

Witness Name: Anton Johann Cornelissen

Statement No: Third

Exhibits: AJC4 – AJC7

Dated: 16 Oct 2015

THE INDEPENDENT JERSEY CARE INQUIRY

Witness Statement of Anton Johann Cornelissen

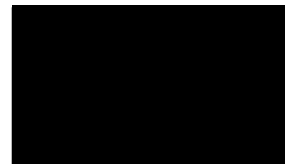
I, Anton Johann Cornelissen, will say as follows:-

Background

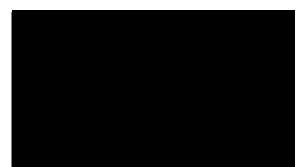
1. I make this witness statement subsequent to, and in conjunction with, my first witness statement dated 26 January 2015 and second witness statement dated 9 March 2015.
2. This third statement is prompted by a letter sent from the Inquiry to Carey Olsen, accredited legal representatives of the States of Jersey Police, dated 8 October 2015 which asks me to familiarise myself with four additional documents in relation to which Inquiry Counsel may ask me to comment when I come to give live evidence.
3. In order to assist the Inquiry, and to organise my own thoughts, I provide my comments in advance in this supplemental witness statement.

WD006283

4. The first document I have been asked to comment on is an undated report on Childrens' Services authored by Bridget Shaw, a redacted copy of which is produced as **Exhibit AJC4** hereto. The document appears to date from sometime after 8 June 2006.

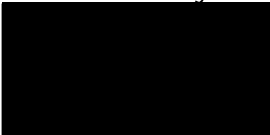


5. Bridget Shaw was the Force Legal Advisor seconded to the States of Jersey Police from the Law Officers Department for a period of time which coincided with a portion of my service as a police officer. I am aware that Bridget Shaw is now the Magistrate of Jersey.
6. In her report, Ms Shaw refers to a number of issues affecting the Public Protection Unit ("PPU") within the States of Jersey Police that had been brought to her attention by Detective Inspector Alison Fossey (as she then was). I have considered whether I have any insight into these matters and largely agree with the position as recorded as having been accurate in 2006. I was involved in PPU matters from late 2006, having returned from shift duties.
7. Sometime in 2007, I attended a meeting at La Chasse along with the Long Term Team. During this meeting, Steve McVay made a comment along the lines of "prior to the 'new team' taking over in PPU, the Long Term Team as Childrens' Services had negotiated with the SOJP which matters were pursued for criminal investigations with a view to prosecution". I do not know whether this was what actually happened. I feel that Mr McVay was trying to set the scene in reminding me that the SOJP should follow the lead of the Long Term Team as to whether someone should be prosecuted. I suspect that some of my predecessors may have been malleable, but I certainly was not and neither was Alison Fossey.
8. I found it difficult on occasion to work with the Long Term Team throughout the whole period I worked in PPU and felt that at times they were working against us and contrary to the wellbeing of the children in question. The incident referred to in document WD008084 and commented on below provides a good example of this.
9. In my view, the police should be free to follow the evidence wherever it takes them where there is a suspicion that criminal offences have been committed.
10. I do recall that in 2006, Linda Dodds seemed to put an awful lot of pressure on social workers reporting to her to not generate a higher caseload than



strictly necessary. Very often, social workers were at odds with Linda Dodds and there was an atmosphere which almost amounted to intimidation.

11. With regard to delay in referring matters to the police on the part of Childrens' Services, I struggle to remember specific cases now, although it has aided my memory to have been reminded of the incident referred to in document WD007242 and which I have commented upon in more detail below.
12. The primary role of Childrens' Services was to my knowledge meant to be the safeguarding of children. Therefore, it frustrated me when some social workers appeared to be colluding with potentially abusive parents and making police officers out to be the bad guys.
13. I frequently attended child protection case conferences very often. In 2006, and throughout the remainder of my time in PPU, the case conferences were chaired by Jean Andrews. I had previously worked with Jean Andrews in the 1990s and I always had a good relationship with her. If I was aware of a matter arising in a particular case which I did not want to share with the other persons present at a case conference, I would ask Jean Andrews for a pre-meeting so that things would not be blurted out and exploited by social workers. I found that Jean Andrews was very willing to work with the police, provided we could justify what we were asking her to do.
14. I have noted that Danny Wherry is referred to in Ms Shaw's report. I had no dealings with Mr Wherry at any time.
15. My feeling was that cost factors loomed large in all decisions made by Childrens' Services in 2006 and possibly still do. I remember on one occasion overhearing a foster parent complaining to Steve McVay about the allowances received from Childrens' Services. Mr McVay expressed the opinion that foster parents should do the job for love not money. I consider that this comment shows that Mr McVay had his head in the sand. He did not appreciate the disincentives and that financial concerns are a very real part of people's lives, particularly the lives of parents.



16. I recall an incident where we had taken two children into police protection whose hair was riddled with head lice. There was absolutely nowhere to take the children. I remember a social worker joking that we should take one each home with us. This case particularly upset me as I learned that the health visitor had been to the family's home on several occasions, but had omitted to check the bedrooms. If she had checked the shared bedroom, she would have discovered the horrendous conditions that the children were sleeping in. The bed was horrendously stained with urine. When I asked her about this, the mother blamed it on the family's cats. The health visitor had believed the mother and had not ventured upstairs. Some parents can be extremely abusive and neglectful; I would urge all professionals involved to be alive to these issues and not take parents' explanations at face value. Professionals need to be thorough in order to fully discharge their safeguarding function.

WD007242

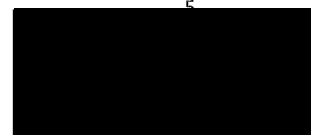
17. The second document I have been asked to consider is an email which I sent to Alison Fossey on 8 April 2008, a redacted copy of which is produced as **Exhibit AJC5** hereto. This email relates to an incident in which a particular social worker advised some parents who had discovered apparent child pornography in a drive in their son's personal folder on the family computer.
18. It transpired that a particular social worker had allegedly advised the parents to delete the files containing the alleged child pornography. It also fits with my recollection that there was a delay of approximately 6 days between the issue being reported to Childrens' Services, and Childrens' Services passing this information on to the police. Suffice to say, by the time the computer was seized, the evidence had been destroyed, and an opportunity to prosecute the son and possibly take action to safeguard any children identifiable in the pornographic material had been lost.
19. The Inquiry should examine these events and consider whether it is any wonder that my colleagues and I in PPU felt that some individuals within Childrens' Services were working against the police.

WD008083

20. The third document I have been asked to consider is an email which I sent to Alison Fossey on 15 November 2007, a redacted copy of which is produced as **Exhibit AJC6** hereto. The redactions to the document are such that I cannot identify the case or the individuals concerned.
21. The document does indicate that Bryn Williams, who I understand to have been a senior child psychologist, had a clear preference for "restorative" justice in this particular case. This is indicative of an institutional trend on the part of the Long Term Team, as obviously, the reference to a preference for "restorative" justice essentially means do not prosecute.

WD008084

22. The fourth document I have been asked to consider is an email which I sent to Sarah Smith nee Henderson on 8 May 2008, a redacted copy of which is produced as **Exhibit AJC7** hereto.
23. I recommended PC Sian Gidley for commendation as she had brought some serious neglect issues to my attention when she had attended with a civilian investigator (Mick Pick), to take a statement from a witness in that person's home. As I recall, the witness testimony that was being taken related to Operation Rectangle. I had been involved in current child protection matters relating to the same family through the PPU. The Operation Rectangle team were not focused on current issues as the investigation was historic in nature. I do not think that PC Gidley would have known this.
24. The sad thing about this case was that I was aware that Childrens' Services had been monitoring the family closely and had only recently closed their books – in essence saying that everything was alright. Taking this into account, I was shocked that the premises were in as filthy a state as PC Gidley reported.
25. The Long Term Team at La Chasse were very much set against prosecuting the family in this case for neglect. I recall that after receiving PC Gidley's referral, a strategy meeting was held within the PPU office where social



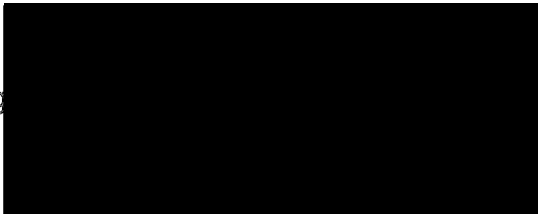
worker Tanja Tinari was present. I recall when we were discussing the case and our proposed strategy, Sarah Henderson received a telephone call from Steve McVay, and he enquired whether the dog excrement found inside the house was old or fresh. I clearly recall this because Sarah Henderson relayed the information to us as she was discussing matters with Mr McVay. There was an air of total incredularity.

26. The views expressed by Mr McVay in respect of the dog excrement were totally ridiculous, and I know that Tanja Tinari agreed with the police view on this matter – i.e. that the parents should be prosecuted for neglect. Tanja was clearly compromised, however, as she would be opposing the view of Mr McVay, who was a big fish within Social Services. I refer to the comments expressed at paragraph 10 above. There was a palpable sense of intimidation within Childrens' Services.

Statement of Truth

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Sig



Dated 16 October 2015