

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

16th JANUARY 2019, 10.32-16.02

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

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B

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A JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you. OK?
MS MELLY: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: When we're up and running, Mrs Beckley, could you just get my Red Book?

B USHER: I will.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It's on a pile of files. Yes, OK, thank you. My apologies.
(The jury entered court at 10.34)
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good morning, thank you. Yes.

C MS MELLY: The next witness is a social work witness. It's [REDACTED] and she is a witness giving evidence via a link.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It's a very nice, pretty room in Southwark.
MS MELLY: We were told she was being brought into the room some minutes ago, so.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Excellent.

D MS MELLY: We've placed a mobile telephone call and the witness, we are told, is on route.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good, thank you. All right, Ms Melly, we ---
MS MELLY: They're all here.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, if there isn't, it's going to be interesting.
MS MELLY: Yes. Examination in-chief through the mind but ...

E JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I think somebody has to say something. I'm going to just let you control this.
MS MELLY: Certainly (inaudible). Thank you.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: OK, can you hear us?
MS MELLY: Yes, thank you. And can you see and hear me OK? Am I looking in the right

F direction?
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Wrong camera? You are now, yes.
MS MELLY: I am now, yes, thank you. Is that Mrs [REDACTED]?
WITNESS: Yes, that's right.
MS MELLY: All right, thank you. Firstly, can I ask for the witness to be sworn in, please?

G [REDACTED], Affirmed
WITNESS: (inaudible).
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: We'll just get on. OK, I'm terribly sorry, but there we are.
Examined in-chief by MS MELLY

H

A

Q. Ms [REDACTED], you've been down a copy of your witness statement from the 9th of March 2016. I don't need you to look at that right now, but I just want to check that you had a copy and you've had an opportunity to read it?

A. I have, yes.

B

Q. Thank you very much. And also a bundle of documents that come down to you as a newspaper document which has got a reference DB/4, have you got those?

A. I have got them. I got those late, so I've had a brief look but not a thorough look.

Q. All right, that's - no, that's fine. We'll look through them. OK, thank you very much.

C

Ms [REDACTED] it's right, isn't it, that you're now employed as a social worker in London. You were a newly qualified social worker back in January 2008, and at that time you were working in Bradford Social Services?

A. That's correct.

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MS MELLY: Right. Thank you very much, your Honour.

WITNESS: Thank you.

D

MR IQBAL: I've no cross-examination, thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK, thank you.

MR MOULSON: No, thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you.

(The witness withdrew)

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes, I have to say that because there's a lot of organisation, ladies and gentlemen, goes into this thing and it does show a high degree of cooperation

G

between very different parts of the country, so I am truly grateful. Thank you.

MS MELLY: Thank you, your Honour.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Ms Melly, thank you. OK, where do we go?

MS MELLY: Another social work witness. It's [REDACTED].

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes.

H

A

MS MELLY: And I'm afraid I just need to meet that witness very briefly before she comes into court.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Certainly. Would you like to go and do that?

MS MELLY: Yes, thank you.

B

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: We'll just have a quick break. This is - it is absolutely required, certainly by CPS protocol, that the barristers just go and say hello, is everything all right? Have you read your statement? OK. Normally that would - your junior's not here to?

MS MELLY: No.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: She's probably busy elsewhere.

C

MS MELLY: She is. Those are matters that will save us an enormous amount of time that she deals with that now to do.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I'm all for that, all right. Well, we'll just have five minutes. Do you mind, ladies and gentlemen, just giving - having an early break whilst there's this, as it were, meet and greet.

D

(The jury left court at 11.05)

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

A

MR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

E

(Short adjournment)

(Proceedings continued in chambers from 11.33 until 12.05)

(The jury entered court at 12.05)

F

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Ladies and gentlemen, I am sorry. I'm not best pleased. Nothing to do with the defence, prosecution, defendants, but we hit a slight administrative problem about something which I had to deal with as a matter of urgency. It doesn't affect you. It doesn't impact on anybody here but I had to deal with it. It won't happen - it was quite unusual, it won't happen again. These things happen when you're least looking. You will know the secret. But it's not the fault of anybody here at all and thank you for your help. But there was an additional problem with some poor witness who's had a bereavement, that's right, so you had to deal with that.

G

MS MELLY: We had to deal with that. We are going to call her but it is going to be, I anticipate, quite a brief witness.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes.

MS MELLY: But we'll deal with that straight away so she can leave.

H

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK, that's good, all right.

A MS MELLY: So the next witness is [REDACTED].
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK, that's fine. Fine, we're focusing on, are we, on whatever is in disagreement, are we all?
MS MELLY: Yes.

B JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good.
MS MELLY: Yes.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And, Mr Moulson, you very kindly told me that you had got in hand potential ways to shorten.
MR MOULSON: Yes, your Honour.

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: The need to call certain witnesses.
MR MOULSON: Yes, yes.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: So again saving time.
MR MOULSON: Thank you, your Honour.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you. All right, are we under control?

D MS MELLY: We are. There's a few moments' delay whilst the witness just attends to her own personal ---
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Personal.
MS MELLY: --- focus and then.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK, well, I'm sorry, there we are.

E MS MELLY: Your Honour, there was a request, because of the witness's health, to have a chair but we cannot move the chair within the witness box I'm told because of the size. So, once she comes into court, once she's told she's not very long, if she's content to stand we'll deal with it in that way.

F JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sure.
MS MELLY: Otherwise, the alternative is to have her seated here.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes, sure, absolutely.
MS MELLY: Or perhaps at the front of the press box.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes, yes.

G MS MELLY: That's a bit of an elevated position.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No, no, no, it may seem like trial by ordeal at some stage but we did stop that in 1532, I think, give or take.
MR DALLAS: June the 5th .
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Let it be noted Mr Dallas's contribution to this case. Thank you,

H Mr Dallas.

A



B



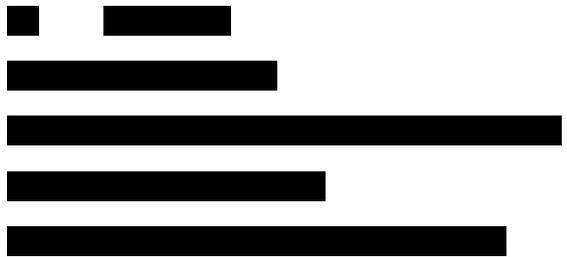
C



D



E



F



G



H



A

MS MELLY: You're saying ---

MR IQBAL: This is the contentious area, I'm afraid.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, fine, contentious or not, we have to hear the witness.

MS MELLY: Yes.

B

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I have alternative ways of permitting you to deal with a witness in these circumstances. Can we just try and deal with the contentious issue by you passing on what the witness has said.

MR IQBAL: It goes a bit further than that, your Honour. It's the principle of opinion evidence.

C

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Ah. What was the question?

[REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I don't think it is right that Ms Chansor is here now dealing with deeply concerning matters.

E

MR IQBAL: Of course.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And I will accommodate her in any way by any process whether hearsay or otherwise, you know what I'm saying, as appropriate in agreement with you.

MR IQBAL: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: This lady must go home.

F

MR IQBAL: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And deal with her family.

MR IQBAL: I agree entirely.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK.

MR IQBAL: Thank you.

G

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Not your fault, Ms - you wouldn't have called her - not your fault, you've got a job to do, Mr Iqbal. But she shouldn't be here. She should be at home with her family, all right. And the news is very recent and I'm very sorry. Ms Chansor, I can't even see you, which is a great discourtesy. But, officer, would you like to take Ms Chansor and make sure she gets home safely, OK.

H

(The witness withdrew)

A JUDGE DURHAM HALL: We'll find a way of dealing with that, OK, Ms - OK.
MS MELLY: Well, then, your Honour, we move on to a different topic of evidence.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Right.
MS MELLY: Please. And we move on to the background now of [Person A] and we

B commence that with evidence from her grandmother before moving on to some of the social work evidence that affects her. So that would be the next witness for the Crown to call.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK. Is that [Person F2]?
MS MELLY: That is - it is, your Honour, [Person F2].
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: [Person F2], OK.

C MS MELLY: At I thirty - I40.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I40. All right, so we're drawing a line now, Mr Moulson and Mr Iqbal. We are now moving ---
MR MOULSON: Yes.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- to [Person A1] and we won't come back, Mr Iqbal, to

D anything like Ms Chansor until we've finished [Person A1], OK.
MR IQBAL: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Is that all right, Ms - I know I'm - well, I can do that, I suppose I'm the referee, aren't I, the umpire?

E MS MELLY: Of course. I may have to deal with one witness.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes.
MS MELLY: Because of their specific times they can attend. They've been out of the country.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sure, I know, I know.

F MS MELLY: But I might have to ask to interpose.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I think, Ms Melly, Mr Iqbal, Mr Moulson, I will have to make a short ruling on the administrative problem because it is quite novel. So I think we'll try and do that about 10 to one.
MR MOULSON: Yes.

G JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It won't take long, but it seems to me that I have to deal with it by a ruling so that a transcript - so that any interested party can consider it, OK. Everything I do and say within reason is scrutinised, you know. If it's a matter of law, which it was, but I emphasise it does not concern nor was it caused by any of you or the prosecution, okay.
MR MOULSON: Yes.

H JUDGE DURHAM HALL: One of these things that happens, yes. Thank you.

A

[PERSON F], Affirmed

MS MELLY: OK, if you could just turn towards the jury, please.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I've got it, I've got it, thank you.

MS MELLY: I was telling you it was I40.

B

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes, I've got it.

MS MELLY: It's 21, I'm sorry.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: 21. Is it [Person F1]?

WITNESS: Yes.

C

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Are you happy with [Person F1] or how would you like us to talk? [Person F1]?

WITNESS: Yes, that's fine.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: That's good. I'm sorry - I'm sorry, madam, that the seat there is not good. It's too low. Can you stand for a - or would you rather sit?

WITNESS: Well, I'd rather sit if I could.

D

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right.

WITNESS: I'll lean on.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right, well, do a bit of leaning to begin with, but if there's a problem you just give me a look and I'll get you a chair.

WITNESS: Thank you.

E

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK.

Examined in-chief by MS MELLY

Q. All right, thank you very much your name's [Person F1], and although I think we've called you as [Person F2], most people called you [Person SSSS], is that right?

F

A. That's right.

Q. OK. And you've also told me today that you've got tinnitus, haven't you, so you really do need us to speak very loudly indeed.

A. Yes, please.

G

Q. OK, so please tell us if you can't hear, all right. And you're quite softly spoken, so I'm going to ask you please to give all your answers over to the jury because they needs to hear you.

A. Right.

Q. All right, thank you very much. Now you have a number of children, [Person F1], and one of them is a lady called [Person BB1]?

H

A. Yes, that's correct.

- A**
- Q. And [Person BB1] has two daughters, one of whom is [Person A]?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Now [Person A1] grew up with her mum and her step-dad?
- A. Yes.
- B**
- Q. Her step-dad being a man called [Person EEEEE]?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And we know, don't we, that there was violence in the relationship between [Person A1]'s mum, [Person BB1], and her partner?
- A. Yes, there was.
- C**
- Q. And the police - sorry, I spoke over you there, [Person F1], what did you say?
- A. I said, yes, there was.
- Q. Right, thank you. And it's right, isn't it, that that domestic violence involved the police on a number of occasions?
- A. Yes.
- D**
- Q. And on one occasion [Person A1] told you how she'd been assaulted by her step-dad, didn't she?
- A. Yes, she did.
- Q. And although that's what she was saying, [Person BB1], your daughter, got [Person A1] to take back, to retract what she was saying about her step-dad, that's right, isn't it?
- E**
- A. Yes, that's right.
- Q. OK. And you were aware, weren't you, that during [Person A1]'s childhood that [Person BB1] had mood swings?
- A. Had, pardon?
- F**
- Q. [Person BB1] had mood swings?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And it would depend on [Person BB1]'s mood whether or not you got to see [Person A1], whether you saw your grandchildren?
- A. That's right.
- G**
- Q. Now moving on to when [Person A1] hits about 12 years of age, [Person A1]'s relationship with her mum broke down?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Lots of arguments and lots of occasions of [Person A1] being thrown out of her home by her mum?
- H**
- A. Yes.

- A**
- Q. And sometimes [Person A1] would come to your house at night?
- A. Yes, that's right.
- Q. And when she was about 12 years of age, she came to your house at midnight saying her mum - she'd been thrown out by her mum and you took her back in - you took her in?
- B**
- A. Yes.
- Q. But [Person BB1] turned up in the middle of the night and took her back home on some occasions?
- A. She - yes, she insisted on her going back home.
- Q. And that continued even when she was - moving on to when [Person A1] was 13.
- C**
- [Person A1] came to stay with you on her - what would have been then her 13th birthday, she was waking up at your house on her 13th birthday?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And [Person BB1] attended your house on [Person A1]'s 13th birthday?
- A. Yes.
- D**
- Q. She'd brought with her a birthday card from [Person A1]'s sister?
- A. That's correct, from [REDACTED]
- Q. From [REDACTED]. But is it right that [Person BB1] didn't send or wouldn't send [Person A1] a birthday card herself?
- A. No.
- E**
- Q. And [Person A1] had been staying with you and anticipating one from her mum?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Expecting a card from her mum?
- A. Yes.
- F**
- Q. And [Person A1] stayed with you around that time for a few weeks?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. But, after a while, [Person F1], of staying with you, she ended up going into care, is that right?
- A. She ended up going what?
- G**
- Q. She went into care, we know that she ---
- A. Into care, yes.
- Q. She - [Person A1] had been trying to rebuild a relationship with her mum. She was writing letters to her mum, is that right?
- A. Yes.
- H**

- A**
- Q. But your husband, [REDACTED], found it difficult to have a teenager at home and so it was -
--
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- that you couldn't keep [Person A1], is that right?
- B**
- A. Yes.
- Q. And we know that she first went to [Location H] and we know that she ends up at [Location B2]?
- A. She ---
- Q. She went - we know that she ended up at [Location B2] and now I'm going to ask you some questions about after [Person A1] had gone to [Location B1], OK.
- C**
- A. Right.
- Q. So when she was at [Location B2] living there, is it right that you actually had to go and pick her up from various places at night-time?
- A. Yes.
- D**
- Q. And you picked her up from the Girdlington area?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Both during the day and at night?
- A. Yes.
- E**
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: This is after [Location B1], yes?
- MS MELLY: Yes, so after - this is all after the period when she's gone to live at [Location B1]?
- A. Yes.
- MR MOULSON: Whilst she was out of [Location B1].
- F**
- MS MELLY: Yes.
- MR MOULSON: Yes.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: That's what I - Mr Moulson is right.
- MS MELLY: Yes, yes, sorry, if I'm being ---
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: This is after she's gone to but is at [Location B1].
- G**
- MR MOULSON: Yes.
- MS MELLY: Yes.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Fine.
- MS MELLY: Everybody just wants to make clear that we know that [Person A1]'s gone to [Location B1] in the spring of 2008 and all these times of when you're picking her up from various places is when she's supposed to be living at [Location B1]?
- H**

- A**
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. And have you also picked her up at an address or from a road near [REDACTED] in Allerton?
- A. Yes.
- B**
- Q. Do you describe that as just being on the first road on the right near [REDACTED] in Allerton?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you've also picked her up from the [REDACTED] in Bradford?
- A. Yes.
- C**
- Q. And Thornbury?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Outside of hotels?
- A. Outside?
- Q. Of the hotel?
- D**
- A. Yes.
- Q. You describe the Etap Hotel?
- A. Down on Canal Road, yes.
- Q. You picked [Person A1] up from there?
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. Now on these occasions when you had to go and pick her up, have you picked her up from those places at night-time?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And in terms of how you knew to pick her up, would she telephone you and ask you to come and get her?
- F**
- A. Yes.
- Q. And what times of night would she call?
- A. It could be any time between 12.00 and 4.00 in the morning.
- Q. And would she be on the phone, please, when she would call you up and at between midnight and 4 o'clock and ask to be picked up?
- G**
- A. A lot of the time that she'll be crying and sounded frightened.
- Q. And so you - and would she be in that state when you would actually go and get her?
- A. Yes.
- Q. So when you came and got her and saw your granddaughter in that state, would you ask her?
- H**

- A**
- A. Well, most of the time she were that upset that I couldn't get a coherent word in from her, just ---
- Q. So do I take it that you'd ask her, would you ask her where she'd been or what was wrong?
- B**
- A. I tried.
- Q. But what you're saying is that she just - was she making any sense?
- A. No.
- Q. And when you got there, to wherever you were picking her up from, would you stay at that area and speak or would you leave?
- C**
- A. Once she was in the car, I'd leave.
- Q. How would [Person A1] seem about leaving?
- A. Relieved.
- Q. Would she ever say anything to you about leaving?
- A. I tried to talk to her but she just seemed too frightened and I didn't want to push her too far because then she'd probably back away from me, so.
- D**
- Q. Thank you. Just a couple of specific occasions I just want to ask you about. There was one occasion where you've made a second statement. I don't know if you saw that today, a second statement?
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. Where you'd corrected some - a location?
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. So when you made your first statement you spoke of picking her up from an area in Leeds called Headingley ---
- F**
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- first of all. And then you made another statement which was you saying that when you'd actually thought about it it wasn't Headingley, it was Harehills?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. And was that another occasion when you picked her up?
- G**
- A. I didn't go. My husband wouldn't allow me to.
- Q. So this is an occasion when she telephoned, did she?
- A. She telephoned, yes.
- Q. And what state was she in on the phone?
- A. Sobbing her heart out.
- H**

- A** Q. There's no criticism of you, [Person F1], don't take it in this way, but was this the occasion you're telling us that your husband said to you, "Don't go and get her"?
- A. Yes, he wouldn't let me go get her.
- Q. And did you actually make contact with her, although you couldn't go and get her that
- B** night, did you see or speak to her later on?
- A. Yes, but it wasn't till about 6 o'clock or so the following evening because it seems as if she was always made to find her own way back home.
- Q. Did you ask her on that occasion why she'd been upset?
- A. No, because she were really really upset and I was walking on eggshells because part
- C** of the time I had to try and find things out.
- Q. Did you ever see any of the people that [Person A1] had been with during the evening?
- A. Yes, when I'd picked her up from Thornbury.
- Q. Just pause there for a moment. You picked her up from Thornbury and was this from
- D** a house or from a?
- A. From a hotel up there.
- Q. From a hotel.
- A. You know, them like lodgeway(?) like things.
- Q. OK. And was this the same situation that she's rung you at night-time and asked to be
- E** picked up?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And was she upset on this occasion?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And did you go on this occasion and pick her up from the hotel at Thornbury?
- F** A. Well, I tried for a minute or two to find out what had happened, but she was sobbing too much and I was just about ready to leave when one of the men came down to ask if she was all right.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Where was this, please, Ms ---
- G** MS MELLY: Hotel Thornbury, outside the hotel in Thornbury.
- A. In that precinct where the cinema is and that, that area.
- Q. Thank you. So a young man came to see if she was all right, and was that a white male?
- A. Pardon?
- H** Q. Was that a white man?

- A**
- A. No, it was an Asian man.
- Q. And did [Person A1] indicate to you anything about that man?
- A. No.
- Q. So she didn't tell you anything that had happened?
- B**
- A. No.
- Q. Now on those occasions when you would pick her up at night and bring her back, what if anything would [Person A1] want to do at your house?
- A. Sometimes she'd want a bath.
- Q. She'd want a bath. Now when she would be at your house, would anybody come to the house to look for her?
- C**
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Would people ever turn up at your house looking for [Person A1]?
- A. Not looking for [Person A1]; some dropped her off.
- Q. Right.
- D**
- A. Ran out.
- Q. So in addition to you going to get her at night, sometimes she would just come to your house?
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. And, again, could this be at night-time, as you say, between midnight and 4.00 in the morning?
- A. No, it were normally earlier than that.
- Q. OK. And would it always be - would you see the cars that she was brought to your house in?
- F**
- A. I saw a couple, tall white one one time and a blue one another time, but I couldn't tell you what make they were. I only know the make of my car.
- Q. That's all right. Were you - did you ever see drivers?
- A. I did see one on a couple of occasions.
- Q. And who would they be in the cars, men or women?
- G**
- A. Men.
- Q. Were you able to see their ethnicity, what colour they were?
- A. Yes, they were Asian.
- MS MELLY: They were Asian.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: A cough obscured your answer, my apologies. I've been coughing a lot, so I can't complain, but what did you say? What did she say?
- H**

- A** MS MELLY: Asian males.
- A. I'm getting a bit dry.
- Q. Would you like a drink?
- A. Yes, please.
- B** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes. Well, don't worry, you've got tinnitus, so have I -
hopeless.
- MS MELLY: She's got quite a dry mouth as well.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And a dry mouth.
- MS MELLY: Yes.
- C** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It will come to you too, gentlemen, don't smile.
- WITNESS: Thank you.
- MS MELLY: All right. I'm not going to ask you about makes and models and registrations of vehicles, but did you form a view about whether they were sort of cheap old ones or new nice ones?
- D** A. Oh, they were expensive cars by the looks of them and they weren't old. They were relatively new.
- Q. Did you ever see other females in the cars bringing [Person A1] back?
- A. I think there was just on one occasion, but who it was I don't know.
- E** Q. All right. Well, were they about the same age as [Person A1] or were they older?
- A. Yes, same age.
- Q. All right. And was it just one other female that you saw?
- A. No, I knew another girl that she knew at the same time as all this.
- Q. OK. And what's the name of that person?
- F** A. [Person B2].
- Q. All right. So just so I can understand, it was one occasion when you saw [Person B1] in the car, [Person B] is that?
- A. I don't know her last name.
- Q. All right. And another occasion where you saw another girl whose name you don't
- G** know?
- A. I don't know, no.
- Q. Who's about the same age as [Person A1]?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And was that a white girl?
- H** A. Yes.

- A**
- Q. All right, thank you. And on that occasion were there adult males in the car?
- A. They were older than [Person A1] and the girls, yes.
- Q. And on that occasion were the males in the vehicle white or Asian?
- A. Asian.
- B**
- Q. Thank you. And during this period of time when [Person A1] is being brought back to your house and so forth and you're going to collect her, did [Person A1] ever mention to you that she had gifts or new things bought for her?
- A. Yes, she showed me them.
- Q. What did she show you?
- C**
- A. A white dress and it was all sparkly and colour.
- Q. Was it a western dress or an Asian dress?
- A. It - well, it was a high class dress of - normal. It wasn't Asian and a pair of shoes to match because it was all glittery was the dress.
- Q. And did she tell you about going to other places?
- D**
- A. Yes, she went down to Birmingham one weekend and to Nottingham, I think it was.
- Q. And did - dealing with those two things, so to go back to the clothing, sorry, did she tell you who had bought that for her?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Did she tell you who had bought the clothing for her?
- E**
- A. No.
- Q. Did she tell you who generally it was, not just the name?
- A. It was the ones that she was hanging around with.
- Q. People she was hanging around with?
- F**
- A. Well, that she was being cajoled into hanging around with them.
- Q. So were they - was it men - because you've told us there were some girls there, was it men that had bought it for her or girls that had bought it for her?
- A. They were men.
- Q. Right. And in terms of these trips, I think you said Birmingham and Nottingham, who was she going there - who did she tell you she was going there with?
- G**
- A. She didn't.
- Q. Now during this period of time did you ever see [Person A1] with any injuries?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What sort of injuries, please?
- H**
- A. She'd had bruises on her arms and her legs.

- A** Q. And did you see these on just one occasion or more than one?
A. On more - on more than one occasion. She's had quite a few bruises and not just being on the outside of her arms, they've been on outside and the inside. And the same with her legs.
- B** Q. So outside and inside of her arms?
A. Yes.
Q. And outside and inside of legs?
A. Yes.
Q. And when you say legs, do you mean the top part, thighs or under her knee, calves?
- C** A. Thighs.
Q. Thighs. Did you ask her how she kept having these bruises and injuries on arms and legs?
A. Yes.
Q. And what did she tell you?
A. She said that she'd just fallen or things like that.
Q. Did she ever have them to her face?
A. Yes. She had a black eye once.
Q. And did you ask her about that?
A. Yes, she said she slipped in the bathroom.
- E** Q. Did you try and talk to [Person A1] about going out at night-time?
A. I tried but - well, I mean not very exciting stopping in with your grandma, is it, when somebody is plying with you drinks and coke?
Q. Now you've mentioned drink and coke.
- F** A. Yes, be ---
Q. Did you ever see [Person A1] under the influence?
A. Of drink, for definite. And probably coke because her gums started bleeding and she were always snuffling and her nose was getting to a stage that it would bleed. And I had to take her to hospital one day and they did some tests on her and her kidneys were getting
- G** damaged because of alcohol.
Q. All right. I'll come on to that now. [Person A1] was moved on, wasn't she, from [Location B1] and after a couple of other places I think ended up at a residential placement in Dewsbury where she had a one bedroom flat?
A. Yes, she went there.
- H** Q. You went there?

- A**
- A. I went as well to see her there.
- Q. Did you go and get her from that address? Were you going there to pick [Person A1] up?
- A. Where in Dewsbury?
- B**
- Q. Yes.
- A. No, she lived in Dewsbury.
- Q. OK. So when you - you went over to see [Person A1] at that address?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Were there ever any other people there when you went there?
- C**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was this on one occasion that you are talking about?
- A. Yes.
- Q. OK. So how many people were at her home?
- A. There was at least two Asian lads if not three. There could have been three, but there were definitely two.
- D**
- Q. Were they the same age as [Person A1]?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Were they the same age as [Person A1]?
- A. No, they were older.
- E**
- Q. Were there any females there?
- A. One.
- Q. Apart from [Person A1]?
- A. One other and I didn't know her name.
- F**
- Q. And was she the same age as the men or the same age as [Person A1]?
- A. Same age as [Person A1].
- Q. And when you went and saw her in that property in Dewsbury, did she ever seem under the influence to you then?
- A. Oh, yes, definitely.
- G**
- Q. And did she tell you that she'd been drinking?
- A. I could see it because the bottles were around on the floor.
- Q. And did she tell you about her drug use?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Did she tell you about her drug use herself?
- H**
- A. No.

A

Q. And so was it - did she - how did you know about her gums bleeding and those sorts of problems, did she tell you about that?

A. Yes.

Q. Now you told us that you saw the bottles, what were they - were they empty bottles?

B

A. Not all of them.

Q. But were those - what sort of alcohol were they?

A. Vodka and drinks like that.

Q. And would you see ---

A. And ---

C

Q. Sorry?

A. Pardon?

Q. Sorry, I didn't mean to talk over you, [Person F1], but what I wanted to know was: was it just on one occasion that you saw empty bottles or more than one?

A. More than one.

D

Q. Right.

A. There was many a bottle I tipped down the sink.

MS MELLY: Sorry, your Honour (Conferred with Mr Iqbal). Ah, thank you, I'm being reminded by Mr Iqbal that your Honour wanted to deal with the ruling at this time?

E

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, I do need to deal with it, but I'm anxious not to inconvenience this lady or any witness and certainly not her. But if she has to come back after dinner time, lunch-time whatever you call it, then so be it, no problem. Give her a longer break, what do you think?

MR IQBAL: Your Honour, I'll be less than five minutes and we're nearing conclusion of examination in-chief.

F

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: How long will you be?

MS MELLY: 10 minutes more or so. But there was other cross-examination last time.

There is, I'm told, so.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: We're going to have a break.

G

MS MELLY: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: We are going to have a break now, ladies and gentlemen. I'm not going to rush not this lady, OK. I'm going to give her a break anyway. Standing is no good. If we can deal with anything to help, I'll try and find a way, OK. So can we come back 2.15 and we'll finish this lady at her convenience. She'll be well on her way by quarter

H

A to three, OK. Maybe not you today, but who knows. See you then, OK. Thanks very much.
Are you all right to have some refreshment and come back?

WITNESS: Yes, OK.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I think it's better - better for you, never mind me. OK.

B (The jury left court at 12.53)

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Okay. Don't forget your bag. You never know who might be around in this room. See you in a bit. I'm going to let the defendants go. This a legal ruling. It's not aimed at them. You can tell them this is aimed at somebody else. All right. We'll see you at 2.15, OK, thanks very much. Thank you.

C (Ruling previously transcribed from 12.54-13.18 – please see separate transcript]

(Luncheon adjournment)

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you very much, everybody. The associate here was just asking me - madam, come - yes, take a seat, just was asking me how quickly we need the transcript. At great expense overnight. Normal is three working days.

D MR IQBAL: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: What do you think? Where are we now, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, should have had it Friday, what do you think? Might it help to have it fast?

MS MELLY: In fact, we've been in contact with Switalskis Solicitors, as one would anticipate. I'm not aware that they asked for an expedited copy ---

E JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right, we'll say three.

MS MELLY: --- of the rulings and you're obviously going to be in touch with them later this afternoon and if they do make ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Who is?

F MS MELLY: The solicitors, my officer in the case ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good.

MS MELLY: --- is making arrangements just for the collection of the files.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, lovely, well, that's all right.

G MS MELLY: So whilst I just deal with that very briefly, just so that the defence know what the arrangements are to be. The files will be viewed by Richard Partis, who was a Detective Inspector, not the officer in the case. He's now technically an investigative officer but he's a senior officer.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No, that's fine.

MS MELLY: And so he will be conducting this review.

H JUDGE DURHAM HALL: That's fine.

A MS MELLY: And we hope that will take place this afternoon.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: The defence agree, quite rightly, no problem.
MS MELLY: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK, good. Jury in.

B MS MELLY: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: What are we doing for [Person F1]? Is she going to come and lean on the thing again or have you got a chair? I can't see, Mr Jackson, what are we doing?
MS MELLY: She's in court now, [Person F1], and were you happy enough to carry on as you were or did you want a chair? Happy enough?

C WITNESS: Yes.
MS MELLY: All right. She's content to carry on leaning on the witness box, your Honour.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Good.
MS MELLY: And you'll tell us if you need to sit down, won't you.
WITNESS: I will, yes.

D (The jury entered court at 14.21)
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK, all right, we're all back together, thank you, good.
MS MELLY: Thank you. Now I was asking you some questions before we broke off about [Person A1] and you told us about seeing the alcohol and - sorry, the bottles at her property in Dewsbury, OK. That's just - I'm reminding you where we were.

E A. The alcohol.
Q. Yes. And did you see [Person A1] drunk then?
A. Pardon?
Q. Would you see [Person A1] sometimes when she would be drunk?

F A. Yes.
Q. Now when you saw [Person A1] during this time, she had her mobile phone with her, didn't she?
A. Yes.
Q. And was it the case that that phone would ring whilst you were with her?

G A. She ---
Q. [Person A1]'s phone?
A. She always had her phone.
Q. And would it be ringing?
A. Yes.

H Q. A lot or just the odd phone call?

- A**
- A. A lot.
- Q. And from what you could hear her say, what would she be saying when she was on the phone?
- A. That she was with her grandma.
- B**
- Q. And from what you could hear [Person A1] say, did the people seem to accept that that she was with her ---
- A. No, they wouldn't believe her.
- Q. How do you know that?
- A. Because she started shouting at them that she was with her grandma and, in the end,
- C**
- she put the phone up so I could say she's with her grandma. Then, they shut up.
- Q. Thank you. Now you told us about bruises that you saw [Person A1] have on her arms and her legs and her face?
- A. Yes.
- D**
- Q. OK. But did she ever have any injuries that you thought she might have done to herself?
- A. Yes. She started self-harming herself.
- Q. And how would she hurt herself, what would she do?
- A. She'd cut her legs or her arms.
- E**
- Q. And was that just once that you saw it or more than once?
- A. More than once.
- Q. Did you speak to her about doing that?
- A. I told her she'd end up losing her legs if she didn't give up, but it seemed as if it was pain - to take pain away that she was doing it, she was somehow trying to help herself.
- F**
- Q. And did she tell you why she was doing it?
- A. Because she didn't feel worthy. She felt she needed to punish herself.
- Q. Did you have to ever give her medical treatment?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Or get her medical treatment?
- G**
- A. Yes. Her legs went septic - well, one of her legs went septic one time and I took her straight to BRI when I realised what state they were in and they treated her there.
- Q. And during this period of time was she still drinking alcohol?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Was she still drinking alcohol over this time?
- H**

- A**
- A. No, I slowly started getting the drinking under control with her, but I mean up until then she'd not had the money to buy the booze that she'd got in her house and that I threw down the sink.
- Q. Did she tell you where she got it from then?
- B**
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Did she tell you where she got it from if she couldn't afford it herself?
- A. She tried to make excuses that somebody had come round and they'd brought it with them and forgotten to take it home.
- Q. Just staying with the drink, you've told us that after some time you helped her deal with the drink and get off the drink, is that right?
- C**
- A. Well, I got her eventually into an alcoholic programme.
- Q. And you told us earlier that you came to realise that she had some problems with her liver as a result of her drink, is that right?
- A. Yes, she'd had some tests done and her liver were de - were degrading and they told her if she didn't stop the drink then she'd die.
- D**
- Q. If I could just have one moment with my learned friend (Conferred). Just two last things, please, [Person F1]. You - it's right, isn't it, when you told us about phone calls that you would also get some phone calls at your house, wouldn't you, from people looking for [Person A1], yes?
- E**
- A. There was one, yes.
- Q. And that caller was very persistent ---
- A. Yes, who ---
- Q. --- and would keep calling even when you told him that [Person A1] wasn't there?
- F**
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. And, although you didn't know who it was, you could hear that that person had an accent and spoke with an Asian accent, yes?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you gave - you dialled 1471 because you were so concerned by the number of calls?
- G**
- A. Well, it was getting very threatening.
- Q. Right. And you gave the name and the telephone number to the police?
- A. Yes.
- H**

A Q. All right, thank you very much. And, then, finally, please, and we can get that detail from them, you mentioned that [Person A1] would also tell you that she'd go to other cities sometimes, I think you mentioned Birmingham and Nottingham?

A. Yes.

B Q. Yes. Just I'm not - did she tell you just roughly why she would be visiting those cities?

A. No, only that she'd been invited down.

Q. Right.

A. She would be taken there.

C MS MELLY: Thank you very much, [Person F1]. If you remain there.

MR MOULSON: No questions, thank you.

Cross-examined by MR MOULSON

D Q. [Person F1], very few questions, please, and nothing about cars, all right. [Person F1], you've spoken about picking up [Person A1] from locations in and around the Bradford area?

A. Yes.

Q. From about midnight to 4 o'clock in the morning, is that right?

A. Mm-mm.

E Q. And you were doing that when [Person A1] was meant to be at the [Location B2], is that correct?

A. Not necessarily. It's I think when she was living in Dewsbury.

Q. Living in Dewsbury. If I said at a time before [Person S] was born, and remember that [Person S], her daughter, was born in July of 2009, is that correct?

F A. Yes.

Q. Yes. So were these pick-ups occurring before [Person S]'s birth?

A. No.

Q. No. After [Person S]'s birth, was it?

A. Yes.

G Q. Or is it both?

A. After.

Q. It's after [Person S]'s birth?

A. Yes.

MR MOULSON: Thank you.

H JUDGE DURHAM HALL: What date was that, Mr Moulson?

- A** MR MOULSON: It's July 2009, your Honour. So not before but after the birth of [Person S], is that right?
- A. The picking up.
- Q. Yes.
- B** A. That she's seen going here and there ---
- Q. From the various locations in Bradford.
- A. Yes.
- Q. After the birth of [Person S]?
- A. No, before, but the picking up bit didn't get that till after. Oh, you're confusing me.
- C** Q. I'm sorry. The picking up late at night, [Person F1], yes, of [Person A1] from various locations from Bradford.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes. Forgive me, did that happen before the birth of [Person S], after the birth of [Person S] or both?
- D** A. Both.
- Q. Both, thank you. And just some location from where you'd pick her up, please. Was one of them called [REDACTED] in Bradford?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Was there a location called [REDACTED] in Bradford?
- E** A. Yes.
- Q. From which you would pick [Person A1] up?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes. I think you mentioned an address in Headingley in Leeds, is that right?
- F** A. In the Headingley.
- Q. Not Headingley. Harehills?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right.
- A. But I didn't know where it was because I didn't go that night.
- G** Q. Right. And another area, Crossley Hall School, is that correct?
- A. Crossley Hall School?
- Q. Yes. Did you ever pick her up from there late at night?
- A. No.
- MR MOULSON: No.
- H**

- A** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Where's Crossley Hall? There's Crossley Hall St - where is that then?
- MR MOULSON: I think it's in Bradford, your Honour.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It is in Bradford, yes.
- B** MR MOULSON: Yes. Yes, not from there. Can I just ask you this then, please, [Person F1]. I don't want you to give the address where you were living at the time with which we are talking about, yes, but was it close to [REDACTED] in Bradford?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes. And approximately if you were to walk from [REDACTED] in Bradford to
- C** wherever you were living then, about how long would it take?
- A. Just depends how quick you walk, I suppose.
- Q. Well, [Person F1], perhaps an average walking pace, five minutes?
- A. 10 minutes.
- Q. 10 minutes?
- D** A. 15.
- Q. 10 to 15. Shall we settle for 10 to 15 minutes?
- A. Yes.
- MR MOULSON: OK. Thank you very much indeed, [Person F1]. I've nothing further.
- Cross-examined by MR WILSON
- E** Q. [Person F1], hi. I've got just a few questions, [Person F1]. You say in your statement that when [Person A1] first went into care she drank like a fish, is that right?
- A. Can you speak up, please?
- Q. Sorry, I'll try and speak louder. You say in your statement that, when [Person A1]
- F** first went into care, she drank like a fish, yes?
- A. Not when she first went into care.
- Q. Well, that's from your statement. When she went into care, she drank like a fish. Would you like to see your statement to refresh your memory or will you take it from me that's what you said, "When she went into care, she drank like a fish"?
- G** A. When she was in care.
- Q. Well, I'm just referring to the ---
- A. But not when she first went in.
- Q. It's at page 4 of the statement, your Honour, at I43. And I'm just referring to what you say in your statement, that, "When she went into care [Person A1] drank like a fish,
- H** vodka and anything she could lay her hands on", yes, is that right?

- A** A. Not when she first went into care, no. That came on after.
- MS MELLY: I think the whole paragraph, in fairness, should probably be read because the start of the paragraph deals with ...
- MR WILSON: I am just reading the last line of that paragraph. This is the third paragraph,
- B** your Honour. And you say that, "When she went into care, [Person A1] drank like a fish, vodka then anything she could get her hands on", yes? It's what it says in your statement, yes?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. That's what it says in your statement, [Person F1].
- C** A. She were drinking when she'd got place of her own and when she were at Dewsbury.
- Q. Well ---
- A. But she was drinking before then.
- Q. She was drinking before then?
- A. But it was the police that were taking her back home.
- D** Q. Right.
- A. Well, to ---
- Q. I'm not talking about when you were taking her back home. I'm talking about when she first went into care. We know that she first went into care in April two thousand - or March 2008, yes?
- E** A. No, no, it ain't that date.
- Q. Well, we know from the records that she went into care, first of all, at a place called [Location H] in March 2008, OK. So that's when she first went into care, yes, yes?
- A. Pardon? I'm sorry, you start off right and then you're going lower and I can't hear you.
- F** Q. I'll try and keep my voice at the same level, all right. We know from the social services' records that [Person A1] first went into care in March 2008, yes?
- A. Right.
- Q. And that she first moved to - or moved to a home called [Location B1] in April 2008,
- G** yes? Yes?
- A. Which house?
- Q. [Location B1]?
- A. [Location B1].
- Q. [Location B1]?
- H** A. She went down to the one down Allerton Lane first.

- A**
- Q. So [Location H]?
- A. Then she went to [Location B1].
- Q. Sorry?
- A. She went down to the one in - down Allerton Lane.
- B**
- Q. Is that [Location H1]?
- A. Then she went up to [Location B1].
- Q. Is that [Location H]?
- A. [Location H1], that's it, yes.
- Q. Yes, that's what I said to you. She moved there first in March 2008?
- C**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Then in April 2008 she moved to [Location B1], yes?
- A. I don't know the exact date that she moved up there, but I know she wasn't at [Location H1] long.
- D**
- Q. Well, it's a matter of record and I'm not going to pursue it, but that's what it says in the records, OK?
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. What you say in your statement is, "When she moved to [Location B1] was when the problems really started", yes?
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. And that would be staying away from home as you would be - you were told on occasions, yes?
- A. She'd go out, yes.
- Q. Drinking?
- F**
- A. I don't know. I wasn't with her.
- Q. All right. Drugs?
- A. I had no idea at that time.
- Q. Well, what problems were there when - that started when she first went to [Location B2]? What were the problems that you were talking about in your statement? [Person F1], what were the problems that you were talking about? Because that's what you say in your statement, "When she moved to [Location B1], that's when the problems really started", what problems were you talking about?
- G**
- A. Her being out late.
- Q. All right.
- H**
- A. And the staff didn't do anything about it until half past 10, 11 o'clock.

- A**
- Q. And how did you come to know about that?
- A. Because we asked.
- Q. All right. And were there concerns about her drinking?
- A. They didn't mention it immediately.
- B**
- Q. No. But how long did it become - or how long was it before you became aware that drinking alcohol was occurring with [Person A1]?
- A. I don't know exactly.
- Q. But was it at [Location B1] when she was at [Location B1]?
- A. Yes, I think so.
- C**
- Q. And drugs, did that come to your attention when [Person A1] was at [Location B1], her use of drugs or?
- A. No.
- Q. Believed use of drugs?
- A. No drugs were mentioned.
- D**
- Q. No drugs were mentioned. Did this come from [Person A1] or anybody else?
- A. I can ---
- Q. The information that you received, did it come from [Person A1] herself that she was drinking?
- A. It came from the office staff.
- E**
- Q. Right. And were there occasions when she was at [Location B1] that [Person A1] came and saw you?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. Were there occasions when [Person A1] was at [Location B1] that she came and saw you?
- F**
- A. Came to see me?
- Q. Yes.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes. And did she say anything about her drinking or staying out?
- G**
- A. I told her off about staying out.
- Q. Yes. And did she talk about what she was drinking when she was going out?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And she was drinking vodka, yes?
- A. As far as I know, yes.
- H**
- Q. And did she talk about she was taking drugs?

- A**
- A. No.
- Q. She didn't talk about that?
- A. No.
- Q. She told you about drinking, drinking alcohol?
- B**
- A. Not when she first went. [Person A1] ended up being transported between First Av and bed - B&Bs.
- Q. I'm asking about the time she was at [Location B1], we've established that she was drinking while she was at [Location B1], yes?
- A. Yes.
- C**
- Q. And she was drinking vodka, yes?
- A. She were going out with Asian boys in cars and speeding up and down the road.
- Q. And also drinking, yes? And the drinking continued, is that right?
- A. And drinking what?
- Q. Her drinking of alcohol, of alcoholic beverages continued, didn't it?
- D**
- A. It got worse as time went on.
- Q. Yes. As you say, when she was in care she was drinking like a fish, yes?
- A. Well, so long as she was in care, yes.
- Q. Yes. Mainly vodka but anything she could get her hands on, yes?
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. Yes. And you also said in your statement that it's taken years to get [Person A1] off the booze, yes?
- A. Well, it had taken a fair while, yes.
- Q. Well, how long did it take her? When we're talking about years, are we talking about when she is 19, 20, 21 or later?
- F**
- A. Before then.
- Q. Well, what age was she when you, or with your assistance she got off the booze?
- A. I don't know; I didn't keep a diary.
- Q. No, I understand that.
- G**
- A. On it.
- Q. I'm asking you for an approximation. Was she out of her teens by the time with your help she got help from others from professionals and got off the booze?
- A. I think it was after that.
- Q. After?
- H**
- A. 13.

- A**
- Q. After?
- A. 13.
- Q. After 13. 2013, do you mean? After 2013?
- A. No, her age, 13.
- B**
- Q. All right. Well, we've established that [Person A1] went into care initially when she was 14, yes?
- A. You what? I'm ---
- Q. [Person A1] first went into care when she was 14, that's a matter of record?
- A. No, she first went into care when she was 13.
- C**
- MR WILSON: Well, when she first went into care on the - in March 2008?
- MS MELLY: She went into a care home on that ---
- MR WILSON: Or into a care home.
- MS MELLY: This might be at cross purposes.
- MR WILSON: When she was 14, 2008. [Person A1] was born in July '93, so she would
- D**
- have been 14 when she went into a care home, the one at [Location H1] Road?
- A. Well, she lived with me and her grandad for a while.
- Q. Yes, I know. But in terms of going into a social services care home, she was 14, do you agree with that?
- A. I don't know.
- E**
- Q. But you say it's taken years to get [Person A1] off the booze. I just want to know when it was that she got off the booze. Had she left all the care homes by that stage?
- A. She was living in Dewsbury when she found out her liver was deteriorating.
- Q. Right. And how long after she found out that did she get off the booze?
- F**
- A. It was still a fight.
- Q. I understand.
- A. But I got her off it.
- Q. But how long I'm asking, [Person F1]?
- A. I don't know exactly.
- G**
- Q. Was it years after that?
- A. No.
- Q. Months, weeks?
- A. I don't know.
- MR WILSON: All right, well, I'm not going to persist. If you don't know you don't know.
- H**
- All right, thank you very much, [Person F1].

A

MR IQBAL: No questions, thank you.

Re-examined by MS MELLY

B

Q. Very briefly. You were asked about whether you ever went to [REDACTED] - and I've just had a check, that's on [REDACTED] - collecting [Person A1]. So did you ever collect [Person A1] on [REDACTED]?

A. [REDACTED]? I can't - I'm sorry.

MS MELLY: Don't worry.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It's up near the church, isn't it, [REDACTED] ol, isn't it?

Or is it the one lower down, I don't know.

C

MS MELLY: I'm afraid I've only looked at the address. I can't help with the precise location.

A. I know there is a [REDACTED] but I can't place it now.

Q. All right. It matters not. You were also asked about the fact - and again my learned friend says don't tell us your address but do you agree that you lived nearish [REDACTED]?

D

A. Nearest [REDACTED], yes.

Q. Yes. When did you move into that address?

A. When did I move into it?

Q. Yes, yes.

E

A. Nineteen seventy ---

Q. Well, that will do, thank you very much.

A. --- one.

Q. We don't need to be - I just wanted to check that you were living there over the whole of the period that we're dealing with?

F

A. Yes.

Q. All right, that's helpful, thank you. OK. And then you were asked by my learned friend, Mr Wilson, who's just asked you some questions about what concerns were being raised with you by social services, yes, once [Person A1] had gone into care, yes?

A. Well, I - yes.

G

Q. And so was it the care staff that told you that [Person A1] was going out at night?

A. Yes.

Q. All right.

A. And that they were having problems.

Q. What problems?

H

A

A. I - well, because of the fact she was out and they didn't know where she was. But, apparently, their hands were tied. They couldn't report it to the police till half past 10 at night.

B

MS MELLY: Thank you. And then you were being asked about when [Person A1] started drinking and one sentence was read out to you, but I just want to read you the whole paragraphs of what was said?

MR WILSON: Sorry, your Honour, there's an objection to this. It's a matter of law.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right. Yes, I'll entertain it.

MR WILSON: Thank you.

C

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: But very quickly. Don't go far, ladies and gentlemen. This will take me about 30 seconds. Do you mind just bearing with us.

(The jury left court at 14.49)

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Take a seat, madam. You just take that - take a - sit down if you want. Take a seat. It's not very helpful, is it? You sit down.

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(The jury entered court at 14.58)

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK, I've made a ruling. Ms Melly is going to ask a few more questions, thank you.

D

MS MELLY: All right. So, [Person F1], you had one sentence read to you before about [Person A1]'s drinking from your statement, OK.

A. All right.

Q. Now I just want to read you the whole of that paragraph and you can then confirm whether it's right or not, OK.

E

A. So this is one paragraph from your witness statement, "[Person A1] ended up at a residential placement in Dewsbury. She had a one bedroom flat".

A. Yes.

Q. OK. "Once I went there to pick her up and there were some Asian males there", yes?

F

A. Yes.

Q. "Many times when I went she was too drunk and had had too much cocaine, though I never saw her taking this", is that right, yes?

A. Well, I never thought of the drugs, but because of how she was I knew that drugs were involved.

G

Q. Because you - that's right, because then your statement carries on, "[Person A1] was having trouble with her gums bleeding. She would tell me she had gingivitis but I knew it was due to the drugs", OK, "I would say that [Person A1] was okay when she lived with us but, of course, as I found out later, she was drinking vodka. I wouldn't have been able to smell it anyway if she had been drinking while she was with us, but I can say that when she

H

A went into care [Person A1] drank like a fish, vodka, then anything she could get her hands on. She didn't have the money to buy it".

A. Yes.

Q. OK. So that's how you expressed it in your statement, OK.

B A. Well, the time that I gave the statement, I were trying to recall things and sometimes I got a bit mixed up. But when [Person A1] went to [Location B1], that's when she was being picked up outside [Location B1]. The staff even said so and taken, driven away in cars.

Q. Right.

A. And not brought back till very late.

C Q. And so that's - the staff made you aware of that?

A. Yes.

MS MELLY: Yes, right, thank you very much. Does ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you very much for coming, [Person F1], thank you.

WITNESS: Thank you.

D JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you very much. You are, of course, free to go. All right, we won't trouble you again.

WITNESS: Thank you.

(The witness withdrew)

E JUDGE DURHAM HALL: The next witness then is [REDACTED] who was [Person A1]'s social worker or working with [Person A1].

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: [REDACTED]?

MS MELLY: [REDACTED].

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED], Sworn

Examined in-chief by MS MELLY

Q. Thank you. Is your name [REDACTED]?

A. It is, yes.

G Q. All right, thank you. If you can do your best to keep your voice up and face the jury, please.

A. Yes.

Q. Thank you. Back in 2008 you were working as a social worker in Bradford with the Young People and Families Team when you came to work with a young woman called [Person A], is that correct?

H A. That is correct, yes.

- A** Q. And you started working with her around March 2008 having been referred - she having been referred to social services due to conflict within the home?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And so you were working with [Person A1], in fact, before she was actually placed in
- B** a care home?
- A. That's right, yes.
- Q. So you started working with her when technically she was - well, her home address was certainly with her mother?
- A. That's right, yes.
- C** Q. But it's right, isn't it, even at that stage when she - before she'd actually gone into a children's home when she was supposed to be living with her mum, she would be running away from home and so she wasn't actually staying there every night?
- A. That's right, from memory, yes.
- Q. And that was due, I think, you describe it, to conflict within the home, in [Person
- D** A1]'s home?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And were there also emotional harm issues?
- A. Sorry, what do you mean - was that just in my - can you clarify that, please.
- Q. Well, in terms of what was going on at home and I think you've described it as
- E** wellbeing issues?
- A. Yes, that's correct, yes.
- Q. Am I using the right terminology?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And what do you mean by that, frankly?
- F** A. There were difficulties within the relationship between [Person A1] and her mother, but when I talk about emotional wellbeing issues, I mean - I'm trying to think how I can describe it, I mean in terms of like about her emotional wellbeing she would feel quite sad at times. You know, she was - she did self-harm at times as well.
- G** Q. So that was happening before and as she goes into care?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. All right. So then you continue to work with [Person A1] for a period of time once she arrived at [Location B1], is that right?
- A. That's right, yes.
- H**

- A** Q. And, as has been established, by the records and we're aware, that from her placement at [Location B1] she was going missing from [Location B1] quite soon into the period of time that she was resident there?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- B** Q. And as somebody working with [Person A1], although you weren't based at [Location B1], is that correct?
- A. That's right.
- Q. It was part of the role of the staff there to inform you so that you would be aware that she was repeatedly going missing at night-time at [Location B1]?
- C** A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. OK. And was that the primary issue at that early stage?
- A. Yes, yes, it was, yes.
- Q. And so once you were given that information from staff members that she hadn't been in, would you go and have meetings with [Person A1] and try and find out where she had been?
- D** A. Yes, correct, that's correct, yes.
- Q. And would she give you explanations of exactly where and when she had been - where and where she had been?
- A. Not really, no.
- E** Q. What sort of explanations, if any, was she able to give you?
- A. Again, from memory it was quite difficult to ascertain at points where she had been. From memory, when I visited the home she had quite often been out quite late into the evening or early hours of the morning. So, quite often, she would be in bed and not really keen to speak at that time.
- F** Q. And was she an easy person to have these conversations with if she was able - if you were often able to see her?
- A. At times it wasn't easy, but there were other times when, you know, there would have been times when - you know, there would have been times when I could have had conversations but there were other times when it was difficult.
- G** Q. And was there a specific sort of theme that you were concentrating on or a piece of work that you were undertaking with [Person A1] at that stage?
- A. A lot of my concerns around that time when she was in [Location B1] it was around her going missing late at night, her putting - you know, being at risk and around sort of
- H** alcohol misuse or that our concerns around that.

- A** Q. And would you give that advice, would you tender advice to [Person A1]?
- A. Yes, yes, I would do.
- Q. And did she seem open to receiving it?
- A. Again, it was a mixed response, but it was difficult at points.
- B** Q. All right. We'll look at some of the notes in a moment, but did you work with [Person A1] for perhaps the period of about - of a few months, was it about five months?
- A. I think so, yes.
- Q. All right.
- A. Yes.
- C** Q. Dealing with the period of time just before [Location B1], her move to there and a few months of her being - of you working with her at [Location B1]?
- A. Yes, I think so, yes.
- Q. All right. And you've already told us that she would be in bed a lot having been out the night before, but was she in education at the time that she was at [Location B1]?
- D** A. No, she - she did have a place, from memory, at [REDACTED] School but at - when at the time she was at [Location B1], I don't think she was in [REDACTED] School at that time.
- Q. So not in full-time education and, as you've told us, obviously now separated from the family members, but did she still have school friends and friends of old?
- A. I think from memory, I think her school - her friendship network changed when she moved to [Location B1]. I understand that she spent time with different people, from memory.
- Q. Thank you. Now in terms of the practice of what happened when children from [Location B1] went missing, we understand that staff were obliged to inform the police, is that correct?
- F** A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And did that always happen satisfactorily?
- A. I mean, that's difficult for me to comment. I can only sort of share that regularly the unit would contact me and I understood that they did contact the police regularly.
- G** Q. All right, thank you. And then so looking at some of the entries on the records, please, and I'm now going to ask you - there may be more than one file there. And before you commence, I just want to check you have the right one once we ensure that you've got the file [PERSON A7] now because, of course, we're dealing with [Person A1]'s records. Do you have that file?
- H** A. Sorry, where would it say, on the side?

- A** MS MELLY: On - I just wondered if you could be given some of those over there. I think it might be these files here. That might just be the jury bundle there.
- USHER: It says "Witness Box" on the file.
- MS MELLY: Then that would be the jury bundle. So, yes, so we need the [PERSON A7]
- B** file, thank you.
- USHER: [PERSON A7]/1.
- MS MELLY: Thank you very much. Page 11 is the first page I'm going to ask you to look at.
- A. Page 11.
- C** Q. All right, the entry from you is actually over the page.
- A. I ---
- Q. But I just need to commence it with the date, please. So page 11, we are dealing with an entry from the 29th of May 2008?
- A. Yes.
- D** Q. So we can see from the care records that we can certainly see on that day [Person A1] returns to the unit at just gone 5 am. All right, so I'm on page 11.
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. And somebody else working there has recorded that it's 6 am that somebody else says [Person A1] is in a depressed mood?
- E** A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. All right. So now over the page, please, entries from you. 11.40. Can you see that timed entry?
- A. I can, yes.
- F** Q. Thank you. So this sort - this is an example of what has happened. [Person A1] being out, coming back in the early hours and then we see at 11.40, call made to [Person A1]'s social worker, [REDACTED], and a meeting has been arranged for the 2nd of June 2008 at 2 pm. You express the view to the person that was working with [Person A1] that you were concerned about where [Person A1] was going at night and then other people were going to try and speak to her to get some information out of her, all right?
- G** A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. Thank you. And we can see, if we needed to go back, that what had happened was that the police had been informed that she was missing that night and that's what you would anticipate to happen?
- H** A. That's right, yes.

- A**
- Q. OK. Thank you. And then we can go on, please, to page 18.
- A. Yes.
- Q. We've had - and I won't take you through them, further absences over the period ended May and into June 2008. So this is now from 3 o'clock on the 2nd of June that you, it
- B**
- says, "[REDACTED] in the unit to see [Person A1]"?
- A. That's right, yes.
- Q. "[Person A1] didn't spend any quality time with mother as she wasn't too happy at getting up at this time", and this is a 3 pm entry?
- A. Yes.
- C**
- Q. "Due to her lack of sleep from being out until the early hours of the morning".
- A. That's right, yes.
- Q. "As a result of this, she" - and that's [Person A1], isn't it?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes.
- D**
- A. Yes.
- Q. "Began shouting and screaming before going back to her room".
- A. That's right, yes, that's right.
- Q. All right.
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. And so that was something that you were observe - you observed that behaviour?
- A. I did, yes.
- Q. All right. And was that the only time that instances like that occurred with [Person A1]?
- F**
- A. I can't say exactly when but there were other occasions.
- Q. All right, thank you. Now as a result then of you learning that [Person A1] was really not getting up during the day and that there was repeated - repeated concerns about her being out at night and social services not knowing precisely where she was?
- A. That's right, yes.
- G**
- Q. All right. And so did you, following that, again try to get [Person A1] to understand why people were concerned?
- A. Yes, we did.
- Q. And from your then personal conversations with [Person A1], did she appear to recognise and take on board those concerns?
- H**

- A** A. It - I mean, that's difficult to know whether or not, but I would say that there was a repeated attempt to make sure that she understood what our concerns were.
- Q. Yes.
- A. Yes.
- B** Q. So you kept trying to ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. To do it, but in terms of what she would say or how she would respond to your attempts, how was that?
- A. From memory, in the very early days like the sort of the extract indicates she did become quite frustrated. I think - and, again, I can't remember because it's a long time ago but I do remember having some level of conversation where I would have felt that she did understand at points.
- C** Q. And then we can go on from there, please, to page 24. Now you've told us there were repeated attempts to get her to understand, but is it right that as a result of the repeated going missing of now both [Person A1] and - well, it was [Person A1] and [Person B1], wasn't it, [Person B]?
- D** A. Yes, I think so ---
- Q. Yes.
- A. Yes.
- E** Q. We'll have a look at page 24, please.
- A. Yes.
- Q. There was a meeting on the 10th of June 2008?
- A. Yes.
- F** Q. We can see that from the top of the page, I think, a meeting where we have [Person B1]'s social worker the jury heard from over the video link, [REDACTED], and yourself, manager of [Location B1] and police officers?
- A. That's right, yes.
- Q. Well, police officer I should say, Martin Link, who was the missing person police officer?
- G** A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. Right. And the purpose essentially again was to register concerns but also see what could be done about it?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- H** Q. Right.

- A**
- A. And in terms of what the meeting registered was that again the patterns of both of the girls had changed significantly since the 24th of May 2008.
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. Sorry, I should have read the line before.
- B**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Which was to address concerns about both young girls missing, it says every night but between the hours of 10.30 and 5 am?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And that [Person A1] seems to have less to do with her friends from Allerton. The only day the girls actually stayed in was Tuesday the 3rd of June and that was after [REDACTED] had spoken to them about jeopardising their placement at [Location B1] and [Person A1] has been very abusive towards staff?
- C**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes.
- D**
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. So that was a strategy meeting then in order for social services to try and deal with this issue?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. All right. But is it right, however, though that following that meeting on the 10th of June, things perhaps didn't improve very much and they carried on going missing?
- E**
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. And so we move forward to another strategy meeting at page 41, please.
- A. Yes.
- Q. On the 23rd of June.
- F**
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right, and this is a two page report.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Written by you?
- G**
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. Is that right?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And, again, recording the same pattern that I won't repeat about missing and the days and so forth?
- H**
- A. Yes.

- A** Q. Yes. But did it indicate also that, although they were missing regularly from the 24th of May till the 4th of June that over the past week, and this is the 23rd of June, so over the past week, the girls, which is [Person B1] and [Person A1], appear to have fallen out?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- B** Q. I'm over the page if it's of assistance.
- A. Yes, no I can ---
- Q. It's your second bullet point.
- A. Yes.
- Q. "[Person A1] is staying away from the unit for longer periods of time".
- C** A. That's right, yes.
- Q. And when the girls do leave the unit together, they do not return together?
- A. That's right, yes.
- Q. All right. And the bottom bullet point, please, that [Person A1] was not willing to engage with any professionals?
- D** A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And that her mood was often angry/aggressive when professionals attempted to engage with her?
- A. Yes.
- Q. So this was something that you created for that meeting on the 23rd of June?
- E** A. I think it was a record of the discussion that was held.
- Q. Ah, forgive me, thank you. But if you can just - if you just turn one page on, please.
- A. Yes.
- Q. That is a note of a review meeting?
- F** A. Yes.
- Q. And you're obliged to have a regular review?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. But there was the specific strategy meeting because of the concerns?
- A. That's right, yes.
- G** Q. All right, thank you. And just looking at - over the page at 44, please.
- A. Yes.
- Q. It was reported at the bottom of the page, this is dealing with [Person A1] and her placement, she, meaning [Person A1], settled in well initially and built good relationship with staff and was able to talk about her feelings and thoughts?
- H** A. That's right, yes, that's what it says.

- A** Q. So in that very very early stage, things seemed positive?
- A. Yes.
- Q. In the placement at [Location B1], but the next sentence is, “However, this changed within six weeks when another young female moved into the placement”. And we know that’s [Person B1] and then it explains how they, “Developed a strong relationship. They often absconded”, and then we hit this period of time when they start to go missing?
- B** A. That’s right, yes.
- Q. All right. So it records, essentially, that that position had changed within six weeks?
- A. That’s correct, yes.
- C** Q. And just going over the page, please, on page 45, under the - after the heading of, “Education”, which you’ve already dealt with, please, but there were just - essentially, there were attempts to try and get her returning to education?
- A. That’s right, yes.
- Q. All right. But in terms of health, please, it’s recorded that at this stage there were concerns that [Person A1] is using alcohol?
- D** A. Yes.
- Q. And possibly other illegal substances?
- A. That’s correct, yes.
- Q. And it’s right, isn’t it, that the child and adolescent mental health team, CAMHS ---
- E** A. Yes.
- Q. --- were trying to work with [Person A1]?
- A. Yes.
- Q. But it’s right and recorded that [Person A1] wasn’t attending appointments with them?
- F** A. That’s correct, yes.
- Q. And it records also that self-harm was continuing?
- A. That’s right, yes.
- MS MELLY: Thank you. I think that’s all the extracts I wanted to take you to. Let me just check. Yes, thank you very much, thank you.
- G** MR MOULSON: No questions.
- MR WILSON: Nothing thank you.
- MR IQBAL: No.
- UNIDENTIFIED COUNSEL: No.
- H** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Nothing from me.

A MS MELLY: Well, there we are.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you.
MS MELLY: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Madam, thanks a lot, Ms [REDACTED] thank you, much

B appreciated ---
WITNESS: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- for your time.
(The witness withdrew)

C MS MELLY: I'm just going to deal now with the evidence from the police officers who just deal and log the missing persons.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Mr Moulson, are these to be read or agreed or what?
MR MOULSON: I think we've indicated our requirement.
MS MELLY: Yes.
MR MOULSON: Yes.

D MS MELLY: I think that remains the case, there is some ---
MR MOULSON: There is cross-examination.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sure.
MR MOULSON: Of one of them, yes, thank you.

E MS MELLY: Thank you. Then, Martin Link, please. Or do you want to do PC George first?
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Any order you want.
MS MELLY: Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: So what's the plan, Ms Melly, Mr Moulson?

F MS MELLY: We're going to - there's two police officers or maybe previous police officers: Martin Link and Karen George, which really deal with some of the formalities as regards missing person records and that will be the extent of the evidence, I anticipate, we can call today.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: OK.

G MS MELLY: I don't think either of them are significantly long witnesses.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Are we OK for 10 o'clock tomorrow, ladies and gentlemen? I have shifted other work I was supposed to do in order to keep the momentum. It is bound to be a little bit, what's the word, broken sometimes because people are actually agreeing evidence even as we go along, so I suspect ---

H

A MS MELLY: Yes, and there's been a number of health appointments and holidays and so forth.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And that.

B MS MELLY: We've had to accommodate for the witnesses, so we can't always call it as we would wish to.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: That's fine.

MARTIN LINK, Sworn

Examined in-chief by MS MELLY

C Q. Mr Link, you're kindly facing me, please would you face the jury? Feel free to ---

A. Of course, yes.

MS MELLY: --- turn, thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And keep your germs to yourself, Mr Link.

WITNESS: Yes, I'll try my best.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I'm very vulnerable.

D WITNESS: I can't promise anything.

MS MELLY: I think the next witness is in an even worse state.

A. She's even worse, yes, she is.

Q. Right. So let's deal with this.

E A. Thank you.

Q. Is it right that you're a retired police officer but you'd worked for the West Yorkshire Police until November 2014, yes?

A. Yes, that's correct, yes.

F Q. And for 2006 onwards it was your role, although the role changed over the years, to be involved as a missing from home coordinator for the Bradley (*sic*) and Keighley area?

A. That's correct, yes, Bradford and Keighley.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Bradford and Keighley.

G MS MELLY: Thank you. And your role, essentially you had to liaise with a number of different agencies such as social services, probation, other organisations that were involved in the care of young people who went missing?

A. That's correct, yes.

Q. OK. And you've told - but things have changed over time, is that right?

A. That's correct, yes.

H

- A** Q. OK. So dealing with young people, the terms have changed as well, young people in care or looked after children, the phrase changes, when they went missing from home were they automatically logged onto a police computer as a missing person?
- A. Yes, they were, but there were different categories of missing person.
- B** Q. All right. And can you help us broadly with those categories, please?
- A. Well, pertaining for the children in care, there were - a lot of the children in care were logged as unauthorised absence. Because they were under a care order, their absence wasn't authorised because of the care order and we would record them as unauthorised absence rather than missing.
- C** Q. Is an unauthorised absence perhaps a less serious state of affairs than a missing person?
- A. Yes. It all depends on the risk factors of the incident of the missing episode but, yes, generally.
- D** Q. All right. And so you could have a child in local authority care who had gone out and was out overnight; in some circumstances, that would be recorded on the computer as an unauthorised absence; in some circumstances, that would be recorded as a missing person?
- A. That's correct, yes. It all depends on the risk factors of the incident.
- Q. Say that again, please?
- A. It all depends on the risk factors of the incident - of the reported incident.
- E** Q. All right.
- A. And the circumstances of that person going missing.
- Q. Right. And did understanding of those risk factors and so forth, did that change over time as well?
- F** A. Yes, as far as other agencies, yes, it changed.
- Q. It changed, all right.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Now was one of the premises that you dealt with in terms of unauthorised absences was [Location B2], is that right?
- G** A. That's right, yes.
- Q. OK. Now certainly when you start - I've mentioned computers but perhaps when you started were they all - initially, were things logged into a book, first of all, and over the years there's been a number of different computer programmes that dealt with missing persons ---
- A. That's correct, yes ---
- H** Q. --- and unauthorised absences?

- A** A. --- when I first started it was all paper recording and it eventually changed.
- Q. And different officers would hold their records in a different way. Some people - sometimes they would submit reports; other times, just make a note in a notebook?
- A. Yes, generally the reports should have gone in but, depending on how - I suppose how long the child was missing, it maybe never made it to paper.
- B** Q. Yes, all right. And on the particular officer perhaps as well?
- A. Yes, yes, possibly.
- Q. OK. So and it's right, isn't it, that going back to 2008 dealing with [Location B2], there were many occasions when you were dealing with residents going missing from that home?
- C** A. Yes.
- Q. And, in particular, did those missing persons often involve [Person A] and [Person B]?
- A. They were two of the names that I do recall that went missing quite regularly.
- D** Q. And as a result of your involvement in those two young people that went missing regularly, did you attend a number of meetings, strategy meetings, reviews in respect of [Person B1] and [Person A1] because of the frequency of them going missing from [Location B2]?
- A. Yes, that would be correct.
- E** Q. So will you have had contact directly with [Person B1] and [Person A1] during that period of time when they were resident at [Location B2]?
- A. I don't actually believe that I ever saw them at [Location B1]. I remember seeing [Person A1] when I used to go pick her up when she were missing and she'd been located at various addresses.
- F** Q. Sorry, that was my clumsy question. What I meant was that not that you'd actually seen them in the building at [Location B1].
- A. Oh, right, no.
- Q. Sorry, but that you will have seen - did you see [Person A1] and [Person B1] at the time they were supposed to be living at [Location B2]?
- G** A. I will have done, yes.
- Q. Right. And did any - either of them give you specific information as to where they'd been or what they'd been doing?
- A. No.
- H**

- A** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Right, got it.
- MR WILSON: Yes.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: As in [REDACTED]
- B** MR WILSON: And in connection with that address, Mr Link, you say this, "The woman", in your statement, presumably a reference to the person living at [REDACTED], is that right, "used to allow local kids into her house and I remember serving her a harbourer's notice concerning [Person A1] and allowing her into the house", is that right?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And briefly stated, Mr Link, a harbourer's notice means what?
- C** A. It's a prosecution, really. Basically, when [Person A1] used to go missing, I mean I've been to this address at [REDACTED] and collected her myself.
- Q. Yes.
- A. So if she'd been there, the family would say that she'd called in the middle of the night or late hours, midnight when the clock ---
- D** Q. Sorry, the family at [REDACTED]?
- A. The family at [REDACTED] - the people would say that she'd turned up at midnight, 1 o'clock in the morning.
- Q. What, asking for a place to ---
- E** A. Asking for a place to stay.
- Q. To stay?
- A. Their argument was that, well, we're not going to turn a young girl - they knew the girl.
- Q. Yes.
- F** A. We're not going to turn her out in the middle of the night, which I could understand, but that being said she were under a care order. So they couldn't do it.
- Q. So under ---
- A. So the harbourer's warning was just a notice to say: you can't do that anymore.
- Q. So the person who's under a care order and under whatever circumstance ---
- G** A. Yes.
- Q. --- they find themselves at an address they're not supposed to be at.
- A. Yes.
- Q. That person ---
- A. Could be prosecuted.
- H** Q. --- renders themselves liable to prosecution?

- A**
- A. Yes.
- Q. For allowing that person to be at their address?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. Yes. And so that harbourer's notice in that instance wasn't issued on the basis of any
- B** injury you observed to [Person A1] or any maltreatment of [Person A1], is that correct?
- A. Yes, no, [Person A1] was always fine and never made any disclosures.
- Q. She was always fine?
- A. There was never any - never bruised or.
- Q. Never bruised?
- C**
- A. Appeared unhappy.
- Q. Or appeared unhappy?
- A. No, never.
- Q. In the time that you were dealing with her, officer, how many times would you see her, [Person A1]?
- D**
- A. I probably saw her three or four times.
- Q. Three or four times?
- A. That's all.
- Q. And over what - over what period?
- A. However long she was at the children's home.
- E**
- Q. However long she was at [Location B1]?
- A. Yes, however long she was at [Location B1], that's all.
- MR WILSON: Yes. Yes, thank you very much, Mr Link. I'm very grateful.
- WITNESS: Thank you.
- F** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No?
- Re-examined by MS MELLY
- Q. In terms of how an absence was categorised, unauthorised absence or missing person, was that decision made by the police officer receiving that?
- A. Yes, it was usually the call taker in con ---
- G**
- Q. Say that again?
- A. It was usually the call taker.
- Q. Right.
- A. In conjunction with an inspector's approval.
- Q. And would it - would that decision then depend on what information they'd been
- H** given about the risks involved with that person?

- A** A. Yes, but a missing person is a serious offence. So to record her as missing due to her behaviour, whether rightly or wrongly to record her as missing she'd have to have been at pretty of imminent danger.
- Q. Right.
- B** A. So you're looking at murder or suicides, things like that, which are originally - which would classify her straight away as a missing person.
- Q. I follow.
- A. Her normal behaviour would be that she was contactable. She would ring the home and say: I'm at such and such, I'll be home in three hours. Well, that is not a missing person; that's just unauthorised absence.
- C** Q. Even if she hadn't been contacted but there was not a proper basis to think threat of life ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- would it be unauthorised absence?
- D** A. Well, in reality, what should have happened, if they can't contact her then she how often recorded as a missing person but that's the - that was the decision of the controller and the inspector.
- Q. All right.
- A. To make the decision originally.
- E** Q. And did that always happen or?
- A. Yes, always.
- Q. Sorry?
- A. Yes, always.
- F** Q. The decision always happened but ---
- A. Oh, yes.
- Q. Yes. Presumably, are you aware of what factors they would have had in relation to what of these ---
- A. Oh, yes, it's a missing person document, so everybody is - everybody was aware of it.
- G** Q. Right.
- A. They would have recorded her for a period of time and if she hasn't turned up and there'd have been no contact, then she would have been raised as a missing person.
- Q. And were all records - and you've talked about missing persons' documents, were those always retained?
- H** A. As far as I'm aware, they were retained for 10 year.

- A** Q. Right. And what about unauthorised absences?
- A. The same, they were all the same. I'm not sure if they've still got those records anymore and other things, yes.
- Q. OK. There was - was there discussion about what information should be passed on to
- B** police from social workers? We've dealt with the meeting so on and so forth that you were present at in June. Were there discussions about how and when young people should be reported and how it should be dealt with by police?
- A. Oh, yes, yes.
- Q. And whether or not they should - should be categorised as missing persons or
- C** unauthorised absences?
- A. Yes, that would.
- Q. And was that an issue of contention?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Thank you. And you've dealt with having actually dealt with [Person A1] I think you
- D** said on three or four occasions?
- A. Yes, from what I can remember, yes.
- Q. Yes. And were they in relation to picking her up at this [REDACTED] address or not?
- A. Certainly, two were.
- Q. Right.
- E** A. Certainly, two were. I can't remember the others to be honest, but I remember walking around Allerton quite a lot looking for her.
- Q. OK. So there was a couple of occasions collecting from [REDACTED] and another occasion you can't remember where that was?
- F** A. No.
- Q. Do I understand that correctly?
- A. No, I did - on one occasion I did see her running from very grandma's.
- Q. Yes.
- A. I weren't in a position to give chase at my age.
- G** Q. OK. But it was - you've told us that when you found her she didn't make disclosures and she didn't - she didn't seem to be bruised?
- A. No, I never saw anything and she never made any disclosures.
- Q. And I just ---
- A. She was very - she was quite low risk for us, to be fair.
- H**

A Q. What I just want to ask you about, please, Mr Link, is when you say that you've seen her and she's not disclosed and she's not had any bruises, those occasions, were they when you collected her from [REDACTED]?

A. Probably. Probably usually, yes, or if I saw her around in the children's home.

B MS MELLY: Thank you very much.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No, thank you very much, Mr Link. Thanks for coming.

WITNESS: OK.

MS MELLY: Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you.

C WITNESS: Thank you.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you.

(The witness withdrew)

MS MELLY: And the final witness then, please, is Karen George, Police Constable Karen George.

D PC KAREN GEORGE, Sworn

Examined in-chief by MS MELLY

Q. Is your full name Police Constable Karen George?

A. That's correct.

E Q. All right, thank you. You're kindly facing me.

A. OK.

Q. But I wonder if you wouldn't mind, please, facing the members of the jury? We've just heard in this case from former police officer Martin Link who told us his role really in coordinating unauthorised absences and missing persons; could you just explain, please, your role in conjunction with his?

F A. My role is the same role as PC Link but I cover the Kirklees Division whereas PC Link covered the Bradford Division.

Q. Right, thank you very much. Did you become aware of concerns regarding [Person A] as a young woman who has been in care and had been going missing?

G A. Yes, that's correct, I did.

Q. And as a result of - how did you become aware of that, first of all?

A. At that time, [Person A1] was placed by Bradford into the Kirklees divisional area to a care unit which fall into jurisdiction for missing from home and I believe it was missing from home incidents which brought that information to my attention.

H

- A** Q. And so, as a result of that, was there a professionals' meeting on the 13th of September 2010?
- A. There was, yes.
- Q. And were you in attendance at that meeting?
- B** A. I was, yes.
- Q. And [REDACTED], who was a manager, was also there as was [REDACTED] - sorry, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], is that right?
- A. Yes, I definitely remember [REDACTED] being there.
- Q. All right.
- C** A. And social workers.
- Q. And there was social workers for [Person A] there as well as social workers for other young people who had been in care with [Person A1], is that right?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And those names [REDACTED].
- D** A. Yes.
- Q. That should have been a meeting that Mr Link would have attended as the safeguarding officer, is that right?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. But he was unable to do.
- E** A. Yes.
- Q. So material that was available to those social workers and support workers was shared with you at that meeting, is that correct?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- F** Q. All right. And the purpose of the meeting was essentially to discuss those four young females who had moved from Bradford local authority into the Dewsbury area and the risks that they were under, is that correct?
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. Did you, in advance of that meeting, have any direct contact with [Person A1]?
- G** A. I recall going to see [Person A1] at the care unit at least once, but I also recall she didn't want to speak to me. She was quite hostile.
- Q. And did you try to speak to her about risks and concerns and safety?
- A. Yes, that would have been part of the reason for visiting.
- Q. And how far did you get with that, please?
- H** A. I didn't get anywhere with it at all.

- A** Q. All right. Now, at that meeting on the 13th of September, you told us that the concerns were shared and did you take notes of that meeting and go on and discuss the information that you had received with police officers?
- A. Yes, I did.
- B** Q. Let me just check the matter, I don't think there's any issue about the material that was shared, was there and the name? (Conferred). Certain - well, we'll deal with the notes through the social workers, but certain names of individuals were given to you at that time, is that correct?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- C** Q. All right. But that wasn't from things within your own knowledge?
- A. No, that was shared information.
- Q. All right. And as a result of receiving that information did you share that with Police Constable link, who was, as we've heard was the coordinator over in the Bradford area?
- A. Yes, I did.
- D** Q. And was there a plan formulated at that time then to deal with the absences in a different way, officer?
- A. Yes, there was a decision which I discussed later with my Inspector, Leonard, at the time to issue at least one harbourer's warning, which I was responsible for and I understand one of the other coordinators at Bradford was going to deal with the other harbouring
- E** warnings.
- Q. So there was a decision taken from that meeting to issue harbourer warnings to those where information had been gathered?
- A. Yes.
- F** Q. That [Person A1] had been with?
- A. Yes, I remember making notes to that effect.
- Q. All right, thank you very much. And certainly we can deal with, because it's not - nobody as a defendant in this case, but a written harbourer's warning letter was sent to a gentleman called Mr [REDACTED] with a date of birth of [REDACTED] 1978 in relation to [Person A], is that correct?
- G** A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Now the decision having taken in 2010 to issue harbourers' warnings, we are aware that there have been concerns about [Person A1] going missing for quite some time before 2010, what was the - why were harbourer's warnings not being discussed at a previous time,
- H** how were absences being dealt with up until that point, please?

- A** A. Well, up until that point the responsibilities would have been with the division of Bradford. I wouldn't have had any input as to why harbourer's warnings or any other intervention measures were not considered. There may have been considered. I wouldn't know.
- B** Q. And at that point when she was going missing, was [Person A1] considered - was it categorised as an unauthorised absence or as a missing person?
- A. I can't recall each individual occasion. I think a mixture of both would be likely.
- MS MELLY: Thank you very much.
- Cross-examined by MR MOULSON
- C** Q. We know, PC George, it's something called a harbourer's final warning was issued in respect of Mr Saeed Akhtar in November of 2010. A final warning implies there may have been previous warnings before, a bit like a yellow and red card system; is it usual to receive, for example, a first warning, a second warning and a final warning?
- A. Around the time of - you say it was November 2010 ---
- D** Q. Yes.
- A. --- is that correct? Sorry. Excuse me. Around that time, there was a process of issuing a first warning.
- Q. Yes.
- E** A. Followed - my division, the way I did it, as a final personally issued warning to the person should there be a second occasion.
- Q. Yes.
- A. So there was that process in place then. It's changed now. But that was the process back in 2010.
- F** Q. Right. Have you any record other than the harbourer's final warning being received by Mr Akhtar?
- A. I'm not in - I don't think I was involved in the issuing of one to Mr Akhtar, so I wouldn't know if there'd been any previous ones.
- Q. Right.
- G** A. I'm sorry.
- Q. Could you have gone straight to a final personal harbourer's warning?
- A. Yes, you could.
- Q. You could?
- A. You could if the - yes, if the con - if the safeguarding issues were thought to be
- H** serious, then, yes, you could do that.

A Q. Yes. [Person A1] at this time didn't disclose to you, did she, any criminal offences perpetrated upon her by anybody?

A. No, she didn't make any disclosures.

MR MOULSON: Thank you very much indeed.

B JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No, thank you very much. Yes, thank you, constable. Thanks for coming to help us.

WITNESS: Thank you very much.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you.

(The witness withdrew)

C MS MELLY: That concludes the evidence that we're in a position to call today. There's further social work evidence in relation to [Person A] tomorrow morning and it may be then, depending on the time, that we commence the DVDs.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Very good. I think the ladies and gentlemen of the jury need to know that [Person A]'s DVDs, for obvious reasons, cover or take up more time than [Person

D B1]'s.

MS MELLY: Significantly. They are at least a day and a half of viewing.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right. And even that is with good editing, isn't it, I know, yes.

E MS MELLY: Yes, and we say good editing, but sometimes in order to make sense of the narrative we've had to include passages.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No problem.

MS MELLY: While doing the best we can.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right. Well, for the jury's peace of mind, this is - I've had to

F sit through days of these things, ladies and gentlemen. It's the way they do it: big cases, big DVDs. [Person A1] is talking about a lot of stuff, I believe. So it's difficult to do and I find it very hard myself to concentrate for all manner of reasons, but we're going to try and do it in this way, aren't we. Maybe a bit tomorrow afternoon.

MS MELLY: Yes.

G JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Friday morning, 10.00 till 1.00 with a break, and then complete on Monday. That's the plan, isn't it?

MS MELLY: That's the plan, yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I know it's a very good plan because I think I also suggested it.

MS MELLY: It was your Honour's plan.

H JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No, seriously.

A

MS MELLY: All the best plans.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Joking apart, they're very nice to me. They don't really feel well disposed to me, as you can imagine, a lot of the time and I understand that, but the plan is to have [Person A1] giving evidence on - being here giving evidence on Tuesday - Monday or Tuesday?

B

MS MELLY: Monday/Tuesday of next week.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Monday or Tuesday, OK. So that's the plan, all right. But it does mean for good reason that I will stick to the deal: we'll keep Friday afternoon for law.

MR MOULSON: Thank you, your Honour.

C

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And the jury can have it off, OK. Good. That's very - it's working - this situation seems to be working so we'll stick to the plan. Tomorrow morning 10 o'clock, yes, is that all right?

MS MELLY: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thanks very much, ladies and gentlemen, see you tomorrow.

D

(The jury left court at 15.57)

(Proceedings continued in chambers from 15.57 until 16.02)

ADJOURNED AT 16.02 UNTIL THURSDAY 17th, JANUARY 2025

E

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