

D2307

A

THE LEICESTERSHIRE INQUIRY

WRITTEN EVIDENCE

OF

MR GREVILLE JANNER QC MP

1. See documentation provided to panel.
2. Copy given to reports.

(a) THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS

I have sought to refer to all the relevant matters contained in the documents in the course of my full reply to (b). I wish from the outset to emphasise that all allegations of impropriety made against me are totally untrue.

The documents have helped me to piece together dates and events and have refreshed my memory of matters that occurred some 17 years ago. It is clear from the ~~correspondence:-~~

(i) that when I met

I felt very sorry for him and wanted to help him;

(ii) that, together with my family and colleagues, I made energetic, enthusiastic and persistent efforts to assist him;

(iii) that after some six months, I admitted failure;

(iv) that when many years later Beck engineered the re-establishment of contact with I was delighted that had apparently

made good and stabilised his life;

- (v) that the false allegations were only made against me some 15 years after the alleged misconduct and after I had refused to give Beck a reference or to be a character witness for him in the criminal prosecution he faced.

The false allegations made against me by Beck and shortly before and during Beck's trials were clearly designed to distract the Jury's attention from the charges Beck faced. They were made under the cover of absolute privilege and in circumstances most likely to cause anguish to me, to my wife and to my family. The verdict of the Jury and the sentences passed on Beck following conviction speak for themselves.

I have dealt ~~only with the documents supplied to me by the Chairman.~~ I have deliberately not sought to analyse inconsistencies within the various statements by and the subsequent evidence of Beck and

(b) THE ORIGINS, HISTORY, COURSE AND NATURE OF MY ASSOCIATION WITH

With the assistance of the bundle of documents enclosed with the Chairman's letter of 7th May 1992 I have done my best to piece together events that occurred some seventeen years ago. I have tried to be scrupulous in differentiating between events that I personally remember and those that I can suggest would probably have happened taking account either of the information contained in the letters and the notes of Social Services personnel or the general circumstances at any particular time.

I recall first meeting _____ at a fete in Leicester which I was attending in my capacity as local MP. I would certainly have been accompanied by one of my assistants and

_____ (as is made clear by the letter of 9th June 1975). _____ appeared to be the leader of a group of three or four children from the Station Road Children's Home. They, and he in particular, followed us around. I seem to remember _____ distributing material and generally assisting. I cannot give any estimate as to when this may have occurred although from my letter of 9th June 1975 it may be that the fete occurred on the Sunday

preceding that date, 8th June.

I have no recollection of any contact with [redacted] at [redacted] as is claimed by him in his statement. I did however visit that school about once a year and he may have seen me during one of my visits.

Whilst I cannot specifically recall the details, I believe that when I first met [redacted] at the fete he told me something of his background and circumstances. I know that I felt very sorry for him and wanted to help him. I recall [redacted] in general terms as a lively and engaging lad. As he was living in a children's home, I would not have allowed him to accompany me without the full consent and approval of those in charge at the Home. Whilst I must emphasise that I was not at any time part of a formal "befriender scheme", with all the support that that usually involves, I do not believe that I ever saw him by arrangement without the prior approval of the Home.

Although after 17 years I cannot recall specific occasions, I know that I had very many discussions about [redacted] both on the telephone and in person, with those responsible at the Home. In addition, as appears later in this statement, I also consulted with [redacted]

Miss Dorothy Edwards. It was in the spirit of trying to help both as an individual and the Home with its task of looking after him, that accompanied me on various occasions.

It would appear from the second page of my letter of 9th June 1975 that I anticipated taking to a fete the following Saturday, which would have been 14th June. Although I have no specific recollection I believe that told me at the first fete that he had enjoyed helping me and asked whether he might accompany me again. Given domestic arrangements I am certain that I would have sought the normal and proper consent of those in charge at the children's home. This having been granted the arrangements for the following weekend would have been made in the letter of 9th June.

Again, I have no specific recollection of the next occasion when I saw which would appear from my letter to him of 22nd June 1975 to have been the Saturday prior to that (21st June 1975). It is clear from that letter that met on that occasion together with. It would appear from the first paragraph of the second page of that letter that we all delivered back to Station Road Children's Home and that on that occasion we met the other children.

It would appear from the correspondence that I saw him in late June and again in July prior to his visit to London on 23rd July. Again, I have no recollection whatsoever of these occasions.

In his statement, claims that I was angry that my letters to him were opened by staff at the Home. As my letter of the 6th July makes clear, my anger was directed at him for having falsely alleged that his mail was censored. The letter is self-explanatory in this respect.

I believe that the first occasion that visited my home in London was the one explained below when he came for dinner with me following a visit to the House of Commons. Arrangements were subsequently made for him to stay in London at my home.

Although I cannot remember what prompted visit and overnight stay, I do remember speaking with the then Director of Social Services, Miss Dorothy Edwards. I cannot remember specific occasions, but I do recall that kept asking me whether I wouldn't give him a chance to visit our home and to come with me on one of my then very frequent lecture trips. I recall speaking to Dorothy Edwards about these requests. We discussed my efforts to befriend

and the desirability and usefulness of my continuing to do so. We also discussed whether it would be helpful and desirable for to stay at my home in London and to travel outside Leicester with me.

I cannot recall where I met Miss Edwards and nor do I now remember her exact words. I do however remember that she was very positive about it and encouraged me to continue. She used words to the effect that she hoped that my contact with would do him some good and that she was sure that it would do me some good because I would learn first hand a little more about the problems that the Social Services workers have to deal with on a day to day basis.

She emphasised that if I were to continue to help him I should not give up the first time he misbehaved as some people did. I confirmed to her that I would persevere.

I cannot recall specifically asking for the permission of those responsible at Station Road in relation to visits to London or to Scotland. I repeat that there was however a clear system which I abided

by on every relevant occasion. Whenever it was proposed that [redacted] come out of the Home either for an occasion in Leicester or elsewhere then I would be expected to request the permission of those responsible at the home. This I invariably did, either personally or through one of my assistants, by telephone.

I believe that [redacted] visit to our home on 23rd July is the occasion that he refers to in his statement. He refers in his statement to "a cook, a woman named [redacted]

[redacted] This in fact refers to [redacted] who was our residential housekeeper at the time. She lived in our home as our housekeeper and did not have a home elsewhere. My wife and daughters were on holiday in Israel at the time (as is clear from the letter of 29th July). Under those circumstances [redacted] would have cooked for us and ensured that she was on hand to deal with anything that arose. She would not have been away overnight. My son [redacted] recalls [redacted] staying overnight at our home and is absolutely certain that he did not stay away with friends as claimed by [redacted]

I cannot recall any specific details about that stay save as explained below in relation to [redacted]

I can however confirm that the allegations of impropriety contained in [redacted] statement relating [redacted]

to this stay are completely untrue. It is not the case that he and I were alone in the house overnight. None of the sexual behaviour that he alleges took place, either at my house or elsewhere. His claim that I "cuddled" him on collecting him from the railway station at the beginning of the weekend and subsequently "patted" him on the knees a couple of times in the car is also untrue. also alleges in his second statement that I welcomed him at St. Pancras with an "embrace". This is also not true.

It is correct that during this visit I took to the home of my close friends and neighbours who lived then and still live

I recall that the weather was very warm and that we swam in their swimming pool as is stated by in his statement. has a vague recollection of visit. Both she and confirm that they would certainly have been present and joining in the swimming. They have supplied detailed information to my representatives and to the police contradicting the various allegations made by in his statement. In particular, they have confirmed that it would not have been the case that and I would have been left alone; would not have had to swim in his underpants (there was a pile of swimming trunks in the changing rooms, specifically for the use of guests);

it was not true that "the garden was very private" (it was in fact overlooked from the house on one side and by neighbours' homes on the other three sides); it is an absolute fabrication and fantasy to suggest that we or anyone else swam nude in their pool or that any impropriety whatsoever took place as alleges; and, it is not true that the following weekend accompanied my family and me to their daughter's church wedding.

Shortly after return to Station Road Children's Home following his visit I recall receiving a telephone call from someone at the Home saying that

I confirmed to the representative of the children's home arranged to see on my next visit to Leicester.

I remember being extremely annoyed that

I resolved at that time that although I would persevere in my attempts to help him (and so honour my promise to Miss Edwards) I would not have him in my home again

I told him that I was extremely disappointed by his behaviour. He apologised and promised that he would not do it again. I told him that in the circumstances he would not be made welcome again in my family's home. Other than this restriction however I was determined to continue to try to help him.

The copy correspondence indicates that shortly after this incident [I arranged for] to visit the House of Commons (see my letter of 29th July 1975). I confirm however that he did not come to our home either on this occasion or at any time subsequently.

Reference is made by in his statement to visits by him to the House of Commons. It is correct that he visited the House more than once, and I can recall being at the House of Commons doing chores and running errands for me. I also recall on one occasion introducing him to one of the doorkeepers at the House of Commons who was from Leicester. Reference to this appears in the letter of 5th August, the doorkeeper being I cannot however remember exactly how many times visited the House of Commons, the dates of any such visit or exactly what happened on each occasion.

A colleague in Leicester,
recalls visiting the House of Commons with

She remembers that was at the House on that occasion. She has a photograph of herself, her son, myself, some pensioners and on the lawn in front of the House. I do not remember visiting the House of Commons as part of a school outing, although it is entirely possible that this may have occurred. Indeed, the school outing may well have been the same occasion as that remembered by

I do recall one occasion when visited the House of Commons and afterwards came back to my house for dinner with my wife and me. He did not stay overnight.

The note dated 23rd July 1975 was presumably from its form written to when he was staying at my house and left for him for when he awoke the following morning. It contains directions from my home to the House of Commons which suggests that he visited the House on 23rd July, the date of the note. Insofar as my father's letter to is dated 28th July I suspect that this was the occasion when I introduced him to my father.

The other visit to the House of Commons which can be

established from the correspondence is revealed by my letter of 29th July 1975. This again details travel arrangements for [redacted] to attend the House.

I assume that

[redacted] If he had not done so I would not have been willing to stand by my promise to allow him to accompany me on one of my lecture trips, a promise I had made when he had previously asked me to take him with me as he had not had the opportunity of travelling.

I note from the postscript to my letter of 5th August that arrangements were made to meet [redacted] at the Holiday Inn on 12th August in preparation for him accompanying me on a short trip to Scotland. As can be seen from that letter, the arrangements were that a bed would have been arranged for [redacted] in the separate sitting room of the two rooms that I used as a suite. I cannot add anything further to that contained in the letter as I do not have any specific recollection of this.

I can however confirm that neither on this occasion nor on any other did [redacted] share a room with me. The allegations of a sexual relationship conducted at the Holiday Inn or elsewhere are completely untrue.

The journey to Scotland related, I believe, to my work at the time lecturing on the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. I was travelling extensively and lecturing on that new legislation and I have no specific recollection of that particular trip. I would emphasise that I allowed [redacted] to accompany me because he was keen to do so, he not apparently having had the opportunity to travel before. I agreed to this, as I did everything else in relation to [redacted] hoping that it would help him and that the experience would be positive and beneficial.

I assume that I would have been driven to Scotland by one of my assistants. This appears to be confirmed by the undated letter written by [redacted] (one of my assistants at the time) to [redacted] in which he refers to a trip up to Scotland. I believe I was at all times driven on that journey by [redacted]

[redacted] suggestion that it was a two week holiday in Scotland is untrue. I have never made a trip to Scotland lasting more than two or three days. Insofar as the Leicester Mercury of 14th August 1975 contains an advertisement for a surgery to be held by me on Saturday 16th August in Leicester this is moreover conclusive proof that the suggestion that I spent a fortnight in Scotland with [redacted] is nonsense.

Shortly after my return to London following the Scottish journey, someone told me that

My recollection is that I was informed by telephone, but I have read the statement by Barbara Fitt that she told me personally in Leicester and that is possible. In any event, I think that her recollection on the matter as set out in that statement is not correct. I have no recollection of having been in Aylesbury and certainly not with

Following that discussion of

I do not recall specifically what I said to the person who had called me, although I do remember making it clear that I would not be willing to take away with me again.

Although I cannot be specific, as I do not remember the situation, the correspondence would seem to suggest that I did not see after this incident for some time. I would estimate that we would have returned from the Scottish trip on about 15th August.

There is no documentary evidence of any further meeting with [redacted] until that of 4th October following my meeting with Mr Beak towards the end of September 1975. I do remember the meeting with Mr Beak in general terms. My letter of 29th September 1975 confirms my general recollection of what we discussed. It was he who asked me to continue to "take an interest in the lad" and at his request I agreed to see [redacted] again in an attempt to "re-establish some measure of understanding".

I do not recall the meeting of 4th October nor any other occasions when I met with him thereafter save for the incident at the Labour Party surgery.

Shortly after I first met [redacted] he asked whether he could attend one of my surgeries which I held as the local Member of Parliament. I had no objection to this and again thought that it was an activity which might be both helpful and beneficial to him. I was almost invariably accompanied at my surgeries by my Parliamentary agent, Councillor George Billington. I always had at least one of my Parliamentary assistants with me as they were responsible for the case work arising out of the surgery. [redacted] also often attended. Although I do not recall specifically what [redacted] did during the surgeries I remember in general terms that he [redacted] would help where

possible by running errands, showing people in to see me and sitting in on some meetings where the constituent did not mind and the subject matter was appropriate.

I cannot estimate how many surgeries attended. I do however remember the aftermath of the final surgery he attended. I cannot remember the date of this although from the correspondence and a note in the Social Services case notes file I believe that it may have been on 18th December 1975. The note is almost certainly factually incorrect in that I do not recall ever having accompanied me to a working men's club,

I suspect that this is a mistake and that this should in fact refer to my constituency surgery but that the date is nevertheless correct.

Following the surgery I discovered, although I cannot now recall how,

I informed those responsible at Station Road that in those circumstances I would not be able to see him again

This is confirmed by my letters of 22nd December to Mrs Fitt and 29th December to Mr Beak.

I suffered

I considered carefully what should be done for the best.

I took the decision that he should not again visit our home.

I decided that I should no longer see him save on day visits in or around Leicester.

I decided that I could no longer see him in any context

I do recall hearing from someone, and I cannot now remember who, that

I cannot recall when I heard this, although the documents would suggest that it was some time in October. I contacted Mr Beak to ask him what the situation was.

If I had I would certainly have reported the matter to those responsible at the Home. I seem to recall that I did not get a clear response from Mr Beak. He indicated that it was not something that need concern me and on that basis I enquired no

further.

 makes various allegations in his statement relating to the Holiday Inn in Leicester. It is my usual practice to stay there whenever I am in Leicester overnight. I try to swim regularly for relaxation and often use the swimming pool at the Holiday Inn. I recall taking a group of children from Station Road Children's Home, including swimming at the Holiday Inn following the only criticism I ever recall receiving from the Social Services staff. One of the staff of the Home had told me that other children in group were getting jealous and asked me to take those other children out next time accompanied me. I was delighted to agree to this and took the children swimming at the Holiday Inn.

 suggestions that I hired the swimming pool for private use and that on occasions I or anyone with me swam nude in the swimming pool are a complete fabrication and fantasy. Indeed, at that time the swimming pool was overlooked through glass windows both from the dining room and from the outside.

 allegation of sexual relations with me at the Holiday Inn is also a complete fabrication. I confirm once again that I have never had any form of physical or sexual relationship with

whatsoever, at the Holiday Inn or elsewhere.

Following the theft from the Labour Party premises I was informed that _____ was to be moved to a home run by Frank Beck

I do recall speaking on the telephone at about that time to someone working at the home, probably Mr Beck himself. I was informed that for an extensive initial period the young people under treatment were totally cut off from all previous relationships so as to give them the opportunity to make a completely fresh start. I was asked not to make any contact with _____ I agreed to this request although I thought the treatment unusual.

The suggestion that I had a racing bike delivered to the home as a Christmas present for _____ is untrue, as is his claim that I had previously sent him "a large amount of money" for his birthday. I may have given him a birthday present but I would certainly have checked in advance with the Home as to what would have been appropriate.

The claim in _____ statement that I tried to talk him down from the roof of the Station Road Children's Home during a "revolt" by him and others is almost certainly another example of pure fantasy. If there

ever was such a revolt I am sure that I knew nothing about it and took no part in trying to resolve it, as otherwise I am confident that I would remember it. The records of the Home will presumably confirm whether or not such an incident ever took place.

I heard nothing more from [redacted] for three years or so. In about 1978 he turned up unannounced and uninvited at the House of Commons. I asked him whether he had permission to be there and he said that he did not. I immediately telephoned the home and was asked to send him straight back. I asked whether I should give him dinner before he left and this was agreed. I bought him dinner and listened while he told me that he was a "new man" and that he was now known as [redacted] not [redacted]. I then sent him back to Leicester.

I heard nothing more about [redacted] until early 1986 when I received a letter from Frank Beck which I no longer have. From my reply of 14th March 1986 it would appear that the purpose of his letter was to inform me of [redacted] progress and invite me to renew contact with him. I enclosed a letter to [redacted] with my reply to Beck which is self-explanatory.

Despite that letter [redacted] did not in fact make contact with me until the Summer of 1987. Again, the

copy correspondence explains the basis upon which we met. came to London twice, first on his own and thereafter with his future wife and their children. Whilst I cannot be certain, I believe that on the first visit we chatted over a cup of tea or a meal in one of the cafeterias in the House. He asked on that occasion whether he could bring his wife and children to see me. On the subsequent occasion I remember that we all had tea in a cafe on the Embankment as the children were noisy. I was delighted that appeared to have made something of his life. He appeared very happy and confident.

When came to see me at the House of Commons (on the first occasion I believe) he told me that

I gave him as a souvenir of the evening and as a token of my pleasure at his apparent success in rebuilding his life, a copy of a book I had written.

It is correct that [redacted] invited me to his wedding and that I did not attend. I did however send him a wedding present from myself [redacted] and later some gifts for his new baby.

It is not true that [redacted] subsequently telephoned me and that I denied ever knowing him.

I cannot of course say what allegations [redacted] may or may not have made about me to Frank Beck. Insofar as [redacted] made sexual allegations against me (as Beck claimed in his statement to the police) these are completely untrue. The allegation by Beck in his written answer to question 44(c) put to him on behalf of the Inquiry that I "was continuing with another boy from Station Road" in 1976 is also untrue.

I
can only confirm that any allegation of sexual impropriety by me with [redacted] or with any other young person would have been completely false. No such matter was ever raised with me by the police until the false allegations made by Beck in 1991. I believe that this is another of Beck's lies.

It is correct that when Beck lost his job with the

Social Services he wrote asking me for a reference. I declined to provide him with this as I did not even remember having met him.

I later heard from [redacted] who asked me to give character evidence for Beck at his trial. I declined for the same reason in my reply of 21st June 1990. I repeat that I consider that it is extremely relevant that the allegations against me by both [redacted] and Beck appear first to have been made shortly after I refused to help Beck in his trial.

I have considered the various notes and background material compiled by the Social Services. Reference is made to complaints that they may have had regarding my attempts to help [redacted]. I can only say that I recall no criticism from anyone in the Social Services department concerning my efforts on behalf of [redacted] save the one referred to above to the effect that other children were on occasion jealous of him. Had I received any complaint or any indication that I should conduct my efforts on [redacted] behalf differently then I would have taken it extremely seriously. Those efforts were entirely directed at helping [redacted] and were made in co-operation with, and with what I had understood to be the full backing of, those responsible at Station Road and, as appropriate, those more senior in the Social Services department. I had

no complaint to make either regarding the conduct of the staff towards _____ or towards myself. From what I saw of them they did a good, caring and responsible job.

As I have emphasised above, my best recollection is that the only occasions when _____ stayed away from the home under my care were when he stayed at my house in London and in connection with the Scottish trip. The suggestion by Mr Beak in his statement that _____ was spending weekends staying away with me is, save for the above occasions, incorrect. Similarly, Mrs Fitt's statement that _____ had been away with me "almost every weekend" is wrong.

I do not know why both _____ and Beck have chosen to make these false allegations against me. One possible explanation is however provided by a letter I received from a servicing prisoner who had at times shared a cell with Beck and who was not known to me. He wrote unsolicited by me to tell me that Beck had admitted to him various of the sexual offences alleged against him. Beck had also told the prisoner that he had got one of his young victims to lie and to tell Beck's solicitor and the police that I had been sexually abusing him. Beck apparently told the prisoner that he was going to frame me and also that he intended to "fix police officers and top Social Services people".

The prisoner later telephoned me at the House of Commons from the prison office. He told me that he had made a statement to the above effect to the officers involved in the criminal case against Becklin, which he had emphasised that Beck told him that the false allegations against me were designed to deflect attention from Beck to me.

(c) THE VALUE OF BEFRIENDING SCHEMES AND THE BENEFIT AND WISDOM OF PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LIFE BECOMING INVOLVED IN THEM

I believe that it is important to encourage the befriending of children in care by responsible adults with stable homes, where such adults are appropriate. That my efforts on behalf of [redacted] failed and eventually led to such wretched results for my family and for myself is not in my view an argument against befriending arrangements. Nor should people in public life stand back from such effort although what has happened to us will certainly be no encouragement to them to participate.

By definition, children in care need care. This can never be provided to the full in any residential home, however excellent. An input from the outside could and should be helpful.

In addition, I believe that it would also be wrong for people in public life to be cut off from the realities with which Social Services and others have to deal.

Of course, with the benefit of hindsight, I would have been much better off not to have tried to help

My family and I have suffered profoundly through our efforts to help him. There was however

nothing inherently unwise about it. It was like any other proper and constructive befriending arrangement - a sensible, genuine and kindly effort by me, with the help of my family and my colleagues. I am only sorry that it did not succeed.

(d) OTHER MATTERS

My knowledge as to the quality of management of children's homes in the County or of the people responsible for management is as set out above. I have no knowledge of any befriending schemes in Leicestershire or elsewhere. Had I had the slightest suspicion of any of the sort of matters that have since surfaced I would of course have reported them immediately and sought to ensure that appropriate action was taken.