Some were in the borough and some went to residential**

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1 **places elsewhere, some went to day provision elsewhere.**  
 2 Q. Just a few more questions, Mrs Cavanagh, and we will  
 3 finish before lunch. First of all, you have told us  
 4 about Khelsie Atkins, who was your PA or secretary?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. Was she working for you in 1994/1995 still?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. When was it you left the council, remind us?  
 9 **A. In May 1995.**  
 10 Q. Did she ever bring to your attention that Martin Digan  
 11 wished to speak to you about what he had discovered at  
 12 Knowl View?  
 13 **A. I don't remember that.**  
 14 Q. In other words, the abuse of children in the school.  
 15 He's given evidence to the inquiry that he, having  
 16 discovered a box of papers, including the Mellor Report,  
 17 in the headmaster's office copied it all and there are  
 18 various people to whom he took it, but one of  
 19 the persons he wanted to speak to was you. He has told  
 20 the inquiry that he was given the message by  
 21 Khelsie Atkins on your behalf that you had no wish to  
 22 speak to him?  
 23 **A. Is there a date attached to this statement?**  
 24 Q. Not a precise date, no.  
 25 **A. Because at the end of -- as the school was in the**

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1 process of closure, and certainly at the beginning of  
 2 1995, the press started producing stories in which I was  
 3 attacked and accused of various things, and it was then  
 4 agreed that communication on these matters would go  
 5 through the press office. So if, in that situation,  
 6 I gave that response, that's how it related. I don't  
 7 remember any other situation.

8 Q. Can I remind you of what you told the police in your  
 9 19 May 2015 witness statement:  
 10 "I have nothing specific to say about Martin Digan  
 11 and he never communicated anything to me. In 1995 he  
 12 reported untrue allegations about me which were reported  
 13 in the press."  
 14 So you seemed to be saying then that you'd had no  
 15 communication with him at all or him with you?

16 A. Mmm.

17 Q. Are you saying that you might have done?

18 A. I'm saying there might have been a phone call but,  
 19 because we'd agreed all the arrangements would go  
 20 through the press office, I didn't respond. I don't  
 21 remember the phone call, actually.

22 Q. If a message had gone back from Khelsie to Digan,  
 23 saying, "Mrs Cavanagh won't speak to you", would it be  
 24 likely that she would have added, "But you can contact  
 25 the press office"?

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1 A. I don't know, and I'm sure Khelsie would have been  
 2 truthful about her comment.

3 Q. Just a last few questions, just general questions, given  
 4 your long experience, Mrs Cavanagh, in education.  
 5 First, how exceptional do you regard the events at  
 6 Knowl View as compared to your experience at other  
 7 residential schools for children with educational and  
 8 emotional needs?

9 A. Extremely exceptional.

10 Q. Perhaps a difficult question, given you have been in the  
 11 witness box for a day and a half, and we have covered  
 12 a lot of ground, but what, in your view, as  
 13 a generalisation, were the main contributory factors to  
 14 what went wrong at Knowl View?

15 A. This is difficult to summarise.

16 Q. I knew it would be and that's why I prefaced my question  
 17 in the way I did.

18 A. There were various elements. One was that people worked  
 19 very hard but they tended to work along certain lines  
 20 and therefore not be conscious of what was happening  
 21 elsewhere. So therefore, there was a big failure in  
 22 communication and that was at every level, as far as  
 23 I can see now.  
 24 And that, even where the messages were communicated,  
 25 they might not be picked up. People might not feel that

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1 they -- they -- were responsible for an action rather  
 2 than somebody else.

3 Particular to Knowl View within the school, there  
 4 was a lot of resentment, backbiting, distrust among the  
 5 staff and I think that that produced a generally  
 6 unhealthy position.

7 But also, because the LEA really didn't get to grips  
 8 with having a fit person as head teacher when  
 9 Terry Hopwood was off ill, that meant there was a real  
 10 slump in proper governance of the school, both in the  
 11 school and the governing body.

12 Q. Do you also think the fact that Education Department and  
 13 social services weren't perhaps seeing eye to eye or  
 14 working together had anything to do with it? Because  
 15 you focused on what was going on inside the school.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What about the council itself?

18 A. Yes, I completely agree.

19 Q. Do you agree or disagree that over the years there were  
 20 children at the school who shouldn't have been there  
 21 because their needs couldn't be properly met?

22 A. I don't think I'm qualified to comment on that, because  
 23 they would all have a statement of Special Educational  
 24 Need and their placement would follow.

25 Q. Do you agree or disagree, as the case may be, that

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1 children there were put at risk because of a failure to  
 2 act decisively when information that they were being  
 3 sexually abused came to light?

4 A. What dates are you talking about? Because, yes, I think  
 5 they were put at risk, but I think later in the period,  
 6 if we are talking up to 1994 then the risk had been  
 7 minimised.

8 Q. '89 to late 1992 period, '93?

9 A. Well, I think even before then the risks were being  
 10 minimised, but before that it would certainly be true.

11 What I should just say in addition on the previous  
 12 question was that the nature of the children in  
 13 Knowl View had changed from its initial inception, and  
 14 that was typical of special schools, and it was an  
 15 effect of the 1981 Education Act.

16 So it must have been that they were not properly  
 17 placed because the school itself had been set up to  
 18 expect different pupils.

19 Q. You said in your June 1992 there had been a catastrophic  
 20 failure of leadership?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. "Calamitous" I think you called it. But I think you  
 23 were targeting those within the school. You weren't  
 24 including Steve Bradshaw but --

25 A. No.

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1 Q. -- certainly others, his predecessors?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. Accusing them of calamitous leadership, catastrophic  
 4 leadership. Did you feel that those in charge of  
 5 the school had completely lost control of it?  
 6 **A. They had completely lost control of parts of it, by**  
 7 **which I mean some of the units and some of**  
 8 **the educational activities that should have been going**  
 9 **on in the school.**  
 10 Q. Mrs Cavanagh, those are all the questions I have.  
 11 Ms Hoyano has been permitted to ask one question in  
 12 a moment and I dare say the chair and the panel have  
 13 a question or so for you. But before I invite those  
 14 questions to be asked, we understand that there is  
 15 something that you would like to say yourself to the  
 16 panel?  
 17 **A. If the chair is in agreement. Thank you. I promise to**  
 18 **be brief.**  
 19 **Reflecting on the current process, it's been very**  
 20 **tiring and emotionally draining. It has also been**  
 21 **enlightening. Looking back at that period, 1990 to**  
 22 **1994, I would have wanted to ensure much better**  
 23 **coordination of information and the records and to**  
 24 **ensure proper support and, where appropriate,**  
 25 **counselling for the pupils and their parents.**

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1 it is desirable that one or more members of teaching  
 2 staff should be designated and trained as the liaison  
 3 officer(s) with the Social Services Department ...'.  
 4 Schools received a letter from the LEA in 1988 drawing  
 5 their attention to the Department of Education and  
 6 Science Circular 4/88 'Working Together for the  
 7 Protection of Children from Abuse: Procedures within the  
 8 Education Service' and requested that in line with the  
 9 recommendations of the circular, a senior member of  
 10 staff be designated as having responsibility for  
 11 acquainting him/herself with the procedures adopted by  
 12 the authority."  
 13 Can I just ask whether you are aware whether any  
 14 such teacher was designated as the child protection  
 15 officer in Knowl View during the period from 1988 until  
 16 its closure in 1994?  
 17 **A. I'm not aware. We had a lead officer for child**  
 18 **protection and he would have expected to have a list of**  
 19 **the designated teachers from each school, but I'm not --**  
 20 **I, personally, am not aware, I'm afraid.**  
 21 Q. One of the things the report does note is that the list  
 22 is partial. So if no-one -- we haven't seen on the  
 23 records anywhere a designated teacher for child  
 24 protection?  
 25 **A. For Knowl View, do you mean?**

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1 **The LEA, and that is the local authority, not just**  
 2 **the Education Department, was responsible for 32,000**  
 3 **children, schoolchildren, and it shared some of those**  
 4 **responsibilities with other Rochdale institutions.**  
 5 **I was a part of that. Insofar as my part in these**  
 6 **matters has meant some of the former pupils have**  
 7 **suffered abuse and subsequent trauma and unhappiness,**  
 8 **I am truly sorry, and I hope the current process brings**  
 9 **them some relief. Thank you, chair.**  
 10 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mrs Cavanagh.  
 11 MR ALTMAN: I think Ms Hoyano is going to ask a single  
 12 question and then, as I say, the chair and panel may  
 13 have a question or two for you.  
 14 Examination by MS HOYANO  
 15 MS HOYANO: Mrs Cavanagh, I represent some of the boys who  
 16 were abused at Knowl View. I would just like to say on  
 17 their behalf that what you have just said will mean  
 18 a great deal to them.  
 19 If I might ask that document RHC002806 be pulled up.  
 20 Page 30. Mrs Cavanagh, this is a Social Services  
 21 Inspectorate report on Rochdale Borough Council that was  
 22 commissioned in the midst of the ongoing Middleton  
 23 difficulties. I would just like to refer you to  
 24 paragraph 5.21, if that could be blown up. That says:  
 25 "The current guidelines state that 'In every school

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1 Q. For Knowl View. If one was -- no-one was appointed  
 2 would that not be a matter for the Education Department  
 3 to follow up?  
 4 **A. Yes, it would be a matter first of all for the governors**  
 5 **to follow up and for the Education Department through**  
 6 **the Principal Education Welfare Officer.**  
 7 Q. I note that in your report to Mr Pierce of 8 May 1992,  
 8 paragraph 5, which is RHC001523 -- no need to bring it  
 9 up, I think -- you said there was no funding available  
 10 for essential child protection training for care and  
 11 teaching staff. Does that lead us to conclude that  
 12 no-one was trained in child protection at Knowl View as  
 13 expected by the Ministry of Education?  
 14 **A. I think what I was saying was a broader point, that as**  
 15 **part of local management of schools, all the in-service**  
 16 **training budget was allocated teaching staff. That was**  
 17 **a DfE regulation. That was not us. The only training**  
 18 **budget we had was one that was shared with the staff of**  
 19 **the department and any other nonteaching staff. But I'm**  
 20 **not convinced that that applied to child protection**  
 21 **training because, as a member of the Education**  
 22 **Department staff when I arrived, I was part of child**  
 23 **protection training, I mean as a participant, which was**  
 24 **run by the psychological service. It is therefore my**  
 25 **understanding that that was available to nonteaching**

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1 **staff.**  
 2 Q. Just to sum up, then, in all the meetings you had at  
 3 Knowl View and about Knowl View, if there was  
 4 a designated child protection officer within the school,  
 5 would you have been expected to have been informed of  
 6 that and to have met with that person?  
 7 **A. I wouldn't have, but someone in the department would**  
 8 **have been.**  
 9 MS HOYANO: Thank you. Thank you, chair.  
 10 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Hoyano. We have no questions, no  
 11 further questions, for you today, Mrs Cavanagh, but we  
 12 understand that this has been a long and tiring process  
 13 for you. We are very grateful for your attendance and  
 14 your contributions.  
 15 **A. Thank you, chair.**  
 16 **(The witness withdrew)**  
 17 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much. Thank you, chair.  
 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will break and return at 2.00 pm.  
 19 (1.05 pm)  
 20 (The short adjournment)  
 21 (2.00 pm)  
 22 MS DOBBIN: Chair, the next witness is Mr Shepherd.  
 23 MR PHILIP SHEPHERD (affirmed)  
 24  
 25

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1 Examination by MS DOBBIN  
 2 MS DOBBIN: Mr Shepherd, can you give your full name to the  
 3 panel, please?  
 4 **A. It's Philip Shepherd.**  
 5 Q. Can I thank you, Mr Shepherd, on behalf of the panel for  
 6 coming back to give evidence this week. I know that you  
 7 were on your way to give evidence last week and you were  
 8 asked to turn around.  
 9 **A. Thank you.**  
 10 Q. Mr Shepherd, is it right that you had a career in  
 11 nursing for some 40 years?  
 12 **A. It is.**  
 13 Q. Was most of your career spent in and around the Rochdale  
 14 area?  
 15 **A. All of it.**  
 16 Q. In the course of that career, were you a charge nurse at  
 17 Birch Hill Hospital?  
 18 **A. Yes, I was in charge of an acute medical ward for around**  
 19 **10 years.**  
 20 Q. Thank you. Then did you become a health visitor in the  
 21 area?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. Then, in and around 1985 to 1986, did you undertake  
 24 training in AIDS and HIV in the community?  
 25 **A. Yes. I attended a seminar in around about '85. At that**

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1 **time, not many people had even heard of AIDS. After**  
 2 **attending that seminar, I came back to Rochdale and**  
 3 **myself and a colleague decided that we needed to do**  
 4 **something locally, so we set up initially a counselling**  
 5 **line, an information line, and then we put together**  
 6 **a programme of training and went around training with**  
 7 **staff within the health authority. We were doing that**  
 8 **as well as health visiting, so after a while it became**  
 9 **very difficult to carry on.**  
 10 **So I went to the health authority and asked them to**  
 11 **create a post for me and said that I would take over the**  
 12 **responsibility for HIV/AIDS and do the training full**  
 13 **time, and they agreed. So I set up what was to become**  
 14 **a sexual health unit.**  
 15 Q. Did that, in due course, then become the Rochdale  
 16 AIDS Unit --  
 17 **A. It did.**  
 18 Q. -- which we have seen on some of the documentation in  
 19 this investigation?  
 20 **A. It did, yes.**  
 21 Q. Can you just explain how that unit fitted in with  
 22 healthcare provision in Rochdale?  
 23 **A. Yes. Around about -- when we started off, it was simply**  
 24 **about information. The government advertising came in**  
 25 **in the late '80s, mid to late '80s, and it caused**

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1 **full-scale panic, I think. If you saw the -- if you**  
 2 **remember the adverts --**  
 3 Q. The iceberg advertisement?  
 4 **A. -- crashing gravestones, and so on, it created a lot of**  
 5 **anxiety.**  
 6 **Within the healthcare service, there was a need for**  
 7 **infection control, obviously, and information, and so we**  
 8 **slowly developed the unit, the government started**  
 9 **putting money in, realising what a problem it was going**  
 10 **to be, and so we started developing posts around drug**  
 11 **use, for instance, because that was one of the means of**  
 12 **transmission that we were worried about locally, and so**  
 13 **we had drug advisers, we had -- set up a needle exchange**  
 14 **scheme, we were counselling nurses within the service**  
 15 **because there was a great worry at that time about**  
 16 **needle stick injuries and infection, and we were doing**  
 17 **work in the community as well. So it started to take**  
 18 **off. It expanded very rapidly.**  
 19 **Then cases started coming along. We had a few cases**  
 20 **of full-blown AIDS within the community. So my job was**  
 21 **multifaceted. One of the responsibilities I had was**  
 22 **ensuring that these patients were looked after at home.**  
 23 **That entailed making sure that they understood means of**  
 24 **transmission and the problems, and so did the nursing**  
 25 **staff who were looking after them, their relatives. It**

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1 **went right through to undertakers. We did training with**  
 2 **everybody right down the line to ensure that there was**  
 3 **confidentiality, to ensure that there was infection**  
 4 **control throughout.**  
 5 Q. I am going to come on to that training role in just  
 6 a moment, but can I just ask you this: were you aware,  
 7 through your work in sexual health, that there was  
 8 cottaging going on in and around Rochdale town centre?  
 9 **A. At that time, no.**  
 10 Q. Was that something you just hadn't heard of?  
 11 **A. Yes. It wasn't until later that we had Outreach workers**  
 12 **working in the community with young people, in youth**  
 13 **clubs and so on.**  
 14 **In fact, one of the first Outreach workers we**  
 15 **employed was a young woman that's been in the news**  
 16 **recently with another case, Sara Rowbotham, who's been**  
 17 **involved in the case of the taxi drivers and the young**  
 18 **girls in Rochdale, so she worked for us originally.**  
 19 Q. At around what time did you start to become aware that  
 20 cottaging was an issue in Rochdale?  
 21 **A. When I was invited to Knowl View School, I think.**  
 22 Q. Again, just before I leave that, did the AIDS unit  
 23 itself have any form of liaison with the local police or  
 24 social services?  
 25 **A. The local police?**

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1 Q. Yes.  
 2 **A. No, I don't think we did at that time.**  
 3 Q. Because you remember you had some liaison there with  
 4 social services in the role that you did?  
 5 **A. Yes, occasionally we would meet with them and the**  
 6 **Education Department. We worked with a lot of staff**  
 7 **across the local authority, in actual fact.**  
 8 Q. As regards social services, was that about providing  
 9 training to the Social Services Department at the  
 10 council?  
 11 **A. Yes, a lot of the staff came into our courses that we**  
 12 **held centrally, and occasionally we'd be asked to go and**  
 13 **do some training with specific groups of staff.**  
 14 Q. I think it is right that in 1991 you were approached to  
 15 give some training at Knowl View School to staff?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. Who was it who asked you to provide that training?  
 18 **A. It was Kath Widdowfield.**  
 19 Q. Who was she?  
 20 **A. She had a health promotion/sexual health role within the**  
 21 **local authority. She worked under the advisers,**  
 22 **I think, and we had done quite a lot of work with her.**  
 23 Q. Which department did she actually work in?  
 24 **A. Education.**  
 25 Q. Did she explain to you why training was wanted at Knowl

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1 View School or what the background was to the school?  
 2 **A. I don't remember exactly what she said, but I think it**  
 3 **was just a broad outline of the fact that staff were**  
 4 **asking for training because they didn't feel happy about**  
 5 **the information support they had to give to the boys in**  
 6 **the place.**  
 7 Q. Have you any recollection of being told that the  
 8 training was a last resort for staff?  
 9 **A. No.**  
 10 Q. We will look at some documentation in due course and see  
 11 if that triggers any memories, but did you in fact go to  
 12 Knowl View School on 15 March 1991?  
 13 **A. Yes. Can I just say that we developed the training.**  
 14 **I have seen it written that we went in to do training**  
 15 **around HIV/AIDS, but our training courses at that time**  
 16 **were a lot more generic. We'd had to look at other**  
 17 **sexually transmitted diseases, not just look at HIV in**  
 18 **isolation. So there was a range of things that we had**  
 19 **to look at, including, for instance, how to use sexual**  
 20 **language. It was all right having the information, but**  
 21 **if you didn't know how to talk to the young people you**  
 22 **were working with, the sexual language that was**  
 23 **required -- we included prejudice as part of**  
 24 **the curriculum, if you like. We had to challenge a lot**  
 25 **of issues and a lot of attitudes at that time.**

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1 Q. Thank you.  
 2 **A. I can give you a quick example of the problems.**  
 3 Q. Were those the sorts of problems that you had in  
 4 Rochdale?  
 5 **A. Yes, right across the board.**  
 6 Q. What sort of problems were they?  
 7 **A. For instance, one day, one of my nurse colleagues rang**  
 8 **me. She'd been on one of our courses, so she had a good**  
 9 **understanding of what was required, and she asked me to**  
 10 **go and talk to a senior surgeon at the hospital who she**  
 11 **said didn't understand the issues.**  
 12 **So I went along and met with him and a colleague and**  
 13 **asked him what his strategy was in terms of infection**  
 14 **control in the theatre, given that this new virus had**  
 15 **come along that was killing people, and he said, "We've**  
 16 **got it covered. We don't have a problem with that.**  
 17 **I've organised things". He said, "When a gay man comes**  
 18 **along for surgery, we put him on the end of the list and**  
 19 **clean the theatre thoroughly afterwards". When I asked**  
 20 **him how he knew that somebody was gay, he just said,**  
 21 **"Well, you can tell". So that was the sort of issue we**  
 22 **had within healthcare, professionals who had little**  
 23 **understanding, had prejudice against certain parts of**  
 24 **the community, because gay men were scapegoated at that**  
 25 **time.**

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<p>1 Q. Was that lack of understanding something that you 2 perceived went wider in Rochdale than just healthcare 3 staff? 4 <b>A. Yes. Oh, yes.</b> 5 Q. Was there a general resistance to wanting to have to 6 deal with and discuss these types of issues? 7 <b>A. To have to deal with ...?</b> 8 Q. Was there a general resistance, do you think, in 9 Rochdale, in terms of dealing with issues of sexual 10 health or dealing with -- 11 <b>A. In other departments?</b> 12 Q. Yes. 13 <b>A. Certainly, yes. I mean, part of that was them not being</b> 14 <b>able to do the things I have just been talking about.</b> 15 <b>It was a lack of understanding, a lack of the ability to</b> 16 <b>communicate.</b> 17 Q. Thank you, Mr Shepherd. I just want to go back, then, 18 to the meeting that you had on 15 March 1991. 19 <b>A. Yes.</b> 20 Q. First of all, can you recollect the type of staff who 21 were present at the meeting at Knowl View School? 22 <b>A. They were all social care staff who were working with</b> 23 <b>the boys when they came out of classroom, as it were,</b> 24 <b>with education.</b> 25 Q. Were there about eight of them?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 a letter that you wrote to Mrs Cavanagh enclosing a copy 2 of your report on 20 March 1991? 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. What you have said to her is that you have sent that 5 report to Mr Williams and Ms Simpson. 6 <b>A. Yes.</b> 7 Q. And that you were sending a covering letter to them 8 inviting a reply. Why was it that you wanted a reply 9 from those two specific individuals? 10 <b>A. I didn't know those two specific individuals, it must be</b> 11 <b>said. I think I must have conferred with</b> 12 <b>Kath Widdowfield at the time and asked her who she</b> 13 <b>thought were the best people to send copies to.</b> 14 <b>Obviously I wanted to send it to Ms Cavanagh because</b> 15 <b>I understood she was in charge of Knowl View at that</b> 16 <b>time.</b> 17 Q. If we can go over the page, please, to page 15, I just 18 want to ask you about some of the things that appear in 19 your report. 20 <b>A. Yes.</b> 21 Q. If we could look, please, at the first paragraph, and 22 just at the last line of that first paragraph: 23 "Another member of my staff had previously worked 24 with some of this group in June 1990 around HIV/AIDS 25 issues."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I believe there were eight, yes.</b> 2 Q. We are going to look at your report in a little bit of 3 detail, but just in general terms, can you explain what 4 happened when you went into the meeting with them? 5 <b>A. Yes. The idea when we go into a session like that was</b> 6 <b>we'd take along materials and we have some ideas about</b> 7 <b>how the day might go, but obviously we needed to talk to</b> 8 <b>the staff and ask them what they wanted out of it. When</b> 9 <b>we did that, we just got back lots of complaints.</b> 10 <b>One thing I've learned in the previous 16 years of</b> 11 <b>work was how to listen, and it quickly became apparent</b> 12 <b>that we were not going to be able to deliver our</b> 13 <b>training, that the staff wanted to vent their</b> 14 <b>frustration, anger, their worries about the boys, so we</b> 15 <b>just had to listen and talk them through it.</b> 16 Q. Does that mean, then, that you spent the entire day -- 17 <b>A. More or less.</b> 18 Q. -- scheduled to be at Knowl View School listening to 19 what the staff were saying? 20 <b>A. Yes.</b> 21 Q. I am going to ask you if we can look at the report that 22 you came to write, and that's at GMP000387 and if we 23 could go to page 14, please. Mr Shepherd, it will 24 appear on the screen in front of you, which you may find 25 a little bit easier. Do you recognise that? It was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b> 2 Q. Mr Shepherd, by that did you understand that some of 3 your staff had worked with the same group of staff at 4 Knowl View School in the previous year? 5 <b>A. I think what I picked up, though, was that some of</b> 6 <b>the staff had been on some of our courses. In other</b> 7 <b>words, they'd come to our courses, probably with other</b> 8 <b>members of staff.</b> 9 Q. So you think that was -- 10 <b>A. In the unit.</b> 11 Q. -- something that the staff told you then once you 12 arrived? 13 <b>A. Yes.</b> 14 Q. If we could go to the third paragraph, please, you say 15 in the second line: 16 "Attempts by me to clarify what action if any has 17 been taken by various agencies involved with the boys 18 has so far been fruitless." 19 So it appears that in the five days that had lapsed 20 since you had been to Knowl View School you had tried to 21 take this up with other agencies. Do you have any 22 memory of that? 23 <b>A. I think I must have spoken to a number of people, but</b> 24 <b>I can't remember who. But certainly I was getting the</b> 25 <b>impression that nothing was happening.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 Q. Thank you. If we go down to the paragraph that begins, 2 "Present difficulties". What you have said there, 3 Mr Shepherd, is that you expected that sexual problems 4 of one sort or another had been a feature of the school 5 for some time? 6 <b>A. I didn't know that for sure, but it certainly seemed 7 that way from what they were telling me.</b> 8 Q. You have listed all of the things that staff brought to 9 your attention on that day. 10 <b>A. Yes.</b> 11 Q. I am not going to go through all of them, but I just 12 wanted to ask you about a few of them. If we look at 13 the third entry: 14 "Reputedly five of the junior boys have been or are 15 involved in 'cottaging' in and around public toilets." 16 Do you recollect anything else that you were told 17 about that? 18 <b>A. Not apart from the next line, which was that men from 19 all over the north of England were coming into Rochdale 20 to partake in this activity.</b> 21 Q. Then below that, you have noted: 22 "One 8-year-old is thought to have been involved. 23 The police are aware of the problem. What action has 24 been taken is not known." 25 Did you know where this 8-year-old came from or how</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I think some were more concerned than others about the 2 boys themselves. Some of them were concerned about the 3 way the school was being managed and their position in 4 it.</b> 5 Q. What was your reaction to what you had been told about 6 what was happening to children at the school? 7 <b>A. I was completely shocked. I was shocked. There's no 8 other word for it, I don't think.</b> 9 Q. Had you heard of anything like that happening when you 10 were around Rochdale previously? 11 <b>A. No.</b> 12 Q. Is it summed up by what you said in the final paragraph 13 of that page, that most people would have been horrified 14 if the facts were to be made known? 15 <b>A. Yes.</b> 16 Q. If we could go over, then, please, to the next page, 17 page 16, I don't want to go through all of this, 18 Mr Shepherd, but if I could ask you about paragraph 4, 19 please, it would appear that the social care staff were 20 complaining about the sort of training that they had. 21 <b>A. Yes.</b> 22 Q. They seemed to be suggesting that they were bereft of 23 training in sexual health? 24 <b>A. Absolutely, yes.</b> 25 Q. And that they were frustrated because they weren't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 they fitted into the picture? 2 <b>A. No. I think I got the impression at the time that it 3 was -- he was in the school, but I can't remember 4 precisely.</b> 5 Q. Then if we read down a couple of lines, it says: 6 "One 'rent boy' has been removed from the school. 7 The suggestion that he may return soon has angered the 8 staff." 9 That gives the impression that that one boy may have 10 been singled out as being someone who was in some way 11 perhaps responsible? 12 <b>A. Yes.</b> 13 Q. Is that what you understood? 14 <b>A. There was some disagreement, I must say, and some debate 15 amongst the staff, and that's why it took so long, all 16 day. They didn't always agree on the issues that were 17 being presented. So I think this is an overall view of 18 what was said, but there was some banter between them. 19 They weren't all on the same page all the time.</b> 20 Q. When you say that, what sort of things do you mean they 21 disagreed over? 22 <b>A. I can't remember specifically. I just remember the 23 discussions going on or a discussion going on.</b> 24 Q. Was it that people disagreed about how serious the 25 situation was?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 really able to help the children that they were looking 2 after? 3 <b>A. That's right.</b> 4 Q. Is that what they explained to you? 5 <b>A. Yes.</b> 6 Q. It goes on to say that it wasn't certain that anyone 7 else had offered any of the boys any counselling? 8 <b>A. I didn't get that impression at the time.</b> 9 Q. Again, was that what staff were conveying to you? 10 <b>A. Yes.</b> 11 Q. That they didn't actually know whether or not the 12 children were getting any counselling or assistance? 13 <b>A. I think it was that they didn't tell me that any 14 counselling had gone on. I probably asked them whether 15 any of the boys had had support and they said no. 16 I think that's what I meant by that.</b> 17 Q. So you were noting your belief about the situation? 18 <b>A. Yes.</b> 19 Q. If we go down again just to the next couple of 20 paragraphs, this is about the social care staff, it 21 says: 22 "These staff describe themselves as 'baby sitters'. 23 They are unique within the social services setup in 24 Rochdale. As such, they feel isolated, as senior 25 managers outside the school are rarely seen."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. Did it appear from what you were hearing from the staff  
 3 that they saw themselves as apart from the education  
 4 staff at this school?  
 5 **A. Yes. I came away from that place -- if I were to sum it**  
 6 **up in one word, it was abandonment. It just felt that**  
 7 **they'd been abandoned. The boys had been abandoned and**  
 8 **nobody was looking after them and focusing on them, and**  
 9 **the staff similarly. They'd just been left to their own**  
 10 **devices.**  
 11 Q. If we go down to the next paragraph, you have noted,  
 12 again, speaking of the staff:  
 13 "They are often deprived of information that they  
 14 believe to be relevant and important. That is,  
 15 background social histories of children, and even the  
 16 fact that an intruder had been in the school was not  
 17 communicated to some staff for days!!"  
 18 Did you understand that to be a reference to the  
 19 Rodney Hilton incident whereby the intruder --  
 20 **A. Yes, I hadn't heard about him before, but that's what**  
 21 **they were telling me, that somebody had been in and they**  
 22 **hadn't heard about it for some time.**  
 23 **There was a very obvious lack of communication**  
 24 **throughout about anything.**  
 25 Q. If we go to the next paragraph, please, and, again, just

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1 picking up the last couple of lines of that, you've  
 2 said:  
 3 "Amazingly, it would appear that anyone can be left  
 4 to supervise the children, and on one of the units where  
 5 most problems occur, the caretaker and other casual  
 6 staff work back to back with a team leader."  
 7 Again, care staff were indicating to you that part  
 8 of the difficulty was the lack of professional --  
 9 **A. Anybody could look after them, yes.**  
 10 Q. If we go over the page, please, to page 17, it is the  
 11 second paragraph on that page. You refer to the fact  
 12 that after months and possibly years of sexual problems  
 13 within the school, there appeared to be no real sex  
 14 education for the pupils. You go on to say:  
 15 "Other staff in contact with the pupils' EWOs  
 16 [Educational Welfare Officers] are viewed as 'taxi  
 17 drivers'.  
 18 First of all, as regards the sex education, you  
 19 expressed your surprise in the report that that hadn't  
 20 been provided?  
 21 **A. Looking back at it, it would seem that not much**  
 22 **education had been provided, let alone sex education,**  
 23 **but certainly these staff weren't telling me that those**  
 24 **children had had any.**  
 25 Q. Would that have been out of the ordinary for the time,

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1 for children of these ages not to have had sex  
 2 education?  
 3 **A. I don't know how it applied to schools like this,**  
 4 **special schools, I really don't. I'm not qualified to**  
 5 **say what would normally happen. But I would imagine in**  
 6 **normal schools there would be sex education going on.**  
 7 Q. Was part of your surprise to do with the fact that there  
 8 had obviously been ongoing problems at this school --  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. -- which highlighted a specific --  
 11 **A. It was the sort of sexualisation that they were talking**  
 12 **about had been going on for a while. It seemed**  
 13 **ridiculous that nobody had put together something for**  
 14 **the boys.**  
 15 Q. I know this may be an obvious question, but why would it  
 16 be so important that children in this position are given  
 17 sex education?  
 18 **A. They needed to know the boundaries, they needed to**  
 19 **understand control of infection issues, they needed to**  
 20 **understand about sexually transmitted diseases, they**  
 21 **needed to understand relationships with adults. There's**  
 22 **a whole range of things that they needed to have an**  
 23 **understanding about.**  
 24 Q. Presumably if you are providing sex education, you are  
 25 also giving children a space within which they might be

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1 able to talk about things that are happening to them --  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. -- or that they're involved with?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. Just this point about EWOs being viewed as taxi drivers,  
 6 was that that the care staff viewed them as taxi  
 7 drivers?  
 8 **A. I can't remember specifically. I have a feeling that it**  
 9 **was that the EWOs themselves just went and picked kids**  
 10 **up and that's how they saw themselves and probably**  
 11 **described it that way to the care staff.**  
 12 Q. Was that part of your overall observation about the lack  
 13 of external support this school appeared to have?  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. Then if I can take you, please, two paragraphs down to  
 16 the paragraph that begins, "Difficulties encountered":  
 17 "Difficulties encountered by us in attempting to  
 18 speak to various agencies outside the school lead me to  
 19 believe that although a lot of people know bits of  
 20 information about children in this school, there is  
 21 no-one pulling this information together. Symptoms are  
 22 being treated without the real problems being  
 23 recognised. If I am wrong in this belief,  
 24 communications between staff groups is certainly  
 25 abysmal."

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<p>1 Is that a reference back to the start of your report 2 whereby you appeared to have gone to other agencies to 3 try and find out what was going on? 4 <b>A. Yes.</b> 5 Q. Does that help you at all to identify who it is that you 6 might have tried to speak to outside the school? 7 <b>A. No. No, I can't remember.</b> 8 Q. Just whilst we are on this page, you then set out 9 a strategy of things that you thought ought to happen at 10 this school. 11 <b>A. Yes. I'd not been involved in education, so I probably</b> 12 <b>wasn't qualified to make any recommendations, should the</b> 13 <b>truth be known, but I just felt that the whole place</b> 14 <b>needed a shakeup. Although they probably knew about</b> 15 <b>some of these issues, somebody needed to duck in and</b> 16 <b>take -- and ask them to get their finger out, if you</b> 17 <b>will excuse the vernacular.</b> 18 Q. I just wanted to look at the first thing that you had 19 recommended on your strategy, which was that all staff 20 involved in any way with children in this school should 21 meet urgently to collate information. This is to 22 include education staff, social workers, child 23 protection officers, et cetera. Did you have a clear 24 impression coming away from that meeting that there 25 hadn't been that sort of joined-up meeting about the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 Q. I am going to come back and ask you a little bit more 2 about that in a few seconds. I just want to finish off 3 your report. 4 If we go over the page, we can see all the people to 5 whom you circulated the report. 6 <b>A. Yes.</b> 7 Q. You sent a copy back to Ms Widdowfield, to Mr Poulton, 8 who was then the acting headmaster of the school, to 9 Mrs Cavanagh? 10 <b>A. Yes.</b> 11 Q. To Dr Bullough, and he was the director of public health 12 for Rochdale? 13 <b>A. Yes, and he was my line manager at that time.</b> 14 Q. You then, as we have seen, sent a copy of the report as 15 well to Mr Williams and Ms Simpson? 16 <b>A. Yes.</b> 17 Q. Can I just ask, before we leave that, did you have any 18 conversations with Dr Bullough about the meeting you had 19 had within the school? 20 <b>A. Absolutely. I went to him directly. We had quite</b> 21 <b>a close working relationship and so he was the first</b> 22 <b>person I talked to once I'd put things together.</b> 23 <b>I asked him to follow it up. He said he would also talk</b> 24 <b>to Pam Hawton, who was chair of the health authority at</b> 25 <b>that time and was a local councillor. Mrs Hawton I knew</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 children in the school? 2 <b>A. They'd seemingly never met, the education staff and the</b> 3 <b>social care staff. They were completely apart. They</b> 4 <b>didn't meet.</b> 5 Q. If we just go over the page, this is the last page. You 6 then address at the end of your report, "What does this 7 have to do with the AIDS unit?", in other words, "Why is 8 this any of my business?", and what you have said is: 9 "The boys in this school look to us to be 10 increasingly at risk and this is something that needs 11 very careful consideration at management level, not 12 least because of the legal implications." 13 The risk you are talking about is the health risks 14 that these children were at? 15 <b>A. Sure. Those boys that were involved in Smith Street</b> 16 <b>toilets, for instance, they were at risk of all sorts of</b> 17 <b>things. We had spikes in all sorts of sexually</b> 18 <b>transmitted diseases at that time -- gonorrhoea,</b> 19 <b>chlamydia, we had high rates of teenage pregnancy in the</b> 20 <b>borough. They were possibly subjected to all sorts of</b> 21 <b>infections -- hepatitis. You name it. A whole range of</b> 22 <b>things. And the physical danger, I would imagine they</b> 23 <b>were putting themselves in, in that situation;</b> 24 <b>abduction. You name it. There were all sorts of risks</b> 25 <b>for those young men.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 <b>from my work in the hospital and health visiting,</b> 2 <b>somebody I respected, and in fact she rang me shortly</b> 3 <b>after that meeting. Bob had obviously been on to her.</b> 4 <b>I talked to her for a while about what I'd found. She</b> 5 <b>said that she would go to the council and take it up on</b> 6 <b>our behalf as well.</b> 7 <b>So I was -- Dr Bullough had a role, was Director of</b> 8 <b>Public Health across both health and local authority, so</b> 9 <b>in that regard I felt that things would hopefully get</b> 10 <b>moving.</b> 11 Q. Is that essentially what you wanted to happen as 12 a result of your report? 13 <b>A. Yes.</b> 14 Q. I am just going to ask you then about the response that 15 you did get back from Mrs Cavanagh, if we could go to 16 this, please, GMP000387 at page 8. Do you recognise 17 that letter, Mr Shepherd? 18 <b>A. Yes.</b> 19 Q. It is a reply to you, having sent your report of 20 5 April 1991. I am not going to go through all of it, 21 but in essence, Mrs Cavanagh set out to you some of 22 the steps that had been taken, didn't she? 23 <b>A. Yes.</b> 24 Q. She said that meetings had been held with the new head 25 teacher and other officers at the Education Department</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

1 and within the Social Services Department, and she said  
 2 there would shortly be a further joint meeting between  
 3 the police, social services and the Education Department  
 4 to consider a strategy of investigation which would take  
 5 place. Presumably, that was precisely the sort of thing  
 6 that you thought ought to be happening in respect of  
 7 the school?  
 8 **A. Sure, yes.**  
 9 Q. The next paragraph reads that a copy of your report was  
 10 passed to Councillor Hawton as well, and that it had  
 11 been discussed with Mrs Cavanagh and the acting Director  
 12 of Social Services as well.  
 13 If we go over the page, please, to page 2, she then  
 14 says:  
 15 "Given the sensitivity of this situation and the  
 16 fact that appropriate action is being discussed and  
 17 implemented, I would ask you to ensure that your report  
 18 does not receive a wider circulation than that listed on  
 19 the back page and would also request you not to  
 20 undertake any independent action."  
 21 What did you make of that whenever you received the  
 22 letter?  
 23 **A. She was saying, "Keep your mouth shut and don't go**  
 24 **anywhere else with it". I had no intention of doing**  
 25 **that at that time. I was a little bemused by that. I**

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1 **thought it more likely that she'd perhaps ring me up or**  
 2 **invite me to go and get involved in developing things.**  
 3 Q. Yes.  
 4 **A. After all, we did have that unit. There was some help**  
 5 **we could have given them. But instead, it was, like --**  
 6 **it's very interesting. I have worked with a lot of**  
 7 **staff across the local authority, and I always regarded**  
 8 **them as colleagues.**  
 9 Q. Yes.  
 10 **A. But I've seen in one report in the last week or so that**  
 11 **I was regarded, in terms of this report, I think, as an**  
 12 **"outsider" who might cause problems by going to the**  
 13 **press, and it is that sort of attitude that I couldn't**  
 14 **understand at the time.**  
 15 Q. In fact, do we see that from your reply, which is at  
 16 GMP000387, page 4? Again, I just want to ask you a few  
 17 things about this letter. First of all, in your  
 18 response to Mrs Cavanagh, you said that you thought it  
 19 was interesting that during your trawl of information  
 20 before the training session, no-one gave you the  
 21 slightest indication that there had been a meeting, let  
 22 alone any action, at this school, and it is there we see  
 23 the reference to "last resort":  
 24 "Indeed, it was a member of the Education Service  
 25 who invited us into the school to undertake the training

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1 as a 'last resort'.  
 2 **A. Yes, I remember that now. What they were saying,**  
 3 **essentially, was that they'd been to everybody they**  
 4 **could think of, attempted to get something done and**  
 5 **nothing had happened.**  
 6 Q. Then you go on to say:  
 7 "I do assure you that taking independent action was  
 8 never our intention, rather to ensure that coordinated,  
 9 concerted action took place."  
 10 Then this:  
 11 "Of greatest concern to me is the fact that this  
 12 week the staff at the school are still approaching other  
 13 professionals in an effort to 'get something done'.  
 14 There has even been mention of the interest of  
 15 the newspapers."  
 16 That's obviously something that you gave  
 17 significance to, the fact that the staff were  
 18 unburdening themselves to you against this background of  
 19 action apparently being taken?  
 20 **A. Yes, and I think the -- I can't remember specifically,**  
 21 **but that sounds like I'd picked up that they'd gone to**  
 22 **somebody else as well and they were still trawling**  
 23 **around to get somebody to listen and do something.**  
 24 Q. Right.  
 25 **A. Whether they didn't believe that I'd done anything or**

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1 **not I'm not sure, but they were still trying to get**  
 2 **people to listen to them.**  
 3 Q. Did you get the impression then that staff just didn't  
 4 know about any of the activity that was taking place in  
 5 the background as explained by Mrs Cavanagh in her  
 6 letter?  
 7 **A. If it was. They didn't have a clue. There was little**  
 8 **or no communication within the school and there seemed**  
 9 **to be little or no communication from outside inside.**  
 10 Q. Then a couple of paragraphs down, you have said:  
 11 "I have been in close touch with the new headmaster  
 12 Mr Bradshaw and passed on to him all of the information  
 13 that has come my way, along with my feelings about the  
 14 difficulties which have resulted from poor  
 15 communication."  
 16 Have you got any recollection of the conversation  
 17 that you had with Mr Bradshaw?  
 18 **A. I haven't. I haven't. I can't remember meeting him.**  
 19 **It must have been by telephone.**  
 20 Q. Then you go on to give her an assurance, don't you, in  
 21 the last paragraph, that you don't have any intention of  
 22 sharing the information that you have received with  
 23 anyone else?  
 24 **A. Yes. The boys should have been at the centre of things**  
 25 **throughout. The main concern should have been their**

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1 **welfare, and it certainly didn't seem to be, on any**  
 2 **level.**  
 3 Q. I think it follows from all that you have said, but  
 4 presumably you were never invited back to the school to  
 5 give the training that you were due to give in the first  
 6 place?  
 7 **A. Nope.**  
 8 Q. And the AIDS unit certainly wasn't invited to have any  
 9 wider role in helping the school?  
 10 **A. No.**  
 11 Q. Did any of the staff mention to you that one of  
 12 the children who was involved in the cottaging -- I'm  
 13 calling it that because that's what it was called at the  
 14 time --  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. -- was believed to have had, or to have, hepatitis B?  
 17 **A. I don't recall that.**  
 18 Q. He would have been aged about 11 or 12 at that time?  
 19 **A. I don't recall them saying that.**  
 20 Q. Just so that we are clear, hepatitis B is the strain of  
 21 hepatitis that is transmitted through bodily fluids?  
 22 **A. Yes. It's mostly transmitted via blood. Most commonly**  
 23 **transferred by needle, drug use. But if there is any**  
 24 **blood involved in sexual activity, then that's**  
 25 **a possible means of transmission as well.**

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1 Q. Have you ever, in the course of your 40 years of  
 2 nursing, come across a child of that age with  
 3 hepatitis B?  
 4 **A. Not that I can recall.**  
 5 Q. Again, this may be --  
 6 **A. Although I didn't specialise in paediatrics, I must add.**  
 7 Q. But in your general work in sexual health, did you come  
 8 across children of that sort of age?  
 9 **A. I hadn't, no, at that time, no.**  
 10 Q. Again, this may be an obvious point, but how serious an  
 11 issue does it raise that a child of that age in  
 12 a residential school might have a sexually transmitted  
 13 disease?  
 14 **A. It is enormous, because it means that there's**  
 15 **a possibility of all sorts of other infections being**  
 16 **transferred because of the type of activity that**  
 17 **obviously resulted in them contracting hepatitis. And**  
 18 **the longstanding -- obviously, the longstanding**  
 19 **consequences, you know, the effects, medical effects, on**  
 20 **the liver, et cetera, were potentially lifelong and**  
 21 **possibly catastrophic.**  
 22 Q. In your report, you noted one of the concerns about  
 23 children being involved in sexual activity with each  
 24 other. Does the fact that one child was thought to, or  
 25 might, have a sexually transmitted disease reinforce the

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1 need to tackle that situation --  
 2 **A. Absolutely.**  
 3 Q. -- with urgency?  
 4 **A. Absolutely, yes.**  
 5 Q. I am going to ask you then about a different topic,  
 6 which is a meeting that you had some time later with  
 7 Mr Digan, who used to work at the school.  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. First of all, I wanted to ask you if you can remember  
 10 now how much time passed between your meeting at the  
 11 school and the meeting that you went to with Mr Digan?  
 12 **A. Do you know, I haven't a clue. One thing I'm very bad**  
 13 **at is this timescale thing. I can't remember, it might**  
 14 **have been a couple of years, it might be three years,**  
 15 **I'm not sure.**  
 16 Q. I think we might get some help when we go through this  
 17 with when the date was. But I think you got a phone  
 18 call from Mr Digan; is that right?  
 19 **A. I got a phone call from Mr Digan asking me to go to an**  
 20 **address where he said he'd like me to meet one of**  
 21 **the boys who'd been at the school, who I believe is A41.**  
 22 Q. I think it is A14?  
 23 **A. Sorry, see, I'm getting that backwards, A14, yes.**  
 24 Q. You obviously decided that you would go and meet this  
 25 young man?

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1 **A. Yes, sure.**  
 2 Q. Were you going to meet him in a professional capacity or  
 3 did you decide to go in our own time to meet him?  
 4 **A. No, it was in a professional capacity. I was interested**  
 5 **in what he had to say.**  
 6 Q. Did you go to a house to meet this young man?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Can you recollect what age you thought he was?  
 9 **A. I think he'd be around about 18 then.**  
 10 Q. I think in your witness statement you said you thought  
 11 he was around about 19 years?  
 12 **A. Around about that.**  
 13 Q. 18/19 years of age. How was this young man, whenever  
 14 you saw him?  
 15 **A. He was agitated. Throughout the conversation, he did**  
 16 **say that he was taking drugs. He was injecting himself**  
 17 **with heroin. At that time, it looked as though he was**  
 18 **probably ready for a fix, to be honest. He was very**  
 19 **agitated, very animated, determined to get information**  
 20 **across to me. He was frustrated; frustrated about the**  
 21 **fact that he'd told people this story that he was about**  
 22 **to tell me and nobody was listening and nobody was doing**  
 23 **anything about it.**  
 24 Q. What story did he tell you, Mr Shepherd?  
 25 **A. The thing that got to him most, I think, during his time**

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1 **in Knowl View was to do with men visiting, he said, at**  
 2 **night, taking boys into a back room and having sex with**  
 3 **them. He didn't know who they were. I obviously asked**  
 4 **him if he knew the men, and he couldn't identify them.**  
 5 **He'd not seen them.**  
 6 Q. Did he say what age he was whenever this was going on?  
 7 **A. I can't remember. I can't remember.**  
 8 Q. Was he one of the boys who was part of this?  
 9 **A. He said so.**  
 10 Q. Did he say how many men were involved in this?  
 11 **A. He indicated that there might be two or three at once**  
 12 **coming at night. He described lying in bed -- many of**  
 13 **the boys lying in bed, terrified that the lights would**  
 14 **appear from the car as it came into the car park and**  
 15 **wondering who would be chosen that night to be taken**  
 16 **into the room at the back.**  
 17 Q. Did he say anything about how these men got into the  
 18 school or --  
 19 **A. He didn't. It was as if they'd just let themselves in.**  
 20 Q. Did he identify any of the men or --  
 21 **A. No.**  
 22 Q. -- describe them to you?  
 23 **A. No. He had this thing but obviously no proof about, but**  
 24 **he had this thing about it being friends of Cyril Smith**  
 25 **from the council, that sort of feeling he had, but he**

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1 **had no evidence that that was the case or not, and that**  
 2 **was possibly a bit bizarre in terms of the tale he was**  
 3 **telling me. But I just didn't know.**  
 4 Q. Did he actually mention Cyril Smith's name when you  
 5 spoke to him?  
 6 **A. I actually asked him whether he knew Cyril Smith and he**  
 7 **said he'd seen him in the place. But he wasn't one of**  
 8 **the people that he was talking about at that time.**  
 9 Q. So not Cyril Smith, but he suggested that he thought  
 10 they might be associated or people from the council --  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. -- who knew Cyril Smith?  
 13 **A. Yes, that's what he was indicating.**  
 14 Q. Are you clear in that memory, Mr Shepherd, that that's  
 15 what he was conveying to you at the time?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. What did you do after you received this information?  
 18 **A. I remember when I left the place thinking, "This is so**  
 19 **shocking. Obviously the staff know about it", because**  
 20 **Martin Digan was there and he'd invited me to speak to**  
 21 **him, so he knew about it, the staff knew about it. "The**  
 22 **police must know about it. What the hell can I do with**  
 23 **this information and where do I go with it?", and I sat**  
 24 **and talked to Dr Bullough about it. I don't remember --**  
 25 **I can't remember whether Dr Bullough was still my line**

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1 **manager at that time.**  
 2 **We were -- as a unit, we were tossed around from**  
 3 **healthcare trust to community trust to -- at times we**  
 4 **never knew who our managers were. But because**  
 5 **Dr Bullough had been involved initially and I'm sure he**  
 6 **was still director of public health, I sat down and**  
 7 **talked to him about what I had heard and asked him if he**  
 8 **could find out whether or not this was being**  
 9 **investigated through his contacts at the council.**  
 10 Q. Did you hear back from him after that?  
 11 **A. I can't recall him coming back and saying that he had**  
 12 **found anything in particular out. I got the feeling**  
 13 **that he had hit a stone wall again.**  
 14 Q. Did you discuss that information with anybody else,  
 15 besides Dr Bullough?  
 16 **A. No, because I was concerned about the confidentiality of**  
 17 **A14.**  
 18 Q. Did you consider A14 -- did you assess him to be  
 19 reliable in what he was telling you, given the  
 20 conditions that --  
 21 **A. Notwithstanding his drug use, I had no reason not to**  
 22 **believe him, he was so agitated and concerned about it.**  
 23 Q. Was it that that made you consider that what he was  
 24 saying then was reliable or was truthful?  
 25 **A. Yes. I mean, at that time, I didn't know to what extent**

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1 **Martin Digan was driving this need for information and**  
 2 **whether it was A14 that had gone to Martin Digan and**  
 3 **said, "Look, find somebody for me to talk to". I don't**  
 4 **know quite what went on there. But, no, I believed that**  
 5 **something like that had happened to him.**  
 6 Q. Can I just ask you two questions arising out of that:  
 7 did Mr Digan play any role in the conversation that you  
 8 were having with A14?  
 9 **A. No, he disappeared for a lot of the time. I'm not sure**  
 10 **whether he went into the kitchen or went out, but he**  
 11 **left the boy with me to tell me this story.**  
 12 Q. Did they say why they wanted to tell you this  
 13 information or why they wanted to involve you in it?  
 14 **A. Not particularly. It was just -- he'd apparently heard**  
 15 **that I'd written this report and sent that off in the**  
 16 **first place and presumably thought that I would do**  
 17 **something similar again and help.**  
 18 Q. Did you ever hear back from Mr Digan about that meeting?  
 19 **A. No.**  
 20 Q. Did you ever hear back from A14 or did he ever try and  
 21 contact you himself?  
 22 **A. No.**  
 23 Q. You said that it was you who introduced Cyril Smith into  
 24 the conversation --  
 25 **A. As I recall, yes.**

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1 Q. -- with A14. Why did you introduce Cyril Smith?  
 2 **A. Because I'd heard that he had been around the place.**  
 3 Q. When you say "around the place", Mr Shepherd, what do  
 4 you mean by that?  
 5 **A. That he was a frequent visitor. I can't remember where**  
 6 **I'd got that or at what point during this process I'd**  
 7 **picked that up. It may well have been on the initial**  
 8 **day of 15 March, but I knew he came into the school.**  
 9 Q. Why would that have been of concern to you?  
 10 **A. Because there were constant rumours about Cyril Smith**  
 11 **and his predilection for young boys.**  
 12 Q. How widespread were those rumours, Mr Shepherd?  
 13 **A. I'd heard them for years around Rochdale.**  
 14 Q. Were those rumours only in healthcare circles or did  
 15 they go wider than that?  
 16 **A. Oh, wider than that. Wider than that: my mother,**  
 17 **neighbours, a lot of people. There were rumours around**  
 18 **all the time about Cyril. Nobody, I don't think, had**  
 19 **any evidence for it, but they'd picked it up from**  
 20 **somewhere and it was part of the tittle-tattle.**  
 21 Q. Do you think if staff had mentioned Cyril Smith to you  
 22 on the day that you met them at Knowl View School in  
 23 1991, you would have put that in the report?  
 24 **A. Possibly, yes. Yes.**  
 25 Q. And the fact that it's not in the report, does that

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1 suggest then that it wasn't mentioned to you at that  
 2 time?  
 3 **A. It may have been somewhere else, yes. I don't recall.**  
 4 Q. Can I just ask you this, and I hope you don't mind: were  
 5 you affiliated with any political parties in Rochdale?  
 6 **A. Political parties?**  
 7 Q. Yes. By that I mean the Conservatives, Liberals or  
 8 Labour.  
 9 **A. No, never have been. Never been.**  
 10 MS DOBBIN: Thank you, Mr Shepherd. Chair, do you have any  
 11 questions for Mr Shepherd?  
 12 THE CHAIR: No, thank you. Thank you very much,  
 13 Mr Shepherd.  
 14 **A. Thank you.**  
 15 **(The witness withdrew)**  
 16 MS DOBBIN: Chair, would that be an appropriate moment for  
 17 a break?  
 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, yes. We will return at 3.10 pm.  
 19 (2.55 pm)  
 20 (A short break)  
 21 (3.10 pm)  
 22 MR ALTMAN: DCI Bottomley to be sworn or affirmed.  
 23 MR MARTIN BOTTOMLEY (sworn)  
 24  
 25

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1 Examination by MR ALTMAN  
 2 MR ALTMAN: Can you give us your full name, please?  
 3 **A. Martin Bottomley.**  
 4 Q. And your rank?  
 5 **A. I am no longer a member of GMP in terms of being an**  
 6 **officer. I retired after 30 years in 2008 and I am now**  
 7 **the Force Review Officer.**  
 8 Q. At the time of retirement, what rank had you reached?  
 9 **A. Detective superintendent.**  
 10 Q. A Force Review Officer is what?  
 11 **A. It involves a number of things. Firstly, I review**  
 12 **undetected serious crime, namely, rapes and murders,**  
 13 **primarily; also currently domestic homicide reviews and**  
 14 **undetected murders from today; I also review proactive**  
 15 **operations and I am also responsible for responses to**  
 16 **two public enquiries which GMP is currently engaged**  
 17 **with, of which this is one.**  
 18 Q. That's what brings you here?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Because it fell to you to do the research in relation to  
 21 questions which were asked of you by the inquiry?  
 22 **A. That's correct.**  
 23 Q. For which, Mr Bottomley, you have made two statements.  
 24 Can we go, please, to the one which is dated  
 25 15 September. Have you got it in front of you?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. I am going to ask you a series of questions. From time  
 3 to time I will point out the paragraphs, which will make  
 4 life easier for all of us. First of all, in relation to  
 5 the questions you were asked by the inquiry, were you  
 6 able to go to Greater Manchester Police records for  
 7 answers in relation to those enquiries?  
 8 **A. I think it is fair to say that most of the answers were**  
 9 **answered by reference to Rochdale Borough records, which**  
 10 **had come into the possession of GMP.**  
 11 Q. Was that because of Operation Clifton or another  
 12 operation?  
 13 **A. Operations Clifton and Jaguar, and Cleopatra.**  
 14 Q. So the information you have possession of or have seen  
 15 in general terms covers actions and investigations  
 16 covered by Greater Manchester Police officers, does it?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. Including, I think, and I'm just summarising from what  
 19 you say, reports and intelligence received, interagency  
 20 meetings, interviews with children and observations as  
 21 well that were conducted on the Smith Street toilets?  
 22 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 23 Q. Can we look then, please, at specific information. We  
 24 begin at your paragraph 4. I am just going to trot  
 25 through this, or some of it. I may not go to all of it.

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1 It is just really to put in context all of the material  
 2 that you were able to find and collate. Does it begin  
 3 in February 1989, 17 February 1989, when there was  
 4 information about a group of children frequenting the  
 5 Tasty Bite cafe during school hours?  
 6 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 7 Q. There were a total of 12 children aged between 10 and 14  
 8 who seemed to be involved in gathering at Rochdale?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Then there is, on 26 March of that same year, children  
 11 service case records in the case of A24 and A10  
 12 referring to an incident at Smith Street involving  
 13 a male known to the inquiry as F64 who was arrested by  
 14 a constable by the name of Dunning who admitted to  
 15 masturbating in the toilets but he denied any sexual  
 16 involvement with A10?  
 17 **A. That's correct.**  
 18 Q. On 6 April of that year, Constable Dunning contacted  
 19 social services regarding A10. There was reliable  
 20 information that he'd been involved in inappropriate  
 21 sexual activities in Smith Street but no other  
 22 information was available. On the following day, there  
 23 was a meeting with Constable Dunning regarding  
 24 complaints received on 17 March 1989 that young people  
 25 were asking for money at the bus station. Is that

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1 right?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. On the next day, 18 March, there is a reference in your  
 4 statement to PW Cunningham. I think we see this if we  
 5 went to the original document. Does "PW" mean something  
 6 to you?  
 7 **A. Policewoman.**  
 8 Q. So a policewoman coming in, investigated, met with the  
 9 group to discuss their activities, and did she receive  
 10 information that one of the group was a rent boy from  
 11 Manchester or was associating with a rent boy?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. On 14 April of that year, did Constable Dunning  
 14 interview A10, who denied asking for money in return for  
 15 sexual acts with F64? I think I'm right in saying as  
 16 a matter of history that by that time A10 had been  
 17 admitted to Knowl View but that's not in your statement  
 18 and you may not know that. But Constable Dunning  
 19 interviewed A10 who denied asking for money in return  
 20 for sexual acts. Was the officer recorded as saying he  
 21 would monitor the situation and would contact the  
 22 child abuse section at Littleborough regarding the  
 23 incident?  
 24 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 25 Q. Three days later, on 17 April, Dunning confirmed the

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1 details of the complaint about the toilet incident?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. He also said that the individual involved in the public  
 4 order charge in the toilet was F64. The police were  
 5 said to be monitoring the situation at the toilets; is  
 6 that correct?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Into July of that year, 17 July, was a meeting held with  
 9 Constable Taylor of the Child Abuse Unit and the  
 10 information was in relation to A38 or that boy's social  
 11 worker as well as A10's social worker regarding A10 and  
 12 it was agreed that more information would be sought from  
 13 A38 and a discussion would follow with A10 in relation  
 14 to incidents in public toilets?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. On 15 August, A10 was taken, was he, to discuss the  
 17 incident with the police but he refused to discuss it  
 18 with a female officer?  
 19 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 20 Q. So on 28 August, did A10 speak to Detective Constable  
 21 Bentley, now deceased, from the Child Abuse Unit, and  
 22 did he disclose he was involved in sexual activity?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. On 30 August, a couple of days later, a message was left  
 25 for DC Bentley that A24, a member of A10's family,

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1 disclosed he knew something about the toilet incidents  
 2 and visiting an address in Salford?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. Then in September, between 13 and 27 September 1989, was  
 5 A10 involved with a man around Rochdale Bus Station  
 6 receiving £5 for masturbating him; was there information  
 7 that A10, A24, A9 and A106 were also going to an address  
 8 in Salford to watch pornography?  
 9 **A. Yes, that's correct.**  
 10 Q. A10 had masturbated a man?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. Did Detective Constable Bentley make a record of having  
 13 dealings with the incident, stating he had visited the  
 14 bus station but could find nobody who fitted the  
 15 description given by A10 either in a pub or in  
 16 a take-away coffee bar, which must have been part of  
 17 the information A10 had passed on; however, did he feel  
 18 there was not enough information to charge any of  
 19 the individuals identified?  
 20 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 21 Q. So that was 1989. In 1990, we begin on 8 and 9 March,  
 22 following complaints from members of the public, did  
 23 Constable Bottomley -- no relation to you -- and others  
 24 raid Smith Street toilets and did they find A10 and A9.  
 25 A9 was then an absconder; is that right? And A10 was at

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1 home because apparently the school was closed that day  
 2 for repairs?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. Apparently there was a group -- this is the  
 5 information -- of some 14 boys, all absconders from  
 6 various children's homes, organised by an older boy into  
 7 a ring for the purpose of extracting money in return for  
 8 sexual favours. Was the information that there was  
 9 a vast number of men from all over the north-west who  
 10 had been attracted to the toilets and the police also  
 11 had concerns that young lads were going in cars with  
 12 adults -- is that correct, Mr Bottomley?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Your namesake emphasised, however, that there was no  
 15 concrete evidence as yet?  
 16 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 17 Q. Did you understand -- concrete evidence of what? Did  
 18 you understand from the information?  
 19 **A. From a review of the documentation, I think that meant**  
 20 **that the allegations couldn't be evidenced.**  
 21 Q. So, what, of boys engaged in the activity or of criminal  
 22 offences being committed?  
 23 **A. I think it was sexual activity.**  
 24 Q. 21 May 1990, was there information that A9, A10, A13 and  
 25 A12 had visited Smith Street toilets?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. A9, A10 and A12 had masturbated one man; A12 masturbated  
 3 a second man; but A13 didn't participate. Is that  
 4 right?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. On their return to the school, which was Knowl View,  
 7 they disclosed to an unknown member of staff that they  
 8 had masturbated a man, whose name is given, for money.  
 9 Did the boys also commit theft and were they charged  
 10 with those offences?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. No charges, however, were brought against any adult  
 13 committing offences against those pupils. The police  
 14 were involved, according to the information, and  
 15 intended to continue in the hope of catching the men  
 16 involved. Is that correct?  
 17 **A. That's correct. Yes.**  
 18 Q. On 4 June, did Police Sergeant Goggins begin  
 19 investigating A10 and sexual activity around the toilets  
 20 with a view to identifying the men involved?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. On 7 June, did he obtain information regarding the man  
 23 who was involved earlier, but I haven't named?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. In relation to the 21 May 1990 information, as well as

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1 another named individual and two who are redacted in  
 2 your statement --  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. -- from Swinton or Salford?  
 5 On 8 June, did Mr Goggins update social services  
 6 that A10 and A24 had been taken to Salford to try to  
 7 identify locations but they were unable to do so?  
 8 **A. Yes, that's correct.**  
 9 Q. In July of that year, did police investigation allege  
 10 a sexual incident involving A10, A9, A13 and A12 at  
 11 Smith Street toilets but decided no further action could  
 12 be taken?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. In that summer, 1990, do you have information -- well,  
 15 this is how your statement reads:  
 16 "In the summer of 1990, police surveillance at  
 17 Smith Street toilets suggested that no further incidents  
 18 were occurring involving Knowl View School pupils."  
 19 Your reference for that is Val Mellor's report. Is  
 20 that correct?  
 21 **A. That is correct, yes.**  
 22 Q. We are not going to look at it, but we all have seen it.  
 23 In fact, the year was 1991?  
 24 **A. Oh, okay.**  
 25 Q. Therefore, you have misplaced that in your report?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. I'm not going to take you to the report to prove that to  
 3 you, because we have all seen it?  
 4 **A. No, that's fine.**  
 5 Q. But you should be dating it 1991. So we can ignore that  
 6 and we have to make a mental note that that has to come  
 7 in the summer of 1991. But in terms of -- while I have  
 8 it in mind, Mr Bottomley, in terms of GMP information  
 9 about any surveillance that was going on at Smith Street  
 10 in the summer of 1991, presumably the only information  
 11 you had came from Val Mellor's report. You don't have  
 12 any independent information of what the police were  
 13 doing in the summer of 1991 or 1990, for that matter?  
 14 **A. That's correct. We have no records dating back to that**  
 15 **time.**  
 16 Q. Still in 1990, but at the last entry in 1990,  
 17 7 December, was a planning meeting held at Mountwood  
 18 Centre when it was agreed the police would be contacted  
 19 to assess A10's involvement in possible sexual  
 20 activities in the toilets?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. What was the Mountwood Centre?  
 23 **A. I'm not sure.**  
 24 Q. That brings us to 1991. On that occasion, did Detective  
 25 Constable, previously temporary Sergeant, Goggins

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<p>1 contact -- or was he contacted regarding A10 and did he 2 clarify A10's involvement in sexual activity at the 3 toilets? 4 <b>A. Yes.</b> 5 Q. As a result of that clarification, did it become clear 6 that A10 had been approaching men in the toilets, 7 receiving 50p for masturbating men -- 8 <b>A. Yes.</b> 9 Q. -- and did Mr Goggins feel that A10 may have been 10 involved in a number of incidents between January 11 and May 1990? 12 <b>A. Yes.</b> 13 Q. Does the information indicate that at present the police 14 are monitoring the situation at the toilets and would be 15 picking up anyone thought to be involved? 16 <b>A. Yes.</b> 17 Q. The word "monitoring" is not "surveillance"? 18 <b>A. No, that was the word -- I think that's the word that's</b> 19 <b>used in the report.</b> 20 Q. As a police officer, what do you think -- it may be 21 slightly speculative -- that "monitoring" means? 22 <b>A. Well, I can perhaps give some context to observations of</b> 23 <b>surveillance or monitoring of toilets at that time</b> 24 <b>because I was in the plainclothes department in</b> 25 <b>North Manchester in the early '80s. When we received</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 I launched the open discussions with members of staff, 2 that closer links with the officers on this enquiry 3 would have assisted in this sordid affair. Just for the 4 record, it seems that very little progress has been 5 made. I see clear distinction between family sexual 6 issues and those which seem to be on an organised scale 7 involving several young boys. It is therefore in 8 relation to the latter category that I would welcome 9 your views as to how the police and social services can 10 develop a joint strategy." 11 <b>A. Yes.</b> 12 Q. The one problem with that, Mr Bottomley, is you have the 13 wrong year. Can we put up on screen RHC002363. If we 14 just scroll it up a bit, we can see the date on the 15 letter is given as 11 February 1991. 16 <b>A. Yes.</b> 17 Q. So you are reasonably blameless in this. But the 18 officer who wrote the letter got it wrong. If we can 19 scroll up to the content -- 20 <b>A. I saw '92 on the first line, yes.</b> 21 Q. "Thank you for your letter dated 10 January 1992 in 22 response to previous correspondence concerning A9. 23 "As you are probably aware, police enquiries in the 24 Manchester area have recently been completed, by 25 coincidence, shortly after ..."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 <b>complaints from members of the public or from Education</b> 2 <b>Department, schools, whatever, plainclothes police</b> 3 <b>officers would conduct a surveillance operation, if you</b> 4 <b>like, on the toilets. That doesn't mean they would be</b> 5 <b>there 24/7 with cameras. It would probably mean that --</b> 6 <b>say there had been a complaint that after school,</b> 7 <b>4 till 6 o'clock, men were congregating at the toilets</b> 8 <b>with a view to importuning young boys. Plainclothes</b> 9 <b>police officers would perhaps sit in an observation</b> 10 <b>point in a council office overlooking the toilets or sit</b> 11 <b>in a car 50/100 yards away and, if they saw any</b> 12 <b>suspicious activity, would move in and make the</b> 13 <b>necessary arrests.</b> 14 Q. So it would be fairly intermittent? 15 <b>A. Yes.</b> 16 Q. -- observation. It wouldn't be setting up a fixed 17 observation or a static observation point with cameras, 18 twitching curtains and that sort of thing? 19 <b>A. No, it would be more of the former.</b> 20 Q. 11 February 1991. Chief Inspector Berry, also deceased, 21 wrote to Mr Graham from the young offender team at 22 social services, in relation to someone whose name is 23 redacted and A9, of his concern about the cooperation 24 between the police and council. He suggested 25 a multi-agency approach, saying, "I had hoped that since</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 You can see what is redacted there: 2 "... returned home of his own accord. It may also 3 be of interest ... that his brother was found at one of 4 the addresses the police had entered by warrant." 5 We get the bit that I have quoted to you from the 6 rest of the letter, but we can be clear that in actual 7 fact, although I think it is Mr Berry dated it 8 11 February 1991 as we all tend to do at the turn of 9 a new year, actually it should have been 1992? 10 <b>A. Yes.</b> 11 Q. But the next relevant date you have is 8 March 1991. 12 A joint strategy meeting was held at Field House 13 School -- we know all about that -- where you note 14 Superintendent Henderson and Detective Sergeant 15 Sterndale were in attendance. You say that reference 16 was made to a meeting on 4 March. This is the last 17 three lines of that particular entry. 18 <b>A. Yes.</b> 19 Q. Where this particular issue closes with the comments: 20 "No further action could be taken in relation to 21 Smith Street toilets other than making their parents 22 aware of the risk, but it wasn't clear who made that 23 comment." 24 Have you got that from -- you have put in brackets 25 afterwards "X367 Operation Clifton". What's the source?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

1 **A. It's a reference document from the Operation Clifton**  
 2 **investigation which Mr Marsh conducted.**  
 3 Q. We know about the 8 March meeting. 25 June 1991 is  
 4 a meeting we also know about where Detective  
 5 Superintendent Henderson informed Diana Cavanagh and  
 6 Valerie Mellor that there were no ongoing concerns about  
 7 Smith Street toilets, although there was a history of  
 8 events there, and the reasons why, as it were, going  
 9 forward the police were not pursuing enquiries with  
 10 individual pupils: (a) because they had no grounds to  
 11 suspect criminal activities; (b) they wanted to avoid  
 12 upsetting pupils. Is that correct?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Which takes us it to 25 October 1991, where a DC Jones  
 15 from Moss Side CID is shown as passing on some  
 16 information about juveniles, A9, A107, A39, A106 and  
 17 A38, all involved with three adult males at their  
 18 addresses, and on some occasions other males -- forgive  
 19 me, other adults have been in the house in the early  
 20 hours. The police would, according to the  
 21 information -- presumably this is Moss Side CID --  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. -- like to pick up A9 from court on 29 October to see if  
 24 he will give a statement about the activities at the  
 25 flats. The police know that abuse is occurring but have

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1 no evidence.  
 2 Then you include a memo to Jane Held, who was one of  
 3 the education officers, if my memory serves me,  
 4 regarding a strategy meeting with police, surrounding  
 5 the proposed raiding of addresses of a man involving  
 6 boys in sexual activities. Intervening to another memo  
 7 that I will come to in a moment is an entry of  
 8 29 October, when A9 was seen by Constable Jones at court  
 9 but refused to speak to him regarding his activities?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. Did DC Jones contact Littleborough Child Abuse Unit to  
 12 request an officer to attend but, due to the delay in  
 13 that happening, A9 absconded?  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. A couple of days later a further memo to Jane Held which  
 16 you discovered regarding A9's placement. Notes his  
 17 involvement in rent boy scene. CID have observed him  
 18 visiting three addresses which appears to be part of  
 19 a network where young boys are abused and that's  
 20 a reference to the Moss Side information, presumably?  
 21 **A. Yes, I think so.**  
 22 Q. Then on 19 December, is there a report of Sharon Collins  
 23 requesting a placement for A9, noting his involvement in  
 24 the rent boy scene and that the CID are watching  
 25 a number of addresses where men are believed to be

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1 luring young boys to engage in sexual activities?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. Then, insofar as 1991 is concerned, is there finally  
 4 a letter from Superintendent Sykes on 31 December 1991  
 5 regarding an address for A107 in relation to rent boy  
 6 allegations?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. We have got then two entries in 1992 which rather  
 9 suggest that the activities had not ceased?  
 10 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 11 Q. But they were, as it were, alive and well and  
 12 continuing, although there are only two references to  
 13 it, in August 1992. Because on 18 August we have got A9  
 14 and A10 picked up at Smith Street toilets by the police  
 15 for importuning an adult male, who was arrested and  
 16 charged, with both A9 and A10 giving police a statement  
 17 about the activities around the toilets which they said  
 18 had been going on for about a month?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. What about the period, Mr Bottomley, between the end of  
 21 1991 and the summer of 1992? Was there any information  
 22 you were able to find at all during that gap, that  
 23 eight-month gap?  
 24 **A. From the records we had from the borough council, no.**  
 25 Q. The next and final entry in this series, 24 August 1992,

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1 A9 was discussed at the police station diversion panel  
 2 as a result of the incident in the toilets and it was  
 3 recommended that he would be cautioned?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. Can we move away from that, please, and then move on to  
 6 the next series of paragraphs, which is  
 7 Operation Clifton. It is investigations into  
 8 Smith Street. Was any further information forthcoming  
 9 during Clifton about police enquiries into Smith Street?  
 10 **A. Yes. Obviously officers engaged on Operation Clifton**  
 11 **reinterviewed officers who had been involved in the**  
 12 **past --**  
 13 Q. To see if they had any institutional or individual  
 14 recollection?  
 15 **A. Recollection, yes.**  
 16 Q. I think we can summarise it this way: your paragraph 37.  
 17 In November 2015, Sergeant Goggins was spoken to by  
 18 officers?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. He said he recalled attending Knowl View several times  
 21 in relation to pupils going missing but he didn't  
 22 remember any specific operation being carried out at  
 23 Smith Street?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. Saying that an initiative may have taken place with some

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<p>1 involvement from him, but he couldn't remember, and he                  2 thought that any records would only be in the form of                  3 pocket notebook entries. Was he shown copies of                  4 documents where there was reference to him speaking to                  5 A10 but, because it was so long ago, he couldn't recall                  6 the outcome of enquiries into Smith Street?                  7 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b>                  8 Q. The next paragraph, also November 2015, Sergeant Dunning                  9 retired like Goggins. Interviewed. He confirmed that                  10 between 1982 and 1988 he was a constable working at                  11 Rochdale Police Station, then in Littleborough, before                  12 his attachment to CID in 1990. He then returned to                  13 uniformed duties in 1991. Did he say for a period                  14 between 1988 and 1989 he worked in the plainclothes unit                  15 at Rochdale along with a team of six officers and was he                  16 able to say that the team would often patrol and conduct                  17 observations on areas within their jurisdiction, for                  18 instance, involving importuning and sex offenders, but                  19 there were no specific operational orders for these                  20 initiatives and details of the activities were recorded                  21 only in pocket books.                  22 So was the effect of what he was saying that,                  23 really, it was almost officers just going out on patrol,                  24 almost on the beat, but there was no specific operation,                  25 or surveillance operation, on Smith Street so far as he</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 that he simply didn't recall it, but he vaguely                  2 remembered the name of A9 and was aware that                  3 Smith Street toilets was a venue for activity such as                  4 importuning. Is that correct?                  5 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b>                  6 Q. But he suggested that his name may have been used                  7 because he was the town centre officer and well known to                  8 the local authority and schools?                  9 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  10 Q. He said that when he was attached to the plainclothes                  11 unit, he did deal with such incidents, but they were at                  12 the toilets at Bamford. So that was his position?                  13 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  14 Q. In March 2016, was Detective Sergeant Jones still                  15 a serving officer interviewed?                  16 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  17 Q. At the relevant time, he was a field intelligence                  18 officer -- is that right? --                  19 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b>                  20 Q. -- as he didn't work in CID until 1996. He said he                  21 couldn't remember A9 or his link with Smith Street but                  22 didn't dispute having some involvement because his name                  23 is mentioned in the documents?                  24 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  25 Q. Then finally, I think, in your paragraph 41, in May 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 was concerned?                  2 <b>A. That's what he appears to be saying, yes.</b>                  3 Q. Was he shown documentation with his name on it and                  4 didn't dispute his involvement but couldn't recall any                  5 details or outcomes due to the passage of time?                  6 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  7 Q. He said also he remembered attending the school on                  8 occasions between 1986 and 1994 but not in connection                  9 with any sexual activity?                  10 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  11 Q. In February 2016, did officers speak to Roger Bottomley,                  12 a retired police constable.                  13 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  14 Q. Who said that he was a constable stationed at Rochdale                  15 from 1963 until 1993, when he retired. He had a short                  16 spell in plain clothes in CID but spent most of his                  17 career as an area officer covering Bamford and Rochdale                  18 centre. Did he say he only remembered visiting                  19 Knowl View a couple of times, and this was in relation                  20 to theft of motor vehicles, and that he was not aware at                  21 any time during his police service of any incidents of                  22 a sexual nature at the school?                  23 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  24 Q. Accordingly, he was shown some documentation with his                  25 name on it. Didn't dispute possible involvement but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 Detective Superintendent Henderson, retired, was spoken                  2 to, said that in respect of strategy meetings with other                  3 agencies he did recall attending them on a quarterly                  4 basis and said that if the topic was raised for police                  5 investigation, then he would have requested the minutes                  6 and given an update at the next meeting. He said he did                  7 recall a meeting at Field House School --                  8 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  9 Q. -- in respect of the meeting on 8 March, which is the                  10 one he was referring to. Mr Henderson accepted he was                  11 in attendance but couldn't recall the others present or                  12 the nature of the meeting, but he said, had offences or                  13 issues been raised, such as sexual abuse, that warranted                  14 investigation, he would have instigated an                  15 investigation?                  16 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  17 Q. Can we move on, then, please, to your paragraph 43 and                  18 following in relation to Roderick Hilton?                  19 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  20 Q. Can you confirm from such material, again, as you have                  21 been able to consider, that on 21 September                  22 Graham Hutchinson at Knowl View contacted the police to                  23 report the incident with Hilton?                  24 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  25 Q. So as far as you're concerned, the first time police</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

1 were called was on 21 September?  
 2 **A. That's correct.**  
 3 Q. Three days later, on 24 September, did a constable by  
 4 the name of Janet Taylor from the child protection unit  
 5 go to the school and interview A14 in the presence of  
 6 Mr Hutchinson and Mr Eaton?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Did A14 confirm that the intruder had committed sexual  
 9 acts with him involving masturbation and oral sex?  
 10 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 11 Q. On the next day, the 25th, did police return to question  
 12 other boys regarding what had happened?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. I think you say researchers failed to trace a copy of  
 15 the prosecution file in relation to Hilton?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. But then you tell us about a check you made on the  
 18 police national computer as regards Hilton?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. I am going to avoid this, Mr Bottomley. It is rather  
 21 confusing. But you say in that paragraph that the PNC  
 22 shows that on 20 August 1991 Hilton was sentenced to  
 23 Bolton Crown Court for an offence of indecent assault on  
 24 a male under the age 16 and in brackets you have put  
 25 "offence date between 12 September and 13 September 1990

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1 at Knowl View for which he received a six-month prison  
 2 sentence"?  
 3 **A. Yes, that's what the PNC records.**  
 4 Q. You are part right and part wrong. We could go to the  
 5 microfiche if we have to, but what appears to have  
 6 happened is that Hilton actually pleaded guilty to the  
 7 offence on A14 on 7 December 1990. His sentence was  
 8 adjourned until 22 February 1991, when in fact he got  
 9 a probation order for two years with one or two  
 10 conditions attached. But he further offended, which are  
 11 the Bolton matters, a series of offences completely  
 12 unrelated to Knowl View --  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. One of the -- the total sentence was two and a half  
 15 years, but six months of that, which was made  
 16 consecutive to the other two years, was in relation to  
 17 the Knowl View matter because he was clearly breached --  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. -- in relation to the probation order that was imposed  
 20 upon him on 22 February. So that little confusion comes  
 21 in. We can look at the microfiche, but I'm not going to  
 22 take up time by doing it. But that seems to be the  
 23 effect of what happened.  
 24 Then you simply deal with, in relation to Hilton,  
 25 events which have taken place far more recently in

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1 relation to Chief Superintendent Houghton who provided  
 2 a statement in August 2015 who recalled that in 1992 he  
 3 received a copy of Val Mellor's report, but that's  
 4 a couple of years on from what happened in relation to  
 5 Hilton?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. Is that correct? Your paragraph 49, when he was  
 8 interviewed in May 2016, Mr Henderson said that the only  
 9 recollection he had of Knowl View School from the  
 10 relevant time periods were, first, a report of a prowler  
 11 that was dealt with by response officers. Mr Henderson  
 12 said that he became aware of that during a morning  
 13 briefing but, as far as he could recollect, officers  
 14 found no-one in attendance and, secondly, a report that  
 15 Constable Janet Taylor from the child abuse section  
 16 responded to and Mr Henderson said he couldn't recall  
 17 the details of the report or if it was of a sexual  
 18 nature. But it seems that he recalled asking Constable  
 19 Taylor about it and he said that she advised him that  
 20 there was "nothing to be concerned about"?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. The only time that Janet Taylor comes into the picture  
 23 is on 24 September 1990, three days after the school  
 24 contacted the police in relation to the Hilton incident,  
 25 when she went in to interview A14?

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1 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 2 Q. You will remember, the next day, police apparently  
 3 returned to question other boys regarding what had  
 4 happened. Have you seen any records at all or any notes  
 5 of those interviews?  
 6 **A. No.**  
 7 Q. Can I ask you now, please, Mr Bottomley, a few things  
 8 about Operation Cleopatra?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. For which I think we need to go to your other statement,  
 11 which is dated -- we have got two dates on it. Initial  
 12 draft, 17 March, but it was updated in August.  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Your paragraph 2, please. Just tell us what  
 15 Operation Cleopatra was, its dates and its terms of  
 16 reference?  
 17 **A. It was a criminal inquiry conducted by GMP between 1997**  
 18 **and 2002. It was in response to a referral we received**  
 19 **from Cheshire Constabulary where Cheshire officers had**  
 20 **been interviewing residents of children's homes, some of**  
 21 **whom had made allegations that there had been sexual**  
 22 **abuse at homes and schools in Manchester -- in the**  
 23 **Manchester area and, therefore, Operation Cleopatra**  
 24 **commenced, initially starting to look at those --**  
 25 **I think there were five allegations initially.**

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<p>1 Q. They related, those five initial allegations, separate 2 complainants -- 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. -- in relation to sexual assaults by a particular named 5 staff member? 6 <b>A. Yes.</b> 7 Q. Whilst each was resident at a particular, what, home was 8 this or a school in Manchester? 9 <b>A. It was an assessment centre or home.</b> 10 Q. Can I ask you to look at your paragraph 12, please. In 11 fact, before we do, can we just go back one paragraph to 12 your paragraph 11. Was there a review of Cleopatra 13 in April 2000 by the SIO -- 14 <b>A. Yes.</b> 15 Q. -- when it was noted that a complaint had been received 16 on 20 January 1998 from A124? 17 <b>A. Yes.</b> 18 Q. Saying that he had been sexually abused by a named 19 member of staff at a particular residential home in 20 Rochdale while he had been resident there between '86 21 and '89? 22 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b> 23 Q. Did enquiries with the local authority in Rochdale 24 confirm the identity of the offender as 25 Anthony Joseph Andrews?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 and control during his time in office? 2 <b>A. Yes.</b> 3 Q. Including Foxholes, Furness Road and Elmfield Road 4 Children's Homes in Rochdale? 5 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b> 6 Q. Was he in due course charged with 15 counts of rape, 7 buggery and indecent assault on children resident in 8 those homes? 9 <b>A. Yes.</b> 10 Q. On 3 November 2003, was he convicted at Manchester Crown 11 Court of two offences of indecent assault against A121? 12 <b>A. Yes.</b> 13 Q. Was he found not guilty of indecent assaults upon A20 14 and A117 and did the prosecution not proceed to trial in 15 respect of charges relating to A119, A118 and A116? 16 <b>A. Yes.</b> 17 Q. I think in relation to A124 and I think this is further 18 information, Mr Bottomley, that you may be aware of that 19 has been provided to us by Greater Manchester, in 20 relation to A124 referenced in your paragraph 11 also 21 the matter didn't proceed to trial because of certain 22 health issues in relation to A124. Is that correct? 23 That's information that's been provided to us. 24 <b>A. Yes. That is known to me, yes.</b> 25 Q. So that's Andrews. Let's go to David Higgins, please,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b> 2 Q. Employed by Rochdale as a house parent, a residential 3 social worker at Foxholes and then Furness Road 4 Children's Homes from 1980 up until his dismissal for 5 professional misconduct on 28 February 1991? 6 <b>A. That's correct.</b> 7 Q. Was it alleged that he took young persons in care on 8 secret trips to discos, took indecent photos of young 9 girls in his care? 10 <b>A. Yes.</b> 11 Q. Was it the case that investigators were told that he was 12 at that time seeking employment in a social work role 13 through a recruitment agency? 14 <b>A. Yes.</b> 15 Q. On 18 September 2000, he was arrested and interviewed in 16 relation to the allegations; is that right? 17 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b> 18 Q. Did he deny any form of inappropriate behaviour with any 19 of the resident children and was he released pending 20 further enquiries? 21 <b>A. Yes.</b> 22 Q. In addition to tracing and identifying other children 23 and staff members mentioned in the original complainant 24 statement, were efforts made to trace and interview all 25 other residents who stayed at premises under his care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 in your paragraph 16. 2 <b>A. Yes.</b> 3 Q. The final aspect, you say, of Operation Cleopatra, which 4 had a direct connection with the Rochdale area, 5 concerned the investigation into David Dalton Higgins. 6 <b>A. Yes.</b> 7 Q. Who was, as we know, a member of staff at Knowl View. 8 On receipt of two separate complaints from persons who 9 had been resident at the school in the early '70s, did 10 the Cleopatra team open their investigation into him on 11 20 April 2001? 12 <b>A. Yes.</b> 13 Q. Enquiries showed that he had been employed between 14 1 September 1969 until 31 December 1971? 15 <b>A. Yes.</b> 16 Q. He had been, or was, convicted of an indecent assault on 17 a boy by Wakefield magistrates on 13 December 1976, as 18 well as indecent assaults upon two girls aged 7 and 9 19 before Skipton magistrates on 19 August 1983? 20 <b>A. Yes.</b> 21 Q. So those were outside the periods of employment at 22 Knowl View? 23 <b>A. Yes.</b> 24 Q. They were subsequent. But Higgins' offending history 25 coupled with testimonies of two residents of Knowl View</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>



<p>1 prompted the SIO of Cleopatra to direct that all                  2 residents at the school during the period of his tenure                  3 be contacted; is that correct?                  4 <b>A. That's correct.</b>                  5 Q. Were 56 persons identified as being resident at the                  6 school during the relevant dates?                  7 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  8 Q. By 1 October 2001, had just seven persons from the list                  9 been traced and interviewed?                  10 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  11 Q. Due to the pace of progress, the strategy was changed to                  12 write letters to the remaining 49?                  13 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  14 Q. Of those, an address for 13 persons couldn't be traced                  15 and 28 failed to respond; is that right?                  16 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b>                  17 Q. Eight replies were received of which three persons                  18 expressed a willingness to speak to the police, with the                  19 remaining five saying they had nothing of evidential                  20 value to disclose concerning their time at Knowl View?                  21 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  22 Q. On 16 April 2002, was Higgins arrested and                  23 interviewed --                  24 <b>A. He was, yes.</b>                  25 Q. -- in relation to allegations against pupils at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  2 Q. This is in relation to Cyril Smith and the extent to                  3 which Cleopatra looked into Cyril Smith.                  4 We know, but let me get it from you, please,                  5 Mr Bottomley, there was an operation called Goldfinch --                  6 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  7 Q. -- which was commenced by South Wales Police --                  8 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  9 Q. -- in April 1997, concerning the physical and sexual                  10 abuse within institutional establishments within that                  11 force's area; is that correct?                  12 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  13 Q. As a result of media coverage, did a complainant known                  14 to us as A1 contact the Goldfinch helpline --                  15 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  16 Q. -- making an allegation against Cyril Smith at                  17 Cambridge House between 1965 and 1968?                  18 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  19 Q. Alleging that he had been given a medical examination by                  20 Smith and, on reflection, he had thought the                  21 circumstances were abusive. That's just a thumbnail                  22 sketch of the complaint he made, because we heard from                  23 him.                  24 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b>                  25 Q. On 26 February 1998, was a letter sent from South Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 Knowl View? On 2 May that year was he charged with ten                  2 counts of gross indecency, five counts of indecent                  3 assault on three pupils at the school?                  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  5 Q. On 19 September that year, was Higgins sentenced to                  6 12 months' imprisonment at Minshull Street Crown Court                  7 in Manchester, having entered guilty pleas to eight                  8 counts of gross indecency and three indecent assaults                  9 upon two of the pupils --                  10 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  11 Q. -- B201 and A191? Two indecent assaults in relation to                  12 the third pupil, A8, were directed to lie on the file by                  13 the judge following Higgins' not guilty plea?                  14 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b>                  15 Q. As a matter of statistical record, overall, did                  16 Cleopatra process allegations of abuse from over 350                  17 previous residents of local-authority-managed children's                  18 homes across the Greater Manchester area but mainly                  19 focused on three sites, one in Didsbury, one in Rosehill                  20 and another in Lynwood in Manchester?                  21 <b>A. That's correct.</b>                  22 Q. Leading to 12 men being charged with various sexual                  23 offences against children?                  24 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  25 Q. Now can I ask you, please, to turn to your paragraph 26?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 Police to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester                  2 Police providing A1's details and outlining his                  3 allegations?                  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  5 Q. Was the letter passed to Detective Chief Superintendent                  6 Keegan, deceased, who was then head of                  7 Greater Manchester Police crime investigations?                  8 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  9 Q. The next month, on 20 March, did Mr Keegan send the                  10 letter in a memorandum to Detective Superintendent                  11 Stelfox, the then senior investigating officer, the SIO                  12 for Operation Cleopatra, requesting that enquiries be                  13 made with A1 and to record his complaint as part of                  14 Cleopatra?                  15 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  16 Q. On 21 May, did Mr Stelfox send the original Cyril Smith                  17 advice file which had been sent to the DPP back in 1970                  18 to the Branch Crown Prosecutor of Rochdale requesting                  19 a review?                  20 <b>A. Yes.</b>                  21 Q. Did that file also include a statement from a reverend                  22 by the name of Potter which hadn't appeared in the                  23 original file?                  24 <b>A. It did, yes.</b>                  25 Q. We know the outcome of that particular review. Can</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 I simply invite your attention, please, to paragraphs 2 41, 42 and 43 -- 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. -- where the Branch Crown Prosecutor sent a memo to his 5 Acting Chief Crown Prosecutor in Manchester -- this is 6 dated 17 June 1998 -- at point 3 saying: 7 "I have spoken by telephone with Superintendent 8 Stelfox yesterday and summarised the contents of my 9 advice. It was clear that he had anticipated much of 10 what I proposed to say. Whilst I offered him the 11 opportunity to discuss any aspects of the case with him, 12 he didn't think it would be necessary." 13 At point 4: 14 "I now enclose a copy of my advice to him. You will 15 note that it is an amended version of the draft which 16 I showed you. I have added to the draft by explaining 17 what I meant by 'further evidence' because he was 18 concerned to know whether that would include the 19 evidence of other complainants who have not previously 20 come to the notice of the police. And at point 5, did 21 he say to Mr Barker, the Acting Chief Crown Prosecutor, 22 "I suspect from my conversation with him that he will 23 not proactively seek further complaints in view of 24 the substantial period of time that has now elapsed 25 since the incidents complained of took place. I expect</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 in December 1998? 2 <b>A. Yes.</b> 3 Q. As a result of that, did A4, from whom this inquiry has 4 heard, and A68, spoken to by Sergeant Hill, provide 5 written statements? 6 <b>A. Yes.</b> 7 Q. I won't summarise what they say, but we know what A4 has 8 told us. Then your paragraph 52. On 18 March 1999, in 9 fact -- you have got 1994 -- did Sergeant Hill produce 10 a further report titled 'Allegations re Cyril Smith' and 11 hand that to Detective Superintendent Roberts? 12 <b>A. Yes.</b> 13 Q. Was that report -- it was eventually typed up and 14 Sergeant Hill I think has something further to say about 15 that which should be read to the chair and panel in due 16 course. But was the report, as far as you can tell, 17 typed up and submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service 18 for further review? 19 <b>A. Yes:</b> 20 Q. We know what the result of that was. 21 <b>A. Yes.</b> 22 Q. At your paragraph 56, do you say this, that in summary, 23 from the documentation available to me -- and this is 24 your opinion, Mr Bottomley; is this correct? 25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 that my advice will conclude the investigation into the 2 suspect for all time"? 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. We know, looking at your paragraph 44, that after 5 20 March 1998, Detective Sergeant Hill had a meeting 6 with Chief Superintendent Keegan and he was given the 7 original file and was instructed to review the papers 8 and conduct enquiries? 9 <b>A. Yes.</b> 10 Q. On 21 October 1998, did Sergeant Hill reinterview A1? 11 <b>A. Yes.</b> 12 Q. On 12 November 1998, did Sergeant Hill interview 13 Mr Bartlett from the Rochdale Alternative Paper? 14 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b> 15 Q. Who gave him further information as regards A4 and A68, 16 both of whom had been resident at Cambridge House? 17 <b>A. Yes.</b> 18 Q. Your paragraph 48. On 2 December 1998, did Detective 19 Sergeant Hill hand to Mr Keegan a handwritten report and 20 documents relating to his enquiry to date? 21 <b>A. Yes.</b> 22 Q. Then in 1999, did Sergeant Hill -- was Sergeant Hill 23 instructed by Superintendent Roberts, who had become the 24 SIO for Cleopatra, to make enquiries or further 25 enquiries arising out of the report he'd submitted</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 Q. "I conclude that a legitimate and proportionate police 2 investigation was carried out into Cyril Smith." 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. You were also asked about peer-on-peer abuse in 5 Operation Cleopatra. I think we can probably take this 6 very shortly. Was it considered, but rejected, by the 7 senior officers who were responsible for the policy of 8 Operation Cleopatra as not going to be something that 9 came within the remit of that inquiry? 10 <b>A. Yes, it was, but I don't think it was -- that decision 11 was taken in isolation. I think it was taken after 12 collaboration or discussion with the social services 13 team and the CPS.</b> 14 Q. Social services where? 15 <b>A. That would have been Rochdale.</b> 16 Q. And the CPS -- 17 <b>A. Manchester.</b> 18 Q. -- in Manchester; yes? Can we look at your paragraph 73 19 and onwards, please. You were asked to consider the 20 extent to which peer-on-peer allegations at Knowl View 21 were investigated. 22 <b>A. Yes.</b> 23 Q. At 74, you say the incident related to sexual offences 24 that had occurred in the '70s concerning a boy called 25 A86?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. Now, are you saying that there was a single allegation  
 3 there that was, as it were, submitted to Cleopatra, just  
 4 so we understand what you are telling us?  
 5 **A. I'm saying that Detective Superintendent Tattersall was**  
 6 **asked about the single incident. I'm not necessarily**  
 7 **saying that's the only incident that was reported.**  
 8 Q. He was, what, the SIO at this particular time?  
 9 **A. Yes, the SIO was replaced two or three times and he was**  
 10 **the SIO at that time.**  
 11 Q. About 2000, was it?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. So Mr Tattersall was asked about it and this was in  
 14 relation to one individual, A86. Mr Tattersall, when he  
 15 was asked, couldn't recall, but he said that, as that  
 16 would have fallen into the child-on-child category, it  
 17 wasn't within the remit -- is that right? --  
 18 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 19 Q. -- of Cleopatra. That said, you say he would have  
 20 expected his staff to have dealt with the victim  
 21 sympathetically and to have obtained a report from him,  
 22 which was the case?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. In 2001, Mr Tattersall conducted a review meeting with  
 25 his investigating officers and concluded that

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1 child-on-child would not be proceeded with under  
 2 Cleopatra, so the policy was ongoing?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. But, as you point out, he wasn't the only victim of  
 5 child-on-child abuse and, as far as you know, A86, was  
 6 he a Knowl View child or from -- that's the header of  
 7 this section, so I assume he is?  
 8 **A. Yes, I think he was.**  
 9 Q. Then you say at your paragraph 80, a further nine  
 10 victims were spoken to by Operation Jaguar regarding  
 11 peer-on-peer abuse and, of those, five files were  
 12 submitted to the CPS but were returned "no further  
 13 action" based on the principle of doli incapax about  
 14 which we have already heard something. Of the other  
 15 four, three victims didn't engage with the police and  
 16 one suspect was not traced?  
 17 **A. Yes. Can I just clarify an answer I gave you a moment**  
 18 **ago about who would have been consulted by the SIO about**  
 19 **not proceeding?**  
 20 Q. Yes.  
 21 **A. I said Rochdale Social Services. Most of**  
 22 **the allegations were concerning Social Services**  
 23 **Departments in Greater Manchester so I think it would**  
 24 **probably have been the City of Manchester**  
 25 **Social Services at that time.**

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1 Q. As well as CPS Manchester?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. But that policy obviously cut across any allegations  
 4 arising out of Rochdale?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. And Knowl View in particular?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Just a few sweep-up questions, please, from me,  
 9 Mr Bottomley. First of all, you are alive to -- I don't  
 10 think any of this is in any of your witness statements,  
 11 but you have been asked, I think, to consider action 326  
 12 which dealt with A9, who is somebody that we have dealt  
 13 with through your evidence. An earlier report in  
 14 relation to an Anthony Whitehead.  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. A9, who gave evidence, said to us that on -- when he was  
 17 here during the course of this inquiry, that that was in  
 18 2004 that he made his complaint in relation to  
 19 Whitehead. What he said is, "The police didn't believe  
 20 me".  
 21 Now, Ms Studd, who appears on behalf of  
 22 Greater Manchester Police, has asked the inquiry to  
 23 invite you to tell us what you have discovered about  
 24 that. Is it right that it appeared that A9 approached  
 25 the police in 2006 --

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1 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 2 Q. -- not 2004? Does it appear from the records that you  
 3 have seen that he didn't wish to pursue the allegation  
 4 at the time?  
 5 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 6 Q. He said, "The police didn't believe me". What you have  
 7 suggests it was a question of him wishing not to pursue  
 8 the matter at the time?  
 9 **A. Yes, we made a number of attempts to contact him after**  
 10 **the initial report, and it was some months later that he**  
 11 **decided he didn't want to pursue the allegation.**  
 12 Q. Can I just ask you to see, Mr Bottomley, if you are  
 13 prepared to agree with these propositions: first, it is  
 14 not unusual, especially for victims of sexual crime, to  
 15 feel unable to proceed with an allegation?  
 16 **A. Absolutely, yes.**  
 17 Q. Secondly, in this case, it didn't prevent a later  
 18 successful prosecution of Whitehead, where, as we know,  
 19 not very long ago A9 gave the central evidence leading  
 20 to his conviction?  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 Q. Now, another matter that we have been asked to clarify  
 23 is this: when Detective Chief Inspector Jones of Greater  
 24 Manchester Police gave evidence on 13 October to the  
 25 inquiry, she gave the impression that there was no

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1 policy in relation to the investigation of deceased  
 2 suspects at the time of Operation Jaguar. What can you  
 3 tell us about that?  
 4 **A. I think when she started that investigation, that's**  
 5 **correct. There's since been guidance issued by the**  
 6 **College of Policing which covers that particular**  
 7 **subject.**  
 8 Q. As well as, I think, Operation Hydrant?  
 9 **A. I think it's -- I think Operation Hydrant gathered best**  
 10 **practice and informed the College of Policing guidance.**  
 11 **But it is the College of Policing guidance rather than**  
 12 **Hydrant guidance. It is badged under the College of**  
 13 **Policing.**  
 14 Q. Do you have any knowledge of an operation known as  
 15 Veronica? Before you answer, let's put something up on  
 16 the screen and then we can see why I'm asking you.  
 17 LCP000013 at page 2.  
 18 This is, as you can see -- if we can just expand the  
 19 top half. This is Neil Esseen. His report on  
 20 16 November 2012. Mr Esseen?  
 21 **A. I would have spoken to him around about that time, yes.**  
 22 Q. Who was Mr Esseen?  
 23 **A. He was a detective chief inspector in Lancashire**  
 24 **in November 2012.**  
 25 Q. What operation was he on at the time?

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1 **A. He was -- this operation was Operation Acura. It was**  
 2 **the initial reinvestigation, if you like, into**  
 3 **Cyril Smith.**  
 4 Q. You will see in the second paragraph:  
 5 "GMP: it is believed that GMP conducted an enquiry  
 6 into Smith in the '80s and '90s, codenamed  
 7 Operation Veronica. I have had it confirmed today that  
 8 they possess as computer disc a Canon disk file titled:  
 9 side A -- reg files Natz and side B closed reg files.  
 10 It contains a file relating to Cyril Smith, number  
 11 6668-86 containing 172 pages on the B side of the disc,  
 12 entered on 15 February 1995. There are 16 other files  
 13 on side B."  
 14 You have been asked a specific question -- in fact,  
 15 it has come from one of the core participants who have  
 16 asked for clarification around this.  
 17 What have you found?  
 18 **A. I think there's two issues in relation to this**  
 19 **paragraph. We'll deal with Operation Veronica first.**  
 20 **Operation Veronica, as a name, has never been issued**  
 21 **within GMP, ever. To double-check that, I have made**  
 22 **enquiries with the force archivist to see if we have any**  
 23 **papers relating to Operation Veronica. They simply**  
 24 **don't exist.**  
 25 **I think that Neil Esseen has written the name down**

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1 **wrong. A four-syllable female name ending in A and he**  
 2 **probably means Cleopatra.**  
 3 Q. What about the disc?  
 4 **A. The disc, again, it is a separate issue, inasmuch as it**  
 5 **is an exact copy of the original file that was sent to**  
 6 **the DPP as a result of the Lancashire investigation in**  
 7 **1969 and 1970, supplemented by the handwritten notes and**  
 8 **the handwritten statements made contemporaneously, the**  
 9 **scanned copies of all the statements and reports.**  
 10 **I have actually brought a copy of it with me today.**  
 11 Q. So what you are saying is, what, nothing new?  
 12 **A. Exactly, yes.**  
 13 Q. Thank you. Now, can I ask you about something entirely  
 14 different, to put up on screen, please, RHC001227. Can  
 15 we just expand the top half, please. This is a note --  
 16 can you see the writing with the name "D Eaton"?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. We understand that this is a handwritten note by  
 19 Mr Eaton, who was a house parent at Knowl View at the  
 20 relevant time, about Roderick Hilton's appearance in  
 21 court on 17 October 1990, indicating -- we will read it  
 22 in a moment -- that there were police bail conditions  
 23 including not to enter Knowl View grounds. So:  
 24 "Rod Hilton will appear in court on 17 October  
 25 regarding an incident at Knowl View School. He will

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1 plead guilty. A condition of his police bail is that he  
 2 does not enter the grounds of [Knowl View School] KVS."  
 3 So we understand -- do you remember me telling you  
 4 that the records tend to indicate he pleaded guilty, or  
 5 certainly the information that we have seen, that he  
 6 pleaded guilty finally on 7 December 1990?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Once he pleaded guilty and was sentenced, those bail  
 9 conditions would expire?  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. Of course, the bail conditions only apply once he's on  
 12 bail and, once sentence happens, the moment of sentence,  
 13 the bail conditions fall away?  
 14 **A. Cease, yes.**  
 15 Q. Something I have asked you about earlier, but just so we  
 16 understand, the records show, as I said to you earlier,  
 17 that on 22 February 1991 he was made subject to  
 18 probation for two years?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. That would mean he would be on probation until  
 21 21 February 1993 but for the fact that he committed  
 22 further offences in the meantime, and that presumably is  
 23 why -- I suspect you would agree -- the probation was,  
 24 as it were, revoked when he came before Bolton Crown  
 25 Court?

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. And he was resentenced in relation to this matter?  
 3 **A. Yes, he would have breached the terms of his probation**  
 4 **licence.**  
 5 Q. Help us with this: sentenced to two and a half years on  
 6 20 August 1991 in relation to the new matters: two and  
 7 a half years, 30 months. If he hadn't served any time  
 8 on remand, back then he would be released at the halfway  
 9 stage, so after about 15 months?  
 10 **A. Yes, that's my understanding.**  
 11 Q. We happen to know that he was out, because we have seen  
 12 information, by around November/December time 1992. He  
 13 was back on the street, as it were, making a nuisance of  
 14 himself and people at Knowl View and elsewhere were  
 15 worried about the position as far as he is concerned.  
 16 If he was released at the 15-month point and he was  
 17 back outside -- we know he was camping near the school  
 18 and potentially approaching boys from the school, and  
 19 the head teacher was certainly worried that he might  
 20 reoffend -- presumably he would still be on licence  
 21 conditions?  
 22 **A. If that was happening today, he certainly would, yes.**  
 23 Q. It was likely then, because if you re-offended, if you  
 24 came out after half of your sentence, you would be  
 25 liable to recall, if you re-offended, to serve out the

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1 remaining balance of your sentence, presumably?  
 2 **A. Or breached any of the conditions of the licence.**  
 3 Q. Or breached any of the conditions. So subject to what  
 4 those conditions of his behaviour were, whether he  
 5 breached them or not, we may never know unless we had  
 6 sight of what the licence was?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Presumably, one of the obvious if not implicit or  
 9 explicit conditions is not to reoffend?  
 10 **A. Obviously, yes.**  
 11 Q. Let's see if we have them. I am told we do have the  
 12 licence conditions. Let's have a look. GMP000322. You  
 13 are quite right. Page 7. Thank you. So we are missing  
 14 potentially -- let me go to the page before. Have you  
 15 looked at this microfiche, Mr Bottomley?  
 16 **A. No, I have never seen this before.**  
 17 Q. I'm not sure if we are not missing one page of  
 18 the licence or not. It is not entirely clear.  
 19 Certainly we have got a sentence that begins,  
 20 "Re-offending and secure your successful integration  
 21 into the community."  
 22 That's presumably what the licence is for?  
 23 **A. Yes, an aim.**  
 24 Q. Presumably to prevent re-offending?  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. We start at (vii) so we are certainly missing, by the  
 2 look of it, certain other conditions?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. "Attend upon a [particular] consultant forensic  
 5 psychiatrist for such care, supervision or treatment ...  
 6 "(viii) not engage in any work or other organised  
 7 activity involving a person under the age of 16 ...  
 8 "(ix) reside at [a particular home] ... and must not  
 9 live elsewhere without obtaining the prior approval of  
 10 your supervising officer. Thereafter you must reside as  
 11 directed by your supervising officer.  
 12 "(x) not reside in the same household as any child  
 13 under 16 ...  
 14 "(xi) comply with any requirements reasonably  
 15 imposed by your supervising officer ..."  
 16 On the surface, if he was camping half a mile from  
 17 Knowl View, that, on the face of it, suggests breach of  
 18 condition (ix)?  
 19 **A. Absolutely, yes.**  
 20 Q. If that was a breach, who in those days would have  
 21 breached him? What would have happened?  
 22 **A. My recollection is that would have been the**  
 23 **responsibility of the Probation Service. I think if**  
 24 **that was happening today, it would be the subject of**  
 25 **a sexual harm prevention order, which the police would**

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1 **be aware of, and would have breached it in consultation**  
 2 **with the probation officer. But in those days, I think**  
 3 **it was entirely the responsibility, looking at those**  
 4 **conditions, of the Probation Service.**  
 5 Q. Last question from me, a bit of a googly, but let's see  
 6 how you are on this, Mr Bottomley: if he was making  
 7 a general nuisance of himself, living close to the  
 8 school, potentially in breach of at least one of these  
 9 licence conditions, approaching boys in the town centre  
 10 and clearly still attracted to boys at the school, which  
 11 is why he was so close to it, might he have been  
 12 arrestable under any offence of the Public Order Act  
 13 that you can think of, for example, using threatening  
 14 words or behaviour -- that's not obvious from what  
 15 I just described to you, but what about disorderly  
 16 behaviour within the hearing or sight of a person likely  
 17 to be caused harassment and/or distress, or would that  
 18 be stretching it?  
 19 **A. I'm aware he was arrested for a breach of the peace.**  
 20 **Depending on his demeanour at the time, it wouldn't be**  
 21 **stretching it, no, and he could have been arrested, and**  
 22 **was, and was convicted, I understand. It depends what**  
 23 **he was saying, how he was behaving. By the very fact**  
 24 **that he was there, it was unsavoury behaviour, wasn't**  
 25 **it?**

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<p>1 Q. The breach of the peace that you made note of, for which 2 he was arrested, which I think was in 1992, was that the 3 old common law power, or was it, do you know, under the 4 Public Order Act? 5 <b>A. I think that would have been common law at the time, 6 I think.</b> 7 Q. The Public Order Act came into effect -- well, certainly 8 1986, so it would have covered almost certainly this 9 period of time. But can you help us any more -- 10 <b>A. I think the threshold for arrest was lower under the 11 common law power.</b> 12 Q. So easier. Would somebody be taken to court for 13 a breach of the peace -- 14 <b>A. Yes.</b> 15 Q. -- in those days? 16 <b>A. And would probably be bound over to good behaviour.</b> 17 Q. To keep the peace? 18 <b>A. Yes.</b> 19 Q. On their own recognisance in a certain sum of money? 20 <b>A. Yes.</b> 21 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much for your help, Mr Bottomley. 22 That's all I need to ask you. I will see if the chair 23 or the panel have any questions. 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I N D E X</p> <p>3 MS DIANA LESLEY CAVANAGH (continued) .....1 4 5 Examination by MR ALTMAN .....1 6 7 Examination by MS HOYANO .....90 8 9 MR PHILIP SHEPHERD (affirmed) .....93 10 11 Examination by MS DOBBIN .....94 12 13 MR MARTIN BOTTOMLEY (sworn) .....130 14 15 Examination by MR ALTMAN .....131 16 17 Questions from THE PANEL .....182 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 Questions from THE PANEL 2 MS SHARPLING: Thank you, Mr Bottomley. Could you just help 3 us with one thing: Rochdale Police Station, do you 4 happen to know from your research of the documents how 5 far away it was from the Smith Street toilets? 6 <b>A. I don't, because I don't exactly know where Smith Street 7 toilets is, but Rochdale Police Station is most 8 certainly in the centre of the town, as were the 9 council -- as are the council offices, so I would reckon 10 they would be fairly close.</b> 11 MS SHARPLING: Thank you. 12 THE CHAIR: No, thank you very much. Thank you. 13 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much for coming, Mr Bottomley. 14 Thank you. 15 (The witness withdrew) 16 MR ALTMAN: That's it for today. Tomorrow I think we have 17 Mr Farnell, Eleanor Phillips and some reading certainly, 18 and Mr Marsh. 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr Altman. That concludes 20 us for today. 21 (4.21 pm) 22 (The hearing was adjourned to 23 Tuesday, 24 October 2017 at 10.30 am) 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	

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