

Irrelevant

RO-F4

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Dennis Leckey

18.21. Searches of the Council's Human Resources database reveal that Dennis Leckey (DOE [DPA]), was employed as a Senior Education Welfare Officer at Rochdale Council between 6th November 1989 and 10th September 1997. The system records his national insurance number as [DPA] and his last known address as [DPA] ([Exhibit GH383](#))

18.22. A disciplinary file in respect of Dennis Leckey has also been located which includes a 102 page internal report. Further details about this report are given below. Prior to his employment with Rochdale, Dennis Leckey was employed by Tameside Council between 1978 and 1989. ([Exhibit GH382](#))

18.23. The information in this section of the statement is sourced from the disciplinary file, internal report and records contained within boxes 1-36 and 44 relating to Knowl View Residential School. It is unclear why material relating to Dennis Leckey is held within boxes of records relating to Knowl View Residential School as he was not a staff member at the school although it is understood that he did deal with some pupils who attended the school.

- 18.24. A chronology within the internal report provides an overview of Dennis Leckey's employment history (**Exhibit GH384**). According to this, the first issue of concern arose on 30th March 1992 when Dennis Leckey wrote and had published a newspaper article criticising a school where he was based. (**Exhibit GH384**)
- 18.25. A copy of the newspaper article has been found and names the school as Heywood Community High and the Head Teacher as Jim Bleakley. Dennis Leckey's complaint was that the Head Teacher had expelled nine pupils in six months for poor attendance. According to the article Dennis Leckey had been involved in a project with the school using social work techniques such as counselling to improve attendance. (**Exhibit GH386**)
- 18.26. The Head Teacher, Jim Bleakley, was interviewed and when asked to comment on his relationship with Dennis Leckey is noted as saying that *'He worked outside the ethos of the school, choosing to work with parents and pupils rather than working with them and the school'*. (**Exhibit GH387**)
- 18.27. The Head Teacher, Jim Bleakley, made a formal complaint which was upheld and Dennis Leckey received a first and final warning for professional misconduct. (**Exhibit GH388**)
- 18.28. At the time investigations revealed that Dennis Leckey had written letters to a number of pupils seeking their support in relation to the complaint. A copy of one such letter to **RO-B136** appears within the records (**Exhibit GH389**). The mother of **RO-B136** responded to Dennis Leckey and appears to have referred the letter to the Head Teacher who in turn provided a copy to Diana Cavanagh, Director of Education. (**Exhibit GH390**)
- 18.29. A formal complaint was made by Christine Crewe, Senior Education Welfare Officer, regarding Dennis Leckey's conduct in writing to the pupils, she writes *'In my opinion it is most unprofessional to write to young people directly in this way'* (**Exhibit GH391**)
- 18.30. A disciplinary hearing took place on 27th March 1992 at which the allegations of professional misconduct were put to Dennis Leckey, the letter relating to this is incomplete. (**Exhibit GH392**) A letter dated 14th April 1992 to the Head Teacher, Jim Bleakley, confirms that Dennis Leckey had been disciplined and issued with instructions regarding his future conduct. (**Exhibit GH393**)
- 18.31. It appears that Dennis Leckey appealed the disciplinary decision. This is confirmed in a letter dated 14th October 1992 from Mark Godfrey, Branch Secretary for National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO), where it is also suggested that a way to resolve the situation would be to take the warning off Dennis Leckey's file. (**Exhibit GH394**) The Chief Executive, John Pierce, responded to say that he did not agree that this would be an appropriate course of action. (**Exhibit GH395**)
- 18.32. On 30th November 1992 Dennis Leckey moved from his position as a Senior Education Welfare Officer to a vacant post of Education Welfare Officer. This was at his own request. (**Exhibit GH396**)