

3. I am now aware of the circumstances which led to the linking of the four deaths and the eventual arrest of Stephen Port. My understanding is that this only occurred because an officer who had previously dealt with Stephen Port during the Anthony Walgate investigation happened to recognise him from a CCTV image which he came across solely by chance when he was in the office and PC McDonald happened to be looking at this image, [IPC000310]. It was this event which finally led to the recognition of the deaths as suspicious, sixteen months after Anthony became the first of the four boys to lose his life. It was only at the criminal trial of Stephen Port that I realised the significance of the information that Jenny and I had provided to the police. We had given them everything they needed to link the deaths, but their close-minded attitudes meant that they were not even open to considering what we were telling them. If this is the attitude they adopted during the three previous investigations, then I am not surprised that they did not manage to link the deaths before this. It was painful for me to realise that, if they had, my brother's life could have been saved.
  
4. One of the similarities we raised with police was the positioning of the males. This is referenced at FAM000001, p2 and as confirmed in FAM000002, I think this was written in September or October 2015, though I cannot be certain. The issue of the positioning was originally brought to our attention in a media article regarding Daniel Whitworth which described him as sitting upright with a suicide note in his hand. We raised this with PC Taylor and PC Holder and again with PS Laffan. Another similarity between the deaths was the fact that the males were wrapped in bedsheets or blankets. When I found out that this was the case at the criminal trial, I felt disgusted to realise that one of the crucial linking factors was an item which was discarded as irrelevant and not seized when Jack was found. I elaborate on this issue below.

5. When Jenny and I conducted further research online, we found a proportion of the suicide note which was alleged to have been written by Daniel Whitworth; this was a small segment of about five lines. Despite not having access to the full note, we immediately thought that the note was odd and sounded more like an exoneration note than a suicide note. I recall that I raised this with PC Taylor and PC Holder on the visit to Barking and again, to PS Laffan, at a later stage of the investigation. When I asked PS Laffan about this, he said that although he was not involved in the investigation, he was confident that the handwriting would have been checked. I cannot understand how, if Jenny and I were able to recognise the suspicious nature of the note with no experience in criminal investigations and having only viewed a small part of it, the officers involved in the Daniel Whitworth investigation and in Jack's investigation, were not able to recognise this. It is almost like they simply did not want to solve these cases and provide the families with the truth about what happened to their boys.
  
6. Jenny and I made a note on page 30 of FAM000001, that Gabriel Kovari had been using Grindr and placed a question next to this note, regarding whether or not police had confirmed who he was meeting. As I confirmed in FAM000002, Jenny made this note in September or October 2015. I cannot recall where we obtained this information, but we asked officers about this. I think it was PS Laffan who we first raised the issue with. We had also searched social media to try and find a presence which related to Jack, and we found a profile on Badoo which suggested he was looking for friendship. I recall showing PS Laffan the profile and he loaded it up on his phone and was able to access more of Jack's pictures and information than we were able to when we conducted our own search. I can recall that when we saw PC McDonald, Jenny raised the issue again

and asked if police were looking for information which could potentially be found on Jack's dating apps. Jenny told PC McDonald that she recalled seeing an app icon which was yellow when she had seen Jack using his mobile phone. PC McDonald simply replied that she knew that this would be snapchat as this has a yellow icon. We later learnt that the Grindr app also has a yellow icon. This was again, a further lead provided to police which was ignored.

7. When Jenny and I found articles relating to another unexplained death on Cooke Street which we now know related to Anthony Walgate, I did not quite appreciate the close proximity of Cooke Street to the area where Jack and the other boys were found. I knew that Cooke Street was clearly in the Barking area but I was not familiar with the geography of Barking and so I think it is unlikely that I would have specifically verbalised to officers about the close proximity between these locations. Nevertheless, Jenny and I did alert officers to this article when we relayed our concerns about what we had found to PC Taylor, PC Holder and PS Laffan. As can be seen at FAM000001, p27, we also raised the fact that there was a series of three deaths and then a one-year gap following Daniel's death before Jack was found. It is obvious now, that this was because Stephen Port spent a significant proportion of this time in custody for his involvement in the death contained in the article we alerted police to. I feel like we gave officers a major lead when referring them to these articles. Instead of going away and following up on this, they dismissed what we told them by saying repeatedly that the deaths were not connected. As I outlined in my previous statement, IPC000353, and referred to in the bundle of notes at FAM000001, I persistently maintained that Jack would not have gone straight on into the green area alone and it was much more likely that he would have gone left. I was told by PC Taylor and PC Holder that they were

the coroner because I didn't. I would never have asked them if drugs would show up in Jack's system because I genuinely could not contemplate that Jack would have used drugs. I feel that by suggesting this, PC Taylor may be trying to portray me as been open to the possibility that Jack had used drugs of his own accord, something I fiercely told them would not have happened. They also allege that we asked them at the churchyard if it could have been GHB which was in Jack's system. I know that it is not possible that I asked them this at this stage of the investigation. Following information which we obtained from them whilst we were in Barking, Jenny and I went home and conducted google searches to try and find out what types of drugs could be stored in shampoo and eyedrop bottles. The search returned GHB as a possibility. We did eventually query whether it could have been GHB in the bottle but we did so with PS Laffan, not PC Taylor and PC Holder. They also state that we told them about the date and locations of Jack's funeral and wake. We certainly did not tell them this. I know this because, when we were with them, we had so many questions and were raising so many different concerns that the funeral was simply not at the forefront of our minds. I do however, recall telling PS Laffan about this. It seems to be a reoccurring theme that things which I know I told one officer are reported by another officer who, at the time, was not present. This raises suspicions in my mind about whether they have come together and discussed a narrative which they want to report instead of reporting the facts.

16. In addition to these inaccuracies, both PC Taylor and PC Holder [IPC000392, IPC000403] have suggested in their statements that they visited my parent's address only once but they actually attended twice. PC Taylor, IPC000403, p1, has stated that John has told him that he was the last person in our family to see Jack alive. We do not have a John in our family. The last person to see Jack alive in our family was my dad.