

CONFIDENTIAL

*today and was in a period of change. The CID was designated the V Department and had its own Command structure. The Detective Superintendent based at Rochdale at that time was Jim HENDERSON. Although I have no clear recollection of it, I can say that I would have passed the allegations onto him to instigate the enquiry. It would have been his role to appoint the lead investigator and I had no involvement with this process nor do I recall ever having spoken to any of the investigators regarding the case. I have been reminded of the letter I sent to Diana KAVANAGH in which I outlined the problems being experienced by the investigators trying to make contact with Val MELLOR. Although I don't recall, it is likely that I wrote this letter on behalf of Detective Superintendent HENDERSON because he was aware of my good working relationship with the Chief Executive of the Local Authority."*

Mr. HENDERSON stated that he would not have requested assistance from a senior officer to approach Diane KAVANAGH and that it was not in the nature of Mr. HOUGHTON to voluntarily help in that way.

Mr. HENDERSON said:

*"... it seems to me there's like two issues here. The meeting of 8th March '91 nothing seemed to have been resolved at that, other than, it's been left with the Council to carry on and they've then appointed other people to go and interview the kids then we've got to MELLOR. And the second point is have I ever seen - in relation to me - have I ever seen a report from Val MELLOR that's come from John HORTON down to Kevin STERNDALÉ? And the answer is, I've never seen it that I can recall. Those are the two issues that seem to involve me regarding the meeting at Fieldhouse and the subsequent report by Val MELLOR."*

In addition, he said he had no recollection of ever speaking to Val MELLOR about Knowl View School and its residents however; he did remember regularly meeting with Jane HELD at strategy meetings but not the subject of those meetings.

The interviewer read the content of former CS HOUGHTON's letter to

CONFIDENTIAL