



**The Report of the Independent Inquiry
into the Care and Treatment of
Mr William Scott whilst a Patient
in the Weller Wing,
Bedford and Shires Health & Care
NHS Trust**

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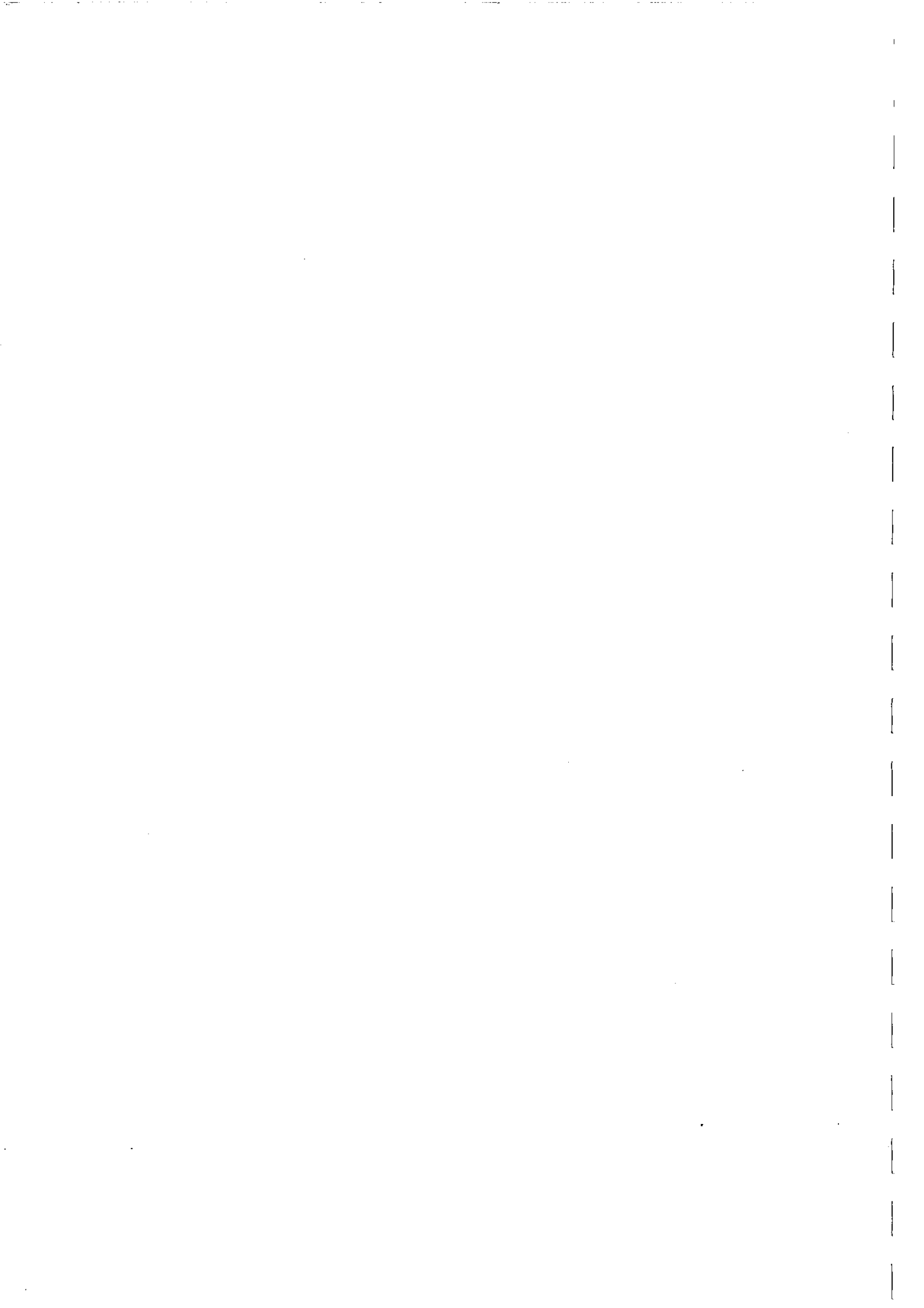
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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CHAPTER 1 - THE INQUIRY

1.0 We were invited by the Bedfordshire Health Authority to conduct an independent Inquiry into the treatment and care of William Monaghan Scott.

1.1 Our terms of reference were as follows:-

Firstly, to investigate all the circumstances relating to the treatment and care of Mr Scott by local mental health services and in particular:

1.1.1 The quality and scope of health and social care and risk management;

1.1.2 The quality and appropriateness of his hospital treatment and subsequent support, supervision and after care in the community in respect of:

- (a) his assessed health and social care needs;
- (b) his assessed risk of potential harm to himself or others;
- (c) his previous psychiatric history;
- (d) the number and nature of his previous convictions.

1.1.3 The extent to which Mr Scott's care and treatment reflected the relevant statutory obligations, relevant guidance from the Department of Health (including the Care Programme Approach and discharge guidance) and local operational policies.

1.1.4 The extent to which Mr Scott's prescribed care and treatment plans were appropriate and were:

- (a) effectively communicated and delivered; and
- (b) complied with.

- 1.1.5 The history of Mr Scott's medication and compliance with treatment regimes.
- 1.1.6 Any other factors relevant to the delivery of care and treatment of Mr Scott, including the skills and competencies of staff involved in his care, the appropriateness of the local policies and procedures and any other relevant matters;
- 1.1.7 To consider the adequacy and effectiveness of the collaboration and communication between the various agencies (Bedford and Shires Health and Care Trust, Bedfordshire GP services, Bedfordshire Social Services and the police) who were or should have been involved in Mr Scott's care and between the statutory agencies and Mr Scott's family;
- 1.2 Secondly, we were invited to prepare a Report to Bedfordshire Health Authority and Bedfordshire Social Services and to make recommendations which will have implications for the future provision of mental health services.
- 1.3 **The Inquiry procedure**
 - 1.3.1 We began by obtaining William Scott's written consent to our seeing records that related to him. We obtained copies of those records which seemed relevant to our Inquiry, including medical and nursing records, social services records and police records.
 - 1.3.2 We identified those witnesses who we believed to be able to offer relevant

information to our Inquiry and each such witness was invited to give evidence to the Inquiry.

1.3.3 No witness refused to attend the Inquiry.

1.3.4 In advance of each witness coming to give evidence, he or she received a letter from the Secretary to the Inquiry stating that we would not require the witness to affirm his or her evidence and that he or she could bring a friend, relative, legal adviser or trade union representative to the Inquiry. Further, each witness was given an outline of the issues about which we wished to hear evidence.

1.4.5 Before any witness gave evidence to us, the members of the Inquiry Panel were introduced. In addition, we explained that the interview was being recorded and that a note was also being made of it. Each witness was told that he or she would receive a copy of the transcript of his or her evidence and could make amendments, corrections or additions to it. The witness was asked to sign that transcript and to return it to the Secretary to the Inquiry. We explained that, whilst the transcript of evidence was confidential to the Inquiry, we might choose to reflect a part or parts of a witness' evidence in our Report.

1.4.6 We further explained that, if we concluded that a witness might be the subject of criticism, then a copy of that part of the Report containing such potential criticism would be sent to that witness in order that he or she might have an opportunity to respond to it.

1.4.7 All sittings of the Inquiry were held in private.

- 1.4.8 We received evidence from the witnesses who are listed at Appendix 1 to this Report. This included all of the witness statements obtained by the police in preparation for the prosecution of William Scott.
- 1.4.9 We read and considered the documents listed at Appendix 2.
- 1.4.10 We have made findings of fact on the basis of the written and oral evidence which we received, including the various records relating to William Scott which we have considered. Our conclusions and recommendations are based upon those findings of fact.
- 1.4.11 Throughout this Report, we refer to the Bedfordshire Health Authority as "the Health Authority" and to the Bedford and Shires Health and Care NHS Trust as "the Trust".

CHAPTER 2 - DENISE PALMACCI

2.0 Both Doris Hurrell (Denise Palmacci's mother) and Donald Palmacci (her son) came to talk to us about Denise Palmacci and her relationship with William Scott. We learned a large amount about this relationship from them and were very much impressed by the calm and dignified manner in which they gave their evidence.

2.1 Denise Palmacci was born on 27th December 1956. She was the only child of George Alexander Hurrell and Doris Winifred Hurrell. Her father died on 1st December 1968 when she was almost 12 years old.

2.2 Her only child, Donald, was born on 3rd June 1980. He is the son of a man who Denise Palmacci met whilst she was in the United States of America.

2.3 On 23rd April 1983, Denise Palmacci married Stephen Palmacci, and Donald was readily accepted as his son. In January of 1987, the relationship between Denise and Stephen Palmacci broke down and they were subsequently divorced. In 1993, Stephen Palmacci moved to live in the United States of America. Notwithstanding the breakdown of the relationship between his mother and stepfather, Donald maintained a very good relationship with Stephen Palmacci and has remained in regular contact with him.

2.4 Denise Palmacci started working in the "Next" clothes store in Bedford during the 1980's, initially doing a Saturday job. She was good at her job and gradually increased her hours and responsibilities until she was working full-time as the manageress of the menswear department of that store.

2.5 In 1988, Denise Palmacci met William Scott. Donald Palmacci told us that their relationship became a difficult one within a year or so. He described how

William Scott had been very aggressive and argumentative and jealous of everything which his mother did to make herself happy. Mrs. Hurrell told us that it was "a very unusual relationship" and said that her daughter was always trying to help William Scott.

She described how her daughter had gone with him to meetings for alcoholics and had similarly supported him in his desire at one time to become a Born Again Christian because she thought that that would help him. She said that it was unbelievable how her daughter had put herself out for him and done so much to help him.

2.6 Although William Scott spent many nights at Denise Palmacci's house, he always maintained his own address. At her request, the relationship was not a sexual one. Mrs. Hurrell did not think that they had ever become engaged although Donald Palmacci had some vague recollection of their talking about an engagement a long time ago. Nothing ever came of this.

2.7 Donald Palmacci said that William Scott had drunk a lot on occasions but that he thought that his drinking had decreased in recent years. William Scott was very interested in bodybuilding and took anabolic steroids which he got through contacts at a gymnasium where he worked out. He said that his mother used to argue with William Scott about his misuse of steroids and that there was a noticeable change in his character when he was taking them. He was noticeably more aggressive and irritable. According to Mrs. Hurrell, he had terrible mood swings

2.8 Donald Palmacci had never seen William Scott hit his mother but she had told him that William Scott had grabbed her throat on one occasion. He believes that a neighbour had to intervene during an argument when William Scott was becoming violent towards her. He said that the relationship always seemed to flare up when he was not around and that there was still a dent in a wall in his home where William Scott had punched the wall.

2.9 Mrs. Hurrell and Donald described 4 separate instances when William Scott had been cruel towards a Yorkshire Terrier which Denise Palmacci owned. They knew of occasions when he had been violent, which apparently included two fights with a neighbour of Denise Palmacci and one with the driver of a car in Bedford. He spoiled Christmas holidays which they spent together and regularly indulged in attention-seeking behaviour.

2.10 In about May 1996, the relationship between Denise Palmacci and William Scott came to an end. Mrs. Hurrell told us that William Scott was not prepared to accept that the relationship was over.

2.11 We were told that Denise Palmacci had not ended the relationship earlier because she feared William Scott. He was said to be a frightening man.

2.12 Towards the end of June 1996, Denise Palmacci started a relationship with another man, Michael Barton. Donald Palmacci told us that his mother really liked him and that they had got on very well. He was very pleased about this friendship.

Comment

As will become apparent later in this Report, we can appreciate that there were reasons why the nature of the relationship between Denise Palmacci and William Scott may have been open to misinterpretation by those who treated William Scott when it ended. Notwithstanding this, we were impressed by the clear and detailed account of it which Mrs. Hurrell and Donald Palmacci gave.

From other accounts in the police statements we have read, it seems that there were many heated arguments between William Scott and Denise Palmacci. As Donald Palmacci told us, William Scott had grabbed

Denise Palmacci around the throat on one occasion and it appears that she was scared of him. It is particularly noticeable that there is evidence that she was extremely frightened as to what William Scott would do to her if he saw her with another man.

We have come to the view that there was much to be learned about William Scott and his relationship with Denise Palmacci other than by talking merely to him.

CHAPTER 3 - WILLIAM SCOTT'S LIFE IN SCOTLAND

3.0 **William Scott's family**

William Monaghan Scott was born on 22nd November 1956 in Bangree, Fife. He was the fourth of seven children and taken into the care of the local authority at times because of his mother's confinements. We understand that his mother left the family in about October 1960 at which time William Scott was again taken into the care of the local authority.

3.1 From a very early age, William Scott suffered from frequent attacks of asthma which necessitated admissions to hospital. In particular, in December 1960, he was admitted to Cameron Hospital, East Fife suffering from pneumonia and an asthmatic condition. He was discharged some nine months later in September 1961 and placed in a children's home in Glenrothes. It appears that two of his sisters were also at the home. From 6th September 1963, William Scott was fostered with a Mr and Mrs Baxter and lived in Denbeath, Methil together with two sisters. There is no mention of his having any contact with his father during his childhood. If there were any contact, we suspect that it was limited to the very early years of his childhood.

3.2 **William Scott's behaviour whilst with his foster family**

By the age of nine years, William Scott's progress at school and behaviour were such that he had been referred to an educational psychologist. He was demanding attention at school and was described as disturbing and annoying the other children both in and out of school. During 1966, his behaviour was considered to be disturbed and was causing considerable distress to his foster mother. His name was placed on the waiting list for admission to the Ovenstone Children's Psychiatric Unit, although his foster mother subsequently chose to continue his placement with her rather than taking up the offer of a place at the Unit when one became available. Thereafter, William Scott's behavioural problems appeared to improve for a while.

3.3 In February 1969, William Scott was seen at Cameron Hospital, Fife having been referred again by the local authority because of behavioural problems, stealing, unhappiness at school and concern about his foster mother. He was seen by Dr Evan Jones, senior registrar, who formed the impression that William Scott had trouble in his relationships with other people. There was an indication of personality difficulty with a suggestion of some loss of contact with reality but Dr Jones did not consider there to be any illness of a serious psychotic nature evident at the time. By 5th August 1969, William Scott was described as having "settled quite well at Braehead School" and was thought to be functioning as well as could be expected.

3.4 From the records we have seen, it appears that William Scott became quite anxious to trace his natural parents when he was aged about 13 years. A reunion was apparently arranged through Social Services at which only his siblings attended, although we have not seen the Social Services records which would confirm this. William Scott left his foster home when he was aged about 15 years and had very little contact with members of his family after that.

3.5 He does not seem to have had any relevant contact with the medical services between 1969 and 1976 when he was admitted to hospital on a large number of occasions.

3.6 Admissions to hospital during 1976

On 29th March 1976, William Scott was admitted to the Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy with an acute attack of asthma.

3.7 On 14th April 1976, he was re-admitted to that hospital having collapsed whilst out walking. He was diagnosed as suffering from asthma and acute hysteria.

3.8 On 6th May 1976, a further admission to the Victoria Hospital followed when William Scott had taken an overdose of 23 Dalmane tablets. Upon admission, he said that he had been in a fight over a girl and had won the fight but that the girl did not want to know him afterwards. He said that he had taken the tablets to get a good sleep after the fight. He was discharged on 7th May 1976, having been seen by Dr Thrower, clinical assistant, who said that the impression of him was "of a boy who through emotional deprivation suffers from a grossly inadequate personality with overlying hysterical features".

3.9 On 8th May 1976, William Scott went again to the Casualty Department of the Victoria Hospital having taken an overdose of 20 Diazepam tablets. On 10th May 1976, William Scott was seen by Dr Ross, a clinical assistant in psychiatry. Dr Ross described him as "inadequate, emotionally insecure, hysterical and of well below average intelligence" and said that there was an added depressive element at that time. William Scott was transferred to Stratheden Hospital, Cupar. We have no information for how long he was a patient at Stratheden Hospital.

3.10 On 31st May 1976, he was admitted to the Victoria Hospital for a night after an overdose of 14 Valium tablets. It appears that he was hoping to be re-admitted to Stratheden Hospital but that the psychiatrist considered that such an admission should not take place since there was no treatment which was likely to be of any help to him. He was therefore discharged on 1st June 1976.

3.11 On 6th June 1976, he was taken to the Victoria Hospital by the police and admitted as an emergency. He had taken 4 Mogadon tablets. In addition, his breathing had worsened about an hour prior to admission and he was therefore treated as a case of acute bronchial asthma. He was discharged on 30th June 1976 once a place had been found for him to live.

3.12 On 6th July 1976, there was a further admission because of another attack of asthma although William Scott was said to be "hysterical and hyperventilating". He was described as being "intent on causing trouble and making a nuisance of himself". Although he suffered from asthma, it was thought that it could be difficult to distinguish true asthma from an hysterical reaction.

3.13 On 9th July 1976, William Scott was admitted to Stratheden Hospital. He was described by Dr McWalter, assistant psychiatrist, as being "a man of vulnerable personality and limited intelligence who suffers from asthma and has led a very unsettled life". On this admission, William Scott claimed to be suffering from marked trembling in his hands. The tremor soon cleared up when he was treated with Ascorbic Acid 50 mgm t.i.d. and Mogadon 10 mgm. *nocte*. It was decided that he had been malingering and seeking admission to hospital to avoid living in the lodgings which had been found for him. He was discharged from Stratheden Hospital on 13th July 1976.

3.14 On 30th July 1976, William Scott was transferred from Milesmark Hospital, Dunfermline to Cameron Hospital after developing breathlessness in the Milesmark out-patient department. He was seen by a Dr Frazer who felt that he was hyperventilating and had "minimum of wheeze". However, he was admitted to the Milesmark Hospital overnight and then transferred to the Cameron Hospital. He was considered to be fit for discharge on 31st July 1976 although it transpired that he had nowhere to go. Finally, a decision was made that he should be discharged and then go to the Social Services Department where arrangements would be made for him.

3.15 It seems that a further admission to the Victoria Hospital may have subsequently followed an overdose by William Scott of beer and Aspirins. There is no record of this admission, simply a reference to it in a letter.

3.16 **Admissions to hospital during 1977**

On 5th July 1977, William Scott was admitted to the Victoria Hospital. He had collapsed after smoking some Moroccan dope cigarettes and drinking to excess. He was again seen by Dr Ross who described him as "inadequate, emotionally insecure, vulnerable to stress and of low average intelligence". He was also thought probably to be an alcoholic. He had been taking drugs including LSD during 1976. Arrangements were made for him to attend the Psychiatric Day Unit at the Victoria Hospital. Dr Ross expressed a hope that they would be able to help although he felt that the long term prognosis for William Scott was "pretty poor".

3.17 On 25th July 1977, William Scott was admitted to Cameron Hospital with asthmatic symptoms. He was discharged on 4th August 1977. He was however re-admitted at midnight on the same day because he had been to the police station in Leven at which time he was described as being "very depressed" and threatening to commit suicide. He was discharged from Cameron Hospital on 10th August 1977.

3.18 Admissions to hospital during 1978

On 15th February 1978, William Scott was seen at Cameron Hospital "with a supposed story of excessive intake of Amoxyl and Ventylin inhaler". He was reported as having been "in and out of hospital with frequent complaints of asthmatic wheeze in a very inadequate personality". He was discharged on 16th February 1978.

3.19 In mid-March 1978, William Scott started to attend at the Day Psychiatric Unit.

3.20 On 29th May 1978, William Scott was admitted to the Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy after taking 12 Tryptizol tablets and drinking 3 pints of beer. He had felt depressed recently because his girlfriend had left him and he could not accept it. His General Practitioner had prescribed the Tryptizol that morning and he had decided to commit suicide. It was not thought to be a serious attempt at suicide because he went out

to look for help after he had taken the tablets. He was transferred to Stratheden Hospital for further management of his psychiatric state. He told a Dr Barua, psychiatrist, that he had been "feeling quite depressed since his girlfriend left him about eight weeks ago". He had been back and forth to her home "to patch things up without any success". William Scott was discharged from Stratheden Hospital on 2nd August 1978.

3.21 On 8th August 1978, he was re-admitted to Stratheden Hospital following a further overdose of drugs. He was described as being "a man who fails to learn from experience" with "a tendency to act impulsively". A decision was taken to transfer him to one of the longer term wards at Stratheden Hospital at the beginning of October 1978. He in fact absconded on 6th October 1978 with one of the female patients from the hospital. At that time, it was thought doubtful whether he was capable of supporting himself for any length of time in the community.

3.22 On 9th October 1978, William Scott was admitted to the Milesmark Hospital after an episode of vomiting which contained a trace of blood. He was said to be drinking excessively at weekends "usually managing 7 to 8 pints of beer and 7 to 8 spirits per night" and this was almost always followed by severe vomiting. He was discharged from the Milesmark Hospital on 10th October 1978 and advised about reducing his alcohol intake.

3.23 On 27th October 1978, William Scott was admitted to Milesmark after an overdose of approximately 14 Distalgesic tablets and a considerable amount of alcohol. An attempt was made to persuade him to stay for further psychiatric assessment but he refused this advice and took his own discharge on 28th October 1978. He had made a full and uneventful recovery from the overdose.

3.24 On 5th November 1978, William Scott was admitted to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital in delirium tremens. On the night before the admission, he had

hallucinations of "elephants and things". He said he had been drinking all the time since his earlier discharge from Stratheden Hospital and drank 1 bottle of rum a day. He claimed to have started drinking at the age of 13 years. In the discharge summary prepared by a Dr Elizabeth Parry, senior house officer, the diagnosis was of alcoholism and of personality disorder with a poor prognosis. He was discharged on 30th November 1978. In this discharge summary, there is reference to William Scott having been previously married with a child; it is said that the marriage broke up because of his drinking. Although there is a later reference to an intended marriage, we have had no other evidence in the course of our Inquiry that William Scott was in fact married or had a child.

3.25 **Admissions to hospital during 1979**

On 22nd March 1979, William Scott was admitted to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. He claimed to have drunk 1_ bottles of rum on the day prior to admission and one can of beer on the day of admission. He said that "he was feeling terrible" and that "he had been seeing things climbing up the walls and was really frightened". He also said that he was using LSD and "hash". On admission, he was dishevelled and tremulous. It was noted that his tremor increased markedly when he was being observed and disappeared completely when he thought that he was unobserved. He complained of seeing people under the bed and of seeing pink elephants although it was thought to be doubtful that he was genuinely hallucinating. His insight into his condition appeared limited and it was thought unlikely that he would abstain from alcohol in the future. He was discharged on 24th March 1979.

3.26 On 12th April 1979, William Scott was admitted to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh with "typical features of delirium tremens with gross visual hallucinations". He was described by a Dr. Brown, registrar, as having "a long history of alcohol, marijuana and LSD abuse". He was living in a YMCA and was in the habit of drinking 1_ bottles of rum a day. He was described as obviously finding "hospital care to his

liking". He persisted in the week of his admission "with gross tremor and amazing visual hallucinations. During ward rounds he sought attention by banging his head against the sides of his chair". When William Scott was told that he could no longer smoke in the ward, he took his own discharge on 19th April 1979. His long term prognosis was described as being "obviously poor".

3.27 On 26th April 1979, William Scott was seen in the out-patient department of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital as an emergency. He said that "he felt he was "going out of his mind", things seemed strange, he saw faces that were not there. Images went racing through his mind of his mother, his girlfriend and his father who died in November. He wondered whether he was going to do "daft things"". He said that he had been drinking at least a bottle of rum a day and always had to be drunk and that "his present problems started because his American girlfriend left Inverness and he began drinking very heavily again". He was thought to have a personality disorder associated with excessive abuse of alcohol.

3.28 On 9th July 1979, William Scott was admitted to the Royal Infirmary as a transfer from Roodlands Hospital. There was "a vague history of having fallen whilst playing football and possibly striking the right parietal region and injuring his left hand". In the discharge summary, it is said that: "The impression was gained that this might have been an hysterical episode". He was discharged on 12th July 1979.

3.29 On 6th September 1979, William Scott was admitted to hospital (which one is not immediately apparent from the records) suffering from delirium tremens. He had been drinking excessively for some weeks. He was described as having "had one or two girlfriends" and said that "falling out with the recent girlfriend led to this excessive bout of drinking". He was described as being a "young man with a rather dependent personality, especially so dependent upon drink". There was no evidence of psychotic behaviour. The diagnosis was given in the discharge summary by Dr W.E. Dickson,

senior house officer, as:-

"(a) alcohol dependence

"(b) Formulation, this young man seems to have a number of features suggestive of psychopathic personality disorder.

He is unemployed and has very little family roots. He spends a large amount of his time drinking and because of his personality at times this drinking is extremely excessive, leading to acute alcoholic hallucinosis".

3.30 The prognosis was again described as being "extremely poor". Dr Dickson said that he seemed not "to be very motivated to stop drinking". He was discharged on 12th September 1979.

3.31 On 8th October 1979, William Scott saw Dr. Dickson at the out-patient department of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. On this occasion, he denied any alcohol excess and Dr. Dickson found no evidence of it. He said that "he did not want to be with people at all and that he couldn't stand them and he was going to go crazy. He did not know when but maybe it was going to happen any time". Dr. Dickson's opinion was that "he was not suffering from any new psychiatric illness and that his behaviour was manipulative and as a result of his personality".

3.32 **Admissions to hospital during 1980**

On 23rd January 1980, William Scott was admitted to the Bangour General Hospital in the early hours as he had been found wandering and cold by the police. He was discharged later that morning.

3.33 On 28th May 1980, William Scott was reviewed in the out-patient department of the Royal Infirmary. He had been referred to that department from the Accident & Emergency department where he had been seen on 6th May 1980 having "presented with a tremor of the hands present over a few days" which "was particularly

bad on the night of admission". When questioned by a Dr. Campbell, senior house officer, about his presentation to Accident & Emergency on 6th May 1980, he "looked rather sheepish and admitted that he was really seeking attention at that time, as well as an excuse to stay off work for a few days". He told Dr. Campbell that he had not touched alcohol for about 5 months and that this was no longer a problem. He said that the need for alcohol had been replaced by "a fairly deep religious experience". He was described as being "prone to occasional episodes of attention-seeking, such as that which occurred on 6.5.80". Before being discharged from the clinic, William Scott apologised for having caused more trouble by going to the Accident & Emergency department.

3.34 On 3rd October 1980, William Scott was admitted to the Leith Hospital in Edinburgh. The police had found him in a collapsed state. Whilst in Casualty, he shook his arm and banged his head on the wall and it was initially thought that he might have delirium tremens. Despite receiving oral doses of Chlormethiazole and Diazepam, he did not quieten down and was admitted to the ward for drying out. Whilst on the ward, there were "several displays of attention seeking in which he accentuated tremor, pointed to things on the ceiling without tremor in his hands, and banged his head against the bars of the bed". It was noted that William Scott requested to leave on several occasions but could not in fact "rise from his bed". He discharged himself from the Leith Hospital on the 9th October 1980 having been "essentially admitted with acute alcohol intoxication".

3.35 Admissions to hospital during 1981

On 16th November 1981, William Scott was admitted as an emergency to the Royal Infirmary with a "presumptive diagnosis of drug induced hallucinatory state". He was admitted for overnight observation but consistently denied the abuse of "any legal, proprietary or therapeutic drugs" and was discharged home on 17th November 1981. It was recorded that the most likely diagnosis remained "an altered state of consciousness induced by drugs". It was thought that his presentation may well have been related to the fact that he was due in Court on 16th November 1981 because of "non

payment of a club membership fee". Dr. I. MacLeod, psychiatric registrar, gave the following information under the heading "Impression":-

- "(1) Psychopathic personality disorder.
- "(2) Past history of multiple drug abuse and alcoholism.
- "(3) It is possible that this presentation relates to an LSD flashback, but I think it is more likely related to his impending court appearance."

3.36 Dr. MacLeod said that he feared that there was little to benefit from William Scott having further contact with psychiatrists and he was discharged on 17th November 1981.

3.37 Admissions to hospital during 1982

On 6th August 1982, William Scott was admitted to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. He had been working in a dusty atmosphere and did not have his Salbutamol inhaler with him. On 7th August 1982, he complained of an episode of central chest pain. He was "hyperventilating with little objective evidence of bronchospasm and his pulse was 80 per minute". He later admitted that he had exaggerated the symptoms to attract attention. He was discharged on 8th August 1982.

3.38 Admissions to hospital during 1983

On 2nd August 1983, William Scott was admitted to the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh with a history of "two weeks heavy cold increasing shortness of breath over the last few days with sudden deterioration". He was described as having "a past history of alcoholism". He was discharged on 5th August 1983 with a diagnosis of acute asthma. The discharge letter which was written by Dr. Wilkinson said that William Scott was due to be married in October.

Comment

The information summarised above is drawn from William Scott's GP records. We did not consider that it was necessary for us to hear oral evidence about his childhood and early adulthood in Scotland beyond that which he chose to tell us. From the records, we formed the view that William Scott had in many respects a difficult childhood. It appears that he had little, if any, meaningful contact with his mother from the age of four onwards. There is no mention of his father's involvement with the family throughout his childhood. Save for having been fostered with two sisters and for the reunion arranged through Social Services when he was 13 years old, he seems to have had no contact with any other member of his family. He possibly lost contact with the two sisters with whom he lived after he left his foster home. He does, however, seem to have had some form of stability in his life in that he lived with the same foster parents for approximately nine years and his foster mother opted to keep him with her rather than to place him in the Ovenstone Children's Psychiatric Unit when he was offered a place there.

Despite having had some stability, he began to abuse alcohol possibly when he was as young as 13 years old and became dependent upon it. He also misused other illegal drugs.

He took a large number of overdoses. He indulged in attention-seeking and manipulative behaviour.

He often had nowhere to live and no job.

From early adulthood, William Scott was diagnosed as suffering from a personality disorder. The prognosis for him was described as being poor.

That diagnosis of a personality disorder has persisted throughout his

adult years.

CHAPTER 4 - WILLIAM SCOTT'S MOVE TO BEDFORD

4.0 Between August 1983 and May 1984, William Scott moved to live in Bedford.

4.1 **Admissions to hospital during 1984**

His first contact with the medical services in Bedford was on 27th May 1984 when he was admitted to the Bedford General Hospital (Weller Wing) at 1.50am after the police had picked him up whilst he was drunk. He said that he was upset because his girlfriend had left him. He discharged himself at 8.00pm having been prescribed Largactil. Upon admission, he was said to be verbally and physically aggressive and he apparently needed three police officers to hold him down.

4.2 **Admissions to hospital during 1985**

On 20th January 1985, William Scott was informally admitted to Weller Wing for drying out from alcohol. He was accompanied by a friend from the Christian Church Society who had known him for the past year. He said that his girlfriend had left him seven days earlier which had upset him and, as a result, he went on a drinking spree. He was described as having "no money, no will to live, sees no future and is feeling low and depressed and suicidal". On 29th January 1985, he was discharged without medication. No follow up arrangements were made.

4.3 On 7th February 1985, William Scott was re-admitted after an overdose of distalgesic, Actifed and alcohol. Upon arrival, he was unconscious and responded to pain by flexion only. A psychiatric appraisal was carried out by a Dr. Garg, locum registrar, on 8th February 1985 who found William Scott to be "thoroughly unco-operative and verbally aggressive". Dr. Garg considered his mental state and decided

that, despite the fact that he was aggressive, he was neither suicidal nor depressed. Dr. Garg was "convinced that he is exhibiting psychopathic flavour in his make up" and said that "it is my view that he could be discharged if physically fit". William Scott was discharged on 9th February 1985.

4.4 At that time, William Scott had had what was described as a "residential social job" although he apparently lost it. At the time of this admission, he had no money but did have somewhere to live.

4.5 On 3rd July 1985, William Scott was seen by a Dr. R.W. Barker with a suspected foreign body in his right eye.

4.6 **Admissions to hospital during 1986**

On 3rd February 1986, William Scott was admitted to Weller Wing. This was a referral by his General Practitioner and he was in delirium tremens. The consultant psychiatrist in charge of his care was Dr Treves Brown. A history was taken which included the following information:-

4.6.1 He had been drinking whisky and lager. On some days, he drank a lot and he would go without drinking for a few days.

4.6.2 He worked for NACRO, cutting down trees etc.

4.6.3 He had a past medical history of a suicide attempt twelve months previously when he was admitted to Weller Wing. After his discharge, he had managed up until recently.

4.6.4 He was single. Both of his parents were said to be alive. He said that his father was 55 and living in Dundee. His mother was separated

and also living in Dundee. He described her as an alcoholic. He claimed to have seven brothers and sisters. All of them were said to be living in Scotland but he had no real contact with them saying that "they don't want to know me" although he referred to having made contact with his parents three years earlier. He had been with foster parents between the age of 6 and 14 and had been thrown out by them because of his drinking. He said that he had been in and out of prison ever since begging, hustling and sleeping rough.

4.6.5 He was described as being unable to give a coherent account of himself. He had tremors in both hands. He had no delusions but claimed to have auditory hallucinations saying that he kept hearing music and voices.

4.7 Upon examination, he appeared physically unsteady, drowsy and incoherent.

4.8 On 17th February 1986, William Scott was described as "keeping dry on the ward" but it was thought that he would go out drinking if discharged. At a ward round on 24th February 1986, he was said still not to be settled. Consideration was given to his admission to Stratheden Hospital or to the St. Bernard's Wing of Ealing Hospital. He apparently expressed a preference that he should go to Stratheden Hospital.

He was discharged from Weller Wing on 27th February 1986. He was prescribed Chlorpromazine 50mg twice daily.

4.9 William Scott was referred to the St. Bernard's Wing of Ealing Hospital although it seems that there was doubt as to his likely prognosis. On 23rd May 1986, he was admitted for a five week group therapy programme after he had been through

detoxification. He was discharged from St. Bernard's on 27th June 1986.

4.10 In the discharge summary from St. Bernard's which is dated 10th July 1986, Dr. M. Dickinson, registrar, described William Scott as having "an extremely disturbed background". He had abused all sorts of drugs in the past, including LSD, and had become addicted to alcohol. The discharge summary contained the following information:-

"He coped reasonably well with the 5 week course, although he found the first and last weeks rather difficult, becoming particularly paranoid during the first few days of the last week. This may have been precipitated by him attempting to split up with his girl-friend over the previous week-end and also the feeling of loss accompanying the conclusion of the programme. In spite of the paranoid ideas, it should be pointed out, that he was an active and quite useful group member".

4.11 William Scott was prescribed one tablet daily of Abstem together with Stelazine 2mgs t.d.s and Procyclidine 5mgs in the morning. Dr. Dickinson said that he "would guess he will need psychiatric care in the foreseeable future and might benefit from referral to the local psychiatric services".

4.12 William Scott told us that he believes that St Bernard's cured him of his addiction to alcohol. He learned that he could hold down a job and that he could have a sense of pride in himself and self respect. He kept himself cleaner and "had a far better outlook on life". He realised that, if he did not stop drinking, the alcohol could kill him.

Comment

We do not know what became of the suggestion that William Scott might be admitted to Stratheden Hospital but we believe that he gained a lot from his admission to St. Bernard's.

We are not aware of any referral being made for him at this time to any local psychiatric services.

4.12 **Admissions to hospital during 1987**

On 10th March 1987, William Scott's then General Practitioner (a Dr. Hamilton) wrote asking for William Scott to be admitted to Weller Wing "to forget the fact that his girl friend has left him". He was talking about suicide and felt that he could not cope. On the same day, he was referred to the Albany Road Psychiatric Day Hospital for an urgent first contact/attendance (i.e. within 48 hours). The reason for referral was given as follows:-

"Over the past 3-4 weeks has had relationship problems. Breaking up with girlfriend ... (daughter of woman he stays with). He has apparently been too demanding and too possessive, also conflicts about sexual aspects. Girlfriend wants to break it off. This has caused Willy to feel confused, very tense and feels he's "going to go berserk". Also feels he will be driven back to drinking. His behaviour has been quite unpredictable and destructive at times. ... Felt admission was inappropriate, but he could well benefit from Day Hospital attendance with the opportunity to discuss his situation and come to a more realistic and responsible perspective on things."

4.13 In fact, before any admission was arranged, it seems that William Scott was admitted to Bedford General Hospital via the Accident & Emergency department at 9.30pm on 12th March 1987. He claimed to have taken some Dothiopin tablets. The relationship which had ended was described as being "apparently rather pathological i.e. intense + + +". William Scott was described as being subjectively suicidal and was thus thought to be a possible suicidal risk. He said that he felt "like exploding, lashing out and throwing things, but he has so far managed to control himself". He left hospital on 14th March 1987 against medical advice.

4.14 The diagnosis on discharge was given as "personality disorder" and "alcohol dependence". No drugs were prescribed for him.

Comment

Surprisingly there is no evidence in any of the records which we have seen about subsequent follow-up at the Albany Road Day Hospital but we believe that William Scott probably did attend the hospital since he said that he had been there when he was admitted to Weller Wing in 1996.

4.15 **Further admissions to hospital between 1988 and 1996**

On 11th May 1988, William Scott was admitted to the Bedford General Hospital. He had fallen on his left ankle; no fracture was seen.

4.16 On 3rd March 1989, William Scott was admitted there for an emergency appendicectomy. It was noted in his medical records that he was using anabolic steroids for bodybuilding.

4.17 On either 21st or 22nd April 1989 at 3.15am, William Scott was admitted via the Accident & Emergency Department to the Bedford General Hospital complaining of a head injury and back injury. He had slipped and fallen downstairs whilst going to get a cup of tea and claimed to have lost consciousness although it was unclear for how long. No fracture had been sustained. He was discharged on 23rd April 1989. By this time, it is apparent from the medical records that William Scott was describing Denise Palmacci as his fiancée.

4.18 By early January 1990, William Scott had been suffering from sciatica which had led to his being away from work for a number of months. He was offered a discectomy but was reluctant to have an operation.

4.19 On 6th January 1992, William Scott was admitted to the Bedford General Hospital via the Accident & Emergency Department with abdominal pain. This was thought to have been caused by constipation with abdominal colic. He was discharged on 9th January 1992.

4.20 In March 1994, William Scott was referred to a Mr. C.B.G. Adams, Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, for further investigation of his back pain. An MRI scan showed a bulging L5/S1 disc but no nerve root compression. William Scott said that he did not wish to have any form of surgery and he was discharged.

4.20 On 12th August 1994, William Scott joined the list of Dr. Basra (General Practitioner). He informed Dr. Basra that he was drinking eight units of alcohol a week. He did not mention he had taken a number of overdoses in the past nor did he mention he was taking anabolic steroids. When he joined Dr. Basra's list, he was not perceived as being a patient with a psychiatric history.

4.21 In October 1994, William Scott was referred to the Pain Relief Clinic at the Bedford General Hospital. He was seen by Dr. D.A. Dutton on 13th March 1995 who advised him to do some general exercises by way of swimming and cycling. In addition, Dr. Dutton discussed facet joint blocks with William Scott although he was not keen on injection therapy if that could be avoided.

4.22 On 17th March 1995, Dr. Dutton wrote to Dr. Basra about his treatment of William Scott and referred to his living with his partner in what is described as having been "a fairly stable relationship". We understand that this is a reference to Denise Palmacci since William Scott's partner is described as being an assistant manageress in one of the local stores in Bedford.

4.23 On 10th May 1995, William Scott attended at the Accident & Emergency department of the Milton Keynes General Hospital complaining of an injury to his back. He was diagnosed as suffering from back pain but left the department without treatment.

4.24. William Scott failed to attend a follow-up appointment at the Pain Relief Clinic at Bedford General Hospital on 11th September 1995.

4.25 From about October 1994 until about 31st March 1996, he appears to have been in receipt of medical certificates, presumably related to his back pain.

4.26 On 5th February 1996, he was admitted to the Milton Keynes General Hospital when he suffered a "sudden onset of severe gripping right-sided upper abdominal pain whilst at work" which was "associated with vomiting and followed by a black-out". He discharged himself from the hospital on 14th February 1996 before all investigations had been carried out. Dr. T. Samuel, medical registrar, said in a letter to Dr. Basra dated 26th March 1996 that one possible explanation for William Scott's abdominal pain was "steroid induced, hepatic or myocardial necrosis" and that he had been strongly advised to stop taking anabolic steroids. Dr. Basra told us he would have discussed the misuse of anabolic steroids with William Scott if he had raised the issue first but he did no more than to ask him whether he was taking or had taken steroids. Dr. Basra told us that he chose not to confront William Scott about his misuse of steroids because he had an "odd personality". At no time, did William Scott seek help from him for the misuse of anabolic steroids.

4.27 **William Scott's consultation with Dr Basra - 11th May 1996**

On 11th May 1996, William Scott went to see Dr. Basra saying he was "unhappy" and told him that this was because he had split up with his girlfriend. We

understand that this is a reference to the relationship with Denise Palmacci coming to an end.

4.28 This was a short consultation with Dr. Basra (it lasted no more than 5-7 minutes). Dr. Basra formed the impression that William Scott was "getting on all right" despite the breakdown of his relationship. He said that he was "very pleasant to talk to at the time" but that he told Dr. Basra no more than that the relationship had come to an end. Dr. Basra told William Scott he could talk to him if he chose but he wanted to see somebody else so Dr. Basra suggested that he should contact Relate. Dr. Basra said that William Scott could come back to him if he did not get any help. He did not know whether or not William Scott did contact Relate.

4.29 William Scott told us that he went to see a counsellor called Barbara at the "Beds Counselling Service" when his relationship with Denise Palmacci ended. He said that it helped him a lot to have somebody to talk to but the counselling sessions cost him £20.00 an hour which he could not really afford so he stopped going to them. He talked to the counsellor about his early life which he found "painful" to do at times and told her that he was finding it hard to cope without Denise Palmacci. William Scott also told us he and Denise Palmacci talked about going to Relate but that they just never seemed to get around to going. From what he told us, it seemed that, for him at least, a large part of the problem in their relationship was the lack of sexual intercourse.

4.30 Dr. Basra noted in his records of the consultation on 11th May 1996: "Advised to review in a few days". It was Dr. Basra's intention that William Scott should continue to attend counselling with Relate if he were happy with that. If he wanted further help from Dr. Basra, then he could contact him. Dr. Basra told us William Scott did not return to him seeking further treatment until 12th June 1996. The consultation which took place on that date was concerned with dizziness which William Scott had suffered at work. It had nothing to do with his problems in his relationship

with Denise Palmacci.

4.31 There were no convictions for offences of violence recorded against William Monaghan Scott at any time.

Comment

From the evidence, we consider that William Scott has suffered from a borderline personality disorder throughout his adult years. This has been recognised by many of those members of the medical profession who have had contact with him.

From 1976 to 1987, William Scott took numerous overdoses, none of which was particularly serious and, indeed, he told us and others that he had done things to gain attention at times. However, there was no attempt at suicide during his relationship with Denise Palmacci.

It is also clear that, whilst William Scott has a history of alcohol abuse which had led to his being admitted to hospital on a considerable number of occasions, he has had no alcohol-related admission following his discharge from the St. Bernard's Wing of the Ealing Hospital in May 1986. From the accounts given to us by Donald Palmacci, Mrs. Doris Hurrell and William Scott himself, we know he continued to drink from 1986 onwards but this does not seem to have been to such an extent that it necessitated medical intervention.

Similarly, whilst William Scott has a long history of the misuse of illegal drugs, it is noticeable that this was not a reason for his being admitted to hospital at any time during his relationship with Denise Palmacci.

As will become more apparent from this Report, the use of anabolic steroids featured in William Scott's life from probably about 1988/1989 with a significant increase in the quantity which he took in the two years leading up to mid-1996. It may be that this misuse of anabolic steroids replaced the abuse of other substances. Whether this is right or not, it is particularly noticeable that William Scott had no contact with mental health services throughout the whole period of his relationship with Denise Palmacci. We believe that Denise Palmacci tried very hard for a long time to be a supportive friend and stabilising influence for William Scott as Donald Palmacci and Mrs. Hurrell described to us, and that she achieved that aim.