

administering, or causing him to take without consent, the drug that caused his death.

79. Following his arrest in connection with the deaths of the four men in October 2015, one of whom was Anthony Walgate, the defendant was further interviewed under caution. In relation to his dealings with Mr Walgate he broadly repeated much of the final version of the account he had given during his interviews in June 2014. However, on this occasion he appeared to suggest that he had not seen Mr Walgate preparing the substance that he drank. He said that before they had sex, Anthony went to the bathroom and the kitchen. He did not know what Anthony was doing; Anthony was messing about. He presumed that Anthony was taking something.
80. We understand that the main issues in relation to the charges concerning Anthony Walgate are:
- Count 6: whether the defendant administered drugs to, or caused drugs to be taken by, Anthony Walgate – the defendant claims that Mr Walgate self-administered the drugs; and following from that,
- Counts 4 & 5: whether he killed Anthony Walgate, intentionally or otherwise.

Gabriel Kovari (Counts 7 – 9)

81. Approximately two months after Anthony Walgate met his death, another young gay man died shortly after coming into contact with the defendant. His name was Gabriel Kovari (aka Gabriel Kline). He was only 22 years old when he died – a year younger than Anthony Walgate.
82. Gabriel Kovari was originally from Slovakia. He had come to London wanting to make a life for himself and by mid-July 2014 he was living temporarily with a man called John Pape. Mr Pape sympathised with Mr Kovari's situation and allowed him to stay at his flat until he found

another address. The two men had met on a dating website called Bender. After about a month, Mr Kovari told Mr Pape that he had found a room to rent in Barking and he moved out of his flat on or about 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014.

83. It is clear from messages and images that he sent to a friend called Karl that the place Mr Kovari had found to live in Barking was the defendant's flat. The evidence indicates that he had first seen the flat on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014. It so happens that on the following day the defendant had been looking at more drug-rape pornography. Mr Kovari informed Karl that he was due to move in on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014. Karl asked whether he trusted the guy he was moving in with; it seems that Gabriel Kovari had told him that he didn't need to pay any rent.
84. In the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014, Mr Kovari informed Karl that he had just moved and sent him a google map pinpointing Cooke Street. The following day, he told Karl that he was sleeping in the living room on the sofa and he didn't want to sleep with his landlord (i.e. the defendant) in his bed. He indicated that his landlord was 'kinda different' but the place was worth it.
85. Ryan Edwards has been a friend of the defendant for many years. He lived opposite the defendant's flat in Cooke Street. According to Mr Edwards, the defendant began a relationship with Gabriel Kovari in August 2014 after the two men had met through the internet. The defendant told Mr Edwards that Gabriel had moved in with him.
86. Indeed, at just before 6pm on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014, the defendant sent a text message to Mr Edwards inviting him to meet someone he described as his 'new Slovakian twink flat mate'. This was plainly a reference to Mr Kovari. Mr Edwards asked whether he was hot and the defendant replied that he was 22, quite cute, tall and skinny. The evidence shows that Edwards and his friend, Paul Richardson, met Kovari at about 10pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014. In the early hours of the 25<sup>th</sup> he informed the

- the internet history of the defendant's two laptops shows that these devices logged into the Jon Luck Facebook account on many occasions.

104. The Facebook conversation between the defendant, masquerading as Jon Luck, and Thierry Amodio lasted from 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 until the early part of the following year. The transcripts are extensive but, for present purposes I will draw your attention to the following features:

- Thierry Amodio (TA) started the conversation on 10/9/14 by asking Jon Luck (the defendant) whether he knew Gabriel Klein.
- Jon Luck indicated that he met him on Grindr and asked whether he was coming back to London.
- TA informed him that Gabriel was dead; JL said that he didn't believe him. It is implicit in what follows that TA was saying that Gabriel died in London.
- JL claimed that he last saw Gabriel on about 22<sup>nd</sup> August; he only knew him for a couple of days, they had sex together, and then Gabriel left JL's place to meet some older guy. JL said that meeting strange guys in London was very dangerous and he had had some really bad experiences when he first came to London.
- TA asked how Gabriel was in bed with JL who replied that he liked being 'fucked' – they had sex all night for about six hours and added that he felt bad telling TA this as he was hurting from his loss.
- TA explained that Gabriel had been found in a church courtyard. He asked JL for help tracing any person that Gabriel had met. It is apparent that TA was in touch with the police investigating Gabriel's death and that JL was also aware of this.
- JL said that he could not accommodate Gabriel for long as his flat mate was coming back. He asked whether police would want to talk to him because his DNA would be inside him as he had 'cum' inside him without a condom. When TA suggested that Gabriel would have had had 'other cock' since, JL commented that the guy he had left with seemed desperate to get his 'arse'. JL also said that Gabriel wanted to try drugs but never had the opportunity.

- JL asked TA to forgive him for asking Gabriel to leave; he had wanted to stay but he (JL) only had a single room and if his landlord caught him he would be thrown out. He said that Gabriel had told him that he had never had sex for so long. They were going for hours and got carried away and really high on poppers until they were so dizzy they had to stop.
- JL said that he kept thinking he was going to be arrested because Gabriel stayed with him for two nights, his name would be in his (Gabriel's) phone, his messages on his laptop, and his DNA would be on him.
- It was after these early exchanges that the defendant sent the text message to Ryan Edwards saying that he had heard that Gabriel had returned to Spain to be with his boyfriend but died on arrival from infection. If, as the prosecution allege, Jon Luck is indeed the defendant, it shows that, on any view, the defendant had deliberately lied to Ryan Edwards about what had happened to Gabriel. The defendant knew the circumstances surrounding Gabriel Kovari's death from Mr Amodio; the prosecution say that the defendant also knew about the circumstances because he was the person who had killed Gabriel. Of course, Ryan Edwards knew that Gabriel Kovari had been staying with the defendant shortly before he died so there was good reason for the defendant to lie to him.*
- JL told TA that he would try to find out the identity of the guy with the Irish accent who had picked up Gabriel from his address; Gabriel had gone for a walk with this man before getting into his car – apparently to the old church and the shops.
- JL corrected himself and told TA that Gabriel had left on the 24<sup>th</sup> August after spending two nights at his flat. *(This would include the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, when we know Gabriel Kovari was staying with the defendant.)* He added that Gabriel had left his light blue hoodie at his flat. TA said that they had bought it together in H&M two years earlier.
- Pausing there, this exchange took place on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014, just over a week before the body of the third young male, Daniel*

*Whitworth, was discovered. You will hear that Mr Whitworth was found in exactly the same spot as Gabriel Kovari, and it is believed that he was wearing the H & M, light blue hoodie in question.*

- (n) JL said that his neighbours had met Gabriel – *a possible reference to Ryan Edwards.*
- (o) In the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014, shortly after the time at which the prosecution say that the defendant killed Daniel Whitworth, the third male in the series to die, JL informed TA that he had contacted the man who had picked Gabriel up from his address. He said that the man had informed him that Gabriel had gone off with a young guy called Dan who looked similar to Gabriel, and that they were heading to a party/orgy in Barking.
- (p) In the exchanges that followed, JL explained that the orgies involved guys having sex and drugs, with older guys getting the younger guys so high they could rape them. JL told TA that it sounded to him like Dan was into drugs and wanted Gabriel to go the orgy with him.
- (q) *The prosecution say that the purpose of this misinformation was to lay the groundwork for implicating Daniel Whitworth in the death of Gabriel Kovari to deflect attention from himself in respect of both killing.*
- (r) On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014, TA advised JL that the police had informed him that Dan had also been found dead. (As you will hear, Daniel Whitworth had been discovered on the day before.) TA asked JL to phone the police but he failed to do so and made a series of excuses.
- (s) JL told TA that whatever drug killed the two males, he hoped the police could get the dealer. Significantly, he suggested that maybe Dan had killed Gabriel and then killed himself because he couldn't live with the guilt. *Again, we say that this is all part and parcel of the defendant's efforts to frame Daniel Whitworth for causing the death of Gabriel Kovari and make it seem that Daniel Whitworth had committed suicide in order to conceal his criminal responsibility for both of their deaths.*

- (t) JL went on to say that he had heard that Dan was dishing out shots of something to everyone at the orgy and that there was no control over the amounts being taken. He said that he could only guess how Gabriel had managed to get to the old church; he (Gabriel) was either well enough to walk or he had help and then had just sat down to rest, and not woken up again.
- (u) On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015, at the end of these exchanges, TA asks for JL's Whatsapp number. JL replied in the following terms:  
*'Not till you tell me the reason as sounds like you wanna get me questioned by the fuzz, you know I have nothing to do with whatever happened to Gab, he was my friend and he was perfectly fine when he left here as am sure you must [k]now by now.'*  
TA responded by saying that he didn't understand his (JL'S) attitude and asked whether he had blamed him for anything so far? The prosecution suggest that JL's response to being asked for his number reveals how concerned the defendant was about the police catching up with him.

105. This Facebook conversation shows just how manipulative and cruel the defendant can be. Just as he had done with Ryan Edwards, the defendant spun a tissue of lies to Mr Amodio to conceal his involvement in the death of Gabriel Kovari.

#### ➤ COUNTS 7-9 (INDICTMENT)

106. The defendant faces the same three charges in respect of Gabriel Kovari that he does in respect of Anthony Walgate. The prosecution say that it is no coincidence that, like Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari died from a drug overdose featuring high levels of GHB very shortly after going to the defendant's flat. These were not two self-inflicted overdoses. The science suggests that both men had previous experience of GHB. The defendant had surreptitiously given Mr Kovari a large shot of G so that he could have sex with him when he was unconscious, as he had done with Mr Walgate. It is clear that he found Gabriel Kovari attractive whereas the evidence suggests that Mr Kovari did not reciprocate his

feelings. And as he had done with Mr Walgate, the defendant removed him from his flat, took him outside and then managed to transport him to the area of the churchyard, before dragging him to his final resting spot. He also disposed of his mobile phone as he had done with Walgate. His efforts to frame Daniel Whitworth, which I will expand upon in the next section, point clearly to the responsibility he felt for Gabriel Kovari's death which is simply inconsistent with Mr Kovari accidentally giving himself an overdose of GHB and other drugs. The defendant knew how dangerous it was to be in a state of drug-induced coma – the death of Anthony Walgate must have brought that home to him – and yet, if the prosecution allegation is correct, he took that risk again with Mr Kovari's life for his own sexual gratification.

107. When the defendant was interviewed about his knowledge of the circumstances surrounding Mr Kovari's death following his arrest in October 2015, he claimed that the names Gabriel Kovari and Gabriel Kline did not ring any bells, and he did not know anyone of that name. He said that he had not had a Slovakian male around to his flat. He also said that he had never had any reason to go to the area near the walls of the Abbey where the body of Gabriel Kovari was found; he had no involvement in his death and he had not taken his mobile phone.
108. This account was a pack of lies. Contrary to what he said in interview, we understand that the defendant now accepts that he did know Gabriel Kovari and that Mr Kovari did come to stay at his flat. We also understand that the main issues in respect of the allegations concerning Mr Kovari are:
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|---------------|--|
| Count 9:      | whether the defendant administered drugs to, or caused drugs to be taken by, Gabriel Kovari; and consequently, |
| Counts 7 & 8: | whether he killed Gabriel Kovari.  |
109. With regard to these allegations, the defendant raises the defence of alibi and claims that he was elsewhere when Gabriel Kovari was killed. It

is his case that he and Gabriel had attended a party together at Ilford on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and the last time he saw Gabriel alive was when Gabriel left the party with Daniel Whitworth. The prosecution say that the evidence clearly shows that the defendant did not meet Daniel Whitworth until after the death of Gabriel Kovari and his continuing attempts to blame Daniel Whitworth for Mr Kovari's death are demonstrably false.

**Daniel Whitworth (Counts 10 – 12)**

110. Extraordinarily, on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014, just over three weeks after she had come across the body of Gabriel Kovari, Barbara Denham was again walking her dog through the graveyard in Abbey Green when she came across another body of a dead young man in almost exactly the same location as where she had found Mr Kovari. The body was in a sitting position slumped against the wall surrounding the graveyard, once again with the clothing on the top half of his body having ridden up to expose his midriff. She called the police who arrived at about 11.20am.
111. Police found the dead man's driving licence in a wallet recovered from a front pocket in his jeans. The body was that of Daniel Whitworth. He was only 21 years old (b.22/3/93). The police recovered a small bottle containing some liquid from a jeans pocket and they also found what appeared to be a suicide note inside an A4 protective sleeve that Mr Whitworth was clutching in his left hand. I will come to the contents of the note in a short while, but it seems that it was one of the factors that resulted in the police initially treating the death as non-suspicious. Rather oddly, the suicide note makes mention of Mr Whitworth having dropped his mobile phone which was nowhere to be found, just like in the cases of Mr Walgate and Mr Kovari.

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Kovari (aka Gabriel Kline). You will recall that it reflects what the defendant, pretending to be Jon Luck, suggested might have happened to Thierry Amodio in the Facebook messages he sent him, as if he had some knowledge of the suicide note.

125. The police at that stage accepted the apparent suicide note at face value and did not investigate further. In particular, Daniel's movements prior to his death were not checked, and no attempt was made to trace the person referred to in the note as "the guy I was with last night".
126. But the note turned out to be a sham. An expert in handwriting evidence has examined the note and compared it with samples of handwriting from others. He has concluded that the note was not written by Mr Whitworth, but by the defendant. The plastic sleeve in which it was found was of a type that matched other sleeves later found at the defendant's flat. Furthermore, there is a conclusive link between the paper on which the suicide note was written and a pad recovered from the defendant's home address.
127. The prosecution say that the suicide note was a clear attempt on the part of the defendant to conceal his part in the deaths of the two men. And as with his earlier victims, the defendant had taken and disposed of Mr Whitworth's mobile phone lest it could be used to establish a link with him. So, despite the fact that police searched for the phone because of the contents of the note, it was not found.
128. We suggest that the contents of the sham suicide note are telling when one reviews them knowing that the defendant was the author. They indicate that:
  - the defendant knew that Gabriel Kovari had died from an overdose of G, the suggestion being that Kovari was given an extra shot of G by the person having sex with him because that person got carried away;

- the defendant had sex with Daniel Whitworth – he was clearly referring to himself when he wrote '*Please do not blame the guy I was with last night, we only had sex then I left*';
- the defendant also knew that Daniel Whitworth had died from an overdose of G together with sleeping pills which would be consistent with the defendant using both drugs to render Mr Whitworth unconscious; why would Mr Whitworth take a sleeping tablet while on a date with the defendant;
- the defendant knew that Daniel Whitworth's phone would not be found on him.

129. There is scientific evidence which, together with the bruising to the armpits, is consistent with the defendant being responsible for taking Mr Whitworth to the location in the cemetery and dragging him to the spot where he was he was found. Scientific analysis of samples taken from Daniel Whitworth's body and clothing suggest that cellular material (DNA) from the defendant had been deposited on Daniel Whitworth's left and right hands, the left side of his neck, the insides of the left and right pockets of the light-blue hooded top, and the right armpit of the same top.
130. I have already mentioned that the light blue hooded top that Mr Whitworth was wearing in the churchyard appears to match the top belonging to Gabriel Kovari which was in possession of the defendant following Mr Kovari's death, and which he mentioned to Thierry Amodio when pretending to be Jon Luck. It rather suggests that the defendant must have put it on Mr Whitworth before he was found, perhaps to suggest a false link with Mr Kovari. Be that as it may, the prosecution suggest that the planting of the suicide note supports the suggestion that the defendant also planted the bottle of GBL on Mr Whitworth in his efforts to make it look like a suicide.
131. In addition, the blue bedsheet on which Daniel Whitworth was found in the churchyard had areas of semen staining, at least some of which came from the defendant. It was the defendant's sheet.

➤ COUNTS 10-12 (INDICTMENT)

132. The defendant faces the same three charges in connection with the death of Daniel Whitworth as he does in relation to the deaths of Anthony Walgate and Gabriel Kovari. It is the prosecution case that Daniel Whitworth, like Mr Walgate and Mr Kovari before him, died as result of the defendant causing him to take drugs without his consent because he wanted to have sex with him while he was unconscious. The sham suicide note, written by the defendant, supports the case that the defendant gave Mr Kovari an overdose of GHB, no doubt during a lengthy sex session he told Thierry Amodio about, during which he may have got carried away. It also supports the contention that in the case of Mr Whitworth, the defendant used sleeping tablets as well as GHB to achieve the desired effect. In this context, it may be significant that the examination of the defendant's laptop seized after Mr Walgate's death revealed that he had used the Yahoo search engine to research diphenylhydramine – an antihistamine with sedative properties that can be found in sleeping tablets.
133. Of course, on the prosecution case, the defendant would have known by the time he drugged Mr Whitworth, that to render someone unconscious is to do harm to their central nervous system that is inherently life-threatening. Two people he had previously done this to had died, so the risk of death was high.
134. When he was interviewed about the death of Daniel Whitworth in October 2015, the defendant was shown a photograph of Daniel Whitworth. He said that he was 70% sure that he had met this Daniel at 'frat' parties that were held by a person he knew as Scott (Peter Hirons) at Scott's flat. This was in 2014 after the death of Anthony Walgate. The parties involved drugs and sex. The defendant said that his main role in these parties would be to pick up guys for Scott and take them to the party for which he would get a £20 bag of "meth". Scott dealt in drugs. He said that Daniel's role at the parties was to hand out drugs to the

guests. He had no contact with Daniel outside the parties and Daniel had never been to his flat. He had never had sex with him. He said there came a time when Daniel was no longer present when he attended the parties and he had not seen him since August or September of 2014. He had not had any conversation with Daniel on Grindr or similar sites. He said that he had no contact with Daniel Whitworth the night before he died and no knowledge of the letter that was found on Daniel Whitworth; Daniel had not told him that he was going to write such a letter and he (the defendant) did not write the letter.

135. For reasons already given, this was another complete pack of lies. He did not meet Daniel Whitworth until shortly before Mr Whitworth died. As for Scott, aka Peter Hirons, messages exchanged between the two on Grindr establishes that they first had contact on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015 when the defendant indicated that he had previously been ripped off by a local dealer and was looking for drugs. This was almost a year after Daniel Whitworth's body was found. The exchanges between them indicate that Hirons supplied various drugs to the defendant up to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015. These drugs included liquid G, poppers, T, and M.
136. Indeed, Peter Hirons was arrested on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and his flat at [DPA] was searched. Police recovered various drugs including mephedrone (M), methamphetamine (T), GBL (G) and MDMA (E/ecstasy).
137. We now understand that the defendant accepts that much of what he said to police in his interview was untrue. In essence, it appears to be his his case that around the day before Daniel Whitworth died, he picked up Daniel Whitworth from Barking station and they went back to his flat for sex. At the flat, Mr Whitworth broke down and confessed that Gabriel Kovari had died during a drug-fuelled sex session that they had together in the churchyard. Whitworth then asked the defendant to write down what he said and dictated the 'suicide note'. That is why it is in the defendant's handwriting. Later, there came a point when he and Daniel Whitworth lay down on the bed. When the defendant awoke, Daniel