

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Ref. T20177306

IN THE CROWN COURT AT BRADFORD

Exchange Square
Drake Street
Bradford

Before HIS HONOUR JUDGE DURHAM HALL QC
THE RECORDER OF BRADFORD

R E G I N A

- v -

**BASHARAT IQBAL KHALIQ, SAEED AKHTAR, YASAR MAJID,
NAVEED AKHTAR, PARVAZE AFZAL AHMED, IZAR KHAN HUSSAIN,
KIERAN HARRIS, ZEESHAN ALI, FAHIM IQBAL, MOHAMMED USMAN**

**MS K MELLY QC and MS S BEATTIE (instructed by the Crown Prosecution Service)
appeared on behalf of the Prosecution**

**MR A IQBAL QC and MR F ARSHAD appeared on behalf of the Defendant Khaliq
MR P MOULSON QC and MR A SHAKOOR appeared on behalf of the Defendant
Saeed Akhtar**

MS G BATTIS appeared on behalf of the Defendant Majid

MR R FRIEZE appeared on behalf of the Defendant Naveed Akhtar

MR A BELL appeared on behalf of the Defendant Ahmed

MS G KELLY appeared on behalf of the Defendant Hussain

MR G WILSON appeared on behalf of the Defendant Harris

MS F HERTZOG appeared on behalf of the Defendant Ali

MR A DALLAS appeared on behalf of the Defendant Iqbal

MR R FERM appeared on behalf of the Defendant Usman

PROCEEDINGS

8th JANUARY 2019, 10.33-12.04, 12.21-13.02, 14.22-15.24

REPORTING RESTRICTIONS APPLY:
SECTION 4(2) OF THE CONTEMPT OF COURT ACT 1981
SEXUAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) ACT 1992

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A JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good morning everybody. Thank you very much. Thank you. I've had a – one letter from one juror's employer. Thank you. Did – are you aware of this?
MS MELLY: No.
MR IQBAL: No.

B JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It's a gentlemen, [Juror 10], he has a key – hello ---
THE COURT USHER: Good morning, your Honour.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sorry to interrupt. The, it doesn't matter. I don't think the usher expected me to be here.
THE COURT USHER: I didn't, I'm sorry, your Honour, I was just waiting ---

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: You didn't, my – I'm sorry to do that, Mrs Beckley, I shall make a point of doing it every day. The – do take a seat, thank you very much indeed. The gentlemen in question is a key player in a project and basically the company can't function without him and he wouldn't get paid in which case he'd probably lose a lot more than, and it would take – it would distract him so he's going.

D MS MELLY: Yes.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK, all agreed.
MS MELLY: No difficulties.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No problem. We'll simply bring in the first alternative –

E alternate ---
MR IQBAL: Yes.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- and push in the fifteenth juror as the second alternate, OK.
MR IQBAL: Yes.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No problem with any of that?

F MS MELLY: No thank you, your Honour.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Mr Frieze is somewhere. Mr Akhtar, is Mr Naveed Akhtar here? Thank you, Mr Akhtar, I appreciate yesterday you couldn't be with us but you're here today so we're all right. As long as it's you and not somebody else, OK. Naveed Akhtar, jolly good. Have there been any problems, there's no need to rearraign anybody on any

G count, no? You know what I mean, there've been no change to the indictment? No. Right.
MS MELLY: No, thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Ready to go?
MS MELLY: If I just mention two matters very briefly if I may. My learned friends will

H have received an email this morning which does have a very short new disclosure schedule and items. I raise it so there are no concerns about the fact that it's been received at this

A stage. Quite properly the Crown made the request for up to date medical records for the complainants to consider that material for disclosure post the last trial. We obviously left that so that we could have an ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: That's fine, fine.

B MS MELLY: --- up to date position.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good, good. If there's a -- unless there's a problem why are you telling me?

MS MELLY: Certainly.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good. Can we have the jury in?

C MS MELLY: Certainly.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I'm not getting -- I get you, don't worry, if there's no problem I'm happy to be in a state of sublime ignorance.

MS MELLY: Well then ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK.

D MS MELLY: --- I'll leave it there. There is an application later today ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sure.

MS MELLY: --- in respect of a hearsay application due to the ill health of an officer.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sure, we'll have time to deal with that, won't we ---

E MS MELLY: Yes, I haven't got the material ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- comfortably.

MS MELLY: --- at this stage, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED COUNSEL: The only problem I might raise is that I haven't received anything by email today ---

F JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right, well there we are, I'm sure that will be sorted. You'll all do the best you can with what you've got. Thank you so much. Can we have the jury in. Did you get my request for a copy of the opening? I can't work off the DCS.

MS MELLY: May I just hand that up?

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thanks ever so much. Thank you. Thank you very much indeed.

G (The jury entered court at 10.37)

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good morning everybody. Thank you. Thank you very much.

[Juror 10], we've looked at your problem. It would clearly be intolerable for you to be put under the pressure that you would be so unless -- I've got a letter from your employer - unless
H you wish to contradict that and stay, it's a matter for you, but we are all, and I made the

A decision, more than happy for you to be replaced by one of the alternates now. It's up to you I'm afraid but we are very anxious, [Juror 10], that you don't feel that you're under pressure to stay and won't be concerned about any consequences of staying. Do you follow me?

B JUROR 10: Yes, no, I understand. I just hope it's work if I'm working, I will go if that's all right.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well it doesn't look it'll go very well for you, does it? This is exactly the sort of situation that I am wholly sympathetic about, a small company, significant employee, financial consequences. I'm afraid you're better doing a shorter trial, OK, so thanks but no thanks, off you go. Thank you ever so much. All right.

C [JUROR 10]: Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you very much. Brilliant. But everybody else ready to go, excellent, that is so good. Now what we're going to do and the system permits this is the thirteenth name we read out yesterday the lady ---

D THE COURT CLERK: [Juror 13].

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- [Juror 13], would you like to become juror number 9, I think it's number 9, is it, or 7?

THE COURT CLERK: 10.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: What?

E THE COURT CLERK: 10.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: 10, 11, 12, yes, that's right, sorry, 10, 11, 12, OK. Right. And the name number 14, you become first alternate, madam, and number 15, just as well I kept 15, you become the second alternate. Now I'll just explain what's going to happen very, very briefly. You are the jury. You will be sworn. The defendants will be put in your charge and

F from that moment on you will have the responsibility of listening to submissions and, more importantly, evidence and coming to conclusions as you see fit. I'm not going to swear the subs because in the unlikely event that after the opening something occurs to any of you that makes it impossible for you to continue, which I don't think is going to happen quite honestly in this case but you never know, then I say goodbye to the subs. If there is a problem I can

G use one of them to fill the gap. Do you follow? So the system requires all 14 of you to listen carefully to the opening but the harsh reality is that you 12 are the jury subject to any developments, OK, there we go.

H So what will happen now is that each of you 12 will be sworn and I'll hand over to the clerk, OK, and we're going to listen to the opening of the prosecution today. As soon as that's finished, a couple of hours' worth, I may rather than having a break, Ms Kelly, give the

A jury a longer lunch hour and we can just finish comfortably this afternoon but we'll see how it goes, we may be – you may be done by lunchtime, certainly if I shut up, OK, all right. Thank you. All right.

(The jury were empanelled)

B THE COURT CLERK: Members of the jury, you are all sworn. Members of the jury, the defendants Basharat Khaliq is charged in this indictment with five counts of rape and one count of assault by penetration, Saeed Akhtar is charged with two counts of causing or inciting child prostitution and one count of rape, Yasar Majid is charged with one count of rape, Naveed Akhtar is charged with three counts of rape, Parvaze Ahmed is charged with two counts of rape, Izar Hussain is charged with three counts of rape and one count of attempted rape, Zeeshan Ali is charged with one count of sexual assault, Kieran Harris is charged with two counts of rape, Fahim Iqbal is charged with one count of rape, Mohammed Usman is charged with two counts of rape. To this indictment they have pleaded not guilty. It is your duty to say (inaudible) first hearing the evidence whether they or any of them guilty or not on any of these counts.

D MS MELLY: Members of the jury, this case concerns the sexual exploitation of two girls. It commenced now over 10 years ago. Those two young women were both born in 1993 and they're now in their mid-20s. The two young women in question are [Person B] and [Person A] and these two women were both residents in a local authority care home. They were placed there and they became friends with each other there and that was in the spring of 2008 when they were both aged 14. It was after they became residents at that children home that the abuse commenced. In respect of both [Person A1] and [Person B1] as you will hear the abuse continued long after they had in fact left that care home and were first in supported accommodation and then in independent accommodation. The case of [Person A1] and the case of [Person B1] are in many ways very different to each other, however what links them is that following their admission into a children's home in this city rather than being supported in respect of the tragic events that had led to them being placed in care they were used and they were used for the sexual fulfilment of the man in the dock. The care home in question was [Location B2] in the Allerton area of Bradford and say the prosecution the men facing these charges exploited and manipulated [Person B] and [Person A] to submit to sexual activity with them. The defendants did so in a variety of ways taking advantage of their youth and the situation that [Person A1] and [Person B1] found themselves in both having entered care in difficult circumstances.

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Some of the defendants were actually forceful, some of the defendants were threatening and violent, others used alcohol and drugs, others created a manipulated relationship in order to facilitate their sexual exploitation but all defendants say the Crown engaged in cynical and manipulative behaviour in order to achieve their objective of sexual activity with the two now women who will come to court before you and tell you about their lives as teenagers at the hands of these 10 men.

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We are conscious, members of the jury, that we have told you in just a few seconds that you will be dealing with the behaviour of 10 men towards two girls over many years and you have already heard that there are many charges for you to decide upon in due course and you are aware that you are due at this courtroom for far longer than the two weeks that perhaps you hoped you would be required for when you received your summons. You have before you a sea of unintroduced barristers and solicitors and all of those factors, members of the jury, we are very conscious may make you feel as though the case is perhaps overwhelming. At the present moment we are aware that you may feel concerned not just about the unpleasant nature of the subject matter that you're going to hear about over the next few weeks but you may also have concerns about feeling concerned about dealing with a case of this size and with so many different names being mentioned to you in such a very brief period of time.

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May we try to allay some of those concerns. You will have assistance through this trial and it is the role of the prosecution to assist you with your understanding of the case so that you may fulfil your role to do your duty and to bring justice to the case that you are to try. We are confident that by the time you come to reach your verdict in this case you will have in your mind a very clear picture of the role of each accused person, the issues that you need to resolve in that particular defendant's case and that is why, members of the jury, I haven't started this address to you in the normal way by introducing everybody in the courtroom, it would simply be a case then of just reading a list of names to you of the barristers in this case, and we mean no disrespect to our colleagues, to the barristers who represent the defendants, but it's unlikely to be helpful to you at this stage as we say to just read you another list of names. So in due course when we give to you the bundles of papers and the jury bundles you will see that there will be a section for each defendant in there with a note which will contain the brief details of each charge and also a photograph of the defendant so that you have an easy aide memoire and also of course there you can make the notes of who represents each defendant and so forth.

A You will also see that in the jury bundle that you will have spare dividers because you're going to receive more paper documents as we go through the case. In particular you will be receiving a timeline document which will set out the relevant dates in this case. Do not feel that you are obliged to try and remember that level of detail as we go through. You
B will also be receiving a substantial document which contains agreed facts that the defence and the prosecution agree on and that in that way we will cut down the length of the trial and the amount of live evidence that you will have to receive. And in due course as I come on to tell you a little about the case in respect of each defendant individually we will give you some of those documents.

C But before we move on and deal with that, members of the jury, I'm just going to address you very briefly about the nature of the evidence that we anticipate that you will hear in this case. This case was investigated by police some time after the events occurred. There will not be therefore evidence from CCTV cameras or evidence of forensic science
D investigations placed before you. The fundamental evidence in this case comes from the two complainants, [Person A1] and [Person B1]. When police obtained their evidence as part of the investigation they were both spoken to by police officers, by trained police officers, and it's now absolutely commonplace that conversation between the police and [Person A1] and [Person B1] was video recorded. In due course we will be playing the video recordings of that interview as part of the evidence in the case.

E Now in due course you will understand that the nature of this case and in respect of the witness [Person A1], the complainant [Person A1] in particular, will take up the vast majority of this trial. [Person A1]'s video evidence is lengthy. The interviews between her and the police officers took place over many hours, indeed it was recorded over many months
F on 15 different discs and whilst there has been a substantial effort to try and cut down those discs to avoid repetition it will still be video recorded interviews in particular as we say with [Person A] that will take up a substantial part of time.

Now the experience of the courts is that listening and viewing a recording, sadly often of inferior quality due to the equipment that's used, makes the information hard to absorb.
G From time to time, and with the agreement of the learned judge, and where it is of assistance to you we may interrupt the recording to simply confirm which defendant it is that the witness, [Person A1], is describing and what the charge relates to. You will see that myself and the judge and the other lawyers do work with transcripts of the video interviews that took place between [Person A1] and the police and [Person B1] and the police. Now you will get
H some summaries of the defendants' interviews when they were interviewed not as witnesses

A but as suspects and it may be therefore that you are thinking in the back of your mind that
you would receive a transcript of the video interviews that took place with [Person A1] and
with [Person B1]. Now whilst you might be forgiven for thinking that that would be coming
B to you in due course we tell you at the outset now that the rules do not permit us to give you a
written summary or a transcript of what [Person A1] and [Person B1] told the police when
they were interviewed. You will have an opportunity to view it, you can if you wish make
notes whilst the evidence is heard but there is no obligation at all on you to do so and of
course you will receive as you've heard from the learned judge a summary of the evidence at
C the end of the case. But we tell you that now so that you are aware that your opportunity to
receive the evidence from [Person A1] and from [Person B1] is when those videos are played
to you.

Now we tell you all of that so that you have an awareness that when those videos are
played that will be the only opportunity that you have to hear and see that which they wanted
to tell the police officers. Much of this case is about context and understanding the reality of
D the lives of the two girls, [Person A1] and [Person B1]. Some of what you will hear you may
find difficult or disturbing. If you need a break whilst watching it or you struggle to hear part
of it or struggle to see part of it then we ask you please to raise any of those concerns at the
time that we play it as we will struggle to assist you once that time has passed.

Once the videos of those conversations with the police are played of course you will
then see [Person A1] and [Person B1] being asked questions by the defence as part of their
cross-examination and we anticipate that you will receive that evidence by [Person A1] and
[Person B1] giving evidence from the witness box within this courtroom. The other evidence
that we anticipate you will hear will fall into a number of different categories. You will hear
F some evidence that explains a little of the background of [Person A1] and [Person B1], of
how they came to be in care in the first place, their lives and their lifestyles. You will hear
evidence from those within authority, those working in the care homes, working for Bradford
Council. There is some evidence of incidents that workers can specifically remember. In
respect of other pieces of evidence it is the workers, the social workers explaining entries that
G were made on care records of things they thought or were told that were going on. There will
also be some evidence from police officers who engaged with the complainants from time to
time and dealt with them when they were missing from the children's home. There is also
some evidence from people who knew [Person A1] and [Person B1] at the time of the events.
And as the prosecution draw their case to a close in approximately three to four weeks' time
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A you will also of course hear the evidence of - from the police officers as to what the defendants told them when they were interviewed.

B And the remaining weeks of this trial are allocated to hearing any evidence called on behalf of the defendants followed by speeches from each party in this case, so 11 speeches in total, and then as we say a summary of the case from the learned judge before you then go to retire as we say to consider your verdicts. When you do retire you will have with you the notes, any notes that you've made throughout this trial, and also any of the documents that you've been given during the trial.

C You will reach the decision being true to your oath and applying these fundamental principles. The Crown has brought this case against these 10 men. It is the burden of the prosecution to prove this case to you not for the defendants to prove their innocence and the certainty that you must find to reach a verdict of guilty is that nothing less than being sure of guilt will suffice.

D Having dealt with some of the preliminary matters let the Crown address you now in just a little more detail as to the evidence and the charges. Firstly, let me explain a little about the background to this investigation and how it came to the police's attention. In 2012 a police investigation was underway into child exploitation in the Keighley area. These men in the dock before you were not suspects in that police investigation. The investigation into child sexual exploitation in Keighley was called Operation Kalarabi. Now during the course of that investigation, so back in 2012, the procedure was that when names of either girls, potential victims, or men, the potential suspects, were found during Operation Kalarabi police constables were allocated the task of finding the individuals whether that be a potential suspect or a potential victim and going to find those individuals and asking them a list of questions, they had pro forma questionnaires produced. And in July 2013 the details of [Person A] cropped up during that unrelated police investigation. The phone number of [Person A] was found on a piece of paper and that caused police officers working on Operation Kalarabi to go and speak to her and Police Constable Gatenby and Detective Constable Taylor visited [Person A] as part of Operation Kalarabi. They explained to her that police needed to speak to her because her phone number had been found on a piece of paper, they told her they weren't investigating [Person A1] but they wanted to see if she had any information that could help them with their ongoing investigation into what happened in Keighley.

H Now [Person A1] met those officers and she explained to them that she couldn't give them any information that was directly relevant to their ongoing investigation into the events

A in Keighley. However at that meeting with [Person A1] with those two police officers in which [Person A1] was accompanied by her mother and her then partner, [Person A1] did back then go on to explain in very general terms what her own experiences had been and she told the police officers, [Person A1] told the police officers that she was pleased that the police were taking action on child sexual exploitation. She told the police that she had been groomed, that she had been sexually exploited, although of course [Person A1] was telling police about offences other than the ones that they had come to her house to investigate. [Person A1] told police back then that she had been given alcohol, that she had been given drugs by the men, that she had become addicted to drugs, that the abuse that she had suffered had taken place over a long period of time and it had started with her being a resident at [Location B2]. This was not the detailed interview that was later to take place that I've already referred to of those 15 discs and the long interviews that took place with [Person A]. This was two officers coming to speak to [Person A] about Operation Kalarabi. So this was not a detailed interrogation and this was not a video recorded interview but [Person A1] referred to some of the men in that initial conversation that abused her who – and who are in the dock now.

D She spoke of a Billie Jo Jo and Izar Hussain. She spoke of Parvaze Ahmed and that it started with a man named Saeed known as Sid. She spoke in general terms and she said that it went on over time and that different people would turn up at different times of day and night. And then still in this initial conversation by the two officers investigating events in Keighley [Person A1] told police that she'd been abused by many men. She said she didn't want to make a complaint but she was willing to help police through attending identification parades and so forth and what police – what [Person A1] told police in that initial conversation was recorded by the officers in handwritten note form and was stored and kept by police officers. You will hear evidence from those officers who spoke to [Person A1] and in due course remembering that they were speaking to her not as a new complainant in a new investigation but as someone who could help them with their ongoing investigation.

E Now [Person A1] having had that conversation with Police Constable Gatenby and Detective Constable Taylor nothing more happened for quite some time. Despite the fact that [Person A1] had given police that information [Person A1] did not – the police did not get back in touch with [Person A1] at all. She had given information about some serious sexual offending and she had named some men but at that stage the information that [Person A1] gave the police was not investigated.

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Now back then during that period of time there was much media coverage as you may recall surrounding grooming cases and sexual exploitation. Now much of the media coverage of grooming cases and sexual gangs featured on what was happening in the Rotherham area.

B

[Person A1] watched and saw those news reports. She watched them always knowing that such behaviour was far from being limited to happening only in Rotherham. She was frustrated that such behave – at the lack of reporting of what was going on locally and the fact that she had seen her own social services files, it became clear to her that the authorities had at least suspicion about what was going on in terms of her own sexual exploitation while she had been in care.

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So on her behalf in 2014 [Person A1]’s then partner, [REDACTED] contacted the local news BBC’s Look North programme and he told them that the abuse was much wider than simply being limited to happening in the Rotherham area. Look North then in turn got in touch with [Person A1] and arranged an interview with her. Once the BBC were in touch with [Person A1] the BBC then quite properly made the police’s safeguarding team aware of the allegations that [Person A1] was making.

D

The safeguarding team of the police asked police officers to go and speak to [Person A1] and it is as a result of the visits that took place in 2014 that the police went on to make the recordings of [Person A1]’s evidence that I have told you about that you will in due course hear in this case. And it was as a result of the conversations that took place between police and [Person A1] in 2014 and her describing events that took place first of all in the children’s home that the police officers then went on to interview the witness, [Person B].

E

So that, members of the jury, is a brief explanation of how it is that finally the police came to speak to the two women.

I now turn to briefly describe to you how [Person A1] and [Person B1] came to be at [Location B2] in the first place. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Turning then to [Person A]. She was born on the 9th of July 1993 and her background will be explained in part by her maternal grandmother, [Person F]. [Person A1] grew up moving between her grandmother and her mother's home. At home with her mother [Person

A A1] was subject to domestic violence. [Person A1]'s mother and her stepfather would assault
[Person A1] physically and be cruel to her emotionally. When she was 12 years of age
[Person A1]'s mother would throw her out of home and [Person A1] would need to go and
B stay with her grandmother. It took quite some time before Social Services took the claims of
the reality of [Person A1]'s life with her mother seriously. Eventually [Person A1]'s mother
was diagnosed with a mental illness and Social Services did become involved in [Person
A1]'s life. She was taken into care and after some other locations she was moved to
[Location B2] in April 2008, as we say just a month before [Person B1] arrived there.

C Turning then to [Location B2]. The children's home that [Person A1] and [Person
B1] were placed in was [REDACTED]
There were rules about times that the residents had to be in but the staff could not and were
not permitted to physically prevent the children they looked after, referred to as residents,
were not permitted to physically prevent residents leaving at whatever time they wished to
D leave. The fire doors at [Location B2] would set off an alarm but they could still be opened
and were so opened from the inside. The residents were allowed out with permission for a
last cigarette at around 10 pm and you will hear from staff such as [Person CC] who
describes how because [Location B1] was not a secure unit they could not physically stop
residents leaving.

E When young people did go missing they would be identified in two ways depending
on whether they knew where the young person was. It came to be the case it seemed that the
more often a child went missing from a children's home in a way the more normal and less
concerning the behaviour became. It was well known in the area that [Location B1] was a
children's home and there would be many vehicles in attendance outside of it.

F Soon after [Person B1]'s arrival at [Location B1] the girls became friends. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
On one night [Person A1] had managed to get a bottle of vodka and at about 10.30 [Person
A1] and [Person B1] asked staff if they could go out for a cigarette, that was allowed, but
once out they ran off. They walked to Bradford town centre, a man pulled up on the road and
G the two girls approached the vehicle, they asked for a light for their cigarette. The man
offered to drive them somewhere to get a light and they accepted. He took them to a petrol
station, he didn't just buy them a light, he bought them a bottle of vodka and they swapped
telephone numbers. That man was Basharat Khaliq, the first of the defendants on your list.
Now the girls didn't just meet Basharat Khaliq on that one occasion, they began to meet him
H regularly, they would wait to be picked up by him having left the care home at 10.30.

A [Person A1] was in a relationship with a boy of similar age to her called [Person DD].
Basharat Khaliq or Bash as he was known would drop her off there and so it was that having
dropped off [Person A1] with [Person DD] [REDACTED]. I
will return to the offences that we say Basharat Khaliq went on to commit in due course. I
B just want to explain to you how it was that [Person A1] and [Person B1] met the defendants.

Now at around this period of time the girls met another man named [REDACTED] and they
got to know him. [REDACTED] did not have any sexual interaction with either [Person A1] or
[Person B1] and does not feature in this case as a sexual abuser but he's mentioned to you
now simply because it explains how [Person A] came to meet some of the other men who did
C abuse her. When they were out, [Person A1] and [Person B1], with [REDACTED] one night [REDACTED]
and [Person B1] had an argument and [REDACTED] left [Person A1] and [Person B1] on Baildon
Moor and drove away leaving them there. [Person A1] already had some phone numbers of
males that she had met following that first night that they'd left the children's home together.
D A male named [REDACTED], and that man's not a defendant in this case, but
he is the brother of a defendant in this case, he's the brother of Naveed Akhtar, defendant
number 4. Now [REDACTED] was contacted by [Person A1] and he turned up to collect
her at her request from Baildon Moor the two girls having been left there. And when he
collected her he was with two other males including his brother, Naveed, and together that
E party in the car having collected the girls from Baildon Moor went to a man's house called
Saeed Akhtar. That is defendant number 2, Saeed Akhtar, and this is when the girls first met
that defendant, Saeed Akhtar, known as Sid, the second defendant in this case. And you will
hear in due course that much of the significant sexual offending towards [Person A1]
commences with events at Sid's house. The address in question, Sid's house, is [Sid's
F address] and you will hear it is that address that features heavily in this abuse and in this
case. An address where drink was drunk, drugs were taken and say the Crown girls were
used for sex.

Now having given you a little bit of the background about how it was that the two
girls came to meet some of the defendants I will turn in due course to deal with the
G allegations and the charges that the defendants face but before I turn to that let me try to
explain in general terms what the main issues are in this case that you are going to be asked
to resolve so you have those issues in mind as a I take you through the charges. I'll just take
a moment. As you have heard all of the offences in this case are sexual ones. They are not
identical charges. The charge depends primarily on the nature of the sexual act that took
H place but the issues will remain fundamentally the same. Firstly, you will have to consider
whether the complainant is describing something that has happened with that defendant, that

A the witness has not identified the wrong man or become confused as to the identity about that particular person. That is the first issue that you will have to resolve in some of the charges, does the Crown have the right man, issue number 1, which arises in some charges is the identification of the right man. Secondly, the Crown allege of course that in respect of each charge that a sexual act took place. Many of the defendants agree that it did take place but issue number 2 which will arise in some of the charges is whether the sexual activity that the Crown allege took place is whether or not it did in fact take place. But, thirdly, and the issue that arises in many of the charges, the Crown allege that the sexual activity took place without consent. Consent therefore is issue number 3 and consent is dealt with in two parts.

C I will pause now to hand around copies of the jury bundle and you will be able to see the charges and how consent is set out in those charges please.

D MS KELLY: Your Honour, rather than pausing the proceedings, forgive me, but those – my lay client, Mr Hussain, doesn't have a chair and it's just been brought to my attention that he's been sitting on the floor which means he's somewhat uncomfortable and I don't know whether that can be rectified soon so that he can sit properly.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I'm sure it will be. Well in fact I know it will be.

MS KELLY: Thank you.

E JUDGE DURHAM HALL: But if we can just manage please at this moment it will be – it is in hand.

MS KELLY: Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK.

F MS MELLY: Did your Honour receive a copy, I wasn't sure? You did, Thank you very much. I think those documents have now been distributed. Sorry, not quite.

G Members of the jury, you should have received a timeline document which relates to [Person A], one between two, members of the jury. We're not going to look at this at this stage but because we were handing around documents it was easier to do it all at the same time. It might be in due course that you find it easier to insert that into the jury bundle but I would suggest for this stage if you just leave it to one side. You should also have received the jury bundle, again this is the file we told you about right at the commencement, that we will be referring to a little during the opening. Again, members of the jury, you should have received one of these files, one between two, your documents, feel free to mark them if that's of assistance to you but do not feel obliged to.

H Now, members of the jury, if you just turn please to the first document that you should have in your jury bundle behind divider 1. I'm sure you're all familiar with the lever

A arches but they've known to break in cases before so if you have any difficulties please let us know and we'll replace that for you. But the first document that you should see in the jury bundle, but as I say behind divider 1 are the charges that you already know about and have been read to you by the court clerk and they should have this document, the heading of an

B indictment. Do you have that, members of the jury?

Now the indictment's just the name for the charges and as you've heard and as we've told you the charges in this case are sexual charges, not all of them are offences of rape, some of them are other sexual offences. But we just turn first of all – I'll pause for another moment.

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK.

MS MELLY: Thank you. And I've asked you to turn just to that first document and to look at the first charge that you see there and we'll use this one just by example because you will see that the issues of consent are described in the same way where they're relevant

D throughout the charges. And you will see there in respect of consent that it is mentioned in two ways. Firstly, as part of the allegation as you can see under count 1 under the particulars of the offence after the dates have been written and the sexual act has been described the

E words that follow are, "Who did not consent to the penetration and Basharat Khaliq not reasonably believing that [Person B] consented". So when you look at the charge, members of the jury, you can see that consent is mentioned in two ways. The first issue being that this was a sexual activity that the girl did not consent to and, secondly, that the defendant in question did not have a reasonable belief that she was consenting and so issue number 3, the issue of consent, concerns both those elements of consent. And just whilst we deal with that issue of consent a little more about that issue before we go on and deal with the issues as regards each defendant.

F Now the Crown say that there is no question other than that these were sexual acts that took place without the girl in question's genuine consent and there can be no real issue we say that the man in question reasonably believed that the girl was consenting given all the circumstances that this sexual activity took place in. And it is important, members of the

G jury, that when you hear the evidence in this case that you understand that the law in consent is not about the level of resistance or whether the complainants could have found other

H options. Rape or other sexual activity to be a criminal offence does not require there to have been violence or for there to have been force or the threat of force for that sexual activity to have taken place without consent. Consent as you will hear is about agreeing to something freely and consent must not be confused with submission or mere compliance.

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As you will hear in many of the offences the girls went along with what was being asked of them. In these cases often described as being ones of sexual grooming we say that the sexual interactions between the defendants and the two complainants cannot be examined in isolation, they have to be examined against the reality of the particular situation because these relationships or interactions were not ones built by two equal parties but ones where the defendant in any given charge we say has cynically manipulated the situation. A mature, secure 25 year old woman with supportive and caring relationships might have been just as physically attractive to these men as the complainants but such women could not be manipulated to simply submit to the sexual desires of these men. But the complainants in this case, [Person A1] and [Person B1], were not 25 year old women at that time, nor did they have the security and stability that I've just described. We ask you, members of the jury, to see the stark reality of the interactions between the defendants and the complainants and to do that, members of the jury, you have to see the complainants as they were then rather than of course as they are now as adults. Firstly, as a teenage girl. Being a teenager, perhaps the hardest time in anyone's life, but in these lives the anxiety that comes along in general teenage life is experienced normally against the background of a supportive family. These young women having suffered traumatic life experiences and then having had those experiences ended up in the care system feeling unwanted and unloved, separated from family and friends, as we say left to the state to be cared for, the sad reality, members of the jury, is that for some that situation means that they are open to being used by those who appear as their friends but who are anything but.

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We ask you to see the actual situation of where they found themselves at [Location B1], their daily life, some of course which were their own choices, little education, bored, little to be proud of, little to get up for and those factors, their age, their life experiences, their current situation meant those girls in [Location B1] were, sadly, ripe to be manipulated and vulnerable to exploitation. And the actual manipulation used by the defendants across the spectrum. It took many forms from the creating of false relationships in order to use them, to isolating them from those that actually had their best interests at heart, often but not always with alcohol and drugs and sometimes with an undercurrent of unease or fear. But this manipulation of their relationships, this use of these girls, these teenagers, meant that when the time came for the defendant in question to achieve his ultimate goal of being able to fulfil his sexual desires he was often able to commit these rapes or these other unlawful sexual acts without real consent from the girl in question and yet with their submission and often with little or no resistance.

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Not only were these offences clearly not with the true consent, nor say the Crown is there any real question that the defendant reasonably believed that the girl was consenting. One of the things you may wish to consider if a defendant does claim that they were consenting is what steps did that defendant take to check that that was actually the case, to

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check if the girl was actually consenting and we submit that the checks did not happen because the man in question simply didn't care about the question of consent, he cared only about fulfilling his particular sexual objective. The Crown say that they were not consenting. It was not believed that they were and it was certainly no reasonably held belief which is what the law requires. One of the issues that you – the Crown would also wish for you to

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consider is how alcohol and drugs were used to subjugate [Person A1]'s freewill and render her compliant for their use.

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You will remember also, members of the jury, that of course we are dealing with offences that happened some years ago now and we must also remember that being used for sex in the way that [Person A1] was meant that incidents which happened in someone else's life would be a stand out or a specific traumatic event but in [Person A1]'s life this had simply become her way of life and it is therefore we submit to be expected that it would be impossible for her to remember certain matters such as dates and times specifically. It is indeed entirely possible and indeed normal on cases such as this, indeed for the final charges to be altered in some way between now and the end of the trial as we hear the detailed

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evidence from [Person A].

E

I turn now then, members of the jury, to take you very briefly through the allegations as regards each defendant.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I think for good reason, Ms Melly, we will have a little break.

F

MS MELLY: Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: There's a matter I need to raise.

MS MELLY: Thank you.

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JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Ladies and gentlemen, it isn't a trial by ordeal, you are listening to a highly condensed series of propositions, not evidence of course but the foretaste of what's to come, so let's just have a little break before we move to the – each of the men in question, all the – and the proposed evidence that is intended to be called. Can – how long does it take to go down, grab a coffee and come back?

THE COURT CLERK: From this court, your Honour, about 25 minutes.

H

A JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well we'll have 20 minutes, thank you. I had no problem before with 20 minutes, all right. Shall we do that? Thank you very much. But don't race back up, will you, I will I assure you wait for you.

(The jury left court at 11.54)

B JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Ms Kelly, I am very sorry that your client has the indignity of sitting on the floor. The seat will be put in very soon in fact.

MS KELLY: Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK. Your client is Mr?

MS KELLY: Hussain, Izar Hussain.

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes, well I'm sorry, Mr Hussain, but this is a process that we must go through and you won't be on the floor for very long. Thank you. Who is the gentleman there sitting next to the gentlemen in the white on – in the suit? Yeah, who are you?

DEFENDANT AHMED: Parvaze Ahmed.

D JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Parvaze Ahmed. And who is Mr Ahmed's barrister? Mr Bell.

MR BELL: Your Honour, yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Whilst I can understand anybody, not counsel, gesticulating in the dock, huffing a bit, protestations obviously of disbelief, shaking of head, turning to speak to a co-defendant, general indications of disbelief against that which Ms Kelly is saying, it must stop.

E MR BELL: Your Honour, I had no knowledge of ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Of course you didn't.

MR BELL: But so I'm grateful that your Honour's pointed it out.

F JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It must stop because it does your client no good at all. The opening is measured. It anticipates evidence we know will be heard and challenged. This is not an empty case, Mr Bell, at all, your client must know that the best way to deal with it, and I recommend it to some of the counsel as well, is to sit quietly and see how it all pans out. You follow me?

G MR BELL: Absolutely.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: So perhaps over the next whenever we have an adjournment, I'm not getting at your client, but it can develop into a situation where I will without hesitation revoke bail. Do we understand? Thank you.

MR BELL: Your Honour's most clear.

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A JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Jolly good, well done. Not – it must be very difficult for you, gentlemen, but please protect your own interests and if I’m troubled by antics however innocent, it may have been Mr Moulson, Mr Iqbal, Ms Kelly, the jury might be too. Would you agree with that?

B MR MOULSON: Yes, your Honour.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Can we stop it now.
MR MOULSON: Indeed.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Jolly good, OK. That’s lovely, we’ll have a coffee break and you’re doing – in terms of speed, I’m not marking your content that’s for the jury and others,

C but you’re doing very well indeed. Do you want to finish before the adjournment or come back a little afterwards?
MS MELLY: I’m quite content to.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I’m happy, there’s no rush, we have to be here this afternoon. Shall – we’ll go to 1 o’clock, shall we, and then come back and ---

D MR IQBAL: Certainly, your Honour.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- 2.15.
MR IQBAL: Yes, thank you.
MS MELLY: I’m hearing somewhat alternative rumblings that people would prefer us to

E press on but in any event I was going to hope to pursue the Gatenby application based on ill health this – at some point today so I’m not sure it would necessarily mean I ---
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sure.
MS MELLY: --- finish before lunch anyway.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No, I’m ---

F MS MELLY: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- happy, I just want to protect people against doing or saying anything that may come back to haunt them. That’s fine, thank you very much. Are we OK to come back in 10-15 minutes.
MS MELLY: Thank you very much, yes. Thank you.

G JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you, all right. I’m going to give everybody bail except those who can’t have bail at the moment ---
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- so that you can have a chat. And, Mr Bell, just I don’t want

H Mr – your client getting all concerned that I’m picking on it, I’ve done it in privacy as it were.

A MR BELL: Your Honour's been clear and I understand.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK. It just troubles me a bit. Now we know who's in custody and has to stay. What about your client, Mr Frieze, he can't have bail at the moment from me?

B MR FRIEZE: Well, can I address you about that?
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Would the others like to go now whilst I deal with this. Thank you very much indeed. See you in about 10 minutes.
MR IQBAL: Thank you, your Honour.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you very much. Thank you, thank you. Right-o, right-o.

C Now your client is Mr ---
MR FRIEZE: Naveed Akhtar. Just by way of general backdrop he's been on bail without incident in this case for several years now. He was arrested on Sunday night, his brother having telephoned the police to allege that he'd been assaulted by the defendant. He was

D arrested, initially taken to the police station but then developed chest pains and was taken to hospital, treated there, released back – always with the police present, released back to the police station, interviewed in the presence of a solicitor and explained to the police that his brother was a drug addict who was trying to blackmail him for money, the police seem to have accepted the explanation, he was simply released from the police station without more

E yesterday and arrived here, he was here at quarter past 9 this morning.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: What released end of or released with ---
MR FRIEZE: I don't know, certainly not – no charge.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: But he was released on bail.
MR FRIEZE: Not on bail, he doesn't have any bail conditions, he was simply released. I

F don't know ---
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, I follow you, yes.
MR FRIEZE: I don't know for sure that there will be no further action but ---
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Is it released pending further?
MS MELLY: Yes, no conditions, released under investigation.

G JUDGE DURHAM HALL: What do you think, Ms Melly? I'm very loath to remand somebody in custody if – unless there's a very powerful reason if they've behaved impeccably.
MS MELLY: I can't say that he's necessarily behaved impeccably but I haven't made those checks but what we can certainly say is that we didn't have any difficulties in terms of his

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A attendance at the last trial and as we understand it the explanation is right in that he was with the police at the hospital yesterday and that would account for his non-attendance yesterday.
B JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes, all right, I've got that, all right. Well, Mr Naveed Akhtar, what I'll do I will extend your bail. I think what we'll do, Mr Frieze, I'll extend it within the precincts just for final checks, if any, by the police officers in the case to give a final look at the situation whether there's anything more suspicious. But if it is as you say then he'll be going home ---

MR FRIEZE: Thank you.

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- this afternoon, all right. All right, Mr Naveed Akhtar, obviously don't let me down by not turning up. I can imagine you might have had chest pains if you were in a stressful situation with your brother making these allegations but it won't work again, do you follow, if you decide you ought to pop into the BRI rather than come here. I'll just send the police in to arrest you and the doctors at Armley can have a look at you whilst you stay there for the rest of the trial basically, all right. So we're going to be
D all right on this, yes, if I give you bail? Good, delighted, delighted. I'll see you later. All right, thanks a lot. OK. See you in a bit, thank you.

(Short adjournment)

(The court reconvened at 12.21 in the presence of the jury)

(Judge Durham Hall conferred with the Court Clerk)

E JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Mr Frieze, having effectively granted your client bail where is he?

MR FRIEZE: He's just nipped to the toilet, your Honour.

F MS MELLY: Would your Honour find it of assistance that when I move now just to deal very briefly with the circumstances of each defendant if the defendant would perhaps just stand up for - very briefly, I'm not sure if that's your Honour's preference.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well he needn't stand up, I'm not terribly happy about, well, I'm neither unhappy, how about he just raises his hand.

MS MELLY: Quite, quite, yes.

G JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes.

MS MELLY: Just so that the jury can identify him.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes.

MS MELLY: Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Are you gentlemen, ladies, content with that?

H MULTIPLE JURORS: Yes.

A JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Will your clients be happy with that just to identify who they are, yeah?

MR IQBAL: Yes, I'm sure.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Fine. Thanks a lot.

B MS MELLY: Members of the jury, as I said to you just before we had that short break I'll go on now just to explain to you very briefly the charges in respect of each defendant. And I've already told you that the first defendant is Basharat Khaliq, often known as Bash, and if it's of assistance to you I'd just ask him to raise his hand so you can see the defendant that we are discussing. Thank you. Basharat Khaliq is represented by my learned friend Mr Iqbal

C Queen's Counsel and Mr Arshad who sits alongside him. And if you turn, members of the jury, please to divider 5 in jury bundle. If you just turn over divider 5 you will see that there is the name of Basharat Khaliq, his date of birth is there, and the charges essentially reflecting what was in that large document, the indictment, but just setting out the charges that that

D specific defendant faces. We omitted on this sheet to put the names of Mr Khaliq's representative, Mr Iqbal Queen's Counsel and Mr Arshad. If it's of assistance to you feel free to make a note of that. On the following page is a blank piece of paper just for your own notes and then so it's of assistance for you in working out who is who as we move through the next page is just a facial image of the defendant, Basharat Khaliq. I'm not going to take

E you through all of the remaining documents that are in this divider but they are as you will hear photographs that relate to the specific, it's of the specific defendant Basharat Khaliq. Now Basharat Khaliq was born as we say in 1980 and when he met the girls in 2008 when they were 14 he would have been approaching 28 years of age and you may recall, members of the jury, that I've already told you how they met Basharat Khaliq in the street that night

F when the girls left [Location B2]. He purchased vodka that night and you know as we told you that [Person B1] and Basharat Khaliq would be alone together after Basharat Khaliq had dropped [Person A1] off, [Person A1] being in that relationship with a young man named [Person DD]. And in that first period of time he would buy the girls vodka, cigarettes and chewing gum.

G [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. He told her things such as his dad was black rather than Asian which was not true. He told her that a scar he had was from being stabbed. In fact it was an appendix scar. He made up Facebook accounts to confuse and to manipulate

H [Person B1] and [Person B1] described Basharat Khaliq's behaviour as being unsettling,

A obsessive and it included carrying on being in contact with her even after they hadn't seen each other for some time. [REDACTED]

B [REDACTED]

C [REDACTED] The first charge, count 1, represents that first occasion that sex took place and from then on they continued to have regular sexual intercourse and count 2 reflects that regular sexual activity up until [Person B1] turned 16. Their relationship included oral sexual activity and count 3 reflects the first time this happened. Count 5 reflecting this happening on a regular basis. Count 4 relates to having regular sexual intercourse after [Person B1] had turned 16.

D Count 6 that Mr Khaliq faces is an offence in relation to [Person A] not [Person B]. Count 6 is of digital penetration. One night Basharat Khaliq took both [Person B1] and [Person A1] to a hotel and whilst [Person B1] was asleep he inserted his finger into [Person A1]'s vagina and that is count 4.

E Now the defendant's account so that you understand what the issues are in relation to Basharat Khaliq is as follows. He accepts that he did meet the two girls in the street one night. He said they lied to him about their ages and he thought they lived in a hostel not in a children's home. [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED]

G [REDACTED]

H [REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED] and as regards the incident with [Person A1] he said that he had never take them to a hotel and that the incident with [Person A1] had never happened. [REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And that then is a very brief summary of the allegations as regards the first defendant, Basharat Khaliq.

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I move on then to deal with the second defendant, Saeed Akhtar, referred to as Sid, and I would just ask please if he wouldn't mind identifying himself for – thank you. And if you turn to divider 6 you will see that we have the names of the representatives of Saeed Akhtar and I introduce you to them now, Mr Moulson Queen's Counsel and then Mr Shakoor who sits closest to you who represent the interests of Saeed Akhtar. And again over the page

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you will then have, it's back to your dividers, divider 6 the names of the representations, the

A charges there in respect of Saeed Akhtar, the names – the other names he being known by referred to there, Sid, Pappa and Pappa Sid and some images of the properties in question in relation to Saeed Akhtar are also within divider 6.

B Now you've already heard, members of the jury, how the girls came to meet Sid, Saeed Akhtar, on that occasion where she'd been left, the girls had been left on Baildon Moor and then they were - obtained a lift from [REDACTED] and ended up attending at [Sid's address], Sid, Saeed Akhtar's address. Now [Person A1] was unclear as to when this was, the date when they met. She thought that she was 15 or 16 but as you will hear, members of the jury, [Person A1] came to have a baby whilst she was in the care system and [Person A1] in terms of trying to date when this was during her conversations with police on the video interviews she concluded that the introduction to Saeed Akhtar at [Sid's address] was at a time when her baby had been removed from her care and so she will have been around 16 years of age. [Person A1] will explain what would go on at [Sid's address] over the long period of time that she would attend that address, the number of men that would pass through, the drugs that were used and dealt and the undercurrent of fear. On the second occasion that she attended at [Sid's address] [Person A] began her addiction to cocaine. She had used it previously with [REDACTED] but at [Sid's address] she took 22 lines of cocaine in one sitting and unsurprisingly thereafter became addicted. Alcohol was also supplied to her and she was allowed to use [Sid's address], Saeed Akhtar's home, to stay.

E Once [Person A1] had become addicted to cocaine she was easy to control and this was used say the Crown cynically by [Sid's address] in order to do just that. She was used for sex by the men that came to the property. She was used by Saeed Akhtar to get drugs and bring them back. She was told to go meet dealers and ensure she came back with drugs though she was given no money for them. She was in effect on occasion used as a prostitute on his instruction. Saeed Akhtar controlled [Person A] we say in other words also. He took her benefit money from her. She was dependent on him financially. Multiple men would come to the house and she was on occasions refused access to the drugs that she'd become addicted to unless she performed sexually and at his request she brought other girls to that house.

G On one night towards the end of her visits to that address and when she had taken drugs and drink he told her that it was his turn, her having given it to others. He did what perhaps he thought was his right knowing that she didn't want it and not caring about her consent. he penetrated her vagina with his penis. And looking back now at the offences and the charges he faces they are offences of inciting child prostitution, the relevant age in law for

A such offences being under 18 rather than under 16. And count 9 reflecting that single occasion of rape when he told her it was his turn.

B When Saeed Akhtar was interviewed by police he did not deny knowing [Person A1] and that she stayed at his house and you might think that in reality he could not deny that because as you will hear, and we take you through the timeline, she had been found by police at his home previously when police had been looking for her as a missing person from local authority care. She was found there in August 2010 with another girl who had also been in care, [Person EE], who was aged 15. [Person A] was found there by police just 10 days after and in October 2010 [Person A1] was found stressed in the street by a police community support officer and mentioned to that officer her boyfriend, Sid. It is right to say that in 2010 Saeed Akhtar was 46 years of age.

C He stated in his prepared statement, which is a written statement given to the police in a police interview, he said that [Person A1] would stay occasionally but that he had never had sex with her and that she had stated to him she was 18 years of age. He did not answer the police questions that were asked of him. You will also hear from [Person I], a woman previously known as [Person I1], a young woman who [Person A1] knew. Her evidence we say will help you determine whether Saeed Akhtar was motivated by wanting to help [Person A1] or indeed the reality was that he was just using her. [Person I3] met [Person A1] when [Person I3] was the partner of Saeed Akhtar and she describes Saeed's house as a party house where people would come and drink and take drugs and Saeed Akhtar or one of his brothers would go and get [Person A1] and bring her to the house. Saeed Akhtar told [Person I] that he had slept with [Person A]. Sid's attitude as she described him, Sid, he said was and told her that [Person A1] was simply a slag that they had all been through. That then is a brief summary of the charges in respect of the second defendant, Saeed Akhtar.

E And I turn then to the next, Yasar Majid and I would ask him please to identify himself to you. Yasar Majid known as Yasar his document's behind divider 7 of the jury bundle, members of the jury, and as you will see he faces a single charge on the summary that you have. Yasar Majid is represented by my learned friend Ms Batts. Now [Person A1]'s life once she had been introduced to the house at [Sid's address] would never be the same again. One of the men she'd been in the car with that first night when she'd been taken from Baildon Moor to [Sid's address] one of men who had been in the car that night [Person A1] liked and she wanted a relationship with. Now that male [Person A1] had told him that she would not do anything sexual for a month essentially to test the relationship and to test the commitment. Now that male got bored of waiting and broke up with her. Now

A one of the ways that we've told you that [Person A1] was manipulated was by men
pretending to be in a relationship with her, having sex with her and then passing her on to the
next man, something she was only able to see once she was older when she was reflecting on
B Akhtar's address, under the influence of alcohol and drugs she was told that she could get
back at that man that she liked that hadn't chosen to wait for the month before doing anything
sexual that she could get back at that man by having sex with Yasar Majid.

Now [Person A1]'s memory of the detail is limited because of the drugs and the
alcohol that were in use but she knows and recalled that it was in those circumstances that
C Yasar Majid had sex with her. Now when the police asked him, Yasar Majid, about [Person
A1] he first made no comment whatsoever but then stated that sex had taken place on one
occasion but he denied pressuring her, he said she had consented, he denied that she was
incapacitated in any way through alcohol or drugs. He said he had not been a regular at
D Saeed Akhtar's house although he said he had been there when police had attended there. He
said there had been some mention of [Person A1] being under age but she had come back
after the police attendance one night and said I told you I was 19.

He stated that as far as consent was concerned it wasn't the case that [Person A1] had
been pressured into sex, he said it was [Person A1] who had told his own friend, [REDACTED], to
E leave because she'd said she wanted to get jiggy. He said that [Person A1] took off her own
clothes. He said she was not drunk. He said that after that night she had made contact with
me and I told her I was too good for her. He said he was not aware of any drugs being taken
at [Sid's address] but that he would go to that address every now and again for a few drinks.
On the night in question he said police had brought her back and they had said enjoy your
F night lads, that she's over age, the care home doesn't want her. He said when they'd had sex
he didn't use a condom because she had just jumped on him and he hadn't even had a choice
as to whether or not to wear a condom, that she had initiated sex, she had taken his clothes
off and had chucked him on the bed. The issue then in that count 10 which is the only charge
that relates to Yasar Majid is the question of consent and you will hear two very different
G descriptions we anticipate of the circumstances of the sexual intercourse that took place.

I move then to the next defendant, Naveed Akhtar, and I'd ask for him to identify
himself please. Thank you. On to divider 8 then, members of the jury, Naveed Akhtar. The
details of the charges he faces behind divider 8 and as you will see Naveed Akhtar is
H represented by my learned friend, Mr Frieze. He was born in 1975 and therefore was aged 33

A in 2008. He is the younger brother of the second defendant, Saeed Akhtar, the owner of this party house as it's been – or the resident of this party house as it's been described.

Naveed Akhtar was in the car that collected the girls from Baildon Moor and as part of the circumstances in which the girls were introduced to Saeed Akhtar and his address.

B Now by the time we get to the night that sexual activity took place between that defendant and [Person A] by that point [Person A1] had been a regular attender at Saeed Akhtar's address and had been used for sex on many occasions. Naveed Akhtar created a fiction that they were, him and [Person A1], in a relationship in order to have sex with [Person A1] and then telling her he was getting back together with his wife in order to end the relationship as
C he described it manipulating her say the Crown into sexual activity before her – before allowing her to be passed on to be used by someone else. His regular presence at Saeed Akhtar's address as with other defendants means that this defendant was exposed to and must have had knowledge of [Person A1]'s vulnerability, subsequent addiction to cocaine and her craving for drugs and alcohol, her desire for care and affection. And it was in those
D circumstances and after her having taken alcohol and drugs supplied he had had sex with her on three occasions, the offences are counts 11, 12 and 13. Count 13 relating to a specific memory of her dressing up to celebrate Eid with Saeed Akhtar and then having sex with his brother, Naveed. Indeed there is an entry in her care records about her going out to celebrate Eid with friends.

E Naveed Akhtar made no comment in his police interview but by his defence statement he accepts sexual contact. He states she was often at Saeed Akhtar's house and he thought she lived there. He said she'd lied about her age. He had taken drink and drugs at the address but he'd never seen [Person A1] take drugs. He said he had stayed at that address for domestic reasons occasionally and sexual contact happened when [Person A1] instigated it by
F rubbing herself against him or touching his penis whilst asleep. He said he had had sex with her twice and on another occasion had not had sexual intercourse but he had put his fingers inside her vagina. In his case then you will have to decide in respect of those three counts, firstly, where the truth lies factually and the issue of consent and then in respect of one
G specific count whether sexual activity – sexual intercourse had occurred at all.

I look at the clock ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It makes sense to ---

MS MELLY: Yes, thank you very much.

H JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- to have our break then. Ladies and gentlemen, could we come back approximately 2.15. I've got to deal with another matter wholly unrelated to this

A case at 2 o'clock and I'll have it dealt with I'm sure by 2.15 and we'll hear the concluding remarks ---

MS MELLY: Yes.

B JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- of the opening, the final defendants' cases and their responses. Evidence will start tomorrow. So I shan't detain you too long today. Can I just ask whether -- are we starting at 10 o'clock tomorrow. Can we do that? Soon as started soon as finished I think, yes, OK, good. So 2.15 today and then we'll break as soon as the prosecutor's finished opening the case, all right. Thank you very much. Thank you, ladies, you're -- if you could all go together. Remember my warnings, they do apply to you

C alternatives, don't talk about the case, you're really getting into it now, aren't you, in terms of understanding or whatever. Thanks. See you later.

(The jury left court at 12.59)

[REDACTED]

D [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED]

G [REDACTED]

H [REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

(Luncheon adjournment)

(The court reconvened at 14.22 in the absence of the jury)

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Have they given us some more chairs?

G

THE COURT CLERK: There's three chairs securely fitted, your Honour.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: There's three chairs securely fitted. No expense spared. Thank you very much.

(The jury entered court at 14.24)

(Judge Durham Hall conferred with the Court Clerk)

H

A JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Now sensibly, Ms Melly, thank you very much for the progress made. What time should sensibly should we sit tomorrow? What time do we need to sit tomorrow?

MS MELLY: I was just going to think that through for – just for a moment. I don't

B anticipate that we need to sit at 10.00, it doesn't seem as though it's a day where I have to say I have a certain number of witnesses who cannot reattend another time.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right.

MS MELLY: So we can of course sit at 10.00 and finish earlier but there isn't a specific need on behalf of the Crown.

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Any requests from the defence bar?

UNIDENTIFIED COUNSEL: No.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: The travellers won't have 15 other pleas to do in courts.

UNIDENTIFIED COUNSEL: Speaking personally on the basis it's easier to get to Bradford than it is to get out of Bradford I'd rather start early and finish early.

D JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right, that's fine. Agreed?

MS MELLY: No difficulty with that. Well, Mr Dallas is perhaps going to ---

MR DALLAS: Well someone else can do my pretrial review tomorrow. I might save up for a bigger request later. Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I agree, if I survive that long, Mr Dallas. Ms Hertzog, are you

E travelling every day or what?

MS HERTZOG: No, I'm not, I'm not.

MS MELLY: So in terms of today, your Honour, there's that little part - last part left of the opening.

F JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Right-o.

MS MELLY: We've then served an application which I don't think has reached your Honour as regards a hearsay application to ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I did have a look for it, it's not on the system.

MS MELLY: I don't think it's been uploaded. Right, we'll have that emailed through.

G JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Don't worry, yeah.

MS MELLY: In any event I don't think it's challenged now by the defence.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Mr Ferm, Gatenby concerns you I think, does it – or the problem?

MR FERM: In part, I think it also concerns my learned friend Mr Moulson's client.

H MS MELLY: I've spoken to him.

A MR FERM: But I've spoken to my learned friends Ms Melly and Ms Beattie about that. As long as the relevant parts of her previous cross-examination can be extracted, put in the form of admissions and summarised then I have no problem with the application.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well ---

B MS MELLY: Sorry.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- with great respect that is an ideal way of dealing with witnesses. When you have a transcript of what they said ---

MR FERM: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- and the prosecution can do that, brilliant.

C MS MELLY: Yes, I'm sorry, we may have been slightly at cross purposes. My -- the application was simply to read the evidence ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes.

MS MELLY: --- that she'd given previously, not the statement, along of course with the cross-examination.

D JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well that's all right then.

MR FERM: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good. Mr Shakoor, does that sort you out?

MR SHAKOOR: Yes, indeed, thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well application granted, Ms Melly.

E UNIDENTIFIED COUNSEL: He can't, sorry, he can't.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Ms Melly.

MS MELLY: Well the application is to read the evidence that she gave previously on oath that she cannot now give due to her health.

F JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes.

MR SHAKOOR: Well, I'd prefer her statement to be read as well, I mean unless there's objection by any other party to it, that would be my application for her statement to be read. What she says in her evidence during the course of the trial is not very informative if I can put it that way it merely deals with the fact that she visited [Person A] and in respect of

G Operation Kalarabi.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I'll come back to it.

MR SHAKOOR: Certainly.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I can't see a big problem, thank you, one way or another. Thank you.

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A MS MELLY: Members of the jury, I'm going to continue now with the opening. And we had reached the stage of dealing with the next defendant, Parvaze Ahmed. Moving on then through your jury bundle we are now at divider 9, members of the jury, and I'll ask Mr Parvaze Ahmed to just identify himself to you please. Thank you. He is represented by my learned friend Mr Bell. Thank you. Mr Ahmed was another male attender at the party house as it was described, at Mr Akhtar's home. Parvaze Ahmed encouraged [Person A1] to have sex with him telling her that it would irritate Naveed Akhtar. It is right to say that throughout the video recorded interviews with [Person A1] that she does speak fondly of the defendant, Parvaze Ahmed, who she describes as knowing as a man called Pav. She describes how he supplied her and Saeed with drugs. She described how she had had sex with him on multiple occasions at the [Sid's address] address and at other addresses including properties that she was placed in by the local authority after she'd been moved on from [Location B1]. Count 14 representing the first occasion, 15 representing multiple vaginal intercourse and count 16 being oral intercourse.

D When interviewed Parvaze Ahmed said that he thought he had met [Person A1] ages ago but he didn't know her. He was shown a photograph of [Person A1] during the course of his police interview and he said he had been to her house and had been at a lad's house with her. He said he had met [Person A1] at a party at Sid's house. He said she seemed to live at Sid's house and he thought she was going out with Sid. She was drinking vodka from a bottle when he met her there and he thought she was 17 or 18. He told police that he had slept with her once but then went on to say that it could have been once or twice and then said that in fact he couldn't remember how many times he'd had sex with her. He said he couldn't really remember the first time but then said that actually it had been upstairs at Sid's house. He said that [Person A1] had dragged him upstairs. He said this was probably the second time that he had met her. He said he didn't use contraception with her, that she was tipsy but she wasn't drunk. He told [Person A1] he said to the police that he didn't want a relationship because she was a bit slagified, is the term that he used. He stated that it was clear that she wanted to be there because the police kept coming for her and she kept coming back and she had invited him to her home on other occasions.

G He was asked questions about what he knew of [Person A1] and he told police that whilst he was a bit concerned by this situation of a young girl who seemed to have a poor relationship with her family being given somewhere to stay and a food – and food by a much older man and drinking alcohol that whilst he was a bit concerned by that situation that she had said to him that she was legal. He stated, Mr Ahmed stated that a few months after

A having sex with her at Sid's house he went to her home with a group of lads from Dewsbury. He had never been there alone. He said he'd only been there once and he thought that [Person A1] might be thinking that she was his girlfriend. He wasn't sure he said if he'd had sex with her at that flat, he told police he never saw her use drugs and he told police that she used to call him in the early hours of the morning, he wasn't sure if he had had sex with her on other occasions. He told police that Sid had got jealous of their situation and had stopped him, Parvaze, from going to Sid's house because of [Person A1]. The allegations of sexual activity with [Person A1] were put to the defendant and eventually Parvaze Ahmed stated that he had taken many girls to the house but he couldn't remember their names.

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C Moving on then to Izar Hussain. The documents in respect of him you will find behind divider 10. You can see there that in the notes in respect of Izar Hussain his nickname in square brackets under Izar Hussain is Billy Jo Jo, and I'll ask Mr Hussain please to identify himself to you. Thank you. Izar Hussain is represented by my learned friend Ms Kelly. Now [Person A1] met Izar Hussain also at Saeed's address at Saffron Drive. It was [Person A1]'s impression that he was connected with Mr Par – with Parvaze Ahmed in his drug business. And it was the case that [Person A1] told police that Izar Hussain used the phone that Parvaze had to trick [Person A1] into visiting.

D

E Now we told you at the outset of this case that the methods employed by the defendants were on a spectrum, some would manipulate her through thinking she was in a relationship and others would use force. Now these two men, Izar, Billy Jo Jo, and Parvaze that we've told you about are perhaps at the two differing ends of that spectrum because Izar Hussain chose to use fear on [Person A1] to fulfil his sexual desires. Izar Hussain resided at the relevant time at number [Izar Hussain's address] in the Girdlington area of Bradford. On one occasion whilst she was there [Person A1] was told by Izar Hussain to have sex with a man who was described or spoken of as a doctor. The situation it seemed was that the doctor would allow Izar Hussain use of his credit card on the basis that [Person A1] would have sex with the doctor. [Person A1] resisted this and Izar angrily told her that if she in his words wouldn't fuck the doctor then she was fucking him and that is count 17 the charge of rape.

F

G Izar Hussain had sex with [Person A1] on other occasions and those are the charges 18 and 19. The last time anything sexual happened with Izar Hussain there were others present including an unidentified male who was known as Jack the Ripper. On this occasion Izar Hussain lay on top of [Person A1] pinning her down and pulling her underwear down. She describes herself as struggling and the incident only stopped when Izar Hussain's brother

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A came into the room and pulled him away from [Person A1]. She thought a fight then seemed to take place between the brothers and that incident is count 20, an offence of attempted rape.

B That night trying to find somewhere to go [Person A1] got in touch with a male, not a defendant, named [redacted] and [redacted] was at a hotel, the Travelodge in Thornbury. When [Person A1] got there that night to that Travelodge a woman named [Person K] was present and [Person A1] spoke to [Person K] and told her how a male that she knew as Billy Jo Jo had tried to rape her. We intend to call [Person K] who recalls [Person A1] describing and saying that she was escaping that night from Billy Jo Jo. It's right to say that [Person A1] disclosed other matters to [Person K1], offences that we will come to in due course, because [Person A1] described an occasion to [Person K1] when [Person A1] had agreed to have sex with one man but that another man actually then went to go on and have sex with her and as we will tell you that is count 22. [Person K] also witnessed on a separate occasion the behaviour of a male, Mohammed Usman, who I will come to in two defendants' time, and she was able to describe him as an aggressive and violent man.

D Izar Hussain was interviewed by police. He made no comment in his initial interview. He didn't answer the questions that were put to him about his relationship with [Person A1] but he gave a prepared statement in which he said he denied the offences. And in his final police interview on being told that he was – had been selected at an identification parade by [Person A1] he stated that it was all a lie and mentioned that his pictures were on a social networking site. When again he was asked if he knew [Person A] he made no comment to those questions. However by his defence statement which is something the defence are obliged to supply after they've seen the prosecution evidence it's right to say that Izar Hussain does not deny knowing [Person A1] and states in that defence statement that she had been to his home at [Billy Jo Jo's address] where a friend had visited with the nickname doctor but he stated that he had never had any sexual activity with her whatsoever and although his brother had intervened once in a confrontation between himself and [Person A1] this was not physical, this was just because he had been telling [Person A1] to go home and to look after her child and they were insulting towards one another. Issue 2 therefore whether there was indeed any sexual activity between these two people is the first matter that you will have to decide in the case of Izar Hussain.

F Turning then to the next defendant, Zeeshan Ali. You will find the documents that relate to him behind divider 11 and you will see that Zeeshan Ali's nicknames are given there as Twinnny and also as T and you will see that he faces that single – that charge, single charge there, count 21. May I ask Zeeshan Ali to identify himself. You're just able to see him just

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A round that corner. Thank you. And Zeeshan Ali is represented by my learned friend Ms Hertzog.

B In about October 2010 [Person A1] was present at Sid's house again drinking, again taking drugs. Zeeshan Ali repeatedly grabbed her breasts and grabbed her bottom and he
C faces a single count in respect of that sexual touching, count 21, sexual assault. You do not need to turn it up but you will see on the summary of count 21 that that has a specific day in mind in terms of the charge. The reason why a more specific month is given in respect of that offence is because of the circumstances of when that took place. Because what happened that night when [Person A1] tried to get free of this repeated and unwanted touching of her
D breasts and bottom by Zeeshan Ali she approached another male in the house and she asked that man to try and help her to stop Zeeshan Ali touching her. The man that she approached for assistance that night was a man that she knew as █████, and he is not a defendant in that – this case. █████ later that night forcefully raped [Person A] and [Person A1] confided in a worker the following morning that she had been raped. There was consideration at that stage of [Person A1] reporting the █████ offence to the police but [Person A1] ultimately did not do so at that stage although she kept the clothes for a while whilst she considered reporting it. So that is how [Person A] is able to give the specific circumstances because of what took place later that night with a man who does not – who is not a defendant in this case.

E In police interview Zeeshan Ali said he had never heard of [Person A] and was shown photographs of her and he told police that he had never seen her before. He was asked other questions and he made no comment to those questions. Even when he was asked about the fact that an unrelated incident had been reported to police and in respect of that unrelated incident he had been found at the same address as [Person A1] by police. Eventually in his
F police interview he said that he remembered [Person A] as Sid's girlfriend. But by his defence statement served in January 2018 he stated that he was known as T and had several friends he knew as █████ but stated that if the events that [Person A1] described occurred then she was mistaken as to identification. So that deals with that single offence that Zeeshan Ali faces.

G I turn then on to the next two defendants and you will see that Kieran Harris appears behind divider 12, two charges there, and I'll ask for Kieran Harris to identify himself please. Thank you. And Kieran Harris is represented by my learned friend Mr Wilson. Just before I go on any further please because there is some connection between these counts can you also please look at divider 13, Fahim Iqbal, and I will ask for Fahim Iqbal please to identify
H himself, thank you, and you can see him there at the back of the dock. And he is represented

A by my learned friend Mr Dallas. You will see that Fahim Iqbal and Kieran Harris face count 22 together. And that is the only charge that indicts two defendants on the same charge. Now Kieran Harris and Fahim Iqbal these two men got in touch with [Person A] via Kieran Harris. [Person A]'s phone number had been passed around and Kieran Harris rang and
B asked if he could come and chill at [Person A1]'s home. By this point [Person A1] had moved to her own flat and she was indeed over 16. [Person A1] agreed as she had no money and Kieran Harris agreed to bring cigarettes with him. Kieran Harris attended her home with other men. Kieran Harris demanded that [Person A1] go put something sexy on. No offences arise from that first night but [Person A1] remembers drinking very little but feeling really
C quite out of it. She felt as though the small amount of drink that she had had was drugged in some way.

On one night the men, Fahim and Kieran, came to her house and [Person A1] states that she agreed to have sex with Fahim. Fahim is the nephew of Parvaze Ahmed. [Person A1] went into the bedroom that night and she bent over. The understanding was that Fahim was to have sex with her from behind. After a little while [Person A1] looked around and realised that it was in fact Kieran Harris who now had his penis inside her vagina. Fahim say the Crown was clearly a party to that plan. [Person A1] had never agreed to have sex with Kieran. Such sex was clearly without her consent and Fahim as someone who assisted in that offence and Kieran as the man that actually penetrated her face together count 22. On
D another occasion Kieran attended her home and again after drinking [Person A1] felt drugged. In those circumstances Kieran Harris forcefully had sex with [Person A] and that is the second count that he faces, count 23.

Now in Kieran Harris' police interviews Kieran Harris made no comment to the police questions but he did give a prepared statement in which he said he had had no sexual contact with [Person A] and he later stood by his assertion that he had had no sexual contact but agreed that he'd been introduced to her by Fahim Iqbal. Now Fahim Iqbal was to give a different account in his police interview. He admitted having a sexual relationship with [Person A] and stated that there had been a time when he was having sex with [Person A1] from behind, others were in the flat, and he became aware that others were there in the room and were laughing. He completed having sex with [Person A1] and that whilst dressing himself he then saw that Kieran was having sex with [Person A1] and that [Person A1] seemed surprised by that. Fahim states in his defence statement that he actually challenged Kieran about his behaviour towards [Person A1] but that Kieran's response was that [Person A1] was fine with it. Kieran by his defence statement maintains his account, sorry, denies
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A that any sexual activity took place between them, so maintains his account of no sexual contact.

B Now as you know, members of the jury, my opening to you at this stage isn't evidence in this case, it's here to give you an overview of what the evidence we anticipate will be. But just a particular note about this specific issue because what Fahim Iqbal told the police in his police interview that Kieran Harris had had sex with [Person A] and essentially therefore that Kieran Harris is lying when he denies that does not in law count as evidence as against Kieran Harris. He of course was not present during Fahim's interview. It is only of course if Fahim Iqbal tells you as regards Kieran Harris' behaviour in evidence during the trial then it is evidence as against Kieran Harris. The interview of Fahim Iqbal is evidence in the case as regards Fahim Iqbal himself.

C I turn then to the final defendant please, Mohammed Usman. His documents are of course behind divider 14 and I'll ask Mohammed Usman who was also known as Mani to identify himself to you. Mohammed Usman is represented by my learned friend Mr Ferm. **D** Now this tenth and final defendant faces two counts of rape. Mohammed Usman was a man that would randomly turn up at [Person A]'s home. By this point she was living at an address on [Location C]. Mohammed Usman was to [Person A] aggressive, sinister and threatening. He had sex with [Person A] twice in a forceful and aggressive manner. On another occasion he was threatening towards her and urinated down her stairs. She managed to call the police and although asked them not to tell Mohammed Usman who had placed the phone call **E** unfortunately the police officers did tell him and you will recall that I mentioned the witness, [Person K], and she can give evidence about this incident also.

F Mohammed Usman stated to police in his interviews that he knew her as he had been to parties at her house but he denied ever having sexual contact with her and describe – and denies behaving in the way that she described to police.

G So that, members of the jury, is a very brief overview of what the charges that you will in due course have to decide relate to. Now as explained, members of the jury, in addition to the evidence of [Person A1] and [Person B1] there is also some evidence from people who were working with [Person A1], [Social worker 6] was a worker who started to see [Person A1] once she'd moved to [Location E1] in Dewsbury in 2010 and she was a worker who was so concerned about [Person A1] that she would take names and phone numbers from [Person A1]'s phone and try to keep a record and she would see the vodka bottles at [Person A1]'s home. The move to [Location E1] as we say took place in October **H** 2010.

[Person A1] was only placed there for three months because complaints from neighbours

A about the attendance of males at unsociable hours were made. The evidence of [Person A1] say the Crown is supported in part by people who knew her at the time and workers whose job it was was to make her safe first in the children's home and then in the supported addresses that she moved to. You will hear that the staff were aware that [Person A1] was
B being picked up by multiple different Asian males in smart cars, that she would go missing and that she would reappear under the influence and that Sid even called the home looking for her.

Members of the jury it is easy to think that the local authority and even the police have failed [Person A1] but this case is not about their role but the role of the sexual
C predators. We ask you to remember that one of the factors that make it possible for men like these to perpetrate such crimes is the nature of the abuse and the nature of their victims. Girls in care with little to make themselves feel good often craving love and attention don't always at the time see the manipulation and exploitation themselves that allows the abuse to occur. But the fact that they weren't able necessarily to see it themselves at the time that it took
D place does not mean that the exploitation was not occurring.

In addition, members of the jury, you will hear evidence from [Person A1]'s grandmother, [Person F], about how it came to be that frequently once [Person A1] was a resident in care [Person A1] would call her in the early hours of the morning and ask to be
E collected. On occasions this would be from hotels, on occasion [Person A1] would be upset and tearful and on occasion she would ask to come home and simply have a bath. Her grandmother, [Person F1], saw multiple newish vehicles driven by Asian males drop [Person A1] off at her home. As the years went by and [Person A1] moved into supported accommodation she had her own property, [Person F1] would attend and find her under the
F influence of alcohol and drugs, she would see the bottles of vodka, amounts of alcohol and vodka that [Person A1] herself could never have afforded. And when they were together [Person F1] would see [Person A1]'s phone would keep ringing and [Person A1] would explain to the callers that she couldn't see them. At times [Person F1] herself would have to speak to them to prove that [Person A1] was telling them the truth as to why she wasn't
G available. And the documents that we have, members of the jury, from social care we submit tell the same sad, familiar story, missing at night on a regular basis, a variety of men coming outside of the care home. The Crown say evidence of the sexual exploitation that had commenced. [Person A1] spoke to a woman called [Youth support worker 1], a youth worker, about how she'd partied in Bradford and took drugs and had sex. Another worker,
H [Social worker 5], saw that when [Person A1] would come in from missing and staying out with men despite

A what she said about not being bothered she would come in in a low mood, often looking under the influence and on many such occasions she would self-harm by cutting herself. She would stay in the bath for a long time.

B That then, members of the jury, is an overview of the nature of the evidence that you will hear in this case. As we have said to you what we say to you now is not evidence, it's designed to help you have in mind the issues as you hear the evidence. The Crown's position is that the evidence in this case will drive you to the inescapable conclusion that these men are guilty of the charges on the indictment but ultimately, members of the jury, it is your role at the end of this case to decide where the truth lies.

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, there may be a little work of a technical nature for us to do now. I'd like to deal with it now please. For your part thank you all for your attendance and I'm going to ask all of you please, all 14 of you, to be ready to come back into court tomorrow. There is no harm in my deferring any decisions and giving you time to consider if there are any problems because the alternatives - alternates will have to come back anyway tomorrow morning or if you're needed. I haven't discussed this with counsel, I don't have to I suppose but they may see the sense in that but may I ask the jury, you 12 now, I don't wish any of you to answer this unless you feel confident but is there apart from the difficult nature of your task which I'm afraid is part of the territory, the role of being a juror, you can't escape that, is there anything that you have heard in the case in reference to names or places which rings any alarm bells with you. No? Right. Two of you.

D

E UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible), sorry.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Can I just, what I'm going to do I think is just ask you to retire as a body and would you two gentlemen as you're the only two who've put their hands up would you just write down for me what, if anything, it is that might cause you concern about continuing to be a juror. Do you understand? Alarm bells – I mean alarm bells, what we're talking about is something that you have heard in the case about a name or a place that might make on reflection your duty as a juror more difficult. Do you follow? Just as I had to release people yesterday. Just go and do – just retire as a body, if that's all right, Ms Melly,

G Mr Iqbal ---

MS MELLY: Yes.

MR IQBAL: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: If you two gentlemen would just write down on a piece of paper

H

A MS MELLY: I think it was three in fact, sorry, to interrupt, your Honour, but I think there was some indication that there were three.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Two.

MS MELLY: Oh, sorry.

B MR IQBAL: There were three jurors that put their hands up, I don't know whether that means that ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Where? I didn't see three, I saw two. Oh, you did too, sorry.

MR IQBAL: Two on the back row and one on the front row.

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right, thank you very much. But be very careful about just think what you're doing, we have started this trial now and I'm looking for very, very concrete reasons, not choice or feelings of displeasure or anxiety, I am afraid, we've all got stiffen our sinews from time to time, haven't we, and do the job at hand. But if you three gentlemen, sorry, I didn't see you - thank you, Mr Iqbal - would just write down just outside the door without consulting your colleagues, let me have them and I will consider it with
D counsel, all right. Thank you. So if you'd all like to just go through there and do that for me.

(The jury left court at 15.06)

(Judge Durham Hall conferred with the Court Clerk)

E [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

F [REDACTED]

G [REDACTED]

H [REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

(The jury entered court at 15.09)

C

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, very proper that you've communicated the matters. They do not in any way, shape or form even begin to approach a reason why you cannot continue to do your duty. I'll give an exam – I'll deal with them briefly. I mean coming from Keighley, great, I know it well. If I were to be disbarred from conducting any case in Bradford which is my parish I wouldn't have a job, would I? No Keighley. I too know the areas here quite well. Not a problem. Local knowledge is something that comes with being a juror, that's why jurors are drawn from the locality and I appreciate one or more of you may live you may think close to one or more areas involved in this case and may be uncomfortable about meeting or passing people in the street. Please don't be. This is not one of those cases, in my judgment, my gut reaction, my instinct and all the evidence shows this is not a problem but I'm going to tell you this, ladies and gentlemen, that if any of you in any jury trial were to feel uncomfortable about anything happening outside the court you would bring it to my attention because I will protect you, no issue. Do you understand? And sometimes I have to very, very firmly but this isn't one of those cases, all right. You, in my judgment, have not revealed any problem nor to the satisfaction of any of the barristers, especially the defence, about your continuing to work on the matter. Having said that I'm still going to ask you all to come back tomorrow morning ready to start the evidence. Can you be here perhaps ready to start, fingers crossed, at 10 o'clock? I do mean sooner started sooner finished. I think everybody's in favour of that. So let's try and do that although there's always a risk in this or any court of an emergency application being slipped in when I'm not looking, you follow, so I – but we'll try. It is likely, ladies, that I will not be able to or be forced to use you to substitute one or two of these jurors with you but out of an abundance of caution please we'll defer that decision until 10 o'clock tomorrow. So can you all come back, two plus 12, but I rather anticipate and confirm you are the jury, OK, and tomorrow we start with evidence and we'll see where we get on – how we get on, OK.

H

A

Thank you. Anything else you'd like me to say to the jury, anything sensible, wise, no, thank you very much. All right, thanks a lot, see you tomorrow. 10 – ready for a 10 o'clock start.

(The jury left court at 15.13)

B

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

C

ADJOURNED AT 15.24 UNTIL WEDNESDAY, 9th JANUARY 2019

D

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H