

<p>1 Thursday, 15 March 2018 2 (10.00 am) 3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. Good morning, 4 Ms McNeill. 5 MS MCNEILL: Good morning, chair. Our first witness this 6 morning is Nicholas Reade. 7 BISHOP NICHOLAS READE (sworn) 8 Examination by MS MCNEILL 9 MS MCNEILL: Good morning, Bishop Nicholas. At the front of 10 your witness bundle, behind tab A1, we have a copy of 11 your witness statement. It might help to have it in 12 front of you. 13 A. Yes, thank you. 14 Q. That statement was dated 22 January 2018. Can 15 I confirm, before you signed this statement, did you 16 read it to confirm whether it was true, to the best of 17 your knowledge and belief? 18 A. I did. 19 Q. And is it? 20 A. It is. 21 Q. Chair, the URN for that witness statement is WWS000072, 22 and I ask that it be put on the website, please. 23 Bishop Nicholas, I have explained to you this 24 morning that your witness statement will go on the 25 website in full. It contains a significant amount of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 Q. You are currently retired and an honorary assistant 2 bishop in the Diocese in Europe and in the Diocese of 3 Chichester; is that correct? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. I would like to begin by asking you about your working 6 relationship with Bishop Wallace Benn. Bishop Wallace 7 has said that your role as the Archdeacon of Lewes and 8 Hastings was to be his eyes and ears within the area of 9 Lewes, or a troubleshooter. Would you agree with that? 10 A. I think that's partly the work of an archdeacon, yes. 11 The archdeacon is the eyes of the bishop. The 12 archdeacon does have to do quite a bit of 13 troubleshooting work, but, equally, the archdeacon does 14 work with the bishop, to help him to facilitate his 15 ministry. 16 Q. So did you have a close working relationship with 17 Bishop Wallace? 18 A. Yes, but I think I probably have to say that legally 19 I was actually the diocesan bishop's archdeacon. It 20 wasn't Bishop Wallace who appointed me as archdeacon. 21 It was Bishop Eric Kemp, the diocesan bishop, who 22 appointed me as archdeacon. But we had that area system 23 in the Diocese of Chichester and the normal practice was 24 that, particularly for the east, the Archdeacon of Lewes 25 and Hastings would work alongside the Bishop of Lewes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 detail about the operation of a diocese and the 2 practical operation of an archdeaconry. I don't propose 3 to go through that with you in a great deal of detail 4 because we have, by now, heard that evidence largely 5 from other witnesses. 6 By way of background, is it right that you were 7 ordained as a deacon in 1973 and as a priest in 1974? 8 A. Correct. 9 Q. You moved to the Diocese of Chichester in 1982, 10 subsequently becoming the Rural Dean of Eastbourne in 11 1988; is that right? 12 A. Yes. I was Rural Dean of Dallington first. 13 Q. You then became the Archdeacon of Lewes and Hastings 14 in July 1997? 15 A. Correct. 16 Q. With a short period beforehand as the acting archdeacon; 17 is that right? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Then you remained in the Diocese of Chichester until 20 2003, when you were appointed as the Bishop of 21 Blackburn? 22 A. Correct. 23 Q. Though I understand you didn't actually leave the 24 diocese until January 2004? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 Q. You are one of the few witnesses who are coming along 2 that can help us to understand how the area scheme 3 operated under Bishop Eric. Others have said that 4 Bishop Eric allowed the area bishops to largely get on 5 with running their parts of the diocese unfettered by 6 his involvement. Would you agree with that 7 characterisation? 8 A. Only up to a point. Bishop Eric realised when he came 9 to the diocese -- and, goodness me, I wasn't around when 10 he came to the diocese, but he was looking for better 11 workings throughout the whole diocese in the way that it 12 could be managed in, if you like, the modern church. 13 This was in the early '70s. He came up with the idea of 14 the area scheme. But even when I went on his staff in 15 '97, he would regularly make it plain that the diocese 16 was run as a unit. Just occasionally, if suffragans or, 17 dare I say it, archdeacons, started to think about doing 18 things on their own, he would say, "Hang on", you know, 19 "We are a diocese". 20 So, yes, you know, I know the day-to-day running was 21 actually in the hands of the suffragan bishops. 22 Q. Did the suffragan bishops work collectively or did they 23 work independently of one another? I think the term 24 "silo" has been used? 25 A. Bishop Eric used to get his suffragan bishops together</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

1 for a lengthy meeting once a month. I can always
 2 remember that at the Board of Finance meeting he would
 3 leave on the dot of 12, whether the meeting had finished
 4 or not, he would take his suffragans away for a meeting.
 5 Now, we had no idea what went on at that meeting unless
 6 the area bishop happened to share it with us, and
 7 I can't think of very many occasions when Bishop Wallace
 8 shared with me what was shared at that meeting. But
 9 I think the idea of that meeting was very definitely so
 10 that there could be some coordination between their
 11 work. Also, we had the monthly staff meeting, the
 12 bishops' staff meeting.

13 Q. Which we have heard from others about?

14 A. You will have heard from others about that, and,
 15 actually, I think that that showed the Diocese of
 16 Chichester, the hierarchy, if you want to use the term,
 17 in the Diocese of Chichester actually working at its
 18 best.

19 Q. You are also the only witness we have heard from so far
 20 who was within the diocese prior to 1997, which is when
 21 we know Mrs Hind became the first diocesan safeguarding
 22 adviser. It was called the child protection adviser at
 23 that time. It was also before 1997 when she introduced
 24 the first diocesan child protection policy.
 25 Prior to Mrs Hind's appointment and prior to the

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1 introduction of the policy, how much awareness was there
 2 in the diocese of the concept of child protection, as it
 3 was then called?

4 A. Some, I would say. The emphasis, of course, was on, in
 5 those days, keeping children safe. There wasn't any
 6 emphasis, as far as I can recall, on historic cases
 7 pre 1997.

8 It was in 1995 that the House of Bishops requested
 9 that we should all have in the dioceses a child
 10 protection officer or adviser.

11 Q. Yes, it was the first House of Bishops policy, we have
 12 heard?

13 A. House of Bishops policy, correct. Prior to that, in the
 14 Diocese of Chichester, I recall that the work was done
 15 by the board of social responsibility.

16 Q. Yes. Mrs Hind has told us in detail about how that
 17 functioned. What we are trying to understand is how
 18 much awareness within the clergy there was of child
 19 protection cases, and you have said very little, as far
 20 as historic cases, but you were all very concerned about
 21 the need to protect children currently?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Is that a fair summary?

24 A. Yes. I mean, we were beginning to know that there were
 25 problems in the church. We knew what had happened in

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1 the Roman Catholic Church. We knew what had happened in
 2 other denominations. And we knew that cases were
 3 beginning to surface in the Church of England. There
 4 were things that were being -- there was literature that
 5 was coming out. There was what I would call a low level
 6 of early -- initial training, yes.

7 Q. What Mrs Hind said was that when she started in the
 8 diocese, there was generally a level of support at the
 9 parish level for her role, but slightly less engagement
 10 at a senior level, to begin with, at the bishops' level.
 11 She also said that there were some individuals who were
 12 resistant to the idea of an outsider coming in and
 13 essentially telling them what to do. Would you agree
 14 with that?

15 A. I think only in part, I have to say. I joined the
 16 bishops' staff at the same time as Mrs Hind was
 17 appointed, 1997. I can remember when this was discussed
 18 at the bishops' staff meeting. Knowing what Chichester
 19 Diocese was like -- I mean, I'd been around in the
 20 diocese since 1982, and I had been a boy in the
 21 diocese -- I was very pleasantly surprised at a pretty
 22 positive response to the fact that we were having
 23 a child protection adviser.

24 You know how it is in any organisation, even in the
 25 corporate world: if a new person is coming into a post,

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1 we tend to think, "Is this really necessary?". I mean,
 2 "We were doing all right before". People realised we
 3 weren't doing all right before. They realised that
 4 there was need for change. And I certainly did not
 5 detect on the bishops' staff that we were uneasy about
 6 the appointment of Mrs Hind. It may well have been that
 7 a bit further down the food chain people weren't that
 8 pleased about it, but certainly not -- I can say this:
 9 certainly not from the bishops' staff.

10 Q. What she said was that she was given more latitude to
 11 deal with cases involving laypersons, but that there was
 12 still an expectation that cases involving members of
 13 clergy would be dealt with by the bishops and the
 14 archdeacons. Would that be fair?

15 A. Well, I understood, with the appointment of the child
 16 protection adviser, that she was going to be the first
 17 port of call, always. It didn't matter who it was.

18 Q. So you didn't think there was any distinction between
 19 lay and clergy?

20 A. No. I wouldn't have said so. As you well know -- we
 21 will come on to this later -- one of the first that
 22 I had to deal with, Mrs Hind was the first port of call.

23 Q. We will move on to that. Before we do that, there are
 24 just a couple of points to pick up in relation to
 25 Bishop Eric. Can I put on the screen, please, Paul,

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<p>1 ACE005560_003. Paul, can we zoom in on just the top 2 paragraph. Thank you. 3 This is an extract from an email from Philip Jones, 4 who was archdeacon following your role -- 5 A. After me, yes. 6 Q. -- to Colin Perkins, who was at that time the diocesan 7 safeguarding adviser, relaying a conversation from 8 a Reverend Hugh Glasier, who was your predecessor as 9 Archdeacon of Lewes and Hastings; is that right? 10 A. Correct. 11 Q. What he says, essentially, is that, in relation to 12 Bishop Eric, he's not surprised to have heard that 13 Bishop Eric went to the parish to prepare the ground in 14 regard to Roy Cotton, who we know had a conviction at 15 the time he entered the Diocese of Chichester for 16 a sexual offence, and he made another remark about 17 Bishop Eric being rather prone to take a rather 18 laissez-faire view, and he, as in Mr Glasier, did 19 remember having an argument with Bishop Eric about an 20 appointment to another parish in relation to similar 21 background difficulties. So similar difficulties to 22 Roy Cotton, who had the conviction. 23 Is that consistent with your experience of 24 Bishop Eric Kemp's approach to individuals accused of or 25 convicted of sexual offences?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 Q. So you don't think that he would have associated 2 a conviction for a child sexual offence with a current 3 risk? 4 A. No, not an historic one. 5 Q. Can we turn to briefly talk about Bishop John Hind. 6 Paul, can we bring up paragraph 35 of the witness's 7 statement, it's at WWS000072. Paragraph 35 is on 8 page 12. I am going to zoom that in for you to help 9 you. You say: 10 "I think it is fair to say that, on bishop's staff, 11 we were on a journey towards a greater understanding of 12 the extent of child protection issues in the Diocese of 13 Chichester." 14 We have just explored that point. But what you say 15 about Bishop John Hind is that when he was appointed in 16 2001, but before he was installed, you asked him what he 17 saw as the big issues during his forthcoming episcopate: 18 "He mentioned child protection either first or 19 second on his list. I was still, at that point, 20 surprised and queried whether it would be such 21 a dominant issue." 22 There are two questions arising from that. The 23 first is, why, in 2001, were you still, at that stage, 24 surprised that child protection would be so high up on 25 Bishop John's agenda, given that the policy had been in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 A. I have to say that I never had any dealings before 2 Robert Coles with Bishop Eric about anyone who had 3 committed any -- or any allegations of sexual offences. 4 I appreciate that Bishop Eric was the only one who had 5 knowledge of the 1954 conviction. I think Bishop Eric 6 saw that, like the police, as a spent conviction. 7 Roy Cotton, I understand, was ordained with the approval 8 of not only the Archbishop of Canterbury, but the Bishop 9 of Derby, who had been his principal; the Bishop of Ely, 10 who was the chairman of ACCM; the Bishop of Portsmouth, 11 who was going to ordain him. 12 Q. To be clear, we know all of that information now. What 13 you are saying is you are assuming, or you believe, that 14 Bishop Eric would have seen that as a spent conviction. 15 So that we are completely clear, did you ever 16 discuss Roy Cotton's conviction with Bishop Eric, or is 17 that something that you're assuming from your experience 18 of Bishop Eric? 19 A. I never recall discussing Roy Cotton with Bishop Eric. 20 I mean, only when it came up at the staff meeting. 21 Q. So when you say he treated it as a spent conviction, 22 that's what you believe -- 23 A. Well, I mean, I am assuming that. I mean, I cannot 24 believe that Bishop Eric would have been putting 25 Roy Cotton into a parish knowing that he was a risk.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 place for four years by then, there had been a number of 2 arrests in the diocese that you had been involved in? 3 A. I thought that there were just a number in the pipeline 4 that needed -- that were going to be swept up. I did 5 not believe that this was going to be an ongoing issue. 6 I was completely wrong; totally and utterly wrong; 7 perhaps naive. But I thought that there were just these 8 few cases that were lingering around and that they would 9 be, as I say, swept up, and so I was surprised that John 10 had said that. This was a huge learning point for me, 11 because we talked it through and I then began to realise 12 that this was not going to be something that was just 13 going to affect these years of my ministry, but would be 14 with me probably dealing with these throughout the whole 15 of my ministry. 16 Q. The second question -- I said there were two -- arising 17 from that quote is, understanding that you were only in 18 the diocese for another two years, maybe a little bit 19 more, after Bishop Hind became diocesan bishop, do you 20 think that child protection was high up on the agenda 21 during his tenure? 22 A. Yes. I believe it -- 23 Q. Why is that? 24 A. Well, I believe it was very high. If I may say, people 25 used to complain that he was always going on about it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

1 He was seen very much as the tough guy. I can remember
 2 at the time of the Terry Banks -- Terence Banks' arrest
 3 Bishop John being very severe about -- towards one canon
 4 who tended to be sort of playing it down.
 5 No, I mean, a lot of people -- I mean, the clergy
 6 often said, "Oh, well, it's because his wife is the
 7 child protection adviser", but, no, John did take this
 8 very seriously, and he made sure that we had proper
 9 training. If ever there was any mention -- I remember
 10 at a staff meeting, about child protection issues, he
 11 would always ask if the public authorities had been
 12 notified. No, I would give John very, very high marks.
 13 I believe he was the one who really made the transition.
 14 Q. We are going to turn now to talk about the specifics of
 15 the Roy Cotton case, and it starts at paragraph 62 of
 16 your witness statement. Chair, that's page 23 of
 17 the witness statement. I will just give you a chance to
 18 turn that up.
 19 A. Okay.
 20 Q. To set the chronology, the panel have heard that
 21 Mr Philip Johnson, who is present, made allegations
 22 against the Reverend Cotton in 1996, which ultimately
 23 culminated in his arrest in December 1997. When did you
 24 first become aware of those allegations?
 25 A. 1997, December. Roy Cotton rang me up one morning,

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1 quite early, and said that he was rather concerned. He
 2 said he had had a visit from the police and could he see
 3 me.
 4 As he'd said he'd had a visit from the police,
 5 I thought, well, it would probably be better if
 6 I actually went over to see him, on his territory.
 7 Q. So you went to see him. Did you ask him about the
 8 substance of the allegations?
 9 A. Yes, of course.
 10 Q. Did he tell you that they were for child sexual
 11 offences?
 12 A. He did not tell me he had been arrested. He was
 13 perfectly clear that the police had taken away some
 14 cameras, and he said that this was to do with
 15 a complaint from a parishioner from his former parish in
 16 Eastbourne, St Andrew's, Eastbourne.
 17 Q. Did you ask him about the truth of the allegations?
 18 A. We spoke about why the police had taken away the
 19 cameras. I can't remember -- truly, I cannot
 20 remember -- a lot of the detail of the conversation, and
 21 it's probably not helpful to speculate, but all
 22 I remember was that the cameras were taken away and he
 23 was concerned. This was my first meeting to him.
 24 Somewhere along the line, there seems to be a feeling
 25 that I knew him. I didn't know him. He was never in

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1 either of the deaneries that I had served in and I had
 2 seen him I think once or twice at a meeting. So this
 3 was, you know, pretty well a first meeting with him.
 4 Q. Janet Hind has told us that she was made aware of
 5 the allegations in December 1997. Was it you who
 6 informed her?
 7 A. I cannot put my hand on my heart and say it was me. It
 8 may well have been Bishop Wallace.
 9 Q. So you went to go and see Roy Cotton. Did you report
 10 back to Bishop Wallace?
 11 A. I did indeed report back to Bishop Wallace, and I told
 12 him what Roy had said.
 13 Q. Which was about the cameras?
 14 A. About the cameras being taken away, yes, and that he
 15 didn't really understand and that he felt that somebody
 16 from his previous parish had, as it were, got it in for
 17 him.
 18 Q. What Bishop Wallace said was that, once he became aware
 19 of the allegation or the arrest, he dispatched you to go
 20 and meet with Roy Cotton to have a conversation with him
 21 which, "When he told me that, Nicholas Reade had
 22 initially told me there was something that delayed his
 23 ordination. That's actually quite an important word
 24 because we didn't know what the 'something' was, it
 25 could have been lack of academic achievement, it could

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1 have been ...", he goes on to say "anything".
 2 A. I think Bishop Wallace has probably got the timeline
 3 wrong there, with respect.
 4 I went out to see Roy -- well, I mean, I kept in
 5 touch with him after that.
 6 Q. Okay.
 7 A. There were just a few alarm bells ringing, okay.
 8 Q. What were the alarm bells?
 9 A. Well, you know, the fact that the police don't take away
 10 your cameras for nothing. I arranged to go and take --
 11 I think it was the Maundy Thursday Eucharist. I used to
 12 ring him up occasionally. I think I did go on another
 13 occasion anyhow. I think what Bishop Wallace is
 14 referring to is 12 months later.
 15 Q. Let's make sure we are clear on the timeline. He calls
 16 you in December 1997, when we know he's arrested, but he
 17 tells you he's essentially helping police with
 18 enquiries?
 19 A. I thought he was helping police with enquiries.
 20 Q. You told Bishop Wallace and we know that Janet Hind was
 21 informed. You were a bit concerned, so you went to his
 22 parish to mass, essentially, on Maundy Thursday?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. But the next time you went to go and have a significant
 25 conversation with him was 12 months later, so 1998?

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<p>1 A. When the cameras still hadn't been returned. 2 Q. So that's the chronology? 3 A. And I think that that would have been the occasion that 4 Wallace is referring to. Because I can't put my hand on 5 my heart, but I am pretty confident that it was actually 6 the second time I went to his house that I asked him, 7 had he ever done -- had he ever been in trouble. 8 Q. What was his response? 9 A. His response was, yes, he had been in trouble, and that 10 his ordination had been postponed, he had been playing 11 the organ for a wedding in a country parish church, and 12 a young man had been turning over the pages, a boy had 13 been turning over the music pages, and his files were 14 undone, and a complaint was made against him. He was at 15 Ripon Hall, Oxford, and the principal said that his 16 ordination would obviously have to be postponed when he 17 went to see the bishop where he was going to be 18 ordained, and his ordination was postponed. 19 Q. If we can pause there, so we are very clear, we know now 20 that Reverend Cotton was convicted of indecent exposure 21 in similar circumstances, in the organ loft, as you have 22 set out. Did you ask him whether or not he was guilty 23 or had been convicted of the allegation he described to 24 you? 25 A. No, I don't think I did, actually. I mean, I think he</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 A. Well, no, because his previous ordination was such 2 a long time ago. I think I have to be -- well, I mean, 3 I do have to be honest with everything I say here, but 4 I have to be open and say that, at that time, we did not 5 take as seriously as we should have historic offences. 6 Now, I didn't know he'd committed an offence -- of 7 course I didn't. 8 Q. I should make plain to everybody now, it is right that 9 you didn't have access to the blue files on which his 10 conviction was recorded? 11 A. I had no access to the blue files. I did not know 12 anything about the 1954 conviction. 13 Q. Paul, can we please bring up -- I'm going to put it on 14 the screen so we don't keep jumping between your 15 statement -- paragraph 34 of the witness's statement at 16 the bottom of page 11 and the top of page 12. 17 A. Paragraph 34? 18 Q. That's okay. We have got it on the screen. What you 19 say is: 20 "There was, however, no movement, and no 21 requirement, to check the criminal records of clergy who 22 were already in post ... nor was there any suggestion 23 back in early 1997 that the existing information held on 24 those who had been ordained should be reviewed." 25 Can we jump over to the top of page 12 and zoom in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 just told me what had happened, and he -- I mean, he did 2 not indicate that there was a case. 3 Q. Why didn't you press that? Why didn't you ask him 4 whether or not there'd been a conviction? Bearing in 5 mind that you knew it was enough to have delayed his 6 ordination, why didn't you press to see whether or not 7 this was a conviction? 8 A. Well, I mean, if the bishop had decided it was enough to 9 delay his ordination, that's fine, but, I mean, as 10 I say, I did not know at all that he had been convicted. 11 I mean, it just never occurred to me to ask him. 12 I mean, I take priests at their word. I know I've had 13 to change my view, but, I mean, you know, priests are 14 part of the College of Presbyters. They are yoked to 15 their bishop. The idea of a priest telling lies to the 16 bishop, I mean, just horrifies me -- horrifies me. 17 However, I mean, I'm afraid I did learn that this had 18 happened. 19 Q. We know that at this time you had the ongoing police 20 allegations, at the very least, in 1996, by 21 Philip Johnson -- although I know you didn't know it was 22 him at the time. He'd just told you about some previous 23 allegations involving a child. You mentioned alarm 24 bells before. Were alarm bells not ringing now about 25 the risk he might pose?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 the top paragraph. This might be important. What you 2 say is: 3 "I think there was a general (but, of course, 4 misguided, as we now know) assumption that anyone who 5 had been ordained would have been thoroughly vetted in 6 the course of the ordination process. I certainly do 7 not remember anyone suggesting at this time that a blue 8 file should be checked, when historic allegations 9 emerged ..." 10 Do you think you were labouring under what you 11 describe as that misguided assumption in your dealings 12 with Roy Cotton? 13 A. It could be. I would not deal with a case like that in 14 the same way now. There is no question about that. 15 Well, there are so many -- I mean, I don't need to say 16 any more. I think that -- it would be dealt with very, 17 very differently today, and I dare say I might have 18 dealt with it differently had I had more adequate 19 training at that time. But the important point was that 20 I reported back to the area bishop every time. 21 Q. When you reported back to Bishop Wallace about your 22 conversation with Roy Cotton and he'd said about the 23 allegation in the organ loft, do you know what action 24 Bishop Wallace took? 25 A. I believe he saw Roy, but I can't remember what else --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 what other action he took. You would have to -- well,</p> <p>2 you probably did ask him.</p> <p>3 Q. To the best of your knowledge, having presumably</p> <p>4 discussed it with Bishop Wallace, did Roy Cotton ever</p> <p>5 tell him, insofar as you're aware, that there was</p> <p>6 a conviction in 1954?</p> <p>7 A. He didn't tell him that there was a conviction in 1954</p> <p>8 until he had to fit in -- fill in his declaration, and</p> <p>9 then it all came out. But what was so sad, really, over</p> <p>10 the whole thing, is that this conviction was on a file</p> <p>11 in Chichester, and I think the fact that senior staff</p> <p>12 had -- did not have access, except under special</p> <p>13 conditions, to the blue files was very wrong.</p> <p>14 Q. But Bishop Eric did have access to the blue files?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, they were his files.</p> <p>16 Q. Was he kept informed about the arrest or the -- at the</p> <p>17 very least, the allegations, in 1997 and about the</p> <p>18 information you had about the 1954 allegation or</p> <p>19 conviction, as we now know?</p> <p>20 A. You mean when we --</p> <p>21 Q. At the time?</p> <p>22 A. When we knew about the 1954 allegation -- the 1954</p> <p>23 conviction in 2001?</p> <p>24 Q. No, in 1997, did Bishop Eric know that Roy Cotton was</p> <p>25 assisting the police with enquiries and/or had been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 or do you know if anything more stringent was put in</p> <p>2 place?</p> <p>3 A. I can't put my hand on my heart and say that anything</p> <p>4 more stringent -- he was told he was to have no more</p> <p>5 contact with children. There weren't children in his</p> <p>6 congregation, and I don't think he went into the school.</p> <p>7 Q. The police investigation concluded in or</p> <p>8 around March 1999, and Roy Cotton retired again in or</p> <p>9 around January 1999. What Bishop Wallace has said is</p> <p>10 that at the time that the police investigation</p> <p>11 concluded, he believed Roy Cotton to have been guilty</p> <p>12 and that he considered him to be a villain. Did you</p> <p>13 share that view in 1999?</p> <p>14 A. Being an Irishman, Bishop Wallace did describe one or</p> <p>15 two people, I think, as villains. The only thing</p> <p>16 I would say is that I always felt a little uneasy about</p> <p>17 him. It was a question of looking for proof.</p> <p>18 Q. Were any steps taken to try to look for proof? Did</p> <p>19 anybody say, "Bishop Eric, can you take a look at the</p> <p>20 blue file for us, because we have concerns about</p> <p>21 Roy Cotton"?</p> <p>22 A. Well, I think, as I've said in my witness statement, we</p> <p>23 expected at the staff meeting, when we raised issues, we</p> <p>24 expected Bishop Eric, with his very sharp memory, that</p> <p>25 he would say, "Oh, well, wait a sec, there is something</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 arrested?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, I mean, I'm sure that came up at the staff meeting.</p> <p>3 Q. Did he know that Roy Cotton had informed you that there</p> <p>4 had been an allegation against him in 1954?</p> <p>5 A. Well, yeah, I mean, I assume so, but I didn't know about</p> <p>6 the 1954 -- I didn't actually know about the 1954 case</p> <p>7 until 2001.</p> <p>8 Q. No, but you knew in 1997 there was an allegation?</p> <p>9 A. I knew in 1997 that it was -- that his ordination had</p> <p>10 been held up because of what happened on the organ</p> <p>11 stool, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. During the police investigation, there were, at the very</p> <p>13 least, two allegations. Mrs Hind has said steps were</p> <p>14 taken to ensure that Roy Cotton had no direct or</p> <p>15 unsupervised contact with children. Were you involved</p> <p>16 in those steps?</p> <p>17 A. Not that I'm aware. I think I remember being told that</p> <p>18 Janet Hind had said that, so long as he does not have</p> <p>19 any access to children, then his ministry could</p> <p>20 continue. In fact, I'm not so sure it wasn't me who</p> <p>21 told Mrs Hind that there weren't actually any children</p> <p>22 in the congregation there.</p> <p>23 Q. So does that mean that, in terms of ensuring he had no</p> <p>24 contact with children, the only step was checking</p> <p>25 whether there were any children within his congregation,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 in the blue file", or if he wouldn't do it, we expected</p> <p>2 that the chaplain would do it. But, I mean, thankfully,</p> <p>3 we are through all that now. I mean, there is greater</p> <p>4 access to those blue files.</p> <p>5 Q. Were you involved in the decision to grant PTO to</p> <p>6 Roy Cotton in 1999?</p> <p>7 A. An archdeacon cannot grant PTO.</p> <p>8 Q. I will be clearer. We know that the PTO was granted by</p> <p>9 Bishop Wallace. But what he says is that there was</p> <p>10 a discussion between the two of you before he took the</p> <p>11 decision to grant PTO?</p> <p>12 A. That is correct. We did talk about it. Decisions to</p> <p>13 grant PTO are, of course, always the bishop's. The</p> <p>14 police had completed their enquiry by now. They were</p> <p>15 not pursuing the matter. We could not think of any good</p> <p>16 reason why Roy could not legally have PTO. And I think</p> <p>17 I suggested to Bishop Wallace that, given the fact that</p> <p>18 there's been this police enquiry, we ought to monitor</p> <p>19 him rather carefully, and therefore give him a very</p> <p>20 limited PTO.</p> <p>21 Q. Before we talk about the detail of the PTO, I want to</p> <p>22 ask two questions. The first is, Mrs Hind has said that</p> <p>23 nobody consulted her about the decision to grant PTO.</p> <p>24 Why was that?</p> <p>25 A. I can't answer that question, because it was an</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

<p>1 episcopal one.</p> <p>2 Q. Would it have been considered at the time: there's been</p> <p>3 an arrest here in relation to an allegation against</p> <p>4 a child, we should probably check with the child</p> <p>5 protection adviser before we take any decisions around</p> <p>6 PTO? Was that part of your discussions with</p> <p>7 Bishop Wallace?</p> <p>8 A. It wasn't part of my discussion with Bishop Wallace</p> <p>9 because, I mean, I didn't see that that was really what</p> <p>10 we were talking about.</p> <p>11 Q. Bishop Wallace has said that he had not particularly</p> <p>12 been minded to grant PTO at first blush, but that you</p> <p>13 persuaded him to grant PTO because Roy Cotton came from</p> <p>14 an Anglo Catholic background, which made it particularly</p> <p>15 important to him to be able to celebrate mass. Is that</p> <p>16 right?</p> <p>17 A. Yes. I mean, given the fact that the police had not</p> <p>18 pursued their enquiries, and, as far as we were</p> <p>19 concerned, that was it -- we now know obviously there</p> <p>20 was an awful lot more to come, and it's terribly,</p> <p>21 terribly, terribly sad, but given the legal situation,</p> <p>22 given the fact that the Eucharist is so terribly</p> <p>23 important to the life of the church, and particularly to</p> <p>24 the priest -- I mean, the Eucharist isn't just providing</p> <p>25 services for people; I mean, it is actually making</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 legal reason why he couldn't have a PTO.</p> <p>2 Q. Turning to the potential restrictions you've already</p> <p>3 touched upon, is it right that you were aware that</p> <p>4 Roy Cotton was retiring to a house he was purchasing in</p> <p>5 Seddlescombe in 1999? If it helps, I can bring up on</p> <p>6 screen -- we do have a letter from you to him in</p> <p>7 which --</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. It is behind tab 2 of your bundle. Paul, it is</p> <p>10 ACE021705, page 11. It is not to him, sorry, it is to</p> <p>11 Mrs Hind?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. In the second paragraph, or the second line:</p> <p>14 "Roy has now retired and is happily settled in</p> <p>15 Seddlescombe."</p> <p>16 A. Could you just remind me of the date of that letter.</p> <p>17 Q. Absolutely, 8 March.</p> <p>18 A. 8 March 1999.</p> <p>19 Q. This is you informing Mrs Hind that the police</p> <p>20 investigation had now concluded?</p> <p>21 A. Correct.</p> <p>22 Q. And he was at that time retired and happily settled in</p> <p>23 Seddlescombe?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. There has been some dispute in later years, I'm sure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 present the death and mighty resurrection of</p> <p>2 Jesus Christ. You know, I just can't say too much about</p> <p>3 how important the Eucharist is. And I did not want</p> <p>4 a priest, and I have been concerned with the welfare of</p> <p>5 priests ever since I first became an archdeacon in 1982,</p> <p>6 I did not want a priest who had not actually been --</p> <p>7 well, he was no longer arrested, he had not been</p> <p>8 charged. I did not want him to feel that he could not</p> <p>9 celebrate the Eucharist, and so that's what I suggested</p> <p>10 to Bishop Wallace, that we gave him this very limited</p> <p>11 PTO.</p> <p>12 Now, where I worry is that PTOs can sometimes be, as</p> <p>13 I learnt as I became more experienced in senior ministry</p> <p>14 in the church, that PTOs can sometimes be abused, and in</p> <p>15 Roy's case, I understand that it was abused and I am</p> <p>16 very glad now that a PTO is either a full PTO or there</p> <p>17 is no PTO.</p> <p>18 Q. We will turn in a moment to the restrictions or</p> <p>19 potential restrictions on it. During the discussions</p> <p>20 around Roy Cotton's PTO, was it your understanding that</p> <p>21 Bishop Eric had directed Bishop Wallace to grant PTO to</p> <p>22 Roy Cotton?</p> <p>23 A. Bishop Wallace had certainly asked Eric if that could</p> <p>24 happen, and Eric gave -- Eric, I know, gave the</p> <p>25 go-ahead. I think he took the line that there was no</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 you're aware, as to whether or not, at the time</p> <p>2 Roy Cotton retired, he was going straight into a nursing</p> <p>3 home. Is that your understanding?</p> <p>4 A. No, what happened is Roy retired, and he was very ill</p> <p>5 when he retired and he went into hospital, and I went to</p> <p>6 visit him in hospital, and then, when he came out of</p> <p>7 hospital, he went into a nursing home for a short time,</p> <p>8 and then he went back -- I think he went back into his</p> <p>9 house in Seddlescombe. I do remember visiting him in</p> <p>10 his house in Seddlescombe, and I have no idea where this</p> <p>11 story arose that I said that he was always in a nursing</p> <p>12 home, because I'd visited him in his house in</p> <p>13 Seddlescombe.</p> <p>14 Q. We will come to the Baroness Butler-Sloss report later</p> <p>15 in the questions, but I want to stick with this for the</p> <p>16 moment. You say, and I don't ask you to turn to it, at</p> <p>17 paragraph 79 of your statement, that you only visited</p> <p>18 Roy Cotton a couple of times following his retirement.</p> <p>19 Would it be fair to say that following his retirement in</p> <p>20 1999, no-one in the diocese, or certainly not yourself</p> <p>21 and Bishop Wallace, were very clear on his movements or</p> <p>22 where he was living at any given time?</p> <p>23 A. I think probably we felt he was in a far more fragile</p> <p>24 state than he was. The occasions when I saw him and the</p> <p>25 reports back that I got when I enquired about him from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 the rural dean or some other clergy, were that he was 2 very unwell, and therefore we assumed that he was below 3 the radar all the time. I mean, I was horrified when 4 I was up in Blackburn and heard that he had been 5 prancing around the place taking services. 6 Q. It was known that, when he retired, he was initially 7 taking services. Behind tab 2 in our bundle, if we look 8 at page 12 of ACE021705, it is tab 2 of the bundle, the 9 very back page. There is a letter here from Roy Cotton 10 to Bishop Wallace Benn, I believe it was, saying: 11 "As I have taken at least two services each Sunday 12 since my retirement, I should like to put things in 13 order." 14 10 May 1999. Were you aware, in 1999, that he was 15 taking public services at least twice a week? 16 A. No, I was not aware that he'd taken public services. 17 All I can assume is that, seeing that letter, which -- 18 I mean, I haven't seen for the first time now, 19 obviously, I have seen it in the bundle, but all I can 20 assume is that he was doing that in the wake of his 21 retirement before he had received his permission to 22 officiate. 23 Q. Is that what it means by "interregnum fees", does that 24 help us? 25 A. Interregnum fees?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 call -- well, what we still call a private mass, ie, you 2 have a congregation of one. Where I trained for the 3 priesthood at Mirfield, it was very common, in the days 4 before we had concelebration, for the priests to 5 celebrate mass and there would be just one member of 6 the congregation there. 7 Now, in the western church, the wider western 8 church, the practice of having a solo mass has crept 9 in -- well, not crept in, it's been authorised and 10 indeed I know that priests in the western church who 11 have abused against children are allowed -- are 12 sometimes allowed to say a solo mass, and, I have to be 13 honest and admit that this has crept in in the 14 Church of England, that priests do say -- some priests, 15 some priests, do or have said a solo mass. 16 Q. So when you were imagining that Roy Cotton would have 17 a restricted PTO to his own home, was that for a solo 18 mass or for him and others in his own home? 19 A. Well, I mean, I think I put in my witness statement 20 something about solo masses, that, you know, they are 21 not normal in the Church of England. In other words, 22 they are not authorised. But I was envisaging that he 23 would have a mass in his home with one person, two 24 people, or whatever. 25 Q. What perhaps might be the bigger question is, was the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 Q. From Church House, yes. 2 A. You can't obviously receive any interregnum fees unless 3 you have proper permission to officiate. In fact, if 4 you haven't got proper permission to officiate, you 5 can't officiate, full stop. 6 Q. So these fees must have been accrued after his PTO was 7 granted? 8 A. Well, no, because he's asking for his PTO, isn't he? 9 Q. Right. 10 A. So Bishop Wallace would have granted him his PTO and 11 then presumably he will have got his fees. 12 Q. You indicated earlier in your evidence that you decided 13 some strict restrictions should be put on Roy Cotton's 14 PTO in 1999, essentially limiting him to ministering in 15 his own home; is that right? 16 A. Correct, really -- well, either the nursing home where 17 he was or celebrating a mass in his own home, yes, so 18 that he would have no exposure to children. 19 Q. The first question is, Dr Bursell gave evidence the 20 other day that it is not possible or permissible to 21 grant PTO for someone to perform Eucharist in their home 22 because it is not permissible in ecclesiastical law for 23 one to perform the Eucharist alone. 24 A. I have to say that -- obviously Dr Bursell is right, but 25 there is no issue about celebrating what we used to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 fact that Roy Cotton's PTO was restricted to mass in his 2 own home or his nursing home -- and we have touched on 3 you were not quite clear where he was -- was that 4 recorded anywhere, that his PTO was restricted? 5 A. Well, I mean, I'm not the bishop -- well, I mean, I am 6 a bishop, but I wasn't then. 7 Q. So it wasn't your responsibility to make any record of 8 the restrictions? 9 A. No. I mean, that's done by the bishop's office. 10 Q. As the bishop's troubleshooter or eyes and ears or man 11 on the ground, whichever you prefer, what was done to 12 monitor Roy Cotton to try to ensure he was complying 13 with those restrictions? 14 A. I mean, I think I have to say that the church functions 15 by trust. If a priest has a licence or if he's 16 beneficed to get on with the job, we trust him to get on 17 with the job. You know, we can't possibly monitor every 18 move. I mean, the number of clergy that I had in the 19 Lewes and Hastings archdeaconry, I mean, it was just 20 colossal. There were some 140-something PTOs -- 21 Q. I'm going to be -- 22 A. -- 130-something licensed. 23 Q. I'm just going to give you the numbers because you put 24 them in your statement. To be fair, what you say is 25 there are 140 parishes in the archdeaconry of Lewes and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

1 Hastings, which you were required to visit once every
 2 three years, but you tried to visit once every year.
 3 **A. Correct.**
 4 Q. And that there were 129 stipendiary priests and
 5 150 priests with PTO. As you say, you have a very large
 6 geographic area and a large number of people, so you're
 7 required to function on trust. But the question that
 8 was raised the other day with Bishop Wallace, and
 9 perhaps you would be able to help us also, is, given
 10 that Roy Cotton had at this time been arrested at least
 11 twice in relation to sexual offending, did anybody think
 12 about whether that trust might be misguided for him and
 13 perhaps something more stringent should have been put in
 14 place than what I think was referred to by someone else
 15 as "a stern word" from the bishop or archdeacon?
 16 **A. Well, by 1999, he'd only been -- we had only been aware**
 17 **he'd been arrested once.**
 18 Q. And the allegation in the organ loft?
 19 **A. Well, I mean, he had never told me that there was any**
 20 **police action taken.**
 21 Q. So --
 22 **A. Oh, no, I never knew about that until 2001.**
 23 Q. So there was an arrest --
 24 **A. So far as I was concerned, there was only the issue, and**
 25 **I had no details of what he had done. I mean, obviously**

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1 **if I had details of what he had done, I would have made**
 2 **a very clear recommendation to the bishop. I mean, you**
 3 **know, I'm just utterly horrified, having read**
 4 **Mr Johnson's account -- horrified to the core, and am**
 5 **very sorry that I never had the opportunity to meet**
 6 **Mr Johnson.**
 7 Q. So is the reality that nobody considered at that stage,
 8 for the reasons you have just said, that something other
 9 than expecting him to function on trust was necessary?
 10 **A. As I say, he was a sick man, and we were keeping an eye**
 11 **on him. But one of the things that I'm afraid we came**
 12 **to learn, and had to learn a very hard and expensive**
 13 **way, is that, whereas you expect to be able to trust**
 14 **your clergy, I am afraid, when it comes to an abuser,**
 15 **you cannot trust them.**
 16 Q. Moving forward, if we can, in the timeline a little bit,
 17 you say in your statement that you saw the 2000 article
 18 by, we now know, Phil Johnson, but at the time
 19 anonymous, published in "People in Eastbourne" magazine,
 20 about Roy Cotton -- is that right?
 21 **A. No. I mean, I'm aware that it says that it was sent to**
 22 **me by fax. I am aware what Bishop Wallace told me about**
 23 **it, and that it was anonymous, and I am aware that**
 24 **Bishop Wallace made contact with Roy.**
 25 Q. What you say in your witness statement is that you

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1 recall -- at paragraph 74, chair:
 2 "I recall an article being mentioned at a meeting
 3 with Bishop Wallace. I am certain he said it was
 4 anonymous."
 5 And you have seen the fax cover which has you named
 6 on it. My question is whether anybody considered in
 7 2000, in light of what was possibly three sets of
 8 allegations, at the least, whether more monitoring of
 9 Roy Cotton was necessary?
 10 **A. Well, I mean, nothing further seemed to come forward.**
 11 **The police had ceased their enquiries; they weren't**
 12 **prepared to take matters further; Bishop Wallace clearly**
 13 **didn't know who this anonymous letter was from, this**
 14 **anonymous article. So, I mean, I don't really know what**
 15 **else we could have done.**
 16 **I mean, you know, bring us the proof and we would**
 17 **have done something.**
 18 Q. So it was the absence of proof that prevented you --
 19 **A. I mean, I'm not saying that if -- I mean, I don't want**
 20 **to appear critical about Bishop Wallace, because he had**
 21 **a very difficult situation to handle. It could well**
 22 **have been that it might have been easier if he had asked**
 23 **maybe me or somebody else to look into this. You know,**
 24 **if perhaps, as I have said once or twice to**
 25 **Colin Perkins, I really wish I had had a chance to meet**

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1 **Phil.**
 2 Q. Moving forward one year, then, to 2001 -- this is the
 3 date of the confidential declaration from Roy Cotton.
 4 It was at that time it expressly said he had a 1954
 5 conviction. I understand Bishop Wallace informed you
 6 that he'd received this declaration?
 7 **A. He did.**
 8 Q. What was his response to the receipt of this
 9 declaration?
 10 **A. He was horror struck. We both felt that we had been**
 11 **lied to, we had had our time wasted, and -- well, as**
 12 **I say, we were virtually speechless.**
 13 Q. A point Roger Meekings made when he gave evidence was
 14 that, again, if yourself and Bishop Wallace had not
 15 known about the 1954 conviction in 1997, receipt of this
 16 2001 confidential declaration, as you say, demonstrated
 17 that he had lied to you both, why did that not prompt
 18 some disciplinary action or the immediate revoke of his
 19 PTO?
 20 **A. It did result in the immediate revoke of his PTO. He**
 21 **was not allowed to have any public ministry at all. He**
 22 **was again in hospital in 2001. He was very seriously**
 23 **ill in 2001. I went out to see him, and I told him --**
 24 **and my wife remembers me actually going out to see**
 25 **him -- and I said that, "There will be no more public**

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<p>1 ministry and the bishop, very generously, because you 2 are a very sick man, is allowing you to celebrate 3 a private mass". So there was no public ministry. 4 Q. I just want to be clear. Your evidence, unless I have 5 misheard you today, was that in fact that was the 6 situation from 1999 anyway, that he wasn't going to be 7 ministering save for solo mass or private mass in his 8 home. So what was different, then, when you'd received 9 the confidential declaration? 10 A. Well, I mean, I understand that the PTO that was 11 actually issued from Bishop Wallace's office was not 12 quite so tightly worded. 13 Q. So the intention was the same but the wording was 14 different? 15 A. I mean, he was told that. He was certainly told that, 16 that he should only celebrate, for the time being, in 17 1999, a solo mass or a mass in a nursing home, yes. 18 Q. So he was told that in 1999, and, what, was that 19 reinforced in 2001, as opposed to -- 20 A. Well, no, he was told in 2001 that it would be solely 21 a solo -- not a solo mass, a mass in his home or in his 22 nursing home with no members of the public apart from 23 somebody to serve him, and I don't know whether he ever 24 celebrated one, because he went on to be very ill and 25 I can remember receiving a phone call from a friend of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 A. And given the generosity of the bishop in allowing him 2 to celebrate the Eucharist, I would have hoped he would 3 not have abused that. 4 Q. Can we turn to talk very briefly about the 5 Roger Meekings report and that of Dame Elizabeth 6 Butler-Sloss. Firstly, in relation to the 7 Roger Meekings report, I understand it is right that you 8 did speak to Roger Meekings, but just the once, and you 9 hadn't at the time quite appreciated the significance of 10 the report he was completing: is that fair? 11 A. That is fair. Nobody kept me abreast of what was going 12 on. I was getting on with the Diocese of Blackburn, and 13 I had heard that there was the Meekings Report, but -- 14 I must admit, I was rather surprised, having been around 15 in the diocese so long, that Mr Meekings didn't want to 16 see me. But, you know, I'm not making an issue about 17 that. 18 Q. Were you aware of the findings of Mr Meekings Report 19 during the period where we have heard there was a great 20 deal of dispute between him and Bishop Wallace? 21 A. No. 22 Q. In relation to the Baroness Butler-Sloss report, what 23 was the extent of your contribution to 24 Baroness Butler-Sloss's report? Did you speak with her? 25 A. Oh, indeed, I did, yes. She sent me a note when I was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 his asking me if I could get him into the clergy nursing 2 home at Lingfield, St Barnabas's. 3 Q. What we know, because Archdeacon Philip Jones spoke to 4 the nursing home in which Roy Cotton resided, that he 5 wasn't admitted until 2003? 6 A. No, he was never admitted to Lingfield. 7 Q. No, no, sorry, to the nursing home he ultimately -- 8 A. In 2003. 9 Q. Yes. So there was a two-year period following the 10 confidential declaration. The question is whether -- 11 albeit you explained the possible change to the wording 12 of the PTO -- 13 A. Excuse me, but he did go back into hospital in 2001. 14 Q. Right. Was there any attempt following the 2001 15 confidential declaration to at least keep a closer eye 16 on him, to make sure he wasn't publicly ministering, in 17 light of this new information? 18 A. Well, I mean, I suppose the short answer is, probably 19 no. I mean, you know, we did keep an eye on him, but, 20 I mean, we are not in a situation, and we don't have the 21 staff where we can police everybody. I did go out to 22 see him. I did keep in touch with him. Again, it was 23 assuming that he was unwell and would not be able to 24 move around the place. 25 Q. If we can --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 in the House of Lords and said could I meet her, and 2 I said, well, why not meet this afternoon in the 3 bishops' room, and so we met there and we had a good 4 conversation, and I told her all that I knew about 5 Roy Cotton, and, without blowing my own trumpet, I mean, 6 she did say that I had helped her very considerably. 7 And then I had lunch, quite by chance, in the House 8 of Lords with her and asked if it would be appropriate 9 to have a word, and then she sent me an email one night 10 querying about the dates, because Bishop Wallace, 11 I think, had had a conversation with Phil Johnson and 12 had indicated that he knew there had been an accusation, 13 which was an allegation, before 2001, and then 14 Lady Butler-Sloss wanted to know whether I actually knew 15 anything before 2001, and I was able to reassure her 16 that I knew nothing before 2001. 17 Q. The point I'd like to discuss about the 18 Baroness Butler-Sloss report is the circumstances 19 leading to her producing an addendum to that report. We 20 have heard from others, so I won't cover it in detail, 21 that one of the comments or conclusions that she reached 22 in her report was in relation to the grant of PTO to 23 Roy Cotton in 1999, and she commented in their report 24 that part of the reason for granting the PTO in 1999 was 25 because Roy Cotton was very soon going into a nursing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 home, and therefore wouldn't have access to children and 2 the like. That was subsequently found to be incorrect, 3 as we have covered. He was not in the nursing home 4 until 2003. And she was subsequently required to 5 produce an addendum. Can we pull up on screen, please, 6 ACE021705 at pages 122 and 123, and for reasons that 7 escape me, chair, I'm afraid, I think this has been 8 omitted from the bundle. It is dealt with at 9 paragraph 82 of the witness's witness statement. Can we 10 please go over the page, Paul.</p> <p>11 So you sent Baroness Butler-Sloss -- this is 12 essentially before the publication -- we don't need to 13 go through the detail -- the publication of her first 14 report some comments on her report. What you say at 15 number 4, and I must say obviously this is before she 16 published her first report:</p> <p>17 "... I could not be certain Roy Cotton spent all his 18 retirement time in a nursing home. I thought he had 19 a house in the parish of Seddlescombe? I know he 20 applied to enter St Barnabas's College, Lingfield, but 21 was not accepted because he needed a high level of 22 nursing care."</p> <p>23 A. Correct.</p> <p>24 Q. What you say in your witness statement is you had tried 25 to correct that misapprehension with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 Bishop Nicholas, you are still on oath. Please 2 don't discuss your evidence with anyone.</p> <p>3 A. I wouldn't dream of it. 4 (11.10 am) 5 (A short break) 6 (11.25 am)</p> <p>7 MS McNEILL: Bishop Nicholas, I am asked to just raise two 8 quick questions of clarification on Roy Cotton before we 9 move on. The first is, when you became aware of 10 the 2000 "People in Eastbourne" magazine article that 11 was published anonymously --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- you mentioned you didn't know who the individual was. 14 Did anybody consider contacting the publishers to 15 request a name and, if not, why not?</p> <p>16 A. I can't answer that question. The magazine -- again, 17 I don't want to push it on to Bishop Wallace, but, you 18 know, the magazine went to Bishop Wallace, and I don't 19 know why it wasn't followed up. I mean, all I know is 20 it was followed up with a letter. But, again, it's one 21 of those cases that, you know, we've learnt lessons 22 about it. I mean, any little thing like that these days 23 we would follow up. 21 years ago, I'm afraid we didn't.</p> <p>24 Q. The second question was clarification: you said that 25 following 2001, the ministry was to be more strictly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 Baroness Butler-Sloss before her first report was 2 published but she had either missed or, for whatever 3 reason, this correction was not incorporated?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>6 A. I think so.</p> <p>7 Q. As far as you're concerned, does that explain the 8 apparent inconsistency which resulted in the addendum 9 report clarifying that Roy Cotton retired to his home in 10 Seddlescombe and was not in a nursing home until some 11 time later?</p> <p>12 A. Yes. I think the problem why a nursing home got somehow 13 fixed in my mind was because, when I left the diocese in 14 2003, Roy was in a nursing home, and I think I tended to 15 colour that, and then Baroness Butler-Sloss did say to 16 me at my final meeting with her in the House of Lords, 17 after the addendum had been published, she said, "I can 18 see exactly what you did, but you got the events of 2001 19 and 1999 mixed up".</p> <p>20 MS McNEILL: Chair, I am about to move on to a new topic, 21 the case of Robert Coles. We are slightly early, but 22 I wonder whether it is a convenient moment perhaps to 23 take our morning break slightly earlier?</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: Yes, we will do that and return at 11.25 am.</p> <p>25 MS McNEILL: Thank you, chair.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 restricted to within his own home, Roy Cotton's own 2 home, and you said "but with someone to serve him". 3 Now, many altar servers are teenagers or young children. 4 Was it considered that Roy Cotton would be permitted to 5 have a child altar server?</p> <p>6 A. Certainly not. Certainly not. I mean, they would be 7 elderly people who were attending him.</p> <p>8 Q. But based on our conversation earlier, you can't help us 9 as to whether that was specifically written or recorded?</p> <p>10 A. I can't help you over that. I mean, I know these days 11 in the church we do put things in writing far more, but, 12 I mean, I really do come back to this question of, in 13 years gone by, the church functioned very much on trust; 14 that, you know, if the bishop said something, indeed, 15 even if a mere archdeacon said something, people would 16 take note, they would do it. We didn't always have to 17 follow it up.</p> <p>18 I mean, in my witness statement I have made it quite 19 clear that -- I mean, one of the archdeacons, who only 20 retired in the early 1990s, he had everything in his 21 head. He wrote nothing down. And the church in the 22 area was able to function perfectly well, but not so 23 now, I'm afraid. You know, we write everything down.</p> <p>24 Q. We are going to turn to talk about Robert Coles, and, 25 chair, the witness's evidence on this begins at page 30,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

1 paragraph 83.
 2 To help everybody with context -- on reflection,
 3 perhaps I should have done Robert Coles first --
 4 Robert Coles predated the case of Roy Cotton initially.
 5 We know that he was arrested in May 1997. At that time,
 6 you were his rural dean, but soon to become the acting
 7 archdeacon from 1 June. Bishop Wallace had been
 8 consecrated, but was commuting to Lewes and had not yet
 9 settled there. That's important by way of background.
 10 You tell us at paragraph 83 of your witness
 11 statement that Robert Coles called you prior to an
 12 appointment with the police and then you met with him
 13 following his appointment with the police because you
 14 thought it was better he saw the police first, before
 15 you got involved?
 16 **A. If I may interrupt --**
 17 Q. Please?
 18 **A. -- madam chair, he actually rang me after the police had**
 19 **called him, and they had asked him to report to the**
 20 **police station a few days later, and he said, could I go**
 21 **down, and I went down as soon as I could in the**
 22 **afternoon.**
 23 Q. Do we have the notes of your meeting at WWS000008.
 24 Chair, it is behind tab 3 of our bundle. Paul, if you
 25 can bring it up on screen.

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1 Is this your handwritten notes at the time?
 2 **A. I'm very embarrassed to say -- obviously, I'm horrified**
 3 **at the content, but I'm embarrassed about the**
 4 **presentation, but it's 21 years old.**
 5 Q. That's not a problem. What we want to look at, to
 6 clarify, was this note taken following a discussion with
 7 him before or after he'd been interviewed by the police?
 8 **A. He had not been -- he had not actually been interviewed**
 9 **by the police. The police had called on him.**
 10 Q. Right.
 11 **A. And they had told him what the allegation was.**
 12 Q. I think we need to go through a little bit what you say
 13 here. To be clear, the black pen is your original note.
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. And the red annotations is your more recent note sort of
 16 trying to navigate our way through it?
 17 **A. That's correct.**
 18 Q. We can see the first conversation noted at the top.
 19 I think the easiest way to go through it is probably
 20 actually through your witness statement, where what you
 21 say is, when you got to meet with Robert Coles, he told
 22 you that a man who had been an altar server in his
 23 church in Chichester 16 years previously had made
 24 a complaint. He said that the police were now
 25 investigating a possible allegation of indecent assault

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1 and rape. He was very distressed and agitated and "it
 2 was therefore difficult for me to get clear what exactly
 3 he was saying, but what he told me shocked me to the
 4 core".
 5 You go on at the bottom of your paragraph to say:
 6 "He started off by saying the complaint was
 7 nonsense. Then later called it an exaggeration,
 8 claiming that it was 90 per cent inaccurate. At one
 9 point he made wild allegations to the effect that the
 10 boy had buggered him. It was almost as if he was out of
 11 control. When he calmed down, he admitted that the
 12 substance was that he had sat on the boy but immediately
 13 retreated."
 14 At paragraph 87 you say:
 15 "He claimed that this person, when a boy of 15 or
 16 16, had stayed overnight at his house. It was a hot
 17 night and when he went in, just before going to bed
 18 himself, he noticed that the boy had thrown the sheet
 19 off and that his penis was erect. Coles told me that he
 20 sat down on the boy's penis, but then immediately
 21 realised he was drunk and, above all, he was about to do
 22 something entirely wrong, and so retreated. He did
 23 emphasise that he had not had penetrative sex. He
 24 informed me the boy did not mention anything in the
 25 morning and the boy had attended mass."

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1 Did you, at the time, appreciate how serious this
 2 information was?
 3 **A. Of course.**
 4 Q. Did you appreciate at the time that, given that the boy
 5 in question was 15 or 16, this amounted to a sexual
 6 assault, or I think what then would have been called an
 7 indecent assault, at the time?
 8 **A. Yes, I mean, I think -- we probably focused on the rape,**
 9 **that we saw indecent assault and rape as going together,**
 10 **and the fact that he absolutely, completely and utterly**
 11 **claimed that he had not raped the boy -- in fact, I've**
 12 **got some idea that he said that he had in fact kept his**
 13 **pants on.**
 14 Q. But he did say to you that he had sat on the boy's
 15 penis, which at that time was erect.
 16 **A. He said that he sat on the boy -- well, yes, he sat on**
 17 **his penis, but he absolutely swore that there was no**
 18 **penetration.**
 19 Q. Why was the focus on whether or not there was
 20 penetration, when that which he had admitted was, of
 21 itself, very serious?
 22 **A. Well, I think he thought -- well, he was trying to make**
 23 **clear that he had not actually committed rape.**
 24 Q. You say he claimed he had not sexually assaulted the
 25 boy?

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1 **A. He claimed he had not done anything injurious.**
 2 Q. Did you consider what he was telling you to be serious?
 3 **A. Of course I considered it serious, and when I went in,**
 4 **I said to him straight away, I said that I was pretty**
 5 **sure what he was going to tell me, and I said that if it**
 6 **is serious, I want to make it quite clear that this is**
 7 **not under the seal of the confessional, under the purple**
 8 **stole, as we say, and that, you know, I will have to**
 9 **report it up the chain.**
 10 Q. And you did in fact immediately notify your diocesan
 11 bishop?
 12 **A. I did immediately notify my diocesan bishop --**
 13 Q. Bishop Kemp?
 14 **A. -- who, fortunately, happened to be there. I told him**
 15 **exactly what Robert had told me, and he was absolutely**
 16 **astounded, and he -- I mean, I did also add that --**
 17 **well, I think he was aware that Robert Coles had been**
 18 **depressed, severely depressed, that he was thinking**
 19 **about retirement, he was under the doctor, under**
 20 **medication. In fact, the doctor did not want him to go**
 21 **and be interviewed by the police. He said he was not**
 22 **fit enough to do that.**
 23 Q. You also said, is it right, from your statement, that
 24 you needed to ensure that a criminal solicitor --
 25 a local criminal solicitor would represent Robert and go

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1 to the interview with him?
 2 **A. That's what Dr Kemp asked me to do. He said that he**
 3 **must be properly represented.**
 4 Q. Why was the focus on arranging the representation for
 5 Robert Coles, as opposed to passing on this very
 6 relevant evidence, potentially, to the police?
 7 **A. Well, I mean, if -- I mean, frankly, if one of your**
 8 **clergy, whatever he's done or she's done, is going to be**
 9 **interviewed by the police -- I mean, they're part of**
 10 **your family, as the bishop. You have a duty to see that**
 11 **they are properly represented. That's not for one**
 12 **second to say that we were not concerned about the**
 13 **victim. Of course we were. But we hadn't known the**
 14 **victim.**
 15 Q. But did you -- I suppose there are two questions. The
 16 first is, did you, yourself, contact the police and say,
 17 "This man has just admitted to me a very serious
 18 behaviour"?
 19 **A. Well, no, because --**
 20 Q. -- "which might be relevant to your investigation"?
 21 **A. Well, no, because four days later, the police were going**
 22 **to interview him.**
 23 Q. Did you advise Robert Coles to himself tell the police
 24 what he had just told you?
 25 **A. Well, that was for his lawyer to advise him. It wasn't**

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1 **for me to advise him.**
 2 Q. We know that you did report this to the diocesan
 3 safeguarding adviser, and I can take it relatively
 4 shortly, but Mrs Hind, as it then was, doesn't have
 5 a note in her daybook until September, some four months
 6 later, that she became aware. But is it right that your
 7 recollection is that you informed her almost
 8 immediately?
 9 **A. Well, I mean, I do find that --**
 10 Q. It is paragraph 88 of your witness statement.
 11 **A. I do find that extremely hard to understand, for two**
 12 **reasons. I am afraid that I am the kind of person that,**
 13 **if the bishop -- no, I'm not afraid, I mean, I'm**
 14 **pleased, because in the church it runs by people being**
 15 **obedient to the bishop. If the bishop said to me,**
 16 **"Jump", I would say, "How high?"**
 17 **Now, quite frankly, I have got a note, you have seen**
 18 **that note on the screen, and it's circled around, "Ring**
 19 **Janet Hind". Now, I cannot believe that that note sat**
 20 **on my desk for two months and I hadn't rung Janet Hind.**
 21 **It's inconceivable. Anybody who knows me will say that,**
 22 **you know, you do not sit on things, you do it**
 23 **immediately.**
 24 **I mean, I think my solicitor and counsel would back**
 25 **me up over that. I mean, I have always got back to them**

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1 **straight away. That's who I am. I just couldn't**
 2 **conceive of not getting on to Janet Hind over something**
 3 **so serious. Equally, I can't understand why the**
 4 **diocesan bishop didn't get on to her. But I got on to**
 5 **the diocesan bishop, I got on to the area bishop, I got**
 6 **on to the registrar to the diocese, and Janet Hind.**
 7 Q. As we said, the people you didn't contact were the
 8 police.
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. You said that was because he was about to go in for
 11 interview. You say in your witness statement that you
 12 thought the full facts would emerge during the course of
 13 the investigation, or words to that effect.
 14 **A. Correct.**
 15 Q. You subsequently became aware that Robert Coles had
 16 answered "no comment" in his police interview.
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. When did you become aware of that?
 19 **A. Some time after he'd gone -- well, obviously it's after,**
 20 **but I can't remember exactly when. I can remember being**
 21 **a little bit puzzled, and then I can remember talking**
 22 **privately to a senior police officer, and he said,**
 23 **"Oh" -- I mean, not in the town, "don't worry with the**
 24 **'No comment'. If somebody is depressed, we go back and**
 25 **see them when they are better". So all the time I was**

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<p>1 waiting for them to go back and see Robert Coles.</p> <p>2 Q. But we know that they never did. You subsequently</p> <p>3 became aware that they didn't go and reinterview him; is</p> <p>4 that right?</p> <p>5 A. Yes. They said that they had investigated further, and</p> <p>6 I understood that they were dropping the case.</p> <p>7 Q. Given that you know at least at one stage he had given</p> <p>8 a "No comment" interview, given that they had</p> <p>9 subsequently decided not to charge him, did you not</p> <p>10 think that the fact that he had admitted very serious</p> <p>11 behaviour to you was something you were at that point</p> <p>12 obliged to report directly to the police?</p> <p>13 A. Well, I mean, put it this way: he never admitted rape.</p> <p>14 I mean, I admit where I got it wrong was that I focused</p> <p>15 on the rape. But, I mean, can I say, I did what</p> <p>16 I was -- I hate saying this when there are so many other</p> <p>17 more important issues, but I did what I was required to</p> <p>18 do, and I was required to pass it up the line. As I've</p> <p>19 said already, I told everybody that I should have told,</p> <p>20 including the diocesan bishop.</p> <p>21 As you are aware, a CDM, Clergy Discipline Measure,</p> <p>22 in my last times in Blackburn, very sadly, was taken out</p> <p>23 against me by Mr Perkins and Mr Akerman, and the</p> <p>24 archbishop's registrar wrote a report on it and</p> <p>25 submitted it to the archbishop, and the archbishop</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 proof, and I think -- I imagine that the bishop felt</p> <p>2 that this did not hit the register high enough.</p> <p>3 Q. Am I --</p> <p>4 A. But I'm still at a loss, myself, as to know why the</p> <p>5 police never came to knock on my door. I mean, I've</p> <p>6 never tried for a coverup, I've always been very open in</p> <p>7 telling everybody who ever asked me about it what</p> <p>8 happened. I mean, I had a policeman in my congregation.</p> <p>9 I'd been in the town for 10 years. The police came to</p> <p>10 see me about a previous safeguarding case. And I think</p> <p>11 you have information about that. They did not come on</p> <p>12 this occasion because they were satisfied, and I find</p> <p>13 that very, very hard to understand.</p> <p>14 Of course, if Janet Hind had said to me that</p> <p>15 I should have gone to the police, or that Bishop Wallace</p> <p>16 should have gone to the police, or Bishop Kemp should</p> <p>17 have gone to the police, I mean, I would have</p> <p>18 immediately rung the bishop and said, "I have been</p> <p>19 advised to go to the police. I will go to the police".</p> <p>20 Q. I am going to go back to the original question, because</p> <p>21 I understand what you are saying about policies and</p> <p>22 procedures and you passed it on to the diocesan bishop,</p> <p>23 but the question is why you didn't think that you had</p> <p>24 a moral responsibility, if nothing else, to go to the</p> <p>25 police with this information, because you passed it on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 accepted his report, and the judgment was there were,</p> <p>2 therefore, no reasons why Nicholas Reade should report</p> <p>3 the April/May 1997 conversation to the police. He had</p> <p>4 already reported this to his diocesan bishop and to the</p> <p>5 child protection adviser immediately at the time.</p> <p>6 Q. Can you understand the difficulty that some might have,</p> <p>7 which is that there is a situation where somebody has</p> <p>8 admitted to you serious criminal behaviour -- not</p> <p>9 a rape, as you say; they are not subsequently</p> <p>10 prosecuted; you know that they have answered "no</p> <p>11 comment" in interviews and haven't admitted this. Did</p> <p>12 you not think independently, regardless of what the</p> <p>13 policy required you to do, that, "I have relevant</p> <p>14 potential evidence to a police investigation. I think</p> <p>15 I should give that evidence to the police, alert them to</p> <p>16 what he's told me", of which you had a note?</p> <p>17 A. I gave that information to the diocesan bishop. As the</p> <p>18 archbishop in his determination said, that was what</p> <p>19 I was obliged to do. It would have been for him to go</p> <p>20 to the police. But, you see, he was a lawyer. I mean,</p> <p>21 he knew perfectly well that the only thing that they</p> <p>22 could do, as the church, was deal with this under the</p> <p>23 Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1963.</p> <p>24 Q. So why didn't --</p> <p>25 A. And the EJM 1963 requires a very, very high standard of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 to the DSA and you'd passed it on to the bishop</p> <p>2 correctly, but still no prosecution had taken place.</p> <p>3 Why didn't you think, "Well, I'd better take matters</p> <p>4 into my own hands and speak to the police officer, who</p> <p>5 is in my congregation", or you said you had contact with</p> <p>6 police officers in other general terms. Why didn't you</p> <p>7 think that you had a sort of moral duty or social</p> <p>8 responsibility, albeit not legal or policy duty, to put</p> <p>9 this information in the hands of the police?</p> <p>10 A. I think it was because of what the procedure was we had</p> <p>11 in the diocese. I mean, the 1997 protocol made it quite</p> <p>12 clear that it is actually the child protection adviser</p> <p>13 who deals with the police.</p> <p>14 Q. Just one quick question on that. The child protection</p> <p>15 policy of 1997 wasn't published until September 1997.</p> <p>16 This conversation was in May. So I'm just curious as</p> <p>17 in May why you thought it had to go through the</p> <p>18 diocesan --</p> <p>19 A. Well, I -- I well, I mean, that's when the issues arose,</p> <p>20 didn't they? I mean, in September 1997, because that's</p> <p>21 when Coles went to see the police again, his second</p> <p>22 time.</p> <p>23 Q. But not when you met with him in May?</p> <p>24 A. Not when I met with him in May. Therefore, my duty,</p> <p>25 when I met with him in May, was to notify the diocesan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

1 **bishop and the area bishop. Now, if one of them had**
 2 **said, "Look, Nick, it's your duty to go and see the**
 3 **police", of course I would have gone.**
 4 Q. I don't know if we can helpfully take that much further,
 5 but I do want to go back to what you said about the
 6 Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure, and I said, "Why
 7 didn't anybody consider taking action under that, given
 8 he'd admitted this serious behaviour", for want of
 9 a better word, and you said the Ecclesiastical
 10 Jurisdiction Measure was very difficult, it required
 11 a very high standard of proof?
 12 **A. Indeed.**
 13 Q. Why did the standard of proof get in the way when he had
 14 admitted to you that he had carried out this behaviour?
 15 **A. Well, I mean, what did he admit? The only thing -- he**
 16 **said that what he'd been told -- what the young man had**
 17 **said was 90 per cent true, and he admitted that there**
 18 **was no penetrative sex.**
 19 Q. But he admitted that he had sat on the penis of a 15- or
 20 16-year-old boy. Does that not fall within the kind of
 21 behaviour that is covered under the Ecclesiastical
 22 Jurisdiction Measure as capable -- of requiring
 23 disciplinary action? I understand it wasn't rape. It
 24 was a 15- or 16-year-old boy. Was that conduct
 25 consistent with a member of clergy?

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1 **A. Of course it isn't. That is conduct unbecoming. There**
 2 **is no question about that.**
 3 Q. Which he'd admitted. So that does go back to the
 4 question as to why no action could be taken under the
 5 Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure?
 6 **A. Well, you know, I'm very sorry, you will just have to --**
 7 **well, we can't ask Dr Kemp about that, but that was the**
 8 **issue. We were clearly intertwining rape and -- sorry,**
 9 **what was the accusation? I can't remember.**
 10 Q. Indecent --
 11 **A. Indecent assault, indecent assault. And because there**
 12 **wasn't the rape -- I mean, I imagine that's why there**
 13 **was the more lenient approach.**
 14 Q. Can we just --
 15 **A. But, I mean, I want to make it absolutely clear that if**
 16 **something like this were to happen now, we would not do**
 17 **it all on our own, there would be a multi-agency**
 18 **gathering immediately -- immediately. I mean, that's --**
 19 **I mean, I had none of these issues when I got to**
 20 **Blackburn -- none. Well, I mean, I did have issues,**
 21 **but, I mean, the moment an issue arose, we got in touch**
 22 **with the LADO, the police and everybody else, and we**
 23 **would have this multi-agency meeting, and we would be**
 24 **able to work it out.**
 25 **I mean, we were working in the dark then.**

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1 Q. Before we talk about multi-agency approach, I just want
 2 to put one more document on screen, if I can.
 3 ACE022318. Chair, it is tab 4 of your bundle, and
 4 Bishop Nicholas, you have a copy in your bundle. Sorry,
 5 it is page 4 of that document, please, Paul.
 6 Can we zoom in on just the text? This is a letter
 7 from Janet Hind to Bishop Wallace. It is not to you,
 8 and I make that plain. I just want to look at the
 9 second and third paragraph:
 10 "Robert ..."
 11 This is after the police investigation has
 12 concluded:
 13 "Robert has resigned from his parish on health
 14 grounds -- stress and depression, and is still in
 15 a fragile state. He is not ministering at the moment
 16 and does not hold a licence or PTO. After he resigned,
 17 he was investigated by the police following allegations
 18 by a 30-year-old of sexual abuse about 15 years ago.
 19 Robert denied the allegations put to him and the police
 20 are not taking it any further ...
 21 "During discussions with you and Nicholas Reade,
 22 Robert admitted other offences of a serious nature."
 23 I know there is some confusion about that:
 24 "He admitted sexual activity with a minor who was at
 25 that time one of his servers and therefore his

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1 responsibility. Robert maintains that this was
 2 a 'one-off' event and has not happened since. Robert is
 3 asking to resume ... ministry."
 4 Obviously Mrs Hind goes on to advise that
 5 Robert Coles not be given PTO, which he wasn't. My
 6 question is, talking about multi-agency approaches,
 7 given, when you got this letter, you all knew that he
 8 hadn't admitted the allegations to the police and that
 9 the police were taking no further action and that it was
 10 serious, did any of you all sit down in one room and
 11 discuss whether or not action should be taken, either by
 12 going to the police or the EJM? Did anybody actually
 13 sit down and have that conversation?
 14 **A. There are things obviously about that letter that are**
 15 **a problem --**
 16 Q. And I make plain --
 17 **A. I want to make it clear --**
 18 Q. Please do.
 19 **A. -- that Robert Coles never, ever admitted to me anything**
 20 **more than he admitted at that meeting on that day when**
 21 **I went down to his house. So, you know, I know nothing**
 22 **about these further meetings.**
 23 **I mean, I think that a real problem was that there**
 24 **could have been -- even if we weren't going to have**
 25 **multi-agency meetings, that there could have been better**

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1 **in-house meetings about the situation.**
 2 Q. That's my question, did you all sit down --
 3 **A. You know, I'm a collaborative worker. I have to say,**
 4 **I can't put my hand on my heart and say that**
 5 **collaborative working at that time -- it is now, of**
 6 **course, but at that time, in the Diocese of**
 7 **Chichester -- was as good as it could have been.**
 8 Q. I want to --
 9 **A. But there was a meeting.**
 10 Q. -- ask a very specific question. Was there a meeting at
 11 which you all sat down and said, "The police have taken
 12 no further action. He's made these admissions to me.
 13 We should all really think about what to do"? Did that
 14 meeting ever happen?
 15 **A. We certainly had a meeting with Janet Hind and we had**
 16 **a meeting with Bishop Wallace and we had a meeting with**
 17 **myself.**
 18 Q. As we have already covered, nobody in those meetings
 19 said either, "We should report this to the police" or,
 20 "We should take disciplinary action", for the reasons we
 21 have already covered?
 22 **A. I think, from reading the transcript here for the other**
 23 **days, that Mrs Hind clearly felt, but did not say, that**
 24 **we should have reported it to the police and I regret**
 25 **that she did not say to us, as I have said already, that**

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1 **if she had said, "This is a police matter, you ought to**
 2 **report it, then we would have reported it.**
 3 Q. To be fair to Mrs Hind, what she said was that you
 4 retained the responsibility -- I paraphrase her -- to
 5 use your own initiative to report relevant evidence to
 6 the police. That's what she said, or the tenor of her
 7 evidence, but I think I have covered that point with
 8 you. She never directly told you to, though?
 9 **A. No, and if she had, I think that Bishop Wallace and I --**
 10 **well, as I say, if she'd said to me, I would have picked**
 11 **up the telephone to Bishop Kemp and said, "This is what**
 12 **I'm going to do".**
 13 Q. Can we talk as briefly as we can about PTO.
 14 Robert Coles was not granted PTO on his retirement
 15 largely because of the recommendation of Mrs Hind; is
 16 that right?
 17 **A. Well, I think it was principally because of the bishop.**
 18 Q. Right.
 19 **A. But when we started to think about it -- well, when**
 20 **Robert Coles said he felt that he was better, when he**
 21 **assured us that there was no chance that anything would**
 22 **ever happen again, and, you know, we recognised that he**
 23 **had felt very tempted to have sexual relations with**
 24 **a young person, and we saw this as very serious, but we**
 25 **wanted to be guaranteed that this would not happen**

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1 **again, we decided that he must have some psychiatric**
 2 **examination.**
 3 Q. We need to pick up on two points of clarification in
 4 relation to that. The first is, you say, "We recognised
 5 that he had felt very tempted to have sexual relations
 6 with a young person". I think we have to be very clear
 7 about this. He hadn't just been tempted: he had sat on
 8 a young boy. The reason I'm asking is, did anybody
 9 actually at the time think it had gone further than mere
 10 temptation or mere tendencies or potential? Did anybody
 11 actually appreciate that he had done something wrong?
 12 **A. Well, of course -- I mean, as I've said before, this is**
 13 **conduct unbecoming. I mean, in fact, it's -- it is**
 14 **worse than that. But, I mean, the fact of the matter**
 15 **was that it was not seen as an act of penetration.**
 16 Q. There was a time, was there not, in March 1999 where
 17 Robert Coles went on a school trip to Salzburg with the
 18 Bishop Bell School?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. We have in our bundle a letter that you wrote -- I don't
 21 think I need to bring it up -- saying, "I have told him
 22 he is under no circumstances to perform a Eucharist
 23 whilst on that trip"?
 24 **A. Correct.**
 25 Q. You were very clear about that, because he didn't have

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1 PTO?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. But what you didn't do is tell him that he couldn't go
 4 on a trip with schoolchildren, and you also didn't go to
 5 the school, did you, and say, "I'm not sure it is a good
 6 idea for you to be taking Robert Coles on a trip with
 7 schoolchildren"?
 8 **A. What authority do I have when a priest is retired, he**
 9 **has no licence, he has no PTO? To all intents and**
 10 **purposes, he's living as a layman. He's a free agent.**
 11 **He can do what he likes.**
 12 Q. Did you then go to the Bishop Bell School and tell them
 13 about either the police investigation or the admissions
 14 that he'd made to you so that they were aware?
 15 **A. At some stage, and I cannot remember exactly, the school**
 16 **were aware, and the school would also have been aware,**
 17 **for many other reasons. I mean, in the early days when**
 18 **I was still archdeacon and vicar of St Mary's,**
 19 **Eastbourne, my deputy organist at St Mary's was a member**
 20 **of the congregation -- my deputy organist was the deputy**
 21 **head. I had a retired bishop, Bishop Mark Green, who**
 22 **was the chaplain, and Bishop Mark Green, I had told him**
 23 **everything. I went in to see the head very regularly.**
 24 **I was a former chair of governors. I was the**
 25 **archdeacon. I took Bishop Bell School very seriously --**

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1 Q. I'm just going to interrupt --
 2 **A. It is inconceivable that they did not know that**
 3 **Robert Coles was in trouble, and when he wasn't able to**
 4 **celebrate the Eucharist and he'd gone around saying he**
 5 **was going to celebrate the Eucharist --**
 6 Q. But did you specifically -- can you tell us whether you
 7 specifically went in and said, "He had been arrested" --
 8 not just in trouble; arrested -- "for child sexual
 9 offences and has admitted to me that he committed what
 10 could be considered an indecent assault"? I'm not going
 11 to talk about the terminology.
 12 **A. This is where we have been -- this is where**
 13 **Bishop Wallace and I, to be absolutely frank, were in**
 14 **a real quandary. As you will see from, I think in**
 15 **Bishop Wallace's evidence, 14.1, Bishop Wallace's**
 16 **witness statement in 14.1, we were aware that because no**
 17 **case had been taken out against Robert Coles, that there**
 18 **was no EJM, the police hadn't prosecuted him, that we**
 19 **were aware that we could have action taken against us by**
 20 **Coles if we went around the town saying what he had**
 21 **done.**
 22 Q. To help you answer the question, at the end of
 23 paragraph 100, what you say is:
 24 "In view of the fact no proceedings had been taken
 25 against him, I had not notified ..."

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1 This is at the time of the Salzburg trip:
 2 "... nor been told to notify the school formally
 3 about the previous arrest, nor of what he had said to me
 4 in May 1997. However I felt key personnel were aware
 5 that Coles was no longer ministering, and with the
 6 cancellation of the proposed Eucharist on the Salzburg
 7 visit would have been vigilant. I realised, as we
 8 became more cautious and attentive to child protection,
 9 that it would have been right to have written to the
 10 school as well."
 11 **A. I accept that. That is in my statement, yes.**
 12 Q. There came a time that you have alluded to -- we will
 13 return to it now -- that discussion was raised as to
 14 whether Robert Coles should get PTO?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. What you said was, there was a time when he came to us
 17 and said that he was better. What do you mean by
 18 "better"?
 19 **A. Did I just use the simple word "better"?**
 20 Q. Yes.
 21 **A. I would be very surprised --**
 22 Q. That's why I asked you to clarify. Did you mean
 23 "better" because he had been suffering from depression
 24 or "better" as specifically refers to the allegations
 25 against him and his --

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1 **A. I do wish you could refer me to the document, if it's**
 2 **possible.**
 3 Q. No, no, it is just on the transcript. You mentioned it
 4 earlier in your evidence. It might have been a slip of
 5 the tongue. You said, "He came to speak to us in a
 6 while, when he was better, to ask for PTO", and you said
 7 Bishop Wallace said no?
 8 **A. That would certainly have been the depression. I mean,**
 9 **the depression improved, and he had settled down. He**
 10 **was liked in the parish. He was obviously in the**
 11 **congregation. He used to help with things like**
 12 **gardening. He was a horticulturist before he was**
 13 **ordained. He went around and did a bit of gardening for**
 14 **clergy in the deanery. You know, he was generally**
 15 **a very likable person. But a likable person, I agree,**
 16 **doesn't necessarily qualify for PTO. But there were**
 17 **signs of him getting his life together.**
 18 Q. But were there any signs that he had addressed his
 19 offending behaviour?
 20 **A. Well, he had told Mrs Hind that this was a one-off.**
 21 Q. That was when he retired, yes.
 22 **A. I can't remember whether it was when he retired or --**
 23 **I think he had more than one interview with Mrs Hind,**
 24 **and he had an interview with Mrs Hind when we were**
 25 **talking about him going to see Charles Zeitlin, the**

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1 **clinical psychologist.**
 2 Q. She said, if he wants PTO, he can only do it with a risk
 3 assessment, and he refused to undertake the risk
 4 assessment?
 5 **A. That is correct. He said that emotionally he just could**
 6 **not go through with it, and I told him all along that**
 7 **the red line for the bishop, the line in the sand, is**
 8 **that he must have the psychological assessment, and**
 9 **I backed the bishop 100 per cent on that.**
 10 Q. Can we turn to tab 5 of the bundle, please, and bring up
 11 on screen ACE022138_078. It is at tab 5 of your bundle.
 12 It is the second page in that tab. It is a letter from
 13 yourself to Bishop Wallace?
 14 **A. Yes. Yes, indeed.**
 15 Q. This is essentially what you were just saying to us,
 16 23 April 1999:
 17 "Since retiring, Robert has behaved responsibly. He
 18 is faithful to the life of prayer ... He is ...
 19 a gardener ... He has visited ... clergy ..."
 20 The penultimate paragraph:
 21 "In view of all this, I wonder if you would feel it
 22 possible to raise with the diocesan bishop whether there
 23 could be any possibility of Robert having bishop's
 24 permission to officiate, on condition that he does this
 25 under the supervision of a senior priest, who will be

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1 informed of the incident ... Robert has always been
 2 loyal ... and I have no reason to believe he would not
 3 abide by these restrictions."
 4 In the final paragraph you say:
 5 "... I believe the exercise of his priestly ministry
 6 is fundamental to Robert and I would hate him to grow
 7 into a bitter person."
 8 So that we're clear, is this letter suggesting he
 9 should return to get PTO without a risk assessment?
 10 **A. Certainly not. Certainly not. That letter was written**
 11 **after I had had lunch with the parish priest, who was**
 12 **wanting him to exercise PTO, and he said, you know, what**
 13 **a great help he'd been and how everybody liked him,**
 14 **et cetera, et cetera.**
 15 Q. And all the things that you've just told us?
 16 **A. All the things that I've just said, yes. I said, "Look,**
 17 **I can put it to the bishop", but I said, "He will not**
 18 **grant it". I put it to the bishop, yes, because part of**
 19 **my job as archdeacon, you know, the troubleshooter, the**
 20 **dogsbody, you know, you do all those jobs, is to**
 21 **represent the parishes as well to the bishop, and**
 22 **I wanted the bishop to know what the parishes were**
 23 **thinking.**
 24 **But, I mean, I had said to them that they will not**
 25 **get this without a proper assessment, and I thought that**

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1 **if I could build in that there could be a senior priest,**
 2 **like the Vicar of Eastbourne, for example, who would**
 3 **monitor him, then this might be a way forward. But**
 4 **never, never without having the assessment.**
 5 Q. Could we turn to tab 6 of the bundle, please, and bring
 6 up, Paul, WWS000010. I think this is part of the same
 7 exchange. It is a letter from yourself to
 8 Jonathan Graves.
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Although he was subsequently convicted, he was, at that
 11 time, the parish priest.
 12 What you say in the third paragraph is:
 13 "In putting Robert's case to the bishop, I pointed
 14 out that he has always been loyal to the bishop ..."
 15 As we have just read:
 16 "The bishop was not convinced by this because of
 17 (and I quote) 'the sneaky way Robert has tried to
 18 operate'. "
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. You go on to say:
 21 "I know Robert has been doing funerals at the
 22 crematorium ..."
 23 We have heard you do not require PTO to perform
 24 funerals at the crematorium. But the important point
 25 is:

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1 "... but I have not pressed him on what he is doing
 2 elsewhere, but I have heard (and obviously the bishop
 3 has too) from other sources that he is from time to time
 4 operating. If he is functioning without permission to
 5 officiate, I think a rather serious situation could
 6 develop."
 7 And there was some question about Jonathan Graves'
 8 answerphone, saying, "I'm not here, but please contact
 9 Robert Coles":
 10 "Those of us who know Robert well would dearly love
 11 to see him functioning again with proper authority."
 12 As you say, not without a risk assessment, is what
 13 you tell us. Over the page:
 14 "I think the bishop is going to ask Robert to come
 15 and see him again, not to press him about any ministry
 16 he might suspect he's exercising, but to have a pastoral
 17 chat about his situation, and I think to encourage him
 18 to go for the consultation."
 19 Which is the risk assessment.
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. My question is, given that we have heard that exercising
 22 ministry without a PTO is a very serious canonical
 23 offence --
 24 **A. Indeed.**
 25 Q. -- why nobody was pressing him to discover where he's

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1 been ministering without a licence or pressing him -- or
 2 trying to discover where the other sources are saying
 3 he's been ministering elsewhere?
 4 **A. Madam chair, the answer to that is, I had no proof of**
 5 **where he had been ministering. The bishop didn't even**
 6 **have any proof. All it was, was hearsay.**
 7 **Now, I visited a lot of the churches, and when**
 8 **I visit churches, I always look at the register to see**
 9 **the signature, and I never saw a signature in any**
 10 **Eastbourne church which had Robert Coles's name in. My**
 11 **only suspicion that he might have been functioning was**
 12 **because of him going around doing the gardening. Now,**
 13 **Bishop Wallace never elaborated on that "sneaky way",**
 14 **but my main concern, our main concern, was not to put**
 15 **him under threat. He was a very gentle sort of person.**
 16 **You could easily knock his confidence. My main concern,**
 17 **the bishop's main concern, was to get him to have that**
 18 **psychiatric examination.**
 19 **I don't know how the bishop treated him. It may**
 20 **well be the bishop actually did press him. The only**
 21 **evidence I had -- well, I didn't even have evidence.**
 22 **The only hearsay I had was that he was taking those**
 23 **services at the crematorium, and, again -- again, this**
 24 **would not happen now.**
 25 Q. The question -- I should say that Bishop Wallace has

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1 explained they did check the signature lists in the
 2 parish, but because Robert Coles had just done
 3 a scribble rather than his signature, you couldn't tell
 4 that he had been ministering.
 5 My question was why nobody thought to investigate
 6 whether or not -- to try to find out, and I think your
 7 answer was: well, firstly, we didn't have any ability to
 8 investigate, we just had hearsay, and, secondly,
 9 pastorally, we didn't think that would be good for him.
 10 Is that fair?
 11 **A. My main concern -- I do repeat -- was to get him to have**
 12 **that examination.**
 13 Q. I should -- I'm asked to put back on screen to help
 14 you --
 15 **A. I did not, and Bishop Wallace did not, carry out some**
 16 **survey of the whole of the deanery to find out. Nobody**
 17 **made a complaint to us. Now, obviously if somebody had**
 18 **made a complaint to us, obviously if we'd got evidence**
 19 **that he had been taking services -- I mean, it is an**
 20 **offence to take services. But I never heard of it. And**
 21 **I think those who can remember as far back to my days as**
 22 **rural dean of Eastbourne, and indeed Archdeacon of Lewes**
 23 **and Hastings, would describe me as a very hands-on**
 24 **archdeacon who was everywhere.**
 25 Q. I'm asked to bring back up on screen, out of fairness,

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1 WWS000010, at page 1. Look at the bottom paragraph
 2 again.
 3 **A. "Those of us ...", yes.**
 4 Q. "Could you do all in your power to persuade him to go
 5 for the assessment, because it looks as if this is the
 6 only way he can ever have any public ministry? Possibly
 7 all that stands between him and ministry again is
 8 a one-hour consultation."
 9 As you have already said, you never suggested he
 10 should return to ministry without that assessment?
 11 **A. Never said that, and you will notice in my letter to**
 12 **Shirley Hoskins, which she --**
 13 Q. Mrs Hosgood?
 14 **A. Sorry.**
 15 Q. That's okay.
 16 **A. Mrs Hosgood, Shirley Hosgood, which I sent, which was**
 17 **a strong leader into the prosecution of Robert Coles,**
 18 **I made that exact same point, that he must have an**
 19 **assessment.**
 20 Q. We know that Robert Coles was taking school assemblies?
 21 **A. And I stopped it.**
 22 Q. And you stopped that. If we can move forward, please,
 23 to 2001, and look at a letter we have behind tab 5,
 24 please, chair, and, Paul, on the screen, ACE022138_008.
 25 There is no date on this letter. The subsequent serious

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1 case review dated it to 2001, if that helps to some
 2 respect. But it is a letter from a Reverend
 3 John Samways, who was a rector, to Bishop Wallace, not
 4 to yourself, but I understand you were aware of this
 5 letter having been received?
 6 **A. I was aware of the letter having been received because**
 7 **Bishop Wallace told me about it.**
 8 Q. The point is a short one. Essentially, Reverend Samways
 9 telephoned Bishop Wallace, we can see, and then wrote to
 10 follow up with a letter to say that he had spoken to
 11 another boy, or a boy, sorry, who said that when he was
 12 8 or 10 years old, there was an allegation of fondling
 13 against Robert Coles, it was very unpleasant but it did
 14 not go any further.
 15 So this is more information about Robert Coles,
 16 which we know was never passed to the police. Out of
 17 fairness to you, it is right that Tony Selwood was aware
 18 of this letter, you were aware of this letter and
 19 Bishop Wallace was aware of this letter.
 20 In 2001, were you aware that this letter did not get
 21 passed to the police in 2001?
 22 **A. Well, I thought it did get passed to the police, because**
 23 **if you read Bishop Wallace's statement, in 84.2 he says**
 24 **that the police were aware. So I think that that needs**
 25 **checking out.**

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1 Q. Yes, not necessarily from Bishop Wallace, I think was
 2 the proposition. But we can definitely check that.
 3 The question I have for you, which is probably
 4 a better place for you to answer, is whether or not this
 5 letter required anybody to take any further action
 6 against Robert Coles?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Was the question of disciplinary procedures or the like
 9 raised again at this point?
 10 **A. As far as I was concerned, I was exceedingly**
 11 **disappointed. This was another example of us having**
 12 **been lied to. I mean, the first two major cases that**
 13 **I ever dealt with over child abuse, the priests were**
 14 **honest, they owned up in front of their bishop, and that**
 15 **was that. What I couldn't tolerate was, I'd been --**
 16 **we'd been let down and hundreds -- well, a lot of people**
 17 **had been let down by Cotton, and now we had been let**
 18 **down by Coles. I'm afraid that was yet another learning**
 19 **point for me. We were utterly devastated, and he was**
 20 **told there was no PTO. He saw a very strict side to**
 21 **Bishop Wallace. He had him into his study. He told**
 22 **him, no PTO. In fact, so distressed was he that, as**
 23 **I had known him ever since 1988, as his rural dean,**
 24 **I felt it right to walk out to the car with him.**
 25 Q. My last question on this is then, Father James Vine

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1 later indicated that Robert Coles had told him the
 2 reason that PTO hadn't been granted to him was because
 3 he was a homosexual. Janet Hind has told us that
 4 Bishop Wallace's attitude towards homosexuality and an
 5 attempt by him to perhaps be overly fair to Robert Coles
 6 affected his response in this case. What we heard from
 7 Bishop Martin yesterday is that there is an undercurrent
 8 within some areas of Anglo Catholicism of closeted
 9 homosexuality. My question to you is, do you think that
 10 the attitude of the church or of the diocese towards
 11 homosexuality affected the way in which the case of
 12 Robert Coles was managed?
 13 **A. Well, I mean, the attitude of the diocese towards**
 14 **homosexuality can be none other than the attitude of**
 15 **the church towards homosexuality. I mean, the House of**
 16 **Bishops issued their issues in human sexuality in --**
 17 **I can't exactly remember the date, 1987, and that is**
 18 **what we abide by.**
 19 Q. But do you think those attitudes affected the response
 20 in this case, is the specific question?
 21 **A. Well, I mean, I can't comment on what is accepted church**
 22 **teaching. I mean, as a bishop, I accept what the**
 23 **teaching of the church is. That's why I'm a bishop.**
 24 **But there seems to be no proof that paedophiles are**
 25 **homosexual.**

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1 Q. That's not actually quite the question I'm asking. The
 2 question I'm asking is about attitudes to homosexuality
 3 and how that might have affected your response.
 4 Perhaps if I put it this way: did anybody simply
 5 consider that Robert Coles at the time was a homosexual,
 6 as opposed to anything else? Was it viewed in that way?
 7 **A. (a) he never told us he's a homosexual, and, I mean, let**
 8 **me make it absolutely clear that in any diocese**
 9 **homosexuals are part of the diocese. I mean, we don't**
 10 **have any difficulty with homosexuals. I mean,**
 11 **obviously, there is a difficulty about expressing their**
 12 **love, because they have to live by House of Bishops'**
 13 **guidelines, but I know of no diocese where homosexuals**
 14 **are, as it were, put on the rack metaphorically. No.**
 15 Q. Indeed, it was Mrs Hind's evidence that Bishop Wallace
 16 had tried to be overly fair to Robert Coles.
 17 I'm going to conclude by bringing up on screen
 18 paragraphs 110 and 111 of your statement because I think
 19 what you have said is when you were preparing your
 20 evidence you reflected on the cases of Coles and
 21 Cotton -- Paul, it is page 39 of the witness statement,
 22 I'm sorry, WWS000072. You have said throughout your
 23 evidence, "This wouldn't happen now, things were very
 24 different then", which we have heard from a lot of
 25 witnesses. I think these two paragraphs reflect your

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1 reflection, for want of a better phrase, on these cases,
 2 which is that: you didn't hold ultimate responsibility;
 3 you owed obedience to your bishop; the victims remained
 4 anonymous and unknown to you, so you didn't have the
 5 opportunity to hear their voices; you were struggling
 6 day to day with your responsibilities, and we have heard
 7 you had an inordinate amount of parishes and clergy
 8 under your care; you acknowledge that there are
 9 important learning points, and you have to keep
 10 learning, including regular training, multidisciplinary
 11 working, strategy meetings, record keeping; and it would
 12 be handled very differently today. I don't propose to
 13 go -- you do, and I will say in fairness, if we go over
 14 the page, Paul:
 15 "... clearly opportunities were missed by all
 16 involved in any way, resulting in further distress,
 17 which is greatly regretted."
 18 I understand -- is that by yourself, regretted?
 19 **A. Greatly regretted by me and by the whole church.**
 20 MS McNEILL: Chair, that concludes my questions. Do you or
 21 the panel have any questions for this witness?
 22 THE CHAIR: Yes, Mr Frank.
 23 Questions by THE PANEL
 24 MR FRANK: Yes, please. If we could just go back, in
 25 respect of Robert Coles, to the handwritten note, which

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1 I think is behind tab 3 of your witness statement, as
 2 I have got it. Do you remember we have already referred
 3 to it?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 MR FRANK: You probably have it burned in your memory,
 6 I imagine, in part. I wonder if you could help me about
 7 one entry. In the top right-hand corner of the page,
 8 can you see at the top right-hand corner of the page
 9 there seems to be an entry which reads "Threats to kill
 10 Robert".
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 MR FRANK: Can you help us about that? You have described
 13 Robert as a gentle sort of person whose confidence could
 14 easily be knocked --
 15 **A. Exactly.**
 16 MR FRANK: -- and a member of the family of your diocese.
 17 Did you understand that this was a -- Robert saying
 18 someone had threatened to kill him?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 MR FRANK: Did you report that to the police?
 21 **A. No, because he said that it was the -- he said it was**
 22 **this young man who had made a threat to kill him.**
 23 MR FRANK: Thank you. That's all I ask.
 24 **A. And I can't remember whether he said he had told the**
 25 **police that.**

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1 MR FRANK: Thank you very up.
 2 THE CHAIR: Sir Malcolm?
 3 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you. If we could go back
 4 briefly to the letter behind tab 6 that we were
 5 discussing a little while ago. This was the letter
 6 headed, "Dear Jonathan", when you were raising the
 7 question about the knowledge about Robert doing funerals
 8 and other such matters. Could you clarify and confirm
 9 who the "Jonathan" to whom it was addressed was? Would
 10 it be the Vicar of the Stone Cross area.
 11 **A. It was the Vicar of Stone Cross, Jonathan Graves, yes.**
 12 **I do appreciate that my style of writing letters to the**
 13 **clergy was usually, in those days, fairly informal, and,**
 14 **if possible, able to bring in a little bit of light**
 15 **humour. But you will see that, clearly, in that letter**
 16 **there was, as everybody says about me, an iron fist in**
 17 **a velvet glove.**
 18 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you.
 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Bishop Nicholas.
 20 **A. Thank you.**
 21 MS McNEILL: Chair, thank you, that concludes this witness.
 22 Thank you, Bishop Nicholas.
 23 (The witness withdrew)
 24 MS McNEILL: Our next witness, chair, is Mr Colin Perkins,
 25 and I'm going to hand over to Ms Scolding.

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1 MS SCOLDING: Good afternoon, chair and panel. We now are
 2 about to hear the evidence of Mr Colin Perkins.
 3 MR COLIN PERKINS (sworn)
 4 Examination by MS SCOLDING
 5 MS SCOLDING: Mr Perkins, thank you. Chair and panel, can
 6 I just identify, Mr Perkins has an iPad in front of him.
 7 I have indicated that he's able to have it with him.
 8 He's going to bring it up for one thing only, and I have
 9 told him that he is not allowed to have it on "live", so
 10 to speak. So just in order to allay any concerns that
 11 anybody may have about that.
 12 Chair and panel, you should have two bundles of
 13 evidence -- 18A and 18B.
 14 Mr Perkins, we have three witness statements from
 15 you, so we have ACE024419, which was a statement you
 16 made regarding the Reverend Roy Cotton and the Reverend
 17 Colin Pritchard, I understand in respect of criminal
 18 proceedings. Secondly, we have your first witness
 19 statement dated 16 February 2015 at ACE026181, and then
 20 we have a supplementary witness statement from you dated
 21 2 March 2018 at ACE026284.
 22 Can I ask that all those witness statements are
 23 placed upon the website at a convenient and appropriate
 24 moment.
 25 Mr Perkins, have you had a chance to read those

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1 witness statements recently?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Are they true, to the best of your knowledge and belief?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Just a few housekeeping matters: firstly, obviously,
 6 this isn't a test of memory, and your witness statement,
 7 I would describe it as a magnum opus. It is over
 8 130 pages. So please don't feel that you have to
 9 remember every single bit of it. I will be taking you
 10 through portions of it.
 11 Secondly, we can have a break whenever you need one,
 12 so please don't necessarily wait for the break if one is
 13 necessary or you feel the need to have a short breather.
 14 Thirdly, there are some individuals who are ciphered
 15 within your witness statement. I know, given your
 16 background, that I shouldn't have to tell you this, but
 17 I will: please try not to say their real names. Thank
 18 you very much.
 19 So if we could start with your background and
 20 qualifications, and this is set out, chair and panel, at
 21 paragraphs 5 through to 9 of your witness statement,
 22 pages 2 through to 4. You were a probation officer, as
 23 I understand it, from 2002 to 2009, but I understand
 24 that your role in probation was to manage high-risk
 25 sexual and violent offenders in the community, so you

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1 were part of the MAPPA team; is that the correct way to
 2 put it?
 3 **A. It was part of public protection teams. So probation**
 4 **certainly used to be divided into community teams,**
 5 **public protection teams, which were the higher risk end,**
 6 **so normally high-risk sexual and violent offenders.**
 7 Q. Between 2010 and 2011, you managed the Surrey Public
 8 Protection Team?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Therefore, you gained experience in child protection and
 11 safeguarding roles prior to commencing work in the
 12 Anglican Church?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. In May 2010, you became the Surrey and Sussex Probation
 15 Group's representative on what was then called the DSAG,
 16 which is now called the BSAP. Is that correct?
 17 **A. The same function and slightly different in emphasis.**
 18 Q. Slightly different terms of reference, which we will
 19 come on to later.
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. You were a member of that group until May 2011 when you
 22 moved to the post of diocesan safeguarding adviser in
 23 Chichester?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. So you had had some understanding of the issues which

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1 were arising in Chichester prior to your appointment on
 2 a full-time basis?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. I think you were the first full-time diocesan
 5 safeguarding adviser within the diocese?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Can we firstly talk about your involvement in the
 8 Chichester Diocese as a member of the DSAG, as I will
 9 call it. Acronyms are always quite difficult, aren't
 10 they?
 11 How did your appointment to the DSAG come about?
 12 **A. I'd met with my predecessor, Shirley Hosgood, within my**
 13 **role as the quality development officer in the**
 14 **West Sussex Public Protection Team, so that was a role**
 15 **I held from October 2009.**
 16 Q. Can I just ask a question: what has being quality
 17 development officer got to do with meeting Mrs Hosgood?
 18 **A. Right. So the quality development officer within that**
 19 **team was working -- I was effectively -- I held cases,**
 20 **but I also worked with other staff, other probation**
 21 **officers, within that team. I wanted to meet with**
 22 **Shirley to talk about the way the team could work with**
 23 **her in new and different ways with regards to registered**
 24 **sex offenders that we were managing as a team who were**
 25 **attending Anglican churches. So I asked to meet with**

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1 **her.**
 2 **In the course of that conversation, she said, "We**
 3 **are putting together a new advisory group. Would you**
 4 **like to be the probation representative?"**
 5 Q. Right. You state at paragraph 13 of your witness
 6 statement you were aware of many of the difficulties
 7 faced by the diocese. How were you made aware of those
 8 difficulties and what did you understand them to be?
 9 **A. I was only really aware -- the request by Shirley was**
 10 **simply a request to join a professional advisory group,**
 11 **it seemed to be a very sensible idea, I was very keen to**
 12 **do that. But she asked me to meet with the newly**
 13 **appointed chair of that group, Keith Akerman. I think**
 14 **the invite may have come from Keith, actually.**
 15 Q. Keith Akerman, as I understand it, was a senior police
 16 officer?
 17 **A. He was a retired chief superintendent from**
 18 **Hampshire Police.**
 19 **I understood that he was meeting all of the new**
 20 **members essentially to describe a situation -- or the**
 21 **situation in the diocese as it stood then. Again, that**
 22 **was obviously a very sensible thing to do.**
 23 **We met in Chichester. It was just a lunch meeting.**
 24 **And he, amongst other things, described a report, an**
 25 **independent report. At this point, I had no idea what**

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1 **we were talking about. But there was an independent**
 2 **report into a serious case which he said was somewhat**
 3 **critical of the diocese, and there was a general sense**
 4 **of some controversy, perhaps some struggle to grasp what**
 5 **the issues were, and he just wanted to make sure all of**
 6 **these new members of the group knew that before we kind**
 7 **of ratified our decision to come on.**
 8 Q. I understand in fact you say at paragraph 13, which is
 9 page 6, chair and panel, of your witness statement:
 10 "I do recall a few comments he made, particularly
 11 with regards to the dominant role of the House of
 12 Bishops in all matters to do with policy, including
 13 safeguarding, and whether this was commensurate with
 14 provisional safeguarding work. Both Keith and I, being
 15 from a statutory background, regarded it as axiomatic
 16 that secular legislation and statutory guidance were
 17 authoritative. We also discussed whether the diocese
 18 was ready to take the uncompromising stance it would
 19 need to take."
 20 Is that right?
 21 **A. Yes. I should say that last bit wasn't because I had**
 22 **any intelligence about the lack of willingness. That**
 23 **was a general comment about how churches can sometimes**
 24 **struggle, and, to be honest, any non-professional group**
 25 **can sometimes struggle.**

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1 Q. So you came onto the group on the understanding that you
 2 would be -- I think the word is sometimes used --
 3 a critical friend?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. So you would not hesitate to criticise or, as a group
 6 you would not hesitate to criticise, where you felt that
 7 the diocese wasn't acting appropriately?
 8 **A. And to make sure that the group had -- that the diocese**
 9 **had access to a wide range of professional advice --**
 10 **social services, police, probation and so on.**
 11 Q. You first attended a meeting, as I understand it, only
 12 in May 2011, so quite some time afterwards. I think
 13 that was because there was quite a long time sorting out
 14 the terms of reference. Is that right?
 15 **A. Not quite May --**
 16 Q. Oh, no, that's right.
 17 **A. That's when I started.**
 18 Q. That's completely wrong. I have bold and underlined
 19 "Typo in paragraph 14, should be May 2010", which I have
 20 completely ignored.
 21 **A. Apologies, sorry.**
 22 Q. So in fact it is May 2010. I do apologise.
 23 **A. I'm fairly certain of that date, although that bit of my**
 24 **electronic diary -- my personal diary -- has been lost.**
 25 **So I'm fairly sure it was May 2010. It was certainly**

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1 **roughly then.**
 2 Q. In your witness statement at paragraph 14, you say you
 3 recall being surprised at the apparent level of tension
 4 in the room. What do you mean by this?
 5 **A. When -- the meeting was at Bishop's Palace in the dining**
 6 **room. I think I expected it to be, well, very cordial,**
 7 **very professional, but in that sort of polite way. It**
 8 **was a mix of professionals such as myself and the**
 9 **statutory agencies and some people from the church,**
 10 **Shirley Hosgood was there, obviously Keith was chairing.**
 11 **And once the initial pleasantries had been got past, we**
 12 **seemed to get quite quickly into a quite tense**
 13 **discussion about the disclosure of this report.**
 14 **I was --**
 15 Q. Which, as I understand it, the Diocesan Safeguarding
 16 Advisory Group had not seen?
 17 **A. Had not seen.**
 18 Q. But wished to see?
 19 **A. Yes, and very much I just remember sitting there**
 20 **thinking, essentially, "What on earth is going on? Why**
 21 **are we suddenly in this very tense conversation?"**
 22 Q. So you then attended the DSAG over the following months,
 23 and what was your continuing view about what was going
 24 on within the diocese?
 25 **A. I don't think I have one view. There was a lot of**

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1 **discussion. Probably the main role of the safeguarding**
 2 **advisory group at that time was to advise Shirley with**
 3 **regards to individual cases. A lot of that was done via**
 4 **email. I imagine we will be talking about the**
 5 **Gordon Rideout case later. So that kind of thing was**
 6 **what we were doing.**
 7 Q. So you were, along with the rest of the group,
 8 responsible for saying to Ms Hosgood, "Of course
 9 Gordon Rideout can't have permission to officiate"?
 10 **A. Absolutely, yes. Absolutely. But within the meetings,**
 11 **as well as a sort of a broader agenda, we kept on coming**
 12 **back to what's going on with this report. By that**
 13 **point, you know, later in 2010, I understood it was**
 14 **a report by Roger Meekings into the cases of Cotton and**
 15 **Pritchard. I should say, I was familiar somewhat with**
 16 **the case of Roy Cotton from a previous case that had**
 17 **a loose connection to it within probation. So I'd sort**
 18 **of -- I was sort of read in from that point.**
 19 **And the sense within the group was, "You cannot not**
 20 **give us this report. We are your professional advisory**
 21 **group. You can't have that report and not give us it".**
 22 Q. Did you know that the reason for not sharing the report
 23 was because of the threat of legal action?
 24 **A. Yes, I became aware of that.**
 25 Q. Okay. In your opinion, at that time, and with your

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1 knowledge and understanding, how seriously was the
 2 diocese treating safeguarding issues, from your
 3 perspective as a probation specialist?
 4 **A. Generally, in terms of casework, it was very clear that**
 5 **Shirley Hosgood was treating this extremely seriously,**
 6 **and I am very, very comfortable with her approach.**
 7 **Generally, in terms of cases, the issue with**
 8 **Gordon Rideout notwithstanding, I was relatively**
 9 **comfortable with what was going on. But, again, just**
 10 **coming back to that Meekings Report, the failure to**
 11 **share it with that group -- I should say, I'm aware**
 12 **there's been talk of publication. That group wasn't**
 13 **interested in publication at that point. What we were**
 14 **interested in is, how can we advise you, unless we know**
 15 **what's going on?**
 16 Q. If I could just explain to you, Mr Perkins, because
 17 obviously you are not a legal professional, you publish
 18 something in defamation terms if you give it to somebody
 19 else.
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. So if it is a libellous article, even if it was me that
 22 wrote a letter and I gave it to you, that would still
 23 amount to libel in legal terms?
 24 **A. Yes, and that point was made --**
 25 Q. Publication --

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1 **A. That point was made within the group's discussion.**
 2 Q. Was there no discussion of maybe providing a redacted
 3 form or providing a form which, for example, didn't
 4 include the bits that Bishop Wallace was unhappy with?
 5 I mean, that could have been a way forward, I suppose.
 6 Did anybody think about that at the time?
 7 **A. I can't recall whether we did or we didn't. We saw the**
 8 **recommendations, but we didn't see the thinking that led**
 9 **to those.**
 10 Q. What was your perception of the relationship between
 11 Mrs Hosgood and the Right Reverend Dr John Hind at that
 12 particular point in time?
 13 **A. I never met Bishop John at that point.**
 14 Q. No.
 15 **A. I was probably more aware of the tension between Shirley**
 16 **and Archdeacon Philip Jones. I understand the reasons**
 17 **for that better now than I did then, but that was what**
 18 **I was seeing.**
 19 **I think obviously, by the end, Shirley phoned me up**
 20 **to tell me that she was resigning and I became aware**
 21 **more at that point of just how difficult she had found**
 22 **the whole situation.**
 23 Q. So you applied for the job and were appointed
 24 in May 2011, even though you knew and had heard first
 25 hand from Shirley Hosgood the difficulties that she

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<p>1 considered she had experienced in managing safeguarding 2 in the diocese?</p> <p>3 A. I did. Obviously I stayed part of the group after 4 Shirley left. Kate Wood came on as the interim DSA. 5 I have to say, it was my experience, from sort of 6 Christmas 2010 through to Easter, really, those four 7 months, my experience of the work of the group and of 8 the very positive atmosphere of the work of the group 9 that led me to want to apply.</p> <p>10 Q. At the time of your appointment, did you have any 11 specific induction process? Because, as I understand 12 it, you would have known a little bit about the 13 Church of England, but it would have been somewhat of 14 a mysterious beast, as I understand, to you?</p> <p>15 A. Yes. No, there wasn't a structured induction process. 16 There was meeting two or three key people. But probably 17 the most useful meeting was after the job offer but 18 before contracts were signed, a meeting with 19 Angela Sibson, in fact --</p> <p>20 Q. Who had recently become diocesan secretary?</p> <p>21 A. Diocesan secretary. So she phoned me to offer the job 22 but then said, "I think we really sort of need 23 a post-offer conversation", so I came in the next day to 24 have that.</p> <p>25 Q. When you arrived, what would you describe -- I think we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 meeting -- deanery chapters are meetings of clergy 2 within one of the 21 deaneries within the diocese. This 3 happened to be in Chichester. I was effectively asked, 4 as the incoming DSA, as someone who has just come from 5 the statutory sector, we read in the Butler-Sloss 6 Report, you know, the diocese does not come out well, 7 the leadership of this diocese does not come out well, 8 and Wallace does not come out well, what kind of 9 reassurance can you give us that this is getting fixed?"</p> <p>10 Q. So there was concern amongst the parish priests that --</p> <p>11 A. Definitely.</p> <p>12 Q. -- there were problems which weren't being organised and 13 fixed?</p> <p>14 A. And, if I may, I should say, there was no sense, 15 certainly in that deanery, of disagreement with the 16 Baroness's conclusions. What I was being asked for 17 was --</p> <p>18 Q. What are you doing to --</p> <p>19 A. -- "Is this going to change?"</p> <p>20 Q. I think you were asked that on several more occasions 21 and the BBC in fact asked that question a number of 22 times.</p> <p>23 You felt that some of the media coverage -- you say 24 this at (c) over into (d) -- Paul, the bottom of 25 the first page and then over to the next top. The top</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 asked you what the mood or atmosphere was in the diocese 2 upon your arrival. We were trying to sort of get 3 a sense of, when you arrived, what did you find?</p> <p>4 A. The first -- to some extent, the first eight days was 5 literally just -- or ten days was literally just finding 6 my feet, but then we published the Butler-Sloss Report. 7 So it was all about that. That was the thing that set 8 the mood. As I say in my statement, it is very 9 difficult for me to claim to be able to take the 10 temperature of the diocese. I was very much holed up in 11 Church House at the time.</p> <p>12 Q. You give some examples of things which you noted or 13 things which happened which maybe identifies what was 14 going on generally amongst the senior team, at 15 paragraph 26 of your witness statement. Do you want to 16 just have a look at that so we can go through them?</p> <p>17 Chair and panel, page 11. Paragraph 26, page 11.</p> <p>18 Paul, can we get it up on screen? Thank you very much:</p> <p>19 "It might be helpful for me to give specific 20 examples ..."</p> <p>21 You give one specific example shortly after the 22 publication of the Butler-Sloss Report. Can you just 23 explain what you were trying to get at with the example 24 you give at paragraph (a)?</p> <p>25 A. So I had a meeting with -- my first deanery chapter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 of the next page, please, Paul:</p> <p>2 "The sense -- and I cannot describe it as much more 3 than that -- was that the public criticism of 4 the diocese in general and the Bishop of Lewes in 5 particular was hardening attitudes in some sections of 6 the diocese in East Sussex who were perhaps becoming 7 more defensive as a result."</p> <p>8 A. Yes, I would say. I can only -- in some sections 9 I could say there were also many who were, you know, 10 deeply -- rightly concerned, but there were some who 11 perhaps were taking a more defensive stance.</p> <p>12 Q. You also identify that one of the difficulties was that 13 there was a perception amongst some individuals that 14 Colin Campbell was just making trouble rather than 15 trying to get to the bottom of what was obviously quite 16 a serious situation. Is that an accurate paraphrase of 17 what you say?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, certainly, and, as I say in my statement, myself, 19 Angela Sibson and the two communications staff did have 20 to spend -- you know, I remember a number of 21 conversations saying, "Wait a minute. He is doing 22 exactly what an investigative journalist should do", and 23 there was a really concerning story here.</p> <p>24 Q. Lastly, you said that there was an element of fear 25 amongst some clergy because --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. -- of the things which had come out. And you say you 3 recall a member of the clergy who was referred to as 4 a "fucking paedophile" when he was visiting the sick in 5 a local hospital -- 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. -- in Chichester, which was miles away from Eastbourne, 8 where most of the problems were located? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. So, therefore, there was a sort of narrative, shall we 11 say, of defensiveness -- 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. -- because priests were feeling under threat? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Not because of anything they personally had done -- 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. -- but because the diocese was being tarnished with that 18 brush? 19 A. Defensiveness and some shame as well, I should say. 20 Q. You also identify at paragraph 24 that the senior clergy 21 were relieved that you had arrived, but you felt very 22 quickly that they heavily relied upon you and it was not 23 infrequent to hear them refer to you as "our 24 safeguarding expert"? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 a broad range of professional experience. 2 But that was part of the issue with the safeguarding 3 experts: expectation. Actually, I have professional 4 experience, particularly within high-risk offender 5 management; other DSAs will have other similar 6 experience in different areas, but let's not start 7 claiming we're experts. 8 Q. Can I move on to the approach to particular individuals 9 and particular senior clergy within the diocese. At 10 paragraph 52 of your witness statement, which, chair and 11 panel, is page 20, you identify that you had a very good 12 relationship with Bishop Mark, who we have heard 13 evidence from, and a good relationship with 14 Archdeacon Philip, as you have already identified, and 15 a good relationship with Angela Sibson, but you did not 16 enjoy, is the word you use at paragraph 52, page 19, 17 such a relationship with Bishop Wallace Benn. Can you 18 describe -- you in fact describe him as a "significant 19 problem for the diocese with regard to safeguarding". 20 Could you expand a little upon that? 21 A. I think by the time I arrived, the situation had 22 deteriorated and become so difficult that for me, as the 23 safeguarding lead professional within the diocese, to 24 establish a positive relationship with him, as I think 25 I say in my statement, would have been almost</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 Q. What do you think they wanted you to do and were you -- 2 do you think that it was appropriate for them to expect 3 you to fulfil all their needs? You were a sort of 4 safeguarding fairy godmother? 5 A. I think there was a bit of a sense of, "Thank God you're 6 here", which I interpreted very much in the -- it was 7 a bit of a sense of, "Please help us to get out of this 8 mess". 9 Q. You say that the fact you were viewed as an expert was 10 possibly problematic. Perhaps you would like to explain 11 that a bit more? 12 A. Firstly, it's certainly something I have never claimed. 13 There's a big difference between having experience as 14 a professional and being an expert. But in particular, 15 the diocesan safeguarding advisory job is an extremely 16 broad safeguarding role. It is actually far broader 17 than almost any other role I can think of within the 18 professional safeguarding world, certainly within the 19 statutory agencies, and perhaps we can talk later -- 20 Q. I think we can talk later about whether or not it is too 21 much for one person or too much to expect one person to 22 be able to undertake all the different hats you have to 23 wear? 24 A. It is too much for any professional role, actually. 25 I think diocesan safeguarding teams should consist of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 impossible. He was being so roundly criticised, and 2 I think perhaps this is something we will come on to 3 discuss, but was somewhat resistant to that criticism. 4 We did actually have a meeting. Interestingly at that 5 meeting, he said, in reference to Shirley Hosgood -- 6 this phrase has always stuck with me, "What I needed was 7 a coach. What I got was a referee", which I think is 8 perhaps quite instructive of where he saw himself at 9 that time. 10 But trying to move the situation between -- as the 11 professional adviser, where I had to take an 12 uncompromising safeguarding stance, I think that just 13 mitigated against a good relationship with him. 14 Q. Okay. 15 A. There was never any enmity. It just came impossible to 16 go there, really. 17 Q. How about your views on Bishop John and his approach and 18 attitude towards safeguarding? You set this out at 19 paragraph 54 of your witness statement, page 20, chair 20 and panel. 21 A. I got on very well with Bishop John. I didn't find him 22 ever to be obstructive, and in many ways found him to be 23 very positive in his determination to get things sorted 24 out. Again, I saw Bishop John at a particular moment in 25 time. You know, in 2011, going into 2012, where things</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 were so difficult, and he's described himself as 2 paralysed. 3 Q. I mean, would you agree with what Dr Bursell and the 4 commissaries described as -- coming in as an outsider, 5 you had a little bit of knowledge and understanding, but 6 coming outside from a statutory agency, would you agree 7 that, firstly, there was paralysis? 8 A. Yes, certainly. 9 Q. And, secondly, that there was dysfunction? 10 A. There was -- 11 Q. Or was the dysfunction caused by the paralysis? 12 A. The word "dysfunction" has become one of those words, 13 and it always was since it was used in 2012 in the 14 interim report. 15 My experience of the broad leadership team in 16 Chichester was very much that they were not 17 dysfunctional vis-a-vis safeguarding. Certainly 18 Bishop Mark and the archdeacons, Angela, that was 19 absolutely not my experience. 20 My experience primarily, as you've just said, is 21 that the dysfunction existed -- of course I didn't come 22 in -- by the time I came in, Shirley had left. So what 23 I observed was the dysfunction in terms of the situation 24 between -- the situation created by Bishop Wallace and, 25 yes, certainly, as a result of that, Bishop John was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 "The extent to which the recommendations assisted in 2 improving things for the diocese was, in my view, by 3 giving an authoritative imprimatur for normal good 4 practice across the diocese." 5 I think what you said is that what Baroness 6 Butler-Sloss recommended is what was good practice for 7 practitioners at the time; is that right? 8 A. Yes, and also very specifically raising from one or two 9 cases. So no recommendations arising from a case review 10 are going to be comprehensive accounts of good practice. 11 They are going to talk about those cases. 12 Q. The particular issues and the particular problems that 13 arise in that issue. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. You prepared a recommendation schedule which details the 16 implementations of them. Could we get that up, Paul: 17 ACE026013. 18 A. Would it be possible -- sorry, can I just mention 19 something particular about that authoritative stance? 20 Q. Of course. 21 A. In the summer of 2011, I had a case where a cleric was 22 being investigated for child sexual abuse. My 23 recommendation was that he should be suspended. 24 Obviously that was following a meeting with the local 25 authority designated officer, police and so on and so</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 paralysed. It was very difficult to know what to do. 2 Q. Just briefly, as we are talking about your relationship 3 with senior staff, since 2012, you have obviously been 4 working with Bishop Martin. How would you describe 5 Bishop Martin's approach to safeguarding? Again, you 6 set this out at paragraph 54, at page 20, chair and 7 panel. 8 A. A very positive working relationship with Bishop Martin. 9 He is very decisive. He is a very strong presence and 10 a very strong leader but also very collaborative. In 11 particular, I'm very -- I wouldn't say left -- 12 I wouldn't say I'm left to get on with it in a sort of 13 pejorative sense, but there was a proper delegation of 14 responsibility, in terms of my area of influence. 15 Q. Can I turn now to implementing the recommendations of 16 the Baroness Butler-Sloss report, which is taking things 17 slightly out of order from the way they appear in the 18 witness statement but seems sensible chronologically. 19 Obviously, you arrived just as Baroness 20 Butler-Sloss's report was being published. At 21 paragraph 218 of your witness statement, page 67 -- and 22 thank you very much for providing such a thorough 23 witness statement which deals so comprehensively with 24 all the issues. 25 You say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 forth. As I think we will probably go on to talk about 2 later, there was no such legal ability to enforce that 3 suspension. This cleric was very resistant in some ways 4 to that. And the gap between what I was saying and what 5 the local authority was saying and what the church could 6 achieve at that point was filled by 7 Baroness Butler-Sloss's recommendation. It allowed us 8 to point to something in the absence of -- 9 Q. Something outside of yourself to say, "Look, it is not 10 just me who is saying this" -- 11 A. Exactly that. 12 Q. -- "it is this individual who is seen as a doyen", shall 13 we say -- 14 A. Exactly. 15 Q. -- "in respect of child protection and safeguarding"? 16 A. Exactly that. It filled a gap. 17 Q. Whether that's an accurate perception or not, that would 18 have been -- 19 A. Yes, it filled a gap until that became available in the 20 legislation. 21 Q. So you made a schedule of recommendations. In fact, 22 I think these involve all the recommendations of all the 23 reports and what action you have taken. Can we pass 24 over, because the first one, Paul, isn't relevant. In 25 fact, I haven't got in my note precisely which page</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 number, so can we just scroll down? No, not that. No. 2 No. No. No. No. Sorry, no. 3 A. We have had lots of recommendations. 4 Q. No. No. No. No. No. No. Ah. We don't appear to 5 actually have them in there. They must be in there 6 somewhere. 7 Let's maybe forget about me trying to be terribly 8 technical and just tell you. What did you do to try and 9 implement them? 10 A. In many ways, many of them were in practice already. 11 Q. Yes. 12 A. And, as I said, in some ways, I don't think I -- well, 13 I didn't start with a blank slate and try and implement 14 those recommendations, because much of them would be 15 implemented and were implemented by simply following 16 good practice, and in fact had already been implemented 17 by Shirley prior to my arrival. So it wasn't a sense 18 of, "There's no practice, so let's start with 19 Baroness Butler-Sloss's recommendations"; it was a case 20 of, in many ways, just continuing with good practice 21 that was there already. 22 Q. There was an addendum report by Baroness Butler-Sloss 23 which was commissioned. What were the circumstances in 24 which it became known that there were inaccuracies in 25 the Butler-Sloss Review? You set this out at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 seen this letter several times. Can I just ask, when 2 did you first become aware of this letter? Because 3 I understand that Baroness Butler-Sloss had had 4 a discussion with Bishop John, at least about some of 5 what she wrote in that letter? 6 A. I first saw this letter with material provided by this 7 inquiry. 8 Q. Right. 9 A. So the end of last year. 10 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 234 of your witness 11 statement, page 73, chair and panel, you feel you must 12 comment upon it, having now seen it. What comments do 13 you wish to make upon it? 14 A. Would it be possible for you to go to the next page? 15 Q. Yes, of course. The next page of the letter? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Which is about, "I have not discussed any general points 18 with the Bishop of Lewes. He is too concerned by my 19 criticisms of him for me to be able to have any useful 20 conversation ..." 21 Yes? 22 A. Exactly that. As I say in my witness statement, a lot 23 of us -- myself, the other members of the safeguarding 24 advisory group, Angela Sibson, and then I list a number 25 of people from within the various statutory authorities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 paragraphs 219 through to 227. 2 A. There were a series of reports on BBC South East with 3 Colin Campbell, the home affairs correspondent, and also 4 some communication between -- extensive communication 5 from Colin Campbell to our communications officers, and 6 also from Phil Johnson, who is with us today, and 7 myself, and there was -- it became increasingly clear 8 that some of the details, particularly around 9 Roy Cotton's retirement, where he lived on retirement, 10 when he was given permission to officiate, what the 11 nature of that PTO was, it became increasingly clear 12 that there were inaccuracies in the substantive 13 Butler-Sloss Report. 14 Q. So you -- well, you didn't commission the addendum, 15 Bishop John obviously commissioned the addendum, and 16 there was then a production of the addendum, which -- 17 did everybody consider that that clarified the 18 inaccuracies and inconsistencies? 19 A. I believe so. I guess I can't give evidence on what 20 other people considered. 21 Q. No. But what you considered. 22 A. But that was certainly the intention, yes. 23 Q. Can I ask: did you ever see, prior to this inquiry, the 24 letter which Baroness Butler-Sloss sent to Chris Smith? 25 Can we get this up? It is ACE023694, Paul. We have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 An awful lot of ink was spilled to say what the Baroness 2 says in one sentence there, but that is exactly what we 3 were concerned about. 4 Q. What view did you take -- now you have seen this letter. 5 Firstly, do you agree with its contents or the 6 observation? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. So you agree with all of them? 9 A. Absolutely. 10 Q. So you say that there was a perception, at the very 11 least, of an antiwoman culture? 12 A. Yes, in terms of perception. 13 Q. There was -- 14 A. Sorry, when I said "Absolutely", I thought we were still 15 on that particular extract. But the whole letter -- 16 Q. Oh, no. 17 A. But particularly that extract, yes, I wholeheartedly 18 agree. 19 Q. If we could go back to the first page, and if we could 20 go down to the first five issues that the Baroness 21 raises, the antiwoman culture and perception of an 22 antiwoman culture. Upon your arrival, did you perceive 23 an antiwoman culture? I mean, obviously you're a man, 24 so it may be somewhat difficult, but -- 25 A. Yes. I certainly heard -- I heard others talk about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 that. I heard -- I heard Chichester being spoken of as</p> <p>2 a traditionalist diocese. I was aware of some of</p> <p>3 the issues in terms of the main sort of focus within the</p> <p>4 diocese, Anglo Catholicism, conservative evangelicalism,</p> <p>5 and so on, so I was aware. I became increasingly aware</p> <p>6 of that history but was dimly aware of it when</p> <p>7 I arrived.</p> <p>8 MS SCOLDING: Chair and panel, I note the time. I don't</p> <p>9 know whether this would be an appropriate moment to</p> <p>10 stop?</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Yes, indeed. We will return at 2.00 pm.</p> <p>12 MS SCOLDING: Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 (1.02 pm)</p> <p>14 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>15 (2.00 pm)</p> <p>16 MS SCOLDING: Mr Perkins, just before lunch we were dealing</p> <p>17 with the contents of the letter that Baroness</p> <p>18 Butler-Sloss sent to Chris Smith at Lambeth Palace,</p> <p>19 which you say you hadn't seen before. We were dealing</p> <p>20 with paragraph 1, which deals with the perception of an</p> <p>21 antiwoman culture, and you said it was something you</p> <p>22 maybe didn't initially recognise, but you've seen it</p> <p>23 more and more.</p> <p>24 A. I've seen the perception --</p> <p>25 Q. The perception of it more and more?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 something that is there in the narrative, without any</p> <p>2 doubt.</p> <p>3 I think whether that's -- I do talk about this in my</p> <p>4 statement. Whether that's unique or whether that's</p> <p>5 something that's happening in many areas, I think it is</p> <p>6 more the latter, but, yes, that's certainly there in the</p> <p>7 narrative.</p> <p>8 Q. Can we turn to the next paragraph:</p> <p>9 "In general, the effect on the victims of historic</p> <p>10 abuse is not well understood ..."</p> <p>11 Again, is that something which you noted at the time</p> <p>12 when you came into office and is that still the case?</p> <p>13 A. I would say, actually, that the effects of abuse on</p> <p>14 victims was not -- of any abuse, historic or otherwise,</p> <p>15 was not well understood. But certainly there was some</p> <p>16 sense of a lack of understanding, although, as I say in</p> <p>17 my statement, I think most people did realise that if</p> <p>18 you have been abused -- had some sense of understanding</p> <p>19 of trauma, although I'd say it was quite limited;</p> <p>20 certainly a sense that there was a right to report that.</p> <p>21 I would say that the lack of understanding about the</p> <p>22 historic issue was more about ongoing risk.</p> <p>23 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that?</p> <p>24 A. In terms of -- the key lack of understanding I saw was</p> <p>25 with regards to the ongoing risk that an offender might</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you think that perception is matched by reality?</p> <p>3 I mean, obviously it is just your opinion, we recognise</p> <p>4 that.</p> <p>5 A. I certainly think there are some people who have had</p> <p>6 that experience, but I have seen, and Bishop Martin</p> <p>7 Warner talked yesterday about the increasing avenues for</p> <p>8 both the lay and ordained ministry of women in the</p> <p>9 diocese. So I would certainly never challenge people's</p> <p>10 experience, if they have had that experience, but</p> <p>11 I think it may be we are moving in the right direction,</p> <p>12 or the diocese is moving in the right direction.</p> <p>13 Q. Turning to the next little subparagraph on</p> <p>14 Baroness Butler-Sloss's letter:</p> <p>15 "There has been a culture of denial of</p> <p>16 the seriousness of historic abuse when the allegations</p> <p>17 are made against a senior clergyman who is a friend.</p> <p>18 One example is GR which I set out in my review of 'Other</p> <p>19 Priests in the Diocese'."</p> <p>20 That's Gordon Rideout, isn't it?</p> <p>21 A. Mmm.</p> <p>22 Q. Perhaps you'd like to tell us, is that something that</p> <p>23 you identified when you arrived or is that something</p> <p>24 which you have seen at all?</p> <p>25 A. It's not something that I've seen. It is certainly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 present if they had offended many years ago.</p> <p>2 Gordon Rideout being --</p> <p>3 Q. An obvious example?</p> <p>4 A. -- the ideal example.</p> <p>5 Q. So it was kind of, "We know they have done something</p> <p>6 bad, but it was a number of years ago. Therefore, we</p> <p>7 think they may have redeemed themselves, been forgiven,</p> <p>8 or it's not a risk anymore"?</p> <p>9 A. Whether someone's been forgiven or not isn't</p> <p>10 necessary -- that wasn't necessarily being applied to</p> <p>11 the matter of risk. In probation, we talk about</p> <p>12 avoiding an assumption that risk diminishes over time.</p> <p>13 I think that assumption was being made in the diocese.</p> <p>14 Q. If one goes now down to:</p> <p>15 "It is difficult for some senior clergy, not all, to</p> <p>16 have an adequate degree of communication with the</p> <p>17 DSA ..."</p> <p>18 Is that being written about you or was that being</p> <p>19 written about Ms Hosgood?</p> <p>20 A. I wasn't there when this letter was written, so ...</p> <p>21 Q. So that was Ms Hosgood?</p> <p>22 A. I think I probably arrived three weeks earlier.</p> <p>23 Q. So we know about that. Can we have a look at 5:</p> <p>24 "There appear to have been and possibly remain</p> <p>25 a number of people with a sexual orientation which might</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 predispose to a sympathy for misbehaviour, particularly 2 in the Eastbourne area ever since Bishop Peter Ball 3 lived there. I have been told that outside the diocese 4 it may be known that such people will receive 5 a welcome ... there were 26 cases of inappropriate 6 behaviour in the diocese last year, not all clergy and 7 not all sexual abuse." 8 Do you have any views about that? We have asked 9 a number of other people about the very sort of 10 difficult nuanced relationship there may well have been 11 between Anglo Catholicism, evangelism, closeted 12 homosexuality and how that all fed into each other? 13 A. On a general point, as I say in my statement, the 14 research shows that about 5 per cent of adults, perhaps 15 particularly men, have, or could have, a sexual interest 16 in children. Just as a general point, there is no 17 organisation, large organisation, about which you could 18 not say that sentence. So I think that's an important 19 point. 20 But with regards to the apparent juxtaposition in 21 this diocese of Anglo Catholicism, homosexuality and 22 child abuse -- and I know you've taken a lot of 23 evidence -- perhaps I could ask the panel to engage in 24 the brief very mental exercise of imagining a gay priest 25 in 1975, for instance, a young gay man who wanted to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 Q. That's very helpful, thank you. Is there anything you 2 would say -- do you think it is something which is still 3 an issue within the context of the diocese? I mean, 4 obviously, even within the context of the 5 Church of England, there has been a large sea change 6 over the past 20 years, in terms of the openness of 7 clergy being gay and being engaged in homosexual or 8 lesbian relationships but simply with the House of 9 Bishops guidance that they're not entitled to 10 demonstrate that physically, I think is -- 11 A. I can't comment on the theology because it's not my 12 area. 13 Q. Of course not. 14 A. But I think if you are going to hold a particular 15 theological line, you need to be absolutely rigorous to 16 make sure you have identified the difference between 17 harmful behaviours and behaviours that are theologically 18 prescribed. I think that is an ongoing challenge. 19 Q. That people could mistake one for the other? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Because both are sinful possibly in the eyes of God from 22 their theological perspective? 23 A. If you are putting everything beyond the pale, you need 24 to be very careful to distinguish between behaviours 25 that are theologically considered sinful and are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 follow his calling, but didn't want to live a life of 2 isolation and celibacy. I think most of us from the 3 perspective of 2018 could have a lot of sympathy with 4 that priest's need for secrecy with regards to his 5 sexuality and his sexual behaviour. 6 If that happens within a cultural context, like 7 Anglo Catholicism, you may then arrive at a sort of an 8 overt conservatism and a covert liberalism, which will 9 generate a lot of secrecy. I don't think there is 10 any -- well, there isn't any connection between 11 homosexuality and child abuse; there is a massive 12 connection between secrecy and child abuse. If you have 13 created a "Don't ask, don't tell" atmosphere -- 14 Q. About one aspect of your sexuality, that could then 15 bleed into other aspects? 16 A. Other people with far more sinister behaviours could 17 hide under that same cloak. I think what may have 18 happened is that gay clergy found themselves in the same 19 cultural hiding place as a much smaller minority of 20 abusive clergy. There is no connection between their 21 sexuality. The connection was between their need for 22 secrecy and obviously the way to deal with that is to 23 identify genuinely harmful behaviours around the issue 24 of legally and freely given consent and to identify what 25 isn't harmful.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 genuinely harmful. 2 Q. So sinful but legal and sinful and illegal and immoral? 3 A. Sinful but legal and harmless. 4 Q. Can I identify, as a result of this letter, which I know 5 you haven't seen before going to the inquiry, 6 I understand that eventually -- I think it was either 7 in January or February -- well, I think it was right at 8 the end of 2011, the visitation was commissioned by the 9 then Archbishop of Canterbury. I think that's probably 10 the right word. 11 A. I imagine -- 12 Q. The visitation was commissioned. What was your view 13 about the timing of the commissaries' arrival in 14 Chichester? 15 A. My general view was that it was about time 16 Lambeth Palace got a grip of it. We had been -- I say 17 by "we", a small number of us in Chichester -- myself, 18 Angela Sibson, Bishop John, Bishop Mark, Keith Akerman, 19 the chair of the safeguarding advisory group -- had been 20 trying to raise this problem with Lambeth for months, 21 really since the publication of the Butler-Sloss Report. 22 So I was very pleased to see that Lambeth Palace were 23 actually taking decisive action. 24 I do believe that if you could -- if 2011 could be 25 done again, an awful lot of unnecessary pain to an awful</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 lot of people would have been solved -- would not have 2 happened if the visitation had started the day of 3 the publication of the Butler-Sloss Report. If you 4 could do 2011 again, that would have been a much better 5 outcome. 6 Q. For example, if you, as a safeguarding professional, had 7 received this letter -- obviously it wasn't 8 a safeguarding professional who received this letter, 9 and we heard from Lord Williams yesterday that neither 10 he nor Chris Smith had any particular expertise and 11 there wasn't anybody in place at Lambeth Palace at that 12 particular point in time. Kate Wood came shortly 13 afterwards to perform that role, to a certain degree? 14 A. Elizabeth Hall was the national safeguarding adviser so 15 there was someone nationally. 16 Q. Ms Hall was there but there wasn't anybody in 17 Lambeth Palace as opposed to within the national church. 18 I think that is a distinction that the national church 19 would wish to make because Lambeth Palace is the sort of 20 central secretariat, it's the sort of staff office, 21 isn't it, rather than the national church institution's. 22 If you had received this letter, what would you have 23 done? 24 A. The letter indicates a very serious position, and 25 particularly with regards to someone in such a senior</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 much, I suppose, what I would have done as what I think 2 should have been done. As I said, what I think should 3 have been done is realising the same instinct between 4 Sussex Police and the safeguarding advisory group, of 5 course chaired by a former senior police officer, the 6 instinct was, "There is going to be more here. There 7 are going to be more problems. We haven't gotten to the 8 bottom of it". That instinct, if it had been grasped, 9 and if something like the visitation had happened seven 10 months earlier, it would have solved an awful lot of 11 problems that subsequently developed, it would have been 12 better for everyone and, I have to say, it would have 13 been better for Bishop Wallace as well. 14 Q. I'd like to take you to a set of minutes -- WWS000061 -- 15 which were written on or around the time of 16 the publication -- well, just after the publication of 17 the Butler-Sloss Report. 18 Can I ask, on I think page 8 -- if you could get up 19 page 8, please, Paul. We have seen these notes and 20 minutes before, chair and panel. I think somewhere on 21 page 8 you say that there was a CP agreed. Bottom of 22 the page, "CP agreed. He felt that there had been an 23 active coverup." 24 Can I ask, what did you mean by that and who were 25 you accusing of covering things up?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 position, the Bishop of Lewes at the time. The letter 2 particularly indicates a wide context of concern and 3 a particular concern about whether a senior individual 4 had grasped what he was doing wrong. 5 If I may, I have only realised in preparing for this 6 that after the publication of the Butler-Sloss Report 7 there were two things that happened in parallel across 8 a three-month period. In July, Sussex Police approached 9 me and asked to look at all of the files that 10 Baroness Butler-Sloss had commented on. Keith Akerman 11 wrote to Bishop John and asked to look at all of 12 the files. In August, the Sussex Police reviewing 13 officers looked at all of files, as did Kate Wood -- in 14 fact, the same files. In September, Sussex -- the 15 reviewing officers wrote their report which recommended 16 a new operation and Keith Akerman wrote to 17 Rowan Williams, to Archbishop Rowan, recommending 18 suspension and notifying of the intention to do a CDM. 19 So there was a parallel approach across those three 20 months. 21 The approach then diverged somewhat because 22 Sussex Police got on with it, essentially, and then 23 there was that period of no-one really knowing what to 24 do about the concerns within the church. 25 As I said, what I would have done -- it is not so</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 A. This was almost exactly seven years ago. I think that 2 was very much said within the context of the above 3 sentence, which is Peter Ball. I have to say, I was 4 still learning the narrative. I'd been in post for 5 seven weeks by this point, but I was, I think, hinting 6 at an instinct or an impression that had already begun 7 to develop. There was an obvious problem in 8 East Sussex, around Eastbourne. I'd become aware of 9 the history with regards to Peter Ball. 10 I imagine -- looking back as to what I was thinking 11 back then, I think I would have been referring to 12 a bishop like that there for 17 years, a number of 13 clergy in his area who were abusive. To suggest that 14 that's a coincidence or an accident is very unlikely, so 15 that's the kind of thing I would have been hinting at. 16 Q. That's very helpful. You have already talked about the 17 fact that there was a Clergy Discipline Measure and 18 obviously we have heard about it, so I don't think we 19 need to go through the terms of it because we are all 20 familiar with that. You set out a narrative of 21 the events in quite some detail from paragraph 259 of 22 your witness statement onwards -- chair and panel, 23 page 81 all the way through to page 89, in fact. We 24 have 10 pages of detail. So I'm not sure in these 25 circumstances I need to take you through all that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 detail.</p> <p>2 But can I just identify, why did you make</p> <p>3 a decision, both yourself and obviously on behalf of</p> <p>4 the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group, to pursue</p> <p>5 a CDM complaint?</p> <p>6 A. Our fundamental concern here was risk management.</p> <p>7 Across that summer, when Kate had done her work, and</p> <p>8 around that whole period, there's -- there were so many</p> <p>9 things feeding in. There was the sort of expose by</p> <p>10 Phil Johnson and Colin Campbell of the unreliability of</p> <p>11 some of the evidence given to Baroness Butler-Sloss,</p> <p>12 there were all of these things, but specifically there</p> <p>13 was the concerns about Bishop Wallace's actions</p> <p>14 in September 2010 in relation to the, quote unquote,</p> <p>15 "blemished" CRB with regards to Gordon Rideout.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you mean the evidence we have heard about the fact</p> <p>17 that he asked --</p> <p>18 A. It was the request --</p> <p>19 Q. -- Bishop John not to proceed any further --</p> <p>20 A. Exactly.</p> <p>21 Q. -- because Gordon Rideout was a friend of his?</p> <p>22 A. Exactly that. That impressed upon us that the learning</p> <p>23 from these past cases -- Cotton, Coles and so on and so</p> <p>24 forth -- the mistakes made in those cases could continue</p> <p>25 to be made. It was very much the point that the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 a complaint ... the SAG has entered into a disciplinary</p> <p>2 process with a clearly defined structure. I am aware</p> <p>3 that this structure must be adhered to. I would argue,</p> <p>4 however, that there are not one but two issues involved</p> <p>5 in this matter; the first being the disciplinary</p> <p>6 issue ... and the second being a safeguarding issue,</p> <p>7 about which that letter makes no mention."</p> <p>8 Paul, could we then go to the next paragraph?:</p> <p>9 "I am writing to express my concern that, with</p> <p>10 regards to the complaint ... focused on the legal</p> <p>11 issues ... from it, but have yet to respond to the</p> <p>12 safeguarding concerns detailed within it.</p> <p>13 "Please let me state those concerns as clearly as</p> <p>14 possible ... I cannot guarantee that good safeguarding</p> <p>15 practice is in effect throughout the diocese whilst the</p> <p>16 risks presented by Bishop Benn's practice remain. Those</p> <p>17 risks are outlined [by myself] but by also by</p> <p>18 Roger Meekings and Baroness Butler-Sloss ..."</p> <p>19 Next page, please, Paul:</p> <p>20 "I believe that ... [there should be] a formal plan</p> <p>21 of action ... [there should be] further analysis ...</p> <p>22 [and I should] make this proper request to you ...</p> <p>23 "... I ask that attention is given at a national</p> <p>24 level to manage the ongoing safeguarding risks ...</p> <p>25 I will not prejudge [those] actions ... but I do believe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 Baroness made there: was there any learning, was there</p> <p>2 any change, was there any acknowledgement?</p> <p>3 Q. I think you use the word "capacity for change"?</p> <p>4 A. Exactly that. For us, that was an issue not of -- it</p> <p>5 wasn't a pejorative action, the CDM, it was an attempt</p> <p>6 at risk management.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you try and think of alternative ways, such as, for</p> <p>8 example, suspending Bishop Wallace pending the outcome?</p> <p>9 I understand that Keith Akerman in fact wrote to</p> <p>10 Archbishop Rowan, asking --</p> <p>11 A. Asking for exactly that.</p> <p>12 Q. -- for exactly that, whether or not there could have</p> <p>13 been suspension?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. What was the response?</p> <p>16 A. There was no -- I don't think there was any formal</p> <p>17 response to that letter. Well, certainly there was no</p> <p>18 formal response in terms of enacting a suspension.</p> <p>19 Actions from then were essentially to get the CDM in.</p> <p>20 Q. You wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury on</p> <p>21 6 December 2011. Can we get this up: ACE025525. So</p> <p>22 this is from yourself, writing in your capacity as</p> <p>23 safeguarding adviser, and then you identify -- could we</p> <p>24 have the next paragraph, please, Paul:</p> <p>25 "I fully appreciate that, by virtue of making</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 at the very least a formal discussion should occur</p> <p>2 between those involved at diocesan and national</p> <p>3 level..."</p> <p>4 Was it your view that there hadn't been those sorts</p> <p>5 of discussions --</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. -- to try and manage what you say a clear and coherent</p> <p>8 plan?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, and this is exactly my point about when the</p> <p>10 visitation should have started. It should have started</p> <p>11 months earlier than it did.</p> <p>12 Q. I think it probably started quite soon after you wrote</p> <p>13 that letter.</p> <p>14 A. Yes, it did.</p> <p>15 Q. Because I think three weeks later the visitation</p> <p>16 started. So it could be argued that it was your letter</p> <p>17 that may have been the straw that broke the camel's back</p> <p>18 in these terms?</p> <p>19 A. I understood that it was one of the --</p> <p>20 Q. One of the many?</p> <p>21 A. One of the things that made a difference.</p> <p>22 Q. "Far more importantly, I am also concerned that the</p> <p>23 message being sent out to the public, and even more so</p> <p>24 to victims, is that a bishop can be found to have failed</p> <p>25 in his responsibility to follow good safeguarding</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 practice, but no formal action will be taken to ensure 2 that does not recur ... commissioning and publishing 3 a report for them is not enough; they are interested in 4 what has genuinely changed." 5 As far as you're concerned, is this letter trying to 6 say, "Look, I don't actually think the CDM is fit for 7 purpose. We need some kind of more sort of" -- I mean, 8 if this was an employment situation, an individual would 9 have been automatically suspended, not really because of 10 any disciplinary action, but because of risk assessment? 11 A. Yes. For myself, as a professional safeguarding adviser 12 for the safeguarding advisory group, to be honest, it 13 wasn't our job to confine our expectations to what the 14 church could achieve. It was our job to communicate 15 what would be done in a professional safeguarding world, 16 and that wasn't happening. 17 Q. Do you think -- because obviously -- I mean, I don't 18 think that this has happened again and the visitation 19 enables suspension of the functions or -- in fact 20 I think the word that Lord Williams used yesterday was 21 "inhibit" -- is actually the terms of the Canon law, but 22 it is a slightly peculiar way to achieve that function. 23 Do you think that there should be some kind of mechanism 24 for, if not the archbishop, then somebody centrally to 25 be able to intervene --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, and it's very much the disciplinary -- the CDM is 2 obviously very individual, isn't it, it's about the 3 individual person. 4 Q. Yes. 5 A. It doesn't allow -- you can't write a CDM against 6 a situation. 7 Q. No. Also, it doesn't deal with systemic failure either, 8 does it? 9 A. No. 10 Q. If you think about the comparison with special measures, 11 that was designed precisely for the sort of systems 12 failures -- 13 A. Exactly. 14 Q. -- that some people may argue Chichester shows. So what 15 ended up happening was, people got blamed, which then 16 made people defensive, and probably less able to 17 communicate and react effectively to the crisis 18 situation they were in, instead of really saying, "The 19 whole thing isn't working. Let's call this in and try 20 and sort it out"? 21 A. There were systemic problems, certainly, and, as I've 22 said, the best solution would have been to bring in 23 a systemic measure -- 24 Q. A sort of special measures-type review? 25 A. -- much, much earlier. However, I should say that, for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. -- when things are going seriously awry in dioceses? 3 A. Absolutely. The rough equivalent would be special 4 measures, but something like that. 5 Q. I was just thinking, similar to the introduction of 6 matters against both local authorities and education 7 authorities -- 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. -- which took place in the mid '90s? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. So like a special measures regime, in a way, where 12 somebody comes in, tries to fix things and, if they 13 can't fix it, they take it over for a while and, if they 14 can fix it, then it goes back into ownership of 15 the diocese? 16 A. Yes. That letter was saying, "The legal stuff doesn't 17 matter as much as the safeguarding situation, so find 18 a way of fixing that", is what the letter was saying. 19 Q. Now, I also understand -- and the reality is that, 20 although now Bishop Wallace could have been suspended 21 because, as a result of this case, the rules of 22 the church have changed, they still haven't altered to 23 deal with the problem that we've identified, which is, 24 what happens when disciplinary measure really isn't 25 appropriate but there are ongoing safeguarding risks?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 instance, the attitude of Bishop John as an example -- 2 when he handed myself and Angela Baroness Butler-Sloss's 3 confidential addendum, he handed that over to me I think 4 the day or the day after he received it and said, 5 "Actually, she criticises me more than she criticises 6 Wallace here, and I take that on board". So whilst 7 there were systemic issues, I was also seeing most 8 individuals clearly taking responsibility, but going 9 back to Baroness Butler-Sloss's quote in her letter to 10 Chris Smith, that's what we weren't seeing with 11 Bishop Wallace, hence the CDM, so actually I think 12 both -- the CDM was necessary, but a systemic 13 intervention was what was really needed. 14 Q. You also issued a complaint against Nicholas Reade, 15 Bishop Nicholas, at the same time. What were your 16 reasons for -- no, it was March 2012 you made the 17 complaint against Bishop Nicholas. What were your 18 reasons for making a complaint also against him, who 19 obviously wasn't in the diocese at the time? 20 A. The CDM against Bishop Nicholas was effectively 21 a parallel to the one that was entered in March with 22 regards to Bishop Wallace specifically about the 23 Robert Coles case and the actions in 1997. 24 The evidence that was entered to support the CDM had 25 emerged during Operation Perry. So we effectively</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 couldn't put a CDM in before the arrest because it was 2 relevant and both Bishop Wallace and Bishop Nicholas 3 were key witnesses in that criminal investigation, so we 4 had to wait. But it was with regards to the admission 5 by Robert Coles in 1997 at the point of his arrest, 6 effectively a partial admission to what he was being 7 interviewed by the police for. 8 Q. We obviously have heard, although you didn't hear, 9 Bishop Nicholas's evidence this morning, so that's all 10 very fresh in the chair's and panel's and everybody 11 else's mind, so I'm not necessarily going to go through 12 that in any great detail. 13 When both the complaint against Bishop Benn and the 14 complaint against Bishop Nicholas were dismissed, 15 I understand that you requested that the dismissals be 16 reviewed, and we've got that at ACE025657. Your views, 17 you say, at paragraph 283 of your witness statement, 18 page 87, are set out there. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Can we go to the second page, please?: 21 "In his decision ... dismissed three of the four 22 complaints ... 23 "... 24 "In those circumstances, we are seeking to bring the 25 matter before you for directions ..."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 Next page, please, Paul: 2 "The preliminary scrutiny report ..." 3 Then you criticise that. Basically, why did you ask 4 for the matter to be reviewed? 5 A. This -- 6 Q. You and the group? 7 A. It was the whole group. 8 Q. It wasn't just your decision, I do know that. 9 A. Yes, it was the whole group. Particularly with regards 10 to Robert Coles, I've always believed that this was the 11 worst case for the diocese, the most serious case. He'd 12 been arrested in 1997 and what emerged from the papers 13 is that a diocesan bishop, an area bishop, an archdeacon 14 and two safeguarding advisers knew that he had admitted 15 to some of the matters about which he had been 16 questioned by the police, and none of them told the 17 police. I thought that was -- we thought that was so 18 serious that every effort needed to be made to ensure 19 that everyone involved that we could hold to account -- 20 and there were some that we couldn't -- were made to 21 give an account for that failure, and that's why we 22 asked for it to be reviewed. 23 Q. You identify within the context of various emails from 24 that time the fact that you considered that the CDM 25 complaint was not fit for purpose. Is that the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 Next page: 2 "Your decision letter ... 3 "... 4 "We understood your letter ... 5 "... 6 "The three particular preliminary issues ..." 7 Next page, Paul: 8 "In addition, the papers ... 9 "... 10 "In our submission ... demonstrate that even the 11 complainants understood that, in the first ... [matters] 12 would be limited to the three particular issues ... 13 "... [we say] it is only necessary to make the 14 following key points ... 15 "In relation to the first preliminary issue, the 16 complainants argued that the particular matters 17 complained of ... were of such a nature that ... 18 amounted to a neglect of duty. The alleged duty was 19 said to have been founded on Canon 26 ... combined with 20 a general 'duty as a citizen' ..." 21 I think that was what my learned friend Ms McNeill 22 referred to as the moral duty to report even if there 23 was no legal duty to do so: 24 "... [no] direct reasons for why complaints were not 25 made nearer the time ..."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 complaint you originally made wasn't fit for purpose, or 2 is that that the CDM system didn't really address the 3 problems you were seeking to ask them to deal with? 4 A. The latter. Sorry, if I may -- of course I'm talking 5 about the CDM prior to the recent legislative changes. 6 Q. Do you think it would have been different under the new 7 legislative changes? Because just thinking about this, 8 and thinking through, although the legislative changes 9 have given broader powers and now there is the 10 disciplinary action of failing to have due regard to 11 safeguarding, it still doesn't really act as an 12 effective risk assessment. It's still more of 13 a punitive than it is an action-based process? 14 A. Well, the increased power to suspend I think may -- 15 certainly, I mean, certainly in other -- in this case, 16 but certainly in other cases that I'm dealing with at 17 the moment, the ability to suspend far earlier in the 18 process does substantially increase its ability to 19 manage risk. 20 Q. Can I turn now to around the same time that the CDM 21 complaint was going on and at the time of the launch of 22 the visitation. We went through with Lord Williams 23 yesterday a series of letters that East Sussex County 24 Council sent to Lambeth Palace in respect of their 25 unhappiness about the fact that suspension of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 Bishop Wallace couldn't take place. 2 Had you had any conversations with East Sussex to 3 try to allay their concerns? I know we have 4 East Sussex's view, but were you involved in any way in 5 prompting their letter? Just to make sure that it 6 wasn't a sort of stitch-up. Because what Bishop Wallace 7 might say is, "Well, this was a stitch-up by a load of 8 statutory professionals who were all in cahoots with 9 each other. Therefore, if they couldn't get me one way, 10 they'd get me another?" 11 A. The narrative is that, by -- I think it was November -- 12 it may have been a preliminary meeting in October, but 13 certainly by November the first meetings of 14 the Operation Perry investigative management group had 15 started. Myself and Keith Akerman were both invited as 16 diocesan personnel onto that IMG. That was obviously 17 specifically about Rideout, Coles and Graves. Concerns 18 were raised in that meeting about these wider issues, 19 and indeed about Bishop Wallace's practice, as we viewed 20 it. An action arose from one of those meetings for me 21 to formally raise those concerns with Douglas Sinclair, 22 who was the head of safeguarding for East Sussex County 23 Council. I did in a letter in November that year, 24 late November. 25 Q. Is that the letter -- I think it is ACE024514, but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 first letter. 2 Q. I think it may well be ACE006454, but, again, I'm 3 probably going to be proven wrong. But that's the email 4 train. Is this it? No, this seems to be much later. 5 Could we go back? Because the emails are unfortunately 6 in reverse order. No. Back, back, back. No, that 7 isn't right. Let's forget about that, then. 8 Can we move on to, then, the church's involvement in 9 Operation Perry and Operation Dunhill. Obviously 10 Operation Perry, I think you have just told us about, is 11 the operation into Rideout and Coles, and you tell us at 12 paragraph 122 of your witness statement, and again at 13 paragraph 377 of your witness statement, which is 14 page 119, that it was precipitated by the publication of 15 the Elizabeth Butler-Sloss report. 16 Now, you said at paragraph 122 that this and 17 Operation Dunhill were the two largest criminal cases 18 involving non-recent abuse that the Church of England 19 had ever had? 20 A. I believe so. 21 Q. At that time. 22 A. Certainly at that time. 23 Q. What was the involvement of the Diocese of Chichester in 24 Operation Perry? 25 A. With Operation Perry, our primary involvement was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 I could be wrong about that. Paul, would you mind 2 getting it up to see whether or not my fallibility today 3 continues. No. That's completely wrong. That is 4 a report by Douglas Sinclair? 5 A. It is. 6 Q. Which was an internal report that East Sussex -- of the 7 East Sussex LSCB about the situation. Then you 8 identified a briefing note. Can we get up, Paul, 9 please, ACE023822. This is a briefing note, and this 10 was something that the police then did for the 11 Archbishop of Canterbury, all about Operation Perry? 12 A. Sure. Just the letter -- I believe -- it was perhaps an 13 email, actually, from myself to Douglas on 22 November. 14 Because you have just made the sort of "stitch-up" 15 point. My language in that was deliberately very 16 careful. I asked East Sussex to take a view about 17 Bishop Wallace's practice. So I was not in any way 18 suggesting what view they should take; I simply asked 19 them to take a view. 20 As a result of that letter, that was the 21 beginning -- that was the prompt for Matt Dunkley and 22 Cathy Pattison's series of correspondence with 23 Lambeth Palace which started in January. You can 24 actually see they have cut and pasted one of my 25 paragraphs in my email to Douglas Sinclair into their</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 through the investigative management group, set up by 2 Sussex Police, chaired by the senior investigating 3 officer. With Perry, it involved Sussex Police, 4 ourselves -- myself and Keith Akerman -- Barnardo's, 5 because the offending had occurred in a Barnardo's 6 children's home, and East Sussex County Council. Then 7 when Gemma Wordsworth arrived in January 2013, the most 8 direct operational involvement was her support of 9 the many victims in that case, particularly through the 10 lengthy investigative process, and the very lengthy 11 trial, especially with Gordon Rideout. 12 Q. If we can turn firstly to what I would call the 13 information sharing, so it seems your role is, one, 14 being a presence on the multi-agency team; two, 15 information sharing; three, supporting victims and 16 survivors? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Those are the three things that you did? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Firstly, turning to information sharing. We have heard 21 obviously a number of concerns that information wasn't 22 adequately shared during the late 1990s between the 23 police and the church. What information were you 24 sharing with the police and what information were they 25 providing you with in order to ensure that there was an</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 appropriate flow?</p> <p>2 A. Everything we had, basically. So with Perry, actually,</p> <p>3 our information sharing started before the beginning of</p> <p>4 Perry because the reviewing officers had come in</p> <p>5 in August. We simply just gave them all of our files,</p> <p>6 put them in a room, made them a cup of tea and went away</p> <p>7 again. It was literally, "Read what you want. Here is</p> <p>8 everything".</p> <p>9 Q. But did you have all the files?</p> <p>10 A. We did.</p> <p>11 Q. We will come on to record keeping later.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. This entire -- a large amount of this hearing has been</p> <p>14 spent talking about where blue files were, where various</p> <p>15 other files were. Were the police able to see all the</p> <p>16 files --</p> <p>17 A. Yes, they were.</p> <p>18 Q. -- the area files, the parish files, the blue files and</p> <p>19 the "AN Other" files?</p> <p>20 A. They were able to see all of the blue files, all of</p> <p>21 the safeguarding files, any other records we had. There</p> <p>22 was what I personally found to be a mortifying omission</p> <p>23 with regards to one of the Operation Perry cases,</p> <p>24 I hadn't become aware until about 2014 of the existence</p> <p>25 of parish files, and there was some significant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 That is:</p> <p>2 "Can you please confirm ... that funding is being</p> <p>3 provided by the diocese for 12 sessions of counselling</p> <p>4 for each victim ..."</p> <p>5 That's at a number of organisations. None of those</p> <p>6 organisations have anything to do with the church. The</p> <p>7 email on page 3 then says, "Yes, that is correct". Was</p> <p>8 this all of the support that was provided in terms of</p> <p>9 12 sessions of counselling each?</p> <p>10 A. No, the 12 sessions was effectively a public</p> <p>11 announcement of an offer of assistance, funding</p> <p>12 assistance. It wasn't a limit. But what we didn't want</p> <p>13 to do is to make a public announcement of unlimited</p> <p>14 sessions. We wanted to make a public announcement of</p> <p>15 a substantial offer of support. But the victims in this</p> <p>16 case would have been -- the offer would have also been</p> <p>17 made by the officers in the case, and so there would</p> <p>18 have obviously been that sort of broader discussion</p> <p>19 about if it had needed to last longer -- actually, in</p> <p>20 many cases, we provided far more than 12 sessions of</p> <p>21 support, in many of those cases.</p> <p>22 Q. Was there any pastoral support arranged for the then</p> <p>23 alleged perpetrators?</p> <p>24 A. I'm trying to think back to 2012. I believe there was.</p> <p>25 It's a bit difficult for me to answer for 2012 on that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 information in one of the parish files about one of</p> <p>2 those cases, which we found -- I think it was probably</p> <p>3 about a year after Perry started. I was absolutely</p> <p>4 mortified. But since then, we've checked the parish</p> <p>5 files, because I had, up until that point, thought that</p> <p>6 we'd shared everything we had.</p> <p>7 Q. You didn't realise --</p> <p>8 A. Didn't know it existed.</p> <p>9 Q. Did nobody say to you, "There are also these things</p> <p>10 called parish files. You might need to have a look at</p> <p>11 them"?</p> <p>12 A. No, and to be honest, having had a look through a lot of</p> <p>13 them, I can see why they didn't, because they are a plan</p> <p>14 of a church hall, they are those kind of things. But</p> <p>15 for some reason, and I'm still not entirely sure why,</p> <p>16 a significant piece of evidence was put in a parish</p> <p>17 file. I don't know -- I don't think it should ever have</p> <p>18 been in there.</p> <p>19 Q. Can we turn now to the issue of support for victims and</p> <p>20 survivors. Can we put up now, Paul, please,</p> <p>21 ACE023859_003, and then over to 004. This is an email</p> <p>22 from Jeremy Prior, I believe known as "Jez", at</p> <p>23 Sussex Police asking for confirmation of funding for</p> <p>24 counselling for each of the victims. At page 3, you</p> <p>25 identify -- if we can go to page 4 first, please, Paul.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 one. We weren't working in the sort of core group way</p> <p>2 that we work now. I believe that there was, but that</p> <p>3 would have been primarily Archdeacon Philip Jones'</p> <p>4 responsibility. I can answer much more certainly on</p> <p>5 subsequent cases, but I am a bit vague about that for</p> <p>6 these two.</p> <p>7 Q. Can I ask, how was the ongoing risk of the then alleged</p> <p>8 perpetrators during the beginning of Operation Perry</p> <p>9 managed by way either of suspension or of withdrawal of</p> <p>10 permission to officiate?</p> <p>11 A. Gordon Rideout's permission to officiate had already</p> <p>12 been withdrawn, so that was withdrawn on 13 July 2011 by</p> <p>13 myself -- well, he was notified of that permanent</p> <p>14 withdrawal by myself and Archdeacon Philip Jones. It</p> <p>15 had been withdrawn earlier than that --</p> <p>16 Q. Yes, it was withdrawn in September --</p> <p>17 A. -- temporarily --</p> <p>18 Q. -- 2010 after the blemished CRB had arrived on</p> <p>19 6 September 2010?</p> <p>20 A. It was. But the permanent withdrawal he was notified of</p> <p>21 in July 2011. Robert Coles hadn't had permission to</p> <p>22 officiate for a decade by that point, or so -- no,</p> <p>23 probably 12 years by that point.</p> <p>24 Q. Can I now turn to Operation Dunhill. Can we go to</p> <p>25 paragraph 358 of your witness statement -- page 112,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 chair and panel. When did you first become aware of</p> <p>2 the 2009 report which in fact had been commissioned by</p> <p>3 Lambeth Palace, I believe, about alleged offending by</p> <p>4 Peter Ball, which was drafted by Kate Wood? That is at</p> <p>5 ACE003069.</p> <p>6 A. It would have been very early on -- May or June 2011.</p> <p>7 It would have been during one of a number of my</p> <p>8 conversations with Kate Wood across that period. She</p> <p>9 remained working in Chichester even after I had started,</p> <p>10 particularly because she was completing Gordon Rideout's</p> <p>11 risk assessment, and we spoke a lot across that period.</p> <p>12 So it would have been across that time.</p> <p>13 Q. At paragraph 358 of your statement, you say</p> <p>14 in November 2011 you were contacted by someone reporting</p> <p>15 to have been the subject of allegation -- to have been</p> <p>16 the subject of misconduct by Bishop Peter in the 1980s.</p> <p>17 Could you describe the nature of the disclosure and what</p> <p>18 action you took once the report was made?</p> <p>19 A. The nature of the disclosure was of -- I'm going to use</p> <p>20 an unfortunate phrase, but a fairly low level -- and</p> <p>21 I mean that in criminal terms -- low-level sexual</p> <p>22 assault of a young adult man by Peter Ball at the</p> <p>23 Old Rectory in Litlington. This man had been on the</p> <p>24 scheme, Peter Ball's scheme.</p> <p>25 Q. So what did you do once that information had been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 report about the alleged offending by Peter Ball in</p> <p>2 2012. So you went to Sussex Police. They said, "Well,</p> <p>3 look, we're terribly sorry, but it's nothing new", so to</p> <p>4 speak, "We have already decided not to undertake</p> <p>5 a criminal investigation" --</p> <p>6 A. Sorry to interrupt. I should say that my November 2011</p> <p>7 correspondence wasn't included on the subsequent</p> <p>8 indictment. So I think -- Ed's evaluation of that</p> <p>9 actually proved to be borne out.</p> <p>10 Q. At paragraph 360 of your statement, you then say that</p> <p>11 Elizabeth Hall contacted you in early 2012 to explain</p> <p>12 that she'd asked Kate Wood to undertake a further</p> <p>13 thorough review, which we find at ACE005779, Paul. What</p> <p>14 was the material that you provided to Kate Wood in order</p> <p>15 to enable her to undertake the review?</p> <p>16 A. I personally didn't provide her with any material.</p> <p>17 A letter was -- came from Lambeth Palace to all of</p> <p>18 the relevance dioceses involved -- Chichester and</p> <p>19 elsewhere -- effectively, "Extend everything you have on</p> <p>20 Peter Ball to Lambeth Palace". So I believe all of</p> <p>21 the paperwork held at -- well, certainly all of</p> <p>22 the paperwork held at Bishop's Palace then went to</p> <p>23 Lambeth Palace.</p> <p>24 Q. Could we turn, Paul, to page 15 of this document, and,</p> <p>25 chair and panel, it is in your bundle behind tab 40 in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 disclosed?</p> <p>2 A. I contacted Edward Hick, Ed Hick, almost immediately.</p> <p>3 He was the Sussex Police child protection manager. And</p> <p>4 our single point of contact -- not single, because</p> <p>5 Operation Perry had started.</p> <p>6 Q. No.</p> <p>7 A. He was our main point of contact within the safeguarding</p> <p>8 advisory group and Sussex Police. So we discussed this</p> <p>9 new report.</p> <p>10 Q. Then what happened as a result of that?</p> <p>11 A. Ed and I spoke at some length. I'd already been aware</p> <p>12 from Kate that Ed Hick had gone up to Lambeth Palace</p> <p>13 with a detective inspector from Sussex Police and</p> <p>14 Shirley Hosgood the previous year. Ed referred to that</p> <p>15 and essentially said that this new allegation was</p> <p>16 exactly the same as a number that they had read on file</p> <p>17 in Lambeth Palace.</p> <p>18 At that point, the view from -- this new allegation</p> <p>19 was treated the same as those other ones, that there was</p> <p>20 ostensible consent within this activity, and, therefore,</p> <p>21 much as I think Sussex Police and certainly Ed -- much</p> <p>22 as they wanted to prosecute Peter Ball, they didn't feel</p> <p>23 that this new report added to their assessment of what</p> <p>24 they'd already seen at Lambeth Palace.</p> <p>25 Q. It was then the situation that Kate Wood did another</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 bundle B. This identified -- this is about other</p> <p>2 priests of concern, not about Bishop Peter Ball. This</p> <p>3 identified that there were various conclusions about the</p> <p>4 fact that other individuals, including obviously the</p> <p>5 Reverend Vickery House and someone we know as F11, that</p> <p>6 they may well have been the subject of criminal</p> <p>7 offending. What action was taken in respect of those</p> <p>8 other individuals? You set this out at paragraph 369 of</p> <p>9 your witness statement, page 117, chair and panel.</p> <p>10 A. So I reviewed the files that we held for Vickery House</p> <p>11 and F11. It was clear -- Shirley Hosgood had done</p> <p>12 substantial work on both of those cases. There had</p> <p>13 been, particularly with Vickery House, well, reasonable</p> <p>14 amounts of communication between her and Sussex Police</p> <p>15 about that case.</p> <p>16 The material Kate Wood was referring to was --</p> <p>17 originated in the Brian Tyler report about which</p> <p>18 I imagine we are just about to start talking. Obviously</p> <p>19 that was written in 1993. What was clear from the files</p> <p>20 I was reading is that it didn't add in any way to</p> <p>21 what -- the files I was reading from Shirley that were</p> <p>22 updated until 2010.</p> <p>23 So actually, at that point, we didn't take any</p> <p>24 actions because it wasn't new information, it was</p> <p>25 information -- in fact, we had much more information</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 on -- as you would expect from 17 years later -- on our 2 files, and the necessary actions had been taken. 3 Q. But, as I understand it, nobody had seen what 4 subsequently then became the Brian Tyler report, which 5 will be the subject of much discussion in July. We are 6 only touching upon it here. Nobody in Chichester had 7 seen that report before -- I believe, in Kate Wood's 8 statement she says something like, "I found it on Easter 9 Thursday of Holy Week and phoned Elizabeth Hall 10 immediately" and all hell broke loose. It wasn't 11 anything you had seen, or it wasn't on your radar at all 12 before it was brought to your attention by Kate Wood? 13 A. No, and the amount of times I had wished I had read 14 Peter Ball's file in the summer of 2011. I didn't 15 because there was no indication of current risk. He 16 didn't have permission to officiate, he wasn't living in 17 Sussex. But I have often wished I had, if only to have 18 gained a better understanding of the narrative. But, as 19 far as I was concerned, it was a case that had been 20 reviewed by many others, including Sussex Police, and it 21 was a closed case. 22 Kate and I have spent a lot of time wondering where 23 that Brian Tyler report was and who had seen it. 24 I still can't give a clear answer to that. 25 Q. Thank you very much. Then, as I understand it, as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 actually got around to putting in an information sharing 2 protocol is because events, for sure, were overtaken by 3 actual information sharing, and then what 4 subsequently -- that subsequently developed into other 5 discussions including with the most recent safeguarding 6 advisory panel, where the advice from all of the senior 7 professionals in that panel was that it's unnecessary, 8 it would be redundant, given Working Together, given the 9 other clear statutory guidance and Church of England 10 guidance but actually primarily statutory guidance, that 11 a bespoke -- the issue of information sharing isn't 12 bespoke and so it doesn't need a bespoke agreement. 13 It's mainstream, and it's already clear in statutory 14 guidance. 15 Q. How would you describe your relationship with the local 16 authority designated officer, otherwise known as the 17 LADO, and how has that been over the past -- during your 18 tenure as diocesan safeguarding adviser? 19 A. The three LADOs obviously across Sussex -- West, East 20 and Brighton and Hove, and assistant LADOs as well. 21 Possibly apart from the Operation Perry and Dunhill 22 teams, they are the professionals across Sussex with 23 whom my team has the most contact. I would estimate 24 it's probably weekly contact over the last seven years 25 about various matters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 a result of -- from April 2012 onwards, I understand 2 what then became Operation Dunhill was then launched by 3 Sussex Police, which ultimately resulted in the pleading 4 guilty of Bishop Ball to certain of the offences against 5 him? 6 A. I think Sussex Police would time the beginning of 7 Operation Dunhill from October 2012, I think. But 8 obviously that can be their evidence. 9 Q. How would you describe your current relationship between 10 the diocese and the local police force? 11 A. Very good, indeed. Very good. I cannot speak more 12 highly of Sussex Police in the way that they have worked 13 with us as a diocese, with my team. They have been 14 absolutely superb and really reached out to us in terms 15 of working together on the same goals. 16 Q. Have you ever had a formal information-sharing protocol? 17 A. No, and, actually, it was -- in preparing for this, I'd 18 seen for the first time the review that Graham Standing 19 and Chris Pratt, the two reviewing officers, had done in 20 the summer of 2011 where they make that clear 21 recommendation. It was something that myself and the 22 senior investigating officer for Operation Perry, 23 Detective Inspector Jon Gross, talked about repeatedly 24 over the next few months. 25 I should say, I think, the main reason we never</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 Q. You identify at paragraph 374, page 118, about a feature 2 of the internal dynamic within the diocese regarding 3 information sharing. You say: 4 "When my team become aware of a safeguarding case 5 where the information comes to us first prior to the 6 statutory authorities being aware of it, as a matter of 7 routine we report that information to the relevant 8 statutory authority before we inform senior clergy." 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. "Senior clergy are informed of what we have done. They 11 are not asked what we should do or even routinely told 12 in advance of what we are going to do." 13 Can you explain why that's the case? 14 A. Because our statutory obligations in terms of -- one of 15 the documents I've just referred to, especially, 16 Working Together, Sussex Police child and adult 17 protection procedures are very clear. We inform the 18 relevant statutory authority. Their job, their role, 19 is, as I have said in my statement, both prior and 20 primary to the role of the senior clergy, in my view. 21 Q. So, in other words, do you think that the sort of loss 22 of control we have heard about which happened earlier 23 wouldn't happen now because, in a way, you're like, 24 "Well, we have already done it"? 25 A. They don't --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 Q. I asked Bishop Martin yesterday, "What happens if there 2 is a dispute between you and the diocesan safeguarding 3 adviser about a particular perspective?" and he said, 4 "Well, maybe that would need to be escalated", but in 5 terms of reporting something, that simply wouldn't 6 happen? 7 A. Yes, the control isn't there. And rightly. And I don't 8 say that in a -- please don't get the sense that that's 9 a -- that's an agreed protocol. 10 Q. Yes. 11 A. That's normative practice. It's not us being subversive 12 or doing a sort of behind the scenes -- 13 Q. Acting behind the senior clergy's backs? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Can I ask as well, how much is that the case not just 16 within your role as the diocese, but within parishes? 17 Because obviously the parish safeguarding officer and/or 18 the church warden both have duties, and parish clergy in 19 fact have duties, to report matters? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. But if, for example, the parish safeguarding officer 22 finds something out, what advice or what training are 23 they given as to who they tell first? 24 A. Throughout the training C1 and C2 -- C1 is the training 25 for everyone who is on the rota, C2 is for all people</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 actually this was written before Gemma Wordsworth 2 arrived, but when she arrived, often through her, but 3 effectively everyone who requested that additional 4 assistance. 5 Q. You also sort of -- this happened pre arrest. Then on 6 the day of arrest, there was an NSPCC helpline. I think 7 we might come on to this later, but just to identify 8 that, really, not long after you became involved, 9 because of the number of cases, you were giving out 10 NSPCC helpline numbers, as I understand it, regularly 11 and there were -- what mechanisms or methods were there 12 for individuals to be able to sort of phone up those 13 sorts of organisations? 14 A. So the NSPCC helpline -- it was actually the same number 15 for Perry and Dunhill. This was Elizabeth Hall's idea, 16 I should say, not mine. We met with Elizabeth -- by 17 "we", I say myself, Angela Sibson, and the 18 communications staff -- in Chichester, met with 19 Elizabeth Hall in February 2012. We knew the arrests 20 were going to happen on 6 March and it was to try and 21 put a coordinated response in place. 22 Elizabeth asked me, you know, "What is your plan to 23 assist victims who come forward?" It became -- it was 24 very obvious -- this was before Gemma had arrived. It 25 was very obvious that I couldn't be that conduit. She</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 within leadership positions within parishes. The very 2 clear advice is, if you are concerned about a child or 3 an adult at risk, tell the statutory authorities first. 4 Actually before my team primarily, again, because we 5 don't want to be sort of an extra step between the 6 person at risk and the source of the -- the statutory 7 source of help. So that's been very clear. That's been 8 very clear throughout. 9 Q. Taken slightly out of turn from dealing with 10 Operation Dunhill but I thought it was sensible to deal 11 with that issue at this stage. 12 I want to turn to the topic of victim support during 13 the course of Operation Dunhill. Can we get up, please, 14 Paul, ACE007102_001. This is the protocol for victim 15 support. So, again, you put a formalised process in 16 place, and this protocol to facilitate such support. So 17 there's a database, again, you agree to pay for at least 18 12 sessions of counselling, and further funding will be 19 discussed on a case-by-case basis. 20 Can I ask, out of those individuals that were 21 involved in Operation Dunhill, how many of them received 22 more than 12 counselling sessions? 23 A. I couldn't give you an exact figure, but effectively 24 everyone -- everyone who approached. The approach was 25 normally done either through the police or -- and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 suggested, on the basis of learning from another case 2 elsewhere in the country, approach the NSPCC, look at 3 the helpline option. We did and then we coordinated 4 between the police -- or a coordinated action between 5 the police, the NSPCC and the counselling providers you 6 mentioned earlier to ensure that anyone who came forward 7 subsequently -- after the publicity surrounding the 8 arrests, could come forward through the NSPCC, be 9 directed straight into the investigative team rather 10 than going through a general number, and also be offered 11 that specialist support, including that offer of funding 12 for counselling. 13 Q. Can I take you now to the independent management review 14 of June 2013. You deal with this at paragraphs 342 to 15 346 of your witness statement, which, chair and panel, 16 is page 105. 17 This was commissioned by the East Sussex Local 18 Children's -- Local Safeguarding Children's Board or 19 Local Children's Safeguarding Board? 20 A. Safeguarding Children's Board. 21 Q. That's it. ACE02265, Paul, please. So this was 22 commissioned by them but written by you; is that right? 23 A. Yes, and effectively I had asked them to ask me to 24 commission it. 25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

1 **A. Effectively.**
 2 Q. Why was that?
 3 **A. Sorry, I had asked them to ask me to write it.**
 4 Q. Okay. What was its purpose? What was it meant to be
 5 doing? Why did you ask to write it?
 6 **A. I'm just having to pause slightly on that one because**
 7 **I think in terms of not identifying or -- with one of**
 8 **the cases within Operation Perry, it became clear from**
 9 **my communication with Sussex Police and with a vicar in**
 10 **East Sussex who had supported -- what became clear was**
 11 **that some complaints had been made almost immediately**
 12 **post arrest, in March 2012, with regards to one of those**
 13 **people who had been arrested. Actually, as I said,**
 14 **I originally became aware because a vicar in East Sussex**
 15 **had supported the two complainants to make that**
 16 **complaint.**
 17 **I became aware, because of my communication with**
 18 **Sussex Police, that those two matters were not included**
 19 **on the indictment, to the disappointment of**
 20 **Sussex Police, I should say.**
 21 **Post conviction of one of those perpetrators, we had**
 22 **written, and Bishop Martin had written, to all of**
 23 **the victims but also to the family of one of those**
 24 **people to offer to meet. That offer was taken up, and**
 25 **the family of one of those people had made clear to me**

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1 **what appeared to be a series of concerns,**
 2 **notwithstanding that that person hadn't been included in**
 3 **the criminal case.**
 4 **So we were looking for a way of responding to those**
 5 **concerns, of formally responding to those concerns.**
 6 **I had spoken to Douglas Sinclair, head of safeguarding**
 7 **for East Sussex Council, I was in regular contact with**
 8 **him about a number of things at that time. We agreed**
 9 **that it met the criteria for an individual management**
 10 **review, not a serious case review, because it seemed to**
 11 **be an individual failure within the diocese rather than**
 12 **between agencies.**
 13 **So I wrote to him to ask them to commission the IMR,**
 14 **which they did, and I then wrote.**
 15 Q. That was shared with the local LSCB?
 16 **A. It was.**
 17 Q. A number of recommendations were made which you set out
 18 at 344 through to 346, where you identify the
 19 recommendations which are sort of recommendations you
 20 have made about yourself, so to speak?
 21 **A. Actually --**
 22 Q. Or was it something that was done in conjunction with
 23 yourself and the local authority?
 24 **A. The recommendations -- effectively, we were capturing**
 25 **practice from -- well, between 1997 and 2006, which were**

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1 **the operative years for this particular case. So what**
 2 **I was doing was identifying the failures across those**
 3 **nine years and the recommendations that arose from the**
 4 **identification of those failures. So it was a slightly**
 5 **odd IMR, to be honest.**
 6 Q. So you were kind of saying, "All these things went wrong
 7 and all these things should have happened, but we have
 8 now put them all in place"?
 9 **A. Yes. It was a way of recognising -- and to some extent**
 10 **it was me being able to go back to that family and say,**
 11 **"There is a formal recognition here of that failure".**
 12 Q. I think, in effect, what the recommendations were, were
 13 that there should have been training, there should have
 14 been training to key diocesan staff, there should have
 15 been better -- well, there should have been some
 16 information sharing and there should have been proper
 17 accountability structures?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. You would say, and I think we will come on a little
 20 later in your evidence to discuss what the position is
 21 now in the Diocese of Chichester, that that has now all
 22 been done.
 23 Can I turn now to dealing with a number of other
 24 individuals, not those who were engaged with
 25 Operation Dunhill and Operation Perry. Can I take you,

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1 chair and panel and Mr Perkins, to paragraph 156 of your
 2 witness statement, which is the allegations made against
 3 Keith Denford and Mark Mytton. I want to ask you some
 4 questions about those. Because these allegations came
 5 to light in September 2011 because they were reported,
 6 as I understand it, by one of the victims to
 7 Sussex Police.
 8 What was your and the diocese's involvement in the
 9 progress of the investigation?
 10 **A. It was through -- it wasn't through an investigative**
 11 **management group, as per Perry and Dunhill. This was**
 12 **much more a local investigative team and through the --**
 13 Q. Can you explain basically what's the difference between
 14 an investigative management group and an investigative
 15 team? The panel will know the answer to that question
 16 but members of the public will probably think, what on
 17 earth is the difference between the two?
 18 **A. Operations Perry and Dunhill were led by a senior**
 19 **investigating officer with a dedicated investigative --**
 20 **sorry, I have mixed my words -- with a dedicated**
 21 **investigative team just for that operation. So the**
 22 **investigative management group then --**
 23 Q. It is like a specially created --
 24 **A. Effectively, it is a much broader --**
 25 Q. -- group --

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1 **A. Exactly.**
 2 Q. -- for large scale operations, in effect?
 3 **A. Exactly. Denford and Mytton was an investigation held**
 4 **by an officer in the case, so a detective on a local**
 5 **team --**
 6 Q. So the local CP --
 7 **A. So it's the lower level --**
 8 Q. The local child --
 9 **A. -- yes, effectively --**
 10 Q. -- protection team would have run that rather than there
 11 being a specially commissioned team, so to speak.
 12 **A. So the normal multi-agency information sharing in that**
 13 **kind of case would happen by a LADO-chaired strategy**
 14 **meeting, it would occur within that context, which is**
 15 **what happened.**
 16 Q. So you followed the relevant protocols and guidance --
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. -- which is there are still multi-agency meetings but
 19 they're run by the local authority and with them in
 20 charge of matters?
 21 **A. It's practice as usual rather than that much broad --**
 22 **that wider, larger sort of operation-specific context.**
 23 Q. I want to explore next the steps taken to manage the
 24 ongoing risks posed by Mytton and Denford. Can we
 25 explore Mr Denford first. Can we put up, please, Paul,

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1 ACE023246, page 27. It is behind tab B31, chair and
 2 panel. Can you talk us through this email, if possible?
 3 It says "Actions". So this is 29 September 2011. So
 4 this is shortly after the victims had approached
 5 Sussex Police. I understand you became aware of
 6 the allegations on 26 September 2011. There was
 7 a strategy meeting on 27 September 2011. And on
 8 29 September, at 3.45, you're writing an email about
 9 what you're going to do about the risk assessment?
 10 **A. So my first action was to find out -- the allegations --**
 11 **the first victim -- actually, at this point, we'd only**
 12 **had the -- the one victim had reported, had identified**
 13 **Wilkie Denford and an organist called "Mark". So that's**
 14 **what we knew at this point. The allegations related to**
 15 **West Sussex, so this was a West Sussex strategy meeting.**
 16 **The first action was effectively for me to identify,**
 17 **where is Wilkie Denford and what is he doing now? So**
 18 **I spoke to -- I found out where he was in church and**
 19 **I spoke to the archdeacon of Chichester to find out some**
 20 **more about that, and that's really that first paragraph,**
 21 **and I'd got that background from the archdeacon.**
 22 Q. What did you then do as a result of having that
 23 information?
 24 **A. At this stage, we hadn't -- we didn't do anything**
 25 **because the police weren't at the stage of being able to**

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1 **arrest. The arrest, as it happened, took place on**
 2 **3 November --**
 3 Q. Again, the rules have now changed, but at the time, if
 4 I remember rightly -- and I'm sure you'll correct me if
 5 I'm incorrect about this -- you couldn't in fact suspend
 6 a priest unless there had been an arrest?
 7 **A. That's not why we didn't suspend Mr Denford.**
 8 Q. Right.
 9 **A. The reason we didn't suspend Mr Denford is because he**
 10 **hadn't been arrested. If we'd have suspended him**
 11 **pre arrest --**
 12 Q. That would have tipped everybody off?
 13 **A. Precisely that, especially because there was**
 14 **a co-accused, even though, at this point, we didn't know**
 15 **anything more than "Mark". The reason we didn't arrest**
 16 **at this particular occasion -- we didn't suspend, wasn't**
 17 **because of the limitations of the CDM, it was because of**
 18 **that conversation within the strategy meeting and very**
 19 **much, at this stage, being led by the police. They**
 20 **weren't ready for us to suspend. They hadn't even**
 21 **arrested at that point.**
 22 Q. Was he suspended when he was arrested?
 23 **A. Yes. He was suspended on the day. In fact, the**
 24 **afternoon. We coordinated to make sure that pretty much**
 25 **at the point he was released from custody on the day of**

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1 **the arrest, the archdeacon went around to his house with**
 2 **a letter of suspension, so it was almost within the**
 3 **hour.**
 4 Q. You didn't just do that, but I understand that he was
 5 attending a church local to the Brighton area whilst
 6 investigations were ongoing, and I think if we get up
 7 ACE023246_081, please, Paul, this is a safeguarding
 8 agreement that you put in place during the course of
 9 the investigations in order to manage his risk?
 10 **A. It's a very standard agreement. It was basically taken**
 11 **from "Protecting All God's Children", which was the**
 12 **national policy at the time. But obviously with some**
 13 **tweaking to respect -- to reflect the local**
 14 **commission -- the local situation.**
 15 Q. How do you police these safeguarding agreements?
 16 **A. Effectively, they are monitored on the ground**
 17 **essentially by the people within the parish. That's why**
 18 **we have a support group, so you can see in paragraph 4**
 19 **that there are a group of people, always including the**
 20 **incumbents, the church wardens, the parish safeguarding**
 21 **officer, who will know about the agreements, who will be**
 22 **signatories to the agreements, and who will themselves,**
 23 **by signing the agreement, agree to report a breach.**
 24 **It depends on the different situations, but they are**
 25 **reviewed regularly, dependent upon the risk --**

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1 Q. Do they work, by and large? Have you found any
 2 examples -- the reason potentially that some individuals
 3 might have scepticism is, if we think about the
 4 Jonathan Graves/Robert Coles situation. From your
 5 experience of managing these agreements, how many of
 6 these agreements do you think you have put in place?
 7 **A. We currently have 43.**
 8 Q. Of those --
 9 **A. Some of those will have been -- sorry, currently have.**
 10 **We will have had more over the last seven years, but**
 11 **right now we have 43.**
 12 Q. Of those 43, how many have there been problems with in
 13 terms of breaches?
 14 **A. Oh, gosh.**
 15 Q. Obviously sometimes you might not know.
 16 **A. I couldn't give you an exact figure. Actually, my**
 17 **colleague Morag Keane manages most of these with**
 18 **parishes, so I couldn't give you an exact figure.**
 19 **Certainly a number there have been problems with. This**
 20 **particular situation was obviously pre charge, in fact,**
 21 **not just pre conviction. But by far the majority of**
 22 **those 43 are post sentence so they are worked out with**
 23 **probation and police offender managers.**
 24 Q. So you have the church safeguarding alongside probably
 25 a MAPPA or a MAPPA-type process as well?

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1 **A. Exactly that. The agreements themselves have no legal**
 2 **force but they are normally in place where there are**
 3 **very clear legal conditions, either licence conditions**
 4 **and/or a sexual harm prevention order. So they**
 5 **effectively apply those conditions which do have force**
 6 **to the context of church attendance. So the breach of**
 7 **one is the breach of the other.**
 8 Q. Okay. So, in effect, the teeth is really by using the
 9 criminal justice processes --
 10 **A. Exactly that.**
 11 Q. -- alongside the church processes?
 12 **A. Exactly that. At this point, of course -- well,**
 13 **certainly from 3 November there were bail conditions for**
 14 **Mr Denford and Mr Mytton. We have -- the police's**
 15 **ability, I understand, to implement bail conditions has**
 16 **withered somewhat since the introduction of**
 17 **the Bail Act, and that has --**
 18 Q. Well, it's changed.
 19 **A. -- presented issues.**
 20 MS SCOLDING: Yes. Chair, I don't know, as it is 3.15 pm,
 21 whether now would be an appropriate moment?
 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will return at 3.30 pm.
 23 (3.15 pm)
 24 (A short break)
 25 (3.38 pm)

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1 MS SCOLDING: Thank you very much. Chair and panel, with
 2 your permission, I was just going to identify, before we
 3 restarted Mr Perkins' evidence, the fact that there will
 4 be some amendments to the timetable, as it is unlikely,
 5 unfortunately, that we will be able to finish
 6 Mr Perkins' evidence today.
 7 I understand, chair and panel, that you have
 8 therefore made the decision that we will have Mr Perkins
 9 return tomorrow morning, hopefully just for a short
 10 period of time, and we will then hear the evidence of
 11 Mr Adrian Iles followed by the evidence of
 12 Sir Roger Singleton. We will then -- we therefore will,
 13 in effect, hear the evidence of Mr Graham Tilby on
 14 Monday rather than tomorrow. Thank you very much,
 15 chair, for that, and we apologise again for the slight
 16 slippage in the timetable.
 17 Mr Perkins, can we turn now to Mr Mytton. So the
 18 last we heard, there was somebody who was an organist
 19 called Mark. That was all you did. What steps did the
 20 church, or the church acting in tandem with the police,
 21 do to try to track down who this individual might be?
 22 **A. So the organist called Mark was the original report.**
 23 **Further work done by the officer in the case established**
 24 **that it was Mark Mytton. We weren't sure how that was**
 25 **spelt. But effectively, I started to ask originally the**

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1 **archdeacons whether they knew of any such person. They**
 2 **didn't. Then -- and I can't remember how the**
 3 **conversation started because I had no expectation that**
 4 **this person would know, but I asked the bishop's**
 5 **chaplain at the time, Canon Ian Gibson, who has**
 6 **obviously already given evidence. To my surprise,**
 7 **actually, he knew exactly who I was talking about**
 8 **because Mr Mytton had formerly been an organist in**
 9 **Uckfield. Mr Gibson had ministered in that church. So**
 10 **he provided me not only with Mr Mytton's name, but also**
 11 **his address. I forwarded that to the police.**
 12 **Then that enabled the police to obviously identify**
 13 **their second suspect, who was arrested alongside**
 14 **Mr Denford on 3 November.**
 15 Q. Now, as I understand it, Mr Mytton, in fact, had
 16 previous conviction of two counts of gross indecency
 17 with a 12-year-old male child in 1981.
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Was that information -- I'm assuming that one of
 20 the difficulties is, because that information didn't
 21 involve someone who was a member of the clergy, was that
 22 not held on file anywhere? There isn't a sort of
 23 organist file, so to speak?
 24 **A. No, there isn't. The offences there took place not in**
 25 **a church context. The particular position of organist**

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<p>1 at the church where he was playing the organ, he was</p> <p>2 literally just playing the organ up in the organ loft,</p> <p>3 there was no choir, there was no mixed age choir, there</p> <p>4 were no children at that church, so it didn't actually</p> <p>5 qualify for, as was then, a CRB check, so there was no</p> <p>6 way of finding out that information.</p> <p>7 Q. Is that something which you think is a lacuna?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, actually, and there was some learning for me from</p> <p>9 this particular case. In this particular case, as</p> <p>10 I said, he had no contact with children through the</p> <p>11 church, this particular church had no children. But he</p> <p>12 has doing a lot of private musical tuition.</p> <p>13 What we learned from this case -- actually, this is</p> <p>14 a phrase that I've borrowed from Bishop Mark Sowerby in</p> <p>15 relation to another case, that often, especially in</p> <p>16 a village context, the church organist is the most</p> <p>17 prominent musician in the village, and will often get</p> <p>18 private tuition off the back of being the church</p> <p>19 organist. So actually, yes, in my view, it is a gap.</p> <p>20 It is a gap in legislation. It is not something the</p> <p>21 church can fill on our own, but I do believe it is</p> <p>22 a gap.</p> <p>23 Q. So you think there should be an extension of what is</p> <p>24 considered to be a relevant activity?</p> <p>25 A. Yes. It is about the platform we give, not just their</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 related to. The church he was in was in East Sussex.</p> <p>2 So we had a strategy meeting on 11 November. Myself,</p> <p>3 children's services, adult services, police. At that</p> <p>4 point, we agreed, based on what we knew at that point,</p> <p>5 that suspension was unnecessary. The guidance --</p> <p>6 certainly the guidance I come from in a probation</p> <p>7 background is that, in order for a restrictive -- this</p> <p>8 is Home Office guidance -- for a restrictive condition</p> <p>9 to be applied it needs to be both necessary and</p> <p>10 proportionate: necessary, no other less onerous way of</p> <p>11 managing the risk; proportionate, only apply to the</p> <p>12 extent it performs a risk management function.</p> <p>13 Based on what we knew on 11 November, removing him</p> <p>14 from the position of an organist in a church with no</p> <p>15 children didn't pass either of those tests. There was</p> <p>16 a strategy meeting then held in East -- well, the</p> <p>17 East Sussex LADO was invited to a strategy meeting on</p> <p>18 the 16th. He couldn't attend. Another strategy meeting</p> <p>19 was held on the 30th in East Sussex -- actually,</p> <p>20 I couldn't attend because I was meeting with</p> <p>21 Sussex Police about Gordon Rideout. But at that</p> <p>22 meeting, it was agreed that he needed to be removed from</p> <p>23 the position in the church because of that platform</p> <p>24 issue I spoke about earlier. That was communicated to</p> <p>25 me --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 contact within the four walls of the church, but what</p> <p>2 subsequent contact they can gain as a result of that</p> <p>3 prominence.</p> <p>4 Q. You obviously knew that he had been convicted of a child</p> <p>5 sexual offence and he was still working with children.</p> <p>6 What steps did you take to bring that to the attention</p> <p>7 of the LADO?</p> <p>8 A. No, I believe actually that originally became apparent</p> <p>9 on the day of the arrest, so Mr Mytton actually</p> <p>10 acknowledged that to the arresting officer on</p> <p>11 3 November. So I'm fairly sure that the first</p> <p>12 notification to the LADO would have been from the</p> <p>13 officer in the case.</p> <p>14 I also became aware of that through my conversations</p> <p>15 with the church, so we both raised that, essentially.</p> <p>16 Q. Once it had come to light, why he was allowed to</p> <p>17 continue as an organist in the church, which</p> <p>18 I understand he was for a period of time?</p> <p>19 A. He was for a few weeks.</p> <p>20 Q. I think his arrest took place on 3 November?</p> <p>21 A. 3 November.</p> <p>22 Q. It was only on 30 November that he was told to stop</p> <p>23 playing the organ?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, that's correct. So the original strategy meeting</p> <p>25 was in West Sussex, because that's where the allegations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 Q. Because he was undertaking one-to-one lessons.</p> <p>2 A. -- and I applied it?</p> <p>3 Q. So it wasn't his role as the organist in a church so</p> <p>4 much --</p> <p>5 A. Exactly that.</p> <p>6 Q. -- but the platform it gave him to then undertake</p> <p>7 private tuition?</p> <p>8 A. He was undertaking one-to-one lessons outside of</p> <p>9 the church, but we were worried, again, about that</p> <p>10 platform issue.</p> <p>11 Q. I think what you say at paragraph 171, chair and panel,</p> <p>12 page 55:</p> <p>13 "A dynamic multi-agency risk assessment process</p> <p>14 which takes account of new information and makes new</p> <p>15 decisions accordingly is what is meant to occur."</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. You would say in fact what this case shows is good</p> <p>18 multi-agency working?</p> <p>19 A. We were all working to gather information. Defensible</p> <p>20 decisions need to be made on full information. The</p> <p>21 decision on 11 November -- because it was a West Sussex</p> <p>22 strategy meeting it was only ever going to be an interim</p> <p>23 decision, because the church was in East Sussex -- was</p> <p>24 based on the information we had then. Further</p> <p>25 information was gathered which amended the decision.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 There was an email from the East Sussex LADO to me. 2 That would have happened in the conversation within the 3 meeting if I'd have been able to be there. I should say 4 that that LADO was aware of some very great difficulties 5 I'd had earlier that summer with insisting on suspension 6 of a cleric. Actually, it was the case I referred to 7 earlier. And I didn't put this in my statement, but in 8 a sort of marginal conversation in a later meeting 9 Richard made clear that the language in his email to me 10 was effectively designed to strengthen my hand in case 11 I met similar resistance. Actually, I wouldn't have 12 done because I wasn't limited by the CDM with an 13 organist, but that's why that language is quite firm. 14 Q. Can we now turn on to the case of Christopher Howarth 15 which you deal with at paragraph 176 onwards of your 16 witness statement. Chair and panel, page 56, over to 17 page 62. 18 You were contacted, as I understand it, by somebody 19 from East Sussex Child Protection on the morning of 20 7 December 2012, and spoke to both him and the LADO. 21 A serious allegation was made of child sexual abuse 22 against a vulnerable teenage boy. The police asked you 23 to suspend him immediately -- 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. -- even though they weren't yet ready for arrest?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 a very difficult period. 2 Q. I mean, how did you manage to manage that? Because 3 I understand that it then took a reasonable amount of 4 time because there had to be an achieving best evidence 5 video and that can take some time to organise and 6 arrange. So I understand that there were various 7 matters so that it was only, I think, on or around 8 late December, so there was quite a long period of 9 time -- 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. -- when he was suspended but you weren't able to tell 12 him why? 13 A. It was very difficult. I didn't have any direct contact 14 with Mr Howard. I think it was largely managed by the 15 archdeacon, Philip Jones. It was a very difficult 16 period. There was a lot of contact between myself, 17 Bishop Martin, Archdeacon Philip and then from 18 Archdeacon Philip to Mr Howarth. But, effectively, he 19 was told, "It is what it is. We are asking you to step 20 aside. You will find out as soon as you are able to 21 find out". It was bit rough-edged, but that was the 22 situation. 23 Q. Can we please put up, Paul, ACE022623, tab B33, chair 24 and panel. I think that's the second volume of your 25 bundle, rather than the first. Page 2:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 A. Police and LADO together made that request. 2 Q. Their reasoning behind that, just so that we can 3 understand that, was that Mr Howarth was very active in 4 a parish church and the complaint alleging recent 5 criminal activity was strongly indicated to current risk 6 of harm of other children? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. I think he was not just a non-stipendiary vicar, but was 9 also deputy head of a local school? 10 A. Recently retired by that point, but yes. 11 Q. What did you do? 12 A. I spoke to Bishop Martin immediately, effectively 13 relayed that conversation, and then we communicated -- 14 I actually can't quite remember which one of us it was, 15 I think it would have been me, communicated with 16 Archdeacon Philip Jones, who went around that evening. 17 Now, again, we are in that slight grey area of 18 suspension, because we couldn't suspend -- 19 Q. Well, at that time -- 20 A. -- at that point. 21 Q. -- you couldn't, now you could. 22 A. So he was asked to step aside -- to step down from 23 ministry by the archdeacon. Of course, one of 24 the particular problems we had in this one, because this 25 was pre arrest, he couldn't be told why. So it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 "Further to our telephone conversation ..." 2 This is from Philip Jones to Colin Perkins: 3 "The police have been kind and courteous 4 throughout ... one of the interviewing officers 5 suggested that he should speak to diocesan authorities 6 to see whether he could be allowed to return partially 7 to duty. The police have in mind that much of his 8 pastoral/liturgical work ... is in the presence of 9 numbers of people and ... [they would like him to be 10 able to minister] to the sisters at the convent and 11 midnight mass ... [However] he should not have any 12 contact with children ... 13 "He is naturally very keen to progress this 14 idea ..." 15 This is the day of his arrest, in effect. 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. You forwarded an email -- this is page 1, please, 18 Paul -- saying, he is arrested: 19 "Could you have a look below ... I see the sense in 20 the suggestion, but it was inappropriate for them to 21 make it in that context. The time to raise it was the 22 strategy meeting. I don't want to be churlish though, 23 but neither do I want to set a precedent of supervised 24 restriction as a substitute for suspension." 25 What then happened?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 A. The strategy meeting had happened the day before and the 2 police were there. So I was fairly confident that what 3 we weren't getting was mixed messages, certainly not 4 from the officers who were at the strategy meeting, but 5 I was getting a report of a mixed message. 6 Q. Yes. 7 A. So, essentially, I think the next email, so I'd sent 8 that email to the LADO, to Richard Munro, again. 9 I deliberately sent it as a kind of fairly neutral 10 language. I didn't want to -- I thought the LADO's 11 reply would carry more weight if there had been no 12 obvious attempt from me to steer it in one direction or 13 the other. I knew full well what Richard would say, but 14 I thought I'd let him say it, which he clearly did. 15 Q. Which is, there should be suspension? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Can I just identify, we have talked with quite a number 18 of other witnesses about restricted supervision and how 19 effective it can be. Does it really work? Can it 20 really work? Have you had any situations where 21 restricted supervision has worked or is, by far and 22 away, the best thing to do just to suspend? 23 A. Yeah, I mean, in this context, my view is suspension, 24 certainly. I mean, obviously we have just talked about 25 the attendance agreement, but the attendance agreement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 But, yes, there was pastoral support offered for 2 Mr Howarth and for his family, initially from the 3 archdeacon and then I believe from a retired bishop and 4 his wife living in East Sussex. I should say that the 5 same complaint was made from the supporters of 6 Mr Howarth, that we hadn't been supportive either. As 7 I say in my statement, in my experience, it doesn't 8 matter how much support you offer to the accused in that 9 situation, it's always interpreted as unsupportive 10 unless it's wholly accepting their -- 11 Q. Their innocence? 12 A. Yes. And there is simply no way that you can get around 13 that. 14 Q. Apologies for putting words in your mouth there. 15 A. No, but that is exactly right. 16 Q. Can I identify, to what extent did the police keep you 17 and the diocese informed about the progress of 18 the investigation? 19 A. Regular updates from the officer in the case to myself. 20 The first I've learned about the correspondence 21 between -- the feelings of the survivor in that case, 22 I certainly should say -- we may come on to this, but 23 the local feeling, both in the church and in the 24 village, or the town, the local feeling was very, very 25 much behind Mr Howarth, very much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 would be, for instance, with Wilkie Denford in another 2 church. We wouldn't have put the attendance agreement 3 in place at the church he was ministering in. It was, 4 you know, 10 miles away. I think if you are removing 5 someone partially within a church where they're seen as 6 a leader, you are just never going to be able to 7 enact -- or to be confident that restrictions could be 8 put in place. 9 Q. Can you describe what pastoral support was provided to 10 Mr Howarth and his family through this process? Because 11 I think certainly we haven't heard, but we will read, 12 the evidence of one of the victims and survivors who 13 I think was very unhappy because it was felt that the 14 church was kind of siding with Reverend Howarth and 15 I think a vicar was there during the course of the trial 16 and was sitting next to the family. I think it was felt 17 that there was lots of support for him but not very much 18 support for them? 19 A. Well, you will have a letter from the officer in the 20 case, DC Amy Green, which suggests there was an awful 21 lot of support, and actually -- for the two survivors -- 22 the two members of my team, Gemma Wordsworth and 23 Morag Keane provided that support. The support was 24 offered and then taken up later, but it was offered 25 throughout.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 Q. Now, you deal with this at paragraphs 190 through to 198 2 of your witness statement. In effect, what you say is 3 that sort of Mr Howarth, I believe, was kind of much 4 loved, and what you say at paragraph 192, all of whom 5 agreed that by far the majority of the congregation 6 believed Mr Howarth to be the victim of a miscarriage of 7 justice. What did you do to try to manage parish upset? 8 I understand you undertook two meetings; is that 9 correct? 10 A. We did. If I may -- if I could backtrack just ever so 11 slightly, I'm just reacting slightly to what that victim 12 has said to the inquiry and I guess I'm reflecting, 13 because I know -- actually, this isn't defensive, I just 14 know that my team provided a huge amount of support to 15 both of those victims, but it's interesting to reflect 16 on their perception of how the church reacted. Without 17 going into too much detail, they would have been very 18 mindful of the local Uckfield reaction and it is 19 interesting -- 20 Q. Their major concern within the context of their witness 21 statement is, firstly, about the fact Mr Howarth had 22 visible support during the trial, but, secondly, they 23 felt ostracised within Uckfield because of the fact that 24 they'd had the temerity to make these allegations? 25 A. I'm almost reflecting here as you're saying that on how</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 much the very considerable support offered from within 2 a safeguarding team is diluted based on that reaction. 3 I'm just reflecting as I'm learning that, really. 4 But, yes, we became aware even after the 5 conviction -- and really from meetings with leaders in 6 the local church, that by far the majority of 7 the congregation -- certainly what we were being told -- 8 believed that the complainants were ne'er do wells and 9 that Mr Howarth had been the victim of a miscarriage of 10 justice. So our concern there, the two victims -- 11 I don't think they lived locally anymore, from what 12 I understand. So we were not so much managing what -- 13 the reaction they were experiencing, because they'd 14 moved away, but concerned that this church needed to 15 work that issue through, because what if there was 16 another allegation about someone else? We needed to 17 address those issues locally. 18 Q. So what did you do? 19 A. We put -- we had two meetings, with my team and actually 20 the archdeacon, Philip Jones. We made it clear that 21 these meetings were for people in the congregation, but 22 people were welcome to come. 90 people came to the 23 first meeting. We essentially -- we followed 24 a mediation format, although deliberately never called 25 that --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 church's problem to solve, but in a way, the church 2 needs to be part of the solution. How can we move on 3 from those kinds of attitudes and approaches being 4 prevalent or prevalent enough so that the individuals 5 concerned have to move away, in effect, which is what 6 they would say? 7 A. Yes, they did say that. It certainly has to be 8 addressed by training. We address this an awful lot 9 during training. 10 I was fascinated and fairly transfixed to hear 11 Dr Macfarlane's evidence a couple of days ago, 12 particularly in the last five minutes when she talked 13 about the very small percentage of allegations which are 14 false, realistically, and that's made clear in the 15 research. So I think that's something we talk about 16 a lot in our training. 17 I think we need to -- it needs to be maintained 18 through consistent good practice. But I think it's 19 a very -- it's a very universal reaction in a lot of 20 contexts, especially with respected leaders. 21 Q. Yes. I think you come on to identify -- we will maybe 22 talk about this when we're dealing with the case of 23 Bishop George Bell -- of the fact that there's been some 24 recent research done about the way that individuals 25 react to clergy being arrested for sexual abuse?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 Q. What do you mean by "a mediation format"? 2 A. I'm a trained mediator. So mediation has a particular 3 process which starts with what's called uninterrupted 4 space. So you give time for people to air what they 5 want to say. So we gave the whole -- all of the 90 6 people there time to say what they felt, and we 7 clustered their reactions around sort of four or five 8 different themes and we then addressed each of those 9 themes in turn, and the themes were very much, "This is 10 a miscarriage of justice". I can't remember exactly, 11 but it would have been that, it would have been, "These 12 victims are known to be, you know, not that trustworthy. 13 There wasn't any pastoral support", that kind of thing. 14 Q. How common is the reaction when clergy are arrested or 15 when individuals associated with the church are 16 arrested, how common is the reaction that happened in 17 Uckfield? How common is that in other cases? 18 A. I have only seen one other reaction that was probably 19 that clear and that was with regards to Gordon Rideout. 20 Although -- it's certainly not a rare reaction, but I've 21 seen two quite intense versions of that reaction and 22 those were those two cases. 23 Q. What can the church do to try to manage? This happened 24 in 2014/2015. This wasn't 20 years ago. What can the 25 church -- I mean, I know it isn't necessarily the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 A. Perhaps this might be the time to -- why I've got my 2 iPad with me. 3 Q. Yes. 4 A. This is a quote -- this is actually from within our 5 training, our C2 training presentation, and it is 6 a quote from -- that we use from a chap called 7 Nigel Speight, Dr Nigel Speight who is a consultant 8 paediatrician writing in the British Medical Journal in 9 1989. The article was about the identification of 10 non-accidental injuries, so -- 11 Q. I think I know the quotation. 12 A. You may know the quote, it is a well-known quote: 13 "The biggest barrier to diagnosis is the existence 14 of emotional blocks in the minds of professionals." 15 Now, this is diagnosis, because it is the British 16 Medical Journal, but it transposes: 17 "These can be so powerful that they prevent the 18 diagnosis even being considered in quite obvious cases. 19 All those working with children should be warned that 20 their overwhelming impulse on confronting their first 21 case will be to want to cover it up." 22 So I think that there is a lot of wisdom in that in 23 the sense that all of us actually should be aware that 24 this can be our reaction. I think that reaction is 25 heightened when the person against whom the allegation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 180</p>

1 **is made is a respected leader within an organisation**
 2 **that we gain our identity from and I have co-authored an**
 3 **article about exactly that, but I think the reaction can**
 4 **be universal.**
 5 **The willingness to avert our gaze from what might be**
 6 **happening is well known within the sector.**
 7 Q. Can I ask, there was also an online petition which
 8 I understand was a Facebook group or something like
 9 that. What did you try and do to manage that situation?
 10 **A. By the time we learned about it, it had already been**
 11 **shut down because there was some particularly abusive**
 12 **language in one of the posts.**
 13 **It was --**
 14 Q. You weren't able to shut it down, though?
 15 **A. No, no, it was already shut down. But, no, we weren't.**
 16 **It wasn't on a church forum. Actually, from the**
 17 **comments, most of the people seemed to know Mr Howarth**
 18 **from the village, from the town, from the school, rather**
 19 **than from the church. I simply raised it with the**
 20 **police immediately with the officer in the case who was**
 21 **already aware of it.**
 22 Q. Can we put up, please, Paul, ACE022933. Behind tab B36,
 23 chair and panel. It is a draft statement for
 24 Archdeacon Philip Jones to read in the congregation in
 25 Uckfield. Can I identify, did you draft this?

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1 **A. Yes, I did.**
 2 Q. What was Archdeacon Philip Jones' task in this respect?
 3 He's briefly summarised what you have said. This was
 4 drafted and in fact given -- so you sent the archdeacon
 5 down to church, basically, the Sunday before the trial?
 6 **A. This was one of the actions that arose from a sort of**
 7 **a community impact meeting that we'd had with the**
 8 **diocesan safeguarding team, the police, the LADO,**
 9 **East Sussex County Council, communications officers, our**
 10 **communications officers, the school and the church.**
 11 **This very much arose from knowledge of things like that**
 12 **petition that you just mentioned. We were keenly aware.**
 13 **This was just before the trial. We were keenly aware**
 14 **that --**
 15 Q. Could we go on to the next page, please, Paul?
 16 **A. -- this was a very, very popular person indeed. But we**
 17 **were also aware that many within the town and perhaps --**
 18 **certainly within the church knew, or thought they knew,**
 19 **who the complainants were, and we were aware that there**
 20 **could just be a lot of very damaging chatter, you know,**
 21 **on the high street, really, and we couldn't control**
 22 **that, but we could speak to the people within the church**
 23 **and at least say to them, "Don't get involved in that".**
 24 Q. In fact, you say, at the top of page 2:
 25 "It is imperative that we avoid making any negative

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1 or disparaging comments about the complainants in this
 2 case ... if they see us dismiss complainants out of
 3 hand, then they may decide that our churches will not be
 4 safe places where they can be believed or helped."
 5 **A. That's the point we made in a lot of these cases, where**
 6 **we have had high-profile arrests or charges. We have**
 7 **effectively said, "Look, of course this matter needs to**
 8 **be tested at trial, and we are not there yet, but if we**
 9 **are starting to make comments about Father So and So is**
 10 **innocent and this is all lies, you will have unknown**
 11 **victims -- in other words, victims that you don't**
 12 **know -- in your congregation and they will be watching**
 13 **very carefully what we say and, if they hear us saying,**
 14 **"Well, of course Father So and So is innocent", they**
 15 **will decide very quickly that this isn't a safe place**
 16 **for them, this church isn't a safe place for them to**
 17 **disclose.**
 18 **So we have managed -- we have found -- well, we hope**
 19 **we have found a way of staying neutral about the**
 20 **specific case because it's not yet gone to trial, but**
 21 **still saying our comments in public need to be very**
 22 **careful because there will be other victims in the**
 23 **congregation.**
 24 Q. Can I ask you now -- I think begin to ask you -- about
 25 the situation in respect of Bishop George Bell. You

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1 have provided a -- you provided some details about it
 2 within your first witness statement. But you also have
 3 a supplementary statement in which you comment upon your
 4 views about the report of Lord Carlile of Berriew.
 5 I want to mainly take you, because I will say again, as
 6 I have said several times, we are not interested in the
 7 truth or otherwise of the allegations concerning
 8 George Bell. I also understand from information which
 9 has been -- which is in the public domain that there is
 10 another allegation. I will not be asking you about
 11 that.
 12 So if I can just identify, what happened in respect
 13 of the George Bell case is that there was a core group,
 14 you were part of that core group, consistently, which
 15 was set up. What was your understanding of the purpose
 16 of the core group?
 17 **A. If I may, I should say that the core group first met**
 18 **13 months after the first email from Carol came in. She**
 19 **emailed initially to Lambeth Palace April 2013. That**
 20 **was forwarded to me.**
 21 Q. I think you set out -- I don't think we need to turn it
 22 up, but paragraphs 392 to 398, chair and panel, of
 23 the statement deal with what steps were taken.
 24 **A. Exactly. So the steps were essentially to offer support**
 25 **and Gemma Wordworth was the person who was doing all of**

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<p>1 that throughout the rest of 2013, and actually 2 throughout. 3 A civil claim was entered in I believe it was early 4 2014 and the core group was essentially -- I think it 5 met in early -- in May 2014, essentially to respond to 6 the matters arising from that. I don't think we 7 initially called it a core group, because practice 8 guidance was still emerging at the time. So it was 9 effectively a meeting between key diocesan and national 10 personnel. It became called the core group because that 11 was the term in the emerging guidance. But I don't 12 think it was initially called one.</p> <p>13 Q. At paragraph 6 of your supplementary witness statement, 14 which is, just for the record, ACE0262843_003, chair and 15 panel, of that document, you refer to three documents: 16 a briefing note; a George Bell review timeline of key 17 decisions; and a safeguarding timeline overview.</p> <p>18 Now, if we could get the first one of those up, 19 ACE026290. So this is the briefing note that took place 20 prior to the first core group meeting, which, as you 21 have said, wasn't actually called that, in May 2014, and 22 this was just to inform everybody about the nature of 23 the case?</p> <p>24 A. Yeah, myself and Gemma wrote this to make sure that 25 everyone in the meeting had an appraisal of where</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 A. Opposite that is a cabinet of largely administrative 2 files that are nothing to do with personnel; maybe to do 3 with a particular trust or a particular building. Upon 4 receiving Carol's letter, Gemma and I went to the palace 5 to see if we could find, well, anything on George Bell, 6 and so we happened to look in that cabinet, not really 7 expecting --</p> <p>8 Q. Is that the "naughty boys' cabinet" or the trust deed 9 cabinet, so to speak?</p> <p>10 A. No, I would have already seen it if it was in the 11 disciplinary cabinet, because I'd gone through that when 12 I first arrived --</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 A. -- for obvious reasons. The administrative cabinet, we 15 found just a loose manila folder of -- that contained 16 almost all correspondence about George Bell. It was 17 things to do with the 50th anniversary of his death. It 18 was largely people writing in, "I was visiting the 19 cathedral. I was thinking about George Bell and his 20 work in World War II", et cetera, et cetera. It was 21 that kind of material. We really therefore had no 22 expectation of finding anything, and then we did find 23 this letter from 1995 and the associated material.</p> <p>24 Q. So this briefing note was given to everyone. Could we 25 just look briefly through the briefing note. Can you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 things -- where we were at. 2 Q. Just to -- I mean, I think everyone is familiar probably 3 in this room with the allegations in respect of 4 George Bell, but there was an allegation made by Carol 5 of inappropriate touching in the late 1950s. It would 6 appear that the complainant wrote to Eric Kemp in 1995. 7 That letter was on a file. That was then not 8 discovered. Then she then wrote again in 2013 to 9 Lambeth Palace and it was then discovered that the 10 letter had taken place in 1995 and that matters then 11 progressed from there. But it does appear that the file 12 had not been subject to the 2008/2009 past cases review.</p> <p>13 A. That's so. 14 Q. I understand there is some reference in one of 15 the documents -- and I'm afraid I couldn't find it -- 16 that somebody called it -- it was found in the "naughty 17 boys' cabinet" or something like that. What is that?</p> <p>18 A. Gosh, that's an unfortunate phrase, isn't it? 19 Q. Yes. 20 A. In the corridor in Bishop's Palace, there is a cabinet 21 to the right which is effectively closed disciplinary 22 cases, so that's -- someone has called it the "naughty 23 boys' cabinet". So that's what's in there. 24 Q. I understand the reference, if we want to see it, is 25 ANG000030_017 to 018. Thank you, Mr Greenwood.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 just talk us through it. I don't think you need to talk 2 us through -- could we go to -- is it just one page or 3 does it go over to the next page? It goes over to the 4 next page. Right. It sets out basically the 5 chronology, what's happened when and the fact that there 6 have been some difficulties. Is that right?</p> <p>7 A. Yes. 8 Q. There is then a timeline of key decisions. So this was 9 prepared in advance of a review meeting held 10 in June 2016. This is ACE026297, tab 50. 11 I'm assuming that this is prepared for 12 Lord Carlile's benefit?</p> <p>13 A. Not -- sorry, not at that point, no. This was the 14 meeting at Lambeth Palace, as far as I remember, this 15 was the meeting at which it was decided to commission 16 a review which then was the review that Lord Carlile was 17 asked to do. So this was that meeting. He hadn't been 18 asked.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you mind, Paul, if we just switch forward slightly on 20 this. There is more than one page. In other words, 21 it's a chronology which says what happened when. So 22 you've got "Email" and then "Detail and comment" and 23 then where it comes from; is that right?</p> <p>24 A. Exactly. 25 Q. Thank you very much. The third document is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

<p>1 "Safeguarding timeline overview", which is, again, 2 another summary also produced for the June 2016 meeting. 3 That's ACE026288, please, Paul. Again, what's this? 4 A. I think it -- I believe it was a summary of the previous 5 documents. 6 Q. So this is kind of, "We know that some people are not 7 going to read the entire document, so I'm going to give 8 you the headlines"? 9 A. Essentially. 10 Q. An executive summary, I believe is the word that's 11 usually used? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. That's fine. Can you describe the approach that you 14 considered what then became known as the core group were 15 taking when they were looking at the situation in 16 respect of Carol? I mean, you detail this in your 17 submission to Lord Carlile in July 2017, but it would be 18 useful to have that precised, really? 19 A. Yes, I'm trying to think how to precis it. The approach 20 of the core group was -- it was effectively to -- or the 21 approach of the meeting that became the core group was 22 effectively to decide how to respond to the perhaps 23 fairly unique situation we were presented with. As 24 I said, by that point, support to Carol had been offered 25 for over a year. She'd spoken to the police. There'd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 from around Peter Ball that would have also been 2 uninsured. So I think -- as I said, I wasn't involved 3 in any of those conversations, but there was an 4 awareness that any decision made around the George Bell 5 claim, there was a wider context. 6 Q. The approach that you have taken may -- some people may 7 perceive it as a "believe anyone" approach. What were 8 you trying to do, or what do you think the core group 9 was trying to do? Because obviously Lord Carlile 10 thought that you were approaching it in the same way as 11 you would approach any other civil claim, so you were 12 trying to make a decision, you know, "Should this 13 individual be believed on the balance of probabilities 14 or shouldn't they?" Was that the aim and objective of 15 the core group? 16 A. If I could just take those points in order? 17 Q. Of course. 18 A. In terms of the "believe anyone" approach, that's 19 actually never been the approach that -- I can only 20 speak for my team, but that -- said in those terms, it 21 sounds quite pejorative. It sounds quite -- 22 Q. That's -- 23 A. No, no -- 24 Q. I'm saying it to challenge you. 25 A. I understand.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 191</p>
<p>1 been some counselling provided, and so on and so forth. 2 But I suppose it was the situation that really arose 3 from the receipt of the civil claim, and it was -- we 4 were very mindful of -- 5 Q. Can I just check. In fact, the civil claim -- one of 6 the difficulties with the Carol situation is the fact 7 that the church is not insured in claims against 8 bishops -- well, I think it probably is now but it 9 wouldn't have been at the relevant time that the 10 insurance arose? 11 A. Yes, and that was, I think, one of the prompts for that 12 meeting. I think that for me that is an essential part 13 of understanding what happened here, that we were in 14 a very unusual situation of a civil claim coming in that 15 was uninsured, and, therefore, it wasn't clear to whom 16 that effectively -- to whom the liability belonged. 17 I should say, as I think I allude to in my 18 supplementary statement, there was a backdrop here, and 19 the backdrop was that we would also -- well, the church, 20 that any civil claim with regards to Peter Ball would 21 have been in that same position. 22 I wasn't involved in any of the discussions around 23 this, but I was aware that discussions were taking 24 place, that there could have been a very -- 25 a potentially large number of civil claims coming in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 190</p>	<p>1 Q. Because that's what critics of it would say? 2 A. Exactly. So I understand the caricaturing of that kind 3 of approach is a sort of naive, believing anyone no 4 matter how fantastical the allegation, that has never 5 been the approach of my team. But the approach of my 6 team has very much been a willingness to take very 7 seriously anyone making an allegation and to offer the 8 support that would be offered essentially if the 9 allegation is true. So it's not assessing the 10 allegation before support is offered, but it's 11 essentially offering the support on the assumption that 12 it could be true. I'm probably articulating that quite 13 badly, but that's the approach of my team. 14 In terms of, by the time the core group met, we were 15 aware that the civil claim would have to be assessed, so 16 almost by definition, the core group didn't meet with 17 that kind of "believe anyone" approach because it was 18 meeting to start thinking about how were we going to 19 assess that claim. 20 Q. But was it meant to be an investigative process, kind of 21 a way of saying -- or was it -- I mean, please explain? 22 A. Yes. The first meeting, May 2014, was essentially, how 23 are we going to proceed? The second meeting, I believe 24 it was in July 2014, was -- the advice received from the 25 lawyer who -- the lawyer who was acting in the civil</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 192</p>

1	claim, although by that point it wasn't entirely clear	1	
2	who was instructing her because of this concern about	2	MR COLIN PERKINS (sworn)82
3	with whom did liability rest, but the lawyer acting in	3	
4	that situation effectively -- we were quite soon getting	4	Examination by MS SCOLDING82
5	into conversations about, should there be some kind of	5	
6	publicity, should there be some kind of, you know,	6	
7	acknowledgement that this claim or this allegation has	7	
8	been made against this huge historical figure, and her	8	
9	advice was very clear: you don't have much ability to	9	
10	test the claim, because it's so old, but you do have --	10	
11	sorry, to test the allegation, but you do have a civil	11	
12	claim, so if you were to go public in any way before you	12	
13	have tested that claim, before that claim is settled or	13	
14	resolved, then you will be open to, you know, exactly	14	
15	the kind of allegation of, "Well, you just -- you know,	15	
16	you jumped the gun". So her advice was, allow this	16	
17	claim to run, effectively; let's do all of the things we	17	
18	normally do in civil claims, instruct psychiatrists and	18	
19	verify what can be verified and so on and so forth.	19	
20	Once that is done, if the claim is settled, then	20	
21	consider what to do about publicity.	21	
22	So that's what happened. Really, looking back, we'd	22	
23	all acknowledge that I think this was where the problem	23	
24	arose, that at that point, very unusually indeed, the	24	
25	core group became quite intricately involved with the	25	
	Page 193		Page 195

1	civil claim and the response to the civil claim --		
2	perhaps not quite that they became synonymous, but it		
3	was getting there. I think we'd all look back and say		
4	that should have been held much more separately.		
5	MS SCOLDING: I don't know whether, chair, this might be an		
6	appropriate moment to break, because I'm about to start		
7	on the response to the Carlile Report which I think will		
8	take us past a reasonable hour. So I don't know whether		
9	now might be an appropriate moment?		
10	THE CHAIR: Yes, thank you very much. Thank you very much,		
11	Mr Perkins.		
12	MS SCOLDING: Don't forget, Mr Perkins, you are under oath.		
13	Thank you.		
14	(4.24 pm)		
15	(The hearing was adjourned until		
16	Friday, 16 March 2018 at 10.00 am)		
17			
18			
19	I N D E X		
20			
21	BISHOP NICHOLAS READE (sworn)1		
22			
23	Examination by MS MCNEILL1		
24			
25	Questions by THE PANEL79		
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