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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 17Gwen Malone Stenography Services certify the

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THE HEARING RESUMED, AS FOLLOWS, ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH JULY 2017:

CHAIRMAN: Apologies for being late, I couldn't help that, but I don't have to go back at $2: 15$ so we can just carry on in the normal way.
MR. MARRINAN: The first witness, Chairman, is Rosalie Smyth-Lynch, please. Mr. McGuinness's witness.

MS. ROSALIE SMYTH-LYNCH, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY EXAMINED BY MR. MCGUINNESS:
Q. MR. MCGUINNESS: Sit down, Ms. Smyth-Lynch. I think you're a regional general manager dealing with consumer affairs in the HSE Dublin Northeast, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

1 Q. And I think you've completed a number of courses relevant to your employment in the health service, including health service management development, financial management, management accounting, employment 11:22 law, Training the Trainer, Freedom of Information Basic, Freedom of Information Decisionmaker, Freedom of Information Advanced, Internal Reviewer, Data Protection Basic/Advanced and Audit and Research Ethics, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

2 Q. And I think you have extensive experience in a variety of supervisory roles at different levels in the HSE?
A. That's correct.

3 Q. And I think you have been in your role as regional general manager consumer affairs from 2007 to date?
A. To date, that's correct.

4 Q. To date. I think that encompasses the statutory function of complaints, complaint reviews, Freedom of Information, data protection, research ethics manager and appeals, both statutory and non-statutory?
A. For Dublin Northeast.

5 Q. For Dublin Northeast?
A. Yes.

6 Q. Now, I think you have been provided with the terms of reference, and I think you were initially contacted by your own employers in relation to an email that had been sent by you in relation to Ms. Fiona ward in May 2014?
A. That's correct.

7 Q. And I think you were slightly surprised to be told that you had some involvement with the Maurice McCabe issue at all?
A. Yes, I was --

8 Q. Is that right?
A. -- very surprised because I hadn't in previous communication had any knowledge of who was involved, and it was quite a surprise to get a call from a national director.
9 Q. Right. okay. I think your involvement related to an incident report that Ms. Ward had furnished to you, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

10 Q. And I think it can be seen from the report that neither Mr. McCabe, Sergeant McCabe, nor Ms. Y, nor Ms. D were identified in that incident report to you?
A. That is correct.

11 Q. I think if we could look at page 3260 , it should come up on the screen, I think this records an email to you from Fiona Ward, it's dated 14th May 2014 at 22:06, and it says:
"Dear Rosalie, please find attached a report relating to a data breach which came to light in the service on 14/5/'14. I have outlined the steps taken to date to resolve this matter and would welcome your feedback on any other action that may need to be taken in relation to the matter."

And she gives her phone number. Had you dealt with Ms. Ward before?
A. Yes. I would have, yeah. It would be routine work in the Health Service Executive. My function, because all of the functions that $I$ cover and provide consultancy on and training and advice, would encompass Fiona Ward's functions also. So I would have given advice and assisted on numerous occasions.
12 Q. okay. Now, can I ask you to look at that incident report? It's on page 3262. It's headed:

[^0]counselling service Cavan."

And it provides a summary in the first instance:
"A report regarding allegations of past abuse made by a 11:26 client of the service which contained inaccurate information about the nature of abuse experienced by the client was sent to Child and Family Social Work Services in August 2014. This error came to light following a phone call from the client to their counsellor-therapist on 14/5/'14. Steps were taken immediately to resolve the issue."

It gives a description of the nature of the incident, and that concludes on that paragraph saying that:
"It contained inaccurate information regarding the nature of abuse as reported by the client."

And I think you got that incident report attached to the previous email and you considered that on the 15th May, is that correct?
A. That's correct, yes. On receipt of the email, I considered it and read it.

13 Q. Yes.
A. And I tried to contact Fiona ward.

14 Q. Now, the Tribunal has seen this and Ms. Ward has given her evidence in relation to it. It is correct to say that Sergeant McCabe isn't identified in that, nor is the person against whom the allegation was made. They're not identified as a member of an Garda in that?
A. There's no identifying details on it whatsoever.

15 Q. Yes.
A. It just refers to a client of the service.

16 Q. Yes. And I take it that you understood that Ms. Ward was informing you about the counselling report having been sent to the social services in Cavan?
A. I don't think she said Cavan in the report.

17 Q. Right.
A. I don't think she identified. Maybe she did.

18 Q. Yes.
A. I don't think she did identify the area.

19 Q. Yes.
A. She just advised that it had been sent to the social 11:28 work service and the Gardaí.
20 Q. The fourth paragraph seems to imply that it probably had been. It says:
"This report has also been forwarded to the Gardaí in 11:28 Cavan by the social work service as per HSE child protection policy. The client requested that a copy of the corrected report be provided to the Gardai."

But did you understand that the error that the Gardaí were notified about related to the nature of the abuse recorded in the notification sent to them?
A. No, I had no knowledge of a notification.

21 Q. Pardon?
A. I had no knowledge of a notification.

22 Q. Yes.
A. I just had this report here that's displayed on the screen.

23 Q. Yes. But you certainly understood that the report made 11:28 by the counsellor contained inaccurate information about the nature of the abuse?
A. I did.

24 Q. Yes. And I think you formed a view on that and I think you made handwritten notes on your own file copy of that?
A. That's correct.

25 Q. Perhaps you would just read those notes for us at page 3263.
A. First of a11, I have written a handwritten note following the sentence:
"They have been asked to remove this report from the file and shred it."

And my handwritten note reads:
"No, return to Rian for destruction."

And by that I would have meant Rian Counselling.
26 Q. Okay. And then what have you recorded next?
A. Next: "Advised to retrieve inaccurate report. Meet with child and family social worker."
which is Tusla now.
"Hand over report and take back first report. Ensure no copies retained. Also to contact Gardaí and get back inaccurate report and confirmation no copy kept by 11:30 Gardaí. How serious/could it be --"

Is that "used"?
A. " -- used in a Court - yes."

28 Q. And you did email back Ms. Ward on the 15th. Perhaps we will just look at that. 3260. What conclusion did 11:30 you come to?
A. We11, first of all, her query was whether they needed to write to the clients and advise them that there had been a data breach. So, having read the report a few times, and I tried to contact Fiona just to discuss it 11:30 with her, it was evident that there was no breach of data protection, in that there was nobody actually identified in the report. She had provided the information in the report that the surname was the only identifier, and also, that all of the rest, the remainder of the report was accurate.

29 Q. Yes. And --
A. So, in consideration of, you know, personal information, I considered there was no identifier there to identify anyone to associate them with the data.
30 Q. A11 right. We11, you were obviously anxious to ensure that the incorrect data could be retrieved from any report that had been sent. Did you discuss that issue with Ms. Ward then?
A. When I eventually got to speak with Ms. Ward, I did, because I felt that -- I understood that this was a report that had been prepared, and I remember -- I recall at the time thinking that it was a report for court, you know, or that it was a report around an incident that had occurred. So when I actually put it to Fiona Ward could it end up in court, more or less, and she said yes, possibly. I recall her saying that. And I said, well, we need to get the reports back and I would advise that you get the reports back and link in with the social worker, meet with the Social work Department to retrieve the reports.
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 wil1 just read your reply there into the record of the proceedings here.
A. "I acknowledge receipt of your email indicating data breach Rian Counselling Service. Having examined the detail of the report, $I$ can confirm that this incident is not a data protection breach. As you have indicated, that the surname of the person concerned is the only identifier, which was released in error. Therefore, it would not be possible to associate the personal identifiable information has not been forwarded as indicated in your communication. On that basis, it will not be necessary to write to the client
concerned as it would be impossible to identify them from the detail as explained in your correspondence. It will, however, be necessary to retrieve the reports in the social work service, An Garda Síochána and NCS (which is National Counselling Service) and to have same shredded accordingly. Please note the shredding of the report should not be undertaken by National Counselling Service. However, the report should be returned to your service for appropriate shredding disposa1."
32 Q. I think you followed up that with a phone call to Fiona ward, who advised you that the Gardaí were not inclined to return the report and that they still retained the same. I think you became aware that the counsellor had written to the Gardaí in that respect?
A. Yes. If I recall correctly, Fiona Ward's first letter or report to me indicated that they were emailing -that there were actions and that they were emailing the social work service. And during our telephone conversation I believed that that had already occurred. 11:34
33 Q. Yes.
A. And -- sorry.

34 Q. Can you confirm to me that in the course of those telephone conversations you still weren't aware of the identity of any of the parties concerned?
A. No, and I didn't ask them. And I suppose in consideration of the confidentiality of the Rian Counselling Service and the mutuality of confidentiality that exists in that service, I wouldn't
have pursued it. If information had been given to me voluntarily, I perhaps may have noted it, I may not, because this would be routine work for us. But in relation to confidentiality and the service that was at question, I wouldn't have pursued the identity because 11:35 my advice would have been the same.
35 Q. Yes. You didn't need to know?
A. I didn't need to know, exactly.

36 Q. You weren't told the identity by the other -- by Ms. Ward or anyone else?
A. No, of anybody.

37 Q. Yes. And you certainly weren't in a position to disseminate any information, and you didn't do so?
A. Disseminate any information?

38 Q. To any unauthorised person yourself?
A. oh, absolutely not.

MR. MCGUINNESS: Thank you. Would you answer any questions.
CHAIRMAN: Do you have any questions? MR. MCGARRY: Just a couple of questions.

## MS. SMYTH-LYNCH WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. MCGARRY:

39 Q. MR. McGARRY: Paul McGarry is my name. I am one of the counsel for Sergeant McCabe.
CHAIRMAN: Mr. McGarry, would you switch on your microphone. It's Mr. McDowell's microphone that is on. Thanks.
40 Q. MR. MCGARRY: You were looking just at the report that
you had been given by Fiona ward, is that right?
A. That's right, yes.

41 Q. okay. So you were, in effect, taking Fiona Ward's word for what the true position was with regard to the data breach, is that right?
A. Absolutely, yes.

42 Q. You said in your response, this is the top of 3257:
"As you have indicated that the surname of the person concerned is the on7y identifier released in error, therefore it would not be possib7e to associate the data to any particular individual as sufficient personal identifiable information has not been forwarded as indicated in your communication."

Is that, in effect, what you gleaned from the report of Fiona Ward?
A. Yes. The report of Fiona ward clearly indicated that the majority of the report that she referred to was correct. She referred to a report also and that it was 11:36 on7y the description of abuse that was incorrect and the identifier within the description of abuse was on7y a surname.

43 Q. But did you not think it would be a good idea to check by taking a look at the file or the documents that Fiona ward had been looking at, before you came to that conclusion?
A. We11, I understood that Fiona Ward was also looking at a report.

44 Q. But you were the person responsible for dealing with the data breach, because this report was to you to deal 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 --

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.
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.
47 Q. It's just that on the -- you said in your statement that "On the 15th May," you said, "I made many attempts to contact Fiona ward." That suggests that you were very concerned about this issue and wanted to get to the bottom of it quick7y?
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.
48 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 11:39 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.

49 Q. And again, you had a number of telephone conversations subsequently, so this is something that's clearly bothering you very seriously or significantly?
A. It was being reported as a breach. It wasn't really a 11:39 data protection breach. I would follow up as per routine, it would be routine work to follow up with reporters of any incidents. Likewise, we would take calls frequently from members of the public. Like, we would have extensive interactions on a weekly basis, and we would follow up with phone calls. We would return phone calls.

50 Q. And is that why there's a reference to a fear or a 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?
A. Well, I recall from looking at the report and then my 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 chief superintendent.
51 Q. So the court you're referring to there is a criminal 11:41 procedure or a criminal proceeding arising from what was in the --
A. I hadn't given it that much thought, to be truthful, but I was concerned that an inaccurate report may be in another body or agency, and also the fact that we had 11:41 actually corrected it in the HSE, so it would be very important that there wasn't an incorrect report out there. It's the responsibility of us all to keep information accurate and up-to-date, and also, I would
have been thinking of the principles of data protection. while $I$ have said it wasn't a data protection breach, we must comply with the principles of data protection.
52 Q. So was the reference to court possibly also a reference 11:41 to a concern about the data breach ending up in court?
A. No.

53 Q. It just seems from your last answer that that was a concern that you also had: make sure that you weren't accused or in danger of being accused of being involved 11:42 in the data breach?
A. That didn't enter my mind at all.

54 Q. well, as far as you were concerned, the information that you had was only the information that was provided to you in the short letter and the telephone conversations from Fiona ward?
A. The information I had, and I wouldn't have considered Fiona Ward's report a short letter, it's quite a detailed report, and it did actually identify actions which she had undertaken at that time.
55 Q. Yes. But it's just telling you things, it's not providing you with the underlying documents that are in the background, isn't that right?
A. It's not. But as I have identified, that wouldn't be unusual.

56 Q. Thank you.
MR. CUSH: I have no questions, Chairman. Thank you.
MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS: Chairman, I just have one quick question.

MS. SMYTH-LYNCH WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS:

57 Q. MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS: Ms. Lynch, my name is Donal McGuinness. I represent, along with other counsel, the 11:43 Garda Commissioner and various other members of the Gardaí. Could I just ask you to confirm that essentially, from your point of view looking out for the HSE, you were anxious to ensure that any damage to the HSE was limited, that was really one of your main objectives in the recovery of this document?
A. I would have been concerned about damage to the client, also.

58 Q. Yes.
A. You know, an incorrect report had gone. So I reckoned 11:43 that it was best to get the incorrect report back and to replace it with a correct report.
59 Q. Yes. And you understand that in relation to the incorrect report there was a notification to the Gardaí which used information from the incorrect report, a 11:43 notification of child abuse, suspected child abuse?
A. Can you repeat that, please?

60 Q. You understand that the document that was generated by Ms. Brophy was used to populate another form that was sent to the Gardaí, which was a notification of suspected child abuse?
A. I wouldn't have known that at the time. But having reviewed the disclosure documents for the Tribunal, I am aware now that there was a notification document.

61 Q. Yes.
A. And I would have understood at the time that the report had been -- had gone to the Gardaí and it had gone to the social workers in Child and Family or Tusla.
62 Q. Yes, but the actual report that had gone to the Gardaí wasn't the document that came from Ms. Brophy, did you understand that?
A. I didn't know that, no.

63 Q. No. Do you understand that now?
A. I do. From reviewing the Tribunal documents, I have 11:44 seen the notification that was written. Now, are you referring to the notification from Tusla to the Gardaí?
64 Q. Yes.
A. Okay. No, I wouldn't have been familiar with that at a11. 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 notification done. But I understood it was the report. And that's where my query came in to -- which I've addressed a few minutes ago.
65 Q. Yes, but the actual sequence of events was that Ms. Brophy's notification was sent on, that the notification to the Gardaí was then populated with the 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 Garda Síochána, and it's a notification of suspected
child abuse. And it was received in the Garda Síochána's office, in the superintendent's office on the 7th may 2014 and it's dated 2nd may 2014. This is a document that $I$ have been referring to.
A. okay.

11:46
66 Q. And this contains the incorrect allegation. And this was the document that the Gardaí essentially refused to return or shred because the Gardaí considered that this was a record.
A. This was the document that the Gardaí received from Tus7a?

67 Q. Yes.
A. Okay.

68 Q. And that the Gardaí decided that it was inappropriate, the assistant commissioner concerned considered that it 11:47 was inappropriate to shred this document or to return it because it was a record of a notification of suspected child abuse that had been sent to the Gardaí. Do you understand?
A. Yes.

69 Q. CHAIRMAN: Well, if it helps, I'm certainly not going to make any adverse comment in relation to that. I mean, that is a very reasonable point of view, it seems to me --
MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS: very good, Chairman.
CHAIRMAN: -- to keep a record on the file as to what has happened. Now, as to what use you make of it is a different matter, but that is sensible thing to do.
MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS: Very good, Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.

MS. LEADER: The next witness, sir, is Inspector Karen 11:47 Duffy.

INSPECTOR KAREN DUFFY, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY
EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER:

MS. LEADER: Inspector Duffy's statement is in volume 11 of the materials at page 3285.
70 Q. Inspector Duffy, I understand you are presently attached to the assistant commissioner's office in the Northern Region and that's based in sligo Garda Station?
A. That is correct.

71 Q. And if you wouldn't mind outlining a history of your career in An Garda Síochána to date, please.
A. Certain7y. I joined An Garda Síochána in October 2001 and went to the Garda College, where I did my training. I was attested the following November, in 2002, and I would have went to Mountjoy Garda Station for 'Operation Freeflow' for approximately a period of two months, where we were directing traffic, and that, for the Christmas period, and parking fines and such. And mid-January 2003 I was sent to Sligo Garda Station. I was a guard in sligo Garda Station on the regular, up until approximately 2006/2007, when I was requested to
perform duty at the assistant commissioner's office, and I was assigned there, and I was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2009 and was assigned as the sergeant in the assistant commissioner's office, and in August 2016 I was promoted to the rank of inspector and 11:49 retained in the assistant commissioner's office in sligo.
72 Q. So you're fairly familiar with the workings of the assistant commissioner's office, it would be fair to say?
A. Yes.

73 Q. And I think in 2014 you were the acting inspector in the assistant commissioner's office in the Northern Region, is that correct?
A. That would be correct, Chairman. The inspector that 11:50 was there before me got promoted in May 2013 and Assistant Commissioner Kenny requested that I perform the duties of the acting inspector from 2013 -- sorry, from whenever the inspector got promoted in 2013 until I got promoted in August of last year, although

74 Q. Okay. Could you explain to the Tribunal what your duties were in the assistant commissioner's office?
A. My duties would be the general running of the office, day-to-day dealing with telephone cal1s, correspondence 11:50 coming in, drafting correspondence for the assistant commissioner, dealing with confidential matters that only Garda members can deal with, arranging his diary, organising meetings for him, generally day-to-day
running of the office.
75 Q. And besides yourself, how many other people worked in the assistant commissioner's office?
A. In the assistant commissioner's office there are three civilian members of staff, myself, and there is a 11:51 sergeant, but that sergeant is currently doing other duties.

76 Q. Now, yesterday, Assistant Commissioner Kenny gave evidence in relation to dealings he had with a notification he received from the chief superintendent 11:51 in Monaghan. Were you here when he gave his evidence?
A. I was here for some of it, yes, and I have read the transcripts.
77 Q. I think he directed you on occasion to reply to certain correspondence, is that correct?
A. That would be correct, yes.

78 Q. And you followed his directions in relation to that?
A. Absolutely, Chairman.

79 Q. And I don't intend going through all of the correspondence with you, but in relation to the correspondence that went between the assistant commissioner's office and the chief superintendent's office and also the assistant commissioner's office and the Commissioner's office in Dublin, did you follow his directions in relation to that and actually write the correspondence?
A. 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
for him, I typed it. He always signed it. And it was sent off at his request.
80 Q. And in relation to the correspondence that was opened to the Tribunal yesterday, obviously you were familiar with it, is that correct?
A. That is correct, Chairman.

81 Q. Did you discuss that correspondence with any other member of An Garda Síochána?
A. Absolutely not.

82 Q. okay. And do you know did other members of the assistant commissioner's office have access to that correspondence?
A. No, the only people who would have access to that correspondence, or that file, as I refer to it, would have been Assistant Commissioner Kenny and myself.
83 Q. And how are you so sure of that?
A. Well, it would either have been kept confidentially in a locker beside my desk or in the assistant commissioner's desk or in his locker.
84 Q. And only you had access to the assistant commissioner's 11:53 materials?
A. I wouldn't have access to the assistant commissioner's locker. I mean, I would have had access to his office per se, but, I mean, his desk would have been clear, there would have been no correspondence on it, or anything like that.
85 Q. Now, there are two small areas that I want you to deal with, Inspector Duffy. First of all, when the notification was received from Chief Superintendent

Sheridan, that's on his letter of the 16th may 2014. That's at page 3291 of the materials. It should come up in front of you. You sent that, it would appear, by email to the Commissioner's office on the 16th may 2014, is that correct?
A. That's correct, Chairman. This correspondence would have arrived at the office and I would have typed this minute at the request of Assistant Commissioner Kenny. He duly signed same and he requested me to send it off on his behalf to the Commissioner's office in Garda Headquarters, which I duly did. I sent it to the Commissioner's private secretary, which would have been Superintendent Frank Walsh at the time.
86 Q. Okay. And insofar as he seemed to be slightly critical of Chief superintendent sheridan for sending other correspondence via email to him, did he have any difficulty with you in sending material by email to the Commissioner's office?
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 his attached correspondence.
87 Q. Yes.
A. He had no issue with that. He certainly did have an issue with somebody just loosely sending an email and not having a signed document attached to it.
88 Q. Okay. Was that generally known or was it something you 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.
89 Q. Okay. Now, you'11 realise at this stage, Inspector Duffy, that the Commissioner's office in Dublin wasn't 11:55 notified that there had been an error in the notification form on any formal level, you understand that from yesterday's evidence?
A. I do, Chairman.

90 Q.
And insofar as it has been suggested by the assistant commissioner who gave evidence yesterday that he would have expected his office to deal with matters that came in, and perhaps forward it to the Commissioner's office, did you understand that to be any part of your duties, to forward correspondence from chief Superintendent Sheridan to the Commissioner's office, without being directed by the assistant commissioner to do so?
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
that off to the Commissioner, without his knowledge.
91 Q. And insofar as you're familiar with the workings of the assistant commissioner's office, can you identify anybody else in the office who would have authority to send Chief Superintendent Sheridan's report to the Commissioner's office in Dublin?
A. No. As previously stated, the only two people that would have access to this file, because of the confidential matter, would have been Assistant Commissioner Kenny and myself.
92 Q. And I may have asked you this already, but did you discuss any of the matters contained in the report of Chief Superintendent sheridan and the Garda notification with any other member of An Garda Síochána?
A. Certainly not.

93 Q. Or with any other person?
A. Certainly not.

94 Q. And do you know the former Commissioner callinan or the current Commissioner o'sullivan on any basis?
A. I would know them in terms of professional capacity. I may have been at a conference where the Commissioner may have opened it, both Commissioner o'sullivan and the previous commissioner, Commissioner Callinan. That would be as much as I know either of them.
95 Q. Did you at any time discuss the matters relating to Sergeant McCabe with either the former Commissioner or the current Commissioner?
A. Certainly not, Chairman.

MS. LEADER: Thank you very much. If you would answer any questions that anybody might have for you.

INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. MCGARRY:

96 Q. MR. MCGARRY: Inspector Duffy, Paul McGarry is my name. I am appearing for Sergeant McCabe. Did you have a discussion with the assistant commissioner about the content of the notification you received from Superintendent Sheridan?
A. Any confidential correspondence that came into the office, on7y I would open it. If it is marked "private and confidential" I certainly wouldn't open it, because it is private, but if something is marked "confidential" I would open it. When private correspondence of this nature relating to this matter arrived at the office, I would bring it to the Assistant Commissioner Kenny's attention.
97 Q. And what sort of discussion did you and he have about it?
A. It would be a general conversation in terms of, 'Commissioner, this correspondence has arrived at the office and I'm bringing it to your attention'.
98 Q. 'What do you want me to do about it?'
A. Well, he would instruct me or direct me what he would want to do with it.
99 Q. And in your experience of the assistant commissioner, how frequently would he have been concerned to notify directly the commissioner about something that came in?
A. We would have a lot of different correspondence coming through our office in relation to very serious crime, murders, discipline in relation to Garda members, alleged criminality against Garda members, and certainly there would have been occasions where you probably would have notified the Commissioner's office of maybe an alleged criminal offence where Garda members were involved or very serious discipline.
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 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.
A. Well, that's something Assistant Commissioner Kenny 12:00 would have to address. My role really was his regional clerk. I mean, I brought the correspondence to his attention. He requested me to type this minute up. I typed the minute up. I gave it back to Assistant Commissioner Kenny and he signed it. And I duly sent same off to the Commissioner's office.
101 Q. Was it because the documentation, the information he had been given, related to a serving member of the force that it required to go to the Commissioner's 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
requested me to do so.
102 Q. Well, in your experience of dealing with him, you mentioned the circumstances in which he might be required to send things to the Commissioner's office, serious crimes being committed, murders, and so on, obviously, but this wasn't of that character, this was a notification in relation to a child abuse issue. I am suggesting to you that the reason why it was deemed 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?
A. Again, that would be something that Assistant Commissioner Kenny would answer.
103 Q. Did he dictate the note to the Commissioner's office to you to type?
A. Yes.

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?
A. He would use maybe handwritten notes, and then I would give him the correspondence and he would say 'I'm happy 12:02 with that' and would sign it.

105 Q. We don't have those handwritten notes?
A. No, they would be really, I suppose, a scrap of paper, for a better word, or a rough draft.
106 Q. Did you read the documents attached to Chief Superintendent Sheridan's report?
A. I would have glanced at them. I wouldn't have read them in depth as Assistant Commissioner Kenny would have, but I certainly was aware of what they were.

107 Q. And you were aware of what was involved from looking at them?
A. I was aware that it was a Tusla or a HSE referral.

108 Q. Of a very serious allegation of sexual abuse?
A. Yes.

109 Q. Involving a member of the force?
A. Yes.

110 Q. Yes. How did the meeting in Mullingar come to be organised?
A. There was further correspondence that came in from

Chief Superintendent Sheridan, I think it was the 23rd May and then further correspondence on the 29th May, and the assistant commissioner then decided to organise a meeting that was to be held in sligo on the 16th June, but that meeting did not take place and he requested for Chief Superintendent Jim Sheridan of the Cavan-Monaghan division and Superintendent Leo McGinn from Bailieboro to be in attendance.
111 Q. And you communicated with them that they were required to attend at a meeting?
A. No, I did not communicate. Assistant Commissioner Kenny drafted a minute, he signed it, and it was sent back to the chief superintendent in Cavan-Monaghan, requesting for himself and for Superintendent Leo McGinn to be in attendance at the meeting, Chairman.
112 Q. This was a meeting that was convened specially to deal with this issue?
A. It was a meeting that AC Kenny had organised to -obviously to discuss this matter.
Q. And it was scheduled to take place in a garda station in which none of the people who were involved were stationed?
A. None of the people involved were stationed in sligo, yes.

114 Q. Except, of course, Sergeant McCabe was stationed there at the time, isn't that right?
A. Well, the meeting had initially been scheduled for sligo and then it was reconvened to take place on the 16th July in Mullingar.

115 Q. Yes. I think Assistant Commissioner Kenny was doing a couple of days in Mullingar around that time, was he?
A. He was. He was in charge of the Eastern Region, which is based in Mullingar, and obviously the Northern Region in sligo.
116 Q. Would you normally go along to meetings that he would have with subordinate officers, to take a note?
A. Yes. The regional inspector -- I wouldn't have went when I would have been a sergeant, only on the occasion where the inspector would have been on leave or maybe unavailable to attend. But the regional inspector would go, as most divisional clerks would go with the chief superintendents and district clerks would go with the superintendents, to record notes or maybe action anything that would require to come out of same.
117 Q. You took notes, you said in your statement, at the meeting?
A. That is correct.

118 Q. And you said in your statement that when you got back
to Sligo, you showed them immediately to Assistant Commissioner Kenny?
A. That is correct.

119 Q. And that he agreed that they were an accurate account of the meeting and you put the notes on the file?
A. That is correct, Chairman.

120 Q. We don't have a copy of those handwritten notes at the moment?
A. No. The policy in the office was, the notes were typed up immediately and they became, for a better word, the true copy or the true original one, that it really was for legibility reasons, so that if, in ten years' time or five years' time, somebody wanted to look up the file, there was a typed version which was more legible.
121 Q. So just to be clear, Assistant Commissioner Kenny never 12:06 said anything to you about the accuracy or the correctness of the notes that you took of the meeting?
A. He said to me that they were an accurate account.

122 Q. Yes. And that's what you said in your statement?
A. Yes.

123 Q. You see, it's just that Assistant Commissioner Kenny yesterday sought to put a different perspective on the -- I don't know if you were here for his evidence yesterday?
A. I was here for some of it.

124 Q. Yes. We11, in response to some questions, he sought to down-play the accuracy of the notes. In fact, on one occasion he said:
"These notes are Sergeant Duffy's interpretation of what took place at the meeting."

And that was in answer to a question about discussing Maurice McCabe or contacting or notifying him, I think he was -- I'm suggesting that he seemed to be taking the position that your notes were not accurate to that extent?
A. As I have said in my statement, my role was solely to record notes. I recorded the notes as the discussion was unfolding. I presented the notes to Assistant Commissioner Kenny and he said to me that they were accurate and same was recorded and put on the file.
125 Q. You knew from looking at the documents that what had been sent to the Commissioner's office was a referral from Tusla, forwarded up the line in An Garda Síochána, all the way to the Commissioner's office, which contained a false allegation and the false statement that that allegation had been previously investigated?
A. I wouldn't have been overly aware of the original file in terms of the allegations by Ms. D in 2006 and 2007. I mean, $I$ was a guard in sligo at that stage. So when it came in, I brought this piece of correspondence to the assistant commissioner's attention and he dealt with same. It's in the manner that he did.
126 Q. Sure. But the notification that went up to the commissioner's office and the documents contained in them, clearly created the impression that the false allegation had been investigated, isn't that right?
A. Like I say --

CHAIRMAN: Yes, but Inspector Duffy would know absolutely nothing about that.
MR. MCGARRY: Sure.
CHAIRMAN: I mean, that is the problem. Nor would she 12:08 know whether the false allegation coming in is actually false.

MR. MCGARRY: Sure.
CHAIRMAN: I mean, in the sense of being totally inaccurate and relevant to Ms. Y as opposed to Ms. D. 12:08 Am I right in thinking that, because that is what the assistant commissioner --
A. That would be correct, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: That was the impression he had, this is an amplification of what was there before. Now, some people might find that hard to understand, but you didn't have any better knowledge than that?
A. No better knowledge, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Yes.
127 Q. MR. McGARRY: Knowing what you know now, did you not 12:08 think it strange that at no stage was there an attempt to correct that with the Commissioner's office?
A. This was Assistant Commissioner Kenny's file. My role was only to type minutes as his personal assistant or as the regional clerk, to forward same, on his request, 12:09 to the Commissioner. I mean, I typed anything that he directed or requested me to do so, and I would imagine if he had have requested me to do such a thing, he would have recorded same in his journal. If he had
requested me to send something on his behalf, I am sure he would certainly have recorded that in his officer's journal. And I would have had no reason to send something to the Commissioner's office had he requested me to do so. But I was never requested to do that.
MR. MCGARRY: Thank you.
MR. O'HIGGINS: One or two questions, Chairman.

INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. O'HIGGINS:

128 Q. MR. O'HIGGINS: Inspector, you were perhaps better than anybody in a position to -- you're in the best position, perhaps, to assist the Chairman with conveying the sense of things in the stations in which you were located. First of all, can I ask you, in 2014, at this time did you pick up any sense around you that there was a conspiracy in An Garda Síochána to do down Sergeant Maurice McCabe?
A. Certainly not.

129 Q. Were you involved in any campaign to sully Sergeant Maurice McCabe?
A. Certainly not.

130 Q. Were you at the epicentre of a conspiracy to blacken Sergeant McCabe?
A. Certainly not.

131 Q. You have told us that the initial meeting, the initial intention of former Assistant Commissioner Kenny was that the meeting would be held in sligo on the 16th June?
A. That's correct, Chairman. 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 al1 parties concerned. Al1 right. Mr. McGarry was inquiring as to why or is there any significance attaching to the meeting that went ahead taking place in Mullingar. Is there?
A. We11, 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.

134 Q. All right. Can I ask you again in terms of the sense 12:12 of things and the mood at the meeting in Mullingar, perhaps, which may perhaps have had too much attention already or in terms of its significance, but that will be a matter for the Chairman. At that meeting, you were notetaker. Are you in a position -- you were present at the meeting, isn't that right?
A. I was. The meeting commenced at 2:30 and ended at 3:10, Chairman, and I was present for that period.
135 Q. Did you get any sense at that meeting that the participants at the meeting were concerned to see how
A. No.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. O'Higgins, I am intending to be helpful by making this comment. It's one that doesn't just
apply to you, but effectively to everybody in the room. And by asking a question the answer to which is obviously 'yes' or obviously 'no', is not really helping me a huge amount. I mean, you will find references to that in the relevant textbooks on
evidence. I appreciate that there are times when counsel should definitely lead, and I do understand that it's necessary for you to deal with the issue that either this witness or any other was not at the epicentre of a conspiracy to blacken Sergeant McCabe, appreciating as well that there are certain items that have gone through that are now common case. There are times, however, when it does help to ask a more open-ended question. And that is only a suggestion, Mr. O'Higgins.
MR. o'hIGGINS: May it please you, Chairman. I appreciate the indication.
136 Q. Just dealing with matters more specifically then, Inspector. For instance, at the meeting in Mullingar at which you were notetaker, at any point were you directed to stop taking notes so that there could be things said that would go unrecorded?
A. No.

MR. O'HIGGINS: Thanks very much.
CHAIRMAN: Unless you had any questions. Is there something?

MS. LEADER: Just one question.

137 Q. MS. LEADER: It would appear that the assistant commissioner had one thing to do after the meeting, and that was to seek legal advice, and that was never followed up by the assistant commissioner. You heard that yesterday?
A. Yes.

138 Q. And he has told the Tribunal that he subsequently decided that he wasn't going to do that. Are you aware that the file was taken out at any time thereafter to follow up on the matter or tidy it up, or anything, or was there an automatic update system in the assistant commissioner's office in relation to files or outstanding tasks?
A. In relation to a system in the commissioner's office, I 12:14 mean, ongoing files would be kept out. Again, this was Assistant Commissioner Kenny's file, not my file, and Assistant Commissioner Kenny was obviously making the decision in terms of seeking legal advice. He did not come back to me at any stage and request for me to take 12:15 out the file or to subsequently seek a report or inform anybody else of any kind of action on that. I had no further actions with that file from July 2014 until February 2017, whenever this matter was brought back up in the media and in the 'Prime Time' programme.

139 Q. Okay. Is there any system in the office that requires you to update files on a regular basis?
A. We would have ongoing files that would be kept out and would be kept on, say, a correspondence register, where
we would have reminders generated, and stuff like that, but in terms of personal files that would be of confidential matters that only the assistant commissioner would deal with, that would be a matter for him to come back and request same of me.
140 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.
A. No problem, Chairman.

INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS QUESTIONED BY THE COURT:

141 Q. CHAIRMAN: Just after al1 that, there was just one matter that was on my mind, Inspector. The later correspondence came through you and the later correspondence seemed to indicate, look, the HSE have got it wrong. Was there ever any sense of a bell
ringing in your mind to say, oh, this thing about digital abuse, that's completely incorrect, it's something entirely different, or was it a case where you were simply bringing matters to the attention of the assistant commissioner, effectively relying on his mind to direct you as opposed to inquiring yourself as to what was going on?
A. Well, I was a sergeant in the assistant commissioner's office at the time. I brought the correspondence, which I think you're referring to is dated 3rd July, from Chief Superintendent sheridan to the assistant commissioner, and he noted same and sent it back to the chief in Cavan-Monaghan and said, I'11 be having a meeting in relation to this in mullingar. So again, it
was something for the assistant commissioner to deal with.
142 Q. CHAIRMAN: But did the bell ring in your mind or the penny drop, or whatever expression one might use, to say they've got this wrong? Because it was a pretty astonishing thing to happen, really?
A. It's terrible.

143 Q. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Agreeing that it is terrible, but it is a pretty stark -- there's a pretty stark difference between the two accounts?
A. There is. And again, too, I was a sergeant. I was not going to overstep my mark with the assistant commissioner. I mean, he was dealing with this file. It was the assistant commissioner's file, for a better word. I wouldn't have had a huge amount of knowledge 12:17 in relation to the 2006, the 2007 file, or the
allegations that Ms. D had made, and I was of the view that it was very much in the hands of Assistant Commissioner Kenny.
144 Q. CHAIRMAN: And the fact that there was this meeting in 12:17 July then, that reinforced that in your mind?
A. That's correct, Chairman.

145 Q. CHAIRMAN: Whatever step is to be taken, he will tell me what to do?
A. Absolutely, Chairman.

146 Q. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I understand. Thank you.
MR. O'HIGGINS: Chairman, may I, just arising out of your --
CHAIRMAN: Yes, please do.

6147 Q. MR. O'HIGGINS: Just one matter which perhaps is
MR. O'HIGGINS: Ob1iged.

INSPECTOR DUFFY WAS FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. O'HIGGINS: connected with the Chairman's inquiry. You mentioned that Assistant Commissioner Kenny indicated, we'11 deal with matters in the July meeting. At the July meeting, can you assist the Tribunal, what was the mood or thrust of the meeting in terms of the decision as to whether or not to close down or re-open the Garda side of things in relation to Maurice McCabe?
A. Well, as $I$ have said, my role at the meeting in Mullingar in July '14 was really to record notes, and 12:18 as you will see from my notes, the matter was certainly closed down or done and dusted. MR. O'HIGGINS: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN: Yes, thank you very much.
A. Thank you, Chairman.

## THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.

MR. MARRINAN: The next witness, sir, is Mr. Dermot Monaghan, please. This is in volume 10 at page 2886.

## MR. DERMOT MONAGHAN, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY

 EXAMINED BY MR. MARRINAN:148 Q. MR. MARRINAN: Mr. Monaghan, I think that you're
currently head of service in primary care for the Cavan-Monaghan, sligo-Leitrim, Donegal region, is that right?
A. That's correct.

149 Q. Between February 2011 and November 2016 you held the position of the integrated service manager for the Louth-Meath area, is that right?
A. That's correct.

150 Q. And what were your responsibilities in that regard?
A. Managing all the services from hospital right across to $12: 20$ the community services, so consultants right through to public health nurses. Anything that looked like a health service, that was my responsibility.
151 Q. Now, I think on the 14th May, you became aware that Ms. Fiona ward wrote to Ms. Rosalie Smyth-Lynch, who gave evidence this morning, via an email that was copied to you, is that right?
A. That's correct.

152 Q. And that outlined a report of a data breach that had occurred in the service, is that right?
A. That's correct.

153 Q. I think that you were unaware of any of the parties referred to in the data breach because it had been anonymised, isn't that so?
A. That's correct.

154 Q. And I think you never became aware of any of the names or the identities of any of the persons in this matter, is that right?
A. That's correct.

155 Q. Now, I think subsequently on the 15th May 2014, you requested Patricia Bannon, who is a business manager in your office, to review the process that was then taking place, is that right?
A. That's correct.

156 Q. And I think if we could have page 864 on the screen, please. She replied to you there by way of email, and you will see in the centre there, and she answered:
"Yes. The process is correct. However, it would be good practice for Fiona to review their SOPs..."

## what is an SOP?

A. Standard operational procedure.

157 Q. "... and ensure that their systems for robust" -- "are 12:21 robust" I suppose that should read -- "to mitigate against an incident like this happening again."

And then she signs that off as Patricia Bannon, who is the business manager and area manager in the area manager office in Louth and Meath, is that right?
A. That's correct.

158 Q. I think you approved of that. And then above that, on the same page at 864 , Natasha Smith sent, on your behalf, an email to Fiona ward, is that right?
A. That's correct.

159 Q. And it reads:
"Fiona, please see below comments from Patricia Bannon
for your attention."

160 Q. I think that that was your only dealings with this matter?
A. That's correct.

MR. MARRINAN: Thank you very much.
MR. MCGARRY: I don't have any questions, sir.
MR. MARRINAN: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.

MR. MCGUINNESS: The next witness, sir, is Ms. Gail
Penders. Her statement is to be found in volume 11 at page 3209.

MS. GAIL PENDERS, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY EXAMINED BY MR. MCGUINNESS:

161 Q. MR. MCGUINNESS: Ms. Penders, thank you. I think you graduated with a degree in social work from Glasgow Caledonian University in 1995?
A. That's correct, yes.

162 Q. And I think you worked on your return to Ireland as a social care manager in County Armagh?
A. Yes.

163 Q. Until the year 2000?
A. Yes.

164 Q. And I think you took up employment as a social care manager in a high support unit in Castleblayney from 2002 to 2013?
A. Correct, yes.

165 Q. And where did you go then in 2013?
A. At the end of 2013 I became the manager of the Child Wellbeing Centre in Castleblayney, which was a developing centre of social care staff, and the purpose of the centre was to provide services directly to children and families in Cavan-Monaghan, from a social care perspective.

166 Q. And that is obviously part of the HSE Dublin Northeast?
A. Yeah, Tusla, Dublin Northeast.

167 Q. Tusla. And where were you working from at that point 12:24 in time? Were you based entirely in Castleblayney?
A. Yes.

168 Q. And I believe in March of 2015, Mr. Lowry, who was the area manager, directed you to provide assistance in the Cavan social work services office in Cavan, is that right?
A. Both Cavan and Monaghan.

169 Q. Both Cavan and Monaghan?
A. Yeah.

170 Q. Could you just explain, you were working in your area, 12:24 and was it normal for you to be asked to provide such services?
A. Well, no -- well, I suppose, to an extent it would be. The Child Wellbeing Centre covers both Cavan and

Monaghan.
171 Q. Yes.
A. So the staff that are based in Castleblayney work in both counties.

172 Q. Yes.
A. At that stage there was concern in relation to the backlog of unallocated cases and, from its inception, the wellbeing centre had provided an alternative through family support and direct work with young people, to the initial assessment or no further action 12:25 options --

173 Q. Yes.
A. -- for the social work service. So I suppose 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 who were on the waiting list at that time.
174 Q. Yes.
A. So it was for me to divert cases from that waiting list.
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 urgent --
A. That were appropriate, yes.

176 Q. And therefore reduce the number?
A. Yes.

177 Q. And provide an appropriate place of referral?
A. Yes.

178 Q. If appropriate --
A. Yes.

179 Q. -- at that point in time?
A. That's correct.

180 Q. I think you were asked by him in March 2015 to provide 12:26 assistance to Seamus Deeney and Kay McLough1in, who was principal social worker and team leader, in reviewing the backlog of unallocated cases?
A. Yes.

181 Q. Was that a written direction or would that be normal, or would he just ask you to do it?
A. Maybe, it was a verbal direction. I don't remember anything in writing.
182 Q. okay.
A. Yeah.

183 Q. And can you just assist the Tribunal, at that point in time what was your knowledge of Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin; were you familiar with them?
A. Yes.

184 Q. And your service, were you familiar with intake records?
A. Yes.

185 Q. And were you familiar with the process of referral and allocation of cases?
A. Yes. Yeah, in the overall sense, yes.

186 Q. Okay. The statement you provided to the Tribuna1 refers to backlog days?
A. Yes.

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

191 Q. And were there any -- was there any discussion at any stage as to criteria by which files would then be allocated or taken?
A. By our service?
Q. Yes.
A. That would -- I would have discussed that then with either Kay McLough1in or Seamus Deeney, to ascertain if they agreed that it was appropriate for a family support response or an individual work response.

193 Q. okay. Well, does that involve then you having reviewed files, assessed whether you thought you could deal with them in your service and then engaging in a discussion with Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin as to whether they agreed with that?
A. Yes.

194 Q. What about files then that you didn't think were appropriate to come into your service, as it were, what were you to do with those files?
A. We11, those were for review by Mr. Deeney or Ms. McLough1in.
195 Q. But had you been given a selected bunch of files that they thought were appropriate for your service or were you just trawling through --
A. Pretty much.

196 Q. -- a whole backlog?
A. I would imagine that the files that I was provided with were very much the lower end, I suppose would be the better way to describe them.

197 Q. Okay. You do record in your statement, you say:
"Where it appeared during the course of a review day that a number of peop7e were required to be met with, a
date would be agreed for some weeks in the future and letters of appointment would then be forwarded."

What were you referring to when you included that in your statement?
A. The other part of my involvement in both the Monaghan and Cavan office was to make myself available to take a note when either Mr. Deeney or Ms. McLoughlin were meeting clients that required to be met through the course of their reviewing of the files, and those days would be arranged, as I said, for a few weeks in advance, letters would be written from the social work office by Mr. Deeney or Ms. McLoughlin and I would be available on an agreed date to take the notes.
198 Q. Yes. But would these meetings and the letters be written in relation to persons against whom a complaint had been made or in relation to whom an intake record had been created?
A. I would imagine so, yes.

199 Q. okay. Can you say how many backlog days or review days 12:31 there were between March and May?
A. Possibly one in each county between March and may I would imagine.
Q. okay. So one in each month, in each county?
A. I'm not a hundred percent sure, I can check and get back to you on that, I don't know exactly.

201 Q. Is there any record of the number of files that were reviewed as part of this collaborative process?
A. I honestly don't know. I would imagine Mr. Deeney or

Ms. McLoughlin would have some record, but I wouldn't have needed to keep a record in relation to that.
202 Q. All right. Did you do this in the duty room in Cavan when you came down to Cavan to do it or where did you do this?
A. It's referred to the training room. It's a large --
Q. The training room?
A. A large room, yes.

204 Q. Were Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin doing it in the same room?
A. Yes. Pretty much so, yeah.

205 Q. Okay. You are mentioned in an email sent by Ms. McLoughlin to Mr. Deeney and to Mr. Lowry, and I would perhaps just like you to look at that email. It's at page 1069 in the Tribunal's documents. It's an 12:32 email dated 7th May 2015, it's recorded as having sent at 13:30. Just before I ask you anything about it, I think you checked your diary and you were present on the 7th May --
A. Yes, that's correct.

206 Q. -- for a file review day?
A. Yes.

207 Q. So you were in the Cavan office on this date?
A. Yes.

208 Q. Now, the email reads:

## "Dear Terry and Seamus

I, along with Gayle, have been reviewing files on the MTP today. One relates to Maurice MCCabe and I would

7ike to discuss this case with you both before taking any action as it appears that this concern was referred to us in 2007 and Mr. McCabe was never met. It has come back in again due to media coverage of Mr. McCabe. The outstanding actions are that Mr. McCabe be written 12:33 to outlining the allegations and then be met and afforded an opportunity to respond. We would have to advise him that we would need to tell his wife about this information so she can be protective. Is it likely she is aware of the allegations as a file was sent to the DPP. However, no prosecution was directed. Mr. McCabe has female children and the victim was a seven-year-old child when the alleged incident occurred. My issues are that we are proposing to tel1 this woman that we have concerns about not doing it for 12:33 possibly up to eight years and also I am not confident about sending the Barr letter to an address that may be out of date. I attach my draft Barr letter to Mr. McCabe."

Then that is signed by Ms. McLoughlin or sent by her with the draft.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. McGuinness, what is the date of that draft? I know it's the summer time, isn't it?
MR. McGUINNESS: It's undated, the draft.
CHAIRMAN: Yes, we heard from somebody else as to what proximate date it was. I thought it was around July, I'm not sure.

MR. MCGUINNESS: This is 7th May --

CHAIRMAN: Is it?
MR. MCGUINNESS: -- 2015. She composed the draft on that day, Chairman.
CHAIRMAN: okay.
209 Q.
MR. MCGUINNESS: I am just wondering, have you any recollection of reviewing the files with Ms. McLoughlin on that day?
A. As I mentioned, my diary says that I was there on that date, and obviously I was reviewing files if I was present, yeah.

210 Q. In your statement you do describe the sort of process that seems to be envisaged by the Barr letter. That is, you know, when it appears that a number of people or people would require to be met, a date would be agreed and then letters would be forwarded. Were you familiar with the Barr letter process?
A. I wouldn't say $I$ was wholly familiar with it.

211 Q. Yes.
A. No.

212 Q. You knew of the principle of it though?
A. Yes, yes.

213 Q. And it was certainly something that you had experience of yourself, having to write out, trying to get people to come to an appointment?
A. I wouldn't have been involved in the writing out to people for those appointments.

214 Q. Okay. You knew it was done --
A. Yes.

215 Q. -- but you wouldn't have been doing the writing of the

1etter yourself --
A. Yes.

216 Q. -- or composing it?
A. That's correct, yes. Or choosing who it was written to.

217 Q. I am wondering did you see the draft Barr letter that Ms. McLoughlin had provided on that day?
A. No. Not to my knowledge, no.

218 Q. Did she discuss it with you in any way?
A. No.

219 Q. Did you hear her mention Mr. McCabe or Sergeant McCabe or Maurice McCabe on the day or around the day?
A. My memory in relation to those days was the concern in relation to the time lapse in many areas where files had been created and people hadn't been notified of them. Specifically to Mr. McCabe, no, I don't remember specifically.

220 Q. A11 right. Apart from any discussion with her about Mr. McCabe, or Sergeant McCabe, did you hear or do you recollect hearing any talk about Maurice McCabe at that 12:36 point in time in the office?
A. No. None.

221 Q. Do you recall any talk about her either selecting or choosing or allocating a file relating to a member of An Garda Síochána?
A. No.

222 Q. Or any delay in dealing with any files relating to guards in particular?
A. No. As I said, a delay in relation to files, but not
specific to any member of the Garda Síochána or anyone else specifically.
223 Q. Yes. Mr. Lowry gave evidence to the Tribunal about having written and provided a report in relation to the service in this area in early 2014, had you been consulted about that or were you generally aware about the delays?
A. Mr. Lowry would have alerted me to the backlog of the unallocated cases at that point when he was asking that I offer some support to Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin. 12:37
224 Q. okay. The email that is in front of you refers to the case "has come back in again due to media coverage of Mr. McCabe", were you aware yourself of media coverage in relation to Sergeant McCabe?
A. To some extent out with anything to do with my work I would have been aware in the media that there was -Mr. McCabe was --
225 Q. Were you aware from your work that there was a file in relation to Sergeant McCabe in the office when you were conducting this joint review of files on the MTP?
A. I can't say that it stood out or anyone specifically said to me there is a file on Maurice McCabe.
226 Q. So, I want to be clear, is it your evidence that you have no recollection of knowing or that you did know but you paid no heed to it?
A. I did know that there was -- I'm unsure actually, because I subsequently know, and I'm not sure at the time whether I connected Maurice McCabe's name with any particular file. I don't think it was in my mind at
that stage.
MR. MCGUINNESS: Yes. All right. Thank you,
Ms. Penders. Would you answer any questions anyone else may have?
A. Yes.

MS. PENDERS WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. MCGARRY
227 Q. MR. MCGARRY: Ms. Penders, Paul McGarry is my name, I represent Sergeant McCabe.
A. Hello.

228 Q. Just looking at the email again, am I to understand it that you were providing assistance and support to Mr. Deeney and Ms. McLoughlin in relation to the MTP files?
A. Yes.

229 Q. If you look at the text of the email, it seems pretty clear that you were working with them on this particular file?
A. No. That's not the case at all.

230 Q. It says, "I, along with Gayle --"
A. Yes, "-- have been reviewing files".

231 Q. That is Kay and you --
A. Yes.

232 Q. -- have been reviewing the files on the MTP?
A. Yes.

233 Q. Then she says one, that's one of those files, I'm suggesting to you that suggests that you and she, one of the files that you and she have been working on relates to Maurice McCabe?
A. That's not correct, no. We wouldn't necessarily have been working on files together.
234 Q. okay.
A. I was present for file review day on that date.

235 Q. I see. So it wasn't a collaborative effort then; you sat in the room and she looked at certain files and you looked at other files --
A. Yeah.

236
Q. -- and there was no discussion between you as to what 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. McLough1in on that occasion. She did not discuss with me.
237 Q. So you were the one -- when you had a file that there was an issue, you would talk to her about it but she didn't talk to you about it?
A. I suppose the files were primarily hers and I was requesting to divert them. So she was my superior in that relationship, so I would have been asking was she agreeing with me in that respect.
238 Q. Why then, if you had no involvement or role in relation to this file, do you think you were copied on the email from Sergeant McCabe's solicitors in January 2016 ?
A. My recollection of that is that on the date that we happen on those occasions would be that the letter would come from Ms. McLough1in, a lot of the time clients that she wrote to would contact her before the
date either to agree that they would attend or to ask for more information, or whatever it happened to be, on the morning of those days, Ms. McLoughlin would then te11 me that we had appointments at 10:00, 12:00 and 2:00, or whatever it happened to be. I have no recollection of this, but I imagine that when Mr. McCabe did not turn up, purely and simply that for my information Ms. McLoughlin forwarded me the email. I would have been present to take the meeting on that day.
239 Q. It wasn't that he didn't turn up, it was the fact that his solicitor had said he wasn't going to turn up.
A. Yes.

240 Q. So, why would you have had any role in relation to that at all if you had nothing to do with it previously?
A. I was purely present there to take the minute had Mr. McCabe turned up.
241 Q. Thanks.

MR. O'HIGGINS: No, questions Chairman.
CHAIRMAN: Great.
MR. MCGUINNESS: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN: Good. That's it. what progress with we making now, Mr. McGuinness? I mean, where are we in terms of the schedule?

## THE THEN WITNESS WITHDREW

MR. MCGUINNESS: Today, Judge, we have two remaining
witnesses; Ms. Bannon who will be quite short and Mr. Quinlan who will be relatively short.
CHAIRMAN: Yes. Do we want to take a break? Everybody is tired. I'm sorry, I'm confessing to being tired, so could we say $2: 15$ ?

## THE HEARING THEN ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH

THE HEARING CONTINUED AFTER LUNCH AS FOLLOWS:

MS. LEADER: Sir, the next witness is Patricia Bannon.

MS. PATRICIA BANNON, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY 14:26 EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER AS FOLLOWS:

MS. LEADER: Ms. Bannon wrote a letter to the Tribunal dated 19th July 2017 and that is at page 3264 of the materials, and that is in volume 11, sir.

242 Q. Ms. Bannon, I think you are an employee of the HSE, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

243 Q. And what is your present post within the HSE?
A. I am Disability Manager for the Head of Social Care within the Midlands/Louth/Meath CHO.
244 Q. And if you could just briefly set out your professional qualifications for the Tribunal, please?
A. I originally qualified in 1988 as a nurse for learning 14:27 disability services, worked for St. John of God's services until 1993, where I transferred to the HSE as a clinical nurse manager in disability services in Meath, and then transferred to the office of the area manager in May of 2011.
245 Q. okay. And I think from May 2011 you were responsible for the oversight of quality and risk, quality and clinical care directorate programmes, discharge planning and hospital avoidance, integration of
functions and services, HR medical, Freedom of Information requests and parliamentary questions, complaints and special projects, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

246 Q. Now I think as part of that role within the HSE, the area manager, who at that time -- who at the relevant time was Mr. Monaghan would seek advice on particular issues, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

247 Q. And he has told us this morning that he sent an email to you on 15th May 2014 looking for your advice in respect of a particular issue that had arisen, is that correct?
A. That is correct.

248 Q. Now, I think you had no particular memory of receiving that email until the Tribunal asked you about it, is that correct?
A. That's correct, also, yes.

249 Q. Yes. Now, that email is to be seen at page 320 of the materials, and it should come up in front of you. Is it on the screen?
A. It is, thank you.

250 Q. Yes. So, Ms. Natasha Smith sent you an email and that was on Mr. Monaghan's behalf, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

251 Q. And that was on 15th of May 2014, and it simply said "Patricia, is this a correct process?" - is that correct?
A. That's correct.

252 Q. And attached to that email was the report which had been completed by Fiona Ward in respect of an incorrect report which had been forwarded from Rian Counselling to the HSE, is that correct?
A. That's correct, yes.

253 Q. And at the second -- that report was two pages, and it's to be seen at pages 308 and 309 of the materials, and it set out the steps that she proposed taking in relation to the incorrect report that had been completed by her, one of her counsellors and sent to the HSE, is that correct?
A. That's correct, yeah.

254 Q. And you were asked were the steps as outlined in that report correct, is that correct?
A. That is correct. That is what Dermot wanted to know, yeah.

255 Q. Yes. And is that a routine inquiry that might be addressed to you?
A. Yes, that would come under my remit.

256 Q. Okay. And essentially, Ms. Ward had said that the counsellor had apologised to the client and told her that the information in the report would be corrected immediately and the social work service and the Gardaí would be informed of the inaccuracy, isn't that right, and issued with a correct report?
A. Yes.

257 Q. And then a letter would be sent to the client, Ms. D, apologising for the inaccuracy, outlining the steps taken to correct the error and enclosing a corrected
version of the report, and then the counsellor therapist phoned the social work service and informed them verbally of the error?
A. Yes.

258 Q.
And then a corrected version of the report was provided 14:31 to the social work service as soon as the error came to 1ight on 15th of May 2014, and social work had been asked to retrieve and shred the previous inaccurate report and place the accurate report on the client file. Then it continued on:
"A letter was drafted and sent to the Gardai informing them that the report they hold contains an inaccuracy and asking that they return this report to the service so that it can be destroyed and a copy of the corrected 14:31 report will be provided to the Gardaí."
A. Yes.

259 Q. Now, did you understand at that stage that the Gardaí hadn't been provided with the counsellor's report, it was a standard HSE report that had been provided to the 14:31 Gardaí?
A. My understanding and my interest in the report was that each of the steps had been taken appropriately from my understanding and my knowledge.
260 Q. Yes.
A. The details of exactly what had happened weren't really for my remit, it was just that the process had been followed correctly.
261 Q. okay. So you didn't take it from that, that there
were, at that time, two incorrect reports in circulation?
A. No. My input into it would be that there was -- okay, there was an incorrect report, this action had been corrected by providing the Gardaí, or like we would with any other organisation, with the correct report and that the error had been --

262 Q. Rectified?
A. -- rectified.

263 Q. Okay. And then:
"NCS, the National Counselling Service, in the southeast were informed that the report they hold on file is inaccurate. They were asked to remove the report from the file and shred it and a copy of the correct report was to be furnished to the NSE in the southeast."
A. And again, that would be a correct step; to inform the National Counselling Service that they had an inaccurate report and that the correct report was then given to them.

264 Q. And then you replied a short time afterwards to Mr. Monaghan, you said:
"Yes, the process is correct. However, it would be
good practice for Fiona to review their SOPs and ensure that their systems for robust to mitigate against an incident like this happening again."

Is that correct?
A. That is a slight typo. It should have said are robust. But yes, there are Standard Operating Procedures, they should review them in order to mitigate against an incident like this happening again, which would, again, 14:33 be standard practice; if there is a mistake noted that you should be changing how you do things to ensure that the mistake doesn't happen again. client and the counsellor together look over a copy of any report, is that in your view --
A. Appropriate.

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?
A. No, there wasn't. It was anonymised. That is all that I have seen; what is there.

267 Q. It was simply Ms. Ward's name, so you knew who the --
A. I knew it belonged to Rian Counselling but that was as much as I'd know.

268 Q. Okay. There is also a reference to Cavan in it. Do you remember that?
A. No. I was really looking at the steps that Ms. Ward had taken following, you know, her awareness that the report had been circulated.
269 Q. okay. And it may be a superfluous question but do you remember discussing the matter with anybody or anything of that nature?
A. No, I hadn't, and I didn't even have a verbal conversation with Dermot because I responded via email to him.
MS. LEADER: Thank you very much. If you would answer any questions anybody else might have for you. MR. MCGARRY: I don't have any questions, thank you. MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: No questions, Chairman.

THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW

MS. LEADER: The next witness, sir, is Mr. Cormac Quin1an.

MR. CORMAC QUINLAN, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER AS FOLLOWS:

MS. LEADER: Mr. Quinlan's statement, sir, is in the second of the volume 9 s at page 2665 , and there are two documents attached to his statement - one is the Children's First guidelines, which is at page 2678, and 14:36 there is a second document attached, which is Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect, and that is at page 2786 of the materials.
270 Q. Now, Mr. Quinlan, I understand that you are the interim 14:36 Director of Policy and Strategy with the child and Family Agency, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

271 Q. And if you would just outline what that job involves,
please, for the Tribunal?
A. The director of policy is responsible for the development of operational policy within the organisation based on national policy or guidance as issued, I suppose, through the Department or by
legislation. We also provide specialist advice to the chief executive office in the SOP in relation to any specific policy areas, and we are also involved in strategic development programmes within the organisation and to reflect the kind of strategic objectives that the organisation has going forward in terms of changes to the service.
272 Q. And I think in relation to your qualifications for that particular job, you have been a practising social worker and manager in child protection and welfare since 1997, you tutored with the Master's Social Work Programme in Trinity College Dublin and you are a member of the Social work Registration Board in Ireland, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

273 Q. Now, just very generally with regard to policies and procedures, I think these are tools used by the child and Family Agency so they can achieve the work they are supposed to do, is that correct?
A. That's correct. They provide, yes, guidance to staff in relation to the performance of their functions.
274 Q. Okay. So the staff typically would refer to these documents in order that they can carry out their jobs that they are assigned to do, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

275 Q. Now, just very generally, I understand that the child and Family Agency has a statutory responsibility for the welfare of children, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

276 Q. And prior to the Child and Family Agency having that statutory responsibility, it was the responsibility of the Health Service Executive?
A. That's correct.

277 Q. And if you could just very briefly explain to the Tribunal when the change-over of roles occurred and, you know, the specific responsibility of Tusla with regard to that?
A. So the Child and Family Agency was established in 2014 following a specific piece of legislation known as 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 that context I suppose children and family services within the HSE had begun to establish themselves under separate directorate, I suppose, particularly in 2010 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 within the HSE at that point in relation to the coordination of children and family services. But that entire function then transferred over to the Child and

Family Agency in 2014 when the agency was established.
278 Q. Okay. And I think in relation to your statutory responsibilities, section 3 of the Child Care Act says:
"It shall be the function of every health board --"
which is now Tus7a's function.
"-- to protect the welfare of children in its area."

Is that correct?
A. That's correct.

279 Q. And the Child and Family Agency Act, section 8, which is a 2013 Act, provides that:
"You sha11 support and promote the development, welfare and protection of children, support and encourage the effective functioning of families, and provide for the protection of care of children in circumstances where their parents have not given or are unlikely to be ab7e 14:39 to give adequate protection and care."

Is that correct?
A. That's correct.

280 Q. Now, I think the Child and Family Agency Act gives you 14:40 particular statutory powers in order to execute those duties, but they mostly relate to identifiable children which the agency has identified as being at risk, is that correct?
A. Our responsibilities are, I suppose, twofold in relation to identified children who might be at risk, but also we have a promoting function as well in relation to identifying children that might be possibly at risk as well.

281 Q. Yes. And going along with those statutory functions, you also have functions identified by various case law in relation to unidentified children who may be at risk, is that correct?
A. That's right. Additional case law I suppose over time 14:40 has clarified and further, I suppose, identified our promotional responsibilities to those unidentified children.

282 Q. Okay. And I think those cases, which we refer to here as the Barr judgment, is a case called Gleeson, is it --
A. That's correct.

283 Q. -- and it dates from the 1990s?
A. That's correct.

284 Q. And essentially, the ratio of that decision says if you 14:40 are aware that there is an adult who may be a risk to children it's your job to assess who those children are and also assess the risk in relation to that particular adult, is that a fair summary of what it says?
A. Yes. I suppose, our responsibility is to seek to try and identify children who might be possibly at risk and in doing so then our responsibility is to share relevant information with relevant persons so that those individuals can make protective action in
relation to those children.
285 Q. Yes. And I think there have been a series of cases since then, one in 2010 and -- both in 2010, which emphasised that particular role of the Child and Family Agency now, but it was the HSE then, is that correct?
A. That's correct.
Q. Those decisions are MI, I think, in 2010, and P versus a particular secondary school, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

287 Q. Now, in order to carry out those functions, I want to refer you to two particular documents that I understand, and the Tribunal understands, help the social workers in order to carry out their functions. And the first is the children First Guidelines, and I think they date from 2011, but they replace earlier Children First Guidelines which date from 2009, is that correct?
A. The previous Children First is 1999.

288 Q. 1999, I beg your pardon.
A. Yes.

289 Q. And these are 2011?
A. That's correct.

290 Q. Now, the document is contained in full in the Tribunal's documentation, and I don't intend to go through all of that particular document, but there are 14:42 a few areas I wish to particularly point out to you. 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
that correct?
A. Yes. Children First, I suppose, creates an obligation on all persons -- professional, moral, ethical obligation on persons in relation to their protection of children in Ireland, yes.
291 Q. Now, if we could turn to page 2704, and it's at paragraph 3.6 of the Children's First Guidelines, it deals particularly with retrospective disclosure by adults, isn't that correct? It will come up on the screen in front of you.
A. That's correct.

292 Q. And this is what is of particular interest to this Tribunal, so it outlines at paragraph 3.6.1:
"An increasing number of adults are disclosing abuse that took place during their childhood. Such disclosures often come to light when adults attend counsel7ing. It is --"

This is in bold.
"It is essential to estab7ish whether there is any current risk to any child who may be in contact with the alleged abuser revealed in such disclosures."

So, this would be familiar to any counsellor, is that correct?
A. Yes, that's correct.

293 Q. It should be, at any rate?
A. It should be.
Q. And it puts a particular onus on any particular counsellor to make further inquiries with regard to any disclosure of retrospective abuse, is that fair to say?
A. Well, it creates an obligation -- it specifically here mentions a -- it creates an obligation on any person who becomes, I suppose, aware of retrospective abuse to report that.
Q. And if we could then turn to paragraph 3.9, which is headed "Confidentiality" and it emphasises there that just because something is told to somebody in counselling, doesn't mean that it has to be kept within a counselling environment, isn't that essentially what this section seeks to outline to people?
A. Yes. What it highlights here is the protection of the child, I suppose, would be paramount in that context. So, therefore, certain information could not be kept confidential if it related to a matter that concerned the protection of a child.
296 Q. And it outlines at paragraph 3.9.4:
"The provision of information to the statutory agencies for the protection of a child is not a breach of confidentiality or data protection."
A. That's correct.

297 Q. So that deals with that particular section. Now, in relation to other agencies at paragraph 4.5 of the Children's First guidelines, it sets out the roles and responsibilities of An Garda Síochána, and it says
there:
"The involvement of An Garda Síochána in cases of alleged child abuse and neglect stems from its primary responsibility to protect the community and bring offenders to justice. Where it is suspected that a crime has been committed An Garda Síochána has overall responsibility for the direction of any crimina 1 investigation. It is the function of An Garda Síochána to interview and take any statements that will form part of the criminal investigation file."
A. That's correct.

298 Q. That's correct. And I suppose, in that paragraph, what it outlines is the particular role of the Gardaí in relation to investigating suspected crimes, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

299 Q. And at paragraph 4.6 of the Children's First Guidelines, which is at page 2710, it outlines cooperation between An Garda Síochána and the HSE children and Family Services, and it again says:
"An Garda Síochána and the HSE Children and Family Services have different functions, powers and methods of working. The specific focus of the HSE is on the assessment of the welfare of the child and the family, the specific focus of an Garda Síochána is on the investigation of alleged offences and whether a crime has been committed. Joint working between the HSE

Children and Family Services and An Garda Síochána forms an integral part of the child protection and welfare services and is described in more detail in chapter 7."

So that gives a general outline of what the two agencies are about and refers on to chapter 7 in relation to specifics, isn't --
A. That's correct, yes.

300 Q. -- that a summary of that? Now, before I come on to 14:47 the part 7 of the materials, there are two sections that I wish to outline. First of all, under
"Assessment and Management of Child Protection and welfare Concerns", which is at page 2719, what it says in relation to referral and assessment at paragraph 5.2.1, is that:
"Al1 child protection and welfare concerns reported to the HSE Child and Family Services must be acted upon immediately and formally recorded and followed up as soon as possible."

So, as director of policy would you expect that referrals to the Child and Family Agency would spend time not being acted upon, say, for instance, here we know that a referral was made in August 2013 and didn't get acted upon until April 2014, as a director of policy, would you say that is immediately and followed
up as soon as possible?
A. We11, any report that is received by the agency is prioritised for response, immediate child protection concerns are always responded to immediately --

301 Q. Yes.
A. -- in that context. I think the agency, I suppose, has been on record, I suppose, in relation to some challenges it faces in relation to cases awaiting allocation. So there is a situation whereby we obviously try and respond to the most urgent cases in the most timely manner, but there are cases that do await allocation due to resource deficits within the organisation at times.
302 Q. And these resource deficits, are they being looked at or trying to be managed in any way?
A. Absolutely. Absolutely. So there has been, I suppose, back -- there has been, I suppose, a series of audits done in the organisation by quality assurance in relation to the review of cases awaiting allocation. And last year in particular there was a very specific audit done which examined every single case awaiting allocation for the purpose of clarifying the priority status of those cases and for, I suppose, assisting us on building business cases in relation to kind of additional resources to address that deficit. And there has been continual efforts, which the agency is on record of, in relation to, $I$ suppose, reductions in cases awaiting allocation over time, but it continues to be a source of concern for us.

303 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 5.2.3 it says:
"The HSE should operate standard assessment procedures for reported concerns about children. These procedures should cover notification to the designated person within the HSE, notification to An Garda Síochána, strategy meetings, child protection conferences, child protection reviews and assessment of risk to the child and any other child in the same situation."

And that refers specifically to the cooperation with the guards, as I understand it, is that correct?
A. That's correct. So the agency has what we call ou standard business processes or procedures in relation to the management of referrals received by the agency, and we also have an additional guidance document that was developed following the production of Children First in 2011, which is called our Child Protection and welfare Handbook, which gives additional guidance to staff in relation to the management of referrals.
304 Q. Is that 2014 document?
A. No, it's a 2011 handbook.
Q. Handbook. Okay. And if I could then turn to page 2730, which is part of the chapter on assessment and management of child protection and welfare concerns, and at paragraph 5.21 of that, it's stressed that:

> "Record-keeping is of critical importance in this area of work. Un7ess accurate records are maintained the
ability to adequately protect vulnerable children may be severely curtailed. It is essential that professionals keep contemporaneous records of all reported concerns in a safe place. These should include details of contacts, consultations and any action taken."
A. That's correct. And there's further reference to the importance of record-keeping and chronologies in the child protection and welfare handbook that I mentioned earlier on.

306 Q. Yes.
A. And also there is reference to the importance of record-keeping in relation to our 2014 policy in relation to responding to allegations of abuse.
307 Q. okay. So from your point of view as director of policy 14:51 and strategy, do you think there is -- should be any lack of clarity within the staff of Tusla or the HSE with regard to maintaining files in a proper fashion?
A. No. I think all the current policy and procedures in place would clearly indicate the importance of keeping 14:51 effective record-keeping on files.

308 Q. Okay. And that is nothing new, it's been there --
A. That has been there since $I$ have been involved in the service certain7y, yes.
309 Q. Okay. Now, I think the protocol for An Garda Síochána 14:52 and HSE liaison is contained in chapter 7 of the Children's First Guidelines, and that appears at page 2735 of the materials. And just if $I$ could just highlight:
"Cases to be formally notified by the HSE to An Garda Síochána."

That is at paragraph 7.4.1. It outlines:
"Where the HSE suspects that a child has been or is being physically or sexually abused or willfully neglected, An Garda Síochána must be formally notified in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 14:52 7.4.5 below. The process of establishing whether grounds exist for suspecting such abuse may involve consulting a relevant professional, personne1 within the HSE and, where appropriate, in outside agencies. However, the HSE must not await confirmation of such abuse, whether from a child abuse assessment unit or otherwise, before notifying An Garda Síochána."

And just, if I could stop there and ask you: Do you think that paragraph deals with the situation where a second Garda notification is sent by the HSE?
A. Sorry?

310 Q. If something has been notified to the Gardaí and investigated by the Gardaí, which is on file with the HSE or Tusla, would you expect a second notification to 14:53 issue if you follow the guidelines?
A. In relation to the exact same incident, no. It shouldn't.
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.

312 Q. okay. And would you expect people to consult with old files in relation to prior notifications if something 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.

313 Q. Okay. And I suppose that's included in, that you consult relevant professional personne1 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?
A. Well --

314 Q. In the case of a second notification.
A. In relation to, I suppose, any referral, there is -any referral process is two stages. One is a kind of determination of eligibility, and the second is what is called a preliminary inquiry. In relation to -- as part of the preliminary inquiry you would examine previous records held by the agency and you would perhaps make contact with relevant persons at that point, internal to the agency, in relation to determining the next steps of action, so you could consult -- it's called internal checks or other checks,

I suppose, in our Standard Operating Procedures.
315 Q. And that was effective in 2013?
A. That was effective in 2013, yes.

316 Q. okay. And if I could then turn to the procedure for the HSE to notify An Garda Síochána, that is at page 2736 of the materials. At paragraph 7.4 .5 there is a six-step procedure laid out there in relation to notification to An Garda Síochána. And I think what it says is:
"The designated person within the HSE sends the standard notification form to the local Garda superintendent. Where more than one child is involved a separate standard notification form should be sent in respect of each child. A copy is retained on the file on each child. The social worker handling the case is named on the form."

And that sets out the Garda notification, how it happens. If I could just ask you there: what do you regard as the local Garda superintendent when a Garda notification is being given to the Guards? who is the local Garda superintendent?
A. It's the local station in which the incident occurred and normally -- or, in our case, it's where the child resides, normally.

317 Q. So it's either where the child resides, if it is a child --
A. Yes.

318 Q. -- in the case of a retrospective --
A. It would be where the concern, I suppose, regarding the children who are potentially at risk would reside then as well.
319 Q. Would you expect that Garda station to be known to HSE/Tusla personnel?
A. Yes.

320 Q. Yes. Then it sets out at number 2:
"On receipt of the standard notification form, the
Garda superintendent arranges to have a designated garda assigned to the case and immediately informs the designated person within the HSE of the garda's name and station."

Is that the garda liaison person, you would expect that person to be?
A. Sorry, could you repeat that question again?

321 Q. Yes. So, on receipt of the standard notification form, it's (ii) --
A. Yes.

322 Q. "-- the Garda superintendent arranges to have a designated garda assigned to the case --" Now, what I am asking you, is that designated garda -- would you expect that designated garda to be the liaison garda with the HSE?
A. We11, I suppose the garda and superintendent may appoint someone who investigates that particular case, but sometimes there is a liaison garda just in relation
to general, I suppose, overview of all notifications between the HSE and ourselves. So it may not be the --
323 Q. There is no particular significance to that?
A. No. I suppose, they just assign -- my understanding is that you assign a particular member of the Gardaí to investigate that matter, as we assign a social worker to allocate, to assess that matter.
324 Q. And (iii) says:
"The designated garda makes direct contact without delay with the HSE social worker (or other designated person) dealing with the case in order to obtain details."
A. That's correct.

325 Q. "(iv) when contact is established, both the designated garda and the social worker commence completion of the Record of Garda - HSE Liaison Form."

Is that correct?
A. That's correct.

326 Q. "At the same time, the garda superintendent will assign a designated inspector/sergeant to manage the investigation, monitor its progress and consult with the appointed HSE designated person of the case."
A. That's correct.

327 Q. And finally in (vi):
"Where contact cannot be estab7ished between the
designated Garda and the social worker, the matter will revert immediately to the HSE Social work Team Leader of the case and the designated garda inspector/sergeant for resolution."
A. That's correct.

328 Q. That is essentially the protocol that is followed with regard to individual cases, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

329 Q. Now, paragraph 7.5 provides for informal consultation between the two agencies, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

330 Q. And then it says:
"In cases where the HSE is aware of concerns about a child but is unable to establish sufficient grounds for 14:59 formal notification, the HSE should consult with an Garda Síochána on an informal basis. Such contact is to be actively encouraged in order to protect the welfare of the child concerned."

So, is that a step which falls short of formal notification?
A. Yes, I suppose inter-agency cooperation between the Gardaí and ourselves is encouraged to ensure that we are constantly engaging, I suppose, in relation to the 14:59 sharing of information that would pertain to our respective responsibilities. So, that is in addition to the formal notification process.
331 Q. And it's a legitimate step to be taken by any social
worker or team leader prior to formal notification?
A. Yes, in order to establish, as I said, there's sufficient grounds for formal notification.
332 Q. So, for instance, in a case where a thing is coming into the HSE for a second time, it may be something that would be usefully employed in order to establish for definite whether the Gardaí had investigated a matter prior to that?
A. Absolutely. It would be important for people to be able to contact and speak to each other to clarify information so as to prevent a particular action that shouldn't happen taking place.
333 Q. Now, I think the various templates of these standard notification forms are set out, attached to the Children's First Guidelines, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

334 Q. And they appear in the materials. Now, there is a second document that I wish to open to you, Mr. Quinlan, and it is the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect, 15:00 and that is dated September 2014. And if you could just briefly explain to me how this document came about, considering there was already a Children's First Guidelines available since 2011.
A. The policy, I suppose, arose fundamentally in relation 15:01 to the performance or functions and in particular, I suppose, legal challenges that we faced in relation to meeting our functions, which I have outlined in my witness statement. So basically the requirement I
suppose on the agency is in relation to determining an outcome in relation to an allegation of abuse and to apply fair procedures in relation to the assessment and determination of that specific outcome in respect of that allegation. And this policy and procedure outlines that process to be followed in relation to the determination of an outcome which is defined in the policy as a funded or unfounded outcome in relation to a specific allegation of abuse, and, like I said, the procedures that should be followed to make sure that that is fair and just in relation to determining that outcome.
335 Q. 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?
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 15:02 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 15:02 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
this particular policy document at that time. 336 Q. Okay. Now, I think the key principles governing the policy are set out at page 2793 of the materials at paragraph 3, and they set out:
"(A) The Child and Family Agency is required under the Child Care Act to promote the welfare of children who are not receiving adequate care and protection and in so doing, must regard the welfare of the child as the paramount consideration.
(B) The Child and Family Agency has a duty to determine whether there may be a risk to a child and assess any such risk.
(C) If the child is believed to be at immediate serious risk the child's interests take priority over consideration of the alleged abuser's right to be informed of the allegations against him or her prior to necessary protective action being implemented to ensure the safety and welfare of the child.
(D) And if the Child and Family Agency comes to a conclusion that there is immediate serious risk to a child, it is under a duty to communicate this to an appropriate relevant third party, if that is necessary to, to enable them to take whatever protective action may be necessary.
(E) working in cooperation with parents and family and maintaining children in their own home, whenever possible, is in the best interests of children. If a child is living with an alleged abuser the safety of the child is paramount. From a child protection and welfare perspective a determination has to be made by social work professionals on the balance of probability.
(G) The Child and Family Agency has a duty to ensure that any action taken in relation to an alleged abuser is, where possible, done in accordance with natural justice and fair procedures. In particular, individuals have a right to be informed of what is alleged against them and to be given a reasonable opportunity to put forward their submission or to make representations. This is set out further below.

The Child and Family Agency should take into consideration in its assessment any representations an alleged abuser makes and should not reach a final conclusion without considering this."

So they are essentially the key points which underpin this whole document, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

337 Q. And this document exists in the absence of any specific statutory powers that the agency has in order to carry out its functions, is that correct?
A. Well, the statutory power that exists is still section 3 of the Child Care Act, I suppose, and this policy, I suppose, reflects again our promotional function in relation to identifying children who may be at risk.
338 Q. Who may be at risk?
A. And then, I suppose, following this procedure, I suppose, again, assisting us perhaps in sharing information with relevant third parties to take protective action in respect of that potential risk.
339 Q. Okay. And I think part C of the document sets out the procedures for responding to an allegation that has been made in relation to a child, isn't that correct? And that is at page 2798 of the materials.
A. Yes.

340 Q. Now, the first thing the agency does is, it receives a 15:06 report, and:
"On the basis of the reported concern or existing information there is reason to believe that a child has been harmed or is at risk of further harm or ongoing neglect or that their safety or welfare is at risk, the concern must be followed up immediately and any necessary interventions made."

And that is immediately -- reports which are of immediate concern, is that correct?
A. That's correct. Where there is immediate risk, like I said, they should be followed up immediately.
341 Q. And there is an immediate protective action plan set
out underneath that at paragraph 10 , isn't that correct?
A. That's correct.

342 Q. Now, again, at paragraph 11, notifying An Garda Síochána is set out. And it refers back, first of all, 15:06 to the Children's First, that it provides that:
"Where the Child and Family Agency suspects that a child has been or is being physically or sexually abused or willfully neglected, An Garda Síochána must be formally notified in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraph 7 of the Children's First Guidelines."

And that has already been opened, isn't that correct?
A. That's correct.

343 Q. And then it sets out:
"The social worker should follow the procedures set out in the Children's First Guidelines."

And specifically with regard to retrospective allegations, paragraph 11.4 of this document says that:
"Where an individual is making a retrospective
allegation, a contact should also be made with An Garda Síochána to inquire as to whether the person alleging the abuse is known to An Garda Síochána and to 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."

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?
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.
344 Q. So when this Tribunal has heard that Ms. McGlone wrote to the Gardaí in August 2013, prior to notifying the Gardaí of the retrospective allegation, that in effect 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.
345 Q. And even this document didn't come into effect until

2014, it's something that may have been followed, may be regarded as good practice in 2013, do you think?
A. Well, I suppose, yes. I mean, social workers would try and apply their best judgment in relation to cases, I suppose, and would try and again, I suppose, comply generally with the principles of Children First to try to work collaboratively with the Gardaí in relation to clarifying information before taking steps.
346 Q. Okay. Now, I think I don't need to go into the details unless you wish to highlight any particular step, until 13, when we get to "Contacting an Adult Complainant". I don't think there is anything particularly relevant to the Tribunal's workings. But at page 2800 of the materials it sets out what a social worker will do when there is a retrospective report received; it acknowledges the report to the complainant. So that is nothing new, I think, there, acknowledging the report, is that --
A. To the person who has made the referral?

347 Q. Yes.
A. No, that is not new.

348 Q. "Notifies An Garda Síochána", we have gone through that. "Make contact with the complainant", and:
"In contacting the complainant the social worker should --"

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."

So was that something new that came in, in 2014 or was it something that you would expect --
A. Well, the specific provisions of this and the specific procedural elements of this were quite new, I suppose, in that context. Prior to that I suppose there was a general recognition of an obligation in relation to retrospective abuse, and our obligations to promote the welfare of children in that context. But the specific procedures wouldn't have been outlined in this detail prior to this policy being implemented.
349 Q. So, when you say they wouldn't have been outlined in that detail, generally they would have been known that 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 be potentially at risk and to proceed on that basis to assess that risk, and to share relevant information with other people. obviously, we always try and work in a fair and open and transparent way, where possible, 15:12 and that would be general good practice, unless sharing or -- unless that would create an additional risk to a child, we would always do that in a very open and transparent way. But, I suppose, this policy outlined the very specific procedural steps to be followed, which hadn't been in place, I suppose, prior to that.
350 Q. Okay. And then D:
"Inform the complainant that as per the requirements of the Children's First, An Garda Síochána has been notified of the report and that they can, if they have not already done so, make a statement to An Garda Síochána at any point. Following this, the social worker should finalise the arrangement with the complainant to undertake the first stage of the assessment. The social worker must then confirm to the complainant in writing that the first stage of the assessment will be carried out and the details of where and when the first stage of the assessment will take p7ace."
A. That's correct.

351 Q. Yes. And then there is a section 14: "Refusal to engage in the first stage of the assessment." And it essentially sets out that if that happens:
"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."
A. That's correct.

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.
A. That's correct.

353 Q. Now, if the complainant doesn't engage with the social worker, do you envisage that any further action will be taken by the Child and Family Agency in relation to cases of retrospective abuse?
A. There is still an obligation on the agency to come to a conclusion in respect of the matter and to proceed on the basis of that conclusion or not proceed if the conclusion is an unfounded outcome. But we still have to proceed -- to come to a determination in respect of the allegation and then take whatever appropriate steps should happen at that point in time.
354 Q. And you do it on the basis of the information available to you --
A. Absolutely.

355 Q. -- is that correct? Now, just in relation to this
particular matter that the Tribunal is dealing with, it would appear that when Ms. McLoughlin decided to deal with the matter, her superior, Séamus Deeney, decided that the following steps should be followed in relation to the retrospective report. This is at page 456 of the materials. It should come up in front, yes. So Mr. Deeney wrote to McLoughlin and said:
"We discussed this case yesterday. we decided that we would contact the alleged victim as there is some
discrepancy in the allegations forwarded to us. This will allow us to check the reliability and accuracy of the allegations and determine whether there is a foundation to the allegations."

So that, in essence, was following the procedure that I have just outlined there to you, is that correct?
A. Technically, yes.

356 Q. Yes.
A. It would be, yes.

357 Q. Even though this predated, I think -- oh, no, this was the 2015.
A. Yes. It's when the standard policy was in place.

358 Q. So it was following that policy?
A. Yes.

359 Q. And then:
"2. Determine whether we need to interview anyone else who may be of relevance, e.g. the counsellor."

So that again would be following the policy in 2014, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

360 Q. And then: "On review of the above, inform the alleged 15:16 abuser of the allegations."
A. That's correct.

361 Q. That's correct. And that comes later on in the policy, and I don't intend to go into it in any detail here, and then:
"Plan the action to be taken to inform third parties in relation to the allegations, e.g." -- his wife in this particular instance -- "and determine protective action and plan for the case". Is that right?
A. Well, I mean, step 3 obviously would have been slightly more to just informing him, obviously. There would be an obligation to meet with the person, to interview them, to take them through, I suppose, the concerns in relation to it, to seek their response in relation to that. And then following that, I suppose, consideration of all the relevant information then at that point in time to determine provisional outcome, as outlined in the policy document, to share that provisional outcome with the person who has allegedly caused harm, to seek any additional information at that point and then to come to a final conclusion at that point and then share relevant information based on that founded outcome at that point.
Q. Yes.
A. Yes.

363 Q. So the second stage of the -- the first stage of the assessment is meeting the complainant?
A. The first stage is meeting the complainant.

364 Q. 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 the -- what the letter should contain, isn't that correct?
A. That's correct, yes.

365 Q. And that is an up-to-date policy, is that correct, in relation to the contents of what should be set out to the alleged abuser at that stage?
A. Yes. I suppose the policy was informed fundamentally probably from the Barr judgment at the time, I suppose in relation to the type of information that should be shared with, and there are template letters, like $I$ said, in the --
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.

367 Q. And I think the draft letter is contained at Appendix 3 at page 2827 of the materials. It should come up in front of you now. Yes, I think it's set out there.
A. That's correct, yes.

368 Q. And it's part of the policy to set out detail in relation to the allegations in the letter, is that correct?
A. That's correct.

369 Q. And that is your up-to-date policy, am I correct in saying that?
A. That is our current and active policy in respect of these matters, yes.
370 Q. And it sets out that that correspondence should be sent by registered post and marked "strictly private and confidential, strictly addressee only," is that correct?
A. That's correct.

371 Q. You don't have any policies in relation to particular times, that it may not be the greatest idea to send a letter like that to people?
A. This policy has been subject, or is subject currently to review, and certainly one of the aspects that have arisen out of that review, I suppose, from practitioners is the requirement, perhaps, to have a pre-meeting with the person who allegedly caused harm, to invite them in to try and discuss, not the specific allegations but just to inform them obviously, to confirm their identity, to offer support or make sure they had support and advices in relation to them before 15:19 they would then come to us to discuss the allegations. So there is a recommendation as part of the review to 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.
372 Q. And then I think your policy then sets out the steps to be taken where the alleged abuser refuses to engage the meeting with an alleged abuser, whether they should be 1egally represented during the initial interview, in situations where the alleged abuser is under 18 years of age, what happens after the initial interview, that there may be a further assessment in relation to the 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?
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 in respect of these matters.
373 Q. And just in very general terms, would you expect all of 15:21 your social workers, team leaders and area managers to be very familiar with these documents and the policies of the Child and Family Agency?
A. Yes. I would expect that all staff would be aware of
all current policies. They are currently available to all staff through what we call our intranet, hubs, so they are accessible to staff through their computers, and that, at any point in time in relation to compliance with those policies and procedures.
374 Q. And is there ongoing training provided to staff in relation to policies?
A. Depending on the need or depending on the requirement if that is identified, then those kind of issues can be addressed, yes.
375 Q. Okay. I don't know if there is anything else in particular you want to draw to the Tribunal's attention with regard to policies? Do you think is there anything you would like to add?
A. I don't believe so at this point in time, unless there is any specific questions in relation to policy matters, no, thank you.

MS. LEADER: Thank you very much. If you would answer any questions anybody else might have for you, Mr. Quinlan.

MR. QUINLAN WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. MCGARRY:

376 Q. MR. MCGARRY: Mr. Quin7an, Paul McGarry is my name. I represent sergeant McCabe. Am I correct in understanding that your evidence to the Tribunal is directed at what should happen ideally in every case?
A. That's correct. I suppose my position is to outline the policy position that exists in the agency or
previously perhaps within the child and family services, if that is possible.
377 Q. And you were asked some questions about this by Ms. Leader. Am I to understand that you have looked at the files and documents in relation to the matters that $15: 22$ are the subject of the terms of reference here?
A. No, I wouldn't have conducted a full review of the specific file in relation to this. That wouldn't be a role and function of myself as director of policy. So I would obviously be aware of some of the issues, obviously, as a member of the senior management team, arising during the course of the Tribunal.
378 Q. Well, obviously you have followed what has been going on here with regard to your agency and you are familiar with what the position is?
A. That's correct.

379 Q. And the evidence of the various people that have given -- that have come here and testified from your agency?
A. I would have knowledge, yes, of some of the evidence, I 15:23 suppose, that people have provided to the Tribunal, yes.
380 Q. You see, I have to suggest to you that there has been a complete failure to comply with the various obligations on the part of your agency at every level in the process.
A. My understanding is, from reviewing the information, that there certainly has been failures in relation to compliance with policy in respect of this matter,
that's true. And I also understand, I suppose, that my colleague, the chief operations -- Jim Gibson, has given, I suppose, absolute clarity to the Tribunal that there has been a failure in respect of oversight and governance of matters, as well, in relation to matters before the Tribunal.

381 Q. Well, leave aside oversight and governance. I am talking about the facts with regard to compliance with the things you have been telling us about this afternoon?
A. I believe there is, at times, partial compliance with elements of policy but not full compliance with elements of policy.
382 Q. Well, I am not going to go through them all in detail, but I am suggesting to you, without the need to go through them all in detail, that there has been a complete failure to comply with those obligations on so many different levels by so many different people at every stage in the process?
A. Like I said, I believe there has been partial compliance at times with elements of the policy but there has been significant, I would say, deficits in relation to compliance with elements of the policy in respect of these matters.
383 Q. For example, you referred in the statement or the document that you prepared for the Tribunal to the obligation, the legal obligation in relation to fair procedures and how the person against whom the allegation of abuse is treated. Would you accept that
there has been a complete failure to comply with those obligations?
A. Well, I believe in relation to this particular policy and the fair procedures outlined, I believe that the evidence before the Tribunal is that there was an attempt obviously to share and follow the procedure as outlined in the five steps that were just presented to me earlier in relation to that, so there was an attempt to comply with some element of the policy but that wasn't, I believe, followed with rigour.

384 Q. So it wasn't followed up, the five steps were not complied with, isn't that right?
A. My understanding is -- again, I suppose my knowledge is limited, I suppose I would say, in that, because I haven't done a full file review of this matter. It wouldn't be a role and function of myself, as director of policy, to review. That is a matter for the internal review to look at the specific, but I am aware from some of the evidence obviously before the Tribunal that there has been failures in that regard, yes.
385 Q. We11, I am suggesting to you that the failures exist at every level. They exist, for example, at the level of compliance with the Children's First Guidelines, they exist with the compliance with the notification procedure and the interaction with An Garda Síochána, obligations that are contained in the guidelines that you have set out, they exist in relation to the manner in which you deal with the alleged person concerned,
they exist in relation to data protection issues.
A. Certainly, like I said, there has been partial compliance, I would say, with some elements. Some notifications have taken place. Obviously there was errors in relation to information that was notified, but if someone was following the policies correctly, they would have taken different steps, definitely, in relation to those matters.

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?
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.
387 Q. I am just concerned that you seem to be putting this in 15:27 the context of governance and oversight and ignoring 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 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, 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 management has, I suppose, responsibility for ensuring
that effective policy is followed and met and I suppose wasn't in place at times in relation to these matters, and that resulted in, yes, clear errors in this case, that's absolutely -- so it does relate to effective governance and oversight for management to make sure the policies and procedures are followed, right from the individual workers that deal with the case right up through the organisation.
MR. MCGARRY: Thank you.

MR. QUINLAN WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS:

388 Q. MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS: Mr. Quinlan, my name is Donal McGuinness. I appear on behalf of the Garda Commissioner and certain other members of An Garda síochána. Just a few questions, if you don't mind. Could I ask you to have a look at document 1290. This is a meeting -- minutes of a meeting or an action sheet that was created arising out of a meeting that took place in 2007, 24th of April 2007 at 2:15 p.m. Have you seen this document before?
A. I have not seen this document, no.

389 Q. Essentially this document is at the very end of the process that happened with the HSE in 2007, and it's essentially the last piece of work that was done on the 15:29 file in 2007. And if you look at the section:
"Reasons for Referral: Ms. D informed CSA team during recent appointment that Mr. McCabe inappropriately
touched her. File returned from the DPP, no prosecution.

Actions agreed: Mary O'Reilly to contact Catherine Sweeney, principal social worker, in Meath, to ask her to nominate a member of her team to deal with Mr. McCabe. Social worker to offer Mr. McCabe a risk assessment and to inform him that the HSE are aware of the allegations against him."

Now, there matters lay in 2007. At the same time in 2007, in fact in April of 2007, the Garda investigation had completely concluded and there was a decision by the DPP not to prosecute. You accept, therefore, that the Garda work essentially was done in 2007.
A. I accept if the Gardaí concluded their investigation and the DPP decided not to proceed, yes, I would assume that that concluded their business.
390 Q. Their job was done effectively. But that record there seems to indicate that there was a job of work to be done by the HSE at that time?
A. I suppose as outlined in Children First, I suppose, the respective responsibilities of the Gardaí and the HSE at the time, I suppose, are different. Our responsibilities are in relation to the protection of children, both in terms of identified children and potential risk. So these actions relate to, I suppose, the possibility of furthering our assessment in 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.
391 Q. Yes. But essentially, the matter was left at the point where sergeant McCabe has to be contacted by the HSE effectively, that is what that record illustrates?
A. According to this action that is what is outlined here, yes, that's correct.
392 Q. And then if you jump forward to page 410, please. This was the intake record created by Keara McGlone on 9th of August 2013. And just at the back of that document, 15:31 sorry, page 412, the bottom of that document, she indicates: "Duty to Garda notify and await allocation. MTP."
A. That's correct.

393 Q. So essentially we have jumped from 2007 to 2013. The matter has been reinvigorated by -- at this stage, it was a verbal call from Laura Brophy indicating that she had received a retrospective complaint of alleged abuse. And Keara MCGlone creates this intake record on the 9th of August, and she immediately identifies the job of work to be done at that stage is "Duty to Garda notify, await allocation"?
A. That's -- according to that document, that is what that says, correct, yes.
394 Q. Now, on the hierarchy of things to do before the Garda 15:32 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?
A. Yes. The requirement under our standard operating procedures is that in any referral we conduct a preliminary inquiry in relation to that and after a preliminary inquiry -- but that would be the first point, I suppose, where you might suspect abuse and that's a ground then for notifying the Gardaí in relation to that matter.
395 Q. Yes. And in order to properly carry out that inquiry, as a matter of course, you would obviously refer back to the records that were created at the time the abuse 15:32 allegation first emerged?
A. Yes. Part of the preliminary inquiry process is to check the records held by the agency, in addition to, as I said, other checks that might be required at that point.

396 Q. And a very useful resource in relation to that preliminary inquiry would, in fact, be the statement given by the alleged injured party back at the time?
A. If that matter was on file, absolutely, that would be very relevant information to consider.
397 Q. Yes. And it was on file, it's been established that it was on file at the time. And assuming, having done all of that, it may well be the case that that could have been the end of the matter, if that had been looked at?
A. If it was concluded at the end of the preliminary inquiry phase that there was no basis to proceed to initial assessment, in that this was a matter that had already been dealt with to conclusion, then there would be no basis to proceed into initial assessment at that
point and the matter could be closed.
398 Q. Yes. But in any event, would you accept that before Sergeant McCabe ought to have been approached by -- in the form of a Barr letter, that it was essential to
talk to Ms. D?
$15: 34$ causing harm against them, yes.
399 Q. Yes. So, in a sense, if the first best step is to go back to the 2007 file, the second best step before you take any further action is to talk to the complainant directly, isn't that correct?
A. In relation to an assessment, I mean -- I suppose, at preliminary inquiry phase you may not proceed to interview the complainant at that point in time. You might be dealing with the individual who has referred the matter to you and then you would be checking historical records. If you are going out to interview a complainant, you would have proceeded into an assessment phase at that stage. So that would be beyond preliminary inquiry, that would be into what we call the initial assessment phase of our work.

400 Q. Yes, yes. But you accept in this case, obvious7y, that step was missed going back to Ms. D before going to Sergeant McCabe, that step was in fact missed, in this particular case?
A. My understanding is, and again I suppose, that if at this point in time they were reactivating the matter and they -- the first stage would have been, yes, to clarify information in respect of the complainant, and then proceed I suppose on that basis.

401 Q. Yes. Proceed to the next step?
A. Yes.

402 Q. Yes. Which would be notification of Sergeant McCabe?
A. That's correct.

403 Q. Thank you.

MR. QUINLAN WAS RE-EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER:
404 Q. MS. LEADER: Just one question: Do you know when the review of the file would have been completed in Tusla?
A. I don't have specific information on that at this stage. That is a matter that -- I believe a draft of the report is with the chief operations officer, but I don't have a specific date as to when that will be concluded.

MS. LEADER: Thank you very much.
CHAIRMAN: Thanks.

## THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW

MR. MCGUINNESS: That is the completed 1ist of of witnesses for tomorrow at whatever appropriate time is possible.
CHAIRMAN: Yes. Tomorrow I can't sit before 2:00
because of matters in the other place, but we will try and sit through for as long as we can. I don't know whether you need to revise the list or inform people accordingly, but we will do our best to get through as much as we can. Thank you.

THE HEARING WAS THEN ADJOURNED TO THURSDAY, 27TH JULY 2017 AT 2:00PM

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[^0]:    "Confidential Rian Counselling Service NCS HSE DNE. Incident report dated 14/5/'14 re: Data Breach, Rian

