

THIRD DAY.

TRIBUNALS OF INQUIRY (EVIDENCE) ACT, 1921.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
AT THE PUBLIC INQUIRY

into

INCIDENT AT DUNBLANE PRIMARY
SCHOOL on 13th MARCH, 1996

before

THE HON. LORD CULLEN

on

FRIDAY, 31st MAY, 1996

within

THE ALBERT HALLS,
DUMBARTON ROAD, STIRLING

.....

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.....

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APPEARING:- THE LORD ADVOCATE (The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, Q.C.), Mr. IAN BONOMY, Q.C., Advocate Depute, with Mr. J.C. LAKE, Advocate, for the Crown;

MR. C.M. CAMPBELL, Q.C., with MS. L. DUNLOP, Advocate, for the families of the deceased children, the families of the injured children, the children absent from class, Mrs. Harrild and Mrs. Blake;

MR. A.T.F. GIBB, solicitor, Edinburgh, for the representatives of Mrs. Mayer (deceased), and the Educational Institute of Scotland;

MR. M.S. STEPHEN, solicitor, Glasgow, for the Association of Head Teachers in Scotland, and Mr. Ronald Taylor (Headmaster);

Mr. M.S. JONES, Q.C., for Stirling Council and Others;

MR. J.A. TAYLOR, Solicitor Advocate, Edinburgh, for the Central Scotland Police;

THE DEAN OF FACULTY (Mr. A.R. Hardie, Q.C.) with MR. G.C. KAVANAGH, solicitor, Glasgow, for the Scottish Police Federation.

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FRIDAY, 31st MAY, 1996.

THIRD DAY.

KAREN JOAN GILLIES (35), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: I think you work as a receptionist for Findlay Guy Van Hire in Stirling? - I do.

And your duties include concluding agreements for the rental of vans for the company? - Yes.

I think on Monday, 11th March, you were at your work as usual? - Yes.

And that someone, either in the late morning or early afternoon, came in to see about hiring a van? - Yes.

What is your recollection of that visit? - On that particular day I am fairly certain I was actually on the phone at the time so it wasn't me who dealt with the customer, although I was aware he was there.

Did you notice anything about him at the time? - Nothing particularly, no, because I was holding a conversation with someone on the phone. I am sure it was actually a mechanic who dealt with the customer. I had an ear on the phone and an ear on what was being said because it is my job and I wanted to hear what he was telling the customer, the correct details.

And did he go and come back the following day? - Yes.

Roughly what time? - Slightly before 3 o'clock.

And did you deal with him the following day? - Yes.

What was the subject of your conversation with him then? - Just purely about hiring the van. He/

He knew exactly what he was there for because he received the details of hire the day before, so he could tell me exactly what he wanted.

What did he say he was wanting? - To hire a small van for one day.

Would you look please at Production ME7? Is that the rental agreement that was completed for the vehicle? - Yes, it is.

Who rented the vehicle? - Mr. Hamilton.

He signed what name? - Thomas W. Hamilton.

And what is the address on the form? - 7 Kent Road, Braehead, Stirling FK7.

What was the vehicle? - A Ford Courier.

Colour? - White.

Is the registration number on the form accurate? - No.

What was the registration number of the vehicle which he got? - N394 KVO.

How long did he take the vehicle for, or what was he entitled to have it for? - For a 24-hour hire.

Roughly what time was that he was hiring on the 12th March? - He left our grounds at approximately 3 p.m.

How did he pay for it? - He left a cheque as a deposit.

How much for? - £50.

I think that cheque is still here and is produced? - Yes.

Did he pay anything else? - No, just purely he left a deposit. We calculate the cost of the vehicle hire at the end of the hire and the customer/

customer then pays and his deposit is returned to him.

Did he, however, say anything about paying for it in advance? - Yes, he wished to pay the hire of the van at the time over and above the deposit. I explained that it is very difficult to do because we couldn't calculate if he would bring it back fuelled up or that he would exceed his 100 miles, so therefore it may go above the £31.

Did you tell him not to pay at that stage? - Not to pay to his return.

Do you ever ask people about why they want to hire vans? - No, not normally, unless they have difficulty in deciding what size of vehicle they want, and then I ask why they want it and we can decide what is best for them.

I take it from what you have seen in the Press and so on you know that it was the same person as the Thomas Hamilton who is the subject of this Inquiry? - Yes.

Did you notice anything in particular about his manner or demeanour on these two occasions when you saw him, and particularly on the occasion when you spoke to him? - On the second occasion, yes.

What did you observe? - He unnerved me quite a bit.

Why? - The way he spoke mainly. He spoke very slowly, very clearly, precisely, but with no emotion or expression, or -- there was just nothing, nothing in there. You couldn't have held a conversation with him.

Had you ever met him before? - No, apart from the previous day.

No cross-examination.

MR. BONOMOY: Sir, you should have a list of witnesses which is a provisional list and on it there are numbers for the witnesses. There are two witnesses, 21 and 22, in respect of whom it is proposed that a statement should now be read. One of these witnesses is a young child whose age will be/

be given in the context of the statement and the other is his father. It is not proposed to reveal the identity of either of these witnesses in the course of the reading of their statements. If that could be done with your approval, sir, I would in that context invite Mr. Lake then to read first of all the statement of the child followed by the statement of the father.

LORD CULLEN: Do parties have any comments on that proposal which is quite acceptable as far as I am concerned?

No response.

MR. LAKE: This is the statement of the child who resides in Dunblane. I am nine years old and stay with my Mum and Dad and little brother. I go to Dunblane Primary School.

For about three or four years I have gone to a boys' club in Dunblane High School. This club was on a Thursday night between 6 and 8 and a man called Mr. Hamilton ran it. He was sometimes helped by a man called Ian. We did gymnastics, football and other games.

The last time I went to the club was the Thursday before the incident at the school. Mr. Hamilton was there. It was just the Dunblane boys that were there, there were about six of us. We did the usual games. We had to do quite a lot of gymnastics. I was playing football that night. In the middle of football, Mr. Hamilton took me out and sat me on a bench to speak to me. He asked me the way to the gym and the way to the hall. He asked what time certain classes went to the gym and the main way into the school. He asked directions about once he was in the main hall, how to get to the gym and where the stage was. He asked how to get to the assembly hall, and I told him to turn right after the main entrance. He said what day do all the people go on the stage to do the play. I didn't know and he said to ask the P7s to find out. He asked if the younger children, like the Primary 1s to 4s, go to the assembly at a different time to the Primary 5s to 7s. I told him that the assembly was on a Wednesday morning and the younger ones went after us. He asked me what time did assembly start and gym, I said 9.30 for assembly. I didn't tell him the time for gym. I think Stuart Morris said it was/

was 9.00. He wanted me to ask the P7s but I didn't.

The other question was something to do with the gym fire exit. I think it was how many fire exits there were to get out of the gym. Mr. Hamilton asked me these questions every single week. He had been asking me these questions for a long time, about two years. He didn't ask me any more questions and said I could go back to playing football.

The statement of the child's father is as follows. He resides in Dunblane and is aged 43 years. I am married and reside with my wife and two sons aged 9 and 7. For around two years my eldest son has attended a boys' club held at Dunblane High School. The club ran on a Thursday night between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and was supervised by a man by the name of Thomas Hamilton. I had spoken to Hamilton a few times and was satisfied in my opinion that he was capable of running the club and looking after my child. I have heard that he had been drummed out of the Scouts. But when I did make tentative enquiries, no one could come up with anything specific. I monitored the club quite closely and popped in sometimes and I was satisfied it was being run properly. I still had mild reservations about him. However, my son did continue to attend.

My son knew Hamilton very well and found it hard to accept that he had been involved in the shooting. His initial reaction to hearing the name of the gunman was "It can't be Mr. Hamilton, he was a nice guy."

After the incident my son was not particularly communicative, he was a little bit on the quiet side. He saw a paper on the table, on the Friday after the shooting and stabbed at a picture of Hamilton with his fingers and said "Jerk".

Shortly after that he said "I don't know if it's important, Daddy, but Mr. Hamilton has asked me things about the Primary School." I asked, what sort of things, and he said he had asked which way to go for certain areas of the school, such as assembly, and which way did you turn for the assembly hall. When I asked him when he asked questions/

questions about directions he said he did that every week. I said it was surely not every week and he said, "Well, for quite a while". He mentioned the gym but I didn't press him. I discontinued questioning him. I decided not to push him any further and to leave the questioning to the police. I said I thought we should tell the police and if they thought it was important they might want to speak to him.

I contacted the Incident Room and explained the situation. It was some time later that the police spoke to me and arranged to speak to my son. They spoke to him the day after me and took a statement from him. He said that he had told Hamilton that assembly went from 9.00 to 9.30 to 10 o'clock".

STEPHEN CONNELL (38), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: Are you a Constable with Central Scotland Police? - Yes, that is correct.

Normally in the Underwater Search Unit based at Headquarters? - Yes.

How long have you been in the police? - 16 years.

I think among your duties in this investigation, one was to take part in a search of Thomas Hamilton's home at 7 Kent Road, Stirling? - That is correct.

And that search was done, at least your part of it, on Wednesday, 20th March? - That is correct.

In the course of the search did you find a railway ticket? - A railway ticket was found.

Would you look please at DHE46. Is that the ticket? - That would appear to be the ticket.

Where was it found? - It was found within Mr. Hamilton's jacket in the living room.

No cross-examination.

ROBERT/

10.20 a.m.

ROBERT GOUTHER (37), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMY: Are you a clerical officer with British Rail? - Yes.

Based in Stirling? - Yes.

Could you look please at a Production which is No. DHE 46? Can I take it you have seen that before? - Yes.

What is it? - It is a sprinter ticket, a train ticket.

Which route does it relate to? - Dunblane to Stirling.

Now, can you tell from that ticket where it was purchased? - Yes.

Where? - On the train at 11.55.

And that would be 11.55 on which date? - 12th March.

And that is a train from Dunblane to Stirling? - It is.

Is there a train that goes from Dunblane to Stirling that would be doing the journey about 11.55 on the 12th March? - There is.

Do you know whether that train was on time? - I do.

And was it? - It was.

No cross-examination.

GRAHAM KATE (26), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMY: I am still an acting Detective Constable with Central Police. I have been a police officer for five and a half years.

Now/

Now, I think that one of the items which you at one stage handled in the course of this Inquiry was an audio cassette tape recording of a telephone call? - Yes.

And that was given to you by a sergeant in the course of the investigation? - Yes.

Now, what did that audio recording relate to? - I was told by the sergeant that it related to a treble 9 call received at the control room -- by Mr. Taylor.

That is a call from Mr. Taylor? - Yes.

So that was actually a recording made which the police do have of the call Mr. Taylor made to the police on the 999 Emergency Service system? - That is what I was informed, yes.

The other matter I want to ask you about is some research you did into video tape recordings that show the movement of people in streets and roads around Stirling? - Yes.

Now, what work did you do on that? - We were instructed to view certain video tapes held at the CCTV Video Room at Stirling Police Office, in an attempt to try to trace the movements of individuals.

Were you looking in part of that exercise for the movements of a white van? - Yes.

Registration number M394 KBO? - Yes.

Now, in the video recordings that you have observed for the morning of the 13th March are you able to say something about the movements of what looked like that van? - Yes.

What can you tell us? - I believe it was at 9.12, one of the cameras showed a white van fitting the description of that vehicle approaching the Boroughmuir roundabout from Boroughmuir Road.

If that is right and the vehicle was travelling at average speed towards Dunblane how long would it take to get to Dunblane? - I am not sure myself. I know a timed run was made.

Do/

Do you know what time was take on the timed run? - I am sorry, I don't know.

Just roughly from your own experience, what time would you expect that journey to take? - I would say from there, perhaps about 15 minutes.

And can I take it that from the road that the van was seen on it could in fact get on to the road to Dunblane? - Yes, that is correct.

No cross-examination.

FRANK ALFRED GORDON (54), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: I own premises in Stirling known as the Stirling Racquet & Trophy Centre.

Did you know Thomas Hamilton? - Yes.

For how long did you know him? - Well, I have known him really for 20 years.

Was there another member of his family that you originally new? - Yes, his grandfather.

Did Mr. Hamilton from time to time do business with you? - Yes.

And what was that? - He got trophies and medals for Boys Clubs.

Did he do that regularly? - Yes.

Can you give us a rough estimate of the extent to which he did business with you? - Well, monthly -- sometimes more. He used to buy medals, trophies, and get photocopying done.

Did you have the facility for photocopying? - Yes.

On a monthly basis did he buy a number of medals and trophies? - Yes, he would buy everything from 30 medals at a

time. Sometimes he would/

would buy maybe a couple of hundred pounds for one person, just for for an individual alone.

On Saturday the 9th March did Mr. Hamilton visit the shop? - Yes.

Is that the last time you actually saw him? - No. I saw him on the Monday. He came in on the Saturday and said "I need another two medals", but he said "I will come in on Monday and get them", and he came in on Monday morning and got them.

Well, was it Monday? - We were a bit confused at the time. The staff thought it was Tuesday, and I thought it was Monday.

What is your best recollection now? - I think it was Monday.

And did he get the medal from you? - Yes.

What was it for? - Football.

Do you know -- just answer this yes or no -- do you know was to get it? - No. He never got them engraved or anything.

Did he ever get them engraved? - He got the cup engraved when he got the cup about a year ago. That was for somebody in Dunfermline I think.

Now, did you have any casual conversation with him on the Monday morning when he collected the medal? - Not really, no.

Was it you he dealt with? - Yes.

Did you speak to him about anything apart from handing over the medal and taking the money? - No.

Nothing at all? - No.

Can you tell me anything about his spirit or his mood at that time? - He acted pretty normal. He talked very slow anyway, and never sort of looked you in the eye, but he was pretty normal/

normal that morning.

Did he say anything about a photograph in a trophy magazine that you remember? - Oh yes, he did, looking back he did - there was a photo magazine on the counter and he said "That is good photography". I recall that now.

So it would be fair to say he did in fact have some casual conversation with you? - Yes, I remember now he did mention the photography, because he was a keen photographer. He mentioned the quality of the photography on that magazine.

Did he seem any different from normal? - No.

No cross-examination.

ALLAN ARTHUR JEFFREY (62), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: I am the Reference Librarian at Stirling Library.

You knew Thomas Hamilton? - I did.

How long did you know him? - Perhaps five or six years. I really can't put a date on it.

When did you first get to know him? - Coming into the library -- although I was aware of his existence, having seen him when he lived in the Riverside, but I had never spoken to him.

So five or six years ago you spoke to him? - He came into the library.

And thereafter did you speak to him from time to time? - He came into the library and he would speak to me, and of course I would speak back.

And where his visits to the library frequent? - It varied. There would be periods of time he would come, but I would say fairly frequent, irregular.

And/

And can you tell us what you know please of the purpose of these visits? - It was for photocopying. He had a lot of correspondence regarding this Clubs that he ran. He photocopied publicity material for them -- letters to parents, letters and forms of application, to have the approval to the boys going to camps, and his responsibility for them during the camp. He also had letters from Viewforth and Randolphfield -- that is the Education and the Police -- where he would photocopy the letters he received and also his replies to these bodies.

Now, he would presumably know where the photocopier was and would be able to go and use it freely without assistance from you; is that right? - He would, but since he was running off multiple copies he quite often got the key to bypass the coin machine, and he would settle up at the end.

Now, did your conversations go beyond the formalities necessary to organise the photocopying? - Well, when he was waiting on them running off he would say -- he would speak of the nature of the stuff he was doing and that type of thing, yes.

And what sort of thing did he tell you about? - He spoke of his difficulty getting leases of halls for his Clubs, and this was the nature of the letters to and from -- his replies to Viewforth. He also had had some difficulty with the police. He had had visits from the police at his camp at Loch Lomond, and the correspondence -- he seemed to come over as an injured party, and always he seemed to be justifying his running of the Clubs and camps and justifying, or rather refuting any allegations that were held against him.

But you were getting one side of the story, obviously?
- Very much.

And therefore no one can invite you to try to judge the issue? - No, sorry.

But all I am trying to get from you is just the nature of these conversations. Now, they concerned disputes he had with, you say, Viewforth
-- that is Central Region? - Central Region Education.

The/

The Education Department? - Yes.

He mentioned them? - Yes.

And the police -- he felt victimised by the police? - I would say so. He felt it was unjust, what was alleged against him.

Did he ever say anything about the parents of the boys at the Boys Clubs doing or saying things that he felt were victimising him? - He did say that there was a tendency for sometimes a boy or two boys being dissatisfied with the camps, say the feeding or something of this nature, and this was the complaint.

Did he ever go as far with you as to suggest, or tell you in fact, that people were making claims that he was a pervert of some kind? Did he ever say anything about that? - No, I wouldn't say so distinctly as that. He did say that the police on one occasion had said "So you like taking photographs of small boys", you know, "partly dressed". That was one occasion. But he did show me a number of the photographs he had taken, and it seemed they were boys -- for instance one of them was in a boat, and up each side of the sides there were lads in swimming costumes and....

Life jackets? - Yes, life jackets. They were all dressed, and the photographs that he did show me seemed to indicate that the boys were enjoying the camp, and he used these for publicity. He used these in the Clubs to pin on notice boards in order to promote the Club or the activities that the boys were involved in.

Now, apart from authorities and parents, did he get into tangles, perhaps of his own making, from time to time with commercial companies? - I don't recall him saying about a commercial company.

Does the name Cameron Equipment mean anything to you? - Not at all. I understood all the equipment he had belonged to the Club, although I think he did say when I mentioned the cost of it all that the tents were hired.

He/

10.40 a.m.

He never said anything to you perhaps about complaining to a company about stuff not being up to standard and getting some benefit out of doing that? - No.

So far as these copyings are concerned, on any one occasion how many copies might he make of his publicity material? - It would be well over a hundred. It would depend. If he was sending letters out in order to attract membership he would run quite a lot.

Do you remember the highest number he ever did at once? - He did speak on one occasion of seeking to do blanket coverage in Dunblane, refuting some rumours that had been spread about him, regarding him. He was quite annoyed.

Do you remember how many of these he did? - I think he said 500 of that. I don't know if he did the 500 but he said that was his intention and he did run off some, that was for sure.

Do you remember roughly when that was? - It might have been a year ago. I haven't got much to hang dates on on account of the fact I am always in the same place. There is nothing to relate it to other than his visit.

Were there times he talked of successes with the clubs? - Yes, on one occasion one boy did very well on something. I think it was football. This lad's photograph was in the papers with a text and he photocopied that. He saw it as good publicity.

Were there occasions when he was pleased with the response in a particular area to his advertisements for members? - He did say on one occasion he had enough for two clubs. That was over towards Dunfermline. He did say that he was happy with the result.

Were you ever in his house? - Never.

Were you ever invited? - I was invited on several occasions. This arose.....he would stop you often in the street. He would stop many people in/

in the street and he did see me in the area once and asked me if I lived down where he lived and I said no and he said "I saw you down there" and I said "Yes, I was visiting my mother".

But there was no occasion you actually went to his house? - No.

When was the last time you saw him? - The last time I saw him was Monday the 11th.

About what time? - Between 10 and quarter past. Maybe about 10 past 10.

Was that in the library? - That was in the library, yes.

Why had he come there? - To do some photocopying.

Was he able to do that? - No, he was not able to do that because the photocopier was out of order and I told him so.

When he learned that what did he do? - He said to me that he would come back regarding the photocopying but since he was here he would address some envelopes.

And did he do that? - He did that.

Did you see who he was addressing the envelopes to?
- I didn't, no.

Were there many? - Not a lot. I was quite busy, although the library was not very full and I didn't see it.

Was he any different from normal? - Not at all. I did say to him "You are in early this morning" and he said yes, he agreed, but he didn't make me any the wiser, not for example taking the originals out to photocopy them, hence there was no discussion of what was in them or who they were to.

So is the answer that he was just his normal self? - Very much his normal self. Speaking slowly and as always seeming to be very much in command of the situation that he was in.

No cross-examination.

ROBERT/

ROBERT JOHN TOGNERI, (57), Sworn,

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: Are you a retired school teacher? - I am.

And do you live in Stirling? - I do.

I think you knew Thomas Hamilton years ago? - Over 30 years ago.

In what connection? - He was a member of the Stirling Chess Club.

He would be in his teens at that time? - Pardon?

He would be a teenager at that time? - Yes, he was.

Was he in the club for long? - As far as I remember, three or four years.

Keen? - Yes, he was keen.

Did you thereafter continue to be a member of the club? - Yes, from then on.

But he was no longer there? - No. The late 1960s he left.

In the years since, almost 30 years since, have you met him at all? - A few times. Say half a dozen times in those years.

Where would you meet him? - In the town.

Did you speak to him from time to time? - Yes.

Can you remember anything now of the subjects of conversation? - He would talk about his boys' club and his interest in photography.

Were the conversations generally positive or were there feelings of victimisation and depression? - Certainly victimisation. He felt he was hard done by. He was always complaining against authority.

Did he mention any particular authorities?/

authorities? - No. The police perhaps but nobody in particular.

The police, though, were mentioned, were they? -
Yes.

When was the last time you met him? - Monday the
11th, two days before the event.

At roughly what time? - I don't know exactly but it was
about 11 o'clock in the morning.

Did he indicate where he had just been when you met
him? - No, but I met him at the Stirling Post Office, the GPO.

Is that near the library at all? - Fairly near. Five
minutes walk away.

Did you speak to him on that occasion? - Yes.

Did you actually walk a distance together? - We
walked from the Post Office to the Thistle Centre.

Do you remember what the conversation was about? -
Well, I asked him how his numbers were going at the boys' clubs
and he said that the numbers were down. He sounded very
unhappy.

Anything else you remember? - He was wearing a
blue anorak and his cap with the earmuffs.

Anything about his demeanour, his general state, that
you noticed? - Round-faced, slow voice and he was a wee bit low,
a wee bit unhappy that day. Subdued. He wasn't as talkative as
usual.

Did he make what you thought was a strange
suggestion? - Yes, when I think about it he asked me if I would
like a coffee or a meal.

Had he done that before? - Yes, previously he had
asked me for a coffee and once I had gone for a coffee with him.

And did you accept the offer on this occasion? - No,
I had shopping to do.

How/

How long then was it you were actually in his company? - Say five minutes.

No cross-examination.

GRACE JONES OGILVIE (63), Sworn,

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: Are you a retired shop assistant? - Yes.

And I think that you live at 11 Kent Road in Stirling? - Yes.

Now, that would make you a neighbour of Thomas Hamilton? - Yes.

Can you tell us the relationship between the two houses, how close they were? - 1, 2, 3 and 4 and that is me and that was Mr. Hamilton.

So he was bottom left and you are top right? - Top right.

When did he first move to that address roughly? - I think it may be seven or eight years ago. I'm not too sure.

But you were already there? - I was there, yes.

And at that time were what you would understand to be his mother and father also in the house? - Yes.

The lady who was known as his sister but was actually his mother, was she there as well? - No, she didn't stay there.

Did you ever see her? - Yes, I did see her.

How frequently was she a visitor initially? - I would have said maybe once a week.

When did you find out the true relationship of the members of the family? - After this incident happened.

Now, I think Mrs. Hamilton, senior died about/

about a couple of years after the family moved to 7 Kent Road? - I think so, yes.

And were you then aware of Mr. Hamilton, senior moving out? - No, I didn't know he had moved out but I was told later.

And were you aware then that Thomas Hamilton was living in the house on his own? - Well, when I had been told, yes.

Roughly when was that? When did you know that? - Well, I would say maybe about five or six years ago.

Now, during the intervening period until now, or until the 13th of March, were there many visitors to the house? - Yes.

Can you tell me something of who these visitors were? - Well, mostly STV.

That is an STV van or car? - Yes, a car.

A car with STV on it? - Yes.

And this is a private visitor as you would understand it who happened to have such a car? - Yes. The police.

How frequently were the police there? - Well, maybe once or twice a month but quite often the police car was down.

Anyone else? - There was a landscape gardener came.

What was his name? - James Gillespie.

Did you know him? - No.

How did you learn his name? - It was on his van.

At any stage while Mr. Hamilton lived there did you know anything of what he did for a living? - Well, I did know that he did boys' camps.

Is that all you ever knew of what he had actually/

actually done for a living? - Well, that's all I knew about, yes.

How did you know about the boys' camps? - He told me.

How frequently did you have talks, conversations, with him? - Not a lot but one or two conversations I had with him. Out the back in the garden or on the road.

If you met in the street would you acknowledge each other? - If I was on the same side as him, yes, but if I was on the other side, no.

Would you stop in the street or would it be very rarely you would actually have occasion to stop and speak to him? - No, I wouldn't stop and speak to him.

So that on the occasions when there was some conversation between you, who was it that started the conversation off? - It was him and I nearly jumped out of my skin.

Can you remember the first time that happened? - Well, if I was maybe out the back hanging out my washing, he was there. I never heard him coming but he was there and he would speak and I just got a fright and I would talk but then I just left him.

Did he ever do anything that you saw that either upset you or caused you any anxiety? - Well, he didn't really upset me but he asked me into his house and I was caught unawares and I went into his house but I was most uneasy. That sort of upsetting.

Was it just one occasion you were inside the house? - One occasion, yes.

Apart from that, and I will come back to that in a minute, there was not anything else you were aware of going on in the area which caused you any concern? - Just the way he went about. He was a sort of odd character. The way he walked and spoke.

Tell/

Tell me something about the way he walked? - He sort of crept. He was very head down and sort of crept along.

What about the way he spoke? - He was very proper and soft spoken.

He has been described as a slow, deliberate speaker?
- Yes.

Was there any sign in the activity around his house that he had an interest in boys' clubs? - Oh, yes.

What were the signs? - Well, he used to get a van from Central Region and he told me it was for camps on Loch Lomondside or at Queen Victoria School and he used to have big boards and he would take them down the back and paint them white. That was for flooring at the camps for the boys to sleep on.

Did you learn anything about whether he charged very much for these camps? - Yes.

Did you learn that from him? - Yes, I did.

What did he tell you about that? - £70 or £80 per week.

When you saw a van around the house, did you see boys there as well? - Once.

What age were they? - Well, I would have said between maybe six and 10 years of age.

What were they doing? - Well, they were in the van and he would put in big rolls, bales, of toilet rolls and washing up liquid but the boys would be in the van or running round the van. They were never in his house.

Tell me about the circumstances in which he invited you into the house? - Well, I was coming home one night round about 9 and he was at his front door looking up towards Annfield and he had a sort of telescopic thing in his hand and he was look at Annfield through it and he saw me coming and he just said "Mrs. Ogilvie, can I have a word?" and/

and I said "Well, what is it, Tommy?". "Just a minute" he said and his front door was open and he didn't go to shut it. He walked in in front of me and I walked in behind him and into his sitting room and he asked me to sit down. Well, I did sit down.

Roughly when was this? - Well, it was the summer time. I can't remember if it was last summer or the summer before. It wasn't any earlier than that.

When you sat down what happened? - He asked me to look at a video.

What was on the video? - Small boys.

How long did it last? - Well, he fast-forwarded it and stopped it and let it go for a bit and then he would fast-forward it again and let it go for a good bit. That is what he did all the time and he was very proud because he said "These are my boys". That is what he said. I sort of had my back to him and I was looking out the window more often than I was looking at the video.

How long do you reckon it lasted, showing you this video? - The bit that he showed me, well, I think about 40 minutes.

And can you tell me what you saw on the video? - Just small boys.

Doing what? - Well, they were walking along or maybe running. I can't remember if they were jumping over a wooden horse. I can't remember that but I think there was one bit that there was that on it but I'm not too sure. But they just seemed to be marching in lines, the boys.

Did they approach the camera at any stage? - Well, they turned their head towards the camera.

As they walked past the camera? - Yes.

So they would come right up to it more or less and look at it and walk past? - No, they were walking to the camera, the video, they were walking but they were never looking straight singly. It was just as if they were in a line and they were photographed as they were walking up. They didn't look/

look straight into the video.

Were there close-ups of their faces? - No, I would have said maybe from the waist up.

Did you actually see the boys from the top? - In one or two parts, yes.

How were they dressed? - They had very small shiny bathing pants on.

Colour? - Black.

All of them? - Yes.

Were they all dressed the same way? - Yes.

Throughout the whole video? - Yes.

Could you tell whether there was only one occasion that was being filmed or there was more than one occasion on the video? - I would have just said one occasion.

And so far as these boys were concerned, can you help me about their ages? - Again I would have said seven to ten years of age.

Apart from the video did Mr. Hamilton show you something else? - He did.

What was that? - He didn't take it out and show me. It was a box that was more or less at my feet. It was like a box on a ship, an old box with rope handles. He opened it and there was a lot of frames in it, picture frames. There was no pictures I don't think but he just opened it and he took out one picture of one boy and said he was his favourite or his star pupil or something to that effect but I just glanced at it because I was uneasy.

What/

11 a.m.

What was that boy wearing? - He was just from here up -- bare skin.

No clothing on his upper body? - No.

What was it that you felt uneasy about? - I didn't think I should have been looking at that video. I wasn't really interested in the video.

Apart from that, can you say whether there was anything improper, apparently improper or indecent about it? - I wouldn't say it was indecent, but I didn't like it. I was just uncomfortable.

Was there any what may be described as strange activities you observed out in the back garden? - Beg pardon?

Did you observe any strange activities on Mr. Hamilton's part out in your back garden area? - Yes, fires.

How frequently? - Maybe twice a month.

During what period? - About six months.

When was that? - Prior to this incident.

About six months ago? - Yes.

How many times did you observe fires? - Altogether I think I saw about a dozen.

Did you see what Mr. Hamilton was burning? - No, I didn't. I smelt it.

What did you smell? - Well, when I lived at home with my mother she had a knife -- well, it was a sort of spatula -- and it was in the frying pan, and the handle of the teapot was the same, and the gas was on, and sometimes it would burn and you would smell it. Well, it was that smell -- like Bakelite, because I came through from my living room and I could smell it in the hall and I would say, "That's him at that fire again". I banged/

banged the windows to let him know I knew because he was sitting in full view because there was these security lights at the back and when someone walks past they light. Well, he sat on a chair and fuelled these fires.

Can you say anything about what was being burned?

- No, I only saw boxes.

Were they cardboard boxes? - Yes, it was egg boxes, that size of box.

Could you tell whether there was anything in the box?

- Oh, yes, there was stuff in it, yes.

You are clear about that? - Yes.

When you were in the house did you see any photographs on the walls of his house? - Well, the first time I saw photographs on his walls was his living room when I went past the house and he put the light on, and I saw them on the back wall, but when I went into his house they had been taken off the living room and they were in the front bedroom. The door was slightly ajar when I went in and I saw them on the wall of the front bedroom.

What were they pictures of? - Boys, small boys.

What were they wearing? - Bathing pants.

The same as the video? - The same as the video.

When was the last time you saw Mr. Hamilton? - The Friday before this incident.

That would be the 8th March? - Yes.

About what time? - 8 o'clock at night.

Whereabouts did you see him? - Coming down my path to go and visit a neighbour when he spoke -- I didn't see him, but he was coming along the side of the hedge on the main part of the road, and I said to him -- I got a fright again because the hedge is quite high -- I said, "Could you not whistle/

whistle when you come?" and he says, "Did I give you a fright?" and I said "Yes". Well, I walked along the road with him and he was talking about ghosts.

Was he talking about where he had, talking about a particular place when he was talking about ghosts? - Yes.

Whereabouts? - Upper Bridge Street, the big house, his mother and father had a big house when he was small.

Was he carrying anything? - Carrying anything, yes.

What was he carrying? - Letters. He told me what he was carrying.

Did he tell you what the letters were for? - No.

Did you see how many he had? - Well, I didn't actually look at them. I saw them, there was quite a few, but I mean, it could have been a book in an envelope. I didn't really pay particular attention.

What size of envelopes were they? - (Indicates 6 inches).

A square shape? - No, like that.

6 inches long, about 3 or 4 inches deep? - 4 or 5.

Apart from talking about ghosts, which you have told us about, was there anything about his manner or his appearance that appeared unusual on that last occasion? - No, he was just the same.

Anything unusual for him? - No, just his usual creeping about.

No cross-examination.

DAVID/

DAVID MacDONALD (28), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMY: Do you work as a financial adviser? - Yes.

And do you live in Aberdeen? - Yes.

Have you been in Aberdeen for about six years? - Yes, just about that.

Before living in Aberdeen did you live in this area? - Yes.

In which town in particular? - Stirling.

Was that with your own family? - Yes.

Did you know Thomas Hamilton? - Yes.

When did you first get to know him? - Round about 1980.

When was your first encounter with him? - First of all I was really with my father, and we went down to the Woodcraft shop with my Dad to buy various woodcraft.

Did he have a shop called Woodcraft? - Yes, it was Woodcraft Cowane.

That was in Cowane Street, Stirling? - Yes.

And this is about 1981 or so? - About 1980.

And you were there with your father? - Yes.

At that stage were you still -- you would still be at school. Which school did you go to? - St. Modan's High School.

Did you ever go to any of Mr. Hamilton's boys' clubs? - Yes, I was a member.

When? - Just about that period.

Where was the club you went to? - It was/

was a club up at the Borestone.

What is the Borestone? - An area of St. Ninian's, on the north side of Stirling.

When you say the Borestone -- were there premises there? - It was a school actually, Borestone High School.

It was not a Primary School, it is a High School? - I'm not sure now.

For how long did you attend that club? - Maybe 18 months.

Did you go to any summer camps that were organised? - Yes.

Where did you go to camp? - It was up at Balmaha.

Roughly when was that? - It would have been in that period.

We are talking about the very beginning of the '80s? - Yes.

Summer time? - Summer.

How long were you there? - Two weeks.

Was that a tented camp? - Tented, yes. It was on the islands actually.

Off Balmaha? - Yes.

Do you know the name of the island? - No.

How did you get on at the camp? - What do you mean?

How did you get on with Mr. Hamilton? - Okay, yes. There were no problems.

No problems with Mr. Hamilton? - No.

Did you go to more than one camp? - Just the one camp.

Was/

Was there any particular reason why you did not go to more? - Well, I had other interests as well. I did a lot of other types of sport and so on.

Did you ever, throughout this period from then up until now, did you ever hear stories or rumours about Mr. Hamilton's behaviour with boys? - Well, I know during the camp there was one child -- I can't remember his name -- Tom Hamilton didn't like very much, and the child left early, and I think the parents had a sort of grievance with Mr. Hamilton about that.

Do you know why the child left early? - No. I think Tom maybe picked on him or he just didn't get on too well. I don't know the reason.

But going back to the question, it was really the whole period -- I appreciate you referring to an actual time -- but I was thinking of the whole period right up to now, did you at any stage hear stories that were really rumours about his behaviour towards youngsters? - Yes, there was a rumour that went about that he was a bit weird but it didn't seem to come to anything. No one seemed to know what that was based on.

You can be weird in a number of ways. Do you know in relation to what it was suggested he was weird? - No.

So you really never heard what may be described as firm rumours about specific types of behaviour? - No.

Did you end up for a period working with Mr. Hamilton? - Yes, I worked casually in his woodcraft shop for about a year or something.

Did your father actually buy stuff from him to do his own DIY work? - Yes, along with a lot of other people.

I appreciate that, but your father would be a customer?
- Yes.

Was there any particular day of the week you worked in the shop? - Yes, a Saturday morning I worked in the shop.

For/

For how long did you do that? - Just about over a year I would say.

Why did you stop? - Mr. Hamilton -- he actually used to sell a lot of DIY equipment and then he started moving into kitchens, and there was a shop next door that sold kitchens, and he had no further use for me. He employed a few other people to instal kitchens for him and didn't have any use for me after that.

We are talking about what, 1982 roughly? - Well, 1981 I would suppose, about August-September.

During the period you worked for him what age would you be? - About 12.

Did he do anything improper to you? - No, not at all.

Was there any hint of something that perhaps should be avoided? - No. I wouldn't have continued to work there if I thought there was something strange.

After you stopped working there did you still see him regularly or did you just never come across him for a while? - Well, thee was a period when I never saw Mr. Hamilton for maybe four years.

When was the next time you saw him? - I went to University in 1984 -- probably didn't see him for four or five years.

When did you next see him? - Probably it would be at the University.

What was he doing at the University? - He used to get -- he always used to carry this black case, and he used to get typing done.

And someone up there did it for him? - Yes.

You mean at the University? - Yes.

That would be the reason he was there? - Yes.

Did/

Did you enjoy having a conversation with him? - He was quite an intelligent man. He did seem a little eccentric in the sense that he did speak very slowly but, yes, he was interesting enough to speak to.

When was it you moved to Aberdeen? - 1990 I think it was, 1991.

Did he keep in touch with you there? - Yes.

Was there any particular reason why he did that? - Well, he was unemployed and what he used to do was sell and buy camera equipment, and he used to phone me and tell me about various deals he had done with his cameras.

Had you an interest in photography? - Yes, it was quite interesting.

Did you do any deals with him? - Deals, no.

Did he phone quite a lot? - He did phone me quite frequently, yes, and eventually it got a bit wearing having so many phone calls.

What did you do? - He used to phone usually after 9 o'clock.

In the evening? - In the evening, because that's when his clubs finished, and it got to the stage he was becoming a little bit of a pest so I actually left -- I got my Mum and Dad if they were phoning me I got them to ring a couple of times and ring off and then.....

You would answer it? - I would answer the phone, yes, because with Tom, when he did phone, he could be on for quite a long time.

So from 1990 right up to 1996 did he continue to keep in touch with you? - Yes.

And how frequently during that period did he speak to you on the phone? - It was maybe a couple of times a week, something like that.

What were these conversations generally about/

about? - It was usually about cameras he was buying. He seemed to start off this business with buying and selling, and I think it was Canons or Minoltas, and eventually he moved on to Hassleblad which was a more selective type of camera and they were worth a lot more money buying and selling.

Sorry.....? - He made quite a lot of money.

That's what he told you? - Yes.

During that time did you also see him from time to time? - Yes.

Did he appear to have money about him? - I'm not sure.

Was there any way you could judge whether he actually had any money? - No. He used to wear the same blue jacket all the time and quite a sort of crumpled sort of shirt.

Did these conversations extend from photography into other subjects? - No, it was mainly photography.

Well, did he never express grievances which he had to you? - Yes.

Was that in the context of these conversations? - Yes. He expressed a grievance about the police, and I think what happened was the police had gone to one of the camps and confiscated various equipment that he was working with.

That/

11.20

That was photographic equipment? - Yes.

And did he have any other grievance that you talked to him about? - Well, he felt that he was being victimised.

By whom? - By the public.

The public? - The public.

Was he more specific than that? - It was really to do with his Clubs. He felt that the public, you know, had some sort of rumour about him that was stopping him from continuing his Clubs.

And did he say whether his Clubs were being adversely affected by that? - Yes.

Did he say how? - Sorry, what do you mean?

Well, did he say what was happening to his Clubs as a result? - The attendance numbers were dropping.

So that is one side. Did he ever say anything about not being able to get facilities, premises to hold them in? - He never mentioned that to me.

Just that the numbers were dropping? - The numbers were dropping.

Did that sort of feeling of victimisation take up much of the conversation? - Not really. It was quite a small part. I found it hard going. I didn't find it that useful to talk about. It was really the cameras I spoke about.

He mentioned the police and he mentioned the public?
- Yes.

Did he say anything about people in Dunblane at all in any of these conversations? - Yes. It was mainly Dunblane these Clubs were, so he could have felt that is where he was being victimised./

victimised.

He didn't say so in so many words, but you drew that conclusion? - Well, I drew the conclusion that was the area.

Did he ever mention the Scouting Association in that connection? - No, he did mention that he had been in the Scouts, but he didn't follow it up.

Have you ever been in his house? - Yes.

How frequently were you a visitor? - Very infrequently -- maybe three or four -- three times a year.

When were you last in the house? - It would have been about Christmas.

1995? - 1995.

And when you went to the house what happened generally? - Just watched TV.

And discussion of cameras and so on at the house? - Yes. He would have a collection of cameras which he would bring out.

Cheap, expensive? - Expensive.

And a lot of them? - No, not a lot of them. There were maybe three or four.

Can you give me an example of an expensive piece of equipment he would have? - He had various like lenses -- zoom lenses, which were quite large.

Was he specialising in any particular make? - Hassleblad, initially, I think it was.

Is Hassleblad an expensive type of equipment? - Yes.

And what are its specialist features? - Of a Hassleblad camera?

Yes. Anything particular about it? Is/

Is it lense quality or is it something else? - Well, the one feature of a Hassleblad I believe is that the lense can be more expensive than the actual body.

And apart from cameras did you see the work of his camera at all? - Yes.

And how keen a photographer was Mr. Hamilton? - He seemed a very keen photographer.

Now, did he specialise in photographing anything or any people in particular? - Well, he seemed to specialise -- in fact, it seemed almost all about boys in the Clubs.

Did he display these? - Yes, yes.

Whereabouts? - There was photographs all over the wall, and he also had photographs in albums.

Did these photographs have any common features in them? - They were mainly in a gym -- young kids, maybe six/seven years old. All they had on was black swimming trunks.

Swimming trunks, all of them? - Yes.

Mainly, anyway? - Yes.

Did the photographs disturb you at all? - I didn't really like them. I don't think it was necessary for kids just to wear trunks -- possibly if they had on shorts and T-shirts, that it would have been better.

Did you ever ask him about that? - Yes.

And what was his explanation? - He just said it was natural to do it that way.

Did you ever see any video film he had shot? - Yes.

Did he actually have video equipment that he showed you, in the house? - He had a video machine, but this might have been two or three years ago.

That/

That is a video camera? - He had a video camera, yes, and he also had a video machine, but it was about two or three years ago.

In December did he have a video camera or a video machine? - No -- not that I saw anyway. I didn't see it in the room.

Do you remember if he had any video equipment by the time you saw him in December? - If he had it was very little.

Did you get the impression he was having any financial difficulties? - I would say that regarding camera equipment there was certainly a winding-down, there was a lot less buying and selling.

Is there anything else you can tell the Inquiry about his interest in photography or the nature of any photographs you saw that might be relevant to Lord Cullen's search for information? - No. I know that he also, apart from photography -- he also did some freelance work as well, somewhere in Glasgow.

That would be on a commercial basis? - Yes.

Can I turn now to guns? Did you know he had an interest in guns? - Well, when I was in his Club he had an interest in guns then, but I didn't realise that he still had that interest now.

Back at the beginning of the 1980's did the Club have a name? - The Rovers -- The Rovers Sports Club.

And how did you learn of his interest in guns at that time? - Well, the main Club was in Borestone, but occasionally he would take us to Dunblane to the gun club there and we would fire air guns.

And were these rifles or pistols? - I think there was a mixture of both.

And what did you fire at? - Just targets, round targets.

What/

What age were you? - I must have been 12.

Was there a crowd of you? - Yes.

What was the variation in ages? - Well, they varied from very young -- maybe five or six, up to 13 or 14.

And did they all go shooting? - Yes.

And so far as organisation and discipline were concerned in the shooting exercise, can you tell us something about that? - Very organised.

Did you ever feel in danger when you were shooting?
- No, never.

And how was Mr. Hamilton for discipline? - Very very strict.

And did that apply when he was organising shooting as well? - Yes.

Did you ever see anything, any weapon, other than an air weapon? - Yes. He had .22 guns, real guns, which were very old guns I think from the War.

.22 pistol or rifle? - Rifle.

Did he have one or more than one? - More than one, maybe half a dozen.

Were they his? - I don't know. They may have belonged to the Club.

But you have no recollection of a .22 pistol at all, just a rifle? - No, I have no recollection of a handgun, no.

Just a rifle? - Yes.

And more than one rifle? - Yes.

And you say up to six, do you? - Possibly, yes.

And where did you see them? - In the Club./

Club.

Where did you see them? - In the Club.

Did he have to take them to the Club or were they perhaps based on the Club premises? - Based on the Club premises.

Now, were these used in your presence? - Yes.

By whom? - By Mr. Hamilton and the other members of the Club.

Did you fire a .22? - Yes.

How frequently were these visits to the Club when weapons other than air weapons were used? - I would say it was mainly air guns that were used -- may once every two or three weeks -- less frequently with the actual bullets.

So with weapons other than air weapons did you use them more than once? - Personally? Myself?

Yes? - Yes.

So roughly on how many occasions do you tell us that you actually used them? - Three or four times.

During the period you have known Hamilton, were you aware of him having any sexual relationship, either hetero or homosexual? - None at all.

Now, I think recently Mr. Hamilton had some dealings with your father? - Yes.

What was that about? - My father was installing or looking to install a kitchen in his house, and with Tom being a previous kitchen specialist, he offered his services to help install, or select a kitchen.

Now, early in March were you out of the country? - Yes.

And when did you return? - It was on the Monday previous to the incident.

That/

That is Monday the 11th March? - Yes.

Did you go back to Aberdeen? - Yes.

Do you have an answering machine? - I do.

Did you check it when you got back? - Yes.

Were there any calls from Mr. Hamilton? - Yes.

How many were there? - I think two.

Were there any messages left? - Just to say that Tom had called, no message.

And the following evening, that is Tuesday 12th March, was there also a message on your machine? - Yes.

And what was the nature of that? - Again just to say Tom had called.

Did you do anything about that? - When I returned from work I phoned him back.

So was that in the evening after the Clubs would be over, if he had a Club? - I think it was after 8 o'clock, yes.

How long did you speak to him for? - I am not very sure, but I would think less than an hour.

A long conversation, obviously? - Fairly long.

I mean, when you say "less than an hour" do you mean approaching an hour? - Yes.

Now, what was this conversation about? - It was about the kitchen that he was installing for my father.

Did it extend beyond the kitchen? - He had said -- for a while he had said that he was quite a lonely person, and that it wasn't good to be alone for all your life; which I thought was a bit strange./

strange.

Was that something he hadn't touched on in past conversation? - He had touched on it before.

Was it different this time? - Not any different, no.

Did you react to that part of it? - Yes. I said to him that, I mean that, you know, it is possible for anyone to be lonely at some point in their life, so it is not a big deal.

Did you give him any encouragement and tell him what he should do? - No.

Did you ask him about his business at all? - I did ask about the cameras.

And what did he say? - He didn't seem as interested any more in the equipment. I felt over the last few months there had been a winding-down of the cameras. He didn't seem to be selling as much.

Now, did he keep the conversation going, or was it you that.....? - It just started to fizzle out.

I am sorry? - It just started to go quite flat, so I said it was getting late.

And that is when you got to the end of the conversation? - Yes.

But during most of the hour, or up to an hour that you spoke, was he fluent in his conversation? - I think he was talking slower -- slowing down.

Was there anything that cheered him up at all in the course of the conversation? - The thought of maybe doing the kitchen work.

That was the thing he had an interest in? - Yes.

Would you say that he was noticeably different from usual on that particular conversation?/

conversation? - No, no.

Over the last six months or so had you noticed any change in his attitude to things in general? - He did seem -- again related to the cameras, he did seem less enthusiastic about his camera business.

Was there any change in his tone or his attitude towards his grievances? - He had had these grievances for quite a long time, and when he spoke to me about them I found it quite disinteresting, and he did tend to just stop talking about it.

Over the six months before the incident did he talk at all about Dunblane? - Dunblane? Not in particular, no.

Did he talk at all about parents of boys, and any problems he felt he was having from them? - Yes.

And you have mentioned guns in the early 1980's. Did you ever see guns in his house? - No.

Did you know he had a continuing interest in guns? - I did notice -- he used to have various magazines in his house, but I did notice there was one magazine which was called Sporting Life, or something, which had a shotgun on the front, so I assumed that was a gun magazine.

But in the six months before the incident how often do you reckon you were in his house? - Maybe three times.

And any sign from either conversation, or what you saw, that he had any interest in shooting? - No.

Had you any reason to think he still had guns? - No.

No cross-examination.

WILLIAM/

WILLIAM MacDONALD (56), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMY: I live in Invernessshire. I am a retired police officer.

You I think knew Thomas Hamilton for a number of years? - Yes, approximately 15 -- round about 1981.

How did you first get to know him? - When he opened his Woodcraft shop in Stirling, and it was about the only one in Stirling at that time. There was no B & Q at that time and suchlike. It was well-known.

Did you have an interest in do-it-yourself? - Yes.

And were you a customer of the shop? - I was indeed.

Over/

11.40 a.m.

Over what period did Mr. Hamilton have that shop? -
On recollection I think he had it for about six years or so. I think it closed down in 1986 if I remember.

Do you know anything of the circumstances which brought it to an end? - Not really, no.

He never said anything to you about that? - No.

While you were dealing with the shop was it, as far as you were concerned, a reasonably good shop? - Yes, it was a very well equipped shop.

Did it appear as though it was a popular place? - Yes, it was popular.

So it would be for at least a period a successful business? - Yes, I would say so.

Did Hamilton know what he was about in the business of selling that type of material? - Yes, I would say that he was very well up on it, yes.

Now, you I think developed an acquaintanceship as it were beyond simply being a customer with Hamilton. Is that a fair way of putting it? - An acquaintanceship, yes.

Did he contact you for example outwith the shop? - Not much, no.

Occasionally? - Occasionally I would say, yes.

Was there anything in particular that would cause him for example to phone you or visit you? - No, the only times he visited in that time would be possibly transporting materials and suchlike. I am talking about wooden panelling and suchlike that I had ordered.

That is a delivery? - A delivery, yes.

So did your contact initially not really go beyond the relationship between customer and shop? - Yes, that is correct.

Now, /

Now, he had a boat I think? - Yes, he had a boat on Loch Lomond.

Were you ever on it? - Once, yes.

Could that be described as going beyond the sort of customer/shopkeeper relationship? - Possibly, yes. I think I recollect in this instance he had delivered material one evening and he mentioned the boat to us.

And did you and your wife go on the boat? - Yes, and there was also a couple of friends I believe at that time.

Where was it kept? - It was kept at Balmaha at Loch Lomond.

What kind of boat was it? - It as a cabin cruiser. I think it was round about 27 feet in length and an onboard engine.

What became of it? - I think he sold it. He obviously sold it. I think, yes.

You didn't know anything about it being destroyed at all? - He had one after that that went on fire.

This one was sold and he got another one? - Yes.

And then the later one went on fire? - Yes.

Is that something you just heard about from him? - I just heard about that, yes.

Now, can I take it that the end of the shop meant that you didn't see Mr. Hamilton for a while? - I didn't see him possibly until maybe..... or remain in contact with him until maybe 1990 or so.

And who contacted whom on that occasion?
- It was him that happened to meet my mother who was down here on holiday at the time and he gave her a lift home.

And did your mother live near to him? - No, /

No, my mother was down on holiday with me at that time and he obviously recognised her in the town and gave her a lift down the road.

And did you speak to him on that occasion? - Yes, I did.

Was there something concerning him? - No.

Nothing that he told you that was a cause of concern at that time? - Not that particular day but I did meet him one day in the town afterwards.

And was that when he told you about something that was concerning him? - He did mention he was getting a bit of harassment with Region about school letting and suchlike for his boys' clubs and I did mention to him at that particular time that he would be better forgetting his boys' clubs and doing something worthwhile as he was quite a talented person.

In what respect was he talented? - Well, he had a lot of knowledge in relation to building and he had his cameras etc. and he seemed to have quite a lot of knowledge and I thought it was wasted with what he was doing.

When you first met him did he already have an interest in photography? Back in 1980? - No, I can't recollect at that stage.

When were you first aware of the interest in photography? - It would be in 1990.

Would it be right that the first time you met him again was actually around 1989 and one of the things he was concerned about was the involvement of the police in a camp he had been running at Loch Lomond? - I did hear about that.

Did he tell you about it? - He possibly would have told me but he knew.....when I advised him at that time to forget his boys' clubs and suchlike, he never ever spoke about boys' clubs etc. to me again, from that time on. I wasn't interested in them in the first place.

Now, /

Now, after you had come across him again, did he maintain regular contact with you? - Not really because I retired in 1991 and although I still come down to Stirling and I have contacts in Stirling, for the last five years I have been mainly up north. I come down in the winter time, round about November.

So if I had a statement that says "In the following period he would phone my house regularly, on average once every six weeks or so", is that wrong? - No, I never heard from John (sic) Hamilton. I saw him round about Christmas or New Year time in the town. I never heard from him until I met him about a fortnight before this incident.

I will come to that in a moment but back in 1989 and 1990 did he have contact with you on a fairly regular basis? - Not fairly regularly but he would on occasions phone all of a sudden, and then you wouldn't hear from him for quite a while.

I take it you had regular contact with your son during that period? - Yes. Oh, yes.

That is David MacDonald? - David.

Were you aware that Hamilton was keeping in touch with him? - Yes, he was phoning quite often to David. Certainly more so than me.

That's fine. So you met him again in what, February of this year? - It would have been. Yes, it would be February.

And where was it you met him? - I met him outside the Thistle Centre.

And did he seem any different at that stage from what you had known in the past? - Not really, no.

I think you were actually doing something to the house? - Yes, my wife and I were intending to fit a new kitchen.

Is that in the house in Stirling? - Yes.

And did Mr. Hamilton give you some help? - Yes./

Yes. Well, he gave me some advice on doing it and in that

particular fortnight prior he was phoning quite a bit and his concern was kitchens and measurements and telling me the best places to buy materials and so on.

So did that go on right up until what, the 11th of March? Up until the 12th of March? - Yes, the 12th.

He still had contact? - Yes, indeed he had.

Did any of his conversations on the phone extend beyond kitchens at all? - No.

Now, on the 12th of March, in the morning, did he phone you at your home? - Yes.

And did he give you advice then about the size of units that you should be ordering for your kitchen? - Yes, I felt it was a little bit odd because he did mention.....he was very concise and I felt very up on kitchens etc. but he did suggest a 1000 unit than a 600 unit to me which would knock the whole context of the kitchen out and I thought that as a bit unusual for him. He is quite a deep thinker.

Did he say anything, though, apart from talking about the kitchen? - No, he was only on very briefly and I had a lot to do apart from the kitchen.

Was there anything in the conversation or in the fortnight or so, perhaps even a bit more than the fortnight, that you had been speaking to him again that would give you any hint that something like what he did was likely to happen? - Oh, none whatsoever. No.

Did he mention guns at all to you between February and March? - No, but he knew I wasn't fond of guns anyway and he would never mention guns to me.

Did you know he had an interest in guns? - Yes, I did.

How did you know that? - Because he mentioned/

mentioned it to me early on in our acquaintanceship.

Your son went to a boys' club of his back in the early

1980s? - Yes, he did.

Were you ever concerned about the fact that he was at one of Mr. Hamilton's clubs? - No, I wasn't concerned at that time.

Were you a Central Scotland Police officer? - I was.

Over what period were you with Central Scotland Police? - From 1960 to 1991. 31 years.

During that period were you aware of rumours about Hamilton's behaviour towards boys? - Yes, latterly.

Roughly when did you first learn of this? - I think something developed but I can't honestly say.....would it be in 1991? There was one incident where Strathclyde Police had something at a cinema at Balloch. I heard about that.

So you heard about something in Balloch in 1991? - That would be about then.

Was that the first that you had heard anything adverse like that about him? - Yes, I would say so. Yes, I didn't have contact with him or anything concerning him maybe from 1986 to 1990.

Let's go back to 1980. Between 1980 and 1991 where were you actually serving as a police officer? - I was in the Traffic Department.

Where is that based? - Police Headquarters.

I am trying to establish what the extent of common police knowledge might have been about his general activities. Can you tell me anything you knew prior to 1991? Let's leave that one aside. Anything you had heard even in the form of rumour about Hamilton's behaviour towards children? - No, not really.

No cross-examination.

IAN/

IAN McDIARMID, (33), Sworn,

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: Are you a police photographer with Central Scotland Police? - Yes.

Based at Headquarters in Stirling? - Yes.

How long have you been a police photographer? - Eight years.

Now, I think that you took a large number of photographs in connection with this enquiry? - Yes.

Could you look first of all please at Production PHO E28. Now, are these photographs that you took? - Yes.

Are they of a motor car? - Yes.

Can we have this first one on the imager please? A motor van rather. What is we see there? - It is a Ford motor van.

Registration number? - M394 KBO.

Where did you take the photograph? - That was at Police Headquarters in Stirling.

Can you now look please at photographs PHO E25. Now, are these photographs that you took? - Yes.

At 7 Kent Road? - Yes.

And did you take them again on Wednesday the 13th of March, 1996? - Yes.

We better have this I think on the imager. If we could have the first one please. Is that the outside of the house? - Yes.

If you look at the third one please. Is that the back of the house? - Yes.

Now, I think you also went inside, is that correct? - Yes.

Would you look at 6 now, please. Is that the/

the kitchen as you found it? - Yes.

And 7 I think gives us another view of the kitchen? - Yes.

Would you also look at 8 which I think is also the kitchen? - Yes.

Now, would you look please at 9 and tell us what we see there? - That is a view from the kitchen looking towards the rear bedroom.

If you look now please at No. 13. What is that a view of? - That is a view within that room.

What is on the walls? - It appeared to be targets, shooting targets.

Had they been shot at? - Yes.

Are they clipped in some way and then hung up? - Yes.

Are there any marks of where bullets have penetrated on these targets? - Yes.

Each one, except one, has a red centre? - Yes.

Had these just been drawn on the targets? - I don't know.

They all seem different in size, is that right? - Yes.

Now, can you look now at 15. Where was that taken? - That was in the same room.

And do we see there boxes with ammunition in them? - Yes.

Now, would you go please to No. 18. What do we see in that photograph? - That was a photograph of a cupboard which was within the same room and appeared to be a pile of photographs.

Were there any photographs displayed on the walls of the house at all? - Not that I can recall.

Now, /

Now, would you look please at No. 21. Where is that?
- That was within a cupboard in the hallway.

Now, there is a metal cabinet there? - Yes.

What is that? - I think it was a gun cabinet.

Was it empty when you saw it? - Yes.

If you look now at 22. What is that? - That is a view
from the hallway looking towards a room to the front of the house.

It has got wardrobe space in it with clothing hanging,
is that right? - Yes.

And a lot of stuff just lying about? - Yes.

Was there a bed in that room? - Yes, there was.

Have/

12 noon

Have a look at No. 23. I think you will be able to see the edge of the bed and the rest of the state of that room? - Yes.

Could you look now please at 25? Is that the living room? - Yes.

And there is a briefcase open? - Yes.

And paper, some sort of magazine open on the floor. It may be a television or radio magazine. Otherwise, nothing unusual about that room? - No.

If you look at the next picture, 26, you will see there is in fact a television opposite the chair? - Yes.

No. 28, do you see a close-up of the contents of the case? - Yes.

And there is a letter there? - Yes.

Can you tell me who it is to? - It was addressed to The Queen.

Have a look at No. 30. What is that? - That is a view of a telephone directory.

Where was that? - On a table in front of the television.

If we go to 31 do we have a close-up of it? - Yes.

The significance of the close up? - It had the address of Dunblane Primary School.

The phone number and the address? - Yes.

You took a number of other photographs but I don't think I need ask you about these. Thank you very much, Mr. McDiarmid.

No cross-examination.

ANDREW/

ANDREW LAWLESS (36), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: Are you a Detective Sergeant with Central Scotland Police? - Yes.

Are you based at Stirling? - Yes.

How many years' police service? - 14 years' police service.

I think part of your duties in connection with the Inquiry was to search at 7 Kent Road? - Yes, that is correct.

I think you did that on the afternoon of 13th March? - Yes, I did.

I think from the house you took a number of items and some of your colleagues took a number of items? - Yes, that is correct.

Now we have seen from the photographs that there was in the house ammunition? - That is correct.

Can you tell me how much ammunition was in the house? - Yes, I can.

What was there? - The ammunition was contained within four metal strong boxes and the ammunition in total was over a thousand rounds of ammunition.

Was that 280 rounds of .357? - That is correct.

715 rounds of 9mm? - That is correct.

And 11 rounds of .38 Special? - That is correct.

I think you also recovered in the course of your investigations the medical records of Mr. Hamilton from Dr. Hanley? - My colleague Detective Constable Simpson recovered the medical records.

You have seen them? - Yes.

Could you look please at DI/H/3? The number/

number is also DANT/13. Are these the medical records that you got from Dr. Hanley? - Yes, they are.

Can you confirm that they show the attendances at the doctor between 1959 and about 1970 which all dealt with minor complaints and a number of them in particular for minor skin complaints? - Yes, that is correct.

And then there is another couple of these in the 70s, 1972 and 1973, December 1972 and February 1973, again minor skin complaints? - Yes.

And then '74, some treatment for indigestion? - Yes.

And from then until 1993 there is no sign of contact with doctors or hospitals at all? - Yes, that is correct.

I think that on the 16th March, 1993 there is an attendance by Mr. Hamilton recorded at the Accident and Emergency Department of Stirling Royal Infirmary? - Yes.

And that was an X-ray for some strained ankle? - Yes, that is correct.

All he got was a support bandage? - Yes.

Can you confirm that that is the only evidence there is of attendances on any doctor after 1974? - Yes, I can.

And Dr. Hanley has confirmed that that is his knowledge as well? - That is correct.

If I can go back with you particularly to the search of the house. Can you confirm that you also removed a number of certificates from the house? - Yes, I did.

Did these include birth and adoption certificates and so on? - Yes.

I think you also removed certificates that related to education? - Yes, I did.

Could/

Could you look please at DANT/5 which is also D3/H/I? Did you remove that? - Yes.

Is that a school certificate of Thomas Hamilton from Riverside Secondary School? - Yes.

Does that relate to an intensive four-year course on technical subjects? - Yes.

And does it talk about two City and Guilds courses? - Yes.

One for mechanical engineering and craft practice and secondly carpentry and joinery? - Yes.

I think he successfully, apparently successfully completed the first year of each of these? - Yes, he has.

Would you look please at DANT/7 which is also D4/H/I. What is that? - That is results from the Royal Society of Arts at Stirling Riverside Secondary School issued to Thomas Hamilton then staying at 24 Queen Street, Stirling, the subject being English Language.

What is the date on that -- no date? - There is no date.

But I think you have got a series on that for 1968? - Yes.

MR. BONOMOY: That should be D5/H/1, sir.

EXAMINATION CONTINUED BY MR. BONOMOY: If I can go back to the one I intended to ask you about which is DANT/6 which should be D4/H/I. What is that document? - That is a pupil's school record.

Is that the record card and attendances at Riverside School? - Yes, it is.

Did Mr. Hamilton attain any qualifications or pass any certificates that are recorded in that? - There is a number of school report cards contained within that book.

And these are just reports of his progress through the school? - Yes, from the first year/

year through to fourth year in that school.

Now, could you look please at DANT/8 (also D6/H/I)? Is that a Scottish Certificate of Education Certificate for Ordinary Grade passes in 1968? - Yes.

Does it show Thomas Hamilton passing Ordinary Grade Arithmetic, Technical Practice, Woodwork and Metalwork? - Yes, it does.

Lastly, look at DANT/9 which is D7/H/I. Is that a School Leaving Certificate? - Yes, it is.

Is that Stirling County Council Riverside Secondary School? - Yes.

And does that show that Mr. Hamilton had passes in English, Art? - Yes.

And merit passes in History, Geography, Arithmetic, Mathematics, Science and Technical subjects? - It does.

No cross-examination.

MR. BONOMOY: Sir, the next piece of evidence will be given by reading a police statement in this instance of a witness who is Roger Peter Charles Allston. Mr. Allston for various domestic reasons has declined to attend the Inquiry, but if you, sir, thought it necessary steps could be taken obviously to arrange for his attendance. But having considered the terms of the statement to the police, I have come to the view the reading of that statement would be sufficient for the purposes of the Inquiry. The witness number is S662.

LORD CULLEN: I am content you do it in that way.

MR. BONOMOY: In that event I would invite Mr. Lake again to read the terms of this statement.

MR. LAKE: This is the statement of Roger Peter Charles Allston, living in Gravesend in Kent. I am 48 years of age, married and reside with my wife, daughter (13) and son (11). I am a freelance/

freelance photographer at present and have been a photographer for over 30 years. As such I do buy and sell equipment fairly frequently, generally through a magazine called Amateur Photographer.

Approximately two and a half years ago, mid-August, 1994, I contacted a man in Stirling over the phone, by the name of Tom Hamilton who was selling an exposure meter which I was looking for. This advertisement was in Amateur Photographer. I chatted to Tom for a while, when I got hold of him, about cameras, etc. He appeared to me to be very knowledgeable about cameras and photography and seemed as though he could get his hands on whatever equipment I wanted. This seems slightly strange for an amateur, however, I put it down to enthusiasm. I did not buy the equipment at this time and informed him I would get back to him.

I shopped round and found that Tom was offering the best price, so I contacted him again with a view to buying the item. On speaking to Tom we again chatted for a while during which he informed me that he was having problems with the lighting in some of his photographs. I told him to send some of the photographs down to me and I would point out and rectify the problems. I also bought the exposure meter he was selling.

On receipt of his photographs I noticed that they were all portraits of young boys or groups of boys. They were, however, perfectly normal and decent. I realised his problem and phoned him up. I informed Tom of the mistake and told him what equipment he needed to obtain to rectify this.

We again chatted for a while during which he informed me that he was going to start up his own photographic business by hiring local halls and sending out flyers. I wished him good luck and told him if there was anything I could do then he should get in touch with me.

We formed a friendship over the phone and would speak to each other frequently, passing on tips and general chat. I saw his phone number advertising equipment for sale in the Amateur Photographer in almost every issue. It was clear that Tom was trading, however, he insisted he was merely enthusiastic.

Tom/

Tom told me that he was the Chairman of Scottish Boys Clubs and he did seem to have a great liking for children and it was my impression that it was a healthy liking and not sexual. He told me that he put his boys through fitness schemes as a "Healthy Body - Healthy Mind". Tom hated fat children and blamed the parents for allowing them to eat junk food.

I can recall Tom telling me that he was keen on guns and was a member of a shooting club. He told me once that he thought the Clint Eastwood films were totally unrealistic because Eastwood continues talking throughout using his Magnum. Tom said that his Magnum was so loud that if he didn't wear ear muffs then he would be temporarily deaf.

Tom was usually a very jovial man and very talkative.

Some time towards the beginning of this year (1966) Tom told me that Trading Standards had been to his house accusing him of being a trader. Tom said that he had managed to fob them off but they told him he could no longer advertise in the Amateur Photographer. Tom was very upset and depressed at that as this was his sole form of income. He told me his photograph business was down the tubes. However, he was going to fight the ban from Amateur Photographer.

I received less and less phone calls from Tom and when I did he was very subdued and depressed. I did not know of the rumours going around about him.

Towards the end of February 1996 Tom told me he was shooting more and more as this took his mind off his problems. The last time I spoke to Tom was Wednesday, 6th March, 1996. He hardly spoke. He told me he had lost his fight with Trading Standards and Amateur Photographer. The last thing Tom said to me was "I'm going back to my guns" and he then rung off.

I never spoke to Tom again although I was concerned with what he had said. I never met Tom in the flesh, it was purely a telephone friendship.

DAVID/

12.20

DAVID NOLAN (37), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: I am a Detective Sergeant with Central Scotland Police and I have 18 years' service.

And you are actually based in Falkirk? - That is correct, yes.

Now, you had a number of duties in connection with this Inquiry, but one of them was to be part of the team of officers investigating the firearms history, and indeed the licensing history of Thomas Hamilton? - That is correct, yes.

Now, we are going to hear evidence later in great detail about that. I want to ask you a few questions to try to set the initial scene in this. I think that you and your team investigated the history of the holding, purchase and sale of firearms by Hamilton? - That is correct, yes.

And also the holding and purchase of ammunition by Hamilton? - That is correct.

And to try to make the history clear, one of the things you did was draw up a number of charts? - That is correct.

I am simply going to ask you to look at a couple of these and talk us through each one. First of all, would you look at the chart which is C2/L1? Now, can you confirm first of all that this is a chart drawn up by your team relating to the purchase and holding and sale of firearms? - That is correct.

And could we have that then on the imager, because that is probably the best way for all of us to follow it? Now, can we see -- if we get the very top, please, as well -- it is necessary to go to the top of it. Do we see the years are set out from 1977 to 1996? - I will need to get the original document, the writing is so small.

Well, if you just hold on we will give you an extra copy. That might be the best way. Now, do we see that the years 1977 right up to 1996 are/

are set out across the top of the document? - That is correct.

And that down the left-hand side is the name of each of the weapons, that so far as you have been able to tell, Mr. Hamilton owned at some stage? - That is correct.

I think you have then blacked in for the period of his ownership of each weapon the squares across the page opposite the name of that weapon? - That is correct, yes.

And just to demonstrate how this simply illustrates the position, do these show that as far as you can tell the first known purchase of a weapon was of a Vostock .22 in 1977? - Yes, 20th February 1977.

By which time Mr. Hamilton had a firearm certificate? - Yes.

Is that a handgun or a rifle? - A handgun.

And we can see that about the end of 1977 he disposed of that weapon? - On the 17th March 1977 he disposed of it.

Sorry, the 17th March. And if you look again at the next three weapons, which are a Smith and Wesson, an Anschutz .22 rifle, a Browning .22 pistol, and a Smith and Wesson .357 -- I presume the two Smith and Wessons are revolvers? - Yes.

Sorry, that was four -- and then the fifth one is a Sako rifle. We can see the periods during which he had owned each of these? - Yes.

If we take the first three, the Smith and Wesson, the Anschutz and the Browning, they were all acquired in 1977 or 1978; is that right? - That is correct.

And were they all disposed of around the same time? - Disposed of in 1984.

And all roughly at the same time, or -- two of them at the same time? - Two of them at the same time, October 27th and one on the 3rd June.

And/

And the two that were disposed of on October 27th 1984 were a Smith and Wesson revolver and a Browning pistol? -

That is correct.

And indeed also in 1984 he appears to have disposed of a Sako rifle and another Browning pistol? - That is correct.

So overall throughout 1984 he had disposed of five weapons? - That is correct.

Now, if you go to the very end of the right-hand side of the chart, we can see the weapons he actually held, so far as your investigation can tell, as at the 13th March 1996? - That is correct.

And does the chart show that these were the four weapons that we have already heard about in evidence? - Yes.

Now, two of these he had held or owned for a considerable length of time? - That is right.

The Smith and Wesson .357 weapon had been owned since when? - The 4th December 1979.

That was -- sorry, can you give me that date again? - 4th December 1979 for the Smith and Wesson.

And he still had that one in 1996? - That is right.

Therefore this is a Browning which he had owned for a number of years as well? - Yes, from 7th November 1984.

And then we can see that he had, fairly shortly before March 1996, acquired the other two weapons? - That is correct.

When did he acquire the other Browning? - On the 11th September 1985.

And when did he acquire the other Smith and Wesson? - 23rd January 1996.

Now, do you know yourself which of the four/

four weapons was used to do all the shootings in the school? - I

know it was one of the Brownings.

Do you know which one it was? - I would need to refer to other charts.

We will check that in a second. Now, I think the chart beyond that demonstrates the ownership and sale of a number of other weapons during that period? - That is correct.

Thank you very much. Now, you can part with that chart for the moment and can I ask you now to look at the chart C3/L, and it extends over four pages. Now, is that a chart recording purchases of ammunition? - It is, yes.

Where did you get the information about the purchases of ammunition? - From the various firearms certificates.

So on Hamilton's certificate there would be a record of the purchase of ammunition? - That is correct.

Now, that has to be recorded only in certain circumstances; isn't that right? - I think it has to be recorded on purchases of ammunition.

Well, a commercial purchase has to be recorded; is that correct? - That is correct, yes.

What about the acquisition of ammunition at the Club for the purpose of shooting at the Club? - If he shoots it at the Club it does not need to go on the certificate.

It doesn't need to go on the certificate? - No.

What about the reconstitution of ammunition by a person who has the equipment at home, to use the discharged casing of other rounds and to insert the material, including the bullet, that makes up the round? Does he have to record that on the certificate? - I think so, from my knowledge, yes.

And/

And I take it then that the only records which were on Mr. Hamilton's certificate were those of commercial purchases? - That is correct, yes.

And that you have recorded here the whole sequence of purchases recorded on his certificates between 20th February 1977 and -- is it 23rd February? - 27th February.

27th February 1996? - Yes.

Now, is there a pattern or a particular feature that you do observe about the purchases - He was shooting quite a lot in 1977. It tapered off in 1978. There was a lot of activity in 1979; very little in 1980; only one in 1981; '82 it picked up; '83 there were three purchases; '84 there was quite a lot of activity. There were seven purchases in '85 -- sorry, there is a whole page in '85, so there was a lot of activity in '85 and '86. '87 there are five, and between '87 and 1995 there was no ammunition purchased at all.

The dates there may be of some significance. That is between the 22nd October 1987 and the 22nd September 1995? - That is correct.

There is no record of any commercial purchase of ammunition? - That is correct.

Then between the 22nd September 1995 and the 27th February 1996 what purchases were made, and can you give me these individually, please? - On the 22nd September 1995 he purchased 50 rounds of .357 ammunition. 29th September 1995, 300 rounds of 9 millimetre ammunition. 30th December 1995 700 rounds of 9 millimetre, and 25th January 1996, I think it is 450 rounds of .357. The 12th February it was 200 rounds of 9 millimetre. 16th February, 100 rounds of 9 millimetre, and 27th February 100 rounds of 9 millimetre.

Sorry is 16th February, the second-last one -- I appreciate it is not very clear -- but is that not 400? - I think you are right, yes, that is 400 -- it is a bad copy.

Now, that was 400 rounds of 9 millimetre; is that right? - That is correct.

Followed/

Followed by another 100 rounds of 9 millimetre on the 27th February? - That is correct.

Or it might be the 23rd, is it not? - It looks like 27th on this copy.

All right, the 27th. And the 2nd of February (sic) as well was also 9 millimetre; is that right? - That is correct.

So there is 700 rounds of 9 millimetre bought in February, and 1,000 rounds had been bought between September and December? - That is correct.

And in addition 500 rounds of .357 were bought between September and January? - That is right.

Now, could I ask you just to go back now to the other chart which you looked at showing the guns? Now, if I tell you that the gun that Hamilton shot himself with was the Smith and Wesson, 48K8754, can you confirm to me that that is the one he owned from 1979 right through until his death? - That is correct.

If I tell you that the Browning which was used for the shooting within the gymnasium and outside was 245PZ42837, can you confirm to me that that was the one which was purchased on the 11th September 1995, more or less immediately before he started purchasing ammunition again? - Yes.

No cross-examination.

GARY HYDE (27), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMY: I think you manage a shop in York called York Guns? - That is right.

And you are authorised firearms dealers with North Yorkshire Police? - That is correct.

I think around 9th September 1995 you got/

got a phone call from a man called Thomas Hamilton? - That is correct, yes, we did.

Was that the first time you had encountered him? - Well, to the best of my knowledge, yes.

What was the purpose of the phone call? - The gentlemen in question was inquiring about 9 millimetre pistols, and what we had in stock.

And did you have something in which he was interested? - Yes, we had.

What was it? - It was a 9 millimetre Browning high-powered competition model.

Was that something he had expressed an interest in, a particular type of Browning, or was he just asking generally? - He was asking generally. We do carry quite a good selection of pistols. It was something within his price range and something we -- not so much recommended -- but it was something within his price range.

12.40 p.m.

Did you pick that out as the first one you told him about or did you give him a selection and he picked it out? - It would be quite a while ago. I can't remember at the time. We would probably have gone for quite a few.

This is on the telephone? - That is correct.

As a result of his interest, what did you do? - We then decided to sell Mr. Hamilton the weapon. We reserved it for him and subsequently he sent down his Firearms Certificate and a cheque with a letter for the goods.

So he had to send you what documents? - He sent us his Firearms Certificate, his gun licence.

Is it the original or does he send you a copy? - The original only. We would never accept a copy.

How much did he pay for the gun? - I haven't got my original statement or invoice with me.

All right, if you look please at Production FAE83. Is that the invoice? - That is the original invoice torn out of our invoice book when we gave a statement to the police.

And does it record the number of the gun? - Yes, it does.

What is the number? - 245PZ42837.

If you could just put that on the imager briefly so that everyone can see. I don't think that document has been circulated.

So that is the invoice, is it? - That is a copy of the original invoice, yes.

Is that a page out of a book you were keeping? - It is a page out of our invoice book. There are one or two crossings-out.

What was the price? - £304.

How/

How was it paid? - It was paid by cheque.

Did you clear the cheque before you sent him the gun? - No, we never clear cheques on Firearms Certificates.

Was it okay? - The cheque was okay.

Did you hear any more about the gun? - Yes, we did. The gun was sent by Datapost and Mr. Hamilton phoned up and said he wasn't happy with the weapon in question and we then talked about it and he said that the weapon was not quite what he had in mind and it wasn't in the actual condition which was described on the phone. He then sent it back down to us and then I called him or he called myself, I can't remember with it being a while ago, and said the weapon wasn't in as clean a condition as he expected and I then asked him if he would like it if we tidied it up a little bit and put in a few extra bits and pieces and he said okay and we would reduce the price, give him a part refund and send the gun back to him.

How much was the refund? - It was about £50. Hence the crossings-out on the invoice. That is why it looks a little bit messy.

It will help us I think to understand how these things work better if you could tell us what record you then had to make of this transaction? - On the initial sale?

Yes? - Well, the Firearms Certificate is received usually by Recorded Delivery or Registered Post. We then completed the invoice and put the weapon out in our Firearms Register, completed the table on the reverse of the licence, checking he had authority to purchase the particular weapon in question and the gun is then sent by Datapost straight up to Scotland.

So his certificate will tell you whether he can purchase this weapon? - It will indeed, yes.

And you would record the purchase on the certificate?
- We would enter it on the back and I would sign it as I did so. It would be entered in/

in our register as a sale going out of the stock.

So does that mean that his certificate when you get it records somewhere on it the guns he actually possesses at that time? - The licence itself when it arrives tells me what he already has in his possession.

As well as what he is authorised to hold?

- That is correct, yes.

And as long as there is enough space left as it were between the two you can sell that gun? - As long as he has not already purchased a 9 mm we have authority to sell him the weapon.

He could of course have permission for more than one 9 mm? - He could possibly, yes.

And indeed in this case he did? - Not to my recollection. I can't remember.

It is unfair to ask you I think but you can take it from me that he did. Is that unusual? - Not particularly, no. Various different weapons for different types of shooting.

No cross-examination.

ROBERT LINDSAY SPEIRS, (39), Sworn,

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: Are you the manager of the sports department of Crockets the Ironmongers in Glasgow?
- Yes.

I think Crockets are also dealers in firearms? - Yes.

And authorised to be dealers by the police, is it? - Strathclyde Police, yes.

How long have you actually worked as the manager of the sports department? - Eight and a half years.

And throughout that period have you been responsible in the shop for the sale of firearms and ammunition? - Yes.

During/

During that period, has it been the practice of the shop to stock a selection of firearms? - Yes, sporting rifles and shotguns. We used to stock handguns up until six years ago and then we ceased trading in handguns.

Did you cease trading at all in them? - Just in handguns. We still do sporting rifles and shotguns.

If I want a particular handgun could you get it for me, albeit you didn't have it in stock? -We could certainly try and order it for you.

And do you do that or did you give that up too? - Very, very seldom do we sell any over the last six years.

Is there any particular reason why the business was developed that way? - We had found that a lot of companies down south were able to sell handguns a lot cheaper than what we could so we decided.....also the shop had a break-in and a number of handguns were stolen.

So it has not been a downturn in interest that has created the change in practice in your business? It has been a change in the commercial situation and the risk of having stock there at all? - Yes.

Now, were you familiar with a customer of yours called Thomas Hamilton? - Not really familiar.

Did you know who he was? - Well, by coming into the shop to buy ammunition, yes.

Is it right to say that the company you work for has actually done business with Mr. Hamilton since about 1979? - It was news to me. The police told me that we had sold him firearms but that was news to me because that was prior to myself starting with Crockets.

But you do now know the position is the company dealt with him back to 1979? - Yes.

And that was always on a proper basis with the Firearms Certificate recording the transaction and/

and your Register recording the transaction? - Yes.

Now, I wonder if you would look please at a Production which is FA69. What is that document? - It is a document from Central Scotland Police giving a warning that failure to renew timeously may result in possible prosecution. It is about renewing your Firearms or Shotgun Certificate.

And that is all it says, is it? It is obviously the wrong form then. Is that Production No. FA69? Can I see it for a moment please? I am sorry, but I don't have the Production to hand. What I intended to give you was a Firearms Certificate.

LORD CULLEN: Is it FA41 by any chance?

MR. BONOMOY: I am completely beaten at the moment, sir. I am sorry. If I see it I might be able to..... it is actually a later one I am looking for, sir, but I think I can make some progress without it at the moment.

EXAMINATION CONTINUED BY MR. BONOMOY: I was going to show you a certificate that you made certain entries in from September of 1995. Can you confirm to me that on the 29th of September, 1995 that you did sell Mr. Hamilton 300 rounds of 9 mm ammunition or can you not remember that? - I think I did, yes.

Sorry? - I believe so.

Do you remember Mr. Hamilton coming into the shop?
- Nothing out of the ordinary, no.

You don't remember him coming in and asking what 9 mm ammunition you stock? - I think actually he phoned first. I am sure he phoned and asked first what ammunition we stocked.

Do you remember him asking for a particular type of ammunition? - That was at a later date. I think that was this year he had asked if we could order him ammunition.

You don't remember him in September, 1995 asking about what is called Geco ammunition? - We carry/

carry that in stock, 9 mm Geco. We normally carry in stock 9 mm Geco and 9 mm Winchester.

You don't remember telling him in September that was the position? - I think I told him that over the phone.

Now, does the type of ammunition make any difference to the performance of the weapon? - No, we normally just keep what is called full metal jacket in stock because, according to all the written literature, it seems to cycle better.

Full metal jacket? - Yes.

But does the particular make, whether it is Winchester or Geco, does that make any difference? - It is two bullet weights.

The Geco is a 123 grain bullet and the Winchester is 115 so some pistols will shoot more accurately with a heavier bullet whereas some shoot more accurately with the lighter bullet.

BY LORD CULLEN: What do you mean by cycling? What is cycling? - You know the rounds are in the magazine and some guns, if they have been altered for competition use, the slide as it goes backwards and forwards picks up the rounds from the magazine and feeds it into the chamber and each time you pull the trigger the empty case gets drawn back and thrown out and it goes forward and picks up another round. Well, some guns need quite a bit of recoil. It is gases that cause the action to work forwards and backwards and if there is not enough gas produced then sometimes you will get a mis-feed or a malfunction.

Recoil is used to feed another round into the chamber, is that right? - Yes.

MR. BONOMOY: I think, sir, that it might be helpful if you were prepared to declare an early lunch.

LORD CULLEN: Yes, I think that would be helpful.

MR. BONOMOY: And the Productions can be sorted out and then the evidence will proceed more quickly in the afternoon.

LORD CULLEN: I think that is right. We will rise now and resume at 10 to 2.

After/

1.55 p.m.

After an adjournment for
lunch.

EXAMINATION CONTINUED BY MR. BONOMY: Mr. Speirs, I hope that we now have the right Production. It is D/H/E29.

MR. BONOMY: Sir, in the folder it should be D10IL.

EXAMINATION CONTINUED BY MR. BONOMY: Now, do you recognise that as the firearms certificate you were referring to? - Yes.

And it has on it a table which is Table 2 recording purchases of ammunition? - Yes.

And it records a purchase on the 29th September 1995 at your shop? - Yes.

Now, that was a purchase of 300 rounds of 9mm Geco? - Yes.

Can you tell from that entry the type of ammunition it was -- I know the make is Geco, but can you tell what the nature of the rounds were? - It is 123 grain.

Give us that slowly? - It is 123 grain full metal jacket, and Geco is the manufacturer.

And all these rounds would be the same? - Yes.

Now, that is a September transaction. You think that that was organised on the telephone? - I am pretty sure that he phoned up and asked what types of ammunition we had, you know, what types we stocked, and I told him that we kept Winchester and we kept Geco, and I think he said, you know, he had never tried the Geco before, so he may possibly come through and purchase some, to try them.

And did he come into the shop? - He came in, according to this, on the 29th of the ninth 1995.

Do you remember him coming in? - Not really/

really.

Now, the next transaction relates to your shop as well; is that correct? - Yes.

And what was that transaction for? - That was for 9mm.

Now, that is 9mm ammunition -- how many? - I think it is 700 rounds.

Do you remember that transaction? - I think that was the Winchester stuff, because he had said that the Geco, you know, wasn't functioning properly, or he didn't like it, it wasn't giving good groups.

That would be good results on a target, good groups? - Yes.

And he wanted to purchase a different type? - Yes, to try them.

Now, is that 30th December 1995? - Yes.

So 700 rounds of Winchester 9mm? - Yes.

Now, is that also full jacket? - That is full metal jacket, yes.

And can you tell me anything also about the make-up of that ammunition? - Well, Winchester Suffolk is a lighter bullet. It is 115 grains as opposed to the 123 for the Geco.

Apart from purchasing that ammunition, did Mr. Hamilton ask you to order other ammunition? - He asked about 357 ammunition, which we could get it in -- you know, would we get it in for him? And I told him at the time that, you know, we could make orders for customers, but with ammunition we would only get it in if we were getting an order up for the shop, otherwise he would need to pay the carriage costs.

And what was his reaction? - He said that would be fine, that he had spoken to our suppliers, Winchester UK, they had 300 rounds, I think/

think it was, of an ammunition that he was looking for.

Was it perhaps 450 that they had? - I thought it was 300, but it would be the 450 one.

Now, could these rounds be constituted differently so that they have a soft point? - The 357 for a Magnum?

Yes? - Those were soft point, yes. It was ones that we didn't stock. They were a lighter bullet. We stocked the 158 grain, you know, .357 Magnum loaded with a 158 grain bullet.

And is that also soft point? - Yes. He wanted the lighter weight, 125 grain.

And did you get them? - Well, we had an order coming up from Winchester, so I phoned them and asked them if they could put these in along with it.

And did you contact Winchester and get them up? - Yes.

And were they sold, according to this certificate, as well? - Yes.

And what does the certificate say about this? - 25th of the first 1996, Crocketts, Glasgow, 450 .357 Magnum, RFB 13, Strathclyde, signed by Jane McMahon.

And is she one of the staff? - Yes.

Now, do you remember Mr. Hamilton coming in with a catalogue of Federal ammunition? - Yes.

And what did he want to know on this occasion? - It was 9mm ammunition he was enquiring about that comes from Edgar Brothers. He said he had tried the Geco and he had tried the Winchester and he was looking to try something else, because he was looking for the best possible cartridge.

Now, did he place an order? - Yes. He asked us to order 100 rounds of the 9mm Federal.

And did you get them? - We got them up with/

with an order, yes.

And when did you supply them to Mr. Hamilton? -
The 27th of the second 1996.

I take it all of these transactions were paid for by Mr.
Hamilton? - Yes.

How did he pay? - On the two occasions that I served
him it was with credit card. The last two I don't know -- I think the last
one was cash.

Was Mr. Hamilton, as far as you were concerned,
simply an ordinary customer, or was there anything odd or peculiar
about this dealings with you? - I only really spoke to him a couple of
times on the phone, and then for the length of time it took to fill out his
certificate. I couldn't say -- there was nothing out of the ordinary.

No cross-examination.

GEORGE HARRY STADEN (49) ,Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMY: I am a Director of
London Armoury Ltd., from London.

And your company retails firearms and other sporting
accessories? - That is right.

And are registered firearms dealers? - Yes.

I think that you have checked back through your
records, as requested, to see what transactions there were with
Thomas Hamilton; is that right? - That is correct.

And can you confirm that on the 20th December 1995
Mr. Hamilton was in touch with your company? - That is right.

By telephone? - By telephone.

And what was his interest at that stage? - He
purchased a set of Packmire grips for a Browning pistol.

How/

How did he pay for them? - By credit card.

What did they cost? - £37.50 in total.

Now, on the 29th December, nine days later, did he contact you again? - He did.

What was he after this time? - Another set of Packmire grips and two Shocktech recoil baffles.

BY LORD CULLEN: What are they? - They help to reduce the recoil of a pistol.

Are they fitted to the gun? - They are an additional thing that is supposed to be better than the original that comes with the gun when it is new.

They replace something on the gun? -
Yes.

EXAMINATION CONTINUED BY MR. BONOMOY:
They are inserted somewhere into the gun, are they? - Underneath the barrel.

And they reduce the amount of recoil? - They are reputed to.

That is what they are supposed to do? - Yes.

Do they? - Probably not -- and Mr. Hamilton didn't think so, because he returned them.

First of all, going back to the first item, the grips, were they for a Browning pistol? - They were.

And were they the exact same grips as the last time?
- They were.

The same price? - Yes.

The Shocktech baffle -- was that for a Browning? -
Yes.

Both of them? - Both of them.

I/

I take it you can't put two on one gun? - No.

How did he pay this time? - Credit card.

Total price on this transaction? - I haven't the total. It is £31 for the Packmires, £26.75 each the Shocktechs, £6.50 postage.

I think on the 16th January 1996 Mr. Hamilton phoned you again, is that right? - Not according to my records, no.

You didn't get a call asking about the cost of postage for a Smith and Wesson revolver? - Well, I did, but I don't have the date of that.

Was it some time in January? - Yes, probably.

And was he looking for a price for the weapon as well as the postage? - Yes.

Did you give him a price? - I did.

What was the price? - I believe it was £396 plus £10 postage.

Later in January was he in touch with you again? - Well, we received a letter from Mr. Hamilton enclosed with the two Shocktechs which he returned and requested a refund of £53.50.

And I think you gave him a refund; is that right? - That is right.

I am moving past that now, to I think an interest that was expressed in holsters? - That is right, on the 24th January he wanted two holsters, which I believe were for Smith and Wesson revolvers, but I can't confirm that.

Did you supply holsters? - I did.

Two of them? - Two of them at £27.95 each, plus £6 postage.

Again, paid how? - By credit card.

Now/

Now, do you advertise that you can supply through the post, in certain magazines? - I do.

Which magazines do you advertise in? - Target Gun and Hand Gun Review.

Why do you select these two magazines? - Because they give me the best return.

And are they the ones that are most widely read in the community of people who use guns for sport? - I believe so, yes.

And can I take it that you have not sold any ammunition to Hamilton? - No, sir.

And that while he enquired about a Smith and Wesson revolver, you didn't actually supply one to him? - That is correct.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MISS DUNLOP: If I could just ask you one or two questions about the periodicals to which you have referred, the Gun Review and Target Gun -- do these come out weekly or monthly? - Monthly.

And are they available in an ordinary newsagent's? - Yes, W.H. Smith carry them.

They carry advertisements by dealers in firearms? - That is correct.

And do they also carry advertisements by individuals wishing to dispose of firearms? - A few.

So it would be possible to locate new weapons or second-hand weapons from these? - That is right.

The other question I wanted to ask you was the periodical entitled "Target Gun" -- is that more specifically directed towards handgun users? - Yes.

So that is dealing with people who have handguns for target shooting competitions and that sort of thing? - It is a little more specialised than the Gun Review, in handguns.

"Gun/

2.10 p.m.

"Gun Review" then covers the whole spectrum of shooting as a sport, does it? - More than "Target Gun" does, yes.

No re-examination.

JANET NEIL (60), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: I think you are the Manageress of D. Crockart & Sons in King Street, Stirling? - Yes.

How long have you been employed by that company?
- 42 years.

I take it you started more or less just after leaving school? - When I was 17.

What is the general nature of the business? - Clothing, fishing and shooting. It is a country sports shop. Retail.

I think the shop is registered to sell firearms and ammunition by Central Scotland Police? - Yes.

Did you have a previous family connection with the business? - Yes, my father was the manager for 50 years.

I think since 1984 the shop or business has been owned by Mr. Bell? - Yes.

But you are the person who had and has principal direct dealings with firearms transactions? - Yes.

Does the shop stock handguns? - No.

Has it ever stocked handguns? - No.

Does the shop sell handguns by request?
- By request, yes.

And/

And do you get many orders for handguns? - No.

Over the years have you had many and it has dropped off or has it been a steady flow? - No, approximately six in 42 years.

What about handgun ammunition? Do you stock that? - Very, very little. Maybe one box of just two sizes.

Prior to March 1996 did you have many customers for handgun ammunition? - Very few.

How many in fact? - I don't know. Maybe two or three. Not much more.

And one of these was Thomas Hamilton? - Yes.

How long had you known Thomas Hamilton? - From a very early age. I would think maybe 16 or 17, maybe a wee bit younger.

How did you first come to come across him? - I think he bought an airgun. His parents bought an airgun when he was very young. Well, not very young. A teenager.

We have heard a statement from his grandfather who really was known as his father that he had never bought him any form of weapon. How clear is your recollection of that? - I really can't remember. It is a long time ago.

I appreciate that. That is why I ask. Are you able to say that he actually had a gun bought at that time? - I am quite sure he an airgun. Quite sure.

And that it came from your shop? - Yes.

Have you any idea when he first bought handgun ammunition from you? - No. Not without looking at the records.

Well, I wonder if you could now look please at Production FA3 which in the volumes should be D24 L. Now, is that a firearms certificate in the/

the name of Thomas Hamilton issued in February 1977? - Yes.

And on that are there recorded transactions in ammunition? - .22 only. Target pistol ammunition. It just says 1,000 .22.

Well, let's take this in stages. Do you have Table 2, ammunition? - Yes.

And is that table complete in fact? Is it filled up by ammunition transactions? - Yes.

And in there does your company's name appear a number of times? - Yes.

And are all the transactions relating to .22 ammunition? - Yes.

Now, does that help us to determine when Mr. Hamilton first dealt with you in the purchase of ammunition? - Yes.

When was that? - The 14th March 1977.

Can you tell that by the signature on the right-hand side? - Yes.

Because the company name is not there but is Currie the name of one of the staff? - It is one of the assistants, yes.

So from the 24th (sic) of March 1977 you had dealings in the purchase of ammunition? - Yes.

Did you ever sell firearms to Mr. Hamilton? - Yes.

When was that? - Do you mean a rifle or a handgun?

A gun or a rifle? - I have sold him a rifle and two handguns.

Do you remember what the handguns were? - One was a 9 millimetre Beretta and the rifle was a .223... I don't know the make. Sako I think it was.

Have you also bought firearms from Mr. Hamilton?/

Hamilton? - Yes, we bought a .223. The three items he did buy from us were special order for him.

Yes, but did he ever sell any to you? - Yes.

Do you remember what he sold to you? - I think it is in my notes if I can read it.

Well, it might help if I give you another Production. Can you look at FA18 which is D35 L. Now, that is another firearms certificate? - Yes.

And do you have there a record of any transactions with a gun? - Yes, I bought from him a .27 Sako bolt action rifle and a .22 Browning rifle.

When did you purchase these from him? - 26/10/84.

Both of them on the same date? - Yes.

And does that certificate also show that you sold him a .223 Browning rifle? - Yes.

When was that? - 7/12/84.

Now, I think thereafter you regularly sold ammunition to him, is that right? - Yes, for about another year or two years.

And if you look please at what I think is DHE29. This is another continuation of the firearms certificate, is that right? - Yes.

And there are three sales of ammunition on it in respect of your company? - Yes.

When was the last one? - 16/2/96.

Sorry, I will rephrase that question. When was the last one in 1987? Is it not on that form? - No.

Can you help me with the front of that again please? Can you help me with the front of that again please? Can you give me the date on the front of the certificate? - 14/2/95.

Well, /

Well, just keep that one with you just now please and can you have in front of you FA27 which is D50 L. Does that record ammunition transactions up to 1987? - 1986.

What is the last one in 1986? - 2/10/86.

Do you remember that there were transactions in 1987 terminating on the 22nd October 1987 and that there was then a gap until 1995? - Yes, we never seen him for all that time. He was never in the shop.

So from the 22nd October 1987 until 1995 you didn't see him? - No.

Now, if you go back to the one that you had a moment ago which was DHE29. Are there three ammunition transactions on that form? - Yes.

What is the date of these? - 22/9/95, 12/2/96 and 16/2/96.

Are these three occasions on which you sold ammunition to Mr. Hamilton? - Yes.

What did you sell on each of these occasions? - In September I sold him .357 Norma.

How many? - 50. On the 12th February I sold him 200 9 millimetre Luger and on the 16th February we sold him 400 9 millimetre Luger.

Now, you must have a fair experience of dealing with customers like Mr. Hamilton who want to buy ammunition on a regular basis, do you? - Yes.

When you see their certificates, these people who do target shooting, when you see their certificates do they have a maximum amount of ammunition they can purchase and a maximum amount that they can hold? - Yes.

Is there a sort of standard quantity or do you get a feel for what might be a standard amount that is permitted to be held and purchased? - Well, I mainly deal with rifle ammunition, mostly sporting, and very few handguns so I don't really deal a lot with the amounts that they could have with/

with handguns.

Do they get a lot more for handguns than for rifles? - I deal with so few.

Well, you can see what is on that one? - Yes, I know.

I mean, what are the limits for Mr. Hamilton? - Mr. Hamilton was allowed to hold 1,500 in his possession and he was allowed to buy 1,000 rounds.

That is of what? - That is all the different.....each one that he held, each rifle.

How many types of ammunition? - Five.

So he could hold five times 1500 rounds? - Yes.

Now, do people with rifles get that sort of permission?
- No.

What sort of average do they have? - Normally maybe 500 to possess and 200 or 300 or buy.

In the case of rifles, do they have different types of ammunition and can hold 500 of each type? - No.

Just usually one type? - No, they can buy different types as long as it is the same calibre. They can buy high velocity or hollow point or solid but only one amount of 500.

And would they have 500 for each of these or would the total have to be 500? - The total would be 500.

That is the sort of normal certificate for a rifle shooter?
- Yes.

The 1,000 means, this is in Mr. Hamilton's case, that that is what he could buy on any one day? - On any one day.

So I suppose he could come back on the following day and buy another 1,000? - Yes.

And/

And over the two days he would have bought 2,000? -
Yes.

Is there any way you would know whether he had got
rid of the other 1,000 or at least 500 of them so that he fits within the
limit? - No.

Is there any system for checking? - No.

Now, I wonder if you would look please at DCFA85
which is also in volume D99 L? - Yes.

2.28 p.m.

Do you recognise that document, Mrs. Neil? - Yes.

What is it? - It is a note from Tom Hamilton asking us to try and get him this ammunition.

What is it? - 1,000 rounds of 9mm Luger full jacket round nose.

9mm Luger full jacket round nose? - Yes.

And 7.5 G -- what does that mean? - It must be a reference.

And 116 GR. -- does that mean anything? - That is the grain of the bullet.

Is that a light or heavy bullet? - In handguns, I really don't know much about ammunition for handguns.

Now, did you get the thousand rounds for him? - No, it was discontinued -- we phoned up about it and it was discontinued.

Now, did Mr. Hamilton speak to you about his attempts to check whether that ammunition was available? - Yes.

What did he say to you? - He seemed to think that the company had the ammunition in stock, and when we telephoned for it they said it was discontinued.

Now, would you look please at DC/FA86, which is DI00L? Is that another note from Mr. Hamilton? - Yes.

Addressed to you? - Yes.

What does it say? - "Mrs. Neil, please supply 200 rounds of Winchester X3574P .357 Magnum JHP, 10.3 gram".

Did you actually get that note? - He brought that note in to me.

And/

And what did you do about that? - Well, we phoned up a company to see if they had it and they didn't have it, they would have to order it.

And did you get it for him? - Yes. It is still in the shop.

And when you indicated you didn't have it readily available, what did he say to you? - Just to order it for him.

Did he at any stage say he had got some elsewhere?
- Yes.

What did he say about that? - He just said he would buy elsewhere just in case there was any delay in us getting it.

And was that all in January? - That was all in early February.

Did you learn in January or February that he was buying a gun? - Yes.

What did he tell you about that? - I wasn't there the day he ordered it. He just came in and asked to get a price for a handgun.

And did you get it? - We got him a price.

Did you get the gun? - We got the handgun, yes.

And did you sell it to him? - Yes.

What was it? - A .357 Magnum.

That is a Smith and Wesson revolver? - Revolver, yes.

And how much was it? - We charged him £410.

How did he pay for that? - He paid by cheque. He paid for it before we got it.

Now, would you look please at DC/FA/91, which sorry, is D102L? Is this another note from Mr./

Mr. Hamilton to you? - Yes.

And what did he request this time? - He asked for us to buy the 750 rounds of Norma ammunition for a 9mm, 125 grain.

Well, does that refer to 750 rounds? - Yes. He had telephoned a company and they said they had 900 rounds left, and we were to get him 200 rounds on, for him to try it, to get their grouping. And when he got them, he said he would let me know the next day if he wanted the remainder of what the company had in stock.

It was 950, so that is the other 750? - Yes.

And did he order the other 750? - Yes.

And did you get them for him? - Yes.

And did he get them? - He got 400 of them.

How did you find Mr. Hamilton in his dealings with you? - Very quiet, polite. He always knew what he wanted. He always came in with his notes, exactly what I had to order.

Anything about him that ever gave you cause for concern? - Not really, no.

Did you ever find out why there was this gap between 1987 and 1995? - No. I never asked him. He never really spoke about his life in any way. We just took it he was buying elsewhere. We are a bit more expensive than some other places. We don't do mail order, and I took it that was the reason.

In recent years has mail order been a growing way for people to acquire guns and ammunition? - Yes.

Has that affected your business at all? - Yes, it did, yes.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MISS DUNLOP: I wonder if I could just ask you about periodicals. Do you stock gun magazines? - Years and years ago. We/

We only kept one.

Which one was it? - The Gun Review.

And do you know if Mr. Hamilton read that magazine?

- Yes, he ordered it.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. JONES: Mrs. Neil, you have said that you took it that between 1987 and 1995 Mr. Hamilton was buying elsewhere. Could you look again at the certificate that you had and just tell us whether there is any record on the firearms certificates of any purchases from anybody other than you between 1987 and 1995? - That is up to 1984 on that one -- do these certificates all follow each other?

MR. BONOMOY: Sir, it may be that the question caused some confusion. I wasn't meaning to suggest for a minute that Mr. Hamilton was purchasing ammunition commercially by mail order. I think Mrs. Neil's assumption was that he was buying elsewhere. But there is, I can assure Mr. Jones, no evidence in any of the documents to suggest Mr. Hamilton bought ammunition commercially between October 1987 and September 1995.

LORD CULLEN: Does that clear the point?

MR. JONES: It does, sir. I just wanted to get it into the record that according to the Firearms Certificate there is no record of commercial purchases between these two dates.

LORD CULLEN: Yes. I think that was my impression -- so I don't think we need to trouble the witness with the question any more.

No re-examination.

JAMES O'HANLON GILLESPIE (38), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: I stay in Stirling.

Do you have a business? - Yes.

What/

What is that? - A landscaping business.

Do you have a van connected with that? - Yes.

With your name on it? - Not any longer.

Did it used to have your name on it? - Yes.

And would it from time to time be parked outside Thomas Hamilton's house in Kent Road, Stirling? - Yes.

When did you first get to know Mr. Hamilton? - It started back when I was 16, serving my apprenticeship. My brother-in-law had a carpet shop next door to him. So when would that be, roughly? - I was 16 at the time. I am 38 now.....

Could you just speak a bit closer to that microphone so that we can hear you? - I was 16 at the time.

Now, his shop was actually known as Woodcraft, was it? - Yes.

And how long did it operate for? - I am not sure. I have only known him since then.

And how long did you work as the apprentice in the carpet-fitting business? - For one year.

And thereafter did you have no contact for a time with Mr. Hamilton? - Yes. My brother-in-law opened up a carpet shop in Barnton Street, and I was driving off and on for him, and Mr. Hamilton asked me to drive for him, like to go through to Glasgow to uplift kitchens.

And what age were you then? - About 20.

I think you applied for and got a firearms certificate? - That is right.

When was that? - I applied when I was 21/

21.

So what year is that -- 17 years ago -- so 1979? - Yes.

At that time were you aware of Mr. Hamilton's interest in shooting? - Yes.

Was it that that encouraged you to take up the sport? - No. I went once or twice with him to Callander.

Was he a member at Callander, then? - Yes.

Did you join Callander club? - Yes.

How long were you a member for? - About two years.

Now, what is the name of the club? - I can't remember the name of the club.

During the two years that you were a member did you shoot much? - I went once or twice with him, and somebody else from Doune, and I went once or twice on my own, and that was about it, I think -- I lost interest in the shooting.

How many times over the two years do you reckon you went there shooting? - Probably about seven times.

What weapons were you using? - I was using a Smith and Wesson revolver, .22, and I also had I think it was an Anschutz rifle.

Now, when you gave up the shooting did you lose contact with Hamilton? - Yes, I lost contact with him for -- not straight after that, just maybe over a year or so after.

And when did you end up in touch with him again? - I met him one day in Port Street, about six years ago.

Now, was there anything in particular that gave rise to continuing contact with him after that? - I told him I had started up in business and he told me with him being in business himself he could/

could sort of point me in the right direction and give me some pointers.

So did you meet him from time to time? - Yes.

Where? - At the house -- his house.

And how was he occupying himself, largely, at that stage? - What do you mean, sorry?

What was he doing? - At that stage?

Yes, what was he doing at that stage for a living, or what was his general activity? - He had an interest in cameras, and Boys' Clubs, of course.

And how major was his interest in Boys' Clubs? - Just running Boys' Clubs in Dunblane and various other places.

How much of his time did that take up? - Most days of the week I think.

I take it in the evening, rather than during the day? - Yes.

Were you involved at all in his Boys' Club activity? - Not at all, no.

What about giving him lifts and so on? - I gave him lifts once or twice to his clubs, and I also gave him lifts from Bridge of Allan to Menstrie to uplift the mini-bus.

Did Mr. Hamilton at any stage throughout the period you have known him ask you to become involved in the Boys' Clubs? - Yes he did.

When was that? - Well, he asked me first of all away back when I was 16, and also when I was about 20, when I was driving for him, and I said "I have no interest in Boys' Clubs whatsoever".

Into 1994/1995 did you fairly regularly run him to and from the Boys' Clubs? - Sorry, what dates?

During 1994 and 1995? - Yes.

And/

And is that in the van that you have? - Yes.

Now, was there anything particular that sort of kept your friendship with him going? - Not really. That was the only -- I would take him from clubs, to clubs -- he would give me advice on my business, and sort of book-wise.

What did he do with you book-wise? - He just advised me how to keep my books initially.

Did you have any other common interests? - No, none whatsoever.

Did you know where Mr. Hamilton got his letters typed? - Yes. He told me at the University.

Did you ever take him there? - I did.

And was that on one occasion or more than one? - About two or three occasions.

And on these occasions did he wait till the letters were ready or did he go back for them? - Sometimes he waited, but most of the time I dropped him off there and he made his own way back.

And did you know what all his correspondence was largely about? - Well, he showed me one or two letters just complaining to the Council and that sort of thing.

Did he complain a lot to you? - He just read the sort of things he wrote, and quite frankly I didn't listen to what he was saying because I wasn't interested.

But did he moan about things generally? - Yes, he was being classed as a pervert and that sort of thing, you know.

Well, did you hear talk of him being a pervert from anywhere but him? - No.

So what sort of things did he say in that connection? - Just he was being sort of singled out, sort of thing.

Sorry/

Sorry? - He was being singled out.

By whom? - By various people. He never named anybody.

Did he name any organisation? - No, I don't think he did, actually.

Was/

2.50 p.m.

Was there a stage at which you actually stopped giving him lifts to and from his Clubs? - Well, before this happened at Dunblane, the last time I spoke to him in the house was about four or five weeks before that.

And up until that time were you still helping out running him back and forward? - No, because I was getting into a busy time.

So when did you actually stop running him back and forwards? - Probably about February time.

And latterly were you only running him.....sorry, January time.

And just before that were you only running him to and from two places? - Yes.

Where were they? - Menstrie and Bridge of Allan.

Is that Menstrie Centre and Bridge of Allan Sports Hall? - That's right.

At that time, that is January of this year, was he running Clubs elsewhere? - I'm not sure whether he was running them but he was uplifting boys and taking them to like football throughout the region.

Now, about seven weeks or so before the 13th March did something happen in Mr. Hamilton's house with a firearm that you ought to tell us about? - Yes.

What was it that happened? - He was cleaning his revolvers at the time and he had one revolver in his hand and he asked me if I had any kids would I allow them to attend the Club and I said, no, I wouldn't. Then he pointed the revolver at me and fired it with a blank chamber so I got so much of a fright, I was holding a cup of coffee at the time and I called him a stupid bastard and threw the coffee at him and walked out smartly and that is the last I saw him.

How/

How long exactly was that before the 13th March? - I think it was about four or five weeks.

Now, before that happened how many guns did he actually have out? - Two. And was he cleaning them? - Yes.

Do you know what both guns were? - I think one was a 9 millimetre.

Was was the other one? - I think it was.....I'm not sure. A 357 or a 44 Magnum. I'm not sure.

Can I be clear whether these were pistols or revolvers? - Well, the 9 millimetre was a pistol and the other was a revolver.

And which one is it you say was aimed at you? - The 9 millimetre.

You have just said it was the revolver. Can we be clear about this? - It was the 9 millimetres.

And that is not a revolver? - No.

You do agree with me that a moment ago you said it was a revolver? - Well, I meant to say the 9 millimetre.

Did you report that to the police? - No.

Why would you not have let any child of yours go to one of his Clubs? - I thought he was too military.

Was that the only reason? - Yes.

The incident itself that you have just described, what did you make of it at the time? - The reason I never reported it was because he would just have denied it.

I understand that but what did you make of the incident? - I didn't make much of it at the time, just the fact that I had got a fright.

But you made no further contact with him? - No.

Did/

Did he try to contact you? - No.

Did you think that he was dangerous? - Yes, I think so. Well, obviously then he gave me the idea that he was dangerous.

Did anything else happen that gave you the impression he might be dangerous? - Just the idea of having guns in the house in the first place, two many for anybody to have in the house at the one time.

Do you know how many he had? - I knew he had the revolver and the 9 millimetre. I think at one stage he had a machine gun at one point.

But did you know in February or whenever this was that he had four handguns? - No, I just knew he had the two.

And had you on any other occasion in the last 18 months or so seen any of his guns? - Just the two that I have described.

How often have you seen them? - Probably once or twice before that.

What was he doing on these other occasions? - Just cleaning them and he asked me too if I wanted to hold them and I said no thanks.

So nothing inappropriate was done on these other occasions? - No.

Where did he normally keep them in the house? - I think it was a cupboard in the hallway.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MISS DUNLOP: You didn't see Mr. Hamilton at any of his Boys Clubs or camps, is that right? - No.

You didn't. Yet you said you would not have allowed a child of yours to go and you explained that by saying he was too military? - Yes.

Can you explain a little more what you mean when you said that? - Once or twice when we were in the house he showed me some videos, gymnastics, he had been coaching the boys and also I had/

had been taking him up to the Clubs and I have also heard him shouting.

What did you see on the videos? - Just gymnastics

and playing football. Mostly playing football.

What about the videos made you think he was too military? - He shouted at them too much. Too rough with the kids. Shouting.

Did you notice anything about what the boys were wearing? - Well, at the time of football it was shorts. That is the only one that I have seen.

What about gymnastics? - Not very much gymnastics. Mostly football.

No re-examination.

JOHN ALEXANDER CAMERON MOFFAT (42), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: Do you stay in Stirling? - Yes.

Are you a digger driver? - Yes, that is correct.

Now, are you a member of Callander Rifle & Pistol Club? - Yes, I am.

Do you have a position in the Club? - Yes, I do. Currently I am the honorary membership secretary.

How long have you held that position? - This is my second year.

And how long have you been a member of the Club? - I can't be absolutely certain but I believe I went there to begin with round about 1979.

Was the Club in 1979 known as the Callander Rifle & Pistol Club? - Yes, I believe it was./

Does it have its own premises? - Yes, it does.

What is the nature of these? - The Club has a 25 metres indoor range and it has a Clubhouse.

How many positions in the range are there? - As far as the small bore rifle is concerned, there are eight firing points. For small bore and full bore pistol there are four firing points.

Are firearms kept on the premises? - Yes, they are. The Club owns its own firearms and they are stored there.

Are these firearms in large or small quantity? - I don't really know how to answer that question except to say that currently the Club has between eight and 10 small bore rifles and perhaps half a dozen or so small bore pistols and three full bore pistols.

Are these for the use of Club members? - Yes.

Are there other people that Club members can bring to the Club who can use these? - If a Club member comes along with a friend, perhaps to show off his sport, then we do allow people to use the small bore pistols but it is understood that the member is responsible for the friend's behaviour.

Does the Club require a particular form of permission to be able to allow this to happen? - The Club does not actually make any demands on anybody. If they come along, as I say, with a friend on one evening we simply take the view that this is somebody who has come along, wants to see what's happening to experience the atmosphere. We don't make any demands. We don't ask them to sign anything. We don't even ask them to pay any money. But if they come along the following week then they are asked if they would like to become a member and if they say yes, they would actually, I give them a little form and ask them to fill it in and I also ask them for some form of character reference.

How long would they need to wait or come along/

along and shoot for before they could become a member? - Well, we take the view that there is a minimum requirement of six months. That means attending regularly for six months before we would even consider putting them before the Central Committee to grant them full membership.

Is this your own Club's decision about the period? - Well, we decided, we took it on our own selves to put on a six months probation period of anybody who was coming along, although the governing bodies for the sport reckon that if a person is already a firearms certificate holder, has been a member in good standing of another Club, that there really is no need since that person will be assumed to have been vetted by the police, there is no need for him to be a probationary member.

What is the position then if one of your members brings along a friend who does not hold a firearms certificate? Can that person shoot as long as your member is responsible for him? - That person would be allowed to shoot on the first night, given that the member said that he was going to be responsible. The guy would get to shoot on that night. They would be allowed to shoot but if it looked as if they were going to come along regularly then I would have to ask them to, as I say, fill in the little form and bring me a character reference.

And at that point would he be allowed to continue shooting before the character reference came along? - Not if that person was a complete beginner, no.

When he has given you the character reference and completed this probationary form, can he come along without the member and just shoot on his own? - Yes, he can, given that he has expressed a desire to become a member. He can come along on his own and he would be allowed to shoot.

Now, to enable that to happen whereby a person who is not a full member of a Club can shoot on the premises, do you have to be recognised by either the home office or the Secretary of State to be able to do that? - Can you say that again please?

Does your Club have to be recognised by the/

the Home Office or the Secretary of State before it can permit a non-firearms certificate holder to shoot? - I am not exactly certain of how the law works on this but I do know that our Club needs to have Home Office approval before we can be a Club.

So yours is a Home Office approved Club? - Oh, yes.

That's fine. Apart from the firearms owned by the Club for the use of members, do any of your members keep their firearms on the Club premises? - Yes, I do believe that a couple of the guys prefer to store their firearms on the Clubs premises.

Would there be room for the Club to provide facilities for everybody to do that? - Oh, gosh. I honestly don't know. At the moment the strongroom is not terribly big but I dare say that with a certain amount of judicious moving about it would be possible to put in sufficient strong boxes or strong safes to allow members to keep their firearms there, yes.

So far as the Clubhouse is concerned, is that a social club? - Shooting is a very social sport but it is not exactly a social club. You must remember that the place started out as a hut and it was bricked up on the outside and a new room was put on. It has the basic facilities. It has lighting and heating and toilets and running water but that is about it.

Does it have a liquor licence for example? - Oh, no.

Do shooting clubs that are of a bigger size have liquor licences? - I don't think so. The only place I can think of in Scotland was the shooting centre and they had a liquor licence but that is about the only place I know of.

Where was that? - That was in Bonnyrigg in Edinburgh.

Had that now closed down? - That is correct.

Do you know over what period that place operated?/

operated? - No, I really couldn't say. It was the early 1980's anyway.

Was that a commercial operation rather than a members Club? - Yes, it was run as a commercial operation.

Now, on the 24th February of this year did you get a call at home from Thomas Hamilton? - What day was the 24th? Was that a Monday?

Well was it around the latter part of February? - Yes, that is correct.

And why was he phoning you? - Tom Hamilton phoned me because he said he was looking for somewhere to shoot regularly.

Now, what were you able to tell him? - Well, I had to tell him what I would tell practically everybody. I asked him who he was and I asked him how he knew to phone me and then I tell him the shooting disciplines that are currently shot at Callander. I just basically tell him about the Club and the kind of shooting that we do, ask him what kind of shooting he has done or what kind of shooting interests him and then I invite him along to see the place and get to meet the members.

So he was able to come along on that sort of basis if he wanted? - Yes, that is right.

Now, did he come? - Well, Tom Hamilton told me that Mondays night weren't good nights for him. Wednesday night was his preferred night for shooting so the conversation was more or less a case of "Okay, Tom, I'll see you when I see you, probably some Wednesday night. Goodbye" and the next thing I know is that I turned up on the Monday night following that and Tom Hamilton was there and I was a little bit surprised about that, given he said that Monday nights were no good for him.

So it was a Monday he phoned you and the following Monday he turned up? - Something like that, yes.

In the original conversation you had with him did he tell you anything about past membership of the Club? - Yes, he did. Tom Hamilton/

Hamilton told me that he had been a member of Callander years ago and I have been going there since 1979 and I didn't remember him and I said that to him. I said "It must have been before my time then, Tom, because I don't remember you" and he said "Oh, I used to come with Clive Woods". Now, I don't remember Tom Hamilton but I do remember Clive Woods. I remember shooting pistol with Clive Woods so when he said the name Clive Woods I knew he must have been coming down round about 1981, 1982 or 1983. Something like that.

Has Woods not shot with you since about that time? -

No.

We have just had evidence from a man called Gillespie -- James O'Hanlon Gillespie -- who suggested he was also a member of Callander. Does that mean anything to you? - The name doesn't ring any bells.

Did Mr. Hamilton say anything about giving up or interrupting his shooting activity? - He said to me on the phone that he had been away from shooting for quite a while, and he said to me that he wanted to get back into it, now that he had more time on his hands. I asked him what he did for a living and he said he was a gym teacher. I am old enough to remember the time when being a teacher meant something, so I said "That's good". So with that in mind the conversation progressed a little bit further, but he did say going through to Callander shooting didn't take his fancy any more, he had progressed beyond that, he sort of found it sissy - not difficult enough.

Did he say whether he was a member of any other club? - He said he was a member of Stirling Rifle and Pistol Club, and that he had been a member I think it was of Dunblane, he said.

Would you be able to do full bore pistol shooting in Stirling? - I believe the Stirling boys used to hire Whitestone Range, and I think they had an arrangement with the Territorial Army whereby they were allowed into the Riverside Range to do pistol shooting, I think.

And these would be places you could do full bore pistol shooting? - Yes.

Can I go back to an earlier question. Did he say anything about having to give up shooting for a while? - No, he didn't say he had given it up -- I don't think he used the words "give up". I think he just gave the impression life had presented other things for him to do and he had to push shooting on to the back burner.

On the Monday when he did attend, the first Monday, was that still in February? - Yes, I think it was. I think it was the last Monday in February.

Well, /

Well, I think that was 26th February? - Well, that is when it would be, then.

And did you go that night? - Yes, I did.

And was he there when you got there? - He was there. I turned up late expecting to find everybody hanging about in the cold, but one of the other members had arrived early and he had opened up and let the guys in.

And how did you learn that Hamilton was there? - I was coming from the car and the assistant secretary, Raymond, passed me and he said "There's a new guy in there asking for you", and that is when I knew there was someone there.

And did you go and speak to him? - I did, yes.

Had he already been in shooting? - No, he hadn't. I said "Hello there, how are you getting on", and all that jazz, looked around to see who was in the clubroom, and I sort of said "Have you been on the range and seen where we shoot?". And he said "Yes I have, thank you very much". And then he followed me into the range. The guys were round the bottom of the range and they were hanging up targets and patching up bullet holes and saying "How are you getting on", and all that jazz. And I noticed that Tom Hamilton had taken his guns out his bag and he had put them on the upper shooting plinth, or -- I don't know what you call it -- the upper shooting bench. And I was kind of irritated by that, because it is not the way we do things in Callander -- but he hadn't been shooting.

Now, what were the guns? - They were two Browning 9 mm self-loading pistols which the Browning people call "high powers".

Were they both high powers? - Yes, they were both high powers.

MR. BONOMOY: Would you just give me a moment.

THE WITNESS: Certainly.

EXAMINATION CONTINUED BY MR. BONOMOY: The two/

two guns that you saw I take it were both Browning guns? - Yes, that is right.

Were there differences that you could detect between them? - Yes. One of the Brownings was just a completely plain, ordinary, bog standard Browning high power. The other one was the variant -- I am not sure of the correct name that Browning have given it, but they call it something like "The Target" or "The Competition". It is a variant. The barrel is about an inch and a half longer. It has a cosmetic muzzle weight at the front. Apparently they were supposed to do some work on the guts of the thing to make it more accurate and easier to shoot, but that is about it.

Now, were you at all surprised to see him with two weapons like that? - I was surprised, because there isn't a police force in the U.K. that give out -- well, put it this way, they don't like to give firearms of the same calibre. They take the view that if you have one gun of that calibre you don't need another. So to see two Browning 9 mm there, I was surprised by that. Having said that, if you can demonstrate good reason for needing two firearms of the same calibre, then they take the view that if you have a reason for it then, you know, they will give you it.

I take it that one reason could be that you were shooting in different types of competition, albeit with the same calibre of weapon? - Yes, that is true up to a point, but I don't know if it applied in Tom Hamilton's case, because Tom Hamilton told me he shot close pistol. Well, if he shot close pistol and shot 9 mm Browning, why did he need two pistols to shoot one discipline -- that particular discipline? I could understand if he needed two pistols for two completely different disciplines. I have pistols -- right, I use a .22 pistol for one discipline, and I use a .38 calibre pistol for another; but why have two guns of the same calibre for the same discipline? It doesn't make sense.

Now, that night was he allowed to shoot his own guns in the range? - Yes he was. I told him on the phone that we had had experiences of people coming in and bringing along firearms and shooting holes in our target range. So I told him "If/

"If you want to shoot your own guns you will have to do a little marksmanship test for us". And he said "Yes, okay, thank you very much". And I gave him a gun -- I even gave him the ammunition -- and he performed the marksmanship test, he kept his bullets on target where they are supposed to be. So I said "Fair enough, you have demonstrated you can hit the target, so you can use your own guns".

So he hit the target, anyway, with all ten shots? - Well, kept the bullets within the scoring rings.

And what is the diameter of the scoring rings? - A PL7 target is approximately what -- about 2 feet square, 2½ feet square, something like that.

And he was within that range, and allowed then to shoot himself? - That is right.

Or to shoot, rather, his own weapon? - That is correct.

Now, did you notice anything odd about the use of targets later that evening? - I certainly did. It was odd in as much as I found it odd -- it jarred slightly. The PL7 target is a fairly big target, and we shoot at it from 25 metres. I said to him "Tom, there is plenty targets there, pin one up, and on your own shoot and we will watch you and make sure you don't do anything daft" -- or words to that effect. He took the target but he didn't pin it up. He put it down and he told me "No, no, it is all right, I prefer to use my own targets". And Tom Hamilton's idea of a target was two pieces of A4 paper sort of stuck together and pinned on the back wall; and what he liked to do was put little fluorescent stickers on the A4 paper and shoot at them. Now, that is odd -- well, it is not terribly odd, because sometimes shooters who are having problems with trigger control or sight picture -- sometimes they prefer to shoot at a blank piece of paper so that they don't have anything to distract themselves.

If he had used the club's targets? - Yes.

Would that mean a target which was disposable after he had used it? - Well, the targets cost about 25p each, so they are too expensive/

expensive to throw away after they have had a few bullet holes, and what we do is we patch them with sticky patches and re-use them again and again.

We have seen photographs which show the sort of bits of paper you are describing hanging on a wall with these marks, these fluorescent or coloured marks on them? - Yes.

I take it if he wanted to take them away and hang them up for some reason or other, he would have to use his own targets?
- Well, he would up to a point but some of the people who come down are really keen, and really enthusiastic, and they will shoot at a target and they will be so proud of themselves that they actually say "Could I please take that away and keep it, so that I can show my husband" -- or "so that I can show my wife" -- or whatever. And we say "Well, yes, on you go".

Maybe you could look at one of these photographs. They are PHO E25, photograph 14 -- just have a look at the screen there. Are these the things that you have been describing to us? - Yes, that is the things.

Do you have yours up at home? - No, I have been doing it so long I am only interested in what the score is, I'm not interested in showing off.

I take it you have a lot of friends who are marksmen?
- I made a lot of friends when I joined Callander Rifle and Pistol Club, but shooting is a social event to me.

Do people do things like this, hang up the targets at home? - No, not by and large, no -- what? Hang that on your bedroom wall?

Is it important that it is a bedroom? - No, it is not important, but I just wondered.....

Can you help us a little with what you are wondering about? - Well, it is just he has got what -- one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight of them hanging there, and it just seems strange.

It is a room which was not used as a bedroom/

bedroom -- the same room, if you look at photograph 15, you will see that in the same room there were boxes of ammunition, and a table where he worked, and you will see some more of the targets there? - Yes, I see that.

Does that help clear your mind about it?

- Yes, it does, thanks very much.

How does that help? - Well, he has got a lot of ammunition there, and he has got his targets, and he has got his sticky tape and his scissors and all the rest of it. He is quite orderly.

Most people I know, they have their ammunition and their firearm, and they go down to the range and they get their targets down there -- the target is not important to them, except what the score is. They don't take the target home as a trophy. That is not like anyone I have ever met. I mean, beginners proud of themselves for the first time, yes, they take the target home to show off, but after a couple of weeks it is no big deal any more.

Are these targets anything to be proud of anyway? -

Not really.

I mean, looking at the scores -- if you see 14 again on the screen, it comes up quite clearly -- you can see the groupings, such as they are? - Yes, but tell me how far away from the target was he when he shot them?

Well, I can't answer that, I am afraid? - If those targets were 10 metres away then it is not that terribly great.

25 metres? - That is okay.

Right, thank you. Did you notice anything about the ammunition he tended to use? - I saw his ammunition on the shooting range. It was factory ammo. Now, factory ammo. is quite expensive. It is about £5.50 for 50 rounds. So most of us don't shoot factory ammo., we manufacture our own ammunition. But the stuff he was using was

9 mm parabellum, and it was a 115 grain bullet, full metal jacket.

It sounds impressive. Is it as expensive as/

as it sounds? - Well, as I say, it is about £5.50 for 50 rounds of the cheapest stuff you can buy. It goes up and becomes more expensive as it gets a better grain.

Would he be the only person around the club that used that sort of commercially produced ammunition, or would some of your members also do that? - The club has its own 9 mm at the moment, but there really isn't anybody who shoots it regularly. I am just trying to think who has 9 mm pistols. I know some of the chaps have 9 mm, but I think that most of them re-manufacture their own ammunition.

Do you do that at the club premises? - I take my reloading gear to the club premises and I reload there, because when I have made a bullet or bullets, I fire them across a chronograph to tell me how fast they are going, and I examine the bullets to see there is no signs of over-pressure or pace slipping, or anything like that. And when I see the bullet is a good bullet I make up a batch of a couple of hundred.

And you do that at the premises? - I do that at Callander, yes.

Do most people do that, or do most people do it at home? - Most people who are members of the club who re-manufacture, they tend to re-manufacture their ammunition at home.

And did you notice how Mr. Hamilton transported his ammunition? - No, I never paid any attention to what he carried his bullets in.

You didn't notice he had a box? - No, I couldn't say with any certainty.

Or a tray with the bullets in it? - No. I seem to recall that he discharged ammunition from an open box of bullets, just an open carton of bullets.

Now, /

3.30 p.m.

Now, can I take it that he remained in the range for a while and shot his own weapons? - That is correct, yes.

Did he come back again? - Do you mean did he come back again on another night?

Yes? - Yes, he came back the following Wednesday. I think it would be the 28th of February he came back.

And were you there? - Yes, I was there.

Was the shooting any different that night? - I couldn't tell you. I don't think so. I think he just did his own thing again.

Do you remember one of the other members, Mr. Barr, practising? - I remember that Tom was competing with the Scottish Pistol Association in their pistol competitions running over the winter time and Tom had to complete round No. 8 of the Police Pistol One Match and since he had to shoot it anyway and since Tom Hamilton had said he was interested in Police Pistol One I asked Tom Hamilton if he would like to compete along with it, to practice, to have a go.

What is Police Pistol One? - Police Pistol One is a National Pistol Association shooting discipline and it consists of 30 rounds fired in three distinct series. One series at 25 metres, one series at 15 metres and one series at 10 metres. At 25 metres the competitor has two minutes to fire 12 shots at a target 25 metres away. In two minutes. So that is 12 shots in two minutes at 25 metres. Practice two at 15 metres has six series of one shot in two seconds and that translates that the shooter charges his firearm, comes to the ready position and on the command "Fire" then has two seconds to raise the piece and fire one shot into the target. He does that 12 times. That is two series of six. He then moves down to 10 metres and he then has to engage the target with two shots in two seconds and that constitutes the Police Pistol Match.

What is the nature of the target that is being/

being fired at? - The target is a stylised representation of a human being. It is a black and white target and it looks for all the world like a man wearing dark clothes holding a firearm in a sort of crouching or bending position.

Are there rings on the target? - Yes, there are scoring rings.

They are not quite circular, are they? - No, they are sort of oval or oblong.

Like a running track shape? - Yes, that is exactly right.

I assume the higher score is as you get nearer the centre? - That's exactly correct.

Anything odd about the way Mr. Hamilton carried out this exercise? - Well, people who shoot Police Pistol a lot, who practice it a lot, tend to be very deliberate with their 25 metre shooting because points are lost if you shoot too rapidly or you don't take sufficient time to get your sights just exactly right but Tom Hamilton charged his magazine, loaded the gun and at the command of "Fire" he raised the gun and simply let a fusillade of shots, getting the gun empty as fast as he could, jammed the next magazine in and blasted away with it until it went empty. That is how he shot it.

Was there something odd also about the position where you had to fire one round in two seconds? - Yes, there was. Along with Tom Barr and Tom Hamilton there was a comparative newcomer to the club in the range at the same time, a gentleman by the name of Ian Campbell. Ian is a newcomer and he is very keen. He is a very nice man. Ian had expressed an interest in learning to shoot so I invited Ian along with us and for Ian's benefit I explained what was required in words of one syllable and when it came to firing one shot in two seconds I said "Fire" and Tom Barr and Ian Campbell both reacted correctly and fired one shot but Tom Hamilton raised the pistol and managed to get four shots off before I could shout "Stop" so I had to sort of say to him "You know, Tom, that's not the way it's done. It is one shot in two seconds, not four" and he said "Oh, yes, I am sorry. Thank you very/

very much". He thanked you quite a lot.

Did you ever get back the probationary membership application form? - Yes, I got that back.

Would you look please at ME19 which in the volume is D103L. Is that it? - That is it, yes.

Fully completed? - Yes.

Was it that Wednesday night that you got it? - That is correct, yes.

The following Wednesday was the 6th of March, exactly a week before the 13th which is the day of the incident at Dunblane? - Yes.

Was he there on the 6th? - Yes, he was.

Anything odd happen that night? - I don't think so. I can't remember.

Did you speak to him at all about the reference you required? - Yes, I did. I said to him on the Monday night when he got this form, he knew that he was required to give me a reference and he got the form on the Monday night and told me he would have the reference soon. When he showed up the following Wednesday I said "Have you got that reference yet?" and he said "No, soon" and when he turned up on the 6th of March I chiselled him again and said "Where's the reference you are supposed have had? You said you would get it". "Oh, yes, there has been a bit of a hold-up. I am getting it for you".

Did you ever see his Firearms Certificate? - No, I never saw his Firearms certificate at all.

May I take it you just assumed because he had guns he would have a certificate? - I did, yes.

What category of people can provide references for you? - Well, I personally, since I sort of got left sort of, you know, just to get on with it as it were, I decided that since the police ask for a doctor or a lawyer or a Minister of Religion or a teacher or whatever that we would just ask/

ask for the same categories of people with the exception that a police officer cannot be used for a reference if you like when you are applying for a Firearms Certificate but I sort of thought well, a police officer would do as a referee for somebody who was wanting to become a member of the club.

So what were the categories? - Police officer, teacher, a doctor, lawyer, Justice of the Peace and Minister of Religion.

Did you see whether Mr. Hamilton allowed anyone else to use his guns on the range? - I understand that he offered people a shot if you like of his guns. He offered me a shot as well, offered me a go but I have shot too many guns. It doesn't do anything for me any more. Perhaps if it had been something exotic I might have had a shot but a Browning, no. I have fired too many Brownings to be impressed by them.

Did you see anyone else using his guns? - No, I didn't. Any time I was Range Officer he was firing his own firearms. He was using his own guns.

What is a Range Officer? - What is a Range Officer?
A Range Officer is a person who is in charge of the range. A Range Officer may be a shooter, he may actually be competing, but the Range Officer is responsible for giving the range commands so that actions are done in concert if you like. For example, you come in, make sure everybody in in the range, close the door and then you will say "Okay everybody, ear defenders on, shooters collect firearms, shooters come to the firing line" and until those words are said you don't pick up a gun, you don't move your ammunition until you are told you may by the Range Officer.

And that would happen during the Police Pistol One competition? - That is correct.

When Mr. Hamilton was simply practising would he require a Range Officer? - Yes. Oh, yes.

There is always somebody there? - Yes, there is.

Now, if he had produced a reference from a professional person, from one of the categories that you/

you have described, he would have automatically have become a probationary member? - Yes, he would have.

He would have had to be for six months or would it have been less for him? - No, it doesn't make any difference.

Six months? - We take the view that it doesn't matter. Six months.

Would the Committee then have to decide on full membership? - Well, it has to be a Committee because if it is an individual who says "No, you can't get in" then there is always a chance that it is spite or badness. If it is a Committee decision then I suppose it is fairer.

And in six months do you reckon you would have enough experience of someone to make that judgment? - Well, the way it works is that it is a social sport and it is a particularly social sport in Callander. We do a lot of shooting but we also sit around the pool table and drink a lot of Coca-Cola and do a lot of chattering and I never recommend anybody to the Committee until everybody had has a chance to look him over or her over and see whether or not they could get along with this person, whether they could shoot with them. Safety is a big consideration but if somebody gives you bad vibes, you don't want to shoot with them.

Were you at the stage of knowing enough about Mr. Hamilton to give any judgment on his final membership? - No, not at that time.

Were you concerned about him at all by that relatively early stage? - I personally wasn't but having said that, on an evening shooting in Callander there is quite a lot of work to be done. It is like any activity. In order for all the members to enjoy there is a certain amount of housework or housekeeping that has to be done, from brushing the floor to washing the dishes and quite often it is 'Joe Soap' that gets left to do it so I didn't really have a great deal to do with Tom Hamilton at that point other than being Range Officer on a few occasions when he was in the range shooting.

CROSS/

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MISS DUNLOP: Just one question if I may. You described shooting with a .22 as sissy. Can you help me please with that? - No, he described it in those terms.

A .22 calibre pistol does not produce a great blast, does not produce great noise, does not kick very hard. Forget all you ever saw in the movies. It doesn't work like that. Quite a lot of people, most people in fact, get into shooting via small bore .22 calibre and then they graduate. Some people do say with a .22 calibre that there is no challenge to them and that is what he said. It was not a challenge to him.

So things like blast and noise and power are all-important, are they? - They seemed to be important to Tom Hamilton, yes.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. GIBB: I wonder if you could help me. One of the things this Inquiry will obviously look at is the question of the holding of firearms? - Yes.

Can I put to you a proposition that a central armoury manned by the police for instance regularly might be a way of holding firearms as opposed to keeping them in strongrooms in a club such as yours which could not be manned 24 hours a day. Have you any comment to make on that? - Well, there are a lot of competitions around Scotland and the North of England that I go to and speaking personally it would not be convenient for me to have to go to a central armoury and pick up a gun and then drive to the competition. I don't think I like that idea very much. There is always the point that it is your gun and you have got to clean it and you have got to look after it. You have got to take it for repair. You have got to practice with it. That is a lot of shuttling backwards and forwards, backwards and forwards. I don't think it is a good idea.

Well, you may not think it is a good idea but certainly the teaching staff at Dunblane Primary School, this is one of their areas of major concerns now? - Yes.

And it may indeed be a major concern of others. Albeit it may not be convenient, obviously this Inquiry has to look at the public interest as opposed/

opposed to the interests of those such as you. Can you see the legitimate concerns to do something that is required in the public interest following on this tragedy? - I honestly don't know. I honestly don't know. I enjoy my sport. I get a lot of fun out of it. Society has to protect itself, I agree with that, but as to what the answer is I honestly don't know. I don't know if it would serve the public to have all firearms banned or kept in a central armoury. I honestly don't know. I honestly don't know. Tom Hamilton, I think he was mad to do what he did and I am not mad. I know there are a lot of people with a lot of reservations but I am sorry for what happened, I really am, but I don't know what the answer is.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. TAYLOR: You will be the holder of a Firearms Certificate, is that right? - That is correct, yes.

Can you tell us which Force issues that certificate to you? - Central Region Police.

Have you had occasion to apply for a certificate from any other police force? - No.

You indicated in your evidence that there is no police force in the land which would issue a certificate for two 9 mm handguns. Do you recall that? - Yes, I recall saying that.

I was wondering how you managed to form that view if you had only.....? - Well, hang on a minute now. What I mean is that police forces in general don't like to give out guns of the same calibre. I mean, I own two .22 calibre rifles and when I applied for the second .22 calibre rifle the officer who came along said to me "John you have already got one rifle, what the hell do you need another one for?" I said to him "It's a different discipline, Duncan. This rifle is for positioning and the second rifle is for pulling". "Oh, okay, I'll go and tell them that". That was a good and sufficient reason. If I had said "Duncan, well, I just fancy another gun", I know perfectly well he would have said "That's not a good enough reason, you're not getting it".

And do you know what reason was given by Mr. Hamilton? - No, I have no idea.

So/

So does it follow therefore that if an appropriate reason is given there would be no good cause why two guns of the same calibre might not be permitted? - If Tom Hamilton had a good reason for having two guns of the same calibre of the same make and the same type, if he had a good reason then I daresay Central Scotland Police would have given him it.

We have heard evidence from Mr. Gary Hyde who is the manager of an outfit called York Guns. Have you heard of York Guns? - I have seen their advertisement.

Is it quite a big outfit? - I think it is.

Where was it you saw their advert? - It was in a shooting magazine called "Target Gun" I think it is.

So they advertise quite regularly in such magazines?
- Yes.

His view this morning was that it was not unusual for someone to have two 9 mm firearms. Is that something you would agree with or disagree with? - I wouldn't agree with that. I would not agree with it because.....

Do you think he might be in a better position to judge, being the manager of a main dealership? - Well, he is in the business of selling guns.

Does that not mean he might be in a better position to judge than yourself? - No, because I have been asked for my opinion. What you have got is my opinion. What you said was Gary Hyde's opinion. I think it was odd given that he was interested in shooting Police Pistol. He was interested in shooting Police Pistol and he got a 9 mm to shoot Police Pistol so what was he needing another one for Police Pistol for?

That would depend on the reason he gave to the police, would you accept that? - Yes.

RE/

3.50 p.m.

RE-EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMY: You mentioned practice as one of the reasons for taking weapons home? - Yes.

What practice do you do at home? - Oh -- right. It is a technique called "dry fire", and it is very useful for helping to develop your muscle control, to hold the firearm steady. The National Small Bore Rifle Association Disciplines, and the International Shooting Range Disciplines require the competitor to hold the pistol in one arm.

So you can imagine 2 lbs. of metal at arm's length -- after a while it starts to wobble and shake. So what we do is we dry-fire pistols, being a device which allows the hammer to be cocked and then the trigger squeezed, but the hammer -- it doesn't fall on the firing pin to stress it and therefore vibrate it. The hammer is intercepted, there is a check -- there is the same trigger weight, but there is no damage done to the gun. Now, dry-firing is a damned good method of improving your scores.

One thing I take it for sure is that you don't need ammunition at home? - No, because it is on your firearms certificate, that the firearms and the ammunition are to be used in the appropriate range. Now, your home isn't an appropriate range, unless you happen to have a range there.

So you don't need to keep the ammunition at home? - No.

And it is presumably easy to store ammunition in a club? - Yes it is.

You also don't need to have the magazine at home? - No, I don't think you need to have the magazine at home.

And it would be easy enough to keep the magazine at a club? - Oh yes, magazines are small.

But at the moment you can buy magazines even without your firearms certificate; is that right? - That's correct, yes.

So it wouldn't be much good keeping magazines in the club unless there was some way of preventing/

preventing the ready substitution of other magazines you can buy in the street? - Well, it doesn't really matter anyway, because it would be a simple matter to open the pistol up, insert a bullet into the breach, close the pistol up and bang, you could fire it.

Only if you had it at home? - Only if you had the ammunition at home.

And you would have to load it one by one? - Yes.

For every shot? - Yes.

So at least you wouldn't be able to do the damage that was done at Dunblane? - That is very true.

BY LORD CULLEN: Just on the matter of magazines, can you tell me, do magazines bear unique serial numbers or not? - No.

One other matter: you said when you first came to Callander Range Mr. Hamilton was doing his own thing? - Yes.

Presumably that means shooting on his own; is that right? - No. When I say he was doing his own thing I mean he was shooting at his own targets.

Was he competing with anyone else? - No, he wasn't competing with anyone else.

Though he told you that he had engaged in Police Pistol? - Yes.

And there was some sort of competition about that on the second occasion? - That is right.

Is it common or uncommon for shooters at a club like Callander to shoot entirely on their own without competing against somebody else? - Most of the people I know, they shoot for scores, so that the scores can be compared with other people, in models -- for glory, because there is no money in it. Some people are shy, they don't like to shoot in close-up competition because they feel if they don't/

don't do very well people will laugh at them, people will snigger and make caustic comments. But by and large people shoot for scores to be compared with other people.

Do you mean by that they shoot in competition? - They shoot in competition. The Scottish Pistol Association run competitions for every class of firearm and every -- how can I put it -- ever skill of a shooter.

But there are some shy people who prefer to shoot on their own? - That is correct, yes.

Does that mean they will always remain in that condition? May they graduate to competition, or are they likely to be that way all the time? - Well, what we try and do is we try and encourage them by -- how can I put it -- how can I put it -- we try and encourage them, to give them that self-confidence to know that they are not alone, that everybody makes mistakes, everybody has bad days, and that there is a tremendous camaraderie among members, among all the people who you will meet at shooting competitions.

JOHN SMITH BAIRD WILSON (62), Sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMOY: I live in Stirling.

Were you formerly a police officer? - Yes.

With Central Scotland? - Yes.

Over what period? - January 1955 until July 1989.

Now, that is what -- 34 years? - Yes.

That is a long time for a policeman? - Yes. I was kept on that bit extra because I was the Firearms Instructor.

And during which period were you the firearms/

firearms instructor.

And during which period were you the firearms instructor? - I qualified in 1975, although I had started in 1974, and finished some time in 1989.

Did you know Thomas Hamilton? - Yes.

How did you get to know him? - He had a shop, Woodcraft, which was in Cowane Street in Stirling, one of the DIY places. His prices were good. He used to give 10 per cent discount to the police.

So the police actually got a discount? - Well, I did, and certainly others did as well.

While you were dealing with him in the shop, and perhaps over the years after that, were you suspicious of anything? - Yes.

What? - He was unusual -- effeminate. He had a tendency to sort of wring his hands. There was a bit of a feeling of discomfort.

What about his interest in Boys' Clubs, young boys? - As far as I knew he hadn't been reported for anything. I knew he was interested, because he had his back shop done out with carpet right up the wall, and he had boys' photographs on the carpet.

Can you tell me what these photos were like? - They were I think stripped to the waist like photographs -- certainly nothing naked.

We have heard some evidence today of photographs with black swimming trunks and nothing else -- they weren't of that type? - I can't remember that.

But nothing indecent? - No.

Did you know he was interested in shooting? - Yes.

And because of your interest as the Firearms Instructor did you have something in common there, or did it never arise? - Not a great deal. I/

I had a fair idea of what weapons he had, but I never shot along with him. On one or two occasions he asked if he could come to the Police Range, and I always managed to put him off for some reason or another.

Would you take someone else to the Police Range? -
Yes.

But not Thomas Hamilton? - No.

Why? - Well, I suppose because they looked normal and Tommy Hamilton definitely didn't look quite the normal person.

Were you yourself a club shooting marksman? -
Well, I was an instructor.

I appreciate that, but were you also a member somewhere? - Yes. I took the class on Wednesday night, the Police Firearms Club, and so shot on a Wednesday night.

So there was a Police Firearms Club on Wednesday night? - Oh yes.

And where did that normally shoot? - Randolphfield, the Police Headquarters, Randolphfield.

Thursday, 7th March this year, did you meet Thomas Hamilton? - Now, if this is the meeting in Debenham's?

Yes? - I couldn't swear whether it was Thursday or Friday, but I did meet him.

So that is 7th or 8th March? - 7th or 8th March.

Where did you meet him? - In Debenham's, the Cook Department of Debenham's.

In Stirling? - Yes.

About what time? - I would have thought 20/25 past 11, or maybe -- I was with him for about 15 minutes I think, and I do know that I left him at 20 minutes to 12.

Is/

Is that a Department where you can buy kitchens? -
Yes, there is kitchen.....

Or kitchen units, anyway, and fit them yourself? - No,
no.

Just kitchen utensils? - I had been giving a cookery
course at one of our local hotels, and I was interested in cooking -- so
it was utensils.

Were you speaking to him? - Yes.

Initially what was the conversation about? - Well, I
heard him say "Hello, John, how are you?" I turned round, and of
course it was Tom Hamilton. It was his usual, wringing of the hands,
and I asked him what he was doing and he said he was dealing in
camera lenses and cameras.

Did he ask you what you were doing? - Yes.

And what did you say? - That I had retired.

Were you uncomfortable in his presence? - Yes.

Was that always the case anyway? - To a certain
extent. He was okay in his Woodcraft shop, because it was a
customer/client relationship (sic); but in Debenham's he had put on
weight -- he looked different, and I felt uneasy while I was speaking to
him.

When had you last seen him? - Five or six years ago I
would have thought.

And this occasion on 7th or 8th March, was that the
first time you had felt uneasy? - No, but I felt uneasier.

Right. Did he say anything about what he was doing
in the shooting world? - Yes.

What did he tell you? - He mentioned Callander -- he
mentioned the range there. He said that the Linofix -- the Linofix is a
screen which stops spatter from bullets -- was badly damaged, and
the/

the range was spattered. And he said "Much the same as you had at Police Headquarters" -- when our range had to be closed because there was excess lead and not enough ventilation in it.

Did you give him some advice about that problem? - I gave him advice about two or three things. The main thing I gave him advice about is I have tinnitus, a ringing in the left ear, and I told him to make sure he always had his ears covered, never to have a shot without -- for a while at the Police Range we were getting ammunition in that was pumping about a third of its content out on to the floor, so much so that when the cleaner was using the Hoover one day it blew up because it was full of gunpowder. I told him about that.

And that was the general nature of the conversation?

- Yes.

Did he ask about instruction in shooting? - Yes.

What did he ask you? - He said "My conventional shooting is okay, but I am not very good at 10 yards", and he said "I could do with some instruction" -- inferring that I give him it.

What was your response to that? - I said that I had tinnitus and I seldom pulled the trigger of a gun, I certainly have stopped shooting game and I have become anti blood-sports.

Did you mention the problem with your ear? - Yes. I think he knew this before -- yes, I am sure he said "How did you get on with your ear?" I am sure he brought that up, although I couldn't say for certain.

And do you have some dispute ongoing over that? -

Yes, I do.

So there is a claim involved? - Yes.

And did he know that? - Yes.

When that was discussed did his attitude seek to change? - It did. For the first time ever I heard him actually speak against the police. Until then as far as I was concerned he was very very/

very police-orientated.

And what did he say? - Regarding?

When he spoke against the police on this occasion? - Oh, yes, he said, you know, the authorities were against him, the parents of the children were against him, the police tried to get kids to say he had done things that he hadn't done -- he certainly was anti-police.

Did he then go on to specific incidents involving the police? - He did.

Which was the first one he mentioned? - Hungerford.

What did he say about Hungerford? - He said that as far as he was concerned that the police, when Michael Ryan started shooting in Hungerford -- that the police were scared to go in. And I said "Well, as far as I remember Michael Ryan was hidden and the police would have been going in as targets". And I finished up by saying one or two other things, but said -- I was disagreeing with him, I was getting a wee bit annoyed, and I said -- my actual words were -- "Anyhow, these nutters normally kill themselves anyway, they don't want to be wounded by police firearms officers".

And did you also say it was better if they did that anyway? - I did.

And did he talk about one local incident as well which actually wasn't a firearms incident? - It was a firearms incident.

Well, in the sense that there were ordinary police officers there? - Yes, but this particular one had happened in Cowie just outside Stirling, where a man phoned up one night and said there was an idiot running about with a shotgun. When the first policeman went out there he found out in actual fact this was the person who had phoned, and he had the back and front of the vehicle blasted by a shotgun.

Now/

4.10 p.m.

Now, you had a view about that incident, the Cowie incident? - Yes, he said that the police firearms team should have been out and taken care of it.

Did he then ask you a question about police firearm responses? - Yes.

What was the question? - I think the first one was "Are firearms kept at all police offices?" and I said "Well, there certainly wasn't while I was there. It was only places that were manned 24 hours a day". Did he ask you anything about the time that the police would take to respond to an armed incident? - Yes, he brought that out by saying "I think that there should be a permanent firearms response unit available, armed and in a car or in a van, that they can get to the scene, very, very quickly".

Can you say that again? You said.....?

- He said.

That the police should.....? - That they should have an armed response vehicle like other forces do -- obviously he had read quite a bit -- that other forces do so that they could get to a firearms incident quickly.

Did you get the impression he was looking for information? - No, not at that time.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. GIBB: A matter I might raise with you in view of your lengthy experience in firearms is as you will appreciate the staff in Dunblane Primary School take a particular view about firearms? - Yes.

One matter I would like to ask you about is the possibility of a central armoury at perhaps Police Headquarters where all firearms would require to be kept. Have you any view on the practicability or otherwise of such a facility? - Is this for civilians?

Yes? - Absolutely impossible.

Impossible? Why is that? - For the number/

number of firearms that are held in Central Scotland it would need a huge team of men to look after it. With the few guns that we did have at the Central Scotland Police Sports Club, it was bad enough there and you are only talking about a few, but to keep weapons, that number, it would be thousands of weapons. Impossible in my opinion.

Adjourned until Monday, 3rd
June, 1996 at 10 a.m.

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