

**STATEMENT of Ms Adele Bebb, Assistant Director of Education,
ROCHDALE, M.B.C.**

1. I am an Assistant Director in the Education Department of Rochdale MBC with responsibility for 5 major areas of work - one of which is staffing matters. I also hold the brief for Equal Opportunities within the Education Service. I have worked for RMBC for almost 2 years. Prior to this I worked for Stockport and Salford Local Education Authorities in the areas of Women's Education and Training, Community Education, disability and positive action and support for ethnic minorities.
2. Ms O'Brien was employed by the Council until 20th December 1992 as a residential Child Care Officer at Knowl View School, a residential special school for severely emotionally and behaviourally disturbed boys between the ages of 8 and 16. Between 2nd and 10th July 1992 Ms O'Brien and four other members of the school's staff - Mr R Sim (teacher-in-charge), Ms P Moore, Mr C Leech and Mrs J Worrall took a party of eight pupils, boys aged 13-14, on a residential educational visit to Brittany, France, as part of an introduction to a modern foreign languages course. During the visit a very serious incident took place on the Saturday evening involving 4 members of staff, which led to a total breakdown of working relationships. One member of staff, Mrs Worrall, subsequently telephoned the Headteacher to report the situation and the Deputy Headteacher was sent out to France to take charge of the party.