

17. [Name Redacted] also met the defendant online through a dating website called 'Plenty of Fish'. They, too, had a sexual relationship that involved the taking of poppers and watching pornography. He was aware that the defendant made lots of money through acting as a male escort. [Name Redacted] recalls that the defendant had a big sexual appetite and that he particularly liked to be with young men who were aged in their late teens. He would meet them through websites and bring them back to his flat for sex. It appears that on some occasions [Name Redacted] would join in the sexual activity. [Name Redacted]'s relationship with the defendant ended at some point in 2011.

[X2] Counts 1 & 2

18. One of the young gay men that the defendant met online and brought back to his flat was [X2]. He is the alleged victim in Counts 1 and 2 on the indictment. They spent a single night together on or about Saturday, 25th February 2012. [X2] was 19 years old (b. [DPA]) and the defendant was 37.
19. [X2] will say that he had travelled from Epsom into Central London to meet another man but was stood up. He had previously been in contact with the defendant through Grindr and so he sent the defendant a message, informing him that he was in London. The defendant responded and invited him over to his flat in Barking. Mr [X2] went there thinking that there may be some sexual activity if they got on well. The defendant picked him up at Barking station in a car and they drove to the defendant's flat in Cooke Street. It was some time before 10pm and there was no-one else present in the flat.
20. Shortly after arriving, the defendant offered Mr [X2] a drink and he [X2] opted for some red wine. The defendant poured him a small glass of red wine. It was Mr [X2]'s first drink that day. Mr [X2] recalls that the wine tasted a bit funny. As he reached the end of the glass, he noticed that there was a sludge at the bottom which looked like

a lump of congealed powder. Immediately, he began to feel dizzy and noticed that there was something wrong. The room was tilting. He realised that he was not drunk; it was something more sinister. He went to the bathroom to make himself sick without success. As he did so, he was staggering and ricocheting off the hallway walls. At no stage had there been any conversation about drugs; [X2] told the police that he was not into drugs.

21. Mr [X2] kept falling asleep against the defendant as they sat on the sofa. He told the defendant he felt quite drunk and explained that he had not had very much to eat that day. He was trying to downplay how bad he felt. The defendant offered him some chocolate to eat but he still needed to lie down. The defendant suggested that he get into his bed.
22. Mr [X2] made his way to the bedroom. He got into the bed and fell asleep. The next thing he remembers is the defendant being naked in the bed with him and penetrating his anus with his penis. Mr [X2] was also naked although he did not remember undressing himself. Mr [X2] did not try to stop what was happening and he thinks he may have 'engaged' with the defendant. However, he has explained that he felt out of it and didn't really know what was happening. He was sort of "half there" when the defendant had sex with him – he was only "semi-aware". He had not consented to being penetrated.
23. When he woke up the next morning, he wanted to get out of the address. He felt that something very wrong had happened. He was still feeling very groggy. The defendant drove him to the train station. During this journey, they did not speak about their sexual encounter. However, the defendant told Mr [X2] that he worked as a chef.
24. When he returned to his halls of residence at Epsom University, [X2] spoke to his friend [Name Redacted] about meeting a man and going back to his home. Within a week, he contacted the defendant on Grindr and accused him of spiking his drink. The defendant denied that he had done any such thing. At that stage, [X2] did not report the matter

39. [X3] does not think he was raped but is convinced that he was drugged. Following this incident, [X3] sought an explanation from the defendant as to what he had been given. The defendant accepted that he had given him something to drink; he said that it was something insignificant. [X3] thinks the defendant said it was a Class C drug. If so, this would be consistent with the defendant giving him GHB, which was made a Class C controlled drug in 2003.
40. Whilst there is no evidence of scientific analysis regarding the precise nature of the substance that the defendant put in the liquid he gave to [X3], the prosecution say that it is telling that he suggested to the police that [X3] may have taken G. G is well known as a so-called 'date-rape' drug that can be unobtrusively slipped into a drink and is capable of rendering intended victims unconscious. GHB is colourless and odourless and so can easily be slipped surreptitiously into a drink. The sodium salt of GHB has a slight salty taste. GBL, which is converted into GHB once it enters the body is a colourless liquid that can easily be introduced into a beverage.
41. Messages sent by the defendant using his account with the gay social networking site 'Fitlads' indicate that since 11th September 2013 – so well before the incident involving [X3] – the defendant had been obtaining both 'meph' (mephedrone, M, meow-meow) and 'G' (GHB) from dealers for the purposes of sex. It appears from the content of the messages that he used mephedrone because it enabled him to have longer sex sessions with his then partner, [X1] and that they took 'G' to enhance the effect of the mephedrone. One person whom he was in touch with warned him to stay away from 'G' as he had been 'spiked and killed'. On 9th November 2013, [X1] sent a series of messages to the defendant in which he stated that he was looking at needles for the 'G' but observed that needles were dangerous and it was better to drink it. So, there is no doubt that the defendant had obtained and used 'G' prior to the incident involving [X3].

➤ COMMS SCHEDULE: 30/6/12 – 21/1/14 (+13/6/14)
➤ COUNT 3 (INDICTMENT)

42. The case against the defendant on Count 3 is that the liquid that he gave [X3] contained a substance that knocked him out. This was done quite deliberately and without [X3]'s consent. The purpose of giving [X3] the adulterated drink is clear. It was so the defendant could engage in sexual activity with him while he was unconscious. That is why [X3] woke up to find that he had been moved and his underwear had been taken off.
43. On 13th June 2014, nine days after the incident involving [X3] at Barking station, the defendant sent a message to someone using his Fitlads account in which he reported that 'the last young guy I met just wanted to get high on g so it was like fucking a rag doll as he was so out of it'. This appears likely to be a reference to [X1]. Whether it is or not, it graphically illustrates that the defendant was well aware of the effects that G could have on the human body. It was something that clearly turned him on. On the same day, the evidence suggests that he was hunting for and watching hardcore pornography relating to, for example, 'boys being fucked on g', 'drugged and raped', 'raped while sleeping or drugged or drunk' and 'gay teen knocked out raped'.
44. We understand that the main issue in relation to Count 3 is whether the defendant drugged [X3] by spiking his drink.

Anthony Walgate (Counts 4 – 6)

45. Within three weeks of events at Barking train station involving [X3] another 23 year old gay man named Anthony Walgate (b.8/5/91) was lying collapsed outside the communal entrance to the block of flats where the defendant lived.
46. At 4.18am on Thursday 19th June 2014, a male made a 999 emergency call to report a man collapsed outside a block of flats in Cooke Street,

course of his criminal investigations he signed a formal declaration that the contents were true. In summary, he stated that he had returned home at 4am after working a nightshift and discovered the male lying unconscious by the front door to the communal entrance to the block. He said that he had propped this male against the wall, called an ambulance using his mobile phone, told them that he thought the boy had had a seizure and then entered his flat and fallen asleep.

56. You will no doubt appreciate that the explanation the defendant gave as to how he came to be associated with Mr Walgate is similar in a key respect to the explanation he provided to police about how he came to be in the company of [X3] at Barking station, just under three weeks earlier. In each case, he claimed he had merely come across the man in a distressed state when he was outside the flat, and he had not been with him in the preceding period. But just as he had lied to the police about this aspect in respect of [X3], so he had lied to them about his knowledge of Mr Walgate.
57. In fact, the evidence establishes that Anthony Walgate occasionally worked as a male escort and the defendant had arranged for him to come over to his flat on the night of Tuesday, 17th June 2014, approximately a day and a half before he made the 999 call.
58. The defendant and Anthony Walgate became acquainted in the following circumstances. Around midnight on Friday, 13th June 2014, the defendant sent a series of e-mails to male escorts who were featured on a website called 'Sleepyboys'. One of those was Anthony Walgate, whose profile he had previously viewed. He asked Mr Walgate whether he was free to come to Barking on Tuesday night for an 'overnight'.
59. The prosecution suggest that the defendant's motivation for wanting a young male escort is to be found in the material he was looking at online in the hours before he contacted Mr Walgate. We have already touched upon it, but you will recall that he had been searching for, and viewing, pornography featuring images of young males being raped while

apparently asleep, drugged and unconscious. This was the same day on which he had informed a friend that having intercourse with someone on G was like 'fucking a rag doll'. On the day that he contacted Mr Walgate, the defendant also accessed various articles on rape, including two which were about men who had been charged with the rape of unconscious boys. The prosecution suggest all of this material indicates that not only did he derive sexual gratification from viewing images concerning this particular sexual practice but that he actually practised it himself and was concerned about the consequences of being caught.

60. China Dunning was a friend of Anthony Walgate. They were both fashion students at Middlesex University and at the time of his death, Anthony Walgate was renting a room in premises in Golders Green NW11. Ms Dunning was aware that Anthony was gay and worked as a male escort advertising his services on a website. She observes that he was always very cautious about the men he met using the internet and gay dating apps. Because of this, it was his practice to tell his friends where he was going, and to obtain and show them a photograph of the man in question.
61. On the Sunday before he died (15th June 2014) Ms Dunning was with Anthony when he received a message from a man saying he was happy to pay £800 for Anthony to come to his address. He told her that he was slightly suspicious because the man had agreed to pay him £800 without making any attempt to negotiate the price. However, he agreed to meet the man at 10pm on the following Tuesday (17th). He showed Ms Dunning a photograph of the client, and sent Ms Dunning a text containing the client's details which were: Jo Dean, 72 St. Ann's, Barking. The arrangement was to meet at 10.00pm on Tuesday, 17th June. There can be no doubt that Anthony Walgate made this arrangement with the defendant. Jo Dean is a name that the defendant used and 72 St. Ann's is an address very close to the defendant's flat. Ms Dunning is sure that the photograph she was shown by Mr Walgate was of the defendant, Stephen Port. Indeed, the defendant does not now dispute that he supplied those details to Mr Walgate.