

Mr. M.J. Rabarts,
Room 4/45,
Department of Education and
Science,
Elizabeth House,
York Road,
London. SE1

CH/DW/CMC

Mr. Watkins
3915

23rd March 1987

Personal & Confidential

Dear Mr. Rabarts,

Mr. Gerry Jacobs

DPA

I am writing to you in response to the telephone call from Mr. Alan Curry on 20th March. Mr. Jacobs was employed within the Nottinghamshire Social Services Department at Amberdale Observation and Assessment Centre. This is a residential establishment for children aged between 10 and 17. Mr. Jacobs was an Assistant Principal at Amberdale and was responsible for the Secure Unit which provides for up to eight children.

He was appointed Assistant Principal in May 1982, having previously been employed for about eight years by the Social Services Department of Leicestershire County Council. He worked for them as a social worker and later as a senior social worker. He has been a qualified social worker for 12 years.

Mr. Jacobs developed a physical sexual relationship with a girl in the care of this Authority and who was resident in the Secure Unit at Amberdale. The relationship involved mutual fondling and masturbation and a number of incidents, both within and outside Amberdale occurred. Perhaps I should add that as part of the care of the children they become involved in mobility programmes which enable them to attend activities outside Amberdale.

On 17th June, 1986 the relationship was reported to a Residential Social Worker and the same evening Mr. Jacobs was asked to leave Amberdale. The following day he was formally suspended and on 25th June, 1986 he was dismissed. Mr. Jacobs was later prosecuted for the offences before Nottingham Crown Court and was sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Mr. Jacobs' relationship with the girl did not include sexual intercourse. Before the incidents he had not been subject to any disciplinary action by this Authority. Furthermore, before the incidents he had been regarded as a competent and valued member of staff. Indeed, his work was often seen as providing an example to others. The inquiry into the incidents revealed that Mr. Jacobs appeared to have been under stress and his colleagues

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unanimously took the view that his behaviour was totally out of character.

Throughout the disciplinary process Mr. Jacobs accepted that he had behaved wrongly and at no time attempted, in any way, to throw blame on the girl. He did make the point that the Secure Unit was under considerable pressure and, in his opinion, understaffed.

Mr. Jacobs' behaviour led to swift action by this Department which led to his dismissal. However, I think you will have gathered from this letter that many of us were left with very great regret that Mr. Jacobs had, for whatever reasons, ruined a good reputation and a promising career.

I hope this information is helpful to you. I need scarcely say that, as agreed with Mr. Curry, I provide it in the strictest confidence.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Director