

RECORD OF TAPE RECORDED INTERVIEWRef. No.
Number of Pages

Person Interviewed Councillor Jim Marsh

Place of Interview Civic Centre

Date of Interview 11th March 2009

Time Commenced 11.00 am Time Concluded

Duration of Interview 11.12.a.m Tape Ref. No.(s)

Interviewing Officer(s) Kay Gray – Principal Solicitor

Other Person(s) Present Jennifer Muirhead – Legal Officer

	Person Speaking	Text
	KG	THE TIME IS NOW 11.00 a.m ON 11 th March 2009. MY NAME IS KAY GRAY AND I AM THE PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR AND INVESTIGATOR FOR JOHN DAKIN (MONITORING OFFICER). I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY YOU TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF COUNCILLOR SHARRATT. CAN YOU GIVE ME YOUR FULL NAME AND POSITION AT THE COUNCIL
	CJM	JAMES DEREK MARSH I AM THE COUNCILLOR FOR COUPE GREEN AND GREGSON LANE
	KG	WE ARE IN THE INTERVIEW ROOM AT THE CIVIC CENTRE IN LEYLAND AND THE ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT IS
	JM	JENNIFER MUIRHEAD LEGAL OFFICER
	KG	FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TAPE DO YOU AGREE THAT THERE ARE ONLY THREE PEOPLE PRESENT AT THIS TIME
	CJM	YES
	KG	CAN YOU ALSO CONFIRM THAT THE TAPES THAT WERE PLACED IN THE MACHINE WERE NEW AND UNSEALED IN YOUR PRESENCE
	CJM	ABSOLUTELY
	KG	AS I ADVISED YOU ON THE TELEPHONE AND IN MY LETTER OF THE 27 TH FEBRUARY 2009 I WILL BE RECORDING THE INTERVIEW. COULD YOU CONFIRM FOR THE RECORD THAT YOU CONSENT TO THIS

	Person Speaking	Text
	CJM	YES
	KG	YOU ARE NOT UNDER ARREST AND YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE AT ANY TIME AND THIS DOOR BEHIND ME IS UNLOCKED. YOU MAY OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE AT ANY TIME – DO YOU WISH TO OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE AT THIS TIME
	CJM	NO
	KG	<p>I AM CONDUCTING THIS INTERVIEW UNDER THE POWERS GIVEN TO THE MONITORING OFFICER BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 AND THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2008. EITHER THE WHOLE OR PART OF THIS INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL REPORT</p> <p>IF YOU PROVIDE ME WITH INFORMATION OF A SENSITIVE OR PRIVATE NATURE, I WILL ASK THE ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR ENGLAND OR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE TO KEEP THIS INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL. THIS IS HOWEVER, THEIR DECISION AND THEY MAY DISAGREE WITH MY RECOMMENDATION AND ALLOW THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE PROVIDED TO BE MADE PUBLIC</p> <p>PLEASE TREAT ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED TO YOU DURING THE COURSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION AS CONFIDENTIAL. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISCLOSE OF INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING AN INVESTIGATION. THIS IS COVERED BY SECTION 63 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION CONTRARY TO THIS IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.</p> <p>DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE JUST OUTLINED</p>
	CJM	I DO
	KG	IF AT ANY STAGE YOU FEEL YOU WOULD LIKE A BREAK PLEASE SAY SO AND WE WILL ADJOURN THE INTERVIEW FOR A SHORT PERIOD. ARE YOU OK TO CONTINUE WITH THE INTERVIEW
	CJM	YES IM FINE
	KG	AS YOU WILL KNOW YOU HAVE MADE A COMPLAINT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ABOUT THE ALLEGED CONDUCT OF COUNCILLOR SHARRATT. AS I UNDERSTAND IT YOU HAVE COMPLAINED THAT IN A PUBLICATION OF THE “IDLE TOAD” DATED 27 TH NOVEMBER 2008 AN ARTICLE ENTITLED “NOT A REAL TORY” REFERRED TO A COUNCILLOR AS A “DEFECATOR” AND THAT IN THE PREVIOUS EDITION THE PUBLICATION STATED THAT A COUNCILLOR “HAD LEFT TO JOIN THE TORIES”. IS THIS CORRECT?
	CJM	THAT IS SO YES
	KG	THE ARTICLES DO NOT MENTION YOU BY NAME – DO YOU BELIEVE THE ARTICLES REFER TO YOU AND WHY?

	Person Speaking	Text
	CJM	ABSOLUTELY THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE ON THE FIRST ONE YOU SPOKE ABOUT – THE DEFECATOR. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO RANG ME OR STOPPED ME IN THE STREET OR WHEREVER SAYING WHATS HE DOING NOW – OR ARE YOU GOING TO SUE HIM – WHAT ON EARTH HE SAYING HERE AND WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO SAY LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT WELL EVERYBODY DID KNOW IT WAS ME.THERE WAS TWO PEOPLE WHO LEFT HIS PARTY. ONE WAS BARRY YATES WHO HE HAD ALREADY SLAUGHTERED ON THE SAME PAGE. I WAS THE ONE LEFT SO THE OTHER DEFECATOR/DEFECTOR WAS BOUND TO BE ME
	KG	RIGHT. WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS THE INTENTION BEHIND THE ARTICLES
	CJM	OBVIOUSLY TO SHOW MYSELF IN THE WORSE POSSIBLE LIGHT. THIS HAS BEEN STEADILY GAINING PACE SINCE I LEFT HIS PARTY AND THEN STOOD AGAINST HIS CANDIDATE AND BEAT HIM FAIRLY AND SQUARELY IN THE LAST ELECTION AND ITS NOT GONE DOWN VERY WELL WITH MR SHARRATT
	KG	FINE. IN RESPECT OF THE ARTICLE THAT STATES THAT A COUNCILLOR HAD LEFT TO JOIN THE TORIES – WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE TRUE SITUATION IN HOW YOU CAME TO REPRESENT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY?
	CJM	<p>WELL I HAD AN UNHOLY ROW WITH – DO YOU WANT THE FULL DETAILS OF THE ROW – RIGHT FAIR ENOUGH – JUST PRIOR TO THE LAST ELECTION - THREE/FOUR MONTHS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.- THERE WAS QUITE AN INFLUX OF INTEREST FROM PEOPLE WHO EITHER WANTED TO BE CANDIDATES OR BE HELPERS OR WHO WAS JUST INTERESTED IN WHAT THE SITUATION WAS AND HOW THE PROCESS WORKED THAT THE POWERS THAT BE HERE, AND THE PERSON I DEALT DIRECTLY WITH – NICK LAMPER – THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE A MEETING AT WORDEN PARK IN THE THEATRE WHERE THERE WOULD BE A BIG HORSE SHOE SHAPE OF CHAIRS GOING AROUND THE THEATRE ROOM. FOUR CHAIRS PLACED IN THE MIDDLE AND ON WHICH WOULD BE SEATED THE FOUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF THE FOUR PARTIES AS THEY WERE THEN. WE HAD QUITE A PRESENCE OF LIB DEMS THEN AND THERE WAS FOUR OF US IDLE TOADS AND THEN OF COURSE THERE WAS THE TORIES AND THE LABOUR GROUP.</p> <p>WITH ME HAVING WON ON A BI-ELECTION AND ONLY BEEN THERE JUST OVER 12 MONTHS I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE YOUNGEST OF OUR PARTY. TOM SHARRATT WAS CONTACTED AND YES YES JIM MARSH WOULD BE THE RIGHT PERSON. AS THE THING WENT ON IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THERE</p>

	Person Speaking	Text
		<p>WOULD BE QUITE A FEW PEOPLE THERE AND TOM SAID THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RECRUIT SOME TOADS. I SAID WHATEVER IM JUST GOING TO SIT AND LET PEOPLE FIRE QUESTIONS AT ME. IM GIVING IT A GOOD THINK. I SCRIBBLED SOME NOTES DOWN AND READING THEM BACK THOUGHT THEY MIGHT NOT BE TOO GOOD PR. I RANG TOM UP AND I SAID LOOK IM GOING TO TELL THESE PEOPLE WHO'VE COME, PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES WHATEVER, NOT TO EXPECT IT ALL TO BE A JOLLY TIME, ONE MEETING A MONTH , AND HIGHLY RESPECTED AMOUNGST YOUR PRELIMINARIES AND STUFF. ITS HARD WORK YOU CANT NOW GO INTO A SHOP, PUB, DOWN THE ROAD, YOU CERTAINLY CANT SETTLE DOWN FOR YOUR DINNER AT NIGHT AND EXPECT TO BE LEFT ALONE</p>
	KG	<p>SO YOU WANTED TO EXPRESS THE REALITIES OF BEING A COUNCILLOR</p>
	CJM	<p>YES. AND I SAID TO TOM LOOK IM NOT GOING TO LET THEM HAVE ROSE TINTED SPECTACLES HERE. I WANT TO TELL THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE PESTERED TO DEATH. THE NUMBER OF TIMES MY DINNERS BEEN COMING OUT AND THE PHONES GONE AND SOMEONES SAID ABOUT THESE DRAINS AND IVE SAID GIVE ME YOUR NUMBER AND I WILL COME BACK TO YOU MY DINNERS JUST BEING PUT OUT AND THEY JUST CARRY ON. THE NUMBER OF TIMES IVE HAD MY DINNER PLATED UP. THUMBS DOWN TO HER AND I DEAL WITH THE COMPLAINT AND ANYTHING ELSE. PLUS FINANCIALLY WITH BEING THERE AND BACK THERE AND BACK THE WAY YOUR PHONE BILLS ARE ESPECIALLY YOUR MOBILE MOST MONTHS I LOSE MONEY BEING A COUNCILLOR AND IM GOING TO TELL THEM THAT</p> <p>AND TOM SAID RIGHT SEE YOU THERE I SAID NO YOU WONT SEE ME THERE IT WAS QUITE CLEAR ON THE EMAIL FROM NICK LAMPER NO PARTY LEADERS NO EXPERIENCED PEOPLE THEY WANTED TO SEE FOUR PEOPLE WHO HAD NOT BEEN DOING IT SO LONG AND WHO WERE STRUGGLING TO JUGGLE, KEEP ALL THE BALLS IN THE AIR OF A WIFE, A JOB, CHILDREN OTHER INTERESTS DOING THE GARDEN AND ALL THIS KEEP ALL THOSE BALLS IN THE AIR AND BE A DECENT COUNCILLOR AT THE SAME TIME. THE THING IS THAT TOM HAS NONE OF THE FIVE THINGS IVE JUST MENTIONED. HE HAS BEEN IN POLICITICS 20 YEARS AND IT ALL COMES SO EASY TO HIM BUT THE WORSE POSSIBLE PERSON TO TALK TO THE NEW RECRUITS.</p> <p>I SAID TOM YOU'RE THE WRONG BLOKE MATE AND YOU WERE TOLD NOT TO GO AND HE SAID HE THOUGHT HE SHOULD BE THERE. I WAS FUMING AND JUST HUNG THE PHONE UP AND ABOUT HALF AN HOUR TO AN HOUR LATER ON I RANG HIM BACK AND SAID ARE YOU STILL DETERMINED TO GO AND HE SAID YES. I SAID RIGHT OK YOU GO YOU GO INSTEAD OF ME AND YOU CAN STICK YOUR IDLE TOAD WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE. THAT WAS IT GONE. I WAS WORKING AT THE MAGISTRATES COURT AT THE TIME. I RANG FROM THERE</p>

	Person Speaking	Text
		<p>DURING MY BREAK. THE FOLLOWING MORNING I GOT A PHONECALL FROM JEAN HUNTER, THE LEADER OF THE COUCIL SAYING JIM WHATS THIS YOUR NOT A COUNCILLOR ANYMORE. YEAH I SAID WHAT I SHALL DO IS I SHALL TURN UP AS AN INDEPENDENT. I HAVE HAD A ROW WITH SHARRATT – I TOLD HER WHAT HAD GONE ON. AND I SAID I WOULD TURN UP AS AN INDEPENDENT AND SIT THERE IN THE CORNER AS THE INDEPONDANTS DO SEE OUT MY TENURE UNTIL THE ELECTION THEN I JUST WONT BOTHER ANYMORE.</p> <p>ANYWAY OF COURSE WITHIN A DAY OR TWO - TOM HAD BEEN THERE TELLING EVERYBODY THAT I WAS NO LONGER A COUNCILLOR AND JEAN SAID I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD LET US DOWN. I SAID WELL I HAVENT DONE I SAID COZ I HAVENT TOLD ANYBODY YET BECAUSE I AM STILL FUMING ABOUT IT .SO ANYWAY THE NEXT THING A COUPLE DAYS LATER PETER MOLYNEAUX WHO I HAD WORKED WITH FOR 30 YEARS AT BRITISH AEROSPACE WHO WAS ONE OF THE TORY COUNCILLORS PETE MOLYNEAUX RANG UP AND SAID JIM WHATS GOING ON SO I TOLD HIM. RIGHT HE SAID RIGHT COME SIT WITH US. I SAID WELL HANG ON YOU KNOW WHAT WILL MARGARET SMITH SAY – OH MARGARET WILL BE ALRIGHT WITH IT</p> <p>SURE ENOUGH A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER MARGARET SMITH CALLED ME AT HOME. SHE SAID JIM COME AND SIT WITH US UNTIL THE ELECTION DON'T SIT ON YOUR OWN THAT SORT OF THING. SHE ALWAYS KNEW I HAD ALWAYS VOTED TORY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ANYWAY, YOU KNOW. I SAID THANKS VERY MUCH AND I DID AND ANYWAY TWO OR THREE WEEKS LATER MARGARET RANG ME AGAIN AND SAID LOOK WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAND AS THE TORY FOR WHERE YOU LIVE. YOUR SEAT FOR THE TORIES INSTEAD OF AGAINST THE TORIES. I SAID I WISH MY MUM WAS STILL ALIVE SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN THRILLED TO BITS WITH THAT. I SAID YEAH I WOULD DO IT WITH PLEASURE AND I DID AND TOM PUT A TOAD UP AGAINST ME AND I BEAT HIM IN THE ELECTION AND THAT WAS THAT.</p> <p>BUT I LOST A HECK OF A LOT OF SUPPORT THROUGH TOM PUTTING IN THE TOAD THAT I HAD LEFT TO JOIN THE TORIES. I HADNT I HAD LEFT BECAUSE OF A ROW WITH HIM AND I COULDN'T PUT UP WITH HIS SELFISHNESS AND NASTINESS ANYMORE AND I LEFT THE TOADS AND I WASN'T GOING TO BOTHER WITH ANYTHING. IT WAS ONLY SUBSEQUENT THAT I BECAME A CONSERVATIVE BY INVITATION ALTHOUGH I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THAT THE NIGHT AFTER MARGARET RANG ME TOM HANSAN RANG ME THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR PARTY MAKING THE SAME OFFER – COME AND SIT WITH US COME AND SIT WITH THE LABOUR LADS SO I WASN'T EXACTLY UNWANTED.</p> <p>BUT NO I STOOD AS A CONSERVATIVE. I WAS ONLY APPROACHED WELL AFTER THAT AND THAT'S WHAT ANNOYED ME SO MUCH. AND THESE SAYING WELL YOU'RE A TURNCOAT</p>

	Person Speaking	Text
		AND THINGS LIKE THAT WHEN I HAVE BEEN ROUND. I HAVE EXPLAINED TO A FEW THAT THE PRINTED WORD IS PRETTY MUCH INDELIBLE IN PEOPLES MINDS. I THINK I HAVE CONVINCED MOST OF THE PEOPLE BUT IT 'S DONKEY WORK ALL OF THE TIME. EVEN GOING FOR MY HAIR CUT DOWN IN THE VILLAGE. HE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING FUNNY DID THE BARBAR THERE – OH ITS TRAITOR MARSH.
	KG	SO THIS IS THE KIND OF EFFECT ITS HAD ON YOU
	CJM	WELL YES THIS IS IT. TOM HAD BEEN DOWN AND HAD HIS FATHER CHRISTMAS BEARD OFF AND BARBER HAD SAID THIS THING IS A BIT OFF WHAT YOU ARE CALLING JIM MARSH. SHARRATT HAD SAID – OH TRAITOR MARSH AND ITS NOT HELPING. I MANAGED TO WIN THE LAST ELECTION DESPITE IT BUT CERTAINLY WITHOUT THE HELP OF MR SHARRATT I HAVE TO SAY
	KG	IN THE ARTICLE THAT STATES THE PARTICULAR COUNCILLOR WAS A DEFEATOR – WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS THE INTENTION BEHIND USING SUCH A WORD?
	CJM	WELL ITS DIFFICULT WITH LADIES PRESENT BUT AMONGST CHAPS IN THE PUB OR WHATEVER ITS LIKE ALLOWING SOMEONE TO CALL SOMEBODY A BLOODY SHIT. AND THAT IS AS YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORD DEFEATOR MEANS AND WHAT ON EARTH HE HAS DONE THAT FOR. HE CANT IN HIS WILDEST DREAMS THINK IT WAS TRY AND CLAIM IT WAS A PRINTING ERROR FOR SOMEBODY WHO HAS SPENT HIS LIFETIME AS A REPORTER AND NEWSPRINT AND EVERYTHING AND DOING HIS OWN GALLEY PROOFS FOR THE MAGAZINE AND EVERYTHING ITS BEEN A DELIBERATE ACT
	KG	SO YOU DON'T THINK IT'S AN ACCIDENTAL SPELLING MISTAKE
	CJM	NOT A HOPE IN HELL. I SERVED MY TIME AS AN ENGINEER WHO ARE NOTORIOUSLY BAD SPELLERS ARE ENGINEERS BUT IT JUMPED OFF THE PAGE AT ME – THERES AN EXTRA LETTER AND THERE IS A "ER" STUCK IN THE MIDDLE THAT DOESN'T BELONG THERE ITS JUST WRONG LOOKING AT IT. AND THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE WHO EITHER RUNG ME UP OR STOPPED ME IN THE STREET SAYING SOMETIME JOKING - WE KNOW WHAT HE THINKS OF YOU BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN THE VILLAGE AT ALL WHO HE IS TALKING ABOUT. PLUS THERE WAS TWO OF US THAT GOT A CROSSING ONES BEEN SLATED ON ANOTHER PART OF THE PAGE AND ME AS THE OTHER. AND THAT INTERVIEW WITH THAT GIRL, YES, YES SHE IS A SHARRATT SUPPORTER TELLING ME IN WORDS THAT I WONT REPEAT HERE WHAT SHE THOUGHT OF ME. I DID SORT OF BRIEFLY TRY AND EXPLAIN WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND SHE WASN'T HAVING IT BUT IT WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE HE HAS PUT. HES PUT THAT DOWN AS IF HE WAS THERE AND HE WASN'T IT WAS JUST ME AND THIS AND SILLY WOMAN WHO LATER ON SHOUTED THAT BARRY YATES ACROSS THE ROAD THAT HE WAS A TOSSER. HES RECRUITING SOME LOVELY PEOPLE.

	Person Speaking	Text
	KG	NOW THAT'S THE END OF THE QUESTIONS I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU BUT BEFORE WE CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY
	CJM	<p>IM SORRY ITS COME TO THIS. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT IN THE NEXT ISSUE – YOU KNOW - THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SAYING TO HIM PEOPLE WHO GET ON WITH ME AND LIKE ME AND WHO I HAVE DONE THINGS FOR MIGHT HAVE SAID TO HIM – LOOK COME ON YOU'RE A BIT OFF WITH THIS WHY DON'T YOU PUT IN OR DO A RETRACTION OR SOMETHING. BUT HES BECOME SO ARROGANT AS WELL AS SELFISH I MEAN HE WOULDN'T COUNTENANCE ANYTHING LIKE THAT</p> <p>I DON'T WANT HIS HEAD ON A PLATTER KAY, I DON'T WANT HIM NAILED TO A CROSS OR ANYTHING I JUST WANT HIM TO PUT IN HIS WRETCHED COMIC THAT HE APOLOGISES FOR THE DEFECATOR THAT AND JIM MARSH LEFT AFTER A ROW AND DID NOT LEAVE TO JOIN THE TORIES AS SAID PREVIOUSLY AND HE GOT THAT WRONG. THAT'S ALL I WANT.</p>
	KG	THAT'S FINE . THE TIME IS NOW 11.12 AND I AM CONCLUDING THE INTERVIEW

END OF INTERVIEW