

Notes re Katie Foster**1 February 1999**

I was rung by Tania Smith who said that she had been rung by Chris Foster to ask her what's doing with respect to Katie.

I told Tania Smith that the position remained as it was after I'd had the meeting with her last year at which meeting Katie was not prepared to be forthcoming at all about the alleged abuse, and as I pointed out to Tania Smith, the interview was then conducted by me with Tania Smith in the absence of the child and Tania Smith considered that she had in fact been abused by O'Donnell.

I said to Tania Smith this morning that I had hoped that the position might have been reached where Katie was more forthcoming than she had been at that interview. However, Tania said that that was not the situation and that she has remained in a closed condition and when she is likely to be better in that regard Tania was unable to say.

I said that in my position as independent commissioner, what I have to guard against is the obvious suspicion that suggestibility brought about by Emma's plight is the cause of Katie's.

Tania Smith is firm that this is not the case. She tells me that she has referred her to further psychiatrists and we will have to look at the situation in relation to Carelink.

1 February 1999

① Andi Melchroff