TRIBUNAL OF INQUIRY INTO PROTECTED DISCLOSURES MADE UNDER
THE PROTECTED DISCLOSURES ACT 2014 AND CERTAIN OTHER
MATTERS FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DÁIL ÉIREANN AND
SEANAD ÉIREANN ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017

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SOLE MEMBER: MR. JUSTICE PETER CHARLETON, JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT

HELD IN DUBLIN CASTLE

ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH JULY 2017 - DAY 17

17

Gwen Malone Stenography Services certify the following to be a verbatim transcript of their stenographic notes in the above-named action.

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1			THE HEARING RESUMED, AS FOLLOWS, ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH	
2			JULY 2017:	
3				
4			CHAIRMAN: Apologies for being late, I couldn't help	
5			that, but I don't have to go back at 2:15 so we can	11:2
6			just carry on in the normal way.	
7			MR. MARRINAN: The first witness, Chairman, is Rosalie	
8			Smyth-Lynch, please. Mr. McGuinness's witness.	
9				
10			MS. ROSALIE SMYTH-LYNCH, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS	11:2
11			DIRECTLY EXAMINED BY MR. MCGUINNESS:	
12				
13		Q.	MR. MCGUINNESS: Sit down, Ms. Smyth-Lynch. I think	
14			you're a regional general manager dealing with consumer	
15			affairs in the HSE Dublin Northeast, is that correct?	11:2
16		Α.	That's correct.	
17	1	Q.	And I think you've completed a number of courses	
18			relevant to your employment in the health service,	
19			including health service management development,	
20			financial management, management accounting, employment	11:2
21			law, Training the Trainer, Freedom of Information	
22			Basic, Freedom of Information Decisionmaker, Freedom of	
23			Information Advanced, Internal Reviewer, Data	
24			Protection Basic/Advanced and Audit and Research	
25			Ethics, is that correct?	11:2:
26		Α.	That's correct.	
27	2	Q.	And I think you have extensive experience in a variety	
28			of supervisory roles at different levels in the HSE?	
29		Δ.	That's correct.	

1	3	Q.	And I think you have been in your role as regional	
2			general manager consumer affairs from 2007 to date?	
3		Α.	To date, that's correct.	
4	4	Q.	To date. I think that encompasses the statutory	
5			function of complaints, complaint reviews, Freedom of	11:23
6			Information, data protection, research ethics manager	
7			and appeals, both statutory and non-statutory?	
8		Α.	For Dublin Northeast.	
9	5	Q.	For Dublin Northeast?	
10		Α.	Yes.	11:23
11	6	Q.	Now, I think you have been provided with the terms of	
12			reference, and I think you were initially contacted by	
13			your own employers in relation to an email that had	
14			been sent by you in relation to Ms. Fiona Ward in May	
15			2014?	11:23
16		Α.	That's correct.	
17	7	Q.	And I think you were slightly surprised to be told that	
18			you had some involvement with the Maurice McCabe issue	
19			at all?	
20		Α.	Yes, I was	11:24
21	8	Q.	Is that right?	
22		Α.	very surprised because I hadn't in previous	
23			communication had any knowledge of who was involved,	
24			and it was quite a surprise to get a call from a	
25			national director.	11:24
26	9	Q.	Right. Okay. I think your involvement related to an	
27			incident report that Ms. Ward had furnished to you, is	
28			that correct?	
29		Α.	That's correct.	

Т	10	Q.	And I think it can be seen from the report that heither	
2			Mr. McCabe, Sergeant McCabe, nor Ms. Y, nor Ms. D were	
3			identified in that incident report to you?	
4		Α.	That is correct.	
5	11	Q.	I think if we could look at page 3260, it should come	11:24
6			up on the screen, I think this records an email to you	
7			from Fiona Ward, it's dated 14th May 2014 at 22:06, and	
8			it says:	
9				
10			"Dear Rosalie, please find attached a report relating	11:25
11			to a data breach which came to light in the service on	
12			14/5/'14. I have outlined the steps taken to date to	
13			resolve this matter and would welcome your feedback on	
14			any other action that may need to be taken in relation	
15			to the matter."	11:25
16				
17			And she gives her phone number. Had you dealt with	
18			Ms. Ward before?	
19		Α.	Yes. I would have, yeah. It would be routine work in	
20			the Health Service Executive. My function, because all	11:25
21			of the functions that I cover and provide consultancy	
22			on and training and advice, would encompass Fiona	
23			Ward's functions also. So I would have given advice	
24			and assisted on numerous occasions.	
25	12	Q.	Okay. Now, can I ask you to look at that incident	11:25
26			report? It's on page 3262. It's headed:	
27				
28			"Confidential Rian Counselling Service NCS HSE DNE.	
29			Incident report dated 14/5/'14 re: Data Breach, Rian	

1			counselling service Cavan."	
2				
3			And it provides a summary in the first instance:	
4				
5			"A report regarding allegations of past abuse made by a	11:26
6			client of the service which contained inaccurate	
7			information about the nature of abuse experienced by	
8			the client was sent to Child and Family Social Work	
9			Services in August 2014. This error came to light	
10			following a phone call from the client to their	11:26
11			counsellor-therapist on 14/5/'14. Steps were taken	
12			immediately to resolve the issue."	
13				
14			It gives a description of the nature of the incident,	
15			and that concludes on that paragraph saying that:	11:26
16				
17			"It contained inaccurate information regarding the	
18			nature of abuse as reported by the client."	
19				
20			And I think you got that incident report attached to	11:26
21			the previous email and you considered that on the 15th	
22			May, is that correct?	
23		Α.	That's correct, yes. On receipt of the email, I	
24			considered it and read it.	
25	13	Q.	Yes.	11:27
26		Α.	And I tried to contact Fiona Ward.	
27	14	Q.	Now, the Tribunal has seen this and Ms. Ward has given	
28			her evidence in relation to it. It is correct to say	
29			that Spragant McCaho isn't identified in that nor is	

1 the person against whom the allegation was made. 2 They're not identified as a member of an Garda in that? 3 There's no identifying details on it whatsoever. Α. 4 15 Yes. Q. It just refers to a client of the service. 5 Α. 11:27 6 16 Yes. And I take it that you understood that Ms. Ward Q. 7 was informing you about the counselling report having 8 been sent to the social services in Cavan? I don't think she said Cavan in the report. 9 Α. 10 Right. 17 Q. 11:28 11 I don't think she identified. Maybe she did. Α. 12 18 Q. Yes. I don't think she did identify the area. 13 Α. 14 19 Q. Yes. She just advised that it had been sent to the social 15 Α. 11:28 work service and the Gardaí. 16 17 The fourth paragraph seems to imply that it probably 20 Q. 18 had been. It says: 19 "This report has also been forwarded to the Gardaí in 20 11:28 21 Cavan by the social work service as per HSE child 22 protection policy. The client requested that a copy of 23 the corrected report be provided to the Gardaí." 24 But did you understand that the error that the Gardaí 25 11:28 were notified about related to the nature of the abuse 26 27 recorded in the notification sent to them? No, I had no knowledge of a notification. 28 Α.

29

21

Ο.

Pardon?

1		Α.	I had no knowledge of a notification.	
2	22	Q.	Yes.	
3		Α.	I just had this report here that's displayed on the	
4			screen.	
5	23	Q.	Yes. But you certainly understood that the report made	11:28
6			by the counsellor contained inaccurate information	
7			about the nature of the abuse?	
8		Α.	I did.	
9	24	Q.	Yes. And I think you formed a view on that and I think	
10			you made handwritten notes on your own file copy of	11:29
11			that?	
12		Α.	That's correct.	
13	25	Q.	Perhaps you would just read those notes for us at page	
14			3263.	
15		Α.	First of all, I have written a handwritten note	11:29
16			following the sentence:	
17				
18			"They have been asked to remove this report from the	
19			file and shred it."	
20				11:29
21			And my handwritten note reads:	
22				
23			"No, return to Rian for destruction."	
24				
25			And by that I would have meant Rian Counselling.	11:29
26	26	Q.	Okay. And then what have you recorded next?	
27		Α.	Next: "Advised to retrieve inaccurate report. Meet	
28			with child and family social worker."	

1			Which is Tusla now.	
2				
3			"Hand over report and take back first report. Ensure	
4			no copies retained. Also to contact Gardaí and get	
5			back inaccurate report and confirmation no copy kept by	11:3
6			Gardaí. How serious/could it be"	
7	27	Q.	Is that "used"?	
8		Α.	" used in a Court - yes."	
9	28	Q.	And you did email back Ms. Ward on the 15th. Perhaps	
10			we will just look at that. 3260. What conclusion did	11:3
11			you come to?	
12		Α.	Well, first of all, her query was whether they needed	
13			to write to the clients and advise them that there had	
14			been a data breach. So, having read the report a few	
15			times, and I tried to contact Fiona just to discuss it	11:3
16			with her, it was evident that there was no breach of	
17			data protection, in that there was nobody actually	
18			identified in the report. She had provided the	
19			information in the report that the surname was the only	
20			identifier, and also, that all of the rest, the	11:3
21			remainder of the report was accurate.	
22	29	Q.	Yes. And	
23		Α.	So, in consideration of, you know, personal	
24			information, I considered there was no identifier there	
25			to identify anyone to associate them with the data.	11:3
26	30	Q.	All right. Well, you were obviously anxious to ensure	
27			that the incorrect data could be retrieved from any	
28			report that had been sent. Did you discuss that issue	

with Ms. Ward then?

- when I eventually got to speak with Ms. Ward, I did, 1 Α. 2 because I felt that -- I understood that this was a 3 report that had been prepared, and I remember -- I recall at the time thinking that it was a report for 4 court, you know, or that it was a report around an 5 11:31 6 incident that had occurred. So when I actually put it 7 to Fiona Ward could it end up in court, more or less, 8 and she said yes, possibly. I recall her saying that. 9 And I said, well, we need to get the reports back and I 10 would advise that you get the reports back and link in 11:32 11 with the social worker, meet with the Social Work 12 Department to retrieve the reports.
- 13 31 Q. Yes. And I think in your statement you quote that you wrote to Fiona Ward on the 16th May of 2014, and perhaps we could look at the text of that at 3256, at the bottom of 3256, going on to 3257. And perhaps you will just read your reply there into the record of the proceedings here.
- 19 "I acknowledge receipt of your email indicating data Α. 20 breach Rian Counselling Service. Having examined the 11:33 21 detail of the report, I can confirm that this incident 22 is not a data protection breach. As you have 23 indicated, that the surname of the person concerned is the only identifier, which was released in error. 24 25 Therefore, it would not be possible to associate the 11:33 data to any particular individual as sufficient 26 27 personal identifiable information has not been 28 forwarded as indicated in your communication. On that basis, it will not be necessary to write to the client 29

1			concerned as it would be impossible to identify them	
2			from the detail as explained in your correspondence.	
3			It will, however, be necessary to retrieve the reports	
4			in the social work service, An Garda Síochána and NCS	
5			(which is National Counselling Service) and to have	11:33
6			same shredded accordingly. Please note the shredding	
7			of the report should not be undertaken by National	
8			Counselling Service. However, the report should be	
9			returned to your service for appropriate shredding	
10			disposal."	11:33
11	32	Q.	I think you followed up that with a phone call to Fiona	
12			Ward, who advised you that the Gardaí were not inclined	
13			to return the report and that they still retained the	
14			same. I think you became aware that the counsellor had	
15			written to the Gardaí in that respect?	11:34
16		Α.	Yes. If I recall correctly, Fiona Ward's first letter	
17			or report to me indicated that they were emailing	
18			that there were actions and that they were emailing the	
19			social work service. And during our telephone	
20			conversation I believed that that had already occurred.	11:34
21	33	Q.	Yes.	
22		Α.	And sorry.	
23	34	Q.	Can you confirm to me that in the course of those	
24			telephone conversations you still weren't aware of the	
25			identity of any of the parties concerned?	11:34
26		Α.	No, and I didn't ask them. And I suppose in	
27			consideration of the confidentiality of the Rian	
28			Counselling Service and the mutuality of	
29			confidentiality that exists in that service, I wouldn't	

Τ			have pursued it. If information had been given to me	
2			voluntarily, I perhaps may have noted it, I may not,	
3			because this would be routine work for us. But in	
4			relation to confidentiality and the service that was at	
5			question, I wouldn't have pursued the identity because	11:35
6			my advice would have been the same.	
7	35	Q.	Yes. You didn't need to know?	
8		Α.	I didn't need to know, exactly.	
9	36	Q.	You weren't told the identity by the other by	
10			Ms. Ward or anyone else?	11:35
11		Α.	No, of anybody.	
12	37	Q.	Yes. And you certainly weren't in a position to	
13			disseminate any information, and you didn't do so?	
14		Α.	Disseminate any information?	
15	38	Q.	To any unauthorised person yourself?	11:35
16		Α.	Oh, absolutely not.	
17			MR. McGUINNESS: Thank you. Would you answer any	
18			questions.	
19			CHAIRMAN: Do you have any questions?	
20			MR. McGARRY: Just a couple of questions.	11:35
21				
22			MS. SMYTH-LYNCH WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. McGARRY:	
23				
24	39	Q.	MR. McGARRY: Paul McGarry is my name. I am one of the	
25			counsel for Sergeant McCabe.	11:35
26			CHAIRMAN: Mr. McGarry, would you switch on your	
27			microphone. It's Mr. McDowell's microphone that is on.	
28			Thanks.	
29	40	0	MP McGAPRY: You were looking just at the report that	

1			you had been given by Fiona Ward, is that right?	
2		Α.	That's right, yes.	
3	41	Q.	Okay. So you were, in effect, taking Fiona Ward's word	
4			for what the true position was with regard to the data	
5			breach, is that right?	11:36
6		Α.	Absolutely, yes.	
7 8	42	Q.	You said in your response, this is the top of 3257:	
9			"As you have indicated that the surname of the person	
10			concerned is the only identifier released in error,	11:36
11			therefore it would not be possible to associate the	
12			data to any particular individual as sufficient	
13			personal identifiable information has not been	
14			forwarded as indicated in your communication."	
15				11:36
16			Is that, in effect, what you gleaned from the report of	
17			Fiona Ward?	
18		Α.	Yes. The report of Fiona Ward clearly indicated that	
19			the majority of the report that she referred to was	
20			correct. She referred to a report also and that it was	11:36
21			only the description of abuse that was incorrect and	
22			the identifier within the description of abuse was only	
23			a surname.	
24	43	Q.	But did you not think it would be a good idea to check	
25			by taking a look at the file or the documents that	11:37
26			Fiona Ward had been looking at, before you came to that	
27			conclusion?	
28		Α.	Well, I understood that Fiona Ward was also looking at	
29			a report.	

- 1 44 Q. But you were the person responsible for dealing with 2 the data breach, because this report was to you to deal 3 with that issue, isn't that right?
- A. Well, you're dealing with data protection. As a data controller, you are a controller of data --

- 6 45 Q. Sure.
- A. -- in consultation with other controllers who actually control the data. The data would have been in the control of Fiona Ward.
- 10 46 Q. Did you ask her to elaborate on that in the phone conversations that you had with her?
- A. No, I would have checked with Fiona Ward at the time
 were there any other identifiers, and my recall is that
 there definitely were no other identifiers and that the
 rest of the report was correct, and that's the
 information. I was given the advice on the information
 as had been provided to me.
- 18 47 Q. It's just that on the -- you said in your statement
 19 that "On the 15th May," you said, "I made many attempts
 20 to contact Fiona Ward." That suggests that you were
 21 very concerned about this issue and wanted to get to
 22 the bottom of it quickly?
- A. I was concerned to the point of view that I would have thought that possibly meet with the social workers and the Gardaí and retrieve the report, and I wanted to speak with her to just make that point and suggest actions. I didn't purposefully put that in my letter at the time. She did come back to me on the evening and advise that she would try and contact me the next

day.

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Q. Would it be normal for you to go to that extreme; as
you say, many attempts to call her, all efforts were
unsuccessful and then sending an email at quarter to
six in the evening by way of follow-up, would that be a 11:38
normal thing for you to do in respect of a data breach?

- A. It would be, yes. You know, it would be in any functions where we would have inquiry and advice, we would always follow up with a phone call and, you know, given the detail and the fact that I had in my thought that maybe we should meet with the social workers and Gardaí, retrieve the report, that's the reason I would have followed up. So I would have left it until the end of the day and possibly cross my desk again, and would tidy up phone calls at the end of the day, and it 11:39 wouldn't be unusual.
- 17 49 Q. And again, you had a number of telephone conversations 18 subsequently, so this is something that's clearly 19 bothering you very seriously or significantly?
- 20 It was being reported as a breach. It wasn't really a Α. 11:39 21 data protection breach. I would follow up as per 22 routine, it would be routine work to follow up with reporters of any incidents. Likewise, we would take 23 calls frequently from members of the public. Like, we 24 25 would have extensive interactions on a weekly basis, 11:40 26 and we would follow up with phone calls. We would 27 return phone calls.
- 28 50 Q. And is that why there's a reference to a fear or a 29 difficulty, you said, about going to court. You said:

"This report file would be serious enough to find its way to court."

what sort of a court were you talking about?

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well, I recall from looking at the report and then my Α. 11:40 subsequent communication with Fiona Ward, I had an opinion that, you know, this was a report that had been done as part of maybe a court process and I think possibly by the fact that I was advised it had gone to the Gardaí and the Gardaí had, as Fiona Ward had said, 11:40 they hadn't got the report back, and then in subsequent follow-up phone calls, I think I had a total of three phone calls. I had one phone call and then I sort of recall putting down the phone and doing a follow-up quite quickly, and then I had another phone call maybe 11:41 a day or two later, and at that time Fiona had identified that the Gardaí were not inclined to give back the report, and I advised then to write to the

20 51 Q. So the court you're referring to there is a criminal 11:41 procedure or a criminal proceeding arising from what 22 was in the --

chief superintendent.

23 I hadn't given it that much thought, to be truthful, Α. 24 but I was concerned that an inaccurate report may be in another body or agency, and also the fact that we had 25 actually corrected it in the HSE, so it would be very 26 27 important that there wasn't an incorrect report out 28 It's the responsibility of us all to keep there. information accurate and up-to-date, and also, I would 29

1			have been thinking of the principles of data	
2			protection. While I have said it wasn't a data	
3			protection breach, we must comply with the principles	
4			of data protection.	
5	52	Q.	So was the reference to court possibly also a reference	11:41
6			to a concern about the data breach ending up in court?	
7		Α.	No.	
8	53	Q.	It just seems from your last answer that that was a	
9			concern that you also had: make sure that you weren't	
10			accused or in danger of being accused of being involved	11:42
11			in the data breach?	
12		Α.	That didn't enter my mind at all.	
13	54	Q.	Well, as far as you were concerned, the information	
14			that you had was only the information that was provided	
15			to you in the short letter and the telephone	11:42
16			conversations from Fiona Ward?	
17		Α.	The information I had, and I wouldn't have considered	
18			Fiona Ward's report a short letter, it's quite a	
19			detailed report, and it did actually identify actions	
20			which she had undertaken at that time.	11:42
21	55	Q.	Yes. But it's just telling you things, it's not	
22			providing you with the underlying documents that are in	
23			the background, isn't that right?	
24		Α.	It's not. But as I have identified, that wouldn't be	
25			unusual.	11:42
26	56	Q.	Thank you.	
27			MR. CUSH: I have no questions, Chairman. Thank you.	
28			MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: Chairman, I just have one quick	

question.

Т			MS. SMYTH-LYNCH WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DUNAL	
2			MCGUINNESS:	
3				
4	57	Q.	MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: Ms. Lynch, my name is Donal	
5			McGuinness. I represent, along with other counsel, the	11:43
6			Garda Commissioner and various other members of the	
7			Gardaí. Could I just ask you to confirm that	
8			essentially, from your point of view looking out for	
9			the HSE, you were anxious to ensure that any damage to	
10			the HSE was limited, that was really one of your main	11:43
11			objectives in the recovery of this document?	
12		Α.	I would have been concerned about damage to the client,	
13			also.	
14	58	Q.	Yes.	
15		Α.	You know, an incorrect report had gone. So I reckoned	11:43
16			that it was best to get the incorrect report back and	
17			to replace it with a correct report.	
18	59	Q.	Yes. And you understand that in relation to the	
19			incorrect report there was a notification to the Gardaí	
20			which used information from the incorrect report, a	11:43
21			notification of child abuse, suspected child abuse?	
22		Α.	Can you repeat that, please?	
23	60	Q.	You understand that the document that was generated by	
24			Ms. Brophy was used to populate another form that was	
25			sent to the Gardaí, which was a notification of	11:44
26			suspected child abuse?	
27		Α.	I wouldn't have known that at the time. But having	
28			reviewed the disclosure documents for the Tribunal, I	
29			am aware now that there was a notification document.	

- 1 61 Q. Yes.
- 2 A. And I would have understood at the time that the report
- 3 had been -- had gone to the Gardaí and it had gone to
- 4 the social workers in Child and Family or Tusla.
- 5 62 Q. Yes, but the actual report that had gone to the Gardaí
- 6 wasn't the document that came from Ms. Brophy, did you
- 7 understand that?
- 8 A. I didn't know that, no.
- 9 63 Q. No. Do you understand that now?
- 10 A. I do. From reviewing the Tribunal documents, I have
- seen the notification that was written. Now, are you
- referring to the notification from Tusla to the Gardaí?

11:44

11:45

- 13 64 Q. Yes.
- 14 A. Okay. No, I wouldn't have been familiar with that at
- 15 all. I wouldn't have seen that. I didn't know
- anything about that. I was only involved in the report
- that Fiona Ward provided to me and, as I've identified
- there earlier, I was aware then that there was a
- 19 notification done. But I understood it was the report.
- 20 And that's where my query came in to -- which I've
- 21 addressed a few minutes ago.
- 22 65 Q. Yes, but the actual sequence of events was that
- Ms. Brophy's notification was sent on, that the
- 24 notification to the Gardaí was then populated with the
- 25 information that came from that report and that was
- sent on, dated 3rd May 2014, to the Garda. Now, can I
- just ask you to look at document 1716. Sorry, 1716.
- This is the document that was sent by Tusla to the
- 29 Garda Síochána, and it's a notification of suspected

1			child abuse. And it was received in the Garda	
2			Síochána's office, in the superintendent's office on	
3			the 7th May 2014 and it's dated 2nd May 2014. This is	
4			a document that I have been referring to.	
5		Α.	Okay.	11:46
6	66	Q.	And this contains the incorrect allegation. And this	
7			was the document that the Gardaí essentially refused to	
8			return or shred because the Gardaí considered that this	
9			was a record.	
10		Α.	This was the document that the Gardaí received from	11:46
11			Tusla?	
12	67	Q.	Yes.	
13		Α.	Okay.	
14	68	Q.	And that the Gardaí decided that it was inappropriate,	
15			the assistant commissioner concerned considered that it	11:47
16			was inappropriate to shred this document or to return	
17			it because it was a record of a notification of	
18			suspected child abuse that had been sent to the Gardaí.	
19			Do you understand?	
20		Α.	Yes.	11:47
21	69	Q.	CHAIRMAN: Well, if it helps, I'm certainly not going	
22			to make any adverse comment in relation to that. I	
23			mean, that is a very reasonable point of view, it seems	
24			to me	
25			MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS: Very good, Chairman.	11:47
26			CHAIRMAN: to keep a record on the file as to what	
27			has happened. Now, as to what use you make of it is a	
28			different matter, but that is sensible thing to do.	
29			MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS: Very good, Chairman. Thank you.	

Т			CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.	
2				
3			THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.	
4				
5			MS. LEADER: The next witness, sir, is Inspector Karen	11:47
6			Duffy.	
7				
8			INSPECTOR KAREN DUFFY, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY	
9			EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER:	
10				11 : 48
11			MS. LEADER: Inspector Duffy's statement is in Volume	
12			11 of the materials at page 3285.	
13	70	Q.	Inspector Duffy, I understand you are presently	
14			attached to the assistant commissioner's office in the	
15			Northern Region and that's based in Sligo Garda	11:48
16			Station?	
17		Α.	That is correct.	
18	71	Q.	And if you wouldn't mind outlining a history of your	
19			career in An Garda Síochána to date, please.	
20		Α.	Certainly. I joined An Garda Síochána in October 2001	11:48
21			and went to the Garda College, where I did my training.	
22			I was attested the following November, in 2002, and I	
23			would have went to Mountjoy Garda Station for	
24			'Operation Freeflow' for approximately a period of two	
25			months, where we were directing traffic, and that, for	11:49
26			the Christmas period, and parking fines and such. And	
27			mid-January 2003 I was sent to Sligo Garda Station. I	
28			was a guard in Sligo Garda Station on the regular, up	
29			until approximately 2006/2007, when I was requested to	

Т			perform duty at the assistant commissioner's office,	
2			and I was assigned there, and I was promoted to the	
3			rank of sergeant in 2009 and was assigned as the	
4			sergeant in the assistant commissioner's office, and in	
5			August 2016 I was promoted to the rank of inspector and	11:49
6			retained in the assistant commissioner's office in	
7			Sligo.	
8	72	Q.	So you're fairly familiar with the workings of the	
9			assistant commissioner's office, it would be fair to	
10			say?	11:50
11		Α.	Yes.	
12	73	Q.	And I think in 2014 you were the acting inspector in	
13			the assistant commissioner's office in the Northern	
14			Region, is that correct?	
15		Α.	That would be correct, Chairman. The inspector that	11:50
16			was there before me got promoted in May 2013 and	
17			Assistant Commissioner Kenny requested that I perform	
18			the duties of the acting inspector from 2013 sorry,	
19			from whenever the inspector got promoted in 2013 until	
20			I got promoted in August of last year, although	11:50
21			Assistant Commissioner Kenny retired in April of '16.	
22	74	Q.	Okay. Could you explain to the Tribunal what your	
23			duties were in the assistant commissioner's office?	
24		Α.	My duties would be the general running of the office,	
25			day-to-day dealing with telephone calls, correspondence	11:50
26			coming in, drafting correspondence for the assistant	
27			commissioner, dealing with confidential matters that	
28			only Garda members can deal with, arranging his diary,	
29			organising meetings for him, generally day-to-day	

1			running of the office.	
2	75	Q.	And besides yourself, how many other people worked in	
3			the assistant commissioner's office?	
4		Α.	In the assistant commissioner's office there are three	
5			civilian members of staff, myself, and there is a	11:51
6			sergeant, but that sergeant is currently doing other	
7			duties.	
8	76	Q.	Now, yesterday, Assistant Commissioner Kenny gave	
9			evidence in relation to dealings he had with a	
10			notification he received from the chief superintendent	11:51
11			in Monaghan. Were you here when he gave his evidence?	
12		Α.	I was here for some of it, yes, and I have read the	
13			transcripts.	
14	77	Q.	I think he directed you on occasion to reply to certain	
15			correspondence, is that correct?	11:51
16		Α.	That would be correct, yes.	
17	78	Q.	And you followed his directions in relation to that?	
18		Α.	Absolutely, Chairman.	
19	79	Q.	And I don't intend going through all of the	
20			correspondence with you, but in relation to the	11:52
21			correspondence that went between the assistant	
22			commissioner's office and the chief superintendent's	
23			office and also the assistant commissioner's office and	
24			the Commissioner's office in Dublin, did you follow his	

correspondence?

25

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27

28

29

Α.

directions in relation to that and actually write the

Absolutely. Any directions or request that Assistant

Commissioner Kenny requested me to do, I duly did same.

If he requested me to, you know, write or type a minute

Τ			for him, I typed it. He always signed it. And it was	
2			sent off at his request.	
3	80	Q.	And in relation to the correspondence that was opened	
4			to the Tribunal yesterday, obviously you were familiar	
5			with it, is that correct?	11:52
6		Α.	That is correct, Chairman.	
7	81	Q.	Did you discuss that correspondence with any other	
8			member of An Garda Síochána?	
9		Α.	Absolutely not.	
10	82	Q.	Okay. And do you know did other members of the	11:52
11			assistant commissioner's office have access to that	
12			correspondence?	
13		Α.	No, the only people who would have access to that	
14			correspondence, or that file, as I refer to it, would	
15			have been Assistant Commissioner Kenny and myself.	11:53
16	83	Q.	And how are you so sure of that?	
17		Α.	Well, it would either have been kept confidentially in	
18			a locker beside my desk or in the assistant	
19			commissioner's desk or in his locker.	
20	84	Q.	And only you had access to the assistant commissioner's	11:53
21			materials?	
22		Α.	I wouldn't have access to the assistant commissioner's	
23			locker. I mean, I would have had access to his office	
24			per se, but, I mean, his desk would have been clear,	
25			there would have been no correspondence on it, or	11:53
26			anything like that.	
27	85	Q.	Now, there are two small areas that I want you to deal	
28			with, Inspector Duffy. First of all, when the	
29			notification was received from Chief Superintendent	

1	Sheridan,	that's	on his	letter	of	the	16th	Мау	2014.

- 2 That's at page 3291 of the materials. It should come
- 3 up in front of you. You sent that, it would appear, by

11:54

11:54

11:55

- 4 email to the Commissioner's office on the 16th May
- 5 2014, is that correct?
- 6 A. That's correct, Chairman. This correspondence would
- 7 have arrived at the office and I would have typed this
- 8 minute at the request of Assistant Commissioner Kenny.
- 9 He duly signed same and he requested me to send it off
- on his behalf to the Commissioner's office in Garda
- 11 Headquarters, which I duly did. I sent it to the
- 12 Commissioner's private secretary, which would have been
- 13 Superintendent Frank Walsh at the time.
- 14 86 Q. Okay. And insofar as he seemed to be slightly critical
- of Chief Superintendent Sheridan for sending other
- 16 correspondence via email to him, did he have any
- 17 difficulty with you in sending material by email to the
- 18 Commissioner's office?
- 19 A. Assistant Commissioner Kenny had a strong view in terms
- of email and written correspondence. He was very much
- of the view that he would write a minute and it would
- be signed by him and I would send the email off with
- 23 his attached correspondence.
- 24 87 Q. Yes.
- 25 A. He had no issue with that. He certainly did have an
- issue with somebody just loosely sending an email and
- 27 not having a signed document attached to it.
- 28 88 Q. Okay. Was that generally known or was it something you
- 29 would be more familiar with?

- A. It was something I would have been familiar with, but he certainly would have expressed his views about it to his management team.
- 4 89 Q. Okay. Now, you'll realise at this stage, Inspector
 5 Duffy, that the Commissioner's office in Dublin wasn't 11:55
 6 notified that there had been an error in the
 7 notification form on any formal level, you understand
 8 that from yesterday's evidence?
- 9 A. I do, Chairman.

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- And insofar as it has been suggested by the assistant 10 90 Q. 11:56 11 commissioner who gave evidence yesterday that he would 12 have expected his office to deal with matters that came in, and perhaps forward it to the Commissioner's 13 office, did you understand that to be any part of your 14 15 duties, to forward correspondence from Chief 11:56 16 Superintendent Sheridan to the Commissioner's office, 17 without being directed by the assistant commissioner to do so? 18
 - A. Absolutely not. I certainly would -- I was a sergeant at that time. I certainly would have had no authority or autonomy to send something of such grave nature to the Commissioner's office without being directed or requested by the assistant commissioner to do so. It's evident that he had dealt with all other correspondence in relation to this matter and was quite adamant that it was all to be signed correspondence, which he duly signed, and it was all to be sent as attachments. So I certainly had received no instruction or direction from Assistant Commissioner Kenny to send something like

11:56

Т			that off to the Commissioner, without his knowledge.	
2	91	Q.	And insofar as you're familiar with the workings of the	
3			assistant commissioner's office, can you identify	
4			anybody else in the office who would have authority to	
5			send Chief Superintendent Sheridan's report to the	11:57
6			Commissioner's office in Dublin?	
7		Α.	No. As previously stated, the only two people that	
8			would have access to this file, because of the	
9			confidential matter, would have been Assistant	
10			Commissioner Kenny and myself.	11:57
11	92	Q.	And I may have asked you this already, but did you	
12			discuss any of the matters contained in the report of	
13			Chief Superintendent Sheridan and the Garda	
14			notification with any other member of An Garda	
15			Síochána?	11:57
16		Α.	Certainly not.	
17	93	Q.	Or with any other person?	
18		Α.	Certainly not.	
19	94	Q.	And do you know the former Commissioner Callinan or the	
20			current Commissioner O'Sullivan on any basis?	11:57
21		Α.	I would know them in terms of professional capacity. I	
22			may have been at a conference where the Commissioner	
23			may have opened it, both Commissioner O'Sullivan and	
24			the previous commissioner, Commissioner Callinan. That	
25			would be as much as I know either of them.	11:58
26	95	Q.	Did you at any time discuss the matters relating to	
27			Sergeant McCabe with either the former Commissioner or	
28			the current Commissioner?	
29		Α.	Certainly not. Chairman.	

1			MS. LEADER: Thank you very much. If you would answer	
2			any questions that anybody might have for you.	
3				
4			INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. MCGARRY:	
5				11:58
6	96	Q.	MR. McGARRY: Inspector Duffy, Paul McGarry is my name.	
7			I am appearing for Sergeant McCabe. Did you have a	
8			discussion with the assistant commissioner about the	
9			content of the notification you received from	
10			Superintendent Sheridan?	11:58
11		Α.	Any confidential correspondence that came into the	
12			office, only I would open it. If it is marked "private	
13			and confidential" I certainly wouldn't open it, because	
14			it is private, but if something is marked	
15			"confidential" I would open it. When private	11:58
16			correspondence of this nature relating to this matter	
17			arrived at the office, I would bring it to the	
18			Assistant Commissioner Kenny's attention.	
19	97	Q.	And what sort of discussion did you and he have about	
20			it?	11:59
21		Α.	It would be a general conversation in terms of,	
22			'Commissioner, this correspondence has arrived at the	
23			office and I'm bringing it to your attention'.	
24	98	Q.	'What do you want me to do about it?'	
25		Α.	Well, he would instruct me or direct me what he would	11:59
26			want to do with it.	
27	99	Q.	And in your experience of the assistant commissioner,	
28			how frequently would he have been concerned to notify	
29			directly the commissioner about something that came in?	

1	Α.	We would have a lot of different correspondence coming	
2		through our office in relation to very serious crime,	
3		murders, discipline in relation to Garda members,	
4		alleged criminality against Garda members, and	
5		certainly there would have been occasions where you	11:59
6		probably would have notified the Commissioner's office	
7		of maybe an alleged criminal offence where Garda	
8		members were involved or very serious discipline.	

- 9 100 Q. You see, in this case, the notification comes in to you on the 16th and on the same day you're sending an email 12:00 with a note signed by Assistant Commissioner Kenny himself, so I'm suggesting to you that this was a very serious issue that required you to immediately or he to immediately notify the Commissioner.
- 15 Well, that's something Assistant Commissioner Kenny Α. 12:00 would have to address. My role really was his regional 16 17 I mean, I brought the correspondence to his clerk. attention. He requested me to type this minute up. 18 19 typed the minute up. I gave it back to Assistant 20 Commissioner Kenny and he signed it. And I duly sent 12:00 same off to the Commissioner's office. 21
- 22 101 Q. Was it because the documentation, the information he 23 had been given, related to a serving member of the 24 force that it required to go to the Commissioner's 25 office?

A. Again, I think that's something only Assistant
Commissioner Kenny can only answer. My role, as I
said, was the regional clerk. I typed up the
correspondence, as Assistant Commissioner Kenny had

- 1 requested me to do so.
- 2 102 Q. Well, in your experience of dealing with him, you
- mentioned the circumstances in which he might be
- 4 required to send things to the Commissioner's office,
- serious crimes being committed, murders, and so on,
- 6 obviously, but this wasn't of that character, this was

12:01

- 7 a notification in relation to a child abuse issue. I
- 8 am suggesting to you that the reason why it was deemed
- 9 urgent in the sense that it had to be sent straight up
- to the Commissioner's office was because it referred to 12:01
- an existing serving member?
- 12 A. Again, that would be something that Assistant
- 13 Commissioner Kenny would answer.
- 14 103 Q. Did he dictate the note to the Commissioner's office to
- 15 you to type?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 104 Q. And did he dictate it into a dictaphone or did he stand
- over you or did he scribble it out on a piece of paper?
- 19 A. He would use maybe handwritten notes, and then I would
- 20 give him the correspondence and he would say 'I'm happy 12:02
- 21 with that' and would sign it.
- 22 105 Q. We don't have those handwritten notes?
- 23 A. No, they would be really, I suppose, a scrap of paper,
- for a better word, or a rough draft.
- 25 106 Q. Did you read the documents attached to Chief
- 26 Superintendent Sheridan's report?
- 27 A. I would have glanced at them. I wouldn't have read
- them in depth as Assistant Commissioner Kenny would
- 29 have, but I certainly was aware of what they were.

1	107	Q.	And you were aware of what was involved from looking at	
2			them?	
3		Α.	I was aware that it was a Tusla or a HSE referral.	
4	108	Q.	Of a very serious allegation of sexual abuse?	
5		Α.	Yes.	12:02
6	109	Q.	Involving a member of the force?	
7		Α.	Yes.	
8	110	Q.	Yes. How did the meeting in Mullingar come to be	
9			organised?	
10		Α.	There was further correspondence that came in from	12:03
11			Chief Superintendent Sheridan, I think it was the 23rd	
12			May and then further correspondence on the 29th May,	
13			and the assistant commissioner then decided to organise	
14			a meeting that was to be held in Sligo on the 16th	
15			June, but that meeting did not take place and he	12:03
16			requested for Chief Superintendent Jim Sheridan of the	
17			Cavan-Monaghan division and Superintendent Leo McGinn	
18			from Bailieboro to be in attendance.	
19	111	Q.	And you communicated with them that they were required	
20			to attend at a meeting?	12:03
21		Α.	No, I did not communicate. Assistant Commissioner	
22			Kenny drafted a minute, he signed it, and it was sent	
23			back to the chief superintendent in Cavan-Monaghan,	
24			requesting for himself and for Superintendent Leo	
25			McGinn to be in attendance at the meeting, Chairman.	12:03
26	112	Q.	This was a meeting that was convened specially to deal	
27			with this issue?	
28		Α.	It was a meeting that AC Kenny had organised to	
29			obviously to discuss this matter.	

	113	Ų.	And it was scheduled to take place in a galda station	
2			in which none of the people who were involved were	
3			stationed?	
4		Α.	None of the people involved were stationed in Sligo,	
5			yes.	12:04
6	114	Q.	Except, of course, Sergeant McCabe was stationed there	
7			at the time, isn't that right?	
8		Α.	Well, the meeting had initially been scheduled for	
9			Sligo and then it was reconvened to take place on the	
10			16th July in Mullingar.	12:04
11	115	Q.	Yes. I think Assistant Commissioner Kenny was doing a	
12			couple of days in Mullingar around that time, was he?	
13		Α.	He was. He was in charge of the Eastern Region, which	
14			is based in Mullingar, and obviously the Northern	
15			Region in Sligo.	12:04
16	116	Q.	Would you normally go along to meetings that he would	
17			have with subordinate officers, to take a note?	
18		Α.	Yes. The regional inspector I wouldn't have went	
19			when I would have been a sergeant, only on the occasion	
20			where the inspector would have been on leave or maybe	12:04
21			unavailable to attend. But the regional inspector	
22			would go, as most divisional clerks would go with the	
23			chief superintendents and district clerks would go with	
24			the superintendents, to record notes or maybe action	
25			anything that would require to come out of same.	12:05
26	117	Q.	You took notes, you said in your statement, at the	
27			meeting?	
28		Δ.	That is correct.	

118 Q. And you said in your statement that when you got back

1			to Sligo, you showed them immediately to Assistant	
2			Commissioner Kenny?	
3		Α.	That is correct.	
4	119	Q.	And that he agreed that they were an accurate account	
5			of the meeting and you put the notes on the file?	12:05
6		Α.	That is correct, Chairman.	
7	120	Q.	We don't have a copy of those handwritten notes at the	
8			moment?	
9		Α.	No. The policy in the office was, the notes were typed	
10			up immediately and they became, for a better word, the	12:05
11			true copy or the true original one, that it really was	
12			for legibility reasons, so that if, in ten years' time	
13			or five years' time, somebody wanted to look up the	
14			file, there was a typed version which was more legible.	
15	121	Q.	So just to be clear, Assistant Commissioner Kenny never	12:06
16			said anything to you about the accuracy or the	
17			correctness of the notes that you took of the meeting?	
18		Α.	He said to me that they were an accurate account.	
19	122	Q.	Yes. And that's what you said in your statement?	
20		Α.	Yes.	12:06
21	123	Q.	You see, it's just that Assistant Commissioner Kenny	
22			yesterday sought to put a different perspective on	
23			the I don't know if you were here for his evidence	
24			yesterday?	
25		Α.	I was here for some of it.	12:06
26	124	Q.	Yes. Well, in response to some questions, he sought to	
27			down-play the accuracy of the notes. In fact, on one	
28			occasion he said:	

1			"These notes are Sergeant Duffy's interpretation of	
2			what took place at the meeting."	
3				
4			And that was in answer to a question about discussing	
5			Maurice McCabe or contacting or notifying him, I think	12:06
6			he was I'm suggesting that he seemed to be taking	
7			the position that your notes were not accurate to that	
8			extent?	
9		Α.	As I have said in my statement, my role was solely to	
10			record notes. I recorded the notes as the discussion	12:07
11			was unfolding. I presented the notes to Assistant	
12			Commissioner Kenny and he said to me that they were	
13			accurate and same was recorded and put on the file.	
14	125	Q.	You knew from looking at the documents that what had	
15			been sent to the Commissioner's office was a referral	12:07
16			from Tusla, forwarded up the line in An Garda Síochána,	
17			all the way to the Commissioner's office, which	
18			contained a false allegation and the false statement	
19			that that allegation had been previously investigated?	
20		Α.	I wouldn't have been overly aware of the original file	12:07
21			in terms of the allegations by Ms. D in 2006 and 2007.	
22			I mean, I was a guard in Sligo at that stage. So when	
23			it came in, I brought this piece of correspondence to	
24			the assistant commissioner's attention and he dealt	
25			with same. It's in the manner that he did.	12:08
26	126	Q.	Sure. But the notification that went up to the	
27			commissioner's office and the documents contained in	
28			them, clearly created the impression that the false	
29			allegation had been investigated, isn't that right?	

1	А		Like I say	
2			CHAIRMAN: Yes, but Inspector Duffy would know	
3			absolutely nothing about that.	
4			MR. McGARRY: Sure.	
5			CHAIRMAN: I mean, that is the problem. Nor would she	12:08
6			know whether the false allegation coming in is actually	
7			false.	
8			MR. McGARRY: Sure.	
9			CHAIRMAN: I mean, in the sense of being totally	
10			inaccurate and relevant to Ms. Y as opposed to Ms. D.	12:08
11			Am I right in thinking that, because that is what the	
12			assistant commissioner	
13	А		That would be correct, Chairman.	
14			CHAIRMAN: That was the impression he had, this is an	
15			amplification of what was there before. Now, some	12:08
16			people might find that hard to understand, but you	
17			didn't have any better knowledge than that?	
18	А		No better knowledge, Chairman.	
19			CHAIRMAN: Yes.	
20	127 Q	•	MR. McGARRY: Knowing what you know now, did you not	12:08
21			think it strange that at no stage was there an attempt	
22			to correct that with the Commissioner's office?	
23	А		This was Assistant Commissioner Kenny's file. My role	
24			was only to type minutes as his personal assistant or	
25			as the regional clerk, to forward same, on his request,	12:09
26			to the Commissioner. I mean, I typed anything that he	
27			directed or requested me to do so, and I would imagine	
28			if he had have requested me to do such a thing, he	
29			would have recorded same in his journal. If he had	

Τ			requested me to send something on his behalf, I am sure	
2			he would certainly have recorded that in his officer's	
3			journal. And I would have had no reason to send	
4			something to the Commissioner's office had he requested	
5			me to do so. But I was never requested to do that.	12:09
6			MR. McGARRY: Thank you.	
7			MR. O'HIGGINS: One or two questions, Chairman.	
8				
9			INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. O'HIGGINS:	
10				12:09
11	128	Q.	MR. O'HIGGINS: Inspector, you were perhaps better than	
12			anybody in a position to you're in the best	
13			position, perhaps, to assist the Chairman with	
14			conveying the sense of things in the stations in which	
15			you were located. First of all, can I ask you, in	12:10
16			2014, at this time did you pick up any sense around you	
17			that there was a conspiracy in An Garda Síochána to do	
18			down Sergeant Maurice McCabe?	
19		Α.	Certainly not.	
20	129	Q.	Were you involved in any campaign to sully Sergeant	12:10
21			Maurice McCabe?	
22		Α.	Certainly not.	
23	130	Q.	Were you at the epicentre of a conspiracy to blacken	
24			Sergeant McCabe?	
25		Α.	Certainly not.	12:10
26	131	Q.	You have told us that the initial meeting, the initial	
27			intention of former Assistant Commissioner Kenny was	
28			that the meeting would be held in Sligo on the 16th	
29			June?	

- 1 A. That's correct, Chairman.
- 2 132 Q. We're all agreed, I think, that didn't go ahead, and it went ahead a month later in Mullingar?
- A. I can't recall why that meeting didn't go ahead. I
 think it was mainly due to people not being available and operational demands on all parties concerned.
- 7 133 Q. All right. Mr. McGarry was inquiring as to why or is 8 there any significance attaching to the meeting that 9 went ahead taking place in Mullingar. Is there?
- A. Well, Assistant Commissioner Kenny had an office in
 Mullingar and it would be, you know, a smaller annex in
 the station. That is solely why, really, it was held
 in Mullingar, and plus, he had had an earlier meeting
 that morning.

- All right. Can I ask you again in terms of the sense 15 134 Q. of things and the mood at the meeting in Mullingar, 16 17 perhaps, which may perhaps have had too much attention already or in terms of its significance, but that will 18 19 be a matter for the Chairman. At that meeting, you 20 were notetaker. Are you in a position -- you were 21 present at the meeting, isn't that right?
- 22 A. I was. The meeting commenced at 2:30 and ended at 3:10, Chairman, and I was present for that period.
- 24 135 Q. Did you get any sense at that meeting that the
 25 participants at the meeting were concerned to see how 12:12
 26 we can conspire to get at Maurice McCabe?
- 27 A. No.
- 28 **CHAIRMAN:** Mr. O'Higgins, I am intending to be helpful by making this comment. It's one that doesn't just

1			apply to you, but effectively to everybody in the room.	
2			And by asking a question the answer to which is	
3			obviously 'yes' or obviously 'no', is not really	
4			helping me a huge amount. I mean, you will find	
5			references to that in the relevant textbooks on	12:13
6			evidence. I appreciate that there are times when	
7			counsel should definitely lead, and I do understand	
8			that it's necessary for you to deal with the issue that	
9			either this witness or any other was not at the	
10			epicentre of a conspiracy to blacken Sergeant McCabe,	12:13
11			appreciating as well that there are certain items that	
12			have gone through that are now common case. There are	
13			times, however, when it does help to ask a more	
14			open-ended question. And that is only a suggestion,	
15			Mr. O'Higgins.	12:13
16			MR. O'HIGGINS: May it please you, Chairman. I	
17			appreciate the indication.	
18	136	Q.	Just dealing with matters more specifically then,	
19			Inspector. For instance, at the meeting in Mullingar	
20			at which you were notetaker, at any point were you	12:13
21			directed to stop taking notes so that there could be	
22			things said that would go unrecorded?	
23		Α.	No.	
24			MR. O'HIGGINS: Thanks very much.	
25			CHAIRMAN: Unless you had any questions. Is there	12:14
26			something?	
27			MS. LEADER: Just one question.	
28				
29			INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS RE-EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER:	

INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS RE-EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER:

2 It would appear that the assistant 137 MS. LEADER: Q. 3 commissioner had one thing to do after the meeting, and that was to seek legal advice, and that was never 4 5 followed up by the assistant commissioner. You heard 12:14 6 that yesterday?

7 Yes. Α.

- 8 And he has told the Tribunal that he subsequently 138 0. 9 decided that he wasn't going to do that. Are you aware that the file was taken out at any time thereafter to 10 12:14 11 follow up on the matter or tidy it up, or anything, or 12 was there an automatic update system in the assistant commissioner's office in relation to files or 13 14 outstanding tasks?
- In relation to a system in the commissioner's office, I 12:14 15 Α. mean, ongoing files would be kept out. Again, this was 16 17 Assistant Commissioner Kenny's file, not my file, and Assistant Commissioner Kenny was obviously making the 18 19 decision in terms of seeking legal advice. He did not 20 come back to me at any stage and request for me to take 12:15 21 out the file or to subsequently seek a report or inform 22 anybody else of any kind of action on that. 23 further actions with that file from July 2014 until 24 February 2017, whenever this matter was brought back up in the media and in the 'Prime Time' programme. 25
- 26 Is there any system in the office that requires 139 Okay. Q. 27 you to update files on a regular basis?

12:15

28 We would have ongoing files that would be kept out and Α. 29 would be kept on, say, a correspondence register, where

1			we would have reminders generated, and stuff like that,	
2			but in terms of personal files that would be of	
3			confidential matters that only the assistant	
4			commissioner would deal with, that would be a matter	
5			for him to come back and request same of me.	12:15
6	140	Q.	Okay. Thank you very much.	
7		Α.	No problem, Chairman.	
8				
9			INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS QUESTIONED BY THE COURT:	
10				12:16
11	141	Q.	CHAIRMAN: Just after all that, there was just one	
12			matter that was on my mind, Inspector. The later	
13			correspondence came through you and the later	
14			correspondence seemed to indicate, look, the HSE have	
15			got it wrong. Was there ever any sense of a bell	12:16
16			ringing in your mind to say, oh, this thing about	
17			digital abuse, that's completely incorrect, it's	
18			something entirely different, or was it a case where	
19			you were simply bringing matters to the attention of	
20			the assistant commissioner, effectively relying on his	12:16
21			mind to direct you as opposed to inquiring yourself as	
22			to what was going on?	
23		Α.	Well, I was a sergeant in the assistant commissioner's	
24			office at the time. I brought the correspondence,	
25			which I think you're referring to is dated 3rd July,	12:16
26			from Chief Superintendent Sheridan to the assistant	
27			commissioner, and he noted same and sent it back to the	
28			chief in Cavan-Monaghan and said, I'll be having a	

meeting in relation to this in Mullingar. So again, it

2			with.	
3	142	Q.	CHAIRMAN: But did the bell ring in your mind or the	
4			penny drop, or whatever expression one might use, to	
5			say they've got this wrong? Because it was a pretty	12:17
6			astonishing thing to happen, really?	
7		Α.	It's terrible.	
8	143	Q.	CHAIRMAN: Yes. Agreeing that it is terrible, but it	
9			is a pretty stark there's a pretty stark difference	
10			between the two accounts?	12:17
11		Α.	There is. And again, too, I was a sergeant. I was not	
12			going to overstep my mark with the assistant	
13			commissioner. I mean, he was dealing with this file.	
14			It was the assistant commissioner's file, for a better	
15			word. I wouldn't have had a huge amount of knowledge	12:17
16			in relation to the 2006, the 2007 file, or the	
17			allegations that Ms. D had made, and I was of the view	
18			that it was very much in the hands of Assistant	
19			Commissioner Kenny.	
20	144	Q.	CHAIRMAN: And the fact that there was this meeting in	12:17
21			July then, that reinforced that in your mind?	
22		Α.	That's correct, Chairman.	
23	145	Q.	CHAIRMAN: Whatever step is to be taken, he will tell	
24			me what to do?	
25		Α.	Absolutely, Chairman.	12:18
26	146	Q.	CHAIRMAN: Okay. I understand. Thank you.	
27			MR. O'HIGGINS: Chairman, may I, just arising out of	
28			your	

was something for the assistant commissioner to deal

1

29

CHAIRMAN: Yes, please do.

1			MR. O'HIGGINS: Obliged.	
2				
3			INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINED BY	
4			MR. O'HIGGINS:	
5				12:18
6	147	Q.	MR. O'HIGGINS: Just one matter which perhaps is	
7			connected with the Chairman's inquiry. You mentioned	
8			that Assistant Commissioner Kenny indicated, we'll deal	
9			with matters in the July meeting. At the July meeting,	
10			can you assist the Tribunal, what was the mood or	12:18
11			thrust of the meeting in terms of the decision as to	
12			whether or not to close down or re-open the Garda side	
13			of things in relation to Maurice McCabe?	
14		Α.	well, as I have said, my role at the meeting in	
15			Mullingar in July '14 was really to record notes, and	12:18
16			as you will see from my notes, the matter was certainly	
17			closed down or done and dusted.	
18			MR. O'HIGGINS: Thank you.	
19			CHAIRMAN: Yes, thank you very much.	
20		Α.	Thank you, Chairman.	12:18
21				
22			THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.	
23				
24			MR. MARRINAN: The next witness, sir, is Mr. Dermot	
25			Monaghan, please. This is in Volume 10 at page 2886.	12:19
26				
27			MR. DERMOT MONAGHAN, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY	
28			EXAMINED BY MR. MARRINAN:	
29	148	Q.	MR. MARRINAN: Mr. Monaghan, I think that you're	

1			currently head of service in primary care for the	
2			Cavan-Monaghan, Sligo-Leitrim, Donegal region, is that	
3			right?	
4		Α.	That's correct.	
5	149	Q.	Between February 2011 and November 2016 you held the	12:19
6			position of the integrated service manager for the	
7			Louth-Meath area, is that right?	
8		Α.	That's correct.	
9	150	Q.	And what were your responsibilities in that regard?	
10		Α.	Managing all the services from hospital right across to	12:20
11			the community services, so consultants right through to	
12			public health nurses. Anything that looked like a	
13			health service, that was my responsibility.	
14	151	Q.	Now, I think on the 14th May, you became aware that	
15			Ms. Fiona Ward wrote to Ms. Rosalie Smyth-Lynch, who	12:20
16			gave evidence this morning, via an email that was	
17			copied to you, is that right?	
18		Α.	That's correct.	
19	152	Q.	And that outlined a report of a data breach that had	
20			occurred in the service, is that right?	12:20
21		Α.	That's correct.	
22	153	Q.	I think that you were unaware of any of the parties	
23			referred to in the data breach because it had been	
24			anonymised, isn't that so?	
25		Α.	That's correct.	12:20
26	154	Q.	And I think you never became aware of any of the names	
27			or the identities of any of the persons in this matter,	
28			is that right?	

A. That's correct.

1	155	Q.	Now, I think subsequently on the 15th May 2014, you	
2			requested Patricia Bannon, who is a business manager in	
3			your office, to review the process that was then taking	
4			place, is that right?	
5		Α.	That's correct.	12:21
6	156	Q.	And I think if we could have page 864 on the screen,	
7			please. She replied to you there by way of email, and	
8			you will see in the centre there, and she answered:	
9				
10			"Yes. The process is correct. However, it would be	12:21
11			good practice for Fiona to review their SOPs"	
12				
13			What is an SOP?	
14		Α.	Standard operational procedure.	
15	157	Q.	" and ensure that their systems for robust" "are	12:21
16			robust" I suppose that should read "to mitigate	
17			against an incident like this happening again."	
18				
19			And then she signs that off as Patricia Bannon, who is	
20			the business manager and area manager in the area	12:22
21			manager office in Louth and Meath, is that right?	
22		Α.	That's correct.	
23	158	Q.	I think you approved of that. And then above that, on	
24			the same page at 864, Natasha Smith sent, on your	
25			behalf, an email to Fiona Ward, is that right?	12:22
26		Α.	That's correct.	
27	159	Q.	And it reads:	
28				

"Fiona, please see below comments from Patricia Bannon

1			for your attention."	
2				
3			You signed off on that, is that right?	
4		Α.	That's correct.	
5	160	Q.	I think that that was your only dealings with this	12:22
6			matter?	
7		Α.	That's correct.	
8			MR. MARRINAN: Thank you very much.	
9			MR. McGARRY: I don't have any questions, sir.	
10			MR. MARRINAN: Thank you.	12:22
11			CHAIRMAN: Thank you.	
12				
13			THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.	
14				
15			MR. McGUINNESS: The next witness, sir, is Ms. Gail	12:22
16			Penders. Her statement is to be found in Volume 11 at	
17			page 3209.	
18				
19			MS. GAIL PENDERS, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY	
20			EXAMINED BY MR. McGUINNESS:	12:23
21				
22	161	Q.	MR. McGUINNESS: Ms. Penders, thank you. I think you	
23			graduated with a degree in social work from Glasgow	
24			Caledonian University in 1995?	
25		Α.	That's correct, yes.	12:23
26	162	Q.	And I think you worked on your return to Ireland as a	
27			social care manager in County Armagh?	
28		Α.	Yes.	
29	163	Q.	Until the year 2000?	

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 164 Q. And I think you took up employment as a social care
- 3 manager in a high support unit in Castleblayney from
- 4 2002 to 2013?
- 5 A. Correct, yes.
- 6 165 Q. And where did you go then in 2013?
- 7 A. At the end of 2013 I became the manager of the Child
- 8 Wellbeing Centre in Castleblayney, which was a
- 9 developing centre of social care staff, and the purpose

12:24

12:24

12:24

- of the centre was to provide services directly to
- children and families in Cavan-Monaghan, from a social
- 12 care perspective.
- 13 166 Q. And that is obviously part of the HSE Dublin Northeast?
- 14 A. Yeah, Tusla, Dublin Northeast.
- 15 167 Q. Tusla. And where were you working from at that point
- in time? Were you based entirely in Castleblayney?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 168 Q. And I believe in March of 2015, Mr. Lowry, who was the
- 19 area manager, directed you to provide assistance in the
- 20 Cavan social work services office in Cavan, is that
- 21 right?
- 22 A. Both Cavan and Monaghan.
- 23 169 Q. Both Cavan and Monaghan?
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 170 Q. Could you just explain, you were working in your area,
- and was it normal for you to be asked to provide such
- 27 services?
- 28 A. Well, no -- well, I suppose, to an extent it would be.
- The Child Wellbeing Centre covers both Cavan and

- 1 Monaghan.
- 2 171 Q. Yes.
- 3 A. So the staff that are based in Castleblayney work in
- 4 both counties.
- 5 172 Q. Yes.

12:25

- 6 A. At that stage there was concern in relation to the
- 7 backlog of unallocated cases and, from its inception,
- 8 the wellbeing centre had provided an alternative
- 9 through family support and direct work with young
- people, to the initial assessment or no further action
- 11 options --
- 12 173 Q. Yes.
- 13 A. -- for the social work service. So I suppose
- 14 Mr. Lowry's thinking was that, with the backlog of
- cases, that the wellbeing centre may be able to provide 12:25
- a more proportionate response to children and families
- 17 who were on the waiting list at that time.
- 18 174 Q. Yes.
- 19 A. So it was for me to divert cases from that waiting
- 20 list.

12:26

- 21 175 Q. So your management stills and interaction with managing
- the child wellbeing centre, you would be able to choose
- cases from the unallocated list that might be that
- 24 urgent --
- 25 A. That were appropriate, yes.
- 26 176 O. And therefore reduce the number?
- 27 A. Yes.
- 28 177 Q. And provide an appropriate place of referral?
- 29 A. Yes.

- 1 178 Q. If appropriate --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 179 Q. -- at that point in time?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 180 Q. I think you were asked by him in March 2015 to provide
- 6 assistance to Seamus Deeney and Kay McLoughlin, who was
- 7 principal social worker and team leader, in reviewing
- 8 the backlog of unallocated cases?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 181 Q. Was that a written direction or would that be normal,

12:27

- or would he just ask you to do it?
- 12 A. Maybe, it was a verbal direction. I don't remember
- anything in writing.
- 14 182 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 183 Q. And can you just assist the Tribunal, at that point in
- 17 time what was your knowledge of Mr. Deeney and
- Ms. McLoughlin; were you familiar with them?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 184 Q. And your service, were you familiar with intake
- 21 records?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 185 Q. And were you familiar with the process of referral and
- 24 allocation of cases?
- 25 A. Yes. Yeah, in the overall sense, yes.
- 26 186 Q. Okay. The statement you provided to the Tribunal
- 27 refers to backlog days?
- 28 A. Yes.
- 29 187 Q. When did you, in fact, become involved in assessing the

1			backlog, reviewing the files, etcetera?	
2		Α.	Probably around March time. I think the first days	
3			were in March in both counties, I think, if I remember	
4			correctly.	
5	188	Q.	And were you working together collaboratively to review	12:27
6			them or did you each choose a tranche of cases to take	
7			from the filing cabinet?	
8		Α.	Well, I wouldn't necessarily have been involved in	
9			choosing any of the cases or the files. I would	
10			present myself on the day and review those that were in	12:28
11			front of me.	
12	189	Q.	All right. And were you given any instructions or were	
13			you just asked expected to use your own judgement as	
14			to what might be done or what bundle they might be then	
15			put into?	12:28
16		Α.	I suppose from my own knowledge of my own service and	
17			what we were capable of, it was more or less, I	
18			suppose, you know, if I saw something that I thought	
19			that we could work with successfully, I would have	
20			informed either Kay McLoughlin or Seamus Deeney and	12:28
21			then would have taken the referral directly from that	
22			file to one of our services.	
23	190	Q.	Yes. And from the files that you were reviewing, were	
24			you being asked to review the files simply and only	
25			from your own point of view?	12:28

allocated or taken?

Yes.

26

27

28

29

Α.

191 Q.

And were there any -- was there any discussion at any

stage as to criteria by which files would then be

2	192	Q.	Yes.	
3		Α.	That would I would have discussed that then with	
4			either Kay McLoughlin or Seamus Deeney, to ascertain if	
5			they agreed that it was appropriate for a family	12:29
6			support response or an individual work response.	
7	193	Q.	Okay. Well, does that involve then you having reviewed	
8			files, assessed whether you thought you could deal with	
9			them in your service and then engaging in a discussion	
10			with Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin as to whether they	12:29
11			agreed with that?	
12		Α.	Yes.	
13	194	Q.	What about files then that you didn't think were	
14			appropriate to come into your service, as it were, what	
15			were you to do with those files?	12:29
16		Α.	Well, those were for review by Mr. Deeney or	
17			Ms. McLoughlin.	
18	195	Q.	But had you been given a selected bunch of files that	
19			they thought were appropriate for your service or were	
20			you just trawling through	12:29
21		Α.	Pretty much.	
22	196	Q.	a whole backlog?	
23		Α.	I would imagine that the files that I was provided with	
24			were very much the lower end, I suppose would be the	
25			better way to describe them.	12:30
26	197	Q.	Okay. You do record in your statement, you say:	
27				

A. By our service?

1

28

29

"where it appeared during the course of a review day

that a number of people were required to be met with, a

Τ			date would be agreed for some weeks in the future and	
2			letters of appointment would then be forwarded."	
3				
4			What were you referring to when you included that in	
5			your statement?	12:30
6		Α.	The other part of my involvement in both the Monaghan	
7			and Cavan office was to make myself available to take a	
8			note when either Mr. Deeney or Ms. McLoughlin were	
9			meeting clients that required to be met through the	
10			course of their reviewing of the files, and those days	12:30
11			would be arranged, as I said, for a few weeks in	
12			advance, letters would be written from the social work	
13			office by Mr. Deeney or Ms. McLoughlin and I would be	
14			available on an agreed date to take the notes.	
15	198	Q.	Yes. But would these meetings and the letters be	12:31
16			written in relation to persons against whom a complaint	
17			had been made or in relation to whom an intake record	
18			had been created?	
19		Α.	I would imagine so, yes.	
20	199	Q.	Okay. Can you say how many backlog days or review days	12:31
21			there were between March and May?	
22		Α.	Possibly one in each county between March and May I	
23			would imagine.	
24	200	Q.	Okay. So one in each month, in each county?	
25		Α.	I'm not a hundred percent sure, I can check and get	12:31
26			back to you on that, I don't know exactly.	
27	201	Q.	Is there any record of the number of files that were	
28			reviewed as part of this collaborative process?	
29		Α.	I honestly don't know. I would imagine Mr. Deeney or	

1			Ms. McLoughlin would have some record, but I wouldn't	
2			have needed to keep a record in relation to that.	
3	202	Q.	All right. Did you do this in the duty room in Cavan	
4			when you came down to Cavan to do it or where did you	
5			do this?	12:32
6		Α.	It's referred to the training room. It's a large	
7	203	Q.	The training room?	
8		Α.	A large room, yes.	
9	204	Q.	Were Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin doing it in the same	
10			room?	12:32
11		Α.	Yes. Pretty much so, yeah.	
12	205	Q.	Okay. You are mentioned in an email sent by	
13			Ms. McLoughlin to Mr. Deeney and to Mr. Lowry, and I	
14			would perhaps just like you to look at that email.	
15			It's at page 1069 in the Tribunal's documents. It's an	12:32
16			email dated 7th May 2015, it's recorded as having sent	
17			at 13:30. Just before I ask you anything about it, I	
18			think you checked your diary and you were present on	
19			the 7th May	
20		Α.	Yes, that's correct.	12:32
21	206	Q.	for a file review day?	
22		Α.	Yes.	
23	207	Q.	So you were in the Cavan office on this date?	
24		Α.	Yes.	
25	208	Q.	Now, the email reads:	12:33
26				
27			"Dear Terry and Seamus	
28			I, along with Gayle, have been reviewing files on the	
29			MTP today. One relates to Maurice McCabe and I would	

1	like to discuss this case with you both before taking	
2	any action as it appears that this concern was referred	
3	to us in 2007 and Mr. McCabe was never met. It has	
4	come back in again due to media coverage of Mr. McCabe.	
5	The outstanding actions are that Mr. McCabe be written 12	2:33
6	to outlining the allegations and then be met and	
7	afforded an opportunity to respond. We would have to	
8	advise him that we would need to tell his wife about	
9	this information so she can be protective. Is it	
10	likely she is aware of the allegations as a file was	2:33
11	sent to the DPP. However, no prosecution was directed.	
12	Mr. McCabe has female children and the victim was a	
13	seven-year-old child when the alleged incident	
14	occurred. My issues are that we are proposing to tell	
15	this woman that we have concerns about not doing it for 12	2:33
16	possibly up to eight years and also I am not confident	
17	about sending the Barr letter to an address that may be	
18	out of date. I attach my draft Barr letter to	
19	Mr. McCabe."	
20	12	2:34
21	Then that is signed by Ms. McLoughlin or sent by her	
22	with the draft.	
23	CHAIRMAN: Mr. McGuinness, what is the date of that	
24	draft? I know it's the summer time, isn't it?	
25	MR. MCGUINNESS: It's undated, the draft.	2:34
26	CHAIRMAN: Yes, we heard from somebody else as to what	
27	proximate date it was. I thought it was around July,	
28	I'm not sure.	
29	MR. McGUINNESS: This is 7th May	

- CHAIRMAN: 2 MR. McGUINNESS: -- 2015. She composed the draft on 3 that day, Chairman. 4 **CHAIRMAN:** Okay. MR. McGUINNESS: I am just wondering, have you any 5 209 Q. 12:34 6 recollection of reviewing the files with Ms. McLoughlin 7 on that day? 8 As I mentioned, my diary says that I was there on that Α. date, and obviously I was reviewing files if I was 9 present, yeah. 10 12:34 11 In your statement you do describe the sort of process 210 Q. 12 that seems to be envisaged by the Barr letter. That 13 is, you know, when it appears that a number of people 14 or people would require to be met, a date would be 15 agreed and then letters would be forwarded. Were you 12:35 familiar with the Barr letter process? 16 17 I wouldn't say I was wholly familiar with it. Α.
- 18 211 Q. Yes.
- 19 No. Α.

20 You knew of the principle of it though? 212 0.

Is it?

- 21 Yes, yes. Α.
- 22 213 And it was certainly something that you had experience Q.

12:35

- 23 of yourself, having to write out, trying to get people
- 24 to come to an appointment?
- 25 Α. I wouldn't have been involved in the writing out to
- 26 people for those appointments.
- 27 Okay. You knew it was done --214 Q.
- 28 Yes. Α.
- -- but you wouldn't have been doing the writing of the 29 215 0.

1			letter yourself	
2		Α.	Yes.	
3	216	Q.	or composing it?	
4		Α.	That's correct, yes. Or choosing who it was written	
5			to.	12:35
6	217	Q.	I am wondering did you see the draft Barr letter that	
7			Ms. McLoughlin had provided on that day?	
8		Α.	No. Not to my knowledge, no.	
9	218	Q.	Did she discuss it with you in any way?	
10		Α.	No.	12:35
11	219	Q.	Did you hear her mention Mr. McCabe or Sergeant McCabe	
12			or Maurice McCabe on the day or around the day?	
13		Α.	My memory in relation to those days was the concern in	
14			relation to the time lapse in many areas where files	
15			had been created and people hadn't been notified of	12:36
16			them. Specifically to Mr. McCabe, no, I don't remember	
17			specifically.	
18	220	Q.	All right. Apart from any discussion with her about	
19			Mr. McCabe, or Sergeant McCabe, did you hear or do you	
20			recollect hearing any talk about Maurice McCabe at that	12:36
21			point in time in the office?	
22		Α.	No. None.	
23	221	Q.	Do you recall any talk about her either selecting or	
24			choosing or allocating a file relating to a member of	
25			An Garda Síochána?	12:36
26		Α.	No.	
27	222	Q.	Or any delay in dealing with any files relating to	

No. As I said, a delay in relation to files, but not

guards in particular?

27

28

29

Α.

1			specific to any member of the Garda Síochána or anyone	
2			else specifically.	
3	223	Q.	Yes. Mr. Lowry gave evidence to the Tribunal about	
4			having written and provided a report in relation to the	
5			service in this area in early 2014, had you been	12:37
6			consulted about that or were you generally aware about	
7			the delays?	
8		Α.	Mr. Lowry would have alerted me to the backlog of the	
9			unallocated cases at that point when he was asking that	
10			I offer some support to Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin.	12:37
11	224	Q.	Okay. The email that is in front of you refers to the	
12			case "has come back in again due to media coverage of	
13			Mr. McCabe", were you aware yourself of media coverage	
14			in relation to Sergeant McCabe?	
15		Α.	To some extent out with anything to do with my work I	12:37
16			would have been aware in the media that there was	
17			Mr. McCabe was	
18	225	Q.	Were you aware from your work that there was a file in	
19			relation to Sergeant McCabe in the office when you were	
20			conducting this joint review of files on the MTP?	12:38
21		Α.	I can't say that it stood out or anyone specifically	
22			said to me there is a file on Maurice McCabe.	
23	226	Q.	So, I want to be clear, is it your evidence that you	
24			have no recollection of knowing or that you did know	
25			but you paid no heed to it?	12:38
26		Α.	I did know that there was I'm unsure actually,	
27			because I subsequently know, and I'm not sure at the	
28			time whether I connected Maurice McCabe's name with any	
29			particular file. I don't think it was in my mind at	

1			that stage.	
2			MR. MCGUINNESS: Yes. All right. Thank you,	
3			Ms. Penders. Would you answer any questions anyone	
4			else may have?	
5		Α.	Yes.	12:38
6				
7			MS. PENDERS WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. MCGARRY	
8	227	Q.	MR. McGARRY: Ms. Penders, Paul McGarry is my name, I	
9			represent Sergeant McCabe.	
10		Α.	Hello.	12:39
11	228	Q.	Just looking at the email again, am I to understand it	
12			that you were providing assistance and support to	
13			Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin in relation to the MTP	
14			files?	
15		Α.	Yes.	12:39
16	229	Q.	If you look at the text of the email, it seems pretty	
17			clear that you were working with them on this	
18			particular file?	
19		Α.	No. That's not the case at all.	
20	230	Q.	It says, "I, along with Gayle"	12:39
21		Α.	Yes, " have been reviewing files".	
22	231	Q.	That is Kay and you	
23		Α.	Yes.	
24	232	Q.	have been reviewing the files on the MTP?	
25		Α.	Yes.	12:39
26	233	Q.	Then she says one, that's one of those files, I'm	
27			suggesting to you that suggests that you and she, one	
28			of the files that you and she have been working on	
29			relates to Maurice McCahe?	

- 1 A. That's not correct, no. We wouldn't necessarily have been working on files together.
- 3 234 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. I was present for file review day on that date.
- 5 235 Q. I see. So it wasn't a collaborative effort then; you 12:40 sat in the room and she looked at certain files and you
- 7 looked at other files --
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 236 Q. -- and there was no discussion between you as to what

 10 was to happen to them?
- A. Where I would have ascertained that a file would be appropriate for referral to our service, I obviously would have discussed that with Ms. McLoughlin on that occasion. She did not discuss with me.
- 15 237 Q. So you were the one -- when you had a file that there 12:40 was an issue, you would talk to her about it but she didn't talk to you about it?
- 18 A. I suppose the files were primarily hers and I was
 19 requesting to divert them. So she was my superior in
 20 that relationship, so I would have been asking was she 12:40
 21 agreeing with me in that respect.

- 22 238 Q. Why then, if you had no involvement or role in relation 23 to this file, do you think you were copied on the email 24 from Sergeant McCabe's solicitors in January 2016?
- A. My recollection of that is that on the date that we
 were due to meet various clients, normally what would
 happen on those occasions would be that the letter
 would come from Ms. McLoughlin, a lot of the time
 clients that she wrote to would contact her before the

1			date either to agree that they would attend or to ask	
2			for more information, or whatever it happened to be, on	
3			the morning of those days, Ms. McLoughlin would then	
4			tell me that we had appointments at 10:00, 12:00 and	
5			2:00, or whatever it happened to be. I have no	12:4
6			recollection of this, but I imagine that when	
7			Mr. McCabe did not turn up, purely and simply that for	
8			my information Ms. McLoughlin forwarded me the email.	
9			I would have been present to take the meeting on that	
10			day.	12:4
11	239	Q.	It wasn't that he didn't turn up, it was the fact that	
12			his solicitor had said he wasn't going to turn up.	
13		Α.	Yes.	
14	240	Q.	So, why would you have had any role in relation to that	
15			at all if you had nothing to do with it previously?	12:41
16		Α.	I was purely present there to take the minute had	
17			Mr. McCabe turned up.	
18	241	Q.	Thanks.	
19				
20			MR. O'HIGGINS: No, questions Chairman.	12:42
21			CHAIRMAN: Great.	
22			MR. McGUINNESS: Thank you.	
23			CHAIRMAN: Good. That's it. What progress with we	
24			making now, Mr. McGuinness? I mean, where are we in	
25			terms of the schedule?	12:42
26				
27			THE THEN WITNESS WITHDREW	
28				
29			MR. McGUINNESS: Today, Judge, we have two remaining	

1	witnesses; Ms. Bannon who will be quite short and	
2	Mr. Quinlan who will be relatively short.	
3	CHAIRMAN: Yes. Do we want to take a break? Everybody	
4	is tired. I'm sorry, I'm confessing to being tired, so	
5	could we say 2:15?	2
6		
7	THE HEARING THEN ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH	
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1			THE HEARING CONTINUED AFTER LUNCH AS FOLLOWS:	
2				
3			MS. LEADER: Sir, the next witness is Patricia Bannon.	
4				
5			MS. PATRICIA BANNON, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY	14:26
6			EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER AS FOLLOWS:	
7				
8			MS. LEADER: Ms. Bannon wrote a letter to the Tribunal	
9			dated 19th July 2017 and that is at page 3264 of the	
10			materials, and that is in volume 11, sir.	14:27
11				
12	242	Q.	Ms. Bannon, I think you are an employee of the HSE, is	
13			that correct?	
14		Α.	That's correct.	
15	243	Q.	And what is your present post within the HSE?	14:27
16		Α.	I am Disability Manager for the Head of Social Care	
17			within the Midlands/Louth/Meath CHO.	
18	244	Q.	And if you could just briefly set out your professional	
19			qualifications for the Tribunal, please?	
20		Α.	I originally qualified in 1988 as a nurse for learning	14:27
21			disability services, worked for St. John of God's	
22			services until 1993, where I transferred to the HSE as	
23			a clinical nurse manager in disability services in	
24			Meath, and then transferred to the office of the area	
25			manager in May of 2011.	14:27
26	245	Q.	Okay. And I think from May 2011 you were responsible	
27			for the oversight of quality and risk, quality and	
28			clinical care directorate programmes, discharge	
29			planning and hospital avoidance, integration of	

1			functions and services, HR medical, Freedom of	
2			Information requests and parliamentary questions,	
3			complaints and special projects, is that correct?	
4		Α.	That's correct.	
5	246	Q.	Now I think as part of that role within the HSE, the	14:28
6			area manager, who at that time who at the relevant	
7			time was Mr. Monaghan would seek advice on particular	
8			issues, is that correct?	
9		Α.	That's correct.	
10	247	Q.	And he has told us this morning that he sent an email	14:28
11			to you on 15th May 2014 looking for your advice in	
12			respect of a particular issue that had arisen, is that	
13			correct?	
14		Α.	That is correct.	
15	248	Q.	Now, I think you had no particular memory of receiving	14:28
16			that email until the Tribunal asked you about it, is	
17			that correct?	
18		Α.	That's correct, also, yes.	
19	249	Q.	Yes. Now, that email is to be seen at page 320 of the	
20			materials, and it should come up in front of you. Is	14:29
21			it on the screen?	
22		Α.	It is, thank you.	
23	250	Q.	Yes. So, Ms. Natasha Smith sent you an email and that	
24			was on Mr. Monaghan's behalf, is that correct?	
25		Α.	That's correct.	14:29
26	251	Q.	And that was on 15th of May 2014, and it simply said	
27			"Patricia, is this a correct process?" - is that	

correct?

Α.

That's correct.

2829

1	252	Q.	And attached to that email was the report which had	
2			been completed by Fiona Ward in respect of an incorrect	
3			report which had been forwarded from Rian Counselling	
4			to the HSE, is that correct?	
5		Α.	That's correct, yes.	14:29
6	253	Q.	And at the second that report was two pages, and	
7			it's to be seen at pages 308 and 309 of the materials,	
8			and it set out the steps that she proposed taking in	
9			relation to the incorrect report that had been	
10			completed by her, one of her counsellors and sent to	14:30
11			the HSE, is that correct?	
12		Α.	That's correct, yeah.	
13	254	Q.	And you were asked were the steps as outlined in that	
14			report correct, is that correct?	
15		Α.	That is correct. That is what Dermot wanted to know,	14:30
16			yeah.	
17	255	Q.	Yes. And is that a routine inquiry that might be	
18			addressed to you?	
19		Α.	Yes, that would come under my remit.	
20	256	Q.	Okay. And essentially, Ms. Ward had said that the	14:30
21			counsellor had apologised to the client and told her	
22			that the information in the report would be corrected	
23			immediately and the social work service and the Gardaí	
24			would be informed of the inaccuracy, isn't that right,	
25			and issued with a correct report?	14:30
26		Α.	Yes.	
27	257	Q.	And then a letter would be sent to the client, Ms. D,	
28			apologising for the inaccuracy, outlining the steps	
29			taken to correct the error and enclosing a corrected	

2			therapist phoned the social work service and informed	
3			them verbally of the error?	
4		Α.	Yes.	
5	258	Q.	And then a corrected version of the report was provided	14:31
6			to the social work service as soon as the error came to	
7			light on 15th of May 2014, and social work had been	
8			asked to retrieve and shred the previous inaccurate	
9			report and place the accurate report on the client	
10			file. Then it continued on:	14:31
11				
12			"A letter was drafted and sent to the Gardaí informing	
13			them that the report they hold contains an inaccuracy	
14			and asking that they return this report to the service	
15			so that it can be destroyed and a copy of the corrected	14:31
16			report will be provided to the Gardaí."	
17		Α.	Yes.	
18	259	Q.	Now, did you understand at that stage that the Gardaí	
19			hadn't been provided with the counsellor's report, it	
20			was a standard HSE report that had been provided to the	14:31
21			Gardaí?	
22		Α.	My understanding and my interest in the report was that	
23			each of the steps had been taken appropriately from my	
24			understanding and my knowledge.	
25	260	Q.	Yes.	14:31
26		Α.	The details of exactly what had happened weren't really	
27			for my remit, it was just that the process had been	
28			followed correctly.	

version of the report, and then the counsellor

1

29 261 Q. Okay. So you didn't take it from that, that there

Τ.			were, at that time, two incorrect reports in	
2			circulation?	
3		Α.	No. My input into it would be that there was okay,	
4			there was an incorrect report, this action had been	
5			corrected by providing the Gardaí, or like we would	14:32
6			with any other organisation, with the correct report	
7			and that the error had been	
8	262	Q.	Rectified?	
9		Α.	rectified.	
10	263	Q.	Okay. And then:	14:32
11				
12			"NCS, the National Counselling Service, in the	
13			southeast were informed that the report they hold on	
14			file is inaccurate. They were asked to remove the	
15			report from the file and shred it and a copy of the	14:32
16			correct report was to be furnished to the NSE in the	
17			southeast."	
18		Α.	And again, that would be a correct step; to inform the	
19			National Counselling Service that they had an	
20			inaccurate report and that the correct report was then	14:32
21			given to them.	
22	264	Q.	And then you replied a short time afterwards to	
23			Mr. Monaghan, you said:	
24				
25			"Yes, the process is correct. However, it would be	14:33
26			good practice for Fiona to review their SOPs and ensure	
27			that their systems for robust to mitigate against an	
28			incident like this happening again."	
29				

- 2 A. That is a slight typo. It should have said are robust.
- But yes, there are Standard Operating Procedures, they
- 4 should review them in order to mitigate against an
- 5 incident like this happening again, which would, again, 14:33
- 6 be standard practice; if there is a mistake noted that
- you should be changing how you do things to ensure that
- 8 the mistake doesn't happen again.
- 9 265 Q. Okay. And insofar as their procedures have changed
- since then, the Tribunal understands that now the
- 11 client and the counsellor together look over a copy of

14:34

- 12 any report, is that in your view --
- 13 A. Appropriate.
- 14 266 Q. -- appropriate, at this time? And in relation to the
- report that you got, I think there were no names of any 14:34
- people on it, is that correct?
- 17 A. No, there wasn't. It was anonymised. That is all that
- I have seen; what is there.
- 19 267 Q. It was simply Ms. Ward's name, so you knew who the --
- 20 A. I knew it belonged to Rian Counselling but that was as
- 21 much as I'd know.
- 22 268 Q. Okay. There is also a reference to Cavan in it. Do
- 23 you remember that?
- A. No. I was really looking at the steps that Ms. Ward
- 25 had taken following, you know, her awareness that the
- 26 report had been circulated.
- 27 269 Q. Okay. And it may be a superfluous question but do you
- remember discussing the matter with anybody or anything
- of that nature?

1		Α.	No, I hadn't, and I didn't even have a verbal	
2			conversation with Dermot because I responded via email	
3			to him.	
4			MS. LEADER: Thank you very much. If you would answer	
5			any questions anybody else might have for you.	14:35
6			MR. McGARRY: I don't have any questions, thank you.	
7			MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: No questions, Chairman.	
8				
9			THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW	
10				14:35
11			MS. LEADER: The next witness, sir, is Mr. Cormac	
12			Quinlan.	
13				
14			MR. CORMAC QUINLAN, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY	
15			EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER AS FOLLOWS:	14:35
16				
17			MS. LEADER: Mr. Quinlan's statement, sir, is in the	
18			second of the volume 9s at page 2665, and there are two	
19			documents attached to his statement - one is the	
20			Children's First guidelines, which is at page 2678, and	14:36
21			there is a second document attached, which is Policy	
22			and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Child	
23			Abuse and Neglect, and that is at page 2786 of the	
24			materials.	
25	270	Q.	Now, Mr. Quinlan, I understand that you are the interim	14:36
26			Director of Policy and Strategy with the Child and	
27			Family Agency, is that correct?	
28		Α.	That's correct.	
29	271	Q.	And if you would just outline what that job involves,	

1			please, for the Tribunal?	
2		Α.	The director of policy is responsible for the	
3			development of operational policy within the	
4			organisation based on national policy or guidance as	
5			issued, I suppose, through the Department or by	14:36
6			legislation. We also provide specialist advice to the	
7			chief executive office in the SOP in relation to any	
8			specific policy areas, and we are also involved in	
9			strategic development programmes within the	
10			organisation and to reflect the kind of strategic	14:37
11			objectives that the organisation has going forward in	
12			terms of changes to the service.	
13	272	Q.	And I think in relation to your qualifications for that	
14			particular job, you have been a practising social	
15			worker and manager in child protection and welfare	14:37
16			since 1997, you tutored with the Master's Social Work	
17			Programme in Trinity College Dublin and you are a	
18			member of the Social Work Registration Board in	
19			Ireland, is that correct?	
20		Α.	That's correct.	14:37
21	273	Q.	Now, just very generally with regard to policies and	
22			procedures, I think these are tools used by the Child	
23			and Family Agency so they can achieve the work they are	
24			supposed to do, is that correct?	
25		Α.	That's correct. They provide, yes, guidance to staff	14:37
26			in relation to the performance of their functions.	
27	274	Q.	Okay. So the staff typically would refer to these	
28			documents in order that they can carry out their jobs	
29			that they are assigned to do, is that correct?	

- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 275 Q. Now, just very generally, I understand that the Child
- and Family Agency has a statutory responsibility for
- 4 the welfare of children, is that correct?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 276 Q. And prior to the Child and Family Agency having that
- 7 statutory responsibility, it was the responsibility of

14:38

14:38

14:38

14:39

- 8 the Health Service Executive?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 277 Q. And if you could just very briefly explain to the
- 11 Tribunal when the change-over of roles occurred and,
- 12 you know, the specific responsibility of Tusla with
- regard to that?

20

- 14 A. So the Child and Family Agency was established in 2014
- following a specific piece of legislation known as
- 16 Child and Family Agency Act. Prior to that, as you had
- outlined I suppose, the child protection services was
- provided as part of the HSE. However, kind of, within
- 19 that context I suppose children and family services

within the HSE had begun to establish themselves under

- 21 separate directorate, I suppose, particularly in 2010
- 22 when there was an assistant director for children and
- family services appointed at the beginning of 2010 and
- then at the end of 2010 a national director was
- appointed for children and family services. So there
- had been kind of established governance structures
- 27 within the HSE at that point in relation to the
- coordination of children and family services. But that
- 29 entire function then transferred over to the Child and

Т			Family Agency in 2014 when the agency was established.	
2	278	Q.	Okay. And I think in relation to your statutory	
3			responsibilities, section 3 of the Child Care Act says:	
4				
5			"It shall be the function of every health board"	14:39
6				
7			Which is now Tusla's function.	
8				
9			" to protect the welfare of children in its area."	
10				14:39
11			Is that correct?	
12		Α.	That's correct.	
13	279	Q.	And the Child and Family Agency Act, section 8, which	
14			is a 2013 Act, provides that:	
15				14:39
16			"You shall support and promote the development, welfare	
17			and protection of children, support and encourage the	
18			effective functioning of families, and provide for the	
19			protection of care of children in circumstances where	
20			their parents have not given or are unlikely to be able	14:39
21			to give adequate protection and care."	
22				
23			Is that correct?	
24		Α.	That's correct.	
25	280	Q.	Now, I think the Child and Family Agency Act gives you	14:40
26			particular statutory powers in order to execute those	
27			duties, but they mostly relate to identifiable children	
28			which the agency has identified as being at risk, is	
29			that correct?	

1		Α.	Our responsibilities are, I suppose, twofold in	
2			relation to identified children who might be at risk,	
3			but also we have a promoting function as well in	
4			relation to identifying children that might be possibly	
5			at risk as well.	14:40
6	281	Q.	Yes. And going along with those statutory functions,	
7			you also have functions identified by various case law	
8			in relation to unidentified children who may be at	
9			risk, is that correct?	
10		Α.	That's right. Additional case law I suppose over time	14:40
11			has clarified and further, I suppose, identified our	
12			promotional responsibilities to those unidentified	
13			children.	
14	282	Q.	Okay. And I think those cases, which we refer to here	
15			as the Barr judgment, is a case called Gleeson, is	14:40
16			it	
17		Α.	That's correct.	
18	283	Q.	and it dates from the 1990s?	
19		Α.	That's correct.	
20	284	Q.	And essentially, the ratio of that decision says if you	14:40
21			are aware that there is an adult who may be a risk to	
22			children it's your job to assess who those children are	
23			and also assess the risk in relation to that particular	
24			adult, is that a fair summary of what it says?	
25		Α.	Yes. I suppose, our responsibility is to seek to try	14:41
26			and identify children who might be possibly at risk and	
27			in doing so then our responsibility is to share	
28			relevant information with relevant persons so that	
29			those individuals can make protective action in	

- 1 relation to those children.
- 2 285 Q. Yes. And I think there have been a series of cases
- 3 since then, one in 2010 and -- both in 2010, which
- 4 emphasised that particular role of the Child and Family
- Agency now, but it was the HSE then, is that correct?

14:41

14:42

14:42

- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 286 Q. Those decisions are MI, I think, in 2010, and P versus
- 8 a particular secondary school, is that correct?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 287 Q. Now, in order to carry out those functions, I want to
- refer you to two particular documents that I
- 12 understand, and the Tribunal understands, help the
- social workers in order to carry out their functions.
- 14 And the first is the Children First Guidelines, and I
- think they date from 2011, but they replace earlier
- 16 Children First Guidelines which date from 2009, is that
- 17 correct?
- 18 A. The previous Children First is 1999.
- 19 288 Q. 1999, I beg your pardon.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 289 Q. And these are 2011?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 290 Q. Now, the document is contained in full in the
- 24 Tribunal's documentation, and I don't intend to go
- 25 through all of that particular document, but there are
- a few areas I wish to particularly point out to you.
- 27 First of all, the Children First Guidelines isn't
- addressed just to the Child and Family Agency, but to
- all agencies and people who may work with children, is

Τ			that correct?	
2		Α.	Yes. Children First, I suppose, creates an obligation	
3			on all persons professional, moral, ethical	
4			obligation on persons in relation to their protection	
5			of children in Ireland, yes.	14:43
6	291	Q.	Now, if we could turn to page 2704, and it's at	
7			paragraph 3.6 of the Children's First Guidelines, it	
8			deals particularly with retrospective disclosure by	
9			adults, isn't that correct? It will come up on the	
10			screen in front of you.	14:43
11		Α.	That's correct.	
12	292	Q.	And this is what is of particular interest to this	
13			Tribunal, so it outlines at paragraph 3.6.1:	
14				
15			"An increasing number of adults are disclosing abuse	14:43
16			that took place during their childhood. Such	
17			disclosures often come to light when adults attend	
18			counselling. It is"	
19				
20			This is in bold.	14:43
21				
22			"It is essential to establish whether there is any	
23			current risk to any child who may be in contact with	
24			the alleged abuser revealed in such disclosures."	
25				14:43
26			So, this would be familiar to any counsellor, is that	
27			correct?	
28		Α.	Yes, that's correct.	
29	202	Λ	It should be at any rate?	

1		Α.	It should be.	
2	294	Q.	And it puts a particular onus on any particular	
3			counsellor to make further inquiries with regard to any	
4			disclosure of retrospective abuse, is that fair to say?	
5		Α.	Well, it creates an obligation it specifically here	14:44
6			mentions a it creates an obligation on any person	
7			who becomes, I suppose, aware of retrospective abuse to	
8			report that.	
9	295	Q.	And if we could then turn to paragraph 3.9, which is	
10			headed "Confidentiality" and it emphasises there that	14:44
11			just because something is told to somebody in	
12			counselling, doesn't mean that it has to be kept within	
13			a counselling environment, isn't that essentially what	
14			this section seeks to outline to people?	
15		Α.	Yes. What it highlights here is the protection of the	14:44
16			child, I suppose, would be paramount in that context.	
17			So, therefore, certain information could not be kept	
18			confidential if it related to a matter that concerned	
19			the protection of a child.	
20	296	Q.	And it outlines at paragraph 3.9.4:	14:45
21				
22			"The provision of information to the statutory agencies	
23			for the protection of a child is not a breach of	
24			confidentiality or data protection."	
25		Α.	That's correct.	14:45
26	297	Q.	So that deals with that particular section. Now, in	
27			relation to other agencies at paragraph 4.5 of the	
28			Children's First guidelines, it sets out the roles and	

responsibilities of An Garda Síochána, and it says

1			there:	
2				
3			"The involvement of An Garda Síochána in cases of	
4			alleged child abuse and neglect stems from its primary	
5			responsibility to protect the community and bring	14:45
6			offenders to justice. Where it is suspected that a	
7			crime has been committed An Garda Síochána has overall	
8			responsibility for the direction of any criminal	
9			investigation. It is the function of An Garda Síochána	
10			to interview and take any statements that will form	14:45
11			part of the criminal investigation file."	
12		Α.	That's correct.	
13	298	Q.	That's correct. And I suppose, in that paragraph, what	
14			it outlines is the particular role of the Gardaí in	
15			relation to investigating suspected crimes, is that	14:46
16			correct?	
17		Α.	That's correct.	
18	299	Q.	And at paragraph 4.6 of the Children's First	
19			Guidelines, which is at page 2710, it outlines	
20			cooperation between An Garda Síochána and the HSE	14:46
21			Children and Family Services, and it again says:	
22				
23			"An Garda Síochána and the HSE Children and Family	
24			Services have different functions, powers and methods	
25			of working. The specific focus of the HSE is on the	14:46
26			assessment of the welfare of the child and the family,	
27			the specific focus of An Garda Síochána is on the	
28			investigation of alleged offences and whether a crime	
29			has been committed. Joint working between the HSE	

Т			Children and Family Services and An Garda Siochana	
2			forms an integral part of the child protection and	
3			welfare services and is described in more detail in	
4			chapter 7."	
5				14:47
6			So that gives a general outline of what the two	
7			agencies are about and refers on to chapter 7 in	
8			relation to specifics, isn't	
9		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
10	300	Q.	that a summary of that? Now, before I come on to	14:47
11			the part 7 of the materials, there are two sections	
12			that I wish to outline. First of all, under	
13			"Assessment and Management of Child Protection and	
14			Welfare Concerns", which is at page 2719, what it says	
15			in relation to referral and assessment at paragraph	14:47
16			5.2.1, is that:	
17				
18			"All child protection and welfare concerns reported to	
19			the HSE Child and Family Services must be acted upon	
20			immediately and formally recorded and followed up as	14:47
21			soon as possible."	
22				
23				
24			So, as director of policy would you expect that	
25			referrals to the Child and Family Agency would spend	14:47
26			time not being acted upon, say, for instance, here we	
27			know that a referral was made in August 2013 and didn't	
28			get acted upon until April 2014, as a director of	
29			policy, would you say that is immediately and followed	

1	uр	as	soon	as	possible?
	٠.٢	~~		~~	P000.2.C.

- A. Well, any report that is received by the agency is prioritised for response, immediate child protection concerns are always responded to immediately --
- 5 301 Q. Yes.
- 6 -- in that context. I think the agency, I suppose, has Α. been on record, I suppose, in relation to some 7 8 challenges it faces in relation to cases awaiting allocation. So there is a situation whereby we 9 10 obviously try and respond to the most urgent cases in 14:48 11 the most timely manner, but there are cases that do 12 await allocation due to resource deficits within the organisation at times. 13
- 14 302 Q. And these resource deficits, are they being looked at 15 or trying to be managed in any way?
- Absolutely. Absolutely. So there has been, I suppose, 16 Α. 17 back -- there has been, I suppose, a series of audits done in the organisation by quality assurance in 18 19 relation to the review of cases awaiting allocation. 20 And last year in particular there was a very specific 21 audit done which examined every single case awaiting 22 allocation for the purpose of clarifying the priority 23 status of those cases and for, I suppose, assisting us on building business cases in relation to kind of 24 additional resources to address that deficit. 25 26 there has been continual efforts, which the agency is 27 on record of, in relation to, I suppose, reductions in 28 cases awaiting allocation over time, but it continues 29 to be a source of concern for us.

Т	303	Q.	okay. Then at paragraph 5.2.3 It says:	
2				
3			"The HSE should operate standard assessment procedures	
4			for reported concerns about children. These procedures	
5			should cover notification to the designated person	14:49
6			within the HSE, notification to An Garda Síochána,	
7			strategy meetings, child protection conferences, child	
8			protection reviews and assessment of risk to the child	
9			and any other child in the same situation."	
10				14:50
11			And that refers specifically to the cooperation with	
12			the guards, as I understand it, is that correct?	
13		Α.	That's correct. So the agency has what we call ou	
14			standard business processes or procedures in relation	
15			to the management of referrals received by the agency,	14:50
16			and we also have an additional guidance document that	
17			was developed following the production of Children	
18			First in 2011, which is called our Child Protection and	
19			Welfare Handbook, which gives additional guidance to	
20			staff in relation to the management of referrals.	14:50
21	304	Q.	Is that 2014 document?	
22		Α.	No, it's a 2011 handbook.	
23	305	Q.	Handbook. Okay. And if I could then turn to page	
24			2730, which is part of the chapter on assessment and	
25			management of child protection and welfare concerns,	14:50
26			and at paragraph 5.21 of that, it's stressed that:	
27				
28			"Record-keeping is of critical importance in this area	
29			of work. Unless accurate records are maintained the	

1			ability to adequately protect vulnerable children may	
2			be severely curtailed. It is essential that	
3			professionals keep contemporaneous records of all	
4			reported concerns in a safe place. These should	
5			include details of contacts, consultations and any	14:51
6			action taken."	
7		Α.	That's correct. And there's further reference to the	
8			importance of record-keeping and chronologies in the	
9			child protection and welfare handbook that I mentioned	
10			earlier on.	14:51
11	306	Q.	Yes.	
12		Α.	And also there is reference to the importance of	
13			record-keeping in relation to our 2014 policy in	
14			relation to responding to allegations of abuse.	
15	307	Q.	Okay. So from your point of view as director of policy	14:51
16			and strategy, do you think there is should be any	
17			lack of clarity within the staff of Tusla or the HSE	
18			with regard to maintaining files in a proper fashion?	
19		Α.	No. I think all the current policy and procedures in	
20			place would clearly indicate the importance of keeping	14:51
21			effective record-keeping on files.	
22	308	Q.	Okay. And that is nothing new, it's been there	
23		Α.	That has been there since I have been involved in the	
24			service certainly, yes.	
25	309	Q.	Okay. Now, I think the protocol for An Garda Síochána	14:52
26			and HSE liaison is contained in chapter 7 of the	
27			Children's First Guidelines, and that appears at page	
28			2735 of the materials. And just if I could just	
29			highlight:	

1				
2			"Cases to be formally notified by the HSE to An Garda	
3			Síochána."	
4				
5			That is at paragraph 7.4.1. It outlines:	14:52
6				
7			"Where the HSE suspects that a child has been or is	
8			being physically or sexually abused or willfully	
9			neglected, An Garda Síochána must be formally notified	
10			in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph	14:52
11			7.4.5 below. The process of establishing whether	
12			grounds exist for suspecting such abuse may involve	
13			consulting a relevant professional, personnel within	
14			the HSE and, where appropriate, in outside agencies.	
15			However, the HSE must not await confirmation of such	14:53
16			abuse, whether from a child abuse assessment unit or	
17			otherwise, before notifying An Garda Síochána."	
18				
19			And just, if I could stop there and ask you: Do you	
20			think that paragraph deals with the situation where a	14:53
21			second Garda notification is sent by the HSE?	
22		Α.	Sorry?	
23	310	Q.	If something has been notified to the Gardaí and	
24			investigated by the Gardaí, which is on file with the	
25			HSE or Tusla, would you expect a second notification to	14:53
26			issue if you follow the guidelines?	
27		Α.	In relation to the exact same incident, no. It	
28			shouldn't.	
29	311	Q.	It shouldn't. And you are very clear about that?	

- A. Yes. A notification occurs in relation to a specific incident of abuse that we have suspected and we notified in relation to that.
- 4 312 Q. Okay. And would you expect people to consult with old 5 files in relation to prior notifications if something 14:53 6 came up again?
- A. Absolutely. Under our Standard Operating Procedures
 for any new referral received there is a requirement, I
 suppose, to examine previous records held by the agency
 in relation to making a determination of the next steps 14:54
 in relation to that matter.
- Okay. And I suppose that's included in, that you consult relevant professional personnel within the HSE, is that correct? The re-notification procedure, you would satisfy yourself with consulting relevant personnel who may have been involved in files in different times, is that correct?
- 18 A. Well --
- 19 314 Q. In the case of a second notification.
- 20 In relation to, I suppose, any referral, there is --Α. 14:54 21 any referral process is two stages. One is a kind of 22 determination of eligibility, and the second is what is 23 called a preliminary inquiry. In relation to -- as part of the preliminary inquiry you would examine 24 25 previous records held by the agency and you would 14:54 26 perhaps make contact with relevant persons at that 27 point, internal to the agency, in relation to 28 determining the next steps of action, so you could 29 consult -- it's called internal checks or other checks,

2	315	Q.	And that was effective in 2013?	
3		Α.	That was effective in 2013, yes.	
4	316	Q.	Okay. And if I could then turn to the procedure for	
5			the HSE to notify An Garda Síochána, that is at page	14:55
6			2736 of the materials. At paragraph 7.4.5 there is a	
7			six-step procedure laid out there in relation to	
8			notification to An Garda Síochána. And I think what it	
9			says is:	
10				14:55
11			"The designated person within the HSE sends the	
12			standard notification form to the local Garda	
13			superintendent. Where more than one child is involved	
14			a separate standard notification form should be sent in	
15			respect of each child. A copy is retained on the file	14:55
16			on each child. The social worker handling the case is	
17			named on the form."	
18				
19			And that sets out the Garda notification, how it	
20			happens. If I could just ask you there: What do you	14:56
21			regard as the local Garda superintendent when a Garda	
22			notification is being given to the Guards? Who is the	
23			local Garda superintendent?	
24		Α.	It's the local station in which the incident occurred	
25			and normally or, in our case, it's where the child	14:56
26			resides, normally.	
27	317	Q.	So it's either where the child resides, if it is a	
28			child	

I suppose, in our Standard Operating Procedures.

1

29

A. Yes.

-- in the case of a retrospective --1 318 Q. 2 It would be where the concern, I suppose, regarding the Α. 3 children who are potentially at risk would reside then as well. 4 Would you expect that Garda station to be known to 5 319 Q. 14:56 6 HSE/Tusla personnel? 7 Yes. Α. 8 Then it sets out at number 2: 320 Yes. 0. 9 "On receipt of the standard notification form, the 10 14:56 11 Garda superintendent arranges to have a designated 12 garda assigned to the case and immediately informs the designated person within the HSE of the garda's name 13 14 and station." 15 14:57 Is that the garda liaison person, you would expect that 16 17 person to be? Sorry, could you repeat that question again? 18 Α. 19 Yes. So, on receipt of the standard notification form, 321 Q. 20 it's (ii) --14:57 21 Yes. Α. 22 "-- the Garda superintendent arranges to have a 322 Q. 23 designated garda assigned to the case --" Now, what I 24 am asking you, is that designated garda -- would you 25 expect that designated garda to be the liaison garda 14:57 with the HSE? 26 27 Well, I suppose the garda and superintendent may Α. 28 appoint someone who investigates that particular case,

but sometimes there is a liaison garda just in relation

Τ			to general, I suppose, overview of all notifications	
2			between the HSE and ourselves. So it may not be the	
3	323	Q.	There is no particular significance to that?	
4		Α.	No. I suppose, they just assign my understanding is	
5			that you assign a particular member of the Gardaí to	14:57
6			investigate that matter, as we assign a social worker	
7			to allocate, to assess that matter.	
8	324	Q.	And (iii) says:	
9				
10			"The designated garda makes direct contact without	
11			delay with the HSE social worker (or other designated	
12			person) dealing with the case in order to obtain	
13			details."	
14				
15		Α.	That's correct.	14:58
16	325	Q.	"(iv) When contact is established, both the designated	
17			garda and the social worker commence completion of the	
18			Record of Garda - HSE Liaison Form."	
19				
20			Is that correct?	14:58
21		Α.	That's correct.	
22	326	Q.	"At the same time, the garda superintendent will assign	
23			a designated inspector/sergeant to manage the	
24			investigation, monitor its progress and consult with	
25			the appointed HSE designated person of the case."	14:58
26		Α.	That's correct.	
27	327	Q.	And finally in (vi):	
28				

"Where contact cannot be established between the

1			designated Garda and the social worker, the matter will	
2			revert immediately to the HSE Social Work Team Leader	
3			of the case and the designated garda inspector/sergeant	
4			for resolution."	
5		Α.	That's correct.	14:58
6	328	Q.	That is essentially the protocol that is followed with	
7			regard to individual cases, is that correct?	
8		Α.	That's correct.	
9	329	Q.	Now, paragraph 7.5 provides for informal consultation	
10			between the two agencies, is that correct?	14:59
11		Α.	That's correct.	
12	330	Q.	And then it says:	
13				
14			"In cases where the HSE is aware of concerns about a	
15			child but is unable to establish sufficient grounds for	14:59
16			formal notification, the HSE should consult with An	
17			Garda Síochána on an informal basis. Such contact is	
18			to be actively encouraged in order to protect the	
19			welfare of the child concerned."	
20				14:59
21			So, is that a step which falls short of formal	
22			notification?	
23		Α.	Yes, I suppose inter-agency cooperation between the	
24			Gardaí and ourselves is encouraged to ensure that we	
25			are constantly engaging, I suppose, in relation to the	14:59
26			sharing of information that would pertain to our	
27			respective responsibilities. So, that is in addition	
28			to the formal notification process.	
29	331	0	And it's a legitimate step to be taken by any social	

1			worker or team leader prior to formal notification?	
2		Α.	Yes, in order to establish, as I said, there's	
3			sufficient grounds for formal notification.	
4	332	Q.	So, for instance, in a case where a thing is coming	
5			into the HSE for a second time, it may be something	15:00
6			that would be usefully employed in order to establish	
7			for definite whether the Gardaí had investigated a	
8			matter prior to that?	
9		Α.	Absolutely. It would be important for people to be	
10			able to contact and speak to each other to clarify	15:00
11			information so as to prevent a particular action that	
12			shouldn't happen taking place.	
13	333	Q.	Now, I think the various templates of these standard	
14			notification forms are set out, attached to the	
15			Children's First Guidelines, is that correct?	15:00
16		Α.	That's correct.	
17	334	Q.	And they appear in the materials. Now, there is a	
18			second document that I wish to open to you,	
19			Mr. Quinlan, and it is the Policy and Procedures for	
20			Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect,	15:00
21			and that is dated September 2014. And if you could	
22			just briefly explain to me how this document came	
23			about, considering there was already a Children's First	
24			Guidelines available since 2011.	
25		Α.	The policy, I suppose, arose fundamentally in relation	15:01
26			to the performance or functions and in particular, I	
27			suppose, legal challenges that we faced in relation to	
28			meeting our functions, which I have outlined in my	
29			witness statement. So basically the requirement I	

- 1 suppose on the agency is in relation to determining an 2 outcome in relation to an allegation of abuse and to 3 apply fair procedures in relation to the assessment and determination of that specific outcome in respect of 4 that allegation. And this policy and procedure 5 15:01 6 outlines that process to be followed in relation to the 7 determination of an outcome which is defined in the 8 policy as a funded or unfounded outcome in relation to a specific allegation of abuse, and, like I said, the 9 procedures that should be followed to make sure that 10 15:01 11 that is fair and just in relation to determining that 12 outcome.
- Okay. And insofar as the document is dated September 2014, do you think people in the staff of the HSE and Tusla would have been aware of what was contained in this document prior to September 2014? Was there anything new in it?

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15:02

A. There was specific new provisions, yes, within it, from September 2014 on, particularly in relation to, I suppose, some of the defined procedures laid out in the document, and particularly the determination of founded and unfounded, which were new categories, I suppose, that were adopted at that point. Historically, I suppose, outcomes had been previously defined, I suppose, in the original Children's First 1999 and in a supplemental document that was produced by the health boards at that stage, which outlined the outcomes to be different; they were identified as unfounded, confirmed or inconclusive. So there was a change in relation to

1			this particular policy document at that time.	
2	336	Q.	Okay. Now, I think the key principles governing the	
3			policy are set out at page 2793 of the materials at	
4			paragraph 3, and they set out:	
5				15:03
6			"(A) The Child and Family Agency is required under the	
7			Child Care Act to promote the welfare of children who	
8			are not receiving adequate care and protection and in	
9			so doing, must regard the welfare of the child as the	
10			paramount consideration.	15:03
11				
12			(B) The Child and Family Agency has a duty to determine	
13			whether there may be a risk to a child and assess any	
14			such risk.	
15				15:03
16			(C) If the child is believed to be at immediate serious	
17			risk the child's interests take priority over	
18			consideration of the alleged abuser's right to be	
19			informed of the allegations against him or her prior to	
20			necessary protective action being implemented to ensure	15:03
21			the safety and welfare of the child.	
22				
23			(D) And if the Child and Family Agency comes to a	
24			conclusion that there is immediate serious risk to a	
25			child, it is under a duty to communicate this to an	15:03
26			appropriate relevant third party, if that is necessary	
27			to, to enable them to take whatever protective action	
28			may be necessary.	
29				

			(E) WOLKING IN COOPELACTOR WITH PATERICS AND LAMITTY AND	
2			maintaining children in their own home, whenever	
3			possible, is in the best interests of children. If a	
4			child is living with an alleged abuser the safety of	
5			the child is paramount. From a child protection and	15:04
6			welfare perspective a determination has to be made by	
7			social work professionals on the balance of	
8			probability.	
9				
10			(G) The Child and Family Agency has a duty to ensure	15:04
11			that any action taken in relation to an alleged abuser	
12			is, where possible, done in accordance with natural	
13			justice and fair procedures. In particular,	
14			individuals have a right to be informed of what is	
15			alleged against them and to be given a reasonable	15:04
16			opportunity to put forward their submission or to make	
17			representations. This is set out further below.	
18				
19			The Child and Family Agency should take into	
20			consideration in its assessment any representations an	15:04
21			alleged abuser makes and should not reach a final	
22			conclusion without considering this."	
23				
24			So they are essentially the key points which underpin	
25			this whole document, is that correct?	15:05
26		Α.	That's correct.	
27	337	Q.	And this document exists in the absence of any specific	
28			statutory powers that the agency has in order to carry	
29			out its functions, is that correct?	

Т		Α.	well, the statutory power that exists is still section	
2			3 of the Child Care Act, I suppose, and this policy, I	
3			suppose, reflects again our promotional function in	
4			relation to identifying children who may be at risk.	
5	338	Q.	Who may be at risk?	15:05
6		Α.	And then, I suppose, following this procedure, I	
7			suppose, again, assisting us perhaps in sharing	
8			information with relevant third parties to take	
9			protective action in respect of that potential risk.	
10	339	Q.	Okay. And I think part C of the document sets out the	15:05
11			procedures for responding to an allegation that has	
12			been made in relation to a child, isn't that correct?	
13			And that is at page 2798 of the materials.	
14		Α.	Yes.	
15	340	Q.	Now, the first thing the agency does is, it receives a	15:06
16			report, and:	
17				
18			"On the basis of the reported concern or existing	
19			information there is reason to believe that a child has	
20			been harmed or is at risk of further harm or ongoing	15:06
21			neglect or that their safety or welfare is at risk, the	
22			concern must be followed up immediately and any	
23			necessary interventions made."	
24				
25			And that is immediately reports which are of	15:06
26			immediate concern, is that correct?	
27		Α.	That's correct. Where there is immediate risk, like I	
28			said, they should be followed up immediately.	

29 341 Q. And there is an immediate protective action plan set

1			out underneath that at paragraph 10, isn't that	
2			correct?	
3		Α.	That's correct.	
4	342	Q.	Now, again, at paragraph 11, notifying An Garda	
5			Síochána is set out. And it refers back, first of all,	15:06
6			to the Children's First, that it provides that:	
7				
8			"Where the Child and Family Agency suspects that a	
9			child has been or is being physically or sexually	
10			abused or willfully neglected, An Garda Síochána must	15:07
11			be formally notified in accordance with the procedures	
12			set out in paragraph 7 of the Children's First	
13			Guidelines."	
14				
15			And that has already been opened, isn't that correct?	15:07
16		Α.	That's correct.	
17	343	Q.	And then it sets out:	
18				
19			"The social worker should follow the procedures set out	
20			in the Children's First Guidelines."	15:07
21				
22			And specifically with regard to retrospective	
23			allegations, paragraph 11.4 of this document says that:	
24				
25			"where an individual is making a retrospective	15:07
26			allegation, a contact should also be made with An Garda	
27			Síochána to inquire as to whether the person alleging	
28			the abuse is known to An Garda Síochána and to	
29			ascertain whether a statement has been made. Where the	

report to the Child and Family Agency indicates that a statement has been made to An Garda Síochána, the social worker should confirm with An Garda Síochána that that is the case."

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15:08

Now, that appears to me to be an additional step to what is contained in the Children's First Guidelines, and I wonder could you explain how this paragraph got to be included in this particular policy document, please?

15:08

15:08

A. Well, specifically, I suppose, because this relates to retrospective allegations of abuse, the requirement here, I suppose, is to clarify whether any matter that might have been known to the Gardaí previously, I suppose, in relation to a criminal investigation and just to clarify what the outcome of that criminal investigation may have been in respect of that. So that's why this additional step was placed in this document, I suppose to try and again ensure effective communication and collaboration between ourselves in relation to historical allegations of abuse.

15:08

22 344 Q. So when this Tribunal has heard that Ms. McGlone wrote 23 to the Gardaí in August 2013, prior to notifying the 24 Gardaí of the retrospective allegation, that in effect 25 is what she was doing, is that correct?

- A. She was seeking -- I believe, she was seeking just to -- yes, to clarify what information the Gardaí may have held in respect of the matter.
- 29 345 Q. And even this document didn't come into effect until

Т			2014, It's something that may have been followed, may	
2			be regarded as good practice in 2013, do you think?	
3		Α.	Well, I suppose, yes. I mean, social workers would try	
4			and apply their best judgment in relation to cases, I	
5			suppose, and would try and again, I suppose, comply	15:09
6			generally with the principles of Children First to try	
7			to work collaboratively with the Gardaí in relation to	
8			clarifying information before taking steps.	
9	346	Q.	Okay. Now, I think I don't need to go into the details	
10			unless you wish to highlight any particular step, until	15:09
11			13, when we get to "Contacting an Adult Complainant".	
12			I don't think there is anything particularly relevant	
13			to the Tribunal's workings. But at page 2800 of the	
14			materials it sets out what a social worker will do when	
15			there is a retrospective report received; it	15:10
16			acknowledges the report to the complainant. So that is	
17			nothing new, I think, there, acknowledging the report,	
18			is that	
19		Α.	To the person who has made the referral?	
20	347	Q.	Yes.	15:10
21		Α.	No, that is not new.	
22	348	Q.	"Notifies An Garda Síochána", we have gone through	
23			that. "Make contact with the complainant", and:	
24				
25			"In contacting the complainant the social worker	15:10
26			should"	
27				
28			And this is at page 2801.	

"-- explain that they, the complainant, will need to be interviewed so that a full account of their story can be taken; inform them that this is the first stage of the assessment which will have a particular status being used as the reference point for the further assessment to be undertaken with the alleged abuser to determine if any children are currently at risk or whether there is a future risk to children yet to be identified; be clear with the complainant that the social worker's task is to assess the allegations and should explain that no further action can be taken until such time as a professional determination on the reliability of the allegations has been made."

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So was that something new that came in, in 2014 or was it something that you would expect --

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15:11

17 well, the specific provisions of this and the specific Α. procedural elements of this were quite new, I suppose, 18 19 in that context. Prior to that I suppose there was a 20 general recognition of an obligation in relation to 21 retrospective abuse, and our obligations to promote the 22 welfare of children in that context. But the specific procedures wouldn't have been outlined in this detail 23 prior to this policy being implemented. 24

25 349 Q. So, when you say they wouldn't have been outlined in 26 that detail, generally they would have been known that 27 that was a good procedure to follow, is that fair?

A. Well, generally there was an acceptance and responsibility to consider retrospective abuse

allegations and to try and identify children who could 1 2 be potentially at risk and to proceed on that basis to 3 assess that risk, and to share relevant information with other people. Obviously, we always try and work 4 in a fair and open and transparent way, where possible, 15:12 5 6 and that would be general good practice, unless sharing 7 or -- unless that would create an additional risk to a 8 child, we would always do that in a very open and 9 transparent way. But, I suppose, this policy outlined 10 the very specific procedural steps to be followed, 15:12 11 which hadn't been in place, I suppose, prior to that. 12 Okay. And then D: 350 Q. 13 14 "Inform the complainant that as per the requirements of 15 the Children's First, An Garda Síochána has been 15:12 notified of the report and that they can, if they have 16 17 not already done so, make a statement to An Garda Síochána at any point. Following this, the social 18 19 worker should finalise the arrangement with the 20 complainant to undertake the first stage of the 15:12 21 assessment. The social worker must then confirm to the 22 complainant in writing that the first stage of the

26 A. That's correct.

place."

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27 351 Q. Yes. And then there is a section 14: "Refusal to
28 engage in the first stage of the assessment." And it
29 essentially sets out that if that happens:

assessment will be carried out and the details of where

15:13

and when the first stage of the assessment will take

"If the complainant refuses to participate in the
assessment procedure, that the social worker should
explain that work on progressing the assessment of risk
posed by the alleged abuser will be compromised as the
social work office will be limited in the actions it
can take with regard to the alleged abuser."

- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 352 Q. And also it should be explained that if the complainant refuses to engage in the first stage, that it doesn't close the door to engaging, that can be done at a later time should the complainant want to do that, is that correct? That is at 14.2.
- 14 A. That's correct.
- Now, if the complainant doesn't engage with the social 15:13 worker, do you envisage that any further action will be taken by the Child and Family Agency in relation to cases of retrospective abuse?

15:14

- 19 There is still an obligation on the agency to come to a Α. 20 conclusion in respect of the matter and to proceed on 21 the basis of that conclusion or not proceed if the 22 conclusion is an unfounded outcome. But we still have 23 to proceed -- to come to a determination in respect of 24 the allegation and then take whatever appropriate steps should happen at that point in time. 25
- 26 354 Q. And you do it on the basis of the information available 27 to you --
- 28 A. Absolutely.
- 29 355 Q. -- is that correct? Now, just in relation to this

1			particular matter that the Tribunal is dealing with, it	
2			would appear that when Ms. McLoughlin decided to deal	
3			with the matter, her superior, Séamus Deeney, decided	
4			that the following steps should be followed in relation	
5			to the retrospective report. This is at page 456 of	15:15
6			the materials. It should come up in front, yes. So	
7			Mr. Deeney wrote to McLoughlin and said:	
8				
9			"We discussed this case yesterday. We decided that we	
10			would contact the alleged victim as there is some	15:15
11			discrepancy in the allegations forwarded to us. This	
12			will allow us to check the reliability and accuracy of	
13			the allegations and determine whether there is a	
14			foundation to the allegations."	
15				15:15
16			So that, in essence, was following the procedure that I	
17			have just outlined there to you, is that correct?	
18		Α.	Technically, yes.	
19	356	Q.	Yes.	
20		Α.	It would be, yes.	15:15
21	357	Q.	Even though this predated, I think oh, no, this was	
22			the 2015.	
23		Α.	Yes. It's when the standard policy was in place.	
24	358	Q.	So it was following that policy?	
25		Α.	Yes.	15:15
26	359	Q.	And then:	
27				
28			"2. Determine whether we need to interview anyone else	

who may be of relevance, e.g. the counsellor."

1				
2			So that again would be following the policy in 2014, is	
3			that correct?	
4		Α.	That's correct.	
5	360	Q.	And then: "On review of the above, inform the alleged	15:16
6			abuser of the allegations."	
7		Α.	That's correct.	
8	361	Q.	That's correct. And that comes later on in the policy,	
9			and I don't intend to go into it in any detail here,	
10			and then:	15:16
11				
12			"Plan the action to be taken to inform third parties in	
13			relation to the allegations, e.g." his wife in this	
14			particular instance "and determine protective action	
15			and plan for the case". Is that right?	15:16
16		Α.	Well, I mean, step 3 obviously would have been slightly	
17			more to just informing him, obviously. There would be	
18			an obligation to meet with the person, to interview	
19			them, to take them through, I suppose, the concerns in	
20			relation to it, to seek their response in relation to	15:16
21			that. And then following that, I suppose,	
22			consideration of all the relevant information then at	
23			that point in time to determine provisional outcome, as	
24			outlined in the policy document, to share that	
25			provisional outcome with the person who has allegedly	15:16
26			caused harm, to seek any additional information at that	
27			point and then to come to a final conclusion at that	
28			point and then share relevant information based on that	

founded outcome at that point.

- 1 362 Q. Yes.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 363 Q. So the second stage of the -- the first stage of the assessment is meeting the complainant?
- 5 A. The first stage is meeting the complainant.
- The second stage of the assessment, engaging with the alleged abuser, in the policy, and that is at page 2807 of the materials. And it sets out that once step one is finished, that you write to the alleged abuser at the earliest stage, and it sets out the contents of

15:17

- the -- what the letter should contain, isn't that
- 12 correct?
- 13 A. That's correct, yes.
- 14 365 Q. And that is an up-to-date policy, is that correct, in
 15 relation to the contents of what should be set out to the alleged abuser at that stage?
- 17 A. Yes. I suppose the policy was informed fundamentally
 18 probably from the Barr judgment at the time, I suppose
 19 in relation to the type of information that should be
 20 shared with, and there are template letters, like I 15:18
- said, in the --
- 22 366 Q. In the policy?
- A. -- in the appendices of the document that outline the general type of letters that should be written to in respect of the person who has allegedly caused harm.
- 26 367 Q. And I think the draft letter is contained at Appendix 3 27 at page 2827 of the materials. It should come up in 28 front of you now. Yes, I think it's set out there.
- 29 A. That's correct, yes.

- And it's part of the policy to set out detail in 1 368 Q. 2 relation to the allegations in the letter, is that 3 correct?
- That's correct. 4 Α.
- And that is your up-to-date policy, am I correct in 5 369 Q. 15:18 6 saying that?
- 7 That is our current and active policy in respect of Α. 8 these matters. ves.
- And it sets out that that correspondence should be sent 9 370 Q. 10 by registered post and marked "strictly private and 15:18 11 confidential, strictly addressee only," is that 12 correct?
- That's correct. 13 Α.

29

- You don't have any policies in relation to particular 14 371 Q. 15 times, that it may not be the greatest idea to send a 15:19 letter like that to people? 16
- This policy has been subject, or is subject currently 17 Α. to review, and certainly one of the aspects that have 18 19 arisen out of that review, I suppose, from 20 practitioners is the requirement, perhaps, to have a 21 pre-meeting with the person who allegedly caused harm, 22 to invite them in to try and discuss, not the specific 23 allegations but just to inform them obviously, to confirm their identity, to offer support or make sure 24 they had support and advices in relation to them before 15:19 25 they would then come to us to discuss the allegations. 26 27 So there is a recommendation as part of the review to

15:19

have a pre-step to actually sending the detail out to

the individual and that what we would do -- what is

recommended is, when they come in to meet with us, we would provide them then with a hard copy of, obviously, the detailed allegations at that point, so that is a recommendation of the review of the policy presently, which just hasn't concluded yet.

15:20

6 372 And then I think your policy then sets out the steps to Q. 7 be taken where the alleged abuser refuses to engage the 8 meeting with an alleged abuser, whether they should be legally represented during the initial interview, in 9 situations where the alleged abuser is under 18 years 10 11 of age, what happens after the initial interview, that 12 there may be a further assessment in relation to the

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A. So that is -- the letter sets out basically the stages of the process that would be gone through so that the individual has full knowledge, A, of the matters to which they are asked to discuss with us, and also then what the stages in the process that took place, to make sure, again, that we are applying fair procedures and

transparency in relation to how we conduct our business

matter, that a provisional conclusion is come to, a

final conclusion, and the -- in appropriate cases, that

third parties be notified if it is concluded that that

is an appropriate course of action, is that correct?

15:21

25 373 Q. And just in very general terms, would you expect all of 15:21 26 your social workers, team leaders and area managers to 27 be very familiar with these documents and the policies 28 of the Child and Family Agency?

in respect of these matters.

A. Yes. I would expect that all staff would be aware of

1			all current policies. They are currently available to	
2			all staff through what we call our intranet, hubs, so	
3			they are accessible to staff through their computers,	
4			and that, at any point in time in relation to	
5			compliance with those policies and procedures.	15:21
6	374	Q.	And is there ongoing training provided to staff in	
7			relation to policies?	
8		Α.	Depending on the need or depending on the requirement	
9			if that is identified, then those kind of issues can be	
10			addressed, yes.	15:21
11	375	Q.	Okay. I don't know if there is anything else in	
12			particular you want to draw to the Tribunal's attention	
13			with regard to policies? Do you think is there	
14			anything you would like to add?	
15		Α.	I don't believe so at this point in time, unless there	15:22
16			is any specific questions in relation to policy	
17			matters, no, thank you.	
18			MS. LEADER: Thank you very much. If you would answer	
19			any questions anybody else might have for you,	
20			Mr. Quinlan.	15:22
21				
22			MR. QUINLAN WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. MCGARRY:	
23				
24	376	Q.	MR. McGARRY: Mr. Quinlan, Paul McGarry is my name. I	
25			represent Sergeant McCabe. Am I correct in	15:22
26			understanding that your evidence to the Tribunal is	
27			directed at what should happen ideally in every case?	
28		Α.	That's correct. I suppose my position is to outline	
29			the policy position that exists in the agency or	

1			previously perhaps within the child and family	
2			services, if that is possible.	
3	377	Q.	And you were asked some questions about this by	
4			Ms. Leader. Am I to understand that you have looked at	
5			the files and documents in relation to the matters that	15:22
6			are the subject of the terms of reference here?	
7		Α.	No, I wouldn't have conducted a full review of the	
8			specific file in relation to this. That wouldn't be a	
9			role and function of myself as director of policy. So	
10			I would obviously be aware of some of the issues,	15:23
11			obviously, as a member of the senior management team,	
12			arising during the course of the Tribunal.	
13	378	Q.	Well, obviously you have followed what has been going	
14			on here with regard to your agency and you are familiar	
15			with what the position is?	15:23
16		Α.	That's correct.	
17	379	Q.	And the evidence of the various people that have	
18			given that have come here and testified from your	
19			agency?	
20		Α.	I would have knowledge, yes, of some of the evidence, I	15:23
21			suppose, that people have provided to the Tribunal,	
22			yes.	
23	380	Q.	You see, I have to suggest to you that there has been a	
24			complete failure to comply with the various obligations	
25			on the part of your agency at every level in the	15:23
26			process.	
27		Α.	My understanding is, from reviewing the information,	
28			that there certainly has been failures in relation to	

compliance with policy in respect of this matter,

1			that's true. And I also understand, I suppose, that my	
2			colleague, the chief operations Jim Gibson, has	
3			given, I suppose, absolute clarity to the Tribunal that	
4			there has been a failure in respect of oversight and	
5			governance of matters, as well, in relation to matters	15:24
6			before the Tribunal.	
7	381	Q.	well, leave aside oversight and governance. I am	
8			talking about the facts with regard to compliance with	
9			the things you have been telling us about this	
10			afternoon?	15:24
11		Α.	I believe there is, at times, partial compliance with	
12			elements of policy but not full compliance with	
13			elements of policy.	
14	382	Q.	Well, I am not going to go through them all in detail,	
15			but I am suggesting to you, without the need to go	15:24
16			through them all in detail, that there has been a	
17			complete failure to comply with those obligations on so	
18			many different levels by so many different people at	
19			every stage in the process?	
20		Α.	Like I said, I believe there has been partial	15:24
21			compliance at times with elements of the policy but	
22			there has been significant, I would say, deficits in	
23			relation to compliance with elements of the policy in	
24			respect of these matters.	
25	383	Q.	For example, you referred in the statement or the	15:24
26			document that you prepared for the Tribunal to the	
27			obligation, the legal obligation in relation to fair	
28			procedures and how the person against whom the	
29			allegation of abuse is treated. Would you accept that	

- there has been a complete failure to comply with those obligations?
- 3 Well, I believe in relation to this particular policy Α. and the fair procedures outlined, I believe that the 4 5 evidence before the Tribunal is that there was an 6 attempt obviously to share and follow the procedure as 7 outlined in the five steps that were just presented to 8 me earlier in relation to that, so there was an attempt to comply with some element of the policy but that 9 wasn't, I believe, followed with rigour. 10

15:25

15:25

15:25

- 11 384 Q. So it wasn't followed up, the five steps were not complied with, isn't that right?
- My understanding is -- again, I suppose my knowledge is 13 Α. 14 limited, I suppose I would say, in that, because I 15 haven't done a full file review of this matter. 16 wouldn't be a role and function of myself, as director 17 of policy, to review. That is a matter for the internal review to look at the specific, but I am aware 18 19 from some of the evidence obviously before the Tribunal 20 that there has been failures in that regard, yes.
- 21 Well, I am suggesting to you that the failures exist at 385 Q. 22 every level. They exist, for example, at the level of compliance with the Children's First Guidelines, they 23 24 exist with the compliance with the notification procedure and the interaction with An Garda Síochána. 25 26 they exist in relation to the record-keeping 27 obligations that are contained in the guidelines that 28 you have set out, they exist in relation to the manner in which you deal with the alleged person concerned, 29

- they exist in relation to data protection issues.
- 2 A. Certainly, like I said, there has been partial
- 3 compliance, I would say, with some elements. Some
- 4 notifications have taken place. Obviously there was
- 5 errors in relation to information that was notified,

15:26

15:26

15:27

- 6 but if someone was following the policies correctly,
- they would have taken different steps, definitely, in
- 8 relation to those matters.
- 9 386 Q. And are you and other senior people in the organisation
- not astonished and alarmed at the level of failure, at
- the level of breakdown in this particular case?
- 12 A. Like I said, I believe the agency accepts that there
- was clear governance and oversight issues in relation
- to non-compliance with matters here, absolutely.
- 15 387 Q. I am just concerned that you seem to be putting this in 15:27
- the context of governance and oversight and ignoring
- 17 the actual -- the factual issues that occurred on the
- ground from the very beginning, from when Laura Brophy
- sends in the notification to when Laura Connolly
- retypes it and puts it in a different format, to when
- 21 that is forwarded to An Garda Síochána, right the way
- along, up to the point at which the Barr letter gets to
- be sent and the matter then is sent on to SART in 2016,
- 24 at every level there seems to be a complete failure to
- comply with the obligations?
- A. And that is what I am saying, I suppose, in relation
- to, I think we have already, like I said, said, when I
- say governance oversight, I mean that I suppose
- 29 management has, I suppose, responsibility for ensuring

1			that effective policy is followed and met and I suppose	
2			wasn't in place at times in relation to these matters,	
3			and that resulted in, yes, clear errors in this case,	
4			that's absolutely so it does relate to effective	
5			governance and oversight for management to make sure	15:28
6			the policies and procedures are followed, right from	
7			the individual workers that deal with the case right up	
8			through the organisation.	
9			MR. McGARRY: Thank you.	
10				15:28
11			MR. QUINLAN WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS:	
12				
13	388	Q.	MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS: Mr. Quinlan, my name is Donal	
14			McGuinness. I appear on behalf of the Garda	
15			Commissioner and certain other members of An Garda	15:28
16			Síochána. Just a few questions, if you don't mind.	
17			Could I ask you to have a look at document 1290. This	
18			is a meeting minutes of a meeting or an action sheet	
19			that was created arising out of a meeting that took	
20			place in 2007, 24th of April 2007 at 2:15 p.m. Have	15:28
21			you seen this document before?	
22		Α.	I have not seen this document, no.	
23	389	Q.	Essentially this document is at the very end of the	
24			process that happened with the HSE in 2007, and it's	
25			essentially the last piece of work that was done on the	15:29
26			file in 2007. And if you look at the section:	
27				
28			"Reasons for Referral: Ms. D informed CSA team during	
29			recent appointment that Mr. McCabe inappropriately	

Τ			touched her. File returned from the DPP, no	
2			prosecution.	
3				
4			Actions agreed: Mary O'Reilly to contact Catherine	
5			Sweeney, principal social worker, in Meath, to ask her	15:29
6			to nominate a member of her team to deal with	
7			Mr. McCabe. Social worker to offer Mr. McCabe a risk	
8			assessment and to inform him that the HSE are aware of	
9			the allegations against him."	
10				15:29
11			Now, there matters lay in 2007. At the same time in	
12			2007, in fact in April of 2007, the Garda investigation	
13			had completely concluded and there was a decision by	
14			the DPP not to prosecute. You accept, therefore, that	
15			the Garda work essentially was done in 2007.	15:30
16		Α.	I accept if the Gardaí concluded their investigation	
17			and the DPP decided not to proceed, yes, I would assume	
18			that that concluded their business.	
19	390	Q.	Their job was done effectively. But that record there	
20			seems to indicate that there was a job of work to be	15:30
21			done by the HSE at that time?	
22		Α.	I suppose as outlined in Children First, I suppose, the	
23			respective responsibilities of the Gardaí and the HSE	
24			at the time, I suppose, are different. Our	
25			responsibilities are in relation to the protection of	15:30
26			children, both in terms of identified children and	
27			potential risk. So these actions relate to, I suppose,	
28			the possibility of furthering our assessment in	
29			relation to potential risk at this point in time, which	

- is different to the functions of the Gardaí in relation to a criminal investigation matter.
- 3 391 Q. Yes. But essentially, the matter was left at the point 4 where Sergeant McCabe has to be contacted by the HSE 5 effectively, that is what that record illustrates?

- A. According to this action that is what is outlined here, yes, that's correct.
- 8 392 Q. And then if you jump forward to page 410, please. This
 9 was the intake record created by Keara McGlone on 9th
 10 of August 2013. And just at the back of that document, 15:31
 11 sorry, page 412, the bottom of that document, she
 12 indicates: "Duty to Garda notify and await allocation.
 13 MTP."
- 14 A. That's correct.
- So essentially we have jumped from 2007 to 2013. 15 393 Q. 15:31 matter has been reinvigorated by -- at this stage, it 16 17 was a verbal call from Laura Brophy indicating that she had received a retrospective complaint of alleged 18 19 abuse. And Keara McGlone creates this intake record on 20 the 9th of August, and she immediately identifies the 15:32 21 job of work to be done at that stage is "Duty to Garda 22 notify, await allocation"?
- A. That's -- according to that document, that is what that says, correct, yes.
- 25 394 Q. Now, on the hierarchy of things to do before the Garda 15 notification is required, do I understand your evidence to be that a preliminary assessment ought to have taken place in 2013 as to whether or not there was any credibility in the complaints?

		Α.	res. The requirement under our scandard operating	
2			procedures is that in any referral we conduct a	
3			preliminary inquiry in relation to that and after a	
4			preliminary inquiry but that would be the first	
5			point, I suppose, where you might suspect abuse and	15:3
6			that's a ground then for notifying the Gardaí in	
7			relation to that matter.	
8	395	Q.	Yes. And in order to properly carry out that inquiry,	
9			as a matter of course, you would obviously refer back	
10			to the records that were created at the time the abuse	15:3
11			allegation first emerged?	
12		Α.	Yes. Part of the preliminary inquiry process is to	
13			check the records held by the agency, in addition to,	
14			as I said, other checks that might be required at that	
15			point.	15:3
16	396	Q.	And a very useful resource in relation to that	
17			preliminary inquiry would, in fact, be the statement	
18			given by the alleged injured party back at the time?	
19		Α.	If that matter was on file, absolutely, that would be	
20			very relevant information to consider.	15:3
21	397	Q.	Yes. And it was on file, it's been established that it	
22			was on file at the time. And assuming, having done all	
23			of that, it may well be the case that that could have	
24			been the end of the matter, if that had been looked at?	
25		Α.	If it was concluded at the end of the preliminary	15:3
26			inquiry phase that there was no basis to proceed to	
27			initial assessment, in that this was a matter that had	
28			already been dealt with to conclusion, then there would	
29			be no basis to proceed into initial assessment at that	

4							
1	noint	and	the	matter	could	he	closed.
	20111	alia	C::C	III a c c c i	COGIG	\sim	CIOSCA:

2 398 Q. Yes. But in any event, would you accept that before 3 Sergeant McCabe ought to have been approached by -- in 4 the form of a Barr letter, that it was essential to 5 talk to Ms. D?

15:34

15:34

15:34

15:34

- A. As outlined, I suppose in any, yes, assessment process you would normally start with the complainant, like I said, in relation to their concerns regarding a matter and clarify that information, I suppose, before then proceeding to obviously interview a person allegedly causing harm against them, yes.
- 12 399 Q. Yes. So, in a sense, if the first best step is to go
 13 back to the 2007 file, the second best step before you
 14 take any further action is to talk to the complainant
 15 directly, isn't that correct?
- In relation to an assessment, I mean -- I suppose, at 16 Α. 17 preliminary inquiry phase you may not proceed to interview the complainant at that point in time. 18 19 might be dealing with the individual who has referred 20 the matter to you and then you would be checking 21 historical records. If you are going out to interview 22 a complainant, you would have proceeded into an 23 assessment phase at that stage. So that would be beyond preliminary inquiry, that would be into what we 24 call the initial assessment phase of our work. 25
- 26 400 Q. Yes, yes. But you accept in this case, obviously, that 27 step was missed going back to Ms. D before going to 28 Sergeant McCabe, that step was in fact missed, in this 29 particular case?

Т		Α.	My understanding is, and again I suppose, that it at	
2			this point in time they were reactivating the matter	
3			and they the first stage would have been, yes, to	
4			clarify information in respect of the complainant, and	
5			then proceed I suppose on that basis.	15:35
6	401	Q.	Yes. Proceed to the next step?	
7		Α.	Yes.	
8	402	Q.	Yes. Which would be notification of Sergeant McCabe?	
9		Α.	That's correct.	
10	403	Q.	Thank you.	15:35
11				
12			MR. QUINLAN WAS RE-EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER:	
13	404	Q.	MS. LEADER: Just one question: Do you know when the	
14			review of the file would have been completed in Tusla?	
15		Α.	I don't have specific information on that at this	15:35
16			stage. That is a matter that I believe a draft of	
17			the report is with the chief operations officer, but I	
18			don't have a specific date as to when that will be	
19			concluded.	
20			MS. LEADER: Thank you very much.	15:35
21			CHAIRMAN: Thanks.	
22				
23			THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW	
24				
25			MR. McGUINNESS: That is the completed list of	15:36
26			witnesses for today, Chairman. So we have a schedule	
27			of witnesses for tomorrow at whatever appropriate time	
28			is possible.	
29			CHAIRMAN: Yes. Tomorrow I can't sit before 2:00	

1	because of matters in the other place, but we will try
2	and sit through for as long as we can. I don't know
3	whether you need to revise the list or inform people
4	accordingly, but we will do our best to get through as
5	much as we can. Thank you.
6	
7	THE HEARING WAS THEN ADJOURNED TO THURSDAY, 27TH JULY
8	2017 AT 2:00PM
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