

Investigation into the attempted suicide of D at HMP Pentonville on 27 December 2001

Case Number:
Date of Interview: 3 November 2006
Name of Interviewer: Ali McMurray, Prisons and Probation
Ombudsman's Office and
Clare Walter, Treasury Solicitor
Name of the Interviewee: Dave Leane

Ali McMurray: Today is Friday 3 November and the time is just after 11.15. Present in the room is Ali McMurray, I am the Assistant Ombudsman:

Clare Walter: Clare Walter from Treasury Solicitors.

Dave Leane: Dave Leane, former Prison Officer, Pentonville Prison.

Ali McMurray: Okay thank you. Stephen Shaw, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, is carrying out an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the attempted suicide of Mr D at Pentonville Prison on 27 December 2001 and I am assisting him. Dave, would you please confirm that you received a copy of the letter inviting for interview, the Notice of Investigation and the Notes for Interviewees and that you've had an opportunity to read them?

Dave Leane: That's correct.

Ali McMurray: Okay thank you. Would you please confirm that you understand that the Ombudsman's report will be published in due course and the transcript of your interview may be attached to the report or be separately made publicly available?

Dave Leane: That's correct.

Ali McMurray: Thank you. And would you please confirm that you understand that you may have a work colleague or a trade union representative with you during this interview?

Dave Leane: That's correct.

Ali McMurray: Okay and you haven't got anybody with you, are you happy to proceed without?

Dave Leane: I am happy to continue yes.

Ali McMurray: Okay. And then just finally to say that if during the course of the interview you wish to have a break for any reason, please just say so and I'll stop the tape.

Dave Leane: Fine.

Ali McMurray: Right, okay, right thanks Dave. Now to start off with a little bit about yourself. How long had you actually been in the Prison Service by the time of Mr D's attempted suicide?

Dave Leane: I joined this service on 10 July 1995 and so obviously I would have been nearly 6 years may be.

Ali McMurray: Right and was that all at Pentonville?

Dave Leane: All at Pentonville yes.

Ali McMurray: And what was your actual role or did it change over that time?

Dave Leane: I've worked on various wings. I think I finished off in the Healthcare. I think I was there for about 2 years doing various jobs.

Ali McMurray: And how did you get the job in Healthcare? Was that a specialised job or was it just like ...?

Dave Leane: I was brought down as a cleaning officer. I think they had a bad report of some sort and I was brought down as the cleaning officer because a lot of it was done by nurses and less by the prison officers and I think the feeling went back to bringing more prison officers down there, even if it was just for the discipline side of it.

Ali McMurray: Right, okay. And so is it something that you volunteered to do or somebody ...?

Dave Leane: Yes, I was asked to do it and I made enquiries to go down to the Healthcare anyway and obviously when this opportunity came up, I think it was one of the governors, I can't remember his name now, Peter Haywood asked me and so I decided to come down as, staff, as the cleaning officer.

Ali McMurray: Right okay, and so what did you work generally involve on, on a sort of day-to-day basis?

Dave Leane: Cleaning the wing, make sure the wing was cleaned, obviously discipline matters, exercise, generally everything really.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: Supporting the nurses, doing clinics, running prisoners back and forward to the wings, you know if they had appointments in the hospital, yes generally everything really.

Ali McMurray: Right okay, and were you, what was called a Healthcare Officer or were you a Discipline Officer?

Dave Leane: I was a Discipline Officer working in the Healthcare. There were Healthcare Officer's, people like David Carr and Peter Haywood had actually gone over, I think, before. They had courses that you could go away for certain period of time years ago and they would be trained up to a certain medical standard.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: I don't know if that's been brought back in. It certainly, it wasn't brought in at that time, even though we were given certain courses. But we couldn't go around with a drugs trolley and give drugs out as they could.

Ali McMurray: Right, okay. Moving on to the Healthcare Centre generally, how would you describe it physically at that time (so whatever I'm asking, it relates to sort of December 2001 period).

Dave Leane: Well, it was just a basic little wing that the prison turned into Healthcare. Not ideal, but obviously at that time that's all they had to work with, I would imagine.

Ali McMurray: Okay and in terms of environment. I mean was there a lot of natural light, was it quite bright, was it tidy was clean?

Dave Leane: It would have been tidy and reasonably clean, but it would be very light or it would be quite dark. The landing [Mr D was on] was the lowest one of the lowest landings. It was the ones and the twos, you see. The ones is really a basement and then the VIP were kept up on the fours and fives. So the doctors had their offices on the threes so obviously the higher you go the more nice it gets.

Ali McMurray: Right and was it a noisy environment?

Dave Leane: It could be yes.

Ali McMurray: Right and sorry ...

Dave Leane: I was going to say it all depended on what sort of inmates you had down there at the time. Some inmates are fine, others you know could be very noisy, very demanding.

Ali McMurray: And was there a typical sort of type of prisoner or did it sort of constantly vary according to the ...

Dave Leane: I think on the ones I remember it would be, more your schizophrenics, may be your more violent sort of type of prisoners, prisoners that needed more than the average prisoners. On the twos would maybe be people you know, we had one guy chronic asthma, may be wheelchair based. They weren't so much a discipline problem or violent or aggressive or so you know what I mean, these were on the twos, as the ones was for the ... I think we had 12 cells on the ones, something like that. It could be more, you know, not problematic, that's probably the wrong word but needed more attention shall we say.

Ali McMurray: Challenging?

Dave Leane: Yes.

Ali McMurray: Okay and in terms of needing more attention, I mean was it possible to give them that sort of attention? I mean, were they out of their cells a lot, were there sufficient staff on duty?

Dave Leane: Well, it's like anything. Sometimes there would be more staff then others, sort of based on our resources. We'd get them out if we could, you know obviously. You know, if we had to deal with things, the others wouldn't be able to come out, do you know what I mean?

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: Things like that. We had special cells down there and quite often we had three men unlocks, four men unlocks, depending on the sort of prisoner. I mean we had a prisoner down there, he was like a 5 or 6 men unlock, you know? I think, did he go into one of the big

psychiatric hospitals in the end. I know it took them quite a while to get him out.

Ali McMurray:

Yes.

Dave Leane:

He was with us a long time.

Ali McMurray:

And was that an issue generally - getting people moved out to NHS or ...?

Dave Leane:

Yes, but you would find some people would sit there for quite a while, you know although then they might go back to normal location and then you know obviously, deteriorate and come back again that sort of thing.

Ali McMurray:

Yes and I mean Pentonville is, I mean a hugely busy prison isn't it?

Dave Leane:

I think it is one of the busiest in the country.

Ali McMurray:

I think I've even heard it described as the busiest in Europe?

Dave Leane:

Yes. There is more coming, through the doors everyday. I don't know if it holds as many as, I think it is the fourth largest prison but as for turnover of inmate, I would imagine it's probably the busiest, one of the busiest, if not the busiest.

Ali McMurray:

Yes, and how does that impact on staff/prisoner relationships? Do you actually get the chance to get to know people or are they just people that are sort of passed ...

Dave Leane:

Some you do, it all depends once they ... I got to know quite a few, but I mean there is a high turn around of inmates.

Ali McMurray:

Yes.

Dave Leane:

So obviously, you know, you are that busy. I mean I suppose they get more settled once they are convicted.

Ali McMurray:

Yes, I suppose it depends. Some people you'll have just for couple of months and others it would be ...

Dave Leane:

I mean, you could have them in for a few days and then they go out and then they might end up in Belmarsh and then they come back 3 weeks later.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: You know, going back and forth from court.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: Things like that.

Ali McMurray: Yes, okay and what was the regime generally like for prisoners? I mean were they out, how long were they out of their cells for, for each day, do you think?

Dave Leane: I wouldn't say they were out a lot, if I was to be honest.

Ali McMurray: And so I mean how typically would they spend their day in their cells?

Dave Leane: In cells, exercise, they did put a few classes on I think, if I remember right. I think they had a bit of gym, if they wanted to do it. You know, we did get them out, we used to try and get them out every morning to clean their cells, you know, which is okay, but if everything was running fine.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: I think they started a workshop up in the hospital, down on the ones at one stage.

Ali McMurray: Okay and in the cells themselves - what would they have to entertain themselves in there, just a bit of literature?

Dave Leane: Literature, I suppose if they had any. That's all. Depends if they had it. There was certainly no TVs or anything like that. I don't know if it's changed now but at that time there wasn't.

Ali McMurray: Okay thank you and in terms of organisation, you know, obviously it was a busy environment, but did you feel sort of in control and that you knew what you were suppose to be doing on a daily basis?

Dave Leane: Oh yes, generally we were in control, we all knew, well, you know, we knew what the regime was and what was done daily, you know, your general daily stuff.

Ali McMurray: Okay and what about handovers, were there sort of regular handovers?

Dave Leane: Yes, they do handovers in the morning, what'd happened in the nightshift. I think the night staff used to come in and get the big briefs if there had been problems, what hadn't been done but yes generally there was handovers I think. I think the nurses did their own handovers in the evening, even outside the Prison Service.

Ali McMurray: Right, yes I mean because it is the sort of environment where you really would want to know what's been going on.

Dave Leane: Absolutely, yes.

Ali McMurray: Anywhere in the prison it is important, but where you've got people with mental problems ...

Dave Leane: Absolutely.

Ali McMurray: Okay thank you. Was there a great deal of self harm in the Healthcare Centre at the time or would Mr D have stood out?

Dave Leane: Oh he definitely stood out. I mean I never had a problem with, I think his name was L , wasn't it?

Ali McMurray: That's right.

Dave Leane: I had quite a good rapport with him. He was never really so much a problem to me but you know he was the sort of inmate, we had inmates down there who would be, who liked the prison officers but hated the nurses, do you know what I mean?

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: Loved the nurses but hate the prison officers you know, (*inaudible*) if that makes any sort of sense and I didn't really have any problem with him, but he was, I think he was quite a demanding prisoner.

Ali McMurray: Yes, would you say there was a sort of difference of approach then between the nursing staff and the discipline staff?

Dave Leane: Oh yes, definitely.

Ali McMurray: How would you sort of characterise that?

Dave Leane: I think they took us more, I always got the impression that they took us more seriously than the nurses because obviously we were in uniform and we have, you know, they could probably get away with more, if that's the sort of term, with the nurses but, you know, not that we were unfair with them in anyway but I mean you know, I'm 6' 6", you know what I mean? So they could probably take more of an approach than maybe a smaller, you know nurse.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: You know especially new nurses who never worked in this sort of environment before, because it's not like just normal nursing is it?

Ali McMurray: No, that's right.

Dave Leane: I think a lot of them come in there thinking, yes it's just ... it's not - you are dealing with specific people, aren't you.

Ali McMurray: Yes, I mean, did it appear that nurses found those sorts of prisoners intimidating?

Dave Leane: Yes absolutely.

Ali McMurray: So did they tend to be a bit sort of stand-offish and ... ?

Dave Leane: Yes, I mean it's like any sort of violent prisoner you know, nurses wouldn't really get involved in, especially you know, for better words, if it kicked off. You know, they sort of pressed the bell and that would be, you know, the only time they would get involved if they got drawn into it really.

Ali McMurray: Okay, I mean, I know you are not a clinical man yourself but how did the nursing staff appear to you? I mean, apart from not sort of wanting to get involved on that side of it, did they ...

Dave Leane: Some were very good, you know some were very good, you know but there were others there, I think, who virtually did it for the money. I think they used to earn quite a lot of money with overtime and all this. As far as I am concerned, if they could do as little as possible they would.

Ali McMurray: Right, and what were the staffing levels like, generally I mean?

Dave Leane: I can't really remember. I don't think it was too bad but it all depends really doesn't it, you know, depends on sickness and I think there was a high level of sickness in the hospital, I would have thought.

Ali McMurray: You think probably higher than the rest of the prison?

Dave Leane: Yes, I would have thought so yes.

Ali McMurray: I suppose it's more stressful isn't it?

Dave Leane: Yes, but then you've got smaller amount of people to deal with and ...

Ali McMurray: That's true.

Dave Leane: D wing, it's got 380, 96 on a landing you know, that's life.

Ali McMurray: Are you able to tell us anything at all about sort of referrals to psychologists and psychiatrists and how it worked?

Dave Leane: No, I think when they came in, they used to be assessed when they come through reception. I think they might have been attached to a doctor because there was obviously a team of doctors there and they would become their patient or you know. I think every ...

Ali McMurray: Okay and record keeping generally? I mean, as I say, the whole of Mr D's core files has gone astray but, I mean, that could be a one-off. Did it seem to you that people kept good records both on the prisoner's file and on observations books?

Dave Leane: Yes the records were kept and, is it the IMRs? There used to be orange folders, they used to be up on the twos or the threes but you know you could go looking for one and it wouldn't be there and it could be may be in the treatment room in D wing, or treatment room in A wing. Do you know what I mean?

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: Often we used go up there looking for, specially like for clinics, you know just for normal inmates in the normal

population, because they'd come down for clinics and obviously the doctors would want their health records and it wouldn't be there. So there was a list printed every morning for the clinics and you had to pull the IMRs and obviously you would supervise the clinics with the doctor and all the rest of it. If they come down to see the dentist or the eye specialist or whatever and often you would not find them.

Ali McMurray:

And was anybody trying to get the grips with those issues?

Dave Leane:

I think they were trying to get the grips but it definitely was a problem, definitely an issue.

Ali McMurray:

Right, did that compromise your ability to do your job at all do you think?

Dave Leane:

No, not particularly, it was just a bit annoying when you are looking for something and you can't find them.

Ali McMurray:

Yes, and it all wastes time doesn't, you could spend doing something else ...?

Dave Leane:

Yes.

Ali McMurray:

And morale generally in the Healthcare Centre and sort of management support. How would you describe that at the time?

Dave Leane:

I think, the prison officers were quite happy. I think the lads who worked down there, went down there, I know they liked it. I don't think the nurses ...I mean everyone has their moans and groans.

Ali McMurray:

Yes, of course.

Dave Leane:

You know, it doesn't matter what environment, you'll always moan about something. But I was generally happy enough, I loved working down there. If I was still in Pentonville Prison now, I assume I'd still be working in Healthcare, you know what I mean.

Ali McMurray:

Really?

Dave Leane:

Yes, absolutely. How the nurses feel I don't know. Some were happy, some were not, you know, not ... I don't think ...

Ali McMurray: Yes, as Discipline Officers did you work quite closely with nurses or did it tend to be them and us?

Dave Leane: Yes, you did have a lot of them and us when it comes to certain things. I believe some of them did not like it when we first moved down there, because there used to be a lot of alarm bells in the hospital, a lot of alarm bells and then when the Prison Officers, when the Discipline Officers moved back in there those, alarm came down a lot, you know.

Ali McMurray: Right and this was prisoners kicking off and the nursing staff not being able to cope.

Dave Leane: Yes, I mean, we had some girls down there and they were very, very small. I mean how were they meant to deal with someone who has got mental health problems, who might be 6', 6' 2"? They possibly wouldn't be able to deal with them.

Ali McMurray: No. Unless there is anything else that you think that I should know about the Healthcare Centre, I am going to move onto suicide and self harm.

Dave Leane: Yes, that's fine, that fine...

Ali McMurray: Okay well if anything comes then just chip it in later. Can you recall what training you had on suicide and self harm prevention both initially and any ongoing training?

Dave Leane: Not really, I know we done, we done the life support training with Peter Haywood.

Ali McMurray: That was the so called Hotel 9 stuff?

Dave Leane: Yes I remember that. I think we did have training, but I can't really recall to be quite honest.

Ali McMurray: Right, so given that you were sort of dealing with quite a vulnerable population, were you confident about that, were you happy that you sort of knew, what was going on and ...

Dave Leane: Yes, we were happy but it's just, we could have done with more training, I believe.

Ali McMurray: Do you think there was training and you've forgotten what it was or do you think there probably wasn't any?

Dave Leane: There was definitely training and I definitely would have had it but I can probably say that we could have used ... you can always use more training can't you?

Ali McMurray: Yes, of course you can.

Dave Leane: So.

Ali McMurray: Okay, and how would you, how would the fact that somebody was considered to be a risk of self harm, how was that communicated to staff generally?

Dave Leane: Well it would be on their observation book, they would have a, there's a higher mark (*inaudible*) and we would always know who the self harmers were.

Ali McMurray: Right, I mean was it actually flagged up for you or was the onus on you to actually go and check people's records ...

Dave Leane: No, we would be told I think, if a new inmate came onto the landing, new prisoner came on and we came in on that morning and he had been problematic or he did have problems we would be told in the morning.

Ali McMurray: Right okay and in terms of the forms for recording the care of those ...

Dave Leane: The 2052s, yes.

Ali McMurray: I mean, were you comfortable about using those and did you use it much in your day-to-day work or ...

Dave Leane: Did we put entries? I think, yes, we would have put entries in them and ... I can't even remember how they worked to be honest. Yes, at the time yes we, did we have 2052 training? Might have done. Yes, we would have put entries on them if they were needed.

Ali McMurray: And if you personally identified somebody that you thought were at risk were you comfortable with the process for sort ...

Dave Leane: I can't remember how it was, was it a group who got together and they would decide if they were going on a 2052? I think it was a group of doctors, nurses and may be discipline staff, I can't remember.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: But I think it's something that seems to ring a bell.

Ali McMurray: Right okay and can you remember if you actually took part in any case conferences yourself? So, once somebody was identified as being at risk, there would be occasions where the doctors got together, supposedly with people from other disciplines to talk about the particular ...

Dave Leane: I mean, I can't recall getting involved in any of that side, I think it was more done with doctors and psychologists.

Ali McMurray: Okay and can you ever recall getting any feedback from - there used to be a suicide prevention management group - can you ever remember getting any feedback about issues coming up in the prison or did the nurses do that?

Dave Leane: No, all I know is that when I first started at Pentonville there wasn't a lot of 2052s and when I left there was lots and lots and lots of them, not just in the Healthcare but throughout.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: I don't if you look now, how many people are on it now, when I was on the wings maybe 2, 3 if that, and you'd be checking, especially during the night you'd check them through the night, more than you would check other prisoners obviously because they are more vulnerable. But I know when I left and what I've heard from ... now there is a lot of them on there.

Ali McMurray: And do you think that's because there are more vulnerable prisoners or do you think it's because staff are a little bit more nervous and so they tend to open up their 2052 just to be on the safe side?

Dave Leane: Yes definitely, prisoners are always vulnerable aren't they?

Ali McMurray: Of course they are.

Dave Leane: You know, have prisoners changed so much in the last 10 years? I mean drug issues has got a lot to do with it but, you know, do prisoners take more drugs now than they did take 10 years ago when I joined? I don't think so. You know, so the prisoners are still the same. I think it is probably more nervous or you know

let's cover our backs just in case anything does happen.

Ali McMurray: And in terms of supporting vulnerable prisoners, how much opportunity was there for meaningful contact with them? I mean you say they spent most of the time in their cells, prisoners generally in the Healthcare Centre. I mean, was any sort of special attempt made to get the vulnerable prisoners out and talk to them or did somebody sit in their cell and talk to them?

Dave Leane: I wouldn't have thought anybody ever sat in the cell and spoke to them. I mean we talked to them quite a lot because we were always about, you know ...

Ali McMurray: Yes, so just in passing?

Dave Leane: Yes, we did try and get them out but you know, as I say, it all depended on how many staff were there, what was going on that day, you know if there was any problem in the rest of the prison, you know generally.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: But I wouldn't say ... they had a pool table and a TV out on the landing but I wouldn't say there was generally a lot for them to do, but I wouldn't say there's generally a lot for any prisoner to do in Pentonville to be honest, it's very small isn't it?

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: ** and stuff like that. It's very nicely compact.

Ali McMurray: Yes, yes

Dave Leane: So there isn't a lot to do.

Ali McMurray: Okay and what sort of options, were open to staff for looking after the prisoners then? I mean what measures would you put ... say this prisoner is at risk, what would you do to sort of take care of them?

Dave Leane: We would observe them, depending on what sort of risk, you know I've seen hourly watches, from half hourly watches to, you know, constant watches. They were the thing that sort of came in more to the end of my service, a lot more constant watches. You know I would have thought it was a safety side of it but you know and they just joined in the normal regime of the

prison. I think we used to take them to the library for an hour and maybe a bit of gym if they wanted it, but then the onus is on the prisoner to want to go to the gym.

Ali McMurray: Yes and the constant watches who actually authorised those?

Dave Leane: I think it was done by the doctors. I don't think we could turn round ... It's all about money, isn't it? If we've got to employ someone to sit and watch someone for 24 hours, specially if they are coming in from an agency, it's all money isn't it? So I don't think it was anything to do with prison officers, obviously some sort of form of management who would make that decision.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: Which is simply a doctor because he is professional. He can say, well you know, this man has to be watched for whatever reason.

Ali McMurray: I'm interested when you say that it's all about money. I mean was that something that was sort of expressly said at the time or ...

Dave Leane: No it's like this ... it's resources isn't it? I don't know - I'd imagine a lot of the prison's budget went on the hospital, I would say, especially the drugs in the hospital or throughout the prison, full stop. But yes but they had to come from an outside agency and had to sit and watch somebody, they've got to be paid haven't they?

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: So I think, there is no way I would ever say, oh yes we'll do a constant watch on that person that would be done by some management, probably a doctor I would imagine.

Ali McMurray: Right, but for example you can't think of any examples where you would have thought that somebody should have been on constant watch and they said, no I don't think we going to and the implication was ...

Dave Leane: I can't recall. I'm not saying it's never happened but I can't, not at this time remember ...

Ali McMurray: That's fair enough, okay thank you. And the unfurnished rooms that you talked about before what were they actually like and where were they?

Dave Leane: Well there's two, there used to be two special, I can't remember what they are called now, special cells, one or two, well there was nothing in them.

Ali McMurray: Literally nothing?

Dave Leane: Was there a bed in them? I can't remember.

Ali McMurray: Were they sort of concrete beds that are almost sort of moulded ones?

Dave Leane: No, I haven't seen them, they've moved on since I ... because you had the three special cells in the block and they had just a wooden, sort of it would be like a lid thing and it was sort of built into the floor. But they never used to bring ... There was an issue, there was always an issue about if they should housed there, if they were violent at the hospital or had mental health issues, should they be housed in the block, do you what I mean? So there was always this constant battle, you know I bring this ** guy up again, he spent a long time in the block but then they'd say well he should be in a hospital but then you don't have the resources in the hospital to deal with a bloke like that but then he would end up in a hospital. So there was always that, should he be in a block, should he be, as he's got mental health issues, he should be under the care of the hospital? So there was always that and even that got funny towards the end because I spent 2 years in the block as well. So they were connected the block and hospital on ones were connected, you see?

Ali McMurray: Oh right.

Dave Leane: So you could walk straight through. So if anyone came in on restraint or you used to bring someone through, you could bring through that way.

Ali McMurray: So the so called anti-suicide cells, they were actually in the block rather than in the hospital?

Dave Leane: There was three in the block, if they are called anti-cell, I can't remember. I used to call them special cells for violent prisoners and then you had two in the hospital and I can't remember if they had bed bolts, if all the beds were bolted to the floor sorry, I can't

remember if they had a bed in them or not. I think they did, but there would be very little in there, there would be no tables, no chairs, you know what I mean?

Ali McMurray: Yes, so basically, physically to stop people from harming themselves, not to give them any means to ...

Dave Leane: Or to harm anyone else.

Ali McMurray: Yes, yes and when you say about not having special resources or having better resources in the block than in the Healthcare Centre for looking after the violent prisoners that would in terms of having sort of 3, 4, 5 men unlocks ...?

Dave Leane: Yes, that's what the, you know the Segregation Unit that's what it is designed for isn't it? It's designed for problematic prisoners, isn't it, who for whatever reason either can't be on normal location or can't function in normal location so they would come there for a time, hopefully then you would get them round to going back up. Of course, the last thing you would want is prisoners to be in there month in and month out. You know it was short-term measure, wasn't it. They would come down, if it was a discipline thing or being disruptive and then you know after a time you would move them back up.

Ali McMurray: Yes, yes, okay. When we were talking about training on suicide and self harm you mentioned the trauma training that you did. Now that was something sort of special, wasn't it?

Dave Leane: Yes that was brought in not long before I left, I think Peter Haywood, I think Dr Yisa - I think Peter definitely done the, he done the training.

Ali McMurray: And was that something that you volunteered for?

Dave Leane: Yes.

Ali McMurray: And what did the training actually cover, what did it ...

Dave Leane: Was it two or three days? I think it was just based on, you know, obviously common sense. I think a lot of it was understanding people's, who were unconscious you know heart stops and stuff like that, because we were, but we were trained on the defibrillators.

Ali McMurray: And presumably that was superior to the sort of regular first aid training?

Dave Leane: Yes, not every prison officer had it ...

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: I don't know if that's moved or changed since then but at that time it was no, it was basically the Healthcare officers I think.

Ali McMurray: Right so did you volunteer because you were in Healthcare or is it the sort of thing that you would have, probably would have volunteered for anyway?

Dave Leane: I think it was because we were in the Healthcare at that time there and we knew what was going on and obviously we did it.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: If I had been in the D wing at that period of time, no I wouldn't have done.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: I think even if I had volunteered I probably wouldn't have done it, see what I mean?

Ali McMurray: Yes, yes but the Hotel 9 team actually covered the whole prison - it wasn't just for the Healthcare was it?

Dave Leane: No.

Ali McMurray: And how often do you think you were called upon to use it?

Dave Leane: God, I can't remember.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: Can't remember. We did use it, it was used I would imagine quite regularly.

Ali McMurray: Okay, you worked in the prison before it and you worked afterwards was it a good thing? Did it ...?

Dave Leane: Yes of course it is, anything like that has got to be a good thing isn't it. Because you might use that for staff as well, you see what I mean.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: So you don't know do you? Whistles used to go and they would call you and you would attend, hopefully just deal with what you had but as I say it could be for staff, you don't know.

Ali McMurray: Right, okay.

Dave Leane: Generally not but, you know, I am sure there would be a time when it would have been used or something like that would be used.

Ali McMurray: Yes and I mean you felt it gave you good skills and you felt confident in dealing with it?

Dave Leane: Yes reasonably confident. Obviously you try and work as a team and, as you say, if you've got somebody who really knows what they are doing they can say sort of say, this, this and this which always helps you doesn't it, because if you are not sure, sure about ... we might look like we know what we are doing.

Ali McMurray: Yes or hope we look like what we know what were doing.

Dave Leane: Yes absolutely. People like to see that but you know you might be unsure about something, you know, the last thing you want to do is make a mistake but if you've got someone there who really knows what they are doing and say, right do this, do that, it makes life a lot easier and more comfortable doesn't it?

Ali McMurray: Yes absolutely. Right moving on to Mr D . What, if anything, can you recall about him, I mean can you describe him physically?

Dave Leane: White guy, I think. I can't tell what sort of hair he had, I don't think he was very big.

Ali McMurray: Was he a local lad?

Dave Leane: I am not sure to be honest. I would assume he was local because Pentonville serves the local area.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: I couldn't tell you. I think he was a London lad, I would have thought so. Whereabouts, I have no idea. Yes,

did he have lots of scars on his arms? I can't remember really. Unpredictable. I say, I never had a problem with him.

Ali McMurray:

No.

Dave Leane:

He was always, and we always had that sort of rapport ...

Ali McMurray:

And were you aware that he was considered to be a suicide risk?

Dave Leane:

Yes I think so, he was definitely vulnerable.

Ali McMurray:

In fact, he self harmed a number of times, well a couple of times before?

Dave Leane:

I believe so yes ...

Ali McMurray:

Were you involved in any of those incidents?

Dave Leane:

I don't think so.

Ali McMurray:

And can you recall if you had much conversation with him or if there was anything about his background or his family?

Dave Leane:

No, not really. I obviously knew that D because he was quite problematic as well so you would, you know, apart from that I don't know how long he was down the Healthcare but if he had been down there for any significant amount time we would all know of him.

Ali McMurray:

Yes.

Dave Leane:

So I think he was quite up and down for a better term of words so he would come to our attention more then may be another prisoner who was may be ...

Ali McMurray:

Yes and when you say he was problematic, I mean how did that manifest it self?

Dave Leane:

Well, he just couldn't cope and that's the bottom line. He just couldn't. To me he was a poor copper and he couldn't cope and you know when people can't cope they do certain things, you know some maybe smash things up, do things to themselves, you know frustration may be, that may be a better word.

Ali McMurray: And I mean, did he ask staff for a lot of things, I mean was he always saying, can I have this, can I have that?

Dave Leane: Yes I would imagine. I can't recall him really asking me for any things other than that phone call but I would have imagined he would have been quite demanding, but as I say it's a long time ago isn't it?

Ali McMurray: Absolutely yes.

Dave Leane: But yes I knew him anyway so ...

Ali McMurray: Yes, okay and can you remember if he sort of associated much with other prisoners or if he had a lot of visits?

Dave Leane: No, I can't to be honest. I can't remember that now.

Ali McMurray: Okay.

Dave Leane: I'd assume he would have got on with the normal regime of the hospital.

Ali McMurray: Okay so you wouldn't recall if he did education or any work ...

Dave Leane: I think he might have done education you know, that seems to ring a bell.

Ali McMurray: Now when he came into the prison he'd been drinking for quite a long period before he came into Pentonville ...

Dave Leane: Right, I didn't know that.

Ali McMurray: You are not aware of any of this?

Dave Leane: No I am not aware of that.

Ali McMurray: Okay

Dave Leane: If anything I thought he was dependent on drugs.

Ali McMurray: I think that had been a problem previously but by his own account he was off the drugs but drinking rather a lot.

Dave Leane: Drinking heavily, yes.

Ali McMurray: Okay, did you personally have any special instructions with regard to Mr D ?

Dave Leane: Not that I can recall.

Ali McMurray: And can you recall anything about the care plan that was drawn up for him?

Dave Leane: No, I know nothing about that.

Ali McMurray: Okay. Do you know if when somebody self harmed, they would automatically hold a case conference to discuss his care or was that something you weren't involved in?

Dave Leane: I wasn't involved with that but I assume they would have done. As I say, if it happens I don't know, I can't remember the protocols.

Ali McMurray: Okay, okay I think that's it on Mr D generally. Okay right moving on to 27 December.

Dave Leane: Yes.

Ali McMurray: First of all, can you sort of set the scene for the phone call and how . . .

Dave Leane: I recall promising Mr D a phone call.

Ali McMurray: Can you remember ...

Dave Leane: I can't remember why it was. I don't, you know, for whatever reason I don't know..

Ali McMurray: Okay.

Dave Leane: ...and I remember going off the wing, was it lunch or we were busy somewhere else? I don't ... you know, once again, we would come and go and I believe when we came back he'd smashed his cell, which I must admit I wasn't particularly happy about. But we still gave him his phone call and the reason he'd smashed his cell up, I think, is because he hadn't had his phone call and I think, I said to him, I said, something like the words that, "If I say that I'll give you something, I'll give you it." I wasn't one of these people ... because you just make it harder for yourself, if you promise something. If you don't want to promise something you just say no, don't you. No point in promising someone,

locking him away and then going home. I mean if they expect to ring their family ...

Ali McMurray:

Absolutely.

Dave Leane:

The best thing is just say no, which a lot of people found a bit difficult to do. But I did promise him a phone call and I did give him a phone call and I think, I did have the hump because he had smashed his cell up. The reason I didn't give him his phone call was because I wasn't on the wing for that time and I think I recall saying something to the effect of like, "You know me, if I said I would give you a phone call, I give you a phone call"., I wouldn't say that, if no, I would say no. And he did get his phone call and he didn't have a phone card and it was done in the office, not on a prison phone it was done in the office, the SO's office on his phone, sorry on the prison's phone.

Ali McMurray:

Okay do you know whether he had asked anybody else in your absence if he could have a phone call?

Dave Leane:

Well I assume by him smashing up the cell, he had probably asked and they probably said no.

Ali McMurray:

Right.

Dave Leane:

Or he might have said, Mr Leane promised me a phone call and they might have said when Mr Leane comes back he'll give you a phone call. Because you get a lot of that, wouldn't you throughout the prison, oh so and so said I could have a phone call or whatever it'll be.

Ali McMurray:

Okay so ...

Dave Leane:

But you know that's what I would imagine happened. Also I wasn't there, so if he did or not but I assumed that when he smashed his cell up it was related. It was definitely related to his phone call because when I'd come back on the wing I found his cell smashed up and I would have said, (*inaudible*) because I was meant to get a phone call. So there is a good chance he did ask for the phone call and whoever said no.

Ali McMurray:

Right.

Dave Leane:

Or as I said they might have said when Mr Leane comes back he'll give you phone call.

Ali McMurray: Right okay and he'd only smashed his cell up at that time? He hadn't ...

Dave Leane: Yes, I think he just smashed his cell up so ...

Ali McMurray: Because previously he'd like used porcelain from the sink or something to cut himself on there ...

Dave Leane: Oh yes, he'd do all sorts.

Ali McMurray: But this was just a sort of anger thing and he'd just ...?

Dave Leane: I think, as far as I recall he'd smashed his cell up because he hadn't had his phone call.

Ali McMurray: Okay and generally how much access would he have had to, to the phone?

Dave Leane: He had, generally a good access to phone because I remember downstairs there was only 10 or 11, so putting somebody on the phone is not too much of a problem. Especially, you know if it's just 1 or 2 you know, but it wouldn't have been a problem for me. I mean it's different when you've got lots and lots of prisoners.

Ali McMurray: And you say he didn't have a phonecard. You did have cardphone actually on the Healthcare that presumably at a given time in the evening ...

Dave Leane: I think there was one on the ones at the end and I think there was one on the twos so they would have access to phone calls and they would have access to use that phone box.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: But he didn't have a phone card, definitely because he was in the office and I supervised it.

Ali McMurray: Right and you say it was in the SO's office?

Dave Leane: SO's office.

Ali McMurray: Was the SO in there as well at the time?

Dave Leane: Can't remember. I only remember supervising the phone call, so I would have dialled the number, I think it was his girlfriend, don't know her name and spoken to her, obviously at the time I would have known her

name because he would have told me what her name is.

Ali McMurray:

Yes.

Dave Leane:

And said, is this so and so and say yes, it's you know L wants to have a word.

Ali McMurray:

Right. And can you recall any of the conversation they seemed to have or did you turn off ...

Dave Leane:

No not really, but I supervised him obviously because he's in an office. I believe it was about his daughter and I believe that his daughter had been taken into care. I think when he first spoke to me, I thought his daughter had died because he said something like, she had been taken away or she's gone or something like that. But I assume and believe that his daughter had been taken into care. If that actually happened I don't know but I think that's what he believed.

Ali McMurray:

Right, and how was he afterwards? I mean during the phone call itself was he shouting or was he tearful or ...

Dave Leane:

I think he was quite tearful afterwards or distressed might be a better word, but he wasn't happy.

Ali McMurray:

And sort of putting that into context with how he was generally and how he compared with other prisoners, was there anything extreme about his reaction or ...

Dave Leane:

No, but he was a poor coper. He'd obviously had a stressful day, he wanted his phone call and he's obviously got bad news and he's a poor coper anyway.

Ali McMurray:

Right.

Dave Leane:

So you know ...

Ali McMurray:

Okay and did he at any time say to you that, that's it, I'm going to kill myself, I've had enough?

Dave Leane:

No, I can't remember that but I do remember speaking to Peter Haywood. I think it was noted, it was on the observation book or his 2050 or whatever and I can't recall, he was on a watch but I can't recall if he was put on a watch or if he was already on that watch.

Ali McMurray: Right okay and so presumably you told Peter Haywood because you thought the risk of him doing something was high?

Dave Leane: Yes, absolutely. You know, especially he was unpredictable anyway, be it to himself or other people.

Ali McMurray: Right okay and apart from noting it down in the obs book and so on and so forth did Peter actually say anything to other staff that were around or...

Dave Leane: I can't recall if Peter did but if other staff had been around they would have been made aware.

Ali McMurray: And did you personally tell anybody else apart from Peter that ...

Dave Leane: I probably just told my colleagues, sorry I can't remember it was so long ago, but you know if Peter Haywood, if Pete Richards had been there and Doug Murray had been there, they would have known about it as well.

Ali McMurray: Okay but you can't remember, for example, telling the agency nurse that was watching Mr D at the time?

Dave Leane: Can't remember.

Ali McMurray: Okay, right did you tell Mr Haywood that you would do anything particular in relation to Mr D or you just told Mr Haywood?

Dave Leane: Just told him what happened in the office I think. You know, obviously D was not happy.

Ali McMurray: Okay right, and I mean was there any alternatives generally to put him back in his cell. I mean, there wasn't any, could he have stayed out with somebody or ...?

Dave Leane: I'm not sure he could have but I mean (*inaudible*) you know I'm sure if he wanted to be out, he would have asked to be out, if we would have let him out for whatever reason I don't know.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: No not really, generally there was not a lot to do down there.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: To be quite honest.

Ali McMurray: Right.

Dave Leane: And it was quite busy.

Ali McMurray: Okay right and can you remember what you did after locking up Mr D ?

Dave Leane: I can't remember I think I went into, office in the middle of the landing, I think that's when I would have probably spoken to Mr Haywood, if any entries were made, which I believe they were made, would have been made.

Ali McMurray: So were you still in the office when the alarm was sounded?

Dave Leane: As far as I remember no alarm sounded. I think the 15 minute watch was done on him and obviously the person who had done the 15 minute watch, I think it was an agency nurse, has come back and I think the spy hole ...

Ali McMurray: Just to stop the tape and turn it over.

Side Two

- Ali McMurray: Okay the tape restarted immediately, sorry Dave you were telling us about when the alarm was raised and how it was raised.
- Dave Leane: I think she just shouted. I saw the spy hole was blocked. She would not have keys. If it was an agency staff they would not have the keys because obviously they won't just give the keys out to anyone.
- Ali McMurray: Right.
- Dave Leane: Obviously I ran to the door and he was hanging, his feet must have been that high off the ground I reckon.
- Ali McMurray: So had he stood on a chair ...
- Dave Leane: The bed is right next to it.
- Ali McMurray: I see.
- Dave Leane: Now I remember I jumped - obviously then, I can't remember if I was first in the cell or not but obviously I remember it would have been me, Pete, Pete Richards, I think Doug was there - and I remember I jumped up on the bed. There's no doubt about that. I was on the bed and I had, he had used the bed sheet.
- Ali McMurray: Yes.
- Dave Leane: And when weight is put on them, they get so tight and I, we, I think either 2 or 3 was there. I think Pete Richards might have first of all been holding him up because his head was all over the place, you know it was like it was floppy, it was just like that and I could not get that noose off. Doesn't matter what I done, I could not get it off and believe me we tried. Now I can't remember if I stepped, it was obviously around the light, so I can't remember if I managed to get it off the light, but I definitely, no I couldn't get it off the light. We couldn't get it off it, he had pulled it that tight, even when there was no weight on it was that tight because he just (*inaudible*), we couldn't get it off, we couldn't get it off. I think we shouted for scissors or whatever, they are all locked away. By the time you get them because I think ... I can't remember if they were in the shadow board or we kept them somewhere else. But if they are on the shadow board then whoever had the

keys to the shadow board ... if they are not in the landing you can't get in the shadow board ...

Ali McMurray:

What's the shadow board?

Dave Leane:

It's like all the tools and what they did was paint it black with a white face so when you look at it you know, so when you give out all the tools, when you clip them back in ... say you give out 10 tools and you only collect back 9, you hang them all up and then you can say right I've got two missing, I've got one missing, I've got the scissors missing, the can opener missing, spoons or whatever. But I can't remember if they were kept in there or they were kept somewhere else but wherever they were kept they would have been locked away.

Ali McMurray:

Right so what sort of delay do you think there was in getting the scissors?

Dave Leane:

Well, 3, 4, 5 minutes may be, you know, the scissors did eventually turn up and I remember I could not break that noose and I'm not a small bloke. I could not break that noose.

Ali McMurray:

Okay so you got him down what happened next?

Dave Leane:

Obviously mouth to mouth. Peter Haywood, because Peter had given him mouth, either Doug or Pete Richards was giving him compressions. I can't remember if they tried to tube him, I think they might have tubed as well.

Ali McMurray:

Okay.

Dave Leane:

He was in a bad way there was no doubt about that.

Ali McMurray:

And what was your first response - did you think he was dead?

Dave Leane:

When I saw him I did yes, but he was definitely hanging. I can remember it now, you know because he wasn't, if I recall he wasn't that big so he was definitely suspended in mid-air.

Ali McMurray:

And was this the first time you had come across an attempted hanging?

Dave Leane:

No.

Ali McMurray: And previously when you had come across it, had you saved the guy's life or?

Dave Leane: Yes. A lot of them would do it for whatever reasons but in my opinion would not mean to do it. I would imagine D meant to do it that day. Actually I've got no doubt in my mind that he meant to do it that day.

Ali McMurray: Okay. Just going back a little bit, how long do you think it would be between you going into the office to tell Peter Haywood about his state of mind and the nurse saying anything?

Dave Leane: I don't know - half an hour, three quarters of an hour something like that you know. It wasn't directly afterwards, I know that much. There was definitely a time lapse. It wasn't like L went into his cell and thought well that's it. I think there maybe a half hour, three quarters of an hour, maybe an hour between his phone call.

Ali McMurray: But you went and told Pete Haywood straightaway?

Dave Leane: Oh yes definitely.

Ali McMurray: Okay, because I know Pete Haywood said at the time, it seemed like minutes, he said he just finished writing in the book and suddenly it sounded like the alarm was going off?

Dave Leane: Maybe it was ..

Ali McMurray: But it seemed longer to you?

Dave Leane: Yes.

Ali McMurray: Okay and initially the alarm wasn't that the nurse had found him hanging it was that the observation panel ...

Dave Leane: I think it was the observation panel, she's called us down, obviously once we found him, the general alarm in the prison would have gone off. Like those buttons down in the wall, they would hit one of those buttons which would set an alarm off, be it a local, I know we had a local alarm in the hospital but the alarm would have gone off eventually.

Ali McMurray: Right so you think that first of all the agency nurse just shouted for assistance because the panel was covered?

Dave Leane: Yes that seems to ring a bell to me.

Ali McMurray: So there wouldn't be any sort of emergency getting there at that stage?

Dave Leane: No, we would have been, I've got a feeling, if I'm in the office now, looking at you, L's cell would have been on the right-hand side. Yes, it was definitely on the right. I know it was on the right-hand side, how far down the landing? But the landing wasn't that big anyway, there was only 12 cells or 13 cells, it wasn't like D wing where you can't see the end of it.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: You know it was quite, it would have taken seconds to get there.

Ali McMurray: Okay, thank you. Jumping forward again, sorry about that, so he was getting mouth to mouth, compressions, he's intubated ...?

Dave Leane: I think he might have been tubed, yes.

Ali McMurray: Okay did Dr Khan appear at some stage?

Dave Leane: Dr Khan appeared at some stage, a medical bag was thrown in there, there was no nurses in there.

Ali McMurray: But there were nurses around presumably?

Dave Leane: Well I can't recall because we would have been inside the cell, may be there was, I don't know. I never see them, they certainly didn't give us any assistance. I know a medical bag was chucked in, I don't know who sent the scissors in. I remember shouting get some scissors. I think I actually shouted get some scissors or this bloke is going to die.

Ali McMurray: Okay and what did Dr Khan do when he arrived?

Dave Leane: I got a feeling he got him an injection, the adrenaline.

Ali McMurray: Okay.

Dave Leane: That seems to sort of ring a bell.

Ali McMurray: And then you moved him outside the cell didn't you?

Dave Leane: I think, HEMS turned up at that point, well the ambulance turned up, may be (*inaudible*) I think there was another ambulance crew there, whichever turned up first I don't know. Whoever made the decision to put him on the snooker table, I can't recall, but I think the ambulance turned up before he left the cell.

Ali McMurray: I see.

Dave Leane: But I am not a hundred percent on that's but that's what I'm thinking at this time.

Ali McMurray: Okay and then once they turned up, did they take over completely or did you and your colleagues continue to help out with the resuscitation?

Dave Leane: I'm not sure. I can't remember but I didn't give any compressions, just as I didn't give any mouth to mouth. I was doing other things. I was passing the stuff, I think oxygen bottles were brought in and ...

Ali McMurray: Okay and obviously you could only ever estimate how long, it's long time ago, but can you remember how quickly the ambulance in hence arrived?

Dave Leane: No idea. It's one of these things, you know when it happens you just don't, you lose all sort of track of time. You can come out 10 minutes later, you can't remember what you've done 10 minutes ago.

Ali McMurray: Absolutely, okay, I think that's probably it from me thank you Dave.

Dave Leane: I think I went to the hospital with him.

Ali McMurray: Yes you did.

Dave Leane: But that's only a thing, you know, when obviously I read all the material that you provided me with and it said I went to the hospital, I would have never remembered that.

Ali McMurray: That's funny, because to me – it's not funny but it struck me as particularly odd that you should be involved in saving the man's life and then immediately be sent off with him.

Dave Leane: They need someone to go out don't they. It's the bottom line isn't it?

Ali McMurray: Yes

Dave Leane: Because even though he is in a bad way, they still think of the security implications, even though Mr D was not fit to go anywhere. They are not going to let him go out unescorted, whether he was cuffed or not I can't remember. I wouldn't have thought so.

Ali McMurray: No, was he what you and I would call conscious at any stage, you know was he actually talking or have his eyes open?

Dave Leane: No, not as far as I remember. Last time I seen L D was when he went in his cell and after that because I did shout, I am sure I shouted, if you don't get a pair of scissors in here this man is going to die or this bloke, something to that affect. Because you've got to remember you got two lads holding this bloke up, after two or three minutes, if you can't cut him off the light, so he still would have been hanging, he still would have been attached to the light, so you can't cut him off so they've got to hold him up so how tiring does that get?

Ali McMurray: Yes absolutely.

Dave Leane: You know what I mean.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: So if the noose was cut, I'd probably cut and then he was taken off the floor or he was cut down. I don't, I can't remember but two lads were holding him up, Pete Richards or Peter Haywood or Murray out of those three lads, two of them at any one time was holding him up.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: And his neck was all floppy as anything, so the issue was the scissors.

Ali McMurray: Yes, nowadays prison officers carry these so called fish knives.

Dave Leane: I believe so - we've got one in custody here. They are like a little blade, which is sort, is it got a round thing ...

Ali McMurray: That's right so that you can't use them for anything but cutting ligatures - and they weren't introduced before you left?

Dave Leane: No, not as far as, I've never ever carried anything like that, not as far as I can recall. I don't know if they are issued now, as a personal issue on the unit or what I don't know.

Ali McMurray: Generally speaking, I mean whatever the final outcome I mean you did a wonderful job, you know, have you thought about it afterwards and think well if this had happened that might have been different or this had happened that might be different?

Dave Leane: No I think we done alright.

Ali McMurray: Yes.

Dave Leane: I think we done alright, it is always under the circumstance isn't it?

Ali McMurray: Of course.

Dave Leane: You normally go back and say later on yes may be, you know, but we don't make these decisions but on the whole we had the views on what we had to do. You know we done alright and if we hadn't been there, I don't care what anyone says, if Peter Haywood hadn't been there that bloke would have died, simple as that. That's what I believe anyway. You know, he definitely would have died you know, as I said, it's always nice to work with someone like that because he can always sort of you know, I don't know, morally support you, tell you what to do, instil confidence in you.

Ali McMurray: He seemed like a good guy when I met him actually.

Dave Leane: Yes he is a good guy actually and I said this to Carole Draper, at the time. The prison relied heavily on him or they did at that time.

Ali Murray: Yes.

Dave Leane: But I believe, you know he would have died, definitely.

Ali Murray: Okay Dave thanks ever so much you'll be glad to know that's all from me.

Clare Walter: I've just got a couple of, handful of questions just to mop up bits and pieces if you don't mind. You talked about the special cells for the use of violent prisoners, was that different from the anti-suicide cell?

Dave Leane: I don't know what they call them now. I can't remember what they were called at the moment. I used to call them special cells or I wouldn't have called them anti-suicide cells but they had cardboard furniture in like they had in the block. They aren't nice. I don't know if you've seen them or not, I don't know if they are even still there but they had basically nothing in them.

Clare Walter: Right.

Dave Leane: So they would have been put in there for their protection and protection of others and it would have normally been quite violent people that would have been put in there.

Clare Walter: So would that have been in the Healthcare wing?

Dave Leane: Yes there is, 2 in the Healthcare, there was 2 on the left-hand side if you are looking down the landing and in the block there was 3. What we called special cells now they were more used for your violent prisoner coming off normal location. They would be put there for a period of time, they cool down, that's why I know the block got nothing to do with it. Anyone come down from normal location to the block the three officers bring them down, if they were brought down under restraint. Three block officers would take over so when that prisoner actually wakes up or sees he's looking at three completely different people, hasn't got a problem with those people, generally, obviously there is always a case. So they would go in what we called the special cells and generally after ten or fifteen minutes they'd calmed down, "Come on son, we are moving you to another cell" and they would be fine. Obviously that wasn't always the case with some people, but generally that's what would happen.

Clare Walter: Okay thank you. We know at some stage there were wards in the Healthcare were they still around when you were there and ...?

Dave Leane: We had an anti-suicide ward upstairs, it used to be completely nightmare to be quite honest because *** bits and things and get like more dominant prisoners in

there and, do you know what I mean, it's hard to explain, you have to experience it really and they used to have two wards downstairs always from when I joined the prison. The one upstairs had been a newer sort of addition. Apparently it was still there at the time and I think they turned them into workshops. But we had a lot of problems in those wards.

Clare Walter: So you didn't see them as a positive thing then?

Dave Leane: I personally didn't, but you know being with other people and everything, I mean you know you get all sorts of problems, especially if people don't get on.

Clare Walter: Yes, I've seen the light-fittings in the cell that Mr D was in, can you describe what...

Dave Leane: Got a feeling if I remember, I don't think they were into the concrete, I think they were coming down, I think and I believe ... Some of these lights here are into the ceiling, I've got a feeling they were the ones that sort of came down. So we had lights like that came down because the lads used to unscrew the ends of them and wire their radios up. I can't remember the ones in the hospital but I think they were the ones that come down and I think it went through the top, do you know what I mean around the top of it, it was attached, however it was bolted to the ceiling.

Clare Walter: Okay.

Dave Leane: I don't think they were embedded in the walls.

Clare Walter: Okay thank you. I was just wondering, sorry you said you came to Pentonville on 10 July 95. When did you leave?

Dave Leane: I think it was ... I started in the police on 25 March 2002 and I got a feeling I either finished on the Friday before, that was a Monday so it was either the Friday or the Saturday I would have finished at the prison.

Clare Walter: Okay.

Dave Leane: It would be about the 23rd, 22nd may be.

Clare Walter: Okay that's great and I was wondering was there any log as far as you are aware in the prison, of which staff had done which training. Did something like that exist?

Dave Leane: I would assume there will be one. Will not the training department have a log of that?

Clare Walter: That would be the training department?

Dave Leane: I would have thought so yes.

Clare Walter: Thank you that's all my questions unless there's anything that we haven't asked you about that we should know or ...

Dave Leane: No I can't think of anything really, I am quite happy.

Clare Walter: Good.

Ali McMurray: Well Dave as I say, I'm immensely grateful to you for giving us your time and I'll turn off the tape, it's now 12.15.

1. I agree that this is a true and accurate record of my interview with Ali McMurray and Clare Walter on 3 November 2006.

Signed.....

NAME IN CAPITALS.....

Date.....

2. I have read the above transcript and have placed amendments in the margins as shown.

Signed.....

NAME IN CAPITALS.....

Date.....