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Gabriel but it was just a simple question asked very early on. We did not have any idea of what was in the letter at that time.

About two weeks after Daniel had died we were emailed the bottom portion of the note which contained the goodbye message and something about the loss of his phone. We were asked if we could identify Daniel's handwriting but it was such a small patch and it wasn't clear having been sent through email. I did not forward this part of the note on to anyone else and we were told that only Adam would be able to look at the whole note. We told the police we were unable to make a judgement on whether the handwriting belonged to Daniel based on what they had provided us. I think it was me who said this to DC Slaymaker over the phone. I don't think police took any samples of Daniel's handwriting from us before they sent that email out. I believe it was after we viewed the small piece of the note that we gave them birthday cards written by Daniel. We were worried we could not focus enough to identify the handwriting properly but the police told us not to worry and that they would have it analysed if we gave them some examples of Daniel's handwriting. We were desperate to see the whole note but it was about a couple of weeks or so afterwards that we actually did having made arrangements to do so. We wanted to know the content of the note because it was very difficult to believe that Daniel had killed himself at this time. The handwriting was another aspect of wanting to see it but the main reason was to ascertain why Daniel had harmed himself.

I cannot remember what I was told about enquiries that had been made and what was left to be done. We were told that over the coming months we would be able to see the rest of the note in a time and place arranged by police. We were not able to see Daniel until further ahead but we knew he was in the Queen Elizabeth in Romford and we would see him in due course following tests. They said they would take us down to Barking to show us where they had found Daniel.

The meeting in Barking happened prior to viewing Daniel's body. I believe it was during this visit to see where Daniel was found that we were shown the entire note found with him. We had not been told what was in the contents of the note prior to seeing it that day. At the point of visiting the churchyard, we knew Gabriel had been found nearby. Adam and I had

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Rick with us and we met the SPOC, Jackie, in the churchyard. I believe I asked Jackie while we were there how Gabriel and Daniel had both ended up in that churchyard if Daniel claimed he had killed Daniel at a party. Daniel was of slight build and it seemed unlikely he would have lugged the body out of a house party in front of guests. This was one of millions of things that did not tie in to what we were being told by police. We viewed the site Daniel was found before Adam and I were taken off to a council building to view the note, leaving Rick in the tea room at the church. I tried to prepare Adam for what he was about to read in the note by reminding him that Daniel was in a low place at the time of writing it. Jackie took the original note straight from her handbag in a plastic sleeve and handed it to Adam and I. We both viewed the note in the presence of her, DC Slaymaker, and the other Paul. I felt the note was very clinical and there was no content in it, it was a rambling mess. I asked the police what G was as it had been referred to in the note. They explained what it was and what it was originally used. Jackie also added that if we weren't sure we should ask Rick as he would know what G is. She said "they know about this stuff." Jackie did not clarify what she meant by this comment and stupidly I did not go into it, I just thought that I would check with Rick because maybe we didn't know Daniel as well as we thought we did now he was an adult. My perception of what Jackie said was that she meant GHB was used in the gay community, rather than because Rick was Daniel's partner and that is why he might know. This is because Jackie added that it was well known to the gay community and that Rick would know because of this. I spoke to Rick that same day about it and relayed the content of the note to him. I did this with great difficulty as I had not been allowed to take the note with me or make a copy. I asked if I could copy it on to a piece of paper and was told by the officers that I could not do that. I made rough notes and waited until Rick had driven us home to give him the details.

Adam said there was nothing on the page that told him it was Daniel writing the note, no personality coming off the page at all. It was all very matter of fact and no family members were mentioned. We expressed this to the police and they told us not to forget he was under the influence of GHB at the time which would have affected the way he had written something and how his handwriting looked. I think they came to this conclusion because the handwriting started to alter and slope around the time Daniel had written he was starting to feel dizzy and the GHB appeared to be taking effect. The uncertainty was

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immense, we could not say whether it was his handwriting or not. I thought that if the drug could have that effect on handwriting then why were the police even asking us? If it can change that much then we were never going to be able to identify it. I cannot recall whether there was any talk at that time about handwriting analysis but they had either collected samples from Rick or they were going to collect samples from him with regards to the handwriting.

In regards to the place where Daniel was found, I knew that Daniel wasn't religious and felt that not only was committing suicide something he would not have done, he would not have done it there. He loved nature and that was the only link we could make to that location and why he would do it there. As far as Barking and religion or links to the church is concerned, there was no reason why he would have been there.

The police were still treating Daniel's death as suicide at this point and were linking it back to the death of Gabriel. The police were gaining information from me about Daniel's actions in the three weeks between when Gabriel was found dead and when Daniel died. They asked how he had been and if he was depressed, upset or distressed during that time. We couldn't understand how Daniel could have been involved with Gabriel. We had had a small family gathering at the end of August and I remember saying to DC Slaymaker that I did not see how Daniel could have kept such a thing to himself. He did not show any signs of distress and had sat and eaten his meal. I don't think Daniel could have hidden it if he had have accidentally caused someone's death, he didn't have that sort of uncaring character. I stressed this to DC Slaymaker. I cannot remember his words exactly but it was the general idea of who knows what anyone can do in certain situations and that Daniel may have been able to hide this. I was still very doubtful. Daniel lived with Rick and I think he would have cracked at home but we never experienced this.

The day Adam, Rick and I viewed Daniel's body we met DC Slaymaker in Romford at the hospital. The officers had to okay something so we were forced to kill time by walking around the shopping centre. I cannot remember what the officers were trying to do at this time but I remember they picked us up in a car from Romford High Street and took us to the Queen Elizabeth hospital. We sat in the foyer with Jackie and DC Slaymaker said he would

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Except for the comment Jackie made about Rick knowing what GHB is, I did not feel there was anything at the time that made me feel the police were acting in a discriminatory manner and thought they were investigating Daniel's death. I didn't even put Jackie's comment into that context at the time because I was in another zone in my head. Any thoughts I do have about this now have all happened in retrospect. Knowing what I know now, I do think what she said was discriminatory. Since the inquest I have felt the police were casual and couldn't care less. What bothers me most is that they came to us as our liaison officers and showed compassion but they can't have actually felt that compassion. I feel they would have gone home at night knowing that there was more they could have done and didn't. I feel the victims were treated the way they were because of the circles they moved in, the police knowledge of Chemsex parties and that segment of the community. I believe the police made an assumption about the gay community.

Ian Atkinson and Tim Duffield from the MPS Murder Investigation Team (MIT) have taken care of us. There has never been a time I haven't been able to get hold of them or when my questions weren't answered. They always kept us updated on what was happening and have been exemplary.

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