

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: SIMPSON, MARILYN CAROL

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18)

Occupation: ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

This statement (consisting of 4 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: M C SIMPSON

Date: 16/10/2014

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

Further to my previous statement dated 8th October 2014, I have now had sight of the following further exhibits and wish to state the following:-

In relation to exhibit RC/29/J which are signed handwritten notes of interview with Martin DIGAN, pertaining to the Rod HILTON incident. I can state that as regards the entry that I was 'Acting Deputy on 17th September 1990, this would have been only for a day or two, to cover staff absence presumably due to the circumstances that occurred in the aftermath of Rod HILTON entering Knowl View School. I was never actually formally appointed to the role. I was very busy in my own right, re-organising other specialist schools as well as Senior and Primary Schools. I note the entry on 20th September stating Graham HUTCHINSON was appointed as Acting Deputy Head and so I must have had the role for about three days. Unfortunately I do not recall any specific detail in relation to those particular days. Having read the notes, it is again obvious that there was a lot of background to the school that I had not been officially informed about.

I have also viewed exhibit RC/44/B/1 which is a letter in my name to Diane CAVANAGH with a copy to Selwyn HODGE, dated 6th February 1992. Having read both memos, signed by somebody on my behalf (presumably my secretary Pat) I would agree I was the author, and feel that it was obvious that issues in relation to staffing and pupil placement were still unresolved. It is obvious that Richard FLAMMER had a basis for referring Rochdale pupils to extra-district placements rather than using Knowl View School. Mr FLAMMER did not inform me of his reasons for sending pupils further afield.

Signature: M C SIMPSON
2016

Signature witnessed by:

I have viewed exhibit RC/7/L/1, dated 3/4/92 which is a memo to D CAVANAGH from S BRADSHAW re staff anger at management. It is my recollection that the staff seemed to be permanently angry due to insecurity, and I suppose because things were not happening quick enough for them. I remember the names of the staff such as Duncan EATON, Graham HUTCHINSON and Brett ANDREWS. I recall that they carried a lot of responsibility for trying to stabilise the school after the Rod HILTON incident. As regards myself taking issue with Graham HUTCHINSON over leaving the school unsupervised, I know that there were other responsible staff still on site, but he must have convinced me it was an isolated incident or emergency.

In relation to exhibit RC/23/E/2 which is a report on an incident at Knowl View School by myself, dated 5th July 1993, I do recall Steve BRADSHAW asking me to go into the school, in order to speak to [RO-F8] and also view the injuries to [RO-A20]. I must have been asked to go in and review the situation and afterwards in my role as advisor I went back and reported it to the Director and her senior managers who are listed at the bottom of the report. I do not recall any Police involvement and I was not asked to make any formal statement. It was not my role to suspend or dismiss staff. I would have made notes of the incident and of conversations with [RO-F8] and [RO-A20] and they were handed in to Diana CAVANAGH (or her secretary) for her information / in order for her to contain the situation and respond to it effectively.

The decisions taken in relation to Knowl View School were as a result of collective advice to the Director and were taken by her and those of similar status such as the Chair of Education.

Signature: M C SIMPSON
2016

Signature witnessed by: