

<p>1 Friday, 8 March 2019</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Day 5 of</p> <p>4 this public hearing. Mr Altman?</p> <p>5 MR ALTMAN: Mr Henderson.</p> <p>6 Witness statements adduced by MR HENDERSON</p> <p>7 MR HENDERSON: Good morning, chair. Chair and panel, you</p> <p>8 will recall that yesterday afternoon we heard evidence</p> <p>9 from Commander Jerome in relation to the series of</p> <p>10 allegations that have been made about Elm Guest House.</p> <p>11 We just wanted to invite you to formally adduce some</p> <p>12 press articles and a clip from a documentary, a Panorama</p> <p>13 documentary, that dealt with those allegations. There</p> <p>14 is no need to bring these up on screen, but they will be</p> <p>15 on the inquiry website. They are INQ004082; INQ004074;</p> <p>16 INQ004093; and INQ004095.</p> <p>17 Statement of MR CLIVE BLACKFORD (read)</p> <p>18 MR HENDERSON: The other document, chair, which I would</p> <p>19 invite you to adduce I will ask to be brought up on</p> <p>20 screen. It is the statement of Mr Clive Blackford, and</p> <p>21 if I could invite the Relativity operator to bring up</p> <p>22 INQ003920. Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 Mr Blackford is a former Metropolitan Police Service</p> <p>24 Special Branch and Counter-terrorism Command officer.</p> <p>25 He was then a member of the Metropolitan Police staff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 until 2016, at the National Counter-terrorism Policing</p> <p>2 Headquarters. He was tasked with searching both the</p> <p>3 Metropolitan Police Special Branch and the</p> <p>4 Greater Manchester Police Special Branch records --</p> <p>5 that's both electronic and hard copy records -- for any</p> <p>6 documents relating to a search of the offices of</p> <p>7 Mr Donald Hale or the Bury Messenger newspaper in or</p> <p>8 around 1984.</p> <p>9 Chair, you will appreciate that that is going to be</p> <p>10 very relevant to the evidence that you are about to hear</p> <p>11 from Mr Hale.</p> <p>12 Mr Blackford's witness statement indicates that</p> <p>13 nothing has been found in either of those searches in</p> <p>14 the records. However, if we could turn, please, to</p> <p>15 page 2, and zoom in on paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6, he</p> <p>16 comments here on what the significance of that is, and</p> <p>17 I wonder if I can just read this into the transcript.</p> <p>18 Mr Blackford says this:</p> <p>19 "I have been asked to comment on the significance of</p> <p>20 there being no trace of the search ..."</p> <p>21 That's the search Mr Hale refers to:</p> <p>22 "... in either the Metropolitan Police</p> <p>23 Special Branch or the Greater Manchester Police</p> <p>24 Special Branch records. The fact that there was no</p> <p>25 trace of the search in records does not necessarily mean</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>
<p>1 that the search did not take place. Given the passage</p> <p>2 of time, there are a number of possibilities which might</p> <p>3 arise there therefrom, and I set these out but not in</p> <p>4 any order of preference.</p> <p>5 "Firstly, the search took place, but details of it</p> <p>6 were never passed to the Metropolitan Police</p> <p>7 Special Branch, for whatever reason, and were only</p> <p>8 recorded in the Greater Manchester Police Special Branch</p> <p>9 records. Secondly, the search took place and, for</p> <p>10 whatever reason, details were passed to the</p> <p>11 Metropolitan Police Special Branch, but those details</p> <p>12 have subsequently been deleted or weeded out in</p> <p>13 accordance with the then record-keeping guidelines in</p> <p>14 force. Thirdly, details were recorded in the GMP</p> <p>15 Special Branch records but, again, have been weeded out</p> <p>16 or deleted in accordance with the then record-keeping</p> <p>17 guidelines in force. Fourthly, the search by</p> <p>18 Greater Manchester Police Special Branch or</p> <p>19 Metropolitan Police Special Branch officers took place</p> <p>20 but details of it were never recorded in [either set of]</p> <p>21 records. Lastly, the search took place but it was not</p> <p>22 carried out by either Metropolitan Police Special Branch</p> <p>23 or Greater Manchester Police Special Branch officers.</p> <p>24 Another conclusion that could be drawn in isolation (and</p> <p>25 without knowing whether there is any corroborating</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>	<p>1 material) is that the search actually never took place</p> <p>2 and therefore there is no record."</p> <p>3 Those are the options that Mr Blackford sets out,</p> <p>4 and I invite you, chair, to adduce the whole of that</p> <p>5 statement. Thank you very much.</p> <p>6 MR DONALD PETER HALE (sworn)</p> <p>7 Examination by MR ALTMAN</p> <p>8 MR ALTMAN: First of all, Mr Hale, give the chair and panel,</p> <p>9 please, your full name?</p> <p>10 A. Donald Peter Hale.</p> <p>11 Q. Mr Hale, tell us something about your history?</p> <p>12 A. Well, I was a former professional footballer.</p> <p>13 Q. Was that for Blackburn Rovers?</p> <p>14 A. Well, Bury first and then Blackburn Rovers and</p> <p>15 Shrewsbury Town and two others. I got injured playing</p> <p>16 football, basically, and it was through injury that</p> <p>17 I got into journalism. I ended up spending a lot of</p> <p>18 time in the stands rather than on the pitch and sat next</p> <p>19 to the BBC reporter who was covering the match</p> <p>20 commentaries and I gradually got to know what was what</p> <p>21 as a pundit, if you like, giving technical advice to the</p> <p>22 broadcaster.</p> <p>23 BBC liked this, and invited me to join in and do my</p> <p>24 own broadcasts, and I ended up working with the BBC</p> <p>25 covering sport mainly, but features, news, et cetera.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 I then -- I spent about 40 years working as 2 a journalist, covering a whole variety of events. 3 I have been editor of about five newspapers -- in 4 Manchester, Derbyshire and North Wales. I have worked 5 freelance and staff for most of the major newspapers or, 6 as I say, the BBC and that. I also got involved with 7 four major miscarriage of justice cases, and they all 8 proved successful. Taking it forward right from 1994, 9 the first case, I spent eight years working on a case 10 for Stephen Downing. He'd spent 21 years in gaol at 11 that stage for a murder he claimed he hadn't committed. 12 I was eventually able to prove he was innocent and the 13 conviction was quashed in 2002.</p> <p>14 I subsequently got asked to work on several other 15 high-profile cases involving Barry George, the 16 Jill Dando murder; Graham Huckerby; and, latterly, 17 Ched Evans' case. So I have been involved with quite 18 a number of investigative cases.</p> <p>19 Quite often, these have clashed to a certain extent 20 with the police or the IPCC, as they were, now IOPC, but 21 I'm enjoying my career. I have won quite a lot of 22 awards. I have been Journalist of the Year on three 23 occasions, including the major one, What the Papers Say, 24 which is a major national award. I won that in 2002. 25 I have had the Campaign of the Year in the same year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 I was the Observer Man of the Year in 2000. As I say, 2 I have worked on quite a number of different cases.</p> <p>3 My campaign, particularly with the first case, with 4 the Stephen Downing one, helped to change both British 5 and European law, in terms of what I didn't know at the 6 time was that anyone who was in denial of murder, or any 7 major crime in denial, they weren't actually allowed to 8 present their own case themselves to the Parole Board. 9 With the help of lawyers, we took this to the European 10 Court of Human Rights against the government and won. 11 They appealed, we took it again and again we won. This 12 was gradually included within European and British law. 13 Same with looking at tariffs when a prisoner 14 exceeded the tariff that was given to them, again this, 15 was included within the same Bill.</p> <p>16 Q. Good. And I think you received the OBE also in 2002? 17 A. Yes, that's correct, yes, that was for campaign 18 journalism. It's the first time it's ever been awarded. 19 Q. Do you regard yourself as a campaigning journalist? 20 A. I was then; not so much now. 21 Q. What do you do now? 22 A. Well, I'm semi-retired, but I still help with a number 23 of -- advice to lawyers on various cases, case analysis. 24 Primarily, I'm a writer. I have written quite a few 25 books about some of the cases I've worked on. I've had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>
<p>1 three major books that's been with large publishers that 2 have done very well. I worked on a television series 3 with the BBC called "In Denial of Murder", which is 4 a two-part BBC drama. And I have done quite a lot of 5 other radio and television work.</p> <p>6 Q. Thank you for that. Now, as far as your account is 7 concerned, can I ask you to confirm that there are four 8 witness statements that you have made which really form 9 the basis of your evidence. The first in time, and 10 I will ask you a little more about this in a moment, was 11 a statement made on 10 December 2014. Do you agree with 12 that? It may be best, Mr Hale -- I can see that you 13 have got lots of your own papers and notes.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Use for the moment, please, would you -- because the 16 chair and panel have the same bundle that you have -- 17 the bundle to your right in the witness box, and turn to 18 tab 3. I just want your confirmation of what we have.</p> <p>19 Do you agree that's a typewritten statement which 20 purports to have your signature on it in several places, 21 but a typewritten version, it is not the handwritten 22 original, and it is dated 10 December 2014?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. That was a statement made, or at least countersigned by, 25 made to or countersigned by Detective Sergeant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 Farrell -- of which police force; do you remember? 2 A. The Metropolitan Police.</p> <p>3 Q. So he was Metropolitan Police. Then, please, if we go 4 to the next tab, tab 4, we will see a few years later, 5 now in February 2017, there is a statement dated 6 20 February 2017. This was a statement taken from you 7 by, I think, two other police officers?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Were they linked in any way to Sergeant Farrell, or was 10 it a completely different team?</p> <p>11 A. Well, they were both from the Met. PC Lorraine Monahan 12 and DC Lovell. They were part of Operation Winter Key.</p> <p>13 Q. This was a Winter Key statement? 14 A. It was a follow-on to DS Farrell.</p> <p>15 Q. Was he Winter Key or another operation? 16 A. I'm not sure. It is in my notes somewhere.</p> <p>17 Q. Was he Operation Hawthorn? 18 A. I can't really remember.</p> <p>19 Q. All right. Then if we turn again, please, to tab 5 in 20 this bundle, a much shorter, third statement, dated 21 a week after the one we have just been looking at, 22 27 February of the same year, taken by the same two 23 officers you mentioned?</p> <p>24 A. Yes. This was sent to me as a follow-up to the previous 25 statement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 Q. Presumably as a result of something you'd said?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, they wanted some clarification, but it is not</p> <p>3 really clarified, but I can explain that later.</p> <p>4 Q. We will come back to it.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Then, finally and, perhaps unhappily, out of order, we</p> <p>7 have two parts to your inquiry statement, two quite</p> <p>8 lengthy statements, or parts of a statement. The first</p> <p>9 is behind tab 1, which is the first part of a statement,</p> <p>10 dated 29 December 2018. Do you agree, Mr Hale?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And the second part of it is behind tab 2?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Coming back to the 2014 statement behind tab 3, you will</p> <p>15 agree, Mr Hale, I'm sure, that quite a good deal of</p> <p>16 the first part of your inquiry statement, the 2018</p> <p>17 statement, deals with corrections and revisions to the</p> <p>18 2014 statement?</p> <p>19 A. Yes. I didn't actually receive a copy of that until,</p> <p>20 I think, three years later.</p> <p>21 Q. No. But one of the things that you said in the inquiry</p> <p>22 statement -- and, if needs be, we can go to the actual</p> <p>23 paragraph -- is that you were making clear that the 2014</p> <p>24 statement was not fabricated in any way; you weren't</p> <p>25 making that allegation, it's just that, in particular,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 Sergeant Farrell had got things wrong and misunderstood</p> <p>2 things?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. If anybody wants a reference, but we don't need to look</p> <p>5 at it, that's at paragraph 1.6 of your 2018 statement.</p> <p>6 Can we understand a little more about this. The</p> <p>7 statement that was taken from you, was it taken in hand</p> <p>8 or was it directly taken --</p> <p>9 A. It was handwritten.</p> <p>10 Q. It was handwritten. When the process had completed,</p> <p>11 were you asked to read over it?</p> <p>12 A. Yes. The officer spent the best part of two days with</p> <p>13 me in my home. He came -- when he came back, everything</p> <p>14 was handwritten. And I read through it and made quite</p> <p>15 a few observations to him that various things were</p> <p>16 incorrect; certain things had been missed out. And</p> <p>17 a number of handwritten corrections were made, lines</p> <p>18 were put through certain allegations, other information</p> <p>19 added in. So every page had quite a lot of corrections.</p> <p>20 From memory, it was a lot more than -- I think there</p> <p>21 are seven pages here. I think it was more pages than</p> <p>22 that.</p> <p>23 Q. Well, handwritten typically are much more than</p> <p>24 typewritten statements?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>
<p>1 Q. Typically also, Mr Hale, but you may not appreciate</p> <p>2 this, if there are errors in a handwritten statement,</p> <p>3 which you would have been asked presumably to initial --</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. -- to indicate that they were your changes, they</p> <p>6 wouldn't necessarily appear in the typewritten copy?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. So do you agree that, at least on the face of it, the</p> <p>9 2014 statement tends to indicate that you signed it</p> <p>10 after the declaration?</p> <p>11 A. Well, the problem is, without seeing the original copy</p> <p>12 that was -- the handwritten copy that was changed and</p> <p>13 comparing it to this, and bearing in mind I didn't</p> <p>14 receive this until three years afterwards --</p> <p>15 Q. Why wasn't it until three years afterwards that you</p> <p>16 received it?</p> <p>17 A. There were various excuses given by the Met: it was</p> <p>18 still operational, they were still working on different</p> <p>19 factors and whatever, and it just got forgotten about</p> <p>20 it. It was only when the second officers came that</p> <p>21 I mentioned this to them and we chased it up.</p> <p>22 Q. You will agree, on the face of it, your signature must</p> <p>23 have appeared on the original, because it appears to be</p> <p>24 reproduced on the typewritten copy?</p> <p>25 A. It would seem so.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>	<p>1 Q. We will bear in mind what you have had to say about not</p> <p>2 having had the original handwritten version, which was</p> <p>3 heavily revised by you when you were asked to go through</p> <p>4 it.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. But, as far as you're concerned, when you did go back</p> <p>7 through it with Sergeant Farrell, when you say he came</p> <p>8 back to see you and take you through it, and having made</p> <p>9 all of the revisions you did, were you happy to sign it</p> <p>10 at the end of that process in the various places that</p> <p>11 seem to be all reflected in the typewritten version?</p> <p>12 A. I was happy to sign the handwritten version, but not</p> <p>13 necessarily this, and when I saw this -- I mean, I've</p> <p>14 gone through and made quite a few notes of errors that,</p> <p>15 as far as I can recall, were corrected on the</p> <p>16 handwritten copy, but don't appear to be corrected on</p> <p>17 this.</p> <p>18 Q. So this isn't -- forgive me for asking, Mr Hale --</p> <p>19 a situation where the first time you saw the typewritten</p> <p>20 version, several years later, is what you wish you had</p> <p>21 said rather than what you did say?</p> <p>22 A. Well, I mean, the problem with DS Farrell, he came to me</p> <p>23 30-odd years after the incident, so when somebody turns</p> <p>24 up, you know, after such a period of time, you're trying</p> <p>25 to remember things when the officer is asking you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

1 Q. Of course.

2 **A. Sometimes you remember things as the thought process**

3 **kicks in, things come into your mind much later on that**

4 **perhaps you -- as you say, perhaps you wish you had**

5 **said, in a sense. But -- I mean, I appreciate that the**

6 **handwritten statement would probably be a lot more than**

7 **that. This is seven pages. I think it was about**

8 **12 pages, roughly. I'm not sure. I can't be certain.**

9 **But there was an awful lot of information given to the**

10 **officer that wasn't recorded, for whatever reason, and,**

11 **again, it's been edited or subbed to seven pages.**

12 **Again, this might lead to some misinterpretations.**

13 Q. We will bear all of that in mind. Can I tell you that

14 we have asked for, but we haven't got, the handwritten

15 version.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. So we have to live with what we do have?

18 **A. Is that normal?**

19 Q. For this inquiry, I can't tell you. In other

20 circumstances, probably not. But I'm not going to

21 speculate, nor do I ask anybody else to, about what's

22 become of it.

23 **A. Right.**

24 Q. But with that in mind, and we now know what we have by

25 way of witness statements from you, what I want to

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1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- what you say and the dates that appear in the 2014

3 statement?

4 **A. Which statement are you looking at?**

5 Q. Tab 3 on the first page?

6 **A. Where does it say that?**

7 Q. "It was also around 1981/82 that I came into contact

8 with Barbara Castle"?

9 **A. Yes, I mean -- so the first contact was then. I think**

10 **possibly the date I'm referring to in this one was --**

11 **I don't think there is any mention of the football or**

12 **anything in this one, in the statement regarding**

13 **Barbara Castle, but she came -- I did an interview with**

14 **her when I was working at Radio Blackburn, which would**

15 **be about that time.**

16 Q. So that's where the confusion comes in?

17 **A. I think so, yes.**

18 Q. As you mention it, I think she was someone you came to

19 interview quite a few times?

20 **A. Yes, indeed, yes.**

21 Q. When you were working in radio?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Then did you come to work for the Bury Messenger?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Tell us a little about the Bury Messenger: what kind of

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1 really get from you is your relationship with

2 Barbara Castle, and let's see if we can extract the

3 story of Don Hale and what you say happened to you in

4 1984.

5 First of all, tell us how you first met

6 Barbara Castle?

7 **A. I first came across Barbara Castle when I was playing**

8 **football at Blackburn. I think I was -- well, I was**

9 **only a teenager then, so possibly the dates might be**

10 **slightly different in terms of the statement, but I was**

11 **doing some sort of coaching course with Blackburn and**

12 **she came along for some presentation, I think it's**

13 **probably something to do with physiotherapy, and**

14 **I was -- there were several VIPs came, probably about**

15 **20 VIPs, and she was one of them, one of the main ones.**

16 **I think she was the MP for the area, and I was tasked to**

17 **basically look after her.**

18 Q. If we can year-date it, I think you said in your 2014

19 statement on the first page 1981/1982?

20 **A. No, no, it would be much earlier than that, actually.**

21 Q. I'm simply looking at what it says.

22 **A. Yes, again, I'm thinking in terms of when I was playing**

23 **football and the time I was down there, which would be**

24 **around about 1970 to '73, that sort of period.**

25 Q. So there is a substantial difference between --

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1 paper was it?

2 **A. It was a free newspaper originally owned by Eddy Shah.**

3 **We had quite a number of free papers around the sort of**

4 **North-west/Manchester area. I had been working**

5 **freelance, well, for them, as, basically, sports editor**

6 **and working with the BBC and doing -- I hoped to launch**

7 **the pilot stations for the BBC, and I came in touch with**

8 **one or two of their reporters. I think the editor was**

9 **sort of moving on -- or within the group he was moving**

10 **on, and eventually I was sort of asked to stand in, as**

11 **such, as editor, until something could be sorted out.**

12 **There were rumours that the paper was going to be sold**

13 **and everyone was a little bit uneasy as to what was**

14 **likely to happen.**

15 **So initially, I was sort of holding the fort, if you**

16 **like, and then I was appointed editor. They seemed to**

17 **like the work I was doing. And then, within a few**

18 **months, another newspaper group took them over,**

19 **Johnston Press.**

20 **Again, I was sort of given a provisional title,**

21 **acting editor, if you like, until they could find their**

22 **feet and, shortly afterwards, I was appointed again as**

23 **editor.**

24 Q. Can you help us when you first started with the

25 Bury Messenger?

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1 **A. It was probably early 1984.**
 2 Q. You effectively, whichever label was attached to you,
 3 worked as, what, editor throughout that period?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. What was its readership?
 6 **A. I can't remember exactly, but it was a free paper, so**
 7 **there were certainly more than 60,000 papers turned out.**
 8 **It could have been more.**
 9 Q. Was that daily or weekly?
 10 **A. Weekly.**
 11 Q. So 60,000 weekly?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. What area did it cover, apart from Bury, I assume?
 14 **A. Yes, it covered all sort of the North Bury area.**
 15 **I think it went towards Middleton, Heywood, Ramsbottom.**
 16 **It was, I don't know, probably five, six, eight miles**
 17 **around from Bury centre. It was a very popular paper.**
 18 Q. But presumably there were other free local papers in the
 19 Manchester area?
 20 **A. I don't think there was any in our particular area, but**
 21 **there were other free papers. The Messenger was seen as**
 22 **quite a rival to the Bury Times at that time, which was**
 23 **a paid-for paper, and when Johnstons bought out the**
 24 **Messenger, I think the idea was to sort of quash the**
 25 **opposition, as much as anything, so he would have one**

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1 country, did she live locally?
 2 **A. As far as I know, she still lived in the Blackburn area.**
 3 Q. Where did you meet her? In your offices or did you go
 4 out somewhere?
 5 **A. Generally, she would come to the office, and then --**
 6 **quite often she didn't like the tea or whatever at the**
 7 **office, so she said, "Look, come on, we'll go out and**
 8 **we'll have tea and a bun at one of the local cafes".**
 9 Q. While I have it in mind, tell us something about the
 10 building in which you worked?
 11 **A. It was an old bank building, Barclays Bank or one of**
 12 **those.**
 13 Q. So in a high street somewhere or --
 14 **A. Yes, right in the centre of town on a high street, the**
 15 **corner of Silver Street, which is, you know, smack in**
 16 **the middle of the town. It was an old bank building**
 17 **that hadn't been converted that much. It still had**
 18 **a massive vault there and steel bars and things like**
 19 **that, and certain private rooms for the old manager or**
 20 **certain people where they wanted to have their private**
 21 **interviews with customers, and I think the front of**
 22 **the -- the front window was still more or less as**
 23 **a bank, and we set it up to have, like, display boards**
 24 **in there of the newspapers so people walking down the**
 25 **street could see what was going on.**

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1 **combined paper or one paid-for paper and their own free**
 2 **paper.**
 3 Q. I think you say that Barbara Castle paid you regular
 4 visits when you were editor?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Were these social meetings, or at least originally were
 7 they social affairs?
 8 **A. I mean, I say, we had contact with her for a few years**
 9 **beforehand, and knew her from different sides.**
 10 **Initially, it was, I would say, social, really. I think**
 11 **she either phoned up or sent me a message or something**
 12 **to congratulate me on getting the post initially as**
 13 **editor and said, "I'll have to pop in and we'll have**
 14 **a chat", and what have you. She was quite a regular**
 15 **visitor. I won't say it was every week. Sometimes she**
 16 **might come for two or three weeks on the trot and then**
 17 **you wouldn't see her for six weeks. She was the**
 18 **European representative for North Manchester, which**
 19 **covered --**
 20 Q. At that time?
 21 **A. At that time, yes. She'd stood down from Westminster.**
 22 **So she was travelling to Europe quite a bit. So you**
 23 **could never really guarantee when she was going to turn**
 24 **up.**
 25 Q. Was she a local, in terms of, when she was in the

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1 Q. Where was your office?
 2 **A. I had the old manager's office, which was somewhere in**
 3 **the middle of the section of the building.**
 4 Q. What, on the ground floor or an upper floor?
 5 **A. I think there was only the one floor.**
 6 Q. So you had the one floor?
 7 **A. Yes. It was the old manager's office, which, to**
 8 **a certain extent, had some sort of, I suppose,**
 9 **soundproofing, or whatever. It was sort of an office**
 10 **within a number of offices -- glass offices that were**
 11 **surrounding it, so it was quite easy to have a private**
 12 **conversation without everybody else hearing what was**
 13 **going on.**
 14 Q. And how many employees at that time?
 15 **A. We had quite a few staff. I would say probably four or**
 16 **five on the editorial side, a photographer and**
 17 **reporters, and maybe half a dozen advertising team and**
 18 **a couple of general office staff.**
 19 Q. All working in the office on a daily basis?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. What were the office hours?
 22 **A. Basically 9.00 to 5.00.**
 23 Q. 9.00 to 5.00?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Monday to Friday or weekends as well?

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1 **A. I tended to work a few times at weekends, but generally**
 2 **it was just Monday to Friday.**
 3 Q. So you would see her regularly. Was there a time when
 4 she -- I think you said that this occurred over several
 5 weeks -- started to tell you about concerns she had
 6 about an organisation which she felt was gaining
 7 traction in Westminster?
 8 **A. Yes. I mean, she came in with -- I mean, we had met**
 9 **quite a few times before this, but she then came in one**
 10 **day and she had a number of very official papers that**
 11 **had "Confidential" written on them, et cetera, which she**
 12 **said she got from a contact at Westminster because she**
 13 **was no longer involved at Westminster herself, and she**
 14 **was quite appalled that there seemed to be a series of**
 15 **private meetings going on there with prominent**
 16 **politicians that were discussing various matters**
 17 **relating to the PIE organisation.**
 18 Q. PIE, as we know, is the Paedophile Information Exchange?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. Set up, I think, in around 1974 in Scotland, moved to
 21 London in 1975; disbanded, we understand, around 1984?
 22 **A. That's right, yes. She did say it was sort of on the**
 23 **wane, but what she was inferring was, she didn't want it**
 24 **to disappear -- I mean, there was a plan to try and ban**
 25 **it altogether.**

Page 21

1 **A. Yes, I think he was a former headmaster.**
 2 Q. Forgive me, he had become the Secretary of State at one
 3 point in government around this period?
 4 **A. I'm not sure, really.**
 5 Q. Are we talking about the same person?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Are we talking about a parliamentarian?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. All right.
 10 **A. She was alleging that he was very much involved with the**
 11 **distribution of the magazine, the Magpie, which was**
 12 **their sort of in-house magazine, and that he was trying**
 13 **to fundraise to keep this going and to try and fundraise**
 14 **to keep the PIE network going, in effect.**
 15 Q. Pause there, Mr Hale, just so we can keep up. So, what,
 16 she was telling you, on the assumption she's talking
 17 about the man who was eventually knighted,
 18 a Sir Rhodes Boyson, and had been in government, that he
 19 was involved -- and this was coming from her, she was
 20 telling you --
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. -- that he was involved in the distribution of PIE's
 23 magazine -- we have seen examples of it -- Magpie?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. And distribution where?

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1 Q. A plan to ban by whom?
 2 **A. Well, by like-minded people to Mrs Castle that wanted to**
 3 **ban it altogether because of what the name implies, to**
 4 **start with, but because of what she was alleging that**
 5 **they had been up to in the past, and the fact that they**
 6 **wanted to try and reduce the age of consent I think to**
 7 **just about 4 in those days, and she was quite appalled**
 8 **by this, but she knew some of their ideals had gained**
 9 **support in Westminster from some of her former**
 10 **colleagues.**
 11 Q. We will come back when I ask you about who they may have
 12 been a little later.
 13 Did she say to you anything about PIE's funding or
 14 anything she understood about its funding?
 15 **A. Yes, she mentioned quite a lot about the funding, saying**
 16 **that there was basically one particular person -- do you**
 17 **want me to say who it was? -- who was involved with the**
 18 **funding, Rhodes Boyston she was --**
 19 Q. Is it Rhodes Boyston or Boyson?
 20 **A. I think it is Boyston.**
 21 Q. You say it is Boyston. As in Sir Rhodes Boyson or
 22 somebody different?
 23 **A. It is Rhodes, R-H-O-D-E-S, and then Boyston,**
 24 **B-O-Y-S-T-O-N.**
 25 Q. Who had been the Director of Education and Science?

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1 **A. Well, from what I understood, it was a limited**
 2 **distribution within Westminster.**
 3 Q. So he was responsible for, directly involved in, the
 4 distribution of Magpie to people in Westminster?
 5 **A. She described it as a "brown-envelope operation".**
 6 **I presume it was every month. I can't recall exactly**
 7 **now, but I think she said it was on a monthly basis that**
 8 **this magazine came into place. It was stored in sort of**
 9 **an office in Westminster and was then distributed by him**
 10 **to persons that were interested.**
 11 Q. So he was a distributor. I think in certainly one of
 12 your statements you talk about him having made
 13 a presentation of some kind?
 14 **A. Yes. I mean, one of the main allegations that**
 15 **Barbara Castle had was that this committee, this team,**
 16 **of prominent politicians were discussing their**
 17 **activities within the PIE network and that**
 18 **Rhodes Boyston did give a presentation about that at one**
 19 **of these meetings and in fact had invited other official**
 20 **PIE organisation members to come and explain certain**
 21 **things at these meetings. They were private meetings,**
 22 **committee meetings, within Westminster.**
 23 Q. We will come back to aspects of it. I had started
 24 asking you, I think, about funding as well?
 25 **A. Yes.**

Page 24

1 Q. What can you tell us about that?
 2 **A. Well, she mentioned that they were receiving funding.**
 3 **They were pretty desperate for funding, she said, and**
 4 **they were receiving funding from the Home Office.**
 5 Q. Right.
 6 **A. She alleged that this was on the backing of**
 7 **Special Branch, that they were insisting on this.**
 8 Q. Right. Pause there. So she said that they were
 9 receiving funding from the Home Office --
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. -- on the back of Special Branch?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. So, in other words, the effect of what you are telling
 14 us is that Special Branch had an operation into PIE?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. And funding was linked to their operation?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. In what way?
 19 **A. Well, it was to keep -- it was almost to keep the**
 20 **operation going. I got the impression that there were**
 21 **undercover officers working within PIE. For whatever**
 22 **reason at that time, there were lots of things going on,**
 23 **as I say, regarding the lowering of the age of consent,**
 24 **there was quite a groundswell of support for that. It**
 25 **might seem bizarre now, but at the time there was quite**

Page 25

1 funding came from the Home Office?
 2 **A. Well, part of it. Part of it.**
 3 Q. Yes. I will ask you a little more about that in
 4 a moment. But that part of the funding that came from
 5 the Home Office was, cheques were being written out to
 6 PIE?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Did she give you any indication of what kind of money
 9 she was talking about?
 10 **A. It's difficult to remember now, but I think she**
 11 **mentioned substantial funds.**
 12 Q. What do you mean by "substantial"?
 13 **A. Well, I was thinking in terms of £20,000-plus.**
 14 Q. What was the other part of PIE's funding, as you
 15 understood it from her?
 16 **A. Well, she was inferring that the NCCL, the National**
 17 **Council for Civil Liberties, were also trying to help**
 18 **with funding and protection of the PIE organisation.**
 19 **Again, she wasn't very pleased about that. But they**
 20 **were having fundraising events, advertised fundraising**
 21 **events, and she mentioned that activities at various**
 22 **public schools and churches and various things where**
 23 **young people were available were being involved with**
 24 **fundraising for the PIE organisation, which sounded**
 25 **quite bizarre.**

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1 **a groundswell of support. So it was, in effect, to keep**
 2 **it going.**
 3 **Now, whether it -- I can't comment really on**
 4 **Special Branch, but was it in fact because they had, as**
 5 **she said, undercover agents working there that they**
 6 **wanted to discover who was actually behind the scenes in**
 7 **PIE?**
 8 Q. Did she tell you how, if this was right, that if the
 9 Home Office was funding PIE, how that was being
 10 facilitated? Because all your information is coming
 11 from her, isn't it?
 12 **A. Yes, it is. Yes. No, I mean, she just said that they**
 13 **received cheques from there, so there must be a paper**
 14 **trail from it.**
 15 Q. Sorry, that they received --
 16 **A. They received cheques from the Home Office --**
 17 Q. PIE did?
 18 **A. PIE did.**
 19 Q. They received cheques from ...?
 20 **A. From the Home Office.**
 21 Q. Directly?
 22 **A. Yes, so I was presuming, then, there must be a paper**
 23 **trail linked to that somewhere.**
 24 Q. So we are clear, Mr Hale, you have a distinct
 25 recollection, do you, of Barbara Castle saying that the

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1 Q. So was she saying that another part of PIE's funding was
 2 being raised in those sorts of places?
 3 **A. Yes, from private sources.**
 4 Q. So we have got her talking to you about funding,
 5 concerns about PIE, concerns about its aims and concerns
 6 in particular about one individual whom you have named
 7 so far, who, she tells you, was distributing Magpie in
 8 Westminster and making presentations. I think you also
 9 say in one of your statements that he was speaking and
 10 finding speakers --
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. -- to speak, what, to PIE's aims?
 13 **A. Well, I can only think back in terms of she did mention**
 14 **that at least two speakers had been invited to speak at**
 15 **these committee meetings in Westminster. Now, whether**
 16 **she meant that and others or -- I'm not -- I can't be**
 17 **clear.**
 18 Q. Now, tell us something about the documents. I will come
 19 back to meetings, committee meetings and the like, in
 20 a moment. But tell us about documents. Because, do we
 21 understand from your various witness statements,
 22 Mr Hale, that on several occasions she brought you
 23 documents?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. What were those documents? What was the nature of them,

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1 in general terms?
 2 **A. In general terms, they were minutes of meetings held by**
 3 **this committee, and it had the names of all the people**
 4 **that were present, and apologies from people that**
 5 **couldn't make it.**
 6 Q. So she had managed to get PIE documentation, so that we
 7 understand what you are telling us --
 8 **A. No, it wasn't PIE documentation.**
 9 Q. Ah, what was it?
 10 **A. These meetings held at Westminster relating -- they were**
 11 **making enquiries into the development or promotion of**
 12 **PIE, but the main source of that meeting was not**
 13 **necessarily PIE, that was part of it, but was looking at**
 14 **aspects of the Geoffrey Dickens documentation --**
 15 Q. I see.
 16 **A. -- that was submitted about 12 months before.**
 17 Q. So these meetings, or the sense from the minutes of
 18 these meetings, was, what, sympathy towards PIE's aims,
 19 as you understood it, or is that putting it too high?
 20 **A. Yes, there wasn't much in the way of protest against any**
 21 **of the aspects that were mentioned.**
 22 Q. Just help us, you mentioned the name Geoffrey Dickens,
 23 and we have all heard about the Dickens dossier or
 24 dossiers. How did that link to these meetings? What
 25 was the link between him and the meeting?

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1 interested in?", and was wanting me to start to prepare
 2 a story about the fact these meetings were taking place
 3 and what the subject of these meetings was likely to be,
 4 and especially the -- again, at that time, the still --
 5 the fact that PIE was still trying to keep themselves
 6 going, looking for funding, et cetera, she wanted me to
 7 expose quite a number of things.
 8 Obviously, I was in a very difficult position to
 9 actually investigate a lot myself at that stage. I said
 10 I could run something probably based on her story, in
 11 terms of what she is alleging, rather than me making
 12 enquiries, but I would have to make certain enquiries to
 13 verify the content of some of the documents she was
 14 saying.
 15 But coming back to what you were saying, it started
 16 as a trickle and ended up as a major batch of documents
 17 she was giving me each time, and she used to carry
 18 a very old sort of, almost like a satchel cum carry-all,
 19 a real moth-eaten thing about 40 years old, and it was
 20 packed to the rafters, sometimes, with documents. And
 21 the knowing factor, she would say, "You must copy this,
 22 you must copy that", and I was trying to photocopy
 23 things for her to give her the originals back.
 24 Now, whether she had to return these or what,
 25 I don't know, but she had a substantial amount of

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1 **A. Well, as I say, I knew about the Dickens dossier that**
 2 **was given I think in 1983 to Leon Brittan, who was the**
 3 **Home Secretary, and these were allegations of**
 4 **paedophiles' activities within Westminster, and various**
 5 **names were mentioned within the documents. He was,**
 6 **again, quite appalled by that. He was fairly local to**
 7 **where we were based. He was I think the Loughborough MP**
 8 **at the time -- sorry, the Littleborough MP at the time,**
 9 **which is near Rochdale. He put these in.**
 10 **When Barbara came to me, unbeknown to me at the**
 11 **time, she said she was working in cahoots with him, but**
 12 **she didn't want it made public because they were on**
 13 **different sides. They had fallen out over many issues**
 14 **in the past, but on this one they seemed to be as one.**
 15 Q. So these meetings covered the whole gamut, by the sound
 16 of it?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Dickens, PIE, and all of those sorts of issues?
 19 **A. It was more or less anything to do with alleged**
 20 **child abuse.**
 21 Q. Did she bring you documents on every occasion she
 22 visited you?
 23 **A. When she first came, she sort of handed me one or two**
 24 **documents as a sort of a teaser, if you like, "Are you**
 25 **interested in this? Is this something you may be**

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1 **documentation that was vitally important documentation**
 2 **and stamped "Your eyes only" or "Confidential" or "Not**
 3 **to be removed", et cetera, stamped on these documents,**
 4 **so she got them from a very reliable source.**
 5 Q. Who was the source?
 6 **A. Well, I don't know. She never said and I never asked.**
 7 Q. So the documents she brought you over the successive
 8 visits, they were all originals?
 9 **A. Yes. Well, they looked originals.**
 10 Q. They looked original?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. All of them confidentially marked?
 13 **A. No, not all of them, no. Probably only a third of them**
 14 **at the most.**
 15 Q. Yes.
 16 **A. But those were the most interesting, from her point of**
 17 **view, in terms of naming names and explaining who was**
 18 **chairman of that particular meeting or if something**
 19 **particular was discussed.**
 20 Q. You have just mentioned photocopying. Did you have
 21 a photocopier in the office?
 22 **A. Yes, a little bit of an antiquated one. I think they**
 23 **were fairly new in those days.**
 24 Q. What kind of process was it to copy the documents she
 25 brought you?

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<p>1 A. Well, again, from memory, it's difficult to -- it seemed 2 to be like a heat machine where you had to put almost 3 like a carbon in, two papers and a carbon with the 4 original, and it sort of burnt through. I can't really 5 explain to you. It's quite a long while ago. It's 6 30-odd -- 34 years ago. But it was like -- the machine 7 sort of ran up and down with a sort of a heat process 8 and almost burnt a copy of that document onto another. 9 It was quite time consuming. 10 Q. Did you get anybody to help you do that or did you do it 11 yourself? 12 A. No, because of the nature of the documents, I did most 13 of it myself, and did quite a bit sort of after hours. 14 Q. So, what, she left the documents with you? 15 A. She left some with me, yes. 16 Q. And, what, collected them the next time she came? 17 A. Yes. She didn't like doing that, I must admit. 18 Q. You say in your 27 February 2017 statement that in 1984 19 she came to see you in this way over about six to eight 20 weeks? 21 A. Yes. I might, as well -- she did say she had copied 22 a lot of documents herself and then gave me copies. 23 Q. Right. So either you're copying originals that she 24 provides to you? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 Q. She either takes them away or takes them away the next 2 time? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. And she provides you, herself, on occasions, with 5 copies? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Just give us an idea, in terms of volume, how many 8 documents do you think you ended up with at the end of 9 this six- to eight-week period. I'm not going to ask 10 you for numbers, but if we can imagine a photocopier, 11 about -- 12 A. Well, it was about that thick (indicating). 13 Q. You're demonstrating about six inches, six to eight 14 inches? 15 A. Yes, I think so, yes. They were varied documents. As 16 I say, not all of them were marked "Confidential", 17 possibly a third at the most. I kept those in 18 a separate folder, but all together. 19 Q. That was the next question: did you file them away, put 20 them in a safe, or what did you do with them? 21 A. I just basically put them in my bottom drawer. 22 Q. In your bottom drawer -- locked? 23 A. It was locked, yes. 24 Q. Every time she came back, did you just add to the pile? 25 A. To a certain extent, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>
<p>1 Q. Right. 2 A. As I say, it started as a trickle, so it was more 3 towards the latter part that it became a wedge of 4 documents. But, I mean, the problem was that I said to 5 her quite clearly, I was doing a busy full-time job 6 running a newspaper and I hadn't got the time to go 7 through everything and read everything. 8 Q. It must have been pretty tantalising and tempting, 9 Mr Hale, to have pored over every single word of every 10 single document? 11 A. Yes, and in hindsight, I wish I had in many ways. 12 Q. So you didn't? 13 A. No, I didn't read every document, I read quite a few. 14 Quite a number were mentioned just in discussions, 15 face-to-face discussions, with her, so I didn't need to 16 read that document at that time. 17 Q. Because she told you? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. So the impression we've gained is: she would impart the 20 information to you, she would give you the documentation 21 in the way you have suggested, but you would only read 22 a selection because of the other duties you had to 23 fulfil? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. And you took on trust what she said to you was the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>	<p>1 content of those documents in general terms? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Is that a fair summary? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. When she brought you originals, did you make copies in 6 the way that you have just described on all of those 7 occasions? 8 A. As far as I can remember, yes. 9 Q. Can I just try and understand something from you. First 10 of all, if you look at your 2014 statement, which is 11 behind tab 3 -- we looked at it a little earlier -- and 12 if we go to page 2, the second page -- have you got 13 that, Mr Hale? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. About four lines down, do you see a line beginning 16 "Barbara would"? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. "Barbara would then continue to visit me to discuss her 19 concerns and on these visits bring a number of papers 20 with her that she would say I needed to be made aware 21 of, but couldn't keep, so she would ask me to make 22 copies of them." 23 There's a slight, subtle difference with what you 24 have told us today, because you say on occasions she 25 brought you copies. But be that as it may, it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

1 continues:
 2 "Her visits would invariably lead to her saying that
 3 so and so paper was important and then move on to
 4 another piece of paper that was more important, which
 5 meant that I would end up with an array of papers that
 6 needed copying. This in itself was a very difficult
 7 task, as copying was not as it is now and involved, from
 8 recollection, peeling off carbonated sheets ..."
 9 Which is what you have just told us:
 10 "... and was very time consuming. Barbara was
 11 extremely wary of posting anything to me, she did not
 12 trust the post at all, so everything was brought by her
 13 into my office."
 14 Is there anything you would like to change about
 15 that?
 16 **A. Well, when you said it's slightly different to what I'd**
 17 **said before, I'm not quite sure what you mean by that.**
 18 Q. Because you added a slight gloss, that on occasions
 19 Barbara brought copies and not just originals, and
 20 copies you didn't need to copy.
 21 **A. Right.**
 22 Q. I'm not quibbling about that.
 23 **A. No.**
 24 Q. By and large, subject to that, are you happy that that
 25 adequately and accurately reflects your recollection as

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1 grateful for and we have read, but I'm interested in
 2 what appears to be, as it were, a black-and-white
 3 position between 2014 and 2017?
 4 **A. Well, I think it is important, to be honest.**
 5 Q. You just explain to us how the conflict comes about?
 6 **A. Yes. This was a statement -- well, it is my second**
 7 **statement with PC Lorraine Monahan. What is not**
 8 **contained within the documents, any of the documents**
 9 **here, and particularly the IOPC documents, is that there**
 10 **was a flurry of 46 emails between myself and the IOPC,**
 11 **or whatever they call themselves now, and the**
 12 **Operation Winter Key and the Met through this**
 13 **Lorraine Monahan. Now, that is -- whether it is**
 14 **deliberate or what, I don't know, but that should have**
 15 **been included within the documentation. That would have**
 16 **explained a lot of these queries within statements and**
 17 **that, but I will just read you this part. This is from**
 18 **PC Lorraine Monahan, Operation Winter Key, Stratford:**
 19 **"Good afternoon, Mr Hale. Just to clarify, apart**
 20 **from the copies that you made for yourself or**
 21 **Dame Castle made for you, were any further copies made**
 22 **by yourself? You have stated that Special Branch took**
 23 **everything you had. All I need to state, that**
 24 **absolutely no other copies were ever held after the raid**
 25 **by yourself and anyone else apart from**

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1 it was in 2014?
 2 **A. Well, yes, as far as I can recall.**
 3 Q. Can we move on, please, to the statement behind tab 5.
 4 This was a statement made on 27 February 2017. Let's
 5 look at the substantive paragraph:
 6 "In relation to the documents that were given to me
 7 by Dame Barbara Castle over a period of about
 8 6 to 8 weeks in 1984, relating to the PIE meetings at
 9 Westminster, I would like to state that I did not make
 10 any photocopies of any of the documents. Other
 11 documents included material that Dame Castle [as it is
 12 written] referred to as confidential, which I have
 13 explained in my previous statement. Again, I wish to
 14 state that no copies were made of any of the documents
 15 that she handed to me. The documents were always kept
 16 in the offices of the Bury Messenger under my control.
 17 Apart from Dame Barbara Castle, no-one else was aware of
 18 the documents being in my possession and I never
 19 discussed this with anyone else."
 20 Can you help explain to us the obvious conflict?
 21 **A. Yes. This was the second statement that was sent to me.**
 22 **In fact, what I'd like to introduce, really, is the**
 23 **confirmation of the emails that were involved.**
 24 Q. Forget the emails, Mr Hale, for the moment, because you
 25 have shown us some emails this morning, which we are

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1 **Dame Barbara Castle of course. I will also update the**
 2 **second issue that you have raised."**
 3 **I challenged this before, that -- I said I did**
 4 **not -- it says I did not make any ...:**
 5 **"However, I did make several photocopies at**
 6 **Barbara's request as she retained the originals. All**
 7 **the documents that are included in some originals, many**
 8 **photocopies, copies from magazines, et cetera, were all**
 9 **seized by Special Branch officers and no other copies**
 10 **were taken or retained."**
 11 **This went on with this person, Lorraine, for some**
 12 **time:**
 13 **"Just to clarify, apart from the copies you made for**
 14 **yourself, were any further copies made by yourself ...",**
 15 **et cetera.**
 16 **Again:**
 17 **"Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. Yes,**
 18 **I can confirm that no other copies were made apart from**
 19 **those taken at the time from Barbara's originals. I did**
 20 **not share or show the details to anyone else."**
 21 **Now, all this was part of a number of anomalies that**
 22 **were sort of raised through both statements here and, as**
 23 **far as I was concerned, it helped to clarify.**
 24 **When she is saying on here about that statement --**
 25 **I'll just have to find my notes on this. My**

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<p>1 understanding of this is that the way she wanted it</p> <p>2 phrasing was other documents included material that</p> <p>3 Barbara Castle referred to as confidential, which I have</p> <p>4 explained in my previous statement. So it was explained</p> <p>5 thoroughly there and it was qualified in these other</p> <p>6 emails.</p> <p>7 Q. You do accept, Mr Hale, on the face of it, there appears</p> <p>8 to be a conflict, because --</p> <p>9 A. It's slightly misleading.</p> <p>10 Q. Well, it's very misleading, isn't it?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, but I think you have to look at it in context with</p> <p>12 six months, 46 emails, between myself and the IOPC, that</p> <p>13 they have deliberately, I think, failed to include,</p> <p>14 which tries to -- gives the impression of trying to</p> <p>15 discredit my evidence.</p> <p>16 Q. Why did you sign it?</p> <p>17 A. Well, I don't know whether I did, really, but</p> <p>18 I presumably did.</p> <p>19 Q. Well, you see the "DPA" label at the top by the date --</p> <p>20 A. I think --</p> <p>21 Q. -- I am confident it has your signature under it?</p> <p>22 A. I think, as I said before, the line third up from the</p> <p>23 bottom does explain, in my understanding, as to what it</p> <p>24 should have been, that they were really referring to --</p> <p>25 that question had already been answered in the previous</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 statement. I mean, it is probably clever working on</p> <p>2 behalf of the police.</p> <p>3 Q. So, so that we understand what you are telling us, then,</p> <p>4 Mr Hale, accepting, as I am sure you must, that this was</p> <p>5 your statement and that you signed it, on the face of</p> <p>6 it, do you agree with me that it appears to contradict</p> <p>7 what you said in 2014? There are no qualifications to</p> <p>8 it about what --</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. -- particular documents were not being copied.</p> <p>11 A. No, I don't really agree, because I say I think it</p> <p>12 refers to the fact this was clarified in a previous</p> <p>13 statement, which is true. And, again, in view of</p> <p>14 the photocopies we have got here from these individuals,</p> <p>15 and she's saying -- she's linking liaising with the</p> <p>16 IOPC -- or IPCC, as I think it was then -- that that was</p> <p>17 fully understood.</p> <p>18 Q. So you're not prepared to agree with me --</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. -- that there appears to be a conflict on the face of</p> <p>21 this statement?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. And you're saying that the statement, if it doesn't</p> <p>24 qualify in the way it should, was properly qualified by</p> <p>25 you in a series of emails between you and the officer?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. All right. Now, in any of these meetings, did</p> <p>3 Barbara Castle say anything to you about PIE having an</p> <p>4 office in Westminster itself?</p> <p>5 A. She mentioned about an office there, but my</p> <p>6 understanding was it's more of a storage facility than</p> <p>7 an actual physical office.</p> <p>8 Q. Whereabouts in Westminster?</p> <p>9 A. I don't know. I don't know. It's where the -- wherever</p> <p>10 the MPs had their own offices, it was in that sort of</p> <p>11 section, but I'm not really familiar with the setting of</p> <p>12 Westminster. Again, I think it mentions about -- the</p> <p>13 fact she'd said about two staff members.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes.</p> <p>15 A. The staff members, again, from my impression from what</p> <p>16 she was saying, they weren't -- they didn't work for</p> <p>17 PIE. As I say, there were no PIE meetings as such</p> <p>18 there. There were meetings about the PIE activities.</p> <p>19 They were people who worked for Westminster -- perhaps</p> <p>20 it was some of the MPs as PPS or whatever, who would</p> <p>21 help out with, possibly, distribution or storage.</p> <p>22 Q. Now, I would like to go through, please, some other</p> <p>23 aspects of what you had to say in these statements, and</p> <p>24 if you go, please, back to the 2014 statement, which is</p> <p>25 behind tab 3, the second page, do you see that there is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>	<p>1 reference to fringe meetings. Dead centre on the second</p> <p>2 page, "there would be fringe meetings". The line begins</p> <p>3 with the two words, "The time". If you look to the</p> <p>4 left-hand margin and look for the words "The time" about</p> <p>5 halfway down. Then you see "there would be fringe</p> <p>6 meetings"?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Can you confirm that what you said in 2014 was, amongst</p> <p>9 attendees were, and there is a redacted name, but you</p> <p>10 will recall that was a person of public prominence,</p> <p>11 another person of public prominence?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. "... and Jeremy Thorpe", that's what the statement</p> <p>14 says, "whom Barbara knew was a homosexual but that</p> <p>15 everything about him had been covered up".</p> <p>16 Insofar as Leon Brittan is concerned, you mention</p> <p>17 him, I think a couple of times, in the 2014 statement.</p> <p>18 I think we will find his name at the top of the third</p> <p>19 page; is that right?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. There you said at the beginning of page 2:</p> <p>22 "Barbara was becoming more and more wary of PIE and</p> <p>23 that they were being funded by the Home Office.</p> <p>24 I believe, due to the fuss that Barbara was now kicking</p> <p>25 up, that Special Branch conducted an enquiry into the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 activities of PIE." 2 Is that an accurate recollection? 3 A. Yes, as far as I can remember. 4 Q. So it was because Barbara was making all the noise about 5 them Special Branch came involved? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. "Barbara felt that everything seemed to go through 8 Leon Brittan -- the Home Secretary at the time, he 9 seemed to be the centre of things regarding these 10 matters. Barbara had three or four close contacts that 11 used to keep her up to date about what was going on, but 12 she felt more isolated as time went on and pushed out, 13 as her interference was not welcome about these things. 14 Barbara told me that Leon Brittan was the head 15 investigator of the enquiries at the time and had put 16 feelers out about what was going on. He had also asked 17 about ex-ministers to find out all about what was going 18 on." 19 You say you recall one particular meeting with her 20 when she was an MP based in Brussels, and that was to 21 be, really, the final meeting of this type "that we had" 22 which you thought was about August or September 1984. 23 So is our take from what you are saying about 24 Leon Brittan at the time as Home Secretary, he had 25 instigated enquiries into PIE?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 A. Well, not just PIE, really. I mean, the PIE activities 2 were being highlighted and introduced by other 3 representatives, including Rhodes Boyston. He wanted to 4 know what was going on, that's for certain, but most of 5 his enquiries really seemed to relate to the previous 6 file from Geoffrey Dickens from about 12 months earlier. 7 From what she was telling me, and it seemed pretty 8 obvious from some of the paperwork I'd seen, he was 9 getting almost obsessed with trying to find out who knew 10 what about who and what names were being put about. 11 Q. Who was the "he" who was getting obsessed? 12 A. Leon Brittan was getting obsessed and wanted to find 13 out. It seemed to be known that Barbara was the 14 probable source of this information, but there was an 15 attempt to find the actual leak as to who was supplying 16 her with these documents. 17 Q. So the "head investigator of the enquiries" part of this 18 statement, are you suggesting that she was suggesting 19 was an enquiry into plugging the leak rather than an 20 enquiry into PIE and its aims and other like-minded 21 individuals in Westminster? 22 A. Well, I wouldn't say necessarily preliminarily, but 23 I suppose that was the intention, but they wanted to 24 find out who the mole was, really. 25 Q. So it was a mole hunt rather than anything else?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>
<p>1 A. Yes, yes. 2 Q. Halfway down the same page, page 3 of your 2014 3 statement, do you see, almost exactly halfway down, in 4 a line beginning with the words "Recalled exact 5 details" -- 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. -- "There were also minutes and lists of those who 8 attended these meetings. It also included details of 9 these persons who could not attend. There had also been 10 some sort of legitimate meeting that involved a petition 11 being put forward by persons who wanted PIE banned and 12 that this had been sent to Leon Brittan." 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. So this is, again, information that you had from her? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. That there, in amongst the papers that she was giving 17 you, there was, or had been, a legitimate meeting 18 involving a petition being submitted to the 19 Home Secretary? 20 A. Yes, and I think, with hindsight, that two of the main 21 people behind this petition were Barbara Castle and 22 Geoffrey Dickens. 23 Q. When you say "with hindsight", what do you mean by that? 24 I know what you mean, but what do you mean in factual 25 terms?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>	<p>1 A. Thinking back in terms of conversations I had at the 2 time and seeing certain documents at the time, I mean, 3 it was all a blur when it all happened, because I wasn't 4 particularly a political animal. So a lot of these 5 meetings and things taking part in Westminster was 6 completely new to me. But she was obviously a very 7 experienced politician, had been there for donkey's 8 years, and she knew where the bodies were buried, as she 9 used to say to me, and that people would want to try and 10 keep a lid on certain things because some very important 11 names were being bandied about as supporters of PIE. 12 Q. Again, as I said, we will come back to some names 13 a little later. 14 Can we continue, though, with what you said in 2014: 15 "Within the papers was also a bit that Barbara had 16 that detailed 16 politicians that were actively involved 17 in paedophilia in addition to supporting PIE." 18 If we go right to the end of the statement, so 19 page 7, and the final few lines, did you say in 2014: 20 "In regards to the 16 politicians contained in the 21 files Barbara Castle gave me, who were involved in 22 paedophilic activities, I have many times tried to 23 recall the names that I saw but have been unable, 24 unfortunately, to recall them." 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

1 Q. Not one of them?
 2 **A. I was only shown it once.**
 3 Q. Did you not photocopy it?
 4 **A. No.**
 5 Q. Why not?
 6 **A. I think it was within the documents that either she**
 7 **copied or copies that she gave to me, and this was**
 8 **fairly late on in the exercise, when, within a matter of**
 9 **days, they ended up being confiscated by Special Branch.**
 10 Q. But here you had, would you accept, Mr Hale, on the face
 11 of it, something that was dynamite?
 12 **A. Well, potentially, yes, but I don't know -- there's no**
 13 **explanation, as far as I can recall, of who typed up**
 14 **this list, who prepared this list, was it accurate,**
 15 **whatever. As a journalist, I couldn't just publish**
 16 **something about 16 names without doing any sort of**
 17 **background search on it.**
 18 Q. You're running ahead.
 19 **A. It could have been, you know, rumours and speculation.**
 20 Q. It could have been. But you are running ahead because
 21 that's not really the question I'm asking you. The
 22 question I'm asking you is really how you fail to
 23 remember a single name among the 16?
 24 **A. Well, I'd be guessing now. It's 34 years ago.**
 25 Q. But were there some well-known, high-profile

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1 Q. No, I can see that. But if you were privy to
 2 a document, whether true or false, which contained
 3 16 names, some or all of which were high-profile
 4 parliamentarians or others associated with Westminster,
 5 say civil servants or what have you, surely you're going
 6 to remember some of them? They would be indelibly
 7 etched, wouldn't they, on your brain?
 8 **A. We, it's easy, with hindsight, to look back now and say,**
 9 **"Yes, why didn't you copy this, why didn't you do that?"**
 10 **I have no guarantee -- I mean, she gave me an awful lot**
 11 **of documentation, particularly in the latter stages over**
 12 **the last few days. I had no way of verifying that these**
 13 **were true accounts of --**
 14 Q. But that's not my point, Mr Hale. You are racing ahead,
 15 thinking what you would have done as a journalist.
 16 That's not what I'm asking. What I'm asking you is why
 17 you, Don Hale, as an ordinary person, with, I'm sure,
 18 a reasonable degree of curiosity, didn't pore over the
 19 names and why none of them have stuck? That's what I'm
 20 asking.
 21 **A. Well, I think to a certain extent there was an element**
 22 **of fear with it, because these were names that, if it**
 23 **was true that these were paedophiles, active**
 24 **paedophiles, or in support of the Paedophile Information**
 25 **Exchange, as you say, this was potentially dynamite.**

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1 parliamentarian names in it?
 2 **A. Yes. As far as I can recall, people from that era who**
 3 **were fairly well known.**
 4 Q. And people who were presumably well known to you?
 5 **A. Well, I wouldn't say well known to me. I wasn't**
 6 **a political animal, as I said.**
 7 Q. You were a journalist?
 8 **A. Yes, but not a political journalist.**
 9 Q. No.
 10 **A. I had only come into the job, you know, a matter of**
 11 **a few months before. It was not necessarily something**
 12 **I wanted to wade in with.**
 13 Q. You might have seen a name, I don't know, John Brown --
 14 **A. Well, I might have done.**
 15 Q. -- and you could have looked it up?
 16 **A. I think it would be false for me to try and remember now**
 17 **and to put a name in the public domain that I couldn't**
 18 **support. I have no copy of that document. I have said**
 19 **my recollection is there were some important names, from**
 20 **memory, but I just can't remember. I have been asked**
 21 **several times about that.**
 22 **I mean, the whole experience of being raided by**
 23 **Special Branch was a complete shock, and you want to try**
 24 **and put a lot of things out of your mind when things**
 25 **like that happen.**

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1 **But who could I verify this from, apart from Barbara?**
 2 **She was making accusations against various individuals**
 3 **that I had no way of verifying whether this is true or**
 4 **false.**
 5 Q. But you had the document?
 6 **A. Yes, I had some documents.**
 7 Q. It is not unknown for the press to put a document,
 8 whether it is true or false, into the public domain and
 9 let it sort itself out?
 10 **A. I think as a newly appointed, fairly recently appointed,**
 11 **editor of a local newspaper, it would have been foolish**
 12 **to have done that, at that stage, with the evidence**
 13 **I had. I mean, I was preparing to run something, but it**
 14 **would have needed probably about six weeks of research**
 15 **on this to get to the stage of running a story.**
 16 Q. What was it actually that Barbara Castle was expecting
 17 you to do? You were the editor of the Bury Messenger.
 18 What was it she was actually -- in leaving copy
 19 documents with you or inviting you to make copies of
 20 originals that she took back from you, what was the
 21 whole point of it?
 22 **A. Well, I think -- I mean, I think I mention in the**
 23 **documents here, she thought I was a person she could**
 24 **trust, somebody she could come and talk to, as**
 25 **a sounding board, if you like, about certain matters --**

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<p>1 not just this, but other matters that she was dealing 2 with. I had known her for probably five or six years 3 before that. So she was quite happy to talk to me and 4 make all sorts of allegations, not just about these, but 5 other things in the past, and I was a sounding board for 6 her, so she would then decide herself whether there was 7 anything worth pursuing. 8 I mean, this was a real hot potato, the whole 9 business. I was quite shocked by what she was implying 10 and what she was trying to show me. 11 Q. What was the point, Mr Hale? 12 A. Sorry? 13 Q. What was the point of it? What was the point in her 14 leaving documentation? 15 A. Well, she wanted me to run a story, that was the whole 16 point of it. She said she had been to quite a few of 17 the nationals and they wouldn't touch it with 18 a bargepole. 19 Q. Did she name any of the nationals she'd gone to? 20 A. She mentioned most of the important nationals, yes, and 21 she said some didn't like Labour or some didn't like her 22 or there were vendettas against certain individuals, but 23 she thought many of them were protected by certain 24 editors of the nationals, so they wouldn't run a story 25 for whatever reason.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 Q. So the expectation was that, apart from having grown 2 a friendship, as I understand it, with you, that in 3 providing you with this material, she was expecting you 4 to research it and write a piece? 5 A. Yes, and, as I think I mentioned before, the only way 6 I could have done it was on the basis of her story. 7 Q. Yes. 8 A. This is what she was claiming. 9 Q. Yes. 10 A. I hadn't got sufficient time or resources to investigate 11 the whole job lot myself. I would have needed, you 12 know, a dozen people working for me to look into all 13 these aspects, and these allegations could have been 14 totally false with the 16 names, for all I knew. It 15 could have been people that she or others had thought 16 may have been involved with it. There's just no way of 17 knowing. 18 Q. Wasn't that the whole point of you being a journalist, 19 though, Mr Hale, to discover from researches, whether 20 you do it yourself or you employ a team to do it -- 21 isn't that the whole point of journalism, to find out if 22 there is a story to run -- 23 A. Oh, yes. 24 Q. -- and one which is based -- 25 A. And that's what I say --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>
<p>1 Q. -- on good, reliable information and a good, reliable 2 source? 3 A. Yes, I agree fully with you, but when you get such a wad 4 of documents given to you at fairly last minute and 5 you're expected to make a story out of this and to read 6 and understand so much of it in a very short time, it 7 was almost mission impossible to do anything quickly. 8 And my plan was to look at this over a period of maybe 9 three or four weeks and then to prepare a story -- 10 Q. Yes. 11 A. -- which would have been a -- it wouldn't have been 12 a biff, bang, wallop story, "Messenger reveals", front 13 page, "16 names" type thing, unless we had sufficient 14 evidence to back it up. The only way you could have 15 done it with most of these that were actually named as 16 attending committee meetings or within the 16 or 17 whatever would have been to actually phone or contact 18 each of these individuals and put these claims to them. 19 Q. You did make a couple of calls, didn't you? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. We will come back to that. But can I, just before we 22 break, Mr Hale, just, as it were, to round off this part 23 of my questioning of you, still on page 3, when you 24 deal, about 12 lines up, with the 16 politicians, do you 25 see you said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>	<p>1 "From recollection, I think that at least two were 2 Lords." 3 A. Mmm. 4 Q. Can't put any names to either of them? 5 A. No. 6 Q. Then you continue: 7 "She also had details of 30 persons who were very 8 important sponsors and fundraisers in support of PIE and 9 the publication of Magpie. These persons were outside 10 of politics, but were persons such as deputy 11 headmasters, scout leaders, leaders from the church and 12 other organisations." 13 I suppose if I ask you if you have any of the names, 14 or had any of the names, of any of those, the answer 15 would be the same? 16 A. No, I mean, these were her allegations. 17 Q. So -- 18 A. This is what she was saying to me. 19 Q. So the details were verbal details, not -- 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. -- written? 22 A. Yes. I mean, I think a lot of what she was saying was 23 sort of potentially speculation after talking with 24 Geoffrey Dickens and other like-minded individuals. And 25 I think a lot of information they compiled between them</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 was sort of put forward to me.</p> <p>2 Q. You don't think you're talking about something in</p> <p>3 writing, because you start with the 16 politicians list,</p> <p>4 which appears to be in writing. You have just said that</p> <p>5 the 30 persons was something she told you verbally. And</p> <p>6 then you say, when you come to the end of the type of</p> <p>7 individuals outside of politics who were part of the 30,</p> <p>8 "She also had another list that I estimate had anywhere</p> <p>9 between 1,000 and 1,500 of PIE members or supporters.</p> <p>10 As far as I recall, the list of 16 did not include any</p> <p>11 members of the Royal Family."</p> <p>12 Are you saying, therefore, you saw a list of 1,000</p> <p>13 to 1,500 PIE members, a written list?</p> <p>14 A. There was a list, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Of that number?</p> <p>16 A. Well, that's what it says here, so that must be what I'd</p> <p>17 said at the time. Again, I wouldn't necessarily, you</p> <p>18 know, plough through all of these. There's an awful lot</p> <p>19 of names there. She purported to have got a lot of</p> <p>20 confidential documents from the PIE organisation that</p> <p>21 she'd obtained from one of her sources. Again, with all</p> <p>22 these -- they all need to be checked and verified to see</p> <p>23 what was what. I mean, the part about the Royal Family,</p> <p>24 yes, I mean, that would have stood out, I'm sure, if</p> <p>25 a member of the Royal Family had been named in any of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 the documentation.</p> <p>2 Q. But the interesting thing is, "As far as I recall, the</p> <p>3 list of 16 did not include any members of the Royal</p> <p>4 Family". That's what's not there rather than what is</p> <p>5 there, which means you must have looked at it?</p> <p>6 A. As I say, I did look at it, but I only really saw it</p> <p>7 once --</p> <p>8 Q. Yes --</p> <p>9 A. -- on this thing, and it was put with the other</p> <p>10 documents that I could then spend some time to go</p> <p>11 through these. You can't write -- you can't write</p> <p>12 a massive story like this in five minutes.</p> <p>13 MR ALTMAN: That wasn't my point. Anyway, Mr Hale,</p> <p>14 I suspect the chair and panel want their break now. We</p> <p>15 will come back in about a quarter of an hour.</p> <p>16 (11.16 am)</p> <p>17 (A short break)</p> <p>18 (11.33 am)</p> <p>19 MR ALTMAN: Mr Hale, still on the same page of the 2014</p> <p>20 statement, please, for the time being. You see where we</p> <p>21 left it, "As far as I recall, the list of 16 did not</p> <p>22 include any members of the Royal Family".</p> <p>23 A. Sorry, what page were we on again?</p> <p>24 Q. Page 3 of your 2014 statement behind tab 3.</p> <p>25 A. Right, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>
<p>1 Q. "As far as I recall, the list of 16 did not include any</p> <p>2 members of the Royal Family."</p> <p>3 Then you say:</p> <p>4 "In regards to the distribution list of 1,000 to</p> <p>5 1,500 names, I cannot say that this means that they are</p> <p>6 all paedophiles."</p> <p>7 Was that simply your opinion, or was it something</p> <p>8 that Barbara had said to you that lent itself to you</p> <p>9 voicing that opinion in this statement?</p> <p>10 A. Well, it could have been a bit of both, really. I think</p> <p>11 it's more the fact that these people were getting copies</p> <p>12 of the magazines, et cetera, as well as some were</p> <p>13 members of the PIE. I can't really recall exactly how</p> <p>14 it came about now.</p> <p>15 Q. So that we are clear, the 1,000 to 1,500, they are</p> <p>16 either PIE members or supporters; is that what you're</p> <p>17 saying?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, or on the mailing list for the magazine.</p> <p>19 Q. Can we turn, please, to your 2018 statement, which is</p> <p>20 behind tab 1. Just so we understand the structure of</p> <p>21 this statement, if we look on the second page, beginning</p> <p>22 at paragraph 1.1, do you agree, under the heading, "Some</p> <p>23 queries with police statements presented to me", you set</p> <p>24 out several paragraphs, going into page 3, page 4 and</p> <p>25 just over halfway down page 5 about all the differences</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>	<p>1 you detected between your recollection, at least as far</p> <p>2 as it was in 2018, and the faults and omissions and</p> <p>3 misinterpretations, as you would have it, in the 2014</p> <p>4 statement?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. I'm not going to go through them. Then, just over</p> <p>7 halfway down on page 5, you then review the two 2017</p> <p>8 witness statements for the statement purpose, taken by</p> <p>9 Constable Lorraine Monahan and Detective Constable</p> <p>10 Shirley Lovell?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. That goes into the next page. What I want to ask you,</p> <p>13 please, about is aspects of what you say on page 7 and</p> <p>14 beyond, paragraph 8 on page 7, just a few aspects about</p> <p>15 this. Paragraph 8.4. We will come back to certain</p> <p>16 names, but, again, not only were you saying in relation</p> <p>17 to the 1,000 to 1,500 names on a list of PIE members or</p> <p>18 supporters that you weren't saying they were</p> <p>19 paedophiles, in relation to some high-profile names that</p> <p>20 we will come back to, paragraph 8.4, you weren't saying</p> <p>21 that any one of those people were paedophiles, it was</p> <p>22 just that you believed these particular names were</p> <p>23 mentioned to you deliberately by Barbara Castle, or</p> <p>24 their names appeared in some of the documentation</p> <p>25 submitted to you by her during your discussions?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 A. Yes, I had no evidence any of these people were 2 paedophiles, but they were very much active within the 3 meetings. 4 Q. Let me ask you then about the next paragraph, because it 5 deals with Leon Brittan -- well, first, it deals with 6 Ted Heath. 8.5. You say: 7 "The majority of the important names, including, 8 I believe, many of the above ..." 9 Can we just be clear that in your first statement -- 10 we don't have to go back to it, but I'm just going to 11 list the names you mention. They include Cyril Smith, 12 for reasons I will come back to; they include 13 Leon Brittan; Jeremy Thorpe, Rhodes Boyston, as you 14 called him; and, as well as them, Keith Joseph? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. I think those are all the names that you mention in that 17 statement. 18 If we keep, please, a finger, as it were, or a flag, 19 if anybody has got it, at the page of the 2018 20 statement, you came to make a second substantive 21 statement, as we saw earlier, on 20 February 2017 to the 22 two women police officers that I just mentioned, behind 23 tab 4. If we go to the second page of that, you talk 24 about Leon Brittan at the top of the page, but in the 25 second paragraph -- do you have that, Mr Hale?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. On the second page, you say: 3 "The minutes also had a list of the attendees and 4 apologies. Regularly, the chair of the meeting would be 5 Leon Brittan or Ted Heath. Regular attendees at the PIE 6 meetings were Charles Napier, Keith Joseph, 7 Jeremy Thorpe, Rhodes Boyston and Peter Hayman. All 8 were MPs but sometimes there would be a guest speaker 9 from PIE. I cannot recall their names. The list of 10 the attendees were all men." 11 So that we understand what you are saying, are you 12 saying that these are the same kind of meetings that you 13 were telling us about earlier? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. So what you were saying in 2017 is that the chair of 16 the meeting would be either Leon Brittan or Ted Heath 17 and that regular attendees of those meetings, included 18 Charles Napier, which is a name we are familiar with, 19 Keith Joseph, Jeremy Thorpe, Rhodes Boyston and 20 Peter Hayman. Did you know at the time of writing this 21 statement who Peter Hayman had been? 22 A. I don't think so; not particularly. As I say, I'm not 23 a political animal. It's just a name that seemed 24 familiar within the documentation that Barbara had. 25 Q. What made you think all of them were MPs, including</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>
<p>1 Peter Hayman? 2 A. Well, I probably shouldn't have said "MPs", but they 3 were persons of prominence, really. I think it was the 4 way that the question was being asked by the officers. 5 Q. Right. 6 A. They were pushing and cajoling me into trying to 7 remember lots of names of other people that were 8 involved; like you said before, the 16 names and that. 9 It would be pure speculation to try and come up with 10 other names. These were names that sounded familiar to 11 me at the time, in terms of attending the meetings. I'm 12 not saying anything more about them in terms of -- 13 I don't know what the allegations were, but they were 14 mentioned within the minutes of meetings. 15 Q. When you say "mentioned within the minutes of meetings", 16 are you saying that you saw their names with your own 17 eyes on minutes of meetings? 18 A. Well, it was either saw them with my own eyes or I was 19 told by Barbara Castle in certain instances. So I can't 20 remember now which it would be. 21 Q. Going back -- while we are still on that page, to avoid 22 having to come back to it, further down in the middle 23 paragraph, do you see you make reference to, about 24 halfway down, the documents you say were marked 25 "secret"?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Do you see that? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. The meetings were held in Cabinet meeting rooms at 5 Westminster? 6 A. It wasn't Cabinet meeting. That was changed in my 7 recollection. 8 Q. What do you mean "that was changed"? What was changed? 9 A. They were committee meeting rooms, not Cabinet rooms. 10 Q. So the word "Cabinet" is wrong, it should read "in 11 committee meeting rooms at Westminster"? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. "The documents also showed clear support of PIE from 14 female MPs Harriet Harman and Patricia Hewitt. There 15 were also regular references to PIE magazine, Magpie." 16 A. I think, at that time, Harriet Harman and 17 Patricia Hewitt were not MPs, they were working for the 18 NCCL. 19 Q. They were. So with all of that in mind, can we go back, 20 please, to your 2018 statement, which is -- if you still 21 have a finger, you will find, and if you don't, it is 22 behind tab 1, page 8. Paragraph 8.5 on page 8? 23 A. The 29 December one, is it? 24 Q. Yes. 25 A. Yes. Page 8.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 Q. Page 8, paragraph 8.5.</p> <p>2 A. 8.5. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Got that?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. "The majority of the important names, including</p> <p>6 I believe many of the above, were highlighted ..."</p> <p>7 And "the above" refers to your paragraph 8.2:</p> <p>8 "... another person of public prominence, and</p> <p>9 Jeremy Thorpe, Rhodes Boyston, Leon Brittan and</p> <p>10 Keith Joseph.</p> <p>11 "The majority of the important names, including,</p> <p>12 I believe, many of the above, were highlighted in</p> <p>13 respect of attending special review meetings chaired by</p> <p>14 either Leon Brittan or Ted Heath, in the main, which</p> <p>15 examined sections and allegations from the Dickens</p> <p>16 dossier and other material."</p> <p>17 So we are clear about what you were saying here,</p> <p>18 were you saying that the individuals named, or at least</p> <p>19 the majority of those that you named, at the special</p> <p>20 review meetings were supporters?</p> <p>21 A. No. No, I'm not saying that.</p> <p>22 Q. So what are you saying that they were doing at the</p> <p>23 special review meetings?</p> <p>24 A. This was -- I mean, the major meetings would include</p> <p>25 supporters and had, as I say, people that were --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 Rhodes Boyston, et cetera, were -- according to Barbara,</p> <p>2 was heavily involved with supporting PIE, fundraising,</p> <p>3 distributing the magazine, et cetera, so that's one</p> <p>4 example.</p> <p>5 On these other meetings, this was more of a select,</p> <p>6 smaller committee which were not necessarily looking</p> <p>7 at -- there were some PIE aspects of it, but they were</p> <p>8 looking particularly at the information -- allegations</p> <p>9 made from the Dickens dossier.</p> <p>10 Q. Right. But in order to investigate Mr Dickens'</p> <p>11 allegations or to undermine them?</p> <p>12 A. Well, it wasn't clear from a lot of the documents. They</p> <p>13 were highlighting certain allegations that Mr Dickens</p> <p>14 had made and were basically asking questions themselves</p> <p>15 about it as to who knew about this or who knew about the</p> <p>16 person who may have been mentioned within that document.</p> <p>17 So it was questions and queries within Mr Dickens'</p> <p>18 documents.</p> <p>19 Q. Then you say at 8.6:</p> <p>20 "The committee, under Leon Brittan's direction,</p> <p>21 considered certain aspects of the PIE network and NCCL</p> <p>22 and discussed funding and promotional activities for</p> <p>23 PIE."</p> <p>24 So that rather suggests, if this is accurate, that</p> <p>25 Leon Brittan was involved in supporting it?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>
<p>1 A. No, they were just looking at what had been introduced</p> <p>2 by other members of the committee, in terms of other</p> <p>3 potential funding opportunities or promotional</p> <p>4 activities. I mean, a number of activities were flagged</p> <p>5 up at the time, I'm sure, in terms of saying about</p> <p>6 particular fundraising events at schools or churches.</p> <p>7 I don't remember any comment about it, necessarily, but</p> <p>8 it was -- the way it was put across in terms of -- there</p> <p>9 were a number of examples shown as to how PIE were</p> <p>10 fundraising.</p> <p>11 Q. Right. But what I would like to understand is what</p> <p>12 sense we should get from what you were saying here about</p> <p>13 what these high-profile politicians were doing in</p> <p>14 relation to it?</p> <p>15 A. Well, I think one of the key discussions that came out</p> <p>16 of most of this, and this is something that annoyed</p> <p>17 Barbara intensely, was the lowering of the age of</p> <p>18 consent. And there was a lot of introduction of --</p> <p>19 well, various documents that came forward, that she</p> <p>20 produced, showing that a number of prominent persons of</p> <p>21 interest, really, were supportive of lowering this age</p> <p>22 of consent and they wanted to try and persuade the likes</p> <p>23 of Leon Brittan and others to adopt this.</p> <p>24 Q. So does that mean, from your understanding, that whether</p> <p>25 or not at the time you agreed with PIE's aims, these</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>	<p>1 were legitimate meetings at which views could be</p> <p>2 exchanged?</p> <p>3 A. It was not an illegal organisation or anything, so it</p> <p>4 was interesting in terms of almost they'd got a number</p> <p>5 of contacts of their own that were obviously PIE members</p> <p>6 that had put this information forward to this committee.</p> <p>7 So it sounded as though there was some potential support</p> <p>8 or there was certainly a lot of interest in terms of</p> <p>9 what PIE were or weren't doing.</p> <p>10 Q. Let's just read on, 8.7:</p> <p>11 "Barbara Castle explained that certain people</p> <p>12 attending these committee meetings were keen supporters</p> <p>13 of PIE and their ideas, and may have encouraged</p> <p>14 campaigning to help lower the age of consent."</p> <p>15 Do you agree with that?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. You said it. And 8.8:</p> <p>18 "It was clear from the documents supplied to me that</p> <p>19 Home Secretary Leon Brittan was clearly examining</p> <p>20 aspects and reaction to potentially lowering the age of</p> <p>21 consent. Many key names were listed in the minutes of</p> <p>22 these meetings held within Westminster, including the</p> <p>23 name of the chairperson for each meeting."</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. So you clearly had seen these documents, on the face of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

1 it?

2 **A. Yes, and discussed it with Barbara.**

3 Q. Now, can I ask you about something else that you say in

4 this statement on page 9, please, at paragraph 10.2.

5 This may link to something you have already told us:

6 "Her own investigations with loyal Westminster moles

7 revealed a second secret inquiry instigated by

8 Mr Brittan to find the names and facts about who

9 attended funding and promotional meetings for PIE and

10 which politicians had a specific interest in child

11 sexual abuse."

12 What was that all about?

13 **A. It's difficult to remember everything specifically on**

14 **this, it's such a long time ago, but it was obvious**

15 **that -- from the documentation I saw and from**

16 **discussions with Barbara, that Leon Brittan was very**

17 **keen to find out who was behind this, who was in support**

18 **of PIE, who was against it, who in particular wanted to**

19 **back this campaign to lower the age of consent. And**

20 **I think it was like a sounding board, really, with these**

21 **committee members, that they wanted to determine who was**

22 **for or who was against.**

23 Q. Apart from Leon Brittan, did you read, or were you told

24 of, any other names involved in this secret inquiry?

25 **A. No, not really. I mean, I think this was, again, part**

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1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. Do you have the statement I'm looking at?

3 **A. Yes, I've got a copy of it here, yes.**

4 Q. Have you got the copy we are looking at or a different

5 one?

6 **A. It's the one I downloaded from the bundle.**

7 Q. Use the one that I have got, please, in that bundle.

8 Don't use the one that you have got.

9 **A. Okay. Page 10.**

10 Q. So go to page 10, please. Paragraph 45:

11 "The journalist Don Hale, who claims Barbara Castle

12 gave him a 'dossier' alleging a number of politicians

13 were active supporters of PIE, says Ted Heath regularly

14 attended meetings. He also says that the late Tory MP

15 Rhodes Boyson would distribute the Magpie magazine and

16 organise speakers in support of PIE. Further, he claims

17 that PIE had an office in Westminster staffed by two

18 people. Is any of this true?"

19 This was in relation to an interview of

20 Tom O'Carroll in 2015 by a journalist James Gillespie.

21 You will see O'Carroll's response at paragraph 46:

22 "This is so obviously ridiculous that I am amazed

23 and appalled anyone would give it credence for a moment.

24 It hardly seems to require any rebuttal from me. The

25 mere application of commonsense should suffice."

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1 **of the limited team of those supporters of Leon Brittan,**

2 **in a sense, that he rallied around in order to have**

3 **a separate committee that would look into specific**

4 **allegations that maybe the original committee or the**

5 **main committee were not party or privileged to see the**

6 **minutes.**

7 Q. I assume you knew from Barbara Castle that

8 Geoffrey Dickens had presented a dossier to Leon Brittan

9 as Home Secretary; you understood that?

10 **A. Yes, I think it was in the press as well about the time.**

11 Q. Can I ask you about a statement, a redacted statement,

12 behind tab 7 of your file, please. This is a statement

13 that was provided to the inquiry and it is dated

14 23 November 2018. I am going to ask for it to go up on

15 screen, please. Chair, I am going to ask, please, that

16 this statement in its redacted form is adduced into

17 evidence in its entirety, subject to those redactions,

18 INQ003739.

19 If we can go to page 10, you will see the

20 pagination, the internal pagination, at the top, which

21 is the same as the inquiry pagination at the bottom,

22 "Gillespie Interview" is the heading. You know who

23 Tom O'Carroll is, I assume, Mr Hale? Mr Hale?

24 **A. Sorry?**

25 Q. You know who Tom O'Carroll is?

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1 Then he says:

2 "I will do my best to spell out why these claims are

3 such nonsense, although the conspiracy addicts cannot be

4 expected to listen."

5 In particular -- I am not going to go through it

6 all, because it is available, but if you turn the page,

7 please, to paragraph 55, page 12:

8 "Turning to Rhodes Boyson, I never met the man. He

9 did not distribute the Magpie magazine or organise

10 speakers in support of PIE in my time on the committee

11 and I am confident I would have heard about such a thing

12 had it happened on my successor's watch. I have no

13 reason to suppose he had any contact with PIE at any

14 time. I have no knowledge whatever as to his sexual

15 orientation or personal life. I do know he was

16 a right-wing Tory of the 'flog 'em and hang 'em'

17 variety, which would not have gone down well with the

18 PIE committee."

19 He continues about PIE's policy on capital

20 punishment. Paragraph 46:

21 "As for the claim that PIE had an office in

22 Westminster staffed by two people, no, it is not true.

23 Like many marginalised pressure groups, we operated on

24 a tiny budget that did not run to engaging staff or

25 hiring office space. Our only income was from

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1 membership subscriptions plus the occasional small
 2 donation and sale of publications. With a membership
 3 that never exceeded about 250 people at any one time,
 4 and members paying probably around £5 each, that would
 5 have given us an annual income of about £1,250 plus the
 6 sales, et cetera. The overall total would have been no
 7 more than £2,000 or so, which would just about have
 8 funded the production, by the cheapest methods possible,
 9 of future publications. To appreciate that we were
 10 running on a shoestring, you only need to look at the
 11 production quality of the magazines that we produced.
 12 You wouldn't have mistaken Magpie for Vogue."
 13 Diametrically different to what you are telling us
 14 Barbara Castle told you and, in one sense, perhaps, some
 15 of the documentation you saw?
 16 **A. Well, we have covered some of the aspects before.**
 17 **I mean, Ted Heath was never a chairman of PIE. There**
 18 **were PIE meetings about PIE and that's been discussed.**
 19 **I was asked to make some observations about**
 20 **Mr O'Carroll's statement, which I have done. I mean, in**
 21 **my opinion, it's a rambling account of his own**
 22 **association with the PIE organisation and he seems to be**
 23 **very proud of his own involvement. But on his own**
 24 **admission, O'Carroll's involvement ended in 1981, when**
 25 **he was jailed for a sex-related offence. So he admits**

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1 **gaol, and he turned his back completely on sexual**
 2 **politics. So how would he know what went off in 1984?**
 3 Q. Well, one could speculate, I suppose, about that,
 4 Mr Hale?
 5 **A. Well --**
 6 Q. Be that as it may, you're saying, on the face of what he
 7 has to say, and given the dates that you tell us you had
 8 these meetings with Barbara Castle and the information
 9 that was provided to you, there's a lot of clear water
 10 between the pair of you?
 11 **A. Well, I think it's quite simple in terms of what he's**
 12 **explained himself, where he completely turned his back**
 13 **on the organisation after that period, for whatever**
 14 **reason, so he would have no involvement. He would not**
 15 **know about any funding in 1984, because he admits he had**
 16 **no access to membership. He makes a statement about not**
 17 **knowing about the Treasury. But he does mention about**
 18 **the pamphlets being sent out about paedophilia that were**
 19 **sent and he admits these were sent by PIE to every**
 20 **single MP, and his own words:**
 21 **"A further indication, if any were needed, that ours**
 22 **was a genuine campaigning organisation."**
 23 **At the time he was sort of secretary, and I think**
 24 **chairman at one period, he was saying they were quite**
 25 **forceful in what they were doing. Where he seems to**

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1 **he had no access to any names, addresses or any**
 2 **familiarity with members after that date. We are**
 3 **talking now about, three years later, 1984, and he's**
 4 **admitting he's no idea what went on in 1984.**
 5 **I mean, my claims and allegations submitted to**
 6 **Barbara Castle were all after he left the organisation**
 7 **and he admits then he turned his back on sexual**
 8 **politics. So he's absolutely no idea, he's no interest,**
 9 **according to him and his statement, about what was said.**
 10 **I think he's been fed mischievous information**
 11 **possibly by this other journalist to try and stimulate**
 12 **some response. His own comments regarding my own claims**
 13 **appear to be contradictory, inaccurate and false.**
 14 **I say, I mentioned about this journalist and I think the**
 15 **police have also had a foot in this as well. I mean,**
 16 **there were no PIE meetings at Westminster anyway, as we**
 17 **have already covered. They were fringe meetings,**
 18 **really, to discuss the activities of PIE members and**
 19 **review claims about the Dickens one. Ted Heath, as**
 20 **I said, didn't do anything.**
 21 Q. So the net effect of what you are saying is, by reason
 22 of the dates and by reason of what he has to say, it's
 23 an irrelevance, as far as you're concerned?
 24 **A. Well, on his own admission. He ceased to have anything**
 25 **to do with the organisation from 1981 when he was in**

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1 **have faltered, on his own admission in these statements,**
 2 **is he pushed too hard to try and get the age of consent**
 3 **lowered. It was the wrong time and he got hammered by**
 4 **the press. That's when it all went pear-shaped for him,**
 5 **really. I think this is just -- I don't know, it is**
 6 **just a way of being coerced, I think, to have a pop at**
 7 **me through the PIE organisation in terms of criticising**
 8 **things that we know didn't happen; ie, Ted Heath was**
 9 **never a member of PIE, as far as I know, he was never**
 10 **chair of a PIE meeting as far as I know. The funding,**
 11 **we have already covered funding before, but the funding,**
 12 **it was said to me by Barbara that, at the time, in 1984,**
 13 **Rhodes Boyston was actively involved in fundraising, as**
 14 **were other members of that, to try and keep PIE alive,**
 15 **to try and keep their ideal of lowering the age of**
 16 **consent going, and we know there was a magazine still**
 17 **going out there at that time and we know that it was**
 18 **probably better than it was in his time because it was**
 19 **on a shoestring, because from what we're now told,**
 20 **substantial funding came from the Home Office, at the**
 21 **blessing of Special Branch, to keep this organisation**
 22 **going, so the amount involved with supporting the**
 23 **pamphlets and, again, sending them to MPs, where he**
 24 **admits he sent them to every MP, so we have reason to**
 25 **believe that they were still being sent to every MP.**

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1 **From what Barbara said, it was a brown-envelope**
 2 **operation where there was a distribution office, as**
 3 **such, in Westminster, a storage unit, that was involved.**
 4 **So I just think it is absolute nonsense what he's**
 5 **writing because he has no idea of what was going on**
 6 **three years later.**
 7 Q. Unless he was still connected in some way to the
 8 organisation through people he knew?
 9 **A. Well, you've got a statement saying he wasn't.**
 10 Q. So as far as you're concerned, there is nothing in this
 11 part of Tom O'Carroll's statement that causes you to
 12 think that there is anything undermining what you have
 13 told us?
 14 **A. No, I think he's said it all himself. If you read**
 15 **through the statement itself, you know, that the PIE**
 16 **organisation was in reform towards at least lowering the**
 17 **age of consent. That's what he was going on about and**
 18 **that went totally pear-shaped. Everything else he says**
 19 **criticising can be disregarded because he had no idea,**
 20 **he wasn't involved and, on his own admission, he cut his**
 21 **associations with PIE completely and, if he was still**
 22 **involved, he would have said in 1984 what he was**
 23 **doing -- you know, has the question ever been put to**
 24 **him? But on this, on his own volition, he's saying he**
 25 **finished his association, cut all ties with sexual**

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1 remember, substantial amounts of money were involved --
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. -- I think you mentioned £20,000, as well as private
 4 donations. What period were you telling us about that
 5 she was saying that PIE had received those sorts of
 6 monies?
 7 **A. Well, she didn't clarify to be specific on this, but**
 8 **I was assuming that she was talking about the period**
 9 **that we -- you know, that present time.**
 10 Q. '84?
 11 **A. '84.**
 12 Q. That doesn't look very realistic, though, does it?
 13 **A. It's possible, but certainly she seemed genuine in her**
 14 **sources in terms of saying that they had substantial**
 15 **funding from the Home Office backed by Special Branch,**
 16 **you know, potentially, to keep it going. But I have no**
 17 **way of clarifying what year it was.**
 18 Q. Now, you told us earlier that the last time you had
 19 a meeting of this kind with Barbara Castle
 20 was August/September 1984?
 21 **A. With her?**
 22 Q. Yes, with her.
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. But you then began making some cold calls --
 25 **A. Mmm.**

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1 **politics from 1981 when he went to gaol. So I just**
 2 **think this is absolute rubbish and it's just not**
 3 **credible.**
 4 Q. It's reported and believed that, as I said earlier, PIE
 5 actually did disband around the very time that
 6 Barbara Castle was voicing her concerns to you about it
 7 and its funding. It rather suggests, if that's right,
 8 Mr Hale, that at the very time she was voicing those
 9 concerns to you, that there was no funding or
 10 insufficient funding to keep it going?
 11 **A. I think it's pretty obvious they were struggling. There**
 12 **was a sort of -- it seemed, from what Barbara was**
 13 **saying, that she wanted to try and eliminate them**
 14 **altogether. She wanted to get Leon Brittan and others**
 15 **to ban PIE completely. She was concerned it would drive**
 16 **them underground and may make matters worse. Now,**
 17 **whether that happened in fact, as the PIE organisation**
 18 **did disband over that sort of period -- but, I mean,**
 19 **a lot of the documents she was bringing in were covering**
 20 **a period of maybe a couple of years before. They**
 21 **weren't all -- you know, I mean, we are talking August**
 22 **or so 1984 when she came to see me, but some of**
 23 **the documents dated back some time before that.**
 24 Q. This is what I wanted to ask you. When she was telling
 25 you about funding -- and you said earlier, do you

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1 Q. -- to some of the names that you had either seen or been
 2 told about?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Now, how long after that last meeting with her of this
 5 type in relation to these matters was it you recall
 6 making those cold calls?
 7 **A. Well, probably from the Friday until about the Wednesday**
 8 **or Thursday.**
 9 Q. So last seen on a Friday and, what, you started making
 10 those calls the following week?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. The purpose of the cold calls?
 13 **A. Well, to make enquiries about what was their exact**
 14 **involvement in these meetings.**
 15 Q. This was your journalistic endeavour, presumably, to
 16 research a story for publication?
 17 **A. Yes. I mean, the story was going to be, as I say -- it**
 18 **was Barbara's story primarily. She'd exposed that these**
 19 **meetings were going on. There were two sets of meetings**
 20 **with the committee looking into follow-up, really, from**
 21 **the Geoffrey Dickens dossier and the allegations loosely**
 22 **surrounding PIE.**
 23 Q. Yes.
 24 **A. So that was the story I was going to go for, that she'd**
 25 **exposed that there were two committees, a shortened**

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1 committee looking at specific items, led by
 2 Home Secretary Leon Brittan; and the general committee
 3 that would discuss various things that we have already
 4 mentioned. So that seemed to me a reasonable role to
 5 take at that time because there was sufficient evidence
 6 within the documents to say these meetings had taken
 7 place.
 8 There wasn't sufficient evidence, in my opinion, to
 9 say, like I said before, the 16 MPs or other allegations
 10 of the list and things like that, to go into that.
 11 I don't know how I could have proved that at that stage
 12 without actually phoning or contacting all 16 people of
 13 these individuals. Again, it's sort of a bit of a "So
 14 what?" in a way, because the most important thing to me
 15 at that stage was thinking not necessarily of the list
 16 but the fact -- here we are -- of many high-profile
 17 individuals taking part in what were classed more or
 18 less as secret meetings taking place in Westminster
 19 looking at the age of consent, looking at the activities
 20 of PIE, and almost trying to dismiss, it would seem,
 21 some of the allegations made against some colleagues of
 22 theirs by the Dickens report. That, to me, seems to be
 23 the nucleus of a story.
 24 Q. With that in mind, who did you call?
 25 A. Well, a few people I phoned. I did call Leon Brittan's

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1 dealt with police, I have dealt with the likes of IPCC
 2 and, before them, CIB2, who work in this way. It's the
 3 same MO. No matter what they call themselves now, it's
 4 the same bunch that's working under the different title.
 5 Q. But why, Mr Hale?
 6 A. So a leopard doesn't change its spots.
 7 Q. Why? Why? What's their interest?
 8 A. Because they are trying to discredit my evidence, it's
 9 quite clear.
 10 Q. Because? What, because they are involved in --
 11 A. Because it's quite true, there's a massive coverup.
 12 Q. By the police as well?
 13 A. Yes, by the Met Police.
 14 Q. In 2014 and 2017?
 15 A. Well, I can't say that as such, but why -- my statements
 16 have been edited, a lot of important information has
 17 been left out. You admitted yourself that these are
 18 sometimes subbed down to a shortened version of them,
 19 I can accept some of that --
 20 Q. I'm not suggesting, before you get carried away,
 21 Mr Hale, that that's edited; I'm saying that what
 22 happens is that the handwritten statement, which may be
 23 revised and initialled where the revisions are, is not,
 24 as it were, replicated in the typewritten copy, but if
 25 the handwritten version is available, then you can see

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1 office. I did speak to him very briefly.
 2 Q. You spoke to him?
 3 A. I spoke to him very briefly, where he says "No comment"
 4 and just passed me on to somebody else. If that's an
 5 interview ... so I didn't class that as an interview
 6 because it was a "No comment".
 7 Q. So somebody actually put you through to Leon Brittan and
 8 you had a chat with him?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Do we find that in any of these statements, Mr Hale?
 11 A. It was said to them, but it was not included in the
 12 statements, as far as I can tell.
 13 Q. Why would it be excluded?
 14 A. Well, that's something you need to ask the police
 15 officer and why quite a lot of other information is not
 16 included here.
 17 Q. You have made claims several times that the officers
 18 have omitted things in your statement, I thought you
 19 said deliberately?
 20 A. I think they have, yes.
 21 Q. Why?
 22 A. Well, there's a lot of anomalies within the statements,
 23 trivial things, about cleaners and things, where they
 24 just didn't happen but they have left them in. Now,
 25 why? It's just mischief. I know why, because I have

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1 what was revised in it, and, as it happens, let me tell
 2 you now, but we will look at it a little later, contrary
 3 to what I had understood, we have managed to obtain
 4 a copy of the handwritten version and we will look at it
 5 a little later.
 6 A. Okay, good.
 7 Q. But that's the way it works. I'm not suggesting for
 8 a second that it is deliberately edited to take out
 9 anything in the typewritten investigation --
 10 A. It just seems interesting that there's a lot of
 11 omissions that -- I mean, you know, the second statement
 12 with the two officers from the Met, Lorraine Monahan and
 13 Shirley Lovell, when officers are there for a day or two
 14 days and then you get a three-page statement, you can
 15 draw your own conclusions as to why certain evidence is
 16 not in.
 17 Q. Then the question arises, Mr Hale, why you signed them?
 18 A. Well, because it was an abbreviation. I mean, I would
 19 have loved to have the whole thing in all these
 20 statements, but, for whatever reason, some things they
 21 consider are not relevant to it at the time. I don't
 22 know. I mean, the first statement was taken, what, five
 23 years ago, the second statement was taken about three
 24 years after that, and the second statement was really
 25 more a follow-up, to a certain extent, of the first

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1 **statement. But, I mean, you do remember certain things**
 2 **after you're interrogated on the first statement, you**
 3 **might remember, maybe a couple of years later,**
 4 **something. It's very difficult to say.**
 5 Q. Anyway, so Leon Brittan, although not featuring in any
 6 of your statements, you have told the panel that you
 7 remembered a call with him, you were actually put
 8 through to him, he made no comment and that was the end
 9 of that, so you didn't class it as an interview?
 10 **A. No. As far as I can remember now, I also spoke with**
 11 **Rhodes Boyston and Keith Joseph.**
 12 Q. Pause there. Rhodes Boyson, or Boyston, as you call
 13 him, was he a minister at the time?
 14 **A. I can't remember. I think he was, but I can't really**
 15 **remember.**
 16 Q. You were put through to him?
 17 **A. Mmm.**
 18 Q. You identified yourself as Don Hale, the editor of
 19 the Bury Messenger?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. When you were put through to him, what did you say to
 22 him?
 23 **A. Well, I can't remember exact things, but I would say**
 24 **that I've got evidence that a number of supposed secret**
 25 **meetings have taken place regarding what we've said**

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1 **A. He didn't want to talk about anything.**
 2 Q. Well, "dismissive" means it is all rubbish, but not
 3 wanting to talk about anything is not dismissive, is it?
 4 **A. Well, if somebody, you know, just refuses to speak to**
 5 **you about any allegations you put to them, I think**
 6 **that's dismissive.**
 7 Q. You remembered also talking to Keith Joseph; yes?
 8 **A. They're all very similar, in terms of, they weren't**
 9 **really interviews, they were contacts and, "Thank you,**
 10 **but no thanks, I don't want to say anything, no**
 11 **comment", and the phone is put down.**
 12 Q. What about Jeremy Thorpe?
 13 **A. Jeremy Thorpe is probably the only one you got a few**
 14 **words out of. He just dismissed it. I can't remember**
 15 **his exact words without looking at the statements now,**
 16 **but he said he would send somebody, you know, to put it**
 17 **right, or whatever.**
 18 Q. Well, you said when you contacted Jeremy Thorpe he was
 19 truly stunned. Do you remember saying that?
 20 **A. Yes, I think he was.**
 21 Q. What was he stunned about?
 22 **A. Because I was asking him these questions.**
 23 Q. And he said he would do what?
 24 **A. Well, I can't remember -- I've not got the statement --**
 25 **have you got the statement there? I can't remember**

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1 **here, discussing the age of -- lowering the age of**
 2 **consent, PIE activities, and with the Littleborough MP**
 3 **Geoffrey Dickens. So it would be on that basis, and**
 4 **wanting to try and get some sort of feedback or comment**
 5 **to it.**
 6 Q. Yes. Did you ask him whether he had presented in
 7 support of funding PIE?
 8 **A. No. They just didn't want to talk at all.**
 9 Q. That's not my question. My question is, did you put
 10 that to him or ask him?
 11 **A. I can't remember, because it was a very short interview**
 12 **with him.**
 13 Q. Did you ask him whether he had spoken at such meetings
 14 or had provided speakers for such meetings?
 15 **A. I wish I'd had the opportunity.**
 16 Q. Did you ask him whether he was a distributor of Maggie
 17 in Westminster?
 18 **A. I think we did say to Rhodes Boyston -- I think that was**
 19 **one of the claims with him, because that was an**
 20 **allegation clearly made by Barbara, and he just denied**
 21 **it.**
 22 Q. Well, you said in your 2014 statement he was
 23 "dismissive"?
 24 **A. Well, he was, yes.**
 25 Q. What does "dismissive" mean?

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1 **exactly what I -- what he said now, but something like,**
 2 **"I'll get somebody to talk to you or to speak to you",**
 3 **or whatever.**
 4 Q. Yes, it was along those lines. If you look at page 4 of
 5 your 2014 statement, please?
 6 **A. Page 4?**
 7 Q. Page 4 of your 2014 statement. Six lines down or
 8 thereabouts:
 9 "One of the persons I cold called was Rhodes Boyston
 10 in regards to his opinion of PIE, as of course it wasn't
 11 illegal. Also spoke to him about their proposals
 12 regarding dropping the age of consent. I also
 13 approached him in regards to what he knew about the
 14 funding of PIE. I of course never mentioned the
 15 information had come to me via Barbara, but Boyston was
 16 just dismissive of everything I put to him. I also cold
 17 called Jeremy Thorpe. When he answered and I engaged
 18 him about the information I had, he sounded truly
 19 stunned by it. When I probed him more and asked him
 20 about the meeting he had attended, he was totally
 21 surprised by what I was asking and again shocked. He
 22 said that he would get someone to contact me about it,
 23 but this never happened."
 24 **A. That's right, yes.**
 25 Q. But something else happened instead?

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1 **A. Well, that's right. The next day, Cyril Smith, who was**
 2 **a Liberal MP, turned up unexpectedly at my office in**
 3 **Bury, the Messenger.**
 4 Q. What time of day?
 5 **A. I think between 12.00 and 1.00. It was over the lunch**
 6 **break, I'm sure.**
 7 Q. When you say he turned up at the office, did he have to
 8 ring a bell to get in?
 9 **A. No.**
 10 Q. Was he invited in or not?
 11 **A. No, as I say, was an old bank building, so it had big**
 12 **vault-type doors on the outside, they were left open**
 13 **when people were working there, and a couple of almost**
 14 **like saloon swing doors when you come through. As far**
 15 **as I can remember, there was no real receptionist or**
 16 **reception area. You could walk into an open office.**
 17 Q. You had, I thought you told us, but maybe
 18 I misunderstood, a closed-off, quiet place?
 19 **A. Yes. The ex-bank manager's office at that time.**
 20 Q. Did he have to be shown to your office or did you come
 21 out or --
 22 **A. No, he saw me in the main office and just came towards**
 23 **me.**
 24 Q. You describe to us, please, because one of your
 25 complaints is that the earlier statements simply don't

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1 **obviously to Jeremy Thorpe and to others and he knew who**
 2 **was behind it. Now, I had never mentioned Barbara to**
 3 **anybody.**
 4 Q. Did he mention Barbara?
 5 **A. He mentioned -- he knew where the information had come**
 6 **from and said that Barbara has got a bee in her bonnet.**
 7 **He was determined that I shouldn't publish a story about**
 8 **this. He wanted me to hand over everything to him there**
 9 **and then, which I refused to do. He got very, very**
 10 **aggressive. I was forced in a corner in the office.**
 11 **I really thought he was going to go berserk.**
 12 Q. Did he say something about making a mistake?
 13 **A. Well, he was telling me -- warning me I'm not to publish**
 14 **anything. I think it mentions again in here where he**
 15 **was going out of the office at -- and "making a major**
 16 **mistake", I think, yeah.**
 17 Q. Something you'd be sorry for?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. How long did this encounter last?
 20 **A. I don't know, about five, ten minutes at the very most.**
 21 Q. He was demanding the material you had, you refused to
 22 hand it over?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. How did it all end?
 25 **A. I hadn't got it on the desk. Obviously it was still**

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1 reflect, as you put it, the ferocity and aggression that
 2 he showed to you?
 3 **A. Mmm.**
 4 Q. You describe to us the ferocity and aggression and
 5 nature of his approach and attitude, please.
 6 **A. Well, he just -- he stormed in, he was swearing and**
 7 **f'ing and blinding, and just wanted to speak to me**
 8 **rather urgently and I was pushed and shoved back into my**
 9 **office, really.**
 10 Q. Physically?
 11 **A. Yes. I mean, he was absolutely breathing fire.**
 12 **I thought he was going to hit me, assault me. He's**
 13 **a big guy, a very big guy, as you'd understand. I'd**
 14 **known him on and off for a few years.**
 15 Q. You'd interviewed him in the past?
 16 **A. Yes, yes.**
 17 Q. How had he been to you in the past?
 18 **A. He was nice as pie.**
 19 Q. But on this occasion?
 20 **A. He was just like a madman.**
 21 Q. What was he saying to you?
 22 **A. It was just that the information I had got was all**
 23 **rubbish, it was all poppycock, I think he said, and was**
 24 **just -- well, I've got it in my statement here, you**
 25 **know. I mean, he knew I'd made these phone calls**

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1 **locked in a drawer. It wasn't visible for him to see.**
 2 **I refused to give him anything. I was still working on**
 3 **the story anyway. There wasn't a story to give him,**
 4 **there was just a pile of documents. I thought, "There's**
 5 **no way I'm going to give it to him". The strange thing**
 6 **was, his name, as far as I can remember, never appeared**
 7 **in any of the documents. In hindsight, you could**
 8 **wonder, well, given his history, did he think he was**
 9 **mentioned in the documents or was he acting on behalf of**
 10 **his Liberal colleagues, et cetera. I don't know, I'll**
 11 **probably never know. But he was certainly adamant he**
 12 **wanted to stop a story going out.**
 13 Q. Forgive me, Mr Hale. Carry on.
 14 **A. He was adamant he wanted to put the brakes on it, stop**
 15 **a story going out, saying it was a load of rubbish,**
 16 **et cetera, and then stormed out.**
 17 Q. What time of day did you say it was that this --
 18 **A. Well, as far as I know, it was between -- you know,**
 19 **lunchtime --**
 20 Q. Lunchtime, you said --
 21 **A. -- so 12.00 to 2.00, I think.**
 22 Q. -- 12.00 to 1.00? Who else was in the building at the
 23 time?
 24 **A. I don't know. A few staff were milling about. Some had**
 25 **gone for lunch.**

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1 Q. Presumably, they would have witnessed what you are
 2 telling us about?
 3 **A. Well, they would have witnessed him coming storming into**
 4 **the office.**
 5 Q. Yes.
 6 **A. I don't know whether they would have overheard any**
 7 **conversation necessarily. But it was relatively sort of**
 8 **soundproof. I mean, it was used by the manager, you**
 9 **know, for confidential meetings.**
 10 Q. Did you, for example, after he left, turn to somebody or
 11 any of your colleagues and say, "Did you just see what
 12 happened?", to see if you had any witnesses to his
 13 behaviour?
 14 **A. No, I don't think so, because I was quite stunned by**
 15 **what had happened.**
 16 Q. So you were shaken up, presumably?
 17 **A. Yes, yes. If somebody as powerful as him comes, while**
 18 **spitting in your face and threatening you, you are**
 19 **concerned.**
 20 Q. Did you think of complaining about his behaviour or
 21 reporting it to anyone?
 22 **A. Well, yes, but it would have been difficult. Almost one**
 23 **word against another, if nobody else is actually there**
 24 **as a core witness to see it. Then you think, what is**
 25 **the point, really? He's come down, he's had his say,**

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1 **A. Yes, yes.**
 2 Q. A day or two later, what is the next incident that
 3 happens?
 4 **A. Well, then we had an early-morning raid by**
 5 **Special Branch.**
 6 Q. Right.
 7 **A. They turned up unannounced.**
 8 Q. When you say "an early morning raid", what time?
 9 **A. Between 7.00 and 8.00, more probably closer to 8.00,**
 10 **when -- I say, the big doors at the end weren't locked,**
 11 **because I'd come in, they were sort of semi-open, and**
 12 **the next I heard was a bang of the doors as they crashed**
 13 **back and a gang of about 15 policemen came charging in.**
 14 Q. Pause there. Between 7.00 and 8.00. Anybody else in
 15 the office at that time?
 16 **A. No. No, we didn't really start until 9.00, and most**
 17 **people drifted in from about 8.30 onwards.**
 18 Q. On the face of it, if you look at page 5, and this is
 19 something you've mentioned in passing already, page 5 of
 20 your 2014 statement, there appears, halfway down the
 21 page, on a line that begins "Was back in work"?
 22 **A. Sorry, what page?**
 23 Q. 2014 statement, page 5.
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. On a line that begins, "Was back in work" -- have you

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1 **I'm not going to hand them over to that. I'm still**
 2 **going to make any enquiries.**
 3 Q. Did you have any CCTV inside the office or anything like
 4 that?
 5 **A. I don't think there was much about in those days.**
 6 Q. Just so we understand, you didn't ask around to see if
 7 any of your employees had just witnessed what had
 8 happened?
 9 **A. No. No.**
 10 Q. No? What, you let it go?
 11 **A. More or less. We did get a couple of disgruntled people**
 12 **coming into the office from time to time sounding off**
 13 **about different things.**
 14 Q. Sure.
 15 **A. You know, that's the nature of the beast sometimes.**
 16 **If people appear in court, they don't want to see their**
 17 **names in the paper, or whatever. I wouldn't say there**
 18 **was anything unusual. The fact is that the person was**
 19 **unusual because he was a prominent character.**
 20 Q. Did you telephone Barbara Castle about what had just
 21 happened?
 22 **A. I can't remember whether I phoned her then, because**
 23 **I think she was abroad at the time. I think it was**
 24 **a day or two later when the other incident happened.**
 25 Q. That's what I'm coming on to.

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1 got there? Halfway down?
 2 **A. Yes, yes.**
 3 Q. "I arrived first around 8 am and then the cleaner
 4 arrived, this was before all the other staff arrived."
 5 Then you talk about what you're telling us about?
 6 **A. Yes, I thought --**
 7 Q. Later on, you said that that was wrong about the
 8 cleaner?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. What was wrong about it?
 11 **A. Well, there was no cleaner there. That was just not**
 12 **true. I think this was put across several times to the**
 13 **officer concerned, that, you know, I couldn't remember**
 14 **for certain if anybody was there because I had no**
 15 **recollection of anybody being there, but I'm sure the**
 16 **cleaner came later after these people had left.**
 17 Q. After they'd gone?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. So had there been a witness or witnesses, that would
 20 have been very important, because that would have
 21 proved --
 22 **A. Yes, yes.**
 23 Q. -- this event. But are you saying that you were the
 24 only person in the office at that time?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. It also means, doesn't it, that if your normal office
 2 hours were 9.00 to 5.00, that the officers who turned up
 3 had to know that you would be there that early?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. How might they have known that? Was that your routine?
 6 **A. It was a fairly common routine to be in there just**
 7 **before 8.00 at least, so I could basically check**
 8 **messages or mail or deal with a few enquiries and that**
 9 **before the rest of the day started.**
 10 Q. You called them a gang and you gave us a number, I think
 11 I heard you say about 15. Uniformed, plain clothes,
 12 a bit of both, what?
 13 **A. Yes, a bit of both. There were three officers who**
 14 **identified themselves from Special Branch.**
 15 Q. London or Manchester area?
 16 **A. Well, they didn't actually say where they were from, but**
 17 **they had southern London accents.**
 18 Q. Right.
 19 **A. So I presume they'd come up from London. I think the**
 20 **other officers were PCs, uniformed.**
 21 Q. Locals?
 22 **A. No. No, they'd all come up from -- my understanding,**
 23 **one of them said they'd come up in a minibus from**
 24 **The Smoke.**
 25 Q. They'd all come up from a minibus from The Smoke,

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1 **A. I was more embarrassed than angry, I would say. I'd had**
 2 **these prime documents given to me, in all fairness, by**
 3 **Barbara Castle, and they were -- as you said, you know,**
 4 **they could potentially be dynamite. I was more**
 5 **disappointed with myself, that I hadn't maybe written**
 6 **a story quickly or got something out beforehand. There**
 7 **just wasn't the time to do it, because of, as I say, the**
 8 **time span from Friday to maybe -- whatever it was,**
 9 **Wednesday or Thursday, whenever this happened, there**
 10 **wasn't the time span to have done that, so I acted quite**
 11 **properly in that respect. When these guys charge into**
 12 **your room, threaten you with potentially perverting the**
 13 **course of justice, saying that it's a threat to the**
 14 **public interest, a threat to national security, show**
 15 **you -- I mean, what was shown to me as well were**
 16 **a couple of screwed-up documents. One was purported to**
 17 **be a search warrant, which looks, as far as -- you know,**
 18 **it's a quick, "I've got a search warrant. I've got**
 19 **a D-Notice" -- you know, in the old days, you tended to**
 20 **believe the police if they came with those sorts of**
 21 **documentation -- and were threatening, harassing you**
 22 **with 15 officers there. They didn't come to check Bury**
 23 **puddings or have a cup of tea and a cosy chat. They**
 24 **came determined to confiscate those documents. And**
 25 **I was pushed and shoved until I agreed to release them.**

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1 meaning London?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Three in plain clothes. Was anyone in charge or
 4 obviously in charge?
 5 **A. Yes, there was an officer who did identify -- I can't**
 6 **remember his name now. I don't think it is in the**
 7 **statement.**
 8 Q. Did he give you a name?
 9 **A. He gave me a name, yes.**
 10 Q. There isn't a name in your statement?
 11 **A. No, I can't remember a name.**
 12 Q. No, I'm not asking you now if you do, but did this man
 13 at the time say, "I am Detective Sergeant such and such
 14 of Special Branch"?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Did you note it down at the time?
 17 **A. No.**
 18 Q. Why not?
 19 **A. I think, with hindsight, I was in shock from the whole**
 20 **thing.**
 21 Q. Yes, but -- Mr Hale, I'm sure it was a very shocking
 22 incident, but within a day or so, the shock would have
 23 dissipated and you probably were quite angry about what
 24 had happened. Why didn't you note down the name when it
 25 was fresh in your memory?

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1 Q. We understand all of that, Mr Hale. But what I don't
 2 understand, and perhaps you can help us with is, when
 3 the dust had settled, why didn't you take a note of
 4 the name of the officer?
 5 **A. I don't know now. It's hard to say.**
 6 Q. It would have been a fairly obvious thing to have done,
 7 don't you think?
 8 **A. I really was in shock, as I say, for probably a few days**
 9 **after that and I wanted to more or less forget the whole**
 10 **darn thing. When I phoned Barbara about it and she said**
 11 **something like, "I thought that might happen", she was**
 12 **not surprised at all that Special Branch had come down**
 13 **and kicked up dust and what have you.**
 14 Q. Had she ever forewarned you that that might happen?
 15 **A. Not as such, as a raid like that.**
 16 Q. So she --
 17 **A. She knew that -- she claimed that Special Branch were**
 18 **following her at times. She was under surveillance.**
 19 **She believed she was under surveillance.**
 20 Q. Does that appear in any of your statements, Mr Hale?
 21 **A. I don't think so.**
 22 Q. It doesn't, does it?
 23 **A. No.**
 24 Q. Why not?
 25 **A. Well, I don't -- I can't remember now whether it was**

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1 **told to these officers or not at the time. I'm**
 2 **saying – you know, these are edited versions, as such.**
 3 **So whether it was mentioned or not, I don't know.**
 4 **I really can't remember.**
 5 Q. So these officers knocked the door down --
 6 **A. No, they didn't knock the door down.**
 7 Q. Well, come in uninvited?
 8 **A. Mmm.**
 9 Q. One who gave his name to you, which you didn't note,
 10 what was he asking for?
 11 **A. He wanted me to hand over all the documents.**
 12 Q. You mentioned earlier about the threat to national
 13 security. What was the threat? You or the article you
 14 were to write?
 15 **A. Well, it -- I think sometimes it implies in the**
 16 **statements that I was the threat to national -- it**
 17 **wasn't me that was a threat to -- unless they were**
 18 **thinking in terms of, if I wrote the story I would be**
 19 **termed as a threat.**
 20 Q. Right.
 21 **A. But my impression, my interpretation, was that the**
 22 **potential content of the documents in the story that**
 23 **I was planning to write could be seen by them as**
 24 **a threat to national security. I don't think it would**
 25 **have been. I think it would have just been a big story**

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1 **enough to have known what the protocol was, whether**
 2 **I would keep a copy of a search warrant or a D-Notice or**
 3 **anything. I'd not been in that position before.**
 4 Q. When you were asked to hand over the documents, did you
 5 eventually yield and do so?
 6 **A. Well, yes, I had no choice.**
 7 Q. Did you ask for a receipt?
 8 **A. No.**
 9 Q. Why not?
 10 **A. I don't know, with hindsight. There's a lot of things**
 11 **I wish I'd done.**
 12 Q. Yes.
 13 **A. I think the fact is, I just was in shock from this, and**
 14 **I think if anyone else was in the same situation, you**
 15 **know, you wouldn't have done it.**
 16 Q. You were threatened, you say, Mr Hale, with perverting
 17 the course of justice?
 18 **A. Mmm.**
 19 Q. Did you ask what course of justice? "What's the course
 20 of justice that I am being accused of perverting?"
 21 **A. If I failed to hand over the documents.**
 22 Q. That was the course of justice, was it?
 23 **A. That's my impression, yes.**
 24 Q. I think you say in your statement you were threatened
 25 with gaol --

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1 **about the fact there was a secret meeting. I couldn't**
 2 **really see how this could be a threat to national**
 3 **security, myself, but it wasn't the time to argue.**
 4 Q. Tell us about the D-Notice? I think you said it was
 5 a screwed-up document?
 6 **A. Yes. I mean, I've never seen one before or since.**
 7 **Obviously I heard about them as to what -- they're only**
 8 **used generally in terms of something that is -- may be**
 9 **a threat to national security, so this added to the**
 10 **substance of their anger and determination to confiscate**
 11 **the documents.**
 12 Q. Was it actually shown to you?
 13 **A. No, not -- just a screwed-up showing. I couldn't read**
 14 **anything. I didn't read anything.**
 15 Q. So you wouldn't know one way or another who had signed
 16 it and who had authorised it?
 17 **A. No.**
 18 Q. What about the search warrant? Was a copy of the search
 19 warrant left in your premises --
 20 **A. No.**
 21 Q. -- as it should have been?
 22 **A. No.**
 23 Q. Did you ask for it?
 24 **A. I don't think so. I didn't really know whether I -- in**
 25 **that stage, whether I would have -- I wasn't experienced**

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. -- if you didn't?
 3 **A. Yes, I think they said, you know, if you didn't hand**
 4 **them over, you could face two years in gaol.**
 5 Q. Was it -- do we get the idea that this was an aggressive
 6 episode?
 7 **A. Oh, gosh, yeah. I mean, again, this succession of**
 8 **emails that were sent to the IOPC clear up all these**
 9 **issues about the cleaner, they clear up the whole thing,**
 10 **and it mentions about the visit where this is -- IOPC**
 11 **met, or whoever of them wanted to clarify certain**
 12 **aspects of this, and this was 30 November 2016.**
 13 **I was -- this is my -- "I was in a state of shock, and**
 14 **not a surprise, after the raid, when all my files from**
 15 **Barbara Castle were seized. They said it was in the**
 16 **late '70s, the police, and I said, no, it was not in the**
 17 **late '70s but the mid '80s, and was deliberately**
 18 **targeted to raid the offices before staff arrived.**
 19 **I had not heard of Operation Winter Key before it had**
 20 **taken over from Operation Fairbank". So those are the**
 21 **clarifications.**
 22 **Again, I was asked for further comment on it on**
 23 **1 December, again contact with the IPCC,**
 24 **Lorraine Monahan, in response to her enquiries, that the**
 25 **visit of Smith and Special Branch frightened the living**

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1 **daylights out of me and for years prevented me from**
 2 **speaking out for fear of reprisals and prosecution for**
 3 **daring to repeat the allegations. So that was the sort**
 4 **of reaction I had at the time.**
 5 Q. I know, and you repeat that in your statements to the
 6 inquiry --
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. -- emphasising how fearful you were. But may I ask you
 9 this: did you ever go and visit any lawyer to see if
 10 what had happened to you was lawful?
 11 **A. No, no.**
 12 Q. Why not?
 13 **A. Well, again, old school. I'm thinking, the police must**
 14 **know what they're doing, in a sense. The Special Branch**
 15 **are very powerful people. They are protecting the backs**
 16 **of MPs, et cetera. Where am I going to, you know, get**
 17 **any support from, to go to a solicitors? They would**
 18 **just laugh and turn me away. They wouldn't want to take**
 19 **on the government.**
 20 Q. Unlike ordinary members of the public, you, Mr Hale, had
 21 an important weapon in your armoury, which was your
 22 typewriter and your newspaper. Why did you not think,
 23 as a campaigning journalist, as you proved to be, and
 24 a very successful one, that you had this exclusive
 25 opportunity to out publicly what had happened to you and

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1 **allegations regarding PIE, et cetera, and lowering the**
 2 **age of consent. That there was a consensus of opinion**
 3 **that people in power wanted to support this. And they**
 4 **wanted my comment.**
 5 **I explained to them that I had been frightened,**
 6 **really, by the visit of Special Branch and these**
 7 **allegations to confiscate -- they knew all this anyway,**
 8 **they knew all this. Now whether it was from Barbara, or**
 9 **whatever -- I assume it probably was. But they'd**
 10 **actually got some copies of documentation, by the sound**
 11 **of it, and they were determined to run a story.**
 12 **Now, Cyril Smith turned up, I don't know whether it**
 13 **was the same day or following day, or whatever, again**
 14 **breathing fire, very similar to before. He was**
 15 **absolutely adamant that I was the source or the mole**
 16 **behind this leak, and it was all news to me, and I said,**
 17 **"Look, I have had the call myself from them. Absolutely**
 18 **nothing to do with me. I don't know anything about it.**
 19 **If they have got some documentation, they will probably**
 20 **run it. Go around and threaten them", and, you know, he**
 21 **soon calmed down and stormed out. There's nothing he**
 22 **could do. I'd got no documents. I was not involved**
 23 **with the story at all.**
 24 **I thought, well, maybe that Sunday or a couple of**
 25 **weeks later a story would appear, and it never did.**

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1 the reasons underlying it?
 2 **A. Well, again, I think with hindsight, yes, there was an**
 3 **opportunity, perhaps to highlight the raid. But I was**
 4 **warned quite clearly, you know, not to discuss any of**
 5 **this with anybody, not to discuss the content of any**
 6 **paperwork, et cetera, and it's quite adamant that if**
 7 **I retained any documents, which I said I hadn't, if**
 8 **I retained any documents or ran another story, they**
 9 **would be back and I would be in gaol.**
 10 Q. You left the Bury Messenger I think eventually and moved
 11 to the Matlock Mercury?
 12 **A. Yes, in, I think, September '85.**
 13 Q. '85. Was there another occurrence in 1987?
 14 **A. Yes, there was another appearance from Cyril Smith.**
 15 **I can't remember the exact date, but I'm saying about**
 16 **'87. It was at least a couple of years after I'd been**
 17 **there.**
 18 Q. Something happened before Cyril Smith turned up.
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. Had you been contacted by the News of the World?
 21 **A. Yes, I got a call out of the blue from the News of**
 22 **the World saying similar things to what Barbara had said**
 23 **to me years before, that they'd got information about**
 24 **secret meetings being headed by Leon Brittan, coverups**
 25 **over the Dickens story, Dickens dossier, and various**

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1 Q. Did you say anything to the News of the World when they
 2 contacted you about, as you understood it, the D-Notice
 3 or what purported to be a D-Notice being waved in your
 4 face a couple of years before?
 5 **A. I think I must have done, yes.**
 6 Q. Was there any reaction by whoever you spoke to at the
 7 News of the World about a D-Notice?
 8 **A. Yes: "So what?".**
 9 Q. Suggesting?
 10 **A. "Publish and be damned".**
 11 Q. But you never did?
 12 **A. Well, I couldn't. I had got nothing to do it. I'd got**
 13 **no authority, no power and very little evidence to go**
 14 **on. They could do what on earth they liked, as they**
 15 **often did. They were a very, very powerful**
 16 **organisation, as you'd appreciate, at that time and they**
 17 **would publish all sorts of inflammatory reports, and**
 18 **they were willing to expose, you know, people of**
 19 **prominence, et cetera. I'd got no support, no power, to**
 20 **do anything, really.**
 21 Q. In terms of your previous knowledge of the D-Notice
 22 system, did you have any previous knowledge of
 23 the D-Notice --
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. Did you even know what a D-Notice was when it was first

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1 mentioned?

2 **A. Oh, yeah, yeah. It was something that had been**

3 **discussed during training, sort of thing. But, as far**

4 **as I was concerned, I couldn't -- I mean, I can't argue**

5 **against the D-Notice or a search warrant. I can't say,**

6 **"No, you're not coming in", or whatever. They were**

7 **already in. I was sort of pushed to one side, as I say,**

8 **anyway, by Special Branch. There was absolutely nothing**

9 **I could have done in any case. And I realised that the**

10 **documents I'd got, some of these had got "Top secret" or**

11 **"Confidential" or whatever on the documents. I was in**

12 **possession of copy documents that were purported to come**

13 **from government sources. So I couldn't really argue**

14 **that one.**

15 Q. Did you speak, after the first occurrence, with any

16 other police force or any local police force?

17 **A. Yes, I contacted the Bury Police.**

18 Q. What was the point of your contacting them?

19 **A. Well, I wanted to know if they knew about the raid as**

20 **much as anything else. I think I make a note of that**

21 **here.**

22 Q. You certainly mentioned it in your statement in 2017 and

23 again in 2018. In a sentence, Mr Hale, what did they

24 tell you?

25 **A. That they didn't know anything about it.**

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1 and say, "Hey, what's going on here?", or anything like

2 that. There was no opportunity whatsoever. I presumed,

3 if they'd come from Special Branch, based in London,

4 part of the Met, really, London accents, you put, you

5 know, two together and make five on that. But why would

6 they want to contact the local bobbies to do it? They

7 are just going to do what the hell they want.

8 Q. So the position we reach, Mr Hale, is,

9 1984, August/September, around the last time that you

10 see Barbara Castle in relation to this matter. You make

11 cold calls, as a result of which Cyril Smith turns up,

12 followed by, a day or two later, Special Branch. You

13 move to the Matlock Mercury in September 1985. A couple

14 of years later, you have contact with the News of

15 the World. And then a second visitation by Cyril Smith.

16 You've spoken to Bury Police after the first occasion,

17 and that's where we leave matters for several years,

18 until July 2014, do you agree --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- when you speak to the Mail? How did that come about?

21 I want to -- I'm sure you know what I'm talking about.

22 If we can please put up on screen, and it is behind

23 divider 8 in the bundles, INQ004071?

24 **A. Sorry, what tab is it?**

25 Q. It's tab 8.

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1 Q. Did you leave it at that?

2 **A. I think it is mentioned within a certain interview,**

3 **anyway, that I did with the two officers from the Met.**

4 Q. I agree, you have mentioned it before. I'm simply

5 asking you for your recollection?

6 **A. Well, I mean, my recollection is as here. I said within**

7 **a couple of days I contacted the inspector, the duty**

8 **inspector at Bury who I knew quite well. I dealt with**

9 **these on a daily basis to get crime figures or whatever**

10 **was what. They were quite surprised about the raid.**

11 **They claimed they'd got no knowledge of it, and, you**

12 **know, I was in daily contact. But when I mentioned**

13 **Special Branch to them, as this happened over the years**

14 **with different police forces, it creates a sort of air**

15 **of suspicion and air of -- element of fear with**

16 **Special Branch and local bobbies, that they don't really**

17 **want to get involved. They were a law unto themselves,**

18 **as other witnesses I have interviewed have confirmed,**

19 **and they said they wouldn't necessarily be notified of**

20 **any raid on their patch unless they needed some**

21 **assistance.**

22 **So I took that to be, you know, a reasonable answer,**

23 **but, I mean, it's difficult to know. I mean, what could**

24 **they have done? I wasn't in a position to -- you know,**

25 **at the time of the raid, to phone up the local bobbies**

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1 **A. This wasn't the first story, really, but -- it was**

2 **a story that ran in the Mail.**

3 Q. Well, the author is Guy Adams for the Daily Mail. You

4 can see the date, 19 July?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. "Chilling day: Special Branch swooped to seize another

7 dossier on VIP abusers: 16 MPs' names mentioned in ..."

8 Then a series of bullet pointed sub-headlines:

9 "Police raided newspaper offices of Don Hale, editor

10 of Bury Messenger.

11 "He had recently been given sensitive files by

12 Labour politician Barbara Castle.

13 "Documents included typewritten minutes of meetings

14 that had been held at Westminster in support of

15 paedophile agenda.

16 "Included details of a host of establishment figures

17 who had apparently pledged support to their cause.

18 "Also mentioned multiple times was Tory minister

19 Sir Rhodes Boyson, a well-known enthusiast for corporal

20 punishment, and Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph."

21 How did this article come about?

22 **A. As I say, I don't think this was the first article. The**

23 **first ones, I think, were the Sunday Mirror and the**

24 **Sunday Star.**

25 Q. We will come to some Mirror articles afterwards and

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1 whether you are confusing those or not we will see.
 2 Let's focus on this. How did this come about?
 3 **A. I got a call from -- I used to do some work with the**
 4 **Daily Mail from time to time. There were some overlaps**
 5 **with research or background stories they wanted from our**
 6 **patch. I knew quite a few people at the Mail and the**
 7 **Mail on Sunday and so it was a follow-up from that.**
 8 **I can't be sure now, but I think it was a follow-up**
 9 **from an article that appeared in another newspaper.**
 10 **Q. Who instigated your speaking to a national news**
 11 **organisation like the Mail? Where did it start?**
 12 **A. I think whether it was the Mail or another newspaper,**
 13 **I spoke to them when -- basically, it was following**
 14 **the -- sort of the Savile incidents and allegations**
 15 **regarding Cyril Smith in particular. That's when a lot**
 16 **of the allegations about sexual abuse, particularly**
 17 **links to Westminster, et cetera, started to appear in**
 18 **newspapers.**
 19 **I speak to a lot of journalists and editors anyway**
 20 **during the course of my duties and something was said at**
 21 **one stage about Cyril Smith and a rough explanation of**
 22 **what had happened to me all those years before, 20 years**
 23 **before, or whatever.**
 24 **So that's when, you know, the first articles were**
 25 **put together. Now, I can't remember on this one**

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1 **at the time, you don't really think about anything until**
 2 **maybe years later when suddenly they could be in the**
 3 **public profile, or whatever, and then you start to**
 4 **wonder, "I think that person was mentioned in the**
 5 **files", or whatever. But -- I mean, we're not talking**
 6 **in terms of these people were paedophiles, we are only**
 7 **talking in terms of allegations that they were -- we are**
 8 **only talking in terms of, these people were in some way**
 9 **associated with these secretive meetings at Westminster.**
 10 **Q. Yes.**
 11 **A. I'm not jumping to conclusions and saying all these**
 12 **people named, or anything, were paedophiles. I had no**
 13 **evidence. And that was the problem I had, as I say, at**
 14 **day one with Barbara. I -- with lists or whatever.**
 15 **I couldn't say any of these people were active**
 16 **paedophiles or supportive of that. She was telling me**
 17 **certain things and, yes, you've got copies of minutes of**
 18 **meetings where names appeared so you could actually say**
 19 **and confirm that these people attended a meeting on such**
 20 **a date and this is what was discussed.**
 21 **Q. All right. Bear with me, Mr Hale, because I want to**
 22 **take you through these things just for a more focused**
 23 **reason. If you go to the fourth page of this article,**
 24 **do you see the second paragraph:**
 25 **"No fewer than 16 MPs were on that list, several of**

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1 **whether -- I'm not sure Guy picked it up from another**
 2 **article or I was talking to another reporter or a couple**
 3 **of reporters I know at the Mail -- they might have put**
 4 **him onto it, because he's more sort of a main feature**
 5 **writer -- a lot of the investigative aspects.**
 6 **Basically, you know, he contacted and we had a chat**
 7 **and he ran the story.**
 8 **Q. You have obviously seen this article. Do you regard it**
 9 **as accurate?**
 10 **A. Well, I couldn't print this one off before, so --**
 11 **Q. But you must have seen it in 2014?**
 12 **A. There were one or two errors within it, as far as**
 13 **I recall. But I would just need to look through and**
 14 **see.**
 15 **Q. All right. What I'm going to ask you about is really**
 16 **all the names that you mention.**
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 **Q. I remember hearing earlier that you told us that, as**
 19 **time went on, you began to remember more rather than**
 20 **fewer names, in what Barbara had told you or perhaps the**
 21 **material you had seen. So is that how your memory**
 22 **works, that you actually remember more things than fewer**
 23 **things as time goes on?**
 24 **A. Well, the disturbing thing with some of these is that**
 25 **people who were mentioned within some of the documents**

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1 them household names. Also mentioned multiple times was
 2 Tory Minister Sir Rhodes Boyson, a well-known enthusiast
 3 for corporal punishment, and Education Secretary
 4 Sir Keith Joseph."
 5 This article is 19 July 2014, so there are only two
 6 names there in this article. Can you explain why, for
 7 example, there is no mention of Edward Heath or
 8 Leon Brittan?
 9 **A. Well, I'm surprised that this these two are mentioned in**
 10 **the context they were mentioned there, and I think**
 11 **that's -- he's probably taken those out of context.**
 12 **I think all of the names that we have discussed would**
 13 **have been mentioned to him. I can see no reason why.**
 14 **But these are two that may be flagged up that sounded**
 15 **more of interest to them.**
 16 **Q. Because, if we go back, for example, to page -- or go**
 17 **forwards to page 5, we see two photographs, don't we, of**
 18 **Rhodes Boyson and Keith Joseph. But we don't see any**
 19 **other photographs of, for example, Edward Heath or**
 20 **Leon Brittan or, for that matter, Jeremy Thorpe, or for**
 21 **that matter the other person of public prominence?**
 22 **A. I have not seen the article, so I'm --**
 23 **Q. But you will agree with me, won't you --**
 24 **A. I do seem to remember at the time there were a number of**
 25 **errors that came out. It was more speculative than**

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1 **factual.**
 2 Q. Fine, so there are errors in this. Your
 3 10 December 2014 statement, which we have looked at
 4 before and don't have to go back to, but as a matter of
 5 chronology, was produced five months later, after this
 6 article, that first witness statement to the police, and
 7 we bear in mind what you say about the things that were
 8 omitted, but there you will remember mentioning the
 9 names -- Keith Joseph; Cyril Smith, in the way that you
 10 have told us about, purely in relation to the two
 11 visits; Rhodes Boyson as a distributor of Maggie and
 12 speaker and finding of speakers for those meetings in
 13 Westminster; Jeremy Thorpe; and the other individual --
 14 as attendees at fringe meetings. Do you agree with
 15 that?
 16 So in your first witness statement, there are more
 17 names mentioned than are mentioned in the Mail article
 18 five months before; will you agree with that, Mr Hale,
 19 or are you still reading the Mail article?
 20 **A. I'm still just looking through it at the moment, making**
 21 **a comparison.**
 22 Q. Well --
 23 **A. I can't -- I can't obviously recall everything. I have**
 24 **got a copy of the statement, as you have indicated, but**
 25 **what was said or not said to the officer at the time,**

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1 **the interview with -- 10 December --**
 2 Q. Farrell --
 3 **A. Is that right, 10 December?**
 4 Q. 10 December 2014?
 5 **A. This was when?**
 6 Q. This was 19 July 2014, five months earlier.
 7 **A. So if I had told them about these, which it would seem**
 8 **I had, then this should have been included within this,**
 9 **and that's maybe something you would need to ask the**
 10 **police officer, because it could have been one of**
 11 **the reasons that certain people weren't included, for**
 12 **whatever reason.**
 13 Q. Or unless you were just adding names, Mr Hale?
 14 **A. Well, I don't think so, because they have appeared in**
 15 **other witness -- other witness statements later, two or**
 16 **three years later when these other officers came to see**
 17 **me. And we have had, as I say, a succession of**
 18 **46 emails, don't forget, between myself and these**
 19 **detectives uncovering all sorts of anomalies and**
 20 **queries.**
 21 Q. I know you have told us about that. My point is, I'm
 22 not asking you about what detectives put in your
 23 statement or you agreed to have put in your statement;
 24 I'm asking you about why it is only two names in the
 25 Daily Mail article five months before. It has got

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1 **I think I've already covered part of that in saying**
 2 **a lot of facts were said to both sets of officers who**
 3 **came to different interviews, you know --**
 4 Q. We have got the point, Mr Hale --
 5 **A. Yeah, I mean, three pages for a day's work, that's --**
 6 **for two days' work -- there is obviously a lot of**
 7 **information that was given to them that weren't used,**
 8 **for whatever reason. Maybe it suited their purposes not**
 9 **to mention certain individuals.**
 10 Q. The Mail?
 11 **A. Well, the Mail or whoever, even the police.**
 12 Q. My point is, there is a progression of names which are
 13 mentioned. We begin with the 19 July article with just
 14 those two names. By the time we come to your first
 15 witness statement, five months later, there are several
 16 names, including Boyson, Brittan, Joseph and Thorpe.
 17 And I would like to look, please, at another --
 18 **A. I mean, that would seem to inference that the first**
 19 **officer has deliberately, for whatever reason, not**
 20 **included them within his statement when he may have been**
 21 **told these facts, if they're included here and they're**
 22 **included in the second statement.**
 23 Q. But I'm not talking about a police officer. We are
 24 talking about Guy Adams' Mail article on 19 July.
 25 **A. Yes, but you're saying this was the first article before**

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1 nothing to do with police officers.
 2 **A. Well, I don't know. I can't explain it.**
 3 Q. Let's look, then, at INQ004077, which is tab 10, please.
 4 This is an article you wrote on 24 January 2015 for the
 5 Daily Mirror. Do you agree that's your article?
 6 **A. Yes, as far as I know.**
 7 Q. That's your article. You recognise that?
 8 **A. As far as I know, yes.**
 9 Q. "Leon Brittan: ex labour MP Barbara Castle said former
 10 Home Secretary was man 'she could not trust'."
 11 We can see the date. It is by you, written and
 12 updated on 24 January 2015. So it is the next month of
 13 the next year after your witness statement, and in it
 14 you name Leon Brittan, as is clear, as being involved,
 15 in effect, with keeping a lid on things. If we look at
 16 the second page, for example, under the imagery and
 17 under the advertisement:
 18 "Former Labour MP Barbara Castle said Leon Brittan
 19 was a man that she 'could not trust' and was highly
 20 critical of his handling of a dossier said to have
 21 contained the names of VIP paedophiles.
 22 "She said he was 'a powerful man with many secrets'
 23 and claimed many of his colleagues just dare not get the
 24 wrong side of him'.
 25 "She added that the then Home Secretary ran

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<p>1 Special Branch as his own personal 'Gestapo' who 2 monitored fellow MPs. 3 "She also claimed that the Home Secretary used 4 Special Branch to monitor fellow MPs." 5 Now, this is all your work, isn't it? 6 A. This is based on Barbara Castle's quotes. 7 Q. This is your article, isn't it? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. On the next page, page 5, under the advertisement: 10 "She said she had been made aware of a proposal to 11 legalise sex with children, particularly if encouraged 12 within a family environment, and attacked another 13 equally horrific proposal to similarly reduce the age of 14 consent. 15 "... scathing of any neutral interest by Mr Brittan 16 and revealed that a second secret internal inquiry had 17 been instigated by him to found out who knew what, when 18 and where about allegations of child sexual abuse. 19 "She found a raft of confidential sexual abuse 20 papers and claimed 'they had Leon Brittan's fingerprints 21 all over them' and believed he was in possession of key 22 facts." 23 Then on page 8, after a photograph of Leon Brittan: 24 "They related to paperwork sent back and forth to 25 his office listing names of people attending or unable</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 to attend private meetings, to talk about support for 2 PIE and funding opportunities, and news of promotions to 3 encourage opportunities to meet young boys. 4 "Barbara explained: 'there were lists of MPs 5 actively involved in supporting this paedophile network, 6 together with other lists of wealthy backers, and of 7 more than 1,000 people who took the Magpie magazine. 8 "She added that Brittan [as in Leon Brittan] was 9 'determined to keep a lit on things' and had the full 10 support of the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who 11 acknowledged she had some 'bad boys' on the team." 12 That's not something you have told us before. Is 13 that something you say that Barbara Castle told you? 14 A. All these are quotes from Barbara Castle at the time. 15 Q. Yes. But my point is, it is not in your witness 16 statement. You have not told us it in your evidence. 17 But are you saying -- 18 A. It's in the witness statement to the inquiry. 19 Q. All right. If I have missed it, then you have said it, 20 and we can check that. 21 A. I'm sure it is. 22 Q. But be that as it may, Mr Hale, do you accept that this 23 article is all about Leon Brittan? You also wrote in 24 the penultimate paragraph: 25 "The papers also identified Rhodes Boyston as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>
<p>1 a speaker finder and fundraiser for PIE -- who had their 2 own office within Westminster -- and confirmed he was 3 also a key distributor of Magpie." 4 A. Well, we have already covered a lot of this in the 5 discussions this morning. 6 Q. We have. 7 A. All that was said. I mean, there was quite a lengthy 8 discussion with DS Farrell, when he came and spent 9 two days with us, about Leon Brittan. It was quite 10 clear -- he was still alive then as well. It was quite 11 clear he wanted to avoid that discussion like the plague 12 and was saying that -- his words to me were that they 13 had enough evidence on Leon Brittan to have interviewed 14 him under caution. 15 Q. Didn't Leon Brittan die on 21 January, so three days 16 before the article? 17 A. He died -- no, I don't think so. He died, very 18 conveniently, in a sense, from the police point of 19 view -- they lost the file on Leon Brittan. They lost 20 the file on Leon Brittan, and that mysteriously appeared 21 the day after he died. The officer is quite adamant 22 that he thought there was sufficient grounds to have 23 interviewed Leon Brittan. I'm sure all these quotations 24 from Barbara were mentioned to him. 25 Q. Leon Brittan died on 21 January 2015.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>	<p>1 A. Mmm. 2 Q. So three days before you wrote the article. Were you 3 taking advantage of the fact that Leon Brittan had died? 4 A. Sorry, what date did you say he passed away? 5 Q. 21 January 2015, and your article is 24 January 2015. 6 A. It's probably submitted long before that, actually. 7 Q. So it was the Mirror who had control over when it was 8 published? 9 A. Of course, yes. 10 Q. Then, if we can go, before we break, please, to 11 a further article, this one co-written by you, of 12 8 August, INQ004079? 13 A. Is this number 11? 14 Q. Yes. It is another Daily Mirror piece, co-written by 15 you, with Nick Dorman under the headline: 16 "Edward Heath fixed it for Jimmy Savile to receive 17 OBE and attended Paedophile Information Exchange 18 meetings." 19 Did that information for this article come from you 20 as a result of what you say Barbara Castle had told you? 21 A. I mean, Nick Dorman did quite a lot of his own work, and 22 I had to supply some research to him for certain 23 stories, probably including this one. It was basically 24 his story using some of my copybook, mainly on the slant 25 that he was taking at that time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

1 Q. Let's have a look at the third page, page 3. At the
 2 top:
 3 "We can also reveal" -- "we" -- "that Heath, under
 4 investigation by seven police forces over child abuse
 5 claims, was present at more than half a dozen
 6 Westminster meetings of the notorious Paedophile
 7 Information Exchange."
 8 Beneath the photograph:
 9 "The perverted group was formed to persuade
 10 politicians to lower the age of sexual consent to only
 11 ten."
 12 **A. No, that's not my words; that's Nick's words.**
 13 Q. But it's co-authored by you, on the face of it; do you
 14 agree?
 15 **A. Sorry, the evidence? Sorry?**
 16 Q. Well, you tell me?
 17 **A. As I say, information was given to him about meetings**
 18 **where it's quite clearly said about Edward Heath that he**
 19 **chaired meetings. It's been -- it can be misrepresented**
 20 **by some as the PIE meetings, but it was, as was said,**
 21 **discussed about PIE and Geoffrey Dickens and other**
 22 **matters. Now, that's possibly where he's got it wrong.**
 23 Q. Did you read this article and tell him he'd got it
 24 wrong?
 25 **A. No, I didn't see it before it went out. I just supply**

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1 to rake over them again.
 2 Mr Hale, I have not finished, I'm afraid. We will
 3 finish, with the chair's permission, after lunch, which
 4 I imagine will be -- we will return at 2.00 pm.
 5 Thank you very much.
 6 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Altman.
 7 (1.02 pm)
 8 (The short adjournment)
 9 (2.00 pm)
 10 MR ALTMAN: Mr Hale, did you get paid for the Daily Mail
 11 article?
 12 **A. Probably I got some recompense, I'm sure.**
 13 Q. "Probably"? Probably how much?
 14 **A. I don't know, a few hundred pounds.**
 15 Q. What about for the Mirror articles that you wrote in
 16 2015? Did you get paid for those?
 17 **A. Yes, I suppose so, because I was a freelance journalist.**
 18 Q. Yes, so how much do you reckon you got paid for those?
 19 **A. Not so much off the Mirror. I don't know, probably 250.**
 20 Q. £250?
 21 **A. Something like that.**
 22 Q. For each article?
 23 **A. Sorry?**
 24 Q. For each article, because there were two, one
 25 in January, one in August?

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1 **details and he does his own thing.**
 2 Q. It so happens, did you realise, Mr Hale, that
 3 8 August 2015 was just a few days after Edward Heath had
 4 been first accused of child abuse in the media? Did you
 5 know that at the time that this article was published?
 6 **A. I'm not aware of that.**
 7 Q. Then, finally, as we saw, in your 20 February witness
 8 statement -- do you remember I took you to it earlier?
 9 Do you remember where you mention Heath or Brittan as
 10 being chairs of the Paedophile Information Exchange
 11 meetings in Westminster, and there you mention
 12 Charles Napier, Keith Joseph, Jeremy Thorpe,
 13 Rhodes Boyson, as well as Peter Hayman, adding
 14 Harriet Harman and Patricia Hewitt were supporters as
 15 well. Do you remember we looked at that earlier?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. I'm just wondering why, as time goes on, there seems to
 18 be, rather than fewer names being mentioned by you,
 19 more?
 20 **A. I don't know where -- you say "more". Many of these**
 21 **same ones are mentioned in the first statement and the**
 22 **second statement.**
 23 Q. That's what you think, do you?
 24 **A. That's what I would have thought, yes.**
 25 MR ALTMAN: Well, we have been through them. I'm not going

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1 **A. Probably something like that, yes, yes. Just while we**
 2 **are on that subject, if I may, you queried before**
 3 **regarding the Daily Mail -- the Daily Mirror article,**
 4 **INQ004077, about these allegations against Leon Brittan**
 5 **and you said you couldn't -- you didn't think they were**
 6 **included in the statement or you couldn't find them in**
 7 **the statement or something --**
 8 Q. The only thing I said was about Margaret Thatcher, which
 9 is there?
 10 **A. Obviously the same quotations, near enough, are on**
 11 **page 8 and page 9, where it says Leon Brittan is**
 12 **a control freak, she despised the man, doubted whether**
 13 **the controversial Dickens dossier handed to him would**
 14 **ever be reviewed, a man of dark secrets, thick as**
 15 **thieves with Margaret Thatcher, she gave him a blank**
 16 **canvas to keep an eye on some bad lads, believed Dickens**
 17 **giving the dossier to Leon Brittan was a waste of time**
 18 **as it involved many of his friends and associates, it**
 19 **was unlikely ever to see the light of day.**
 20 **I'm saying these were -- it is not something just**
 21 **made up for the Mirror article. These were quotes that**
 22 **were said to --**
 23 Q. Mr Hale, then you misunderstood me. The only thing
 24 I hadn't recalled was the Mrs Thatcher "bad boys"
 25 quotation. I wasn't suggesting I couldn't remember the

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1 others?

2 **A. That was in here as well.**

3 Q. Yes, I know, I am accepting that.

4 **A. Thank you.**

5 Q. Can we go back to the Daily Mail article, please, which

6 is in tab 8, because I want to go through that. We

7 looked at the headline. Let's put it up on screen

8 again, INQ004071. Let's just look at how the article

9 reads:

10 "The knock on the door came early one day in the

11 famously dry summer of 1984. It was just after 8 am and

12 Don Hale, the young editor of the Bury Messenger, was

13 reading the daily papers at his desk as his reporters

14 were beginning to arrive at the office."

15 You told us that 9 o'clock was the ordinary office

16 hours -- 9.00 until 5.00 were the ordinary office hours

17 for the paper. So how did Guy Adams for the Mail

18 understand that, at 8 o'clock, reporters were beginning

19 to arrive at the office?

20 **A. Well, they would come in for about 8.30.**

21 Q. But the article is talking about 8 o'clock. You told us

22 earlier it was between 7.00 and 8.00?

23 **A. I think I said between 7.30 and 8.00.**

24 Q. I think you said 7.00 and 8.00, but I'm not going to

25 quibble with you.

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1 **A. He's probably made it up from conversations,**

2 **discussions, with him, but it's not the sort of language**

3 **I would use.**

4 Q. As a journalist, if something is shown in inverted

5 commas, what should that mean?

6 **A. Of course it is a quotation.**

7 Q. And it should be truthful and accurate?

8 **A. As much as you can be, yes.**

9 Q. But you accept, or you don't accept --

10 **A. I have no recollection of saying that, put it that way.**

11 Q. Might you have said it?

12 **A. I don't think so, because it's not the sort of**

13 **phraseology I would use.**

14 Q. Okay:

15 "The detectives identified themselves as

16 Special Branch, the division of the police responsible

17 for matters of national security.

18 "They began to flash warrant cards and bark

19 questions', says Hale."

20 Did you say that? It says "says Hale"?

21 **A. It may be. They did show me warrant cards, they did say**

22 **they were from Special Branch.**

23 Q. And then this quotation:

24 "It was as if they were interviewing a potential

25 criminal rather than a law-abiding newspaper man!."

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1 **A. I think to be fair to the inquiry, it was about 7.30 to**

2 **8.00.**

3 Q. Right.

4 **A. But this is -- it is not my words, this is Guy Adams**

5 **saying "just after 8 o'clock". So that could be**

6 **correct. They were in and out in five to ten minutes.**

7 Q. My point was whether there were any witnesses to what

8 had happened, do you remember?

9 **A. I wish there were.**

10 Q. But there weren't?

11 **A. No, not to my recollection.**

12 Q. "As Hale, then 31, answered the door, a trio of

13 plainclothes detectives barged in, followed by a dozen

14 police officers in uniform."

15 If we can go to the next page:

16 "What happened next was, in Hale's words, 'like

17 something out of totalitarian East-Germany rather than

18 Margaret Thatcher's supposedly free Britain.'"

19 Given it is in quotation marks, do you accept that

20 you said that to Guy Adams?

21 **A. It sounds a bit far-fetched, to be honest.**

22 Q. Far-fetched or no, do you accept it is what you said to

23 Guy Adams?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. So he's made that up?

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1 Did you say that?

2 **A. Quite probably, yes, that is perfectly true.**

3 Q. "The officers told me that I should abandon plans to

4 print a story that was scheduled to run in our next

5 edition."

6 Was a story scheduled to run in your next edition?

7 **A. That would have been the earliest it could have gone in**

8 **but, as I say, I was still looking through the papers.**

9 **It was more likely it would have been two or three**

10 **weeks.**

11 Q. "If I didn't, they told me to expect a long gaol

12 sentence'."

13 Did you say "long gaol sentence"?

14 **A. No, two years.**

15 Q. "Initially bewildered by their threatening tone, Hale

16 soon worked out the purpose of the police visit. The

17 focus of their attention was an incendiary dossier he

18 had been handed a few days earlier by long-serving

19 Labour politician, Barbara Castle. A powerful feminist

20 and stalwart of the traditional left who served in

21 Harold Wilson's Cabinet, she was for years the MP for

22 nearby Blackburn."

23 On it goes, including, at the foot of this page,

24 about the NCCL and its official affiliation with PIE,

25 and there we see named Harriet Harman, Patricia Hewitt

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1 and Jack Dromey.
 2 Can we go to the next page, please. A photograph of
 3 you, Mr Hale?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Provided by you to the paper or --
 6 **A. No.**
 7 Q. -- did a photographer of the Mail take that of you?
 8 **A. No, it was taken from the Mercury files.**
 9 Q. But with your permission?
 10 **A. I don't recall anybody asking, but it was on the**
 11 **website, so they could have lifted it from that.**
 12 Q. That's the Matlock Mercury?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. The article continues beneath the photograph of you.
 15 Then if we go, please, to the fourth page at the top:
 16 "Over tea and a bun at a local cafe, Mrs Castle
 17 opened a battered briefcase and handed Hale a bundle of
 18 extraordinary documents."
 19 Is that right?
 20 **A. Yes, amongst other visits, yes. I think I've mentioned**
 21 **that before, about the battered briefcase.**
 22 Q. You have. What about the bun and the tea at the local
 23 cafe?
 24 **A. That was quite common practice, yes.**
 25 Q. "They included typewritten minutes of meetings that had

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1 should have been protecting vulnerable children seemed
 2 more interested in stopping the press from prying too
 3 closely."
 4 What do you say about that quotation?
 5 **A. It is probably broadly correct.**
 6 Q. Why is there nothing there about speaking directly to
 7 Leon Brittan, who made no comment?
 8 **A. Because probably he didn't ask and I didn't say.**
 9 Q. So --
 10 **A. He was making a story -- well, I say making; he was**
 11 **preparing the story himself on a few basic questions.**
 12 **He didn't -- there wasn't time, from his point of view,**
 13 **to go into great detail about it. It wasn't an in-depth**
 14 **interview. He didn't come around and do it. It was**
 15 **done over the telephone fairly hastily.**
 16 Q. Then this part of the article is not entirely complete,
 17 is it, because if you had indeed spoken to Leon Brittan,
 18 why didn't you volunteer that to Guy Adams?
 19 **A. I may have done. I may have said that and with others**
 20 **that we have discussed before in terms of, they weren't**
 21 **interviews as such, they were either "no comment" or**
 22 **just straight denials.**
 23 Q. But the point is, if you had told Guy Adams this, he
 24 left it out of the article?
 25 **A. It's possible, yes.**

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1 been held at Westminster in support of the paedophile
 2 agenda, along with details of a host of establishment
 3 figures who had apparently pledged support to their
 4 cause."
 5 This is the part I cited to you a little earlier:
 6 "No fewer than 16 MPs were on that list, several of
 7 them household names. Also mentioned multiple times was
 8 Tory Minister Sir Rhodes Boyson ... and Education
 9 Secretary Sir Keith Joseph.
 10 "I don't suppose you'd be interested in writing
 11 a story on this', Mrs Castle asked in what Hale
 12 describes as a tone of weariness."
 13 It rather suggests this is an account that you
 14 provided to Guy Adams, do you agree?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. "She perked up when I told her that, yes, I would be
 17 interested ... though I warned her that I would have to
 18 make enquiries with the authorities about some contents
 19 of the dossier."
 20 Do you agree you told that to Guy Adams?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. "Accordingly, a few days later he put in a call to the
 23 Home Office:
 24 "I could detect the antagonism from officials as
 25 soon as they answered', he says. 'The institution that

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1 Q. Can you think of any reason why a journalist should have
 2 read that sort of -- should have left, omitted, that
 3 kind of information out of an article like this?
 4 **A. Well, he's probably stuck for time and space, I don't**
 5 **know.**
 6 Q. So if you are stuck for time and space, you leave out
 7 the most sensationalistic part of the article, do you?
 8 **A. I didn't write it, so I can't really comment.**
 9 Q. But you're a journalist, Mr Hale. Would you have left
 10 out the most juicy bit of information that's been passed
 11 to you by a source?
 12 **A. Probably not.**
 13 Q. No:
 14 "It was the morning after Hale made his call to the
 15 Home Office that Special Branch officers turned up at
 16 the Bury Messenger."
 17 Is that right, it was the morning after?
 18 **A. I believe so, yes.**
 19 Q. -- you put in your call to the Home Office:
 20 "Pushing him into a corner, they began barking
 21 orders.
 22 "Let me assure you that this story is not in the
 23 public interest', said a detective. 'It cannot be
 24 printed, as a matter of national security'.
 25 That's the effect of what you say they said to you?

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1 **A. Yes, yes.**
 2 Q. On it goes about the conversation that you say you had
 3 with those officers on that occasion. Can we go to
 4 page 5, please. We have seen before the images of
 5 Rhodes Boyson, not Boyston, and Keith Joseph and the
 6 text underneath:
 7 "At this point, the officer produced a document,
 8 signed by a judge."
 9 Where did Guy Adams get the idea that the document
 10 that was produced was signed by a judge?
 11 **A. I think I was told by the Special Branch officer that**
 12 **he'd got the search warrant that was signed by a judge.**
 13 Q. So that was the officer who told you that. I don't
 14 think the word "judge" appears in any of your
 15 statements, does it?
 16 **A. I don't know.**
 17 Q. But it was signed by a judge and "It showed that his
 18 previous remark about not printing the story had not
 19 been a request but an order. The document handed to
 20 Hale was a D-Notice -- a relic of wartime censorship
 21 that could be served on newspaper editors, allowing the
 22 government to block any story that threatened national
 23 security."
 24 Do you accept that, on the face of the way that that
 25 paragraph is written, the document signed by the judge

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1 **A. I think so, but whether it was Guy that introduced it or**
 2 **whether I did or not, I can't really remember.**
 3 Q. Can we look at the next quoted paragraph, please:
 4 "If you don't comply with this notice, we will
 5 arrest you for perverting the course of justice', the
 6 detective barked. 'You will be liable for up to ten
 7 years in prison.'
 8 **A. Mmm.**
 9 Q. Two years is what you have told us?
 10 **A. Well, two years is my understanding of what the officer**
 11 **told me at the time. Whether he's more experienced than**
 12 **I was in terms of knowing what the liability was --**
 13 **I mean, I don't know, if somebody is arrested for**
 14 **perverting the course of -- in those circumstances,**
 15 **whether it would be two years or it could be up to ten**
 16 **years. Ten years may be a maximum. I'm not sure.**
 17 Q. The problem is, this is in quotation marks, do you
 18 agree, Mr Hale --
 19 **A. It is in quotation marks.**
 20 Q. -- which tends to suggest this is what you said rather
 21 than what Guy Adams was saying?
 22 **A. I wouldn't have said ten years.**
 23 Q. You wouldn't have?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. So this is wrong?

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1 appears to be the D-Notice?
 2 **A. No, no.**
 3 Q. You think --
 4 **A. I think -- when it's explained to him about the fact**
 5 **we've got two -- both a search warrant and a D-Notice**
 6 **that were shown to me very briefly, it may be that he's**
 7 **implied that the search warrant was signed by a judge.**
 8 **Whether it was from him or whether it was from me,**
 9 **I can't be certain. But I did say to him that I was**
 10 **told that this was a D-Notice, that was --**
 11 Q. Yes.
 12 **A. -- that was offered.**
 13 Q. So what you are saying is --
 14 **A. It is a separate paragraph.**
 15 Q. -- this is a conflation of two things by Guy Adams:
 16 a search warrant which might have been signed by a judge
 17 and the D-Notice?
 18 **A. Well, I wouldn't really know whether the D-Notice would**
 19 **be signed by a judge or whether it was a D-Notice**
 20 **Committee.**
 21 Q. All right.
 22 **A. I'm not familiar.**
 23 Q. Fine. But you remember now, do you, that somebody
 24 mentioned something about a document being signed by
 25 a judge?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. The article says:
 3 "At this point, Hale's resistance collapsed", and so
 4 on and so forth, and you had been plunged into
 5 a situation for which you had little experience?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Page 6 is about Barbara Castle and her telling you, as
 8 you have told us, that she told you she thought this
 9 might happen. That's page 6. Page 7, please. The
 10 article continues and goes into issues about
 11 Tim Hulbert, who is one of our core participants. It
 12 mentions Anthony Gilberthorpe. Then this, about a third
 13 from the bottom, please, which actually begins with the
 14 words "A third":
 15 "A third extraordinary coincidence concerns an event
 16 that occurred a few days after Hale's visit from
 17 Special Branch.
 18 "When he first read Mrs Castle's dossier, he had
 19 noticed that some of those named as parliamentary
 20 supporters of the paedophile lobby were Liberals. With
 21 this in mind, he'd contacted Jeremy Thorpe, the former
 22 party leader, who, despite his retirement from
 23 front-line politics, remained a national figure.
 24 "Over the phone, Thorpe told me he would send
 25 someone from the party to discuss the matter with me in

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1 person at my Bury office', says Hale. And who should
 2 appear soon after but Cyril Smith, the apparently genial
 3 MP for Rochdale."
 4 Anything wrong about any of that, Mr --
 5 **A. Yes, it is the wrong way about.**
 6 Q. It is the wrong way about, because your account --
 7 **A. And it doesn't make sense anyway, does it?**
 8 Q. Your account in December 2014 and indeed your account in
 9 evidence today is that, as a result of your call to
 10 Jeremy Thorpe, Cyril Smith turns up, angry and
 11 aggressive, and he leaves without the documents and,
 12 within a day or two, it's Special Branch who turn up.
 13 This article has got it completely the wrong way around?
 14 **A. It has, yes.**
 15 Q. How does that come about?
 16 **A. I don't know. You'd have to ask the journalist on that.**
 17 Q. I'm asking you, Mr Hale, because you provided the
 18 information to him?
 19 **A. Yes, and he's got it the wrong way around.**
 20 Q. He has?
 21 **A. Yes, because why would Cyril Smith turn up when**
 22 **Special Branch have already got the documents.**
 23 Q. That begs the question, doesn't it?
 24 **A. And bearing in mind what we're saying with**
 25 **Jeremy Thorpe, he was one of the people I contacted,**

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1 **prevent a story.**
 2 Q. There's nothing about him wanting to confiscate the
 3 documents in this passage of this article, is there?
 4 **A. No. But, again, I'm not the author of this article.**
 5 Q. No, but you're the source for it?
 6 **A. Yes, but I can't make people say things. I can give**
 7 **them the information. How they portray it is up to**
 8 **them.**
 9 Q. You're a journalist, Mr Hale, and presumably you must
 10 have seen this article after its publication and must
 11 have been horrified that it completely had
 12 misinterpreted, misquoted and potentially misunderstood
 13 the information that you had provided?
 14 **A. Well, the main problem I've got with it, in terms of**
 15 **several -- certain of these paragraphs have been**
 16 **transposed and they should have been on earlier.**
 17 **I think that was just probably a mistake either on the**
 18 **part of the journalist or the sub.**
 19 Q. But not yours?
 20 **A. I have explained quite clearly several times exactly**
 21 **what happened with Cyril Smith coming first. There**
 22 **would be no reason for Cyril Smith to turn up after the**
 23 **Special Branch.**
 24 Q. There is something else missing here, isn't there,
 25 Mr Hale, because you have been very keen to get across,

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1 **a friend of Smith, and member of the Liberals, so that**
 2 **part has got transposed. That's not my error, that's**
 3 **the newspaper.**
 4 Q. Will you look at the top of page 8, so the next page:
 5 "At the time, however, Hale was totally unaware of
 6 Smith's sordid private life, and his name didn't feature
 7 in Castle's documents.
 8 "Perhaps my suspicions should have been raised by
 9 his dismissal of Barbara's dossier when we met', he
 10 says. 'It was all "poppycock", Smith claimed, a result
 11 of Barbara "getting her knickers in a twist" because she
 12 was bored with her position as an MP in Brussels.
 13 "Downplaying the whole business, Smith sought an
 14 assurance that I would not run any story about the
 15 dossier. When I refused, he left in a disappointed mood
 16 and I continued my ill-fated investigation."
 17 Did you say any of this to Guy Adams?
 18 **A. Maybe the first paragraph about permission -- perhaps my**
 19 **suspicions should have been raised.**
 20 Q. Yes. What about the "downplaying the whole business"
 21 part? Because it rather suggests that Smith had turned
 22 up not to ask for the documents, but to prevent a story
 23 based on the documents, which is entirely different,
 24 isn't it?
 25 **A. Well, he wanted to confiscate the documents, which would**

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1 and you were extremely keen to get across in your
 2 inquiry statement, the ferocity and aggression by
 3 Cyril Smith during the course of this visit, yet, do you
 4 agree, on the face of it, it looks like an entirely
 5 benign visit?
 6 **A. Yes, it doesn't portray the extreme force that he ...**
 7 Q. Can I ask you, please, to go back to the bundle. I'm
 8 moving away from this article. Behind divider 9, and
 9 can we put up on the screen INQ004072. Did you know
 10 about the Zircon affair, Mr Hale?
 11 **A. No, I didn't know anything about it.**
 12 Q. We see it happened between 1986 and 1987. In short,
 13 a journalist, Duncan Campbell, broke a story about
 14 Zircon, the breaking of an agreement between parliament
 15 and the government, for expensive military projects
 16 which were to be subject to scrutiny by a cross-party
 17 public accounts committee. We see that in the
 18 penultimate paragraph.
 19 On the next page, page 2, towards the bottom half:
 20 "By the time the news got out -- 'BBC gag on
 21 £500 million defence secret'.
 22 That was an Observer headline. Duncan Campbell, who
 23 was a journalist, wanted to make sure his investigations
 24 weren't buried. Events moved quickly. He wrote an
 25 article for the New Statesman which the government tried

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1 to stop and took out an injunction against him. Then
 2 this:
 3 "The government got even tougher. Special Branch
 4 officers raided both Campbell's flat in London and the
 5 New Statesman's offices trying to discover how much he
 6 knew and how he had found out about the secret project.
 7 Campbell enlisted the help of MPs and planned a private
 8 screening for the House of Commons -- even though BBC
 9 executives warned staff not to be a party to this and to
 10 return all copies of the programme."
 11 The only reason I am inviting your attention to
 12 this -- and I have asked the question and I think you
 13 have given your answer -- is whether any of this was
 14 known to you as a journalist within a very short time of
 15 your own experience with Special Branch?
 16 **A. No, I have no recollection of the story at all.**
 17 Q. So it doesn't mean anything?
 18 **A. No. I was quite surprised when you sent the bundle to**
 19 **me.**
 20 Q. Well, it is really to highlight this, Mr Hale, that if
 21 you had known about it, it might have been something
 22 sufficiently provocative for you to make public your
 23 experience at that time?
 24 **A. The first time I saw it is when you sent the bundle last**
 25 **Friday.**

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1 Q. What's the period of time involved?
 2 **A. This would be after 2014, probably between 2014 and**
 3 **2016, maybe somewhere like that.**
 4 Q. Why were you being interviewed with them? The rumour
 5 was that Cyril Smith had been caught in a car on the M1
 6 and he was stopped for driving without due care and
 7 attention and, when they examined the boot of his car,
 8 they found some child pornography. That was the rumour?
 9 **A. That's right, yes.**
 10 Q. How did it come about that Northamptonshire were
 11 interested in speaking to you?
 12 **A. I think it was a conversation I had with a journalist**
 13 **from -- with the Coventry Evening Telegraph, who said he**
 14 **knew something about this, whether he reported it or**
 15 **wanted to report on it at the time. It was an historic**
 16 **incident.**
 17 Q. Going back how long, about 1987?
 18 **A. To the '80s, yes, mid '80s, I can't be precise on that.**
 19 **Then I think, after discussing it with him, I think**
 20 **I also -- I think I had a call from Simon Danczuk and/or**
 21 **his colleague that helped write the book, and he also --**
 22 Q. Matt Baker --
 23 **A. -- remembered --**
 24 Q. Matt Baker?
 25 **A. Matt Baker, sorry, yes. I think they mentioned**

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1 Q. So you know nothing about this?
 2 **A. No.**
 3 Q. I'd like to ask you about something else now, please.
 4 Did you speak to Northamptonshire Police concerning
 5 Cyril Smith and allegations concerning child
 6 pornography?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. When do you say that you spoke to them about it? If you
 9 are looking for --
 10 **A. I'm not sure where the reference --**
 11 Q. If you want a reference to what you had to say in your
 12 statement to the inquiry, we need to go to the second
 13 tab, INQ003723 -- have you found the page, Mr Hale?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. What page have you got?
 16 **A. Page 2.**
 17 Q. That's it.
 18 **A. 3723, page 2.**
 19 Q. Thank you. That's where you deal with the allegations.
 20 How did it come about that you recall speaking to
 21 Northamptonshire Police and when did you?
 22 **A. I can't remember without checking the exact time.**
 23 **I really can't remember the date.**
 24 Q. What's the period of time involved?
 25 **A. Sorry?**

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1 **something about an incident that appeared in a book they**
 2 **had written. I didn't see the book. I hadn't --**
 3 **I deliberately hadn't seen it, because I wanted to keep**
 4 **my information separate. But that was the story, as you**
 5 **mentioned, that had been highlighted at the time and --**
 6 **and that was it.**
 7 **I did get a call from Northampton Police and**
 8 **I think -- again, this is just the rabbit out of the hat**
 9 **that was produced to me this morning. There is**
 10 **a section on that, I know, from Northamptonshire Police,**
 11 **so I have had no prewarning to come with any diary dates**
 12 **or details or anything else.**
 13 Q. So everybody knows what you are talking about, we can
 14 put it up on screen, OHY007095. This is the rabbit out
 15 of the hat that you are talking about?
 16 **A. Oh, it's not in here.**
 17 Q. No, I know. That's why I'm having it put up on screen.
 18 This is a statement dated 7 March, which is yesterday.
 19 The witness is Amanda Batchelor, who is an intelligence
 20 officer at Northants Police currently attached to the
 21 Force Intelligence Bureau. She says:
 22 "On 6 March, a request was sent by the IICSA support
 23 team to Detective Superintendent Tompkins to conduct
 24 research on Northamptonshire Police systems in relation
 25 to Don Hale to confirm whether he had been formally or

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1 informally interviewed by Northamptonshire Police
 2 regarding whether Cyril Smith was stopped on the M1
 3 motorway in Northamptonshire in the 1980s.
 4 "This request was sent to myself by Detective
 5 Superintendent Tompkins on 6 March to research the
 6 Northamptonshire Police systems. On 7 March 2019,
 7 I researched Northamptonshire Police systems as
 8 requested and I can confirm that I was unable to find
 9 any record that Don Hale was interviewed by Northants
 10 officers into a matter involving Cyril Smith."
 11 What do you want to say about that, Mr Hale?
 12 **A. The first reaction is, it's a blatant lie.**
 13 Q. It is a lie?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. What's the blatant lie?
 16 **A. I saw two officers from -- well, they purported to come**
 17 **from Northampton Police. I have no reason to doubt it.**
 18 **They knew about the allegations, shall we say. They**
 19 **knew about the book. I told them about the interview**
 20 **I had with a reporter from Coventry newspaper.**
 21 Q. Are you saying they contacted you?
 22 **A. I'm not sure quite how it came about, but, yes, they**
 23 **contacted me.**
 24 Q. How would they know about your interest or you having
 25 any knowledge that was of materiality to them?

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1 Q. I don't want your address or anything like that, but
 2 it's in the north of the country, presumably?
 3 **A. In North Wales.**
 4 Q. North Wales?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Okay. So they visited you there. How long did they
 7 spend with you?
 8 **A. A couple of hours. Three hours, maybe.**
 9 Q. One occasion or more than one occasion?
 10 **A. One.**
 11 Q. What did they interview you about?
 12 **A. About this particular incident.**
 13 Q. What were you able to tell them?
 14 **A. Exactly what I've told you, really: where I got the**
 15 **information from, all the allegations that it was -- he**
 16 **was stopped on the M1, taken to a police station, the**
 17 **contents of the boot were found to contain child**
 18 **pornography, they were removed from the boot, taken to**
 19 **the police station. This is allegations given to me,**
 20 **I just reported them to the officers. There seemed to**
 21 **be more of a fuss about the pornography disappeared**
 22 **somewhere.**
 23 **Smith made a call to his minder at the**
 24 **Special Branch and the officers were told to forget it**
 25 **and let him go.**

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1 **A. It was fairly common knowledge that I was making**
 2 **enquiries into other allegations regarding Cyril Smith.**
 3 **Maybe they picked it up from that or they contacted the**
 4 **Coventry Telegraph --**
 5 Q. Who did you see? Who did you speak to?
 6 **A. I say, this has just been thrown at me now so I haven't**
 7 **got the details in front of me now.**
 8 Q. We are only talking about a few years ago, aren't we?
 9 **A. Well, we are, but if I check my emails or records of**
 10 **visits or whatever, I could probably give you the date**
 11 **and times of these people.**
 12 Q. Do you remember the names of the officers you spoke to?
 13 **A. Well, not here, no.**
 14 Q. Male or female?
 15 **A. No, I have had quite a few visits from different**
 16 **officers over the years. They were both female --**
 17 Q. Right.
 18 **A. -- but I can't remember the names.**
 19 Q. You're not confusing it with the officers who visited
 20 you in February 2017, who were --
 21 **A. No, they came from London, from the Met.**
 22 Q. Yes. So these are different officers?
 23 **A. Yes, they said they came from Northampton Police.**
 24 Q. Where did they interview you?
 25 **A. At home.**

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1 Q. What was Northamptonshire actually investigating? Was
 2 it that allegation or was it the allegation of
 3 the coverup --
 4 **A. Well, I think --**
 5 Q. -- or were they deputed on behalf of another police
 6 force?
 7 **A. I think at the time they said they couldn't find**
 8 **anything on record about the incident. So they were**
 9 **concerned that it may have been a coverup, for whatever**
 10 **reason, on that, and concerned about the allegation that**
 11 **Smith had phoned Special Branch and they'd interceded.**
 12 Q. You said something slightly differently in your 2018
 13 statement. If you look, if you have still got it open,
 14 on the third page, at paragraph 17.1, do you see it
 15 reads this way:
 16 "Within an hour or so, it is alleged that Smith then
 17 phoned his minders at MI5 who instructed Special Branch
 18 to demand his immediate release."
 19 So which was it: he phoned his Special Branch minder
 20 or he phoned his MI5 minder who phoned Special Branch?
 21 **A. Well, I think it was Special Branch that were contacted**
 22 **to demand his release, but whether it was MI5 now**
 23 **I can't just recall. It was Special Branch that was the**
 24 **concern.**
 25 Q. I take it you no longer have the names of either of

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1 the officers whom you spoke to?
 2 **A. Well, I might do. As I say, you only produced this this**
 3 **morning so I have had no time to check.**
 4 Q. We did.
 5 **A. I can check.**
 6 Q. I am going to ask you to check, and please take your
 7 time over it, over the weekend, and get in touch with
 8 the inquiry, if you would, and let us know what you have
 9 been able to discover.
 10 **A. I mean, there was an article appeared some time later**
 11 **following an investigation by Northampton Police.**
 12 Q. When you say "an article", what do you mean?
 13 **A. I think it was – it was something that appeared on the**
 14 **BBC and then I think it appeared in one of the regional**
 15 **newspapers about it, which I think is in my reports**
 16 **here.**
 17 Q. Let's not take time over it now, Mr Hale?
 18 **A. The gist of it, I was going to just say, it does mention**
 19 **inquiry by Northamptonshire Police into these**
 20 **allegations following the interview with me, although**
 21 **I don't think I'm named in the article. But it says the**
 22 **outcome was they couldn't – they could neither confirm**
 23 **nor deny whether this took place as it was part of**
 24 **restrictions under the Official Secrets Act.**
 25 Q. If you can give us any assistance from your own emails,

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1 "No documents have been recovered following searches
 2 of the records held by the MPS, GMP [Metropolitan Police
 3 Service and Greater Manchester Police], Special Branch
 4 at Metropolitan Police and GMP, Bodleian Library and
 5 DSMA ..."
 6 Which is the organisation we are going to hear from
 7 which deals with what used to be called D-Notices:
 8 "... which can corroborate Mr Hale's allegations.
 9 It appears that any such records would have been
 10 destroyed in keeping with local procedures at that time.
 11 "Enquiries with GMP HQ to determine the origin of
 12 the 12 uniformed police officers have failed. The
 13 passage of time has made the discovery of any records
 14 which would help in identifying anyone involved in the
 15 raid and seizure of documents alleged by Mr Hale or
 16 possible witnesses as remote. Contact has been made
 17 with Paul Campbell from GMP Information Compliance and
 18 Records Management. His email ... reply shows that it
 19 is almost certain all such records would have been
 20 destroyed in keeping with normal practice at the time
 21 and, despite a thorough search, there is no trace of any
 22 documents which could assist Op Hawthorn. Without
 23 details of who may have been on duty at that time there
 24 is no avenue open to trace witnesses.
 25 "Enquiries were also made with both Special Branch

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1 records, diaries and other notes, please, after you have
 2 left this afternoon --
 3 **A. I think it is in here somewhere, anyway, about the**
 4 **actual article.**
 5 Q. All right. We have got the document. I am going to
 6 adduce all of these statements before I finish, and
 7 therefore they will be available for others to read.
 8 Turn, please, behind divider 6, if you would. Now,
 9 Operation Hawthorn was an IOPC inquiry, or managed
 10 inquiry, into your allegations, and if you go, please,
 11 towards the end of this, and I am going to ask for this
 12 to go up on screen, IPC000843_012. "Analysis of
 13 evidence". Have you got that, Mr Hale?
 14 **A. Yes, I'm just trying to find my notes on this. I hope,**
 15 **as well, you do appreciate that I was only given two**
 16 **weeks in December to try and put together all the claims**
 17 **and queries, and I only received the bundles on Friday**
 18 **and Monday of this week in terms of trying to respond to**
 19 **various allegations and what have you. So it doesn't**
 20 **give you very much time to look back 34 years and look**
 21 **back on other interviews and things.**
 22 Q. As you know, Mr Hale, I hadn't proposed to ask you
 23 questions about this, but you asked to be able to make
 24 some comments about it. Let's just look at the analysis
 25 of evidence, beginning at paragraph 77:

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1 in the MPS and with GMP with a negative result. An
 2 email reply indicates they do not have any records which
 3 would confirm if the search of Mr Hale's office did take
 4 place. They state that it is more than likely that any
 5 records from that long ago would have been destroyed.
 6 They cannot say if the search of Mr Hale's office did or
 7 did not take place and, if it did, who may have been
 8 involved or would have authorised it.
 9 "Unfortunately, Mr Hale is unable to say as to
 10 whether the cleaner, who was the only possible
 11 independent witness to the raid, was or was not present
 12 at the same time he says the search took place. Neither
 13 can he recall the name of the cleaner.
 14 "With regard to the so-called D-Notice, it is
 15 actually called Defence Advisory Notice System. This is
 16 a voluntary code and operates between the UK Government
 17 departments which have responsibilities for national
 18 security and the media. The notices have no legal
 19 standing and advice offered within the framework may be
 20 accepted or rejected. At all times, there is a single
 21 point of contact and responsibility for offering
 22 DA Notice [Defence Advisory Notice] advice to the media.
 23 There is no physical notice issued by DSMA or by the old
 24 DPBAC.
 25 "As an editor, it may be considered that Mr Hale

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1 should have known what a D-Notice was and how it worked,
 2 what advice and action that would have been open to him.
 3 However, it is noted in S1 [your first statement] that
 4 he states he was filling in as editor although in [his
 5 second statement] he states he was the actual editor.
 6 Mr Hale does state he was scared and felt threatened at
 7 the time of the apparent raid."
 8 That's all I read of that. What did you want to say
 9 about all of that, Mr Hale?
 10 **A. This is based on -- this is the closing report of**
 11 **Operation Hawthorn, IPC000843. That's this one, isn't**
 12 **it? I was very concerned when I saw this. I didn't see**
 13 **this until Monday of this week. I have not had a great**
 14 **deal of chance to go through but I've made some**
 15 **observations from it.**
 16 **I'm very concerned about this particular report**
 17 **which, in my opinion, is absolutely riddled with errors,**
 18 **inaccuracies and incorrect information. It also fails**
 19 **to contain -- whether it is deliberate or not, it omits**
 20 **a lot of crucial information which, again -- I keep**
 21 **saying about this -- these are the reports backwards and**
 22 **forwards from this organisation, 46 emails, 25 from them**
 23 **to me, 21 in reply, answering each and every one of**
 24 **these queries they have raised.**
 25 **I mean, it says it is a managed report, but,**

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1 the cleaner did turn up after the Special Branch had
 2 gone. So I have no reason to believe she was there at
 3 any time whatsoever.
 4 Now, one of the very first emails I got from this
 5 organisation, "My name is Lorraine", Lorraine Monahan:
 6 "I work on Operation Winter Key which deals with
 7 coverup of historic child abuse by people of prominence.
 8 I have been assigned to Operation Hawthorn which is the
 9 allegation you made regarding the Dickens dossier."
 10 She goes on to say she's been trying to trace the
 11 cleaner that doesn't exist, basically, during the
 12 Special Branch raid. I've gone back and said to her
 13 that -- well, we have got it -- there are a few things
 14 in the email, but I'm just being selective here in terms
 15 of saying what it was:
 16 "The actual raid was over 30 years ago, so some
 17 details are vague now. I believe I told the officer
 18 I thought a cleaner may have been present in one of
 19 the other offices as they're usually fairly early. If
 20 the lady was in, she may have had the Hoover on and
 21 would not have heard all the commotion. I can't be sure
 22 obviously now, and have absolutely no idea who she was
 23 if, indeed, she was present."
 24 Now, there have been further mentions in here. She
 25 goes on to say about professional standards. She then

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1 **clearly, it is mismanaged. The whole thing is totally**
 2 **ridiculous.**
 3 Q. So you disagree with some of the conclusions?
 4 **A. Well, it's based on a review of three police witness**
 5 **statements, who we have already discussed, that in my**
 6 **opinion contain errors and omissions.**
 7 **Now, if they're commenting on previous statements**
 8 **that are wrong, in my opinion, their report is bound to**
 9 **be wrong, based on the same thing. There is no mention**
 10 **in this report whatsoever of any of these 46 emails**
 11 **or -- this was over a period of six months, not just**
 12 **some odd email that happened now and again. We went**
 13 **through each and every one of these queries with**
 14 **Lorraine Monahan, who was on Operation Winter Key, then**
 15 **she was on Professional Standards, and she was the link**
 16 **to the IPCC as it was then and she was exchanging**
 17 **information with them.**
 18 **So there's no excuse for them to get this wrong, and**
 19 **they made such a horrible mess of this whole thing. It**
 20 **is quite clear from these emails that all these queries**
 21 **have been answered.**
 22 **You mention about the cleaner. This is something**
 23 **that DS Farrell first raised. As far as I'm concerned,**
 24 **he was told quite clearly, I didn't know whether the**
 25 **cleaner was there, I didn't think anybody was there, and**

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1 **queries other things --**
 2 Q. Mr Hale, forgive me for interrupting you, but isn't that
 3 exactly what paragraph 80 says:
 4 "Unfortunately, Mr Hale is unable to say as to
 5 whether the cleaner, who has the only possible" --
 6 **A. Well, it has been -- as I say --**
 7 Q. -- "independent witness to the raid, was or was not
 8 present."
 9 So that --
 10 **A. -- I can go through things and it is --**
 11 Q. We can, I'm sure --
 12 **A. They accept it, they accept it, basically --**
 13 Q. Go on, you carry on?
 14 **A. From the interchange of details, it was then accepted,**
 15 **as far as I understood, from them that there was no**
 16 **evidence from me or from anybody else that anybody else**
 17 **was present, including the cleaner, and they accepted**
 18 **that. And yet, they have done it. There are eight**
 19 **different errors that are complete -- are continually**
 20 **repeated by the police, and particularly in this report.**
 21 **You know, the whole thing is fairly ridiculous, really.**
 22 **But I say, why -- if this is supposed to be**
 23 **a complete managed report, why is there no mention of**
 24 **any interchange between these emails with**
 25 **Lorraine Monahan and the settlement of a number of minor**

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1 queries? But it's typical of this organisation, because
 2 I have dealt with them over a period of about 30 years,
 3 with miscarriage cases before, when CIB2, IPCC and now
 4 this organisation have come up with a lot of red
 5 herrings in terms of tittle-tattle things, whether there
 6 is a cleaner there, whether something else happened. It
 7 all helps to try and throw doubt about some of
 8 the evidence that you give.

9 The main evidence, we have not even discussed that
 10 today yet, the main evidence that I have given. It is
 11 all tittle-tattle about other things here. This, to me,
 12 is absolutely disgraceful, I think, on -- a professional
 13 organisation to totally ignore key evidence and to
 14 ignore evidence that's between their own people.

15 Now, is that deliberate or what? I mean, as
 16 a journalist, you could say it is a conspiracy theory or
 17 whatever. As I say with Northampton Police, why are
 18 they so determined to tell lies and to cover things up?

19 Q. That's your position, Mr Hale, because you have made it
 20 clear that the Metropolitan Police, as far as your
 21 witness statements are concerned, have made deliberate
 22 omissions to it. Did we understand you correctly? And
 23 that the way that you are addressing these other issues,
 24 you seem to be suggesting that there is some cover-up
 25 going on not only by the Met, but also by

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1 While there is the odd crossing-out and your
 2 initials, which are redacted, for good reason, against
 3 it, and other insertions, for example, against the
 4 letter "A" on the seventh page -- if we go to the
 5 seventh page, for example, "7 of 9" at the top, do you
 6 see Mr Hale there is an "A" in a circle? Under the
 7 redaction would be your initials. If we go right to the
 8 bottom of that page, do you see against the "A" in
 9 a circle something has been inserted?

10 A. Mmm.

11 Q. So that is an amendment.

12 I have not been through this to compare it against
 13 the typewritten version which you complain about, but
 14 others have, and, apart from, I am told, one or two
 15 typos, it is identical to the typewritten version.

16 I don't want your comment about it now, but you are
 17 going to go away and look for anything to support the
 18 interview you have told us you had with Northamptonshire
 19 Police. What I am going to ask you to do at the same
 20 time, please, Mr Hale, is to satisfy yourself whether
 21 this is a fair and accurate copy of the handwritten
 22 statement that was provided to the police on
 23 10 December 2014 and to compare it against the
 24 typewritten version, and to see whether the police have,
 25 deliberately or otherwise, left out anything, as you

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1 Northamptonshire Police?

2 A. Can you explain why there is no mention whatsoever of
 3 any emails in here?

4 Q. The good thing, Mr Hale, is I am not here to explain
 5 anything. But that's your view of --

6 A. I mean, Northampton Police is absolutely disgraceful.
 7 Whether they came from attachment to Northampton or
 8 whatever. The article is in here as well in relation to
 9 it. I have explained that the outcome was they couldn't
 10 say -- they can neither confirm nor deny whether this
 11 incident had taken place because of the Official Secrets
 12 Act and Intelligence Services involved. Does that not
 13 tell you that there's something untoward about a major
 14 incident involving a person of prominence?

15 Q. Well, we have heard your evidence. Thank you, Mr Hale.

16 Now, lastly, please, I am going to ask you to look
 17 at something I indicated that had been recovered. Can
 18 this go up on the screen? It is the handwritten
 19 statement. Can I make absolutely clear, Mr Hale, I am
 20 not proposing to go through this now with you. I am
 21 going to suggest, however, that it has been gone through
 22 by others in this hearing room on behalf of the inquiry
 23 and it has been double-checked. This is the handwritten
 24 version of the typewritten 10 December 2014 statement in
 25 handwriting. It is nine pages in length.

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1 seem to suggest they did. All right?

2 A. Yes, sir, I will certainly look through that. I can't
 3 tell obviously at first glance with the handwriting and
 4 everything else --

5 Q. That's why I suggested you need time to do it.

6 A. It's two pages less than the other one, anyway.

7 Q. That's not surprising, because one is handwritten and
 8 one is typewritten?

9 A. Yeah, I know, but there may have been other things that
 10 were cancelled out on this as well as the ones that are
 11 shown here. I don't know. But I would need to look
 12 through it, anyway.

13 MR ALTMAN: That's what I'm asking you.

14 Chair, I am going, in the meantime, please, just as
 15 a matter of formality, while Mr Hale is in the witness
 16 box, formally to adduce the police statements which
 17 Mr Hale made, the one of 10 December 2014, which is
 18 OHY005512, the statement of 20 February 2017, OHY005511,
 19 and the third of that trio, dated 27 February 2017,
 20 OHY005507.

21 If you just give me one moment, Mr Hale and chair.

22 Those are all my questions, chair. I don't know if you
 23 and the panel have any questions you wish to ask
 24 Mr Hale?

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms Sharpling?

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1 Questions by THE PANEL
 2 MS SHARPLING: Thank you, Mr Hale. If you would just
 3 clarify something for me, I want to make sure I have
 4 understood it correctly.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 MS SHARPLING: When Special Branch raided your newspaper's
 7 premises on the dates and times that you have described,
 8 and I think, amongst other things, you were threatened,
 9 basically, with the prospect of attempting to pervert
 10 the course of justice --
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 MS SHARPLING: -- and a prison term. After that all
 13 occurred, did you -- can you just confirm whether or not
 14 you made a note of what happened to you, if for no other
 15 reason than, if you were accused of such a matter again,
 16 you would have some reference point to go back to?
 17 **A. No. I think, to be honest, I was in shock initially**
 18 **after what happened. It took me a few days to sort of,**
 19 **you know, clear my head and come around to it, and then**
 20 **you think, well, where are you going to go with this**
 21 **anyway, when it's the police/Special Branch that have**
 22 **come down, the local bobbies didn't seem to know much**
 23 **about it and didn't really care, and they were pretty**
 24 **frightened of Special Branch themselves. So I thought,**
 25 **well, you're going nowhere with this, really. But it's**

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1 MR FRANK: Just to remind you, what you appear to have said
 2 in your witness statement was:
 3 "It was ironic, as my desk was, shall we say,
 4 a little messy and in fact the file was actually on my
 5 desk at the time."
 6 That's what you said.
 7 **A. Well, that's probably right.**
 8 MR FRANK: Was that right?
 9 **A. I mean, this is a desk here, where I'm trying to cover**
 10 **so many different -- I have had 13 bundles given to me**
 11 **this week.**
 12 MR FRANK: Yes.
 13 **A. So it could well have been. It wasn't on obvious view,**
 14 **shall we say, if that is the case, it wouldn't have been**
 15 **in obvious view, it would have been within other**
 16 **documents.**
 17 MR FRANK: I see.
 18 **A. But I can't recall now whether that part was locked away**
 19 **or it was on the desk or maybe with other documents.**
 20 MR FRANK: So that I can understand a little better, you
 21 have described very briefly what this file looked like
 22 and, when you were asked by counsel, you indicated
 23 a file that would look to be several inches thick.
 24 **A. Well, I mean, there were several files of similar sort**
 25 **of things with different paperwork inside it. They may**

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1 **retained in, obviously, my memory, and obviously since**
 2 **then and when I did the statements later on in 2014.**
 3 MS SHARPLING: I see. Thank you.
 4 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank?
 5 MR FRANK: The day before Special Branch turned up, was
 6 that -- I think that was the day when Cyril Smith had
 7 turned up unannounced?
 8 **A. Yes, and the newspapers had got it transposed.**
 9 MR FRANK: Yes, I understand that. Can you help us with
 10 this: as I understand it, you say in your statement
 11 that, by chance, the file that he was demanding that you
 12 produce was in fact on your desk.
 13 **A. Mmm.**
 14 MR FRANK: He was banging the desk and the file was there.
 15 **A. I think it was there when I brought it out. I mean, it**
 16 **had been locked away in a drawer. So I don't think it**
 17 **was left on there. I mean, I hadn't been in the office**
 18 **very long that day. I had only just come in that**
 19 **morning. So I can't be certain, but I don't think it**
 20 **would have been on the desk. But it's possible. It's**
 21 **possible I got it out when I was challenged by the**
 22 **officers. The main point I'm making is that they knew**
 23 **I had the file. They were demanding it and there was no**
 24 **reason to sort of withhold it for fear of arrest and**
 25 **prison.**

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1 **have had dividers in between or may have been in**
 2 **separate folders, I can't remember.**
 3 MR FRANK: Thank you. Apart from when it was on your desk,
 4 it was locked away in the bottom drawer of your desk; is
 5 that right?
 6 **A. Yes, every night, when I left the office, it was locked**
 7 **away.**
 8 MR FRANK: Having had the near miss where Smith might have
 9 actually accidentally come across it, presumably you
 10 thought, "Phew, got away with that. Better lock it away
 11 carefully now"?
 12 **A. Quite probably.**
 13 MR FRANK: So is that what you did, you locked it in the
 14 desk again?
 15 **A. No, no -- well, it was locked in the desk, anyway, each**
 16 **time.**
 17 MR FRANK: What I wanted you to help with was this then:
 18 when the Special Branch came the following day, was the
 19 file then locked in your desk in the bottom drawer?
 20 **A. Well, it would have been locked in there overnight.**
 21 MR FRANK: Yes.
 22 **A. But I would probably have been in there maybe about**
 23 **20 minutes, so I may have pulled it out, it may have**
 24 **been on the desk with other papers. My desk was a bit**
 25 **messy. It could have been. I can't really say yea or**

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1 **nay.**
 2 MR FRANK: Thank you. One further question: the key to the
 3 drawer in your desk, who had a copy of the key?
 4 **A. Just me.**
 5 MR FRANK: Just you. Thank you very much. That's all
 6 I ask.
 7 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We have no further questions.
 8 MR ALTMAN: Subject to those two matters, Mr Hale, somebody,
 9 I suspect, from the inquiry will want to speak to you
 10 before you leave. There may be a few other questions
 11 you are going to be asked to consider.
 12 **A. Yes, okay.**
 13 MR ALTMAN: So if you wouldn't rush out of the building,
 14 I would be grateful. Thank you.
 15 (The witness withdrew)
 16 MR ALTMAN: Chair, I am told by Mr O'Connor, and he has been
 17 very persuasive about this, that you may want to have
 18 your break now before the next witness is called. Can
 19 I suggest that you return at perhaps 3.15 pm?
 20 THE CHAIR: Yes.
 21 MR ALTMAN: Thank you.
 22 (2.54 pm)
 23 (A short break)
 24 (3.15 pm)
 25 MR O'CONNOR: Chair, our next witness, and the last witness

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1 **A. I am the secretary.**
 2 Q. It is known as the DSMA, in short?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Amongst its responsibilities are governing the system of
 5 DSMA Notices; is that right?
 6 **A. That's correct.**
 7 Q. Also known as D-Notices, and we will come to the history
 8 behind that?
 9 **A. Exactly that.**
 10 Q. This statement, I think you're aware, was in fact
 11 adduced in evidence during another of the inquiry's
 12 investigations, the Rochdale investigation?
 13 **A. I understand that's correct.**
 14 Q. Chair, may we invite you to adduce the statement in this
 15 investigation also.
 16 Brigadier, I want to start by just going through
 17 a few basic factual points about the way in which the
 18 committee works. Starting, then, with the committee
 19 itself, it is made up, I think, of some media
 20 representatives and some representatives from the
 21 government?
 22 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 23 Q. Could you just give a little more detail about that?
 24 **A. Yes. There are five members from the government and, at**
 25 **the moment, 17 members from the media. The members are**

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1 for the day, is Brigadier Dodds.
 2 MR GEOFFREY CHARLES WILLIAM DODDS (sworn)
 3 Examination by MR O'CONNOR
 4 MR O'CONNOR: Could you give your full name, please?
 5 **A. I am Geoffrey Charles William Dodds.**
 6 Q. You are a retired brigadier?
 7 **A. I am a retired brigadier.**
 8 Q. Brigadier, just before I start, I believe that you have
 9 got a back complaint and so you are going to stand for
 10 your evidence, although you might sit down if that
 11 becomes more comfortable?
 12 **A. If you are happy with that, I would prefer that.**
 13 Q. That is absolutely fine.
 14 **A. Thank you.**
 15 Q. You provided the inquiry with a witness statement dated
 16 27 September 2017?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Have you got a copy of that statement?
 19 **A. It is in front of me.**
 20 Q. Could we call it up on screen, please: INQ000972. In
 21 this statement, you give a detailed explanation of
 22 the workings of the Defence and Security Media Advisory
 23 Committee?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. You are in fact the secretary of that body?

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1 **all there on a voluntary basis. It is independent of**
 2 **government, and that's how they contribute.**
 3 Q. Thank you. There is then a permanently employed
 4 secretary of the committee -- that's you?
 5 **A. That's me.**
 6 Q. We will come back to some of your duties in due course.
 7 Then, as I have mentioned, there are standing notices,
 8 known as DSMA Notices, or D-Notices, which are issued by
 9 the committee covering various different subject areas;
 10 is that right?
 11 **A. That's correct.**
 12 Q. We will come to look at some of those later in your
 13 evidence.
 14 Then, additionally to those standing notices, which,
 15 as I say, we will look at, and which are published -- is
 16 that right?
 17 **A. They are published on the website. They are free for**
 18 **anyone to view.**
 19 Q. It is part of your function to offer advice to those who
 20 seek it, in particular from the media, about what should
 21 and shouldn't be published in the national interest?
 22 **A. Yes, I would say that's the main part of my job, is to**
 23 **offer advice to the media, to guide them on those**
 24 **matters which could damage national security if**
 25 **published or broadcast.**

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<p>1 Q. With that introduction, could you just give us, perhaps 2 in a few sentences, an overview of the committee and 3 your role within it? 4 A. Yes. Well, the committee is there to address the 5 age-old problem or the conundrum in any liberal 6 democracy of a government that has to protect key 7 national security information, on the one hand, and, on 8 the other, to enable the UK media to express itself 9 freely, to contribute to the public debate, and, perhaps 10 most importantly, to hold government to account. 11 Q. As we have mentioned, then, the starting point, to see 12 how the committee undertakes that task, is the 13 publication of these standing notices to which I have 14 referred; is that right? 15 A. Yes, that's the basis. 16 Q. If we go, please, to paragraph 19 of your statement, and 17 it is page 5 of your statement, this paragraph 18 identifies the subject matter of the current five 19 notices; is that right? 20 A. That's right. 21 Q. Reading down them, by subject matter, the first covers 22 military operations, plans and capabilities? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. The second, nuclear and non-nuclear weapon systems and 25 equipment?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. The third, military counter-terrorism forces, and so on? 3 A. (Witness nods). 4 Q. The fourth, physical property and assets. And the last, 5 personnel? 6 A. Personnel, yes. The identification of personnel. 7 Q. I am going to take you to look at one of the notices in 8 a moment, but can you just bring that together? I mean, 9 what do those topics have in common, then? What is it 10 about these topics that makes them worthy of being the 11 subject of one of these notices? 12 A. These are the topics that are mutually agreed between 13 both sides of the committee: the media side and the 14 official side. These form the boundaries of what the 15 committee believes is the national security and is the 16 basis on which I base my advice. 17 Q. If one, then, was a journalist and wondering whether 18 a story that he or she was covering might be getting 19 into territory that was sensitive, that might be 20 damaging if the information was published, would the 21 journalist, perhaps in the first instance, look at that 22 notice for guidance? 23 A. I would like to think that they would look at the 24 website to remind themselves of the provisions within 25 those notices and the --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>
<p>1 Q. Let's just look at one of the notices together. If we 2 could go to page 24 -- in fact, before you take this 3 screen down, the one we are going to look at is the last 4 one, number 5 on that list, that covers personnel and 5 their families who work in sensitive positions. 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. So if we can go, please, to page 24 of the statement. 8 It is one of the exhibits to the statement, in fact. 9 A. I don't think I have page 24. 10 Q. Brigadier, I don't know if you can see the screen. 11 A. Yes, got it. 12 Q. It's just the way in which the statement has been 13 uploaded onto our system? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Do we see there the title "Personnel and their families 16 who work in sensitive positions", and then the structure 17 of the notice, we see a subtitle for "Purpose"; is that 18 right? 19 A. That's right. 20 Q. And then below it a subtitle addressed to editors and 21 journalists? 22 A. That's right. 23 Q. I'm not going to call all of these notices up, but they 24 are all structured in the same -- 25 A. They are all structured in the same way: purpose and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>	<p>1 then -- yes. 2 Q. If we just look, then, at this one, under the "Purpose" 3 it describes the aim, which is to prevent disclosure of, 4 in this case, sensitive personal information that could 5 reveal the identity of these -- of special forces, 6 people working for the security and intelligence 7 agencies, and so on? 8 A. And their families. 9 Q. Yes. In this case, just to explore this notice, why is 10 that information sensitive and potentially damaging? 11 A. Well, special forces and intelligence agencies do 12 operate in a very difficult environment and it's very 13 easy for potential adversaries to take action against 14 them or indeed members of their family, and, therefore, 15 sensitive personnel information we advise is not 16 published. 17 Q. So that's what the purpose of this notice is: that 18 identifies that general area as an area for caution? 19 A. Exactly. 20 Q. Thank you. We can take that down now. So that 21 establishes the first level, as it were, that your 22 committee undertakes, the five permanent notices? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. But, clearly, as we have seen, those notices are fairly 25 general?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 A. They are general in nature. They have to be.</p> <p>2 Q. That's inevitable --</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. -- because you are trying to cover relatively large</p> <p>5 topic areas?</p> <p>6 A. Exactly.</p> <p>7 Q. Going back to the example of the journalist, the content</p> <p>8 of the notice might be sufficient to alert the</p> <p>9 journalist that they are entering territory that might</p> <p>10 be sensitive?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. But, in most cases, it is not going to give them the</p> <p>13 answer to the question: can I publish this; can I put</p> <p>14 this detail in my article; ought I to broadcast this or</p> <p>15 that interview with someone they have made?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. So how, under this system, do those journalists or</p> <p>18 editors go about finding out exactly what they can or</p> <p>19 can't publish?</p> <p>20 A. They make contact with me, either by telephone or by</p> <p>21 email and, if I am not on duty, then one of my two</p> <p>22 deputies, and they seek advice, and that advice could be</p> <p>23 offered verbally or by email.</p> <p>24 Q. Would you necessarily be able to offer the advice</p> <p>25 immediately, or might you have to make further</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 enquiries?</p> <p>2 A. So I would -- I may be able to offer the advice</p> <p>3 immediately. I may wish to refer to the written word of</p> <p>4 those five standing DSMAs to remind myself of</p> <p>5 the content. Indeed, if there is something technical,</p> <p>6 if it involves something to do with the cybersphere, for</p> <p>7 example, I may wish to ask a subject matter expert, and</p> <p>8 I don't automatically consult a subject matter expert,</p> <p>9 I ask permission from the journalist beforehand that</p> <p>10 I can actually do that on his behalf, before then</p> <p>11 receiving the information back, making a decision and</p> <p>12 offering advice.</p> <p>13 Q. Might there be some cases in which you would also want</p> <p>14 to check whether a particular piece of information that</p> <p>15 is the subject of the request, or perhaps one element of</p> <p>16 it, is already in the public domain?</p> <p>17 A. Yes. Clearly, if information is already widely</p> <p>18 available in the public domain, there is no point in my</p> <p>19 issuing advice, because it's already out there.</p> <p>20 Q. So, to move to a slightly different factual example, one</p> <p>21 of the other notices covers equipment.</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. There may be a question about whether a particular piece</p> <p>24 of equipment, a photograph of a particular piece of</p> <p>25 equipment, can be published?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 178</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. As you say, it wouldn't help the work of your committee</p> <p>3 if you were advising journalists not to publish pictures</p> <p>4 of equipment that in fact had already been shown on the</p> <p>5 internet or published --</p> <p>6 A. Yes, it would undermine the credibility of</p> <p>7 the organisation.</p> <p>8 Q. So that's, if you like, the next stage on. We have</p> <p>9 looked at the permanent notices which are out there,</p> <p>10 published and available, but there will be occasions</p> <p>11 when people, journalists, want to know -- answer</p> <p>12 a particular question, and that's the level of</p> <p>13 the informal advice that you have been describing?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Now, that's one example, but might there be occasions</p> <p>16 where you would proactively approach either a particular</p> <p>17 journalist or perhaps a range of journalists, giving</p> <p>18 them advice because you were aware that they might be</p> <p>19 about to publish something?</p> <p>20 A. Yes. I mean, part of my duties are to maintain an</p> <p>21 awareness of trends that are developing, security</p> <p>22 trends, defence trends, that are developing in the news,</p> <p>23 whether that's broadcasted news or published news. So</p> <p>24 I maintain that awareness, and I can pick up stories</p> <p>25 that are developing and pre-emptively I may issue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 179</p>	<p>1 supplementary DSMA Notice advice to remind editors of</p> <p>2 a particular notice, and that, if they were intending to</p> <p>3 publish, would they kindly consult me before they do so.</p> <p>4 Q. In your statement, you give an example of how you might</p> <p>5 become aware that the media were interested in</p> <p>6 a particular story, or even possibly you were aware that</p> <p>7 journalists were filming at a particular location and</p> <p>8 the officials involved might alert you to that, and that</p> <p>9 might lead you then to contact your contacts in the</p> <p>10 media to give them the type of advice --</p> <p>11 A. Yes, that's quite possible. Yes, a member from the</p> <p>12 official side may well contact me out of concern and ask</p> <p>13 me whether the issue warrants DSMA advice.</p> <p>14 Q. And just to put some -- give us some idea of</p> <p>15 the frequency with which you provide this type of</p> <p>16 advice, could we go to page 9 of your statement, and</p> <p>17 I think it is the bottom of the page. Yes.</p> <p>18 Paragraph 39. It will come up on the screen, Brigadier,</p> <p>19 if that is any easier for you. It says:</p> <p>20 "In terms of scale, the DSMA secretariat has offered</p> <p>21 advice on an average of 251 times per annum over the</p> <p>22 last six years."</p> <p>23 That seems like roughly once every working day?</p> <p>24 A. Slightly less than once every working day, perhaps,</p> <p>25 because we do work seven days a week.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 180</p>

1 Q. Right.

2 **A. I mean, Saturdays and Sundays are --**

3 Q. Perhaps your busy times?

4 **A. -- quite a busy time. Yes, 251, that's about 125 every**

5 **six months. Yes, and it varies. It is sinusoidal. At**

6 **the moment, for example, we are currently running at**

7 **about 60/70 notices every six months which is about**

8 **140 a year, and that's because there's not a great deal**

9 **going on in the defence and security field, and the**

10 **emphasis is on other things -- Brexit obviously springs**

11 **to mind.**

12 Q. Indeed. But just to be clear, I mean, the point

13 I really wanted to get across is, this is not, as it

14 were, a rare occurrence that happens once every month or

15 so. This is a steady flow of advice being sought from

16 your committee?

17 **A. Yes. Yes, absolutely.**

18 Q. I just want to come back to terminology, Brigadier. We

19 talked about the permanent -- the five permanent notices

20 which are to be found on your website, and we have said

21 that they are formally known as DSMA Notices?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. That echoes the name of your committee: Defence Security

24 Media Advisory Notices. But they are in fact generally

25 frequently known, frequently described, as D-Notices?

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1 Q. Just pausing there, on occasions, you do that, do you?

2 **A. I do that, yes, absolutely. Yes, issue to 250. The**

3 **danger of that, of course, is, it is alerting the UK**

4 **media to an issue that might actually be only being**

5 **investigated by one or two organisations, media**

6 **organisations.**

7 Q. Yes.

8 **A. So I have to make a judgment as to whether I make**

9 **a phone call or make an email to those one or two media**

10 **organisations, rather than alerting the whole of the UK**

11 **media.**

12 Q. It sounds like the position, from what you are saying,

13 is that, when you offer these pieces of advice, which,

14 as it were, help the media to interpret those five

15 notices, the form in which you do it can vary -- it may

16 be spoken, it may be an email. Is that right?

17 **A. Exactly that, yes.**

18 Q. As you have said, it might go to one organisation or

19 more than one or all of them?

20 **A. Or all.**

21 Q. In other words, it is not necessarily a physical

22 document at all?

23 **A. No. Of course, you can print off emails.**

24 Q. But if it is oral, if it is spoken over the phone --

25 **A. If it is oral or spoken -- and sometimes it can be very**

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1 **A. That's correct.**

2 Q. Without going into the detail which is set out in your

3 statement, is that because a committee like yours has in

4 fact existed for over 100 years and, over that time, the

5 notices provided by that committee have simply always

6 been known as D-Notices?

7 **A. I think that's exactly right. It is in the national**

8 **psyche. Everyone knows D-Notices. They are not yet**

9 **quite familiar with the term "DSMA Notices".**

10 Q. But that's the first, as it were, the bottom level of

11 this structure, the five, as it now is, permanent

12 notices?

13 **A. The basis.**

14 Q. We have been talking about the advice that you give and,

15 as we have seen, frequently the advice that you give.

16 Would you describe those pieces of advice themselves as

17 D-Notices or not?

18 **A. They are supplementary to the D-Notices. I don't make**

19 **up other D-Notices to suit a particular situation,**

20 **I only base my advice on those five notices.**

21 Q. Would, for example, a piece of advice that you give to

22 one media outlet necessarily be published and spread

23 around to other media outlets?

24 **A. It depends. Clearly, if I issue a DSMA Notice to the UK**

25 **media, that's close to 250 editorial email addresses.**

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1 **informal advice: a couple of lines on an email, or**

2 **a formal supplement to a D-Notice, which is a -- has**

3 **a formal structure.**

4 Q. I know you were here for some of this morning and heard

5 some of Mr Hale's evidence?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I'm not sure whether you were in the building when we

8 heard the evidence about the suggestion that a D-Notice

9 had been signed by a judge?

10 **A. Yes, I did hear that.**

11 Q. Are judges ever involved in the D-Notice system?

12 **A. No. The judges and police are not involved in the**

13 **D-Notice system. The only person authorised to issue**

14 **a DSMA Notice is myself or my two deputies when they are**

15 **on duty.**

16 Q. Would, in fact, even you sign such a document? I mean,

17 is that a familiar concept, that you would sign a notice

18 or a piece of advice?

19 **A. These days, it is done by email or telephone, so it**

20 **would carry my signature block, but it wouldn't be**

21 **a physical signature, no.**

22 Q. I just want to move on, then, to a few more questions

23 about how the system works. You mentioned a moment ago

24 the total -- your total number of contacts within the UK

25 media --

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1 **A. Yes.**
2 Q. -- I think that's what you were referring to --
3 numbering about 250?
4 **A. Yes.**
5 Q. Do we take it, then, that you will be contacting both
6 national and local media?
7 **A. National and regional, in the main, yes.**
8 Q. And print journalism, broadcast journalism?
9 **A. Both print and broadcast.**
10 Q. What about the internet? How does your committee deal
11 with people who broadcast or blog or publish things on
12 the internet?
13 **A. Well, the traditional media organisations, I think I'm**
14 **right in saying all of them now have a significant media**
15 **presence anyway. But one of the main recommendations**
16 **from the 2015 review was to increase the digital**
17 **representation on the committee, and we now have three**
18 **digital-only producers of news.**
19 Q. But those are -- can you tell us who they are?
20 **A. Yes, it's published information. It is The Register,**
21 **the Huffington Post and BuzzFeed.**
22 Q. I see. Last question on this topic -- it is one you
23 mentioned -- I asked you about judges: have the police,
24 either now or in the past, ever played any role in the
25 D-Notice system, in particular in informing journalists

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1 or perhaps serving notices on journalists? Is that
2 something you're aware of?
3 **A. No, not at all. Police are specifically excluded from**
4 **the DSMA Notice system and its D-Notices. However,**
5 **given the link between terrorism and organised crime,**
6 **there are now footnotes in one of the notices to say**
7 **that operations -- NCA operations, the National Crime**
8 **Agency operations, when operating with counter-terrorist**
9 **forces, employing the same techniques, do fall under**
10 **that, but that is very rare. I have never used that.**
11 Q. I'm not sure I asked my question very clearly. I think
12 what you have just explained is the question of whether
13 police techniques are protected by the D-Notice system.
14 Is that what you were getting at?
15 **A. No. No, not at all. But some NCA operations use the**
16 **same equipment and techniques as military operations.**
17 Q. Yes. I understand that. I think the point I was
18 wanting to address was a more practical question, and it
19 is simply the question of whether policemen or women up
20 and down the country actually have a function in telling
21 journalists about the fact that a D-Notice has been
22 issued, and you will realise the context, because of
23 course Mr Hale described Special Branch arriving in his
24 offices and presenting him with a D-Notice. Is that
25 something that, in your experience, happens now or

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1 happened in the past?
2 **A. No, it has never happened while I have been in post, for**
3 **six years, and, as far as I'm aware, it has never**
4 **happened before that.**
5 Q. Let me move on. I want to ask you something about what
6 you describe in your witness statement as the voluntary
7 nature of the D-Notice Committee. Can we go to page 10
8 of your statement, please, and perhaps we can just
9 enlarge the top half of the page.
10 Now, before we go to this text, Brigadier, can you
11 introduce the subject? It is right, isn't it, that the
12 consensual nature of these arrangements is fundamental
13 to them?
14 **A. It's absolutely fundamental. It is voluntary, it is**
15 **nonstatutory, and it is consensus. And some meetings**
16 **between both media and official side members of**
17 **the committee can be quite adversarial in nature. But,**
18 **in the end, a consensus is always reached.**
19 Q. You mentioned, when we were talking about the name of
20 the notice, the D-Notice, that it had entered the
21 national psyche, and it may be that people regard
22 D-Notices as being perhaps connected to the Official
23 Secrets Act, having this function of preventing
24 something being published. But that isn't right, is it?
25 **A. It is absolutely not right at all. There is no link**

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1 **between D-Notices and the Official Secrets Act.**
2 Q. Does a D-Notice prevent something being published?
3 **A. A D-Notice does not prevent anything being published.**
4 **It is advice only, and it is up to an editor whether he**
5 **or she publishes or does not publish.**
6 Q. Let's just look at your statement. The way you put it
7 there, you -- looking at paragraph 40, you describe the
8 committee as overseeing a voluntary code which operates
9 between the government departments which have
10 responsibilities for national security and the media.
11 You say that the media side maintains its membership of
12 this non-statutory committee on a purely voluntary
13 basis:
14 "There are no demands place on the media members or
15 any penalties or rewards associated with membership,
16 including attendance at meetings."
17 Just pursuing that, are there in fact any penalties
18 for not complying with a D-Notice or any rewards for
19 following one?
20 **A. There are no rewards, no penalties, no sanctions, no**
21 **legal obligations attached with D-Notices.**
22 Q. You say that, in fact, in paragraph 41, just looking at
23 the last couple of lines of that paragraph:
24 "The final decision on publishing or broadcasting
25 material rests with the editor and they take full

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<p>1 responsibility for material that he or she publishes. 2 There is no penalty, sanction or reward for choosing 3 either of these options." 4 Is that right? 5 A. That's correct. 6 Q. Again, I think it was in the same media article that 7 referred to the D-Notice in Mr Hale's case as having 8 been served by a policeman -- 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. -- one of the articles we were looking at with him this 11 morning, the D-Notice was described as "allowing the 12 government to block any story that threatened national 13 security". Is that an accurate description -- 14 A. That's not possible. That's inaccurate. And D-Notices 15 are purely advisory. There is no -- there is no 16 requirement for an editor to obey them. 17 Q. We have said something about the subject matter of 18 the D-Notices and we looked at that paragraph of your 19 statement which set out the five subject matters. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. The current system with those five notices was 22 prefigured earlier by systems which had more than 23 five -- 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. -- standing at a particular time. Is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 A. That is correct. 2 Q. Could we look, perhaps, at page 25 of your statement. 3 Again, you will probably need to look at it on the 4 screen, Brigadier. 5 You have set out very helpfully there the recent 6 history of the various D-Notices which existed. If we 7 were interested in the position in 1984, at the time of 8 Mr Hale's allegations, we would look, wouldn't we, at 9 the middle section there, the 1982 D-Notices? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. We can see that there were eight notices covering eight 12 subject areas at that time? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Defence plans; operational capability; state of 15 readiness and training; defence equipment, and so on. 16 I am not going to read them all out, but we see them 17 there. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. I was just going to ask you about one example. You give 20 a few examples of the use of these notices and your 21 function in them. But just to take one, at page 7 of 22 your statement, paragraph 31, you give an example 23 relating to the bomb in the foyer of the Manchester 24 Arena. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 190</p>
<p>1 Q. Can you describe your function on that occasion? 2 A. Yes. I'm sure people are aware of the Ariana Grande 3 concert in Manchester and the bomb that happened 4 afterwards. Shortly afterwards, military 5 counter-terrorist forces were landing -- were deployed, 6 and they landed on the Manchester City football ground, 7 I think from memory, and someone alerted me to the fact 8 that they had seen these soldiers deployed by helicopter 9 and was concerned that they might be Special Forces and 10 that I should perhaps advise the media, or remind the 11 media, of the provisions of DSMA Notice 3 or 5, or 2, 12 perhaps, in order to prevent the inadvertent publication 13 of material that would damage national security. 14 I looked at the footage. I decided that it did 15 warrant a supplement to the DSMA Notice, and so I issued 16 one by email to all editors in the UK. 17 Q. So that would be one of the occasions where you sent it 18 to 250-odd recipients? 19 A. Exactly that. 20 Q. Just explain a little bit more about what that would 21 have contained and how you would have explained the 22 position? 23 A. Well, it would be advice that -- I can't remember the 24 exact wording off the top of my head, but advice that 25 a live broadcast of military operations involving</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 191</p>	<p>1 Special Forces and intelligence agencies should not be 2 broadcast without seeking my advice beforehand. 3 Q. We have looked at the five permanent notices in 4 existence now? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. We looked a moment ago at the slightly differently 7 described notices that were in force in 1984, and we saw 8 in fact that there had been some before that and some 9 between 1984 and now. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. But, as you understand it, has it ever been within the 12 scope of the D-Notice system to protect information 13 which is, if I can put it this way, embarrassing to 14 a politician or which might, for example, indicate that 15 a politician had committed a criminal offence possibly 16 involving sexual abuse? 17 A. No. I mean, what the system does is one thing. What 18 the system doesn't do is equally as important. We don't 19 do corruption, we don't do coverup, we don't do scandal, 20 we don't do law breaking, and certainly we don't do 21 government embarrassment. 22 Q. It might be suggested that that's, of course, what the 23 system states that it -- what your system claims that 24 are its boundaries, but that in fact that's not quite 25 how it works, and that a politician can just pick up the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 192</p>

1 phone to you and ask you to warn off a journalist.
 2 Is there any truth in that suggestion?
 3 **A. There is no truth in that suggestion at all. I mean, no**
 4 **politician has ever contacted me. I don't think any**
 5 **politician would contact me. And even if they did**
 6 **contact me, and even if I did accept their advice,**
 7 **I would then have to get that past an editor or editors,**
 8 **whose very raison d'etre in life is to hold authority to**
 9 **account, so I would find it very difficult to understand**
 10 **the situation in which my office could be used to cover**
 11 **up a scandal.**
 12 Q. I suppose one part of that explanation that you have
 13 just given is that you, as you have explained, are
 14 always working in the situation where you have no power
 15 to tell an editor to do anything; you are essentially
 16 trying to advise or persuade them to do things?
 17 **A. Advise, persuade, influence is the maximum.**
 18 Q. If you tried to advise or persuade them to do the thing
 19 we have just discussed, you might get a pretty short
 20 answer?
 21 **A. Yes, and I suspect, you know, my incorrect advice, going**
 22 **against the boundaries of the DSMA Notice Code, would**
 23 **probably appear in the news pretty sharpish.**
 24 Q. I have mentioned a few times already the evidence that
 25 Mr Hale has given.

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1 **38.5 minutes.**
 2 Q. That's an average, is it?
 3 **A. That's an average. It was conducted by five people:**
 4 **myself, my two deputies, a civil servant that was**
 5 **brought in to assist, and the administrative manager in**
 6 **the office. We checked files in the office -- they are**
 7 **all over the place: in the office, in the MoD basement;**
 8 **in the MoD archives in Swadlincote; in the sensitive**
 9 **archives in Portsmouth; and the National Archives.**
 10 Q. Did you have files going back as far as 1984?
 11 **A. We had files going back as far as 1960, sir.**
 12 Q. We have sometimes heard about files being filleted or
 13 documents --
 14 **A. Files, as part of the routine nature of -- and good**
 15 **housekeeping are weeded. This is clearly in the past.**
 16 **At the moment, it is emails, so it's all electronic.**
 17 **But, in the past, files would always be weeded. If**
 18 **a file was destroyed, there is a destruction**
 19 **certificate, and all those destruction certificates**
 20 **exist, so I know who destroyed it, who authorised the**
 21 **destruction and what the content and record of that file**
 22 **was.**
 23 Q. Tell us, then -- I mean, at the end of that process
 24 which you describe, which, clearly, was a very intensive
 25 exercise, did you find anything that was relevant to

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1 **A. Mmm.**
 2 Q. And we have touched on it. In summary, in 1984, Mr Hale
 3 was the editor of the Bury Messenger, and he describes
 4 how he'd been given a file containing allegations of
 5 involvement with a paedophilic organisation, possible
 6 involvement in child sexual abuse on the part of leading
 7 politicians, and Special Branch arriving, presenting him
 8 with a D-Notice and confiscating the file.
 9 The first question to ask is whether there is any
 10 record held by your committee or on behalf of your
 11 committee of any such D-Notice being issued? Now,
 12 I appreciate that period we are talking about goes back
 13 a long way before you were involved with the D-Notice
 14 Committee. Have you and your colleagues made searches
 15 to try and find out if there are any documents that are
 16 relevant to that issue?
 17 **A. We have searched every single known file that is still**
 18 **in existence. That's 268 files.**
 19 Q. Just to be clear about that, that was at the request of
 20 the inquiry, was it not?
 21 **A. At the request of the inquiry.**
 22 Q. Just tell us a little bit more, then, about the search
 23 exercise that you conducted?
 24 **A. Well, it was 268 files conducted in September 2017.**
 25 **I think the average time spent checking those files was**

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1 this question of whether, back in 1984, such a D-Notice
 2 had been issued?
 3 **A. No, there was nothing to do with that at all.**
 4 Q. It doesn't follow, of course -- I assume you agree with
 5 me -- that it didn't happen, it is just that you can't
 6 find any evidence that it did?
 7 **A. That's correct.**
 8 Q. But perhaps you can help us with your understanding of
 9 the committee and its work going back to that period,
 10 whether you think it is very likely that this account is
 11 accurate. First of all, I have asked you this question
 12 about the current time. To the extent you can help us
 13 in relation to 1984, do. I mean, do you think that
 14 a D-Notice would have been issued simply to protect
 15 information that was scandalous or embarrassing to
 16 politicians back in the 1980s?
 17 **A. I don't believe so. One of the advantages of searching**
 18 **all these files is that you come across all the minutes**
 19 **of the meetings, from the '70s, '80s and since then.**
 20 **What is clear is that that adversarial yet sometimes**
 21 **consensual nature of the committee is still there. In**
 22 **fact, I would say it was probably a little more**
 23 **adversarial in the '80s than it is in the current**
 24 **decade.**
 25 Q. Just to be clear, when you say "adversarial", you mean

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1 that tension between the officials on the committee and
 2 the media on the committee?
 3 **A. Exactly that. Exactly that.**
 4 Q. And what flows from that is the voluntary nature of
 5 the system and the ability of journalists to disregard
 6 notices in any particular case?
 7 **A. Exactly that. I agree.**
 8 Q. What about the police? I think you've explained that
 9 you have never known the police to be involved in
 10 enforcing, if you like, a D-Notice. Do you think that
 11 that might have been the case in the 1980s?
 12 **A. I think that would be the case in the 1980s. The police**
 13 **have never had any involvement in the DSMA system, as**
 14 **far as I'm aware.**
 15 Q. Do you know -- I mean, obviously you are now in
 16 a position, if you want to issue one of your advisory
 17 notices to all 250 editors who you have as your
 18 contacts, or a smaller group, you can do it very easily
 19 using email. That obviously wasn't available to the
 20 secretary of the committee in the 1980s. Do you know
 21 how that person did communicate with editors back then?
 22 **A. Only about four years ago I got rid of a fax machine**
 23 **which was used, I don't know since when. It could**
 24 **possibly be the '80s. If not, it would have been**
 25 **a telephone call if it was one or two editors involved,**

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1 **whether, chair and panel, you have any questions?**
 2 THE CHAIR: No, we have no questions. Thank you very much,
 3 Brigadier.
 4 (The witness withdrew)
 5 MR O'CONNOR: Chair, I think that concludes our hearing for
 6 today.
 7 MR ALTMAN: Just before we do conclude, chair, can
 8 I formally adduce into evidence the two inquiry
 9 statements that Mr Hale made, parts 1 and 2, INQ003722
 10 and INQ003723.
 11 THE CHAIR: Yes. Thank you, Mr Altman.
 12 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much.
 13 THE CHAIR: Thank you. That concludes today's hearing.
 14 (3.58 pm)
 15 (The hearing was adjourned to
 16 Monday, 11 March 2019 at 10.00 am)
 17
 18
 19 I N D E X
 20
 21 Witness statements adduced by MR1
 22 HENDERSON
 23
 24 Statement of MR CLIVE BLACKFORD1
 25 (read)

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1 **or if it was a general supplement to a DSMA Notice, then**
 2 **it would be issued by letter. But in those days, most**
 3 **of the defence and security news would be to the**
 4 **national newspapers which were based in London. So the**
 5 **concept of sending letters to Lincolnshire or**
 6 **North Wales, I haven't seen any evidence of that.**
 7 Q. But in all your experience and your review of these
 8 files, did you ever see a case where the secretary of
 9 the committee said, "Well, we will get the police to
 10 take this D-Notice around to this particular editor"?
 11 **A. No, absolutely no involvement of the police at all.**
 12 Q. Last thing. The last feature of this case that I want
 13 to ask you about: of course, what Mr Hale describes
 14 happening is not receiving an advisory notice about what
 15 he can or can't publish, or even, actually, a notice
 16 telling him that he couldn't publish something; the
 17 notice was used to confiscate documents in his
 18 possession. Special Branch told him that that was the
 19 effect of the D-Notice: we are going to seize these
 20 documents. Is that something that, in your experience
 21 and your understanding of the position in the 1980s,
 22 D-Notices have ever been used for?
 23 **A. No, that is not my understanding, and I don't believe**
 24 **that would be correct either.**
 25 **MR O'CONNOR: Thank you, Brigadier Dodds. I don't know**

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