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| <p>1 Monday, 11 March 2019</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the</p> <p>4 second week of this public hearing. Mr O'Connor?</p> <p>5 MR O'CONNOR: Good morning, chair. Our first witness this</p> <p>6 morning is Frances Mowatt. As you can see, she is</p> <p>7 giving evidence by videolink. Perhaps if I can</p> <p>8 establish that we can both hear each other and then I'll</p> <p>9 ask for her to be sworn.</p> <p>10 MS DOREEN FRANCES MOWATT (sworn)</p> <p>11 (Evidence given via videolink)</p> <p>12 Examination by MR O'CONNOR</p> <p>13 MR O'CONNOR: Could you give us your full name, please,</p> <p>14 Mrs Mowatt.</p> <p>15 <b>A. My full name is Doreen Frances Mowatt.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Mrs Mowatt, I know that you have had the procedure for</p> <p>17 this morning explained to you. I am going to ask you</p> <p>18 some questions first and, when I finish, the chair and</p> <p>19 panel may have some questions for you. You have got</p> <p>20 a bundle of documents in front of you, mainly witness</p> <p>21 statements, and the chair and panel have got the same</p> <p>22 bundles in front of them. So if I ask you to look at</p> <p>23 some documents, we will be looking at the same documents</p> <p>24 here in court. Do you understand?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Thank you, yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>  | <p>1 Q. If there are any problems with the equipment,</p> <p>2 Mrs Mowatt, or if, for any other reason, you just need</p> <p>3 to take a short break, just say so, and we will have</p> <p>4 a break. Do you understand?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Just a few questions about background first, Mrs Mowatt.</p> <p>7 You now live in Essex, don't you?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I do.</b></p> <p>9 Q. But previously, you lived and worked in Chester?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I didn't live in Chester, but I worked in Chester.</b></p> <p>11 Q. We don't need to know exactly where you lived, but you</p> <p>12 lived just outside, I think?</p> <p>13 <b>A. About 23 miles, yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. When you lived outside Chester, you moved there,</p> <p>15 I think, or at least you started working for the City of</p> <p>16 Chester Conservative Association in 1975?</p> <p>17 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>18 Q. What was your job, what was the title of your job, at</p> <p>19 that time?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I was the agent and secretary to the City of Chester</b></p> <p>21 <b>Conservative Association.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Now, we are going to talk a little bit more about what</p> <p>23 that job involved, but did that remain your job for some</p> <p>24 time, until you left Chester, I think, in 1988?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, the beginning of 1988. With additions to my</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>                         |
| <p>1 <b>responsibilities, the job was basically the same.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You have said that that job started in 1975 and, at that</p> <p>3 time, Peter Morrison was the MP for Chester, wasn't he?</p> <p>4 <b>A. He was.</b></p> <p>5 Q. I think he was first elected the year before, in 1974?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, indeed.</b></p> <p>7 Q. He remained the MP throughout the time that you were</p> <p>8 there; he was still the MP when you left in 1988?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes, he was.</b></p> <p>10 Q. You mentioned that part of your title and part of your</p> <p>11 job being the election agent for the Chester</p> <p>12 Conservative Association. That role has some very</p> <p>13 specific responsibilities, particularly at the time of</p> <p>14 a General Election, doesn't it?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. For example, responsibilities relating to campaign</p> <p>17 financing?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes. I had to raise a fighting fund to cover all</b></p> <p>19 <b>expenses of the election.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Was it also part of your responsibility to account for</p> <p>21 the way in which that money had been spent?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes, I was responsible for making a return of election</b></p> <p>23 <b>expenses within the due timetable.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You were aware of all those responsibilities of being an</p> <p>25 election agent at the time that you did that job?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p> | <p>1 <b>A. Yes, indeed. It was organising voluntary workers for</b></p> <p>2 <b>victory.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Having started in 1975, Mrs Mowatt, I think it is right</p> <p>4 to say that you fought, or were involved in fighting,</p> <p>5 three General Elections during your time in Chester?</p> <p>6 <b>A. That is so, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Those would have been the elections in 1979, 1983 and,</p> <p>8 lastly, 1987?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>10 Q. The 1987 election was also Mr Morrison's last election;</p> <p>11 he didn't fight the 1992 election, did he?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I believe not.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Can you remember, Mrs Mowatt, when you found out that</p> <p>14 Mr Morrison didn't intend to fight the 1992 election?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I heard about it when the vacancy was published in 1991.</b></p> <p>16 Q. In other words, after you had left Chester?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Several years.</b></p> <p>18 Q. I wondered whether you'd found out earlier than that.</p> <p>19 Even perhaps during the 1987 election, did Mr Morrison</p> <p>20 perhaps tell you privately that that was going to be his</p> <p>21 last election and he wasn't going to stand again?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, he didn't.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Can you give us an idea of your relationship with</p> <p>24 Mr Morrison, please, Mrs Mowatt? You worked with him</p> <p>25 for some time. How did you get on with him?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p> |

1 **A. We got on very well, yes; professionally, that is. He**  
 2 **was a very good constituency member of parliament. For**  
 3 **him, nothing was too much trouble for everyone who**  
 4 **approached him for help. The professions in the city,**  
 5 **business and commerce, greatly admired him, not only his**  
 6 **diligence, but for everything that he achieved in the**  
 7 **City of Chester. He was a very popular member of**  
 8 **parliament. I knew nothing of Westminster, where he**  
 9 **lived, worked and socialised.**  
 10 Q. Mrs Mowatt, Mr Morrison obviously spent a fair amount of  
 11 his time in Westminster, in the House of Commons?  
 12 **A. He did, and he was also, from -- I think it was from**  
 13 **1986, he was vice chairman and was in Conservative**  
 14 **Central Office.**  
 15 Q. Would it be fair to say that part of your job between  
 16 elections was looking after the interests of  
 17 the Conservative Party and also Mr Morrison's interests,  
 18 political interests, in Chester while he was down in  
 19 London?  
 20 **A. Yes. Largely, of course, on an annual basis, we would**  
 21 **have local government elections in what was then the**  
 22 **Chester Corporation, and also the county council**  
 23 **elections, and I was also looking after the interests of**  
 24 **the Cheshire West European member of parliament, and of**  
 25 **course Mr Morrison.**

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1 **A. Yes, in the Labour Party, yes.**  
 2 Q. What about Grahame Nicholls, Mrs Mowatt?  
 3 **A. I knew of him. I think he was the Trades Council and**  
 4 **the National Union of Public Employees' representative.**  
 5 **But I never met him.**  
 6 Q. You never met him in all the years that you were in  
 7 Chester and doing that job?  
 8 **A. I never met him, ever.**  
 9 Q. You have already mentioned, Mrs Mowatt, that you moved  
 10 away from Chester, and that was the time that you moved  
 11 to Essex, wasn't it, and you have said it was after the  
 12 1987 election?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Did you say a moment ago that it was in -- did you say  
 15 early 1988?  
 16 **A. Yes. I can't remember exactly when it was, because**  
 17 **I was asked -- I travelled backwards and forwards**  
 18 **because I was headhunted to go to the Essex South West**  
 19 **Euro constituency in the run-up to the 1989 European**  
 20 **elections, so I was backwards and forwards, but I was**  
 21 **never employed by the Billericay Conservative**  
 22 **Association.**  
 23 Q. As far as the date is concerned, let's not worry about  
 24 the exact date. It was sometime in 1988, was it?  
 25 **A. It was, yes.**

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1 Q. You mentioned a moment ago that Mr Morrison was popular  
 2 in Chester and you gave some examples of different areas  
 3 in society, different groups of people, who found him to  
 4 be a good MP. Was that part of your job, if you like,  
 5 improving his image and talking to people on his behalf  
 6 in Chester?  
 7 **A. No, that wasn't my role. The voluntary workers -- I had**  
 8 **branches in every one of the local government areas.**  
 9 **The voluntary workers were very keen to promote**  
 10 **Mr Morrison, and I kept records, mainly, of their work.**  
 11 Q. I just want to ask you about a few other people, and  
 12 just ask whether you knew them. First of all, a man  
 13 called David Robinson, who I think was initially  
 14 a Labour Party agent, and then became the candidate in  
 15 the 1987 election, the Labour candidate. Do you  
 16 remember him?  
 17 **A. I remember him being the Labour candidate at the 1987**  
 18 **election.**  
 19 Q. I am going to ask you some questions about him in  
 20 a moment, but just moving on, do you remember  
 21 Christine Russell?  
 22 **A. Yes. Christine Russell, I think she was his agent.**  
 23 Q. In the Labour Party?  
 24 **A. I never met her.**  
 25 Q. I see.

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1 Q. I was going to ask you what prompted the move,  
 2 Mrs Mowatt, and I think you may have already given us  
 3 some of the answer to that question?  
 4 **A. Yes. Happily, over the 50 years that I have conducted**  
 5 **parliamentary elections, I developed a reputation for**  
 6 **winning those elections, and I was headhunted to come**  
 7 **down to Essex with the specific job of securing the**  
 8 **return of a Conservative member to the European**  
 9 **Parliament, as the then existing member of parliament**  
 10 **was retiring.**  
 11 Q. You have explained why the people down in Essex wanted  
 12 you to move down there. Was there anything that may  
 13 have happened in Chester that made you want to leave  
 14 Chester?  
 15 **A. No.**  
 16 Q. Once you had moved down to Essex, and you have described  
 17 a period when you were back and forth, did you carry on  
 18 having anything to do with Chester affairs after you'd  
 19 finally moved to Essex?  
 20 **A. I encouraged fundraising because we had a constituency**  
 21 **office to support, and so it was more on the social**  
 22 **side.**  
 23 Q. Mrs Mowatt, I am going to ask you to look at a couple of  
 24 documents now, but before I do, let me ask you this: the  
 25 chair and panel are going to hear evidence this morning

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1 about rumours about Peter Morrison that circulated in  
 2 Chester during the time that he was an MP. What can you  
 3 tell us about what you heard about rumours about  
 4 Peter Morrison's sexual life or private life during that  
 5 time?  
 6 **A. I didn't hear any rumours about either his -- what did**  
 7 **you describe it? -- sexual -- sorry, I'm --**  
 8 Q. The words I used were -- I asked you about rumours about  
 9 his sexual life or his private life?  
 10 **A. No, I didn't hear any rumours during the time that I was**  
 11 **in Chester.**  
 12 Q. Let me just take you one document, Mrs Mowatt, and  
 13 I think it is in tab 6 in your bundle -- it will be for  
 14 the chair and panel. The reference is LAB000037. It is  
 15 the witness statement of Christine Russell, Mrs Mowatt.  
 16 Do you have that?  
 17 **A. Yes, I have. I have got that in my hand, yes. There is**  
 18 **a section of that which I only read this morning when**  
 19 **the hard copies were brought to me.**  
 20 Q. Let's look at a passage of it together, Mrs Mowatt. It  
 21 is on page 3 of the statement, paragraph 6. It is just  
 22 the first sentence or so. Mrs Russell says:  
 23 "Chester was awash with rumours about  
 24 Peter Morrison's private life -- his alcoholism and  
 25 penchant for young men -- from the early 1980s onwards."

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1 **to them.**  
 2 Q. Rumours -- sorry, please say what you were going to say?  
 3 **A. I was saying that -- it's difficult for me to comment on**  
 4 **something that didn't happen.**  
 5 Q. Rumours like that can be very damaging electorally,  
 6 can't they, Mrs Mowatt?  
 7 **A. Yes, and as far as I have read in various documents,**  
 8 **these were rife, really, around 1990, and I had moved**  
 9 **south earlier.**  
 10 Q. I have just shown you Mrs Russell's evidence which talks  
 11 about these rumours starting in the early 1980s,  
 12 Mrs Mowatt?  
 13 **A. Well, as far as I'm concerned, she is mistaken.**  
 14 Q. Do you think, if you had heard these rumours, you might  
 15 have spoken to anyone, for example, in the Labour Party  
 16 and encouraged them to keep quiet about them to protect  
 17 Mr Morrison's reputation?  
 18 **A. I certainly would not have done that.**  
 19 Q. Since you have got that statement of Mrs Russell open,  
 20 Mrs Mowatt, may I ask you to look further down the same  
 21 page. It is at paragraph 8.  
 22 **A. Yes, that is the paragraph I read for the first time**  
 23 **this morning, and I'm utterly bewildered by it. It just**  
 24 **didn't happen.**  
 25 Q. Let's just, so everyone else can follow what's going on,

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1 Now, you were there from 1975 to 1988. Did you hear  
 2 those rumours?  
 3 **A. I didn't. Quite honestly, I don't recognise what she is**  
 4 **describing.**  
 5 Q. Are you saying you just simply heard no negative rumours  
 6 about Mr Morrison at all?  
 7 **A. Correct.**  
 8 Q. What would you have done if you had heard such rumours,  
 9 Mrs Mowatt?  
 10 **A. In the first place, I would have communicated with the**  
 11 **legal department of Conservative Central Office.**  
 12 Q. Were you aware of any policies or guidance at the time  
 13 that they might have called on to advise you?  
 14 **A. I don't quite follow that question.**  
 15 Q. Well, let's say, for example, that you heard a rumour  
 16 that Mr Morrison was engaging in illegal sexual activity  
 17 with teenage boys. Were you aware of any guidance about  
 18 child protection or safeguarding that the Conservative  
 19 Party might have used to advise you about what to do?  
 20 **A. No, I wasn't aware of any such advice.**  
 21 Q. If you had heard rumours about Mr Morrison engaging in  
 22 unlawful acts of that type, would you have contacted the  
 23 police?  
 24 **A. Not -- well, I would have thought Conservative Central**  
 25 **Office would have done that, after my initial approach**

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1 look at it, please. About six or seven lines down, we  
 2 can see a sentence starting "I do recall", and this is  
 3 Mrs Russell saying:  
 4 "I do recall Frances Mowatt, the Conservative  
 5 Party's agent in Chester, requesting a meeting with  
 6 David Robinson, the former Labour Party agent and  
 7 prospective parliamentary candidate."  
 8 Pausing there, I think we have already agreed he was  
 9 the candidate in the 1987 election, wasn't he?  
 10 **A. Yes, but what you have just read out, she is completely**  
 11 **mistaken.**  
 12 Q. Are you saying that you never requested a meeting with  
 13 him?  
 14 **A. I am saying quite definitely I did not request a meeting**  
 15 **with David Robinson.**  
 16 Q. If I can just carry on reading, Ms Russell mentions that  
 17 Mr Robinson is now dead and so can't tell us what  
 18 happened, but just reading on at the bottom of this page  
 19 and going on to the next, she says:  
 20 "However, I do recall David Robinson informing me  
 21 that Frances Mowatt had told him that there would not be  
 22 a by-election and that Peter Morrison would not be  
 23 resigning, although 'he was not a well man' (I think  
 24 those were her exact words as reported by  
 25 David Robinson) and that he would not be standing at the

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1 next election."  
 2 Does that help you to remember?  
 3 **A. There was never any suggestion whatever that he would be**  
 4 **resigning or creating a by-election. I can't understand**  
 5 **why this has been said.**  
 6 Q. Let me ask you about another document, Mrs Mowatt,  
 7 please, and that is in the same bundle at tab 4. Now,  
 8 I know -- this is an extract from Edwina Currie's  
 9 published diaries, I know you are familiar with this.  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. Let's just call it up on screen, please: INQ004107. If  
 12 we can zoom in on the middle paragraph, please. This  
 13 was a diary entry that Edwina Currie wrote in 1990. You  
 14 will recall, Mrs Mowatt, it is about a conversation she  
 15 had with Teresa Gorman?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. Let's look at it and then I am going to ask you about  
 18 it. What Mrs Currie wrote was:  
 19 "One appointment in the recent reshuffle has  
 20 attracted a lot of gossip and could be very dangerous:  
 21 Peter Morrison has become the PM's PPS."  
 22 That's Parliamentary Private Secretary, isn't it?  
 23 **A. It is.**  
 24 Q. It goes on:  
 25 "Now, he's what they call 'a noted pederast' with

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1 Just taking this in stages, Mrs Mowatt, the  
 2 description of a "woman agent" of Mr Morrison's who had  
 3 moved from Chester to Essex, where Teresa Gorman had her  
 4 constituency, sounds like it may well be a reference to  
 5 you, doesn't it?  
 6 **A. That is what the inquiry assumed in contacting me this**  
 7 **time last year.**  
 8 Q. I know your evidence is that you were never  
 9 Teresa Gorman's agent?  
 10 **A. That is correct.**  
 11 Q. But the fact is, you were Mr Morrison's, as Mrs Currie  
 12 put it, "woman agent", and you did move around this time  
 13 from Chester to Essex, didn't you?  
 14 **A. I did. But what Mrs Gorman is saying I would go so far**  
 15 **as to say it's a wicked lie.**  
 16 Q. Just to be clear, then -- well, tell us what the wicked  
 17 lie exactly is, Mrs Mowatt?  
 18 **A. The wicked part of it is to suggest that I had been**  
 19 **offered money; and, secondly, merely saying that I was**  
 20 **her agent is untrue.**  
 21 Q. Well, there may have been a confusion about whether you  
 22 were her agent or not, but your evidence to the inquiry  
 23 is that you were never offered money to keep quiet about  
 24 Mr Morrison's activities?  
 25 **A. Absolutely not.**

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1 a liking for young boys; he admitted as much to  
 2 Norman Tebbit when he became deputy chairman of  
 3 the party, but added, 'However, I'm very discreet' --  
 4 and he must be!"  
 5 Mrs Mowatt, from your evidence earlier, you never  
 6 heard anything about that?  
 7 **A. It's speculation that Mrs Currie's mentioning.**  
 8 Q. I am going to ask you --  
 9 **A. I don't know why she was saying it.**  
 10 Q. Well, I just want to know whether you knew anything  
 11 about rumours that Mr Morrison had a liking for young  
 12 boys?  
 13 **A. No, I hadn't.**  
 14 Q. Let's read on. Mrs Currie says:  
 15 "She [I think that must be Mrs Thatcher] either  
 16 knows and is taking a chance, or doesn't; either way, it  
 17 is a really dumb move."  
 18 Then this:  
 19 "Teresa Gorman told me this evening (in a taxi  
 20 coming back from a drinks party at the BBC) that she  
 21 inherited Morrison's (woman) agent, who claimed to have  
 22 been offered money to keep quiet about his activities.  
 23 It scares me, as all the press know and, as we get  
 24 closer to the election, someone is going to make  
 25 trouble, very close to her indeed."

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1 Q. I just want to ask you about one final document,  
 2 Mrs Mowatt, and that I think you will find behind tab 3  
 3 in the bundle, and it is CAB000123. Mrs Mowatt, you  
 4 have seen this letter before?  
 5 **A. Yes, in January. It was sent to me by the solicitor to**  
 6 **the inquiry, drawing attention to one paragraph in it.**  
 7 Q. Let's just -- I am going to take you to that paragraph  
 8 in a minute, but before we go there, let's just note, it  
 9 is dated July 1987, so shortly after the 1987 election.  
 10 It is a letter from a man called Mr Walker at the  
 11 Security Service to the Cabinet Secretary,  
 12 Sir Robert Armstrong. We see that at the bottom of  
 13 the page, don't we?  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. If we just look at the very first paragraph, we can see  
 16 Mr Walker explaining that he had briefed Mr Morrison,  
 17 because at that stage he was a new minister, and that  
 18 during the course of that briefing, Mr Morrison --  
 19 **A. Sorry, you say the first paragraph?**  
 20 Q. Yes. It starts, "On 19 June". Just read to that  
 21 yourself?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. In other words, this arose in the context of briefings  
 24 to new ministers, of which Peter Morrison was one?  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. The subject had come up of what Mr Walker described as  
 2 a number of unpleasant rumours that had circulated about  
 3 Mr Morrison in recent years?  
 4 **A. That is what Mr Walker is saying.**  
 5 Q. Are you sure that you hadn't heard any of those rumours,  
 6 Mrs Mowatt?  
 7 **A. When I was in the Chester constituency, rumours were not**  
 8 **circulating.**  
 9 Q. Or you didn't hear them, anyway?  
 10 **A. You could draw that conclusion.**  
 11 Q. Well, what's your evidence, Mrs Mowatt?  
 12 **A. That I heard of no such rumours.**  
 13 Q. You have also said to the chair and panel this morning  
 14 that you didn't have a meeting with David Robinson,  
 15 haven't you?  
 16 **A. Correct.**  
 17 Q. Let's look at paragraph 5 of the letter, over the page,  
 18 because we see here Mr Walker recording a conversation  
 19 he had had with Peter Morrison, and we see  
 20 Peter Morrison himself mentioning the stories about his  
 21 alleged homosexual behaviour which surfaced in his  
 22 Chester constituency during the General Election. Are  
 23 you still sure you didn't hear those rumours,  
 24 Mrs Mowatt?  
 25 **A. I didn't.**

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1 wrong ears, it could be misrepresented as an attempted  
 2 coverup."  
 3 Are you sure it wasn't you who spoke to Mr Robinson  
 4 and tried to cover up the rumours about Mr Morrison,  
 5 Mrs Mowatt?  
 6 **A. I am certain.**  
 7 **MR O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mrs Mowatt. That's all the**  
 8 **questions I wanted to ask you. I am just going to see**  
 9 **if the chair and panel have any questions for you**  
 10 **themselves.**  
 11 THE CHAIR: We have no questions. Thank you, Mrs Mowatt.  
 12 MR O'CONNOR: Thank you very much, Mrs Mowatt.  
 13 (The witness withdrew)  
 14 MR O'CONNOR: Chair, the next witness this morning is  
 15 Mr Nicholls.  
 16 MR GRAHAME NICHOLLS (affirmed)  
 17 Examination by MR O'CONNOR  
 18 MR O'CONNOR: Could you give your full name, please.  
 19 **A. Grahame Nicholls.**  
 20 Q. Mr Nicholls, you are a lifelong trade unionist and  
 21 member of the Labour Party?  
 22 **A. I am.**  
 23 Q. You have supplied a statement to the inquiry, and we can  
 24 see from it that you joined the Labour Party when you  
 25 were 18, when you were living in the Medway towns in

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1 Q. The paragraph then goes on:  
 2 "Unfortunately, his election agent ..."  
 3 That was you, wasn't it, Mrs Mowatt?  
 4 **A. I was the Conservative election agent.**  
 5 Q. Yes:  
 6 "... in a well-meaning but clumsy attempt to spare  
 7 Morrison embarrassment, had spoken without Morrison's  
 8 authority or knowledge to the Labour candidate."  
 9 That was Mr Robinson, wasn't it, Mrs Mowatt?  
 10 **A. If Mr Morrison is alleging this, he is talking about**  
 11 **Mr Robinson.**  
 12 Q. Well, that's precisely what he's saying, isn't it,  
 13 Mrs Mowatt?  
 14 **A. Seemingly, but only Mr Morrison knows why he made these**  
 15 **remarks. I mean, okay, so I was legally appointed the**  
 16 **agent, but I had 19 other subagents. It could well have**  
 17 **been one of them.**  
 18 Q. Why would Mr Morrison have been making this up in what  
 19 must have been what he regarded as a private  
 20 conversation with a member of the Security Service?  
 21 **A. I don't know.**  
 22 Q. Just reading on, we can see that, whoever it was who  
 23 spoke to Mr Robinson, was a woman. He says:  
 24 "She chose to do so in a back street of all places.  
 25 Morrison feared that if his agent's approach reached the

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1 Kent?  
 2 **A. That's correct.**  
 3 Q. You served an apprenticeship as an engine fitter and  
 4 turner at the naval dockyard in Chatham?  
 5 **A. That's correct.**  
 6 Q. It was while you were there that you became a shop  
 7 steward for the Amalgamated Engineering Union?  
 8 **A. That's quite correct.**  
 9 Q. Is it right that, after that, your career developed as  
 10 a trades union official rather than as an engineer?  
 11 **A. As a shop steward for the engineering union, there were**  
 12 **about nine in the department -- I don't want to get too**  
 13 **complicated, but about nine in the department -- and**  
 14 **they elected me the convenor of the shop stewards, so**  
 15 **I was the senior steward in the naval dockyard until**  
 16 **1966.**  
 17 Q. So that's while you were still in the dockyard?  
 18 **A. That's right.**  
 19 Q. Shop steward and convenor. I think it is right to say  
 20 you left the dockyard to become a union official in  
 21 London?  
 22 **A. September 1966.**  
 23 Q. That was for a different union, the National Union of  
 24 Public Employees?  
 25 **A. That's correct.**

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1 Q. You worked for NUPE in London for a few years?  
 2 **A. Six and a half.**  
 3 Q. And then you moved to Chester --  
 4 **A. That's correct.**  
 5 Q. -- still working for NUPE --  
 6 **A. Absolutely, yes.**  
 7 Q. -- in 1974?  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. As you had been in London, that was a -- working as an  
 10 official for the union?  
 11 **A. A full-time official, yes.**  
 12 Q. Did you have an area of responsibility for NUPE members  
 13 when you were in Chester?  
 14 **A. When I was in Chester, the responsibility I had was for**  
 15 **the whole of the Social Services Department in Cheshire,**  
 16 **most of the Education Department and, I'm sure, bits and**  
 17 **bobs that's added on, I covered the whole of Cheshire**  
 18 **for that. But also, there were two offices of**  
 19 **responsibility. We also broke up to have -- I had**  
 20 **districts in Cheshire itself and I had four of those**  
 21 **districts and I had to look after refuse collectors,**  
 22 **street sweepers, et cetera, et cetera. Public sector**  
 23 **workers in local government.**  
 24 Q. So your area of responsibility covered the whole  
 25 county --

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1 **and I took over and made it, shall we say, a force to be**  
 2 **reckoned with.**  
 3 Q. A force to be reckoned with?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. Tell us something about what it did and why it was  
 6 a force to be reckoned with?  
 7 **A. To me, one of the main things it did for me was to,**  
 8 **first of all, get all the local trade unions into the**  
 9 **Trade Union Council --**  
 10 Q. Mr Nicholls, just bear in mind that the stenographer  
 11 here is making a note of what you say, so, first of all,  
 12 if you can try and not go too quickly, but also if you  
 13 can just be clear about what you are saying, so she can  
 14 record it.  
 15 **A. The Trade Union Council, we were in fact making -- we**  
 16 **met with Peter Morrison on a number of occasions to do**  
 17 **with employment matters in Chester because unemployment**  
 18 **at the time was very high indeed. The leadworks in**  
 19 **Chester was closing down. So we met him to discuss**  
 20 **that.**  
 21 **We also got all the local firms, in conjunction with**  
 22 **the city council and the Manpower Services Commission,**  
 23 **to organise an event in Chester Town Hall where all the**  
 24 **local employers came and put their wares out and people**  
 25 **could come down and see. We got the Manpower Services**

Page 23

1 **A. Absolutely.**  
 2 Q. -- more or less. Did you actually live in Chester  
 3 itself?  
 4 **A. I did, in a place called Hoole. It became part of**  
 5 **Chester, I think, in the boundary reorganisation. But**  
 6 **Hoole, Chester is the official address.**  
 7 Q. While you were there, you became involved in local  
 8 politics?  
 9 **A. It took me about four years, because, having settled in**  
 10 **Chester, by the time I got used to the organisation --**  
 11 **as I say, I took a family up there and they were all**  
 12 **very, very young children as well. I didn't have time,**  
 13 **until around 1979, to actually get involved in politics**  
 14 **in Chester.**  
 15 Q. But, as you say, there did come a time when you became  
 16 involved?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. One of the things we see from your statement was that  
 19 you were the secretary of the Chester Trade Union  
 20 Council?  
 21 **A. That's correct.**  
 22 Q. Was that part of your, as it were, job with NUPE or was  
 23 it a voluntary post?  
 24 **A. It was a voluntary post I was elected to, because the**  
 25 **Trades Union Council at that time was one man and a dog**

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1 **Commission, the chairman, to come down and open it,**  
 2 **which was, to us, quite an event. We managed to get on**  
 3 **a number of committees. As I say, we met Peter Morrison**  
 4 **on a number of occasions. That was in my role as**  
 5 **secretary of the Chester TUC.**  
 6 Q. I'm going to come to Mr Morrison in a minute. I'm just  
 7 trying to ask you a little bit more about your role in  
 8 these various organisations?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. So that was the Trade Union Council?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. What about the local Constituency Labour Party. Did you  
 13 come to have an involvement in that as well?  
 14 **A. Yes, I became a delegate to the local Constituency**  
 15 **Labour Party, the CLP, from my union, the National Union**  
 16 **of Public Employees. That was my avenue in. But nobody**  
 17 **from the Trade Union Council could sit on the Chester**  
 18 **CLP as it was against national TUC rules to do that. So**  
 19 **I came in through the National Union of Public Employees**  
 20 **and I became the delegate to the CLP, as I would call**  
 21 **it, general meeting.**  
 22 Q. Just pausing there, you said the CLP -- that's the  
 23 Constituency Labour Party?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. And so you had -- we don't need the fine detail, but you

Page 24

1 had a post or a status within that?

2 **A. I was delegate to it from my union, and I did become**

3 **press officer for the Constituency Labour Party in**

4 **1982/83, and I was the press officer for the**

5 **parliamentary candidate -- I don't want to complicate**

6 **this, but the candidate was a David Robertson.**

7 Q. I'm aware that there were two men, one called

8 David Robertson and one called David Robinson.

9 **A. I was David Robertson's press officer for that election,**

10 **but I did -- I was also branch secretary of the local**

11 **ward of Chester Labour Party, the ward were called**

12 **Hoole, and I was secretary for that as well.**

13 Q. Would it be a fair summary to say that you were very

14 much involved in local employment matters and local

15 politics in Chester throughout the 1970s and '80s?

16 **A. Very late '70s and the whole of the '80s.**

17 Q. You moved to Chester in 1974. You have already told us

18 that. That was, in fact, the year that Peter Morrison

19 was elected as MP for Chester. Tell us something about

20 your memory, just in general terms, of meeting him and

21 doing business with him during that period of time?

22 **A. In 1974, he knocked on my door where I lived to try and**

23 **get me to vote for him, but unfortunately for him, I was**

24 **still -- had my ballot paper in Bexley in Kent, so -- he**

25 **wouldn't have got it anyhow, but I didn't give him my**

Page 25

1 evidence, and she said words to the effect that he was

2 a very well-regarded constituency MP, people in Chester

3 thought that he did a good job. What would your

4 observation on that be?

5 **A. I'd use the expression "she would say that". But so far**

6 **as I was concerned, he was very clever in giving the**

7 **impression that he was doing a lot, but actually in fact**

8 **he was doing little or nothing. One thing I will say,**

9 **on a personal matter, I did take something up for**

10 **myself, and he was very helpful and he actually did what**

11 **I asked. Whether it's because of the positions I held,**

12 **I don't know, but he went out of his way to help me on**

13 **a particular issue.**

14 Q. So on that occasion, at any rate, you would agree with

15 what Mrs Mowatt said?

16 **A. On that one occasion. But if you talk -- I only met him**

17 **to talk about industrial matters or -- I only met him to**

18 **talk about political matters as such, but on industrial**

19 **matters, I found him very nice to talk to but absolutely**

20 **unhelpful.**

21 Q. Just give us an idea, Mr Nicholls -- we don't need to go

22 into the fine detail. But you have talked a couple of

23 times now about your meetings with him on what you

24 describe as "on industrial matters" from your -- with

25 your trades union hat on?

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1 **vote. I didn't really get involved with Peter Morrison**

2 **until the 1980s, when I took a more positive role in**

3 **what was happening in Chester. Before that, I hadn't**

4 **done so because I had such a big area to cover. And**

5 **basically to make my mark. So it wasn't until the 1980s**

6 **that I became aware -- I knew he was the MP, but**

7 **I actually became aware of Peter Morrison.**

8 Q. In the 1980s, then, perhaps with your role with the

9 Trades Union Council, what dealings did you have with

10 him and how frequent were they?

11 **A. I met him on -- well, not on my own, I met him with my**

12 **president. I never met him on my own, when I went from**

13 **Chester TUC. I only met him on my own when I went as**

14 **a NUPE official. I know it's confusing, but that's how**

15 **we worked it. When I went with the president, we**

16 **discussed the unemployment situation in Chester on**

17 **many -- we kept going back on many occasions to see him**

18 **because unemployment was so bad, and after he became**

19 **a minister, the leadworks -- they were called leadworks,**

20 **which was the only industrial complex at all in**

21 **Chester -- closed. Obviously, we went to see him and**

22 **every time, I have to say, he was very thoughtful, he**

23 **was very careful, he was very helpful, but actually did**

24 **nothing.**

25 Q. I think you were in court when Mrs Mowatt was giving

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1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. How often did you meet him over that period of, let's

3 say, the 1980s?

4 **A. The 1980s, I would say a dozen times.**

5 Q. Sorry, just to be clear, did you say a dozen or dozens?

6 **A. A dozen.**

7 Q. A dozen.

8 **A. And once when he was with the city council councillors**

9 **on an issue which he decided he wanted to sit in on**

10 **while I met the councillors, but that was one particular**

11 **issue. Otherwise, about a dozen times over that period.**

12 **But we had a lot of correspondence -- I should say, not**

13 **correspondence, we had a lot of say in the press to each**

14 **other. The press at that time, me and him were quite**

15 **often attacking each other, so we didn't have to meet.**

16 Q. Just so we are clear, you say you had, as it were,

17 conversations in the press. Do you mean you would make

18 a public statement and he would make some sort of

19 statement in response?

20 **A. Yes, and the other way around.**

21 Q. And reported in the local newspapers?

22 **A. Yes, mainly the Cheshire Observer and the**

23 **Evening Leader, which is a daily evening paper.**

24 Q. Just going back to 1974 for a moment, Ted Heath was the

25 leader of the Conservative Party at that time. In the

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1 witness statement that you have given to the inquiry,  
 2 you say that it was generally known -- those were the  
 3 words you use -- that Peter Morrison's mother was the  
 4 companion of Ted Heath and that that was somehow  
 5 involved with him becoming an MP in the first place?  
 6 **A. I think all I'm saying is -- all I knew, that he was the**  
 7 **companion to Mrs Thatcher -- no, to the -- sorry, he was**  
 8 **the companion to Ted Heath. I suppose it's my opinion**  
 9 **that's why he became the MP -- not the MP, but the**  
 10 **parliamentary candidate for the Conservative Party,**  
 11 **because later on in the '70s and into the '80s --**  
 12 **because I felt, as I said earlier on, I felt he was not**  
 13 **a very good MP at all, and it then gave me more an**  
 14 **impression -- the point I made here -- that he only got**  
 15 **the job because of who he knew rather than because he**  
 16 **was competent enough to do it.**  
 17 Q. I wanted to go on to ask you that more general question  
 18 then. So moving on from 1974 and how he may have been  
 19 put up as the candidate, throughout his career and the  
 20 time that you knew him, the time that you were in  
 21 Chester, did you have an impression about whether his  
 22 connections assisted him?  
 23 **A. Yes, because, as far as I was concerned, he didn't do**  
 24 **anything to help anybody on industrial matters, which is**  
 25 **what I was interested in. He didn't seem to do**

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1 **period. I didn't hear the word "paedophile" at all, but**  
 2 **"he liked little boys", and that -- not only did I know**  
 3 **this, but I would say everybody of what I would call the**  
 4 **political elite of Chester knew of these -- not**  
 5 **accusations, but these rumours, which is the best word**  
 6 **to use, these rumours. Everybody knew. Nobody did**  
 7 **anything, but everybody knew that he had a way for young**  
 8 **children.**  
 9 Q. Just let me ask you a few questions about that,  
 10 Mr Nicholls. First of all, you say that he was known  
 11 for liking little boys. What did you understand by the  
 12 term "little boys"? Are we talking, for example, about  
 13 16-/17-year-olds or younger?  
 14 **A. No, I would put it around about anything from about 11**  
 15 **to 17, because -- things have changed since little boys**  
 16 **were 17/18 then, they're certainly not little boys now,**  
 17 **and the social structure's changed in such a way that**  
 18 **"little boys" takes on a different meaning.**  
 19 **But I would say, particularly I heard there was**  
 20 **a 15-year-old at Crewe Station, and that was put down as**  
 21 **"a little boy".**  
 22 Q. I'm going to come back to that, but I just want to  
 23 finish asking you questions about these general points.  
 24 How did you know what to understand by the idea of  
 25 "little boys"? I'm not talking about Crewe for the

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1 **anything. To have an MP like that and to get him in**  
 2 **that position, he knew nothing. When he spoke -- when**  
 3 **we met him on one occasion, he would go off the subject**  
 4 **we were there to talk about and he would talk about**  
 5 **his -- he went to Eton and public schools and he would**  
 6 **start talking about that for no particular reason at**  
 7 **all, but just to divert us away from the subject we were**  
 8 **there. To me, by saying those things, and the**  
 9 **connection that I heard he had, just made it more**  
 10 **certain that, "You would never have got that, you**  
 11 **weren't competent enough an individual to be an MP".**  
 12 Q. In your witness statement, Mr Nicholls -- I am moving on  
 13 now -- you give a very specific account of an incident  
 14 at Crewe Railway Station and things that followed that.  
 15 I am going to come to that. But before we come to that,  
 16 let me ask you more generally: over your years in  
 17 Chester, the 1970s and 1980s, did you hear rumours about  
 18 Peter Morrison's sexual life?  
 19 **A. They were rife.**  
 20 Q. Rife?  
 21 **A. Rife.**  
 22 Q. Tell us what you heard?  
 23 **A. I heard that -- certainly that he had -- I think the**  
 24 **word they were using in those days "liked little boys".**  
 25 **You know, that's the expression that was used in that**

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1 moment, but otherwise, did you ever hear of any  
 2 particular cases? Did you ever meet any of the boys or  
 3 their parents?  
 4 **A. No.**  
 5 Q. Did you have any other evidence?  
 6 **A. No. The evidence was the rumour -- the rumours that**  
 7 **were going around Chester.**  
 8 Q. You say "rumours going around Chester". You have used  
 9 the word "rife". You talk about the "political elite".  
 10 Can you explain a little bit more about how these  
 11 rumours travelled and who was involved?  
 12 **A. When I moved to Chester, and I had been working in the**  
 13 **party for a little while, they just seemed to -- "Oh, we**  
 14 **know about Peter". That was it. That would be the way**  
 15 **it would be spread around, like Chinese whispers, you**  
 16 **know, you don't -- you sit down talking to -- perhaps**  
 17 **after a meeting you went for a drink and then you'd**  
 18 **start talking. That's how the rumours -- "I didn't know**  
 19 **about that", and I would then say, "Did you know ...",**  
 20 **and that's how it went around Chester. Not just Chester**  
 21 **Labour Party, it was the press -- the press certainly**  
 22 **knew. The chief reporter on one of the newspapers that**  
 23 **I was very friendly with, she would talk about it all**  
 24 **the time, you know. So the press knew, certainly, and**  
 25 **I knew, as I said, lots of them, and I couldn't**

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1 **understand how anybody at a political level didn't know,**  
 2 **I just find that incredible.**  
 3 Q. We have heard Frances Mowatt this morning say she didn't  
 4 know anything about it?  
 5 **A. I find that absolutely incredible.**  
 6 Q. Let me ask you a question, Mr Nicholls, about your  
 7 witness statement. I think you have it in front of you.  
 8 **A. Yes, I have.**  
 9 Q. It is behind tab 1, for the chair and panel. It is  
 10 LAB000038. It is actually page 3, please, paragraph 6.  
 11 You say here:  
 12 "I became aware of his sexual preferences."  
 13 Then there is a sentence I am going to come back to.  
 14 In the third sentence you say he was known for liking  
 15 little boys. That's what you have just said?  
 16 **A. Mmm.**  
 17 Q. In the middle there, you have said:  
 18 "It was common knowledge that, if you had children,  
 19 make sure that he was not around them."  
 20 What did you mean by that?  
 21 **A. I just meant that, he could be a very smooth talker,**  
 22 **I think that's the right way to put it. He could be**  
 23 **quite charming, and some people -- or some mothers**  
 24 **could -- shall we say the charm could rub off and could**  
 25 **give a false impression or make perhaps the parent feel**

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1 **toilets at Crewe.**  
 2 **Do you want me to carry on?**  
 3 Q. Tell me, how did you first hear about this?  
 4 **A. I first heard about it when I was having a drink with**  
 5 **the reporter from the Cheshire Observer, Cynthia Body,**  
 6 **and she just mentioned it because she knew everybody.**  
 7 Q. Did she relate this as something that had happened quite  
 8 recently, or --  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Within days or weeks or --  
 11 **A. Well, I would say within a couple of weeks.**  
 12 Q. So that was how you first found out about it?  
 13 **A. That's how I first found out.**  
 14 Q. So it would have been after that, then, that you heard  
 15 about it again at a meeting -- was it of  
 16 the Constituency Labour Party?  
 17 **A. Well, no, I don't remember it going to the Constituency**  
 18 **Labour Party. I'm not sure whether it was the Executive**  
 19 **Committee or the Campaign Committee of the Labour Party**  
 20 **that I heard it. There weren't many people there, so**  
 21 **I know it couldn't have been CLP. The CLP is usually**  
 22 **quite well attended and you sit in rows. I can remember**  
 23 **sitting two sides -- two sides and one at the back, like**  
 24 **a square.**  
 25 Q. Pause there, Mr Nicholls. Just so it is clear in our

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1 **secure. He had a very -- he could have -- or did have,**  
 2 **in the early '80s, a very charming manner. He didn't**  
 3 **have it at the end, because he was drinking too much.**  
 4 Q. Did you have children, Mr Nicholls?  
 5 **A. I had three.**  
 6 Q. Was there ever a time when you acted upon that thought?  
 7 **A. No. My children were brought up -- shall we say, they**  
 8 **grew up and knew their politics.**  
 9 Q. Mr Nicholls, I want to turn to this incident you have  
 10 already mentioned and which you discussed in your  
 11 witness statement that arose from an incident at Crewe  
 12 Railway Station.  
 13 **A. Mmm.**  
 14 Q. Can you tell us, first of all, what you remember hearing  
 15 about the incident at Crewe Railway Station? Then I am  
 16 going to come on to ask you about meeting of  
 17 the Labour Party, and so on?  
 18 **A. That was all -- there was a rumour going around -- I say**  
 19 **these are rumours, because that's all they were, rumours**  
 20 **going around, that something had happened in the toilets**  
 21 **at Crewe Railway Station involving Peter Morrison and**  
 22 **a 15-year-old boy. I read other areas where it says it**  
 23 **was on the train, but, whatever, I mean, what I heard,**  
 24 **it was in the toilets at the -- and that came from the**  
 25 **Cheshire Observer newspaper's reporter, that it was the**

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1 minds, you have said how you first heard about this  
 2 incident from your friend Cynthia.  
 3 **A. Mmm.**  
 4 Q. Then you heard about it again at some sort of a meeting  
 5 of the Labour Party?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. I think what you are saying is, it wasn't a full meeting  
 8 of the Constituency Labour Party?  
 9 **A. That's correct. It was the Executive or the Campaign.**  
 10 Q. Maybe let's not worry too much about exactly what group  
 11 it was. Where was this meeting held, do you think?  
 12 **A. At the Labour Party headquarters.**  
 13 Q. Can you help us with when this happened, in terms of --  
 14 first of all, was it after the 1987 election?  
 15 **A. Oh, yes.**  
 16 Q. But before the 1992 elections?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. That's given us a bracket of five years.  
 19 **A. I said honestly in my statement that I cannot remember**  
 20 **the year that I was given that information. I have**  
 21 **tried to remember, but I just can't remember.**  
 22 **Unfortunately -- I now keep a diary and I have kept one**  
 23 **since 1992. It was a bit too late then. I honestly**  
 24 **cannot remember the year or month that this came about.**  
 25 Q. In your witness statement, you say that it was sometime

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1 between 1988 and 1990. Is that the best you can --  
 2 **A. That's the best I can do.**  
 3 Q. You have said that it was a subgroup of the Constituency  
 4 Labour Party?  
 5 **A. Yes, it was.**  
 6 Q. Let's not worry about precisely which group. But can  
 7 you remember, first of all, roughly how many people were  
 8 there and, secondly, who was there?  
 9 **A. I can remember Christine Russell being there,**  
 10 **David Robinson being there. I wouldn't have thought**  
 11 **there was any more than about -- oh, come on, as a rough**  
 12 **guess, a dozen. That's a really rough guess.**  
 13 Q. I think in your statement you say Gwyn Cooper(?) -- is  
 14 that Gwyneth?  
 15 **A. She was the secretary of the party I think at the time.**  
 16 Q. Can we go back to your statement, then, please,  
 17 LAB000038. If we can go to page 4, and, Mr Nicholls, we  
 18 are looking at paragraph 17. So we have missed the  
 19 first few words of that paragraph, but it's simply  
 20 stating that the meeting was at the Labour Party  
 21 headquarters, and we see in the first line or two you  
 22 say who was there. Then this, just to pick it up from  
 23 three lines down:  
 24 "At that meeting, Christine Russell stated that  
 25 Peter Morrison was not standing at the next

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1 Q. -- before the meeting? Right. Then let's carry on in  
 2 the paragraph. It says this:  
 3 "After we were told this information,  
 4 Christine Russell stated that an agreement had been  
 5 reached with the Conservative Association that  
 6 Peter Morrison would stand down and the police would not  
 7 take the matter any further. I know the local  
 8 newspapers were aware of this arrangement."  
 9 Just reading on, you then refer to your friend on  
 10 the Chester Observer, Cynthia Body. You say:  
 11 "I did not at the time question where  
 12 Christine Russell obtained this information from."  
 13 Reading the next paragraph too, paragraph 18:  
 14 "I do not know who at the Conservative Association  
 15 or Labour Party met with to reach this agreement, but  
 16 I am aware that it may well have been Christine Russell,  
 17 who at the time was the election agent. What I can say  
 18 is that, after I heard this information, no actual steps  
 19 were taken by me. I may, of course, be wrong in my  
 20 assumption that Christine Russell was in some way  
 21 involved in the agreement or any linked talks."  
 22 Let me ask you a few questions about all of that,  
 23 Mr Nicholls. First of all, you end paragraph 18 by  
 24 saying that you might be wrong about Christine Russell  
 25 being involved. Do you mean that you might be wrong

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1 General Election. The reason she gave was that  
 2 Peter Morrison had been caught by Cheshire Police in  
 3 a toilet in Crewe Railway Station."  
 4 Pausing there, presumably there was more to it than  
 5 just being in the toilet? I think you have already  
 6 said --  
 7 **A. I find it incredible that Cheshire Police were actually**  
 8 **in Crewe Station anyhow, but there we are.**  
 9 Q. But you've said he was doing something, the allegation  
 10 was he was doing something in Crewe?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. What?  
 13 **A. I presume -- it is only a presumption -- that he was in**  
 14 **there with a 15-year-old person and he was caught in**  
 15 **a sexual --**  
 16 Q. Why do you say it is a presumption, Mr Nicholls? Did  
 17 you not hear from someone, either Cynthia Body or  
 18 someone at the meeting, about that allegation?  
 19 **A. I knew about -- I knew about the allegation, as I said,**  
 20 **earlier on. I was given that information by the**  
 21 **reporter on the Cheshire Observer.**  
 22 Q. I see.  
 23 **A. That's when I got the --**  
 24 Q. So you'd already heard that allegation --  
 25 **A. Yes, I'd already --**

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1 about Christine Russell being involved at all? So, for  
 2 example, it may not even have been her who mentioned it  
 3 at the meeting?  
 4 **A. No. What I'm saying is, she may not have been at the**  
 5 **meeting with the Conservative Association. It seems to**  
 6 **have -- from the evidence I have heard this morning, it**  
 7 **might have been David Robinson. We were given the**  
 8 **information by Christine at the meeting. I cannot**  
 9 **assume that she was actually at the meeting where this**  
 10 **deal was done. That's what I'm trying to say.**  
 11 Q. So you do have a memory that it was her who told you  
 12 about it?  
 13 **A. Oh, absolutely.**  
 14 Q. But you can't be sure whether she was actually involved  
 15 in making the arrangement?  
 16 **A. That's correct.**  
 17 Q. Are you absolutely sure that it was her who told you  
 18 about it? Because, as you, I think, know, she doesn't  
 19 know anything about this?  
 20 **A. Well, I do not -- I could not make it up. I mean, as**  
 21 **far as I'm concerned, I have heard one person already**  
 22 **deny all knowledge of it, all knowledge of everything**  
 23 **concerning Peter Morrison, but to make a story up, "This**  
 24 **is why he's not standing at the next election and these**  
 25 **are the reasons, because of ...", and knowing that the**

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1 **press already knew about it anyhow, that the press**  
 2 **weren't going to go along with it, well, they're not**  
 3 **going to put it in the papers, it happened, and I just**  
 4 **can't imagine -- I may have some good imagination on**  
 5 **some things, but on this particular thing, that's not**  
 6 **the sort of thing I would wish to have an imagination**  
 7 **on.**  
 8 Q. All right. You have told us, and the word you use in  
 9 your statement is that this was an agreement. Who was  
 10 a party? Who was involved in this agreement? It looks,  
 11 from what you say, at the very least, the Conservative  
 12 Party and the Labour Party. Did you understand the  
 13 terms of the agreement, what they'd agreed between the  
 14 two of them?  
 15 **A. My understanding was that we would -- sorry, that**  
 16 **Peter Morrison would not be standing in the 1992**  
 17 **election. The agreement was that if he wasn't standing**  
 18 **then we wouldn't break cover on this particular story.**  
 19 Q. What do you mean by "break cover"?  
 20 **A. Release all the information that we had of what happened**  
 21 **at Crewe hopefully into the local media. The local**  
 22 **media wasn't at that time -- it wasn't going to go**  
 23 **along -- didn't want that published, because there was**  
 24 **a very strong relationship between the -- particularly**  
 25 **the main newspaper and the Conservative Party.**

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1 **A. Covering it up.**  
 2 Q. In not taking any further action?  
 3 **A. Absolutely.**  
 4 Q. Was that something that you understood from what  
 5 Christine Russell said at the meeting?  
 6 **A. Yes, it was.**  
 7 Q. Did that surprise you?  
 8 **A. I didn't -- I wasn't surprised. I will be quite honest,**  
 9 **I just took what was said. No more than that. I never**  
 10 **asked any questions.**  
 11 Q. Did you hear any suggestion that, for example, the  
 12 Prime Minister's office may have been in touch with the  
 13 chief constable about this?  
 14 **A. I know -- don't know that, but what I do know is that**  
 15 **the people who knew about this, the chief executive of**  
 16 **Cheshire County Council, Robin Wendt, he wrote a letter**  
 17 **to the chief constable complaining that something should**  
 18 **have been done about the coverup of Peter Morrison.**  
 19 Q. Let me just ask you more about the Labour Party. It  
 20 might sound odd to hear what you have said. I mean,  
 21 after all, the Labour Party was trying to win this seat  
 22 back from the Conservatives. It was a winnable seat, as  
 23 events in later years showed. Why would the  
 24 Labour Party cover up a story like this which one would  
 25 have thought would give them considerable advantage come

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1 Q. You have already said that your friend on the Chester  
 2 Observer knew about the story anyway?  
 3 **A. Yes, that's right.**  
 4 Q. So were the press involved in this agreement too, that  
 5 they weren't going to publish?  
 6 **A. Yes, they weren't going to publish. She told me they**  
 7 **weren't going to publish.**  
 8 Q. Was that because they had also bought into some  
 9 agreement of this nature?  
 10 **A. I presume, yes.**  
 11 Q. What about the police?  
 12 **A. Well, the police were the first ones to be aware of**  
 13 **the incident that took place at Crewe, either in the**  
 14 **toilets or off the train. They were the first people**  
 15 **who knew about it. And someone somewhere then leaked it**  
 16 **into either the media or into the two Constituency**  
 17 **Labour Party -- into the Labour Party and Conservative**  
 18 **Party, I'm not sure. But the police leaked that -- must**  
 19 **have leaked that information. There is no other way**  
 20 **I can think it would have got out.**  
 21 Q. I'm asking you about your understanding of the agreement  
 22 or the arrangements that were made. But did you  
 23 understand that the police were also involved --  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. -- in covering this up?

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1 the next election?  
 2 **A. I really don't know why they decided to cover it up.**  
 3 **I was not privileged to be at the top table and in the**  
 4 **discussions that took place. I'm not trying to avoid**  
 5 **the answer. But that, I really don't know.**  
 6 **I prefer politics to -- politics itself can be very**  
 7 **dirty. I didn't really think, myself, that this would**  
 8 **be helpful, because there could be other rumours**  
 9 **concerning anybody on our side, and I wouldn't like the**  
 10 **election to be fought on personalities rather than**  
 11 **politics.**  
 12 Q. If I --  
 13 **A. Sorry, I'm really not trying to avoid. I don't know, is**  
 14 **the answer. I wasn't privy to the top table, so I can't**  
 15 **answer that.**  
 16 Q. You have already described yourself this morning as  
 17 a "force to be reckoned with" in Chester?  
 18 **A. Mmm.**  
 19 Q. If you had disagreed with this, you would have opposed  
 20 it; you could have challenged it?  
 21 **A. I could have done, but I didn't. I just took the**  
 22 **information that was received and I was just pleased**  
 23 **that he was standing down, and that was as far as I went**  
 24 **with it. We can all have hindsight, but at that**  
 25 **particular time, I had -- I had enough on my plate with**

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| <p>1 the things I was doing from one day to the next, and</p> <p>2 I think that's the reason why I just took it away.</p> <p>3 Q. Was one of the reasons why you didn't challenge this</p> <p>4 agreement because you could see that it might actually</p> <p>5 be advantageous to your party because, as I think you</p> <p>6 hinted a moment ago, if you challenged the Conservative</p> <p>7 Party about scandal on their side, they might challenge</p> <p>8 you about scandal on your side?</p> <p>9 A. They might have scandal on our side, and that -- then</p> <p>10 the whole issue would come out into the open, if there</p> <p>11 was that, and politics would not be discussed.</p> <p>12 Morrison, I think, would still have held on till 1992.</p> <p>13 Q. So does that really add up to local politicians</p> <p>14 protecting each other from scandal, Mr Nicholls?</p> <p>15 A. I am very anti-establishment, as you've probably</p> <p>16 gathered. I always think that conspiracies are taking</p> <p>17 place. I think you'll find, probably, later on, when</p> <p>18 you speak to Christine, I was not very favourable with</p> <p>19 the top table of the Labour Party. I just found -- it</p> <p>20 annoyed me. I was not after any position in the</p> <p>21 Labour Party, I was quite happy what I was doing,</p> <p>22 I couldn't do any more anyhow. But I just felt the top</p> <p>23 table at times infuriated me by not doing things,</p> <p>24 et cetera, so I do think that the politicians in Chester</p> <p>25 City Council, on all sides, weren't that -- weren't very</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p> | <p>1 good and did not reflect the views generally of</p> <p>2 the people of Chester that I found through my</p> <p>3 associations that I dealt with.</p> <p>4 Q. But you were one of those politicians, Mr Nicholls?</p> <p>5 A. I was a politician, but not a councillor.</p> <p>6 Q. But you could have done something about this if you'd</p> <p>7 wanted to?</p> <p>8 A. I'd have found it very difficult. To be honest, I don't</p> <p>9 know where I'd go. I couldn't go to -- well, I didn't</p> <p>10 even think about it, but I couldn't have gone to the</p> <p>11 press because the press weren't going to touch it</p> <p>12 anyhow. I couldn't go to the police because I was not</p> <p>13 in their best books because I had written a pamphlet</p> <p>14 about the police in 1982 which resulted in one of my</p> <p>15 members in 1983 -- the police settled out of court for</p> <p>16 £12,000 because of the book I'd written, pamphlet I'd</p> <p>17 written. So the police were not on my side, no.</p> <p>18 One time, the Chester mayor accused the chief</p> <p>19 constable of being a racist and I said, "If he said what</p> <p>20 you say he said, I agree he's a racist". So the police</p> <p>21 were not people I could go to either.</p> <p>22 But it didn't occur to me to think along those</p> <p>23 lines, "I can't go there or I can't go here". I just</p> <p>24 left it on the table.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you think, in the middle of all this, about the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>  |
| <p>1 15-year-old boy, Mr Nicholls?</p> <p>2 A. I did not. I just thought, that's the story of</p> <p>3 Peter Morrison that's been told, that's what they</p> <p>4 decided they would do, and that was it, and it left my</p> <p>5 mind completely, because the whole incident, at that</p> <p>6 time, left my mind until a little bit later when we were</p> <p>7 talking about, "Oh, this happened, Peter Morrison got</p> <p>8 caught", this was it, "Peter Morrison's got caught, has</p> <p>9 he?" You're right, there was no mention of</p> <p>10 the 15-year-old boy at all. "Peter Morrison's got</p> <p>11 caught".</p> <p>12 Q. Don't you think you ought to have thought about the</p> <p>13 15-year-old boy?</p> <p>14 A. I agree now, as things have turned out, and we have</p> <p>15 found over the years -- I think it's abhorrent what has</p> <p>16 happened and what we allowed to happen. I knew nothing</p> <p>17 of the home in North Wales, I knew nothing about that</p> <p>18 whatsoever, and that came as a complete surprise when</p> <p>19 I found out. In fact, I didn't find out about that,</p> <p>20 quite honestly, until I got back to Kent. But looking</p> <p>21 back, yes, I think every one of us, every one of us, not</p> <p>22 just me, everyone who knew -- and there were a lot of</p> <p>23 people -- I don't mean just the people meeting here</p> <p>24 today -- a lot of people knew and a lot of people did</p> <p>25 nothing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>  | <p>1 Q. If what was happening, Mr Nicholls, is that what you</p> <p>2 have described as the Chester elite was protecting</p> <p>3 Mr Morrison, you were exposing other 15-year-old boys to</p> <p>4 risk, weren't you?</p> <p>5 A. I think it's fair to say that I, along with everybody</p> <p>6 else, recognised, when the stories started to come out,</p> <p>7 that that was the time when we should have spoken, and</p> <p>8 we didn't. I have no idea what happened to</p> <p>9 Peter Morrison after the incident. He was very rarely</p> <p>10 in the papers, I don't remember, after that time,</p> <p>11 I don't know what happened to him. But, yes, I think</p> <p>12 everybody in hindsight should have taken that into</p> <p>13 account and should have thought of other people that</p> <p>14 might in fact be involved. But we just didn't.</p> <p>15 Q. You mentioned earlier on in your evidence that I think</p> <p>16 someone called Robin Wendt, the chief executive of</p> <p>17 Cheshire County Council, spoke to the chief constable</p> <p>18 complaining about this?</p> <p>19 A. He said -- I did understand from him -- I met him last</p> <p>20 year. I understood from him that he'd written to this</p> <p>21 hearing about the incident. That's the information</p> <p>22 I understand from him. But also my understanding was he</p> <p>23 blamed the police entirely for this.</p> <p>24 Q. Is it your understanding that he wrote to the chief</p> <p>25 constable back in the day, back in the late '80s, or was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p> |

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|---|---|
| <p>1 it something that happened later?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I think it was Chief Constable -- it might have been</b></p> <p>3 <b>Finn, it was way back in the days when it happened, he</b></p> <p>4 <b>thought it was an outrage. What I'm saying is, the</b></p> <p>5 <b>hierarchy of Cheshire County Council, the employees --</b></p> <p>6 <b>and I know other employees who are in senior positions</b></p> <p>7 <b>who also knew all about it. It was what I would call</b></p> <p>8 <b>a Chester coverup, if you like.</b></p> <p>9 Q. A Chester coverup?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Nobody was going to break ranks.</b></p> <p>11 Q. You mention a story starting to come out. As far as we</p> <p>12 are aware, the story of what you describe as the</p> <p>13 "Chester coverup" didn't actually come out for 20 years</p> <p>14 or more, until Simon Hoggart wrote his piece in</p> <p>15 The Guardian. Are you aware of there being publicity or</p> <p>16 press coverage about this incident before then?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, he wrote in The Guardian, a few weeks earlier,</b></p> <p>18 <b>a piece about paedophile Peter Morrison -- I think it's</b></p> <p>19 <b>in the notes there -- and then it just -- I remembered,</b></p> <p>20 <b>I thought --</b></p> <p>21 Q. Just pausing there, I am going to come to that. My</p> <p>22 question is whether you were aware of this story being</p> <p>23 referred to in the press before Mr Hoggart's piece?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No. I was aware after he put that -- my statement went</b></p> <p>25 <b>in, and we will come back, as you say, in a minute.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p> | <p>1 <b>I was aware then that one newspaper was in fact on the</b></p> <p>2 <b>trail, and if you wish me to tell you how I know that,</b></p> <p>3 <b>I'm quite happy to do so.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Let's first of all look at the Guardian article.</p> <p>5 Perhaps we can call it up. It is INQ003856. I think</p> <p>6 you will find it behind tab 6 of your bundle,</p> <p>7 Mr Nicholls.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. This is obviously an internet print-out. We can see</p> <p>10 from the first page here, just below Mr Hoggart's name,</p> <p>11 it was published on 16 November 2012. Can you see</p> <p>12 Simon Hoggart's name in blue and just underneath that?</p> <p>13 Is that when it was published, to the best of your</p> <p>14 memory?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So, depending on your dates, that's 20 or more years</p> <p>17 after it happened?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Mmm.</b></p> <p>19 Q. You hadn't told anyone, or you hadn't made any public</p> <p>20 comment about this in all of that time?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, I'd left Chester. I had a heart attack in 1993,</b></p> <p>22 <b>which more or less finished me, all my politics</b></p> <p>23 <b>literally died at that time when I had that. Then</b></p> <p>24 <b>I have had other things wrong with me since then.</b></p> <p>25 <b>I left Chester in the beginning of 1997, and I came</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p> |
| <p>1 <b>down to Kent, and then I moved up to another part of</b></p> <p>2 <b>Kent and then the article appeared. That was the first</b></p> <p>3 <b>I heard of it.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Let's just look at the article and then I am going to</p> <p>5 ask you some more questions about it. If we can go to</p> <p>6 the second page of this document and zoom in on the last</p> <p>7 couple of paragraphs, "More on the late Peter Morrison".</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. This was a diary column, wasn't it, so a series of</p> <p>10 little unconnected stories, of which this was one?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. We see Mr Hoggart wrote:</p> <p>13 "More on the late Peter Morrison, the paedophile who</p> <p>14 was also Margaret Thatcher's Parliamentary Private</p> <p>15 Secretary. Grahame Nicholls, who ran the Chester Trades</p> <p>16 Council when Morrison was the local MP, wrote describing</p> <p>17 how he'd often met Morrison, who was, by the 1980s,</p> <p>18 pretty well constantly drunk."</p> <p>19 Then in quotes:</p> <p>20 "After the 1987 General Election, around 1990,</p> <p>21 I attended a meeting of Chester Labour Party where we</p> <p>22 were informed by the agent, Christine Russell, that</p> <p>23 Peter Morrison would not be standing in 1992. He had</p> <p>24 been caught in the toilets at Crewe Station with</p> <p>25 a 15-year-old boy. A deal was struck between Labour,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>   | <p>1 the local Tories, the local press and the police that if</p> <p>2 he stood down at the next election, the matter would go</p> <p>3 no further. Chester finished up with</p> <p>4 Gyles Brandreth ..."</p> <p>5 That was the next Conservative MP:</p> <p>6 "... and Morrison walked away scot free. I thought</p> <p>7 you might be interested."</p> <p>8 If we can go to the top of the next page, there is</p> <p>9 a web link and then this -- this is now out of quotes:</p> <p>10 "This was only a year and a half after his failed,</p> <p>11 boozey campaign to save Mrs Thatcher. Incredible that</p> <p>12 she -- presumably -- had no idea, and that such deals</p> <p>13 could be struck then."</p> <p>14 Mr Nicholls, the passage in quotation marks which</p> <p>15 describes those events in 1990, was that what you sent</p> <p>16 to Mr Hoggart?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I did send something else with it as well.</b></p> <p>18 Q. What was that?</p> <p>19 <b>A. And that was not for publication, and he published it.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did you know Mr Hoggart?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Why would you send a journalist who wrote a diary column</p> <p>23 a juicy piece of information like that, asking him not</p> <p>24 to publish it?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I sent it to him as an aside -- actually as an aside --</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>                                      |

1 it was an email, as an aside to his -- I hoped -- put it  
 2 this way, if he was going to use it, I would have  
 3 thought he would've come back to me, at least as  
 4 a journalist, and said, "Can you give me more dates or  
 5 something more?", et cetera. He did nothing at all and  
 6 just put the thing in the paper. I read it and thought,  
 7 great, and ...  
 8 Q. Even 20 or more years later, you still didn't want  
 9 details of this arrangement to be published?  
 10 A. No, no, it was a case of, I just sent it to him -- if he  
 11 wanted more information or if he wanted to talk to me  
 12 about it, he had my email, he -- on the top of it, it  
 13 made it quite clear "not for publication". I would have  
 14 thought he should have at least said, "Why not?" He  
 15 never said anything. He just pushed it in the paper,  
 16 and that was it. No reference back to me about, "I'm  
 17 putting it in, whether you like it or not", or anything  
 18 like that.  
 19 Q. Let me ask you that question, Mr Nicholls: why not? Was  
 20 it because you weren't sure about the accuracy of  
 21 the account you'd given?  
 22 A. No, it wasn't that at all. It was to do with the fact  
 23 that, when I saw the first statement, I brushed the  
 24 second one off, I was not well enough to be able to  
 25 enter into any political discussion. By 2012, I was

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1 Q. So when you said you'd seen the first statement, you  
 2 meant Mr Hoggart's first article?  
 3 A. Mmm.  
 4 Q. As you rightly say, this piece starts with, "More  
 5 on ...", it is obviously a follow-up to that earlier  
 6 article?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Just finally, Mr Nicholls, from me, at any rate, we are  
 9 now standing here in 2019, so 30 years or more from the  
 10 events that you have described. Are you sure that this  
 11 arrangement, this agreement, in Chester really did  
 12 happen, in the way that you have described it?  
 13 A. As far as I'm concerned, that is what took place, and  
 14 the meeting of -- a small meeting, as I say, I don't  
 15 know who it was, the EC, or whatever, but a small  
 16 meeting, that was the information that came out and  
 17 I was aware of the press knowing because the reporter  
 18 had told me directly that the press weren't using it and  
 19 the rest of it came from the meeting that I say took  
 20 place here. But I certainly had it confirmed, if you  
 21 like, by the senior reporter of the Cheshire -- the late  
 22 reporter now, unfortunately, of the Cheshire Observer  
 23 who told me and gave me this information.  
 24 Q. That's Cynthia Body?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 unable to participate in anything that was going on, any  
 2 confrontations, things. I was not well enough to be  
 3 able to do that and I still had problems. And I just  
 4 left it and that was it, and I can only, for want of  
 5 a better word, put it down to the fact that I sent it  
 6 because I was there, but that was it, just to be  
 7 interested, not for publication. I didn't expect to be  
 8 put in a confrontational situation again and I was not  
 9 medically capable of dealing with anything like that.  
 10 Q. I see. I just want to clarify your answer. You said  
 11 that when you saw the first statement, and then you said  
 12 you brushed the second one off. Do you mean the first  
 13 article which prompted you to write the email? I think  
 14 you've already referred to that?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. So there was an article that Mr Hoggart, was it, had  
 17 already written?  
 18 A. I read it out just now.  
 19 Q. No, what I read out was what he wrote, having received  
 20 your email?  
 21 A. It says there, "More on the late Peter Morrison, the  
 22 paedophile ..." Yes, he'd written two weeks earlier --  
 23 I think it was two weeks earlier -- about Peter Morrison  
 24 and his paedophilia, and I then wrote that article --  
 25 I was responding.

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1 Q. She told you about the incident at Crewe or the  
 2 arrangement?  
 3 A. Both.  
 4 Q. Both the incident at Crewe and, what?  
 5 A. The pact that had been made because the press were not  
 6 going to print the story about Peter Morrison.  
 7 Q. I see.  
 8 A. They had it and they weren't going to print it. I know  
 9 later on you've got a statement from somebody else  
 10 saying that the Wrexham Leader, I think it is, were  
 11 going to print it, and they didn't print it. There was  
 12 an agreement to be quiet.  
 13 MR O'CONNOR: Mr Nicholls, thank you. Those are all the  
 14 questions I wanted to ask you. I don't know whether the  
 15 chair and panel have any questions.  
 16 Questions by THE PANEL  
 17 THE CHAIR: Just one clarification, please, Mr Nicholls.  
 18 When you referred to rumours circulating in the  
 19 political elite and the press, did you intend that to  
 20 include the Conservative Party?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 THE CHAIR: So you were in no doubt that local Conservative  
 23 Party members were aware of it?  
 24 A. Honestly, it was so rife -- I mean, if you were anything  
 25 to do with any of the political party, including --

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1 **I think it was the SDP at the time, if you were involved**  
 2 **in anything to do with the politics, you must have**  
 3 **known, you did know. Nobody can turn around and say**  
 4 **they didn't know.**  
 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr Nicholls. We have no  
 6 further questions. Thank you.  
 7 MR O'CONNOR: Thank you, chair. May I suggest we take our  
 8 break now? We do have two more witnesses to get through  
 9 before lunch, so can I suggest that we start again in 15  
 10 minutes, at 11.40 am.  
 11 (11.26 am)  
 12 (A short break)  
 13 (11.40 am)  
 14 MS O'BYRNE: Chair, I call Ms Jane Lee.  
 15 MS JANE LEE ( affirmed)  
 16 Examination by MS O'BYRNE  
 17 MS O'BYRNE: Ms Lee, you have provided the inquiry with  
 18 a witness statement dated 1 February 2019, so we might  
 19 make reference to that witness statement during the  
 20 course of your evidence, but otherwise, I ask you to  
 21 speak from your own knowledge and recollection.  
 22 **A. Yes, okay.**  
 23 Q. I am going to ask you some questions about your  
 24 professional background. In 1989 and 1990, you were the  
 25 secretary of the Gresford and Rossett branch.

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1 that took place at a pub after the monthly branch  
 2 meeting --  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. -- where you spoke with Eileen Neidermeyer(?)?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. I am going to ask you some questions about that. Just  
 7 to be clear, that was the monthly meeting of the Wrexham  
 8 branch; is that right?  
 9 **A. No, that was a monthly meeting of the Gresford and**  
 10 **Rossett branch. We had had our meeting in I think it**  
 11 **was Gresford Village Hall. We used to alternate between**  
 12 **Gresford and Rossett. There was a hall in Rossett as**  
 13 **well, and I think we'd been in Gresford that night**  
 14 **because we adjourned to a pub in Gresford.**  
 15 Q. Can you help us, please, with the date of this  
 16 get-together?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. In your correspondence with police, I think you mention  
 19 that you have narrowed down the date of the get-together  
 20 between 1984 and 1988, but in your inquiry statement,  
 21 you seemed to indicate that it was 1989 or 1990.  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. What's your best recollection of when it was?  
 24 **A. I lived in Rossett until 1989 and then I left the house**  
 25 **in Rossett and my then partner, and I bought a house in**

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1 Labour Party; is that correct?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. Just to be clear, at that time, you were known as  
 4 Jane Leach; is that right?  
 5 **A. Leach, that was my married name.**  
 6 Q. In which county is Gresford and Rossett?  
 7 **A. It's in Wrexham which is in North Wales, and that was**  
 8 **Clwyd, it's now Flintshire.**  
 9 Q. How far is Wrexham from Chester?  
 10 **A. About 7 miles, but it's another world.**  
 11 Q. Tell us, what position did Ian Lucas hold in the  
 12 Labour Party at that time?  
 13 **A. Those two years, he was chair, and I was secretary.**  
 14 Q. He was chair of --  
 15 **A. Gresford and Rossett Labour Party.**  
 16 Q. What position did Peter Morrison hold at that time?  
 17 **A. He was the MP for Chester.**  
 18 Q. At that time, Ms Lee, what was your experience of  
 19 Chester politics and Chester party members? You have  
 20 referred to it as being "another world"?  
 21 **A. I had no knowledge of them at all. Wales -- Welsh**  
 22 **Labour Party is a separate entity. So even when we had**  
 23 **big get-togethers, we had our own conference, so we --**  
 24 **we just didn't mix.**  
 25 Q. Ms Lee, in your statement you refer to a get-together

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1 **Hoole.**  
 2 Q. And Hoole is in Chester?  
 3 **A. And Hoole is in Chester. It's the branch I then joined.**  
 4 **But I didn't join Hoole branch straight away because,**  
 5 **being secretary, and there was a local election coming**  
 6 **up, I wanted to stay on, help with the campaigning in**  
 7 **Wrexham. We were a very new branch and we were very**  
 8 **idealistic and we had real commitment. Anyway, so**  
 9 **I stayed on as secretary in Rossett, even though I lived**  
 10 **in Chester. I used to drive through, go to the**  
 11 **meetings. I know that I bought the house in April 1989**  
 12 **in Hoole, so therefore I know that it was -- and that**  
 13 **I was only in this halfway position for a short time.**  
 14 **So I think I know that that was the date -- can you hear**  
 15 **me? Because I don't feel -- anyway, go on, yes.**  
 16 Q. I think we can hear you. So your best recollection of  
 17 the date of that get-together that you're referring to  
 18 was somewhere in 1989 or 1990, when you were in that  
 19 halfway position?  
 20 **A. Yes, exactly. I was a secretary, and there are minute**  
 21 **books for the Gresford and Rossett branch. I kept the**  
 22 **minutes. So it would be in there.**  
 23 Q. Can you recall who was present at the get-together you  
 24 have referred to?  
 25 **A. In the pub afterwards -- well, I've tried and tried to**

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1 think. We had -- it was always a small group because  
 2 there were the older members who didn't come to the pub  
 3 afterwards, so I know that there would have been Ian and  
 4 his wife Nora, Stuart Wyles and his wife Chris Wyles.  
 5 We were the ones who set the Branch up. So there was  
 6 a core group. There would have been Peter Angel. He  
 7 was -- he worked for the local council, but -- I think  
 8 he was treasurer at that -- sorry.

9 Q. Just pausing there. Eileen Neidermeyer was present with  
 10 the group at that get-together?

11 A. Eileen was there, but Eileen didn't come to meetings  
 12 very often. She was a very random attender at meetings.

13 Q. Who was Eileen Neidermeyer, what was her job?

14 A. She was a member, she was a Labour Party member of  
 15 the branch.

16 Q. And she was a journalist; is that right?

17 A. She was a journalist on the Wrexham Leader.

18 Q. Can you tell us --

19 A. I don't know if that was her name but it was  
 20 Neidermeyer, Neiderlov, Neider something. It was  
 21 a Dutch name, I think.

22 Q. You don't have a precise recollection as to her exact  
 23 name. Can you tell us what Eileen Neidermeyer told you  
 24 at the pub get-together?

25 A. She said with relish -- I feel ashamed -- anyway. She

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1 A. "Great, we're going to win in Chester. He's going to be  
 2 all over the front pages" -- we didn't use the word  
 3 "paedophile" in those days, but that's all I thought at  
 4 that time.

5 Q. So you -- the feeling in the group at the time was that  
 6 this was a good thing --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- because there might be some political gain out of it?

9 A. Absolutely, yes.

10 Q. You mentioned just before that Ms Neidermeyer had come  
 11 from the paper and that the incident at the railway  
 12 station --

13 A. Happened that --

14 Q. -- had happened that day?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did that story in fact appear in the Wrexham Leader the  
 17 next day?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. Ms Lee, you say that you spoke to Ms Neidermeyer again  
 20 after the next branch meeting, which was a month later;  
 21 is that right?

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23 Q. You say that Ms Neidermeyer explained why the story  
 24 hadn't appeared?

25 A. Yes.

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1 said, with relish, "Get the paper tomorrow morning", she  
 2 said, "It's all set. It's typeset", we all went, "What,  
 3 what?", she said, "Peter Morrison's been found in the  
 4 toilets at Crewe Station with" -- I can't remember if  
 5 she said "boy" or "boys", and I'm still confused about  
 6 that because there was either one boy or two -- anyway,  
 7 "It will all be in the paper tomorrow morning. Buy the  
 8 paper". I felt guilty --

9 Q. To follow up on that, by "the paper", did she mean the  
 10 Wrexham Leader where she worked?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So she told you that a story was going to be published  
 13 the next day?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. About Peter Morrison having some interaction with a boy  
 16 or boys --

17 A. Yes, in the toilets.

18 Q. -- at the Crewe Railway Station in the toilets?

19 A. That day, that day, she'd come from the paper -- I think  
 20 maybe she'd come from the paper to tell us, because  
 21 we -- I feel guilty now, but we were just -- we just  
 22 thought, "Great" -- it's terrible, isn't it?

23 Q. So she --

24 A. We thought, "Great, we're going to win" --

25 Q. Sorry, please continue.

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1 Q. What did she say about that?

2 A. She said -- and I can remember it virtually word for  
 3 word. She said the Chief Constable of Cheshire got  
 4 a phone call from the Prime Minister's office --  
 5 Margaret Thatcher's name wasn't mentioned, but it was  
 6 "from the Prime Minister's office" and had been  
 7 persuaded to not press charges but to give a warning, an  
 8 official warning, and, well, we said, "Well, why didn't  
 9 that go in the paper?", and she said -- and I don't know  
 10 if it's true or not, but she said, "You can't report  
 11 warnings. You can't put warnings in the paper".

12 Q. Was it the word "warning" or the word "caution" that you  
 13 heard?

14 A. I think it was "warning". He was going to be given an  
 15 official warning and it couldn't be reported in the  
 16 press. And that, in return, Morrison wouldn't stand at  
 17 the next General Election. That was the deal.

18 Q. Ms Lee, if I could just take you to your statement  
 19 briefly, that's INQ003993. I will give you the page  
 20 number. It is page 2 of the statement, paragraph 3. In  
 21 your statement there, Ms Lee, you have used the term  
 22 four lines down "official caution"?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you recollect whether the word Mrs Neidermeyer used  
 25 was "warning" or "caution"?

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1 **A. It probably was "caution".**  
 2 Q. So Ms Neidermeyer told you that there had been an  
 3 agreement of sorts between the Chief Constable of  
 4 Cheshire and the Prime Minister's office that the  
 5 charges would be dropped. Is that right?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. Did Ms Neidermeyer say how she had come to know about  
 8 this alleged agreement?  
 9 **A. Well, she didn't say how she knew. She just said that's**  
 10 **what had happened. The story had been pulled at the**  
 11 **last minute because of this phone call from the**  
 12 **Prime Minister's office and this caution instead of**  
 13 **a charge.**  
 14 Q. You understand that the reason that it wasn't reported  
 15 was, as she told you, that cautions or warnings could  
 16 not be reported?  
 17 **A. She said they can't be reported.**  
 18 Q. Did any of this appear in the Wrexham Leader or any  
 19 other paper, to your knowledge?  
 20 **A. No, not at all.**  
 21 Q. Ms Lee, did you raise this matter with Ian Lucas, who  
 22 was at that time the chair of the branch?  
 23 **A. Yes, I did. We always used to arrive at the branch**  
 24 **venue early, Ian and I, a sort of pre-meeting meeting,**  
 25 **and I just said to him, after a month of thinking about**

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1 higher up in the party and that you didn't -- sorry,  
 2 I apologise, you said Mr Lucas had rung someone higher  
 3 up and that you didn't ask what that meant?  
 4 **A. I didn't ask.**  
 5 Q. Did you understand that this referred to somebody higher  
 6 up in the party?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. I might just take you to your statement again. It is  
 9 INQ003993\_003, paragraph 4. Just in that paragraph,  
 10 Ms Lee, again, line 4, you said:  
 11 "... he'd rung someone in the party hierarchy ..."  
 12 **A. That's what I mean by "someone higher up". The party**  
 13 **hierarchy.**  
 14 Q. But he didn't tell you who that person was?  
 15 **A. No, and I didn't ask. It could have been as simple**  
 16 **as -- it could have been John Marrick, who was the MP at**  
 17 **the time in Wrexham, Dr John Marrick. It could have**  
 18 **been --**  
 19 Q. Just pausing there, thank you. Just to take these steps  
 20 one at a time, in terms of what Mr Lucas had been told  
 21 by whoever it was that he had spoken to, can you tell us  
 22 what he said he'd been told?  
 23 **A. The only exact words I can remember are the words "For**  
 24 **every one they've got, we've got one". I can remember**  
 25 **those words precisely. He said something else before**

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1 **it, I simply said, "Ian, we need to do something about**  
 2 **this. It's not right".**  
 3 Q. What did you suggest that should be -- that he or you  
 4 should do about it?  
 5 **A. I didn't get a chance to do anything because immediately**  
 6 **Ian said, "I have done, Jane. I have rung somebody**  
 7 **higher up, and they've told us, 'We just don't do**  
 8 **that'", and these were the words he used, "For every one**  
 9 **they have got, we have got one".**  
 10 Q. Just to take it in stages, he said he had rung somebody  
 11 higher up?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. What did you take that to mean?  
 14 **A. I didn't ask. I was so shocked at what he said that it**  
 15 **was like -- I didn't say anything. I knew not to say --**  
 16 **it was awful, really. I knew not to ask. Because it**  
 17 **seemed to be such a serious statement, not just, "There**  
 18 **is one", and, "If they tell about us, our one, we will**  
 19 **tell about their one", but it was the fact that he was**  
 20 **saying, every one they have got, every paedophile they**  
 21 **have got, we have got one. So it was so shattering,**  
 22 **because, at that moment, I knew that my party was in the**  
 23 **same position.**  
 24 Q. Just pausing there to take you through some of  
 25 the details, you said that Mr Lucas had rung someone

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1 **that to the effect of, "We don't tell on them and they**  
 2 **don't" -- "There is an unwritten rule: we don't tell on**  
 3 **them, they don't tell on us".**  
 4 Q. When he said, "We don't tell on them, they don't tell on  
 5 us", did you take that to mean the Labour Party and  
 6 other parties?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. When you say "Because for every one they have got, we  
 9 have got one" --  
 10 **A. Yes.**  
 11 Q. -- what did you understand him to mean by "every one,  
 12 we've got one"?  
 13 **A. Paedophiles.**  
 14 Q. Did he use the word "paedophile"?  
 15 **A. No, we didn't use the word "paedophiles" at all. Nobody**  
 16 **did in those days.**  
 17 Q. Why was it that you understood him to mean paedophile?  
 18 **A. Because of the story of the -- Morrison being in the**  
 19 **toilets with boys. That's what the charge would have**  
 20 **been.**  
 21 Q. So help us with this. So you understood that Ian Lucas  
 22 was told, in effect, that there was an unwritten rule  
 23 that one political party would not expose a paedophile  
 24 in another political party because every party had  
 25 paedophiles in its ranks. Is that what you're saying?

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1 **A. Absolutely, yes. That was the tumbleweed moment. That**  
 2 **was just -- the conversation stopped right there.**  
 3 **I didn't ask another thing. He didn't say another**  
 4 **thing.**  
 5 Q. Just pause for one minute there. Thank you, Ms Lee.  
 6 Can you tell us how you responded to what Mr Lucas told  
 7 you?  
 8 **A. I didn't ask and I didn't say anything. I kept it quiet**  
 9 **for many, many years. I --**  
 10 Q. If I can just ask you, what did you do about it at that  
 11 time?  
 12 **A. Nothing at all.**  
 13 Q. Did you talk to Ian about it again?  
 14 **A. Never.**  
 15 Q. Ms Lee, I think you've seen the witness statement of  
 16 Ian Lucas?  
 17 **A. Yes, I have.**  
 18 Q. Can we pull up, please, INQ004087\_002, please. If you  
 19 can zoom in on paragraphs 6 and 7. Ms Lee, Mr Lucas  
 20 states here that he did not discuss the incident  
 21 concerning Peter Morrison with anyone at Chester Labour  
 22 Party or the national Labour Party or, indeed, with  
 23 anyone outside the group that evening in Gresford and  
 24 Rossett. What do you say about what he said there?  
 25 **A. I'm disappointed that he -- I understand that what I'm**

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1 the screen about that?  
 2 **A. Yes.**  
 3 Q. Do you think that that was the same deal that you had  
 4 heard about from Ian Lucas?  
 5 **A. The same deal? I think the implication is the same,**  
 6 **yes. I think that Grahame was asked, "Why would the**  
 7 **Labour Party in Chester do a deal like that? That's**  
 8 **ridiculous". But if what Ian said to me is true, in**  
 9 **other words, that "For every one they have got, we have**  
 10 **got one", then it would have been mutually assured**  
 11 **destruction, wouldn't it, for both parties? It would**  
 12 **have been that moment, mad, like nuclear weapons: if we**  
 13 **know all this about you and you know all this about**  
 14 **them, I can quite easily see why one party and the**  
 15 **other -- I hate to say it, but I think the only thing**  
 16 **anybody could have done in those circumstances was to**  
 17 **stay silent, if what Ian said to me was true, that he**  
 18 **had spoken -- I mean, I hadn't overlooked the fact that**  
 19 **maybe Ian has more political nous than I ever had --**  
 20 **I just haven't got the makings of a politician, thank**  
 21 **goodness, sorry. Maybe he understood that all he had to**  
 22 **say to me was, "Jane, I have spoken to somebody higher**  
 23 **up and they have said to keep quiet", and maybe he**  
 24 **hadn't. I do not know. Unless Ian tells you that**  
 25 **himself, we will never know. But I don't think Ian**

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1 **saying -- he's a member of parliament. He was going to**  
 2 **stand as a member of parliament very shortly after that.**  
 3 **Dr John Marrick was resigning -- was retiring. I just**  
 4 **feel this was a chance for Ian to say -- he's got two**  
 5 **children. It was a chance for Ian to say, "We did have**  
 6 **that conversation", and I'm sorry that he didn't find it**  
 7 **in himself to do that.**  
 8 Q. Can you remind us, Ms Lee, who was the Conservative  
 9 candidate for Chester in the next General Election in  
 10 1992?  
 11 **A. David Robinson.**  
 12 Q. Sorry, the Conservative candidate?  
 13 **A. Oh, the Conservative, Gyles Brandreth, '92.**  
 14 Q. What did you take that to mean, that there was a new  
 15 candidate?  
 16 **A. I took it that Peter Morrison had stood down and that**  
 17 **the story -- and that the facts -- and they were facts.**  
 18 Q. Ms Lee, you've heard, I think, the evidence from  
 19 Mr Grahame Nicholls earlier this morning?  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. You've heard what he said about a deal being struck  
 22 between Labour and the local Tories, the local press and  
 23 the police in relation to Peter Morrison standing down?  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. And you have seen the evidence that's been brought up on

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1 **would have said that to me. We were very good friends.**  
 2 **We have never fallen out. I have the utmost respect for**  
 3 **him. I know his family, I lost touch with him when**  
 4 **Tony Blair became leader and Prime Minister because his**  
 5 **politics are completely different from mine and I didn't**  
 6 **want to antagonise a good friend. We had been so close.**  
 7 Q. You say in your statement, Ms Lee, you had tried to  
 8 forget what you had heard from Ms Neidermeyer and  
 9 Mr Lucas about the labour Party's approach to  
 10 paedophiles and any deal that might have been struck at  
 11 that time. But you later reported it to police, in  
 12 2014; is that right?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. What prompted you to do that?  
 15 **A. I think it was something like this: all those years I'd**  
 16 **spent thinking, how do I do this, who can I tell, this**  
 17 **is not right. Thinking of the children, really.**  
 18 **Anyway, so at some point I suddenly thought, "Hang on**  
 19 **a minute, why am I trying to find a way of telling --**  
 20 **accusing other people in this case? Because, really,**  
 21 **I'm as guilty as everybody else", and that's when I had**  
 22 **the idea that I could not -- I wasn't saying -- I went**  
 23 **to the police -- I said -- I thought, I'll give myself**  
 24 **in. It is a conspiracy. I will go to the police and**  
 25 **I will say, "I knew about this and I didn't tell**

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1 **anybody. It is a crime". So I went to --**  
 2 Q. Just pausing there, thank you. So when you said you  
 3 would give yourself in and it is a conspiracy and it is  
 4 a crime, can you explain why it was that you felt you  
 5 were giving yourself in?  
 6 **A. Because I was guilty of covering it up, because I knew**  
 7 **about this -- I knew about these things, and I hadn't**  
 8 **said anything.**  
 9 Q. Okay.  
 10 **A. And I suddenly realised that I was as guilty as the**  
 11 **people who do it, if I cover it up.**  
 12 Q. Could we bring up, please, INQ001664. I'm not going to  
 13 take you to any particular reference, but this  
 14 correspondence shows that you gave a statement to  
 15 Sergeant Smith and were contacted by Inspector Marinari  
 16 and Sergeant Bickle after you'd reported these instances  
 17 to police; is that right?  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. What did Inspector Marinari say to you about  
 20 Peter Morrison's activities?  
 21 **A. Can I say something about Sergeant Smith first? Do you**  
 22 **mind?**  
 23 Q. Can I just ask you what Inspector Marinari had said to  
 24 you about Peter Morrison's activities?  
 25 **A. Inspector Marinari said -- I was quite shocked to get**

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1 **Peter Morrison. She used to read the newspaper every**  
 2 **evening online. She said she Googled it and it came up**  
 3 **with a report in The Independent that said -- she said**  
 4 **"Everything you said, Jane, but it also added that the**  
 5 **police had been horrified, the police that arrested him**  
 6 **were horrified and disappointed, and the best chance**  
 7 **they'd ever had of getting him, catching him red handed,**  
 8 **and they were absolutely mortified that the charges were**  
 9 **being dropped and this was being replaced with**  
 10 **a caution", and at that moment --**  
 11 Q. That's all right. Just pausing there. So you said that  
 12 after you had told your sister what you were going to  
 13 do, as in you were going to report --  
 14 **A. I told her the story --**  
 15 Q. -- the allegations to police?  
 16 **A. -- and what I was going to say, yes.**  
 17 Q. Sorry for speaking over you. You told her the same  
 18 story --  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. -- that you reported to the police?  
 21 **A. And I told my daughters.**  
 22 Q. You were then surprised that your sister told you that  
 23 she had seen the exact account --  
 24 **A. Yes.**  
 25 Q. -- that you had told her?

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1 **a phone call, because Sergeant Smith had been very**  
 2 **dismissive. Anyway, she said, "We have been having --**  
 3 **we have had accusations against this man for years", she**  
 4 **said, "Can you pin it down to a better date?", because,**  
 5 **at that time, my date was between '80 and whatever you**  
 6 **said at first.**  
 7 Q. You had said it was between 1984 and 1988.  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. That's the date that you gave to police?  
 10 **A. She said, "We have heard so many accusations and, quite**  
 11 **frankly", she said, "some of them horrific". I remember**  
 12 **the word "horrific".**  
 13 Q. Thank you.  
 14 **A. She was an inspector in professional services.**  
 15 Q. You say that you had told your sister and your daughters  
 16 about your report to police; is that right?  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. What did your sister tell you after that?  
 19 **A. Well, I told them exactly what I was going to do because**  
 20 **I actually thought I might be arrested. So I needed**  
 21 **them to know where I'd gone and what I was doing. So**  
 22 **I told my sister the story of the incidents, when Eileen**  
 23 **told us what had happened, and afterwards -- a couple of**  
 24 **days later, she said, "Well" -- she rang me and she**  
 25 **said, after you said you were going to do, I Googled**

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1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. -- published in The Independent online; is that right?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. Later, you say you looked for that article, but you  
 5 couldn't trace it?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. What did you take that to mean, that you couldn't trace  
 8 it?  
 9 **A. Well, knowing little of these things, I'd heard of**  
 10 **superinjunctions and I just thought, "Oh, crikey,**  
 11 **somebody somewhere has pulled this and there's not even**  
 12 **a trace of where it was". I just assumed that it was**  
 13 **somebody who was -- whose job was to look out for things**  
 14 **in the papers that might reflect badly on senior**  
 15 **politicians.**  
 16 Q. What did you think -- if such an article had existed  
 17 that your sister had seen, what did you think was the  
 18 source of that article?  
 19 **A. I thought that the police in Chester had told the**  
 20 **papers, for no other reason than to add the details that**  
 21 **they were horrified, they were disappointed that the**  
 22 **charges had been dropped, they'd had the best chance**  
 23 **ever of catching this man. It seemed to me that the**  
 24 **only reason they would have for leaking what I said was**  
 25 **either to warn the people that I was talking about or to**

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 <b>make the point that they hadn't wanted to go along with</b><br/>                 2 <b>this, the police on the beat hadn't wanted to go along</b><br/>                 3 <b>with this. And that's what made me think that</b><br/>                 4 <b>Sergeant Smith had been instrumental in it.</b><br/>                 5 Q. So just to be clear, I think you said that you thought<br/>                 6 the story had leaked by the police?<br/>                 7 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 8 Q. You wrote to the chief constable about this alleged<br/>                 9 leak, didn't you?<br/>                 10 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 11 Q. If I can just pull up the response that you have<br/>                 12 provided to us, if the Relativity operator could bring<br/>                 13 up the hard copy letter from Chester Neighbourhood<br/>                 14 Policing Unit, if we could zoom in on the third<br/>                 15 paragraph, this is a letter to you from the inspector<br/>                 16 for Chester in a Neighbourhood Policing Unit.<br/>                 17 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 18 Q. Sergeant Smith is one of the sergeants who worked in<br/>                 19 that unit at this time.<br/>                 20 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 21 Q. I'm just going to read from the letter:<br/>                 22 "As I understand it, the information to which you<br/>                 23 refer has been in the public domain for some years."<br/>                 24 That's the information that you say had been in the<br/>                 25 article?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>  | <p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 2 Q. "DI Marinari has made enquiries and has been unable to<br/>                 3 locate the article to which you refer and there is no<br/>                 4 evidence to suggest that any information was given to<br/>                 5 The Independent as a result of your meeting with<br/>                 6 Sergeant Smith."<br/>                 7 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 8 Q. So just to be clear, Ms Lee, you don't have evidence to<br/>                 9 confirm that this story was leaked?<br/>                 10 <b>A. No.</b><br/>                 11 Q. But you thought it might have been because the same<br/>                 12 story appeared in a newspaper --<br/>                 13 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 14 Q. -- or you were told it appeared in a newspaper and you<br/>                 15 didn't have another explanation for it; is that right?<br/>                 16 <b>A. I also felt that Sergeant Smith's attitude towards the</b><br/>                 17 <b>whole incident of me giving myself up was less than --</b><br/>                 18 <b>well, I don't know how to put it. First of all, he</b><br/>                 19 <b>wanted to just talk to me in the office at the desk, and</b><br/>                 20 <b>I said, "Well, I think we should sit somewhere private".</b><br/>                 21 <b>Then I had to ask him, was he going to take any notes of</b><br/>                 22 <b>what I said, and he then started to make notes. And at</b><br/>                 23 <b>the end of the interview, he said to me, "Well, let me</b><br/>                 24 <b>put your mind at rest, Mrs Lee", whatever -- I can't --</b><br/>                 25 <b>"You have done nothing wrong at all", he said. "In</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p> |
| <p>1 <b>fact, the only person who has done anything wrong here,</b><br/>                 2 <b>as far as I can see, is the journalist for bandying it</b><br/>                 3 <b>all about in the pub".</b><br/>                 4 Q. How did you feel about speaking to the police after<br/>                 5 these interactions and this article?<br/>                 6 <b>A. I gave up. I decided I was not having -- they said they</b><br/>                 7 <b>wanted to send two policemen to my house. I said,</b><br/>                 8 <b>"Please don't send policemen", I already didn't want</b><br/>                 9 <b>them in my house, "I will come to an office and you can</b><br/>                 10 <b>take a statement". So instead they sent Sergeant Bickle</b><br/>                 11 <b>who knocked on my door and said, "I'm awful sorry,</b><br/>                 12 <b>I have to cancel the appointment. I didn't check it</b><br/>                 13 <b>with my colleague first and she can't make it". I think</b><br/>                 14 <b>she wanted to come in and I just said, "No, I don't want</b><br/>                 15 <b>to go any further. Thank you".</b><br/>                 16 Q. You then contacted this inquiry in 2018; is that right?<br/>                 17 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 18 Q. Just to take you back, Ms Lee, just one further<br/>                 19 question. You referred to your conversation with<br/>                 20 Ian Lucas and the phrase "For every one they have got,<br/>                 21 we have got one"?<br/>                 22 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 23 Q. Is it possible, perhaps, that that comment, "For every<br/>                 24 one they have got, we have got one", was about outing<br/>                 25 homosexuals in the party as opposed to paedophiles?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p> | <p>1 <b>A. I don't think -- no, I don't think it would have been.</b><br/>                 2 <b>Knowing my attitude to gay people, and Ian's as well,</b><br/>                 3 <b>I don't think we would, either of us, have mixed up the</b><br/>                 4 <b>two, paedophilia and just being gay. I mean, you</b><br/>                 5 <b>know ...</b><br/>                 6 Q. Thank you. Ms Lee, one gets the impression from reading<br/>                 7 your statement that you really wrestled with your<br/>                 8 conscience over these matters. So how do you feel about<br/>                 9 it now?<br/>                 10 <b>A. I just feel as if -- I don't think I can say it. I have</b><br/>                 11 <b>said it already: we are all guilty, everyone who kept</b><br/>                 12 <b>quiet. It's just terrible.</b><br/>                 13 <b>MS O'BYRNE: Thank you. I don't think we have any further</b><br/>                 14 <b>questions for you, but the chair and panel may have some</b><br/>                 15 <b>questions.</b><br/>                 16 THE CHAIR: No, thank you, we have no further questions.<br/>                 17 Thank you very much, Ms Lee.<br/>                 18 MS O'BYRNE: Thank you, Ms Lee.<br/>                 19 (The witness withdrew)<br/>                 20 MR O'CONNOR: Chair, the next witness is Christine Russell.<br/>                 21 MS CHRISTINE MARGARET RUSSELL (affirmed)<br/>                 22 Examination by MR O'CONNOR<br/>                 23 MR O'CONNOR: Could you give your full name, please.<br/>                 24 <b>A. Christine Margaret Russell.</b><br/>                 25 Q. Ms Russell, you moved to Chester in 1974, I think?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>   |

1 **A. Yes.**  
 2 Q. You describe in your statement becoming active in the  
 3 Chester Labour Party a few years later, in about 1978?  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. You then served as the agent for the Labour Party for  
 6 Chester between 1986 and 1992?  
 7 **A. Yes.**  
 8 Q. Thereafter, you stepped down as the agent because you  
 9 became the prospective parliamentary candidate for the  
 10 Labour Party?  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. And in the next election, which was 1997, you defeated  
 13 the Conservative MP, Gyles Brandreth --  
 14 **A. Yes.**  
 15 Q. -- and became the Labour MP for Chester in that year,  
 16 1997, and you then retained the seat as an MP, serving  
 17 until 2010; is that right?  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. I want to take you back and ask you, Ms Russell, about  
 20 some of the events that we have heard from other  
 21 witnesses already this morning. Before we get into the  
 22 detail of it, can you tell us something about the extent  
 23 to which you knew Peter Morrison, let's say, back in the  
 24 1980s, and your impression of him in general terms?  
 25 **A. Well, I didn't know him terribly well. In fact, I don't**

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1 **A. Public occasions, yes.**  
 2 Q. Not private?  
 3 **A. No.**  
 4 Q. And certainly not just the two of you together?  
 5 **A. No.**  
 6 Q. Generally speaking, what was your impression? You have  
 7 described on one occasion Mr Morrison may have been  
 8 drunk?  
 9 **A. Well, I'm being quite judgmental, but I always found**  
 10 **that he was quite aloof and arrogant, and actually just**  
 11 **unwilling to engage with what he obviously considered to**  
 12 **be the hoi polloi. But actually ill at ease with**  
 13 **people. He didn't seem to want to engage and have**  
 14 **conversations, even with people in his own party.**  
 15 Q. Hearing about that progression of roles that you had in  
 16 the Labour Party, you were obviously, shall we say, at  
 17 to the heart of political affairs in Chester --  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. -- during the period in question?  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 Q. First of all, we heard Frances Mowatt say that  
 22 Mr Morrison was regarded as being a good constituent MP,  
 23 was well liked in the constituency. What would your  
 24 observations on that be?  
 25 **A. Well, you wouldn't expect me, I don't think, to agree**

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1 **think I ever had a one-to-one conversation with him, and**  
 2 **I only actually recall being in his presence on three**  
 3 **occasions.**  
 4 **The first was when Princess Diana came to open the**  
 5 **new hospital and my daughter had her name pulled out of**  
 6 **the hat to present her with the bouquet, and he was**  
 7 **present in the town hall on that day.**  
 8 **The second time was, Gwyneth Dunwoody, who was the**  
 9 **former MP for Crewe and Nantwich, would organise, on an**  
 10 **ad hoc basis, meetings for councillors in Cheshire with**  
 11 **Cheshire MPs. I can remember a particular occasion when**  
 12 **Peter Morrison arrived very late for the meeting, quite**  
 13 **drunk, in a very surly mood, and left shortly -- well,**  
 14 **he was probably only there for ten minutes. That was**  
 15 **the second occasion.**  
 16 **The third occasion was at the count in 1987 where he**  
 17 **appeared very angry because the assembled press were**  
 18 **asking for his comments on why the Labour Party had**  
 19 **halved his political majority. They were the only three**  
 20 **times I can recall.**  
 21 Q. So only three occasions. All of them, I think, during  
 22 the 1980s?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 Q. And all of them, as you have described, public  
 25 occasions?

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1 **with Mrs Mowatt. He was quite an absentee MP. He was**  
 2 **very fortunate in that he had a very competent**  
 3 **constituency secretary, as well as Mrs Mowatt, called**  
 4 **Vanessa. Sorry, I don't know her name. I believe she**  
 5 **may have been a relative of Mr Morrison.**  
 6 **Apart from him coming up to do surgeries, which were**  
 7 **arranged, I think, by Vanessa, rather than Mrs Mowatt,**  
 8 **and maybe the odd function, he wasn't a very**  
 9 **community-involved member of parliament.**  
 10 Q. Was it simply the case that he wasn't seen very much in  
 11 Chester?  
 12 **A. He wasn't seen very much, and also he wasn't**  
 13 **particularly welcomed by active Conservative Party**  
 14 **members in Chester, who I think were rather annoyed by**  
 15 **the fact that, back in '74 or '73, he'd been parachuted**  
 16 **into the constituency and imposed upon members in the**  
 17 **constituency.**  
 18 Q. By that, you mean he wasn't a local?  
 19 **A. He wasn't a local.**  
 20 Q. There was a suggestion in Mr Nicholls' evidence that --  
 21 I think Mr Nicholls gained the impression that  
 22 Mr Morrison benefited from connections in the Tory  
 23 hierarchy, in the Conservative Party, his family knowing  
 24 well-connected people. Is that an impression which  
 25 either you had or which was understood in Chester, in

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1 your experience?

2 **A. Yes. It was quite common knowledge that he'd always**

3 **been a supporter and quite close to Margaret Thatcher.**

4 **I think he'd encouraged her to stand for the leadership.**

5 Q. Moving on, Ms Russell, questions about Mr Morrison's

6 private life, and in particular his sexual life. We

7 have heard already from other witnesses today rumours in

8 Chester, and in fact I took Ms Mowatt to a passage in

9 your own witness statement. What was your experience,

10 if any, of these rumours during the 1980s?

11 **A. It was very difficult to know whether there was one**

12 **allegation or two allegations or multiple allegations.**

13 **Because each person who was spreading the gossip would**

14 **have a slightly different take on it. Some would say,**

15 **"Oh, he'd been arrested by Transport Police at Crewe**

16 **Station". I think you have to remember that in those**

17 **days, there were very few direct trains from Euston to**

18 **Chester, so travellers had to change at Crewe Station**

19 **and often had to hang around waiting half an hour or so**

20 **for a connection. So there was one set of rumours**

21 **saying he'd molested a boy on a train and was taken off**

22 **the train by Transport Police. Other rumours were he'd**

23 **been arrested in the gentlemen's toilets, indulging in**

24 **some sexual activity with young men.**

25 Q. In Crewe Station?

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1 **A. No, I think it was earlier than that. The early rumours**

2 **that I was first aware of were actually about his**

3 **drinking and his excessive drinking. I think those**

4 **rumours were then embellished with rumours of his liking**

5 **for young men, more in the middle '80s, probably.**

6 Q. That's what I wanted to ask you, see, because the first

7 sentence of your statement you talk about Chester being

8 awash with rumours about Mr Morrison's private life,

9 alcoholism, young men, from the early '80s. But if the

10 Crewe railway allegations didn't kick in until 1988/89,

11 there must have been rumours before that. Is that what

12 you're explaining now?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And that was alcoholism and also young men, or something

15 of that nature?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. How well known and widely spread were these rumours

18 within the political community?

19 **A. Widespread. Not only the political community, I would**

20 **say throughout Chester.**

21 Q. I'm not going to call it up, but we have got a witness

22 statement from Gyles Brandreth who talks about knocking

23 on doors and people responding by saying that they had

24 heard these rumours?

25 **A. Oh, yes.**

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1 **A. In Crewe Station, on Crewe Station.**

2 Q. So you're describing two slightly different factual

3 accounts relating to Crewe Station?

4 **A. Yes. The third allegation that certainly was, you know,**

5 **doing the rounds, mainly I think from Chester**

6 **councillors, Conservative councillors, was of his sort**

7 **of wild parties he had at his constituency home --**

8 **I think it is called "The Stables" -- in a village**

9 **called Puddington, where it would be rather a select**

10 **list of guests and they would tend to be young men.**

11 Q. Can we just have a look at your statement, please,

12 LAB000037. It should be behind the first tab in your

13 bundle, Ms Russell, and I think the same for the chair

14 and panel. If we can go to the third page, paragraph 6,

15 please, just looking at that paragraph, you mention

16 about halfway through the paragraph the rumours about

17 Crewe Station?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Obviously we have heard plenty of evidence about those

20 this morning?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. I think it's a common theme from everyone we have heard

23 that those rumours related to a period in the late

24 1980s -- 1988, 1989, something of that order. That

25 certainly seems to be what Mr Nicholls and --

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1 Q. Is that credible, in your view?

2 **A. (Witness nods).**

3 Q. What did you or anyone else do about these rumours

4 during the 1980s?

5 **A. I think because the allegations were coming from police**

6 **officers, from Conservative councillors, I would say to**

7 **them, "What have you done about it?" And it was, "Oh,**

8 **he's being protected, isn't he?" That was the common**

9 **response.**

10 Q. Pause there. What do you think they meant by that?

11 **A. I think they meant either, "We have tried to do**

12 **something about them or we have tried to substantiate**

13 **them" or, "We haven't bothered because we think it would**

14 **be a pointless exercise".**

15 Q. So who do you think was doing the protecting?

16 **A. Well, Conservative councillors would say, "Oh, he's just**

17 **being protected from on high".**

18 Q. What did you understand they meant by that?

19 **A. I assumed that they meant -- I mean, he was a minister**

20 **of state in different departments, and these rumours**

21 **would have been before he became -- yes, they would have**

22 **been before he became deputy chair. Yeah, I mean that**

23 **he was being protected by the upper echelons of**

24 **the Conservative Party.**

25 Q. Since we have got the statement up, can I ask if we can

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|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 draw back on that paragraph and have a look at<br/>                 2 paragraph 8, please. Ms Russell, you describe in this<br/>                 3 paragraph your memory of a meeting initiated by<br/>                 4 Frances Mowatt between her and David Robinson?<br/>                 5 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 6 Q. Who was, I think, at one stage, the agent for the<br/>                 7 Labour Party but had become the prospective<br/>                 8 parliamentary candidate and was the candidate in the<br/>                 9 1987 election; is that right?<br/>                 10 <b>A. Mmm.</b><br/>                 11 Q. You really just there refer to the fact of the meeting<br/>                 12 and the fact that Ms Mowatt requested it. If we can go<br/>                 13 over the page, we see your memory, and is this right,<br/>                 14 what you know of this meeting is what you were told by<br/>                 15 David Robinson after it happened?<br/>                 16 <b>A. Yes. I mean, if you want -- my memory is that it was</b><br/>                 17 <b>during an election period. Now, whether it was the</b><br/>                 18 <b>General Election of '87 or whether it was the local</b><br/>                 19 <b>elections, which were quite fiercely contested, in '88,</b><br/>                 20 <b>I'm not sure. But all I remember is a call coming</b><br/>                 21 <b>through, not taken by me, from Frances Mowatt to ask if</b><br/>                 22 <b>David was there, and I think he was or he came in and</b><br/>                 23 <b>I can't remember the sequence, but it landed up with him</b><br/>                 24 <b>going out to have a meeting with Frances in a mews which</b><br/>                 25 <b>ran between the Labour party headquarters and the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p> | <p>1 <b>Conservative office and David coming back and basically</b><br/>                 2 <b>saying, "Well, Frances has just told me that</b><br/>                 3 <b>Peter Morrison" -- because the press, you know, the</b><br/>                 4 <b>former witnesses you heard, I mean, the press, every</b><br/>                 5 <b>reporter on the local press knew of these allegations.</b><br/>                 6 <b>And what David Robinson came back and told not only</b><br/>                 7 <b>myself but other people who were in the office at the</b><br/>                 8 <b>time, "Well, Peter Morrison's not going to stand down,</b><br/>                 9 <b>but Frances says" -- they were on first name terms,</b><br/>                 10 <b>because they'd -- not worked together, but they had been</b><br/>                 11 <b>agents for ten years, I suppose, together, "That Peter</b><br/>                 12 <b>was not a well man", I can definitely remember those</b><br/>                 13 <b>words, she said he is not a well man, "and he probably</b><br/>                 14 <b>won't be standing in the next election". But that was</b><br/>                 15 <b>soon -- I think that was either during the '87 election</b><br/>                 16 <b>or soon afterwards. Because he was definitely the</b><br/>                 17 <b>candidate.</b><br/>                 18 <b>You know, the joke was, "Well, why didn't you send</b><br/>                 19 <b>Chris?", and it was all a bit of a joke about, "Oh,</b><br/>                 20 <b>well, Frances is my friend", kind of thing, so he had</b><br/>                 21 <b>gone. So I never met Frances Mowatt ever.</b><br/>                 22 Q. You say that the content of the meeting was Mrs Mowatt<br/>                 23 saying that Mr Morrison wasn't a well man, that he<br/>                 24 wouldn't be standing at the next election. Did you<br/>                 25 understand the meeting to be connected with the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p> |
| <p>1 allegations --<br/>                 2 <b>A. Oh, yes.</b><br/>                 3 Q. -- against Mr Morrison?<br/>                 4 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 5 Q. So what was the connection? What was Mrs Mowatt trying<br/>                 6 to achieve?<br/>                 7 <b>A. I think she was trying to protect him against coverup,</b><br/>                 8 <b>if you like, all the gossip and the rumour mongering and</b><br/>                 9 <b>the allegations that were everywhere.</b><br/>                 10 Q. What was she suggesting to Mr Robinson in that<br/>                 11 connection?<br/>                 12 <b>A. I think she was naively assuming that, you know, if she</b><br/>                 13 <b>was reasonable and assured David that Peter Morrison</b><br/>                 14 <b>would be standing down at the next election, then, you</b><br/>                 15 <b>know, in return, would we desist from joining in the</b><br/>                 16 <b>accusations, but in fact we were not making them, we</b><br/>                 17 <b>were not making them.</b><br/>                 18 Q. Can I ask you to look at another document, Ms Russell,<br/>                 19 please, and it is document CAB000123. I don't think you<br/>                 20 do have a hard copy of this in front of you, Ms Russell,<br/>                 21 but we can look at it on the screen together. I know<br/>                 22 you've seen a copy of this this morning. This is<br/>                 23 a letter from a man called Mr Walker in the Security<br/>                 24 Service to Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary.<br/>                 25 Do you see the date at the top, 7 July 1987?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>  | <p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 2 Q. So that's a month or so after the 1987 election?<br/>                 3 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 4 Q. In the letter, Mr Walker, the Security Service officer,<br/>                 5 essentially relates to Robert Armstrong some of<br/>                 6 the information that he, Mr Walker, had been given by<br/>                 7 Mr Morrison in a briefing. If we can turn over, please,<br/>                 8 on to the second page and look at paragraph 5 of the<br/>                 9 letter, and perhaps zoom in:<br/>                 10 "Morrison then mentioned ..."<br/>                 11 That is, he mentioned to Mr Walker:<br/>                 12 "... the stories about his alleged homosexual<br/>                 13 behaviour which surfaced in his Chester constituency<br/>                 14 during the General Election."<br/>                 15 There's the 1987 election, by context?<br/>                 16 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 17 Q. "Unfortunately, his election agent, in a well-meaning<br/>                 18 but clumsy attempt to spare Morrison embarrassment had<br/>                 19 spoken without Morrison's authority or knowledge to the<br/>                 20 Labour candidate. She chose to do so in a back street<br/>                 21 of all places."<br/>                 22 <b>A. That was the mews.</b><br/>                 23 Q. "Morrison feared that if his agent's approach reached<br/>                 24 the wrong ears, it could be misrepresented as an<br/>                 25 attempted coverup."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>   |

1 Just to locate ourselves, if this was the 1987  
 2 election, Frances Mowatt was Mr Morrison's agent, you  
 3 were the Labour Party agent and Mr Robinson was the  
 4 candidate?  
 5 **A. Yes.**  
 6 Q. Do you think this may be a description from  
 7 Mr Morrison's mouth of the meeting you have just been  
 8 describing?  
 9 **A. Absolutely, yes.**  
 10 Q. Mrs Mowatt --  
 11 **A. Well, the back street is the mews. I referred to it as**  
 12 **a mews.**  
 13 Q. Can you just give us a bit more detail about that, the  
 14 mews, the back street, the lane?  
 15 **A. Well, it -- there's a major thoroughfare -- in fact, it**  
 16 **is the inner ring road in Chester, which is called**  
 17 **Nicholas Street. If you come out of the Conservative**  
 18 **office and you turned -- instead of going onto the main**  
 19 **street, you turned the other way, there is -- I think**  
 20 **there's vehicle access, but there's a parallel street**  
 21 **which is called Nicholas Mews. It was a very wet, rainy**  
 22 **day, and Mrs Mowatt walked one way, David Robinson**  
 23 **walked the other way because the Labour Party office was**  
 24 **at the other end of the mews and they met in the middle.**  
 25 Q. From what you are saying, you have actually got

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1 **was a general management committee meeting, there was an**  
 2 **Executive Committee and there was a Campaign Meeting**  
 3 **Committee. I think the meeting that Mr Nicholls has**  
 4 **referred to will have been in my relatively small office**  
 5 **with the local agent. So it would have been quite**  
 6 **a small meeting with probably about eight people there.**  
 7 Q. You heard Mr Nicholls give evidence. You gave his  
 8 account, which was of a meeting in which you told the  
 9 meeting that an agreement had been reached that  
 10 essentially the political parties and the press would  
 11 cover up these allegations against Mr Morrison in  
 12 exchange for Mr Morrison standing down at the next  
 13 election. What do you say to that?  
 14 **A. No truth whatsoever.**  
 15 Q. Can you remember any meeting where something along those  
 16 lines might have been discussed?  
 17 **A. Well, certainly we didn't keep it a secret, the meeting**  
 18 **between Mr Robinson and Frances Mowatt. So certainly**  
 19 **people within the Labour Party knew about that meeting.**  
 20 **So it was common knowledge that Peter Morrison was going**  
 21 **to step down and wouldn't be seeking the nomination**  
 22 **again. But, equally, it was common knowledge to members**  
 23 **of the local Conservative Association. It was no great**  
 24 **secret.**  
 25 Q. The one common thread between both what Mr Nicholls said

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1 a memory, even now, of that meeting happening?  
 2 **A. Yes, because it got into local mythology, the meeting in**  
 3 **the mews.**  
 4 Q. Mrs Mowatt denied that that meeting happened but you  
 5 have a clear memory of it happening?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. Thank you, Mrs Russell. Moving on, I want to ask you  
 8 about the arrangement, so-called, between the parties  
 9 relating to the Crewe Railway Station allegations. Now,  
 10 you know both Mr Nicholls and Ms Lee, don't you, or you  
 11 have worked with them in Chester?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. For some time?  
 14 **A. No, I think Mr Nicholls in his evidence said that his**  
 15 **main priority was the Trades Council and his union work.**  
 16 Q. Yes.  
 17 **A. Post the '87 election, I think it was, he became the --**  
 18 **I set up a system of having local agents and Mr Nicholls**  
 19 **became the agent for the ward where he lived, and that**  
 20 **was also the ward where Jane Lee lived, yes.**  
 21 Q. So you worked -- you worked with Mr Nicholls, you were  
 22 on some of the same committees with him for a time?  
 23 **A. We had -- Mr Nicholls was -- he wasn't a ward delegate,**  
 24 **he was a trade union delegate to Chester labour Party,**  
 25 **and he -- most months, there were three meetings. There**

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1 and what Ms Lee said is that this was all prompted by  
 2 the incident at Crewe Railway Station?  
 3 **A. There is no truth in it. No truth.**  
 4 Q. Well, you say that, Ms Russell, but can you explain why  
 5 Mr Nicholls and Ms Lee have both remembered something  
 6 that you can't?  
 7 **A. I can't explain it. I mean, all I can say is that these**  
 8 **rumours were common knowledge. I think a lot of the**  
 9 **Crewe Railway Station allegations and stories came from**  
 10 **the police. I was certainly told them by a police**  
 11 **officer initially. It's certainly true that all the**  
 12 **journalists on the three local papers were fully aware**  
 13 **of various allegations, the Crewe allegations. It was**  
 14 **certainly true that rank and file members of**  
 15 **the Conservative Party knew. What I'm saying is, there**  
 16 **was no agreement to cover up. It would not have been in**  
 17 **the electoral interests of the Labour Party to stop the**  
 18 **rumours. I mean -- but I, very clearly, being a -- you**  
 19 **know, a magistrate and all the rest, I said to them, "We**  
 20 **can talk about Mr Morrison's very right-wing political**  
 21 **beliefs on the doorstep any time, but you're not to go**  
 22 **gossiping about the rumours. We have no evidence. We**  
 23 **have no evidence. It's all rumours and allegations".**  
 24 **I was always very -- that was always my advice. I mean,**  
 25 **what people actually did when they were knocking on**

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| <p>1 doors I wasn't always there to hear, but there was</p> <p>2 certainly no deal/arrangement, whatever, at all between</p> <p>3 the parties. We had no means of -- that was the only</p> <p>4 communication, was that meeting in the mews between the</p> <p>5 candidate and Mrs Mowatt. There was no other formal</p> <p>6 meeting ever between the Labour Party and the Tory</p> <p>7 Party.</p> <p>8 Q. Just coming back to one or two of the things you said,</p> <p>9 Ms Russell. You have said that the press knew about the</p> <p>10 allegations about Peter Morrison generally?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Yes?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Also about allegations about Crewe Railway Station?</p> <p>15 A. The press knew?</p> <p>16 Q. Yes.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You mentioned three newspapers?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. We have heard, I think, about the Chester Observer, is</p> <p>21 it?</p> <p>22 A. The Cheshire Observer, the Evening Leader and the</p> <p>23 Chronicle.</p> <p>24 Q. So those are the three you have in mind?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>  | <p>1 Q. It seems to have been the position that none of them</p> <p>2 reported it.</p> <p>3 A. No, no.</p> <p>4 Q. No, they didn't?</p> <p>5 A. No, they didn't report it. There was no coverage.</p> <p>6 Q. It also seems to have been the position that no-one on</p> <p>7 the Conservative Party said or did anything about these</p> <p>8 allegations?</p> <p>9 A. Oh, no, they did a lot of gossiping, but there was no</p> <p>10 public statements.</p> <p>11 Q. Nothing public?</p> <p>12 A. No, no.</p> <p>13 Q. It also seems to be the position that no-one on the</p> <p>14 Labour Party said or did anything about them publicly?</p> <p>15 A. We didn't have the evidence. We couldn't substantiate</p> <p>16 any of the rumours.</p> <p>17 Q. But it's true, though, that you, the Labour Party,</p> <p>18 didn't take any public steps in response to those</p> <p>19 allegations relating to Crewe --</p> <p>20 A. I personally told our regional office and said, "You</p> <p>21 should be aware of this". Again, it was pretty</p> <p>22 widespread. It wasn't just within the walls of Chester</p> <p>23 that this information was known. I don't think I ever</p> <p>24 spoke to anyone at our head office, but I certainly</p> <p>25 spoke to regional office staff. They were fully aware</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>   |
| <p>1 of it. The country was aware of it, because I think it</p> <p>2 was the time when Private Eye first started publishing</p> <p>3 stories too.</p> <p>4 Q. Leaving aside the idea of an agreement at the moment,</p> <p>5 I'm trying to see what the actual position was. I think</p> <p>6 we have agreed the press didn't do anything about it?</p> <p>7 A. I rang -- I spoke to my regional officials to say --</p> <p>8 Q. Your Labour Party regional officials?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, Labour Party regional officials.</p> <p>10 Q. So nothing in public about it?</p> <p>11 A. No, no.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you know what the Liberal Party politicians in</p> <p>13 Chester may have done about it?</p> <p>14 A. Exactly the same, I think. I knew most of the key</p> <p>15 Liberal Party politicians in Chester because we used to</p> <p>16 meet very regularly on the Planning Committee. The key</p> <p>17 Liberal politicians in Chester in the main were</p> <p>18 councillors plus Ralph Green who was the parliamentary</p> <p>19 candidate.</p> <p>20 Q. You know Patricia Green?</p> <p>21 A. His wife.</p> <p>22 Q. Ralph Green's wife?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. A fellow magistrate?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p> | <p>1 Q. She and her husband, active over quite a long period of</p> <p>2 time in Liberal Party politics?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. He had been a Liberal Party candidate in the</p> <p>5 General Election early on?</p> <p>6 A. More than once, I think.</p> <p>7 Q. It's right -- I think you have seen this document --</p> <p>8 that Patricia Green also remembers events similar to</p> <p>9 those described by Mr Nicholls. Can we look at those</p> <p>10 together: OHY005914. I think this is behind tab 6 in</p> <p>11 your bundle, Ms Russell, and also for the chair and</p> <p>12 panel. If we can please look at the bottom half of</p> <p>13 the page, just so you understand what this is,</p> <p>14 Ms Russell, this is a record of interview conducted by</p> <p>15 police officers with Patricia Green. We can see three</p> <p>16 paragraphs down on this section:</p> <p>17 "The Greens continued to have a keen interest in</p> <p>18 local (Liberal) politics. In the late '80s, they became</p> <p>19 aware that Peter Morrison had been involved in an</p> <p>20 incident on a train involving a boy. Morrison had been</p> <p>21 removed from the train at Crewe Railway Station. As she</p> <p>22 recalls, Morrison was travelling back from Westminster.</p> <p>23 Her understanding, that the boy in some way had been</p> <p>24 sexually assaulted.</p> <p>25 "Green went on to say that she had no direct</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p> |

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| <p>1 evidence and her knowledge came from rumour. Both the<br/>2 Labour and Liberal Parties were talking about the<br/>3 information, which was so strongly believed that<br/>4 a by-election was going to be proposed."<br/>5 "Green, together with the rest of the Liberal Party,<br/>6 were very shocked when nothing came of the Morrison<br/>7 incident, which did not even reach the papers.<br/>8 "Green considers the matter was suppressed due to<br/>9 Morrison's privileged background."<br/>10 So there we have it from another triangulation<br/>11 point, Ms Russell: Crewe Railway Station, a scandal<br/>12 suppressed by what Mr Nicholls would no doubt call the<br/>13 Chester elite. Does that help jog your memory of those<br/>14 events?<br/>15 <b>A. No. I mean, I don't really think I need my memory</b><br/>16 <b>jogged, because I've got quite a clear recollection of</b><br/>17 <b>what the rumours were, what the allegations were, and</b><br/>18 <b>what I as a responsible Labour Party representative did</b><br/>19 <b>with those allegations.</b><br/>20 Q. You are sure you still can't remember any meeting of<br/>21 the type that Mr Nicholls described where the Crewe<br/>22 Railway incident may have been discussed?<br/>23 <b>A. No.</b><br/>24 Q. You can't remember anything about any sort of<br/>25 arrangements, informal or otherwise, with other</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>  | <p>1 political parties in Chester, not to mention these<br/>2 allegations?<br/>3 <b>A. There was certainly no -- there was no formal meetings</b><br/>4 <b>with the other political parties. There was a lot of</b><br/>5 <b>chitchat between councillors, because I was one at the</b><br/>6 <b>time, and councillors of the Liberal Party and the Tory</b><br/>7 <b>Party. There was certainly -- my recollection, quite</b><br/>8 <b>strongly, is simply telling the members -- well, I don't</b><br/>9 <b>think they were the members. I think they were the</b><br/>10 <b>Campaign Committee, the election agents, of the meeting</b><br/>11 <b>between David and Frances Mowatt, that there was not</b><br/>12 <b>going to be a by-election, but contrary to what</b><br/>13 <b>Mrs Green says, I think that conversation was much</b><br/>14 <b>earlier. It was nearer the '87 election.</b><br/>15 Q. It is quite difficult to marry up that meeting between<br/>16 David Robinson and Frances Mowatt with the idea of<br/>17 a by-election, because we can see quite clearly from<br/>18 that letter I took you to that it happened during the<br/>19 General Election. It doesn't seem that anyone would<br/>20 have been discussing a by-election in the middle of<br/>21 a General Election, would they?<br/>22 <b>A. No. But the rumours persisted and they persisted, and</b><br/>23 <b>of course they grew stronger once Peter Morrison became</b><br/>24 <b>Margaret Thatcher's PPS.</b><br/>25 Q. Do you think it is possible that something like what</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p> |
| <p>1 Mr Nicholls described, a meeting where the Chester --<br/>2 sorry, the Crewe incident was discussed and some sort of<br/>3 arrangement between the parties followed, do you think<br/>4 that might have happened and you just -- perhaps he's<br/>5 wrong, that you were there, but it might have happened<br/>6 in some similar way but you never heard about it?<br/>7 <b>A. I don't think such a meeting would have taken place</b><br/>8 <b>without me being there, because I was the agent, and I'm</b><br/>9 <b>sure, if there were any mention of by-elections, then</b><br/>10 <b>I would have been invited to that meeting. I don't</b><br/>11 <b>think that meeting ever took place.</b><br/>12 Q. Have you discussed these matters in recent years with<br/>13 Patricia Green?<br/>14 <b>A. When this inquiry was first brought up, I had a long</b><br/>15 <b>conversation with Patricia. I still see Patricia quite</b><br/>16 <b>often. And we didn't disagree over anything I've said</b><br/>17 <b>to you today or what Patricia really has put in her</b><br/>18 <b>statement.</b><br/>19 Q. Let's just look, for completeness, please. If we can<br/>20 look at INQ004031, and this is tab 5 in the bundle.<br/>21 This is a statement. The earlier document we looked at<br/>22 was Ms Green's record of police interview. This is<br/>23 a statement she has very recently provided to the<br/>24 inquiry. You understand that? If we can look on the<br/>25 second page of that document, please, paragraph 7, what</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p> | <p>1 she says here is:<br/>2 "I spoke briefly to Christine Russell about these<br/>3 matters when first contacted by the Met."<br/>4 Which I think must have been within the last few<br/>5 years:<br/>6 "She said that she was present at the discussion<br/>7 that Grahame Nicholls described when it was agreed that<br/>8 Peter Morrison should stand down. At that point, it was<br/>9 also agreed not to pursue other matters concerning<br/>10 Peter Morrison's previous conduct."<br/>11 Reading on:<br/>12 "She didn't talk about the Crewe incident or the<br/>13 date when the discussion about when a possible<br/>14 by-election might take place. As I remember [that's as<br/>15 Patricia Green remembers] this happened after the Crewe<br/>16 incident when we understood the police had been<br/>17 involved."<br/>18 So what Mrs Green seems to be suggesting there is<br/>19 that you do have a memory of a meeting, as<br/>20 Grahame Nicholls described, when it was agreed, first of<br/>21 all, that Peter Morrison would stand down and, secondly,<br/>22 that you wouldn't pursue matters against him. So she's<br/>23 got it wrong, has she?<br/>24 <b>A. She's got it wrong, yes. I probably, in conversation</b><br/>25 <b>with her, just related what I've said to you today,</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>   |

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| <p>1 <b>which was about the meeting between Frances Mowatt and</b><br/>                 2 <b>David Robinson, and the fact that we were then told that</b><br/>                 3 <b>Peter Morrison would be standing down at the subsequent</b><br/>                 4 <b>election, which of course didn't happen until 1992.</b><br/>                 5 Q. Ms Russell, if you did speak to Mrs Green about<br/>                 6 a meeting between David Robinson and Frances Mowatt, why<br/>                 7 does she not say anything about either David Robinson or<br/>                 8 Frances Mowatt in this statement, and why does she<br/>                 9 instead say that you told her that you were present at<br/>                 10 the discussion that Grahame Nicholls described when it<br/>                 11 was agreed that Peter Morrison would stand down and that<br/>                 12 you wouldn't pursue other matters concerning his<br/>                 13 previous conduct? They are two different incidents,<br/>                 14 aren't they?<br/>                 15 <b>A. They are two different things, yes.</b><br/>                 16 Q. If what you told her was about Frances Mowatt and<br/>                 17 David Robinson, why is she describing something<br/>                 18 completely different?<br/>                 19 <b>A. She's mistaken. She possibly misunderstood. To give</b><br/>                 20 <b>her the benefit of the doubt, she possibly misunderstood</b><br/>                 21 <b>what I was saying to her in the recent telephone</b><br/>                 22 <b>conversation she's referring to.</b><br/>                 23 Q. So what it boils down to, Ms Russell, is this, that<br/>                 24 Patricia Green, Mr Nicholls, Ms Lee, have all provided<br/>                 25 evidence not exactly the same, but all have provided</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p> | <p>1 evidence of an incident at Crewe Railway Station leading<br/>                 2 to discussions between the parties leading to an<br/>                 3 agreement that --<br/>                 4 <b>A. There wasn't any discussions between the parties.</b><br/>                 5 Q. Well --<br/>                 6 <b>A. There may have been individual conversations between</b><br/>                 7 <b>members of different political parties, but there were</b><br/>                 8 <b>no formal discussions. I'm sure I would have been aware</b><br/>                 9 <b>of them. I wasn't the constituency chair at the time,</b><br/>                 10 <b>but there were no formal discussions. I'm quite</b><br/>                 11 <b>convinced of that.</b><br/>                 12 Q. The difficulty for the chair and panel, Ms Russell, is<br/>                 13 that, very broadly speaking, those other three witnesses<br/>                 14 all give evidence to one effect, and you're simply<br/>                 15 saying that didn't happen. How are they going to<br/>                 16 reconcile that, do you think?<br/>                 17 <b>A. Well, I'm just telling you the truth, and that is what</b><br/>                 18 <b>happened. I think there may be -- I think there's</b><br/>                 19 <b>a confusion that in fact the conversation between</b><br/>                 20 <b>Frances Mowatt and David Robinson happened much sooner.</b><br/>                 21 <b>I think there's an assumption that that kind of</b><br/>                 22 <b>pre-empted Peter Morrison standing down in about --</b><br/>                 23 <b>I don't know when it happened, when he announced he</b><br/>                 24 <b>wasn't standing again. It was probably 1990 by then.</b><br/>                 25 Q. Just one --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>  |
| <p>1 <b>A. Don't forget, the rumours had carried on -- from when he</b><br/>                 2 <b>was re-elected in '87, the rumours carried on right up</b><br/>                 3 <b>until he finally announced -- or it was announced that</b><br/>                 4 <b>he wasn't seeking re-election.</b><br/>                 5 Q. I just want to pursue something you said a moment ago.<br/>                 6 As I understood it, you suggested that, because of your<br/>                 7 role as election agent, any formal arrangement, any<br/>                 8 formal agreement, between the political parties you<br/>                 9 would have had to have heard about or been involved<br/>                 10 with. Do you think it's possible that something like<br/>                 11 what Mr Nicholls, Ms Lee, Mrs Green all seem to remember<br/>                 12 may have happened but happened on a less formal basis<br/>                 13 and so you might not have been aware of it?<br/>                 14 <b>A. No. No. No.</b><br/>                 15 Q. You heard Ms Lee give evidence a few moments ago about<br/>                 16 her conversation with Mr Lucas --<br/>                 17 <b>A. Mmm-hmm.</b><br/>                 18 Q. -- when she challenged the idea that nothing was going<br/>                 19 to be said about the allegations about Mr Morrison, and<br/>                 20 the answer she got was, "For every one they have got, we<br/>                 21 have got one"?<br/>                 22 <b>A. Mmm.</b><br/>                 23 Q. Does that ring a bell with you, either those words or<br/>                 24 that sentiment?<br/>                 25 <b>A. No. The words don't -- the words don't ring any bells.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>   | <p>1 <b>But certainly, again, you know, it was rumours that the</b><br/>                 2 <b>higher echelons of all the political parties were --</b><br/>                 3 <b>don't forget, this was the time when you'd had the AIDS</b><br/>                 4 <b>hysteria, the age of consent for gay people was still</b><br/>                 5 <b>21, and there was no-one -- there was absolutely no-one</b><br/>                 6 <b>disputing Morrison's homosexuality, absolutely no-one in</b><br/>                 7 <b>Chester within the Tory party.</b><br/>                 8 <b>There were rumours, but, again, they were not</b><br/>                 9 <b>rumours that I can substantiate to you today, that there</b><br/>                 10 <b>were discussions -- I wouldn't go -- whether they were</b><br/>                 11 <b>agreements or whether they were just discussions between</b><br/>                 12 <b>representatives of the political parties at the highest</b><br/>                 13 <b>level of those political parties. You know, it was --</b><br/>                 14 <b>there was gossip in Private Eye virtually every week of,</b><br/>                 15 <b>you know, Labour MPs, Tory MPs, I'm not sure if there</b><br/>                 16 <b>were any Liberal MPs mentioned, I'm sure there were.</b><br/>                 17 <b>I can remember by-elections with candidates who were</b><br/>                 18 <b>obviously gay where there was a horrible undercurrent of</b><br/>                 19 <b>homophobic comments going around.</b><br/>                 20 <b>MR O'CONNOR: Ms Russell, thank you very much. I don't have</b><br/>                 21 <b>anything more to ask you. I don't know whether the</b><br/>                 22 <b>chair and panel have any questions.</b><br/>                 23 <b>THE CHAIR: Sir Malcolm?</b><br/>                 24<br/>                 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p> |

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| <p>1 Questions by THE PANEL</p> <p>2 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you. Could I just pick up,</p> <p>3 really, on the last point that you were making and tie</p> <p>4 it back to a number of points that you have been making</p> <p>5 across your statement. We have clearly seen some</p> <p>6 reference to records of a conversation that took place</p> <p>7 after the 1987 election by Peter Morrison himself</p> <p>8 relating to a conversation. Would this have been about</p> <p>9 the incident at Crewe or other allegations concerning</p> <p>10 homosexual behaviour/conduct, et cetera? I notice in</p> <p>11 your statement also you refer to alcoholism and</p> <p>12 a penchant for young men, which is something that you</p> <p>13 carefully say throughout that, and yet I also notice</p> <p>14 that in the statement of Mr Nicholls it is said he was</p> <p>15 known for "liking little boys". I'm wondering if you</p> <p>16 could shed any light on your understanding of</p> <p>17 the prevalence of rumours concerning a "liking for</p> <p>18 little boys" and what you meant in the context of</p> <p>19 discussing young men?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No-one within my hearing ever said "little boys". It</b></p> <p>21 <b>was always "young men". But the age of consent was 21</b></p> <p>22 <b>at the time.</b></p> <p>23 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr Frank?</p> <p>25 MR FRANK: Just one matter, please. You described the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>   | <p>1 difference between you and Patricia Green, that you said</p> <p>2 you thought there may have been a misunderstanding on</p> <p>3 her part. Do you remember saying that? You thought she</p> <p>4 may have misunderstood what you had said to her?</p> <p>5 <b>A. It's possible, or she conflated different parts of</b></p> <p>6 <b>a lengthy conversation with her.</b></p> <p>7 MR FRANK: Can I just ask you, then, what do you think that</p> <p>8 you said to her that you think she may have</p> <p>9 misunderstood?</p> <p>10 <b>A. That I actually said that David Robinson had said that</b></p> <p>11 <b>the reason Morrison was going to stand down was because</b></p> <p>12 <b>of the allegations around what may or may not have</b></p> <p>13 <b>happened in the vicinity of Crewe Station or on a train</b></p> <p>14 <b>to Crewe.</b></p> <p>15 MR FRANK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We have no further questions.</p> <p>17 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>18 MR O'CONNOR: Thank you, chair, thank you, Ms Russell. Just</p> <p>19 before we break for lunch, chair, Ms O'Byrne is simply</p> <p>20 going to invite you to adduce some further evidence</p> <p>21 which relates to these topics we have been hearing</p> <p>22 evidence about this morning.</p> <p>23 Witness statements adduced by MS O'BYRNE</p> <p>24 MS O'BYRNE: Chair, we ask you to adduce a number of</p> <p>25 documents. I won't bring them up, but I will summarise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p> |
| <p>1 them very briefly. The first document is INQ004087, the</p> <p>2 statement of Ian Lucas, to which you have heard</p> <p>3 reference today. Mr Lucas remembers Jane Lee as</p> <p>4 Jane Leach. He recalls being at the pub after a branch</p> <p>5 meeting in 1988 or 1989 when a member he calls Eileen</p> <p>6 Neiderlov, who was a journalist, told the group that</p> <p>7 Peter Morrison had been arrested at Crewe Railway</p> <p>8 Station for some form of sexual offence. You have seen</p> <p>9 reference already to Mr Lucas's denial that he spoke to</p> <p>10 anyone in the Chester Labour Party or in the National</p> <p>11 Labour Party about that at the time.</p> <p>12 The second document is the record of interview of</p> <p>13 Patricia Green, OHY005194. It describes her as the</p> <p>14 informant in relation to the report that Peter Morrison</p> <p>15 was taken off a train at Crewe Railway Station, and you</p> <p>16 have again seen reference to that document and to her</p> <p>17 statement, which is the next document we would ask you</p> <p>18 to adduce, at INQ004031. Mr O'Connor has referred to</p> <p>19 those documents.</p> <p>20 The next document is BTP000001, the statement of</p> <p>21 Detective Superintendent Gary Richardson of British</p> <p>22 Transport Police. DS Richardson responds to the</p> <p>23 inquiry's request for any documents held by British</p> <p>24 Transport Police in relation to Peter Morrison MP</p> <p>25 regarding his arrest at Crewe Railway Station between</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p> | <p>1 1980 and 1990 for molesting boys and, aside from one</p> <p>2 nominal record not related to a crime or intelligence</p> <p>3 record, the statement says that other searches have not</p> <p>4 revealed any records.</p> <p>5 We then ask you to adduce OHY006997. This is the</p> <p>6 statement of Detective Chief Superintendent Denise Worth</p> <p>7 on behalf of Cheshire Police. She states that searches</p> <p>8 have been conducted to establish whether Cheshire</p> <p>9 Constabulary had any information relating to allegations</p> <p>10 that Peter Morrison MP was arrested for any matters in</p> <p>11 Cheshire or that anyone may have intervened to prevent</p> <p>12 the matter from reaching the media, and she reports that</p> <p>13 no records have been located.</p> <p>14 Chair, you will recall Mr Mahaffey's evidence last</p> <p>15 Tuesday that searches have been commissioned in relation</p> <p>16 to Operation Yew. That also did not locate any records.</p> <p>17 The last document is OHY003183, which is notes and</p> <p>18 correspondence concerning searches conducted by Cheshire</p> <p>19 Constabulary in relation to allegations concerning</p> <p>20 Peter Morrison, including those made by Jane Lee and</p> <p>21 Barry Strevens, about which you will hear tomorrow,</p> <p>22 chair.</p> <p>23 So, chair, we invite you to adduce all those</p> <p>24 documents in full, and that I think concludes the</p> <p>25 morning's evidence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p> |

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| <p>1 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms O'Byrne. We will now take the<br/>2 lunch break and return at 2.00 pm.<br/>3 (12.57 pm)<br/>4 (The short adjournment)<br/>5 (2.00 pm)<br/>6 MR ALTMAN: Chair, the next witness is an anonymous witness<br/>7 from MI5, as you know, who is going to give evidence<br/>8 remotely.<br/>9 MI5 WITNESS (affirmed)<br/>10 Examination by MR ALTMAN<br/>11 MR ALTMAN: You have made a statement to the inquiry, dated<br/>12 6 February of this year; is that correct?<br/>13 <b>A. That is correct.</b><br/>14 Q. You make the statement on behalf of the Security Service<br/>15 MI5 as a corporate witness for the purposes of this<br/>16 inquiry; is that correct?<br/>17 <b>A. That is correct.</b><br/>18 Q. By way of background -- I am simply looking at what you<br/>19 say in your third paragraph -- you have been employed by<br/>20 the Service since 1990 as a lawyer; is that correct?<br/>21 <b>A. It is.</b><br/>22 Q. Your current responsibilities include maintaining the<br/>23 guidance issued by the legal branch to the Service,<br/>24 including something I will come back to later, the child<br/>25 and adult at risk protection policy?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>  | <p>1 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>2 Q. Can you confirm, looking at your paragraph 4 -- and the<br/>3 chair and panel will find this behind their divider 1,<br/>4 and it is a statement, chair, can I say immediately,<br/>5 with its inquiry number INQ004032, that I seek to adduce<br/>6 in its entirety. Perhaps we can put it up on the<br/>7 screen, because I shall be coming back to it.<br/>8 Do you make clear that you have made the statement<br/>9 based on, first, information and documents within your<br/>10 personal knowledge?<br/>11 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>12 Q. Second, information and documents provided to you by<br/>13 your colleagues in MI5?<br/>14 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>15 Q. And, third, your experience of the functions and<br/>16 operation of MI5 in general terms?<br/>17 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>18 Q. You make clear that the statement explains matters,<br/>19 insofar as you are able to do so openly without causing<br/>20 damage to national security?<br/>21 <b>A. It does.</b><br/>22 Q. Before we go further, can I ask you to confirm that by<br/>23 a letter dated 6 March of this year there were certain<br/>24 amendments that you sought to be made to the statement?<br/>25 <b>A. That's right.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p> |
| <p>1 Q. Do you have the letter in front of you?<br/>2 <b>A. I don't have a copy, but I think I can be provided with<br/>3 one. Yes, I've got it. Thank you.</b><br/>4 Q. It is just for everybody's benefit, because your<br/>5 statement will go up on the website, and I don't want<br/>6 anybody to be misled that there are no errors to be<br/>7 corrected, because there are. Can we go, first of all,<br/>8 to paragraph 10 on page 3. About seven or eight lines<br/>9 down, do you see in the centre of a line beginning<br/>10 "Operational selection policy OSP8", and then, "issued<br/>11 in", and "[date]"?<br/>12 <b>A. Yes, I do.</b><br/>13 Q. I think the correction you seek to make is, those<br/>14 brackets should be replaced with "the current version of<br/>15 which was issued in November 2005"; is that right?<br/>16 <b>A. That's right.</b><br/>17 Q. Then, please, if we turn on to paragraph 43, which is on<br/>18 page 11, right at the foot of the page, we see a line<br/>19 beginning "whether or not it is unsupported", the word<br/>20 should actually be "supported"?<br/>21 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>22 Q. Then, over the page to page 13, paragraph 45 -- in fact,<br/>23 if we go over the page, it is page 14.<br/>24 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>25 Q. In a table to which I will return, against the entry for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p> | <p>1 Christopher Chataway MP, where the words<br/>2 "Cabinet Office" appear in the centre box and in the<br/>3 right-hand box, that should be substituted with "DPP's<br/>4 Department"; is that right?<br/>5 <b>A. That is correct.</b><br/>6 Q. Paragraph 60, which is on page 18, you have asked for<br/>7 the deletion of lines eight and nine, the words "and<br/>8 that the information comes from the memo"; is that<br/>9 right?<br/>10 <b>A. That is correct, yes.</b><br/>11 Q. So the line should simply read, and we will come back to<br/>12 this:<br/>13 "There is no indication within the text of<br/>14 the letter that this was Dame Eliza, but I consider this<br/>15 to be likely."<br/>16 That's how the sentence should read?<br/>17 <b>A. Yes, it should, thank you.</b><br/>18 Q. Page 19, paragraph 65, in the third line, where there is<br/>19 a sentence that begins, "This indicates that he<br/>20 considered", I think you wish to insert the following:<br/>21 "... that the security requirement for an<br/>22 investigation was not pressing, even at that stage. By<br/>23 the time of his 18 November letter (599/5) it appears<br/>24 that he considered ..."<br/>25 And the sentence would continue:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>                 |

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| <p>1 "... it was not necessary for the purposes of<br/>2 the defence of the realm ...", et cetera. Is that<br/>3 right?<br/>4 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b><br/>5 Q. Over the page, paragraph 69, in the second line, instead<br/>6 of "specifically about reports of local boys", it should<br/>7 read "specifically about a report of local boys",<br/>8 singular rather than plural?<br/>9 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>10 Q. In the penultimate line in the same paragraph, the<br/>11 quotation "is it in my file" should read "is it on my<br/>12 file"?<br/>13 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>14 Q. Paragraph 70, in the second line, the word "any" between<br/>15 "paid" and "money" should be deleted?<br/>16 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b><br/>17 Q. And finally, on the next page, page 21, paragraph 74,<br/>18 instead of "The interview was", it should read "The<br/>19 interviews were"?<br/>20 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>21 Q. So those are all the amendments you have asked to be<br/>22 made to your statement, and now everybody knows what<br/>23 they are.<br/>24 Now, the first thing I would like to ask you,<br/>25 please, is to go to your paragraph 5 on page 1.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>  | <p>1 Paragraphs 5 and indeed 6 deal with the statutory<br/>2 framework by which MI5 is governed. Can you tell us<br/>3 just a little about that, please?<br/>4 <b>A. Yes. The statutory framework is largely contained in<br/>5 the Security Service Act 1989, which sets out the<br/>6 functions of MI5 as being, and I summarise, the<br/>7 protection of national security, the safeguarding of<br/>8 the UK's economic well-being against overseas threats,<br/>9 and acting in support of the police and other law<br/>10 enforcement authorities in the prevention and detection<br/>11 of serious crime.</b><br/>12 Q. The last of those functions, when did they, as it were,<br/>13 have effect from?<br/>14 <b>A. The last function, the serious crime function, took<br/>15 effect from 14 October 1996. Work under that function<br/>16 was suspended by the Service in 2006 in order that it<br/>17 could focus resources on counter-terrorism.</b><br/>18 Q. In your paragraphs 7 to 12, you deal with record keeping<br/>19 by MI5 and, as the statement is adduced, of course,<br/>20 anybody can read what you have to say. But can you<br/>21 confirm that in the past the Service's corporate record<br/>22 was exclusively hard copy and something you refer to as<br/>23 the hard copy corporate record?<br/>24 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b><br/>25 Q. That was a paper system and stored within a physical</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p> |
| <p>1 file structure?<br/>2 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b><br/>3 Q. There were two general types of hard copy files: first,<br/>4 personal files on individuals; and nonpersonal files on<br/>5 other subjects. Is that right?<br/>6 <b>A. That is correct, yes.</b><br/>7 Q. Personal files, did they contain information on<br/>8 individuals who were the subject of an MI5<br/>9 investigation?<br/>10 <b>A. They did, yes.</b><br/>11 Q. The digital age is what you come to deal with in<br/>12 paragraph 8, and do you say that in the digital age,<br/>13 when MI5 formally opens a file for a person or<br/>14 organisation -- this can go up on the screen, if you<br/>15 want to follow it with me. This is paragraph 8. I'm<br/>16 talking to the Relativity operator, so you understand:<br/>17 "In the digital age, when MI5 formally opens<br/>18 a 'file' for a person or organisation, it creates<br/>19 a record in its key information store (KIS). Such<br/>20 individuals and organisations are referred to within MI5<br/>21 as 'having a KIS record' and as 'subjects of interest'<br/>22 (SOIs)."<br/>23 <b>A. Correct.</b><br/>24 Q. Then do you deal with the legal requirements that have<br/>25 to be satisfied?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p> | <p>1 <b>A. Yes, I do.</b><br/>2 Q. And issues of review, retention and disposal of<br/>3 documentation -- paragraph 9?<br/>4 <b>A. That's correct. Yes, I do.</b><br/>5 Q. Can I just come to paragraph 12. I'm going to fast<br/>6 forward to paragraph 12 on page 4.<br/>7 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>8 Q. You here deal with file destruction. Can you confirm<br/>9 that this is how your statement reads, that from 1970<br/>10 until 1997, MI5's general policy was to retain its<br/>11 records indefinitely in case they were of relevance to<br/>12 the Service's future work?<br/>13 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b><br/>14 Q. That some file destruction took place between 1997 and<br/>15 2006, with files selected by reference to recording<br/>16 categories referring to organisations?<br/>17 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b><br/>18 Q. That from 1999, no file was destroyed without an eyes-on<br/>19 review of its contents in order to ensure that nothing<br/>20 was destroyed that was of historical interest?<br/>21 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>22 Q. And that file destruction ceased in 2006 due to pressure<br/>23 on resources, but work on file destruction policy<br/>24 resumed in 2016 on the creation of MI5's RRD -- that's<br/>25 your review, retention and disposal -- team. Is all of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>  |

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| <p>1 that correct?</p> <p>2 <b>A. That's all correct, yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. And then file destruction resumed in late 2018?</p> <p>4 <b>A. It did, yes. That's right.</b></p> <p>5 Q. With the service informing this inquiry of this</p> <p>6 in September last year, with the assurance that, until</p> <p>7 the end of the Westminster strand of the inquiry, MI5</p> <p>8 would only destroy files that had been reviewed for</p> <p>9 possible relevance to the inquiry's terms of reference.</p> <p>10 Is that correct?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes, again, that's correct. It is.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Now, can I come to your next heading, beginning at</p> <p>13 paragraph 13 on page 4, "MI5 policy in relation to</p> <p>14 records on high-profile individuals". Does MI5 monitor</p> <p>15 the private lives of prominent people, as a matter of</p> <p>16 routine?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, it doesn't, and it never has. We have never</b></p> <p>18 <b>investigated individuals simply because they have a high</b></p> <p>19 <b>profile. But, inevitably, there have been cases in</b></p> <p>20 <b>which someone with a high profile has been the subject</b></p> <p>21 <b>of investigation. Where that's the case, it's because</b></p> <p>22 <b>there's a reason to suspect that the individual poses</b></p> <p>23 <b>a threat to national security.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You say that the Service's investigations are limited by</p> <p>25 the Security Service Act 1989, to which you have already</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>                                       | <p>1 made reference?</p> <p>2 <b>A. That's right.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Paragraph 14. Tell us about the Service's activity, if</p> <p>4 any, towards any member of parliament who comes within</p> <p>5 the scope of a national security investigation?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Well, MI5 will only open an investigative file on</b></p> <p>7 <b>a member of parliament, or indeed on anybody else,</b></p> <p>8 <b>where, after carefully considering what it knows, it</b></p> <p>9 <b>judges that there's a need to protect national security</b></p> <p>10 <b>and that an investigation is proportionate to that need.</b></p> <p>11 <b>And in all those cases, particularly obviously where</b></p> <p>12 <b>a member of parliament is the subject of an</b></p> <p>13 <b>investigation, MI5 would adhere strictly to its</b></p> <p>14 <b>statutory obligation of political neutrality, which is</b></p> <p>15 <b>embodied in the 1989 Act.</b></p> <p>16 Q. In the past, you confirmed the file would take the form</p> <p>17 of a hard copy personal file, and in the present day it</p> <p>18 is a KIS record which would be created with the member</p> <p>19 of parliament as the subject of interest; is that right?</p> <p>20 <b>A. That's right. It is.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Paragraph 15, at the top of page 5. You say any</p> <p>22 deployment of MI5 investigative capability against</p> <p>23 a member of parliament is undertaken strictly in</p> <p>24 accordance with the law, and do you add that, in</p> <p>25 particular, the Investigatory Powers Act of 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p> |
| <p>1 stipulates that any targeted interception warrant or</p> <p>2 targeted examination warrant or targeted equipment</p> <p>3 interference warrant against an MP must be approved by</p> <p>4 both the Prime Minister and a judicial commissioner?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Looking at your paragraph 16, please, additionally,</p> <p>7 might a personal file in the past or a KIS record today</p> <p>8 be opened for an MP who is a potential or known target</p> <p>9 of a hostile state or of a proscribed organisation?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, that's right. A file on an individual is not</b></p> <p>11 <b>necessarily an adverse file. So files might be</b></p> <p>12 <b>created -- the obvious case is where an individual is</b></p> <p>13 <b>a potential target of a terrorist group or may be</b></p> <p>14 <b>susceptible to be approached by foreign intelligence</b></p> <p>15 <b>services for information, and in those cases, if MI5 has</b></p> <p>16 <b>given advice or made assessments, it will need a file to</b></p> <p>17 <b>house those papers.</b></p> <p>18 Q. So the file will be used to record protective security</p> <p>19 advice or measures provided to the MP, as well as</p> <p>20 assessments related to their personal safety?</p> <p>21 <b>A. That's right.</b></p> <p>22 Q. That's by way of distinction, or can be by way of</p> <p>23 distinction, to the category of file which is used for</p> <p>24 investigative purposes?</p> <p>25 <b>A. That's right, yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p> | <p>1 Q. What's the position -- your paragraph 17 -- if the</p> <p>2 subject of an investigative file becomes an MP?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Then if the investigation is continuing, the position</b></p> <p>4 <b>is, as I've already stated, in terms of the constraints</b></p> <p>5 <b>on which -- under which the Service would act in</b></p> <p>6 <b>conducting the investigation. If the investigation</b></p> <p>7 <b>finishes before the individual becomes an MP, the</b></p> <p>8 <b>essential difference is that the file will then be</b></p> <p>9 <b>retained for eventual release to the National Archive</b></p> <p>10 <b>because the individual will be sufficiently prominent</b></p> <p>11 <b>for operational selection policy 8 to catch it for</b></p> <p>12 <b>eventual release.</b></p> <p>13 Q. From paragraph 18 through to paragraph 28, you deal with</p> <p>14 the searches, a summary of the searches and the</p> <p>15 disclosure made by MI5 to this inquiry; is that right?</p> <p>16 <b>A. It is, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Can I invite your attention, please, to paragraph 23?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Having dealt with the searches that were made, were they</p> <p>20 reviewed by MI5 and recorded in a comprehensive table on</p> <p>21 8 November 2017?</p> <p>22 <b>A. That's right.</b></p> <p>23 Q. The table sets out the details of each result, including</p> <p>24 the nature, date and a summary content of each file,</p> <p>25 document or other result; is that correct?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>   |

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| <p>1 <b>A. That's right.</b></p> <p>2 Q. The completed table, you can confirm, was provided to</p> <p>3 counsel to the inquiry and to the solicitor to the</p> <p>4 inquiry in order to assist them in selecting files,</p> <p>5 documents and other results for examination?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, I confirm that.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Were they also provided with additional documents</p> <p>8 relating to previous relevant reviews, which included</p> <p>9 the historic institutional abuse inquiry and</p> <p>10 Operation Midland?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes, they were.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Were the table and those additional documents made</p> <p>13 available to the chair, Professor Jay, who attended at</p> <p>14 Thames House, MI5's headquarters, with the inquiry legal</p> <p>15 team on 4 July 2018?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes, they were.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Your paragraph 24, please. Was counsel to the inquiry</p> <p>18 also given access to all of the material returned from</p> <p>19 the searches and were visits made to Thames House on</p> <p>20 several occasions in order to review the files that the</p> <p>21 inquiry deemed relevant and selected for examination?</p> <p>22 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did you understand that MI5's review of the results</p> <p>24 identified that some of the material contained</p> <p>25 information suggesting that certain individuals may have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p> | <p>1 committed child sexual abuse?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Do you add this: no material was found to indicate</p> <p>4 either the existence of a Westminster paedophile network</p> <p>5 or of any attempts to cover up or suppress information</p> <p>6 about the existence of such a network?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Finally in this section, paragraph 26, please.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Has MI5 also been provided with documents from the</p> <p>11 Cabinet Office records that were identified by that</p> <p>12 office as relevant to the inquiry's work and had already</p> <p>13 been reviewed by counsel to the inquiry?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Was it thought that the Cabinet Office documents</p> <p>16 originated with MI5 and were therefore passed to MI5 at</p> <p>17 the Cabinet Office's request so that they could be</p> <p>18 reviewed for national security sensitivity?</p> <p>19 <b>A. That is my understanding, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. That review was carried out?</p> <p>21 <b>A. It was.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Now, I'm going to skip over the next section in your</p> <p>23 statement, please, to go directly to paragraph 45. No,</p> <p>24 I think we will come back to this later. Let's deal</p> <p>25 with Peter Morrison to begin with. Let's go, please, to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>               |
| <p>1 page 15, paragraph 46.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Here you deal with historic allegations of potential</p> <p>4 child sexual abuse involving Peter Morrison; is that</p> <p>5 correct?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I do, that's right.</b></p> <p>7 Q. It begins at paragraph 46 in your statement and ends at</p> <p>8 paragraph 66.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. You make the point in paragraph 47 that, by way of</p> <p>11 background, on 3 June 2015, Peter Wanless and</p> <p>12 Richard Whittam published a document entitled</p> <p>13 "Supplement to the Wanless/Whittam Review" which</p> <p>14 referred to MI5 awareness of an allegation regarding an</p> <p>15 unnamed member of parliament, and this document was</p> <p>16 partly based on their review of documents provided to</p> <p>17 them by the Cabinet Office in spring 2015, following the</p> <p>18 conclusion of the Wanless/Whittam review. You go on to</p> <p>19 quote paragraph 6 of their supplementary report, which</p> <p>20 reads this way:</p> <p>21 "To give one striking example, in response to claims</p> <p>22 from two sources that a named member of parliament 'has</p> <p>23 a penchant for small boys', matters conclude with</p> <p>24 acceptance of his word that he does not and the</p> <p>25 observation that 'at the present stage ... the risks of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>  | <p>1 political embarrassment to the government is rather</p> <p>2 greater than the security danger'. The risk to children</p> <p>3 is not considered at all."</p> <p>4 And then reference is made to a letter we are going</p> <p>5 to see shortly from Sir Antony Duff to</p> <p>6 Sir Robert Armstrong of 4 November 1986?</p> <p>7 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You point out in your paragraph 48 that the member of</p> <p>9 parliament referred to is Peter Morrison, because that</p> <p>10 has clearly been in the public domain, and you point out</p> <p>11 the correspondence referred to is a letter from, as</p> <p>12 indeed it is, Sir Antony Duff, who was then</p> <p>13 director-general of MI5, to Sir Robert Armstrong,</p> <p>14 Cabinet Secretary. Can we please look at that document?</p> <p>15 You have it?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I do, yes. I have got it open.</b></p> <p>17 Q. I just have to make sure everybody here can see it as</p> <p>18 well. For the chair and panel, it is tab 5, and for the</p> <p>19 Relativity operator it is INQ004040. Let me read it:</p> <p>20 "Dear Robert.</p> <p>21 "Your letter of 13 January referred to the case of</p> <p>22 Peter Morrison MP.</p> <p>23 "The stories about him persist. A member of my</p> <p>24 staff was told last month by Donald Stewart, the</p> <p>25 Conservative Party agent for Westminster, that he heard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p> |



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| <p>1 from two sources that Morrison has a penchant for small<br/>2 boys."<br/>3 That's what Wanless and Whittam referred to in their<br/>4 supplementary report, I think you will agree?<br/>5 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>6 Q. "He gave no details nor the date of any alleged<br/>7 activities and didn't reveal his sources. He gave the<br/>8 impression of having received the information recently,<br/>9 but this might simply reflect the fact that Morrison has<br/>10 only recently taken up his position in the Conservative<br/>11 Central Office and has therefore only recently come into<br/>12 Stewart's orbit. The information itself could still be<br/>13 old.<br/>14 "The position is therefore that we are still not<br/>15 clear whether the stories about Morrison are<br/>16 a reflection of the 1983 rumour or are based on<br/>17 something more recent. It does seem rather important to<br/>18 seek to resolve the matter, one way or another, if<br/>19 possible. There must, I suppose, be a real possibility<br/>20 that Morrison will be a candidate for office again at<br/>21 some stage and we shall then be confronted by the need<br/>22 to consider these stories in the security context. It<br/>23 would be preferable, if possible, to dispose of them (or<br/>24 confirm them) before then. The first step would be to<br/>25 talk to Stewart."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p> | <p>1 Then to the next page:<br/>2 "At the present stage, however, and especially in<br/>3 the light of the Jeffrey Archer case, the risk of<br/>4 political embarrassment to the government is rather<br/>5 greater than the security danger. I wonder if, as<br/>6 a first step, the Chief Whip might think it appropriate<br/>7 to question Stewart? The Security Service could do this<br/>8 if necessary and we do have the impression that Stewart<br/>9 meant his information to reach our ears, but I would<br/>10 just [as] soon that we did not get directly involved for<br/>11 time being."<br/>12 So that's that letter. I want to just pick up your<br/>13 statement and I will ask you some further questions<br/>14 about your views about all of this.<br/>15 I think you found a series of other documents --<br/>16 I say "you", not you personally, but a series of five<br/>17 documents was also found in MI5's corporate record which<br/>18 was identified by counsel to this inquiry as having<br/>19 relevance. We have seen one of them. Can you go,<br/>20 please, to the next tab in your file, tab 6. Can we put<br/>21 up, please, on our screen INQ004036. This is the next<br/>22 one in time. It is dated 11 November 1986. Can you<br/>23 confirm it is an internal memo?<br/>24 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b><br/>25 Q. It reads:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p> |
| <p>1 "A friend told me on November 10 ..."<br/>2 The 11th seems to have been struck through and<br/>3 overwritten with a zero for the second "1", November 10:<br/>4 "... that there had been a newspaper report ..."<br/>5 And we see there is a typewritten asterisk. If we<br/>6 look down the page, that's a reference to The Star of<br/>7 3 November 1986:<br/>8 "... since the Archer resignation to the effect that<br/>9 another prominent Tory was under investigation by the<br/>10 police because of his interest in small boys."<br/>11 There is another asterisk in the left margin which,<br/>12 at the foot of the memo, reads:<br/>13 "This is what I was told -- but the press cutting<br/>14 does not in fact refer to small boys."<br/>15 So the newspaper report, so the writer of this memo,<br/>16 you will confirm, who is Eliza Manningham-Buller --<br/>17 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>18 Q. -- is reporting that a friend told her on November 10<br/>19 there had been a newspaper report, which turns out to be<br/>20 The Star, on 3 November, since the Archer resignation to<br/>21 the effect that another prominent Tory was under<br/>22 investigation by the police because of his interest in<br/>23 small boys. That's what she was told, although the<br/>24 press cutting doesn't in fact refer to small boys. She<br/>25 continues:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>              | <p>1 "As a result, Peter Morrison was being 'hounded' by<br/>2 the press, representatives of which had recently<br/>3 followed him from London to Islay. Morrison had<br/>4 vehemently denied to another friend of [hers] that there<br/>5 was any truth in the story."<br/>6 So that's the second document that you have been<br/>7 shown.<br/>8 <b>A. That's right.</b><br/>9 Q. The next in this series, please, is your tab 7, and our<br/>10 inquiry reference INQ004043. There are three aspects to<br/>11 this particular document. First of all, we see it is<br/>12 another internal memo from Eliza Manningham-Buller dated<br/>13 13 November, so two days after the last; is that<br/>14 correct?<br/>15 <b>A. That's right.</b><br/>16 Q. The typewritten text reads:<br/>17 "I saw Peter Morrison and his father last night.<br/>18 Unprompted, they told me separately that the press had<br/>19 for the past two weeks been camping on Peter's doorstep<br/>20 and seeking his comments. Peter told me that he had<br/>21 first learned of the allegation five years ago ..."<br/>22 Which would mean, as it were, 1981, is about the<br/>23 period that's being discussed:<br/>24 "Peter told me that he had first learned of<br/>25 the allegation five years ago when Norman Tebbit had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 asked him about it. The story (he did not specify what<br/>2 it was) had been resurrected in the wake of<br/>3 Jeffrey Archer's resignation. The Prime Minister was<br/>4 aware of it and was supporting Peter. Peter hoped the<br/>5 press would publish something so that he could sue and<br/>6 nail the lies that were being spread about him."<br/>7 There are two other annotations on the face of this<br/>8 internal memo to which I will return. At the top:<br/>9 "CO informed by telephone. Sir RA has taken no<br/>10 action yet in DG's letter dated 4 November 1986."<br/>11 At the foot of the page, other handwriting:<br/>12 "Subject to agreement from F, I would write as in<br/>13 the attached."<br/>14 And then the next word, at least as far as I'm<br/>15 concerned, is illegible but there appears to be<br/>16 a signature or at least an initial or two beneath that.<br/>17 So that's the next document in the series.<br/>18 Then, please, for you, tab 8, and for us INQ004037,<br/>19 please. This is a letter from Sir Antony Duff,<br/>20 director-general at the time, to Robert Armstrong,<br/>21 Cabinet Secretary, dated 18 November of that year:<br/>22 "I wrote to you on 4 November about the stories<br/>23 about Peter Morrison. We now hear that the press are<br/>24 following Morrison about, and camping on his doorstep,<br/>25 in the hope of obtaining some comment from him on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>   | <p>1 allegations of some years ago.<br/>2 "Morrison has said privately that he hopes the press<br/>3 will publish something, so that he can sue, and nail the<br/>4 stories. He also says that both Mr Tebbit (who told him<br/>5 of the allegations when they first appeared) and the<br/>6 Prime Minister are aware of the matter.<br/>7 "In the circumstances, there would seem to be little<br/>8 point in carrying this further."<br/>9 Then, finally, the fifth document, I think it is,<br/>10 dated 17 December, INQ004041, tab 9 for you and the<br/>11 chair and panel. This is a letter from Sir Robert<br/>12 Armstrong to Antony Duff, dated 17 December in type, but<br/>13 with a handwritten 18 December underneath. Might that<br/>14 be the date of receipt, do you know?<br/>15 <b>A. I think that's right.</b><br/>16 Q. "My dear Tony.<br/>17 "Thank you very much for your letter of 18 November<br/>18 about Peter Morrison.<br/>19 "In the circumstances, I agree that there is little<br/>20 point in carrying the matter further."<br/>21 So those are the documents that you have referred<br/>22 to.<br/>23 In paragraph 50 of your statement, INQ004032, you<br/>24 say that you wish to provide some context to the<br/>25 documents exhibited. Please tell us what you have to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>   |
| <p>1 say in those paragraphs, and I will ask you some<br/>2 supplementary questions?<br/>3 <b>A. Well, I recap in this paragraph slightly on what you<br/>4 have already covered, but recapping, we were made aware<br/>5 of the allegations relating to Morrison<br/>6 in November 1986, the source, the immediate source,<br/>7 being Donald Stewart, the Conservative Party agent for<br/>8 Westminster, who had informed a member of MI5 about the<br/>9 allegations. The corporate record, that is the letter,<br/>10 of 4 November, 5999/2, makes clear that Sir Antony Duff,<br/>11 the director-general, was unclear whether those<br/>12 allegations were new or identical to similar allegations<br/>13 that had been made in 1983.</b><br/>14 Q. Let me pause you there. Because we have the statement<br/>15 up on screen, but it is probably easier if we look at<br/>16 the documents while you're explaining them to us rather<br/>17 than your witness statement. Can we put up INQ004040,<br/>18 tab 5. Sorry to cut across you. Carry on, please?<br/>19 <b>A. That's fine. Sir Antony Duff, in that letter, makes it<br/>20 clear he is uncertain whether the allegations are new or<br/>21 a rehearsal of the older stories about Morrison that<br/>22 circulated previously. There's a reference in that<br/>23 letter, paragraph 3, to the 1983 rumour.<br/>24 I have been made aware of other correspondence which<br/>25 you may be coming on to from Cabinet Office files.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p> | <p>1 Q. Yes. Let's look at that. It's CAB000126. You should<br/>2 have it and the chair and panel will have it in<br/>3 divider 15.<br/>4 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>5 Q. I will just wait for the Relativity operator to get it<br/>6 up on screen. Is this the letter you're talking about?<br/>7 <b>A. It is, 6 January 1986.</b><br/>8 Q. Let's just read that, and then you can tell us of its<br/>9 relevance, because, again, it's from Antony Duff to<br/>10 Robert Armstrong. It's eight months or so before the<br/>11 series of letters and memos we have been looking at:<br/>12 "You may recall that, in November 1983, you told my<br/>13 predecessor that you had heard from the Chief Whip that<br/>14 rumours were circulating to the effect that<br/>15 Peter Morrison MP had been picked up by the police for<br/>16 importuning. Neither the DPP's office nor<br/>17 Special Branch were able to substantiate the rumours at<br/>18 that time.<br/>19 "I think you will wish to know that a member of my<br/>20 staff was told by a friend a couple of months ago that<br/>21 Morrison had been caught soliciting in a public lavatory<br/>22 and had been lucky not to be charged -- date<br/>23 unspecified; and more recently, a second friend told the<br/>24 same member of staff that Lord Cranborne had been<br/>25 telling the story quite openly to a large group of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p> |

1 people. In other words, the rumours persist and have  
 2 become more widespread.  
 3 "On this second occasion, it was said that a Labour  
 4 MP had been charged with a similar offence at the same  
 5 time. It appears that Dr Roger Thomas MP for Carmarthen  
 6 was indeed arrested at the end of September 1983. It  
 7 seems probable, therefore, that the current rumours are  
 8 based on the original 1983 story and not necessarily on  
 9 a repetition."  
 10 If we therefore go back to the 4 November letter  
 11 which you are telling us about behind your tab 5,  
 12 INQ004040 --  
 13 **A. That's right. So that letter refers, again, to the 1983**  
 14 **rumour, and Sir Antony says it's not clear whether the**  
 15 **latest story, the one reported by his member of staff,**  
 16 **are a reflection of those rumours or that rumour or**  
 17 **based on something more recent. He doesn't analyse the**  
 18 **rumours against the latest information, so there's**  
 19 **obviously, on the face of it, a difference between**  
 20 **importuning and a penchant for small boys. But he**  
 21 **appears to be uncertain whether it is a new thing.**  
 22 Q. Or just repetition of the old rumour?  
 23 **A. That's right.**  
 24 Q. Your paragraph 52, and we don't need to go to the  
 25 statement, because otherwise we will be chopping and

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1 **A. Yes, today, as a matter of formal policy, MI5 does**  
 2 **report all allegations of this sort to the police and,**  
 3 **if the same information had come to MI5 today, it would**  
 4 **be passed to the police.**  
 5 Q. Thank you. Going now to your paragraph 54 in your  
 6 statement, under the heading "The role of MI5 in  
 7 relation to these allegations", you say:  
 8 "The incident occurred before MI5's functions were  
 9 given a statutory basis by the Security Service Act  
 10 1989."  
 11 **A. That's right.**  
 12 Q. But at the relevant time, MI5's remit was still governed  
 13 by the Maxwell Fyfe Directive introduced in 1952, the  
 14 relevant section of which said that MI5's "task is the  
 15 defence of the realm as a whole from external and  
 16 internal dangers arising from attempts of espionage and  
 17 sabotage or from actions which may be judged to be  
 18 subversive of the state."  
 19 You say --  
 20 **A. That's correct.**  
 21 Q. "A particular function introduced shortly before the  
 22 implementation of [that] directive and continued after  
 23 its introduction was that the director-general would  
 24 inform the Prime Minister of information relating to  
 25 ministers or persons who might be candidates for

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1 changing between documents, but do you say there's no  
 2 material on MI5's corporate record to suggest that the  
 3 1986 allegations were ever passed to the police?  
 4 **A. That's right.**  
 5 Q. Looking at what you say, and of course we are looking at  
 6 an historical context rather than perhaps what might  
 7 happen today, and we will come back to that later, do  
 8 you think there was any requirement at the time to refer  
 9 the matter to the police?  
 10 **A. Well, that's an interesting way to put the question.**  
 11 **I think the way Sir Antony appears to have approached**  
 12 **the issue is by regarding it purely as a matter relevant**  
 13 **to the security of the nation, and that's perhaps**  
 14 **a reflection of MI5's functions at that time. My**  
 15 **reading of the correspondence is that that was all he**  
 16 **was considering. It's a matter of regret that no**  
 17 **consideration was given at the time to the criminal**  
 18 **aspects of the matter because if these rumours were in**  
 19 **any way true, then ideally they would have been passed**  
 20 **to the police so the police could investigate them.**  
 21 Q. You will come to MI5's child and adult at risk  
 22 protection policy, which was recently revised. I'm  
 23 looking at your paragraph 53. Is there anything to be  
 24 drawn from that which can assist us, at least, in how  
 25 MI5 might treat the matter today?

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1 ministerial appointment that was judged to be relevant  
 2 to the security of the state."  
 3 Is that right?  
 4 **A. It is, yes.**  
 5 Q. "The purpose of that arrangement was to ensure that the  
 6 Prime Minister was properly informed when making  
 7 decisions relating to appointments to ministerial  
 8 posts."  
 9 **A. That's correct.**  
 10 Q. It was, you say in paragraph 56, for that reason that  
 11 MI5 had an interest in the information relating to  
 12 Morrison. As a matter of history, in November 1986 he  
 13 had already served as Minister of State for Employment,  
 14 from June 1983 to September 1985, and Minister of State  
 15 for Trade and Industry, September 1985  
 16 to September 1986. You say it is likely that in these  
 17 posts Morrison would have had access to sensitive  
 18 information?  
 19 **A. Yes.**  
 20 Q. Help us with what you say in paragraph 57.  
 21 **A. The particular concern that MI5 would have had on**  
 22 **receipt of the information about Morrison was that, if**  
 23 **the allegations were true, they might render him liable**  
 24 **to blackmail or to other sorts of pressure imposed by**  
 25 **hostile foreign intelligence services, and that concern**

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1 you can see articulated in the letter of 4 November --

2 Q. Pause there, if you would?

3 A. -- where Sir Antony --

4 Q. Pause there, I'm going to have it put on screen again.

5 INQ004040. This is paragraph 3 of that letter, your

6 tab 5.

7 A. **That's right. About halfway down the paragraph:**

8 **"There must, I suppose, be a real possibility that**

9 **Morrison will be a candidate for office again at some**

10 **stage, and we should then be confronted by the need to**

11 **consider these stories in the security context. It**

12 **would be preferable, if possible, to dispose of them (or**

13 **confirm them) before then."**

14 **So that's the security consideration which**

15 **I understand and believe has prompted Sir Antony to**

16 **write to the Cabinet Secretary. The point being, MI5**

17 **would want to understand the allegations, what were**

18 **they, and be able to make an assessment of their**

19 **reliability in order that they could properly brief the**

20 **Prime Minister should she be considering reappointing**

21 **Morrison to a ministerial position.**

22 Q. You say, as such -- I'm reading halfway down your

23 paragraph 57:

24 "As such, MI5 would have wished to understand the

25 nature and reliability of the allegations about

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1 Morrison, in order to inform an assessment of whether

2 allowing him access to sensitive material might pose

3 a risk to national security. If such a risk had been

4 identified, MI5's role would have been to brief the

5 Prime Minister so she was aware of the facts and could

6 make an informed decision about whether to reappoint

7 Morrison to a ministerial position."

8 So it was all focused towards the risk he posed to

9 national security?

10 A. **That he might pose, yes.**

11 Q. Now, one of the proposals in the 4 November letter at

12 the bottom -- we can see it in the last line -- is:

13 "The first step would be to talk to Stewart."

14 And then to the second page. Slightly

15 contradictory:

16 "I wonder if, as a first step, the Chief Whip might

17 think it appropriate to question Stewart?"

18 So it looks as if the suggestion that

19 Sir Antony Duff was proposing to Sir Robert Armstrong

20 was to have Stewart, who was the source of

21 the information, or at least the intermediary source, to

22 question Stewart and to ask the Chief Whip to do it:

23 "The Security Service could do this if necessary and

24 we do have the impression that Stewart meant his

25 information to reach our ears, but I would just [as]

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1 soon that we did not get directly involved for the time

2 being."

3 Clearly, that never happened?

4 A. **That's right. It appears not to have done.**

5 Q. Can you understand Sir Antony Duff's reluctance for the

6 Security Service to become involved and to have Stewart

7 questioned, if questioned at all, by the Chief Whip?

8 A. **Well, I think -- it's difficult to know for sure, but my**

9 **experience of the office would lead me to suggest that**

10 **his focus was on getting answers to the questions, and,**

11 **by implication, he clearly thought that an interview by**

12 **the Chief Whip would be as likely, if not more likely,**

13 **than an MI5 interview to produce co-operation from**

14 **Stewart and to get the necessary information. If that's**

15 **a correct assessment, the information was obtained by**

16 **that means, MI5 could do its job as we have previously**

17 **discussed.**

18 Q. As far as you're concerned, would it have made any

19 difference whether, at this point, Peter Morrison was

20 a minister of state, as against, for example, being the

21 deputy chair of the Conservative Party? In other words,

22 would it make a difference, from your perspective,

23 whether he was a member of the government or not?

24 A. **I think clearly, from a security perspective, the**

25 **concern would be, was he in a position, or might he be**

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1 **appointed to a position, in which he would have access**

2 **to classified material. If so, then MI5 would need to**

3 **be in a position to brief the Prime Minister.**

4 Q. If he didn't have access to sensitive material, then the

5 same risk didn't apply?

6 A. **Then there wouldn't be a security requirement, unless**

7 **there was a possibility of him being appointed to such**

8 **a position in future.**

9 Q. Can we go, please, to the document behind tab 7, which

10 we looked at a little earlier, which is the

11 13 November 1986 internal memo, INQ004043.

12 A. **Yes.**

13 Q. I said I would ask you about the handwritten

14 annotations, and now is that time. Top right:

15 "CO informed by telephone. Sir RA

16 [Robert Armstrong, clearly] has taken no action yet on

17 DG's letter dated 4 November 1986."

18 Do you understand what the initials CO are, or the

19 letters?

20 A. **I assume that is Cabinet Office.**

21 Q. So "[Cabinet Office] informed by telephone. Sir RA has

22 taken no action yet on DG's letter dated 4 November".

23 Looking at the typewritten text, can you help us

24 with what it might be the Cabinet Office was informed of

25 by phone?

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1 **A. I assume that the handwritten annotation, the top one,**  
 2 **indicates that the information typed in the memo has**  
 3 **been passed orally to the Cabinet Office.**  
 4 Q. We see, and I suspect, therefore, you haven't seen, any  
 5 written response by Sir Robert Armstrong to  
 6 Sir Antony Duff's letter of 4 November?  
 7 **A. There's certainly nothing on the M15 corporate records.**  
 8 Q. So the only reaction that we have on the face of  
 9 the material until much later is this annotation that  
 10 the Cabinet Office have been informed by phone,  
 11 presumably of, as you say, the information in this memo,  
 12 and Sir Robert has taken no action yet on the DG's  
 13 letter dated 4 November, which rather supports the  
 14 notion that he hadn't written any response to it, or at  
 15 least hadn't reacted to it in any other way?  
 16 **A. That's right. Yes.**  
 17 Q. Now, at the top of this particular memo, we see "DG, F  
 18 to see and F2". Can you help us with all of that?  
 19 **A. Yes. DG is obviously the director-general. Director F**  
 20 **was the director who was responsible for overseeing the**  
 21 **Service's work on domestic subversion. And F2 would be**  
 22 **a deputy director working under the director.**  
 23 Q. So when we see the annotation at the foot of the letter,  
 24 or the memo, "Subject to agreement from F, I would write  
 25 as the attached", whose sign-off is that, do you think?

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1 **A. I can only work from the paperwork.**  
 2 Q. But I do want to ask you about something we see at the  
 3 top of this particular letter. Just to the right of  
 4 the crest and after the redaction label, do you see  
 5 "EMB" twice in capitals with the date 3 November 1986?  
 6 **A. Yes.**  
 7 Q. First of all, what -- I'm sure you weren't around in  
 8 1986, but can you help us at all with what that, on the  
 9 face of it, endorsement, or at least the initials with  
 10 the date, signify?  
 11 **A. The first "EMB", which is struck through, I would take**  
 12 **to be an indication that this has been copied -- this**  
 13 **copy of the letter that's been sent out has been copied**  
 14 **to Eliza, she's struck it through as having seen it and**  
 15 **then initialled it "EMB, 3/11/86".**  
 16 Q. Except there's a problem with the date, isn't there? It  
 17 predates by one day the actual date of the letter?  
 18 **A. Yes, so my assumption would be that the letter was dated**  
 19 **and went out on the 4th, but the internal copy was**  
 20 **circulated on the 3rd. It may have been put together**  
 21 **late on the 3rd.**  
 22 Q. Yes.  
 23 **A. And Eliza has seen it on that day.**  
 24 Q. Or she's made a mistake and misdated it?  
 25 **A. Yes. That's always a possibility.**

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1 Might it be Sir Antony Duff?  
 2 **A. I'm certain it is, yes.**  
 3 Q. Eliza Manningham-Buller was the author of two memoranda.  
 4 Can we just go back briefly, please, to the original  
 5 4 November letter, INQ004040, because I want to ask you  
 6 about something you say in your paragraph 60. I think  
 7 you have rather come to the assumption that the member  
 8 of staff who was given the information by Donald Stewart  
 9 about he having heard from two sources that Morrison has  
 10 a penchant for small boys, you rather assume to be Eliza  
 11 Manningham-Buller herself?  
 12 **A. I'm assuming that, but I have to say it is an inference**  
 13 **drawn from the fact that she subsequently wrote two**  
 14 **internal memos about Morrison, and there is no other**  
 15 **indication on the corporate record that any other member**  
 16 **of staff was receiving information about Morrison.**  
 17 Q. I think you have seen her witness statement, have you?  
 18 **A. I have, yes.**  
 19 Q. She tends to indicate that she's not the member of  
 20 staff. I'm not being critical, but I think from her  
 21 point of view she wasn't that member of staff. Does  
 22 that appear to be the case?  
 23 **A. I have to confess, she would be in a better position**  
 24 **than me to comment.**  
 25 Q. Of course.

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1 Q. What would be the purpose of her having seen this letter  
 2 either before it went out and was finally dated or at  
 3 some other point in time? What would be the purpose of  
 4 her seeing it?  
 5 **A. It's difficult for me to comment on that. But it may be**  
 6 **that the director-general wanted to keep her in the**  
 7 **picture, so if she had had some conversation with him**  
 8 **about Morrison or he was aware of a connection, he may**  
 9 **have wanted her to know that he'd written out in these**  
 10 **terms. She was also working in the secretariat at the**  
 11 **time. I don't know what her functions were there. But**  
 12 **it may be, in the ordinary course of her secretariat**  
 13 **duties, the director-general thought she needed to see**  
 14 **this letter.**  
 15 Q. Does it appear to you that she had any part to play or  
 16 would have had any part to play in the decision making?  
 17 We will come back to the 18 November letter in a minute.  
 18 But did she have any direct part to play or would she  
 19 likely have had any direct part to play in the decision  
 20 making about what was to happen?  
 21 **A. I think it's most unlikely. I would expect, where**  
 22 **decisions are made by the Service and records kept on**  
 23 **corporate record, that they would give a pretty clear**  
 24 **indication of who was contributing to or making**  
 25 **decisions, and there's no indication that I can see that**

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1 **Eliza has made or contributed to these decisions.**  
 2 Q. So her role, and I think you say this elsewhere, was  
 3 limited to reporting internally about the allegations  
 4 she'd heard from others, including Peter Morrison  
 5 himself? You say that, if you want to refer to it,  
 6 I think at paragraph 63?  
 7 **A. That's right. Working from the corporate record, that**  
 8 **does seem to be the case.**  
 9 Q. Can I ask you this, though --  
 10 **A. I think --**  
 11 Q. Carry on, please.  
 12 **A. I was going to say that, from a Service perspective,**  
 13 **that's exactly what would have been expected of a member**  
 14 **of staff: if they heard of something that could be**  
 15 **of security significance, they would be expected to**  
 16 **report it up. And, as Eliza was working in the**  
 17 **secretariat and this was a matter concerning a member of**  
 18 **parliament, I would have expected her to have reported**  
 19 **it up to the director-general.**  
 20 Q. Can we go back, then, please, first of all, to the memo  
 21 of 13 November, INQ004043, tab 7.  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. She was reporting, on 13 November, two important things,  
 24 really, in the last four lines of that memo. First of  
 25 all, that the Prime Minister was aware of the rumour, or

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1 she's passed to him as underlying the reason why nothing  
 2 was going to be done?  
 3 **A. Well, there's clearly a correlation, but, on the first**  
 4 **point, the Prime Minister being aware, the DG is**  
 5 **obviously writing to the Cabinet Secretary. So the**  
 6 **Cabinet Secretary would be in a position to check that**  
 7 **and, if he had doubts on the score, come back on it.**  
 8 **Secondly, you say he relied on Eliza's reasoning as**  
 9 **a reason for doing nothing. I think I would qualify**  
 10 **that by saying relied on it as a reason not for pursuing**  
 11 **the Security investigation.**  
 12 Q. Do you accept that, on the face of it -- and of course  
 13 you're not personally involved and you're giving  
 14 evidence as a corporate witness, but do you agree, on  
 15 the face of it, certainly to the extent that the  
 16 information that Eliza Manningham-Buller imported to  
 17 Sir Antony Duff relies upon what Peter Morrison himself  
 18 said to her, his word was simply taken as read, and what  
 19 he said was accepted rather than enquired into?  
 20 **A. Looking at the bald paperwork, there does seem to be**  
 21 **a chain running from Morrison through Eliza to the**  
 22 **director-general to the Cabinet Secretary. As I say,**  
 23 **a key strand in the reasoning is that the Prime Minister**  
 24 **was aware of the allegations and supportive of Morrison**  
 25 **and, I say again, if the Cabinet Secretary had any**

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1 rumours, and was supporting him. That's the first  
 2 thing. And, second, that he, Morrison, hoped the press  
 3 would publish something so that he could sue and nail  
 4 the lies that were being spread about him. So there  
 5 were two important bits of information that she passed  
 6 on as Morrison having imparted to her personally. Is  
 7 that correct?  
 8 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 9 Q. If we go to the decision letter, if you like, of  
 10 18 November, your tab 8, our INQ004037, do you agree  
 11 that when we look at it, really, Sir Antony Duff is  
 12 totally relying upon the information that was received  
 13 a few days earlier from Eliza Manningham-Buller as being  
 14 the reasoning underlying the decision in effect to do  
 15 nothing. Paragraph 2:  
 16 "Morrison has said privately that he hopes the press  
 17 will publish something, so that he can sue, and nail the  
 18 stories. He also says that both Mr Tebbit (who told him  
 19 of the allegations when they first appeared) and the  
 20 Prime Minister are aware of the matter."  
 21 So, in essence, do you agree, if you compare the  
 22 reasoning in the letter of 18 November with the  
 23 information that Eliza Manningham-Buller passed on to  
 24 Sir Antony Duff via her memo of 13 November,  
 25 Sir Antony Duff has relied totally on the information

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1 **doubts on that score, he was in a very good position to**  
 2 **check them.**  
 3 Q. I can see that. But wasn't the obvious route, rather  
 4 than writing a letter of decision, or at least  
 5 suggesting in the circumstances -- Sir Antony Duff's  
 6 paragraph 3 -- that there would seem to be little point  
 7 in carrying this further, shouldn't an enquiry have been  
 8 made of Sir Robert Armstrong to enquire of  
 9 the Prime Minister whether in fact that was true, that,  
 10 first, she was aware of it and, secondly, supporting  
 11 him, before Sir Antony wrote a letter in these terms?  
 12 **A. I don't know what the proper protocol would have been,**  
 13 **but if I had been the Cabinet Secretary receiving this**  
 14 **letter, I would be immediately alert to the reference**  
 15 **"the Prime Minister's knowledge and support". And if**  
 16 **I felt any concern on that score, I would query it**  
 17 **myself.**  
 18 Q. What about the part of the information that she gave  
 19 Sir Antony Duff which relied totally on Peter Morrison's  
 20 honesty? Was that not a matter, do you think, looking  
 21 back, that might have been a topic of enquiry?  
 22 **A. I think Eliza, as I read the internal memo, was passing**  
 23 **on -- simply passing on what Morrison had told her.**  
 24 **It's the director-general who had to decide what to do**  
 25 **about that. He clearly had reached the point of view**

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| <p>1 that it was not necessary to conduct a security<br/>                 2 investigation. I say in my statement why I think that<br/>                 3 that is the case. If -- you may be coming on to this.<br/>                 4 I don't want to pre-empt.<br/>                 5 Q. No, you tell us, if you have it in mind.<br/>                 6 A. The first point is, if the Prime Minister was aware and<br/>                 7 the Cabinet Secretary could query this if there was any<br/>                 8 doubt, and particularly, if she was aware and supportive<br/>                 9 of Morrison, then it's very difficult to see what<br/>                 10 requirement there would have been for MI5, from<br/>                 11 a security perspective, to conduct any sort of<br/>                 12 investigation.<br/>                 13 The point of an investigation would be to brief the<br/>                 14 Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister knew of<br/>                 15 the allegations, was not particularly, on the face of<br/>                 16 it, concerned about them, if this is a true account of<br/>                 17 the situation, then there would be little point in MI5<br/>                 18 investigating them further. She was in a position to<br/>                 19 make any decision about ministerial appointments that<br/>                 20 she might wish to make.<br/>                 21 The second thing, and this draws on the<br/>                 22 interpolation of paragraph 65 that you mentioned earlier<br/>                 23 taken from my letter of correction. My reading of<br/>                 24 the initial 4 November letter is that Sir Antony did<br/>                 25 not, even at that stage, regard this as a pressing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>                                  | <p>1 matter of security. It would be preferable, if<br/>                 2 possible, to deal with this before the point at which<br/>                 3 Morrison might be offered a further ministerial<br/>                 4 appointment. But even then, the language seems to me to<br/>                 5 be somewhat tepid and I think this probably partly<br/>                 6 explains why he would be content for the Chief Whip to<br/>                 7 investigate Mr Stewart rather than MI5 needing to do it<br/>                 8 itself.<br/>                 9 Q. So the whole exercise and the way that I think you are<br/>                 10 saying it should be properly looked at is based upon how<br/>                 11 MI5 will have looked at the issue at the time, which is<br/>                 12 solely about the security risk if he was to be offered<br/>                 13 further ministerial -- a further ministerial position,<br/>                 14 and once Eliza Manningham-Buller had passed on her<br/>                 15 second pieces of information, and on the assumption that<br/>                 16 Robert Armstrong didn't undermine what was said about<br/>                 17 the Prime Minister's awareness and support for him, then<br/>                 18 that was the end of it? Is that correct?<br/>                 19 A. I'm looking at it as MI5's corporate witness from<br/>                 20 a security perspective and I'm speaking to what I think<br/>                 21 the reasoning was of those who were involved at the<br/>                 22 time. That's how they were seeing the matter. As<br/>                 23 I said earlier, it is a matter of deep regret that no<br/>                 24 consideration seems to have been given at any point in<br/>                 25 the process to the fact that, if the allegations were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p> |
| <p>1 true, they represented serious criminal conduct and<br/>                 2 therefore, at the very least, should be exposed to the<br/>                 3 police for them to make a decision about investigation.<br/>                 4 That's a matter of deep regret. But it appears from the<br/>                 5 corporate record that that consideration was never<br/>                 6 given.<br/>                 7 Q. And so MI5 and, for that matter, Sir Robert Armstrong,<br/>                 8 at least at that time, were rather blinkered about the<br/>                 9 proper approach to this. I suspect what you are saying<br/>                 10 is, it was right on its own terms, but they didn't take<br/>                 11 a wider view about what the situation was if<br/>                 12 Peter Morrison was in fact abusing children, that<br/>                 13 children were going to continue to be abused and nothing<br/>                 14 was being done about it.<br/>                 15 A. They took a narrow, security-related view, in my<br/>                 16 appreciation, not a broader one.<br/>                 17 Q. Yes. So that we are clear, are you saying that that was<br/>                 18 something they ought to have done at the time or should<br/>                 19 we be looking at this as a function of the times and<br/>                 20 that the narrower view was justified in 1986 and<br/>                 21 wouldn't be today, or are you saying, even then, they<br/>                 22 should have taken a broader approach to this and to have<br/>                 23 reported the matter to the police?<br/>                 24 A. I think I'm -- I can only take the view that, with<br/>                 25 hindsight, it's a matter of deep regret. I can't speak</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p> | <p>1 about what appreciations ought to have been at the time.<br/>                 2 I'm aware, everybody else is aware, that the knowledge<br/>                 3 and understanding of child sexual abuse at that time was<br/>                 4 much, much lower than it is now. So I'm not surprised,<br/>                 5 to some extent unsurprised, that that wider<br/>                 6 consideration wasn't given in 1986. With hindsight, it<br/>                 7 is a matter of real regret.<br/>                 8 MR ALTMAN: I'd like to come on now, please, to<br/>                 9 Peter Hayman. It is slightly earlier than we would<br/>                 10 otherwise take our break by a few minutes, but I hope<br/>                 11 you don't mind having a break, and I'm sure the chair<br/>                 12 and panel would like a break, and I suspect if I ask<br/>                 13 everybody to be ready to resume at 3.25 pm, will that be<br/>                 14 all right with you?<br/>                 15 A. That's fine, thank you.<br/>                 16 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much.<br/>                 17 (3.12 pm)<br/>                 18 (A short break)<br/>                 19 (3.25 pm)<br/>                 20 MR ALTMAN: I hope you're enjoying your cup of tea.<br/>                 21 A. I am.<br/>                 22 Q. Can we come on to Peter Hayman, please?<br/>                 23 A. Yes.<br/>                 24 Q. You deal with this at paragraphs 67 to 74 of your<br/>                 25 witness statement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>   |

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| <p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 2 Q. Did he first come to the attention of the police and<br/>                 3 prosecutors in 1978? You say in paragraph 67 "following<br/>                 4 the recovery of a parcel of obscene material discovered<br/>                 5 on a bus?"<br/>                 6 <b>A. That's right. He didn't come to MI5's notice until two</b><br/>                 7 <b>years later.</b><br/>                 8 Q. In anything that you have seen, can I ask you this, have<br/>                 9 you seen any reference, in any of the materials you have<br/>                 10 been asked to consider, to a package of material,<br/>                 11 including photographs of young boys in underwear, aged<br/>                 12 around 8 to 11, being found in St James' Park around the<br/>                 13 same time?<br/>                 14 <b>A. No, I've seen nothing to that effect.</b><br/>                 15 Q. You will confirm, and we will see later, that Hayman was<br/>                 16 not prosecuted for any offences relating to the items<br/>                 17 found on the bus. Is that correct?<br/>                 18 <b>A. To my understanding, yes.</b><br/>                 19 Q. Were you aware also of other material found in a flat<br/>                 20 which he occupied in Linden Gardens in Bayswater?<br/>                 21 <b>A. Yes, I am aware of that.</b><br/>                 22 Q. You say, and just let's repeat, that MI5 were not<br/>                 23 informed about the police investigation at the time,<br/>                 24 and, as you say, it didn't come to your attention until<br/>                 25 it was reported in the press in 1980?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p> | <p>1 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>                 2 Q. Following that discovery, given Sir Peter Hayman's<br/>                 3 history -- he'd retired in 1974 but had held some<br/>                 4 high-profile postings, including the High Commissioner<br/>                 5 in Canada; is that correct?<br/>                 6 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b><br/>                 7 Q. So was it decided, following the press publicity, that<br/>                 8 MI5 should investigate whether anything more was known<br/>                 9 or suspected about his activities whilst serving in the<br/>                 10 Diplomatic Service in order to determine whether there<br/>                 11 was any reason to suppose that security had been<br/>                 12 compromised or whether there was any evidence of<br/>                 13 pressure that had been placed on him by any hostile<br/>                 14 foreign intelligence service?<br/>                 15 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>                 16 Q. Was the publicity in the press, do you know? Was it<br/>                 17 a Private Eye article, dated 24 October 1980?<br/>                 18 <b>A. Yes, that was it.</b><br/>                 19 Q. With the title "Beast of Berlin"?<br/>                 20 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 21 Q. I'm not going to put this up on the screen, but do you<br/>                 22 have behind your tab 10 a document which was material<br/>                 23 that was provided to the Service by the DPP's office?<br/>                 24 It was some of the material which had been typewritten<br/>                 25 from, or it appears to have been typewritten from, some</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p> |
| <p>1 of the many diaries that were found in the<br/>                 2 Linden Gardens flat by police?<br/>                 3 <b>A. Yes, I believe that these are typed notes made by</b><br/>                 4 <b>a member of MI5 of the contents of some of the diaries.</b><br/>                 5 Q. These were from access which MI5 had to the DPP case<br/>                 6 file?<br/>                 7 <b>A. I think the DPP had, yes, that's right, given us access</b><br/>                 8 <b>to the diaries, not to the case file itself.</b><br/>                 9 Q. If you go, please, behind your tab 11, and we can put<br/>                 10 this one up on screen, INQ004042. It's difficult to<br/>                 11 read because it's faded in part, but is this an MI5 note<br/>                 12 for the file about Peter Hayman?<br/>                 13 <b>A. It is, yes.</b><br/>                 14 Q. It reads, insofar as I'm able to read it:<br/>                 15 "I visited the DPP's office with ..."<br/>                 16 And there is a redaction:<br/>                 17 "... on 29 October 1980 ..."<br/>                 18 Pausing there, that's five days after the<br/>                 19 Private Eye article "Beast of Berlin":<br/>                 20 "... to look at the Hayman papers. On arrival, we<br/>                 21 were briefed by the director. Tim Taylor (assistant<br/>                 22 director) and Jeremy Naunton (case officer) were<br/>                 23 present.<br/>                 24 "We examined a considerable number of documents<br/>                 25 consisting of police records, witness statements and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>   | <p>1 45 loose-leaf files compiled by Hayman in manuscript and<br/>                 2 entitled 'Sex Diaries'.<br/>                 3 Then paragraph 3:<br/>                 4 "From the prosecution point of view, the case is in<br/>                 5 three parts ..."<br/>                 6 And those are there set out, including in paragraph<br/>                 7 (a):<br/>                 8 "... potential offences under section 11 of the Post<br/>                 9 Office Act 1953."<br/>                 10 In paragraph (b):<br/>                 11 "... papers in relation to the Paedophile<br/>                 12 Information Exchange [PIE]. It was decided that those<br/>                 13 concerned with the organising body of PIE should be<br/>                 14 prosecuted for conspiracy to corrupt public morals. On<br/>                 15 12 February ..."<br/>                 16 It is hard to read the date:<br/>                 17 "... they were committed to trial ..."<br/>                 18 Something about Wells Street Magistrate's Court:<br/>                 19 "... after oral evidence had been given. The trial<br/>                 20 is listed at the Central Criminal Court for January<br/>                 21 1981."<br/>                 22 I think the date might have been 12 February 1980?<br/>                 23 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>                 24 Q. Then:<br/>                 25 "Hayman is a member of PIE, used the name Henderson.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>  |



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| <p>1 The depositions in the case refer to Henderson as being<br/>                 2 a person with whom witnesses corresponded. In one part<br/>                 3 of the deposition, Hayman is mentioned."<br/>                 4 I think it reads:<br/>                 5 "There is no doubt that Hayman and Henderson are one<br/>                 6 and the same."<br/>                 7 Then paragraph (c) deals with the prosecution of<br/>                 8 the organisers, two men named Morris and Wardell,<br/>                 9 charged with conspiring to contravene section 11 of<br/>                 10 the Post Office Act."<br/>                 11 So that was one of the documents on the Service<br/>                 12 file. There was a second one, your tab 12, INQ004035<br/>                 13 under the heading "Sir Peter Hayman":<br/>                 14 "The DPP rang am 31 December 1980 about the second<br/>                 15 article on Hayman, 'Beast of Berlin (2)' which appeared<br/>                 16 in the 2 January 1981 issue of Private Eye. A copy is<br/>                 17 attached.<br/>                 18 "I discussed the article with ... and then rang the<br/>                 19 director back on Federal."<br/>                 20 Which is presumably a system that applied at the<br/>                 21 time:<br/>                 22 "He made the following points.<br/>                 23 "(a) there had been no 'flaming row' between himself<br/>                 24 and the Attorney General."<br/>                 25 Was that something, do you know, that had been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>   | <p>1 publicised that there was, as it were, a disconnect of<br/>                 2 opinion between the DPP and the Attorney General of<br/>                 3 the day about how Hayman should be dealt with?<br/>                 4 <b>A. First I heard of it was when I read this note. I have<br/>                 5 not read the Private Eye article.</b><br/>                 6 Q. "He intended to make this clear should there be press<br/>                 7 enquiries -- otherwise he would make no comment as the<br/>                 8 case was sub judice. He had consulted the Law Officer's<br/>                 9 Department.<br/>                 10 "(b) in his opinion the piece indicated a leak at<br/>                 11 New Scotland Yard. When the Yard had been asked (on our<br/>                 12 behalf) for the diaries, police had been told that they<br/>                 13 were required by the attorney. Neither the attorney nor<br/>                 14 his staff had in fact seen the diaries.<br/>                 15 "4. In answer to his question I told the<br/>                 16 director ... that.<br/>                 17 "(a) a number of FCO [Foreign and Commonwealth<br/>                 18 Office] staff had been interviewed. More interviews<br/>                 19 were to take place. The purpose of our interview<br/>                 20 programme was to discover:<br/>                 21 "(i) the extent of knowledge of Hayman's activities<br/>                 22 and.<br/>                 23 "(ii) if there was any evidence of pressure on<br/>                 24 Hayman on the part of a hostile intelligence service.<br/>                 25 "(b) so far the interviews had produced no concrete</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>  |
| <p>1 evidence on either count.<br/>                 2 "(c) we have had no contact with the Yard over the<br/>                 3 case.<br/>                 4 "5. The director also said that the article's claim<br/>                 5 that he had attempted a deal with the defence was<br/>                 6 untrue. Geoffrey Robertson, the defence counsel [little<br/>                 7 known member of the Bar at the time] had asked the<br/>                 8 director if he would accept pleas to a lesser charge.<br/>                 9 The director had referred the matter to the attorney and<br/>                 10 they had decided to go ahead on the criminal charges."<br/>                 11 Those are the two file notes that were found on<br/>                 12 MI5's files; is that correct?<br/>                 13 <b>A. That's correct.</b><br/>                 14 Q. From paragraph 68 of your statement -- and perhaps we<br/>                 15 can go back to that, because you there summarise the<br/>                 16 series of interviews that colleagues had with<br/>                 17 Peter Hayman; is that correct?<br/>                 18 <b>A. Well, that members of MI5 had with colleagues of Hayman<br/>                 19 and with Hayman himself.</b><br/>                 20 Q. Quite right. Can you please summarise what he had to<br/>                 21 say, please?<br/>                 22 <b>A. Yes, I can. Firstly, is, for the inquiry's terms of<br/>                 23 reference, the concern that was raised by one of<br/>                 24 the interviewees was that a member of a foreign<br/>                 25 intelligence -- sorry, a foreign diplomat had informed</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p> | <p>1 <b>the interviewee that when Hayman was a diplomat in<br/>                 2 Baghdad -- I think that was 1959 and '60 -- local boys<br/>                 3 had visited his house, and the implication, according to<br/>                 4 the interviewee, being that this was for homosexual<br/>                 5 purposes, and the interviewee said that the foreign<br/>                 6 diplomat had not mentioned to him the age of the boys.</b><br/>                 7 Q. You say --<br/>                 8 <b>A. When --</b><br/>                 9 Q. Can I just ask you this, in the second sentence of<br/>                 10 paragraph 68, you preface what you write in paragraph 68<br/>                 11 and what you have just told us by saying two of his<br/>                 12 colleagues raised concerns, one relating to an<br/>                 13 allegation of possible child sexual abuse. Is that the<br/>                 14 Baghdad information, the possible child sexual abuse?<br/>                 15 <b>A. That's right.</b><br/>                 16 Q. Carry on, please.<br/>                 17 <b>A. That's right. So Hayman was interviewed by MI5 twice,<br/>                 18 and that was at the end of the programme of interview,<br/>                 19 so he had seen all the other entries by then. In the<br/>                 20 first instance, this Baghdad report was put to him. He<br/>                 21 was specifically asked about a report of local boys<br/>                 22 visiting his house along with allegations of<br/>                 23 homosexuality that had been made against ...</b><br/>                 24 Q. Can you stop there, please, because I think we have lost<br/>                 25 the audio. I don't think they can hear us either. Can</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p> |

1 you hear me? Can you hear me? No, he's talking and I'm  
 2 talking and I'm afraid we can't hear each other. So we  
 3 will have to go back. I'm sure it is a very interesting  
 4 answer, which I will have to get him to repeat.  
 5 I think the witness has just been told that we have  
 6 lost the audio.  
 7 (Break in connection)  
 8 MR ALTMAN: Don't worry, I'm on to that. Let's go back to  
 9 paragraph 69. I'm afraid I could see you talking but we  
 10 couldn't hear you. Therefore, can we start again at  
 11 paragraph 69, because you were telling us about the  
 12 matters that were put to Hayman in an interview with  
 13 him, and so, if you can take that from there, please,  
 14 and then we can carry on.  
 15 **A. Yes, certainly. So during a security interview with**  
 16 **Hayman, MI5 put to him the Baghdad incident. They asked**  
 17 **him about his time in Baghdad, specifically about**  
 18 **reports of local boys visiting his house, plus**  
 19 **allegations of homosexuality that had been made by**  
 20 **diplomats he had known in Baghdad. He laughed as if the**  
 21 **suggestion was absurd and said "No". He was then asked**  
 22 **if there were circumstances which had brought boys to**  
 23 **the house for innocent purposes, and he said not. He**  
 24 **said, "I am not interested in boys. Has someone**  
 25 **reported I was interested in Arab boys in Baghdad? Is**

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1 **and specifically he was asked if he'd left the material**  
 2 **on the bus. He replied he hadn't and he did not know**  
 3 **how it had reached the hands of the police. The record**  
 4 **says he seems to have suggested it had become open in**  
 5 **transit. Hayman said he had not continued to deal in**  
 6 **pornography. He didn't consider himself a risk taker**  
 7 **apart from keeping the diaries. He said he had never**  
 8 **lost classified material in his care through**  
 9 **carelessness and that he destroyed all pornography in**  
 10 **his possession after his interview with the DPP who, as**  
 11 **I said, after consultation with the FCO, had given him**  
 12 **immunity from prosecution.**  
 13 Q. Pausing there, what do we know about an interview with  
 14 the DPP?  
 15 **A. I know nothing other than what he said and is recorded**  
 16 **in that second interview.**  
 17 Q. So in the course of a second interview, he seemed to  
 18 indicate that he had had an interview with the DPP. Was  
 19 there any indication whether this was a formal  
 20 interview, under caution with police officers present or  
 21 simply an informal meeting with the DPP at which the DPP  
 22 had asked him questions and he had presumably given  
 23 answers?  
 24 **A. There's no indication on MI5's corporate record apart**  
 25 **from that reference.**

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1 **it on my file? Why has no-one mentioned this before?"**  
 2 **Shall I carry on?**  
 3 Q. Please.  
 4 **A. He was asked then if he'd been blackmailed or threatened**  
 5 **and replied, "I've never paid money for blackmail". He**  
 6 **was asked if, leaving money aside, he had been menaced**  
 7 **or pressured, he replied, "Write down that I have never**  
 8 **been blackmailed or threatened by anyone".**  
 9 **Hayman then said he would like to make a statement,**  
 10 **as his marriage and happy and fulfilled. The**  
 11 **interviewer pointed out that in a letter he described as**  
 12 **wife as "cold", and he replied, "That's the kind of**  
 13 **thing you write". Hayman then said that the press**  
 14 **revelations had filled him with shame and horror, but he**  
 15 **wanted to make the point that at no time had he been**  
 16 **subjected to pressure on account of his behaviour.**  
 17 **Shall I continue?**  
 18 Q. Yes, please.  
 19 **A. He told the interviewer he understood the diaries we**  
 20 **have spoken about before had been shredded and said he'd**  
 21 **been given immunity from prosecution by the DPP on the**  
 22 **ground that his offence didn't warrant such punishment.**  
 23 **But he added, "I have been punished by the press".**  
 24 **During the second interview, he was asked about the**  
 25 **discovery of the package of obscene material on the bus**

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1 Q. The second part of this is, according to what you have  
 2 summarised in your paragraph 73, Hayman said he had  
 3 destroyed all pornography in his possession after his  
 4 interview with the DPP, who had decided, after  
 5 consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
 6 to give him immunity from prosecution.  
 7 Have you seen any material at all to suggest that  
 8 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were consulted about  
 9 the decision?  
 10 **A. No, I haven't.**  
 11 Q. His use of the word "immunity", do you understand what  
 12 that means?  
 13 **A. I understand what it means, yes.**  
 14 Q. What do you take it to mean?  
 15 **A. It's normally used to mean that somebody has been**  
 16 **assured that if they do something, they won't be**  
 17 **prosecuted for it, which would not seem to be applicable**  
 18 **here. This is Hayman's own language recorded by the**  
 19 **interviewer.**  
 20 Q. So you don't understand it to be immunity in the sense  
 21 that we would all understand it, but that he's been  
 22 given some form of promise that he won't be prosecuted?  
 23 **A. I'm not sure I understand it at all. It's simply**  
 24 **a record that we have made of an interview, and I think**  
 25 **it is a verbatim record, including of things that Hayman**

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| <p>1 <b>said that weren't of direct interest to MIS.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Doing the best you can, it is simply a recitation of</p> <p>3 what he had to say. What interpretation others cast on</p> <p>4 it may be the subject of argument and conjecture?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Your paragraph 74, the interviews were written up as</p> <p>7 a report. You say that the Cabinet Office used it as</p> <p>8 the basis for a minute to the Prime Minister?</p> <p>9 <b>A. That's right, yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. How do you know that?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Because I have seen correspondence, I believe -- I'm</b></p> <p>12 <b>working from memory now, because I haven't got it in</b></p> <p>13 <b>front of me -- on the corporate record indicating that</b></p> <p>14 <b>that's what happened. So we haven't got the report to</b></p> <p>15 <b>the Prime Minister as I understand, but I think we have</b></p> <p>16 <b>something indicating the Cabinet Office did put up</b></p> <p>17 <b>a report.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Do you know if it was simply a briefing note informing</p> <p>19 the Prime Minister about the circumstances of the Hayman</p> <p>20 case and its outcome, or was it a note to the</p> <p>21 Prime Minister about what line should be taken in the</p> <p>22 event of further press interest?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I'm afraid I don't know. I'm not in a position to say.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Now, I'd like you, please, if you would, to look at</p> <p>25 a document I hope you've had a little time to look at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p> | <p>1 this morning. It's your section 19, tab 19. Can we put</p> <p>2 up, please, on screen HOM002207.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, I have that.</b></p> <p>4 Q. This appears to be the line to be taken in relation to</p> <p>5 a question that Geoffrey Dickens was going to ask either</p> <p>6 in a written question or an oral parliamentary question</p> <p>7 on 17 March 1981, and if we want to get our bearings,</p> <p>8 17 March is four days after the Tom O'Carroll, the</p> <p>9 erstwhile secretary and chair of PIE had been convicted</p> <p>10 at the Central Criminal Court on a retrial of conspiracy</p> <p>11 to corrupt public morals. So that puts it in context.</p> <p>12 If we look first of all, perhaps, at the third page</p> <p>13 of this document, at question 69, which has got lines</p> <p>14 either side of the entry:</p> <p>15 "Mr Geoffrey Dickens: to ask the Secretary of State</p> <p>16 for Defence whether, in view of the references to the</p> <p>17 conduct of a former senior civil servant of the Ministry</p> <p>18 of Defence in the case of R v Thomas O'Carroll and</p> <p>19 others, he will cause an investigation to be made of</p> <p>20 the extent to which a security risk occurred at the</p> <p>21 posts at which that official served."</p> <p>22 If we go back, please, to the first page, we can see</p> <p>23 the name "Sir P Hayman" in the top right, and the name</p> <p>24 "Sir Brian", which I think might be Sir Brian Cubbon:</p> <p>25 "The security department of the FCO would like to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p> |
| <p>1 clear with us their proposed answer to the PQ</p> <p>2 [Prime Minister's Question, presumably] from Mr Dickens</p> <p>3 (which they will pass to whichever department replies)."</p> <p>4 This is the proposed response:</p> <p>5 "The security authorities have undertaken a full</p> <p>6 investigation and have concluded that there has been no</p> <p>7 prejudice to security."</p> <p>8 In this context, can I also ask you, please, to go</p> <p>9 to another document you have been supplied with this</p> <p>10 morning -- it is section 20 for the chair and panel and</p> <p>11 for you, tab 20. If we go, please, to the second page</p> <p>12 of it, it is CAB000071_002. This is part of the Hayman</p> <p>13 file from the Cabinet Office. We can see, can we not,</p> <p>14 the same question, halfway down, numbered 69, which</p> <p>15 I just read into the record on the formal order paper</p> <p>16 that you saw?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. The same question. The answer is slightly different to</p> <p>19 the one that was given before in the Home Office</p> <p>20 document. This time it reads:</p> <p>21 "The security authorities have carried out a full</p> <p>22 investigation. This has revealed nothing to suggest</p> <p>23 that security has been prejudiced."</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. First of all, was that the outcome of the investigation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>  | <p>1 into Peter Hayman?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes. I think the -- it's fair to summarise the outcome</b></p> <p>3 <b>of the Hayman investigation as being that he had</b></p> <p>4 <b>certainly rendered himself vulnerable to pressure by</b></p> <p>5 <b>a foreign intelligence service, but the conclusion was</b></p> <p>6 <b>that there had been no actual prejudice of security.</b></p> <p>7 Q. By now, of course, he was long retired. I think he</p> <p>8 retired in 1974?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I think so.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Therefore, there was no present risk to security because</p> <p>11 he didn't have access to sensitive material or sensitive</p> <p>12 posts?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. May I ask you this, and I'm asked to ask you this on</p> <p>15 behalf of one of the core participants: is there any</p> <p>16 information to say whether the investigations into</p> <p>17 Hayman resulted in the investigation of any other PIE</p> <p>18 members?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, because, with the exception of the Baghdad incident,</b></p> <p>20 <b>the interviews relating to Hayman didn't throw up</b></p> <p>21 <b>anything bearing upon the subject of child sexual abuse.</b></p> <p>22 Q. The question is more finely focused. The question is</p> <p>23 whether you are aware of any other investigations into</p> <p>24 PIE members -- in other words, members of the Paedophile</p> <p>25 Information Exchange -- that raised the same kind of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>   |

1 concerns for the security services?  
 2 **A. I'm not, no.**  
 3 Q. So you can't say, and you're not in a position to say,  
 4 whether or not any other such investigations ever took  
 5 place?  
 6 **A. No, but insofar as MI5 has conducted very deep searches**  
 7 **of its records, if MI5 had been involved in or aware of**  
 8 **any such investigation, I would have expected**  
 9 **documentary records to have been found.**  
 10 Q. Thank you. Which brings us neatly on to the Paedophile  
 11 Information Exchange, which you deal with in a short  
 12 paragraph. The first thing you say is by reference to  
 13 what you call a Special Branch note and an MI5 note for  
 14 file on the Paedophile Information Exchange. You refer  
 15 to two documents in particular, and I would like,  
 16 please, if we could look at those now. The first one is  
 17 INQ004038, which is in your tab 13.  
 18 **A. Yes.**  
 19 Q. The first thing is this: in your witness statement, you  
 20 call it a Special Branch note, but have you been shown  
 21 today a witness statement which has been disclosed to  
 22 everybody by Alastair Pocock, who is a detective  
 23 inspector in the public inquiry liaison team -- we don't  
 24 have to put this up on screen, but we can adduce it in  
 25 full, MPS003549. I simply ask you to go to paragraph 9

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1 Q. The next paragraph reads:  
 2 "An investigation into this group was carried out in  
 3 1978 by Police Sergeant Bryan Collins and Police  
 4 Constable David Atkins, both formerly members of  
 5 the Obscene Publications Branch. As a result of this  
 6 investigation, the group's leader,  
 7 Thomas Victor O'Carroll, was convicted of a conspiracy  
 8 to corrupt public morals at the Central Criminal Court  
 9 [as I have said] on 13 March 1981. He was sentenced to  
 10 two years' imprisonment."  
 11 Then can we turn, please, to the final page, page 3:  
 12 "During the investigation, no evidence came to light  
 13 of any specific criminal offences being committed by the  
 14 persons involved other than those mentioned above. The  
 15 investigation was carried out in relation to the  
 16 publication of the magazine ..."  
 17 Which we know to have been called Magpie:  
 18 "... and not into the organisation itself. However,  
 19 it would appear that any sexual offences committed by  
 20 these individuals would be carried out on a personal  
 21 basis and not as a collective organisation."  
 22 Then this:  
 23 "As far as the investigating officers are aware,  
 24 there are no persons prominent in public life involved  
 25 in this organisation at the present time.

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1 of his report or his statement. Does it read in this  
 2 way, because this is what we are looking at. It is  
 3 branch note of 24 August 1983, and does he say:  
 4 "In relation to the branch note dated  
 5 24 August 1983, it was verified that the document was  
 6 produced by the Metropolitan Police Obscene Publication  
 7 Squad and was not a Metropolitan Police Special Branch  
 8 note."  
 9 **A. It does, yes.**  
 10 Q. I'm sure you're prepared to accept that. It may be that  
 11 you were incorrectly told that it was a Special Branch  
 12 note, but in fact it is not, it was from the Obscene  
 13 Publications Squad. So this is --  
 14 **A. I fully accept that.**  
 15 Q. We don't have to look through all of it. The date is  
 16 clear, 24 August 1983, it relates to PIE. The first  
 17 paragraph reads:  
 18 "The Paedophile Information Exchange is an  
 19 organisation consisting of a group of men who advocate  
 20 that sexual acts between adults and children should,  
 21 with certain limited exceptions, be made lawful and,  
 22 even in the event of such an act falling into their  
 23 category of exceptions, that act should be dealt with  
 24 outside the criminal law and with the utmost leniency."  
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 "In order to assist investigations into serious  
 2 crimes in Leicestershire and Sussex, a list of known  
 3 members of the Paedophile Information Exchange, which  
 4 was compiled during the investigation by Constable  
 5 Collins, was forwarded to the respective constabularies.  
 6 Again, as far as is known, no prominent persons feature  
 7 in this list."  
 8 **A. Yes.**  
 9 Q. So that we understand, this was a document that was on  
 10 MI5's file; is that right?  
 11 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 12 Q. In your file, can we go to tab 14, and for us can we put  
 13 up on screen INQ004034, please. This was the MI5 note  
 14 which you found, or was found, in MI5's files. It  
 15 clearly deals with PIE:  
 16 "Not for File. In November 1982 police officers of  
 17 the Obscene Publication Branch, Scotland Yard, raided  
 18 the South London address of an executive member of PIE.  
 19 Large quantities of documents were retrieved. These  
 20 have been examined by ... and as a result the following  
 21 information about the organisation has been  
 22 established."  
 23 So, on the face of it, the MI5 file relates to an  
 24 examination of materials which had been obtained during  
 25 a raid at the South London address of an executive

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1 member of the organisation in November 1982. Is that  
 2 how we should understand this note?  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. The only part for now I wish to draw attention to is  
 5 that on the top of the third page, please. Under the  
 6 heading "Finances":  
 7 "A treasurer's report which was compiled  
 8 in October 1982 showed that there was £460.48½ in the  
 9 PIE's account. Recently, PIE's finances are thought to  
 10 be in a parlous state. There is no evidence of any  
 11 other source of funds except from the membership."  
 12 May I ask, was it your understanding that that  
 13 passage was drawn from MI5's analysis of the material  
 14 that they had --  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 Q. -- which had come from a PIE member or an executive  
 17 member's cache of materials?  
 18 **A. That's right.**  
 19 Q. May I ask you, please, in relation to PIE, a few other  
 20 questions which we have been asked to ask you. First,  
 21 have any records been found to suggest that  
 22 Special Branch liaised with or updated MI5 about PIE?  
 23 **A. I can't, speaking from memory, answer that question.**  
 24 **MI5 did have a file on PIE, but it never actively**  
 25 **investigated PIE. What it was essentially doing was**

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1 **as I said, press reports, but those are the only two**  
 2 **documents that were selected for examination at this**  
 3 **inquiry. I should say, not selected by us, but selected**  
 4 **by counsel to the inquiry.**  
 5 Q. I understand. The final question I was asked to ask  
 6 you: whether you are able to say now what MI5's interest  
 7 in PIE was, I think you've already answered, so I shan't  
 8 ask you that again.  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Can we then please go back to your statement at  
 11 paragraph 45?  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. Because you deal there with a number of case studies  
 14 that relate to the child and -- I'm just looking for the  
 15 title of it. It is your policy, your safeguarding  
 16 policy, the Child and Adult at Risk policy. Is that  
 17 right?  
 18 **A. That's right, yes.**  
 19 Q. Before I go to ask you about that, you will remember  
 20 I stopped at that momentarily before but then departed  
 21 from it to deal with Morrison and Hayman first. Can you  
 22 tell us, please, a little about the safeguarding policy  
 23 that MI5 has? It was originally dated, as I understand  
 24 it, 2014 but recently revised in 2019.  
 25 **A. That's right.**

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1 **collating information that came to it from a variety of**  
 2 **sources, some of it open source, in order that there was**  
 3 **a corporate record relating to the organisation. So the**  
 4 **file may have contained some reports from**  
 5 **Special Branch, but none of them have been selected for**  
 6 **examination at this inquiry by the inquiry's legal team.**  
 7 Q. Can I ask you when you have finished your evidence this  
 8 afternoon that you -- not yourself, but you ask somebody  
 9 just to make that search, please?  
 10 **A. Certainly.**  
 11 Q. Thank you. Next, can you say why MI5 held the police  
 12 note in relation to PIE? In other words, the first of  
 13 the two documents I have invited your attention to?  
 14 **A. MI5 was interested in PIE in the context of its**  
 15 **countersubversion work. Originally, a proportion of**  
 16 **founding members of PIE were active on the subversive**  
 17 **left wing and MI5 was interested in PIE as being**  
 18 **a possible vehicle for subversive activity. Now, it may**  
 19 **have been that somebody in the Metropolitan Police was**  
 20 **aware of that MI5 interest and copied the branch note**  
 21 **across, in which case it would have found its way to the**  
 22 **file.**  
 23 Q. I am asked to ask you whether it was just the police and  
 24 the MI5 note that were found in MI5's records on PIE?  
 25 **A. No, there are a variety of other documents, including,**

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1 Q. We find two versions of it. I am only going to deal,  
 2 I think, with the revised version, which is your  
 3 exhibit 5999/1B. It is in tab 4. For us, if we can put  
 4 up on the screen INQ004039, please.  
 5 You deal with this at length in your witness  
 6 statement from paragraph 29 onwards. Before we come to  
 7 the case studies and how the policy works and how it  
 8 might work in relation to historic cases, can you tell  
 9 us a little about when it was developed and why it was  
 10 developed?  
 11 **A. Yes. Prior to 2014, there was no specific MI5 policy**  
 12 **relating to protection of children and adults at risk.**  
 13 **We did have longstanding guidance on how to deal with**  
 14 **intelligence relating to threat to life, and we had**  
 15 **guidance on how to deal with information relating to**  
 16 **serious crime, but in 2014, the senior members of the**  
 17 **Service responsible for overseeing the ethics of MI5's**  
 18 **work formed the view that it would be desirable to**  
 19 **clarify policy on handling information relating to,**  
 20 **particularly, abuse of children. This was largely**  
 21 **driven by the desire of staff to upgrade the clarity.**  
 22 **It was a time when society generally was becoming more**  
 23 **aware of the issue, and we acted in response largely to**  
 24 **staff wish for clearer guidance and specific guidance.**  
 25 **So it was worked -- the guidance was worked up in 2014**

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1 **and promulgated that year.**  
 2 Q. And revised more recently. If you look at your  
 3 paragraph 32, it looks as if you'd had a review which  
 4 led to the revision of the policy. You say it began  
 5 before enquiries were received from this inquiry about  
 6 it. But did the review take into account those  
 7 enquiries and, accordingly, was the policy revised?  
 8 **A. Yes. A number of revisions have been made and some of**  
 9 **the revisions respond to questions the inquiry put to us**  
 10 **about the original policy.**  
 11 Q. In paragraph 35 -- I'm not going to go through it now  
 12 because of the time -- you deal with certain statistics  
 13 arising out of searches that were conducted about child  
 14 protection and safeguarding incidents; is that correct?  
 15 **A. That's correct, yes.**  
 16 Q. Then at paragraph 37, you deal with the policy in  
 17 practice. Again, that is in your statement, and you go  
 18 through certain paragraphs which are referred to in the  
 19 safeguarding policy itself, the revised policy. I don't  
 20 propose to go through those now, but the statement, as  
 21 I say, has been adduced.  
 22 But I do want to ask you, please, before I come on  
 23 to paragraph 45, about some case studies that you set  
 24 out in paragraph 44, and that's because you have been  
 25 asked to provide some case studies to illustrate how the

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1 **age and had no further details of her identity. The**  
 2 **same intelligence indicated that the identified**  
 3 **associate would prefer a relationship with a female**  
 4 **under the age of 16. MI5's assessment was that the**  
 5 **individual was posturing, potentially showing off, to**  
 6 **the people with whom he was dealing and wasn't currently**  
 7 **engaged in a relationship with a female under the age of**  
 8 **16. But as the position wasn't clear, the information**  
 9 **was passed in accordance with the policy to the police.**  
 10 **The final example was, over a period of more than**  
 11 **a year, MI5 received intelligence on a number of**  
 12 **occasions indicating that an identified associate of**  
 13 **a subject of interest may have used physical violence**  
 14 **against one of the children of the subject of interest,**  
 15 **it being alleged that the child had been beaten. On**  
 16 **each occasion, in accordance with the policy, we passed**  
 17 **that information to the police.**  
 18 Q. Thank you. Now, effectively, finally, your  
 19 paragraph 45, because what you have sought to do is to  
 20 apply the current policy that MI5 has to historic cases  
 21 involving information about potential child sexual  
 22 abuse. Is that correct?  
 23 **A. That is correct, yes.**  
 24 Q. You make the point that, in relation to the names and  
 25 circumstances we are about to go through, MI5's files

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1 policy operates in practice, and you say the examples  
 2 that you give -- and there are three of them -- are real  
 3 cases in which MI5 received information indicating the  
 4 possible mistreatment of children. You say the first  
 5 two examples involved possible child sexual abuse and  
 6 the third possible violence against a child. Can you  
 7 just run us through those three examples, please, and  
 8 how the policy worked in relation to them?  
 9 **A. Certainly. So the first example, MI5 received**  
 10 **intelligence indicating that an identified associate of**  
 11 **a subject of interest may have known of a female, who**  
 12 **I will call X, referred to in the intelligence only by**  
 13 **her first name, who may have been the victim of sexual**  
 14 **contact with a member of her own family. The**  
 15 **intelligence indicated her first name, her ethnicity and**  
 16 **the occupation of the family member with whom she was**  
 17 **thought to have had sexual contact. We had no further**  
 18 **details as to her identity. In accordance with the**  
 19 **policy, that information was passed to the police.**  
 20 Q. Thank you.  
 21 **A. The second example, MI5 received intelligence indicating**  
 22 **that, again, an identified associate of an SOI in his**  
 23 **20s may have been involved in, or attempting to be**  
 24 **involved in, a relationship with a female who may have**  
 25 **been under 17. MI5 was unable to confirm the female's**

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1 don't record whether the information in these cases was  
 2 in fact ever reported to the police at the time?  
 3 **A. That's correct.**  
 4 Q. The list of cases, you make clear, and the Service's  
 5 assessment of how the current policy would have applied  
 6 to them is what you set out in the table. Can we put  
 7 this up on the screen, please: INQ004032\_013. We begin  
 8 with Maurice Oldfield, who was the head of the Secret  
 9 Intelligence Service, MI6, and was this information that  
 10 was related about him, that, in 1987, the Prime Minister  
 11 informed the House of Commons that Sir Maurice Oldfield  
 12 had told her in March 1980 that he had occasionally had  
 13 homosexual encounters. His positive vetting clearance  
 14 was withdrawn and MI5 conducted a lengthy investigation  
 15 to determine whether Sir Maurice's sexual activities  
 16 posed a risk to national security by making him  
 17 vulnerable to blackmail or other pressure. The  
 18 investigation included many interviews with Sir Maurice  
 19 in which he provided information about homosexual  
 20 encounters with male domestic staff, referred to as  
 21 "house boys", whilst serving in the Middle East in the  
 22 1940s and hotel stewards in Asia in the 1950s. The  
 23 information was previously unknown to MI5 and, you  
 24 understood, to the other security and intelligence  
 25 agencies, SIS and GCHQ. There was insufficient

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1 information in the records to deduce whether the term  
 2 "house boys" was being used simply to describe domestic  
 3 staff or to denote youth, leaving ambiguity over the  
 4 ages of the other parties.  
 5 Is this right, in terms of how the policy would have  
 6 applied had it been in force at the time, you say the  
 7 information would have been passed to the police?  
 8 **A. That's correct.**  
 9 Q. Peter Hayman, who we have just been through, in 1980,  
 10 MI5 received information suggesting he'd engaged in  
 11 sexual activity with young boys, the detail of which, as  
 12 I say, we have gone through. That information would  
 13 have gone to the police?  
 14 **A. Yes, it would.**  
 15 Q. Tom Driberg. In 1981, MI5 received information that  
 16 suggested that Driberg had engaged in sexual activities  
 17 with young boys. Again, that information would have  
 18 gone to the police; is that right?  
 19 **A. Yes, it would. I should qualify that answer very**  
 20 **slightly: it would be passed to the police. It would**  
 21 **have been passed to the police not under the child and**  
 22 **adult risk protection policy because, as I understand it**  
 23 **now -- I didn't realise at the time I made the**  
 24 **statement -- Driberg had died in 1976, so no children**  
 25 **were then at risk in 1981 of abuse by him. But it would**

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1 "In 1973, the DPP's Office [or department] informed  
 2 MI5 of rumours that [he] was engaged in sexual  
 3 activities with children."  
 4 Do you say here that because this information came  
 5 from another government department, MI5 would ask the  
 6 DPP's Office if they had passed the information to the  
 7 police and, if not, would agree with them who should do  
 8 so?  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. So a slight difference here, but that's because another  
 11 government department is seized of the issue?  
 12 **A. Yes, exactly, and they would know where they received**  
 13 **the information from. It is, in a sense, their**  
 14 **information, so I would expect them to act on it. But**  
 15 **if they were not prepared to or preferred us to, we**  
 16 **would have that discussion.**  
 17 Q. Then we come to Charles Irving, an MP where the  
 18 information was, over a number of years, MI5 received  
 19 information on several occasions that Irving was  
 20 homosexual. In 1984, MI5 received information that  
 21 whilst overseas, Irving had rented a hotel room "to take  
 22 boys", and you say that that would be passed to the  
 23 police?  
 24 **A. Yes. The 1984 information would be passed to the**  
 25 **police.**

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1 **have been passed to the police as potential information**  
 2 **relating to serious crime.**  
 3 Q. Thank you. Peter Morrison, who we have dealt with. As  
 4 we saw, in the mid '80s, you received information from  
 5 two sources that Morrison has a penchant for small boys.  
 6 Again, would be passed to the police?  
 7 **A. It would.**  
 8 Q. Leon Brittan: in the mid 1980s, MI5 received information  
 9 one afternoon suggesting that Leon Brittan, or a close  
 10 MP associate of his, engaged in sexual relations with  
 11 teenagers. Further information was received the next  
 12 morning clarifying that the information did not in fact  
 13 relate to Leon Brittan but was rumoured to relate to the  
 14 MP associate. Further information received later in the  
 15 week clarified that the rumour had been started by  
 16 a prisoner turned down for parole out of vindictiveness.  
 17 What you say about the reaction under the policy in the  
 18 circumstances obtaining today:  
 19 "Would be passed to the police as relating to the MP  
 20 associate (not to Leon Brittan) together with the  
 21 information about it being the product of [the  
 22 prisoner's] vindictiveness."  
 23 Is that right?  
 24 **A. That's correct.**  
 25 Q. The next individual, Christopher Chataway, an MP:

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1 Q. Would it matter where the offences, if they were  
 2 offences, had been committed, jurisdictionally?  
 3 **A. No, it wouldn't. Under our policy, it doesn't matter**  
 4 **whether the activity takes place within this**  
 5 **jurisdiction or elsewhere. We would pass it to the**  
 6 **police for them to act on as they judged appropriate.**  
 7 Q. While we have Charles Irving in mind, I am going to ask  
 8 you, please, just to divert for a moment to tab 2 in  
 9 your bundle. And I am going to ask the Relativity  
 10 operator, please, to put up on screen CAB000120.  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 Q. This is a letter from PJ Walker on 10 November 1989.  
 13 Was he the director-general at that time?  
 14 **A. Yes, he was.**  
 15 Q. To Robin Butler, who I think was the Cabinet Secretary  
 16 at that time, in relation to Charles Irving.  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 Q. "There have been press reports implying that Mr Irving  
 19 is a homosexual. From other reports which have reached  
 20 us there may well be substance in this. I do not think  
 21 that this information necessarily makes him unsuitable  
 22 for recommendation for an honour, but you should be  
 23 aware of it."  
 24 Would it be usual, do you know, or do you happen to  
 25 know, for the Service to be writing letters of that

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|---|--|
| <p>1 nature at that time to the Cabinet Office?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I'm afraid this is something which is outside my</b></p> <p>3 <b>personal experience, and I believe was very</b></p> <p>4 <b>confidentially handled within the Service, for obvious</b></p> <p>5 <b>reasons.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you have any idea in the second sentence -- do you</p> <p>7 see the words "from other reports which have reached</p> <p>8 us ...", do you know what the "other reports" refer to?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I don't, but they will be -- the letter wouldn't have</b></p> <p>10 <b>been written without something on the corporate record</b></p> <p>11 <b>bearing that out.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Back to your table, please, on page 14, in your witness</p> <p>13 statement, Antony Lambton, who later became</p> <p>14 Lord Lambton. In 1973, the police passed MI5</p> <p>15 information about an alleged video recording showing him</p> <p>16 involved in sexual activities with a boy. The outcome,</p> <p>17 in similar circumstances today, is:</p> <p>18 "As this information came from the police, MI5 would</p> <p>19 not take any action."</p> <p>20 Is that right?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, if the Service is sure that the police already know</b></p> <p>22 <b>about something, then the policy doesn't require us to</b></p> <p>23 <b>tell them it again. If there is any doubt on the</b></p> <p>24 <b>matter, then the policy requires us to tell them.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Then a man by the name of Colin John Meredith Peters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 189</p> | <p>1 In 1968, MI5 received information from the Foreign and</p> <p>2 Commonwealth Office about the refusal of positive</p> <p>3 vetting clearance for Peters. This was due to his</p> <p>4 arrest in Naples the previous year on allegations of</p> <p>5 the criminal assault of three Italian boys and his</p> <p>6 admission that he had committed homosexual acts.</p> <p>7 A similar outcome: because this information came from</p> <p>8 another government department, would you first ask the</p> <p>9 Foreign and Commonwealth Office if they had passed the</p> <p>10 information to the police and, if not, again, it would</p> <p>11 be a matter of agreement whose job it would be to do so?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Then, finally, as far as this table is concerned,</p> <p>14 William van Straubenzee. In 1982, did MI5 receive</p> <p>15 information suggesting that he engaged in sexual</p> <p>16 activities with young boys whilst in Northern Ireland?</p> <p>17 The information was shared with the Cabinet Office, who</p> <p>18 shared it with the Prime Minister. But in this</p> <p>19 instance, it would be passed to the police?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes, that's right, even if the information came to us.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Even if the information had already been shared with the</p> <p>22 Northern Ireland Office or the Cabinet Office or the</p> <p>23 Prime Minister, as the case may be?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes. There's inevitably a risk of duplication and there</b></p> <p>25 <b>would no doubt be some coordination to ensure there</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 190</p> |
| <p>1 <b>wasn't multiple reporting of the same information.</b></p> <p>2 <b>I would regard us as having the lead responsibility to</b></p> <p>3 <b>report.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Finally, then, to your statement, at paragraph 77,</p> <p>5 because this is a conclusion which I am sure you would</p> <p>6 like me to ask you about. You say:</p> <p>7 "Although it is not the function of MI5 to</p> <p>8 investigate the sexual abuse of children, MI5 recognises</p> <p>9 that we will on occasion receive information relating to</p> <p>10 such matters in the course of performing our national</p> <p>11 security functions. We recognise, too, that it is vital</p> <p>12 that such information is shared appropriately with the</p> <p>13 police or other authorities who have safeguarding</p> <p>14 responsibilities and can deploy the appropriate tools</p> <p>15 and powers to ensure children are kept safe. This is</p> <p>16 why MI5 adopted its Child and Adult at Risk protection</p> <p>17 policy. MI5 will continue to develop that policy in</p> <p>18 accordance with best practice and the advice of</p> <p>19 experts."</p> <p>20 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>21 MR ALTMAN: Thank you very much. Those are all the</p> <p>22 questions I have for you. I am just going to see</p> <p>23 whether the chair or any other members of the panel have</p> <p>24 any questions for you before we complete your evidence.</p> <p>25 <b>A. Certainly.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 191</p>   | <p>1 THE CHAIR: Ms Sharpling has a question.</p> <p>2 Questions by THE PANEL</p> <p>3 MS SHARPLING: Just one question, if I may: in relation to</p> <p>4 your policy, as you've described it, is there any way of</p> <p>5 monitoring or checking if those matters which ought to</p> <p>6 have been reported to the police or other authorities</p> <p>7 are actually reported to them in the right way.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, there is, and I perhaps should have included that</b></p> <p>9 <b>in the statement. We have a process of review. So all</b></p> <p>10 <b>reports of this sort are tagged with a specific tag.</b></p> <p>11 <b>There is a single word applied to them which means they</b></p> <p>12 <b>can be searched for in the corporate record.</b></p> <p>13 <b>Periodically, a review is conducted against all records</b></p> <p>14 <b>with that tag to check what the state of play is to make</b></p> <p>15 <b>sure that nothing falls between stools or that if action</b></p> <p>16 <b>is taken and then no response is received, we follow up</b></p> <p>17 <b>and chase up the response. So there is a mechanism,</b></p> <p>18 <b>which I should have covered in my statement.</b></p> <p>19 MS SHARPLING: Thank you very much.</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: There are no further questions. Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR ALTMAN: Thank you. That completes your evidence. Thank</p> <p>22 you very much indeed.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>24 <b>(The witness withdrew)</b></p> <p>25 MR ALTMAN: Thank you. We can cut the link.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 192</p>                             |



|    |   |    |   |
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