

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

7th FEBRUARY 2019, 10.02 – 15.44

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

A

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B

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A

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you. Thanks very much. So, Mr Frieze, what's all this? I'm not releasing any defendants to the Magistrates or anything.

B

MR FRIEZE: No, what it is that Naveed Akhtar and Fahim Iqbal were taken from here to the police station by the drugs squad, interviewed, and this morning charged with various offences, four offences. I know some of the detail but they're not necessarily relevant to this.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Right, yes, no.

MR FRIEZE: I think in law although I haven't checked this, he has to be produced before a Magistrates Court within 24 hours of being charged.

C

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Right, okay.

MR FRIEZE: That was my only concern. He's also, I appreciate in one sense he's brought this on himself but he's also not in much of a state for me to see and discuss this case with him at the moment.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, self-inflicted I'm afraid. I can't – I won't be giving...

D

When the time comes for him to give evidence, he'll, he'll have to start because my plan is to try and, however long we sit tomorrow, to do this, is to try and at least finish Mr Parvaze Ahmed.

MR FRIEZE: Yes, well, if it's today ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Tomorrow.

E

MR FRIEZE: If, if, if, if his turn comes today, I will make submissions about the timing point. Your Honour may disagree with me but I will for the record make submissions about it.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, is it, the question is, is he giving evidence or not? That's the first thing to decide.

F

MR FRIEZE: Yes, yeah.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And at least that decision can be made.

MR FRIEZE: Well, yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Or I can put him off a bit, put him off to next week. There's no problem going out of turn.

G

MR FRIEZE: Well, I think all, all I'm going to ask for.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: He's not going to be very long is she?

MR FRIEZE: No, all I'm going to ask for is that he... I'm not being critical of the police because he was kept at the police station. He was afforded the opportunity to sleep. He tells me he wasn't able to so it's not anybody's fault but I will ask and I - I've got a feeling it

H

A won't arise in fact today, necessarily, but I'm going to ask at least until tomorrow so that he has a night's sleep.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It's not like me to be supremely indifferent or hostile ---

MR FRIEZE: No.

B JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- to anything but if you have those boxes on your agenda, tick them both. I'm not in any way going to interfere with the progress, the very, very good progress ---

MR FRIEZE: No.

C JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Because this is not to be reported because two men may, allegedly, open to all interpretations ---

MR FRIEZE: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- be so stupid as under my very nose to be involved in a -- an offence which seen in context possibly in your client's case almost dwarfs this. No, we're going to get on.

D MR FRIEZE: Okay.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: But ---

MR BELL: Well if it assists ---

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: It probably won't, Mr Bell, but do, do say something ---

E MR BELL: If I'm not speaking out of turn. I am ready to call Parvaze Ahmed.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well then you may like a knight in shining armour, shall come to ---

MR BELL: Well, I'm only trying to assist Mr Frieze's difficulty so if there's no objection to make, I'm happy to, to, as it were, to (inaudible) out of turn.

F JUDGE DURHAM HALL: That might be the answer, Mr Frieze.

[REDACTED]

G [REDACTED]

H [REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

(The jury entered court at 10.20)

D

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Morning, ladies and gentlemen. Just getting everybody in position. Done a bit of housekeeping, that's – that's why we're slightly delayed but what – what I think is going to happen now, Mr Moulson, you're going to call ---

MR MOULSON: I am.

E

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Saeed.

MR MOULSON: Yes.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And we'll do that and it may be then we have, can I say – say that, Miss – Miss Batts, your client?

MISS BATTs: Yes, Mr Majid will give evidence.

F

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Then Mr Majid, okay, so we – we'll try and aim to deal with those two today, okay, that will be a good – a good use of court time, all right.

MR BELL: Before that happens, we get some further agreed facts which we will read out confidently in the coming days that I formally close my case.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I understand, Mr Bell. Thank you very much for that, for reminding me that you hadn't closed your case, you have now.

G

MR MOULSON: And, your Honour, may I call Saeed Akhtar please.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you very much.

MR MOULSON: Thank you.

H

MR SAEED AKHTAR, Affirmed
Examined-in-chief by MR MOULSON

- A** Q. Mr Akhtar, would you give the ladies and gentlemen of the jury your full name please?
- A. Saeed Akhtar.
- Q. Thank you, and Mr Akhtar, in the course of your evidence, please keep your voice up
- B** and make sure that every member of the jury can hear what you have to say.
- A. Okay.
- Q. Thank you. I don't think there will be any dispute about these matters but you were about three months old when you came to Bradford from Pakistan, is that right?
- A. That's right.
- C** Q. Thank you. You were educated in local schools and left at the age of 15 or 16, is that right?
- A. Yes that's right.
- Q. Thank you. You had various periods of employment in this city, is that correct?
- A. That's right.
- D** Q. Thank you. Can you help the ladies and gentlemen of the jury with some idea of the jobs you had please, Mr Akhtar?
- A. Yes, when I left school, I went to college to do engineering course but they stopped that because there wasn't many students.
- E** Q. Mr Akhtar, voice up, please.
- A. Okay, then after that I got a job in a garage as an apprentice and I started working in a garage. I was there for several years.
- Q. Pause there. I'm sure the ladies and gentlemen of the jury will indicate when they can't hear but I'm having difficulty. Thank you – thank you, sir.
- F** A. Do you want me to raise my voice a bit more?
- Q. Could you raise your voice please?
- A. I will try.
- Q. Thank you. I think you've told us that you left school and went to college, is that right?
- G** A. That's right, yeah.
- Q. Thank you. That – that's the volume, Mr Akhtar, right ---
- A. Okay.
- Q. Thank you. Right, you take it from there.
- A. Yes, then I got a job in a garage as apprentice mechanic.
- H** Q. Yes.

- A**
- A. I worked there a few years and then I started car business.
- Q. Started a?
- A. Doing cars, buying and selling cars.
- Q. Car business, right.
- B**
- A. After a few years of that, I got a job with Bradford Community Transport.
- Q. Right.
- A. That's taking disabled people and children to various leisure activities and seaside resorts.
- Q. Thank you.
- C**
- A. Soon after that, I started my own business off again, doing recoveries, car recoveries on a recovery truck.
- Q. Thank you.
- A. During I was doing that, I got a job as a security person in Next in Bradford, Foster Square.
- D**
- Q. Thank you.
- A. And I was there for several years. After that, I've been unemployed since.
- Q. Thank you and we've seen the references to your period of employment with Next as a security guard and the time there.
- E**
- A. That's right.
- Q. And you agree with those periods of employment outlined.
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- on that timeline?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- F**
- Q. Thank you very much indeed. A number of topics then, 10, Mr Akhtar with which I'd like your help please.
- A. Okay.
- Q. Your first meeting with [Person A], can you remember about when that was?
- A. Yes, I would say it was spring of 2010.
- G**
- Q. Right, pause there. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, if I can ask you to turn to page 24 please of the timeline and, Mr Akhtar, do you have a copy of that there?
- A. No I don't.
- Q. Thank you. I'm sure one can be provided.
- A. Thank you.
- H**

- A** Q. Bottom centre are numbers on that timeline, Mr Akhtar, could you go to page 24 please? Do you have that?
- A. On page 24, sorry, yeah.
- Q. Thank you. Towards the top left, we see the months of December 2009 and January
- B** of 2010 and as we understand that position, [Person A1] says that she met you then. You understand that's what she is saying?
- A. That is wrong.
- Q. You claim do you that it was in the spring of 2010?
- A. Yes.
- C** Q. Yes. So by that, do you mean March or April of 2010?
- A. Around that time, April, May.
- Q. Thank you and I'd like then to take you to help us with the last time that you saw [Person A1] and could you go to page 32 please? And we see your name down the left hand side, do you have that?
- D** A. Yes I do.
- Q. And we see the issue of a – a harbourer's warning, I think in fact the day after that it's indicated there, but certainly November 2010.
- A. That's right.
- Q. Yes, does that help you with helping the ladies and gentlemen of the jury as to when you last saw [Person A1]?
- E** A. Yes, it was at least three weeks or a month before then.
- Q. Right so you would say October 2010?
- A. That's right.
- F** Q. Was the last time that you saw [Person A1]?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Thank you very much indeed. We'll come back to further detail, Mr Akhtar, but I think that concludes our need to look at the timeline, ladies and gentlemen, for the moment. Right, Mr Akhtar. Two, [Sid's address], yes?
- G** A. Yes.
- Q. That was your home address at some of the times of which this trial is concerned, is that right?
- A. That's right.
- Q. Thank you. Your first meeting with [Person A1] at [Sid's address], yes ---
- H** A. Yes.

- A**
- Q. Tell us about how that came about?
- A. Well my brother, my both brothers and one of their friends said that somebody had left them on Bradford Moors I think and they got a phone call that they're stranded there and I think one of them was a friend of my brother's.
- B**
- Q. Right, you understood that there was a connection with Bradford Moor ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- we want to know what actually happened when you first met [Person A1]. I don't think there will be any dispute that you were at [Sid's address] ---
- A. Yes I was at home.
- C**
- Q. --- that you first met her?
- A. Yes I was at home.
- Q. Yes, so tell us about that first meeting yes?
- A. Yes so they came down with my brothers and a friend and they were good friends with them from what I figured.
- D**
- Q. Right.
- A. And that's it really, that's how I met them and we just seemed to be getting on.
- Q. Right, let's just stick with the quantity of meetings at the moment.
- A. Okay.
- E**
- Q. How often did she used to attend your premises after that?
- A. Erm, I think... I'm not quite sure but I think it was about a week or two after that, both of them, [Person B2] and [Person A1] came to my house.
- Q. Right, for about how long did those girls come together to your house?
- A. I think it were maybe handful of times, maybe five, six times, both of them were together.
- F**
- Q. Pause. And over what period of time was that?
- A. I think that from the first meeting probably about three, four, maybe five weeks that they were together.
- Q. Thank you and – and – and what would happen when those girls came to your house together?
- G**
- A. Nothing. First time I can remember they came, they said they were waiting for some – one of their friends to pick 'em up and the reason I remember that is because they were making some roll ups, with cigarette roll ups.
- H**
- Q. Right.

- A** A. And they were making ‘em really thin so I was just laughing, that’s the – the reason I remember that and I think they were there for about half an hour. They got a phone call and the – I think they said they were going to Bolton Abbey with some friends.
- Q. Right.
- B** A. Some male friends.
- Q. Thank you and then they left is that right?
- A. Yes, they left.
- Q. But when they were there, together, in this period of five or six weeks, what sort of thing would happen at your house when they were there?
- C** A. Well, nothing really. When they used to both come together they were civilised, just talk and soon after [Person B2] or [Person A1] used to get a phone call and they used to go.
- Q. Right. Were other people there at your house as well as them?
- A. Sometimes there were some of my friends there or my brothers might turn up.
- Q. Yes.
- D** A. Maybe a neighbour.
- Q. Thank you. Did there come a time when just [Person A1] used to come to your house?
- A. Yes. I, I’m pretty sure she had a – a break up with – of [Person B2] and she came to mine alone.
- E** Q. And what sort of reason, if any, would she give for being at your house?
- A. Well, she says she were living with [Person B2], she’s had a break up and she were asking me if she could stay at mine until she’d find somewhere to live.
- Q. What – what was your attitude to that?
- F** A. Well, I was a little bit concerned because, you know, somebody homeless. So I told her, I says, “Please go to the council and apply for accommodation, they will give you emergency accommodation.”
- Q. Right.
- A. And to that she’s replied, “I don’t really want to go in emergency accommodation but
- G** I will go down and apply for a flat.”
- Q. Right, and for how long would she come by herself and that, by I mean without [Person B1] to your house?
- A. I think until – until she stopped coming till October but it wasn’t like every day, it were like every other day sometimes.
- H**

- A**
- Q. Yes, coming to that. So you think about until October, the time in 2010 you've told us about.
- A. Yes, yes. About October, yeah.
- Q. Right. From the time she started coming without [Person B1].
- B**
- A. Yes.
- Q. To October 2010.
- A. Yes.
- Q. With what sort of frequency perhaps, per week or per month, would she attend your house?
- C**
- A. Sometimes, couple of times a week.
- Q. Yes.
- A. She would come, then she'd get a phone call from somebody. Her phone was always constantly ringing and then some – she would go, she'd get picked up by somebody.
- Q. Right.
- D**
- A. And probably won't see her for couple of days.
- Q. Thank you. Did she ever attend your house with any other females than [Person B1]?
- A. Yes, I think there was one of her friends called [Person EE1].
- Q. Called?
- A. [Person EE] I think it was.
- E**
- Q. [Person EE]?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes, thank you. In terms of [Person A1] coming to your house, Mr Akhtar, what would be the – be the situation, for example, would she telephone you, would she appear at your house, would you collect her? What – what would be the situation?
- F**
- A. Most of the time she would just appear outside after work. She'd be, you know, either pacing on outside of the house or sat on the doorstep.
- Q. Voice up please, Mr Akhtar.
- A. Sometimes she would just appear after I used to leave work. I think I used to finish about 10 o'clock. She should be – or she – normally sometimes she used to be outside the house, pacing, or sat on the doorstep.
- G**
- Q. Right. Would she make any telephone calls to you?
- A. Not really, most of the time she didn't have any credits I don't think.
- Q. Right, at – at – at any time did you force [Person A1] to come to your house?
- H**
- A. Never.

- A**
- Q. Did you ever kidnap her or detain her against her will and take her to your house?
- A. Never, never.
- Q. Did you ever threaten her in any way to be at your house?
- A. No.
- B**
- Q. Thank you. When she was at your house, yes, what sort of things would happen?
- A. Well sometimes we used to have a drink.
- Q. Yes.
- A. If the – if the lads came down, we used to get some beer.
- Q. Yes.
- C**
- A. Maybe watch YouTube and re – just chit chat really, talk about politics and stuff with my friends.
- Q. Thank you. As you know, there's been mention of parties in this case, yes?
- A. Yes.
- Q. At [Sid's address].
- D**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have any observations about the use of that word by people?
- A. I used to have a social gathering with a few friends. There were some female friends and some male friends. I wouldn't describe them as parties. I think I had one party which was where the music was playing and people were happy, enjoying us, maybe somebody dancing but that was only one occasion. Most of the time it were just social gathering.
- E**
- Q. Thank you. It's been contended by [Person A1], Mr Akhtar, that you used to supply her with cocaine.
- A. No, never.
- F**
- Q. Thank you. Did you ever see her take cocaine at your house?
- A. Yes a few times. I wasn't very happy about it.
- Q. Right, do you know how the cocaine that she took came to be at your house?
- A. She bought it herself.
- Q. Thank you. I just want to go to the third topic then please, Mr Akhtar, and that concerns the age of [Person A1], I guess.
- G**
- A. Okay.
- Q. At your first meeting with her, was the topic of age discussed or not?
- A. Yes, I think we had a discussion about age.
- Q. Right.
- H**

A A. I don't know how it started, but we had a discussion and [Person B2]. I think it was the first day, [Person B2] and [Person A1], they both said they were 18 years old.

Q. Thank you. From that first meeting until October 2010, did you have any reason to doubt [Person A1]'s, the – the age that [Person A1] gave you or [Person B1] gave you at that

B first meeting?

A. No, nothing whatsoever. Nope.

Q. I'd like to – at point four, then please, Mr Akhtar, just deal specifically with the counts on the indictment that you face.

A. Okay.

C Q. All right, and I wonder if I could trouble the ladies and gentlemen of the jury and you, Mr Akhtar, to turn to the indictment please.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: As we're doing that, Mr Moulson, my fault, what – what is your client, the lay client's evidence about appreciation of [Person A1]'s age. I didn't – I didn't hear it, I'm told ---

D MR MOULSON: The first meeting, he understood her to be 18 years of age. No reason for that belief to ever change.

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Right.

MR MOULSON: I understand that to be your evidence Mr ---

E A. That's right.

Q. Is that right?

A. That's correct.

Q. Thank you.

MISS MELLY: Both said they were 18, they both said they were 18 if that's of assistance ---

F JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you.

MISS MELLY: --- dealing with [Person A1] and [Person B1].

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes indeed.

MISS MELLY: Thank you.

MR MOULSON: I'd just like, if I may, to turn to count 9, ladies and gentlemen. And,

G Mr Akhtar, that is the allegation of the rapes of [Person A] by you, yes.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever have any sexual contact with [Person A] at all?

A. Never, no.

Q. Thank you. I'd like to go to count 8 please and that's entitled, "Causing or inciting

H child prostitution," yes?

- A**
- A. Yes.
- Q. And that count reflects the prosecution contention that on multiple occasions, you encouraged [Person A1] to engage in full sex or give sexual favours to others and you would benefit, as I understand the position, from the supply to you of cocaine or drink, yes?
- B**
- A. No, never. I would never ever, no way.
- Q. Thank you. And that count 7, Mr Akhtar, again the same type of offence as we understand the position, that reflects the incident with the man called Bhindi, you recall [Person A1] giving evidence about the man, Bhindi?
- A. I remember the evidence when she was giving it.
- C**
- Q. Thank you. Do you know a man called Bhindi?
- A. I don't, I've never heard of him, of the guy call Bhindi.
- Q. Thank you. And so just dealing with, in broad terms, the allegation prescribed by count 7 and 8, inciting child prostitution.
- A. Yeah.
- D**
- Q. Did you ever tell [Person A1] to go and perform sexual acts in return for a gain for you?
- A. No, I never, Sir. I was only looking after her because she said she had nowhere to stay.
- Q. Thank you. Point six, Mr Akhtar, and I just want to go through some specific contentions made against you by [Person A1], yes?
- A. Okay.
- Q. According to [Person I1], you said of [Person A1], "She's nowt but a little slag, we've all been through her." Did you say anything like that about [Person A1]?
- F**
- A. I did not, Sir. My ex-girlfriend was really angry with me. I think she's just making it up.
- Q. Right, your – by reference to your ex-girlfriend, you're referring to [Person I1] aren't you?
- A. [Person I1], yes, also known as [Person I].
- G**
- Q. Thank you. Well we've dealt with the allegations of you allegedly supplying her with cocaine. Did you ever tell her, [Person A1], that you wanted sex with her?
- A. No, I had a girlfriend at the time. I didn't – I was never interested. The only thing I was doing was helping her out because she said she was homeless.
- Q. Thank you. Did she ever go to obtain drugs at your request?
- H**

- A**
- A. Never, I never taken any drugs apart from in the earlier years, I took some cannabis but that's it.
- Q. Did you ever ask her to get females to come to your house?
- A. No, never.
- B**
- Q. She contends that you used to destroy or damage her telephone or SIM cards in any way.
- A. I had no reason to at all. There was none of my business what she did.
- Q. I beg your pardon, Mr Akhtar?
- A. It had nothing to do with me what she did. I were just helping her out.
- C**
- Q. Thank you. Did – did you ever prevent her from using any telephone?
- A. No, Sir, never.
- Q. Thank you. Seven, Mr Akhtar, we know from the agreed facts and I perhaps need not take the ladies and gentlemen to this for the purpose of these questions but we know in the time with which we're concerned, the police visited your house on 16 occasions.
- D**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes. Firstly, did the police ever announce to you in advance of those visits that they were coming round?
- A. No.
- E**
- Q. Were you in when the police attended on each of those 16 occasions?
- A. Not all the occasions, no.
- Q. Thank you. Can you tell us how many or about how many?
- A. I'm not too sure but I know one time they came, it was only [Person I1] that was at that address. I think I might have been at work.
- F**
- Q. Right, so about how many times were you there when the police came?
- A. Maybe seven or 10, I don't know. I'm not quite sure.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: What was that, seven or 10?
- MR MOULSON: Seven or 10.
- A. Maybe.
- G**
- Q. Would you ever impede their entry into those premises?
- A. No, they were welcome.
- Q. Thank you.
- A. They were just doing their job.
- Q. Mm-hmm, did they used to look round?
- H**
- A. Yes.

- A**
- Q. Did you prevent them looking in any room or any space or at any object?
- A. I had no reason to, they were just doing a job.
- Q. Right, one specific occasion we know was when [Person EE] and [Person A1] went into a cupboard, yes?
- B**
- A. Yes.
- Q. And were found by the police in a cupboard. Do you recall that particular visit, Mr Akhtar?
- A. Yes I do.
- Q. Right, perhaps you can tell us then what happened on that occasion? We know that this is the 7th of August of 2010, yes?
- C**
- A. Yes.
- Q. So, Mr Akhtar, please tell us what happened?
- A. The police knocked on the door.
- Q. Yes.
- D**
- A. And I invited them in. They were asking – they were saying two girls have been or [Person A1] or, I don't know, somebody's been reported missing.
- Q. Yes.
- A. I think the girls must have seen the police and they ran upstairs so I told them to just check the house, come in.
- E**
- Q. Pausing there, did you tell the girls to go hide in the cupboard?
- A. I had no reason to, no. I – I – why would I?
- Q. Thank you. What did the police do?
- A. They checked around the house.
- F**
- Q. Yes.
- A. They went upstairs.
- Q. Yes.
- A. Erm, they found them in the cupboard.
- Q. Yes.
- G**
- A. And they took 'em.
- Q. Did they speak to you before they took them away?
- A. They didn't really have much of a conversation with me. They just said they'd been reported missing so were gonna take 'em back to their house.
- Q. Right.
- H**
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And this was [Person A1] and?

- A** MR MOULSON: [Person EE], your Honour.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Right.
MR MOULSON: This is 7th of August 2010, yes?
A. Yes.
- B** Q. So the police leave, yes, with [Person EE1] and [Person A1].
A. Yes.
Q. Yes?
A. Yes.
Q. Are you in the house by yourself?
- C** A. No, I had several of my friends.
Q. Right, what happened then?
A. Most of them were in bed, they'd gone to sleep.
Q. Right, in terms of the girls, what happened next?
- D** A. Yes, I think it must have been about half an hour later the police brought them back.
Q. Yes.
A. And they said, "Oh, they're not wanted, they're not, they're over 18 so they can do what they like. If they, if they'd want to stay here, it's up to you."
Q. Right.
- E** A. So they just brought 'em back and dropped 'em back off at mine.
Q. Did [Person A1] say anything about her age on that occasion? The police officers having told you that they were 18?
A. Yeah, and she just said, "I told you so."
Q. Right, thank you. Did you have any cocaine in your house?
- F** A. No, Sir.
Q. Specifically, did you have two kilos of cocaine?
A. No, Sir.
Q. In the cupboard in which [Person EE1] and [Person A1] were found?
A. No, Sir.
- G** Q. Had you any hidden in the kitchen?
A. I had never any cocaine of my own any – anywhere, I'd never taken cocaine.
Q. Number eight, Mr Akhtar.
A. Yes.
- H** Q. You were issued with a harbourer's warning as we have seen by our initial look at the timeline.

- A** A. Yes.
- Q. Yes. Had you ever received any harbourer's warning, warnings before you received that one?
- A. No, Sir, I didn't, never.
- B** Q. Thank you. Can you tell us about the circumstances of that please?
- A. It was quite shocking. One day the police knocked on the door and I've always told [Person A1] not to come cos obviously try to find somewhere, obviously council will help you. But it was I think about three or four weeks before, the harbourer's notice came.
- Q. Yes.
- C** A. I'd never seen her. So I invited the police in and they gave me the notice. I looked at it and I signed it, gladly, because I didn't want her round and that was the reason for me not letting her in anyway if she turned up again.
- Q. Thank you. And we know what you said upon receipt of that harbourer's warning because as I understand the position, you agree with the content of what the officer wrote on that document that the ladies and gentlemen of the jury have, is that correct?
- D** A. Yes I was happy because that gave me a reason not to let her in again.
- Q. Thank you very much. Nine, Mr Akhtar.
- A. Yes.
- E** Q. Just [Person A1]'s personality generally as you got to know her over the time period with which we are concerned.
- A. Yes.
- Q. How would you describe her?
- A. Very headstrong, domineering and she would lie to get her way no matter what.
- F** Q. Thank you. Tenthly and I think finally, Mr Akhtar, we have your interviews with the police at section six of the jury bundle.
- A. Yes, Sir.
- Q. We know that you gave a prepared statement.
- A. Yes, Sir.
- G** Q. And chose to make no reply to questions.
- A. That's right.
- Q. Sorry, ladies and gentlemen, I hear you turning to it so if we just go to section six please of the jury bundle. Do you have that please, Mr Akhtar? Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
- H** A. Sorry, what page did you say, sorry?

- A**
- Q. Section six.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have that, Mr ---
- A. Yes I have.
- B**
- Q. --- Akhtar. And we say there that you were interviewed on the 12th of October of 2016, yes?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You, with your solicitor discussed the terms of a prepared statement, is that correct?
- A. That's right.
- C**
- Q. You had a chance to read through that document in the course of this trial, yes?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You agree that that is what you said, is that right?
- A. That's right.
- D**
- Q. Thank you, and you made no comment in that interview and in a subsequent interview.
- A. That's right.
- Q. Why, Mr Akhtar, did you take the stance to make no reply to police questions but provide a prepared statement?
- A. Because I was advised from my solicitor, by my solicitor.
- E**
- Q. Yes.
- A. To go no comment.
- Q. Thank you. Just perhaps finally this, Mr – Mr Akhtar, if I may. [Person A1] has made allegations about you, the nature of which we have touched upon in the course of my questions to you.
- F**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have any idea as why she is saying – making these allegations against you?
- A. Well, they're totally false for one and I think she's doing it for money really.
- Q. Thank you.
- G**
- A. Because she never ever came to any harm when she were around me.
- Q. Thank you. Yes, thank you very much indeed, Mr Akhtar.
- A. Thank you.
- Q. Would you wait there a few moments, there'll be some questions for you.
- UNIDENTIFIED COUNSEL: No questions, thank you.
- H**

Cross-examined by MR FRIEZE

- A** Q. Just a few questions in relation to your brother Naveed.
A. Yes.
- Q. Did Naveed used to visit [Sid's address] at the time that [Person A1] was there?
A. Yes.
- B** Q. Were you aware that around that time he was having marital problems?
A. Yes, he's my brother.
- Q. And without going into detail, that he and his wife had become temporarily estranged.
A. That's right, yes.
- Q. And as a consequence of that, did he spend more time than normal at your house at
C [Sid's address]?
- A. Yes he did, me and him been really close anyway.
- Q. From time to time, did he stay over there?
A. Yes he did. Somebody were damaging my windows so I needed somebody to stay there when I was at work anyway.
- D** Q. Right, now in her video interviews, [Person A1] mentioned an extra bed being provided in one of the bedrooms, do – do you recall that?
A. I'm – I can't recall that, no.
- Q. Okay.
A. But yeah, sorry, go on.
- E** Q. Okay. When – when Naveed stayed, did he always stay in the same part of the house when he slept over?
A. I'm not sure. I think sometimes he used to sleep in my bedroom or sometimes just used to be downstairs on the couch.
- F** Q. Right.
A. Watching telly.
Q. And when he – when he split from his wife, did he stay over there regularly?
A. More than usual, yes.
- Q. Now, we heard that people drank alcohol at [Sid's address].
G A. Yes.
Q. And did that include Naveed?
A. Yes, we always, we – we used to have a drink occasionally.
- Q. And – and that people took drugs there?
A. Only on occasions, I wouldn't – I wouldn't – I didn't really like people taking drugs
H but if they did, they did.

- A** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: You didn't?
- A. I didn't.
- MR FRIEZE: Were you aware of Naveed using any drugs?
- A. No.
- B** Q. At [Sid's address]. You weren't aware of that?
- A. No. He wouldn't take anything in front of me anyway.
- Q. Okay, because he wouldn't want you to know?
- A. Well obviously he's my younger brother.
- Q. Okay, were you aware that Naveed was having sex with [Person A1]?
- C** A. I wasn't aware that they were having sex but I know they were quite close.
- Q. Thank you very much, I've no other questions.
- A. Thank you.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Your question was, Mr Frieze, not aware of Naveed having sex with?
- D** MR FRIEZE: I knew – I knew that they were close but I was not aware that they had sex.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: This is [Person A1] and ---
- MR FRIEZE: Yes.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right, nobody, Miss Melly, thank you.
- Cross-examined by MISS MELLY
- E** Q. Thank you. Can we just deal first with the meeting of [Person A] please.
- A. Yes.
- Q. So she was brought to your house.
- A. Yes.
- F** Q. You describe them in general terms but who brought her to your house?
- A. It was two of my brothers and one other friend. Friends.
- Q. Name please?
- A. Naveed, [REDACTED] and [Person FFF1].
- Q. So, three men brought [Person A1] and [Person B1] to your house?
- G** A. Yes.
- Q. And you were telling the jury that they were introduced as very good friends. So who were they very good friends of?
- A. I think it was either [Person UUUU1] or [Person FFF1].
- Q. So [Person UUUU1] or [Person FFF1] said, "These are my very good friends"?
- H** A. Yes otherwise I wouldn't of let them in.

- A**
- Q. And I think then you were saying that for some time, she attended regularly.
- A. Yeah, a few days off, a few, maybe a couple of days later she'd turn up again.
- Q. With [Person B1]?
- A. At first – first month or so, yes.
- B**
- Q. There so regularly that it'd be fair to say lots of people thought she was living with you?
- A. No, no, no.
- Q. Anybody make comments like that to you, your ---
- A. No.
- C**
- Q. --- friends and colleagues?
- A. No, no.
- Q. About why she was living with you?
- A. No, because at first it was [Person B2] and [Person A1], they used to come together and they used to stay a couple of hours and then they used to go.
- D**
- Q. What about the period after that then, after the first few weeks, were people commenting then, "How come you've got this girl living with you?"
- A. No, one person asked me and I said, "She's homeless so I'm just helping her out."
- Q. Who was that?
- A. I can't remember.
- E**
- Q. Were you at home when they asked you if she was living with you?
- A. Yes. No, they says, "Are you – why she's staying here?" I says, "Because she's homeless and she's trying to get a place."
- Q. Right and that was at your house?
- F**
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you remember saying that to people?
- A. I think so, not people, just one person.
- Q. And you can't remember who that was to?
- A. No, it was just a – I'm sure it was just a – a little conversation I had with somebody.
- G**
- Q. And I just want to understand again your case in terms of [Person A1] and what she was doing in your house. You can see her using alcohol at your house?
- A. She used to bring it occasionally.
- Q. So you would watch her use that at your house?
- A. Yeah, she drank.
- H**
- Q. And are you saying that [Person A1] brought drugs to your house?

A

A. On occasions, yes, not all the time.

Q. What drugs did she bring to your house?

A. Cocaine.

Q. Cocaine and [REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D

Q. Right and you didn't like that?

A. No.

Q. But regardless and you've told them that you didn't like it.

A. I told them, yes.

Q. And so you've got two girls that have got no right to be in your house, they, they didn't have any right to be there did they? They're there because you're letting them.

E

A. Well they were like friends of, you know, friends.

Q. Yeah.

A. So, they, like – they're like friendly people, you know.

Q. Yeah, it's – so you agree, they had no right to be there, they couldn't say, "No, we're staying, you've got no right to throw us out"?"

F

A. No obviously for if the – if there were a reason for me to throw 'em out, I would have thrown 'em out.

Q. Right, so you've got a couple of girls that you and friends don't know very well, yes?

A. Well, I thought [Person A1] was going out with [Person FFF1] at the time, I'm not sure and that's how I was introduced.

G

Q. Yes, so you didn't know her, so you didn't know her very well?

A. No I didn't, obviously I didn't know 'em at the first occasion. I didn't know 'em at all.

Q. Okay and that really out of kindness, you're letting them come in your house?

H

A. That's right.

- A**
- Q. Right and then even though you really have a problem with people using cocaine don't you?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That's what you're saying?
- B**
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you didn't want cocaine in your house, that's what you're telling the jury really?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yeah but – but then they would come and they would just use cocaine un – in your – in front of you?
- C**
- A. No, yes, I don't mean to say no to what you're saying. What I mean is, it was only a little bit and it was gone before you knew it.
- Q. Yeah, but just never mind the quantities just now. I just want to understand what you're saying?
- A. Yes, I let 'em sometimes.
- D**
- Q. Is that ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- they would use the cocaine in front of you, yes?
- A. Yes.
- Q. In your living room?
- E**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Even though you'd made it really clear to them that you had a problem with drugs in your house?
- A. Yes.
- F**
- Q. Right, okay, I just want to understand that. Did other people bring drugs to your house, apart from [Person A1] [REDACTED]?
- A. Maybe one or two other guys, that's it.
- Q. Who?
- A. I can't remember. It's been a period of time now, it's been what, nine years?
- G**
- Q. Mm-hmm, well let's have a think about the people who went to your – to your house. Who were the regular attenders of an evening, these social gatherings, who were they?
- A. There was one of my – one of my neighbours.
- Q. Names please.
- A. [Person Q].
- H**
- Q. [Person Q], names please?

- A**
- A. My two brothers.
- Q. [Person Q]'s surname?
- A. [Person Q], I don't know his surname.
- Q. You don't know his surname?
- B**
- A. No.
- Q. Right, and he's a neighbour?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Yeah?
- A. Yes.
- C**
- Q. Who else?
- A. Maybe two of my brothers.
- Q. Maybe? Well were they?
- A. Well, yeah, two of my brothers.
- Q. Right, who, [REDACTED]?
- D**
- A. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
- Q. Yeah.
- A. And [Person FFF1].
- Q. Yeah.
- A. And sometimes [Person Q]'s brother would come with him.
- E**
- Q. Name?
- A. Izar.
- Q. Izar Hussain in the dock?
- A. Yes.
- F**
- Q. Did you know him as Billy Jo-Jo?
- A. Yeah, Billy out of Bizzle, we used to call, not Billy Jo-Jo, I didn't know him as Billy Jo-Jo.
- Q. Yes, right, so you've named [Person Q], Naveed, [REDACTED], [Person FFF1] and Izar Hussain, anybody else?
- G**
- A. Yeah, there were a few, a couple of other lads.
- Q. Who were they then?
- A. I'm not too sure. I think it were one of Izar's brothers, a – another brother.
- Q. Were these the people at your house?
- A. They used to come sometimes.
- H**
- Q. Yes, who did, Izar's brother?

- A**
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Who else?
- A. A couple of other people sometimes.
- Q. Who?
- B**
- A. Of some, the female friends. I can't remember everybody's names.
- Q. Right, can you – do you – can you name anybody else that was a regular attender at your house?
- A. They were regular attenders. Sometimes ---
- Q. Yeah.
- C**
- A. --- some of my other friends used to turn up from like work colleagues, like Yasar.
- Q. Right, let's write those down. I just want the other names please, so Yasar would come to your house?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yasar Majid?
- D**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right, anybody else?
- A. On occasion some work colleagues and sometimes or some other friends, I'm not sure ---
- Q. What are their names, yes?
- E**
- A. I can't remember everybody's names.
- Q. No, I know you can't remember everybody's names but are there any other names that you can remember of people who came to your house?
- A. I can't remember everybody's names, it's been nine years.
- F**
- Q. No, so listen to the question. I'm not asking you for everybody's names ---
- A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. --- are there any other names that you can remember?
- A. Not at the moment, no.
- Q. Not at the moment?
- G**
- A. No.
- Q. Okay. What about Parvaze Ahmed?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right, so he came to your house?
- A. Sometimes, yes.
- H**
- Q. Right, so now we've been through the names that you can remember ---

- A**
- A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. Yes.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sorry, did you misunderstand the question? I mean, he's sitting there, Mr Saeed ---
- B**
- A. Yes, I, I'm trying to remember everything.
- Q. --- and you said you couldn't remember.
- A. It's -- so much is going through my head, so ---
- Q. I follow, I'm sorry.
- A. --- I am sorry, I -- I must have forgotten.
- C**
- Q. Okay, no problem, I just wondered if you thought you didn't have to name them?
- A. No, I'm sorry, Sir, but I'm -- I'm just trying to remember everything.
- Q. Okay, all right, okay, sorry about that, Mr Moulson, I thought there might be some kind of confusion.
- MISS MELLY: Well, okay, you -- you know ---
- D**
- MR MOULSON: Yeah, no.
- MISS MELLY: --- you know the list of names of the men charged here don't you?
- A. Yes.
- Q. In fact, they'll be on lots of the documents there, if you need your memory refreshing on the list of names.
- E**
- A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. Okay, so any -- anybody else at your property?
- A. No, no, none -- none of the rest of 'em, no.
- Q. None of them? So it was just Parvaze that you forgot?
- F**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right, okay, what about Zeeshan?
- A. Zeeshan, no, he wasn't a reg -- he -- I think he came once.
- Q. Oh, so Zeeshan's been to your house?
- A. Yes, he -- well, he came once, knocked on the door and were asking for somebody and
- G**
- then I met him afterwards with another friend that I knew.
- Q. So has Zeeshan ever been inside your house?
- A. After, after ---
- Q. After what?
- A. --- after -- like yes he has but I'm not sure when.
- H**

- A** Q. Right, so going through the names and looking at the defendants, Yasar has been to your house?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right and just to doublecheck then, yes.
- B** A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. Got the names there and you can see the other defendants. Have any others been to your house?
- A. No.
- Q. Are you certain of that?
- C** A. Yes.
- Q. All right, so now you can help us with this please. Who else brought cocaine to your house?
- A. None of these.
- Q. Who then?
- D** A. Some – some of my other friends.
- Q. Who?
- A. I'm not sure but I wasn't – I wasn't very happy about anybody bringing anything to my house.
- E** Q. You're not sure? So just again, think back, so your own friends, you've got a problem with them bringing cocaine to your house.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes, you've told them that to their face?
- A. Yes, yes.
- F** Q. Yeah, you've actually had a confrontation with your own friends saying, "I don't want you to bring cocaine to my house," but they brought it anyway, yeah?
- A. Only on occasion.
- Q. Yeah.
- A. They wouldn't – they wouldn't ---
- G** Q. Never mind how regular but is that right?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, so just picture that conversation that you had with the friend who was bringing cocaine to your house when you didn't want them to and who was that conversation with?
- A. With the person that bought it one time I think.
- H** Q. Yeah, now ---

- A** A. Was none of these lot.
Q. And who was that?
A. It were just somebody that I just came out with another friend,
Q. Who was it?
- B** A. I don't remember. I don't remember.
Q. You don't remember.
A. But I told them no.
Q. Sorry?
A. I told them no.
- C** Q. And the person that you spoke to and said no to, you cannot remember who that was?
A. No, cos it was a friend of a friend.
Q. Right, it was a friend of a friend?
A. Mm-hmm.
- D** Q. But just looking at how – how you've expressed it in – in your defence statement and I'll let you have a look at it in a – in a moment of course if you – if you want to. But you're saying that you were aware that others brought cocaine and cannabis to your house. You were aware that your house was being used in that way?
A. No, it wasn't used that way, it – they brought it once, cannabis, I wouldn't let, all –
- E** allow anybody to smoke cannabis in my house because that stunk everywhere. Nobody would smoke cannabis in my house and the people that used to bring cocaine, I told them, they can't have it in my house.
Q. Have you got your defence statement there? Just want to – got it there, I think there's a bundle isn't there (inaudible). I don't think it's in that file. I think it's just loose there
- F** hopefully.
A. No, that's ---
Q. I can't see from here. That could well be it.
A. I don't think – that's not mine.
Q. Yes, that's right.
- G** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Have we told the jury what a defence statement or defence case statement is? I think I may have mentioned, no?
MISS MELLY: I think it was mentioned by my learned friend yesterday in re-examination but I can deal with that very briefly.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, you – you can tell the ---
- H** MISS MELLY: Yes, thank you.

A JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Do – do you mind, I’ll delegate the direction to the ---
MR MOULSON: Yes, of course.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- prosecutor. She probably knows more about the law ---
MISS MELLY: Thank you.

B JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- on this than me.
MISS MELLY: All right, this is a document, have you got it there and it’s got your name at the top and defence statement.

A. Yes it has.
Q. All right, thank you very much and this is the document isn’t it that you have prepared along with your solicitors, yes?

C A. Probably, yes.
Q. Well probably, okay, page three please. Is that your signature?
A. Yes it is.
Q. Right, so it’s a document you’ve signed?

D A. Yes.
Q. Yes, and it’s a document isn’t it that the defence supply, setting out the general nature of the defence once the defence have received the evidence in the case, yes?
A. Yes.

E Q. And then it’s signed by you and served on the Crown Prosecution Service and the court.
A. Yes.
Q. Yes?
A. Sorry, I didn’t understand the last question.

F Q. And it’s a document that’s obviously sent out after it’s been prepared by your solicitors, signed by you, and sent out so that the court has got it?
A. Yes, I think so.
Q. All right and you understand that?
A. I think so, yes.

G MR MOULSON: Can we just have a date?
MISS MELLY: Yes, 17th of Oct – sorry, 19th of October 2017. That’s the date that you’ve signed it??
A. Yes.

H Q. Yes, all right, thank you. And as part of the general nature of the defence, paragraph 10, just dealing with the drugs, “The defendant’s never supplied any drugs to [Person A1],

- A** [Person B1] or to anyone else, whilst at the house.” Paragraph 10, have you got it? Have you got numbered paragraphs? It’s the bottom of the second page.
- A. What, bottom of the second page? “The defendant has never supplied...”
- Q. However, the defendant... “Never supplied any drugs to [Person A1], [Person B1] or
- B** to anyone else whilst at the house. However, the defendant is aware that others, including the girls brought cocaine and cannabis to the house and whilst there, took it.”
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes, okay, so that’s what I just wanted to ask you about please. You’re in this, you’ve signed that you were aware that others ---
- C** A. Yes.
- Q. --- including the girls but others brought cocaine and cannabis to the house and ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- whilst there, so whilst at your house, took it?
- A. Not – not cannabis.
- D** Q. Okay, so first we’ll take it in stages. First of all, do you agree that that’s what your defence statement says?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And do you agree that’s the document that you’ve signed?
- A. Yes.
- E** Q. Right, okay. But you’re saying that that’s not right?
- A. What did I say that’s not right?
- Q. You’re saying it’s not right, that the cannabis wasn’t taken at your house?
- A. No, cannabis wasn’t because it stunk out the house. I would never allow anybody
- F** smoke – smoke cannabis in my house.
- Q. Were you aware that some of the people that were coming to your house were involved in drug dealing, cocaine?
- A. No.
- Q. Class A drugs?
- G** A. No but I wasn’t ---
- Q. You weren’t aware about that?
- A. --- I was working as a security officer, I was not interested in no drugs or any drug dealers.
- Q. Asked – so you didn’t know, for example, of Parvaze Ahmed’s previous convictions
- H** for heroin and ---

- A**
- A. No.
- Q. --- you just ---
- A. I never discussed anybody's ---
- Q. Said, "I'm not aware of that."
- B**
- A. --- anybody's previous life or convictions or anything.
- Q. No, and not the case as [Person B1] described, [Person A1] described, a pile of cocaine?
- A. No, no.
- Q. People being able to help themselves?
- C**
- A. No, that's a total lie that is.
- Q. Passed around?
- A. No. No.
- Q. Because we're not just talking about small quantities of drugs being involved at your house are we, Mr Akhtar?
- D**
- A. That is a total lie. There was no way that much cocaine. There was – I would never allow it and like I said, some people just took it, once or twice I think, yeah, but I've told 'em, I stopped 'em. That's it, I didn't like it.
- Q. So you've stopped them?
- A. Yeah, I told them.
- E**
- Q. Like who?
- A. Whoever – whoever.
- Q. Who?
- A. Whoever.
- F**
- Q. Well, give us a name?
- A. I can't give you names.
- Q. Right, so you stopped [Person A1] did you?
- A. Yeah, I told 'em, I said, "I don't like you taking cocaine in here," simple as.
- Q. Right and your ---
- G**
- A. I didn't even like her coming to my house but she said she were desperate, she's got nowhere to stay.
- Q. All right, we understand your case. So in addition to the lies [Person A1] and [Person B1], you say, told, they've lied about the drugs at your house?
- A. They lied about a lot of things.
- H**

- A** Q. Right, just want – want – want to ask you this. You were aware that [Person A1] had real money problems, yes?
- A. I wasn't aware of that, no.
- Q. But you were aware that she didn't even have enough credit for a phone you told us.
- B** A. She just used to be on her phone, I don't know.
- Q. But you've just told us that in evidence.
- A. Yeah, sometimes she didn't have credit to phone me so obviously, you know, I don't know. Maybe she ran out. Maybe she used all her credits, I don't know.
- Q. But ---
- C** A. I never discussed any money problems with her.
- Q. So when – when she said to you, well what did you understand that she did for a living?
- A. She was unemployed as far as I knew.
- Q. So you must have asked her, "How come you've always got cocaine, [Person A1]?"
- D** A. Because she used to go out ---
- Q. --- she has plenty of drugs.
- A. She used to go out and see friends and maybe get it from them, I don't know.
- Q. You don't know.
- A. I didn't ask her, no, I wasn't interested.
- E** Q. You never asked where she got the money from?
- A. No, no.
- Q. And are you saying that despite the fact that you told her, "Don't use cocaine in my house," she was just repeatedly turning up and using cocaine at your house?
- F** A. Not all the time, I'd stopped it for – af – after a few – first of few occasions.
- Q. Right but after you'd told her the first occasion, even then she used it again in your house?
- A. Yes, she came to mine drunk and then she took it out and after that yeah, I put my foot down, I says, "No more."
- G** Q. So how many times did she use it?
- A. Maybe four, five times.
- Q. Right and you've told her the first time?
- A. Maybe three or four times. Yeah I told 'em, I said, "I don't like drugs around me." I've got a responsible job, you know, I could get sacked.
- H** Q. So on the first occasion she used cocaine in your house and you said, "Don't use it."

- A**
- A. Yes.
- Q. And then she turned up again at your house and used it again?
- A. And then I – I – I asked her, “Please don’t do it again.”
- Q. But she didn’t because you said four or five times.
- B**
- A. Yes, she wouldn’t listen.
- Q. Right, okay, move on. And so from what you’ve said, she could be a – a – of course lots – lots of questions were asked of the social workers and so forth about [Person A1] and her personality, yes?
- A. Yes.
- C**
- Q. Do you remember that? And you told us that she could be difficult, yes?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And she wouldn’t do what you told her to do.
- A. Not always.
- Q. So sometimes she would?
- D**
- A. Sometimes she would listen but most of the time, you know, it used to go in one ear and out of the other.
- Q. What other things would you tell her?
- A. Like, “Please don’t come here, you know, or find yourself a place. Go to council, get yourself a flat or they – they’ll give you emergency accommodation,” and she says, “No, I don’t want emergency accommodation, I’m waiting for a flat.”
- E**
- Q. No, but you were just saying that sometimes she would listen to you. So what – what – what did you listen to you about?
- A. Like when I told her, “Stop taking cocaine.”
- F**
- Q. She stopped taking cocaine?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What, she just put it away?
- A. No, after she finished then that’s it, I wouldn’t allow it after that.
- Q. Right, so what – what other things though were you saying that you’d told her, you gave her advice and she did listen to you?
- G**
- A. I just told her, I said, “Please go to the council and get yourself sorted.”
- Q. No, but you’re telling us she didn’t do those things so I’m just asking you, sometimes you said [Person A1] would listen to you and do what you wanted. So what things were they that [Person A1] was listening to you and doing what you wanted?
- H**
- A. Like go to the council.

- A**
- Q. So she did do that?
- A. That's what she said.
- Q. Right and so you felt that she did listen to you about that?
- A. That's, well obviously because I didn't want her in my house. I wanted her to sort
- B** herself out.
- Q. So did you go with her to the council?
- A. No I didn't.
- Q. Why not?
- A. Well why should I?
- C**
- Q. She was your friend wasn't she?
- A. She was somebody I met through friends.
- Q. Okay, so you wouldn't call her a friend?
- A. And she'd always been a – she just wouldn't leave me alone.
- Q. Right.
- D**
- A. Every other day she used to turn up.
- Q. So fair to say then, not compliant. She wouldn't do what you wanted.
- A. No.
- Q. Yeah? Do you agree with that?
- A. Not, not always, no.
- E**
- Q. Okay, she'd turn up un – unannounced?
- A. Yes.
- Q. She would absolutely insist on staying even though you didn't want her to?
- A. Well, yes ---
- F**
- Q. Well that's what you're saying isn't?
- A. Yes, yes, yes. But at the end of the day, I didn't have the heart to kick her out and tell her to go anywhere because, you know, it's very hard for some people that are homeless.
- Q. What you're saying is, essentially, is that you – you didn't want her there?
- A. I didn't want her there.
- G**
- Q. But out of the goodness of your heart, you let this girl come into your home?
- A. Yes I did.
- Q. Right, even though she could be difficult, yeah?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Argumentative.
- H**
- A. Yes.

- A** Q. She'd bring class A drugs into your house even though you were really opposed to that?
- A. Yes, a few times, yes.
- Q. Yes, right. And ---
- B** A. I can't control people, you know ---
- Q. No.
- A. --- I can give 'em advice that won't -- not to do something in my house.
- Q. We -- we just want to understand this really difficult position.
- A. Yes it is.
- C** Q. If you're telling the jury that you were placed in.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes.
- A. Could I have some water please?
- Q. I'm sure that can be arranged. And -- and you essentially then, you were the victim in all of this?
- D** A. Yeah, you could put it that way because at the end of the day, I were just being helpful to somebody.
- Q. All right, but along this same period of time when you've got this argumentative girl turning up and bringing illegal substances into your house repeatedly.
- E** A. Yes.
- Q. Over this period of time ---
- A. Thank you.
- Q. --- would you agree that although you wouldn't agree with the term, party house, that others have used, you were regularly holding social gatherings?
- F** A. As I said, it was like friends and family.
- Q. So perhaps using that term social gathering.
- A. Yes, friends and family, yeah.
- Q. Let's try and make it neutral so we don't get bogged down in the terms.
- G** A. Yes, yeah, sometimes, sometimes when I wasn't working next day, couple of lads, we used to get together and we used to watch You Tube, just talk, have a little drink sometimes.
- Q. Sure, so you agree with me that at the same period of time, you're the victim of this really difficult girl bringing controlled substances to your house and at the same period of time, you are regularly holding social gatherings in your house?
- H** A. I wasn't all -- always holding social gatherings.

- A**
- Q. No, no, I didn't, I'll put to you that not always.
- A. Yes, yes, like you said, yes.
- Q. You would regularly have social gatherings.
- A. Regularly yes we did, we did.
- B**
- Q. (Inaudible).
- A. We did. I had my friends and my family used to get together, yes.
- Q. All right your friends and your family?
- A. My brothers, my family.
- Q. Right and when you say your brothers and your family, I just want to be clear about
- C** this because we've spent some time going through a list of names of people who came to your house when you talk about your friends and your family, is there anybody else you want to add to the list that you gave us earlier?
- A. No, the regular, those are the regular people.
- Q. So the regulars were [Person Q], Naveed, [REDACTED], [Person FFF1], Izar Hussain and
- D** Yasar Majid.
- A. Sorry, did you say [REDACTED]?
- Q. [Person FFF1], that's what you said.
- A. [Person FFF1], [Person FFF1], yes, sorry.
- Q. Yes, all right. Sorry, not – and not Yasar Majid so regular that he'd been at your
- E** house?
- A. He'd been there a few times. He used to work with me so sometimes he used to be out and he used to phone me up, see if I'm up and he used to come down sometimes.
- Q. Right, a few times?
- F**
- A. A few times, yes.
- Q. And a few times on these nights there'd be gatherings he would be there?
- A. As I said, sometimes he used to like come and sometimes he used to be out and he used to phone me up if I was around, he used to come.
- Q. I know you've just said that.
- G**
- A. Yes.
- Q. But I'm asking you whether he would be there on the nights of some of these gatherings?
- A. Sometimes, yes.
- Q. So yes he would be?
- H**
- A. Yes, sometimes, not all the time.

- A**
- Q. Thank you. No. But on a few occasions, he was there during these gatherings?
- A. Yes. If he wasn't working on the same – the same day as like obviously he – he'd ask me if – if I'm doing anything and he used to come over, we used to chit chat about politics, you know, watch You Tube videos and maybe some telly.
- B**
- Q. And that's Yasar Majid?
- A. Yeah, most of the lads.
- Q. Most of the lads?
- A. Yeah, but Yasar now and then.
- Q. A few times?
- C**
- A. A few times, yes.
- Q. Okay and that ---
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sorry, my note is therefore, a social gathering, TV, chat, current affairs.
- A. Yes.
- D**
- Q. Politics.
- A. Yes, Sir.
- Q. Thank you.
- MISS MELLY: And – and present at those would be Izar Hussain.
- A. Yes, not all the time.
- E**
- Q. Not asking you about all the time but just on some occasions ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- on those nights whether or not they would be there, all right.
- A. Mm-hmm.
- F**
- Q. So, Parvaze Ahmed?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Izar Hussain?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yasar Majid?
- G**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Naveed Akhtar?
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right, and on those occasions at those gatherings, [Person A] would be there as well?
- H**
- A. Not all the time.

- A**
- Q. No, but on some of those occasions ---
- A. Sometimes, yes.
- Q. --- when those men would be there, she would also be there?
- A. Yes.
- B**
- Q. Right, and there would be lots of occasions weren't there when she would be the only girl there?
- A. Not loads of occasions, sometimes.
- Q. On some of the occasions.
- A. Some of the occasions, yes.
- C**
- Q. You would agree that she'd be the only girl present?
- A. Yes. And some of the occasions like – like if the lads weren't there, if I were alone, she was – she were present sometimes.
- Q. Sometimes it would just be you and [Person A1].
- A. Yes.
- D**
- Q. Sometimes it would be [Person A1] and a group of men that were your associates?
- A. That's right, yes.
- Q. Your friends, your family?
- A. That's right, yes.
- Q. Not all of them are but the majority of them are older than [Person A1]?
- A. We are, obviously.
- Q. Yes, now you talked about having other females there.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right, so who – who – other females that [Person A1] brought?
- F**
- A. No, my friends.
- Q. Who?
- A. I don't really want to go into it.
- Q. Well, what are their names?
- A. There was a girl called [REDACTED]. There was a girl called ---
- G**
- Q. Give us their full names.
- A. I don't know full name.
- Q. Right, okay. So it would be fair to say that you're saying that although there sometimes there were other girls at your house?
- A. Yes.
- H**
- Q. You don't have the full names of any of the girls who would come to your house?

- A** A. I didn't know all their full names. We'd – we'd normally used 'em as nicknames.
- Q. Yeah.
- A. Like [REDACTED], there were a few other girls. I can't remember everybody's name. It's been nine years and now, you know, I'm going through hell, you know, quite a bit here so
- B** I can't remember everything.
- Q. Well just to be – can we be clear again about this. If there were other girls present.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes, sometimes there would be, sometimes there wouldn't, yes?
- A. Yes.
- C** Q. You don't know the full names of any of the girls other than [Person A1] who'd come to your house, is that fair?
- A. Yes, I'm ---
- Q. Thank you.
- A. --- I can't remember everybody's names.
- D** Q. Exactly so you agree with me, you don't know the full names of the girls who came to your house?
- A. Yes, I agree with you there.
- Q. Right, thank you. And the reason why your house became one of the houses used for
- E** social gatherings would you agree is because unlike some who would keep a Muslim household, you'd be quite happy to have alcohol in your house, is that fair?
- A. We used to drink socially, okay. I've been brought up in this country and I've been brought up this way so obviously we used to have a little time out.
- Q. Don't misunderstand me, Mr Akhtar, I'm not criticising.
- F** A. Well it seemed like that, sorry.
- Q. And people having a drink of alcohol but I just want to ask that ---
- A. Well you're bringing religion into it, I'm just saying, we used to have some timeout.
- Q. Right you had some timeout but the reason why I'm asking you this is, certain people if, say Naveed was living with his wife and his family ---
- G** A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. --- would he be allowed to drink alcohol at home?
- A. No.
- Q. Right, so that's why I – I ask it in that way. Your house was somewhere that people could come and drink alcohol?
- H** A. Socialise, have a little chill – chat, yes.

- A** Q. All right, so they could do things in your house that they wouldn't be permitted to do at home with their family?
- A. Well, my brother wouldn't be able to drink at home because he had kids and everything.
- B** Q. Yes.
- A. But most of the people, I don't know what they did at home. You know, they could be drinking at home, they could be coming out. They'd be come – could be going to pubs, I don't know but as friends they came down. Sometimes we had a beer, sometimes we just had a chat and sometimes we got some food.
- C** Q. So you don't – all the people that we've been through and I don't want to go through them, apart from your own brother, you're saying you didn't know what their family circumstances were?
- A. No, I never asked them.
- Q. You never, you didn't know.
- D** A. I – I – I'm not gonna ask you if you come to my house, "What do you drink at home?" If you're having a little drink with me, that's fair enough. I've got no – no reason to ask you any questions.
- Q. You didn't know, no, so you wouldn't know if they were married, is that what you're saying or what the rules were at home?
- E** A. No, I didn't. I didn't go into their personal things, you know.
- Q. Right, so ---
- A. We used to talk about politics and stuff like that or maybe watching videos on YouTube, you know what I mean, maybe have a chit chat about that, just pass some time.
- F** Q. Okay, sorry, I'm just – I'm just putting to you that people would come and use your home to do things in that they wouldn't be permitted to do at home.
- A. They was not using my home.
- Q. Do you agree with that?
- A. We were having a social gathering as friends so we did what we did. They weren't
- G** using my house just to come there and drink, they had their own places. They could go to pubs, they could go anywhere. They were my friends, they used to come and we used to get, you know, have a little gather, that's it and we'd have a drink sometimes and like I said and talk.
- Q. What you can't do in a pub though is – is – is have a pile of cocaine on the middle of
- H** the coffee table can you, Mr Akhtar?

- A**
- A. Yeah, you can't have a pile of cocaine on my house either.
- Q. Is it – that's not true though is it?
- A. No, it's happened couple of times or several times whatever, I've told them off. I wouldn't allow it.
- B**
- Q. It happened several times?
- A. Yeah, whatever, but like, like I said before, you know, some people didn't know, they thought they could do it and I stopped them.
- Q. And who were they?
- A. I'm not gonna mention their names.
- C**
- Q. So you do know their names but you don't want to say them?
- A. No, I can't remember everybody. I can't because some people come with somebody else, yeah, and they thought that, you know, people having a drink they could take it. I wouldn't allow 'em, no. I was against stuff like that.
- Q. Why do you say that you're not gonna give us the names?
- D**
- A. I can't remember everybody's names. I'm under pressure here. I've gone through three years of lot of, you know, stuff here, yeah, and my head's gone, I can't remember everybody's names.
- Q. But it's your evidence is it, that you're not aware of Naveed's drug use?
- E**
- A. No.
- Q. What – what do you think his drug use situation is, Naveed?
- A. Not in front of me, never. I'm his older brother.
- Q. But what do you think it is?
- A. He's got respect for me, he would never do anything yeah, that I wouldn't – I wouldn't like.
- F**
- Q. What ---
- A. I would admit it, I would let him, I would let him drink sometimes, that's it.
- Q. You would let him drink sometimes?
- A. Yes, sometimes in front of me, yes.
- G**
- Q. Why would that be your decision?
- A. Because I'm his older brother. I do, he does listen to me.
- Q. And what do you understand as to whether or not he takes drugs?
- A. I don't know. I've never discussed anything like that with my brother because I'm- I – I've got more respect for him and I know he wouldn't touch any drugs that I – as far as I
- H**
- know.

- A**
- Q. As far as you know?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right, the – the truth is – is that your ---
- A. Yes.
- B**
- Q. --- house was used for people to come and take class A drugs wasn't it?
- A. No.
- Q. To sleep with girls from care homes.
- A. No. I didn't know any girl that came to my house that were in a care home.
- Q. You don't?
- C**
- A. No. What do you think I am? Do you think I'd allow some girls that from a care home to come to my house? All these girls said they were over 18. Most of my friends, they were all over 18. More – more or less in mid 20s and stuff. These other girls, yeah, that are supposed to be in a care home, they've lied about their age and they lied about their circumstances. I don't know. I've just been helpful to people, that's it.
- D**
- Q. You would agree wouldn't you that – that back in an evening we'd say 2010, [Person A1], young girl, yes?
- A. Over 18 as far as I was concerned.
- Q. Far as you were concerned.
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. Because that's your position isn't it?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes, and in fact just before we move on from that, whilst you've got your defence statement out, you've put it like this in paragraph three. "The girls were introduced as friends of..." Well, go back a bit. "The first time he met her..." Talking about [Person A], "... was, he thinks, in 2010." Can you see that, paragraph two?
- F**
- A. Oh yes, the girls...
- Q. Yes, that's how you described it there isn't it?
- A. Yes.
- G**
- Q. That you weren't sure but you thought it was in 2010.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right, "That when she came to his house, she was with his brother, [Person UUUU], [Person BBB] and a girl the defendant was told was [Person B1]."
- A. Yes.
- H**
- Q. Did you see that there?

- A** A. Yes.
- Q. Why didn't you mention your brother, was it, was – did you have a – was the non – brother Naveed there?
- A. When was this statement? Yes, oh, yeah, I've told you that. It was Naveed, [REDACTED]
- B** and [Person FFF1].
- Q. Yes, quick question then, just why don't you say Naveed in paragraph two?
- A. Do you expect me to remember everything?
- Q. Is it, okay, so I just want to be clear. It was because you didn't remember it at the time?
- C** A. I don't know.
- Q. Well, I – that's why I'm asking you. Why didn't you mention Naveed?
- A. I can't remember.
- Q. Okay.
- A. I – I've – I've to my knowledge, you know, I – I did try my best.
- D** Q. All right and the girl the defendant was told was [Person B1], paragraph three, "The girl that introduced as friends of those men when the defendant first met [Person A1], she told him in conversations that she was 18 years old and the defendant had no reason ever to suspect that [Person A1] was less than 18 years of age."
- A. That's right.
- E** Q. Okay, so that – that's what you say about age and that was your understanding when you signed this was it on the 19th of October 2017?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right, thank you. Put that down then thank you. So my question was, back then, you would agree wouldn't you, [Person A1], a young woman, yes?
- F** A. Yes.
- Q. Pretty girl.
- A. I never really thought about her looks.
- Q. Didn't you?
- G** A. No.
- Q. Slim.
- A. I don't know.
- Q. All right, well let's have a quick look at the description back then from Dawn Jackson because that was the police officer, do you remember this evidence?
- H** A. Well what – what – where are we now?

- A**
- Q. You don't need to, I'll read it to you.
- A. Yeah, but if you – if you let – let me know where we are so I can have a read as well please.
- Q. It's not there, I'm going to read it to you.
- B**
- A. Oh okay, sorry, sorry, I do apologise.
- Q. Not at all. In October 2010.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, [Person A1] as we know was out on the streets, okay, when she was found at 10 to 11.
- C**
- A. What date was that, sorry?
- Q. What day was it?
- A. No, the date.
- Q. 2nd of October 2010.
- A. Okay.
- D**
- Q. And – and she's described hasn't she, that Sid could come potentially to pick her up.
- A. That's what she's said, yes.
- Q. Well is that right?
- A. No.
- Q. It's not right?
- E**
- A. No, because I wouldn't.
- Q. No, okay, but do you recall a police officer ringing you up, do you recall this telephone call?
- A. From – from the trial yeah, I've been – I've been told. I remember. I remember somebody saying that some police officer rang me.
- F**
- Q. No, I'm ask.
- A. I can't remember myself at the time but now, now, now, now ---
- Q. That's what I'm asking you. Do you remember the phone call?
- A. --- now I remember the phone call, when you said.
- G**
- Q. You actually have remembered yourself?
- A. I don't men – I don't remember exactly but I – I know about the phone call.
- Q. Right, but not, what I'm trying to understand is, I'm not just asking you if you know that there was a phone call because you'd seen a witness statement. Do you actually remember being and getting a phone call from a police officer?
- H**

- A** A. I don't actually remember it. I do not actually – actually remember every event of that conversation or the call.
- Q. No, no, listen again, I'm not asking if you remember every – every event or the detail.
- A. No, I can't, I can't.
- B** Q. Do you remember Dawn Jackson telephoning you?
- A. I can't – I can't.
- Q. Well, [Person A1] back then was described as being of slim build, white female, dark hair, ponytail, cropped top.
- A. Yes.
- C** Q. All right.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Does that accord with the sort of description you had of [Person A1]?
- A. I don't know. That's a description ---
- Q. Your memory of [Person A1]?
- D** A. No, I don't remember. I don't remember. Because I didn't look at her like that at all. I just looked at her as a person not at what she was.
- Q. You – you don't remember whether or not she was slim is what you're saying?
- A. I can't remember, no.
- E** Q. Can you picture [Person A1] in your house back then, when she was just a teenager, can you just picture her there?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right and she was a slim, pretty girl wasn't she?
- A. I don't know. I never looked at her as ---
- F** Q. No, no, I'm asking you to look now.
- A. I don't, yeah, I'm looking but I can't, you know, I can't recall. I – I never looked at her like that. I just looked at somebody that just wouldn't leave me alone ---
- Q. Sure.
- A. --- that would used to come down.
- G** Q. But right now when thinking back, that memory you've got of [Person A1]. You've told us you've got that memory. Would you agree with us, she was a slim and pretty girl?
- A. Maybe. I says that I've never looked at her ---
- Q. I'm not asking you have you looked at her. I'm asking you to do it now.
- A. --- I never looked at her like that. I didn't, I just seen her as a person. I didn't really
- H** look in my head, "Oh yeah she's pretty and she's slim." I just seen her as a person, that's it.

- A** Q. I'm – I'm asking you now though, your memory of [Person A1]. Do you agree, she – that was a slim, pretty girl, sat in your house?
- A. Okay, let's say, let's say she was slim and pretty girl, yes.
- Q. But are you saying that because that's right?
- B** A. No, that's what you're telling me.
- Q. Well, what ---
- A. I didn't look. I don't remember her whatever, size of her – her body or – or face, you know what I mean, I don't remember cos I just looked at as a person. I didn't – I didn't in my head say, "Oh, she's slim and pretty." I didn't.
- C** Q. What I'm asking you to do now.
- A. Yes.
- Q. And just think back.
- A. Yes.
- Q. You have an image you've told us of [Person A1] being in your house.
- D** A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, looking at that image now, do you agree that the girl sat in your house was young, slim and pretty?
- A. I don't know if she were pretty. I don't know if she was slim. I just seen her as a person. I never judged or looked at her.
- E** Q. I'm really struggling, sorry, I want to move on from it.
- A. Listen, I don't know what ---
- Q. I'm not, sorry, I'm not asking you about what you thought back then. I'm asking you now to be fair and recall how [Person A1] was please? You have a memory of her.
- F** A. She was an average person.
- Q. It is a simple question.
- A. She was an average person, okay. I didn't know what, if she was slim or, you know, or – or she used to wear clothes. I don't know what size she was, you know what I mean. I didn't look at her like that. All I ever wanted was her out and get a place of her own, I didn't,
- G** I wasn't interested.
- Q. Okay, and so you, again, so that we understand it, you say that despite the fact that you did – weren't interested in her sexually at all.
- A. Never.
- Q. You didn't even look at her and assess whether or not she was attractive? That's how
- H** uninterested you were?

- A**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes.
- A. I wasn't interested in her at all ---
- Q. That ---
- B**
- A. --- in her attractiveness or anything. I was just helping her out.
- Q. Yes, yes, and that you didn't want her there, she was a pain?
- A. No, yes she was but she was a homeless person, yeah, and I wanted to help.
- Q. That – all right,.
- A. And I were just out there trying to help.
- C**
- Q. Okay, so let's just deal with that then. You wanted to help her.
- A. I was helping her.
- Q. And you wanted to help her?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, and that ---
- D**
- A. Because I can't – would you – would you see anybody homeless ---
- Q. No, no, and was that because you wanted to help her because you knew a little bit about some of the hard times she'd been through and you felt like you wanted to help her, is that what you're saying?
- A. Well, it – she – she used to tell me stories that she's gone through a hard time. Okay, I wasn't interested, it wasn't my life, it had nothing to do with me. All I will say is that the girl came to me and she says she's – she were living with her friend, [Person B1], she's then broken up and she's got nowhere to stay, can she please stay, and that's all it was.
- Q. So she used to take – what you said is, she used to tell you the stories.
- F**
- A. Yeah about her child, yes.
- Q. --- about her life, sorry? About her child.
- A. Yeah, that she'd – she used to swear on her child's life all the time when she wanted to convince people.
- Q. So some of the things that she told you about, let's just deal with that.
- G**
- A. Yes.
- Q. The – whether they were true or not true. Some of the things she told you about, all right.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, so you knew didn't you that she had – she didn't have a dad around.
- H**
- A. She never mentioned anything about her dad.

- A** Q. And you knew she had a terrible relationship with her mum and her mum had been abusive to her?
- A. No, I didn't know she'd been abusive but she told me that they don't get on and she's looking after her daughter.
- B** Q. And – and you knew that she'd been in care?
- A. Who?
- Q. She'd been in the care system, you knew that.
- A. No, I didn't know nothing about no care system.
- Q. You didn't?
- C** A. No, because ---
- Q. So you thought she'd lived with her family.
- A. --- she never mentioned anything about a care system. She said she were – she were with – living with her mum, she's had a disagreement or argument with her, yeah, and her mum's looking after her baby and now when I met her, she were living with [Person B2].
- D** Q. You told her to sign herself out of care didn't you?
- A. Why would I do that for? I did not know she was in care.
- Q. You did everything you could to isolate [Person A] so that she had no relationship with any of the means of support in her life, that – that's the truth isn't it, Mr Akhtar?
- A. That is absolutely not right. I am sorry, but you have got that wrong.
- E** Q. You and your acquaintances spent night after night telling her that you could be her family.
- A. No.
- Q. That she didn't need to worry about the social workers and her own actual family.
- F** A. I'm sorry, no, that is not correct. I did not know anything about no social workers. All she told me, she has had an argument with her mum and that she won't let her see her daughter and she's living with [Person B2]. That's all I knew and the fact that she was over 18 years old, nothing else came too. Thank you.
- Q. You and your acquaintances got her addicted to cocaine didn't you?
- G** A. No. If you look at the timeline ---
- Q. So that you could ---
- A. --- Sorry, sorry to interrupt you.
- Q. --- use and abuse her, Mr Akhtar.
- A. No, if you look at the timeline from the beginning, from the age of, I don't know, her young age, they were taking drugs and alcohol so I had no reason to do anything to them. I
- H**

A were just wanted her out and I couldn't get rid of her, that's it. I had my own girlfriend then. I was within a relationship, okay, and I wasn't interested in her being around me.

Q. This wasn't a few beers or a small amount of drugs. These were spirits and class A drugs.

B A. I was working on a minimum wage. I could not even afford the spirits. I used to get some beers, some lad used to bring 'em down sometimes socially. We wasn't out, you know, getting drunk every night or anything. I used to work nearly six, five days a week, yeah, and most of them days, you know what I mean, I couldn't even drink at night. I used to come home, tired, go to sleep. She used to be there on – on my doorstep sometimes, I used to just say, "I'm going to bed now, if you've got nowhere else to go just please, just go to sleep."

C Q. Did you get to use the drugs free of charge because you could supply [Person A] to the men that came to your house?

A. I have never taken any drugs, no cocaine, I've never taken cocaine. I was never interested in cocaine.

D Q. There was an undercurrent at these gatherings, as you called them, of criminality, of talk of drug dealing, of aggression, wasn't there?

A. No, there was nothing like that in front of me. My friends were gathering socially. We used to talk about good things, politics, maybe videos what we were watching. There was nothing like that. There was no criminality. I was a security officer. I – I had no reason to go against the law. I was working with the police most of the time.

E Q. Did Yasar Majid help you in your employment?

A. No, he was on the floor, a sales assistant. I was a security officer.

Q. You sent [Person A] out to get drugs didn't you when she was under 18?

F A. No, never. I didn't want her to bring any drugs to my house in the first place. I was not taking or using any type of drugs. Before in my life, I have tried cannabis and that's it. A long time ago, I gave that up. I have not been interested in any kind of drugs.

Q. You sent her round to your drug dealer, Bhindi, didn't you?

A. I don't know no guy called Bhindi. I never have met him. I've never heard of him until before now or until that – before she mentioned his name.

G Q. She was simply a commodity.

A. She was nothing but a pain.

Q. Nothing but a pain?

H

- A** A. Yeah because she wouldn't – she'd just turn up. I didn't want her around me. And the only thing I did for her was just let her stay in my house because she says she were homeless.
- Q. But what – what you're telling this jury is that this girl who is nothing but a pain, yes?
- B** A. Because she used to come and I didn't want her there. That's what I mean.
- Q. And she brought – she brought police to your house on some 16 occasions.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes?
- A. If you ---
- C** Q. Well, we've ---
- A. Sorry.
- Q. Sorry.
- A. If you look at the timeline.
- Q. Just wait there just for a moment, sorry.
- D** A. Sorry.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Mr Moulson and Miss Melly, just look at this. It's something I was going to raise so deal with it now and... All right, just, the jury is entitled sometimes if they want an answer, they think, to a question they would like ask – asking, they must let me know.
- E** MR MOULSON: Yes, there's no problem at all.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No problem at all. I didn't think so.
- MISS MELLY: Thank you. Thank you very much. I was going to come on and – and deal with it but when we deal with the notices and the other contact with the police but I think just what I'm just going to do it now, straightaway, on your Honour's note.
- F** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I'd be grateful.
- MISS MELLY: There's the question been asked, Mr Akhtar is this ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. When the police attend your house ---
- G** A. Yes, yes.
- Q. --- looking for missing girls.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why didn't you tell the police that they were at the address before they searched the house?
- H** A. That was only one occasion. There's a time when they came in, they took 'em.

- A** Q. But the – the jury aren't asking you how many occasions, they're asking you the question, why didn't you tell the police that they – that you had the missing girls in your house rather than let them be found by the police?
- A. Because one occasion, that's the only occasion, they ran upstairs and I told the police,
- B** there's police coming and, "Look, they're upstairs," and they went upstairs and took 'em.
- Q. So do we understand that what you're saying is, is that actually you told the police that they were in – in your house?
- A. Yeah, when they – when they asked the name, I said, "Yes."
- Q. So ---
- C** A. And then – and then they brought 'em back and she says, "They're over 18, 17 and 18, they're okay."
- Q. So you are saying that you told the police?
- A. Yes.
- Q. So ---
- D** A. From what I can remember.
- Q. --- from what you can remember?
- A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. --- what you said to the police, "I'm hiding some girls in a cupboard"?
- A. I didn't say that.
- E** Q. What did you say?
- A. I says, "Come in."
- Q. And is that all you said?
- A. Yes.
- F** Q. Right, so you didn't tell the police ---
- A. No.
- Q. --- that the girls were upstairs in a cupboard?
- A. No, I didn't know they were upstairs in a cupboard.
- Q. But you knew they were in your house?
- G** A. Yes because the bags were there. Police came in and said, "Pleased to check the house and take 'em."
- Q. Right, so did you tell the police that they were hiding?
- A. No, I didn't know they were hiding.
- Q. But you've just said ---
- H**

- A** A. I said, "They went upstairs to the toilet or something," I says, "Come in." I invited the police straight in.
- Q. No, no, you've just told us that you – they went running upstairs to hide in a cupboard.
- B** A. I didn't say they went running upstairs to hide in a cupboard, I said, "They went upstairs."
- Q. So when the police came, did you say, "Never mind, come in and search. I've got the girls here, they're upstairs"?
- A. Yeah, they came in. I've invited them straight in.
- C** Q. Yes.
- A. And they went upstairs looking, I don't know where they was. I says, "Please go, you're welcome."
- Q. You've told us a few things. You've told us that you invited the police in and that the police took the girls.
- D** A. Yeah.
- Q. The question I asked you, why didn't you tell the police when they knocked on your door, "The girls are here"?
- A. I did, that's why they went upstairs. I told them they'd gone to the toilet or something. I don't know, it's been, I think three or four occasions the police took 'em. That
- E** occasion they brought 'em back.
- Q. Perhaps we also really want to know this, Mr Akhtar.
- A. That was the only occasion they went upstairs. Rest of the time, yeah, police knocked on the door and they went straight out.
- F** Q. Who did?
- A. The girls, [Person A1], sorry. I think it was just [Person A1] a couple of times.
- Q. You think it was just [Person A1] a couple of times?
- A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. But other occasions when they were looking for other girls?
- G** A. No, they – they might, I think they either met. I can't remember, it's been nine years but at the end of the day, I think they mostly mentioned, at first hand they mentioned that – that time when they were ran upstairs, they mentioned [Person A1] and [Person EE1] I think it was and they've took 'em and then they've brought them back, they said, "They're over age, they're over age of 17 and 18," and they left 'em back at my house.
- H**

- A** Q. But what perhaps we're interested and really it gets to this is, a – your case is that you get nothing from [Person A1]?
- A. No.
- Q. She don't give you money, she don't give you sex.
- B** A. No.
- Q. She won't – she's not having sex with your friends.
- A. I don't know what they were doing. I – I don't pry in people's lives.
- Q. But from your evidence, so far as you were aware back then, she's not having sex with your friends?
- C** A. No, I don't go into personal things with my friends. I don't know what they do.
- Q. So the answer is yes?
- A. I don't know, nobody told me. Nobody said.
- Q. So the answer's yes?
- A. What, answers yes to what?
- D** Q. As far as you were aware, yeah ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- there's no sex taking place between [Person A1] and anybody?
- A. No, I didn't know. I didn't discuss that to – about – with anybody, no.
- Q. All right, I'll just explore that before I move on.
- E** A. Okay.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I think what we are going to do, we're going to have a break.
- MISS MELLY: Yes, sorry.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And we'll calm – Mr Saeed can calm down and have a – have a
- F** break, yes.
- A. Yes, Sir.
- Q. Your head's all over the place so I don't want you asking questions so you can have --
-
- A. Thank you, Sir.
- G** Q. Have your – we'll have our 20 minutes, all right, which I do, I should give you a break. The café management play, I won't use that word, they do get cross with me if I don't get to give everybody a proper break. I think it's to do with their takings rather than your wellbeing but there we are. So we're going to do that. You agree, Mr Moulson, it's better we have a break.
- H** MR MOULSON: Of course, thank you, your Honour, yes, very grateful.

A

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Okay, we'll do our 20 minutes bit, okay, five, five, six, seven minutes past 12. We – we're not under pressure today and I don't want any witness to feel under pressure at – if possible, okay. If you'd like to leave us, thanks ever so much.

(The jury left court at 11.47)

B

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Right, you can't talk to your barristers or lawyers because you're giving evidence, go and have a break. I'm sorry about the fact, gentlemen, you can't go in the café but I think you know it's for the best. We don't want any crossed wires so late in the day. So you – you go and have a break, all of you on bail. Mr – Mr Naveed, stay there please, you can go and have a break. Be back – be back five past 12, between five – five – five and 10 past, all right.

C

(The witness withdrew)

(The jury left court at 11.48)

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

C

[REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

(The jury entered court at 12.22)

A

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I have – I have to ask a favour. I, I, I've been trying to deal with and I've got to deal with an urgent application which is com – as the – as the resident judge here, I get all the – the fun cases so I'm going to give you – I've got to deal with it. Can you come – I'm going to have a – an early lunch then start again at two o'clock and there's not a

B

lot of evidence. There is an important obviously Yasar Majid's going to give evidence but it won't take long, all right, we think. So, no harm done. It's nothing to do with these people, they're – they've all agreed and in fact encouraged me not to get stressed but to deal with the matter, all right, okay. So have an early lunch and then we'll move on seamlessly at two o'clock though so we're only losing about 20 minutes, okay. Thanks very much.

C

(The jury left court at 12.24)

[REDACTED]

D

[REDACTED]

E

[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

G

[REDACTED]

H

[REDACTED]

A

[REDACTED]

B

[REDACTED]

(The jury entered court at 14.05)

(Judge Durham Hall conferred with the Court Clerk)

C

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you. Problem solved. We can get on and I apologise to all concerned, Mr Moulson. Thank you. Miss Melly, thank you.

MR AKHTAR, on former oath

Cross-examined by MISS MELLY (cont.)

D

Q. Thank you. Thank you. A few questions just about the individuals please at your home, the men, yes.

A. Yes.

Q. I don't want to get involved in – in the issue, but is – is it right that Mr Yasar Majid helped you with an issue that you had at work?

A. Oh, I can't remember, it's been so long.

E

Q. Did you have an issue at work?

A. Oh I think so, yeah, yeah.

Q. And did Yasar Majid help deal with it?

A. Yeah, yeah. I think, yeah, I think, I think he did, yes. Yes, I remem – I think I remember now what you're on about, sorry about that.

F

Q. That's all right, but now I just want to – because sometimes I think we often take to mean, it could be, it could not, but now I've reminded you ---

A. Yes, I think ---

Q. --- do you accept that actually, yes, Majid was helping you with an issue at work?

A. Yeah, I – I – I think he came over yeah, to the office. That – that's why I remember now.

G

Q. Yes, okay, so that you have a memory of that?

A. Yes.

Q. All right, thank you, and Naveed, your brother ---

A. Yes.

H

Q. --- right, where did he sleep in your house when he stayed?

- A** A. Sometimes in the bedroom and most of the time on the couch cos he used to watch telly till late.
- Q. Right, and most of the time when you say in the bedroom, that's with you?
- A. Yes.
- B** Q. You said he shared in your bedroom?
- A. Sometimes, yeah.
- Q. Okay, sometimes he shared your bedroom and sometimes he slept downstairs?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Anywhere else?
- C** A. No.
- Q. No.
- A. Not that I know ---
- Q. And how many nights did he stay at your house?
- A. Usually sometimes a couple of nights. Sometimes two or three nights and that's it.
- D** Sometimes he probably in a week, might have just in the week, about two or three nights sometimes.
- Q. Right, so I just want to be clear. When you say that he stayed at your house when he split from his wife ---
- A. Yes.
- E** Q. --- okay.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Who are we talking about?
- MISS MELLY: His brother, Naveed Akhtar.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: We're talking about Naveed, yes.
- F** MISS MELLY: Yes. What people might have thought is that he split up from his wife for a month and came to stay with you for that whole period of time and then went back to his wife, okay. That's what it might – some people might think you meant by, “He stayed with me after he split up from his wife.” But – but actually is what you're saying that Naveed just stayed at your house the odd night?
- G** A. A couple of nights, I think he used to go stay with my other brother sometimes as well.
- Q. Well let's just deal with you.
- A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. Is he just staying with you on the odd night or does he actually move in and live with
- H** you because he's separated from his wife?

- A**
- A. No, he doesn't move in with me to live, on the odd occasion, a few nights a week sometimes.
- Q. And the rest of the time?
- A. He used to go to my other brother's house.
- B**
- Q. Which brother?
- A. Was.
- Q. Right, and the rest of the time he moved back with his wife was he?
- A. No. He – after – after a while, they made up but before, but for a ---
- Q. Okay, how long was the separation?
- C**
- A. I'm not sure. I wasn't really, I think maybe a couple of months. I'm not sure. Be honest with you, I'm not sure.
- Q. Over what period of time did Nav stay at your house?
- A. It – can't quite remember be honest with you but I think it's probably the summer of 2010. I – I – I'm – it's been a long time, I can't remember everything.
- D**
- Q. So, Naveed would stay overnight but he didn't stay in the spare bedroom?
- A. No. Not that I can remember, no.
- Q. Did Yasar Majid stay overnight at your house ever?
- A. I can't remember you know.
- E**
- Q. Parvaze stay over at your night – house, ever?
- A. No, I don't – Parvaze only come a few times, I don't think he'd ever stayed at, I can't remember, it's been nine years. I'm sure he hasn't.
- Q. Well, it's either yes he did, no he didn't or you don't remember.
- A. From what I remem – from, I can't recall but from what I can remember, I don't think
- F**
- he did.
- Q. Okay. Zeeshan Ali?
- A. No, never.
- Q. Did he stay overnight?
- A. Never.
- G**
- Q. What about Billy, Billy Jo Jo?
- A. No.
- Q. Never stayed at your house?
- A. No.
- H**
- Q. Certain? So some of them you can't remember and some of them you know they didn't?

- A**
- A. Well, from what I can recall, I don't think he ever did.
- Q. Sorry?
- A. From what I can recall, I don't think he ever did.
- Q. You don't think he did?
- B**
- A. No, I don't think he did.
- Q. Did a man called [Person AAA] come to your house?
- A. Never.
- Q. Do you know who that is?
- A. No.
- C**
- Q. Never heard that name?
- A. I've heard it in the trial but I haven't heard it before.
- Q. You've never heard it before?
- A. I might have but I've nev – I don't recall. I do not recall.
- Q. And then the man you described as your neighbour, [Person Q].
- D**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yeah, is that actually the man who's Billy's brother?
- A. Oh Bill's brother, yeah, Izar's.
- Q. Yes.
- A. Yes, yes.
- E**
- Q. Right so the men ---
- A. He – he's – he used to live about – just across the road sort of, it wasn't exactly my next door neighbour.
- Q. No, but you've just described him as [Person Q], you didn't have ---
- F**
- A. Yeah.
- Q. --- his surname. Do you remember?
- A. I can't remember. I can't remember. I always called him [Person Q].
- Q. Yes, but you knew he was one of the defendant's brothers?
- A. Yes, Izar's.
- G**
- Q. Okay, and you weren't sure of [Person Q]'s surname?
- A. I'm not sure.
- Q. Were you aware that Billy worked for Pav?
- A. No. I didn't know Pav had a business.
- Q. What did you think he did for a living?
- H**

- A** A. I don't know, I never questioned him. Like I said, Pav only come a few times and that was cos, because [Person Q] sometimes used to bring some food over for me and his brother and I think Pav came with him once or twice.
- Q. With who, with [Person Q]?
- B** A. With [Person Q] and Billy.
- Q. And Billy?
- A. Billy, yeah, like he call him, I call him Billoo, sorry.
- Q. So, you don't know what he did for a living?
- A. No.
- C** Q. No, so are you aware that he – that Billy sometimes had Pav's phone?
- A. No.
- Q. Were you aware that Billy Jo Jo was aggressive and weird?
- A. No, I never seen him being aggressive and weird in front of me.
- Q. No, is [Person B1] lying about that?
- D** A. Well, if that's what she said, maybe she had an experience with him. I've never seen him be aggressive or weird.
- Q. And – and well – well they're saying that he was doing that there in the living room quite publicly, do you see?
- A. Well, I – I've never seen anything like that.
- E** Q. No, she – and [Person A1]'s lying about that as well?
- A. Well everyone's got their opinion so I don't know. I mean, I never seen him being aggressive or weird.
- Q. Now, just to deal briefly then with the dates. You – we've looked at your defence statement already, in that it's clear isn't it, that you can't remember the exact date that [Person A1] was coming to your house?
- F** A. Not the exact dates but I know it was spring, just before the summer of 2010.
- Q. Do you agree that in your defence statement you don't put a season on it, you don't say it's spring. Do you agree with that?
- G** A. Of course, of course it were just out of the blue and I can't – I couldn't ---
- Q. No, no, your defence statement?
- A. --- yeah, I couldn't, I couldn't remember everything. I couldn't even remember my brother's name that time.
- Q. No, so at the time you made your defence statement, you couldn't remember the period of the year but you do now?
- H**

- A**
- A. Yes. I've had some time to think about it.
- Q. Do you agree you have some time to think about it between your interviews and your defence statement?
- A. Well, this has been carrying on for three years now.
- B**
- Q. Would you agree that you had time to think about it between your interviews and your defence statement?
- A. Yeah, about the times, yes,
- Q. You did?
- A. Yes.
- C**
- Q. But in that time, it hadn't – you hadn't worked that out?
- A. No, everything just came out of the blue.
- Q. Well, again, it – out of the blue, that's quite a long period of time between your interviews and that defence statement, do you agree?
- A. Yes.
- D**
- Q. Right, and in terms of your police interviews.
- A. Yes.
- Q. You were asked a lot of questions about [Person A1] weren't you?
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. Yeah, because the police wanted to know didn't they, when she was coming to your house?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And they wanted to know what drink and drugs were at your house?
- A. Yes.
- F**
- Q. And they wanted to know who was bringing all those drink and drugs ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. And how [Person A1] became addicted to cocaine, they wanted to know about that didn't they?
- A. Yeah, they had, they'd asked me all loads of questions. Obviously I don't remember every question they asked me.
- G**
- Q. No, and they were asking you why [Person A1] would say this about you if it wasn't true. They were asking you all those questions weren't they?
- A. I – probably, I can't remember every question they asked me. They did obviously question me.
- H**

- A** Q. Over some time about every – about [Person A1], why she’s at your house, what she was doing there, whether there was any sexual activity. They were asking those questions weren’t they?
- A. They probably was, yes. I can’t remember every question they asked me.
- B** Q. You understand, you were being interviewed.
- A. Yes.
- Q. And it was being put to you, suggested to you, that your house was the hub where [Person A1] came, she was – became addicted to drugs. She was groomed into sexual activity and that you facilitated that. You sent her out to be a prostitute knowing her age and you had sex with her, that – that – that’s what the police were saying.
- C** A. Miss Melly, I don’t know the questions they asked me. I went no comment on the advice of my solicitor. I – I don’t remember every question they asked me. I don’t remember any of the questions be – be honest with you.
- Q. Well, we can look at them if we need to but do you accept that that was the thrust of the questions, that the ---
- D** A. They – they were – they were questioning me about [Person A1], that’s – that’s about it, but I can’t remember any questions.
- Q. But you – you’re not disagreeing that that was the nature of those questions?
- A. Well, that’s why I get arrested for, so obviously they asked me the questions ---
- E** Q. Yeah.
- A. --- about [Person A1], yes.
- Q. All right and – and so that we understand it. Your mindset in the interview was that you knew, this is from your perspective. You’re sat in that interview and you, you’re thinking, “I do know the girl they’re asking about.”
- F** A. Of course I knew the girl they were asking about.
- Q. Yes and – and – and you’re thinking, “That girl, I’ve never seen her involved in any sexual activity at my house,” yes, that’s what you were thinking was it?
- A. Maybe. I’m not sure what I was thinking, I were quite in shock.
- G** Q. And you were thinking, “I’ve behaved nothing but kindness to that girl”?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And some – some people can’t wait for their teenage daughters to leave home but you – you had taken in this difficult, aggressive teenager.
- H**

- A** A. Miss Melly, all I was doing was helping another person that was homeless. That's all I was doing. I didn't take her in. I didn't want her there. I wanted her to go to the council and get help.
- Q. But we understand that and that's your case.
- B** A. But that's it. I was just in shock when I were arrested. I was in total shock, I could not believe it.
- Q. All right.
- A. I don't know what was going on.
- Q. Well, you were given some time weren't you, you were told what the allegations were in advance of your interview weren't you?
- C** A. Yes and that's what shocked me.
- Q. And – and then you were given time to have a consultation weren't you with your solicitor?
- A. Yes and I made a statement.
- D** Q. And you knew, sat there, that you could answer those questions and shout that you were the innocent one as you told the jury, that you were the victim.
- A. I had advice from my legal team about it and my solicitor who told me to go no comment.
- Q. And I know that ---
- E** A. And I was in shock all the way through. I was in total shock. I've helped a person out and now am I being alleged to have done something. It is – I was in total shock.
- Q. Do you agree that it was your decision to take, as you say, that advice and it was your decision to sit and refuse to answer any of the questions, that's your decision?
- F** A. After the advice I was given from my solicitor ---
- Q. Yes.
- A. --- I took his advice, yes.
- Q. Yes, all right. So – so what I just wanted to know really was, despite that being your advice, why didn't you just say to the police and answer those questions?
- G** A. Miss Melly ---
- Q. And tell them how innocent you are as you're telling this jury.
- A. Miss Melly, I am sorry to interrupt you. I have a solicitor which advised me, who advised me to go no comment and I took his advice. That's what they're there for, to give you, advise you and help you.
- H**

- A** Q. Now, moving on to another topic please and just about this cupboard incident that the jury asked the question about, all right.
- A. Okay.
- Q. And I just want – we had a look at the note of what you said about it and so I want to ask you something specifically.
- B** A. Okay.
- Q. Your account by the end of this section when I was asking you questions about the two girls they found in your house in a cupboard.
- A. Yes.
- C** Q. Yeah, by police officers.
- A. Yes.
- Q. That essentially what you were saying was, was it, that you told the police that they were there?
- A. Told them to come in and have a look if they were there, yes. They'd just gone upstairs. I didn't know who was knocking on the door. As soon as I opened the door, when I said, I've seen the police officers ---
- D** Q. Right.
- A. --- what they've said, I just invited them in and I think the girls had went upstairs and I says, "I think they're upstairs, go check 'em."
- E** Q. Well why then, when – when you were asked this question originally and our note is, is that the police came in and they searched everywhere.
- A. They didn't search everywhere.
- Q. That the police had – they search everywhere.
- F** A. I'm sorry, Miss Melly, but I'm sure they went straight upstairs and got 'em straight. I can't remember every moment of this nine years ago.
- Q. I think we're at cross purposes. I'm not suggesting to you that the police statement says they searched everywhere. I'm suggesting to you that today, you told this jury that when those police officers came in, they have to search everywhere.
- G** A. Yes, that's why they ---
- Q. So why did you tell the jury that the police had to search everywhere if you're actually telling them ---
- A. You – sorry, Miss Melly.
- Q. --- that you knew the girls were there?
- H**

- A** A. Sorry, Miss Melly. I think the police came to my house about 16 times and all of them times, I can't remember exactly every mom – at every time what happened. I invited 'em in. I was helpful and I told them they can search the house even when the girls wasn't there and when they were there, they were sat on the sofa, they just took 'em. They didn't
- B** say anything to me about nothing. They just said they'd been reported 'em missing. When I seen [Person A1] again all she said was, "My mum reported me missing."
- Q. So just so that we understand your evidence. Are you now saying that actually you can't remember what you said to the police on the occasion that two girls were found in your cupboard?
- C** A. I can't remember every – every ---
- Q. I'm not asking you about every, I'm asking you about this.
- A. I can't – I can't remember. I can't remember.
- Q. You can't remember?
- A. I can't remember, it's been over nine years ago and there were 16 occasions when the
- D** police came. I can't remember every one of 'em.
- Q. No, but specifically you can't remember what you said on this occasion?
- A. I can't, no, I'll be honest with you, I can't. All I know is, I was helpful every time police came to my house. I was there. I was helpful. I was respectful and helped them.
- E** Q. So, just dealing with the – sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off. Now, you've also explained about how you weren't aware, your case is, how young [Person A1] in reality was. You didn't realise, that's your evidence isn't it?
- A. Well why should I not believe a word ---
- Q. Can you just confirm that and then we can move on, is that right?
- F** A. No, because – because she told me she was 18 years old and I believed her.
- Q. Right, so do you agree then that it's your case that you believed that she was over 18, that's all I'm asking you.
- A. Yes, she told my ex-girlfriend that as well, that she's 18 going on 19.
- Q. Never mind what other people have said. Do you accept that's your evidence, that's
- G** your case?
- A. Yes, I was told she was 18 and I believed her.
- Q. Right, thank you. So moving on from that please. Are you saying to the jury that it wasn't until you were arrested that you realised she was over 18 or did you realise that, sorry, under 18. Did you realise back then?
- H**

- A** A. When I got the harbourer's notice, that's when I realised that, on that note – on the date of birth and everything, worked out, 17 years of age. But at the same time when the police officer's supposed to have found them in the cupboards, they took 'em and they brought 'em back and they says, "They are 18 years of age." So who am I supposed to believe?
- B** Q. So, when it said in your defence statement, "The defendant had no reason ever to suspect that [Person A1] was less than 18 years of age," do you think that that – that's not quite right. What you're saying is ---
- A. It is quite right.
- C** Q. --- you found out when you got the harbourer's warning?
- A. Yeah, she – she'd gone by then. I found out then but before then, I – you know, she told me, the police officer told me she was 18. They brought her back to my house and they said, "She's 18, it's okay."
- Q. So ---
- D** A. So I've no reason not to believe the police.
- Q. So what I want to understand then is this. If you didn't under – think that she was younger than 18 up until the harbourer's notice in November, all right, 2010, why did you think that the police had been to your house 15 times before that if she was over 18?
- E** A. Miss Melly, I have just explained to you. When she came back after the police took her, she says, her mum has reported her missing and that's what the explanation I got. The police never discussed anything, they – all they said to me that she's been reported as a missing person.
- Q. So you thought that the police had come on all those occasions to look for an adult over the age of 18?
- F** A. Until they gave me the harbourer's notice which was about a month before – after, before I seen her, over a month. Before then, I had no reason to doubt anything.
- Q. Not even when you had that phone call with Dawn Jackson?
- A. Which one was that sorry?
- G** Q. Police officer from the street which rang you ---
- A. Yeah, she asking me to pick her up, I said, "I don't want to pick her up."
- Q. So not – not even then did you think?
- A. No, she didn't say anything. She says, she says, I – from what I can remember, the phone call said, "Oh, it's [Person A1], she says she's your girlfriend," or something to that effect. I'm not quite 100 per cent sure and I says, "Look..." And she says, "Can you come
- H**

- A** and pick her up?" I says, "No, she knows why I don't want to pick her up cos I don't want her around me really, that's what she knows."
- Q. Your case, Mr Akhtar, is that [Person A1]'s lying about the fact that she was used for sex by you and your friends.
- B** A. Yes she is.
- Q. All right. She's lying about the fact that you – she was given drugs and became addicted to drugs at your hands.
- A. Yes she is lying.
- Q. Yes, right, and the fact is, as you say, that you didn't want her there.
- C** A. I didn't.
- Q. Her presence meant that you had frequent and regular visits by police officers to your door which of course you didn't want.
- A. No, of course, who does?
- Q. And that was the situation even though some of your friends, sometimes brought drugs to your house, making it even more awkward if there's police at your door.
- D** A. Look, I've told you before, I was against drugs. I didn't want drugs around me. On the 16 occasions the police came, they searched my house, there was nothing never found, okay. Because – because – because ---
- Q. I don't think it's controversial, Mr Akhtar ---
- E** A. --- because it is nothing to do with drugs. I've got nothing to do with drugs.
- Q. No, no, but you've already told us that sometimes other people, not the girls, brought the drugs to your house.
- A. Yes and I've told them off. I also, sorry to interrupt you, but I did tell you that I've told them off and I told 'em, "I don't want anything like that around me."
- F** Q. Certainly, but I think we're in agreement that even though you – your case is you were telling people you didn't want drugs in their house, people still brought drugs to your house. That's what you were telling us isn't it, yeah?
- A. Only on a few occasions. Only on a few occasions.
- G** Q. But on a ---
- A. And after that, I just put a total stop to it.
- Q. However you want to limit it, a few occasions, people you can't remember their names of, that you didn't want to it, your case is that people brought drugs to your house even though you didn't want it, yes?
- H** A. Yes, and I told them off.

- A** Q. And that [Person A1] was bringing, her presence was bringing police to your door on a regular basis, yes?
- A. Yes, yes.
- Q. All right. And so despite that awful situation, yes, Mr Akhtar ---
- B** A. Yes.
- Q. --- that you must have – you tell the jury that you were placed in, the victim in all of this and despite the fact that she could be difficult and aggressive, yes.
- A. Yes.
- Q. You're saying that you still continued to open the door to [Person A] and let her into your house?
- C** A. I made a mistake, yes. I used to come back from work at 10 o'clock, at half-past 10, she were outside and she was crying to me, "Ak, I've got nowhere to go, please let me stay, please let me stay," and sometimes she used to get a phone call. Her phone was always ringing and she used to go, but most of the time, yeah, I just didn't have the heart to tell her, "Please go live on the streets." I mean, if – if you're a normal person, would you let another human being go through anything like that?
- D** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you.
- MISS MELLY: And then finally, please, the motive that you say that [Person A1] has told these wicked lies about a man who's treated her with nothing but kindness, that's your case isn't it?
- E** A. Yes, I can think about 150,000 reasons why she's saying that.
- Q. Yes, well that's – so my question for you because there's been a lot of talk about this compensation, Mr Akhtar.
- F** A. Yes.
- Q. And I wonder if you could help me with this, please.
- A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. You know don't you that [Person A] was seen by police in 2013, you know that don't you?
- G** A. Yes, and did the police take any ---
- Q. And you know, don't you, that those two officers, Gatenby and Taylor, were investigating a completely different set of grooming, yes?
- A. Did the police take any atten – did they – did they ---
- Q. Can I – can we go through this?
- H** A. Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

- A** Q. Did you know that? Yes, did you know that?
A. No, I didn't know that until the case started.
Q. Do you know that now?
A. I do know that now.
- B** Q. Gatenby and Taylor went to see [Person A] in 2013 about a different set of grooming, about some groomers, yes?
A. Yes.
Q. Yes, right. And then you've told us that [Person A1]'s come to this court and given evidence over many days, essentially with a motive for money, yes?
- C** A. Yes.
Q. All right, so help the jury with this. Why did she name you with the – within the context of being a groomer of it happening at your house to the police in 2013? That's not a claim. That's not compensation. What was her motive then, Mr Akhtar?
A. I do not know. She just put me down as best friend in her phone. Why would she, I –
- D** I just don't know. I don't know.
Q. Thank you.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you.
MR MOULSON: Does your Honour have any questions?
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No. I do not. Thank you.
- E** MR MOULSON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr Akhtar, you ---
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you, Mr Saeed Akhtar.
MR MOULSON: And, your Honour, that concludes the case for Saeed Akhtar.
THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.
- F** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you very much, thank you. Thank you, Mr Moulson, thank you, Miss Melly.

(The witness withdrew)
- MISS BATTS: Your Honour, ladies and gentlemen, I call Yasar Majid.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: When was the Gatenby, Taylor conversation again?
- G** MISS MELLY: Summer 2013 – July 2013.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: July '13.
MISS MELLY: Thank you.

YASAR MAJID, Affirmed
Examined-in-chief by MISS BATTS
- H** Q. Thank you.

- A**
- A. Thank you.
- Q. Mr Majid, can you state your full name please?
- A. It's Yasar Majid.
- Q. And now, Mr Majid, what's been said to the other witnesses in this case equally
- B** applies to you.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I ask you please, direct your answers ---
- A. Okay, sorry.
- Q. --- to the ladies and gentlemen of the jury.
- C**
- A. Okay, I will do, thank you.
- Q. Keep your voice up.
- A. Yeah, okay.
- Q. Nice and loud, it's a big room.
- A. Thank you.
- D**
- Q. And also if you can remember please to take things at a nice steady pace because people in the room will be making a note of what you have to say.
- A. Okay.
- Q. All right. How old are you now please, Mr Majid?
- A. 37.
- E**
- Q. I'm going to begin by asking you some questions about your background.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Right.
- A. That's fine.
- F**
- Q. Which area did you grow up in?
- A. Manningham in Bradford.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Manningham?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- MISS BATTS: And did you leave school at – at the age of 16?
- G**
- A. I left school at 16 and then went to a sixth form college.
- Q. And did you obtain qualifications when you left school?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And did you go on to obtain qualifications at sixth form college?
- A. Yes, I did my A Levels at sixth form college.
- H**

- A** Q. And – and after you went to – to sixth form college, did you obtain a place at Manchester University?
- A. I did, that’s correct.
- Q. And whilst you were undertaking that course, did you carry on living in the Bradford or had you moved away?
- B** A. Sorry, no, I moved to Greater Manchester.
- Q. And how long were you in Manchester for approximately?
- A. For around two years.
- Q. Now, did there come a point when you returned to – to Bradford from Manchester?
- C** A. Yeah, as I started as a student, I started an events management sort of company, doing nights and it sort of went very successfully so I kind of discarded my studies which I got ---
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Is the answer yes?
- A. Yes.
- Q. No problem.
- D** A. Okay.
- Q. Just that’s fine.
- A. Right, that’s fine.
- MISS BATTS: So did you come back to Bradford?
- A. Yes I did.
- E** Q. And – and for a period of time did you – did you take your place at Bradford University?
- A. Yes I did.
- Q. And what were you studying?
- F** A. Economics, just a straight BSC in economics.
- Q. And what year did you graduate in?
- A. I think 2000 and – can you not hear me? Sorry, I apologise. I think 2008,
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Volume, that’s all.
- A. That’s fine, sorry, I apologise.
- G** Q. Economists are very softly spoken I believe.
- MISS BATTS: Now, after you’d finished your degree, did you go onto further education?
- A. Yeah, I, I started a Masters in banking and finance at the University of Leeds Business School.
- Q. And did you complete that Masters?
- H**

- A**
- A. No, I completed the first semester but my grandma sadly passed away in Pakistan and I went to Pakistan to – for her funeral and I stayed there for a numerous amounts of month – of the grieving period. Sorry, can you not hear me?
- Q. Forgive – they can't hear you, Mr Majid.
- B**
- A. I apologise.
- Q. So you need to speak up.
- A. I just don't want to shout, that's the – I don't want to give the impression that I'm shouting.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Mr Majid, I can be – I – you know I'm trying to be nice ---
- C**
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- and kind.
- A. No, that's fine, bless you.
- Q. The jury can't hear you. You're wasting your time.
- A. Okay, all right.
- D**
- Q. So, okay.
- A. I apologise if I come across like I'm shouting then. Yeah, I did complete the first semester and my grandma sadly passed away in Pakistan and I did go to Pakistan to visit her, obviously attend the funeral and attend the mourning process so I didn't complete my Masters at that point.
- E**
- MISS BATTS: Which year was it when you – when you – when you returned from Pakistan?
- A. I think it was 2009.
- Q. Right, so let's pick up there, Mr Majid, when you ---
- F**
- A. Yeah.
- Q. --- when you came back from Pakistan in 2009 ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- did you start – start work somewhere?
- A. Yeah, I started work at Next, I think Next.
- G**
- Q. Right, so that's Next – Next the retailers?
- A. Yes, in Foster Square, yes.
- Q. Okay, now we know from the timeline I think that that – that employment started in August of 2009.
- A. Yeah, that's right.
- H**
- Q. So, in 2009, were you around about the age of 27, 28?

- A**
- A. Something like that, that makes sense, yes.
- Q. How many hours a week were you doing at Next?
- A. I was contracted 16 hours a week.
- Q. And what did that equate to in terms of pounds in your pocket?
- B**
- A. It was minimum wage. I think my – my wage might have been around £600 a month, something like that.
- Q. And did you become friendly with some of the other members of staff at Next?
- A. Yes, quite a lot of them, yes.
- Q. And at that time in your life when you were living in Bradford, you were working at
- C**
- Next, can you give the court the names please of the people that you considered to be your friends and people that were in your social circle?
- A. I'd say my best friend was probably [Person WWWW]. My friends that I ended up getting very close with at work was [Person BBBB], [Person VVVV] and a – a man called [Person KKKK].
- D**
- Q. A man called?
- A. [Person KKKK].
- Q. Now did you also become acquainted with Sid or Saeed Akhtar?
- A. Yes I did. I think it was after a considerable time at Next, I did come acquainted with Sid.
- E**
- Q. Right, I'm going to clarify that with you in a moment but did you know Saeed Akhtar before you started working at Next?
- A. I know of him, I didn't know him personally, no.
- Q. And how did you know of him?
- F**
- A. His mother's house, his late mother's house, was the street above my street. So my parents' house.
- Q. So before you started working at Next, did you have anything to do with him at that time?
- A. No, I mean he was obviously quite older than me so we – we didn't really, we weren't
- G**
- friends in any way. I knew who he was but I didn't know him on a social level, no.
- Q. So, at that time then, Mr Majid, who – who were you living with?
- A. My parents.
- Q. And what were the rules in your parents' house about the consumption of alcohol?
- A. I wouldn't be allowed to drink alcohol in my parents' house.
- H**
- Q. Right, and why not?

- A**
- A. Religious reasons, more likely not.
- Q. But at that time in your life, did you drink alcohol?
- A. Yes I did.
- Q. Now just concentrating please on your relationship with Saeed Akhtar, Sid ---
- B**
- A. Yes.
- Q. How long had you been working at Next for before you became friendly with Sid?
Can you help us with whether it was weeks or months?
- A. It was months. It was months. It was probably around six – six to eight months, maybe longer. I'd say it was definitely longer than six months.
- C**
- Q. And how – how did you become friends with him?
- A. He gave me a lift home on one occasion.
- Q. And – and what happened on that occasion?
- A. He offered me a – a lift home cos normally my sister would give me a lift home. He offered me a lift home. As we – as we were driving back, we stopped and got a curry. He asked me if I wanted to eat, we said, I said, "Okay." He then mentioned that Asda had some promotion on beers. He said, "Do you fancy getting some beers and coming to mine?" I thought, "Okay, fair enough."
- D**
- Q. So when you went back to Sid's house on that – on that first occasion.
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. Who else was there besides the two of you?
- A. Just me and Saeed.
- Q. And what did you do whilst you were there?
- A. Cracked open a few beers and watched some documentaries on You Tube. I – if I recall, it was a documentary on Venezuela, if I remember correctly, the first thing we watched was a documentary on Venezuela if I correct – if I can remember correctly and had a few beers, that's all.
- F**
- Q. Now moving on, please, Mr Majid, to your – your first meeting with [Person A] but before I ask you about that, just thinking about that first time ---
- G**
- A. Yeah.
- Q. --- when you went to Sid's house for curry and beers and the documentary about Venezuela.
- A. Yeah.
- H**
- Q. How many other times had you been to Sid's house between that first time and the – the time when you met [Person A]?

- A** A. A very small handful. A few occasions.
- Q. And just in terms of time, how long was it between that first time that you went to Sid's and meeting [Person A], are we talking days, are we talking weeks?
- A. No, it would have been weeks or if not months. Maybe, I, I, I'd sporadically turned
- B** up in between that time before meeting [Person A1], I must – may have come about two or three times before over a period of maybe a month or two.
- Q. Now that – that first meeting with [Person A], Mr Majid, if we can focus on that.
- A. Yes.
- Q. How did you come to be at Saeed Akhtar's house that night?
- C** A. I went out with [Person WWW]. [Person WWW]'s uncle had obviously passed away from a liver disease so he – he never drunk so he was always the sober driver.
- Q. Just – just focus on.
- A. Sorry, I apologise.
- Q. Whereabouts had you – whereabouts had you been?
- D** A. I was out in Leeds with [Person WWW].
- Q. Right, and how did you come to be at Mr Akhtar's house?
- A. We were driving back home. I think I wanted to carry on drinking, to be honest with you, and I think Saeed rang me or I rang Saeed. I wouldn't be able to 100 per cent confirm
- E** how it went but I said, "Is it all right if I come round for a few drinks?" And he said, "Yes."
- Q. So you'd been to a club in Leeds and ---
- A. Yeah.
- Q. --- what – what time roughly are we talking about?
- A. Club closing.
- F** Q. When you went round to Saeed's?
- A. Maybe two in the morning.
- Q. So, so you've told us that the – the point of going there was to carry on drinking?
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Right, when you got there, who else was there?
- G** A. When I got there on that – on that Saturday night? If I'm not recall, I think it was [Person FFF1], maybe his brother, Naveed, Saeed, [Person A1], I remember correctly.
- Q. Right, so let's just con ---
- A. I think so, no, sorry, is that the first that time – are you talking the first time I – I went there when I met [Person A1]?
- H** Q. Right, we're dealing, Mr Majid.

- A**
- A. Yes, sorry, I apologise.
- Q. For the first time when you met ---
- A. Fio ---
- Q. --- [Person A], the first time?
- B**
- A. --- oh no, on that occasion, it was only Saeed and two individuals that I don't know.
- Q. Right. And the two individuals, do – do you recognise them as anybody else, any of the other defendants in this case?
- A. No, I – I've seen them that once that night and I've never seen them again.
- Q. And when you – when you got there, what was going on?
- C**
- A. Nothing much. I think when I came in, S – Saeed had some television on, I can't remember if it was something on You Tube and they – the three of them were having some beers if I remember, recall correctly.
- Q. So when you say the three of them, who are you talking about?
- A. Saeed and the two other individuals.
- D**
- Q. Right, now, when was the – the - when was the – the first time that you realised that [Person A] was actually at the house?
- A. I didn't know she was at the house until the police knocked on the door.
- Q. Right, right. So when the police knocked on the door. So up until the police knocked on the door, had you – had you seen her, had you heard her?
- E**
- A. No.
- Q. So what happened when the police turned up?
- A. There was a conversation with Saeed but the door was closed so I couldn't hear what conversation they had exactly but there was a conversation. The police then came into the
- F**
- living room and they mentioned ---
- Q. Pause there, pause there, what was the gist of the conversation?
- A. It's around a missing person.
- Q. And what – what – what other information did you – did you ascertain about this missing person?
- G**
- A. He – he – he mentioned something around care worker or something of that nature, I'm not sure. As far as I knew that they – a girl was reported missing at this address from what I'm a – I'm aware of.
- Q. Now, did you see the two police officers?
- A. Yes I did see them very clearly.
- H**
- Q. And did you have any involvement with the police officers?

- A** A. Yes, I provided them my name and my details and had a discussion with them and I was, I – he mentioned about some girls being at the property. I was – I was a bit shocked to be honest with you because there was nobody there. There was just me, Saeed and these two other individuals. So ---
- B** Q. Right, just pause there. So why did you – why did you give the police your details?
A. Because he ask – I think he asked or I – I came forward and said, “I’ve just come from a night out, these are my details. You’re mentioning a girl but there’s only a few of us here, that makes no sense.” So I – I can’t remember exactly what my words were to him, to be honest with you, but I – I thought of – when he mentioned girls are missing, I give him my
- C** details because I thought it was the right thing to do.
Q. So when you heard part of this conversation, this dialogue about a missing person and care worker, what was going through your mind at that time?
A. I was a little bit puzzled and a bit shocked to be honest with you.
Q. So – so what happened then, just briefly, what happened?
D A. As far as I know, the police officers left the room and closed the door and then all I recall was hearing footsteps running down the stairs, after the police officers went upstairs. I think from what and the – the police officer then returned in the room and talked to Saeed but I can’t recall exactly what the conversation was and at that point, I was – I was aware that there was – I heard a girl’s voice so I knew there was a girl and I re ---
- E** Q. Right, just pause ---
A. Sorry.
Q. --- just pause there. So did you see [Person A] at all before?
A. Not.
- F** Q. At that point?
A. No, I didn’t, at that point, I didn’t see her
Q. So when was the first time that you actually saw her?
A. When she – the police officer dropped her off and returned her.
Q. And – and how long was it between her – her leaving and her coming back?
- G** A. I couldn’t recall exact – the exact time but I’d probably say about half an hour, 40 minutes, something around that nature.
Q. And how long had you been at the house, at Sid’s house, when the police actually turned up?
A. Not long. It wasn’t long at all, 15, 20 minutes ---
- H** Q. Right, well just – yes. So when [Person A] came back ---

- A**
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right, what – what did she do?
- A. I just recall, I – what was – she made a dramatic entrance cos she opened the door and it swung, the lounge door quite open, she said, “I see, I told you I was 18,” I can re – actually
- B**
- 18 or 19, I can actually recall them words. It was quite a dramatic entrance and then that’s it, she came in and I think Saeed was a bit upset with her because he said, “Why are you bringing the police to my house?” They had some kind of a conversation of that regard.
- Q. Right, just pause there. So after she’d come back, what – what did she do? Did she, what did she do?
- C**
- A. She, as soon as – I think when she – soon as she came in, she opened the door quite dramatically, it was like, “Pff, where’s my bottle of Vodka?” Is what her second words were.
- Q. Now – now what explanation did you get about who this – this person was, about who [Person A1] was?
- A. I think she told me she was [Person FFF1]’s girlfriend.
- D**
- Q. Now, just concentrating on the period of time from when [Person A] came back to the house ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- how long after she came back to the house did you stay there for?
- A. An hour, maybe two, tops. Probably would have been an hour cos it would have got to around 4am at that point and it was probably going home time.
- E**
- Q. So – so, during the time that you were at the house, what – what sort of – what sort of interaction did you have with [Person A1]?
- A. We talked. We had quite a long conversation on the – on the sofa for about half an hour I think. We just talked, it was just talk ---
- F**
- Q. Right, you’re dropping your voice, Mr Majid.
- A. Sorry, we had conversation, it was just friendly conversation. That’s all I can recall. I remember her telling me that she was [Person FFF1]’s girlfriend and we were just having conversation, it was quite funny actually if I recalled, just silly conversation.
- G**
- Q. Right, so what – so how old did you think she was at that point?
- A. I’m sure she told me 19, it may well have been 18 but I’m sure it was 19 or 18 at that point.
- Q. And what impression did you get about her personal cir – circumstances and by that I mean for example, where she was living?
- H**

- A**
- A. I had no – I had no idea. As far as I knew, she was living with her mother or something. I – I have no idea to be honest with you. I don't – I don't think I recall.
- Q. What did she say to you?
- A. Something about her living in Dewsbury but I don't – I don't know exactly what –
- B**
- what her personal circumstances were.
- Q. And did she tell you anything else about herself?
- A. I recall her tell – mentioning a child. I recall her mentioning a child, I – I wouldn't say exactly what the details were but I know she was saying her mother looking after a child or something of that nature.
- C**
- Q. So, by the time you left Saeed Akhtar's house, after that first meeting with [Person A1] ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- what did you think about her, what impression have you got about her?
- A. Nothing she was quite merry, she was having a laugh and a joke. There was nothing
- D**
- to think about. I've only met this person for like 15, 20 minutes. Only conversed with her for about 15, 20 minutes, sorry.
- Q. And – and did any – anything sexual happen between the two of you at all?
- A. No. Not at – no, not at that point, no.
- E**
- Q. Now, moving on please, Mr Majid, to the – the second meeting that you had with [Person A] when you accept that sexual intercourse took place.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Before we deal with the details of that, can we just focus on what happened between the first meeting with [Person A1] and the time when you had sex with her?
- F**
- A. Okay.
- Q. Right, so you know the period I'm talking about.
- A. Okay, yeah.
- Q. What was going on in between that first meeting and the time you had sex?
- A. Between the first meeting and the ---
- G**
- Q. Right, I haven't asked you a question yet.
- A. Oh sorry, all right, I was confused then.
- Q. Right, okay. Did you go to Saeed Akhtar's house during that time?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you see [Person A] during that time?
- H**
- A. No.

- A** Q. Did you have any other sort of contact with her?
A. No.
- Q. And how long was it between the – the first meeting and the second meeting?
A. I'd say it was a week or maybe two at the maximum.
- B** Q. Now, the second time that you met up with [Person A1], was – was that at Mr Akhtar's house?
A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. Right, and just very briefly, how – how did you come to be there on that night, on that second occasion?
- C** A. We were out in town, quite a few of us with work afterwards and ---
- Q. Right and when you say we, can you just give us the names of the group that you were out with?
- A. If I can recall correctly, it was me, [Person DDDD], [Person G1], [Person BBBB], [Person CCCC] and [Person XXXX]. If I can remember, that's a – that's – that's the best of my knowledge.
- D** Q. And so how did you end up back at Mr Akhtar's house?
A. I can remember wanting to carry on drinking, me, [Person BBBB] – I think [Person DDDD] and [Person G1] got a taxi after we got some food and me, [Person BBBB] and [Person CCCC] wanted to carry on drinking and [Person XXXX] was – I think [Person XXXX]'s saying he had a early start and went – walked home cos he lived in – close by. We wanted to carry on drinking and I think [Person BBBB] said, well, we can't go back to hers because her parents have a early start and I think very, I think I may have called Saeed and said, "Can I come round to yours, can me, [Person BBBB] and [Person CCCC] come round to yours?" Bear in mind, he worked with all three of us.
- E** Q. So what – what time would that have been roughly?
A. 2am.
- Q. So, did you go back to Mr Akhtar's house?
A. Yes, we got a taxi and – and went back. I – I think I made a stop in the taxi at an off
- F** licence.
- Q. And so who actually went there, it was yourself and who else?
A. Me, [Person BBBB] and [Person CCCC].
- Q. Okay, now, when – when you've got to Mr – Mr Akhtar's house ---
A. Yes.
- G** Q. Yeah, who – who was there?
H

- A** A. When I came – when we came into the living room there was [Person A1], that’s the only girl I recognised. There was two other girls, never seen ‘em before, never seen ‘em again. There was a gentleman I’ve never seen before after that day and Saeed.
- Q. So, in – in total how many people were already there when you got there?
- B** A. Five, there may have been more cos I remember hearing voices in the kitchen but I – I never went into the kitchen.
- Q. And what – what were these people doing?
- A. Nothing, they were drinking. There was music on at that point – on that night. The girls were dancing if I recall when the – we came in. They were drinking and dancing if I recall.
- C** Q. Now, had you been drinking alcohol that night?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Right and when you got to Mr Akhtar’s house, and were you affected by that?
- D** A. No, I was merry, I was sort – I wasn’t as – as – I was just slightly tipsy I’d say, maybe. I was just merry. I wasn’t really in a bad state at all.
- Q. And – and did you have anything further to drink whilst you were there?
- A. Yes, I’d bought a bottle of brandy.
- Q. Now can you – can you just describe how events unfolded once you were there, dealing with these issues, did – did [Person BBBB] stay at the party?
- E** A. No, not very long, no.
- Q. Right, and why was that?
- A. I think the two other girls that were there, that were friends with [Person A1], said summat quite aggressive to her, if I recalled. She got upset very quickly. I think one of the girls said something to her.
- F** Q. And did you stay?
- A. Initially, me, [Person CCCC] and [Person BBBB] walked out to the front door while we ordered a taxi. I – I can’t recall if I called a taxi or [Person BBBB] called a taxi but she was upset so we stood outside waiting for the taxi and we all intended to leave at that point.
- G** Q. Right, so did you stay?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Or did you leave?
- A. Yes, what, when, after [Person BBBB] or prior?
- H** Q. Well, after [Person BBBB] had made the decision to go and you called a taxi, did – did you stay or did you leave?

- A** A. No, I – I stayed at the house after [Person CCCC] – [Person BBBB] left.
- Q. Right and why did you stay at the house?
- A. Because [Person CCCC] was persistent that we’d just got here and we were to carry on drinking.
- B** Q. Now, after [Person BBBB] had left, whereabouts in the house were you and [Person CCCC]?
- A. Me and [Person CCCC] went upstairs to the ---
- Q. Why did you go upstairs?
- A. Because when – when the altercation happened with [Person BBBB], I think [Person CCCC] said something, the guy that was with the two girls said something to [Person CCCC] so and Saeed defended them and said, “Stop. Don’t say anything to my friends. They’ve come from work. They’re my work colleagues.” And then we just walked out. We literally all stood on the doorstep and called the taxi.
- C** Q. So ---
- D** A. So why we went upstairs is because we – I wasn’t comfortable with me or [Person CCCC] being in that room with people who are aggressive.
- Q. So which room did you go to?
- A. There was a spare bedroom if I recall at Saeed’s house.
- E** Q. And what did you do once you were upstairs in that bedroom with [Person CCCC]?
- A. Me and him sat on the bed, we laughed and joked and [Person EE1]d on drinking.
- Q. And when did you next see [Person A1]?
- A. At some point, at – maybe an hour or so later, she walked into the room.
- Q. And – and can you describe what her demeanour was like at that point?
- F** A. She was just merry, slightly tipsy, merry, laughing and joking. We had good banter. We all got, she got along with [Person CCCC] pretty well as well, I remember. We all just had a laugh and a joke in the house, in the room.
- Q. And did there become a point when [Person CCCC] left?
- A. Yeah, that wasn’t until the early hours of the morning.
- G** Q. When you say early hours, that can mean different things to different people. What do you class as early hours?
- A. If I recall, [Person CCCC] lived around [REDACTED] was quite a substantial distance and he said he’s not getting a taxi so he said, “I’ll wait for the buses to start.” So it must have been about six or seven in the morning.
- H** Q. So what happened when [Person CCCC] left?

- A** A. I seen [Person CCCC] out. I arrived back up the stairs. Me and [Person A1] had been flirting with each other prior to that. When I came into the room, [Person A1] had her top off and we both just started kissing and fondling and obviously sex then occurred after that.
- Q. So, can you just describe exactly what happened please when you had ---
- B** A. Ex – exactly what happened.
- Q. Yes.
- A. I walked into the room. [Person A1] – [Person A1] removed my t-shirt. She already was in a red bra or a pink bra if I recall and we started kissing and fondling. She took off my trousers. My trousers dropped to – to my knees. I – I think she pushed me down onto the
- C** bed. I remember her removing her tights, pulling them own and getting on top of me and we had sex.
- Q. Right, so what – what position were you in when you had sex with [Person A1]?
- A. I was kind of propped up, propped, sat down on the bed and she was on top.
- Q. And did you ejaculate?
- D** A. Yes I did.
- Q. Right, whereabouts?
- A. I – before I ejaculated, I remember turning her over and putting her onto the side and – and withdrawing and unfortunately I ejaculated on her stomach and she just went, “Thanks, Yas, nice.” And she went to the kitch – bath – sorry, bathroom, and cleaned up after that.
- E** Q. And what happened after you’d had sex?
- A. Nothing, we lied in bed and I remember her putting her arm around me, we lied in bed till the – till about the afternoon or early morning, a few hours later. I got up and got a taxi. Asked her how she was getting home. She said she was staying there. I got a taxi and went
- F** home.
- Q. Now, after you’d had sex with [Person A1], did you have any other contact with her?
- A. Not until the following week.
- Q. Right, so after you’d had sex, did you – did you have any – any contact by - by phone or text message?
- G** A. No, the following week, I got a text message from [Person A1], yes.
- Q. So how long was it, you had sex, and how long was it between then and you having contact with her?
- A. I think it was exactly a week. I think it was seven days cos I’m sure it was at the pub that she first text me.
- H** Q. Right, did you have her number?

- A**
- A. No.
- Q. So what was the – the first contact that she had with you after you’d had sex with her?
- A. I think she just text me asking me where I was.
- Q. Did – did you know, I don’t want you to guess, but did you know how she’d got your
- B**
- number?
- A. No.
- Q. And – and whereabouts were you when this happened?
- A. I was in a pub in Eccleshill.
- Q. Who were you with?
- C**
- A. Just work friends. I think every Thursday we went for drinks so it would have been all my work friends.
- Q. And – and – and what happened then?
- A. She arrived. She asked where I was. I told her what pub I was and she – she turned up.
- D**
- Q. Were you expecting her to turn up?
- A. Not really, no, to be honest.
- Q. Why not?
- A. Just – I didn’t expect her to turn up. She just asked me where I was and I said, “This is where I was,” and suddenly she arrived.
- E**
- Q. And – and what happened on that occasion?
- A. Nothing. To be honest, I – I don’t think I had much interaction with her. I remember her coming with a friend but I couldn’t recall who her friend was. I remember see – they were sort of getting served at the bar, coming and sitting with us for a while and then playing
- F**
- pool. There wasn’t much interaction between just me and her if I recall.
- Q. Now after that occasion when you saw her in Eccleshill, did – did you see her again after that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay, so in – in between that time in Eccleshill in and the next occasion, did you have
- G**
- any contact, text messages, phone calls?
- A. Not that I remember. Not that I recall text – she text me every now and again but it was just pleasantries, it was noth – there was no substantial conversation over text messages or phone calls, no.
- Q. And how many times did you see her, sorry, just – if I can go back. Dealing with the
- H**
- the next time that you saw her, where – what were the circumstances of that, just briefly?

- A** A. I'm – I can't say for 100 per cent certain if I seen her before seeing her at that night out but I did see her at a night out but I'm not 100 per cent certain if I seen her before that as well. Summat tells me I did but I – under oath, I don't want to say that I 100 per cent seen her, no, but I remember seeing her after a night out.
- B** Q. Right, so the night out, whereabouts was that?
A. It was on the strip near the [REDACTED]. I was – I was at [REDACTED], I think, if I recall her, but I remember seeing her around the – the back of [REDACTED] There was a new club that had opened.
- Q. Did you take her there?
- C** A. No.
Q. So how many times in – in total, including – including the – the two meetings that you had with her at Sid's, how many times in total do you think you – you've seen [Person A] face to face?
- A. Eight to 10 times maybe. In total of my entire, yeah, eight to 10 times.
- D** Q. Now, after you'd had sex with [Person A], did you continue to go to Sid's on occasions?
A. Yes, on occasions, yes.
Q. And was [Person A] there?
A. Yes, on occasions.
- E** Q. Now, [Person A] has – has said that – that you asked her out, that you – you – you asked her to be your girlfriend.
A. No, I did not.
Q. Right, well, what do you say about that, Mr Majid?
- F** A. I did not. I, I've never asked her out. I can't remem – I don't know why she would say I would do that.
Q. (Inaudible).
A. Sorry, I've never asked her out, no.
Q. Right, what – what impression did she give you about how she felt about you?
- G** A. She did tell me she liked me and she said she wanted to have a relationship and unfortunately I was a little bit rude to her at that time and I ---
Q. Right, when – just pause there. When was this, Mr Majid?
A. I can't recall if that was before we went into the club or that was the Saturday before but I was slightly little bit angry with her.
- H** Q. Right, is this before or after sex?

- A**
- A. After sex.
- Q. Now, I'm sorry, I interrupted you. You said you were rude. How were you rude to her?
- A. I think she – I think I told her I wasn't good enough for her but I apologised for that later.
- B**
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: She wasn't good enough for you?
- A. So sorry, no, sorry. She wasn't good enough for me, sorry, I apologise.
- Q. Well, the jury will decide if it's the right answer.
- A. That's right, I apologise.
- C**
- MISS BATTS: Right, just asking, I've been asked to clarify, Mr Majid.
- A. Yes.
- Q. I asked the question, was this before or after sex and what was your answer to that?
- A. That was after sex.
- Q. Right, and did you say something else?
- D**
- A. Not on the same night but that was after sex.
- Q. Right and – and which occasion was it?
- A. I can't recall if it was exactly, it was before we went into the club or it was a Saturday that I met her before that but it was – it was one of the two occasions. I couldn't say for 100 per cent certain but I recall that ask – saying that she wanted to be my girlfriend and I said, "I'm sorry."
- E**
- Q. Now, Mr Majid, what – what [Person A] has said and – and what you accept is that you only had sexual intercourse with [Person A1] on this one occasion.
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- F**
- Q. Why didn't you have sex with her again?
- A. Because I wasn't interested in having sex again.
- Q. Right, sorry?
- A. I wasn't interested in having sex again.
- Q. Right, well why weren't you interested in having sex with her again?
- G**
- A. Because that was a spur of the moment sort of, on the night thing. It was a casual sex. It was just – it just happened. I had no – I had no intentions to have any kind of other sexual relationship with her after that night.
- Q. And did there come a point, Mr Majid, when you stopped working at Next?
- A. Yes, I think that was in 2011.
- H**

- A** Q. Right, I think it's on the timeline, it was March of 2011, and what did you do with yourself after you finished working at Next?
- A. I think it was, I – I left Next voluntarily because I – I just sort of think, I sort of got stuck there. So I decided to apply for jobs further afield, more related to my degree and I
- B** went to work for the [REDACTED] in London.
- Q. And did you have any further contact with Mr Akhtar, after you've finished working at Next?
- A. No, I – I think we had a fallout at that point.
- Q. Did you have any other contact with him?
- C** A. No.
- Q. And finally, this please, Mr Majid, that we know that you were interviewed in respect of these allegations for the first time on the 1st of November of 2016 and you went, no comment.
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- D** Q. Yes, can you explain your reasons for doing that please?
- A. I had never been arrested before and never been in trouble and I requested the help of a solicitor. He advised me to go no comment. I took his advice the same way I'd take a doctor's. I mean, that was the advice he told me to take so I was gonna listen to him cos it was a serious accusation and I'd never ---
- E** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I think to be fair, Miss Batts, your client went on to speak at great length, all right.
- MISS BATTS: Yes, thank you.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Now, this is a slightly different situation.
- F** MISS BATTS: Thank you very much, your Honour. Thank you, Mr Majid, if you wait there.
- A. Could I have – could I have some water please, is that okay? Thank you.
- UNIDENTIFIED COUNSEL: No questions, thank you.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you very much. Anybody at all? Miss Beattie, thank
- G** you.
- Cross-examined by MISS BEATTIE
- Q. Thank you. Mr Majid, one of the things that you've told us about is your level of educational development.
- A. So ---
- H** Q. Which is impressive.

- A**
- A. Thank you.
- Q. You have a degree in economics. You were studying for a Master's Degree and that was only interrupted owing to unfortunate family circumstances.
- A. That's correct, yes.
- B**
- Q. You were born in 1981.
- A. That's correct.
- Q. So you'll be some 12 years older than [Person A] and so far as Saeed Akhtar was concerned, he was almost 20 years older than you.
- A. That'd be correct, yes.
- C**
- Q. You didn't actually have a great deal in common with Saeed Akhtar, did you?
- A. Well, we never grew up together, we were never friends as children but no, I mean ---
- Q. You were older – he was older than you were.
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- D**
- Q. You were highly educated.
- A. Yes.
- Q. He wasn't in your friendship group when you went out for an evening.
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Did you start drinking when you were 18 or thereabouts?
- A. Yeah, there or thereabouts.
- E**
- Q. At university?
- A. Yes, at university more likely than not, yeah.
- Q. And when you came back to Bradford and made friends in Bradford. Again, were they all of a similar age to yourself?
- F**
- A. Yeah, that'd be – that'd be fair point, yes.
- Q. And in terms of those friends, you went out drinking with them as well?
- A. Yeah, that's correct.
- Q. And so if you were going out for an evening with friends, you might not have been able to drink at your own home ---
- G**
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- but there must have been occasions when you went back to their homes?
- A. Plenty of occasions, yes, that's correct.
- Q. So there wasn't really any need for you to go back to Sid's if you wanted to drink for the evening was there?
- H**

- A**
- A. It – it depends if that was – like I said if – if [Person WWW] was going home and he was dropping me off, I would go to Saeed’s.
- Q. Right.
- A. If I was out with another group of friends who were gonna go back to theirs to carry on drinking, I would go back to theirs to carry on drinking, I wouldn’t go to Saeed’s.
- B**
- Q. But you see, one of the issues between us is how often you went to Sid’s ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. There was no real reason for you to go to Sid’s regularly was there?
- A. And I never attended regularly.
- C**
- Q. Well, that’s the issue between us, Mr Majid.
- A. Yes, that’s right.
- Q. Isn’t it?
- A. Well, I can safely say that I never attended regularly.
- Q. Because if you were attending regularly, really again, what was so special about Sid apart from drugs and girls?
- D**
- A. I don’t know why you would mention drugs or girls.
- Q. Well, they were both present weren’t they?
- A. Not that I recalled, drugs.
- Q. And available.
- E**
- A. No, not that I recall.
- Q. So in your time going to Sid’s, you didn’t see anyone take any class A drugs?
- A. I didn’t see anyone in the living room. I only ever came and ever sat in the living room or went upstairs to the bathroom. I never seen anybody take any drugs.
- F**
- Q. And so far as your relationship with Sid is concerned, as I understand it, what you say is that as soon as you left Bradford, effectively, you didn’t have any more contact with him.
- A. It was prior to that, I think, it was when – when he – when he left work.
- Q. Okay, I don’t want to go into the details but he had a dispute with his employer didn’t he?
- G**
- A. Yes, that’s correct.
- Q. And is it right that you actually assisted him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. With that dispute?
- A. Yes, I assisted quite a few people at Next with their disciplinaries.
- H**
- Q. But you assisted him?

- A**
- A. Yes I did, that's correct.
- Q. Because he was, as far as you were concerned, a friend?
- A. Yeah, I – I think I went to [Person XXXX]'s also. I went to someone else's I – I recall.
- B**
- Q. I'd just like to ask you about your impression of [Person A1].
- A. Yeah.
- Q. You see, we've heard from her, that she was introduced to cocaine at Sid's house and rapidly became addicted to it.
- A. I – I met her when she was very soon – when she arrived very soon to that house. She
- C**
- was still going out with [Person FFF1] when I met her so that would have been in the first few weeks.
- Q. Well, we'll come back onto [Person FFF1] because [Person FFF1] was the first in the line who didn't sleep with her.
- A. Okay, that's fine. That's fine.
- D**
- Q. And you were the second ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- who did.
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. You were the start of it as she describes it.
- E**
- A. That was correct.
- Q. So in the time that you were at Sid's, you never saw her take cocaine?
- A. I – I hardly visited Sid's.
- Q. At the time ---
- F**
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- listen to the question.
- A. Okay, that's absolutely fine.
- Q. And you never had any impression that she was taking cocaine.
- A. Not that I was aware of, no.
- G**
- Q. And what about drink?
- A. I know she was drinking, yes, I never seen no drugs. I wouldn't have been comfortable around – if there was drugs around there to be honest.
- Q. You wouldn't have been comfortable if there'd been drugs?
- A. No, I wouldn't have, no.
- H**
- Q. You see one of the things that she describes is how you would bring drugs ---

- A**
- A. No.
- Q. --- you were one of the people who would.
- A. I don't know why she would say that.
- Q. Well she's seeing that because it's true. Why on earth were you hanging around with
- B**
- a 40 year old chap in a house you didn't really like?
- A. He was a work – he was a ---
- Q. Unless there was more than just a few drinks on offer?
- A. He was a work colleague and I went back to his every time I wanted a drink. It was very irregular. There was only a few visits.
- C**
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: What's [Person A1]'s evidence, Miss Beattie that ---
- A. He was there right at the beginning, regular drugs.
- Q. What about drugs?
- MS BEATTIE: That, yes, it was already put to the witness that there were a number of
- D**
- people. Sometimes it would be Sid, Nav, Yasar and [Person Q]. Sometimes Pav would bring it. Sometimes [Person AAA1] and sometimes Yasar.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right, well you know what the accusation is.
- A. Yeah, I know and I totally did.
- MISS BEATTIE: One of the things I'd like to ask you about is this. Is that you've told the
- E**
- jury that you have a very clear memory that she said she was 18 or 19.
- A. Yes, I recall that.
- Q. That's what she said when she came back having been spoken to police.
- A. Yes, I recall that.
- Q. Okay, I'd like you if you would to look at your second interview.
- F**
- A. I – is it in here?
- Q. Yes it is and if you just take a moment ---
- A. That's fine.
- Q. --- we're looking behind divider five.
- A. That's fine. Divider five?
- G**
- Q. Divider five.
- A. Have I got ---
- Q. Turn to the back of divider – oh, I beg your pardon. Do beg your pardon, divider seven.
- A. I was gonna say, that's not my name.
- H**
- Q. Back to you, Sir.

- A** A. Yeah, thank you.
- Q. Majid, and if you turn to the back where your interviews are, your first interview was – a no comment interview.
- A. Yeah.
- B** Q. And your second interview was, you gave an extensive ---
- A. Yeah.
- Q. --- account. And I'd like you if you would to turn to the bottom of page eight. Do you have that?
- A. Bottom of page eight, yes.
- C** Q. Yes, it – the paragraph starts, “When I first arrived at Saeed’s...”
- A. Yes.
- Q. “...he opened the door to me...”
- A. Yeah.
- Q. “...shook hands and then 10, 15 minutes knock at the door, I was just like wow and I – I thought I did the right moral thing.”
- D** A. Yeah.
- Q. “They asked and I said, “Look, here’s my details,”” and you’re talking about the police.
- A. I’m talking about the police there, yes, that’s correct.
- E** Q. “Because all three, them three just went silent.”
- A. That’s correct.
- Q. Who’s them three?
- A. I’m assuming I mean Saeed Akhtar and the two other individuals but Saeed Akhtar did have a conversation at the door but I’m talking about the – in the – the time when she’s entered the door.
- F** Q. Yeah, I’m asking – I’m just asking who these three are, okay.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: All right, turn to the jury please.
- A. Sorry, I apologise.
- G** Q. Not at all, don’t apologise. Not a chat between you and Miss Beattie, however fascinating. Can the jury hear what you’re saying.
- A. Okay, right. In – in that interview, I assumed the three are Saeed Akhtar and the two individuals that I never met.
- Q. All right. “And I told them, and I stayed there for maybe a few hours drinking very
- H** lightly, and I didn’t buy a big bottle.”

- A**
- A. Yeah.
- Q. “And that’s when she came back and she was like…” Then the start of page nine, “And he brought her back and he just went, “Lads, it’s all right, she’s over 16.””
- A. Yeah.
- B**
- Q. “Enjoy your night.”
- A. That’s correct.
- Q. Over 16.
- A. Yes, that’s correct.
- Q. It was over 18, over 16?
- C**
- A. That’s correct.
- Q. And just look down if you will because you then carry on to talk about the officer.
- A. Yes that’s correct.
- Q. And the first reply will be 30 minutes, 50.
- A. Yeah.
- D**
- Q. “He came in, the police officer. They all just went silent. Nobody spoke and I was shocked thinking, “Who’s this?” And he goes, “Oh, do you know she’s wanted from a care home?”
- A. Or something like that.
- E**
- Q. Your first words, Mr Majid, were a care home.
- A. Yes, that’s correct, yeah.
- Q. That was your first recollection.
- A. That’s correct.
- Q. Not a care worker, a care home.
- F**
- A. That – that’s correct.
- Q. This was said in front of everyone, including Saeed Akhtar.
- A. Yes, that’s correct. As I – was after ---
- Q. “When I heard that, that automatically triggered the bells for me.”
- A. That’s correct.
- G**
- Q. What bells were being triggered, Mr Majid?
- A. Because she’s mentioned a missing person and a care home. Obviously someone would be concerned.
- Q. Obviously someone would be concerned, a missing person and a care home.
- A. Yes that’s – yes, they – they were the words coming from the officer, yes.
- H**

- A** Q. “They had shut the door...” and then you talk about that, “...and they brought her back...” and then in fact if you look to the end of that, “They’ve shut the door, I was weirded out by it.”
- A. Yes, I ---
- B** Q. I very clearly said to him, “Look, if there’s any issue with somebody being underage, well there’s a girl here that didn’t want to be (inaudible) I was weirded out. When they mentioned care home...”
- A. Yes.
- C** Q. “Not all something, when they mentioned care home I was just a bit freaked out by her.”
- A. That’s absolutely correct, there’s nothing – nothing incorrect about that.
- Q. “And the age of 16.”
- A. Is that what it says? I said, “Do not bring her back if she’s under 16,” I think if that’s, if you go back to my early statement, that’s what I said.
- D** Q. You said, “Do not bring her back, don’t bring her back (inaudible) 16.”
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Can’t hear, jury can’t hear.
- MS BEATTIE: Sorry.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: My apologies to them, I should have intervened. Keep your voice up please.
- E** A. Thank you.
- MS BEATTIE: So ---
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: So where we, “Weirded out, freaked out, I wanted to know...”
- MS BEATTIE: You were there when they talked about the care home.
- F** A. Yes.
- MS BEATTIE: Yes.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: And your response...
- A. Was, “Do not bring her back if she’s under 16 or do not bring her back if she – she doesn’t want to come here or she’s not entitled to be here.” I think that’s pretty much what I
- G** said, remember saying to the police officer.
- MS BEATTIE: That’s what you were saying. What was Sid saying at this point?
- A. Sid had a conversation with the officers at the door but I don’t know what their conversation was because the door was closed.
- H** Q. Okay, and then let’s look down because you’ve told the jury that she came back and said she was 18, 19.

- A**
- A. Yes that's correct.
- Q. What you told the police was this, "The police off – officer dropped her off and he was like, "Enjoy your night, lads, it's fine, she's over age and the care home doesn't want her." And she came in and she was just like hysterical, going, "I told you I was over age.""
- B**
- A. Yes, I think she – she – I remember her coming in.
- Q. Why do you not say to the police what you're saying now which is she was saying she was 18, 19?
- A. You've got to recall as well, when this interview hap – happened, it was summer. I had voluntarily came into the police station and spent – was shocked to be arrested. Not only
- C**
- that, I'd spent numerous hours in a hot cell before making that interview and had to recall all this information. It was – it was quite pressurised to be honest with you.
- Q. But you are very clear.
- A. I was very clear. I still am clear.
- Q. You were very clear about the age of 16, both with the police.
- D**
- A. Yes, and I still am clear.
- Q. And both in relation to [Person A].
- A. That is exactly my words what I've said to you, the police officer. I said to the police officer, very clearly, "Do not bring her back if she's underage, she doesn't want to be here or there's a reason why she shouldn't be here."
- E**
- Q. We'll move on because one of the things I am suggesting to you is that everybody in that house knew exactly how old this girl was and the fact that she was linked to a care home.
- A. Why would the police drop her off then, how, how ---
- Q. Why did – Mr Majid?
- F**
- A. I'm sorry, I don't want to answer a question with a question but I mean it's a bit illogical if the police did drop her off at that point ---
- Q. Mr Majid, just listen to the question. You very clearly understood that the police were talking about her and a care home.
- A. That's correct.
- G**
- Q. Right. You very clearly understood that they were not talking about an 18 year old girl.
- A. No, I didn't know that at that point.
- Q. Well, how many 18 year old girls do you think, given you're an educated man, are in care?
- H**

- A** A. I didn't know that at that point. They took her away and then they brought her back and he said everything was fine. Why would I be under any illusion that there was anything the matter?
- Q. Anything the matter?
- B** A. Yes.
- Q. But you've told us that you were shocked.
- A. I was shocked by what he said and I said, "Do not return her if she's underage, if she doesn't want to be here or if there's an issue with her being here."
- Q. But what about the care home didn't want her, what did you feel about that? What
- C** did you think about someone ---
- A. I never even considered that.
- Q. --- who was in a care home coming back and saying, "Where's the bottle of vodka?"
- A. I can't recall making that comment, to be honest. I can't recall that.
- Q. Well you've told me, you've just said in evidence that she came back and said,
- D** "Where's my bottle of vodka?"
- A. Yes, I remember saying bottle of vodka. I'm saying the care home not wanting her.
- Q. Well, that's we've just read, have a look at it again.
- A. I can't recall that, to be honest.
- Q. It's in your interview.
- E** A. And what, what page?
- Q. You've just read it.
- A. What page?
- Q. "The care home don't want her."
- F** A. What page is that?
- Q. (Inaudible) let's have a look. "They brought her back," yes.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Yes, look at the bottom of page nine again please.
- A. Said her care home doesn't want – doesn't want her, yes.
- G** Q. Bottom of the page.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Just read it out, Miss Beattie, read it ---
- A. Yeah that's fine, it says, "It's fine, she's over age and the care home doesn't want her." I accept that, yes, that's correct.
- MS BEATTIE: Yes, "The care home doesn't want her."
- H** A. Yes, that's fine.

- A**
- Q. And you've spoken to the police about your moral compass.
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. About a girl in a care home, coming into ---
- A. When – yes.
- B**
- Q. --- Sid's house, demanding a bottle of vodka.
- A. When she – when she came ---
- Q. Did you have no concerns at all about that?
- A. When she came in, she said that this was a mistake and that her mother had reported her missing and there wasn't an issue with a care home.
- C**
- Q. An issue with a care home?
- A. Yes, she said it was a mistake and it was her mother who reported her missing.
- Q. And Sid heard all this did he?
- A. As far as I'm aware, Sid – Saeed was in the room at that point, yes.
- Q. In terms of her and in terms of her character.
- D**
- A. Yes.
- Q. You said you didn't meet her very often.
- A. Yeah, that – that meeting didn't last very long before I went home, yes, that's correct.
- Q. You see, she describes you – she makes an assessment of your character. She said you were not the same as her.
- E**
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. And that's correct isn't it?
- A. If she states that, yes, that's correct.
- Q. But would you say that as well?
- F**
- A. Maybe, yeah, to be honest.
- Q. Because one of the things she makes a comment about is that she feels, her assessment at the time that as well as her being pressured into having sex with you, that you were being pressured to some degree by them.
- A. Yeah, I think – I don't agree with that all. I'm – I had – we both acknowledged that it was sex after the second of meeting each other. How would – although there was a timescale to put pressure on each other.
- G**
- Q. It wasn't the second time was it?
- A. It was the second time. We both accepted that it was the second time we had met each other.
- H**

- A** Q. Mr Majid, this was not the second time you had met her. You were a regular at Sid's house with drink and with cocaine.
- A. No, I'd strongly disagree with that statement.
- Q. And when she wouldn't sleep with [Person FFF1] ---
- B** A. She chose to go sleep with ---
- Q. You asked her out.
- A. That's incorrect, she chose not to sleep with [Person FFF1], she had concerns ---
- Q. Were people calling you gay in front of her?
- A. No, that's incorrect.
- C** Q. Never?
- A. Never, not to my knowledge.
- Q. Were people saying that she should be sleeping with you, given all the drink and free cocaine?
- A. That was – that was never even ever discussed.
- D** Q. Never?
- A. Never. We hadn't kissed anywhere before the sex occurred in that room so why would anybody then be under that impression?
- Q. See, I want to ask you something about how you describe the sex.
- A. Okay.
- E** Q. You say in your police interview that, in effect, she had said she wanted to get jiggy.
- A. Yes, that's correct cos it wouldn't have been a term I would have used.
- Q. This is front of [Person CCCC]?
- A. Yes, that's correct, in front of [Person CCCC].
- F** Q. There's no preamble.
- A. No.
- Q. And one of the things that you say, look at page 17, that same interview.
- A. That's fine.
- Q. Do you have that interview?
- G** A. That's fine, yes.
- Q. "I walked in she was topless. I've come in. She's come to took my top – top off, we started kissing." And then you were asked about halfway down the question that you didn't wear any protection.
- A. That's correct, I didn't wear any protection.
- H** Q. And you said, "No, because she'd just jumped on me."

- A**
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. "If I had the choice I would have."
- A. Yes, that's normally a choice I would make.
- Q. You were what in 2009, 27, 28?
- B**
- A. Something like that, yes. 2009, sorry, it wasn't in 2009, so it was – I hadn't even started, I'd just started Next ---
- Q. 2010 then, let's take that as a date.
- A. Right, yes, it was – it was around 2010, yes.
- Q. So you were what, 29?
- C**
- A. 28, 29 maybe, something like that, yes.
- Q. And this girl 12 years younger than you.
- A. Well, she told me she was – she'd told me she was 18, so 18, 19.
- Q. Here was a girl, a teenager, and you didn't have the choice. Can you explain how that can possibly be the case ---
- D**
- A. Because it ---
- Q. When you're a mature man and she's a teenager?
- A. --- it happened very quickly. It was a very spur of the moment thing. She undid my pants, dropped 'em, fondled, this is how it happened. It just happened at the very spur of the moment. It's just the way it occurred.
- E**
- Q. And you didn't have a choice?
- A. I didn't stop at that point and say, "Sorry..."
- Q. Because it was the way it was put to [Person A1] was in effect that you really didn't have a choice, she was all over you.
- F**
- A. Yeah, to be honest with you, she was.
- Q. She was all over you?
- A. I mean, she was meant to be going out with [Person FFF1] but she was all over me, yes.
- Q. And so you hadn't, she'd been – she wouldn't have sex with [Person FFF1].
- G**
- A. Well, that was her choice.
- Q. Let's have a look at what you actually said about this evening. Now one of the issues and you know what the area of disagreement is, that when you had sex with her, it wasn't the night that you took [Person BBBB] and [Person CCCC], okay.
- A. No, I know why she'd say that, no, cos she's – it's very clear.
- H**

- A** Q. But I want – I want to ask you about your friend [Person BBBB] and your friend, [Person CCCC].
- A. Yes.
- Q. First of all, are either of them at court or present at court?
- B** A. What now? No.
- Q. Are either of them due to attend court?
- A. Not that I'm aware of, no.
- Q. One of the things you've said about this hap – about the facts and one of the things you've said in your evidence was about [Person BBBB]'s attitude to what was going on.
- C** A. Yeah, as I said, I think it were one of [Person A1]'s friends that said summat to her that offended her and she cried.
- Q. She cried?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You see, we looked at page – if we look at page 11 of your interview, do you have that?
- D** A. Yes.
- Q. And you said, you were talking about going to this house, it's in the middle of the page 11. What were – where it starts, I'm so sorry, to put it in context. If you look at 38 minutes, 35.
- E** A. Yes.
- Q. “And what were [Person CCCC] and [Person BBBB] doing at the?” You've said, “Nothing. We came in and literally [Person BBBB] said she didn't really like it.”
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- F** Q. “Cos when we came in there was a few other girls there and she didn't like it. She got a taxi and I didn't want [Person CCCC] to be in that environment.”
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. So I said to [Person CCCC], “Let's just go upstairs. We went upstairs to that bedroom and had a few drinks and that's when [Person A1] moved in.”
- G** A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. And then you were asked this, “When you say you didn't like it in that environment, what do you mean?” And you said, “Without being rude, it was...” The officer said, “Just be frank.” And you said, “Be frank, they were quite – the girls and the guys, they were quite chavvy.”
- H** A. Yes.

- A**
- Q. “And I know that’s not what we’re like.”
- A. That’s right.
- Q. “So I didn’t, I just didn’t want anybody to say anything to [Person CCCC] that’s not nice if I – if he’d came with me so we went upstairs.”
- B**
- A. Yes, that’s correct.
- Q. You said what was wrong with the environment was not that people were having altercations.
- A. No, that’s – that’s what ---
- Q. But that the people were there were chavvy.
- C**
- A. Right.
- Q. And you weren’t.
- A. That explains why [Person BBBB] got upset. There was an altercation which is why [Person BBBB] got upset and then we went upstairs, me and [Person CCCC], cos [Person CCCC] wanted to stay. He said, “We’ve come all this way, we might as well carry on and have a drink.”
- D**
- Q. But you see, Mr Majid, how is that true? Because one of the things you do, if there was an altercation, if there was people there being unpleasant, making [Person BBBB] cry.
- A. Yes.
- E**
- Q. Even if your friend [Person CCCC] for some reason wanted to stay in this environment that even you didn’t like, why didn’t you just say, “Let’s go”?
- A. All three of when we were outside waiting for the taxi, were gonna leave. We had made a decision and if I look back at it now, I would have left with [Person BBBB]. [Person CCCC] is the one who said, “We’ve just got here, we’ve just spent money in a taxi and we’ve bought drinks. Let’s just carry on drinking.” You’ve got to remember, also Saeed had ---
- F**
- Q. Did you not ---
- A. --- had – had defended [Person CCCC] and [Person BBBB] because he worked with them so he felt a bit more comfortable but not, I wasn’t comfortable with it.
- Q. How old is your sister?
- G**
- A. She’s the eldest, she’s quite old. I’d probably say about 45, 46.
- Q. All right. Any members of your family ever come to go to Sid’s house?
- A. Never, no.
- Q. Is the reality this, that Sid’s house was just a party house?
- A. No, because the first time I went there, we watched documentaries and had some
- H**
- beers. That’s not what I recall as a party house. Sometimes I would go after a night out and

- A** Sid would even, there'd only be Sid there. Sometimes I'd go, there'd be a few of his friends.
It's not a party.
- Q. Not a party.
- A. That I would say. There has been parties but I wouldn't say that – I wouldn't describe
- B** it as that.
- Q. But when you take a respectable friend like [Person BBBB] ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. --- or like [Person CCCC], you're concerned about how – the people that are actually attending Sid's house.
- C** A. That was, yeah, they were the two friends that with [Person A1] – the two friends that are with [Person A1] and the Asian guy that are with – what, that were friends with [Person A1], yeah, they were quite chavvy. They were quite rude.
- Q. And then for no reason she appears to drag you upstairs.
- A. She never dragged me upstairs.
- D** Q. And had sex with you.
- A. She never dragged me upstairs. She came ---
- Q. I thought she took you upstairs.
- A. She came upstairs.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Sorry, it's a – a florid term ---
- E** MS BEATTIE: You're right, yes.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: --- about Miss Beattie.
- MS BEATTIE: Yes.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: But not quite accurate.
- F** MS BEATTIE: I want to ask you about your conversation with Sid about [Person A1].
- A. On what occasion?
- Q. Well, did you ever say to Sid, "What's this lass from a care home doing in your house?"
- A. I had no idea about the care home. Like I said, when she came the first time when the
- G** police had dropped her off, she'd said it was her mother that had reported her missing and there wasn't an issue with the care home, the police were mistaken. I was under the assumption that the police had dropped somebody that they wouldn't – that there wasn't an issue and maybe it was a misunderstanding. That was the only time I was there when the police were there.
- H**

- A**
- Q. Well, just think carefully, Mr Majid. You told the police – you told us that the police had said, “The care home don’t want her.” Yes?
- A. Yeah, I – I accept, accept that, yes.
- Q. You worked with Sid.
- B**
- A. Yes, that’s correct.
- Q. And you worked with him until 2011 when he left Next.
- A. Yes, that’s correct.
- Q. And in all that time, you never had any discussion with him along the lines of, “What’s it about this lass and the care home?”
- C**
- A. That’s...
- Q. No discussion at all then?
- A. Saeed used to always say that she was trouble and that’s it. I’ve never – I didn’t have much interaction with her at – with her, to be honest with you. I met her a couple of times and I only ever went to Sid’s a couple of times.
- D**
- Q. That’s just not true is it?
- A. Well, no, that’s true.
- Q. You stay at Sid’s house?
- A. That was probably the one time I ever did stay at Sid’s house.
- E**
- Q. Did Sid ever discuss the harbourer’s warning with you?
- A. Never.
- Q. Did he ever discuss the fact that she was trouble that the police were always turning up at his door?
- A. He did once, a time at work, yes.
- F**
- Q. Well just tell him then, “Get rid of her.”
- A. I didn’t make any comment, to be honest. Not that I recall.
- Q. The reason [Person A] was at that house was that she was an asset wasn’t she?
- A. Not that I’m aware of, no.
- Q. She describes you as being effectively the first in a line.
- G**
- A. If I was the first guy to sleep with her at that property, well, I was the first but I don’t know what she means by in a line. I only ever attended a few times.
- Q. You know exactly what it means by that because you, Sid, his brother, Pav, all the people she named in her video interview as being present at that house, right from the start, she says all had sex with her.
- H**
- A. I’ve never met - If they did, I wouldn’t be aware of it, sorry.

- A**
- Q. Did you speak to Pav between your first interview and your second interview?
- A. No, I don't have any – I have never had communication with him.
- Q. Not at all?
- A. No, I was living in London that time, no.
- B**
- Q. You see, you were re-interviewed ---
- A. Yes.
- Q. Some time, I'm told you were interviewed in the summer. Your first interview was way back in 2016 wasn't it?
- A. Yeah, that's correct.
- C**
- Q. And then you were re-interviewed following identification procedures.
- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. And following the identification, that was in the summer of 2017. I want to ask you to turn up the date.
- A. That's – that – that sounds correct, yes.
- D**
- Q. And they were interviewing you because you'd been identified.
- A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. Now, when you were first interviewed.
- A. Yes.
- Q. You made no comment.
- E**
- A. Yes, I've – I've – I've established that, that my solicitor advised me to go no comment.
- Q. Yes, but one of the things you kept referring to your moral compass.
- A. Not in my first interview I didn't. I did in the second interview.
- F**
- Q. No, you did in your second but you said how strong it was and how strongly you felt about everything.
- A. Yes.
- Q. And when you were interviewed by the police on the first occasion, they asked you about your knowledge of [Person A1], whether you'd had a sexual relationship with her.
- G**
- Whether you were pressured to have sex. Whether you (inaudible) whether you had raped her. You didn't have to take your solicitor's advice. If you had a moral compass that was telling you you'd done nothing wrong, why on earth didn't you say so?
- A. Why – why would I instruct a solicitor? That's my – they're instructions that my solicitor provided me. I'd never been in that kind of trouble before. I was obviously gonna
- H**
- listen to my solicitor. Who wouldn't? It was such a serious case ---

- A** Q. But it was a choice.
- A. --- that who wouldn't listen to their solicitor? They would.
- Q. Mr Majid, it was a choice and you only chose to say something when you were being identified.
- B** A. No, because that was the second interview I'd chose to say something. The first interview on my solicitor's advice, he advised me, "Do not make a comment." I would listen to him because it was such a serious charge and I'd never been in trouble before.
- Q. You could just deny that you never raped anyone.
- A. I made no comment throughout that whole interview on the advice of my solicitor.
- C** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: When was the identification please, Miss Beattie, the – the (inaudible)?
- MS BEATTIE: The identification ---
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Well, we'll – we'll give the jury that.
- MS BEATTIE: Subsequent (inaudible).
- D** JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Was that before or after the first two interviews, the no comment, all right, okay ---
- MS BEATTIE: After the first interview.
- JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Or whenever, yes, okay.
- MS BEATTIE: And prior to the second which was the reason for the re-interview. The only few things I'd like to ask you, in terms of this was, I want to be absolutely clear about a number of things about the people you knew in that house.
- E** A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. You knew Sid's brother.
- F** A. Yes I did, at the property, yes.
- Q. Did you ever have a conversation with Sid's brother about the police coming?
- A. No, not that I'm aware of, no.
- Q. Did you ever go upstairs and wake him?
- A. No.
- G** Q. This is Naveed I'm talking about?
- A. No, never, Naveed Akhtar, no.
- Q. One of the things you told us about is that so far as you were concerned, you never saw any drugs at all at [Sid's address].
- H** A. Yes, I – I only ever went to the – apart from the one time that I went to that bedroom, I only ever went to the toilet and I sat in the living room so no, I never seen any drugs with

- A** them. If there was drugs occurring anywhere outside, I wouldn't be aware of but I never seen it, no. I wouldn't have felt comfortable around that situation, no.
- Q. Are you sure about that?
- A. Yes, I'm absolutely certain.
- B** Q. And in terms of those drugs which [Person A1] says were present, did you ever see her taking drugs?
- A. No, I never seen [Person A1] taking drugs.
- Q. You see what I'm suggesting to you, Mr Majid, is this. That in effect what happened was that you spent your time at Sid's house taking drugs.
- C** A. No, that's incorrect.
- Q. And that when [Person A] was delivered to [Sid's address], she was an asset of that house.
- A. That's incorrect.
- Q. And when she wasn't sleeping with [Person FFF1], you were the volunteer.
- D** A. That's – that's incorrect. She made a consensual decision to have sex with me.
- Q. And that your friend, as well as telling her that they'd provided her with coke and drink, was saying to her, pressurising her into having sex with you.
- A. No, that's incorrect. That's totally incorrect.
- E** Q. And that when she went upstairs, one of the things is, she said if she hadn't been pressured and drunk and high, she would not have had sex with you.
- A. That's totally incorrect.
- Q. Because that was the position, wasn't it?
- A. No, that's totally incorrect. She took ---
- F** Q. You and your friends pressured her into having sex.
- A. Totally incorrect.
- Q. She didn't want to.
- A. Nope, that's totally incorrect.
- Q. And she tried to go to sleep.
- G** A. That's totally incorrect.
- Q. And rather than have as you have it, her jumping on you, she kept telling you she wanted to go to sleep.
- A. No, that's not what she said, no, that's incorrect.
- Q. And you persisted.
- H** A. That's incorrect.

- A**
- Q. And kept persisting.
- A. No, that's absolutely incorrect.
- Q. Mr Majid, you may have changed your life and moved away from this area but what I'm suggesting to you is that back then, when you were going to [Sid's address], you played your full part.
- B**
- A. That's absolutely incorrect.
- Q. When she says she respected you as a person, which were her words.
- A. Yes.
- Q. That you were pressured.
- C**
- A. No, that's incorrect.
- Q. That she liked you.
- A. She may have liked me but I'd never pressured her and I never knew of anybody that would pressure her.
- Q. But she said you were different to the rest of them.
- D**
- A. She has said that, I accept that.
- Q. She said, "He started making advances. I like him and respect him as a person."
- A. That's incorrect, she's the one who made the advances at the start.
- MISS BATTIS: Couldn't hear, sorry.
- MS BEATTIE: Sorry?
- E**
- A. That's incorrect, she had made the advances, it wasn't myself.
- Q. "I liked him but I just wanted to belong," is what she said.
- A. That's totally incorrect.
- Q. That's what was being said to her wasn't it?
- F**
- A. No, that's totally incorrect.
- Q. And now you're doing all you can to distance yourself from [Sid's address] and from Sid.
- A. Sorry, that's totally incorrect.
- Q. One last thing. No-one would pressure you into doing anything would they?
- G**
- A. That's correct, no-one would pressure me to do anything. That's correct.
- Q. Was that a ruse on their part?
- A. Sorry, no.
- Q. When they were telling [Person A1] to have sex with you?
- A. I'm not sure.
- H**
- Q. Were they saying, "Go on, you have sex with her, are you gay?"

A A. I'm not sure any of them ---
Q. Did anything like that ever happen?
A. None of that ever happened as far as my knowledge is, no.
Q. And you can say, did you sleep with any ---

B A. Sorry.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Can't hear.
A. That was, sorry, that never happened.
UNIDENTIFIED COUNSEL: Sorry, your Honour, we can't hear either.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No.

C MS BEATTIE: Oh sorry.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I wasn't going to - their problem obviously.
A. I apologise.
MS BEATTIE: I'm so sorry.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: This is another party we're not invited to, ladies and gentlemen.

D No.
A. I apologise.
MS BEATTIE: I'm so sorry.
A. No, I never made any comments about pressure in any way, shape or form.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Okay.

E MS BEATTIE: All right, thank you very much.
A. Thank you.
MISS BATTS: I've no re-examination. Does your Honour have any questions?
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: No.

F MISS BATTS: Your Honour, I'm not in a position to close Mr Majid's case for reasons that your Honour's aware.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: That's fine. Now, what are we going to do about that? Just take a seat, Mr Majid.

(The witness withdrew)

G JUDGE DURHAM HALL: I think it's one, a fairly, a fairly, it's not a technical witness but it's a character witness, yes?
MISS BATTS: Yes, I - I think that the - the witness is available on Monday.
JUDGE DURHAM HALL: That's ---
MISS BATTS: We're having some confirmation there.

H

A

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Yes, that's fine, no, we can – we can insert a – a – a witness who's just going to speak as to Mr Majid's moral compass and things on Monday morning.

MISS BATTS: I'm very grateful.

B

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Okay, lovely. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm not going to start with

Mr Frieze's client. He'll need to speak to him if he wishes to and make decisions and – and at 10 o'clock tomorrow, Mr Frieze, you'll tell us where we go with the next witness, all right?

MR FRIEZE: Yes, I will, thank you.

C

JUDGE DURHAM HALL: Thank you so much. Have a lovely journey home, ladies and gentlemen, at least in the light and thanks very much. Sorry about the disruption today, I'll make sure – I – I hope it doesn't happen tomorrow so much obliged. See you tomorrow, 10 o'clock.

(The jury left court at 15.41)

D

JUDGE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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ADJOURNED AT 15.44 UNTIL FRIDAY, 8th FEBRUARY 2019

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