

MR. GREVILLE EWAN JANNER. Affirmed
Examined by MISS PAUFFLEY

- D Q. Mr. Janner, could you begin please by giving us your full name?
A. My name is Greville Ewan Janner.
- Q. And your address, Mr. Janner? A. London,
- E Q. You have provided for us a fairly lengthy written statement for which we are grateful, Mr. Janner. The Inquiry is interested to know - as I think you understand - the detail of the befriending relationship that you had with [redacted] in 1975 and in particular the extent to which social services concerned themselves with the setting up and continuing nature of that befriending relationship, and I am grateful to you for coming and answering some questions about it. The Inquiry has provided for your use a number of documents surrounding the matter and, in particular, you have seen some
- F police statements, statements made by [redacted] for the Inquiry's use, and some extracts from the social services records bearing on the period in question. We see from the letters that were written in particular that the relationship lasted between June 1975 and December of that year; is that right? A. Correct.
- G Q. Mrs. Fitt who was the officer in charge of Station Road from about August of that year has made several contributions in that she made a police statement in the autumn of last year, perhaps the year before, and she also had a conversation with a Mr. Hodgkinson, one of the headquarters staff from County Hall before her death. I believe you have had a look at that this morning and refreshed your memory as to what it is that she says about your first contacts with children at Station Road. By all means have a look now, if you would like to, at
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that document, which you will find at the very end of the material provided to you by the Inquiry. Sir, this is the interview of Mr. Hodgkinson and Barbara Fitt on 23rd August. You will see, Mr. Janner, from the second paragraph of that meeting that Mrs. Fitt told Mr. Hodgkinson that she believed that the association between yourself and Station Road stemmed from a letter that a young person called _____ wrote to you in 1974. Do you remember anything of any such letter? A. No madam.

B

THE CHAIRMAN,

Q. It looks, Mr. Janner, as though it was an exercise they were doing in their English classes. Did you get letters from time to time? A. I get 60 letters a day.

Q. This sort of thing? A. Yes. Often. Very often.

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Q. From school children doing exercises? A. Yes, very often.

MISS PAUFFLEY,

Q. What appeared to emerge from this is that the boy was attending _____ School, wrote the letter as part of an English composition, telling you - it is alleged - that he lived at Station Road and that that began a friendship which resulted in you taking some of the children from that home to the Holiday Inn for swimming. Does that accord with anything in your memory of those times? A. No.

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THE CHAIRMAN,

Q. Mr. Janner, I am sorry to interrupt but just to get the picture clear, _____ School, was that a school in your constituency? A. Yes, and still is, sir.

E

Q. And Station Road Children's Home? A. No, just outside.

Q. Were there any children's homes in your constituency? A. Yes.

Q. Which ones? A. There was one in Halifax Drive not far from here. There was one in Westcotes Drive and I think that is all I know.

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MISS PAUFFLEY,

Q. When she made her police statement, Mrs. Fitt developed the allegations about an earlier contact with children from Station Road and particularly mentioned that _____

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_____ had been swimming at the Holiday Inn. Does that ring any bells with you? Can you recollect any other children before _____ A. No, it was after _____ It was the only time that there was any criticism from anyone of our efforts to help _____ was the suggestion from the home that other children were getting jealous and would I please next time when we came, would we take the others out, and we did.

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- A Q. What you tell us in your statement is that, to the best of your recollection, you first met with _____ at a fete in the locality in June, 1975. That would probably have been 8th June because you wrote the following day a letter to him setting up a meeting for the following weekend, the 14th; is that right?
A. Yes, madam.
- B Q. What you tell us is that _____ followed you and your helpers around at that fete and made himself useful by distributing material. A. That is my recollection of it.
- C Q. You felt very sorry for him in the situation that he was and wanted to assist him in some way and it seemed to you - as I read your statement - that you decided that the most appropriate way that you could assist him was to seek to befriend him. A. That is, as far as I can remember 17 years later, correct.
- D Q. Can you tell me what advice was given to you by social workers, those who had the care of _____ at the time, as to how you should go about this befriending relationship, because you were not within the formal scheme? A. No. It is very difficult to remember. I do not remember the first time I spoke to them but I am quite sure that, before he came to the second fete - which we know from the correspondence that was there - I would have spoken to the people at the home. The occasion that I remember a conversation was when my wife, daughter and I took _____ back to the home after we had taken them out, that was _____ which we know from the correspondence was on Saturday 21st June. I do not remember the people but the correspondence says or refers to them as _____ and _____ and I do remember that there was a conversation on that occasion at the home, the nature and extent of it I cannot recall.
- E Q. You cannot remember particularly whether anyone from headquarters was involved in giving you any advice? A. At that stage nobody was.
- F Q. So you were relying really on the officer in charge and her husband? A. Assuming they were married.
- Q.
- THE CHAIRMAN,
Q. She was apparently the officer in charge, was she? A. I do not know, sir.
- G Q. One of the care staff? A. There were two people there in charge to my recollection, but I do not remember who they were now.
- MISS PAUFFLEY,
Q. It could have been that, fairly shortly thereafter, social worker, Mr. Beak, involved himself. We do not see that
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from the documents because the first meeting that you had with Mr. Beak is quite a long way down the road, in September of that year. Can you help as to whether there were any informal discussions between you and him in early times, in June or July? A. I remember none and my recollection from the correspondence is that he actually came on the scene much later. When I first saw him he says somewhere that he was newly appointed.

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Q. So it would seem that, insofar as you were given any advice, it was from the people in charge of Station Road? A. That is correct, at the beginning.

Q. Can you help as to what the nature of the advice was? Were you told anything about background? Were you told the sort of problems that he might present to you? A. I do not recall.

C

Q. Did you have any understanding as to the difficulties that might manifest in your company and the company of your family A. When we took back, that is my wife, my daughter and I, my recollection is that they did in general terms indicate

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, and I think it was for that reason that I wanted to see Miss Edwards before the matter went much further and before we decided whether or not to continue with him.

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Q. You tell us in your statement that you cannot remember where it was that you met with Miss Edwards. Were you in the habit of going to County Hall? Were there any other locations in Leicester that would have been obvious possibilities? A. I cannot remember, sir, whether County Hall was built then, it is so long ago, but it was, I believe, in her office. I met Miss Edwards often socially on all sorts of occasions. I think she was plagued by letters from me probably several times a week, but I cannot remember where it was. I think it was in her office.

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Q. Do you remember whether that meeting was before or after We can put the date on that, I think, of 23rd July. A. I am quite certain it was before.

G

Q. Tell us about the nature of the advice that Miss Edwards gave you about this befriending? A. Miss Edwards was well informed so, piecing together, reconstructing what happened, she must have known I was coming. I cannot remember whether she had a file there but she knew about the lad. I do not remember the detail of what she said but I remember one striking remark because I thought about it often since, that she said words to the effect that, well, she hoped it would do good but she was sure it would do me good, because I would then understand some of the problems that the social services have to contend with.

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We had a conversation in which she told me about

A and I remember
her saying: "Look, don't take this on, it the first time he
does something that disturbs you, you drop him, which is what
a lot of people do." That stands out in my advice. I can
verify this because, last weekend, I was chatting with
about and he remembered me telling him all those years
ago when he was 18 about: "Well, you know, we're taking it on,
but we have been advised that, if he does do something anti-
B social, not to drop him" and that it might not do him any good
but it should do us. So I am sure that happened.

Q. Was there any conversation with you about the repercussions for
of having a friendship with someone in the public eye
and someone who enjoyed a lifestyle that did not have
and was not likely to have? Were those issues touched on?
A. I do not think so.

C
Q. With the benefit of hindsight do you think that those issues
were of importance and should have been discussed? A. It is
very difficult to say. With any stable family to which a
youngster comes there are issues to be discussed. I do not
recall discussing it. We may have done. I have no
recollection of that sort of detail at all.

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Q. - so it would seem - much enjoyed your friendship and
much enjoyed being able to boast about it to other children at
Station Road, presumably also to his school mates. Was that
something which you came to know perhaps later on when you met
with Mr. Beak in September? A. I do not remember but it would
not be at all surprising. May I say this: my recollection
throughout was that all the people from social services were
E very positive about this.

Q. Were you given any advice as to the extent to which you should
write letters, the extent to which it was wise to give him
presents and the extent to which you should meet with him, the
F regularity? A. Can I please take those in turn?

Q. Of course. A. There was no advice about letters. I would
have presumed that the letters anyway would have been read.
When he told me that the mail was censored I was asked about
this and was told it was not and, whilst he says that I was
angry because the mail was censored, I was not at all. That is
a matter for the home. I was angry because he lied. But there
G was no advice about it and that is the letters. The second
matter was presents. I do not recall giving him presents. In
those circumstances, I would not have given him presents
without, in advance, finding out whether the people in charge
of him thought it appropriate. When I say "presents" that does
not mean if he is out with my children and we get them ice
H creams, they do not get ice creams, but he would not have got,

A for example, a birthday present without my checking (a) whether it was appropriate and (b) how much.

Q. The extent of the visits, the frequency with which you met, that is the last matter, were you given advice about that?

B A. Indirectly, certainly because, whilst I cannot remember specific occasions, I know - and the correspondence shows - that we never took him out without someone having phoned up and checked whether it was appropriate or convenient. There was a conversation before he went out and there was always a conversation when he came back because either he was brought back or delivered back or else - and again this comes from the correspondence - I phoned or someone phoned to make sure he was safely back and that all was well.

Q. You make very clear that you were not part of the formal befriending scheme that the local authority ran at the time.

C A. If they did. I do not know if they did.

THE CHAIRMAN: Miss O'Dwyer, did they run one?

D MISS O'DWYER: Sir, my client has no recollection of whether or not there was a befriending scheme but you will recall, I am sure, the case, Mr. and Mrs. who were befrienders, social aunts and uncles to that child, and indeed there are one or two other examples.

THE CHAIRMAN: It looks as though there might have been some sort of scheme, Mr. Janner.

MISS O'DWYER: But my client cannot recall now anything about the scheme or any details about it.

E THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MISS PAUFFLEY,

Q. Was the scheme discussed with you, Mr. Janner? A. I do not know what scheme you are referring to, madam.

F Q. The befriending scheme. A. I do not know of any such scheme and I did not know of any such scheme.

G Q. So that any arrangements that you arrived at with Miss Edwards were very much informal arrangements without any circumscription, as it were? A. I am not sure that you would call it informal if someone goes to the Director of Social Services, discusses it with her, gets approval from her. She certainly would have discussed it with the home. somewhere in one of his statements said that he met Miss Edwards at the home. I would not have called it informal.

H Q. What did Miss Edwards advise you as to the long term? This was something that was beginning in July time of 1975. What did she say to you about the need for on-going commitment? A. That, if we took this on, we should understand that you should not just take on helping, trying to help

A

Q. Did you understand that the time may arrive, as it very quickly did, when tested your patience A. Yes madam.

Q. You understood that that probably would happen? A. Yes, and that is why we decided to go on with it

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Q. You set about trying to ensure that that did not occur again by deciding not to see him at your home any longer but to see him away from the family home, and you told us in your statement about the lecture tour to Scotland lasting for about three days, when accompanied you

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A. That is correct. Mrs. Fitt says it was at Aylesbury or something, but certainly that was the second occasion when

Q. On that occasion:

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A. Yes. That is much more likely.

Q. The third and last occasion that was when you had a surgery? A. Yes.

Q. I think in the Leicester area? A. Yes.

E

Q. And he A. He did.

Q.

Q. That, for you, was the last straw as I read the papers.

A. Correct.

F

Q. And you made clear to those in authority, Mr. Beak and Mrs. Fitt, that you would not any longer carry on with this befriending relationship. A. Absolutely.

Q. Before we come to that stage, you had a meeting with Mr. Beak in September. I think we have a date for it from the running record of 25th September. Mr. Beak has told us in his statement that he was at that time a fairly young and unqualified social worker. Can you help us at all as to the nature of the discussion that you had, what advice was given, what the feeling you were left with was after the meeting?

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A. First of all, there was no criticism of our efforts on behalf of and I am quite sure in my mind - and the correspondence bears this out - that he wanted us to re-establish, particularly wanted me to re-establish, the

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A relationship with and try to help him further, and that I was very chary about it, and that I only agreed to do it on the basis of what in the letter I think is called "full disclosure" in other words, if they are going to help me, help us to do it, okay I will have another go.

THE CHAIRMAN: Help me, Miss Pauffley, just to remind myself of the relevant document.

B MISS PAUFFLEY: There is the letter, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is the running entry of Mr. Beak.

MISS PAUFFLEY: Yes. 25th September.

THE CHAIRMAN,

C Q. Have you got these? A. Yes I have, sir.

Q. The manuscript entry? A. Yes I have.

MISS PAUFFLEY,

Q. As I read it it says: "Meeting with Mr. Janner. The relationship is finished. It was probably" ... something ... "anyway..." and I cannot read that word.

D MISS O'DWYER: "Patronising."

MISS PAUFFLEY,

Q. Patronising? A. Patronising, yes.

E Q. I thought that might be an explanation. "Mr. Janner is going to continue visits to but will not take him home or away. Felt discussions about level of commitment really got nowhere. He has been deeply upset by being made a fool of." Do you have anything to contribute to that, Mr. Janner? A. Perhaps we could look at his letters, if you would be so kind. There is a letter he wrote to me on 17th September saying he wanted to see me and then, on 29th September, I confirmed my recollection of that meeting to him in the very clearest of terms.

F Q. Yes, very well. That was the last time, as I read it, that you met face to face with Mr. Beak, 25th September, perhaps the one and only time? A. To the best of my recollection, but there is a further letter, of course, where I made it quite plain later on, but that was Mrs. Fitt.

THE CHAIRMAN,

G Q. That was Mrs. Fitt, the last one. A. Yes.

Q. This letter of the 29th September, the first paragraph really confirms the meeting. A. Yes sir.

H Q. The next paragraph, I do not know whether the question of the school master was brought up at the meeting. A. I do not remember it but clearly it was. We were obviously looking for ways in which this young man might be helped.

A Q. Then you talk about piano lessons in the third paragraph.
A. Yes. You will see, sir, in the P.S., that I suggested that it was really the time for Mr. Beak to move in rather than me.

MISS PAUFFLEY,

B Q. Just while we are looking at the running record, there was one thing that puzzled me from the entry for the, I think it is 28th July, 1975, in manuscript, back one page from the discussion of the meeting on 25th September; do you have that?
A. No. Mine starts on 1st September.

Q. Go back one page. A. I am so sorry, I have not got that page.

THE CHAIRMAN,

C Q. It may have been separated out, Mr. Janner, into a different sequence. Let me look at the schedule. Just have a look at my entry. It is the typescript one Miss Pauffley wants you to look at.

MISS PAUFFLEY,

D Q. 25th June we see that there was a case review and the plans were, firstly, that would probably be moving home and, secondly, involvement with Greville Janner to continue. Miss Wright has discussed this with him. has been to the House of Commons with him. Contact with mother to be encouraged. You probably have got that somewhere in the bundle.

THE CHAIRMAN,

Q. Take a moment, Mr. Janner. A. I have seen it somewhere so I fear it has gone astray somewhere but I do recall seeing it.

MISS PAUFFLEY,

E Q. Then the manuscript entry for July tells us that Miss Wright again I think the area director telephoned to tell Mr. Beak that had returned from the House of Commons,

F "Mr. Janner had seen today and Mr. Janner says he will sort this out with and is still taking him camping". Can you help at all about camping? A. Never was any.

Q. Because Scotland was going to be a hotel. A. It is an error.

Q. I rather thought it was.

THE CHAIRMAN,

G Q. Miss Pauffley, before you leave that page, the typescript entry says: "Involvement with Greville Janner to continue (Miss Wright has discussed this with him) has been to the House of Commons with him." I am not sure I know whether that is a reference to discussing it with the boy or having some discussion with you about the arrangement. Do you have any recall of the discussion with A. No, sir, no. I do not remember her.

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- A MISS PAUFFLEY,
Q. I think it is fairly plain from your evidence, Mr. Janner, that the two people with whom you had face to face discussions about this were Miss Edwards, before the July trip to London?
A. Yes.
- Q. And then Mr. Beak on 25th September? A. Correct.
- B Q. Save for those two am I right in understanding that there was no other discussion with anyone within social services about it? A. Unless you include the people at Station Road.
- THE CHAIRMAN,
Q. Mr. Janner, you can look at this again if you like. 8th July. You go to Scotland somewhere around 12th, 13th August. I wonder whether the Scottish trip was contemplated as early as July and whether this reference to camping may have been a misunderstanding over your trip to Scotland? A. I have no idea, sir. There was never any question of taking him camping.
- C Q. Was the trip to Scotland something arranged quite well in advance? A. It would have been from my point of view, sir, because I went to lecture on law. Whether he came on it would not have been fixed until after I had seen Dorothy Edwards.
- D MISS PAUFFLEY,
Q. Looking back on it now, Mr. Janner, do you consider that proper attention was given to the nature of the befriending that you were kindly undertaking with this boy by social services? A. It is a very difficult question which of course I have asked myself. If I may move forward slightly. Having read the papers that the Chairman was kind enough to send about
- E
- F At the time I thought that they were fine, the social services people. I thought that the advice and guidance I got from Miss Edwards was appropriate and understanding. I thought the people at the home seemed to me to do their job very well. Looking back on it,
- G That said, if we had taken it on, I do not believe that anything that anyone could have done would have prevented under the influence of Beck, making these outrageous allegations 15 years later in the circumstances they did. So, at the time I had no complaints.
- H Q. Help me lastly about the handover arrangement that would have been made, as it were, between yourself and Mrs. Fitt. Would she, in the ordinary course of events, have given you some

A advice when you called to collect from Station Road about how he was at the time, what his day to day routine was, how he should be put to bed at a certain time, those sorts of matters. Were they ever discussed with you or were you left to get on with it? A. You mean when he came to our home?

B Q. Yes, and when he came to stay with you in Scotland. Were you given any advice about day to day routine matters that perhaps, in other circumstances, an estranged couple might give, one to the other, when a child was going on access? A. I do not recall.

THE CHAIRMAN,

Q. How near in age was this boy to the ages of your children?

C A. at the time was about 12. That is whom he saw most of. was just a little older than him and was 18.

Q. And he was,

MISS PAUFFLEY,

Q. 13, 14. A. Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN,

D Q. Fourteen and a half.

THE WITNESS: I tell you why I am concerned about this, sir, reading through the papers, was that at some later stage, it came to my notice

E and I see that, first of all, Mr. Beak said, well, he gave me an evasive reply and indeed it was, and that I phoned up and said: "Look, what's it about?" and then there is a note on file saying that I think probably the only other time that he was with me he was returned before returned to me. It is on the file. So they were obviously aware of this.

F MISS PAUFFLEY: Thank you very much. I have no other questions.

MISS THIRLWALL: I have no questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Miss O'Dwyer appears on behalf of Miss Edwards.

Cross-examined by MISS O'DWYER

G Q. Mr. Janner, it seems clear from your evidence and also the documents, that you met around the beginning of June, perhaps 8th June, 1975. A. Yes.

Q. And that was at a local fete I understand? A. Correct.

H Q. Thereafter there were local visits. The records show a visit to your surgery I believe in Leicester before the visit that he

made to your home on 23rd July 1975 where he stayed overnight.
A. Correct.

A Q. I understand your evidence is this morning that your meeting that you recall with Miss Edwards pre-dated that visit to your home at the end of July, 23rd July? A. Absolutely, yes, madam.

B Q. Can I establish what appears to me to be your evidence from your statement, your written evidence to the Inquiry, which is that you recall one visit, one meeting forgive me not visit, one meeting with Miss Edwards. A. That is correct.

C Q. You have also made it clear in your evidence - both written and oral - that after your first meeting with _____ and before his visit to your home on 23rd July, you had contact, direct contact, with the officers in charge of the children's home where he lived. A. Yes.

Q. We know that the officers in charge then, Mrs. Fitt came later, so it was somebody else, _____ you mention in your letters. A. Yes.

D Q. Can I ask you to look at the running record that has been pointed out to you this morning? If you do not have it in your papers ... A. I do have most of it. What date are you looking at?

Q. It is the 25th June 1975, a page that shows that entry. A. That is my missing page.

E Q. Very well, I can show you a copy. (Same was handed to the witness) A. Thank you very much.

Q. Mr. Janner, if you would look in the right hand column, in fact the right hand margin of that page, you see at the bottom there is a signature _____ A. Yes.

F Q. You were asked this morning by my friend Miss Pauffley about your contact with Mr. Beak, the social worker. A. Yes.

Q. You reminded the Inquiry that Mr. Beak did not become a social worker or did not become involved in this matter until some time later, around September 1975. Do you recall any contact either by telephone or face to face with _____ previous social worker, who we understand to be a lady? A. No.

G Q. Can I ask you to look at that entry that was drawn to your attention this morning. Under 25th June, 1975, point two there. Mr. Janner, this is a note that is put in the social services file by a social worker. A. Yes.

H Q. You will see there what is recorded is in terms: "Involvement with Greville Janner to continue. (_____ has discussed this with him) _____ has been to the House of Commons with him." A. Yes.

- A
- Q. Are you reading the same part I am reading out? A. Yes, I am.
- Q. Mr. Janner, it did strike me, reading that, that that suggested that the Area Director, had had some discussion with you about the involvement, possibly not face to face, possibly over the telephone, and I am asking whether you recall that. A. I do not.
- B
- Q. There is also an entry below that, as you see, where it seems that the Area Director, was involved again on 8th July after the unfortunate pilfering from you. I am wondering really whether this jogs your memory at all about any contact with the Area Director? A. No, madam, it is 17 years ago.
- C
- Q. I understand that. Can we look now, Mr. Janner, if I may, at the occasion when you met Miss Edwards. A. Yes.
- Q. Mr. Janner, you speak of this in your written statement, page six to seven. What seems to emerge to me from what you are saying there is that you met with Miss Edwards and discussed the matter with her, according to your memory, partly because the boy himself was asking to visit you and your family. A. Yes.
- D
- Q. It seems also that the meeting that you had with Miss Edwards was after you had started the friendship - if I can put it that way - A. Correct.
- Q. You use the word on page seven "continue", so it was a question of whether or not it would continue. A. Absolutely.
- E
- Q. Can you recall now - and I appreciate I am probably taxing your memory impossibly - whether the meeting was by appointment? A. I cannot recall. I have asked myself that question. I am pretty sure it must have been because, otherwise, I do not see how Miss Edwards could have been as well informed as she was.
- THE CHAIRMAN,
- F
- Q. I do not suppose you would have time to go down there on the offchance, would you? A. No, sir.
- Q. From both your points of view I imagine it might need an appointment? A. Yes.
- MISS O'DWYER,
- G
- Q. Although I understand from Miss Edwards that from time to time you would pop in to see her if you were in County Hall for other business? A. Yes. I liked her a lot.
- Q. You say that Miss Edwards appeared well informed about this boy. A. Yes.
- H

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Q.

Q. Mr. Janner, in the papers that were sent to you, I think you were sent a case conference record of November 1975. Would you turn to that? It is a three page document. A. 13th November, 1975? Headed "Confidential". 11th November, yes.

Q. 11th November, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN,

Q. It is dated at the end, 13th, but it is of a meeting held on the 11th? A. Yes, sir.

MISS O'DWYER,

Q. Somebody has assisted you - or indeed yourself - by putting the 13th at the top. A. No, I put it.

Q. Mr. Janner, can I ask you one or two questions about this? A. Of course.

Q. I appreciate this was not something you had at the time but you have had since and it has told you something of the background of. A. Correct.

Q. Mr. Janner, in the second paragraph on that page, there is a recital of some of the history of what might be called the early history. A. Yes.

Q. And the sentence at the end of that second paragraph says.

Q.

At the top of page two, what is described there, in August 1974 he moved to Station Road, Wigston and in November there were reports that

Mr. Janner, you know now, through reading the history probably through this case conference material,

A

A. I have no idea, but she did.

Q. Are you sure of that? A. Yes, absolutely certain.

B

Q. Mr. Janner, am I right in understanding your evidence to be that, after one meeting that you recall with Miss Edwards certainly before 23rd July, there was no other meeting with her, or no other discussion with her, about this matter?

A. I recall no other discussion with her about this matter.

Q. It is clear that you had discussions, correspondence, with the social worker, Mr. Beak, and also the officer in charge of the children's home; is that right? A. Yes.

C

Q. I understand your evidence to be that, if ever there was a present to be given to you would seek the approval or permission - to put it more accurately - from the officer in charge of the home. A. I do not think that is what I said.

D

Q. Forgive me, I may not be quite accurate. That is what I understood you to be saying. A. I said that I recall no incident but my normal procedure most certainly would be that, if I wanted to give the youngster anything of any substance, I would certainly check it out with them in advance that they thought it was appropriate.

E

Q. I am grateful. Similarly, any visits away from the children's home, you would, before making them, ensure that you had the approval of the officer in charge of the children's home?

A. Of course.

MISS O'DWYER: Thank you very much.

MR. DODDS: No thank you.

MR. BLOOD: No questions.

F

MISS SULLIVAN: No questions.

MRS. CONNOLLY: No questions.

MR. PLUNKETT: No questions.

G

MISS PAUFFLEY: Sir, there is one matter that I should have raised earlier with Mr. Janner and I forgot. May I raise it now?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Re-examined by MISS PAUFFLEY

H

Q. Mr. Janner, we have seen a letter dated 14th March, 1986, that you wrote to Mr. Beck. A. Beck or Beak?

Q. Beck. 14th March, 1986.

A THE CHAIRMAN: It is near the back of my bundle.

THE WITNESS: Yes, I have it.

MISS PAUFFLEY,

Q. I am grateful. It interests us, of course, because we know that on 5th March of that same year, 1986, Beck resigned, and it seems that about that time he wrote to you

B A. He did.

Q. We have not seen that letter but we can guess at its contents, perhaps, from your reply. A. Yes.

Q. He was writing to you, it would seem, with news
A. Yes.

C Q. And encouraging you to resume contact? A. Yes.

Q. Was there anything more about that letter that I have not guessed at? A. Not that I recall. I regard what he then did to re-establish contact as the most diabolical evil of the whole thing.

D Q. Very well. Your response, would it have been very close after receiving his letter? A. I normally reply to letters very quickly.

Q. I wondered if that was your normal practice. A. Try to.

E Q. You did not understand from him, I do not suppose, that he had recently left Leicestershire under a cloud? A. I knew nothing about it.

Q. You wrote to him at his home address? A. He had not left Leicestershire, actually, he was still in Leicester.

THE CHAIRMAN,

Q. By Leicestershire we mean Leicestershire County Council.

F A. Yes, he had left the home, yes. I did not know.

MISS PAUFFLEY,

Q. He did not tell you anything about that? A. Indeed not.

Q. You write to him: "Dear Frank", had you ever met him? A. Not to my recollection but if somebody writes to me: "Dear Greville" I reply "Dear Frank". It is automatic courtesy.

G Q. We know that the sequence of events was that

H at that time had no contact with him and therefore no contact with Beck therefore, I assume? A. Yes. I think that is right and, in fact, somewhere Beck says in one of his case notes: "No contact with Janner" although earlier on he alleges that there was something about a bicycle.

A Q. The racing bike? A. Yes, but he himself denies that in his statement. So, to the best of my recollection, no, although there may have been one phone call where somebody there said that he was totally cut off. I have a recollection of a phone call possibly at Christmas but, otherwise, no.

B Q. So, between 1976 and 1986 when this letter comes to be written, your contacts with Mr. Beck would have been to what extent?
A. Nil, except on one occasion I turned up at the House of Commons unannounced and I immediately phoned and spoke to someone who could have been Beck and said: "What do I do?" and they said: "Please send him straight back" and I remember saying: "Well, can I give him some supper first?" and they said: "Yes do." And I gave him supper and sent him home.

MISS PAUFFLEY: Thank you very much.

C THE CHAIRMAN,

Q. It would be of course extremely interesting to me to see the terms in which Mr. Beck had written to you. Is there any prospect that your archives will turn that out? A. Not at all, sir. I normally keep letters for six months.

D Q. You have I hope read, had the opportunity to read, a police witness statement, a deposition, made by Mrs. Fitt. A. Yes I have, sir.

E Q. In it she says on the second page of it that you made a telephone call to the home. I am just trying to remind myself. Rang her up. Handed the phone to you." She says she cut you short, being quite abrupt with you and then the following day you took back to the home and she had a brief conversation with you, again being fairly hostile to you. Do you have any recall of Mrs. Fitt being an abrupt lady? She is dead, as you know. A. Yes, I know sir. I recall her very vaguely as a very business like, brusque woman, but I do not recall any hostility whatever from her or anyone else.

F Q. Very well. One of the things she says is that, when she came into her post, I think in August, she found this arrangement in existence and arrangements being made for the boy to go out not being made, as it were, direct with her or the head of home. She says that in I think the interview with Mr. Hodgkinson. You need not turn it up. What I want to ask you about are your first two letters to No, I beg your pardon, the second and third. 22nd June, 1975. A. I have the 9th June.

G Q. The next one I hope is 22nd. A. It is the 24th I have, headed the Rubens Hotel?

Q. No. There should be one on 22.6.75. A. Ah yes, I beg your pardon sir, I have it.

H

- A Q. Second page towards the bottom: "Write to me when you have time and don't forget to ask whether you can help me at my surgery on Saturday week 5th July." A. Yes.
- B Q. It looks to me there as though you were saying to him: "Ask the people at the home whether it is all right?" A. Absolutely right, sir, but that does not mean that I would not have asked them. My normal procedure would be, if taking somebody out, to say to them: "You ask" and then I would also have checked or one of my staff would, but I think it is very important that youngsters should ask and not just have it done from the outside.
- C Q. The Rubens Hotel matter, you can help me with the construction of it perhaps to start with. I have a page marked one at the top which looks like a note and then a page which says: "Dear which I have overleaf, is number two at the top." A. Yes.
- D Q. It looks as though it is all of a piece. A. Probably in the wrong order.
- E Q. On the fourth page of that, on the same point, half way down, "If the visit to the pit does not come off please ask whether it will be all right for me to meet you all at the Holiday Inn at 1.45", which looked to me like possibly another example of the arrangements being made by him asking if it was all right to come out. A. Certainly. He would have done. And I would certainly have checked with them. Going down a pit, down a coal mine, I would not have dreamed of taking him down without discussing it with them, but I would certainly have wanted them to ask and I would certainly have checked. I had a routine every time to always check with them, either myself or one of my staff.
- F Q. Could you just turn back to page three, Mr. Janner, this is a sentence in a letter from a long time ago: "I am very glad that you found our chat useful, so did I, and I shall not forget my promises to you." This is page number three. A. Yes.
- G Q. Do you recall as to what that is about? A. No idea at all.
- H Q. There is a letter of 6th July in which there is a word that I cannot read. Fourth page, just above half way down. The something, brackets, "... aren't they marvellous?" A. "The cakes".
- Q. "Cakes" is it? A. Yes. Sorry.
- Q. I see elsewhere you apologise for your handwriting but I have read it all except for that one word. A. That is where appear from as well, sir. It is the only way I remember them.

A Q. Before you started your evidence I had made a note to ask you who on earth they were, but they seem to be staff at the home.
A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Janner, these letters of which I came to have photocopies we sent to you, have they been published in the press?
A. No. Not to my knowledge, anyway.

B Q. I had an idea from somewhere that some letters had been published in the press? A. No. My recollection is that during the Beck trial they did not refer to these letters. I cannot be sure because neither my wife nor I read the press during that trial. I do know that

C I also know that the press continually asked me to identify them and I refused to make any statement for various reasons, one of which was it would have been a contempt of court to say anything, and I do know that they have not published them.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think I have them from the police, do I not, Miss Pauffley?

MISS PAUFFLEY: Yes sir.

D THE CHAIRMAN,
Q. I have got them from the police rather than from the media. This unhappy - as it turned out - arrangement did that represent your first contact with Station Road? A. To the best of my recollection. I have no recollection of the letter which was referred to earlier from some youngster there as part of the competition. I do not remember any previous contact.

E Q. What about Halifax Drive and Westcotes Drive, had you had dealings with those homes as a visitor or in any other way?
A. My recollection of Halifax Drive was that there was trouble with the neighbours, that the home contacted me, that I managed to cool it down and that, during the Beck case I received a letter from the man who ran it commiserating with me, thanking me for what I had done, and saying that he would like to give evidence to you.

F Q. What about Westcotes Drive? A. Westcotes Drive, I only remember visiting it once at Christmas when I called at an old people's home next door and the children's home next door to that.

G Q. Do you have any view about whether elected members of the County Council should have any particular responsibility or interest in children's homes in their area? A. I have never thought about that, sir. I have no particular view.

Q. Did you have any dealings with Station Road after the arrangement with broke down at about Christmas?
A. I do not recall any.

H

A Q. Have you and your family had any sort of go at any other befriending of children in care? A. No sir. This was the only one. We were let down. It went wrong. And we have not done it again.

B Q. One of the concerns I have in this Inquiry and one of the reasons I regard your experience as a relevant one, is the extent to which Social Services Department addressed problems or worries that they had at the time. Is there any way do you think in which they, Mr. Beak, or head of home, tried to address with you concerns that they were having but perhaps because of your senior position were not able to communicate, for example, concerns that this was although a treat for in another sense a perhaps unsettling experience for him? A. I would not have thought so because of the conversation with Dorothy Edwards and because they knew that I was communicating with her and, if they were ill at ease in communicating their feelings to me, they knew that they had another route, if those were their feelings indeed.

C Q. There is some evidence in the papers that they had some discomfort about this. A. Yes. I have some feeling that possibly that is inevitable.

D Q. "Inevitable"...? A. Well, I was asked the question specifically, sir, whether people in public life - this is one of the questions that I was asked to address - should take part in befriending schemes, and my view is that they should be treated basically no different to anyone else, that people in public life are in a sense more vulnerable but, in another sense, they have the chance to retaliate, I suppose, as I was able to do after this thing was all over, whereas an ordinary person could not have done and could have been wrecked. That is one side. The other side is that there are advantages and disadvantages for the young people and indeed for the old people if they were a similar sort, and each case would I suppose have to be judged on its own facts and basis, but I am not an expert and this is the only contact I have ever had with it.

E Q. There is a danger ... I do not know whether there was but it looks as though there might have been a befriending scheme of some sort going on in the county at the time, there is a danger I suppose of people in a senior position not going through, as it were, the various meetings and advisory sessions and so on that the ordinary befriender would have to do. A. I suppose that is possible. The opposite is also possible. An ordinary person would not have had to go through the Director of Social Services.

G THE CHAIRMAN: Has anybody else got any other questions for Mr. Janner? (To the witness) Mr. Janner, I do not suppose, I do not know, but I do not suppose that the press will lose their interest straight away in this affair. You know that I am not going to determine the issues that they are so excited about. H I have let you have sight of confidential material because I

A thought it right that you should see something of it, but it has to obviously remain on a confidential basis and, whatever goads you get from the press, this stuff about and so on, has to remain on that basis, and I shall not in fact refer to details of it in the report. A. That is very clear and much appreciated. What I propose to say to them - and they are outside - is simply that it would not be proper for me to comment on anything that has been said in a private session but I would like to say to them - because they have already been asking me - that the questions had nothing to do with the allegations made by Beck against me. may I have your permission to say that?

B Q. Of course, Mr. Janner. A. Thank you very much.

C MISS PAUFFLEY: Just before Mr. Janner leaves I wonder if we might trouble him for those extracts particularly from the social services records that he has been provided with, whether we might have those back? I think it is something that the local authority would like because they are such sensitive and confidential documents. Would that be in order?

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any difficulty about that, Mr. Janner?

D THE WITNESS: No, none at all. I will go outside and take them out. May I take it that, insofar as documents have not been published concerning the alleged relationship, that they will not be published with the report, because that would be equally hurtful to my family and me?

E THE CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Janner, I cannot give you that assurance. I do not know what I am going to put in my report at the moment. It will be some time late in the autumn I shall be thinking of this aspect. But I am not going to give you any assurances.

THE WITNESS: If you please.