

from

Mr.T.Smedley, Retford Sub Office

MR.Ken Rigby  
Acting Principal Officer in Charge  
Beechwood Observation and Assessment Centre,  
379 Woodborough Road,  
NOTTINGHAM



please ask for  
int tel Mr.Smedley  
date DPA  
your ref 14.4.87  
our ref DPA

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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

NO-A316

As you will know by now NO-A316 is placed in lodgings with a Mrs.Newton of  
DPA

On Friday 10th April, 1987 Mr.Donohoe, NO-A316's Social Worker, visited NO-A316 at her lodgings and embarked upon a conversation with NO-A316 and Mrs.Newton during which NO-A316 made certain accusations about some members of staff at Beechwood. Mr.Donohoe reported his conversation to me and I wish to convey the gist of our conversation to you. This is only for information and action if you feel it necessary.

The first incident I wish to describe occurred, according to NO-A316 three or four days before the 11th February, 1987. This of course was the date of the Court hearing at which NO-A316's son was made subject to a Care Order with leave to place him for adoption. NO-A316 states that your member of staff involved was a NO-F15 (I am not sure of the spelling of NO-F15's name but you will be able to identify him). NO-A316 alleges that on the day in question she was in the kitchen and was asked to perform some task or other by NO-F15. She apparently refused to do this and NO-A316 states NO-F15 became so angry that he took her by the throat with his hands. On the next day NO-A316 began to experience some pain in her neck and a rash appeared on her face. Consequently, she attended the G.P.'s surgery, ostensibly because of the rash. Apparently she was seen by the doctor who attends Beechwood. (Dr. Darleston I presume). According to NO-A316 the doctor commented upon the marks on her neck and further remarked that they appeared to be strangulation marks. When Matt Donohoe indicated that he would have to discuss what she had said with his Senior, and then asked her if she stood by what she had already disclosed, NO-A316 had said "drop it." Mrs.Newton however had advised NO-A316 to talk further with Mr.Donohoe because "other children may suffer" or words to that effect. Mr.Donohoe asked NO-A316 if she had told him the truth and NO-A316 confirmed that she had. She implied that she would stand by what she had said if questioned by someone else.

Their conversation continued and NO-A316 went on then to inform Mr.Donohoe that staff were always "getting at the kids" at Beechwood. She recalled and described another incident involving a member of staff named NO-F8 and NO-F134. She could not remember exactly when this occurred but apparently in the toilets during an altercation, NO-F8 and NO-F134 each took one of her hands and bent her fingers back until they became very painful.

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Mr. Donohoe asked [NO-A316] why she had waited until now before making such statements, and why she had not informed him earlier? [NO-A316] informed him that at the time of the incident with [NO-F15] in the kitchen she had said that she intended to contact her social worker. However, she claims that she was told by [NO-F15] that although she was quite at liberty to do this, no-one would believe her. This it seemed supported her long held view that all social workers, whether residential or field, were all colleagues together and would close ranks when necessary. Consequently, she felt that it would do no good to discuss that particular incident or any other with Mr. Donohoe.

[NO-A316] did state that nothing untoward ever happened at Beechwood when either yourself or Jim Fenwick were on duty.

I am sorry to inflict upon you yet another staff related problem. Neither Mr. Donohoe or I wish to make any judgements about what [NO-A316] has divulged but know that you will understand our position. We are bound to take up [NO-A316]'s complaints with you and we need to be mindful too that she made them in the presence of a member of the public. I am sure you will speak to the members of staff involved in an endeavour to establish the veracity or otherwise of what [NO-A316] is alleging. I wondered also if your relationship with Dr. Darleston would enable you to seek his co-operation in establishing the truth in terms of at least one aspect of [NO-A316]'s statement.

I look forward to hearing from you and in the meantime we will co-operate with you in any way necessary in resolving this matter.

**DPA**

Senior Social Worker