

10:07:01 1 **THE TRIBUNAL RESUMED AS FOLLOWS ON TUESDAY,**

2 **11TH MARCH 2008, AT 10:30 A.M:**

3

4 MR. QUINN: Good morning, Sir.

10:40:47 5

6 Mr. Paddy Curry, please.

7

8 **MR. PATRICK CURRY, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS QUESTIONED BY**

9 **MR. QUINN AS FOLLOWS:**

10:41:18 10

11 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Mr. Curry.

12 A. Good morning.

13 Q. 1 MR. QUINN: Good morning, Mr. Curry.

14 Mr. Curry, the Tribunal I think wrote to you on the 17th of May 2007.

10:41:29 15

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. 2 If I could 22919, please. And it asked you to provide a statement if you could  
17 in relation to whether or not Mr. Dunlop ever called to Mr. Tony Fox's house  
18 whilst you were there, isn't that right?

19 A. That's correct.

10:41:45 20

20 Q. 3 And if I could 22920, please. You responded I think as follows. You said that  
21 "You had no recollection of a meeting in Mr. Fox's house when Mr. Dunlop was  
22 present. You were, however, present at such a meeting in the Mountain View  
23 Community Centre. Mr. Tony Fox and yourself were members of the Tenants  
24 Residents Association. You say that you were involved in the local youth club  
10:42:07 25 and Mr. Frank Dunlop was seeking support for a planning application for a new  
26 retail outlet at Nutgrove Avenue for Texas Home Care. You said that you are  
27 not sure of the date of the meeting but you think it was around 1990/1991." Is  
28 that correct?

29 A. That's correct.

10:42:22 30

30 Q. 4 I think you were the chairperson at one stage on the Mountain View Community

10:42:28 1 Residents Association, is that correct?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3 Q. 5 And was it in that capacity that you came to meet with Mr. Fox?

4 A. It was, yes. I met Mr. Dunlop.

10:42:38 5 Q. 6 Well before we get to Mr. Dunlop. I think you already knew Mr. Fox did you?

6 A. Mr. Fox was involved with the committee and also involved in the youth club so

7 we would meet fairly regular.

8 Q. 7 And you presumably became close, yourself and Mr. Fox, over the regular

9 meetings?

10:42:54 10 A. Well we had worked together for years so.

11 Q. 8 Yes. And I think by the late 1980's, early 1990's, Mr. Fox at that stage from

12 1985 I think, had been elected a member of Dublin County Council, isn't that

13 correct?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

10:43:10 15 Q. 9 And I think was he a Fianna Fail Councillor?

16 A. He was, yes.

17 Q. 10 And did you -- you knew him in that capacity as well as being involved in the

18 local youth clubs and all of the other local associations, isn't that correct?

19 A. That's correct.

10:43:26 20 Q. 11 And you would have worked very closely with him?

21 A. In the youth club.

22 Q. 12 Yes.

23 A. And in the Residents Association.

24 Q. 13 Yes. And I think towards the late 1990's, an issue arose which was of concern

10:43:37 25 to the Residents Association, namely the siting of a Texas Home Care store in

26 Nutgrove, is that correct?

27 A. That's correct, yes.

28 Q. 14 And you had heard of that presumably and I the attempts by Texas Home Care to

29 locate at that location, is that right?

10:43:55 30 A. That's correct, yes.

- 10:43:56 1 Q. 15 And Mr. Fox has told the Tribunal that he was approached by Mr. Dunlop at home  
2 on behalf of Texas Home Care and that he, Mr. Fox, brought Mr. Dunlop to meet  
3 with you as Chairperson of the association, is that correct?  
4 A. That's correct, yes.
- 10:44:14 5 Q. 16 So he would have introduced to you Mr. Dunlop?  
6 A. He did, yes.  
7 Q. 17 Can you recall where that introduction took place?  
8 A. In the youth club, in the youth club.  
9 Q. 18 Yes. Mr. Fox thought that the first meeting might have been in the Council  
10:44:25 10 offices?  
11 A. No.  
12 Q. 19 That's not --  
13 A. I was never in the Council offices in my life.  
14 Q. 20 You were never in the Council offices?  
10:44:31 15 A. Okay.  
16 Q. 21 But in any event, he brought Mr. Dunlop to you. And what were Mr. Dunlop's  
17 requirements at that stage?  
18 A. Well he was, we had already had a meeting, a public meeting in the club and we  
19 were supporting Texas Home Care anyway, even prior to the meeting with Frank  
10:44:47 20 Dunlop. But Mr. Dunlop came up to just to confirm or to be assured that we  
21 would be supporting it.  
22 Q. 22 And did he address a meeting of the ...?  
23 A. He came to a meeting then of the full committee and I met him just briefly,  
24 himself and Mr. Fox in the club and we arranged to bring him up and meet the  
10:45:05 25 others members of the committee' and he came back to that meeting at a later  
26 stage.  
27 Q. 23 Yes, I think it became necessary to bring a section 4 motion in relation to the  
28 development because the application had been rejected on traffic grounds, is  
29 that correct?  
10:45:18 30 A. That's correct, yes.

- 10:45:20 1 Q. 24 Would it be fair to say that the Residents Association saw this as an  
2 employment opportunity for local youths?
- 3 A. We did. I had actually met some of the Texas Home Care people and they had  
4 given a commitment that they would employ local youths, which they duly did.
- 10:45:39 5 Q. 25 Yes. So that meeting presumably would have been before the section 4 motion  
6 went through which I think went through in late 1990, is that correct?
- 7 A. I think around 1990, yes.
- 8 Q. 26 Now, Mr. Dunlop has an entry in his diary, if I could have 5198 please, for the  
9 4th of June of 1991. You see at the bottom there of Tuesday of the 4th of June  
10:46:01 10 an 8 p.m. meeting "P Curry, Tony Fox" do you see that it's been highlighted now  
11 on the screen?
- 12 A. I see that yes.
- 13 Q. 27 I think you have given instance of the two meetings you said you had with Mr.  
14 Dunlop. The first meeting with Mr. Fox and the second meeting with the members  
10:46:18 15 of the committee, isn't that right?
- 16 A. They were the two meetings. We last had a meeting on the site with Mr. Dunlop  
17 and some of the Texas representatives on the site.
- 18 Q. 28 Right. There were three meetings?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 10:46:29 20 Q. 29 Well could is there have been other meetings with Mr. Dunlop and others?
- 21 A. No, no.
- 22 Q. 30 Was there any reason why Mr. Dunlop would be meeting with you in 1991 in June  
23 1991, can you recall?
- 24 A. Well they were the only meetings that we had.
- 10:46:44 25 Q. 31 Would there -- you will appreciate, Mr. Curry, the interest of the Tribunal in  
26 an entry in Mr. Dunlop's diary for June 1991?
- 27 A. I wouldn't be sure whether I had that -- depending on where it was.
- 28 Q. 32 Yes. Mr. Fox has given evidence to the Tribunal of a failure on the part of or  
29 a reneging on a promise to construct a community centre?
- 10:47:08 30 A. That's true.

- 10:47:08 1 Q. 33 Do you recall some issue arising at this time in relation to ...?
- 2 A. Well the first thing Mr. Dunlop when he met with us, he said that at a later
- 3 stage that there would be building, they would be building some retail units
- 4 for some white goods and that they would incorporate say a youth club, he
- 10:47:28 5 actually gave us the size of the youth club that they would provide for us when
- 6 the units were being built.
- 7 Q. 34 Was this part of the, so to speak, the consideration for your support for
- 8 Texas?
- 9 A. Well we didn't ask him for it. He came up with the idea. So we are already
- 10:47:45 10 supporting the application for Texas Home Care anyway.
- 11 Q. 35 Mr. Fox has given evidence that that youth club was never constructed or never
- 12 delivered on?
- 13 A. Well we did approach Mr. Dunlop afterwards when Texas was up in Bowen and he
- 14 denied that he ever made such a commitment.
- 10:48:04 15 Q. 36 Did you contact or were you part of a group that contacted Mr. Dunlop?
- 16 A. We did, yes. We contacted Texas Home Care as well.
- 17 Q. 37 Just in relation to Mr. Dunlop, your contacts with Mr. Dunlop, where did they
- 18 take place?
- 19 A. Just on the phone over the phone.
- 10:48:16 20 Q. 38 Did you have occasion to ring Mr. Dunlop yourself?
- 21 A. I did, yeah.
- 22 Q. 39 How many times would you have rang Mr. Dunlop?
- 23 A. I'd say probably just the once.
- 24 Q. 40 Now, I presume that because of your close working association with Mr. Fox, you
- 10:48:29 25 would know where Mr. Fox lived and you would from time to time visit Mr. Fox?
- 26 A. Well we met regularly because we were working together and not just Tony, his
- 27 wife was working in the club and his family was all involved in the club and
- 28 different things as well.
- 29 Q. 41 So it wouldn't be unusual for example it if one turned up at Mr. Fox's home to
- 10:48:48 30 find you there?

- 10:48:49 1 A. It wouldn't.
- 2 Q. 42 Yes. Now, on the 4th of June, Mr. Dunlop has given evidence that he turned up  
3 at Mr. Fox's home and that you were there and that you left. Can you recollect  
4 ever meeting Mr. Dunlop --
- 10:49:04 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. 43 -- at Mr. Fox's home?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. 44 Could Mr. Dunlop have arrived at Mr. Fox's home and you would have forgotten  
9 about it?
- 10:49:13 10 A. I would have remembered I think what went on.
- 11 Q. 45 Why do you think you would have remembered had he come when you were there?
- 12 A. Well we didn't think a whole lot of him after the promises he had made so he  
13 wasn't too popular with us.
- 14 Q. 46 Yes. Mr. Fox was going forward for re-election to the Council at this time in  
10:49:34 15 1991, presumably you would have been supportive of the works that he had done  
16 and you would have been supportive of his efforts to get re-elected?
- 17 A. Well I would have been supporting all of the councillors, I was really  
18 non-political. I was involved in the youth club I wouldn't side with any.
- 19 Q. 47 Mr. Dunlop has given evidence that you left to continue a canvass on behalf of  
10:49:55 20 Mr. Fox?
- 21 A. I never canvassed for Mr. Fox.
- 22 Q. 48 Yes, that would be I understand Mr. Fox's evidence also.
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. 49 Either in 1995.
- 10:50:03 25 A. No.
- 26 Q. 50 1985 or 1991.
- 27 A. No, no, no.
- 28 Q. 51 Did you know that Mr. Fox held clinics on a Tuesday evening?
- 29 A. I think he did, yeah, yes.
- 10:50:17 30 Q. 52 Can you give or can you assist the Tribunal at all as to the circumstances

- 10:50:22 1 under which Mr. Dunlop might have met with yourself and Mr. Fox in June 1991?
- 2 A. Well the only meetings we had are the meetings that I outlined.
- 3 Q. 53 Yes. This was the first meeting with Mr. Fox.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 10:50:34 5 Q. 54 The second meeting with the committee.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. 55 Then the meeting on the site.
- 8 A. Then the third meeting on the site.
- 9 Q. 56 And then I think you had contact after?
- 10:50:42 10 A. I think he was present at the opening, which I didn't have any contact with him
- 11 in the official opening.
- 12 Q. 57 Were you there on the opening?
- 13 A. I was there on the second day of the opening.
- 14 Q. 58 And then you say that you phoned him, isn't that correct?
- 10:50:52 15 A. I phoned him afterwards and he denied that he ever ...
- 16 Q. 59 Yes, yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Curry.
- 17 A. Thank you.
- 18
- 19 CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to? Thank you very much, Mr. Curry.
- 10:51:06 20 A. Thank you.
- 21

22 **THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.**

23

24 Mr. Tony Fox, please.

10:51:10 25

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- 10:51:11 1 **MR. TONY FOX, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS QUESTIONED BY**
- 2 **MR. QUINN AS FOLLOWS:**
- 3
- 4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Mr. Fox.
- 10:52:03 5 A. Good morning. Good morning Judges.
- 6 Q. 60 MR. QUINN: Good morning, Mr. Fox.
- 7 A. Good morning.
- 8 Q. 61 Mr. Fox, you have given evidence on a number of previous modules, isn't that
- 9 correct?
- 10:52:13 10 A. I have, yeah.
- 11 Q. 62 I think you have given evidence on days 383, 384, 385. That is the 10th, 11th
- 12 and 14th of April 2003, in the Carrickmines Module. And I think you gave
- 13 evidence on;
- 14 Day 430, the 13th of November 2003, in the Fox and Mahony Module.
- 10:52:29 15 Day 435 on the 28th of November 2003, in the St. Gerard's in Bray Module.
- 16 Day 615 on the 23rd of February 2006 in the Ballycullen/Beechill Module.
- 17 Day 632 on the 4th of April 2006, in the Lissenhall Module.
- 18 Day 668 on the 18th of July 2006, in the Cherrywood Module.
- 19 Day 676, 26th of September 2006 in the Cargobridge Module.
- 10:52:54 20 Day 688, 26th of October 2006 in the Cloghran Module.
- 21 Day 698, 21st November 2006 in the Balheary Module.
- 22 Day 709, 12th of December 2006, in the Baldoyle Module and;
- 23 Day 718 on the 31st of January 2007, on the Pye Lands Module, isn't that
- 24 correct?
- 10:53:12 25 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 26 Q. 63 And in correspondence with the Tribunal and in evidence, I think your position
- 27 has been that Mr. Dunlop never gave you a contribution political or otherwise,
- 28 isn't that correct?
- 29 A. Absolutely, yeah.
- 10:53:24 30 Q. 64 Now, on the 16th of May 1991, if I could have 924, please, a motion came before

- 10:53:33 1 a special meeting of Dublin County Council which was considering the  
2 Development Plan, isn't that correct?
- 3 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 4 Q. 65 And on that date I think, the manager present add report on the Quarryvale  
10:53:44 5 lands and we see that report read into the record at page 928 and subsequent  
6 pages, isn't that correct?
- 7 A. Correct, yeah.
- 8 Q. 66 And that was a motion I think by your colleague Councillor McGrath, isn't that  
9 correct?
- 10:53:56 10 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 11 Q. 67 If we go to page 933 we see a copy of that motion. Do you recall that motion  
12 being discussed first of all at the Fianna Fail preliminary meeting in advance  
13 of the special meeting of the Council?
- 14 A. Yeah well it's a long time ago, so I wouldn't really have a specific  
10:54:15 15 recollection. But it was discussed, you know.
- 16 Q. 68 You don't recall whether it was discussed or not, is that the case?
- 17 A. A group meeting?
- 18 Q. 69 Yes.
- 19 A. I think.
- 10:54:23 20 Q. 70 Fianna Fail group meeting?
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. 71 It was. And were you present at that discussion?
- 23 A. I'm sure I was, yeah.
- 24 Q. 72 And can you recall other than Councillor McGrath, who would have spoken in  
10:54:32 25 relation to the motion?
- 26 A. Well I don't recall who all spoke --
- 27 Q. 73 Yes.
- 28 A. -- on it, you know.
- 29 Q. 74 Yes.
- 10:54:39 30 A. But I think most of the group were in favour of it anyway, you know, I don't

10:54:44 1 recall anybody not. That was in the 16th of May, is that what you said?

2 Q. 75 That's right in 1991?

3 A. '91. I think there was substantial support for that motion.

4 Q. 76 Yes. And I think that that motion proposed effectively that the lands in

10:54:58 5 Quarryvale would get the D zoning, isn't that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. 77 The retail zoning?

8 A. That's correct, yes.

9 Q. 78 And I think the manager's report in relation to that proposal was quite

10:55:08 10 negative, isn't that correct?

11 A. Yeah, well if you say it, like I mean, it's such a long time ago.

12 Q. 79 Yes. If we could have for example 929. I mean, the manager for example drew

13 the councillor's attention to the problem with the roads in the immediate

14 vicinity of the site and said that they weren't adequate to service a town

10:55:34 15 centre and it would be difficult to provide proper public transport service,

16 isn't that correct?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. 80 Did he say that the site was removed from the railway line and that the

19 proposed relocation of the town centre could significantly reduce the economic

10:55:47 20 and social attraction of an improved rail service to serve the central area

21 with its commercial core transferred elsewhere would need be to be re-assessed.

22 Was that -- do you recall the manager?

23 A. I see that there, yeah. That would have been put, you know.

24 Q. 81 Yes. For example he said that "the generation of traffic onto the motorway

10:56:11 25 junction would be considerable and the impact on the junction capacity could be

26 detrimental to the operation of the junction" isn't that correct?

27 A. Yes it seems there, yeah.

28 Q. 82 Did he say that "the town centre of a new town had a vital role not only in

29 terms of providing commercial facilities but also in performing an important

10:56:26 30 social function acting as a focus and an identity for the town and that that

- 10:56:30 1 was one of the council's reasons for pursuing a policy of self-contained new  
2 towns, each with its own town centre and that the proposal would seriously be  
3 detrimental to that policy." Do you recall the manager?
- 4 A. I see that there now.
- 10:56:44 5 Q. 83 Yes. Did he say if we look at 930 for example, that "the Dublin Planning  
6 Officer was strongly of the view that the town centre designation should remain  
7 on the originally designated site."
- 8 A. I see that, yeah.
- 9 Q. 84 Did he say for example, that "it was considered that such a fundamental change  
10:57:04 10 which would come about as a result of this vote being passed, would change the  
11 strategies as it proposed in the motion eventually give rise to concern and  
12 consequence and representations from sources which had hitherto relied on the  
13 council's state of policy in formulating development schemes."
- 14 A. I see that, yeah.
- 10:57:25 15 Q. 85 Did he -- there was a debate I think, in relation to an amendment then I think,  
16 put forward by Councillor McGrath and others to the original motion, isn't that  
17 correct?
- 18 A. Yeah I see that there's an amendment, yeah.
- 19 Q. 86 Yes. And then I think there was a vote on whether or not the original motion  
10:57:49 20 ought to be amended, isn't that correct? If we look at 932 we see that you  
21 vote in the favour of a proposal that the original motion be amended, isn't  
22 that correct? You were one of the 31 councillors who voted in favour of  
23 amending the original proposal?
- 24 A. That's right.
- 10:58:06 25 Q. 87 And then I think you were also one of the 29 councillors who voted in favour of  
26 the amended motion which had the effect of allowing the Draft Plan to go on  
27 display showing the new town centre at the Quarryvale site, isn't that correct?
- 28 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 29 Q. 88 Now, can you assist the Tribunal, Mr. Fox, insofar as you can as to how you  
10:58:26 30 came to support both of those proposals particularly in the light of what the

- 10:58:30 1 manager had to say to the members of that meeting?
- 2 A. Well as I said here many a time, I would have listened to the local councillors
- 3 in the debate and that end of it. So it seems to me that is the wish of the
- 4 Council there in relation to the members that would know what was needed on the
- 10:58:46 5 ground --
- 6 Q. 89 Yes.
- 7 A. -- in those areas. I mean, it was a long way away from where I represented,
- 8 you know, so you'd be guided by your local councillors.
- 9 Q. 90 I think the local councillors there would have been Councillor McGrath I think,
- 10:59:00 10 would that have been perhaps Councillor Lawlor, Councillor Hanrahan?
- 11 A. Well out in that particular area. Councillor McGrath is that area, I think he
- 12 was anyway or was.
- 13 Q. 91 Do you recall Mr. Dunlop or Mr. O'Callaghan discussing the proposal with you in
- 14 advance of that meeting?
- 10:59:16 15 A. No, never.
- 16 Q. 92 They never discussed it with you?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. 93 In advance of that May 1991 vote?
- 19 A. No. They did no representations.
- 10:59:25 20 Q. 94 You had no representations at all in advance of that vote?
- 21 A. No, other than from the --
- 22 Q. 95 The local councillors?
- 23 A. -- local councillors like, you know.
- 24 Q. 96 And when we talk about representations from the local councillors are you
- 10:59:35 25 talking about the councillors approaching you directly and seeking your support
- 26 or being present when the matter was being discussed in Conways and being --
- 27 A. That's where you'd take it all from the meetings and the meeting the debate on
- 28 it as well as that, you know.
- 29 Q. 97 Yes. So would it be fair to say that there was a debate in Conway's amongst
- 10:59:53 30 the Fianna Fail grouping?

10:59:54 1 A. I'm sure there was, yeah.

2 Q. 98 And in that debate in addition to that debate do you think that the

3 councillors, Councillors McGrath, Councillor Hanrahan or the other local Fianna

4 Fail councillors, might have sought your support also for the proposal?

11:00:08 5 A. If they were speaking on it, that's what the idea of these group meetings was.

6 We had them -- have them still in relation to agendas and that so.

7 Q. 99 I think you were proud of the fact that you would be regarded as a local voter

8 of the Fianna Fail block in the Council, isn't that right?

9 A. That was a quota thing -- are you reading that out?

11:00:27 10 Q. 100 Yes. This is something that you have asked to be added to the brief this

11 morning. If we could put it on screen please?

12 A. It was my solicitor or my lawyers.

13 Q. 101 It's something that yourself --

14 A. That is what I used in the, I think I said it to you when I was here first --

11:00:49 15 Q. 102 Yes.

16 A. -- in relation to my canvass. That's what I used and so it wasn't in 1991.

17 Q. 103 Yes. This is May 1991 during the 1991 election campaign, isn't that right?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. 104 Yeah.

11:00:57 20 A. It was an article in the paper they did an interview with all of the

21 councillors.

22 Q. 105 And this is based on interview with you, isn't that right?

23 A. That's right. Yeah.

24 Q. 106 And presumably there is nothing on this that would be inaccurate, would that

11:01:09 25 fair to say?

26 A. Absolutely, yeah.

27 Q. 107 And i think one of the things it says there we see it at the bottom of the

28 second paragraph it says that you "having dealt with the controversial Section

29 4 rezoning it said that you were the Vice-Chairman of the Dun

11:01:20 30 Laoghaire/Rathdown committee and a loyal voter with the Fianna Fail block on

- 11:01:24 1 the Council". That was something obviously that you wanted to get across to  
2 your electorate, would that be fair to say?
- 3 A. I'm saying it mightn't have been a quote. But the point is, I was a loyal  
4 supporter, you know.
- 11:01:38 5 Q. 108 Now, following on the successful vote in May 1991 and before the second vote  
6 which I think was on the 17th of December 1992. Were you lobbied in relation  
7 to the proposal?
- 8 A. Well as I said here before I recall that Mr. Dunlop brought Mr. O'Callaghan to  
9 the house.
- 11:01:59 10 Q. 109 Yes.
- 11 A. And I think it was September '92.
- 12 Q. 110 Yes.
- 13 A. And that, you know, it was in relation to that. And there was another vote  
14 supposed to be coming up. I didn't know whether another vote would be coming  
11:02:14 15 up or not, you know. It doesn't always be that there will be a second vote,  
16 you know. And I just recall that I did vote for it, that I was supportive of  
17 it and that I would, if it came up again I'd be supportive of it again.
- 18 Q. 111 Yes. Now, in relation to that visit by Mr. Dunlop and Mr. O'Callaghan to you,  
19 did you have any forewarning that Mr. Dunlop was going to bring Mr. O'Callaghan  
11:02:40 20 to you?
- 21 A. Absolutely none whatsoever.
- 22 Q. 112 This was the second time that Mr. Dunlop had brought a developer to you, isn't  
23 that right? If he if we take the Texas Home Care?
- 24 A. He didn't bring a developer to me.
- 11:02:51 25 Q. 113 Well perhaps a developer is an inappropriate description for Texas Home Care.  
26 Did he not bring Mr. O'Callaghan to you?
- 27 A. He brought, yeah but I mean, you said to me who was the second person.
- 28 Q. 114 Well the person who was involved with Texas Home Care?
- 29 A. Never brought anybody from Texas Home Care to me.
- 11:03:10 30 Q. 115 He never brought Mr. Curry to you or Mr. Copal to you?

11:03:14 1 A. No.

2 Q. 116 No.

3 A. We would have met them people on-site as I said here before with others on the

4 site, you know, in relation to the development itself.

11:03:27 5 Q. 117 Yes.

6 A. I don't recall he ever said he brought Mr. Copal to me.

7 Q. 118 Okay. So the only person he before ever brought to you was Mr. O'Callaghan, is

8 that correct?

9 A. That's correct, yeah.

11:03:35 10 Q. 119 You don't deny that Mr. O'Callaghan is a developer I presume?

11 A. No, I don't, no.

12 Q. 120 And this must have been an unusual occurrence for you to be introduced to a

13 developer by Mr. Dunlop in your home unannounced and uninvited?

14 A. I don't know about unusual but it just happened anyway.

11:03:58 15 Q. 121 And --

16 A. I don't think I was the only one was I.

17 Q. 122 Sorry?

18 A. I don't think that he brought other people just looking at evidence there. He

19 seemed to be -- Mr. O'Callaghan seemed to be going around anyway.

11:04:08 20 Q. 123 Yes. Now, when did he introduced Mr. O'Callaghan to you?

21 A. He must have done.

22 Q. 124 And did Mr. O'Callaghan tell you his proposals for the Quarryvale site?

23 A. Well I think in relation to, I can't specifically remember the conversation

24 overall but the point was, as I said I had voted for that prior to it and I

11:04:33 25 would be, I would be supportive of it, you know.

26 Q. 125 And this was in September 1992?

27 A. Yeah.

28 Q. 126 And --

29 A. I mean, we had the Nutgrove Shopping Centre and I knew the whole advantages

11:04:43 30 that that brought to an area and the jobs and then the people. I mean, people

11:04:49 1 out there, we were in the wilderness nearly until that shopping centre came  
2 along back in --

3 Q. 127 This is the Nutgrove Shopping Centre?

4 A. Yes.

11:04:58 5 Q. 128 Yes.

6 A. And the facility that came there was absolutely, I think it won a European  
7 award. But I mean, the residents all around there could do their shopping  
8 there instead of having to go into town and get the bus into George's Street or  
9 Dunnes Stores or whatever. I mean, on the basis I was looking at in relation  
11:05:16 10 to any of those types of developments, I mean there was a huge need for them,  
11 wherever it went there was a huge need for it and I would always support  
12 initiatives like that.

13 Q. 129 Well presumably if the shopping centre designation had remained in Neilstown  
14 that would also have been ...?

11:05:40 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. 130 But the issue Mr. O'Callaghan was putting to you was the issue of transferring  
17 the designation or the zoning from Neilstown to Quarryvale, isn't that right?

18 A. Uh-huh well that was debated at the Council in all that end of it and the  
19 Council and the Council decided by a majority to support that.

11:05:57 20 Q. 131 Yes.

21 A. I mean, as I said, I'd be guided by the local councillors and the local debate  
22 and whatever, same as my own area when I supported Texas Home Care, there was  
23 quite a few people, that councillors that didn't support it.

24 Q. 132 Yes.

11:06:13 25 A. And --

26 Q. 133 Well we'll leave Texas Home Care aside for the moment, Mr. Fox.

27 A. I'm just saying to.

28 Q. 134 Did you appreciate that what was at issue in '92, was not whether there would  
29 be a development in Quarryvale but whether or not the development would be in  
11:06:27 30 Quarryvale at the expense perhaps of Neilstown, insofar as the shopping centre

11:06:32 1 was concerned?

2 A. I don't know whether it was at the expense of it. You know, I'm saying I.

3 Q. 135 For example, Mr. Fox, I understand that the manager's report, you would have

4 received the manager's report in relation to each of the motions and each of

11:06:47 5 the proposed rezonings, isn't that right?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. 136 And you would have regard to what the manager has to say presumably?

8 A. Yeah. You'd take all of that into account.

9 Q. 137 But we know that the manager's report didn't issue until the 1st of September

11:06:59 10 '92, yet you tell us that you were supportive of this proposal as of September

11 '92. Three months in advance of the manager's report even being published?

12 A. As I said I was in support of listening to the local councillors in the area

13 that would be representing the people and that is the way I work in the me own

14 area as well as that I would represent the people and that is what was the wish

11:07:20 15 of the Council. We were doing a County Development Plan, we were putting a

16 plan in place and that is what the exercise of it was.

17 Q. 138 There is no doubt, Mr. Fox, but that Mr. Dunlop in bringing Mr. O'Callaghan to

18 you, was bringing Mr. O'Callaghan to you for the purpose of seeking your

19 support, having a meeting with you a councillor seeking your support for his

11:07:40 20 proposals, isn't that's correct?

21 A. I would presume that was the idea.

22 Q. 139 There is no doubt about that.

23 A. No.

24 Q. 140 And that was a unique meeting for you with Mr. Dunlop and Mr. O'Callaghan,

11:07:48 25 isn't that right? That was Mr. O'Callaghan I think was from Cork, isn't that

26 right?

27 A. Well it's ...

28 Q. 141 But it would have been a unique meeting for you. Yet I think, Mr. Fox, when

29 you came to the Tribunal for a private interview initially, you when asked, if

11:08:04 30 you ever had a meeting with Mr. O'Callaghan or if you had ever met Mr.

11:08:10 1 O'Callaghan. If I could 25336. This is what you had to say at interview in  
2 December 1998. If we look at the fourth last paragraph of what's coming up.  
3 This is a note of what. Sorry, 25336. The "she" here now is Ms. Dillon and  
4 says:

11:08:33 5  
6 "Then asked if he ever met Owen O'Callaghan. He said he might have seen him  
7 and spoke to him at the Council. He did not really know. I did not know him  
8 as a developer."  
9

11:08:44 10 But you had met Mr. O'Callaghan, Mr. Fox, isn't that correct, and you had met  
11 him at your home and you had met him in the company of Mr. Dunlop?

12 A. Yeah, that's right, yeah.

13 Q. 142 Do you think perhaps with the benefit of hindsight that that might have been a  
14 more appropriate answer to have given in response to that question?

11:09:03 15 A. Well as I said I didn't really know there in it, I mean, I didn't really it at  
16 that time anyway so I did notify the council or the Tribunal that when it did  
17 dawn on me, you know.

18 Q. 143 Yes. Well it hadn't dawned on you I think by January 2000, because on the 20th  
19 of December 1999 at 2083, you were asked a series of questions and asked for a  
20 statement in relation to a series of questions and the second of those

11:09:24 21 questions were "whether you had ever attended any private meetings with any  
22 party or parties in connection with the rezoning of Quarryvale?". And at 28  
23 sorry 20784 next page you were asked "whether you were requested by any party  
24 or parties to provide any assistance in connection with the proposal to rezone  
11:09:46 25 Quarryvale and D whether you were lobbied in connection with the rezoning of  
26 Quarryvale?". And do you recall your response to that, Mr. Fox?

27 A. No.

28 Q. 144 If I could have 2085. This is your response on the 24th of January 2000.

29  
11:10:03 30 "In relation to the matters of you have outlined in your letter from A to F the

- 11:10:14 1 answer is no to each of them." Do you see that?
- 2 A. Oh, yeah I see that, yeah.
- 3 Q. 145 Now, you are correct when you say that you did at one stage tell the Tribunal
- 4 of that meeting. And I think that occurred on the 24th of June 2001. That's
- 11:10:22 5 at 2087.
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. 146 You said that Mr. Dunlop and Mr. O'Callaghan called to see me at my home in
- 8 relation to Quarryvale. Thereafter, Mr. O'Callaghan wrote to thank me for
- 9 meeting him. I also recollect meeting Mr. Dunlop in the vicinity of the
- 11:10:35 10 Council offices, I presume I was given promotional literature by Mr. Dunlop.
- 11 As mentioned above, I met Mr. O'Callaghan with Mr. Dunlop called to see me in
- 12 my home in relation to Quarryvale. I would also have met Mr. O'Callaghan in
- 13 the vicinity of the County Council offices, where he would have spoken to me,
- 14 promotional literature may have been given to me by either Mr. O'Callaghan or
- 11:10:55 15 Mr. Dunlop".
- 16
- 17 Now, you know that Mr. Dunlop has given evidence, Mr. Fox, in relation to a
- 18 payment to you which he said he made on the 4th of June 1991, isn't that
- 19 correct?
- 11:11:09 20 A. I seen that, yes.
- 21 Q. 147 Yes. And he says and he has given detailed of evidence of it and your counsel
- 22 has cross-examined him in relation to it. That he came to your home and he met
- 23 you at your home, that you were there with Mr. Curry, that Mr. Curry left to
- 24 canvass on your behalf and that he left with you, an envelope containing cash,
- 11:11:32 25 isn't that correct, 2,000 pounds to be precise?
- 26 A. I seen that, yeah.
- 27 Q. 148 What do you say to that, Mr. Fox?
- 28 A. Chairman, I can honestly and truthfully say that it never happened.
- 29 Q. 149 Thank you very much.
- 11:11:49 30 A. It's a total fabrication, that's what it is.

11:11:54 1 Q. 150 Just in relation to that. Taking what you say for a moment, Mr. Fox, that it  
2 is a fabrication and s deliberate as it would have to be fabrication by Mr.  
3 Dunlop --

4 A. Yeah.

11:12:04 5 Q. 151 -- just looking at it objectively.

6  
7 Mr. Dunlop has added the unnecessary detail, albeit late in the day, that  
8 Mr. Curry was present at your home when he called with the payment. Now,  
9 looking at it from Mr. Dunlop's point of view and assuming that he is  
10 fabricating a story against you. Would you agree with me that it would be  
11 highly foolish on of him to add another ingredient to the story, namely an  
12 additional witness who could contradict him in relation to the matter, namely,  
13 the fact that Mr. Curry was present.

14

11:12:36 15 CHAIRMAN: Which he has.

16

17 Q. 152 MR. QUINN: Which he has done.

18 A. Absolutely. I mean, it never happened.

19 Q. 153 Yes.

11:12:43 20 A. I don't know where he's coming from. As I said, it just never ever happened!

21 Q. 154 Yes.

22 A. And that is the truth of the matter.

23 Q. 155 Thank you, Mr. Fox.

24

11:12:54 25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you

26 A. Thank you, Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gordon, could you want to ask Mr. Fox anything?

29

11:12:59 30 MR. GORDON: I have no questions, Mr. Fox.

11:13:03 1 A. Chairman, thanks very much.

2

3 CHAIRMAN: Just. Well that concludes your evidence.

4 A. Thanks, Chairman.

11:13:10 5

6 CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fox and thank you for your attendance over a long period of  
7 time.

8 A. I hope that I have helped the Tribunal in all its deliberations. I came here

9 to, you know, to do what I did truthfully and I feel that I should be, you

11:13:29 10 know, I mean, when I say that I'm ... my wife and family and the whole lot of

11 it has been under a lot over the last number of years and I, as I said, I

12 endeavoured at all times to deal with the issues truthfully and I believe I did

13 and I hope that the Tribunal is happy with that end of it. So I mean that is

14 what I did to do.

11:13:55 15

16 CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you for your --

17 A. Thank you Chairman, thanks Judges, thanks Mr. Quinn and Ms. Dillon.

18

19 **THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.**

11:14:04 20

21 MS. DILLON: Ms. Therese Ridge, please.

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11:14:09 1 **MR. THERESE RIDGE, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS QUESTIONED BY**

2 **MS. DILLON AS FOLLOWS:**

3

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Mrs. Ridge. Sorry, Ms. Ridge. Good morning

11:14:58 5 A. Good morning, members, Chair.

6

7 Q. 156 MS. DILLON: Good morning, Ms. Ridge. You have given evidence to the Tribunal  
8 in a number of modules, isn't that right?

9 A. That is correct.

11:15:09 10 Q. 157 And I think in the initial contact with you by the Tribunal would have been a  
11 questionnaire which in common with all members of the Dail, Seanad and Dublin  
12 County Council, they were furnished with a questionnaire and asked to provide  
13 certain information to the Tribunal. And you provided such a questionnaire at  
14 3485, isn't that right?

11:15:27 15 A. Yes, I did provide a questionnaire, answer it, yes.

16 Q. 158 And I think that in the course of that questionnaire a series of questions were  
17 asked in relation to some specific land transactions and they related I think  
18 to Mr. James Gogarty and you were also asked whether or not you were aware of  
19 any payment or offer of payment or other benefit to any public representative,  
20 isn't that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. 159 In connection with any matter --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. 160 -- of any property at 3491.

11:15:57 25 A. If that's what's down there.

26 Q. 161 Yes. Well just to be clear. You see question 22 there in front of you,  
27 Ms. Ridge. And you will see there where you were asked "whether you were aware  
28 of any payment or offer of payment or other benefit to any public  
29 representative, member of An Board Pleanala, Local Government official or  
30 official of An Bord Pleanala in connection with the zoning planning tax

11:16:15 1 designation of any property or the provision of services to any property."  
2 Isn't that right?  
3 A. Um.  
4 Q. 162 And that was a general question non-specific to any piece of land in relation  
11:16:25 5 to corruption generally, isn't that right?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. 163 And I think you indicated in your answer that --  
8 A. I said no.  
9 Q. 164 Yes. And I think that you signed that questionnaire at 3492 and returned it it  
11:16:37 10 to the Tribunal on the 25th of March, isn't that right?  
11 A. What year was that?  
12 Q. 165 1998 I think. 1998 that's correct, 3492.  
13 A. Okay.  
14 Q. 166 Now, I think subsequently you attended before the Fine Gael inquiry committee,  
11:16:53 15 isn't that right, that arose out of certain evidence Mr. Dunlop had given?  
16 A. I did.  
17 Q. 167 And I think that the notes in relation to your attendance before that committee  
18 of inquiry are at 3498.  
19 A. I'm sure you're right. I did attend, yes.  
11:17:06 20 Q. 168 Yes. And I think just a few matters that I just want to draw to your  
21 attention. You were pro Quarryvale according to the document, isn't that  
22 right?  
23 A. I certainly was, yes.  
24 Q. 169 And you referred to receiving 500 pounds from Mr. Frank Dunlop in 1992, which  
11:17:23 25 was cash and unsolicited, isn't that right?  
26 A. That was my, that's what I wrote down at that time, yes, that was my memory.  
27 Q. 170 Yes. And I think that you confirmed you had never opened an official account  
28 for the election and you confirmed that Frank Dunlop would have told you about  
29 Tom Hand and his demand for money but in a jovial manner initially, isn't that  
11:17:44 30 right?

- 11:17:45 1 A. He certainly did, yes.
- 2 Q. 171 Yes. And that's what you confirmed at 3498 in the last paragraph to the
- 3 committee of inquiry. You confirmed there that "in the '92 election you were
- 4 friendly with Frank Dunlop since 1980. Frank Dunlop would have told you about
- 11:18:00 5 Tom Hand, first told her was in a jovial manner."
- 6 A. That's right, yes.
- 7 Q. 172 And I think on the following page on the continuation of that document at 3499
- 8 at the top of the page, you note that "there is no contact" presumably with Mr.
- 9 Dunlop since the Sam Smith article and "that Mr. Dunlop said he was going to
- 11:18:19 10 spill the beans about Tom Hand allegation". Would you have told the Tribunal
- 11 that?
- 12 A. You mean in, is this?
- 13 Q. 173 This is the Fine Gael inquiry?
- 14 A. And why would I have told the Tribunal that because this --
- 11:18:34 15 Q. 174 When I say Tribunal. I'm talking about the committee of inquiry for Fine Gael.
- 16 I am asking you to confirm whether or not?
- 17 A. I was just wondering had another Tribunal emerged.
- 18 Q. 175 No. It's a committee of inquiry.
- 19 A. So what are you saying I said.
- 11:18:48 20 Q. 176 What it records as saying is "No contact since Sam Smith article said he was
- 21 going to spill beans about Tom Hand" and I am asking you to confirm that the he
- 22 that's referred there must be Mr. Frank Dunlop?
- 23 A. I'm sure it was, yes.
- 24 Q. 177 Now, you were there asked "any of your colleagues on the take" and then your
- 11:19:04 25 answer "would have questioned some things in my mind, attitudes, whose
- 26 attitudes about what I don't want to say. Tom Hand may have had a different
- 27 approach than rest of us. No. The suspicion that Tom had opinion of his own
- 28 ability which was inflated. May have indicated that he would divide Fine Gael
- 29 vote".
- 11:19:25 30 Do you see that comment that you made there to the Fine Gael inquiry about

- 11:19:29 1 Mr. Tom Hand?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. 178 Now, looking at that, are you suggesting there that No. 1, you yourself had a  
4 suspicion in your own mind about Tom Hand?
- 11:19:41 5 A. I didn't have a specific suspicion, I didn't know about any requests or demands  
6 from Tom Hand of Frank Dunlop until Frank Dunlop informed myself and my  
7 colleague Olivia Mitchell and we couldn't understand why he said Mr. Hand never  
8 received the money and we advised him to go to the police or to the Party  
9 Leader.
- 11:20:09 10 Q. 179 Yes.
- 11 A. I never felt it was my duty to pass on hearsay information involving the good  
12 character of anybody and that was purely what it was. This incident as far as  
13 I knew may never have taken place so that's why. And also it was said to me in  
14 a jovial manner and we did not really, Chair -- it's not exactly something in a  
11:20:34 15 you'd be going out and talking to people about. Supposing the information was  
16 incorrect.
- 17 Q. 180 Just looking at what you are recorded there as having told the inquiry. When  
18 you say may have indicated he would divide Fine Gael vote. That's not an  
19 allegation that Mr. Dunlop has ever made about Mr. Hand to the knowledge of the  
11:20:53 20 Tribunal, Ms. Ridge. Was that a view you held yourself in which you expressed  
21 to the Tribunal to the committee of inquiry?
- 22 A. Well I used the term "may" and I can't remember why that would have been but  
23 like Mr. Hands is dead since 1996 and I don't particularly remember, I wasn't  
24 particularly close to him and maybe he was a councillor of long-standing and  
11:21:17 25 maybe have had more fixed ideas that than I may have had. But I keep using  
26 that word may because I don't think.
- 27 Q. 181 Yes. And what you said in the sentence immediately preceding that if it's  
28 correct is that "the suspicion that Tom Hand had opinion of his own ability  
29 which was inflated". Was that your view of Mr. Hand?
- 11:21:35 30 A. I well I think so yes, yes.

11:21:36 1 Q. 182 So that what you were seeking to express there to the Fine Gael committee of  
2 inquiry, that Mr. Hand in his conduct as a councillor had an opinion of his own  
3 power that was inflated?

4 A. Well that sounds a little bit harsh. And I have to ask, Chair, I thought I was  
11:21:55 5 in here to answer the questions on Quarryvale and I don't understand what --  
6 why I am being asked about this.

7 Q. 183 As you're aware, Ms. Ridge, that the allegation of Mr. Dunlop of the demand of  
8 250,000 pounds by Mr. Hand was a demand made allegedly in connection with  
9 Mr. Hand's continued support for Quarryvale and therefore is a relevant matter  
11:22:16 10 for the Tribunal to inquire into.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN: These are issues, Ms. Ridge, which --

13 A. Well I haven't a problem answering them I am just a little surprised.  
14

11:22:25 15 Q. 184 MS. DILLON: Not at all. This is a document that deals as you know,  
16 Ms. Ridge, with what you told the Fine Gael inquiry.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. 185 Is it position that, it was your view of the late Mr. Tom Hand that he,  
19 Mr. Hand, had a view that his of his own ability which is described there in  
11:22:41 20 your words as inflated?

21 A. Well if I said that I must have I'm not denying I said it. I have to say I  
22 would have thought -- I think Mr, maybe I could put it this way, Chair.  
23 Mr. Hand being a councillor of long-standing thought he had maybe a right to  
24 advise newer councillors and we wouldn't have always accepted what he was  
11:23:10 25 saying. And from that point of view, that's I would have put. I am sure that  
26 that's what I meant by that.

27 Q. 186 All right. And when you said that Mr. Hand might have indicated he would  
28 divide the Fine Gael vote. Now, first of all do you accept that that's what  
29 you told the committee of inquiry?

11:23:29 30 A. Well if it's down there, I am not going to make a liar out of myself, that's

- 11:23:34 1 what I said.
- 2 Q. 187 And that would follow from that, Ms. Ridge, that you must have had the view
- 3 that Mr. Hand either would have indicated or would have said to somebody that
- 4 he was capable of splitting the Fine Gael vote?
- 11:23:46 5 A. Well --
- 6 Q. 188 Is that right?
- 7 A. No, I'm loathe to agree with you. It's, it was just -- Mr. Hand, I just said
- 8 it to the Chair. Mr. Hand felt he was in charge of all us newer councillors
- 9 and he wasn't and he wasn't the group leader. But I think he thought he was
- 11:24:07 10 giving us the benefit of his experience which we didn't necessary appreciate.
- 11 Q. 189 What were you trying to explain to the committee of inquiry when you told the
- 12 committee of inquiry that Mr. Hand might have indicated that he would divide
- 13 the Fine Gael vote? What were you trying to convey to your colleagues in Fine
- 14 Gael with that information?
- 11:24:28 15 A. Haven't the faintest idea.
- 16 Q. 190 On a plain reading of it, Ms. Ridge, it would suggest that you must have held a
- 17 view that Mr. Hand at some stage had indicated to something that he could split
- 18 the Fine Gael vote in Dublin County Council doesn't that seem logical?
- 19 A. Not necessarily because Mr. Hand made statements that were quite grandiose on
- 11:24:49 20 occasions and nobody paid the slightest attention to him.
- 21 Q. 191 Right. Did you indicate to the Tribunal of Inquiry to this committee of
- 22 inquiry, that in fact Mr. Hand had grandiose ideas and that nobody paid any
- 23 attention to him?
- 24 A. I don't think I was ever asked that question in here.
- 11:25:07 25 Q. 192 Yes. What you did tell your colleagues in Fine Gael was that Mr. Hand seemed
- 26 to have indicated or might have indicated at some stage that he would divide
- 27 the Fine Gael vote. And would you agree that if a person has the power or
- 28 capacity to divide the vote of a political party it puts that person in a very
- 29 powerful position?
- 11:25:31 30 A. But he didn't have that power.

- 11:25:31 1 Q. 193 I didn't ask you that question, Ms. Ridge?
- 2 A. Well I'm sorry, I can't give you any other answer. He did not have that power.
- 3 Q. 194 Why did you tell as apparently you did, the committee of inquiry for Fine Gael
- 4 of your belief or information that Mr. Hand might have indicated that he would
- 11:25:42 5 divide the Fine Gael vote?
- 6 A. Well perhaps he said it at some stage.
- 7 Q. 195 Yeah. And if he said it and if that was a view that Mr. Hand was expressing in
- 8 terms of votes within Dublin County Council, that would be important wouldn't
- 9 it, Ms. Ridge, if he had that power?
- 11:25:59 10 A. He didn't have that power.
- 11 Q. 196 Yes. But if he did have that power or portrayed himself as having that power,
- 12 that would be important, could be important in terms of voting, isn't that
- 13 right?
- 14 A. Well, now, I would suggest, Ms. Dillon, that if you asked every Fine Gael
- 11:26:13 15 representative of the time about the same question you are asking me, you'd be
- 16 getting the same answer.
- 17 Q. 197 No. I'm asking you to explain the answer or the information you gave to the
- 18 Fine Gael committee of inquiry. These are your words, Ms. Ridge, that I'm
- 19 asking you to explain to the Tribunal as best you can.
- 11:26:31 20 A. I'm doing just that.
- 21 Q. 198 And what I am putting to you is that if a councillor were to portray themselves
- 22 as having the power to split the vote of their party, that councillor is a
- 23 person who perceives themselves as being in a powerful position. Whether the
- 24 reality of that might be something else but if that is the perception if you
- 11:26:51 25 understand?
- 26 A. Well if that's how he perceived himself, that was his business.
- 27 Q. 199 And isn't that what you were conveying to the Fine Gael inquiry, that Mr. Hand
- 28 may have perceived himself in that position?
- 29 A. Yes, I'd love to know what question they asked me about that but however.
- 11:27:09 30 Q. 200 Well we're looking at your answer, Ms. Ridge.

- 11:27:11 1 A. I know but the questions are very important as well.
- 2 Q. 201 Uh-huh. I am asking you is that what you were trying to convey to the Fine  
3 Gael inquiry, that Mr. Hand had that view of himself that he was capable of  
4 splitting the Fine Gael vote in Dublin County Council whether in fact that was  
11:27:28 5 the reality or not?
- 6 A. Well it was not the reality. But if you think that that's what I meant I don't  
7 know but I'm sure it would have depended on the question I was asked but  
8 Mr. Hand most definitely did not have control.
- 9 Q. 202 Yes.
- 11:27:50 10 A. And did not force -- well he advised us. He always said "I'm like a father to  
11 you" because we were all new, well I won't say young, well some of the  
12 councillors were very young and I think he meant kindly. But after listening  
13 to some of his advices we would have decided well it may have been kindly meant  
14 but we wouldn't be taking it.
- 11:28:19 15 Q. 203 And again in relation to that particular note. You go down through a number of  
16 contributions that you received and in 1992, can I just ask you if you look  
17 under where it says "Finnstown" and then beneath that you say "in 1992, 1,000  
18 pounds cash would have been used fairly immediately, had no director of  
19 elections". Are you there referring to the 1992 November elections?
- 11:28:44 20 A. I am, yes.
- 21 Q. 204 And do you treat then the Senate Election as a separate election from the  
22 general election of November '92?
- 23 A. Probably but they actually literally rolled one into the other. The minute the  
24 General Election is over the nominations are sought for the Senate and it, the  
11:29:06 25 election has to take place within the stated number of weeks after the General  
26 Election and I think the actual date of the vote or of the council of the votes  
27 for the Senate would have been in about the second week of February and the  
28 campaign hadn't started in the December.
- 29 Q. 205 And I think in fairness to yourself at the very end of the document the -- you  
11:29:33 30 are quoted there in the third last line "T Ridge absolute truth never sought

11:29:38 1 contribution verbally or in writing. No contribution from other developers and  
2 then a comment she is sound". Isn't that right?

3 A. Well that's what it says.

4 Q. 206 Yes. Now, the Tribunal I think wrote several times I think to you, Ms. Ridge,  
11:29:51 5 in common with other councillors in relation to Quarryvale seeking certain  
6 information from you and from the very outset of your dealings with the  
7 Tribunal you have indicated that from the beginning you were in favour the  
8 Quarryvale development, isn't that right?

9 A. I certainly was.

11:30:06 10 Q. 207 Yes. Your particular area that you represented was Clondalkin, isn't that  
11 right, an area of very great deprivation particularly in 1991 and 1992, isn't  
12 that right?

13 A. Extremely so. It was, Chair, I would just like to illustrate it by -- I have  
14 already given this book to the I think I gave it in with Ms. Dillon or you had  
11:30:31 15 your own copy "Urban Crime and Disorder; A report of the Inter-Departmental  
16 Group" which was a government and County Council inquiry into living and  
17 working conditions in North Clondalkin.  
18

19 And the unemployment levels were up to 74 per cent in some areas and a general  
11:30:55 20 level would have been about 60 per cent and there are three areas in this book  
21 that I would just like to refer to just to show how I would have arrived at my  
22 undoubted and definite support for Quarryvale and I will -- page 10 and I think  
23 you possibly have it but it's quite short so if you bear with me on page 108(1)  
24 "many submissions stress the importance of providing a town centre in  
11:31:32 25 Ronanstown which is seen as having considerable potential to boost confidence  
26 and community spirit. There is no doubt that such a development would give an  
27 enormous lift. The advancement of the project is of course matter which will  
28 depends on private sector development".  
29

11:31:52 30 There are two other extracts which I may use before I finish giving my evidence

11:31:57 1 but --

2

3 CHAIRMAN: What's the full title, Ms. Ridge.

4 Q. 208 "Urban crime and disorder report of the Inter-Departmental Group."

11:32:04 5

6 CHAIRMAN: And is there a date on it?

7 A. There is the 2nd of November 1992.

8

9 CHAIRMAN: All right.

11:32:10 10 A. And also I have with me and I think you probably have that Ms. Dillon. But if

11 the I would like the Chair to take note of it as well.

12 Q. 209 MS. DILLON: 1524.

13 A. It's a letter from the two -- there were two parishes in North Clondalkin

14 Rowlagh and Neilstown parishes and the only thing that is were going in the

11:32:34 15 area at the time were the two churches. Very small local neighbourhood centre

16 and the primary schools and the community college came on board I think in the

17 '94. It was exceedingly deprived at very many levels. So I received this

18 letter before the Quarryvale vote from the two parish priests asking.

19 Q. 210 You will aware, Ms. Ridge --

11:32:58 20 A. To vote for Quarryvale.

21 Q. 211 -- you attached a copy of that letter to your statement and it's in the brief

22 and it's been circulated within the brief.

23 A. I just wanted to make sure.

24 Q. 212 I'm just coming to it. You will be aware that when you sent in your statement

11:33:09 25 in relation to Quarryvale you attached that correspondence --

26 A. Oh, did I oh, good.

27 Q. 213 -- and in fact it has been circulated as part of the brief.

28

29 CHAIRMAN: You can see this there on the screen in front of you.

11:33:20 30 A. That's grand.

- 11:33:21 1 Q. 214 MS. DILLON: Yes. And I think that in your initial information provided  
2 through your solicitors at 3512 in relation to Quarryvale, you confirmed first  
3 of all, that you did attend public meetings that had taken place in September  
4 and October and that you had dealings and meetings with a local women's group  
11:33:40 5 in North Clondalkin who are very much in favour of the Quarryvale development  
6 and asked you to support it, isn't that right?
- 7 A. Yes as my memory serves me I attend two public meetings both in the Clondalkin  
8 area. I think one was in Rowlagh and one was in Neilstown but I may be  
9 corrected on that. And they were very packed meetings. They were mostly women  
11:34:03 10 and I was left in no doubt that I doubt that I should be supporting it. Now, I  
11 agreed with that anyway, they didn't have to ask me. I had represented the  
12 area for seven years at that time so.
- 13 Q. 215 At item D you referred to the fact that you were lobbied by the parish priest  
14 in Neilstown and the parish priest in Rowlagh and their many constituents to  
11:34:24 15 who attended?
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. 216 And you confirmed that you were lobbied also by Mr. Owen O'Callaghan and Mr.  
18 Dunlop seeking support and by representatives of Green Property --
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 11:34:31 20 Q. 217 -- who were opposing.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. 218 You also confirmed that at the request of the Clondalkin ward, you did request  
23 other Fine Gael councillors to support the proposal for town centre status for  
24 Quarryvale, isn't that right?
- 11:34:43 25 A. Exactly, yes.
- 26 Q. 219 And then you confirm at paragraph seven F that Mr. Dunlop contributed 500  
27 pounds towards the expenses of the General Election campaign and 500 pounds  
28 towards the expenses of Senate Election campaign and assisted with printing but  
29 that he had been a friend for 20 years, isn't that right?
- 11:34:58 30 A. That's true but --

- 11:35:00 1 Q. 220 I think your statement at 3517 please, you provide a more formal statement to  
2 the Tribunal and to this document you attach the letter to which you have  
3 referred earlier from the parish priest of Rowlagh and this in effect, is your  
4 statement about Quarryvale, isn't that right?
- 11:35:15 5 A. Yes, yes.
- 6 Q. 221 And I think again you confirm within this that first of all that you weren't  
7 present to vote in May 1991, because you were at a funeral isn't, is that  
8 right?
- 9 A. That's right. I had attended the meeting but a very dear friend of mine had  
11:35:33 10 died and I wouldn't dream of not, of missing her funeral. So I left shortly  
11 after the meeting started.
- 12 Q. 222 Yes. You are recorded as being present in the attendance for the 16th of May  
13 '91?
- 14 A. That's right.
- 11:35:44 15 Q. 223 And you are recorded as having attended and voted on the first two  
16 non-Quarryvale matters --
- 17 A. That's right.
- 18 Q. 224 -- that were voted on but you are not recorded as voting on the Quarryvale,  
19 isn't that right?
- 11:35:53 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. 225 And I think that that can be seen on the minutes of the meeting at page 924  
22 onwards in the brief.
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. 226 And in the third paragraph of your statement at 3517 you confirm that "you were  
11:36:06 25 present at the subsequent vote in December '92, to which the Quarryvale  
26 proposal was voted upon and you voted in favour."
- 27 A. I did.
- 28 Q. 227 Yes.
- 29 A. Yes.
- 11:36:15 30 Q. 228 You in fact signed the motion, isn't that right?

- 11:36:20 1 A. I think, I think it was, did I? I think I signed the capping motion. I don't  
2 know that I signed the main motion or else I signed the capping motion or  
3 didn't sign the main motion, I can't remember.
- 4 Q. 229 The main motion is at 1125.
- 11:36:35 5 A. I think actually I have a. I was kindly supplied with a list and maybe I can  
6 clarify it here. You probably have it.
- 7 Q. 230 It's on screen beside you. You may confirm whether or not that signature on  
8 the main motion is yours or not.
- 9 A. Yes, I am third on the list there, yes.
- 11:36:59 10 Q. 231 And that in fact is the main Quarryvale motion which was subsequently amended,  
11 isn't that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. 232 So that in fact if you had thought that you had only signed the capping motion,  
14 that's not in fact correct. You in fact I think signed the main Quarryvale  
11:37:12 15 motion, isn't that correct?
- 16 A. Yeah well I don't have a problem with that.
- 17 Q. 233 And at 3517 just to go back to your statement. In paragraph four "I was also  
18 advised I was lobbied by Owen O'Callaghan and Frank Dunlop seeking support for  
19 the Quarryvale proposal. I was also lobbied by Greene Property plc who wanted  
11:37:28 20 me to vote against the proposal. The parish priests of Neilstown and Rowlagh  
21 wrote to me exhorting me to vote for the proposal and to seek the for of my  
22 colleagues. I enclose copy of letter which I received the day before the vote  
23 from Fr. B Donning and Fr. L white" and I could I have 1524 please. I think  
24 the signatures are at 1525. And that I think is the letter in question is that  
11:37:55 25 right?
- 26 A. That's right, yes.
- 27 Q. 234 And if we go back to the statement at 3517 "as already advised I attended a  
28 public meeting called by North Clondalkin residents in Neilstown Community  
29 Centre on September/October '92. I went to hear the views of the people in the  
11:38:09 30 area. I attended a meeting called by the women's group in the upstairs meeting

11:38:13 1 room in Rowlagh Community Centre and the councillors who attend were left in no  
2 doubt as to the needs of the area and were advised most firmly to support the  
3 Quarryvale project and asked for the sport of our colleagues on Dublin County  
4 Council. This meeting took place in October/November '92. Following these  
11:38:30 5 meetings I asked the support of my colleagues for the Quarryvale vote based on  
6 the strong representations made to me by my constituents. Frank Dunlop gave me  
7 a donation of 500 pounds for the 1992 General Election and 500 pounds for the  
8 Senate Election of 1993. Frank Dunlop has been known to me since 1980/'81 and  
9 we have maintained that friendship from before I entered politics. He also  
11:38:50 10 assisted with some printing.

11  
12 Owen O'Callaghan whom I first met in 1990, assisted me by driving me to call on  
13 a number of councillors in the Cork during the Seanad campaign elections".  
14

11:39:02 15 Now the first of those was January '93 is that correct the first of the Senate  
16 campaigns?

17 A. Well I would have been campaigning in other parts of the country but that would  
18 be true.

19 Q. 235 Yes?

11:39:12 20 A. May I just add something. I, Mr. Dunlop's evidence about going to Cork.

21 Q. 236 I am going to deal with the trip to Cork in detail, Ms. Ridge?

22 A. Are you, that's fine.

23 Q. 237 I am only putting to you the contents of your statement to see if there is any  
24 part of it that you wish to change and then I am going to take you through the  
11:39:32 25 factual matters surrounding the events with which you were involved personally.

26 So we will be dealing with Mr. Dunlop's evidence in relation to the trip to  
27 Cork. Finally you say:

28  
29 "As I know Mr. Dunlop and Mr. O'Callaghan for many years I would have met them  
11:39:43 30 on a number of occasions and have no idea as to times or dates."

- 11:39:48 1  
2 Now, do you want to change any part of that statement, Ms. Ridge?
- 3 A. No, I don't see anything that I disagree with in it.
- 4 Q. 238 Can I ask you just in relation to the 500 pounds in November 1992. Did you not  
11:40:04 5 subsequently give evidence to the Tribunal that in fact the amount Mr. Dunlop  
6 had given you for the General Election in 1992 was a sum of 1,000 pounds?
- 7 A. It was 1,000 pounds.
- 8 Q. 239 Yes.
- 9 A. And my, the error is min or well I don't know if it's mine but I knew it was  
11:40:22 10 1,000 but I couldn't remember whether it was split between the two but on  
11 reflection and going over the detail and I think Mr. Dunlop stated it last week  
12 and agreed that he had arrived without being announced, and he gave me 1,000  
13 pounds as election contribution and I agreed that, that is correct.
- 14 Q. 240 Yes. And I think at 22917, just on that issue, Ms. Ridge --
- 11:40:57 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. 241 -- in a letter to through your solicitors to the Tribunal in relation to  
17 contact with Mr. Dunlop. You there at item 1 point out that "To the best of  
18 your recollection at some time in the autumn of '98, although my client is not  
19 absolutely sure, about the time, my client called to Frank Dunlop's office to  
11:41:12 20 verify the fact that she had received an unsolicited cash donation from Frank  
21 Dunlop in November 1992, and the amount of that donation was 1,000 pounds."
- 22 A. Yes and that's why I put the 1,000 down. And may I also just add to that, I  
23 asked Mr. Dunlop at the time was he the source of the payment and he emphasised  
24 he most definitely was. It was his, I think he actually says it in his  
11:41:40 25 statement of last week that he gave "I gave her 1,000 pounds in cash".
- 26 Q. 242 Yes. I am just you, in light of the fact that you had gone to see Mr. Dunlop  
27 in autumn of 1998, and he had according to your statement, confirmed to you it  
28 was 1,000 pounds. Why in 2000, two years after you met Mr. Dunlop, did you  
29 tell the Tribunal it was 500 pounds you had got from Mr. Dunlop?
- 11:42:06 30 A. What oh, the Fine Gael one.

- 11:42:08 1 Q. 243 No. Your statement to the Tribunal at 3517.
- 2 A. But no did I not say 500 for the general and 500 for the Senate?
- 3 Q. 244 Yes but Mr. Dunlop's evidence with which you have agreed and what you have
- 4 already told the Tribunal yourself in your evidence on day 700, was that you
- 11:42:26 5 were given 1,000 pounds in cash by Mr. Dunlop in November 1992?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. 245 And that there was a separate donation in January of 1993?
- 8 A. Well that's what I thought it was at the time but as I said, I have never
- 9 disputed the amount, whether it came in two tranches or one, it still adds up
- 11:42:46 10 to 1,000 which I've always said I received.
- 11 Q. 246 Mr. Dunlop says that he gave you 1,000 pounds in November 1992.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. 247 And an additional sum in January of 1993.
- 14 A. No, because Mr. Dunlop's evidence he states that he gave me 1,000 pounds in
- 11:43:02 15 cash.
- 16 Q. 248 In November 1992?
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. 249 Yes.
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 11:43:05 20 Q. 250 And you will see when we go through Mr. Dunlop's evidence in relation to the
- 21 Senate campaign?
- 22 A. I appreciate that but I am absolutely totally and certain because well Mr.
- 23 Dunlop called to my home, I wasn't alone. My husband admitted him and brought
- 24 him down to me at the study at the back of the house and the transaction took
- 11:43:25 25 place there, to my great amazement but may I also add to my great delight
- 26 because I was a third candidate as a sweeper for a general election and was
- 27 very glad to receive the donation.
- 28 Q. 251 If you are correct in what you are now telling the Tribunal, Ms. Ridge, will
- 29 you just explain then why you told the Tribunal in your statement at 3517, in
- 11:43:44 30 the third last paragraph "Frank Dunlop gave me a donation of 500 pounds for the

11:43:49 1 1992 General Election and 500 pounds for the Seanad election in 1993". From  
2 that was the Tribunal to understand there had been one payment of 1,000 pounds  
3 in cash on one occasion in November '92?

4 A. Well I may have put that very badly there but I am absolutely certain and  
11:44:10 5 positive and I am definitely of the opinion, having listened to Mr. Dunlop  
6 during cross-examination last week, that the total amount was 1,000. If I made  
7 that error --

8 Q. 252 Uh-huh.

9 A. -- that is my error. But I am not untruthful. I am not ... I am a truthful  
11:44:33 10 person. As a matter of fact, I think Mr. Dunlop in his evidence last week  
11 describes me as so. So I have no reason to think that you could, I think you  
12 should accept the fact that I made an error because I went directly from one  
13 campaign into the other.

14 Q. 253 Yes. And that was my next question in the light of the information you  
11:44:58 15 provided to the Tribunal in your statement, if you had been elected for example  
16 in the Dail elections there wouldn't have been any Senate campaign, isn't that  
17 right?

18 A. Well --

19 Q. 254 Is that right?

11:45:20 20 A. Yeah, well just, Chair, I just want to explain something here. When I ran in  
21 the 1992 election, there were three candidates. There was Dublin, the old  
22 Dublin West constituency. The main candidates for Fine Gael was Deputy Austin  
23 Curry. Tom Morrissey, later a senator was the second candidate and I was the  
24 third. And to describe the geography, it's necessary for you to understand  
11:45:36 25 this.

26  
27 There was a small portion of the constituency in North Clondalkin which was my  
28 electoral area and in upper Ballyfermot where I had been a teacher. And I was  
29 asked to go on the ticket as to use the political term "sweeper" because  
11:45:57 30 neither Mr. Morrissey or Deputy Curry would have picked up very many votes in

11:46:03 1 North Clondalkin or upper Ballyfermot. And I had been always very friendly  
2 with the late Jim Mitchell and they were the areas he worked and I had often  
3 helped him, so I would have had some hope of getting the extra votes.  
4

11:46:16 5 Now, my vote on the occasion was a glorious number of I think 800 or 697 or  
6 something as low as that. And it did save the seat, but I knew from the very  
7 beginning when I was going in do the General Election that I would definitely  
8 be going into the Senate Election immediately afterwards.

9 Q. 255 Yes. Did you understand the question I asked you; which is when you were  
11:46:42 10 preparing your statement for the Tribunal you provide two specific pieces of  
11 information, which you had previously supplied to the Tribunal through your  
12 solicitor in your solicitor's letter dated the 14th of February 2000, in which  
13 you tell the Tribunal you receive cash of 500 pounds from Mr. Dunlop for the  
14 '92 General Election and 500 pounds from cash for the Senate Election of '93.

11:47:02 15 And I am asking you from that, was the Tribunal to understand there had been a  
16 single payment of 1,000 pounds in cash to you only in November 1992 and there  
17 had been no other payment?

18 A. Yes and I am very sorry if that gives rise to any confusion. I am totally,  
19 Chair, absolutely certain and I have no doubt that Mr. Dunlop will bear this  
11:47:30 20 out. That the cash I received was a once off 1,000 and I'm very sorry if I  
21 have caused difficulties but I think I've caused them most for myself from the  
22 point of view that somebody, that people think that I got 1,500 when I didn't.

23 Q. 256 Yes. You see at 3498 it is exactly also what you told the Fine Gael internal  
24 inquiry, Ms. Ridge. You see in the if you come down the centre of that page  
11:47:58 25 "Frank Dunlop 500 pounds 1992 election account cash, unsolicited".  
26

27 So you tell -- you speak with the sequence of events as you now describe them  
28 to the Tribunal is the following; in late 1998 when you received correspondence  
29 from the Tribunal you went to Mr. Dunlop and confirmed that you had received  
11:48:16 30 1,000 pounds in November '92. That's according to your letter at 22917, isn't

- 11:48:23 1 that right?
- 2 A. Yes I asked him exactly what he had given me and he said 1,000.
- 3 Q. 257 And in May 2000, when you attend the Fine Gael internal inquiry you tell them
- 4 500 pounds in cash in November '92, in the election for '92, isn't that right?
- 11:48:38 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. 258 And when you write to your solicitors, through your solicitors initially on the
- 7 14th of February 2000 at 3513. At paragraph F, as we've already seen you
- 8 identify "500 pounds towards the costs of a General Election campaign and 500
- 9 pounds towards the expenses of the Senate campaign." And when you provide your
- 11:49:01 10 formal statement at 3517 also in May of 2000, you repeat that, isn't that
- 11 right?
- 12 A. Well all I can say, Ms. Dillon, is I have attended more meetings, conferences,
- 13 Tribunals, investigations and I am not a liar and if I say I got 1,000 pounds,
- 14 I don't think there's anybody going to say otherwise. It's entirely possible
- 11:49:30 15 with the amount of paper and I may also add, it's not very pleasant to have to
- 16 go into in to different inquiries and what have you. And if you, if I made an
- 17 error, that's all it is.
- 18
- 19 No, I must emphasise this, Chair. I am absolutely and totally certain. I have
- 11:49:51 20 taken an oath. I got 1,000 from Mr. Dunlop in one payment. If the mistakes
- 21 are there, they are not to hide the fact that I got 1,000 because that's what I
- 22 am admitting and saying and it was for the 1992 General Election.
- 23
- 24 CHAIRMAN: All right. Well we --
- 11:50:09 25
- 26 Q. 259 MS. DILLON: And the inquiry in relation to the Fine Gael internal inquiry
- 27 arose after Mr. Dunlop gave certain evidences in public to the Tribunal in
- 28 2000, isn't that right?
- 29 A. I was oh, I presume it was yes, yes.
- 11:50:25 30 Q. 260 You would have been familiar as indeed probably the whole of the country was,

11:50:29 1 with Mr. Dunlop commenced his evidence on the 11th of April 2000, and at 13773  
2 in secret on that day, which was day 145 he identified the only person who had  
3 ever asked him for money as Tom Hand but that was on a confidential document,  
4 isn't that right?

11:50:45 5 A. Well that's what's up here.

6 Q. 261 Yes. But I think that there was a newspaper article at 23654. On the 14th of  
7 April "Dunlop to tell Tribunal of a quarter million Fine Gael bribe bid". And  
8 would you have been familiar with that article when it was published,  
9 Ms. Ridge?

11:51:04 10 A. Oh, yes, yes, yes absolutely.

11 Q. 262 And did you go to meetings with Mr. John Bruton and Ms. Olivia Mitchell around  
12 the time in relation to the contents of that article?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. 263 And in particular I want to draw to your attention what Mr. Sam Smith said was  
11:51:19 15 going to be said by Mr. Dunlop. He said "Political lobbyist Frank Dunlop is  
16 expected to tell the Flood Tribunal that a Fine Gael County Councillor asked  
17 him for money to vote for the rezoning of a giant shopping centre site. He  
18 will say he told FG leader John Bruton, that one of his party's senior party  
19 councillors in Dublin asked him had asked him for a substantial sum" and it  
11:51:39 20 goes on then to talk about Mr. Bruton having no recollection I think it says.

21 "That Mr. Bruton said the Fine Gael leader had no recollection of any meeting  
22 with Mr. Dunlop at which an allegation was discussed". Do you remember this  
23 article?

24 A. I do, I do, yes.

11:51:57 25 Q. 264 Now, I think on day 146 Senior Counsel for the Fine Gael party came before the  
26 Tribunal, complaining in effect about that information having been provided by  
27 somebody to Mr. Smith and the story that Mr. Smith had written on the 18th of  
28 April. I think Mr. Pat Hanratty then took Mr. Dunlop through the contents of  
29 the article in open session when Mr. Dunlop confirmed that in fact Mr. Hand had  
11:52:24 30 asked him for 250,000 pounds for his support for Quarryvale.

- 11:52:28 1 At that time, Ms. Ridge, did you prepare a statement for the assistance of  
2 Mr. Bruton?
- 3 A. Yes, when this emerged in the press and I remember it very well because there  
4 was a big who-ha about the councillors that knew. Now, as I've said to you  
11:52:51 5 before and you are all legal people, if you told me that the lady sitting there  
6 had shoplifted, is it up to me to tell the police that she hadn't? And I am  
7 really very upset about the fact that Mr. Dunlop did tell Deputy Mitchell and  
8 myself. I think we were having a cup of coffee and we thought this was  
9 amazing, unbelievable and even quite hilarious. Now, I would not feel at any  
11:53:24 10 stage that it was my duty to, if Mr. Dunlop wasn't going to report this why  
11 should myself or Deputy Mitchell report it.
- 12 Q. 265 Yes.
- 13 A. We could have been taking a man's character completely.
- 14 Q. 266 Yes. What I had asked you was whether or not you had prepared a statement in  
11:53:44 15 April of 2000, for the assistance of Mr. John Bruton in dealing with any media  
16 issues that had arose?
- 17 A. After I had started off there, I wanted to emphasise the background to it.  
18 After this article appeared in the paper, Mr. Bruton requested that both myself  
19 and Deputy Mitchell come and talk to him about the matter. And when we were  
11:54:05 20 there we were asked to just give a narrative, I think you call it, on what we  
21 knew about the matter.
- 22 Q. 267 Yes. So at the time that this became public knowledge in April of 2000, as a  
23 result of the story by Mr. Sam Smith, pressure came on Mr. Bruton to respond to  
24 the allegations and he consulted with yourself and Ms. Mitchell and a statement  
11:54:30 25 was prepared by Ms. Mitchell, isn't that right, and you yourself made a few  
26 notes on that statement, isn't that the position?
- 27 A. Well I don't remember that but I believe it was the subject of an article in  
28 the newspaper a few weeks ago. But I have no recollection but I know I  
29 certainly did write my knowledge of what Mr. Dunlop had told us about  
11:54:56 30 Mr. Hand's request and the reasons why I certainly wouldn't have brought it to

11:55:04 1 anyone's attention in case it could have been a terrible rumour. You can't go  
2 around doing that to people.

3 Q. 268 Yes. And at 23650. This is the start or the commencement I think of  
4 Ms. Mitchell's handwritten statement. And this is part of the document that  
11:55:21 5 was found by a driver in Dail Eireann's carpark and sent in to the Tribunal.  
6 And you will have seen that in the correspondence in the Tribunal in your brief  
7 at 23648.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. 269 You will have seen --

11:55:40 10 A. I remember Ms. Deputy Mitchell's --

11 Q. 270 Yes.

12 A. -- evidence or that letter, yes, or whatever you want to call it.

13 Q. 271 You will remember that Deputy Mitchell in her evidence, was of the view that  
14 she in fact had been provided, that the information she was being asked about  
11:55:52 15 was information that in fact had been provided to her by the Tribunal. In  
16 other words, she seemed to be of the belief that the documentation or her  
17 statement was something that she had provided to the Tribunal. Now --

18 A. Well if that's what she said, I have no, I don't know how that concerns me.

19 Q. 272 Yes. I will just take you through this letter which is from Mr. Frank Ward's  
11:56:16 20 office at 23648. And in it Mr. Ward tells the Tribunal "he had been contacted  
21 by Denis Lawlor who was employed by Fianna Fail headquarters as a chauffeur.  
22 He instructs me that approximately 3 p.m. on Tuesday the 18th of April, he had  
23 driven a car into the carpark of Leinster House. He had entered through the  
24 gates in Kildare Street and parked the car on the left-hand side, having  
11:56:36 25 reversed the car towards the railings of the National Library. He then emerged  
26 from the car, when he did so, he noticed some papers on the ground towards the  
27 rear of his car. There he saw two pages, his recollection is that these were  
28 pages 1 and 4 of the enclosed documentation. Immediately afterwards he  
29 observed pages 2 and 3 of the enclosed documentation, one partly under the rear  
11:56:53 30 of a car to the right -- car to the right of his car and the other was closer

11:56:58 1 towards the steps of Leinster House.

2

3 The cover page marked "Questionnaire" he found at the rear of the car on his  
4 right."

11:57:03 5

6 And the document that he found entitled "questionnaire" is at 23649.

7

8 CHAIRMAN: I wonder could we just take a short break for about ten minutes  
9 before because you will be spending some time.

11:57:17 10

11 MS. DILLON: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN: Just ten minutes.

14

11:57:26 15

**THE TRIBUNAL THEN ADJOURNED FOR A SHORT BREAK**

16

**AND RESUMED AS FOLLOWS:**

17

18 CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, Ms. Ridge.

19

12:13:33 20 Q. 273 MS. DILLON: Good afternoon, Ms. Ridge. I think before the break we had been  
21 just about to consider some documentation that had been found lying around the  
22 carpark of Dail Eireann on the 18th of April 2000, which was the same day that  
23 Mr. Hanratty took Mr. Dunlop through his evidence in relation to the article by  
24 Sam Smith. Which was an article about a demand by Mr. Tom Hand of Mr. Dunlop  
12:13:59 25 of 250,000 pounds.

26 A. Chair, it's entirely possible that this was sent to me but I have never  
27 actually seen this document or heard about it until I read it in the newspaper  
28 the morning or the day after Deputy Mitchell had been given, was brought to her  
29 attention at her interview with in here about two or three weeks ago. And to  
12:14:29 30 be quite honest, I don't really, I have already told you that I gave a written

12:14:36 1 statement to Mr. Bruton and his legal advisor was present as to my knowledge of  
2 the famous request and as I've already stated, I am not going to take anyone's  
3 character without proof. And if anyone had a problem with Tom Hand, it's, they  
4 should have been going to the courts or to the police or to the party leader.

12:15:03 5 But I am not a conduit for scandal or whatever but what I want to know really  
6 is what is this all about. Because is that Deputy Mitchell's statement to John  
7 Bruton you are talking about?

8 Q. 274 Yes. I think if you look first at the document that's on screen?

9 A. Yeah.

12:15:22 10 Q. 275 The document that's on screen is the outside cover of the Tribunal of Inquiry  
11 into certain planning matters and payments questionnaire which appears on the  
12 17th of April 2000, to have been faxed from your solicitors O'Rafferty  
13 Powderly, do you see that at the top?

14 A. I do, yes.

12:15:42 15 Q. 276 And do you see the name "T Ridge"?

16 A. I do.

17 Q. 277 And that would suggest that this is the outside cover of the questionnaire that  
18 you had provided to the Tribunal, you see that?

19 A. And is my statement the next?

12:15:56 20 Q. 278 The next document that was provided is at 23650 and this is the commencement of  
21 Ms. Olivia Mitchell's statement I think to Mr. John Bruton, about what she knew  
22 about the Tom Hand matter and the next page of her statement is at 23651. And  
23 the next page is at 652, and then at 653 she has signed the statement and then  
24 I think there is a note by you, isn't that right?

12:16:35 25 A. Yeah just wait until I read it. Yeah now, Chair, I just don't understand what  
26 is the purpose of this.

27 Q. 279 Well the evidence of Ms. Olivia Mitchell was that it was her belief that this  
28 document had been created by her for the purposes of providing a statement to  
29 the Tribunal. As you know, Ms. Ridge, in the same way as Ms. Mitchell, you  
12:17:16 30 were not asked until 2004 to provide a statement to the Tribunal in connection

12:17:28 1 with your knowledge of any matter relating to Tom Hand, isn't that right?

2 A. By the party?

3 Q. 280 By the Tribunal.

4 A. I don't know, I presume if you tell me that, you mean this Tribunal.

12:17:32 5 Q. 281 This Tribunal at 3541. On the 2nd of June.

6 A. Well I'm sure I complied and I hope.

7 Q. 282 Yes. You have raised a question as to the purpose of this line of questioning,

8 Ms. Ridge. And what I am explaining to you is that Ms. Mitchell gave evidence

9 in relation to the statement I have just shown you, that she believed it was

12:17:52 10 prepared for the Tribunal. That statement was found on the 18th of April 2000.

11 You were not asked, nor was Ms. Mitchell, for a statement in relation to this

12 issue until the 2nd of June 2004. If we can just see the date on this letter.

13 Which is the date that is on screen?

14 A. I do, yeah.

12:18:12 15 Q. 283 Right. So now in the light of Ms. Mitchell's evidence about the document at

16 23651, 650 please. This statement I suggest to you was prepared by

17 Ms. Mitchell in order to assist Mr. John Bruton in providing a response to the

18 matters that had been raised by Mr. Sam Smith in the article about Tom Hand?

19 A. Yeah.

12:18:40 20 Q. 284 Isn't that right?

21 A. Well, you are telling me that anyway I presume it is, yeah.

22 Q. 285 Well do you remember attending at a meeting involving senior counsel to Fine

23 Gael in connection with this matter?

24 A. I already said I attended and Mr. Bruton had his legal advisor and he asked

12:18:58 25 myself and Deputy Mitchell to write down what we knew about the allegations

26 regarding Mr. Hand made by Mr. Dunlop and we wrote down what we knew.

27 Q. 286 And that is what this document is, isn't that right?

28 A. Well, that's, I'm only looking at Olivia's yes, yeah.

29 Q. 287 And you looked and I will take you through the note?

12:19:23 30 A. Yes, I don't disagree with that.

12:19:25 1 Q. 288 And in fact therefore you disagree with Ms. Mitchell when she says or suggests  
2 to the Tribunal that this document was prepared for this Tribunal, isn't that  
3 right?

4 A. Well --

12:19:34 5 Q. 289 Because you know from attending at the meeting with your senior counsel and  
6 with the solicitors to Fine Gael that you were providing this information to  
7 Mr. John Bruton to enable him respond to the queries that had been put to him  
8 by the newspapers arising out of the publication of the Sam Smith article,  
9 isn't that right?

12:19:52 10 A. Well, Chair, I have to say that I am at a total loss because when I have stated  
11 before that what Frank Dunlop told us I wrote it down, I've told you. And I  
12 told Mr. Bruton when this article appeared in the paper the very same thing.

13

14 Now, I don't know if Ms. Mitchell sent that in to the Tribunal or not.

12:20:17 15

16 CHAIRMAN: But do you see at the end of this handwritten statement from  
17 Ms. Mitchell?

18 A. Yeah.

19

12:20:27 20 Q. 290 MS. DILLON: 23653.

21 A. That's mine.

22

23 CHAIRMAN: Add-on. But do you recall the circumstances in which you added  
24 that bit on to Ms. Mitchell's. Can you remember doing it and can you remember?

12:20:42 25 A. Well --

26

27 CHAIRMAN: Why you might have done?

28 A. Why I am at a loss is what is the purpose of this question because I have

29 already said, everything I know about Mr. Hand and I have already stated that

12:20:59 30 if Mr. Hand was in receipt or had requested or anything to do, was totally a

12:21:06 1 private matter between Mr. Dunlop.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN: But if you just concentrate, Ms. Ridge, for the moment on your  
4 additional piece here that you see there in front of you.

12:21:15 5 A. Yeah.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN: It was added on to Ms. Mitchell's statements.  
8 A. Yeah.  
9

12:21:20 10 CHAIRMAN: Can you recall the circumstances in which you added that on and the  
11 purpose for which it was done?  
12 A. I, my memory is that I, we both wrote separate statements the day we were in  
13 with John Bruton and his legal advisor on the issue. But I may have written  
14 mine ahead of Ms. Mitchell, I don't know. But the only time I remember writing  
12:21:55 15 was actually in the room the night that we went in because Mr. Bruton was  
16 exceedingly agitated at what had come in to the newspapers.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN: Well is it your evidence then that this note at the end of  
19 Ms. Mitchell's statement was written by you in 2000, for the purposes of  
12:22:22 20 informing Mr. John Bruton?  
21 A. No, I think I wrote mine on a separate page.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN: Yes.  
24 A. I don't see why I would have -- is there no date on the top of this?  
12:22:33 25  
26 CHAIRMAN: Well it was written -- is there a date?  
27  
28 MS. DILLON: It was a document that was provided to the Tribunal on the 18th  
29 of April 2000.  
12:22:42 30

12:22:46 1 CHAIRMAN: No, it wasn't provided to the Tribunal then.  
2  
3 MS. DILLON: It was provided by Frank Ward's office at 23648, having been  
4 found floating around the cash carpark in Dail Eireann. It was found on the  
12:23:04 5 18th April and sent to the Tribunal on the 18th of April and therefore is a  
6 document that came into existence on or before the 18th of April 2000.  
7  
8 MR. O'RAFFERTY: There is no fax number. The name of the firm and the fax  
9 number is, it's not on the next page or the page after or the page after. Are  
12:23:18 10 these four pages meant to be linked, if they were linked the name and fax  
11 number would be on the front of each page.  
12  
13 JUDGE FAHERTY: Well I think the linkage, insofar as we are aware that this  
14 page and the four other pages were the pages that were delivered by  
12:23:31 15 Messrs. Frank Ward & Co. to the Tribunal. So insofar as that is a linkage,  
16 that is the linkage as I understand it.  
17  
18 MR. O'RAFFERTY: Well if that is the only link, there is no link because there  
19 is no name and there is no fax number on pages two, three or four.  
12:23:45 20  
21 CHAIRMAN: Yes, they were, it's not absolutely certain that they were always  
22 together these pages but they were found together and furnished through  
23 Mr. Ward's office to the Tribunal together.  
24 A. Chair, I appreciate, Ms. Dillon, I don't know what you are trying to get at.  
12:24:06 25  
26 CHAIRMAN: We just want to find out. Can you tell us what you recall about  
27 writing this additional piece in your own handwriting, when it was written and  
28 why it was written?  
29 A. Well the only thing I can think of as you're probably aware, Deputy Mitchell  
12:24:22 30 and myself are very good friends and remain so. And she's a woman of great

12:24:30 1 probity and she's an excellent representative and I have been her friend for  
2 years. It is entirely possible, I was in the Senate I think at that stage.  
3 Was the date again? I was, yes, and she may have asked me to just check that I  
4 had the same, because we were told this when we were together and that the two  
12:24:54 5 of us had heard the same thing from Mr. Dunlop. And I imagine it may have been  
6 in that context because I am actually saying at the bottom, yes I agree with  
7 what you say.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN: And would you agree that the purpose of or do you say that the  
12:25:10 10 purpose of what you wrote there was to provide this information to Mr. Dunlop  
11 or to Mr. Bruton?

12 A. Well I don't think the Tribunal ever asked me to supply.

13  
14 MS. DILLON: You misunderstand the Chairman. If you listen to the Chairman  
12:25:27 15 A. Now hold on I am listening very carefully.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN: I will just explain it. The Tribunal didn't ask you for any of  
18 this information until 2004.

19 A. Right.

12:25:36 20  
21 CHAIRMAN: So this is certainly 2000, if not before but say early 2000. You  
22 are providing this information.

23 A. That would be the time that the articles had appeared in the paper. Yeah, I  
24 get you now.

12:25:49 25  
26 CHAIRMAN: So can we take it then that you were, you made a note of this for  
27 Mr. Bruton?

28 A. I certainly wrote a note for Mr. Bruton.

29  
12:25:59 30 CHAIRMAN: All right.

12:26:00 1 A. I imagine that Olivia who, I have, I have a recollection that Olivia did not  
2 write her note that night. I did.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN: All right. But they are roughly the circumstances in which you  
12:26:14 5 came to write the note

6 A. I would imagine that she had sent it to me to see what, were we certainly not  
7 trying to act as one person but were our recollections both similar that we  
8 wanted to be accurate. And --

9  
12:26:34 10 CHAIRMAN: All right. Well that seems to be ...

11 A. I think that that's what happened.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN: The case. All right.

14  
12:26:39 15 Q. 291 MS. DILLON: If I just take you then through Ms. Mitchell's statement with  
16 which you've greed in your own note at 23650. She says "on a social occasion  
17 in the course of conversation F Dunlop told myself and Therese Ridge that only  
18 one politician had ever asked him for money and that that person was Tom Hand.  
19 I cannot date this meeting other than it was definitely after the vote in  
12:27:01 20 Quarryvale December '92 or before the date when Tom Hand became seriously ill  
21 what year.

22  
23 What was incomprehensible about this story was that Tom apparently asked for  
24 this money after he had already cast his vote in favour of the proposal. My  
12:27:16 25 memory is that this vote was not a tight vote and was" next bit is illegible  
26 next page please. "Frank Dunlop also said that he, Mr. Hand had just recently  
27 come again to his office seeking payment, from this I understood that the  
28 request had been made at least twice. Mr. Dunlop also said that Mr. Hand had  
29 given him a bank account number in Australia into which Mr. Hand wanted the  
12:27:38 30 money to be paid. I asked Mr. Dunlop if Mr. Hand had ever been promised money

12:27:44 1 by him. His answer was no. I further asked if Mr. Dunlop had ever paid him  
2 any money. The answer was again no. I said to Mr. Dunlop that he must not pay  
3 him any money. To this Mr. Dunlop replied, that he had no intention of doing  
4 so and had already told Mr. Hand that if he, Mr. Hand persisted in annoying him  
12:28:09 5 that he would report him to John Bruton. I told Mr. Dunlop that he in fact do  
6 that. I indicated to him that something was happening a stop had to be put to  
7 it. Since I never heard from Mr. Dunlop or further approaches from Tom Hand I  
8 assume the matter ended around or shortly afterwards. Around this time or  
9 shortly afterwards.

12:28:20 10  
11 Tom Hand became seriously ill and subsequently died in early 1996. The amount  
12 of money sought by Mr. Hand was not mentioned at any time and I only learnt of  
13 the amount in the papers on Friday April the 14th 2000. I met Mr. Dunlop on  
14 several occasions in recent years and on no occasion did he ever refer to a  
12:28:40 15 meeting with John Bruton. Olivia Mitchell."

16  
17 And a telephone number and then beneath that. "I agree with what Olivia  
18 Mitchell has written as being my recollection of the conversation with Frank  
19 Dunlop. I also have a recollection of a mention of 250,000 pounds but cannot  
12:28:54 20 recall when or where this was said and in whose company (apart from Mr. Dunlop)  
21 it is most likely that there was just myself and Mr. Dunlop. Mr. Dunlop did  
22 not mention this to me again until very recently when he said he would give  
23 Mr. Hand's name if asked to by the Tribunal" and that's your note that last  
24 portion, isn't that right?

12:29:15 25 A. Yeah.

26 Q. 292 Now, on the following day, this information is found in Dail Eireann on the  
27 18th of April 2000 and sent by Mr. Frank Ward solicitors to the Tribunal on the  
28 19th of April 2000. You will probably be aware of the fact that counsel to  
29 Fine Geal attended before the Tribunal in public session, day 147 please. Page  
12:29:37 30 71, day 147. I will read it to you while we are waiting for it to come up

12:30:14 1 Ms. Mitchell (sic) "Counsel on behalf of Fine Gael said to the Tribunal, you  
2 were kind enough to indicate yesterday that you would permit a statement at the  
3 close of business. It had been my intention to offer the Tribunal a  
4 comprehensive statement designed to substantiate the remarks I made yesterday.  
12:30:29 5 However, given the circumstances that have now arisen that would be  
6 inappropriate. I would like to take the opportunity of reiterating that the  
7 leader of Fine Gael Mr. Bruton, continues to deny very vehemently any  
8 suggestion that he was ever informed of an attempt of bribery by a named Fine  
9 Gael Councillor. I am happy to leave it at that today but I would hope to be  
12:30:49 10 in a position to address you further on the" and then the matter goes on.

11  
12 So you will see there that on the day following the finding of this  
13 documentation in Dail Eireann, that counsel to Fine Gael attended before the  
14 Tribunal and gave to the Tribunal, Mr. Bruton's position which was that he  
12:31:06 15 denied any suggestion that he had ever been told of any attempt at bribery by a  
16 named Fine Gael Councillor. And you would have been familiar with that at the  
17 time because I suggest that you had a meeting with Mr. Bruton on the 18th of  
18 April or thereabouts, prior to him instructing his counsel to come up here and  
19 make that statement to the Tribunal, isn't that right?

12:31:28 20 A. Yes and the named Fine Gael Councillor being Tom Hand.

21 Q. 293 Yes, I am quoting to you what was said --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. 294 -- to the Tribunal on behalf of Mr. Bruton and that submission is made to the  
24 Tribunal after Mr. Bruton has met with Ms. Mitchell, has met with yourself and  
12:31:43 25 has considered the contents of the statements that you had prepared for his  
26 assistance, isn't that right?

27 A. Well for his information because we were brought in as a result of a newspaper  
28 report. We were quite surprised at the whole thing but however I didn't have a  
29 problem stating exactly what I knew, which was that I was told about this. I  
12:32:07 30 told Mr. Dunlop to do something about it. I couldn't, I'm not, if that

- 12:32:12 1 happened it happened. I certainly could not take it on myself to report.  
2 Imagine going up to a police station and saying a man told me a man asked him  
3 for money. He didn't get it yet but I'm reporting it.
- 4 Q. 295 Yes. And what you had been told by Mr. Dunlop was that Mr. Hand had asked for  
12:32:32 5 250,000 pounds for his support for Quarryvale?  
6 A. I believe he told us that, yes.
- 7 Q. 296 And he also told you that not alone had Mr. Hand asked him for the money but he  
8 had given him a bank account in Australia, a number of a bank account into  
9 which the money was to be paid, isn't that right?
- 12:32:51 10 A. I think so, yeah.
- 11 Q. 297 It must --  
12 A. I remember some mention of a bank account.
- 13 Q. 298 Well you confirm in your document at 23653 what Ms. Olivia Mitchell has said.  
14 And Ms. Olivia Mitchell in her document at 23651, says quite clearly "Mr.  
12:33:17 15 Dunlop also said that Mr. Hand had given him a bank account in Australia in  
16 into which Mr. Hand wanted the money to be paid". You've agreed with that in  
17 your briefing document to Mr. Bruton, isn't that right?
- 18 A. I don't disagree with that at all.
- 19 Q. 299 Yes. And therefore you you would have known two things. First of all, Mr.  
12:33:24 20 Dunlop who was a friend of yours at this stage for over 20 years had told you  
21 of a demand by a colleague of yours in Fine Gael of 250,000 pounds. And the  
22 second piece of information Mr. Dunlop had given you was that he had before  
23 given a bank account number in Australia into which Mr. Dunlop was to pay the  
24 money, isn't that right?
- 12:33:45 25 A. Yeah and your point is.
- 26 Q. 300 And my point is, Ms. Ridge, that if when the Garda inquiries commenced did you  
27 ever indicate to any of the members of the Gardai who were conducting an  
28 inquiry into any of the corruption allegations of either of those pieces of  
29 information?
- 12:34:05 30 A. Certainly not.

12:34:06 1 Q. 301 All right. And --

2 A. No, hold on. No hold on now. Chair.

3

4 CHAIRMAN: Uh-huh

12:34:12 5 A. Chair, I have stated about three times someone told me something about another

6 person. They weren't going to do anything about it. Was I supposed to take on

7 maybe ending up in court for taking somebody's character? I can't believe this

8 line of questioning. I just don't understand it.

9

12:34:31 10 CHAIRMAN: Well were you interviewed by the Guards at the time?

11 A. What year?

12

13 JUDGE FAHERTY: '93, I think it would have been, Ms. Ridge. I think it was

14 1993 sometime in mid 1993, Michael Smith.

12:34:45 15 A. I don't think so. I may be corrected but I know in maybe late '80s. I think

16 there were two inquiries.

17

18 JUDGE FAHERTY: I think there was the Chair of the Council in 1993, if memory

19 serves me correct. Now, you may have been in receipt of that.

12:35:04 20

21 MS. DILLON: 1696

22

23 JUDGE FAHERTY: You may have been in receipt of this letter.

24 A. Yes. Actually I remember Michael Guiney, yes, I actually knew him quite well

12:35:16 25 he was a colleague of my husband's actually. I did speak to Mr. Michael

26 Guiney, yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN: And can you remember what Inspector Guiney asked you?

29 A. No, he asked me did he I know about corruption.

12:35:27 30

12:35:28 1 CHAIRMAN: And what you did you say?

2 A. I said possibly, I don't know. I have always said that if I am not sure of

3 something, I am not going to say yes or no.

4

12:35:40 5 CHAIRMAN: But what Ms. Dillon is I think asking you about is or suggesting or

6 she may well suggest to you that this was the time, this was an appropriate

7 time for you to have mentioned the Tom Hand story. Now, you say you disagree

8 with that.

9 A. I do because the reality was that he never received the money for starters.

12:36:02 10

11 CHAIRMAN: Well the fact that he was asking for it would, I mean, that is,

12 that --

13 A. But, Chair, with great respect, you are talking about taking away somebody's

14 good name. And suppose what you've been told is incorrect. What do you do

15 then.

12:36:24 16

17 CHAIRMAN: That's fine. If that's your, if that's the reason why you didn't

18 give Inspector Guiney that information, then that's the reason, that's your

19 reason.

12:36:34 20 A. Well until I would know that something was a fact. I have to -- I must state

21 this. Mr. Dunlop was the man who informed us. If Mr. Dunlop had a problem

22 with Tom Hand on the basis of his allegations of requests for huge sums of

23 money, like, was it appropriate that he only told myself and Deputy Mitchell?

24 What were we supposed to do about it? I am really quite disturbed that in a

12:37:08 25 fair legal system that one is going to be penalised for having the good sense,

26 I would think, not to take somebody's character without proof. And that the

27 person who was making the allegation wasn't prepared to do something about it.

28 I think that would be utter madness. I could find myself in court as I said

29 before.

12:37:30 30

- 12:37:31 1 Q. 302 MS. DILLON: Did you advice Mr. Dunlop when he told you about this that he  
2 should speak to Mr. Bruton?  
3 A. I did. I also told him that he should go to the police.
- 4 Q. 303 Yes. That was my next question. Did you also advise him that he should go to  
12:37:44 5 the gardai?  
6 A. Pardon.  
7 Q. 304 Did you advise him that he should go to the gardai with his complaint about  
8 Mr. Hand.  
9 A. Mr. Dunlop.
- 12:37:48 10 Q. 305 Yes.  
11 A. I did.  
12 Q. 306 Yes.  
13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. 307 So you felt that the correct thing for Mr. Dunlop to do was to take this matter  
12:37:55 15 allegation to Mr. Bruton or to the Gardai, is that right?  
16 A. Obviously, because he was the one who had received the requests if you want to  
17 call them that.  
18 Q. 308 And on the 6th of May 1993, you attended at a dinner or a lunch in the Red Cow  
19 Inn, isn't that right, at which Mr. Dunlop was present at your table and  
12:38:20 20 Mr. Bruton was guest of honour?  
21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. 309 And I think that Mr. Dunlop has told the Tribunal that you went up to  
23 Mr. Bruton and came back to the table and said to Mr. Dunlop you can go and  
24 talk to John now and that was in connection with Mr. Dunlop's complaints about  
12:38:31 25 Mr. Tom Hand. And do you agree that that happened or not?  
26 A. Oh, I certainly asked Mr. Bruton to speak to Mr. Dunlop. I have to be totally  
27 honest and say that I did not think it was in relation to Tom Hand. I have  
28 already said that in my original note to Mr. Bruton. I thought it was about  
29 and it was circulation at the time, an anonymous letter that was going around  
12:39:03 30 about the councillors at the time and I have to state that I wasn't party to

12:39:12 1 the conversation. I did arrange for them to meet but in actual fact they were  
2 practically neighbours and knew each other quite well. But I did withdraw. It  
3 was at the end of the lunch and it was quite a lot of people standing up and  
4 talking and chatting and saying goodbye and putting on coats and what have you.

12:39:32 5 It was very informal.

6 Q. 310 And did Mr. Dunlop indicate to you that he wanted to have a private word with  
7 Mr. Bruton?

8 A. Oh, he did.

9 Q. 311 And you went over and asked Mr. Bruton to have a word with Mr. Dunlop?

12:39:44 10 A. I certainly did, yes.

11 Q. 312 You say, Mr. Dunlop says and this is matter between you that you knew that was  
12 about Mr. Tom Hand you say that you did not so know, is that right?

13 A. That's my recollection.

14 Q. 313 That's your recollection?

12:39:54 15 A. But I certainly had no problem in arranging for him to speak to Mr. Bruton.  
16 The content of their conversation I was never party to.

17 Q. 314 And I think Mr. Dunlop agrees with that, that you weren't a party to the  
18 conversation?

19 A. Yeah.

12:40:06 20 Q. 315 But Mr. Dunlop says that at that conversation with Mr. Bruton on the 6th of May  
21 1993, he told Mr. Bruton about Tom Hand's demands for money and that Mr. Bruton  
22 replied to him neither Fine Gael nor the world are populated by angels, do you  
23 remember that evidence being given?

24 A. I certainly do.

12:40:24 25 Q. 316 And it would appear from Mr. Bruton's evidence to the Tribunal that when he  
26 came to give evidence that contrary to what he had originally instructed his  
27 counsel in April of 2000, he then had a later recollection of a conversation  
28 with Mr. Dunlop about which matters such as this were discussed and you are  
29 familiar with that evidence by Mr. Bruton?

12:40:43 30 A. I am.

- 12:40:44 1 Q. 317 Yes. And it would follow from that, that if Mr. Bruton is correct in his  
2 evidence to the Tribunal that at that conversation on the 6th of May 1993, Mr.  
3 Dunlop raised with Mr. Bruton the question of Mr. Tom Hand's demands for money,  
4 isn't that right?
- 12:41:01 5 A. Well originally Mr. Bruton was outraged and exceedingly perturbed and that's  
6 why myself and Deputy Mitchell were hauled in to say what we knew about these  
7 matters and right up until I think maybe some, maybe about a year ago,  
8 Mr. Bruton had persisted in his original stance which was that he hadn't ever  
9 received that information.
- 12:41:31 10  
11 Now, if he changed his mind on an issue of a sentence or whatever, as I say, I  
12 wasn't party to the conversation.
- 13 Q. 318 Yes. But it would -- if Mr. Bruton is correct in what he says, then it is  
14 likely that the subject matter that Mr. Dunlop wanted to discuss with  
12:41:48 15 Mr. Bruton on the 6th of May 1993, was the demand by Tom Hand for 250,000 or  
16 some sum of money, isn't that right?
- 17 A. Well I have to say, originally I certainly didn't think he was going to talk  
18 about that. It was a very light hearted affair and the conversation lasted  
19 about three minutes and it's very possible that Mr. Bruton misunderstood  
12:42:14 20 Mr. Hand. But I must -- or sorry I beg your pardon Mr. Dunlop. But I can't  
21 say because happily for me I was not party to the conversation.
- 22 Q. 319 Yes. And certainly when you were asked about this by the Tribunal at 3543.  
23 You said in your statement in relation on the third paragraph through your  
24 solicitors "I am instructed that Frank Dunlop asked my client to join him at  
12:42:41 25 the lunch and she sat beside him. At the conclusion of the lunch, Frank Dunlop  
26 left the table and spoke to John Bruton for a couple of minutes. My client was  
27 not a party to the conversation nor did she overhear same." Isn't that right?
- 28 A. That's true.
- 29 Q. 320 But you in fact had gone to Mr. Bruton in advance of that to say that Mr.  
12:42:56 30 Dunlop wanted a word.

12:42:58 1 A. Yes, Mr. Dunlop certainly said to me I would like to have a word with John and  
2 Mr. Bruton was sitting at another table but I would have known him well enough  
3 just to go up for a minute and say Mr. Dunlop wishes to speak to you, which I  
4 did.

12:43:19 5 Q. 321 And at paragraph three of that statement after the -- this is in relation to  
6 the matter that you were surprised we were discussing about the note by  
7 Ms. Mitchell and your own note.

8  
9 "After the matter was raised with the Tribunal by Frank Dunlop, John Bruton  
12:43:25 10 contacted my client and asked to meet with her and Olivia Mitchell. My client  
11 met with John Bruton to discuss the circumstances of the fundraising lunch. My  
12 client did not arrange any meeting for Frank Dunlop with John Bruton. John  
13 Bruton or Frank Dunlop were well acquainted with each other and would require  
14 no assistance from my client in this regard."

12:43:44 15  
16 And then "the lunch in question took place more than 11 years ago. This is my  
17 client's best recollection of events" and that was your statement through your  
18 solicitors to the Tribunal in relation to the lunch in the Red Cow Inn on the  
19 6th of May 1993, isn't that right?

12:44:00 20 A. Yeah but I think the meeting there is a little bit -- this was a whole lot of  
21 people in a room having lunching. It wasn't a meeting. I think a meeting to  
22 mean is something quite formal and arranged by both parties. I went up, I have  
23 no problem. I've said that all along.

24 Q. 322 Now, the suggestion by anybody, whether in a jovial manner or otherwise, that a  
12:44:27 25 senior figure in Fine Gael had sought 250,000 pounds in connection with the  
26 support for a development would be a serious matter in the first instance  
27 within Fine Gael, isn't that right?

28 A. If it were true.

29 Q. 323 If it were true. And how would one establish if such a thing were true or not  
12:44:44 30 do you think, Ms. Ridge?

- 12:44:45 1 A. Now, with great respect, Chair, you would know an awful lot more about that  
2 than I would. How in the name of God would I know how to go about that.
- 3 Q. 324 Right. There were a number of matters I suggest you could have done,  
4 Ms. Ridge. In the first instance if you were unhappy with going near the Garda  
12:45:02 5 Siochana in relation to the information that you had internally within Fine  
6 Gael when you received this information from Mr. Dunlop, which had to be prior  
7 to the 6th of May 1993, if Mr. Bruton's evidence is correct. You yourself  
8 could have informed your senior colleagues in Fine Gael headquarters of the  
9 demand or the alleged demand by Tom Hand. Did you do so?
- 12:45:26 10 A. I don't think you've been listening to me.
- 11 Q. 325 Did you do so?
- 12 A. Now, hold on. Chair, why would I saying that I did not know to be true? If I  
13 knew it was true but even then how, I just don't know what all of this is  
14 about.
- 12:45:41 15 Q. 326 And you could have told your colleagues or your senior colleagues in Fine Gael  
16 that not alone had Mr. Dunlop who was a trusted friend of yours for 20 years  
17 tell you this but he also had an additional piece of information. He had the  
18 bank account number in Australia into which Mr. Hand wanted the money paid.  
19 And with that piece of information would it not have been slightly more than a  
12:46:03 20 rumour?
- 21 A. Well with great respect, Ms. Dillon, did you ask Mr. Dunlop why he didn't do  
22 that.
- 23 Q. 327 Yes. I am asking you, Ms. Ridge?
- 24 A. But I -- you are not listening to me.
- 12:46:14 25 Q. 328 Yes.
- 26 A. I have said that I will not take somebody's character. Why should I be a  
27 messenger to make an eejit and a fool of myself and a liar of myself perhaps,  
28 to go to either a police station? Why would any senior colleague in Fine Gael  
29 know better than anybody else? Why should I do that?
- 12:46:34 30 Q. 329 Did you speak --

- 12:46:35 1 A. On the basis of pure hearsay.
- 2 Q. 330 Did you speak to Mr. Hand about it?
- 3 A. I never did! Are you joking me!
- 4 Q. 331 I mean if you were concerned about speaking to other people why couldn't you
- 12:46:45 5 have gone to Mr. Hand your colleague in Fine Gael and asked him was there any
- 6 truth in this rumour?
- 7 A. Ms. Dillon, would you put yourself into my shoes and ask yourself sincerely.
- 8 Would you go to somebody and ask them had they put in a bank number and had
- 9 asked for a quarter of a million. Would you do that to your colleagues here?
- 12:47:08 10 Q. 332 Would the position then insofar as you are concerned, Ms. Ridge, is that you
- 11 receive an allegation that you regard as sufficiently serious that you advise
- 12 Mr. Dunlop to go to the gardai and Mr. Bruton about it, isn't that right?
- 13 A. Well I would have thought that by doing that that I was being totally correct
- 14 in my advice to him.
- 12:47:26 15 Q. 333 Yes. And it is a very serious allegation, isn't that right? Because if it is
- 16 true it means that within Fine Gael there is a very corrupt councillor, isn't
- 17 that right if the allegation is true?
- 18 A. I am glad you used its word "if".
- 19 Q. 334 Yes. But you would you agree that if it was drew it was a very serious matter
- 12:47:45 20 for Fine Gael, because one of their most senior members on Dublin County
- 21 Council would be shown to be a corrupt councillor, isn't that right?
- 22 A. If it were true.
- 23 Q. 335 Right. And armed with the information that Mr. Dunlop had given you, which was
- 24 the name of the councillors who was alleged to have made the demand, the amount
- 12:48:00 25 that he had been asked for and the fact that he had been given an Australian
- 26 bank account into which it was to be paid. What steps did you take about doing
- 27 anything? Anything at all about the matter?
- 28 A. Ms. Dillon, I will now state it again. I knew, I know nothing of any of that
- 29 other than what Mr. Dunlop, who with great respect, is well anal able to speak
- 12:48:25 30 for himself, told me. I thought about it and I said I've told him to go to the

12:48:32 1 police, I've told him to go to John Bruton. My duty in the matter was finished  
2 as far as I was concerned.

3  
4 JUDGE KEYS: Ms. Ridge, could I just ask you a question on that point. Could  
12:48:42 5 you bring up 17116, please. Now, that's a letter from Pat Rabbitte, Chairman  
6 of Dublin County Council, who is seeking assistance from councillors in  
7 relation to a possible allegation of wrongdoing of some description, isn't that  
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

12:49:00 10  
11 JUDGE KEYS: And he names a particular inspector who is going to carry out an  
12 investigation, isn't that correct?

13 A. Yes. And the inspector did speak to me.

14  
12:49:09 15 JUDGE KEYS: Yes. Did it ever cross your mind that you should have said to  
16 the inspector, I think you may be assisted if you go and interview Frank  
17 Dunlop?

18 A. No, it didn't I must say.

19  
12:49:20 20 JUDGE KEYS: Why not? After all Frank Dunlop was the person who told you or  
21 you were in his company when he mentioned this matter of 250,000. You have  
22 been asked by the Chairperson of the Council to co-operate and assist with  
23 Inspector Michael Guiney's investigation. He speaks to you and you never  
24 suggest to him well why don't you go and speak to Mr. Dunlop?

12:49:49 25 A. Well I think I've explained that already. My, because Mr. Dunlop said this.  
26 He also stated categorically that he never paid the money and also I had  
27 advised him to go to the police as the person who had this information.

28  
29 JUDGE KEYS: But what's that got to do with it? You are being requested by  
12:50:11 30 the Chairperson of the council to co-operate with the Inspector Guiney in

12:50:16 1 carrying out an investigation into a possible wrongdoing. You were in the  
2 presence of Frank Dunlop who tells you a story or an allegation that 250,000  
3 pounds was asked for in relation to a zoning matter and you have constantly  
4 said up to now that because it was hearsay that you were not going to pass that  
12:50:42 5 on to anybody else. But you could have got over that by simply saying to  
6 Inspector Guiney please go and talk to Mr. Dunlop, he may be able to assist you  
7 in this matter.

8 A. Well what you are saying to me now is the first time that I've ever even  
9 thought along those lines. Because --

12:51:02 10  
11 JUDGE KEYS: If a crime is committed outside your door and you knew somebody  
12 had seen the crime and an inspector knocked on the door and asked you do you  
13 know anything about this. Would it not dawn on you to say well I know there  
14 was somebody in the vicinity there, he may have seen the crime. Why not go  
12:51:17 15 and -- I know who he is, go and ask him or her. What's the difference?

16 A. Well I wouldn't know that what Mr. Dunlop said was true. So why I should I  
17 incriminate anybody?

18  
19 JUDGE KEYS: But you are being asked. There is an investigation being carried  
12:51:33 20 out by the Gardai in this matter.

21 A. I still could not say that what Mr. Dunlop told me. How did I know that was  
22 true or false? Why should I do it?

23  
24 JUDGE KEYS: That's not the point. The point is an investigation is being  
12:51:45 25 carried out to investigate into a matter by a senior member of the Gardai and  
26 the simple direction I suggest to you which you should have said to Michael  
27 Guiney is go talk to Mr. Dunlop.

28 A. Well you may suggest that but I never thought of that at all.

29  
12:52:03 30 JUDGE KEYS: I see.

- 12:52:04 1 A. And I still stand over the fact that until I knew something was totally true, I  
2 don't believe that you could, you can take somebody's good name away.  
3  
4 JUDGE KEYS: Well how is a Garda investigation being carried out, people are  
12:52:16 5 not going to give information which they may not believe to be true or false in  
6 order to assist them to find out if there is any truth in it?  
7 A. Well as I said, Judge Keys, I never even thought on those lines because I had  
8 already, already told Mr. Dunlop to go to the police him self.  
9  
10 JUDGE KEYS: Thank you very much.  
11  
12 Q. 336 MS. DILLON: The date on the letter from the Chairman, Mr. Pat Rabbitte I think  
13 is the 26th of July 1993, isn't that right?  
14 A. Yeah.  
12:52:52 15 Q. 337 And the meeting at the Red Cow Inn at which Mr. Dunlop spoke with Mr. John  
16 Bruton was the 6th of May 1993, isn't that right?  
17 A. I am sure it was.  
18 Q. 338 Yes. And if Mr. Bruton is correct in his evidence that at that meeting Mr.  
19 Dunlop spoke to him about Tom Hand it would follow from that, that prior to May  
12:53:12 20 of 1993, Mr. Dunlop must have told you and Ms. Mitchell about the Tom Hand  
21 demand for money, isn't that right?  
22 A. Oh, I'm sure they must have yes.  
23 Q. 339 It would follow from that then, that when Garda, when Mr. Rabbitte wrote to you  
24 and when the Gardai subsequently contacted you as they did all councillors,  
12:53:32 25 that you were in possession of the information in relation to Tom Hand that had  
26 been given to you by Mr. Dunlop, isn't that right?  
27 A. Yeah but I didn't know if it was true or false information.  
28 Q. 340 Yes. Did you believe Mr. Dunlop at that stage to be an untruthful person?  
29 A. Probably not but I emphasise again and again.  
12:53:53 30 Q. 341 Uh-huh.

- 12:53:54 1 A. My answer to him at the time was what are you doing about it.
- 2 Q. 342 Yes.
- 3 A. Go to the police or go to John Bruton.
- 4 Q. 343 When Mr. Dunlop told you about the allegation involving Mr. Tom Hand did you
- 12:54:05 5 believe it to be true. Ms. Ridge?
- 6 A. When who?
- 7 Q. 344 When Mr. Dunlop told you about Mr. Tom Hand's demand for 250,000 pounds did you
- 8 believe it to be true?
- 9 A. Not necessarily because I nearly passed out when the sum of money of a quarter
- 12:54:21 10 of a million was mentioned.
- 11 Q. 345 Yes. What surprised you? Was it the fact that Mr. Hand had asked for money at
- 12 all or the amount of money that Mr. Hand had asked for?
- 13 A. Both I suppose.
- 14 Q. 346 Right. So are you saying that did you believe that what Mr. Dunlop was telling
- 12:54:35 15 you was a lie?
- 16 A. I couldn't say that. Only Mr. Dunlop can answer that.
- 17 Q. 347 All right. But you must have had some belief or concern about its truth when
- 18 you advised him to go to the Gardai?
- 19 A. Yes because I think he said it more than once.
- 12:54:47 20 Q. 348 And it would be fair to say I think, that yourself and Mr. Dunlop were very
- 21 good friends, isn't that right?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. 349 Right. And I think if we look at the extent of your contact with Mr. Dunlop at
- 24 26927. And the following page, and the following page, and the following page,
- 12:55:05 25 and the following page, and the following page. These are the recorded
- 26 telephone and diary entries in summary form insofar as they concern you, within
- 27 Mr. Dunlop's diary. And from an analysis of those it would appear that in '91
- 28 you had seven meetings and eight telephone calls. And in 1992 you had 16
- 29 recorded meetings and 33 calls. And then in '93 you had 20 meetings and 73
- 12:55:33 30 calls. And Mr. Dunlop has told the Tribunal that in all likelihood he would

12:55:37 1 have contacted you more than that, more than is actually recorded. That he was  
2 very friendly with you. Would you agree with that?

3 A. Yeah, I worked out the phone calls actually over the years. Two and a half a  
4 month.

12:55:50 5 Q. 350 Yes.

6 A. However. No, I don't dispute any of that at all.

7 Q. 351 And Mr. Dunlop, and I think the cross-examination by your own counsel of Mr.  
8 Dunlop was predicated upon the long and extensive friendship you have had with  
9 Mr. Dunlop, isn't that right?

12:56:05 10 A. Well we did have a long and extensive, extensive is that what you said?

11 Q. 352 Yes.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. 353 And in the light of that then, can I ask you why would you have had any reason  
14 to doubt prior to May of 1993, what Mr. Dunlop was telling you about anything,  
12:56:19 15 Ms. Ridge?

16 A. Well it was a very -- well as I said, I think both myself and Deputy Mitchell  
17 laughed at the beginning because we thought it was a joke.

18 Q. 354 Yes.

19 A. And because going back to that time, 250,000 pounds was an enormous amount of  
12:56:40 20 money. And I think it's very hard to remember a conversations back so long  
21 ago. But I do think we both asked him did you give it to him and then when he  
22 said no, that was that.

23 Q. 355 But would you have had any reason arising out of your friendship with Mr.  
24 Dunlop and how well you knew him to have doubted anything he was telling you?

12:57:13 25 A. I don't know how to answer that because we all know people very well but we,  
26 everybody has a secret part to them, you know, I don't know about that.

27 Q. 356 Yes.

28 A. Generally speaking, we, I totally at the start, thought it was a joke.

29 Q. 357 And generally speaking, would it be fair to say that you believed what Mr.  
12:57:47 30 Dunlop told you, is that fair. I mean for example, Ms. Ridge, it might help

12:57:47 1 you if you reflect on what you asked Mr. Dunlop in Carrickmines I. Do you  
2 remember asking Mr. Dunlop for an assurance that Liam Lawlor had nothing to do  
3 with the development, a particular development?

4 A. I do.

12:57:58 5 Q. 358 And when Mr. Dunlop replied to you, would you have accepted what Mr. Dunlop  
6 said?

7 A. Oh, well he certainly reassured me on the matter, yes.

8 Q. 359 Yes. And isn't it the case that in your friendship with Mr. Dunlop and in your  
9 working together and in your contact with Mr. Dunlop, you had no reason to  
10 doubt what Mr. Dunlop was telling you about Mr. Hand, isn't that right?

12:58:16 11 A. Well I still say A, it's how long ago is it? 1993, something like that. I  
12 still think because as my memory serves me, I don't know whether I was on my  
13 own with Mr. Dunlop at one of those meetings which may I add, when you referred  
14 to them, was usually a cup of coffee in the Royal Dublin Hotel beside the  
12:58:47 15 County Council. But however, I think both Ms. Mitchell and myself had never  
16 heard of such a sum of money and we did think it was, he was quite jovial when  
17 he said it. So, you know, I don't know. I can't. Look, I'm not going to go  
18 back and try to tell you what I thought in 1993, when I haven't the faintest  
19 clue what I even thought about yesterday sometimes.

12:59:13 20 Q. 360 Yes. And what I'm trying to find out from you, Ms. Ridge, is whether prior to  
21 Mr. Dunlop's evidence to this Tribunal that he was involved in bribery and  
22 corruption himself throughout your long association with Mr. Dunlop when he  
23 acted as a lobbyist in Dublin County Council and you were a Councillor, in  
24 general, did you tend to believe what Mr. Dunlop told you?

12:59:37 25 A. Well I'll put it to you this way. On the day that, let's say his other  
26 activities were exposed in this chamber, I was totally flabbergasted. That  
27 would be fair to say. But you are not going to get me to say that I  
28 necessarily believed that about Tom Hand because it's so long ago and because  
29 it was said in a jovial manner at the time. But when he repeated it, I gave  
13:00:11 30 him what I thought was my very best advice; go to the police and go to the

13:00:17 1 leader of the party.

2 Q. 361 It was --

3 A. Now, I don't know what more I can say about it.

4 Q. 362 Would you agree with this, Ms. Ridge, that it was an astounding amount of money

13:00:29 5 in 1993?

6 A. Certainly.

7 Q. 363 And Mr. Dunlop himself I think in 1991, had provided not financial assistance

8 to you but assistance by way of printing for the Local Election, isn't that

9 right?

13:00:41 10 A. Yes and I, he -- I had three elections, local '91 general '92 and Senate of '92

11 into '93 and he did assist me most certainly with printing.

12 Q. 364 Now, I think you at 25117. I think insofar as this document is concerned,

13 which is an invoice from Keyline Studios, you accept I think that you got the

14 benefit of the work that was done there, isn't that right?

13:01:14 15 A. I believe so, yeah but ...

16 Q. 365 And at 1864. You have on your copy of this at 25119, you don't believe you got

17 the benefit of this invoice.

18 A. Yes, and I am certain I didn't. It's for. Wait until I see the date -- sorry.

19 Q. 366 28th of June?

13:01:39 20 A. Yeah, now I do not believe that but that's, I am going on my memory but I do

21 not believe I received that.

22 Q. 367 If we look at the full document, please. Would you accept that this is an

23 invoice to Mr. Dunlop from a company called O'Donoghue Print?

24 A. Yes.

13:01:57 25 Q. 368 And that it's not a document created by Mr. Dunlop?

26 A. Oh, no I remember actually going down to O'Donoghue Print myself, I think it

27 was during the '92 election. I had some difficulty finding the location and

28 collecting printed literature from Mr. O'Donoghue.

29 Q. 369 This is June 1991 election because you will see by the date on the document

13:02:25 30 that the invoice is sent to Mr. Dunlop on the 28th of June 1991. Do you see

- 13:02:31 1 the date?
- 2 A. Yeah and would you mind going back to the previous one please that you showed
- 3 me.
- 4 Q. 370 1864.
- 13:02:38 5 A. Yeah well that's the one I totally dispute. No, will you go back please to --
- 6
- 7 JUDGE FAHERTY: 25117 I think it was.
- 8 A. The first one you showed me.
- 9
- 13:02:49 10 Q. 371 MS. DILLON: Yes. 25117.
- 11 A. No, the one before that.
- 12 Q. 372 That is the first one.
- 13 A. Well sorry well then there's one that my, there is a name of a recipient
- 14 scratched out.
- 13:03:04 15 Q. 373 I am going to come to that. That's the next one.
- 16 A. Sorry, go ahead.
- 17 Q. 374 At 25119 what is your position in relation to this invoice which is the one
- 18 I've just been discussing. Which where O'Donoghue Print on the 28th of June
- 19 '91, send an invoice to Mr. Dunlop in relation to preparing leaflets and
- 13:03:18 20 canvass cards in your name, where it says "re Therese Ridge" and then the
- 21 second says "re Therese Ridge". Do you see that? If that could be increased
- 22 in the centre please?
- 23 A. I am almost certain that I can remember receiving a card I think but not
- 24 leaflets. But that's my memory.
- 13:03:39 25
- 26 CHAIRMAN: All right. Ms. Dillon, it's gone one o'clock. So we'll sit again
- 27 just after two o'clock.
- 28
- 29 MS. DILLON: May it please you, Sir.
- 13:03:46 30 **THE TRIBUNAL THEN ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH.**

**THE TRIBUNAL RESUMED AS FOLLOWS AT 2:00 P.M.:**

- 13:04:21 1
- 2
- 3 CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, Ms. Ridge.
- 4 A. Good afternoon.
- 14:04:35 5
- 6 CHAIRMAN: Ms. Dillon.
- 7 A. Chair, and members, just before we start, I just remembered something and I
- 8 just want to put it on the record. When Ms. Dillon was referring to my taking
- 9 the word of Mr. Dunlop with regard to the non-involvement of the late Liam
- 14:05:00 10 Lawlor in Paisley Park, Carrickmines. And Judge Keys was pointing out that
- 11 maybe I should have told the inspector about Mr. Hand's, the comments by Mr.
- 12 Dunlop on Mr. Hand. But as it turned out, Mr. Dunlop knew that Liam Lawlor was
- 13 heavily involved in Paisley Park when he told me something quite to the
- 14 contrary.
- 14:05:35 15
- 16 CHAIRMAN: Well I think Judge Keys was ...
- 17 A. No, I just want to point out how wary I am of using other people's information
- 18 against anyone else. And I just want to introduce that in to the record.
- 19
- 14:05:47 20 CHAIRMAN: All right.
- 21
- 22 Q. 375 MS. DILLON: I had been asking you about some invoices that had been sent to
- 23 Mr. Dunlop in connection with the 1991 election and I think just before lunch
- 24 you had agreed that one was certainly in relation to you. You had some doubt I
- 14:06:04 25 think about the second invoice which was dated the 28th of June 1991. At
- 26 25119.
- 27 A. Sorry I beg your pardon. Yeah, I just want to check something here now.
- 28 Q. 376 25119.
- 29 A. Yeah. I'm getting there.
- 14:06:29 30 Q. 377 And can I just ask you in relation to this invoice, do you now accept that it's

14:06:35 1 likely that was in connection with material that was provided for you by  
2 O'Donoghue Print at the request of Mr. Dunlop and paid for by Mr. Dunlop?  
3 A. I honestly cannot say because my memory of the 1991 election is that I  
4 specifically remember being offered printing assistance by Mr. Dunlop but as to  
14:06:59 5 the description, that's not meeting my memory at all. This is art, 8,000 A4  
6 leaflets full colour, two sides. I have no recollection of ever having a  
7 leaflet my in my possession.  
8 Q. 378 You would accept I think, that O'Donoghue Print sent this invoice to Mr. Dunlop  
9 and if it wasn't in connection with you two mistakes were made; one by  
14:07:24 10 O'Donoghue Print and one by Mr. Dunlop when he paid it, isn't that right?  
11 A. Well I don't know, do we say mistakes but I do believe that if you go to 8881  
12 and the reason I have definitely not my --  
13 Q. 379 I am going to deal with that invoice in a moment, Ms. Ridge.  
14 A. Okay.  
14:07:42 15 Q. 380 We will just deal with the invoice that's on screen. I will take you through  
16 your evidence in relation to the invoice that you actually wish to dispute.  
17 And I want to draw to your attention in relation to the invoice that's on  
18 screen. Could we increase where it says "re Therese Ridge" please. Do you  
19 accept that your name is referred in the face of the invoice from O'Donoghue  
14:08:00 20 Print from to Mr. Dunlop?  
21 A. Yes, yes I see that, yeah.  
22 Q. 381 And it would appear that both O'Donoghue Print and Mr. Dunlop were, Mr. Dunlop  
23 was invoiced by Mr. O'Donoghue Print for providing material which apparently on  
24 its face seems to refer to you, isn't that right?  
14:08:17 25 A. Yes well I have, I think I've always stated that Mr. Dunlop assisted me with  
26 printing. I think I've always included that. Now, I just have a doubt about  
27 that one because it seems excessive to me and I don't remember getting art,  
28 wait until I see what they are described as, "art board". I have no  
29 recollection of -- I can remember leaflets or something like that but I  
14:08:47 30 certainly don't remember anything on art board. But it is 1991.

- 14:08:53 1 Q. 382 Yes. And then the third invoice which is at 1868, which was provided by Mr.  
2 Dunlop in connection with the 1991 election?
- 3 A. Yeah, now that one I totally dispute. And you will note that there is re and a  
4 scribble over it. And the initialling of "TR" is in Mr. Dunlop's handwriting  
14:09:14 5 as far as I am aware and I think I'm right. And I don't think that was for me.  
6 And if you look at the date, it's the 28th of the 6th 1991. And the previous  
7 one was the 28th of the 6th 1991. And on this instance, I am receiving for a  
8 Local Election 15,000 A3 leaflets, full colour one side. I certainly didn't  
9 receive them. And I am of the opinion that whatever is scratched out there is  
14:09:44 10 definitely not my name.
- 11 Q. 383 Now, I think that in your contacts with Mr. Dunlop you also came to meet  
12 Mr. O'Callaghan, isn't that right?
- 13 A. That's true.
- 14 Q. 384 And you became according to Mr. Dunlop, and again you may disagree with you if  
14:10:03 15 you wish, you became quite friendly with Mr. O'Callaghan, isn't that right?
- 16 A. Well in as much as he was often in the company of Mr. Dunlop, yes, and he was  
17 he was a very pleasant gentleman to meet.
- 18 Q. 385 And I think if we look at 6639. The document provided to the Tribunal by Mr.  
19 O'Callaghan.
- 14:10:27 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. 386 And this is a fax from Mr. Dunlop to Mr. O'Callaghan of January of 1992. And  
22 it says:  
23  
24 "Owen, attached is a letter I spoke to you about the other day. Tony Johnson  
14:10:39 25 is a sidekick of Luke Moriarty's, regards Frank" and the letter in question at  
26 6640 was entitled "Dublin West action group Mr. John Bruton TD" and it was in  
27 effect a letter of complaint about Quarryvale from a Mr. Tony Johnson. And  
28 what I want to draw to your attention at 6639, is that on Mr. O'Callaghan's  
29 copy of this document there is the words written "T Ridge replying". Do you  
14:11:06 30 see that at the top?

- 14:11:07 1 A. I certainly do.
- 2 Q. 387 Yes.
- 3 A. And I don't -- it's not my writing.
- 4 Q. 388 No. And I didn't suggest it was, Ms. Ridge. I think that I told you ...
- 14:11:15 5 A. I'm only trying to help you.
- 6 Q. 389 I told you the provenance of your document for your assistance, which was it
- 7 was a document supplied to the Tribunal by Mr. O'Callaghan. In so far as you
- 8 can recollect, do you know whether or not you ever prepared a reply to
- 9 Mr. Johnson's letter to Mr. Bruton?
- 14:11:34 10 A. I doubt it very much but I couldn't be sure. I don't ever remember seeing that
- 11 letter.
- 12 Q. 390 You will have been --
- 13 A. Mr. Johnson was acting on behalf of Mr. Moriarty, is that what you said?
- 14 Q. 391 6641. I ... you will see from the bottom of the letter that "Mr. Tony Johnson
- 14:11:53 15 circulated it to all Fine Gael representatives senators and members of Dublin
- 16 County Council to highlight the threat posed to integrity in politics and
- 17 business by the Quarryvale rezoning scandal and the threat posed to the general
- 18 public and business interests of Dublin West by lack of integrity in planning."
- 19
- 14:12:10 20 So it's a document that you would have been circulated with in any event if he
- 21 sent it to all members of Dublin County Council, isn't that right?
- 22 A. I haven't a clue because I don't ever remember seeing it.
- 23 Q. 392 Right. And you can't recollect whether or not --
- 24 A. I think obviously reading it, it's a complaint from a group of retailers. Did
- 14:12:26 25 you mention Moriarty?
- 26 Q. 393 Yes. In the covering letter at 6639.
- 27 A. And what did that say?
- 28 Q. 394 In Mr. Dunlop's note to Mr. O'Callaghan he said "attached is the letter I spoke
- 29 to you about the other day. Tony Johnson is a side kick of Luke Moriarty's".
- 14:12:42 30 A. I would know Luke Moriarty from the point of view that he owns a major centre

14:12:48 1 in the Palmerstown area but he used to live in Clondalkin in my constituency  
2 and I knew him when he lived there. But he is sort of a major retailer. So  
3 that's what I want to just check it was the same person.

4 Q. 395 And can I show you at 7547, this is a document prepared by Mr. Dunlop as of the  
14:13:09 5 17th of January 1992; 7457 please, in which Mr. Dunlop prepares a contact  
6 report setting out who has spoken to various councillors and whether all  
7 councillors have been met at this stage in connection with Quarryvale. And on  
8 the second page at 7458, you will see that your name is the sixth name down  
9 from the top.

14:13:36 10 A. I see that, yeah.

11 Q. 396 And that according to this document Mr. O'Callaghan and Mr. Dunlop had both  
12 lobbied you by the 17th of June '92. And I think you wouldn't disagree with  
13 that?

14 A. No, of course I wouldn't.

14:13:56 15 Q. 397 And then at 7459. If you just look at the name "Mary Elliott" and you will see  
16 that the person whose initials appear there as having spoken to Mary Elliott in  
17 connection with her support for Quarryvale is "TR" that is Therese Ridge and  
18 that has been confirmed by Mr. Dunlop in evidence to be you. Can I ask you  
19 first of all, did you ever speak to Mary Elliott in connection with her support  
14:14:16 20 for Quarryvale?

21 A. Yes, Mary Elliott and I very good friends we were elected on the same day and I  
22 think everybody in this Tribunal knows that if you are seeking to get a motion  
23 through, you obviously talk to your colleagues and seek their support and as I  
24 stated from the outset, I was very eager and anxious to get something into the  
14:14:44 25 Clondalkin area of major nature. So of course yes I certainly would have  
26 spoken to her.

27 Q. 398 Yes. And at 7783; this is a document created by Mr. Dunlop in connection with  
28 a donation to Anthony Murphy for an adventure club or summer camp for 100  
29 youths on a weeks adventure. The cost was 4,000 and they had raised 2,500, the  
14:15:11 30 shortfall of 1,500 and then there was a question mark "OOC sponsorship" and he

14:15:16 1 has a note "checked with LL, TR and JOH". And I think on the 31st of the 9th  
2 or 31st of the 7th '92, Mr. Dunlop wrote a cheque for 1,500 pounds to Emmet  
3 Burke for this charity or for the benefit of this particular activity. What I  
4 wanted to ask you specifically about, Ms. Ridge, is his note "checked with LL,  
14:15:39 5 TR and JOH". And is this the sort of advice that you would have given to Mr.  
6 Dunlop?  
7 A. Well, I'd be curious as to why he would have checked with me with regard to  
8 Greenfort because my locally electoral ward ended at the Cold Cut Road and  
9 Greenfort was in the Lucan electoral ward and at the same time, generally  
14:16:06 10 speaking North Clondalkin was divided between the two council areas. So I  
11 wouldn't have a problem if somebody wanted to check out about a summer camp or  
12 whatever. But I have no recollection of it.  
13 Q. 399 Mr. Dunlop has given sworn evidence to the Tribunal that he would have spoken  
14 to Mr. Lawlor, Ms. Ridge and Mr. O'Halloran and asked them as to whether or not  
14:16:30 15 he ought to make the contribution or subscription to the adventure club. And  
16 do you disagree with Mr. Dunlop in relation to his evidence, in relation to  
17 that or do you agree with him?  
18 A. I haven't the faintest recollection of it.  
19 Q. 400 And can I show you then at 7951; a telephone call on the 3rd of September 1992  
14:16:51 20 at 3:45. "Therese Ridge please call her" and a number is given "close friend  
21 of John O'Halloran, Denis now Donnacha is in custody re large arms find in his  
22 house in Quarryvale".  
23 A. Yes, yes.  
24 Q. 401 First of all can I ask you, do you agree it's likely that you made that  
14:17:08 25 telephone call, Ms. Ridge?  
26 A. I rang him to say please call, yes, that's my home number. "Close friend of  
27 John O'Halloran." Was I, I don't know what that means. Yes, I, yes, I know  
28 exactly what that is. The, I don't know whether they were Sinn Fein or -- I  
29 think they were the Sinn Fein group. I think Mr. McCann was in, Mr. Donnacha,  
14:17:36 30 his name was Denis Cuff and he changed it to Donnacha O'Cuffaigh and he was

14:17:44 1 working with Mr. McCann in Quarryvale and would have come to a lot of public  
2 meetings and I had -- it is true, as my memory serves me, that he was charged  
3 with possession of firearms and was subsequently dealt with by the courts.

4 Q. 402 Why would you have been contacting Mr. Dunlop about that?

14:18:11 5 A. Well I think Mr. Dunlop had informed both Mr. O'Halloran and myself that he  
6 was, I think he was giving a donation to the group that Mr. O'Cuffaigh was  
7 involved.

8 Q. 403 Yes. But why were you ringing Mr. Dunlop to tell him this?

9 A. I don't know. Perhaps he had rung me to ask me.

14:18:38 10 Q. 404 Yes.

11 A. I haven't a clue.

12 Q. 405 The note doesn't suggest that he had rung you about it, Ms. Ridge, isn't that  
13 right? You appear to be passing on that information to Mr. Dunlop for whatever  
14 reason?

14:18:49 15 A. Well I am not going to try and interpret something that happened on the 3rd of  
16 September 1992. I can assure you that I certainly knew Mr. O'Cuffaigh, and I  
17 do believe he was in custody. I can't understand why I would have made that  
18 call, I would have been, what's the John O'Halloran bit to do with it?

19 Q. 406 You made the call, Ms. Ridge, you see that's why I'm asking you about it?

14:19:19 20 A. Yeah well I haven't any context to put it in other than I certainly am aware  
21 that Mr. O'Cuffaigh became aware, how would you say it, was subsequently  
22 charged on those matters.

23 Q. 407 And Mr. O'Cuffaigh was an associate of Mr. McCann's who also attended public  
24 meetings, is that right?

14:19:36 25 A. Mr. McCann I think, I am not aware of Mr. McCann at the meetings because the  
26 meetings I attended were in my own electoral ward, that's Rowlagh and  
27 Neilstown. And I think there were other meetings I think there was one in  
28 Palmerstown and I can't remember where but I didn't attend any of them that  
29 weren't in my own ward.

14:20:02 30 Q. 408 Now, Mr. Dunlop has told the Tribunal that you advised him in connection with

14:20:07 1 Mr. Peter Brady to go and speak to a Mr. Gerard Leahy auctioneer of Lucan in  
2 connection with seeking the support of Mr. Peter Brady for the Quarryvale  
3 development. Can I ask you, first of all, do you agree that you recommended a  
4 revised Mr. Dunlop that he should go and see Mr. Leahy in connection with  
14:20:27 5 Mr. Brady?

6 A. I have absolutely no recollection of any such conversation.

7 Q. 409 You will know of course from your consideration of the documentation with which  
8 you have been circulated that at 24347, that Mr. Owen O'Callaghan in the third  
9 paragraph in this statement says "Gerard Leahy had helped to get Peter Brady  
14:20:54 10 elected and was to some extent his mentor. Therese Ridge told me the only  
11 person that could speak to Peter Brady was Gerard Leahy".

12  
13 So from that, it would appear that two people, that is Mr. Frank Dunlop and  
14 Mr. Owen O'Callaghan, are both of the view that you were the person who  
14:21:11 15 recommended that they go and see Mr. Leahy in relation to Mr. Peter Brady.  
16 Does that assist you in relation recollecting, Ms. Ridge, as to whether or not  
17 you gave them that advice or not?

18 A. Well I don't really know. Because you see I know Gerard Leahy as director of  
19 elections for Fine Gael and I knew Peter Brady as a colleague on the council  
14:21:35 20 and I don't remember these conversations. Gerard Leahy I think in his evidence  
21 said that he was very friendly with Peter Brady and I have to say, Chair, I  
22 don't see anything terribly wrong in advising somebody to go and see somebody.  
23 But I have no recollection of it.

24 Q. 410 Yes so that if Mr. O'Callaghan were to tell the Tribunal, as it appears that he  
14:22:00 25 will, as Mr. Dunlop has already told the Tribunal, that you were the person who  
26 advised that they see Mr. Leahy about securing the support of Mr. Peter Brady  
27 for Quarryvale, you wouldn't disagree with that, Ms. Ridge, is that the  
28 position?

29 A. Well I don't know about securing the vote. Ms. Dillon, and Chair, look, when  
14:22:19 30 you are in the situation of trying to put through something major, there is no

14:22:25 1 point in not asking people to vote for it because it's not going to get through  
2 unless you have a majority. So you use your contacts as best you can. And I'm  
3 sure if, I don't recollect the conversations but what I will say is that if  
4 somebody asked me, it's entirely possible I said that. But I do wish to, not  
14:22:50 5 to demean Mr. Brady in any way, because I saw it in the paper that he was  
6 supposed to be controlled by several people and I don't think that's fair.

7 Q. 411 Yes. What we are discussing here is now not Mr. Brady and whether he could be  
8 controlled by anybody, it is whether or not you advised Mr. Owen O'Callaghan  
9 and Mr. Frank Dunlop that they should seek and speak with Mr. Gerard Leahy in  
14:23:12 10 order to secure the support of Mr. Peter Brady. I think that's what we're  
11 discussing, Ms. Ridge?

12 A. I think I said at the beginning I haven't the faintest recollection of it. I  
13 am not either denying it or agreeing with it, it's there so it probably did  
14 happen but I have no memory.

14:23:26 15 Q. 412 And do you recollect at the vote in December, 1992 whether you urged on  
16 Mr. Brady to vote for Quarryvale as Mr. Dunlop has told the Tribunal?

17 A. Well, I find that amazing because in Mr. Dunlop's own evidence written he says  
18 I was supposed to, if I may use the word and I hope I am quoting him correctly,  
19 either "push or puck" Mr. Brady. Now, you will find that in his evidence and I  
14:23:59 20 can't remember what page it is.

21 Q. 413 It's question 1047, day 791.

22 A. Yeah well you have all of that so you know what I'm talking about.

23 Q. 414 Yes.

24 A. But I wouldn't, I can't understand how that transpired into the statement of me  
14:24:22 25 obviously having to shout because there was 78 people in the chamber, a press  
26 gallery and the staff. So how would I, I did my puck become a shout. I don't  
27 remember shouting at Peter Brady certainly not. What I do remember on the day  
28 actually is that Mr. Dunlop said that Joan Burton shouted up at Eithne  
29 Fitzgerald "you're not for it. You're not for it". So perhaps he is confusing  
14:24:52 30 the two. That's in his written statement as well. But I would have more

- 14:24:56 1 respect for my colleague than to either pucker him or to shout at him.
- 2 Q. 415 I think that what Mr.--
- 3 A. No, may I finish. Chair, I just want to say. I would have been very pleased
- 4 with him voting and also I think like the fact -- no, I won't say anything
- 14:25:14 5 else. That's what I'll say but I'm delight it had voted for it.
- 6 Q. 416 And what he said in fact, I don't believe he used the word "pucker". What he
- 7 said was that you "gave him a nudge".
- 8 A. Sorry change "pucker" to "nudge".
- 9 Q. 417 And that you said to him when there was a pause "for Peter" for you have no
- 14:25:30 10 recollection, is that correct, Ms. Ridge, about that matter?
- 11 A. Sorry, would you repeat that?
- 12 Q. 418 What Mr. Dunlop said is that you gave him a nudge and that when his name was
- 13 called out to vote that you said I don't believe he said you shouted I think he
- 14 said you said "for Peter! for" and what I'm asking you is whether you have any
- 14:25:49 15 recollection of that election event?
- 16 A. Absolutely none. Absolutely none. I have a recollection of Ms. Burton talking
- 17 to the chair on the matter. But I certainly -- in the middle of a count I
- 18 very much doubt that anyone would raise their voice because a vote has to be
- 19 recorded very carefully. It's entirely possible that Peter Brady would have
- 14:26:15 20 been sitting beside me because we hadn't got any fixed seating and we usually,
- 21 we had the first four rows I think and we usually sat, I usually sat in the
- 22 second or third and so did Peter Brady. But if you're talking about 1992, it's
- 23 16 years ago, I cannot say that I was sitting beside him.
- 24
- 14:26:37 25 What I certainly have absolutely no memory of either nudging or dare I say it
- 26 shouting or raising my voice. But I was very happy that Peter voted for it,
- 27 yes.
- 28 Q. 419 If I can just turn then to ask you about the election of November 1992, and at
- 29 3738, you will see that the 1992 General Election was called on the 5th of
- 14:26:59 30 November and the vote was on the 25th of November, which was a Wednesday. And

14:27:04 1 I think in Mr. Dunlop's diaries and telephone attendances at 8400, at 11:20 on  
2 the 4th of November '92, you ring Mr. Dunlop's office. And I think on the 5th  
3 of November at 8409 at 11:40, you ring Mr. Dunlop and you leave a message that  
4 "you are in Dublin County Council until 12 after lunch from 3 to 3:30" isn't  
14:27:31 5 that right at 11:40?  
6 A. Well, well it's written down there.  
7 Q. 420 Yes. And are they indicative of the sort of messages that you would have left  
8 for Mr. Dunlop as to where and where he could contact you?  
9 A. Ms. Dillon and Chair, as I remember on my first appearance here, Ms. Dillon  
14:27:52 10 went through numerous phone calls and asked me what they were and how they  
11 were. And I, I gave my very best recollection. So I don't know why you are  
12 asking me things like this again.  
13 Q. 421 Well I mean I'm asking you this, Ms. Ridge, just so there is no ambiguity about  
14 it. These are the telephone calls that lead to Mr. Dunlop's office in the days  
14:28:15 15 immediately preceding at the donation of a payment --  
16 A. I told you all of those things before.  
17 Q. 422 Yes. I am just explaining you the context, Ms. Ridge, if you would listen, of  
18 the questions that I'm asking you?  
19 A. I'm listening.  
14:28:26 20 Q. 423 That these are the phone calls made by you to Mr. Dunlop's office in the days  
21 leading up to the 10th of November 1992, when Mr. Dunlop paid Ms. Mitchell 500  
22 pounds. And you will recollect and you will know that Mr. Dunlop says he made  
23 that payment to Ms. Mitchell at your request and you disagree with that but  
24 it's my job to take you through the evidence.  
14:28:45 25 A. I accept that.  
26 Q. 424 Right. So now I am taking you through your contact with Mr. Dunlop in the lead  
27 up to that payment Ms. Mitchell, do you understand?  
28 A. I do.  
29 Q. 425 Okay. So know o the on the 6th of November '92 at 8416, at 10:05 there is a  
14:28:57 30 telephone call recorded from you "at home, some news for you" to Mr. Dunlop.

- 14:29:08 1 And then on Monday the 9th of November at 8433, at 9:48 you ring Mr. Dunlop's  
2 office and on the 10th of November at 8431, you will see in Mr. Dunlop's diary  
3 at 5:30 "Ashton's Clonskeagh OM" and Mr. Dunlop has told the Tribunal that it  
4 was in Ashtons of Clonskeagh that he gave 500 pounds in cash to Ms. Mitchell  
14:29:37 5 who agree that is she met Mr. Dunlop in Ashtons of Clonskeagh although she is  
6 not 100 per cent sure as to the amount of money?
- 7 A. Now --
- 8 Q. 426 It is Mr. Dunlop's evidence to the Tribunal that he gave that donation or  
9 payment to Ms. Mitchell as a result of a request from you for assistance for  
14:29:53 10 Ms. Mitchell. What is your in evidence relation to that, Ms. Ridge?
- 11 A. Chair, my evidence is very, very definite because I was really very annoyed to  
12 see that. I was talking with Mr. Dunlop. He asked me did I think and I  
13 remember this particularly -- did I think Olivia would welcome a donation  
14 because she was a candidate. And I said I do not know. You better ask her  
14:30:26 15 yourself because I didn't wish to be asking questions like that. And  
16 Ms. Mitchell is quite correct when she says Mr. Dunlop did ring her and made  
17 some arrangement to meet her. That's exactly the context of that.
- 18 Q. 427 Yes. Ms. Mitchell's evidence to the Tribunal was she received a call from you  
19 during the election campaign. This is day 816 question 740.
- 14:30:54 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. 428 And I think that on this she confirms that "she received a telephone call from  
22 you during the election campaign and you explained to her that Mr. Dunlop had  
23 said he would like to make a contribution to her campaign." Do you agree with  
24 that?
- 14:31:08 25 A. Well it's possible but I think the nub of this is that Mr. Dunlop is saying  
26 that I asked for a contribution to Ms. Mitchell. I never did. When it was  
27 offered I said you better ask her yourself.
- 28 Q. 429 What Ms. Mitchell has told the Tribunal in her sworn evidence is that you  
29 telephoned her and that you told her that Mr. Dunlop has said that he would  
14:31:34 30 like to make a contribution to her campaign and that you told her to call Mr.

- 14:31:39 1 Dunlop, which she did. Do you have any recollection of that, Ms. Ridge?
- 2 A. Well it's quite possible but what I want to state categorically is that I was
- 3 not the one that suggested that she get a payment and I left it between the two
- 4 of them.
- 14:31:52 5
- 6 Now, I don't know, perhaps I did ring her. But what I'm saying is that Mr.
- 7 Dunlop has stated that I asked him to give Ms. Mitchell a donation for her
- 8 election. I didn't do that. And I am absolutely categoric and I believe that
- 9 Ms. Mitchell agrees with me in this matter.
- 14:32:12 10 Q. 430 Yes. Ms. Mitchell's evidence is as I have explained it to you now.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. 431 Which is that you telephoned her and advised her that Mr. Dunlop wished to make
- 13 a donation and you recommended to her that she contact Mr. Dunlop?
- 14 A. Well I thought Mr. Dunlop contacted her.
- 14:32:26 15 Q. 432 Yes.
- 16 A. But however, the main issue here is that he asked me did Ms. Mitchell want.
- 17 Listen, Chairman, if I didn't ask for a payment or a donation for myself, why
- 18 in the name of God would I be asking for anyone else? Mr. Dunlop raised the
- 19 whole issue.
- 14:32:49 20 Q. 433 And I think that in the General Election campaign of November '92 at 1861, do
- 21 you recollect these flyers?
- 22 A. Yes, I do and I have acknowledged that I received them and that the invoice was
- 23 sent, yes.
- 24 Q. 434 And at 1862.
- 14:33:15 25 A. Well that's --
- 26 Q. 435 Do you recollect these flyers which recommend both Mr. Lawlor and yourself,
- 27 isn't that right?
- 28 A. Well you might say what for.
- 29 Q. 436 Yes.
- 14:33:26 30 A. It's in the election next Wednesday vote only for the candidates who support a

- 14:33:30 1 town centre.
- 2 Q. 437 And that was the General Election, isn't that right?
- 3 A. That's 1992 general election, yes.
- 4 Q. 438 And I think at 1870?
- 14:33:37 5 A. Sorry can I just intervene to point out that these were flimsy, you know, just  
6 the thinnest of paper and I think the total bill was quite small 348, I don't  
7 know whether that was for two people or one but I certainly did receive those,  
8 yes.
- 9 Q. 439 And at 1870, the invoice in respect of some of these can be seen. And you will  
14:33:59 10 see there 6,000 of one particular leaflet black on coloured 80 gram bond and  
11 then there is reference to Therese Ridge/Liam Lawlor; Liam Lawlor/Therese Ridge  
12 and Liam Lawlor and you will see there an invoice in the total amount of 421  
13 pounds again from O'Donoghue Print Limited to Mr. Dunlop, isn't that right?
- 14 A. Yes, and would, it would appear to me that that was divided, that cost was  
14:34:28 15 divided between the two of us.
- 16 Q. 440 Well what I want to establish first of all do you accept that in fact --
- 17 A. I did already. I did get those. They were the flimsies ...
- 18 Q. 441 And there were 6,000 of those. And I think the second at 1867 invoice, which  
19 is again from O'Donoghue Print and it's 500 canvassed cards re Therese Ridge.  
14:34:49 20 I think that you accept that you got those cards, isn't that right?
- 21 A. I did because as far as my memory serves me, they were, it was my senate  
22 calling card if you want to call it that my senate canvass card yes I did.  
23 320.
- 24 Q. 442 And at 1866, there is an invoice for 8,000 cards re Therese Ridge?
- 14:35:15 25 A. Now, that is the one that I have raised in here with Mr. Leahy and Mr. Leahy  
26 has agreed in his statement in here in his evidence in here, that the printing  
27 of those cards, they were for three candidates. The three candidates I have  
28 already mentioned, Chair, in the 1992 election Deputy Curry, Tom Morrissey and  
29 myself. And I never knew that O'Donoghue Print were printing the Fine Gael  
14:35:52 30 literature until one of the gentlemen who helped me went down and came back and

- 14:36:01 1 described where he went to and I said that's the place where I couldn't find it  
2 the first time. And that literature was definitely not ordered by me and it's  
3 been attributed to me but Mr. Leahy has already stated that he would not  
4 contradict my comments on this in his evidence to you about six weeks ago.
- 14:36:22 5 Q. 443 And I think that, I think Mr. Leahy said that he couldn't recollect the events  
6 of 1992 in his evidence, isn't that right? But that he agreed that there had  
7 been documentation supplied that connected the three candidates, isn't that  
8 right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 14:36:36 10 Q. 444 Right.
- 11 A. No, no but he was also asked would he contradict what I had said about it and  
12 he said he would not contradict Mrs. Ridge at this matter.
- 13 Q. 445 And then can I show you at 8684 it's an entry for the 7th of December '92. And  
14 you will see at 12:00 there is a reference there "Therese Ridge calling in at  
14:36:57 15 three o'clock today with some headed paper" do you see that at 12:00?
- 16 A. I do.
- 17 Q. 446 Yes. And was that so that Mr. Dunlop could provide you with headed paper, is  
18 that right, Ms. Ridge?
- 19 A. Yes, I think what's the date? Yeah. Also going with the card one would write  
14:37:14 20 a letter to the councillors for the Senate campaign and I believe but now I  
21 wouldn't be certain because it's so long ago, that I got a small amount of,  
22 because the voter base would be about 500 and for me as a Fine Gael candidate.  
23 And I would have gotten I think, but I'm not certain because I haven't got it  
24 and I have no distinct memory but I wouldn't necessarily dispute that.
- 14:37:49 25 Q. 447 1872, please. This document might assist whether you got the documentation or  
26 not. You see this is the document that was provided to Mr. Dunlop by you I  
27 think, Ms. Ridge, which contained your headed notepaper and then a sample of  
28 your signature at the bottom, do you see that?
- 29 A. Just as well I agreed with you, wasn't it.
- 14:38:07 30 Q. 448 You will have seen this in the documentation in any event?

- 14:38:09 1 A. No, I don't dispute that at all.
- 2 Q. 449 So that it can't be a question that there is any doubt about it I think,  
3 Ms. Ridge. It seems that you did get that documentation done by Mr. Dunlop in  
4 December of '92, isn't that right?
- 14:38:20 5 A. In conjunction with the cards for the Senate campaign.
- 6 Q. 450 Yes. And just in relation to the Senate campaign. Did you to Cork with Mr.  
7 Dunlop in early January of 1993, in connection with the Senate campaign?
- 8 A. I did, I did.
- 9 Q. 451 And can I ask you, did Mr. Dunlop pay for the flights and the transport to  
14:38:37 10 Cork?
- 11 A. Well, Chair, there is an interesting background to this flight to Cork. Mr.  
12 Dunlop, bearing in mind our long friendship and one has too get around the  
13 country, had very kindly offered to drive me to Cork. Now, other friends and  
14 family members drive me all over the place, it's about a five-week campaign,  
14:39:01 15 I'm sure you possibly know something about it. But on this occasion Mr. Dunlop  
16 was to drive me to Cork. Do you have a date there, Ms. Dillon?
- 17 Q. 452 The 9th the 12th of January?
- 18 A. Yeah well. On the morning of the 12th of January I was, I got a very early  
19 phone call from Mr. Dunlop who told me that it was snowing in the midlands and  
14:39:28 20 that Cork airport was quite fine weather and Dublin Airport was chilly but  
21 there was no snow as such in Dublin. And he said that he had gone ahead and  
22 booked two seats on I think about nine o'clock or ten o'clock night now I think  
23 it was 7 a.m. when he rang me.
- 24
- 14:39:58 25 So I was faced with au fait complete which I have to be honest, I wasn't too  
26 upset about it because we had to get out and about. But I have to stress that  
27 I didn't instigate or seek to be brought anywhere by plane. And that if you  
28 wish and you have the date, you may verify that I'm sure even at this stage  
29 with the meteorological service.
- 14:40:20 30 Q. 453 Yes.

- 14:40:20 1 A. And we could not have driven on that day.
- 2 Q. 454 My question to you if you didn't understand it, Ms. Ridge, was whether or not
- 3 you knew that Mr. Dunlop had paid for the flights of and the transport?
- 4 A. No.
- 14:40:31 5 Q. 455 And is the Tribunal to understand that you say you didn't know whether in fact
- 6 Mr. Dunlop had paid for the flights. Is that the purpose of your answer?
- 7 A. No, my answer is explaining why I went by plane in the first place.
- 8 Q. 456 Yes, my question had been directed towards your knowledge as to whether or not
- 9 you knew who had paid for the flights?
- 14:40:47 10 A. No. Well I assumed Mr. Dunlop paid for them because that's what he told me.
- 11 He said I have booked two flight. I wasn't aware that the bill would be passed
- 12 on because he had offered to drive me. And when we had this snow it was his
- 13 idea that we go by plane and accomplish the work and I certainly wasn't
- 14 consulted but I have to say I was exceedingly glad that I didn't have to drive
- 14:41:16 15 through the snow.
- 16 Q. 457 And was that the occasion on which you met Mr. O'Callaghan in Cork?
- 17 A. That's right.
- 18 Q. 458 And did Mr. O'Callaghan take you around Cork and introduce you to a number of
- 19 councillors in Cork?
- 14:41:26 20 A. He brought me I think to three.
- 21 Q. 459 To three. And was that for the purpose of seeking their support for your
- 22 nomination to the Senate?
- 23 A. That would be, obviously, the case because in a Senate campaign you go to
- 24 anybody especially if they are unaligned or from a smaller party you wouldn't
- 14:41:45 25 have a candidate and seek their vote.
- 26 Q. 460 And did you return to Dublin on the same day?
- 27 A. No, I did not.
- 28 Q. 461 Did you stay over in a hotel in Cork?
- 29 A. Yes.
- 14:41:53 30 Q. 462 Did you pay for the hotel?

- 14:41:55 1 A. I did not, no.
- 2 Q. 463 Was that picked up by Mr. Dunlop also, do you know?
- 3 A. Yes Mr. Dunlop as far as I was concerned was taking custody of all of the bills
- 4 and I was ... I wouldn't have thought anything else but that it was Mr. Dunlop.
- 14:42:15 5 Q. 464 You weren't aware as to whether or not those bills were ultimately passed on to
- 6 Mr. Owen O'Callaghan or to Riga or Barkhill, Ms. Ridge, is that right?
- 7 A. I was certainly not aware. And I think I said it earlier this morning, that I
- 8 did ask Mr. Dunlop about payments and he always told me any money I received
- 9 for elections and that's what they were, election contributions and used at
- 14:42:42 10 elections, were from himself.
- 11 Q. 465 Yes. And insofar as these services that we're looking at now at the moment
- 12 which are being brought to Cork or staying overnight in Cork or the cost of the
- 13 printing of the election material either for the Senate or for the General
- 14 Election or the headed notepaper. As far as you are concerned, that was
- 14:43:01 15 documentation that was provided to you by Mr. Dunlop and you are not aware as
- 16 to whether or not he passed on the on the cost that he had incurred in relation
- 17 to that to Mr. O'Callaghan or Mr. O'Callaghan's company, is that right?
- 18 A. No, he never ever suggested that that was going to be paid by anyone other than
- 19 himself.
- 14:43:19 20 Q. 466 Right. And on the 8th of -- sorry just before we leave the General Election of
- 21 1992. Can you remember when it was in the course of the election that Mr.
- 22 Dunlop came to you with 1,000 pounds in cash?
- 23 A. November, obviously.
- 24 Q. 467 And --
- 14:43:39 25 A. I don't remember the date, no.
- 26 Q. 468 Yes. And was that one of the largest or was it the largest donation that you
- 27 received in 1992?
- 28 A. I'm sure it was.
- 29 Q. 469 Yes.
- 14:43:49 30 A. I couldn't be certain. But no I think it was, yes.

- 14:43:52 1 Q. 470 Yes. And would you have?
- 2 A. I think I received 1,000 pounds from Fine Gael colleague as well at the time.
- 3 I think I have that in the report.
- 4 Q. 471 Yes. And insofar as this payment was in cash. Did you use it for the purpose
- 14:44:08 5 of the elections and not lodge it, Ms. Ridge, if I can just put it like that.
- 6 You spent it in the course of the election?
- 7 A. I did. As I pointed out earlier, Chair, I was left with an area that wasn't
- 8 Fine Gael and I actually had a team of great women who came out with every day
- 9 who had no political allegiance and I looked after their daily subsistence if
- 14:44:32 10 you want to call it that and I did that for three weeks.
- 11 Q. 472 And at 1125, Ms. Ridge. You will have seen this document earlier today. I
- 12 think you had some doubt as to whether in fact you might have signed this
- 13 particular motion. But I think you accept now have having looked at it this
- 14 morning?
- 14:44:49 15 A. I am not going to read my signature and say it's not mine. Of course I have
- 16 to.
- 17 Q. 473 This was the motion that was coming before the Council in December 1992
- 18 following on the manager's report on its Quarryvale rezoning, isn't that right,
- 19 where the manager was suggesting a more watered down version than the D zoning
- 14:45:06 20 that had been put in place in May of '91 zoning) and he was suggesting a
- 21 combined C and E zoning on the Quarryvale lands, isn't that right?
- 22 A. Well I'm sure you're reading from --
- 23 Q. 474 I am reading from your motion?
- 24 A. Yeah, that's fine.
- 14:45:20 25 Q. 475 Can you tell the Tribunal the circumstances in which you came to sign that
- 26 motion?
- 27 A. Yes, I'm sure I can. That I thought it was the right thing for the area and I
- 28 also as you will see at the top, based a lot of it on the findings that had
- 29 just come out about a month ago on this inter-departmental task force.
- 14:45:52 30 Q. 476 Did you prepare the motion?

- 14:45:54 1 A. I didn't.
- 2 Q. 477 Who gave you the motion to sign can you remember?
- 3 A. I can't remember.
- 4 Q. 478 Yes. Can I show you --
- 14:46:00 5 A. I would have been possibly in the Council with my colleagues and it would have  
6 been handed to me but I can't remember.
- 7 Q. 479 On the 8th 6 December '92 at 8711, which is the date before this motion is  
8 lodged. On the following page, please, at 8712. You will see at 3:33 Mr. Colm  
9 McGrath rings Mr. Dunlop. At 3:45, you ring Mr. Dunlop and at 3:59 John  
10 O'Halloran rings Mr. Dunlop and then at 4:20 Mr. Liam Lawlor rings, do you see  
11 that?
- 12 A. I do.
- 13 Q. 480 You will see that the signatories to the motion were Mr. McGrath,  
14 Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Tyndall and yourself, isn't that right?
- 14:46:37 15 A. That's true.
- 16 Q. 481 And on the following day the 9th of December which is the day that the motion  
17 is dated, Ms. Ridge, at 8709, Mr. Dunlop's diary On the 9th of December records  
18 3 o'clock meeting with you. Meeting with Mr. O'Halloran and a meeting with  
19 Mr. McGrath, isn't that right?
- 14:47:00 20 A. They are all at different times is that the one you're talking about.
- 21 Q. 482 Yes.
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. 483 And what I am drawing to your attention is the coincidence that on the fact  
24 three of the four signatories to the motion telephone Mr. Dunlop. On the 9th  
14:47:13 25 of December '92, three of the four signatories meet with Mr. Dunlop. And on  
26 the 9th of December at 1125, the motion is lodged with Dublin County Council.  
27 And looking at that sequence of events, Ms. Ridge, do you think it's likely  
28 that Mr. Dunlop was in fact the person who gave you the motion and asked you to  
29 sign it?
- 14:47:37 30 A. No.

- 14:47:38 1 Q. 484 No.
- 2 A. As far as I can recollect, I sure now I'm not sure but I have no recollection  
3 of Mr. Dunlop handing me a motion at all.
- 4 Q. 485 Yes.
- 14:47:52 5 A. Absolutely none.
- 6 Q. 486 Mr. Dunlop has told the Tribunal that in all likelihood Mr. Lawlor and himself  
7 drafted the motion and while he cannot specifically recall, he believes he did  
8 obtain the four signatures on the motion. Would you dispute Mr. Dunlop in  
9 that?
- 14:48:07 10 A. I have no recollection of Mr. Dunlop asking me to sign that motion. As a  
11 matter of fact, I signed motions usually with my colleagues. We would be  
12 together and would agree that we do something but I have no recollection of  
13 that at all.
- 14 Q. 487 Do you think that it's likely that you are meeting with Mr. Dunlop on the 9th  
14:48:26 15 of December 1992, was possibly to do with getting this motion into Dublin  
16 County Council and possibly getting it signed?
- 17 A. I don't know. I think because I met Mr. Dunlop on many occasions an awful lot  
18 of them were pure cups of coffee and what have you. I am certain as somebody  
19 who was lobbying for Quarryvale that he discussed it with me I should imagine.  
14:48:56 20 But I have to go back to what I said at the beginning. I was voting for this,  
21 it didn't matter who the proposer was or not the proposer but the owner. And I  
22 really want people to understand that. None of you lived in the area or knew  
23 anything about it. And I'm, I will never apologise for voting for Quarryvale  
24 at all.
- 14:49:19 25 Q. 488 I am simply asking you, Ms. Ridge, to explain to the Tribunal the circumstances  
26 in which you came to sign the motion and by that I mean, who physically handed  
27 you the motion, with asked you to sign it?
- 28 A. Now, Chair, with great respect, 1992 a foyer that you can't even get through in  
29 Dublin County Council. How could I remember whose hand handed me the motion.  
14:49:43 30 I haven't the faintest idea. Obviously, I signed it and that's the important

14:49:50 1 thing.

2 Q. 489 And would you have discussed this motion with Mr. O'Callaghan and Mr. Dunlop

3 when you met them?

4 A. I don't particularly remember ever discussing motions with them.

14:50:04 5 Q. 490 Did you ever discuss Quarryvale with them?

6 A. How do you mean Quarryvale?

7 Q. 491 Did you ever discuss Quarryvale with them, Ms. Ridge?

8 A. Do you mean the town centre proposals?

9 Q. 492 Uh-huh.

14:50:15 10 A. Because there were a lot of different aspects to Quarryvale, of course I

11 discussed it.

12 Q. 493 And at 8856, Ms. Ridge, this is an addendum to the motion we've already seen

13 and can you confirm first of all that the third signature on this document is

14 your signature?

14:50:34 15 A. What date was that please?

16 Q. 494 It's not dated.

17 A. Well I think that's very important because I have a feeling ...

18 Q. 495 It was dealt with by the Council on the 17th of December?

19 A. Yes.

14:50:47 20 Q. 496 Yes.

21 A. You will note that it was the managers recommendation.

22 Q. 497 Can you confirm that that's your signature, Ms. Ridge?

23 A. Oh, yeah.

24 Q. 498 Yes. And can you just explain to the Tribunal the circumstances in which you

14:50:58 25 came to sign this addendum please?

26 A. Because this is what the manager was now recommending, I wanted to be

27 associated with it because it meant securing the Quarryvale zoning as far as I

28 can see.

29 Q. 499 Yes.

14:51:17 30 A. Yeah.

- 14:51:17 1 Q. 500 And I think in 1992 on the 17th of December, there was also a proposal to limit  
2 the retail element of Quarryvale to 250,000 square feet, isn't that right?
- 3 A. Yeah, I think that's the one I was mixing up earlier when you showed me the  
4 thing.
- 14:51:34 5 Q. 501 And I think insofar as that is concerned, Mr. Dunlop has told the Tribunal that  
6 there were effectively negotiations going on throughout that evening in Dublin  
7 County Council. Would you agree with that?
- 8 A. What did he say?
- 9 Q. 502 He said there were negotiations and that he was advised and Mr. O'Callaghan was  
14:51:50 10 advised that effectively half a loaf was better than no bread and that it was  
11 better to agree to the cap of 250,000 square feet, than lose Quarryvale in its  
12 entirety. Do you have any recollection of those events?
- 13 A. I certainly remember shall we say people talking and in huddles and what have  
14 you, know. Are we still talking about 8856?
- 14:52:18 15 Q. 503 We're talking about the entire of the Quarryvale motion, yes.
- 16 A. Not this one that's up now.
- 17 Q. 504 That's part of it.
- 18 A. Oh, that's part of it. Yeah, well I was just wondering because I didn't see  
19 the thing on the cap on it. Yeah, there were people deciding that maybe ... I  
14:52:40 20 think the whole problem was that the Blanchardstown Green Property proposal  
21 was, it was a question of people were either for Blanchardstown or they were  
22 for Quarryvale and I think and I'm only going from vague recollection, that it  
23 was considered by all that you'd have the chance of getting it through if the  
24 cap was introduced that you wouldn't have had perhaps if you hadn't done that.
- 14:53:14 25 Q. 505 And --
- 26 A. But now I want to state that that's only my kind of recollection. It is 16  
27 years ago.
- 28 Q. 506 Yes. And Mr. Dunlop when he gave evidence on the 9th of May 2000 on Day 148 at  
29 13856, identified people whom he said advised him that the cap on Quarryvale  
14:53:32 30 should be reduced to 250,000 square feet and at 13857, he identifies the people

14:53:39 1 as being yourself, Mr. Marren, Ms. Mitchell and the late Mr. Tom Hand. And can  
2 you remember, Ms. Ridge, whether in fact you did advise Mr. Dunlop on the 17th  
3 of December, that it was better to get something on Quarryvale and to do that  
4 it would be necessary to agree to the cap of 250,000 square feet?

14:54:00 5 A. No, I was never aware that I specifically advised him because like the foyer  
6 was completely crowded and the Fine Gael room and the Fianna Fail room and the  
7 Labour room, there was toings and froings all over the place. I really can't  
8 say.

9 Q. 507 You will be aware from Mr. Dunlop's statement at 1908, with which you have been  
10 circulated at the very bottom of that statement dealing with the 17th of  
11 December meeting he says:

12  
13 "Councillors Therese Ridge, Anne Devitt, Donal Marren, and Sean Barrett  
14 indicate that it may be preferable if Mr. O'Callaghan could agree to a  
15 reduction in size of the square footage being sought that. That is not to  
16 suggest that these particular councillors and it goes on."

17  
18 So he is there setting out that those councillors not just you but other  
19 councillors advised himself and Mr. O'Callaghan to accept the reduction to  
20 250,000 square feet which ultimately came to be passed, isn't that right?

14:54:38 21 A. Yeah, it's entirely possible but as Mr. Dunlop writing his names when.

22 Q. 508 When he first gave evidence to the Tribunal in May of 2000, around the time  
23 that you were meeting Mr. Bruton and Ms. Mitchell in relation to the Tom Hand  
24 matter.

14:55:15 25 A. That would have been eight years ago but it's possible, yes. I mean, I don't  
26 have any problem with that.

27 Q. 509 And it is a case, is it not, that in the Council there was an amendment put to  
28 the floor of the council at 1121.

29 A. Yeah.

14:55:30 30 Q. 510 To amend the motion that is your original motion proposed by Councillor Devitt

14:55:35 1 and seconded by Councillor McGrath to restrict the retail shopping to 250,000  
2 square feet, isn't that right?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. 511 And you voted for that, isn't that right?

14:55:43 5 A. I did, yeah.

6 Q. 512 And you also voted then for the second amendment which is the one that we just  
7 looked at on screen and ultimately the entire motion as amended was passed,  
8 isn't that right?

9 A. That's recorded there, yeah.

14:55:55 10 Q. 513 Isn't that the position? And I think you have been furnished by the Tribunal  
11 with the records of how you voted and you don't dispute?

12 A. I was, I was indeed and I have it here.

13 Q. 514 Now, can I ask about one thing that Mr. Dunlop said about that meeting.  
14 Mr. Gus O'Connell was absent from that meeting for a matter that's the been the  
14:56:14 15 subject of some inquiry before the Tribunal. But in his evidence, Mr. Dunlop  
16 on day 813 said, that he remembered you effectively being surprised and what he  
17 said on day 813 at question 862 and this is in connection with the absence of  
18 Mr. Gus O'Connell.  
19

14:56:35 20 He said "Other than to say, a number of issues arose. One was that there was  
21 surprise that Gus O'Connell was missing. For example I remember Therese Ridge  
22 saying to me in positive terms that it was surprising that Gus O'Connell wasn't  
23 present. So his absence was noted. It was a source of, it was a source of  
24 comment among people."

14:56:54 25

26 Now, I know it's a long time ago but in general, would you have known  
27 Mr. O'Connell to be a good attender at council meetings?

28 A. Well I think he was working full-time at the time so I don't know if he was, I  
29 wouldn't have been noticing his attendance because remember in 1992, Chair, we  
14:57:18 30 were still this one I don't know what you want to call us, but there was 78

14:57:24 1 councillors and we weren't divided for council meetings into our electoral  
2 areas or wards, so I wouldn't, I wouldn't be able to comment on Mr. O'Connell's  
3 attendances. I knew him and an extremely nice gentleman he is and he is still  
4 on the Council.

14:57:46 5 Q. 515 Do you dispute Mr. Dunlop's evidence that he has a recollection of you being  
6 surprised about the fact that Mr. O'Connell was missing?  
7 A. Yes but Chair, with great respect, what is the meaning of that? Does it matter  
8 whether I was surprised or not surprised or what.

9 Q. 516 No what I am asking you, Ms. Ridge, and I am obviously not making myself clear.  
14:58:07 10 Do you dispute Mr. Dunlop's evidence that you were surprised at the fact that  
11 Mr. O'Connell was missing for the vote on the 17th of December 1992?  
12 A. Well I don't refute it or I don't dispute it.

13 Q. 517 All right.  
14 A. Because I haven't the faintest idea.

14:58:22 15 Q. 518 All right. If I can show you then at the amendment at 9479. And you will be  
16 aware that following the decision of the council on the 17th of December 1992  
17 it would be necessary to prepare an amendment to the written statement to  
18 reflect the fact that the retail element of Quarryvale was to be capped at  
19 250,000 square feet, isn't that right?

14:58:43 20 A. Yeah, I don't see a date on this.

21 Q. 519 But --  
22 A. It's Dublin County Council. Sorry. I beg your pardon.

23 Q. 520 27th of April 1993.  
24 A. I was looking at the top of the page.

14:58:55 25 Q. 521 Now, I think, if I can show you 1161, Ms. Ridge, and this is what the manager  
26 had proposed under paragraph 459 following on the decision of Dublin County  
27 Council on the 17th of December '92.  
28 A. Uh-huh.

29 Q. 522 And it was the sentence I want to draw to your attention was "what the manager  
14:59:27 30 had proposed was this district centre shall not exceed 250,000 square feet of

- 14:59:32 1 retail shopping". And that followed on the decision in December 1992 that  
2 we've just discussed, isn't that right?
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. 523 Now, can I take you back then to the motion at 1157, and what this motion is  
14:59:45 5 proposing is an amendment or in fact what it is proposing is a substitution of  
6 this prose or this text for what the manager had recommended, do you  
7 understand?
- 8 A. Yeah and what was going to happen on this motion.
- 9 Q. 524 The manager had said that what should be in the written statement is that "this  
15:00:10 10 district centre shall not exceed 250,000 square feet of retail shopping".
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. 525 What your motion proposed is this district town centre shall be in the order of  
13 250,000 square feet retail floor space.
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15:00:20 15 Q. 526 Right. Now first of all, I want to ask you, why, what was the necessary,  
16 Ms. Ridge, for bringing this motion?
- 17 A. Haven't the faintest idea.
- 18 Q. 527 Well you signed it, isn't that right?
- 19 A. Yes I know but you're talking about 1992.
- 15:00:35 20 Q. 528 Yes.
- 21 A. And there's how many motions are there on Quarryvale. I should imagine -- have  
22 you got the minute of the council meeting?
- 23 Q. 529 The matter was first discussed on the 1st of June and ultimately I think  
24 decided on the 3rd of June?
- 15:00:54 25 A. Yeah, could you just show me the vote on it and who ... the thing, the day that  
26 it happened.
- 27 Q. 530 I am going to take you through the minutes of the meeting. But what I want to  
28 ask you first of all about this particular document, Ms. Ridge, is looking at  
29 it and looking at what the manager proposed, can you assist the Tribunal as to  
15:01:16 30 the necessity for this motion?

- 15:01:19 1 A. Well you take me through it first and I'll see where --
- 2 Q. 531 At what the manager had proposed, Ms. Ridge. At 1161, and what the manager had
- 3 proposed was "it is an objective of the council to foster the creation of
- 4 employment opportunities in the Quarryvale area and to facilitate the provision
- 15:01:40 5 of a district centre to serve the larger community. It is proposed to
- 6 designate a district centre at Quarryvale. This district centre shall not
- 7 exceed 250,000 square feet of retail shopping."
- 8
- 9 If we stop there and go and look at what you proposed in your motion at 1157.
- 15:01:59 10 And what you said "It is an objective of the Council to foster the creation of
- 11 employment opportunities in the Quarryvale area and to facilitate the provision
- 12 of a district town centre". So you have introduced the word town beside the
- 13 word district to service the larger community. It is proposed to designate a
- 14 district town centre site at Quarryvale. This town centre shall be in the
- 15:02:22 15 order of 250,000 square feet retail space?
- 16 A. Yes, I don't have a problem with calling it a town centre.
- 17 Q. 532 All right.
- 18 A. Absolutely not.
- 19 Q. 533 Now having looked at the differences quite subtle I expect between what the
- 15:02:35 20 manager was proposing and what you were proposing in your motion. Can you now
- 21 explain to the Tribunal the thinking behind the necessity for bringing that
- 22 motion?
- 23 A. Well I think as far as my memory serves me, I was certainly anxious that we
- 24 have a town centre not a district centre.
- 15:02:52 25 Q. 534 And about the variation on the retail floor space?
- 26 A. That's, that doesn't mean anything to me.
- 27 Q. 535 Yes. Mr. Dunlop said that this was something that was drafted by Mr. Lawlor,
- 28 that Mr. Lawlor had sought the change in the written statement because the
- 29 amendment that is proposed in this would allow for more retail development in
- 15:03:11 30 Quarryvale than the amendment proposed by the manager. Do you I disagree with

15:03:16 1 that?

2 A. I have never had any dealings with Mr. Lawlor and I am just getting to

3 answering your question. I also want to say that Mr. Lawlor was not on the

4 County Council and I wouldn't have had any reason to think he was involved in

15:03:33 5 anything.

6 Q. 536 I didn't ask you that?

7 A. I know. Excuse me.

8 Q. 537 I am just explaining to you, Ms. Ridge?

9 A. Hold on. I am entitled to explain where I am going. Now, with regard to this.

15:03:41 10 I have already told you haven't I haven't got any difficulty with town centre

11 activities at all. I know nothing about that it was drafted by Mr. Lawlor and

12 Mr. Lawlor is another dead man, like Mr. Hand. And I just don't know where you

13 are going with this.

14 Q. 538 I am asking you as a signatory on the motion to explain your thinking and your

15 reasoning behind the alterations you proposed to the managers report?

15:04:05 16 A. To make it the best possible town centre for the people of Clondalkin.

17 Q. 539 And can I show you 9562. Ms. Ridge, and you see there first of all can I ask

18 you is that your signature?

19 A. No.

15:04:24 20 Q. 540 And do you see this document says Dublin County Council with compliments?

21 A. It's definitely not my signature.

22 Q. 541 Yes. And that document was provided by Mr. O'Callaghan to AIB together with a

23 copy of the motion. At 9563?

24 A. Well I think you --

15:04:55 25 Q. 542 I am just telling you that you may take it, Ms. Ridge --

26 A. Sorry for interrupting you.

27 Q. 543 Yes. You may take it as a fact that those two documents were sent by Mr.

28 O'Callaghan on the 10th of May 1993, from O'Callaghan Properties to Allied

29 Irish Bank. What I wanted to ask you is whether or not you had sent a copy of

15:05:02 30 the motion to Mr. O'Callaghan in Cork?

- 15:05:05 1 A. Well will you put that --
- 2 Q. 544 9562.
- 3 A. Yeah please. That is definitely not my signature. And I think you would only
- 4 have to look at my previous scrawlings to know that that is not my signature.
- 15:05:22 5 Q. 545 Yes. What I asked you is whether or not you had sent a copy of the motion to
- 6 Mr. O'Callaghan and can you recollect whether in fact you would have sent a
- 7 copy of the motion as signed and as stamped --
- 8 A. I have no --
- 9 Q. 546 -- to Mr. O'Callaghan?
- 15:05:33 10 A. -- absolutely no recollection of that.
- 11 Q. 547 Now, that I think came before the Council and ultimately I think in June on the
- 12 4th of June at 1170, certain amendments that had been proposed were withdrawn
- 13 and the motion was amended by the introduction of district town and adding the
- 14 words "not exceeding" after the words in order of. So that the ultimate motion
- 15:06:04 15 read it is an objective of the Council to foster the creation of employment
- 16 opportunities in the Quarryvale area and to facilitate the provision of a
- 17 district/town centre to service the larger community. It is proposed. The
- 18 next page please. To designate a district town centre site at Quarryvale this.
- 19 district town centre shall be in the order of but not exceeding 250,000 square
- 15:06:26 20 feet of retail shopping?
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. 548 Can you assist the Tribunal with a better understanding of the wording that was
- 23 ultimately adopted by the Council compared to that which was originally
- 24 proposed by the manager?
- 15:06:42 25 A. You will have to put up the first page again because it came along very
- 26 quickly.
- 27 Q. 549 This is the managers proposal at 1161.
- 28 A. Yeah, yeah, I know that. No you have 117 up. Yeah. I have it now. No I
- 29 don't have any specific recollection of that other than to note that it was
- 15:07:13 30 passed unanimously.

- 15:07:16 1 Q. 550 Do you know whether in fact you might have been asked by Mr. O'Callaghan to  
2 sign that motion originally?
- 3 A. I can, I am absolutely certain that Mr. O'Callaghan never asked me to sign a  
4 motion.
- 15:07:30 5 Q. 551 And did Mr. Dunlop ask you to sign the motion?
- 6 A. Yes, he -- not that motion. He asked me to sign a motion which I'm sure you  
7 will come to and I will discuss it with you.
- 8 Q. 552 Which motion did Mr. Dunlop ask you to sign?
- 9 A. He asked me to sign -- the line to the Neilstown site.
- 15:07:53 10 Q. 553 This is the December '92, amendment?
- 11 A. I can't remember that now. I'm sure you'll come to it.
- 12 Q. 554 We have already dealt with the amendment to the December '92, that deals with  
13 the Neilstown site.
- 14 A. Now, well then we're talking about the wrong thing. The motion that I was  
15:08:17 15 specifically asked by Mr. Dunlop to sign was a motion that was already, that  
16 already had the proposer and seconder on it and it was the one to change the  
17 zoning on the Neilstown townland, back from town centre and as I said, I am  
18 sure you will come to it and I'll be happy to fill you in.  
19
- 15:08:42 20 JUDGE FAHERTY: Is it 1125? Maybe you can put that up Ms. Dillon. Just one  
21 second.
- 22 A. But as I state, that's the only time that I can remember ever and I signed it  
23 because it was already had the --  
24
- 15:09:02 25 MS. DILLON: 8856
- 26 A. On it.
- 27 Q. 555 I think this is the motion that you're talking about. Is that the motion that  
28 you're discussing?
- 29 A. I think so I'm not sure.
- 15:09:11 30 Q. 556 This is the motion in connection with the Neilstown site which is an amendment

15:09:15 1 to the original motion that you had proposed for December 1992.

2 A. Yeah, I think that's it.

3 Q. 557 It's not a separate motion you see from the document in front of you?

4 A. Oh, right.

15:09:29 5 Q. 558 It is an addendum to the existing motion that you had already signed?

6 A. No well then I don't think that's the same one I'm talking about. What date

7 was that?

8 Q. 559 December the 17th 1992?

9 A. No, it was not dated but it was dealt with and voted on on that day of December

15:09:49 10 1992. No, no he did not ask me to sign that.

11 Q. 560 Do you have a copy of the motion that you say, Mr, Dunlop asked you to sign?

12 A. Think so, yeah.

13 Q. 561 If you just show a copy of it to Ms. Gribbin the solicitor to the Tribunal,

14 please, and it might be possible for you?

15:10:05 15 A. But it's on this that you sent out to us.

16 Q. 562 I'm just looking for a page reference so that can he we can put it up on

17 screen?

18 A. I you sent me out a list of all of the things that I contributed to and all of

19 the things that I was present. I'll find it here in a minute if you ... it's a

15:10:26 20 little bit difficult to go through these now. I cannot find it at the minute

21 but respectfully, Chair, if there is going to be a break, and I am not

22 suggesting that we should have one, I would be very happy to try and find this

23 motion. I want to categorically state that I did not sign that motion at the

24 behest of the one that's up, I did not. I reiterate I voted for Quarryvale by

15:11:09 25 myself on my own and for the people I represent.

26 Q. 563 If I could just have 16690. This is the summary of your involvement,

27 Ms. Ridge.

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. 564 In the voting in Quarryvale. If we move down to deal with the meeting of the

15:11:27 30 17th of December. And you will see there "signed motion" 10.11, 11 - 25 do you

15:11:37 1 see that?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. 565 That is the substantive motion and you also signed the amendment seeking the

4 Neilstown?

15:11:42 5 A. I have no problem with. I signed both of those and I voted for them.

6 Q. 566 Yes. Now, they are the motion to which you signed that your signature is

7 before the Council on the 17th of December '92, including the second part of

8 that motion which is an amendment to your original motion which transfers the D

9 zoning to Quarryvale -- to Neilstown. Is that the motion you're talking about?

15:12:09 10 A. I think so but I can't be certain.

11 Q. 567 All right. But in any event you think it's likely Mr. Dunlop might have asked

12 you to sign that motion, is that correct?

13 A. Well I've only a recollection of him asking me to sign a motion that was, that

14 already had the I think it was Councillor O'Halloran was and Councillor McGrath

15:12:30 15 and I know the motion was passed unanimously with one abstention and that's the

16 one I'm thinking of. But it's a long time ago so I'm at the mercy of records

17 but I ... I do make up my own mind and ...

18 Q. 568 And ever after the decision was made in relation to the written statement in

19 June of 1993; in September of '93 at 10089 and on the following page at 4:15

15:13:04 20 Mr. O'Callaghan rings Mr. Dunlop to see had meetings been set up with

21 Mr. O'Halloran and with yourself on Thursday as he might have a conference in

22 Cork and in Mr. Dunlop's diary at 10081?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. 569 On September the 9th there is an entry John O H beneath that Colm T which is

15:13:25 25 apparently Colm Tyndall and beneath that TR and OOC and times, do you see that?

26 A. I do certainly. And what year was this?

27 Q. 570 1993.

28 A. Yeah.

29 Q. 571 And this is after the amendment to the written statement. And you had signed

15:13:39 30 the motion to the amendment to the written statement, Ms. Ridge. And the

15:13:42 1 matter will now come before the Council again later that year for confirmation,  
2 isn't that right?

3 A. Yes, in the December it was confirmed yes.

4 Q. 572 In October it was confirmed I believe.

15:13:51 5 A. Oh, was it sorry.

6 Q. 573 The Development Plan itself was made in December?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. 574 Now, you will see there then lunch 1 o'clock T R and C Tyndall, do you see  
9 that?

15:14:01 10 A. I do, yes.

11 Q. 575 Yes.

12 A. I do.

13 Q. 576 Now, can I ask you. Did you have anything else in common with Mr. O'Callaghan  
14 Mr. Dunlop, Mr. Tyndall and Mr. O'Halloran other than Quarryvale?

15:14:15 15 A. I find that a very strange question because Councillor Tyndall is a native of  
16 Clondalkin. I have known him from the time he was on the local drama group,  
17 know him for years, PD Councillor. And I do remember actually having lunch  
18 with Frank Dunlop and Colm Tyndall at some stage but that's probably the day  
19 because I think that only happened once and I don't really have anything to say  
20 about it.

15:14:48 21 Q. 577 Okay. May the Tribunal take it that the only matter, Ms. Ridge, that you had  
22 in common with Mr. O'Callaghan, Mr. Dunlop, Mr. O'Halloran and Mr. Tyndall was  
23 Quarryvale?

24 A. Say all of those names again.

15:15:02 25 Q. 578 What I am asking you is what would have brought the five of you together other  
26 than Quarryvale?

27 A. Who is the five now?

28 Q. 579 Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Tyndall, Ms. Ridge, Mr. O'Callaghan and Mr. Dunlop?

29 A. Well obviously I would never have been meeting Mr. O'Callaghan if he stayed in  
15:15:24 30 Cork. He, Mr. Dunlop was his lobbiest, which I think is allowed under the

15:15:31 1 constitution. Mr. Tyndall is a good friend of mine and still is and was a  
2 member of the council. Mr. O'Halloran was a member of the council whom I know  
3 quite well and would like. And I can't remember anything else other than that  
4 we did have lunch but I don't know that we were all -- I think I only had lunch  
15:15:52 5 with Colm Tyndall and Frank Dunlop, that's my recollection.

6 Q. 580 All right. And would you have been --  
7 A. Now, as I say, you're talking aeons ago so I'm not too sure.

8 Q. 581 Would you agree with that Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Tyndall and yourself were all  
9 signatories on the Quarryvale motion?

15:16:11 10 A. Of course sure our names on are on it.

11 Q. 582 And would you agree that Mr. O'Callaghan is the developer of Quarryvale and was  
12 the developer of Quarryvale?

13 A. Yes of course.

14 Q. 583 And that Mr. Dunlop was apart from being a personal friend of yours, the  
15:16:23 15 political lobbyist of Mr. O'Callaghan, insofar as the Quarryvale development  
16 was concerned?

17 A. I have absolutely no problem with that and may I also just add that Mr. Dunlop  
18 was very highly regarded throughout the whole country, indeed he was a pillar  
19 of society. So I, like, hindsight is great isn't it.

15:16:45 20 Q. 584 Yes. And if I could just show you 10223, Ms. Ridge. Just looking at the  
21 message you are you were leaving Mr. Dunlop's office on 7th October 1993 at  
22 11:50?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. 585 Therese Ridge.

15:16:57 25 A. 11:50 at night.

26 Q. 586 No in the morning.

27 A. No, the reason I say that is as you probably know I think I've put it in  
28 before, I went back to college from '91 or '92, I can't remember '92 to 1994 to  
29 complete my masters degree and my skills at typing as it was then or maybe  
15:17:28 30 start of computers was exceedingly mindless nil. And I employed Mr. Dunlop's

- 15:17:35 1 secretary Norma Deegan over that period of time to type my essays and to --
- 2 Q. 587 I wanted to ask you about a phone call that you made in connection with Mr.
- 3 O'Callaghan. I don't know if what you are presently trying to tell the
- 4 Tribunal the typing of your thesis is relevant to Mr. O'Callaghan or not. If
- 15:17:52 5 it's relevant please continue?
- 6 A. Well then I must have misunderstood because you didn't mention Mr. O'Callaghan.
- 7 Q. 588 Attention --
- 8 A. In your question --
- 9 Q. 589 I hadn't asked you a question, Ms. Ridge, I had said to you that I wanted to
- 15:18:05 10 show you a document dated the 7th of October 1993. I wanted to show you an
- 11 entry at 11:50 whereupon you said night-time and you started talking about your
- 12 thesis. The message that you leave at 11:50 in the morning is "Therese Ridge,
- 13 Don Sullivan rang Owen this morning everything looks okay". First of all may
- 14 the Tribunal take it that the Owen in question is Owen O'Callaghan?
- 15:18:26 15 A. I'm sure it is, yes.
- 16 Q. 590 And who is Don O'Sullivan can you remember?
- 17 A. I don't know any Don O'Sullivan.
- 18 Q. 591 Can you remember any officials of Dublin County Council called O'Sullivan?
- 19 A. Yes, we had a senior parks man, his name was O'Sullivan but he wasn't Don
- 15:18:46 20 O'Sullivan.
- 21 Q. 592 Can you assist at all as to what that message might have been about. It would
- 22 appear from this message, Ms. Ridge, that Mr. O'Callaghan rang you with the
- 23 information and that you then rang Mr. Dunlop, isn't that right?
- 24 A. We're looking at 11:50.
- 15:19:08 25 Q. 593 Yes.
- 26 A. "Don O'Sullivan rang Owen this morning."
- 27 Q. 594 Yes.
- 28 A. "Everything looks okay."
- 29 Q. 595 And you are ring building Dunlop to pass on that message, isn't that right?
- 15:19:19 30 A. Yeah but.

- 15:19:20 1 Q. 596 And it's a message to you from Mr. O'Callaghan, isn't that right?
- 2 A. No, I don't read it like that. 11:50 are we looking at 11:50.
- 3 Q. 597 Yes.
- 4 A. "Don O'Sullivan rang Owen this morning."
- 15:19:34 5 Q. 598 So you are telling Mr. Dunlop that Don O'Sullivan rang Owen O'Callaghan that  
6 morning, isn't that right?
- 7 A. Apparently yes, yes.
- 8 Q. 599 So you must have got the information either from Don O'Sullivan or Owen  
9 O'Callaghan doesn't that follow?
- 15:19:49 10 A. Oh, I see where you're coming from.
- 11 Q. 600 And you are ringing Mr. Dunlop to give him the message, isn't that right,  
12 Ms. Ridge?
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. 601 So it follows from that that Mr. O'Callaghan whoever Mr. O'Sullivan was, had a  
15:19:59 15 direct line to you and that you were passing on the information about whatever  
16 this was about, to Mr. Dunlop, isn't that right?
- 17 A. Yeah well I think the nub of that is whatever it was about because I have no  
18 recollection of that at all.
- 19 Q. 602 Yes. And then I think that on the 19th of October, the confirming vote came  
15:20:15 20 before the Council, isn't that right, of Quarryvale? The confirmation of the  
21 vote at first of all 1187 please. And then at 1189 we see that the maps deal  
22 with the Lucan and Clondalkin areas and then at 1194 we see the lands at  
23 Quarryvale, isn't that right? And the various changes are there identified,  
24 isn't that right?
- 15:20:43 25 A. That's correct.
- 26 Q. 603 And they were after some discussion and the withdrawal of some motions by  
27 Councillor O'Connell at 1197 were confirmed, isn't that right?
- 28 A. If that's what it says I'm sure it is.
- 29 Q. 604 And there's where it says confirmed, isn't that right?
- 15:20:59 30 A. Yeah.

- 15:20:59 1 Q. 605 And I think the meeting concluded at 5:15 p.m, isn't that right?
- 2 A. Am I on the right page 1197?
- 3 Q. 606 At the bottom of the page at 1203, I think.
- 4 A. Well I have I have 1197 here.
- 15:21:11 5 Q. 607 Yes.
- 6 A. The meeting concluded at 5:15, yes.
- 7 Q. 608 Can I just show you at 10279. On the 19th of October at ten past ten, you ring
- 8 Mr. Dunlop's office and you leave the message "Barrett coming in, Shatter
- 9 coming in, Dockrell to get back to her, Anne Devitt at classes in Blackhall
- 15:21:36 10 Place on mobile from 2:30" and you get a mobile number for Ms. Devitt and you
- 11 give it to Mr. Dunlop, isn't that right?
- 12 A. That's exactly correct.
- 13 Q. 609 Yes. And was that in connection with the Quarryvale meeting that afternoon?
- 14 A. I'm sure it was, yes.
- 15:21:54 15 Q. 610 And that what you are doing there, Ms. Ridge, is that you are giving a head
- 16 count to Mr. Dunlop, isn't that right?
- 17 A. Yeah but I have to say it again. So what! There's no harm in someone asking
- 18 you how many people do you think are going to vote for it and I certainly
- 19 wanted it. And I would have canvassed all of those people. And if it was
- 15:22:15 20 important to me to know if they were coming in or out.
- 21 Q. 611 Yes. And at any stage in your dealings with Mr. Barrett or Mr. Shatter or
- 22 Mr. Dockrell or Ms. Devitt, you had recommended to them always to vote for
- 23 Quarryvale car, isn't that right?
- 24 A. No, I asked them to vote for Quarryvale.
- 15:22:39 25 Q. 612 Yes.
- 26 A. And then they decided whether they would or not based on the motions all of the
- 27 discussions, the year and a half previous to it and what have you. And then
- 28 they are all free agents to make up their minds as they chose. We had no whip
- 29 I can assure you of that nor never had.
- 15:22:58 30 Q. 613 And the vote duly took place on the 19th of October and it was confirmed, isn't

- 15:23:02 1 that right?
- 2 A. If you say so, I'm sure it is correct.
- 3 Q. 614 You have already seen that. And ultimately the Development Plan was made in
- 4 1993, isn't that right?
- 15:23:08 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. 615 On the 10th of December?
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. 616 And thereafter I think you became a member of South Dublin County Council?
- 9 A. That's true.
- 15:23:14 10 Q. 617 And in 1997, the cap was removed from -- in the review of the Development Plan
- 11 by South Dublin County Council, isn't that right?
- 12 A. That's absolutely correct.
- 13 Q. 618 Can you tell the Tribunal what you remember about the circumstances in which
- 14 the cap came to be removed by South Dublin County Council?
- 15:23:32 15 A. I could be wrong but my memory is that the manager was in favour of it. I may
- 16 need you to check that for me.
- 17 Q. 619 I think the manager removed it, isn't that right, in the first draft of the
- 18 plan that was presented to the councillors?
- 19 A. Yeah, I think the idea was, not the idea but the reality was that we were now a
- 15:23:51 20 new and separate new county and that this was going to be our town centre and I
- 21 ... I'm nearly certain the manager asked us to vote for it. Now, no, I'm sure
- 22 actually. Well as sure as you can be because again that's what however long
- 23 ago, 11 years ago.
- 24 Q. 620 And finally, if I can show you at 3166. Mr. O'Callaghan's statement. And I
- 15:24:32 25 just want to draw to your attention in the light of your earlier evidence today
- 26 item 10 on that list of political donations made by Mr. O'Callaghan. He says
- 27 that "on the 21st of October 1997, at the request of Councillor T Ridge I paid
- 28 a sum of 1,000 pounds to a Fine Gael dinner fundraiser". And do you agree with
- 29 that?
- 15:24:55 30 A. You don't know the location or where it was because I don't remember that but

- 15:25:00 1 it certainly if it was for -- oh, I beg your pardon. It would have been a  
2 table for ten at a Fine Gael dinner fundraiser I think.
- 3 Q. 621 Yes.
- 4 A. It's not.
- 15:25:17 5 Q. 622 It's nothing?
- 6 A. No, it's not. I thought you were shaking your head.
- 7 Q. 623 No, no, no I was talking?
- 8 A. No, the gentleman beside you. Sorry.
- 9 Q. 624 Do you agree that in fact at your request, Mr. O'Callaghan would have made that  
15:25:28 10 contribution?
- 11 A. I have no memory whatsoever of asking Owen O'Callaghan. But I have a  
12 recollection of him being at a Fine Gael dinner and I'm sure he had paid for a  
13 table of ten.
- 14 Q. 625 And just insofar as the 1,000 pounds --
- 15:25:48 15 A. I shouldn't. I don't know that. Maybe he only came himself. All I know is  
16 that I have a recollection of a Fine Gael fundraiser, yes.
- 17 Q. 626 And insofar as the 1,000 pounds in cash from Mr. Dunlop in November 1992 is  
18 concerned, do you dispute Mr. Dunlop's evidence that in when he gave you that  
19 money he had a discussion with you about Quarryvale?
- 15:26:10 20 A. Well he says he had but I can't either dispute or agree it because he arrived  
21 unexpectedly as I said earlier, my husband ushered him down to me and he gave  
22 me the donation and he spoke about supporting me for the election. I don't  
23 know if we talked about Quarryvale because the reality was my vote was never in  
24 doubt because I don't understand why anyone would keep asking me when I made my  
15:26:40 25 decision when I looked at the people that lived around me, 3,500 houses and  
26 unemployment of 60 to 64 per cent and I, I really don't care, you know. I did  
27 it. I did it myself.
- 28 Q. 627 I think that what Mr. Dunlop also said and you may disagree with it if you  
29 wish, that he would the not have given you the 1,000 pounds in cash if you had  
15:27:05 30 not been a supporter of Quarryvale and do you think that that's probably

- 15:27:09 1 likely?
- 2 A. No, I think he said that I would lose support if I didn't. I took, I would
- 3 take that to mean that the people who would vote for me would feel I'd let them
- 4 down. I think it says here she knew the support that she herself was giving
- 15:27:28 5 had given it publicly. So that's what I make out of that. But perhaps you
- 6 think differently.
- 7 Q. 628 No, no, no. I am relying entirely upon what Mr. Dunlop said when he was
- 8 talking specifically about the payment of 1,000 pounds in cash to you?
- 9 A. So am I. I'm referring page 43 of the transcript of last Tuesday.
- 15:27:49 10 Q. 629 Yes. And what Mr. Dunlop said I think was that he would not if you had not
- 11 been a supporter of Quarryvale I think?
- 12 A. Where did he say that.
- 13 Q. 630 I will get it for you now.
- 14 A. Well you will remember that Mr. Dunlop said many things and they don't always
- 15:28:07 15 agree. He doesn't always agree with himself in these matters. But I am going
- 16 on last Tuesday where he states "she was certainly not a member of the
- 17 strategic team. She was a publicly stated supporter of the project. She did
- 18 give advice. She did consult with Owen O'Callaghan and myself together and we
- 19 did consult person-to-person in relation to specific matters arising in North
- 15:28:32 20 Clondalkin that could impact on Quarryvale".
- 21 Q. 631 You are referring I think to the cross-examination of Mr. Dunlop, is that
- 22 correct?
- 23 A. I am, yes.
- 24 Q. 632 And?
- 15:28:41 25 A. And you are referring to the statement.
- 26 Q. 633 No no I'm referring Mr. Dunlop's direct evidence to the Tribunal in relation to
- 27 the payments of 1,000 pounds in cash.
- 28 A. Yes, well you go ahead.
- 29 Q. 634 No no it's quite already all right Ms. Ridge. And you don't accept Mr.
- 15:28:53 30 Dunlop's evidence where he says he would have paid you another 500 pounds in

15:28:57 1 cash in January of 1993 in relation to the Senate Election?

2 A. No, and I think Mr. Dunlop agrees that he didn't. He is quite specific about  
3 it.

4 Q. 635 Yes. He said if you were going to take a position that he hadn't made that, he  
15:29:10 5 would accept what you were going to say isn't that right?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. 636 I think that's what Mr. Dunlop said. It's also the position that you don't  
8 have any records I think, Ms. Ridge for completeness in relation to any of those  
9 campaigns isn't that right?

15:29:22 10 A. No, they were not required at the time and as I said I never won the General  
11 Election. I was a sweeper for the party. And used up everything I had because  
12 the area I represent is not exactly wealthy.

13 Q. 637 Thank you very much, Ms. Ridge, if you would answer any questions that anybody  
14 else may have for you.

15:29:41 15

16 MR. KEATING: No questions.

17

18 CHAIRMAN: Do you want to ask?

19

15:29:44 20 MR. O'RAFFERTY: No questions.

21

22 JUDGE FAHERTY: Just one, Ms. Ridge.

23 A. Judge Faherty, yes.

24

15:29:50 25 JUDGE FAHERTY: Your electoral area was Rowlagh, is that correct, is that  
26 North Clondalkin?

27 A. It is, yeah.

28

29 JUDGE FAHERTY: Was that the nearest physically in terms of the Quarryvale  
15:30:01 30 site and your ward?

15:30:02 1 A. Yes.  
2  
3 JUDGE FAHERTY: I just want ...  
4 A. Rowlagh.  
15:30:07 5  
6 JUDGE FAHERTY: Get a geographical idea of your ward in relation to Quarryvale  
7 A. Quarryvale was included in North Clondalkin always and there is an estate  
8 called Quarryvale.  
9  
15:30:20 10 JUDGE FAHERTY: Yes  
11 A. But it was a very narrow country road at the start called the Cold Cut Road.  
12 And that separated the estates of Green Fort, Shan Castle and Quarryvale, they  
13 were the last ones built by the corporation in the area because the corporation  
14 had actually moved the people out from the city out there. We didn't take  
15:30:40 15 control of it officially.  
16  
17 JUDGE FAHERTY: I just want to get an idea. I just want to ask you --  
18 A. On the other side. Sorry. Just immediately opposite these estates I've  
19 mentioned on the other side of the road was Harelawn, Rowlagh and St Marks.  
15:31:01 20 They would have all been in my electoral domain, for want of a better  
21 description.  
22  
23 JUDGE FAHERTY: Thank you. I just wanted to ask you, do you recall when you  
24 first made a decision to support the Quarryvale project?  
15:31:13 25 A. When did I make that decision?  
26  
27 JUDGE FAHERTY: Yes.  
28 A. When the proposal was brought forward in the parish halls in the area.  
29  
15:31:26 30 JUDGE FAHERTY: So this would have been in advance of the 1991 vote?

15:31:30 1 A. No, no that didn't happen until well after.  
2  
3 JUDGE FAHERTY: So it was after that, was it?  
4 A. Yeah.  
15:31:35 5  
6 JUDGE FAHERTY: I know you didn't vote on the 91 because you were not ...  
7 A. Well I may have. I don't know. But I just didn't, it wasn't stated.  
8  
9 JUDGE FAHERTY: Prior to that in the 1983 Development Plan Neilstown was  
15:31:51 10 designated a town centre, and we know it hadn't been developed.  
11 A. I wasn't on the Council at the time. I was elected in 1985.  
12  
13 JUDGE FAHERTY: Oh, yes, I appreciate that. But the plan that was extant, if  
14 you like, up to 1993.  
15:32:04 15 A. Oh, yes, yes.  
16  
17 JUDGE FAHERTY: Well up to the review started, in fairness.  
18 A. Yeah.  
19  
20 JUDGE FAHERTY: Neilstown was a designated town centre.  
15:32:10 21 A. That's correct.  
22  
23 JUDGE FAHERTY: I just want to ask you. You said earlier to Ms. Dillon that  
24 on the 17th of December the question I think you put it like the question for  
15:32:20 25 the parties, the councillors, was Quarryvale versus Blanchardstown  
26 A. Yeah.  
27  
28 JUDGE FAHERTY: That that was the issue as I understand your evidence.  
29 A. Yeah.  
15:32:30 30

15:32:30 1 JUDGE FAHERTY: Can I just ask you. There were a number of motions on its  
2 agenda that day as I understand it, wishing to put Quarryvale back to  
3 industrial and to rezone Neilstown.

4 A. That's right, there was a division on it, yes, that's quite correct.

15:32:46 5  
6 JUDGE FAHERTY: And were you lobbied by people in respect of Neilstown  
7 promoting Neilstown the redesignation of Neilstown as the town centre?

8 A. No. I don't think they would have lobbied me because I was definitely sticking  
9 my neck out for Quarryvale.

15:33:02 10  
11 JUDGE FAHERTY: I see.

12 A. Absolutely.

13  
14 JUDGE FAHERTY: Thank you very much.

15:33:06 15  
16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That concludes your evidence.

17 A. Thank you, very much, Chair. Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your attendance.

15:33:12 20 A. Thank you for your courtesy. And I hope this is my last visit. Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We are sitting tomorrow at half past ten.

23  
24 MS. DILLON: Half past ten.

15:33:25 25  
26 **THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW.**

27  
28  
29 **THE TRIBUNAL THEN ADJOURNED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY,**

15:35:29 30 **WEDNESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 2008, AT 10:30 A.M.:**

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