

(1)

.....: It's ... - - -

SUSPECT: What's the problems?

.....: We've got a ... - - -

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 1 Excuse me. As you're aware, Karen, I'm Detective Sergeant David Plumbton from the Devonport CIB and this is Detective Darren Woolley, also from the Devonport CIB. For the purposes of this recording, could you please state your full name?

A Karen Veronica Heatley.

Q 2 And your age?

A 23.

Q 3 And date of birth?

A

Q 4 And your current address?

A [REDACTED] Clare Court - - -

Q 5 Here in - - -

A - - - Devonport.

Q 6 Here in Devonport. Are you currently employed?

A No.

Q 7 And have you got the phone on at home?

A Yes.

Q 8 And could we have that number?

A

Q 9 All right. As you're aware, we are assisting New South Wales police in inquiries they are conducting regarding the murder of James William Meek. Now, James's body was located on the afternoon of the 8th of March this year in Surry Hills and from their inquiries they believe he met his death as

the result of blows to the head by a blunt instrument or similar object. What we're doing now then is just discussing your knowledge of James and any contact you've had with him, so can you just explain? Go back to when you were living in Sydney and how - when you first went to Sydney?

A Went to Sydney and met Jim through Bob and just - - -

Q 10 Well, just - - -

A - - - kept - - -

Q 11 Can we just clear that up, then? When did you go to Sydney?

A August, I think it was, in 93, 93.

Q 12 So in August 93 you went to Sydney?

A Mm, hm.

Q 13 You - from Tasmania?

A (NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

Q 14 Had you ever been to Sydney before?

A Yeah, I was born in Sydney.

Q 15 So you were born in Sydney and you returned there in August 93?

A Mm, hm.

Q 16 And where were you living when you went to Sydney, first went there?

A Mariana Crescent.

Q 17 Where?

A Sorry, yeah, I should've - [REDACTED] Mariana Crescent, Lethbridge Park.

Q 18 Right, and who were you living with then?

A Bob Woodward.

- Q 19 And was your family up there when you went up there?
- A My dad and my sister were.
- Q 20 And who's your dad?
- A Paul Heatley.
- Q 21 And your sister?
- A Christine Heatley.
- Q 22 And how did you come to meet Jim Meek?
- A He was at Bob's one day - - -
- Q 23 Right. What - - -
- A - - - and I met him there.
- Q 24 I thought you were living with Bob Ward.
- A Yeah, I was - - -
- Q 25 I see.
- A - - - but Jim came up to visit Bob.
- Q 26 Right, so he came to your and Bob's house?
- A Yeah.
- Q 27 In Lethbridge - - -
- A Park.
- Q 28 - - - Park, and that's how you met him?
- A Yeah.
- Q 29 And how did Bob know him; do you know?
- A Well, Bob had known him from 20 years previously, but they hadn't seen each other for a while.
- Q 30 Mm, hm.
- A And then they bumped into each other and, according to Jim, Bob's homosexual and he used to like to take people back to Jim's flat.
- Q 31 Right.
- A So - - -
- Q 32 How did that make you feel (a) about Bob, when Jim

says Bob is a homosexual? Did you believe Jim?

A Yeah.

Q 33 So were you aware that Bob was a homosexual?

A I've known Bob for - how many years it'd be since - well, since 88, 7 years, and I thought back then that maybe he was, like maybe he was bisexual, yeah.

Q 34 Right, so it didn't upset you - - -

A No.

Q 35 - - - for - for someone to say to you that your boyfriend is a homosexual?

A He wasn't my boyfriend. I just boarded there.

Q 36 So you had no relationship with him whatsoever?

A No.

Q 37 And it never offended you at all that Bob was a homosexual and you might be living with a homosexual?

A No, no - - -

Q 38 That - - -

A - - - not at all.

Q 39 Yeah, I just wanna discuss - that is, there's - what's your - your opinion of homosexuals, now?

A Well, my best friend's homosexual - - -

Q 40 Mm.

A - - - so that's it, you know. I - yeah, that's their sexuality. That's nothing to do with me - - -

Q 41 Right.

A - - - you know. We don't have that sort of friendship, so - - -

Q 42 Mm, hm.

A Yeah.

Q 43 What about the - the rest of your family? Is it a family - - -

A No, my family - we're very open. We're a very open bunch and it's never - basically, no one's homophobic in our family.

Q 44 Right.

A So we've never been - - -

Q 45 Excuse me.

A - - - brought up to think, "Oh, you know, they're bad" or anything like that. I - - -

Q 46 Yeah. That's all I'm gonna say. Well, in your family there's - obviously, you said, your father, Paul?

A Mm, hm.

Q 47 Your mother?

A Yeah, I don't see my mother; none of us do.

Q 48 Right, yourself and who else?

A Christine.

Q 49 Christine's your sister?

A Yeah, and two younger sisters, Melissa and Michaela.

Q 50 So you've got three sisters, Christine aged - - -

A 20.

Q 51 Melissa?

A 8.

Q 52 And Michaela?

A About 10 months.

Q 53 And brothers?

A Just Michael.

Q 54 Michael aged - - -

A 18.

Q 55 18. So amongst the family, as you said, there was no homophobic feelings or anything like that in relation to, well, any homosexuality?

A (NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

Q 56 When you were living with Bob and Jim used to come around, how did you get on with Jim then?

A Well, Jim only came up to Bob's - I think it was the once and - how did I end up going down there? I went down there one day, but he was always at me to go down. He was always at all of us to go down, but he used to smoke a lot, so we didn't used to like going there. Anyway, I went down there one day and then I think the next time I went down was when his mother had died, went down then, yeah. Actually, I remember when I found out Jim had AIDS, 'cause I didn't know he had AIDS when I met him - - -

Q 57 Mm, hm.

A - - - and he was gay - - -

Q 58 Mm.

A - - - and then when I found out he had AIDS, like, I told Christine and she didn't have any reaction and I told Michael and he didn't either and I - like, I know that you're not supposed to be - - -

Q 59 Mm.

A - - - able to get it through touching and all that sort of thing, but you can't help but be a bit put off - - -

Q 60 Mm.

A - - - when you're - - -

Q 61 You became aware.

A - - - at someone's home with AIDS.

Q 62 Yeah.

A You become very aware.

Q 63 Yeah.

A I mean, as I say, I'm not homophobic, but I wasn't comfortable drinking a cup of coffee at Jim's.

Q 64 Mm.

A You know, it's - - -

Q 65 Mm.

A - - - just craziness. Like, they don't know enough about the disease yet and, you know, Christine and Michael were actually sort of explaining it scientifically to me. I already know about it, but, you know, they were telling me not to be so stupid, yeah.

Q 66 So would Christine and Michael visit Jim?

A Yeah, Christine and Michael visited Jim.

Q 67 And did they get to know him, obviously, through you?

A Yeah.

Q 68 All right.

A Yeah.

Q 69 And how would you describe their relationship with - - -

A The same as mine. It was just - it was more of an acquaintance thing.

Q 70 Mm.

A But at the same - with me it was more friendship than it was with them. With them it was an

acquaintance, yeah. Yeah, I definitely had a deeper friendship with Jim than they did.

Q 71 Where was Jim living then when you and Christine - - -

A In the flat.

Q 72 And what address was that?

A I can't tell you the address; I really can't remember.

Q 73 And this is the one that you - - -

A Bellevue - Belvoir Street or Belvoir Road or something.

Q 74 Surry Hills?

A Yeah, Belvoir Road, Surry Hills.

Q 75 All right, yeah.

A Yeah.

Q 76 So - well, just - the relationship you had with Jim was based on friendship and Christine and Michael was more acquaintances?

A Mm, hm.

Q 77 How did Michael get on with Jim then, bearing in mind Jim's homosexuality, although Michael - as you've said, the family wasn't homophobic. Was there anything there, any concern there by Michael at any stage about Jim?

A No, 'cause Jim wasn't - I don't really remember Jim being touchy or anything like that, you know, like - no, as far as I know Jim didn't make any advances or anything like that, so Michael was therefore comfortable with him - - -

Q 78 Mm, hm.

A - - - 'cause that - the sexual element didn't come into it.

Q 79 Mm, hm. When or how did Michael then become friendly with Jim?

A Just like from going there, when we'd go there or talking to him on the phone and, yeah, that was it, I guess. That was how - yeah, there was no - like, there's no deep-rooted friendship there.

Q 80 Mm.

A You know, it's just like - I guess it doesn't happen a lot here because there's not as many people, but over there you - you know, like you have your friends, you have - and then, like, you have your - - -

Q 81 Mm.

A - - - acquaintances - - -

Q 82 Mm.

A - - - people you just drop in on or just talk to once in a while and that you don't even really know, but you become - - -

Q 83 Yeah.

A - - - sort of friendly.

Q 84 Mm.

A It's just like that.

Q 85 And how often would Michael visit Jim?

A Like I said, it was not often enough to even be classed as regular. That's why I couldn't say - I guess Michael probably would've went there about maybe five, six times, maybe.

Q 86 Over what period of time?

- A Well, the year and the half.
- Q 87 Right, that's since when, for - since - - -
- A Since we moved over there.
- Q 88 Right, so that was August 93 and it was shortly after that Michael had met Jim?
- A Mm, hm.
- Q 89 Did you ever stay over at Jim's?
- A No, no.
- Q 90 Did Christine or Michael ever stay over at Jim's?
- A Not that I know of, no.
- Q 91 Right, so that was August 93 until you returned to Tasmania - when?
- A Mm, hm, December, late December, last year.
- Q 92 So late December 94 - - -
- A Mm.
- Q 93 - - - you'd come back to Tasmania with who?
- A Myself.
- Q 94 And did the rest of the family stay in Sydney?
- A Mm, hm.
- Q 95 Michael - where was he living then?
- A With my sister.
- Q 96 At?
- A Bondi.
- Q 97 Which sister - that's Christine?
- A Christine.
- Q 98 So Christine and Michael were living at Bondi when you'd come back to Tasmania?
- A Mm, hm.
- Q 99 To your knowledge, in the time that you knew Jim - - -

A Mm, hm.

Q 100 - - - was there any - did you have any altercations or are you aware of Jim ever having any altercations with people or was there any - - -

A Jim was always fighting someone. He was - I don't know if you've had a lot to do with homosexuals. If I use the term "queen", do you know what I'm really talking about?

Q 101 Yeah.

A Jim was a real queen and he was always fighting with someone. He was assaulted by a man there in the lift once. Actually, he had a few assaults there. He was - he was mouthy; Jim was a big-mouth, basically.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 102 Well, he was assaulted by people who lived in the flats or - - -

A I really don't - I don't know if they lived in the flats or they were visitors.

Q 103 Right.

A I couldn't tell you that.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 104 Did Jim invite many people back to the flat?

A Yeah, he did invite a few, like certainly invited more people than I'd invite to my place, and also Jim - see, Jim - Jim and Bob had a falling out - - -

Q 105 Mm.

A - - - and it was - it was over something ridiculous, but Jim was also pissed off because Bob was taking people back to Jim's, just people he

didn't know - - -

- Q 106 Mm.
- A - - - and one time a guy there stole - he stole something of Jim's, stole Jim's - \$50, that's right - and he stole \$50 and another bloke apparently got rough and, like, they had to get him, but that's about it, so, yeah, there were strangers there.
- Q 107 These assaults then, that took place - - -
- A Mm.
- Q 108 - - - did Jim ever report them to the police?
- A Yeah, I think you'll find he would've.
- Q 109 Right, so do you know who may've assaulted him?
- A No, but Bob could probably help out with that. One of the fellas, he did live there; he did live there. His uncle lived there or something and he also - he stole Jim's car as well, that guy.
- Q 110 Right, so he - and when you say he lived there, he lived where?
- A In the flats. You see - - -
- Q 111 With Jim?
- A - - - there's - pardon me. There's a complex of about - I guess there's about eight blocks or something - - -
- Q 112 Mm, mm, hm.
- A - - - of flats; they're huge.
- Q 113 And do you know the name of this person or - - -
- A No.
- Q 114 You don't know anything about him or - - -
- A No, but, like, they was a court case and he was

involved.

Q 115 Yeah.

A It went to court.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY: ...

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON: Right.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 116 And this is in relation to the stolen motor vehicle, the - - -

A No, the assault.

Q 117 The assault, right.

A But it was the same fella.

Yeah.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 118 So there was that assault, and any other assaults on Jim or anything like that that - do you know who or what - - -

A No, I don't.

Q 119 - - - what they revolved around?

A I just - I just know they were people - they were people there. It was usually over Jim, like, saying something. That's what it usually - - -

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 120 This incident with the assault - - -

A Mm.

Q 121 - - - and going to court, how long before Jim's death was that?

A No, I couldn't tell you, I really couldn't. It was within a year.

Q 122 Within a year?

A It was within a year.

Q 123 Within 1 year?

A Yeah.

Q 124 All right.

A Somewhere there, yeah.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 125 Right, so did you ever - did you ever have any altercations - when you say Jim was a big-mouth, did he ever offend you or - - -

A No.

Q 126 Was it only other - was it males that he used to have these arguments with?

A No, it was whoever. Like, Jim had a very nasty mouth - - -

Q 127 Mm.

A - - - and if you caught him in the wrong mood, you know, he could really - be really nasty.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 128 Right, and you're - - -

A ...

Q 129 - - - speaking by experience, are you? I mean - - -

A I've heard him do it.

Q 130 Right.

A Yeah.

Q 131 Towards you or other people?

A No, not towards me, but towards other people and like when he's called me he's told me about things - - -

Q 132 Yeah.

A - - - run-ins he's had with people.

Yeah.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 133 Jim never had, then, a regular boyfriend - - -

A No.

Q 134 - - - while - in the time you knew him?

A No, there was that guy who used to come every week. I cannot think of his name. I know it, but I can't think of it. He used to come.

Q 135 He used to visit Jim every week?

A Yeah, every week.

Q 136 Any particular day or what was the situation there?

A There was a day, but again I can't remember. It was in the morning, yeah.

Q 137 And they were lovers - - -

A Mm.

Q 138 - - - you think, then any - - -

A According to Jim they were.

Q 139 And when you say "according to Jim" you raise your eyebrows. What - does he - - -

A 'Cause he could've been - you know, he could've been having me on - I don't know.

Q 140 Do you think he did now and again?

A What?

Q 141 Have you on?

A Yeah, like I said, Jim was a compulsive liar.

Q 142 Mm.

A A lot of the time I could tell when he was lying.

Q 143 Mm.

A Yeah.

Q 144 Did he ever - - -

A Yeah.

Q 145 Did you notice any purpose in his lies? Was it to, say, just to impress you or to impress somebody else or - or he just - - -

A Well, it just - it just depended. He'd just - like, to try and stir the pot a bit Jim'd lie - - -

Q 146 Mm.

A - - - like he'd exaggerate or whatever, but his lies were always harmless to me because I could see them - - -

Q 147 Yeah.

A - - - and if you can see a lie, well, it can't harm you.

Q 148 When you recognise 'em.

A Exactly.

Q 149 Well, tell me, Jim had this person that used to come - - -

A Mm, hm.

Q 150 - - - once a week, or as he claimed, and he'd - do you believe he had many other boyfriends - - -

A Yeah.

Q 151 - - - or lovers?

A I don't think he would've had heaps - - -

Q 152 Mm.

A - - - but he certainly - he had a few people who used to go there and there was another man who used to go there. He would've been interviewed. His name was Michael. He was - he wasn't in Jim's block. He was in another block. He was always there.

Q 153 You don't know his last name?

- A No, no.
- Q 154 And you dunno his address?
- A No.
- Q 155 Right, so, but - but - what I was gonna say - Jim used to have these arguments with people over his mouthy attitude. Do you know whether there was any argument he had with any of his lovers or ex-lovers?
- A I know with an ex-lover, but like we're talking a few years.
- Q 156 Mm.
- A You know, it's not like - - -
- Q 157 Mm.
- A - - - yesterday or anything.
- Q 158 Well, who was that; do you know?
- A No, all I know is he was a schoolteacher. I can't even remember his name, but - that was a pretty messy break-up, but I don't think they've had any contact or anything like that.
- Q 159 Well, was - Jim was homosexual.
- A Mm, hm.
- Q 160 Did he have any female - - -
- A No.
- Q 161 All right, so he had female friends such as yourself?
- A Yeah.
- Q 162 Did he have many female friends?
- A He had - he had a couple, you know, like women around the building.
- Q 163 Yeah.
- A I - I don't know of any outside women, though - - -

- Q 164 Mm.
- A - - - that went to Jim's - - -
- Q 165 Mm.
- A - - - like apart from me and Christine. I can't think of any.
- Q 166 Right. Well, bearing in mind then that Jim was a homosexual - - -
- A Mm, hm.
- Q 167 - - - and - and we'll just take - we'll just take it as that, that he was a homosexual. Was there any - did Michael ever say anything about what he would do if Jim attempted in any way, shape or form to - - -
- A ...
- Q 168 - - - encourage him in a relationship?
- A Like, we've had jokes about it, both said to, like, Michael and Jim - I mean, Michael and Roge, you know, "What if Jim come onto you or what if Bob come onto you," or whatever, and - you know, "Just fuck off, you nit." Yeah, he said - yeah, he'll never go there again.
- Q 169 Right, and did Michael ever have any worries that Jim might attempt anything like that?
- A No.
- Q 170 All right.
- A No.
- Q 171 And would you describe Jim as a wealthy person?
- A No, no, Jim never had money.
- Q 172 Mm.
- A Actually, Jim - well, Jim died owing me money,

yeah. It was only \$20, but, yeah - - -

Q 173 And what did he do for a job?

A Jim didn't work; he was on the pension.

Q 174 Right, a - and he never had any job or - when I say
he was on the pension, he never had any - - -

A Well, he used to be a - - -

Q 175 - - - part-time work or what?

A No, he used to be a security guard - - -

Q 176 Mm.

A - - - and he got shot in the stomach or something
and, yeah, so he couldn't work again.

Q 177 Right. You say he smoked a lot.

A Mm.

Q 178 Obviously you mean - - -

A Cigarettes.

Q 179 Cigarettes?

A Like a chimney.

Q 180 And you don't like cigarette-smoking?

A No.

Q 181 Because that brings - what about drugs or anything
like that at Jim's? Do you think he became HIV
positive due to his homosexuality?

A Not drugs, no, homosexuality.

Q 182 Right.

A Yeah.

Q 183 Was he ever involved, to your knowledge, in
drugs or - - -

A I think he used to have a few cones. Like, that
guy who went there used to have cones.

Q 184 Right, the bloke - - -

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 185 So he used to - - -

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 186 - - - who went once a week?

A (NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 187 He used to give the cones to this guy?

A Yeah. I wish I could think of his name. I can't think of his name, but - - -

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 188 If anybody else - - -

A - - - I can't think of his name.

Q 189 Did he ever offer you a cone or any - - -

A Mm, no.

Q 190 Christine, your sister?

A No.

Q 191 Michael?

A No, not that I know of.

Q 192 All right.

A Mm.

Q 193 Well - - -

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 194 - was Michael aware that - the possibility of drugs being at Jim's place?

A I don't know. I hadn't sort of - no, I guess - no, when you think of Jim, drugs don't come into mind, no.

Q 195 Mm.

A No, no.

Mm.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON: All right.

Q 196 What we wanna do now then is to focus on the other area of discussion and that's mainly your brother, Michael.

A Mm, hm.

Q 197 And obviously I'll put ... - to you any involvement Michael may've had or any knowledge may have of Jim's death. You left to come back to Tasmania in late December last year - - -

A Yeah.

Q 198 - - - 1994 and have been here ever since?

A Yeah.

Q 199 You haven't returned to Sydney - - -

A No.

Q 200 - - - for a holiday or anything?

A No.

Q 201 What contact did you have with Jim upon your return to Tasmania?

A Well, none, only one night I made a funny phone call there - that's it.

Q 202 You did?

A Yeah.

Q 203 What was that over?

A It wasn't over anything. We were just bored and just rang. Yeah, he just - he got up and he just said, "Hello, hello" and then we just hung the phone up.

Q 204 Who did that?

A Me and Kim.

Q 205 Right, and Kim's your flatmate?

A Mm.

Q 206 Kim who? Can you just - - -

A Hayes.

Q 207 Kim Hayes, who resides with you at unit 1/11 Clare Court?

A Mm, hm.

Q 208 So you phoned Jim and that's the only contact you've had with him since returning?

A To Tassie - - -

Q 209 Right.

A - - - to - yeah, to Tassie.

Q 210 Right. Did you have much contact with Michael upon your return to Tasmania?

A Yeah, it was regular, yeah.

Q 211 And when you say regular, how often or - - -

A A coupla times a week, I reckon.

Q 212 By the telephone?

A Yeah.

Q 213 Right - what - and Michael would phone you or you'd phone Michael or - - -

A Usually Chris and Mike'd phone me.

Q 214 Right.

A Mm.

Q 215 And was there any - what was Michael up to then? Was he working over there or - - -

A Mm, yeah, he did have a job.

Q 216 And where was that?

A I don't know; it was packing meat or something.

Q 217 Right, and so what happened with that job - excuse me.

A He hurt his wrist.

Q 218 Right.

A Yeah, and that's when he was compo.

Q 219 Excuse me. I won't be a minute, if you could - - -

A Mm, hm.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY: Right, okay.

Q 220 And so far as Michael and Jim goes, how often did Michael go and visit him then, to your knowledge, or did he?

A Well, as far as I know, like - he did say - he did say he'd been there once. I remember him saying he'd been there once when I was in Tasmania.

Q 221 Mm, hm. Did he say what for?

A No, he just said he called in, called in on Jim. No, I couldn't tell you when that was.

Q 222 Mm. Did - what did he say happened?

A Nothing. He didn't - like, just said he went there and just said that, yeah, Jim and Bob were friends again.

Q 223 Right.

A Yeah, that's it.

Q 224 Did you think it strange that Michael had gone to visit him?

A No.

Q 225 Right. Why?

A Well, just because there was nothing strange about it.

Q 226 Mm.

A Like, it wouldn't have been strange if I'd have visited him.

Q 227 Right.

A It was just - yeah, we visited him whenever.

Q 228 Yeah.

A We'd just drop in.

Q 229 Mm.

A Yeah.

Q 230 Now, you've obviously spoken to Michael over the years about Jim.

A Mm, hm.

Q 231 What did Michael think of Jim, from the information he had given you?

A He thought he was funny.

Q 232 Right.

A Yeah, we just - we used to get a laugh out of Jim.

Q 233 Right.

A Funny, yeah.

Q 234 Okay. Had there ever been times, to your knowledge, that there'd been a problem between Michael and Jim?

A No, no. They - like I said, they had - like, they had tiffs - - -

Q 235 Right.

A - - - but they were certainly no more serious than what Jim and I had. They were just like words.

Q 236 Right.

A You know, it was nothing violent or heavy or even heated. It was a disagreement - - -

Q 237 Right.

A - - - usually, you know, Jim bullshitting; that's what it usually was.

- Q 238 And so Michael would be - would be aware of his
bullshitting - - -
- A Yeah.
- Q 239 - - - and would be coming up to him and - - -
- A Yeah.
- Q 240 - - - and having a go at him?
- A Yeah, it's obvious.
- Q 241 Yeah.
- A He was really obvious. He - yeah.
- Q 242 Yeah, and had Michael ever said to you after you
left Jim's place that he was quite upset with
what'd occurred there or he wasn't happy with some
of the things that were said?
- A Mm - - -
- Q 243 Right.
- A - - - no.
- Q 244 And how did you become aware that Jim had actually
died?
- A Roger told me, my boyfriend. He was living in
Sydney at the time at Bob's.
- Q 245 Right. How long after Jim's death was that? Are
you aware of that?
- A No, but I think it may've been on a Tuesday that
Roger called.
- Q 246 Right.
- A I can't remember; he just rang and he said - yeah,
it was something - "You're not - you know, it's
gonna upset you," he said, "but, you know, I'll
tell you anyway," and I said, "Well, let me just
see if - if Jim died, someone killed him" - no, he

didn't say someone killed him - "They think someone could've killed him or it could've been foul play" - that's right.

Q 247 And how did he know that?

A Well, Bob'd told him. I said earlier that they - no, they suspected - that's right, "They suspect there could've been foul play" - - -

Q 248 Right.

A - - - no, not foul play, sorry. That's right; that's right; I'm so forgetful. They thought Jim had killed himself.

Q 249 Right.

A That's right; that's what they first thought, Jim'd killed himself, and then they didn't know if he'd killed himself or it was AIDS and then they suspected it was foul play.

Q 250 Mm, hm.

A Mm.

Q 251 Right, and that's - the police had told that to someone, had they?

A I dunno what they'd told Roge, plus it would've been in the paper too, printed in the paper.

Q 252 Right.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 253 Again, I'll - I'll just - - -

A Mm.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 254 And so how long after Jim's death was it; do you know? Was it the same day, the day after?

A Well, from what they said - actually, I think it

was the Tuesday and I think - one of you said Jim died on the Sunday, didn't you?

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 255 The 8th of March. I don't know the exact date, or I could find that out. If it's important, I'll find that out.

A It might be a Sunday. I'm thinking it's a Sunday - - -

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 256 Right.

A - - - Sunday, the 8th of March.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 257 Righto. I'll find out what the 8th of March was.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 258 And you were rang on the Tuesday?

A I think so. I may be wrong; I probably am wrong, but - - -

Q 259 Right.

A Yeah, because apparently he hadn't been found for a coupla days or something.

Q 260 Right, okay, and around this time did you get - have any contact with Michael?

A See, you're really testing me because, as I said, I'm not taking notice of time and I couldn't say - - -

Q 261 Yeah.

A I would've done - - -

Q 262 Right.

A - - - because I didn't sort of not hear from him, like - - -

Q 263 Yeah.

A We were in constant contact, so - - -

Q 264 Yeah, and with your - you said you had regular contact - - -

A Mm.

Q 265 - - - with Jim. When was the last time that you spoke to Jim before his death?

A Mm - - -

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON: Wednesday.

A I couldn't tell you.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 266 On a Wednesday, so any day like ... a Wednesday?

A I always used to phone.

Yeah.

.....: ...

A Hang on - maybe I was going out. Maybe it was the Friday or Saturday of the next week - I don't know.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 267 And you - you don't - and you can't remember how long before you found out that he'd died that you'd actually - - -

A Found out?

Q 268 - - - spoken to him?

A Before I spoke to Jim?

Q 269 Yeah.

A No, well, it would've been just before I left Sydney, like a coupla days or a day or something - - -

Q 270 Right.

A - - - before I left.

Q 271 Yeah.

A Mm.

Q 272 So - but as far as speaking to him on the phone - - -

A Mm, hm.

Q 273 - - - how long prior to his - did - you spoke to him when you were in Tasmania?

A Not really.

Q 274 Not really?

A You can't count that.

Q 275 Right, okay. Well, how often did you - - -

A Well, I had no contact with him once I came to Tasmania.

Q 276 Right.

A Up until then, well, it was every day until about - I dunno - I guess a month or not even that before I left. It wouldn't have even been that, a coupla weeks or something, and then it was just every coupla days or whatever.

Q 277 Yeah. Why didn't this contact continue when you came to Tasmania?

A Basically because it was STD and I didn't feel the need to ring Jim every day.

Q 278 Right.

A Yeah.

Okay.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 279 I just - what I don't - if I go over anything that's already been discussed, just say it again.

A Mm, hm.

Q 280 Okay. Michael and Jim - - -

A Mm, hm.

Q 281 Michael came back to Tasmania when?

A About 8 weeks ago, I think it was - - -

Q 282 So we're now - - -

A - - - about 2 months ago.

Q 283 - - - on the 22nd of June, so it would've been in May - well - well, April or May?

A Yeah, April or May.

Q 284 When did you - when did - you became aware that Jim had died - - -

A Mm, hm.

Q 285 - - - how long after his death?

A Well, it was only like a matter of days or something. As soon as it was sorta made public, as soon as it was known about it - - -

Q 286 Yeah.

A - - - I knew about it, basically.

Q 287 How did - did you discuss it with Michael, Jim's death?

A Yeah, we would've done - - -

Q 288 Right, and what was that - - -

A - - - we would've done.

Q 289 Can you recall any of that discussion, how or - who brought it up or - - -

A We'd basically - it would've just been, "Oh, a spin-out about Jim," you know, like on the phone.

Q 290 Yeah.

A Then, as I said, when he got there we spoke more - - -

Q 291 When he came - - -
A - - - then.
Q 292 What - sorry. When he came back?
A When he came here - - -
Q 293 Right.
A - - - to Tasmania, but over the phone it wouldn't have been much because, well, to be honest with you, as I said, my dad was murdered - - -
Q 294 Yeah.
A - - - in October - - -
Q 295 Mm.
A - - - and Jim was an acquaintance, so although it still kind of hit me that Jim was dead it didn't have a great emotional - - -
Q 296 Yeah, mm.
A - - - effect on me - - -
Q 297 Yeah.
A - - - because I'd just had a big impact.
Q 298 You were washed out - - -
A Exactly.
Q 299 - - - from - - -
A That didn't do a lot - - -
Q 300 - - - the emotional strain?
A - - - for me.
Q 301 Yeah, and that - well, that's understandable.
A Yeah.
Q 302 Michael - did - do you know whether - like, Jim owed you \$20. Did he owe Michael any money? Did Michael lend him any money?
A No, I don't reckon.

Q 303 Well, why I say that, there was no comment like, "Oh, when he died", you say, "he still owed me \$20"? Michael never said anything like, "The old" - well, whatever - - -

A No.

Q 304 - - - "he owes me" - or - - -

A No, I think - I think he might've owed Christine money too. I think Christine lent him money.

Q 305 Well - - -

A I can't remember if he gave it back to her or not.

Q 306 Right. Well - - -

A I can't remember.

Q 307 Michael didn't owe him money or - did they lend money to one another?

A No, because neither of 'em ever had any money to lend to each other.

Q 308 Right, so this discussion you had with Michael about Jim, was Michael upset about it or Jim about it.

A Michael was pretty much the same as like I was. You know, it was all too - still too fresh with dad and - yeah, and, as I said, like Jim was just an acquaintance - - -

Q 309 Mm.

A - - - sort of thing, so - yeah, like we didn't mourn.

Q 310 ...

A Like, we didn't really mourn Jim - - -

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 311 What - - -

- A - - - but at the same time we - you know, we were sad about it.
- Q 312 This conversation, was this over the phone or was this when Michael was in Tasmania?
- A Well, we talked over the phone and we talked in Tasmania.
- Q 313 When you spoke over the phone how long was it after you'd found out?
- A Look, I - I couldn't tell you. If you had a gun to my head right now, I could not tell you that.
- Q 314 Was it soon or - - -
- A I guess it would've been soon. Actually, yeah, it would've been - would've been soon or, if I didn't - well, if that wasn't the case, I think he was at Roger's - - -
- Q 315 Right.
- A - - - when - - -
- Q 316 At the time when you were told?
- A Yeah, or somewhere round then, 'cause I remember, you know, like Michael. I - I heard him or I spoke to him or something and I know I did speak to him on the phone about it.
- Q 317 And when did you become aware that Michael was coming back to Tasmania?
- A Well, he'd been talking about coming back for a while, you know. Like, ever since I came back, you know, Michael was saying he was coming back, but he never had the money - - -
- Q 318 Mm, hm.
- A - - - and then when he got the compo he came back.

Q 319 Right, so were you aware on that day that he was coming back to Tasmania? Was that spoken about at that - on that day?

A I dunno.

Q 320 How long after that day that you had that conversation did he come back to Tasmania?

A Like I said, I couldn't tell you. I think - Michael came back in April or May and that happened in March, so it was at least a month.

Q 321 Right.

A Yeah, probably closer - - -

Q 322 Are you sure - - -

A - - - to like 2.

Q 323 - - - about that?

A Yeah, I'm positive of that.

Q 324 So it would've been 3 to 4 weeks after that phone call?

A At least, that Michael came to Tasmania.

Q 325 Right.

A Yeah, move about.

Mm.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 326 Just on that - - -

A Yeah.

Q 327 - - - first conversation, did Michael - like, obviously you couldn't see Jim 'cause you were in Tasmania.

A Yeah.

Q 328 Did Michael say anything to you about - - -

A ...

Q 329 - - - when - the last time he saw Jim before he died?

A He did - he did say something about - about seeing Jim, because he'd said it like before that. He'd said something about Jim's or something and then when it came up I was asking Michael. Actually, when Michael came I asked him - I was saying to him - Jim, you know, used to tell me a lotta stuff, but I never used to take a lotta notice and I was saying to him, "I wish I could remember some names," and I asked him did he remember any names.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY: Mm.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 330 Did Michael say anything - well, the reason I ask - 'cause a lotta people will say, when someone dies, "I only saw them that day" or, "I only saw them the day before" or, "It was a week before", you know, "I was only speaking to 'em and they were quite healthy," or whatever. Are you - did Michael say anything about when the last time it was he actually spoke to Jim?

A Yeah, he did, actually. He did - he did comment on - I - I can't remember, though. He said - he - he said something about - about when he'd seen him. I can't remember what it was, but - I can't remember what it was, but he'd said something and that's how he'd, like - he'd led onto the visit or whatever. He said something.

Q 331 Mm, and did that give you the impression - - -

A A lot of - actually, yeah, and whatever Michael had

said, it'd - like, I'd say he'd been to Jim's
within the month - - -

Q 332 Right.

A - - - you know, like, probably - - -

Q 333 But he - - -

A - - - more recent than late sort of thing.

Q 334 Right, so he'd visited Jim recently before he died
or he hadn't seen him for a long time or - - -

A Well, I think it would've been like within the
month, you know. Like, I don't think it was days
or even a week, probably, but maybe 2 weeks - - -

Q 335 Mm.

A - - - 3 weeks, something like that.

Q 336 Right, but he never - he certainly never said to
you anything like, "Oh, I was only speaking to Jim
this morning"?

A The day before it - no, no.

Q 337 So as far as you know at no stage has Michael said
to you, "Oh, I was only speaking to Jim a couple of
days ago before he was killed," or whatever, so it
would've been weeks before then when Michael spoke
to him last?

A Yeah, I think so, 'cause we'd had no - like, I'd
had - I'd sort of - I'd had no contact with Jim,
like, and I'd had no one really talking about him
either, so - - -

Q 338 Right.

A Yeah, mm, yeah, it would've been about that, I
think.

Q 339 Right.

A It's - it's hard to say because at the time you
don't bother, like, taking a mental note of it - - -

Q 340 No, that's - that's - - -

A - - - so it's hard to recall.

Q 341 That's understandable and all - - -

A Mm.

Q 342 Yeah, all we expect now's just the best that you
can recollect - - -

A Yeah.

Q 343 - - - for that particular time. The other things
are, missing from Jim when his body's was
discovered - - -

A Mm, hm.

Q 344 - - - from the flat or his person - was a
watch - - -

A Mm, hm.

Q 345 - - - and a ring.

A Mm, hm.

Q 346 Has Michael or any person said anything to you
about that watch or ring?

A Only Roger over the phone.

Q 347 Is that Roger - can we just - Roger who?

A Bissett, my boyfriend.

Q 348 And where's he live?

A He lives - he - he lives with me at the moment. He
was living with Bob and he said that - - -

Right.

.....:

Q 349 So Roger's back here in Tasmania?

A Mm.

Q 350 With you?

A Mm.

Q 351 Roger - I'll just clear this up.

A Mm.

Q 352 I'm confusing myself here, Karen.

A Yeah.

Q 353 Who lives at [REDACTED] Clare Court?

A Me and Kim and Roge.

Q 354 Right, it's a two-bedroom. We went in today and -
right, yeah. It's two-bedroom, you, Roger and Kim?

A Mm, hm.

Q 355 Do you know - where's Roger now?

A Roger's out.

Q 356 Right, so - but, Roger, has he spoken to Michael at
all about Sydney - - -

A Yeah, they would've. They would've talked about
Jim for sure because, like, Michael was going there
a lot. Like, see, Roger and Michael saw a lot of
each other when I was in Tassie, yeah.

Q 357 And when did Roger come over here, then?

A Roger came over early April - - -

.....:

Q 358 So Roger - - -

A - - - - - -

Q 359 - - - was in Sydney when Jim - - -

A Died.

Q 360 - - - died?

A Yeah.

Q 361 And where was Roger living?

A Lethbridge Park.

Q 362 Right, what, at the place you'd left?

A Yes.

Q 363 Right, and Roger and Michael see one another?

A Yeah.

Q 364 And Roger would visit Jim?

A I don't think Roger ever went there alone. Roger only went there if I went there and I think Roger and Michael might've even gone there together. Yeah, I think they did.

Q 365 So when Roger came here did he say anything about when the last time he saw Jim was?

A No, Roger hadn't seen Jim. The last time Roger saw Jim I was with him. That was the last time I actually saw Jim too.

Q 366 Right.

A Yeah.

.....:

Q 367 And how did - how did Roger get on with Jim?

A Roger got on pretty good with Jim. Roger had a laugh with him, but like Jim was more my acquaintance than Roger's.

.....:

Q 368 Mm, hm.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 369 Had Roger said anything to you in the past about what he thought of Jim and - - -

A He liked Jim, but thought he was, you know, a bit of a liar.

Q 370 So again the lying?

A Mm.

Q 371 He wasn't real crash-hot with that?

A No, no.

Righto.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 372 I'll just clear it up. What was this - I got onto the watch and the ring again - - -

A Mm.

Q 373 - - - and then we'd jumped onto Roger, so can we just go back to that?

A Yeah.

Q 374 You said, when I mentioned the watch and the ring - you mentioned something about - - -

A Yeah, Michael's got two rings - - -

Q 375 Right.

A - - - a gold one and a silver one.

Q 376 Yeah, and where'd he get them; do you know?

A Yeah, one was my dad's - - -

Q 377 Mm, hm.

A - - - and one was from my dad.

Q 378 Right.

A He's also got a coupla watches. I can't really describe them to you.

Q 379 But - - -

A I know one's silver.

Q 380 Has Michael - has he ever said to you that he got a ring or a watch from Jim?

A No.

Q 381 Right. Did he get anything, to your knowledge, from Jim?

A Socks, a pair of socks.

- Q 382 How'd that come about?
- A Michael arrived back in Sydney from Tasmania and my sister was meant to go and meet him and she didn't and Jim is 2 minutes away from the station - - -
- Q 383 Right.
- A - - - so Michael went to Jim's and asked to use the phone and he didn't have any money, so he couldn't get home and Jim reckoned he couldn't give him any, so I had to go down with money so Michael could get home and, yeah, he loaned a pair of Jim's socks.
- Q 384 Right. What about - has Michael ever offered any opinion on how Jim met his death or why he met his death?
- A When we've talked about it like, you know, I - you know, we've both said - sort of thing - that it's - it's hard to like - it's hard to understand what happened because as yet, like, we don't really know.
- Q 385 Mm.
- A Like apparently he was bludgeoned to death, but as to why it happened we've both sort of discussed that maybe - - -
- Q 386 And when you say - - -
- A - - - he tried - - -
- Q 387 - - - "both", that's you and Michael?
- A Me and Mike - maybe he took someone home - - -
- Q 388 Mm, hm.
- A - - - or maybe - because the fact is Jim did have sexual relations and he knew he was HIV positive. I mean, he - he had AIDS - - -
- Q 389 Mm.

A - - - and who's to say that he hasn't given that to someone, like they haven't traced him as a source? That's also - - -

Q 390 Mm.

A - - - been flashing through my mind a lot. Yeah, we just talked about that.

Q 391 Mm.

A And then we said - but then again it could've just been someone Jim picked up and took home. Who knows with him? It's hard to say - - -

Q 392 Mm.

A - - - or it could've been someone who knew him.

Q 393 Mm, hm, mm.

A I mean, they - I don't think they went into the side of a broken entry, did they?

Q 394 I - look, I'm totally unaware of that, Karen, sorry. I can find out, but, yeah, I'm unaware of whether there was a forced entry or what to his flat or - yeah.

A 'Cause, like, Jim had a dog, Snooks, and he was very alert. Like, he would've barked his head off and, I mean, he would've even barked with most people going there - - -

Q 395 Mm.

A - - - so I'm surprised the neighbours didn't - - -

Q 396 Right. Well, basically that covers all I - that I can think of.

Darren?

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY: Well, I think we've covered everything that I had noted down.

Q 397 Is there anything else that you think about Jim or - or anything that you wanna say or stamped in your mind or - - -

A Only that - like, the Yugoslavian guy that went there. Also, he was friendly with a guy upstairs. I think he was Russian or Croatian or something - - -

Q 398 Right, and ... - - -

A - - - and Jim used to borrow his car.

Q 399 And when you say "upstairs", is this like directly above him, or whereabouts

A I don't know; I just know it was above him, pretty - - - -

Q 400 Mm.

A - - - yeah, above him. Also, I just remembered someone's name. His name was Paul. He used to go to Jim's, but I just know "Paul".

Q 401 Yeah.

A I dunno - - -

Q 402 Mm.

A - - - much else - - -

Q 403 Right, and was that - - -

A - - -

Q 404 Right, and was that in relation to a sexual relationship with him or - - -

A I don't know him. I know - Jim fancied him, I think, but as far as I know, like, there'd been no sex, but he was gay; he was gay.

Q 405 Mm, right.

A Yeah, and also like apparently Jim, like, had a lot

of enemies at the Cross as well.

Q 406 Mm.

A I don't know why, just like - like not with heavy people or anything, just with like other guys that just went there.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 407 Yeah.

A Yeah, he had some hassles with them.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 408 Mm, yeah, and around about this time that Jim died had Michael contacted you and told you that he had problems financially with money? Had that ever come up?

A No, because, like, while Michael wasn't working he wasn't getting social security, but like Christine was giving him money. He lived there rent-free. She paid for all his food and everything and they'd give him 30 to 50 dollars a day.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON:

Q 409 Mm.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 410 Now, you said something about a compensation claim that Michael had received.

A Mm.

Q 411 How much was that?

A Just over a thousand, I think.

Q 412 Right, and what was that for?

A His wrist.

Q 413 Right, yeah, that's right.

Okay. Nothing - - -

DETECTIVE SERGEANT PLUMBTON: I've got nothing else.

Q 414 Is there anything else you wanna add at all, Karen?

A No.

All right, then. We'll conclude the interview.

DETECTIVE WOOLLEY:

Q 415 Right, Karen, come with me and we'll just sit in this other room and we'll

.....:

.....:

.....:

.....:

.....:

.....: You could see it wasn't her. She ... - - -

.....: - ... - no, it wasn't her - ... - fucking hell.

.....: ..., it stinks in here,

.....: Yeah.

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