

From the Chief Superintendent at
To the Chief Constable.

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the position he held there. They assumed he had a basic right to carry out his alleged medical examinations and to administer corporal punishment. The very nature of Smith's conduct seems to have made them reluctant to divulge details to anyone and, as mentioned earlier, Alderman Smith has an extremely dominant, forceful personality. He occupied then, as he does now, a leading position in the town of Rochdale. He was an extremely frequent visitor to the hostel and these factors, allied with his sheer physical bulk and general air of authority, seem to have overawed these youths at the time. They now, of course, fully appreciate that Smith had no right whatsoever to indulge in these indecent practices and will say so in evidence.

Only one witness, [RO-A49], made any form of immediate complaint, that fact is corroborated by Mr. Gavin, Children's Officer, whose statement is attached, and Mr. Lyndon Malcolm Price, Senior Children's Officer. Gavin reported the allegations to his superior, Mr. Price, who was at that time and still is Senior Children's Officer. Price then interviewed [RO-A49] who repeated his allegations. I feel that Price is open to strong criticism in that there is no official record of any steps being taken at that time. Although he states he was worried and gave the matter serious consideration, the only steps he took were to contact Mr. Ross, the then Chief Constable of Rochdale, presently Assistant Chief Constable of the West Sussex Constabulary, outside Rochdale Town Hall following a Chief Officers' Meeting. This encounter was not by appointment and Price states he told Mr. Ross purely for his information, stating that he did not feel the incident warranted complaint or investigation. Mr. H.R. Prescott, A.C.C. Crime, has discussed this matter with Mr. Ross who states he has no recollection of being so informed.

There is a certain amount of corroboration regarding [RO-A51]'s allegations in that he appears to have made immediate complaints to his parents. Again, their reaction is not entirely satisfactory, but they too seem to have been over-impressed by Alderman Smith's prominent local position.

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